

NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

ZAPISKI NUMIZMATYCZNE



Tom XV

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

Kraków 2020

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It is with great pleasure that we present volume XV of *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne* to you. In accordance with the principles that we have adopted, our texts are published in the conference languages with English and Polish abstracts. The whole of the present volume can be found as PDF's on the website of the National Museum in Krakow (<https://mnk.pl/notae-numismaticae-zapiski-numizmatyczne-1>), as are previously published volumes of the journal. The website also contains general information about the journal as well as information for prospective authors and reviewers.

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New Finds of Roman Coins from the Kazimierza Wielka District, Southern Poland¹

ABSTRACT: The article presents and analyzes several hitherto unpublished finds of Roman coins from the area of the Kazimierza Wielka district. The five pieces in question are unofficial “denarii” of the emperors Trajan, Hadrian, and Marcus Aurelius (struck for Lucilla), one antoninianus in the name of Gordian III, and one devalued radiatus of Gallienus, were all found randomly before the year 1995 within the area of the unexcavated settlement site of the Przeworsk culture at Boronice. The denarius of Trajan comes from the research performed at the site of Słonowice by one of the authors. These finds have been described in the context of some other discoveries of Roman coins from the same region.

KEY WORDS: Boronice, Słonowice, Jakuszowice, Przeworsk culture, Roman coin finds

¹ The authors are very much obliged to Professor Marcin Biborski of the Laboratory for Archaeometallurgy and Historical Artefacts Restoration of the Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, for the performance of tests to determine the alloy composition values of the coins described in the present text.

After writing this article, we received information about numerous other finds of Roman coins at Boronice. We sincerely thank Mr Jerzy Kliś for the information. The above-mentioned finds have not been included in this text and will be the subject of a separate study.

ABSTRAKT: *Nowe znaleziska monet rzymskich z terenu powiatu Kazimierza Wielka, pld. Polska*

W artykule przedstawiono i poddano analizie nowe, niepublikowane wcześniej znaleziska monet rzymskich z terenu powiatu Kazimierza Wielka. Pięć monet, nieoficjalne „denary” Trajana, Hadriana i Marka Aureliusza (bity dla Lucylli), antoninian Gordiana III oraz zdeprecjonowany radiatus Galliena, znaleziono przypadkowo przed 1995 r. w niebadanej dotąd wykopaliskowo osadzie kultury przeworskiej w Boronicach. Denar Trajana pochodzi z badań jednego z autorów na stanowisku w Słonowicach. Wymienione znaleziska zostały omówione na tle innych odkryć monet rzymskich w regionie.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: Boronice, Jakuszowice, Słonowice, kultura przeworska, znaleziska monet rzymskich

Finds of Roman coins, as well as of some other less commonly found imports, are important pieces of evidence for the existence of relations between the territories of Central-European *Barbaricum* and the *Imperium Romanum*. For this reason, the thorough recording and publication of all such discoveries are among the most essential tasks of the archaeology of the Roman period.² This is because of the fact that only the possibly most comprehensive view of the relevant finds can enable us to proceed further into the research in order to obtain a reliable analysis of issues such as the origins and the nature of the inflow and functions of Roman coinage in Central Europe. In recent years, we have seen the intensification of the measures aimed at achieving these two principal objectives, thanks to the implementation of several research projects, in particular *Finds of Roman Coins from the Territory of Poland and the Lands Historically Connected with Poland*³ and *Coins of the Roman Republic in Central Europe*,⁴ but also through the participation of Polish scholars in the project *Corpus der römischen Funde im europäischen Barbaricum*.⁵ The first-mentioned project, which aims to record all the finds of Roman coins from the territory of Poland with a view to entering them in the generally available database, has especially contributed to the advancement of the research work on the inflow of Roman coinage

² Cf. BURSCHE 1986 for some still valid comments.

³ *Finds of Roman coins from the territory of Poland and the lands historically connected with Poland* (FRCPL) – a project supported with the funds from the National Programme for the Development of Humanities of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, implemented in the years 2012–2019 under the direction of Prof. Aleksander Bursche from the Faculty of Archaeology of the Warsaw University. Cf. BURSCHE 2013; IDEM 2014.

⁴ The project *Coins of the Roman Republic in Central Europe* funded by the National Centre of Science, under the direction of Dr Hab. Arkadiusz Dymowski; cf. DYMOWSKI 2016.

