



Bulgarian Numismatic Journal Supplementary Series

NEW FINDS OF THRACIAN AND LOWER MOESIAN MINTS FROM VIMINACIUM

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DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18072177



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<https://bulgnj.com>

ISSN: 2815-4827

ISBN: 978-619-92562-8-2

New finds of Thracian and Lower Moesian Mints from Viminacium

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Abstract:* Under Antoninus Pius, an increased influx of coins from the Thracian and Lower Moesian mints in the territory of Moesia Superior can be observed. Two other peaks coincide with the reigns of Septimius Severus and Caracalla. Among the Thracian cities, the coins of Pautalia prevail, followed by Hadrianopolis, Philippopolis, and Perinthus, while the share of other mints (Anchialus, Serdica, Deultum, Byzantium, Augusta Traiana, Mesambria, and Plotinopolis) is considerably smaller. Coins from the Lower Moesian mints are represented in far lower numbers than coins from the Thracian mints. The largest number comes from the Nicopolis ad Istrum mint, while Marcianopolis and Tomis are represented with one specimen each. The mapping of Thracian coins found in the territory of Moesia Superior shows their largest concentration in Viminacium and its surroundings. So far, 68 coins of the Thracian (52) and Lower Moesian (16) mints have been found during archaeological excavations at Viminacium.

Keywords: Roman provincial coins, Thracia, Lower Moesia, Viminacium.



* We would like to express our gratitude to Milica Tapavički-Ilić for her translation of the text and to Dave Calcutt for his proofreading.

During Roman times, Viminacium developed into the largest civilian settlement in Upper Moesia, but it also became an important military centre in which the legion VII Claudia was stationed (*Legio VII Claudia Pia Fidelis*). Most likely at the beginning of Hadrian's rule (the year 117), Viminacium gained the status of a municipium – *Municipium Aelium Viminacium*. In the middle of the 2nd century, but possibly even earlier, it became the governor's seat of the province of Upper Moesia. During the reign of Septimius Severus and his heirs, it reached the pinnacle of its development. At the beginning of the reign of Emperor Gordian III (the year 239), it received the status of a *colonia* (colony) – *Colonia Viminacium* (Mirković 1968, 63–69). Several factors led to the economic and political rise of Viminacium: its hinterland rich in south and fertile fields; its convenient geographic position within the empire's defence system; the crossroads of important land roads that connected the northern part of the Balkan peninsula with the east, west and south; as well as the fluvial route along the Danube. Although all those communications basically served military purposes, intensive trading activities were very quickly developed, leading merchants from both the neighbouring and distant provinces, and even from all over the empire into Viminacium (Mirković 1968, 56). In October 239, simultaneously with receiving its status of a *colonia*, Viminacium also gained the right to mint coins. The mint was active until the period of the common reign of Valerianus I and Gallienus (254/255). Slightly later, most likely during the reign of Philippus I (244–249), the secondary imperial mint in Viminacium started working. It was especially developed during the reign of Trajan Decius (249–251) and also operated until the period of the common reign of Valerianus I and Gallienus (257) (Борић-Брешковић 1976, 8–23).

The earliest archaeological excavations of Viminacium were conducted in 1882. However, only the protective excavations initiated in the 1970s, which continue to the present day, put Viminacium in the spotlight of worldwide scientific interest. Over this period of time, the largest part of the southern and the eastern cemeteries have been examined, with about 15,000 graves, as well as fifteen *villae rusticae* in the city's closest vicinity, two aqueduct branches with a total length of 1,500 metres, the amphitheatre, the city baths, the northern and the western legionary camp gates, and various structures within the camp itself (Vojvoda, Anđelković Grašar 2022, 12–13). During the archaeological research mentioned above, a total of about 15,000 coins have been discovered in all of the listed locations as well.¹ Studying this huge sample of coinage that comes from closed archaeological contexts represents an extraordinary contribution to the study of the Roman imperial and provincial mints' monetary circulation in this part of the empire. In this respect, our attention is especially drawn to the appearance of provincial issues minted in mints of the neighbouring, but also in distant eastern provinces. Among the Viminacium coinage finds, this phenomenon can be noted from the 1st century, becoming more frequent during the 2nd century and reaching its peak during the first half of the 3rd century.

