

A Fractional *Leeuwengroot* from Schüttorf, struck for Otto of Bentheim (1347-1364)

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NUMIS 1134290

This article is, in essence, a correction and replacement of our previously published paper *A Previously Unpublished Fractional Leeuwengroot of Otto of Cuijk (1319-1350) (?)* (ref. 6), (now retracted; note the question mark in the title).

It has recently come to our attention that this coin type is not unpublished (see ref. 2), and is unlikely to be from Cuijk, but rather from Schüttorf in Germany^[9].

According to our original {incorrect} article:

“A few years ago, we found this photograph posted on a Dutch, second-hand sale website, by a metal detector user wishing to sell a group of six coins:



All six coins have long crosses on the reverse. Three of the coins are fractional *leeuwendroten*, which are of interest to us because of our ongoing investigation into the *leeuwendroot* coins of all regions.

Coin 1 (our numbers) seems to have a legend beginning with the word OTTO, and is the main subject of this current report. Coin 2 is from the Lordship of Megen (see ref. 3). Coin 3 appears to be a coin of Vollenhove. All three coins are of the highest rarity.

We spent many, many months trying to determine what the legends on the OTTO coin are, where it came from, and for whom it was struck.

We searched through lists of rulers of every conceivable realm in the Low Countries and western Germany, looking for “Otto’s”, and then Otto’s whose reigns coincided with the necessary 1337-1365 date range, preferably c. 1350-1360 (when then majority of the long-cross fractionals are suspected to have been struck).

No one seemed to fit the bill, except for Otto, Lord of Cuijk (1319 or 1320-1350), for whom no coins were known. (Experience has taught us that it is far better to say that “no coins are known” than to say “this person never struck any coins”.)

Unfortunately, the coin itself is difficult to read, especially from the photographs available to us, and the legends are not as helpful as we might hope. Only the words MONETA and OTTO seem clear.

Finally, after all those months of research, we discovered that the coin had appeared in the Dutch NUMIS system, assigned (albeit tentatively) to: **Otto of Cuijk**. Apparently, whoever made the determination for the NUMIS system had come to the same conclusion as we. While this is not evidence *per se*, it does help support our theory that there is no other known Otto who could have struck this piece.

Otto, Lord of Kuyc and Grave, Lord of Zelem, Merum, Heverlee, Neerloon and Mierlo, knight (1319-1350).”^[6]

[sic]

But we were wrong. There was (at least) one other Otto that we never found: Otto of Bentheim:

“**Otto** (1347 – 1364) ⁶).
Münzstätte Schüttorf.

No. 6. Sterling.

Vs. **✚ OTTO ꝛ COMES ꝛ DE ꝛ BENTHE**

Steigender Löwe.

Rs. **MON = BTA ◦ I = N ꝛ SQ(V?) = TTOR**

Langes, die Umschrift trennendes Kreuz.

Univ. Leipzig 0,65. Bl. F. Mzfr. 1907, Sp.3632 f.

Abb. No. 6.

Es ist keineswegs ausgeschlossen, daß sich hinter den westfälischen Dickpfennigen mit vielfach verwilderten und rätselhaften Umschriften auch Schüttorfer Nachschläge verbergen. Ob aber die Schüttorfer Münze es zu einer gewissen wirtschaftlichen Bedeutung gebracht hat, erscheint doch sehr fraglich. Den Schüttorfer oder oder Bentheimer Geld wird in den Urkunden niemals erwähnt, vielmehr sprechen sie im 14. Jahrhundert stets von gestzmäßigem münsterischen Gelde. So heißt es z. B. 1341 in einer Urkunde des Grafen Simon: „...reemere possunt pro quadraginta marcis denariorum monasterii legalium...“ ⁷). Oder die Zahlung wird ausdrücklich in Geld bedungen. Das in der Stadt Münster gangabr ist: 1355 leiht Graf Otto an Florike Voet „hündert mark paementes tho Münstere in der stat ghenghe Vnde gheve“ ⁸), oder 1365 verkauft Ecbert, Richter zu Nordhorn, den Boßhorst „Vm Teyn marck penninghe als in der stat to monster genge vnde geue sint“ ¹). Wirtschaftlich richtete sich also die Grafschaft nach Münster, auch noch im 15. Jahrhundert, als sich bereits die Gold wärung (1364 findet sich die erste Zahlung in Gold: duzent oelde schilde gued van golde vnde vulwechtig ²) durchgesetzt hatte. 1404 wird der Brautschatz für Ewerwins Gemahlin Metta von Steinfurt festgesetzt auf: „Twe dusent rynsche sware Gude guldene ofte gelyck payment dar vor so to monster genghe vnd gheue ys“ ³). Auch in weiteren Verlaufe des 15. Jahrhunderts noch richteten sich die Goldzahlungen nach Münsterischem Kurse.

