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## NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND MONETARY FINDS IN THE RURAL TERRITORY OF TOMIS

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**Abstract:** *On the occasion of the archaeological research conducted on the new beltway of Constanța a large rural settlement of vicus type was discovered. Its overall stratigraphy contains two cores and two phases of habitation: a first level of habitation represented by pits, semi-interred structures and ditches (belonging to the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> century-first half of 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D.), overlapped by a second one consisting of a surface habitation corresponding to the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. The observations made over the recovered coins suggest a similar dating of the settlement, being determined, from a statistic point of view, peaks of monetary circulation and some possible periods of local prosperity in the last quarter of 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. and the first four decades of 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., respectively the period delimited by the years 330-336 and 354-358 A.D. (with some later attempts of recovery between 364-378 A.D.).*

**Rezumat:** *Cu ocazia cercetărilor arheologice desfășurate pe traseul noii șosele ocolitoare a municipiului Constanța a fost descoperită o întinsă așezare rurală de tip vicus. Stratigrafia generală a acesteia cuprinde două nuclee și două faze de locuire: un prim nivel de locuire reprezentat de gropi, complexe adâncite și șanțuri (care ar aparține sfârșitului sec. II – primei jumătăți a sec. III p.Chr.), suprapus de un al doilea compus dintr-o locuire de suprafață corespunzătoare sfârșitului sec. III și sec. IV p.Chr. Observațiile făcute asupra lotului de monede recuperat sugerează o datare asemănătoare a așezării respective, fiind surprinse, din punct de vedere statistic, vârfuri ale circulației monetare și ale unei probabile stări de prosperitate locale în ultimul sfert al sec. II și primele patru decenii ale sec. III p.Chr., respectiv perioada delimitată de anii 330-336 și 354-358 p.Chr. de pe parcursul sec. IV p.Chr. (cu unele tardive încercări de revenire între anii 364-378 p.Chr.).*

**Keywords:** *vicus, Tomis, monetary finds, currency, countermarks, mark of value, mint, Roman Empire.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** *vicus, Tomis, descoperiri monetare, circulație monetară, contramărci, marcă de valoare, monetărie, Imperiul Roman.*

### INTRODUCTION

Metropolis of the left Pontus, the city of Tomis experienced a strong development in the Roman times, becoming the capital of Moesia Inferior and the most important economic and trade center in the area<sup>1</sup>. In addition to its strategic position, an important role in its particular progress was held by the territory of influence (*chora*) due to the agricultural productivity and crafts and the prosperity of its administrative structures.

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<sup>1</sup> Stoian 1962, 39-45; Suceveanu 1977; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991; Bărbulescu 2001, 47-61; Bounegru 2003, 105-119; Buzoianu, Bărbulescu 2012, 42-43, 45, 73.

Fig. 1. Aerial image of the archaeological research carried out within the possible rural settlement: a) the early habitation area: the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. – first half of 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., respectively the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. – 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.; b) the late habitation area: 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

The archaeological research was occasioned by the construction in 2011 of a new city belt of Constanta, between kilometres 8+400 and 9+500. The area of interest was presenting itself as a flat arable surface located approximately 3 km west of the city of Constanta, and about 8 km in straight line to the ancient Tomis. It was part of the rural territory of the metropolitan Tomis. Prior to our excavation, the area had not been researched from an archaeological point of view, serving only for agriculture.

#### PRELIMINARY ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENTARY

The archaeological research outlined two habitation cores partially found on the route of the highway (Fig. 1).

The first appeared in the northern end, near the bridge, the habitation remains including fragments of walls made of stone blocks and large paving slabs made of stone. The finds consist of a very rich and diverse ceramic material and numerous metal objects (iron hoe, pruning hooks, spikes, etc.). After removing the debris from one of the walls, under the level occupied by the corresponding occupational level, a pit with early dated pottery fragments was found. This would confirm an early habitation niveau in the area, the situation being reinforced by several household pits, some probably used as shelters at the beginning. The early complexes most probably belong to the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. – first half of 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., overlapped by a level dated to the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. – 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

At a distance of about 90 m from the starting point (with no other signs of ancient habitation



recorded in-between) is the northeast end of the second habitation core corresponding to the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. The archaeological researches revealed here the eastern edge of the settlement, with its associated complexes: large dwellings at the ground level from which fragments of walls, pavements and large quantities of tiles were recovered. Semi-interred dwellings with ovens and fireplaces inside were also identified. Other facilities were also discovered, such as: large stone slabs platforms and external ovens, household pits (some with deposits of animal skeletons or human bones at the bottom). The last ones may come from disturbed graves (no human skeleton had its bones in anatomical connection, in one of the pits being found only a jaw without any other bones belonging the skeleton). In this context, it should also be mentioned a case of a burial in an amphora where the skeleton of a baby was deposited in the lower half of the vessel, placed on the bottom of a circular deep complex dug in the *loess* with ditches that seem to define an area south of this find. There have also been found fitting circular ditches similar to those in the north, pavements and a rich archaeological material which consists of ceramics, metal objects of various shapes (e.g. fragments of sickles), fragments of glass vessels, bone needles etc.

The general stratigraphy of the supposed *vicus* includes a flat rural settlement with two phases of habitation, each with several stages of evolution: the housing accounted for pits, deepened complexes and ditches (which might belong to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. – the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D.), overlaid by a ground level housing corresponding to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. and the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

### A NUMISMATIC COMMENTARY<sup>2</sup>

During the archaeological research 116 coins were found, 5 of which belonging to a small treasure. All the coins entered the Numismatic Collection of the Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanta.

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<sup>2</sup> The various intermediate stages of study conducted during the investigation of these monetary findings have occasioned to us the presentation during the year 2015 of two communications on the subject, namely: "*Monetary discoveries coming from a new vicus located in the Tomitan territory*" at Pontica 2015, Constanta, October 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>; "*New numismatic and archeological discoveries in the Roman era territory of the city of Tomis (2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.)*" At the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Symposium of Numismatics, Bușteni, December 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

## THE CATALOGUE OF MONETARY FINDS

## Isolated finds

## I. Imperial Provinces

## CALLATIS

## Herakles type

1. OR; 8h; 4.39 g; 19.5 × 19 mm.

Ov: Head of Herakles laureate, facing right; circular legend: **KTIC / T / HC**; pearl circle?.

Rv: Cybelle with mural crown, sitting on a rock, facing left; a patera in her right hand and left arm supported by *tympanon*; circular legend: **ΚΑΛΛΑ / [TIA]NQN**; pearl circle?.

Reference: Pick 1898, 111, no. 295; Grămăticu, Ioniță 2003, 51-52, nr. 2. A1-R2.

Note: Reference to catalog Pick is a variant sharing obverse legend, other than this one.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.444; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: SH-I, C 22, inside the house.

## HISTRIA

## Septimius Severus: Julia Domna

2. AE; 12h; 9.61 g; 26 × 25 mm.

Ov: Empress' draped bust, facing right; circular legend: **IOVAIA / ΔOMNA [CE]**.

Rv: Eagle on dolphin left oriented; circular legend: **ICTP[IH] / NQN**.

Reference: Pick 1898, 174, no. 501.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.460; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 15.07.2011, S7 (west end), the south wall of the C 40, at - 1.20 / - 1.30 m on the floor.

## TOMIS

## Traianus (?)

3. OR; ?; 3.42 g; 19 mm.

Ov: Bust of emperor Trajan, probably facing right.

Rv: Illegible.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.430; extremely poor state of preservation.

Technical data: 15.06.2011, SI, C 22, on the floor.

## Antoninus Pius: Marcus Aurelius Caesar

4. OR; 6h; 3.63 g; 18 mm.

Ov: Draped bust of Marcus Aurelius facing left; circular legend: **[KAICA]PI / BH[PQ]**.

Rv: Dionysos standing, facing left, holds a *kantharos* and a *thyrsus* in his hands; circular legend: **[T]OMI / [TQ]**.

Reference: Regling 1910, 691, no. 2655.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.443; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: SH-I, C 22, inside the house.

**Commodus**

5. AE; *diassarion*; 7h; 3.43 g; 20 × 19 mm.

Ov: Bust laureate, the draped emperor facing right; circular legend: A [YT] K Λ A[I] AYP KΘ M●▲●C;

Rv: Asklepios seen from the front, head facing left, holds the snake-coiled rod with his right hand and his left hand is placed on the garment; circular legend: MHTPO ΠONT●Y TOMΕΩC; the numeral value in the left field B.

Reference: Regling 1910, reverse under 707, no. 2718.

Note: *The legend on the reverse reading from right above.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.435; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 27.06.2011, G 172, G 165, G 169, G 173, *passim*.

6. AE; *diassarion*; 6h; 5.08 g; 21.5 × 21 mm.

Ov: Bust of the laureate emperor, draped and cuirassed, facing right; circular legend: A / YT K Λ AI AYP / KΘMΘΔΘ / [C].

Rv: Asklepios seen from the front, head facing left, holding with his right hand with the snake-coiled rod and the left hand held on the garment; circular legend (read from right to left): MHTPOΠ / ΠON T●Y / TOMΕΩ / C; in the central field, on the right appears the monetary value numeral B.

Reference: Regling 1910, 707, no. 2722.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.437; good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 27.06.2011, C31 (hut), in the filling - 0.90 / - 1.00 m, on the last "level" of the house.

7. OR; *diassarion*; 6h; 4.30 g; 22 × 21.5 mm.

Ov: Laureate and draped bust of the emperor, facing right; circular legend: [A] Y[T] K Λ A[I] AYP] / KΘMΘΔΘ / [C].

Rv: Dionysos viewed from the front, with head facing right, holds in one hand a tyrsos kantharos and the other hand is high overhead; circular legend: MHTP[O ΠON T●Y] TOMΕΩC (reading from right to left); on the right side of the monetary field the numeral value B appears.

Reference: Regling 1910, for the obverse under 706, no. 2716, and to reverse according to 707, no. 2717.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.434; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 11.07.2011, C 23, after removing the debris.

8. OR; *tetrassarion*; 6h; 9.18 g; 25.5 mm.

Ov: Laureate bust of emperor facing right; circular legend: [...]NEINOC / AV[P?] [...].

Rv: Artemis; standing, pointing shift to the right, holding the bow, and from her behind drawing an arrow from the quiver; circular legend: MHTPOΠ [ΠONTO Y T]OMΕ[ΩC].

Reference: Regling 1910, 702, no. 2696.

Note: *the obverse legend seems unusual; It could be the partial transcript in Greek of the title of emperor that is found on the imperial Roman coins from the years 181-183 A.D.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.457; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 28.06.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8, is an area with rubble stone and tiles (north), at - 0.40 m.

### Septimius Severus

9. OR; *diassarion*; 6h; 4.17 g; 22.5 × 20 mm.

Ov: Laureate head of the emperor facing right; circular legend: [AV K Λ CEΠTI] / CEVH[P]OC Π.

Rv: Asklepios seen from the front, head facing left, holds his right hand with the snake-coiled rod and and his left hand on the garment; circular legend: [MHTPOII ΠON] / TOV TOMEΩC; on the left side of monetary field appears the numeral value B.

Reference: Regling 1910, 724, no. 2782, the first period, 193-203 / 204 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.441; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: SI, south of 22 C in the ground level.

10. OR; *diassarion*; 6h; 5.37 g; 20.5 mm.

Ov: Bust emperor laureate, facing right; circular legend: AV K Λ CE[ΠITI ?] / C[E]VHPOC Π.

Rv: Tyche standing, facing left, holds a long scepter and *cornucopiae* in her hands; circular legend: [MHTPOII ΠONTOV] TO[MCEΩC]; in the monetary field, top left shows the value numeral B.

Reference: probably Regling 1910, 724, no. 2786, general type, the first period, 193-203 / 204 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.427; extremely poor state of preservation.

Archaeological data: SH-I, C 22, inside the ground level (floor).

### Septimius Severus: Julia Domna

11. AE; *assarion*; 12h; 2.49 g; 17 × 16 mm.

Ov: Draped bust of empress facing right; circular legend: [IOVA] ΔOM / [NA AVT EC].

Rv: Hermes standing, facing left, holds in his hands the caduceus and the bag; circular legend: [MHTPOII Π]ON / TO[V TOMEΩC].

Reference: Regling 1910, 732, no. 2821, the first period, 193-203 / 204 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.429; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 15.06.2011, SH-SI in the ground level, west of C 22.

### Geta Caesar

12. AE; *tetrassarion*; 6h; 11.22 g; 26 × 27.5 mm.

Ov: Laureate head of the emperor facing right; circular legend: AV-K-Π[-]CEΠ- / ΓETAC.

Rv: Concordia standing, facing left, holding *patera* and *cornucopiae*; in front of her feet there is an altar from which a flame is rising; circular legend: MHTPOII Π / ON-TOMEΩC; at the upper top left of the monetary field the numeral value Δ appears.

Reference: Regling 1910, 775, no. 3002; Varbanov 2005, 409, no. 5091 variant, 209-212 A.D.

Note: *the Varbanov 2005 is a variant of representation of the emperor on the obverse.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.455; good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 14.07.2011, C 41, at - 1.20 / - 1.25 m.

13. OR; *tetrassarion*; 2h; 8.89 g; 26.5 × 25 mm.

Ov: Head of the emperor facing right; circular legend: [Π] CΕΠΤΙ / Γ[ΕΤΑ]C [K].

Rv: Male character, standing, facing right, on a chariot pulled by a bull; in front of them a female character moving; circular legend [M]H / ΤΡΟ ΠΙΟΝ ΤΟV /, then exergual [T]ΟΜΕΩC; in the top center of the monetary field, the numeral value Δ.

Reference: Regling 1910, 768, no. 2972; Varbanov 2005, 408, no. 5079.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.454; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, G 205.

