

A COLLECTION OF BYZANTINE COINS FROM SCYTHIA

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Recently I had the opportunity to study a collection of 108 Byzantine coins brought to the National History Museum of Romania by a collector claiming that the coins were found in Dobrudja, the Late Roman province of Scythia. The structure of the collection fits the pattern observed in the numerous fortresses of the province where a significant number of early Byzantine coins were found during archaeological excavations and surveys (Gândilă 2008; Gândilă 2003-2005; Custurea 2004-2005). It will be shown below that the chronological sequence of dated copper issues, as well as the proportion of mints and denominations, are characteristic to the Lower Danubian milieu. Therefore, it will be possible to conclude that the coins described in the catalogue were found mostly if not all on the territory of the former province of Scythia.

Most of the coins appear to be stray finds except for a number of small denominations, which seem to be part of a hoard and will be discussed separately. The collection itself is unevenly divided into early, 6th-7th century (95 coins) and later Byzantine issues, 9th-11th century (13 coins), and therefore the central analysis will focus on the early issues covering the period Anastasius – Heraclius. However, one should not overlook the presence of a rare Michael I follis as sole ruler (cat. 96) the first specimen of this sort found in Scythia to my knowledge (Custurea 2000 90, table1; Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1996 107). Beside the 108 coins, the collection includes a bronze weight of four solidi, a scarce artifact in the Lower Danube area (cat 109) (Minchev 2008; Torbatov 2002 146-7; Torbatov 2001 46-8; Vladimirova 1985; Ocheșeanu 1984).

The lack of precise information concerning the finding place can be compensated by an internal analysis and by means of comparison with the numismatic material available from the region. A number of arguments presented below lead to the hypothesis that most of the coins can be localized to a place or a number of places close to the sea coast. The classification based on the presence of different mints in the collection ranks Thessalonica below Nicomedia, which is characteristic to the settlements close to the seacoast. Except for Tomis (Isvoranu, Poenaru Bordea 2003 155-8), other important centers close to the sea shore, such as Argamum (Iacob, Poenaru Bordea 2000 791), Callatis (Poenaru Bordea and Alii 1998 102), Accres Castellum (Parušev 1991 32-6), Mesembria (Theoklieva-Stoytcheva 2001), Ahtopol (Iordanov and Alii 1998 71-4), as well as the collection of the Museum in Constantza (Poenaru Bordea and Alii 2004) provide more coins from Nicomedia than Thessalonica. Conversely, as one moves away to the west, the mint of Thessalonica becomes more and more present among finds. The difference can be noted even within the province of Scythia; some of the most important fortresses on the Danube such as Noviodunum, Carsium, and Sacidava (Gândilă 2003-2005 130-144) provide an important number of coins minted in Thessalonica. However, one notable exception in this respect is Capidava (Gândilă 2006-2007 110).

Another factor pointing to the same hypothesis regarding the finding place is the structure of denominations. There is an unusual number of pentanummia and decanummia present in the collection, a situation found almost exclusively in the major urban centers on the Black Sea coast, as testified by coin finds from Tomis (Isvoranu, Poenaru Bordea 2003 155-8).

Ahtopol (Iordanov and Alii 1998 75). In the center of the province and along the Danube most of the finds are comprised of folles and half-folles, with the notable exception of Ibida, which is also the largest inland town of the province (Iacob 2009 70, table IV)

The third argument would be the large number of late sixth – early seventh century issues. The only parallel can be found, again, on the sea coast, in towns such as Tomis, Callatis, Accres and even southward, at Mesembria and Ahtopol. In the rest of the province the coin flow decreased during the reign of Maurice and Phocas, while issues dated to the reign of Heraclius are quite scarce (Gândilă 2008 310). There is convincing evidence that, while the Danube sector was abandoned by the Byzantine administration, a number of settlements situated along the Black Sea coast continued to be under Byzantine control well into the seventh century (Damian 2004).

