

Five Extremely Important *Leeuwengroten* You Have Never Seen Before: Coevorden, Rekem, Namur and Guelders

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In 1931, A. Suhle published an article (ref. 18), in which he described a number of *leeuwengroot* coins from the Schoo Hoard (1927) that were previously unknown to the numismatic world (no illustrations of the coins were provided).

I.	Coevorden	Suhle Item 78
II.	Rekem	Suhle Item 75 a
	Rekem	Suhle Item 75 b
III.	Namur	Suhle Item 66
IV.	Guelders	Suhle Item 77

Suhle also reported other rare *leeuwengroten* from Cambrai and Serain as being present in the hoard, but these coins have since disappeared, and we were unable to inspect them ourselves. Previously unreported sub-types from Horne and Valkenburg (Fauquemont) were also present in the hoard but were not specifically reported or described by Suhle. Two different Rekem types (with identical obverses) were cataloged by Suhle under one number, subdivided into a / b.

As rare as these coins are, most of these “new” *leeuwengroot* types seem to have been almost completely ignored by the majority of subsequent researchers (for over 80 years). The title of the current article makes a bold statement, but unless the reader has been to the Bode Museum in Berlin personally, and asked to see the Schoo Hoard coins, then we are fairly certain you have never seen any coins like these before now.

In 1958, P. Berghaus listed the contents of a number of coin hoards from Ostfrisia, including the Schoo Hoard (ref. 2, pp. 51-52, Item 36, Schoo.) He includes a detailed list of the hoard’s contents, which is based directly on Suhle’s report. There are some inconsistencies between the two reports, which will be discussed in detail in our forthcoming report on the Schoo Hoard.

• I. Coevorden

The extremely rare *leeuwengroot* of Coevorden has only ever been described by Suhle, whose description is accurate but unillustrated. Berghaus lists the coins in his report (ref. 2, p. 52), but does not describe them in detail. The Schoo Hoard coins are the only known examples of this type, and fortunately, they are readable specimens. The photographs provided here are the first photos of Coevorden *leeuwengroten* ever to be published.

The related *leeuwengroot* of Groningen-Coevorden (**Suhle 79**) has been described by several authors (see Torongo & van Oosterhout, ref. 19).

Reinald III (1336 - 1370) or Reinald IV (1376 - 1402)

v.d. Chijs — ^[5]
 R. Serrure — ^[17]
 Suhle 78 ^[18]
 Puister — ^[14]
 Grolle 3.3.1 ? ^[11]



Leeuwengroot of Coevorden / 3.09 g.

Schoo Hoard (1927)

Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Acc. 1927/85

photographs by Christian Stoess

✠ MONETA ✠ COUORD

REN TLD COU ORD

[✠ B]NDIC[TV.SIT :] NOMB : D[...N]RI : IHV XPI



Leeuwengroot of Coevorden / 2.39 g.

Schoo Hoard (1927)

Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Acc. 1927/85

photographs by Christian Stoess

[✠] MONETA ✠ COUOR[D']
 REN RLD C[OU] ORD
 ✠ BND[ICTV. ...]OM[...]PI

On the obverse, the ‘rule’ of *first O round, second O long* was followed, but not on the reverse, where two round **O**’s were used on one face, which is unusual. (Perhaps the idea was that the two round **O**’s of COVORD “balanced out” the two long **O**’s in the same word on the obverse.) No effort seems to have been made to insure that both **O**’s ended up by the cross arms, as is the case on most *leeuwengroten* (of all regions)

These two specimens are the only known examples of this type.

We do not have enough evidence to date the coins, and the Coevorden *leeuwengroten* could have been struck for Reinald II or for Reinald III. Minting of *leeuwengroten* in Flanders ceased in 1364, and in Brabant c. 1363. Around 1382, however, there seems to have been a “second wave” of *leeuwengroot* minting in Brabant, which was followed by (fractional) imitations in Megen, Gennep, Batenburg, Luxemburg and perhaps other places as well (Coevorden?). Based on their general appearance, the Coevorden coins resemble the older *leeuwengroten* (<1364) more than they do the newer coins (c. 1382).