### Caracalla

14. OR; *diassarion*; 2h; 5.33 g; 21 × 20 mm.

Ov: Bust of the laureate emperor, facing right; circular legend: [A K M AVPH / ANTΩNINOC].

Rv: Apollon half-naked, standing, facing left, holding a laurel branch and a lyre located on a tripod; circular legend: [MHTP / ΠΙΟΝ / ΤΟΜΕΩC].

Reference: Regling 1910, 758, no. 2932, third period, 209-210 / 211 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.438; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: 14.06.2011, SI, C 22, C 22 from the ditch below.

15. AE; *tetrassarion*; 6h; 12.03 g; 26 mm.

Ov: The laureate head of the emperor, facing right; circular legend: AV K M AVPH ANTΩNINO / C.

Rv: Nemesis Aeqvitas standing, facing left, winged, holding scales; at her feet, on the left, a wheel; circular legend: MH[T]ΠΟΠΙΙ / ONT ΤΟΜΕΩC; on the left of the monetary field the numeral value Δ appears.

Reference: Regling 1910, 747, no. 2884, third period, 209-210 / 211 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.459; precarious state of conservation, coin struck folded.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, southward extension of the S8, at - 0.30 m.

16. OR; *tetrassarion*; 12h; 8.54 g; 27 mm.

Ov: Bust of the laureate emperor, facing right; circular legend: AV K M AVPH / ANTΩNINO / C.

Rv: Hades-Sarapis sitting on the throne, facing left; holding a scepter in his left hand and Cerberus in his right hand; circular legend: MHTΠΙ Π / O / N ΤΟΜΕΩC; on the left of the monetary the numeral value Δ appears.

Reference: Regling 1910, 736, no. 2830, third period, 209-210 / 211 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.433; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: SI, at about 8.70 m south of C 22, at - 0.25 m.

### Geta Avgvstvs

17. AE; *tetrassarion*; 2h; 11.68 g; 28 mm.

Ov: Bust of the laureate emperor, draped and cuirassed, facing right; circular legend: AVT K Π CΕΠ / ΓΕ[TAC AV].

Rv: Zeus sitting on a throne, facing left, holding in his right hand stretched out the *patera* and the scepter in his left hand; circular legend: **ΜΗΤΡΟΠΙ Π / ΟΝΤΟVΤΟ** and exergual **ΜΕΩC**.

Reference: Regling 1910, 780, no. 3022, 211-212 A.D.; Varbanov 2005, 411, no. 5142 (variant on the obverse legend), 209-212 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.453; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 14.06.2011, SI in the ground level.

### Elagabalus

18. AE; *tetrassarion*; 12h; 11.95 g; 27.5 mm.

Ov: Laureate bust, draped and cuirassed, facing right; circular legend: **ΑVΤ Κ Μ ΑVΡ / ΑΝΤΩΝΕΙΝΟC**.

Rv: Concordia with *kalathos*, standing, facing left, holds a *cornucopiae* in the left hand and a *patera* in the right hand; circular legend: **ΜΗΤΡ ΟΠΙΟΝΤΟV / ΤΟΜΕΩC**; on the lower left side of the monetary field the value numeral is Δ.

Reference: Regling 1910, 799, no. 3091; Varbanov 2005, 415, no. 5210, 218-222 A.D. (but the character on the reverse is considered Homonia).

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.452; good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, G 206.

### Tomos Type

19. OR; 1h; 3.47 g; 18 × 17 mm.

Ov: Bust of Tomos deity (eponymous) facing right; circular legend: **ΤΟ / ΜΟC**.

Rv: Bunch of grapes with vine; circular legend: **ΤΟΜΕ / ΙΤΩΝ**.

Reference: Regling 1910, 672, no. 2574, Group III, 200-205 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.431; very good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, stratigraphical wall S7-S8, west end, to - 0.80m.

20. OR; 12h; 2.60 g; 18 × 17.5 mm.

Av: Bust of Tomos deity (eponymous) facing right; legend: **ΤΟ / ΜΟC**.

Rv: Bunch of grapes with vine; legend: **ΤΟΜΕ / ΙΤΩΝ**.

Reference: Regling 1910, 672, no. 2574, Group III, 200-205 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.432; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: SI, at about 8.70 m south of the C22, at - 0.25 m.

### Severus Alexander

21. AE; *tetrassarion*; 2h; 7.10 g; 25 × 23.5 mm.

Ov: Laureate head of the emperor, to the right; circular legend: **ΑVΤ Κ Μ ΑVΡ CΕV[Η ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡ] / ΟC**.

Rv: Asklepios seen from the front with his head facing left, holds with his right hand the stick with the coiled snake on it and the left hand is held on the garment; circular legend: **ΜΗΤΡΟ ΠΙΟ ΝΤΟV ΤΟΜΕ / ΩC**; in the field, on the right at the lower monetary field, the numeral value Δ appears.

Reference: Regling 1910, 819, no. 3184.



Inventory no. MINAC: 83.420; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: SG, G-145.

22. AE; *tetrassarion*; 12h; 11.50 g; 26.5 mm.

Ov: Laureate bust of the emperor, draped, facing right; circular legend: [AVT K M AVP C]EVH AΛEΞANΔPOC.

Rv: Laurel wreath tied at the bottom; inside it the legend: MHT / PO ΠION / TOV TOM / EΩC / and value numeral Δ.

Reference: Regling 1910, 838, no. 3286.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.450; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, west end - S7, at - 0.80 - / - 1.00 m, leveling C 40 (?).

23. AE; *tetrassarion*; 12h; 10.82 g; 27 mm.

Ov: Laureate head of the emperor facing right; circular legend: AVT K M AVP CEV / AΛEΞANΔPO C.

Rv: Concordia, with *kalathos* standing, facing left, holds a cornucopiae in the left hand and a *patera* in the right hand; circular legend: MHTPO ΠION / TOV TOMEΩC; in lower monetary field, the value numeral Δ appears.

Reference: Regling 1910, 828, no. 3233; Varbanov 2005, 424, no. 5345, 222-235 A.D. (but the character on the reverse is considered Homonia).

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.449; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 28.06.2011, extension (expropriation) south west of S8; area with debris and stone tiles, at - 0.50 / - 0.60 m; 206 G of the filler as possible.

24. AE; *tetrassarion*; 2h; 11.27 g; 26.5 mm.

Ov: Laureate head of the emperor facing right; circular legend: AVT K M AVP C EVHP / AΛEΞANΔPO C.

Rv: Asklepios seen from the front with his head facing left, holds with his right hand the stick with the coiled snake on it and the left hand is held on the garment; circular legend: MHTPO ΠIONT / OV TOMEΩC; at the lower middle of the monetary field the numerical value Δ appears.

Reference: Regling 1910, 819, no. 3180; Varbanov 2005, 422, no. 5305, 222-235 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.451; good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 23.06.2011, stratigraphical wall S3-S7, in the middle of the fairway (possibly from the earth excavated from the two sections).

### Gordianus III

25. AE; *tetrassarion*; 2h; 10.27 g; 26.5 mm.

Ov: The laureate bust, draped and cuirassed, facing right, circular legend: AVT K M ANT ΓOPAIANO C AVT.

Rv: Tyche with *kalathos*, standing, facing left, hold hands in her hands a long scepter and *cornucopiae*; at the bottom, on the right there is Pontos / Hebros represented as a bust; circular legend: MHTPO ΠION / TOV TOMEΩC; on the right side of the monetary field, the numerical value Δ appears.

Reference: Regling 1910, 882, no. 3488; Varbanov 2005, 444, no. 5655, 238-244 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.456; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 23.06.2011, stratigraphical wall S3-S7, in the middle of the fairway (probably excavated soil from the two sections).

## TOMIS?

### Undefined

26. OR; ?; 3.84 g; 21 × 20 mm.

Obv: Bust of an emperor facing right; legend illegible.

Rv: illegible.

Note: *it can be dated in the second century A.D., between the reign of Emperor Antoninus Pius and Commodus (inclusively).*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.436; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: 16.06.2011, SI, pickling West, ground level.

27. OR; ?; 2.27 g; 20 × 19.5 mm

On the same side of the flan there are two parallel rectangular countermarks: one with the numeral value **B** (7 × 4 mm) and a second with the legend **TOM** (10 × 4 mm).

Reference: Regling 1910, 673, no. 2575.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.426; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: 28.06. 2011 extension (expropriation) south west of S8, the area with debris and stone tiles, at - 0.40 / - 0.50 m (2 coins).

28. OR; ?; 1.85 g; 18 mm.

On the obverse there is the head of Zeus facing right, and in central right part of the monetary field, a rectangular counterfoil (6 × 3 mm) with the legend **TPA**.

Rv: illegible.

Reference: Howgego 1985, 217, no. 569.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.446; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: 16.06.2011 SI, pickling West, ground level.

29. OR; ?; 2.88 g; 20 × 19.5 mm.

Probably on the obverse, on the same side of the flank two rectangular counterfoils are punched in the middle and upper monetary field, with the legend **TOM** (9 × 4 mm) and the numeral value **B** (7 × 4 mm).

Reference: Regling 1910, 673, no. 2575.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.447; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: 11.07.2011, G 206.

30. AE; ?; 2.68 g; 21.5 × 18.5 mm.

Probably on the obverse, on the same side of the flan, two rectangular counterfoils are imprinted, in the central part of the field of monetary, left / right, with the legend **T** (the letter **T** inverted) **OM** (9 × 3 mm) and the value numeral **B** (8 × 5 mm).

Reference: Regling 1910, 673, no. 2575.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.448; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: 16.06.2011 SI, pickling West, ground level.

31. OR; ?; 2.86 g; 18.5 × 17.5 mm.

Probably imprinted on the reverse there is a quadrangular counterfoil (6 × 4.5 mm) with the numeral value **B** in the central part of the monetary field.

Reference: Regling 1910, 673, no. 2575.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.445; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: SH-I, C22, inside the home.

## NIKOPOLIS AD ISTRUM

### Elagabalus

32. AE; *assarion*; 12h; 2.01 g; 15.5 mm.

Ov: Probably bust of the emperor facing right; illegible circular legend: [AVT K M AVP / ANTΩNINOC] ? .

Rv: Bunch of vine; circular legend: [NI]KOΠO[AIT]ΩN ΠPOC I[CTP] / [O] in the field, on the right / N in the field, on the left.

Note: *unlike in the catalogue, here is another development of the legend reverse (reading from the bottom left and uninterrupted).*

Reference: Pick, 1898, 503, no. 2034.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.442; precarious state of conservation, cut currency.

Archaeological data: SI, south of 22 C, at ground level.

## MARKIANOPOLIS

### Diadumenianus

33. OR; *triassarion*; 12h; 9.91 g; 25 × 24.5 mm.

Ov: Laureate bust, draped and cuirassed, facing right; the legend: M OΠEAAION ANTΩNEINOC [KAICAP].

Rv: Artemis, standing, pointing shift to the right, holding a bow and drawing an arrow from the quiver; the legend: [MA]PKIANO / ΠOAEIT[Ω]N; in the field, on the left side, the numeral value is Γ.

Reference: Pick 1898, 249, no. 788.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.461; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 14.07.2011, stratigraphical wall S3-S7 (expansion-expropriation), C 40, at - 1.00 / - 1.25 m, the filling above the paving stone (4 coins).

**Elagabalus?**, Markianopolis? ( prototype).

34. AE; molded; 12h; 2.70 g; 18 × 17 mm.

Ov: Laureate head of the emperor facing right; legend: [AVT K M AVP / ANTΩNINOC]?

Rv: Bunch of vine; circular legend: [MAPKIANOΠOAITΩN]?

Reference: for casting see Dima, Talmațchi 2002, 70, no. 17; Dima, Elefterescu 2009, 160-164, no. 769-804.

Note: for the prototype, see Pick, 1898, p. 270, no. 923, general type; on the obverse the consecutive letters  $\Omega$  and  $N$  are in the ligature; on the reverse, the same letters in a row are in the ligature.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.440; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: 15.06.2011, SI, west of C22 in the area with debris consisting of large blocks.

## BYZANTIUM

### Gallienus

35. OR; *tetrassarion*; 6h; 8.81 g; 26 × 25 mm.

Obv: Laureate bust, draped and cuirassed of the emperor, facing right; circular legend: ΠΟ ΛΙ ΕΓ ΓΑΛ / ΔΙΗΝΟC CE.

Rv: A table on which are placed two agonistic vessels with palm branches; under the table two objects, one of which is an amphora; circular legend: Β / V / Ζ / ΑΝΤΙΩΝ.

Reference: Schönert-Geiss 1968, 121, no. 1829, 253-268 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.458; good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 14.07.2011, S7, the west end (the start ash), at - 1.15 / - 1.30 m, the "wall" south of the C 40.

## ISSUER?

### Elagabalus or Gordianus III?

36. AE; cast?; 7h; 2.84 g; 17 × 16 mm.

Obv: Laureate and draped bust of the emperor, facing right; circular legend: AV K M AN (?).

Rv: Nude male character (Herakles, Genius or Apollon?), his head to the right; he sits cross-legged beside a column; circular legend: [...] [H / II ?] [...].

Reference: Dima, Talmațchi 2002, 71, no. 30-32; Dima, Elefterescu 2009, 180, no. 922-926.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.439; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 19.07.2011, C 39, at - 0.85 / - 0.95 m; discovered with two whole lamps (the floor at - 1.00 m).

## II. The Roman Empire, I-III<sup>rd</sup> A.D.

### Caligula for Agrippa

37. AE; as; 7h; 9.10 g; 27.5 × 27 mm.

Reference: RIC, I, 112, no. 58, 37-41 A.D., Rome mint, posthumous issue.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.428; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 15.06.2011, S 1, at the first scrape of the excavator, east of the south end of S13.