When first brought to my attention and before they were cleaned by the owner I noticed that some of the coins had a similar patina and, more importantly, all of them were small denominations spanning the reigns of Justin II to Heraclius. Below is a brief description of the coins involved, with the numbers taken from the catalogue assembled at the end of this paper:

- 38. Justin II, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Constantinople, off. A, 565-578.
- 39. Justin II, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Constantinople, off. A, 565-578.
- 41. Justin II, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Constantinople, off. Δ, 565-578.
- 42. Justin II, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Constantinople, off. Δ, 565-578.
- 44. Justin II, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Constantinople, off. Δ, 565-578.
- 45. Justin II, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Constantinople, off. +, 565-578.
- 47. Justin II, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Nicomedia, 565-578.
- 48. Justin II, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Nicomedia, 565-578.
- 59. Tiberius II, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Constantinople, 578-582.
- 80. Phocas, $\frac{1}{4}$ follis, Constantinople, 602-610.
- 81. Phocas, $\frac{1}{4}$ follis, Constantinople, 602-610.
- 84. Phocas, $\frac{1}{4}$ follis, Constantinople, 602-610.
- 83. Phocas, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Constantinople, 602-610.
- 82. Phocas, $\frac{1}{8}$ follis, Constantinople, 602-610.
- 85. Phocas, $\frac{1}{2}$ follis, Cyzic, off. A, 602-603.
- 92. Heraclius, $\frac{1}{2}$ follis, Constantinople, off. Δ, 611-612.

Eight coins are pentanummia issued in the name of Justin II, most of them from Constantinople. Their presence is not uncommon in the Lower Danubian provinces and they are found particularly in urban centers (Gândilă 2008 322). However, the later specimens from this potential hoard are very rare among single finds in Scythia. Only three decanummia and one pentanummium from Phocas have been found so far in the entire province (out of c. 3000 early Byzantine coins), close to the sea shore, at Tomis (Isvoranu and Poenaru Bordea 2003 158) and Tufani (Vertan and Alii 1999 357), and in the southern part of the province, at Odartsı (Torbatov 2002 129). In comparison, this assemblage alone contains four decanummia and one pentanummium (out of 95 coins), which is certainly an anomaly. To push the comparison even further, such coins are rare across the Empire: Sagalassos (Scheers 1995 314), Pisidian Antioch¹, and Sardis (Bates 1971 88-89) in Anatolia, and Salamis in Cyprus (Callot 2004:52-3) are among the few centers which continued to receive lower denominations, $\frac{1}{4}$ folles and even $\frac{1}{8}$ folles.

¹ I wish to thank Dr. Zeliha Demirel Gökalp from Anadolu University for allowing me to consult the unpublished catalogue of finds from Pisidian Antioch.

It should be accepted that the frontier region had an urban market less developed than the major centers of the empire in Greece, Anatolia, and the Syria-Palestine - most importantly Athens (Thompson 1954 67-76), Corinth (Edwards 1937 241-56), Sardis (Bell 1916 76-95; Bates 1971; Buttrey 1981 204-27), Antioch (Waage 1952 148-64), Berytus (Butcher 2001-2002 102-12), Caesarea Maritima (de Rose Evans 2006 180-203), and Constantinople (Hendy 1986 278-313). However, this is not a general rule applicable to all major centers; Gerasa (Bellinger 1938; Marot 1998) and Pella (Sheedy 2001 129-45) are two examples where very few lower denominations have been found so far during archaeological excavations and surveys. Among other aspects, a less developed market in Scythia means a lesser quantity of petty currency used in frequent daily transactions. The presence of many specimens of this type in the collection favors the hypothesis that we are in fact dealing with a hoard or at least part of a hoard. The assumption that what we have here is not the entire hoard can be substantiated by the fact that not even one specimen from Maurice Tiberius is included in the list, although we might have expected at least a few specimens to fill the time gap between Tiberius II and Phocas. There is, however, an analogy among the hoards from the Balkans. The hoard found at Politika Psachna in Greece has a gap corresponding to the reign of Maurice (Morrisson and Alii 2006 n. 180).

