

## Some Roman coin finds from Southern Moldavia\*

Lucian MUNTEANU<sup>1</sup>, Sever-Petru BOȚAN<sup>2</sup>, Aurora-Emilia APOSTU<sup>3</sup>

**Abstract.** *We present in this paper three batches of Roman coins belonging to Roman Republican and Imperial hoards, from the collections of Museum of Vrancea in Focșani and Town Museum in Adjud. The coins were discovered in the following locations: I. Adjud (Vrancea County) (3 AR dated from C. Maianus to C. Mamilius Limetanus); II. Repedea (Străoane commune, Vrancea County) (4 AR, dated from M. Papirius Carbo to Ulpia Severina); III. Olăreni (Slobozia Bradului commune, Vrancea County) (6 AR, dated from Marcus Antonius to Marcus Aurelius and 1 AE – Constantinopolis type). In regards to the last two hoards we have serious doubts that the most recent coins actually belong to the initial findings.*

**Rezumat.** *Prezentăm în studiul de față trei loturi de monede romane republicane și imperiale aflate în colecțiile Muzeului Vrancei din Focșani și Muzeului Orășenesc din Adjud. Monedele au fost descoperite în următoarele puncte: I. Adjud (jud. Vrancea) (3 AR datați de la C. Maianus la C. Mamilius Limetanus); II. Repedea (com. Străoane, jud. Vrancea) (4 AR datați de la M. Papirius Carbo la Ulpia Severina); III. Olăreni (com. Slobozia Bradului, jud. Vrancea) (6 AR datați de la Marcus Antonius la Marcus Aurelius și 1 AE – tip Constantinopol). În ceea ce privește ultimele două loturi, avem serioase îndoieli că monedele cele mai recente aparțin descoperirilor inițiale.*

**Keywords:** hoards, Roman denarii, Barbaricum, Moldavia, Museum of Vrancea.

In the collections of Town Museum in Adjud and the Museum of Vrancea in Focșani there are three batches of coins that could belong to some virtually unknown Roman hoards, found in the areas of Adjud (Bacău County), Repedea and Olăreni (Vrancea County) (Figure 1).

The first, located in the Museum in Adjud, consists of three Roman Republican *denarii* (Cat. I /1–3), which find their origin in a hoard discovered in the southern part of Adjud<sup>4</sup>. Taking into account the notes from the inventory registers of the museum we believe that this discovery could have been made in the 1970s–1980s of the last century.

One coin has a rectangular sign on the obverse and on the reverse another one with five points, forming a base down trapezium (Cat. I/3). We believe that in both cases, these symbols were deliberately made and represent countermarks. Identifying the issuers and the

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<sup>1</sup> Institute of Archaeology – Iași branch; lucanas2000@yahoo.com.

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Archaeology – Iași branch; sever\_botan@yahoo.com.

<sup>3</sup> Museum of Vrancea, Focșani; auroraemiliaapostu@yahoo.com.

<sup>4</sup> BOBI 1999, 205, Tab. 10; 217, nr. 1; 282; 433, pl. CXXXI/1–3.

circumstances in which these operations were carried out are almost impossible to determine. In the scientific literature there are numerous attempts to interpret these symbols, which are to be found on Republican issues<sup>5</sup>. In the last years was renewed, with plausible arguments, the hypothesis of an official countermarking of these pieces in order to confer the low weight, worn or *fourees* coins a new value prior to their insertion back on the market<sup>6</sup>. Unfortunately, this opinion seems to be refuted by the present situation, as our currency is made of good quality silver and its weight (3.68 g) is relatively close to the theoretical value of 3.86 g estimated for Republican silver issues from the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC onwards<sup>7</sup>.

In terms of chronology, two of the three coins belong to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, and the last one is dated in the second decade of the next century<sup>8</sup>. But this batch of *denarii* represents only a fraction of a hoard whose original size and chronological structure are unknown. Thus it is impossible to determine whether the chronological information provided by these three pieces is relevant for the whole discovery. North of the Danube are known several hoards of Republican *denarii*, sometimes associated with Greek coins, the last issues being dated in 89–80 BC<sup>9</sup>. But just as in the above-mentioned case, all these discoveries were only partially recovered, so that they don't represent a well-defined horizon of hoards concluded in the 80's BC. We have reasons to suppose that the Adjud hoard could be dated in a much later period than the three pieces suggest. Their high degree of wearing represents an evidence for a long time usage. One of them has countermarks that were applied after it has been minted. Moreover, V. Mihailescu-Bîrliba's studies have managed to demonstrate, with relevant numismatic and archaeological arguments, that the Roman republican coin appears in the East-Carpathian area at the end of the old era, continuing their intensively inflow in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD<sup>10</sup>.

