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CONTACT AND DEMARCATION PATTERNS BASED ON THE EXCAVATION COINS FROM HERACLEA SINTICA, SEASON 2021

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Contact and Demarcation Patterns based on the Excavation Coins from Heraclea Sintica, season 2021

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Abstract: The archaeological site of Heraclea Sintica holds a strategic position between Thrace and Macedonia. Its exact location was only identified in the last two decades, thus providing new information about the contact zone between these regions. With every excavation season, it yields discoveries of all kinds with the utmost impact on historical research of the region and beyond. The historical development has therefore become much clearer due to this progress. One of the main material groups that especially uncovers economic and cultural contact is coinage. However, it bears far more faceted information as one centrally and intentionally processed media of whatever the mint authority was. The material from the 2021 excavation season represents a wide range of coinages that cover all periods. For the first time, coinage from the acropolis is also being compared to the usual material from the forum. It discloses data about the general supply in Heraclea and many other aspects of civil development. In particular, the possibility emerges to recognise patterns of demarcation reflected on the coin finds from the site.

Keywords: Heraclea Sintica, Coin finds, Campaign 2021, Demarcation.



Location and Historical Remarks

The geography of the area where Heraclea is situated is suitable for establishing a toll station. It lies directly on the Strymon River, a main vein from the Mediterranean towards Thrace (Mitrev 2015, 47–51), but just after the first mountainous range. This would be the Belasitsa Mountain (or Belles in Greek), which is quite prominent and whose ridge is still on the border between Bulgaria and Greece. To the east of the Strymon, the Sengelska Planina/Angistrion continues into the Slavyanka Mountain/Orbleos. Where they meet with Belasitsa is the Rupel Pass, the place of various military actions (Гюзелев, Николов 2015, see various papers, especially about the medieval ages). Ograzhden wards to the north of Belasitsa, and, north of Slavyanka, the Pirin is protecting both from the north and the east. The only passage is in the low valleys of Strymon to both the north and south and Strumeshnica towards the west. In positioning the site of Heraclea Sintica on where the two rivers merge, the flow towards East Macedonia from the north and the alternative from the west was set under control. So, this was a notable crossroad making Heraclea Sintica one of the knots between Macedonia and Thrace in a very well-known road network (Sharankov 2017, 21–23).

Therefore, having a major site as a stop or controlling point or retreat in this area was a smart

strategic decision. We know of different tribes in the area since the earliest times, with the primary groups being the Sinti or Maedi (Delev 2014, 338–356. 349–345; Parissaki 2015, 40–43; Митрев 2012, 21–81). The territory changed its occupants quite often, however. The site has existed since the 4th century BC (Nankov 2015, 19; Митрев 2022, 37–39). We know from even later periods – for instance during the Roman Empire – that Thracians were still part of the society, as inscriptions published by N. Sharankov have proven (Sharankov 2021, 26–33). This had led to a constant struggle between societies to demarcate from one another from antiquity and through to today. Important turning points for the alliance of the settlement are several Hellenistic advancements (Вагалински 2022, 86–90), but the main uprising came with the Roman occupation after the Battle of Pydna in 168 BC and later the establishment of the Province of Macedonia, with Heraclea being part of the first *Merida* (Daubner 2018, 63). Until Thrace was officially a province, this was the outer rim of the empire despite the Sapaean client kingdom (Tačeva 1995, 459–467). However, the clearer the chronology of events becomes from the site of Heraclea as presented in the newly published volume about the excavation (Вагалински 2022, 58–61), the more complex and incomprehensible the original situation of the northern frontier and its development becomes. New interpretations will be particularly affected by the discovery of an early Roman military camp close to the settlement of Polenitsa, north of Heraclea (Alexandrova 2020, 58).

Site and Trenches

The excavation team has been researching the site since 2007, making astonishing discoveries each year, primarily from the Roman period (Vagalinski 2020, 13–18; 2015, 89). Closely observed, the polis was located on the south side of an elevated area containing the forum below the slope (Mitrev 2015, 47–53; Вагалински 2022, 9–11). The fortified acropolis was located on the Kozuh Hill (Вагалински 2022, 75). Those are the two areas where excavations have been conducted. On the acropolis, only one trench was carried out during one season in 2021. The forum was the main study area, and a large part has already been excavated, even if not to its complete chronological capacity (Вагалински 2022, 58). There are different areas with functionally differentiated facilities that were studied in meticulous detail on an individual basis by each room and porticus. These are public buildings such as a basilica, religious shrines, etc. (Вагалински 2022, 13, 50). The chronological development of the settlement has been divided into five phases (Вагалински 2022, 116–117). While there is little known from the Hellenistic period, it is certain that there was an agora and that the Mithridatic War had probably an impact on the site (Вагалински 2022, 22). The first settlement phase is attributed to the 1st century BC until the mid-1st century AD, when the agora was renovated. During the second phase – from the mid-1st century AD to the end of the 3rd century AD – the Roman forum flourished but was disturbed by attacks during the middle of the 2nd and the end of the 3rd century (Vagalinski 2017, 94). The third phase is from the end of the 3rd until the end of the 4th century AD, when the forum underwent some renovations again. The fourth phase is at the end of the 4th century until the mid-5th century, when two earthquakes destroyed much of the city. During the fifth and final phase from the mid to the end of the 5th century, at least the forum started to lose its importance.

In 2021 the site bore more than 300 coins. This large amount of material covers not only the general excavation area of the forum but the acropolis as well in contrast to the previous seasons. The total of the coins is now around 3000 and growing. The forum coins of 2021 came mainly from the rooms (R) of the West Porticus (WP) and give quite an interesting comparison between this area and the acropolis. The following areas were distinguished in the West Porticus: R1, R2, R3, R4, and R5.

Distribution of the Coin Finds

The numismatic material that came from the area of the forum, that is the WP, comprises 205 coins. Only 3% are Hellenistic coins from before the Battle of Pydna, 17% are from the period after it, 1% are Roman Republican, 64% are Roman Imperial or Provincial, 6% are from Late Antiquity, 1% are Byzantine, and 7% are unidentified (Fig. 1a & 2).

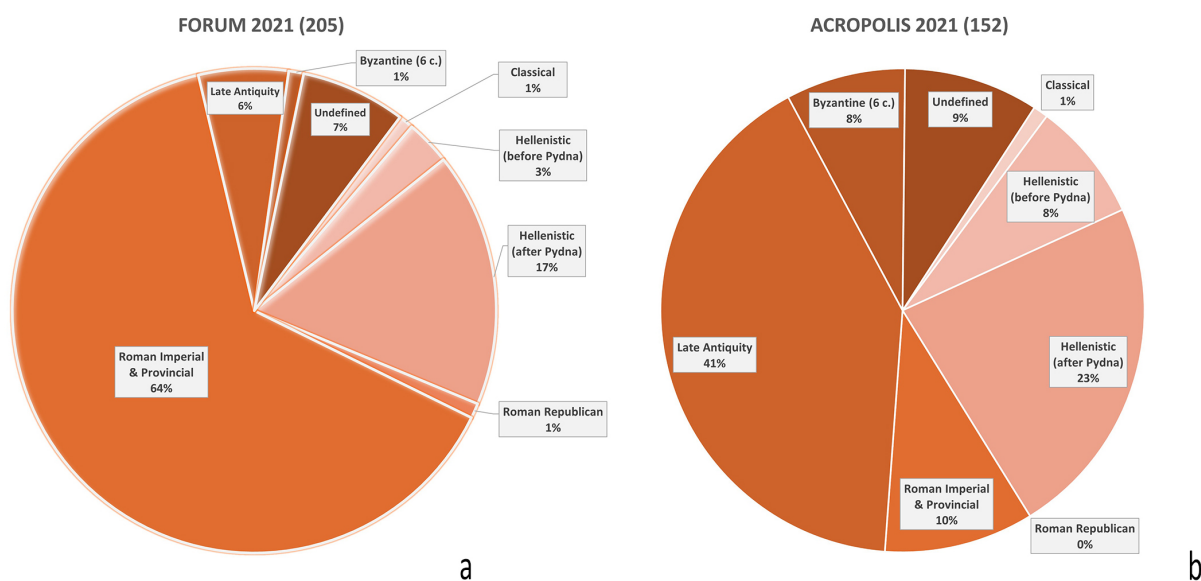


Fig. 1. Diagram showing the chronological ratio of the coin finds from campaign 2021: a) from the forum; b) from the acropolis.

