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### **PECULIARITIES AND ERRORS IN THE LEGENDS ATTRIBUTED TO ANTIOCH DENARII OF PESCENNIUS NIGER AND OF SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS**

Denarii of Pescennius Niger (issued from June 193 to the latter half of 194) and Septimius Severus (issued in the Eastern provinces in the years 194–196/7) mostly served the purpose of funding the military campaigns. More of them, as shown the stylistically similarities and legend inscriptions on denarii of the both rulers, have been attributed at one minting centre: at Antioch, or at a mobile military mint used by Niger, which Severus had taken over even before his conquest of the capital of Syria. On the one minting centre operating for the two emperors, suggest grammatical and “logical” mistakes in the legend inscriptions, can be divided into six groups. The separate group represent the denarii with untypical abbreviations, which the use of the first form has never been evidenced in the Imperial coinage before, whereas the other one is attested merely in more than ten types, in particular A(ugustus) and AV(gustus), which are attested in the titulature on the obverses of the denarii of Pescennius Niger, as well as CA(esar) and CAE(sar), in the titulature of Septimius Severus. Both aforementioned mistakes and abbreviations, and their lettering suggest, that the striking of the denarii for the troops of Pescennius Niger and, subsequently, Septimius Severus was entrusted to the minters previously involved in the production of local coins with Greek legends, and usually of a larger diameter, facilitating proper legend arrangements. Considering our current state of knowledge, it is not possible to resolve whether those denarii had been minted only by the then active engravers of the tetradrachms at Antioch or also by some other engravers brought from other centres in Syria and Asia Minor, who participated in the minting process suggests a diversity of die variants and the simultaneous existence of the correct legends, at times in several declension variants and different abbreviations, and the legends marked by a variety of errors.