

NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

ZAPISKI NUMIZMATYCZNE



Tom XIII

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

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Bogumiła Haczewska (1943–2017). Emeryk Hutten-Czapski Museum, September 1995. Photo: I. Feldblum

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31 grudnia 2017 roku zmarła Bogumiła Haczewska (1943–2017), emerytowany, wieloletni pracownik i kierownik Gabinetu Numizmatycznego Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie, znawczyni mennictwa średniowiecznego i gdańskiego, zastępca redaktora i członek komitetu redakcyjnego *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne*. Była osobą mocno zaangażowaną w działalność społeczną: reaktywowała w 1989 roku w Muzeum Narodowym Związek Zawodowy „Solidarność”, działała w Towarzystwie Przyjaciół Muzeum im. Emeryka Hutten-Czapskiego, zakładała Stowarzyszenie Muzealników Polskich, najważniejszą dziś organizację skupiającą pracowników polskich muzeów. Niezwykle pracowita, świadoma odpowiedzialności wynikającej ze sprawowanych przez siebie funkcji, całą sobą oddana była Gabinetowi Numizmatycznemu.

Jej pamięci poświęcamy XIII tom *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne*, nie mając wątpliwości, że czasopismo to nie powstałoby bez jej zaangażowania.

Redakcja

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you Volume XIII of *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne*. In accordance with our customary practice, all the texts concerned with subjects of international interest or significance have been published in the conference languages, while those of more relevance to Polish readers – in Polish. Information for prospective authors as well as previously published volumes of our journal can be found at www.mnk.pl.

A worker of many years at the Numismatic Cabinet of the National Museum in Krakow and then the cabinet's director before she retired, Bogumiła Haczewska (1943–2017) passed away on December 31, 2017. An expert on medieval coinage and coinage from Gdańsk, Haczewska was deputy editor and a member of the editorial committee of *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne*. Whether she was reactivating the Solidarity labor union at the National Museum in 1989 or busy doing work for the Association of Benefactors of the Emeryk Hutten-Czapski Museum or else putting together the Association of Polish Museologists, the most important organization for employees at Polish museums, Haczewska was heavily engaged in doing social work. An exceptionally hard worker, Haczewska was conscious of the responsibility resulting from the offices she held, giving her whole self to the Numismatic Cabinet.

It is in memory of Bogumiła Haczewska that we dedicate the 13th volume of *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne*, there being no doubt that the journal would never have been created without her full commitment.

The Editors

HELLE W. HORSNÆS

National Museum of Denmark

MALENE REFSHAUGE BECK

Østfyns Museer, Denmark

A Hoard of Republican Denarii from Skellerup, Denmark – A Preliminary Report

ABSTRACT: Nineteen Republican denarii and one early Augustan denarius have been found as a result of metal-detector surveys conducted by amateurs at Skellerup in Eastern Funen (Denmark). The finds are interpreted as a hoard scattered by plowing. The same site has produced two denarii of Galba, a Roman bronze coin, and five other objects ranging in age from the 5th to the 20th century.

KEY WORDS: detector survey, archaeology, Republican, denarius, hoard

ABSTRAKT: *Skarb denarów republikańskich ze Skellerup, Dania – uwagi wstępne*

W wyniku badań wykrywaczami metali przeprowadzonych przez amatorów w Skellerup we Wschodniej Fionii (Dania) znaleziono dziewiętnaście denarów republikańskich i jeden wczesny denar Augusta. Znaleźiska interpretowane są jako skarb rozwleczony podczas orki. W tym samym miejscu odkryto dwa denary Galby, rzymską monetę brązową oraz pięć innych obiektów datowanych na okres od V do XX wieku.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: badanie wykrywaczem metali, archeologia, republikański, denar, skarb

