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# AN OVERVIEW ON HOARDING IN ROMAN SICILY AND THE EVIDENCE OF A NEW IMPERIAL HOARD FROM TYNDARIS<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract:** This article aims at offering a general overview of the hoarding phenomenon of Roman Imperial coins in Sicily, of which we still have a lacunary knowledge.

I have been collecting any available hoard data from Sicily in numismatic periodicals, scattered articles or notes in archaeological reports, data that I am presenting in general, not at the level of individual coins.

Here are listed about fifty hoards, including a few uncertain cases which could be accidental deposits.

Moreover, a new hoard from the urban area of the ancient city of Tyndaris, modern Tindari (Patti, Messina) is presented in detail, an important find - even if not conspicuous regarding the number of coins - which can shed a new light about the first Imperial age, so little documented so far in Sicily.

**Keywords:** *Coin hoards, Sicily, Roman Empire, Tyndaris, sestertii.*

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW OF HOARDING IN SICILY IN IMPERIAL TIMES<sup>1</sup>

**F**ar from pretending to give interpretation keys to explain the patterns of hoarding in Sicily in Imperial times, I am undertaking an attempt of offering a general overview of the hoarding phenomenon which is not equally known for each period for an irregular and lacunary knowledge. This is due to the frequent fortuity of findings, and the rarity of known contexts subjected to archeological investigation.

In view of this publication I have been able to collect

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<sup>1</sup> I deeply thank Cristian Gazdac for the invitation to collaborate to this volume and Maria Caccamo Caltabiano, Professor Emeritus at the University of Messina, for fruitful discussions.

any available hoard data from Sicily browsing numismatic periodicals, scattered news or notes in archaeological reports<sup>2</sup>.

The state of the art grounds on this information and only a little on single articles devoted to the study of specific hoards, as we will see, mainly because, even if various archaeological campaigns have been carried on in the last decades all over the island, the general level of archaeological exploration is still unequal.

I am not going in deep detail, recording these findings at the level of individual coins, even because such precise data are not always available in the case of Sicilian hoards<sup>3</sup>.

Compared to the census of Roman imperial coin hoards found in Sicily (18) presented in the online CHRE<sup>4</sup> - on its way of implementation by the University of Messina as far as it regards Sicily<sup>5</sup> - I have listed about

<sup>2</sup> 'Vite dei Medaglieri' in the Annali dell'Istituto Italiano di Numismatica (AIIN), the synthetic surveys of Kokalos (Studi di storia antica pubblicati dall'Università di Palermo) or the bibliographic references of the Survey of Numismatic Research (since the Sixties), the section 'Fonti Numismatiche' of the Bibliografia Topografica della Colonizzazione Greca in Italia e nelle Isole Tirreniche (BTGCI, 2007-2012), and the archaeological reports in Notizie degli Scavi di Antichità and in other periodicals reporting news about archaeological excavations or occasional numismatic finds in Sicily.

<sup>3</sup> A worthy job in this direction has been carried out by Giuseppe Guzzetta and his scholars (Maria Agata Vicari Sottosanti and Viviana Lo Monaco) for some Sicilian late Roman hoards in the Archaeological Museum 'P. Orsi' of Syracuse. I thank Angela Maria Manenti, Archaeologist in charge of the Medagliere of the Museum of Syracuse, for the information about the hoards kept at the Institution.

<sup>4</sup> The Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project (CHRE - <https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk>) - directed by Chris Howgego and Andrew Wilson - is a joint initiative of the Ashmolean Museum and the Oxford Roman Economy Project, aimed at digitalising coin hoards of all coinages in use in the Roman Empire between approximately 30 BC and AD 400: <http://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk>.

<sup>5</sup> This commitment is planned to begin under my supervision. The task of cataloguing in detail all the data - at coin level - about Roman Imperial Sicilian hoards and of compiling the CHRE online files has been given, under my tutorship, to Ludovica Di Masi, PhD Student in the XXXV PhD Course of the University of Messina (2019/20-2021/22), thesis in progress: "La tesaurizzazione monetale di età romano-imperiale in Sicilia. Dati numismatici nel contesto storico-archeologico".

fifty hoards, including a few uncertain cases which could be accidental deposits. Not all of them are known at the same level of detail; of some of them we have just scanty data, only the place of the find and a vague summary of the contents. On the contrary, for some others we know the contents, but not the exact provenance, not recorded at the moment of the acquisition by the Museums where they are now kept for inaccuracy in recording or reticence of the finders or for being the result of donations or seizures.

We are not considering archival quotations of hoards of which no other traces exist.

For the sake of completeness, I am presenting here the total list of Roman Imperial hoards found in Sicily from the Augustean age to the end of the Roman Western Empire.

I will present all the hoards in a table (fig. 1: Table of Roman Imperial hoards in Sicily) where for each hoard is indicated (if known):

- the **'site of finding'**;
- the **'current disposition'**, namely Museums and Antiquaria or other collections, with the indication of the number of coins actually present, or by now totally or partly dispersed;
- the **'type of finding/ type of acquisition'**: if in course of regular excavations or from an occasional find or recorded in the inventory of the Museum (or other Institution) from acquisition or donation or seizure;
- the specific **'area function'** or **'land use'** of the find, if identified;
- the total **'number of coins'**, when available;
- the grade of **'reliability'** of the whole composition of the hoard is also indicated: total (t), generally just in the case of regular excavation, partial (p), usually when the group of coins come from occasional finds, but in known circumstances, or when there is uncertainty about the integrity of the whole (as in the case of dismembered hoards) or doubtful (d), when too few data are known;

- the **'date'**, a generic attribution or a more precise indication of:
  - the chronological **'range'** of the contents, the period covered from the most ancient issue to the most recent, expressed quoting the issuing authorities, if identified;
  - the hypothetical date of **'burial'** or **'loss'**, usually based on the last coins attested or on traumatic events close to them,
- the summary of its **'contents'**<sup>6</sup>, possibly with the indication of the issuing authorities attested and the list of the **'mints'** represented, if identified;
- the **'bibliography'** including both main editions or specific publications, but also reports and brief notes<sup>7</sup>.

Unfortunately the reliability of a large part of these hoards is not sure at the same level because the hoards recovered in the past century, or even earlier, were often not integer as the competent authorities could give as 'premio di rinvenimento' a part of the find (sometimes without any authority taking notes of the whole contents) to the discoverers. In some cases, the finders could have autonomously and illegitimately kept for themselves the best-preserved coins to commercialise them with the most profit, altering the original composition of the find before delivering it to the competent authorities.

We have also to be careful in handling this material, as 'donators' sometimes polluted the actual contents of some hoards in their possession, adding intrusive material they owned to get rid of anything they irregularly had, delivering the whole bulk - without making any distinction about the circumstances of find - to the State officers.

The general result is a not totally reliable

<sup>6</sup> Lines in bold indicate the general composition of the hoard: metal/s, denomination/s, number of coins. The list of contents is not detailed at coin level, but mentions, where known, the issuing authorities attested.

<sup>7</sup> An asterisk distinguishes specific works, provided by a detailed catalogue of the contents and usually also by images.

frame, in which we have tried - dealing with data often contradictory in the various bibliographic notes - to distinguish what is genuine and really useful to have a likely idea of the hoarding phenomenon.

The rest of the materials which can doubtfully considered 'hoards' can be taken into account only for the sake of circulation reconstruction.

### **SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF IMPERIAL HOARDS IN SICILY**

In Sicily we can distinguish six geomorphological macro areas delimited by natural borders<sup>8</sup> which can be considered somewhat valid from the proto-historic age down to the Hellenistic times, as they circumscribed regions with some difficulty of terrestrial connections with the adjacent ones, before the road system created by the Romans.

In this work, taking into account these geomorphological characteristics, I isolated six areas more or less corresponding to those geomorphological regions, besides the two Archipelagos off Sicily (fig. 2: Map of geomorphological areas of Sicily).

#### **EASTERN SICILY:**

A. **north-eastern Sicily**, corresponding to the area of the modern province of Messina:

A.1. **Tyrrhenian coast** (north-east), from Peloro Cape to Halaesa;

A.2. **Ionian coast** (east), from Peloro Cape down to Naxos;

B. **Aetnaean area (eastern Sicily)**, namely the modern province of Catania, including Aetnaean slopes, down to the Ionian coast, including the Catanaean plain:

B.1. **Ionian coast**;

B.2. **inland**;

C. **Hyblaean area (south-eastern Sicily)**: Syracuse with its inland and the Hyblaean area, including the Ionian coast down to Portopalo di Capo Passero and the

<sup>8</sup> Similarly as I did for my work on coin circulation in Sicily in Greek and Roman Republican times: PUGLISI 2009, 71-72. Grouping based on the Piano Territoriale Paesistico Regionale.

coast overlooking the Strait of Sicily from Portopalo di Capo Passero to the area of the ancient Camarina:

C.1. **Ionian coast.**

**SOUTHERN SICILY:**

C.2. **coast by the Strait of Sicily (south-eastern part);**

C.3. **inland;**

D. **central-southern Sicily (eastern part):** internal area around Piazza Armerina down to the Southern coast around Gela overlooking the Strait of Sicily:

D.1. **coast by the Strait of Sicily (central-eastern part);**

D.2. **inland;**

E. **central-southern Sicily (western part):** area around Agrigentum and its hinterland, down to the coast overlooking the Strait of Sicily:

E.1. **coast by the Strait of Sicily (central-western part);**

E.2. **inland.**

**WESTERN SICILY:**

F. **north-western Sicily**, approximately the area of the provinces of Trapani and Palermo, overlooking the:

F.1. **coast by the Strait of Sicily (south-west)**, until Lilybaeum;

F.2. **Tyrrhenian coast (north-west)**, from Lilybaeum to Coephaloedium.

**Islands off Sicily:**

G. **Eolian Islands**, in the Tyrrhenian Sea, in front of the north-eastern coast of Sicily;

H. **Aegadian Islands**, in front of the western coast of Sicily.

Not all these areas were equally interested by the hoarding phenomenon in Roman Imperial times. I will present the general data known for each hoard following a geographical order from north-east, clockwise (fig. 3: Map of hoarding in Roman Imperial age in Sicily); within each area the hoards will be discussed following a chronological criterion on the basis of the hypothetical date of burial (fig. 1: Table of Roman Imperial hoards in Sicily).

**EASTERN SICILY**

**A. North-eastern area**

For the north-eastern area of Sicily we have some hoarding data regarding both the Tyrrhenian coast, from Messina to Palermo - where are located some Roman villae (Patti, San Filippo del Mela, Terme Vigliatore) - the route of the Roman consular via Valeria, Messina-Lilybaeum<sup>9</sup>, and the eastern zone facing the Ionian Sea.

**A.1. North-eastern area: Tyrrhenian coast (northern Sicily)**

I will present later the hoard of **Tindari 1988** (#1) consisting of Imperial bronzes of the late first-second half of the second century CE<sup>10</sup>.

Too few is known about the dispersed **Spadafora 1830** hoard (#2)<sup>11</sup>, about which the first news list coins of the late first - second half second centuries CE (Domitian, Nerva, Trajan, Antoninus Pius and Faustina)<sup>12</sup>, which can be coherent with the chronology of a local farm dated from the first century BC, still in activity in the first-second century CE<sup>13</sup>.

**A.2. North-eastern area: Ionian coast (eastern Sicily)**

For the territory of **Messina** we have news of a couple of hoards.

One is not very reliable, being a gift to the Museum of Messina (#3)<sup>14</sup>. Its materials are homogeneous and may reflect the actual currency of the second half of the third century, antoniniani from Gallienus to Aurelianus, with no irregular radiates, and bronzes of Maximianus and Diocletian. We have to mention also an older coin, a sestertius of M. Aurelius, probably still accepted in circulation.

Another one, **M.I.R.**<sup>15</sup>, consisting of

<sup>9</sup> UGGERI 1986, 87-88.

<sup>10</sup> See paragraph 'The Tindari 1988 hoard'.

<sup>11</sup> PARISI 1948, 130; MASTELLONI 1997, 26, n. 9.

<sup>12</sup> LA FARINA 1836, 95.

<sup>13</sup> RONDINELLA 2010, 179.

<sup>14</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 270; MANGANARO 2015, 349.

<sup>15</sup> MASTELLONI 1993 (intruders: three Hellenistic coins and probably an as of Commodus). Not presented in fig. 1.

73 specimens, a few antoniniani and small bronzes, from mid third century to the second half of the fifth, does not fall back in the period we are considering, if we accept the identifications of the editor of some coins as Vandal issues.

As far as it concerns the Ionian coast of north-eastern Sicily, we can mention two hoards found during the excavation of an extra-urban area in **Naxos 1986 a-b, contrada Maloprovido**, both analytically studied<sup>16</sup>, which give us a sample of what must be the currency present in that zone especially in the third century.

A group of eight coins (Naxos 1986-b #4) could have represented a small hoard<sup>17</sup>, dated for its contents between the late third and the early fourth century, as the last coins belong to Constantine's successors.

The other one is more conspicuous (Naxos 1986-b #4): 168 coins, including two residual issues of the first century, as common in Sicilian hoards, being the older bronzes worthy to be saved maybe better of the debased current coins in circulation. Worth to mention is the presence of the Tetrici imitations, a clue of possible contact with Gaul. Its burial, as for other hoards of the same period, could be connected to the fear of the Vandal incursions which interested the coasts of Sicily during the fifth century<sup>18</sup>.

### **B. Aetnaen area (eastern Sicily)**

We do not have certain information, but two antoniniani hoards could come generically from this wide area.

A little group of antoniniani (5) from Valerian I and Gallienus to Postumus, acquired by the Museum of Syracuse in 1978 with an uncertain provenance from Catania (#7), come probably from a lost purse or a deliberate concealment<sup>19</sup>, put aside in a very short span of time just after the mid third century.

<sup>16</sup> PUGLISI 2001.

<sup>17</sup> Not a hoard according to MANGANARO 2013, 281.

<sup>18</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 281; MANGANARO 2017, 59-60.

<sup>19</sup> VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2013, 929; GUZZETTA/VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2017, 250.

A larger hoard of 'antoniniani', 103 pieces from Valerian I to Probus, containing also Gallic usurpers radiates from official and unofficial mints, is recorded from an unknown place in Eastern Sicily (**Sicilia Orientale 1978 #6**)<sup>20</sup>.

### **B.1. Aetnaen area (eastern Sicily): Ionian coast**

Giacomo Manganaro touched upon the presence of a group of ten folles of Constantius II from the area of **Catania**, perhaps a portion of a small hoard (#8), known by the scholar, who probably meant to publish it<sup>21</sup>.

More substantiated information on the area of find regard the **Catania 1911** hoard (#9), recorded as coming from San Domenico, close to the necropolis via Dottor Consoli-via Androne, consisting of 710 minimi of the fifth century, yet unpublished. It is said to have been presumably a part of a more conspicuous find, to be connected with the Vandal incursions<sup>22</sup>.

Another group of minimi (138 in total) is mentioned with the heading of **Acireale-Acitrezza** (two close but different locations, not far from Naxos and from Catania). It was delivered as a donation to the 'Biblioteca Zelantea di Acireale'<sup>23</sup>, therefore it can be doubtfully classified as a hoard (#10). Anyway, if it is a genuine group, it is presumably dated around mid-fifth century for the presence of some Valentinian III's pieces, then compatible with the threat of invasion by the Vandals.

### **B.2. Aetnaen area (eastern Sicily): inland**

We have no record of hoarding in the internal part of this region.

### **C. Hyblaean area (south-eastern Sicily)**

This area returned a conspicuous quantity of hoards during the Imperial age.

<sup>20</sup> VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2013, 928-929; GUZZETTA/VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2017, 250.

<sup>21</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 280.

<sup>22</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 282; MANGANARO 2017, 70.

<sup>23</sup> MANGANARO 1970, 304 (nos. 361-498), 307.

### **C.1. Hyblaean area (south-eastern Sicily): Ionian coast**

**Syracuse** in particular returned the highest number of hoards in the eastern coast of Sicily, on the Ionian Sea.

In the cemeterial area of San Giuliano (**Siracusa 1954** #11) has been recovered from a grave a small hoard of just 8 sestertii from Galba to Trajan (second half of first - early second century)<sup>24</sup>, which seem chronologically coherent with the date proposed by the archaeologists for the specific burial.

A first-second century hoard of sestertii (**Marzamemi 1914** #12) was recovered accidentally at the port of call of Pachino (Tyrakion) in a ceramic vessel<sup>25</sup>. The chronological range of the coins is between Nerva and Commodus, under whose reign is dated the last issue, in the name of Crispina (180-183), which appears very worn, so the burial should have been quite later than this date. G. Manganaro put its loss in relationship with the 'Antonine plague' which - in 182/189 - likely reached also Sicily<sup>26</sup>. Marzamemi used to be - as nowadays - a centre of fish-processing, so maybe the presence of this group of coins can be connected with this industrial activity.

The **Capo Ognina** hoard (#13) is a marine find from a shipwreck on the Ionian coast close to the city of Syracuse, dated in the third century, of which not all the 18 or 19 coins were legible. A sestertius is doubtfully attributable to Domitian, the rest of the identified coins are an Hadrianian piece in the name of Antinous of the mint of Smyrna, three pieces of Septimius Severus (mints of Perinthus, Nicaea, Peloponnesus?) and a bronze of Geta from Byzantium, of the first decade ca. of the third century. These Roman Provincial issues are an uncommon presence for Sicily, surely due to the provenance of the ship. In particular the issue of Antinous is rare, so it was inferred by the editor that

<sup>24</sup> GENTILI 1956, 162-163; MANGANARO 2013, 269, n. 14.

