

NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

ZAPISKI NUMIZMATYCZNE



Tom XX

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

Kraków 2025

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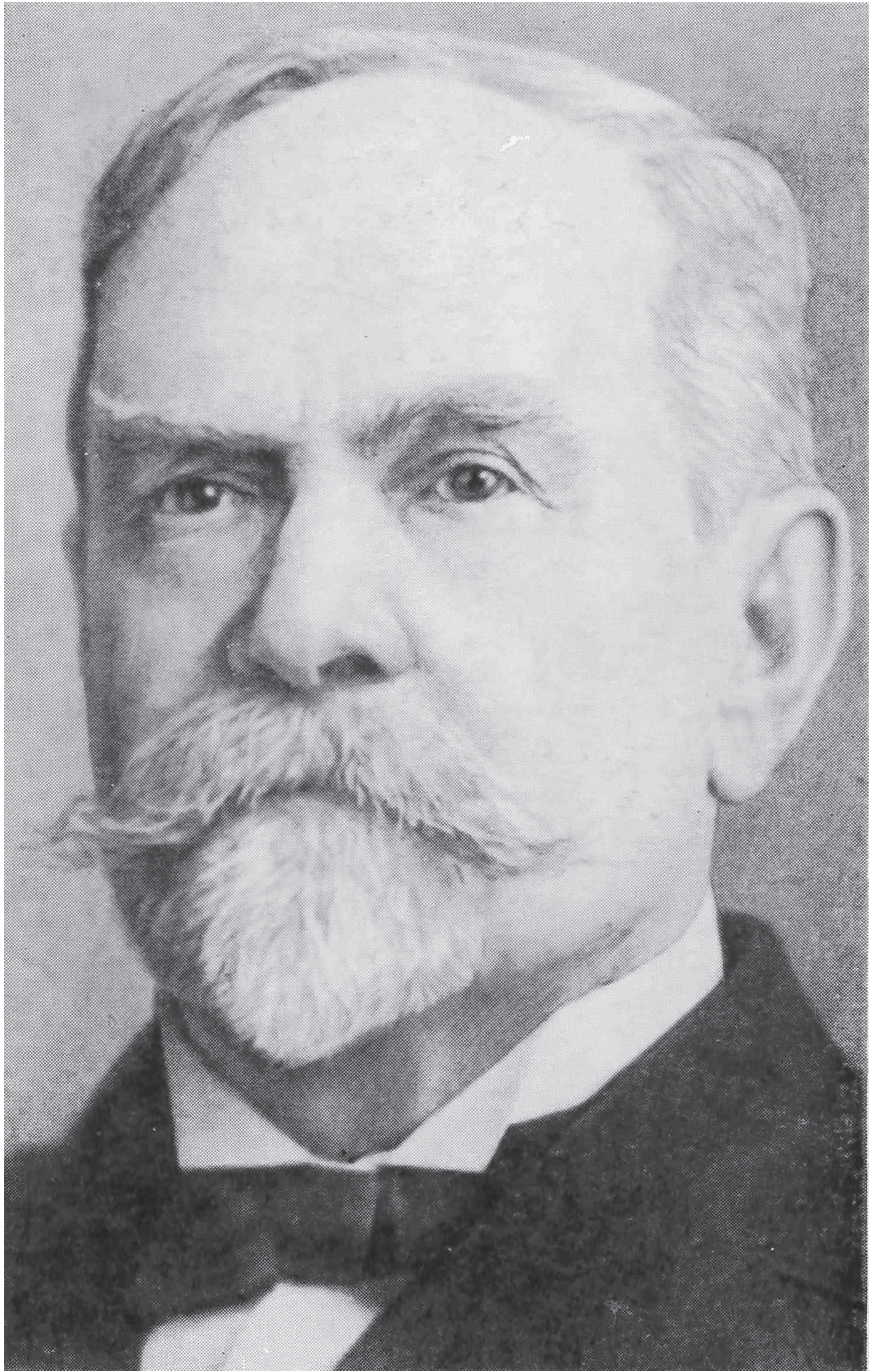
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Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925). Fot. Archiwum Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie
Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925). Photo: Archives of the National Museum in Krakow

Szanowni Państwo,

oddajemy w Państwa ręce tom XX *Notae Numismaticae – Zapisków Numizmatycznych*. Zgodnie z przyjętymi przez nas zasadami wszystkie teksty publikujemy w językach kongresowych, z angielskimi i polskimi abstraktami. Zawartość obecnego tomu oraz tomy archiwalne są zamieszczone w formie plików PDF na stronie internetowej Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie (<https://mnk.pl/notae-numismaticae-zapiski-numizmatyczne-1>). Na stronie dostępne są ponadto wszelkie informacje ogólne o czasopiśmie oraz instrukcje dla autorów i recenzentów.

Sto lat temu 27 grudnia 1925 roku zmarł w Atenach Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925), człowiek o niezwykłym życiorysie, oddany Ojczyźnie patriota, weteran Powstania Styczniowego, emigrant, a jednocześnie filhellen i honorowy obywatel Grecji. Jego zasługi na polu walki z rosyjskim zaborcą, emigracyjna tułaczka i wkład w budowę Państwa Greckiego są dosyć dobrze znane, głównie dzięki spisany przez niego samego pamiętnikom przechowywanym w Bibliotece Jagiellońskiej w Krakowie, w części wydanych drukiem w 1971 roku pod tytułem *Z Tajgi pod Akropol*. Dzięki publikacjom polskich i greckich archeologów znane są również dokonania Mineyki na polu archeologii, a w szczególności jego udział w badaniach na terenie położonego w Epirze słynnego sanktuarium Zeusa w Dodonie.

