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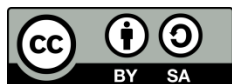
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New information on roman monetary discoveries in the vicinity of the Tropaeum Traiani (com. Adamclisi, county Constanța) in the context of the second century AD

Gabriel Mircea TALMAȚCHI¹, Cristian CEALERA²

Abstract. *The authors analyze a monetary hoard fragment found in 2012 that was only partially recovered. The hoard was located at a distance of approximately four km, in a straight line of the western gate of the Roman-Byzantine fortress Tropaeum Traiani. The 36 recovered coins are Roman Imperial denarii struck between the years 100 and 169/170 AD and belong to the following issuers: Traianus, Hadrianus, Antoninus Pius, Diva Faustina and Marcus Aurelius. If this structure given by the issuers respects the general composition of the hoard, it can be assumed that the hoard was hidden in the context of the events that developed in 170 AD, known as the military and robbery incursion lead by the Costoboci people in the Balkan Peninsula. Epigraphical and archaeological evidence regarding the impact of the incursion were found in Tropaeum Traiani. These evidences can now be associated with the monetary proof.*

Rezumat. *Autorii analizează un fragment de tezaur monetar descoperit în cursul anului 2012 și recuperat parțial, la o distanță de aproximativ patru km. în linie dreaptă de poarta de vest a cetății romano-bizantine Tropaeum Traiani. Cele 36 de monede recuperate sunt denari romani imperiali băuți în perioada 100-169/170 p.Chr. și aparțin următorilor emitenți: Traianus, Hadrianus, Antoninus Pius, Diva Faustina și Marcus Aurelius. Dacă această structură de emitenți respectă compoziția generală a tezaurului pare a fi fost îngropat în contextul evenimentelor desfășurate în cursul anului 170 p.Chr. cunoscute ca incursiunea militară și de jaf a costobocilor în Peninsula Balcanică. La Tropaeum Traiani sunt dovezi epigrafice și arheologice privind impactul acestei incursiuni. Acestea le poate fi asociată de acum și dovada monetară.*

Keywords: hoard, denars, Antonine dynasty, Tropaeum Traiani, Dobruja.

1. Introduction

During the year 2015 it has been brought to our attention that a hoard was found by chance as a result of some floods caused by the heavy autumn rainfalls.³ Specifically, the coins

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³ Daniel Bușcă was the finder, a local from Adamclisi and unqualified worked, who attended many archaeological research campaigns at the fortress and who also worked with many of the archaeologists conducting excavations on the site at least during the last two decades of this century. Our request to the discoverer was to donate the finding to

had leaked through the gravel at the bottom of the valley. This happened during the systematic archaeological excavations at the Tropaeum Traiani site (Adamclisi Commune, Constanța County), in the southern district of the Roman and Roman-Byzantine city. The hoard fragment was found during 2012 near the wagon road between Zorile (Adamclisi Commune) and Șipotele (Șipotele Commune, Constanța County), not far from the route of the aqueduct that connected the water sources that supply the city of Tropaeum Traiani with water and its western gate.⁴ The aqueduct presents *tubules* of the *canalis structilis* type (NAR code 61728.05) and starts from the south of Șipotele locality, crosses the ridges of two hills (on a level curve of 70 m) and then descends along a valley that ends up intersecting with Urluia valley.⁵ Once at the western gate of the fortress, the water was captured in a reservoir that will be transformed by the religious enthusiasm specific to the early Byzantine era into a basilica.⁶

We will now proceed to the presentation of the 36 denarii catalog, arranged in the order of the issuers and according to the moment of their minting.

the Museum of National History and Archeology in Constanța, but he asked for time to think. According to the finder's account, the coins were found in a ravine that was oriented perpendicularly towards a road located relatively on the bottom of a not very deep valley, between the two localities. The coins were disorderly arranged in a gravel area, being found after two rainy autumn days (October). After completing the annual research at the fortress we went back to Constanța and the contact was lost, so that in 2017 we would find out by chance the person passed away suddenly. It seems that, during that year he also worked at the Daewoo Shipyard in Mangalia. Today, the family can no longer provide information on the existence and fate of the coins. The photography of the coins and the picking up of the technical data (diameters, weighs etc.) were conducted at the local museum in the autumn of 2015. The available light from the museum in Adamclisi did not help us to take the respective photos in good condition. As I noticed, some of the coins had been cleaned by the discoverer, being much shinier than others. This fact contributed to the change in the general patina of the coins in the hoard.

⁴ The information was communicated briefly by telephone in 2015 to the scientific director of the Tropaeum Traiani archaeological site at that time, the professor Alexandru Barnea.

⁵ ȘTEFAN 1972, 47; RĂDULESCU 1988, 174; PAPUC, IONESCU, CONSTANTIN 2011, 323-341.

⁶ MĂRGINEANU-CĂRSTOLU 1977, 235-250; BARNEA 1977, 221-234.

