

ARKADIUSZ DYMOWSKI

**RECORDING RECENT ROMAN COIN FINDS FROM POLAND
(2004–2007)**

Finds of Roman coins made in recent years during archaeological fieldwork in practice are no different from other sorts of archaeological evidence resulting from excavations — obviously, except for the specific nature of these artefacts and the need for their identification by a coin specialist. In another category are older finds recovered several dozen and even several hundred years ago, whether during archaeological research or as random discoveries. Today these discoveries need to be validated, if possible, in the field, not the least to specify and enlarge information on the circumstances of their discovery. One element of this research is so-called library archaeology (K o l e n d o 1988, p. 11) aimed at identifying in written records information on past finds which escaped the notice of earlier researchers. Separate treatment is needed in case of recent finds of Roman coins from amateur discoveries¹ made by non-archaeologists which in recent years have been increasing in a landslide, mainly owing to the mass use of metal detectors.

Researchers and coin specialists agree that accidental, or more broadly speaking, amateur coin finds are a fully legitimate numismatic source (K i e r s n o w s k i 1964, p. 32; K u n i s z 1969a, p. 15; S u c h o d o l s k i 2008, pp. 34–35). According to the estimates of A. Bursche, over 90% of the finds of Roman coins from the area of the Central European *Barbaricum* recorded up to the end of the twentieth

¹ This term was used in the study of Roman coin finds in Poland by e.g., A. Bursche in his unpublished presentation on the philosophy, legal issues and practice related to amateur coin finds (*Amatorskie znaleziska monet: filozofia, prawo i praktyka*) read in 2000 at the 12th National Numismatic Symposium in Nowa Sól. The less broad term used in the past in Polish literature — ‘random, accidental’ — given the mass-scale and still mounting in recent years phenomenon of prospecting for finds by non-archaeologists is at present inadequate with respect to the reality.

century were from accidental discoveries made by non-archaeologists (B u r s c h e 1996, p. 37). These estimates definitely reflect the situation of the first years of the twenty-first century. We cannot deny that the paucity of information on the context of discovery observed in the case of most amateur discoveries considerably narrows the usefulness of these finds as archaeological evidence. On the other hand this failing is compensated to a great extent by the staggering quantity of these finds. To restrict research only to the modest percentage of finds documented well during archaeological research would be a serious mistake. For this reason to record and make available for scientific research the thousands of new coin finds recovered by amateurs is at present one of the main challenges facing modern Polish numismatics. As B. Paszkiewicz noted rightly, coin finds are not a renewable resource and neglect in their recording leads to an irreparable loss to science (P a s z k i e w i c z 2003, p. 98).

Polish legal regulations and heritage conservation practices have effectively discouraged finders of coins from reporting their discoveries to the heritage services and research institutions. In the light of regulations which continue in force from 1962, archaeological artefacts — discovered and recovered as a result of archaeological fieldwork or investigation through the use of specialist electronic devices — are the property of the State.² Amateur finders may in theory expect a reward but past practice shows that by making their discovery public they are more likely to be made criminally responsible for treasure hunting,³ rather than receive a reward the value of which would be more than symbolic. This is one of the reasons why only a negligible fraction of discoveries has been reported to specialists by way of the institutionalised framework.

To secure data on new discoveries more widely it is necessary to get in touch with people who have this sort of information, that is, mainly the community of the so-called treasure hunters and coin collectors. Because of the legal regulations in force in Poland internet portals used for recording finds, so successful in other countries (for instance, UK Detector Finds Database, <http://www.ukdfd.co.uk>) are useless in this country. In our situation we needed to develop a concept to allow a mass-scale inflow of anonymous information on Roman coin finds. The author's initiative of recording coin finds was based on already operating internet description portals and 'treasure hunter' forums and, to a lesser extent, the ones used by coin collectors. The scheme of action is based, on the one hand, on searching the internet for information on coin finds and subsequently on expanding and validating the data, while on the other, on giving the widest possible publicity to the recording project in order to obtain data from finders'

² According to the law on heritage conservation and the keeping of monuments of 23 July 2003 which duplicates in this regard and updates the solutions introduced by the law on the protection of cultural assets of 15 February 1962.

³ Let us note at this point that on many occasions there have been indisputably reprehensible and criminal cases in which archaeological sites were destroyed and robbed of coins and other artefacts by metal detectorists.

downloads. One of the methods of reaching out to the finders and encouraging them to report newly made discoveries was a web site set up in one of the Polish ‘treasure hunter’ portals. Recording was limited to Roman coins only; this was dictated by the interests and the limited time at the disposal of the author of the present publication.