Zygmunt Mineyko interesował się również numizmatyką i nie były to zainteresowania powierzchowne. Spod jego pióra wyszło – niestety nigdy nieopublikowane – dzieło poświęcone jak sam pisał „objawom numizmatyki”. Rękopis tej pracy przechowywany obecnie we Lwowie, w dawnych zbiorach Zakładu Narodowego im. Ossolińskich, pozwala uznać ją za bardzo nowoczesne i wyprzedzające swe czasy opracowanie. Zygmunt Mineyko jest również ściśle powiązany z historią zbiorów numizmatycznych Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie. W latach 1924 i 1926 do zbiorów krakowskiego Muzeum Narodowego trafiło w dwóch transzach prawie sto antycznych monet подарowanych przez Stanisława Mineykę (1875–1924), syna Zygmunta. Choć formalnie ofiarodawcą był Stanisław najprawdopodobniej inspiratorem daru był jego ojciec, który z powodzeniem realizował ideę wzbogacania polskich instytucji naukowych i muzeów zespołami starożytnych monet. Dary takie zostały lub miały zostać przekazane Muzeum Narodowemu w Warszawie, Uniwersytetowi Wileńskiemu, Uniwersytetowi Jagiellońskiemu oraz jak wspomniano Muzeum Narodowemu w Krakowie. Niniejszy tom naszego czasopisma pragniemy dedykować pamięci Zygmunta i Stanisława Mineyków.

Redakcja

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to present you with volume 20 of *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne*. As is our policy, we publish all texts in the congress languages, with English and Polish abstracts. The contents of current volume and archive numbers are available as PDF files on the website of the National Museum in Krakow (<https://mnk.pl/notae-numismaticae-zapiski-numizmatyczne-1>). The website also provides all general information about the journal, along with guidelines for authors and reviewers.

One hundred years ago, on 27 December 1925, Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925) died in Athens. He was a man with an extraordinary life story, a devoted patriot, a veteran of the January Uprising, an emigrant, and at the same time a philhellene and honorary citizen of Greece. His achievements in the fight against the Russian invader, his wanderings as an emigrant, and his contribution to the building of the Greek state are quite well known, mainly thanks to his memoirs, stored in the Jagiellonian Library in Krakow, some of which were published in 1971 under the title *Z Tajgi pod Akropol* (From the Taiga to the Acropolis). Thanks to publications by Polish and Greek archaeologists, Mineyko's achievements in the field of archaeology are also well known, in particular his participation in research at the famous sanctuary of Zeus in Dodona, located in Epirus.

Zygmunt Mineyko was also interested in numismatics, and this interest was far from superficial. He wrote a work devoted to what he called “the manifestations of numismatics”, which, unfortunately, was never published. The manuscript of this work, currently stored in Lviv, in the former collections of the Ossoliński National Institute, allows us to consider it a very modern and ahead-of-its-time study. Zygmunt Mineyko is also closely associated with the history of the numismatic collections of the National Museum in Krakow. In 1924 and 1926, almost a hundred ancient coins donated by Stanisław Mineyko (1875–1924), Zygmunt's son, were added in two tranches to the collection of the National Museum in Krakow. Although Stanisław was formally the donor, it was most likely his father who inspired the donation, as he had successfully implemented the idea of enriching Polish scientific institutions and museums with collections of ancient coins. Such donations were or were to be donated to the National Museum in Warsaw, Vilnius University, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and, as mentioned, the National Museum in Krakow. We would like to dedicate this volume to the memory of Zygmunt and Stanisław Mineyko.

The Editors

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A New Find of a Solidus of Constantine I from the Vicinity of Jakuszowice¹

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ABSTRACT: In 2025, during systematic archaeological investigations conducted within the framework of the *Terra Incognita* Archaeological Expedition in the vicinity of the village of Jakuszowice, Kazimierza Wielka County, a solidus of Constantine I was discovered. The coin was struck at the Thessalonica mint in AD 332–333 and was subsequently adapted for use as a pendant by the soldering of a suspension loop. XRF analyses of the chemical composition revealed a high gold content in the coin itself, as well as a distinct alloy composition of the loop, suggesting the use of a non-monetary goldsmith's material for its manufacture. This find represents the sixth known solidus bearing the portrait of Constantine I discovered within the territory of present-day Poland and fits into the concentration of solidi of the Constantinian dynasty recorded in the area associated with the Przeworsk

¹ This article was prepared with the support of a grant conducted at the University of Warsaw within the framework of the project *The Neural Network of Solidi. Contacts between the Romano-Byzantine and Barbarian Worlds in the Light of Die-Linked Gold Coins Found in Europe and Central Asia*, funded by the National Science Centre, Poland (NCN), under decision no. 2020/39/B/HS3/01513. At this point, the authors of the present article wish to express their sincere gratitude to all those who, through their participation and commitment, support the research activities carried out within the framework of the *Terra Incognita* Archaeological Expedition.

culture in the south-western part of the country. The overall body of archaeological evidence from the Jakuszowice region confirms the existence in this microregion of a center of elevated socio-political status during the Late Roman period and the early phase of the Migration Period.

