A Previously Unpublished Half *Leeuwengroot* of the County of Holland

Paul Torongo & Raymond van Oosterhout © 2018

It has come to our attention that one of the coins in the National Numismatic Collection (NNC), currently in the care of De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB), has neither been previously reported on nor published.

The coin is a fractional *leeuwengroot* stuck for William V, Count of Holland (1354 - 1389).

v.d. Chijs — [1] Van Gelder — [2] [3] Grolle — [4] Torongo / van Oosterhout — [5]

cf. Grolle 17.2.3 a; v.d. Chijs IX, 9 Grolle 17.2.3 b; v.d. Chijs IX, 8 Torongo / van Oosterhout, pp. 59-62



NNC NM-02774 / 1.217 g.

[+ MONETA.] hOLLANDIA [GVIL LE]LM DVX*(OM[ES] This coin appears to read HOLLANDIA, a legend that is not listed in Grolle's *De Muntslag van de Graven van Holland* book (ref. 3) nor in van der Chijs' *De munten der voormalige graafschappen Holland en Zeeland* (ref. 1). The mark after MONETA on the obverse is illegible and may well be a colon.



detail: the final A

Whether or not the coin is truly a half *groot*, or some other denomination is up for discussion. In any case, we were unable to find any previous reports of any fractional, long-cross *leeuwengroot* coin struck for William V of Holland with a HOLLANDIA legend.





NNC NM-02774 / 1.217 g

A Secondary Look at the *Leeuwengroten* and Associated Fractional Coins Minted in the County of Holland

This section of the paper is intended as a supplement to our *A Preliminary Look at the Leeuwengroten of the County of Holland Including the Fractional Coins* (ref. 5).

Included herein are several coin specimens that did not appear in our original report because we did not have the photographs at the time of publication. Many of these "new" specimens have a direct impact on the cataloging of the Holland *leeuwengroot* fractional coins. We also provide other new information (and opinions) based upon our continuing research into the subject.

The cited page numbers refer to our original report (ref. 5).

The Mint in Holland

(p. 8)

Since the publication of our original report, we have been unable to find any additional information concerning the date of the moving of the mint from Dordrecht to Geertruidenberg (and back again).

However, we have begun to wonder if the mint was not located at Geertruidenberg as early as 1337-1339 (see the MS GERT type, p. 5 below).

Size Comparison de Witte

(p. 11)

We were remiss in not pointing out that comparing the sizes of coins directly with one another can only be done if the fineness (silver content) of the different coins are exactly the same. In fact, we probably should never have even made the statement: "At 21 mm. and 0.80 grams, it seems that the Holland coin must be a ½ groot (petit blanc)".

The coin under discussion may be a $\frac{1}{4}$ groot, or it may not be.

Dating the Holland Leeuwengroten

(p. 12)

According to Grolle, the order of minting was: + HOLANDIE / + HOLANDIE / + HOLANDIE / + HOLAND. However, we are finding it increasingly difficult not to believe that the MS GERT coins were the very first issue (see the MS GERT type, p. 5 below). We remain, of course, seriously hampered in our efforts by the unavailability of any + HOLANDIE coin, if such a thing even exists.

Gros HOLANDIE + **Cross** (p. 16)

There has, of course, been no progress whatsoever in finding an example of the elusive + HOLANDIE type. Unfortunately, it has become more urgent than ever to be able to determine whether or not this type actually exists, and exactly what it looks like. We need to know exactly what letter forms were used, and we need to know exactly what the lion looked like – is it the early, squat, flat-headed type, or the later long, slender type? This information is crucial for determining the correct, chronological minting order of the Holland *leeuwengroten*, and it cannot be successfully obtained from v.d. Chijs' drawing (**Plate VI**, 18-B).

Gros HOLANDIE + Eagle (p. 17)

This type bears the long, slender lion seen on later issues in Flanders and Brabant, with a normal-sized head, ears and feet, and no mane. The tail is adorned with multiple hairs.

Gros Geertruidenberg (MS GERT) (p. 20)

This type bears the shorter, squatter lion seen on early issues in Flanders and Brabant. This lion has a large head, ears and feet, as well as a furry mane covering his shoulders. The tail is adorned with 3 hairs.