2.Catalogue

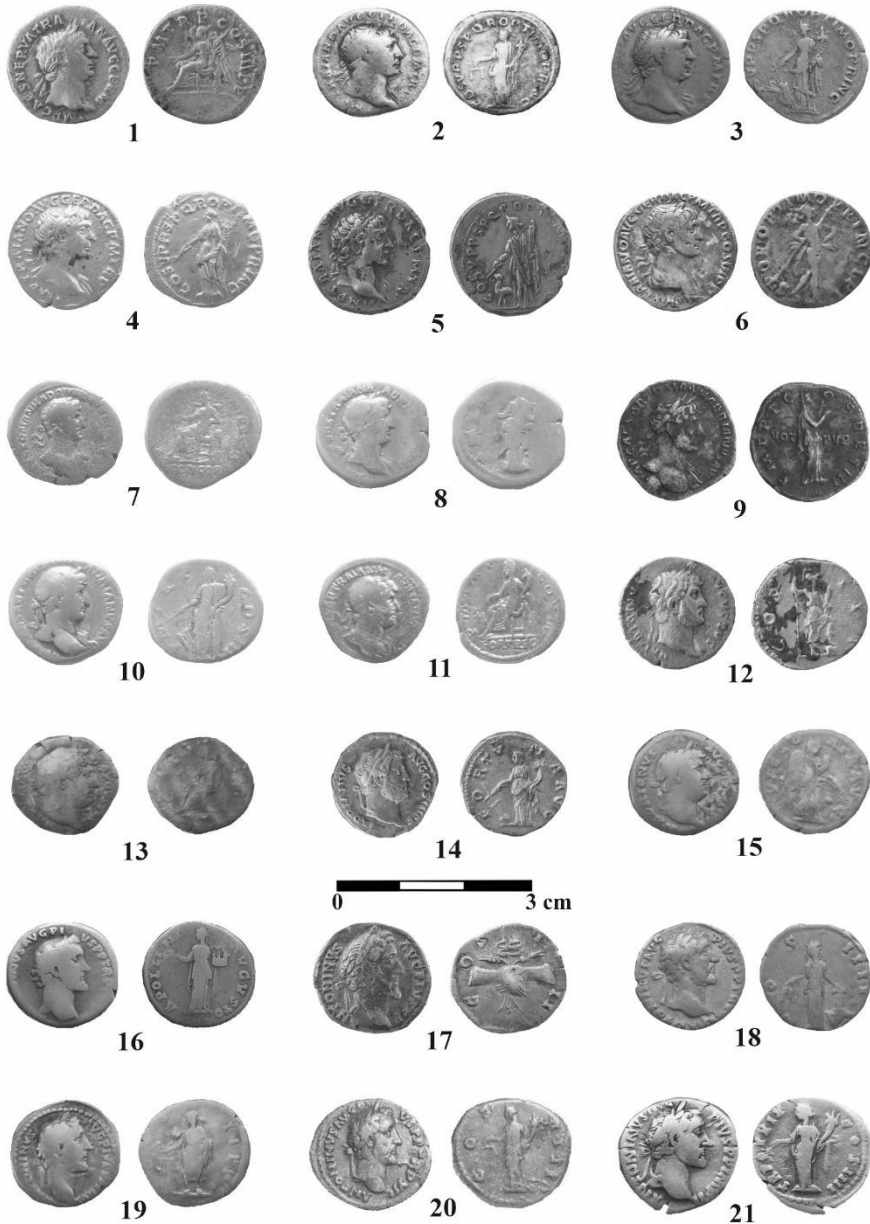


Figure 1. Roman Imperial denarii minted for Trajan (no. 1-6), Hadrianus (no. 7-15) and Antoninus Pius (no. 16-21).

TRAIANUS

1. Denarius; 6h; 3.00 g; 18.5 mm; Figure 1, n°. 1.

Obverse: Head of emperor, laureate, to the right; the legend: IMP CAES NERVA TRA/IAN AVG GERM.

Reverse: Victory, draped, seated left on seat without back, holding patera in right hand and palm in left; the legend: P M TR P COS III P(P).

Catalogue: RIC II, 247, n°. 41, Rome mint, 100 AD.

2. Denarius; 6h; 3.58 g; 18 x 17.5 mm; Figure 1, n°. 2.

Obverse: Bust of emperor, laureate, draped, to the right (sometimes with aegis) (sometimes draped on left shoulder); the legend: (I)MP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P.

Reverse: Aequitas, draped, standing left, holding scales in right hand and *cornucopiae* in left; the legend: COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC.

Catalogue: RIC II, 252, n°. 118, Rome mint, 103 - 111 AD.

3. Denarius; 6h; 3.31 g; 18.5 x 17.8 mm; Figure 1, n°. 3.

Obverse: Bust of emperor, laureate, draped on left shoulder, to the right; the legend: (IMP TRAIANO) AVG GER DAC P M TR P.

Reverse: Fortuna standing left, holding rudder attached to prow in right hand and *cornucopiae* in left; the legend: COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC.