### Septimius Severus: Julia Domna

38. AR; denarius; 7h; 3.49 g; 16.5 × 15.5 mm.

*Vestae Sanctae* type, Laodicea ad Mare mint?.

Reference: RIC, IV / I, 178, no. 648, 196-202 A.D.

Note: the same type was beaten in Rome, according to RIC, IV / I, 171, no. 587, 196-211 A.D., except that *Vesta* is not wearing a veil?

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.471; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: C 9.

### Gallienus

39. AE; antoninianus; 9h; 1.45 g; 20.5 × 20 mm.

*Dianae Cons Avg* type, in exergue **XI**, Rome mint.

Reference: RIC, V / 1, 146, no. 179 or 181, undated (260-268 A.D.).

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.473; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 16.06.2011 SI, pickling West, ground level.

40. AE; antoninianus; 7h; 3.52 g; 21.5 mm;

Reference: RIC, V / 1, 147, no. 192a, Rome mint, undated (260-268 A.D.).

Note: *keeps traces of silvering*.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.424; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 27.06.2011, stratigraphical wall S5 - S9, east end, home of the "tile" C 38, at - 0.15 m.

### Aurelianus

41. AE, antoninianus; 12h; 2.70 g; 22 × 19 mm.

*Iovi Conser* type, in the exergue a **star** and **P**, Siscia mint.

Reference: RIC V / 1, 289, no. 225, second period.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.423; good conservation status but fragmentary item.

Archaeological data: 17.06.2011, stratigraphical wall S1, C 24, between floors or a pit, at - 1.20 m.

42. AE; antoninianus; 12h; 3.58 g; 23.5 × 22.5 mm.

*Concordia Militvm* type, in the exergue, a **star** and **P**, Siscia mint.

Reference: RIC V / 1 288, no. 216, second period.

Note: *there is a striking error, it is a coin with a visible effect on the reverse where a portion of the bust of emperor appears steeped in the area of the letters ...DIA MILIT...; the coin preserves traces of silvering*.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.421; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, V-S7 end, at - 0.80 / - 1.00 m.

43. AE; antoninianus; 12h; 3.49 g; 24 × 22 mm.

*Oriens Avg* type, in the lower left part of the monetary field a **star**, in the exergue **P**, Siscia mint.

Reference: RIC V / 1 293, no. 251, third period.

Note: *it preserves traces of silvering*.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.422; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, stratigraphical wall S3-S7, at - 0.10 m (possibly in the earth excavated from the two sections).

### Aurelianus: Severina

44. AE; (Denarius fourrée); 12h; 2.64 g; 19 × 17.5 mm.

**Venus Felix** type, in the exergue  $\epsilon$ , Rome mint.

Reference: RIC V / 1, 316, no. 6, third period, undated.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.474; good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 11.07.2011, G 206.

**Tetricus I, Gallia**

45. AE; 7h; 1.86 g; 1.5.5 × 16 mm.

Rv: Laetitia; legend: SALX IAV [...].

Note: *Imitation? RIC for the prototype, see RIC, V/2, 408, no. 90 (Laetitia).*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.469; relatively poor state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 14.07.2011, stratigraphical wall S3-S7 (expansion-expropriation), C 40, at - 1.00 / - 1.25 m, the filling above the paving stone (4 coins).

**III. Later Roman Empire (294-498 A.D.)****Diocletianus**

46. AE; fraction; 12h; 1.55 g; 20.5 × 19.5 mm.

*Concordia Militum* type, at the lower part the monetary field, above the exergue **HB**, Heraclea mint.

Reference: RIC, VI, 531, no. 13, 295-296 A.D. or 532, no. 21, 297-298 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.476; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8, the level of crowding stone, at - 0.80 m, at 41 C limit.

**Severus Caesar II**

47. AE1 (*nummus*); 12h; 5.18 g; 29.5 × 18.5 mm.

Mint: Serdica or Heraclea.

For Serdica reference: RIC VI, 495, no. 13, 305-306 A.D.; for Heraclea reference: RIC, VI, 533, no. 25 or 26, 305-306 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.464; precarious state of conservation, copy cut half fragmentary.

Archaeological data: 14.07.2011, stratigraphical wall S3-S7 (expansion-expropriation), C 40, at - 1.00 / - 1.25 m, the filling above the paving stone (4 coins).

**Maximimus II Caesar**

48. AE2; *nummus*; 6h; 7.00 g; 26 × 24 mm.

*Virtoti Exercitus* type, in the lower left part of the monetary field **Γ**, in the exergue **MKV**, Cyzicus mint.

Reference: RIC, VI, 587, no. 49, 308-309 A.D.

Note: *it preserves traces of silvering.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.475; good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 24.06.2011, C box 24 (West expansion), at - 0.60 / - 0.70 m (the pit which enters the western profile).

**Galerius**

49. AE2; *nummus*; 12h; 4.51 g; 24.5 × 22 mm.

*Genio Avgvsti* type, on the left of the monetary field **S**, and on the right a **star**, Cyzicus mint.

Reference: RIC, VI, 587, no. 53, 309-310 A.D.

Notes: *the item was struck again, see the situation on the reverse; also, by cutting, the coin might have been diminished on purpose.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.470; mediocre conservation state, fragmentary piece.

Archaeological data: 15.07.2011, S7 (end), C 40, at - 1.20 / - 1.30 m (on the floor), in the southern wall of C40.

### Licinius I

50. AE2; *nummus*; 12h; 4.84 g; 24 × 22.5 mm.

*Genio Avgvsti* type, S on the right of the monetary field, three points vertically to the right of the monetary field and in the exergue **MKV**, Cyzicus mint.

Reference: RIC, VI, 589, no. 66, 311 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.463; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: SI, south of 22 C, in the vegetal layer.

51. AE3; *nummus*; 6h; 2.20 g; 22 × 21.5 mm.

*Iovi Conservatori Avgg* type, in the monetary field, on the right Δ in the exergue the letters **SMHT**, Heraclea mint.

Reference: RIC, VI, 541, no. 73, early 313 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.462; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: SH-I, C22, inside the house.

### Constantinus I

52. AE3; 12h; 3.35 g; 22 × 20 mm.

*Iovi Conservatori Avgg* type, in the field, on the right E, in the exergue **SMHT**, Heraclea mint.

Reference: RIC, VII, 542, no. 5, 313-314 A.D.

Note: *it preserves traces of silvering.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.486; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 23.06.2011, cassette C 24, extending west to - 0.40 m, in the layer above the western wall of the C 24.

### Licinius I

53. AE3; 6h; 2.39 g; 17 × 20.5 mm.

*Iovi Conservatori Avgg* type, in the top left of the monetary field a branch, in the right E, and in the exergue **SMN**, Nikomedia mint.

Reference: RIC, VII, 604, no. 24, 317-320 A.D.

Note: *traces of silvering.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.530; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 24.06.2011, stratigraphical wall S3-S7, extending west, - 0.20 / - 0.30 m.

### Licinius II Caesar

54. AE3; 12h; 2.30 g; 18 mm.

*Iovi Conservatori Caess*, in the exergue **SMA[NT]**, Antioch mint.

Reference : RIC, VII, 680, no. 29, 317-320 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.465; relatively precarious state of conservation, a side torn currency.

Archaeological data: 14.07.2011, stratigraphical wall S3-S7 (expansion-expropriation), C 40, at - 1.00 / - 1.25 m, in the filling above the paving stone (4 coins).

55. AE3; 12h; 2.72 g; 19.5 × 18.5 mm.

*Iovi Conservatori* type, in exergual **SM[?][?]**, 321-324 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.505; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 28.06.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8; the area has debris and stone tiles; from - 0.40 / - 0.50 m.

### Constantinus II Caesar

56. AE3; 12h; 3.46 g; 19.5 mm.

*Providentiae Caes* type, in the exergue **MNT**, Nikomedia mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 26, no. 1097, first period, 324-330 A.D.; RIC, VII, 621, no. 127, 325-326 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.507; good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 12.07.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, stratigraphical wall S3-S7, C 40, N 3 (?), at - 1.00 / - 1.10 m, with *fibulae*.

### Constantinus I

57. AE3; 12h; 2.47 g; 19.5 × 18.5 mm.

*Providentiae Avgg* type, a point in the field, on the left and in the exergue **SMTSA**, Thessaloniki mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 20, no. 830, 324-330 A.D.; RIC, VII, 518, no. 154, 326-328 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.528; very good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, S7-S8, extending westward after removing the baulk between the archaeological trenches, at - 0.20 / - 0.35 m.

58. AE3; 6h; 2.85 g; 17 × 16.5 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus (2st)* type, in the exergue **SMHA**, Heraclea mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 22, no. 904, second period, 330-335 A.D.; RIC, VII, 558, no. 116, 330-333 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.495; good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 24.06.2011, baulk S3-S7, extending west, - 0.70 m, leveling N3 (*terminus post quem* N2).

### Caesar Constantius II

59. AE3; 7h; 2.16 g; 19 × 16.5 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus (2st)* type, in the exergue **CONSO**, Constantinople workshop.

Reference: LRBC, I, 24, no. 1019, II period, A.D 330-335 years; RIC, VII, 582, no. 82, a. 333-335 (unlisted officinale).

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.502; very good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, stratigraphical wall between S5-S9, on the median axis of the road, at - 0.35 / - 0.40 m (with debris from S9).



**Constantinus I**

60. AE3; 6h; 1.68 g; 18 × 16.5 mm.

*Urbs Roma* type, in the exergue **SMKA**, Cyzicus mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 28, no. 1248, second period, 330-335 A.D.; RIC, VII, 657, no. 105, 332-333 A.D., or 335 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.485; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8, *passim*.

61. AE3; 11h; 1.86 g; 17 × 16 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (2st) type, in the exergue **SMNA**, Nikomedia mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 26, no. 1117, second period, 330-335 A.D.; RIC, VII, 633, no. 188, 330-335 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.478; relatively poor state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 11.07.2011, extending expropriation to the west, south of S8, at - 0.70 / - 0.80 m near rock debris, at the limit of C41.

62. AE3; 6h; 2.02 g; 19 × 18 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (2st) type, in exergual **SMTSA**, Thessaloniki mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 20, no. 835 or no. 840, second period, 330-335 A.D.; RIC, VII, 524, no. 183, 330-333 A.D. or 526, no. 198, 335-336 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.496; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 15.07.2011, G 210.

63. AE3; 12h; 2.24 g; 18 × 17.5 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (2st) type, in exergue [...] **MK** [...], Cyzicus mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 28, second period, 330-335 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.499; relatively poor state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 19.07.2011, C 40, *passim*, at - 1.20 / - 1.50 m.

64. AE3; 6h; 2.87 g; 18.5 × 17.5 mm.

*Constantinopolis* type, Victoria on the prow, in the exergue **SMKA**, Cyzicus mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 28, no. 1233, second period, 330-335 A.D.; RIC, VII, 656, no. 92, or 331, 333-334 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.523; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, southward extension of the S8, at - 0.25 / - 0.40 m.

65. AE3; 6h; 1.88 g; 17 × 16.5 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (2st) type, in the exergue **CONSA**, Constantinople mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 24, no. 1005, second period, 330-335 A.D.; RIC, VII, 579, no. 59, 330-333 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.498; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, above 205 G, after removing the remaining wall, at - 0.60 / - 0.80 m.

66. AE3; 12h; 1.63 g; 18 × 17.5 mm.

*Urbs Roma* type, in the exergue **SMKA**, Cyzicus mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 28, no. 1248, second period, 330-335 A.D.; RIC, VII, 657, no. 105, 332-333 A.D., 335 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.484; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 15.07.2011, baulk S7-S8, extension (expropriation) west above the C39, at - 0.20 / - 0.25 m.

67. AE3; 12h; 1.46 g; 16 × 16.5 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (2st) type, in the exergue [...] S [...], 330-336 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.508; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 12.07.2011, extension (expropriation) west stratigraphical wall S3-S7, C 40, N 3 (?), at - 1.00 / - 1.10 m, with *fibulae*.

### Constantius II Caesar

68. AE4; 12h; 2.04 g; 19 × 17.5 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (1st) type, in the exergue **SMKS**, Cyzicus mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 29, no. 1265, third period, 335-337 A.D.; RIC, VII, 659, no. 126, 336-337 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83,500; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 14.07.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8, *passim* after scrape profile.

### Constans

69. AE4; 6h; 1.56 g; 15.5 × 14.5 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (1st) type, in the exergue **SMKT**, Cyzicus mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 29, no. 1283, third b period, 337-339 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 490, no. 18, Group I, 337-340 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.534; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, S7-S8, westward expansion (after removing the stratigraphical wall of the sections), at - 0.20 / - 0.35 m.

### Constantinus I, posthumous

70. AE4, 6h; 1.44 g; 15.5 mm.

*Quadriga* type, in exergual **SMKT**, Cyzicus mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 29, no. 1273, third b period, 337-339 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 490, Group I, 337-340 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.527; very good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, S7-S8, westward expansion (after removing the baulk between the trenches), at - 0.20 / - 0.35 m.

### Constantius II

71. AE4; 5h; 1.40 g; 14 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (1st) type, in exergual **[S]MH [?]**, Heraclea mint.

Reference: RIC, VIII, 431, no. 20, 337-340 A.D.

Note: we suggest the Heraclea workshop considering the association of the bust type with the obverse legend: *CONSTAN / [T] IVS AVG*.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.535; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, S7-S8, westward expansion (after removing the baulk between the trenches), at - 0.20 / - 0.35 m.

72. AE4; 12h; 1.18 g; 14.5 × 13 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (1st) type.

Reference: RIC, VIII, 431, no. 23 or 472, no. 21, 337-340 A.D.

