



# 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.v10i4>

ISSN 2360 266x

ISSN-L 2360 266x



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**No. 10.4/2023**



# CONTENTS

## STUDIES

### ANCIENT HISTORY

**Stanislav GRIGORIEV**  
INDO-EUROPEANS IN ANCIENT ANATOLIA ..... 5

**Aleksandra KUBIAK-SCHNEIDER**  
ALLĀT AND THE DESERT "KULTLANDSCHAFT"  
OF ALLĀT IN THE EAST ..... 32

### ARCHAEOLOGY

**Mohsen Heydari DASTENAEI, Kamal Adin NIKNAMI**  
APPLICATION OF MORAN'S I STATISTICS IN SPATIAL  
ANALYSIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE  
SARFIROUZABAD PLAIN, CENTRAL ZAGROS, IRAN ..... 41

**Francisco J. ESQUIVEL**  
STATISTICAL PATTERN ANALYSIS OF ROMAN VILLAE  
IN ANDALUSIA FROM QUALITATIVE MULTISTATE  
VARIABLES ..... 55

**Davut YİĞİTPAŞA**  
RE-ASSESSMENT OF THE CLAUDIOPOLIS STADION  
RESCUE EXCAVATION IN 2008 ..... 64

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

**Cristian Ioan POPA**  
THE BRONZE AXE FROM MIHALŢ (ROMANIA)  
AND SOME PROBLEMS RELATED TO HYBRID  
"LARGA" TYPE AXES ..... 86

**Ioana Mihaela POTRA**  
OLIVE OIL IMPORTS ON THE NORTH-WESTERN  
DACIAN LIMES: THE CASE OF POROLISSUM ..... 114

**Ahmad DAWA**  
ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS ON CANONICAL CORINTHIAN  
CAPITALS IN SYRIA ..... 125

**Dana KHOULI**  
REPRESENTING THE HOLY GRAIL ON RELIQUARY  
SARCOPHAGI IN SYRIA ..... 133

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOPOGRAPHY

**Florin-Gheorghe FODOREAN**  
MAPS OF ROMAN DACIA. V. LUIGI FERDINANDO MARSIGLI  
AND ROMAN DACIA IN 1726 ..... 138

### NUMISMATICS

**Silviu I. PURECE**  
BETWEEN ARCHAEOLOGY AND METAL DETECTING,  
ANCIENT COINS FROM OCNİŢA-BURIDAVA ..... 142

**Marius-Mihai CIUŢĂ, George Valentin BOUNEGRU**  
AN ANCIENT COIN HOARD DISCOVERED,  
FORGOTTEN, REDISCOVERED AND RECOVERED.  
THE JIDVEI HOARD CASE ..... 161

## REVIEWS

**Matthew Gray MARSH**  
IRFAN HABIB & VIVEKANAND JHA. MAURYAN INDIA.  
9TH EDITION. A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF INDIA VOL. 5.  
NEW DELHI: TULIKA BOOKS, 2019, X + 189P,  
ISBN 978-93-82381-62-4. .... 172

Design & layout:  
Petru Ureche



# Studies

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## NUMISMATICS

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### BETWEEN ARCHAEOLOGY AND METAL DETECTING, ANCIENT COINS FROM OCNÎȚA-BURIDAVA

**Abstract:** The intensification of discoveries made with metal detectors and, consequently, the appearance of an increasing number of coins without being associated with a very precise location, although many seem to originate from archaeological contexts, creates difficulties in the recovery of historical information. Associating discoveries from metal detection with information related to findings with a clear archaeological context can be a solution in understanding certain phenomena that led to their deposition, loss, or concealment. Unfortunately, however, we do not always have clear numismatic and archaeological information, not even for those derived from older systematic research. Additionally, coins are often hard to locate in museum collections due to the challenges that collections have faced over time. Our initiative aims to recover and reconstruct, as much as possible, the numismatic information, localization, and context of monetary discoveries from Ocnița-Buridava. We also aim to integrate, as much as possible, the context of findings made in the region through metal detection. We believe that in this way, we can outline an overall picture of the monetary discoveries associated with the site at Ocnița-Buridava, discoveries of significant importance for understanding it.

**Keywords:** *Ocnița, Buridava, local coins, Dyyhachian coins, Roman coins, Dacian settlement, metal detection, numismatic collection.*

**Silviu I. PURECE**

University Lucian Blaga, Sibiu  
silviu.purece@ulbsibiu.ro

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DOI: 10.14795/j.v10i4.971

ISSN 2360 – 266X

ISSN-L 2360 – 266X

**T**he identification of the coins discovered at Ocnița-Buridava and present in the numismatic collection of the Vâlcea County Museum 'Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu' involved extensive research at the level of the entire numismatic collection, correlating the results with information found in specialized literature or other documentary sources. The coins will be presented in the following sections: local coins, Dyrhachian coins and imitations, Roman Republican coins and imitations, Roman Imperial coins and imitations, with a final category including some possible ancient coins – coins with a highly advanced state of degradation that does not allow their identification. In each category, the following will be included: 1. coins from the Ocnița-Buridava site resulting from archaeological research or recovered following chance discoveries; 2. coins from the Ocnele Mari region found with the help of a metal detector in the period 2013-2015<sup>1</sup>, some of which may, as we will see below, originate from the site at Ocnița-Buridava. Observations and corrections have been made in the catalog due to some omissions found in literature. At the end of each section, a series of numismatic and

\* Article susteind by LBUS-HPI-ERG-2023.

<sup>1</sup> SÎRBU/MÂNDESCU 2022, 213.

historical observations are stated. To date, studies have been published on the brooches<sup>2</sup> and weaponry<sup>3</sup> items from the object lot formed as a result of metal detection, which came into the possession of the Vâlcea County Museum 'Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu' on November 23, 2015<sup>4</sup>, following confiscation.

## I. LOCAL COINS

### I.1. Coins from the Buridava Site Area in the Collection of the Vâlcea County Museum 'Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu'

In the site monograph, D. Berciu initiates the series of numismatic discoveries originating from Buridava and the adjacent area with a coin of the Ocnîța-Cărbunești type found at Ocnîța 'many years before' 1967, the year in which it was recovered by Emil Moscalu<sup>5</sup>. The place of discovery is presumed to be either the area of the ancient salt mines or the area known as 'Fundătura Cosotei'<sup>6</sup>.

In a study dedicated to 'Geto-Dacian coins from the territory of Vâlcea County' in 1982, Aurel Dumitrașcu, a numismatist at the County Museum Vâlcea, specifies that Emil Moscalu donated to the Vâlcea museum a coin of the Ocnîța-Cărbunești type originating from Ocnîța. This coin was found on the surface of the settlement on Cosota hill<sup>7</sup> (the Buridava site) in 1934 and was acquired by the donor in 1967<sup>8</sup>. At the time of the article's publication in 1982, the coin was recorded under inventory number 7<sup>9</sup> and is currently listed under inventory number 3<sup>10</sup>. It is the sole coin in the museum's collection belonging to this monetary type. It is evident that we are dealing with the same coin, as it is depicted in Constantin Preda's monograph dedicated to local coins<sup>11</sup>, suggesting the possibility that it originated directly from Buridava.

#### 1. OCNÎȚA-CĂRBUNEȘTI TYPE

**Obverse:** Human head in profile facing right, with curly hair.

**Reverse:** Horseman advancing to the left, with the right hand raised and holding the reins with the left; under the horse's muzzle is a circle with a dot in the centre; no pellets appear between the front legs of the horse or in front of it. On the coin, especially on the obverse, numerous irregularly traced incisions are visible.

*The coin type has been dated to the 2nd century BC. Axis: 12, weight: 10.60 g, dimensions: 22.8 x 22.3 mm.*



### I.2. Coins originating from the Ocnele Mari region discovered with a metal detector

#### 1. ADÂNCATA-MĂNĂȘTIREA TYPE

**Obverse:** Human head in profile facing right, image blurred.

**Reverse:** Horseman advancing to the left, the image of which is barely distinguishable.

*The coin type has been dated to the second half of the 2nd century BC and the beginning of the 1st century BC. Axis: 9, weight: 6.53 g, dimensions: 23.4 x 22.6 mm.*



#### 2. ALEXANDRU CEL MARE - FILIP III ARIDEUL TYPE

**Obverse:** Head of Heracles facing right, wearing the lion's skin.

**Reverse:** Zeus Aetophoros seated facing left, holding an eagle and a sceptre. On the right side of the field, a stylized representation of the double "Π" from the legend ΦΙΛΙΠΠΙΟΥ is observed.