The last two batches are kept in Focșani at the Museum of Vrancea. The first one comes from a hoard discovered in 1970, at Repedea (com. Străoane), more precisely in the southwestern part of the village. In 1974, five pieces were recovered ("4 silver *denarii* and a bronze one"), from Ion Pascal<sup>11</sup>. Still, it seems that at the museum arrived only four of them ("3 AR. 1 Bz."), which are presented in this paper (Cat. II/1–4).

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<sup>5</sup> For elaborated discussions on this topic in the north-Danubian area, with old and recent bibliography, see CHIȚESCU 1981, 40–43; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, 109–110; PREDA 1998, 285–286.

<sup>6</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, 110.

<sup>7</sup> CRAWFORD 1974, 594–595.

<sup>8</sup> For a different chronology, see BOBI 1999, 205, Tab. Nr. 10 ("date of first issue 107(99–94 BC; date of last issue: 83 BC"), 217 ("107–83 BC"). We believe that only the last two items were discussed, the last of them being wrongly identified.

<sup>9</sup> For a repertoire of these discoveries, see MOISIL, DEPEYROT 2003, 27–32, nr. 1–16.

<sup>10</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, 112, 122; even the last theories of C. Preda seem to agree with such a chronological scenario (PREDA 1998, 293).

<sup>11</sup> BOBI 1999, 205, Tab. 10; 222, nr. 25; 282; 434, pl. CXXI. In the Museum's registers the coins appear to be discovered in Străoane.

One coin carries on the obverse a small cut (Cat. II/2), deliberately made in Antiquity with a sharp instrument (probably a chisel, knife etc.). There are numerous attempts to explain the incisions found on Republican *denarii*<sup>12</sup>. The hypothesis of their usage in order to check the quality of the metal and weight of older coins, as in the case of countermarks<sup>13</sup>, finds no confirmation in this situation, for our item seems to have a high silver content and a normal weight.

We noticed the composition and the particular chronological structure of the Repedea batch. It consists of silver coins of various quality representing different denominations (*denarii*, *aureliani*), that can be dated within a broad chronological frame of almost four centuries. A heterogenous mix of this type appears to be very unusual and one can't find a similar analogy in the Roman monetary discoveries from Moldova. Most likely, the four coins belong to separate discoveries and can be dated in different periods. Thus, the three *denarii* (Cat. II/1-3) could represent a small part of a mixed hoard consisting of Republican and early Imperial coins, ending during Augustus. Such deposits are well represented East of the Carpathians<sup>14</sup>, here being encountered almost half of the discoveries made north of the Danube<sup>15</sup>. Currently we have information on 18 Augustan hoards, on the territory of present Moldavia<sup>16</sup>: Bordești (Vrancea County) (*t.p.q.* 16 BC)<sup>17</sup>, Buda (Vrancea County) (*t.p.q.* 2 BC-[?]4 AD)<sup>18</sup>, Conțești (Bacău County) (*t.p.q.* 15-13 BC)<sup>19</sup>, Cornii de Sus (Bacău County) (*t.p.q.* 19-18 BC)<sup>20</sup>, Cucuteni (Iași County) (*t.p.q.* 2 BC-[?]4 AD)<sup>21</sup>, Drăgești (Bacău County) (*t.p.q.* 32-29 BC)<sup>22</sup>, Galați-Barboși 1915 (*t.p.q.* 2 BC-[?]4 AD)<sup>23</sup>, Odobești (Vrancea County) (*t.p.q.* 2 BC-[?]4 AD)<sup>24</sup>, Pârgărești (Bacău County) (*t.p.q.* 15-13 BC)<sup>25</sup>, Poiana 1928 (Galați County) (*t.p.q.* 15-13 BC)<sup>26</sup>, Poiana 1938 (*t.p.q.* Augustus[?])<sup>27</sup>, Poiana 1949 (*t.p.q.* 2 BC-[?]4 AD)<sup>28</sup>, Poiana 1950A (*t.p.q.* 2 BC-[?]4 AD)<sup>29</sup>, Puiști (Vaslui County) (*t.p.q.* Augustus [?])<sup>30</sup>, Răcățău 1969 (*t.p.q.* 8-7 BC)<sup>31</sup>, Sascut

<sup>12</sup> See mainly the hypotheses of GRANT 1969, 95-96 (the acceptance of base metal Roman coins by the recently conquered populations) and CRAWFORD 1974, 584-588 (the role of controlling the dies used for minting silver coins).