Previous Literature

Suhle 1392, pp. 81-82 (ref. 18)

Suhle's legend transcription is basically correct. Suhle must not have realized just how rare these coins are, i.e. these are the only known or reported specimens, because he says literally nothing more about them in his report (!), although he does discuss Coevorden in general and the Groningen coin (ref. 18, pp. 81-82, n°79) in some detail. The dates given by Suhle are for Reinald IV, not Reinald III ("Reinald III of Coevorden (1376-1402)" [*sic*]).

Puister 1972, (ref. 14)

Puister does not report the Coevorden *leeuwengroot* in his publication on the coins of the smaller lordships in the eastern Netherlands, which included Coevorden (ref. 14, pp. 15-18). Was he unaware of Suhle's article, or did he simply ignore it? He does not list Suhle as a reference for the Groningen-Coevorden type (ref. 14, p. 18, n° 16), which may indicate that Puister was unfamiliar with the Suhle *ZfN* report.

Grolle 2002 (ref. 11)

In his book on the coins of the smaller lordships in Holland and the Over-Sticht, Grolle lists a *leeuwengroot* of Reinald of Coevorden which, according to Grolle, has not been recovered (p. 179, n° 3.3.1). Presumably the Schoo Hoard MONETA COVORD coins would be said *leeuwengroot*, although clearly they **were** recovered... and some seventy years before Grolle published his book. It is unclear why Grolle thought that a *leeuwengroot* was struck in Coevorden, or from whence he got his "information" about said coins, if it was not from Suhle's report (which is not listed in Grolle's bibliography). For the *leeuwengroot* of Groningen-Coevorden however, Grolle **does** cite Suhle's report as a reference (Grolle, **6.1; Suhle 79**).

Regarding the *leeuwengroot* of Coevorden, Grolle says:

"1 groot, 24 mijt, 16 tournois, 12 parisis money of account, 8 d Holl; ca. 1.72 g. AG but quickly declining; ca. 26 mm. imitation of the Holland *leeuwengroot* of 1354 with 1.919 g AG [HOL 1.7.2.2) and the Guelders imitation thereof by Reinald III of Guelders [vdCh III, I] Not recovered [*sic*], probably minted, cf. SEL 6.1"

– (p. 179)

Clearly, Grolle's "1.72 g." weight is quite far off (the **broken** Berlin coin weighs 2.39 g.!). Grolle is notorious for not citing his sources, and for presenting his opinions as facts; in his various publications, Grolle seems to say that pretty much everything is an imitation of the Holland *leeuwengroot* of 1354, without ever providing any real evidence for his claims. The Coevorden coin might have been a direct imitation of the Holland or Guelders coins, and then again, it might not. The rest of the "information" provided by Grolle is pure speculation, in all likelihood based upon his own theories and calculations, and may have no basis in reality. Grolle certainly does not provide the reader with any source(s) for his data.

• II. Rekem (Reckheim)

Rekem (currently located in Belgian Limburg) was known in the 12th century as Radekeim or Radenchen. According to Vanhoudt, minting began c. 1356 (ref. 21, p. 93). *Leeuwengroten* from Rekem are incredibly rare. **The 3 specimens discussed in the current report are the only examples known to us.** The photographs provided here are the first photos of Rekem *leeuwengroten* ever to be published.

At this time, we are aware of 2 different types of Rekem *leeuwengroten*, both of which have identical obverses (lion side). On the reverse, one has an ARNO DVC DOMNI legend and the other an ARNO DV D ESTEN legend. These coins are known from a meager 1 and 2 specimens (respectively).

These *leeuwengroten* of Rekem have only ever been described by Suhle, who assigned one item number to two different types in his report and did not provide any illustrations. Of the first type (**Suhle 75 a**), the Schoo coin is the sole known example. Of the second type (**Suhle 75 b**), there are only 2 known specimens: 1 from the Schoo Hoard and another piece which is also in the Bode Museum Collection (provenance unknown). Berghaus does not separate the two coin types in his report either (ref. 2, p. 52).

Suhle (and Berghaus in turn) assigned these coins to “Arnold of Stein (c. 1335-?)”. There are other coin types which can be attributed to an Arnold of Stein with near certainty. However, the reverse, inner legend of **Suhle 75 a** is almost identical to that found on the RUMEN *leeuwengroten* of Arnold of Oreye in Rummen; is this coincidence, or design on the part of one Arnold or the other (or both)? This same ARNO reverse is also found on the *leeuwengroten* of other regions (e.g. Fallais (?)).

