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## THE ASCALON COIN FOUND AT ZARZECZE, PRZEMYŚL VOIVODSHIP

Professor Stefan Skowronek's interests in the numismatics of Palestine are well known as just as all his contribution to the research on the Greek, Roman and Byzantine coins inflow to the territory of Poland<sup>1</sup>. We de-

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<sup>1</sup> For further information see the Professor's bibliography assembled by J. Ciecieląg in the anniversary book published by Wyższa Szkoła Pedagogiczna in Cracow: *Amicorum dona. Studia dedykowane Profesorowi Stefanowi Skowronkowi w siedemdziesiątą rocznicę urodzin*. F. Kiryk, M. Wilczyński, J. Ciecieląg eds., Cracow 1998, p. 7ff.

The following abbreviations were used in the article:

BMC Palestine = G. F. Hill, *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Palestine (Galilee, Samaria and Judea)* a reedition Bologna 1965.

Gumowski, Moneta = M. Gumowski, *Moneta rzymska w Polsce*, PA, 10, 1954–56, p. 87–149.

MPR = R. Martini, *Monetazione provinciale romana II. Collezione Winsemann Falghera*, Vol. 1–6. Milano 1992.

RPC I = A. Burnett, M. Amandry, P. P. Ripolles, *Roman Provincial Coinage, Vol. I. From the Death of Caesar to the Death of Vitellius (44 BC–AD 69)*, Paris–London 1992.

dicare therefore the present article, concerning the both issues, to the Jubilee with great pleasure.

More than sixty years ago Professor Ludwik Piotrowicz published an extremely interesting and important work for the research on the ancient coins inflow to the territory of middle-eastern Europe. The work concerned the finds of Greek and Roman coins discovered during the construction of the railway in Lesser Poland<sup>2</sup>. The article was based on the notes and the collection of engineer E. Benesz, which were bought from A. Szkaradek by the Archaeological Museum of the Polish Academy of Arts and Science, the present Archaeological Museum in Cracow, where the notes are still kept<sup>3</sup>.

Among the coins published in this paper there are two Greek bronzes found in Zarzecze in the Przemyśl voivodship<sup>4</sup>. According to E. Benesz's notes both pieces were purchased the same day on August 2, 1882<sup>5</sup>. L. Piotrowicz considered one of them to be a coin from Pergamon, whereas the second one remained unrecognised<sup>6</sup>. S. Kubiak introduced a correction to the discussed coins in her publication on the Greek coins found on the territory of Poland. The author included A. Krzyżanowska's new explanation of the coins, according to which both artefacts were to represent the emissions of the Bosphorus Kingdom sovereign Cotys II (123–132)<sup>7</sup>.

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*Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. Danmark. The Royal Collection of Coins and Medals, Danish National Museum, vol. VII: Cyprus to India, reedition New Jersey 1982.*

Wielowiejski, Przemiany = J. Wielowiejski, *Przemiany gospodarczo-społeczne u ludności południowej Polski w okresie późnolatańskiego i rzymskim*, MS, vol. 6, 1960.

<sup>2</sup> L. Piotrowicz, *Znaleziska monet greckich i rzymskich przy budowie kolei małopolskich*, WNA XVIII, 1936 (1937), p. 95–109.

<sup>3</sup> Piotrowicz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 95ff, see B. Reyman-Walczak, *Zbiory numizmatyczne Muzeum Archeologicznego w Krakowie*, (in:) *100-lecie Towarzystwa Numizmatycznego w Krakowie. Kraków maj 27–29 1988 r.*, Kraków 1988, p. 75ff; S. Skowronek, *Badania nad monetami starożytnymi i ich zbiory w ośrodku krakowskim*, (in:) *Archeologia Śródziemnomorska w Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim 1897–1997*, J. Śliwa ed., Kraków 1998, p. 113.

<sup>4</sup> Piotrowicz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 107.

<sup>5</sup> Piotrowicz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 107; see the annotations of E. Benesz on the labels kept along with the coins in the Archaeological Museum in Cracow.: "2/8 1882. Gefunden in Zarzecze b. Jarosław". The authors wish to thank Mrs Bożena Reyman-Walczak from the Department of Numismatics of the Museum of Archaeology in Cracow for making accessible the coins and the materials associated with the described objects.

