

NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

ZAPISKI NUMIZMATYCZNE



Tom XIII

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

Kraków 2018



**Ministerstwo Nauki
i Szkolnictwa Wyższego**

Tłumaczenie tekstu oraz korekta językowa native speakera tekstu
artykułów naukowych oraz recenzji naukowych w tomach XIII (2018) i XIV (2019)
finansowane w ramach umowy 790/P-DUN/2018 ze środków
Ministra Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego
przeznaczonych na działalność upowszechniającą naukę.

The translation and the proofreading by a native speaker of the texts
of academic articles and reviews in the volumes XIII (2018) and XIV (2019)
financed as part of the Agreement 790/P-DUN/2018 from the funds
of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education allocated for the purpose
of promoting and propagating science.

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The electronic edition of the *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne* is treated as its original version.

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ISSN 1426-5435

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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), emerytowana, 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 powstałyby 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

EVGENI I. PAUNOV
Independent Researcher, Austria

The Start of the Coinage of Philippopolis under Domitian

ABSTRACT: This paper discusses the first provincial coins issued at Philippopolis in Thrace. They were struck in four different denominations under the reign of the emperor Domitian. As the imperial titulature reveals, the exact date was sometime in AD 88–89. The types and denominations are classified and listed; the iconography is also discussed. It is assumed that the precise event for which the coins were struck was either the elevation of the city's status to that of the μητρόπολις of the province of Thrace or the establishment of the Common Council of the Thracians, that is, the creation of the Koinon in Philippopolis.

KEY WORDS: Philippopolis, Thrace, provincial coinage, Koinon

ABSTRAKT: *Początki mennictwa Philippopolis za panowania Domicjana*

Artykuł jest poświęcony pierwszym prowincjalnym monetom Philippopolis w Tracji, bitym w czterech różnych nominałach za panowania cesarza Domicjana. Kierując się cesarską tytulaturą, można je datować na lata 88–89 n.e. W artykule zestawiono typy i nominały monet oraz omówiono ich ikonografię. Ustalono, że powodem wybijania monet było albo podniesienie statusu miasta do rangi μητρόπολις prowincji Tracja, albo ustanowienie Koinon Traków w Philippopolis.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: Philippopolis, Tracja, mennictwo prowincjalne, Koinon

Under the reign of Domitian (81–96), the city of Philippopolis in Thrace (now Plovdiv, Bulgaria) issued its first provincial coins. These coins were first mentioned by J. Eckhel¹ and D. Sestini. They were noted by Mionnet in 1806 and 1822,²

¹ ECKHEL 1794: 42–43.

² MIONNET 1806: 415, nos. 340–341; IDEM 1822: 444, nos. 1423–1425.

and then catalogued by N. Mouchmov in 1912.³ They were listed by types in the second volume of *Roman Provincial Coinage*⁴ and by I. Varbanov,⁵ and they have been most recently discussed by B. Woytek.⁶

This special series of Philippopolis was struck on a single occasion sometime in AD 88–89 (which is clearly indicated by the imperial titulature: *cos XIII CENS PER PP*⁷) in four different denominations. It has the following metrology, which is based on Roman mainstream coinage:

Denomination	Æ 1 (= sestertius) ⁸ in RPC II / RPC Supplements / this paper	Æ 2 (= dupondius) in RPC II / RPC Supplements / this paper	Æ 3 (= as) in RPC II / RPC Supplements / this paper	Æ 4 (= semis?) in RPC II / RPC Supplements / this paper
Metric data (in RPC II / this study)	32–38 mm, 6 h 22.55 g / 23.88 g	26–28 mm, 7 h 11.24 g / 11.62 g	22–23 mm 6.53 g / 6.10 g	17 mm 2.97 g / 3.92 g
Specimens recorded	13 / 16 / 58	2 / 10 / 26	4 / 11 / 30	2 / 4 / 5
Reverse type	City goddess & Hebros (RPC II 351)	Apollo to l. (RPC II 352)	Ares to l. (RPC II 353)	Artemis to r. (RPC II 354)