*The image on the obverse is difficult to distinguish, appearing more as an outline. The reverse also lacks a much clearer representation of the iconography, a characteristic feature of this coin type. According to the style of the iconography, the coin can be classified into the third group according to Preda's classification<sup>12</sup>. The coin's low weight places it in the second group of divisional coins<sup>13</sup>. It should be noted that the coin exhibits numerous incisions concentrated mainly on the obverse.*

*The coin type has been dated to the late 2nd century BC and the early 1st century BC. Axis: 6, weight: 1.84 g, dimensions: 15.9 x 15.5 mm.*



#### Observations

It appears that the coin of the *Adâncata-Mănăstirea* type discovered in 1969 at Buridava is in the collection of the Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest<sup>14</sup>. The status of the coin belonging to the *janiform head* type from Ocnîța is not known<sup>15</sup>.

The coins found with the metal detector fall within the range of coin types specific to the northeastern region of Oltenia during the second half of the 2nd century BCE and likely the beginning of the 1st century BC<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> COCIȘ/BĂRBULESCU/UDRESCU 2022, 325-372; SÎRBU/MÂNDESCU 2022, 213-255.

<sup>3</sup> PETCULESCU 2021, 187-203.

<sup>4</sup> SÎRBU/MÂNDESCU 2022, 214.

<sup>5</sup> BERCIU 1981, 129.

<sup>6</sup> BERCIU 1981, 129.

<sup>7</sup> DUMITRAȘCU 1982, 32.

<sup>8</sup> DUMITRAȘCU 1982, 32.

<sup>9</sup> DUMITRAȘCU 1982, 32.

<sup>10</sup> Problems with the inventory numbers: PURECE 2020, 108-109.

<sup>11</sup> PEDA 1973, Pl. XXXIII/3.

<sup>12</sup> PEDA 1998, 213.

<sup>13</sup> PEDA 1998, 213.

<sup>14</sup> DUMITRAȘCU 1982, 32.

<sup>15</sup> BERCIU 1981, 130, footnote 22.

<sup>16</sup> PEDA 1998, 139, 177-178; PĂRĂUȚĂ 2006, 83, 90, 111; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, 77.

It is noteworthy to mention the numerous irregularly traced incisions present on the Ocnița-Cărbunești type coin and on the coin belonging to the Alexander the Great – Philip III Arrhidaios type. These incisions are predominantly applied to the obverse of the coins.

## II. DYRRHACHIAN COINS AND THEIR IMITATIONS

### II.1. Coins from the Buridava Site Area in the Collection of the Vâlcea County Museum ‘Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu’

D. Berciu mentions in the monograph dedicated to the site of Ocnița-Buridava the discovery, in 1971 and 1978, of two issues of Dyrrhachian coins. The one discovered in 1971 is fragmentary and, according to the author, originates from section XVII A, meter 22, at a depth of 1.60 m<sup>17</sup>. No information is provided regarding typological classification or technical characteristics, as the coin is not illustrated in the plates of the volume. This coin is found in the collection of the Vâlcea County Museum ‘Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu’ under inventory number 4362 and has the following characteristics:

#### 1. ΣΩΣΤΡΙΩΝ / ΚΛΕΙΤΟΠΙΟΥ

*Drachma issued by Dyrrhachium belonging to Phase IV: Meta 2015, IV/81; CEKA/LUKA 1972, 413.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 1.2 g, dimensions 17.1x? mm, fragmentary;*

**Avers:** ΣΩΣΤΡΙΩ[N]; the crown above the obverse legend is visible; due to the fragmentary preservation of the coin, only a small part of the upper section of the tripod on the right side of the obverse field can be observed; the exergue monogram is lost due to the coin's fragmentation;

**Revers:** [ΔΥΠ-Κ]ΛΕΙ-ΤΟΠ[Ι-ΟΥ];

*It was discovered in 1971, section XVII A, meter 22, -1.60 m;*

*Inventory number: 4362.*



The second mentioned Dyrrhachian coin in the volume was discovered in 1978, section XXXVIII, meter 121, at a depth of -0.80 m, with a cut along the edge<sup>18</sup>. The following information is provided in a footnote: Meniskos-Dionysiou, AR, 2.83 g, 16x20 mm<sup>19</sup>. The coin is illustrated in plate 109, number 5<sup>20</sup>. In the collection of the Vâlcea County Museum ‘Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu’, it is cataloged under inventory number 13807.

<sup>17</sup> BERCIU 1981, 130.

<sup>18</sup> BERCIU 1981, 130.

<sup>19</sup> BERCIU 1981, 131, footnote 23.

<sup>20</sup> BERCIU 1981, 283.

#### 2. ΜΕΝΙΣΚΟΣ / ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΥ

*Drachma issued by Dyrrhachium belonging to Phase V: Meta 2015, V/86; CEKA/LUKA 1972, 320.*

*Technical details: axis 9, weight 2.83 g, dimensions 20x16.3 mm, incised on the edge;*

**Obverse:** ΜΕΝΙΣ[ΚΟΣ], a raven is placed above the obverse legend;

**Reverse:** ΔΥΠ/Δ[ΙΟ/ΝΥ]/ΣΙΟΥ;

*It was discovered in 1978, section XXXVII, meter 121, -0.80 m;*

*Inventory number: 13807.*



In an initial article published by the research team of the Buridava site in 1983, dedicated to discoveries made after the publication of the volume, two Dyrrhachian coins are mentioned, both recovered in 1981. The first is an imitation originating from Cetatea 1, section B17, meter 3, at a depth of -0.20 m, weighing 2.77 g, with dimensions of 19 mm<sup>21</sup>. No details are provided regarding the iconographic characteristics of this coin, and it is not illustrated in the article. The coin is cataloged under inventory number 13821 in the collection of the County Museum Vâlcea and has the following characteristics:

#### 3. Imitation after ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΣ / ΔΑΜΑΓΕΟΣ

*Imitation of an issue belonging to Phase IV: Meta 2015, IV/69; CEKA/LUKA 1972, 23.*

*Technical details: axis 10, weight 2.77 g, dimensions 19x17.9 mm;*

**Obverse:** ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟ[Σ], an eagle with its head turned backward and holding a lightning bolt in its talons, is situated above the obverse legend;

**Reverse:** Instead of the legend ΔΥΠ/ΔΑΜΑ/ΓΕ/ΟΣ, the inscription appears as ΔΥΥ/ΛΕΟ/ΕΕ/ΠΛΟ;

*It was discovered in 1981, section B17, meter 3, -0.20 m;*

*Inventory number: 13821.*



It is observed that the creators of the imitation paid greater attention to replicating the obverse legend. The reverse legend is more challenging to ‘read’ due to the off-center strike of the coin, making it harder to reproduce. This situation is characteristic of Dyrrhachian emissions, especially when imitating emissions from the later phases – IV and V. The difficulties encountered in identifying the letters on the reverse seem to be suggested by the way the letter P in ΔΥΠ is replaced with V or the rendering of the letter Γ in ΔΑΜΑΓΕΟΣ as the letter E.

The second Dyrrhachian emission mentioned in the 1983 article and discovered in 1981 originates from Cetatea 1, section B17, meter 4, at a depth of 0.40 m, being

<sup>21</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1983, 113.

presented as having a weight of 3.20 g and dimensions of 19 mm<sup>22</sup>. Similar to the previous coin, there is no typological information or illustration provided. The coin is recorded in the museum's collection in Vâlcea under inventory number 13822, with a noted but uncertain meter designation of 2 (?).

