

NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

ZAPISKI NUMIZMATYCZNE



Tom XVI

MUZEUM NARODOWE W KRAKOWIE
SEKCJA NUMIZMATYCZNA
KOMISJI ARCHEOLOGICZNEJ PAN
ODDZIAŁ W KRAKOWIE

Kraków 2021

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A jubilee publication is one of the best gifts honouring the research career of a scholar. *Aleksanderia* was published to mark the occasion of the 65th birthday of Professor Aleksander Bursche, one of the most prominent Polish archaeologists and numismatists. The book is a collection of 45 articles devoted both to individual aspects of numismatics, as well as research related to the area of the former *Barbaricum* or discoveries dated to the Roman or Migration Period. The subject of the work is mainly related to the issues raised and discussed by the Professor himself.

The articles are preceded by an introduction from the editors (pp. 1–4), as well as a laudation by C. von Carnap-Bornheim (pp. 5–15) presenting the profile of the Jubilarian, his character and biography. The laudation not only emphasises the professor's significant achievements and abilities, but also contains warm words of appreciation towards a friend.

Individual texts in the publication deal with various research problems. A topic particularly close to Professor Bursche is the issue of imitations. Recently, the project *Imagines Maiestatis: Barbarian Coins, Elite Identities and the Birth of Europe (IMAGMA)* about imitations of Roman coins from the northern *Barbaricum*, has been carried out under his supervision. Several articles in the publication are also devoted to this problem.

To start with, we should mention the text by Komnick, Pilekić and Wigg-Wolf introducing the character of Ernst Unger, the Stuttgart coin collector and owner of the largest private collection of pre- and early Germanic coins (pp. 225–234). He started collecting coins in 1922 but due to the global economic crisis and bankruptcy of his family business, the coin collection was used to cover their debts. Part of his collection was donated in 1935 to the Stuttgart coin cabinet. Unger was keenly interested in Barbarian coins, and he discussed the topic of them with F. Stefan. On the basis of his letters and various contacts with numismatists such as P. Berghaus, E. Nobbe, W. Jesse or A. Suhle, it can be stated that he was a genuine enthusiast and expert. He also raised the problem of imitations. Today it is known that these coins

can be divided into the “East-European Group” and the “Danubian Group”. The authors discussed the individual features of this type of issue and their archaeological context. The ongoing project confirmed certain opinions that Unger had expressed in his letters.

Subsequent texts deal with the topic of individual imitations. Dymowski discusses Barbarian copies of the Roman imperial denarii (pp. 111–116). Coin finds of Roman denarii are very frequent on the territory of the former Roman Empire and *Barbaricum*. Among these coin finds, denarii subaerati, usually bronze coins with thick layer of silver, and cast denarii are registered as well. In recent years, a project has been carried out to learn more about the production of this type, called *Barbarian Fakers. Manufacturing and use of counterfeit Roman Imperial denarii in East-Central Europe in antiquity*. The article presents some of the results of this research. The remains of workshops producing such as coins have been discovered in Ukraine related to the Chernyakhiv culture. It is important to emphasise the distinction between a “copy” and an “imitation”, referring to the example of denarii from the ONAV Group (pp. 113–114). The author discusses the supposed dating and problem with the identification of the place of manufacture of such coins.

Horsnæs and Ravn describe a coin pendant and gold hoard from Hjarnø in eastern Jutland (pp. 167–177). The pendant, discovered in 2019, was made from a solidus imitation in closest parallel to a coin of Julius Nepos. This is not the sole imitation from this territory, as the authors also discuss other examples, such as coins. The pendant was a part of a gold hoard consisting of 63 objects, which can be interpreted as a religious deposition and “Scandinavian stereotypical hoard” dated to the 6th century AD.

Fischer-Bossert discusses the Celtic drachms of Alexander III from Lycaonia, Asia Minor (pp. 117–130). The author arranged die-chains of Group A, Group B, Comparanda A and Comparanda B and tries to answer the questions of where, when and by whom they were issued. Other imitations with the name of Alexander III are described by Militký (pp. 273–278). The four coins presented lack an archaeological context and a place of origin. They were discussed in the light of the coins of this ruler, as well as other known imitations. Perhaps more information about them will come from new discoveries in the future.

Looking at this subject in the eastern territories, Butcher in his article brings us closer to the problem of imitations of “SC bronzes” of Antioch (pp. 45–49). Among them, a group of coins with the portrait of Augustus can be distinguished. Imitations of this type were struck inter alia in Hatra or Assur. Finds found at the excavations in this city provided by Princeton University indicate a possible coin issue in Antioch, but this is not enough to confirm this thesis (p. 47). Some similarities are visible on the coins issued in the province of Asia, struck during the reign of Augustus.