The analysis of monetary finds clearly indicates that, especially at the end of the 2nd and the beginning of the 3rd centuries there was a lack of bronze coinage from the senatorial issues in the monetary circulation of the Balkan provinces. This was also the main reason for establishing the provincial mint in Viminacium in the year 239, but somewhat later also in Dacia, in the year 246. Besides Moesia Superior and Dacia, the shortage of small bronze denominations was particularly evident in both Pannonias. This shortage was covered by *limesfalsa* coinage, particularly from Septimius Severus' reign to the start of the reign of Gordian III. The end of *limesfalsa* coin production can be connected with the founding of the Viminacium mint, which began supplying the Pannonias with bronze coins (Vojvoda, Crnobrnja 2018, 133). At that time, numerous provincial mints were in operation in Moesia Inferior and Thrace, which obviously covered the needs of

¹ Half of these finds have been published so far and numerous studies based on them have been written: Војвода 2011, 243–256; Војвода 2013, 155–196; Vojvoda, Mrđić 2015; Vojvoda 2015, 53–78; Vojvoda 2017a, 51–74; Vojvoda 2017b, 131–150; Vojvoda, Mrđić 2017; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2017, 7–31; Vojvoda 2018, 65–87; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2018, 73–100; Борић-Брешковић, Војвода 2018, 19–50; Vojvoda, Redžić 2018, 50–55, 239–281; Војвода, Реџић 2018, 51–71; Vojvoda 2019, 71–75; Vojvoda, Redžić 2019, 79–98; Војвода, Реџић 2019, 261–267; Vojvoda, Mikić 2020, 119–126; Vojvoda, Redžić 2020a, 217–231; Vojvoda, Redžić 2020b, 113–117; Vojvoda, Golubović, Redžić 2021, 53–81; Vojvoda, Mikić 2023, 18–29.

their provinces for small bronze coins. There was also a moderate circulation of their coins in the territory of Moesia Superior until the reign of Gordian III (**Fig. 1**).



Fig. 1. Supplying Moesia Superior with provincial coinage at the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

Analyses of monetary finds from the territory of Moesia Superior ending with the reign of Commodus indicate that, when compared to the quantity of coins from Thracian and Lower Moesian mints, provincial bronze coinage from mints in Asia Minor was much less frequently represented. During the reign of Septimius Severus, his sons, and, later on, Elagabalus, the situation changed. During that period, the presence of provincial bronze coinage more than doubled. Most of the issues came from Macedonian mints, especially from Stobi. Further on, the presence of coinage from the Bithynian mint of Nicaea gradually increased as well, reaching its peak during the reign of Severus Alexander. A similar situation also continued during the first year of the reign of Gordian III. Establishing a mint in Viminacium and the beginning of monetary circulation of its coinage immediately produced a reduction in the quantity of Gordian III coins from the Nicaea mint. The analysis of numismatic finds from the territory of present-day Serbia showed that in the period from Philip I to Valerianus I and Gallienus, most of the provincial issues were struck by the Viminacium mint (**Fig. 2**).

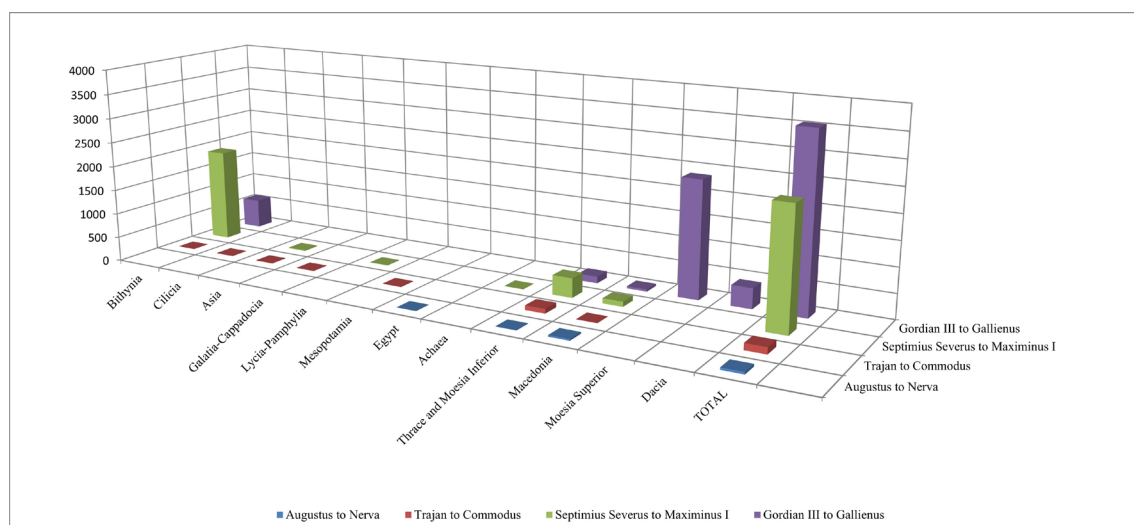


Fig. 2. Presence of provincial coinage in Moesia Superior.