**4. ΦΙΛΩΝ / ΝΙΚΥΛΛΟΥ**

*Drachma issued by Dyrrhachium belonging to Phase IV: Meta 2015, IV/63; CEKA/LUKA 1972, 439.*

*Technical details: axis 1, weight 3.20 g, dimensions 18.9x18.5 mm;*

**Obverse:** ΦΙΛΩΝ; the cornucopia is observed positioned to the right of the coin's field, and the silhouette of a rooster is distinguishable above the obverse legend; due to the deterioration of the lower area of the obverse field, the sceptre of Asclepius in the exergue is no longer visible.

**Reverse:** [ΔΥΡ]/ΝΙ/[ΚΥΛ/ΛΟΥ];

*It was discovered in 1981, section B17, meter 4 (or trench 2?), -0.40 m;*

*Inventory number: 13822.*



**II.2. Coins originating from the Ocnele Mari region discovered with a metal detector**

Four additional coins, including two imitations and two original coins, were discovered by metal detectorists in the Ocnele Mari area, and it is not excluded, we believe, that they may originate from the Buridava site. Three out of the four coins (5, 6, and 7) are currently held in the custody of the Vâlcea County Museum 'Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu'.

**5. Imitation after ΠΑΝΚΡΑΤΗΣ / ΔΙΩΔΩΡΟΥ**

*Imitation of an issue belonging to Phase IV: Meta 2015, IV/51; CEKA/LUKA 1972, 366.*

*Technical details: axis ?, weight 2.40 g, dimensions 19x? mm; the coin has broken edges;*

**Avers:** [ΠΑ]ΝΚ[ΡΑΤΗΣ]; the scepter of Asclepius is visible in the exergue;

**Revers:** Instead of ΔΥΡ/ΔΙΩ/ΔΝ/ΡΟΥ the legend are rendered as .../ΟΙΤ/ΙΟΣ/ΣΛ; ; the atypical letter shape Σ resembling Z in reverse is noticeable.



**6. Imitation after ΜΕΝΙΕΚΟΣ / ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΥ**

*Imitation of an issue belonging to Phase V: Meta 2015, V/86; CEKA/LUKA 1972, 320.*

*Technical details: axis 9, weight 2.45 g, dimensions 16.2x15.8 mm;*

**Obverse:** ΜΕΝΙΕΚΟΣ; a raven is depicted above the obverse legend;

**Reverse:** Instead of the legend ΔΥΡ/ΔΙΟ/ΝΥ/ΣΙΟΥ, the inscriptions are rendered as [...]Ρ/ΔΥ/ΛΑ/[...] (the letter P tends to have the shape of the letter Λ).



**7. ΞΕΝΩΝ / ΔΑΜΗΝΟΣ**

*Drachma issued by Dyrrhachium belonging to Phase V: Meta 2015, V/85; CEKA/LUKA 1972, 357.*

*Technical details: axis 10, weight 3.17 g, dimensions 18.7x16 mm;*

**Obverse:** ΞΕΝΩΝ, the ear of wheat on the right side of the obverse field is visible, and due to wear, the bunch of grapes in the exergue is not discernible.

**Reverse:** ΔΥΡ/ΔΑ/[ΜΗ/ΝΟΣ].



**8. ΜΕΝΙΕΚΟΣ / ΑΡΧΙΠΠΟΥ**

*Drachma issued by Dyrrhachium belonging to Phase V: Meta 2015, V/86; CEKA/LUKA 1972, 318.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 3.12 g, dimensions 18x17.1 mm;*

**Obverse:** ΜΕΝΙΕΚΟ[Σ], the rudder is visible in the exergue.

**Reverse:** Δ[ΥΡ/ΑΡ]/ΧΙΠ/ΠΟΥ.



**Observations:**

During the archaeological research conducted at Buridava, 4 drachmas belonging to the 'suckling cow' type were discovered: 3 are emissions from the city of Dyrrhachium (2 belonging to Phase IV and 1 to Phase V) and 1 is an imitation of a Dyrrhachian emission classified in Phase IV. When combining the two lots, it is observed that 4 out of the 8 coins are original or imitations associated with Phase V, which seems to differ from the general trend in Dacia where there is a clear dominance of emissions from Phase V.

It appears that there is a consistent presence of imitations of Dyrrhachian drachmas at Buridava, as suggested by the two lots, with 3 coins being imitations. Coins 4 and 5 were affected by fire; in the case of the latter, the burning seems to have led to significant damage to the coin blank. The first is a Dyrrhachian emission from Phase IV, and the second is an imitation of a coin from Phase IV. To date, no Dyrrhachian drachmas from Phase V affected by fire have been discovered.

It should be noted that from the Buridava area, including the neighboring regions from which the coins found by metal detectorists could have originated, we only have Dyrrhachian drachmas with the 'suckling cow' motif. At least until now, emissions from the city of Apollonia have not been discovered. Moreover, Dyrrhachian drachmas numerically dominate over Apollonian ones in the space situated north of the Danube<sup>23</sup>.

It seems that Buridava, as well as the northeastern region of Oltenia, was not directly in the flow of Adriatic drachmas generated in the context of the consolidation and expansion of the power of Burebista<sup>24</sup>.

<sup>23</sup> CONOVICI 1983-1985, 75; PICARD/GJONGECAJ 2000, 148.

<sup>24</sup> For other information: PURECE 2021a.

<sup>22</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1983, 113.

### III. ROMAN REPUBLICAN COINS AND THEIR IMITATIONS

#### III.1. Coins from the Buridava Site in the Collection of the Vâlcea County Museum 'Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu'

The archaeological excavations conducted at Buridava led to the discovery of 40 Roman republican coins<sup>25</sup>. A significant percentage of the total finds of republican coins, 40%, consists of coins from a coin hoard containing 16 pieces<sup>26</sup>, with the remaining 60% covered by 24 isolated discoveries. Through the study of the numismatic collection of the Vâlcea County Museum 'Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu', we managed to identify the pieces contained in the hoard, as well as 18 coins found in isolation. At the same time, we reconstructed the archaeological context from which the discovered coin emissions originated during the Buridava research. The reassociation of coins with existing archaeological information required an extensive comparative analysis, through which we extracted the data presented in the catalogue below.

##### III.1.a. Hoard

**Discovery Time and Place:** It was discovered in 1986 at Buridava, on the second terrace at an elevation of 1. The hoard was ritually deposited in a pit (Gr. 1) identified in section S XXXVIII<sup>27</sup>.

##### 1. ANONIM

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 106/3c<sup>32</sup>, dating: 208 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 3.22 g, size 19.3x18.2 mm.*

**Obverse:** X; Head of Rome wearing a helmet facing right.

**Reverse:** /ROMA; Dioscuri riding to the right, under the Dioscuri, a scepter is depicted.

*Inventory number: 13824.*



##### 2. TI. VETURIVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 234/1, dating: 137 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 5, weight 3.27 g, size 19.3x18 mm.*

**Obverse:** TI·VET (ligature) / X; Bust of Mars wearing a helmet facing right.

**Reverse:** [ROM]A; Youth kneeling to the left, head to the right, holding a pig; soldiers on either side.

*Inventory number: 13825.*



##### 3. L. ANTESTIVS GRAGVLVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 238/1, dating: 136 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 3.62 g, size 19x17.6 mm.*

**Obverse:** GRAG, under the chin of the goddess Roma: \*; .

**Reverse:** L. ANTES / ROMA; Jupiter in a quadriga to the right, holding a scepter and reins in his left hand, and a thunderbolt in his right.

*Inventory number: 13826.*



**Discovery Context:** The pit where the hoard was found had a bell shape, with a depth of 1.75 m, a mouth diameter of 1.15x1.30 m, and a base diameter of 2.25x2.35 m. The coins were located at a depth of 1.60 m. Alongside the coins, pieces of burnt house wall, hearth fragments, river stones, much burnt wood, two grilling supports, two sharpening stones, a flint blade used for striking fire, a deer antler that had begun to be processed into a handle, and numerous ceramic fragments were discovered. It was assumed that all these objects and remnants of construction materials originated from a single dwelling<sup>28</sup>.

**Container:** It was assumed that the coins were initially placed in a ceramic pot<sup>29</sup>, although the fact that the coins were found scattered in small groups<sup>30</sup> may lead to other conclusions.