The 152 coins from the acropolis show a different correlation. There is one presumably classical coin (Krenides?). A higher percentage occurs during the Hellenistic period – 8% before and 23% after Pydna, respectively. Only 10% are Roman, and a majority of 41% are dated to Late Antiquity, while 8% comprise early Byzantine coins (**Fig. 1b & 2**).

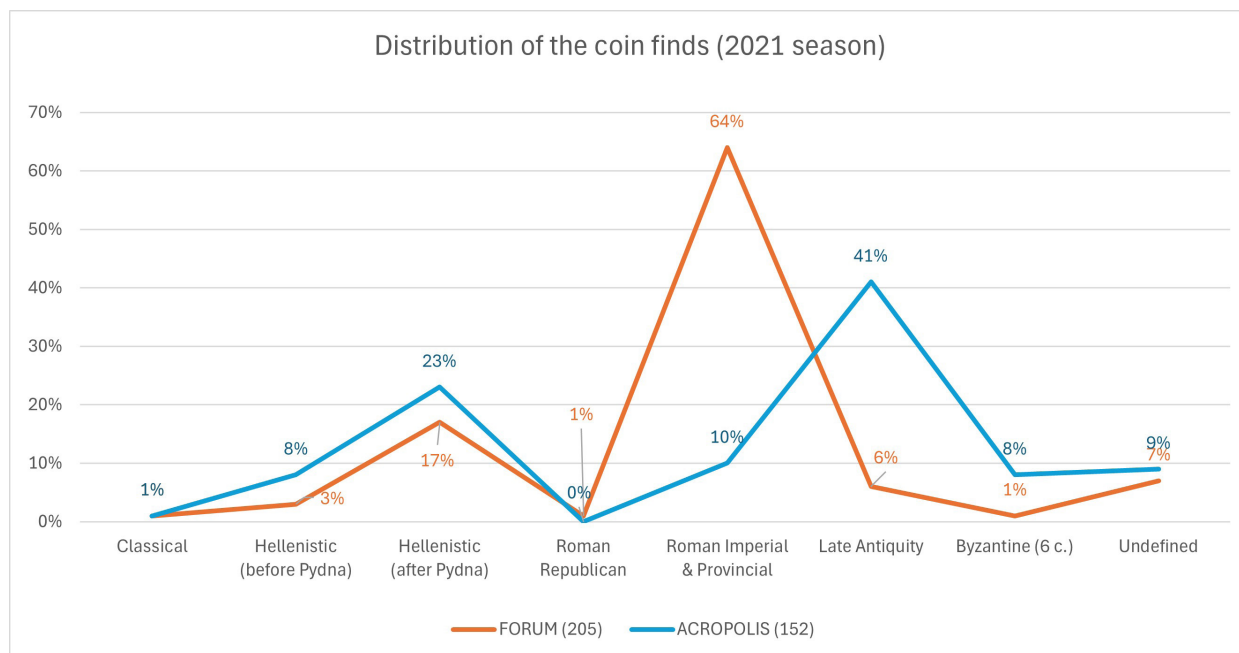


Fig. 2. Comparative cchronological distribution of the coin finds from the forum and the acropolis of Heraclea Sintica, campaign 2021.

The general chronological distribution of the finds – even with only selected areas of the site and from one campaign – corresponds to the site development, especially following the resettlement of the inhabitants to the acropolis after the second earthquake (Вагалински 2022, 71). Fewer finds from the late antique period of the forum in general, mark the relocation of the centre or the seeking of refuge. The larger percentage of Hellenistic material from the acropolis either implies a similar temporary situation during that time or a stronger activity in that area for other reasons that are yet to be determined (Вагалински 2022, 69).

The catalogue includes the 59 best preserved and most illustrative examples, while the complete list of finds will be included in the final publication of the coins.

Hellenistic Period and the Roman Republic

Forum

The Hellenistic coins from the forum are as early as cat. no. 1 (**Fig. 3**). The latter is a type of bronze emission minted in Amphipolis or Pella under Antigonos Gonatas, depicting Athena and Pan, and dated to 277–239 BC (Gaebler 1935, 187, n. 6, pl. XXXIV n. 4). It came from the leveling debris layer in R2 of the WP and can't be seen as an indicative dating criterion. Later civic examples are represented by cat. no. 2 (**Fig. 4**), found in the balk of a trench in R1 of the WP, and cat. no. 3 (**Fig. 5**), also from the same area. These are again early issues dating from 187–31 BC (Gaebler 1935, 36, n. 43, pl. IX n. 17), both originate from Amphipolis and depict Artemis and a bull. As all specimens come from R1 and R2 of the WP, they do not provide any significant data for the strata. It is noteworthy that those types were circulating in Heraclea, as already known from a preliminary publication (Filipova, Ivanov, 2015). The Macedonian royal and civic coinage is expected from that period and is not a surprise.

From the forum originate two interesting Roman Republican specimens. The first is cat. no. 4 (**Fig. 6**), a denarius of Marcus Pletorius of the Fortuna type dated to 69 BC (RRC 405.2) which comes from R3 and the burnt floor. However, the *terminus post quem* established by other numismatic material is in the 3rd century AD (Вагалински 2022, 35). The second is cat. no. 5 (**Fig. 7**), a denarius of a Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius Scipio from 47–46 BC minted in Africa (RRC 459.1). It was found in R5, which contains two later cisterns and is also not indicative for the strata. The two specimens, however, provide information about the type of coins that entered the polis of Heraclea in the 1st century BC. Both types are found across modern Italy, France, the western Iberian Peninsula, and in Dacia. The circulation time and dispersion have made the interpretation of the findings a challenge. It was clear that Roman coinage, even if outdated, had its weight in this area.

Acropolis

The finds at the acropolis are far more abundant in this period, but they similarly cover the Macedonian royal bronze coinage, such as cat. no. 6 (**Fig. 8**), which is a bronze of a Cassander from 305–297 BC (Valassiadis 2005, 412, n. 4) with Heracles, a horseman, and a trident under him. Chronologically it is followed by cat. no. 7 (**Fig. 9**) from 220–179 BC, which can be attributed to Philip V and depicts Helios and a winged thunderbolt (Gaebler 1935, 193 n. 25, pl. XXXV n. 5; Τουράτσογλου 1993, pl. III n. 9). It originates from under the floor level of one of the rooms. A second example is cat. no. 8 (**Fig. 10**) from 178–168 BC (Gaebler 1935, 196, n. 7, pl. XXXVI n. 3; Prokopov et al., 2016, 347, fig. 4) which is a bronze issue of Perseus with the hero Perseus and an eagle. It was found under the floor level behind the fortification wall. In contrast to the forum, at the acropolis, there are clear indications that earlier structures connected to the first phase of the settlement might be found.

