

NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

ZAPISKI NUMIZMATYCZNE



Tom XX

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

Kraków 2025

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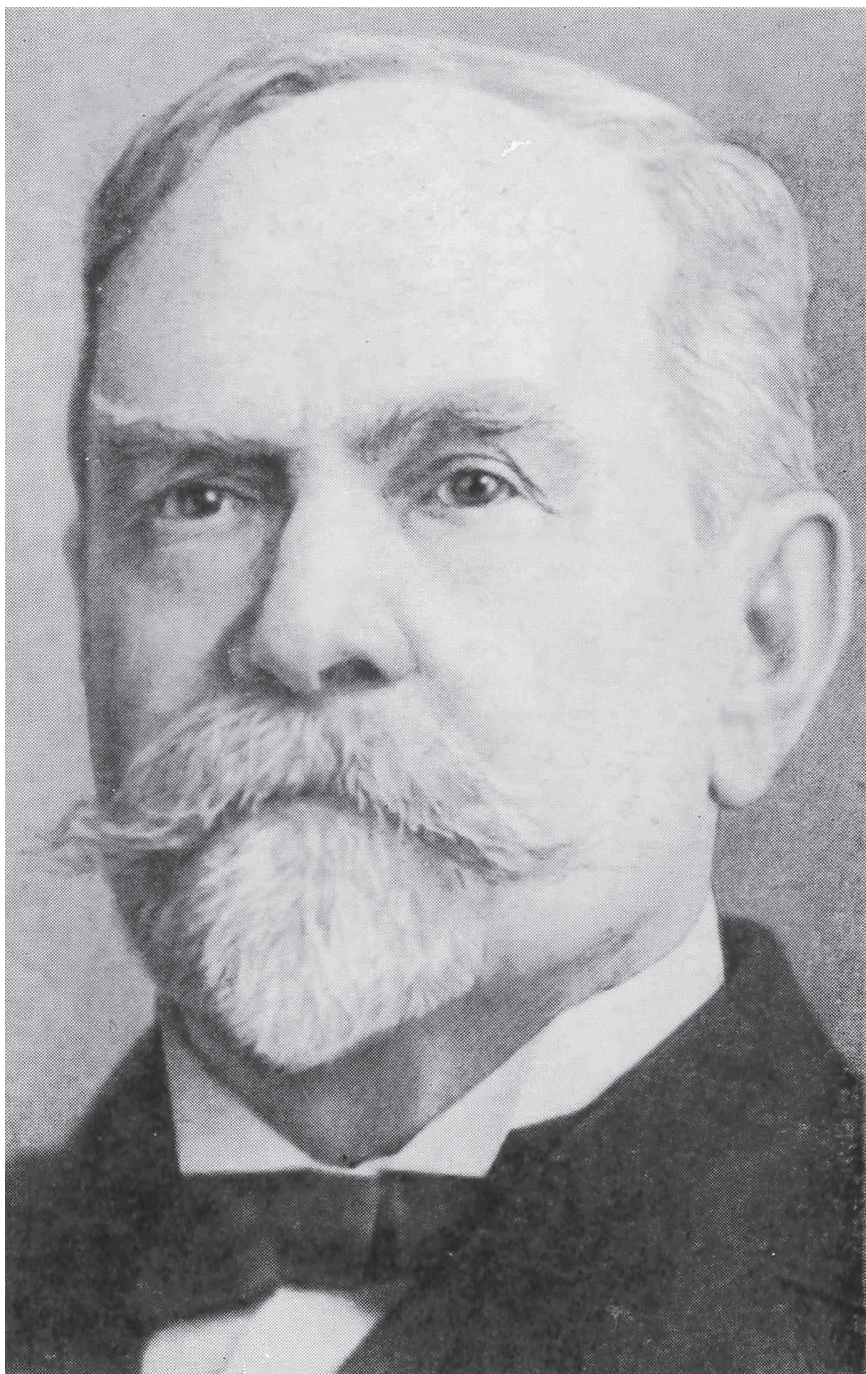
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Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925). Fot. Archiwum Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie
Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925). Photo: Archives of the National Museum in Krakow

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 podarowanych 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

BARTŁOMIEJ BARTECKI, ANNA HYRCHAŁA
and KYRYŁO MYZGIN (eds.)

Skarb z Cichobórze. Studia nad depozytem rzymskich denarów oraz ich naśladownictw / The Cichobórze Hoard. A Study of the Deposit of Roman Denarii and Their Imitations, Muzeum im. ks. Stanisława Staszica w Hrubieszowie, Hrubieszów 2023, 511 pages; ISBN 978-83-949902-9-9

In 2020, near the village of Cichobórze, a local farmer Mariusz Dyl made a chance discovery of over 1,600 Roman denarii, which he handed over to the Stanisław Staszic Museum in Hrubieszów. As a result of verification work carried out at the site of the find, an additional coins and 20 other items related to the deposit were discovered. In total, the deposit currently consists of 1,776 silver denarii and their imitations. Just four years later, in 2023, a comprehensive monograph on it was published, thanks to which the find was quickly introduced into scholar knowledge. It is worth noting that the publication, issued by the Stanisław Staszic Museum in Hrubieszów and co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland, is available in both paper and digital versions, the latter via open access on the website of the National Heritage Institute. (<https://nid.pl/dopobrania/OZA2023/Skarb-z-Cichob%C3%B3rze.-Studia-nad-depozytem-rzymskich-denar%C3%B3w-oraz-ich-na%C5%9Bladownictw.pdf>).