DETECTOR SURVEYS AND THE SKELLERUP SITE

Danish legislation makes the use of metal detectors legal on all land except protected heritage sites, provided the land owner of a given piece of land gives his/her permission to the detectorist to walk the field. All finds that could possibly be

declared treasures must be handed in to the authorities for evaluation. If the objects or coins are declared treasures, a reward will be paid to the finder by the state. Failing to hand in possible treasures for evaluation is a criminal offense and can be prosecuted by the state. We have reason to believe that most Danish detectorists follow these regulations: indeed, many of them are dedicated amateur archaeologists and do much more than the law stipulates to take care of the finds. Normally, amateur detectorists register finds on site with exact GPS coordinates, and in the particular case under consideration here the detectorists even GPS-tracked the way they searched the field, thus enabling archaeologists to get a good understanding of the finds' distribution (Pl. 1, Fig. 1).

Since 2011, close cooperation has developed between the Østfyns Museer and local detectorists regarding the search for traces of settlements from the late Iron Age to the early medieval period.¹ This research was initiated by the museum and demanded a systematic approach from the detectorists with regard to the use of systematic surveys, GPS coordinates, GPS-tracking, and find reports. Initially, the museum pointed out the survey areas, instructed detectorists in how the surveys should be conducted, and trained them to look for relevant information in, for example, old cadastral maps. As a result, these amateur detectorists have a very high – and very reliable – standard when it comes to conducting surveys and registering their finds, and they are able to look for information when searching for possible new sites. This cooperation ensures that a large number of archaeological objects that would have been destroyed or would never have been registered end up at the museum; more importantly, it ensures that all the information on the circumstances of these finds also makes them excellent research material.

The Skellerup site² is situated in eastern Funen in a rural area close to the village of the same name and to a medieval church, roughly halfway between the towns of Nyborg and Odense. The finds were made in a harvested field situated on a plateau in a morainic landscape characterized by its plains and only minimal differences in height. The second largest stream on Funen, the Vindinge Å, runs in a marked valley 500 m north of the find spot. At Skellerup, there is a natural passage and what is probably a very old road that runs across the valley's wetland areas. The Hindemae Manor is now located on the opposite side of the valley. In the cadastral map from 1805, a small area of (wet?) meadow measuring approximately 14 × 17 m is seen next to the find spot, indicating that a small wetland area or bog may have been visible here in prehistoric times (Pl. 2, Fig. 2). Since the initial find in December 2015, the stubble field has been systematically surveyed twice, in 2016 and 2017,

¹ FEVEILE 2016.

² Site no. 090613-49 in the Danish National Heritage database Fund og Fortidsminder (Finds and Monuments).

by private amateur archaeologists. A total of twenty-eight objects have been found and registered with GPS coordinates.

From an archaeological point of view, the area around Skellerup is almost unknown land where no substantial archaeological investigations have thus far been performed. A few pits probably dating to the early part of the pre-Roman Iron Age (*c.* 500–300 BC) have been registered 450 m west and northwest of the treasure find.³ A few more pits with pottery from the late pre-Roman Iron Age have been documented 550 m to the south,⁴ and traces of settlements from the pre-Roman Iron Age have been investigated 1500 m west of the Skellerup site in connection with the construction of a gas pipeline.⁵ Although no traces of settlements have thus far been documented in close relation to the Skellerup site, it seems, based on the current information and finds, that the area around it was quite densely populated during the Early Iron Age (*c.* 500–1 BC). However, no finds from the Roman Iron Age (*c.* AD 1–375) have thus far been documented.

THE COINS

The finds soon attracted attention, as a substantial number of them, twenty-three in total, are Roman coins, which can be divided into three groups: twenty denarii from the Republican and early Augustan periods, two imperial denarii, and a sestertius (see coin lists). Thus far, no coins of the Viking Age or later medieval period have been found.

THE EARLY AUGUSTAN HOARD

The majority of the Republican/early Augustan denarii were found on the same field within an area measuring approximately 60 × 40 m. The distance between the coins is thus relatively large, and there is no dense concentration of coins indicating that the remains of the original deposition could still be intact. But considering the low intensity of other finds, as well as the rarity of these types of denarii in the general spectrum of finds in Denmark, it seems safe to interpret them as the remains of a plowed-up hoard.⁶

³ Site nos. 090613–25 and 29 in the Danish National Heritage database *Fund og Fortidsminder* (Finds and Monuments).

