
The counterfeit leeuwendaalder formerly ascribed to Rietberg

The leeuwendaalder (löwentaler / lion dollar) was a coin was struck in various mints in the Republic of the Seven United Provinces since 1576 and became a popular trade coin in Europe and the Levant in the 17th century.

As a result other mints started to imitate this coin. Examples are Jever in Germany and Corregio in Italy. Contemporary forgeries started to appear in various forms. There are contemporary forgeries of Dutch leeuwendaalders in low alloy silver, copper coins with silvering or base metal, etc.

An interesting contemporary forgery is the type that used to be ascribed to the German county of Rietberg and bears the date 1660. Without exception this coin type is a silvered copper piece. Nowadays it is believed this coin was struck somewhere in the Levant or Eastern Europe to be used in Levantine trade. The coin is found regularly in collections and auctions and judging on the many varieties in text has been struck on a large scale. The coin must have been noticed in the trade of those days, but has not been specifically mentioned in contemporary sources.

To get an impression of the scale of this coinage and make die comparison, I am collecting all information on varieties of this coin, including, pictures, weight and diameter. Provenance of coin finds of this coin type has not been published as far as I can find. This will result in a corpus of all know examples of the interesting contemporary forgery



A leeuwendaalder of "Rietberg" type

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