Abstract: In this paper, the authors are presenting the data about 60 specimens of Hellenistic and Roman Republican coinage found on the hillfort of Radučka glavica, located at the very edge of south-eastern Liburnia, on the corridor between the main crossings over the upper valleys of the Krka and Zrmanja rivers. Coins minted in Numidia, Carthage, Ptolemaic Empire, southern Italy, Sicily, Macedonia, and the Roman Republic are represented, and among them is a group of 26 already published coins, which were previously thought to originate from the Drniš area. However, with new information, it is established that these coins originate from the Radučka glavica hillfort, which complements the knowledge about the circulation of coins in pre-Roman Liburnia.

Keywords: Liburnia, Hellenistic coinage, Roman Republican Coinage, hillfort, Radučka glavica.

INTRODUCTION

At the very edge of south-eastern Liburnia, on the corridor between the main crossings over the upper valleys of the Krka and Zrmanja rivers, lies a hillfort settlement, known by the place name “Radučka glavica”. It is an extremely dominant and notable hillfort that controlled the most vulnerable entrance to the area of Liburnia, located on the immediate border with several ethnic entireties of pre-Roman Illyricum, such as the Delmatae, Ditiones, and Iapodes.

Figure 1. Marked position (source: Google Earth) and view of Radučka glavica (photo: N. Cesarik)

1 The hillfort is located between the villages of Radučić and Mokro Polje, not far from the city of Knin.
2 For the borders of south-eastern Liburnia, see ČAČE 1989. For the general overview on south Liburnia at the beginning of the principate, see ČAČE 2006.
Earlier it was thought that the settlement on Radučka glavica was abandoned in the early stages of the Iron Age, but such assumptions were refuted by the findings of coinage minted during the Hellenistic and Roman Republican period, which confirmed that the settlement on Radučka glavica was active in the last stages of the Liburnian Iron Age culture. Also, the surface finds of Roman roof tiles provide the information that the life on this hillfort continued during the Roman era. Given all the circumstances, it seems quite certain that the settlement at Radučka glavica served as the main centre of the community of Liburnian Burnistae, on whose territory—at the end of Augustus’ reign—a legionary fortress of Burnum was built, which served as one of the most important Roman military strongholds in Dalmatia during the 1st century AD.3

HELENISTIC AND ROMAN REPUBLICAN COINAGE FROM RADUČKA GLAVICA

The first data on numismatic finds from Radučka glavica was briefly presented by Ilkić and Rebić, and in this paper, an additional 60 specimens found by metal detectorists on its surface are brought to light. Among them, it is worth mentioning the 26 already published coins, for which the exact place of discovery was previously not known, and it was only stated that they originate from the “area of Drniš”. Namely, when these coins were presented to us at the end of 2011, we were told that they were found “in Burnum”. Such a statement surprised us quite a bit because we knew that Burnum was a Roman legionary fortress that has been archaeologically excavated since 2003, which is why it seemed illogical to us that someone would find such a quantity of coins minted during the Hellenistic and Roman Republican period in that very place. However, after further inquiries, we received only indirect information that the coins were found by “deminers” somewhere in the area of Drniš, so the coins were presented with such information at the exhibition “Towards Ancient Numismatics”, held in May 2012 in Zadar.

In the following years, we collected the data about other coins presented in this paper, but we received more precise information about the exact location of the finding of these coins. Thus, we were informed that all of the coins were found on a large hillfort near the village of Radučić, located not far from the legionary fortress of Burnum. Because by then we possessed a much better knowledge on the archaeological topography of the wider area of the fortress od Burnum, we started to list to our informers all of the hillforts that are close to Burnum. After we mentioned the hillfort at Radučka glavica, which was our first suspect at the beginning (knowing, of course, about the coins published by Ilkić and Rebić) we finally received the information that all of the coins were found exactly at that hillfort. That knowledge resolved the issue of the first information from the end of 2011 when we were first told that the coins originate “from Burnum”. Because the hillfort of Radučka glavica is only 3.5 km north of the Roman legionary fortress (Fig. 2), it seems logical that the site of Burnum was taken as a kind of a determinant for specifying the relatively wider location where the mentioned coins were found.

Furthermore, the coins represented in this paper (especially the North African coinage) are typical finds for the area of Liburnia and Iapodia, but not for the area of the Delmatae. Since it is clear that the river Krka formed a natural boundary between Liburnia and Dalmatia, it would be harder to accept the earlier premise that the coins were found in the area of Drniš (i.e. in the area of Petrovo polje), which is located more than 15 km east of the river Krka. Radučka glavica, on the other hand, is located at the very edge of south-eastern Liburnia, where this kind of coins represents a standard occurrence of numismatic finds on numerous pre-Roman hillforts.