Catalogue: RIC II, 252, n°. 122, Rome mint, 103 - 111 AD.

4. Denarius; 6h; 2.95 g; 18 mm; Figure 1, n°. 4.

Obverse: Head of emperor, laureate, to the right; the legend: IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P.

Reverse: Pax, draped, standing left, holding olive-branch and *cornucopiae*; the legend: COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC.

Catalogue: RIC II, 252, n°. 125, Rome mint ?, 103-111 AD.

5. Denarius; 6h; 3.32 g; 19 x 18.5 mm; Figure 1, n°. 5.

Obverse: Bust of emperor, laureate, draped, to the right; the legend: IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P.

Reverse: Arabia, draped, standing left, holding branch in right hand extended over camel walking left before her and bundle of cinnamon upright in left; the legend: COS V PP S P Q R OPTIMO (PRINC).

Catalogue: RIC II, 253, n°. 142, the provinces, 103 - 111 AD.

6. Denarius; 6h; 3.47g; 19 mm; Figure 1, n°. 6.

Obverse: Bust of emperor, laureate, draped (on left shoulder?), to the right; the legend: IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI PP.

Reverse: Mars, helmeted, naked, except for cloak round waist, advancing right, holding transverse spear in right hand and trophy over left shoulder, in left; the legend: S P Q R OP-TIMO PRINCIPI.

Catalogue: RIC II, 263, n°. 269-270, Rome mint, 112 - 114 AD.

HADRIANUS

7. Denarius; 6h; 3.28 g; 17.5 x 17 mm; Figure 1, n°. 7.

Obverse: Bust of Hadrian, laureate, bare chest, traces of drapery on far shoulder usually visible, to the right; the legend IMP CAES TRAIAN HADRIAN OPT AVG (GER DAC).

Reverse: Concordia seated left on throne, holding patera and resting on figure of Spes; cornucopia under throne; the legend (PARTHIC DIVI TRAIAN AVG F) P M TR P COS PP // CONCORD (in exergue).

Catalogue: RIC II, 339, n°. 4c, Rome mint, 117 AD.

8. Denarius; 6h; 3.16 g; 18 mm; Figure 1, n°. 8.

Obverse: Bust of Hadrian, laureate, bare chest, traces of drapery on far shoulder usually visible, to the right; the legend (IMP CAE)SAR TRAIAN H/ADRI(ANVS AVG).

Reverse: Felicitas, standing left, holding caduceus and cornucopia; the legend: P M TR (P COS II) /FEL (AVG) (in field).

Catalogue: RIC II, 345, n°. 40a, Rome mint, 118 AD.

9. Denarius; 6h; 3.24 g; 18.5 mm; Figure 1, n°. 9.

Obverse: Laureate bust of Hadrianus to the right; the legend: IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG.

Reverse: Pietas standing right with hands raised: the legend P M TR P COS DES III VOT-PVB.

Catalogue: RIC II, 346, n°. 52; Rome mint, 118 AD.

10. Denarius; 6h; 3,72 g; 18 mm; Figure 1, n°. 10.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right, with slight drapery on his left shoulder; the legend: IMP CAESAR TRAIAN H/ADRIANVS AVG.

Reverse: Fortuna standing front, head to left, holding rudder in her right hand and *cornucopiae* in her left, resting her left arm on column; the legend: P M TR P COS III.

Catalogue: RIC II, 351, n°. 86, Rome mint, 119-122 AD.

11. Denarius; 7h; 3,19 g; 17.5 x 17 mm; Figure 1, n°. 11.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right, slight drapery on left shoulder; the legend (IMP C)AESAR TRAIAN H/ADRIANVS AVG.

Reverse: Fortuna Redux seated left, holding rudder on globe and *cornucopiae*; the legend P M TR P COS III, FORT RED (in exergue).

Catalogue: RIC II, 355, n°. 122, Rome mint, 119-122 AD.

12. Denarius; 6h; 3.13 g; 17.5 mm; Figure 1, n°. 12.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right, slight drapery on left shoulder; the legend HADRIANVS / AVGVSTVS.

Reverse: Minerva standing right, foot on globe (or helmet?), holding parazonium and spear; the legend: COS / III.

Catalogue: RIC II, 359, n°. 160d, Rome mint, 125-128 AD.

13. Denarius; 6h; 2,75 g; 16.5 x 16 mm; Figure 1, n°. 13.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right, draped left shoulder; the legend: (HADRI)ANVS AVGVSTVS.

Reverse: Roma seated left, holding branch and spear (scepter?), shield behind; the legend: COS III.

Catalogue: RIC II, 360, n°. 165, Rome mint, 125-128 AD.

14. Denarius; 7h; 3.09 g; 16.5 x 16 mm; Figure 1, n°. 14.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right; the legend: HADRIANVS / AVG COS III PP.

Reverse: Fortuna standing left, holding rudder on globe and *cornucopiae*; the legend FORTV/N/A AVG.