⁵ Cf. KOLENDO 1998; NOWAKOWSKI 2001; KACZANOWSKI et AL 2017; JAKUBCZYK 2018.

into the territory of present-day Poland, the Kaliningrad oblast and western Ukraine. Despite the formal completion of the two coin find-related projects, the recording and publication of Roman coin finds (including the above-mentioned complementation of the database) should be, and is still *de facto*, continued. It is essential to record all the known coin finds, not only those obtained as a result of regular archaeological explorations, but also those pieces which are found randomly or intentionally by private prospectors and other individuals. The present article reflects this general idea as it deals with the recording of some never-before-published finds of Roman coins from the area of the Kazimierza Wielka district (Świętokrzyskie voivodeship).

The area of this district, situated in the lower course of the Nidzica River region,⁶ forms part of the Loess Uplands of Western Lesser Poland, composed mostly of the loess-based black and brown soils, with silts in the river valleys.⁷ From the early stages of agriculture and farming and through as long as several millennia, the fertility of the soils made this terrain suitable for the existence of settlement centres that would play an instrumental role in the cultural and economic transformations of supra-regional significance.⁸ This was no different during the time of the Roman ascendancy in Southern and Western Europe. During the La Tène (pre-Roman) phase of culture development across the broader Krakow region, the so-called Tyniec group came into formation in the course of the 4th century BC as a consequence of the impulses from the Celtic cultural milieu, but the extent, territorial boundaries, and the cultural character remain a matter of conjecture.⁹ Pottery shards (made of clay with an admixture of graphite), which are the most characteristic finds attesting to this group, are also found within the area of the Loess Uplands of Western Lesser Poland as well. From this period, a small settlement site at Słonowice, Kazimierza Wielka district, on the Małoszówka River, with such ceramics, among other things, has been explored to date [see further on]. By the turn of the 1st century BC and 1st century AD, the Loess Uplands of Western Lesser Poland had already been completely settled by a new culture (very likely, a new ethnic group) known as the Przeworsk culture. The expansion of this particular group into the area under consideration would have already begun in the late stage of La Tène period.¹⁰ The result of this migration was a new historical phase, almost four centuries long, which is referred to as the Roman period (c. AD 10–c. 375), due to the temporal coincidence with the Roman Empire and the considerable Roman

⁶ Nidzica River – left-bank tributary to the Vistula River.

⁷ KRUK 1997.

⁸ TUNIA 1997.

⁹ KUBICHA 1997; POLESKA 2006.

¹⁰ DOBRZAŃSKA 1997.

influence on this part of Poland. The upper Vistula River basin had been settled to a great extent by the population of the Przeworsk culture, the traces of which are numerous archaeological remnants of settlement sites and burial grounds.

One of the most significant, and at the same time most thoroughly explored, archaeological sites in the region is the large settlement of the Przeworsk culture at Jakuszowice, Kazimierza Wielka district, located on the Nidzica River.¹¹ Among the thousands of various artefacts found there to date, there are as many as 116 Roman coins, a quantity comparable to the total number of the pieces found across the region.¹² The rank of these and other artefacts discovered there, as well as the information obtained from these finds, is sufficient to place this particular site high among the explored archaeological locations and consider it as a benchmark on the map of the Roman Period-related settlement activity within the area of the Loess Uplands of Western Lesser Poland. It should be emphasized that the particularly intense settling and economic development associated with the Przeworsk culture would have likely occurred there in the later phase of the Roman Period, i.e., in the course of the 3rd–4th centuries. As part of the project known as the Archaeological Picture of Poland (AZP),¹³ a number of sites datable to this specific period have been identified in the same region. Some of them have already been explored by means of excavations.

Numerous finds of Roman coins have been recovered from the region in question. First of all, let us recall in this context the settlement site of Jakuszowice as well as a number of other archaeological locations such as Bejsce,¹⁴ Boszczynek,¹⁵ Brończyce,¹⁶ Chwalibogowice,¹⁷ Cieszkowy,¹⁸ Cudzynowice,¹⁹ Dębiany,²⁰

¹¹ Cf. GODŁOWSKI 1986a; IDEM 1986b; IDEM 1988; IDEM 1990; IDEM 1991; IDEM 1992; IDEM 1995a; IDEM 1995b; GODŁOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 1995; GÓRSKI 1990; IDEM 1999a; IDEM 1999b; LITYŃSKA-ZAJĄC 1999; MAKOWICZ-POLISZOT 1999; KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000; IDEM 2004; IDEM 2008; IDEM 2010a; IDEM 2010b; RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 1992; IDEM 1999; IDEM 2001; IDEM 2006.

