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# HOARDS OF GETO-DACIAN “HUȘI-VOVRIEȘTI” TYPE COINS FOUND NEAR THE CITY OF ZHMERYNKA, VINNYTSIA OBLAST, UKRAINE

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## ABSTRACT

This article examines six hoards containing imitative coins of Macedonian tetradrachms of Philip II, found between 2016 and 2023, several kilometers east of the city of Zhmerynka, Vinnytsia Oblast, Ukraine. All six finds belong to a class of chance discovery that has emerged thanks to the wide-spread availability of metal detecting technologies. The presence of the coin hoard clusters in the historical territory of Podillia supports the idea, albeit in a limited fashion, that monetary circulation extended into this region in the 4<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BCE.

**REZUMAT: TEZAURE DE MONEDE GETO-DACICE DE TIP „HUȘI-VOVRIEȘTI” DESCOPERITE ÎN APROPIEREA ORAȘULUI ZHMERYNKA, REGIUNEA VINIȚA, UCRAINA**

Articolul examinează șase tezaure care conțin monede-imitații ale tetradrahmelor macedonene ale lui Filip al II-lea, descoperite între 2016 și 2023, la câțiva kilometri est de orașul Zhmerynka, regiunea Vinița, Ucraina. Toate cele șase tezaure aparțin categoriei de descoperiri întâmplătoare care a apărut datorită disponibilității pe scară largă a tehnologiilor de detectare a metalelor. Prezența grupurilor de tezaure de monede pe teritoriul istoric al Podiliei susține ideea, deși într-un mod limitat, că circulația monetară s-a extins în această regiune în secolele IV-I î.Hr.

**KEYWORDS:** Podillia, ancient coinage, imitative coinage, Huși-Vovriești coinage, Ukrainian Forest-Steppe, monetary circulation, hoards.

**CUVINTE CHEIE:** Podillia, monedă antică, monedp-imitație, monedă Huși-Vovriești, silvostepa ucraineană, circulație monetară, tezaure.

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## General overview of “Huși-Vovriești” type coins

Huși-Vovriești type coins derive their name from two hoards. The first was found outside Huși in 1864, in the county of Vaslui in Romania.<sup>1</sup> The second was found at Vovriești (also in Romania, also in the county of Vaslui) in 1960.<sup>2</sup> All share certain features, being imitations of a posthumous issue of Philip II, and are characterized by countermarks and frequent cuts on the reverse (the purpose of which we will discuss). Within the broad type, two variants emerge. The Huși hoard has come to represent one of these, being made up of high-quality imitative coins, with legible text/countermarkings, relatively few cuts, and high fineness.<sup>3</sup> Others are of lower-quality, with illegible or nonsensical text/countermarkings, more cuts, and lower fineness. While the distinction between the two is fluid, the Vovriești coins are representative of the latter.

Defining any clear internal taxonomy of Huși-Vovriești coinage is difficult, particularly because of the sheer number of coins that have been discovered in Central and Eastern European coin hoards. A bare majority of hoards (60%) with coins of the Huși-Vovriești type were found in the historical region of Moldavia, which includes the territory of north-eastern Romania and the Republic of Moldova.<sup>4</sup> The overall share of coins (versus hoards) found

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<sup>1</sup> Munteanu and Chiriac 2016. The hoard is discovered in 1868, but nothing is published until Moisil 1920. Subsequent scholarship proceeds from Moisil, and scholars would only delve further into the hoard’s archival and photographic history in the 1980s. See: Știrbu 1980, 169 n.15.

<sup>2</sup> Preda 1966.

<sup>3</sup> The case is made effectively by Munteanu and Chiriac in a recent survey of the Huși-Vovriești type coinage. See: Munteanu and Chiriac 2016, 549-550.

<sup>4</sup> Munteanu and Chiriac provide the most comprehensive recent survey of these finds. All large scale observations about Huși-Vovriești in this overview derive from their study. See: Munteanu and Chiriac 2016.

in Moldavia is even higher, standing at roughly 84%. The rest were discovered in Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine—either as a part of larger hoards or as single-finds. In total, up to now, we know of 1,212 such coins.

The literature on this coin type is considerable, and focuses on several pressing questions.

### When were they minted?

The first is chronology. When were these coins minted? They are imitations of a posthumous tetradrachm issue of Philip II, with the originals dated by *communis opinio* to 323–315 BCE and most likely minted at Amphipolis.<sup>5</sup> They retain many of the monograms, sigla, and other secondary symbols of those coins, though many have been obliterated by cuts and countermarks.<sup>6</sup> This means that the lower limit on the production of Huși-Vovriești type coins is the late fourth century. The question has become how much later they might have been minted.

“Low” chronological positions argue a production date roughly in the late 4<sup>th</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> century, shortly after the official posthumous tetradrachms were minted at Amphipolis.<sup>7</sup> “High” chronological positions point instead to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century, as late as 150–100 BCE.<sup>8</sup>

On the high side, Preda was perhaps most influential, formulating his position on the basis of a correspondence between the distribution of Huși-Vovriești type coins and the rough extent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century Poinesti-Lukashivka culture, often associated with the Bastarnae who inhabited the region north-east of Roman Dacia.<sup>9</sup> And although Moisil, in 1920, staked out a low chronological position, the high position became common after the early 1970s.