The Rekem *leeuwengroten* are puzzling, to say the least. The lettering very similar to the Horne *leeuwengroten*, and they have the same large pellet left of the initial cross as on the Rummen, Valkenburg and Horne coins. There is some kind of definite connection between these *leeuwengroten* and their Rekem counterparts, which requires further investigation.

Arnold of Stein (c. 1355-1381?)

Arnold III of Stein, Lord of Reckheim (1355-1372); Vanhoudt, p. 94 (ref. 21).

Arnold VI of Stein † 1381 (Munsters, p. 11) (ref. 13)

v.d. Chijs — ^[5]

R. Serrure — ^[17]

Alvin — ^[1]

Suhle 75 ^[18]

Vanhoudt — ^[21]

Suhle Item 75 a



Leeuwengroot of Rekem / 2.20 g.

Schoo Hoard (1927)

Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Acc. 1927/85

photographs by Christian Stoess

• ✠ • ΜΟΝΕΤΑ ✠ ΕΔΕΚ
Ο*ΔΥ [CDO] ΜΝΙ ΠΡΩ
[...] : ΗΟΜΘ [...] ΡΙ : [...]

This is the sole known example of this type. Like the Coevorden coin (**Suhle 78**), Suhle makes no fanfare about this unique piece, although he does devote quite a bit of space in his report to Arnold of Stein.

The pellet left of the cross is enormous (like those of Rummen, Horne and Valkenburg). Most of the reverse, outer legend is illegible, but Roman N's are clearly present in DNI and NRI.

Suhle Item 75 b



Leeuwengroot of Rekem / 2.21 g.

Schoo Hoard (1927)

Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Acc. 1927/85

photographs by Christian Stoess

**•✠• MONETA + REDER'
O'x DV D'ES TEN' ARN'
[...] : HOM[...] RI : [...]**

These are the only two known examples of this type, both currently in the Bode Museum collection. It is unclear what the exact transcription of the reverse, inner legend should be:

ARNOldvs DominVs DE STENsis (?)

ARNO/DVs dominvs DE STENsis (?)

ARNO/DVs Dominvs ESTENsis (?)

It is possible that the target ODV (copied directly from the Brabant model *leeuwengroot*) is throwing the legend off a bit.

Suhle listed 1 coin and 2 fragments for Rekem, one of which is not currently in the Bode Museum in Berlin.



Leeuwengroot of Rekem / 2.21 g.
 ex- collection H. Grote
 Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Acc. 1885/51
 photographs by Christian Stoess

• ✠ • MONET[Λ] † R[E]DE[R']
 [O]*DV D[']ES TEN['] [ΛR]N'
 [...BHD...] SIT [...] H[RI...]

This is the second known specimen of this type, and the third known Rekem *leeuwengroot* specimen. It comes from the H. Grote collection.

Previous Literature

Suhle 1931, pp. 79-80 (ref. 18)

Suhle did not assign these coins two different numbers, presumably because the obverses (lion side) are the same as one another. But because of the vastly different reverse legends, we would not consider one to be a sub-type of the other, rather, they are two different types. Suhle notes that the inner legend of his **75 a** is the same as that of the Rummen RUMEN coins (**Suhle 79**). He incorrectly gives a Roman N in ARNO, but the gothic **Ń**'s on the coins are clear.

On pp 83-86, Suhle discusses the Lordship of Stein and nine types of coin struck for “Arnold of Stein”, although it is clear that much of his information comes from Wolters (ref. 22).

Vanhoudt 1996, pp. 93-94 (ref. 21)

Vanhoudt discusses the Lordship of Rekem (Reckheim), and lists 9 Rekem coin types struck for Arnold of Stein. The entry for one of these coins reads as follows [*sic*]:

“G 1804
Mijt – koper
Rekem
Z.f.N. 1931, p. 79”

– (p. 94) ^[21]

For some reason, Vanhoudt has decided that the silver, Rekem *leeuwengroten* are copper *mites*. Suhle’s description of these coins makes it abundantly clear that he is talking about *leeuwengroten*; full, silver *groten*, not copper *mites*. Vanhoudt does not provide an illustration (of course). Like Suhle himself, it would also appear that Vanhoudt has merged **Suhle 75 a** and **Suhle 75 b** into one type (**Vanhoudt G 1804**).

