

COINS AND JEWELRY FROM A SMALL HOARD FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 17TH CENTURY FOUND IN RĂSUCENI, GIURGIU COUNTY

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Rezumat: Acest articol prezintă un tezaur de monede și bijuterii, descoperit cu ajutorul unui detector de metale în anul 2014, în Răsuceni, jud. Giurgiu. Tezaurul cuprinde 20 de monede, dintre care cinci sunt emise de Uniunea Polono-Lituaniană și 15 emisiuni ale Imperiului Otoman și patru podoabe specifice regiunii balcanice. Ascunderea tezaurului pare să coincidă cu anul 1600, când estul Țării Românești ajunge sub stăpânirea lui Simion Movilă, pus pe tron cu sprijinul armatei poloneze, în timp ce susținătorii lui Mihai Viteazul se retrag în Oltenia.

În articol este prezentată structura tezaurului, cu un catalog al monedelor și o discuție despre tipul acestora și despre prezența lor în circulația monetară locală. O parte separată a articolului este dedicată bijuteriilor păstrate în tezaurul de la Răsuceni.

Abstract: The paper discusses a hoard of coins and jewelry found with a metal detector in 2014, in Răsuceni, Giurgiu County. The hoard consists of 20 coins: five of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and 15 of the Ottoman Empire and four jewelries, specific to the Balkan area. The concealment of the hoard seems to coincide with the year 1600, when the eastern part of Wallachia comes under the rule of Simion Movilă, enthroned with the help of the Polish army, while the supporters of Michael the Brave retreat to Oltenia.

In the paper is presented the structure of the hoard, with a catalogue of the coins and a discussion about the types of coins and their presence in the local monetary circulation. A different part of the paper is dedicated to the jewelry preserved in the Răsuceni hoard.

Cuvinte-cheie: Țara Românească, circulație monetară, teaurizare, Imperiul Otoman, Polonia, podoabe.

Key-words: Wallachia, coin circulation, hoarding, Ottoman Empire, Poland, jewelries.

1. Introduction

From the perspective of the monetary circulation or coin types the small hoard that is presented in this paper is not very impressive, the coins are common in the monetary landscape of the late 16th century and early 17th century Wallachia, being at the same time extremely worn out. On the other hand, the jewelry batch, which consists of four artefacts (an aigrette, a massive ring and fragments of two temple earrings), is somewhat notable, the head decoration being unique in the Wallachian space, while it can be easily deduced that the massive silver ring belonged to a rich noble man.

It is kind of unusual to have such a blend of items, given the fact that the jewelry can be associated with someone with an important status, while the coins are for the most part petty cash, while generally the coins withdrawn from the circulation in order to be hoarded tend to be of good quality and more valuable.

The treasure was found by Cristian Dragomir in the springtime of the year 2014 with a metal detector. The hoard came to light in the forest localized in the proximity of the Răsuceni commune, Giurgiu County. All the pieces were scattered on a surface of approximately 5 m² and it was hard to establish if this was the initial structure of this small fortune, even if a larger area was researched with the metal detector at the moment of finding. It is also difficult to determine which is the cause that determined the scattering of the pieces over such a large area, given the fact that in almost all the cases the pieces that form the hoard are buried all together. In the case of this hoard, it can be assumed that the soil slid over the centuries due to the climate conditions or vegetation growth. However, despite the fact that the temple earring was severely damaged due to the medium they were preserved for such a long time (moist soil covered with leaves), the other pieces do not present traces of

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corrosion as it would be expected. It is important to mention that the pieces were not cleaned after the finding moment, all of them being covered by soil traces.

2. The coins

The hoard consists of 20 coins of which five are triple groschens struck for the city of Riga and for Poland, 14 akçe and one Ottoman dirhem. One triple groschen was struck in the name of the king Stephan Bathory in the year 1586, while the other four were struck in the name of the king Sigismund III Vasa in the years 1595 and 1596.

Catalog

Ottoman Empire, Süleyman I (1520-1566)

1. Akçe, 1520-1540 (926-947 AH), Kratovo mint, inv. no. 348205 (Pl. 2, fig. 1).

Silver; 0.68 g; 11.80 mm x 13.60 mm; ↑.

Ob. Sultan Süleyman bin Selim [...]

Rv. Azze nasrühü duribe Kratovo sene 92[...]

