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A GOLD CRISPUS MEDALLION FROM BUKOVINA (UKRAINE)

The gold Crispus medallion discovered on the site of a Cherniakhiv culture settlement at Ivanovtsi, in south-western Ukraine by an amateur prospector weighs 1 and 1/2 solidi and was struck at Sirmium in AD 321. This type was known previously from a unique specimen, originally had a loop and possibly also a frame. Gold medallions of the Constantinian emperors are the largest group of multiples recorded on the territory of Barbaricum, apparently the result of an active diplomacy pursued by Constantine I and his successors with regard to barbarians. At the same time, on Cherniakhiv culture territory finds of gold medallions (compared to the Wielbark Culture territory or Transylvania) are extremely rare and the Crispus from Ivanovtsi is only a third multiple recorded to date. Gold coin finds from Cherniakhiv culture are dominated by aurei from the 3rd century, whereas finds of solidi from the first half of the 4th century are very few. All of which makes the presence of a handful of gold multiples even more striking, as they were a key tool in Roman diplomacy distributed to the representatives of Gothic power elites. From the region of Khotyn not far off we have a find of a Gallienus *quaternio* struck in 263. And in the right-bank area of the Dniester is recorded a concentration of solidi from the second half of the 4th and early 5th century. All of the above points to the existence, during the second half of the third and especially, in the 4th century, in the area in question of a local power centre.