

FERENC MARTIN, *Kolonialprägungen aus Moesia Superior und Dacia*, Budapest, 1992, 114 p., 8 pl.

Starting from the date given by B. Pick about the colonial coins struck for Moesia Superior and Dacia in his book, *Die antiken Münzen Nord Griechenlands*, M. Ferenc again examines the problems of these issues using the information published in different works and also the coins from diverse private and public collections including Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, Budapest, Bibliothèque Nationale, Cabinet des Médailles, Paris, British Museum, Department of Coins and Medals, London, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Sammlung von Medaillen, Münzen und Geldzeichen, Wien, Musée National, Cabinet des Médailles, Zürich, Muzeul de Istorie al Transilvaniei, Cluj-Napoca, Narodni Muzej, Beograd, Staatliche Museen, Münzkabinett, Berlin, Staatliche Münzsammlung, München and others (see p. 23).

After the foreword (p. 7) where the author thanks everybody who helped him, there follows a short account of the period A.D. 239–257, a period in which the coins with the legend PMS COL VIM and PROVINCIA DACIA were struck, a description of the circumstances in which these coins were struck, and in parallel the diverse ideas which have been expressed about the numerous problems of these issues (pp. 9–12). Before examining the rest of the volume we consider that it is necessary to correct some mistakes which appear in this section of the book: the capital of the province Dacia, now in Hunedoara county, was called Colonia Ulpia Traiana Augusta Dacica not Dacia, to which the Dacian name of Sarmizegetusa, not Sarmisegetusa, was added later. The author states that the capital of Roman Dacia is in Hunyad comitat from Varhely region. This dates from the former Austro-Hungarian administrative organization. We consider this useless, even controversial and will only confuse scholars who are interested in this problem and force them to use maps made before 1918, which is not easy. Another error is that at Colonia Ulpia Traiana Augusta Dacica Sarmizegetusa was stationed *legio XIII Gemina*. A wellknown fact is that the headquarters of this legion, since A.D. 106 until the province was abandoned, was at Apulum (p. 10).

The following section, called *Das Münzmaterial* (pp. 13–21), has several parts; the first discusses the places where the two types were struck (p. 13). Gordian III gave permission, in A.D. 239 to the capital of Moesia Superior – Viminacium – to strike bronze provincial coins, but at that time the mint seems to function for the beginning at a North Italic mint. Philippus I, in A.D. 246, gave permission to strike coins for province Dacia, but on the basis of similitudes between some iconographic elements, style of letters, mistakes in the spelling of the legend, the author believes that these coins were also

struck at Viminacium. The last coins with the legend PMS COL VIM are from the XVIth year (A.D. 254–255). No coins minted at Viminacium are known having inscribed year X (A.D. 248–249), probably as a result of the presence of Pacatianus in the area. The author continues with the description of the elements which define the obverse and reverse of the coins issued for the two provinces: the legends and the clothes of the represented personages (pp. 13–15). He discusses the three denominations: *sestertius*, *dupondius*, *as* and also three kinds of medalions (pp. 15–16) before continuing about the technical aspects of the coins: the diameter of the coins and dies, the analysis of weight for some coins of Philippus I, the relationship between the position of obverse and reverse dies. Everything is based on analyzing a great number of coins (pp. 16–17). He continues with a few words about the small “hollows” in the center on the obverse or reverse, the metal of the coins, the elements which define types and variants, a useful discussion about the countermarks and symbols which appear on the surface of the coins (*Zeichen und Kontermarken*, p. 18). After explaining the system of marking the years of the two local eras (pp. 18–19) M. Ferenc discusses some aspects of the devaluation and the decay in style of the coins. The reduction in weight is illustrated by a diagram and a table (pp. 19–20). At the end of this section there are two tables showing the years in which the coins were issued in conformity with the local era, at Viminacium sometime between July and October and for Dacia during July–August.

The largest part of the book is the catalogue (pp. 23–106) in which the types are presented by years, technical aspects, the denomination, legends and drawings of the coins. Before the eight pages of plates which illustrate some of the coins, the reader finds useful additions to the catalogue (pp. 107–113) and a concordance with Pick's catalogue, *Die antiken Münzen Nord-Griechenlands*. Berlin, 1898, (p. 114). Concerning the drawings, we believe that photographic illustration is useful because of the higher detail possible comparison with a drawing. Also exhaustive illustration of the studied coins could enable someone to attempt a study of the dies of these coins.

Finally, a map with the fundspots would be useful and would give an image of the area of circulation of the coins. A much elaborate study of the PROVINCIA DACIA issues could have been attempted. Obviously, this does not make this book less important or useful; more than that we believe that this book will form a basis for everybody who wishes to study these coins and the economic, political, and military history of the two Roman provinces.

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