If we were to look at the central lion alone, we would have to conclude that this is the oldest type (based upon the known coins).

The lettering used "looks older" as well.

Although we are currently still in the process of investigating the features of the central lion, it appears that the very oldest issue in Flanders (1337) had 3 hairs on the lion's tail, and that subsequent issues always had more. What does this mean for Holland?







Flanders, Louis of Nevers, oldest (?) issue, 3 hairs





Holland, MS GERT coins, 3 hairs:



The multiple hairs of a typical, later, MONETA HOLAND coin

We must point out that one must be cautious when attempting to compare the "styles" of coins from different regions. If, for example, a {semi-} itinerant engraver were to have traveled from Flanders to Holland, his "style" would show up on the Holland coins at some point <u>after</u> the "style" in Flanders might have already changed to "something else" (i.e. the "style" of the new engraver in Flanders), depending on how long the dies lasted.

There does not seem to be complete correlation between the central lion tails on the earliest *leeuwengroten* of Flanders and Brabant (and Hainaut and Namur}, the regions that struck *leeuwengroten* in 1337, so it is possible that such a comparison between Flanders and Holland is a futile endeavor.

New Coin Specimens

A number of "new" Holland *leeuwengroten* have turned up in the interim between reports, but none of them come from any "new" kind of sub-type, and so we have not included photos of them here. A number of "new" fractional coins have also come to light, several of which are relevant to the cataloging of the smaller denominations (see below).

FRACTIONALS

It seems clear that in Holland, unlike some other regions such as Flanders, a great deal of investment was made in the production of fractional coins, as evidenced by the sheer number of different number of sub-types, as well as the care and effort put into the design and execution of most of the coins.

This is a list of the **verified**, Holland, fractional, *leeuwengroot* coin legends:

LONG CROSS

Grolle 16.3.3 a

₩ MODETЖ × M' × S'* GERT'
GL'*C OME S*bO LÆD

Grolle *17.2.3 d

* MODETM: houmddrie GVIL LELM DVX* O OMES

· * MODETM: houmddrie Gvil lelm dvx• a omes

[...&M]ODETM: HOLTODRIE [GVIL] LELM DVX× O OMES

• # MODETM: HOLMDDRIE
GVILL LELM DVX • G OMES

Grolle *17.2.3 b

EVIL LELM DVX:Q OMES

** MONETA * HOUL[A]NDIE GVIL LELM DVX:Q OMES

Grolle *17.2.3 h

[.] * MODETT * HOUTD 1' !'
GVILL LELM DVXQ OMES

Grolle —

[+ MONETA. HOLLANDIA]
GVIL L[ELM DVX. C] O]MES

SHORT CROSS

Grolle *17.2.5 B a var.

+[GVILLEI...]X ° COME

₩ GVITTGTW % D[···]WG R GAITTGTW % D[···]WG

- + (GVITGTUS) DAX [8 GOWG] + woug[lw 8] portwide 8
- Grolle 17.2.4 B c
 - + GVILLE[LMVS:] DVX:[QOM] + MODELL [: DE]: P, FLL DD[...]

CATALOG ADDENDA

We do not know if the following list is in the correct, chronological order, we are simply using the same list laid out in our original report.

LONG CROSS

• **HOLLANDIE** (two L's)

Grolle 17.2.3 a v.d. Chijs IX, 9 (p. 59)

We were unable to confirm the existence of this type in our original report. It seems likely that the coin shown below (NM-02775) was the type (perhaps even the model coin) intended by v.d. Chijs to be his **pl. IX**, **9**, although v.d. Chijs' drawing shows annulets instead of pellets on the obverse. Grolle's description does match v.d. Chijs' drawing or text (which are, themselves, not in agreement with one another).

In other words, we are not even sure what either of the two authors really intended to say, therefore it is all but impossible to actually confirm or refute the existence of this "sub-type".



NNC NM-02775 / 1.546

[:+M]ON[ETX:] HOLLAND[IE]
G[VIL LE]LM DVX.C OMES



Can we be certain that a single pellet was intended after DVX, and not a double?

Grolle 17.2.3 b v.d. Chijs IX, 8 (p. 60)



NNC HNM-01307 / 1.43 g.