Catalogue: RIC II, 368, n°. 244, Rome mint, 134-138 AD.

15. Denarius; 6h; 2.85 g; 17 mm; Figure 1, n°. 15.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right; the legend: HADRIANVS AVG CO(S III PP).

Reverse: Victory or winged Nemesis walking right, drawing out neck of robe, and pointing downward with branch; the legend: VICTO/RIA AVG.

Catalogue: RIC II, 372, n°.282, Rome mint, 134-138 AD.

ANTONINUS PIUS

16. Denarius; 6h; 3.17 g; 18 mm; Figure 1, n°. 16.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right; the legend: (ANTON)INVS AVG PI / VS PP TR P C(OS III).

Reverse: Apollo standing left, holding patera and lyre; the legend APOLLINI / AVGVSTO.

Catalogue: RIC III, 33, n°. 63Bc, Rome mint, 140-143 AD.

17. Denarius; 6h; 3.20 g; 18 mm x 17.5 mm; Figure 1, n°. 17.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right; the legend: ANTONINVS / AVG PIVS PP.

Reverse: Clasped hands holding grain ears and caduceus; the legend: C / OS / II / II.

Catalogue: RIC III, 42, n°. 136, Rome mint, 145-161 AD..

18. Denarius; 6h; 3.67 g; 17 mm; Figure 1, n°. 18.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right; the legend ANTONINVS AVG / PIVS PP TR P XI.

Reverse: Annona standing left, holding grain ears, left hand on modius set on prow; the legend: COS / IIII.

Catalogue: RIC III, 46, n°. 162-163, Rome mint, 147-148 AD..

19. Denarius; 6h; 3.30 g; 17 mm; Figure 1, n°. 19.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right; the legend ANTONINVS / AVG PIVS P P TR P XI.

Reverse: Antoninus Pius, veiled, draped, standing left, with patera in right hand sacrificing over lighted tripod- altar and holding roll in left; the legend COS IIII.

Catalogue: RIC III, 46, n°. 168, Rome mint, 147-148 AD.

20. Denarius; 7h; 2.88 g; 18 mm; Figure 1, n°. 20.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right; the legend ANTONINVS AVG PI / VS PP TR P XII.

Reverse: Aequitas standing, head left, holding scales and cornucopia; the legend COS / IIII.

Catalogue: RIC III, 48, n°. 177, Rome mint, 148-149 AD.

21. Denarius; 12h; 3.37 g; 18 mm; Figure 1, n°. 21.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right; the legend ANTONINVS AVG / PIVS PP TR P XIX.

Reverse: Pax standing left, holding branch and cornucopiae; the legend TR POT XIX / COS III.

Catalogue: RIC III, 56, n°. 246 (obv) and n°. 252 (rev), hybrid, mint ?, 155-156 AD. ?.

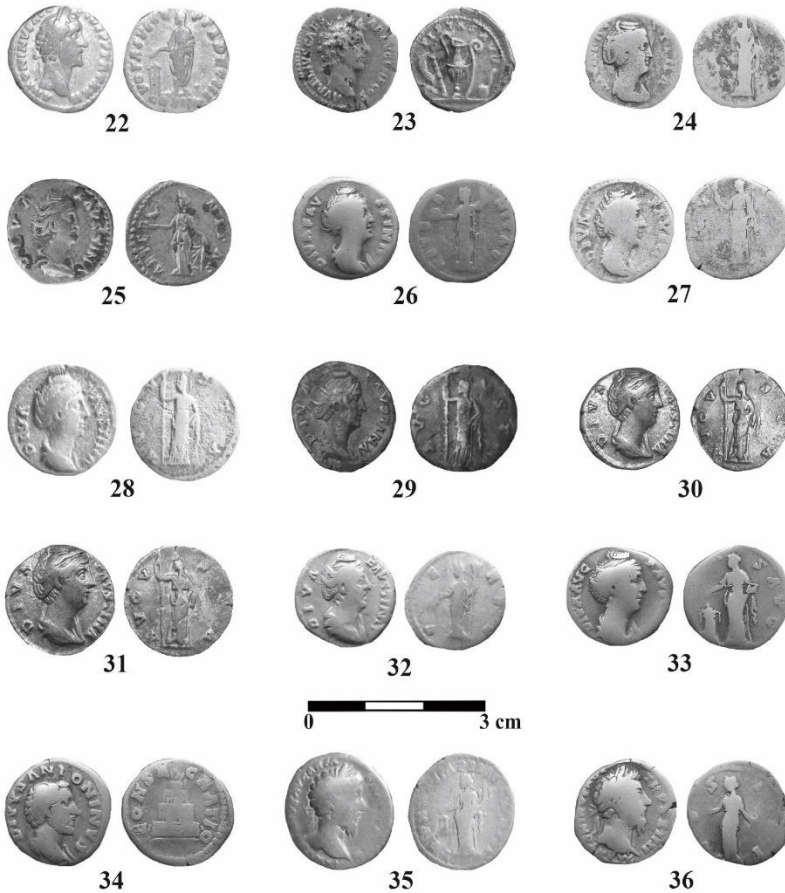


Figure 2. Roman Imperial denarii from Antoninus Pius (no. 22), Marcus Aurelius Caesar (no. 23), Diva Faustina (no. 24-33), Divus Antoninus (no. 34) and Marcus Aurelius (no. 35-36).