Later civic coins are, as expected, by the local suppliers such as Thessalonike with cat. no. 9 (**Fig. 11**), dated 187–40 BC, and with Zeus, and bull (Gaebler 1935, 120, n. 16, pl. XXIII n. 7; Τουράτσογλου 1993, pl. IX n. 13). However, it was located on the dated Roman floor of R1B. Cat. no. 10 (**Fig. 12**) is from the same mint and is dated to the same period (Gaebler 1935, 120, n. 15, pl. XXII n. 23). It is of the type with Dionysus and a goat. It was found under the room floor and

might hint at the existence of predecessor buildings. The same type was also found in the burnt layers (cat. no. 11, **Fig. 13**), which again indicates that those coins might have no dating importance when discovered in later layers. From the same mint, there is a type that is dated to 89–49 BC with Janus and two centaurs (cat. no. 12, **Fig. 14**; Gaebler 1935, 121, n. 20, pl. XXIII n. 10.), which was found in the channel. The next mint represented is Amphipolis, with the earlier type of cat. no. 13 (**Fig. 15**), dated to 187–31 BC (Gaebler, 1935, 37, n. 53, pl. IX n. 27), and depicting an Artemis bust and Artemis Tauropoulos on a bull, which came to light when cleaning R2B. It is followed by the type of cat. no. 14 (**Fig. 16**) from the same period (Gaebler 1935, 34, n. 31, pl. IX n. 6) but with a corn ear on the reverse and originating from R2A. In the channel, there was also an assarion, cat. no. 15 (**Fig. 17**), from Amphipolis with Zeus and a prow dated to 89–31 BC (Gaebler 1935, 36, n. 42, pl. IX n. 16).

Both coins found in the channel indicate Roman influence on the mints via iconography with Janus or denomination with the assarion. That this kind of influenced coinage was accepted in Heraclea is a sign that what seems a strong bond to Macedonian identity (Murray 2020, 146) might as well be a controlled supply of monetary means. The contexts of the acropolis are on or below the walking level of the buildings with rooms behind the fortification wall or even in the water channel, and they are better sources of information about coin distribution in this frontier area. The coins found show a tendency towards Romanisation, which would be the basis for interpreting them as authority signs in Greek-moulded territories (Kremydi-Sicilianou 2005, 97–101). The iconographies accepted, however, also include typical Macedonian deities also worshipped in Heraclea, like Artemis (Вагалински 2022, 83).

Roman Period

Silver

The forum is relatively abundant in silver Roman imperial coins. These are classic types but come from very different contexts. Cat. no. 16 (**Fig. 18**) is a denarius of Vespasian with clasping hands from AD 79 (RIC II².1, 1081), found in a debris layer of R1 of the WP. Cat. no. 17 (**Fig. 19**) is a Hadrianic type with Concordia from AD 124–125 (RIC II².3 716-717), found at the entrance of R4. Cat. no. 18 (**Fig. 20**) can be attributed to Septimius Severus in AD 197–198 (RIC IV, 120C) and was found in the southern end of the basilica, which is directly north of the west porticus. Cat. no. 19 (**Fig. 21**) came from a levelling of R2 most probably issued by the same emperor. Cat. no. 20 (**Fig. 22**) is a type of Caracalla with Mars on the reverse from AD 219–213 (RIC IV, 223) and was found in the south of the basilica, close to the entrance of R1 of the WP. Cat. no. 22 (**Fig. 24**) is an antoninianus from AD 241–243 (RIC IV, 93), issued by Gordian III and portraying himself on the reverse; it comes from the area of the entrance of R4. Cat. no. 23 (**Fig. 25**) is again an antoninianus of Philip I from AD 244–247 (RIC IV, 46) with Salus, found in a burnt layer from R5. Other antoniniani are Cat. no. 26 (**Fig. 28**) by Valerian with Apollo from AD 256–257 (RIC V, 72), from the burnt layer on the street before R2, as well as cat. no. 25 (**Fig. 27**) by Trebonianus Gallus with Ubertas from AD 251–253, (RIC IV, 64) again from the burnt layer but from R5. Cat. no. 27 (**Fig. 29**) is, exceptionally, an antoninianus from Cyzicus (RIC V, 116) by Florianus in AD 276, depicting Victoria, but it comes from a looting trench in R2.

From the female representations, only two are in silver. Cat. no. 21 (**Fig. 23**) is a denarius with Julia Mamaea with Felicitas from the time of Severus Alexander, i.e. AD 225–235 (RIC IV, 338), which came from debris in R1, and Cat. no. 24 (**Fig. 26**) is an antoninianus with Herenia Etruscilla and Pudicitia from Trajan Decius' reign, dated to AD 249–251 (RIC IV 65) and again from the burnt layer of R5.

Forum Bronzes

The bronze finds present a different picture. They are almost exclusively of local production, that is of Macedonian origin, and cover a different range.

Thessalonike issues include cat. no. 28 (**Fig. 30**) of Tiberius with Livia dated AD 22/23–37 (Touratsoglou, 1988, 158–160, nn. 33–61), coming from the burnt roof layer of R3. Cat. no. 29 (**Fig. 31**) comes from the same mint, but from the time of Nero and depicts a horse (RPC I, 1614).

It came from R1, just like the other Neronian coin – cat. No. 30 (**Fig. 32**) with Nero and a Macedonian shield, issued by the Macedonian Koinon around AD 54–68 (Gaebler 1906, 78, n. 242). This is also the sign that is depicted on the very rare Heracleian coins (Paunov 2015, 228–239).

The most common type appearing in Heraclea is one from Philippi dated to AD 41–68, thus attributed to Claudius or Nero with Victoria, three standards, and the legend COHOR PRAE PHIL (RPC I, 1651; Gaebler 1935, 102–103, nn. 14–15, pl. XX n. 10). In this catalogue, three examples are featured: cat. no. 31 (**Fig. 33**), found in R2 of the WP R2; cat. no. 32 (**Fig. 34**), found under the plaster of the square; and cat. no. 33 (**Fig. 35**), found in the S of the basilica corridor. They are Romanised emissions of the colony but were very popular in Heraclea since even stylised imitations of them appear often, such as cat. no. 34 (**Fig. 36**), which was found in the S of the basilica corridor and cat. no. 35 (**Fig. 37**), found in R5 of the WP with the skeletons in the cistern. Another probable imitation is the lead example of cat. no. 36 (**Fig. 38**), with a star and crescent from debris in R2 of the WP.

The Macedonian Koinon appears here in bronzes for Hadrian with a thunderbolt (RPC III, 632), as in cat. no. 37 (**Fig. 39**) for Antoninus Pius with the shield (Gaebler 1906, 83, n. 266a), in cat. no. 38 (**Fig. 40**), with Faustina the Younger (Gaebler 1906, 86, n. 285), and in cat. no. 39 (**Fig. 41**) – all found in the S of the basilica corridor.

