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SOME PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS ON A HOARD OF FIFTEENTH CENTURY OTTOMAN AKÇES, FOUND IN BUDEȘTI, VÂLCEA COUNTY

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Abstract

In September 2013 a hoard consisting of 47,296 Ottoman silver coins (*akçes*) was brought to the National History Museum of Romania. From the 47,296 coins, 47,274 were issued by Murad II (1421 – 1444), while the rest of 16 were issued by Emir Süleyman (1402 – 1411), Musa Çelebi (1411 – 1413), Mustafa Çelebi (1421 – 1422) and Mehmed I (1413 – 1421). The author presents in this article the context of the finding of the hoard as well as the historical context and offers a catalogue for the 38 coins issued before the year 834 AH (1431 AD).

Keywords: Budești hoard, Murad II, Emir Süleyman, Musa Çelebi, Mustafa Çelebi, Mehmed I, *akçes*

The aim of this short note is to present some preliminary considerations on the hoard found in September 2013, in Budești, Vâlcea County, consisting of 47,296 *akçes*, which makes this the largest coin hoard entirely recovered from Romania so far.¹ The hoard was brought at the National history Museum of Romania, where it is currently kept in custody for evaluation and research. This contribution is divided in four sections: the first section presents a short description of the context of the find; the second section offers a description of the make-up of the hoard; the third section focuses on a parcel of coins minted before the reign of Murad II; the last section presents my general conclusions.

The finding context

The hoard was found in the forest located in the hilly area, at the north-eastern limits of Linia village, Budești (Vâlcea county), with a metal detector². From the geographical point of view, Linia village is situated along the European route E81, at about 6 km south-east from Râmnicu Vâlcea and at 3 km from the left bank of the

* Muzeograf, Muzeul Național de Istorie a României, Compartimentul Centrul Național de Documentare în Domeniul Numismaticii „Octavian Iliescu” din cadrul Secției Cabinet Numismatic și Tezaur.

¹ I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Ernest Oberländer-Târnoveanu for his advice and guidance in the writing of this article.

² I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Iulian Enache for bringing the hoard to the National History Museum of Romania and for providing us the information regarding the conditions of the discovery.

Olt river. Also, the village is flanked by hills entirely covered in recently planted woods.

Given the geographical location, it is plausible to consider that the location of the burial place of the hoard was, during the Middle Ages, near a road connecting Wallachia with Transylvania, more specifically with Sibiu (Hermannstadt). The main proof of the existence of a trade road between Sibiu and Wallachia at the beginning of the fifteenth century, which might have passed in the vicinity of the area where the hoard was buried, is the existence of the Custom Office located at Genune³, which is mentioned for the first time in a charter given by Mircea the Elder, through which the Prince offers to the Cozia Monastery the income resulted from the activity of the custom⁴. Concerning the route after the transit of the Genune Custom, Ion Conea argues that the road was not following the banks of the Olt river, but it was passing through the Loviștei Country, following the Titești-Perișani-Sălătruc line, where the route divided into a road which lead to Curtea de Argeș and another one to Râmnic (the medieval Râmnicu Vâlcea city)⁵. As shown on the map, where the points of the passage route mentioned earlier are marked, we can imagine that there could have been multiple routes from Sălătruc to Râmnicu Vâlcea. Therefore, looking at the natural routes determined by the geographic context, it is noticeable that one route was going west, reaching the left bank of the Olt river, descending then to Râmnicu Vâlcea. On the other hand, another route could have followed the natural valley, going south from Sălătruc. This route could have lead to Râmnic if, at some point, it would have turned to west, following the present day E81 route, passing near the finding place of the Budești hoard. If not, this route enabled the acces to the left bank of the Olt river, downstream of Râmnic. However, even if the person or persons who hid the hoard followed one of these routes or not, the Budești hoard still remains in an international commercial transit area which connected Transylvania with the Balkans, a fact which can explain the hiding place of the treasure.

The exceptional dimensions of the find, almost 55 kilos of coins, left behind a hole of considerable size, about 40 cm deep and 25 cm wide. The hoard was found at a depth of about 0.05 – 0.25 m, with variations determined by the slope inclination, which is relatively steep.