Reference: Srečković III – Ob. B1 / Rv. III.

2. Akçe, 1520-1540 (926-947 AH), Kratovo mint, inv. no. 348207 (Pl. 2, fig. 2).

Silver; 0.69 g; 13.50 mm x 13.90 mm; ←.

Ob. [...]tan [...]an [...]

Rv. Azze nasrühü duribe Kratovo sene 926

Reference: Srečković III – Ob. C2 / Rv. II.

3. Akçe, 1540-1555 (947-962 AH), probably Kratovo mint, inv. no. 348206 (Pl. 2, fig. 3).

Silver; 0.76 g; 12.30 mm x 13.50 mm; ←.

Ob. Sultan Süleyman Se[...]

Rv. Azze nasrühü duribe [...]

Reference: Srečković III – Ob. D / Rv. -

4. Akçe, 1555-1566 (962-974 AH), Edirne mint; inv. no. 348209 (Pl. 2, fig. 4).

Silver; 0.65 g; 13.90 mm x 14.20 mm; ←.

Ob. [...] Süleyman [...] Selim [...]an

Rv. Azze nasrühü duribe [...]dirne sene 92[...]

Reference: Srečković III – Ob. G / Rv. I

5. Akçe, 1555-1566 (962-974 AH), Novaberda mint; inv. no. 348211 (Pl. 2, fig. 5).

Silver; 0.50 g; 12.80 mm x 13.10 mm; ←.

Ob. Sultan S[...] S[...]

Rv. [...] nasrühü duribe Novaberda sene [...]

Reference: Srečković III – Ob. H / Rv. V

6. Akçe, 1555-1566 (962-974 AH), Mudava mint; inv. no. 348210 (Pl. 2, fig. 6).

Silver; 0.62 g; 12.50 mm x 12.90 mm; ↗.

Ob. [...] Selim han

Rv. [...] Muda[...] sene [...]26

Reference: Srečković III – Ob. I / Rv. II

7. Akçe, 1555-1566 (962-974 AH), Sidrekapsi mint; inv. no. 348212 (Pl. 2, fig. 7).

Silver; 0.68 g; 13.50 mm x 14.60 mm; ↗.

Ob. Sult[...] Süleyman bin Selim ha[...]
Rv. [...] duribe Sidrekapsi sene 926
Reference: Srećković III – Ob. F1 / Rv. V.

8. Akçe, 1556-1557 (963-964 AH), Kuçayne mint; inv. no. 348208 (Pl. 2, fig. 8).
Silver; 0.71 g; 12.30 mm x 14.60 mm; ↓.
Ob. Sulta[...] Süleym[...] / azze / [...] / [...]
Rv. [...] / [...] / [...] / Kuçayna sene 926
Reference: Srećković III – ob. S3 / Rv. Xa or Xb

Ottoman Empire, Murad III (1574-1595)
9. Akçe, 1574-1595 (982-1003 AH), Konstantiniye mint; inv. no. 348213 (Pl. 2, fig. 9).
Silver; 0.54 g; 11.60 mm x 13.60 mm; →.
Ob. [...]ltan Murad bin Selim han
Rv. [...] duribe [...]onstantiniye 982
Reference: Srećković IV - Ob. A / Rv. V.

10. Akçe, 1574-1595 (982-1003 AH), illegible mint; inv. no. 348214 (Pl. 2, fig. 10).
Silver; 0.69 g; 11.30 mm x 13.80 mm; ✓.
Ob. Sultan Murad [...] Seli[...] [...]a[...]
Rv. Azze nasrühü duribe [...]
Reference: Srećković IV – Ob. A / Rv. II.

Suleyman I or Selim II
11. Akçe, Nova Berda, inv. no. 348216 (Pl. 2, fig. 11).
Silver; 0.61 g; 12.90 mm x 14.40 mm; ↓.
Ob. Sultan S[...] [...]
Rv. [...] Novaberda [...]

12. Akçe, illegible mint, inv. no. 348217 (Pl. 2, fig. 12).
Silver; 0.61 g; 13.40 mm x 14.10 mm; ↓.
Ob. Su[...] S[...] [...]
Rv. Azze nasara duribe [...]

13. Akçe, illegible mint, inv. no. 348218 (Pl. 2, fig. 13).
Silver; 0.63 g; 12.30 mm x 13.80 mm.
Ob. Sulta[...] - double strike
Rv. Azze [...] duribe [...]