22. Denarius; 7h; 3,26 g; 18 mm; Figure 2, n°. 22.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor to the right; the legend ANTONINVS AVG / PIVS PP TRP XXII.

Reverse: Antoninus standing left, over tripod altar in sacrifice; the legend VOTA SVSCE / PTA DEC III, COS IIII (in exergue).

Catalogue: RIC III, 62, n°. 294b, Rome mint, 158-159 AD.

MARCUS AURELIUS CAESAR under (ANTONINUS PIUS)

23. Denarius; 6h; 3.40 g; 18 x 17 mm; Figure 2, n°. 23.

Obverse: Head of Marcus Aurelius, bare, to the right; legend: AVRELIVS CAE / SAR AVG PII F COS.

Reverse: Emblems of priesthood: from left to right, knife, sprinkler, jug, *lituus*, and *sim-pulum*; legend: PIETAS AVG.

Catalogue: RIC III, 79, n°. 424a, Rome mint, 140-144 AD.

DIVA FAUSTINA I under ANTONINUS PIUS

24. Denarius; 6h; 2.72 g; 16.5 mm; Figure 2, n°. 24.

Obverse: Bust of Faustina I, draped, to the right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top; the legend DIVA FAV / STINA.

Reverse: Juno or Aeternitas standing left, hand raised, holding scepter; the legend (AETERNITAS).

Catalogue: RIC III, 69, n°. 344, Rome mint, after her death in 141 AD. (posthumous commemorative).

25. Denarius; 6h; 3.42 g; 18 x 16.5 mm; Figure 2, n°. 25.

Obverse: Bust of Faustina I, draped, to the right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top; the legend DIVA / FAVSTINA.

Reverse: Aeternitas, draped, standing left, holding phoenix on extended right hand and raising fold of skirt with left; the legend AETER / NITAS.

Catalogue: RIC III, 69, n°. 347, Rome mint, after her death in 141 AD. (posthumous commemorative).

26. Denarius; 6h; 3.49 g; 18 mm; Figure 2, n°. 26.

Obverse: Bust of Faustina I, draped, to the right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top; the legend DIVA FAV / STINA.

Reverse: Fortuna standing left, holding globe and rudder; the legend AETER / NITAS.

Catalogue: RIC III, 70, n°. 348, Rome mint, after her death in 141 AD. (posthumous commemorative).

27. Denarius; 6h; 2.76 g; 18 mm; Figure 2, n°. 27.

Obverse: Diademed and draped bust to the right; the legend DIVA / FAVST(INA).

Reverse: Ceres, veiled, standing left, holding torch and scepter; the legend (AV)GV(STA).

Catalogue: RIC III, 70, n°. 356, Rome mint, after her death in 141 AD. (posthumous commemorative).

28. Denarius; 6h; 2,86 g; 18.5 mm; Figure 2, n°. 28.

Obverse: Bust of Faustina I, draped, to the right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top; the legend DIVA / FAVSTINA.

Reverse: Ceres, veiled, standing left, holding torch and raising robe; the legend AVGV / STA.

Catalogue: RIC III, 71, n°. 362, Rome mint, after her death in 141 AD. (posthumous commemorative).

29. Denarius; 6h; 2.65 g; 18 mm; Figure 2, n°. 29.

Obverse: Bust of Faustina I, draped, right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top; the legend DIVA / FAVSTINA.

Reverse: Ceres, veiled, standing left, holding torch and raising robe; the legend AVGV / VSTA.

Catalogue: RIC III, 71, n°. 362, Rome mint, after her death in 141 AD. (posthumous commemorative).

30. Denarius; 6h; 3,23 g; 18 mm; Figure 2, n°. 30.

Obverse: Bust of Faustina I, draped, to the right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top; the legend DIVA / FAVSTINA.

Reverse: Ceres, veiled, standing left, holding torch and raising robe; the legend AVGV / STA.

Catalogue: RIC III, 71, n°. 362, Rome mint, after her death in 141 AD. (posthumous commemorative).

31. Denarius; 6h; 2.78 g; 18.5 x 18 mm; Figure 2, n°. 31.

Obverse: Bust of Faustina I, draped, to the right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top; the legend DIVA / FAVSTINA.

Reverse: Ceres, veiled, standing left, holding torch and raising robe; the legend AVGV / STA.

Catalogue: RIC III, 71, n°. 362, Rome mint, after her death in 141 AD. (posthumous commemorative).

32. Denarius; 5h; 3.28 g; 17 mm; Figure 2, n°. 32.

Obverse: Draped bust to the right; the legend DIVA / FAVSTINA.

