

# NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

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# ZAPISKI NUMIZMATYCZNE



Tom XIX

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

Kraków 2024



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Lech Kokociński. Photo by Piotr Idem  
Lech Kokociński. Fot. Piotr Idem

Szanowni Państwo,

oddajemy w Państwa ręce tom XIX *Notae Numismaticae – Zapisków Numizmatycznych*. Zgodnie z przyjętymi przez nas zasadami wszystkie teksty publikujemy w językach kongresowych, z angielskimi i polskimi abstraktami. Zawartość obecnego tomu oraz tomy archiwalne są zamieszczone w formie plików PDF na stronie internetowej Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie (<https://mnk.pl/notae-numismaticae-zapiski-numizmatyczne-1>). Na stronie dostępne są ponadto wszelkie informacje ogólne o czasopiśmie oraz instrukcje dla autorów i recenzentów.

Bieżący Tom naszego czasopisma chcielibyśmy zadedykować Panu Mecenasowi Lechowi Kokocińskiemu, obchodzącemu w 2024 roku swoje 80-te urodziny. Lech Kokociński (ur. 1944), prawnik, sędzia i wieloletni pracownik Ministerstwa Kultury i Sztuki, z numizmatyką związany jest w zasadzie od zawsze. Przede wszystkim należy do grona najwybitniejszych kolekcjonerów numizmatów drugiej połowy XX i pierwszych dziesięcioleci XXI wieku. Jego zainteresowania kolekcjonerskie nie ograniczały się przy tym do wąskiego zakresu, lecz obejmowały szerokie spektrum obiektów: od monet antycznych poczynawszy, poprzez pieniądź papierowy, medale, aż po fałszerstwa monet i banknotów. Ważną część jego zbiorów stanowią starodruki i rękopisy numizmatyczne oraz inne obiekty o charakterze bibliofilskim, szczególnie *Lwowiana*. Mecenas Kokociński przez całe życie aktywnie włączał się w animowanie ruchu numizmatycznego. Od 1962 roku był członkiem Polskiego Towarzystwa Archeologicznego, od 1984 roku przewodniczył Sekcji Numizmatycznej Polskiego Towarzystwa Archeologicznego i Numizmatycznego, a w 1987 roku został Prezesem tej organizacji. W 1991 roku należał do założycieli Polskiego Towarzystwa Numizmatycznego i był jego pierwszym Prezesem, a następnie Prezesem Honorowym. Bliskie związki mecenasa Kokocińskiego z Gabinetem Numizmatycznym Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie sięgają XX wieku. Jest członkiem Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Muzeum im. Emeryka Hutten-Czapskiego (od 1996 r.), a w latach 2011–2015 pełnił funkcję członka Rady Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie. Wszedł też w skład Komitetu Honorowego projektu *Europejskie Centrum Numizmatyki Polskiej*, w ramach realizacji którego udało się otworzyć Muzeum im. Emeryka Hutten-Czapskiego w obecnym kształcie. Przede wszystkim jednak jest jednym z najważniejszych i najbardziej hojnych darczyńców na rzecz Muzeum. Wzbogacił zbiory Gabinetu Numizmatycznego o niemal 11 000 obiektów, w tym monety antyczne, bezprecedensową kolekcję pieniądza fałszywego, pieniądź papierowy i medale. Dodatkowo ofiarował do biblioteki Muzeum ponad 1000 pozycji różnych publikacji, starodruków i znakomite archiwalia związane z życiem i działalnością wybitnych numizmatyków czy towarzystw numizmatycznych, jak np. Związku Numizmatyków Lwowskich czy Towarzystwa Numizmatycznego w Krakowie. Z okazji Jubileuszu życzymy Lechowi Kokocińskiemu, naszemu Drogiemu Przyjacielowi, co najmniej 100 lat!