³ The Genune Custom (the present Căineni commune) is known since ancient times, being identified with the Pons Vetus, a roman settlement situated on the *Limes Alutanus*. The name of the settlement is mentioned in Tabula Peutingeriana (VIII,1) and by the Anonymus Geographer from Ravenna (IV,7). Constantin Preda (coord.), *Enciclopedia arheologiei și istoriei vechi a României*, vol. 3, București, Editura Enciclopedică, 2000, p. 349.

⁴ DRH-B, I, document number 37; Marian Coman, *Putere și teritoriu: Țara Românească medievală (secolele XIV-XVI)*, Iași, Polirom, 2013, p. 221.

⁵ Trying to identify the ancient road followed by the Roman army in the Second Roman-Dacian War, Conea proves that up to the coming of the Austrian engineer Franz Schwanz, who designed the roadway from Olt Valley, it was impossible to follow the banks of the Olt River in order to pass to Transylvania. Therefore in the Antiquity and in the Middle Ages (in the medieval times the road was used for the international commerce by connecting Curtea de Argeș with Central Europe), the transit was made through Perișani Pass – a strategic point which allowed the access to Loviștei Country. Ion Conea, *Corectări geografice în istoria românilor*, București, Monitorul Oficial și Imprimeriile Statului, 1938, p. 37-51; Marian Coman, *Putere și teritoriu: Țara Românească medievală (secolele XIV-XVI)*, Iași, Polirom, 2013, p. 219-220.

According to the finder's explanation, some coins started to slide away from the main core of the hoard, most probably due to the fact that the hoard was buried on the slope of the hill, which during the rainy days could have been affected by some landslides (Fig. 2). The way in which the coins were positioned at the moment of the find and the shape of the pit indicate that the hoard was deposited in a textile or leather bag. No other scraps of material were found which could have been useful in the identification of the storage method that was used.

During the field survey, conducted immediately after the bringing of the hoard at the National History Museum of Romania, no visible landmarks which could prove the existence of any type of settlements were discovered.

The structure of the hoard

The hoard consists of 47,296 silver coins (*akçes*), which amounts to about 55 kilos of silver. The only denomination represented in the structure of this hoard is the ottoman silver coin – *akçe*. The specific feature of this hoard is represented by the fact that 47,274 of the coins from this hoard are issued under the sultan Murad II, meanwhile the remaining of the 22 coins are issued under the Emir Süleyman, Muşa Çelebi, Mustafa Çelebi and Mehmed I.

Concerning the coins issued by Murad II, in the first instance, these can be divided into two main groups, using a chronological criterion. Therefore, the first group consists of 16 coins marked with the years 824 AH – 1 piece – and 825 AH – 15 pieces – (1421/1422 AD), while the second group consists of 47,258 coins which are bearing the Hegira year 834 (1430/1431 AD).

Regarding the coins of the second group, I will present on a separate table the distribution of the pieces according to the mint cities marked on the reverse of the coins, with the intention of classifying each particular monetary type in a future study. Therefore, from the 47,274 coins 969 coins were issued at Ayasluk, 4,360 at Bursa, 12,322 at Edirne, 28,874 at Serez and 731 have struck only the obverse, hence the mint marked on the reverse is not readable. It is possible that with the advancing of the research and after a comparative study of the dies and sub-types of the coins we might be able to identify even further more mints of the last group. I have also identified one coin which seems to be issued under the reign of Murad II at Kastamonou, but it raises some questions due to the fact that the epigraphy of the coin is unusual.

The beginning of the rise of the Ottoman silver coins during the first half of the fifteenth century in the Balkans area is confirmed by written sources, as well as by monetary finds. Regarding the Romanian space, an important text is the charter given by Alexandru Aldea in 1433⁶, by which the Prince offered to the Saint George Monastery from the Mount Athos a donation of 3,000 *akçes* annually. Given the fact that it is a donation made for the Mount Athos, which was at that time a territory of

⁶ DRH-B, I, document number 74; Eugen Nicolae, *Moneda otomană în Țările Române în perioada 1451 – 1512*, Chişinău, Editura Arc, 2003, p. 40.

the Ottoman Empire, in this charter through *akçes* is expressed the account money and not the real coins by which the pay was made. Therefore, this document is a proof of the emergence of the Ottoman silver coins in the Balkans market, which could explain the exceptional quantity of coins from the Budești hoard.