STRAY FINDS OR PART OF A HOARD?

Given that we do not possess the exact archaeological data, and our knowledge solely depends on the information presented to us by metal detectorists, we cannot say with certainty whether these coins were found as stray surface finds, or if they were found in a hoard. In earlier works it was believed that this type of numismatic material was only found in large hoards; but recently, many stray finds from various hillfort settlements in Liburnia and Iapodia have been documented, so it is quite certain that some of these coins were found as stray finds. On the other hand, considering the state of preservation, it is highly possible that the coins with well-preserved patina—such as the

3 Cf. BUTTLER 1931, 193.
4 For more on this subject, see CESARIK 2018.
5 ILKIĆ/REBIĆ 2014, 94-107, cat. no. 1, 3, 36-38. The authors did not provide any information on the circumstances in which these coins were found. It is only stated that they were “collected on the surface” of the hillfort.
6 Illegal search for archaeological objects using metal detectors is an extremely widespread activity on Croatian soil, for which there are currently no satisfactory solutions. We certainly do not want to encourage further activities of this type in this way, but we want to appeal that documenting such findings is certainly more valuable than losing all of the traces of them. Although the professional literature often suppresses the way by which certain coins were found, we believe that we must say that these coins are not “accidental surface finds”. We also want to point out that the solution to the “detectorists problem”—in our opinion—can only be found in certain cooperation between amateurs and professionals because otherwise, all traces of a finding of many artefacts will be irretrievably lost.
7 ILKIĆ/ Filipčić/KRAMBERGER 2011.
8 Cf. CESARIK/KRAMBERGER 2018, where the rest of the relevant bibliography is cited. For new information about the type of coinage that circulated in the area of Liburnia, see KRAMBERGER 2020.

Figure 2. Radučka glavica, the legionary fortress of Burnum, and the corridor between the crossings over the Krka and Zrmanja rivers (source: Google Earth)
better-preserved specimens of Carthage (cat. no. 8-18) and especially Numidia (cat. no. 28-34), as well as the coins of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (cat. no. 47) and the Apulian city of Teate (cat. no. 49)—belonged to a hoard; while some of the less preserved coins, such as several specimens of Carthage (cat. no. 1-7, 19-27) and Numidia (cat. no. 35-46), but also the coins of Roman Republic (cat. no. 50-54) and Thessalonica (cat. no. 55)—are probably stray surface finds. However, since we do not have the exact data, we believe that it would be best to determine that these kinds of coins represent a “cumulative site finds of coins”.10

COIN ANALYSIS

Coins from Radučka glavica belong to the standard repertoire of Hellenistic and Roman Republican coinage recorded in the area of Liburnia and Iapodia (both of which, during the principate, belonged to the conventus Scardonitans).11 The predominant coins are the ones minted in Carthage, among which there are 7 older specimens, dating to the end of the 3rd century BC (cat. no. 1-7), and 20 later specimens, minted during the first half of the 2nd century BC (cat. no. 8-27). Also represented are 18 coins minted in Numidia, at the end of the 3rd and through the 2nd century BC, which is attributed to the Numidian ruler Massinissa and his successors (cat. no. 28-46), out of which in particular should be noted Micipsa, the eldest legitimate son of Masinissa, who ruled over Numidia during 148-118 BC. One coin each belongs to the mints of Ptolemaic Empire (cat. no. 47), Syracuse in Sicily (cat. no. 48), and the city of Teate in Apulia (cat. no. 49). The coinage of the Roman Republic is also documented, among which are three anonymous asses (no. 50-52), one as with the name of the moneyer M. Titinius (cat. no. 53), as well as one triens (cat. no. 54). One coin of the Macedonian city of Thessalonica, minted under the Roman domination, is also recorded (cat. no. 55), which seems to represent a numismatic novelty among the so far published coins of the Hellenistic and Roman Republican period in the area of Liburnia and Iapodia. We have also documented one fragment of formed (aes formatum, cat. no. 56) and three specimens of unformed copper alloy (aes rude, cat. no. 57-60), which are common finds on Liburnian and Iapodian hillforts, and are usually found in large hoards, but its findings are usually not so attractive to the metal detectors, so they are often disposed of as unwanted scrap in the immediate surroundings of the raised hillforts.12

The state of preservation of coins found on Radučka glavica corresponds well to the state of preservation of coins recorded on other Liburnian and Iapodian hillforts. Looking at the whole, the average condition of these coins is very poor; however, in terms of preservation, several coins of Numidia (cat. no. 28-34) stand out, which are—compared to other Hellenistic and Roman Republican coins recorded in the area of Liburnia and Iapodia—extremely well preserved. Such a condition, which is otherwise very rare for this area, is the result of a much better combination and quality of the metal from which the coin planchets were made.13 However, as was said before, the preservation of these coins could also indicate that they were found in a relatively larger hoard.