Note: Heraclea or Nikomedea (based on the representation variant of the head tiara, in association with the legend obverse).

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.501; very good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 23.06.2011, baulk S3-S7 (V) in the ancient vegetal layer (in the west part of the baulk).

73. AE4; 12h; 1.57 g; 14 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (1st) type, eastern mint, 337-341 A.D.

Note: *the workshop can originate from Propontida after the version of the shared legend on the reverse.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.497; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 23.06.2011, baulk S3-S7 on the third century level, III, at - 0.30 m in the western part of the baulk.

74. AE4; 6h; 1.08 g; 14 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (1st) type, 337-341 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.532; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 24.06.2011, baulk S3-S7, extending west, - 0.20 / - 0.30 m.

75. AE4; 11h; 0.60 g; 14 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (1st) type, eastern mint, 337-341 A.D.

Note: *we propose an Eastern workshop (Propontida), based on the bust variant, in association with the legend of the obverse.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.520; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, southward extension in the S8, at - 0.25 / - 0.40 m.

76. AE4; 6h; 0.79 g; 16 mm.

*Gloria Exercitus* (1st) type, in exergual S [...], 337-341 A.D.

Note: *the item shows double striking, visible on the reverse.*

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.518; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, southward extension in the S8, at - 0.25 / - 0.40 m.

**Constantinus I**, posthumous

77. AE4; 5h; 1.58 g; 17 × 14.5 mm.

VN / MR type, in exergual SMNΔ, Nikomedea mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 27, no. 1148 fourth period, 341-346 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 474, no. 48, group II, 347-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.516; relatively good state of preservation, but fragmented currency.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, baulk between S3-S7, the west end, at - 0.15 / - 0.20 m, N1?.

78. AE4; 6h; 1.31 g; 14 × 13 mm.

VN / MR type, 341-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.531; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 24.06.2011, baulk S3-S7, extending west, - 0.20 / - 0.30 m.

**Constantius II**

79. AE4; 10h; 0.98 g; 14 mm.

*Vote XX Mvlt XXX* type, 341-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.509; relatively poor state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, baulk S3-S7, the west end (extension), at - 0.30 / - 0.35 m, N1.

**Constantius II and Constans**

80. AE4; 12h; 0.78 g; 14 mm.

*Vote XX Mvlt XXX* type, in exergual **CON**, Constantinople mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 25, no. 1064, general type, fourth period, 341-346 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 453, no. 69, general type, group II, 347-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.466; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 28.06.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8; area with debris and stone tiles, at - 0.40 / - 0.50 m.

**Constantius II**

81. AE4; 5h; 1.56 g; 15 × 14 mm.

*Vote XX Mvlt XXX* type, on the right of the monetary field, Alexandria mint.

Reference: LRBC, I -, according 33, no. 1481, fourth period, 341-346 A.D., but Constans; RIC, VIII, 541, no. 39, group II, 347-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.487; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 15.07.2011, baulk S7-S8, extension (expropriation) westward, above the reddish filling that seals 39 C in N2, at - 0.60 m, in the western profile.

**Constans**

82. AE4; 10h; 1.01 g; 14 mm.

*Vote XX Mvlt XXX* type, in exergual **CONSE**, Constantinople mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 25, no. 1065, fourth period, 341-346 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 453, no. 70, group II, 347-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.467; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 28.06.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8; area with debris and stone tiles, at - 0.40 / - 0.50 m.

83. AE4; 12h; 1.63 g; 14.5 × 13.5 mm.

*Vote XX Mvlt XXX* type, in the exergue **SMN [A?]**, Nikomedia mint.

Reference: LRBC, I, 27, no. 1150, fourth period, 341-346 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 475, no. 51, group II, 347-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.533; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, S7-S8, westward expansion (after removing the baulk between the trenches), at - 0.20 / - 0.35 m.

**Constantius II**

84. AE4; 12h; 1.22 g; 15 × 14 mm.

*Vote XX Mvlt XXX* type, 341-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.514; very good state of preservation.

Archaeological data; 21.06.2011, western end of the baulk between S5 and S9, at - 0.20 / - 0.30 m.

**Constantius II?**

85. AE4; 12h; 1.75 g; 14 × 13.5 mm.

*Vote XX Mvlt XXX* type, 341-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.526; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 19.07.2011, extension (expropriation) south-west of S8, after removing the debris next to 61 C (south), at - 0.80 / - 0.90 m.

**Constantius II**

86. AE3; 10h; 1.58 g; 19 × 17 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio (FH3)* type, in the field, left the sign of **Officina B**, and in the exergual **SMTS**, Thessaloniki mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 78, no. 1681, 351-354 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 419, no. 189, group III, 350-355 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.513; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data; 21.06.2011, western end of the baulk between S5 and S9, at - 0.20 / - 0.30 m.

87. AE3; 6h; 2.76 g; 17 × 16 mm.

*Fel Temp Type Reparatio (FH3?)*, in the lower part of the monetary field, in the middle part, above the exergue, Constantinople mint ?

Reference: LRBC, II, 87, no. 2043, 351-354 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 458, no. 121, group II, 351-355 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.525; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 19.07.2011, extension (expropriation) south-west of S8, after removing the debris next to C61 (south), at - 0.80 / - 0.90 m.

**Constantius Gallus Caesar**

88. AE2; fragmentary; 12h; 2.58 g; 20 × 17 mm.

*Fel Temp Type Reparatio (FH)* type, **Officina Δ** behind the bust, Constantinople mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 86, no. 2031, 351-354 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 457, no. 110, Group II, 351-354 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.529; very precarious state of conservation, fragmentary currency.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, S7-S8, extending westward after removing the baulk between the trenches, at - 0.20 / - 0.35 m.

**Constantius Gallus**

89. AE3; 4h; 2.43 g; 19 × 19.5 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio (FH3)* type, in the exergue **SMHB**, Heraclea mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 83, no. 1901, 351-354 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 436, no. 91, group III, 351-355 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.494; relatively good state of preservation, even if fragmentary.

Archaeological data: 15.07.2011, S7 (expansion westwards), N1 (?), at - 0.35 / - 0.40 m in the western profile.

### Constantius II

90. AE3; 11h; 1.90 g; 17 × 15.5 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH3) type, 354-358 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.490; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 11.07.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8, leveling C 41?, at - 0.90 m.

91. AE3; 10h; 2.33 g; 16.5 × 16 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH) type, in exergual **SM** [...], 354-358 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.522; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, southward extension of the S8, at - 0.25 / - 0.40 m.

92. AE3; 12h; 1.90 g; 16 × 14.5 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH) type, 354-358 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.510; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, baulk S3-S7, the west end (extension), at - 0.30 / - 0.35 m, N1.

93. AE3; 9h; 1.64 g; 16.5 × 14.5 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH3) type, 354-358 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.511; precarious state of conservation, cut currency.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, S5 expansion to the west, to the east of the wall, in the debris at - 0.15 m.

94. AE3; 12h; 2.66 g; 19 × 17.5 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH3) type, in the exergue [...]**SI[R?]**[...], Sirmium mint?, 354-358 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.524; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 19.07.2011, extension (expropriation) south-west of S8, after removing the debris next to C61 (south), at - 0.80 / - 0.90 m.

95. AE3; 12h; 2.67 g; 17 × 16.5 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH3) type, in exergual **SM** [**K**] [?], Cyzicus mint.

Reference: LRBC II, 97, no. 2502, 355-361 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 499, no. 115, series I, 355-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.425; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 28.06. 2011 extension (expropriation) south west of S8, the area with debris and stone tiles, at - 0.40 / - 0.50 m (2 coins).

96. AE3; 6h; 1.58 g; 16 × 17.5 mm.

*Fel Temp Type Reparatio* (FH3) type, in the exergue **R crown Q**, Rome mint.

Reference: LRBC II, 60, no. 687, 355-361 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 278, no. 309, 355-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.515; precarious state of conservation, fragmentary currency.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, baulk S3-S7, the west end, at - 0.15 / - 0.20 m, N1?

97. AE3; 9h; 1.55 g; 15.5 mm.

*Fel Temp Type Reparatio* (FH4) type, in the exergue **A [N] [?] I**, Antioch mint?

Reference: LRBC, II, 100, no. 2634, 351-354 A.D. or no. 2635, 355-361 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 524, no. 155, series III, 350-355 A.D. or 528, no. 188, Group I, 355-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.492; relatively poor state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, baulk S5-S9, at - 0.15 / - 0.20 m near the house with stone walls.

98. AE3; 12h; 1.72 g; 17.5 × 16 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH4) type, on the left, in the monetary field **M**, in the exergue **AN[A?]**, Antioch mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 100, no. 2637, 355-361 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 528, no. 191, Group I, 355-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.477; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 11.07.2011, expropriation (expansion) westward south of S8, at - 0.70 / - 0.80 m near the rock debris at the limit of C41.

99. AE3; 6h; 1.78 g; 16.5 × 16 mm.

*Spes Reipublicae* type, in exergue **BSI [...]**, Siscia mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 71, 355-361 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 378, 355-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.488; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, G174, under the baulk S6-S5.

100. AE3; 9h; 2.67 g; 16 × 16.5 mm.

*Fel Temp reparatio* (FH3) type, in the top left of the monetary field. \*, 356-358 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.491; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 15.07.2011 witness S7-S8, extension (expropriation west) above the yellow levelling of C39, at - 0.45 m in the western profile.

101. AE3; 6h; 1.62 g; 14.5 × 14 mm.

*Spes Reipublicae* type, 358-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.489; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 07.07.2011, baulk S5 / S9, the east end, after removing the debris, at - 0.35 / - 0.40 m, house with "tiles" C 38.

### **Julianus Caesar**

102. AE3; 11h; 2.13 g; 15.5 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH3) type, in the field, on the left **M**, in the exergue **ALE**, Alexandria mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 103, no. 2849, 355-361 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 545, no. 85, Group I, 355-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.468; relatively poor state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 28.06.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8; area with debris and stone tiles, at - 0.40 / - 0.50 m.

### **Valens**

103. AE3; 6h; 2.00 g; 15.5 mm.

*Gloria Romanorum* (8) type, 364-378 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.503; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 07.07.2011, extension (expropriation) west of the S5, S9 and baulk S5 / S9 and S9 / S3 (after removing the debris), at - 0.20 / - 0.80 m.

### Valentinianus I

104. AE3; 2h; 1.67 g; 19.5 × 17.5 mm.

*Gloria Romanorum* (8) type, in the exergue .**FSISC**, Siscia mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 72, no. 1275, 364-367 A.D.; RIC, IX, 146, no. 5 (a) / ii, first period, 364-367 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.506; precarious state of conservation, a damaged and partially folded item.

Archaeological data: 28.06.2011, extension (expropriation) to the west, south of S8; he area has debris and stone tiles; from - 0.40 / - 0.50 m.

### Theodosius I

105. AE4; 11h; 0.95 g; 12.5 mm.

*Salvs Reipublicae* (2) type, in the exergue **CON[S][?]**, Constantinople mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 89, no. 2184, 383-392 A.D. or no. 2192, 393-395 A.D.; RIC, IX, 234, no. 86 (b), 388-392 A.D. or 236, no. 90 (a), 392-395 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.512; mediocre state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, S5 expansion to the west, east of the wall, in debris, at - 1.15 m.

### Zeno (476-491)

106. AE4; *nummus*; 6h; 0.81 g; 8.5 × 9 mm.

Reference: RIC, X, 314, monogram 1, Constantinople mint?

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.517; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, baulk between S3-S7, the west end, at - 0.15 / -0.20 m, N1?.

### Unspecified

107. AE4; 6h; 1.98 g; 14 mm.

*Vote XX Mvlt XXX* type, 341-348 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.521; precarious state of conservation.

Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, southward extension in the S8, at - 0.25 / - 0.40 m

108. AE3; ?; 2.15 g; 15.5 × 16 mm.

*Fel Temp Reparatio (FH)* type, 354-358 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.493; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: 21.06.2011, SL, km. 8840-8880, extension N-S6, - 0.15 m, ground level.

109. AE3 / 4; ?; 1.80 g; 12.5 × 13.5 mm.

*Secvritas Reipublicae* (?), fourth century A.D. (364-378?).

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.504; very precarious conservation status.

Archaeological data: 07.07.2011, extension (expropriation) west of the S5, S9 and baulk S5 / S9 and S9 / S3 (after removing the debris), at - 0.20 / - 0.80 m.

110. AE3; 12h; 1.26 g; 14 × 15.5 mm.

*Concordia Avggg* type, on the right side of the monetary field **O**, in the exergue **SMRQ**, Rome mint.



Reference: LRBC, II, 61, no. 757-759, 378-383 A.D.; RIC, IX, 126-127, no. 46 (a-c), 378-383 A.D.  
Inventory no. MINAC: 83.519; relatively good state of preservation, but fragmented currency.  
Archaeological data: 22.06.2011, southward extension in the S8, at - 0.25 / - 0.40 m.

#### IV. The Byzantine Empire

##### Justin II

1. AE; *folles*; 6h; 13.20 g; 29.5 × 28.5 mm

Reference: MIB II, 98, no. 46 (a) or 46 (b), Nikomedia mint, officine **B**, year 6, 570-571 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.472; relatively good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 07.07.2011, westward extension, *passim* S5, S9, S3 and baulks, at - 0.20 / - 0.30 m.

##### Treasure (4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.)

##### Constantius II

2. AE3; 5h; 1.98 g; 16.5 × 16 mm.

*Spes Reipublicae* type, in exergue CON[S][...], Constantinople mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 87, no. 2053, 355-361 A.D.; RIC, VIII, 461, no. 149 or 151, 355-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.481; poor state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, burnt area (burnt floor?) near the pavement C2, at - 0.70 / - 0.80 m, near the pit lined with stones.

