



JOURNAL OF ANCIENT HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Institute of Archeology and Art History of
Romanian Academy Cluj-Napoca
Technical University Of Cluj-Napoca



Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14795/j.v8i2>

ISSN 2360 – 266X

ISSN-L 2360 – 266X



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No. 8.2 /2021

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Design & layout:
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AN IMITATION (FOURRÉE) OF ROMAN REPUBLICAN DENARIUS SERRATUS FROM THE «L-1» EXCAVATION AREA IN OLBIA PONTICA (UKRAINE)

Abstract: A paper is devoted to a publication of a rare for a Northern Black Sea region find – a half of an imitation of a Roman Republican denarius serratus revealed in Olbia Pontica in 2003 in cultural strata during the excavations of the «L-1» area, a Central part of a Citadel on the plateau the Upper City. The item supposed to be a barbarian imitation of a Roman denarius serratus of 81 BC of a Geto-Dacian minting. The coin find in Olbia, most likely, is connected with the historical events, described by Dio Chrysostom, about the Getae attack on polis took place c. the mid-1st century BC.

Keywords: *Olbia Pontica, Upper City, Citadel, Northern Black Sea region, 1st century BC, imitations of Roman Republican denarii, ancient counterfeits, coin forgeries, plated coins, fourrée serrati, monetary imitations, Geto-Dacian coin minting, Burebista.*

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The social and economic development of Olbia Pontica in the second half of the 1st century BC – the first decades of the 1st century AD is the least studied period in the *polis* history due to lack of factual sources. One of the last known Olbian lapidary monuments anticipating this period and containing the information about the military-political situation in Olbia¹ – the decree in honour of Niceratus, son of Papias², dated by Yu. G. Vinogradov by the first half of the 2nd century BC³ – mentions a phrase about enemies constantly rushing into the city. According to archaeological data at the beginning of the 1st century BC the inhabited area of the city due to constant barbarian raids was sharply reduced, the population of Olbia

¹ About the crisis of the Olbian *polis* during the Hellenistic era as an integral part of the system of Greek *poleis* city-states of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions, the constant military threats and attacks of barbarians on Olbia already from the middle of the 3rd century BC: VINOGRADOV 1984, 79-80. The war dangers are mentioned in Olbian epigraphic sources – in a decree in honour of Protogenes dated by the second half, possibly the 20-10th of the 3rd century BC about the threat of the invasion of Galatians and Scirii (Γαλάτας και Σκίρωνες) (IOSPE I², No. 32B. 5-8; VINOGRADOV 1989, 182), in a decree in honour of Antesterius of the third quarter of the 3rd century BC about numerous war dangers (VINOGRADOV 1984, 54, 57; VINOGRADOV 1989, 180).

² IOSPE I², No. 34.

³ VINOGRADOV 1989, 186; SKRZHINSKAIA 2000, 213-214; V. Latyshev dated a Niceratus decree by the first decades of the 1st century BC (LATYSHEV 1887, 140), M. I. Rostovtzev – by the end of 2nd century BC (ROSTOVITZEFF 1941, 766).

DOI: 10.14795/j.v8i2.614

ISSN 2360 – 266X

ISSN-L 2360 – 266X

declined, the borders of the population narrowed and concentrated near the fortress walls. The length of the line of defensive walls during this period was shortened to the limits of the southern end of the "Olbian triangle".⁴ Vivid evidence of such a decline is the cessation of existence of the Eastern *temenos*, on which the *polis* cult of *Apollo Delphinus* was set off.⁵ At the final stage of the era of the Mithridates Wars, in the second quarter of the 1st century BC, Olbia is an already drained, decayed city.

