

MEDIEVAL WALLACHIAN COINS FROM THE SAINT-GEORGES MUSEUM NUMISMATIC COLLECTION

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Abstract

This paper deals with the Wallachian coins which were part of the Saint Georges Museum numismatic collection. After the museum closed down, the coin collection was moved to the National Antiquities Museum which later became the Archaeology Institute from Bucharest. Some decades later, in the '70s, a part of the coins were transferred in the care of the Coin Room of the National History Museum of Romania, where it is preserved at the present moment.

The batch of Wallachian coins gathered by Saint Georges for the museum he was the director of for almost 30 years is constituted of a number of 97 coins, all very well preserved, that are very useful for the study of the Wallachian coinage. The coins are struck in the name of Vladislav I Vlaicu, Radu I, Dan I, Mircea the Elder, Vladislav II and Mihnea III Radu.

Therefor the aim of this study is to bring into the numismatists attention this particular batch of coins, with really well preserved Wallachian coins, and to complete the information that we had until today about the collections of the Saint-Georges Museum.

Key words: Saint Georges Museum, numismatic collection, Wallachia, Vladislav I Vlaicu, Radu I, Dan I, Mircea the Elder, Vladislav II, Mihnea III.

The Saint Georges Museum is known for having one of the most remarkable stories in the history of Romanian museology. Starting as a private museum opened in Bârlad (1908-1915) and later moved to Târgoviște (1915-1916), the museum had a sorrowful beginning due to the fact that during the First World War the museum was shut down while its collections were scattered, without having any possibility to recover **any item or information about them** (Duțu 2013 15; Diaconu 1999 241-242). After the Great War Alexandru Saint-Georges receives a significant amount of money as compensation for his loss and with great courage and assiduity he opened again the museum in Bucharest. In 1932 Alexandru Saint-Georges donated the museum to the Royal Cultural Foundations, a decision which allowed him to receive more money needed for the improvement of the exhibition space as well as for the growth of the collections.

The largest part of the collections was constituted of donations, as we can see from the significant part of donation documents from the partially preserved Saint-Georges Archive, kept in the Central National Historical Archives in Bucharest. As we can retrace back from the study of the archival documents, the museum had a great variety of objects, from art objects like paintings and sculptures to archaeological items and contemporary items with anticipated historical value like photos, letters, and personal objects of political or cultural personalities of the interwar period. Unfortunately, in 1948 the museum was for the second and last time shut down, its

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collections being spread between others institutions. Parts of the collections can be found in the care of the National History Museum of Romania, the Bucharest Municipality Museum Pinacothèque, the Archaeology Institute – „Vasile Pârvan” from Bucharest, the National History Museum of Bucharest, but the trace of some objects was lost.

One of the most important sections of the collection is represented by the numismatic items. Some documents related to the origin of a very small part of the collection are preserved in the already mentioned Saint-Georges Archive, illustrating the manner in which the collection has grown. There are donation papers mentioning the owners of the coins, but for only a few items in the documents is mentioned the origin of the pieces. For example, in November 1942, the Colonel G. Levezeanu is donating a hoard with coins identified as being similar with the forgeries struck in the Suceava mint. According to his knowledge the hoard was found in Bucharest on the street I.G. Duca and was consisting of 60 coins: 19 pieces issued by Queen Christina of Sweden for the city of Riga, six pieces issued by Carol Gustav King of Sweden for the city of Riga, 18 pieces issued by John Casimir King of Poland for Latvia and 17 pieces issued by Friedrich Wilhelm as King of Prussia (Saint-Georges Archive d. 9/1942, f. 70)¹. On the other hand, many of the donation documents shortly present the coins which are donated to the museum, mentioning nothing about the finding place, a fact which suggests that probably most of them are only pieces preserved as personal collections. For example, Corneliu **Secășanu**, an important numismatist and collector, donates in September 1941 a number of 44 Russian coins (Kopeks) and three bank tickets (Saint-Georges Archive d. 8/1941, f. 39). Another relevant example is that of I. C. Panaitescu who donates two bronze byzantine coins in 1940 (Saint-Georges Archive d. 7/1940, f. 70)² and the examples can go further.

In the year 1940 the coins preserved in the Coin Room of the museum summed up a number of 13.933 pieces (**Duțu 2013 154; Teodorescu 1997 132**). Beyond the efforts made by Alexandru Saint George to gather this remarkable coin collection, in 1946 the well-known numismatist Bucur Mitrea was designated to prepare the numismatic collections in order for them to be transferred in the care of the National Museum of Antiquities³ (**Teodorescu, 1997 132, footnote 39, Duțu 2013**), that in 1956 became the Archaeology Institute. For almost two decades the coins were preserved in the care of the Archaeology Institute, but in 1970 an important part of the Saint Georges Museum coin collection was transferred in the patrimony of the newly established National

¹ A batch of coins from this hoard (35 pieces) was published by Katiușa Pârvan. She mentions that the hoard was bought by Alexandru Saint Georges from the Colonel Levezeanu and was found in Bucharest on the street I. G. Duca, which was later renamed Căderea Bastiliei. She also mentions two other coins which seem to be part of the hoard and which were bought from the Engineer Eftimiu from Copșa Mică. (Pârvan 2005 335-338). The coins that were published by Katiușa Pârvan and which are preserved in the collection of the National History Museum of Romania are the 17 forgeries after the shillings struck by John Casimir and the 17 forgeries after the schillings struck by Friedrich Wilhelm mentioned in the donation document. Unfortunately, the donation document was not known by Katiușa Pârvan at the moment of the publishing, this is why she believed that the coins from the Engineer Eftimiu were also part of this specific hoard.

² From the point of the numismatic information, a very helpful and considerate research of the Saint-Georges Archive was done by Aurelia Duțu (Duțu 2013; Duțu 2018).

³ In the Saint-Georges Archives a report is preserved, dated the 27th of January 1949, regarding the transfer to the National Antiquities Museum of 10663 pieces „of ancient, medieval and modern coins, of different metals and states, including also six gold notched rings” (Saint-Georges Archive d. 19, f. 39).

History Museum. It is very important to mention that only some of the byzantine coins and all the Wallachian and Moldavian coins were transferred.

One of the most important documents kept in the Saint-Georges Archive is probably the report written with the occasion of the inventory carried out in 1945 by a commission constituted of the sculptors Vasiliu Falti, Ion Grigore Popovici and Iona Vlasiu, as inspectors of the Arts Minister (Saint-Georges Archive, d. 18/1939-1948). Unfortunately, this was not a systematic inventory, the purpose of the commission being only to establish the factual existence of the objects from the numismatic, medals and philatelic sections. In the report pages there is no information about the origin of the items. Still, the report is very useful for the study of the Wallachian coins from the Saint-Georges Museum collection that in the end became part of the National History Museum of Romania numismatic collection. Therefore, in this report it is specified that at that moment in the Saint-Georges Museum collection there were preserved a number of 93 coins, distributed according to their issuer as it follows: ten coins from Vladislav I Vlaicu (cca. 1364-1377), 16 coins from Radu I (1377-1383), six coins from Dan I (1383-1386), 58 coins from Mircea the Elder (1386-1418), two coins from Vladislav II (1447-1456) and one coin from Mihnea III (1658-1659) (Saint-George Archive d. 18/1939-1948, f. 24). The number of coins indicated in the report match with the identified coins in the National History Museum of Romania for all the Wallachian rulers with only one exception, Mircea the Elder, where I have found four extra coins, for a total of 62 coins. It is quite hard to say if the four extra coins are later intrusions caused by a confusion of the coins in the long process of transferring the coins from an institution to another or if the coins were from the beginning part of Saint-George Collection and by mistake they were not indicated in the inventory report from 1949. In this context it is important to mention that alongside the coins, there are preserved as well the original paper envelopes from the Saint-Georges Museum and the paper **envelopes from the National Antiquities Museum/the Archaeology Institute „Vasile Pârvan”**, a fact which makes me believe that those four extra coins from Mircea the Elder were not counted during the 1949 inventory.

Before I start with the presentation of the coins I think it is very important to discuss about the provenance of the coins that can be established with the help of the information available on the original envelopes in which the coins were first preserved.

The only coin for which the information inscribed on the envelope was confirmed by the donation document preserved in the Saint-Georges Archive is the ducat with the inventory number 6021, struck in the name of Vladislav I Vlaicu. According to the envelope information the **coin was donated by the „Mica” Society**⁴ in the year 1941. Luckily, thanks to the mentioned document we can surely know that the coin was donated in 27th of October 1941, being part of a consistent batch of coins constituted of a collection of 72 Moldavian **coins, one silver coin struck by Petru Mușat**, two gilded Byzantine bronze coins, two Roman imperial coins and three Frisach type coins (Saint-Georges Archive d. 8/1941, f. 30). It should be kept in mind the fact that the Saint-Georges Museum was often **sending funding requests to the „Mica” Society** in order to buy cultural objects which were later mentioned in the inventory registers as

⁴ **The „Mica Society” was during the interwar period the largest Romanian gold producer and the most important mining society that worked in the precious metal extraction in the Central and South-Eastern Europe. The Society was founded in 1920 and its history ended in 11th of June 1948 when it was nationalized. The „Mica” Society cared a lot about the social and cultural development of the local communities and for their employees, investing significant amounts of money for the construction of social and cultural buildings like schools, churches, theaters, cinemas, sport halls etc. (Baron 2006 521-523).**

objects donated by the Society. The proof of this ingenious financing strategy is a paper dated 11th of January 1938 and signed by Alexandru Saint-Georges through which he was asking for a subvention of 100.000 lei needed in order to buy coins and other type of items (Saint-Georges Archive d. 5/1938, f. 167). There were also requested subventions with the occasion of identification of some precise acquisition, as we can **see in the advanced solicitation to the „Mica” Society from 24th of June 1942**, when Alexander Saint Georges says that an antiquarian is selling for 20.000 lei the 1859 **silver medal „The Deputy is Inviolable”, as well as a thaler from Constantin Brâncoveanu**. In order to fortify his funding request, the director of the museum **explains that „it would be a pity for these pieces to enter into the wrong hands and cross the country’s border, as is often the case”**. In the same paper Alexander Saint-Georges reminds that the Society funded the salvation of the collection Helder-Galați, a **collection „which was constituted of more than 1.000 interesting pieces”, that have considerably grown the dimensions of the museum’s numismatic collection** (Saint-Georges Archive d. 9/1942, f. 155).