Redakcja

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to present you with volume 19 of *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne*. As is our policy, we publish all texts in the congress languages, with English and Polish abstracts. The contents of current volume and archive numbers are available as PDF files on the website of the National Museum in Krakow (<https://mnk.pl/notae-numismaticae-zapiski-numizmatyczne-1>). The website also provides all general information about the journal, along with guidelines for authors and reviewers.

We would like to dedicate the current volume of our journal to Mr Lech Kokociński, who celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024. Lech Kokociński (born in 1944), lawyer, judge and long-time employee of the Ministry of Culture and Art, has been involved in numismatics for practically all his life. Above all, he is one of the most outstanding numismatic collectors of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the first decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. His collecting interests were not limited to a narrow range, but covered a wide spectrum of objects, starting with the ancient coins, through paper money and medals, to counterfeits of coins and banknotes. An important part of his collection consists of antique prints and numismatic manuscripts as well as other bibliophile objects, especially *Lvoviana*. Throughout his life, Kokociński has actively participated in promoting the numismatic movement. He was a member of the Polish Archaeological Society from 1962, chaired the Numismatic Section of the Polish Archaeological and Numismatic Society from 1984 and became its president in 1987. In 1991, he was one of the founders and first president of the Polish Numismatic Society, later becoming Honorary President. The close relationship between Mr Kokociński and the Numismatic Department of the National Museum in Krakow dates back to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He is a member of the Emeryk Hutten-Czapski Museum Friends Society (since 1996), and in the years between 2011–2015 he was a member of the Council of the National Museum in Krakow. He also became a member of the Honorary *European Center of Polish Numismatics* project, which led to the opening of the Emeryk Hutten-Czapski Museum its present form. Above all, however, he is one of the most important and generous donors to the Museum. He enriched the collection of the Numismatic Cabinet with almost 11,000 objects, including ancient coins, an unprecedented collection of counterfeit money, paper money and medals. In addition, he donated more than 1,000 items to the museum library, including various publications, antique books, and valuable archive material related to the life and work of prominent numismatists or numismatic societies, such as the Union of Lviv Numismatists and the Numismatic Society in Krakow. On the occasion of this milestone birthday, we wish Lech Kokociński, our dear friend, at least 100 years!

The Editors

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## First Finds of Celtic Silver Coins from Lower Silesia

**ABSTRACT:** Finds of Celtic coins in Poland, despite growing interest, are still rare. Unfortunately, they often come from amateurs and are loose discoveries. Only gold coins associated with the minting of the Boii tribe have been known in Lower Silesia so far. Three specimens of silver coins were discovered during surface excavations carried out at the La Tène culture settlements in Warkocz and Raczyce. Two of them are items of the obol denomination, categorized as the type “with a star”. These coins are among the oldest issues made in silver, characteristic of the local minting of the Boii tribe. The horse-and-star motif appearing on them probably comes from Roman coins minted probably in the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. The third item is a fragment of a large silver coin (tetradrachm) found in Warkocz. It is a coin of a hitherto unknown type, resembling issues from the Carpathian Basin area. These findings confirm the links between the Celtic inhabitants of Lower Silesia and the settlement center located in the so-called Amber Route corridor.

**KEYWORDS:** Celts, Boii coinage, silver issues, La Tène culture, Lower Silesia

**ABSTRAKT:** *Pierwsze znaleziska srebrnych monet celtyckich z Dolnego Śląska*  
Znaleziska monet celtyckich w Polsce, mimo rosnącego zainteresowania, nadal są rzadkie. Niestety często pochodzą od amatorów i są luźnymi znaleziskami. Na Dolnym Śląsku znane są dotychczas jedynie złote monety związane z mennictwem Bojów. Trzy okazy srebrnych monet odkryto podczas badań powierzchniowych prowadzonych na osadach kultury lateńskiej w Warkoczu i Raczycach. Dwa z nich to obole zaliczane do typu „z gwiazdą”. Monety te należą do najstarszych emisji wykonanych ze srebra, charakterystycznych dla lokalnego mennictwa Bojów. Pojawiający się na nich motyw konia i gwiazdy pochodzi prawdopodobnie z monet rzymskich