The high position was strongly challenged in the 1990s, largely on account of several discoveries that provided useful material context for dating. Levinschi, for instance, focusing on the Stolnicieni Hoard, argues that Huși-Vovriești type coins ought to be dated to the late 4<sup>th</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> century, based primarily on the vessel in which they were found.<sup>10</sup> He does so on the basis of the pottery typology/chronology of Emil Moscalu, with the Stolnicieni Hoard vessel corresponding to Type 14, Variant D, belonging roughly to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE.<sup>11</sup>

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the consensus seems to be coalescing on the low chronology—in particular tipping it into the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, rather than 4<sup>th</sup>. Common to lines of argument around a low date include the discovery of Huși-Vovriești type coins alongside objects of earlier vintage. Babeș identifies 14 Huși-Vovriești type coins among the remains of the Bunesti-Averasti fortress in northwest Romania—judging (alongside the other materials) that they are a 3<sup>rd</sup> century issue.<sup>12</sup> Spânu has come to a similar conclusion about the date, relating a batch of Huși-Vovriești type coins to Thracian fibulae discovered in the same hoard, found in Epurenia, Romania.<sup>13</sup> Even more specifically, there is some reason to suspect an early 3<sup>rd</sup> century date. For example, Istrian coins were found in the Stolnicieni Hoard alongside Huși-Vovriești type coins: combining this observation with new accounts of Istrian silver coin chronology indicates a probable date in the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century.<sup>14</sup>

On the other hand, regarding a high chronological position, no new contributions seem to have appeared. At the moment, this is where the chronological debate stands.

### Who minted them?

The question of who minted the Huși-Vovriești type coins is likewise complicated, with a significant range in scholarly positions. It does not make sense to deal with any one theory in-depth, because the positions are all based on extensive discussion, some of which overlaps with the question of chronology. Some scholars, like Preda, have advanced more than one position. Instead, we may simply say that the list of candidates

<sup>5</sup> Le Rider 1977, 120-124. Troxell 1997, 95 ff.

<sup>6</sup> Sigla (located on the reverse, under the horse) include a lambda, lambda/torch, dolphin, laurel branch with two twigs, and a semicircle. The monograms (also on the reverse, between the horse's front legs) include an eta, lambda, kappa, or mu. Sigla like a star, flower, lightning bolt, or globe also appear between the legs of the horse. See: Munteanu and Chiriac 2016, 54

<sup>7</sup> The “low” position was put forward as early as 1920 by Moisil. See: Moisil 1920; Sova-Gimitrov 1961; Levinschi 1999.

<sup>8</sup> Severeano 1935; Preda 1973; Mihăilescu-Bîrliba 1990.

<sup>9</sup> Preda 1973, 127.

<sup>10</sup> Levinschi 1999.

<sup>11</sup> Moscalu 1983, 79, pl. LIX/16.

<sup>12</sup> Babeș 2001, 525–526.

<sup>13</sup> Spânu 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Dima 2013 ; Dima 2014. This was true also of a hoard found at Rezeni, with similar implications for dating. See: Topal et al. 2017.

includes Thracians living south of the Danube,<sup>15</sup> Geto-Dacians,<sup>16</sup> Celto-Bastarnae,<sup>17</sup> eastern Celts,<sup>18</sup> and the Scordisci.<sup>19</sup> Here, a recent overview of the evidence, by Munteanu and Chiriac, does not take sides.<sup>20</sup>

### Countermarks and cuts

Another theme in scholarship on the Huși-Vovriești type coinage has to do with a series of countermarks—often semi-circular or trefoil shapes applied by a die—that frequently appear on the reverse side of coins. As we noted, these appear less frequently on coins in certain hoards (those of the Huși Hoard, for example, have very few). But they appear commonly in others.

From the 1970s onward, the most common interpretation of these was that they were simple decorations.<sup>21</sup> This has since been contested. Wartenberg & Kagan, for instance, argue that the countermarks had a practical function. According to them, the countermarks relate to the activities of some authority in the region to monitor silver content of the Huși-Vovriești type coins.<sup>22</sup>

Another major characteristic of Huși-Vovriești type coins are frequent cuts and incisions found on the reverse side of many coins. They seem to have been applied to these coins in a systematic (or at least patterned) manner, probably after the countermarks.<sup>23</sup> In most cases, those doing the cutting avoided damaging the primary image of horse and rider, although associated sigla and monograms were not spared. This stands in contrast to similar cases in Hellenistic cities, where any such cutting (typically to test the quality of silver) would likely be applied to the face of the monarch on the obverse, largely because this was the part of the coin with the most relief.