¹² BURSCHE 1997a; IDEM 1997b; BURSCHE, KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000.

¹³ AZP is a nation-wide project focused on recording the identifiable traces of pre-historic and historical (non-existent) settlements, which is assumed to serve as an aid in analyses of pre-historic material and decisions on conservation issues.

¹⁴ OPOZDA 1967; KUNISZ 1985: 24f, no. 4; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 9, no. 13; KASIŃSKI, BULAS and OKOŃSKA 2019: 236, Fig. 1, Table 1.

¹⁵ WIELOWIEJSKI 1960: 297, no. 95; KUNISZ 1985: 32, no. 13; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 32, no. 13.

¹⁶ KUNISZ 1985: 32, no. 15; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 20, no. 51.

¹⁷ PIOTROWICZ 1934: 101, no. 9; KUCZYŃSKI 1960: 332, Fig. 1; KUNISZ 1985: 46, no. 30, I–II; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 36, nos. 88–89.

¹⁸ KIETLIŃSKA 1971: 228f, Fig. 2; KUNISZ 1985: 46, no. 12; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 38, no. 96.

¹⁹ KRUSZYŃSKI 1989: 72f; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 39, no. 101.

²⁰ KUNISZ 1985: 56, no. 40; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 48, no. 119.


Dobiesławice,²¹ Kazimierza Wielka,²² Kijany,²³ Malżyce,²⁴ Rosiejów,²⁵ Sietejów,²⁶ Stradów,²⁷ Uściszowice,²⁸ Wyszogród,²⁹ Zagaje Stradowskie,³⁰ and Zagórzycze (all of them in Kazimierza Wielka district).³¹ To this group, we should also add the following finds of Roman coins as reported for the sites at the localities of Słonowice and Boronice.

BORONICE, KAZIMIERZA WIELKA DISTRICT*

1. Trajan (98–117)

Cu/Sn/Pb alloy, denarius, unofficial issue, prototype Rome

Obv.: laureate bust of Trajan r., drapery on l. shoulder; [...]*IAN*[...]

Rv.: a figure l. extending r. hand and holding cornucopiae in l.?.; grafitto  ; legend illegible

Preserved c. 1/3 of the coin

1.27 g; 18.4 × 17.4 mm; ?

Condition/level of corrosion II; condition/level of wearing out IV/V

RIC? /MIR?

2. Hadrian (117–138)

Cu/Sn alloy, denarius, unofficial issue, prototype: Rome, AD 137–138

Obv.: laureate head of Hadrian r.; *HADRIANVS AVG COS III P P*; dotted border

Rv.: Providentia standing l., pointing at globe and holding long staff; *PROVIDE[N] TIA AVG*; dotted border

2.55 g; 18.6 mm; v

Condition/level of corrosion III; condition/level of wearing out IV

RIC II, 2/3, p. 228, no. 2319

* The numismatic pieces handed over to the National Museum in Krakow by Krzysztof Tunia – Inv. Nos. MNK VII-A-11086–11090.

²¹ KUNISZ 1985: 57, no. 43; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 49, no. 124.

²² PIOTROWICZ 1935: 98f, no. 5; IDEM 1938: 78; KIETLIŃSKA 1957: 280; KUNISZ 1985: 83f, no. 101, I–VII; KOLENDO 1988: 178, no. 5; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 89f, nos. 264–270.

²³ KUNISZ 1985: 84f, no. 102, I–III; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 98f, nos. 298–300.

²⁴ BULAS 2016.

²⁵ KUNISZ 1985: 188, no. 226; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 281, no. 651.

²⁶ KUNISZ 1985: 199f, no. 244; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 297, no. 697.

²⁷ KUNISZ 1985: 209, no. 263; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 308, no. 737.

²⁸ KUNISZ 1985: 238, no. 295; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 338, no. 822.

²⁹ KUNISZ 1985: 251, no. 315; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 353, no. 875.