With the exclusion of the only Thracian coin of the season from Serdica – Cat. no. 40 (**Fig. 42**) of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus from AD 161–169, (Ruzicka 1915, n. 21) with a snake on an altar and found in the S of the basilica – there is a gap afterward until the later provincial coins. Except for a coin minted in AD 244–249 (RPC VIII, 286) in Pella for Philipp I with Pan found in the burnt layer from R5 in the WP and identified here as cat. no. 47 (**Fig. 49**), there is a clear tendency. The Macedonian Koinon continues a strong currency supply with a distinct Macedonian identity. It depicts Alexander the Great with a helmet or diadem and different classic provincial iconographies with the cista mystica, horseman, prize table, temples, etc. It can be dated to the time of Gordian III, as in cat. no. 41 (**Fig. 43**; Gaebler 1906, 173, nn. 769–770), found in the wall between R3 and R3A of the WP; cat. no. 42 (**Fig. 44**; Gaebler 1906, 174, n. 778), found in R3 of the WP R3; cat. no. 43 (**Fig. 45**), found in debris in R2 of the WP; and cat. no. 44 (**Fig. 46**), found in R5 of the WP. Others are from the time of Philip I, around AD 243–244, such as Cat. no. 45 (**Fig. 47**; Gaebler 1906, 175, n. 785? or 188, n. 857) from the entrance of R4 of the WP and Cat. no. 46 (**Fig. 48**; Gaebler 1906, 184, n. 833) from R3 of the WP.

Only one early pseudo-autonomous bronze coin from the period between AD 96 and 117 from Thessalonike with a city goddess and a Kabeiros has been found in the entrance of R2 of the WP in 2021: Cat. no. 48 (**Fig. 50**; Gaebler 1935, pl. XXIII n. 27; Τουράτσογλου 1993, 327, n. G. C2, Pl. 49, G.VI/CV1, R2).

The findings come from various areas of the WP and the connection to the basilica and the square as well, from debris and fire destruction, and even from the cisterns in R5 in the S. However, a more extensive investigation is needed to see the relations between the dispersion or allocation of the finds and the layers according to the entire stratigraphy.

Acropolis

There are only a few Roman specimens from the acropolis, starting with Cat. no. 49 (**Fig. 51**). It is dated from 27 BC–AD 14 or AD 14–37 and was minted for Philippi under Augustus or Tiberius (RPC I, 1656 and 1659), demonstrating colonial iconography with the head of Drusus or Augustus with two priests and two oxen, i.e. the ritual of *sulcus primigenius*. This specimen was found in the debris in R1A. Cat. no. 50 (**Fig. 52**) belongs to an already mentioned type of Tiberius with Livia from AD 22/23 until 37 by Thessalonike (Touratsoglou, 1988, 158–160, nn. 33–61), and was found in the west of the wall in R1A on a rock. Cat. no. 51 (**Fig. 53**) is also of an expected type from the Macedonian Koinon with Alexander and a prize table minted under Gordian III from AD 238 to 244 (Gaebler 1935, 177, n. 798), and it was found in the debris of the surrounding wall. All coins from the acropolis were found in debris in the buildings or the surrounding wall.

This shows one clear tendency. Heraclea developed from a satellite-controlling site in the centre of the area. It seems that in the early imperial times, Macedonian coins were being distributed

and then – in the 1st century – imitated. However, they bore a strong Roman influence, like the Philippi issue, and this continued as a trend from the Hellenistic period. It is noticeable that the Julio-Claudian Dynasty and the Antonines are more present in local bronze coinages that reach every layer of society. This indicates that a strong imperial presence on every level was needed to stabilise the ties and show the economic or even cultural connection of the emperors to the city through the circulation of these influenced currencies until this border region. This is a territorial occupation that would have had an indirect impact on identity. Even until the end of the 2nd century AD, only a few external (that is Thracian) coinages came to be in use in Heraclea, even if it is a neighbouring province, and the mixture with Thracians is a common occurrence. Macedonism is strong and creates a financial and cultural border that demarcates Macedon. Interestingly coinages that are very common in Thrace, such as bronzes of the Severans including Julia Domna, are not as common as seen from the material in this campaign. The question arises if this gap might be connected somehow to the attacks of the 2nd and 3rd centuries detected through archaeology and already mentioned above.

Late Antiquity

In this period, we are to expect a decline because of the many natural disasters that struck Heraclea.

Forum

The forum shows a few examples like Cat. no. 52 (**Fig. 54**) of Constantine the Great from AD 335–336 (RIC VII, 526, n. 199) from Thessalonike depicting two warriors, which was unfortunately a stray find. Cat. no. 53 (**Fig. 55**) was also struck in Thessalonike in AD 367–375 (RIC IX, 176 n. 16a1A) for Valentinian I and shows the usual iconography with a captive. It was found under a sand layer in R2 of the WP.

Acropolis

The area of the acropolis has a more abundant inventory from this period. Cat. no. 54 (**Fig. 56**) is an example of an AE3 minted in Siscia in AD 319–320 for Constantine the Great (RIC VII, 437 n. 100), depicting two Victories and found on the floor between R2a and R2b. Cat. no. 55 (**Fig. 57**) is an AE4 with a gate depiction for Theodosius I from AD 383–388 (RIC IX, n. 62B) minted in Thessalonike it was found in the SE of R1A. Not included in the catalogue is the hoard inv. no. Acropolis 65 that was found on the floor of R2B, which contains coins of Constantinus the Great from Rome (AD 347), Theodosius I from Cyzicus (AD 383), Valentinian from Rome (AD 388), Theodosius II or Honorius (AD 408–423), Theodosius II (AD 425), and others (Вагалински 2022, 71, n. 258). It will be analysed in detail elsewhere.

Quite interestingly, closing on the Byzantine Empire, there are quite a few finds and not always of the smallest denomination. From the time of Justinian I, i.e. AD 527–565, there were 40 nummi from Carthage found in the SE of R1A under cat. no. 56 (Hahn 2013, 158, n. 184b, pl. 30 n. 184b) and 16 nummi on the floor of R1A, such as cat. no. 57 (**Fig. 59**; Hahn 2013, 153–154 n. 169, pl. 28–29 n. 169). From a later emission of Justinian I (AD 538–539) are the 40 nummi from Constantinople, like Cat. no. 58 (**Fig. 60**; Hahn 2013, 129, n. 95a, pl. 20 n. 95a; Вагалински 2022, 72, n. 265). From the same emperor is the only gold coin, cat. no. 59 (**Fig. 61**) – a tremissis also found in the SE of R1A. It dates to AD 527–565 and was from Constantinople, Thessalonike, or Sicily (Hahn 2013, 115 n. 19, pl. 14 Fig. 11.2; 116, n. 24b, pl. 14 Fig. 24b; 117 n. NN39, pl. 15 Fig. 41.2). This gives a good reason to doubt that the acropolis had lost its strategic importance.

