

A Preliminary Look at the Fractional *Leeuwengroten* of The Lordship of Megen

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NNC NM-10372 / 1.23 g.



DNB 2007-0201 / 1.001 g.

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Introduction

The *leeuwengroot* (or *gros compaignon*, *gros au lion*, *gezel*, *socius*), was a nominally silver coin struck in and around the Low Lands in the 14th century. Current thinking holds that it was first struck in Flanders in late May or early June, 1337, under count Louis of Nevers (1337-1346). Striking continued on and off until 1364 (under count Louis of Male (1346-1384)). These coins became a popular sort of money, and they were widely imitated in the regions around Flanders. Many fractional coins are known from these regions as well, in several denominations.



leeuwengroot of Flanders, Louis of Nevers (1322-1346)
Elsen 107-840 / 3.97 g.
(also Elsen 117-1356 and Elsen 112-873)

Fractional Megen *Leeuwengroten*

There are 3 types of fractional *leeuwengroot* (?) coins known to have been struck in Megen:

I	$\frac{1}{3}$ <i>groot</i> (?) “mini- <i>leeuwengroot</i> ”	IOHANNES
II	$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>groot</i> (?), long cross, 21 mm	IOHANNES
III	$\frac{1}{4}$ <i>groot</i> (?), long cross, 17 mm	anonymous

The first type is a “mini-*leeuwengroot*”, similar to the Flemish *tiers* of Louis of Male (c. 1351-1352), but even more similar to the later “mini-*leeuwengroot*” of Johanna and Wenceslas of Brabant, c. 1381-1383 (?). **Cat. I.** (See ref. 22.)

Martiny makes a strong argument that the Flemish “mini-*leeuwengroot*” (for lack of a better term) is a $\frac{1}{3}$ *groot* (*tiers de gros*) (ref. 11, p. 162). If the Brabant “mini-*leeuwengroot*” of c. 1382, similar in design to the Flemish *tiers* of 25 years earlier, was also a *tiers*, it stands to reason that its imitations in Megen, Batenburg and Gennep were *tiers* as well. (Lucas calls the Megen coins $\frac{2}{3}$ *grooten* (ref. 10)). If, however, the Brabant model was a $\frac{1}{2}$ *groot*, then so too the Megen imitation (?).

The second type of Megen fractional coin is a long-cross coin of c. 21 mm. with a IOHANNES legend (**Cat. II**, $\frac{1}{2}$ groot?), and the third is a long-cross type of about 17 mm, without the name of any minting authority (**Cat. III**, $\frac{1}{4}$ groot?).

Some of the previous researchers describing the “mini-*leeuwengroot*” coins of Megen referred to them as {full} *groten*, when in fact, they are fractional *groten* coins. No full *leeuwengroten* from Megen are known, and it is possible or even probable that none were ever minted. There are a number of fractional *leeuwengroten* struck in smaller lordships for which there are no full *groot* counterparts, and it is likely that none were ever minted in these places either. In other words: there seems to be an established precedent for smaller realms striking fractional *leeuwengroten* without ever striking the full *leeuwengroten*, Megen included. There are a number of minor realms that struck small coins with lions as a main type, (e.g. Cuyck / Kuik) which, depending on how one wishes to define the term, may or may not be “fractional *leeuwengroten*”.

There are only a tiny number of Megen coins available to us for study; the specimens known to us are as follows:

“Mini-*leeuwengroot*”

NNC NM-10372	1.23 g.	
NBM 03088	1.00 g.	
CdMB 115	1.00 g.	
CdMB 116	1.06 g.	(MAGEN variant)

Long cross, 21 mm.

DNB 2007-0201	1.001 g.	
NBM 3089	1.29 g.	
private collection	?	(; variant ?)

Long cross, 17 mm.

private collection	0.52 g.
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The weights do not tell us much about the denominations.

All of the known “mini-*leeuwengroot*” specimens have a crowned, central lion with a double tail:



The two long-cross types, however, seem to have an uncrowned lion with a single tail. (Admittedly, the very few known specimens are not particularly clear.)

Fractional *Leeuwengroten*

As we attempted to explain in our reports on the *leeuwengroten* of Holland and associated fractional coins (refs. 19 & 20), and fractional coins of Flanders (ref. 22) determination and description of the fractional *leeuwengroten* (of all regions) can be quite a tricky business. Previous authors have suggested that fractional *leeuwengroten* were issued (in various different principalities) in denominations of $1/2$ *groot*, $1/3$ *groot*, $2/3$ *groot*, $1/4$ *groot*, $1/8$ *groot* and/or $1/12$ *groot*. It appears that $1/2$ - $1/4$ - $1/8$ *groot* coins were loosely based upon the French *denier* coin system, while $2/3$ - $1/3$ - ($1/6$?) *groot* coins were based upon the English *sterling* system.

The denomination is never spelled out in any of the coin legends as might be the case in France or other places (DVPLEX for a double *denier*, etc.), and so it is left to modern researchers to try and determine the “denomination” of a given coin type.

On pp. 54-55 (ref. 13), Nissen/Benders discuss coin denominations and the associated problems inherent in attempts at determination. While admitting that certainty is far from possible, they offer this rough guide for silver coins from the period 1350-1450:

25-28 mm.	<i>groot</i>
20-24 mm.	$1/2$ <i>groot</i>
16-19 mm.	$1/4$ <i>groot</i>
12-15 mm.	$1/8$ <i>groot</i>
[sic]	

Note, however, that the list may be oversimplified, as known double *groten* and any coins of $2/3$ *groot* or $1/3$ *groot* denominations are unlisted. On p. 62, Nissen/Benders list a *dubbele groot* at 32 mm. (N/B 8).

Previous Literature Regarding the Megen Fractional *Leeuwengroten*

Despite a fairly large amount of writing having been done regarding the Megen *leeuwengroot*-type coins (all 3 types), few (if any) of the previous authors managed to get the descriptions completely correct. None of the previous authors provided accurate transcriptions of all the legends that include all of the relevant letter forms reported.

With varying degrees of success, the fractional “mini-*leeuwengroot*” of Megen was described by **van der Chijs** (1862, ref. 2), **de Voogt** (1873, ref. 24), **R. Serrure** (1899, ref. 18), **Puister** (1977, ref. 16), **Lucas** (1982, ref. 10), **Passon** (2003, ref. 14), and **Nissen & Benders** (2017, ref. 13).

The “long-cross” types were described by most of the same authors, as well as by **Cuypers van Velthoven** (1851, ref. 3) and **Roest** (1882, ref. 17).

The Lords (“Counts”) of Megen

Megen was a small lordship that included the city of Megen and the towns of Haren, Macharen and Teffelen. According to Nissen/Benders, the earliest known written reference to minting in Megen dates from 7 May, 1584 (ref 13, p. 43).

Some of the Lords of Megen referred to themselves as “count”, but this was an empty title without sanction from the Emperor. Like most small, medieval realms, the exact dates of the reigns of the Lords of Megen are not known. As is so often the case, we have only first and last appearances in medieval records to go on, and modern works on genealogy. In theory, one can simply consult the most recent work to get an accurate family tree, which should have the most up-to-date information, but in practice, it may not be so simple.

According to Nissen/Benders (ref. 13, p. 32: Table I), who cite Van Dinther as their primary source (with their further alterations discussed on pp. 32-33), the Lords of Megen were:

John I	1271 - 1303	
William III	1308	
John II	1334 - 1347	
William IV	1351 - 1358	died 2 June, 1358 ? (p. 33)
John III	1358 - 1417	born no earlier than 1346 / 1347, no later than 1352 (p. 33)

According to Van Dinther (ref. 4, pp. 6-7):

John I of Megen	1271 - 1286	p. 16	son of William II
William III	1306 - 1308	p. 17	son of John I
John II of Megen (last reference 1347)	1319 † 1351	pp. 18 - 23	son of William III
(William of Megen) mentioned 11 Sep., 1321	† 5 April, 1341	p. 17	son of William III
William IV	1342 † 1358	pp. 24 - 32	son of John II
John III of Megen	1368 † 1417	pp. 33 - 48	son of William IV born c. 1351 (p. 33)

Brabant

Minting of *leeuwengroten* in Flanders under Louis of Male (1346-1384) ceased in 1364, and in Brabant under John III (1312-1355) some years before his death. Minting of *leeuwengroten* began again in Brabant under Jeanne & Wenceslas (1355-1383), perhaps around 1357, and ceased in 1363. However, it appears that at some point around 1381, minting of *leeuwengroten* in Brabant was resumed: the MONETA BRABA type.

On p. 162, de Witte (ref. 25) discusses the MONETA BRABA *leeuwengroot* of Duchess Johanna (Jeanne) of Brabant (1355-1406), and her husband, Wenceslas of Luxemburg (1355-1383), and its associated fractional coin, which de Witte calls a *demi-gros*.



De Witte, plate XVIII, n° 405, gros ^[25]



De Witte, plate XVIII, n° 406, “demi-gros” ^[25]

Note the relative size of the two coins. On the face of it, one might expect a $\frac{1}{2}$ *groot* of the same fineness as the full *groot* to be exactly half the size (diameter and weight). Things did not necessarily work that way; however, and a *half-groot* denomination could also be achieved by a producing a coin that was larger than half of the *groot*, but less fine (i.e. of an alloy containing less silver).

Note as well, that other than their sizes, the two coins are almost identical, **the only difference being the form of the border leaves**. Both coins have 11♣ / 1♣ borders, while the Flemish *tiers* of some 25 years earlier had only 10 items in the border.

De Witte, p. 162:

“This gros and demi-gros are, perhaps, the gros and demi-gros of Brabant struck at Louvain, according to the ordinance of 6 June, 1381.” ^[25]

De Witte carefully uses the word “perhaps” (*peut-être*), and he only says “according to [*en suite*] the ordinance of 6 June, 1381”, without giving any actual minting dates (the ordinance in question does not actually mention any fractional coins).

The BRABA “mini-*leeuwengroot*” fractional (which may or may not be a $\frac{1}{2}$ *groot*), has a fairly unique sort of leaf in its obverse, outer border: a distinct cloverleaf, ♣. As mentioned, this is the only stylistic difference between the fractional and the full *groot* coins, with their more ‘standard’ 3-lobed leaves:



fractional groot



full groot

The same Brabant $\frac{1}{2}$ *groot* cloverleaf is found on the fractional *leeuwengroten* of Megen, Gennep and Batenburg, which is a strong indication that all of these types are concurrent with one another, with Brabant in all likelihood as the original model. Minting of the Megen coins (and the other imitations) may have begun at some time around late 1381 or thereafter.



Megen



Batenburg



Gennep

Furthermore, the reverse, outer legend of most *leeuwengroten* reads BNDICTV SIT NOME DNI NRI (DEI) IHV XPI. This is also the outer legend found on the Flemish “mini-*leeuwengroten*”, *tiers de gros* of Louis of Male, struck 1350-1352.

But not one of the four “mini-*leeuwengroot*” types mentioned above (Brabant, Megen, Gennep, Batenburg) has such a legend; they all have legends giving the name of the minting authority. This seems to corroborate the idea that these coins were all contemporaneous with one another (and perhaps that the four types were copied from the Brabantine original as well).