**Particularities:** The coins underwent fire before being deposited in the pit. Almost all coins exhibit incisions. The incisions have varied forms ranging from linear, angular, semicircular to circular. Coin number 3<sup>31</sup> is suberated, and it is quite possible that other pieces in the hoard were made in the same manner.

**Circulation:** The majority of coins in the hoard were heavily circulated. The least circulated are coins 9 and 15.

**Chronological Placement:** The hoard contains emissions that can be dated between 211 BC and 42 BC.

<sup>25</sup> PARPAUTA 2003-2005, 90.

<sup>26</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1987, 158-160.

<sup>27</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1987, 158.

<sup>28</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1987, 158-159.

<sup>29</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1987, 158.

<sup>30</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1987, 158.

<sup>31</sup> For incisions: BERCIU *et alii* 1987, 159-160.

<sup>32</sup> In the article is Crawford/54 and the followings: BERCIU *et alii* 1987, 159, but the scepter in iconography is connected with Crawford/106/3c.

#### 4. T. CLOVLIVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 260/1, dating: 128 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 3, weight 2.90 g, size 18.9x17.9 mm.*

**Obverse:** ROMA; head of Rome wearing a helmet to the right; behind the head of the goddess Roma is a wreath.

**Reverse:** /T. CLOVLI; Victory in a biga to the right, holding the reins in both hands, under the horses are ears of grain.

*Inventory number: 13827.*



#### 5. M. FOVRIVS L. F. PHILVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 281/1, dating: 119 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 9, weight 3.09 g, size 18.5 mm.*

**Obverse:** M. FOVRI. L. F; laureate head of Janus.

**Reverse:** ROMA / PHILI; Roma standing to the left, holding a spear and a crown, to the left of the field there is a trophy along with Gallic arms.

*Inventory number: 13828.*



#### 6. M. AEMILIVS LEPIDVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 291/1, dating: 114-113 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 12, weight 3 g, size 18.8x18.5 mm.*

**Obverse:** RO[MA]; draped, laureate, and diademed bust of Rome to the right, star behind Rome.

**Reverse:** [M N AEM]ILIO [LEP]; equestrian statue to the right with a base formed by three arches.

*Inventory number: 13829.*



#### 7. P. NERVA

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 292/1, dating: 113-112 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 9, weight 3.52 g, size 17 mm.*

**Obverse:** ROMA; bust of Rome to the left in military attire, wearing a helmet, holding a spear and shield; star in front of Rome.

**Reverse:** [P N]ERVA; three figures involved in the voting process.

*Inventory number: 13830.*



#### 8. P. PORCIVS LAECA

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 301/1, dating: 110-109 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 2.99 g, size 18.2 mm.*

**Obverse:** [ROMA] P. LAECA X; bust of Rome wearing a helmet to the right.

**Reverse:** /[PROVOCO]; a citizen, a figure in military attire, and a lictor standing.

*Inventory number: 13831.*



#### 9. CN. LENTULVS CLODIANVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 345/1<sup>33</sup>, dating: 88 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 12, weight 3.37 g, size 17.1x17.6 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; bust of Mars, wearing a Corinthian helmet and holding a spear, to the right.

**Reverse:** CN·L[ENTVL]; Victory in a chariot to the right, holding the reins in the left hand and a crown in the right hand.

*Inventory number: 13837.*



#### 10. L. IVLIVS BVRSIO

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 352/1a, dating: 85 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 3.70 g, size 18x20.5 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; draped bust of a Genius to the right, trident, Pegasus in the background.

**Reverse:** /L IVLI BVRSIO; Victory in a quadriga to the right.

*Inventory number: 13832.*



<sup>33</sup> „Rutilius Flacus ?” in BERCIU *et alii* 1987, 160, iconography was not very well observed.

## 11. C. NORBANVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 357/1b, dating: 83 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 5, weight 3.05 g, size 18.8x19.6 mm.*

**Obverse:** LXXXI / C. NORBANV[S]; diademed head of the goddess Venus to the right.

**Reverse:** No legend; ear of wheat, fasces, and caduceus.

*Inventory number: 13833.*



## 12. L. MARCIVS CENSORINVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 363/1b, dating: 82 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 12, weight 3.17 g, size 17.1x18.4 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; laureate head of Apollo to the right; branch behind.

**Reverse:** L. CENSOR; Marsyas standing to the left, looking upward, raising his right hand and holding a wineskin over his left shoulder; behind him is a column on which is placed a statue, probably of Minerva.

*Inventory number: 13834.*



## 13. L. PROCILIVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 379/1, dating: 80 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 3, weight 3.37 g, size 18x19.3 mm.*

**Obverse:** S C; laureate head of Jupiter to the right.

**Reverse:** L. PROCILI; Juno Sospita standing to the right, wearing a goat skin, holding a shield in the left hand, and preparing to throw a spear with the right hand; serpent to the right of the field.

*Inventory number: 13835.*



## 14. TI. CLAVDIVS TI. F. AP. N.

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 383/1, dating: 79 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 12, weight 3.07 g, size 17.1x18.4 mm.*

**Obverse:** S C; bust of Diana to the right, carrying a quiver and a bow over the shoulder.

**Reverse:** XXXXVI / [T]I CLAVD[TI F / AP N]; Victory in a chariot advancing to the right, holding a palm branch and a crown.

*Inventory number: 13836.*



## 15. CN. MAGNVS IMPERATOR M. PUBLICIVS LEG. PRO PR.

*Denarius, Spain, Crawford 469/1a, dating: 46-45 BC.*

*Technical details: Axis 6, weight 2.87 g, size 16.5x17.5 mm.*

**Obverse:** M·PUBLICI·LEG·PRO·PR; bust of Rome, wearing a helmet, to the right.

**Reverse:** CN·MAGNUS·IMP; Personification of Hispania offering a palm branch to Pompey, seated on a prow of a ship.

*Inventory number: 13838.*



## 16. C. VIBIVS VARVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 494/36, dating: 42 BC.*

*Technical details: Axis 3, weight 3.23 g, size 17.3x18.7 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; bust of Liber/Bacchus to the right, wearing an ivy wreath.

**Reverse:** C VIBIVS / VARVS; a panther standing on an altar with a mask and thyrsus.

*Inventory number: 13839.*



### III.1.b. Isolated Finds

#### 1. L. SAVFEIVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 204/1, dating: 152 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 2.40 g, size 18x16.6 mm.*

**Obverse:** X; bust of Rome wearing a helmet to the right.

**Reverse:** L-SAVF/ROMA; Victory in a chariot advancing to the right.

Discovered in 1979 in the civil settlement, level I, S XXXIX<sup>34</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13813.*



#### 2. L. SEMPRONIUS PITIO

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 216/1, dating: 148 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 2, weight 3.70 g, size 19x18.5 mm.*

**Obverse:** PITIO X; bust of Rome wearing a helmet to the right.

**Reverse:** [L. SEMP]/ROMA; Dioscuri riding to the right.

Discovered in 1982 in the deposits on the north side of Citadel 1<sup>35</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13769.*



#### 3. Q. TITIVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 341/1, dating: 90 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 10, weight 3.07 g, size 19.7x14.4 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; bust of Mutinus Titinus to the right.

**Reverse:** /Q. TITI; Pegasus rising to the right.

Discovered in 1966. The archaeological context is not specified<sup>36</sup>.

*Inventory number: 4354.*



#### 4. Q. TITIVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 341/2, dating: 90 BC.*

*Technical details: Axis 6, weight 3.10 g, size 16.3x15.9 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; bust of Bacchus (or Liber) to the right.

**Reverse:** /[Q. TITI]; Pegasus rising to the right.

The archaeological context and the year of discovery are not specified<sup>37</sup>.

*Inventory number: 1670.*



#### 5. L. TITVRIVS L. F. SABINVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 344/1b, dating: 89 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 7, weight 3.30 g, size 18.1x17.3 mm.*

**Obverse:** SABIN; head of Tattius to the right; palm leaf under the chin.

**Reverse:** Q. /L. TI[TVRI]; Two Roman soldiers carrying women in their arms.

It was discovered in 1978, S XXXVIII, level II a<sup>38</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13804.*



<sup>34</sup> BERCIU 1981, 135.