⁴ Site nos. 090613–15 and 19 in the Danish National Heritage database *Fund og Fortidsminder* (Finds and Monuments).

⁵ Site no. 090613–24 in the Danish National Heritage database *Fund og Fortidsminder* (Finds and Monuments).

⁶ There are several examples of plowed-up denarius hoards with long distances between individual finds where it has been possible to re-fit broken coins, e.g. hoards from Bornholm (HORSNÆS 2013) and a recently discovered hoard from Tagesgård, Lolland, where it was possible to re-fit five coins with examples of two fragments of the same coin found up to 70 m apart (see Rasmussen (2015), though there is no discussion here of these re-fittings).

Most of the coins can be identified by type and thus dated within a very narrow time frame (see coin list). The earliest is RRC type 231/1, dated 138 BC; it features Roma on the obverse and Juno in a biga of goats on the reverse. Two of the denarii cannot be safely ascribed to a particular type, but they both belong to a series with Roma on the obverse and a quadriga on the reverse and should be dated to 144–100 BC. The terminal coin is an early Augustan fragment of type RIC I² 410 dated to 13 BC.

The denarii thus range in age from the mid-2nd century BC to the early Augustan period. This may at first sight seem a very long time frame, but it is in fact very characteristic for denarius hoards containing a significant proportion of Republican coins and an early Augustan terminal coin. Striking similarities can be found by comparing the structure of the Skellerup hoard to other hoards with an early Augustan terminal coin. This is true, in particular, with regard to the Ivano-Frankivsk Hoard recently found in western Ukraine (the end coin of which is dated to between 9–5 BC),⁷ but also, albeit in a less pronounced way, to the structure of the Nowa Wieś Głubczycka and Połaniec hoards from southern Poland,⁸ and to a group of hoards from southeastern Europe that have recently been the subject of study.⁹ Furthermore, while there are similarities between the structure of the Skellerup hoard and the general pattern of contemporary hoards from Romania, the structure does not comply with Iberian and Italian hoards from the period.¹⁰ Any conclusions that we come to can only be tentative because of the relatively small number of coins in the hoard as known today, but at present it seems likely that the coins for the hoard were collected in – and came to the Danish area from – southeastern Europe rather than from Italy or the West.

Republican coins are rarely found in Denmark. Ten single finds are known, all from sites in southern and eastern Denmark (except Bornholm). Only one was found in an archaeologically dated context, namely a denarius from 47–46 BC (RRC 460) found in stratum VR of house VII in the Dankirke site in southern Jutland. This layer was dated to the Early Roman Iron Age (c. AD 1–150).¹¹ The remaining coins are either old finds with little or no known details of the circumstances of the find, or they are detector finds. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that two Republican denarii come from Gudme in southeastern Funen, one of the most important Iron Age sites in Denmark. One of these coins is probably from the cemetery area east

⁷ DYMOWSKI 2016: find no. 40 = MYZGIN 2017: find no. 14.

⁸ DYMOWSKI 2016: find nos. 114 and 135.

⁹ BILIČ 2012; see also: DYMOWSKI 2016: charts 2–5.

¹⁰ Kris Lockyear, pers. comm. We would like to thank Dr. Lockyear for sharing his opinion on the material with us.

¹¹ BJERG 2011.

of Gudme, whereas the other is from Eisemoseløkken, an area displaying activity from the early part of Gudme's heyday.¹²

The Ginderup hoard was excavated in 1934 in a house context dated to c. AD 100–150. This site is situated in northwestern Jutland, towards the North Sea. Ginderup is the only other find in Denmark of a hoard dominated by Republican denarii.¹³ Yet the composition of the Ginderup hoard differs in a number of significant ways from the Skellerup hoard. The terminal coin of the Ginderup hoard is a coin of Vespasian (type RIC I(2) 702 of AD 74); the hoard also contains five specimens of Marc Antony's legionary issue of 31 BC and two specimens of Augustus' Gaius and Lucius type, both significant types not encountered in the Skellerup hoard. Thus, the two hoards may have been deposited up to a century apart, and the composition of just the Republican coins within these hoards indicates that their biographies differ greatly.

