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Design & layout: Petru Ureche
COINS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT (II). THE CIVILIAN BATHS OF THE AUXILIARY FORT FROM SUTOR (ROMANIA, SĂLAJ COUNTY)

Abstract: The present paper is presenting a case study of a rescue archaeological investigation following the building of a motorway. The research area revealed the civilian baths complex of the Roman auxiliary fort of Optatiana in the province of Dacia (today, Sutor, Sălaj County, Romania). The analysis of coin finds, issuers, types, denominations, within the archaeological contexts they were found in, reveal the fact that only one-two coins may lead the archaeologist into a chronological pitfall, while a group of more than five single finds with similar dating elements (e.g. same issuer or his successor(s) from the same context/phase may be a true help in understanding the development of an archaeological complex.

Keywords: Archaeological context, Roman single coin finds, Sutor, Roman Dacia.

INTRODUCTION

In a previous study, we have presented both benefits and limits of the numismatic evidence provided by the contexts of an archaeological complex.1

The rescue excavations following the building of a segment of the motorway A3, Brașov-Borș, has led to the discovery of the civilian baths of the auxiliary fort from Sutor (hypothetically identified with the ancient Optatiana mentioned also by Peutinger’s Tabula).

The accurate archaeological investigation with precise location of the artefacts within contexts, was an excellent first step for a new case-study of coins in archaeological contexts. Apart from the technical aspects, a tricky procedure was used in order to avoid the ‘traditional’ dating of the context according with the coin minting date. On the basis of stratigraphy, the archaeologists were establishing the number of building-use phases of the complex without knowing the coin issuer.

THE SITE

The Roman site at Sutor (Sălaj County) is well-known in the archaeological literature in the context of the military auxiliary camp mentioned here starting with the late 19th century. Starting with K. Torma in 1864, who has based his research on the discovery of several tile stamps 1. GĂZDAC/COCIȘ 2020, 42-52.
and inscriptions, all the following archaeologists interested in the site positioned the Roman fort roughly in the same area, namely at the place known as “Gura Căpușului”. However, the few inscriptions found here, together with the reconstructed name of the main unit stationed here (Numerus Maurorum Optatianensium) made reference also to a civilian settlement identified with ancient Optatiana, a site mentioned also by Tabula Peutingeriana.

Despite being known for a long time, the site received little attention and it was only in 2001 that systematic works were carried out here. With that occasion, the main stratigraphy of the site and its chronological span were established. Apart from the structures belonging to the Roman period, two other settlements were discovered, one belonging to the Bronze Age and the other one to the Early Medieval Period (7th-8th century AD). Right from the beginning, the aim of the archaeological research was to determine in a first stage the exact position and extent of the Roman fort and the civilian settlement and afterwards to establish as much as possible their inner structure.

Beginning with 2006, the team involved in the excavations at Sutor successfully managed to establish the exact position and extent of the fort, concluding that the military garrison was 165 x 220 m wide. Due to the technical advance in the field of near-surface geophysics, such non-invasive surveys proved to be highly efficient in the case of this site. A first series of geophysical surveys coupled with aerial imagery was performed in 2010 being able to pinpoint the location of the principia followed by massive surveys (magnetometry, ERT and GPR) covering both the area of the fort and civilian settlement starting with 2012 up to date. Fortunately, these recent surveys have highlighted both the extent, position and inner structure of the Roman fort discovered here. The identification of a smaller earth and timber fort in the north-western corner of the larger stone camp discovered based on the geophysical results came as a surprise, this reality being further investigated also archaeologically in order to establish the chronological relations between the two structures. (Fig. 1)

The fact that the site at Sutor is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List dossier for the Dacian limes together with the A3 highway project gave a real bolster to the research of the site. The rescue excavation performed this year focused primarily upon the civilian part of the site that was not very well documented until now. Apart from few excavations in the military baths of the site, not much was known concerning the spread, structure, chronology, habitation and function of the military vicus that naturally developed in the shadow of the Roman camp. In February 2021 a massive rescue excavation campaign started at Sutor in order to assess the impact that the A3 highway infrastructure works (a massive project that covers an area of aprox. 8.8 ha) would have upon the Roman site.