Like the rest of the collection, the hoard itself is probably originating from one of the major urban centers of the province situated on the sea coast. The large number of issues from Phocas and even Heraclius is characteristic to this area still kept under control by the Empire after the chain of fortifications along the Danube was abandoned in the first decades of the seventh century. Such a hoard of small denominations is a sign of a still functional monetary economy in the area where it was found. All coins were issued in Constantinople, Nicomedia, and Cyzic - the most common mints among early Byzantine coin finds in Scythia (Gândilă 2008 321). Consequently, there is a high chance that the coins were circulating in the region and were not brought as a group by a merchant or traveler from a more distant province of the Empire, as seems to be the case for the hoards found at Topalu (Dimian 1957 191-2) and Adamelisi (Bogdan Cătănciu, Poenaru Bordea 1996-1997 85-95). However, given its structure, an origin in Anatolia cannot be completely eliminated as a hypothesis, although the proportion of mints is slightly different in the case of some major Turkish sites and public collections such as Sardis (Bates 1971 5), Amaseia (Ireland 2000 101-109), Amasra (Ireland, Atesogullari 1996 132-35), and Side (Atlan 1976 77-93). Most significantly, the oriental mint of Antioch is generally more present among finds from Anatolia compared to the Balkans. Moreover, the lack of any coins minted in Antioch in the small hoard discussed here eliminates the possibility of an origin in the Middle East. By way of comparison, a similar hoard of smaller denominations closing in the early seventh found in the region of Aleppo in Syria contains a large number of issues from Antioch, over 50 percent of the total (Mansfield 2003). If sought outside Scythia, an origin from the circulating medium of Constantinople seems the most probable, given the structure of coin finds resulted from the excavations of Saraçhane and Kalenderhane in Istanbul (Hendy 1986; Hendy 2007) most of them being small denominations, both in single finds and hoards. In such a potential scenario a Constantinopolitan merchant or a traveller visiting one of the large centers on the Black Sea coast might have accidentally or purposefully left behind this small sum of money.

It is impossible to make any fully substantiated proposition regarding the moment when the coins were concealed and the reason behind its definitive loss by the owner. However, it should be noted that this is the second known hoard in the Balkans containing small denominations from the reign of Phocas, the other being a similar hoard found in Constantinople during the excavations at Kalenderhane (Hendy 2007 274, hoard T). Judging by

its closing date, at the beginning of Heraclius' reign, the small accumulation found in Scythia can be associated chronologically with other hoards in the Balkans ending during the same years, such as the ones found at Caričin Grad (613), Varna (614) (Lazarenko 1998-1999), Sofia (615), Politika-Psachna (616), and Solomos (620) (Morrison and Alii 2006). The presence of such hoards has been primarily ascribed to the military operations initiated by the Slavs and the Avars in the second decade of the seventh century (Morrison and Alii 2006). It would be tempting to follow the same explanation for our small deposit, but the rather insignificant total value of the coins involved, representing 165 nummia (i.e. a little over three folles) prevents us from making any assumptions in that direction. Indeed, more significant is the very presence of such a unique hoard of small denominations in a peripheral region and at a time when they were becoming extremely scarce throughout the empire.

CATALOGUE

- | | |
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| 1. Anastasius I
AE ↓ 14.14g, 34.9x33mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIBE 27, y. 512-517. | ½ follis, Constantinople, off. €
MIBE 19, 522-527. |
| 2. Anastasius I
AE ↓ 16.78g, 32x31.2mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. B
MIBE 27, y. 512-517. | 9. Justin I
AE ↓ 2.29g, 13mm
⅛ follis, Nicomedia
MIBE 46, y. 522-527. |
| 3. Anastasius I
AE ↓ 16.24g, 32.7x31.2mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. €
MIBE 27, y. 512-517. | 10. Justin I / Justinian I
AE ↓ 1.67g, 12mm
⅛ follis, Constantinople
MIBE 32 or 93, y. 522-538. |
| 4. Anastasius I
AE ↓ 7.33g, 26.3x25.8mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. A
MIBE 33, y. 512-517. | 11. Justinian I
AE ↘ 13.80g, 30x29mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIBE 84, y. 527-537. |
| 5. Justin I
AE ↓ 17.63g, 31.7x30.7mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIBE 11, y. 518-522. | 12. Justinian I
AE ↓ 7.76g, 22.15x20.75mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIBE 90, y. 527-537. |
| 6. Justin I
AE ↓ 14.43g, 31.5x28.5mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. A
MIBE 12, y. 522-527. | 13. Justinian I
AE ↙ 8.74g, 26.5x22.8mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIBE 90, y. 527-537. |
| 7. Justin I
AE ↘ 16.24g, 30.2mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIBE 12, y. 522-527. | 14. Justinian I
AE ↖ 6.42g, 21.1x20.1mm
½ follis, Constantinople
MIBE 90, y. 527-537. |
| 8. Justin I
AE ↓ 7.24g, 26.3x25mm | 15. Justinian I
AE ↑ 22.67g, 40.3x39.7mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. €
MIBE 95a, y. 541-542. |