Conclusion

The evaluation of the data shows a pattern of demarcation through Macedonian currency, which, however, was under Roman control or influence as we know and have seen from the asarion from Amphipolis or later in the imperial coinage through the mint of Philippi. This is one way of marking the area, excluding other mints and imitating the wanted types, next to also establishing the rule through classic military intervention such as the Republican military camp of Polenitsa found north of Heraclea. Having these measures along the river Strymon fits the con-

ception of the Roman *limes* and *ripae* (Isaac 1988, 130; Schallmayer 2011; Wells 2005, 65). This river existed already in antiquity, since the Argeads were present in the region, and was seen as a border between the Thracians in the Rhodope Mountains and Macedonia (Ptol. Geogr. 3.12.15; Ps.-Skyl. 67). It was only logical that the geographic and cultural frontiers would be maintained. Other distinguishing features that were indicative of identity – such as religion – were also used in parallel on coinages and through other sources. Some Macedonian and Roman gods were introduced, such as the cult of Pluto und Zeus Hypsistos (Chatzinikolaou 2010, 196–197, 208), and the already mentioned Janus (Betsiou 2016, 139, n. 78). To use coins as a marker, the religious signs were only natural since they had their territories and also gods like Terminus or Fines, as they defined borders even inside provinces (Kolb 2016, 12–13). However, this is not enough evidence to unfold the complete frontier strategy of the arriving Romans. They had to approach a situation of a 'liquid frontier', and it was not easy to set material markers. A cross-study with other materials is essential in this case (Costa 2011, 52) and references to survey data, which is partially available, is also necessary (Ααδάκη et al. 2014; Вагалински 2022, 321, fig. 594–595; Вагалински et al. 2017). It is important that rural development and urbanisation were evolving hand in hand with the economy and were also influenced by the measures taken for the currencies to be used; that research must also be evaluated (Evangelidis 2022; Колев 2020).

It is too early to interpret the interconnections between excavation areas and context since a complete comparison to the stratigraphy is needed. Some patterns are occurring (like clusters), but anomalies of close levels with a wide chronological range according to the coins still exist and must be examined carefully. The distortion of data by the hoards and the concentration of campaigns in certain areas should be considered. Concerning the comparison of the complete material from the site, it must be said that it is mostly from the forum area and shows similar tendencies. This is confirmed by the publication of Filipova and Ivanov from 2015 (Filipova, Ivanov 2015). Strong orientation towards the core Macedonian mints is evident due to the comparison to complete numismatic material. Now the connection of this phenomenon to the Roman presence is also confirmed. It reveals complex regional interrelations and the development of the city showing a different concentration of the commercial distribution areas from Hellenistic period until Late Antiquity.

Catalogue of the discussed Coins

All coin photo are of Lily Grozdanova

Abbreviations

WP	–	West Porticus of the Forum
R	–	Room
T	–	Thickness
S	–	South
SE	–	Southeast

Hellenistic Period and the Roman Republic

Forum

Royal – Bronze

Antigonos Gonatas, Pella or Amphipolis, 277–239 BC

Obv. Head of Athena to right, with a Corinthian helmet.

Rev. Pan standing right, building a tropaion, behind him a monogram.

(Gaebler, 1935, 187 n. 6, pl. XXXIV n. 4).

1. 19.3 mm, 8.37 g, T 4.2, axis 12, Inv. No. 1915, Findspot: WP, R2, levelling with debris. (**Fig. 3**)

Civic – Bronze

Amphipolis, 187–31 BC

Obv. Bust of Artemis to right, with wreath.

Rev. ΑΜΦΙΠΟ / ΛΕΙΤΩΝ

Bull to right, with frontal head.

(Gaebler 1935, 36, n. 43, pl. IX n. 17)

2. 19.6 mm, 4.95g, T 2.9 mm, axis 12, Inv. no. 1973, Findspot: WP, R1, baulk. **(Fig. 4)**

Obv. Ibid.

Rev. ΑΜΦ[ΙΠΟ] / ΛΙΤΩΝ

Ibid.

(Gaebler 1935, 35, n. 33, pl. IX n. 8)

3. 21.9 mm, 8.34 g, T 4.1 mm, axis 12, Inv. no. 1996, Findspot: WP, R1. **(Fig. 5)**

Roman Republican – Silver

Marcus Pletorius Cestianus, 69 BC, Denarius

Obv. Head of Fortuna to right.

Rev. [SORS] M·PLAET[ORI·CEST·]S·C

Frontal bust of boy, holding inscribed tablet.

(RRC 405.2) <http://numismatics.org/crro/id/rrc-405.2>

4. 16.9 mm, 3.33 g, T 2.3 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 1943, Findspot: WP, R3, fire of floor 3. **(Fig. 6)**

Quintus Caecilius Metellus Pius Scipio, Africa, 47/46 BC, Denarius

Obv. Q METEL // PIVS

Laureate head of Jupiter to right.

Rev. SCIPIO // IMP

Elephant to right.

(RRC 459.1) <https://numismatics.org/crro/id/rrc-459.1>

5. 17.2 mm, 3.11g, T 2.3 mm, axis 7, Inv. No. 2006, Findspot: WP, R5. **(Fig. 7)**

Acropolis

Royal – Bronze

Cassander, 305–297 BC

Obv. Head of Heracles right, with lion's skin.

Rev. Horseman right, underneath trident.

(Valassiadis 2005, 412, n. 4)

6. 18.1 mm, 6.3 g, T 4 mm, axis 11, Inv. No. 53, Findspot: 2B, debris. **(Fig. 8)**

Philip V, 220–179 BC

Obv. Head of Helios right.

Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ ...

Winged lightning in oak wreath.

(Gaebler 1935, 193, n. 25, pl. XXXV n. 5; Τουράτσογλου 1993, pl. III n. 9)

7. 25.9 mm, 10.72 g, T 3.9, axis 2, Inv. No. 105, Findspot: under floor level of room 1a. **(Fig. 9)**

Perseus, 178–168 BC

Obv. Head of the hero Perseus to right, with harp on the shoulder, wearing winged helmet with a griffon.

Rev. B A // EP

Eagle with spread wings advancing left, with head to right, stepping on a plough; on the left torch (?).

(Gaebler 1935, 196, n. 7, pl. XXXVI n. 3; Prokopov et al. 2016, 347, fig. 4) Gaebler sees a corn ear instead of a torch.

8. 21.9 mm, 8.32 g, T 3.8 mm, axis 11, Inv. No. 10, Findspot: on floor level behind the fortification wall. **(Fig. 10)**

Civic – Bronze

Thessalonike, 187–40 BC

Obv. Laureate head of Zeus to right.

Rev. ΘΕΣΣΑΛ / [O]ΝΙΚΗ[Σ]

Eagle standing right, with spread wings, standing on a bundle of lightning.

(Gaebler 1935, 120, n. 16, pl. XXIII n. 7; Τουράτσογλου, 1993, pl. IX n. 13)

9. 22 mm, 9.7 g, T 4 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 110b, Findspot: on Roman floor level of R1B. **(Fig. 11)**

Obv. Head of Dionysos to right, with ivy wreath.

Rev. [ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟ/ΝΙΚΗΣ]

Goat standing right.

(Gaebler 1935, 120, n. 15, pl. XXII n. 23)

10. 18 mm, 5.78 g, T 3.9 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 80, Findspot: 2A, under room floor. **(Fig. 12)**

Obv. Ibid.

Rev. [ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟ/Ν]ΙΚΗ[Σ]

Ibid.

(Gaebler 1935, 120, n. 15, pl. XXII n. 23)

11. 19.1 mm, 4.34 g, T 2.9 mm, axis 1, Inv. Nr. 83, Findspot: 1A, SE (fire). **(Fig. 13)**

Thessalonike, 89–49 BC

Obv. Head of Janus.

Rev. [ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟ/ΝΙΚΗΣ]

Two centaurs jumping away from each other.

(Gaebler 1935, 121, n. 20, pl. XXIII, n. 10.)