Reverse: Ceres standing left, holding grain ears and long torch; the legend CE / RES.

Catalogue: RIC III, 72, n°. 378, Rome mint, after her death in 141 AD. (posthumous commemorative).

33 Denarius; 6h; 3.16 g; 18 x 17 mm; Figure 2, n° 33.

Obverse: Bust of Faustina I, draped, to the right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top; the legend DIVA AVG FAVS(TINA).

Reverse: Pietas standing left, sacrificing over altar; the legend (PIET)A / S AVG.

Catalogue: RIC III, 74, n°. 394a, Rome mint, after her death in 141. AD. (posthumous commemorative).

ANTONINUS PIUS under MARCUS AURELIUS

34. Denarius; 6h; 3,29 g; 18 x 17.5 mm; Figure 2, n°. 34.

Obverse: Bare head of the deified Antoninus Pius, facing right, drapery over far shoulder; the legend DIVVS ANTONINVS.

Reverse: Funeral pyre with four tiers, decorated with hangings and garlands, surmounted by quadriga; the legend CONSE / CRATIO.

Catalogue: RIC III, p. 247, n°. 438, Rome mint, after 161 AD. (memorial coin).

MARCUS AURELIUS

35. Denarius; 6h; 2.90 g; 18.5 mm; Figure 2, n°. 35.

Obverse: Laureate head of emperor, to the right; legend: M (ANTONIN)VS AVG ARM / (PARTH MAX).

Reverse: Aequitas, draped standing facing, looking left, holding scales and *cornucopiae*; legend: TR P XXI IMP IIII COS III.

Catalogue: RIC III, 227, n°. 171, Rome mint, 166-167 AD.

36. Denarius; 6h; 2.76 g; 17.5 x 17 mm; Figure 2, n°. 36.

Obverse: Head of Marcus Aurelius, laureate, to the right; legend: M ANTONINVS AVG / TR P XXIV.

Reverse: Diana, draped, standing front, head left, holding arrow in extended right hand and bow, vertical, in left hand; legend: COS / III.

Catalogue: RIC III, 230, n°. 212; Rome mint, 169-170 AD.

3. Commentary

The Costoboci are one of the Dacian tribes left out of the Roman dominion for almost a century after the conquest of Dacia by Decebalus. Pliny the Elder (*Hist. Nat.*, VI, 7, 19) identified them as neighbors of Sarmatians and Tyragetae, while Ptolemy (*Geographia*, III, 5,9) located them in the vicinity of the Taurisci and the Anartes.

In 170 AD, the great invasion of the Costoboci in the Roman Empire took place. The Moesian Province was defenseless, because the 5th Macedonian Legion (transferred from Moesia to Dacia) and the 11th Claudia Legion (from Durostorum) were engaged in the wars waged by Marcus Aurelius against the Marcomanni.⁷ Not only the Dobruja area and its fortresses fell victim to the invasion, but also large geographical areas from the Roman Empire to Greece.⁸ With the gradual extension of the invasion and the dissipation of the Costoboci's army, at the urging of the Romans, the territory inhabited by the Costoboci people, located in the northern are of Roman Dacia was occupied according to Dio Cassius (*Hist. Rom.*, LXX, 12) after 170 AD by the Germanic Hasdingi.

In the context of the great invasion of the Costoboci, the Tropaeum Traiani fortress, which had already reached the rank of *municipium* under the reign of Marcus Aurelius, suffered a first and very violent destruction in its short history.⁹ One of the detachments of the 11th Claudia Legion present in the fortress, at least during the reign of emperor Antoninus Pius, had recently been withdrawn.¹⁰ Some of the epigraphic sources discovered in the Tropaeum fortress are closely related to the attack of the year 170 AD. One piece of information comes from the limestone funerary stele of Lucius Fufidius Lucianus, *decurio* and *duumvir* of the fortress, which was initially found on the *via principalis*. Then, for unknown reasons, it was abandoned in the fortress and rediscovered in the summer of 1960.¹¹ The mentioned character seems most likely to have died during the fortress defense activity against the attack of the Costoboci people. The second monument is a partially preserved stele, dedicated to the memory of Daizus Comozi. He, Comozi's son, was killed at the age of 50 by Costoboci, and his funeral altar was erected by his sons, who bear Roman names.¹² Above the inscription is rendered the Thracian Knight, an extremely popular deity during at the time.¹³ The stele was discovered in 1891, on *via principalis*, near the cistern basilica¹⁴ and attests to the presence of the Thraco-Getae in the fortress and the surroundings of Tropaeum Traiani.

⁷ ISM IV, 160.

⁸ ISM IV, 160, n°. 49.

⁹ RĂDULESCU 1988, 149.

¹⁰ VULPE, BARNEA 1968, 161.

¹¹ ISM IV, 159-160, n°. 49: "D(is) M(anibus) L(ucius) Fufidis Lucianus dec(urio) m(unicipii) deceptus a Castabocos Ilvir(atu) suo cui merito titul(um) posuit Ulp(ia) Marcia coiux".