16. Justinian I
AE ↓ 3.88g, 20.5mm
¼ follis, Constantinople
MIBE 99, y. 542-543.
17. Justinian I
AE ∟ 18.06g, 31.2x30.7mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. A
MIBE 95a, y. 544-545.
18. Justinian I
AE ↓ 17.18g, 35.5x34.8mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. E
MIBE 95a, y. 544-545.
19. Justinian I
AE ↓ 12.83g, 33.2x32.2mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIBE 95a, y. 549-550.
20. Justinian I
AE ↓ 3.33g, 21.1x19.6mm
¼ follis, Constantinople
MIBE 99, y. 549-550.
21. Justinian I
AE ↑ 3.24g, 16.7x15.2mm
¼ follis, Constantinople
MIBE 99, y. 558-559.
22. Justinian I
AE ∟ 12.86g, 32.2x29.75mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. B
MIBE 95a, y. 559-560.
23. Justinian I
AE ↑ 3.09g, 14.5x13.75mm
¼ follis, Constantinople
MIBE 99, y. 559-560.
24. Justinian I
AE → 1.38g, 13.2x12.2mm
¼ follis, Constantinople
MIBE 99, after 556.
25. Justinian I
AE ∟ 1.57g, 13.5mm
¼ follis, Constantinople
MIBE 99, y. 561-562
Barbarous style.
26. Justinian I
AE ↑ 3.95g, 18mm
¼ follis, Nicomedia
MIBE 118a, y. 558-559.
27. Justinian I
AE ↓ 21.52g, 40.6x39.8mm
Follis, Cyzic, off. A
MIBE 120a, y. 539-540.
28. Justinian I
AE ↓ 8.63g, 25.1x24.5mm
½ follis, Cyzic
MIBE 121a, 546-547.
29. Justinian I
AE ↑ 7.82g, 25.1x22.75mm
½ follis, Antioch, off. Δ
MIBE 134, y. 529-531/2.
30. Justinian I
AE ↓ 18.12g, 34.6x33.6mm
Follis, Antioch, off. Δ
MIBE 146, y. 553-554.
31. Justinian I
AE ↓ 5.72g, 24.5x22.6mm
½ follis, Thessalonica
MIBE 180, y. 563-564.
32. Justin II
AE ↓ 15.5g, 30x28mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. A
MIB II 43a, y. 566-567.
33. Justin II
AE ∟ 13.60g, 28.5x26.5mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. B
MIB II 43a, y. 567-568.
34. Justin II
AE ↓ 5.68g, 25.6x22.6mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIB II 44a, y. 567-568(?).
35. Justin II
AE ↓ 13.56g, 30.5x27.8mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. A
MIB II 43c, y. 570-571.
36. Justin II
AE ↓ 14.77g, 30x27.8mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIB II 43d, y. 570-571.
37. Justin II
AE ↗ 14.45g, 29x26mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. E
MIB II 43a, y. 570-571.

38. Justin II
 AE ↓ 1.61g, 16.25x12.25mm
 1/8 follis, Constantinople, off. A
 MIB II 45, y. 565-578.
39. Justin II
 AE ↓ 1.44g, 17.5x14.1mm
 1/8 follis, Constantinople, off. A
 MIB II 45, y. 565-578.
40. Justin II
 AE ↑ 1.79g, 14mm
 1/8 follis, Constantinople, off. B
 MIB II 45, y. 565-578.
41. Justin II
 AE ↑ 0.82g, 15x13.2mm
 1/8 follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
 MIB II 45, y. 565-578.
42. Justin II
 AE ↓ 1.54g, 13.25x12.45mm
 1/8 follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
 MIB II 45, y. 565-578.
43. Justin II
 AE ↑ 1.49g, 14.6x13.8mm
 1/8 follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
 MIB II 45, y. 565-578.
44. Justin II
 AE ↓ 1.57g, 15x13.65mm
 1/8 follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
 MIB II 45, y. 565-578.
45. Justin II
 AE ↑ 1.83g, 15.71x14.2mm
 1/8 follis, Constantinople, off. +
 MIB II 45, y. 565-578.
46. Justin II
 AE ↓ 9.84g, 31.45x26.7mm
 Follis, Nicomedia, off. A
 MIB II 46b, y. 570-571.
47. Justin II
 AE ↑ 1.84g, 13.85x12mm
 1/8 follis, Nicomedia
 MIB II 49, y. 565-578.
48. Justin II
 AE ↑ 1.34g, 12mm
 1/8 follis, Nicomedia
 MIB II 49, y. 565-578.
49. Justin II
 AE ↑ 7.33g, 20.3x19.4mm
 1/2 follis, Cyzic
 MIB II 51b, y. 573-574.
50. Justin II
 AE ↑ 6.19g, 22.5mm
 1/2 follis, Cyzic
 MIB II 51b, y. 573-574.
51. Justin II
 AE ↓ 5.28g, 25.5x17.85mm
 1/2 follis, Thessalonica
 MIB II 68, y. 568-569.
52. Justin II
 AE ↓ 4.78g, 21.3x19.3mm
 1/2 follis, Thessalonica
 MIB II 68a, y. 569-570.
53. Justin II
 AE ↓ 5.72g, 20.7x17.7mm
 1/2 follis, Thessalonica
 MIB II 68a, y. 569-570.
54. Justin II
 AE ↓ 5.41g, 23.2x20.4mm
 1/2 follis, ?
 MIB II , y. 569-570.
55. Justin II
 AE ↓ 4.18g, 23.25x19.75mm
 1/2 follis, Thessalonica, Θ+C
 MIB II 70e, y. 574-575.
56. Justin II
 AE ↓ 5.16g, 22x19.7mm
 1/2 follis, Thessalonica, M
 MIB II 70b, y. 569-578.
57. Tiberius II Constantine
 AE ↓ 16.11g, 36.5x34.6mm
 Follis, Constantinople, off. B
 MIB II 25, y. 578-579.
58. Tiberius II Constantine
 AE ↑ 7.68g, 32.2x29.75mm
 Follis, Constantinople
 MIB II 25, y. 579-580.
59. Tiberius II
 AE ↑ 1.22g, 15.2x13.8mm
 1/8 follis, Constantinople
 MIB II 33, y. 578-582.

60. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↑ 10.16g, 30.5x28.9mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. B
MIB II 67d, y. 585-586.
61. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 11.73g, 31x29mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. €
MIB II 67d, y. 586-587.
62. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 5.58g, 21.6x20.8mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. A
MIB II 70d, y. 586-587.
63. Maurice Tiberius
AE ⊥ 4.74g, 23.4x19.75mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. B
MIB II 70d, y. 588-589.
64. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↗ 3.32g, 21x19mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. B
MIB II, 70d, y. 590-591.
65. Maurice Tiberius
AE ⊥ 4.87g, 20x18mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIB II 70, after 591.
66. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 11.16g, 29.6x26.75mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. B
MIB II 67d, y. 593-594.
67. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↑ 4.91g, 23.5x21.15mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. €
MIB II 70d, y. 599-600.
68. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 9.75g, 32.6x31.6mm
Follis, Nicomedia, off. A
MIB II 75d, y. 588-589.
69. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 4.20g, 22.9x21.2mm
½ follis, Nicomedia, off. B
MIB II 80d, y. 591-592.
70. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 4.13g, 21x20mm
½ follis, Nicomedia, off. B
MIB II 80d, y. 591-592.
71. Maurice Tiberius
AE ⊥ 4.96g, 23.9x18.33mm
½ follis, Nicomedia, off. B
MIB II 80d, 596-597.
72. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 5.34g, 23.1x19.5mm
½ follis, Thessalonica
MIB II 113d, y. 586-587.
73. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 5.20g, 20.7x19.6mm
½ follis, Thessalonica
MIB II 113d, y. 587-588.
74. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 5.09g, 23.5x19.5mm
½ follis, ?
MIB II, y. 588-589.
Overstruck.
75. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 5.70g, 22.4x19mm
½ follis, Thessalonica
MIB II 113d, y. 601-602.
76. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 11.15g, 29.5mm
Follis, Antioch
MIB II 95b, y. 587-588.
77. Maurice Tiberius
AE ↓ 3.96g, 23.5x20.9mm
½ follis, ?
MIB II, 584-585.
78. Phocas
AE ⊥ 9.46g, 29.3x26.3mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. Γ
MIB II 61, y. 603-604 (?).
79. Phocas
AE ↓ 10.09g, 29.3x23.8mm
Follis, Constantinople
MIB II 61, y. 606-607
Overstruck on a follis of Maurice Tiberius,
Antioch, after 589.
80. Phocas
AE ↓ 3.45g, 19.6x16.1mm
¼ follis, Constantinople
MIB II 66, y. 602-610.
81. Phocas
AE ↓ 4.01g, 20.9x16.8mm