Another name inscribed on the old envelopes of the Saint-Georges collection is Aram Papazian, about who we do not have much information. It is known that he had an Antiques stores, located on Calea Victoriei. Also it seems that he was specialized in numismatics and Persian carpets. His passion for numismatics is proved by the numerous coins preserved in the Romanian Library Coin Room collection and in the Georges Severeanu collection, which have been bought from Aram Papazian during the interwar period. The Saint-Georges batch of coins bought in 1942 from Papazian, consists of a number of four monetary pieces, three coins issued by Vladislav I Vlaicu (inventory numbers: 6020, 6023, 6024) and one coin issued by Vladislav II. It is quite hard to assume that the three ducats struck by Vladislav I Vlaicu (inventory number 3111) are part of a larger hoard, but this hypothesis must be regarded as a very probable possibility.

A really interesting group of coins, with a tangled story that can only be deduced at this moment, are the nine coins batch donated to the Saint-Georges Museum by **Hayda C. Coandă (inventory numbers: 6070, 6073, 6078, 6080, 6091, 6095, 6096, 6099, 6100)**. All the coins are ducats struck by Mircea the Elder. Two of these ducats present Slavonic legend, marked with the following pairs of privy marks: **Θ/P** and **Ν/S**, while the rest of the coins are ducats with Latin legends, being marked with the following pairs of privy marks: **Μ/-, W/-, Π/Π, W/P, W/I, M/P, M/N**. **Hayda C. Coandă** was the wife of the **General Constantin Coandă**, Romanian Prime-Minister (October-December 1918) and Minister of foreign affairs (October-November 1918) and she was **the mother of Henry Coandă**, famous aeronautical pioneer. Although, the Coandă family originated from Oltenia, being an old boyards family having deep roots in Craiova, it seems that they were the owners of some vast lands in Tulcea and in **Constanța** counties. **The lands from Tulcea seemed to be localized near the Niculițel commune** and this is probably why, nowadays, there is still preserved a vineyard area **called Coandă vineyard**. Due to this geographical context, it is presumed that the batch **of coins donated by Hayda C. Coandă is a fragment of the Niculițel-Bădila hoard found in 1906 in the vineyard of Cialicoff (Moisil 1913 22/ no. 12)**, which probably was located **near the Coandă vineyard**. It is important to mention that Constantin Moisil, in one of his numismatic chronicles, explains that the hoard was scattered, fragments of it being purchased by numerous collectors like: Dr. George Severeanu, Nicolae Docan, D. G. Ionescu and by the Monsignor Raymund Netzhammer (Moisil 1913 22/no. 12). The second and the strongest argument that suggests that this batch of ducats from Mircea the Elder is a part of the **Niculițel-Bădila hoard is the mention of George Severeanu**; in one of his papers it is stated **that the Commander Constantin Coandă, the husband of**

Hayda Coandă, sold to Severeanu a number of 87 ducats struck by Dan I which were **part of Bădila-Niculițel hoard (Severeanu 1935 244)**. Another coin from Mircea the Elder (no. 28, inv. no. 6110) was sold for 300 lei by V. Sarchizian in 1942. It is quite probable that V. Sarchizian was an antiquarian who was active during the inter-war period⁵.

Finally, thanks to the information written on one last envelope, only one name of a donator has been saved, who was the well-known collector K. F. Nuber. He donated the bronze coin struck by Mihnea III (inventory number 6113). It is known that K. F. Nuber lived in Romania for some years, traveling a lot in Moldavia and Bucovina, a period during which he managed to collect many medieval Romanian coins. It seems that his passion for collecting coins transformed into a business, a fact proved also by the selling of a fragment of a Moldavian hoard, constituted of coins issued by Peter I **Mușat**, to the History Museum from Berlin (**Știrbu 1980 78**).

In the following part of the paper I will present the catalogue of the Saint-Georges Museum collection with short commentaries. The coins are classified in groups firstly, according to the Wallachian ruler who issued the coins and secondly, according to the privy marks identified on the obverse and reverse of the pieces.

Catalogue

Vladislav I (1364-1377)

1. Ducat, Latin legend [-/-]
Ob. **†MLADIZLAIWAIWODE**
Rv. **†TRANS LPINI**
AR, ↖, 0.76 g, 16.45 x 17.10 mm.
Inv. no. 6017.
MBR 9-14; Oberländer 2012 I.15.

2. Ducat, Latin legend [-/-]
Ob. **†MLADIZLAIWAIWODE**
Rv. **†TRANS ALPINI**
AR, ↖, 0.91 g, 17.25 x 18.55 mm.
Inv. no. 6018.
MBR. 9-14; Oberländer 2012 I.15.

3. Ducat, Latin legend [-/-]
Ob. **†MLADIZLAIWODE**
Rv. **†TRANS LPINIL**
AR, ↙, 0.95 g, 17.85 x 18.85 mm.
Inv. no. 6020.
MBR. 9-14; Oberländer 2012 I.15.
Bought from Dimitrie Papazian in 1942.

4. Ducat, Slavonic legend [•/*]
Ob. **†IWANEATIGLABOIBO...**
Rv. **†IWANE LATI**
AR, ↗, 0.95 g, 16.80 x 18.10 mm.
Inv. no. 6022.
MBR. 17; Oberländer 2012 I.19.

5. Ducat, Slavonic legend [•/*]
Ob. **†IWANEATIGLABOIBODA**
Rv. **†IWANE LATI:**
AR, ↙, 0.97 g, 17.25 x 17.95 mm.

6. Ducat, Slavonic legend [•/*]
Ob. **†IWANEATIGLABOIBODA**
Rv. **†IWANE LATI:**
AR, ↗, 0.81 g, 18.65 x 19.25 mm.

⁵ According to the database of the Armenian merchants and craftsman who worked in Romania, available online at the address www.negustorie.ro/lista-negustori-si-meseriasi/ a number of 18 Armenian merchants with the name Sarchizian are known, who had different types of shops (coffee shops, rug shops, jewelry shops etc.) in Bucharest, Constanța, Râmnicu Vâlcea during the inter-war period. Unfortunately, in the database there isn't mentioned any merchant whose forename starts with the letter V or who would have had an antique store.

Inv. no. 6023. MBR. 17; Oberländer 2012 I.20. Bought from Dimitrie Papazian in 1942.	Inv. no. 6024. MBR. 17; Oberländer 2012 I.20. Bought from Dimitrie Papazian in 1942.
7. Ducat, Slavonic legend [♣/*] Ob. +ΔΙΟΛΛΕ[Ε]ΒΟΕΒΟΔΑΤ Rv. +ΙΩΑΝ ΤΥΛΑΔ AR, ♣, 1.08 g, 19 x 19.80 mm. Inv. no. 6025. MBR. 17; Oberländer 2012 I.5.	8. Ducat (fragmentary), Slavonic legend [♣/*] Ob. +ΙΟΛΛ[...] Rv. +[...]ΝΙ ΟΛΛΑ[...] AR, ♣, 0.66 g, 15.85 x 19.40 mm. Inv. no. 6026. MBR. 17; Oberländer 2012 I.5.
9. Ducat, Latin legend Ob. +MLISLIT[RA]NINSWODI Rv. +TRANSI ALPIN AR, ↗, 1.11 g, 19 x 19.45 mm. Inv. no. 6021. MBR. 5; Oberländer 2012 I.11. Donated by Mica Society in 1941.	10. Ducat, Latin legend Ob. +MONA·MLADCSWOIWOD Rv. +TRANSI ALPINS AR, ↓, 1.13 g, 18.85 x 19.45 mm. Inv. no. 6019. MBR. 5; Oberländer 2012 I.11.

The group of coins issued by Vladislav I Vlaicu is constituted of ten coins that can be distributed as it follows: three ducats with Latin legend and no privy marks, three ducats with Slavonic legend and a rosette with six leafs as privy mark placed on the reverse in the left field, two ducats with the bird represented, oriented to the right side and with the head turned to the left side, both coins present a crescent in the second field of the shield and a six leaf rosette as a privy mark on the reverse in the right field, the last two coins distinguish themselves from the others ducats by the representation on the obverse of an equal-armed cross.

Although Vladislav I Vlaicu is the first Wallachian ruler who struck coins, his coinage was not a much researched topic in the Romanian numismatic literature. Unfortunately, the lack of some extended studies based on the research of the numismatic material led to a wrong interpretation of Vladislav's coinage. Two of the **most representative papers regarding this topic are „Cu privire la problema realizării unui corpus al monedelor feudale românești” written in 1956 by Octavian Iliescu and the chapter written by Octavian Luchian, dedicated to the medieval Wallachian coinage from the catalogue „Monede și bancnote românești” (MBR 1977).** Leaving aside the existence of the *ban*, the divisional denomination of the Wallachian coinage, with which everyone agrees, it is very important to underline that in his study, Octavian Iliescu made the difference between ducats struck in the Venetian grossi monetary system and ducats struck in the Hungarian denars monetary system (Iliescu 1956 359-360; Iliescu 1970 14-15). Two decades later, in a catalogue inspired by the model proposed by Iliescu in the mentioned study, Octavian Luchian, referring to the coinage of Vladislav I Vlaicu, makes the difference between *deniers* and *ducats* (MBR 8-11). According to Luchian the ducats have the medium weight of 1.05 g and diameters of 18-21 mm, while the deniers have a medium weight of 0.70g and diameters of 16-18 mm. These classifications generated a long series of misunderstandings in the papers that followed these studies, but at the present moment, we can agree that Vladislav I Vlaicu issued only *ducats* as the main coins of the Wallachian monetary system alongside the petty coins called *ban*.

The coins issued by Vladislav I Vlaicu gathered in the Saint Georges Museum collection cover all the types struck during his reign. According to the MBR classification, which is considered the most important work about the Romanian medieval coins, the first six coins belong to the so-called Wallachian common type, the **ducats number 7 and 8 belong to the „bird with the turned head” type** while the last two coins belong to the cross type. At the present moment we do not have a clear chronology of the coins struck by Vladislav but we can deduce the order in which they were issued. Due to the iconography used also on the ducats issued in association with Radu I and by Radu I as sole ruler it can be deduced that the cross type ducats (nos. 9 and 10) were struck sometime in the last part of the reign of Vladislav⁶. The most numerous coin present in the hoards structures are the ducats with Latin legend (MBR 9-16), followed by the ducats with Slavonic legend (MBR 17-28), **the ducats „bird with the head turned” type and the cross type ducats** being extremely rare. In this context, although they have lower weights, it might be possible that the ducats with Latin legend (MBR 17-28) could be the first monetary pieces struck by Vladislav I Vlaicu.