<sup>6</sup> The same expression can be found in: Z. Woźniak, *Monety celtyckie z ziem polskich*, WN XI, fasc. 4, 1967, p. 221, note. 99; J. Gromnicki, *W sprawie znalezisk monet greckich z Małopolski*, WN, fasc. 1, 1973, p. 10.

<sup>7</sup> S. Kubiak, *Znaleziska monet greckich z obszaru Polski*, WN, XXII, 1978, p. 205, no 49.

Another analysis of the coins effectuated by one of the authors of the present article, lead to changing the interpretation of one of the coins and gave a detailed attribution to the other. In fact, one of the coins turned out to be minted in the Bosphorus Kingdom. A comparison with more recent literature allowed to precise the dating of the coin to the period of Cotys I (45–69) and to establish its minting to the years 63–69<sup>8</sup>.

The second coin was interpreted in a completely different way. The examination of the artefact lead to the conclusion that it is a bronze coin minted in the Palestinian mint of Ascalon (see description below). It belongs to a popular type emitted in this city from the period of Augustus to the times of Septimius Geta. On the obverse there is a portrait of the emperor, whereas reverse contains the representation of Tyche of Ascalon (Astarte) standing on the prow of the ship, holding a sceptre and an *aplustrum*.<sup>9</sup> Tyche is represented with an altar and a pigeon. The obverse of the coin found in Zarzecze contains an illegible inscription ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ, whereas on the reverse the word ΑΣΚΑΛΩ is partly legible. Unfortunately, due to the bad condition of this specimen its precise dating remains difficult. The dating of the Ascalon coins from the discussed period is estimated according to the years of to the city's autonomy, starting in 104/3 B.C.<sup>10</sup> In the case of the specimen from Zarzecze the date is illegible. The bad condition of the obverse of the coin does not allow the identification of the emperor, ruling at the time when the coin was minted. It is however probable that it represents a man without

<sup>8</sup> A. Krzyżanowska's definition was based on the work of A. N. Zograf, *Antičnye monety*, Moskva 1951, p. 202, tab. XLVII, 17; where the described type is ascribed to Cotys II. Our attribution is based on the opinion of P. O. Kariškovski, *Bospor i Rim w I v. n. e. po numizmatičeskim danym*, VDI, 1953, 3, p. 179–190, in particular p. 186ff, who dated the coins in question to the years: 68–69; and N. A. Frolovej, *Mednye monety Kotisa I kak istoričeskij istočnik*, SA, 1976, 3, p. 103–111, in particular p. 110, – dating: 63–68; V. A. Anokhin's proposed attribution of the discussed coin to Rescuporis II should be rather excluded (*Monetnoe delo Bospora*, Kiev 1989, p. 99, 101, – dating: 69–79, Pl. 14, 370). The analysis of the problem of Bosphorus coin finds in the territory of Poland will be the subject of another article by J. Bodzek and R. Madyda-Legutko, which will be published in vol. IV *Notae Numismatacae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne*.

<sup>9</sup> *BMC Palestine*, p. LVIII, no 72–74, 81–95, 104–109, 117–128, 136–158, 169–180, 209–215, 235, Pl. XIII, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, XIV, 3; *RPCI*, p. 673ff, no 4877–4883, 4885, 4887–4888, 4890–4891; *SNG Cop.* 32–35, 38–40; *MPR II/1*, 488, 560–561; *II/2* 596, 861–862. General information on minting in Ascalon see *BMC Palestine*, p. XLVIII; *RPCI*, p. 673ff.

<sup>10</sup> See *BMC Palestine*, p. LV; B.V. Head, *Historia Numorum*<sup>2</sup>, Oxford 1911, p. 804.