The question, then, is why these coins were cut in this way. One position is that the cuts performed an administrative function, similar to other contemporary cases in other parts of the ancient world.<sup>24</sup> Another is that they held some religious significance,<sup>25</sup> or that they performed a simple decorative function.<sup>26</sup> It is not clear that a consensus on this question, or on the precise function of the countermarks, exists or will be reached anytime soon. It is interesting however that scholars who differ on the question of dating (Preda and Levinschi, for example) might be of like mind on the question of markings, indicating no hard or fast relationship between the positions.

### Discoveries of Huși-Vovriești type coins on the territory of Podillia and monetary circulation in the region

We have already noted that the distribution of Huși-Vovriești type tetradrachms is significant, with many such finds being recorded in Ukraine. These tetradrachms turn out to be most commonly found in the forest-steppe territories west of the Dnipro River, towards Central Europe and the basins of the Dniester and Bug rivers—that is, in the notional region that scholars designate “Podillia.” And this makes perfect sense, if we consider that the main region that one finds such coins is in the Republic of Moldova, which neighbors Podillia.

In surveying hoards found in Vinnytsia containing coins of the Huși-Vovriești type, readers should note that Vinnytsia is an Oblast (an administrative unit of the Ukrainian state, often translated as “province”) located inside the more amorphous historical region of Podillia. With respect to published hoards, there are eleven such coin finds—with seven coming from Vinnytsia, specifically. These hoards were discovered, respectively, in six different locations:

1. Near the village of Petrashivka, in the Haisan district (a hoard primarily containing copper coins of Olbia and Tyras).
2. Near the village of Yaltushkiv, in the Zhmeryn district (two hoards—a hoard containing mostly Bosporan copper coins, and a small hoard of Istrian “wheel” coinage).

<sup>15</sup> Moasil 1920; Sova-Gimitrov 1961; Levinschi 2004.

<sup>16</sup> Preda 1966.

<sup>17</sup> Preda 1973; Popović 1980; Mikołajczyk 1984; Ujes 2002; Rudnicki 2003; Mihăilescu-Bîrlița 1990.

<sup>18</sup> Pink 1974.

<sup>19</sup> Wartenberg and Kagan 1999.

<sup>20</sup> They do however make the curious claim that “At the moment, this is the most solid interpretation that also belongs to Preda 1973...”. It is not clear whether they consider it the most solid interpretation, overall, or merely the most solid put forward by Preda. See: Munteanu and Chiriac 2016, 550 n62.

<sup>21</sup> Preda 1973; Pink 1974.

<sup>22</sup> In their case, the hoard in question likely came from Serbia or western Romania. See: Wartenberg and Kagan 1999, 406-407.

<sup>23</sup> Pink 1974; Wartenberg and Kagan 1999.

<sup>24</sup> Most scholars in the administrative school focus on the verification of metal content. See: Winkler 1955; Preda 1973; Popović 1983; Allen 1987; Wartenberg and Kagan 1999; Levinschi 1999; Spănu 2014. Wartenberg and Kagan, in particular, point to the possibility of the cuts and countermarks in tracking the circulation of the coinage.

<sup>25</sup> Forrer 1908; Moasil 1920; Severeano 1935; Mihăilescu-Bîrlița 1990; Părpăuță 2006.

<sup>26</sup> Pink 1974.

3. Near the village of Kosharyntsi, in the Zhmeryn district (a small hoard consisting mostly of Olbian “Borysthenes”).
4. Between the cities of Sharhorod and Zhmerynka, in the Zhmeryn district (a small hoards of Huși-Vovriești type coins).
5. Near the village of Krasne, in the now-defunct district of Tyvriv (a hoard mostly of silver drachms of Tyras and of Istria).
6. Near the village of Yavorivka, in the now-defunct district of Pischansky (a hoard mostly of silver drachms of Istria)

Hoards containing Huși-Vovriești type tetradrachms have also been recorded in the neighboring Khmelnytsky Oblast—specifically near the villages of Dunaivtsi (in the now-defunct Dunayevets district) and Zhvanets (in the district of Kamianets-Podilskyi).<sup>27</sup> Regarding the hoards within Podillia specifically, with respect to individual coins and their issuers, the largest category consists, first, of Huși-Vovriești type coins (18.64%) and second, of coins from the Black Sea Greek colony of Olbia (16.95%).<sup>28</sup>

Numismatic evidence indicates that trade in the north Black Sea region, more or less from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BCE, flowed primarily through Olbia—and this was especially true in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. Coins from Greek cities in the northern Black Sea flowed into this region as a function of the Black Sea-Dniester section of the eastern amber route.<sup>29</sup> The southwestern zone of this trade—linking the Baltic coast to 6<sup>th</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> century Podillia, then stretching down to Thrace—facilitated a northward flow of coinage not only from western Black Sea Greeks, Thracians, and Geto-Dacians, but also Macedonians. And indeed, most discoveries of Thracian or Macedonian coins in this region date to the 4<sup>th</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BCE. It may be noted, in addition, that beyond Huși-Vovriești coinage, Celtic coins also appear—which makes sense given this region’s proximity to the Volhynia-Dniester section of the eastern amber route.<sup>30</sup>

### Hoards of “Huși-Vovriești” type coins found near the city of Zhmerynka

In addition to the published coin hoards discussed in the previous section, the authors of this article have received reliable information (confirmed by a number of sources) about a further six coin hoards discovered east of the city



Fig. 1. Map with location of the six Huși-Vovriești type coin hoards discovered between 2016 and 2023 (Basemap courtesy Stamen Maps, licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0). All were found within the square.

