

MEDIEVAL AND MODERN COINS FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION

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Abstract

This paper seeks to outline the medieval and modern coins from a private collection, which was kept for some decades at the National History Museum of Romania. The coins have an important numismatic and monetary value, some of them being extremely rare, while some of them seem to be part of larger hoards. Due to the fact that the access to this collection will be restricted, the main purpose of the article is to present and in this way preserve all the possible information about these specific coins.

Key words: private collection, Oltenia, byzantine coins, Tsardom of Vidin, Moldavian coins, Wallachia, Mircea the Elder, Hungarian coins, Transylvanian coins, Venice, Ottoman Empire.

The process of collecting precious objects with historical value is the reflection of two main conditions: the selection made by the collector according to his budget and his historical interests and the available objects on the antiquities market. Therefore, while some collectors are continuously seeking specific objects for their well-defined collections, some of them are purchasing items inasmuch as they are emerging on the market. Due to the diversity of the pieces, the coin collection fragment that I will present in this article seems to fit in the second category. This collection, which I will name the R collection, in order to keep private the name of the collector, is kept at this moment in the collection of the Coin Room from the National History Museum of Romania¹. Soon however, the entire collection will be returned to the inheriting family, a fact which unfortunately will potentially place these remarkable coins in a cone of shadow. Therefore, due to the fact that I find these pieces very important for the numismatic research, I decided to present them with all their data and illustrations.

It is very important to mention that the collection was gathered mainly in the first half of the 20th century, a very wealthy period in the history of private collections from Romania, when many educated and rich people were passionate about assembling remarkable antiquities collections. Beyond their financial value, these collections should be seen as history keepers, many coin hoards found at the beginning of the century being saved by the intervention of the collectors, who acquired fragments of some of the most important treasures, which allow us to write the monetary history of Romania. In the second half of the 20th century the political context and therefore the legislation weren't very friendly with the collectors, hence most of them have decided to

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¹ Another two fragments of the collection are kept at the Oltenia Museum from Craiova and at the Coin Room of the Romanian Academy Library

donate the collections, while some of them decided to sell their goods following a very restrictive law².

In the beginning of this article I assumed that the largest part of the R collection³ should be seen as a group of coins gathered according to the objects provided by the market. I make this statement supporting my idea on the fact that for a long time the collector owned some land at Olari, Olt County, locality found in the vicinity of Romula, an ancient city which was a Roman settlement. Over the decades, the archaeological researches from Romula led to the finding of large amounts of coins, a fact which proves the intense economic activity from this area during the Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Therefore, I suppose that most of the antique and medieval coins were found in the proximity of the site and then acquired by the collector, this habit being common among the 20th century collectors⁴.

The fragment of the collection that I will present consists of 64 pieces that I will divide in seven groups pursuant to the issuing states or regions: Byzantine Empire, Wallachia and Moldavia, the Tsardom of Vidin, Transylvania, Hungary, Central Europe, Venice and the Ottoman Empire. The paper is completed with the results of the X-Ray Fluorescence investigations that were undertaken on the silver coins⁵. The metallographic composition of the silver coins is presented as an appendix, at the end of the paper, in order to facilitate the reading.

The Byzantine Empire

In the collection there are preserved a number of 15 bronze coins, issued mainly by members of the Justinian dynasty, a different group of coins (four) being anonymous issues, classes A and B. The possible finding of these coins in the Oltenia region would not be a surprise, similar findings being documented over time. The most complete research on the numismatic material provided by this area (Oltenia), during the 5th-6th centuries, contains a quite large variety of early monetary issues of the Byzantine Empire. Therefore, in Oltenia there were found coins minted in the name of Anastasius (21 coins), Justinus I (29 coins), Justinianus I (69 coins), Justinus II (113 coins), Tiberius II Constantinus (9 coins), Mauricius II Tiberius (51 coins) (Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2003 23-54; Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2002a 123-137; Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2002b 155-164)⁶. However, the presence of the anonymous folles in the north of the Danube is reported in quite few findings.

² According to the article number 7 from the decree 210 issued 14th of June 1960, the coin collectors were forced to declare their collections and to request from the National Bank of Romania a possession approval for this type of goods. In some cases, the requests weren't approved, therefore the collectors were urged to sell their collections.

³ In the R collection there is present also a small group of contemporary Romanian coins, which are in fact forgeries issued between 1872 and 1938.

⁴ One of the largest coin collections kept in the National History Museum, is the Pericle Papahagi collection, which contains thousands of coins found in the area of Silistra, town where he was the high school manager, at the beginning of the 20th century.

⁵ The analyses were performed in the Investigations Departement of the National History Museum of Romania, under the supervision of Dr. Migdonia Georgescu, to whom I would like to offer my thanks.

⁶ It is important to know that the numbers of the coins mentioned in the quoted studies is in reality larger. Many of the coins found during the archaeological researches and the stray finds are not yet completely published.

1. Anastasius I (491-518), Follis, - first issue, Constantinople, issuing years – 498-507.

AE; 7.31 g; ↓ ; 23.90 x 24.75 mm

Ob. [...]SIVSPPAVC

The profile bust of the emperor, partially visible.

Rv. M surmounted by a cross. In the exergue area, partially visible - CON.

MIB 22¹ / Fig. 1.

2. Anastasius I (491-518), Follis – second issue, Constantinople, Officina B, issuing years – 512-517.

AE; 16.48 g; ✓ ; 29.90 x 30.40 mm

Ob. DNANA [...]SIVSPPAV

Profile bust of the emperor facing right.

Rv. M surmounted by a greek cross and flanked by two stars (*); bellow the letter B; in the exergue area - CON.

MIB 28a / Fig. 2.

