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**The Coins of the Anatolian Seljuq Sultan Siyavus (Jimri) †** by Dr. Nezihi Aykut (Assistant Professor of Department of History, Faculty of Letters, University of Istanbul)

Led by Mehmed Beg, the Quaramanids, who played an important role in Turkish history, rebelled against the Mongol-dominated Seljuq administration and captured Qunia in the 13th century, raising Siyavus (later known as Jimri), the son of 'Izz al-Din Kaykawus II, to the Anatolian Seljuq throne. The dinars and dirhems that Siyavus struck in his name are regarded as amongst the rarest in Anatolian Seljuq numismatics.

The first silver coin of Siyavus was found in 1943 by Osman Ferit Saglam, who also did the original research on the subject. At the Third Congress on Turkish History, 15-20 November 1943, this scholar read a paper about the dirhem Siyavus had struck in Qunia dated 675 A.H. (1275 A.D.). This paper was entitled "Simdiye Kadar Görülmiyen Cimri Sikkesi" (The Hitherto Unseen Jimri Coin)<sup>1</sup>, and subsequently appeared as an article in the Turkish Historical Society publication *Belleten*, no.35<sup>2</sup>. Osman Ferit Saglam's coin from 675 A.H. is also discussed in Ibrahim Hakki Konyali's book *Aksehir*, published in 1945.<sup>3</sup> Then in 1949 Osman Ferit Saglam published a pamphlet in Turkish, French and English with the same title as the above-mentioned paper giving extensive information about Siyavus and the coin.<sup>4</sup> Ibrahim Artuk of the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, in an article he published in the *Tarih Dergisi* of the Istanbul University Faculty of Letters<sup>5</sup> in 1958, gave an historical survey of the period of Siyavus as well as publishing a dinar struck by Siyavus in Qunia in 675 A.H. from the collection of the late Istanbul Municipal Theatre actor, Behzad Butak. Following this publication, Serafettin Erel, a jeweller, published in a pamphlet entitled "Nadir Birkaç Sikke" (Some Rare Coins), which appeared in 1963,<sup>6</sup> a dirhem struck by Siyavus in Qunia in 676 A.H. Ibrahim Hakki Konyali again discussed the dirhem struck by Siyavus in Qunia in 675 A.H. in his *Konya Tarihi* (History of Qunia), published in 1964.<sup>7</sup> In the catalogue of Islamic coins compiled by the eminent numismatists Ibrahim and Cevriye Artuk,<sup>8</sup> the first volume of which appeared in 1971, the dinar struck by Siyavus in Qunia in 675 A.H. was again published together with an illustration by Behzad Butak. In Cevriye Artuk's article, "III. Keyhüsrev ve Sahte Selçuklu Sultani Cimri Adina Kesilen Sikkeler" (Coins Struck in the Name of Kaykhusraw III and the False Seljuq Sultan Jimri), which appeared in the *Malazgird Armagani* published by the Turkish Historical Society in 1972,<sup>9</sup> the dinar struck by Siyavus in Qunia in 675 A.H. (no.1166 in the above-mentioned catalogue) as well as the dirhems minted in the same city in 675 and 676 A.H. were again discussed. Yet another study of the coins of Siyavus is the second brochure in a series of numismatic publications by the Yapi-Kredi Bank.<sup>10</sup> The dinar Siyavus struck in Qunia in 675 A.H. as well as the dirhems minted in the same city in 675 and 676 A.H. are published in this brochure together with another dirhem bearing the date 675 A.H. which, most unusually, exhibits the names of both Qunia and Lu'lu'a.<sup>11</sup>

I have recently discovered a dirhem struck by Siyavus in Lu'lu'a in 676 A.H.<sup>12</sup> In presenting it here to the scholarly world, it is my hope that this paper will constitute an appropriate supplement to the studies and investigations previously published on the subject.