14. Akçe, illegible mint, inv. no. 348219 (Pl. 2, fig. 14).
Silver; 0.43 g; 11.60 mm x 13.20 mm.
Ob. [...]
Rv. Azze nasara duribe [...]

15. Dirhem, 1574-1595 (982-1003 AH), Erzurum mint; inv. no. 348215 (Pl. 2, fig. 15).
Silver; 3.632 g; 19.60 mm x 27.40 mm.
Ob. Sultan Murad bin Sel[...]
Rv. Duribe Erzurum / halledalahü mülkehü ve sultanehü sene 982 [...]
Reference: Nuri Pere 288.

Stephan Bathory (1576-1586)

16. 3 groschen for Riga, 1586, Riga mint, Hermana Wulffa, inv. no. 348200 (Pl. 3, fig. 16).

Silver; 2.16 g; 19.25 mm x 20.15 mm; →.

Ob. Crowned bust facing right surrounded by the legend - STEP·D·G·REX·P[...]^L

Rv. Castle under crossed keys surrounded by linear legend - 15 – 86 / GR – OS / ARG·TRIP / CIVI·RI· / ⁺GE⁺

Reference: Iger 2008: R.86.2/d.

Sigismund III Vasa (1587-1629)

17. 3 groschen for Poland, 1595, Bydgoszcz mint, Jan Firley, inv. no. 348201 (Pl. 3, fig. 17).

Silver; 2.36 g; 20.70 mm x 21.50 mm; ↗.

Ob. Crowned bust facing right surrounded by the legend – SIGIIIDGR - POLONMDL

Rv. Eagle, Vasa family coat of arms, Pogoń in the upper area and mint master's marks in the lower area, separated by linear legend - ·III· / GROS·ARG / ·TRIP·REG· / ·POLONI95 / F.S.

Reference: Kopicki 713 var. SIG III.

18. 3 groschen for Poland, 1596, Olkusz mint, Jan Firley, inv. no. 348202 (Pl. 3, fig. 18).

Silver; 2.30 g; 20.30 mm x 20.50 mm; ↖.

Ob. Crowned bust facing right surrounded by the legend - SIGIIID·G·REXPOMDL

Rv. Eagle, Vasa family coat of arms, Pogoń in the upper area and mint masters mark in the lower area, separated by linear legend - *III* / GROS·ARG / TR·R·POLO: / NI - 96· / *I – F *

Reference: Iger O.96.1/i.; Kopicki 519.

19. 3 groschen for Polonia, 1596, Olkusz mint, Jan Firley, inv. no. 348203 (Pl. 3, fig. 19).

Silver; 2.29 g; 20.30 mm x 20.70 mm; ←.

Ob. Crowned bust facing right surrounded by the legend - SIGIIID·G·REXPOMDL

Rv. Eagle, Vasa family coat of arms, Pogoń in the upper area and mint masters mark in the lower area, separated by linear legend - ·III· / GROS·ARG / TR·R·POLO: / NI - ·96· / ·I – F·

Reference: Iger O.96.1/i-j obverse and O.96.1/l for reverse; Kopicki 518-519.

20. 3 groschen for Riga, 1596, Riga mint, Henryka Wulffa, inv. no. 348204 (Pl. 3, fig. 20).

Silver; 2.35 g; 20.60 mm x 21.10 mm; →.

Ob. Crowned bust facing right surrounded by the legend - SIG*III*D:G*REXPOMD*LI

Rv. Castle under crossed keys surrounded by linear legend - *III* / GR - OS / ARG*TRIP / CIVI*RI / *GE†·

Reference: Iger R.96.1/e; Kopicki 1419 var.

3. Discussion

With regard to the geographic distribution of the mints where the Ottoman coins of the Răsuceni hoard were struck, I would like to underline that they are not concentrated in a specific region, covering a large area of the Balkan Peninsula and originating also from the Asia Minor region, as is the case of the dirhem from Murad III (Pl. 1, Fig. 1).