beard<sup>11</sup>, which could limit the period of the coin minting to the 1st century and the very beginning of the 2nd (Augustus – Trajan)<sup>12</sup>. The inscription on the reverse is a significant element for the dating of the coin from Zarzecze. On the Ascalon coins from the times of Augustus and Tiberius the title of the emperor *sebastos*, as well as the ethnicon *Askalo* were written in an abbreviated form ΣΕ and ΑΣ<sup>13</sup>. The inscription ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ and ΑΣΚΑΛΩ appears on the coins since Caligula's period<sup>14</sup>. It allows to determine the time of the minting of the discussed coin to the years 37–117, which correspond to the period from the reign of Caligula to the reign of Trajan. Considering this information as well as the style of the emperor's portrait and the representations contained on the reverse, it seems that the discussed coin was minted during the reign of one of the later representatives of the Julian – Claudian dynasty<sup>15</sup>. It must be remembered, however, that it is a subjective opinion of one of the authors of the present article, and it requires further verifications. An argument which might be used to precise the dating of the discussed coin to the years 60–80 is the acceptance of the thesis assuming a common discovery of the Ascalon coin and the bronze coin of Cotys I, minted as mentioned above, in the years 63–69. However E. Benesz's note, that was mentioned before, gives only the information that both coins were found in Zarzecze and that they were purchased on the same day (2 August 1888), but it does not precise whether they were found together or separately. It must be remembered that the common discovery of the coins is not an evidence of their simultaneous minting. If we accept the thesis assuming the common discovery of the coins it is necessary to consider that Cotys' coin might have appeared in the region of Zarzecze a long time after its minting.

It is worth presenting, in this passage, some remarks on the cultural background on the territory in question. The analysed coins from Zarzecze

<sup>11</sup> It was also considered as a beardless head by L. Piotrowicz, *op. cit.*; about difficulties in identification of emperors' portraits on coins of Ascalon, see *RPC I*, p. 674.

<sup>12</sup> Ascalon coins representing portraits of emperors were minted in the period of Augustus up till the times of Maximinus; see *BMC Palestine*, p. LVIII. The emissions of the dated coins with an emperor's portrait were initiated in 4/3 B.C. (*RPC I*, p. 674).

<sup>13</sup> See *RPC I*, p. 674, and no 4877–4881.

<sup>14</sup> See *RPC I*, p. 674, and no 4882–4883, 4885, 4887–4888.

<sup>15</sup> See *RPC I*, Pl. 177, no 4883 (Caligula), 4887 (Claudius).

are not the only remains of the settlement from the Roman period. The area, where they were found, expanding between the lower Wisłok and the San rivers, was comprised by the settlement belonging to the Przeworsk culture all throughout the Roman period<sup>16</sup>. The material from the oldest phase of the Roman period (B1) – corresponding chronologically to the discussed coin – is very scarce. Its remains come from the graveyard in Gać near Przeworsk, which was in use during the early and late Roman periods<sup>17</sup>.

The two vessels discovered in Zarzecze have got smooth surfaces typical for the advanced and final phases of the early Roman period<sup>18</sup>. One of them – a bowl with fluting running towards the concave bottom – was supposed to be found in a cremation grave. The other vessel, a deep goblet decorated with the meander ornament and with deep vertical fluting on the belly is mentioned by Leon Kozłowski as an example of an urn from the Przeworsk culture. However there is no certitude that both vessels come from one grave. An antoninian of Philip the Arab minted in Rome was found in the same locality during the railway construction<sup>19</sup> and finally a denarius of Antoninus Pius was discovered between Zarzecze and Żurawiczki<sup>20</sup>.

Numerous sites belonging to the Przeworsk culture were registered in the vicinity of Zarzecze. A settlement in Jarosław, on the hill of Saint Nicholas (called also the Benedictines' hill) was inhabited in the early

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<sup>16</sup> K. Godłowski, *Przemiany kulturowe i osadnicze w południowej i środkowej Polsce w młodszym okresie przedrzymskim i w okresie rzymskim*, Wrocław–Warszawa–Kraków–Gdańsk–Łódź 1985, maps 3–6; P. Kaczanowski, R. Madyda-Legutko, *Stan i potrzeby badań nad młodszym okresem przedrzymskim i okresem rzymskim w Małopolsce*, (in) *Stan i potrzeby badań nad młodszym okresem przedrzymskim i okresem wpływów rzymskich w Polsce*, Kraków, 1986, maps 5, 6.

<sup>17</sup> K. Hadaczek, *Cmentarzysko ciałopalne koło Przeworska (z epoki cesarstwa rzymskiego)*, Teka Konserwatorska, III, fasc. 2. Lwów 1909; Godłowski, *Przemiany...*, maps 3–6.