The ensuing events – an attack, defeat and massive rout of Olbia Pontica by the Getae, reflected in the Borysthenite speech of Dio Chrysostom⁶, due to their destructive scale led to the practical fading of the later life of the *polis* at least for a half of a century.⁷ The Dio Chrysostom visited the Olbia in summer in the end of the 1st century AD⁸ and testified that *"the city of Borysthenes, as to its size, does not correspond to its ancient fame, because of its ever-repeated seizure and its wars due to constant wars and destruction ... it is always in a state of war and has often been captured, the last and most disastrous capture occurring not more than one hundred and fifty years ago. And the Getae on that occasion seized not only Borysthenes but also the other cities along the left shore of Pontus as far as Apollonia the city... Evidence of the destruction of Borysthenes is visible both in the sorry nature of its buildings and in the contraction of the city within narrow bounds. For it has been built adjacent to one section of the ancient circuit-wall where only a few towers yet remain, not at all in keeping with the original size or power of the city. These, then, are clear tokens of the city's capture, as well as the fact that not a single statue remains undamaged among those that are in the sanctuaries, one and all having suffered mutilation, as is true also of the funeral monuments"*.⁹

Capture and destruction of several Pontic city-states¹⁰

⁴ VINOGRADOV 1989, 262-263.

⁵ The tense military situation of the city shortly before its destruction under the blows of Burebista's warriors is evidenced by the repair of the defensive walls at the «R-19» area, where the ruined remains of the wall were hastily assembled from architectural details and pedestals of dedicatory statues transferred here from the defunct *temenos*. The latest of the initiations carved on the bases dates from around the middle of the 2nd century BC, the construction or strengthening of this wall can hardly date back to the time before Mithridates VI, see VINOGRADOV 1989, 261. About the revealed traces of rapid restoration of the investigated section of the wall in connection with the military threat in that period also see KRAPIVINA 2002, 131.

⁶ DIO CHRYSOSTOM, *Orationes*, XXXVI.

⁷ About a gap in the history of the city, the absence of numismatic and epigraphic materials of the second half of the 1st century BC: KRAPIVINA 2014, 63.

⁸ Presumably, c. 95 (CRIȘAN 1977, 251) - 98 AD.

⁹ DIO CHRYSOSTOM, *Orationes*, XXXVI, 4, 6. The military-political situation of the city remained unstable even in the end of the 1st century AD. About the constant military tension in Olbia, the barbarian raids on a city also took place during the stay of Dio Chrysostom in Olbia testify the words of Callistratus, the Borysthenite: *«yesterday the Scythians made a raid at noon and put to death some of the outposts who were not on their guard, and in all likelihood took others captive»* (DIO CHRYSOSTOM, *Orationes*, XXXVI, 15).

¹⁰ The archaeological confirming of a destruction in a short period of time, c. mid-1st century BC of the coastal Olbia, Tyras, Histria, Odessos presumably more precisely correlates with ally relations with the Burebista and the Gnaeus Pompeus, began probably in 61/60 BC, and finally confirmed by some official agreement, presumably, *«received from the Romans recognition of his protectorate over the Pontic cities»* (DIMITROVA 163, 2007) took place, as the Acornion embassy of Dionysopolis decree, between the Battle of Dyrrhachium, 10 of July 48 BC and the Battle of Pharsalus, 9th of August 48 BC: DIMITROVA 2007, 160, 162-163.

by Getae, took place one hundred fifty years ago, as was mentioned in a Borysthenite speech of Dio Chrysostom of the end of 1st century AD, is coincided with a time of maximum strength of military-political union under the leadership of the Getae King Burebista (82-44 BC)¹¹, who consolidated the Geto-Dacian tribes and subjugated the numerous people;¹² in 70-60-s – 44 BC the union occupied a vast territory stretched from the Danube to Bug (Fig. 1), with the initial center, possibly, in Argedava, than – in the Sarmizegetusa Regia (the Orastie Mountains, Southern Transylvania).

The destruction of Olbia by the Getae finds the archaeological evidences in the stratigraphy of the site¹³ – interlayers of ash – the consequences of powerful fires, marking the pre- and post-Getae periods in a stratigraphy of a site.

A new source related to the Getae period of Olbia is a numismatic find revealed in 2003 in the southern part an Upper City during of a rescue excavation in the Central part of the Roman Citadel of Olbia in 2003-2006 – the «L-1» area¹⁴ (Fig. 2, 3) (excavations of V. V. Krapivina, A. V. Buyskikh, D. N. Khmelevskiy)¹⁵. During the work on the «L-1» in 2003-2006, the remains of several premises of a building, a dirt road, stone pavements, and a kiln of the Roman period were discovered.