As a part of the described initiative during the period May 2004–November 2007, thanks to 518 anonymous reports, we obtained data on 1028 Roman coins from 448 discoveries. Considering the short duration of the recording period (just three and a half years) this is an imposing number as compared with close to 2500 finds from the entire area of Poland estimated at the end of the twentieth century (Kunisz 1996, p. 21; Kunisz 2001, p. 353). Especially that, — as the research of recent years has demonstrated (Bursche 1980; Bursche 1983; Ciołek 2007; Ciołek 2008; Romanowski 2008) — the earlier estimates need to be considered as somewhat exaggerated due to the inclusion in older analyses of numerous doubled (Ciołek 1998b), uncertain, or fictitious finds (Ciołek 1998a). Among the newly recorded discoveries were 11 hoards and 437 small finds — 113 and 324 group and single finds, respectively. But if we consider not the number of finds but the number of coins discovered in them, as much as 59% of the coins from small finds were discovered as part of sets of at least two specimens. This suggests that in Poland Roman coins occur relatively seldom as single finds. This brings us just a step away from the conclusion that this category of artefacts tends to be associated with some wider archaeological context. The relatively small number of discoveries which have been identified (*e.g.*, by means of validating archaeological research) as originating from cemeteries or settlements, confirm this observation. Moreover, on the basis of various premises (*e.g.* coin finds from localities known of archaeological excavations) it is possible to assume that sizable numbers of coins were discovered at specific archaeological sites. Unfortunately, for the majority of amateur finds, due to the lack of detailed information on circumstances and site of discovery, it is exceedingly difficult to determine whether they were grave, settlement or votive finds, which drastically narrows down our cognitive horizon.

Within the amateur finds from recent years, in comparison to discoveries recorded earlier (Gumowski 1956, pp. 89–90; Kunisz 1965, p. 160; Kunisz 1996, p. 21), there is a significant shift in the ratio of small finds to hoards in favour of the former. This should be no surprise since in the past hoards, as more attractive, were more likely to be reported to researchers (Kunisz 1965, p. 159; Bursche 1996, p. 55), and on the other, metal detectors used in recent years on a mass scale by amateur prospectors make it easier to pick up single coins from the ground. Also notable is that all the recorded hoards from recent discoveries were to a greater or lesser extent scattered in the ground which from the point of view of their method of discovery makes them similar to group and single finds.

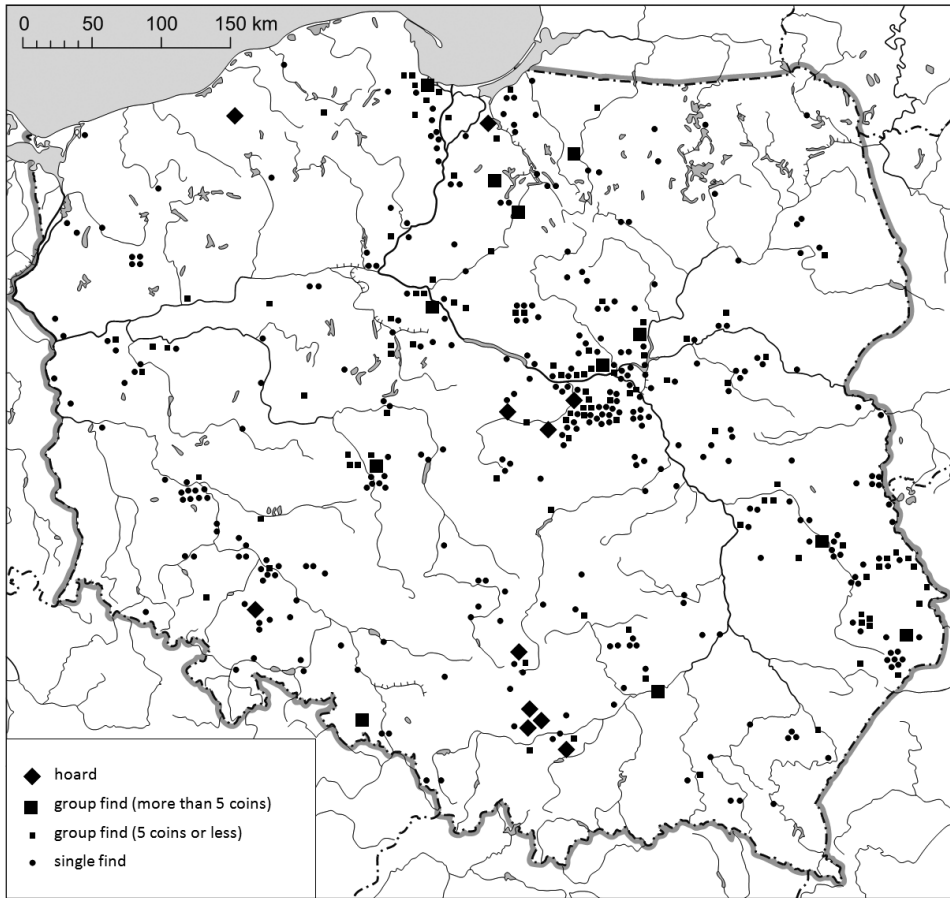


Fig. 1. Territorial distribution of newly recorded Roman coin finds from amateur discoveries.