• III. Namur

The *leeuwengroten* of Namur have never been completely and accurately described. Our upcoming publication on the Namur *leeuwengroten* will, of course, rectify this situation, but at the moment, Chalon (ref. 5) remains the best publication on the subject. The type under discussion in this report was discovered many years after Chalon’s works were published. Suhle was the only author to ever describe the unique Namur *leeuwengroot* that is the subject of the current report (albeit unillustrated). The photographs provided here are the first photos of this extremely rare, Namur type of *leeuwengroot* ever to be published.

William I, Count of Namur (1337-1389)

Chalon — ^[5]
R. Serrure — ^[17]
Suhle 66 ^[18]
Meert 1989 — ^[12]
Vanhoudt 1996 — ^[21]
Dengis 2005 — ^[8]



Leeuwengroot of Namur / 2.53 g.

Schoo Hoard (1927)

Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Acc. 1927/85

photographs by Christian Stoess

✠ MONET * BVUINC
 NPM ORI E:O MES
 ✠ BNDICT[...M]E: DNI: ORI: IHV ✠PI

Before seeing the piece in Berlin, we were highly skeptical that Suhle had described it properly, and we expected a fairly illegible coin. Instead, we were delightfully surprised (stunned) to find a magnificent, legible coin, a unique *leeuwengroot* that no researcher has seen for over 80 years, and of which no photograph has ever been published before.

The final letter in the obverse legend is clearly a C followed by a wedge apostrophe, but whether this combination was intended as C' or as G is difficult to say; Suhle interpreted the legend as BVUING, while we tend to read it as BVUINC'. Presumably, the word was intended to be read as {the Latin equivalent of} *Bouvignes*.

The uppermost item in the obverse border is not completely legible, but appears to be a lion, not a leaf (i.e. an 11 leaf / 1 lion border). The Roman N in DNI is unusual. Note that the 'rules' of *First O round*, *second O long* and *Two O's by the cross arms* have been followed on this coin. Unlike some Namur *leeuwengroten*, there does not seem to be any sign of a crown on the central lion's head, nor of a diagonal bar behind the lion.

Previous Literature

Suhle 1931, p. 78 (ref. 18)

Suhle does not note the barless **A**'s, and gives small **x**'s after MONETA instead of the correct stars. He does not note the annulet **T** in MONETA.

Suhle gives “*zu Chalon 156*” (12 leaf border, GVILLEM reverse), as a reference, probably because it is another Bouvignes coin, but a better reference would have been “*zu Chalon 159*” (border: 11 leaf / 1 lion border, NAMOURC reverse).

Other Authors

In his article on the coins of Bouvignes and Méraude (ref. 12), **Meert** displays a distinct lack of attention to detail. Although published long after Suhle's 1931 report, Meert fails to mention the BVUINC' *gros au lion* and does not cite Suhle as a reference. **Vanhoudt** does not list the BVUINC' type in his book (ref. 21), despite citing Suhle's report on other occasions (e.g. the *leeuwengroten* of Rekem, **Vanhoudt G 1804**, misdescribed by Vanhoudt as a *mijt* (ref. 21, p. 94). **Dengis'** article on the *gros au lion* of Bouvignes (ref. 8), is only two pages long and does not go into any detail. Dengis does not cite Suhle or mention the BVUINC' type.

• IV. Guelders (Gelre, Gelderland)

The medieval coins of Guelders are not particularly well documented in the available numismatic literature, and the Guelders *leeuwengroten* have never been completely and accurately described. Our upcoming publication on the Guelders *leeuwengroten* will rectify this situation (of course), but at the moment there is no reference work available other than v. d. Chijs' incomplete book on the coins of Guelders (ref. 4) and various subsequent publications about specific coins (e.g. **Roest**, ref. 15). The photographs provided here are the first photos of this type of Guelders *leeuwengroot* ever to be published.

Reinald III, Duke of Guelders (1343-1371)

v.d. Chijs — (pl. III, 1 var.?)^[4]

R. Serrure — (70 var.?)^[17]

Suhle 77^[14]



Leeuwengroot of Guelders / 1.99 g.

