

## New Data on Some Older Monetary Finds Within the Drobeta Area

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**Abstract.** *The collection of the Institute of Archaeology in Iasi holds a lot of Roman denarii, consisting of: 1 AR Q. Antonius Balbus (pierced and "repaired"), 1 AR L. Farsuleius Mensor, 1 AR Vitellius, 1 AR Hadrianus, 1 AR Antoninus Pius, 1 AR Antoninus Pius for Diva Faustina I, 1 AR Commodus, 1 AR Commodus for Crispina, and 1 AR Septimius Severus. These coins were handed out to the Institute by Mrs. Rodica Popovici, which she received from Professor Alexandru Dima, between 1960-1962. He would have acquired the denarii back in his hometown, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, during his childhood and student years. Throughout this paper, we have attempted to prove that these coins are unlikely to represent single finds from the Drobeta site. More likely, the issues were part of a hoard of Roman denarii, also containing Republican coins, which had its main core made up of denarii from the Antonine emperors until the reign of Elagabalus or Severus Alexander. Although we have no other information about this hypothetical hoard, the discovery was made in Drobeta or, quite probably, in the vicinity, before the year 1931.*

**Rezumat.** *În colecția Institutului de Arheologie din Iași se află un lot de denari romani, care se compune din: 1 AR Q. Antonius Balbus (perforat și „reparat”), 1 AR L. Farsuleius Mensor, 1 AR Vitellius, 1 AR Hadrianus, 1 AR Antoninus Pius, 1 AR Antoninus Pius: Diva Faustina I, 1 AR Commodus, 1 AR Commodus: Crispina și 1 AR Septimius Severus. Monedele respective au fost donate Institutului de către doamna Rodica Popovici, care le-a primit, între anii 1960-1962, de la Profesorul Alexandru Dima. Acesta le-ar fi procurat din localitatea sa natală, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, în perioada copilăriei și a studenției. Am încercat să demonstrăm că este puțin probabil ca aceste monede să reprezinte descoperiri izolate din situl de la Drobeta. Mai degrabă, ele aparțin unui tezaur de denari romani, care conținea și emisii republicane, avea nucleul principal constituit din denari ai împăraților Antonini și se încheia în vremea lui Elagabalus sau Severus Alexander. Acest tezaur ipotetic, despre care nu avem niciun fel de alte informații, ar fi fost descoperit la Drobeta sau, mai probabil, în vecinătate, înainte de anul 1931.*

**Keywords:** Roman Dacia, Drobeta, denarii, Coin hoard, 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD.

The collection of the Institute of Archaeology in Iasi records a lot of nine Roman coins, donated to the Numismatic Cabinet by Dr. Rodica Popovici on 11 June 2018. The coins originally belonged to Olga and Alexandru Dima, who, around 1960-1962, passed them on to Mrs. Rodica Popovici, at that time a young passionate of history and archaeology.

Prior to the numismatic material, it is necessary to briefly evoke the personality of Professor Alexandru Dima. He was born in Drobeta Turnu-Severin in the early years of the last

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century, on October 17, 1905. Back in his hometown, he attended primary and secondary studies and graduated from "Traian" High School, in 1925. He continued his higher education at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the University of Bucharest (1925-1929) and then pursued specializations in Germany, focusing on aesthetics, art history, and the history of Romance and Germanic literatures. In 1938, Alexandru Dima obtained his PhD at the University of Bucharest<sup>4</sup>. During his career he held several important offices such as director of the Centre for Linguistics, Literary History and Folklore of the Romanian Academy in Iași and, later, in Bucharest, Dima became head of the "George Călinescu" Institute for Literary Theory and History. Eventually, in 1964 the Romanian Academy granted him as a corresponding member<sup>5</sup>. Professor Alexandru Dima wrote over 20 books and more than 200 articles, covering various issues related to aesthetics and cultural philosophy, the history of Romanian literature, and universal and comparative literature<sup>6</sup>. He passed away in Bucharest, in 1979, longing for Iași, his so-called "lost paradise"<sup>7</sup>.