*Elsen 132-419
fractional groat of Brabant*



*NNC NM-10372 / 1.23 g.
fractional groat of Megen*



*Künker Auction Summer 2018, Lot 881 / 1.11 g.
fractional groat of Gennep*

— CATALOG OF COINS —

In the following catalog, an asterisk (*) indicates a reference with a description that is not completely accurate.

The “*Mini-leeuwengroot*”

Type I

John III of Megen 1358-1417

1/3 groot ? 1/2 groot ? (2/3 groot ?)

• **I-a** **MONETA MEGEN**

De Voogt 17 ^[24]

*** Van der Chijs, Plate II, 4** ^[1]

R. Serrure 46 ^[18]

*** Lucas 2** ^[10]

Passon 5 ^[14]

Puister 4 ^[16]

Nissen/Benders 3 c ^[13]

The *leeuwengroot* ‘rule’ of “first **O** round, second **O** long” has not been followed on the Megen coins. The use of two round **O**’s in the reverse, inner legend is noteworthy, since the “usual” pattern for *leeuwengroten* is **●** / **●**. For that matter, round **O**’s on medieval coins are noteworthy in and of themselves. They are uncommon, they do not “match” the general style of lettering used on medieval coins, and they are difficult for the engravers to make. The difference between **●** / **●** on in the *gros tournois* of France is well known and has been studied extensively. Any time a round **O** is encountered on a medieval coin, it should be noted.



NNC NM-10372 / 1.23 g.

✠ **MONETA** ✠ **MEGE[DN]**
 ✠ **IOH** **ANNO** **ES:Q** **OZ** **MZ**
 [✠ **IOH**... **DN**...] **GENS[VS]**

{IOH COMES DNS MEGENSVS}



This is the same specimen used as an illustration by Puister and again by Nissen/Benders. The **M**'s look like **II**, the **H** (**h**) of IOHANNES has a very short ascender: **h** (thus appearing to read **ION**). The ring around the lion seems to be part of the design, not just a die-sinker's guideline (cf. the Gennep and Batenberg coins), but we have only a few specimens to go on.

The obverse border consists of a shield (of Megen) and leaves.



X or leaf after MONETA?

The clearest examples we could find of the mark after MONETA among the related coins were coins of Gennep, which showed both a clear X: ✕, and what can only be described as a *quatrefoil*: ☼. This is, of course, not **evidence** for what mark was on the Megen coins, but may be relevant nonetheless.



Noord-Brabants Museum 03088 / 1.00 g.

✕ MONETA ✕ MEGEN'
 [✕IOH ANNO E...]
 [...NNES...ES...]



(tail unclear)

Same as the previous coin (?).



CdMB 115 / 1.00 g.
Photos: Alain Renard / KBR

[⌘ M]○ηετπ × ηεγεη'
× I○h πηνη ε[...] [O⌘] M×
⌘ I[...ηες : αο[...:]μεγ[ε]ηςvs



(Central lion unclear)

As far as we can tell, the three specimens shown above are all “the same” as one another.

The coins appear to have a 1♠ / 1♣ border, although none of the available specimens are particularly clear. There seems to be a great deal of space between the leaves:



• I-b MONETA MAGEN

Van der Chijs — (Plate II, 4 var.) ^[1]

R. Serrure — (46 var.) ^[18]

* De Voogt 18 ^[24]

* Lucas 2 b ^[10]

* Passon 5b ^[14]

Puister — (4 var.) ^[16]

* Nissen/Benders 3 b ^[13]



*CdMB 116 / 1.06 g.
Photos: Alain Renard / KBR*

✠ ΜΟΝΕΤΑ ✠ ΜΑΓΕΝ
✠ ΙΟΗ ΠΝΝ [ΕΣΘ [ΟΧΜ...]
✠ ΙΟΗΠΝΝΕΣ[...]ΝΝSVS

“Megen” is either misspelled on the obverse, or spelled differently than the previous coins (other coin types with similar legends have been reported as well, e.g. N/B 26, 40, 41, 42, although these are later types). Once again, the Μ’s look like Π, and the round Ο’s on both faces are very small. It is not clear whether or not there is an x at the end of the inner legend on the reverse.

Notably, the letter before NSVS in the outer legend (Ν or Η ?) on the reverse does not resemble an Ε at all; this variation has not been reported by any previous author (despite this being the only known example).

This coin is likely to have come from the Nijkerk Hoard (1873), as described by de Voogt (ref. 24), which means that the other KBR coin may have come from that hoard as well.



CdMB 116 (detail)

On the two other legible (MEGEN) specimens shown above, the legend from 9:00 reads ...**EGENSVS**. On this example (MAGEN), however, it seems to be ...**[E]NNSVS** or **[G]NNSVS**, and we are left to wonder what the complete legend should read.



CdMB 116

The “Long-cross” Types

Type II The Larger One: c. 21 mm.

½ groot ?

The IOHANNES legend clearly indicates that this type of coin was struck for either John II or John III.

The weights of the known coins are the same or even heavier than the known Megen “mini-*leeuwengroten*”. These coins bear a strong resemblance to similar pieces struck in Cuyck, struck for John III of Cuyck (1352-1364 (?), which may help verify the theory that the Megen coins were struck for John III of Megen (1358-1416).

There are only 3 known specimens of **cat. II** coins, none of which are completely legible. The previous literature (from the 19th century) provides us with drawings of coins that appear to have 100% legible legends. However, a great many 19th century coin illustrations have been idealized, and the actual model specimens may have, in fact, been partially illegible. (This problem should not be underestimated by the modern researcher.)

The fact that we have only 3, partially illegible, specimens creates some immediate legend reading/transcription problems, and there are some issues that need to be considered before we can continue.

First of all, some of the **E**’s (**Θ**’s ?) on the coins are unclear. With only 3 examples to work from, certainty about these letters is not (yet) possible. Note that previous authors are not always in agreement as to the form of a given **E** (adding weight to our suspicion that the old drawings have been idealized).

The second problem involves the obverse legends; none of the 3 known specimens has anything but a partially illegible legend.

There seem to be (at least) 2 “sub-types” of **cat. II** coins, one with a IOHA/**NΘE**/S:DEM/EGHI reverse legend and the other with a IOHA/**NΘES**/DEM/EGHE reverse legend. But the correct transcription of the obverse legends remains elusive. The question is: is the triple-pellet-stop coin mentioned by Nissen/Benders as a variant, in fact an exception (a ‘variant’) or the rule (i.e. the same as the other **cat. II-a** specimen)?

Coin DNB 2007-0201 has a double pellet on the reverse, but the obverse is unclear. The private collection coin has a triple pellet on the obverse, but the coin is broken just above the sole visible reverse pellet (of two, or three?).

So is the ‘normal’ pattern obverse :: / reverse :: ? Or is it one with obverse :: / reverse :: and the other with obverse :: / reverse :: ?

• II-a

Van der Chijs — (Plate II, 6, var.) ^[1]

Lucas — (Lucas 8, var.) ^[10]

* Nissen/Benders 4 a ^[13]



DNB 2007-0201 / 1.001 g.

✠ M[ONET...DE...ME]GHEN
IOH[AN] NDE S:[DEM EGHI]

Obviously, the legends are not completely legible. Regardless of the interpunction, this sub-type, with **NDE** in quadrant 4, can be distinguished from the following sub-type, with **NDES** in the same quadrant. It does seem, however, that there is some kind of mark after DE on the obverse, but what is it? Double pellets? Triple pellets?



DNB 2007-0201 (detail)

Is there a mark after DE on the obverse? If so, what is it? And is there a mark **before** the same word as well?



DNB 2007-0201 (detail)



private collection
photo: Theo Nissen

[...MONET...DE:M...Gh...]
[IO...] [...NE] [...DE...] [...E]

This is the specimen to which Nissen/Benders are referring with their “N.B. triple pellet interpunction also seen.” (ref 13, p. 60). Much of the legends are unreadable, but there is clearly a triple pellet on the obverse after DE, although the area before the same word is unclear (is there a mark?). On the reverse, there is clearly (at least) one pellet after the S of IOHANNES, but the mark may well be a double or even triple pellet. We cannot, in fact, be certain that this coin is not the same as coin NBM 3089 shown above (with its illegible obverse legend).



Benders P1150129 (detail)
Photo: Theo Nissen

• II-b

Van der Chijs Plate II, 6 ^[1]

* Lucas 8 ^[10]

* Passon 3

* Nissen/Benders 4 b ^[13]



NBM 3089 / 1.29 g.

⌘MO~~Q~~ET⌘ [...MEG~~h~~e]⌘
IO~~h~~[⌘ ~~N~~Q~~E~~S] [...] [...G~~h~~E]

{IOHANNES DE MEGHE}



another photo of NBM 3089

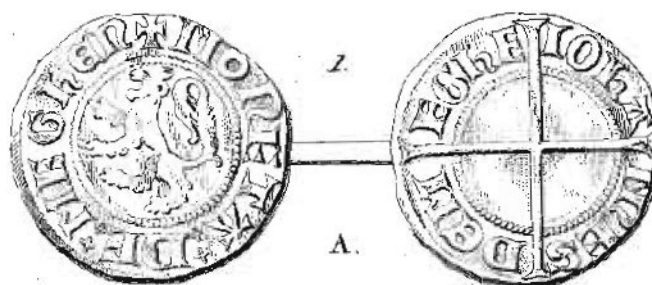
On this sub-type, the reverse legend is divided in a different spot than the previous examples, and the final letter may be different as well (E instead of I). Note the ligatured N's in the reverse legend, which are not found on the other sub-type. Presumably, the reverse legend reads something like:

IOH^{AN} **N**ES D^EM **E**GHE

The semi-illegible areas on both faces make certainty about the punctuation marks impossible. It does appear that **something** is present on the obverse before and after DE:



Are these the marks on NBM 3089 ?



cf. Cuypers van Velthoven p. 168^[3]
The same marks?

The “Long-cross” Type(s)

Type III The Smaller One: c. 17 mm.

$\frac{1}{4}$ *groot* ?
Anonymous

• III-a

V.d. Chijs II, 3 (ascribed to John II (1320-1360 ? *sic*)) ^[1]

Lucas 9, 9 a (ascribed to John III (1359-1415)) ^[10]

Passon 4 a (ascribed to John II (1320-1359 *sic*)) ^[16]

Nissen/Benders 1 (ascribed to William IV (c. 1351-1358)) ^[13]

We can neither confirm nor refute an attribution to either John or to William IV (nor can anyone else). The coin itself is anonymous.



*private collection / 0.52 g.
The same coin as used by Nissen/Benders*

[⋈ MONET]⋈ • HEG[hENSI]
MON E[...] [...] ENSI

{MON ETAI IEGH ENSI}

The **II** on the reverse (cross side) after MON ETA is a sort of **M** without its middle chevron, that is “stretched” over two quadrants, with a central cross arm between them.

This appears to be the only “known” specimen, apparently found by a metal detector user in recent years. The whereabouts of the 3 examples described by v.d. Chijs are unknown.