During 2003 in the «L-1» excavation area the architectural and construction remains of a stone road or pavement made of lime stock rectangular blocks, under which the earlier remnants of a deepened premise with a four stone steps staircase and a pavement in *opus spicatum* technique, constructed of roof tiles (Fig. 4) were excavated.¹⁶ In the upper *strata* layers of the premise¹⁷ a fragment of a bronze item was

¹¹ STRABO VII.3.11: *«Boerebistas a Getan, on setting himself in authority over the tribe, restored the people, who had been reduced to an evil plight by numerous wars, and raised them to such a height through training, sobriety, and obedience to his commands that within only a few years he had established a great empire and subordinated to the Getae most of the neighbouring peoples...», «...the Getae and Daci once attained to very great power, so that they actually could send forth an expedition of two hundred thousand men»*.

¹² *«he would cross the Ister with impunity and plunder Thrace as far as Macedonia and the Illyrian country; and he not only laid waste the country of the Celti who were intermingled with the Thracians and the Illyrians, but actually caused the complete disappearance of the Boii who were under the rule of Critasirus, and also of the Taurisci»*: STRABO VII.3.11.

¹³ According to V. V. Krapivina, archaeologically confirms the destruction of the fortress walls and the defeat of Olbia during the Getae invasion, however, the scholar mentioned that these facts and finds of Getan pottery are not the evidence of the inclusion of Olbia in the state of Burebista, see KRAPIVINA 2002, 132.

¹⁴ See: BUISKIKH 1991, 30-31; KRAPIVINA 1993, 7. «L-1» area is bordered by the «L» excavation area (excavations by R. I. Wetshtein, 1954-1955, 1964-1971) where was discovered the building interpreted by investigator as the premises of the Roman garrison or the *praetorium*: WETSHEIN 1957, 79; WETSHEIN 1967, 134-137.

¹⁵ KRAPIVINA/BUJSKIKH 2004.

¹⁶ Presumably dates by the last third of the 1st – the first half of 2nd centuries AD according to the nearest site with the use of this construction technique – the *opus spicatum* floor of the *natatio* basin in the North part of Flavian legionary baths dated by the last third of the 1st century AD of castrum Novae, Moesia Inferior: DYCZEK 1996, 51; LEMKE 2011, 191-193, Pl. 199, Fig. 1; DYCZEK 2009, 1477-1485; DYCZEK 2011, 103, 110, 114. The «L-1» excavation area needs the further research for a clarification of chronological data and the types of the building structures of Roman period. About the planning of the Olbia Citadel of the Roman period, the Roman building techniques used in its construction: BUJSKIKH/NOVICHENKOVA 2021.

¹⁷ The material of premise dates by investigators not later than the 1st - 2nd centuries AD, including the red-clay pottery fragments, the amphora neck



Fig. 1. Map of Burebista state, 60-44 BC.

found.¹⁸ The product is a half of a coin with a serrated edge, with the core made of copper, the surface plated with a white metal (Fig. 5).¹⁹ The coin obverse and reverse legends are done schematically. The coin was cut on a half.²⁰ The diameter of a specimen is 18 mm. The weight of a piece is 0,86 gr. The legends of obverse and reverse of Olbian coin were stamped at different degree angle (at 45°) relation to each other. In a fragment of a plated coin on obverse is seen stamped a lower part of a bust, on reverse – the upper part of a figure standing left with a raised hand, the Roman eagle.

type Zeest 90 / Dressel 24, see KRAPIVINA/BUJSKIKH 2004, 73.

¹⁸ KRAPIVINA/BUJSKIKH 2004, 73: Olbia-2003, «L-1» area, a coin (O-2003/JI-1/95) was found on a «floor» level № 7 (levels I-II); description of a strata layer: level of a grey ash clay ramming with a charcoal fragments, silicate and metal slags, fragments of bronze and lead products. The material of a layer is chronologically mixed, of the 4th century BC – the 1st century AD. The strata finds – three coins of Olbia: two of 300-280, one of 180-170 BC (O-2003/JI-1/92-94), six fragments of bronze items, the pithos wall (O-2003/JI-1/91), the mass material is presented by fragments of ceramide roof tiles, the miniature Rhodes amphora bottom of the 2nd century BC, *amphorae*-, household cooking-, and table red-glazed pottery walls, see KRAPIVINA/BUJSKIKH 2004, 72-73, 277.

