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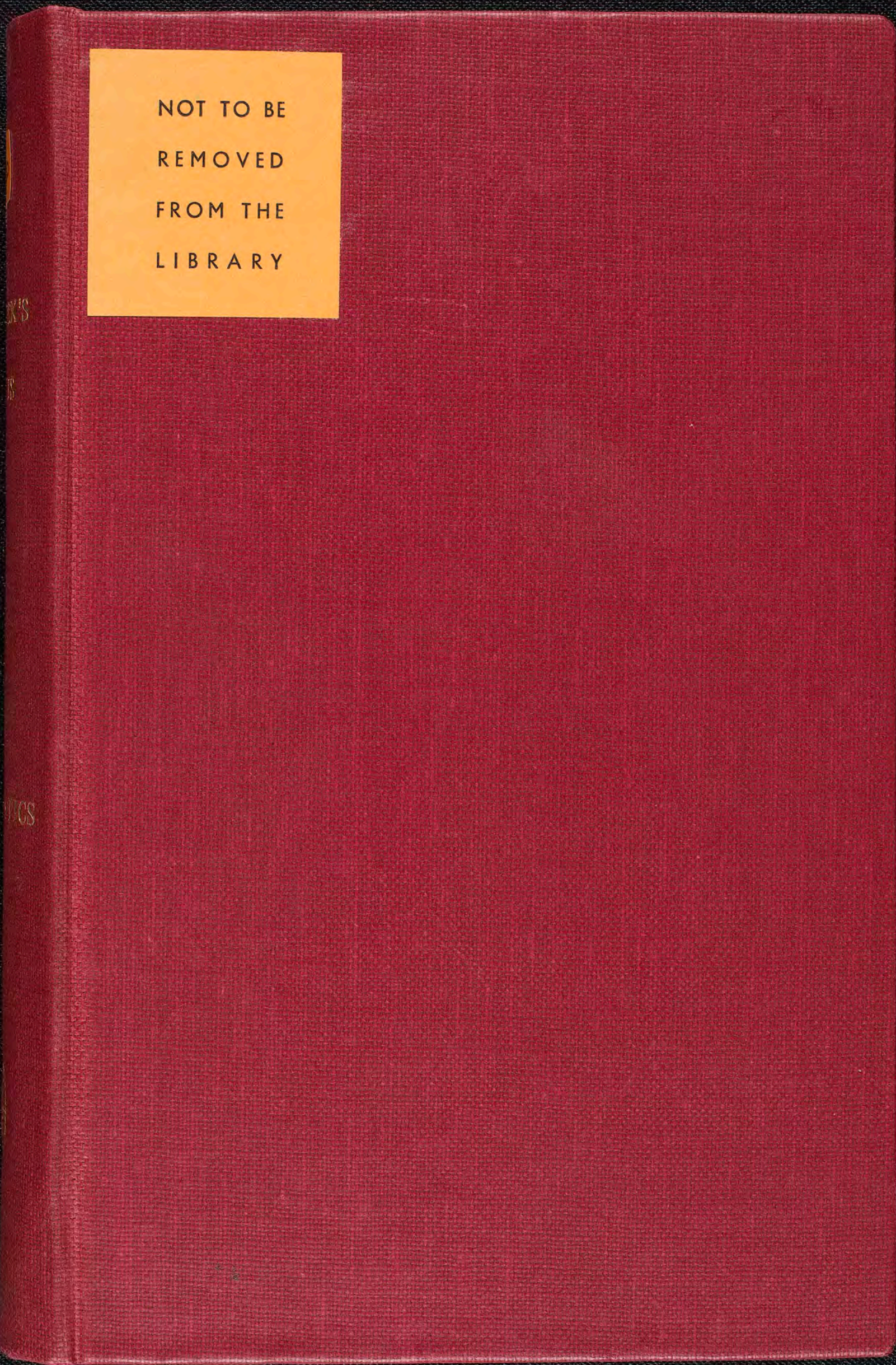
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Prof. J. Overbeck.

