

## NEWS ON REGALIANUS AND DRAYNTILLA COINS. A NEW COIN OF DRYANTILLA AND CORRECTING INFORMATION ON TWO MORE KNOWN COINS

**Abstract:** The paper is presenting a new coin issued for the wife of one of the usurpers with the shortest reign in the history of the Roman Empire, Regalianus. At the same time, following the direct access on the numismatic evidence, two more coins, another antoniniani of Regalianus and Dryantilla, are discussed here in order to correct the erroneous technical data of previous publication.

**Keywords:** *Regalianus, Dryantilla, Carnuntum, antoniniani.*

One benefit of carrying on research on Ancient History is the privilege to come, from time to time, in a direct contact with rare and well-known artefacts. This occasion offers the possibility to update old information or to present new finds.

The paper is focused on such cases on the famous rare silver coins of the short-reign usurper Regalianus of Carnuntum (AD 260) and his wife Dryantilla of Carnuntum (nowadays, Petronell-Carnuntum, Austria).<sup>1</sup>

The scarcity of ancient literary records for this usurper, the rarity of these coins and their specific low-quality aesthetic design produced by applying a poor-quality new obverse and reverse on old issues of denarii and antoniniani<sup>2</sup> make that every new information on such pieces must be brought to the public - both scholarly and curiosity environments.

The first two coins presented here, 1 antoninianus of Regalianus, 1 of Dryantilla, were previously published but with some errors on the technical data and medium quality photos.

**Cristian Găzdac**

Institute of Archaeology, Cluj-Napoca  
cgazdac2000@yahoo.co.uk

**Werner Melchart**

Bruckneudorf  
werner.melchart@gmx.at

---

DOI: 10.14795/j.v5i4.351

ISSN 2360 – 266X

ISSN-L 2360 – 266X

<sup>1</sup> WOYTEK 2007, 527-538.

<sup>2</sup> WINTER 2007a, 547-549.

## REGALIANUS



### Antoninianus

*Mint:* Carnuntum

*Dating:* AD 260

*Axis:* 8; *Weight:* 3.2 g; *Diameter:* 20.4 mm

*Obverse:* IMP C P E REGALIANVS AVG

Poor-quality design of the bust of Regalianus wearing radiate crown, right.

*Reverse:* LIB[er]ALITAS AVGG

Poor-quality design of Liberalitas standing left, holding pileus and transverse scepter.

*Bibliography:* WINTER 2007b, 574-575, R 5-4; Taf. 51.

*Location:* Private collection<sup>3</sup>

*Reference:* MIR 43, 1712e

The reverse indicates that this coin type was struck over a previous denarius. The still visible letters, NON, and their place above of what was the top of a laureate head allow the identification of the original issuer as being Elagabalus period of AD 218-222: IMP ANTONINVS (PIVS) AVG.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Probably, due to publishing errors, the coin mis-attributed to the collection of Museum Carnuntinum, WINTER 2007, 574-575, R 5-4.

<sup>4</sup> RIC IV.2, 28; obverse legends 3 and 5.

## DRYANTILLA



### Antoninianus

*Mint:* Carnuntum

*Dating:* AD 260

*Axis:* 2; *Weight:* 2.7 g; *Diameter:* 21.1 x 21.2 mm

*Obverse:* [su]LP DRYAN[t]i]LLA AVG

Bust on crescent, right.

*Reverse:* AE[qui]TA[s] AVGG

Aequitas standing left, holding scales and cornucopiae.

*Bibliography:* WINTER 2007b, 583, D 1-5; Tafel 54; DEMBSKI 1998, 1, nr. 4; Auktion Numismatica Ars Classica 10, 1997, nr. 680.

Discovered before 27 January 1986 (Karteikarte from Robert Göbl)

*Location:* Private collection

*Reference:* MIR 43, 1720a

The reverse reveals the fact this antoninianus was actually struck on a former denarius of Septimius Severus. Parts of the first legend – [severu]S – PIV[s] aug] – and of Septimius Severus' laureate head are still visible. According to the legend type, the Septimius Severus' denarius was minted in the period of AD 202-210.<sup>5</sup>

The only three visible letters from the Septimius

<sup>5</sup> RIC IV.1, 122-132.

Severus' denarius reverse, now, Dryantilla's obverse, - TVN - may suggest two reverse types that may fit with SEVERVS PIVS AVG obverse legend: FORTVNA REDUX<sup>6</sup> or FORTVNAE REDVCI.<sup>7</sup>

A third coin, 1 antoninianus of Dryantilla it was unpublished until now. The minting style is so poor that the legend referring to Dryantilla's name and reverse type are not visible. However, the letters belonging to the original legend and a large part of the first issuer are easily noticeable.

