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The Finds of Bracteates, Imitations of Cufic Dirhams, from the Territory of Belarus

The author describes one-sided bracteate imitations of Arabic dirhams found in the territory of the present-day Belarus. Such silver imitations have been attested in many regions of the former Ruthenia. Twenty-one specimens of this particular coin type have been recorded in the territory of the modern-day Ukraine; 66 in the territory of the present-day Russian Federation; and 19 in Belarus. In most cases, these bracteate imitations were made from silver. Among some notable exceptions there are three copper imitations found at the village Kazloucy (commune Zaućie, raion Morsk, oblast' Vitebsk). Very similar finds have been recorded at the Latvian locations Daugmale and Doles-Vampieshi. On the basis of these analogous finds, the author considers the territory of Latvia as the place of origin of the copper imitations.