

INFORMATION ON THE COIN HOARD DISCOVERED IN 1881 AT SELIŞTAT (BRAŞOV COUNTY)

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Abstract: The article presents additional information on the coin hoard discovered in 1881 in a pot hidden in a house wall from the place at Seliştat (Braşov county). The unusually large hoard contained approximately 13.004 coins – ducats and denars – minted by the following kings of Hungary: Matthias Corvinus, Vladislaus II, Louis II, John Zápolya and Ferdinand I. The information recovered from the note published just after the find of the coins by Ludwig Reissenberger (curator of the Brukenthal Museum) in the *Korrespondenzblatt des Vereins für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde* magazine is completed by data recorded in the evidence register partially preserved in the Brukenthal Library. The manuscript pages, made available to us by our colleague Claudiu Munteanu with the Brukenthal Museum, describe the Hungarian denars struck by the Hungarian kings John Zápolya (31 coins) and Ferdinand I (68 coins). Accordingly, the end date of the coin hoard of Seliştat is 1538. By the end of the article we render the catalogue of the coins described within the pages of the evidence register, identified pursuant to current numismatic determiners.

Key-words: coin hoard, Seliştat, Hungarian denars, John Zápolya, Ferdinand I.

In 1881, Ludwig Reissenberger reported in the *Korrespondenzblatt des Vereins für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde* magazine an interesting coin hoard, yielded subsequent to the demolition of a house in the Saxon village at Seliştat / Seligstadt (today in the county of Braşov)¹. It was a coin hoard formed of four ducats and over 13.000 denars, all issues of the Kingdom of Hungary, formerly deposited in a pot hidden in the wall of respective house. According to the Ludwig Reissenberger's mentions, part of the hoard, representing variations of the discovered coin issues, entered the collection of the Sibiu based museum via the priest of Seliştat.

Data on the hoard composition are few, Ludwig Reissenberger providing certain preliminary information, specifying that the coins' detailed presentation was forthcoming. From the published information, we may conclude that the hoard contained four golden coins: two ducats from king Matthias Corvinus (1458-1490), one from king Vladislaus II (1490-1516) and one from John Zápolya (1526-1540). In what the denars are concerned, issues are reported from the following kings: Matthias Corvinus (over 100 variations), Vladislaus II and Louis II (with approximately 70 undated variations and over 100 dated variations), John Zápolya (11 variations) and Ferdinand I (22 variations). Except these general data, a few notes are made: 1. Among the coins from Vladislaus II emerge a few denars inscribed 1501, respectively 1502; 2. The minting year of the last denar is 1538; 3. The hoard contains issues struck in 1531 with the mint mark of the mint at Sibiu (H – N).

The stamping of the year on Hungarian denars starting with 1501 or 1502 is not confirmed by either later finds or Hungarian numismatic determiners; the minting year emerges for the first time on the obverse of the 1503 denars.

Information on the *post quem* term of the hoard and the presence of the denars struck at Sibiu are confirmed by a manuscript preserved with the Brukenthal Library (Pl. 1-5). The document has five pages and is part of a register (no. 560) containing the description of coin hoard fragments discovered over the 19th century that reached the collection of the Brukenthal Museum, however which may no longer be identified today. The document (dated to 1881) presents 99 Hungarian denars struck by John Zápolya and Ferdinand I. Compared to the hoard size, the number of the described specimens is infinitesimal, however, according to all data, it exemplifies a representative sample of the denar variations discovered at Seliştat. Since the list of Transylvanian hoards dated

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¹ Reissenberger, 1881, pp. 130-131.

between *post* 1526 and 1540 is very short and the issues of the two issuers are rather scarce², the variations in the hoard at Seliştat provide significant information on the presence in the Transylvanian coinage circulation of the two rival kings' coins.