KEY WORDS: solidus, Constantine I, Jakuszowice Microregion, Przeworsk culture, barbarian tribal elites

ABSTRAKT: *Nowe odkrycie solida Konstancyjna I z okolic Jakuszowic*

W 2025 roku, podczas systematycznych badań archeologicznych prowadzonych w ramach ekspedycji archeologicznej *Terra Incognita* w okolicach miejscowości Jakuszowice w powiecie kazimierzowskim, odkryto złoty solid Konstancyjna I. Moneta została wybita w mennicy w Tesalonikach w latach 332–333 n.e., a następnie przystosowana do noszenia jako wisiorzek poprzez przylutowanie uszka do zawieszenia. Analizy skaningowej spektrometrii rentgenowskiej (XRF) składu chemicznego wykazały wysoką zawartość złota w samej monecie, a także odmienny skład stopu, z którego zrobiono uszko, co sugeruje użycie niemonetarnego materiału złotniczego do jego wykonania. Znaleźisko to stanowi szósty znany solid z wizerunkiem Konstancyjna I odkryty na terenie dzisiejszej Polski i wpisuje się w skupisko solidów z dynastii konstantyńskiej odnotowanych na obszarze związanym z kulturą przeworską w południowo-zachodniej części kraju. Całościowy korpus dowodów archeologicznych z regionu Jakuszowic potwierdza istnienie w tym mikroregionie ośrodka o podwyższonym statusie społeczno-politycznym w okresie późnorzymskim oraz we wczesnej fazie okresu wędrówek ludów.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: solid, Konstancyn I, mikroregion jakuszowicki, kultura przeworska, elity plemienne barbarzyńców

Since 2023, systematic archaeological investigations have been conducted in selected *sołectwa* within Kazimierza Wielka County, Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, aimed at the surface survey of sites associated with settlement activity dating to the Roman period and the Migration Period. This initiative is being carried out within the framework of the project entitled the *Terra Incognita* Archaeological Expedition: Kazimierza Wielka County. During the course of the research, extensive use has been made of metal-detector survey as a method of archaeological prospection, allowing for the precise recording of movable archaeological material. As a result of the investigations conducted within the boundaries of the designated survey area (Fig. 1), a substantial assemblage of metal artefacts has been recovered, predominantly dated to the Roman period and the early Middle Ages.² The material obtained has provided

² PIKULSKI 2023; IDEM 2024; IDEM 2025.

a wealth of significant information, forming a solid basis for further, more detailed analyses and settlement studies at the macro-regional scale. Among the artefacts discovered at the site in 2025, particular importance is attached to the principal object of the present study – a solidus of Constantine I, converted into a pendant (Fig. 2):³

COIN DESCRIPTION

AV, solidus, Thessalonica, AD 332–333

Type: RIC VII Thessalonica 189

Weight 4.87 g; diameter 20.5 mm; axis: 4 h; loop on 11 h

Obv.: bust of Constantine I, rosette-diademed, draped, cuirassed, right; CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG

Rev.: Victory, winged, draped, advancing left, holding trophy in right hand and palm in left hand; VICTORIACO NSTANTINIAVG; TS in exergue

Loop: width – 0.33–0.35 mm; thickness – 0.07 cm; height – 0.5 cm; type – Bursche III1b⁴

State of preservation: very good; minor signs of wear, small scratches on the obverse and reverse

Inv. no. 403/2025, The Voivodeship Office for the Protection of Monuments in Kielce (Polish: Wojewódzki Urząd Ochrony Zabytków w Kielcach)

The coin (Fig. 3) belongs to a well-established type of solidi from the final years of the reign of Constantine the Great.⁵ The reverse legend *Victoria Constantini* on this type of solidus is most probably associated with Constantine's victory over the Goths in AD 332.⁶

The coin was subjected to chemical composition analysis using the XRF method (Bruker Tracer 5i⁷), which revealed the following composition:

Obverse: Au 98.948% ± 0.408; Ag 0.826% ± 0.061; Cu 0.225% ± 0.018

Reverse: Au 98.996% ± 0.447; Ag 0.802% ± 0.068; Cu 0.202% ± 0.020

Loop (from the obverse side): Au 96.847% ± 1.237; Ag 1.834% ± 0.284; Cu 0.920% ± 0.090; Zn 0.201 ± 0.089; Sn 0.198 ± 0.170

³ Detailed information concerning the exact location of the discovery and the site in question is held in the records of, and remains under the authority of the Voivodeship Office for the Protection of Monuments in Kielce. The coin, together with the other artefacts recovered during the investigations, is currently deposited with the Voivodeship Office in Kielce, from where the material will be transferred by the Office to the appropriate museum institution.

⁴ BURSCHE 1998: 132.

⁵ BRUUN 1966: 525, no. 189; DEPEYROT 1995: 114, no. 15/2. The coin is dated to AD 332 or 332–333. Cf. *Ibidem* and OCRE: Thes no. 189.

⁶ BASTIEN 1988: 80; HENDZEL 2023: 32, fn. 175.

⁷ We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr Jacek Soida, MA, who kindly and voluntarily undertook the analysis of the object discussed here.

Place of soldering of the loop to the coin: Au $96.815\% \pm 1.248$; Ag $1.796\% \pm 0.290$; Cu $0.791\% \pm 0.100$; Ni 0.598 ± 0.094

The high gold content of Late Roman solidi is a defining characteristic of this denomination throughout its entire history.⁸ Against this background, the slightly different chemical composition of the loop attached to the solidus (Fig. 4) is noteworthy, namely the marginally higher silver content and the distinct presence of additives such as tin or lead. It is possible that the metal used for the manufacture of the loop was not originally of monetary origin, but derived from other gold objects, characterized by a somewhat different gold content.