The batch of coins consists exclusively of Roman *denarii*, spanning nearly three centuries. The oldest issue is a *denarius serratus* from 83-82 BC (Cat. 1). Another Republican coin dates to 75 BC (Cat. 2). The rest of them are imperial *denarii* belonging to the following emperors: Vitellius (Cat. 3), Hadrianus (Cat. 4), Antoninus Pius (Cat. 5), Antoninus Pius for Diva Faustina I (Cat. 6), Commodus (Cat. 7), Commodus for Crispina (Cat. 8), and Septimius Severus (Cat. 9). The most recent *denarius* dates to 198-200 AD.

In general, the coins are preserved in good condition. Only the first one appears to have undergone two successive interventions: first it was perforated, and later the hole was filled with a piece of metal, which, based on visual criteria, seems to be made of a similar alloy. Such particular issues, in silver, are quite rare and are mainly found outside the Roman world. It is assumed that their "repair" was carried out to put them back on the market<sup>8</sup>.

Unfortunately, hardly any details concerning the time and place of the discovery of the batch have been preserved. It is only believed that Professor Alexandru Dima would have acquired them in his hometown, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, during his childhood and student years. According to his biography, he graduated in 1929 and in 1931 he obtained a teaching position in Râmnicu Vâlcea and the following year in Sibiu<sup>9</sup>. We can only assume that he was in possession of the coins before he left Drobeta in 1931. Regarding the provenance of coins, they were reportedly found either in the city or in the surrounding area, with no precise location identified.

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<sup>4</sup> MAFTEI 1982, 90-94; MĂNUCĂ 1979-1980; MĂNUCĂ 2016.

<sup>5</sup> MĂNUCĂ 2016, 86.

<sup>6</sup> MAFTEI 1982, 91.

<sup>7</sup> MĂNUCĂ 2016, 86.

<sup>8</sup> See, more recently, MYZGIN 2023, 75-79.

<sup>9</sup> MĂNUCĂ 1979-1980, 287.

Located on the banks of the Danube, Drobeta is considered the first settlement in Roman Dacia, established during the construction of the bridge by Traianus. Archaeological excavations have largely focused on the *castrum* on the north side of the bridge and its *thermae*, and more recently on the nearby military amphitheatre. The ancient town, less researched due to the overlap with the modern settlement, developed from the *vicus* of the fortification and would have covered an area of approximately 51 hectares, delineated by a fortification. This enclosure surrounds the *castrum* on three sides and rests on the Danube. Drobeta received the status of *municipium* from Hadrianus and was raised to the rank of *colonia* during the time of Septimius Severus, reaching the peak of economic development in the first part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Outside the town, three necropolises were identified to the east, north, and west. Due to its strategic importance, the site on the Danube survived under Roman authority until the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD<sup>10</sup>.

Drobeta is one of the sites in Roman and post-Roman Dacia that has been rather well examined from a numismatic point of view. The work of I. Stîngă, written at the end of the last century, records 925 Roman and early Byzantine coins, uncovered in the civilian settlement (307 pcs.)<sup>11</sup>, in the fortification (618 pcs.)<sup>12</sup>, as well as plenty of other coins around the territory of Drobeta<sup>13</sup>. Recently, a monographic work was published that contains all the monetary discoveries from this site, kept in the collection of the Iron Gates Museum in Drobeta-Turnu Severin. Thus, 1,885 Roman coins, from hoards or as single finds, are described in detail and dated between the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD<sup>14</sup>.

Single finds are the most widespread (1,847 pcs.), originating from scattered parts of the Drobeta site (*castrum*, town, *thermae*, amphitheater, necropolises) and, to a lesser extent, from donations<sup>15</sup>. For our study, we considered early Roman issues (up to and including Septimius Severus - 315 pcs.), which represent only a small part (17%) of this considerable lot<sup>16</sup>. Within it, the proportion of silver coins varies in different chronological sequences.