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From the writer.

THE
SANTORIN FIND OF 1821.

BY
WARWICK WROTH.

*(Of the Department of Coins,
British Museum.)*

REPRINTED FROM THE NUMISMATIC CHRONICLE,
VOL. IV., THIRD SERIES, PAGES 269—280.

LONDON :

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THE SANTORIN FIND OF 1821.

BY WARWICK WROTH.

IN the month of September, 1821, there was discovered in the island of Santorin (the ancient Thera), a large hoard consisting of seven hundred and sixty Greek silver coins, of archaic style, probably of the seventh and sixth centuries B.C. A memorandum as to the contents of this hoard was fortunately made at the time by that careful coin-collector, Mr. H. P. Borrell, and was subsequently published by him in the *Numismatic Chronicle* for 1843—44 (vol. vi. page 134 ; cf. *ib.* page 47). Though Greek numismatists are not unaware, of course, of the existence of this memorandum, it has happened, owing to the extreme brevity of Mr. Borrell's descriptions and the absence of any accompanying illustrations, that the Santorin find has had but little attention bestowed upon it. I have, therefore, brought together in the present paper specimens of all the types of coins which I believe to be indicated in Mr. Borrell's memorandum, giving photographs of them and full descriptions. And I should be glad to think that numismatists may be induced thereby to offer further suggestions as to the attributions of these coins from Santorin, and also—what is still more important—that any collectors who happen to have coins of similar types may be led to state what they know as to the *provenance* of their spe-

cimens. Several coins from the Santorin hoard passed into the Borrell and Payne Knight collections and have now found a resting place in the British Museum. With regard to some of the specimens in my Plate I cannot, indeed, say positively whether or no they are actually from the hoard, but at any rate they correspond in type and fabric to coins mentioned by Mr. Borrell, and so will serve our purpose of laying once more before the numismatist this interesting island-treasure.

Before examining the items of Mr. Borrell's memorandum it will be useful to quote it in its entirety:—

- “41 Silver, type half horse; some to the right, others to the left. *Rev.*—A double indented square; one much larger than the other; in each a large star.
- 47 Do. half lion. *Rev.*—Rude square.
- 1 Do. Do. *Rev.*—Rude square, a star in the centre.
- 2 Do. large fish's head, and the tail of a fish above. *Rev.*—Rude indented square.
- 14 Vase, with bunch of grapes to each handle, and an ivy-leaf above. *Rev.*—Indented square, divided in unequal compartments. Naxus? Mionnet, in his Supplement, gives them to Teos, in Ionia.
- 3 Dove flying. Sicyon.
- 1 Cock. Carystus?
- 1 Boar's head.
- 82 Do. half size. Lyttus Creta?
- 23 Two dolphins. Phidon. See my notice.
- 2 Goat upon a fish.
- 1 Plain vase, without handles.
- 541 Ægina.
- 1 Head of Silenus. *Rev.*—Rude indented square. Naxus? (From Mr. Payne Knight's collection, now in the British Museum.)
-
- 760 Total.”

A. 41 Silver, type half horse; some to the right, others to the left. *Rev.*—A double indented square; one much larger than the other; in each a large star.

Several specimens of these coins (which are of the

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¹ Einzelne
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weight of Æginetan Didrachms) are in the British Museum. They present two distinct types:—

1. *Obv.*—Forepart of horse r.; beneath it, uncertain letters.¹
Rev.—Star within an incuse square; below it, in a smaller incuse square, star.

Æ. ·8 Wt. 184 grains. Brit. Mus. (from the Borrell coll.) [Pl. XII. No. 1.]

(Similar specimens in Brit. Mus. weigh 183 grs. and 186·3 grs. respectively.)

2. *Obv.*—Fore part of horse l. (apparently no letters beneath).
Rev.—Floral pattern within an incuse square; below it, in a smaller incuse square, star.