Schoo Hoard (1927)

Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Acc. 1927/85

photographs by Christian Stoess

✠ MONETA ✠ GELRNS'

EIN OLD DNO SGR

✠] BNDICTV : SIT : NOME : DNI [...]V : X[...]

This is a unique coin, the only known specimen of such a *leeuwengroot* with a GELRNS legend (instead of GELRENS). But then again, Guelders *leeuwengroten* are very rare, and several types are known from unique specimens only. This coin might not be a new “type”, it may be a simple die-sinker’s error, the omission of an intended E. There is an unusual, Roman M in NOME on the reverse, which we have not seen on any other Guelders *leeuwengroot* (so perhaps it is a new type...).

This coin is a good example of both the *First O round, second O long* ‘rule’, and the *Two O’s by the cross arms* ‘rule’. Instead of a more logical REI NOL DDN OSG legend, the manufacturers went for EIN OLD DNO SGR, which puts the two O’s exactly in the ‘right’ places. In fact, REI NOL DDN YSG would have been even more logical (DomiNVs instead of DomiNOs), but they wanted 2 O’s in the legend.

Previous Literature

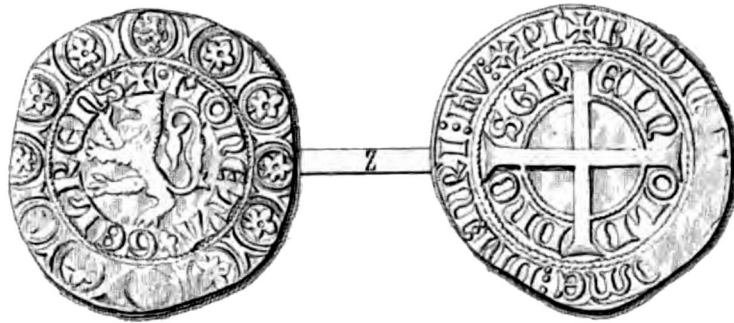
Suhle 1931, p. 80 (ref. 18)

Suhle is the only author to report this type of coin. He is uncertain about whether to attribute the coin to Reinald II (1326-1343) or to Reinald III (1343-1371).

In his report, Suhle does not indicate a pellet left of the initial cross on the obverse (present on the Berlin coin). He does not specify the forms of the **A**'s, **L**'s or **O**'s, and erroneously gives a Roman **E** in GELRNS. On p. 80 Suhle states that there was 1 Guelders fragment present, but on p. 87 he says that there were 2. Depending on which of Suhle's pages is correct, there is either 1 fragment missing, or the Schoo Guelders coin in Berlin is the sole example from the hoard, since there is currently only 1 Guelders *leeuwengroot* (broken) in the Bode Museum collection.

V. D. Chijs (ref. 4)

In his book, van der Chijs shows a coin that is very similar to the coin under discussion:



v.d. Chijs, plate III, 1 ^[4]

This coin has a MONETA GELRENS legend instead of GELRNS. The reverse seems to be basically the same as the Berlin coin, but this piece has a gothic **M** in NOME, unlike the Schoo Hoard, GELRNS coin, with its Roman **M**.

This same specimen was described by R. Serrure as his **n° 70** (ref. 17); Serrure also used v.d. Chijs' drawing as an illustration. According to v.d. Chijs, the piece was in the Collection van der Noordaa and weighed 3.1 g.

The v.d. Chijs' drawing shows what is almost certainly the same specimen that is currently in the collection of the Teyler's Museum (Haarlem, The Netherlands). In other words, this type is known from a single specimen only (despite the discrepancy between the actual weight of the coin: 2.73 g., and that given by v.d. Chijs). There are no other examples known to us.

V.d. Chijs speculates that the DNOSG in the reverse legend may in fact have been intended to be read as *Dvx NOSTri Gelrensis* ('duke of our Guleders') and not as *DomīNOS Gelrensis* (lord of Guelders) (ref. 4, p. 33).



Leeuwengroot of Guelders / 2.73 g.
 Teylers Museum TMNK 06014
 (Photo: Teylers Museum, Haarlem)

✠ • MONETA ✠ GELRENS'
 EIN OLD DNO SGR
 ✠ BNDIC[TV : SIT : N]OME : DNI : NR'I : DEI : **h**'V : XPI'

The **I** is missing from IHV in the outer legend. The Berlin coin is broken and we are therefore unable to compare the full outer legend. It appears, however, that there is not enough room for XPI on the Berlin coin, and the legend may only read XP.