Table 1
Mint, issuers and number of coins in the Budești hoard

Mint/ Issuer	Serez	Edirne	Bursa	Ayasluk	Kastamonou	Balad	Incuse coins	No mark mint
Emir Süleyman 806 AH								1
Emir Süleyman 813 AH		1						
Musa Çelebi 813 AH		1						
Mustafa Çelebi 824 AH		3						
Mehmed I 816 AH		3				2		
Mehmed I 822 AH	2	7	2					
Murad II 824 AH			1					
Murad II 825 AH	7	5	1					2
Murad II 834 AH	28,874	12,322	4,360	969	1		731	1
Total					47,296			

Although the hoard has an unusual pattern than what we are used to see in the numismatic finds dating from the first half of the fifteenth century from Wallachia, this particular monetary complex joins the corpus of Ottoman silver coins finds, providing a more complex image about the monetary circulation at that time. Therefore, I have to mention the Dudașul-Schelei hoard, found in Mehedinți County, which contains 15 *akçes*, one piece bearing the year 813 AH, issued by Emir Süleyman and 14 pieces issued by Mehmed I (816 AH type), minted in Siroz, Amasya, Edirne, Bursa, Ayasluk and Balad⁷. Other similar coins are kept in the numismatic collections of the „Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology; it is a group of 15 *akçes*, identified by Eugen Nicolae, who suggests that the coin complex presents the features of a hoard⁸. This group contains one piece issued by Emir Süleyman (806 AH) and four pieces from Murad II (834 AH), minted at Edirne (1) and at Serez (3). Two *akçes* from Murad II were identified by Eugen Nicolae in a hoard from Wallachia⁹, while another three *akçes* from Murad II (825 AH type), minted at Serez (2 pieces) and Bursa (1 piece), were found during the archeological surveys from Păcuilui lui Soare. A coin from Murad II minted at Ayasluk (834 AH), is part of the Cârpiți hoard found in Iași county¹⁰.

⁷ Toma Rădulescu, Petre Turturică, *Tezaurul de monede și podoabe feudale de la Schela-Cladovei Mehedinți (sec. XIV-XV)*, în *Arhivele Olteniei*, 3, 1984, p. 70-88,

⁸ Eugen Nicolae, *Un lot de monede otomane din secolele XIV-XV în colecția Cabinetului Numismatic al Institutului de Arheologie Vasile Pârvan*, *Studii și Cercetări Numismatice*, 9, 1989, p. 131-135.

⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 133; see the footnote no. 11.

¹⁰ Octavian Iliescu, Marin Dinu, *Tezaurul monetar din secolul al XV-lea de la Cârpiți (raionul Iași)*, în *Studii și Cercetări Științifice. Iași*, 8, 1957, 2, p. 342-345.

Concerning the date of the concealing of the hoard it is quite difficult to establish the chronological limits. Firstly, because of the specific Ottoman practice to mark the year on the coins, which is the year of the ascension to the throne of the sultan or the year of a monetary reform (as we could see with the coins of Murad II) and secondly, because of the lack of varieties of the coins from this specific hoard. For sure, the hoard was buried at some time after 1431 and before 1441¹¹. This period coincides with the time when Murad II started to implement an aggressive strategy in the Balkans, aimed at weakening Hungary and gain control of this region¹². This move consisted of a series of attacks against Hungary and begun with an expedition to Sibiu, led by Murad II himself¹³, which meant that his army had, without doubt, crossed the Wallachian territory. Given this context, one hypothesis about the burying of the Budești hoard could be that it was somehow connected with the military actions undertaken by Murad II in the Balkans. On the other hand, we must take into consideration the fact that it is quite clear that the hoard was gathered together somewhere in the south of the Danube. By analyzing the state of conservation of the coins I have noticed that the coins from Ayasluk and Bursa are the best preserved, while the ones from Edirne and Serez, which are the most numerous (41,196 pieces), are worn out. Also, we should not ignore the presence in the hoard of 50 perforated coins from Bursa (2), Edirne (31) and Serez (17), which suggest that the coins were probably gathered from the market in a short time. Another hypothesis regarding the concealing of the hoard is that the monetary complex could have been brought north of the Danube by a merchant, who was forced by certain circumstances to hide the hoard.

The coins issued before 834 AH

Despite the fact that the study of this hoard is not finished, due to the numismatic importance of this hoard for the history of the early monetary circulation of the Ottoman coins in Wallachia, I will present in this part of the article the catalogue of the 38 coins which are issued before 834 AH¹⁴.

