

Some Unusual *Leeuwengroten* from the County of Holland

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Although they are not unknown, spelling errors in the legends of the 14th century *leeuwengroot* (*gros compaignon*, *gros au lion*, *gezel*, *socius*) coins are very rare on those coins struck at official mints (Flanders, Brabant, Holland, etc.).

Spelling errors on (medieval) counterfeit *leeuwengroten*, on the other hand, are surprisingly common. They are usually found in the reverse, outer, BNDICTVM SIT NOME DNI NRI {DEI} IHV XPI legend. (The word DEI is not present on most *leeuwengroten* from any region.)



Elsen 133-898

Everything about this *leeuwengroot* from Flanders appears genuine, but the die-sinker has made a mistake, and the obverse legend reads **MONETA QLAND** instead of the correct **FLAND**. (Struck for Louis of Nevers, (1322-1346)).

Despite the tight controls that seem to have been exercised at the larger mints, it appears that the occasional spelling mistake did make it onto a coin. Either the error slipped through the checking process unnoticed, or an erroneous die was not considered to be too much of a problem, and was put into use to strike coins, in order to not waste the labor that had already been invested in the manufacture of said die.

The three coins described in this report are the only Holland *leeuwengroten* we have yet come across with spelling errors in the legends. Two of the coins seem to be genuine, while the third is somewhat more suspect.

All 3 coins can be found in the Bode Museum collection (*Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Münzkabinett*), along with 3 other **HOLAND** coins from the Grote collection.

At the time we published our report on the Holland *leeuwengroten* (ref. 3), the HOLAND subtypes known to us were as follows:

<i>Sub-type</i>	<i>Grolle type</i>	<i>obverse</i>	<i>reverse</i>	<i>leaf</i>	L	T	A
A	d	• †	XC	♣	L	T	Æ
B	d	• †	XC	♣	L	T	Æ
C	-	• †	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
D-2	-	• †	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
D	-	• †	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
E	-	• †	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
F	-	• †	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
F-2	-	• †	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
G	h *	• † •	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
H	i *	• † •	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
H-2	i *	• † •	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
I	c *	• † •	XC	♣	L	?	?

Table 1
Known HOLAND *leeuwengroeten* in 2016

1.

v.d. Chijs VI, 18 (var.)^[1]

Grolle 17.2.2 (var.)^[2]

Torongo / v. Oosterhout —^[3]



Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin / 3.266 g.

Acc. 1879 Grote

photographs by Bernhard Weisser

• ✠ MONETA ✠ hOLAND'
GVIL LELM̃ DVX OMES
✠ BNDICTV : SIT : NOMES DNI : NRI : IHV : XPII

This piece comes from the Grote collection. There is an extra **I** in XPI in the reverse, outer legend, which is likely to be a die-sinker's error.

The combination of:

- no pellet right of the initial cross
- 'normal' **A**'s and **T**'s
- no pellet above the leaf-mark after MONETA
- colon after DVX

is not found in our catalog on the *leeuwengroten* of Holland (ref. 3). (It is also not found in Grolle's catalog (ref. 2), but then again, Grolle's catalog is almost completely inaccurate.)

There is nothing in particular about this piece that makes it look like a medieval counterfeit; in fact, the central lion has the same wavy upper lip as many of the genuine Holland *leeuwengroten*. The lettering looks the same as that found on the genuine **HOLAND** coins.

The XPII error notwithstanding, it would appear that this coin represents yet another sub-type of the Holland **HOLAND** *leeuwengroten*.

2.

v.d. Chijs VI, 18 (var.)^[1]

Grolle 17.2.2 (var.)^[2]

Torongo / v. Oosterhout Catalog Type C (var.)^[3]



Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin / 3.267 g.

Acc. 1870 Dannenberg

photographs by Bernhard Weisser

✠ MONET **A** ✠ hOLAND'
GVIL LELM DVX: **D** OMES
✠ BNDICTV: SIT: **Q**OME: DNI: **Q**RI: IHV: **XP**

This piece comes from the Dannenberg collection, and the final **I** of XPI is missing from the reverse, outer legend.

Like the previous coin, there is nothing in particular about this piece that makes it look like a medieval counterfeit, and once again, the central lion has the same wavy upper lip as the genuine Holland coins, and the lettering looks “official”. Presumably then, the XP is simply a die-sinker’s error.

The combination of:

- no pellet right of the initial cross
- annulet **A** and ‘normal’ **T** in MONETA
- no pellet above the leaf-mark after MONETA
- colon after DVX

seems to indicate a **cat. Type C** coin (see ref. 3).

3.

v.d. Chijs VI, 18 (var.)^[1]

Grolle 17.2.2 (var.)^[2]

Torongo / v. Oosterhout Catalog Type A (var.)^[3]



*Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin / 2.512 g.
photographs by Bernhard Weissner*

• ✠ MONETA ✠ HOLAND

GVIL LELM DVXC OMES

[✠ BN]DICTIT : S[IT : NOMES DNI] : NRI : IHV : XP[I]

There are a number of things “wrong” with this specimen: the central lion does not particularly resemble the genuine, Holland lions (admittedly, a rather subjective statement). Although several of the letters, especially the M’s, look “correct” for a HOLLAND coin, the A’s are not a type we have ever seen on a HOLLAND coin. The spelling error in the outer legend is far more serious than those found on the two previous examples (BNDICIT instead of the correct BNDICTV).

The combination of:

- no pellet right of the initial cross
- ‘normal’ A’s and T’s
- no pellet above the leaf-mark after MONETA
- no colon after DVX

seems to indicate a **cat. Type A** coin, although the mark after MONETA does not appear to be an upside-down leaf: ♣ (see ref. 3).

This coin may be a medieval “deceptive imitation” of a genuine HOLLAND coin, or the dies may have simply been made by a different die-sinker than the other known **cat. Type A** specimens.

Conclusion

It is always difficult to determine if a “new sort” is a new sub-type (a coin intended by the mint as different from other sub-types) or an anomaly (a die-sinker error). We are generally cautious about “creating new sub-types”, but it would appear that the first coin described in this report is indeed a different sub-type than any of the previously known specimens, based upon the TA of MONETA, and the mark following.

<i>Sub-type</i>	<i>Grolle type</i>	<i>obverse</i>	<i>reverse</i>	<i>leaf</i>	L	T	A
A	d	•✚	XC	♣	L	T	Æ
B	d	•✚	XC	♣	L	T	Æ
C	-	•✚	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
D-2	-	•✚	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
D	-	•✚	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
E	-	•✚	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
1.	-	•✚	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
F	-	•✚	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
F-2	-	•✚	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
G	h *	•✚•	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
H	i *	•✚•	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
H-2	i *	•✚•	X:C	♣	L	T	Æ
I	c *	•✚•	XC	♣	L	?	?

Table 2
Known *HOLAND leeuwengroeten* in 2019

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