It is impossible to say whether this and the Berlin specimen were intended by the mint to be “the same” as one another or not (i.e. the same “type”). There are at least three differences between the legends, and there may be more. But are these differences the result of mint mandate, or die-sinker’s error?

Conclusion

Although reported by Suhle in 1931, subsequent researchers seem to have paid little or no attention to these rare coins (possibly because the lack of illustrations in Suhle's report cast doubt upon the accuracy of his descriptions?). We were ourselves skeptical about Suhle's descriptions until we saw the coins with our own eyes.

Were Suhle's descriptions of otherwise unknown coin types considered by subsequent authors to be too outlandish, and therefore suspect? Vanhoudt, for example, listed the coin of Rekem in his book, but altered the description from *leeuwengroot* to *mijt* (ref 20, p. 94). Other authors who published reports on coins and regions in which one would expect to find these rare *leeuwengroten* reported by Suhle omit them altogether; e.g. Meert on Namur (ref. 12) and Grolle on Coevorden (ref. 11), whether by design or by oversight.

All of the coins shown in this report are exceedingly rare and the types are known only from the examples illustrated here. No photographs of these coins have ever been published. Over 90 years after their discovery in the Schoo Hoard, we are pleased to finally be able to present them here for the benefit of the numismatic community.

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in *RBN*, 1898, pp. 277-284.

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Die ostfriesischen Münzfunde

Peter Berghaus

pp. 9-73

in *Friesisches Jahrbuch*

Number 32, 1958

pp 51-52

Item 36. Schoo

[3]

Recherches sur les Monnaies des Comtes de Namur

Renier Chalon

Brussels, 1860.

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De munten der voormalige graven en hertogen van Gelderland, van de vroegste tijden tot aan de Pacificatie van Gend

P. O. van der Chijs

Erven F. Bohn, Haarlem

1852

[5]

De munten van Friesland, Groningen en Drenthe (der heeren van Koevorden) van de vroegste tijden tot aan de pacificatie van Gend

P. O. van der Chijs

Erven F. Bohn, Haarlem

1855

[6]

De munten der leenen van de voormalige hertogdommen Brabant en Limburg, enz. van de vroegste tijden tot aan de Pacificatie van Gend

P. O. van der Chijs

Erven F. Bohn, Haarlem

1862

[7]

Der Turnosen Fund von Wittmund

H. Dannenberg

in *Zeitschrift für Numismatik* 10 (1883), pp. 223-232.

[8]

Gros au lion de Bouvignes

J.-L. Dengis

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J. A. Feith

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[10]

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H. von Frauendorfer

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

(*Mitteilungen der Bayerischen Numismatischen Gesellschaft*)

[11]

Muntende ministerialen in Over-Sticht en Holland gedurende de 13e en 14e eeuw : de muntslag van de heren van Kuinre, Voorst, Hekeren, Almelo, Coevorden, Selwerd, Arkel, Asperen en Egmond, alsmede de financiële paragraaf van het Friese Opstalboomstatuut uit 1323

J.J. Grolle

Amsterdam, 2002.

[12]

Frappe des Ateliers de Bouvignes et de Méraude sous Guillaume I, comte de Namur (1337-1397) et sous Marie d'Artois, dame de Poilvache (1342-1353)

C. Meert

in *RBN*, 1989,

pp. 25-38, plates I – II.

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A.J. Munsters

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A. T. Puister

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Essai de classification des monnaies du comté puis duché de Gueldre

T. M. Roest

Revue Belge Numismatique

1891

pp. 370-404

Plates X & XI

pp. 516-562

Plates XI & XIII

[16]

Vaderlandsch museum voor Nederduitsche letterkunde, oudheid en geschiedenis Deel 3,

Gent, 1859-1860, plate IV & p. 405.

C. P. Serrure

[17]

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

Raymond Serrure

1899

Liège: G. Genard; Maastricht: A.G. Van der Dussen, 1972

[18]

Der Groschenfund von Schoo bei Esens

A. Suhle

ZfN 41, 1931

pp. 67-91

[18]

A Preliminary Look at the Rare Leeuwengroot of Groningen (revised version), Rotterdam,

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[20]

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M. J. Wolters

Ghent, 1854