3. Anastasius I (491-518), 1/2 Follis – second issue, Constantinople, Officina E, issuing years – 512-517.

AE; 8.34 g; ↓ ; 26 x 26.05 mm

Ob. DNAN[...]SIVS[...]

The profile bust of the emperor, partially visible.

Rv. The letter K with a cross in the left side and the officina's letter (E) in the right side.

MIB 33 / Fig. 3.

4. Justin I (518-527), Follis, Constantinople, Officina A, issuing year – 518-522.

AE; 10.22 g; ✓ ; 30.80 x 32.65 mm

Ob. DNIVST[...]

The profile bust of the emperor, partially visible.

Rv. M surmounted by a greek cross and flanked by two stars (*); bellow the letter A; in the exergue area - CON.

MIB 11 / Fig. 4.

5. Justinianus I (527-538), Follis, Constantinople, Officina A, issuing years – 522-537.

AE; 15.77 g; ✓ ; 28.55 x 30.20 mm

Ob. DNIVS[...]ANVSPPAV

Profile bust of the emperor facing right.

Rv. M surmounted by a cross with a star (*) in the left side and a cross on the right side; bellow the officina's letter A; in the exergue area - CON.

MIB 84 / Fig. 5.

6. Justinianus I (527-565), Follis, Constantinople, issuing years – 522-532.

AE; 17.65 g; ✓ ; 29.50 x 31.85 mm

Ob. DNIVSTINI ANVSPPAV

The draped and diademed bust of the emperor, to the right.

Rv. Large M surmounted by a cross with a six-rays star in the left and in the right sides; in the exergue area - CON.

MIB 86 / Fig. 6.

7. Justinianus I (527-565), 1/2 follis, Constantinople, Officina Δ, issuing years – 527-532.

AE; 6.93 g; ↓ ; 22.75 x 24.40 mm

Ob. [...]TINI[...]

Profile bust of the emperor facing right.

Rv. Large K with a cross in the left side and the officina's letter (Δ) in the right side. One star under K.

MIB 90 / Fig. 7.

8. Justinianus I (527-565), Follis, Constantinople, Officina A, issuing year – 547/548.

AE; 20.47 g; ✓ ; 30.85 x 32.95 mm

Ob. DNIV[...]ANVSPPA

Frontal bust of the emperor.

Rv. Large M surmounted by a cross with A/N/N/O in the left side and X/4/4I on the right side; bellow the officina's letter A; in the exergue area - CON.

MIB 95a / Fig. 8.

9. Justinus II (565-578), Follis, Nicomedia, Officina A, issuing year – 567/568.

AE; 12.91 g; ✓ ; 26.10 x 29.05 mm

Ob. [...]TI NVSPPAV

Justinus (left) and Sophia (right) sitting on double throne.

Rv. Large M surmounted by a cross with A/N/N/O in the left side and I I/I on the right side; bellow the officina's letter A; in the exergue area - NIKO.

MIB 46a J. 3 / Fig. 9.

10. Mauricius Tiberius (582-602), 1/2 follis, Constantinople, Officina A, issuing year – 585/586.

AE; 5.14 g; ✓ ; 20.10 x 22.85 mm

Ob. D[...]

Frontal bust of the emperor.

Rv. Large K with A/N/N/O in the left side and I I/I I in the right side; officina's letter (A) under K.

MIB 70 J. 4 / Fig. 10.

11. Mauricius Tiberius, 582-602, 1/2 follis, Constantinople, Officina Δ or A, issuing year – 589-590.

AE; 5.65 g; ↓ ; 23.10 x 24.35 mm

Ob. DNII[...] TIBRPPAVI

Frontal bust of the emperor.

Rv. Large K with partially visible A/N/N/O in the left side and GII in the right side; officina's letter (Δ or A) under K.

MIB 70 J / Fig. 11.

12. Anonymous Follis Class A2, Basil II and Constantinus VIII, 976-1025. Constantinople.

AE; 8.54 g; ↓ ; 26.10 x 28.80 mm

Ob. IC / XC

Religious representation of Christ Pantocrator.

Rv. +HSCYS / XRISTYS / [...]ASILEY / BASILE

Four line legend.

DOC A2.41 / Fig. 12.

13. Anonymous Follis Class A1, John I, 969-976. Constantinople

AE; 7.57 g; ↓; 21.75 x 23.30 mm

Ob. [...]

Religious representation of Christ Pantocrator.

Rv. [...]HSTY[...] / [...]RISTY[...] / [...]ASILE[...] / [...]ASI[...]

Four line legend.

DOC A1 / Fig. 13.

14. Anonym Follis Class B, Romanus III or Michael IV, 1028-1041, Constantinople.

AE; 7.56 g; ↘; 26.70 x 30.40 mm

Ob. [...]

Religious representation of Christ Pantocrator.

Rv. Cross on a three steps podium with globule at each extremity and in the four fields:

IC / XS / [...]S-ILE / BAS-ILE

DOC B 1-64./ Fig. 14.

15. Anonym Follis Class B, Romanus III or Michael IV, 1028-1041, Constantinople.

AE; 12.92 g; ↓; 27.45 x 31.95 mm



Ob. [...]

Religious representation of Christ Pantocrator.

Rv. Double strike. Cross on a three steps podium with globule at each extremity and in the four fields: IC / XS / [...]AS-ILE / ILE -ILE

DOC B 1-64./ Fig. 15.