Another aspect that should be taken into consideration is the stylistic approach of the shield of the three ducats with Slavonic legend (nos. 4, 5, 6). Four of the eight bars of the first field are decorated with oblique crossed lines. It is for sure that the depicting of the bars of the shields with oblique crossed lines is of Hungarian inspiration, similar patterns being seen on the gold and silver coins struck by Ludovic I (as examples: Huszàr 514, Huszàr 522, Pohl 59 – groschen dated between 1358-1364)⁷.

Special notice should be given to these three ducats with Slavonic legend (nos. 4, 5, 6) due to the use of two globules disposed above the obverse shield. Strangely, these monetary signs are not mentioned for the coinage of Carol Robert and for the coinage of Ludovic I in the catalogues of Lajos Huszàr and Artur Pohl, but they were identified for the deniers struck by Sigismund of Luxemburg in the mint of Kaschau between the years 1390-1427 (Pohl 117-13), the deniers struck in the mint of Nagybánya between the years 1390-1405 (Pohl 117-20) and the deniers struck in Schmölnitz (Pohl 117-22). In these three cases the two globules are associated with the marks of the mints represented on the obverse of the deniers: **S** for Schmölnitz, **N** for Nagybánya and **K** for Kaschau. Therefore, the globules do not represent the mint marks, but another type of control or identification marks. Given the fact that the marking system of the Hungarian coins during the fourteenth century is unitary, being easy to find connections between the mint marks from one ruler to another, it is quite strange the fact that **this type of marking wasn't identified yet for the earlier coinages** of Carol Robert and Ludovic I. Although the privy marks used for the coins struck by Vladislav I Vlaicu are totally different from the ones seen at the coins struck by Carol Robert and Ludovic I, it is not impossible that the two globules disposed above the obverse shield to be also inspired by the Hungarian coins and copied by the die engraver as in the case

⁶ Ernest Oberländer-Târnoveanu considers that the cross type coins started to be struck around the years 1369-1370, a period considered to coincide with a monetary reform characterized by the change of the iconography and by the decrease of the precious metal content. He also **mentions that the „Wallachian common” type** (MBR 9-16 and MBR 18-25) were struck after 1370 (Oberländer *et alii* 2011 4-5). His assertions are based on the results of the analysis of the metal composition of the coins, therefore his hypothesis is that the coins with the highest content of silver should be the first issues.

⁷ In his catalogue Lajos Huszàr presents the drawing of a florin struck by Karl Robert of Anjou (Huszàr 441) having three bars decorated with oblique crossed lines, but in the second field of **the obverse shield. This coins aren't included in the later Hungarian coins catalog written by Artur Pohl** (Pohl 1982).

of the oblique crossed lines used for the decoration of the shield bars. Nevertheless, this hypothesis presumes the existence of a Hungarian coin the should present the two globules above the shield just alike on the deniers of Sigismund of Luxemburg, which is unlikely, but at the same time the presence of the two globules could be simply explained by the decision of the die engraver to put a simple mark above the shield as he had probably seen on the groschens issued by Ludovic I (Huszar 522, Pohl 59).

Radu I (1377-1383)

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| <p>1. Ducat, Latin legend [✠/-]
Ob. ✠MRADOLILAVAVI
Rv. ✠TRANS ALPAI
AR, , 0.71 g, 16.30 x 16.75 mm.
Inv. no. 6042.
MBR 45-46; Oberländer 2012 IV.9;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-I.</p> | <p>2. Ducat, Latin legend [C /•]
Ob. ✠IOHSRAȚOLUSULIO
Rv. ✠[...]R[...]U L[...]
AR, , 0.58 g, 15.25 x 15.95 mm.
Inv. no. 6034.
MBR 51; Oberländer 2012 IV.14;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-III</p> |
| <p>3. Ducat, Latin legend [C /•]
Ob. ✠[...]SRȚOLUA[...]AL[...]
Rv. ✠IOHSR ȚOLU
AR, , 0.61 g, 15.25 x 15.95 mm.
Inv. no. 6032.
MBR 51; Oberländer 2012 IV.14;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-III.</p> | <p>4. Ducat, Latin legend [C /•]
Ob. ✠IOHSRAȚOLUAIALO
Rv. ✠IOHSR ȚOLU
AR, , 0.49 g, 14.90 x 16.70 mm.
Inv. no. 6031.
MBR 51; Oberländer 2012 IV.14;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-III.</p> |
| <p>5. Ducat, Latin legend [C /•]
Ob. ✠IOHSRAȚOLUA[...]ALIO
Rv. ✠IOHS ȚOLUS
AR, , 0.65 g, 15.15 x 15.75 mm.
Inv. no. 6027.
MBR 51; Oberländer 2012 IV.14;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-III.</p> | <p>6. Ducat, Latin legend [C /•]
Ob. ✠IOHSRAȚOLUAIALIO
Rv. ✠IOHSRAȚO LIAUR
AR, , 0.59 g, 14.70 x 15.75 mm.
Inv. no. 6030.
MBR 51; Oberländer 2012 IV.14;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-III.</p> |
| <p>7. Ducat, Latin legend [Θ/P]
Ob. ✠IONSRAȚOLUSUA[...]
Rv. ✠IOHSRA ȚOLUS
AR, , 0.51 g, 14.65 x 15.80 mm.
Inv. no. 6035.
MBR 52-57; Oberländer 2012 IV.15;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-IV.</p> | <p>8. Ducat, Latin legend [Θ/P]
Ob. ✠IOHSRONLOR[...]
Rv. ✠IOHSR O[...]
AR, , 0.54 g, 15.80 x 16.85 mm.
Inv. no. 6033.
MBR 52-57; Oberländer 2012 IV.15;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-IV</p> |
| <p>9. Ducat, Latin legend [Θ/P]
Ob. ✠IONSRONLROVLL[...]
Rv. ✠IONȚR ONLRL[...]
AR, , 0.57 g, 15.80 x 16.40 mm.
Inv. no. 6036.
MBR 52-57; Oberländer 2012 IV.15;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-IV.</p> | <p>10. Ducat, Latin legend [Θ/P]
Ob. ✠IONSRAȚOLUSUAI
Rv. ✠IONSRA ȚOLUS
AR, , 0.58 g, 15.05 x 16.30 mm.
Inv. no. 6037.
MBR 52-57; Oberländer 2012 IV.15;
Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-IV.</p> |
| <p>11. Ducat, Latin legend [Θ/P]
Ob. ✠IONSRAȚOLUSLA[...]O</p> | <p>12. Ducat, Latin legend [Θ/P]
Ob. ✠IONSRAȚOLUSUAILOO</p> |

Rv. **+IONSRAD OLUSU**

AR, ↗, 0.61 g, 15.30 x 16.05 mm.

Inv. no. 6038.

MBR 52-57; Oberländer 2012 IV.15;

Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-IV.

13. Ducat, Latin legend [**Θ/P**]

Ob. **+IONZADOLROLUS**

Rv. **+IONSRD LLRO**

AR, ↖, 0.66 g, 15.65 x 16.30 mm.

Inv. no. 6039.

MBR 52-57; Oberländer 2012 IV.15;

Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-IV.

15. Ducat, Slavonic legend [**Θ/✠**]

Ob. **+ВѢЛИКБІЮЄВДА**

Rv. **+ІВ:РА ДОСЛ**

AR, ↖, 0.57 g, 16.30 x 16.90 mm.

Inv. no. 6029.

MBR 69; Oberländer 2012 IV.38;

Pîrvulescu 2016 Slavonic legend-V.

Rv. **+IONSRAD OLUSLA**

AR, ↖, 0.62 g, 15.45 x 16.75 mm.

Inv. no. 6040.

MBR 52-57; Oberländer 2012 IV.15;

Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-IV.

14. Ducat, Latin legend [**Y/-**]

Ob. **+IONSRADOLUSUFIUO**

Rv. **+IONSR ADOLUS**

AR, ↗, 0.64 g, 15.35 x 16.55 mm.

Inv. no. 6041.

MBR 60; Oberländer 2012 IV.19;

Pîrvulescu 2016 Latin legend-VI.

16. Ducat, Slavonic legend [**Θ/✠**]

Ob. **+ВѢЛ[...]АВЮЄВДА**

Rv. **+ІВ:РА ДОСЛА**

AR, ↘, 0.81 g, 16.10 x 16.95 mm.

Inv. no. 6028.

MBR 51; Oberländer 2012 IV.14.;

Pîrvulescu 2016 Slavonic legend-V.

In the Saint-Georges numismatic collection a number of 16 ducats bearing the name of the Wallachian Prince Radu I were preserved, of which 14 have Latin legend, while the other two have Slavonic legend. All the coins presented belong to the so-called **„common Wallachian” type and are quite varied as regards to the privy-marks** identified on the obverse and the reverse of the coins.

Until recently the coinage of Radu I was not a point of focus for numismatists, probably due to the fact that the most important hoards which contained coins issued by Radu I were lost or scattered⁸. In this context, the coins with the chevalier have caught the attention of the specialist, their study approaching mostly this topic (Moisil 1921a 13-16; Moisil 1921b 113-118; Moisil 1923 122-133; Severeanu 1923 110-113; **Ocheșeanu 1992-1993 139-141; Iliescu 1994-1995 107-108**). But, thanks to the great efforts of Dan Pîrvulescu, the ducats struck by the Wallachian ruler preserved in the George Severeanu Museum collection are today presented with full descriptions and good illustration in a monography dedicated to the coinage of Radu I (Pîrvulescu 2016)⁹.

The first coin of this lot presents on the obverse, in the second field of the shield, a stylized *fleur de lys*. This coin is individualized through its obverse and reverse legends which follow the model of the Latin legend ducats initiated by Vladislav I

⁸ According to the literature there are known to have been found the following hoards containing coins from Radu I: Câmpulung hoard/1875, Resava hoard/1891, Slatina hoard/1914, Silistra hoard/1915; Oltenia hoard/ ante 1920; Jiana Mare/ante 1960; Ostrov hoard/1968, **Hajdučka Vodenica hoard/1969; Balta Sărată hoard/1979; Jidoștița hoard/ante 1989** etc.