³⁰ KUNISZ 1985: 252.

³¹ Cf. BODZEK 2009; GRYGIEL et AL 2009a; IDEM 2009b; BODZEK et AL 2016.

3. Marcus Aurelius (161–180) for Lucilla

Cu/Sn/Pb alloy, denarius, unofficial issue, prototype: Rome, AD 164–180

Obv.: draped and diademed bust of Lucilla r.; LVCILLA AVGVSTA; dotted border

Rv.: Juno veiled, standing l., holding patera and long sceptre; at l. peacock; I V N O REGINA

2.36 g; 17.9 mm; xii

Condition/level of corrosion II+; condition/level of wearing out III

RIC III, p. 275, no. 772; MIR, p. 172, no. 35

4. Gordian III (238–244)

AR, antoninianus, Rome, AD 238–239

Obv.: radiate, draped and cuirassed bust of Gordian III r.; IMP CAES M ANT GORDIANVS AVG; dotted border

Rv.: Pax standing front, head l., holding branch and transverse sceptre; PAXA VGVSTI; dotted border

4.57 g; 24.2 mm; xii

Condition/level of corrosion II+; condition/level of wearing out II+

RIC IV/3, p. 16, no. 3

5. Gallienus (253–268)

Bill., antoninianus, AD 260–268

Obv.: radiate head of Gallienus r.; GALL[IENVS] AVG

Rv.: Sol standing l., raising r. hand to l. and holding a globe in l. hand; in l. field Γ; AETE[RNITAS AV]G

3.76 g; 19.8 mm; xi

Condition/level of corrosion III; condition/level of wearing out III

RIC V 160; MIR 36, no. 577a

The relics of a settlement from the Roman Period were discovered near the village of Boronice [Kazimierza Wielka district] before 1995.³² It covered a wide area of the lower section of a hillside of the southern exposure, sloping towards a small stream, which is a part of the right-bank drainage basin of a small river named Małoszówka, a right-bank tributary to the lower course of the Nidzica River. A major part of the artefacts recovered from the settlement site are fragments of pottery from the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods. The five Roman coins described in the present text, all of them found randomly before 1995, come from the same

³² According to the unpublished research results by Krzysztof Tunia.

archaeological location as well.³³ The earliest piece of this group is a partially preserved denarius in the name of Trajan. The coin represents one of the unofficial issues. It was based on the original denarius, out of an alloy composed of over 61% copper, over 23% tin, over 7% lead, and only 0.173% silver. The surviving obverse of the coin depicts the emperor's image and a small part of the legend, with a fragment of the emperor's name [TRA]IAN, while the surface of the reverse is almost completely worn out, except for a nearly obliterated silhouette of a figure's fragment. It is difficult to determine the position (standing or sitting) of this figure and there are no extant visible traces of the reverse legend. The grafitto on the reverse was made with the use of a thin and sharp tool and it had the form of an X, a ligature "AV" or "AN". The coin was evidently broken or more likely cut through on purpose, so that the surviving part of the coin disc has a triangular shape. Considering the extant part of the obverse, the removed fragments are above and beyond Trajan's bust, perhaps in order to leave the emperor's image intact or to cut off only those fragments which were easier to remove. Both of these measures, the grafitto and the intentional removal of the coin's fragments, are very similar to those attested on some other pieces from the same region. A denarius of L. Hostilius Saserna found at Zagórze has a reverse grafitto in the form of an X,³⁴ while some relatively numerous examples of deliberately fragmented or incised denarii and subaerati have been attested among the coins found at the settlement site of Jakuszowice (12 pieces in total).³⁵ The authors who have described the coin finds from this archaeological site point out that it is plausible to connect the "fragmented" pieces with the commercial segment of this settlement, specifically with its metalworking activity.³⁶ Unfortunately, we do not have any evidence for the existence of workshops of this kind at Boronice and we do not know the exact context of this coin find. In any case, it is possible that the intentional removal of the coin fragments might have been done in order to re-use it as a piece of raw material. Another reason may have been connected with the intention to make use this denarius of Trajan as a piece of (weighed) metal to be used as a medium of exchange.

In terms of prototype coinage chronology of this set of coins, the above piece is followed by the coin of Hadrian (produced according to the prototype issue of the years 137–138) and next the "denarius" from Marcus Aurelius' reign minted

³³ The coins were unearthed during field work by a farmer (the field owner at the time) before the year 1995, at some unspecified section of the site. The finder's name is known to the authors and noted in the Museum Archive.