Æ. ·9 Wt. 178 grains. Brit. Mus. (from Borrell coll.) [Pl. XII. No. 2.]

(Cf. a similar specimen photographed in Head, *Guide to the Coins of the Ancients*, Plate II., No. 20; wt. 181·5 grs. Brit. Mus.: *Num. Chron.*, 1881, Pl. I. No. 11; wt. 179·5 grs. Brit. Mus.)

The British Museum also possesses a hemi-drachm (Æ. ·55, wt. 43 grains) with types similar to No. 2, but without the smaller incuse square on the reverse. It was formerly in the Payne Knight collection, but does not appear to have occurred in the Santorin hoard.

The fact that the coins in the hoard are almost all uninscribed renders their attribution difficult. From the find-spot of the hoard, and from the presence in it of a large number of Æginetan coins, we must suppose that it contains specimens of the currency of the Ægean islands, of the Peloponnese, and, possibly, even of northern Greece. Our coins with the half horse do not by their types con-

¹ Einzelne Exemplare dieser Münzen haben unter dem Pferdetypus eine Aufschrift (scheinbar drei Buchstaben, von denen die letzten beiden—ΛP oder—ΛI gelesen werden könnten." Imhoof-Blumer in *Zeit. f. Num.*, vol. iii. p. 276.

nect themselves with any island of the Ægean. They have been attributed to Maronea, to Cyme in Æolis, to Erythræ in Ionia, and (owing to a mistaken reading of Sestini's) to Clazomenæ.² The fifth century coins of Maronea³ present a resemblance in type to those now under discussion, though the attribution thus suggested cannot be regarded as certain: the Æolic and Ionian attributions have been well shown by Dr. Imhoof-Blumer, to be, on several grounds, extremely unsatisfactory. At present, indeed, without further knowledge of the *provenance* of other similar coins, the attribution of these specimens must be admitted to be little better than guess work.

B. 47 *Half lion.* *Rev.—Rude square.*

1 *Half lion.* *Rev.—Rude square, a star in the centre.*

1. *Obv.—*Fore part of lion, l., looking back.

*Rev.—*Rude incuse square, quartered and (apparently) divided diagonally.

Æ. .75. Wt. 183.4 grs. Brit. Mus. (from the Payne Knight Coll.). [Pl. XII. No. 3.]

(Another similar in Brit. Mus. from the same collection, weighs 182.9 grains.)

[1.* *Obv.—*VAO fore part of lion l., looking back.

*Rev.—*Similar to No. 1.

Æ. .8. Wt. 185.5 grs. Brit. Mus. (from the Borrell coll.). *Found in Milo.* [Pl. XII. No. 4.]]

(A similar specimen in the Brit. Mus., from the Woodhouse collection, weighs 180.8 grains.)

² Cf. Imhoof-Blumer, *l. c.* p. 276 (notes).

³ Brit. Mus. *Catalogue*, "Thrace," p. 123, No. 4. The coins belonging to the period before the expedition of Darius have *obv.*, fore part of horse; *rev.*, incuse square; see *ib.*, Nos. 1—3.

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2. *Obv.*—Fore part of lion, l., looking back.

Rev.—Ornamented star within incuse square.

R. 8. Wt. 183.8 grs. Brit. Mus. (from Payne Knight coll.). [Pl. XII. No. 5.]

All these coins, if we judge by the similarity of their fabric and of their obverse types, must be assigned to the same period; possibly, however, the specimen with the star for reverse may be somewhat later than the specimens which have only a plain incuse square. Coins with the type of 1* do not seem to have occurred in the Santorin deposit: Mr. Borrell states⁴ that some were found in the island of Milo (a few years subsequent to 1821), together with other coins "bearing the same types [as those in the Santorin find, but which] were evidently of more modern date." The inscription on the obverse of 1* ought to give us the key to all the coins in our class: it was read by Mr. Borrell $\text{O}\Lambda\text{V}$ or $\Lambda\text{V}\text{O}$.⁵ Possibly, as Professor Percy Gardner has suggested, it is $\text{O}\text{V}\Lambda$ (retrograde, = $\Gamma\upsilon\theta$ —), in which case it might be thought to indicate Gythium, the sea-port of Laconia: so far as the types are concerned, Miletus, or better, the Thracian Chersonese (cp. B. M. *Cat. Thrace*, p. 182, Nos. 1—4) would seem to have the best claim to the coins.