<sup>13</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1976, 144; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, 110.

<sup>14</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, 94, Tab. 3; 99 (11 hoards with *t.p.q.* in the time of Augustus, from a total of 18 Republican and early imperial hoards); MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2011, 477, 480, Pl. I (15 hoards, concluding at Augustus).

<sup>15</sup> PEDA 1998, 20 (12 out of 28 hoards); MOISIL, DEPEYROT 2003, 23, 148-176 (15 out of 31); PĂRPĂUȚĂ 2006, 140, 485-490, Tab. III-IV (16 out of 36).

<sup>16</sup> The last items coming from the 18 hoards that we registered, were identified with the help of RIC I<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> CONSTANTINESCU 1978.

<sup>18</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA, NICOALE. ASĂVOAIE 2002, 219-224; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2011.

<sup>19</sup> BOLD 1959; CĂPITANU 1971, 289-290, 295, nr. 24-30; MITREA 1973, 407, nr. 30; CHIȚESCU 1981, 143-145, nr. 49.

<sup>20</sup> MITREA 1968, 452, nr. 40; CĂPITANU, BUZDUGAN 1969; CHIȚESCU 1981, 148-150, nr. 51.

<sup>21</sup> MITREA 1975b, 322, nr. 64.

<sup>22</sup> MITREA 1968, 451, nr. 34.

<sup>23</sup> SEVEREANU 1919; CHIȚESCU 1981, 171-177, nr. 84.

<sup>24</sup> CHIȚESCU 1975, 210-212.

<sup>25</sup> MITREA 1964, 376, nr. 32; CHIȚESCU 1981, 231, nr. 144 (Pîngărați, Neamț County)

<sup>26</sup> DUNĂREANU-VULPE 1934; CHIȚESCU 1981, 233-236, nr. 148.

<sup>27</sup> DIMITRIU 1939, 135.

<sup>28</sup> CHIȚESCU 1981, 236-237, nr. 151; MITREA 2011, 206-207, nr. 4.

<sup>29</sup> CHIȚESCU 1981, 237-240, nr. 152; MITREA 2011, 208-215, nr. 6.

(Bacău County) (*t.p.q.* 27–20 BC)<sup>32</sup>, Scurta (Bacău County) (*t.p.q.* 18–17/16 BC)<sup>33</sup> and Târgu-Ocna (*t.p.q.* 16 BC)<sup>34</sup>.

The chronological structure of this hoard group is a particular one and resides in the presence of some substantial nuclei of *denarii*, dated in 80's and 40's BC<sup>35</sup>, which depict the peak of Roman monetary production in the last century of the Republic<sup>36</sup>. Unfortunately, this feature is not to be found in the Repedea batch, most likely because of its small size. There are present instead, some monetary issues dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, a characteristic encountered in the bulk of the Republican and mixed hoards from Romania, which have very archaic features<sup>37</sup>. They denote the local population's inclination for *denarii* of a certain quality<sup>38</sup>.

The density of Augustan hoards east of the Carpathians was attributed to the existent stipendiary relations between the Roman state and the local power centres of southern Moldavia, on the Siret River<sup>39</sup>. We do not know to what extent such an explanation can be drawn-out to our group of coins discovered in the vicinity of this area. The burial of those deposits at a date later than indicated by the last issues, would have occurred in certain political, military or financial circumstances (monetary reforms), that can only be contemplated<sup>40</sup>.

