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МОНЕТНИ НАХОДКИ ОТ ХЕРАКЛЕЯ СИНТИКА:
СЕЗОН 2024 Г.

ХРИСТИНА ИВАНОВА-АНАПЛИОТИ

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Монетни находки от Хераклея Синтика: сезон 2024 г.

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Abstract: This report includes an overview of the numismatic material found during the regular excavation in Heraclea Sintica in season 2024, consisting of 167 coins.

Keywords: Coin finds, Heraclea Sintica, Season 2024, Macedonian mints.



The team of Prof. Dr. Lyudmil Vagalinski continued its regular excavations at the archaeological site of Heraclea Sintica in 2024. This year has brought not only the extraordinary finds of the two Roman statues, but also, as always, a rich numismatic material consisting of 167 coins.¹ The contexts of discovery are again concentrated in the area around the forum that includes its NE corner, the South Porticus, the stairs of the building south of the Civil Basilica, the West Porticus, and the Cloaca Maxima. The exact data of discovery will be published in the annual archaeological reports by the director of the excavations.

While most of the coins are single finds, there is one hoard of 18 coins from the West Porticus. The distribution of the coins by metal includes a total of eleven silver (all Roman), 152 copper alloy/bronze, six billon (Roman), and four lead (Roman) specimens.

Hellenistic Coins

Three of the coins are bronze issues of Alexander the Great, from the type Heracles and a club (Price 1991, 126, no. 374; Gebler 1906, 173, no. 3, pl. XXXI, fig. 34).²

Further 21 later specimens were found mainly around the West Porticus. Of those that could be identified, there are three royal pieces. Two are attributed to Cassander (cf. Valassiadis 2005, 412, no. 4) of which one comes from the Cloaca Maxima. One is of Antigonus II Gonatas of Ath-

¹ According to the field inventory book, these are field inventory numbers (FIN/ПИИ no.) 2218–2383.

² <https://numismatics.org/pella/id/price.374> [27.03.2025].

ena/Pan type (**Fig. 1**; Gaebler 1935, 187, no. 6, pl. XXXIV, fig. 4). One example from Paroreia was probably an issue of Philipp V or Perseus depicting Zeus and an eagle (Gaebler 1935, 5, no. 36, pl. XXXVIII, fig. 14).

From the civic coinage of the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C., there are typical examples from Amphipolis and Thessalonike. The Amphipolitan coins are represented with two types: one of the Artemis' bust on the obverse and a jumping bull on the reverse (Gaebler 1935, 37, n. 53, pl. IX, n. 27), and of the Poseidon/horse type (Gaebler 1935, 35, no. 39, pl. IX fig. 14). Thessalonike is represented by the Janus/centaurs type (**Fig. 2**; Gaebler 1935, 121, no. 20, pl. XXIII, fig. 10), and the Dionysus/goat type (Gaebler 1935, 120, no. 15 pl. XXII, fig. 23).

Roman Republican Coins

The Roman Republican coinage is represented by only one coin: a silver legion denarius of Marcus Antonius (**Fig. 3**; RRC online 544.30).³

Roman Imperial Coins

The majority of the coins date from the Roman Imperial period and are represented by silver and bronze issues. Four silver denarii are minted by Hadrian (RIC II.3 online Hadrian 716–717⁴), two by Septimius Severus (RIC IV online Septimius Severus 152. 196⁵), and one for his son Geta as Caesar (RIC IV online Geta 18⁶). Twelve silver or billon antoniniani are minted for Gordian III (RIC IV online Gordian III 37⁷), Valerian (RIC V online Valerian 68⁸), five for Aurelian (RIC V online Aurelian 334. 347 or 386. 348. 366⁹), one for Probus (RIC V online Probus 675¹⁰), Carinus (RIC V online Carinus 196¹¹), and three by Diocletian of the same reverse type (RIC V online Diocletian 284¹²).

Three specimens from the bronzes are central imperial issues: a sestertius of Trajan (RIC II online Trajan 497¹³), a dupondius of Hadrian (RIC II,3 (2) online Hadrian 2294–2297¹⁴) and AE3 of Maximinianus from Rome (RIC VI online Rome 78¹⁵). A fourth bronze is from Heraclea – an AE3 of Licinius (RIC VI Heraclea 73¹⁶).