Examining the structure of the metal of all the coins from the recently recorded amateur discoveries (hoards and small finds) from the entire area of Poland we note a considerable domination of silver coins (84.3%) over bronzes (14.2%) and gold issues (1.5%). These percentages correspond roughly to those noted by researchers already several decades ago (Kunisz 1965, p. 176; Kunisz 1969a, p. 43; Wielowiejski 1970, p. 113), with some corrections, however. On the basis of the list made by A. Kunisz (Kunisz 1965, p. 176) which reflects the state of research in 1964 one may conclude that in the past in the overall number of recorded coins there were almost twice as many gold coins (2.7%), but only one-third the number of bronze coins (4.9%). This may be explained in several different ways. First, the relative abundance of silver specimens in the mass of coins from Polish discoveries may have been exaggerated owing to the over-representation of great hoards of denarii (or antoniniani) at a disadvantage to

small finds, more mixed in terms of their metal content, which escaped the notice of researchers to a greater extent than hoards (K u n i s z 1965, p. 159; B u r s c h e 1996, p. 55). The same possibly applies to gold coins (B u r s c h e 1996, p. 55). Second, in the years following the Second World War it became common for finders to suppress information about the materially valuable discoveries, that is, mainly hoards and gold coins (S a l a m o n 1999, p. 520). Finally, the use of metal detectors in amateur prospecting has resulted in recovery on a scale wider than in the past of bronze coins, relatively hard to identify and often heavily corroded. As regards denomination, gold coins from recent discoveries are represented by six aurei from the first-third centuries and nine solidi and their fractions from the fourth-fifth/sixth centuries. Silver is represented only by denarii (including *denarii subaerati* and a single Cappadocian drachm corresponding in value to the denarius) from the Republican period until the third century, and by third century antoniniani. Bronze coins are the so-called large bronzes from the first-third centuries (mainly from the Senatorial mint in Rome, but there is also a small number of provincial issues) and fourth-fifth century bronzes.

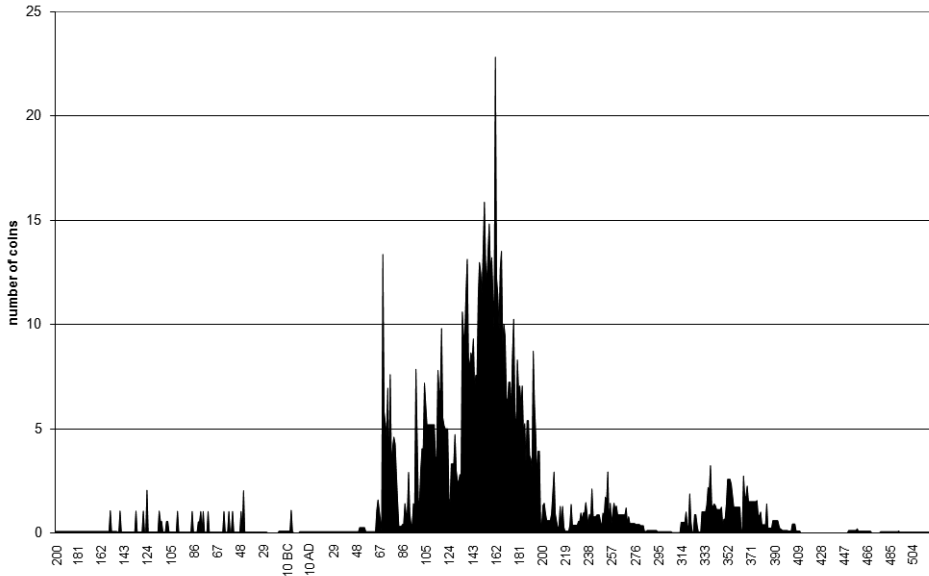


Fig. 2. Chronological distribution of coins from recently recorded amateur discoveries.