<sup>18</sup> Hadaczek, *Cmentarzysko...*, Pl. Z: 66, 67 (as Kamienica); L. Kozłowski *Zarys pradziejów Polski południowo-wschodniej*, Lwów 1939, p. 85, 89, Pl. XXIV: 5,7; K. Majewski, *Importy rzymskie na ziemiach słowiańskich*, Wrocław 1949, p. 53; M. Aleksiewicz, *Zarys osadnictwa w okresie lateńskim i rzymskim oraz wpływów kultury prowincjonalno-rzymskiej na ziemię województwa rzeszowskiego*, Rocznik Województwa Rzeszowskiego, 1<sup>st</sup> year, book 1, 1958, p. 50.

<sup>19</sup> Piotrowicz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 107; Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, cat. no 323I; the latter author considers the mentioned find as a separate from the previously discussed, pointing out at a different date in the archives of E. Benesz – 18.VIII. 1872 (Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 255, note 2).

<sup>20</sup> Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, cat. no 323II.

and late Roman periods<sup>21</sup>. On this territory next to the villages there are also graveyards dating from the latter chronological period mentioned above. The graveyards discovered in Częstkowice<sup>22</sup> and in Żurawiczki<sup>23</sup>, both in the Przemyśl voivodship, are dated to the phases B2/C1–C1a of the younger Roman period<sup>24</sup>. A graveyard of crematory rite from the Roman period (without more detailed dating) was also discovered in Przeworsk on the site no 1<sup>25</sup>. The settlement materials dating from the younger Roman period are also known from Przeworsk<sup>26</sup> in the Przemyśl voivodship and from Maćkówka<sup>27</sup> situated in the southern part of the same voivodship. Numerous sites belonging to the Przeworsk culture are also known from the zone bordering the Mlecza valley. They were identified due to the survey carried out in the region of Przeworsk and Kańczuga<sup>28</sup>. The general pattern of the settlement network was completed by the discoveries of denarii, mostly emitted by Marcus Aurelius. They were found in Częstkowice<sup>29</sup>, Jarosław<sup>30</sup> and in the settlement in Mać-

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<sup>21</sup> A. Kunysz, *Badania archeologiczne na wzgórzu Benedyktynek w Jarosławiu*, Materiały i Sprawozdania Rzeszowskiego Ośrodka Archeologicznego, 1966, p. 232; G. Kieferling, *Zabytki z młodszego okresu przedrzymskiego i z okresu wpływów rzymskich w zbiorach Muzeum w Jarosławiu*, (in:) *Na granicach antycznego świata. Sytuacja kulturowa w południowo-wschodniej Polsce i regionach sąsiednich w młodszym okresie przedrzymskim i okresie rzymskim*, Rzeszów 1999, p. 229–265.

<sup>22</sup> Hadaczek, *Cmentarzysko...*, p. 18; M. Śmiszko, *Stan i potrzeby badań nad okresem cesarstwa rzymskiego w południowo-wschodniej Polsce*, Wiadomości Archeologiczne, XIV, 1936, p. 132, Pl. XVII: 4; Majewski, *Importy...*, p. 91, no 244; Aleksiewicz, *Zarys...*, p. 42, 61; J. Wielowiejski, *Przemiany*, p. 303, no 197; R. Jamka, *Epoka żelaza w widłach Wisły i Sanu (od około 400 r. przed n.e. do 600 r. n.e.)*, Rocznik Województwa Rzeszowskiego, III, 1963, Rzeszów, p. 36.

<sup>23</sup> Wielowiejski 1960, *Przemiany...*, no 492.

<sup>24</sup> Godłowski, *Przemiany...*, map 5.

<sup>25</sup> K. Moskwa, *Nowe stanowiska archeologiczne na terenie Przeworska*, Wiadomości Archeologiczne, XXVIII, fasc. 2, 1962, p. 195.

<sup>26</sup> Moskwa, *Nowe...*, p. 195–197.

<sup>27</sup> J. Kolendo, J. Wielowiejski, *Wyniki prac wykopaliskowych na terenie osady z okresu późnorzymskiego i wczesnośredniowiecznego w Maćkowie, pow. Przeworsk*, Materiały i Sprawozdania Rzeszowskiego Ośrodka Archeologicznego, 1966, p. 152–159; J. Wielowiejski, *Badania na terenie osady z okresu późnorzymskiego i wczesnośredniowiecznego w Maćkowie, pow. Przeworsk*, Materiały i Sprawozdania Rzeszowskiego Ośrodka Archeologicznego za rok 1967, Rzeszów 1971, p. 128–129.