¹² PĂRVAN 1911, 7; POPESCU 1964, 195; ISM IV, 161-162, n°. 50; "DM Daizi Comozi vixit an L interfectus a Costobocis Iustus et Val patri BM posuerunt".

¹³ RĂDULESCU 1988, 162.

¹⁴ ISM IV, 161.

From an archaeological point of view, a strong arson caused by the Costoboci attack was stratigraphically observed in Tropaeum, similar with what was noticed during the archaeological survey conducted in the eastern half of the fortress¹⁵. At the same time, after this attack, at the end of the second century AD, the second phase of the fortress' enclosure is built¹⁶.

Another important document attesting to the events of 170 BC is the monetary one. A decade ago, a hoards horizon was identified in the southwestern part of Dobruja. It was constituted of hoards findings from Alfatar (Silistra, Bulgaria), Goleș (Silistra, Bulgaria) and Silistra (Silistra, Bulgaria).¹⁷ All these hoards would have been hidden or lost due to the invasion of the Costoboci people in 170 BC.¹⁸ The one from Alfatar was found in 1947 and it comprised an unknown number of Roman imperial denarii, of which only 52 denarii could be identified due to the fact that they got to a jeweler from Silistra (issuers Hadrianus, Antoninus Pius, Faustina I and Faustina II).¹⁹ The last specimens belong to the years 161-176 AD²⁰. From Silistra come two hoards that seem to belong to this horizon. The first one was found in 1964, in a place called „Malkia ceair”, in a ceramic vessel containing 940 denarii issued during the second century AD. Germanicus, Nero, Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasianus, Titus, Julia Titi, Domitianus, Nerva, Traianus, Marciana, Hadrianus, Sabina, Aelius Caesar, Antoninus Pius, Faustina I, Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus are listed as issuers.²¹ The second hoard was found in 1978, during the archaeological excavations lead in the *canabae* of the 11th Claudia Legion in the north-eastern area of the city, in an ancient burned house. It was composed of 35 Roman Republican and Imperial denarii (issuers Marcus Antonius, Vespasianus, Domitianus / princeps Juventutis, Traianus, Hadrianus, Sabina, Antonius Pius, Diva Faustina, Marcus Aurelius Caesar, Marcus Aurelius and Faustina II) and was buried on the occasion of the invasion of the Costoboci in Moesia Inferior, from 164-168 AD.²²

The one from Goleș was found near the village, in 1964, and consisted of an unspecified number of Republican and Imperial denarii, from which only 32 coins were recovered (issuers Marcus Antonius, Vespasianus, Titus, Traianus, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Divus Antoninus,

¹⁵ BARNEA *et al.*, 1979, 228.

¹⁶ BARNEA *et al.*, 1979, 62.

¹⁷ CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, 60-61.

¹⁸ A recent discussion concerning the percentage composition by emperors of all these hoards constituted of Roman denarii see in MARIN, PETAC 2020, 321-322.

¹⁹ GERASIMOV 1950, 319; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, 135, n^o. 7.

²⁰ MARIN, PETAC 2020, 323.

²¹ GERASIMOV 1965, 249; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, 334-335, n^o. 140-XXIII.

²² HRISTOV 1987, 17-26, pl. I, 1-4; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, 338, n^o. 140-XXIX; MARIN, PETAC 2020, 323.

Diva Faustina, Marcus Aurelius and Faustina II).²³ Given the fact that the last coin in the hoard is dated in 180 AD, it is quite possible that it cannot be integrated into this hoarding horizon. The situation is similar to the hoard found in the village area of Gruncearovo (Silistra, Bulgaria) in 1912 and that was constituted of 600 Republican and Imperial denarii.²⁴

The attack of the Costoboci people, particularly violent and focused on robbing the precious goods, generates an atmosphere of fear and insecurity in the central area of Dobruja, not only in the south-west territory. Thus, we know a hoard found in the area of Ultemtum vicus, on the site of the future Ulmetum fortress (Pantelimonu de Jos Commune, Constanța County). The epigraphic information concerning the vicus are not very numerous. We know an altar from 140 AD, from the time of Antoninus Pius and another one dedicated to Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus in 163 AD. Then about the possibility of inhabiting the vicus only by Bessi, by Roman and Bessi, respectively about the vici status of the inhabitants, it is mentioned on an altar erected by „*Iulis Teres magistra(n)s vico Ulmeto*”.²⁵ This hoard was partially recovered and comprises 18 Imperial Roman denarii struck for Vespasian, Trajan, Hadrianus, Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius. The last specimens belong to the years 167-168 AD.²⁶

The hoard fragment in the catalog includes a number of 37 Imperial Roman denarii as follows: Trajan (6 pieces/16.66% of the total). Hadrianus (9 pieces/25% of the total), Antoninus Pius (7 pieces/19.44% of the total), Marcus Aurelius Caesar (one piece/2.77% of the total), Diva Faustina (10 pieces/27.77% of the total), Divus Antoninus (one piece/2.77% of the total) and Marcus Aurelius (2 pieces/5.55% of the total). As can be seen, half of the denarii of the treasure fragment are beaten under Antoninus Pius (along with Diva Faustina and a denarius from Marcus Aurelius Caesar), with 18 denars (50% of the total).