Wallachia and Moldavia

This group consists of five coins: four Wallachian ducats issued by Mircea the Elder and one Moldavian groat issued by Bogdan III. Regarding the pieces from Mircea the Elder, three of them were struck before the monetary reform from 1402/5, while the fourth coin was struck after the monetary reform. Only one piece of the pre-reformed coins has Slavonic legend, bearing the /P marks. Together with the K/K marked coins, the pieces bearing /P marks are the earliest issues of Mircea the Elder, these monetary pieces being issued almost until the 1402/5 reform. On the other hand, the striking of the Latin legend ducats starts some years after the ascension of Mircea the Elder on the Wallachian throne. The coin bearing the marks W/J presents a special interest due to the fact that the obverse mark (W) is represented in the first field of the shield, instead of the second field, as the majority of the ducats issued by Radu I, Dan I and Mircea the Elder.

The reformed ducat is of Type I, the first monetary issue of Mircea the Elder after the monetary reform. From the analysis of the first quarter of the 15th century hoards, this type was struck between 1402/5 and 1410. The presence of the coat on the shoulders of the Prince is a distinct sign, which indicates the issuing mint, which in this case is Târgoviște (Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2011 (2015) 71-72).

Regarding the groat this was struck in the name of the Moldavian voivode Bogdan III (1504-1517). The possible provenance of this coin from the Eastern area of Wallachia would not be a surprise, some stray finds, extremely few in fact, of Moldavian coins being confirmed (Stîngă 2004 88-93, Stîngă 2008 155-156). However, in this particular case it is hard to believe that this coin comes from the south-western area of the Romania, due to the fact that the coins of the Moldavian prince Bogdan III are quite

a rare presence in the structure of hoards as well as stray finds, in the main area of the circulation of the Moldavian coins.

16. Mircea the Elder, Ducat issued before reform (1386-1402/5).

AR; 0.29 g; ⚭; 12.55 x 13.65 mm

Ob. **ⲛⲱⲘⲁⲛⲁⲛⲁⲛⲁ**[...]

Quartered shield, with the first field barry of eight, while the second field is empty.

Rv. **ⲛⲱⲘⲁ**[...]Ⲙ

Crest surmounted by an eagle with the head turned to right.

MBR 98; Oberländer 2012 (2015) VIII.1 / Fig. 16.

17. Mircea the Elder, Ducat issued before reform (1386-1402/5)

AR; 0.26 g; ⚭; 13.30 x 14.90 mm

Ob. **ⲛⲱⲘⲁ**[...]Ⲙ

Quartered shield. In the first field is represented the letter **ⲱ** and the second field barry of eight.

Rv. [...]ⲛ **ⲱⲘⲁⲛⲁ**

Crest surmounted by an eagle with the head turned to right. In the right field the letter **Ⲛ**.

MBR 153 var.; Oberländer 2012 (2015) VIII.24 / Fig. 17.

18. Mircea the Elder, Ducat issued before reform (1386-1402/5).

AR; 0.27 g; ⚭; 13.15 x 13.60 mm

Ob. **ⲛⲱⲘⲁⲛⲁⲛⲁⲛⲁ**[...]

Quartered shield, with the first field barry of eight, while in the second field is represented the letter **ⲱ**.

Legend:

Rv. **ⲛⲱⲘⲁⲛⲁ** **ⲱ**[...]

Crest surmounted by an eagle with the head turned to right. In the field the letter **ⲱ**

MBR 176-178; Oberländer 2012 (2015) VIII.37 / Fig. 18.

19. Mircea the Elder, reformed ducat Type I (1402/5- cca. 1410).

AR; 0.50 g; ⚭; 15.35 x 16.10 mm

Ob. **Ⲛⲥ Ⲛⲥ**

Christ Pantocrator with three stars in the fields.

Rv. **ⲚⲱⲘⲁ ⲁⲛⲁⲛⲁ**

The standing figure of the Prince, dressed with occidental clothes, wearing on his shoulders a coat lined with hermine fur. In the right hand he is holding a sword, while in the left hand the globus cruciger.

MBR 191; Oberländer 2012 (2015) VIII. 46. / Fig. 19

20. Bogdan III (1504-1517), Groschen.

AR; 0.89 g; ⚭; 18.95 x 19.75 mm

Ob. **ⲛⲱⲘⲁⲛⲁⲛⲁⲛⲁⲛⲁ**[...]Ⲙ

Aurochs head, with a star between the horns, a rosette in the left field and a crescent moon in the right field.

Rv. **ⲛⲱⲘⲁ**[...]Ⲛ

In a linear circle a shield with a double-cross inside.

MBR Type I 743-752 / Fig. 20.

The Tsardom of Vidin

The coins issued by Ivan Stratsimir had an important role in the Wallachian monetary circulation, and there are many known finds that contain similar coins⁷. The sign disposed under the throne, a rosette, on the reverse is a chronological index, that places the striking on this coin between the years 1385-1396, Group III variant C according to the classification made by Ernest Oberländer-Târnoveanu (Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2003 132-133) and second chronological period variant C, according to the classification made by Konstantine Dochev (Dochev 2009 231-232).

21. Ivan Stratsimir, 1370-1385, Groschen.

AR; 0.63 g; \wedge ; 17.50 x 17.35 mm

Ob. **+IW[...]**IHMHP[...]

In a pearled circle, the figure of Christ Pantocrator, blessing with his right hand and holding the Gospel in his left hand. The letters XC in the right field.

Rv. [...]HMHP Ψ P[...]

In a pearled circle the figure of the tsar with a halo around his head, sitting on a throne. In the right hand he is holding the scepter and in the left hand the *anexikakia*. Under the throne a rosette.

Dochev 2009 4830 / Fig. 21.

Transylvania

The batch of Transylvanian coins consists of eight pieces issued between 1593 and 1663. Undoubtedly the most special pieces from this group are the thalerklippe issued by Gabriel Bethlen in 1627 and the hexagonal shaped thaler issued by Michael Apafi in 1663⁸, which are numismatic rarities. Also, a special attention must be paid to the group of four groschen issued by Gabriel Bethlen, which are all marked with the year 1626 and all have a similar state of preservation. These facts suggest that these coins are probably part of a larger hoard.