¹⁹ Scientific Funds of the Institute of Archaeology, the National academy of Sciences of Ukraine, inv. no. № KII 774/18.

²⁰ This is surprising for a fourrée. In common, the practice of cutting on half, quarters, the thirds of the Roman *denarii*, *dupondii* and *asses* is known, in particular, in the areas of dislocation of an early Roman army as a substitute of insufficiency of petty cash payments with local population. The same phenomenon of fragmentation but of local currency was also spread in Olbia Pontica in the Roman period in case of Olbian bronze coins also cut in pieces, see JAWORSKI 2019, 10-17.

Further research led to the conclusion that the coin is an antique imitation of the Roman Republican *denarius serratus* of the moneyer A. Postumius A. f. Sp. n. Albinus of 81 BC (Fig. 6).²¹ It refers to the one of barbarian plated imitations of the Roman Republican coins, the finds of which in the cultural *strata* of the ancient city-states of the Northern Black Sea region remained previously unknown.²²

The original *denarius serratus* of A. Postumius A. f. Sp. n. Albinus of 81 BC refer to Class 4 of Roman Republican

²¹ CRAWFORD 372/2; SYDENHAM 746. The avers of original *denarius* has a depiction of a veiled head of Hispania right with disheveled hair, behind HISPAN, the reverse – the togate figure standing left between Roman eagle and fasces, A ALBIN S N in the field, POST. A. F in exergue. The minting of *denarius* presumably relates to the praetorship of L. Postumius Albinus over Spain and his expeditions against the Vaccae and Lusitani.

²² On the territory of the Northern Black Sea region, the finds of coins related to the coinage of the Roman Republic, recorded in the cultural layer of archaeological sites, are the isolated cases, predominantly fixed in sanctuaries. The largest group of coins was found in the sanctuary near the pass Gurzufskoe Sedlo in Mountain Taurica – twenty-two coins of 211-114 – 31 BC, five Marcus Antonius *cistophoroi* of 39 BC, six *denarii* of 32-27 BC (NOVICHENKOVA/NOVICHENKOVA 2017), other finds – in sanctuary Eklizi-Burun in Mountain Taurica – four *denarii* 42- 31 BC (LYSENKO 2014, 280, Abb. 4), in settlement Kuru-Bash (camp) in Mountain Taurica – *denarius* of 132 BC (GAVRILOV 2010, Fig. 157-141 ,4:7), in a sanctuary in Pribrejnoe near Saki lake – *denarius* of 38 BC (KROPOTKIN 1961, 65), in Panticapaeum Citadel – two Julius Caesar *aureii* of 45-44 BC (TOLSTIKOV 1987, 51, Fig. 15 a, 6), in the composition of Fantalov shrine in a Taman Peninsular – a Julius Caesar *denarius* (KROPOTKIN 1961, 40). The finds of imitations of Roman Republican coins in the city-states of the Northern Black Sea region are unknown.



Fig. 2. 1. Plan of Olbia Pontica, by S. D. Kryzhytskyi, O. V. Kariaka (after KRYZHYTSKYI/KARIAKA 2017, fig. 7) with a position of «L-1» excavation area, the south part of an Upper City. 2. Olbia Pontica Citadel of the Roman period and its borders in the 1st - first half of the 2nd century AD, by V. V. Krapivina (after KRAPIVINA 1993, fig. 3, 1).



Fig. 3. «L1-» excavation area, by V. V. Krapivina (after KRAPIVINA 2014, fig. 179).



Fig. 4. «L1-», excavations 2003. A pavement in *opus spicatum* technique, constructed of roof tiles, bordering with a premise where the fourrée was found, by V. V. Krapivina (after KRAPIVINA 2014, fig. 10).



Fig. 5. Fragment of copper silvered imitation of Roman Republican *denarius*, O-2003/JI-1/95, Scientific Funds of the Institute of Archaeology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.