Emir Süleyman (1402-1411)

1. Akçe (806 AH/ 1403 AD); No mintmark

AR 1.17 g ↑ 14.4x15.6 mm

Av. Emir Süleyman bin Baiazid

¹¹ After the conquest of the Serbian territories in 1441, the city of Novar became one of the most important coin mints from the Balkans, due to the nearby silver resources. Therefore, because of the absence of coins issued at Novar, it is quite probably that the hoard was concealed before the opening of this mint.

¹² Halil İnalcık, *Imperiul Otoman. Epoca clasică*, București, Editura Enciclopedică, 1996, p. 64-65.

¹³ *Ibidem*, p. 65. Aurel Decei, *Două documente turcești privitoare la expedițiile sultanilor Baiazid I și Murad al II-lea în Țările Române*, în *Relații Româno-Orientale. Culegere de Studii*, București, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1978, p. 215-222.

¹⁴ For the coin references I used the catalogue of Slobodan Srećković, *Akches. Osman Gazi-Murad II (699 – 848 AH)*, Belgrade, 1999.

Rv. In the square – Hullide mülkehü/ 806/ top Ebubekir; left [Ömer]; bottom Osman; right Ali

Srećković obverse A1/reverse 1 var.

2. Akçe (813 AH/1411 AD); Edirne

AR 1.18g ← 12.2x13 mm

Av. Duribe/Lâilâhe illallâh/Muhammad resülullâh/ [Edirne]

Rv. Emir Süleyman bin/ 81 – [3]/[Bayezid Hullide] mülkehü

Srećković obverse D*error/reverse IX

Musa Çelebi (1411-1413)

3. Akçe (813 AH/1411 AD); Edirne

AR 1.12 g – 11.3x13.4 mm

Av. Musa bin Bayezid

Rv. Duribe/Edirne/ Hullide mülkehü/813

Srećković obverse C/ reverse III

Mustafa Çelebi (1416; 1419; 1421-1422)

4. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne

AR 1.14 g ^ 11.6x12.5 mm

Av. Mustafa (tulip above)/bin Bayezid

Rv. Hullide mülkehü/duribe Edirne/824

Srećković obverse A1/reverse III

5. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne

AR 1.16 ← 11.4x11.9 mm

Av. Mustafa (star above)/bin Bayezid

Rv. Hullide mülkehü/duribe Edirne/824

Srećković obverse A1/reverse III

6. Akçe (824 AH/1421); Edirne

AR 1.50 g ↓ 12.5x13.7 mm

Av. Mustafa (tulip above)/bin Bayezid

Rv. Hullide mülkehü/duribe Edirne/824

Srećković obverse A3/reverse III

Mehmed I (1413-1421)

7. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); probably Balad (is visible only the initial *be*)

AR 1.07 ← 11x11.7 mm

Av. Sultan bin/ Sultan Mehmed Ba/ [yazid Han]

Rv. Duribe B[...]/Hullide/816/ Mülkehü/[zide umrühü]

Srećković obverse B/reverse I

8. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Balad

Av. Sultan [bin]/ Sultan Mehmed Ba/ yazid Han

Rv. Duribe Beled/Hullide/816/ Mülkehü/[zide umrühü]

AR 1.18 g ↖ 11.7x13 mm

Srećković obverse B/reverse I

9. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Edirne

Av. Sultan bin/ Sultan Mehmed Ba/ yazid Han

Rv. Duribe Edirne/Hullide/816/ Mülkehü/zide umrühü

AR 1.04 g → 12.1x13.8 mm

Srećković obverse B1/reverse I

10. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Edirne

Av. Sultan bin/ Sultan Mehmed Ba/ [yazid] Han

Rv. Duribe Edirne/Hullide/816/ Mülkehü/zide umrühü

AR 1.05 g ↖ 10.8x11.4 mm

Srećković obverse B/reverse I

11. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Edirne

Av. Sultan bin/ Sultan Mehmed Ba/ yazid Ha[n]

Rv. Duribe Edirne/[H]ullide/816/ Mülkehü/zide umrühü

AR 1.12 g ↘ 11.7x12.7 mm

Srećković obverse B/reverse I

12. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Bursa

AR 1.10 g ↗ 12.5x12.3 mm

Av. Mehmed bin Baiazid/Han [azza nasrühü]