22. Sigismund Bathory, 1593, Thaler.

AR; 28.44 g; \uparrow ; 39.25 x 39.40 mm

Ob. SIGISMVNDVS BATHORI⁸

In a pearl circle, the bust of Sigismund Bathory, represented from a tree quarter profile, orientated to the right side. The prince is dressed with a armor decorated with an arabesque pattern. In the right hand he is holding the scepter, while in the left hand is holding the handle of the sword. A greek cross in the left field.

Rv. **★PRINCEPS★TRANSSYLVANIAE★15 93★**

In a linear circle, the coat of arms of the Bathory family: a shield with three horizontal teeth. The shield is surmounted by a crown, while it is flanked by two angels who are holding the shield.

MBR 482 / Fig. 22.

⁷ Șușița hoard (Mehedinți County), Pășărani hoard (Mehedinți County) Balș hoard (Olt County), Balta Sărată hoard (Teleorman County), Scrioștea hoard (Teleorman County), Brebeni hoard (Olt County) etc. (Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2003 132-136)

⁸ For an extended study on the distinguished coins issued by Michael Apafi see Nudelman 2013-2014 159-173.

23. Gabriel Bathory, 1612, Groschen.

AR; 1.20 g; ↑; 20.35 x 20.65 mm

Ob. GAB BATHO/•D•G•PRIN•/•TRAN

Crown flanked by the issuing year of the coin 16 12. Legend arranged on three lines.

Rv. GROSSVS•REGNI•TRANSYL•

In a pearl circle, an eagle with the Bathory coat of arms on the chest. The eagle is flanked in the lower area by the letters N – B, monetary marks of the mint from Baia Mare (Nagy Bánya).

MBR 1015 / Fig. 23.

24. Gabriel Bethlen, 1626, Groschen.

AR; 2.03 g; ↓; 25 x 24.90 mm

Ob. •GAB•D•G•SA•ROIM•ET•TRAN•PRIN•

Crowned shield with the first field with eight bars and in the second field a double cross rising from a crown. In the centre of the shield is represented the Bethlen's family coat of arms. The shield is flanked by the letters N – B, monetary marks of the mint from Baia Mare (Nagy Bánya).

Rv. PAR•REG•HVN•DOSIC•COOPRDVX•1626

The crowned Virgin Mary holding Jesus as child in her arms. Baby Jesus is holding a scepter in his hands. The image is surrounded by a row of rays.

MBR1626a / Fig. 24.

25. Gabriel Bethlen, 1626, Groschen.

AR; 2.43 g; ↖; 24.80 x 24.75 mm

Ob. •GAB•D•G•SA•ROIM•ET•TRAN•PRIN•

Crowned shield with the first field with eight bars and in the second field a double cross rising from a crown. In the centre of the shield is represented the Bethlen's family coat of arms. The shield is flanked by the letters N – B, monetary marks of the mint from Baia Mare (Nagy Bánya).

Rv. PAR•REG•HVN•DO•SIC•CO•OP•R•DVX•1626

The crowned Virgin Mary holding Jesus as child in her arms. Baby Jesus is holding a scepter in his hands. The image is surrounded by a row of rays.

MBR1626a / Fig. 25.

26. Gabriel Bethlen, 1626, Groschen.

AR; 2.13 g; ↗; 24.45 x 24.55 mm

Ob. •GABR•DG•SR•IMP (schiold)↗•TRANS•PRINC•

Crowned shield with the first field with eight bars and in the second field a double cross rising from a crown. In the centre of the shield is represented the Bethlen's family coat of arms. The shield is flanked by the letters C – C, monetary marks of the mint from Košice (Camera Cassoviensis).

Rv. PAR•R•HVNGDNS•SIC•COOP•RAT•DVX•16:26

The crowned Virgin Mary holding Jesus as child in her arms. Baby Jesus is holding a scepter in his hands. The image is surrounded by a row of rays.

MBR1626 / Fig. 26.

27. Gabriel Bethlen, 1626, Groschen.

AR; 2.35 g; ↗; 24.80 x 24.95 mm

Ob. •GABR•D•G•S•R•IMP (schiold)↗•TRANS•PRINC•

Crowned shield with the first field with eight bars and in the second field a double cross rising from a crown. In the centre of the shield is represented the Bethlen's family coat

of arms. The shield is flanked by the letters C – C, monetary marks of the mint from Košice (Camera Cassoviensis).

Rv. *PAR•R•HVNG•DNS•SI•C•OP•RATDVX•16•26*

The crowned Virgin Mary holding Jesus as child in her arms. Baby Jesus is holding a scepter in his hands. The image is surrounded by a row of rays.

MBR 1626 / Fig. 27.

28. Gabriel Bethlen, 1627, 2 Thalerklippe.

AR; 57.36 g; ↑ ; 43.50 x 44.05 mm

Ob. *GABR•D•G•S•R•IMP•ET• (scut) •TRANS•PRINCEPS*

In a twisted circle, the bust of Gabriel Bethlen, represented from a tree quarter profile, orientated to the right side. The prince is dressed with a armour decorated with an arabesque pattern. In the right hand he is holding the sceptre.

Rv. +PAR•RE•HVN•DNS•SI•CO•OP•RATI•DUX•16•27

In a twist circle, the crowned coat of arms of Transylvania, having in the centre the coat of arms of the Bethlen family. The shield is flanked by the letters M – C, monetary marks of the mint from Košice (Moneta Cassoviensis).

