

NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

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 80th 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 20th century and the first decades of the 21st 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 20th 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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An Ostrogothic Imitation of a Solidus of Anastasius I Found at Jeżewice

ABSTRACT: Solidus of Theodoric the Great with the name of Anastasius I found during archaeological excavations in Jeżewice near Łabiszyn is the first find from the Migration Period on the Kuyavia-Pałuki border. The coin fits into the picture of contacts between northern Italy and Barbaricum at the turn of the 5th and 6th centuries. On the reverse, there is a scratched letter “P”, which is a monogram of the name Theodoric in the Gothic language.

KEY WORDS: Theodoric the Great, Anastasius I, Ostrogoths, Migration Period, Kuyavia

ABSTRAKT: *Ostrogockie naśladownictwo solida Anastazjusza I znalezione w Jeżewicach*

Solid Teodoryka Wielkiego z imieniem Anastazjusza I, odkryty w trakcie badań archeologicznych w Jeżewicach koło Łabiszyna, jest pierwszym znaleziskiem z Okresu Wędrówek Ludów dokonany na pograniczu Kujaw i Pałuk. Moneta wpisuje się w obraz kontaktów między Północną Italią a Barbaricum na przełomie V i VI wieku. Na rewersie znajduje się wydrapana litera „P”, będąca monogramem imienia Teodoryka w języku gockim.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: Teodoryk Wielki, Anastazjusz I, Ostrogoci, Okres Wędrówek Ludów, Kujawy

In the collections of the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum in Bydgoszcz there is a solidus of the Ostrogothic king, Theodoric the Great (493–526), with the name of Anastasius I (491–518), found in the village of Jeżewice near Łabiszyn.¹ The coin was discovered during surface surveys conducted as part of the Archaeological Photograph of Poland (AZP) by Aneta Trzcińska-Kałużna, MA, and was found on 5th October 2002 by Tamara Zajączkowska, MA.² The place where the coin was found was registered as site no. 5 (41-37/46). The coin, along with the archaeological documentation, was initially deposited in the Museum by the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Provincial Heritage Conservator, and as of 26th July 2023, it has been transferred to the Museum's ownership. The discovery of this rare coin during archaeological research and its inclusion in the museum's collection offer exceptional research opportunities. The aim of this article is to present and interpret this find.

COIN DESCRIPTION

Solidus, Theodoric the Great (in the name of Anastasius I), ca. 492, mint of Milan; Cf. HAHN 1973: no. 16; ARSLAN 1989: AV 14; METLICH 2004: no. 19a; BALDI 2014: no. 73

Obv.: helmeted, diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear in r. hand over shoulder and shield with horseman and enemy motif, D N ANASTA – SIVS P P AVG, dotted border

Rev.: Victory standing l., holding long cross, star in r. field, “P” in l. field, VICTORI – A AVGGG, IMD monogram (Mediolanum), in exergue CON OB, dotted border

Gold, 4.417 g, diam. 21.3 mm, die axis 6 h; Fig. 1

Elemental composition:³ *obv.* – Au 98.738%, Ag 1.058%, Fe 0.203%; *rev.* – Au 98.587%, Ag 1.086%, Fe 0.327%

The coin, which in terms of iconography and metrology corresponds to the Byzantine solidi of Anastasius I from the Constantinople mint, is an issue by Theodoric the Great, king of the Ostrogoths, from the Milan mint. It belongs to a type already known from the literature. The British Museum's collection includes two such solidi weighing 4.42 and 4.40 g.⁴ Both of these coins were struck using the

¹ Inv. no. MOB Mo-9683.

² I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Provincial Office for Monument Protection in Toruń, Bydgoszcz Branch, Ms Elżbieta Dygaszewicz, Ms Tamara Zajączkowska, and Mr Janusz Flemming for all their assistance related to the research and scholarly elaboration of this find. I extend my gratitude to my colleagues at the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum in Bydgoszcz for their dedication to the work associated with this coin. I am also deeply grateful to those outside the Museum who participated in the archaeological research at the site of the coin's discovery in March 2024.

³ Spectroscopic examination using an X-ray fluorescence (voltage 40 kV, time 40 s). I would like to thank the employees of NCP.art (current name: Cardas True Art Bydgoszcz) for conducting the research.