The coin from Ulpia Severina represents a particular discovery in the structure of the mixed hoard from Repedea. It is possible that it was artificially added in recent times, by the locals who recovered all four items<sup>41</sup>. The probable origin of this coin is to be found in the same area of Vrancea County, but we don't know whether it belongs to another hoard or may be a stray find. In the scientific literature are known quite a few monetary discoveries dated in the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, east of the Carpathians. In Focșani was discovered a hoard of *antoniniani* concluded with issues of Trebonianus Gallus-Volusianus, which was only

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<sup>30</sup> CHIȚESCU 1981, 252, nr. 159 (last issue dated in 41–40 BC); MUNTEANU, POPUȘOI 2014 (last issue in 32–31 BC, but we believe that the batch was not fully recovered; it's ending date can be fixed during Augustus).

<sup>31</sup> CĂPITANU, URSACHI 1971, 167–171, 183–185.

<sup>32</sup> PÂRVAN 1914, 432–433; MOISIL 1915, 57, nr. 48.

<sup>33</sup> MITREA 1975a.

<sup>34</sup> CHIȚESCU 1981, 302, nr. 203.

<sup>35</sup> Relevant discoveries used for dating are those of: Conțești, Cornii de Sus, Galați-Barboși 1915, Poiana 1928, Poiana 1950a, Răcătău 1969.

<sup>36</sup> For the monetary production of this period, see especially BACKENDORF 1998, 191, 202, 535, Abb. 148–149; 542, Abb. 169–170; LOCKYEAR 2007, 37, 79, 158–159.

<sup>37</sup> LOCKYEAR 2007, 108, 167–168, 200–201 (a special feature to be found also at the Bulgarian hoards).

<sup>38</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2013, 156.

<sup>39</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2011, 478, 480, Pl. I.

<sup>40</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, 108; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2011, 478.

<sup>41</sup> We know that the four coins were recovered from the villagers after at least four years (1970–1974) from the time of their discovery (BOBI 1999, 222).

partially recovered<sup>42</sup>. Isolated finds from the same period are known especially in the southern part of Moldavia, near the *limes*<sup>43</sup>.

The last batch of coins presented in our study is attributed, as far as we know, to a hoard discovered at a shallow depth by vineyard workers in the spring of 1977 at Slobozia Bradului. From its initial structure, V. Bobi and A. Paragină—who were excavating in the same area at the C.A.P. centre—recovered seven items that can be found in the Museum’s collection (Cat III/1–7). Unfortunately, in the works of the same author we noticed some discrepancies regarding both the accurate place of discovery and the number of discovered items. Thus, are listed both Olăreni<sup>44</sup> and Coroteni<sup>45</sup>, villages, belonging to the same commune — Slobozia Bradului, situated half a kilometre away between them. Moreover, the author of the discovery states that the number of recovered items is eight and seven, respectively, only six of them being illustrated<sup>46</sup>. On what’s concerning the discovery place, although the first mention refers to Coroteni — being taken as such in the Museum’s inventory, we believe that the correct version could be Olăreni. This village is mentioned in the latest studies of V. Bobi probably after revising primary information. We do not know the real number of recovered coins, but, nowadays in the Museum’s collection are only seven items available for study.

We noticed the heterogeneous composition and the strange chronological structure of the Olăreni batch. It is composed by a “legion” *denarius*, Antonine imperial *denarii* and a commemorative bronze piece from the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The combination of all these coins in a single hoard, after the discoverers, is unlikely and would be a unique situation among the monetary finds of Moldavia. It is more plausible to consider that not all seven coins have the same origin. The six *denarii* (Cat. III/1–6) represent a distinct group, consisting of chronologically close items, with a relatively similar wearing degree and patina. These coins that might have been discovered together could be only a fraction of a well-represented imperial Roman hoard, largely encountered in the East-Carpathian *Barbaricum*.

Although the *denarii* batch from the Olăreni hoard is relatively small, one can formulate some remarks regarding its structure. One of the items lacks a small fragment (Cat. III/1), which, after our opinion, could have been deliberately cut. Such a situation occurs frequently in the imperial hoards from Moldavia and it has been explained quite plausibly, through the authorities’ intervention, which, in crisis situations after the reign of Septimius Severus, adjusted old currency with a higher silver percentage and weight, in order to align them to newer inferior issues<sup>47</sup>. Usually, the *denarii* weights of this batch, including that of Marcus

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<sup>42</sup> MITREA, CONSTANTINESCU 1978.

<sup>43</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1980, 155, 161, 184–189, Tab. 33.