⁶) Jahrezahl nach geschätzter Mitteilung des Herrn. Prof. Döhmann-Burgsteinfurt.

⁷) Jungius, a. a. O. S. 158.

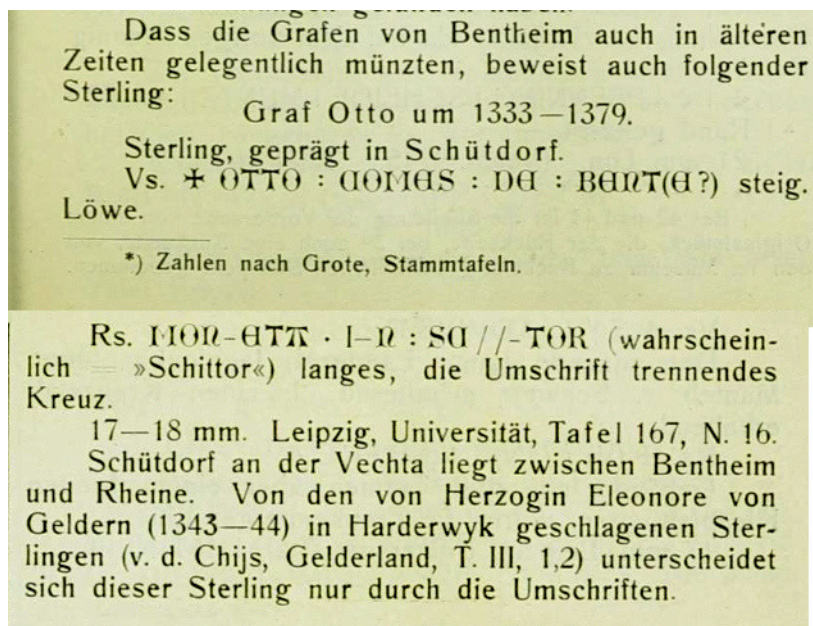
⁸) ebd. S. 163.

¹) ebd. S. 190.

²) ebd. S. 187.

³) ebd. S. 296.” [2]

Kennepohl's reference "Bl. F. Mzfr. 1907, Sp.3632 f." is the *Blätter Für Münzfreunde* n° 324, 1907 n° 2, pp. 1361-3632 and plate 167, n° 16 (ref. 8):



Blätter Für Münzfreunde n° 324, 1907 n° 2, pp. 1361-3632 ⁽⁸⁾



Blätter Für Münzfreunde n° 324, 1907 n° 2, plate 167, n° 16 ⁽⁸⁾

Unfortunately, despite the diligent efforts of the staff of the University of Leipzig, they were unable to find this piece in their current collection ^[10].



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[+ OTTO : COMES : DE : BENTĒ]
[MON ETX° I] [...] [TTOR]

The legends are largely unreadable, and it is impossible to be sure about the exact interpunction and letter forms used.

It seems almost certain that the coin shown here is the same type that was described in the *BfM* 1907, and again by Kennepohl. Presumably in a private collection, it is currently the only known example of this type (the whereabouts of the Leipzig example being unknown at this time).

Unfortunately, we were unaware of the existence of either the *BfM* 1907 or the Kennepohl 1972 articles until very recently. We regret the misattribution published in our original article on this coin type. The type was not unpublished after all, and it is not from Cuijk. The coin is currently incorrectly attributed in the Dutch NUMIS system.

For the coins of Vollenhove (mentioned above on p. 2), see ref. 7.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would very much like to thank Joachim Hunke. We would also like to thank Jos Benders, Martin Damsma (DNB), Christoph Mackert (University of Leipzig), De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB), the Noord-Brabants Museum, Bas Völlink (NNC Library), and the University of Leipzig.

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Paul A. Torongo

Rotterdam, 2018

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Rotterdam, 2019

Academia.edu

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~~*A Previously Unpublished Fractional Leeuwengroot of Otto of Cuijk (1319-1350) (?)*~~

Paul A. Torongo with Raymond van Oosterhout

Rotterdam, 2019

Academia.edu

(retracted)

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Paul A. Torongo with Raymond van Oosterhout

Rotterdam, 2019

Academia.edu

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1907, n° 2

pp. 1361-3632 & plate 167

n° 16

(9)

private correspondence

Joachim Hunke – Paul Torongo

2020 - 2021

(10)

private correspondence

Cristoph Mackert – Paul Torongo

2020 - 2021



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