3. AE3; 12h; 1.60 g; 16.5 mm.

*Spes Reipublicae* type, 358-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.482; poor state of preservation, burnt item.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, burnt area (burnt floor?) near the pavement C2, at - 0.70 / - 0.80 m, near the pit lined with stones.

4. AE3; 12h; 1.40 g; 12 × 12.5 mm.

*Spes Reipublicae* type, 358-361 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.483; poor state of preservation, burnt item.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, burnt area (burnt floor?) near the pavement C2, at - 0.70 / - 0.80 m, near the pit lined with stones.

##### Valentinianus I

5. AE3; 1h; 2.54 g; 18 × 17 mm.

*Secvritas Reipublicae* type, in exergue ΔSISC, Siscia mint.

Reference: LRBC, II, 72, no. 1277, 364-367 A.D.; RIC, IX, 146, no. 7 (a)ii, period I, 364-367 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.479; very good state of preservation.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, burnt area (burnt floor?) near the pavement C2, at - 0.70 / - 0.80 m, near the pit lined with stones.

**Valens (?)**

6. AE3; 6h; 2.37 g; 14.5 × 13.5 mm.

*Gloria Romanorum* (8) type, 364-378 A.D.

Inventory no. MINAC: 83.480; poor state of preservation, burnt item.

Archaeological data: 08.07.2011, burnt area (burnt floor?) near the pavement C2, at - 0.70 / - 0.80 m, near the pit lined with stones.

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For the period between the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., the analysis of the monetary finds in the Roman Dobrogea suggests the existence of several distinct chronological phases of monetary circulation<sup>3</sup>. Among the items present in the catalogue can be seen a consistent bulk of provincial monetary issues dating from the Roman period, struck until 294 A.D., imperial Greek ones<sup>4</sup> (31.03% of all coins in the catalogue and 80% of the total issued until the year 294 A.D. along with the monetary reform during Diocletianus), as well as central imperial issues. Those belonging to the last category are reduced in number (nine items), representing 20% from the total of 45 coins indexed for the period between 31 B.C. and 294 A.D.<sup>5</sup>. In this category, we mention coins originating from the time of the emperors Caligula, Septimius Severus (for Julia Domna), Gallienus, Aurelianus and Tetricus (an exception as a place of issue, being probably from Gallia).

These items do not seem to play an important role on the local market, maybe not even in Tomis, as they are only discreetly accompanying the colonial bronze coins in circulation at that time.

From the perspective of the present catalogue, we can state that there is a clear supremacy in the number of the provincial imperial items for the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries A.D. The same phenomenon was observed, in statistical terms, province-wide, and in the other Roman provinces in the east<sup>6</sup>. Moreover, the use of central or senatorial monetary fund seems to be valid only for the period 96-192 A.D. Subsequently, between 193-235 A.D., the provincial bronze currency registers in use a majority and even exclusivity<sup>7</sup>. Although discovered mainly in the territory under the Roman influence, the provincial imperial coins are included in the monetary circulation outside these well individualized areas as well, showing, from case to case, within the

<sup>3</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu, Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2000, 408; Vertan 2002, 27; Talmațchi 2005-2006, 369.

<sup>4</sup> For the last variant see Jones 1963; Butcher 1988; Burnett, Amandry, Ripolles 1998, 1-48.

<sup>5</sup> We excluded from the specific analysis of specific of the sec. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., the issued copy for Diocletianus because it integrates in the stage between 294-307, entering with other words at the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

<sup>6</sup> Iacob 2013, 189-190.

<sup>7</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu, Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2000, 408, 416; Iacob 2004, 241.

monetary dynamics, mobility and openness in the transactions of the era, in accordance with the economical, monetary and fiscal mechanisms. Their presence in the archaeological finds reflect the interest which the issuing centres had in solving specific financial problems on the internal and regional markets, namely the creation of small bronze cash required in the proper conduct of commercial transactions of low local importance<sup>8</sup>. The geographical distribution, the movement of people and the commercial activities have directly influenced the circuit of these provincial imperial currencies. In the catalogue as numerical values for the provincial imperial currencies we retain the following (Fig. 2): *assarion* in a rate of 5.56%, 2 *assarion* in a rate of 16.67%, 3 *assarion* in a rate of 2.78% and 4 *assarion* in a rate of 36.11%<sup>9</sup>.

The end of the provincial mints was linked to a general phenomenon due to their shutdown in Orient, by suppressing the official, progressive and non-directive provincial bronze coins in response to the many financial problems experienced by the Roman Empire in the middle of the third century A.D.<sup>10</sup>

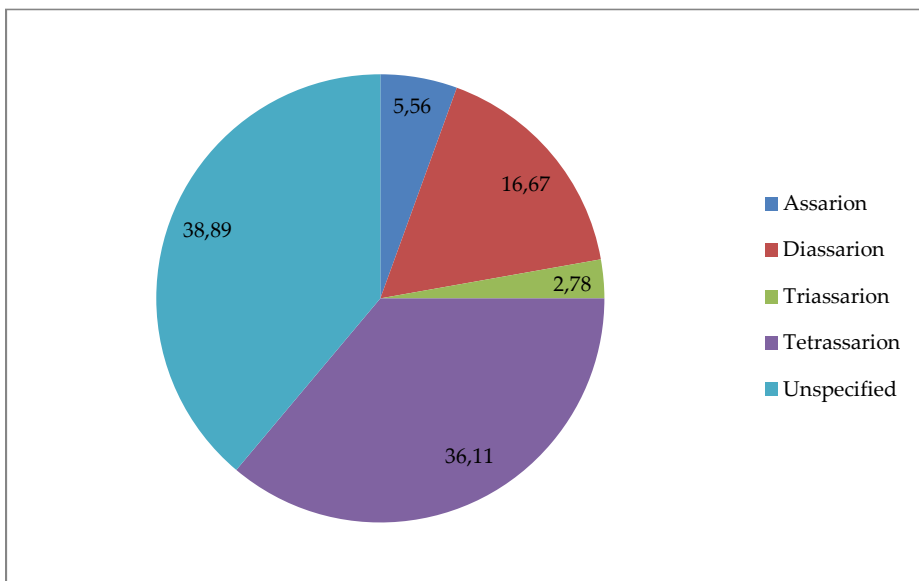


Fig. 2. The share of denominations within the provincial imperial coins in the local circulation.

Returning to the first category of coins we notice, on one hand, the *ace* beaten in Rome for Agrippa under the rule of Caligula. Its presence can only be incidental or we can integrate it to a phenomenon that, in certain contexts (and the rural one favors this),

<sup>8</sup> Iacob 2004, 241.

<sup>9</sup> Pieces with an unspecified value reach a percentage of 38.89%.

<sup>10</sup> Callu 1975, 596-598; Schönert-Geiss 1968; Iacob 2004, 235.

was maintained, respectively older items were put into circulation. On the other hand, we notice the four antoniniens that were issued for Aurelianus and Severina, the issue for Tetricus I as well. The reign of Aurelian is known at Tomis as well as in the rest of the province as one of imperial authority involvement, military and administrative organization. The reconstruction of imperial roads, the enlargement of armed forces and, in particular, the starting time of the raise of the inside wall in the city of Tomis are just a few pieces of the archaeologically documented information indicating that favorable conditions have been created for the restoration of the economical and monetary life after a period of distress<sup>11</sup>. One of the issued antoniniens for Aurelianus (no. 42 in the catalog) presents a striking error, more exactly there is an item with a visible effect on the reverse where a portion of the emperor's bust appears deepened in the area of certain letters from the legend.

The issue for Tetricus is an imitation of a prototype known in the numismatic literature, probably made in Trier. Emperor Gaius Esuvius Tetricus Pius reigned in the years 271-273 and was the successor of Victorinus to the throne of the Gallic Empire (*imperium Galliarum*), being recognized only in Britain and Gaul<sup>12</sup>. From the indexed data so far we have not encountered any monetary finds of this emperor in the present Romanian space. There are instead known, in the same area, two issues of his son, Tetricus II (273-274 A.D.), the last emperor of the mentioned empire.

The first find, another Antoninian imitation, was made within the locality Gherla (the county of Cluj), in a Roman settlement with great military importance<sup>13</sup>. The second discovery, an Antoninian, comes from Ulmeni (Călărași county), from the surroundings of the village, on a low terrace of the Danube<sup>14</sup>. The cause of penetration of these rare specimens can be assigned to the intense military activity conducted in the Lower Danube during the seventh decade of the third century A.D., as demonstrated by the bulk of other isolated monetary finds or treasures from this period<sup>15</sup>.

The catalogue includes a large number of Greek Imperial issues. Six mints are present, distributed as follows in the two provinces: Moesia Inferior with Istros, Callatis, Tomis, Nikopolis ad Istrum and Markianopolis, respectively Thrace and Byzantium (Fig. 3).

The workshop activity of Tomis is very well known, very rich and starting early in the Roman period, with the age of Augustus. With a small break under the Emperors

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<sup>11</sup> Buzoianu, Bărbulescu 2012, 50.

<sup>12</sup> Lafaurie 1975, 853-1012; Drinkwater 1987; Bland, Burnett 1988; Bland 2012.

<sup>13</sup> Ardevan 1993, 113, 115, 119, table II; Găzdac 2002, 577; Petac 2010, 291, no. 349.

<sup>14</sup> Preda 1981, 242, no. 8; Sîrbu, Oța, Vilcu, Neagu, Oprea 2014, 143, 149.

<sup>15</sup> Petac 2010, 201-202; for the thesaurus from Mangalia discovered in 1960 and the military context of the period to see Preda 1996, 27-41.

Macrinus and Diadumenianus, the mint issues currency until the rule of Philippus II, inclusively, when because of serious military events it suddenly ceases its activity.

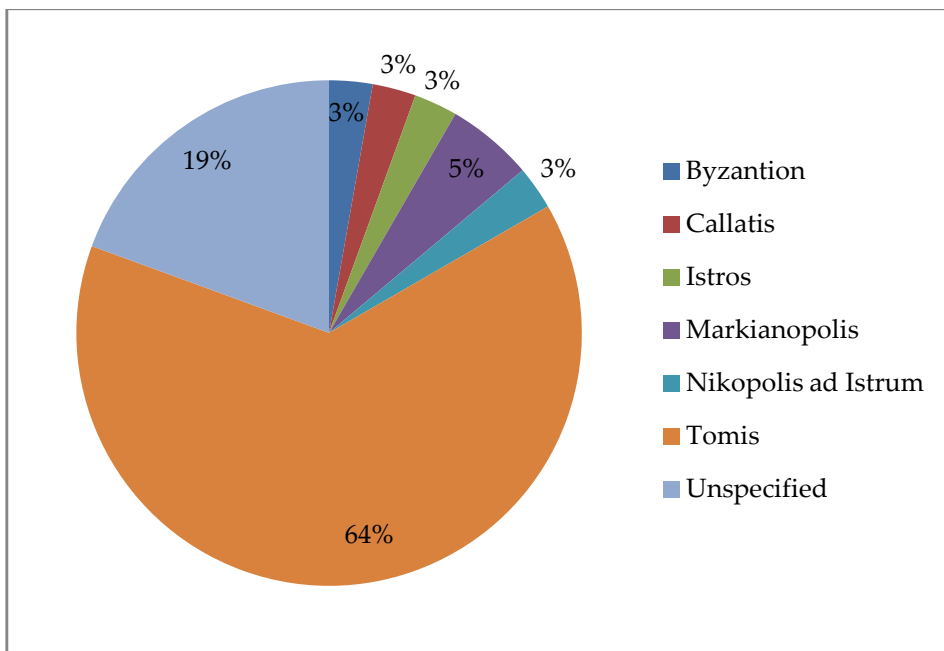


Fig. 3. The share of the provincial imperial mints in the local circulation.

Based on a statistic dating from almost a decade and a half ago there were known 1.128 issues of Tomis, representing 33% of the Moesian issues during 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries A.D.<sup>16</sup>. Also, the workshop of Tomis had the most important and constant activity on the Western-Pontus Euxinus coast. The coins minted in the city of Tomis originally held only the etnicon of Tomis, later being printed the title of the metropolis of the left Pontus. The "colonial" issues struck at Tomis, as we already know from the literature, and as we can see in the present group, are many and varied in terms of iconography<sup>17</sup>. Their discovery in such a relevant percentage in comparison with other finds is a normal fact for a settlement located not only in that particular *chora* but even at a few kilometers distance in a straight line from the Tomis metropolis. These finds confirm the high volume of coins issued in relation to other geographically neighboring colonies. However, considering the statistical studies up to the present moment, the workshop of Tomis dominates the finds made in the rural provincial area

<sup>16</sup> Iacob 2003, 325.

<sup>17</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu, Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2000, 410.

of Dobrogea<sup>18</sup>. An interesting fact is that the monetary circulation of those items issued in Tomis is not only impressive in the territory of influence of the Greek city, but also outside it, in the province and beyond<sup>19</sup>.

Returning to the present catalogue, a total of 23 items from Tomis can be identified, to which another one could possibly be added (at present as unspecified), and five countermarked printed coins considered as belonging to the authorities of Tomis without knowing whether they were even issued by the local workshop (a total percentage of 63.88% of the total of colonial coins in the catalogue). However, it must be taken into account their circulation on the local money market in a particular historical moment. The 23 coins (21 of which show the effigy of the emperor on the obverse) are issued for Trajan (1 ex.), Marcus Aurelius Caesar (1 ex.), Commodus (4 ex.), Septimius Severus (2 ex.), Julia Domna (1 ex.), Geta Caesar (2 ex.), Caracalla (3 ex.), Geta Augustus (1 ex.), Elagabalus (1 ex.) Severus Alexander (4 ex.) and Gordianus III (1 ex.). The last items from our list, but not from the chronological perspective, are two issues with the mythical eponymous hero *Tomos*. They do not have the actual monetary imperial effigy<sup>20</sup>, and their relatively small size perhaps betray their destination for petty cash money for monetary circulation on the local market, from the city of Tomis and its territory of influence. They belong to the last group or subgroup of such known issues, being issued during the reign of the emperors Elagabalus and Alexander Severus<sup>21</sup>.

