

THE ZAGREB ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
TRG NIKOLE ŠUBIĆA ZRINSKOG 19
HR - 10000 ZAGREB
Guides - 1

Publisher

The Zagreb Archaeological Museum

For the publisher

Ante Rendić-Miočević

Editors

Zdenka Dukat and Ivan Mirnik in collaboration with Tomislav Bilić

Authors

Zdenka Dukat and Ivan Mirnik

English translation

Sonia Wild Bičanić

Photographs

Filip Beusan

Graphical design

Zdenko Zadavec

Print

BIROTISAK d.o.o.

Edition

1000 specimens

Address of the publisher

Arheološki muzej u Zagrebu
Trg Nikole Šubića Zrinskog 19
HR - 10000 Zagreb
CROATIA

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the National and University
Library in Zagreb under 686618

ISBN 978-953-6789-37-5

THE ZAGREB ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

ZDENKA DUKAT and IVAN MIRNIK
NUMISMATIC COLLECTION
GUIDE



ZAGREB, 2008.

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FOREWORD

The appearance of the first of a new series of guides to the collections of the Zagreb Archeological Museum is an important event. Although the museum is one of the direct descendants of what was Zagreb's oldest museum, the National Museum founded in 1836, publications of this kind have been remarkably rare. One of the reasons is the fact that during the whole of its 170-odd years of existence the permanent exhibitions of all different holdings have seldom been open to the public. There have been rare examples of what we might call »classical« guides to individual collections, for example that for the Egyptian and the Prehistoric collections in 1979 and 1980. Both of these were printed for the opening of the reconstituted exhibitions but unfortunately the series was not extended to include all museum holdings - Classical Antiquity, the Middle Ages or even the highly specific and perhaps most demanding, the numismatic collection.

It is not by chance that the present guide to that collection is now being published as the first of a new series of guidebooks. Not only has it the largest number of individual items but it is the most important collection of its kind in Croatia, indeed is among the largest and most outstanding among European and world numismatic collections. It was first open to the public in 1978 in its present striking form, conceived and realized by Josip Ladović. At first sight one gets the impression that one is entering some kind of glittering coin treasury, and one very important aspect of the presentation is that visitors are able to see both sides of the coins which is essential in the presentation of numismatic material.

In the mid nineties the entire museum building was restored and reorganised and with it there was a reallocation of the rooms for the coin and medal collections.



↑ Tarentum

The territory of Italy can be divided according to the use of coins into a number of regions which show considerable differences over time. It is interesting that the city of Rome was among the last part of Italy to start using metal as a measure of value in trade and did not begin to do so until the end of 4th c. BC At first they used irregular nuggets (*aes rude*) then rectangular tablets with a mark impressed into them (*aes signatum*) or cast round flans of smaller or bigger denominations (*aes grave*). Silver coins did not appear until 3rd c. BC after the mint had been built on the Capitol consecrated to Juno Moneta (the admonisher), the protector of the monetary system from whose name we get the words *monnaie*, *money*, *moneta*.

The situation was different in the south of the Italian Peninsula, in *Magna Graecia*, an area colonised by the Greeks, who called it their new homeland. There were a large number of reasons for many Greeks to sail far across the sea and leave their homes. Probably the basic reasons were the same as they usually are, the great difference between rich and poor, increasing need for more living space, political oppression by tyrants. All these raised hopes



→ Metapontum

→ Sybaris



that instead the hard life of their old home they would find security in a new territory. In the new world they found great possibilities for a better life: rich agricultural land, trading possibilities, defensive positions etc.

So the cities of this region began to mint their own money long before the native inhabitants did. Very attractive and typologically varied coins were minted in the different cities and some of them showed characteristics until then unknown which made them exceptional. They produced thin silver coins with an obverse (front) emblem which appeared on the reverse (back) in the negative and was minted in the cities of *Metapontum* (*Μεταπόντιον*, nos. 7, 8), *Sybaris* (*Σύβαρις*, no. 14) and *Croton* (*Κρότων*, no. 16)

Sicily more than any other Greek region produced beautiful and high quality coins. In their appearance and perfect workmanship they reach the heights of sculpture. In the 8th and 7th centuries BC emigrants from various parts of Greece moved to the shores of this rich and fertile new island and made their homes there. Colonisation began with the Chalcidian inhabitants of *Naxos* (*Νάξος*) about 735 and they gave their new land the name of their old one.