C. 2 *Large fish's head, and the tail of a fish above.* *Rev.*—*Rude indented square.*

1. *Obv.*—Head of fish l.; above, fish's tail.

⁴ *Num. Chron.*, Vol. vi. (O.S.), p. 134.

⁵ " $\text{V}\Lambda\text{O}$ konnte auch für $\text{O}\gamma\upsilon$. . . stehen, die Gammaform Λ wird auf Münzen von Gortyna, Argos u.a. nicht selten getroffen." Imhoof-Blumer, *Z. f. N.* III., p. 278 (note 8). The attribution to Olus in Crete proposed by de Luynes seems out of the question.

Rev.—Rude incuse square (probably intended to be quartered and divided diagonally).

Æ. ·8. Wt. 227 grs. Brit. Mus. (from the Borrell coll.).
[Pl. XII. No. 6.]

2. *Obv.*—Similar. Æ. ·85. Wt. 216·5 grs. Brit. Mus. (from the Bank of England coll.).

3. Similar. Æ. ·8. Wt. 219·5. Brit. Mus. (from the Payne Knight coll. = (?) Cadalvene, *Recueil de méd. grecq.*, Plate II. 23.

These three coins will serve to represent to us the coins with similar types in the Santorin hoard, though it is not certain they actually come from it. If No. 3 is, as it seems to be, the same coin as Cadalvene's Fig. 23 in Plate II. of his *Recueil*, it was found (in 1821) in Milo (cp. *ib.* page 174). With regard to our No. 1, I find from a note in Mr. Borrell's MS. catalogue of his own collection that it too was discovered in Milo. The provenance of No. 2 is not known to me, but possibly it is one of the two coins with fish's head and tail found in Santorin. There can be little doubt that we have on the obverse of these coins the "complete abridgment" of a fish—its head and tail. The head was thought by De Luynes to be that of a raven, and he attributed a specimen in his collection to Ialysos in Rhodes; the form of the incuse squares of these coins is, however, quite unlike that of the incuse reverses characteristic of Rhodian coins (cf. *e.g.*, Head, *Guide*, Pl. III. 30 and 32)⁶. At present, the find spot of these coins seems rather to point to their being the

⁶ Brandis, *Das Münzwesen*, &c. p. 479, inserts De Luynes' coin under "Rhodos, Ialysos (Kleinasiatischer Fuss)," but says, "Die Zutheilung ist sehr zweifelhaft, sie rührt von Luynes her, der in seiner Sammlung die Münze, unter Vergleichung von Müller's Fr. h. Gr. IV. 405 Ialysos beigelegt hat."

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currency of one of the Cyclades, but an attribution to Melos itself would perhaps be hazardous.

D. 14 *Vase, with bunch of grapes to each handle, and an ivy-leaf above. Rev.—Indented square, divided into unequal compartments. Naxos? Mionnet in his Supplement, gives them to Teos, in Ionia.*

Obv.—Kantharos; from each handle of which a bunch of grapes is suspended; above, an ivy-leaf.

Rev. Incuse square divided into four compartments.

Æ. 8. Wt. 191 grs. Brit. Mus. (from the Woodhouse Coll.). [Pl. XII. No. 7.]

Cf. Head, *Guide*, Pl. VI., No. 34, wt. 187 grains (Kantharos wreathed with ivy), and *Das Königl Münzkabinet* (Berlin), Nos. 9 and 10; without wreath?

