Neobvyklý nominál baktrijského krále Eukratida I. (171–139 př. n. l.)

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Unusual denomination struck under the Bactrian King Eukratides I (171–139 BC)

An interesting silver coin struck under the Bactrian King Eukratides I (171–139 BC) was auctioned in Berlin. For the first sight, the coin looked like the smallest known silver denomination struck under Eukratides – an obolus.

Eukratides I, one of the most important Bactrian Kings, issued his coins in two weight categories – the Attic one and the so-called bilingual one. The described coin belongs to the first category, which is characterized by portrait image on its obverse and protecting Deity or relevant attributes, plus Greek inscription on its reverse. The largest gold coin of the Classical times – the 20-stater struck under Eukratides – also belongs to that category.

The weight of the mentioned coin totally deviates from the data published by M. Mitchiner. The published range is about 0.45–0.70 g, while the ideal weight of the Attic obolus should be equal to 0.71 g. The majority of the published oboli fall to the category by 0.10–0.15 g lighter. All other accessible catalogues (The Catalogue of the Indian Coins in the British Museum and the catalogue of the American Numismatic Society) do not offer any similar coin with such unusual weight. Because of the above mentioned arguments, it is possible to classify the described coin with a certain reservation as the highly rare specimen, evidently unpublished denomination struck under Eukratides – a silver di-obolus.

di-obolus; Eukratides I (171–139 BC); Bactria [AFG]; new type.

diobol; Eukratidés I. (171–139 př. n. l.); Baktrie [AFG]; typ nový.