In addition to the main initiators and editors Bartłomiej Bartecki, Anna Hyrchała, and Kyryło Myzgin, a group of other specialists was involved in the project of compiling and publishing the find which enabled a comprehensive study of the hoard. The publication consists of two parts. The first, consisting of eight chapters, which are in fact separate articles, discusses various issues related to the hoard itself, the circumstances of its discovery, its cultural background, etc. This part of the publication is bilingual, and each article has both a Polish and an English version. The second part of the reviewed book is a publication of the full catalog of artefacts included in the hoard.

The publication opens with a foreword by Bartłomiej Bartecki and Kyryło Myzgin entitled “Foreword. The Cichobórze hoard – the largest deposit of Roman coins discovered in Poland in over half a century” (pp. 8–19), which presents general information about the discovery of the hoard, its transfer to the Stanisław Staszic Museum in Hrubieszów, etc. Further on, in the chapter entitled “Archaeological

verification investigations in Cichobórz” by Bartłomiej Bartecki and Anna Hyrchała, the results of research undertaken by archaeologists from the Museum in Hrubieszów and the Institute of Archaeology of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin are described (pp. 20–37). The research, which took the form of surface prospecting using metal detectors and trial excavations, yielded an additional 160 denarii and silver rivets, as well as objects from earlier and later periods. Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine the exact location where the hoard was originally hidden. The coins were scattered over an area of approximately 100 m². This chapter also presents an analysis of artefacts other than coins discovered during the verification work.

The second chapter is a “Numismatic analysis of the hoard” (pp. 38–89). It should be emphasized that the analysis conducted by Kyrylo Myzgin is comprehensive and very thorough. The author examines the general chronology of the hoard, but also presents the results of research on the frequency of coins of various dynasties, and within them, individual emperors, broken down by years of reign. We learn that the earliest coins in the hoard are those from the Flavian period, and the youngest are those from the reign of Septimius Severus (p. 39). The most attention, due to their dominant share in the hoard, is devoted to issues of the Antonine dynasty. At the same time, the vast majority of coins come from the reigns of Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius (72.2%). Myzgin points out coins belonging to varieties or types not listed in standard catalogs (pp. 42–44). In addition to denarii from official Roman mints, Myzgin discusses separately a group of seven barbarian imitations of imperial denarii included in the hoard. These are discussed in great detail, and the author of the chapter also uses a table with illustrations of the imitations themselves and their prototypes, and includes a map showing the finds of such imitations from the Barbaricum region. Finally, a separate section is devoted to the denarius of Marcus Aurelius (Cat. 1004), which Myzgin suspects belongs to the category of *denarii flati*, i.e., cast counterfeits of denarii. The metrology of the coins (pp. 60–62), their state of wear (pp. 62–70), the presence of graffiti, but also traces of secondary use of the coins, i.e., piercing, plugged holes, and others (pp. 70–78), were analyzed too. Myzgin made also some observation on the size of the hoard and points out analogies among other deposits of this type discovered in Poland and Ukraine (p. 78). He also determines the type of the hoard as Type D according to the typology developed by himself and Arkadiusz Dymowski, or a hoard of late chronological structure according to the classification of Aleksander Bursche (p. 82).¹ He also devotes some space to the issue of hoard accumulation, distinguishing two groups among the coins that make it up, characterized by varying degrees of wear and other features (pp. 82–84). It must be admitted that this is a very valuable observation.

¹ DYMOWSKI and MYZGIN 2014: 69; BURSCHE 1994: 471–473.

The chapter is enriched with an appendix presenting the author's classification of the degree of wear of coins (pp. 86–87).

Two subsequent chapters are also devoted to the coins from the hoard. In the chapter entitled "Some observations on imitations in the Cichobórz hoard", Clive Stannard takes a closer look at the imitations, which Kyrylo Myzgin discussed briefly in the previous chapter (pp. 90–105). The author reconstructs the technological process of producing these imitations. In terms of their belonging to the group of imitations, he analyzed several other coins from the hoard, but with negative results as regards the recognition of barbarian activity in their case. In the next chapter, entitled "Chemical analysis of selected silver coins from the Cichobórz hoard", Paweł Gan presented the results of scanning microscope studies of the elemental composition of 105 selected denarii from the Cichobórz hoard (pp. 106–122). The analyses were carried out at the Bio- and Archaeometry Laboratory of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The research did not yield any particularly surprising results, but rather confirmed previously published information. However, the author's observations on the technological aspects of obtaining the alloys from which the coins were minted are interesting.