MBR 1743 / Fig. 28.

29. Michael Apafi, 1663, Thaler (hexagonal shape).

AR; 26.87 g; ↑ ; 51.05 x 44.90 mm

Ob. *MICHA•APAFI• * D•G•PR•TR•

In a twisted circle, the bust of Michael Apafi, represented from a tree quarter profile, orientated to the right side. The prince is dressed with armour decorated with a lion head pattern. On the head he is wearing a fur hat decorated with a broch with feathers. In the right hand he is holding the sceptre, while in the left hand is holding the handle of the sword.

Rv. *PAR•REG•HVN•D• (the coat of arms of the city of Sibiu) •E•SICV•CO•1663*

The crowned Transylvanian coat of arms, having in the centre the coat of arms of the Apafi family. The shield is flanked by two fantastic animals.

MBR 2313 var. / Fig. 29.

Hungary

The largest group of coins consists of 24 Hungarian monetary pieces. It is quite visible that the coins gathered in this collection are parts of some hoards, whose structure is impossible at this moment to be restored. Therefore, a compact batch of coins contains eleven denarius struck in the name of Ludovicus of Anjou. All the coins belong to the same type, with Sarazinus head, having also a similar patina. A second group of coins is comprised of four denarius struck during the reign of Sigismund of Luxemburg. Given that the new chronology of Queen Mary monetary emissions places the coins Huszár 556/ Pohl 112 at the end of her reign, this type of coins being present in the hoards that contain also pieces issued by Sigismund I of Luxemburg (Tóth 2002 7-12: Toma 2012 413-456), it is possible that the coin of Mary to be part of a larger monetary complex alongside the four denarius of Sigismund.

30. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, Buda.

AR; 0.64 g; ← ; 12.85 x 12.75 mm

Ob. +MONETAL[...]

Sarazin head to left represented from profile.

Rv. [...]GIS[...]

Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms, rising from a crown.
Huszár 548; Pohl 90 / Fig. 30.

31. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, Buda.
AR; 0.52 g; ↘; 12.15 x 13.75 mm
Ob. [...]NĖTĀL[...]
Sarazin head to left represented from profile.
Rv. [...]†RĖGI[...]RIĖ
Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms, rising from a crown.
Huszár 548; Pohl 90 / Fig. 31.

32. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, Pécs.
AR; 0.58 g; →; 14.10 x 14.35 mm
Ob. †MONĖTĀLODOVICI
Sarazin head to left represented from profile.
Rv. †RĖGI[...]GĀRIĖ
Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms.
Huszár 547; Pohl 89/1 / Fig. 32.

33. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, Pécs.
AR; 0.41 g; ←; 13.90 x 12.50 mm
Ob. †[...]ĖTĀLODOVICI
Sarazin head to left represented from profile.
Rv. †RĖGIshVNGĀRIĖ
Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms.
Huszár 547; Pohl 89/1 / Fig. 33.

34. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, Pécs.
AR; 0.52 g; ↓; 14.45 x 14.30 mm
Ob. †○○NĖTĀLODOVICI
Sarazin head to left represented from profile.
Rv. †RĖGIshVNGĀRIĖ
Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms.
Huszár 547; Pohl 89/1 / Fig. 34.

35. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, unidentified mint - two leaves in the lower area of the cross.
AR; 0.47 g; ↓; 14.15 x 14.45 mm
Ob. †MONĖTĀLODOVICI
Sarazin head to left represented from profile.
Rv. †RĖGIshVNGĀ [...]]
Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms.
Huszár 547; Pohl 89/11 / Fig. 35.

36. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, Pécs.
AR; 0.79 g; →; 13.40 x 13.35 mm
Ob. †MONĖTĀL[...]CI
Sarazin head to left represented from profile.
Rv. [...]ISHVNGĀRIĖ
Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms.
Huszár 547; Pohl 89/1 / Fig. 36.

37. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, unidentified mint - two leaves in the lower area of the cross.

AR; 0.47 g; ↙; 13.75 x 12.60 mm

Ob. **†MONET·ALODOVICI**

Sarazin head to left represented from profile.

Rv. [...] **REGIS·VNGARIE**

Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms.

Huszár 547; Pohl 89/11 / Fig. 37.

38. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, illegible mint signs.

AR; 0.36 g; ↖; 14.05 x 14.35 mm

Ob. **†[...]ONETA[...]VICI**

Sarazin head to left represented from profile.

Rv. [...] **IE**

Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms.

Huszár 547; Pohl 89 / Fig. 38.

39. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, Nagy Bánya (Baia Mare).

AR; 0.54 g; ↙; 13.50 x 13.70 mm

Ob. **†M[...]CI**

Sarazin head to left represented from profile.

Rv. **†REGIS·V[...]E**

Doublecross with points at the end of the cross arms.

Huszár 547; Pohl 89/4 / Fig. 39.

40. Ludovic I, 1373-1382, Denarius, Pozsony (Bratislava); Mint Master: Petrus Chimle

AR; 0.85 g; ↗; 14.05 x 14.15 mm

Ob. **†MONET·ALODOVICI**

Sarazin head to left represented from profile.

Rv. **†REGIS·VNGARIE[...]**

Doublecross.

Huszár 547 var.; Pohl 89/8 / Fig. 40.

41. Mary, 1386-1395, Denarius, Buda?

AR; 0.42 g; ↖; 15 x 14.55 mm

Ob. **†MONETA·MARIE**

In a pearled circle, the monogram **M** with a crown above.

Rv. **†REGINE·VNGARIE**

In a pearled circle a double cross.

Huszár 556/ Pohl 112 / Fig. 41.