The geophysical surveys performed in the area of the A3 highway highlighted the existence of an intense habitation area situated north-east from the Roman fort, this reality being also confirmed by the archaeological excavations that covered a total of 1.1 ha (Fig. 2). We managed to document a densely populated area comprising both stone and timber structures despite the fact that the pedological studies performed recently showed that during the Roman time this region had the aspect of a swampy area especially due to the general aspect of the Almaș river that had several meanders that shaped the local landscape. Basically, we can imagine that the military vicus’s spread was determined by the topographical aspect of the landscape that created a sort of “island” type of habitation that could be still observed by studying the Austrian military maps elaborated in the late 18th century. We were able to determine that the civilian habitation had a more linear development, being situated on a SW-NE axis determined by the Almaș river. (Fig. 3)

Over 850 archaeological contexts were documented ranging from a chronological point of view from the Bronze Age (only a few features most of them consisting in garbage pits) to the Early Medieval period (the contexts belonging to this timeframe are clustered in the northern part of the investigated area). Out of these, the great majority belong to the Roman period, that is best represented here. The most interesting features discovered with this occasion refer to several stone and timber buildings, two intersecting roads, one being represented by the Imperial road from Napoca to Porolissum and the other one intersecting with the first, connecting also the Roman fort at Bologa, an area situated in the northern part of the site associated with pottery production activities and the civilian baths.

The structure that makes the object of this study is represented by the civilian baths complex identified and entirely excavated and documented. The baths were ranged to the south of the Imperial road Napoca - Porolissum at aprox. 8 m, accounting for the connectivity and access inside the structure (Fig. 4). It is worth mentioning that both roads have buildings carefully ranged and clustered in connection to the road network giving thus a quasi-urban aspect to the settlement. From a chronological point of view, we have identified two main phases of the civilian settlement at Sutor: an initial phase characterized by large timber structures and a second phase in which some of these structures are enlarged and/or refurbished with stone bases. A clear and direct relative chronological relationship in this respect was observed in several cases where some of the initial wooden structures were dismantled and afterwards, in a second stage, replaced by stone structures or enlarged with a stone base portico aligned to the main road network. These observations are backed also by several well-dated artefact recovered from different overlapping contexts. By far, the most spectacular discovery made with this occasion

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2 TORMAN 1864, 10-11.
4 MARCU 2009, 114; PISO/DEAC 2016, 281-282 with the literature.
6 ILIES et alii 2002; ILIES et alii 2002a.
7 ILIES et alii 2007.
8 ILIES et alii 2009.
9 CUPCEA/MARCU 2010, 94-95.
10 Most of the results are unpublished due to the attempt to present a comprehensive study that would encompass all the non-invasive results. Few information concerning especially the magnetic surveys reached the scientific community, see COCIŞ/ONOFREI 2019, 88-89.
11 COCIŞ et alii 2014.
12 https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6447/
at Sutor were the civilian baths positioned in a densely built area situated at aprox. 165 m from the Roman fort, outside its the military buffer zone (Fig. 5). The baths cover a total surface of 384 m² (27.2 x 14.6 m) having an architectural ratio of 1:2 between their width and length. From a relative chronological point of view, we have identified 4 phases, the structure and functionality of the 12 rooms being constantly in change as is generally the case with such bath complexes.14 (Fig. 6) Despite the fact that the baths are exceptionally well preserved, the collapsed tile-roof being preserved in situ, no tile-stamp was recovered arguing together with their topographical position inside the vicus, for the civilian use of this structure. If this is to be true, we are faced with the first entirely documented civilian bath complex in Dacia, enhancing their archaeological potential significantly.15 Several partitioning, adjoined rooms, and/ or blocked entrances contributed along with the inner stratigraphy of the complex (Fig. 7) to the phasing of this bathing complex, accounting thus for successive structural and functional changes of the rooms. Another important structural element that unfortunately in most of the cases remained undocumented refers to the praefurnium which we have identified and documented accordingly in south-eastern outside area of the baths. This functional element was however disabled during the 3rd phase of the baths complex when the southern wall of room G that made the connection between the baths complex and the praefurnium was blocked, corresponding with the erection a partition wall dividing the room in two (G1 and G2) allowing for a change in the room’s functionality. Through time several important structural and functional changes marked the main phases of the baths complex, the most important being the successive changes of room H during the 1st to the 3rd phase (Fig. 8) and the adjoining of room I during the 4th phase (Fig. 6).