bitych przypuszczalnie w pierwszej połowie III wieku p.n.e. Trzeci egzemplarz to fragment większej srebrnej monety (tetradrachmy) znaleziony w Warkoczu. Jest to moneta nieznanego dotąd typu, przypominająca emisje z obszaru Kotliny Karpackiej. Odkrycia te potwierdzają związki celtyckich mieszkańców Dolnego Śląska ze strefą osadniczą położoną na tzw. szlaku bursztynowym.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: Celtowie, mennictwo Bojów, srebrne egzemplarze, kultura lateńska, Dolny Śląsk

Finds of Celtic coins from the Polish lands, despite the considerable development of interest in this subject, are still quite scarce. They are mostly stray finds, made mainly by amateurs and bystanders, with all the drawbacks of this type of situation. For this reason, new discoveries that come from regular scientific research are a valuable contribution to the study of the development of Celtic numismatics. This is a very important issue, especially in the context of the study of the settlement of the La Tène culture, its origins and the trans-regional links of local, allochthonous communities with their home areas.

Until now, in scientific milieu, we have had information about gold coin finds, which include issues of particular fractions of Athena Alkidemos type staters, characteristic for the early phase of local minting (stage A according to K. Castelin's classification),<sup>1</sup> identified with the activity of the Boii tribe. The mentioned specimens are dated to the Middle La Tène period and can be connected to the existence of the La Tène culture settlement enclave existing in Lower Silesia in phases LT B1–C1,<sup>2</sup> which, according to Rupert Gebhard's periodization commonly used in Central Europe, roughly corresponds to the period between 420/410 and 175/165 BC.<sup>3</sup> The appearance of the first coins produced by the Celtic community should be connected to the final stage of the above-mentioned period. The second group of gold coins known from discoveries in the region are gold staters and their fractions dated to the late La Tène period (stages B–D according to K. Castelin's classification). These coins are interpreted as imports appearing in the context of settlements of the Przeworsk culture. Finds of the silver issues of the Boii, dated to the A stage, have not been previously known. This seems to reflect the poor state of research into the settlement of the La Tène culture in Lower Silesia, rather than any real preference among the local Celtic population. In a Central European context, silver coins are commonly found in large quantities, mainly on central agglomerations and less

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<sup>1</sup> CASTELIN 1965: 11.

<sup>2</sup> DULĘBA 2019: 151–153.

<sup>3</sup> GEBHARD 1989.

frequently on rural-type settlements dating to the Middle La Tène period.<sup>4</sup> In Lower Silesia only two items have been found so far.

#### WARKOCZ, STRZELIN COUNTY, SITE 12

The research at site 12 in Warkocz, carried out in 2018–2019, focused on the identification of a La Tène culture settlement, which was located on a small hillock surrounded on three sides by wetlands and former floodplains of the Mała Ślęza River (Map 1). A thorough surface prospecting and geophysical survey (magnetic method) was carried out, followed by preliminary excavations. The result of this work was the recording of traces of a multiphase and long-term settlement dating from the Early Bronze Age to the Roman period.<sup>5</sup> Although mobile artefacts were found over an area of more than 6 hectares, the geophysical survey showed that the anomalies to be interpreted as the remains of settlement structures were concentrated in a much smaller area, at the top of a slightly prominent hillock. The surface prospecting encountered a fairly large number of finds of pottery and metal objects associated with the La Tène culture. Most of the latter category of artefacts consisted of fragmentary preserved ornaments and parts of costume (Fig. 2). The chronology of these finds indicates that the presented settlement was settled by the La Tène culture community throughout the entire period of local Celtic settlement, i.e. from the initial stages of the LT B1 phase to the LT C1 phase. In addition to the artefacts mentioned above, two coins were found.