• III-b

Not Verified

Roest 1882: p. 604, n° 11 (ascribed to John II (1320-1350 *sic*)) ^[17]

* Lucas 9 a ^[10]

* Passon 4 b ^[16]

* Nissen/Benders 1 b ^[13]

First described by Roest in 1882 (ref. 17) and, as far as we can tell, never seen again. Subsequent authors all made (unintentional?) changes to Roest's transcription of the reverse legend (e.g. the forms of the **E**'s reported). Furthermore, Roest did not provide an obverse legend, thus implying that it was the same as **v.d. Chijs II, 3**, which may or may not have been the case. No such thing is expressly stated by Roest, and for all we know, the obverse legend may have been a "variant" as well. Subsequent authors made their own decisions as to how they wished to transcribe the obverse legend, but all of them provided such a legend without ever seeing an actual example of this type of coin.

It is inadvisable (and frankly, irresponsible) to simply repeat an obverse legend without actually ever having seen a specimen, especially when based solely upon a previous author's "same as" description.

All we "know" about this sub-type is that, according to Roest, the coin weighed 0.50 g. and the legends read:

[?]
MON [...] EGHE NSIS

{MON ETAM EGHE NSIS ?}

We can neither verify nor refute the existence of this sub-type at this time.

Previous Literature

Our primary concern is the accurate reporting of the characteristics of medieval coins (and specifically the *leeuwengroten* and related fractionals), for use by future researchers and for the good of the field of numismatics in general.

The previous literature regarding the Megen fractional *leeuwengroot* types is fraught with problems. We would like to make it very clear that our purpose in pointing out the errors made by previous authors is not to cast aspersions or to put these investigators in a bad light, but rather to inform future researchers that the information available elsewhere is (partially) incorrect and cannot be completely relied upon to be accurate.

The study of the *leeuwengroten* (and the associated fractional coins) is the study of fine details, and it is imperative that these details be reported accurately by those writing about the coins, for the sake of medieval numismatics in general.

Most of the previous literature regarding the “mini-*leeuwengroot*” type (**cat. I**) ignores the crown and double tail of the central lion (admittedly hard to see), which in turn has caused problems for later researchers investigating these coins.

Far too many of the authors subsequent to v.d. Chijs show a heavy reliance on the previous literature, and an assumption that said literature was correct. This is, unfortunately, typical of numismatics in general (and probably of most other historical research as well). But our own experience has shown that most of previous literature regarding the *leeuwengroten* (of all regions) is, in fact, seriously and tragically flawed, and we feel that there are important questions that need to be asked, rather than blindly relying on the work of previous authors and parroting the “information” found in those old publications. (We strongly suspect that this is also true of much of the literature regarding many other types of medieval coins outside of our area of study.)

Regarding the *leeuwengroten* specifically, we must accept the fact that old numismatic works almost never properly convey the forms of the **O**’s used on the coins, they are usually shown as the standard long **O** that fits the typeface used, regardless of what appears on the coins. In the case of Megen, not one single author reported the forms of the **O**’s (long or round) on the coins.

Overview of the Previous Literature

Cuypers van Velthoven described only the 21 mm. IOHANNES type (**cat. III-a**) (See p. 26 below.)

Roest described only the variant of the 17 mm. anonymous type (**cat. III-b**) (See p. 35 below.)

V.d. Chijs’ legend transcriptions (p. 36) and illustration of the “mini- *leeuwengroot*” (**plate II, n° 4**) are not completely in agreement with one another, which is typical of v.d. Chijs. In our experience, in cases of conflict, the drawings are usually more accurate than the text transcriptions, but neither are completely trustworthy. In this case, neither v.d. Chijs’ text nor drawing exactly match any known coin specimens. V.d. Chijs incorrectly (albeit tentatively) ascribes the coin to John II (1320-1346). He does not mention the crown or double tail of the central lion. (See p. 27 below.)

De Voogt describes the coins of the Nijkerk Hoard (1873), which included 4 Megen, “mini-*leeuwengroten*”; 3 of which seem to be basically the same as the coin described by v.d. Chijs, with legends that (basically) match v.d. Chijs’ illustration (n° 17). The fourth specimen has a MONETA MAGEN legend (n° 18). De Voogt provides no illustrations of the Megen coins.

De Voogt erroneously refers to the type as a *groot*, but correctly states that it is an imitation of the Johanna/Wenceslas Brabant coin. He also correctly states that v.d. Chijs’ attribution to John II (1320-1346) is wrong. He is the first author to mention the central lion’s crown and double tail.
(See p. 33 below.)

R. Serrure ascribes the Megen “mini-*leeuwengroot*” coins to John III (1359-1415), and states that the type is a copy of the *tiers de gros* of Louis of Male in Flanders, by which he implies that the Megen coin is also a $\frac{1}{3}$ *groot*. Serrure gives no references, although he cites v.d. Chijs at other points in his text, and uses v.d. Chijs’ drawing as an illustration for the Megen type (n° 46).
(See p. 36 below)

Lucas cites v.d. Chijs and R. Serrure, providing v.d. Chijs’ text transcriptions (albeit run through a typewriter) and stating that the “mini-*leeuwengroot*” is a copy of the Flemish *tiers de gros* of Louis of Male struck for John III (1359-1415) (n° 2). He also cites de Voogt’s MAGEN legend as a variant (n° 2 a). Lucas makes one important alteration, however: he refers to the coin as a $\frac{2}{3}$ gros (“*deux tiers de gros*”). Lucas fails to mention the lion’s double tail or to cite **de Voogt 17**.
(See p. 36 below.)

Puister ascribes the type to John III, and gives a superficial, all-capitals transcription of the legends. (N° 7a.4). He is the first author to provide a photograph, and although he does not mention the crown and double-tail of the central lion specifically, a reader may have been able to discern them in the (admittedly poor) photo.
(See p. 41 below.)

Passon basically repeats what Lucas said: the type is a copy of the Flemish *tiers de gros* of Louis of Male struck for John III (n° 5), and he cites de Voogt’s MAGEN legend as a variant (n° 5a). No mention of a crown or double tail.
(See p. 42 below.)

Nissen & Benders ascribe the “mini-*leeuwengroot*” coin (**cat. I**) to John III, and list 3 “variants”; the first (**N/B 3 a**) is the coin illustrated by v.d. Chijs, with a specific, single-tailed, uncrowned lion, which may not actually exist (and in our opinion, does not). In addition, Nissen/Benders’ legend transcriptions do not match their own source (v.d. Chijs).

The other two variants are both confirmed: the MAGEN coin reported by de Voogt (**N/B 3 b**, albeit with an erroneous outer legend transcription) currently in the KBR collection, and the other 3 Nijkerk Hoard examples listed by de Voogt (**N/B 3 c**), both sub-types listed by Nissen / Benders as having a crowned, double-tailed lion.

Nissen/Benders ascribe the anonymous $\frac{1}{4}$ *groot* (?) (**cat. III**) to William IV (c. 1351-1358) (**N/B 1**). Their transcriptions of the IOHANNES $\frac{1}{2}$ *groot* (?) (**cat. II**) are inaccurate (**N/B 4**).
(See p. 44 below.)

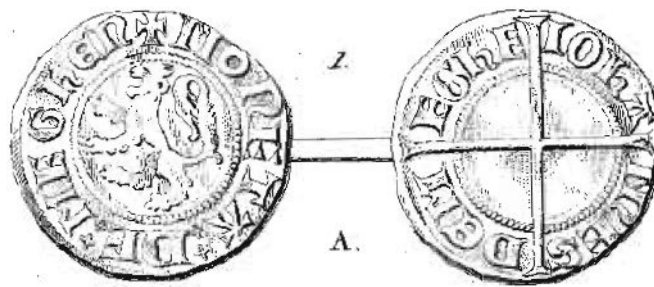
Cuypers van Velthoven (1851)

Ref. 3

Long-Cross

21 mm.

[Cat. II-b]



— 168 —

1. *Av.* ✠ MONETA ✠ DEI ✠ MEGHEN. Lion debout à gauche.

Rev. IOHES — NES — DES — EGH. Croix traversant par la légende. — Arg.; poids : 1 gr. 3 déc. (Pl. XI, fig. 1).

Cabinet de la Société littéraire de Bois-le-Duc.

Le type de cette monnaie la fait reporter à la seconde moitié du ^{xiv}^e siècle, époque pendant laquelle il fut en vogue en Hollande, sous Guillaume V (1556-1589), en Flandre sous Louis de Male (1546-1584) et en Gueldre sous Mathilde (1571-1582).

Cuypers van Velthoven, p. 168

Other than not mentioning the round **O** in **MONETA** or the ligatured **N**'s on the reverse, it is not a bad description, and the text and illustration match one another (✠/✠ not withstanding). Cuypers van Velthoven does not commit himself to a denomination for the type. He states that the coin is in the collection of the *Société littéraire de Bois-le-Duc*, which is French for 's *Hertogenbosch* = Den Bosch in The Netherlands.

Cuypers' illustration seems to show a coin in excellent and legible condition, but it may well have been idealized, and the model coin may not have been so nice after all. The raises the question: are the drawing and legend transcriptions accurate?

Van der Chijs (1862)

Ref. 2

P.O. van der Chijs' monumental *De Munten van Nederland van de Vroogste Tijden tot aan de Pacificatie van Gend (1576)* took many years to complete and stretches over nine volumes. Although it is a commendable and magnificent publication, it is full of errors in the details; for example, many of the text descriptions and legend transcriptions do not match the drawings provided, even when a sole example is being described / illustrated. V.d. Chijs' works, admirable as they may be, should always be taken with more than a few grains of salt by modern researchers.

The volume relevant to the Megen coins is *De munten der leenen van de voormalige hertogdommen Brabant en Limburg, enz. ...*, cited here (ref. 2). All 3 types of Megen, fractional *leeuwengroten* were known to v.d. Chijs.

v.d. Chijs II, 4

The “mini-leeuwengroot”

[Cat. I-b]

N° 4, een *groot*, heeft de type der munten van Wenceslaus en Johanna van Brabant. Op de vz., die twee rijen omschriften heeft, leest men in de binnenste rij tusschen de beenen van een gelijkbeenig kruis, dat tot aan den parelcirkel reikt, die het buitenste omschrift afsluit:

* IOH | ANN | ES * COM *

en weder in den buitencirkel:

✠ IOHANNES : COMES DNS : MEGENSIS.

Men ziet de lompe fout voor *Megensis*. Zonderling is de vereeniging van Comes en Dominus. Men zoude het, onzes bedunkens, moeten vertalen: *Graaf Jan, Heer van Megen*.

Op de kz. bevindt zich een klimmende leeuw, omgeven door het omschrift:

✠ MONETA * MEGEN'

alles binnen eenen parelcirkel. Daarbuiten bevinden zich twaalf schildjes. In het bovenste van deze ziet men het wapen van Megen. Op ieder der andere een klaverblad.

Z. B. Ons alleen bekend in de Verzameling van den Kolonel DE ROIJE, wegende 0,95 w.

v.d. Chijs, pp. 36-37^[2]

On pp. 35-37, v.d. Chijs describes the Megen, “mini-leeuwengroot”, which he tentatively (“*echter alleen gissenderwijze*”) ascribes to John II (1320-1346). He erroneously calls the coin a *groot*, and (correctly) says it is the same type as the coin of Johanna and Wenceslas in Brabant. V.d. Chijs says that the only specimen known to him was in the collection of Colonel de Roije {van Wichen}, and weighed 0.95 g. (which should have seemed too light for a *groot*).