Starting from the descriptions made in the 1881 manuscript, which mention coin legends, minting years and mint marks, we succeeded to identify 31 denars struck under John Zápolya and 68 denars struck under Ferdinand I. John Zápolya's coins are mostly Kremnica (1527 – 14 specimens, 1537 – 1 specimen) and Košice issues (1527 – 7 specimens), to which add issues of the mints at Cluj (1527 – 1 specimen, 1537 – 1 specimen, 1538 – 3 specimens) and Baia Mare (1527 – 4 specimens). In the case of the coins from Ferdinand I also dominate the issues of the mints at Kremnica (1527 – 2 specimens, 1528 – 7 specimens, 1529 – 6 specimens, 1530 – 4 specimens, 1531 – 4 specimens, 1532 – 5 specimens, 1533 – 3 specimens, 1534 – 3 specimens, 1535 – 7 specimens, 1536 – 2 specimens, 1537 – 11 specimens) and Košice (1527 – 1 specimen, 1528 – 2 specimens, 1531 – 1 specimen, 1532 – 1 specimen). As noted by Ludwig Reissenberger, there also emerge issues of the mint in Sibiu with the H – N mark (1529 – 1 specimen, 1531 – 5 specimens). Exceptionally present are the two denars related to the name of Nikola Zrinski, one struck in 1530 in the Croatian workshop at Grozdansko, and the other, a 1532-issue which bears on the reverse, below the image of Madonna with Child, his coat of arms.

Past the division on minting workshops and years, we may note that, according to coin legends, there are 11 variations of John Zápolya's denars, respectively 22 variations of Ferdinand I denars, namely the number of variations published for the denars of the two issuers by Ludwig Reissenberger, most likely the author of the manuscript preserved in the archives of the Brukenthal Library. The manuscript notations indicate we are dealing with the second part of the catalogue of coins in the hoard at Seliştat, hence, a presentation also existed (today lost) of the coins struck previous 1527. The lost part of the manuscript likely contained also the description of the "approximately 70 undated variations", representing the denars struck at Kremnica, by early Vladislaus II's reign (until 1503), whose typological variety is not reflected in the existent coin determiners, as proven by the careful examination of the hoards containing such coins³.

Returning to the hoard at Seliştat, herein we publish strictly the preserved manuscript and identify the described coins based on current numismatic determiners, the catalogue of coins being rendered below. Past the descriptive part, in conclusion, we may draw a few notes. The first concerns the percentage of John Zápolya and Ferdinand I coins in this large hoard. Based on the Transylvanian hoards mentioned above, we appreciate that the number of the coins recorded in the manuscript likely mirrors, unless not in point of fact, at least at percentage level, the place that the issues of the two issuers hold in the hoard at Seliştat, formed mostly, in terms of the variations reported by Ludwig Reissenberger, of denars from Matthias Corvinus, Vladislaus II and Louis II. The second note concerns the *post quem* term of the hoard, which, after the discovery of the manuscript in the Brukenthal Library, may be placed with certainty in 1538.

The report on the coin hoard found at Seliştat, the translation of the article published by Ludwig Reissenberger and the find of the manuscript in the Brukenthal Library were made by our colleague Claudiu Munteanu (the Brukenthal Museum). Therefore, we may only thank him for his generosity by having made the entire material available to us, based on which we wrote this article.

² Toma, 2016, pp. 39, 49-50.

³ Toma, 2013, pp. 117-138.

The catalogue of the Hungarian denars described in the manuscript preserved with the Brukenthal Library:

A. Ioan Zápolya (1526-1540)

1. Denar

Av: IOHANNES · R · VNGAR · 1527 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – T

Kremnica, Jacobus Tornallyai or Alexius Thurzó

Huszár, 1979, p. 135/881; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 142/265-14a.

5 coins (Pl. 1/no. 2)

2. Denar

Av: IOHANNES · R · VNGARI · 1527 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – T

Kremnica, Jacobus Tornallyai or Alexius Thurzó

Huszár, 1979, p. 135/881; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 142/265-14a.

7 coins (Pl. 1/no. 3)

3. Denar

Av: IOHANNES · R · VNGARIE · 1527 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – T

Kremnica, Jacobus Tornallyai or Alexius Thurzó

Huszár, 1979, p. 135/881; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 142/265-14a.