Fig. 6. Roman Republican denarius of A. Postumius A. f. Sp. n. Albinus of 81 BC, Crawford 372/2.

denarii serrati by H. Mattingly²³, minted in 87-71 BC, the major period of which is relating to Gaius Marius and Lucius Cornelius Sulla Civil Wars of 88-80 BC; the minting of *serrati* in this period was under control of Marius party, non-*serrati* – of Sulla's.²⁴

²³ The main *denarii serrati* minting of the Roman Republic, in except of *serrati* issue of the 3rd century BC, dates back to 125-49 BC: MATTINGLY 1924, 31-52. The issues were aimed to solve a problem with the number of counterfeits in the state, to contribute to reducing the number of forgeries in the total money supply. The *serrati*, the «*pecuniam probant veterem et diu notam, serratos bigatosque*» (TACITUS, *Germania*, 5) were also preferred by Gallic and Germanian tribes as the old, high quality, not counterfeited coins, as «*the apparent guarantee of the honesty of the coinage*»: MATTINGLY 1924, 45. M. Chițescu mentioned that in Dacia were found more finds of Dacian imitations of serrated *denarii* than of the original ones because the Geto-Dacians, as well as the Germanians had a preference for coins with a serrated edge, indentation which characterizes their own coins, see CHIȚESCU 1980, 126.

²⁴ MATTINGLY 1924, 38-40, 47. The promulgation in 84 BC of a law of the Marius nephew, the praetor M. Marius Gratidianus, stabilized the monetary

The finds of plated copies of Roman Republican *denarii* in the territory of a Roman Republic, was the reason for raising a question by scholars of a possibility of their official Senate issues,²⁵ but the most part of found imitations

circulation in Republic, including, presumably, through the reduction of the number of false *denarii* in a currency. By Plinius, «*a method was devised of assaying the denarius: the law ordaining which was so much to the taste of the plebeians, that in every quarter of the City there was a full-length statue erected in honour of Marius Gratidianus*»: PLINIUS XXXIII, 9.46; GĂZDAC/GĂZDAC-ALFÖLDY 2001, 137-154.

²⁵ H. Grueber and H. Mattingly (GRUEBER 1910, 42; MATTINGLY 1924, 43-44) supposed that there were two official mints of plated *denarii* in Roman Republic, the first – after Trasimene Battle 217 BC, the *lex Flaminia* which authorized to include in every issue a number of plated coins (*nummi mixti*), and the second – by Sulla party when in 91 BC the tribune M. Livius Drusus promoted a law which authorized that one-eighth of each issue should consist of coins of debased metal, PLINIUS XXXIII. 3.13; after his win Sulla officially re-established the currency of plated coins as part of issues lasted possibly till his death: GRUEBER 1910, 42; LAWRENCE/SYDENHAM 1940, 194. M. H. Crawford was sure that plated *denarii* were not issued officially, being all the forgeries: CRAWFORD 1968,

of Roman Republican *denarii*, including imitations of *denarii serrati*, originate from the Carpathian-Balkan area, a territory of Dacia, where also one of the largest²⁶ number of Roman Republican *denarii* was revealed.²⁷ The counterfeits along with Roman Republican coins were found in Dacia predominantly as part of hoards,²⁸ less in camps, *necropoleis* or on trade routes²⁹ Percentage of counterfeits in Dacian hoards in some cases reached up to 45%.³⁰

The majority of known imitations of Roman Republican *denarii* supposed to be produced in pre-Roman Dacia³¹; the imitations, silver struck and bronze plated struck and cast³² copies, presumably were produced by official Dacian workshops. The producing of counterfeits of Roman Republican *denarii* by Geto-Dacians and Celts is confirmed by finds of dies for their manufacture on sites Tilișca, Ludești, Brașov, Pecica, Sarmizegetusa Regia: two dies for Roman Republican *denarii* and Geto-Dacian coin minting were found in a Dacian fortress Poiana.³³

The most of hoards of Roman Republican *denarii* in Dacia dates by the first half of 1st century BC.³⁴ M. Chițescu

55, 59; he noted that they are almost unknown in hoards but were found predominantly as site-finds because of the prohibition of the illegal coins in Roman Republican monetary circulation (CICERO, *De officiis*, 3, 91), being controlled by *nummularii*, including the use of punch-marks for revealing the false with the bronze or copper core. The forgeries «were thrown away when they could no longer be passed», see CRAWFORD 1980, 1968. There are known hoards of plated imitations of Roman Republican coins from Forlì, Apulia, Vidy, Athens: CRAWFORD 1968, 55; a hoard of 89 bronze plated *denarii* of Late Republican and Augustus-Claudius periods occurred from London, probably was produced by locals, see LAWRENCE 1940, 185-189.