⁹ The numismatic collection from the George Severeanu Museum is known for having the most significant number of coins from Radu I. In his book Dan Pîrvulescu studied a number of **727 ducats of the „Common-Wallachian” type, which he classified** according to the privy marks and to the obverse and reverse legends (Pîrvulescu 2016).

Vlaicu¹⁰. These legends resemblance with the ducats struck by Radu I predecessor might suggests that these variants of the ducats could be some of the earliest monetary issues of the second Wallachian ruler who struck coins, illustrating a continuity in the local mints¹¹.

Another coin with only one privy mark placed on the obverse is the ducat no. 14. It must be underlined the fact that the shape of the privy mark is quite unusual, looking like a Greek Epsilon with a horizontal tail in the lower part (ϵ_L). This mark will not be seen on the coins struck by the successors of Radu I. Comparatively with the coin no. 1, the obverse and revers legends have a different form, starting with the title „IO”. Also it is very clear that the letters were made by different engravers, the ducat no. 14 having cleaved letters, unlike the gothic letters of the ducat no. 1 that can also be seen on the coins struck by Vladislav I Vlaicu.

The ducats nos. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are quite unitary from the stylistic point of view. All of them present in the second field of the obverse shield the letter **C** and above the shield a globule. On the reverse of the coins the globule is also used as a privy mark being placed in front and in some cases behind the bird too (nos. 2, 3, 4, 5). On the other hand, the reverse privy marks of the ducat no. 6 are represented by a cross made of four globules and by a singular globule placed behind the bird.

Another stylistic feature of the coins of Radu I is the use of the crossed oblique lines as pattern for four of the bars that decorate the first field of the obverse shield. This pattern can be seen on the „bird with turned head” type ducats and on some of the Slavonic legend ducats issued by Vladislav I Vlaicu and on some ducats issued by Radu I, like the coin no. 5 from the Saint-Georges Museum numismatic collection. In the catalogue „Monede și bancnote românești”, another type of pattern for the decoration of the shield bars was identified. The ducat MBR 70 has two bars with oblique lines inclined to the left¹². Crossed oblique lines can be seen also on two of the shield bars of ducats with the inventory numbers 6079, 5896, 5983 and so on from Severeanu collection (Pîrvulescu 2016 209, no. 584, 590, 595). As you can see, this pattern is known to be associated with the ducats with Slavonic legends that have in the first field of the shield only four bars, being from this point of view extremely similar with Vladislav’s „bird with turned head” type ducats. The elements that make the coin from the Saint-Georges Museum collection quite special are two: firstly, the fact that it is a ducat with Latin legend and secondly, the shape of the shield which is carefully drawn, having in the first field eight bars, from which four are presenting the already mentioned pattern.

A significant number of coins from this batch are bearing the **Θ/P** pair of privy marks¹³, which can be seen also on the coins with Slavonic legends struck by Dan I and

¹⁰ In the George Severeanu Museum collection a number of nine similar coins were identified (with *fleur de lys* in the second field of the obverse shield), all of them presenting on the obverse the short version of the word MONETA rendered in the form of a simple **Μ** (Pîrvulescu 2016 66-67, nos. 1-9).

¹¹ In his extensive research on Radu I coinage, Dan Pîrvulescu considers that the series of ducats marked with the *fleur de lys*, in different forms, are the earliest issues of Radu I, proposing the pertinent hypothesis that over the time the marking system of the coins developed due to the growth of the monetary mass. Therefore, while the need and the number of the coins grew, the marking system became more complex and the mint masters used the pairs of letters or symbols both on the obverse and reverse of the coins (Pîrvulescu 2016 43).

¹² In the George Severeanu collection other similar coins can be seen - Pîrvulescu 2016 207, no. 560, 210, no. 600, 212, no. 615, 213, no. 636 etc.

¹³ An important amount of ducats with Latin legend and the privy marks **Θ/P** are preserved in the Severeanu collection too (445 pieces), a fact that suggests that this variant of the ducats of

by Mircea the Elder. But on the contrary, in the case of the ducats of Radu I, this pair of privy-mark, with such a long presence on the Wallachian coins, is associated both with the Latin legends and Slavonic legend pieces. It can be remarked that from the stylistic point of view the dies used for the striking of the ducats with **Θ/P** pair of privy marks were made with more care than the dies used for the striking of the ducats with the privy mark **C** represented on the obverse and of the ducats with Slavonic legend.

The last two coins are ducats with Slavonic legend and are marked on the obverse with the Greek letter **Θ** (theta), while on the reverse in the right field is rendered a cross with four globules depicted at the endings of the arms. The legends of the ducats struck by Radu I generated numerous discussions. Most of them concentrated on the ducats with the representation of the chevalier in armor, on which the usual legend used for the reverse *TRANS ALPINI* seems to be in fact the obverse legend, while the obverse legend that includes the name of the Voivode is in reality the reverse legend. The same uncommon inversion of the legends can be seen in the case of the ducats nos. 15 and 16. Most of the ducats with Slavonic legend struck by Radu I present on the obverse only the title of the ruler *Great Voivode (Veliki Voivoide)*, while the name of Radu is mentioned on the reverse, starting as it used to be with the title *ИВ*.

Dan I (1383-1386)

1. Ducat, Slavonic legend [**Θ/P**]
Ob. **†ИѦАА NOVBOEBOAA**
Rv. **†ИѦАА NO VBOEB**
AR, ↓, 0.39 g, 14.30 x 15.70 mm.
Inv. no. 6044.
MBR 80-83; Oberländer 2012 V.2.

2. Ducat, Slavonic legend [**Θ/P**]
Ob. **†ИѦАА NOVBOEBOAA**
Rv. **†ИѦАА NO VBOEB**
AR, ←, 0.42 g, 14.10 x 15 mm.
Inv. no. 6045.
MBR 80-83; Oberländer 2012 V.2.

3. Ducat, Slavonic legend [**Θ/P**]
Ob. **†ИѦ[...]BOEBOAAI**
Rv. **†[...]А NO VBOE[...]**
AR, ←, 0.47 g, 14.70 x 15.80 mm.
Inv. no. 6046.
MBR 80-83; Oberländer 2012 V.2.

4. Ducat, Slavonic legend [**Θ/P**]
Ob. **†ИѦАА NOV[...]**
Rv. **†ИѦАА NO VBOEB**
AR, ↗, 0.53 g, 14.05 x 14.50 mm.
Inv. no. 6047.
MBR 80-83; Oberländer 2012 V.2.

5. Ducat, Slavonic legend [**K/Δ**]
Ob. **†ИѦАА NOVBOEBOAA**
Rv. **†ИѦАА NO VBOEB**
AR, ↓, 0.38 g, 13.70 x 14.50 mm.
Inv. no. 6043.
MBR 85; Oberländer 2012 V.3.

6. Ducat, Slavonic legend [**ω/ω**]
Ob. **†ИѦАА NOVBOEBOAA**
Rv. **†ИѦАА NO VBOEB**
AR, ←, 0.56 g, 13.90 x 15.10 mm.
Inv. no. 6048.
MBR 79; Oberländer 2012 V.1.

The Wallachian batch of coins contains a number of six coins struck by Dan I, four of them with the pair of privy marks [**Θ/P**], one with [**K/Δ**] and one with [**ω/ω**]. During his short reign, of three years, Dan I struck coins with Slavonic legend only. According to the catalogue *Monede și bancnote românești*, in the name of Dan I were struck ducats bearing five pairs of privy marks, but this overview could be changed after the study of the **Balta Sărată hoard, that contains over 1100 coins issued by Dan I (Știrbu, Stancu 1987 108/3; Țânțăreanu, Beda 1984 82-83; Mitrea 1980 378/162;**




Radu I were struck in a large quantity. This hypothesis is supported also by the number of the legend variants identified for these ducats (Pîrvulescu 2016 46-48)

Mitrea 1984 188/145) and after the complete publication of the Dr. George Severeanu Museum that comprises a few hundred pieces struck by Dan I that were part of the **hoards Niculițel Bădila (87 coins) and Vlad Țepeș (346 ducats and 17 bans)** (Severeanu 1935 243-244, 248). In his article dedicated to the classification of the Wallachian coins, Ernest Oberländer-Târnoveanu brings into attention the existence of a sixth pair of privy marks that presents on the obverse the mark **W** and on the reverse the mark **IW**, pair of privy marks which was also identified by Severeanu in his collection (Severeanu 1935 253).

The most numerous ducats known from Dan I presents the pair of privy marks **Θ/P**, a pair that was also used for the coins of Radu I, while the other Greek letters used as privy marks are introduced starting with the reign of Dan I, a fact that can suggest that the ducats with this pair of privy marks were the first to be struck. Also the fact that this pair of privy marks was identified for the ducats issued by Dan I in association with Mircea the Elder suggests that **these coins were struck during Dan's entire reign**. It must be underlined the fact that the letters **Δ** and **H**, as well as the association of two letters like **IW** and **dW** are specific for the coinage of Dan I, as these were not used in the mints of Mircea the Elder.

Concerning the legends of the ducats of Dan I presented in this paper it is important to underline the fact that all of them present on the obverse extended legends with the complete form of his title *Voivode*. In comparison to the legends of the ducats issued by his successor, where it can be observed a continuous reduction of the title rendered in the legend.

