

THE COINS OF THE IONIAN STATE.

BY NATHAN HEYWOOD.



ON taking a retrospective view of the various rulers of this chain of islands, numbering about forty, the principal of which are Corfu, Cephalonia, and Zante, it is not surprising that there are several series of coins.

It is, however, purposed only to describe in detail those pieces issued under the Russo-Turkish and the British Protectorates.

On the division of the Roman Empire, these islands were included in the eastern half. In A.D. 1081, Corfu and Cephalonia fell into the hands of Robert Guiscard, and from that time they had a chequered history for over three centuries.

In the year 1401 Corfu came into possession of the Venetians, who afterwards acquired Zante and Cephalonia, and subsequently most of the other islands included in the group. The Venetians retained them until 1797, when they were ceded to France. During the Venetian occupation of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, coins were issued in copper having on the obverse a winged demi Venetian lion of St. Mark surrounded by the inscription: S. MARCVS VEN. II (for two quattrini), and on the reverse the names of the three principal islands (variously abbreviated¹). The islands were seized by Russia and Turkey in 1799, and they were created by the Emperor Paul of Russia into a Septinsular Republic under the protection of

¹ CORF. CEFAL. ZANT.

(Plate I, Figure 1.)

CORFV. CEFAL. ZANT.

CORFV. CEFALONIA. ZANTE.

CORF ZANT. CEF.

CORFV. CEFALON. ZANTE.

(Plate I, Figure 2.)

CORFV. CEFAL. ZANTI.

COR. CEFA. ZAN.

CORF. CEFA. ZAN., etc., etc., etc.

Turkey. The coins issued under the Russo-Turkish influence were of copper.

1. *Obverse*.—A winged demi Venetian lion holding in the dexter paw a sheaf of seven arrows, the sheaf ornamented with a cross, (Community of the Seven Islands) surrounded by the inscription :
⌘ ΕΠΤΑΝΗΣΟΣ ⌘ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑ. *Reverse*. — 10 —
ΓΑΖΕΤΑΙΣ 1801—in three lines within a circle of ovals.
Edge engrailed with ovals. (Plate I, Fig. 3.)
2. *Obverse*.—As No. 1. *Reverse*.—5—ΓΑΖΕΤΑΙΣ—1801—in three lines, within a circle of ovals.
3. *Obverse*.—As No. 2. *Reverse*.—As No. 2, ornamented with roses. (Plate I, Fig. 4.)
4. *Obverse*.—As No. 3. *Reverse*.—1—ΓΑΖΕΤΑ—1801, in three lines, within a circle of ovals. (Plate I, Fig. 5.)
5. *Obverse*.—As No. 4. *Reverse*.—As No. 4. The figure 1 of the value between two ovals. (British Museum.) (Plate I, Fig. 6.)
6. *Obverse*.—As No. 5. *Reverse*.—As No. 5, ornamented with roses. (Plate I, Fig. 7.)

In 1807 the islands were given back to France by the treaty of Tilsit.

In 1809 Great Britain seized Zante, Cephalonia, and Cerigo ; in 1810, Santa Maura ; in 1814, Paxo ; and after the fall of Napoleon Buonaparte, Corfu, and on the 5th of November, 1815, they formed the United States of the Ionian Islands, under the Protectorate of Great Britain.

By the treaty of London the protectorate was incorporated in the Kingdom of Greece on the 14th of November, 1863.

The first issue consisted of the penny, halfpenny, and farthing in copper, and took place on the 4th of February, 1819. Bronze proofs exist of each value of that year (Plate I, Figs. 8, 9, and 10), and copper proofs of the obolus dated 1853, 1857, and 1862. The farthing, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ oboli, was further issued in 1820 (Plate I, Fig. 11), and 1821. The obolus was issued in 1834 (Plate I, Fig. 13), 1835, 1848, 1849, 1851, 1853, 1857, and 1862. The silver 30 oboli, or threepenny piece, was issued first on the 23rd of August, 1834 (Plate I, Fig. 14), and in the years 1848, 1849, 1851, 1852, 1857, and 1862. The silver coins weigh $21\frac{1}{2}$ grains each. The copper pieces



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have on the obverse the winged lion of Saint Mark holding in the dexter forepaw a sheaf of seven arrows, the sheaf ornamented with a cross surrounded by the inscription : **IONIKON KPATOS** (Ionian State), and the date ; and on the reverse, except in the case of the oboli, a figure of Britannia seated looking to the sinister, and holding an olive branch in her right hand and a trident in her left, surrounded by the inscription :—BRITANNIA.

The farthing of 1821 is inscribed BRITANNIA, and has on the reverse a seated figure of the goddess looking to the sinister, and resting on a shield, with the figure 4 (for quattrini) in the exergue. Mr. W. S. Churchill's specimen (Plate I, Fig. 12) is struck over a Venetian copper coin, as are probably all the farthings of that year.

The oboli are inscribed BRITANNIA and have on the reverse a seated figure of the goddess looking to the dexter (Plate I, Fig. 13). The silver pieces have on the obverse within a wreath of oak leaves tied with a ribbon the figure 30 surrounded by the inscription : **IONIKON KPATOS** and the date of the year of issue, and on the reverse a figure of the goddess seated looking to the dexter, resting her right hand on a shield and holding a trident in her left ; above is the inscription :—BRITANNIA.

There are two mules in copper, one of the penny of 1819, with the obverse of the Irish penny of George IV., and the other of the halfpenny of the same year, and the Ceylon stiver of George III.

The beautiful silver and copper "phœnix" coinage issued in the years 1828–1831 by the first government of independent Greece, under Count Ioannes Antonios Kapodistrias, a native of Corfu, circulated freely in the Ionian Islands. On the 9th of October, 1831, the Count was assassinated in a church at Nauplia, and, consequently, his coinage ceased.

For illustrations of this coinage, see Plate II, Figs. 15 to 25.

To commemorate the British Protectorate, the following medal was struck in silver and copper :—

Obverse.—MDCCCXVII. Britannia seated looking to the sinister holding a shield of the Union Jack under the left hand, the right supporting a double tablet of constitutions in front ; behind is

a standing figure of Neptune on a pedestal holding a trident in front of an anchor.

In the exergue, ENGLAND GIVES A CONSTITUTION TO—

Reverse.—Seven draped female figures holding hands and standing round a standard from which the Union Jack is flying. DEPAULS F., in small letters.

In the exergue, THE IONIENNE ISLANDS. MUDIE D., in small letters. Plate II, Fig. 26.

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