42. Sigismund of Luxemburg, 1390-1427, Denarius.

AR; 0.53 g; ↖; 14.55 x 13.65 mm

Ob. **MONSIG IZM·VNDI**

Double cross.

Rv. **†[...]GARIE·ET·C**

Quartered shield, with three bars in the first and in the fourth fields and with an eagle in the second and third fields. The mint mark above the shield - **Λ**.

Huszár 576/ Pohl 117 / Fig. 42.

43. Sigismund of Luxemburg, 1390-1427, Denarius.

AR; 0.54 g; ↗; 14.45 x 14.15 mm

Ob. MON·SIG--ISMVNDI

Double cross.

Rv. †REGISVNGARIE ETC

Quartered shield, with three bars in the first and in the fourth fields and with an eagle in the second and third fields. The mint mark above the shield - ▲.

Huszár 576/ Pohl 117 / Fig. 43.

44. Sigismund of Luxemburg, 1390-1427, Denarius.

AR; 0.49 g; ↑; 13.85 x 13.80 mm

Ob. MON·SIG—[...]NDI

Double cross.

Rv. †REGISVNGARIE ETC

Quartered shield, with three bars in the first and in the fourth fields and with an eagle in the second and third fields. The mint mark above the shield - ●●.

Huszár 576/ Pohl 117 / Fig. 44.

45. Sigismund of Luxemburg, 1390-1427, Denarius.

AR; 0.42 g; ↑; 15.70 x 14.80 mm

Ob. M[...]SIG[...]DI

Double cross.

Rv. †REGIS[...]E

Quartered shield, with three bars in the first and in the fourth fields and with an eagle in the second and third fields.

Huszár 576/ Pohl 117 / Fig. 45.

46. Mathias Corvinus, 1479-1485, Denarius, Kremnitz (K - V/Æ); Mint master: Mühlstein-Langsfelder.

AR; 0.45 g; →; 15.50 x 16.50 mm

Ob. †M·MATHIE·R·hVNGARIE

Quartered shield with three bars in the first field, double cross in the second field, two leopard heads in the third field and the bohemian lion in the fourth field. In the center the raven with a ring in his beak.

Rv. ●PATRON--VNGA[...]

Virgin Mary holding Christ as child in her arms.

Huszár 719/ Pohl 221-4 / Fig. 46.

47. Wladislaw II, 1500-1502, Denarius, Kremnitz (K - h); Mint master: Hans Thurzó.

AR; 0.60 g; ↑; 16.65 mm x 16.70 mm

Ob. ●M·WLADISLAI·R·VNGARI●

Quartered shield with four bars in the first field, double cross in the second field, two leopard heads in the third field and the bohemian lion in the fourth field. In the center an eagle.

Rv. PATRONA--VNGARIE

Crowned Virgin Mary holding Christ as child in her arms.

Huszár 807/ Pohl 242-1 / Fig. 47.

48. Wladislaw II, 1500-1502, Denarius, Kremnitz (K - H); Mint master: Hans Thurzó.

AR; 0.55 g; ↓; 15.90 mm x 15 mm

Ob. **M•WLADISLAI•R•VNGAR**

Quartered shield with four bars in the first field, double cross in the second field, two leopard heads in the third field and the bohemian lion in the fourth field. In the center an eagle.

Rv. **PAT[...]-VNGARI**

Crowned Virgin Mary holding Christ as child in her arms.

Huszár 806/ Pohl 241-2 / Fig. 48.

49. Ludovic II, 1526, Denarius, Kremnitz (K - A); Mint master: Alexius Thurzó.

AR; 0.64 g; ↗; 15.30 mm x 15.45 mm

Ob. 1526**★LVDOVICVS★R★VNGAR★**

Quartered shield with four bars in the first field, double cross in the second field, two leopard heads in the third field and the bohemian lion in the fourth field. In the center an eagle.

Rv. **PATRONA★ ★VNGARIE**

Crowned Virgin Mary holding Christ as child in her arms.

Huszár 841/ Pohl 255-18 / Fig. 49.

50. Ferdinand I, 1528, Denarius, Kremnitz (K - B).

AR; 0.50 g; →; 14.85 mm x 15.05 mm

Ob. 1528**☉FERDINAND•D•G•R•VNG☉**

Quartered shield with four bars in the first field, double cross in the second field, two leopard heads in the third field and the bohemian lion in the fourth field. In the center a party per fess shield.

Rv. **PATRONA☉ -- ☉VNGARIE**

Crowned Virgin Mary holding Christ as child in her arms.

Huszár 934 / Fig. 50.

51. Rudolf, 1587, Thaler, Kremnitz (K - B).

AR; 27.98 g; ↑, 39.95 mm x 40.10 mm

Ob. **+RVDOL•II--D•G•RO•IM•S•AV•GER•HVN--BO•REX**

Profile bust of the ruler facing right. The legend is interrupted by the image of the Virgin Mary with Christ in the right side and by the Hungarian shield in the left side.

Rv. **☉ARCHI•DVX•AVS•DUX•BURG•MAR•MORA•1578**

Two headed eagle with haloes around his heads and a crown above. In the right talon it is holding a scepter, while in the left talon it is holding a sword. In the chest area is represented a coat of arms with a cross above.

Huszár 1030 / Fig. 51.

52. Ferdinand II, 1631, Thaler, Kremnitz (K - B).

AR; 28.17 g; ↓; 45.95 mm x 45.15 mm

Ob. **FERDINAND--D•G•RO•I•S•AVG•GER•HV•BOH REX•**

Profile bust of the emperor facing right. He is wearing on his head laurel wreath.

Rv. **ARCHIDUX:AVS•DVX•BVR•MAR•MOR•CO•TYR•1631.**

Two headed eagle with haloes around his heads and a crown above. In the right talon it is holding a scepter, while in the left talon it is holding a sword. In the chest area is represented a crowned coat of arms.