<sup>27</sup> Orlyk 2022

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.: 33

<sup>29</sup> Kolesnichenko 2024

<sup>30</sup> Orlyk 2023

of Zhmerynka (Figure 1). Remarkably, to our knowledge, all six contain coins exclusively of the Huși-Vovriești coin type.

According to one local historian, a hoard of Huși-Vovriești type coins was discovered on the northern banks of small, high-sloped river in 2016, within the square indicated in Figure 1 (we withhold more exact locations in the interest of protecting the findspots from looting). Besides this, another similar hoard was found about 100 meters away. Unfortunately, the two hoards' contents were intermingled by their discoverers, and for this reason, our summary (Table 1) treats both together. According to information provided by the source, more than fifty coins were discovered. We obtained photographs and weights for forty-one coins in this complex (Table 1; Plate 1).

Table 1. List of coins found in 2016 (hoards 1-2) near Zhmerynka

#	Description	Diam. (mm)	Wt (g)
1	<b>Thrace AR. Tetrdrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Realistic head of Zeus and laurel wreath, facing right Rev.: Stylized Olympic horseman with palm branch, facing right Coin has three cuts and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.1)	26	13.12
2	<b>Thrace AR. Tetrdrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has two cuts. (Plate I.2)	29	13.37
3	<b>Thrace AR. Tetrdrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and one countermark on the obverse and an uncertain number of countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.3)	27	12.91
4	<b>Thrace AR. Tetrdrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and four countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.4)	Unknown	Unknown
5	<b>Thrace AR. Tetrdrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has two cuts. (Plate I.5)	27	13.40
6	<b>Thrace AR. Tetrdrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut. (Plate I.6)	25	13.66
7	<b>Thrace AR. Tetrdrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and one countermark on the obverse and three countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.7)	26	13.03
8	<b>Thrace AR. Tetrdrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.8)	24	12.91
9	<b>Thrace AR. Tetrdrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has three cuts and one countermark on the reverse (Plate I.9)	25.5	12.90

#	Description	Diam. (mm)	Wt (g)
10	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has three cuts. (Plate I.10)	26.5	13.07
11	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has two cuts. (Plate I.11)	24	13.23
12	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar, facing left Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.12)	24	13.19
13	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar, facing right Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut. (Plate I.13)	26	12.03
14	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar, facing right Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has two cuts and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.14)	25	12.26
15	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has two cuts. (Plate I.15)	25.5	13.03
16	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.16)	26.5	13.32
17	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has one cut, one hole, and two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.17)	23.5	9.93
18	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar (image not preserved) Coin has one cut on the reverse, two cuts and three countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.18)	24	13.15
19	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has one cut and two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.19)	24	13.18
20	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right (Plate I.20)	25	13.88
21	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.21)	26	12.65

#	Description	Diam. (mm)	Wt (g)
22	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and three countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.22)	24	11.83
23	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has two cuts. (Plate I.23)	25.5	12.91
24	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar, facing left Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has one cut. (Plate I.24)	25.5	11.94
25	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar, facing right Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has one cut. (Plate I.25)	26.5	14.26
26	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.26)	25	13.11
27	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut. (Plate I.27)	Unknown	13.92
28	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has one cut and four countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.28)	Unknown	14.08
29	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has one cut and two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.29)	25	13.26
30	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.30)	Unknown	12.62
31	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.31)	26	11.92
32	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has a detached fragment, and also two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.32)	27×19	9.91

#	Description	Diam. (mm)	Wt (g)
33	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has two cuts and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.33)	26	13.00
34	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.34)	26	12.13
35	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar, facing left Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.35)	25	12.90
36	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar, facing right Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.36)	Unknown	12.60
37	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.37)	Unknown	Unknown
38	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coins has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate I.38)	25	13.78
39	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has three cuts, and is split into two fragments. (Plate I.39)	25	13.21
40	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has one cut and two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.40)	26	11.35
41	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has one countermark on the obverse, one cut and two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate I.41)	23.5	13.21

In 2019, in the forest behind the field in which the first two hoards were discovered, another Huși-Vovriești type hoard emerged, containing approximately thirty-six coins. Of these, we were able to examine features of six intact coins and one coin fragment (Table 2, Plate II).

In 2020, another hoard of Huși-Vovriești type coins was discovered about 800 meters from the location of the 2019 find, in the direction of the 2016 find. We were able to examine six examples of the hoard (Table 3, Plate III).

In 2023, two further hoards of Huși-Vovriești type coins were discovered in the same area. We were able to obtain information on one coin hoard in the form of photographs and details about their weights (Table 4, Plate IV). The second hoard, however, went unphotographed: we know only that there were approximately twenty such coins.