Mircea the Elder (1386-1418)
Pre-reformed coinage (1386-cca.1405)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Ducat, Slavonic legend [Θ/P]
Ob. +IWMPǎ[...]OEAΔ
Rv. +IWMPǎ[...] [...]EB
AR, , 0.26 g, 14.25 x 12.75 mm.
Inv. no. 6070.
MBR 176-178; Oberländer 2012 VIII.37.
Niculițel Bădila hoard
Donated by Hayda C. Coandă.</p> | <p>2. Ducat, Slavonic legend [Θ/P]
Ob. +IWMPǎ[...]
Rv. +IWMP[...] [...]
AR, , 0.28 g, 13.15 x 12.30 mm.
Inv. no. 6055.
MBR 176-178; Oberländer 2012 VIII.37.</p> |
| <p>3. Ducat, Slavonic legend [Θ/P]
Ob. +IWMPǎЧΔ [...]O
Rv. +IWMP[...] [...]
AR, , 0.35 g, 13.55 x 12.85 mm.
Inv. no. 6071.
MBR 176-178; Oberländer 2012 VIII.37.</p> | <p>4. Ducat, Slavonic legend [Θ/P]
Ob. [...]MPǎBOEB
Rv. [...] Δ[...]
AR, , 0.37 g, 13.70 x 13.25 mm.
Inv. no. 6102.
MBR 176-178; Oberländer 2012 VIII.37.</p> |
| <p>5. Ducat, Slavonic legend [Θ/P]
Ob. +[...]MPǎBOEΔB
Rv. [...] ΔBOE
AR, , 0.42 g, 13.25 x 12.55 mm.
Inv. no. 6068.
MBR 176-178; Oberländer 2012 VIII.37.</p> | <p>6. Ducat, Slavonic legend [Θ/P]
Ob. +IWMPǎЧΔBOEΔΘ
Rv. +IWMPǎ ΔΘEΔ
AR, , 0.44 g, 13.60 x 14.35 mm.
Inv. no. 6069.
MBR 176-178; Oberländer 2012 VIII.37.</p> |
| <p>7. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. +I[...]BO[...] </p> | <p>8. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. +I[...]BOE</p> |

- Rv. **+IWM[...][...]O**
AR, →, 0.31 g, 12.75 x 12.25 mm.
Inv. no. 6049.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
9. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+IWM[...]**AB**[...]**
Rv. **+IWM**P****3** Ч[...]**B****
AR, ←, 0.33 g, 14.15 x 13.05 mm.
Inv. no. 6051.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
11. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+IWM**P****3**Ч**ABO**EO**AA****
Rv. **+IWM**P****3** BOEBOA**
AR, ↑, 0.36 g, 16.35 x 14.55 mm.
Inv. no. 6062.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
13. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+IW[...]**ABO**EB**
Rv. **+IWM**P****3** ЧBOE**
AR, ↗, 0.38 g, 13.25 x 13.35 mm.
Inv. no. 6064.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
15. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+IWM**P****3**Ч**ABO**EO**AA****
Rv. **+IWM**P****3** **ABO**EO**
AR, ↑, 0.39 g, 14.95 x 13.75 mm.
Inv. no. 6057.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
17. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **[...]3Ч**ABO**EB**
Rv. **[...]MP**3** BOE**
AR, ←, 0.43 g, 13.25 x 13.35 mm.
Inv. no. 6058.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
19. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+IWM**P****3**Ч**ABO**EO**AA****
Rv. **+IWM**P****3** BOEBOA**
AR, ↗, 0.43 g, 13.75 x 14.95 mm.
Inv. no. 6053.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
21. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **[...]ABOEO**AA****
Rv. **+IW[...][...]**
- Rv. **[...][...]B**
AR, ↘, 0.31 g, 12.60 x 12.95 mm.
Inv. no. 6050.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
10. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+IW[...]**Ч**[...]**
Rv. **[...] **ABO****
AR, ↗, 0.35 g, 12.65 x 12.50 mm.
Inv. no. 6052.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
12. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+IWM**P****3**Ч**ABO**E**
Rv. **+IWM**P****3** **ABO****
AR, ↗, 0.36 g, 14.10 x 13.15 mm.
Inv. no. 6063.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
14. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **[...]MP**3**Ч**ABO**[...]**
Rv. **[...]MP**3** Ч**AB****
AR, ↗, 0.39 g, 12.95 x 12.60 mm.
Inv. no. 6054.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
16. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **[...]3Ч**ABO**EB**
Rv. **[...] BOE**
AR, ↗, 0.40 g, 12.50 x 13.20 mm.
Inv. no. 6061.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
18. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+IWM**P****3**Ч**ABO**EO**AA****
Rv. **+IWM**P****3** **ABO**EB**
AR, ←, 0.43 g, 14.85 x 14 mm.
Inv. no. 6059.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
20. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+IWM**P****3**Ч**ABO**EO**
Rv. **[...]ABOEO**
AR, ↘, 0.44 g, 13.75 x 13.50 mm.
Inv. no. 6060.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
22. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. **+[...]MP**3**[...]**
Rv. **+IWM**P****3** [...]**

- AR, ↙, 0.45 g, 14.75 x 13.65 mm.
Inv. no. 6056.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
23. Ducat, Slavonic legend [K/K]
Ob. [...]MPǫЧ[...]
Rv. [...]AR, 0.30g, 13.20 x 11.95 mm.
Inv. no. 6108.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
25. Ducat, Slavonic legend [n/s]
Ob. [...]ѠMPǫЧ[...]
Rv. [...]ѠMPǫ Ч[...]
AR, →, 0.20 g, 13.90 x 12.40 mm.
Inv. no. 6074.
MBR 179-180; Oberländer 2012 VIII.37.
27. Ducat, Slavonic legend [n/s]
Ob. +ѠѠѠ[...]ѠMP[...]Ѡ
Rv. +Ѡ[...] ѠѠѠ
AR, ↑, 0.28 g, 13.35 x 12.20 mm.
Inv. no. 6072.
MBR 179-180; Oberländer 2012 VIII.37.
29. Ducat, Latin legend [-/-]
Ob. +IVVAN:DI:MVNČZ
Rv. +IVVAN MVNČZ
AR, ↑, 0.35 g, 13.65 x 14 mm.
Inv. no. 6075.
MBR 89-89a; Oberländer 2012 VIII.1
31. Ducat, Latin legend [-/-]
Ob. +IVVANSIVIS[...]Ѡ
Rv. +IVVANS Ѡ[...]
AR, ↑, 0.41 g, 12.25 x 12.55 mm.
Inv. no. 6079.
MBR 89-89a; Oberländer 2012 VIII.1.
33. Ducat, Latin legend [Φ/-]
Ob. +IVVAN[...]Ѡ:VNSI
Rv. +[...] [...]ѠV
AR, ↖, 0.27 g, 12.10 x 12.85 mm.
Inv. no. 6076.
MBR 108-112; Oberländer 2012 VIII.9.
- AR, ↖, 0.51 g, 12.75 x 12.35 mm.
Inv. no. 6065.
MBR 169-173; Oberländer 2012 VIII.35.
24. Ducat, Slavonic legend [X/M]
Ob. [...]MPǫ[...]ѠѠ[...]
Rv. +[...]MP [...]AR, ↖, 0.41 g, 12 x 11.85 mm.
Inv. no. 6066.
MBR 163, 183-184a; Oberländer 2012 VIII.30.
26. Ducat, Slavonic legend [n/s]
Ob. +ѠMP[...]ѠѠ
Rv. [...]ѠMP [...]AR, ↙, 0.27 g, 14.60 x 12.70 mm.
Inv. no. 6073.
MBR 179-180; Oberländer 2012 VIII.37.
- Niculițel Bădila hoard**
Donated by Hayda C. Coandă.
- 28 Ducat, Slavonic legend [n/s]
Ob. +ѠMPѠ[...]
Rv. [...]ѠѠ[...]AR, ↘, 0.26 g, 13.50 x 12.80 mm.
Inv. no. 6110.
Bought from V. Sarchizian in 1942.
30. Ducat, Latin legend [-/-]
Ob. +IVVAN[...]VNČZ
Rv. +IVVAN [...]AR, ↖, 0.36 g, 14.85 x 12.90 mm.
Inv. no. 6109.
MBR 89-89a; Oberländer 2012 VIII.1.
32. Ducat, Latin legend [Ѡ/-]
Ob. +IVVAN:SI[...]IS
Rv. +IVVAN NSI:Ѡ
AR, ↖, 0.41 g, 14.60 x 13.75 mm.
Inv. no. 6078.
MBR 104; Oberländer 2012 VIII.5.
- Niculițel Bădila hoard**
Donated by Hayda C. Coandă.
34. Ducat, Latin legend [Φ/-]
Ob. +IVVANSI: Ѡ:VNSI[...]
Rv. +IVVA NSѠ
AR, ↗, 0.31 g, 13.60 x 13.30 mm.
Inv. no. 6077.
MBR 108-112; Oberländer 2012 VIII.9.

35. Ducat, Latin legend [P/P]
Ob. **+IVVAN:DI:MNCAZ**
Rv. **+IWANQ MNCAZ**
AR, ↓, 0.35 g, 14.10 x 12.90 mm.
Inv. no. 6098.
MBR 101; Oberländer 2012 VIII.2.

37. Ducat, Latin legend [Π/Π]
Ob. **+MEACAZNE[...]:DI:MNCAZ**
Rv. **+M[...]:Z: [...]:DI**
AR, →, 0.39 g, 12.55 x 13.50 mm.
Inv. no. 6095.
MBR 118-120; Oberländer 2012 VIII.13.
Niculitel Bădila hoard
Donated by Hayda C. Coandă.

39. Ducat, Latin legend [Ω/Ω]
Ob. **+IVVAN:DI:MNCAZ**
Rv. **+IVVNI MNCAZ**
AR, ↗, 0.32 g, 13.30 x 12.25 mm.
Inv. no. 6080.
MBR 141-145; Oberländer 2012 VIII.21.
Niculitel Bădila hoard
Donated by Hayda C. Coandă.

41. Ducat, Latin legend [Ω/Ω]
Ob. **+IVVAN:DI:MNCAZ**
Rv. **+IVVAN MNCAZ**
AR, ↗, 0.26 g, 14.10 x 14.35 mm.
Inv. no. 6099.
MBR 141-145; Oberländer 2012 VIII.21.
Niculitel Bădila hoard
Donated by Hayda C. Coandă.

43. Ducat, Latin legend [Ω/Ω]
Ob. **+IVV[...]:MN[...]**
Rv. **+IVVAN MNCAZ**
AR, ←, 0.31 g, 13.85 x 12.90 mm.
Inv. no. 6090.
MBR 141-145; Oberländer 2012 VIII.21.

45. Ducat, Latin legend [Ω/I]
Ob. **+IVVAN:DI:[...]VNCZ**
Rv. **+IVVAN: m[...]**
AR, ↗, 0.27 g, 13.60 x 12.55 mm.
Inv. no. 6088.
MBR 146-151; Oberländer 2012 VIII.22.