V.d. Chijs transcribes the legends as follows [*sic*]:

✠ MONETA ✱ MEGEN'
 ✱ IOH | ANN | ES ✱ OM ✱
 ✱ IOHANNES : OMES DNS : HEGENSVS

V.d. Chijs does not make it clear where the reverse, inner legend is divided after IOH ANN, and his legend transcriptions do not exactly match his drawings, which show [*sic*]:

✠ MONETA ✱ MEGEN'
 ✱ IOH ANN ES • C OM ✱
 ✱ IOHANNES [•] OMES DNS ✱ HEGENSVS

The mark after IOHANNES in the inner legend appears to be a pellet, and in the outer legend it may be a colon.



v.d. Chijs: plate II, 4 (Leenen-Brabant) ^[2]

V.d. Chijs had a tendency to “play it a bit fast and loose” with the interpunction in his text transcriptions, especially the • / 8 marks.

V.d. Chijs’ drawing does not show a crown or double tail on the central lion, although there is space for a crown and the tail does not match the “standard” *leeuwengroot* lion. The interpunction in the drawing matches neither v.d. Chijs’ text transcription nor the known coin specimens. Based upon the few known specimens, it seems likely that the drawing has probably been idealized, although it would certainly appear that the drawing must have been made from a coin with a reasonably legible obverse border, otherwise the shield at the top would probably have gone unnoticed.

We are of the opinion that the crown and double tail of the central lion were probably overlooked by the artist, but were likely to have been present on the coin (although possibly illegible). The whereabouts of the model coin are currently unknown. Just how reliable is the v.d. Chijs illustration?



On the illustrated coin, likely to have been idealized, the tail does not look like the standard, *leeuwengroot* tail, and there is plenty of space for a crown. The model coin may well have been illegible and the artist could have easily missed a crown and double tail (cf. illegible coin CdMB 115).



CdMB 115
The crown and double-tail are easy to miss

V.d. Chijs knew of only one specimen. According to Nissen/Benders:

“Van der Chijs knew of one example (variant a), found in the Roye van Wichen Collection. The NBM specimen is from the Stephanik Collection (1907-5408).” ^[13]

A comparison of v.d. Chijs’ drawing (0.95 g.) to coin NNC NM-10372 would seem to indicate that the two are not the same coin, nor was v.d. Chijs’ drawing made from coin NBM-03088 (nor coin CdMB 115).

Presumably then, the van Wichen coin is out there somewhere, possibly in a private collection, as are 2 of the 4 coins from the Nijkerk Hoard (1873), unless one of those is now in the NNC collection (NM-10372). The vital questions remain: **did the central lion of the van Wichen coin have a single tail, or a double? Did the central lion have a crown?**

If v.d. Chijs had a better “track record”, things might be different. But most of v.d. Chijs’ text descriptions do not match his illustrations, meaning that one or the other **must** be incorrect. This is not a good starting point. We have no reason to believe that v.d. Chijs’ drawing is correct about the central lion’s attributes, based upon all of the evidence at our disposal.

To be clear: it remains **possible** that v.d. Chijs’ drawing is correct and that a type with an uncrowned, single-tailed lion does exist. But until we see such a coin, all of the evidence indicates that the most likely explanation is that the drawing is incorrect; there is simply nowhere near enough evidence to support the theory that this (**v.d. Chijs II, 4**) represents another “type” with a single-tailed, crownless central lion, and there is thus no real reason to believe such a theory.

The Long-cross Types

v.d. Chijs: plate II, 6 = the large one, 21 mm., IOHANNES

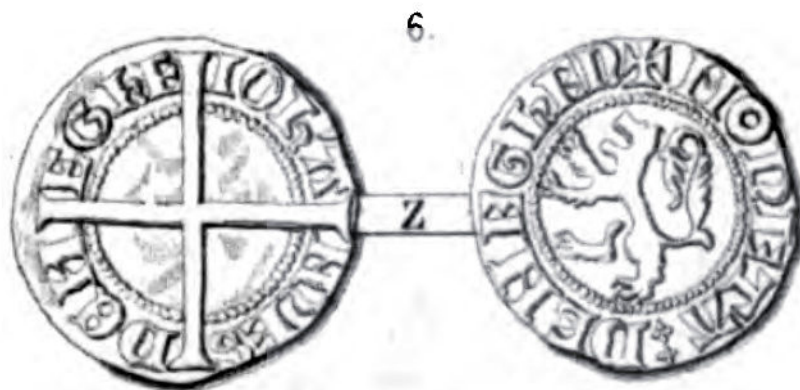
v.d. Chijs: plate II, 3 = the small one, 17 mm., anonymous

v.d. Chijs: plate II, 6

$\frac{1}{2}$ groot ?

21 mm.

[Cat. II-b]



v.d. Chijs: plate II, 6 ^[2]

Onder N° 6 deelen wij een *groot* mede van meer omvang dan, doch overigens van de zelfde type als de onder N° 3 beschrevene, te weten, hebbende op de vz. een gelijkbeenig kruis. Tusschen de beenen daarvan:

IOh'X | HNES | DE M | EGhE

NB. De beide HN zijn aan elkander verbonden.

Op de kz. vertoont zich weder een klimmende leeuw binnen een parelcirkel, en is het omschrift:

✠ MONETA ‡ DE MEGHEN.

Dit muntje bevindt zich in de Verzameling van het Noord-Brabandsch Genootschap.

v.d. Chijs, p. 37^[2]

v.d. Chijs text:

✠ MONETA ‡ DE MEGHEN
IOh'X HNES DE M EGhE

v.d. Chijs drawing:

✠ MONETA ‡ DE MEGHEN
IOh'X HNES DEM EGhE

For some reason, v.d. Chijs call the coin a *groot*, which is likely to have been an error (i.e. it seems unlikely v.d. Chijs believed this coin to be a *groot*). This is one of v.d. Chijs' better coin descriptions ("*groot*" notwithstanding) – he even mentions the ligatured N's – although the E's of DE on the reverse do not match one another (text and drawing). (Of course, there is no mention of the round O in MONETA, but there never is.)

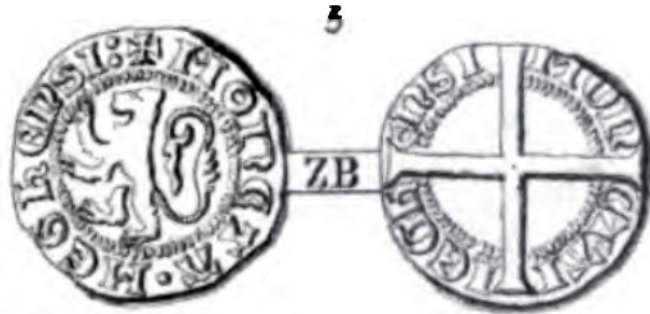
The other variant (**cat. II-a**) was unknown to v.d. Chijs.

v.d. Chijs: plate II, 3

$\frac{1}{4}$ groot ?

c. 17 mm.

[Cat. III-a]



v.d. Chijs plate II, 3

v.d. Chijs text:

✠ MONETA • MEGHENSI :
MON ETAT IEGH ENSI

v.d. Chijs drawing:

✠ MONETA • MEGHENSI :
MON ETAT IEGH ENSI

Aan den Heer of Graaf Jan II, die van 1320 tot 1360 regeerde, schrijven wij, echter alleen gissenderwijze, de beide munten toe, die wij onder N° 3 en 4. op de genoemde Pl. II afbeeldden.

Op de vz. van N° 3 vertoont zich, even als op de munt van Heer Jan IV

(36)

van Kuik (zie aldaar) en even als op de Brabandsche en Hollandsche munten van dezen tijd, een klimmende leeuw binnen een parelcirkel. Het omschrift luidt:

✠ MONETA • MEGHENSI :

voor *Megensis*.

De kz. wordt door een gelijkbeenig kruis in vier gelijke deelen gescheiden. Omschrift:

MON | ETAT | IEGH | ENSI.

Men ziet welk eene zonderlinge afbreking van de M in twee afdeelingen.

De armoede van het plaatsen van het zelfde opschrift op voor- en keerzijde der munt is ons in andere Deelen van ons werk ook reeds voorgekomen (1).

Deze denier of penning is van Z. B. en weegt 0,95 w. Zij werd door ons aangetroffen in de Verzamelingen van het Noord-Brabandsch Genootschap, van den oud-Raadsheer HEERKENS te Zwolle, alsmede van Professor BAART DE LA FAILLE te Groningen.

v.d. Chijs, pp. 35-36 ^[2]

V.d. Chijs' text description and drawing match one another fairly closely; the difference comes down to between annulets and pellets, really.

V.d. Chijs knew of examples in the Collection Noord-Brabantsch Genootschap, Collection Heerkens (Zwolle) and Collection Baart de la Faille (Groningen). The current locations of these coins are unknown.

De Voogt (1873)

Ref. 24

“Mini-*leeuwengroot*”

[Cat. I]

In *RBN* 1873, de Voogt described the coins of the Nijkerk Hoard, which included 4 Megen, fractional “mini-*leeuwengroten*”. Most authors seem to cite “*RBN* 1873” and leave de Voogt's name out.

John III (1359-1415)

N° 17 gros au lion [cat. I-a]

✠ MONETA * MEGEN'

IOH ΠΩΩ ES:Q O:M

✠ IOHΠΩΩES : DOMES : DNS : MEGENSVS

3 examples

N° 18 variant [cat. I-b]

✠ MONETA * M~~Λ~~GEN'

1 example

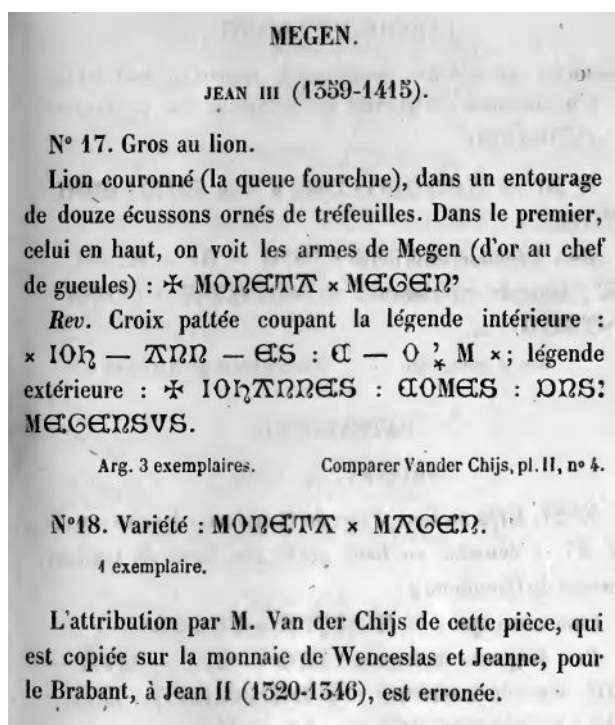
On p. 459, de Voogt correctly states that the type is an imitation of the Johanna/Wenceslas Brabant coin. He does not mention any extra **Ω** in the outer legend of the MAGEN coin (as

found on the MAGEN coin the KBR collection, which is almost certainly the very same coin seen and described by de Voogt).