Table 2. List of coins found in 2019 near Zhmerynka

#	Description	Diam. (mm)	Wt (g)
1	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Realistic head of Zeus and laurel wreath, facing right Rev.: Stylized Olympic horseman with palm branch, facing right Coin has two cuts. (Plate II.1)	24	12.73
2	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has two cuts and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate II.2)	28	12.74
3	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one countermark on the obverse and one cut on the reverse. (Plate II.3)	25	12.41
4	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and three countermarks on the reverse. (Plate II.4)	Unknown	13.10
5	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and three countermarks on the reverse. (Plate II.5)	Unknown	13.29
6	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coins has two cuts on the reverse. (Plate II.6)	29	13.34
7	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Fragment of a coin (Plate II.7)	14×6.5	Unknown

Table 3. List of coins found in 2020 near Zhmerynka

#	Description	Diam. (mm)	Wt (g)
1	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Realistic head of Zeus and laurel wreath, facing right Rev.: Stylized Olympic horseman with palm branch, facing right Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate III.1)	26	12.84
2	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate III.2)	25	12.98
3	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has one cut and two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate III.3)	25	11.95
4	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate III.4)	Unknown	Unknown

#	Description	Diam. (mm)	Wt (g)
5	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate III.5)	25	12.31
6	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has two countermarks on the reverse. (Plate III.6)	27	13.77

Table 4. List of coins found hoard 2023 near Zhmerynka

#	Description	Diam. (mm)	Wt (g)
1	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Realistic head of Zeus and laurel wreath, facing right Rev.: Stylized Olympic horseman with palm branch, facing right Coin has two cuts. (Plate IV.1)	26	9.79
2	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has one cut and one countermark on the obverse. (Plate IV.2)	26	12.61
3	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has two cuts and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate IV.3)	27	12.66
4	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coins has one cut and six countermarks on the reverse. (Plate IV.4)	26	12.12
5	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate IV.5)	26	13.25
6	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has two cuts and one countermark on the obverse, one countermark on the reverse. (Plate IV.6)	25	13.26
7	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has three cuts and three countermarks on the reverse. (Plate IV.7)	25	12.79
8	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coin has one cut and loose fragment. (Plate IV.8)	25	11.96
9	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has two cuts. (Plate IV.9)	27	13.57

#	Description	Diam. (mm)	Wt (g)
10	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing left Coins has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate IV.10)	26	12.94
11	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has two cuts on the reverse. (Plate IV.11)	27	12.70
12	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar, facing right Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate IV.12)	28	13.56
13	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has one cut and one countermark on the reverse. (Plate IV.13)	Unknown	Unknown
14	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Obv.: Similar Rev.: Similar Coin has a loose fragment, and three countermarks on the reverse. (Plate IV.14)	26	10.15
15	<b>Thrace AR. Tetradrachm of the Huși-Vovriești type</b> Fragment of a coin (Plate IV.15)	12×23	5.06

Examining the hoards, we discovered numerous countermarks of several different types (see Figures 2 and 3). This includes unique overstrikes that appear only once (Figure 3), as well as ones that appear repeatedly (Figure 2). The most common of these is No. 4 on Figure 2, which occurs at least eleven times (for a more detailed accounting of the countermark distribution, see Figure 4). It should be noted that, in tallying repeat overstrikes, we have identified as identical some symbols that bear minor differences, or which are only partially imprinted, but whose common morphological features led us to believe that they were the same symbol.

