

A Previously Unpublished *Leeuwengroot* of the Lordship of Rummen

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Rummen was a small lordship, rarely mentioned in modern history books, that was situated in what is now the province of {Vlaams} Brabant in Belgium. Rummen is occasionally also known as Rumigny, which is not to be confused with Rumigny (Somme) or Rumigny (Ardennes), both of which are in France.

The *leeuwengroten* of Rummen are surprisingly common today, which is not to say that they are “common”, but they certainly do come up for sale far more than *gros au lions* of any region other than Flanders, Brabant or Holland.

There are 3 main types, among which there is an enormous amount of variation. Although several previous authors have reported on examples of these main types, the various sub-types have yet to be cataloged and published.

Leeuwengroten were struck in Rummen under Arnold of Oreye, the last Count of Chiny (as Arnold IV), and Lord of Rummen c. 1355-1373. Arnold was married to Elisabeth of Flanders, also known as Isabella of Lierde, a sister (or half-sister) of Louis of Nevers (or “Louis of Crécy”), Count of Flanders (1322-1346).

By all accounts, Arnold of Oreye was a notorious “borderline counterfeiter” of Flemish and Brabantine coins. He struck coins that were very close in appearance to those of Flanders and Brabant, and it is clear that there was a deliberate attempt on his part to mislead (or deceive) the money-using public at large. It is even rumored that Arnold struck exact copies of Flemish (and/or Brabantine) coins at one or more of his mints (‘deceptive imitations’).



Types of Rummen *Leeuwengroten*

There are three basic types of Rummen *leeuwengroot* known, defined by the word after MONETA on the obverse (lion side):

RUMEN (not RUMED)

FRAND

NNANE (or **ANNANE** ?)

Under these three, basic types are found numerous variant sub-types, which differ in the presence or absence of various pellets and apostrophes, or the presence/absence of annuletted A’s and T’s:  . Certain differences in the reverse, outer legend are seen as well (**N/Ń**).

The RUMEN (**RUMED**) coins are the most commonly seen today, followed by the FRAND (**FRAND**) types. The NNANE (**NNANE**) coins are very rare. A sub-type has been reported with the legend MONETA ANNANE (R. Serrure 42 var.). Serrure lists, but does not illustrate the ANNANE variant, and claims it is in the Cabinet des Médailles in Brussels^[8]. As yet, I have been unable to verify this sub-type, despite two separate visits to the CdMB to look through all of the *leeuwengroten*, Rummen included.

A Previously Unpublished Type (MONETA FLAND?)

In late 2016, an unusual and previously unpublished specimen came to light that does not fit into any of the categories described above. and does not match any known specimen. It was presumably struck in Rummen, although it may well be a medieval counterfeit (struck in Rummen or elsewhere). Its provenance is unknown, although it is said to have been in an old collection for many years.



private collection / 2.27 g. / 25 mm.

✠ MON[ET]A + FL[AN]D[IA]
ARN O'QV [C'DO MNI]
+ BNDICT[V : SIT] : NOM[INIS] : D[OMINI] : IHS : XPI

- unlike the RUMEN coins, the reverse, inner legend begins with ARN instead of O'QV.
- unlike the RUMEN coins, the obverse legend does not read MONETA RUMEN.
- the obverse legend appears to read FLAND and not FRAND.
- unlike the FRAND coins, the reverse, inner legend does not read ARNOL DE RVMOI.
- the obverse legend does not appear to read MONETA NNANE, although it could conceivably read NNANN (NNANN). The reverse legend does not match that of the NNANE coins.
- the obverse legend does not appear to read MONETA FALEN (Valkenburg).
- unlike the FALEN coins, the reverse, inner legend begins with ARN instead of O'QV.

The Q on Rummen *leeuwengroten* was designed to look like a D: **Q** or **Q**.

The coin has a border of 1 lion and 11, 3-lobed leaves of this type:

The coin is rather small. The central lion is cramped into the field as though there is not enough room, his claws reaching **into** the letters. The arms of the reverse cross are noticeably short compared with other *leeuwengroten* (more than 1.5 mm. short).



The unpublished coin is shown here on the right, with another *leeuwengroot* from Rummen on the left for comparison.

Conclusion

It seems likely that this coin is yet another in a long line of medieval, counterfeit “coins of convention”, similar to those with legends such as MONETA BRABAND / LVDOVICVS COMES, MONETA FLAND / IOH DVX BRABAN or MONETA FLAND / GVILLEM COMES. The metal from which the piece was made does not look particularly “good”.

Whether or not this coin was struck in Rummen (with or without the authority of Arnold of Oreye), is impossible to say. It is, in any case, an interesting example of a previously unknown type of *leeuwengroot*.

Acknowledgements

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RUMEN type (Elsen 118-967)



FRAND type (Elsen 118-968)



NNANE type (Torongo (2013) fig. 28-01 / 2.99 g. ^[9])



FALEN type (Byvanck 10) ^[5]



Literature

[1]

***Arnold van Rummen, of Loon en Luik in de XIV eeuw
Tweede deel***

C. H. van Boekel

Drukkerij van de W. Ghysdale en zoon

Ghent, 1847

[2]

Le dernier préendant de Looz - Monnaie de Bree

R. Chalon

Revue de la Numismatique Belge, 1851

pp. 258-261 , plate XIV

Brussels

[3]

Monnaies de Falais

Renier Chalon

Revue de la Numismatique Belge, 1859

pp. 378-379

[4]

De munten der leenen van de voormalige hertogdommen Brabant en Limburg...

P.O. van der Chijs

F. Bohn, 1862

plate XXIII, 4	RUMEN
plate XXIII, 5	FRAN.'D'.
plate XXIII, 6	FRAN'D'.
plate XXIII, 7	NNANE
plate XXXIII, 3	(similar but not a <i>compagnon</i>)

[5]

Ein Turnosen- und Löwengroschen-Fund

H. von Frauendorfer

in ***MBNG*** 26/27 (1908/09), pp. 1-11 & plate 1

(Mitteilungen der Bayerischen Numismatischen Gesellschaft)

{The Byvanck Hoard}

[6]

Notice sur des Monnaies de la Seigneurie de Rummen

C. Piot

Revue de la Numismatique Belge, 1855

pp. 428 - 441

Plate XX

RUMEN p. 452 / pl. XX, 7

FRAND p. 451 / pl. XX, 2

ANNANE p. 451 / pl. XX, 1

[7]

Notice sur les monnoies frappées a Rummen par Jean II, seigneur de Wesemael de 1416 a 1462

C.P. Serrure

Ghent, 1839

7 RUMEN p. 9

8 FRAND pp. 9-10

[8]

L'imitation des types monétaires flamands : depuis Marguerite de Constantinople jusqu'à l'avènement de la Maison de Bourgogne

Raymond Serrure

40 RUMEN

41 FRAND

42 NNANE

[9]

Collecting Medieval Coins: A Beginner's Guide

Paul A. Torongo

2013

ISBN 978-1492172024

[10]

Atlas der munten van België van de Kelten tot heden

Hugo Vanhoudt

G 2007 RUMEN

G 2008 FRAND

— NNANE

[11]

Notice historique sur la Commune de Rummen et sur les anciennes fiefs de Grasen, Wilre, Biondevelt et Weyer, en Hesbaye

Mathias Joseph Wolters

Ghent, 1846

PLATE I

1	RUMEN	p. 167
2	FRAND (obverses)	p. 167
3	FRAND (reverses)	p. 167
7	NNANE	p. 169