

Summary

A Group of "Leeuwendaalders" in the Mersin Museum

"Leeuwendaalder" was first minted in the provincial mint of Holland in 1575, and in the course of 1576 it became a prototype for the later issues. It is called as "Leeuwendaalder" or "Lion-dollar" because of the lion on the reverse. On the obverse there is a knight and on the reverse a large rampant lion.

The United Provinces of Netherlands which struck lion-dollars are the following: Holland, Friesland, Westfriesland, Utrecht, Gelderland and Overijssel. Besides, the three towns of Overijssel: Deventer, Kampen and Zwolle.

From the end of the sixteenth century or the beginning of the seventeenth century, the lion-dollars were struck in enormous quantities for the East-Mediterranean (Levant) trade. "Leeuwendaalder" was known to the Ottomans as "aslanlı guruş" or "Esedî guruş" (also "Abu-Kelb"). The last lion-dollars were struck in 1713. But they were still in use until the end of the eighteenth century especially in Levant.

In the catalogue, presented here, there is a total of forty-two "Leeuwendaalders" which acquired by Mersin Museum in 1992. The distribution of the coins according to the Provinces and the imperial towns are as follows:

Holland	:	3
Westfriesland	:	13
Utrecht	:	4
Gelderland	:	5
Overijssel	:	10
Deventer	:	1
Kampen	:	4
Zwolle	:	2
TOTAL	:	42