NUMISMATIC COMMENTS

During the archaeological campaign at the baths complex, 14 coins were found (see catalogue; Fig. 9). Due to their state of preservation, thirteen of them were precisely catalogued and one piece was left as unidentifiable coin (see catalogue). According to the field methodology, each coin was labelled with the technical details of the archaeological context it came from (see catalogue).

The coin evidence reveals the following numismatic spectrum: Hadrian – 1 plated denarius; Antoninus Pius for Faustina I (Diva) – 1 sestertius; Lucius Verus – 1 denarius; Septimius Severus: 4 denarii (2 genuine, 2 plated); Septimius Severus for Julia Domna – 1 plated denarius; Elagabalus: 2 denarii (1 genuine, 1 plated); Severus Alexander: 3 denarii (2 plated, 1 potin); unidentified plated denarius (see catalogue).

The above list reveal three main aspects:
1. the large majority of the coin finds (10) depict emperors from the first decades of the 3rd centuries AD: Septimius Severus (including the coin bearing the portrait of Julia Domna), Elagabalus and Severus Alexander;
2. except for the sestertius of Antoninus Pius for Faustina I (Diva) the rest of the coins are denarii;
3. a strong presence of plated coins. Eight out of thirteen denarii show evidence of the silver foil covering a copper core. (see catalogue and photos).

All three aspects are reflecting – from numismatic point of view – general patterns of the Roman monetary policy at the beginning of the 3rd century AD, especially regarding the military payments. While Herodian states explicitly that Caracalla, in AD 212, increased the payment of praetorians by 50%,16 Dio Cassius suggests that all army payments have been doubled.17 According to M.A. Speidel, in AD 212 a basic legionary would receive 3,600 sestertii/year (900 denarii) while an infantryman from the auxilia 3,000 sestertii/year (750 denarii).18 Certainly, at the first sight, one should think also about the inflationary effect after AD 194 when the official silver bullion content of 46% seemed to be stated throughout the Roman Empire.19 As it has been demonstrated, most likely, this coinage debasement under Septimius Severus came with no inflationary consequences20 as, probably, the number of the requested denarii for payments were divided into the amount of silver bullion available, which had been dropping because of the reduced silver supply coming from the mines.21 However, for the emperors succeeding Caracalla, Macrinus, Elagabalus, Severus Alexander the pressure of army expenditure remained inexorable. "The emperor needed the soldiers’ support first of all to sustain himself in power and therefore he had to ensure that they were content."22

The literary evidence is confirmed by the coin finds. The number of denarii in the site-finds records an increase for the reign of Septimius Severus for all the provinces of Pannonia and Dacia. The majority of the sites revealed that the denarii of Septimius Severus form more than 60% in Pannonia and 80% in Dacia of the coins of all denominations of this emperor. Moreover, at some of the sites, especially the rural settlements or less researched sites, Septimius’ denarius is the only denomination which has been found for this emperor.23 This increase of denarii finds for Septimius Severus and the emperors after him is connected with the increase of denarius-production at the end of the Civil War in AD 197/198.24 At the same time, the decrease in the quantity of bronze coins under Septimius Severus has been interpreted by some authors as a possible interruption or diminution in the bronze supply by the government.25

Therefore, the large presence of denarius finds within this site comes as a logical consequence of a general pattern within the Roman Empire.

14 Herodian, III.8.4.
15 Dio Cassius, LXXVIII.36.3-4.
16 SPEIDEL 1992, 106.
17 BURSCHE 1993, 300-301.
19 CAMPBELL 2002, 84.
20 GĂZDAC 2010, 96, 147.
21 DUNCAN-JONES, 1994, 142; GĂZDAC 2010, 96.
On the same line, the strong mentioned presence of plated denarii found at this archaeological complex is another epidemic phenomenon known for the Roman monetary policy at the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

Despite severe legislation against counterfeiting, the counterfeited coins were found at a large scale in Roman Dacia.

The comparison between military and civilian sites indicates that the plated coins were used for the payments of the troops (mainly the auxiliary ones?). The situation is not a particular one for Dacia as such a situation has already been suggested for the similar finds from Augusta Raurica.