A greater part of the newly recorded coin finds represent the period starting from the final years of the reign of Nero until Caracalla. Within this interval stand out in terms of their quantity coins from the so-called Year of the Four Emperors (69 AD) and the reign of Vespasian (69–79 AD), and in particular, coins struck during the period of rule of emperors Nerva to Marcus Aurelius (96–180 AD), with a special focus on the years 141–169 AD. Two subsequent periods repre-

sented by a significant number of coins from small finds are the time intervals 222–269 AD and 317–378 AD. Moreover, we have recorded 28 denarii dated to the period of the Republic (not counting one Republican denarius belonging to a hoard). A view repeatedly put forward in earlier analyses was that finds of Republican coins in Poland are rare (Kunisz 1969b; Kolendo 1986; Bursche 1995). Apart from the hoard from Połaniec of 141 denarii struck before 27 BC the earlier publications on the subject reported 72 coins dated to the same period, including 66 denarii and 6 bronzes.⁴ Twenty-eight new finds are therefore a significant number, suggesting that contrary to earlier conclusions, Republican denarii are not so rare among small finds from Poland.

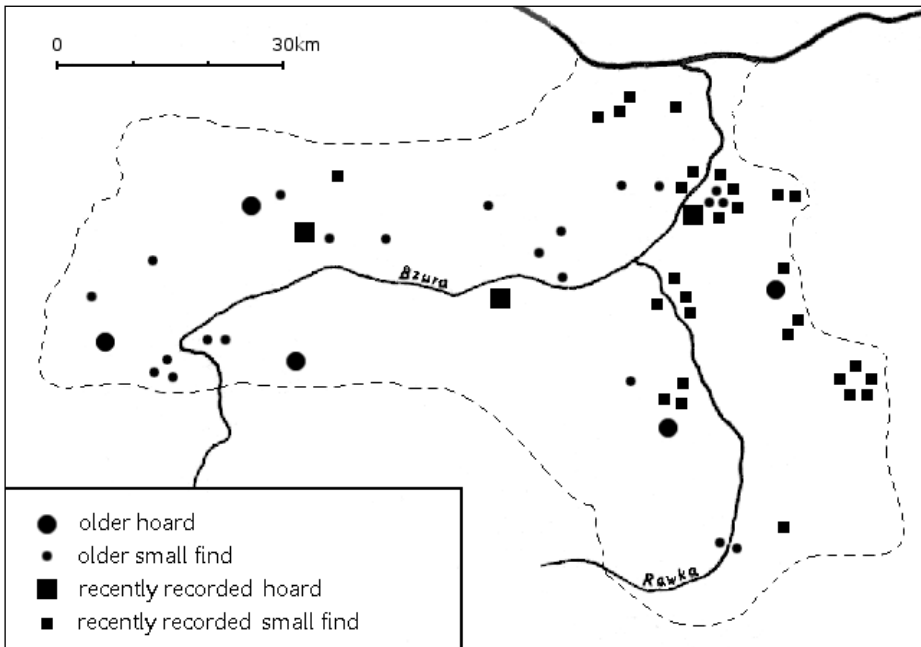


Fig. 3. Territorial distribution of Roman coin finds in the basin of middle and lower Bzura: older (after Kubiak 1979) and recently recorded.

New small finds have produced a significant number of *denarii subaerati*. Unfortunately, there being no possibility of examining the original coins except largely on the basis of photographic images, *denarii subaerati* were quite difficult to identify. With regard to some of the coins we can only guess that they are

⁴ Information on the subject of published finds of Republican coins taken from an updated version of a master's thesis of Mr. Grzegorz Molenda on the subject of Roman Republican coinage in Central European *Barbaricum* (*Rzymska moneta republikańska na obszarze środkowoeuropejskiego Barbaricum*) written under supervision of Professor J. Kolendo and defended in 1984.

denarii subaerati, but this cannot be confirmed without having the coins examined or submitted to metallographic analysis, something unfeasible in most cases. On the other hand, we may assume that many *subaerati* were not identified in the group of the full-value denarii. The only conclusion warranted by the material at hand is that *subaerati* do occur among small finds of Roman coins from Poland, and in quite a number at that. Very cautiously we may estimate that they account for not less than 10% denarii from Polish small finds.

Notable among hoards discovered recently by amateurs are two groups of finds: three assemblages from the basin of the river Bzura (Dymowski 2009) in central Poland (Krzyżanówek, Sobota and region of Sochaczew) and four hoards from the Kraków-Częstochowa Highland (Dymowski 2007) in the south of the country (Kostkowice, Szklary and two deposits from Jerzmanowice). The

Table 1. Coins from recently recorded hoards of denarii from the basin of the Bzura.