De Voogt cites “*comparer* v.d. Chijs pl. II, 4”, and states correctly that v.d. Chijs’ attribution to John II (1320-1346) is erroneous. The implication seems to be that de Voogt did not feel that the coins he was reporting were accurately described by v.d. Chijs’ **pl. II, 4**. Whether de Voogt felt that v.d. Chijs had been describing some sub-type other than those in the Nijkerk Hoard, or that v.d. Chijs simply got his description wrong, we cannot say. In any case, de Voogt did not cite **v.d. Chijs II, 4** as a reference, he says “compare **v.d. Chijs II, 4**”, indicating that something did not match.

De Voogt is the first author to mention the central lion’s double tail and crown. Note that de Voogt does not indicate that the central lion of his variant **n° 18** is in any way different from that of his **n° 17** (crowned, double-tailed). **The implication is that the MAGEN coin also has a central lion with a crown and double tail.**

Based solely upon the literature, one can only read this as: **de Voogt 18**, the MAGEN variant, has a central lion with a crown and double tail. (In fact, the coin itself is illegible, but *seems* to show a double tail.)



De Voogt, RBN 1873, p. 459 ^[24]

Sadly, it appears that de Voogt was also the **last** author to mention the lion’s crown and double tail until 2017.

Roest 1882

Ref. 17

Long-cross

17 mm.

[Cat. III-b]

John II (1320-1350) [*sic*]

14. (N^o 3.) *Rev.* ΜΟΝ — · · · · — ΕΓΗΕ — ΝSIS.
Denier. Gr. 0.50.

Roest, RBN 1882, p. 604 ^[17]

By “(N^o 3.)”, Roest apparently means van der Chijs Plate II, “n^o 3”.

No one has reported actually seeing this type of variant since Roest’s publication; subsequent authors simply repeat Roest’s description (with their own alterations to it). The other known specimen (**cat. III-b**) seems to read: **ΜΟΝ ΕΤΑΙ ΙΕΓΗ ΕΝSΙ**. It is unclear what the legend of Roest’s variant should read: **ΜΟΝ ΕΤΑΙ ΕΓΗΕ ΝSIS** ?

This variant was unknown to v.d. Chijs.

R. Serrure (1899)

Ref. 18

“Mini-leeuwengroot”

n° 46

[Cat. I-a]



Fig. 46.

Jean III, seigneur de Megen (1359-1415). + MONETA MEGEN'. Lion debout. Bordure formée de onze feuilles et d'un écu de Megen. — Rev. : + IOHANNES COMES DNS. MEGENSVS en légende extérieure et IOH-ANN-ES-C-OM en légende intérieure. Croix coupant cette légende (Voyez fig. 46).

Cette pièce est la copie du tiers de gros de Louis de Male. Il est très probable que le gros entier se retrouvera un jour.

R. Serrure, p. 163 ^[18]

Serrure provides v.d. Chijs' drawing, and a legend transcription in all capital roman letters, that omits much of the interpunction, including the mark after MONETA. He does not mention the central lion's tail or crown, but he may never have seen a specimen and may have only been working from v.d. Chijs' book. Serrure does not cite de Voogt at all. Serrure believed that a full Megen *groot* would probably turn up one day.

Lucas (1982)

Ref. 10

Lucas' output generally consists of compiling “information” from other sources, with insufficient double-checking on his own part. The end result is so full of “the fruit of the poisonous tree” that it isn't really worth the effort to try and pick out any “good fruit” that might be lurking inside somewhere. With all due respect, we generally ignore Lucas' publications as much as possible. Many other authors and coin dealers, however, provide “Lucas numbers” as references, and so we are forced to comment on Lucas' works.

Lucas assigned all 3 of the Megen types under discussion to John III (1359-1415), saying:

“Le monnayage à Megen ayant débuté vers 1380, les pièces données autrefois à Jean I et Jean II, ont été reportées à Jean III.” ^[10]

– p. 27.5

Lucas' legend transcriptions were done on a typewriter, and the limitations of such a machine for this purpose are apparent. The end result is that many of the details regarding the forms of the letters are completely lost. The types described by Lucas are:

Lucas 2	"Mini- <i>leeuwengroot</i> " MEGEN (cat. I-a)
Lucas 2a	"Mini- <i>leeuwengroot</i> " MAGEN (cat. I-b)
Lucas 8	21 mm (cat. II-a)
Lucas 9	17 mm (cat. III-a)
Lucas 9a	17 mm (cat. III-b)

Lucas 2

"Mini-*leeuwengroot*"

[Cat. I-a]

cites v.d. Chijs II, 4; R. Serrure 46

[does not cite *RBN* (1873), n° 17 (i.e. de Voogt 17)]

Lucas calls the type a 2/3 *gros* ("*deux tiers de gros*"), without further edification, but otherwise simply repeats v.d. Chijs. Lucas makes no mention of the central lion's attributes, and does not mention **de Voogt 17** at all (although he later cites **de Voogt 18** for his n° 2 a). Lucas provides v.d. Chijs' drawing, or rather, a slightly altered version of it, and says that the type is copy of the Flemish *tiers* of Louis of Male.

"2. DEUX TIERS DE GROS.

D/ Lion grim pant dans un cercle perlé: Autour 11 feuilles et un écu de Megen :

+MOnETA ☙ MEGEn' [sic]

R/ Croix patée coupant la légende intérieure :

Lég. Int. : ★ IOh – Ann – ES.C – OM ★ [sic]

Lég. Ext. : +IOhAnnES:COMES DnS:IIEGEnSVS [sic]

Copie d'un tiers de gros de Louis de Maele. [sic]

Billon 0.95 g.

V.d. Ch. II, 4 – Serr. imit. fig 46.

2a. VARIETE.

Avec: +MOnETA xMAGEn'

R.B.N. 1873, p. 459, n° 18." [10]



– Lucas, p. 27.6

Lucas has simply ignored the Gothic E's and barless A's. His half-hearted attempt to convey the letter forms has resulted in valuable information (provided by v.d. Chijs, his only source) being discarded, at the reader's expense.

v.d. Chijs text [*sic*]:

✠ MONETA + MEGEN'
 ★IOH ANN ES★C OM★
 ✠ IOHANNES : COMES DNI : HEGENSVS

v.d. Chijs drawing [*sic*]:

✠ MONETA * MEGEN'
 ★IOH ANN ES[.]C OM★
 ✠ IOHANNES [:] COMES DNI : HEGENSVS

Lucas text [*sic*]:

✠ MONETA + MEGEN'
 ★IOH ANN ES★C OM★
 ✠ IOHANNES : COMES DNI : HEGENSVS

Lucas' failure to cite **de Voogt 17** as a reference for his own **n° 2**, combined with his failure to repeat de Voogt's "crowned lion with forked tail" description (which, by extension, also applies to de Voogt's **n° 18**, the MAGEN variant, **Lucas 2 a**) added to his use of v.d. Chijs' flawed drawing, is a recipe for disaster.

It is unclear whether or not Lucas made a conscious decision that the coin v.d. Chijs described was somehow different from those described by de Voogt. But conscious decision or not, Lucas was remiss in not mentioning **de Voogt 17**.

Most importantly of all: **Lucas does not list de Voogt 17, crowned central lion with forked tail, as a third sub-type**. The importance of this cannot be underemphasized.

If Lucas had truly believed that there was a single-tailed lion sub-type "as described by v.d. Chijs", that was somehow different from what de Voogt described (crowned, double-

tailed lion), then Lucas would have had to list **de Voogt 17** as yet another sub-type, *which he did not do*.

This clearly implies that either Lucas did **not** see any difference between **v.d. Chijs II, 4** and **de Voogt 17**, and that Lucas simply forgot to cite de Voogt for his **type 2**, or that he was so sloppy in his work that we can no longer determine exactly what he (Lucas) was up to. Lucas either forgot to mention the double tail and crown, or never noticed them in de Voogt's text to begin with, or he simply did not believe de Voogt and chose to ignore **dV 17** altogether. It is, of course, also possible that Lucas simply tried the old numismatist's trick of just ignoring "**de Voogt 17**" altogether because he just could not explain it.

Clearly, Lucas missed something; probably simply forgetting to cite **de Voogt 17** for his own **n° 2**, and / or not noticing de Voogt's description of the central lion (or simply disbelieving it). At this point, it is not possible to disentangle what Lucas meant, believed or intended, based upon what he actually published, which is muddled and confusing.

Lucas cannot be used as verification of a theory that v.d. Chijs intended to show a single-tailed lion sub-type (and that such coins exist), because Lucas' own descriptions are incorrect and do not match what his own sources say, and Lucas has not actually inspected any Megen coins at all (as far as we can tell from his work).

Lucas 2 a

cites **RBN** 1873, n° 18 (i.e. **de Voogt 18**)

[Cat. I-b]

For his **n° 2 a**, by failing to report the letter forms, Lucas has again discarded vital information. Compare Lucas' '+MOn**ETA** xM**AGEn**' to de Voogt, Lucas' cited source:

⌘ M**ON****ETA** × M**AG****EN**'

Lucas does not note the extra **Ń** in the reverse, outer legend. He does not mention the central lion's crown or double tail, described by de Voogt. Since Lucas is only repeating de Voogt anyway, Lucas' description (or rather **implication**) of a single-tailed lion for this sub-type is *ipso facto* incorrect. In addition, Lucas did not properly transcribe the legends as provided by de Voogt (Lucas' only source for information on this coin). Clearly, Lucas was not being as careful as he should have been.

Lucas 8

(p. 27.8)

Long cross, 21 mm

cites v.d. Chijs II, 6

[Cat. II-b]

Lucas calls this a *gros*, which is fairly clear evidence that he is simply repeating what he found in v.d. Chijs' book (v.d. Chijs also calls the type a *groot*). Lucas does mention the ligatured letters, but does not report v.d. Chijs' Gothic **Ɔ**'s, although he uses v.d. Chijs' drawing as an illustration. His transcriptions are basically those of v.d. Chijs (but done on a typewriter):

+MOnETA ‡ DE MEGhEn [sic]

IOh'A – M̄ES – DEM – EGhE [sic]

Lucas 9; p. 27.9

Long cross, 17 mm..

“demi-gros?”

cites v.d. Chijs II, 3

[Cat. III-a]

Lucas provides v.d. Chijs' drawing, and transcribes the legends as:

+MOnETA.MEGhEnNSI : [sic]

MOn – ETAI – IEGh – EnSI [sic]

By which Lucas once again discards all of the gothic **Ɔ**'s indicated by v.d. Chijs, some of which definitely appear on the coins

Lucas 9 a;

cites Roest 11

[Cat. III-b]

Lucas transcribes the legend as: MOn – ... – EGhE – nSIS [sic], thus discarding Roest's **EGhƆ**.

Puister (1977)

Ref. 16

Puister lists the “mini-*leeuwengroot*” (n° 7) and the 21 mm type (n° 5).

“Mini-*leeuwengroot*”

(p. 14)

[Cat. I-a]

7. Megen

a. John III (1359-1415)

4. half leeuwengroot [*sic*]

cites v.d. Chijs II, 4

+ MONETA MEGEN [*sic*]

IOH ANN ESC OM [*sic*]

Although he provides a photo of coin DNB NNC 10372, it is not particularly clear (photo nor coin). Puister’s description is fairly superficial, and he does not mention a crown or double tail (nor the MAGEN variant).

Long-cross, 21 mm.