Davenport 3129/ Huszár 1179 / Fig. 52.

53. Ferdinand III, 1655, Thaler, Kremnitz (K - B).

AR; 28.17 g; ↓ ; 45.95 mm x 45.15 mm

Ob. FERDINAND—III•D:G•RO•I•S•AVG•GER•HV•BOH•REX•

Profile bust of the emperor facing right. He is wearing on his head laurel wreath.

Rv. ARCHIDVX•AVS•DVX•BVR•MAR•MOR•CO•TY•1655

Two headed eagle with haloes around his heads and a crown above. In the right talon is holding a scepter, while in the left talon is holding a sword. In the chest area is represented a crowned coat of arms.

Davenport 3198/ Huszár 1242 / Fig. 53.

Central Europe

The coins gathered in this group are all thalers, issued in different mints from Central Europe: Dresden, Kuttentberg, Hall. Similar coins were found in Wallachia, Transilvania and Moldavia, being pieces used in the local monetary circulation. Many hoards accumulated at the end of the 16th century and at the beginning of the 17th century containing this type of coins minted in the central European are known.

54. Saxony, Augustus, 1570, Thaler, Dresden.

AR; 30.54 g; ↑ ; 41.15 mm x 41.05 mm

Ob. ♠AVGUSTUS•D:G•cVX[...]AXON[...]A•RO•MA•IM

Profile bust of the ruler facing right. He is wearing armor, holding in his hands a sword.

Rv. [...]• ARCHIMAR[...]—CHAL[...]IEC

Elaborated coat of arms of Saxony, with heraldic symbols of the Albertine family.

Davenport 9798 / Fig. 54.

55. Holy Roman Empire, Rudolf II, 1589, Thaler, Kuttentberg.

AR; 28.83 g; ↗ ; 45.35 mm x 45.90 mm

Ob. RVDOLPHVS•II•D:G•RO•IM•S•AG•HBRX

Profile bust of the ruler facing right.

Rv. ARCHIDUX•AVSTRI•DVX•BVR•MA•M•1589

Two headed eagle with haloes around his heads and a crown above. In the right talon it is holding a scepter, while in the left talon it is holding a sword. In the chest area is represented a coat of arms with a cross above.

Davenport 8079 / Fig. 55.

56. Holy Roman Empire, Francisc II, 1797, Kronenthaler, Gunzburg (H).

AR; 29.29 g; ↓ ; 40.45 mm x 39.85 mm

Ob. FRANC•II•D:G•R•I•S•A•GL•R•HIE•HVN•BOH•REX•

Profile bust of the emperor facing right, wearing on his head laurel wreath.

Rv. ARCH•AVST•DVX•BVRG•LOTH•BRAB•COM•FLAN•1797

Two crossed branches, with three crowns in the cross fields and the order of the Golden Fleece in the lower field.

On the edge of the coin the text LEGE ET FIDE with vegetal decoration.

World Coins 1701 – 1800, 2002, KM# 62.1/73 / Fig. 56.

57. Austria, Ferdinand (1564-1595), Thaler, Hall.

AR; 28.54 g; ↑ ; 39.35 x 39.33 mm

Ob. FERDINAND:D:G:ARCHID:AVSTRIÆ

Profile bust of the emperor, facing right, wearing crown and armor. In the right hand holds the scepter, while in the left hand holds a closed phylactery.

Rv. DVX:BVRGVNDIE COMES•TIROLIS

Quartered shield with a closed crown above and the collar of the order of the Golden Fleece around the shield.

Davenport 8097 / Fig. 57.

58. Austria, Ferdinand (1564-1595), Thaler, Hall.

AR; 27.79 g; ↑ ; 38.80 x 39.30 mm

Ob. •FERDINAND:D:G:ARCHIDVX•AVSTRIAE•

Profile bust of the emperor, facing right, wearing crown and armor. In the right hand he holds the scepter, while in the left hand he holds a closed phylactery.

Rv. •DVX:BVRGVNDIÆ COMES•TIROLIS•

Quartered shield with a closed crown above and the collar of the order of the Golden Fleece around the shield.

Davenport 8097 / Fig. 58.

Venice

In this collection there were preserved two venetian grosso issued by the doge Lorenzo Tiepolo. Both coins have the edges cut. They also present the same type of deterioration, two areas on the obverse and on the reverse being extremely corroded.

59. Lorenzo Tiepolo (1268-1275), grosso matapan.

AR; 1.82 g; ↓ ; 19.35 x 20.35 mm

Ob. IC XC

The representation of Christ Pantocrator.

Rv. D||V||X/•SM•VENETI [...]EVPL•

In the right side is represented Saint Marcus giving the banner to the Doge of Venetia.

CNI VII 4 / Fig. 59.

60. Lorenzo Tiepolo (1268-1275), grosso matapan.

AR; 2.03 g; ↓ ; 20.80 x 19.95 mm

Ob. IC XC

The representation of Christ Pantocrator.

Rv. D||V||X/•S•N[...]NETI LA•TEVPL•

In the right side is represented Saint Marcus giving the banner to the Doge of Venetia.

CNI VII 4 / Fig. 60.

The Ottoman Empire

The last group of coins presented in this study consists of four ottoman pieces: three akçe and a fragmentary mangir. The silver coins were issued in the name of the sultan Mehmed II. Due to the fact that the bronze coin is fragmentary it was impossible to identify the name of the sultan during whose reign it was minted. Nevertheless, considering the visible decoration of this coin, I suppose that the piece was issued between the end of the 15th century and the 16th century.