Reign	Krzyżanówek	Sobota	Sochaczew (environs)
Republic (?)			1
Otho	2		
Vitellius (?)		1	
Vespasian	2	1	3 + 1?
Titus Vespasian			1
Trajan		2	1
Hadrian Sabina	2 1	3 1	5
Antoninus Pius Faustina I Marcus Aurelius	4 1	6 4 2	4 1 + 1? 2
Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Pius Faustina II Lucius Verus Lucilla Commodus	4 1 2	3	2 2
Commodus Crispina	1	1 1	3
Clodius Albinus (?)		1	
Septimius Severus			1
Unspecified		18 + about 200	6
TOTAL:	22 denarii	46 + about 200 denarii	36 denarii

original size of the denarii hoards from Bzura is hard to estimate. With a probability bordering on certainty we may assume that only a part of the coins scattered by ploughing was recovered. Denarii from three assemblages from central Poland (see table 1) are confined to the period immediately following the death of Nero (54–68 AD) and the first years of the reign of Septimius Severus (193–211 AD). Only a supposed Republican coin belonging to one of the hoards falls outside these chronological limits. Much more interesting than the content of the hoards is what we may surmise to have been the manner of their deposition. As may be concluded from what in most cases are rather laconic descriptions of the place of discovery of the coins, they were discovered not far from the river. Moreover, the fact that they had been scattered by ploughing suggests that originally they rested at a relatively shallow depth in the ground. Unfortunately we have no basis to reconstruct the method used to keep the deposits safe or to establish whether they had been secured in any way at all. All of the described circumstances make the recently discovered hoards similar to the largest deposit recorded on river Bzura so far, namely, the hoard from Drzewicz Nowy, described in detail and analysed in a monograph of A. Krzyżanowska (Krzyżanowska 1976). The vestigial character of data on the new hoards makes possible only a very cautious hypothesis as to the occurrence in the basin of the Bzura of a whole series of hoards of ‘Drzewicz type’. The area, heavily populated during the Roman Period (Skowron 2006), abounds in finds of Roman coins (see fig. 3) and has yielded the largest concentration of recently recorded Roman coin finds.

Out of the four hoards from the Kraków-Częstochowa Highland two probably consisted of denarii only (see table 2), Vespasian (69–79 AD) to Septimius Severus (193–211 AD). Two further deposits, next to denarii also comprised gold coins from the 1st–4th century fitted with loops for suspension as well as ornaments of gold, silver and bronze. Analysis of the newly recorded deposits and comparison made with assemblages known from earlier discoveries suggests that during the Early Migration Period the Kraków-Częstochowa Highland was an area of deposition of a series of hoards composed of a relatively large number of denarii and jewellery, including gold coins adapted for suspension. These finds may be linked to the local settlement dated to the Late Roman Period and onset of the Migration Period (Godłowski 1995).

The general guidelines being developed at present for a critical appraisal of the recently obtained finds are associated mainly with the following cases, already noted:

- incorrect identification of coins by their finders or other persons reporting the find,
- a more or less deliberately false Polish provenance given to coins from finds made abroad,
- deliberate misinformation as to the findspot and circumstances of discovery of the coins,
- distortion and doubling of information on the finds obtained at second-hand.

Table 2. Coins and other objects from recently recorded hoards of denarii from the Kraków-Częstochowa Highland.

Reign	Kostkowice	Jerzmanowice I	Jerzmanowice II	Szklary
Nero Claudius				(1 aureus?)
Vespasian	1	1		
Trajan Marciana	1	1		
Hadrian Sabina Aelius Caesar	3 1	1 1	7 (+1?) 3	
Antoninus Pius Faustina I Marcus Aurelius Faustina II	4 3		15 (+5?) 9 (+4?) 5 (+1?) 1	
Marcus Aurelius Faustina II Lucius Verus Lucilla	2 2 1		4 7 (+2?) 1 (+2?)	
Commodus Crispina Marcus Aurelius	4 2	1 1	7 (+1?) 1 1	
Didius Julianus Didia Clara	1			
Septimius Severus Julia Domna		1	1	
Barbarian imitation	1			1 aureus
Severus II				(1 aureus?)
Constantius II	1 solidus			
Valentinian I				1 solidus
Unspecified	44	over 100		252 (denarii?)
Jewellery	2 golden pendants, 13 silver pendants, 1 silver clasp, 1 bronze clasp			1 golden pendant, 1 golden ring
TOTAL:	70 denarii + 1 solidus	over 110 denarii	78 denarii	252 (denarii?) + 3 aurei + 1 solidus

