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THE INFLUX OF ROMAN COINS TO THE WEST BALT CULTURE ENVIRONMENT

The influx of Roman coins to the territory of Barbaricum settlement started at the beginning of the Marcomannic Wars. From the 160s appeared here denarii and gold coins multitudinously. Roman coins – most notably, large bronzes (sestertii) – start to appear in the territory settled by West Balt communities and in the area of the Vistula delta in connection with the amber trade.

The sestertii finds suggest, that they would have originated from the area of northern Italia, been carried through the provinces on the Rhine to the North Sea from where they were transported by sea. Because sailing around the Jutland Peninsula was too unsafe, the route continued down fjords, with a short stage overland, and then over the Baltic Sea all the way to the Vistula delta, the coast of the Sambian Peninsula or the Curonian Lagoon. The end of the influx of the bronze coins came in the 260s and may be attributed to the political and economic crisis of the latter half of the 3rd century, disruption of the trade routes and links between provinces and, at the same time, the discontinuation of issue of the bronze senatorial coinage.