ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΜΕΙΖΟΝΟΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ

Συγγραφή : *Καντηρέα Μαρία*
Μετάφραση : *Βελέντζας Γεώργιος*
Για παραπομπή : *Καντηρέα Μαρία , "Personification of institutions in Asia Minor", Εγκυκλοπαίδεια Μείζονος Ελληνισμού, Μ. Ασία*
URL: <http://www.ehw.gr/l.aspx?id=9546>

Περίληψη :

The personification of institutions in Asia Minor's art is very rare over space and time and is detected only in particular types of monuments such as decree stelae. Personifications of the Demos, the Boule and the Parliament are mainly found in coins of the Imperial period.

Χρονολόγηση

Roman Imperial times

Γεωγραφικός εντοπισμός

Asia Minor

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1. Boule

Boule is not a traditional mythological figure but the personification of an institution. It rarely appears in art over space and time. Two types of monuments have preserved the particular iconography. The first one includes decree stelae of the 4th c. BC Athenian demos, depicting the Boule in the upper part relief as a female figure dressed in a chiton and an himation. However, it also appears on coins of Roman cities in Asia Minor. Both stelae and coins with the specific depictions are of public character.

Because Boule is not depicted on Hellenistic monuments and coins, there was not a previously established iconographical type. Therefore, coin engravings in Laodicea of Phrygia (second half of 1st c. AD), Tiberiopolis of Phrygia (late 1st – early 2nd c. AD) and Tarsus of Cilicia in Hadrian's years (117-138) are usually imitations of Attic prototypes, depicting Boule with a veil, a diadem or a laurel wreath. In these coins Boule is frequently accompanied by personifications of the Demos –as it happened in Sagalassos of Pisidia in Claudius II's years (268-270)– and the Senate.[1]

2. Demos

Demos, either as a beardless young man imitating the Roman prototype or as a bearded old man, according to the Attic prototypes, personifies the respective political organ. In this capacity it appears in coins portraying Omonoia (Concord/Amity), frequently shaking hands with the other Demos and followed by the inscription "ΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ ΔΗΜΩΝ". There is a typical collection of 2nd c. BC coins minted in Tetrapolis of Syria referring to the concord/amity among the four most important cities: Antioch, Seleucia Pieria, Apamea and Laodicea.[2]

3. Autonomous or Pseudo-autonomous Coins

Boule and Demos are frequently depicted in the autonomous or pseudo-autonomous coins of the cities of the Imperial period. Their particularity lies in the absence of the imperial portrait from the front side and its replacement by a picture referring to the city.[3] There were usually depictions of patrons, Tyche (fortune) of the city and, more rarely, personifications of the local Boule and the Demos.[4]

4. Parliament

The Parliament, depicted as a female figure in coins of the Koinon of Cilicia, is the personification of the provincial council, which was responsible for holding festivals and the maintainance of the koinon's temples.[5]

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1. *LIMC* 3.1 (1986), pp. 145-147; see entry "Boule" (V. Komninos).

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2. *BMC* Syria, p. viii.

3. They are described as “autonomous” or “pseudo-autonomous” because in the Imperial period there were no autonomous cities, at least with the content the word had in the 5th c. BC.

4. Butscher, K., *Roman Provincial Coins: an Introduction to the Greek Imperial*s (London 1988).

5. *BMC* Cilicia, pp. xci-xcii.

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	Hill G.F., *Catalogue of the Greek coins of Lycaonia, Isauria, and Cilicia*, Trustees, London 1900, Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum
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Γλωσσάριο :

	chiton, the
Item of clothing consisting of a square woollen textile seamed on both sides.	
	coins of the concord type, the
coins commemorative of the reconciliation of two cities.	
	diadem, the
Band of textile or metal that was bonded around the head. It was not only an ornament but also a religious emblem. For eastern people it symbolised royal authority, too. Alexander the Great inherited from Persians its fuction as a royal symbol.	
	himation, the
Rectangular woolen (mainly) cloth that was worn over the *chiton* (cloak). It could be wrapped around the shoulders and the body in different ways and was fastened with a belt or with brooches.	
	senate, the
The top political body of the Roman state. During the early Republic, it was represented by the council of the consuls, the top archons of the roman state. Later on, its power and responisibilities increased. As a result, it became the main governmental body of Rome. However, during the Imperial period, the responsibilities of the senate were restricted.	