##### 1. Boii, AR obol, type “with a star” (Fig. 1.1)

*Obv.*: smooth, indistinctly delimited bulge

*Rev.*: stylized horse to the r. with raised forelegs, partly visible star with eight (?) massive rays above, “omega-shaped” symbol with a pellet below

Weight: 0.970 g

Diameter: 8.2 x 8 mm

XRF: 1. Ag 94.221%, Cu 1.717%, Hg 1.513%, Au 1.145%, Pb 0.301%, Ti 0.056%; 2. Ag 92.303%, Fe 2.078%, Hg 2.017%, Cu 1.743%, Au 1.452%, Pb 0.304%, Ni 0.102%

Ref.: JANDRASITS 2005: 142–144, Fig. 4; SMĚLÝ 2017: Fig. 8.2; MILITKÝ 2023: 39–40, No. 200

<sup>4</sup> KOLNÍKOVÁ 2006; EADEM 2012; RUDNICKI 2014; MILITKÝ 2018; IDEM 2020.

<sup>5</sup> The most interesting find of the presented research was the registration of a multi-phase metallurgical workshop of a type hitherto unknown in Silesia, which can probably be dated to the Roman period. This extremely interesting find will be the subject of a separate publication.

2. Carpathian Basin, AR tetradrachm, imitation of Philip II of Macedonia of unknown type (Fig. 1.2)

*Obv.*: male (?) head to the r. with stylized braid (?)

*Rev.*: a rider on horseback (?) to the r., stylized representation of a horse's head with bridle

Weight: 1.995 g

Diameter: 12.5 x 9.6 mm (fragmentarily preserved)

XRF: 1. Ag 90.789%, Hg 6.131%, Au 2.201%, Fe 0.455%, Cu 0.425%;

2. Ag 89.319%, Hg 7.040%, Au 2.621%, Cu 0.599%, Fe 0.421%

Ref.: –

### RACZYCE, ZĄBKOWICE ŚLĄSKIE COUNTY, SITE 3

Site 3 in Raczyce is located in the southern periphery of the Lower Silesian enclave of La Tène settlements (Map 1). It is located on the western edge of a prominent and extensive promontory cutting into the Oława River valley. The site was recognized by small-scale excavations in the 1988 and 1990 seasons, during which traces of an intensive settlement of the Lusatian and Przeworsk culture dated to the younger Pre-Roman period and the later stages of the Roman period were recorded. Surface prospecting complemented by geophysical surveys (magnetic method) was carried out in 2018–2019. Thanks to the results of the aforementioned research, we know that this is a multi-phase site, settled from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages. Iron Age finds predominated among the surface finds. Ceramics dated to the younger Pre-Roman period are exclusively forms of the so-called “older style”, characteristic of the early stages of the Przeworsk culture. As in the case of the majority of settlement sites of this culture from the central and eastern part of Lower Silesia,<sup>6</sup> no finds that can be associated with the A3 phase were recorded in Raczyce. The Early Roman period is also very poorly represented, with Late Roman finds clearly predominating. Ceramic finds associated with the use of the site in the La Tène period accounted for a small percentage of the total material, so the finding of a Celtic silver coin was all the more surprising.

3. Boii, AR obol, type “with a star” (Fig. 1.3)

*Obv.*: smooth, indistinctly delimited bulge

*Rev.*: stylized horse to the r. with raised forelegs, partly preserved, very faintly visible star (?) above, “omega-shaped” symbol (?) below

Weight: 0.812 g

Diameter: 10 x 9.8 mm

XRF: 1. Ag 90.789%, Hg 6.131%, Au 2.201%, Fe 0.455%, Cu 0.425%;

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<sup>6</sup> GODŁOWSKI 1985: 35–37.