³⁴ BODZEK et AL 2016: 147, 164, Cat. 5, Fig. 4.5.

³⁵ For the fragmented denarii found at Jakuszowice cf. e.g. BURSCHE 1997a: 127, no. 15 (Trajan); 129, no. 24 (Hadrian); 137, no. 64 (Antoninus Pius); 137, no. 68 (Antoninus Pius – a much worn-out coin fragment); 139f, no. 79 (Marcus Aurelius for Lucilla); 140, no. 80 (Marcus Aurelius); 142, no. 93 (Commodus); 144, no. 101 (a partly molten coin).

³⁶ BURSCHE, KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000: 111f.

for Lucilla (prototype from years 164–180). In the case of “Hadrian’s” coin, it is made of an alloy with a similar, but not identical, composition: over 68% copper, over 29% tin, and 0.835% lead. The admixture of silver is reduced here to barely 0.036%. “Lucilla’s” “denarius” can be classified as belonging among the unofficial issues as well. Likewise, this is made out of an alloy composed of over 75% copper, over 17% tin, over 6% lead, and only 0.025% silver.

The most common category of the unofficial coins found in the area of Central-European *Barbaricum* is formed by the so-called *nummi subaerati*.³⁷ For instance, for the settlement site of Jakuszowice, there are 27 subaerati among 116 pieces recorded as found on this site, which stands for 23.3% of the total number of coins reported for this location.³⁸ The general term *nummi subaerati* would also sometimes encompass coins which constitute a different category of unofficial issues. This question has been quite recently addressed by Andrzej Romanowski and Przemysław Duleba, with further significant contributions by Arkadiusz Dymowski and Kyrylo Myzgin.³⁹ These are coins cast out of tin or tin and lead bronze, with variable proportions of composition (as in the case of the pieces from Boronice described here). Due to the lack of any visible traces of silver coating, they cannot be classified under the subaerati category. Romanowski and Duleba have suggested referring to this coin category as “imitations [made] of tin and lead bronzes”.⁴⁰ Although this designation falls short of being the most adequate for this group of coins, we shall use it for the purposes of the present article.⁴¹ The group of imitation coins as mentioned here was produced, at least in part, inside the territory of the *Barbaricum*. Some forms for casting coins have been found, for example, in present-day Ukraine,⁴² with the first half of the 3rd century as the estimated time of production. The finds that represent this group of imitation pieces have been reported for the settlements of the Przeworsk culture in Western Lesser Poland and beyond, e.g., the pieces in the name of Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius found at locations such as Nieprowice, Pińczów district,⁴³ but also “a denarius” of Trajan known from Jastrzębniki, Kalisz district.⁴⁴ To this coin category we could add some of

³⁷ Cf. BURSCHE 1997b and e.g., BODZEK 2015: 117, Table 1.

³⁸ BURSCHE 1997b; BURSCHE, KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000: 111.

³⁹ DULEBA and ROMANOWSKI 2018: 81f (see there for the earlier publications); DYMOWSKI and MYZGIN 2019.

⁴⁰ DULEBA and ROMANOWSKI 2018: 82.

⁴¹ To date, the precise terminology for various unofficial issues has not been determined. It would depend on multiple factors such as production material, form, resemblance to original issues, intended function/usage, or even the group(s) of end users. Unfortunately, this subject cannot be discussed at length in the present article.

⁴² DYMOWSKI and MYZGIN 2019: Fig. 3.

⁴³ DULEBA and ROMANOWSKI 2018: 89, no. 17, Fig. 33; 89f, no. 20, Fig. 36; 91, no. 26, Fig. 42.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*: 81, Fig. 16.

the pieces determined in publications as subaerati. Namely, the pieces to be mentioned here are those which have their original counterparts issued in the name of Trajan and Hadrian, obtained from the excavation works at Aleksandrowice, Kraków district,⁴⁵ and one coin with a slightly different alloy composition (Cu 38%, Sn 45%, Pb 7%) which was recovered during the rescue excavations on the motorway construction at Kraków-Bieżanów and misidentified as a subaeratus.⁴⁶ It is also possible that similar pieces can be identified among the above-mentioned finds from Jakuszowice, Kazimierza Wielka district, where pieces with alloy compositions similar to the coins of Boronice have been recorded.⁴⁷ There is no doubt that the three coins found at Boronice should be considered as “imitations from bronze of tin or tin and lead”.