<sup>25</sup> MANGANARO 1988, 75-76; MANGANARO 2013, 272-275; VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2013, 927; GUZZETTA/VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2017, 250.

<sup>26</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 273. See PINZONE 2006, 109, 117.

it could have been a charm with apotropaic value for the sailors<sup>27</sup>.

A hoard discovered in Syracuse, **Grottaperciata' 1956** (#14)<sup>28</sup>, in an area where late Roman frequentation has been attested, has returned 34 sestertii of the early second-mid third century, from Trajan to Philippus II, among which there is a prevalence of Alexander Severus' issues. Manganaro reckoned that the burial of the hoard, probably by an individual of a lower class (*tenuiores*) as the sum is not substantial, could be linked to the Decius' persecutions against Christians in 251<sup>29</sup>, but he does not discard the hypothesis of plague attested in the same years<sup>30</sup>.

Savings of more or less substantial groups of alexandrine nummi are registered in Sicily<sup>31</sup>. Their presence is due to the usual relationship between Sicily and Egypt, harking back to the Hellenistic times and earlier. Sicily was a crossing point in the routes to and from Egypt and Africa in general. In this frame has to be put the **Matrensa 1943** hoard (#15)<sup>32</sup>, of which no data about its discovery are known, being a donation to the Museum of Syracuse of just 4 pieces (of Claudius II, Aurelianus and Tacitus) of the second half of the third century.

A very doubtful hoard, also quoted by Manganaro as composed of a not declared number of Gallic 'anomali' radiates, is said to come from **Marzamemi or Avola** (#16)<sup>33</sup>.

From this geographical macro-area come also a group of hoards characterised by the exclusive presence of antoniniani.

Under the heading of **Siracusa 1978** (#17)<sup>34</sup> is known an acquisition of the Museum

<sup>27</sup> KAPITÄN/PRICE 1974, 150-153.

<sup>28</sup> GENTILI 1958-1959, 285-289; CUTRONI TUSA 1982-1983, 397; MANGANARO 2013, 276-278; VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2013, 927-928; GUZZETTA/VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2017, 250.

<sup>29</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 277. See MANENTI 208, 345-346.

<sup>30</sup> Zosim. I, 26, 2. J. Zonaras, *Annal.* xii 21 B. Zosim., i 46, 2.

<sup>31</sup> MANGANARO 2002.

<sup>32</sup> BERNABÒ BREA 213, 1947; CUTRONI TUSA -1982 398, 1983; MANGANARO 624, 2002; MANGANARO 279, 2013.

<sup>33</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 279 (b.n.).

<sup>34</sup> VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2013, 928; GUZZETTA/

of Siracusa of 113 radiates, almost exclusively from the 'Gallic Empire' from both official and unofficial mints, the latter more numerous (68) in the name of both Tetrici. The hoard can be dated in the second half of the third century.

The other hoards containing radiates come from necropolis areas.

From the **ipogeo Trigilia** (#18)<sup>35</sup> in 1912 was excavated a catacomb, where a grave with two inhumated returned 33 radiates of the mint of Rome - a part from three coins of Siscia - whose terminus ad quem for the burial could be 275, while the chronology of the catacomb should be later, around 350 according to the editor.

The cemetery of ex-Vigna Cassia in Syracuse presents a number of graves where more than one coin was buried<sup>36</sup>: if they were votive offers or individual properties buried with the possessor is not easy to detect. We find antoniniani from Gallienus to Quintillus in two cases (**Siracusa 1923 ex Vigna Cassia, b** #20: 13 radiates; **c** #21: 9 radiates) where also jewelry was hoarded, and from Gallienus to Tetricus I in the larger one of 114 radiates (**Siracusa 1923 ex Vigna Cassia, a** #19). In this last one we register a prevalence of Claudius II issues (39) and Divus Claudius (33). All the finds could be dated post 270.

All these multiple graves with more than one body buried make reckon that they could be due to epidemics, like the plague, that prevented people to take away the savings of the deaths for the fear of a contamination<sup>37</sup>.

A later hoard of bronzes of Constantine I and successors covering the first half of the fourth century (335-348) was discovered during a regular archaeological trial in the peristilium of the late Imperial **Villa del Tellaro** (1972 #22) in the filling of a room<sup>38</sup>. The 108 coins recovered, with a peak of issues - corresponding to the half of the total - in the years 347-348, lead to a terminus ad quem

VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2017, 250.

<sup>35</sup> LANTERI 1995; VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2013, 928; GUZZETTA/VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2017, 250.

<sup>36</sup> GARRAFFO 1981, 283-324; CRISAFULLI 2008, 626-628.

<sup>37</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 273-275, 286-287.

<sup>38</sup> VOZA 1972-73, 19; work in progress by G. Guzzetta.

around 348, for the absence of the FEL TEMP REPARATIO issues, dating from 348 and very common in Sicily also as stray finds<sup>39</sup>. This accumulation of coins in the villa confirms a trend noted in Sicily, where usually the rural or the productive areas more than the urban ones seem to be more interested by the presence of currency during the Imperial times. Also, the great variety of mints with a prevalence of Eastern ones and Alexandria seems to mirror a lively trade with the whole Mediterranean area.

The find of **Portopalo** (1981 #23), at the extreme point of Southern Sicily, is reliable, as the 326 coins were uncovered, during regular excavations, all together in a tank for fish-processing of an industrial complex, which is not the only archaeological evidence of the area, which results inhabited in the centuries fourth and fifth and rich as far as it regards numismatic finds<sup>40</sup>. The majority of the coins contained in the hoard are of the series FEL TEMP REPARATIO (above all 'falling horseman'), while other 170 pieces can be classified as AE2. Their chronological range in mid fourth century seems very short, from Constantius II to the usurpers Magnentius and Decentius. The extreme variety of mints attested can be interpreted as a sign of the intense trade linked the production of fish industry, that could have attracted coins facilitated by the presence of a very busy port of call, especially devoted to the trades from and to Africa and also from and to Eastern regions of the Empire. The hoard is dated by its editor ante 355 for the lack of Julianus issues.

A hoard from **Syracuse** (1908, **contrada San Giuliano, ipogeo Attanasio** #24)<sup>41</sup>, is another occasional find in a cemeterial area. The coins were uncovered close to the entrance of a catacomb within a ceramic vessel. The quantity of specimens is conspicuous, 1525 minimi, of which only 188

<sup>39</sup> GUZZETTA 1995, 14-15.

<sup>40</sup> CUTRONI TUSA 1982-83, 401; GUZZETTA 1995, 15-19.

<sup>41</sup> ORSI 1909a, 61 (1545 pieces); MANGANARO 2017, 59-60: detailed catalogue of only 22 pieces.

were in good conditions, so that they could be identified: bronzes from Constantine II to Arcadius and Honorius (fourth century), covering a span of time of about a century. It has been postulated a burial for the fear of the incursions of Alaricus at the beginning of the fifth century<sup>42</sup>.

A similar composition, but in a lower scale as far as it concerns the quantity of coins, is registered for **Siracusa 1922, borgo S. Lucia** (#25)<sup>43</sup>, which counted 235 'monetine in bronzo del basso impero, di piccolo e di minimo modulo' from Constantine, sons and successors until Arcadius, of which only 5 specimens were delivered to the Museum of Syracuse.

In the Museum 'Paolo Orsi' of Syracuse are kept other two hoards or two portions of the same hoard, as both inventoried in 1896, one (**Siracusa 1896-a, 'palazzo Lucchetti'** #26: 698 pieces) coming from a building construction work in **Syracuse** and the other one (**Siracusa 1896-b** #27: 160 pieces) without provenance, consisting of small bronzes of the fourth century<sup>44</sup>.

## SOUTHERN SICILY

### C.2. Hyblaean area (south-eastern Sicily): coast by the Strait of Sicily

Also, the southern coast of the Hyblaean area - by the Strait of Sicily from Portopalo to Camarina - has returned a significant evidence of hoarding.

The most ancient hoard of this zone is **Pozzallo 1908** (#28)<sup>45</sup>, sometimes referred wrongly in literature as Portopalo hoard<sup>46</sup>. It counts a large number of coins 'di grande modulo' (600 ca.) presumably sestertii, of which Paolo Orsi was able to analyse just 229

<sup>42</sup> MANGANARO 2017, 59-60.

<sup>43</sup> GUZZETTA 2017, 171.

<sup>44</sup> Angela Maria Manenti's notes from the Museum archives; in course of study by Maria Agata Vicari Sottosanti.

<sup>45</sup> ORSI 1909b, 65-66; MANGANARO 1988, 79; GUZZETTA 1995, 19; VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2013, 928; MANGANARO 2013, 275-277 (26 pieces catalogued); GUZZETTA/VICARI SOTTOSANTI 2017, 250.

<sup>46</sup> CUTRONI TUSA 1980-1981, 351; CUTRONI TUSA 1982-1983, 400-401, n. 10; CUTRONI TUSA 1990-1991, 350-351.

pieces from Domitian to Philippus II, later dispersed, except for 31 coins still kept at the Museum of Syracuse. Its reliability is weak as it represents only a sample of the original whole hoard.

Considered the large chronological span covered and that the majority of coins are very worn, it seems an accumulation hoard, whose burial could be the mid third century, close to the date of the coins of the Philippi as two pieces are f.d.c. The fact that also two bronzes of Alexander Severus appear as they had not circulated could be a sign of two different moments of savings.

It has been proposed that the concealing of this hoards can be connected with the climate of fear for the persecution of Christians by Trajan Decius or for an episode of plague, as they were not infrequent in those years<sup>47</sup>.

A case apart is the **Camarina** hoard (#29), known under the heading of 'the six Emperors hoard' due to the very first identification of the specimens before their restoration. It was discovered by chance thanks to a sea-storm in 1991 in the bay of Camarina, off Ciaramiraro, followed by archaeological explorations which allowed to collect a total of 4472 antoniniani - published in detail<sup>48</sup> - minted in the span of time of two decades between 253 and 271: 218 from official mints of the central Empire, 500 belonging to the CONSECRATIO issues for the Divus Claudius II, 1772 struck by the Usurpers in Gallia and 1894 imitations of irregular mints ('barbarous radiates'); 88 pieces are illegible because too worn.

The issues of the central Empire are attributable to Gallienus (88), Salonina (1), Valerian II (1), Claudius II (116), Quintillus (8). The Gallic Empire is represented by issues of Postumus (4) Victorinus (71), Tetricus I (1187), Tetricus II (452), one of the two Tetrici (58), the last ones representing the most numerous coins.

The bulk comes from a merchant ship, as the everyday tools on board, like a set of

<sup>47</sup> MANGANARO 1988, 79; MANGANARO 2013, 277.

<sup>48</sup> DI STEFANO 1999, 54-57; GUZZETTA 2012; GUZZETTA 2014; GUZZETTA et alii 2012; GUZZETTA et alii 2015; <http://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/5399>.



scales and weights related to Roman libra standard, point to. The ship was probably in its way from Gallia to Sicily or North Africa before shipwrecking. The terminus ad quem of the loss of this hoard could be 282, for the presence of imitations of Probus.

It seems reflecting the real currency of the moment, as it includes a lot of coins from Gallic mints and from unofficial mints as well and it is also a concrete testimony of the relationship of Sicily with Gaul, from which the ship must have come from<sup>49</sup>. It could be an evidence of the use of delivering coins as goods to the areas where small currency lack, no matter if regular or irregular issues.

In a grave of contrada Mirio of **Santa Croce Camerina** in 1989 (#30) during excavations were uncovered 13 coins, among which there were two much older pieces<sup>50</sup>. The other two coins identifiable - of Constans and Constantius II - are coherent with the deposition, while 9 minimi are of uncertain attribution, anyway to be dated between the second half of the fourth century and the first decades of the fifth.

From the chorion of Caucana at **Punta Secca** (#31) not far from Camarina, in an urban context, on the floor of a room, have been found 84 bronzes from Julianus to the second half of the fourth or first half of the fifth century (457)<sup>51</sup>. According to G. Guzzetta also Vandal issues are identifiable, while G. Manganaro rejected this identification and also the hypothesis that this find can be considered a hoard lost during the years of the Vandal incursions, proposing that it could have been more likely a deposit of coins lost for a sea flood<sup>52</sup>.

<sup>49</sup> GUZZETTA 2012, 23-24.

<sup>50</sup> GUZZETTA 2007, 1557-1558; GUZZETTA 2009, 41. Residual: an onkia of the mint of Akragas of the fourth quarter of the fifth century BC and another Sicilian bronze of Hellenistic times.

<sup>51</sup> PELAGATTI 1968-1969, 355-356; CUTRONI TUSA 1982-1983, 401 (77 pieces); GUZZETTA 1995, 20 (77 pieces); GUZZETTA 2005a, 190, 195 (84 pieces); MANGANARO 2013, 282, n. 66 (82 pieces); MANGANARO 2017, 76-77.

<sup>52</sup> GUZZETTA 2005a, 192. Contra MANGANARO 2017, 76.

### C.3. Hyblaean area (south-eastern Sicily): inland

The site of Cava d'Ispica, inland but not far from the Southern coast of Sicily in front of the Strait of Sicily, has allowed to recover what may seem a not numerous hoard of bronzes (**Cava d'Ispica 1976** #32), whose mints of provenance are various, mostly eastern, from a pre-reform issue of Constans to a coin of Julianus Caesar. The peak of presences is in the mid fourth century and corresponds to Constantius II (18 pcs.)<sup>53</sup>. It was probably buried in the second half of the century.

Modica, on the route between east and central Sicily, has returned only scanty evidence of housing, apart from modest vici and farms linked to wheat culture, maybe because this zone was not part of a economic circuit or object of the central political interests<sup>54</sup>. Just in a necropolis area in '**contrada Treppiedi**', inside some graves were discovered little groups of coins (**Modica 1985 a**: grave 9 #33; **b**: grave 14 #34), in three cases of just a couple of coins in each<sup>55</sup>.

It is a limited but important evidence of the use of the deposition of the coins in graves following a tradition of Greek origin. It is not easy to determine in each case if the coins buried represented personal money taken away from currency - in phase with the burials - or a ritual deposition, because the very poor grave goods do not allow to make a sure distinction. The two groups of coins register a joint presence of more ancient bronzes and antoniniani, fact that points to saving hoards, as the old heavy bronzes of the time of the Principate were somehow comparable to the billon antoniniani then worthy to be saved instead of the poor bronzes of the third-fourth centuries.

In the case of grave 14 (#34), the

<sup>53</sup> RIZZONE/SAMMITO 2001, 55 ('forse parte di un modesto tesoretto'); GUZZETTA 2005b; MANGANARO 2013, 282, n. 69: not a hoard.

<sup>54</sup> SANTANGELO 2008.

<sup>55</sup> GUZZETTA 2009. Grave 3: a sestertius of Maximinus I and an as of Gordian III. Grave 67: an as of Marcus Aurelius, and another one of Faustina II or Lucilla. Grave 34: an as of second-third century and an as of Gordian III.

chronological range is very large (even if we exclude the Hieroneian bronze of the third BC), as the imperial bronzes are dated between Domitian and the early fourth century. It raises the question if the coins are connected with the same deposition or reflect different moments, as the bodies buried are two<sup>56</sup>. The nine coins concealed in grave 9 (#33) present a similar situation: asses of Caligula and Domitian and antoniniani until Quintillus of different mints, which appear to be the effective currency at the moment of the deposition.

Only in the last decades of the Western Empire we register in this area hoarding of aurei: the **Comiso 1936** hoard (#35)<sup>57</sup>, originally of 4950 g of gold, unfortunately broken up, so that only 423 pieces - from Theodosius I to Valentinian III - could have been catalogued. They show an overwhelming prevalence of Honorius issues (303) and a great number of series have been identified as struck in the mint of Ravenna (337). For its characteristics it seems to represent a public reserve<sup>58</sup>, more than personal savings, probably related to a State officer, likely sent to Sicily in connection to the threaten of Vandals, as the last coins here present point to a date of burial corresponding to the period of the Vandal incursions in Sicily that particularly affected the southern coasts on the Strait of Sicily, around mid-fifth century.

#### **D. Central-southern Sicily (eastern part)**

This part of Sicily does not seem to be very much involved in the hoarding phenomenon.

##### **D.1. Central-southern Sicily (eastern part): coast by the Strait of Sicily (central-eastern part)**

It can doubtfully considered a hoard

a group of Alexandrian nummi quoted by Manganaro as a 'ripostiglietto', fruit of a seizure, in the area of **Gela (1935 ca. #37)**<sup>59</sup>.

#### **D.2. Central-southern Sicily (eastern part): inland**

In the central area of Sicily has not been recovered a significant number of hoards.

The **Barrafranca 1921** hoard (#37) is not very useful to understand the typology of hoarding in the area, as we just know it was Roman - with no indication of quantity of pieces, of metal or of denominations - and that it counted at least a coin of a Faustina<sup>60</sup>.

In the territory of Mazzarino, in the zone identified as the Philosophiana statio of the Itinerarium Antonini, was recovered a large and very significant hoard, published in deep detail by Stefania Santangelo and known as **Sofiana 1950** hoard (#38) from the name of the place of burial<sup>61</sup>. About the integrity of this hoard, there are some doubts, 'whether there were other coins added at the core of this hoard'<sup>62</sup>. It consists of 316 coins - including regular and irregular antoniniani - of a wide chronological range from Hadrian to Julianus. The concentration of the coins is in the third-mid fourth century, especially radiates of Claudius II and the Tetrici and just a few sestertii.