They were among the first to mint their own money. A few years later the emigration continued and about 729 BC two more cities were founded *Leontini* (*Λεοντῖνοι*) and *Catania* (*Κατάνη*, *Catana*). Little by little others followed.

Doric colonisers founded Syracuse (*Συράκουσαι*, *Syracusae*) in 733 BC which, thanks to its excellent position, fertile land and well protected harbour outstripped all the others. As a result of political strength and economic prosperity it became the centre of arts, sciences, philosophy, poetry and construction of major edifices, the central point of the island. Here, about 480 BC, during the reign of tyrant Gelon, who was celebrating his victory at *Chymera* over Carthage, one of the most famous coins was minted: the *demareteion* (decadrachm). It was named after Gelon's wife Demareteia as a sign of gratefulness for her



↑ Croton



↑ Agrigentum

→ Lucilla



→ Commodus



↓ Crispina



(nos. 12-14) as co-ruler and also foster son of A. Pius. One of his first wars was against Armenia for which he was known as ARMENIACVS, first taken by Verus in 163 and by Marcus Aurelius in 164 (nos. 7, 13). As a result of making peace with the Parthians he got the title PARTHICVS MAXIMVS (great Parthian conqueror). The common triumph was celebrated in 166 (no. 14) and the following year both took the title of PATER PATRIAE. A new catastrophe now menaced the entire empire, the armies spreading the plague to Rome itself. Verus himself died in 169 and Marcus Aurelius went to war against the Germans, Sarmatians, Quadi and Marcomanni. He now got the title of GERMANICVS, 172, and SARMATICVS, 175 but succumbed to a new influx of the plague.

The last representative of the Antonini dynasty was Commodus, the son and successor of Marcus Aurelius (nos. 17, 18). He was the total opposite of all his predecessors. He demanded to be showered with godly honours and equated himself with Heracles whose cult had been extended during the Antonini rule. He spent much of his time persecuting the Senate and spent large sums on entertainments and gladiatorial games in which he took part himself. As a result of such behaviour there was a conspiracy against him and he was killed.

14. CLODIUS ALBINUS – IULIA MAESA

1. Clodius Albinus, 193-197; AE, *sestertius*, 193-195, Septimius Severus, 193-211
2. AE, *sestertius*, 211, *Roma* (Photograph)
3. AE, *sestertius*, 202-210, *Roma*
4. AR, *denarius*, 202-210
5. AV, *aureus*, 207

Iulia Domna, his wife

6. AE, *sestertius*, 211-217, *Roma*
7. AR, *denarius*, 196-211, *Roma*

Caracalla, 198-217

8. AE, *sestertius*, 214, *Roma* (Photograph)
9. AR, *antoninianus*, 213-217, *Roma*
10. Plautilla, his wife; AR, *denarius*, *Roma*, (Photograph)

Geta, 209-212

11. AE, *as*, *Roma*, 211
12. AR, *denarius*, 200-202, *Roma*
13. Macrinus, 217-218; AE, *as*, Jan-June 218, *Roma*
14. Diadumenianus (*Caesar*), his son; AE, *sestertius*

Elagabalus, 218-222

15. AE, *sestertius*, (Photograph)
16. AV, *aureus*, c. 222, *Roma*
17. AR, *denarius*, c. 222, *Roma*
18. Paula, his first wife; AR, *denarius*
19. Aquilia Severa, his second wife, AR, *denarius*
20. Iulia Soaemias, his mother; AE, *sestertius*
21. Iulia Maesa, his grandmother; AE, *sestertius*



↑ Viminacium

continued to work under Constantius II and intermittently, in the fifth century.

Some coins during the empire were minted locally by individual towns that had gained the right to have their mints. These were towns that had achieved the position of municipality or colony, but only some of these attained this privilege. They only minted bronze coins and with the name of the emperor obverse they bore reverse the name of the town or province and the name of the magistrate under whom the money had been minted. Such mints worked during the second and third centuries and were closed during the rule of Valerianus I and Gallienus. During the reign of Gordianus III the VIMINACIVM mint (no. 17) was founded. About 239/40 (after the emission of the *antoniniani* of Philippus I and Pacatianus, the usurper in Moesia and Pannonia) when *Viminacium* gained the status of colony allowing it to mint copper coins for local use. A characteristic of these coins is that they carried an exergue mark showing the local era from I to XVI; only coins with the mark X and XV are missing in which years the mint was closed. Except in some special emissions the emblems on the reverse are constant. It ceased to work in the first half of the third century during the reign of Gallienus who transferred the master craftsmen of the mint to COLOGNE (*Colonia Agrippinensis*) in Germany.