The presence of a rare coin struck in the Mudava mint (Pl. 2, fig. 6) must be highlighted. This mint was localized by the historians in the area of the Romanian settlement from Moldova Veche, Caraș Severin County. If the location of the mint did not give rise to many discussions, when it comes to the operating period of the mint there are some different hypotheses proposed in the literature. According to the numismatist Slobodan Srećković, it was opened around the year 1560, as soon as the region of Banat fell under the Ottoman authority, being operational only for a few years during

the reign of Suleyman I¹. In the opinion of other historians, the opening of Mudava mint should be linked to the cash necessity for financing the military troops engaged in the Szigetvár campaign of the year 1566 led by the sultan Suleyman himself². The choice of this place was explained through its strategic location, this quite remote and fortified settlement being located in the proximity of the silver mining center and mints from Serbia, and established at the same time on the main transit area, the Danube River³. It is considered that Mudava had a privileged position, being a good point for the collecting of the silver coming from Wallachia and Timișoara, in a period when the Ottoman Empire was under the pressure of a deficit of currency and silver⁴. The akçe from the Răsuceni hoard belong to the I type according to the classification of Slobodan Srećković, which is one of the most common types of silver coins minted in Mudava, despite this the Mudava akçes are still a numismatic rarity. Coins struck in Mudava mint were identified in the structure of the hoards from: Radu Vodă, Giurgiu County⁵, Bălești, Vaslui Count⁶, Budești, Bacău County⁷, Leușeni-Cărpineni, Republic of Moldavia⁸, Onești, Republic of Moldavia⁹, and three other hoards from the Republic of Moldavia - Rezina¹⁰, Stahnaia and Topala¹¹. As it can be seen, most of the Mudava akçes known due to the literature come from hoards found in the historical region of Moldavia, but the scarcity of this type of coins in Wallachia is for sure due to the incomplete publishing of the Ottoman coins hoards. However, it can be observed that the coins struck in the mint of Mudava are preserved in a very low number (between one and three pieces), even if the hoards comprises of hundreds of akçes. An exceptional number of akçes struck in the mint from Mudava were identified in the hoard found in the Serbian village Šetonje, where of the 3992 pieces, 29 come from the mint located north of the Danube¹². From the Serbian area it should also be mentioned an akçe from Mudava that was signaled in Čukovica hoard, comprised of a total number of 116 coins¹³. However, the low presence of these monetary issues in these hoards that seem to be hidden in a relatively contemporary period, even if geographically they are quite scattered, indicate that the Mudava mint has been active for a short time, being known that at least in 1572 there was not an active mint, as it is proved by the denied request of the *defterdar* of Timișoara regarding the opening of a mint in this location¹⁴.

Another akçe that is worth being highlighted is the one minted in Kuçayne (Pl. 2, Fig. 8), which according to the classification made by Slobodan Srećković belongs to the special coinage series. It seems that this type of akçes, with a different design of the obverse and reverse than the regular coinage and which was inspired by the design of the akçes struck by Murad II, was issued with the occasion of the construction of the Süleymania Mosque in Istanbul, between 1550-1557¹⁵. Kuçayne, like Mudava mint, was opened during the reign of Süleyman I, in the proximity of the silver mines in Serbia. The historical sources record its opening in 1553 and it had a long activity, striking

¹ Srećković, 2003, p. 130.

² Maxim *et al.*, 1995, p. 230; Nicolae, 2000, p. 1279.

³ Maxim *et al.*, 1995, pp. 230-231.

⁴ Maxim *et al.*, 1995, p. 231.

⁵ Nicolae, Păunescu, 1993, pp. 109-135.

⁶ Nicolae, 2000, p. 1280.

⁷ Toma *et al.*, 2016, p. 72, cat. 45-47, fig. 45-47.

⁸ Toma *et al.*, 2018a, p. 59, cat. 67, fig. 67.

⁹ Toma *et al.*, 2018b, p. 101, cat. 51, fig. 51.

¹⁰ Boldureanu *et al.*, 2001, pp. 161-167.

¹¹ Nicolae, 2000, p. 1281.

¹² The authors of this study indicate that in the structure of the hoard were identified 22 akçes from Mudava struck by Süleyman I, as well as other seven akçes marked with the name of Mudava, but for which they were not able to identify the issuer. Given the fact that the only sultan who struck coins in Mudava was Süleyman I, in this paper, I indicated the total number of Mudava coins (29 coins), presuming from the very beginning that even the last seven silver pieces were struck by the same sultan. See Marić-Jerinić, Nešić, 2001-2002, p. 235, cat. 4.