The large-scale outbreaks of copying Roman coins cover a wide area of the empire. Moreover, according to Dio Cassius, the plated coins were sometimes furnished to the people even by the official mint. Thus, Caracalla was blamed to have manufactured a coinage of a lead core plated with silver and a coinage of a copper core plated with gold. The outbreak of copying Roman coinage in Dacia is similar with the western frontier provinces where the largest number of the false coins belongs to those pieces depicting the emperors of the period AD 193–238. At the same time, it seems that this phenomenon was closely associated with the army.

Thus, the dominance of plated coin finds – bearing portraits of 3rd century AD issuers – at the baths complex under study is a normal characteristic for a site located within a military environment.

Coming back to the topic of the present study coins in archaeological context, one can easily note, as previously mentioned, the strong presence of coins of issuers of the first decades of the 3rd century AD. Ten out of fourteen pieces depict the portraits of Septimius Severus (and Julia Domna), Elagabalus, and Severus Alexander (see catalogue). At the same time, we should not ignore the fact that the denarius with Hadrian’s head on obverse is plated, which means a terminus post quem from the time of issuing the genuine prototype. The fashion of minting plated or cast denarii at the beginning of the 3rd century AD with portraits of Roman emperors from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD is a well-known fact nowadays. A similar hypothesis can be taken into account also for the unidentifiable plated denarius (catalogue no. 14).

Following the stratigraphic approach – and before the coin restoration and cataloguing processes - four phases of activity have been established for the baths complex from Sutor. After the identification of coins was completed the following table of coin distribution by phases was available (Table; Fig. 7):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issuer Area Phase</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hadrian (cat. 1)</td>
<td>Room G</td>
<td>Phase II/III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antoninus Pius: Faustina I (Diva) (cat. 2)</td>
<td>Room G</td>
<td>Phase II/III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septimius Severus (cat. 7)</td>
<td>Room B</td>
<td>Phase II/III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septimius Severus (cat. 5)</td>
<td>Room F</td>
<td>Phase II/III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septimius Severus (cat. 6)</td>
<td>Room G</td>
<td>Phase II/III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucius Verus (cat. 3)</td>
<td>Peripheral wall</td>
<td>Phase IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septimius Severus (cat. 4)</td>
<td>Roof debris, room E</td>
<td>Phase IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septimius Severus: Julia Domna (Augusta) (cat. 8)</td>
<td>Roof debris, room D</td>
<td>Phase IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elagabalus (cat. 9)</td>
<td>Room H</td>
<td>Phase IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elagabalus (cat. 10)</td>
<td>Peripheral wall</td>
<td>Phase IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severus Alexander (cat. 11)</td>
<td>Roman layer near the baths complex</td>
<td>Phase IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severus Alexander (cat. 12)</td>
<td>Room I</td>
<td>Phase IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severus Alexander (cat. 13)</td>
<td>Peripheral wall</td>
<td>Phase IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentifiable coin</td>
<td>Excavated ground</td>
<td>Phase IV (?)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis of this synoptic table reveals some interesting aspects that may be of high interest while understanding the development of this Roman architectural complex from Sutor. The two phases, II/III and IV, show two different numismatic spectra. Phase(s) II/III show a higher frequency of Septimius Severus coins – three out of five – while phase IV is dominated by the coins of later emperors, Elagabalus and Severus Alexander, – five out of eight. Furthermore, again, we must point out, that, most likely, the plated denarius depicting Hadrian’s head could have been also minted at the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

At the same time, it must be mentioned here, that the contexts associated with phases I and II were only identified as structural and functional changes especially in room design (see room H and H1 – Fig. 8) and access from one room to another, aspects that were subjected to a systematic cleaning and levelling process followed by building activities associated to phase III of this complex that ultimately set the final plan of the civilian baths (Fig. 8a-b).