Chapter five of the reviewed book, entitled "Non-monetary part of the deposit. Rivets and a fitting", is devoted to the study of items other than coins that were part of the hoard (pp. 124–142). Its author is Katarzyna Czarnecka. The author analyzed 16 rivets, two rivet heads, two shanks, and a silver embossed plate. In addition to typological analysis, the objects described were also subjected to chemical analysis. The author convincingly identifies the rivets found in Cichobórz as elements of a ceremonial horse bridle. She cautiously interprets the fragmentary silver plate as a decorative falera and also associates it with a horse harness. Czarnecka dates both the rivets and the falera to the late Roman period.

Chapter sixth, authored by Radosław Dobrowolski, Piotr Zagórski, Kamil Kultys, and Kamil Misztal, is entitled "Environmental surveys in Cichobórz" (pp. 144–159). The chapter presents the results of lithological studies, a digital elevation model, an orthomosaic, and an Electrical resistivity tomography of the Cichobórz micro-region. The chapter is enriched with a lithological description of geological boreholes in Cichobórz.

In a very extensive chapter seven entitled "Halfway between the worlds, that is what we know (and don't) about the cultural situation in the Hrubieszów Basin and its peripheries in the Roman and Migration Periods", Barbara Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska presents a broader view of the cultural situation in the Hrubieszów Basin in the first five centuries AD (pp. 160–282). On the one hand, this chapter discusses the cultural situation based on the latest findings, at least in relation to part of the area described, including those from stationary research and surface surveys, as well as accidental discoveries. On the other hand, it highlights problems and

questions that remain unexplained or arise as a result of new information. Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska discussed the source base as well as the changing cultural situation in relation to individual taxonomic units. This is a very thoroughly written chapter, which also provides an excellent up-to-date overview of the cultural situation in the Hrubieszów Basin during the period in question. The author devotes a certain part of her discussion, albeit very briefly, to coin finds in the region (pp. 186–194). The chapter is supplemented in this context by an appendix in the form of a list of coin finds, mainly from the Hrubieszów Basin, but also from outside it, covering the situation up to 2021 (pp. 260–269).

The analytical part of the publication concludes with chapter eight, written by Kyrilo Myzgin and Bartłomiej Bartecki, and entitled “Research summary, or what we know about the Cichobórz hoard” (pp. 284–309). This is essentially a summary of the information presented in the previous chapters. However, they also attempt to answer several important questions concerning the hoard. Particularly important issues in this case are the findings concerning the container in which the hoard was hidden (pp. 290–292). The authors are inclined to accept the hypothesis of an organic, textile, or leather container. However, as they emphasize, there is no certain evidence for this, and they do not rule out the possibility that the coins were hidden in a wooden box. Myzgin and Bartecki analyzed the location of the hoard, but did not reach any conclusive conclusions in this regard that would allow them to link the deposit to any of the currently known settlements from the Roman period (pp. 292–296). Another important issue is the time of formation and concealment of the hoard. The authors believe that its core was formed during the period of the greatest influx of imperial denarii into the Barbaricum region, i.e. at the beginning of the 3rd century AD, but the formation of the deposit, through the addition of items, could have lasted until the first half of the 5th century AD (pp. 296–300). In fact, the authors of the chapter left unanswered the question of why the Cichobórz hoard was hidden and not taken (pp. 300–303). Similarly, there is no definitive answer to the question of who the hoard belonged to (pp. 303–306). Finally, the authors emphasize the scientific and media significance of the hoard (pp. 306–309). The chapter is supplemented with a list of Roman denarius hoards from the Hrubieszów Basin (pp. 312–313). In this particular case, I do not quite understand why, since the list of coin finds in the region accompanies the previously discussed chapter by Barbara Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska and is an unnecessary repetition.

It is worth noting that all chapters are richly illustrated with photographs, charts, and maps. The photographs are generally of good quality and enrich and facilitate the reception of the content contained in each chapter. They are not limited to documenting objects from the hoard, but cover all activities and analyses presented in the reviewed publication.

The catalog of coins included in the hoard was prepared by Kyrylo Myzgin. It is arranged chronologically and divided into individual reigns (pp. 315–511, Cat. 1–1776). It therefore begins with the coins of Vespasian and ends with barbarian imitations. The catalog entries consist of a serial number, a description of the obverse and reverse, references, metrological data (weight, diameter, and axis), and the condition of wear and corrosion, divided into obverse and reverse.

It should be noted that it is not easy to describe recurring or very similar monetary representations in a clear and legible manner, but the author has succeeded in doing so. In the case of broken coins, graffiti, piercing, or plugging, relevant information has been added to the descriptions of the obverse and reverse sides (cf. e.g., Cat. 84, 331, 541, 1115). Each catalog entry is supplemented with a good-quality photograph of the obverse and reverse of the coin. The references provided by Myzgin for each cataloged item are quite sparse, but in each case they are current and standard literature, which makes it easy to verify the terms used.

In summary: the reviewed publication of the hoard of Roman denarii from Cichobórz can be considered exemplary. The comprehensive scope of the research, the presentation of the context of the find, and finally the presentation and discussion of the coins themselves are of the highest scientific and editorial quality. It will certainly serve as an indispensable reference point for many years to come for all those interested in the influx of Roman coins, not only in the Hrubieszów Basin but also in the Barbaricum as a whole.

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