36. Ducat, Latin legend [P/P]
Ob. **+IVVAN:DI:[...]N**
Rv. **+IW[...]: [...]:NCZ**
AR, ↓, 0.45 g, 14.25 x 13.35 mm.
Inv. no. 6067.
MBR 101; Oberländer 2012 VIII.2.

38. Ducat, Latin legend [Π/Π]
Ob. **+MANCAZNE[...]**
Rv. **+MANCAZ [...]**
AR, ↙, 0.33 g, 13.50 x 12.95 mm.
Inv. no. 6107.
MBR 118-120; Oberländer 2012 VIII.13

40. Ducat, Latin legend [Ω/Ω]
Ob. **+IVVAN:DI:MNCAZ**
Rv. **+IVVAN MNCAZ**
AR, ←, 0.35 g, 13.40 x 13.85 mm.
Inv. no. 6083.
MBR 138-140; Oberländer 2012 VIII.20.

42. Ducat, Latin legend [Ω/Ω]
Ob. **+IVV[...]:VNCZ**
Rv. **+IVVAN MNCAZ**
AR, ↑, 0.27 g, 13.10 x 12.35 mm.
Inv. no. 6101.
MBR 141-145; Oberländer 2012 VIII.21.

44. Ducat, Latin legend [Ω/Ω]
Ob. **+IVVAN:DI:[...]**
Rv. **+IVVA[...]: [...]:Z**
AR, ←, 0.27 g, 14.45 x 13.80 mm.
Inv. no. 6096.
MBR 141-145; Oberländer 2012 VIII.21.
Niculitel Bădila hoard
Donated by Hayda C. Coandă.

46. Ducat, Latin legend [Ω/I]
Ob. **+IVVANSIVISNI**
Rv. **+IVVAN: SMIV[...]**
AR, ←, 0.37 g, 13.30 x 14.25 mm.
Inv. no. 6089.
MBR 146-151; Oberländer 2012 VIII.22.

48. Ducat, Latin legend [W/I]
Ob. **+IVVAN:[...]**LI
Rv. [...] **mnaz**
AR, ↖, 0.29 g, 12.55 x 12.40 mm.
Inv. no. 6100.
MBR 146-151; Oberländer 2012 VIII.22.
Niculitel Bădila hoard
Donated by Hayda C. Coandă.
49. Ducat, Latin legend [W/I]
Ob. **+IVVANV~m[...]**
Rv. **+IV[...]** **smiv:**
AR, ←, 0.26 g, 13.35 x 12.60 mm.
Inv. no. 6087.
MBR -; Oberländer 2012 -.
50. Ducat, Latin legend [W/I]
Ob. **+IVVAN[...]**IVI[...]mi
Rv. **+IVVN:** **smiav**
AR, ↖, 0.23 g, 13.95 x 12.85 mm.
Inv. no. 6105.
MBR 153-155; Oberländer 2012 VIII.24.
51. Ducat, Latin legend [W/J]
Ob. **+IVVANV~m[...]**
Rv. **+IVVN:** **smiav**
AR, →, 0.30 g, 14.20 x 13.10 mm.
Inv. no. 6106.
MBR 153-155; Oberländer 2012 VIII.24.
52. Ducat, Latin legend [W/J]
Ob. **+IVVANm[...]**ANVIV
Rv. **+IVVN:** **sm[...]**
AR, ↙, 0.36 g, 12.75 x 13.80 mm.
Inv. no. 6104.
MBR 153-155; Oberländer 2012 VIII.24.
53. Ducat, Latin legend [P/C]
Ob. **+IVVAN:DI:mnaz**
Rv. **+IVVAN** [...]AZ
AR, ↖, 0.27 g, 13.35 x 13 mm.
Inv. no. 6082.
MBR 133-136; Oberländer 2012 VIII.18.
54. Ducat, Latin legend [P/C]
Ob. [...]māzni[...]
Rv. **+IVVANDI** **mn[...]**
AR, ↗, 0.28 g, 13.35 x 12.45 mm.
Inv. no. 6081.
MBR 133-136; Oberländer 2012 VIII.18.
55. Ducat, Latin legend [P/C]
Ob. **+IVVAN:DI[...]**
Rv. **+IVVAN:D** **m[...]**
AR, ↙, 0.29 g, 13.45 x 13.75 mm.
Inv. no. 6084.
MBR 133-136; Oberländer 2012 VIII.18.
56. Ducat, Latin legend [P/C]
Ob. **+IVVA[...]**DI:mnazn
Rv. **+IVVAN:D** **mnaz**
AR, →, 0.29 g, 13.95 x 13.85 mm.
Inv. no. 6097.
MBR 133-136; Oberländer 2012 VIII.18.
57. Ducat, Latin legend [P/C]
Ob. **IVVA[...]**DI:mnazn
Rv. **+IVVAN:DI** **mnaz**
AR, ←, 0.30 g, 13.25 x 13.85 mm.
Inv. no. 6103.
MBR 133-136; Oberländer 2012 VIII.18.
58. Ducat, Latin legend [P/D]
Ob. **IVVAN:DI:mnazn**
Rv. **+IVVAN[...]** [...]Z
AR, ↙, 0.27 g, 13.90 x 13.65 mm.
Inv. no. 6086.
MBR 137; Oberländer 2012 VIII.19.
59. Ducat, Latin legend [M/N]
Ob. **+IWA:DI:mnaz**
Rv. **+IWA** **mnaz**
AR, ↘, 0.24 g, 14.20 x 13.50 mm.
Inv. no. 6091.
MBR 131—132; Oberländer 2012 VIII.17.
60. Ducat, Latin legend [M/N]
Ob. **+IW[...]**mnaz
Rv. **+IWA** **mnaz**
AR, ↙, 0.35 g, 12.85 x 11.65 mm.
Inv. no. 6094.
MBR 131—132; Oberländer 2012

Niculițel Bădila hoard
Donated by Hayda C. Coandă

VIII.17.

61. Ducat, Latin legend [M/N]
 Ob. **+IWAH:DI:MNQZ**
 Rv. **+IW[...] MNQZ**
 AR, ⚡, 0.27 g, 13.45 x 13.45 mm.
 Inv. no. 6092.
 MBR 126-129a; Oberländer 2012 VIII.17.

62. Ducat, Latin legend [M/N]
 Ob. **+IWAH:DI:MNQ[...]**
 Rv. **[...] MNQZ**
 AR, ⚡, 0.35 g, 11.10 x 13.80 mm.
 Inv. no. 6093.
 MBR 126-129a; Oberländer 2012 VIII.17.

Due to the association with the Niculițel Bădila hoard, the most important coins of this batch are the ones donated by Hayda C. Coandă. At the present moment it is quite hard to restore the known fragments of the Niculițel-Bădila hoard. Unfortunately, the fragments of coins which were known to be kept in the Severeanu Museum and in the Romanian Library Coin Room numismatic collections were mixed due to the moving of the collections during the 20th century. Regarding the coins donated by Hayda C. Coandă, presumed to be a part of Niculițel-Bădila hoard, these are very similar with the main core of the mentioned hoard. With the exception of the coins with the pairs of privy marks M/- and M/P, all the other variants of the privy mark combinations were mentioned by Constantin Moisil in his early papers dedicated to this exceptional hoard (Moisil 1908a 588-594; Moisil 1908b 413-419; Moisil 1906 1117-1122). Two of the coins have Slavonic legend and the pairs of privy marks Θ/P and N/S, while the other seven ducats have Latin legends and the following pairs of privy marks: M/N (one ducat – inv. no. 6091), W/I (one ducat – inv. no. 6100), W/P (three ducats nos. 29, 41, 44 – inv. nos. 6080, 6099, 6096), Π/Π (one ducat no. 37 – inv. no. 6095) and M/- (one ducat no. 32 – inv. no. 6078). The weights of the ducats are quite reduced, the heaviest coins weighting 0.39 g (Π/Π) and 0.41 g (M/-), while the rest of them having weights comprising between 0.26 g and 0.32 g. The coins donated by Hayda C. Coandă are integrated in the catalogue not as a unitary group, but in the order of the pairs of privy marks and of the weights.

According to the type of the legend the rest of the 52 coins of this batch can be divided in 27 of ducats with Slavonic legends and 25 ducats with Latin legends. The Slavonic legend coin no. 6, with the mint marks Θ/P, presents an interesting legend that ends on the obverse with the letter Θ, a letter which is also used in the reverse legend instead of the letter B. In the case of this coin, the *poinçon* with the letter of the privy mark was used instead of the letter B, even if in the obverse legend the first letter of the word *Voivode* was struck on the die with the correct *poinçon*. Another two interesting coin are the ducat nos. 27 and 28 that have an unusual legend both on the obverse (**+IWOB[...]MP[...]Θ** and **+IWPEAO[...]**) and reverse (**+IW[...] εMΘ** and **[...]WOε[...]**). Both ducats are marked with the letters N/S and have very low weights (0.28 g and 0.26 g). The coins were not struck with the same dies, the legends presenting a different placement of the letters. According to the legend it is quite hard to assign these two ducats to Mircea the Elder, but in the same time the *poinçons* used for the execution of the dies are extremely similar with the ones seen on the regular ducats of Mircea the Elder. Therefore, at this point a hypothesis regarding the issuer of these coins is connected to Mircea the Elder, having as argument the stylistic similarity with his ducats with Slavonic legends. These ducats could also be seen as forgeries after the ducats struck by Mircea the Elder, but they seem to be made of a metal with a high content of silver, while on the other hand some original ducats from Mircea the Elder

are known that have an incredible smaller amount of precious metal content (Oberländer-Tárnoveanu *et alii* 2009 3 the coin no. EOT 611).

Another aspect that should be followed in the case of the Slavonic legend ducats is the length of the legend. Some of the coins present obverse legends with the extended form of the ruler title **BOEBODAA**, while some of the coins have an extremely short form of the title like **BOE**. Due to the fact that the extended form of the legend is quite similar with the obverse legend of the ducats of Dan I, it can be assumed that these are the earliest coins struck by Mircea the Elder, the ducats with shorter legends being the following issues. It becomes quite clear that over the time the *poinçons* for the letter **A** was not produced anymore.