Roman Provincial Coins

As expected, most of the bronzes come from Macedonian mints, mainly of the Macedonian Koinon. The mints include Amphipolis with one coin issued under Trajan depicting the emperor on a pedestal and Artemis Tauropoulos (RPC III online 644¹⁷), Beroia with one coin under Philipp I with a gymnast youth (RPC VIII online 129¹⁸), Pella with one coin of the same emperor with Fortuna on the reverse (RPC VIII online, 280¹⁹), and Thessalonica with six coins: one issued under

³ <https://numismatics.org/crro/id/rrc-544.30> [27.03.2025].

⁴ [https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.2_3\(2\).hbn.716-717](https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.2_3(2).hbn.716-717) [27.03.2025].

⁵ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.ss.152>; https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.ss.196_denarius [27.03.2025].

⁶ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.ge.18> [27.03.2025].

⁷ https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.gor_iii.37 [27.03.2025].

⁸ https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.val_i.68 [27.03.2025].

⁹ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.aur.334>; <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.aur.347>; <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.aur.386>; <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.aur.348>; <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.aur.366> [27.03.2025].

¹⁰ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.pro.675> [27.03.2025].

¹¹ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.car.196> [27.03.2025].

¹² <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.dio.284> [27.03.2025].

¹³ https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.2.tr.497_sestertius [27.03.2025].

¹⁴ [https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.2_3\(2\).hbn.2294-2297](https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.2_3(2).hbn.2294-2297) [27.03.2025].

¹⁵ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.6.rom.78> [27.03.2025].

¹⁶ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.6.her.73> [27.03.2025].

¹⁷ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/9122> [27.03.2025].

¹⁸ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/70352> [27.03.2025].

¹⁹ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/68782> [27.03.2025].

Augustus with Gaius Caesar (RPC I online 1564²⁰; Touratsoglou 1988, 51–153, no. 213–252, pl. 4, fig. V43–49. R131–150), one under Tiberius with him and Livia (RPC I online 1568²¹; Touratsoglou 1988, 156–158, no. 1–42, pl. 6, fig. V1–12. R1–26), one under Claudius with Antonia Minor and Nike (RPC I online 1582²²; Touratsoglou 1988, 170, no. 46–50, pl. 10, fig. V16. R35–37), one of Severus Alexander (RPC VI online 202²³; Touratsoglou 1988, 246, no. 4–5, pl. 34, fig. V4–5. R2–3), and one of Gordian III (RPC VII.2 online 344²⁴; Touratsoglou 1988, 263, no. 68, pl. 38, fig. V8. R28).

Among the Macedonian mints, there is a specimen of Heraclea Sintica itself with a horse to the left and a legend in a wreath on the reverse (see the report about Aydaritsa in the same volume) (RPC III online 667C²⁵).

A large portion of the coins with a total of 16 belongs to the Victoria/standards type from Philipp (RPC I online 1651²⁶; Gaebler 1935, 102–103, no. 14–15, pl. XX fig. 10). Interestingly, these are imitated in lead, in a very standardized way – having dots on one side and no image on the other (**Fig. 4**). There are two examples of this type found this season. They come together with another lead type, which might also be imitative and depicts a crescent and a star (**Fig. 5**). These types of tokens are worth urgent numismatic research.

Of the bronze specimens, 30 can be attributed to the Macedonian Koinon, with types dated to Domitian (with a Macedonian shield on the reverse, RPC II online 336²⁷), Antoninus Pius (with a thunderbolt, RPC IV.1 online, 4264²⁸), same type under Marcus Aurelius (RPC IV.1 online, 4284²⁹; Gaebler 1906, 85, no. 278; Gaebler 1935, 10, no. 19, pl. IV, fig. 9). One is dated certainly to Elagabalus (with a bow and a club, RPC VI online 269³⁰). Nine should be attributed to the time of Severus Alexander (showing several types, e.g., with Alexander the Great on Bucephalus, RPC VI online 432³¹ or a lion and club on the reverse, RPC VI online 368³²), or to Gordian III with the same reverses (**Fig. 6**; RPC VII.2 online 221³³; RPC VII.2 online 117³⁴), and with one with an agonistic table (RPC VII.2 online 293³⁵). Eight can only vaguely be attributed to the period between Elagabalus and Philipp I. The coin hoard mentioned above consists of 18 coins of the Macedonian Koinon, dated to the reign of Severus Alexander and later.

Non-Macedonian provincial mints are as follows: in Thrace – two coins of Pautalia, struck respectively under Marcus Aurelius (with a serpent on altar type, RPC IV.1 online 8936³⁶), and Commodus (with grapes type, RPC IV.1 online 8884³⁷); in Asia – one of Alexandria Troas issued under Caracalla (with Lupa Capitolina, RPC V.2 online 1990³⁸), one from Germe under Gordian III, depicting Zeus on the reverse (**Fig. 7**; RPC VII.1 online 137.1³⁹).