These are the well-known coins now generally assigned to the island of Naxos. They usually have the body of the Kantharos wreathed with ivy, but as Mr. Borrell makes no mention of the existence of a wreath on the specimens described in his memorandum, I have thought it better to photograph a piece in the British Museum which seems to be without the wreath—unless, indeed, that object has merely become obliterated. It would appear, however, from some remarks by Mr. Borrell published in the *Num. Chron* (vol. v. pp. 177, 178), that *one* at any rate of the Santorin coins was provided with the ivy-wreath, so that perhaps this may have been the case with all. Coins with the wreathed kantharos occurred in the well-known Myt-Rahineh *trouvaille* of sixth century Greek money.⁷

E. 3 *Dove flying. Sicyon.*

1. *Obv.*—Eagle flying r.

⁷ *Revue numis.*, 1861, p. 421; Pl. XVIII. 8.

Rev.—Incuse square quartered and divided diagonally.

Æ. .75. Wt. 196.6 grs. Brit. Mus. (formerly in the Borrell and Payne Knight collections). [Pl. XII. No. 8] = Head, *Guide*, Pl. VI. No. 36.

Mr. Borrell considered the bird on these coins to be a dove, and supposed them to be "the earliest essays of the Sicyonian coinage" (*Num. Chron.* vi. (O.S.) p. 132.). But the bird seems rather to be an eagle, and it is more likely that these specimens constituted the earliest money of the wealthy island of Siphnos, preceding the archaic, but not primitive, inscribed coins of that island with, *obv.*, female head, *rev.* eagle flying.

F. 1 *Cock. Carystus?*

I have been unable to make out from this description what coin is intended.

G. 1 *Boar's head.*

Obv.—Boar's head r.

Rev.—Rude incuse square (apparently not divided into compartments).

Æ. .85. Wt. 223 grs. Brit. Mus. (from the Borrell coll.). [Pl. XII. No. 9.]

This coin is of rude globular fabric and much resembles the pieces with fish's head and tail (our class C). Like them it is above the right of the Æginetic didrachms in this find.

H. 82 *Boar's head, half size. Lyttus Creta?*

1. *Obv.*—Boar's head r.

Rev.—Rude incuse square.

Æ. .55. Wt. 64.5 grains. Brit. Mus. (from the Borrell coll.). [Pl. XII. No. 10.]

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2. Similar; incuse square, divided? Fabric somewhat less lumpy than that of No. 1.

Æ. .65. Wt. 64.4 grains. [Pl. XII. No. 11] = Head, *Guide*, I. A. 33; Pl. III. No. 33.

[3. *Obv.*—Boar's head r.

Rev.—Incuse square.

Æ. .35. Wt. 7.2 grs. Brit. Mus. (from the Borrell coll.)]

The British Museum possesses several specimens of Nos. 1 and 2. No. 3 evidently belongs to the same class, though it is not, apparently, from the Santorin hoard. Mr. Head in his *Guide* (*loc. cit.*) has attributed No. 1 to Lycia, with a query; in the *Guide* to the Berlin collection,⁸ on the other hand, two similar specimens are given to Lyttus (in Crete), on whose coinage a boar's head is a familiar type. Mons. J. P. Six⁹ also writes strongly in favour of this attribution, and considers the pieces to be *thirds* of the Æginetan stater. He points out that Baron Prokesch-Osten obtained ten specimens of this class direct (apparently) from Crete. It must, however, be borne in mind that similar specimens have been found in Cyprus (*Catal. Huber*, No. 700), and, as our present find shows, in Thera. Specimens similar to our No. 3 have been found in the island of Seriphos.¹⁰

I. 23 *Two Dolphins. Phidon.*

1. *Obv.*—Dolphin swimming l.; beneath, a smaller dolphin swimming r.

⁸ *Das königl. Münzkabinet*, p. 54, Nos. 12, 13 (wt. = 4, 15, and 4, 1 grm.).

⁹ In a letter to myself written in July, 1884.

¹⁰ Prokesch-Osten, *Nichtbekannte Europ.-griech. Münzen*, Pl. III. Nos. 50, 51, under Lyttus. The boar's head on No. 50 has been mistaken for an eagle's head.