All coins belong to the Nerva-Antonine dynasty, chronologically the first issue belongs to the year 100 AD and the last to the years 169-170 AD. More specifically, for Trajan there are denarii struck in the years: 100 AD (one piece), 103-111 AD (four pieces) and 112-114 AD (one piece). For Hadrianus are identified denarii struck in the years: 117 AD (one piece), 118 AD (two pieces), 119-121 AD (two pieces), 125-128 AD (two pieces) and 134-138 (two pieces). For Antoninus Pius there were identified denarii struck in the years: 140-143 AD (one piece), 145-161 AD (one piece), 147-148 AD (two pieces), 148-149 AD (one piece), 155-156 AD (one piece),

²³ GERASIMOV 1965, 247; HRISTOV 1987, 87-92; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, 210-211, n°. 54.

²⁴ PAUNOV, PROKOPOV 2002, 53, n°. 82; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, 212, n°. 57.

²⁵ PÂRVAN 1913, 348, n° 8; PÂRVAN 1915, 277, n° 11; MUNTEANU 1970, 212; ISM V, 83-85, no. 62, 85-86, no. 63, 87, no. 64, 94-96, n°. 69.

²⁶ TALMAȚCHI, LUNGU 2006, 389-392, n°. 12- 43.

158-159 AD (one piece) and after 161 AD (Divus Antoninus, postum under Marcus Aurelius). Postum denarii are identified only for Diva Faustina, struck after the year 141 AD with ten pieces (under Antoninus Pius) and for Antoninus Pius (under Marcus Aurelius, type *DIVUS ANTONINUS*) struck after the year 161 AD. Finally, for Marcus Aurelius are identified postum denarii struck in the years: 140-144 AD (one piece, Caesar under Antoninus Pius), 166-167 AD (one piece) and 169-170 AD (one piece).

34 denarii are struck in the mint of Rome (94.44% of the total), one in the province and one is a hybrid piece, with uncertain mint (5.55% of the total). The last one presents the corresponding obverse for RIC II 246 and the reverse for RIC II 252, being probably dated to the years 155-156 AD.

3. Conclusions

This armed conflict that took place at Tropaeum Traiani fortress was not a long lasting one, being only a dramatic short moment in the path traveled by the Costoboci, mentioned above, from Moldova, through Dobruja to Macedonia and central Greece. It is attested epigraphically, archaeologically and monetary at Adamclisi.²⁷ As a result, although some consequences were more long lasting, the restoration of the city and the return to the previous life standards of the inhabitants does not seem to have been hampered in the long run. Undoubtedly, the area most affected must have been that belonging to the rural world surrounding the city, totally exposed from a military point of view and extremely attractive for food supplies and other resources that could be quickly gained by robbery.

Given the context and the known situation, concerning the recovery of the hoard, we can speculate that it is not yet fully discovered. Even so, with adequate caution, we would consider it buried in the context of the attack of the year 170 AD lead by the Costoboci people. It is quite possible that the coins recovered so far express the main structure of the hoard²⁸. In the fortress of Tropaeum Traiani a hoard consisting of denarii from the time of the emperor Marcus Aurelius was found in 1968, but also of the subsequent chronological rulers of the Roman Empire: Commodus, Pertinax, Clodius Albinus and Septimius Severus (the last piece

²⁷ BARNEA 1980, 97-98.

²⁸ According to the research plan of the systematic archaeological campaign of the year 2021 we want to carry out with the support of the team of specialists from the Museum of National History and Archaeology in Constanța a thorough field survey in the area initially indicated by the finder, in the hope of finding more clues about the hidden context of the hoard. The fact that the former finder did not have a metal detector encourage us to look for that place and, perhaps, with a little luck, to be able to offer a publication of the entire monetary hoard.

New information on roman monetary discoveries in the vicinity of the Tropaeum Traiani (com. Adamclisi, county Constanța) in the context of the second century AD

being dated in 201-210 AD).²⁹ In total, this hoard contained 1548 Roman Imperial denarii, minted from Nero to Septimius Severus.³⁰ Certainly, the two hoards do not have the same accumulation period, respectively burial moment.

The finding place of the fragment of hoard presented in the catalog seems to have belonged to the rural world, possibly to a merchant who was going to pay for certain products. Or anyway an accumulation of silver cash from the rural area, but obviously not far from the urban one of the fortress. It should be noted that there is a different state of preservation of the recovered parts. Its loss or burial seems to coincide with the time of the attack of the Costoboci and most likely ended with the death of its owner.

For the moment, given its partial recovery, we stop here with other considerations. Any other data that may occasionally appear in the near future regarding the finding will be able to provide more accurate details on the time of its burial, its structure on issuers and others.

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