2. Ag 89.319%, Hg 7.040%, Au 2.621%, Cu 0.599%, Fe 0.421%

Ref.: JANDRASITS 2005: 142–144, Fig. 4; SMĚLÝ 2017: Fig. 8.3; MILITKÝ 2023: 39–40, No. 202

Apart from the coin and sparse fragments of ceramic vessels, only one metal element of a costume was recovered – a bronze link from a girdle chain belt (Fig. 3.3). Although that finds of metal parts of the chain should be considered mass, the item discovered in Raczyce is quite unusual. An analogous artefact is known only from the central agglomeration in Němčice nad Hanou, okr. Proštějov.<sup>7</sup> Metal chain belts, which are elements of female costume, are artefacts with a rather long and not very precise chronology. This is mainly due to the specifics of their construction. These belts usually could have been a kind of combination of various separate elements. The object described can therefore be broadly dated to the middle La Tène period. In summary, as in the case of the previous site, there was a small settlement of the La Tène culture at Raczyce. Its existence should be synchronized with at least the youngest phase (LT C1) of the existence of the local Celtic community, although its origins in earlier phases should not be excluded.

### OBOLS “WITH A STAR”

The presented coins from Warkocz and Raczyce are the first nominally silver Celtic coin that have been discovered in Lower Silesia so far. The coins of the “with a star” (mit Stern) type belong to the group of the oldest coins made in silver, which are characteristic of the Boii tribe minting in the area of Central Europe.<sup>8</sup> The weight of these issues is between 0.8 and 1 g. This group also includes the slightly larger coins (drachms and hemidrachms) found mainly in the central Danube basin, with very similar imagine pictured on the reverse.<sup>9</sup> The motif of the horse with a star was probably copied by the Celts from a Roman-Campanian didrachm, which is dated to 275–270 BC.<sup>10</sup> The sign resembling a “lyre” is probably an addition taken from the native iconographic tradition. The aforementioned coins were “prototype” versions for slightly later issues of obols from the Roseldorf/Němčice group. It is noteworthy that the depiction of a horse on coins of the “with a star” type is distinguished by a much higher level of realism, than on similar but more strongly stylized depictions placed on obols of type I from the Roseldorf/Němčice group. Obols of the “with a star” type are known from the agglomeration in Nowa Cerekwia (Fig. 4), where at least fourteen items have been discovered so far.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> ČIŽMÁŘOVÁ and ČIŽMÁŘOVÁ 2023: Pl. 22.18.

<sup>8</sup> JANDRASITS 2005: 144; KOLNÍKOVÁ 2006: 30; EADEM 2012: 33; MILITKÝ 2023: 38.

<sup>9</sup> MILITKÝ 2020: 298, Figs. 9.3.8–9.

<sup>10</sup> FRÖHLI 2016: 183, Figs. 10.19–20.

<sup>11</sup> MILITKÝ 2025: C77–C90 (forthcoming).

## TETRADRACHM

The fragmentary preserved tetradrachm is an item of a hitherto unknown type. On the obverse is probably a male head with a small stylized braid visible. On the reverse, there was probably a representation of a horse or rather a rider, as suggested by the preserved image of a horse's head with a bridle. The iconographic motif of a male head with a braid is quite common among silver issues from the Carpathian Basin.<sup>12</sup> The depiction on the described coin is somewhat reminiscent of the tetradrachms issued by the Celtic Taurisci inhabiting the area of eastern Noricum (present-day Styria and Slovenia).<sup>13</sup> These are slightly later items, dated to the younger stages of the LT C phase.<sup>14</sup> The phenomenon of coin fragmentation during the La Tène period is widespread, as evidenced by numerous monetary finds from the last several years. Fragmentary preserved specimens of tetradrachms, one of which is a very early imitation of Philip II of Macedonia and the other of the so-called "with a lyre" type, were discovered during surface excavations at Nowa Cerekwia.<sup>15</sup> A lump of low-grade gold was also found on the surface of the Warkocz site.<sup>16</sup> Finds of similar small fragments of hacked gold or silver, with a wide variety of bullion content (ranging from 99 to 23%), are quite common in the central agglomerations along the so-called "Amber Road corridor".<sup>17</sup> This may be evidence of a developed demand for bullion, which was an object of exchange commonly used among the Celtic inhabitants of Central Europe. Such finds may indicate that a foreign coin with a fairly high bullion content (92–94% silver) was secondarily used to produce the local, smaller denominations.