Rev.—Incuse square quartered and divided diagonally.

Æ. .8. Wt. 189.3 grs. Brit. Mus. [Pl. XII. No. 12.]

(Other specimens in Brit. Mus. weigh 193.7 grs.; 188.4 grs.: for similar coins cf. *Das k. Münzkabinet*, p. 54, No. 7, "Unbestimmt, eine der Inseln der ägäischen Meers;" Cadalvene, *Recueil*, Pl. II. No. 24, &c.)

Mr. Borrell (*Num. Chron.* vol. vi. (O.S.), p. 42 ff.), was of opinion that these specimens were the coins "minted by the Æginetæ for Phidon, King of Argos." Without going this length, we may admit that the suggestion that these coins formed the earliest currency of Argos seems at least worthy of consideration. Cadalvene thought that these pieces were actually struck in Ægina itself, being led to take this view by the similarity between the incuse square of the dolphin coins and those of Ægina with the tortoise; and also by the fact that he had procured several specimens of the former from Ægina.

Mr. Barclay Head has further suggested to me that if these coins are of one of the Ægean islands—and their find-spot, so far as it is at present known, would seem to indicate this—they might with probability be assigned to Delos. That island can hardly be supposed at that early period to have been without a currency of its own, and the type of the dolphin would be not unsuitable as a symbol of its god Apollo.

J. 2 *Goat upon a fish.*

1. *Obv.*—Goat r., looking back, with r. foreleg bent; beneath, dolphin.

Rev.—Incuse square divided into (6 ?) compartments.

Æ. .85. Wt. 190.1 grs. Brit. Mus. (from the Borrell coll.). [Pl. XII. No. 13.]

2. Another, similar. Wt. 187.7 grs. Brit. Mus. = Head, *Guide*, I. B. 35; Plate VI. 35. "Paros."

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The attribution of these coins to Paros seems a probable one.

K. 1 *Plain vase, without handles.*

Obv.—Amphora.

Rev.—Incuse square, quartered and divided diagonally.

Æ. 8. Wt. 184.2 grs. Brit. Mus. [Pl. XII. No. 14.]

(Another similar specimen in Brit. Mus. weighs 186.2 grs.).

It is perhaps one of these coins of Carthæa in Ceos that is intended by Mr. Borrell, though the vase certainly has small handles.

L. 541 *Ægina.*

These were apparently all didrachms.¹¹ Mr. Borrell has not described the form of the incuse square on the reverse of the specimens, and we cannot be certain, therefore, whether the reverse had the square quartered and divided diagonally, as is the case with the coin in our Plate XII. No. 15 (wt. 192 grs., Brit. Mus.), or whether it consisted of five triangular sinkings (as on Pl. XII. No. 16, wt. 185.2 grains. Brit. Mus.); or whether, again, the find included specimens of both these classes. The British Museum obtained many of its early Æginetan Didrachms from the Borrell collection, all of which, I find, have the five (or four) triangular sinkings for reverse. It would, however, be somewhat hazardous to infer from this circumstance that none of the class with the quartered and diagonally divided square occurred in the find.

¹¹ I gather this from some observations appended to Borrell's memorandum (*Num. Chron. l. c.*)—"All the coins of the Santorina deposit, excepting the 82 small with the boar's head, agree pretty nearly with each other in weight, which shows them to have been adjusted to the Æginetan standard, of which they must have been didrachms."