*Brief Historical Survey*

Siyavus was a Turcoman dervish who claimed to be the son of Kaykawus II. To insult him, he was later given the nickname of Jimri (the Miser).<sup>13</sup> Siyavus was proclaimed as sultan by Mehmed Beg, the Qaramanid who rebelled against Kaykhusraw III, the ruler of Mongol dominated Seljuqid territory.<sup>14</sup> Mehmed Beg laid siege to Qunia, which was defended by Amin al-Din Mika'il, the regent (Na'ib) of the Sultan Kaykhusraw III,<sup>15</sup> and captured the city on 7 Zilhijja 675 (12 May 1277).<sup>16</sup> He then raised Siyavus to the Seljuqid throne on 14 Zilhijja 675 (19 May 1277).<sup>17</sup> Following this, the *khutba* was read and coins were minted in Siyavus's name.<sup>18</sup> Meanwhile Mehmed Beg, having appointed himself Jimri's vizier, succeeded in changing the official language of the state from Persian to Turkish.<sup>19</sup> When he heard, however, that Sahib Juwayni, the Ilkhanid vizier, had moved to Qunia, he withdrew with his Qaramanli Turcomans to the region of Armanak taking Siyavus with them.<sup>20</sup> Siyavus's thirty-seven-day sultanate in Qunia was thereby brought to an end.<sup>21</sup>

Sahib Juwayni withdrew to his winter barracks at Qazova near Toqat. In the winter of 676 (1277-78) sultan Kaykhusraw III and his vizier Sahib Fakhr al-Din <sup>C</sup>Ali moved against the Qaramanids and together with Mongol forces led by Guhurga Noyin entered the plain of Mut.<sup>22</sup> When Mehmed Beg heard that the Seljuq-Mongol army was coming, he put Siyavus into safekeeping by sending him to one of the citadels at Iç-il. Soon after, he advanced with his two brothers, his cousin and a few men in order to investigate the situation for himself. At this moment, he was pursued by a vanguard patrol of Mongol and Turcoman soldiers that he encountered on a hilltop. He was cornered in a narrow pass at Qurbaghisari and was killed together with his two brothers and his cousin.<sup>23</sup>

When the Qaramanids had been murdered, Siyavus withdrew in the direction of Dawalu-qarahisar. But Kaykhusraw III and his vizier Fakhr al-Din <sup>C</sup>Ali set out in pursuit of Siyavus's forces and they advanced until they reached his army at Pinarbashi near Dawalu-qarahisar.<sup>24</sup> In the battle that was fought in Muharram 677 (May-June 1278),<sup>25</sup> most of Siyavus's army was destroyed. Siyavus himself fled, but was seized by the Turcomans in the retinue of Kermianli <sup>C</sup>Alishir-oghli Husam al-Din and brought to the presence of Kaykhusraw III. Finally at the sultan's command he was put to a brutal death.<sup>26</sup>



# Dinars and Dirhems of Siyavus and special features of his coins

Gold Dinar, 675 - Qunia

In the centre:

لله  
المنه



السلطان الاعظم  
علا الدنيا والدين  
ابو الفتح سياوش  
بن ككاوس

Reverse



In the margin:

ضرب هذه الدينار بمدينة قونية في سنة ٥ ستمائة

Diam. 28mm; Gr. 8.65. Yapi-Kredi Bank Collection, Inventory no: 9626.

Silver Dirhem, 675 - Qunia

لله  
المنه  
ضرب بمدينة  
قونية في سنة ٥  
ستمائة

Obverse



السلطان الاعظم  
علا (١) لدنيا والدين  
ابو الفتح سياوش  
بن ككاوس

Reverse



Diam. 22mm; Gr. 3.0. Yapi-Kredi Bank Collection, Inventory no: 9628.

Silver Dirhem, 676 - Qunia

لله  
المنه  
ضرب بمدينة  
قونية في سنة  
سبعين و ستمائة (٣)

Obverse



السلطان الاعظم  
علا الدنيا و الدين  
ابو الفتح سياوش  
بن ككاوس

Reverse



Diam. 25mm; Gr. 2.90. Yapi-Kredi Bank Collection; Inventory no: 9630.