## CONCLUSIONS

The findings presented here are further evidence confirming the links between the local settlement of the La Tène culture and the Central Danube province of the La Tène culture suggested in recent publications.<sup>18</sup> The essential core of this area is a long belt of very intensive settlement, recorded in the area of Central and Southern Moravia and Lower Austria, distinguished by a material culture with a high degree of unification.<sup>19</sup> It is this area where the intensive mint production attributed to the Celtic Boii, known from the pages of ancient written sources, is concentrated. The

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<sup>12</sup> PINK 1939; MILITKÝ 2023: nos. 629, 633–634, 646–647, 683–684.

<sup>13</sup> MILITKÝ 2023: 248, no. 669.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*: 84.

<sup>15</sup> RUDNICKI 2014: 67, Figs. 9.29–30.

<sup>16</sup> Analyses XRF: Au 46.566%, Ag 25.976%, Cu 26.581%, Fe 0.878%; 2. Au 49.108%, Ag 27.196%, Cu 22.740%, Fe 0.956%.

<sup>17</sup> MILITKÝ 2018: 323–325.

<sup>18</sup> DULĘBA and KOSICKI 2017: 114; DULĘBA 2019: 150–152.

<sup>19</sup> VENCLOVÁ and MILITKÝ 2014: 395–397, 400–401, Fig. 11.

settlement cluster of the La Tène culture of Upper Silesia undoubtedly belongs to this province. Finds of silver issues belonging to individual variants of “with a star” type and issues of the Roseldorf/Němčice group are concentrated along the “Amber Road corridor”, the most important points of which are the central agglomerations discovered in Lower Austrian Roseldorf, Moravian Němčice nad Hanou and Upper Silesian Nowa Cerekwia.<sup>20</sup> The period of most intensive development of the aforementioned agglomerations is in the LT C phase, when they become local centers of crafts and long-distance exchange. The agglomeration of Nowa Cerekwia was also the place where the obols of the Roseldorf/Němčice group were emitted.<sup>21</sup> In the case of the oldest obols of “with a star” type, there is no longer such certainty, but the aforementioned agglomeration was a commercial hub where these types of coins arrived and from where they were also distributed to Lower Silesia. It is worth noting that both specimens from Warkocz and Raczyce are of older types, dated to the LT C1 phase,<sup>22</sup> which is in agreement with the recent findings concerning the chronology of Celtic settlement in the Bystrzyca, Ślęza and Oława river basins.<sup>23</sup> The mentioned finds are the evidence confirming the connection of this area with the Celtic settlement centers developing in the Amber Road corridor. The north-western branch of this exchange route ran through the cluster of settlements established in Lower Silesia. The same conclusion is also prompted by the gold issues recently known, which without exception belong to the Athena Alkidemos group. The appearance of this type of coinage in Lower Silesian settlements, far removed from the main centers of Boii minting, testifies to the high intensity of local trade links. The finding of a hacked tetradrachm struck in the Carpathian Basin area is an example that the practice of secondary use of bullion from foreign coins was also known to Celtic settlers from Lower Silesia.

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<sup>20</sup> HIRIART et AL. 2020: Figs. 13, 15.

<sup>21</sup> RUDNICKI 2012: 49; IDEM 2014: 431–433.

<sup>22</sup> MILITKÝ 2018: 284.

<sup>23</sup> DULEBA 2019: 152–153.