Generally speaking, considering the emperors in whose name the coins from Boronice are struck, all these three coins represent types frequently encountered at the settlement sites from the Roman Period across Western Lesser Poland. For example, just from the site of Jakuszowice we have records of 16 pieces of denarii and subaerati in the name of Trajan, 18 pieces of the same types in the name of Hadrian, and 18 pieces struck in Marcus Aurelius' reign,⁴⁸ which amounts to 44.82% of all the ancient coins found at this particular location and 68.42% of all the denarii and subaerati found there. From the settlement site of Zagórzycze, which is located only several kilometres east of Jakuszowice, we have records of two denarii coined in the emperor Hadrian's reign and one from that of Marcus Aurelius, among a total amount of 12 pieces found there.⁴⁹ For some of the sites, coins struck in the names of the above-mentioned emperors are in fact the only numismatic finds reported from there. Among the previously enumerated locations, we could take note of such sites as Bejsce (denarii of Trajan and those of Marcus Aurelius struck for Faustina Minor),⁵⁰ Cieszkowy (a denarius of Marcus Aurelius),⁵¹ Dębiany (a denarius of Trajan),⁵² Kijany (a denarius of Trajan),⁵³ Małżyce (two denarii in the name of Marcus Aurelius),⁵⁴ and Sietejów (a denarius of Hadrian).⁵⁵ The coins from Boronice fit in with the overall view as presented here.

⁴⁵ BODZEK 2015: 124, no. 3, Fig. 2.3 and no. 5, Fig. 2.5; cf. commentary in DULĘBA and ROMANOWSKI 2018: 81f, note 84.

⁴⁶ BODZEK 2003: 181f.

⁴⁷ Cf. BURSCHE 1997b: 35.

⁴⁸ Cf. BURSCHE, KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000: 104f, Tables I and II; RUDNICKI 2014: nos. 1–3; unpublished finds resulting from the exploration works performed in 2012 have also been taken into consideration.

⁴⁹ Cf. GRYGIEL et AL 2009a; IDEM 2009b; BODZEK 2009; BODZEK et AL 2016.

⁵⁰ KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 9, no. 13; KASIŃSKI, BULAS and OKOŃSKA 2019: 236, Fig. 1, Table 1.

⁵¹ KIETLIŃSKA 1971: 228f, Fig. 2; KUNISZ 1985: 46, no. 12; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 38, no. 96.

⁵² KUNISZ 1985: 56, no. 40; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 48, no. 119.

⁵³ KUNISZ 1985: 84f, no. 102, I–III; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 98f, nos. 298–300.

⁵⁴ BULAS 2016.

⁵⁵ KUNISZ 1985: 199f, no. 244; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 297, no. 697.

It is different in the case of the antoninianus in the name of Gordian III as denarii and antoniniani dating from the first half of the 3rd century are relatively uncommon finds at the settlement sites localized in the region under consideration. For Jakuszowice, there have been records of only two denarii from this particular period, namely the pieces in the names of Heliogabalus (218–222) and Severus Alexander (222–235),⁵⁶ while we have no recorded finds of such coins for the other sites in the same region as yet. In general, such coin finds tend to be fairly rare at the settlement sites of the Przeworsk culture across the entire area of Western Lesser Poland. Denarii in the name of Gordian III have only been found at Opatkowice⁵⁷ and Igołomia, Kraków district,⁵⁸ while finds of antoniniani minted prior to Gallienus' reign [as a sole ruler] are even more rarely encountered in the area considered here. Just one coin in this ruler's name, dating back to before the year 260, had been found at a site located near Czechy, Kraków district,⁵⁹ and one antoninianus of Gordian III reported as found at Boronice adds up to this small assemblage of coin finds.⁶⁰

There is a slightly higher number of devalued antoniniani produced in the years following c. 260, while some radiati in the names of Claudius II the Goth and Tetricus I have been reported as found at the site of Jakuszowice.⁶¹ As we have not known of any similar finds reported to date from other sites in the district of Kazimierza Wielka, the radiatus of Gallienus recorded as found at Boronice becomes a significant source and complements the picture of the inflow of the devalued radiati into the area of the Loess Upland of Western Lesser Poland. It is also worth mentioning the finds such as one radiatus of Aurelian from the village of Nieprowice, Pińczów district,⁶² two pieces of the same type in the name of Claudius II from Mysławczyce, Proszowice district,⁶³ and a brockage of Postumus recorded as found at Kraków-Bieżanów.⁶⁴ On a side note, let us also recall the find of three aurei of Gallienus in the environs

⁵⁶ BURSCHE, KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000: 105, Table I.