Another such local mint was that of STOBI (no. 18) which attained this municipal right during the rule of Vespasianus (*Municipium Stobensium*) and began to issue local money.



→ Stobi

22. BYZANTINE EMPIRE

BYZANTINE COINS

1. Leo I (457–474), AE2, *Constantinopolis*
2. Zeno (474–491), AV, *tremissis*, *Constantinopolis* (Photograph)
3. Justinianus I (526–565), AE, 30 *nummia*, 539/40, *Antiochia*
4. Justinianus I (526–565), AE, 40 *nummia*/ *follis*, 529/539, *Antiochia*
5. Justinianus I (526–565), AE, 40 *nummia*/ *follis*, 538/39, *Constantinopolis*
6. Justinianus I (526–565), AV, *solidus*, 538, *Constantinopolis* (Photograph)
7. Mauricius Tiberius (582–602), AE, 40 *nummia*/ *follis*, 601/02 *Constantinopolis*
8. Phocas (602–610), AE, 20 *nummia*/1/2 *follis*, 603/04, *Antiochia*
9. Phocas (602–610), AE, 40 *nummia*/ *follis*, 604/05, *Antiochia*
10. Heraclius (610–641), AR, *heksagram*, 615, *Constantinopolis*
11. Constantinus V Copronymus (741–775), AV, *solidus*, after 751, *Syracusae*
12. Leo V. (886–912), *follis*, *Constantinopolis*, AE
13. Basilius II et Constantinus VIII (976–1025), AE, anonymous *follis*, 976–c. 1030/35, *Constantinopolis*
14. Constantinus IX Monomachus (1042–1055), AR, *milliaresion*, *Constantinopolis*, (Photograph)
15. Romanus III Argyrus (1028–1034), AV, *nomisma bistamenon*, *Constantinopolis*, (Photograph)
16. Manuel I Comnenus (1143–1180), AE, *trachy*, *Constantinopolis*
17. Andronicus I Comnenus (1185–1185), AE, *trachy*, *Constantinopolis*
18. Johannes VII Palaeologus (1423–1448), AR, *Constantinopolis*
19. The Empire of Trebizond: Manuel I (1238–1263), AR, *asper*, *Trapezunt*

→ Maria



There are very many different kinds as it was the custom in times of inflation to exchange old coins for new ones, lighter ones made of inferior silver. Charles I Robert brought the house of Anjou to the Hungarian throne and initiated a time of monetary reform. Charles I immediately began to mint gold coins similar to the Florentine *florin*. The Jagello dynasty placed massive silver *taler* in circulation. We have singled out the *taler-medal* of Ludovic II because of the attractive coat-of-arms, including that of Croatia (no. 24). In the reign of Leopold I there was an attempt to mint coins with the aid of a roller and most of them are bent.

The largest Hungarian mints were in Körömök Bánya/ Kremnitz/ Kremnica, and in Nagy Bánya. Some forms of coins became permanent and a number of denominations, until recent times, showed St Ladislaus, other ones the Virgin, the patron saint of Hungary, and Jesus.

MEDALS

28. ITALIAN MEDALS OF THE 15TH AND 16TH C.

1. Matteo de' Pasti (c. 1420-c. 1467): Isotta degli Atti (+1470), the wife of Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta, bronze, 1446
2. Matteo de' Pasti (c. 1420-c. 1467); Timoteo Maffei from Verona, archbishop of Dubrovnik (1467-1470), bronze, c. 1446
3. The Papal State: Paul II (1464-1471), bronze gilt
4. Attributed to Niccolò Fiorentino (1430-1514): Giovanna Tornabuoni Albizzi (1430-1514), bronze
5. Attributed to Niccolò Spinelli: Giovanni P. de Papie, uniface medal, bronze
6. Cristoforo Foppa il Caradosso (c. 1445-1527): Gian Giacomo Trivulzio (1448-1518), Marshal of France, bronze, 1499
7. Anonymous Venetian medallist: cardinal Marco Cornaro (+1524.), bronze
8. Giovanni dal Cavino (1500-1570): Giovanni Cavino and Alessandro Bassiano, bronze
9. Pastorino di Giovan-Michele de' Pastorini (1508-1592): Bianca Medici Cappello (1548-1587), the wife of Francesco Medici, 1578, uniface medal, bronze gilt
10. Giovanni V. Melon: cardinal Alessandro Farnese (1520-1579), bronze, 1575