¹³ Marić-Jerinić, Nešić, 2001-2002, pp. 247-248, cat. 25.

¹⁴ Nicolae, 2000, p. 1280.

¹⁵ Srećković, 2003, p. 32.

gold, silver and copper coins also for the descendats of Süleyman I: Selim II, Murad III and Mehmed III¹⁶.

The presence in the hoard from Răsuceni of an Ottoman dirhem is not unusual (Pl. 2, fig. 15), being identified in several hoards from Wallachia and being also mentioned in the documents of the late 16th century early 17th century¹⁷. It seems that this type of coin, penetrates the local monetary market with the beginning of the war between the Ottoman Empire and Safavid Empire (1578-1590), being brought especially by the merchants engaged in trade in the main centers of the empire and by the janissaries as well¹⁸. At that moment the dirhem was a much stronger coin than the devalued akçe, which meant that it tended to be replaced gradually by this oriental coin. Therefore, it started to be used for the important transactions as it was the payment of the Wallachian tribute in 1588/1589, when a *şahî* / dirhem was equated with eight akçe or the amount of money estimated at 105000 florins with which the Wallachian tribute for the Ottoman Empire was to be paid, but with which Prince Petru Cercel ran in Transylvania¹⁹. Dirhems were preserved in the hoards from: Bercioiu, Vâlcea County, which contains 11 dirhems struck for Murad III in the Erzurum mint²⁰, Tăricei, Călărași County, Gălbinași, Călărași County, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Vâlcea County²¹, Viișoara, Teleorman County²², Urziceni, Ialomița County²³, Pietrele, Giurgiu County and Târgoviște²⁴. Dirhems from Murad III that are supposed to be part of a hoard found in the area of Wallachia were presented by Eugen Nicolae in a paper dedicated to a strange dirhem struck with the reverse dies of the mints from Dimășk and Erzurum²⁵. It appears that many dirhems found in Wallachia were struck in the Erzurum mint, the significant number of this coins being explained by the fact that the Ottoman military troops stayed for long periods, during the winter, in this east-Anatolian city (1578-1579, 1586-1587, 1587-1588, 1588-1589)²⁶. For a comparative perspective with neighboring countries, it must be noted that in Transylvania the presence of dirhams has not yet been noticed²⁷, while for Moldavia were signaled a lot less pieces found in the settlements from Costișa and Baia and in the structure of the hoard from Păun²⁸.

With these three types of coins in its structure, the hoard from Răsuceni is illustrative for the coin circulation in Wallachia in the last decade of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century, marking the changes occurred in the composition of the cash in circulation. While the akçe preserved in this hoard are a good example for the massive debasement of this type of silver coins which dominated the local monetary market for almost two centuries, the five pieces of triple groschen from Stephan Bathory and Sigismund III Vasa mark the penetration of this new strong Polish coinage that in a relatively short time replaced the Ottoman dirhems²⁹ struck in the oriental

¹⁶ Srećković, 2002, p. 147.

¹⁷ Maxim, 1983, pp. 133-137.

¹⁸ Murgescu, 1996, pp. 94-96. Bogdan Murgescu analyse in the chapter dedicated to dirhems all the hypothesis about the penetration of these coins in Wallachia.

¹⁹ Maxim, 1983, p. 134; Maxim, 1975, pp. 409-411; Murgescu, 1996, p. 92.

²⁰ The fragmentary recovered hoard contains a total number of 83 dirhems, of which 50 bear the name of Murad III. See Nicolae, Custurea, 1983-1985, pp. 309-327.

²¹ Isăcescu, 1976-1980, pp. 331-339; Nicolae, Custurea, 1983-1985, p. 319.

²² Vilcu, Păunescu, 2001, pp. 175-176.

²³ Știrbu *et al.*, 1991, p. 183.

²⁴ The last two hoards are mentioned by Aurel Vilcu in Vilcu, Păunescu, 2001, p. 176

²⁵ Nicolae, 2001, pp. 157-159.

²⁶ Nicolae, Custurea, 1983-1985, p. 323.

²⁷ Murgescu, 1996, p. 90.

²⁸ Boldureanu, 2013, p. 64.