<sup>28</sup> W. Blajer, A. Kostek, *Badania powierzchniowe w okolicach Przeworska w latach 1980–1981*, Materiały i Studia Muzealne, V, Przemyśl 1982, p. 103–108 as well as information from Dr W. Blajera.

<sup>29</sup> Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 47, cat. no 35.

<sup>30</sup> Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 75, cat. no 88I.



kówka<sup>31</sup> in the Przemyśl voivodship. A denarius from the period of Vespasian was found in Maćkówka too<sup>32</sup>. Another denarius from the times of Trajan, minted in the year 100 was discovered in Jarosław in the settlement on the hill of Saint Nicholas<sup>33</sup>. Bronze coins dating from the 1st century and from the first half of the 2nd century were also found in Jarosław<sup>34</sup>, as well as a hoard containing silver and bronze coins emitted starting from the period of Philip the Arab till the times of Constantius Gallus<sup>35</sup>.

The discovery of the Ascalon coin is of special interest in the territory of Lesser Poland. It could be only compared to a coin of the Palestinian Cesarea minted at Nero's times discovered in the vicinity of Słupia Nowa in the Kielce voivodship<sup>36</sup>. Although A. Kunisz had some doubts about its authenticity<sup>37</sup>, the coin found in Zarzecze gives more probability, up to a certain extent. It confirms the possibilities of an inflow of bronze coins minted in the cities of Palestine to the territory of Poland. Up to the present, the objects from Palestine and Syria were not taken into consideration when elaborating the autonomic coins minted during the empire period which reached our territory<sup>38</sup>. It must be remembered that the lack of this kind of finds in inventories may reflect the state of research. The registration of the discoveries of Greek coins minted during

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<sup>31</sup> Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 113, cat. no 137I.

<sup>32</sup> Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 113, cat. no 137II.

<sup>33</sup> Kieferling, *Zabytki...*, p. 239, 258, Pl. XVIII, 1; B. Reyman-Walczak, *Denar Trajana ze Wzgórza Świętego Mikołaja w Jarosławiu*, (in:) *Na granicach...*, p. 266.

<sup>34</sup> Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 76, cat. no 88II.

<sup>35</sup> Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 76, cat. no 88III.

<sup>36</sup> BMC *Palestine*, p. 14, no 13–29, Pl. II, 13; the coin is kept in the Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum in Łódź, inv. no MAEL-N-A 11658; see: J. Piniński in: *Sprawozdania Numizmatyczne*, 1981, Łódź 1983, p. 9, Pl. II, 3; A. Kunisz, *Znaleziska monet rzymskich z Małopolski*, Wrocław 1985, no 163.

<sup>37</sup> Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 151, note 1. The author thinks that the artefact might have a false documentation. We accept however A. Kunisz's argumentation about the doubtful authenticity of the specimen from Wąchock – minted in Tyr, Heliogabal's bronze. See: J. Piniński in *Sprawozdania Numizmatyczne* 1981, Łódź 1983, p. 10, Pl. II; Kunisz, *Znaleziska...*, no 296, on the problem concerning the authenticity of the coin see the latter p. 238, note 1.

<sup>38</sup> The problem concerning the Greek coins minted during the Roman Empire and found on the territory of Poland is discussed by A. Kunisz, *East and Central European Finds of Autonomous Coins from the Roman Empire Period*, WN XVII, 1973, (=Polish Numismatic News II, 1973, p. 27ff); A. Bursche, *Emisje autonomiczne Mezji i Tracji oraz ich rozpowszechnienie w Europie środkowo-wschodniej*, Balcanica Posnaniensia, vol. 1, 1984, p. 235ff; coins of this type are contained in the catalogue S. Kubiak, *Znaleziska monet greckich z obszaru Polski*, WN, XXII, 1978, p. 190ff.

the Roman Empire in the territory of Poland is still not satisfying<sup>39</sup>. New discoveries might enrich the range of sources. A bronze coin of Caracalla minted in the Capadotian Cesarea, discovered during the excavations in the settlement site in Jakuszowice dating from the Roman period<sup>40</sup>, could be an evidence upholding this thesis. It is also necessary to verify, as far as possible, the information about the past discoveries. The discussed Ascalon coin as well as coins belonging to the hoard from Glinik Mariampolski could be good examples<sup>41</sup>.