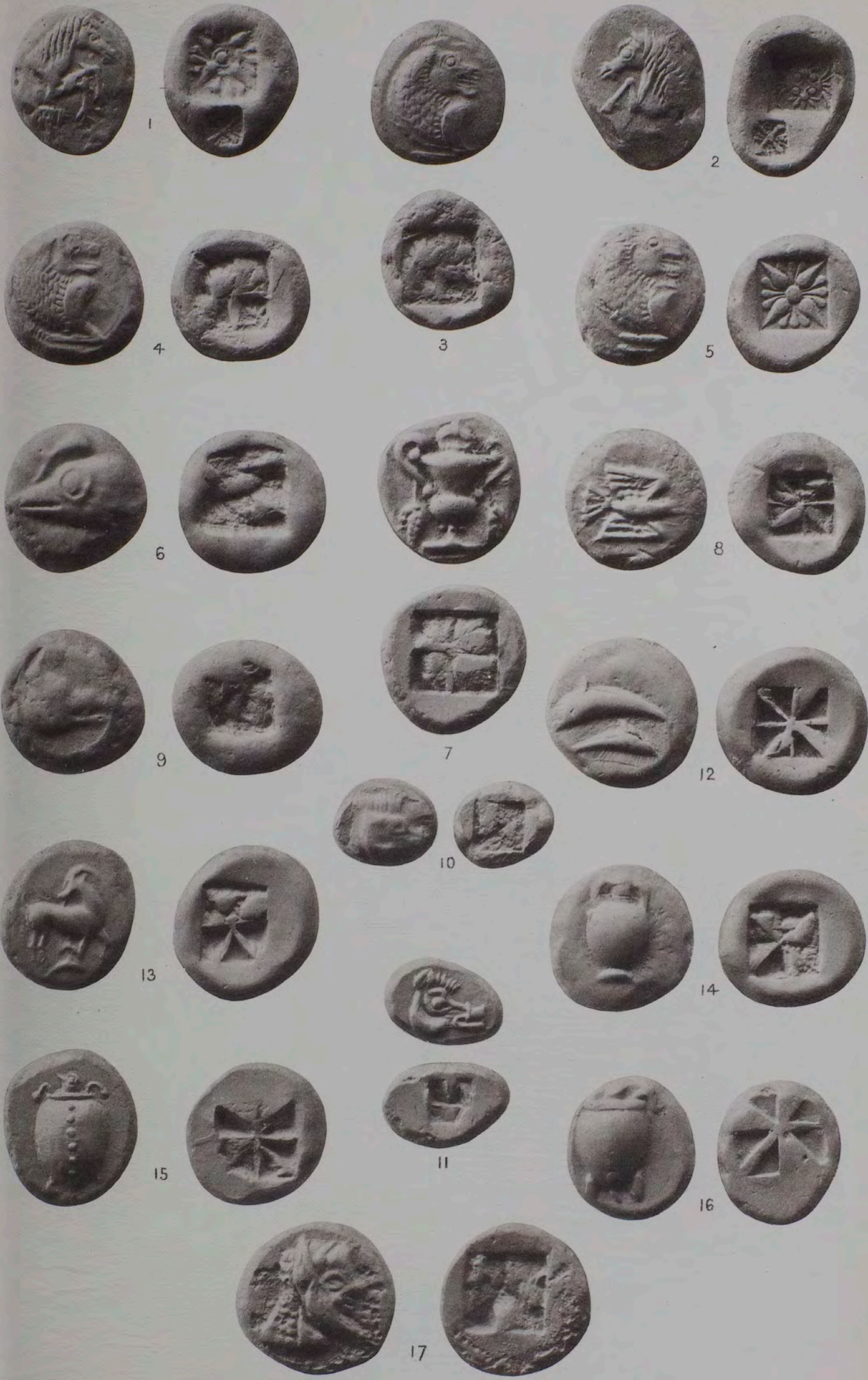
M. 1 *Head of Silenus. Rev.—Rude indented square. Naxos?*
(From Mr. Payne Knight's collection, now in the British Museum.)

Obv.—Head of Satyr r. with pointed beard and long pointed ear.

Rev.—Rude incuse square (quartered and divided diagonally?).

Æ. 85. Wt. 211.5 grs. Brit. Mus. (from Payne Knight coll.). [Pl. XII. No. 17] = Gardner, *Types*, Pl. III. 19. Naxos?





THE SANTORIN FIND 1821.