Table 1. Metrology of the bronze coinage of Philippopolis under Domitian. Based on *RPC II*, 1999, p. 76; *RPC Supplements* 1–4; and coin market data (up until 2018)⁹

The largest denomination of the Philippopolis series (equal to a sestertius, *RPC II* 351) features a female figure standing left, this being the city goddess Tyche with a turreted crown, wearing *polos* and holding a patera and two corn-ears; at her feet to the left is the river god Hebros reclining right, holding a reed, another reed behind him (Pl. 1, Fig. 1).¹⁰

³ MOUCHMOV 1912: nos. 5062–5068; IDEM 1924: nos. 3–9.

⁴ *RPC II*: 76–77, nos. 351–354.

⁵ VARBANOV 2007: 84–85, nos. 613–623.

⁶ WOYTEK 2011: 424–426.

⁷ *RIC II*: 237; BUTTREY 1980: 30 and 38, table 3.

⁸ Some authors call this large denomination a “medallion”; see: VARBANOV 2007: 85, nos. 620–621.

⁹ Data collected from www.coinarchives.com and www.acsearch.info.

¹⁰ On the river god Hebros in Philippopolis, see: PETER 2005; on this type, see: *Ibidem*: 928–929, no. 14.

The second denomination, the one in the middle (equal to a dupondius, *RPC* II 352; *RPC Suppl.* 2, p. 78;¹¹ *RPC Suppl.* 3, p. 70; *RPC Suppl.* 4, p. 60), features the naked figure of Apollo radiate, standing left, leaning on a column, holding a patera in his right hand and a bow and two arrows in his left (Pl. 1, Fig. 2).

The third denomination (equal to an as, *RPC* II 353) shows the god Ares standing to the left wearing a helmet and armor. His right hand is resting upon a shield and his left holds an inverted spear (Pl. 1, Fig. 3).

The fourth, the smallest denomination (equal to a semis(?), *RPC* II 354), shows Artemis in short chiton and boots advancing right, holding a bow and drawing an arrow from a quiver with her right hand (Pl. 1, Fig. 4). The same iconographic type with Artemis was later reused in the city under Trajan in c. AD 103–111.¹²

More recently, a new type – hitherto unpublished – of the largest denomination of the same Philippopolitan series has become known. This unique specimen (16.57 g, 30 × 32 mm) (Pl. 1, Fig. 5) was sold in 2015 at an H.J. Berk auction¹³ and is presently in the Hazelton collection (*RPC Suppl.* 4, no. 351A). The reverse features Herakles and the Nemean lion: Herakles is standing right, holding the Nemean lion with both hands by its neck and jaws and raising it up into the air; the lion's body is at a diagonal angle. The obverse die seems identical to *RPC* II 351. This new coin emphasizes the importance of Herakles' cult in Philippopolis.

Curiously, while the whole series is inscribed with a Latin legend on the obverse (where the imperial titulature is located), it is in Greek on the reverse, where the following ethnikon appears: ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟ – ΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ. Such bilingual legends are characteristic for provincial coinages in the eastern provinces of the Empire, including Crete and the Balkans.¹⁴ In the case of Philippopolis, this fashion was only employed during the reigns of Domitian and Trajan (*RPC* III 744–745); it was abandoned under Hadrian (cf. *RPC* III 746–753).

CIRCULATION PATTERN

Six Domitianic coins of Philippopolis are listed in the inventory books of the Regional Archaeological Museum of Plovdiv in Bulgaria.¹⁵

¹¹ [https://www.uv.es/~ripolles/rpc_s2]

¹² MOUCHMOV 1924: no. 10; VARBANOV 2007: nos. 624–625 = *RPC* III: 745.