2 coins (Pl. 2/no. 11)

4. Denar

Av: IOANNES · R · VNGARIE · 1537 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – M

Kremnica

Huszár, 1979, p. 135/880; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 140/269-1.

1 coin (Pl. 2/no. 10)

5. Denar

Av: IOHANNES · R · VNGARIE · 1527 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark C – M

Košice, Matthias Graf

Réthy, 1907, Tab. 25/331B; Huszár, 1979, p. 135/883; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 143/266.

6 coins (Pl. 1/no. 4-7)

6. Denar

Av: IOHANNES · R · VNGARIE · 1527 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark C – M

Košice, Matthias Graf

Réthy, 1907, Tab. 25/331C; Huszár, 1979, p. 135/883a; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 143/267.

1 coin (Pl. 1/no. 8)

7. Denar

Av: IOANNES · R · VNGARIE · 1527 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark C – G

Cluj (?)

Huszár, 1979, p. 135/881; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 140/265-4.

1 coin (Pl. 2/no. 9)

8. Denar

Av: IOANNES · D · G · R · HVNGA · 1537 ·
Rv: PATRONA – HVNGARI, mint mark C – G
Cluj, Georg Weinmeister or Gheorghe Martinuzzi
Huszár, 1979, p. 135/891; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 144/278-1.
1 coin (Pl. 2/no. 12)

9. Denar

Av: IOANNES · D · G · R · HVNGA · 1538 ·
Rv: PATRONA – HVNGARI, mint mark C – G
Cluj, Georg Weinmeister or Gheorghe Martinuzzi
Huszár, 1979, p. 136/891; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 144/278-1.
2 coins (Pl. 2/no. 13-14)

10. Denar

Av: IOANNES · D · G · R · HVNGAR · 1538 ·
Rv: PATRONA – HVNGARIE, mint mark C – G
Cluj, Georg Weinmeister or Gheorghe Martinuzzi
Huszár, 1979, p. 136/891; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 144/278-1.
1 coin (Pl. 2/no. 15)

11. Denar

Av: IOHANNES · R · VNGARI · 1527 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark N – T
Baia Mare, Jacobus Tornallyai (*Schatzmeister*)
Huszár, 1979, p. 135/881; Pohl, 1982, Tab. 142/265-18.
4 coins (Pl. 1/no. 1)

B. Ferdinand (1526-1564)

12. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNGA · 1527 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
2 coins (Pl. 3/no. 17)

13. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1528 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
7 coins (Pl. 3/no. 18-19)

14. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1529 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
6 coins (Pl. 3/no. 22)

15. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1530 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
4 coins (Pl. 3/no. 25)

16. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1531 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
4 coins (Pl. 4/no. 27)

17. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1532 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
5 coins (Pl. 4/no. 34)

18. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1533 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
3 coins (Pl. 4/no. 37, 38?)

19. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1534 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
3 coins (Pl. 4/no. 39-40)

20. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1535 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
7 coins (Pl. 4/no. 41-42)

21. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1536 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B
Kremnica
Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.
2 coins (Pl. 5/no. 43)

22. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1537 ·
Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B

Kremnica

Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.

6 coins (Pl. 5/no. 44)

23. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1537 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark K – B

Kremnica

Huszár, 1979, p. 143/935.

5 coins (Pl. 5/no. 45)

24. Denar

Av: FERDINA · D · G · R · VNG · 1529 ·

Rv: PATRON – VNGAR

Huszár, 1979, p. 143/934.

1 coin (Pl. 3/no. 23)

25. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNGA · 1527 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark C – lily

Košice

Huszár, 1979, p. 144/942.

1 coin (Pl. 3/no. 16)

26. Denar

Av: FERDINANDVS · R · VNGARIE · 1528 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark C – lily

Košice

Huszár, 1979, p. 144/943.

1 coin (Pl. 3/no. 20)

27. Denar

Av: FERDINANDVS · R · VNGAR · 1528 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark C – lily

Košice

Huszár, 1979, p. 144/943.

1 coin (Pl. 3/no. 21)

28. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1531 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark C – lily

Košice

Huszár, 1979, p. 144/943.