Thus, for the period before the reign of Traianus, Drobeta stands out among all sites in Dacia by the very large number of bronze coins<sup>17</sup>. Here, only six Republican *denarii* and one imperial *denarius* from Nero have been identified<sup>18</sup>. One of the Republican issues, coming from

<sup>10</sup> From the modern bibliography, which is quite extensive, related to this site, see selectively: BĂRCĂCILĂ 1938; TUDOR 1965; TUDOR 1978, 170-176; BENEĂ 1977; DAVIDESCU 1981; STÎNGĂ 1998; ARDEVAN 1998, 33-36; MATEI-POPESCU 2015.

<sup>11</sup> STÎNGĂ 1998, 144-157.

<sup>12</sup> STÎNGĂ 1998, 157-184.

<sup>13</sup> STÎNGĂ 1998, 185-193.

<sup>14</sup> GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015.

<sup>15</sup> GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015, 93-189.

<sup>16</sup> GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015, 190-201, nos. 2-316.

<sup>17</sup> MUNTEANU 2017 CD-ROM, Graphs 23-24.

<sup>18</sup> GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015, 190, nos. 2-7; 191, no. 26.

a donation, even has the same issuer - Q. Antonius Balbus<sup>19</sup>, as one of the coins we publish (Cat. 1). The rarity of pre-Traianus *denarii*, of good quality, has been explained by their withdrawal from circulation and remelting in 107 AD<sup>20</sup>.

In the following time span, matching the Antonine dynasty, base metal denominations dominated the monetary circulation in Dacian sites. In the first part of this period, *asses* held a major position among the coin discoveries in the province, and starting from the reign of Marcus Aurelius, they were replaced by *sestertii*. Throughout this stage, silver coins played a secondary role, with a proportion of between 20% and 30%<sup>21</sup>. Particularly, Drobeta stands out among the Dacian sites by the small number of *denarii* for each of the Antonine emperors: Traianus (11 pcs., representing 24% of this emperor's total issues), Hadrianus (2 pcs. - 4%), Antoninus Pius (6 pcs. - 8%), Marcus Aurelius (1 pc. - 3%), and Commodus (2 pcs. - 17%)<sup>22</sup>. Almost all these coins are worn due to usage.

In the last period of our attention, the reign of Septimius Severus, a substantial amount of devalued *denarii* (over 85%) was discovered in most Dacian sites, with almost half of these being *subaerate* issues<sup>23</sup>. Again, the figures recorded at Drobeta are different. The proportion of silver denominations (23 pcs., representing 60% of the coins from the time of Septimius Severus), many of which are poorly preserved, is below the provincial average, while the percentage of plated coins is very high (16 pcs., representing 70% of the total *denarii*)<sup>24</sup>.

Following this brief analysis of monetary circulation in Drobeta during its first century of existence, we have doubts that our batch of *denarii* could represent single finds from this site. Firstly, we take into account the extremely small number of silver issues (52 pcs.), both Republican and early Imperial, that have been found at Drobeta over more than two centuries of archaeological research. Additionally, Vitellius, one of the emperors featured on our *denarii* (Cat. 3), is missing from the list of coin issuers from the Roman site on the Danube. We also note that the number of silver denominations from the Antonine dynasty, which forms the core of our lot, is very small at Drobeta (22 pcs.). Lastly, one must also consider the condition of the coins. Usually, single finds of *denarii* from this site, when illustrated, bear visible signs of wear due to prolonged circulation. In comparison, our coins are in good or even very good condition. In most cases, the reliefs of the images and legends are prominent, and iconographic details are still visible. Wear on the coins is minimal and we reckon that most of them have only been in circulation for a short period of time. In cases where a deterioration occurs, the most likely

<sup>19</sup> GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015, 184, no. 1.

<sup>20</sup> GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015, 25.

<sup>21</sup> MUNTEANU 2017, 85-86, 96-100, 134, 137-138; CD-ROM, Tables 4, 17; Graphs 23-24, 48-49.

<sup>22</sup> GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015, 192, no. 59; 193, nos. 64-65, 68, 73-74, 80-81, 84-85; 194, no. 95; 195, no. 121; 196, nos. 154, 169, 172, 174; 197, no. 197, 205, 210; 199, nos. 262, 271; 200, no. 278.

<sup>23</sup> MUNTEANU 2017, 86, 89, 134-135; CD-ROM, Tables 4, 6; Graphs 23-24, 27-30, 32.

