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Recording the Roman Coin Finds from Poland, FRC PL 2013–2017

In December 2012, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education awarded within the National Programme for the Development of Humanities a five-year grant for the ‘Finds of Roman Coins from Poland’ project submitted by the University of Warsaw. Regrettably, the resources for its implementation have been reduced to half of the original budget making it necessary to limit the scope of the planned work.

The aim of the Project is to develop an online database of Roman coin finds (3rd c. BC – AD 6th c.) from Poland and parts of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: East Galicia (NW Ukraine) and Duchy of Prussia (Sambia Peninsula) and to publish as monographs a series of coin finds catalogues developed according to internationally accepted research standards. Not less importantly, a group of young researchers will be trained during the Project to carry on the work in the future. The Project research team led by Professor A. Bursche has the following members: Professor Jerzy Kolendo, Marcin Rudnicki and Dr Anna Zapolska from the Institute of Archaeology University of Warsaw, Dr hab. Jarosław Bodzek from the Institute of Archaeology Jagiellonian University and his PhD students – Kamil Kopij, Katarzyna Lach, Emilia Smagur and Piotr Wysocki; Dr Adam Degler from the Numismatic-Sphragistic Department of the Ossoliński National Institute in Wrocław, Dr Arkadiusz Dymowski from Gdynia, Dr Jacek Rakoczy from the Institute of Archaeology Nicolaus Copernicus University, Candidate of Sciences Kiril Myzgin from the School of History Karazin National University of Kharkiv (Ukraine), and Andrzej Romanowski, Curator of the Coins and Medals Cabinet of the National Museum in Warsaw. There are plans to enlarge the team with a few more PhD students.

Inventorying Roman coin finds from the area of central European Barbaricum and their publication, both online and in printed form, is a *sine qua non* for

improving our understanding of not only the time and circumstances of Roman coin influx, but also of its function within local societies. The FRC PL project has been modelled on similar projects of Roman coin finds recording implemented for some years now, and mostly quite advanced, in many countries in Europe, most notably, in Germany (FMRD), Austria (FMRÖ), Netherlands (FMRNL), Slovenia (FMRSL), Switzerland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Currently, in the numismatic centres of most of these countries work is under way on developing regional electronic coin finds databases; moreover, a project of an integrated European database (European Coin Find Network) conceived by Dr David Wigg-Wolf from Römisch-Germanische Kommission of German Archaeological Institute, Frankfurt, is also being developed.

By 2009, as a result of the implementation of grants from the State Committee of National Research, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and cooperation with Georges Depeyrot of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris, a professional and comprehensive catalogue of coin finds from Pomerania, Silesia and eastern Mazovia and Podlaha, that is, from almost a half of Poland's territory (FMRPL), was developed and published in three volumes in the German language within the Collection *Moneta*, Wetteren, Belgium. Work aimed at cataloguing coin finds from western Mazovia, Lesser Poland, Masuria, Suwałki Region and Sambia is already well advanced whereas finds from other areas of Poland await similar work. The region of

Greater Poland especially, along with Kuyavia, continues to be notoriously under-represented on the map of Central European finds. A part of the archival record on the finds from East Galicia has been digitized in recent years and is now available in digital copy form at the Ossoliński National Institute in Wrocław, helping to fill in another major gap. The rationale for recording in our database the coin finds from north-western Ukraine and Sambia is that during the Roman Period this was an area occupied by people represented in archaeological cultures who were spread over much of Poland's territory – the Przeworsk and Wielbark cultures (Ukraine), and the West Balt cultures (Sambia). Systematic cataloguing and publication of ancient coin finds from Poland in English, making them available to researchers



outside Poland, will ensure their more comprehensive use as a central datable by researchers in Poland and by members of the public with interest in numismatics. Researchers from various branches of the humanities will have a ready resource to study the contacts of the classical world with inhabitants of Barbaricum, both economic and political, and to analyse the significance of the impact of Mediterranean civilization on local communities during Antiquity.

In order to create a database of coin finds from Poland and parts of its former territory that will be integrated with databases from other European centres, the University of Warsaw has entered into a cooperation with the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. Early in March 2013, at a meeting held in Warsaw the researchers from Frankfurt gave a presentation of the Internet coin finds database software (AFE) which, after some adjustments to the FRC PL project, will be made available on the University of Warsaw portal by the end of 2013. As a result, we will have an Internet database (in English) integrated with other European centres of all the known Roman coin finds from Poland and its former territories, one that can be updated with new discoveries and used for making automatic searches, queries, statistical analyses and distribution maps.

Moreover, five volumes of Roman coin inventories from before 2013 will be published in the Collection Moneta including from the following areas:

1. Greater Poland with Kuyavia
2. Masuria, Suwałki Region and Sambia/Samland
3. Western Mazovia (Central Poland)
4. Lesser Poland
5. East Galicia (north-western Ukraine) together with a supplement on coin finds from discoveries made everywhere in Poland before 2015.

We invite members of the general public to report ancient coins known to them from amateur discoveries, private collections, old photographs, drawings, archival records, etc. to the following e-mail address: znaleziskamonet@uw.edu.pl and znaleziskamonet@gmail.com.

Translated by Anna Kiniecka