Perhaps the Asian and Syrian issues were an attempt to introduce standardised coinage in the east.¹

An important project also carried out by Professor Bursche in the years 2013–2018 was research on finds of Roman coins (Project *Finds of Roman Coins in Poland and connected with PL (FRCPL)*).² Due to the intensity and variety of research, a large part of the texts are devoted to this issue.

Bodzek discussed the coin finds on one of the most famous settlement sites of the Przeworsk Culture in Jakuszowice, Kazimierza Wielka county (pp. 33–44), also researched by Professor Bursche. The article is a certain update of the state of research and conclusions after 20 years. Jakuszowice is one of the settlements where one of the largest numbers of Roman coins has been registered (c. 116 specimens). The author describes and compares the coin finds from Jakuszowice to other nearby settlements, such as, inter alia, Nieprowice, Nowe Brzesko, Pełczyska or Boronice, thus showing the significant position of Jakuszowice from a numismatic viewpoint.

Zapolska and Dymowski discuss the concentration of Roman imperial bronze coins from the 1st to the 3rd centuries AD on the southern and eastern Baltic Coast (pp. 429–434). The authors talk about the context of the finds and their chronology and functions, paying attention to the cultural boundaries. For example, in the Dollkeim-Kovrovo culture, sestertii from the Antonine period dominated in the finds discovered in hoards, graves and cemeteries. The article is a compilation of Roman imperial bronze coin finds, which are not so common in other areas.

Investigations and the modern technology of Migration period Scandinavian gold bracteates were subject to analysis by Wicker (pp. 409–413). They could have been used as pendants, such as amulets, or signs of identity and status. The author discusses known coin finds of this type from Poland against the background of discoveries from Denmark and England, emphasising finds discovered by metal-detecting.

Another issue in this topic is the text by Wolters about the *serrati* of Niederlangen, belonging to a hoard of more than 60 denarii from the Ems River found before 1884 (pp. 415–422). Most of the coins have a serrated edge, which links them to the famous passage by Tacitus *pecuniam probant veterem et diu notam, serratos bigatosque* (Tacitus Germ. 5.3.). The author analyses the hoard in terms of its discovery, structure and dating, as well as other similar finds, with reference to the work of Tacitus.

Dahmen and Kosanke describe the hoard of Roman solidi from 1764 found in Xanten, Germany (pp. 87–91). The hoard was very similar to the deposit from Menzelen discovered 10 years earlier. The text revisits information about the hoard from Xanten, including its documentation and composition.

¹ BURNETT 2011.

² BURSCHE 2013a; IDEM 2014.

The denarius finds in the Lower and Middle Rhine Frontier were the subject of considerations by Hellings (pp. 151–155). The author considers coin distribution patterns in particular periods, comparing finds from Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Hellings analysed possible reasons for the increase of finds of denarii in northwest *Barbaricum*, pointing to three-way relationship between production, supply, and trade and taxes.

Găzdac describes a hoard from the Arcobadara auxiliary fort in Roman Dacia (pp. 131–137). It was one of the most important fortifications located on the routes between Transylvania and Lăpuş Land. The author considers the value, circulation, and archaeological context of 33 Roman denarii, dated between the Republican period to reign of Hadrian, discovered in 2004. Was it a hoard or “pay-day money” lost during Marcomannic Wars or some local event? The answer can be found in the text.

Another paper on this topic are twenty pierced and/or looped Roman denarii from Western Moldavia, Romania described by Munteanu (pp. 279–286). These coins were struck between the reign of Vespasian and Gordian III. The author analyses their archaeological context and functions.

Ciołek considers the coin finds of the Illyrian king Ballaeus (pp. 73–80), whose name is known only from numismatic sources. Ballaeus coins were issued by two mints, in Rhizon and Faros. Coin finds were registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Greece, Shkodra and Czech Republic. The author discusses known coin deposits and their archaeological context, including finds from excavations carried out by the Antiquity of South-Eastern Europe Research Centre – in total, 6423 Ballaeus coins have now been found (pp. 77–79), as well as their chronology and circulation.

Gorini describes coins and economic life between the 2nd century BC and 1st century AD in Aquileia, Italy (pp. 143–150). This is short and interesting study of coin finds, circulation and relations of the city to other regions. Aquileia – as the author puts it – “was a city rich in trade and commerce (...), which have especially enhanced i.e. the relationship between northern Italy and present day Poland” (p. 148).