Only a few Republican denarii are known from other Scandinavian countries. One was found in the medieval fortification at Viby, Gotland, and must be regarded as a secondary find.¹⁴ Another Republican denarius was reported to have been found together with a denarius of Domitian in Schonen, but the provenance of the find, derived from an unknown seller to the present owner, is regarded as untrustworthy.¹⁵ A Republican denarius and an Augustan denarius from Nyland, Finland, were both considered to be secondary finds.¹⁶ Few finds have been reported from Germany from the areas between the Oder and the Elbe, while more specimens have only appeared in areas close to the Limes.¹⁷ Recent studies of finds from East Central Europe reveal larger numbers of finds from present-day Poland and Ukraine, but while there are a number of single finds in the Vistula basin, hoards have only been found in more southerly areas.¹⁸

THE GALBA DENARII

The two denarii of Galba from Skellerup pose a particular problem. They were initially suspected to be part of the same hoard as the Republican denarii, but they were found approximately 40 m west-northwest of the closest Republican denarii,

¹² There is a vast literature on Gudme. For a summary of the numismatic material, see Horsnæs (2010: 94–101), which includes references to earlier publications. A more detailed account of the detector finds from Gudme is in preparation.

¹³ BJERG 2008.

¹⁴ LIND 1988: 22 and 61, no. 8.

¹⁵ We would like to thank Cecilia von Heijne, senior curator of the Royal Coin Cabinet, Stockholm, who provided us with this information.

¹⁶ EHRNSTEN & KUNNAS-PUSA 2017: find nos. 185–186.

¹⁷ KOMNICK 2008, with references to relevant entries in the FMRD.

¹⁸ DYMOWSKI 2016: in particular Ch. 6; MYZGIN 2017.

and the chronological structure of the Republican/early Augustan denarii is clearly more closely comparable to hoards with a terminal coin at the beginning of our era than with Flavian hoards. The two coins of Galba should therefore not be regarded as part of the Republican/Augustan hoard. Nevertheless, they are of great interest, as coins of Galba are also very rare in Denmark – so far only seven of his coins have been registered from here. Six of them come from the Råmosen and Orup hoards (three from each), which both belong to the earliest Imperial denarius hoards from Denmark,¹⁹ and one was recently found at the detector site of Høgsbrogård Vest.²⁰

THE SESTERTIUS

This Roman bronze coin was found approximately 15 m west of the closest Republican denarius and approximately 30 m southeast of the denarii of Galba. It is badly corroded and hardly legible. Besides its size (it is approximately 29–31 mm in diameter), the faint traces of a portrait head on the obverse and that of a standing figure on the reverse indicate that it is probably an imperial issue of the 1st or 2nd century AD. The weight of the coin (15.89 g) is below the ideal for an imperial sestertius, but even in comparison to well-preserved specimens such a weight is by no means impossible, and it must be noted that among the Danish finds of sestertii from what are probably Iron Age contexts other specimens exist that are severely underweight.

Roman bronze coins are also relatively rare finds in Denmark. They make up only about 2% of the total number of Roman coins found in Denmark, and it can be argued that a significant portion of them – perhaps half of them – are the result of losses/deposits from historical times rather than during the Iron Age.²¹ There are still, however, a number of finds of bronze coins that derive from detector sites, in particular much-worn sestertii of the late 1st–2nd centuries, which were likely lost/deposited in the Iron Age, and this specimen should be counted among them.