Returning to the specified list, the coins minted for Traian are poor in what regards the iconographic range, showing mainly a certain standard "model"<sup>22</sup>. At the time of Antoninus Pius coins were issued for the heir to the throne, Marcus Aurelius Caesar, a large number of such finds being known today as a phenomenon of crossing dies<sup>23</sup>. For the emperor Commodus, the mint issued monetary issues of different values like *tetrassaria*, *triasaria* and *diassaria*<sup>24</sup>. As variants of the types known for Commodus we retain at the coin no. 5 in the catalog the reading of the legend on the reverse from top right in the monetary field; at no. 7 according the identification of the obverse with reference to Regling 1910 at no. 2716, and for the reverse at no. 2717; and at no. 8 the legend on the obverse seems to be unique and can be a partial transcript in Greek of the emperor's title on the imperial coins of the years 181-183 A.D. For the period of emperor

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<sup>18</sup> Iacob 2004, grafic 9; Iacob 2013, 191.

<sup>19</sup> Iacob 2013, 185.

<sup>20</sup> About the use of this term to see Johnston 1985; Butcher 1988, 29-31; Iacob 2004, 213.

<sup>21</sup> Iacob 2003, 290-291.

<sup>22</sup> See Iacob 2003, 296, according to Regling 1910, 2600-2603.

<sup>23</sup> Iacob 2003, 298-299.

<sup>24</sup> Iacob 2003, 300-302.

Septimius Severus and his wife Julia Domna, the numismatic record retains a varied number of obverse and reverse dies, as isolated finds and part of treasures<sup>25</sup>. The issues for Geta follow the evolution of his *cursus honorum*, from *Caesar*, to the *Imperator* and then *Augustus*. Those for Caracalla open for a period known to have increased the volume of coins struck (as in the case of Elagabalus), as demonstrated by the coin finds, multiplying the sample molds for the obverse and reverse, those iconography-related and of legend<sup>26</sup>. The number of isolated finds (as well as in treasures) of the coins issued for Alexander Severus Alexander is among the highest, and new types compared to the corpus of K. Regling are numerous, the crossings of punches, as well<sup>27</sup>. His issues occupy an important percentage in the category of provincial coins struck at Tomis and generally in the analysed collection of provincial coins. They end an important stage of the mint of Tomis, of amplitude and high volume in relation to the issues, and not least, their iconographic and technical quality. After the dynasty of the Severs, the city still strike currency until the time of Philippus II. In our catalogue, for the mentioned period, we have a single item (4 *Assaria*) issued for Gordianus III. It (no. 25 in the catalogue) presents at the legend on the reverse the letters M and H, respectively  $\Omega$  and C each in ligature. The coins issued by the mint of Tomis for this emperor reach the highest quota in volume of all known local provincial issues. Only those with the representation of the emperor alone reach over 140 issues<sup>28</sup>. The issue in the catalogue is of a 3 *Assaria*, one of the most common issues struck for the emperor. We do not have any coin from the last period when Tomis issues currency, more exactly from the time of Philippus I and II. Besides this, the number of issues reduces significantly compared to the previous period due to the historical, economical and military context. This may explain the absence of the two emperors from the list of finds made at Tomis, from the archeologically researched site that is in the city's area of influence, however known the fact that there is a significant reduction in the number of coins issued from the previous period. On the other hand, the discovery of all these coins struck by Tomis confirms their circulation mainly in the rural areas, especially in the coastal and central-eastern part of Tomis and Callatis, being less present in the northern and southern extremes of Dobrogea<sup>29</sup>.

A relatively small number of provincial coins (5 items, i.e. 4.31 % of all coins in the catalog and 13.88 % of the colonial ones) presents some countermarks, all having

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<sup>25</sup> Iacob 2003, 303-305.

<sup>26</sup> Iacob 2003, 306-308, 310-311.

<sup>27</sup> Iacob 2003, 312-315.

<sup>28</sup> Regling 1910, no. 3363-3507; Ruzicka 1917, 3406a, 3406b, 3410 a, 3438a, 3458a, 3464, a 3501a.

<sup>29</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu, Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2000, 415, map no. 2; Iacob 2003, 325.

either more letters that make up an abbreviated legend or a numeral value<sup>30</sup>. Thus, we mention the **TOM** and **TPA** legends, respectively **B**. They are present either as a imprinted one (no. 28, 31) or two on the same flan of those copies (no. 27, 29-30). **TOM** and **TPA** legends were thought to come from the Tomis colony. If the countermarked **TOM** item is only guessed to have been punched in that mint<sup>31</sup>, the **TPA** one could have been printed in the mint of Tomis sometime under the reign of Emperors Trajan or Hadrian<sup>32</sup>. We also retain the assignment of this countermark to this period at the end of Nerva's reign until the early part of Trajan's reign, expressing "a period of austerity probably related to the Dacian wars"<sup>33</sup>. All these coins were countermarked with the local mint marks to revalidate their value (nomination and denomination) and recognition in the local market under an approved authority, to overcome a petty currency shortage period. It is very possible, in the provincial context, that the presence of two countermarks on one of the coin flans, which were juxtaposed, have been punched almost simultaneously, or pretty soon one after another, together having a relevant significance<sup>34</sup>. Regarding the numeral value **B** (2 *assaria*) contained in a rectangular cartridge, its presence is attributed to the same colony of Tomis<sup>35</sup>, dated beyond its membership to the imperial Roman colonial period alongside the **TOM** countermark, according to an old opinion, probably the reign of emperors Elagabalus-Septimius Severus<sup>36</sup>. However, countermarks **TOM** and **B** appear to have entered in the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. A.D, more precisely in the era of Marcus Aurelius<sup>37</sup>.

The Roman Histria mint enjoyed the same early onset as that of Tomis, in the time of Augustus. However, there was a clear *caesura* from this emperor until Antoninus Pius as far as the strike of other issues were concerned: the richest period being observed during the dynasty of the Severs<sup>38</sup>. The indexed data regarding the monetary discoveries indicate a strong presence of histrian items in Northern Dobrogea and along coastline<sup>39</sup>. The only Histrian coin present in the catalog is issued for Julia Domna (2.77% of total colonial coins in the catalog). In a study published in

<sup>30</sup> Howgego 1982-1983, 52-54 where it is given much information on the behavior, operation and forms of denomination made through the process of countermarking especially in the provincial imperial mints.

<sup>31</sup> Gerasimov 1946, 77; Howgego 1985, 217, no. 567, plate 22, no. 567.

<sup>32</sup> Howgego 1985, 217, nr. 569, plate 22, no. 569.

<sup>33</sup> Isvoranu 2012, 590.

<sup>34</sup> Howgego 1985, 11.

<sup>35</sup> Regling 1910, 615; Gerasimov 1946, 78; Howgego 1985, 261, no. 751, plate 28, no. 751.

<sup>36</sup> Regling 1910, 673, no. 2575.

<sup>37</sup> Isvoranu 2012, 591.

<sup>38</sup> Iacob 2013, 179.

<sup>39</sup> Iacob 2013, 182.



2000, based on a statistical sample of finds from Dobrogea, it was determined a quasi-total domination of the nominal *pentassaria* type issued by this center, as against the following two centers, Callatis and Markianopolis<sup>40</sup>.

The Callatian workshop strikes the first imperial provincial issues under Emperor Nero, as for a smooth issuance to show only from Antoninus Pius on<sup>41</sup>. It ceases its activity under Philippus II<sup>42</sup>. Overall, the evidence of coin finds supports the view of the circulation of these items within the area of influence of the city<sup>43</sup>. The Callatian mint is present with a single coin of Herakles type, an issue that lacks an imperial effigy (2.77% of total colonial coins in the catalogue). This seems to belong to a third group of specimens in this type of classification, according to a recent study, and the dating of these specimens seems to belong to a period after 150 A.D., until the time of Commodus<sup>44</sup>.

These first three mints of Moesia Inferior represent 55.12% of all provincial coins discovered in Dobrogea area<sup>45</sup>. On the other hand, the first three mints which have ensured the total necessary money supply to undertake trade and economic transactions with bronze cash in Moesia Inferior (according to the number of copies actually present) are Tomis, Nikopolis ad Istrum and Markianopolis<sup>46</sup>.

These last two mints listed in Moesia Inferior, Markianopolis and Nikopolis ad Istrum begin coin production only with the early second century A.D. (from Emperor Hadrian), but very soon they will seize local markets of the province and beyond. Markianopolis workshop reaches its peak monetary activity under Elagabalus and the mint's activity is thought to have ended under Philippus II. The distribution of the monetary finds show their concentration in South Dobrogea, under a hypothetical line drawn between the centers of Sacidava and Tomis<sup>47</sup>. For the Nikopolis ad Istrum workshop, we notice that the maximum capacity of issuance was under Macrinus and Diadumenianus and the end of its activity happened under Gordianus III<sup>48</sup>. The distribution of finds in Dobrogea shows concentrations in southwest and north areas<sup>49</sup>, also worth remembering some specific percentages of a numismatic sample of 7.75% for Markianopolis and 6.17% for Nikopolis ad Istrum out of the total of

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<sup>40</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu, Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2000, 416.

<sup>41</sup> Iacob 2004, 214-215.

<sup>42</sup> Iacob 2013, 179.

<sup>43</sup> Iacob 2004, 239, 241-243; Iacob 2013, 183.

<sup>44</sup> Grămăticu, Ioniță 2003, 51-52, 67-68, no. 2. A1-R2.

<sup>45</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu, Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2000, 415.

<sup>46</sup> Iacob 2013, 191.

<sup>47</sup> Iacob 2013, 187.

<sup>48</sup> Iacob 2013, 180.

<sup>49</sup> Iacob 2013, 187.

provincial finds<sup>50</sup>. After the year 238 A.D., according to statistics, the two mints dominated the hoarded money supply identified in the Lower Danube area<sup>51</sup>. From Markianopolis we have two coins (5.55% of total colonial coins in the catalogue), a *triassarion* issued by Diadumenianus and an imitation/casting after a prototype identified in this mint (as an alternative to the legends on the obverse and reverse). From Nikopolis ad Istrum, a single currency is present (2.77% of the total colonial coins in the catalog), an *assarion* from Elagabalus (no. 32 in the catalog) with a variant of the legend's development on the reverse. An item of cast bronze seems to be a replica of a prototype identified in the mint of Markianopolis (no. 34 in the catalog), issued probably for Elagabalus. It is one of the many coins already identified in literature, cast following the prototypes in circulation, which were made to supply the local markets with reduced provincial bronze cash. Probably, the workshop was located in Durostorum or its immediate surroundings, and their production was possible (such is the case of our item) starting with the third decade of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., another part being released in the years 244-246 A.D.<sup>52</sup> In the same order of events, it can be recalled item no. 36 in the catalogue, also probably cast, but because of the poor state of conservation integrated by us with unspecified issuer (the prototype may be searched at Hadrianopolis?<sup>53</sup>), probably being issued for Elagabalus or Gordianus III.

The only provincial workshop in the catalogue from the category of imperial provincial coins out of Moesia Inferior province is the one from Byzantium (in Thrace). In the province there are also known other six items of the same mint<sup>54</sup> as well as finds from other centers from Thrace like such as Mesembria, Philippopolis, Anchialos, Hadrianopolis, Pautalia Augusta Traiana, Bizya, Deultum, Traianopolis etc.<sup>55</sup> It is very possible that the item in the catalogue, issued for Gallienus (a *tetrassarion*), to be the latest issuance of Byzantium discovered so far in Moesia Inferior (2.77% of total colonial coins in the catalog). At the end of the first part of the analysis of those specific specimens belonging to the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries A.D., we have to emphasize in total the lack of any monetary specimen from the years 138-161 A.D. (0%), the presence of five items in the years 161-192 A.D. (13.8%) of 14 specimens in the years 193-218 A.D. (38.8%), eight items in 218-238 A.D. (22.2%) and a single item in the years 238-249 A.D. (2.7%). All

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<sup>50</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu, Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2000, 415.

<sup>51</sup> Callu 1969, 38-39; Iacob 2004, 240.

<sup>52</sup> Dima, Talmațchi 2002, 74-75; Dima, Elefterescu 2009, 23-24.

<sup>53</sup> Jurukova 1987, 237, no. 682?.

<sup>54</sup> Iacob 2013, 231, map VIII.8.

<sup>55</sup> Vertan 2002, 161.

these data suggest that the first main phase of the probable researched *vicus* belongs, in monetary terms, especially to the end of the second century A.D. and it is developed in the first four to five decades of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. (Fig. 4). The middle of 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D brings, amid serious military attacks carried out by barbarians over the province and the empire, the premises of an economical disaster that strongly influenced the monetary circulation in the rural Dobrogea area, as the general trends show to us.

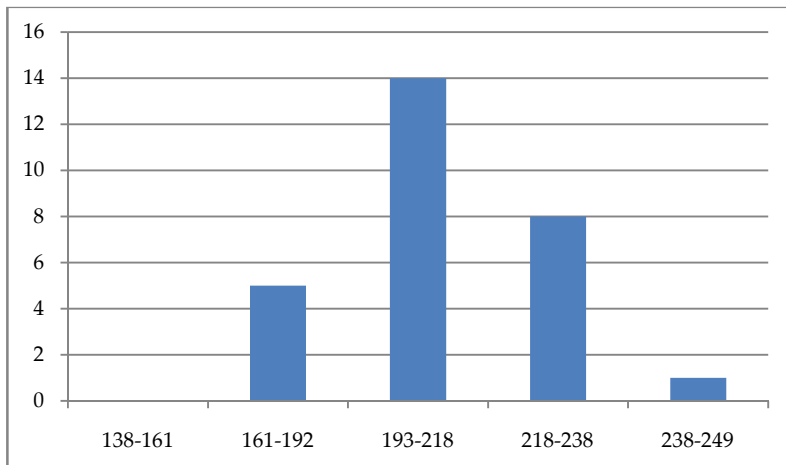


Fig. 4. The histogram of the coins weight from the period of 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. in the chronological stages 138-161/238-249 A.D.