<sup>35</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1983, 112.

<sup>36</sup> BERCIU 1981, 132.

<sup>37</sup> BERCIU 1981, 132.

<sup>38</sup> BERCIU 1981, 132.

## 6. L. RUBRIVS DOSSENVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 348/3, dating: 87 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 1, weight 3.40 g, size 18.1x17 mm.*

**Obverse:** DOS; head of Minerva, wearing a helmet and aegis, to the right.

**Reverse:** /[L. RV]BRI; triumphal chariot to the right, above it Victory in a chariot.

It was discovered in 1987, S KL II, carousel 2, at a depth of 1 m<sup>39</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13840.*



## 7. L. IVLIVS BVRSIO

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 352/1a, dating: 85 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 3.30 g, size 19.1x18.1 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; draped bust of a Genius to the right, trident, Pegasus behind.

**Reverse:** /[L. IVLI BVRSIO]; Victory in a quadriga to the right.

It was discovered in 1974, S XXV D, level II<sup>40</sup>.

*Inventory number: 4368.*



## 8. L. IVLIVS BVRSIO

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 352/1c, dating: 85 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 12, weight 3.51 g, size 20x17.7 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; draped bust of a Genius to the right, trident, and an element that is no longer visible due to wear and the fact that it has been overlaid by a zig-zag incision behind.

**Reverse:** LVII/[L. IVL]I BVRSIO; Victory in a quadriga to the right.

It was probably discovered in 1974 at Buridava, and it is recorded in the inventory register of the Vâlcea County Museum in a group of three coins, two of which have very good bibliographic references that allow their association with the Dacian settlement<sup>41</sup>.

*Inventory number: 4352.*



## 9. M. VOLTEIVS M. F.

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 385/4, dating: 78 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 2.40 g, size 18x16.6 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; bust of Attis, wearing a helmet and laurel wreath, to the right; the element behind is not distinguishable.

**Reverse:** /M VOLTEI M [F]; Cybele in a chariot drawn by lions to the right, holding the reins with the left hand and a patera with the right; above, SC ?.

It was discovered in 1979 in the civil settlement, level IIa, S IX, Terasa II<sup>42</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13810.*



## 10. C. CALPVRNIVS PISO L. F. FRUGI

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 408/1a, dating: 67 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 5, weight 3.30 g, size 18x17.7 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; laureate head of Apollo, behind cornucopiae; in front, a countermark with the letters T and E in ligature.

**Reverse:** C-PISO L F [FRV]; horseman riding to the right; behind, a palm leaf.

It was discovered in 1979 in the civil settlement, level I?, S XXXIX<sup>43</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13814.*



<sup>39</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1988, 178.

<sup>40</sup> BERCIU 1981, 132.

<sup>41</sup> Mitrea 1972, p367, no. 42.

<sup>42</sup> Berciu 1981, p. 135.

<sup>43</sup> Berciu 1981, 135.

### 11. Q. POMPEIVS RVFVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 434/1, dating: 54 BC.*

*Technical details: Axis 7, weight 3.46 g, size 17.1x16.5 mm.*

**Obverse:** [SVLLA COS]; bust of L. Cornelius Sulla to the right<sup>44</sup>.

**Reverse:** [RVFVS COS-Q POM RVFI]; bust of Q. Pompeius Rufus to the right.

It was discovered in 1977, S XIV A, L II, level II b.

*Inventory number: 13801.*



### 12. CAESAR

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 443/1, dating: 49-48 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 2, weight 2.35 g, size 17.9x17.2 mm.*

**Obverse:** /CAESAR; elephant advancing to the right and trampling on a snake.

**Reverse:** No legend; pontifical objects.

It was discovered in 1982 in the civil settlement, S XII B/82, depth 1.10m, caroul 15, level IIa<sup>45</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13765.*



### 13. C. VIBIVS PANS A C. F. C. N. CAETRONIANVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 449/1a, dating: 48 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 7, weight 3.46 g, size 17.1x16.5 mm.*

**Obverse:** PANS A; head of Pan facing right.

**Reverse:** C VIBIVS C F C N-[IOVIS] AXVR; Jupiter Axurus seated facing left, holding patera in right hand and scepter in left hand.

It was discovered in 1978 on the Sacred Hill, pit 21, in the fine sand layer<sup>46</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13805.*



### 14. MARCVS ANTONIVS

*Denarius, Rome, Crawford 496/1, dating: 42 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 1, weight 3.36 g, size 18.1x16.8 mm.*

**Obverse:** M ANTONI-IMP; head of Marcus Antonius facing right.

**Reverse:** [III] VIR R-P-C; temple in which the face of Sol is depicted.

It was discovered in 1977 in dwelling L 3 of the civil settlement, S XIV A, level IIb<sup>47</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13802.*



### 15. MARCVS ANTONIVS

*Denarius, mobile mint, Crawford 544/10, dating: 32-31 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 3 g, size 17.4x17.3 mm.*

**Obverse:** ANT-AVG III-VIR-R-P-C; galley sailing to the right.

**Reverse:** LEG-XVII [CLASSI] CAE; eagle between two legionary standards. There is an incision in the form of an X on the reverse.

It was discovered in 1982 on the north side of Citadel 1, in S A13, carrousel 4, at a depth of 0.30 m, mixed with archaeological materials from various periods<sup>48</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13770.*



### 16. MARCVS ANTONIVS

*Denarius, mobile mint, Crawford 544/15, dating: 32-31 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 9, weight 3.51 g, size 18.2x17 mm.*

**Obverse:** [ANT AVG]-III-VIR-R-P-C; galley sailing to the right.

**Reverse:** LEG III; eagle between two legionary standards.

It was discovered in 1978 on the Sacred Hill (C1), in pit 23a (Gr. 23a)<sup>49</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13806.*



<sup>44</sup> Berciu 1981, 132.

<sup>45</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1983, 112.

<sup>46</sup> BERCIU 1981, 133.

<sup>47</sup> BERCIU 1981, 133.

<sup>48</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1983, 112.

<sup>49</sup> BERCIU 1981, 133.

## 17. MARCVS ANTONIVS

*Denarius, mobile mint, Crawford 544/22, dating: 32-31 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 12, weight 3.14 g, size 20x18 mm.*

**Obverse:** [ANT AVG]-III·VIR·R·P·C; galley sailing to the right.

**Reverse:** LEG VIII; eagle between two legionary standards.

It was discovered in 1969 in the civil settlement, level II b<sup>50</sup>.

*Inventory number: 4351.*



## 18. MARCVS ANTONIVS

*Denarius, mobile mint, Crawford 544/?, dating: 32-31 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 10, weight 3 g, size 19x18.5 mm.*

**Obverse:** ANT AVG-[III VIR R P C]; galley sailing to the right.

**Reverse:** ? (off-center strike); eagle between two legionary standards.

It was discovered in the "Orizontul IV de viitură"<sup>51</sup>.

*Inventory number: 4353.*



## III.2. Coins from the Ocnele Mari region discovered with the metal detector

### 1. M. ABURIUS M. F. GEMINUS

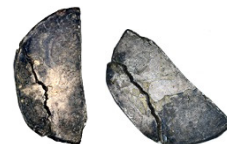
*Denarius, Roma, Crawford 250/1, dating: 132 BC.*

*Technical details: axis: 12 ?, weight: 1.2 g (fragmentary), size: 18.4x? mm (fragmentary).*

**Obverse:** GE[M]; bust of Rome facing right with the legend behind; due to fragmentation, the star placed under Rome's chin has not been preserved.

**Reverse:** [M·ABVRI], in exergue RO[MA]; Sol in a quadriga advancing to the right, holding a whip and reins.

The coin is preserved in a poor state due to several processes it has undergone. Initially, it was cut in half with a chisel, with the frontal half passing through fire. The coin has been heavily circulated, as evidenced by the strong wear.



### 2. L. PROCILIUS

*Denarius, Roma, Crawford 379/2, dating: 80 BC.*

**Obverse:** [S·C], head of the goddess Juno facing right, wearing a goat's skin.

**Reverse:** L. PROCILI. F. in exergue, Juno driving a biga, holding a spear and shield, with a serpent beneath the horses.

