

## FRANÇOIS DE CALLATAÿ

### BYZANTION OVER MITHRADATES EUPATOR. HOW THE PONTIC KING PAID HIS THRACIAN MERCENARIES AFTER THE TREATY OF DARDANOS (85 BC)

A recently sold late posthumous tetradrachm of Lysimachus struck at Byzantion displays clear traces of overstrike over a tetradrachm in the name of Mithradates Eupator, king of Pontus. Remains of the original type guarantee that the overstruck Pontic tetradrachm (which is likely to have been struck in July 86 BCE) was issued in any case before the end of the First Mithradatic War (89-85 BCE). This new overstrike neatly fits with an already made reconstruction of historical events: in 85 BCE, having been defeated on the battlefield but allowed by the treaty of Dardanos still to reign in Pontus, Eupator was not discharged of his obligation to pay arrears to the mercenaries who campaigned for him. Among them, the Thracians were the most numerous. It is assumed that the last Group of Byzantine Lysimachi (Group 4) is too abundant (more than 100 obverses dies issued in a short span of time) to be related to any civic purpose and is best related to the payment of the Thracians mercenaries at the end of the First War. The new overstrike confirms that hypothesis and adds the information that this payment was partly achieved (a minor part probably considering the issued volumes) by recycling Eupator's own tetradrachms.