The possibility of the inflow of coins from the region in question to the territory of Poland is also confirmed by sporadic specimens coming from Egypt, equally exotic and bordering on Palestine<sup>42</sup>. This could be illustrated by a Hadrian's tetradrachm, minted in Egyptian Alexandria and found in Sadki in the Bydgoszcz voivodship<sup>43</sup>.

Although the authenticity of the discussed coin is not controversial, its provenience is problematic. The mentioned above thesis assuming the common discovery of the Ascalon coin along with the bronze coin of Cotys I, suggests an eastern direction of both artefacts inflow. As it has been mentioned before this thesis is not proved. What is more, there are no well documented finds of Palestinian and Syrian coins in the territories of Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine or Moldavia. The only registered find of that kind is an Ascalon coin belonging to a doubtful hoard from Czerniejew<sup>44</sup>. On the other hand it is also necessary to take into account

<sup>39</sup> See A. Kunisz: "The cataloguing of finds of the Greek coins of the Roman period is still at a preliminary stage" (*Studies on the Finds of Roman Coins in Poland during the past three decades. A tentative Approach*), WN XL, 1996 (Polish Numismatic News VI, 1997), p. 20.

<sup>40</sup> See A. Bursche, *Roman Coinage from Jakuszowice Settlement in North Małopolska*, *Notae Numismaticae-Zapiski Numizmatyczne* II, 1997, p. 143, no 98.

<sup>41</sup> The publication of the coins from the hoard in Glinik Mariampolski is to be owed to Professor Stefan Skowronek: *Glinik Mariampolski, pow. Gortice. Skarb monet bosforańskich i olbiskich*, WN, XVII, fasc. 3, 1973, p. 154ff.; About new opinions concerning the finding see R. Madyda-Legutko, *Zróżnicowanie kulturowe polskiej strefy beskidzkiej w okresie lateńskim i rzymskim. Katalog stanowisk*, Kraków 1977, p. 11, no 177; eadem, *Zróżnicowanie kulturowe polskiej strefy beskidzkiej w okresie lateńskim i rzymskim*, Kraków 1996, p. 47; see also above note 8.

<sup>42</sup> We mean the coins minted in Egyptian Alexandria in 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century; Alexandrian coins from 3<sup>rd</sup> century, found in the territory of Poland constitute a separate problem; see Kunisz, *East...*, p. 31ff.

<sup>43</sup> A. Krzyżanowska, *Znaleziska, Sadki, woj., Bydgoszcz*, WN XXXI, 1987, p. 101f.

<sup>44</sup> B. Janusz, *Zabytki przedhistoryczne Galicji Wschodniej*, Lwów 1918, p. 214, no 514; M. Ju. Brajčevskij, *Rimska moneta na teritorii Ukraini*, Kiiv 1959, 169, 606; V. V. Kropotkin, *Klady rimskih monet na teritorii SSSR*, Moskva 1961, no 943.



the fact of not sufficient registration of this kind of finds. Coins from Egyptian Alexandria prove that the coins from the territory in question could have reached the territory of Poland<sup>45</sup>. A list of objects from Mesia and Thracia could be an evidence of a possible inflow of coins minted in some exotic provinces to the Black Sea region<sup>46</sup>. It should not be therefore excluded that the coin in question reached Zarzecze through an eastern trail from the Black Sea region.

The situation is similar in the case of the territories neighbouring directly the territory of Poland from the south. Although in the territory of Slovakia there are no finds of coins minted during the Roman Empire in Syria and Palestine but there is one bronze coin minted in Alexandria at the time of Claudius and it was discovered in Pavlice near Trnava<sup>47</sup>. Also in this case the lack of coins from Syria and Palestine does not exclude the possibility of a southern provenience of the coin.

The coins minted in the territory of Syria and Palestine are frequent in the Luboszyce culture – a Hadrian's bronze specimen from Beroe in Syria found in Neuzelle<sup>48</sup> or in the Elbian Circle – a Trajan's bronze coin minted in Berytos in Phoenicia found in Reisdorf<sup>49</sup> and another one of Marcus Aurelius minted in Lysias in Syria discovered in Mühlhausen<sup>50</sup>. This number of finds seems to be a strong argument indicating the possibility of the inflow of the coin in question from the west.