- ¼ follis, Constantinople
MIB II 66, y. 602-610.
82. Phocas
AE ↓ 2.89g, 20.5x17.25mm
¼ follis, Nicomedia (?)
MIB II 74b, y. 602-610
Overstruck on an earlier ½ follis
The flan was cropped to meet the weight
standard of the ¼ follis.
83. Phocas
AE ↑ 1.54g, 16.3x14.9mm
⅛ follis, Constantinople
MIB II 67, y. 602-610.
84. Phocas
AE ↑ 1.88g, 13.8x12mm
⅛ follis, Constantinople
MIB II 67, y. 602-610.
85. Phocas
AE ↓ 4.50g, 25x23mm
½ follis, Cyzic, off. A
MIB II 78, y. 602-603.
86. Phocas
AE ↓ 10.71g, 30.8x28.9mm
Follis, Cyzic, off. A
MIB II 76, y. 607-608.
87. Phocas
AE ↓ 9.62g, 32.4x28.3mm
Follis, Cyzic, off. B
MIB II 87, 607-608.
88. Phocas
AE ↑ 4.60g, 20.4x19.8mm
½ follis, Cyzic, off. B
MIB II 80b, 606-610.
89. Phocas
AE ↓ 8.75g, 26.10x27.5mm
Follis, Antioch
MIB II 83a, y. 609-610.
90. Heraclius
AE ↓ 9.68g, 30.7x28.5mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. B
MIB III 158, y. 610-611.
91. Heraclius
AE ↓ 8.47g, 27x25.3mm
Follis, Constantinople, off. A
MIB III 159b, y. 612-613.
92. Heraclius
AE ↓ 5.50g, 22.75x20.9mm
½ follis, Constantinople, off. Δ
MIB III 169, y. 611-612.
93. Heraclius
AE ↓ 12.00g, 31.1x29.6mm
Follis, Nicomedia, off. B
MIB III 174, y. 610-613.
94. Heraclius
AE ↓ 11.85g, 31x27.5mm
Follis, Nicomedia, off. A
MIB III 174, y. 612-613
Overstruck.
95. Heraclius
AE ↓ 9.89g, 29.6x28.2mm
Follis, Nicomedia, off. A
MIB III 175a, y. 613-616
Overstruck on a previous follis from Nicomedia.
96. Michael I
AE ↓ 5.67g, 22mm
Follis, Constantinople
DOC III/1, p. 369, y. 811.
97. Leon VI
AE ↓ 6.96g, 24.5mm
Follis, Constantinople
DOC III/2, p. 516, y. 886-912.
98. Nikephor II
AE ↓ 8.80g, 24.5x24mm
Follis, Constantinople
DOC III/2, p. 586, y. 963-969.
99. Basile II and Constantine VIII
AE ↘ 10.7g, 30.1x26.4mm
Anonymous follis, class A2
DOC III/2, p. 671, n. A2.47, y. 976-1030/35.
100. Roman III
AE ↓ 12.01g, 29.1x26.3mm
Anonymous follis, class B
DOC III/2, p. 677, y. 1030/35-1042.
101. Roman III
AE ↓ 9.78g, 29.8x26.8mm
Anonymous follis, class B
DOC III/2, p. 679, y. 1030/35-1042.
102. Roman III
AE ↓ 7.96g, 29x28.2mm
Anonymous follis, class B

DOC III/2, p. 679, y. 1030/35-1042.

103. Roman III

AE ↓ 5.98g, 28x24mm

Anonymous follis, class B

DOC III/2, p. 679, y. 1030/35-1042.

104. Roman III

AE ↓ 9.32g, 26mm

Anonymous follis, class B

DOC III/2, p. 679, y. 1030/35-1042.

105. Michael IV

AE ↓ 8.19g, 29x26.3mm

Anonymous follis, class C

DOC III/2, p. 683, y. 1042-1050.

106. Michael IV

AE ↓ 7.25g, 28x27.5mm

Anonymous follis, class C

DOC III/2, p. 683, y. 1042-1050.

107. Constantine X

AE ↓ 8.12g, 25.7x24.3mm

Follis, class 2

DOC III/2, p. 777, y. 1059-1077.

108. Alexius I

AE ⚮ 5.14g, 24mm

Anonymous follis, class K

DOC III/2, p. 702, y. 1085-1092.

109. Coin weight

AE, 16.79g

N + Δ, four solidi

Bendall, 144 var. **APPENDIX**

Table 1. The chronological sequence of dated coppers.