²⁹ It must be mentioned the existence of dirhems in the structure of two hoard closed with a coin dated in 1664 and respectively in 1675 (Urziceni hoard and Guruieni hoard, Teleorman County) (Știrbu *et al.*, 1991, pp. 163-164). The presence of this coin in this hoard is singular up to this moment, therefore it doesn't mean that it was still present in the monetary circulation of the last quarter of the 17th century, but as coins with good quality silver content that were hoarded / preserved for a long period.

mints of the empire³⁰. The hoard comprises one triple groschen struck for Riga in 1586, three triple groschen struck for Poland in 1595 and 1596 and another triple groschen for Riga dated in 1596. The triple groschen started to be minted as a result of the monetary reform of Stephan Bathory during the year 1578-1580, whose main purpose was the monetary unification of the region after the union of Poland and Lithuania in 1569. It is important to underline the fact that the three coins from Sigismund III Vasa bearing the year 1596 are the pieces that close the hoard, marking the *terminus post quem* of the concealment of this treasure.

In terms of the historical context of hiding of this hoard, it can be linked with the turmoil caused by the attack of the Polish troops led by Jan Zamoyski in 1600, when Michael the Brave was defeated in several battles. It is beyond dispute that the removal of Michael the Brave from Wallachia caused the departure of many of his supporters, being known that many of them fled to the western part of Wallachia, in Oltenia.

One outstanding feature of the Ottoman coins of the Răsuceni hoard that caught my eye is the fact that all of them are pierced. Even if it is a common thing to find pierced coins among the pieces of the medieval hoards it is quite unusual to have such a large number. Most of the pierced coins come from the medieval or early modern necropolises, many coins being punched in order to be attached through textile yarns to the hands or fingers of the deceased.

In general terms, the perforations of the coins from the Răsuceni hoard can be classified in three groups, based on their shape. Therefore, nine pieces, including the dirhem, present circular perforations, other five coins present perforations shaped as triangle or tear drop and only one has a square shaped perforation. The piercing of the coins is generally associated either with the idea of perforation as a means to transform the coins in decorations either in order to put them on a wire as a means to preserve them easier, compared to inside a bag for example. Some times the pierced coins are believed to be taken out of circulation, a point which might be contradictory by virtue of the fact that the official withdrawal from circulation of a coin consists in the melting of the old coin and striking of a new one with the recovered precious metal. The identification of the real purpose of the perforations is all the more difficult as the explanations listed above represent different stages of the „life” of a coin and each one would bring a different perspective on the understanding of the use of the coin. The fact that the coins of this hoard are associated with jewelries might suggest that the Ottoman pieces were also used as a jewelry, but by looking at the good quality of the jewelry items it can be observed that the owner of these goods had invested significant amounts of money in these pieces. Therefore, in this situation it is quite difficult to understand the interaction between the owner and the pierced coins, if they had a symbolic meaning, a monetary value or if they were a simple way to store value.

4. The jewelries

As I already mentioned above, three jewelry items are part of the Răsuceni hoard: an aigrette or panache, a ring and fragments of what are most probably two temple earrings. The most remarkable piece of these three is the hat ornament (inventory number 348225; Pl. 3, fig. 21), a *sorguç*, a jewelry type of Ottoman origin, worn initially by the sultans and later by the janissaries as a sign of their status. Over time, the *sorguç* became a princely symbol, in Transylvania the *sorguç* being offered to the newly enthroned prince during the investiture ceremony, alongside a kaftan and a sword in the presence of an audience consisting of noble people. In Wallachia, the earliest mention of a *sorguç* is recorded in the „*The teachings of Neagoe Basarab to his son Theodosie*”, where after the death of his son, Neagoe Basarab says that he donated the crown and the *sorguç* of Theodosie for turning them in a jewelled bookbinding for a religious book³¹. It seems that starting with the 17th century the panache became a very fashionable jewelry, being also worn by the noble ladies. Up to this moment, from the

³⁰ Vilcu, Păunescu, 2001, p. 171.