26 GĂZDAC/GĂZDAC-ALFÖLDY 2001, 138-139.
27 PETER 1990, 74-96.
29 KIng 1996, 246.
30 GĂZDAC 2009, 1495.
Correlating the stratigraphy with the numismatic evidence it appears, that the phase III of the military baths complex from Sutor was built and in use starting with Septimius Severus while phase IV suggests another development some 15-20 years later. This apparently late dating is also can also be backed by some stratigraphic aspects that highlighted the fact that prior to phases I and II of the civilian baths, on that precise spot the initial timber phase of the site was documented, the buildings belonging to this chronological timeframe being leveled and the land prepared for the construction of the bath complex (Fig. 8c).

Certainly, we must keep in mind that the coins offer the possibility of a relative chronology and not an absolute one. On this line, the best examples are also offered by the coin finds provided by the site under study. The sestertius issued by Antoninus Pius for his deceased wife, Faustina I (post AD 141) was found in a context dated in the same phase as three pieces of Septimius Severus (AD 193-211) while a genuine denarius of Lucius Verus, minted in AD 162-163, comes from a layer belonging to phase IV that comprise coins of Severus Alexander (AD 222-235).

This new case study on coins in archaeological context indicate that one single coin may mislead us in the chronology of archaeological context/complex/site while a group of single coins of issuers with close reigns will definitely help on this matter.

The association of the numismatic evidence with other datable artefacts (e.g. brooches) confirms, so far, this conclusion. From context no. 1647 comes a bronze brooch with returned foot that can be included in Cociș type 37a8b1a1, a type characterized by its head-knob, a half-rounded body and two other knobs positioned at the extremities of the spring.32 Recently, these types of brooches were tied with the Wielbark and Przeworsk Germanic tribes, their diffusion into Dacia Porolissensis being linked to the movement of these tribes southwards.33 From a chronological standpoint, despite being dated in the C1a-C2 phases in the barbarian Germanic milieu of the Przeworsk culture,34 we can argue for a later date in Dacia, as suggested by our study, where this type of brooch was found in an archaeological context associated with the last phase of the civilian baths (Phase IV ending with a coin from Severus Alexander), as well as another item at Porolissum discovered during a similar late phase ending this time with an even later coin issued during the reign of Philip the Arab.35 Arguing for the same cultural and chronological aspects as highlighted above, is another bronze brooch, this time not recovered from the civilian baths, that can be attributed to the type Cociș – Bârcă A VII/I/B2a1a136 that can be dated during the stages B2/C1b.37

There is no reason for surprise concerning the reconstruction phases of the Roman baths in Dacia during the Severan dynasty given that during their reign the province of Dacia was somehow privileged due to the support that it has previously given to Septimius Severus. Such a reality can be seen both in the massive rebuilding works performed at several Roman forts as well as in the urbanism policy, various settlements being granted the statute of municipium for example. It is in this context that massive investments were made also in re-building and/or re-furbishing Roman baths in Dacia and maybe the best analogy concerning such late works can be attested at Micia, where we can account for a similar re-building strategy during the reigns of Septimius Severus and Severus Alexander.36 The popularity of public bathing grew in time39 and it in the context of the growth of this vice due to its strategic position at the crossroads of two roads together with its potential role of a logistic hub being placed at an relatively equal distance between the two main centers of Dacia Porolissensis: Napoca and Porolissum, that the need for such civilian baths emerged.

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32 SCHULTE 2011, 165-166; OPREANU/COCIȘ/LĂZĂRESCU 2020, 81, Fig. 15.

33 ANDRZEJOWSKI 2017; OLĘDZKI/ZIĘTEK 2017, see type A162c = Cociș 37a8b1a1.

34 ANDRZEJOWSKI 2017; OPREANU/COCIȘ/LĂZĂRESCU 2020, 82-84.

35 ANDRZEJOWSKI 2017; OLĘDZKI/ZIĘTEK 2017, see type A162c = Cociș 37a8b1a1.

36 OPREANU/COCIȘ/LĂZĂRESCU 2020, 81, Fig. 15.

37 COCIȘ/BÂRCĂ 2020, 140-141.

38 SCHULTE 2011, 165-166; OPREANU/COCIȘ/LĂZĂRESCU 2020, 81, Fig. 15.
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OPREANU/COCIȘ/LĂZĂRESCU 2020