This hoard is emblematic for it attests the passage from antoniniani to folles in currency after Diocletian's reform.

An important find, being one of the rare cases of gold saving in Sicily, is **Butera 1939** (#39)<sup>63</sup>. Discovered in an urban area in the hinterland of Gela with a ceramic vessel, probably its container, the hoard was probably composed of 52 solidi from Theodosius II to Valentinian III, of which 41 were catalogued, but only 31 still available at the Museum of Agrigento. As the mints represented are prevalently eastern, it could well have been

<sup>56</sup> GUZZETTA 2009, 41.

<sup>57</sup> STANGANELLI 1950; PANVINI ROSATI 1953; PANVINI ROSATI 1985; GUZZETTA 1995, 20-21; PANVINI ROSATI 2004a, 376, n. 8; PANVINI ROSATI 2004b; GUZZETTA 2009; MANGANARO 2017, 68.

<sup>58</sup> CUTRONI TUSA 1990-1991, 350.

<sup>59</sup> MANGANARO 2002, 625; MANGANARO 2013, 279

<sup>60</sup> LI GOTTI 1956, 191; SORDA 1981, 96.

<sup>61</sup> SANTANGELO 2002.

<sup>62</sup> CHRE 13832.

<sup>63</sup> GRIFFO 1956; GUZZETTA 1995, 21-22; PANVINI ROSATI 2004a, 376, no. 10, 380, n. 22.

an amount of precious money put apart by a State or military official sent to Sicily by the Emperor for the continuous threat of the Vandals, which brought to the battle of Agrigentum, between the army of Gensericus and the general Ricimerus (456)<sup>64</sup>.

### **E. Central-southern Sicily (western part)**

We have only scanty news of hoards from this area.

#### **E.1. Central-southern Sicily (western part): coast by the Strait of Sicily (central-western part)**

It is not possible to classify with certainty as a hoard a group of ten Alexandrian nummi of Claudius II said to come from **Agrigentum** (#40)<sup>65</sup>.

A discovery during excavations is a hoard of 77 antoniniani, among which tetrici, found at the paleo Christian Basilica of **Cattolica Eraclea** (#41)<sup>66</sup>, unfortunately not edited.

In another basilica, the **extra-urban 'basilichetta'** of **Agrigentum** (#42)<sup>67</sup>, bronzes of Constantius II, Valentinian I, Gratian and Valentinian II were collected as a whole group for a total of 27 specimens (21 unattributable) struck in the mints of Rome, Nicomedia and Thessalonica, dated in the fourth century.

The Hellenistic-Roman quarter of **Agrigento, 'località' San Nicola** (#43), returned a late imperial hoard of 30 bronzes, not yet studied and not precisely dated<sup>68</sup>.

#### **E.2. Central-southern Sicily (western part): inland**

No record of hoards comes from this internal part of Sicily.

## **WESTERN SICILY**

### **F. North-Western Sicily**

This area returned hoards of various times from the beginning of the Principate.

<sup>64</sup> GRIFFO 1956, 171-172.

<sup>65</sup> MANGANARO 2002, 625.

<sup>66</sup> FIORENTINI 1993-1994. FIORENTINI 2002.

<sup>67</sup> MACALUSO 2007, 317.

<sup>68</sup> MACALUSO 2007, 315.

#### **F.1. North-western Sicily: coast by the Strait of Sicily (south-west)**

The centre of **Lilybaeum**, which during the fourth century seems to be a lively city in demographic increase with an impulse in the building activity, has returned - from the Porta Nuova zone in a residential area on the way to Capo Boeo - a hoard (**Lilibeo ante 1919** #44)<sup>69</sup> of bronzes of the successors of Constantine, as another one (**Lilibeo s.d.** #45)<sup>70</sup> discovered under the floor of a dwelling whose contents has never been published.

#### **F.2. North-western Sicily: Tyrrhenian coast (north-west)**

The rich silver hoard of **Bagheria 1915** (#46)<sup>71</sup> - with Republican (261, of which some halved) and Augustan denarii (8) - is an occasional find from a zone that was probably praedium of Soluntum. It is also the only **Augustan** hoard known so far. It has also the quite uncommon peculiarity for Sicily of a significant prevalence of western mints rather than Rome: Lugdunum and probably an Iberian one.

Among the most ancient ones of the area are two silver savings, likely part of the same finding, apparently from **Palermo (1893 a-b, #47-48)**<sup>72</sup>, dating from the end of the second century BC or the early first, containing mostly Republican denarii, to the Tiberian age. Unfortunately, no precise data about the recovery are known.

A very long span of time is represented in the **Isola delle Femmine** hoard (#49) that may represent the sample of circulation of each currency at disposal - no matter of which authority - or an accumulation of coins saved through times in a peripheral area, being composed of sestertii - for which we know from just a preliminary note about it<sup>73</sup> - dating from Hadrian to Volusianus, with a closing date close to mid third century.

<sup>69</sup> PACE 1919, 80; CUTRONI TUSA 1982-1983, 398; MANGANARO 2013, 280.

<sup>70</sup> DI STEFANO 1976-1977, 762; CUTRONI TUSA 1982-83, 398.

<sup>71</sup> CUTRONI TUSA 1956, 211-212; MACALUSO 1995.

<sup>72</sup> CUTRONI TUSA 1958-1959, 188-194.

<sup>73</sup> MACALUSO 1987.

In the urban context of **Piazza della Vittoria** in **Palermo** a hoard (#50)<sup>74</sup> of antoniniani of the late third century, not yet published in detail, was found during excavations in 1920.

The only case of gold hoarding in this area is the well-known find of **Partinico** (#51)<sup>75</sup>, of the late Fifties of 1.3 kg of gold for at least 174 coins - 35 multiples and 139 aurei -, dated around 308, lost in consequence of a shipwreck of the vessel presumably in its way to Sicily. The contents of this hoard are today partly dispersed and partly kept in various Museums. The editors presume that, beside a regular withdrawal of currency for personal savings, the hoards assumed its final composition also through donativa<sup>76</sup>.

The case of **Termini Imerese 1984 (a-b # 53-54)** is peculiar as, under the same floor of a house regularly excavated, two groups of coins intentionally concealed have been found. This twin burial, for the homogeneous characteristics of the two accumulations, *minimi* covering a range of almost a century between mid fourth (post-reform) and mid fifth, until Theodosius II, could be considered as a unique hoard<sup>77</sup>.

## ISLANDS OFF SICILY

### G. Eolian Islands (Tyrrhenian Sea, north Sicily)

In the islands off Sicily the only hoards known are two from the island of Lipari.

The first one (**Lipari 1993 #55**)<sup>78</sup> has been excavated during the Nineties campaigns in a late Roman building and comes from a pit - maybe for oil collection - located in a part of the structure maybe dedicated to productive activities. It consists of 64 bronze coins from

<sup>74</sup> GABRICI 1921, 201; CUTRONI TUSA 1982-1983, 398; MANGANARO 2015, 349.

<sup>75</sup> CUTRONI TUSA 1990-1991, 346 (b.n.); DROST/GAUTIER 2011

<sup>76</sup> DROST/GAUTIER 2011. MANGANARO 2013, 280: he doubts about the find in the sea and suggests a discovery in the *mansio* of Parthanicum (*Itinerarium Antonini*, UGGERI 2004, 148-149), *contrada Raccuglia* or in the villa of Serignano.

<sup>77</sup> BELVEDERE/BURGIO/MACALUSO 1993, 263-265.

<sup>78</sup> BERNABÒ BREA/CAVALIER 237-232, 2000; MANGANARO 2013, 282.

Licinius to Valentinian III, whose peak is registered under Constantius II (15 pieces). Its chronological range is from the third to the late fifth century, excluded three much older specimens: a Siculo-Punic coin, an Hellenistic piece of Lipara, a Republican as: residual coins or effective currency it is difficult to state.

Another hoard from **Lipari (Monte Rosa #54)**<sup>79</sup>, an occasional find of 1910, much more substantial as far as it regards its contents, 1745 coins, presents a similar peculiarity: 'residual' coins of Lipara, of a Siculo-Punic mint, of Ebusus and a Republican quadrans and another uncertain Greek piece. For the rest are recorded 5 antoniniani (Gallienus and Divus Claudius II) and a great number of small bronzes, *minimi* (1474 illegible and 59 unattributable), from Constantine I to Leo I, covering a wide chronological span from mid third century to the second half of the fifth, which could be an evidence - considered also their worst conditions - of the transportation of high numbers of coins from outside the island, use that seems attested by the prohibition of delivering great quantity of coins as goods where there was shortage of currency<sup>80</sup>. The burial could be linked to the Vandal incursions.

### H. Aegadian Islands (west Sicily).

It lacks any documentation from the Aegadian Archipelago.

## HOARDING CHARACTERISTICS DURING THE IMPERIAL AGE IN SICILY

The evidence of hoarding during the Imperial age in Sicily (fig. 3: Map of hoarding in Roman Imperial age in Sicily) is not constant, so it is difficult to try to draw an exhaustive and coherent picture of this phenomenon throughout times. This can be due to the fact that the data we have are biased by not uniform archaeological explorations in the island. We cannot anyway neglect the fact

<sup>79</sup> ORSI 1910, 353-359; CUTRONI TUSA 1982-1983, 406; MANGANARO 2013, 282, n. 67; MANGANARO 2017, 71-76.

<sup>80</sup> C. Th. IX, 23,1. See GUZZETTA 1999, 384.

that this situation may depend also or in part on other factors that determined a not widespread hoarding; furthermore in Sicily some conditions were the effects not of events actually occurred there, but consequences of what happened at central level such as the increase or the decrease of currency and the inconstant monetary supply<sup>81</sup> from Imperial mints or also the presence of State officers or troops.

### A. LOCATION

In general we can observe that the hoarding phenomenon (fig. 3: Map of hoarding in Roman Imperial age in Sicily) is more frequent in the coasts, especially in the eastern part of the island, probably because the ports of north eastern Sicily - both Tyrrhenian and Ionian - and of the south eastern part of the island - both on the Ionian coast and on the Strait of Sicily - were more involved, as ports of call, in the trade routes to East and Africa (Egypt in particular) from Rome and probably Gallia. It is matter of fact, as the Edictum de pretiis by Diocletian reveals, that Sicily was considered crucial for Rome in the Mediterranean trade not only in the eastern directory, being also a trait d'union between Rome and Egypt and Africa<sup>82</sup>.

Much less touched by the presence of hoards is instead the western part of Sicily with the exception of the first decades of the Empire, when there was apparently a privileged relationship with the central power, due to the location in this part of the island of the administrative centres of the province.

Furthermore, the majority of hoards come from areas close to productive structures, likely because the proximity to villae, which wealth was founded on agricultural exploitation of the land or on the output of industrial complexes, often gravitating around mansiones<sup>83</sup>, attracted more coins. It was due to the trade of goods, which was facilitated by

the existence of preferential roads to the coast directed to the ports, from where departed the agricultural products and raw material of which Sicily was rich<sup>84</sup>, following the various maritime routes to Africa, to eastern Mediterranean, to Rome and to Gallia. It is not casual in fact that some hoards were lost in shipwrecks close to Sicilian coasts where they were directed or they meant to stop in their customary routes. The main indicators of such intense relationships are undoubtedly African pottery, whose presence is relevant in Sicily with some concentration in particular zones<sup>85</sup>, and Gallic radiates, so widespread all over the island in the third century.

### B. CONTENTS

As far as it concerns the contents of Sicilian Imperial hoards, they are mainly represented by bronze coins, with the exception of some Augustan silver stocks put away from circulation and of few cases of gold savings in the fifth century.

The owners seem to belong to high/middle social level, growing in Sicily during deep changes in the social-economical field, few divites living in the villae all over the island<sup>86</sup> and plenty of pauperes not much involved in the monetary economy, even if little coin groups from graves could well be related to poorer individuals both if they represented offers or part of the burial goods.

The majority of the hoards analysed appear homogeneous in their composition, spanning in a limited period of time, so mirror of the real currency, in some cases including residual specimens of old large bronzes of first-second centuries - often very worn - probably not to be considered intrusive but actually still in circulation<sup>87</sup> in the third or fourth centuries

<sup>84</sup> Besides wheat there were other goods exported by Sicily, e.g. sulphur and rock salt (in general: UGGERI 2001-02).

<sup>85</sup> See for instance BONACASA CARRA/VITALE 1997-1998, 397-447.

<sup>86</sup> Some of them arrived in the fifth century from Rome to escape the danger of the barbarian invasions: MANGANARO 2017, 61.

<sup>87</sup> LONGO 2014, 182: it has been noticed that residual coins tend to persist in the inland areas preferably in eminent places or on the coast close to mansiones.

<sup>81</sup> CUTRONI TUSA 1990-1991, 341.

<sup>82</sup> UGGERI 1982-1983, 455. See also DE SALVO 1999.

<sup>83</sup> Barrafranca-Calloniana, Punta Secca-Caucana, Piazza Armerina-Philosophiana, statio of Portopalo etc. See LONGO 2014.

along with debased radiates and minimi or just worthy to be hoarded for their good intrinsic value. A different explanation can be found for older coins in graves as they can be interpreted as a reuse of demonetised pieces as part of the rituals related to the burial<sup>88</sup>, as it was not uncommon in graves to deposit coins with no legal tender as an offer.

The variety of mints attested in Sicilian hoards - Alexandria, western mints (Treveri, Aquileia, Roma, Siscia), eastern (Thessalonica, Constantinopolis, Nicomedia, Cyzicus, Antiochia) - gives us the perception of the relationships between Sicily and the external through trade and the spatial range of exchanges, which is confirmed in general by coin circulation data.

### C. CHRONOLOGY

If hoarding in the **first** century is very limited numerically, just three cases of silver denarii, and geographically, Palermo area, it slightly increases in the **second** century affecting the eastern part of Sicily (four savings of sestertii), until the Antonines, as evident also from single finds<sup>89</sup>.

It is possible, instead, to observe a decrease almost a vacuum in currency in Sicily in the Severian age until the second half of the third century, situation mirrored in hoarding.

The phenomenon is more widespread and intense in the second half of the **third** century with almost twenty hoards concentrated on the Ionian coast with only few cases on the Strait of Sicily and just a couple in the north-western Tyrrhenian coast, containing in rare cases sestertii, mostly antoniniani, regular and irregular. The habit of accumulating and securing personal savings becomes more important (almost thirty hoards) in the **fourth** and in the **fifth** century due to a climate of insecurity for the presence in the Mediterranean, especially in the Strait of Sicily, of pirate fleets threatening the southern coasts of Sicily and above all due

<sup>88</sup> GUZZETTA 2009, 41.

<sup>89</sup> MACALUSO 2006, 318.

to the fear for Vandal incursions, which in various cases caused their definitive loss.

### D. TYPOLOGY

Among all these Sicilian Imperial hoards we can isolate five different main groups according to their contents:

- a. **'transitional hoards'**: from Republican to Augustean age, consisting of silver denarii;
- b. **'large bronzes hoards'**: usually sestertii and/or dupondii and asses dated between the Flavians and the Antonines;
- c. **'antoniniani hoards'**: generally containing only antoniniani, rarely accompanied by bronzes;
- d. **'minimi hoards'**: more or less conspicuous accumulations of small bronzes;
- e. **'aurei hoards'**: monometallic high value savings.

It is always tricky and risky trying to recognise patterns of hoarding and to find a common explanation for the creation of hoards, which were often the expression of transitory collection of savings withdrawn from circulation ready to be used when needed by single individuals<sup>90</sup> or buried with the aim and the hope of recovering all, at the end of any emergency or hazard. We must always be cautious as personal reasons - impossible to be detected by us - may well be a major cause of hoarding.

The unforeseen circumstances of non-recovery could be the most different for each one - accidents, diseases, death -, but it could be less hazardous in case of a significant number of hoards with the same characteristics in the same area. In these cases, it would be then worthy to seek for unexpected negative events involving the community such as fires, plague, earthquakes, floods, latrones, social riots, turmoil, persecutions, pirates incursions, military attacks...

Even if no war events occurred in Sicily during the first centuries of the Imperial age, among the possible causes of loss of savings, it

<sup>90</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 272.

is not to neglect a series of epidemics that hit various zones of the Empire: in 250 in Africa (Mauritania) and Italy in 251, in 269 and again in 270. Of some of them we have evidence also in Sicily, especially about plague<sup>91</sup>, but also malaria<sup>92</sup>, to which some multiple burials in necropolis could be connected<sup>93</sup>. Moreover, through maritime traffic from/to Rome to/from East and Egypt the epidemics could quickly spread, like the famous 'Antonine plague' during M. Aurelius' reign from East<sup>94</sup>.

In the case of Sicily we have record of some situations or traumatic events<sup>95</sup> which may have compelled people to try to save their precious goods from an imminent danger, or we can infer that hazards, more or less reported by ancient sources, may have affected Sicily or certain areas of the island, possibly determining the loss of personal savings, first of all a series of earthquakes, like the ones occurred in AD 17, 306-8, 365<sup>96</sup>, 374<sup>97</sup>, in some cases with consequent probable seaquakes.

Another situation with tragic effects also in Sicily was the persecution of Trajan Decius against Christians in the years 244-247<sup>98</sup>.

Also riots are known in Sicily under Gallienus (260-269), which caused the dispersion of rebels which probably acted as *latrones* on the territory<sup>99</sup>.