The direction of the Ascalon coin inflow to the territory of Poland still remains an open question. Considering similar artefacts, the most attractive

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<sup>45</sup> In the territory of Ukraine only one Alexandrian coin has been found from the period in question: in Novo-Otradne (Crims'ka oblast') – a Hadrian's coin minted in this mint; see Kropotkin, *Klady...*, no 614.

<sup>46</sup> See. A. Kunisz, *Obieg monetarny na obszarach Mezji i Tracji w I i II wieku n.e.*, Katowice 1992, – Moesia: Dobruja – a unidentified locality, 2 cooper Alexandrian obols of Hadriana (Kunisz, *Obieg...*, p. 155); Babadag, Tulcea (Romania), AE, Tarsus, 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. (Kunisz, *Obieg...*, p. 132); Svištov-Novae, Loveč (Bulgaria) – Nero, an Alexandrian tetradrachm (Kunisz, *Obieg...*, p. 135); Slavotin, Mihailovgrad (Bulgaria) – Nero, an Alexandrian tetradrachm (Kunisz, *Obieg...*, p. 135); Thracia: Ajtoskite Bani, Burgas (Bulgaria) – Caligula, AE Philadelphia Lydiae (Kunisz, *Obieg...*, p. 137).

<sup>47</sup> V. Ondrouch, *Nálezy keltských, antických a byzantských minci na Slovensku*, Bratislava 1964, p. 77, no 162.

<sup>48</sup> H. Jentsch, *Fundstatistik IV. Römische Münzen*, Niederlausitzer Mitteilungen 3, 1893, p. 340.

<sup>49</sup> R. Laser, *Die römischen und frühbyzantinischen Fundmünzen auf dem Gebiet der DDR*, Berlin 1980, p. 256.

<sup>50</sup> R. Laser, *Die römischen...* p. 276.

thesis seems to indicate the western direction of its appearance. However its co-occurrence with the coin of Cotys I points to the eastern direction of inflow. It is worth emphasizing in this passage that of great significance is the verification of the other materials from the past excavation and collections as could be seen in the case of the Ascalon coin found in Zarzecze.

Translated by KINGA PIWOWARCZYK

### The description

#### 1. Judea, Ascalon

AE, 1 century A.D. (?)

Obverse: Laureate beardless, Head of an Emperor I.

Reverse: Tyche-Astarte standing left, on the prow holding sceptre and *aplustrum*; to left altar with fire, to right dove. The date illegible.

[ AC ] KAAΩ

weight: 9,825 g, diameter 23,6 mm

Literature: Cf. SNG Cop. 35; RPC I, nos 4882–4883;

Found at Zarzecze, the Przemyśl voivodship

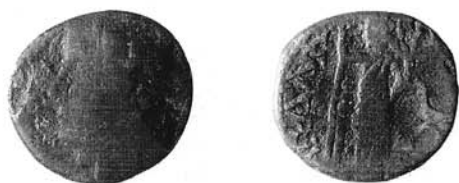
References: Piotrowicz, *Znaleziska...*, p. 107; Majewski, *Importy...*, p. 159; Gumowski, *Moneta*, p. 128, no 7; Wielowiejski, *Przemiany...*, p. 395, no 1574, B1; Woźniak, *Monety...*, p. 221; Kubiak, *Znaleziska...*, p. 205, no 49.

JAROSŁAW BODZEK

RENATA MADYDA-LEGUTKO

### Znalezisko monety Askalonu w Zarzeczu, woj. przemyskie

Autorzy omawiają znalezisko monety wybitej w palestyńskiej mennicy Askalon, dokonane w miejscowości Zarzecze, w województwie przemyskim. Moneta została odkryta w 1882 r., najprawdopodobniej 2. sierpnia, podczas prac związanych z budową kolei. Początkowo znajdowała się w posiadaniu inż. E. Benesza a obecnie przechowywana jest w Muzeum Archeologicznym w Krakowie. W pierwszych publikacjach moneta określana była jako nierozpoznana, w nieco późniejszych jako moneta Kotysa II. Ponowny ogląd monety dokonany przez autorów artykułu pozwolił zidentyfikować omawiany egzemplarz jako monetę Askalonu. Jak dotąd jest to jedyna moneta wybita w tej mennicy znaleziona na ziemiach polskich. Na terenie, z którego pochodzi znalezisko, oraz w bezpośrednich okolicach Zarzecza występują liczne stanowiska poświadczające osadnictwo w okresie wpływów rzymskich.



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