[Cat. II-b]

5. half groot [*sic*]

cites v.d. Chijs II, 6

+ MONETA DE MEGHEN

IOHA NNES DEM EGHE

Puister’s superficial legend transcriptions do not give any interpunction. The other variant (**cat. II-a**) is unlisted.

Passon (1977)

Ref. 14

Passon takes Lucas' already flawed work and degrades it even further; his "report" is, in essence, just a re-hashing of Lucas' "information", including all of Lucas' errors.

The information provided by Passon about the various rulers of Megen does not jibe with our other sources; according to Passon (p. 7):

William II	1253 – ...
John I	1285 – 1320
John II	1320 – 1359
John III	1359 – 1415

Passon 5, 5a

"Mini-leeuwengroot"

Passon 5

[Cat. I-a]

cites Lucas 2

Post 13.21.3.1

v.d. Chijs II, 4

Passon provides v.d. Chijs' drawing as an illustration, which shows the lion side as the reverse. Like Lucas before him, Passon fails to cite **de Voogt 17**, and he makes no mention of the central lion's tail or crown. His legend transcriptions are basically those of Lucas, with all the same errors included therein, e.g. all **Θ** / **E**'s reported as **E**, regardless of what is found on the coins themselves.

Passon 5 a

[Cat. I-b]

cites Lucas 2 a

Post 13.21.3.1 var.

v.d. Chijs II, 4 var.

RBN 1873, p. 459, no. 18 (i.e. **de Voogt 18**)

The MAGEN variant. For some strange reason, Passon provides Lucas' altered version of v.d. Chijs' drawing, which certainly does not show a MAGEN legend, but does show the lion side as the obverse. As Lucas (and de Voogt) before him, Passon does not note the extra **Მ** in the reverse, outer legend.

Passon 3

[Cat. II-a]

21 mm.

“½ *groot*”

cites v.d. Chijs II, 6;

Lucas 8

Post 3.21.2.1

Passon provides v.d. Chijs’ drawing as an illustration but gives no information about the forms of the **O**’s and **E**’s in his transcriptions. He does, however, change v.d Chijs’ (and Lucas’) $\frac{3}{4}$ after MONETA into + .

Passon 4

[Cat. III-a]

17 mm.

“¼ *groot*”

cites v.d. Chijs II, 3

Lucas 9

Post 3.21.2.2

Passon provides v.d. Chijs’ drawing.

Passon 4 a

[Cat. III-b]

17 mm.

“¼ *groot*”

cites v.d. Chijs II, 3 var.

Lucas 9a

Post 3.21.2.2

***RBN* 1882, p. 604, n^o 11 (i.e. Roest 11)**

Passon provides v.d. Chijs’ drawing which – again – does not illustrate this variant.

Nissen / Benders (2017)

Ref. 13

Nissen/Benders' article is a reasonably impressive overview of the minting in the Lordship of Megen. Our primary concern is, of course, the *leeuwengroot*-related coins described therein.

Despite being fully aware of our ongoing study of the *leeuwengroten* of all regions, Nissen and Benders chose not to contact us for assistance and information (which we would have been more than happy to provide). Instead, they published a report that discusses the Megen fractional *leeuwengroten* but does not accurately describe them. We would have much preferred being able to say that the 2017 Nissen/Benders report covered everything accurately and completely, to such an extent that a subsequent report on the Megen *leeuwengroot* coins written by us would be unnecessary, but that is not the case.

A significant number of legend transcription errors “slipped through the proofreading process”^[27]; some of these may even be typographical errors. Nissen/Benders have also drawn a number of conclusions based upon information that we ourselves would have advised against using as source material. These conclusions are, in our humble opinion, therefore either incorrect or are suspected of being so.

The Megen coins listed by Nissen/Benders that are relevant to our study are:

Nissen/Benders 3	“mini- <i>leeuwengroot</i> ”	(sub-types a , b , c)
Nissen/Benders 4	21 mm., long-cross, John	(sub-types a , b)
Nissen/Benders 1	17 mm., long-cross, anonymous	(sub-types a , b)

The obverse legend given for **N/B 1 b** has not actually been verified by Nissen/Benders (nor by anyone else since 1882). Nissen/Benders sub-type **N/B 3 a** does not actually exist, while the legends of **N/B 3 b** and **N/B 4 (a/b)** are not properly transcribed.

Despite making some effort to report some of the letter forms found on the Megen coins, Nissen / Benders have not reported the forms of the important **O**'s (long or round), including other (non-*leeuwengroot*) types listed in their catalog (e.g. **N/B 2**).

On some occasions (e.g. **N/B 12**), Nissen/Benders transcribe **H** as **Ų**. Although they do occasionally bracket illegible letters, in many cases they do not, simply transcribing “letters” and/or marks that cannot actually be read on the example coins.

“Mini-leeuwengroot”
Nissen/Benders 3
[Cat. I]

“John III (1358-1417)
 3. Half *leeuwengroot* (ϕ 22 mm.)

- a. **uncrowned lion with single tail** [*sic*]
✠MONET✠*MEGEO’
✠IOHANNES:DOMES:DNS:MEGEOVS [*sic*]
IOH – ANN – ES:D – OM [*sic*]
 v.d. Chijs II, 4 [*sic*]
 Lucas 2 [*sic*]

- b. **crowned split-tail lion**
✠MONET✠*MAGEO’
✠IOHANNES:DOMES:DNS:MEGEOVS [*sic*]
IOH – ANN – ES:D – OM
RBN 29, n° 18 (Nijkerk Hoard 1873 “1391-1395”, 1 example)
 Lucas 2 a

- c. **crowned split-tail lion**
✠MONET✠*MEGEO’
✠IOHANNES:DOMES:DNS:MEGEOVS
IOH – ANN – ES:D – OM
RBN 29, n° 17 (Nijkerk Hoard 1873 “1391-1395”, 3 examples)

Collections: NNC NM-10372 (1.23 g.); KBB (2 examples); NBM 3088 (1.0 g.)

Comments: Given the examples, an imitation by John II (last reference 1347) is plausible [*sic*]. Still, we attribute this coin to his grandson John III (1358-1417). The type was namely also imitated by Dirk of Bronkhorst (1357/8-1404) as Lord of Batenburg and Reinald of Brederode as Lord of Gennep (1368-1390). At the earliest, these imitations date to 1357/8 or 1368 respectively [*sic*].

See Appendix note 3”

– p. 59

“[Appendix note] 3.

... The type could have been struck in imitation of different predecessors such as the half groot of Johanna and Wenceslas (dW 406) or the one-third leeuwengroot of the Flemish count Louis of Male (1348 [*sic*] - 1384), see Elsen (1995), listed by Vanhoudt under G 2583, issue of Ghent 1340-1343, under Louis of Nevers.”

– p. 95

Nissen/Benders list their literature references according to their own “sub-types”, but they do not do the same for their known coin examples. We provide the missing information here:

NNC NM-10372 (1.23 g.)	[N/B 3 c]
KBB (2 examples)	[N/B 3 b; 1.06 g., CdMB 116]
	[N/B 3 c; 1.00 g., CdMB 115]
NBM 3088 (1.0 g.)	[N/B 3 c]
[no example]	N/B 3 a

Nissen/Benders do not list an **OꝛM** legend for any of their sub-types, but it appears that there is indeed an apostrophe after the **M**:



DNB NM-10372

Although we are very glad to see Nissen/Benders use the words “could have been”, the Flemish, Louis of Male coin (c. 1350-1352) is not the direct model for the Megen coin, which is an imitation of the much later Brabant coin (**de Witte 406**). By that point (c. 1381), no *leeuwengroten* had been struck in Flanders for over 15 years (and no *tiers* for 30 years?). The Megen coins were not struck for John II because they are imitating the Brabant coins of Johanna and Wenceslas, c. 1381-1383.

Nissen/Benders’ incorrect dates for the “earliest possible minting” of the Batenburg and Gennep coins are based simply on the dates of the reigns of Dirk of Bronkhorst and Reinald of Brederode, and not on the dates of the striking of the prototype BRABA *leeuwengroten* and associated fractional coins in Brabant (i.e. c. 1381-1383).

Nissen/Benders 3-a

Variant with an uncrowned, single-tailed central lion [*sic*]

“Questions marks appear by some types documented in the 19th century, of which we have not been able to trace a single example in public or private collections. “Were they read correctly back then?”” [13]

– p. 54

This is the only warning that the reader of Nissen/Bender’s report will receive regarding suspect types, albeit without any indication as to **which** types are suspect.

As previously discussed, the drawing provided by v.d. Chijs as his **pl. II, 4**, seems to show a “mini-*leeuwengroot*” with a single tail and no crown, attributes not found on any specimen known today. Nissen/Benders chose to believe that v.d. Chijs was describing some kind of different variant, currently uncorroborated by any physical specimen, instead of choosing the more likely theory that v.d. Chijs’ drawing is simply inaccurate, as so many of his other drawings are (and can be proven to be)... despite their own *caveat* on p. 54.

Nissen/Benders listed the coin illustrated by v.d. Chijs as their variant **N/B 3 a**, while every known coin falls under their variant **N/B 3 c** (except sub-type **N/B 3 b**, the variant with a MONETA MAGEN legend, known from a single specimen, **cat. I-b**).

Nissen/Benders do not inform their readers that they themselves have never seen any “**N/B 3 a**” coin, and that they are only repeating the information seen in v.d. Chijs’ illustration (not his text, which is silent on the matter). The casual reader would easily be misled into believing that an uncrowned, single-tailed lion variant is **known** to exist, when in fact, such a thing is nothing more than Nissen/Benders’ own {incorrect} **interpretation** of a suspect, 19th century drawing. There is no reference under **N/B 3 a** back to their question on p. 54 as to whether the 19th century researchers read their coins correctly or not.

A close inspection of their transcriptions shows that Nissen/Benders have, in fact, altered v.d. Chijs’ work, intentionally or otherwise, and **changed the interpunction in the v.d. Chijs legends** (without informing the reader that they have done so). In this manner, Nissen / Benders have taken an already suspect sub-type and made a complete “fantasy coin” of it. Nissen/Benders could not possibly know what would be on a “v.d. Chijs II, 4” coin, if such a thing even exists, and that said legends would be different than v.d. Chijs’ drawing in any way, because Nissen/Benders have never seen any such coin themselves. Therefore, v.d. Chijs’ transcriptions should not have been altered, since v.d. Chijs is their one and only source for this alleged “sub-type”.

Compare the legends given by Nissen and Benders to those given by v.d. Chijs (which are not in agreement with one another to begin with, text and illustration):

v.d. Chijs text:

✠ MONETΛ ✠ MEGEN'
 ✠ IOH ΠΩΩ ES✠C OM✠
 ✠ IOHΠΩΩES ∶ COMES DNS ∶ HEGENSVS

v.d. Chijs drawing:

✠ MONETΛ ✠ MEGEN'
 ✠ IOH ΠΩΩ ES[•]C OM✠
 ✠ IOHΠΩΩES [∶] COMES DNS [✠] HEGENSVS

Nissen/Benders text:

✠ MONETΛ ✠ MEGEN'
 ✠ IOH ΠΩΩ ES∶C OM✠
 ✠ IOHΠΩΩES ∶ COMES ∶ DNS ∶ MEGENSVS

Nissen/Benders' transcriptions match neither v.d. Chijs' text nor his drawing. They have inserted their own colon after COMES in the outer legend, and have replaced v.d. Chijs' stars before and after the inner legend with small x's, and after IOHANNES in the inner legend with a colon. The mark after DNS in v.d. Chijs' drawing appears to be a "mashed" x over a pellet, although one might argue that it is a colon, while Nissen/Benders give ∶•.

