



REVIEW OF TITLES IN CENTRAL ASIAN HELLENISTIC SOURCES

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Abstract

The article covers the names of the Hellenistic states of Central Asia through numismatic and written sources, the name of the ruler, the title he adopted, the image of the ruler, the time of his accession to the throne and religious views through numismatic sources. The article used historical comparative, critical, logical and chronological, semantic and pragmatic methods of analysis. The difficulty in studying these titles is the lack of data. In the article, the titles of the Hellenistic period were studied on the basis of more numismatic sources.

Keywords: Diadox, “Soter”, “Nikator”, MR`Y, MLK, “Vasilevs Antioch”, “Theos”.

Introduction

Numismatics, which has its place among the auxiliary fields of history, after the independence of our country, its prestige has increased, it has gained the status of an independent historical science. Because the role of the science of archeology in the study of our history is incomparable. An analysis of the available data shows that the change of titles of the rulers of Central Asia due to the language, cultural and historical reasons of the ruling states is a historically regular process. The coverage of the titles of rulers through numismatic sources is important, as it provides an opportunity to study in depth the basic theories of the origin and evolution of titles in the territory of Uzbekistan.

In some cases we see the ruler equating his title to the gods. For example, in China the kings further deified themselves with the titles “Son of God”, in India the title “Devaputra” and in Bactria “Bogopairo”, in Assyria “Sar-sarani” and “Lugal”.

Main Part

After the death of Alexander the Great (323), the state he founded was divided into three parts: Macedonia, Egypt and Babylon (Seleucia). The Diadoxes – his generals ruled these states. The power of the generals in the title of Diadox was limited by the king. The southern regions of Central Asia became part of the Seleucid Empire, founded by Seleucus I “Nikator”(winner, savior). Seleucus I received the title of “Nikator”. It is possible that Seleucus I won the battle between the diadochi and declared his title a “winner”(nikator). Kings from the Seleucid dynasty had different





titles, for example, Antiochus IV “Epiphany”, Demetrius II “Soter”(savior). These titles first appeared on royal coins and later in written sources.

The appearance of the first coins minted in Bactria is attributed to the name of Seleucus’s son Antioch I(the son of Spitamen’s daughter Apama). The names of these coins were also different. In particular, gold coins were called stater, silver coins tetradrahma, drahma.

With the conquest of the southern regions of Central Asia by Alexander the Great, and then with the establishment of the Seleucids and the Greco-Bactrian states, the title of king of the Hellenes “vasilevs” and “vasilevs vasileon” became the title of supreme rulers. The coverage of the titles of rulers through numismatic sources is important, as it provides an opportunity to study in depth the basic theories of the origin and evolution of titles in the territory of Uzbekistan.

On the right side of the coins of Antiochus I (280-262 BC) there is an image of a crowned horn. On the reverse, there is a picture of Zeus naked. A handful of lightning in his right hand. In his left hand is Zeus with a shield and in Greek the title “Vasilevs Antioch” or “Horn Antiochus”.

In the Samarkand Sogdian, the texts on the coins minted at the end of the 3rd century BC - beginning of the 2nd century BC, along with the Greek script, also contain the Aramaic script. The name and title of the king are written on the coins not in the Sogdian script, but in the Aramaic word MR`Y (meaning gentleman, ruler). The second title found in the texts on the coins is also written in the Aramaic language MLK (high-ranking, meaning king).

The Greek-Bactrian coins are basically in the same pattern, and on the right we can see the image of the ruler and his rank, name and title written in Greek in the form of a circle or column. On the contrary, the image of the deities whom the ruler had taken for granted, such as Zeus, Hercules, Poseidon, Apollo, and Dioscurus, was depicted. In them, the title, and nickname of the king are in the form of a semicircle or column in the Greek accent, for example, “podalo Antimax of God”. On the reverse side of the coin, next to the image of the god, there is a monogram consisting of several Greek letters (monogram in Greek mono - one; gram letter). The monogram on the coin is the silent capital letter of the name of the master or ruler who struck the coin.

The Greek-Roman historians Pompey Trog and Augustine. Diodes I minted a silver coin, and it can be seen from the coins that he minted that he was the founder and legitimate king of this state. The coin depicts a portrait of him and reads “King Antiochus”(Vasilevs Antiochus). From the earliest days of his reign, he struck the name of Antiochus on the coins, not his own. He will not write his name until the end of his life. The reverse of the coin depicts Zeus holding a lightning bolt and an eagle. The



implication is that Diodod and his ancestors were sponsored by Zeus. The Greek translation of the name “Diodod” also means “God-given”. The fact that Diadod received the titles “Soter” (savior) and “Theos” (god) can also be seen from the coins struck by Agafocles in honor of Diodod.