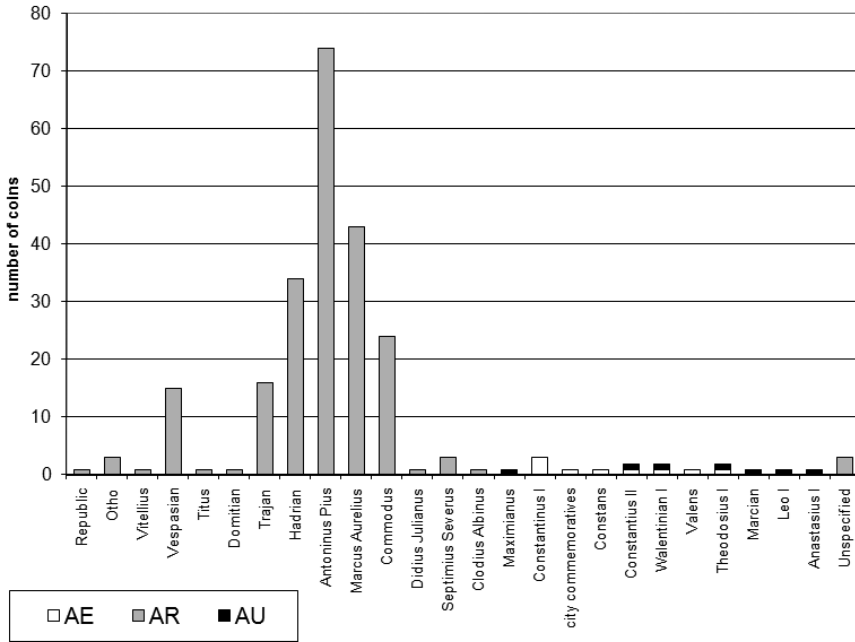


Fig. 4. Coins from recently recorded hoards.

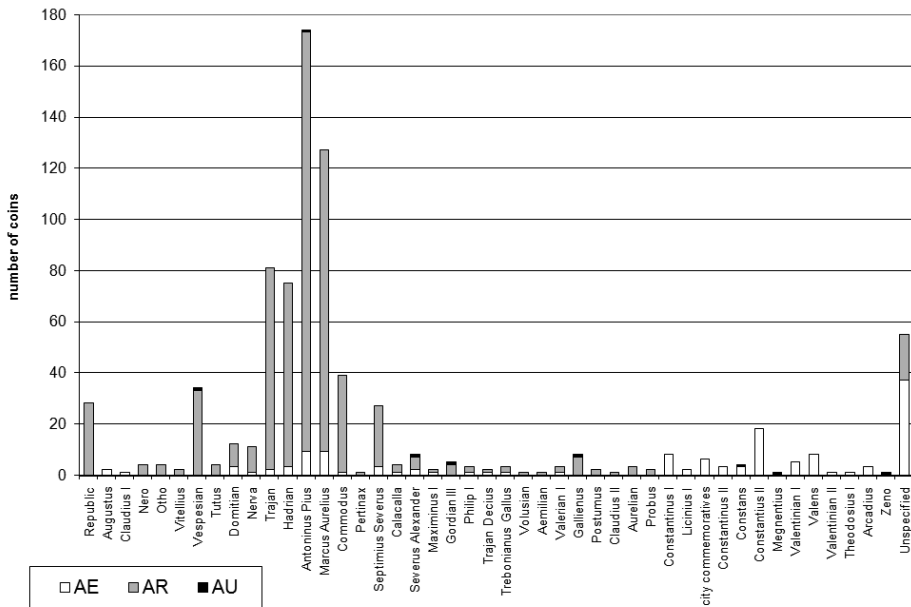


Fig. 5. Coins from recently recorded small finds.

Analysis of recently recorded finds also makes it necessary to take into account the legal and social circumstances as well as changes stimulated by technological progress. Moreover, in describing the new discoveries scientifically from the perspective of their territorial distribution it is necessary to take into account a range of factors responsible for the occurrence of concentrations of the recorded finds (see fig. 1). This applies above all to the increased activity of detectorists in the region of larger cities and area of 19th and 20th century battlefields.



Fig. 6. Siliqua of Constantius II from Prusice (A) and solidus of Arcadius from Rotmanka (B) (enlarged). Authors of photographs unknown.

As can be seen, new technical possibilities, in the form of increasingly efficient metal detectors have given rise to a vast and unprecedented increase in coin finds, also, Roman ones. On the other hand, the internet and other new communication media make it possible to apply increasingly more effective methods than traditional ones for recording these finds, many of which are

extremely interesting for research. Past experience shows that a substantially large percentage of Polish finders, taken on a more or less random basis, would be happy to report information to specialists on the subject of coins they have discovered, but they do this only to a very limited extent because of the existing law. It is worth mentioning as a curiosity that as one result of the opening of the state borders of Poland within the European Union Polish detectorists have been taking up temporary or permanent residence in the countries of West Europe. Information on coin finds discovered by them is increasingly being submitted to Polish specialists which has opened up a new field of international exchange of information about discoveries.