*Technical details: axis: 6, weight: 3 g (fragmentary), size: 19x? mm (fragmentary).*



### 3. IMITATION

The coin is an imitation of a denarius issued by Q. Marcius, C. Fabius, and L. Roscius, Crawford 283/1a, dating from 118-117 BC. The coin stands out for its barbarized style of iconography.

**Obverse:** Head of Rome facing right; the pellet behind the head is likely derived from the star that originally appeared on the original coins.

**Reverse:** Victory driving a quadriga to the right. The striking is slightly off-center, which has affected the integrity of the reverse iconography. Moreover, the space on the field of the original coins is very limited compared to the dimensions of the scene; thus, the striking needed to be very precise for all elements to be fully represented. As often happens, the legend of the imitation does not reproduce the original text accurately. In this case, letters such as "LV" can be discerned, and above, "e."

*Technical details: axis: 3, weight: 2.62 g, size: 16.8x16.1 mm.*



### Observations<sup>52</sup>:

The isolated discovered coins belong to the following chronological intervals: 2 were minted in the second half of the 2nd century BC (12%), 9 were minted in the first half of the 1st century BC (47%), and 7 were minted in the second half of the 1st century BC (41%). The two original coins found with a metal detector fall into the mentioned chronological groups as follows: 1 in the first group and 1 in the second group.

<sup>50</sup> BERCIU 1981, 133.

<sup>51</sup> BERCIU 1981, 133.

<sup>52</sup> PURECE 2011, 105-111.

Coins 6, 9, 10, and 18, obtained from archaeological research, were affected by fire. The same situation can be observed in the case of mode 1 from the group of coins found with a metal detector. The last-mentioned coin has a strongly deteriorated structure due to burning. Two coins were cut with a chisel: 2 from lot 1 and 1 from lot 2.

In the case of coin 10, a countermark appears on the obverse, in front of the chin of the god Apollo, formed by the letters T and E in ligature.

Regarding the hoard, it should be noted that the coin considered probably issued by Rutilius Flacus belongs to Cn. Lentulus Clodianus.

#### IV. ROMAN IMPERIAL COINS AND IMITATIONS THEREOF

##### IV.1. Coins from the Buridava Site in the Collection of MJV

In the collection of the Vâlcea County Museum, there are a total of 20 coins originating from the Dacian settlement of Buridava, spanning the reigns of emperors Augustus to Domitianus.

##### 1. AVGVSTVS

*As, Ephesus, RIC I<sup>2</sup> 486, dating: 25 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 12, weight 7.24 g, size 26.1x24.8 mm.*

**Obverse:** [CAESAR]; bust of Augustus facing right.

**Reverse:** AVGVSTVS; laurel wreath surrounding the legend.

The coin has been countermarked on the obverse with AVC TICAE.

It was discovered in the year 1968, in the civil settlement, at level III<sup>53</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13796.*



##### 2. AVGVSTVS

*Denarius, Emerita, RIC I<sup>2</sup> 4b, dating: 25-23 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 1, weight 3.24 g, size 20x19.7 mm.*

**Obverse:** IMP CAESAR-AVGVS; bust of Augustus facing left.

**Reverse:** P CARISIVS-LEG PRO PR; trophy erected on a mound of shields.

It was discovered in the year 1980, in the necropolis area, in the disturbed soil of the graves<sup>54</sup>.

*Inventory number: 930.*



##### 3. AVGVSTVS

*Denarius, Caesaraugusta, RIC I<sup>2</sup> 33a, dating: 19-18 BC.*

*Technical details: Axis 6, weight 3.55 g, size 20.3x19 mm.*

**Obverse:** No legend; bust of Augustus facing right, wearing an oak wreath.

**Reverse:** CAESAR/AVGVSTVS; laurel branches.

It was discovered in the year 1982 on Citadel 1, in S B 18, on the floor of dwelling 1<sup>55</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13767.*



<sup>53</sup> BERCIU 1981, 133.

<sup>54</sup> BERCIU 1981, 133.

<sup>55</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1983, 112.

## 4. AVGVSTVS

*Denarius, Lugdunum, RIC P 167a, dating: 15-13 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 2.51 g, size 19x17.5 mm.*

**Obverse:** AVGVSTVS-DIVI-F; bust of Augustus facing right.

**Reverse:** /IMP·X; bull goring to the right.

It was discovered in the year 1978, S XXXVIII, in the transition zone between level II and level III<sup>56</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13797.*



## 5. AVGVSTVS

*As, Rome, RIC P 471, dating: 11-12 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 6.34 g, size 25.7x24.1 mm.*

**Obverse:** [IMP C]AESAR·DIVI·F·AV[GVSTVS IMP XX]; bust of Augustus facing left.

**Reverse:** [PONTIF MAX]IM TRIBVN POT XXXIII / S C; the legend surrounds the letters S C.

It was discovered in the year 1967, in the civil settlement (S VIII), in the contact zone between level II and level III<sup>57</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13795.*



## 6. AVGVSTVS

*As, Rome, RIC P 437, dating: 6 BC.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 8.55 g, size 26x25.3 mm.*

**Obverse:** [CAESAR AVG]VST PONT MAX [TRIBVNIC POT]; bust of Augustus facing right.

**Reverse:** A·LICIN N[ERVA SILIAN III VIR] A A A F F / S C; the legend surrounds the letters S C.

It was discovered in the year 1984 on the northern edge of the acropolis in a layer with mixed archaeological material. Location "palisade," S A17, carousel 3, at a depth of 0.20m<sup>58</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13823.*



## 7. AVGVSTVS

*Denarius, Lugdunum, RIC P 207, dating: 2 BC - 4 AD.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 3.75 g, size 19.1x18.1 mm.*

**Obverse:** CAESAR AVGVSTVS-DIVI F PATER PATRIAE; laureate bust of Augustus facing right. On the obverse, there is an incision in the shape of a horseshoe.

**Reverse:** C L CAESARES / AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT; Gaius and Lucius Caesar in togas, each holding a hand on a shield and spear, between them, in the upper part, a simpulum on the left and a lituus on the right; the shield on the left overlaps the one on the right.

It was discovered in the year 1982 on the northern side of Citadel 1, in S AP, carousel 6, at a depth of 0.20m<sup>59</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13766.*



<sup>56</sup> BERCIU 1981, 134.

<sup>57</sup> BERCIU 1981, 133.

<sup>58</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1985, 173.

<sup>59</sup> BERCIU *et alii* 1983, 112.

### 8. AVGVSTVS

Denarius, Lugdunum, RIC P 210, dating: 2 BC - 4 AD.

Technical details: axis 3, weight 2.46 g, size 17x? mm.

**Obverse:** CAESAR AVGVSTVS [DIVI F PATER PATRIAE]; laureate bust of Augustus facing right.

**Reverse:** C L CAESARES / AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT; Gaius and Lucius Caesar in togas, each holding a hand on a shield and spear, between them, in the upper part, a lituus on the left and a simpulum on the right; the shield on the right overlaps the one on the left.

It was discovered in the year 1973 on the Sacred Hill (C1), in the underground chamber (pit 2/73), at a depth of 2.35m. The coin was intentionally cut, probably with a chisel<sup>60</sup>.

Inventory number: 536.



### 9. TIBERIVS

As, Rome, RIC P 72, dating: 15-16.

Technical details: axis 12, weight 11.2 g, size 26.5x26 mm.

**Obverse:** DIVVS•AVGV-STVS [•] PATER•; laureate head of Augustus facing left; in front, lightning bolts and above, a star.

**Reverse:** S-C; veiled female seated facing right, holding a patera in the right hand and a long scepter in the left.

Discovered in a dwelling in the civilian settlement in the year 1980<sup>61</sup>.

Inventory number: 951.



### 10. CALIGULA: AGRIPPA

As, Rome, RIC P 58, dating: 37-41.