⁵⁷ KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 1999: 192, no. 6; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 227, no. 530; BURSCHE 2004: 200, note 31; KACZANOWSKI et AL 2017: 88, no. 140.1.1, Pl. XXIV. 20.

⁵⁸ Cf. BURSCHE 1996: 189, no. 48; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 71f, no. 208; KACZANOWSKI et AL 2017: 57, no. 41.11.8, Pl. XXXIII, 7. See therein for further literature.

⁵⁹ Cf. DULĘBA and WYSOCKI 2016, 316, no. 13, Figs. 8, 13.

⁶⁰ Probably some antoniniani are included in the group of other Roman coins found at Boronice and mentioned in our note 1.

⁶¹ BURSCHE 1997a: 144, no. 105; BURSCHE, KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000: 109, Table IV (Claudius II); BURSCHE 1997a: 144, no. 106; BURSCHE, KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000: 109, Table IV (Tetricus I or II).

⁶² DULĘBA and ROMANOWSKI 2018: 94, no. 32.

⁶³ BODZEK and DOBRZAŃSKA 2014: 313, nos. 9–10; cf. BURSCHE 1996: no. 119a.

⁶⁴ Cf. BODZEK 2003: 183ff, Fig. 3. In general, for the subject of the inflow of the *Imperium Galliarum*'s coins into the area of the Przeworsk culture, cf. BURSCHE 1996; BODZEK 2003; DYMOWSKI and RUDNICKI 2012: 254f; DYMOWSKI 2013; BODZEK and DOBRZAŃSKA 2014: 307ff.

of Kazimierza Wielka, which is of much interest in itself and deserves some more informative commentary apart from the subject of the present text.⁶⁵

As we have no details on the circumstances of the discovery of these pieces and no exact data of their spatial localization, it is difficult to determine without any doubt whether these may have been single coin finds or a fragment of a dispersed hoard. In the latter instance, the coins of Hadrian, Lucilla, and possibly Gordian III would be the case in point. The fragmented denarius of Trajan and the radiatus of Gallienus should probably be considered as relatively certain single finds on account of their completely distinct character. The chronological details relating to the arrival of those pieces into the area of the Boronice settlement remain unclear.⁶⁶ The 2nd-century denarii must have reached this settlement earliest of all, i.e., in the late 2nd or the early 3rd century, the antoninianus of Gordian III sometime in the first half of the 3rd century, whereas the radiatus of Gallienus – probably towards the end of the 3rd century. Such a dating for this inflow of coins would correspond with the chronological frame of the ceramic material prevalent all over this site as the latter artefacts are datable, as we have noted, to the Late Roman and the Migration Periods. However, this hypothesis should be verified through further research, including additional excavation and exploration works to be performed on this site.

SŁONOWICE, KAZIMIERZA WIELKA DISTRICT

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6. Trajan (98–117)

AR, denarius, Rome, AD 98–99 (RIC) or February 98 – autumn 98 (WOYTEK 2010).

Obv.: laureate head of Trajan r.; IMP CAES NERVA TRAIAN AVG GERM; dotted border

Rv.: Abundantia seated l., on chair with crossed cornucopiae, holding sceptre in r. hand; PONT MAX TR POT COS II; dotted border

3.21 g; 19.0 mm; vi

RIC II 11; MIR 14: 204, no. 18a; STRACK 15

Site 5 (“G”) at Słonowice occupies the lower and middle sections of the slopes of a wide promontory with a southern exposure, sloping towards the left-bank area of the Małoszówka River. The excavation works performed there have resulted in

⁶⁵ Działoszyce, Pińczów district – TUNIA 1988; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 52f, no. 138; Kazimierza Wielka – PIOTROWICZ 1938: 78; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 89, no. 264; Skorczów, Kazimierza Wielka district – a specimen noted in literature as coming from “the environs of Kazimierza Wielka” – DYMOWSKI 2006: 69–70. These coin finds are the subject of a forthcoming article by the authors of the present text.