Last, we recall other threatens from the sea, that could have been the cause of the hiding of some hoards: the Visigots of Alaricus, who after the fire of Reggio (410) probably finalised some incursions in the island<sup>100</sup>, and above all the menace, preceded by various

<sup>91</sup> Zosim. I, 26, 2. J. Zonaras, *Annal.* xii 21 B. Zosim., i 46, 2.

<sup>92</sup> PINZONE 2006, 109, 117; MANGANARO 2013, 274-275.

<sup>93</sup> GARRAFFO 1981, 283-324 and LANTERI 1995, 40-49; MANGANARO 2013, 279.

<sup>94</sup> Cass. Dio, 72 (73), 14, 2 s.; Herodian. I.12,1. MARCONE 2002, 803-804.

<sup>95</sup> CUTRONI TUSA 1990-1991.

<sup>96</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 280.

<sup>97</sup> FASOLO 2013, 33.

<sup>98</sup> MANGANARO 1988, 79; MANENTI 2008; MANGANARO 2013, 277-278.

<sup>99</sup> SHA v. Gall. 4, 9; MANGANARO 2017, 56.

<sup>100</sup> MANGANARO 2017, 56; MARCONE 2002, 851-867.

attacks, of a Vandal disastrous invasion, which actually occurred in 440 in Palermo<sup>101</sup>, followed by other incursions in the southern coasts of Sicily during the second half of fifth century, which led to the battle fought in 456 close to Agrigento, around the coastal area, between the Vandals of Gensericus and the general of the Western Empire Ricimerus, who momentarily stopped them, without managing to prevent other attacks until 475, also after the peace treaty of 460<sup>102</sup>.

#### a. 'Transitional hoards'

These hoards, containing *denarii* both Republican and of the first issues of Augustus, with evidently reached quickly Sicily, are preferable located in the Western part of the island (Palermo #47-48, Bagheria #46), as there was a privileged and fast route from the central administration to the province administrators, located in Western Sicily, to deliver coin supply under the direct control of Rome.

#### b. 'large bronzes hoards'

Actually, we register a gap in hoarding between Augustus and the Flavians, as the supply of Roman coinage had experienced a slowdown during the Julio-Claudian Emperors after the shutdown of all the Sicilian mints by Tiberius<sup>103</sup>. Once diminished the supply of silver, it apparently became quite common saving and concealing large bronzes such as *sestertii*, *dupondii* or *asses*. This trend continues till the Antonines.

It does not seem then that the very conspicuous bulk of large bronzes struck by Rome in the first centuries of the Empire - especially for western provinces - reached in great quantity Sicily<sup>104</sup>, anyway a few hoards especially in the eastern part of Sicily on the Tyrrhenian coast (Tindari #1, Spadafora 1830

<sup>101</sup> Valentinianus III granted the *remissio tributorum* to Sicilian possessores in 440 after the Vandal incursions (Nov. Valent., 1, 2; C.Th. II, 73-74).

<sup>102</sup> GIUNTA 1958, 64-65.

<sup>103</sup> MACALUSO 2006, 318.

<sup>104</sup> The *sestertii* hoards are quite common in Lombardia, Veneto, Sardegna, as shown by BERNARDELLI 2014, 100.

#2) and on the Hyblaean coastal area (Siracusa 1954 S. Giuliano #11, Marzamemi 1914 #12 and Pozzallo 1908 #28) are recorded.

The closure dates of some of these hoards around the time of the Antonines (Tindari 1988 #1, Spadafora 1830 #2, Marzamemi 1914 #16) could correspond to the years of the great 'antonine plague', which invested Italy and presumably also Sicily in 182/189<sup>105</sup>, a likely cause for the non-recovery of personal savings.

A few other large bronzes hoards are later as their date of closure is in the third century (Grottaperciata 1956 #14, Pozzallo 1908 #28, Isola delle Femmine 1889 #49), but they maintain their homogeneous nature with peaks in the number of specimens between Alexander Severus and Gordianus III.

### c. 'Antoniniani' hoards

After the rarefaction of circulation in Sicily, and consequently in hoarding, during the Severian age, there is a gradual recovery in the use of coinage, attested in general in the numismatic finds, in correlation with the introduction of 'antoniniani', quite rare at first, then more and more present, especially from the age of Gallienus, with peaks of Claudius II's issues and 'tetrici', so that they became the most common denomination in circulation in Sicily; very frequent are also imitation radiates<sup>106</sup>.

A common characteristic among Sicilian 'antoniniani hoards' is that they are usually the sole denominations present (Sicilia Orientale 1978 #6, Catania? 1978 #7, Marzamemi or Avola #16, Siracusa 1978, dintorni #17, Siracusa 1912, ipogeo Trigilia #18, Siracusa 1923, ex Vigna Cassia a-b-c #19, #20, #21, Camarina 1991 #29, Cattolica Eraclea 1994 #41, Palermo 1920, Piazza della Vittoria #48).

Just in a few hoards they are accompanied by bronzes and they are all dated later, in the fourth century (Naxos 1986 b #4, Modica 1985 b #34, Sofiana 1950 #38) or in the fifth (Naxos 1986 a #5, Lipari 1910, Monte Rosa #54), while a lack of coeval bronzes - asses and

<sup>105</sup> MANGANARO 1988, 75-76; MARCONE 2002, 803-804; MANGANARO 2013, passim.

<sup>106</sup> MACALUSO 1995, 306.

dupondii of Gallienus or asses of Claudius II - is noteworthy.

An exception is sometimes the residual presence of sestertii of the first centuries of the Empire (Messina post 1908? #3, Naxos 1986 b #4, Modica 1985 a-b #33, #34, Sofiana 1950 #38, Lipari 1910, Monte Rosa #54), maybe because these denominations were perceived as more reliable compared to silver constantly devaluating<sup>107</sup>, then worthy to be hoarded with or better than antoniniani. For some scholars they could have filled the gap of contemporary bronzes being of similar weight<sup>108</sup>.

The location of the 'antoniniani hoards' is mainly south eastern Sicily, an area characterised by the productive system of stationes/mansiones, based on agriculture, turned outwards, towards exchanges outside Sicily, easily detectable by the evidence of the issuing centres identifiable from the coins and by the evidence of the origins of pottery or amphorae attested in loco.

Furthermore, the sites of the findings confirm the provenance of the antoniniani especially from Gallia through Italy or from Italy and the maritime routes directed to Sicily and to Africa, where from 270 the incoming flow of antoniniani was continuous<sup>109</sup>, due to trade.

Sicily is then not exempt from the arrival of a mass of 'barbarous radiates' from Gallia before Aurelianus' reform of 274<sup>110</sup> aimed at facing the invasion of these irregular issues (Sofiana 1950 #38, Sicilia orientale 1978 #6), in particular from the sea (Naxos 1986 a #5, Capo Ognina 1961 #13, Marzamemi or Avola #16, Siracusa 1978, dintorni #17, Siracusa, ex Vigna Cassia a-b-c #19, #20, #21, Camarina 1991 #29), circulating - and for a long time as their intense wear demonstrates - along with regular issues, as they are saved and concealed together.

In particular imitations of Tetrici and of Claudius II and other irregular radiates,

<sup>107</sup> TURCAN 1963, 51.

<sup>108</sup> GIUNTELLA 1998, 68-69; GUZZETTA 1999; GUZZETTA 2007.

<sup>109</sup> SANTANGELO 2002, 114-115.

<sup>110</sup> Zosim. i 61, 3.



evidence of a constant and direct relationship of Sicily with Gaul<sup>111</sup>, have been for long time in circulation beyond the fourth century with the function of extra supply in shortage or absence of regular issues<sup>112</sup>, tolerated then for this scope by the central Empire, for covering the necessity of lower denominations<sup>113</sup> until Diocletian's reform and the introduction of small bronzes, namely folles and follis fractions, attested also in Sofiana hoard (#38), which represents the transition to the new system of follis.

#### **d. 'Minimi hoards'**

These more or less conspicuous accumulations of small bronzes represent the typical Sicilian situation of hoarding of the mid-fifth century when the bronzes of the fourth century, very common in Sicily<sup>114</sup>, were deliberately clipped to be assimilated for their weight to fifth century reduced AE4<sup>115</sup>.

Some of them (Lipari 1910, Monte Rosa #54) seem to be an evidence of the arrival of large quantities of small change from outside, quite widespread use, if a law promulgated by Constantius II and Julianus Caesar - and known thanks to the Codex Theodosianus<sup>116</sup> - prohibited the fusion of coins and the delivery from region to region of the Empire to be traded as goods, as it is proved for regions where there was a lack of currency, as Spain and Africa<sup>117</sup>; Sicily could probably have been involved in this deliver of bulk of coins, being in the route between Gaul and Africa.

As G. Manganaro noted<sup>118</sup>, it appears that in Sicily in the fifth century hoards evidence is dominated by savings of just poor

<sup>111</sup> MANGANARO 1988, 81-84; WILSON 1990, 275; GUZZETTA 1999, 384.

<sup>112</sup> See MASTELLONI 1993.

<sup>113</sup> See the case of Africa: MACALUSO 1992, 329; SANTANGELO 2002, 111-112.

<sup>114</sup> Like the series FEL TEMP REPARATIO (after 348) and SPES REI PVBLICAE (after 358) and SECVRITAS REI PVBLICAE and GLORIA ROMANORVM (regular supply after 364).

<sup>115</sup> BELVEDERE/BURGIO/MACALUSO 1993, 264. MACALUSO 1995, 306-307; MACALUSO 2006, 319.

<sup>116</sup> C. Th. IX, 23,1.

<sup>117</sup> GUZZETTA 1999, 384 with specific bibliography.

<sup>118</sup> MANGANARO 2013. Especially 282.

currency, belonged, according to the scholar, to farmers, as after Diocletian's reform from the 4th century in Sicily it was frequent the use of this large quantities of small bronzes in the exchanges for the lack of gold, so that even the prices were expressed in myriades (of bronze coins, namely folles)<sup>119</sup>.

#### **e. 'Aurei hoards'**

Gold coins in Sicily are so rare that they appear as anomalies in the general frame of Sicilian numismatic finds, hoards in particular.

Regarding the three cases of aurei hoards so far known for Sicily, they are likely to be put in relation with occasional external presences, as the Partinico hoard (1958? #51) which has been connected with a eminent officer who has slowly collected his earnings between the end of the 3rd century and the beginning of the 4th, similarly for the other two (Comiso 1936 #35 and Butera 1939 #39), whose owners could well have been figures sent by Emperor in Sicily during the difficult moment of the Vandal threaten in the mid fifth century, whose effects could have caused the loss of both.

\* \* \*

### **THE 'TINDARI 1988' HOARD**

I have been recently authorised to study an unpublished occasional find from the urban area of the ancient city of Tyndaris, on the north-eastern coast of Sicily, that I am going to present in detail.

#### **a. Ancient Tyndaris**

##### **a.1. Tyndaris in Greek times**

Tyndaris<sup>120</sup>, whose foundation, on the top of a steep slope, harks back at the beginning of fourth century BC, as a settlement of the mercenaries of Dionysius I of Syracuse, became a polis during the Hellenistic times,

<sup>119</sup> MANGANARO 2013, 285, with extensive documentation.

<sup>120</sup> GULLETTA 2011. A complete presentation of the ancient site with the related sources and with bibliography until 2011.

endowed with a landing place. Its location, in a prominent position on the north-eastern coast of Sicily, on the Tyrrhenian Sea, was strategical for both military and trading reasons.

In Tyndaris was active a local mint from the fourth century through the Timoleonian age and again productive from the age of Pyrrhus to the Punic Wars.

### **a.2. Tyndaris during the Roman Republican age**

The urban area grew constantly in the Republican age after the creation of the province of Sicilia and Tyndaris was considered *civitas nobilissima*<sup>121</sup> so that it attracted Verre's interest and his consequent robberies<sup>122</sup>.

The topography of the Roman site reflected the Hellenistic one, with the urban area located on a plateau extended to west to the Rocca Femmina, down to the Cercadenari district, where there was a public space equipped also with sacred and monumental buildings, probably overlapping the asset already existent.

From ancient sources<sup>123</sup> we know that in 36 BC the centre was a naval basis of Sextus Pompeius, for this reason some scholars<sup>124</sup> hypothesize that the mint was opened also during his presence.

### **a.3. Tyndaris during the Principate**

After a period of decline at the end of the Republic, due to Verre's despoliations and the gradual loss of autonomy in favour of a major Roman control, Tyndaris seems to recover at the beginning of the Principate, due to the fact that Augustus gave to the city the status of *Colonia Augusta Tyndaritanorum*<sup>125</sup> and likely also the right to strike coins, as few other cases in Sicily. Two issues, one of

<sup>121</sup> Cic., Verr., II,3,103.

<sup>122</sup> It is well known, among the other crimes, the episode of the theft of the golden statue of Hermes (Cic., 2 Verr., 4,39,84) located in the gymnasium (Cic., 2 Verr., 5,72,185).

<sup>123</sup> App., BC, 5, 11, 105.

<sup>124</sup> MARTINI 1998; CAMPANA 2001.

<sup>125</sup> Plin., n.h., III,90; CIL, X,7474-7476; 7478; 7480.

Sisenna<sup>126</sup> - probably the second proconsul of Tyndaris after the colony deduction - and one of the proconsul Mussidius Longus<sup>127</sup> - governor of Sicily under Augustus<sup>128</sup> - have been attributed to this mint<sup>129</sup>.

The consequences of these political measures revitalised this centre, which had been listed instead among the *πολίχνια* or *πολίσιματα* by Strabo<sup>130</sup>, who noted its decrease compared to the previous situation during the Hellenistic times and the early Republic.

The city in the Augustan period began to come out from the crisis of the rural production system, due to the runaway of slaves joining Sextus Pompeius, the conflicts of the late Republican time and the subsequent looting and requisitions.

Augustus probably meant to take advantage of the crucial geographical position of Tyndaris for the transport of goods - especially wheat - as outlet from the inland. Thanks to its harbour - probably located in the Oliveri bay<sup>131</sup>, it represented an ideal starting point for the Tyrrhenian marine routes to Eolian Islands and to North and also an alternative, more convenient than Messina harbour, to reach faster by sea the western part of Sicily<sup>132</sup>. Also by land it was possible to reach Lilybaeum, as Tyndaris was located in proximity of the *via Valeria*<sup>133</sup> - the consular road from the Traiectus of Peloro Cape to Lilibeo Cape<sup>134</sup> - the main northern way of the Sicilian road system created by the Romans. Tyndaris is in fact mentioned in the *Itinerarium Antonini* as one of the four most important mansiones of Sicily, of which some remains have been discovered, besides the

<sup>126</sup> RPC I, 668 (duumviri L. Staius Flaccus and P. Cotta Bal.).

<sup>127</sup> RPC I S., 627.

<sup>128</sup> RE, XVI 1, 1933, 900 nr. 1.

<sup>129</sup> PITOTTO 1996; VILLEMUR 2015a and VILLEMUR 2015b.

<sup>130</sup> Strabo, 6, 2, 1; 6, 2, 5.

<sup>131</sup> BOTTARI et alii 2009, 70.

<sup>132</sup> UGGERI 1982-1983.

<sup>133</sup> PARISI 1948.

<sup>134</sup> *Itinerarium provinciarum* 90,6-93,1 (a Lilybeo per maritima loca Tindaride), 90,5 (a Messana Tindaride). See also *Itinerarium Antonini* (3<sup>rd</sup> century) and the *Tabula Peutingeriana* (4<sup>th</sup> century).

rests of a statio in contrada Locanda, linked to the fiscal aspect of the maritime traffic<sup>135</sup>, as Tyndaris was presumably one of the Sicilian cities subject to pay portorium to Rome, a maritime tax of 5% on goods imported or exported through the ports<sup>136</sup>.

### URBAN AND RURAL LANDSCAPE OF TYNDARIS IN THE IMPERIAL AGE

The urban area of the first and middle Imperial age, of about 27 ha. within a wall circuit of 3 km ca.<sup>137</sup>, is an important complex on three levels: in the western part of the plateau there was a public area and a rich thermal building of the second-third century on the top. There are traces also of large domus of first-second century in the insula IV. In the lower terrace there are remains one of the cemeterial areas related to the Roman Imperial settlement so far discovered (another in contrada Cercadenari and another outside the main gate).

A third domus dating at the beginning of the second century has been excavated in contrada Cercadenari on the opposite area.

The Imperial urban occupation is concentrated in the strip of 10 km NW-SE 1.5 km wide on the Timetus river, probably the ager of the colonia, to which is connected a structure perhaps with function of control or sighting point on the river.

After the deduction of the colonia the rural landscape asset should have changed in favour to a new form of exploitation of the land with extensive cultivation<sup>138</sup>, while the old local aristocracy, subject to pay to Octavian war indemnities, suffer a consequent fall of their agricultural income.

In the first Imperial age at the north-western end are recorded urban interventions around a monumental building in a space probably already destined for public use in the Hellenistic age, pendant of another complex at the south-eastern end around what could have been the agorà-forum or gymnasium

with a porticus, along the so called "basilica", a multifunctional building from which statues of the Julio-Claudian family were recovered.

An inscription on a statue basement with the title Dacicus may refer to Trajan, while other fragmentary inscriptions are dedications to Marcus Aurelius Verus, before and after having the title of Augustus, and also to Lucius Verus by a curator Reipublicae, M. Valerius Vitalis<sup>139</sup>, role probably to be related to some extraordinary intervention of economic nature promoted by the central administration of the Empire<sup>140</sup>.