The attachment of suspension loops to early solidi in the Barbaricum was a relatively widespread practice.⁹ Suspension loops on Roman gold coins began to appear on a large scale as early as the last quarter of the 3rd century, replacing the previously widespread practice of piercing the coins.¹⁰ It should be noted, however, that some of the loops may have been attached to 3rd-century coins only in the 4th century. The change in the manner of wearing gold coins was probably connected with the emergence, in the first half of the 4th century, of a new fashion in the Barbaricum, characterized by the use of gold pendants of varied forms, all fitted with a similar type of suspension loop.¹¹ In the case of solidi, the introduction of this new mode of use may also have reflected a shift in their symbolic function: from emphasizing affiliation with those who had defeated Rome at Abrittus in AD 251 (as observed in the case of pierced aurei) to highlighting a special relationship with the Empire, shaped in the aftermath of the peace treaty concluded in AD 332 between Constantine I and the Goths.¹²

The find discussed here represents the seventh known solidus bearing the portrait of Constantine I discovered within the territory of present-day Poland (Tab. 1). Among the remaining specimens, only one derives from a secure archaeological context. This is a solidus struck at the mint of Antioch in AD 335–336 on the occasion of the *tricennalia* of Constantine I, fitted with a triple-grooved suspension loop and bearing the reverse legend VICTORIA CONSTANTINIAVG / VOT / XXX, which is very closely comparable to that recorded on the specimen published here.¹³ The coin was discovered in inhumation grave no. 12 at the Przeworsk culture ceme-

⁸ MORRISON 1982: 204–205, Fig. 1.

⁹ BURSCHE 1998: 154–155.

¹⁰ BURSCHE and MYZGIN 2020: 217, Fig. 10.1.

¹¹ MYZGIN 2015: 131–140.

¹² IDEM (forthcoming).

¹³ Cf. BRUUN 1966: no. 96; DEPEYROT 1995: 147, no. 46/1. As for the occasion on which these coins were struck, cf. BASTIEN 1988: 81.

tery in Żerniki Wielkie, Wrocław County.¹⁴ The grave assemblage (the furnishings of which have only been partially published), as most probably the cemetery as a whole, is dated to the early phase of the Migration Period.¹⁵

The remaining solidi bearing the portrait of Constantine I, originating from Muszkowice (Ząbkowice Śląskie County), Racibórz (Racibórz County), vicinity of Inowrocław (County loco) and from an imprecisely identified location in Mazovia (?), incidentally also bearing the legend VICTORIA CONSTANTINI AVG but struck at Antioch, as well as a specimen from the vicinity of Warsaw (?), were all discovered accidentally.¹⁶ In the latter case, the finder was a treasure hunter. Information concerning this find (Fig. 5)¹⁷ was obtained by one of the authors of the present study in the spring of 2025 through one of the numismatic groups on Facebook. After contact had been established, the finder indicated the place of discovery only in general terms as “the vicinity of Warsaw”, without expressing any willingness to provide a more precise location. The presence of a suspension loop on the coin indirectly supports its attribution to a “barbarian” context; however, with regard to the place of discovery, one must rely solely on the finder’s declaration, as there is no possibility of independent verification of these data.

In addition, finds of solidi from the period of the Constantinian dynasty in the territory of Poland include seven specimens bearing the portraits of Constantine II, Constans, and Constantius II (Tab. 1).¹⁸ Among these, particular importance attaches to the solidi originating from the hoards at Kostkowice (*recte* Kroczyce-Okupne) and Zagórzyn. The solidus of Constantius II from Kroczyce-Okupne, Zawiercie County, formed part of a deposit discovered in the “Hanging Man Cave” together with Early Roman denarii, brooches, and other ornaments, which can be dated to

¹⁴ GUMOWSKI 1958: 134, no. 122; KONIK 1959: 229, no. 1087b/2; BURSCHE 1996: 215, no. 240; CIOŁEK 2008: 315, no. 479.

¹⁵ BURSCHE 1998: 155, the further literature there.

¹⁶ Muszkowice – CIOŁEK 2008: 152, no. 240; Racibórz – BOLIN 1926: 82, no. 99b; BURSCHE 1996: 204, no. 161; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 262, no. 622; CIOŁEK 2008: 207, no. 306; vicinity of Inowrocław – DYMOWSKI and WIĘCEK 2018: 171; Mazovia – AWIANOWICZ 2010: 83–85.

¹⁷ Constantine I, AV, solidus (7.49 g; 17 mm; 12 h; very high degree of wear), AD 310–313, Trier, RIC VI Treveri 814. *Obv.*: head of Constantine I, laureate, right; CON[STANTIN] VS[PF AVG]; *Rev.*: Constantine I, draped, cuirassed, standing front, head right, holding transverse spear in right hand and globe in left hand; PRINCIPII VVENT[VTIS].

¹⁸ Constantine II: Pęciszów, Trzebnica County – BOLIN 1926: 84, no. 119b; GUMOWSKI 1958: 133, no. 87b; KONIK 1959: 159, no. 647/2; BURSCHE 1996: 202, no. 145; CIOŁEK 2008: 193, 281/2; Constantius II: Jaksonów, Wrocław County – KONIK 1959: 109, no. 293b; BURSCHE 1996: 190, no. 51; CIOŁEK 2008: 88, no. 130; Kroczyce-Okupne, Zawiercie County – RUDNICKI 2017: 81–82; Pęciszów, Trzebnica County – BOLIN 1926: 84, no. 119a; GUMOWSKI 1958: 133, no. 87a; KONIK 1959: 159, no. 647/1; BURSCHE 1996: 203, no. 146; IDEM 1998: 153, fn. 154; CIOŁEK 2008: 193, no. 281/1; Zagórzyn, Kalisz County – GUMOWSKI 1958: 125, no. 35; BURSCHE 1998: 51–61, 254–257; IDEM 2003; Constans: Nasielsk, Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki County – DYMOWSKI 2011: 162, no. 428; Raków, Głubczyce County – BOLIN 1926: 80, no. 66; GUMOWSKI 1958: 122, no. 16; KONIK 1959: 169, no. 737; BURSCHE 1996: 204, no. 163; CIOŁEK 2008: 214, no. 318.