Silver Dirham, 675 - Qunia - Lu'lu'a

لله  
المنه  
ضرب بمدينة  
قونية في سنة ٥  
ستمائة

Obverse



السلطان الاعظم  
علا (١) لدنيا والدين  
ابو الفتح سياوش  
بن ككاوس

Reverse



Diam. 24mm; Gr. 2.85. Yapi-Kredi Bank Collection, Inventory no: 9629.



لله  
المنة  
ضرب بمعدن لولوه  
في سنة ستة و  
سبعين و ستمائة

Obverse



السلطان الاعظم  
علا الدنيا (و) الدين  
ابو الفتح سياوش  
(بن) كيكاس

Reverse



Diam. 23mm; Gr. 3.02. Celil Ender Collection.

The Anatolian Seljuq Sultan Siyavus used two different titles on his dinars and dirhems: "al-Sultan al-a<sup>c</sup>zam" (The Greatest Sultan) and, because he ruled as an absolute sultan over all of Anatolia west of Anqara<sup>27</sup>, "Abu al-fath" (The Conqueror).

*Tawki*<sup>34</sup> or imperial signatures were used for the first time on the coins of Kaykhusraw I. This ruler's *Tawki*<sup>c</sup> consisted of the Arabic expression "al-Minnatu lillah" (Grace and Kindness are unique to Allah), which was also used on the coins of Siyavus.

The year is indicated on these coins either in Arabic words or in Arabic numerals. "*Diwani* numerals"<sup>35</sup> were also used. An "o" in the one's place, for example, meant 5 in the Ottoman script, while a "ق" in the ten's place meant the number 70 as *Diwani* numerals.

### Standard purity and Weight of the Siyavus Coins

The basic unit of the Anatolian Seljuqs' monetary system was the silver coin known as the "Dirhem" or "*c*Adad".<sup>36</sup> Seljuq dirhems were also called "*Aqcha-i Rum*"<sup>37</sup>. Since the standard purity of all Seljuq dirhems varied between 80 and 90%,<sup>38</sup> it is only natural that the dirhems of Siyavus would conform to this.

The dirhems struck by the Anatolian Seljuqs were "*c*Orfi dirhems"<sup>39</sup> of 16 qarats.<sup>40</sup> Like the Abbasid dirhems on which they were modelled, they were also 16 qarat but with an official weight of 3.086 grams.<sup>42</sup> These dirhems were subsumed and standardized under a system of coinage encompassing all the lands ruled by the Ilkhanid Ghazan Mahmud Khan (694-703 = 1295-1304) in the year 696 A.H. (1296-97 A.D.) Until an order was issued to base all units of weight on the *Tabriz mithqal* (a weight of 1½ drams),<sup>43</sup> these coins continued to be minted at a weight of generally 13 - 16 qarats. In the year mentioned, Ghazan Khan, in a reform of the monetary system, ordered the dirhems of the Anatolian Seljuqs, who were his vassals, to be minted at a weight half the 24-qarat 4.086 gram *Tabriz mithqal*, i.e. at the weight of qarats, 2.304 grams<sup>44</sup>, and the official weight of 3.086 grams continued to be used until this date. The dirhems of Siyavus, for example, which were minted before Ghazan Khan's reform of the monetary system, weigh close to the official dirhem weight. An examination of the weight of four Siyavus dirhems reveals that these dirhems are slightly lighter than the official dirhem of 3.086 grams, the heaviest weighing 0.98 of the official one or 3.02 grams and the lightest weighing 0.92 of the official one or 2.85 grams.

The official dinar weight of the Anatolian Seljuqs was 24 qarats and 4.81 grams.<sup>45</sup> This is heavier than the "*c*Orfi mithqal" of Egypt,<sup>46</sup> which was also 24 qarats but weighed 4.68 grams. Nevertheless, an examination of all the dinars (gold coins) minted by this state has shown that their weight varied between 3.72 and 5.40 grams but that most of them weighed between 4.40 and 4.45 grams. The dinars of Siyavus that we have discussed here, which were minted in Qunia in 675 A.H., weigh 8.65 and 8.90 grams respectively,<sup>47</sup> indicating that they must be regarded as "Double Dinars".