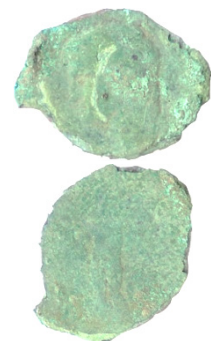
Technical details: axis 1, weight 4.87 g, size ? mm (fragmentary).

**Obverse:** [M AGRIPPA L F COS III]; head of Agrippa facing left, wearing a rostral crown.

**Reverse:** S-C; Neptune standing facing left, holding a dolphin in the right hand and a scepter in the left.

Discovered in the year 1968, in Sector X, at the depth of 2<sup>62</sup>.

Inventory number: 13798.



### 11. CALIGULA

As, Rome, RIC P 38, dating: 37-38.

Technical details: axis 6, weight 8.20 g, size 27.2x26 mm.

**Obverse:** C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT; head of Caligula facing left.

**Reverse:** [VESTA] S-C; Vesta seated on a throne facing left, with her head covered, holding a patera in her right hand and a scepter in her left.

Discovered in the year 1969 in the civil settlement, Sector XV<sup>63</sup>.

Inventory number: 13715.



<sup>60</sup> BERCIU 1981, 133-134.

<sup>61</sup> BERCIU 1981, 135; BERCIU/IOSIFARU 1980, 227.

<sup>62</sup> BERCIU 1981, 135.

<sup>63</sup> BERCIU 1981, 134.

## 12. CLAVDIVS

*As, Rome, RIC P 100, dating: 41-50.*

*Technical details: axis 7, weight 8.31 g, size 28.7x28.1 mm.*

**Obverse:** TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG PM TRP IMP; head of Claudius facing left.

**Reverse:** S-C; Minerva facing right, preparing to throw a javelin and holding a shield in her left hand.

Discovered in the year 1972 in the civil settlement, Level III<sup>64</sup>.

*Inventory number: 940.*



## 13. VESPASIANVS

*Denarius, Rome, RIC II 93, RIC II<sup>2</sup>/1 777, dating: 75.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 2.48 g, size 19x18 mm.*

**Obverse:** IMP CAESAR-VESPASIANVS AVG; laureate head of Vespasian facing right.

**Reverse:** PON MAX-TR P COS VI; Victory standing on the prow of a ship facing left, holding the laurel wreath in her right hand and a palm frond in her left.

Discovered in the year 1978 in the civil settlement, level III<sup>65</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13803.*



## 14. VESPASIANVS

*Denarius, Rome, RIC II 46, RIC II<sup>2</sup>/1 358, dating: 72-73.*

*Technical details: Axis 6, weight 1.78 g, size 17.9x12.3 mm.*

**Obverse:** IMP CAES VESP AVG P M COS IIII; laureate head of Vespasian facing right.

**Reverse:** NEP RED; Neptune, nude, standing facing left, right foot on a globe, holding a trident in the right hand and a scepter in the left.

Discovered in the year 1982 on Citadel 1, in S B20, axis 4, dwelling 1 (level III)<sup>66</sup>.

The coin is fragmented, and it appears to have been intentionally cut.

*Inventory number: 13768.*



## 15. IMITATION OF VESPASIANVS DENARIUS

*Imitation of denarius, Ephesus, RIC II 325, RIC II<sup>2</sup>/1 1427, dating: 71.*

*Technical details: axis 9, weight 1.42 g, size 17x16.3 mm.*

**Obverse:** IMP CAESAR VESPAS COS III TR P P P; laureate head of Vespasian facing right.

**Reverse:** AVG; the legend is within an oak wreath.

Discovered in the year 1968 in the civil settlement, level III, S X a<sup>67</sup>.

*Inventory number: 13799.*



## 16. TITVS

*Denarius, Rome, RIC II 27 b; RIC II<sup>2</sup>/1 128, dating: January 1 - July 1, 80.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 2.60 g, size 18x17 mm.*

**Obverse:** [I]MP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M; laureate head of Titus facing right.

**Reverse:** TR P IX IMP XV COS VIII P P; tripod, above which is a dolphin.

Discovered in the year 1970 in the civil settlement, level III<sup>68</sup>.

*Inventory number: 130.*



<sup>64</sup> BERCIU 1981, 134.

<sup>65</sup> BERCIU 1981, 134.

<sup>66</sup> BERCIU ET ALII 1983, 112.

<sup>67</sup> BERCIU 1981, 134.

<sup>68</sup> BERCIU 1981, 134.

**17. DOMITIANUS**

Unfortunately, the silver coin (denarius) mentioned as being issued by Domitianus, considered by D. Berciu as the latest emission from the site area, discovered incidentally on the eastern terraces of the Sacred Hill (C1)<sup>69</sup>, is neither identified nor illustrated in the volume. Additionally, the museum’s inventory register does not mention any coin issued by Domitianus that may have originated from Ocnița-Buridava. Moreover, as previously mentioned, this lack of information is specific to all inventory numbers currently associated with coins from this site.

If we consider the indications that the coin was issued during the reign of Domitianus<sup>70</sup> and not from a previous emission for him by Vespasianus or Titus, then we have only one possibility within the collection: the denarius numbered 733. The fact that the coin comes from the Ocnița-Burdiava site is certified by the coin having been subjected to fire, a fate that frequently occurred with coins originating from this site. This may be linked to the fire that brought an end to the settlement<sup>71</sup> in the context of Roman expeditions undertaken north of the Danube.

*Denarius, Rome, RIC II 21; RIC I<sup>2</sup>/1 74, dating: 81.*

*Technical details: Axis 6, Weight 2.39 g, Size 17x16.8 mm.*

**Obverse:** IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG P M; laureate head of Domitianus facing right.

**Reverse:** [TR] P CO[S VII]-D[ES VIII P P]; tripod above which a dolphin is positioned.

The coin was probably discovered incidentally on the eastern terraces of the Sacred Hill (C1)<sup>72</sup>.

It is cracked on the obverse, possibly due to burning, and exhibits numerous incisions, especially on the reverse.

*Inventory number: 733.*



**UNDETERMINABLE**

**18.** As, obverse ?; reverse ?, dating: 1st century ?, axis ?, weight 8.2 g, size 26x23.3 mm, inventory number 13811.

Discovered in 1979 in the civil settlement, level III, Terrace II<sup>73</sup>.

**19.** As, obverse ?; reverse ?, dating: century ?, axis ?, weight 2.4 g, size 20x10.5 mm, inventory number 13812.

Discovered in 1979 in the civil settlement<sup>74</sup>. The coin is broken in half.

<sup>69</sup> BERCIU 1981, p134-135.

<sup>70</sup> In the volume, the years of Domitianus’ reign are indicated whenever the currency is mentioned.

<sup>71</sup> BERCIU 1981, 135.

<sup>72</sup> BERCIU 1981, 134-135.

<sup>73</sup> BERCIU 1981, 135.

<sup>74</sup> BERCIU 1981, 135.

**20.** Denarius, obverse ?; reverse ?, dating: century ?, axis ?, weight 1.59 g, size 19.3x17.8 mm, inventory number 13771.

Discovered in 1982 on Citadel 1, in S B20, carousel 7, depth 0.40 m<sup>75</sup>. It is a debased coin, retaining traces of silver. It has been perforated and transformed into a decorative object.

**IV.2. The Issue of the Coin of Trajanus from Ocnița**

In the monograph dedicated to Buridava, D. Berciu mentions a coin issued by Trajanus, discovered accidentally in 1980, in Ocnița, “outside the fortress complex and donated to the museum”<sup>76</sup>. Although D. Berciu has doubts about its origin, probably due to the situation of coin discoveries in the site, this coin is very likely to come from Ocnița, but from the Roman site, unknown at the time of the monograph’s publication. The site was investigated in 2009 and is located in the immediate vicinity of the Dacian Buridava, in the valley of the Pârâul Sărat– the point called “Aval de Baraj”<sup>77</sup>. Several emissions of this emperor have been discovered here<sup>78</sup>. The coin has the following characteristics<sup>79</sup>:

*As, Rome, RIC II 483, dating: 103-111 CE.*

*Technical details: axis 6, weight 11.3 g, size 27.1x26 mm.*

**Obverse:** IMP CAES NERVAE TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P; Rome standing to the left, holding Victory in the right hand and a spear in the left.