As already mentioned, the materials described above and conclusions formulated on their basis apply to finds identified until the autumn of 2007. Nevertheless, the project of Roman coin finds recording is still in progress. Year 2008 brought further quite interesting finds, two of which I wish to present here before concluding my presentation. The first is a siliqua of Constantius II dated to the period 352–355 AD (fig. 6A) from the mint in Rome (RIC VIII Rome 248, diameter 19 mm, weight unknown) discovered in July 2008 in ploughsoil at Prusice, commune Złotoryja in Silesia. Finds of Late Roman silver coins from Poland are exceedingly rare. The second coin is a finely preserved solidus of Arcadius (fig. 6B) from the period 383–388 AD struck in Constantinople (RIC IX Constantinopolis 70c3 var. with pearl-diademed bust, diameter of 21 mm, weight unknown) also discovered in ploughsoil, May 2008, at the locality of Rotmanka in the suburbs of Gdańsk. This is one of a series of solidi from the 4th-5th/6th century discovered in Pomerania (Ciołek 2007). Neither of these two small finds has been published before.

REFERENCES

- Bursche A. 1980 Dawne znaleziska monet rzymskich w świetle nowych badań, *WN* 24, pp. 82–93.
- 1983 Dawne znaleziska monet rzymskich w świetle nowych badań (II). Śląsk, *WN* 27, pp. 227–237.
- 1995 Czy skarb z Połańca był łupem z bitwy w Lesie Teutoburskim?, *Nunc de Svebis dicendum est...*, ed. by A. Bursche, M. Mielczarek and W. Nowakowski, Warszawa, pp. 85–91.
- 1996 *Later Roman-Barbarian Contacts in Central Europe. Numismatic Evidence*, Berlin (Studien zu Fundmünzen der Antike 11).
- Ciołek R. 1998a Monety z Gdańska-Świętego Wojciecha — znaleziska, kolekcja czy naukowa fikcja?, *Nowe znaleziska importów rzymskich z ziem Polski I*, ed. by J. Kolendo, Warszawa, pp. 155–192.
- 1998b Skarb złotych monet z Mrzezina (gm. Puck) a zespół z Brzeźna Gdańskiego, *WN* 42, 1998, pp. 59–67.
- 2007 *Die Fundmünzen der Römischen Zeit in Polen: Pommern*, Wetteren (Collection Moneta 67).

- 2008 *Die Fundmünzen der Römischen Zeit in Polen: Schlesien, Wetteren* (Collection Moneta 83).
- Dymowski A. 2007 Skarby monet rzymskich odkryte w ostatnim czasie na terenie Jury Krakowsko-Częstochowskiej, *WN* 51, pp. 54–78.
- 2009 Nowe znaleziska monet rzymskich z dorzecza Bzury, *WN* 53 (in print).
- Godłowski K. 1995 Okres lateński i rzymski, *Natura i kultura w krajobrazie Jury 4: Pradzieje i średniowiecze*, Kraków, pp. 113–136.
- Gumowski M. 1956 Moneta rzymska w Polsce, *Przegląd Archeologiczny* 10, 1954–1956, pp. 91–149.
- Kiersnowski R. 1964 *Wstęp do numizmatyki polskiej wieków średnich*, Warszawa.
- Kolendo J. 1986 O skarbie monet rzymskich z Połańca, *Biuletyn Numizmatyczny* 9–12, pp. 161–165.
- 1998 O publikacji importów rzymskich z ziem Polski, *Nowe znaleziska importów rzymskich z ziem Polski I*, ed. by J. Kolendo, Warszawa, pp. 9–13.
- Krzyżanowska A. 1976 *Skarb denarów rzymskich z Drzewicza*, Wrocław.
- Kubiak S. 1979 *Znaleziska monet rzymskich z Mazowsza i Podlasia*, Wrocław.
- Kunisz A. 1965 Kontakty ludności ziem polskich z Imperium Rzymskim w świetle znalezisk monetarnych, *WN* 9, pp. 155–191.
- 1969a *Chronologia napływu pieniądza rzymskiego na ziemię Małopolski*, Wrocław.
- 1969b Skarb rzymskich denarów z okresu Republiki i cesarz Augusta odkryty w Połańcu, pow. Staszów, *Rocznik Muzeum Świętokrzyskiego* 6, pp. 103–159.
- 1996 Studies on the finds of Roman coins in Poland during the past three decades. A tentative approach, *WN* 40 (*Polish Numismatic News* 6), pp. 19–30.
- 2001 Numizmatyka Cesarstwa Rzymskiego, *Vademecum historyka starożytnej Grecji i Rzymu 1–2* (revised edition), ed. by E. Wipszycka, Warszawa, pp. 342–365.
- Paszkiwicz B. 2003 Pojedyncze znaleziska monet — interpretacja, *Znaleziska monet i metody ich badań. XII Ogólnopolska sesja numizmatyczna Nowa Sól 2000 r.*, ed. by M. Gączarzewicz, Nowa Sól, pp. 83–102.
- Romanowski A. 2008 *Die Fundmünzen der Römischen Zeit in Polen: Rechtsufriges Masowien und Podlachien*, Wetteren (Collection Moneta 84).
- Salamon M. 1999 Numizmatyka, *Vademecum historyka starożytnej Grecji i Rzymu 3*, ed. by E. Wipszycka, Warszawa, pp. 490–584.
- Skowron J. 2006 *Kultura przeworska w dorzeczu środkowej i dolnej Bzury. Monografia osadnictwa*, Poznań.
- Suchodolski S. 2008 Moneta źródłem wszechstronnym: materialnym, pisanim i ikonograficznym, *Źródła historyczne wydobywane z ziemi*, ed. by S. Suchodolski, Wrocław, pp. 33–55.
- Wielowiejski J. 1970 *Kontakty Noricum i Pannonii z ludami północnymi*, Wrocław.