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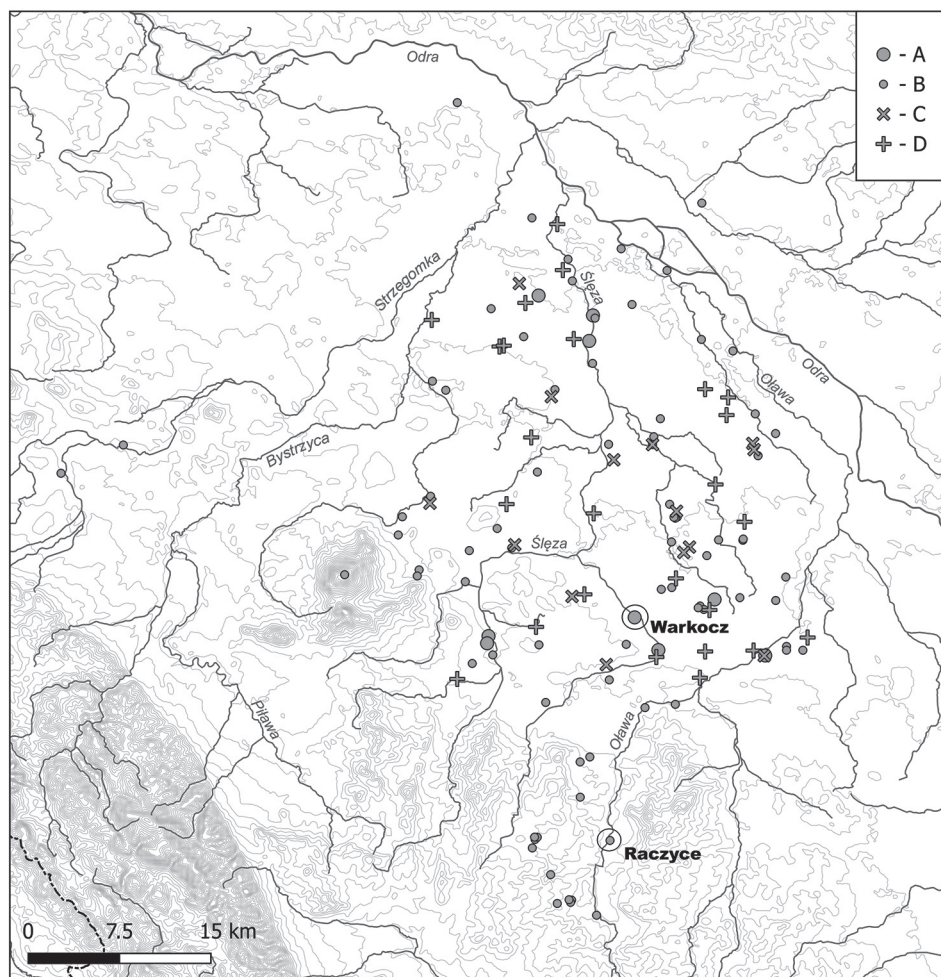
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| MAP 1   | <p>La Tène culture sites in Lower Silesia. A – settlement identified by excavation;<br/> B – trace of settlement; C – cemetery; D – single grave<br/> Map: P. Duřęba</p>                                                                                    |
| PLATE 1 | <p>Fig. 1. Silver coins. 1–2. Warkocz. 3. Raczyce<br/> Photos: J. Soida</p> <p>Fig. 2. Bronze elements of costume from the settlement in Warkocz<br/> Drawings: N. Lenkow</p>                                                                               |
| PLATE 2 | <p>Fig. 3. Ceramic vessels and elements of girdle chain belt from the settlement in Raczyce<br/> Drawings: P. Duřęba, N. Lenkow</p> <p>Fig. 4. Selected silver “with a star” type from the central agglomeration in Nowa Cerekwia<br/> Photos: T. Smělý</p> |



Map. 1. La Tène culture sites in Lower Silesia. A – settlement identified by excavation; B – trace of settlement; C – cemetery; D – single grave  
Map: P. Dulęba