Coin circulation in the Roman period in the Eastern Tyrrhenian area of Sicily is the issue considered by Puglisi (pp. 293–302). Individual Roman Imperial coin finds in the light of settlement developments and traces of occupation in this region are analysed in relation to the situation of the Roman Empire. It is an important piece of work due to some gaps in documentation, which have downplayed the topic and focused mainly on Greek coins from Sicily to date. Thus, it addresses a certain need and contributes to further research on the above issue.

Wartenberg describes a hoard of 66 Archaic obols of Aegina discovered between 1986–1987 (pp. 379–392). This is the largest find of fractional coins for this island,

deposited c. 500 BC. This is a commentary going back to the origins of coinage and early issues from Aegina, quoting individual studies and finds. Dies, weight distribution and particular groups of obols, and comparisons to coins from the Asyut hoard are analysed.

Gitler and Tal presented a unique coin from Gaza overstruck on an Edomite rb'sheqel/quarters "drachm", from the collection of the Israel Museum (pp. 139–142). The authors give analogies to other coins of this type. Moreover, a similar phenomenon is visible in Edomite specimens overstruck with an Athenian motif, after 353 BC. The authors consider the production and distribution of the "replacing" group, if we can say that, of the Palestinian coins.

The last one in this category are bronze medallions in *Barbaricum* and Northern Pannonia, with an example of a medallion of Clodius Albinus discovered in 2014 in Cardross, Scotland, presented by Hunter (pp. 187–201). Roman medallions are mostly stray finds and were given to high-ranking soldiers and officials. The author presents the finds and distribution of these objects in some territories on the former Roman Empire and *Barbaricum*. In some provinces, they struck them for special occasions, such as festivals or as prizes, or they had some sort of exchange role. The subject of the medallion finds, especially due to new discoveries such as the medallion from Scotland, still requires further research.

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Some of the finds have been discussed mainly in the light of the existing documentation informing about their discovery. Kokowski and Niemirowski described the coin find of Domitian found in Merzdorf, Świebodzin county in 1938 (pp. 217–224). The discovery has so far only been reported in a note in the central daily newspaper in Brandenburg, *Frankfurter Oder-Zeitung*. The text is an interesting analysis of sources, which are daily newspapers in the Neumark province, informing about archaeological finds, including coin finds. Some of them have not been included in scientific studies, and it is not always possible to verify the information or the finds themselves. The text draws attention to an important issue related to the possible incompleteness of various catalogues or studies and the possible need to conduct additional queries.

Nowakowski considers Roman coins from Miętkie cemetery, in south-western Mazuria (pp. 287–292). From the beginning of the 20th century, 800 cremation graves have been discovered, dated between 2nd to 7th century AD. From grave 107 come two denarii and from 274 four coins of Antoninus Pius and Commodus. The text is an analysis of uncertain documentation, archival materials and publications of these coin finds from various periods.

Levada, Mączyńska and Stepanenko presented the hoard from Serakhovychi, Volhynia (pp. 247–250). The information about the find is known from the "Pasternak card index", PMA reports and interview with L. Lypovska from 2013. The text is

an analysis of individual data allowing for precise identification of the place where the hoard was discovered.

Several articles are also devoted to other aspects of numismatics. De Callataj described a short history of research on the metal composition of Greek bronze coinages (pp. 51–59). This issue has always aroused a lot of curiosity, and thanks to the development of various research methods, we are now able to define metal composition very precisely. The author begins his deliberations with the works of Georgius Agricola (1494–1555) and L. Savot (1570–1640). It discusses individual views and research methods used to analyse coins from different regions in given periods, up to the present day. The article is an interesting and brief review of the achievements in this subject so far.

The motif of *Victoria Germanica* on the coins of Trajan Decius is the subject of consideration by Hostein (pp. 179–186). The author discusses the reason for the minting, such as the coins, significance, importance and date. It also deliberates the presence of the epithet *Germanicus* in the inscriptions and in the official title from this period.

Stolba and Peter described Artemis cult in the Troad (pp. 363–377). Artemis, the goddess of, inter alia, hunting or city guardianship, was very important and popular for a lot of regions in Asia Minor. Her effigy was one of the more common on the coins of particular cities. Artemis Ephesia deserved special attention. The authors of text consider the numismatic material based on the chronological and geographical distribution, as well as some typological variations.

Among the issues raised by Professor Bursche was also the symbolism of prestige in societies in *Barbaricum*. Rodzińska-Nowak, Bulas, Kasiński and Okońska presented a pelta-shaped golden pendant from the Przeworsk culture settlement in Rzemianowice, Kazimierza Wielka county discovered in recent years during surface prospection (pp. 347–351). The authors presented the stages of its production, analogy and chronology of the golden pendant. The settlement is located in the vicinity of Jakuszowice. Finds from this region suggests relations with the Chernyakhiv culture.