1 coin (Pl. 4/no. 28)

29. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNG · 1532 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark C – lily

Košice

Huszár, 1979, p. 144/943.

1 coin (Pl. 4/no. 36)

30. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNGA · 1529 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark H – N

Sibiu

Huszár, 1979, p. 144/945.

1 coin (Pl. 3/no. 24)

31. Denar

Av: FERDINAND · D · G · R · VNGA · 1531 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARIE, mint mark H – N

Sibiu

Huszár, 1979, p. 144/947.

5 coins (Pl. 4/no. 29-33)

32. Denar

Av: FERDINA · D · G · R · VNG · 1530 ·

Rv: PATRON – VNGARI, mint mark N – S

Gvozdansko

Huszár, 1979, p. 145/955.

1 coin (Pl. 4/no. 26)

33. Denar

Av: FERDINAN · D · G · R · VN · 1532 ·

Rv: PATRONA – VNGARI, the Nikola Zrinski' coat of arms

Huszár, 1979, p. 146/961.

1 coin (Pl. 4/no. 35)

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List of plates 1-5. The pages from evidence register preserved in the Brukenthal Library.

zu 1881. 32. 5. (Seligstadt)	
<u>II Nach 1526.</u>	
<u>Johannes</u>	
10 HANNES: R: VNGARI + 1527+, Wappen 1.)	44.
ohne Krone: 1. u. 4. d. ungr. Wappen, 2. d. ungr. Soppelkreuz, 3. d. dalmatin. Köpfe, im Mittelchild des Familienwappens; über dem Schild ein Markt.	
R. PATRONA: - - - VNGARIE, Madonna, daneben N-T.	
10 HANNES * R * VNGARI * 1527*, W. = 1. 2.)	F
(ohne Markt)	
R. PATRONA * - * VNGARIE, Madonna; daneben K-T.	
10 HANNES * R * VNGARI * 1527*, W. = 1. 3.)	7
(ohne Markt)	
R. = 2.	
10 HANNES * R * VNGARIE *** 1527*, W. = 1. 4.)	1.
(ohne Markt)	
R. PATRONA * - * VNGARIE, Madonna; daneben + s. H. Q-M.	
# 10 HANNES * R * VNGARIE * 1527*, W. = 1. 5.)	3
(ohne Markt)	
R. = 4.	
10 HANNES * R * VNGARIE + * 1527*, W. = 1. 6.)	44.
(ohne Markt)	
R. * PATRONA * - * VNGARIE *, = 4.	
= 6.	
R. * PATRONA * - * VNGARIE *, = 4. 7.)	1
10 HANNES * R * VNGARIE + * 1527*, W. = 1. 8.)	
(ohne Markt)	
R. = 6., aber unten: 152*	!
	1

- Von H. Müller
1. 9.) IOANNES • R • VNGARIE • 1527*, W. = 1.
 R. PATRONA • — VNGARIE • Madonna; daneben
 C-C
1. 10.) IOANNES : R : VNGARIE : 1527 : W. = 1
 R. PATRONA • — VNGARIE : Madonna; daneben
 K-M.
2. wor5. 11.) IOANNES * R * VNGARIE * 1527 *, W. = 1.
 R. PATRONA * — * VNGARIE, Madonna; daneben
 K-T.
1. 12. IOANNES. D. G. R. HVNGA. 1537.
 W. = 1, darüber ~~(Krone)~~ Krone ~~XX~~
 R. PATRONA. — HVNGARI, Madonna; daneben
 C-C.
1. 13. IOANNES. D. G. R. HVNGA. 1538.
 W. = 1; darüber Krone ~~XXX~~
 R. = 12.
1. 14. = 13. aber Form der Krone abweichend. etc.
1. 15. IOANNES. D. G. R. HVNGAR. 1538.
 W. = 1, darüber Krone = 14.
 R. PATRONA. *HVNGARIE, = 12.