<sup>24</sup> GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015, 200, nos. 280-284, 286-291, 296-300; 201, nos. 308-311, 313-315.

cause is improper storage conditions after it has been unearthed. Only the plugged *denarius* (Cat. 1) is less well-preserved and appears to show some signs of wear.

In the light of the above, it seems more plausible that our coins originate from a hoard. They were made from precious metal (silver), belong exclusively to a single denomination (*denarius*), and are in an state of preservation. Additionally, they succeed each other in time, forming a compact chronological sequence. Only a significant gap of nearly a century appears between the Republican issues and the oldest Imperial piece. In this way, we could hypothetically outline the hoard profile to which our batch might belonged. It would be a deposit of both Republican and Imperial issues, having the main coin group consisted of Antonine *denarii* and the most recent are from the time of Septimius Severus or later.

Unfortunately, the only two hoards known from Drobeta are composed of gold and bronze coins dating from different periods. Thus, a deposit of *aurei*, from which seven pieces from Hadrianus (one for Sabina) were recovered, was accidentally found in 1964 in the area of the eastern necropolis<sup>25</sup>. The second hoard, discovered in the early 2000s in the vicinity of the auxiliary fort, features 31 bronze coins, of which only five have been identified, dated between 395-435 AD<sup>26</sup>.

On the territory of Roman Dacia, as in the entire Empire and *Barbaricum*, lots of *denarii* hoards have been discovered. In the latest work, 26 such "Dacian" deposits, whose structure by issuers is known, have been recorded<sup>27</sup>. Among these, there are only six instances ended with issues of Severan emperors: Lujerdiu (Cluj County)<sup>28</sup> and Sarmizegetusa 1993 / Ulpia Traiana V (Hunedoara County)<sup>29</sup> - *t.p.q.* Septimius Severus; Turda 2015 / *Potaissa* III (Cluj County)<sup>30</sup> - *t.p.q.* Macrinus; Frânțești (Vâlcea County)<sup>31</sup> and Pădurețu (Vâlcea County)<sup>32</sup> - *t.p.q.* Elagabalus; Barza (Gorj County)<sup>33</sup> - *t.p.q.* Severus Alexander. Only one find in this category has the latest coin from Gordian III (Sâmburești [Olt County])<sup>34</sup>. Typically, all these hoards consist of *denarii* succeeding

<sup>25</sup> DAVIDESCU 1981, 137; MITREA 1984, 187, no. 99; PETAC 2011, 240, no. 66; GĂZDAC 2010 CD-ROM/Catalogues/Hoards/Hoards from Dacia, 2; GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015, 21-22, 25, 181-182, nos. 1-7; 260, nos. 1849-1855; 264, Plate 1; CHRE, no. 2590.

<sup>26</sup> GĂZDAC *et alii* 2015, 22, 145-146, nos. 1057-1087; 261, nos. 1856-1886; 280, Plate 17; CHRE, no. 9143.

<sup>27</sup> GĂZDAC 2022, 169-179, 182 (some of these hoards also contain Lycian *drachmas*, which were assimilated with *denarii* at the time).

<sup>28</sup> IONESCU 1997; DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2008a, 218-221, no. 148; GĂZDAC 2022, 177, Table 24; CHRE, no. 2615.

<sup>29</sup> GĂZDAC, COCIȘ 2004, 42-43, nos. 13-33; DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2008a, 281-282, no. 157; GĂZDAC 2022, 177, Table 25; CHRE, no. 2616.

<sup>30</sup> ANDONE-ROTARU 2020; CHRE, no. 8144.

<sup>31</sup> DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2004, 82-167; DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2008a, 288-301, no. 166; GĂZDAC 2022, 178, Table 26; CHRE, no. 2617.

<sup>32</sup> DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2008a, 302-303, no. 168; PURECE 2015, 31-87; GĂZDAC 2022, 178, Table 27; CHRE, no. 2618.

<sup>33</sup> POPILIAN, GHERGHE 1998-2003; DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2008a, 309-321, no. 174; GĂZDAC 2022, 179, Table 28; CHRE, no. 2620.