For the years 294-498 A.D. (from the monetary reform of Diocletianus to the monetary reform of Anastasius) are known from finds a total of 70 bronze coins, divided into 23 chronological groups, with the remark that for several stages (eight) no item has been classified. Although there are such uncovered stages in monetary terms, because of the insufficient material, we thought it best not to cumulate certain periods for superior accuracy in terms of the overall picture of the settlement. These chronological stages take into account the monetary reforms and the reigns of the emperors, too<sup>56</sup>.

The statistical data calculated for the sample of monetary finds resulting from the probable *vicus* have been compared with general statistics from Dobrogea set for the Late Roman Empire period (294-498 A.D.). Although the number of coins specific to the aforementioned stages is not impressive (70 coins), taking into account the temporal and spatial limits of research due to the general conditions specific to the rescue excavation activities, we tried to discern to what extent their interpretation gets

<sup>56</sup> For another stage organization of this period, but for the whole province, see Ocheșeanu 2006, 7.

us near or far to the results of the analysis of other samples called "Dobrogean". However, for comparison, we turned decisively to the sample "Tomis" (consisting of over 1.000 coins), the closest geographically, even if we have imposed ourselves to keep proportions.

At the same time, we must from the very beginning make the difference between validated samples or fortified centers and the situation more or less different that can be observed in rural settlements of relatively small cultural and material intensity. Therefore, in such situations, the statistical tools can indicate in a distorted way or only partially certain local phenomena with impact on the monetary and economic realities.

**Table 1. The statistic analyzes of the coins on 23 chronological groups between the interval 294-498 A.D.**

Stage	Number of Coins	% of total coins	Coins coefficient / year	% of total coefficients (12.94)
294-307 A.D.	2	2.85	0.15	1.15
307-313 A.D.	4	5.71	0.66	5.10
313-318 A.D.	3	4.28	0.60	4.63
318-324 A.D.	1	1.42	0.16	1.23
324-330 A.D.	2	2.85	0.33	2.55
330-336 A.D.	10	14.28	2.00	15.45
336-341 A.D.	9	12.85	1.80	13.91
341-348 A.D.	10	14.28	1.42	10.97
348-354 A.D.	4	5.71	0.66	5.10
354-358 A.D.	14	20	3.50	27.04
358-361 A.D.	3	4.28	1.00	7.72
361-364 A.D.	0	0	0	0
364-378 A.D.	5	7.14	0.33	2.55
378-383 A.D.	1	1.42	0.20	1.54
383-395 A.D.	1	1.42	0.08	0.61
395-402 A.D.	0	0	0	0
402-408 A.D.	0	0	0	0
408-425 A.D.	0	0	0	0
425-450 A.D.	0	0	0	0
450-457 A.D.	0	0	0	0
457-474 A.D.	0	0	0	0
474-491 A.D.	1	1.42	0.05	0.38
491-498 A.D.	0	0	0	0

The stage of the years 294-307 A.D. consists of two items (one struck in the mint from Heraclea and the other at Serdica or Heraclea) and a coefficient of coins / year of 0.15%; we also note the percentage of 2.85% of the total coins present in Table I, as well as a percentage of 1.15% of the total coefficients, reduced to half compared to the "Tomis" sample.

The stage of the years 307-313 A.D. comprises four items (minted in the workshops from Cyzicus-3 ex. and Heraclea) and a coefficient of coins / year 0.66%; the pieces classified at this stage contain a proportion of 5.71% of the total number of coins present in Table I; also the percentage of 5.10% of the total coefficients are very close to the percentage present in the "Tomis" sample. At this second stage, we already observe a small increase in values.

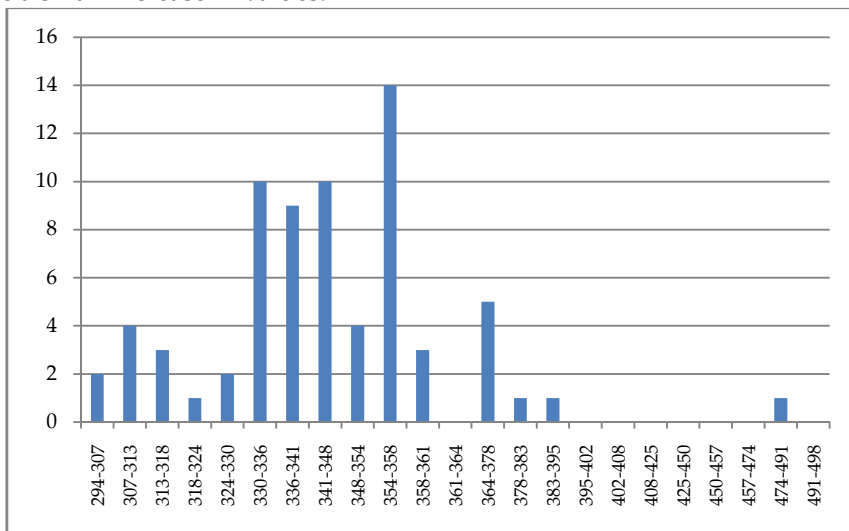


Fig. 5. The histogram with the number of coins on chronological stages in the period 294-498 A.D.

The stage of the years 313-318 A.D. has three items (issued by the monetary from Heraclea, Antioch and Nikomedia) with a coefficient of coins / year of 0.60%; the coins grouped at this stage include a percentage of 4.28% of the total number present in Table I; the percentage index of the coefficients total of 4.63 % is also kept at a high level, that from "Tomis" sample being almost four times lower.

The stage 318-324 A.D. holds only one item (struck in an unspecified mint) with a coefficient of coins / year 0.16%; There is a rate of 1.42% of the total coins in Table I; the percentage index of the total coefficients drops to 1.23%, while that of "Tomis" sample has a much higher value: 6.73%.

The stage 324-330 A.D. has two items (minted in the workshops in Thessaloniki and Nikomedia) with a coefficient coins / year of 0.33%, that for the "Tomis" sample

being of 8 %<sup>57</sup>; the coins also represent 2.85% of the total of coins present in Table I; the percentage index of the total of coefficients climbs slightly to 2.55%, doubling from the previous period and reduces to about half from the gap against the amount present in the "Tomis" sample.

The number of coins substantially increases in the following stages. Thus, at the stage 330-336 A.D. there are present ten items (minted in several mints such as Heraclea, Constantinople – 2 ex., Cyzicus – 4 ex., Nikomedia, Thessaloniki and an unspecified mint) with a coefficient of coins / year of 2%, that for the "Tomis" sample being of 20.16%; there are also present 14.28% of all coins in Table 1; the percentage index of the the total coefficients increases dramatically to 15.45% of the total coefficients, being even slightly higher than that achieved for the "Tomis" sample. A definite increase in money circulation remains if we refer to the immediately preceding period. The stage 336-341 A.D. comprises nine items (minted in workshops from Cyzicus – 3 ex., Heraclea Heraclea or Nikomedia and in unspecified mints – 4 ex.) with a coefficient coins / year of 1.80%, much lower than the known one for the "Tomis" sample; It is retained the percentage of 12.85% of the coins present in Table I; the percentage index of the total coefficients remains at a high rate, as in the previous stage, of 13.91%, almost double compared to the one identified in the "Tomis" sample. A similar situation can be found in the next stage, that specific to the years 341-348 A.D, which includes 10 items (minted in mints from Alexandria, Constantinople – 2 ex., Nikomedia – 2 ex. and in unspecified workshops) and with a coefficient of coins / year of 1.42%, much lower than that known for the sample "Tomis"; 14.28% of all coins present in Table I; the percentage index remains at a relatively slightly high value below the previous one of 10.97%.

The stage 348-354 A.D., which begins with a new monetary reform, comprises four items (minted in the monetary workshops of Heraclea, Constantinople – 2 ex. and Thessaloniki), the coefficient of coins / year of 0.66% being still below to that known for the "Tomis" sample; we consider the percentage of 5.71% of the total coins present in Table I; and 5.10% of the total coefficients.

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<sup>57</sup> The index values of the coefficient percentage of coins / year at the "Tomis" sample are taken from Poenaru Bordea, Dicu 1998, 42-43, table 2, *The comparative analysis on the chronological stages of monetary samples of Dobrogea (270-450)*; present data from Poenaru Bordea, Ocheșeanu 1993, 357, table I were also consulted. *Analyse de la circulation monétaire à Tomis aux IVe-Ve siècles par étapes chronologiques*.

The ascertained monetary situation of regress at this stage by the significant reduction of all coefficients to the previous stage, can be explained by the shift to heavy and high value denominations.

The stage 354–358 A.D. has 14 items (minted in the monetary mints of Alexandria, Antioch – 2 ex., Sirmium, Rome, Siscia, Cyzicus, Constantinople and in unspecified mints – 6 ex.) and a coefficient of coins / year of 3.50%, almost eight times lower than the known "Tomis" sample'; those specimens also represent 20% of the total number of coins present in Table 1; now it is noted the highest percentage index of the total of coefficients of 27.04%. This stage represents the peak, within the *vicus*, of monetary circulation (as much as a number of finds, as a value percentage for the coefficient currency / year, as a percentage of the batch of 70 samples that were applied chronological phasing, present in Table 1, and as value of the percentage index of the total coefficients.

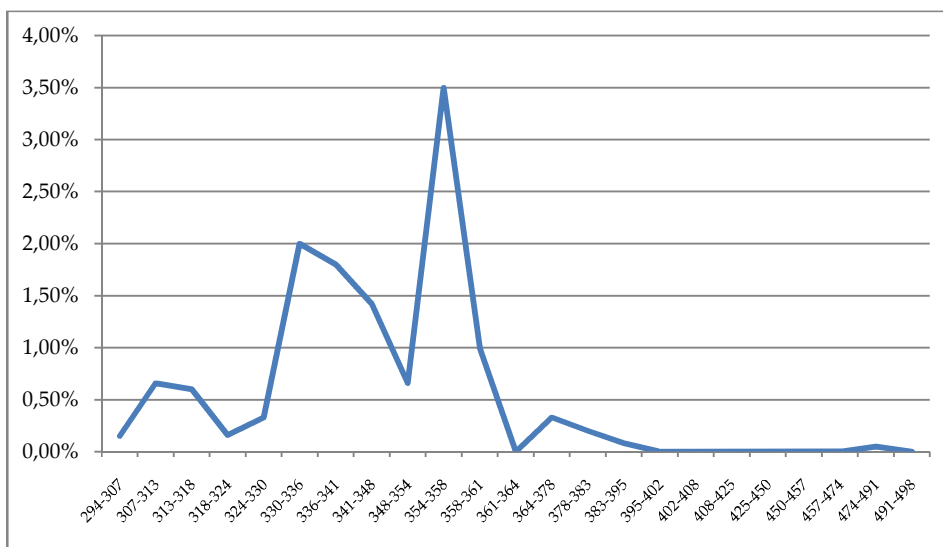


Fig. 6. The share of mints in the stages specific to 297-498 A.D.

The stage 358–361 A.D. brings a significant setback with only three items (struck in unspecified mints – 3 ex.) and a coefficient of coins / year 1% clearly lower than that known for the "Tomis" sample. There are present 4.28% of total coins in Table I; and 7.72% of total coefficients, good value, slightly higher than that identified for the "Tomis" sample. The fall of the coefficients against the previous stage is sharp. From this point we will see further deterioration in the monetary statistics, perhaps amid the transition into a phase of irreversible decline of rural settlement and monetary values increasingly reducing, reaching even

some negative ones. For the stage 361–364 A.D., in the material that draws our attention, there is no monetary record that might come from the vicus, but in the next stage, in the years 364–378 A.D., five items can be recorded (minted in the mints from Siscia – 2 ex. in unspecified workshops – 3 ex.) with a coefficient of coins / year of 0.33 %, compared to 6 % which is valid to the "Tomis" sample. There are present 7.14% of total coins in Table I and 2.55% of total coefficients, relatively a lower value than the one found in the "Tomis" sample. This is the last significant stage that provides the rural locality with cash and the difference from the previous one falls in the same downward trend. However, the recovery is more apparent than real.

Between the years 378–383 A.D. a single item (minted at the workshop in Rome), with a coefficient of coins / year 0.20%; 1.42% of the total number of coins present in Table I; and 1.54% of total coefficients, very slightly raised compared to the one known in the "Tomis" sample. From this moment, after the year 378 or slightly earlier, we can clearly state an irreversible deterioration of the situation in the settlement. Moreover, on other occasions it was observed that the year 375 A.D. can be considered the zero point as far as the decline of monetary circulation in Scythia Minor is concerned<sup>58</sup>.

The stage 383–395 A.D. comprises a item (issued in the mint of Constantinople), with a coefficient of coins / year of 0.08%; this item represents a percentage of 1.42% of the total coins present in Table I; we remember the first negative index of 0.61% of the total coefficients, below that known in the "Tomis" sample.

The stages 395–402, 402–408, 408–425, 425–450, 450–457, 457–474 and 491–498 A.D. are null for our catalog, with no monetary find that could be integrated chronologically.