SVIL LELM DVX:Q OMES

10

• HOLANDRIE

• LONG O's

Grolle — {17.2.3 d var.} v.d. Chijs IX, 10 var. (pp. 63-65)



NNC 1960-0115 / 1.207 g.

** MODETT: hounderie GVIL LeLM DVX* Q OMES

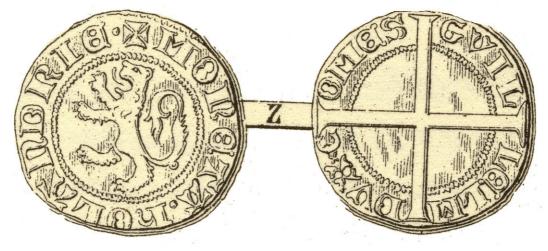
The little **x**'s may be leaves.



NNC 1960-0114 / 1.343 g.

· * MONETA: HOLANDRIE GVIL LELM DVX·C OMES

We still have not found any specimen that actually matches v.d. Chijs' drawing:



v.d. Chijs IX, 10

· + MONETA . POLADDRIG GAIT RETM DAX * C OWER

Nor, for that matter, v.d. Chijs' text transcription (p. 315)

+ MODETA • HOLADDRIE • GVIL LELM DVX 8 C OMES

• HOLANDRIE

• ROUND O'S

Grolle — {17.2.3 d var.} v.d. Chijs IX, 10 var. (pp. 63-65)



NNC HNM-01308 / 1.36 g.

[...+ M]OQETT: hOLTQDRIE [GVIL] LELM DVX* O OMES

The little **x** after DVX may well be a leaf.

Grolle — {17.2.3 d var.} v.d. Chijs IX, 10 var. (pp. 63-65)



NNC 1960-0116 / 1.316 g.

• + MONETM: houmndrie GVIL LELM DVX•d OMES



NNC NM-02776 / 1.014 g.

Same as the previous coin?



MPO 52-1288

Same as the previous coins?

• **HOLANDIE** (one L)

Grolle 17.2.3 f V.d. Chijs — (p. 66)

We were unable to confirm the existence of this type in our original report.



NNC NM-02777 / 1.225 g.

SVIL L[GLM DVX: CO]MGS

There is a good chance that this specimen (NM-02777) is the coin that Grolle was trying to report for his 17.2.3 f (Grolle: +MONETA • HOLANDIE: and GVIL LELM DVX • C OMES). There is too much information missing, however, to be able to accurately describe the coin; the mark after DVX could be: or •.

• HOLLANDIA

Grolle — **v.d. Chijs** — (p. —)



NNC NM-02774 / 1.217 g.

[+ MONETA.] HOLLANDIA [GVIL LE]LM DVX°Q OM[ES]

This is the coin described and illustrated on the first few pages of the current report

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• SHORT CROSS

Grolle 16.2.5 B a (I, p. 115) **v.d. Chijs IX, 16** (p. 317) pp. 71-72

We were unable to confirm the existence of this type in our original report.



DNB-00975 / 0.33 g.

#[GVILLEL...]X 8 COME



NM-02779 / 0.364

GAITTGTW [8 D...]WG



MPO 52-1287

% ₩ MOŊ[...] ₩ % ħΟĽ[ĽÆŊ]DI€ % ₩ MOŊ[...] ₩ % ħΟĽ[ĽÆŊ]DI€

All three of these pieces may be the same as one another, but they are too illegible to be certain. None of the marks after GVILLELM are clear.

Acknowledgements

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LITERATURE

[1]

De Munten van Nederland van de Vroogste Tijden tot aan de Pacificatie van Gend (1576) (9 volumes)

De munten der voormalige graafschappen Holland en Zeeland, alsmede der heerlijkheden Vianen, Asperen en Heukelom

Pieter Otto van der Chijs Haarlem, 1851-1866

[2]

Het Hollandse muntwezen onder het huis Wittelsbach in JMP 39 (1952), pp. 1-26, plates I-II

H. Enno van Gelder

[3]

De Nederlandse Munten

Dr. H. Enno van Gelder Het Spectrum B.V. Utrecht, 1966 (reprinted 2002) ISBN 90-274-69679

[4]

De Muntslag van de Graven van Holland tot de Bourgondische Unificatie in 1434

(3 volumes)

J.J. Grolle

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[5]

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