the end of the 4th century and the turn of the 4th to the 5th century.¹⁹ Another solidus of Constantius II formed part of the famous hoard from Zagórzyn, Kalisz County – an exceptionally rich, though partially dispersed and damaged, deposit of barbarian elites, deposited at the turn of the 5th and 6th centuries. It comprised, among other items, thousands of denarii, gold medallions and solidi, a unique barbarian imitation of a medallion of Valentinian I and Valens, as well as numerous luxury objects.²⁰ The finds of solidi of Constantine II and Constantius II from Pęciszów, Trzebnica County, also merit particular attention. At least one of them (the coin of Constantius II) is associated with a cemetery of Przeworsk culture.²¹ Regardless of whether the coins derive from ploughed-out graves or from other contexts associated with the cemetery, the very fact that two solidi struck by the sons of Constantine the Great were found in a single locality is in itself noteworthy. This may point to particular circumstances surrounding the inflow of the coins in question.

It is striking that the overwhelming majority of the above-mentioned finds of solidi from the period of the Constantinian dynasty are concentrated within the area of the Przeworsk culture. Only the northernmost discoveries, from Nasielsk (Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki County), from an imprecisely identified location in Mazovia, and from the vicinity of Warsaw (?), can possibly be associated with territories of the Wielbark culture. To date, no finds are known from north of Nasielsk, including from Pomerania and from the area of the Dębczyno group (Fig. 6).

By contrast, the hoard of solidi fitted with suspension loops from the village of Bronnaya Hara in south-western Belarus should most probably be firmly linked with the Wielbark culture, as it consisted entirely of issues of the Constantinian dynasty.²² The finds of solidi from the period of the Constantinian dynasty in the territory of present-day Poland form a distinct concentration in the south-western part of the country, north of the Carpathian and Sudetes arc. They are clustered in the regions of Silesia and western Lesser Poland (a total of nine finds, plus the not far distant hoard from Zagórzyn in Greater Poland). At some distance from this concentration, a small group is formed by the finds from Nasielsk, from Mazovia, and from the vicinity of Warsaw. This distribution of finds of gold coins of the Constantinian dynasty may, of course, partly reflect the present state of research. Nevertheless, the concentration noted above allows certain conclusions to be drawn regarding the influx of the coins under discussion. Before, however, any considerations concerning the mechanisms by which these coins reached the region are undertaken, it is necessary to turn attention to other artefacts from the site in

¹⁹ RUDNICKI 2017: 81–82.

²⁰ BURSCHE 1998: 51–61, 254–257; IDEM 2003.

²¹ Cf. BURSCHE 1998: 153, fn. 154. R. Ciołek (2008: 193–194) regards both coins as grave finds.

²² SIDAROVICH 2019.

question in the vicinity of Jakuszowice, as well as to the archaeological situation of this microregion in the Late Roman period.

The site is located in the area of the famous Przeworsk culture settlement at Jakuszowice (site 2).²³ An exceptionally large assemblage of artefacts has been recorded there, dated primarily to the Roman period and the Migration Period.²⁴ On the basis of field observations, it may be stated that this location was most intensively occupied during the Iron Age, from phase A2 of the Late Pre-Roman period through to phase D2 of the Migration Period. In addition, traces of settlement were recorded at the site that extend at least back to the Bronze Age and continue – albeit with interruptions – into the Early Middle Ages.

Among the artefacts discovered from the period under consideration, numismatic material predominates, chiefly denarii, the vast majority of which derive from issues of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. 3rd-century coins are also present in the assemblage, but they are represented in considerably smaller numbers. Among other categories of finds, particular mention should be made of fibulae, represented by examples belonging to almost all of the groups distinguished by O. Almgren.²⁵ The most numerous are forms dated from the 2nd to the 4th century AD. Fibulae imported from the territory of the Roman Empire were also identified.²⁶

In addition, numerous elements of metal circlet ornaments were discovered at the site, including fragments of silver and bronze bracelets, as well as a Roman bronze signet ring bearing a *Chi-Rho* monogram (christogram).²⁷ The investigated area has also yielded fragments of imported Roman bronze and ceramic vessels, including examples of *terra sigillata*. During the course of the research, several unique artefacts were recorded that may indicate the existence at this site of a center functioning as a central settlement, exercising a dominant role within the surrounding settlement network.

The quantity and chronological range of the discovered artefacts testify to the intensive and long-term occupation of the site by a relatively numerous community, manifested in a rich assemblage of material culture. The phenomenon observed points to the high social status of its members within contemporary social structures.²⁸

²³ Cf. GODŁOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 1995; RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2006; coin finds: BURSCHE 1997a; IDEM 1997b; BURSCHE, KACZANOWSKI and RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000; RUDNICKI 2014; BODZEK 2021.

²⁴ All artefacts recovered were recorded using a GPS coordinate system. The finds from the investigations were subsequently transferred to the Voivodeship Office for the Protection of Monuments in Kielce.

²⁵ ALMGREN 1923.

²⁶ BRATKO 2025b.

²⁷ The artefact is currently under analysis and will be presented in a separate, dedicated communication in the scholarly literature.

²⁸ MYZGIN and PIKULSKI 2025.

