

A Previously Unknown and Unpublished *Leeuwengroot* Type: MONETA FCADB

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In recent months, two examples of an unusual type of *leeuwengroot* (*gros au lion*, *gros compaignon*) have come to light, of a previously unknown and unpublished type.

The first example was auctioned off by The Coinhouse as part of a lot of 5 Brabant *leeuwengroten* (Auction 7, Lot 378, 23 June, 2018). The other 4 coins in the lot were *leeuwengroten* of Jeanne of Brabant (1355-1406) from the Vilvoorde mint (MONETA FILFD), in excellent condition.

The second example was auctioned off by the firm of Jean Elsen et ses fils, described as a Jeanne FILFD coin (Auction 139, Lot 504, 8 December, 2018).

In the same Elsen auction was lot of 5 *leeuwengroten*: 5 Flemish coins of Louis of Male (1346-1384), Issue V (c. 1355-1359) and 1 Brabant, Jeanne FILFD *leeuwengroten*, all in reasonably nice condition (Lot 607).

The appearance of two examples of a previously unknown type within just over 5 months of one another is noteworthy. In addition to this, we have the sets of 4 FILFD and 4 Flanders / 1 FILFD coins found in the same auctions as the new types. None of these other coins are particularly rare (the Flanders coins are downright common), but the appearance of so many at one time, that all have a similar “look” to them, strongly suggests that someone has found a coin hoard and sold it off (almost certainly without properly recording the find).



Coinhouse 7-378

• ✠ MONETA + FLA·DB'
O·DV CꝰLO T·BR AB[*I]
[✠] BNDICT[V : SIT...] : DNI : NRI [...]



ELSEN 139-504 / 3.11 g.

• ✠ MONETA + FLA·DB'
 O·DV CꝫLO T·BR AB·I
 ✠ BNDI[CTV : S]IT : [NO...]NI : NRI : IHV : XPI

Border: 11♣ / 1♣



The obverse legend seems to read MONETA FCA DB. The pellet left of the initial cross is very large, the other pellets are smaller than normal.

The C (?) in the word after MONETA is the same as the C's found on the *leeuwengroten* of Valkenburg (Fauquemont) and Cambrai. It is fairly obvious that this unusual type of C was chosen because it resembles the L of FLAND found on the Flemish *leeuwengroten*, and the obverse legend is clearly trying to look as much like the Flemish coins as possible.

The reverse legend is an exact copy of the FILFD *leeuwengroten* of Jeanne of Brabant (1355-1406), IO DVC LOT BRAB, which may have been struck in Brabant c. 1357-1363. Were the manufacturers of this coin trying to make it look like a Flanders-Brabant "coin of convention"?

The obverse legend is puzzling, and its meaning unclear. It is possible it is nothing more than a meaningless imitation of the Flemish FLAND legend. Perhaps the DB was supposed to stand for *Dvcissa Brabant*. The 3-lobed border leaves do not particularly belong on a Flemish coin, and are more along the lines of the leaves on the Brabançon FILFD coins.

The coin is reminiscent of the strange MONETA LIRAN (?) type (see ref. 23):



Stadskasteel Zaltbommel SZ-0244-3563 / 2.92 g. ^[23]

In conclusion, the MONETA FCADB coins are more strange and enigmatic *leeuwengroten*, struck at an unknown mint for an unknown lord, to be added to the ever-growing *leeuwengroot* canon. These coins may or may not have something to do with the infamous Lord of Rummen, Arnold of Oreye (1331-1365), who is known as a “borderline counterfeiter” of Flemish and Brabançon *leeuwengroten* (and other types). More research is certainly needed on this type, but at the moment we simply do not have very much information about these coins.



Coinhouse 7-378



Elsen 139-504 / 3.11 g.

The Other Coins

In case all of the coins mentioned were indeed from the same find, we present them here:



Coinhouse 7-378



Elsen 139-607

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