On other occasions (e.g. Annex Note 10, p. 95), Nissen/Benders decided that v.d. Chijs must have made a transcription error, which is an option that they do not offer for their flawed **N/B 3 a**.

Lucas and de Voogt

As discussed above, **Lucas Type 2**, itself taken directly from v. d. Chijs' description and using v.d. Chijs' illustration, is simply a repetition of what v.d. Chijs published (**v.d. Ch. II, 4**), making no mention of the central lion's tail (other than what appears in the drawing). Lucas confuses matters by failing to cite **de Voogt 17** and by failing to repeat de Voogt's description of a crowned, double-tailed lion. And as discussed above, it is far from clear what Lucas actually intended to say about the Megen coins.

We are of the opinion that Lucas, like v.d. Chijs before him, was attempting to describe the "common" type, i.e. the type known from 1 specimen in the DNB/NNC collection, 1 in the KBR collection, and another in the NBM collection (i.e. **cat. I-a**).

As it turns out, a careful observer can see that this type has central lion with a crown and a double tail, which are attributes unreported by v.d. Chijs or Lucas. We are of the opinion that v.d. Chijs simply failed to notice the crown and double tail. In all likelihood, Lucas never even saw a Megan “mini-*leeuwengroot*” himself and is only parroting v.d. Chijs and {half of} de Voogt.

We do not believe that v.d. Chijs or Lucas specifically intended to describe a single-tailed, uncrowned lion that is distinct and different from the crowned, double-tailed lion seen on the known coin specimens, despite that pesky v.d. Chijs drawing (the original source of all of the problems).

Nissen/Benders have placed **Lucas 2** next to **v.d. Chijs II, 4** as references for their **N/B 3 a**; in effect, they are saying that Lucas was also intending to describe a single-tailed lion sub-type (i.e. **Lucas 2**). Otherwise, Nissen/Benders should have listed **Lucas 2** as a reference for their **N/B 3 c**, not for their **N/B 3 a**.

But **Lucas 2 a**, the MAGEN variant (indirectly) described by Lucas as being crownless and single-tailed like **Lucas 2**, is listed by Nissen/Benders under their **N/B 3 b** (which is described as having a crowned and double-tailed lion). This is an inconsistent manner of carrying out research; it is “cherry picking”, choosing to “believe” that Lucas was “wrong” about the central lion for one coin (“correcting” **Lucas 2 a** to having a crown and double tail = **N/B 3 b**) while “believing” that Lucas was “right” about another coin (not “correcting” **Lucas 2** in the same manner = “**N/B 3 a**”).

What “Lucas number” goes with **N/B 3 c**, the only sub-type actually known to exist (MAGEN variant aside)? It is “**Lucas —**”, apparently. In other words, Nissen/Benders are saying that the known sub-type of Megan “mini-*leeuwengroot*” (**cat. I-a**; **N/B 3 c**) is not listed in Lucas’ work at all... or for that matter, in v.d. Chijs’. In fact it **is** listed in both works... it is just poorly described (**Lucas 9**; **v.d. Chijs II, 4**)

Nissen/Benders correctly place **De Voogt 17** under their **N/B 3 c**, unlike **Lucas 2**, presumably because de Voogt described a crowned, double-tailed lion, and used the phrase “*comparer* v.d. Chijs pl. II, 4”, while Lucas does not. By separating **de Voogt 17** and **Lucas 2**, Nissen / Benders are indirectly stating that these references refer to two different sub-types (they do not) and that Lucas agrees with them (retroactively), which is also unlikely.

Whether there really is an uncrowned, single-tailed lion type of Megan “mini-*leeuwengroot*” or not can be eternally debated until an example shows up... or does not. Until that point, the belief that the type exists or does not, amounts to an opinion. But **N/B 3 a**, *as described*, simply does not exist, which is a fact.

N/B 3 a does not exist because Nissen/Benders have failed to accurately report the legend interpunction as given by v.d. Chijs, their one and only source (fact).

N/B 3 a probably does not exist because Nissen/Benders based the “sub-type” on v.d. Chijs’ drawing alone (**v.d. Chijs II, 4**), which is itself almost certainly inaccurate in its depiction of an uncrowned, single-tailed central lion (opinion).

N/B 3 a does not exist because it actually represents the same type as **N/B 3 c** (opinion).

The MAGEN variant (cat. I-b)

“b. crowned split-tail lion
 *MONET*MTGON'
 IOH ΠΩΩ ES:D O:M
 *IOHΠΩΩES:DOMES:DNŠ:MEGONSVS [sic]” [13]

✠ M○NETH * IIANGEN'
 * I○h ΠΩΩ [ES:C] [OꝥM*]
 ✠ IOHANNONES [...]**Ω**NSVS

The clearly visible “extra” N in the outer legend is unreported.



CdMB 116

The "common" type (**cat. I-a**)

The description of sub-type **N/B 3 c**, the “common” type of Megen “mini-*leeuwengroot*”, provided by Nissen/Benders is basically correct, although we suspect that the reverse, inner legend reads ends **OxMx** and not **OxM*** (which is a fairly minor point).

Long-Cross Types

LARGE c. 21 mm. (IOHANNES)

Nissen/Benders 4
[Cat. II]

“John III (1358-1417)
4. Half *groot* (Ø 21 mm.)

- Obv. Long cross
 a. **IOHANNES – S:DEMI – EGHI** [sic]
 b. **IOHANNES – DEMI – EGHE** [sic]
 Rev. Standing lion facing left with single tail
WIMONET DE MEGHEN [sic]
 N.B. triple pellet interpunction also seen

References v.d. Chijs II, 6; Lucas 8

Collections: NNC 2007-201; NBM 3089 (1.2 g.)
 Illustration: variant b, NBM 3089
 Example: William V, Count of Holland (1345-1389): issue of 1354 (Grolle 17.2.3).
 [sic]

See Appendix note 4”

— p. 60

“[Appendix note] 4.

The only example known to Cuypers van Velthoven and Van der Chijs was found in the collection of the Provincial Society. The example from the NBM was donated in 1907 by A. van Sasser van Ysselt. This implies that the Society example named by Van der Chijs in 1862, subsequently disappeared from the collection.”

– p. 95

Nissen/Benders refer to the coin as a $\frac{1}{2}$ *groot*, which it may well be. Since there are only two examples listed by Nissen/Benders, and they provide a photo of coin NBM 3089, stating that it illustrates their **N/B 4 b**, it stands to reason that the other coin listed (NNC 2007-0201) must be an example of their **N/B 4 a** (it is). (The third known example is referred to in the “triple pellet stops also seen” note.)

We know of no specimens other than those listed by Nissen/Benders, photographs of one of which were provided to us by Nissen and Benders. The legends on these coins are problematic, to say the least, and there are no specimens with complete and legible legends known.

That said, it remains clear that once again, Nissen/Benders’ legend transcriptions are incorrect; the Roman **E** of **IOHAN**E**S** is clearly visible on both coin NNC 2007-0201 (**N/B 4 a**) and coin NBM 3089 (**N/B 4 b**). On both of these coins, the Roman **E** of **MONETA** is also visible.

The other **E**’s on the coins are more ambiguous, and different authors seem to have interpreted them differently, as either **E** or **Ɔ** (Nissen/Benders do not mention this ambiguity in their report). The known coins are not particularly clear, and we are of the opinion that a final decision regarding the other **E**’s cannot (yet) be made.

The gothic **Ń** (not Roman **N**) at the end of the obverse legend is clear as well. Nissen / Benders do not report the ligatured **N**’s of **N/B 4 b**.

For the obverse legend; Nissen/Benders do not report any punctuation between the words (except for their note about triple pellets stops; see below). However, as previously discussed, it does appear that there is indeed some kind of mark or marks on coin NBM 3089 (**N/B 4 b**), that is unreported by Nissen/Benders. Coin NNC 2007-0201 (**N/B 4 a**) is unclear, but the presence of stop marks cannot be ruled out. Moreover, the illustration and text in v.d. Chijs (reused by Lucas) show marks after **MONETA**, unreported by Nissen/Benders. In other words, the legends given for **N/B 4 a** do not match the cited references.

Compare the legends given by Nissen/Benders to those found on the actual coins (and their cited reference v.d. Chijs):

Cat. II-a

N/B 4 a

✠**MON**E**TA DE ME**G**h**E**N**
IOhŃ** N**E** S:DE**M** **E**G**h**I**

coin NNC 2007-0201

✠ **M**[**ON**E**TA...DE...ME**]G**hE****Ń**
IOh[**Ń**] **N**E**** **S:[DE**M** **E**G**h**I]**

Cat. II-b

N/B 4 b

⌘MOŃET⌘ DE MEGhEN
IOh'⌘ – NŃES – DEM – EGhE

coin NBM 3089

⌘MOŃET⌘ [...MEGhE]Ń
IOh[⌘ NŃES] [...] [...hGE]

v.d. Chijs text:

⌘ MOŃET⌘ ⌘ DE MEGhEN
IOh'⌘ NŃES DEM EGhE

v.d. Chijs drawing:

⌘ MOŃET⌘ ⌘ DE MEGhEN
IOh'⌘ NŃES DEM EGhE

The Nissen/Benders transcriptions do not match the legends on the coins that they purport to represent, nor do they match the cited reference (v.d. Chijs), whether the letter forms are inaccurately reported by Nissen/Benders, or whether Nissen/Benders have “reported” letters that are, in fact, illegible. (Not to mention those round O’s...).

“N.B. triple pellet interpunction also seen”

There is 1 other example of this type (N/B 4) in a private collection, which is the coin that Nissen/Benders refer to (in passing) as having ⌘ interpunction (illustrated and discussed on p. 19 above).

Nissen/Benders are vague about exactly where the triple pellet stop(s) can be found on the coin. Obviously, there is one to be found on the obverse after the word DE, and in fact, this is likely to be the only stop mark to which Nissen/Benders were referring, since we have photos of the very coin that Nissen/Benders were speaking about.

However, Nissen/Benders do not report any specific stops in the obverse legend of N/B 4 (a/b) at all, despite the fact that marks (of some kind) were reported by both Cuypers van Velthoven and by v.d. Chijs (Nissen/Benders’ cited reference for this type), and that there do indeed appear to be some kind of marks on one or both of the known specimens.

The only other 2 known specimens both have unclear obverse legends, and we cannot be sure that no triple pellet stops are present. This means that we cannot be certain that the triple pellet stop noted by Nissen/Benders as a sort of variant is not, in fact, the norm.