⁴ Inv. no. 1860,0330.1021 and 1908,0506.3.

same pairs of dies. The coin found in Jeżewice, however, was struck using different dies. The differences are clearly visible, including in the manner of depicting the cross held by Victory, her left foot, and the letters on the reverse. A distinctive feature of the Jeżewice coin is the “B” mark, which was later engraved using a sharp tool on the reverse to the left of Victory. This is a monogram of the name Theodoric in the Gothic language (Piudareiks). Similar solidi with monograms of Theodoric are known, but these marks were placed on the coin die and inscribed in Latin letters.⁵

The coin was found in the south-western part of the village of Jeżewice (Łabiszyn commune).⁶ The place of discovery is an arable field with sandy soil located at an altitude of 70 meters above sea level, slightly sloping towards the south. About 70 m to the west there is the southern edge of a tongue of small natural hills running on a NW-SE axis. About 350 m in a straight line to the north there is an oxbow lake – the bend of the Noteć, cut off as a result of the construction of the so-called the New Bydgoszcz Canal completed in 1825. Currently, this is the closest water area. To the south and west of the site, beyond the hills, there are wetland areas. Taking into account the lowering of water levels due to the regulation of the Noteć River and the terrain representation on the map of Prussia by Friedrich von Schrötter, developed between 1796 and 1802,⁷ it can be concluded that until the early 19th century, the site where the coin was found was located on the highest part of a natural island situated amidst wetlands. The place where the coin was found had not previously been identified as an archaeological site. During the 2002 research, in addition to the solidus, 13 fragments of modern ceramic vessels were found. Overall, two verification surface surveys with metal detectors were conducted at the site where the coin was found, but no other objects chronologically close to the described coin were discovered.⁸ Based on the results of the archaeological site research, it is only possible to indicate a *terminus post quem* for the appearance of this coin at the given place. In the case of the few known finds of Roman coins in the neighboring Pałuki region, and considering the unclear circumstances of their discovery, it is possible that they arrived at their find places in the early Middle Ages.⁹ The described coin is the first recorded find of a solidus in the vicinity of Łabiszyn and in the north-western part of Kuyavia. The nearest known finds of solidi from the 5th century are

⁵ For example, from the collections of the British Museum: Inv. nos. 1922,0523.3 (mint of Milan), 1867,0101.1014, 1904,0511.10, B 11436 (mint of Rome), 1863,0711.17 (mint of Ravenna). From the collections of Münzkabinett der Staatlichen Museen, Berlin: Inv. no. 18254838 (mint of Milan).

⁶ Coordinates of the discovery site: 52.96794, 17.98769.

⁷ SCHROETTER 1802–1812.

⁸ A. Trzecińska-Kałużna, Archaeological Site Record Card, archive of the Provincial Heritage Conservator, Branch in Bydgoszcz archaeological research under the supervision of Józef Łoś, MA.

⁹ SMARUJ 2021: 92–93.

the solidus of Valentinian III from Mill Island in Bydgoszcz (probably found in secondary context)¹⁰ (Fig. 2) and a “gold coin” of Leo I from Wierzchosławice.¹¹ Perhaps this group also includes a solidus of Leo I, purchased for the collections of the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum in Bydgoszcz¹² from a Bydgoszcz resident in 1983, which may have been a find from the city or its vicinity (Fig. 3).

Analyzing the finds of solidi in Poland, we see their concentration in Pomerania,¹³ especially in some of its areas,¹⁴ and in Warmia.¹⁵ Among these finds, the solidi bearing the name of Anastasius I are the youngest coins,¹⁶ a good example being the hoard discovered in the village of Kasibór on the island of Usedom. This hoard also reflects their significant presence, as among the 40 coins, there were eight solidi of Anastasius,¹⁷ constituting 20%. Among the coins from this hoard, one solidus bearing the name of Anastasius is a barbarian imitation.¹⁸ In the hoards of solidi from Pomerania and Warmia, comprising issues from Valentinian I to Anastasius I and consisting of a total of 358 specimens, there are 144 solidi of the latter,¹⁹ representing 40.2%. Coins from the second half of the 5th century are found more frequently.²⁰ A serious research problem that hinders drawing conclusions about the influx of Theodoric the Great's solidi into Polish lands is the scantiness of descriptions of old finds.²¹ As a result, for such finds, it is impossible to be certain whether the information pertains to an Anastasius I solidus struck in Constantinople or a Theodoric the Great solidus with the name of Anastasius, which was minted in one of the mints in Northern Italy. Numerous finds of solidi, including those of Anastasius I and their imitations, are known from Scandinavia.²² When interpreting the totality of the finds, it has been noted that solidi are recorded in areas inhabited by Germans, and they do not appear in neighbouring territories inhabited by Balts. It is convincing

¹⁰ CIOŁEK 2007: 26. The coin is held in the collections of the District Museum in Bydgoszcz, Inv. no. MOB Mo-4964. It might have been brought to the site during the modern era with soil used to raise the level of the Mill Island.

¹¹ ZIELONKA 1969: 201.

¹² Inv. no. MOB Mo-7900. Photo and description of the coin: BOROWCZAK 2009: 10.

¹³ WOŁOSZYN 2009: 474.

¹⁴ CIOŁEK 2003: 168–170. The closest finds to Jeżewice have been recorded in the localities of Chełmno, Lisewo (Chełmno County), and Marianki (Świecie County), *Ibidem*: 169–170. Compare this with the situation in southern Poland: BODZEK, FEDYK and KOTOWICZ 2019: 275.