Barbarian symbols of prestige are also considered by Bitner-Wróblewska, describing enamelled artefacts, like ornaments, dress accessories, elements of equestrian equipment or drinking horn chains, from East European *Barbaricum* (pp. 25–32). The author discusses issues related to production, distribution, and importance. The significant number of finds of this type in recent years (c. 3000 items – like “the Barbarian tsunami” (p. 28)) has prompted researchers to raise new questions about the spread, regionalisation, as well as style and perhaps self-representation of elites among eastern European inhabitants.

Kazanski describes relations between the Goths, Cimmerian Bosphorus and the Roman Empire in the 4th century AD in his article (pp. 211–216). On Cimmerian Bosphorus territory, some artefacts such as T-shaped fibulae, one-side combs, bone pyramidal pendants or grey wheel-made pottery from the Chernyakhiv or Wielbark cultures, mostly from phase C2-D1 (AD 260/270–400/410), have been discovered. Special attention deserves to be paid to the elements of a prestigious aristocratic costume. The artefact, with Germanic provenance representing local “Greek-Sarmatian” funerary tradition, may indicate the integration of Germans into the local aristocratic environment. The author considers the contacts between the Goths, Cimmerian Bosphorus and the Roman Empire based on archaeological, epigraphic, and historical sources.

In several texts there is also a theme related to the Central European horizon of princely burials of the Hassleben–Leuna–Wrocław–Zakrzów–Krakovany–Stráže type. Czarnicka makes an attempt to reconstruct the casket from princely grave III in Wrocław-Zakrzów, discovered in 1886 (pp. 81–85). The wooden box was decorated with Roman denarii of Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius and Septimius Severus. In this context, the coins acquired a different meaning.

Żelazowski describes the prestige of glass in the Barbarian contexts of the princely graves from Wrocław-Zakrzów discovered in 1886 and 1887 (pp. 435–441). The article considers the chronology, production and distribution of such objects, which, as it turns out, is not an easy problem to solve.

Grave 265 of a Gothic warrior from the cemetery at Černeliv-Rus’kyj, Ternopil’ province, Ukraine, dated to the second half of the 3rd century AD, is discussed in the text of Madyda-Legutko (pp. 263–272). The text presents individual elements of furnishings such as e.g. coins, arrowheads or buckles, and analogies from other territories to them.

The publication also considers research within individual cultures. Quast describes the organisation of social power in the Sîntana-de-Mureş – Chernyakhiv culture (pp. 303–323). It is analysis of archaeological material from the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, informing about some military, ideological, economic and political situations. One of the research subjects of Professor Bursche was the aurei of Trajan Decius in *Barbaricum*, which may be evidence of the capture of the imperial treasury during the battle of Abritus in AD 251, when Goths defeated the Romans.³ Due to the finds from Ukraine in recent years, it is of particular importance for further research. The article is a brief study and a good synthesis of the results and the most important current assumptions.

³ BURSICHE 2013b.

Salač writes about Maroboduus and his Kingdom (pp. 353–361). He was a leader of Marcomanni who consolidated his power in Bohemia and became a serious enemy of Rome in the 1st century. Dobiáš assumed that his kingdom would have been larger than present-day Germany or Poland and the Czech Republic combined, but in reality, it is very difficult to verify this hypothesis. The text is an analysis of the possible adherence of particular tribes to Maroboduus' kingdom and the general situation in Central Europe between the late 1st century BC and early 1st century AD.

Some texts present the results of research on sites from the Roman period or the Migration Period. Machajewski and Rogalski present the Dębczyno group settlement in Lubieszewo, Gryfice county (pp. 251–262). The text tells the reader about the state of the research, chronology, recognised structures such as pit-houses, huts, kiln pits and finds e.g. bronze fibula, fragment of glass vessel, spindle whorls, beads and pottery.

Dyczek brings closer the recent excavations and discoveries in Novae, Bulgaria (pp. 101–110). Among the most important discoveries mentioned were the fragment of a marble head, perhaps of the emperor Maximinus Thrax, inscriptions, wooden barracks, and a hoard of coins. Thanks to archaeological investigations, it is possible get to know the history of Novae from AD 238 better.