⁶⁶ For the current hypotheses on the inflow of 1st- and 2nd-century denarii into the Central-European *Barbaricum* cf. BODZEK 2018: 191f.

the discovery of a range of chronological phases in the process of the local settlement activity from the Neolithic Period up to the Early Middle Ages.⁶⁷ Among those identified there are the remnants of a small settlement from the La Tène Period, situated in the lower sections of the western part of the promontory. Some random fragments of pottery from the Late Roman and the Migration Periods have also been unearthed almost all over the site area. All these artefacts found there could be interpreted as an indication of the extent of the zone of economic activity belonging to the population of one or more settlements of the Przeworsk culture, all of them located over a not very distant area and not very far apart from each other.

The denarius of Trajan was found in 2012 within a zone of the site with the remains of the La Tène settlement phase, to the west of the excavation unit no. XXIV. This is a good example of a coin find context other than a coin lost within the area of a Roman-era settlement by one of the inhabitants. It may be possibly treated as a coin lost during some field work or while the owner might have been moving from one settlement location to another. The condition of the coin's preservation is quite good, while the corrosion level/degree can be determined as II (for both the obverse and the reverse) and the wearing-out degree as II or III⁺. As noted before, finds of denarii in the name of Trajan represent the relatively common types as recorded for this region and the coin find from Site 5 at Słonowice corresponds with this situation.⁶⁸ The coin from Słonowice is even more mysterious as to when it may have arrived than the coins found at Boronice. In general, it is assumed that a greater wave of 1st- and 2nd- or even perhaps early 3rd-century Imperial denarii would have begun to reach the territories of the *Barbaricum* during the Marcomannic wars or shortly before and may have come to an end during the reign of Commodus or in the early years of Septimius Severus' reign.⁶⁹ According to some hypotheses, however, the inflow of [such] coinage into the Central-European *Barbaricum* may have already happened earlier, sometime in the reigns of Trajan and Hadrian.⁷⁰ Likewise, it is possible that some portion of 2nd-century denarii may have arrived along with those minted in the 3rd century.⁷¹ Hence, considering the actual character of this find (loss?) and the absence of any specific culture-related context associated with the Roman period, attempting to determine the dating for the arrival of Trajan's coin from Słonowice is futile. All we can add is that the condition of its preservation i.e. traces of wearing out, would not point to a very long period of remaining in circulation.

⁶⁷ According to the research results as obtained and published, in part, by Krzysztof Tunia (Neolithic).

⁶⁸ See also CIOLEK 2009: 160.

⁶⁹ Cf. BODZEK 2018: 191f.

⁷⁰ Cf. LUCHELLI 1998: 160f; DYMOWSKI 2013: 111ff.

⁷¹ BURSCHE 2004: 201; DYMOWSKI 2013: 113.

ABBREVIATIONS

RIC – *Roman Imperial Coinage*, vols. I–X, London 1923–.

MIR – *Moneta Imperii Romani*, Wien 1984–.

Strack – P. STRACK, *Untersuchungen zur römischen Reichsprägung des zweiten Jahrhunderts. Die Reichsprägung zur Zeit des Traian*, Bd. I, Stuttgart 1931.

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MAP 1

Map of sites in the text. Drawing: B. Zając

PLATE 1

Fig. 1. Boronice, Kazimierza Wielka district; unofficial "denarius" of Trajan
Photo by Tuco

Fig. 2. Boronice, Kazimierza Wielka district; unofficial "denarius" of Hadrian
Photo by Tuco

Fig. 3. Boronice, Kazimierza Wielka district; unofficial "denarius" of Marcus Aurelius
for Lucilla
Photo by Tuco

Fig. 4. Boronice, Kazimierza Wielka district; antoninianus of Gordian III
Photo by Tuco

Fig. 5. Boronice, Kazimierza Wielka district; radiatus of Gallienus
Photo by Tuco

Fig. 6. Słonowice, Kazimierza Wielka district; denarius of Trajan
Photo by Tuco

The numbers of the photographs correspond to the numbers of the coins as per Catalogue.