<sup>44</sup> BOBI 1997, 61; BOBI 1999, 205, Tab. 10; 221, nr. 21; 282; 435, pl. CXXII ”Olăreni”).

<sup>45</sup> BOBI 1979, 310, nr. 3 (“Coroteni [...] during the field investigations of the area“); are-discussed by MITREA 1984, 187, nr. 96 (“Coroteni“). The same settlement is indicated in the Museum’s inventory register and on the coins’ casing.

<sup>46</sup> BOBI 1999, 205, Tab. 10 (8 pieces recovered: 7 AR and 1 Bz); 221, nr. 21 (“Recovered 8 AR [...] I have recovered seven pieces“); 435, pl. CXXII.

<sup>47</sup> The opinion belongs to V. Mihailescu-Bîrliba and is to be found in almost all his works. See recently, MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA, ȘADURSCHI 2001, 57–58; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA, NICOLAE, ASĂVOAIE 2002, 229 and footnote 9 (where are mentioned all the previous works).

Antonius<sup>48</sup>, are quite close to the theoretical values for the silver issues, in this period<sup>49</sup>. Most of these items are between 17 and 19 mm in size, and the axes are oriented predominantly in the opposite direction (at 6 o'clock). These remarks are comparable with the results obtained on significantly larger Roman imperial hoards from the East-Carpathian area<sup>50</sup>.

In terms of chronology, the oldest issue dates from 31–30 BC, while the other *denarii* belong to the Antonine emperors, starting with Trajan. The latest issues were minted at the beginning of Marcus Aurelius' reign. Unfortunately, we cannot know whether this is the actual end-date of the original hoard that comprised the six items. The characteristics of this batch are common to most imperial coin hoards discovered in Moldavia, having *t.p.q.* during Marcus Aurelius – Septemius Severus reigns. Thus, the "legion" *denarii* which remained in use for a long period of time in the Roman world, are scarce finds in the Republican deposits of pre-Roman Dacia<sup>51</sup> but relatively numerous in the imperial hoards found east of the Carpathians<sup>52</sup>. Moreover, almost all imperial hoards that are known in this area contain a considerable nucleus of pieces dated to Trajan – Marcus Aurelius<sup>53</sup>. We can only assume that the Olăreni hoard, of which only six items were recovered, belongs to a larger group of imperial hoards from Moldavia, concluded at Marcus Aurelius – Septimius Severus. Unfortunately, because of the limited size of the studied sample, a more accurate chronology of this find is impossible to achieve.

In general, the main issues related to the presence of Roman imperial coinage in the East-Carpathian *Barbaricum* have been widely debated, and the results, some of them of utmost importance, are well known in the scientific literature<sup>54</sup>, so that we will not insist here.

This batch of imperial *denarii* was added, probably in recent times, a bronze coin of Constantine's dynasty<sup>55</sup> (Cat. III/7). Undoubtedly, it does not belong to the Olăreni hoard, but represents a separate discovery, which could have been found in the same location or in the surrounding area. We have knowledge of a single batch of bronze coins dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, in Moldavia, whose origin was allegedly south of the Danube<sup>56</sup>. Instead, isolated

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<sup>48</sup> CRAWFORD 1974, 595. For a diminished weight of the "legion" *denarii* in Moldavia (3.00 – 3.60 g), see CHIȚESCU 1981, 31.

<sup>49</sup> Were taken into account the weight values of imperial *denarii*, estimated by DUNCAN-JONES 1994, 225, Tab. 15.5.

<sup>50</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1991, 60; MITREA, MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2003, 202–204).

<sup>51</sup> The hypothesis of a massive penetration of this pieces in Dacia, as *stipendia*, at a date close to their issue, was sustained by M. Chițescu (CHIȚESCU 1974, 151–153; CHIȚESCU 1981, 65–66). This theory was rejected with relevant arguments (WINKLER 1971, 97–105; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1980, 40; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, 112; CRAWFORD 1985, 232; LOCKYEAR 2007, 171).

<sup>52</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1980, 40, 78, 81, 87, 91, 97, 99, 103, 119.

<sup>53</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1979, 320–321; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1980, 81, 87, 97, 100, 103, 109; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1991, 58; MITREA, MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2003, 200.

<sup>54</sup> We refer to V. Mihailescu-Bîrliba' studies. Among them, see especially MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1980, and recently, MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2012.