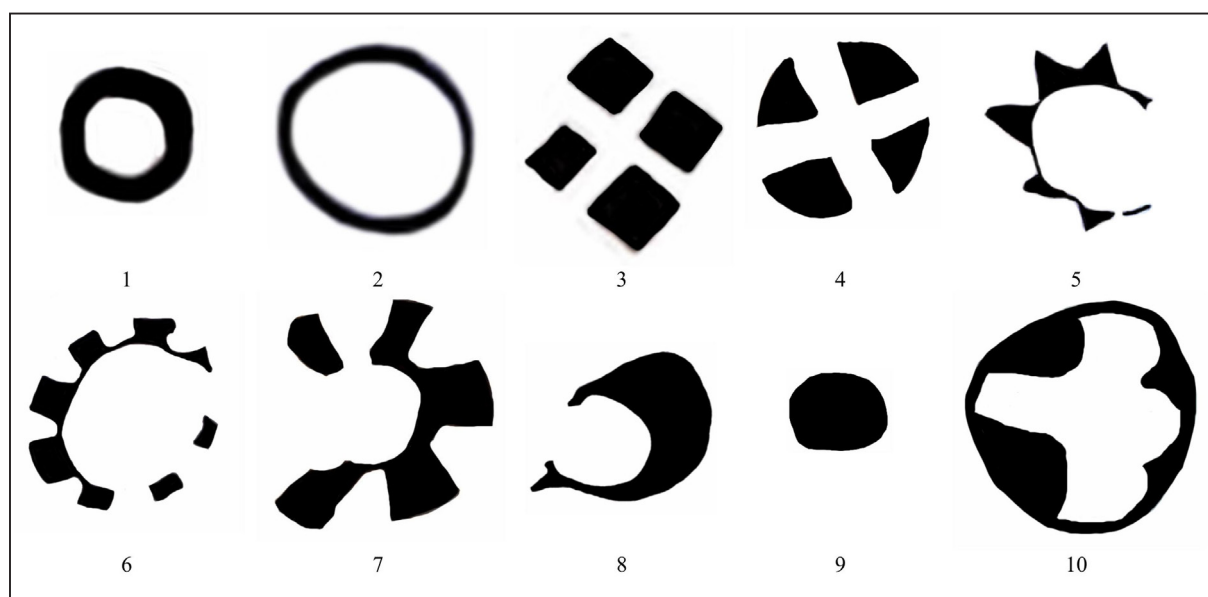


Figure 2. Repeating countermarks.

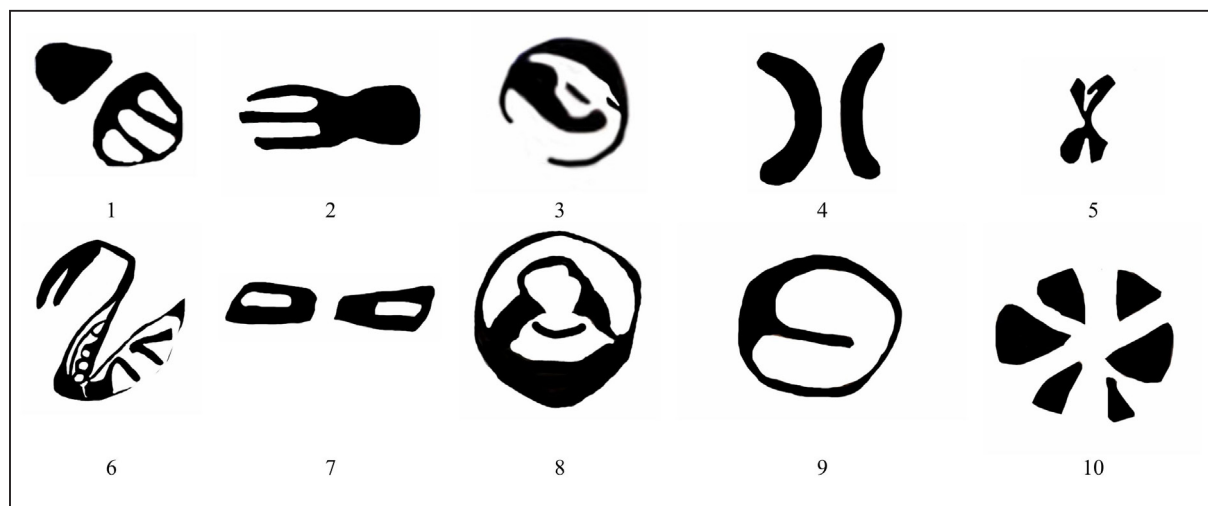


Figure 3. Unique countermarks.

Sadly, a high-quality analysis of these countermarks, which would have confirmed whether the same punches were used in the case of near-identical symbols, proved impossible because we were limited to two-dimensional images. Still, further study of these countermarks will be very important, and it may help us to understand their origin and intended function.

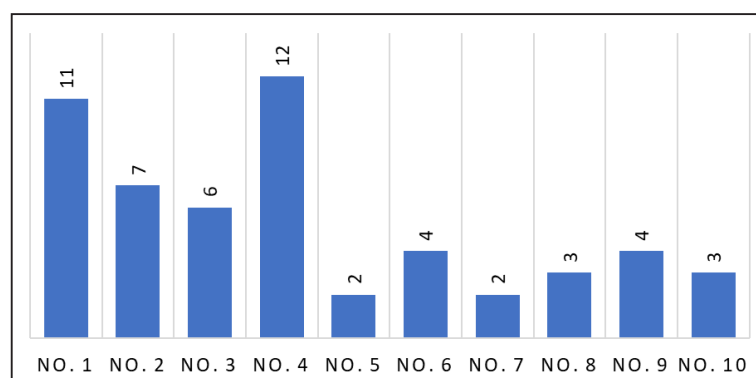


Fig. 4. Count of repeating countermarks  
(The ID numbers correspond to those in Figure 2).

## Conclusion

Several kilometers east of the city of Zhmerynka, in the Oblast of Vinnytsia, there were discovered between 2016 and 2023 six coin hoards that included coins of the Huși-Vovriești type—that is, imitative tetradrachms of Philip II. All six were chance finds, coming to light thanks to the increasingly widespread availability of metal detecting instruments. Unfortunately, all of them lack archaeological context—and due to the invasion and ongoing war launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in February of 2022, the authors have been unable to investigate in any detail the context from which these hoards emerged. Archaeological remains found around these hoards fail to shed much light, since they consist of a cross section of pottery ranging from the Trypillya-Kukuten culture (5050–2950 BCE) to the Chernyakov period (2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> centuries CE). For this reason, absent a detailed archaeological study of these sites, it is impossible to shed further light on the origin of these hoards. Still, there is utility merely in being able to fix the location of these hoards to a narrow place.