ARKADIUSZ DYMOWSKI

REJESTRACJA ZNALEZISK MONET RZYMSKICH Z TERENU POLSKI (2004–2007)

(Streszczenie)

W ostatnich latach w ogromnym tempie przyrasta liczba nowych, amatorskich znalezisk monet rzymskich. Wśród badaczy-numizmatyków panuje zgodność, że przypadkowe, czy szerzej amatorskie znaleziska monetarne są pełnoprawnym źródłem numizmatycznym. Szacuje się, że ponad 90% dawnych znalezisk monet rzymskich z terenu środkowoeuropejskiego *Barbaricum* zostało dokonanych przez nie-archeologów. Szacunki te z całą pewnością są adekwatne również do pierwszych lat wieku XXI. Niedostatek informacji o kontekście większości odkryć amatorskich znacznie zawęża możliwość wykorzystania tego typu znalezisk jako źródeł archeologicznych. Z drugiej strony wada ta jest w ogromnym stopniu rekompensowana masowością materiału.

Do pozyskania większej liczby danych o nowych odkryciach z terenu Polski, konieczne było opracowanie projektu, który pozwoliłby na masowy napływ anonimowych informacji o znaleziskach monet rzymskich. Schemat działania polegał z jednej strony na wyszukiwaniu w internecie informacji o odkryciach monet, a następnie na poszerzaniu i weryfikacji tych danych, a z drugiej na możliwie szerokim rozreklamowaniu akcji rejestracyjnej w celu pozyskiwania danych przekazywanych z inicjatywy znalazców. W ramach opisanego przedsięwzięcia od maja 2004 r. do listopada 2007 r., dzięki 518 anonimowym informacjom udało się zgromadzić materiał obejmujący 1028 monet rzymskich z 448 znalezisk. Wśród nowo odnotowanych odkryć uchwycono 11 skarbów, oraz 437 znalezisk drobnych, w tym 113 zespołowych i 324 pojedynczych. Zaobserwowano m.in., że monety rzymskie stosunkowo rzadko występują w Polsce pojedynczo, co może prowadzić do wniosku, że wspomniana kategoria zabytków z reguły wiąże się z jakimś szerszym — zwykle, niestety, bliżej nieokreślonym — kontekstem archeologicznym.

Z ciekawszych spostrzeżeń dotyczących zebranego materiału znaleziskowego warto wymienić:

- całkiem liczne występowanie w drobnych znaleziskach denarów datowanych na okres Republiki,
- sporą reprezentację subaeratów wśród monet z polskich znalezisk; z pewną dozą ostrożności można przyjąć, że subaeraty stanowią mniej niż 10% denarów z polskich znalezisk drobnych,
- zarejestrowanie w dorzeczu Bzury trzech skarbów denarów podobnych do skarbu z Drzewicza Nowego, co sugeruje występowanie w tym rejonie całego szeregu skarbów „typu Drzewicz”,
- uchwycenie czterech skarbów na terenie Jury Krakowsko-Częstochowskiej; ich analiza skłania do postawienia tezy, że we wczesnym okresie wędrówek ludów niejednokrotnie deponowano tam skarby, w skład których wchodziły stosunkowo liczne denary oraz biżuteria, w tym złote monety adaptowane do zawieszania.

Wypracowywane dopiero ogólne zasady krytycznego podejścia do nowo pozyskanego materiału wiążą się przede wszystkim z odnotowanymi przypadkami przekazywania — celowo lub nieświadomie — fałszywych lub zniekształconych informacji dotyczących monet i okoliczności ich odkrycia.

Kontynuacja opisanych działań rejestracyjnych w 2008 r. przyniosła uchwycenie m.in. dwóch ciekawych znalezisk pojedynczych: silikwy Konstancjusza II, odkrytej na polu ornym we wsi Prusice (gm. Złotoryja), oraz solida Arkadiusza, znalezionej również na polu ornym w miejscowości Rotmanka na przedmieściach Gdańska.

Author's address:

arekdym@yahoo.com