The same attention should be given to the obverse legend of the ducats with Latin legend, which in the most clear and correct form is written like **+IVVAN:DI:MN CZ**, but which takes a different form like **+IVVANSIVISMI**. It must be underlined the fact that it is really hard to make a classification of the legends following the pairs of privy marks, due to the fact that many series of ducats were struck concurrently for longer or shorter periods of time, therefore we cannot speak about a succession of series. For example the ducats without any privy marks, nos. 28, 29 and 30, present, on one hand, the first form of the legend (nos. 28, 29 - **+IVVAN:DI:MN CZ**), while the last coin presents a distorted form of the legend (no. 30 - **+IVVANSIVIS[...]**MI), the same observation being true for the ducats marked with **W/I** (nos. 44, 45).

A deviation from the classical form of the obverse shield can be seen at the ducats nos. 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51, coins that have shields with inverted fields which present in the first field the privy mark (**W**) while the second field is the one with the eight bars. These five coins have also a low quantity of silver, having a reddish color due to the high quantity of copper.

The coinage of Mircea the Elder is the best represented from the numismatic point of view, at the present moment more than 50 hoards containing ducats struck by the Wallachian ruler being known. There are more than 42 known variants of pair of privy marks, a fact that suggests the strength of the monetary activity of the first part of Mircea the Elder's reign. Even if there are known so many pairs of privy marks, these can be grouped following the stylistic criteria, which can indicate a succession over time of the ducats.

Vladislav II (1447-1448/1448-1456)

1. Ducat

Ob. **+IWELADIG[...]**ДГНЬ

Rv. **+IWELI GLABOBA**

AR, ↗, 0.61 g, 13,80 x 14,45 mm.

Inv. no. 6111.

MBR 256-261; Oberländer 2013-2014 XVII.3.

Bought from Dimitrie Papazian in 1942.

96. Ducat

Ob. **+IWELADIGLA BOIBODGНЬ**

Rv. **+IWELADI GLABOBA**

AR, ←, 0.59 g, 13,35 x 14 mm.

Inv. no. 6112.

MBR 256-261; Oberländer 2013-2014 XVII.3.

The numismatic collection of the Alexandru Saint-Georges Museum contained two reformed ducats struck by Vladislav II. As I have already mentioned one of them was bought from Dimitrie Papazian in 1942.

At first appearance the monetary system of Vladislav II seems to be quite simple, consisting of two denominations: ducat and ban. Although in 1956 Octavian Iliescu identifies for Vladislav II three series of ducats following the disposition of the star and the crescent found on the obverse of the coins (I - ➤/*, II - ◄/*, III - */◄)

(Iliescu 1956 308), in 1977, according to MBR, the most used reference catalogue for **the Wallachia's coinage**, the ducats of Vladislav II presents only two types: type I (MBR 256-261) – the ducats that present in the first field of the obverse shield a star with six rays surmounted by a crescent (☾/★), while the ducats of type two (MBR 261a) present in the first field of the obverse shield a crescent surmounted by the same star with six rays (★/☾)¹⁴. It is noteworthy the fact that, in 2007, Bogdan Costin published an article dedicated to a ducat and a ban attributed by him to Vladislav II, preserved in his private numismatic collection (Costin 2006-2007 311-319). According to Bogdan Costin the coins, which were both found in Bulgaria, are pre-reformed pieces that were struck sometime at the beginning of Vladislav II's reign, the coins being struck from a low quality silver and having a similar iconography with the already known coins of Vladislav II, but made in a careless manner. Even if the article presents good quality photos and drawing of the coins, the suspicion regarding the authenticity of these monetary pieces is high due to the fact that there are no known similar coins in any collection and also that the origin of the coins is uncertain. A complete survey of the research dedicated to the coinage of Vladislav II, following carefully the literature, was made by Florin Ciulavu (Ciulavu 2013 259-278).

Returning to the classification of the ducats struck by Vladislav II, Ernest Oberländer-Târnoveanu mentions the coins from the private collection of Bogdan Costin as being pre-reformed ducats, while for the known reformed monetary pieces he identifies four variants. Therefore, the first variant consists of ducats with a star surmounted by a crescent turned to left (☾/★), the second variant consists of ducats with a star surmounted by a crescent turned to right (☾/★), the third variant consists of ducats with a crescent turned to right surmounted by a star (★/☾), while the fourth variant consists of ducats that present only a six rays star in the first field of the obverse shield (★).

Both ducats from Vladislav II described above present on the obverse a star surmounted by a crescent turned to left (MBR 256-261; Oberländer 2013-2014 XVII.3). According to the monetary material published until now this variant of the ducats seems to be the most common, being struck in a larger number comparative to the other known variants. Due to the iconographic similarities of these ducats with the issues of the successors of Vladislav II, Octavian Iliescu believes that this variant is the latest one struck by the Wallachian Prince (Iliescu 1956 308; Vîlcu, Gramaticu 2002 182). Similar coins were found in: Piuș Petrii (Stancu 1996 170-171), **Cîrpiți** (Oberländer-Târnoveanu 2018 217; Iliescu, Marin 1958 345), Stizhok – Ucraina (Petrov, Dergaciova 2012 126-131).

Mihnea III (1658-1659)

1. Șiling, 1658

Ob. **·I·O·M·I·C·H·A·E·L·R·D·D·C·V·A·L·[...]**

Rv. **·S·I·D·E·V·S·N·O·B·I·S·C·V·M·[...]** **·S·C·O·N·N·O**

AE, ♂, 0.48 g, 15.60 x 16.20 mm.

Inv. no. 6113

MBR 274-284.

Donated by K. F. Nuber

¹⁴ Later, in 2002, Aurel Vîlcu and Steluța Marin have classified the ducats of Vladislav II in two groups: A – crescent surmounted by a star and B – star surmounted by a crescent, while the second group presents two subgroups Ba - ☾/★ and Bb - ★/☾ (Vîlcu, Gramaticu 2002 182).

The last Wallachian coin of the numismatic collections of Saint Georges Museum contains a schilling struck by the Wallachian Prince Mihnea III.

According to the classification made by Octavian Iliescu in 1956, the schilling presented above belongs to the second series (from five) (Iliescu 1956 309). He divided the coins starting from the disposing of the year on the obvers. The monetary piece sold by K. F. Nuber presents similitudes with the schillings described in *MBR* at the numbers 276 - 280. Bearing in mind that the year of the minting is always marked on the coins, I think that it is important to underline that the last digit of the year – 8 – is rendered as two globules, a representation that is not seen on the schillings illustrated in *MBR*.

It is important to mention that concerning the minting place of the schillings of Mihnea III Radu there is the hypothesis that these coins were struck in Transylvania, due to his good relationships with the Transylvanian prince George Rákózy II, who also helped him during the fights with the Ottomans (Iliescu 1970 23).

The striking of the coins by Mihnea III Radu, such an unexpected act of power made by a Wallachian ruler after almost two centuries since the last Wallachian coin was minted, should be analyzed in connection with the coinage of the Moldavian ruler Istrate Dabija (1661-1665) and with the counterfeiting phenomenon from Moldavia in the 17th century. Some coins from Mihnea III Radu, that are quite rare despite the incredible quantity of schillings struck in Moldavia, were found in hoards like Suceava 1913 (Iliescu 1960 319, no. 1) or Ciopleni/before 1940 (Iliescu 1960 320, no. 11).

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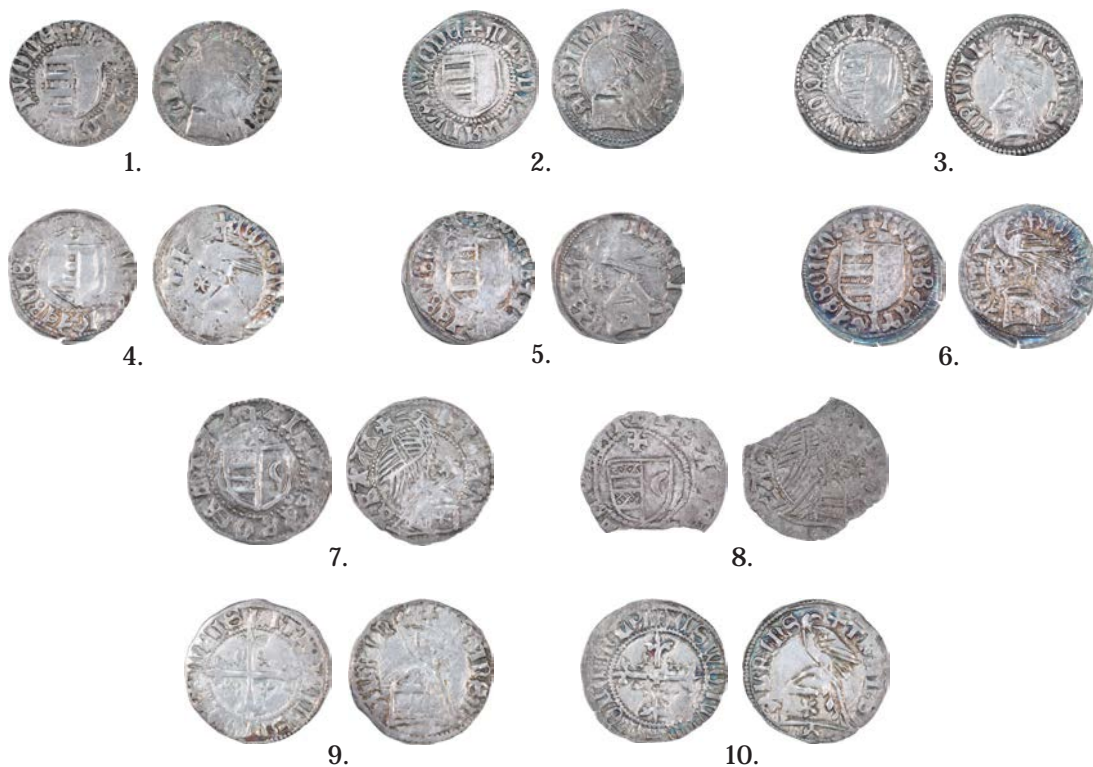
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Explanation of the plates / **Explicația planșelor**

Plates 1-3 – Wallachian coins from the numismatic collection of the Saint-Georges Museum.

Planșele 1-3 – Monede ale Țării Românești din colecția numismatică a Muzeului Saint-Georges.