Maybe the presence of the curator reipublicae is to be connected with a phase of restoration in the urban area in the second half of the first century - domus B and C in the insula IV and of the insula XVA - and in the second century, when were undertaken also the rearrangement of the theatre also for spectacula and the transformation of a residential building in the insula IV into a public thermal complex.

During the second half of the second century, there was probably a decrease in population and in the vitality of the city: also the maintenance interventions on the drainage system stop. The domus in contrada Cercadenari results abandoned at the beginning of the third century.

In this general frame of decrement of urban life, we have to take into account also the possibility that it was the consequences of epidemics - 'Antonine plague', malaria... - which affected Sicily<sup>141</sup> and its economy with a subsequent population decrease, or the effects of some natural disaster like the one that once had caused the collapse of 'dimidia urbs' - from the promontory - into the sea, as Plinius<sup>142</sup> described, maybe as a consequence of an earthquake, like many others which affected this zone in ancient times<sup>143</sup>.

<sup>139</sup> CIL, X, 7474-7475.

<sup>140</sup> MANGANARO 1988, 75. Contra: SARTORI 1989.

<sup>141</sup> PINZONE 2006.

<sup>142</sup> Plin., n.h., II, 206.

<sup>143</sup> Between the first BC and the fourth century AD we have record of relevant seismic events in 91 BC, then in AD 17, 365, 374 (FASOLO 2013, 33).

<sup>135</sup> BOTTARI et alii 2009, 70.

<sup>136</sup> SCRAMUZZA 1937.

<sup>137</sup> SPIGO 2005, 30.

<sup>138</sup> FASOLO 2014, 217.

Also the surveys in the area<sup>144</sup> revealed a peak of materials in the first and second centuries with a sensitive decrease in the third, especially if we observe the most important indicators of frequentation which are, beside the 'terra sigillata' (prevalently African), the wine-amphoras of first-second centuries of local production (exported also in Italy and Africa).

From the survey is also evident for the same span of time a larger and more intense exploitation of the agricultural territory, as some stable rural settlements in the land all around seem to confirm.

Between the second and the third century the economic crisis seems to have touched also the ager, considered the little archaeological evidence related to minor productive units.

### **COIN CIRCULATION IN THE AREA OF TINDARI**

The centre of Tyndaris was accustomed to the use of coins as there was a local mint active - even if not constantly - from the mid fourth century down to early Principality of Augustus.

Moreover, the coin finds in the area attest a regular presence of currency, local and from other Sicilian centres and later since the time of the Punic Wars and over from Rome<sup>145</sup>. Some other single finds from stratigraphical excavations of the urban area - and stray finds as well - are going to be published in the next future and will certainly shed new light on the characteristics of coin use in this centre in Roman times<sup>146</sup>.

From what we know in general of circulation in Sicily in the first and second century CE, the currency decreases progressively from the Augustan age, when

<sup>144</sup> FASOLO 2013 and 2014, *passim*.

<sup>145</sup> PUGLISI 2009, 108-109; 340-343, with catalogue of single finds and previous bibliography.

<sup>146</sup> In the second volume of the series 'Tindari' (see volume 1 edited by LEONE - SPIGO 2008) will be presented the numismatic finds from the regular archaeological campaigns at Tindari, carried out during the past decades by dott. Umberto Spigo, who entrusted me of their study.

it seems to be significative the supply of Imperial issues to the island, whose role also compensated the lack of coinage due to the shutdown of the local mints, apart from few exceptions<sup>147</sup>.

The numismatic evidence for first and second centuries in Sicily is not numerous so this hoards is important in the general frame of the hoarding phenomenon in the island in the Imperial times, as accumulations of coins of this period are more frequent in the south-eastern area of Sicily, as there was a privileged route from the central power to the most productive areas of Sicily in terms of rural exploitation and for the facilities offered by numerous ports, outlet of the goods produced in the inland territories. Tindari represents then an interesting 'exception' or a confirm that also in this area there was an intense trade activity due to the agricultural production.

During the second century the currency recorded in whole Sicily, even if not numerous, appear a bit more widespread and various as far as it regards the denominations, not only in urban centres, but more and more in rural settlements (*vici*, *villae* or farms) and *stationes* and *mansiones* attesting that the reason for the presence of coins in the territory was linked to productive activities, agricultural or industrial, and in addition to the proximity of a port and Tyndaris had both these characteristics.

Moreover, the few moments of increase in coin supply in Sicily correspond to the years between 120 and 160, with peaks in Trajan's age and under Hadrian, to decrease again during the Antonines, as mirrored in our hoard and in Tyndaris in general.

### **The area of the finding of the hoard**

Even if the finding is accidental and it is not possible to put it in relationship to any specific building, it is sure that the hoard comes from the *insula V* of the city, as it

<sup>147</sup> The data are deeply biased by the different intensity of the archaeological investigations to which the various areas of the Sicilian territory have been subjected through time and by the limited number of publication about Roman Imperial coins.

came to light - without any container - during the maintenance and the cleaning of the archaeological area of the Parco Archeologico di Tindari in June 1988.

The insula V differently from insula IV has not yet been subjected to any archaeological campaign, so we cannot put the hoard in connection with any archaeological context or structure.

The only certainty is that it comes from an urban area and that even if its discovery was accidental its composition is reliable.

### **Current disposition of the hoard**

The hoard is currently located at the Antiquarium of Villa Romana di Patti, under the administrative control of the Parco Archeologico di Tindari<sup>148</sup>, together with some other finds of the area. At the moment it not visible to the public, but, in the future rearrangement of the Parco Archeologico, it will be probably exhibited.

### **Contents of the hoard**

The total number of coins is not conspicuous, consisting of only 13 bronzes, nine sestertii and four asses from the mint of Rome. They all appear identifiable as far as it concerns the issuing authority.

The span of time covered is about eighty years from Domitian to Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus.

The most ancient coin is a sestertius of **Domitian** (Cat. 1; Plate I.1)<sup>149</sup>. It is quite worn, but the authority seems to be sure, even if only few letters of the legend are visible. The reverse instead is too eroded to be certain of the identification of the series.

The most numerous pieces belong to the reign of **Trajan**, of whom we have five

sestertii belonging to different issues, in which the signs of circulation are visible, even if the types are still legible; the legends present some letters missing.

The reverse type of the first series, attested with only a specimen, dated in 99-100, represents Pax seated on throne holding branch and scepter, legible even if worn (Cat. 2; Plate I.2)<sup>150</sup>. The other sestertii are all dated in the years 103-111 and they are all characterised on the reverses by the legend SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI. The main types identifiable on the reverses are Abundantia standing with corn ear and cornucopiae (Cat. 3; Plate I.3)<sup>151</sup>, Fortuna standing with rudder? and cornucopiae (Cat. 4; Plate I.4)<sup>152</sup>, Pax standing with branch and cornucopiae, with foot treading down a Dacian (Cat. 5; Plate I.5)<sup>153</sup>, Victory holding palm and setting a trophy (Cat. 6; Plate I.6)<sup>154</sup>.

**Hadrian's** coins are two hardly legible asses, one of 121-122 with Pax with branch and cornucopiae (Cat. 7; Plate II.7)<sup>155</sup>, the other one - notwithstanding it appears in very poor conditions in the reverse - can be identified with a series struck in the years 134-138, representing Aegyptos reclining, holding sistrum with an ibis in front (Cat. 8; Plate II.8)<sup>156</sup>.

Two issues are in the name of **Antoninus Pius**, a quite legible sestertius of 139 with Fides with corn ears and a plate of fruit (Cat. 9; Plate II.9)<sup>157</sup> and an as - whose design is not very clear for the intense use - belonging to the VOTA series with the veiled Emperor sacrificing with patera over tripod, dating in 147-148 (Cat. 10; Plate II.10)<sup>158</sup>.

Antoninus Pius appears also as Divus in a perfectly legible issue of CONSECRATIO by **Marcus Aurelius** of 161 (Cat. 11; Plate

<sup>148</sup> I wish to express my gratitude to the Director of the Parco Archeologico di Tindari, arch. Salvatore Gueli, for his prompt authorisation and to dott.ssa Antonella Bonsignore, who has been very helpful during my study at the Antiquarium of Villa Romana di Patti, where the hoard is kept. I thank also dott.ssa Ludovica Di Masi, PhD Student at the University of Messina, for helping in my bibliographic search and in the arrangement of the plate with the images.

<sup>149</sup> RIC II<sup>2</sup>.1 Domitian 78 or 279.

<sup>150</sup> RIC II Trajan 413.

<sup>151</sup> RIC II Trajan 492.

<sup>152</sup> RIC II Trajan 501 or RIC II Trajan 492 (Abundantia).

<sup>153</sup> RIC II Trajan 503.

<sup>154</sup> RIC II Trajan 523.

<sup>155</sup> RIC II Hadrian 616A.

<sup>156</sup> RIC II Hadrian 839f.

<sup>157</sup> RIC II Antoninus Pius 546.

<sup>158</sup> RIC II Antoninus Pius 852A.

II.11)<sup>159</sup>.

**Marcus Aurelius** is the issuing authority of an as of 161 - in good conditions - depicting himself and Lucius Verus clasping hands (CONCORD AVGVSTOR) (Cat. 12; Plate II.12)<sup>160</sup> and of another well-preserved sestertius with the portrait of **Lucius Verus** on the obverse and Victory fixing on a palm-tree an inscribed shield on the reverse, dated in 166 (Cat. 13; Plate II.13)<sup>161</sup>.

The issuing authorities represented in the hoard actually reflect the most intense moments of the city life.

### CATALOGUE (plates I-II: 1-13)<sup>162</sup>

1. Domitian, Rome, sestertius, 81 or 85.  
Obv./ [IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM COS XI CENS POT P P. Bust of Domitian, laureate, right with aegis.  
Rev./ S | C across field. Standing figure (Domitian?) in front another figure (?), left.  
19.93 g, 34 mm, h 7. Very worn, legend not visible (Rev.).  
RIC II<sup>2</sup>.1 Domitian 78 or 279.
2. Trajan Augustus, Rome, sestertius, 99-100.  
Obv./ [IMP CAES NE]RVA TRAIAN AVG [GERM P M]. Bust of Trajan, laureate, right, with aegis (?).  
Rev./ [TR POT COS I]II [P P]. [S C] in exergue. Female figure (Pax), draped, seated left on throne, holding branch in extended right hand and transverse sceptre in left.  
23.39 g, 33-34 mm, h 7.  
RIC II Trajan 413.
3. Trajan Augustus, Rome, sestertius, 103-111.  
Obv./ [IMP CAES NER]VA TRAIAN[O AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P]. Bust of Trajan, laureate, draped on left shoulder, right.  
Rev./ S [P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI]. S | C across field. Abundantia, draped, standing left, holding two corn-ears in right hand over modius with corn-ears left, and cornucopiae in left hand; to right, prow of ship.  
24.96 g, 33 mm, h 7. Scratched surface (Obv.).  
RIC II Trajan 492.
4. Trajan Augustus, Rome, sestertius, 103-111.  
Obv./ [IMP CAES NERVAE TRA]IANO AVG [GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P]. Bust of Trajan, laureate, right with aegis.  
Rev./ [S P Q R OP]T[IMO PRINCIPI]. S | C across fields. Fortuna, draped, standing left, holding rudder (?) in right hand.  
27.65 g, 34 mm, h 6  
RIC II Trajan 501. (or RIC II Trajan 492: Abundantia).
5. Trajan Augustus, Rome, sestertius, 103-111.  
Obv./ [IMP CAES NERVAE] TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR [P COS V P P]. Bust of Trajan, laureate, right with aegis.  
Rev./ [S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI]. S | C across fields. Pax, draped, standing left, holding branch out and downwards in right hand and cornucopiae in left; her right foot treading down Dacian whose head and shoulders only are seen.  
21.03 g, 34 mm, h 6.  
RIC II Trajan 503.
6. Trajan Augustus, Rome, sestertius, 103-111.  
Obv./ IMP CAES NERVAE TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR [P COS V P P]. Bust of Trajan, laureate, right.  
Rev./ S P Q R OP[TIMO] PRINCIPI / S C in exergue. Victory, draped, stepping left holding palm in left hand and with right hand setting a trophy upright left; trophy has two oblong shields at base.  
24.17 g, 33 mm, h 7.  
RIC II Trajan 523.
7. Hadrian Augustus, Rome, as, 121-122.  
Obv./ [IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HAD]RIANVS[AVG]. Bust of Hadrian, laureate, right.  
Rev./ [P M TR P COS III]. S | C across fields. Pax, draped, standing left, holding branch downwards in right hand and cornucopiae in left.  
10.46 g, 25-26.5 mm, h 6  
RIC II Hadrian 616A.
8. Hadrian Augustus, Rome, as, 134-138.  
Obv./ [HA]D[RIANVS AVG COS III PP. Bust of Hadrian, laureate, draped, right.  
Rev./ [AEGY]PTO[S]. S C in exergue. Aegyptos, draped, reclining left, holding sistrum in right hand and resting left arm on basket of fruit or corn; ibis set on low column, front.  
10.82 g, 23-24.5 mm, h 6.  
See RIC II Hadrian 839f.
9. Antoninus Pius Augustus, Rome, sestertius, 139.  
Obv./ ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP. Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.  
Rev./ [TR POT] - COS II. S | C across fields. Fides, draped, standing right, holding two corn-ears downwards in right hand and plate of fruit on raised left.

<sup>159</sup> RIC III Marcus Aurelius 1266.

<sup>160</sup> RIC III Marcus Aurelius 801.

<sup>161</sup> RIC III Marcus Aurelius 1457.

<sup>162</sup> Photographs taken by the Author.

23.18 g, 31 mm, h 6.

RIC III Antoninus Pius 546.

10. Antoninus Pius Augustus, Rome, as, 147-148.  
Obv./ [A]NT[O]NI[NVS AVG] PI[VS P P] TR [P XI].  
Bust of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.  
Rev./ [COS II]II. S | C across fields. VOTA in exergue.  
Antoninus Pius, standing left, veiled, sacrificing with patera over tripod altar left, left arm at side.  
8.85 g, 23-25 mm, h 5.  
RIC III Antoninus Pius 852A.
11. Marcus Aurelius Augustus (Divus Antoninus Pius), Rome, sestertius, 161.  
Obv./ DIVVS ANTONINVS. Bust of Antoninus Pius, bare, right, with slight drapery.  
Rev./ CONSECRATIO. S C in exergue. Funeral pyre in four tiers, decorated with arches and statues, festooned with hangings and garlands, surmounted by facing quadriga.  
25.75 g, 32-33 mm, h 7.  
RIC III Marcus Aurelius 1266.
12. Marcus Aurelius Augustus, Rome, as, 161.  
Obv./ [IMP CAES M AV]REL ANTONINVS AVG P M. Bust of Marcus Aurelius, laureate, right.  
Rev./ CONCORD AVGVSTOR TRP XV COS III. S | C across fields. Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, togate, standing left and right, facing one another and clasping right hands; Marcus Aurelius holds scroll in left hand.  
10.14 g, 24.5-25.5 mm, h 12.  
RIC III Marcus Aurelius 801.
13. Marcus Aurelius Augustus, Rome, sestertius, 166.  
Obv./ L VERVS AVG [ARM PARTH] MAX: Bust of Lucius Verus, laureate, right.  
Rev./ TR POT VI IMP IIII COS II. S | C across fields. Victory, winged, half-draped, standing front, head right, fixing to a palm-tree with left hand shield inscribed VIC AVG and holding palm sloped upward to right shoulder in right hand.  
26.66 g, 32 mm, h 10  
RIC III Marcus Aurelius 1457.

### **CIRCUMSTANCES OF BURIAL OF THE HOARD**

It seems that this small hoard has been accumulated taking out from circulation coins which represented the real currency, maybe in two different moments, firstly in Trajanic age including an older coin of Domitian, and then adding other coins in a moment close to the date of burial, as the two asses of Hadrian

result more worn than all the other previous Trajanic issues.

The well-preserved specimens in the name of Marcus Aurelius, belonging to the first years of his reign, 161 (included the Divus Antoninus piece) and 166 for the sestertius with Lucius Verus' portrait, could easily be very close to the time of burial.

The loss of this hoard can be linked to one of the many natural disaster, above all seismic events, that interested Sicily throughout time.

Moreover, we have to mention that it is chronologically close to the years of the 'Antonine plague' (182/189), which can also be considered among the possible motives of the non-recovery of this saving.

Even in this case we must be cautious as personal reasons - impossible to be detected - may be considered as a possible cause of burying this group of coins, never recovered for any reason linked to the owner's individual history.

About the owner and the function of the place where the coins were buried, we can say little, as the area where the group of coin were collected have not yet been excavated.

