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The Finds of Greek and Roman Provincial Coins in Belarus

The aim of the article is to discuss and publish the finds of ancient Greek and Roman provincial coins discovered in the territory of present-day Belarus. The author describes in detail two finds of ancient Greek coins – a bronze coin from Panticapaeum struck in 3rd BCE (Cat. 1) and a silver Ptolemy II coin, which is an obvious antiquarian counterfeit from the 19th or the first half of the 20th century, imitating the coin struck in gold. Roman provincial coins are noted for 23 finds contain 39 coins. There have been recorded the Bosporan coins (3 finds, Cat. 2–4), coins struck in Balkan and Danubian provinces (11 finds representing 11 pieces, Cat. 5–16), coins from Asia Minor and Egypt (4 finds contain 24 pieces, Cat. 17–20), and coins from unidentified mints (3 finds contain 4 coins, Cat. 21–24). Among the provincial coins the bronze and billon coins are the most frequently group, except the elektron stater of Sauromates II (173/174–210/ 211) found in Minsk (Cat. 2), and the Lycian drachm of Trajan (98–117) from the Lyshchytsy hoard (Cat. 17). The article presents the analysis of the coin finds with reference to the geographical regions of Belarus and archeological context in the early centuries of the first millennium AD. A major part of coins found in Belarus have been minted in 3rd century, and their inflow should be very probably linked with the population, who inhabited in the territory of present-day Belarus with the people of the Chernyakhiv Culture and with the so-called Scythian (Gothic) Wars. Possibly, the coins also reached the Barbarian area with the legionaries stationed in the Danubian and Balkan provinces, some of those coins (Roman coins from Alexandria) may have been brought over by Germanic warriors serving in the Roman army in the second half of the 3rd century.