In studying the distribution of ancient coin finds (especially in the context of monetary circulation), considerable weight should be placed on sites where not only single coin finds, but hoards too, can be found together. The city of Zhmerynka, Vinnytsia Oblast, in the region of Podillia, seems to be one such place, since six hoards of Huși-Vovriești type coins have emerged near there, seemingly in a very short span of time. Of course, it is crucial that such find clusters be diligently entered into inventories and databases.<sup>31</sup> Further scholarly work on this topic will rely on contextualizing these finds within the broader ancient economic and numismatic scholarship, not only on Huși-Vovriești coinage, but on Greek and non-Greek coinage circulating through the regions of Moldavia and Podillia between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BCE. The existence of the coin find clusters discussed in this article, for example, at very least supports (albeit still in limited fashion) the existence of monetary circulation in the region during this period. Further conclusions will require more analysis.

<sup>31</sup> Pyzyk, 2024

## Acknowledgements.

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### Lista figurilor

Figura 1. Hartă localizării celor șase tezaure de monede de tip Huși-Vovriești descoperite între 2016 și 2023 (Hartă de bază oferită de Stamen Maps, licențiată sub CC BY-NC-SA 4.0). Toate tezaurele au fost descoperite în interiorul pătratului.

Figura 2. Contramărci repetitive.

Figura 3. Contramărci unicat.

Fig. 4. Numărul contrmărcilor repetitive (numerele de identificare corespund celor din Figura 2).

### Lista planșelor

Planșa I. Monede descoperite în 2016 (tezaurele 1-2) lângă Zhmerynka

Planșa II. Monede din tezaurul din 2019 descoperit lângă Zhmerynka

Planșa III. Monede din tezaurul din 2020 descoperit lângă Zhmerynka

Planșa IV. Monede din tezaurul din 2023 descoperit lângă Zhmerynka

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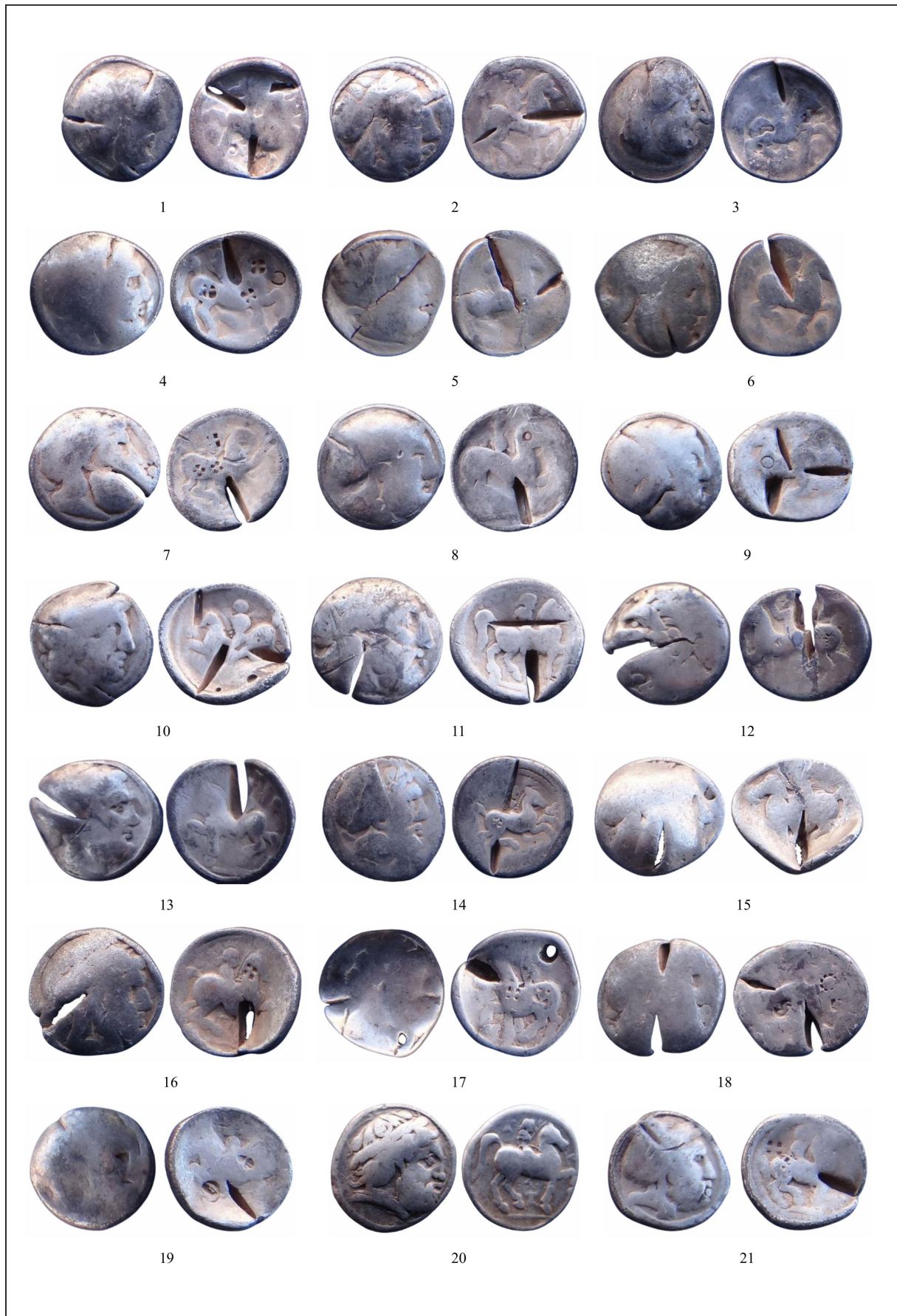