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**Fig. 1.** Table of Roman Imperial hoards in Sicily

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ type of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability <sup>2</sup>	Date° ( <i>chronological range</i> )	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
1 ME	TINDARI 1988 (‘frazione’ of Patti, ME)  (Antiquarium, Villa Romana di Patti)	Occasional find in archaeological area.	urban: from insula V	A.1. North- eastern S.: Tyrrhenian coast	13  (p)	<i>range</i> : Domitianus - M. Aurelius	<b>Orichalcum: 13 sestertii (Roma).</b> Domitianus?: 1, Trajanus: 5, Hadrianus: 2, Antoninus Pius: 2, (M. Aurelius) Divus Antoninus: 1, M. Aurelius: 1, L. Verus: 1.	Unpublished.
2 ME	SPADAFORA 1830 ca., (‘contrada’ Casazza (ME)  (disposition not known: dispersed?)	Occasional find: ‘vaso di grossa argilla’.	farm	A.1. North- eastern S.: Tyrrhenian coast	200  (d)	<i>range</i> : Domitianus - Antoninus Pius	<b>AE: 200 (Roma).</b> Domitianus, Nerva, Trajanus, Antoninus Pius, Faustina	Brief notes: La Farina 1836, 95; Parisi 1948, 130; Mastelloni 1997, 26, nota 9.
3 ME	MESSINA <i>post</i> 1908?  (M. Interdisciplinare Reg. di Messina: Fondo Naz. 866 - 887)	Donation: Principessa Giovanna Loffredo della Floresta.	-	A.2. North- eastern S.: Ionian coast	21  (d)	<i>range: (residual)</i> Gallienus- Diocletianus	<b>Antoniniani. AE.</b> M. Aurelius, Caesar: 1 <i>sestertius</i> , Gallienus: 1 <i>antoninianus</i> , Claudius II: 1 <i>antoninianus</i> , Aurelianus: 9 <i>antoniniani</i> , Tacitus: 2 <i>antoniniani</i> , Probus: 4 <i>antoniniani</i> , Maximianus: 2 <i>antoniniani</i> , Diocletianus: 1 <i>antoninianus</i> . <i>Mints</i> : Ticinum, Mediolanum, Roma.	Manganaro 2013, 270 (b.n.); Manganaro 2015*, 349.
4 ME	NAXOS 1986-b, Maloprovido (Giardini-Naxos, ME)  (M. Arch. di Naxos)	Excavations.	Extra-urban, sacred: Greek sanctuary	A.2. North- eastern S.: Ionian coast	8  (p)	<i>range</i> : Divus Claudius II - Constantinus’ successors	<b>Antoniniani. AE.</b> Divus Claudius II: 1, Carus?: 1 <i>antoninianus</i> , Tetricus: 1 <i>antoninianus</i> , Licinius I: 1, Constantinus II Caesar: 1, Constantius Augustus: 1, Constan... (unc.): 1, Illegible: 1.	Puglisi 2001*, 77-78.

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ type of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability"	Date° ( <i>chronological range</i> )	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
5 ME	NAXOS 1986-a, Malprovvido (Giardimi-Naxos, ME)  (M. Arch. di Naxos)	Excavations: with other bronze objects.	Extra-urban, sacred: Greek sanctuary	A.2. North- eastern S.: Ionian coast	168  (t)	<i>range:</i> ( <i>residual</i> ) Tetrici- Magnus Maximus  <i>burial</i> : Vandal incursions	<b>Antoniniani: 3. AE: 165.</b> Domitianus: 1 <i>dupondius</i> , Nerva: 1 <i>sestertius</i> , 'Tetrici': 2 <i>antoniniani</i> (' <i>barbarous radiati</i> '), Probus: 1 <i>antoninianus</i> , Maximianus Augustus: 2, late 3rd cent.: 1, Licinius I: 1 Constantinus I: 2, Crispus Caesar: 2, Constantinus II Caesar: 1, Constantinopolis: 1, Constantinus I or Constantinus II: 16, Constantinus II: 1, unattributable GLORIA EXERCITVS: 3, Divus Constantinus: 1, Constantius Gallus Caesar: 2, Constantius II: 10, unattributable FTR: 4, Valens: 1, Valentinianus I: 1, Valens, Valentinianus, Gratianus or Valentinianus II: 9, Valentinianus I or Valentinianus II: 1, Gratianus or Valentinianus II or Theodosius I: 1, Gratianus or Valentinianus II: 1, Valentinianus II, Theodosius or Arcadius: 1, Theodosius I: 1, Arcadius: 3, Arcadius or Honorius: 1, Theodosius II: 1, Magnus Maximus: 1, Unattributable (4th): 15. Illegible: 95 (mostly fragmented; 15 unc.). <i>Mints</i> : Rome, Constantinopolis, Cizycus, Sicilia, Antiochia, Alexandria.	Puglisi 2001*, 63-77.

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ type of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability <sup>9</sup>	Date <sup>8</sup> ( <i>chronological range</i> )	Contents <sup>^</sup>	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
6	SICILIA ORIENTALE 1978 (M. Arch. Reg. P. Orsi, Siracusa)	Acquisition.	-	A.B.C. Eastern S.	103 (p)	<i>range:</i> Valerianus to Probus  <i>burial:</i> second half 3rd c.	Antoniniani: 103. Valerianus I: 1, Gallienus: 42 (2 joint reign), Gallienus' imitations: 1 ('barbarous radiatus'), Salonina: 2, Claudius II: 25, Quintillus: 2, Divus Claudius: 19, Aurelianus: 3, Tacitus: 1, Probus: 1, Gallic Usurpers (official mint): Victorinus: 1, Gallic Usurpers (unofficial mint): Tetricus I: 4 ('barbarous radiati'), <i>Mints:</i> Roma, Mediolanum, Ticinum, Colonia etc.	Vicari Sottosanti 2013*, 928-929; Guzzetta-Vicari Sottosanti 2017*, 250.
7	CATANIA? 1978 (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Orsi', Siracusa)	Acquisition.	-	B.1. Eastern S.: Ionian coast	5 (d)	<i>range:</i> Valerianus I / Gallienus - Postumus  <i>burial:</i> second half 3rd c.	<b>Antoniniani: 5.</b> Valerianus I: 1, Gallienus: 2 (joint reign, Roma), Salonina: 1, Postumus: 1.	Vicari Sottosanti 2013*, 929; Guzzetta-Vicari Sottosanti 2017*, 250.
8	CATANIA (area) s.d. (disposition not known)	Hoard? Probably 'uno spezzone di ripostiglio'.	-	B.1. Eastern S.: Ionian coast	10 (d)	<i>date:</i> mid 4th?   <i>date:</i> 5th c.	<b>AE: 'una decina di folles'.</b> Constantius II: 10 ca.	<i>Brief notes:</i> Manganaro 2013, 280.
9	CATANIA 1911, S. Domenico (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Orsi', Siracusa: inv. 31945)	Occasional find.	-	B.1. Eastern S.: Ionian coast	710 (p)	<i>date:</i> 5th c.	<b>AE: 710 'minimi'.</b>	<i>Brief notes:</i> Manganaro 2013, 282; Manganaro 2017, 70 (unpublished).
10	ACIREALE - ACITREZZA <i>ante</i> 1933 (Acireale - Acicastello, CT)  (Biblioteca Accademia Zelantea di Acireale)  (CHRE 13945)	Donation: from the Collection of Canonico S. De Maria, Acitrezza. Hoard? 'Residuo di un ripostiglio'.	-	B.1. Eastern S.: Ionian coast	138 (d)	<i>range:</i> Constantinian age - Valentinianus III Valentinianus III, Unattributable (Victoria, cross within wreath, star, camp gate).	<b>AE: 138 'minimi' (weight: 92 g).</b> Constantinian age: some halved, Theodosius II, Valentinianus III, Unattributable (Victoria, cross within wreath, star, camp gate).	<i>Brief notes:</i> Manganaro 1970, 304, 307; Manganaro 2017, 70.

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability <sup>9</sup>	Date <sup>9</sup> (chronological range)	Contents <sup>^</sup>	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
11 SR	SIRACUSA 1954, 'contrada' S. Giuliano (disposition not known)	Excavations: 'fossa'. Excavations: 'fossa'. Excavations: 'fossa'.	cemetery area: grave	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	8 (p)	range: Galba- Trajanus	<b>Oricalcum sestertii: 8.</b> Galba: 1, Vespasianus: 1, Domitianus: 4, Trajanus: 2.	Gentili 1956*, 162-163; Manganaro 2013, 269, nota 14 (b.n.).
12 SR	MARZAMEMI 1914 ('frazione' of Pachino, SR) (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Orsi', Siracusa: acquired by P. Orsi, inv. 34791 - 34815)	Occasional find: 'vasetto fittile'. Occasional find: 'vasetto fittile'. Occasional find: 'vasetto fittile'.	'scalo marino' of Pachino/ Tyrakion	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	24 (p)	range: Nerva - Commodus  <i>burial</i> : post 180- 183 (last issue: Crispina); (plague of 182/189)	<b>Oricalcum sestertii: 24.</b> Nerva: 1, Trajanus: 3, Hadrianus: 5, Antoninus Pius: 6, Diva Faustina: 2, M. Aurelius Caesar: 1, Faustina II: 2, M. Aurelius: 1, Lucilla: 1, Commodus: 1, Crispina: 1 (very worn).	Orsi's notes; Manganaro 1988, 75-76 (b.n.); Manganaro 2013*, 272-275 (Claudius: 1, Domitianus: 1, instead of Trajanus: 1 and Faustina II: 1); Vicari Sottosanti 2013*, 927; Guzzetta-Vicari Sottosanti 2017, 250*.
13 SR	CAPO OGNINA 1961+1968+1971-72 (('località' of Siracusa) (disposition not known) (CHRE 4848)	Occasional and underwater archaeological investigation: shipwreck.	marine: from a shipwreck	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	4+11/12 +3 (t)	range: 134/5 - 209- 212  <i>loss</i> : post 210-215	<b>AE: 18 or 19 (1 sestertius, 5 provincial AD 209-212)</b> Domitianus?: 1 <i>sestertius</i> , Hadrianus: 1 (Smyrna: Antinous), Septimius Severus: 3 (Perinthus, Nicaea, Peloponnesus?), Geta: 1 (Byzantium).	Kapitan-Price 1974*, 150-153.
14 SR	GROTTPERCIA 1956 (('località' of Siracusa) (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Orsi', Siracusa: inv. 54348 - 54381) (CHRE 13928)	Occasional find.		C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	34 (p)	range: Trajanus - Philippus II  <i>burial</i> : 244 - 249	<b>Oricalcum sestertii: 34 (Roma).</b> Trajanus: 2, Hadrianus: 1, Antoninus Pius: 1 (CHRE: 2), Faustina I: 1 (CHRE: no), (Antoninus Pius) Faustina II: 1 (CHRE: 2), Commodus: 1, Septimius Severus: 2, (Alexander Severus) Julia Mamaea: 6, Gordianus III: 5, Philippus II: 2.	Gentili 1958-59*, 285-289; Cutroni Tusa 1982-83, 397 (b.n.); Manganaro 2013*, 276- 278; Vicari Sottosanti 2013*, 927-928; Manganaro 2013*, 276- 277; Guzzetta-Vicari Sottosanti 2017*, 250.
15 SR	MATRENSA 1943 (('località' of Siracusa) (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Orsi', Siracusa: inv. 49600 - 49603)	Donation. Hoard?	-	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	4 (d)	range: Claudius II - Tacitus	<b>AE: 4 alexandrian nummi.</b> Claudius II: 2, Aurelianus: 1, Tacitus: 1.	Bernabò Brea 1947, 213 (b.n.); Cutroni Tusa 1982-83, 398 (b.n.); Manganaro 2002*, 624; Manganaro 2013, 279 (b.n.).



#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability <sup>9</sup>	Date <sup>8</sup> (chronological range)	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
16SR	MARZAMEMI s.d. (frazione, Pachino, SR) or AVOLA (SR)  (disposition not known)	Occasional find. Hoard?	marine	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.); Ionian coast	?	date: 3th c.	<b>'Radiati gallici anomali' ('barbarous radiati')</b>	Manganaro 2013, 279 (b.n.).
17SR	SIRACUSA 1978, 'dintorni' (M. Arch. Reg. P. Orsi, Siracusa: inv. 80699, 80700, 80701 - 80703)	Acquisition.	-	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.); Ionian coast	113 (101+7+5)	date: second half 3rd c.  burial: 274 (during or after Tetrici's age)	<b>Antoniniani: 113.</b> Salonina: 2, Divus Claudius: 9, 'Gallic Empire': official mints: 15 (Victorinus: 2, Tetricus I: 8, Tetricus II: 5), 'Gallic Empire': unofficial mints: 68 'barbarous <i>radiati</i> ' (Tetricus I: 60, Tetricus II: 8). Illegible 19. Mints: Roma, Colonia, unofficial.	Vicari Sottosanti 2013, 928 (b.n.); Guzzetta- Vicari Sottosanti 2017*, 250.
18SR	SIRACUSA 1912, 'ipogeo Triglia' (M. Arch. Reg. P. Orsi, Siracusa)	Excavations: grave. Acquisition.	cemeterial area: ipogeo, catacomb, grave 5 (2 skeletons), near the breast.	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.); Ionian coast	33 (Orsi, taccuini: 31)  (p)	range: Gallienus to Aurelianus  burial: terminus ad quem: 275	<b>Antoniniani: 33 (Roma).</b> Gallienus: 5, Claudius II: 13 (Siscia: 3), (Quintillus-Aurelianus) Divus Claudius: 11, Aurelianus: 1, Uncertain: 3. Mints: Roma, Siscia.	Lanteri 1995* (no images); Vicari Sottosanti 2013, 928 (b.n.); Guzzetta-Vicari Sottosanti 2017, 250*
19SR	SIRACUSA 1923-a, 'ex Vigna Cassia', A  (Pontificia Commissione, Siracusa)  ( <a href="#">CHRE 14992</a> )	Excavations: grave. Acquisition.	cemeterial area: 'prima tomba, gruzzolo A'	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.); Ionian coast	114 (rel)	range: Gallienus to Aurelianus  burial: 274 (during or after Tetrici's age)	<b>Antoniniani: 114 (Roma).</b> Gallienus: 32, Salonina: 3, Claudius II: 39, Quintillus: 2, (Aurelianus) Divus Claudius II: 33, Aurelianus: 2, Victorinus: 1 (Gallia), Tetricus I: 1 ('barbarous radiatus'), Uncertain: 1.	Garraffo 1981*, 283-324; Crisafulli 2008, 626-627 (b.n.).
20SR	SIRACUSA 1923-b, 'ex Vigna Cassia', B  (Pontificia Commissione, Siracusa)  ( <a href="#">CHRE 14993</a> )	Excavations: grave. Acquisition.	cemeterial area: 'prima tomba, B'	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.); Ionian coast	13	range: Gallienus to Quintillus/ Aurelianus	<b>Antoniniani: 13.</b> Gallienus: 6, Claudius II: 4, (Quintillus/Aurelianus) Divus Claudius II: 3. Mints: Roma, Siscia.	Garraffo 1981*, 283-324; Crisafulli 2008, 627-628 (b.n.).

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability <sup>7</sup>	Date° (chronological range)	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
21SR	SIRACUSA 1923-c, 'ex Vigna Cassia', C (Pontificia Commissione, Siracusa) (CHRE 14994)	Excavations: grave. Acquisition.	cemeterial area: 'prima tomba, C'	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	9	range: Gallienus to Quintillus/ Aurelianus	<b>Antoniniani: 9.</b> Gallienus: 2, Claudius II: 4, Claudius II: 1 ('barbarous radiatus'), (Quintillus/Aurelianus) Divus Claudius II: 2. <i>Mints</i> : Roma, uncertain.	Garraffo 1981*, 283-324; Crisafulli 2008, 627-628 (b.n.).
22SR	VILLA DEL TELLARO 1972 (Noto, SR) (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Orsi', Siracusa)	Excavations: trial.	villa: <i>peristilium</i> (SW), filling of a room	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	108 (t)	range: early-mid 4th  <i>burial: terminus ad quem: 348</i>	<b>AE.</b> Constantinus I, Constantinus II, Constans, Constantius II, Usurpers: Magnentius. <i>Mints</i> : Roma, Treveri, Lugdunum, Siscia, Thessalonica, Constantinopolis, Cyzicus, Antiochia.	Voza 1972-73, 192 (b.n.); Guzzetta 1995, 14-15*; in course of study by G. Guzzetta.
23SR	PORTOPALO 1981 (SR) (M. Arch. Reg. P. Orsi', Siracusa)	Excavations: tank for fish processing.	industrial area: fish processing	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	326 (t)	range: Constantius II - Decentius  <i>burial: ante 355</i>	<b>AE: 326 (majority FTR, 170 AE2).</b> Constantius II or Gallus Caesar, Constans, Usurpers: Magnentius: 25, Decentius: 12. <i>Mints</i> : Treveri, Lugdunum, Arelate, Roma, Aquilaia, Siscia, Thessalonica, Heraclea, Constantinopolis, Nicomedia, Cyzicus, Antiochia, Alexandria.	Cutroni Tusa 1982-83, 401 (b.n.); Guzzetta 1995, 15-19*
24SR	SIRACUSA 1908, 'contrada' S. Giuliano, 'ipogeo Attanasio' (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Orsi', Siracusa: inv. 28494) (CHRE 13913)	Occasional find: 'pentola fittile'. 'in prossimità del mare'	cemeterial area: close to the entrance of a catacomb	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	1545 (p)	range: Constantinus II - Honorius  <i>burial: Vandal incursions</i>	<b>AE: 1545 (the majority very worn).</b> Constantinus II Caesar?, Constans I, Constantius II, Constantius Gallus Caesar, Valentinianus I, Valens, Gratianus, Valentinianus II, Theodosius I, Flavius Victor, Arcadius, Honorius. Unattributable. Illegible: 1202. 'Riconoscibili, ma non inventariabili': 135.	Orsi 1909a, 61* (188 in good conditions); Manganaro 2017*, 59- 60 (1318 total; 22 pcs. catalogued).