CONCLUSION

Although the coins presented in this paper were not found as a result of archaeological research, their documentation and publication certainly contribute to the overall knowledge about the hillfort settlement on Radučka glavica. Looking at the broader context of similar findings published so far, it is evident that the coins represented on Radučka glavica fully correspond to the coins found in other hillfort settlements in Liburnia and Iapodia. Given that the hillfort at Radučka glavica is located on the very edge of Liburnia, which bordered the area of Ditiones and Delmatae, it will be interesting to note whether the phenomenon of circulation of this type of coinage is solely distinctive for the areas of Liburnia and Iapodia, or is it also a feature that is found in pre-Roman settlements in their neighbouring areas (especially in the border areas that already belonged to Ditiones and Delmatae). In any case, we hope that further information—both on the hillfort of Radučka glavica and the issue of coin circulation in other pre-Roman hillforts in its vicinity—will be obtained through extensive archaeological research. We also hope that the official institutions will find a satisfactory way to solve the growing problem of illegal searching for archaeological objects using the metal detector and that those objects found by metal detectorists will still see the light of day in professional publications, which will at least preserve the valuable information on their discovery.

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CATALOGUE

1. Carthage, c. 221-210 BC, AE, 20 mm, 4.81 g, SNG Cop, 307-314.
Unpublished.

Obv. Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
Rev. Horse standing right, head turned back.

2. Carthage, c. 221-210 BC, AE, 22 mm, 4.02 g, SNG Cop, 307-314.
Unpublished.

Obv. Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
Rev. Horse standing right, head turned back.

3. Carthage, c. 221-210 BC, AE, 21 mm, 4.91 g, SNG Cop, 307-314.
Unpublished.

Obv. Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
Rev. Horse standing right, head turned back.

Unpublished.

Obv. Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
Rev. Horse standing right, head turned back.

5. Carthage, c. 221-210 BC, AE, 21 mm, 4.04 g, SNG Cop, 307-314.
Unpublished.

Obv. Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
Rev. Horse standing right, head turned back.
6. Carthage, c. 221-210 BC, AE, 19 mm, 3.21 g, SNG Cop, 307-314.
Unpublished.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse standing right, head turned back.

7. Carthage, c. 221-210 BC, AE, 22 mm, 9.60 g, SNG Cop, 307-314.
Unpublished.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse standing right, head turned back.

8. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 28 mm, 17.25 g, SNG Cop 409-413.
Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 1.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

9. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 28 mm, 16.31 g, SNG Cop 409-413.
Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 2.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

10. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 28 mm, 16.32 g, SNG Cop 409-413.
Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 3.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.
11. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 30mm, 19.31g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 4.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.

*Rev.* Horse walking right.

12. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 28mm, 19.89g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 5.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.

*Rev.* Horse walking right.

13. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 26mm, 20.78g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 6.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.

*Rev.* Horse walking right.

14. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 29mm, 16.74g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 7.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.

*Rev.* Horse walking right.

15. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 27mm, 15.74g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 8.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.

*Rev.* Horse walking right.
16. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 28mm, 19.43g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 9.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

17. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 27mm, 17.30g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 10.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

18. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 27mm, 18.48g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 11.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

19. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 28mm, 15.49 g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 12.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

20. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 28mm, 18.25g, SNG Cop 409-413.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 13.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.
21. Carthage, c. 200–146 BC, AE, 29mm, 20.00g, SNG Cop 409-413.
Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 14.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

22. Carthage, c. 200–146 BC, AE, 27mm, 16.90g, SNG Cop 409-413.
Unpublished.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

23. Carthage, c. 200–146 BC, AE, 29mm, 18.04g, SNG Cop 409-413.
Unpublished.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

24. Carthage, c. 200–146 BC, AE, 28mm, 15.68g, SNG Cop 409-413.
Unpublished.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.

25. Carthage, c. 200–146 BC, AE, 28mm, 15.22g, SNG Cop 409-413.
Unpublished.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.
*Rev.* Horse walking right.
Unpublished.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.

*Rev.* Horse walking right.

27. Carthage, c. 200-146 BC, AE, 28mm, 12.76g, SNG Cop 409-413.
Unpublished.

*Obv.* Wreathed head of Tanit, left.

*Rev.* Horse walking right.