Rv. Hullide mülkehü/duribe Bursa/[8]22

Srećković obverse C51/reverse IIc

13. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Bursa

AR 1.17 g ↗ 12.5x14.4 mm

Av. Mehmed bin Ba[iazid]/Han azza nasrühü

Rv. Hullide mü[lkehü]/duribe Bursa/822

Srećković obverse C51/reverse IIc

14. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne
Av. Mehmed bin Baiazid/Han azza nasrühü
Rv. Hullide mülkehü/duribe Edirne/[82]2
AR 1.10 g ✓ 12.4x13 mm
Srećković obverse C22/reverse II

15. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne
AR 1.19 g → 11.7x14.1 mm
Av. Mehmed bin Baiazid/Han azza nasrühü
Rv. [H]ullide mülkehü/duribe Edirne/822
Srećković obverse C22/reverse II

16. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne
AR 1.11 g ∽ 12.2x14 mm
Av. Mehmed bin Baiazid/Han azza nasrühü
Rv. Hullide mülkehü/[duribe] Edirne/[822]
Srećković obverse C42/reverse II

17. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne
AR 1.15 g ↖ 12.4x13 mm
Av. [Mehmed] bin [Baiazid]/Han azza nasrühü
Rv. Hullide mülkehü/duribe Edirne/8[22]
Srećković obverse C42/reverse II

18. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne
AR 1.15 g ↓ 12.1x13.1 mm
Av. Mehmed bin Baiazid/Han azza nasrühü
Rv. Hullide mülkehü/duribe Edirne/822
Srećković obverse C43/reverse II

19. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne
AR 1.16 g → 12.5x14.2 mm
Av. Mehmed [bin Baiazid]/Han azza [nasrühü]
Rv. [Hullide mülkehü]/duribe Edirne/822
Srećković obverse C43/reverse IIc

20. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne
AR 0.96 g ↑ 13.3x14.7 mm
Av. [Me]hmed bin Baiazid/Han azza nasrühü
Rv. Hullide mü[lkehü]/duribe Edirne/822
Srećković obverse C46/revers IIc

21. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Serez

AR 1.18 g ↗ 13.9x13 mm

Av. Mehmed bin Ba[iazid]/Han [azza nasrühü]

Rv. [Hullide] mülkehü/duribe Serez/82[2]

Srećković obverse C24/reverse II

22. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Serez; double strikes on the obverse and on the reverse

AR 1.21 g – 13.3x15.3 mm

Av. Mehmed bin Baiazid/[Han azza nasrühü]

Rv. [Hullide] mü[lkehü]/duribe Serez/822

Srećković obverse C22/reverse II

Murad II (1421-1444/1446-1451)

23. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Bursa

AR 1.08 g ↖ 12.9x13.4 mm

Av. Murad bin Mehmed han

Rv. In the middle 824/ Hullide - up/ mülkehü – right/duribe – down/ Bursa – left

Srećković obverse A1 basic/reverse III

24. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Bursa

AR 1.10 g ↘ 11.8x13.4 mm

Av. 825/Murad bin Mehmed

Rv. [Hullide mülkehü]/ duribe Bursa

Srećković obverse B1/ partially illegible reverse

25. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne

AR 0.88 g ↖ 12.4x14.1 mm

Av. 825/Murad bin Mehmed

Rv. Hullide mülkehü/ [duribe] Edirne

Srećković obverse B/reverse I

26. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne

AR 1.01 g ↓ 12.2x13.6 mm

Av. 825/Mu[rad] bin Mehmed

Rv. [Hullide mülkehü]/ duribe Edirne

Srećković obverse B/ partially illegible reverse

27. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne
AR 0.95 g → 13.8x13.2 mm
Av. 825/Murad bin Mehmed
Rv. Hullide mülkehü/ duribe Edirne
Srećković obverse B2/reverse I

28. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne
AR 1.15 g ↗ 12.3x12 mm
Av. [8]25/Murad bin Mehmed
Rv. Hullide mülkehü/ duribe Edirne
Srećković obverse B2/reverse I

29. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne
AR 1.17 g ↖ 12.8x12.5 mm
Av. 825/Murad bin Mehmed (ornament as letter B above Mehmed)
Rv. [Hu]llide mülkehü/ duribe Edirne
Srećković obverse B2/reverse I

30. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez
AR 0.39 g → 11.8x12.8 mm
Av. 825/M[urad] bi[n] M[ehmed]
Rv. Hullide mülkehü/ [duribe] Serez
Srećković obverse B/reverse I

31. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez
AR 0.87 g ↓ 12.7x13.4 mm
Av. 825/Murad bin Mehmed
Rv. [Hu]llide mülkehü/ [du]rube Serez
Srećković obverse B/reverse II

32 Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez
AR 1.05 g ← 11.9x13.2 mm.
Av. 825/Murad [bin] Mehmed
Rv. [Hu]llide mülkehü/ duribe Serez
Srećković obverse B/reverse I

33. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez
AR 1.12 g ↗ 13x14.4 mm
Av. 825/Murad bin Mehmed
Rv. Hullide mülkehü/ duribe Serez
Srećković obverse B/reverse I

34. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez

AR 1.18 g \searrow 13.5x14.8 mm

Av. 825/Mu[rad] bi[n] M[ehmed]

Rv. Hullide mülkehü/ duribe Serez

Srećković obverse B/reverse II

35. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez

AR 1.20 g \swarrow 13x14.8 mm

Av. 825/Murad bin Mehmed (ornament as letter be above Mehmed)

Rv. Hullide mülkehü/ duribe Serez

Srećković obverse C*c/reverse I

36. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez; extremely worn, double strike

AR 1.07 g – 12.5x14.8 mm

Av. -

Rv. [Hullide] mülkehü/ du[ribe] S[erez]

Srećković -

37. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); illegible mint; extremely worn

AR 0.98 g \rightarrow 12.6x14.3 mm

Av. 825/M[urad bin Mehmed]

Rv. [Hullide] mülkehü/ -

Srećković obverse B/ reverse II

38. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); illegible mint

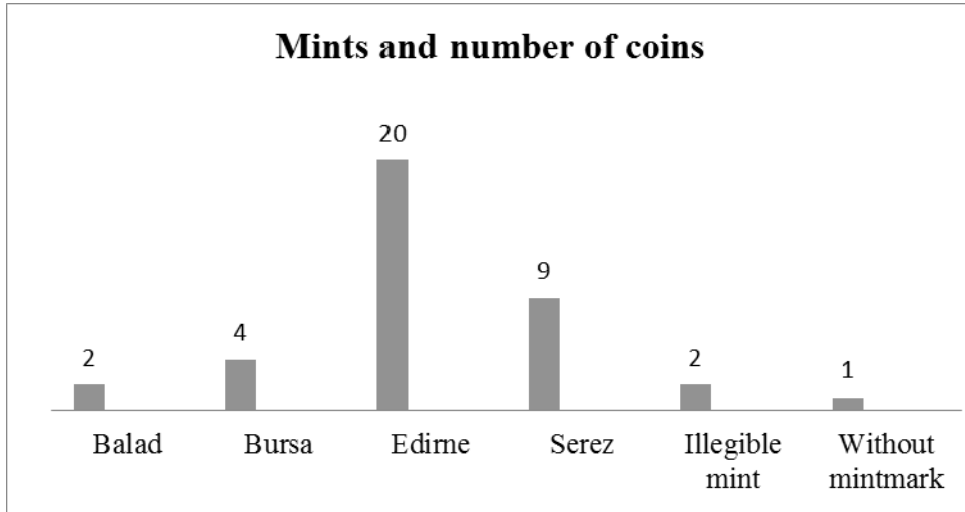
AR 1.01 g \swarrow 12.8x12.8 mm

Av. 825/Murad bin Mehmed

Rv. Hullide mülkehü/ -

Srećković obverse C2/reverse II

The structure of the „Budești” treasure shows that we deal with a monetary complex which was gathered together in a quite short period of time, most probably for or after a transaction. The presence of the 22 coins issued before the reign of Murad II and of the 16 coins from Murad II bearing the years 824 AH and 825 AH could be justified by the fact that they were in circulation at the moment when the coins were hoarded. This is proven also by the fact that the state of conservation of the coins is not so good. Almost all the coins have the surface very worn due to circulation, some of them being nearly illegible, preserving just some elements which helped identify the coins (see fig. 7, 21, 35, 37).