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability"	Date° ( <i>chronological range</i> )	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
25SR	SIRACUSA 1922, 'borgo' S. Lucia (?)  (M. Arch. Reg. P. Orsi, Siracusa: inv. 42664-42669: 5 pcs.)	Occasional find. Acquisition.	-	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	235	<i>range</i> : Constans - Arcadius	<b>AE: 235 'monetine in bronzo, di piccolo e di minimo modulo'</b> . Constans, Constans..., Valentinianus I, Valens, Gratianus, Theodosius I, Arcadius.	Brief notes: Museum notes; Guzzetta 2017, 171.
26SR	SIRACUSA 1896-a, 'palazzo Lucchetti'  (M. Arch. Reg. P. Orsi, Siracusa: inv. 16514)	Occasional find: 'olletta'. Acquisition.	-	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	698  (d)	<i>date</i> : 4th c.	<b>AE: 698.</b>	in course of study by M.A. Vicari Sottosanti. Probably a whole hoard with SIRACUSA 1896-b.
27SR	SIRACUSA 1896-b  (M. Arch. Reg. P. Orsi, Siracusa: inv. 16535)	Acquisition.	-	C.1. Hyblaean area (SE S.): Ionian coast	160  (d)	<i>date</i> : 4th c.	<b>AE: 160.</b>	in course of study by M.A. Vicari Sottosanti. Probably a whole hoard with SIRACUSA 1896-a.
28RG	POZZALLO 1908, 'contrada' Rizzone (RG)  (M. Arch. Reg. P. Orsi, Siracusa: donation, 31 pcs.; the remaining dispersed)  (CHRE 4850)	Occasional find (building construction): 'recipiente fittile'.	-	C.2. Hyblaean area (SE S.): coast by the Strait of Sicily (SE)	600 ca. (229)	<i>range</i> : Domitianus/ Trajanus: 2, Domitianus - Philippus I  <i>burial: terminus ad quem</i> : 244-247	<b>AE: 600 ca. at least, 'ti grande modulo'</b> . Domitianus: 1, Trajanus: 2, Hadrianus: 11, Antoninus Pius: 10 (M. of Syracuse: 7), Diva Faustina I: 2 (M. of Syracuse), Marcus Aurelius: 2, Faustina II: 4 [Diva Faustina: 1], Lucius Verus: 3 (M. of Syracuse: 1), Commodus: 26 (M. of Syracuse: 4), Didius Iulianus: 1 (M. of Syracuse), Septimius Severus: 3, Caracalla: 1, Elagabalus: 1 (M. of Syracuse), Alexander Severus: 36 (M. of Syracuse: 4 of which 2 f.d.c), Julia Mamaea: 6 (M. of Syracuse: 1), Maximinus Pius: 15 (M. of Syracuse: 2), Maximus: 1, Gordiani: 21 (M. of Syracuse: Gordianus I: 2; Gordianus III: 1), Balbinus: 3 (M. of Syracuse: 1), Philippus I: 4 [1] (2 f.d.c) (M. of Syracuse: 1), Philippus II: 1 (M. of Syracuse: 7), Otaclia Severa: 1 (M. of Syracuse), Illegible: 76.	Orsi 1909b*, 65-66 (29 analysed); Cutroni Tusa 1980-81, 351 (b.n.); Cutroni Tusa 1982- 83, nota 10, 400-401 (b.n.); Cutroni Tusa 1990-91, 350-351 (b.n.): the Author wrongly attributed this hoard to Portopalo; Manganaro 1988, 79 (b.n.); Guzzetta 1995, 19 (b.n.); Vicari Sottosanti 2013*, 928; Manganaro 2013*, 275- 277 (26 pcs. catalogued); Guzzetta-Vicari Sottosanti 2017*, 250.

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ type of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability"	Date° (chronological range)	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
29RG	CAMARINA 1991+1992+1996, 'località' Ciarimiraro (Scoglitti, RG) (M. Arch. Reg. di Camarina) (CHRE 5399)	Occasional find and underwater archaeological explorations: maybe in an amphora or a leather bag in a wooden safe (nails, key...) from a merchant ship	marine	C.2. Hyblaean area (SE S.): coast by the Strait of Sicily (SE)	4472 (p)	range: 260-282  loss: <i>terminus ad quem</i> : 282	<b>Antoniniani: 4472.</b> <i>Central Empire</i> : Gallienus: 88, Salonina: 1, Valerianus II: 1, Claudius II: 116, Quintillus: 8. Gallic Empire: Postumus: 4, Victorinus: 71, Tetricus I: 1187, Tetricus II: 452, one of the two Tetrici: 58. 'Barbarous <i>radiati</i> ': 1894. Illegible: 88.	Di Stefano 1999, 54-57 (b.n.); Guzzetta 2012*; Guzzetta 2014*.
30RG	SANTA CROCE CAMERINA 1989, 'contrada' Mirio (RG) (M. Arch. Reg. di Camarina)	Excavations: grave.	cemeterial area: grave 79	C.2. Hyblaean area (SE S.): coast by the Strait of Sicily (SE)	13 (t)	range: ( <i>residual</i> ) Constans-early 5th c.	<b>AE 'piccolo modulo'</b> . Akragas (425-406 BC): 1 onkia, Hellenistic Sicily: 1, Constans: 1, Constantius II: 1. Uncertain (second half 4th cent.): 7, GLORIA ROMANORVM (first decades 5th cent.): 2.	Guzzetta 2007b*, 1557- 1558; Guzzetta 2009, 41 (b.n.)
31RG	PUNTA SECCA-CAUCANA 1967, 'località' Anticaglia 'frazione' di S. Croce Camerina, RG) (M. Arch. Reg. di Camarina)	Excavations. Hoard? Deposit?	urban (Caucana): 'edificio 15, vano IV', on the floor	C.2. Hyblaean area (SE S.): coast by the Strait of Sicily (SE)	84 (d)	range: Julianus - 5th c.	<b>AE: 84.</b> Julianus: 1, Theodosius I: 6, Valentinianus III: 1, Marcianus: 2, Avitus: 2, Uncertain (second half 4th c.): 20, Uncertain (first half 5th c.): 1, Uncertain (Vandals?): 17 (cross or star within wreath). Illegible: the remaining coins. <i>Mints</i> : legible: Rome, Cizycus. catalogued).	Pelagatti 1968-69, 355-356 (b.n.); Pelagatti 1972-73, 185-186 (b.n.); Cutroni Tusa 1982-83, 401 (b.n.): 77 pcs.; Guzzetta 1995, 20 (b.n.): 77 pcs.; Guzzetta 2005a*, 190, 195 (84 pcs.); Manganaro 2013, 282, nota 66 (82 pcs.: 19 illegible); Manganaro 2017*, 76-77 (20 catalogued).
32RG	CAVA D'ISPICA 1976 (Ispica, RG) (M. Civico 'F.L. Belgiorno', Modica: inv. 1475-1497)	alexandrian nummi		C.3. Hyblaean area (SE S.): inland (S)	23 (p)	range: Constans - Julianus Caesar	<b>AE.</b> Constans: 1 centenionalis? (pre-reform 348), Gallus Caesar: 3, Constantius II: 18, Julianus Caesar: 1. <i>Mints</i> : Arles, Roma, Aquileia, Constantinopolis, Nicomedia, Antiochia. (b.n.).	Rizzone-Sammito 2001, 55 ('forse parte di un modesto tesoretto') (b.n.); Guzzetta 2005b*; Manganaro 2013, 282, nota 69: not a hoard (b.n.).

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ type of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability"	Date° (chronological range)	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
33RG	MODICA (RG) 1985-a, 'contrada' Treppiedi/9 (RG)  (M. Civico 'E.L. Belgiorno', Modica)	Excavations: grave.	cemeterial area: grave 9, close to l. hip bone.	C.3. Hyblaean area (SE S.): inland (S)	9  (t)	<i>date: (residual)</i> second half 3rd c.	<b>AE: 2. Antoniniani: 7.</b> Calligula?: 1 as (Agrippa), Domitianus?: 1 as or dupondius, Gallienus: 2 antoniniani, Claudio II: 3 antoniniani, Quintillo: 1 antoninianus. Uncertain: 1 antoninianus. <i>Mints:</i> : Roma, Siscia, Mediolanum.	Guzzetta 2009*, 36-39.
34RG	MODICA 1985-b, 'contrada' Treppiedi/14 (RG)  (M. Civico 'E.L. Belgiorno', Modica)	Excavations: grave. Whole hoard? Two groups?	cemeterial area: grave 14, close to l. hand of one of two men	C.3. Hyblaean area (SE S.): inland (S)	8  (p: 2 depositions?)	<i>range: (residual)</i> 1st c - early 4th c.	<b>AE: 6. Antoniniani: 2.</b> Syracuse, Hieron II: 1, Domitianus: 2 asses, Lucilla?: 1 as, Gordianus III: 1 sesterlius, Claudius II: 2 antoniniani, Uncertain (early 4th cent.): 1. <i>Mints:</i> : Roma.	Guzzetta 2009*, 41.
35RG	COMISO 1936 (RG)  (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Orsi', Siracusa: 423 pcs.)	Occasional (building construction, via Carmagnola): 'cavità della roccia'.	inland of Camarina	C.3. Hyblaean area (SE S.): inland (S)	1100	<i>range:</i> 379/395 - 425/453  <i>burial:</i> Vandal incursions	<b>AV: 840/1100 solidi</b> <b>423: Theodosius I - Valentinian III (AD 425-455); gold weight: c. 4950g.</b> Theodosius I: 1, Honorius: 303, Arcadius: 17, Theodosius II: 35, Pulcheria: 1, Galla Placidia: 1, Valentinian III: 64, Honorio: 1 <i>Mints:</i> : Thessalonica, Constantinopolis Roma, Mediolanum, Ravenna.	Stanganelli 1950 (b.n.); Panvini Rosati 1953*, 422-440; Panvini Rosati 1985*, 7-14; Guzzetta 1995, 20-21; Panvini Rosati 2004*, 376, no. 8; Panvini Rosati 2004*: 357-372; Guzzetta 1995, 20-22 (b.n.); Manganaro 2017, 68 (b.n.).
36CL	GELA 1935 ca., territorio (CL)  (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Orsi', Siracusa: inv. 51795 - 51804)	Seizure.	-	D.1. Central- southern S. (E): coast by the Strait of Sicily (central-E)	10  (d)	<i>range:</i> Probus- Maximianus	<b>AE: 10 alexandrian nummi.</b> Probus: 2, Diocletianus: 6, Maximianus: 2.	Manganaro 2002*, 624; Manganaro 2013, 279 (b.n.).
37EN	BARRAFRANCA 1921 (EN)  (disposition not known: dispersed?)  ( <a href="#">CHRE 13876</a> )	Occasional find.	-	D.2. Central- southern S. (E): inland	?  ?	-	<b>'Poche monete romane' . Among the coins one of the Faustinas.</b>	Brief notes: Li Gotti 1956, 191; Sorda 1981, 96.

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ type of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability <sup>7</sup>	Date <sup>8</sup> ( <i>chronological range</i> )	Contents <sup>^</sup>	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
38CL	SOFIANA 1950 (Mazzarino, CL)  (M. Arch. di Gela: 304 pcs.)  ( <a href="#">CHRE 13832</a> )	Excavations: <i>statio</i> of Philosophiana.	thermal building, 'amb. XII'	D.2. Central- southern S. (E): inland	316  (p)	<i>range:</i> ( <i>residual</i> ) Philippus I to Constantius II  <i>burial:</i> 353	<b>Antoniniani, AE: 316.</b> Hadrianus: 1 as, Gordianus III: 2 (1 dupondius, 1 as), Philippus I: 1 sestertius, Gallienus: 7 antoniniani, Gallienus (imitation): 1 as, Claudius II: 13 antoniniani, Victorinus: 6 antoniniani, Divus Claudius: 12 antoniniani, Tetricus I: 2 antoniniani, Tetricus II: 5 antoniniani, 'Barbarous radiati': 34 (ante & post-reform), Aurelianus: 2 antoniniani; Probus: 2 antoniniani; Maximianus: 1 antoninianus, 1 follis, 24 follis fractions, Diocletianus: 3 antoniniani, 13 follis fractions, uncertain: 1 antoninianus, Galerius: 15 follis fractions, Constantius I: 5 follis fractions, Maxentius: 3 folles, Constantinus I: 4 folles, 13 follis fractions, Licinius I: 1 follis, Licinius II: 1 follis, Constantinus II: 6 follis fractions, Fausta: 1 follis, Elena: 1 follis, Urbs Roma: 3 follis fractions, Constantinopolis: 2 follis fractions, Constantius II: 42, Constans: 14 follis fractions, Magnentius: 1 follis fraction, Constantius Gallus: 6 follis fractions, Julianus?: 1 follis fraction. Unidentified: 36. Illegible: 20.	Adamesteanu 1954, n. 7665 (b.n.: 316 pcs.); Manganaro 1955, 214 (b.n.); Manganaro 1972- 73, 262 (b.n.); Orlandini-Adamesteanu 1955, 214 (b.n.: 340 pcs.); Cutroni Tusa 1982- 83, 401-402 (b.n.: 340 pcs.); Santangelo 2002*, 105-154; Crisafulli 2008, 628-631 (b.n.). CHRE: <i>There are some doubts whether there were other coins added at the core of this hoard.</i>

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability <sup>7</sup>	Date <sup>8</sup> (chronological range)	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
39CL	BUTERA 1939, 'contrada' Mangiòva (CL)  (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Griffo', Agrigento, inv. 218-253: 36 pcs.)  ( <a href="#">CHRE 4542</a> )	Occasional find (building construction): 'ceramic vessel'	urban (eminent site above the plain of Gala)	D.2. Central- southern S. (E): inland	52 (41)  (p)	range: Theodosius- Marcianus  <i>burial</i> : Vandal incursions	<b>AV: 41/52 solidi (gold weight: 182.45g).</b> Theodosius II: 31, Galla Placidia: 1, Valentinianus III: 2, Marcianus: 6, Aelia Pulcheria: 1. <i>Mints</i> : Constantinopolis, Ravenna, Roma.	Griffo 1956*, Guzzetta 1995, 21-22 (b.n.); Panvini Rosati 2004, 376, no. 10, 380, nota 22 (b.n.).
40AG	AGRIGENTO? s.d.  (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Griffo', Agrigento)	Hoard? 'Ripostiglietto'		E.1. Central- southern S. (W): coast by the Strait of Sicily (central-W)	10  (d)	<i>date</i> : Claudius II	<b>AE: 10 alexandrian nummi.</b> Claudius II: 10.	Manganaro 2002, 625 (b.n.).
41AG	CATTOLICA ERACLEA 1994, 'località' Vizzi (AG)	Excavations: Eraclea Minoa.	sacred: 'Basilica Paleocristiana'	E.1. Central- southern S. (W): coast by the Strait of Sicily (central-W)	77	<i>date</i> : second half of 3rd c.	<b>AE, antoniniani.</b> Tetricus.	Fiorentini 2002 (b.n.)
42AG	AGRIGENTO, 'basilichetta extra-urbana' s.d.  (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Griffo', Agrigento)	Excavations.	sacred: 'basilichetta extra-urbana'	E.1. Central- southern S. (W): coast by the Strait of Sicily (central-W)	27  (t)	range: Constantius II - Valentinianus II  <i>burial</i> : post 383- 392	<b>AE: 27.</b> Constantius II: 3, Valentinianus I: 1, Gratianus: 1 Valentinianus II: 1. Uncertain (4th c.): 21. <i>Mints</i> : Roma, Nicomedia, Thessalonica.	Macaluso 2007*, 315.
43AG	AGRIGENTO, S. Nicola s.d., 'quartiere ellenistico romano'  (M. Arch. Reg. 'P. Griffo', Agrigento)	Excavations.	urban	E.1. Central- southern S. (W): coast by the Strait of Sicily (central-W)	30  (p)	<i>date</i> : late imperial	<b>AE: 30.</b>	Macaluso 2007, 315 (b.n.).
44TP	LILIBEO ante 1919, Porta Nuova (Marsala, TP)  (M. G. Whitaker' di Mozia)	Occasional find.	urban: on the route to Capo Boeo	F.1. North- western S.: coast by the Strait of Sicily	328  (p)	<i>date</i> : mid 4th c.	<b>AE: 328 small bronzes.</b> Constantinus' successors.	Brief notes: Pace 1919, 80; Cutroni Tusa 1982- 83, 398; Manganaro 2013, 280.