16 coins could be dated as Roman due to the characteristics of the flans but could not be identified further because of their state of preservation.

²⁰ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/1/1564> [27.03.2025].

²¹ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/1/1568> [27.03.2025].

²² <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/49355> [27.03.2025].

²³ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/55637> [27.03.2025].

²⁴ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/27800> [27.03.2025].

²⁵ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/88131> [27.03.2025].

²⁶ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/1/1651> [27.03.2025].

²⁷ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/6668> [27.03.2025].

²⁸ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/32820> [27.03.2025].

²⁹ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/32850> [27.03.2025].

³⁰ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/51889> [27.03.2025].

³¹ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/52024> [27.03.2025].

³² <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/71539> [27.03.2025].

³³ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/68113> [27.03.2025].

³⁴ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/66826> [27.03.2025].

³⁵ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/67689> [27.03.2025].

³⁶ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/33111> [27.03.2025].

³⁷ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/33133> [27.03.2025].

³⁸ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/77226> [27.03.2025].

³⁹ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/16523> [27.03.2025].

Late Antiquity

Among the 30 late antique specimens, one of the earliest is striking for its stylised appearance and illegible inscription. It is an imitation of a Constantine coin (**Fig. 8**) as discussed recently by Miroslava Dotkova (Доткова 2021, 40–41, fig. 1–2), and is not an isolated case for Heraclea (Ivanov, Filipova 2015, 174, 185–186, fig. 60–61). Original coins by the emperor were also found, as the two specimens from Thessalonica with a city gate and two soldiers (RIC VII online Thessalonica 101. 154⁴⁰). They are followed by one certain coin of Constantius II with two soldiers (RIC VIII online Alexandria 23⁴¹).

Four other specimens are most probably issued by the same emperor, one overstruck with type RIC VIII online Sirmium 80.⁴² One coin is minted by Valentinian I (RIC IX online Arelate 16A⁴³ or RIC IX online Thessalonica 16A⁴⁴). Four coins can roughly be dated from after his reign until the reign of Theodosius II. Two of Theodosius I (RIC IX online Constantinople 86B⁴⁵), one probably of Honorius, and one of Theodosius II (RIC X Theodosius II (East) 396⁴⁶) have also been identified. Ten coins could not be identified with certainty.



Fig. 1. Antigonus II Gonatas (277–239 BC), Athena/Pan type, AE, D 17.2–17.7 mm, T 3.8 mm, 5.49 g, 10 h, ПИН no. 2322, (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).



Fig. 2. Thessalonike (89–40 BC), Janus/centaurs type, AE, D 18.3–20 mm, T 2.7 mm, 5.03 g, 12 h, ПИН no. 2248, (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).



Fig. 3. Marcus Antonius, 32/31 BC, silver legion denarius, AG, D 16.6–17.1 mm, T 1.8 mm, 3.27 g, 7 h, ПИН no. 2356, (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).



Fig. 4. Lead imitative coin (1st century BC – 1st century AD), depicting dots, Pb, D 11.9–12.9 mm, T 1 mm, 1.17 g, ПИН no. 2277 (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).



Fig. 5. Lead imitative coin (1st century BC – 1st century AD), depicting a crescent and a star, Pb, D 13.6–14.3 mm, T 2.1 mm, 2.26 g, ПИН no. 2273, (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).



Fig. 6. Macedonian Koinon (AD 238–244), type Alexander/Alexander on Bucephalus and club, dated to Gordian III, AE, D 24.6–25.2 mm, T 3.2 mm, 10.58 g, 1 h, ПИН no. 2287, (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).

⁴⁰ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.7.thes.101>; <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.7.thes.154> [27.03.2025].

⁴¹ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.8.alex.23> [27.03.2025].

⁴² <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.8.sir.80> [27.03.2025].

⁴³ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.9.ar.16A> [27.03.2025].

⁴⁴ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.9.thes.16A> [27.03.2025].

⁴⁵ <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.9.cnp.86B> [27.03.2025].

⁴⁶ https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.10.theo.ii_e.396 [27.03.2025].



Fig. 7. Gordian III (AD 238–244), Germe, depicting Gordian III and Zeus, AE, D 24.7–25.7 mm, T 2.5 mm, 7.26 g, 8 h, ПИН no. 2255 (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).



Fig. 8. Imitative coin (AD 318–320), after a prototype of Constantine the Great, AE, D 17.3–17.7 mm, T 1.9 mm, 2.98 g, 7 h, ПИН no. 2348, (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).

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