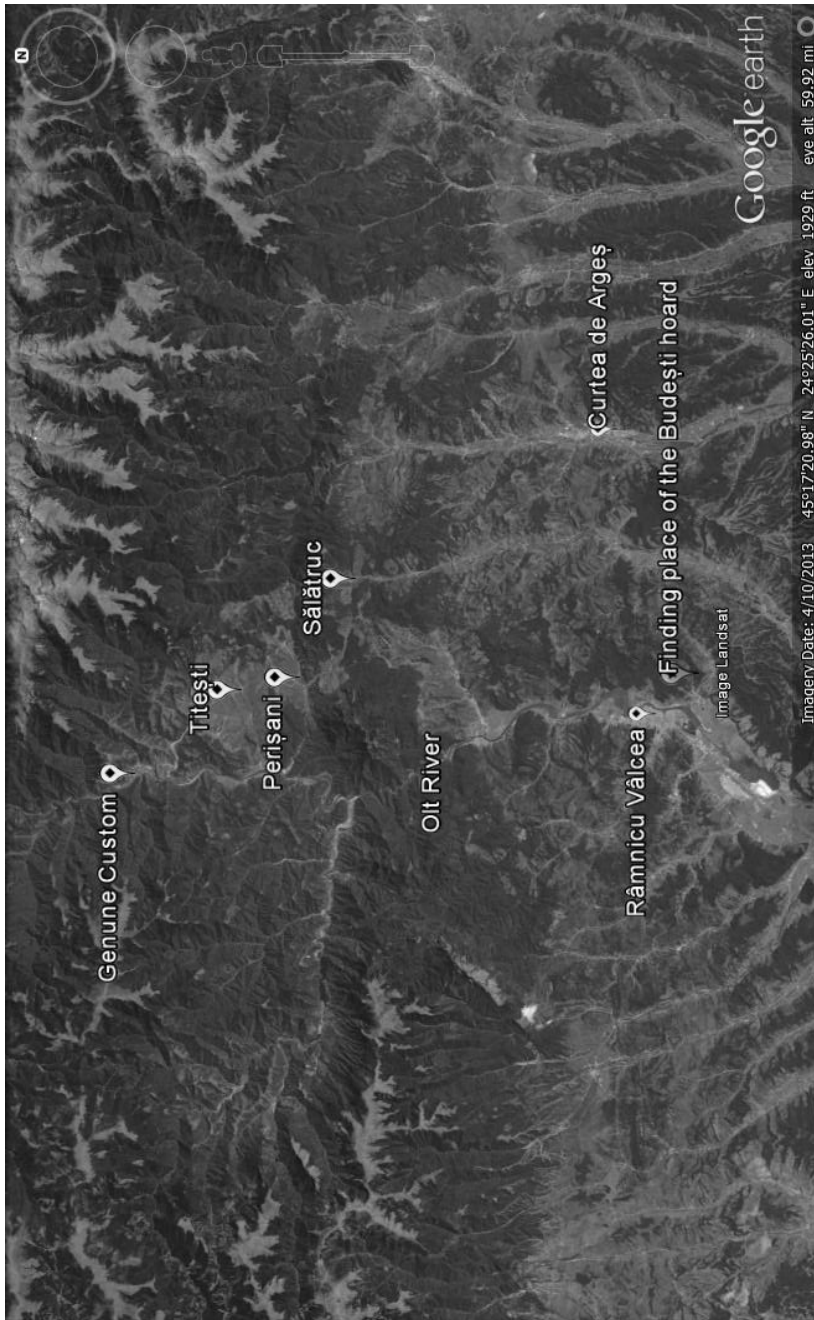
Regarding the mint cities of the coins, most of them were struck at Edirne (21), the former capital of the Ottoman rulers between 1363-1453. The second representative mint in the graphic is Serez, which was located near a major silver mining center. As we can see, most of the coins were issued in the two main centers from the Balkans area, while from Bursa, one of the most important mint cities from Anatolia, only 4 coins were found. An unusual mint present in this parcel of coins is Balad, which was active only during the first part of the reign of Mehmed I – 816 AH – 822 AH (1413 – 1419 AD). Balad, formerly known in antiquity as Miletos¹⁵, was located in Anatolia, very close to the Ayasluk mint. It was this proximity which probably caused the short existence of the Balad mint, which was most likely closed in favor of the Ayasluk mint. A coin minted at Balad is present in the Dudaşu-Schelei hoard.