¹⁵ CIOŁEK 2003: 168–170; ZAPOLSKA 2020: 552; BURSCHE and ZAPOLSKA 2021: 351.

¹⁶ CIOŁEK 2003: 164.

¹⁷ ZAPOLSKA 2020.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*: 546; BURSCHE and ZAPOLSKA 2021: 352.

¹⁹ CIOŁEK 2003: 166. It is very telling to compare these hoards with those formed in a different cultural context, for example BELIËN and VAN DEN SANDEN 2017.

²⁰ CIOŁEK 2003: 165.

²¹ Cf. *Ibidem*.

²² FAGERLIE 1967; HORSNÆS 2009; FISCHER 2023.

to assert that “The impressive number of solidi recovered before the war in Pomerania and Ermland (...) suggests that it was through this area that they were carried from continental Europe to Scandinavia, at least until the end of the 5th century”.²³ It is suggested that veterans returning to southern Scandinavia and moving along the route from Constantinople through the Balkans may have played a role in the transfer of these items.²⁴ It is wage labour, not trade, is now considered to be “evidence of Scandinavians on the Continent having access to solidi while simultaneously displaying a typically Scandinavian manner of treating solidus coinage in a way peculiar to Scandinavians”. The argument cites the discovery of a pendant made from solidi in the village of Udovice in Serbia. One of the coins is a solidus minted for Libius Severus type RIC X 2718 “attached to a gold filigree work of typical Scandinavian character”. It is considered that “highly unlikely that the coin would have reached a Scandinavian goldsmith through commercial exchange”.²⁵ One of the hypotheses presented in the existing literature allows for the possibility of the influx of gold from Byzantium to Western Europe in the form of subsidies between 410 and 467, but also “even greater return of gold to Constantinople”.²⁶ In this case, is it possible that a coin minted in Milan around 492 could have reached Jeżewice via this route? The current state of research does not allow for a definitive resolution of this question.

Archaeological research at the site in Jeżewice, where the solidus of Theodoric the Great was found, did not yield data that would allow even an approximate determination of the time and circumstances in which the coin arrived at that location. It is possible that the place where the coin was found was a campsite at the end of the 5th century, which did not leave traces that could be recorded by archaeological methods. Considering this find in the context of information about other solidus discoveries in Northern Poland suggests that it fits into the pattern of contacts between Northern Italy, Byzantium, and Scandinavia during the Migration Period at the end of the 5th century. This find, along with information about the solidus of Leo I found in Wierchosławice and the mentioned solidi of Valentinian III and Leo I from the collections of the District Museum in Bydgoszcz, suggests that it may be worth considering a revision of current views on settlement patterns at the end of the 5th century. These finds indicate that the same cultural phenomena

²³ BURSCHE and ZAPOLSKA 2021: 351. For an explanation of the great popularity of coins from the Constantinople mint and the cessation of their influx into Polish lands at the end of the 5th century, see: FISCHER and LÓPEZ SÁNCHEZ 2016.

²⁴ FISCHER 2017. Some items found in Poland in Kuyavia are interpreted in a similarly: KONTNY and RUDNICKI 2020.

²⁵ FISCHER 2017: 318. It is worth comparing an older work on the possibilities of interpreting this find and the arguments cited in it: IDEM 2008.

²⁶ FISCHER and LÓPEZ SÁNCHEZ 2016: 252.

associated with solidus discoveries around Chełmno, Świecie, and along the left bank of the lower Vistula River may also pertain to the Bydgoszcz area, the Kuyavia-Pałuki borderland, and western Kuyavia. The results of pollen analyses, according to the authors of these studies, “substantiated the existence in the second half of the 5th and 6th century of settlements enclaves in Kujawy”.²⁷ They also indicate this through archaeological artefacts found in Kuyavia.²⁸ Furthermore, understanding the archaeological context of the discovery of the Ostrogothic imitation of a Byzantine coin, which in itself is very unusual, is a valuable source for research on the circulation of these coins.

ABBREVIATION

RIC X = J.P.C. KENT, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, vol. X: *The Divided Empire and the Fall of the Western Parts, AD 395–491*, London 2018.

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²⁷ BURSCHE and ZAPOLSKA 2021: 351.

²⁸ From more recent literature on this topic, see: RUDNICKI 2017: 54.

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PLATE 1

Fig. 1. Solidus of Theodoric the Great (in the name of Anastasius I), ca. AD 492, mint of Milan; 4.417 g, diam. 21.3 mm, MOB collection

Photo: W. Woźniak

Fig. 2. Solidus of Valentinian III (425–455), found on Mill Island in Bydgoszcz, AD 450–455, mint of Ravenna; 4.465 g, diam. 20.5 mm, MOB collection

Photo: W. Woźniak

Fig. 3. Solidus of Leo I (457–474), likely discovered in Bydgoszcz or its vicinity, mint of Constantinople; 4.251 g, diam. 21 mm, MOB collection

Photo: W. Woźniak



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