The last coin from the batch until 498 A.D. appears only after nearly 100 years from the last known one, from Zenon. The stage 474–491 A.D. covers this single piece, with a coefficient of coins / year 0.05 %; the piece representing a percentage of 1.42% of the coins present in Table I; again after the stage 383–395 A.D., there is a negative index of 0.38 % of the total coefficients, very similar to that found in the "Tomis" sample.

The presence of a coin from Zenon, if we refer to the situation found in some finds of Dobrogea (outside the one called "Tomis"), seems an extremely rare fact, this emperor being repeatedly absent from the list of specific finds belonging to the fifth century A.D. However, it is the only specific coin of the fifth century A.D. discovered in the probable *vicus*.

At Tomis, however, there is clear evidence regarding the penetration of coins in a stable way in the first half of that century, especially during 425–450 A.D.<sup>59</sup> beyond the known military events. However, some signs of negative inconstancy seem to appear after

<sup>58</sup> Bastien 1987, 86; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 165–168.

<sup>59</sup> Poenaru Bordea, Ocheșeanu 1993, 356–357, table I and figure. 1 and 2.



the year 235 A.D., with the creation of a new cash<sup>60</sup>. The situation became catastrophic in the second half of the fifth century A.D., considering even the „collapse of the small coin in the Roman Dobrogea." <sup>61</sup> Related to the period 474–491 A.D., we note the existence of a treasure consisting of 126 coins which ends with monetary issues from the years 474–491 of the same sovereign, discovered a decade ago in Ovidiu Square<sup>62</sup>.

It is also worth mentioning that although weak, the presence of a few coins from Zenon at Tomis "reflects a slightly better situation than observed for most samples."<sup>63</sup> The item in our catalogue seems to be struck at Constantinople, in fact the best illustrated monetary workshop in Tomis during 395–491 A.D.<sup>64</sup>

Regarding the monetary mints represented in the sample of the 70 analyzed coins, ranked after the number of issued items, Cyzicus (15.71%), Constantinople (12.86%), Heraclea (8.57%), Nikomedea (7.14%), Thessaloniki (4.29%), Siscia (4.29%), Antioch (4.29%), Alexandria (2.86%), Roma (2.86%), Sirmium (1.43%), Serdica or Heraclea (1.43%), Heraclea or Nikomedea (1.43%) are present and unspecified (32.86%). For the first two positions, the largest number of items (four) struck at Cyzicus in the stage 330–336 A.D., for the Constantinople (two) catalogued into the stages 330–336, 341–348 and 348–354 A.D.

From the ranking achieved, we retain the dominant position of mints in Propontida with a total of 32 specimens, representing 45.71% of the total analysed cash. The few Balkan mints represent 11.42%. If we join these mints with the Balkan workshops from Propontida we get a percentage of 57.13% for the minted specimens in southern Balkan Peninsula, extremely high if we think that the monetary issues with unspecified mint represent 32.86% of the total. The contribution of the other mints intake is not negligible, but it seems almost random compared to the previous ones. Thus, the mints of Rome (the only one from the western Roman Empire), Alexandria and Antioch comprise a percentage of 10.01 % of the total. All workshops present in the *vicus* (Fig. 7) are known among those represented on the monetary market from Tomis in the period 294–491 A.D. These, 14 in number, have still on top ranking all those in Propontida, only that the classification contains in percentage order: Heraclea (with 26.38%), Constantinople (with 18.18%) and Nikomedea (with 10.69%)<sup>65</sup>.

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<sup>60</sup> Poenaru Bordea, Ocheșeanu 1996, 75-76.

<sup>61</sup> Poenaru Bordea, Ocheșeanu 1996, 76, 80.

<sup>62</sup> Custurea, Talmățchi 2011, 183, no. 31/LXVI.

<sup>63</sup> Poenaru Bordea, Ocheșeanu 1996, 78.

<sup>64</sup> Poenaru Bordea, Ocheșeanu 1996, 80.

<sup>65</sup> Poenaru Bordea, Ocheșeanu 1993, 367.

The last entry of the catalogue is represented by a coin belonging to Justin II. This item (*folles*) has no direct link with the development of local settlement, which, at that time, in our opinion, had long ceased to exist. However, its discovery reflects an intrusion due to an accidental situation, perhaps a person passing through the area. The coin was struck in the mint from Nikomedia within officina **B** in the years 570-571 A.D. At Tomis, the specific Byzantine coin of Justin II is well represented, corresponding to a stage characterized by high values, even inflation<sup>66</sup>. On the other hand, we maintain the observation according to which starting with the fourth decade of 6<sup>st</sup> century A.D., the rural areas of the province are disconnected from the major economic and social mechanisms of the period, the last ones having a special role in terms of diffusion and coin supply<sup>67</sup>.

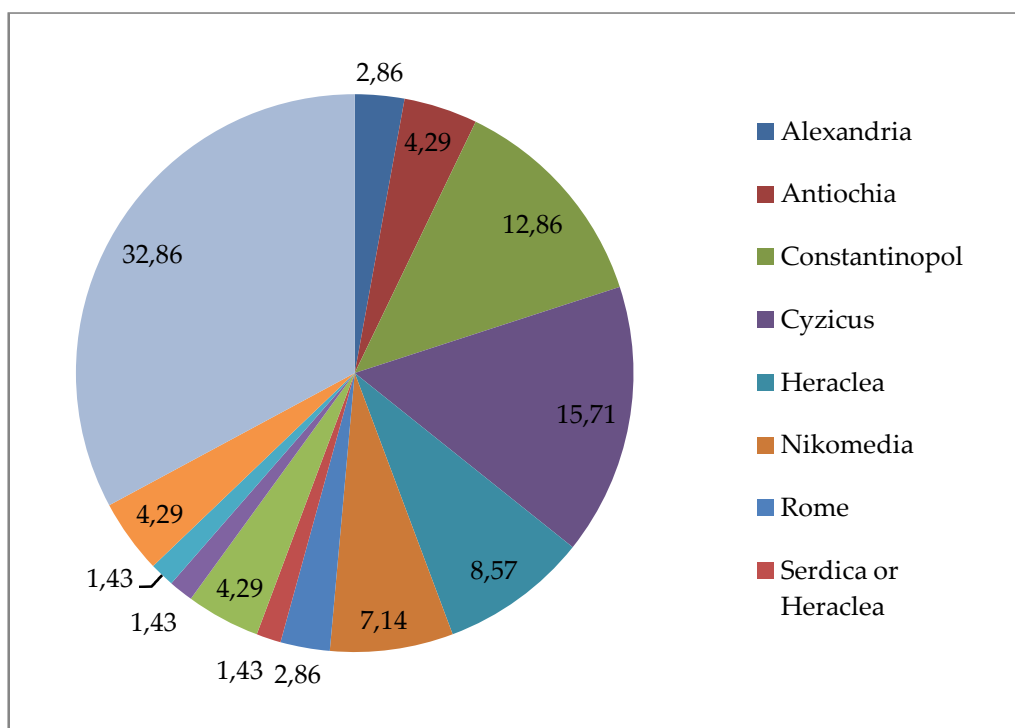


Fig. 7. The diagram coefficients of coins/years from the period 294-498 A.D.

At the end of our material we would like to make several observations on the small treasure discovered in the settlement. It is composed of five bronze coins issued for Constantius II (3 ex. *Spes Reipvblicae* type, minted in Constantinople and in unspecified mints, generally issued between 355-361 A.D.) Valentinianus I (1 ex., mint

<sup>66</sup> Buzoianu, Bărbulescu 2012, 83.

<sup>67</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2003, 348.

Siscia, *Secvritas Reipvblicae* type, issued in 364-367 A.D.) and Valens (1 ex., *Gloria Romanorum* (8) type, minted between 364-378 A.D.). It was found on a burned floor near a pavement and nearby a pit lined with stones.

The treasure suffered from being exposed to strong heat, the coins being in an extremely poor state of conservation. As far as the deposit is concerned, a lengthy process of hoarding is excluded. Its end with a coin from Valens reminds us of the events that occurred around 378 A.D., of the disastrous end of the Battle of Adrianople for the Empire. And, it is quite possible, in the mentioned context, during the events preceding the said battle, that this moment represents also the end of the houses belonging to the rural settlement in the vicinity of the ancient Tomis. Other deposits or hoards of Dobrogea which close in the same period of seven decades of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., buried or lost with the Goths passing in the south of the Danube, form a horizon that reach at least at to 20 finds, among which we could mention *Straja* (Constanta county)<sup>68</sup>, *Halmyris* (on the mortar level of the east base)<sup>69</sup> etc<sup>70</sup>.

## CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological research from the point "City belt of Constanta, km. 8 + 400-9500" provides fresh and useful information on the evolution of the rural environment specific to the West coast colonies in Dobrogea during Late Roman period. We note that it is the first example of a Roman rural settlement, in the immediate vicinity of Tomis in 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D., researched, even if only partially up to present (subject to limitations imposed by the route of the road, only its eastern extremity was found). The material discovered after the excavations shows the degree of economic development of the rural settlement and trade ties and the tight cultural and commercial connections with Tomis, the most important center of cultural and material diffusion in the territory of Dobrogea. In addition to the imported material, local material occurs in a proportion of 30% of the total amount recovered. A systematization of information in monetary terms gives us a few more relevant conclusions. Thus, in the study of monetary circulation in the rural settlements of Roman Dobrogea was suggested "the presence of an intense monetary circulation of civil type on the local markets, showing, ultimately, an economic rise of monetary kind in the villages in Dobrogea in the Principate era"<sup>71</sup>.

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<sup>68</sup> Vertan, Ocheșeanu 1987, 147-179.

<sup>69</sup> Suceveanu *et alii* 2003, 164, no. 1-21.

<sup>70</sup> Custurea, Talmațchi 2011, 65, map IX.

<sup>71</sup> Bărbulescu 2001, 239; other contributions from previous monetary discoveries in the Roman settlements of Dobrogea 14-270 A.D. see Munteanu, Ocheșeanu 1975, 175-213; Bărbulescu, Ocheșeanu 1990, 225-265.



Fig. 8. Coins discovered in the settlement from the rural territory of Tomis.



Fig. 9. Coins discovered in the settlement from the rural territory of Tomis.

The research of coins discovered during the archaeological excavations reveal to us, for the period of 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., the identification of the first main phase of the manifestation of the probable *vicus* with the end of the second century A.D., developing in the first four-five decades of the third century A.D. A significant number of important imperial provincial coins, especially the number of the Tomis is regarded with attention. It is also confirmed the lack of common currency cash from the central imperial space with the end of the second century A.D. – the beginning of the third century A.D. in these areas, which encouraged the Greek mints to issue plenty of monetary issues, diverse as iconographic representations, outstanding as technical achievements and with the great penetrating power of the adjacent rural environments.

The situation of Tomis is extremely evocative in this regard. Sometime toward middle – 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. confusion, the settlement will cease to exist amid military turmoil. But with the end of the century, and particularly in most part of the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D., we find its repopulation, this time on a much larger extent, perhaps also expressing a population growth in a favorable area. For the years 297-498 A.D., although our sample is not one of the richest (being considered, in our view, with only 70 coins for over 200 years accounted for, as falling below a theoretical threshold of statistical representativeness), it stands for the first created one (the model applied to Tomis, Histria, Tropaeum Traiani, Axiopolis, Troesmis, North Dobrogea<sup>72</sup>) for a rural settlement studied archaeologically, from the southern half of the territory of Dobrogea from areas of economic influence of the west-pontus colonies. Further attempts of this kind have built-in analyses and random discoveries, many from private collections<sup>73</sup>. In this case, the specimens do not come from private collections, do not come from the so-called spontaneous antiques market, but are they discovered in conditions of certainty, clear archaeological contexts well individualised, in association with numerous other materials specific to the Roman civilization in Dobrogea from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D. For the *vicus*, the best represented periods in the currency coefficient / year are the years 330-336 and 354-358 A.D. These are remarkable leaps in the line observed within the average in Dobrogea. The relative abundance of money is also found for the years 354-358 A.D. within the samples Tropaeum Traiani, Troesmis, North Dobrogea, Tomis and Histria. Surely, returning to the number of copies found in the *vicus*, the resulting prosperity is perhaps only illusory, but it is an indication of a favorable situation in monetary terms, even in terms of the number of recorded copies. Finally, the stage of the years 364-378 (corresponding to the emperors Valens and Valentinianus I) is the last significantly documented on a local level, being a clear limit what the end of that *vicus* would mean. Certainly, the results obtained through the analysis of the achieved catalogue should take into account a number of factors, mainly local. Thus, the periods of prosperity and economical decadence can be easily identified (which may be in close connection with the economical and commercial political history of Tomis) and the profound insecurity states that end negatively for the local authorities cuts most times any manifestation for a long period of time (or in other cases for good) of monetary and trade flows. The monetary record can suggest to us the usage of coins and their behavior in cases of strong necessity. Including the case in which at a certain moment the monetary penetration may become random.

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<sup>72</sup> For the samples at Histria, Tropaeum Traiani, Axiopolis, Troesmis and North Dobrogea see at Poenaru Bordea, Ocheșeanu, Nicolae 1989, 59, 62-63.

<sup>73</sup> See the finds from Niculițel (Tulcea county), according to Poenaru Bordea, Dicu 1998, 33-64.

In conclusion, the archaeological and numismatic records show the possibility of an early first settlement existence, at a *vicus* stage and later, after a hiatus, to note, from an archaeological and monetary point of view, remming habilitation of the rural community life not far from the previous hearth, changing only the topography and maybe less the economical functions.

With this contribution, we try to bring to the light of research the monetary and archaeological realities and specific to the evolution of a rural settlement from the Tomis *chora*, all these new data to be integrated to the existing knowledge on the monetary circulation in the danubian and Pontus Euxinus space during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.

Translation Corina DRAGOMIR

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