<u>Ferdinandus I.</u>		Pl.
FERDINAND * D * G * R * VNGA + ,	1. 1. 16.)	1
Wappen : 1. j. waz. Binden ; 2. ang. Henn ; 3. dalmat. Krück ; 4. böhm. Löwe ; Mittelschild, öster. Winden ; darüber 1524.		
R. PATRONA * - * VNGARIE, Madonna ; daneben C - + (vogel !)		
FERDINAND . D . G . R . VNGA * 1527 *, W. = 1. 2. 17.		2
R. = 1 ; aber K-B.		
FERDINAND . D . G . R . VNG * 1528 *, W. = 1. 3. 18.		2
R. = 1 , aber K-B.		
= 18 ; aber statt der Roetten Maekte .	4. 19.	5
FERDINANDVS * R * VNGARIE * 1528 *, W. = 1. 7.		
R. PATRONA * - * VNGARIE, Madonna ; daneben C + 5.	20	1
FERDINANDVS . R . VNGAR . 1528 . , W. = 1. 6. 21		1
R. PATRONA - VNGARIE = 520.		
FERDINAND . D . G . R . VNG . 1529 . , W. = 1. 7. 22 .		6.
R. PATRONA - - . VNGARIE, Madonna ; daneben K-B.		
FERDINA . D . G . R . VNG . 1529 . , W. = 1. 8. 23 .		7
R. PATRON - VNGAR , Madonna .		
FERDINAND . D . G . R . VNGA . 1529 . , W. = 1. 9. 24 .		7
R. PATRONA * - * VNGARIE, Madonna ; daneben H-N.		
FERDINAND . D . G . R . VNG . 1530 . , W. = 1. 10. 25 .		4
R. = 2217.		
FERDINA . D . G . R . VNG . 1530 . , W. = 1. 11. 26 .		1
PATRON - VNGARI , Madonna ; daneben N-S ?		

Stück.		
4	12. 24.	FERDINAND. D. G. R. VNG. 1531. , W. = 1. R. PATRONA. - VNGARIE, Madonna, daneben K-B.
1	13. 28.	*FERDINAND* D*G*R*VNG* 1531*, W. = 1. R. PATRONA * - * VNGARIE, Madonna, daneben C-*
1	14. 29.	FERDINAND. D. G. R. VNG* 1531* , W. = 1; aber als Mittelbild der Reiteradler! R. * PATRONA - VNGARIE *, Madonna, daneben H-N; Leinenband *
1	15. 30.	FERDINAND. D. G. R. VNG. 1531*, W. = 14. R. PATRONA * - * VNGARIE, = 14.
1	16. 31.	= 14 R. //TRONA* - * VNGARIE *, = 14.
1	17. 32.	*FERDINAND. D. G. R. VNG 1531*, = 14. R. = 14.
1	18. 33.	FERDINAND. D. G. R. VNG. 1531*, = 14 R. * PATRONA * - VNGARIE, = 14.
5	19. 34.	FERDINAND. D. G. R. VNG. 1532. , = 14. R. PATRONA. - VNGARIE, Madonna, daneben K-B.
1	20. 35.	FERDINAND. D. G. R. VNG. 1532. , = 14. R. PATRONA. - VNGARIE, Madonna, wahrscheinlich Adler?
1.	21. 36.	FERDINAND* D*G*R*VNG* 1532*, = 14. R. PATRONA * - * VNGARIE, Madonna, daneben C-*
2.	21. 37.	FERDINAND. D. G. R. VNG. 1533. , = 1.
1	22. 38.	R. PATRONA. - VNGARIE, Madonna, daneben K-B.
2	23. 39.	= 19, aber D.G.
1	24. 40.	= 19, " n. Madonna von 12 abw.
6	25. 41.	= 19, aber . 1535.
1	26. 42.	R. PATRONA * - VNGARIE, = 19. R. = 25.

	4.
FERDINAND · D · G · R · VN6 * 1536 * , Ad. = 1. 27. 43.	2
R · PATRONA · * · VN6ARIE, Madonna, durch K-B. = 27; aber 1537.	28. 44. 6
= 27; aber 1538.	29. 45. 5