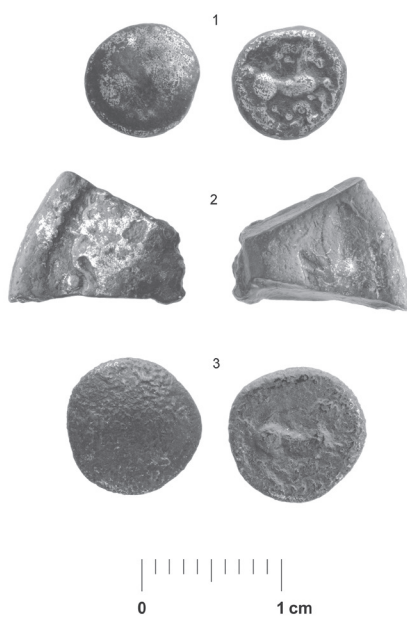


Fig. 1

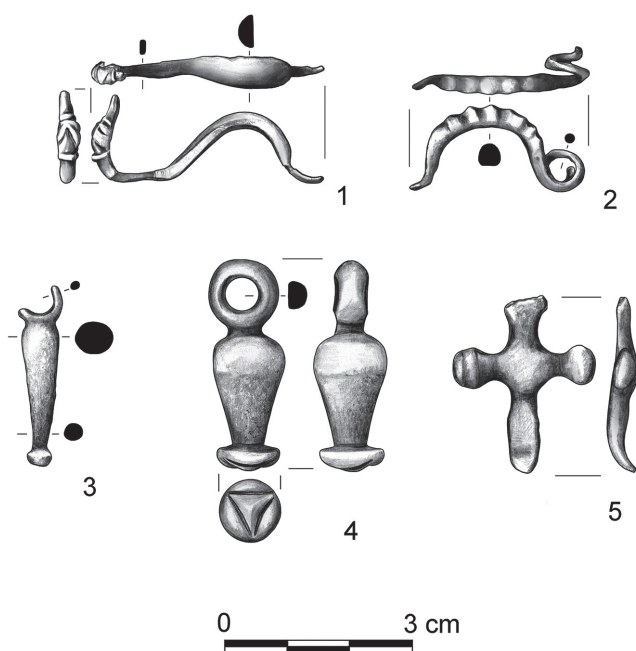


Fig. 2

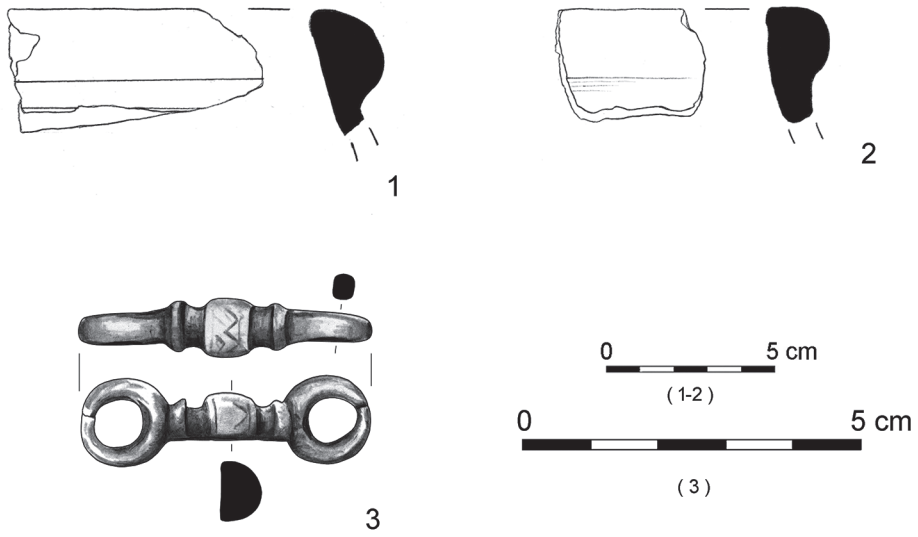


Fig. 3



Fig. 4