<sup>55</sup> Most likely the mixing of the coins occurred between the moment of discovery (spring of 1977) and the time of their retrieval by the archaeologists (August 1977) (BOBI 1999, 221).

<sup>56</sup> MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA, URSACHI 1988.

finds of this kind in our area of research are more numerous<sup>57</sup>, our item being possibly included in this category.

Through this brief presentation and interpretation of the three batches found in the county of Vrancea, we tried to fill with new information, the general frame of data regarding the monetary finds in a less researched area that is the southern part of Moldavia.



Figure 1. The place of discovery of the three hoards: Adjud (Bacău County), Repedea and Olăreni (Vrancea County).

## CATALOGUE OF COINS<sup>58</sup>

### I. Adjud (Vrancea County)

1. AR (*denarius*); 3.07 g; 16×18 mm; →; badly preserved; struck uncentred on the obverse and the reverse;

Av. X;

Rv. C•MAIA[NI]/[ROMA];

**C. Maianus**, Rome, year 153 BC (CRAWFORD 1974, 248, no. 203/1a) or years 135–134 BC (SYDENHAM 1952, 50, no. 427);

MOA inv. no. 15156.



<sup>57</sup> Recent publication of this type of coins — MUNTEANU, ONEL 2012. An up-to-date repertoire of the monetary discoveries from this period, north of the Danube, was made by LAZĂRESCU 2014.

<sup>58</sup> The following abbreviations were used in this Catalogue: for metals (AR – silver), metrological data (g – gram, mm – millimeter) and collections (MV – Museum of Vrancea, Focșani; MOA – Town Museum, Adjud). We are grateful to Dr Horia Dumitrescu (Director of the Museum of Vrancea, Focșani) and Ms Elena-Izabela Popovici (Adjud) for their help and support of our present research.

2. AR (*denarius*); 3.77 g; 15 mm; ←; badly preserved; struck uncentred on the obverse;

Av. M•CIPI•M•F/X;

Rv. [RO]MA;

**M. Cippius**, Rome, years 115 or 114 BC (CRAWFORD 1974, 303, no. 289/1) or unidentified Italian mint, year 107 BC (SYDENHAM 1952, 72, no. 546);

MOA inv. no. 15157.



3. AR (*denarius serratus*); 3.68 g; 18×20 mm; ↙; very badly preserved; struck uncentred on the reverse;

Av. M•;

Rv. C•MAMIL/LIME[TAN];

**C. Mamilius Limetanus**, Rome, year 82 BC (CRAWFORD 1974, 375, 377, no. 362/1) or Italian auxiliary mint (B), years c. 82–81 BC (SYDENHAM 1952, 119, no. 741);

Obs.: on the obverse there is a rectangular countermark, placed between the bust of Mercury and *caduceus*; on the reverse there is another countermark with five points, forming a base down trapezium, near Ulysses' right hand;

MOA inv. no. 15158.



## II. Repedea (Străoane com., Vrancea County)

1. AR (*denarius*); 3.66 g; 17×19 mm; ↗; very badly preserved;

Av. X;

Rv. [M•C]ARB[O]/ ROMA;

**M. Papirius Carbo**, Rome, year 122 BC (CRAWFORD 1974, 295, no. 276/1) or Italian mint, years 137–134 BC (SYDENHAM 1952, 49, no. 423);

MV inv. no. 15152.



2. AR (*denarius*); 3.86 g; 19×20 mm; ↙; badly preserved; struck uncentred on the reverse; an incision on the obverse (in the centre of the piece);

Av. X;

Rv. MN•AQVIL/ ROMA;

**Mn. Aquillius**, Rome, year 109–108 BC (CRAWFORD 1974, 314, no. 303/1) or southern Italian mint (Rhegium [?]), year c. 109 BC (SYDENHAM 1952, 74, no. 557);

MV inv. no. 15151.



3. AR (*denarius*); 3.81 g; 19×20 mm; ←; well preserved;

Av. AVGVSTVS – DIVI•F;

Rv. IMP – •X/ ACT;

**Augustus**, Lugdunum, years 15–13 BC (RIC I<sup>2</sup>, 52, no. 171a) or years 15–12 BC (BMC I, 79, no. 462) or year 15 BC (MER I<sup>3</sup>, 202, no. 1396–1397);





MV inv. no. 15153.