### Footnotes

Dr. Aykut has provided a full set of footnotes, only a selection of which are reproduced here. Members wishing to have the full set should contact the editor.

† This article is an expanded and revised version of a paper presented at the Fifth National Turcology Congress held in Istanbul, 20-30 September 1983. It was translated into English by Virginia Taylor Sactioglul.

6 Serafettin Erel, *Nadir Birkac Sikke* (Istanbul, 1963), pp.6-7.

8 Ibrahim Artuk and Cevriye Artuk, *Istanbul Arkeoloji Muzeleri Teshirdeki Islami Sikkeler Katalogu* (Istanbul, 1971), I, 380.

10 *Selcuklular' in Nadir Paralarından Bazıları ve Cimri'nin Sikkeleri*, Yapi ve Kredi Bankasi Numismatik Yayinlari no. 2 (Istanbul, 1972), pp.9-13.

11 The Byzantine fortress of Lulon near modern Ulukisla (Uluqishla); the name means "pearl" in Arabic (see Ernst Honigmann, *Bizans Devletinin Dogu Siniri*, trans. from the German by Fikret Isiltan, Istanbul, 1970, pp.39-42).

12 For the publication of this rare coin I am indebted to Mr. Celil Ender, who kindly permitted me to make use of his collection.

13 *Anonymous Seljuqnama*, tr. Feridun Nafiz Uzluk, in *Anadolu Selcuklulari Devleti Tarihi III* (Ankara, 1952), p.41.

16 The date of Qaraman-oghli Mehmed Beg's capture of the city is reported as "Thursday, 8 Zilhijja" in the *Anonymous Seljuqnama* (p.39), and as "Thursday, 9 Zilhijja" in Ibn Shaddad (op.cit., loc.cit), although Thursday was actually "7 Zilhijja". On the basis of the existing coins, we have assumed that the date 676 given by both of these sources should be 675.

34 The *Tawki*<sup>c</sup> is the special signature that Anatolian Turkish sultans placed on letters they sent to rulers with whom they had relations, on *fermans* and royal patents issued to amirs and on titles conferred on officials (Ismail Hakki Uzuncarsili, *Osmanli Teskilatina Medhal*, Ankara, 1970, p.69).

35 *Diwani* numerals are abbreviations formed from some of the characters of the names of the numbers in Arabic. These number signs, which were invented by the Arabs, spread to all the Islamic lands and, undergoing changes with time, eventually became a code. Since they were used in the court at the time of the first four caliphs, particularly for financial and accounting records, they were given the name *Diwani* or court numerals (Salahaddin Elker, *Divan Rakamlari*, Ankara, 1953, p.8 and n.)

37 Rashid al-Din Fazl Allah, *Tarikh-i Mubarak-i Ghazani* (London: Karl Jahn, 1940), p.282; A. Zeki Velidi Togan, *Umumi Turk Tarihi'ne Giris*, Istanbul, 1981, p.301.

38 Ismail Ghalib, *Taqwim-i maskukat-i Seljuqiya* (Kostantiniye, 1309), p.8; Hasan Farid, *Naqd va i'tibar-i mali* (Istanbul, 1330), I, 160.

39 The 'Orfi dirhem is based on a grain of wheat and weighs 16 qarats. The Shar'i dirhem on the other hand is based on a grain of barley and weighs 14 qarats.

40 A qarat is a carob seed. Although four grains of wheat were equal to one qarat in the 'Orfi system, in the Shar'i system a qarat was equal to three grains of barley. (E. V. Zambaur, "Kirat", *Ency. of Islam*, VI, 735a).

43 Rashid al-Din, op. cit., pp.288-92.

44 The dirhems of Kaykubad III were minted at weights slightly above or below this standard (See Ismail Ghalib, op. cit., p.95).

47 See *Selcuklular' in Nadir Paralarından Bazıları ve Cimri'nin Sikkeleri*, p.12-14; Ibrahim Artuk and Cevriye Artuk, op. cit., I, 380.