Turning to a general characterization of the area covered by the investigations, it should be stated that it is relatively well recognized archaeologically. Of particular importance are the long-term research programs carried out at the site in Jakuszowice.²⁹ As is well known, the impulse for undertaking intensive research at Jakuszowice was provided by the discovery, in the immediate vicinity, of a richly furnished warrior grave, associated with Hunnic elites.³⁰

In the context of characterizing the discoveries from the area under discussion, it is also impossible to overlook the results of the long-term archaeological investigations carried out in the nearby locality of Zagórzycze, where a complex of sites associated with the Roman period and the Migration Period has been identified.³¹ Moreover, in recent years archaeological investigations have also been carried out at additional sites in the vicinity of Jakuszowice, likewise dated to the same chronological horizon.³² In the context of numismatic finds, it is also worth mentioning the discoveries recorded in the area of gold coins struck in periods preceding the Constantinian dynasty. In the first instance, one should note the finds of aurei of Gallienus from Kazimierza Wielka and its surroundings, as well as from Działoszyce, Pińczów County.³³ In the broader vicinity of the settlement at Jakuszowice, a highly noteworthy find has also been recorded in the form of a gold-plated barbarian imitation.³⁴ It should also be noted that in the region under discussion, apart from the sites mentioned above, numerous other finds of Roman coins and their contemporary forgeries have been recorded.³⁵

The causes, chronology, and circumstances of the influx of the published solidus of Constantine I into the region under discussion, as well as of other solidi of the Constantinian period, are difficult to determine unequivocally. The archaeological assemblages – the grave from Żerniki Wielkie and the hoards from Kroczyce and Zagórzyn – dated to the Migration Period, rather suggest that the solidi, or at least some of them, remained in circulation for a relatively long time. The question of the

²⁹ Cf. fn. 21.

³⁰ GODŁOWSKI 1995; GRYGIEL and PIKULSKI 2007; RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2020.

³¹ TROJAN, PIKULSKI and OCZKO 2022 and further literature.

³² KASIŃSKI, BULAS and OKOŃSKA 2019; RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK et AL. 2021; BRATKO 2024a; ZAGÓRSKA-TELEGA 2024.

³³ Cf. Kazimierza Wielka – PIOTROWICZ 1938: 78; KUNISZ 1985: 84, no. 101 IV; TUNIA 1988: 203; BURSCHE 1996: 191, no. 63; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 89, no. 264; Kazimierza Wielka, vicinity – DYMOWSKI 2006: 69–70, Fig. 4; IDEM 2011: 209, no. 842; Działoszyce – TUNIA 1988: 202–205, Fig. 1; BURSCHE 1996: 188, no. 33a; KACZANOWSKI and MARGOS 2002: 52–53, no. 138; the aforementioned finds will be the subject of a separate study to be prepared by two of the authors of the present article together with Mr K. Tunia, MA, of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Science.

³⁴ The find is currently under study by J. Bodzek, J. Kliś, K. Myzgin, K. Tunia and T. Więcek.

³⁵ Cf. BODZEK et AL. 2016; BODZEK and TUNIA 2021; BODZEK, JELLONEK and ZAJĄC 2024; BODZEK et AL. 2025; the further literature there.

moment of their initial arrival, however, remains open, and it undoubtedly occurred with a certain delay in relation to the time of their issue.

It is noteworthy that the earliest solidi, struck in the years AD 310–313, are associated with the mint of Trier, whereas the issues after AD 332/333 already originate from Danubian mints (Siscia) or eastern mints (Thessalonica, Nicomedia, Antioch). This phenomenon may reflect differing directions of the influx of these coins. While in the second decade of the 4th century Constantine may have employed barbarian contingents in military operations in the western parts of the Empire, after the treaty of AD 332 the policy of engaging local barbarian forces presumably underwent significant changes. The marked dominance of eastern issues likewise characterizes the finds of solidi of the Constantinian dynasty from the area of the Chernyakhiv culture.³⁶

Interpreting the finds of solidi exclusively as evidence of direct Roman-barbarian contacts involving the population of the Przeworsk culture in the 4th century represents only one of several possible hypotheses. Equally plausible are indirect contacts with the Germanic and Sarmatian populations inhabiting the Hungarian Plain, where a significant concentration of finds of solidi from this period can be observed (Map 1). In this context, attention should be drawn to the above-mentioned concentration of solidi of the Constantinian dynasty in the south-western part of present-day Poland, which may indicate a southern route of influx from the Carpathian Basin, or possibly a western one, for the coins under consideration. Another possibility involves connections with populations of the Chernyakhiv culture, to which the material from Kroczyce-Okupne and other “Chernyakhiv” elements in the archaeological record of western Lesser Poland may indirectly point. In this perspective, it may be assumed that, at least in part, the solidi were brought by Gothic barbarian elites at the end of the 4th century, during their westward migrations triggered by the Hunnic invasions. At the same time, a more “prosaic” scenario of long-distance intercultural contacts also remains entirely plausible, for example within the framework of gift exchange, known *inter alia* from the Dančeny–Brangstrup horizon.³⁷

It is also noteworthy that the solidus from the site in the vicinity of the settlement at Jakuszowice originates from an area in which an influx of Roman gold medallions from the period of the Constantinian dynasty has been recorded (Map 1). Although in Central and Eastern Barbaricum Late Roman medallions are generally regarded as characteristic primarily of the so-called Gothic cultural environment, that is, of the

³⁶ MYZGIN (forthcoming).

³⁷ BURSCHE 2010: 18–20.

Wielbark and Chernyakhiv cultures,³⁸ nevertheless, in the territory of present-day Poland the largest number of finds of medallions from the Constantinian period is associated precisely with the Przeworsk culture, including, among others, those from the hoard at Zagórzyn, as well as stray finds from Opoczki in Kuyavia and from the area of Lesser Poland.³⁹ This circumstance may suggest that *solidi* sometimes reached these areas in parallel with medallions, forming part of a broader assemblage of gifts of a diplomatic nature, bestowed upon representatives of local barbarian elites.