Coin NBM 3089

We have no idea where van Sasser van Ysselt got the piece he donated to the Provincial Society, if that is what happened, but based solely upon the appearance, it could easily have been the model coin for the Cuypers van Velthoven and v.d. Chijs drawings:

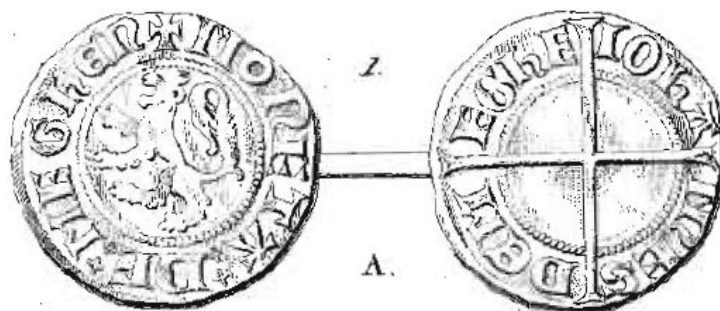


NBM 3089



v.d. Chijs ^[2]

MONETÆ DE MEGH
IOH'N NES DEM EGHE



Cuypers van Velthoven ^[3]

MONETÆ DE MEGH
IOH'N NES DEM EGHE

Grolle

Grolle's categorization of the Holland *leeuwengroot* sub-types (**Grolle 17.2.2**) is wildly inaccurate, and cannot actually be used to identify Holland *leeuwengroten* at all (which we made clear in 2016); Grolle's associated catalog of fractional coins leaves much to be desired as well (see ref. 20 and ref. 21).

This type (**N/B 4; cat. II**) may or may not be a direct imitation of a "1354 issue in Holland", as Nissen/Benders state (based upon Grolle (ref. 7)). However, Grolle's "information" is generally unreliable and should not be used for an assertion such as the one made here by Nissen/Benders.

SMALL c. 17 mm. (anonymous)

Nissen/Benders 1
[Cat. III]

p. 58

"William IV (c. 1351-1358) [*sic*]"

1. Quarter *leeuwengroot* (Ø 17 mm.)

Obv. standing lion with single tail to the left

✠MONET•MEGHENSI

Rev. Long cross

a. MON – ETXI – IEGH – ENSI

b. [...] [...] EGH – NSIS

a. v.d. Chijs II, 3; Lucas 9 (0.95 g.)

b. Roest 1882: p. 604, n° 11; Lucas 9a (0.50 g.)

Collections: W. van den Nieuwenhof (0.52 g.)

Illustration: variant a, collection W. van den Nieuwenhof...

Example: John III, Duke of Brabant (1312-1355): issue of December 1339 (de Witte 367) [*sic*]

See Appendix note 1"

– p. 58 ^[1]

“[Appendix note] 1.

Van der Chijs knew of three examples, in the possession of the Provincial Society, a Mr. Heerkins of Zwolle, and Professor Baart de la Faille of Groningen, respectively. The example from the Provincial Society was also listed in the catalog of 1860, but it is not currently in the collection of the Noordbrabants Museum. The example from Baart de la Faille was bought in 1869 by Van den Bogaerde. In 1882, Roest described this coin as variant b (0.50 g.). Van der Chijs cited a weight of 0.95 g. Notably, the name of the minting lord is not used.”

– p. 95 ^[1]

N/B 1 a

The obverse of the sole known specimen of N/B 1 a seems to show an annulet (not a pellet) on the obverse after MONETA (**cat. III-a**).

At this point in time, N/B 1 a is known from a single specimen (and from the previous literature, such as it is). This sole example is fairly illegible, despite the complete legend transcription provided by Nissen/Benders (presumably based on the previous literature?):

N/B 1 a	✠MONETΛ•MEGHENSI: MON ETΛI IEGHM ENSI
Actual coin:	[✠ MONET]Λ • HEG[hENSI] MON E[...] [...] ENSI

N/B 1 b

Nissen/Benders have never actually seen an example of a “N/B 1 b” coin; the sub-type is based solely on a coin reported by Roest in 1882 (**Roest 11**, ref. 17; **cat. III-b**). According to Roest, who did not provide an illustration, the reverse legend begins with MON, which Nissen/Benders have omitted for some reason (once again making alterations to their own source material).

Roest did not provide any obverse legend transcription at all, only the implication that it would be the same (or similar) to **v.d. Chijs plate II, 3**, which we are left to infer from Roest’s “(No 3.)” statement. This is clearly what Lucas thought, since he provided v.d. Chijs’ obverse legend for this type (cf. **Lucas 9 a**).

When Did Minting in Megen Begin?

The coin (N/B 1; **cat. III**) is anonymous, and in fact, could have been struck for John II, William IV or John III. In their catalog, Nissen/Benders (tentatively) attribute this anonymous coin to William IV (c. 1351-1358) (ref. 13, p. 58).

Although this attribution may very well be correct (we cannot say that Nissen/Benders are wrong, and we cannot say that they are right), the reasoning behind Nissen/Benders' decision is rather unconvincing. They discuss the 1340's and 1350's in such a manner as to make the two decades seem interchangeable, and they end up drawing conclusions for the entire period c. 1340-1359 (i.e. the 1340's and 1350's), which cover two Lords of Megen (John II and William IV), and therefore do not really prove for one lord or the other.

In their main text, Nissen/Benders seem more unsure about their attribution to William IV, for example:

p. 30: "William IV († 1358) probably initiated the coinage"

p. 32: "At the earliest, the coinage of Megen could have begun in the 1340's."
[i.e. John II]

p. 38: "The Megen imitation could therefore have been struck for John II (last mention: 1347). The most important argument for this is that minting of coins in lordships flourished in politically restless times. The 1340's and 1350's are known for a sudden spurt of minting by smaller lordships in and around the Duchy of Gelre."

The discussion on p. 38 continues:

"The existence of two coins from Megen, that according to their designs would be the first Megen coins but that do not have the name of an issuing lord on them, suggest that someone had appropriated the right to strike coin. Both coins fit the 1340's and 1350's (catalog 1 and 2), a $\frac{1}{4}$ *groot* following a Brabantine model (issued December, 1339) [*sic*], and a Gelre *groot* from Roermond (issued mid-1340's), respectively. For the Gelre *groot* the necessary imitations are known, which can be convincingly dated to the 1350's^[42] [*sic*]. It remains unclear whether minting of the Megen coins began under John II (last reference known to us: 14 February, 1347) or William IV (first reference known to us: 8 February, 1351). The political context described above makes a start under William IV far more likely."
[*sic*]

42) Grolle 2002: pp. 44-45."^[13]

– ref. 13, p. 38

Any or all of this could indeed be correct, although there is little in the way of source documentation or references provided.

Nissen/Benders state that the “Brabançon model coin” was struck from late December, 1339, which was either during or close to the reign of John II, but perhaps 10 years before that of William. The exact dates of the reign of John II are unknown, but they were certainly “in the 1340’s”; why could he not have initiated the Megen coinage? Was it the death of John III of Brabant in 1355 that caused William IV of Megen to start minting coins? (Otherwise, the entire discussion about the political situation in Guelders as a reason for initiating the Megen coinage could just as easily apply to John II of Megen.)

“a Brabançon model, striking of which began in December, 1339”^[13]

(“...een kwart groot naar Brabantse model.... ingevoerd in december 1339...”)

Despite the tone of these words, this statement is far from a “known fact”. Nissen/Benders do not report the source of this “information” (neither de Witte nor v.d. Chijs say any such thing). As it turns out, Nissen/Benders took their information directly from Ghyssens (ref. 5)^[27], (although Ghyssens is not listed in their bibliography), once again leaving the reader to his own devices. Had Nissen/Benders only qualified their statement with “According to Ghyssens...” the problem would be far less significant. Instead, Nissen/Benders simply state that the Brabant coin was struck from December 1339, as though this is a known and irrefutable fact (far from it).

It is clear that Joseph Ghyssens had all the best intentions, but sadly, his works are full of grievous errors that must be rectified. Ghyssens did not, in fact, show that the Brabant coin was struck from late 1339 at all, it was only his opinion, based (in part) on some serious misconceptions held by Ghyssens to be correct (they are not, and demonstrably so). Without some new information, currently unavailable, the Brabant coin simply cannot be used to date the Megen coin (if the Brabant coin was even the “model” in the first place).

At this time, we are still uncertain about exactly where the long-cross, fractional Brabant coin (**de Witte 367**) fits in, chronologically. However, it seems likely that in December 1339 (or January 1340), striking of the fractional GANDEN LOVAIN coins (**de Witte 381 & 383**) began, to coincide with the minting of the corresponding full *groten*. There is no evidence at this point, one way or the other, as to whether or not minting of the Brabant long cross fractional (**de Witte 367**) began at this time as well or not.

The Megen coin type under discussion (**N/B 1; cat. III**) may or may not have been struck for William IV, the Brabant coin (with long O’s only) may or may not have been the “model” for the Megen coin (with long and round O’s), but with the information currently available to us, we simply cannot be sure. The Brabant coin is indeed a fractional *leeuwengroot* with a long cross, and no issuing noble is named on the coin, but that is where the connections may well end.

“For the Gelre groot, the necessary imitations are known, which can be convincingly dated to the 1350’s”^[42],^[13]

The Guelders *groot* mentioned is not our concern, and we do not know if this statement is correct or not, but the word “convincingly” is cause for comment. It is certainly inadvisable to attempt to date any coin based on “information” provided by the notoriously unreliable Grolle (footnote 42), i.e. Grolle’s *Muntende ministerialen...* (ref. 8), a book full of “information” that rests upon very thin ice. It is highly inadvisable to attempt to date a coin based upon any of Grolle’s published works (see ref. 20 and ref. 21).

Conclusion

There is 1 known type of IOHANNES “mini-*leeuwengroot*” from Megen (**cat. I-a**), with a second (sub-) type that has slightly different legends (**cat. I-b**). These coins are likely to be a direct imitation of the fractional BRABA *leeuwengroot* coins of Johanna & Wenceslas of Brabant (1355-1383), struck c. 1381-1383 (?), and they were probably struck for John III of Megen (1358-1417). They are similar to coins struck in Gennepe and Batenburg.

There is 1 known type of IOHANNES long-cross fractional from Megen (**cat. II**), with 2 sub-types, each with a slightly different reverse legend (**cat. II-a & II-b**). The obverse legends may or may not be the same as one another, and there may or may not be a third sub-type with variant interpunction.

These coins may have been struck for John III (or John II?), and they may be related to similar coins struck in Kuik, Guelders and/or other regions.

There is 1 known type of anonymous long-cross fractional from Megen (**cat. III**), with 1 possible sub-type (that we have been unable to verify), each with a slightly different reverse legend (**cat. III-a & III-b**), struck for William IV, John II, or John III. The obverse legends may be different from one another as well. These coins may be related to similar coins struck in Brabant and/or other regions.

As always, we welcome any commentary or input from the reader, especially photographs of coin specimens otherwise unknown to us.

The known Megen fractional *leeuwengroten*:

<u>cat.</u>	<u>de Voogt</u>	<u>N&B</u>	<u>Passon</u>	<u>Lucas</u>	<u>v.d Chijs</u>	
I-a	17	3 c	5	2	II, 4	MEGEN
I-b	18	3 b	5 a	2 a	—	MAGEN
II-a	—	4 a	—	—	—	NQE
II-b	—	4 b	3	8	II, 6	NQES
III-a	—	1 a	1	9	II, 3	QSI
III-b (<i>unverified</i>)	—	1 b	—	9 a	—	QSI

Cat. II-a was also reported by Cuypers van Velthoven (ref. 3).

Cat. III-b was also reported by Roest (ref. 17).

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