<sup>34</sup> CHIȚESCU, POPESCU 1975; MITREA, MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1986-1991; DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2008b, 36-39, no. 23; GĂZDAC 2022, 182, Table 35; CHRE, no. 2629.

Nero's reform, because the previous, higher quality issues gradually disappeared from circulation<sup>35</sup>. We retain the single case of the Frâncești hoard, where two Republican *denarii* appear exceptionally (one of which is a "legionary *denarius*" from Marcus Antonius)<sup>36</sup>. The chronological structure of the seven hoards is different. Thereby, a group of deposits (Lujerdiu, Sarmizegetusa 1993, and Frâncești) is predominantly composed of Antonine *denarii*, another one (Turda 2015, Pădurețu, and Sâmburești) contains mostly devalued Severan *denarii*, and in one case (Barza), there is a quantitative balance amongst the silver issues carrying the effigies under the emperors of the two dynasties.

Among these finds, the Frâncești hoard outstands (Figure 1), broadly appearing to have similar compositional and chronological features to the coins of our lot. By a total of 1,365 *denarii*, this deposit has drew the attention of specialists due to its particular structure, namely through the unusual large number of Antonine issues. At this point, several assumptions have been carried out regarding the hoarding process: a prolonged period of accumulation<sup>37</sup>, the deliberate selection of older, higher quality denominations<sup>38</sup>, or the doubtful belonging to another quasi-contemporary hoard recovered nearby, at Pădurețu<sup>39</sup>. The coin discovery from Frâncești has been carefully re-examined and published all over again. Among the illustrated pieces, we note the good condition in which most of the Antonine *denarii* are preserved<sup>40</sup>.

Another discovery from the aforementioned group that caught our attention is the hoard from Barza (Figure 1). It was found in 1969 and initially contained 1,807 coins, housed in a Roman *amphora*, of which 1,336 *denarii* and one *drachma* from Asia Minor have been preserved. The deposit consists exclusively of issues after Nero's reform and contains a substantial core of *denarii* of the Antonine emperors (49%). Although it was published in detail, the coins were not illustrated<sup>41</sup>. The place of discovery is near the *villa rustica* at Săcelu<sup>42</sup>, which in Antiquity was part of the municipal territory of Drobeta<sup>43</sup>. Moreover, to our knowledge, this is the only hoard of *denarii* recovered in the *territorium* of Drobeta.

<sup>35</sup> GĂZDAC 2022, 133, 136, 139.

<sup>36</sup> DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2004, 82, nos. 1-2.

<sup>37</sup> GĂZDAC 2022, 144.

<sup>38</sup> PETAC 2011, 39-40; GĂZDAC 2022, 144.

<sup>39</sup> PURECE 2015, 192; *contra*, see PREDA 1992-1993, 113; DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2004, 80.

<sup>40</sup> DEPEYROT, MOISIL 2004, Plates 11-24; unfortunately, the Republican coin was not illustrated (Plate 6). For the previous publication of the hoard, see MOISIL 1938-1942.

<sup>41</sup> POPILIAN, GHERGHE 1998-2003. In the first mention of the hoard, it is noted as being discovered at Dănești (MITREA 1971, 407, no. 62), an error that has been consistently perpetuated by specialists (CHRE, no. 2620).

<sup>42</sup> POPILIAN, GHERGHE 1998-2003, 83.

<sup>43</sup> The municipal territory of Drobeta occupied the entire area between the Danube and Târgu Jiu, along the Roman road that led to the Vâlcan Pass (See ARDEVAN 1998, 71-72).