In summary, there can be no doubt that the owner of the *solidus* discussed here was a member of the local elite. The find constitutes yet another argument confirming the special position of the Jakuszowice microregion as one of the centers of local power in the Late Roman period and at the beginning of the Migration Period. This is evidenced not only by the prestige of the artefact published here, but also by other, chronologically closely related elite-type finds from the site. The question of how the *solidus* came into the possession of its owner – whether as a diplomatic gift, payment for service in the Roman army, or as a trophy of war – and who exactly its holder was (a local ruler, a member of his entourage, or an experienced warrior), nevertheless remains open and can be resolved only through further archaeological research in the Jakuszowice area.

ABBREVIATIONS

OCRE = *Online Coins of the Roman Empire*, <https://numismatics.org/ocre/> (accessed on 28 November 2025).

RIC VII = BRUNN 1966.

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³⁸ Cf. IDEM 1998: 19.

³⁹ IDEM 1998: 235–236, 238–239, 254–257.

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TABLE 1	Finds of solidi from the period of the Constantinian dynasty in the territory of Poland. Authors: Kyrylo Myzgin, Jacek Pikulski
PLATE 1	Fig. 1. Location of the survey area covered by surface archaeological prospection, within which the artefact discussed here was discovered. Author: Jacek Pikulski
PLATE 2	Fig. 2. Jakuszowice, Kazimierza Wielka County, Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship. Pendant made from a solidus of Constantine I. 1–3 – photographs of the coin, 4–6 – drawings of the coin. Authors: Jacek Pikulski, Nicol Lenkow Fig. 3. Jakuszowice, Kazimierza Wielka County, Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship. Pendant made from a solidus of Constantine I. 1–2 – photographs of the coin, 3–4 – drawings of the coin. Authors: Jacek Pikulski, Nicol Lenkow
PLATE 3	Fig. 4. Jakuszowice, Kazimierza Wielka County, Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship. Pendant made from a solidus of Constantine I. 1, 2 – close-up views of the structural elements of the object. Author: Rafał Wyrwich Fig. 5. Vicinity of Warsaw, Mazovian Voivodeship. Pendant made from a solidus of Constantine I. Unscaled; author unknown
MAP 1	Distribution of finds of solidi and gold medallions from the period of the Constantinian dynasty in Central and Eastern Barbaricum (the territories of Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Serbia, Hungary, Romania, Belarus, and Ukraine). Legend: I – findspot of the solidus from the vicinity of Jakuszowice discussed in the present article; II – single finds of solidi; III – single finds with approximate localization; IV – hoards of solidi or solidi occurring as part of hoards; V – finds of Roman gold medallions Solidi finds: 1–2. Jilemnice, Semily County, CH; 3. Roudnice, Hradec Králové County, CH; 4–5. Karle, Svitavy County, CH; 6. Jaksonów, Wrocław County, PL; 7. Żerniki Wielkie, Wrocław County, PL; 8. Pęciszów, Trzebnica County, PL; 9. Muszkowice, Żąbkowice Śląskie County; 10. Zagórzyn, Kalisz County, PL; 11. Raków, Głubczyce County, PL; 12. Racibórz, Racibórz County, PL; 13. Mazovian Voivodeship (without precise localization), PL; 14. Nasielsk, Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki County, PL; 15. Warsaw (environs), PL; 16. Inowrocław (environs), PL; 17. Kostkowice, Zawiercie County, PL; 18. Łobzów / Kraków, PL; 19. Jakuszowice (environs), Kazimierza Wielka County, PL; 20. Bronnaya Hara, Brest District, BY; 21. Veľké Ostratice, Partizánske County, SK; 22. Mende, Pest County, HU; 23. Eger, Heves County, HU; 24. Hódmezővásárhely, Hódmezővásárhely County, HU; 25. Orosháza, Békés County, HU; 26. Porcsalma, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, HU; 27. Pančevo, South Banat District, SRB; 28. Bela Crkva, South Banat District, SRB; 29. Veliki Gaj, South Banat District, SRB; 30. Voiteg, Timiș County, RO; 31. Carani, Timiș County, RO; 32. Oradea, Bihor County, RO; 33. Sântimbru, Bihor County, RO; 34. Șimleu Silvaniei, Sălaj County, RO; 35. Reșița, Sibiu County, RO; 36. Zimnicea, Teleorman County, RO; 37. Bârlad Valea Seacă, Vaslui County, RO; 38. Kal'nyk, Mukachevo District, UA; 39. Serbichany, Dnistrovs'kyi District, UA; 40. Lviv Region (without precise localization), UA; 41. Rivne Region (without precise localization), UA; 42–45. Ternopil' Region (without precise localization), UA; 46. Khmelnytskyi Region (without precise localization) UA; 47–49. Vinnytsia Region (without precise localization), UA; 50. Uman' (environs), Uman' District, UA; 51. Cherkasy Region (without precise localization), UA Gold medallions finds: A. Młoteczno, Braniewo County, PL; B. Opoczki, Aleksandrów Kujawski County, PL; C. Zagórzyn, Kalisz County, PL; D. Lesser Poland Voivodeship, (without precise localization), PL; E. Șimleu Silvaniei, Sălaj County, RO; F. Târgușor, Bihor county, RO; G. Transylvania (without precise localization), RO; H. Horia, Botoșani County, RO; I. Buzovytsia, Dnistrovs'kyi District, UA; J. Ivaniivtsi, Dnistrovs'kyi District, UA; K. Laskiv, Volodymyr District, UA; L. Northern part of Lviv Region (without precise

localization), UA; M. Volhynia (without precise localization), UA; N. Verkhivnia, Berdy-chiv District, UA