*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; linear border; pellet below; double struck.


*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.


*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.

32. Numidia, Massinissa or Micipsa, 208-148 or 148-118 BC, AE, 27mm, 17.21g, SNG Cop 505-507.

*Publ.*: IFK, cat. no. 15.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.

33. Numidia, Massinissa or Micipsa, 208-148 or 148-118 BC, AE, 26mm, 14.79g, SNG Cop 505-507.

*Publ.*: IFK, cat. no. 16.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.

34. Numidia, Massinissa or Micipsa, 208-148 or 148-118 BC, AE, 26mm, 15.27g, SNG Cop 505-507.

*Publ.*: IFK, cat. no. 17.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.

35. Numidia, Massinissa or Micipsa, 208-148 or 148-118 BC, AE, 26mm, 14.17g, SNG Cop 504.

*Publ.*: IFK, cat. no. 18.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left.
36. Numidia, Massinissa or Micipsa, 208-148 or 148-118 BC, AE, 26mm, 10.91g, SNG Cop 504.

Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 19.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left.


*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.


*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.


*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.


*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; letters M N below.
41. Numidia, Massinissa or Micipsa, 208-148 or 148-118 BC, AE, 26mm, 12.22g, SNG Cop 505-507. Unpublished.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.

42. Numidia, Massinissa or Micipsa, 208-148 or 148-118 BC, AE, 28mm, 14.77g, SNG Cop 505-507. Unpublished.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.


*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left.

44. Numidia, Massinissa or Micipsa, 208-148 or 148-118 BC, AE, 26 mm, 14.57 g, SNG Cop 504-513. Unpublished.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left.


*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left.

*Obv.* Bearded laureate head, left; dotted border.

*Rev.* Horse galloping left; pellet below.

47. Egypt, Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II, 145-116 BC, AE, 27.5mm, 11.66 g, SVORONOS 1642; SNG Cop 652; SNG Zagreb 9-11. Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 22.

*Obv.* Head of Zeus Ammon, right.

*Rev.* Eagle standing left on thunderbolt, with spread wings; Φ before; ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ [ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ] around.


*Obv.* Head of Poseidon, left.

*Rev.* Trident; details (dolphins on each side) and the inscription are not visible.

49. Apulia, Teate, c. 225-200 BC, AE quincaux, 26mm, 18.52g, SNG Cop 689. Publ.: IFK, cat. no 23.

*Obv.* Head of Athena wearing Corinthian helmet, right.

*Rev.* Owl standing right; TIATI above; five pellets beneath.

50. Roman Republic, anonymous, AE as, 32mm, 34.80g, RRC?

Publ.: IFK, cat. no 38.

*Obv.* Laureate head of bearded Janus; I above (mark of value).

*Rev.* Prow of galley, right.
51. Roman Republic, anonymous, AE as, 33mm, 34.28g, RRC?
Publ.: IFK, cat. no 36.

*Obv.* Laureate head of bearded Janus; I above (mark of value).

*Rev.* Prow of galley, right; I before (mark of value); ROMA below.

52. Roman Republic, anonymous, AE as, 32mm, 19.24g, RRC?
Publ.: IFK, cat. no 37.

*Obv.* Laureate head of bearded Janus; I above (mark of value).

*Rev.* Prow of galley, right; ROMA below.

53. Roman Republic, M. Titinius, 189-180 BC, AE as, 33mm, 27.67g, RCC 150/1.
Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 35.

*Obv.* Laureate head of Janus; above I (mark of value).

*Rev.* Prow of galley, right; M·TITINI above; ROMA below.

54. Roman Republic, AE triens, 23mm, 7.43g, RRC? Publ.: IFK, cat. no. 39.

*Obv.* Head of Minerva, right; four pellets above (mark of value).

*Rev.* Prow of galley, right; four pellets below (mark of value); ROMA above.

55. Macedonia, Thessalonica, after 88 BC, semi-autonomous issue, 23mm, 8.22g, SNG Cop 370-371.
Unpublished.

*Obv.* Laureate head of Janus; I above.

*Rev.* Two Centaurs prancing, back to back, each holding a thyrsus; [ΘΕΣΛΩΝΙΚΕΣ] below.

Description: Cast copper alloy in the form of a very thick coin. Fragmented approx. on one-third of the original size. Visible die line on the edge.


60. Italy, *aes rude*, 5th-3rd century BC, AE, 28x26x23mm, 46.41g. Unpublished.

Photos of coins: N. Cesarek
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ABBREVIATIONS OF NUMISMATIC CORPORA

RRC

SNG Cop

SNG Zagreb

SVORONOS