12. 17.4 mm, 4.15 g, T 2.9 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 77, Findspot: 2B, channel. **(Fig. 14)**

Amphipolis, 187–31 BC

Obv. Bust of Artemis to right, with a hair bun and a quiver. Border of dots.

Rev. [ΑΜΦΙΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ]

Artemis Tauropoulos with lifted hands, holding a veil, riding a bull jumping right.

(Gaebler 1935, 37, n. 53, Pl. IX n. 27)

13. 15.9 mm, 4.48 g, T 3.8 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 66, Findspot: cleaning of 2B. **(Fig. 15)**

Obv. Male head to right, with long hair in a bun and an ear wreath.

Rev. [ΑΜΦΙΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ]

Corn ear.

(Gaebler 1935, 34, n. 31, pl. IX n. 6)

14. 15.4 mm, 4.3 g, T 4 mm, axis ?12, Inv. No. 52, Findspot: 2A, room. **(Fig. 16)**

Amphipolis, 89–31 BC, Assarion

Obv. Laureate head of Zeus to right, behind S.

Rev. AMΦΙΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ / A/ES

Prow right.

(Gaebler 1935, 36 n. 42, pl. IX n. 16)

15. 20.1 mm, 5.97 g, T 3.1 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 76, Findspot: in channel. **(Fig. 17)**

Roman Imperial and Provincial

Forum

Roman Imperial Silver

Vespasian, AD 79, Denarius

Obv. CAESAR AVG F DOMITIANVS COS VI

Laureate head of Domitian to right.

Rev. PRINCEPS IVVENTVTIS

Clasping hands, holding an aquila supported by a prow underneath.

(RIC II².1, 1081) [http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.2_1\(2\).ves.1081](http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.2_1(2).ves.1081)

16. 17.7 mm, 2.65 g, T 2.3 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 1923, Findspot: WP, R1, debris. **(Fig. 18)**

Hadrian, AD 124–125, Denarius

Obv. HADRIANVS - AVGVSTVS

Laureate head of Hadrian to right.

Rev. COS III

Concordia seated on throne right, holding patera in right hand, resting left hand on statue of Spes (?).

(RIC II².3 716-717) [https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.2_3\(2\).hdn.716-717](https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.2_3(2).hdn.716-717)

17. 19.2 mm, 2.83g, T 2.2 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 1990, Findspot: WP, R4 entrance. **(Fig. 19)**

Septimius Severus, AD 197–198, Denarius

Obv. L SEPT SEV PERT - AVG IMP X

Laureate bust of Septimius Severus to right.

Rev. VICT AVG-G - C-OS II P P

Victoria advancing left, with wreath in right hand and palm branch in left hand.

(RIC IV, 120C) <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.ss.120C>

18. 18.3 mm, 2.9 g, T 2 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 2076, Findspot: S of the basilica. **(Fig. 20)**

Septimius Severus?

19. 9.5–13.4 mm, 0.47 g, T 1.9 mm, axis ?12, Inv. No. 1903, Findspot: WP, R2, levelling. **(Fig. 21)**

Caracalla, AD 210–213, Denarius

Obv. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG BRIT

Laureate bust of Caracalla to right.

Rev. MARTI - PROPVGNATORI:

Mars advancing right, wearing helmet and cuirass, holding in right hand spear and carrying a trophy over left shoulder.

(RIC IV, 223) <http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.crl.223>

20. 18.4 mm, 2.65 g, T 2.1 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 2075, Findspot: S of the basilica, close to WP, R1, entrance. **(Fig. 22)**

Julia Mamaea, AD 225–235 (Severus Alexander), Denarius

Obv. IULIA MA- MAEA AVG

Diademed bust of Julia Mamaea to right.

Rev. FELICITAS PVBLICA

Felicitas, seated left, draped, holding caduceus in right hand and cornucopia in left hand.

(RIC IV, 338) <http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.sa.338>

21. 18.1 mm, 3.08 g, T 2.3 mm, axis 7, Inv. No. 1908, Findspot: WP, R1, debris. **(Fig. 23)**

Gordian III, AD 241–243, Antoninianus

Obv. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG

Radiate bust of Gordian III to right.

Rev. P M TR P V COS II P P // S C

Gordian III standing right, holding transverse spear in right hand and a globus in left hand.

(RIC IV, 93) https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.gor_iii.93

22. 22.3 mm, 3.06 g, T 1.9 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 1991, Findspot: WP, R4, entrance. **(Fig. 24)**

Philip I, AD 244–247 AD, Antoninianus

Obv. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG

Radiate bust of Philip I to right, with paludamentum.

Rev. SALVS AVG

Salus standing right, feeding a serpent.

(RIC IV, 46) http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.ph_i.46

23. 22.6 mm, 3.86 g, T 2 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 2018, Findspot: WP, R5 fire. **(Fig. 25)**

Herenia Etruscilla, AD 249–251 (Trajan Decius), Antoninianus

Obv. HER ETRVS-CILLA AVG

Diademed bust of Herenia Etruscilla to right, on crescent.

Rev. [PVDICITIA AVG]

Pudicitia seated left, draped and veiled, covering face with veil with right hand, holding sceptre in left hand.

(RIC IV, 65) http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.tr_d.65

24. 23.3 mm, 1.98 g, T 2 (1.2), axis 6, Inv. No. 2027, Findspot: WP, R5, fire. **(Fig. 26)**

Trebonianus Gallus, AD 251–253, Antoninianus

Obv. IMP CAE C VIB TREB GALLVS AVG

Radiate Bust of Trebonianus Gallus, with paludamentum.

Rev. [VBER]TAS AVGG

Ubertas standing left, crossing legs, resting with left arm on a column, holding with it a

sceptre and with the right hand a purse.

(RIC IV, 65) http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.4.tr_g.64

25. 21.3 mm, 2.58 g, T 1.9 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 2020, Findspot: WP, R5, fire. **(Fig. 27)**

Valerian, AD 256–257, Antoninianus

Obv. IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS P F AVG

Radiate Valerian to right, with cuirass.

Rev. APOLINI CONSERVA

Apollo standing right, holding laurel branch in right hand, resting left hand on a lyre on rock.

(RIC V, 72) http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.val_i.72

26. 20.3–23.9 mm, 2.13 g, T 1.8 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 2079, Findspot: fire on the street before WP, R2. **(Fig. 28)**

Cyzicus, Florianus, AD 276, Antoninianus

Obv. IMP FLORIANVS AVG

Radiate bust of Florianus to right, with paludamentum.

Rev. CONCORDIA MILITVM // V

Victory standing right, holding a palm branch in right hand, crowning Florian with wreath. Florian standing left, holding sceptre.

(RIC V, 116) <http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.5.fl.116>

27. 21.8 mm, 3.24 g, T 1.8 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 1918, Findspot: WP, R2, looters trench. **(Fig. 29)**

Roman Provincial – Bronze

Thessalonike, Tiberius, AD 22/23–37

Obv. TI KAIΣAP CE-BACTOC

Head of Tiberius to right.

Rev. [CEBACTH] CECCACONIKEQN

Head of Livia to right.

(Touratsoglou 1988, 158–160, nn. 33–61); <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/1/1567>

28. 23.8 mm, 9.43 g, T 3.5 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 1921, Findspot: WP, R3, fire of roof. **(Fig. 30)**

Thessalonike, Nero, AD 54–68

Obv. NEPCN

Head of Nero to right.

