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МОНЕТНИ НАХОДКИ ОТ СПАСИТЕЛНИТЕ
АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИ РАЗКОПКИ НА ОБЕКТ
АЙДАРИЦА, ОБЩ. ПЕТРИЧ, ПРЕЗ 2024 Г.

ХРИСТИНА ИВАНОВА-АНАПЛИОТИ

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Coin finds from the archaeological rescue excavation at the site of Aydaritsa, Petrich region in 2024

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Монетни находки от спасителните археологически разкопки на обект Айдарица, общ. Петрич, през 2024 г.

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Abstract: This report includes an overview of the numismatic material found during the rescue excavations at the site archaeological site of Aydaritsa in 2024, representing a total of eight coins.

Keywords: excavation coin finds, Aydaritsa, Roman provincial coinage, Heraclea Sintica.



In October and November 2024, a rescue excavation was carried out at the archaeological site of Aydaritsa, near the village of Mitino, Petrich district, under the direction of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivo Cholakov (NAIM-BAS). The site (AKB no. 1900251) is located 1 km south of Heraclea Sintica, on the south bank of the Strumeshnitsa River (Багалински 2022, 80–81) and has yielded interesting discoveries connected to the water management system of the ancient city and to its the Southern necropolis. The excavation results will be published in the annual reports of the NAIM-BAS as a separate publication.

Among the findings, there are eight coins: seven of copper alloy and one of silver. They can be arranged chronologically as follows: one is probably Hellenistic, three are from the Roman Imperial period, two are dated to the Late Antiquity, one is Mediaeval (the silver specimen), and one is unidentifiable.

The Hellenistic coin is identified as such by weight, thickness, and shape of the flan. Among the Roman ones, the earliest is an as of Domitian, followed by a bronze issue of the Macedonian Koinon, which depicts an unidentifiable Roman emperor on the obverse and the Macedonian shield on the reverse. An important discovery is the rare coin type RPC III online, 667C¹ which

¹ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coin/457369> [27.03.2025].

had previously been attributed to Heraclea Sintica (**Fig. 1**; Imhoof-Blumer 1883, 78, no. 73). It depicts on one side a horse to the left and on the other the legend HPA-/ΚΛΕΩ-/ΤΩΝ in a wreath. A variation exists with the horse turned right (RPC III online, 667B).² Although this emission was not added in the most recent study of the mint (Paunov 2015, 228–237), the findings of the type in the vicinity (see the report on the numismatic findings from Heraclea Sintica in this volume) make another reconsideration necessary. It is to be assumed that the horse is on the obverse.



Fig. 1. A bronze coin of Heraclea Sintica from Aydaritsa depicting a horse and a legend in a wreath: 11.9–12.2 mm, T 2.8 mm, 2.33 g, 6 h (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).

The late antique coins consist of an A3 denomination FEL TEMP REPARATIO type with a soldier piercing a fallen horseman from Sirmium (probably of Constantius II) and another A3 or A4 bronze from an eastern mint depicting a cross from the beginning of the AD 5th century. The medieval specimen is a silver grosso from Venice that could be attributed by the legend either to Jacopo Tiepolo (CNI VII.1, 31–32, no. 1–10, pl. 2, no.6) or Lorenzo Tiepolo (CNI VII.1, 39–42 no. 1–23, pl. 2 no. 13).

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² <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coin/457366> [27.03.2025].