61. Mehmed II (1451-1481), Akçe, Serez, issuing years – 865-875 AH (1460-1470 AD).

AR; 0.89 g; 10.05 x 12 mm

Ob. Mehmed [...] 865

Double strike. Circular legend. Star with six rays in the middle of the coin.

Rv. Hullide [...] Serez

Double strike. Circular legend.

Srećković II ob. D / rv. III, Nuri Pere 86/ Fig. 61.

62. Mehmed II (1451-1481), Akçe, issuing years – 865-875 AH (1460-1470 AD).

AR; 0.91 g; 10.95 x 13.15 mm

Ob. Mehmed bin Murad han azze nasrühü 865

Circular legend. Star with six rays in the middle of the coin.

Rv. Hullide mülkühü duribe [...]

Circular legend. Star with six rays in the middle of the coin.

Srećković II ob. D / rv. III, Nuri Pere 86/ Fig. 62.

63. Mehmed II (1451-1481), Akçe, Edirne, issuing years – 855-865 AH (1450-1460 AD).

AR; 1.01 g; 10.15 x 11.75 mm

Ob. Mehmed bin Murad han azze nasrühü 855

The name of the sultan in the central area. Circular legend segmented.

Rv. Hullide mülkühü [...Edirne].

Srećković II ob. B / rv. II / Fig. 62.

64. Mangir, 15th-16th centuries

AE; 1.15 g; 11.30 x 11.05 mm

Rv. Geometrical elements that form a star.

Fig. 64.

APPENDIX

The metallographic composition of the silver coins⁹

No.	Element (%)									
	Fe	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ag	Sn	Sb	Au	Pb	Bi
16.	0.001	0.001	47.14	0.23	50.98	-	-	0.18	1.27	0.2
17.	0.001	0.001	78.65	0.15	19.38	0.61	0.19	0.09	0.88	0.05
18.	0.22	0.001	23.23	0.24	74.68	-	-	0.21	0.95	0.46
19.	0.001	0.001	2.14	-	96.19	-	-	0.35	0.82	0.49
20.	0.001	0.001	73.19	0.16	25.78	0.33	0.33	0.001	0.46	0.09
21.	0.001	0.001	4.58	0.07	94.30	-	-	0.44	0.35	0.24
22.	0.001	0.001	3	-	96.47	-	-	0.001	0.48	0.04
23.	0.001	0.001	56.72	0.19	42.16	-	0.31	0.001	0.63	0.001
24.	0.001	0.001	42.44	0.25	56.55	-	-	0.001	0.7	0.05
25.	0.001	0.04	48.9	0.19	50.37	-	-	0.001	0.49	0.001
26.	0.001	0.001	38.96	0.2	60.23	-	-	0.001	0.6	0.001
27.	0.001	0.06	53.45	0.21	45.90	-	-	0.001	0.38	0.001
28.	0.06	0.001	4.89	-	94.08	-	-	0.001	0.97	0.001
29.	0.4	0.001	4.43	-	94.58	-	-	0.17	0.34	0.09
30.	0.001	0.001	17.55	0.12	78.87	-	-	0.3	3	0.16
31.	0.001	0.001	31.24	0.21	66.21	-	-	0.36	1.98	0.001
32.	0.001	0.001	14.8	0.11	80.81	-	-	0.25	3.77	0.25
33.	0.001	0.001	6.77	0.07	91.77	-	-	0.27	0.99	0.13
34.	0.001	0.001	26.19	0.18	71.66	-	-	0.22	1.64	0.11
35.	0.001	0.001	14.02	0.11	84.49	-	-	0.06	1.22	0.09
36.	0.08	0.001	15.19	0.14	82.62	-	-	0.2	1.51	0.26
37.	0.11	0.001	33.81	0.19	63.89	-	-	0.11	1.78	0.11
38.	0.001	0.001	43.11	0.18	54.93	-	-	0.53	1.24	0.001
39.	0.001	0.001	15.4	0.13	82.76	-	-	0.38	1.12	0.21
40.	0.001	0.001	12.72	0.14	85.48	-	-	0.4	1.15	0.12
41.	0.001	0.001	8.35	0.08	90.08	-	-	0.22	1.1	0.17
42.	0.001	0.04	11.39	0.09	86.60	-	-	0.25	1.58	0.06
43.	0.001	0.001	11.6	0.1	86.28	-	-	0.21	1.7	0.11
44.	0.001	0.001	13.41	0.1	84.83	-	-	0.16	1.34	0.17
45.	0.001	0.001	11.4	0.1	86.93	-	-	0.26	1.23	0.09
46.	0.001	0.001	6.74	0.07	92.40	-	-	0.001	0.54	0.23
47.	0.001	0.001	28.47	0.2	71.12	-	-	0.001	0.21	0.001
48.	0.001	0.001	20.52	0.13	78.87	-	-	0.001	0.48	0.001
49.	0.06	0.04	29.92	0.18	68.80	-	-	0.001	0.85	0.15
50.	0.001	0.001	34.63	0.19	63.02	-	0.38	0.45	1.25	0.08

⁹ The spectrometric investigations (X-Ray Fluorescence) were performed in the Physico-Chemical and Biological Investigations Department of the National History Museum of Romania, by Dr. Migdonia Georgescu.

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Explanation of the plates:

Plates 1-5 – Medieval and modern coins from the R. collection.





Plate 2 (1:1)



28.



29.



30.



31.



32.



33.



34.



35.



36.



37.



38.



39.



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41.



42.



43.



44.



45.



46.



47.



48.



49.



50.



Plate 3 (1:1)



Plate 4 (1:1)



56.



57.



58.



59.



60.



61.



62.



63.



64.

Plate 5 (1:1)