Vladislav I Vlaicu



Radu I

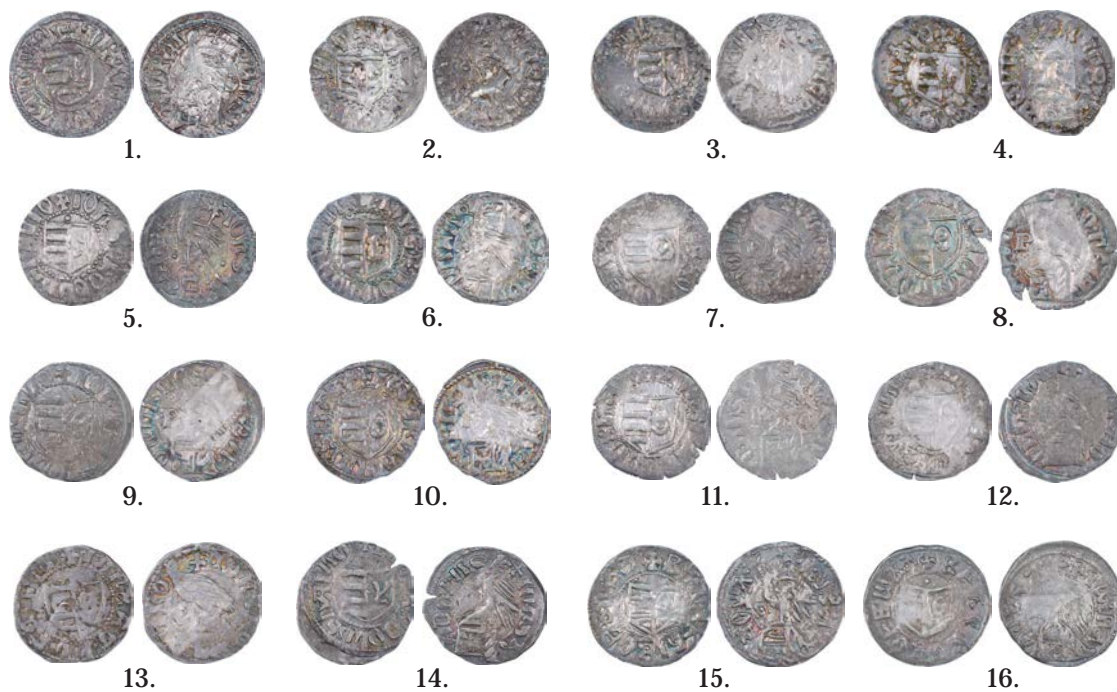


Plate 1

Dan I



Mircea the Elder

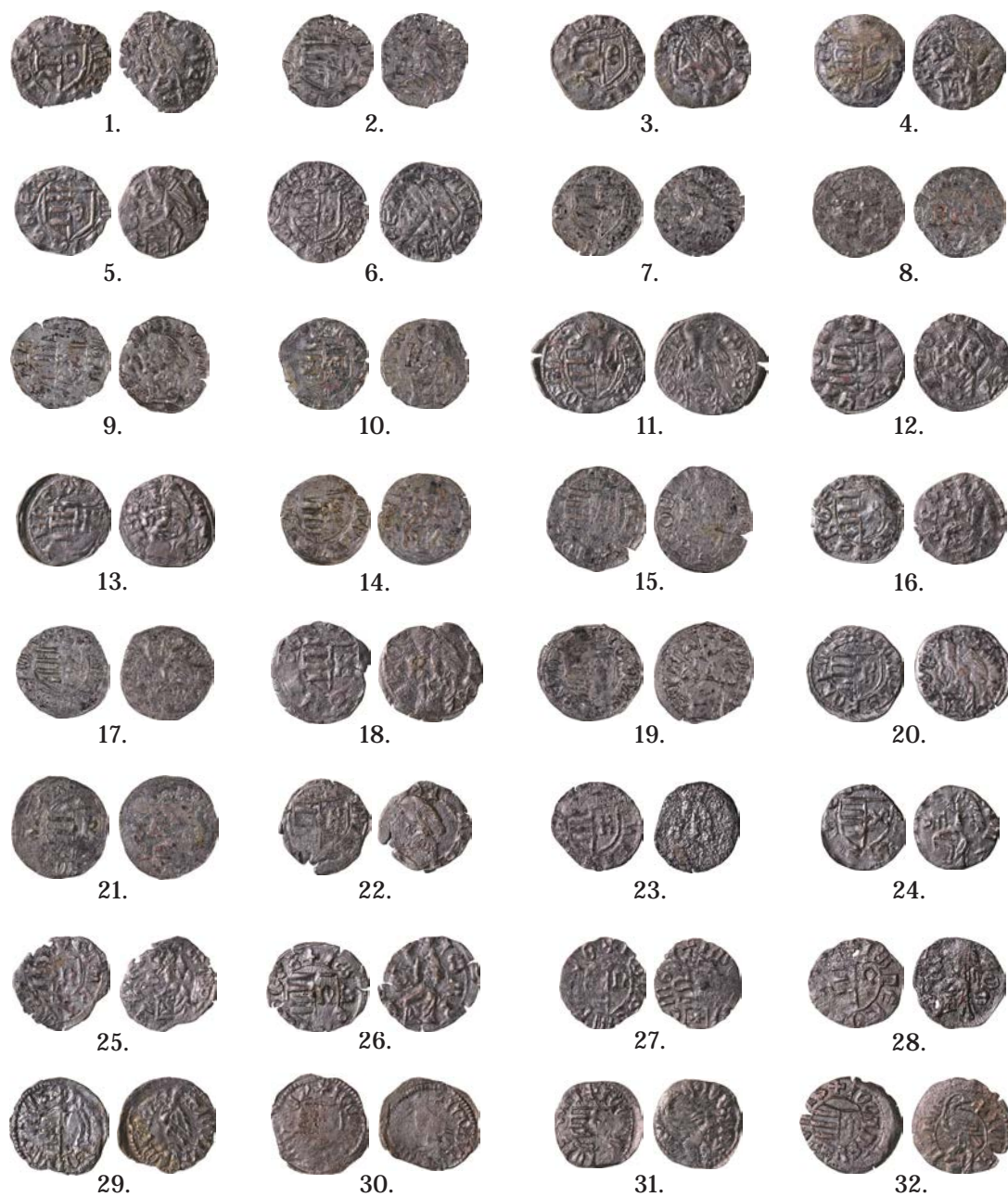
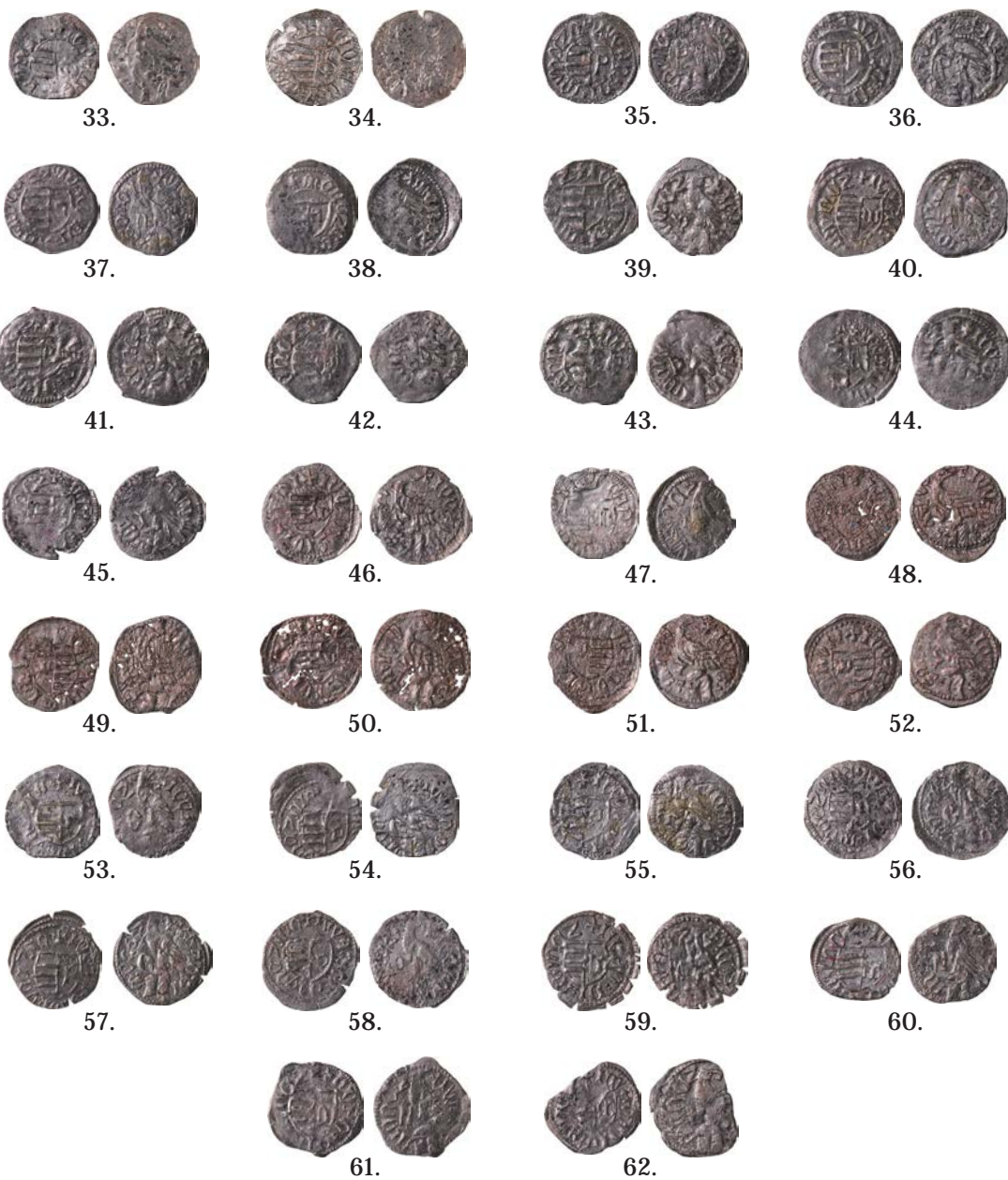


Plate 2



Vladislav II



Mihnea III



Plate 3