PANAITESCU 1932

PETER 1990

PISO/DEAC 2016

RUSSU 1968

SPEIDEL 1992

TORMA 1864

ȚENTEA/BURKHARDT 2020

WALKER 1988
CATALOGUE

HADRIANUS

1. Denomination: denarius, plated
   Metal: AR+AE
   Axis: S; D: 18.7 x 17.5 mm; W: 2.41 g.
   Mint: uncertain
   Dating: post 120-121
   Obv: ...N HADR...
   Head of Hadrian, laureate, right.
   Rv: inscription erased
   Aequitas standing left, holding scales and cornucopia.
   Catalogue: cf. RIC II.2, 385.
   Inv.no. temp: S.F. 177
   Finding date: 25.05.2021
   Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room G, context 1617.
   Phase: II/III

ANTONINUS PIUS: Faustina I (Diva)

2. Denomination: sestertius
   Metal: AE
   Axis: 1; D: 30 x 28 mm; W: 21 g.
   Mint: Rome
   Dating: 141
Obv: [di]VA – FAV[stina]
Bust of Faustina I, draped, right, hair elaborately waved and coiled in bands across head and drawn up at back and piled in a round coil on top.

Rv: inscription erased; S - C
Silhouette of Ceres (?) standing, left, holding two corn-ears downwards in right hand and long torch, vertical, in left.
Catalogue: cf. RIC III, 1116.
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 243
Finding date: 2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room G, structure 3, context 1617.
Phase: II/III

**MARCUS AURELIUS: Lucius Verus (Augustus)**

3. Denomination: denarius
Metal: AR
Axis: 6; D: 17.1 mm; W: 2.20 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 162-163
Obv: IMP L VERVS AVG
Head of Lucius Verus, bare, right.
Rv: PROV - DEOR TR P III COS II
Providentia, draped, standing left, holding globe on extended right hand and cornucopia in left hand.
Catalogue: RIC III, 491.
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 163
Finding date: 22.05.2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room B, testing excavation 2, context 1556, baths peripheral wall debris (context 1047)
Phase: IV
SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS

4. Denomination: denarius
Metal: AR
Axis: 11; D: 16.99 mm; W: 3.11 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 195-196
Obv: [l sep]T SEV P[ert aug i]MP VII
Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right
Rv: ARAB AD[ab cos ii p] P
Victory, winged, draped, advancing left, holding wreath in extended right hand and trophy against left shoulder in left hand
Catalogue: RIC IV.1, 64.
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 198
Finding date: 2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room E, structure 3, testing excavation 1, context 1646, roof’s debris.
Phase: IV

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS

5. Denomination: denarius, plated
Metal: AR+AE
Axis: 6; D: 17.7 mm; W: 1.51 g.
Mint: uncertain
Dating: 193-211 or post
Obv: inscription erased.
Silhouette of Septimius Severus’ head, right.
Rv: inscription erased.
Vague silhouette standing.
Catalogue: -
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 189
Finding date: 2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room F, structure 3, context 1616.
Phase: II/III

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS

6. Denomination: denarius
Metal: AR
Axis: 6; D: 17.8 mm; W: 2.07 g.
Mint: uncertain
Dating: 193-211 or post
Obv: inscription erased.
Silhouette of Septimius Severus’ head, right.
Rv: inscription illegible.
Vague silhouette standing.
Catalogue: -
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 237
Finding date: 2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room G, structure 3, context 1617.
Phase: II/III
7. Denomination: denarius, plated
   Metal: AR+AE
   Axis: 12; D: 18 mm; W: 2.41 g.
   Mint: uncertain
   Dating: 193-211 or post
   Obv: inscription erased.
   Silhouette of Septimius Severus’ head, right.
   Rv: erased.
   Catalogue: -
   Inv.no. temp: S.F. 297
   Finding date: 2021
   Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room B, structure 3, context 1612.
   Phase: II/III

8. Denomination: denarius, potin, plated
   Metal: AR+AE
   Axis: 6; D: 16.4 x 15.2 mm; W: 2.23 g.
   Mint: Rome
   Dating: 196-211 or post
   Obv: inscription erased.
   Bust of Julia Domna, hair waved and coiled at back, draped, right.
   Rv: inscription erased.
Juno, veiled, draped, standing left, holding patera in extended right hand and sceptre in left hand; at feet, left, peacock.
Catalogue: cf. RIC IV.1, 369.
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 261
Finding date: 2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room D, structure 3, context 1647, roof’s debris.
Phase: II/III