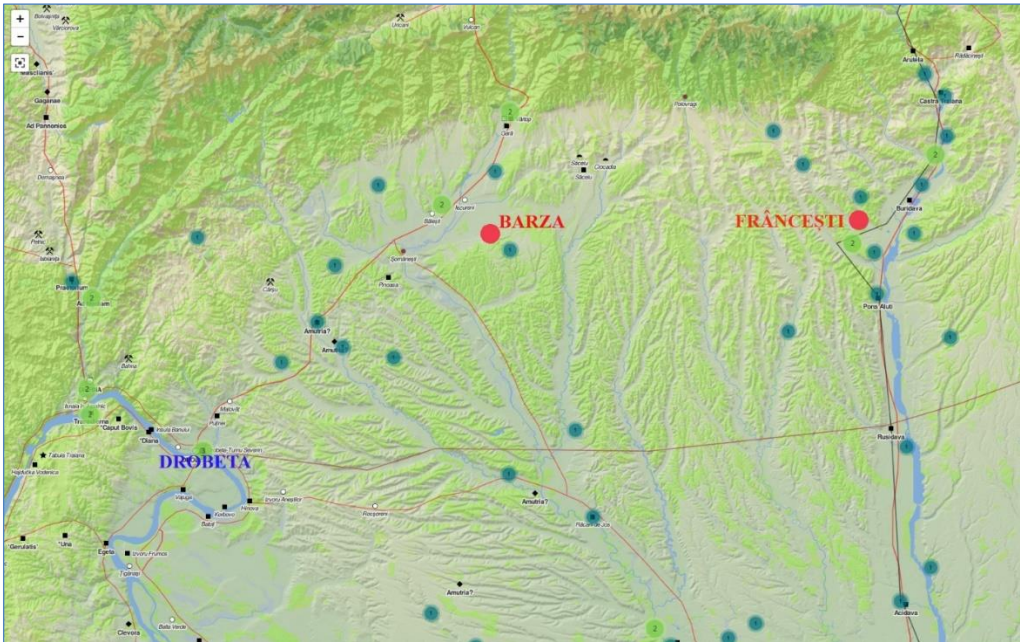


Figure 1. Map of Roman coin hoards from Dacia (highlighting the hoards from Barza and Frânțești) (source: <https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/>).

Of course, there is no direct link between our coins and the two hoards that can be proven once and for all. They were brought up only to show that on the territory of Dacia and even near the site of Drobeta, there are attested hoards of *denarii* with a chronological structure similar to that of our monetary batch. The first of them, discovered at Frânțești, presents numerous compositional and chronological analogies. The second, with a lower degree of similarity, comes from the *territorium* of Drobeta itself. It is possible that our lot of coins originates from such a hoard, discovered perhaps even at the site of Drobeta or, more likely, in close vicinity, before 1931, about which no information has been preserved. Certainly, it is only a presumption that will need further confirmation from other sources.

CATALOGUE<sup>44</sup>

ROMAN REPUBLIC

**Q. Antonius Balbus**

1. AR; 3.380 g; 18x19 mm; 6 h; badly preserved; pierced and plugged;  
 Obv. S • C (in the left field) Laureate head of Jupiter, right; border of dots  
 Rv. Q • ANTO [• BALB / PR] (in exergue) Victory in quadriga to right, holding  
 reins and palm-branch in left hand and wreath in right hand;  
 Rome, *denarius serratus*, years 83-82 BC (RRC I, 379, no. 364/a) or c. year 81 BC  
 (CRR, 119, no. 742).



**L. Farsuleius Mensor**

2. AR; 3.946 g; 17x18 mm; 6 h; well preserved; struck off-centre on the obverse;  
 Obv. MENSOR (in the right field) / [S • C] (in the left field) Bust of Libertas to  
 right, draped and wearing diadem; bead-and-reel border  
 Rv. L • FARSVL[EI] (in exergue) Warrior holding spear and reining in biga to  
 right with left hand; with right hand he assists togate figure into biga;  
 control-mark CD below;  
 Rome, *denarius*, year 75 BC (RRC I, 406, no. 392/1b) or c. year 73 BC (CCR, 130,  
 no. 789).



ROMAN EMPIRE

**Vitellius**

3. AR; 3.412 g; 17x18 mm; well preserved; struck off-centre on obverse and  
 reverse;  
 Obv. Λ VITELLIVS - IMP GERMAN Head of Vitellius, laureate, left; globe at point  
 of bust; palm in front  
 Rv. VICTORIA - AVGVSTI Victory, draped, advancing left, holding shield  
 inscribed SP/QR in right hand;  
 Spain (Tarraco [?]), *denarius*, c. January-June 69 AD (RIC I<sup>2</sup>, 269, no. 36; MER III,  
 72, no. 13) or 69 AD (BMC I, 388, no. 94).