YEAR	NUMBER OF COINS/ NUMMIA/ MINT						TOTAL
	CON	THE	NIC	CYZ	ANT	?	
498-507	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
507-512	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
512-518	4/140	-	-	-	-	-	4/140
518-527	4/140	-	1/5	-	-	-	5/145
527-532	4/100	-	-	-	1/20	-	5/120
538-539	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
539-540	-	-	-	1/40	-	-	1/40
540-541	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
541-542	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40
542-543	1/10	-	-	-	-	-	1/10
543-544	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
544-545	2/80	-	-	-	-	-	2/80
545-546	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
546-547	-	-	-	1/20	-	-	1/20
547-548	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
548-549	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
549-550	2/50	-	-	-	-	-	2/50
550-551	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
551-552	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
552-553	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
553-554	-	-	-	1/40	-	-	1/40
554-555	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
555-556	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
556-557	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
557-558	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
558-559	1/10	-	1/10	-	-	-	2/20
559-560	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40

560-561	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
561-562	1/10	-	-	-	-	-	1/10
562-563	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
563-564	-	1/20	-	-	-	-	1/20
564-565	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
565-566	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
566-567	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40
567-568	2/60	-	-	-	-	-	2/60
568-569	-	1/20	-	-	-	-	1/20
569-570	-	3/60	-	-	-	-	3/60
570-571	3/120	-	1/40	-	-	-	4/160
571-572	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
572-573	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
573-574	-	-	-	2/40	-	-	2/40
574-575	-	1/20	-	-	-	-	1/20
575-576	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
576-577	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
577-578	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
578-579	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40
579-580	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40
580-581	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
581-582	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
582-583	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
583-584	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
584-585	-	-	-	-	-	1/20	1/20
585-586	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40
586-587	2/60	1/20	-	-	-	-	3/80
587-588	-	1/20	-	-	1/40	-	3/60
588-589	1/20	1/20	1/40	-	-	-	3/80
589-590	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
590-591	1/20	-	-	-	-	-	1/20
591-592	-	-	2/40	-	-	-	2/40
592-593	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
593-594	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40
594-595	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
595-596	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
596-597	-	-	1/20	-	-	-	1/20
597-598	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
598-599	1/20	-	-	-	-	-	1/20
599-600	1/20	-	-	-	-	-	1/20
600-601	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
601-602	-	1/20	-	-	-	-	1/20
602-603	-	-	-	1/20	-	-	1/20
603-604	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40
604-605	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
605-606	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
606-607	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40
607-608	-	-	-	2/80	-	-	1/40
608-609	-	-	-	-	-	-	0

609-610	-	-	-	-	1/40	-	1/40
610-611	1/40	-	-	-	-	-	1/40
611-612	1/20	-	-	-	-	-	1/20
612-613	1/40	-	1/40	-	-	-	2/80

Table 2. Mints.²

EMPEROR	MINT				
	CON	THE	NIC	CYZ	ANT
Anastasius I	4/100%	-	-	-	-
Justin I	4/80%	-	1/20%	-	-
Justinian I	15/71.43%	1/4.76%	1/4.76%	3/14.29%	1/4.76%
Justin II	14/56%	6/24%	3/12%	2/8%	-
Tiberius II	3/100%	-	-	-	-
Maurice	8/47.06%	3/23.53%	4/23.53%	-	1/5.88%
Phocas	6/50%	-	1/8.33%	4/33.33%	1/8.33%
Heraclius	3/50%	-	3/50%	-	-
TOTAL	57/69.31%	11/6.53%	13/14.83%	9/6.95%	3/2.37%
SCYTHIA	60.89%	13.50%	15.60%	5.35%	3.62%

Table 3. Denominations.

EMPEROR	DENOMINATIONS			
	M	K	I	E
Anastasius I	3/75%	1/25%	-	-
Justin I	3/60%	1/20%	-	1/20%
Justinian I	8/38.10%	6/28.57%	7/33.33%	-
Justin II	6/35.29%	9/52.94%	-	2/11.77%
Tiberius II	2/100%	-	-	-
Maurice	5/27.78%	13/72.22%	-	-
Phocas	5/71.43	2/28.57%	-	-
Heraclius	5/100%	-	-	-
?	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	37/46.84%	32/40.50%	7/8.86%	3/3.80%
SCYTHIA	43.82%	38.46%	10.63%	6.64%

Table 4. Coins/Nummia per year of reign.