**Reverse:** S•P•Q•R• OPTIMO PRINCIPI / S-C; bust of Trajan, facing right, laureate and draped over the left shoulder.

*Inventory number: 13817.*



**IV.3. Coins from the Ocnele Mari region discovered with a metal detector**

In the coin collection recovered by metal detector enthusiasts, there are both coins that could be linked to the Dacian site of Buridava<sup>80</sup>, as well as monetary emissions that certainly originate, considering the chronological context, from contexts associated with the Roman period, possibly from the site area located at the *Aval de Baraj* point.

<sup>75</sup> BERCIU ET ALII 1983, 112.

<sup>76</sup> BERCIU 1981, p135.

<sup>77</sup> PURECE/TUȚULESCU 2016, 1.

<sup>78</sup> PURECE/ TUȚULESCU 2016, 3.

<sup>79</sup> Image in BERCIU 1981, pl.111/4.

<sup>80</sup> Pre-Trajanic coins can be found in Roman Dacia sites, and this could be the case for the coin “2” issued by Tiberius for Augustus. The coins belonging to the type RIC I<sup>2</sup> 81 are quite common in Roman contexts in Dacia.

## IV.3.a Coins that may originate from Ocnița-

### Buridava:

#### 1. AVGVSTVS

As, Rome, RIC P 432, dating: 7 BC.

Technical details: Axis: 6, Weight: 8.46 g, Dimensions: 25.5 x 24.9 mm.

**Obverse:** [CAESAR AVGVST PONT M] AX T[RIBVNIC POT]; the head of the emperor turned to the left.

**Reverse:** [M S]ALVIVS OTH[O IIIVIR AAAFF] / S C.



#### 2. TIBERIVS: AVGVSTVS

As, Rome, RIC P 81, dating: 15-16/22-23/34-37.

Technical details: Axis: 6, Weight: 8.80 g, Dimensions: 26.2 x 25.8 mm.

**Obverse:** [DIVVS AVGVS]TV[S PATER]; radial head of Augustus facing left.

**Reverse:** S-C / [PRO]VID[ENT]; altar.



## IV.3.b Coins originating from contexts related

### to Roman Dacia:

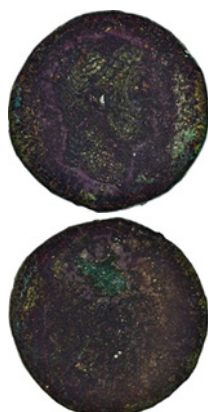
#### 3. HADRIANVS

Dupondius, Rome, RIC II 850d, RIC II<sup>2</sup>/3 dating: 134-138, 130-133.

Technical details: axis 6, weight 12.16 g, size 26.6x26 mm.

**Obverse:** HA[DRIANVS A]VG [COS III PP]; laureate bust of the emperor facing right.

**Reverse:** [DACIA] / S-C; Dacia seated, facing left, on a rock, holding the standard of a legion and a curved sword.



#### 4. MARCVS AVRELIVS

Sestertius, Rome, RIC III 836, dating: December 161-December 162.

Technical details: axis 6, weight 15.76 g (heavy wear), size 34x32.7 mm.

**Obverse:** [IMP CAE]S M A[VREL ANTONINVS AVG P M]; laureate head of the emperor facing right.

**Reverse:** [SALVT]I AV[GVSTOR TR P XVI COS III S C]; Salus standing left, feeding a serpent coiled around an altar with a patera.



#### 5. MARCVS AVRELIUS: FAVSTINA II

Denarius, Rome, RIC III 688, dating: 161-176.

Technical details: axis 12, weight 2.73 g, size 19x17.5 mm.

**Obverse:** FAVSTINA-AVGVSTA; draped bust of Faustina facing right.

**Reverse:** I-V-N O, Juno facing left, holding a patera and scepter, at her feet is a peacock.



#### Observations<sup>81</sup>:

From the perspective of numerical and percentage distribution, we have the following situation for Roman imperial coins from Buridava in the collection of the Vâlcea County Museum: Augustus 8 – 40%, Tiberius 1 – 5%, Caius 2 – 10%, Claudius 1 – 5%, Vespasianus 2 – 10%, Titus 1 – 5%, Domitianus 1 – 5%, in addition to 1 imitation of Vespasianus – 5% and 3 undeterminable coins – 15%. To these, we could add two coins found with a metal detector, one issued by Augustus and the second by Tiberius.

Among the 20 coins in the museum's collection, 10 are denarii and 9 are asses, with an addition of an imitation of a denarius. We could add to this distribution the 2 asses issued by Augustus and Tiberius discovered with the metal detector. There seems to be an approximately equal proportion between bronze and silver emissions.

There appears to be a continuous flow of coins at the end of the 1st century BC and the beginning of the 1st century AD, with late republican coins being succeeded by the imperial emissions of Augustus. This is well represented in the lot, with 9 coins (8 from the collection and possibly 1 of those recovered), representing a percentage of 45%. As observed, coins issued by Augustus dominate the ensemble, indicating a consistent contact between Buridava and the Balkan territories controlled by the Romans at the end of the

<sup>81</sup> See also PURECE 2013, 45-54.

1st century BC and the beginning of the 1st century AD. The coin flow is facilitated by the highly active policy of Augustus in the Danube region.

Among the emissions of Augustus, the as recorded in our catalog with number 1 stands out, presenting two countermarks, indicating a long period in which it was in circulation. It is very likely that the coin was countermarked on the Danubian limes during the reigns of Augustus and Tiberius. Additionally, the denarius with number 7, issued by Augustus, has an incision in the form of a horseshoe on the obverse.

Some coins were intentionally cut, as in the cases recorded at numbers 8 and 14. These cuts could be motivated either by ritual practices, as in the case of coin 8, or perhaps by the need for precious metal, as in the case of coin 14.

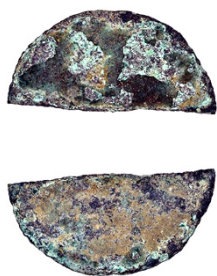
It should be noted that some coins show signs of burning, a fact also observed in the case of some Republican coins mentioned earlier, as in the cases recorded at numbers 15 or 17.

As previously mentioned, there are 2 Roman imperial coins found with a metal detector that could be associated with Ocnița-Buridava, both dating from the early Principate period: one issued by Augustus and the second by Tiberius for Augustus. They fit into the general ensemble of imperial coin discoveries from archaeological research, where early coins occupy a dominant position. Obviously, without knowing the exact place of discovery, we can reserve some caution for coin 2 (issued by Tiberius), which could well come from a Roman period site. Coins from the series DIVVS AVGVSTVS PATER are quite commonly found in the early layers of Roman Dacia habitation<sup>82</sup>.

It is evident that a part of the coins discovered with the metal detector originate from Roman sites (3, 4, 5). An interesting aspect is that the lot concludes with a coin issued by Marcus Aurelius for Faustina II, similar to the series of coins found at the Roman site in Ocnița – *Aval de baraj*<sup>83</sup>. This aspect leads us to consider the possibility that at least some, if not all, of them were found within the perimeter of the site at *Aval de baraj*.

## V. ANCIENT COINS – UNDETERMINED ORIGIN FROM THE OCNELE MARI REGION DISCOVERED WITH A METAL DETECTOR

1. Due to the fact that the coin was intentionally cut in two with a chisel, it is heavily circulated and corroded, probably due to the salty and humid environment in which it subsequently resided. The poor state of preservation does not allow for an approximate weight estimation based on the preserved fragment. AE, weight: 2.60 g (fragmentary), size: 28.1x? mm (fragmentary).



2. A coin in a poor state of preservation, heavily corroded due to the humid and salty environment in which it was found. The initial weight cannot be estimated due to advanced degradation. AE, weight: 4.80 g, size: 24x21 mm.



3. In a poor state of preservation, this coin has suffered severe exfoliation due to the humid and salty environment in which it was found. The initial weight cannot be estimated due to advanced degradation. AE, weight: 15.93 g, size: 31x25.6 mm.



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