²⁶ The second by common amount after the Italy: CHIȚESCU 1980, 124.

²⁷ About this phenomenon (MITREA 1968, 53-64; CHIȚESCU 1980, 123-138) and the main versions about the reasons of circulation of Republican *denarii* and their counterfeits on the territory of pre-Roman Dacia and adjacent territories as commercial activity (MITREA 1968, 53-54; GLODARIU 1974, 88-99; LOCKYEAR 2008, 148), as the changes in monetary policy in accordance with new political and economic conjuncture (PREDA 1973, 348-349), trade-in Dacian slaves during the Spartacus uprising (CRAWFORD 1977, 118), as the stipendiaries to Geto-Dacian chiefs from Greek dynasts, later from Roman commanders (such as Gnaeus Pompeus and Marcus Antonius); because of a workshop mass imitating of the Roman currency by Geto-Dacians, also as the Celts, the Gauls, the Iberians and the Belgians (CHIȚESCU 1980, 124).

²⁸ About Dacian hoards of Roman Republican *denarii*, e.g., with Geto-Dacian imitations, see, e.g., PREDA 1973, 345-352; POENARU-BORDEA 1974, 219-238; CHIȚESCU 1980, 128; SĂȘIANU 1980, 65-70; PAUNOV/PROKOPOV 2002, 62-78; TALMAȚCHI 2003, 273-284; TALMAȚCHI 2007, 37-81; LOCKYEAR 2008, 147-176; DAVIS/PAUNOV 2012, 389-413; STAN 2014, 44-67; PAUNOV 2017, 163-175; GĂZDAC/GHEMIȘ/BARBUTUDORAN 2020, 38-46.

²⁹ CHIȚESCU 1980, 123.

³⁰ LOCKYEAR 2008, 150.

³¹ About the Geto-Dacian imitations of the Roman Republican *denarii*, see RUZICKA 1913, 81-85; RUZICKA 1921, 266-268; CHIȚESCU 1971, 209-258; PREDA 1973, 345-352; CHIȚESCU 1980, 125-129; SUCIU 1980, 96-97; DAVIS 2006, 321-356; DAVIS/PAUNOV 2012, 389-413; WOYTEK *et alii* 2012, 133-162. M. H. Crawford had an opposite thought that the main part of coins were not copies but genuine, CRAWFORD 1980, 51-52.

³² see, e.g., the cast coins of Breaza hoard (LOCKYEAR 2008, 155). The bronze core made by casting also had the Dacian plated imitations of Roman Imperial *denarii*: GĂZDAC/OARGĂ/ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC 2015, 12.

³³ PREDA 1973, 347; CHIȚESCU 1980, 125; GLODARIU *et alii* 1992, 57-68; MITREA 2011, 187-192; PAUNOV 2014, 29-35; LOCKYEAR 2008, 154-155. Dies for striking of Roman Republican *denarii* of 123-31 BC were also found in Montana, Vratsa, North-Western Bulgaria, PAUNOV 2014, 29-35, Fig. 11-8, 4-3.

³⁴ In case of Romania finds in can be seen that there are the main chronological groups of Roman Republican coins found there: of the 2nd century BC, the first decades of the 1st century BC, of 68-51 BC; of 49-40, 39-31 BC with the prevailing of Marcus Antonius *legio denarii* (CHIȚESCU 1980, 123). A. Sășianu mentions that in case of North-Western Romania

wrote that the counterfeits of Roman Republican types, copies and imitations, possibly started to be produced in official Geto-Dacian workshops from the first decades of the 1st century BC, were performed from originals of 90-80 BC; became more widespread coping in the 70-50 BC, coinciding with the Burebista period. In the 70s BC on a base of existed Geto-Dacian currency a single monetary type was provided – the Geto-Dacian coinage of the Roman Republican type of universal value, which could circulate throughout the space occupied by Burebista, capable of paying for any commodity³⁵. In the territory of Ukraine the Dacian and Celtic *Eravisci*³⁶ imitations of Roman Republican coins were found at Malaya Kopanya site in the Upper Tisza.³⁷