Various artefacts known from the territory of former *Barbaricum* are also described by Andrzejowski, who considers a small assemblage of the objects, including pottery, a Przeworsk culture cinerary urn and Wielbark culture miniature vessel, metal pieces and flint flakes, from Urle on the Liwiec River in the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, and the archival queries and naming issues carried out in this case. The author also examines the possible archaeological context and the place of origin of the artefacts (pp. 17–23).

Cieśliński discussed intercultural relations and Roman influences based on the Wólka-type strap-ends (pp. 61–72). Such a bronze strap-end was discovered during the excavation in Wielbark culture cemetery in Krosno, Elbląg county, led by Aleksander Bursche. The name of these objects was derived from the cemetery in Wólka, Sensburg county, which was the first published. The author describes their origins, chronologies, distributions and accompanying artefacts. The Wólka-type strap-ends are noted in the Bogaczewo, Wielbark and Dollkeim-Kovrovo cultures.

Another text from Kontny deliberates on a zoomorphic object from Międzyrzecz in Western Poland, discovered by detectorist (pp. 235–245). The find has a geometric bar form and perhaps represents a wolf, while it is mostly manufactured from copper alloy. The author of the text examines various analogies, symbolism and the cultural context, trying to define the functions and chronology of the object.

Jakubczyk discusses iron brooches of type a 158 (pp. 203–209). They are found in many areas, including southern and central Poland in the Przeworsk culture, in the western Balts in the Bogaczewo and Dollkeim-Kovrovo culture or in the Germany in the Elbian Circle. The main topic in this text is the distribution of such artefacts in Central Europe.

Rau and Schuster examine a “Nydam-Porskjær” scabbard suspension from the group of “scabbard slides with spiked ends” (Schwertriemenbügel mit Dornenden or shorter Steckriemenbügel) in Northern, Central and Eastern Europe in Early Migration period (pp. 325–345). Such objects can inform about intercultural relationships, or the mobility and dynamics of technological innovations. Larger numbers of scabbard suspensions of this type have been registered in Denmark, southern Sweden and northern Germany, but they are found on the east of the Oder River as well.

Finally, there are texts from a slightly different category, but no less important and interesting. Wróblewski has dedicated his essay with the enigmatic title of *Salt and Iron* (pp. 423–428) to Professor Bursche. Its deliberations about the economic foundations of the Piast State between the 9th to early 10th centuries AD are based on historical and archaeological sources.

The publication also included considerations about places and artefacts dating back from the Roman period in Egypt. Derda, Łajtar and Płóciennik Latin discussed a letter from Qasr Ibrim, Egypt (pp. 93–99). The short-lived Roman presence there is documented by architecture and some artefacts such as elements of military equipment, textiles, lamps coins and papyri. Many of the latter are private letters to other soldiers. The text under analysis points to an official letter from a superior from Egypt, perhaps from Koptos, written to the garrison commander in Primis (p. 97).

Herbich described geophysical methods in surveying Roman sites in Egypt (pp. 157–165). It must be admitted that the first sentences of the introduction are very endearing, where the author emphasizes the visualising of certain phenomena and a return to the past with the passing of time. The text compares the various Roman sites in Egypt that have been studied so far, e.g. Al-Qarah al-Hamra or *Pelusium*/Tell Farama, in terms of two geophysical methods, magnetometry and electrical resistivity. The diversity of materials and their contents can have a lower or higher magnetic value, making constructions or anomalies visible. On this basis, one can create maps and reconstructions of archaeological sites that allow, to some extent, a possible identification architecture or objects, the functions of various areas in the city or determining some boundaries of them. The use of geophysical methods brings significant effects for studies on Roman sites in Egypt.

The final text is by Weisser, describing a network between Berlin Münzkabinett and Poland (pp. 393–407). Currently, the collection in the Münzkabinett of the

Staatliche Museen is the largest in Germany and numbers c. 540,000 objects. The author discusses cooperation in the numismatic field related to the registration or processing of finds from Polish territories by German researchers, the findspots in the Online Catalogue of Münzkabinett and an example of a unique gold multiple of 48 solidi from Zagórzyn (Inv. No. 18200868) in the collection in Berlin. Another connection to Poland are people e.g. an earlier owner or donator. Among the jointly implemented Polish-German projects, it is important to highlight The Piast Project and The Project Early Medieval Hoards from Poland's Inventory. Additional cooperation between these two centres appeared in connection with the 16th International Numismatic Congress in 2022.

The publication is primarily an expression the respect and appreciation of the Professor Aleksander Bursche from his colleagues, friends and companions. It is also an extremely important book dealing with a broad spectrum of issues in the field of archaeology and numismatics of the Roman and the Migration Period. In closing, it just needs to be added: *Plurimos Annos, Professor!*

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