Book Reviews

Corpus des monnaies almoravides by Daniel Eustache, Abdellatif Jouahri and Ahmed Ettahiri. Collection de Bank al-Maghrib et autres collections mondiales, publiques et privées. Bank al-Maghrib, Rabat, 2017. 381 pp. ISBN-13: 9789981873780.

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Late Daniel Eustache is well known to most scholars as well as students working on Islamic numismatics and medieval history of Morocco through his two magnificent corpuses of Idrisid (1970–1) and Alaouite coins (1984).

His new posthumous work (*Corpus des Monnaies Almoravides*) is a comprehensive study of Almoravid gold and silver coins struck both in North Africa and in Iberia (al-Andalus). The work starts with a review of the bibliography of historical sources and numismatic studies and collections, followed by a historical background of the Almoravid movement and empire, and the main reigns of the dynasty. At the end of this historical introduction three genealogical tables (the first one of the ancestors of the dynasty, the second of the Almoravid emirs and the third one of the Lamtuna relatives of the Almoravids) are provided. As for the coinage section, it includes chapters on the beginning of Almoravid coins (with an interesting discussion of the coinage of Yahyā b. ‘Umar in Sijilmasa), their monetary reform, coin types, metrology, a succinct description of Almoravid issues, a map of Almoravid mints, and a catalogue (illustrated at the end with 16 color plates). Appended to this corpus there are three indices: dates, mints, and denominations.

In his presentation of Almoravid coins, Eustache followed approximately the same method of description that he used in his two preceding catalogues. The issues of each emir are arranged by mints in chronological order (the coins without date, particularly the silver ones are listed in the last place for each mint), starting always with the coinage struck in Morocco and followed by the issues of al-Andalus. In his classification he separates systematically the issues of the two regions: Morocco and al-Andalus, although there does not exist very important differences in their respective numismatic history under the Almoravids. In this same classification some mints have changed location and have been removed from Morocco to al-Andalus without any explanation: it is the case of both Al-Walja and Meknasa which used to be considered as situated in Morocco in a previous work by the same author (1970).

The material presented in the corpus is rich (particularly the collection of Bank al-Maghrib) but it does not seem to include all the coins and collections known at the time of the prepa-

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ration of the work. To judge from the bibliography and the series of specimens covered in the catalogue, it seems clear that the manuscript preparation by Eustache was not completely finished and that it was abandoned many years (probably six or seven years) before 1991, when the scholar passed away. The most recent material is represented by the Safi collection (sale catalogue (June 1984), and G. Hennequin's catalogue of oriental coins in Marseille (1983). Some other materials, which were probably added at the last minute that are mentioned in the catalogue, but not in the reference list of collections (like the catalog sales of S. Album, p. 96 and Jean Vinchon, p.163), date from approximately the same period. The major European collections (Berlin, London, Madrid and Paris), studied by the author apparently through their old published catalogues, acquired during the twentieth century many dozens of Almoravid series that do not seem to be included in the corpus. For example, the new acquisitions of the collection of Paris (Cabinet des Monnaies et Médailles de la Bibliothèque Nationale de France, BNF) published by Kh. Benromdhane in 1979 are not covered in the book. There are however a few ambiguous references in the catalogue to unpublished material of the BNF under the abbreviations B.N.F, 9602 (p. 106), B.N.F n° 9916 and B.N unp. (p. 137), providing only the standard of fineness for the first two specimens and nothing for the third one. The same remark applies to some references to the unpublished gold coins from the British Museum (B.M., non publiés ... p. 96). The information and the abbreviations to the unpublished material of these two institutions could have come from R. Messier's article ("The Almoravids: West African Gold and the Gold Currency of the Mediterranean Basin", *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 1974), which however is absent in the bibliography.

Similar problems can be documented in other parts of the book. There is no reference to the Almoravid hoard discovered in 1980 in France (Aurillac) and published by A. Nègre in 1987. In this hoard, which was acquired by the BNF, some unpublished Almoravid dinars, particularly for the mint of Fez, are present.

The Almoravid dinars of Madrid and Badajoz published by H. Kassis in 1982 are included in the corpus, but there is no mention in the discussion or the bibliography of the other interesting articles of this same author, published particularly in 1983 and 1985, that concern the evolution of Almoravid coins during both the first decades and last years of the dynasty (there exist only a brief mention in the catalogue of Kassis's first article concerning the controversial attribution of the Sabta issue n° 595 to the jurist al-Qāḍī 'Iyaḍ': p. 297). Other interesting articles written by A. Launois are also missing, and this is a problem particularly for the discussion of the Almoravid coin scripts and inscriptions.

In spite of all the missing materials and articles and despite being published almost three decades after its preparation by the late D. Eustache, this work presents the advantage of cataloguing for the first time the inedited and rich Almoravid collection of Bank al-Maghrib in a fine book with very few typographical errors.

However, as a corpus, the late edition of this book could have been more interesting and more useful if it was accompanied by a supplement including the many dozens of Almoravid gold and silver coins that were discovered since 1984 and published mostly by Spanish scholars and collectors. For example, many dinars presenting new dates for the mints of Marrakech (532 H), Nul (505 H), Sijilmasa (464 H and 509 H), Almeria (493 H), Cordoba (491 H) and other mints, that are absent in Eustache's corpus, have already been published by T. Ibrahim.