The imitations made of copper core plated with silver or lead are not numerous for a Dacia of pre-Roman period, accounted for a small part of the total number of the Geto-Dacian counterfeits. The barbarian monetary imitations includes copies with stylized effigies and legends, sometimes even to the extreme, made crudely, the depictions are done schematically, often with barbarian features³⁸. A specimen from Olbia is done in the same manner.

The Geto-Dacian coins of the Roman Republican type continue to have currency after the death of Burebista until the first half of the 1st century AD adopted to the Roman Imperial type. The currency of the Geto-Dacians including counterfeits was possible in areas not under Roman official control, in the north of Danube; the Celtic populations like the Dacians had copied the Roman currency at the time of their free development. The activity of monetary counterfeiting of the Geto-Dacian people continued in the eastern part of Dacia after the foundation of Dacia Trajana. The series of counterfeits of the Imperial Roman currency executed in the eastern part of Dacia³⁹, the local currency emissions issued from the official workshops of the State of the Free Dacians (the Carps) and dated to the 2nd - 3rd centuries AD⁴⁰.

the main hoard groups are composed of coins, struck in 79-71 and 48-38 BC; the first group is mainly represented by hoards from the Carpathians; a big group of coins of 75-60 BC was also found in this area, see SĂȘIANU 1980, 67. By K. Lockyear, the most of hoards of Roman Republican *denarii* from Romania are dating from 91 BC; hoards in Romania are homogeneous in terms of the coins; on the basis of analysis of 217 of hoards is concluded that the massive import of Roman Republican *denarii* into pre-Roman Dacia was in the period of 75-65 BC, the second, possibly, in late 40-s BC, see LOCKYEAR 2008, 150, 168-169.

³⁵ CHIȚESCU 1980, 127.

³⁶ or *Aravisci* (PLINIUS III.25; TACITUS, *Germania*, 28) – Celtic Transdanubian tribes, with the center on Gellért Hill, Tabán area (KOLNIKOVA/KOTYGOROSHSKO 2007, 54). The fact that the Celts and Dacians lived in the same territory is evidenced by the data of Claudius Ptolemy (2nd century AD) according to whom the *Anarti*, the *Teurisci*, and the *Coestoboci* inhabit Dacia in the northern part, beginning from the west: PTOLEMY, *Geography*. III. 8, 3.

³⁷ Silver bars were also found at this site, which is the basis for the assumption of the local production of some of coins: KOLNIKOVA/KOTYGOROSHSKO 2007, 49.

³⁸ CHIȚESCU 1980, 125, Fig. 2/11-20.

³⁹ The continuation of producing of plated *denarii* in Roman Dacia and Pannonia according to scholars presumably also relates to the places of dislocation of Roman army, e.g., the monetary workshops in Northern border of the Dacia – in Ilișua (auxiliary fort Arcobadara) with 56,4% of plated coins in common amount of Roman Imperial *denarii*, see GĂZDAC 2009, 1495-1496, and auxiliary fort Porolissum in North-Western frontier with 40% of plated coins in common amount of Roman Imperial *denarii*, see GĂZDAC 2015, 44.

⁴⁰ CHIȚESCU 1980, 129.

The find of an imitation of the Roman Republican denarius in Olbia serves an important material source, marking the entry of Olbia into the orbit of influence of the Geto-Dacian state of Burebista around the middle of the 1st century BC, which is fully correlated with the events described by Dio Chrysostom.

Till now, a central part of the Citadel of Olbia of the Roman period in southern part of an Upper City stays excavated partially. Nevertheless, presumably, exactly the area of the central and northern parts of a Citadel was mostly occupied by Olbiopolitians in a period from the Mithridates Wars till the end of the 1st century AD. A further investigation and a detailed explore of this area are one of the promising questions for obtaining information about the life of the Olbia city in the second half of the 1st century BC – the first half of the 1st century AD.

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