Conclusions

The coin hoards containing Ottoman coins are relatively rare in the Northern-Danube space, the presence of this coin types issued between 1402 and 1444 by the Ottoman rulers being really poor. Until the end of the investigation on all the coins of the hoard, by publishing the information regarding the context of the find of the Budeşti hoard and the catalogue of the 38 coins issued before 834 AH (1422 AD), I intended to complete the picture of the early circulation of the Ottoman coins in this area. From the study of the 38 pieces issued before 834 AH (1422 AD) it was possible to establish that these coins were still in circulation at the moment of concealing of the hoard, being „misplaced” in the large quantity of coins issued by Murad II after 834 AH.

¹⁵ Slobodan Srećković, *Ottoman Mints and Coins*, Belgrad, 2002, p. 61.

Concerning the hiding place of the hoard, I argued that the monetary complex was buried near a medieval road which connected Wallachia with Transylvania, through the medieval Genuine Custom Office. Because of its structure, the most plausible conclusion regarding the context of the burying of the Budești hoard is that the hoard was hidden during a crisis situation. In this early stage of the research two hypotheses could be formed. The first is that the hoard was concealed by a merchant who that had gathered all this amount of money in a quite short time and the second, the burying of this hoard could be connected with the military actions of Murad II in the Balkans area. Therefore, the hoard traces the political, military and trade contacts of the Ottoman Empire with Wallachia.



Map showing the location of the Genune Custom.



1. a. Akçe (806 AH/ 1403 AD), Emir Süleyman (1402 – 1411) – obverse.



1. b. Akçe (806 AH/ 1403 AD), Emir Süleyman (1402 – 1411) – reverse.



2. a. Akçe (813 AH/1411 AD); Edirne, Emir Süleyman (1402 – 1411) – obverse.



2. b. Akçe (813 AH/1411 AD); Edirne, Emir Süleyman (1402 – 1411) – reverse.



3. a. Akçe (813 AH/1411 AD); Edirne, Musa Çelebi (1411 – 1413) – obverse.



3. b. Akçe (813 AH/1411 AD); Edirne, Musa Çelebi (1411 – 1413) – reverse.



4. a. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne, Mustafa Çelebi (1416; 1419; 1421 – 1422) – obverse.



4. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne, Mustafa Çelebi (1416; 1419; 1421 – 1422) – reverse.



5. a. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne, Mustafa Çelebi (1416; 1419; 1421 – 1422) – obverse.



5. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne, Mustafa Çelebi (1416; 1419; 1421 – 1422) – reverse.



6. a. Akçe (824 AH/1421); Edirne, Mustafa Çelebi (1416; 1419; 1421 – 1422) – obverse.



6. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421); Edirne, Mustafa Çelebi (1416; 1419; 1421 – 1422) – reverse.



7. a. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); probably Balad, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse.



7. b. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); probably Balad, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse.



8. a. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Balad, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



8. b. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Balad, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



9. a. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



9. b. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



10. a. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



10. b. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



11. a. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



11. b. Akçe (816 AH/1413 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



12. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Bursa, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



12. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Bursa, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



13. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Bursa, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



13. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Bursa, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



14. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



14. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



15. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



15. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



16. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



16. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



17. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse.



17. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse.



18. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse.



18. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse.



19. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse.



19. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse.



20. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse.



20. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Edirne, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse.



21. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Serez, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



21. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Serez, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



22. a. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Serez, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – obverse



22. b. Akçe (822 AH/1419 AD); Serez, Mehmed I (1413 – 1421) – reverse



23. a. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Bursa, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



23. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Bursa, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



24. a. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Bursa, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



24. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Bursa, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



25. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



25. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



26. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



26. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



27. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



27. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



28. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



28. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



29. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



29. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Edirne, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



30. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



30. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



31. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



31. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



32. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



32. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



33. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



33. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



34. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



34. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



35. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



35. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



36. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – obverse



36. b. Akçe (824 AH/1421 AD); Serez, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446-1451) – reverse



37. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); illegible mint, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446 – 1451) – obverse



37. b. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); illegible mint, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446 – 1451) – reverse



38. a. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); illegible mint, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446 – 1451) – obverse



38. b. Akçe (825 AH/1422 AD); illegible mint, Murad II (1421 – 1444/1446 – 1451) – reverse