<sup>44</sup> The following abbreviations were used for metals (AR - silver), metrological data (g - gram, mm - milimeter, h - ax/hour), and description of coins (obv. - obverse, rv. - reverse, var. - variant). The coins are currently being inventoried in the collection of the Institute of Archaeology in Iași, Romanian Academy.



**Hadrianus**

4. AR; 3.077 g; 17x18 mm; 6 h; well preserved; struck off-centre on obverse and reverse;

Obv. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Bust of Hadrianus, laureate, drapery on left shoulder, right

Rv. COS – III Spes advancing left, holding flower and hitching robe;

Rome, *denarius*, years c. 124-125 AD (RIC II/3, 122, no. 714, group 4) or end of 125 – beginning of 128 AD (BMC III, 292, nos. 417-420) or year 125 AD (HILL 1970, 159, no. 268, 12<sup>th</sup> issue).



**Antoninus Pius**

5. AR; 2.714 g; 18x20 mm; 6 h; well preserved; struck off-centre on obverse and reverse;

Obv. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P XVI Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right

Rv. COS – IIII Fortuna, draped, standing right, holding vertical rudder on globe in right hand and *cornucopiae*, with point turned from body, in left hand;

Rome, *denarius*, years 152-153 AD (RIC III, 53, no. 222; BMC IV, 115, nos. 790-793).



**Antoninus Pius: Diva Faustina I**

6. AR; 2.942 g; 16x17 mm; 6 h; well preserved; struck off-centre on the reverse;

Obv. DIVA FAV – STINA• Bust of Faustina I, draped, right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top

Rv. AVG – V – STA Pietas, veiled, draped, holding right hand over lighted altar and left hand on side;

Rome, *denarius*, post year 141 AD (RIC III, 72, no. 374) or year 141 AD and immediately afterwards (BMC IV, 63, nos. 450-451 var. obv. and rv.).



**Commodus**

7. AR; 3.068 g; 17x18 mm; 12 h; well preserved;

Obv. M COMM ANT • P – FEL AVG BRIT Head of Commodus, laureate, right

Rv. LIB AVG VI P M TR P XI IMP VII COS V P P Liberalitas, draped, standing left, holding *abacus* in right hand and *cornucopiae*, with point turned from body, in left hand;

Rome, *denarius*, December 185 AD (RIC III, 380, no. 133) or year 186 AD (BMC IV, 721, nos. 175-176 var. obv.; MIR 18, 156, no. 694).



**Commodus: Crispina**

8. AR; 2.857 g; 17x18 mm; 6 h; well preserved;

Obv. CRISPINA – AVGVSTA Bust of Crispina, draped, right, hair waved, bunched in front down cheek and knotted in chignon, low on head



Rv. VE – NVS Venus, draped, standing front, head left, holding apple in extended right hand and gathering up drapery on left sholder;  
Rome, *denarius*, before the year 183 AD (RIC III, 399, no. 286a) or years 180-183 AD (or later ?) (BMC IV, 696, nos. 44-46, var. rv., 2<sup>nd</sup> issue) or years 178-182 AD (MIR 18, 173, no. 19).

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### Septimius Severus

9. AR; 2.520 g; 17x18 mm; 6 h; well preserved; struck off-centre on obverse and reverse;

Obv. L SEPT SEV AVG IMP XI PART MAX Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, drapery on left shoulder, right

Rv. MONETA AVGG Moneta, draped, seated left, holding scales in extended right hand and *cornucopiae*, with point turned from body, in left hand;

Rome, *denarius*, end of 198 or years 199-200 AD (RIC IV/I, 107, no. 135b) or years 198 (late)-200 AD (BMC V, 177, no. 133<sup>‡</sup>) or year 200 AD (HILL 1964, 25, no. 471, 6<sup>th</sup> issue).

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**Acknowledgement.** This work was supported by a grant of the Romanian Academy, within the project number GAR 138/2023 - "Corpus of Roman Finds in the Romanian *Barbaricum*".

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