4. AR (*aurelianus*); 2.51 g; 20×21 mm; ↓; badly preserved;

Av. SEVERI – NAE AVG;

Rv. CONCORDIAE MILITVM/ V/ XXI;

**Ulpia Severina**, Siscia, undated (RIC V.1, 317, no. 13) or beginning of 275 (MIR 47, Tab. 19, no. 237/5, 9<sup>th</sup> issue) or autumn of 274 – spring of 275 (MER XII.1, 204, no. 953, year 9, phase 3);

MV inv. no. 15154.



### III. Olăreni (Slobozia Bradului com., Vrancea County)

1. AR (*denarius*); 3.86 g; 15×16 mm; ↘; very badly preserved; struck uncentred on the reverse;

Av. [ANT•AVG]/ III•VIR•R•P•C;

Rv. [LEG] - I[III];

**Marcus Antonius**, mobile mint, years 32–31 BC (CRAWFORD 1974, 540, no. 544/16; SYDENHAM 1952, 196, no. 1220);

MV inv. no. 15167.



2. AR (*denarius*); 3.39 g; 17×18 mm; ↓; badly preserved; broken on exterior;

Av. IMP CAES NER TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG GER DAC;

Rv. P M TR P C – O – S V – I [P P] SPQR;

**Traianus**, Rome, years 114–117 (RIC II, 268, no. 343) or middle/end of 115 – beginning of 116 (BMC III, lxii and 109–110, no. 541–544 var., Group IV) or 10 August/1 September 114 – 20/21 February 116 (MER IV, 102, no. 821–822 var. [reverse type no. 824]) or winter of 114 – beginning of 116 (MIR 14, 445, no. 519 [obverse type – 519v; reverse type 519o<sup>2</sup>]);

MV inv. no. 15168.



3. AR (*denarius*); 3.42 g; 17×18 mm; ↓; badly preserved;

Av. IMP CAESAR TRAIAN H – ADRIANVS AVG;

Rv. P M TR P – COS – [III]/ PV – DIC;

**Hadrianus**, Rome, years 119–122 (RIC II, 356, no. 135b; BMC III, 278, no. 310) or first half of 125 (HILL 1970, 159, no. 269, 12<sup>th</sup> issue);

MV inv. no. 15164.



4. AR (*denarius*); 3.07 g; 15 mm; ↓; badly preserved;




Av. FAVSTINA – AVGVSTA;

Rv. AVGVSTI – PII FIL;

**Antoninus Pius: Faustina II**, Rome, undated (RIC III, 93, no. 496; BMC IV, 168, no. 1103–1104. Group VI) or years c. 147–161 (HCC II, 298, no. 18);

MV inv. no. 15165.



<p>5. AR (<i>denarius</i>); 3.44 g; 18 mm; ↑; well preserved;                      Av. M ANTONINVS AVG – ARM PARTH MAX;                      Rv. TR P – XX IM – P IIII COS III/ PAX;  <b>Marcus Aurelius</b>, Rome, summer of 166 – December 166 (RIC III, 225, no. 159) or December 165 – December 166 (BMC IV, 441, no. 402 var., 4<sup>th</sup> issue) or August 166 – 9.12.166 (MIR 18, 110, no. 140–4[30], 13<sup>th</sup> issue);                      MV inv. no. 15166.</p>	
<p>6. AR (<i>denarius</i>); 3.54 g; 17 mm; ↓; well preserved;                      Av. DIVVS ANTONINVS;                      Rv. DIVO – PIO;  <b>Marcus Aurelius: Divus Antoninus Pius</b>, Rome, undated (RIC III, 247, no. 440) or undated (161 [?]) (BMC IV, 395, no. 69) or 1.1.162 – 9.12.162 (MIR 18, 100, no. 46–4[12], 3<sup>rd</sup> issue);                      MV inv. no. 15163.</p>	
<p>7. AE (<i>follis</i>); 2.32 g; 17 mm; ↑; badly preserved;                      Av. CONSTAN – TINOPOLIS;                      Rv. SMTSA (in exerga)  <b>Constantinopolis</b>, Thessalonica, years 330–333 (RIC VII, 524, no. 188) or years 330–335 (LRBC I, 20, no. 839);                      MV inv. no. 15169.</p>	

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