THE OTHER FINDS

Given the thorough and systematic survey that was conducted and the close proximity of a medieval village and church, there are remarkably few other detector finds from this particular field. A fragment of a crossbow fibula dated to the 5th century AD is the only prehistoric find. It was found in the eastern part of the field. A medieval belt buckle and three iron nails probably from modern horse shoes represent the remaining artifacts. A small concentration of detector finds, primarily

¹⁹ HORSNÆS 2010: 130, fig. 68.

²⁰ Site no. 210103-43 in the Danish National Heritage database Fund og Fortidsminder (Finds and Monuments).

²¹ HORSNÆS 2006.

of early medieval date, have been found 500 m further west, close to the Skellerup parish church. However, only a few other fields have been surveyed in this area, so the lack of finds near Skellerup may simply reflect low survey intensity.

CONCLUSIONS

It is extremely difficult to interpret the finds from Skellerup, whether they are taken together or as groups of finds. This Republican/early Augustan denarius hoard is unique in Northern Europe. Denarii of Galba are rare and thus far only known from three Danish sites, two of which consist of large hoards with terminal dates in the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries, and the sestertius is likewise an uncommon type. The distribution of the coins in the field indicates that the Galba coins were not deposited together with the Republican/Early Augustan coins, but it is theoretically possible that two independent depositions of denarii could have taken place at the same time. Republican denarii have been found at other sites in contexts considerably later than the time of production, e.g. in the recent excavations at Zagórzycze in Poland, where contexts with Republican denarii are dated to the B2/early C1 period (the end of the 1st to the early 2nd century AD).²² This Republican/early Augustan hoard could, on the other hand, also be interpreted within the framework of the relatively rare first generation of Roman imports to Denmark from the 1st century AD,²³ in which case we should consider the other coins as having been deposited as independent acts taking place over a longer period of time. In both cases, the presence of a possible wetland might be suggestive of a ritual deposition.

It is also necessary at this point to address the question of foul play. We have encountered unfortunate examples of finds that definitely must be due to persons unknown who have been “seeding” fields with coins brought in from other areas. This is a problem that must be kept in mind when working with detector finds from plow layers.²⁴ It should, however, be stressed that in this case there is a good relationship full of trust between the authorities as represented by the Østfyns Museer and the amateur archaeologists responsible for the finds from Skellerup, and there is absolutely no reason to doubt their serious approach to archaeology.

The denarius hoard has definitely not yet been fully recovered, and detectorists will continue their systematic surveys as soon as agricultural routines allow.²⁵

²² BODZEK et AL. 2016.

²³ See Grane (2013) for a recent discussion.

²⁴ See Horsnæs (2008) on a “hoard” of Roman bronze coins containing, among other things, a modern pastiche.

²⁵ At least one Republican denarius was found in the field in autumn 2018; however, it appeared too late to be included in this report.

Within the next couple of years, archaeological surveys, and perhaps excavations, will also take place only a few hundred meters north of the find spot in connection with public construction work. Hopefully, this will provide us with a better understanding of the archaeological context of the Skellerup hoard.

COIN LIST

The Republican coins have been identified according to the typology proposed by Crawford (RRC), and the imperial issues, according to the most recent edition of the relevant RIC volume.

	Inv. no.	Exc. no.	Note	Type	W.	From	To
1	FP 11519.4	x14		RRC 231/1	3.29	-138	-138
2	FP 11521.7	x29		RRC 238/1	3.43	-136	-136
3	FP 11521.4	x26		RRC 256/1	3.04	-130	-130
4	FP 11519.1	x9	serratus	RRC 282/5	3.28	-118	-118
5	FP 11519.5	x15		RRC 285/1(?)	3.39	-116	-115
6	FP 11520.1	x10		RRC	3.31	-144	-100
7	FP 11521.13	x35	fragment	RRC	1.24	-144	-100
8	FP 11520.2	x12		RRC 342/5a-b	3.31	-90	-90
9	FP 11521.11	x33		RRC 348/1	3.35	-87	-87
10	FP 11521.2	x24		RRC 353/1a-d	3.27	-85	-85
11	FP 11521.12	x34	serratus	RRC 378/1c	3.45	-81	-81
12	FP 11519.3	x13		RRC 425/1	3.34	-56	-56
13	FP 11521.3	x25		RRC 449/1	3.30	-48	-48
14	FP 11521.8	x30		RRC 459/1	3.58	-47	-46
15	FP 11521.6	x28		RRC 461/1	3.40	-47	-46
16	FP 11521.1	x23		RRC 463/1	3.11	-46	-46
17	FP 11521.9	x31		RRC 494/30	3.07	-42	-42
18	FP 11521.10	x32		RRC 538	3.45	-37	-37
19	FP 11521.5	x27		RRC 542/2	3.09	-33	-33
20	FP 11519.2	x11	fragment	RIC 410 (2 nd ed.)	2.32	-13	-13