³¹ Anton-Manea, 2014, p. 49.

area of Wallachia, only three aigrettes were recovered: two from the Coveiu hoard, Dolj County³² and one from Urziceni, Ialomița County³³. Unfortunately, one of the two aigrettes from Coveiu was lost, regarding the other aigrette and the one from Urziceni, they are quite similar in the decoration approach. Both of them consists of a plaque, one circular and one shaped as a tear-drop, which are decorated with glass fixed in square settings and present on their back three conical supports for the plumes welded on the back of the plaques. The *sorguç* from Răsuceni, is a little bit smaller and more delicate than the ones from Coveiu and Urziceni. It consists of a circular plaque made of a tin silver plate, with a conical support for the plume welded on the front of the aigrette and six cartridges in which colored stones, lost today, used to be fixed. The plaque is pierced, presenting three small circular perforations, which were used for the sewing of the aigrette to the hat. The surface of the plaque is decorated by the „au repoussé” technique with animals: two peacocks, one wolf and probably a rabbit, while the background is covered with small circular punches. The motifs used for the decoration of the aigrette indicate that the piece was produced most probably in a workshop from Serbia or Kosovo area. The bestial ornamentation is preferred for the Ottoman drinking bowls made of silver produced in this region, being a decoration of Byzantine inspiration, where, for example, the peacock was a common symbol linked to the paradise garden. Another *sorguç* decorated with animals (four lions), very similar in shape and style with the aigrette from Urziceni, is preserved in the collections of the National Museum of Hungary³⁴. The hat ornament weights 15.15 g, has a diameter of 51.70 mm and a total height of 68.80 mm.

The ring from the Răsuceni hoard impresses through its massiveness (inventory number 348224; Pl. 3, fig. 22). This jewelry made of gilded silver consists of a hoop and elevated chaton (bezel) cast together. The hoop is slightly flattend, while its slightly flared shoulders form the bezel. Both the shoulders and the exterior part of the bezel are decorated with vegetal motifs. The bezel is adorned with a rectangular setting still preserving a square shaped white glass. Similar rings were found in the hoard from Sihleanu, Brăila County³⁵ and in a tomb (no. 34) from the Hobaia Suslănești necropolis³⁶. It is quite interesting the fact that the ring from Suslănești, which is also similar in dimensions with the Răsuceni ring, was found in the tomb of a noble lady, wearing gold earrings and clothes adorned with gilded silver buttons³⁷. The ring has a weight of 15.39 g, with a height of 32.80 mm and a width of 28.40 mm. The setting with the white glass has a width of 12.30 mm and a length of 11.50 mm.

The small fragments of jewelry found together with the other pieces are very intriguing, due to the fact that from the chronological perspective they seem to be produced much earlier, than the other artifacts. It can be deduced that they were part of two different pieces. The silver link might be associated with the hemstitched spherical pendant, that still preserves on its sides, parts of the original circular link decorated with filigree. This hemstitched spherical pendant adorned with granules and filigree and which is slightly flattened, is constituted of two hemispheres welded around a silver ring³⁸. On the other hand, the other two fragments represent one decorative pendant, more exactly a polyhedral mounting, with triangular faces, covered with pyramids made of granules. This type of pendant might have been attached to a circular temple earring, to a lock earring type, as the ones recovered in the Sihleanu hoard, Brăila County³⁹ and Brânceni hoard, Teleorman County⁴⁰.

The dimensions of the earring fragments are:

³² Nicolaescu-Ploșor, 1928, pp. 495-509; Romanescu, 1946, pp. 19-39.

³³ Anton-Manea, 1997, pp. 655-656.

³⁴ Anton-Manea, 1997, p. 660, fig. 8.

³⁵ Neamțu, 1980, p. 342, cat. I, fig. 1/2.

³⁶ Rosetti, 1972, p. 34, fig. 6/4, 7/3.

³⁷ Rosetti, 1972, p. 38, cat. 34.

³⁸ For examples of temple earrings decorated with hemstitched spherical pendants see Oța, 2020, pp. 181-190.

³⁹ Neamțu, 1980, p. 342, cat. III, fig. 1/5 and 1/6.

⁴⁰ Țânțăreanu, 2012, pp. 227-238.