Plate I. Coin hoards (hoard 1-2) found 2016 near Zhmerynka

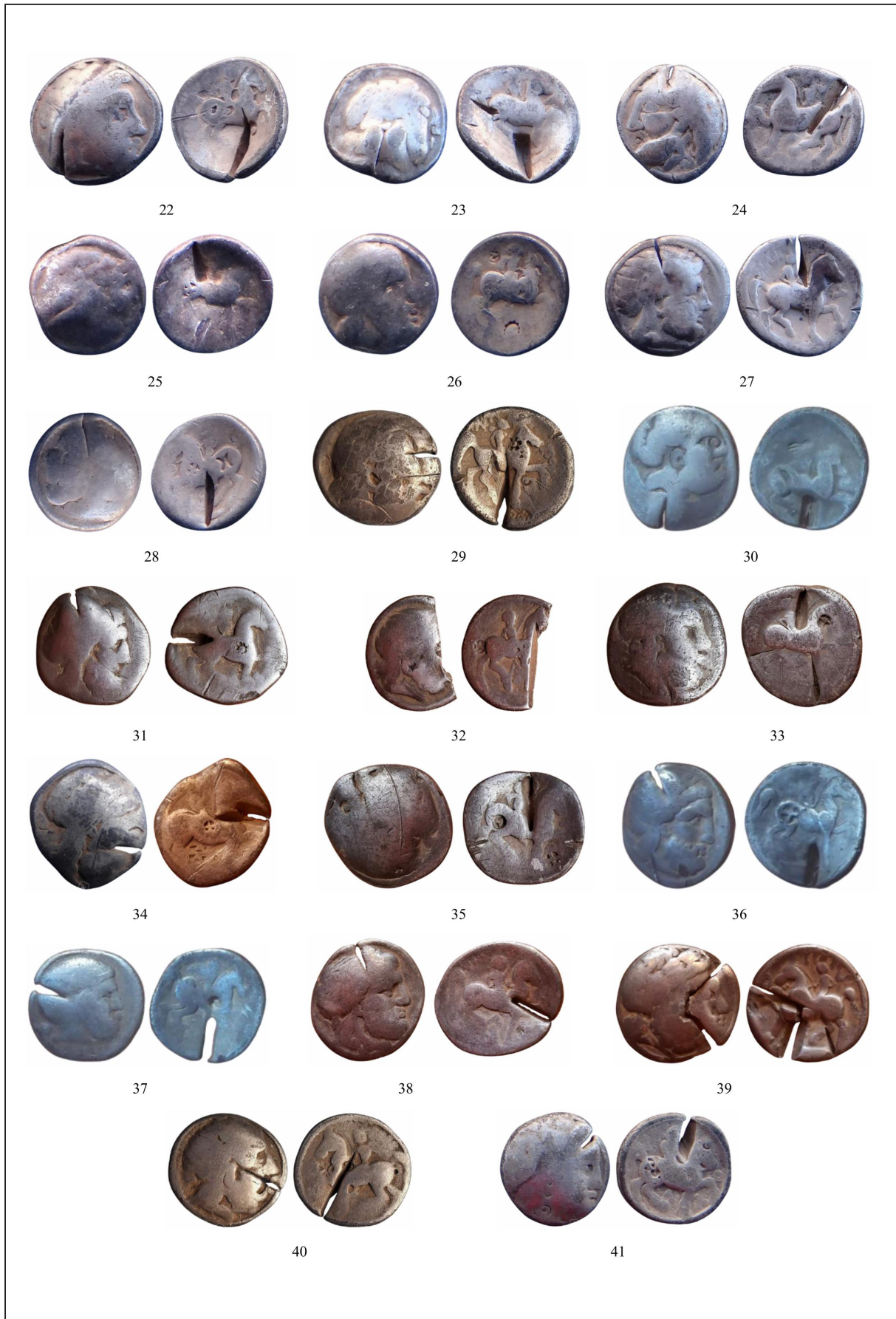


Plate I (continuation). Coin hoards found 2016 (hoard 1-2) near Zhmerynka



*Plate II. Coin hoard found 2019 near Zhmerynka*



*Plate III. Coin hoard found 2020 near Zhmerynka*



*Plate IV. Coin hoard found 2023 near Zhmerynka*