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9. Denomination: denarius
Metal: AR
Axis: 5; D: 16.5 x 15.5 mm; W: 2.58 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 220
Obv: IMP ANTONINVS AVG
Bust of Elagabalus, laureate, draped, right.
Rv: P M TR P III – COS III P P
Jupiter, naked to waist, seated left, holding Victory in extended right hand and sceptre in left hand; at feet, eagle.
Catalogue: RIC IV.2, 27.
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 251
Finding date: 2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room H, structure 3, context 1673, debris.
Phase: IV.
10. Denomination: denarius, potin, plated
Metal: AE+AR
Axis: 11; D: 20.4 x 18.6 mm; W: 1.74 g.
Mint: uncertain
Dating: 218-222 or post
Obv: [imp antoninus] PIVS AVG
Bust of Elagabalus, laureate, draped, right.
Rv: [laet]I[tia] - PVBL
Laetitia, draped, standing left, holding wreath in extended right hand and rudder set on globe in left hand.
Catalogue: cf. RIC IV.2, 95b.
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 352
Finding date: 2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, structure 3, context 1047, baths peripheral wall debris (context 1047)
Phase: IV

SEVERUS ALEXANDER

11. Denomination: denarius, plated
Metal: AE+AR
Axis: 12; D: 20.2 x 18.2 mm; W: 1.79 g.
Mint: uncertain
Dating: 222-228 or post
Obv: IMP C M AVR [sev alexa]ND AVG
Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped, right.
Rv: FIDES – [militum]
Fides, draped, standing right, holding standard in right hand and vexillum in left hand.
Catalogue: cf. RIC IV.2, 139A.
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 206
Finding date: 2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, testing excavation 2 - extension, Roman layer baths area, context 1046.
Phase: ?
12. Denomination: denarius, plated
Metal: AE+AR
Axis: 6; D: 17.9 x 17.2 mm; W: 2.16 g.
Mint: uncertain
Dating: 222-228 or post
Obv: [imp c m] AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG
Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped, right.
Rv: inscription erased
Vague silhouette standing.
Catalogue: -
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 232
Finding date: 2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, room I, structure 3, context 1648, debris.
Phase: IV.

13. Denomination: denarius, potin, fragmentary
Metal: AE+AR
Axis: 4; D: 18.2 mm; W: 1.65 g.
Mint: uncertain
Dating: 222-231 or post
Obv: [alex]AND AVG
Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, right.
Unidentified coin

14. Denomination: denarius, plated
Metal: AE+AR
Axis: 6; D: 18.5 mm; W: 1.72 g.
Mint: -
Dating: 2nd-3rd centuries AD
Obv. and Rv.: erased.
Catalogue: -
Inv.no. temp: S.F. 178
Finding date: 22.05.2021
Context: Sutor, Motorway Area 2, civilian baths, testing excavation 2.
Phase: IV?
Map 2. The Roman Empire, mid-2nd century AD, pointing the location of Sutor.
Map 3. Roman Dacia, pointing the location of Studor.
Fig. 1. Geophysical surveys at Sistrum (2013-2016)
Fig. 2. Map of the rescue excavations at Sutor (2021).
Fig. 3. Old river course of the Agrij River as observed on satellite imagery (2011) and 1st Austrian Topographic Survey.
Fig. 4. Map of the archaeological units discovered at Sator.
Fig. 5. Aerial imagery of the civilian baths, photo documenting the collapsed roof elements (left) and the walking level inside the baths (right).
Fig. 6. Map depicting the inner structure of the civilian baths (with room denominations - upper left), topographic D(igital) E(levation) M(odel) of the baths (lower left) and photogrammetric survey documenting the elevation of different walls of the civilian baths.
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1043 – Topsoil
1044 – Alluvial level
1045 – Sandy clay level
1046 – Dark soil with pottery pigments (Roman level)

Fig. 7. Stratigraphic map in the area of the civilian baths.
Fig. 8. View of the northern area of the civilian baths:
a) 3rd phase of rooms G and H; b) 1st phase of room H and c) leveling layer for the construction of the civilian baths.
Fig. 9. The civilian baths from Sunoe. Coin distribution by rooms.