¹³ Harlan J. Berk, Buy or Bid Sale 193 (April 30, 2015), lot no. 450.

¹⁴ See: HOWGEGO 2005: 13; WOYTEK 2011: 417–419, 451.

¹⁵ Author's own research, October 2010.

RPC II 351	RPC II 352
5 spec. (inv. no. 145 – Belashtitsa, region of Plovdiv, 1910; inv. no. 1358 – Region of Stara Zagora, 1923; inv. no. 1376 – Chirpan, 1924; inv. no. 1976 – Popovitsa, Assenovgrad, 1952; inv. no. 2109 – Region of Plovdiv area, 1955)	1 spec. (inv. no. 5219 – Region of Plovdiv, 1985)

Table 2

A further coin of the type *RPC* 351 is kept in the neighboring Regional Historical Museum of Pazardzhik, this being inv. no. 1896, which weighs 22.01 g and is 32 × 32 mm in diameter¹⁶; the exact provenance of this coin is not known. Though relatively small in number (coins from the National Archaeological Museum in Sofia were not made available for this study), the Domitianic coins listed above illustrate that they circulated primarily in/around Philippopolis and the regions closest to it.

THE OCCASION AND ROLE OF THE ISSUE

The specific event for these provincial coins of Philippopolis is most likely related to the elevation of the city's status to that of the μητρόπολις of the province under Domitian, as suggested by recent epigraphic evidence.¹⁷ Another plausible possibility for their production might have been the establishment of the Common Council of the Thracians, that is, the creation of the Koinon (κοινόν, KOINON ΘΠΑΚΩΝ) in Philippopolis, an event well attested in honorific inscriptions and with the construction of a theater in the city.¹⁸ Thus, the role of this coin series was to commemorate an important event in the civic life of Philippopolis.

As to the location of the series' mint, the answer to this question thus far remains unclear. Both the style of Domitian's portrait on the obverse and the images on the reverse are fine and elaborate, a fact that may imply that the entire series was ordered and struck elsewhere – most probably at Perinthus, the provincial capital of Thrace and a prolific mint, after which the coins would have been dispatched to Philippopolis¹⁹.

To sum up, the first provincial coins of Philippopolis struck under Domitian in AD 88–89 demonstrate the city's ambitions and the spectrum of its main religious cults. They are a first-hand expression of the local identity.

¹⁶ see: Ignatova et al. (2015: no. 212).

¹⁷ SHARANKOV 2005: 241–242; IDEM 2007: 521.

¹⁸ IDEM 2005: 235–237; IDEM 2007: 519–521; LOZANOV 2015: 82; and elsewhere.

¹⁹ as for example in Deultum; see: Draganov (2007: 43–44).

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PLATE 1

Fig. 1. Bronze coin (38 mm in diameter = sestertius) of Domitian for Philippopolis, AD 88/9, *RPC II*, 351.

Photo from NAC Auction R (May 17, 2007), no. 1462

Fig. 2. Bronze coin (13.24 g, 28 mm in diameter = dupondius) of Domitian for Philippopolis, AD 88/9, *RPC II*, 352.

Photo from Gorny & Mosch 211 (March 4, 2013), no. 477

Fig. 3. Bronze coin (5.96 g, 22/3 mm in diameter = as) of Domitian for Philippopolis, AD 88/9, *RPC II*, 353.

Photo from Gorny & Mosch 200 (2012), no. 2102

Fig. 4. Bronze coin (2.86 g, 17 mm in diameter = semis) of Domitian for Philippopolis, AD 88/9, *RPC II*, 354.

Photo BnF, Cabinet des médailles, Fonds général 1272

Fig. 5. Bronze coin (16.57 g, 30/32 mm in diameter = sestertius) of Philippopolis, AD 88/9, *RPC Suppl. 4*, no. 351A.

Photo H.J. Berk 193 (April 30, 2015), no. 450



1



2



3



4



5