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability"	Date° ( <i>chronological range</i> )	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
45TP	LILIBEO 1972 (Marsala, TP) (disposition not known)	Excavations: floor of a dwelling close to the walls.	urban	F.1. North- western S.: coast by the Strait of Sicily	not known  (d)	<i>date</i> : mid 4th c.	<b>AE.</b> Constantinus' successors (?).	Brief notes: Di Stefano 1976-77, 762; Cutroni Tusa 1982-83, 398: similar composition of Lilibeo ante 1919, Porta Nuova.
46PA	BAGHERIA 1915, fondo Valguamera (PA)  (M. Arch. Reg. 'A. Salinas', Palermo: inv. 16037-96; 16103-79; 16181-89; 16190-363) (RRCH 523)	Occasional find. Acquisition.	probably <i>praedium</i> of Soluntum	F.2. North- western S.: Tyrrhenian coast	318  (p)	<i>range</i> : Republican (82/80 BC) - Augustus (2 BC/ AD 12)  <i>burial</i> : post 12	<b>AR: 318 denarii (numerous countermarked).</b> <b>Republican</b> : 261 (91-77 BC: 63, 51-41 BC: 83; serrati: 20), Augustus: 14 ('war coinage'). <i>Mints</i> : Roma (>78%), other mints: moving mints; Octavian; Sicily; Lugdunum). <b>Imperial</b> : Augustus: 43. <i>Mints</i> : Hispania, Roma, Lugdunum	Cutroni Tusa 1956, 211-212 (b.n.); Macaluso 1995*, 271-283 (not part of the hoard: 2 AE: 1 <i>sestertius</i> (Roma); 1 (Segesta).
47PA	SICILIA (PALERMO?) ante 1893-a  (M. Arch. Reg. 'A. Salinas', Palermo: inv. 1709) (CHRE 13855)	Acquisition.	-	F.2. North- western S.: Tyrrhenian coast	30  (p)	<i>range</i> : Republican age (88 BC) - Tiberius (AD 14-37)	<b>AR: 30 denarii.</b> <b>Republican</b> : 22, <b>Imperial</b> : Augustus: 5, Tiberius: 3.	Cutroni Tusa 1958-59*, 188-191 (26 pcs.; maybe part of the same hoard with Palermo 1893/b)
48PA	SICILIA (PALERMO?) ante 1893-b  (M. Arch. Reg. 'A. Salinas', Palermo: inv. 1721) (CHRE 13856)	Acquisition.	-	F.2. North- western S.: Tyrrhenian coast	34  (p)	<i>range</i> : Republican age (43-31 BC) - Tiberius (AD 14-37)	<b>AR: 26 denarii.</b> <b>Republican</b> : 26, <b>Imperial</b> : Augustus: 6, Tiberius: 2.	Cutroni Tusa 1958-59*, 191-194 (maybe part of the same hoard with Palermo 1893/a)
49PA	ISOLA DELLE FEMMINE 1889 (PA)  (M. Arch. Reg. 'A. Salinas', Palermo)	Occasional find.	shore	F.2. North- western S.: Tyrrhenian coast	191  (p)	<i>range</i> : Hadrianus- Volusianus  <i>burial</i> : 255-260	<b>AE: 191. Almost all sestertii (some habed).</b> Among them: Hadrianus, Antonines, Alexander Severus, Maximinus, Balbinus, Gordiani (above all Gordianus III), Philippus, Otaclia Severa, Herennia Etruscilla, Volusianus.	Macaluso 1987, 283-284 (b.n.)



#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability"	Date° (chronological range)	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
50PA	PALERMO 1920, Piazza della Vittoria	Excavations.	urban	E.2. North- western S.: Tyrrhenian coast	35 (p)	date: late 3rd c.	<b>Artoriani: 35.</b> Maximianus, Diocletian, other contemporary Emperors.	Brief notes: Gabrici 1921, 201; Cutroni Tusa 1982-83, 398.
51PA	PARTINICO 1958? (PA)  (various dispositions: Boston, Bruxelles, London, Paris, commerce 1960- 2000)  (CHRE 6921)	Occasional find: 'provenant d'un trésor trouvé au large des côtes de la Sicile à Partinico'.	maritime	E.2. North- western S.: Tyrrhenian coast	174	range: Probus - Constantinus I  burial: 308 (last issue)	<b>AV: 174 at least: 35 multiples and 139 aurei (= value of 251 aurei = 1,3 kg AV).</b> Probus: 1, Carinus: 1, Diocletianus: 21 (1st Tetrarchy), Maximianus Caesar: 6 (1st Tetrarchy), Maximianus: (1st Tetrarchy: 13, 2nd Tetrarchy: 13), Constantius Caesar: 7 (1st Tetrarchy), Constantius: 8 (2nd Tetrarchy), Severus Caesar: 2 (2nd Tetrarchy), Severus: 2 (3rd Tetrarchy), Maximinus Caesar: (2nd Tetrarchy: 2, 3rd Tetrarchy: 4), Constantinus Caesar: 2 (3rd Tetrarchy), Maximianus: 11, Maxentius Caesar: 16, Constantinus Caesar: 15 Maximinus Caesar: 6, Maxentius: 10, Constantinus Augustus: 1. <i>Mints:</i> Treveri, Ticinum, Aquileia, Roma, Carthago, Sicilia, Serdica, Thessalonica, Nicomédie, Cyzicus, Antiochia	Cutroni Tusa 1990-91, 346 (b.n.); Drost - Gautier 2011*, 153-176.
52PA	TERMINI IMERESE 1984- a, piazza Vittorio Emanuele (PA)  (M. Civico "B. Romano" Comune di Termini Imerese)	Excavations: one of two pits under the floor of a house.	urban	E.2. North- western S.: Tyrrhenian coast	24 (t)	range: Constans - mid 5th AD  burial: ante 423-425	<b>AE: 24 minimi.</b> Constans: 1 Constantius II: 1, Valentinianus II: 1, Magnus Maximus: 1, Arcadius: 1, Theodosius II: 1. Uncertain (second half of 4th - 5th century): 1 (imit.). Illegible: 16.	Belvedere et alii 1993*, 263-265 (probably a whole hoard with TERMINI IMERESE 1984-b).

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ type of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability"	Date° ( <i>chronological range</i> )	Contents ^	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
53PA	TERMINI IMERESE 1984- b, piazza Vittorio Emanuele (PA)  (M. Civico "B. Romano" Comune di Termini Imerese)	Excavations: one of two pits under the floor of a house.	urban	F.2. North- western S.: Tyrrhenian coast	31  (t)	<i>range</i> : Constans - mid 5th AD  <i>burial</i> : ante 423-425	<b>AE: 31 <i>termini</i></b> . Constans or Constantius II: 1 <i>folllis</i> , Constantius Gallus: 1, Valentianian I or Valens or Gratianus or Valentinianus II: 1, uncertain: 2, Theodosius I: 1, Valentinianus II or Theodosius I or Arcadius or Honorius: 1. Uncertain (second half of 4th - 5th century): 1. Illegible (second half of 4th - 5th century): 22.	Belvedere <i>et alii</i> 1993*, 263-265 (probably a whole hoard with TERMINI IMERESE 1984-a).
54ME	LIPARI 1910, Monte Rosa (ME)  (M. Arch. Reg. P. Orsi', Siracusa)  (CHRE 13986)	Occasional find.	not far from urban area	G. Eolian Islands (Tyrrhenian Sea, North S.)	1745  (p)	<i>range</i> : ( <i>residual</i> ) Gallienus - Leo I  <i>burial</i> : Vandal incursions	<b>Antoniniani: 5. AE: 1740 <i>piccolo modulo</i></b> : Among them: Lipara: 1 (hellenistic age), Siculo-Punic: 1, Ebusus: 1, Republican: 1 quadrans (AAAFF), Uncertain Greek, Gallienus: 2 antoniniani, Divus Claudius II: 3 antoniniani, Constantinus I: 3, Constantinus II (Augustus or Caesar): 8, Julianus II: 1, Valens: 2, Valentinianus I or II: 69, Theodosius I or II: 65, Aelia Flacilla: 1, Magnus Maximus: 1, Eugenius: 1, Arcadius: 13, Honorius: 9, Theodosius II: 59, Valentinianus III: 1, Galla Placidia: 4, Marcianus: 24, Avitus: 1, Leo I: 1, Unattributable types: 59 (cross or christogram within wreath). Uncertain or illegible: 1474	Orsi 1910*, 353-359; Cutroni Tusa 1982-83, 406 (b.n.); Manganaro 2013, 282, nota 67 (b.n.); Manganaro 2017*, 71-76.

#	Site of finding/ current disposition	Type of finding/ type of acquisition	Area function/ land use	Area	Number of coins/ reliability <sup>o</sup>	Date <sup>°</sup> ( <i>chronological range</i> )	Contents <sup>^</sup>	Bibliography: main edition, other references (b.n. = brief notes)
55ME	LIPARI 1993, via G. Franza (ME)  (M. Arch. Eoliano L. Bernabò Brea)	Excavations: building complex, edificio B, vano e': oval pit (maybe for oil collection).	urban; productive structure?	G. Eolian Islands (Tyrrhenian Sea, North S.)	64  (t)	<i>range: (residual)</i> Licinius- Valentinianus III?	<b>AE: 64.</b> Siculo-punic (3rd c. BC): 1, Lipara (2nd-1st c. BC): 1, Roma, Republic: 1 as (reduced sextantal standard), Licinius: 1, Divus Constantinus: 1, Constans: 3, Constantius II: 15, Constantius II and Constantius Gallus: 1, Julianus: 3, FTR: 5, Unattributable (mid 4th): 7, Valentinianus I: 1, Valens?: 1, Arcadius: 1, Valentinianus II: 2, Valentinianus III?: 2, Uncertain: 3, Illegible: 15. <i>Mints</i> : Roma, Antiochia, Alexandria, Constantinopolis, Aquileia	Bernabò Brea - Cavalier 2000*, 232-237; Manganaro 2013, 282.

**Legenda:**

§ Excavations; occasional find; donation; seizure; acquisition; not known.

° Reliability : total (t), partial (p), doubtful (d).

° Date: chronological 'range' of the contents. Hypothetical date of 'burial' or 'loss'.

^ Contents: As far as it regards the contents of the hoards, the level of detail in reporting the single coins depends on the previous publications. As here we do not intend to revise their classification, we just report the number of coins for each issuing authority, without adding any bibliographic reference of the single specimens present in each hoard, as some publications on which our information depends consist often only on brief notes. In case of hoards edited in detail, we do not quote the bibliographic references of each coin present, as they are available in the specific publication mentioned in the bibliography column (highlighted with an asterisk), often with a choice of images.

**Abbreviations:**

c. = century

M. = Museo; Arch. Reg. = Archeologico Regionale

s.d. = *sine data*

**Provinces of Sicily:** ME = Messina; CT = Catania; SR = Siracusa; RG = Ragusa; EN = Enna; CL = Caltanissetta; AG = Agrigento; TP = Trapani; PA = Palermo

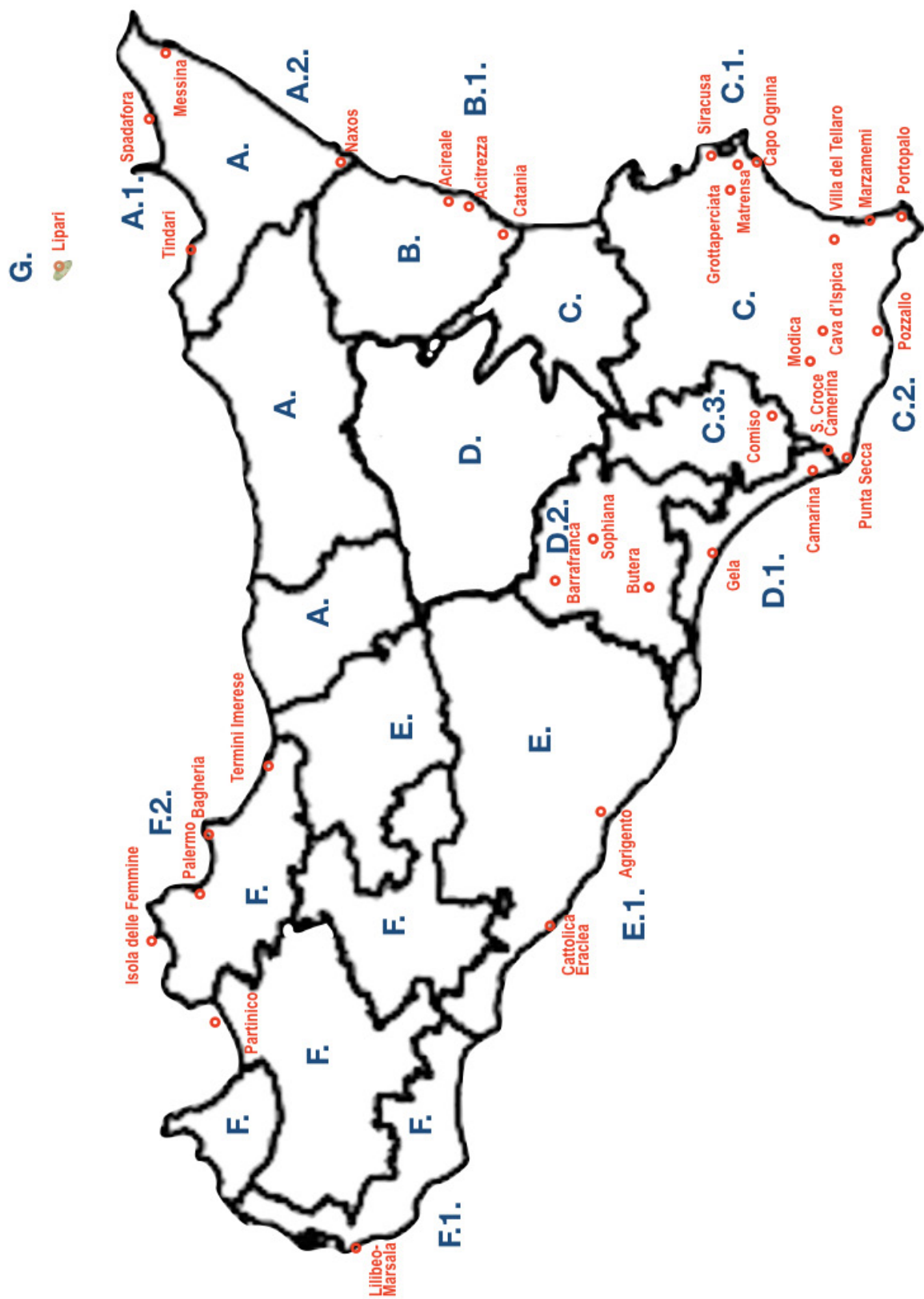


Fig. 2. Geomorphological areas

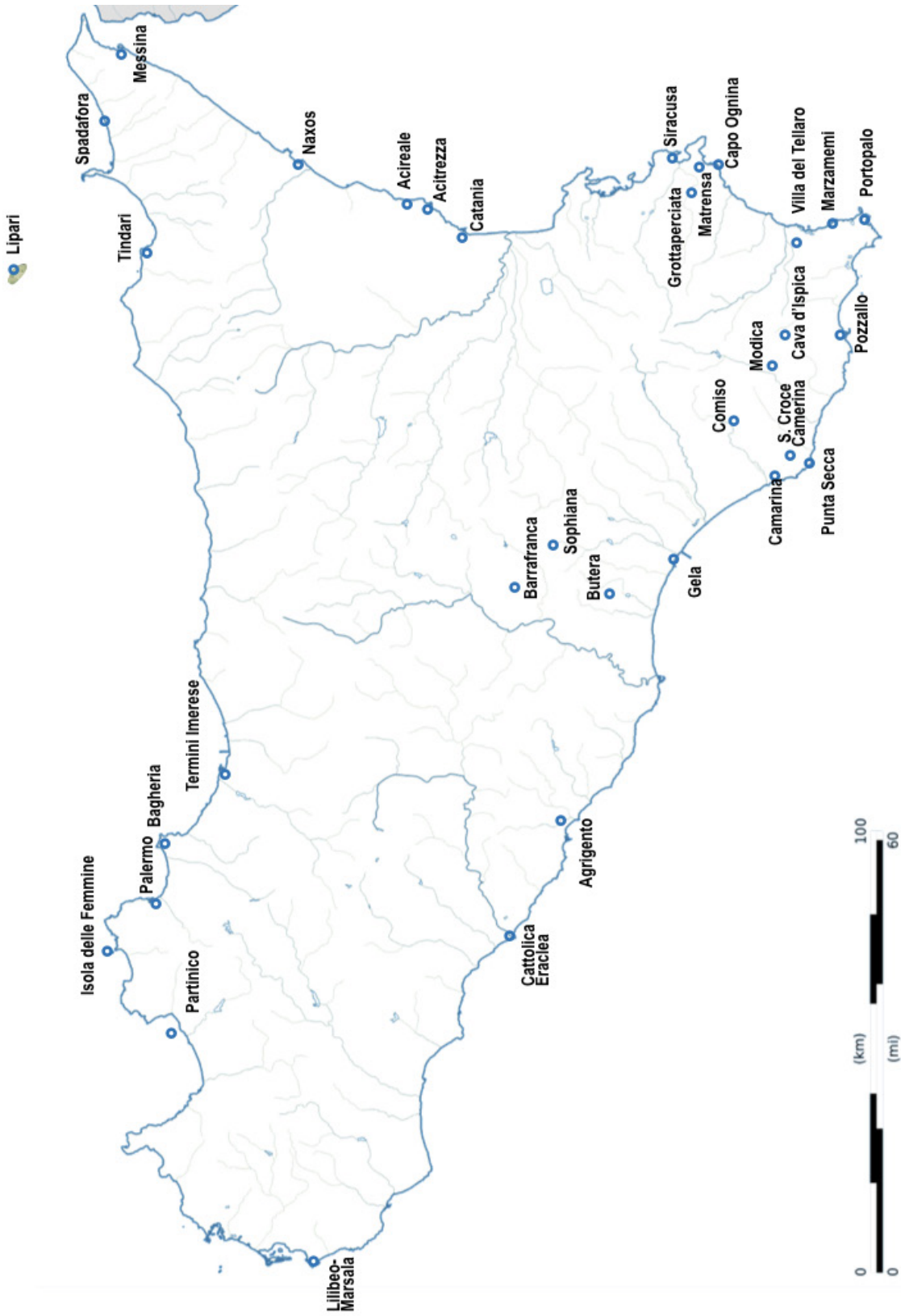


Fig. 3. Hoarding in Roman Imperial age



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5



6



Plate 1.



7



8



9



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11

12



13



Plate 2.