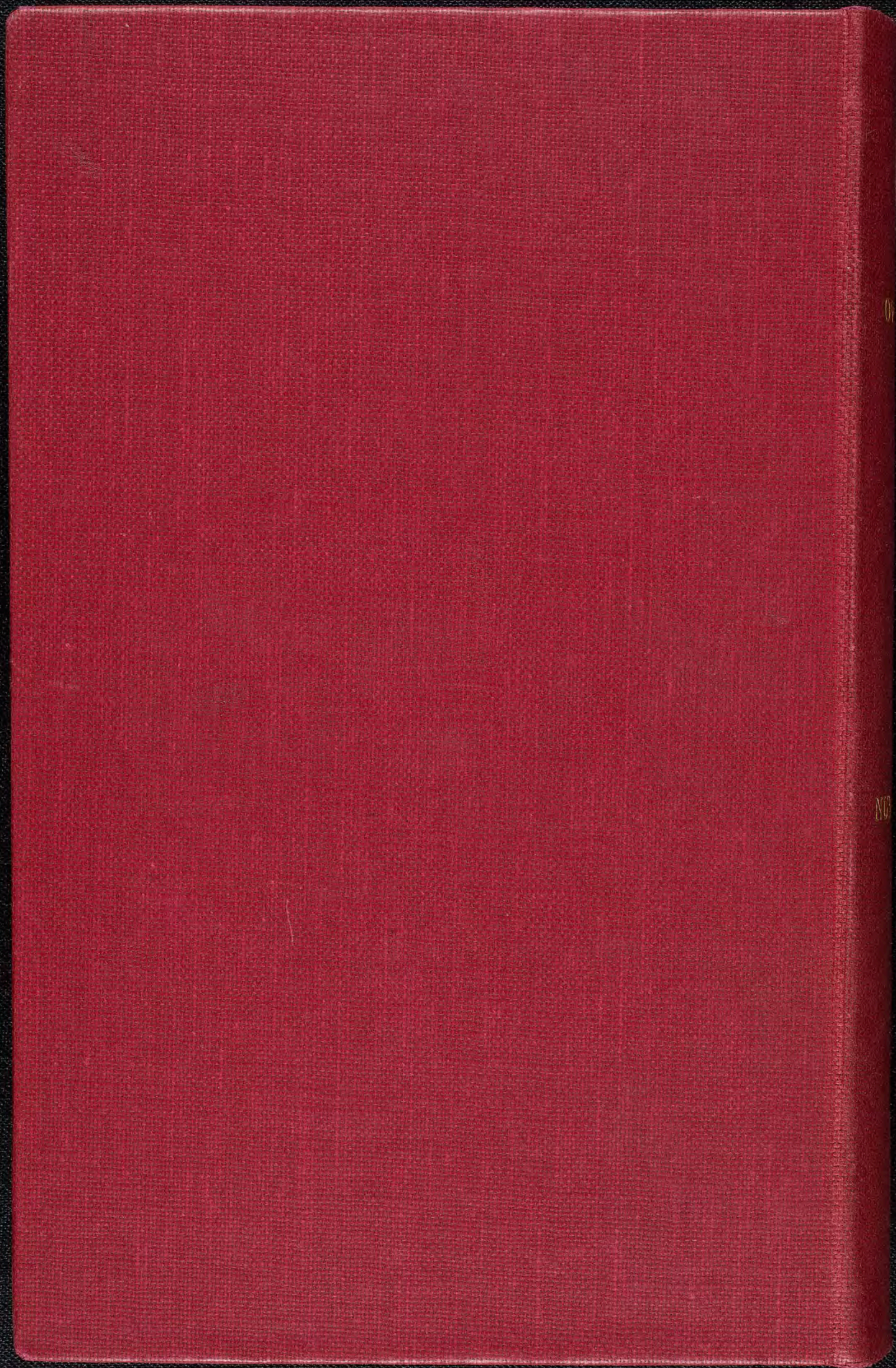
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