Table 1. Coin list: Republican and early Augustan denarii

	Inv. no.	Exc. no.	Type	W.	From	To
21	FP 11519.7	x17	RIC 186 (2 nd ed.); RIC 4 (1 st ed.)	2.96	68	69
22	FP 11519.6	x16	RIC 200 or 204 (2 nd ed.); RIC 18 (1 st ed.)	2.84	68	69

Table 2. Coin list: Galba denarii

	Inv. no.	Exc. no.	Note	W.	From	To
23	FP 11521.14	x36	Much corroded, unidentified authority and type	15.89	1	200

Table 3. Sestertius

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PLATE 1	Fig. 1. Distribution of detector finds and GPS tracking of the survey (white lines). Map: Malene Refshauge Beck/Østfyns Museer
PLATE 2	Fig. 2. Map of the find spot from 1805 with distribution of finds. Map: Malene Refshauge Beck/Østfyns Museer
PLATE 3	Chart 1. The chronological structure of the Augustan hoard from Skellerup
PLATE 4	Figs. 1–14: Republican denarii. Photos: Rasmus Holst Nielsen/Nationalmuseet
PLATE 5	Figs. 15–20. Republican and Augustan denarii Figs. 21–22. Galba denarii Fig. 23. Imperial sestertius Fig. 24. Cross bow fibula Photos: Rasmus Holst Nielsen/Nationalmuseet

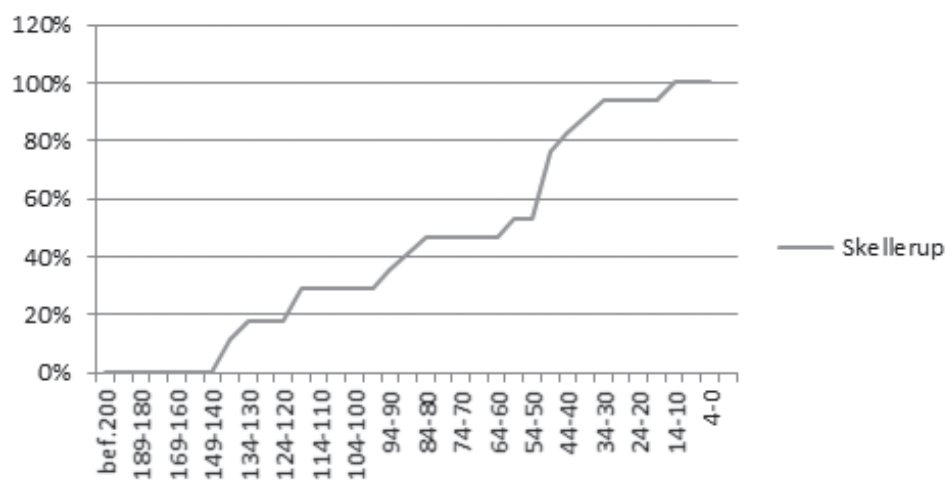


- Denar
- ▲ Galba
- Sesterts
- ★ Other



- Denar
- ▲ Galba
- Sesterts
- ★ Other

Skellerup





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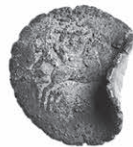
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