Sources: BUTNARIU 1987; IDEM 1988; MYZGIN (forthcoming); POCHITONOV 1955; POPA and CIOBANU 2003; PROHÁSZKA 2009 (for solidi finds); BURSCHE 1998; BURSCHE and MYZGIN 2013; MYZGIN 2019; POPESCU 2003 (for gold medal-lions finds)

No	Find spot	Year of find	Issuer	Year of mint	Mint	Type	Secondary treatment	Context	Bibliography
1	Muszkowice	1914	Constantine I	310–313	Trier	RIC VI Tre 824	?	single find	CIOLEK 2008: 153, no. 240
2	Warszawa (environs)?	2025	Constantine I	310–313	Trier	RIC VI Tre 814	looped	single find	Information by K. Myzgin; first published in this article
3	Inowrocław (environs)	not later than 2015	Constantine I	316	Trier	RIC VII Tre 86	pierced	single find	DYMOWSKI and WIĘCEK 2018: 171
4	Jakuszowice (environs)	2025	Constantine I	330–331	Thessalonica	RIC VII The 174	looped	single find	Published in this article
5	Raciórz	1865	Constantine I	335	Siscia	RIC VII Sis 242–244	?	single find	CIOLEK 2008: 207, no. 306
6	Żemiki Wielkie	1931	Constantine I	335–336	Antioch	RIC VII Ant 96	looped	from grave 12	CIOLEK 2008: 315, no. 479
7	Mazovia?	2007	Constantine I	335 or 336	Antioch	RIC VII Ant 93	looped	single find	AWIANOWICZ 2010: 83–86
8	Pęciszów	before 1711	Constantine II	337–340	Thessalonica	RIC VIII The 12 or 26	looped	single find (from burial ground area)	CIOLEK 2008: 193, no. 281/1
9	Pęciszów	before 1846	Constantine II	337–340	?	?	looped	single find (from burial ground area)	CIOLEK 2008: 193–194, no. 281/2
10	Nasielsk	2007	Constans	340–350	Siscia	RIC VIII Sis 116	looped	single find	DYMOWSKI 2011: 162, no. 428
11	Raków	before 1840	Constans	340–350	Trier, or Siscia, or Thessalonica	?	looped	single find	CIOLEK 2008: 216, no. 318
12	Jaksonów	1925	Constantius II	324–367	?	?	?	single find	CIOLEK 2008: 88, no. 130
13	Kostkowice	2003	Constantius II	340–355	Nicomedia, or Cyzicus, or Antioch	RIC VIII Nic 31, or Cyz 38, or Ant 83, 86	looped	from the denarius hoard	DYMOWSKI 2011: 212, no. 871
14	Zagórzyn	1927	Constantius II	355–361	Nicomedia	RIC VIII Nic 100	?	from the hoard	BURSCHE 2003: 45–46, no. 1

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2



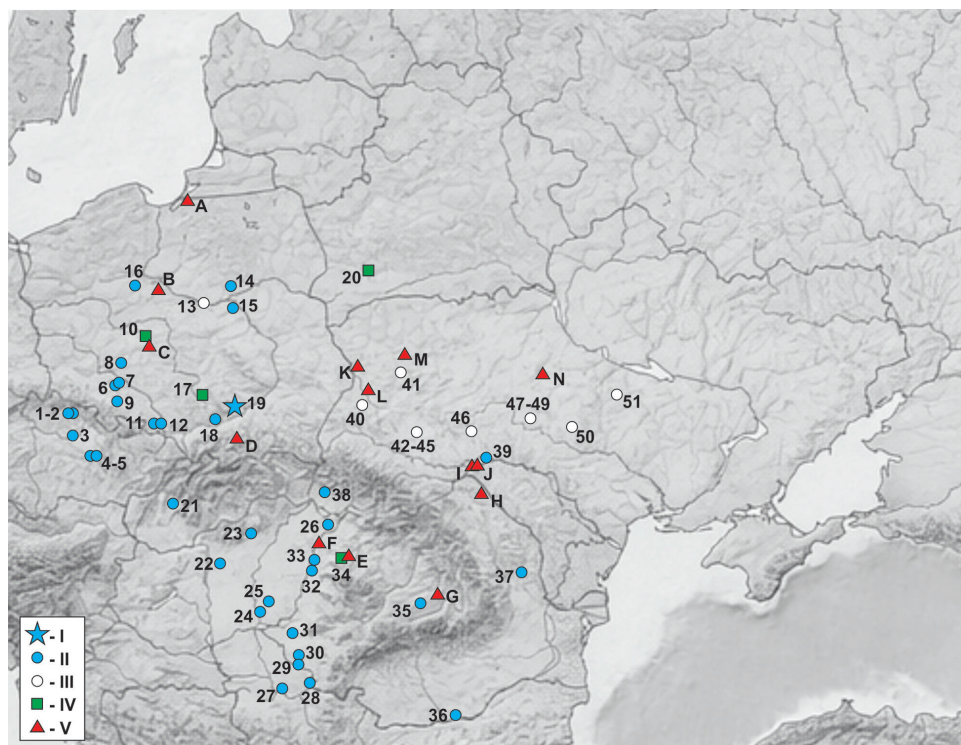
Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Map 1. Distribution of finds of solidi and gold medallions from the period of the Constantinian dynasty in Central and Eastern Barbaricum (the territories of Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Serbia, Hungary, Romania, Belarus, and Ukraine)