### DRYANTILLA



**Antoninianus**, fragmentary state

*Mint:* Carnuntum

*Dating:* AD 260

*Axis:* 4; *Weight:* 1.9 g; *Diameter:* 19.7 mm

*Obverse:* No legend referring to Dryantilla is visible.

Head of Dryantilla, right.

*Reverse:* No letters of the legend referring to Dryantilla's coin type is visible. Juno standing left, holding

<sup>6</sup> RIC IV.1, 124, no. 264(a).

<sup>7</sup> RIC IV.1, 124, no. 264A.

patera and scepter. Type of Junoni Reginae.

*Bibliography:* unpublished

Found in Carnuntum – unknown spot

*Location:* Private collection

*Reference:* MIR 43, 1721-1725

Struck on a denarius of Severus Alexander. On the obverse, part of the legend is still visible: [im]P ALEXANDER PIVS AV[g], as well as upper part of the laureate head of Severus Alexander to right. From the previous reverse it still can be read: P M TR P...S III P P. From the reverse image minted for Severus Alexander denarius, clearly can be noticed the legs of Sol, standing left and the extended left hand holding globe in left.

As the tribunician power is not preserved, due to the 3<sup>rd</sup> consulship and the legend on the obverse, the denarius of Severus Alexander was minted between AD 231 and AD 232.<sup>8</sup>

Like the large majority of these particular coins, the three coins presented here were found in Carnuntum – unknown precise location – and are now part of private collections.

Therefore, the number of coins of Regalianus and Dryantilla known, at the moment, is 133 of which 61 depicting Regalianus and 72 Dryantilla<sup>9</sup> and...counting.

### REFERENCES

DEMBSKI/WINTER/WOYTEK 2007

Dembski, G./Winter, H./Woytek, D., Regalianus und Dryantilla. Historischer Hintergrund, numismatische Evidenz, Forschungsgeschichte. In: Alram, M./Schmidt-Dick, F. (eds.), Numismata Carnuntina. Forschungen und Material [Moneta Imperii Romani 43 – Neubearbeitung] (Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften), 523-596.

GÄZDAC 2015

Gäzdac, C., Regalianus and Dryantilla Reloaded. The New Evidence from Carnuntum, Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology 2/2, 37-42, DOI: 10.14795/j.v2i2.109.

GÄZDAC/GUDEA 2006

Gäzdac, C./Gudea, N.: POROLISSVM [Coins from Roman Sites and Collections of Roman Coins from Romania 2]. Cluj-Napoca: Mega Publishing House.

GÄZDAC/HUMER 2013

Gäzdac, C./Humer, F.: Living by the Coins. Roman life in the light of coin finds and archaeology. [Archäologischer Park Carnuntum. Neue Forschungen 8]. Wien: Hollitzer Wissenschaftlicher Verlag.

MIR

Göbl, R.: Die Münzprägung des Kaiser Valerianus I./ Gallienus/Saloninus (253/268), Regalianus (260) und Macrianus/Quietus (260/262) [MIR – Moneta Imperii 36, 43, 44 = Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, philosophisch-historische Klasse, Denkschriften 286 = Veröffentlichungen der Numismatischen Kommission 35]. Wien 2000: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

RIC IV.1

Mattingly, H./Sydeham, E.: The Roman Imperial coinage. Vol. IV, part 1. Pertinax to Geta. London 1936: Spink&Son Ltd.

RIC IV.2

<sup>8</sup> RIC IV.2, nos. 109, 112.

<sup>9</sup> For the rest of known coins of Regalianus and Dryantilla, see DEMBSKI/WINTER/WOYTEK 2007, 523-596;

Mattingly, H./Sydeham, E./Sutherland, C.H.V.: The Roman Imperial coinage. Vol. IV, part 2. Macrinus to Pupienus. London 1938: Spink&Son Ltd.

WINTER 2007a

Winter, H.: Untergepräge. In: Alram, M./Schmidt-Dick, F. (eds.), Numismata Carnuntina. Forschungen und Material [Moneta Imperii Romani 43 – Neubearbeitung]. Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 570-596.

WINTER 2007b

Winter, H.: Stückkatalog. In: Alram, M./Schmidt-Dick, F. (eds.), Numismata Carnuntina. Forschungen und Material [Moneta Imperii Romani 43 – Neubearbeitung]. Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 570-596.

WOYTEK 2007

Woytek, B.: Regalianus und seine Erhebung in historischer Sicht. In: Alram, M./Schmidt-Dick, F. (eds.), Numismata Carnuntina. Forschungen und Material [Moneta Imperii Romani 43 – Neubearbeitung]. Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 527-538.