Rev. Horse standing left, lifting right hoof, six-rayed star, and palm branch above. Border of dots.

(RPC I, 1595A) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/1/1595A>

29. 14.6 mm, 2.67 g, T 2.4 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 1907, Findspot: WP, R1. **(Fig. 31)**

Macedonian Koinon, Nero, 54–68 AD

Obv. Head of Nero to left.

Rev. CEBACTOC MAKECONQN

Macedonian shield.

(RPC I, 1614; Gaebler 1906, 78, n. 242) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/1/1614>

30. 23.3 mm, 8.4 g, T 3.8 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 1938, Findspot: WP, R1, debris. **(Fig. 32)**

Philippi, Claudius or Nero, 41–68 AD

Obv. [V]IC - AV[G]

Statue of Victory on base, standing left, holding a laurel wreath in right hand, and carrying a palm branch over left shoulder.

Rev. COHOR [P]RAE // PHIL

Three standards on ground line.

(RPC I, 1651; Gaebler 1935, 102–103, nn. 14–15, pl. XX n. 10)

<https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/1/1651>

31. 19 mm, 5.55 g, T 3 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 1914, Findspot: WP, R2. **(Fig. 33)**

32. 16.8 mm, 3.35 g, T 2.2 mm, axis ?6, Inv. No. 2005, Findspot: under the plaster of square. **(Fig. 34)**

33. 17.5 mm, 3.86 g, T 2.5 mm, axis ?6, Inv. No. 2084, Findspot: S of basilica corridor. **(Fig. 35)**

Imitations Philippi

34. 13.8 mm, 1.44 g, T 2 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 2071, Findspot: S of basilica corridor. **(Fig. 36)**

35. 13.6 mm, 2.4 g, T 2.8 mm, axis, 7, Inv. No. 2062, Findspot: WP, R5, with the skeletons. **(Fig. 37)**

Lead Imitations unknown

Obv. -

Rev. Six-rayed star and crescent.

(Prokopov et al., 2016, 198 n. 246)

36. 14.8 mm, 1.44 g, T 1.2 mm, Inv. No. 1959, Findspot: WP, R2, debris. **(Fig. 38)**

Macedonian Koinon, Hadrian, AD 129–138

Obv. AΔPIANO

Laureate bust of Hadrian to right.

Rev. KOINON

Winged lightning.

(RPC III, 632) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/3/632>

37. 25.9 mm, 11.62 g, T 3.9 mm, axis 1, Inv. No. 2086, Findspot: S of basilica corridor. **(Fig. 39)**

Macedonian Koinon, Antoninus Pius, AD 138–161

Obv. KAICAP AN / TΩNINO [C]

Laureate bust of Antoninus Pius to right, with paludamentum.

Rev. ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΝ

Macedonian shield

(Gaebler 1906, 83, n. 266a) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/4/4270>

38. 22.7 mm, 5.09 g, T 2.5 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 2072, Findspot: S of basilica corridor. **(Fig. 40)**

Macedonian Koinon, Faustina the Younger, AD 147–176

(Antoninus Pius or Marcus Aurelius)

Obv. ΦΑΥ[CTEINA CEBACTH]

Bust of Faustina the Younger to right.

Rev. KOINON MA-KEΔONΩN

Winged lightning.

(Gaebler 1906, 86, n. 285) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/4/4292>

39. 24.4 mm, 9.98 g, T 3.9 mm, axis 1, Inv. No. 2081, Findspot: S of basilica, corridor. **(Fig. 41)**

Serdica, Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, AD 161–169

Obv. [AV K]AI Λ A[VPHΛIOC OVHPOC]

Laureate bust of Lucius Verus to right.

Rev. CEPΔQN

Serpent coiled twice to left, on decorated altar.

(Ruzicka 1915, n. 21) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/4/3481>

40. 18.3–20.4 mm, 3.97 g, T 2.8 mm, axis 2, Inv. No. 2089, Findspot: S of the basilica. **(Fig. 42)**

Macedonian Koinon, Gordian III, AD 238–244

Obv. Helmeted head of Alexander the Great to right.

Rev. ... NEOK

Alexander the Great riding Bucephalus to right, wearing a mantle, holding a spear.

(RPC VII.2, 280; Gaebler 1906, 173, nn. 769–770)

<https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/66421>

41. 26.1 mm, 13.42 g, T 4.1 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 2085, Findspot: wall between R3 and 3A of WP. **(Fig. 43)**

Obv. AΛEΞAN[ΔPOY]

Ibid.

Rev. [M]AKΕΔONΩN B N

Ibid.

(RPC VII.2, 275; Gaebler 1906, 174, n. 778), <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/70856>

42. 26.2 mm, 9.69 g, T 3 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 2093, Findspot: WP, R3. **(Fig. 44)**

Obv. [A]AΛEΞANΔP[OY]

Ibid. Griffin on helmet.

Rev. [MAK]EΔONΩN [B] NEΩ

Ibid. Star below.

(RPC VII.2, 275; Gaebler 1906, 173, nn. 769–770); <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/66421>

43. 26.5 mm, 6.02 g, T 2.9 mm, axis 1, Inv. No. 1935, Findspot: WP, R2, debris. **(Fig. 45)**

Obv. AΛEΞANΔPOY

Diademed head of Alexander the Great to right.

Rev. KOINON MAKEΔONΩN B NEΩKOP

Prize table from the left, on top two prizes with palm branches, underneath an amphora.

(RPC VII.2, 128; Gaebler 1906, 144, n. 598), <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/67048>

44. 26.6 mm, 11.99 g, T 3.9 mm, axis 1, Inv. No. 2013, Findspot: WP, R5. **(Fig. 46)**

Macedonian Koinon, Philip I, AD 243–244

Obv. [AΛEΞ]ANΔ[POY]

Head of Alexander the Great to right, with Attic (?) helmet.

Rev. KOINΩN [MAKEΔONΩN B NEO] // EOC

Cista mystica open to left, serpent coiling out.

(RPC VIII, 169; Gaebler 1906, 175, n. 785? or 188, 857) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/70369>

45. 25.7 mm, 10.8 g, T 3.3 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 1989, Findspot: WP, R4, entrance. **(Fig. 47)**

Obv. [ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ

Diademed head of Alexander the Great to right.

Rev. KOINON / M AKED-O // B NEΩKOPΩN / EOC

Two facades of hexastyle temples.

(RPC VIII, 169; Gaebler 1906, 184, n. 833) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/70337>

46. 26.7 mm, 10.86 g, T 3.5 mm, axis 2, Inv. No. 2091, Findspot: WP, R3. **(Fig. 48)**

Pella, Philip I, AD 244–249

Obv. [IMP CAE] - M IV FILIPPVS

Laureate bust of Philip I to right, with cuirass and paludamentum.

Rev. COL IUL A-VS (*sic*) PELL

Pan seated left, on rock, raising his right hand over head, holding pedom in his left arm; to left syrinx. Centre hole.

(RPC VIII, 286) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/68785>

47. 24.2 mm, 6.24 g, T 2.8 mm, axis 7, Inv. No. 2024, Findspot: WP, R5, fire. **(Fig. 49)**

Thessalonike, Pseudo-autonomous, AD 96–117

Obv. OECCAΛO-NIKEΩN

Turreted bust of Tyche to right.

Rev. KABI-PO-C

Kabeiros standing left, in chiton, holding rhyton in right hand and hammer in left.