1. Link (inventory number 348221; Pl. 3, fig. 24) – silver – weight: 1.29 g; length: 28.25 mm.
2. Hemstitched spherical pendant (inventory number 348223; Pl. 3, fig. 23) – gilded silver – weight: 4.97 g; length: 40 mm; diameter: 18.25 x 13.15 mm.
3. Fragment with two pyramids made of granules (inventory number 348220; Pl. 3, fig. 25) – silver – weight: 1.75 g; length: 20 mm; width: 10.80 mm.
4. Polyhedral pendant (inventory number 348222; Pl. 3, fig. 26) – silver – weight: 3.88 g; length: 21.75 mm x 13.65 mm x 17.80 mm; height of the pyramid: approximately 6.50 mm.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- AO – Arhivele Olteniei
- BMI – Buletinul Monumentelor Istorice
- BSNR – Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române
- CN – Cercetări Numismatice
- RESEE – Revue des Etudes Sud-Est Européennes
- RIR – Revista Istorică Română
- SCN – Studii și cercetări de numismatică

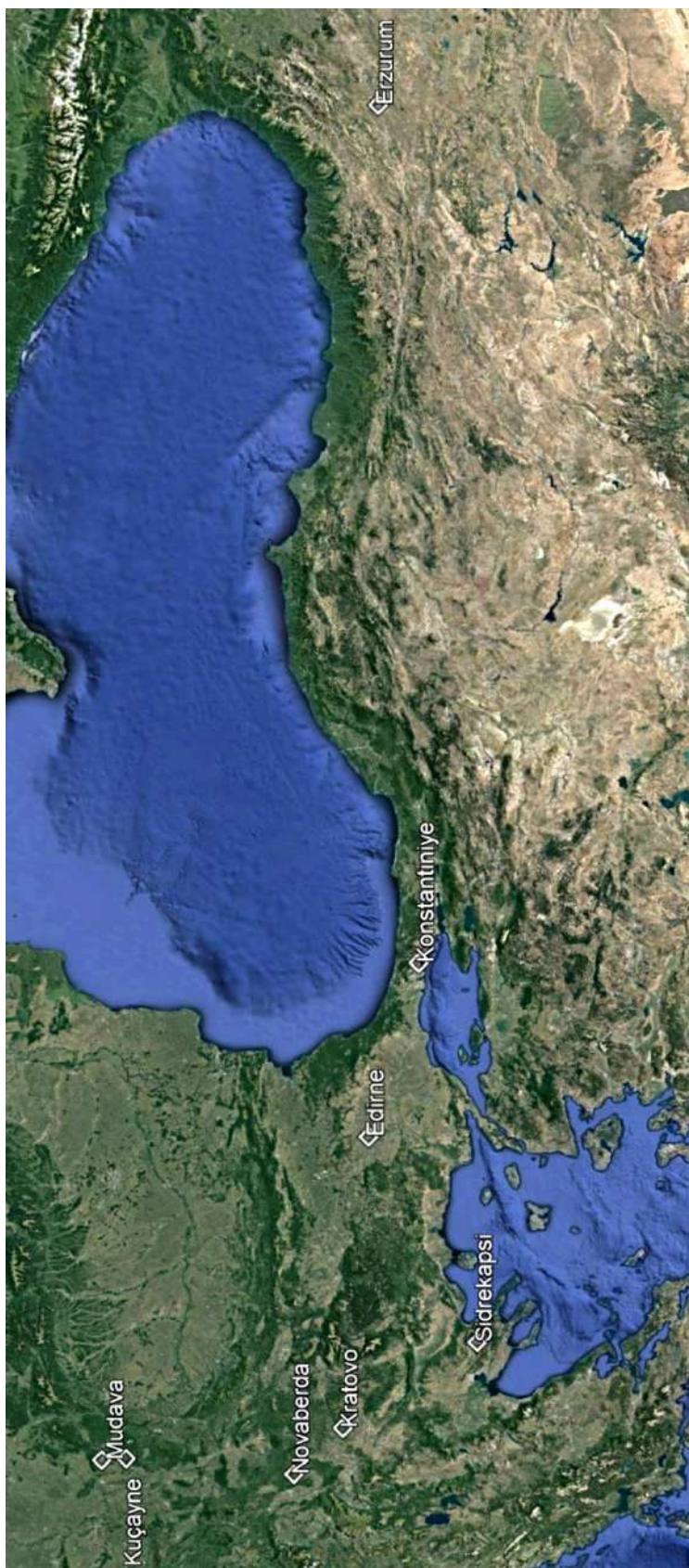
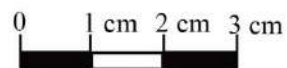


Plate 1 – Geographic distribution of the Ottoman mints identified in the Răsuceni hoard



Plate 2



21.



22.



23.



24.



25.



26.

Plate 3