Emperor	Coins	Coins/ year	%	Nummia/ year	%
Anastasius	4	0.2	3.58	7	3.98
Justin I	5	0.55	9.86	16.11	9.16
Justinian I	21	0.55	9.86	13.42	7.63
Justin II	17	1.30	23.30	33.07	18.80
Tiberius II	2	0.50	8.96	20	11.37

² The coins from the hoard are excluded from the statistical analysis, to avoid distorting the comparison with the single and stray finds from the entire province of Scythia. The results for Scythia are taken from Gândilă 2008 tables 3 and 5.

Maurice	18	0.9	16.13	23	13.07
Phocas	6	0.75	13.44	30	17.05
Heraclius (610-616)	5	0.83	14.87	33.33	18.94
TOTAL	78	5.58	100	175.93	100

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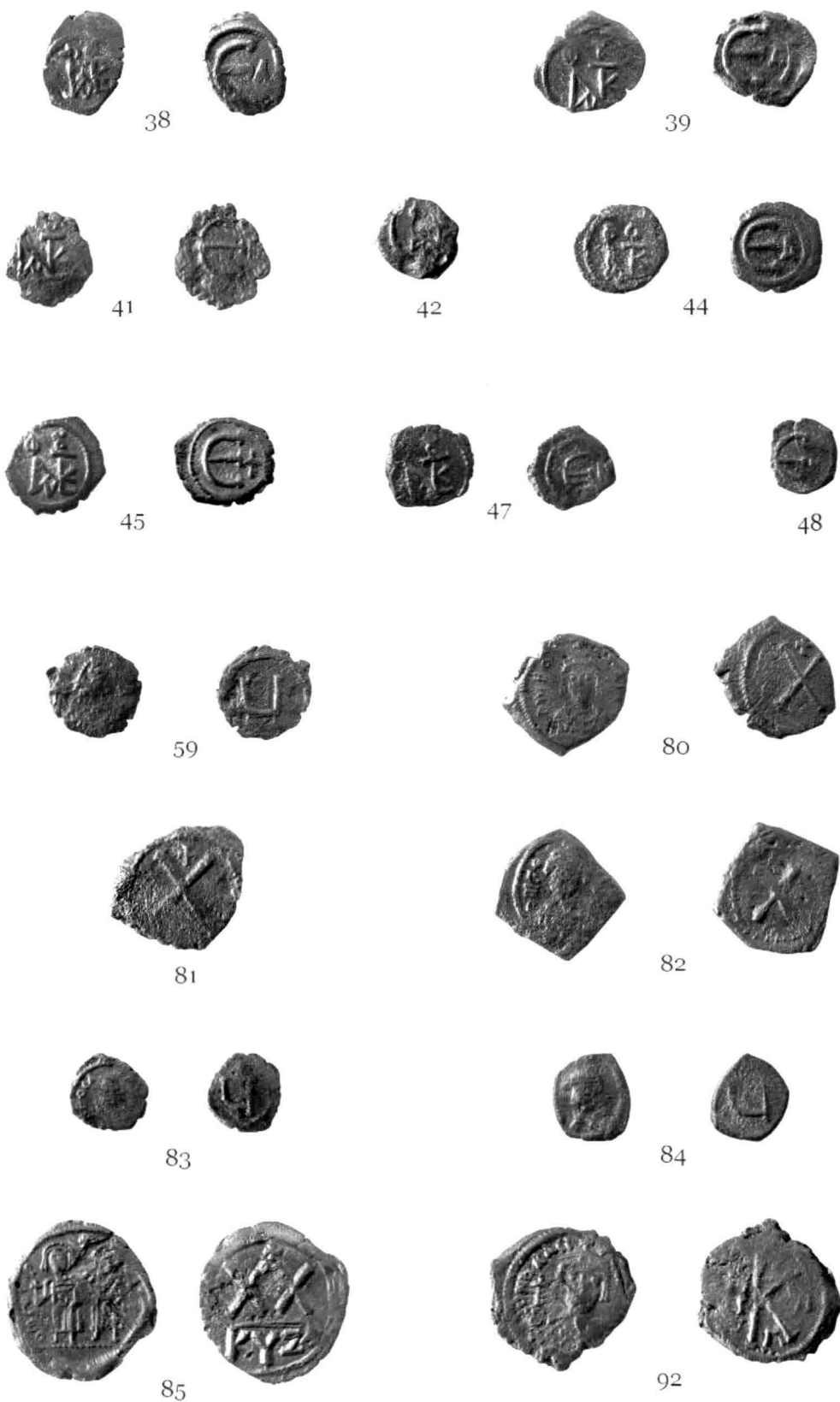


Plate 1



27



32



57



62



86



94



96



100



109



Plate 2