(RPC III, 621; Gaebler 1935, pl. XXIII n. 27; Τουράτσογλου, 1993, 327 n. G. C2, Pl. 49 G.VI/CV1,R2) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/9098>

48. 22 mm, 7.84 g, T 3.8 mm, axis 1, Inv. No. 2001, Findspot: WP, R2, entrance. **(Fig. 50)**

Acropolis

Roman Provincial – Bronze

Philippi, Augustus or Tiberius, 27 BC/AD 14–AD 14/37

Obv. Head of Drusus or Augustus (?) right.

Rev. Two priests right, ploughing with two oxen.

(RPC I, 1656 and 1659) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/58800>, <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/type/58806>

49. 17.5 mm, 4.6 g, T 2.9 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 90, Findspot: debris in R1A. **(Fig. 51)**

Thessalonike, Tiberius, AD 22/23–37

Obv. TI KΑΙΣΑΡ ΣΕ-ΒΑΣΤΟΣ

Head of Tiberius right.

Rev. [Σ]ΕΒΑΣΤΗ [ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΕΩΝ]

Head of Livia right.

(RPC I, 1567; Touratsoglou, 1988, 158–160, nn. 33–61) <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/1/1567>

50. 22.2 mm, 9.91 g, T 4.1 mm, axis 7, Inv. No. 17, Findspot: west of wall in R1A on rock. (Fig. 52)

Macedonian Koinon, Gordian III, AD 238–244

Obv. ΑΛΞΑΝΔΡΟC

Head of Alexander the Great right. Border of dots.

Rev. ΚΟΙΝΟΝ - ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΩΝ Β ΝΕΟ // ΟΛ/ΛΥΜ/ΠΙΑ

Prize table, on top two prizes with palm branches, above it eight-rayed star underneath legend. Border of dots.

(Gaebler 1935, 177, n. 798)

51. 27.3 mm, 11.86 g, T 4.3 mm, axis 8, Inv. 46, Findspot: in the surrounding wall debris. (Fig. 53)

Late Antiquity and Byzantine Period

Forum

Copper alloy

Constantine the Great, AD 335–336 AD, Thessalonike, AE3

Obv. CONSTANTINVS [IVN NOB C]

Laureate bust of Constantine the Great right, with cuirass.

Rev. GLORI-A EXER-[CITVS] // [S]MTS[A]

Two standing soldiers facing each other, holding in outer hands spears, resting inner arms on shields, between them two standards.

(RIC VII, 526, n. 199) <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.7.thes.199>

52. 16.9 mm, 1.33 g, T 1.1 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 2098, Findspot: stray find. (Fig. 54)

Valentinian I, AD 367–375, Thessalonike, AE3

Obv. [D] N VALENTINI- [A]NUS P F AVG

Diademed bust of Valentinian I to right.

Rev. GLORIA RO-MANORVM // ΤΕΣ

Emperor advancing right, dragging captive with right hand and holding labarum in left hand.

(RIC IX, 176, n. 16a1A) <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.9.thes.16A>

53. 18.4 mm, 1.53 g, T 1.5 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 1998, Findspot: WP, R2, under sand. (Fig. 55)

Acropolis

Copper alloy

Constantine the Great, AD 319–320 AD, Siscia, AE3

Obv. IMP [CONSTANTI]NVS P F AVG

Helmeted bust of Constantine the Great to right, with cuirass.

Rev. [VICT LA]ET[AE PRINC PERP] // S // SIS

Two standing Victories, facing each other, holding a shield with an inscription over an altar.

(RIC VII, 437, n. 100) <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.7.sis.100>

54. 16.9 mm, 2.34 g, T 2 mm, axis 12, Inv. no. 114, Findspot: floor between R2a and 2b. (Fig. 56)

Theodosius I, AD 383–388, Thessalonike, AE4

Obv. D N THEO[DO - SIVS P F AVG]

Bust of Theodosius I right, with diadem.

Rev. ΓΕ.

(RIC IX, n. 62B) <https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.9.thes.62B>55. 14 mm, 1.13 g, T 1.2, axis 6, Inv. No. 93, Findspot: 1A SE room. **(Fig. 57)**

Justinian I, AD 527–565, Carthage, 40 Nummi

Obv. [D N IVSTINI - A]NVS PP AG

Bust of Justinian I to right, with diadem and Christogram on cuirass.

Rev. Μ Γ // ΚΑ[RT]

Legend, above cross, star on left, cross on right.

(Hahn 2013, 158, n. 184b, pl. 30 n. 184b)

56. 27.3 mm, 13.06 g, T 3.1 g, axis 11, Inv. No. 95, Findspot: 1A, SE room. **(Fig. 58)**

Justinian I, AD 527–565, 16 Nummi

Obv. [D N IVST]INI - [AN]VS P P A[VG]

Bust of Justinian I to right, with diadem, cuirass and paludamentum.

Rev. AISP

Legend in a dotted circle, above cross.

(Hahn 2013, 153–154, n.169, pl. 28–29 n. 169)

57. 25.3 mm, 9.45 g, T 3.2 mm, axis 6, Inv. no. 15, Findspot: floor of 1A. **(Fig. 59)**

Justinian I, AD 538–539, Constantinople, 40 Nummi

Obv. DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVI

Bust of Justinian I frontal with helmet, cuirass, holding a globus cruciger in right hand and shield in left, to right cross.

Rev. ANNO M X II // Δ // CON

Legend, above it cross.

(Hahn 2013, 129, n. 95a, pl. 20 n. 95a; Вагалински, 2022, 72, note 265) <https://ikmk.smb.museum/object?lang=en&id=18258510>58. 39.7 mm, 14.48 g, 2.8 mm, axis 12, Inv. No. 186, Findspot: acropolis. **(Fig. 60)***Gold*

Justinian I; AD 527–565, Constantinople, Thessalonike, or Sicily, Tremissis

Obv. DN IVSTINI ANVS PP AVI

Bust of Justinian I to right, with diadem and paludamentum. Border of dots.

Rev. VICTORIA AUCVCTO[R] CONOB

Victoria standing right, holding a wreath in right hand, under right arm a star. Line border.

(Hahn 2013, 115, n. 19, pl. 14 fig. 11.2; 116, n. 24b, pl. 14 fig. 24b; 117, n. NN39, pl. 15 fig. 41.2)

59. 15.2–16.6 mm, 1.46 g, T 0.73 mm, axis 6, Inv. No. 19, Findspot: 1A, SE room. **(Fig. 61)**



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.



Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.



Fig. 13.



Fig. 14.



Fig. 15.



Fig. 16.



Fig. 17.



Fig. 18.



Fig. 19.



Fig. 20.



Fig. 21.



Fig. 22.



Fig. 23.



Fig. 24.



Fig. 25.



Fig. 26.



Fig. 27.



Fig. 28.



Fig. 29.



Fig. 30.



Fig. 31.



Fig. 32.



Fig. 33.



Fig. 34.



Fig. 35.



Fig. 36.



Fig. 37.



Fig. 38.



Fig. 39.



Fig. 40.



Fig. 41.



Fig. 42.



Fig. 43.



Fig. 44.



Fig. 45.



Fig. 46.



Fig. 47.



Fig. 48.



Fig. 49.



Fig. 50.



Fig. 51.



Fig. 52.



Fig. 53.



Fig. 54.



Fig. 55.



Fig. 56.



Fig. 57.



Fig. 58.



Fig. 59.



Fig. 60.



Fig. 61.

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