The coin struck by the Greco-Bactrian ruler Diodes II depicts Zeus holding lightning in his hand and bears the title "Basilevs Diodotoy" (King Diododus). Unlike Diodod I, the father of Diodod II, he bears his name on coins.

Another ruler of this country, Antimax, equated himself with the gods on his coins and struck coins with the words "Basilevs Antimax Theos" meaning "king Antimax god". It is clear from this that by equating his title with that of God, and by greatly deifying himself, we can see how important religion is in the governance of the state. The importance of religion in the management of the Hellenistic states was reflected in the study of coins minted in the ancient states.

The Greek-Bactrian coins also deviate from the standard images. On the right side of the coins minted during the reign of King Eucratid, there is a portrait of the king himself and the title “Great King Eucratid”, and on the reverse side there is a portrait of a young man or woman and a woman with gold on her forehead. At the bottom of the photo: “Geleoc and Laodica”.

Sh. Pidaev’s book “Ancient Termez” gives the following information about the coins of the Greco-Bactrian kings: The pictures on the coins of the Greco-Bactrian kings are very skillfully depicted. These coins are brilliant examples of medal art. King Euthydemus confirms that the title “King Euthydemus is the ruler” is engraved on the coin.

On the right side of the coins minted by Eutidemus (235-200 BC) is the head of Hercules with a beard and mustache, a horse running on the reverse and the title “Horn Euthydemus”(Vasilevs Eutidemoy). Well-known archeologist A.Khe describes the Aramaic MRY in the tetradrachms of Eutidem as MRAY and describes it as a title given to hierarchical rulers below the royal status [E.V.Rtveladze, 2009, p.346].

On the obverse side of the coins minted by order of Demetrius (200-185 BC), the image of a king wearing a helmet in the shape of an elephant with long twisted teeth, carrying a hose over his head, is depicted up to the chest.

On the reverse side of the coin is a crown in his right hand. In his left hand is an image of Zeus holding a lion's skin with a club and the title “King Demetrius” (Vasilevs Demetrius) in Greek. After the conquest of North India by Demetrius, Greco-Bactrian coins also feature kharoshthi inscriptions and images of animals. It is also represented in written sources in the title INDORIUM (Ruler of Indian Property). On the right side of the coin of Eucratius (171-155 BC) is an image of a king wearing a Macedonian



helmet up to his chest. On the reverse, there is a picture of the twin brothers Dioscurts on horseback, and the coin bears its title on the coin with the inscription "Savior King Eucratidniki" (Soter vasilevs Eucratidoy).

It is known from the coins he struck that his title was Savior (Soter). Eucratius defeats Demetrius in the battle for the throne. When he came to power, he received the title of "Soter" (savior). This title is probably used in the sense that it saved Bactria from Demetrius [A.A. Popov, 2001, p. 54].

The ancient Greek historian Arrian noted in his work that the commander of the Bactrian army was called "Frurarch". The Prime Minister is known as Vazork Fromodar, according to written sources. Beginning in the second half of the 2nd century BC, coins with the image of Hercules on the front and Aptat, the ruler of the Sogdians, were minted on the back in the southern Sogdian region. They were found in all parts of southern Sogdia, including Nahshab, and a large treasure trove of these coins was found in Denau district of Surkhandarya region. These coins bear the title of MRY Aptat (ruler Aptat).

In ancient times, one of the most developed countries in the territory of Uzbekistan was the state of Davan. The Davan state formed a certain political association, and the ruler who ruled the state ruled the state with the title of "Wang" (king) in ancient Chinese sources. In Chinese sources, the names of rulers such as Mosay, Chani Fini, Mugua, Yan'lyu, who held the title of "Van", have been preserved. The king, who was the sole ruler, that is, "Van" carried out matters of state importance, relying on the council of elders.

Conclusion

In summary, the ruler of the Greco-Bactrian state Diodod initially remained faithful to the salavki ruler salavki and minted his coins in honor of Antioch I, a sign of State independence. By the time of his successors, such titles as «Soter», «Teos», «Vasilyevs», «Vasilyeon» were carried. And the rulers of the state of Davan are noted in the Chinese sources under the title «Van»(Tsar). In the same place, the fact that Khorezm rulers minted coins with a dynasty stamp on the hill for seven centuries was also a rare case when it was taken on a world history scale.

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