The second interesting fact is related to Macedonian mints, partially also supplying Moesia Superior with coinage during the first two centuries. During Caracalla's reign, exactly during the time when Nicaean coinage played a larger part in the monetary circulation of Moesia, the Stobi mint was closed. Almost at the same time in Macedonia, during the reign of Elagabalus and especially that of Severus Alexander and Gordian III, significant issues of autonomous coinage (Koinon Macedoniae) were minted. Obviously, contrary to the coinage from Nicaea, they did not have much influence on the monetary circulation in the territory of Moesia. As can be seen, the representation of Thracian and Lower Moesian mints followed that of Macedonian ones in the period until the opening of the provincial mint in Viminacium in AD 239 (**Fig. 3**).

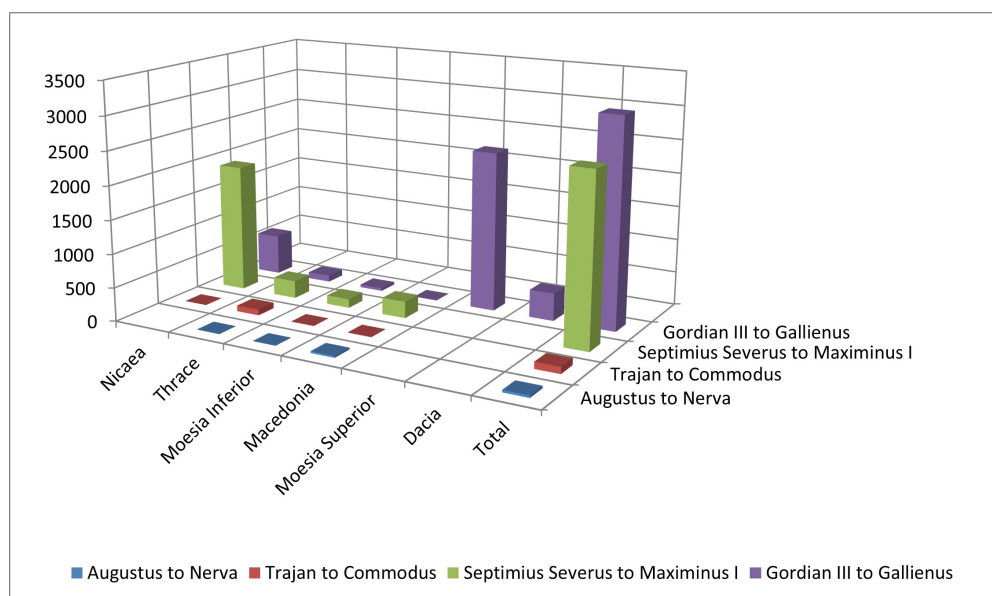


Fig. 3. Presence of provincial coinage from the Balkan mints and the Nicaea mint in Moesia Superior.

We now return to the monetary finds from the Moesian and Thracian mints discovered in Viminacium. The total of 37 coins from the Thracian mints and eight coins from the Lower Moesia mints were published earlier (Vojvoda 2011, 139–152, Table 1–2; Vojvoda, Tapavički-Ilić 2018, 129–143, Table 1; Vojvoda, Crnobrnja in print),² and on this occasion, we are presenting the newly discovered 23 coins from the recent archaeological research. Among them, 15 pieces originate from the Thracian mints and eight pieces from the mints located in Lower Moesia.³ So far, a total of 68 coins have been registered in Viminacium, among them 52 originating from Thracian mints and 16 from those located in Lower Moesia. A total of eleven Thracian and three Lower Moesian mints are represented. Coins from the mints in Pautalia, Hadrianopolis, Philippopolis, and Serdica are represented most frequently. Among the three mints from Lower Moesia, the most frequent are coins from the Nicopolis ad Istrum, followed by those from the Marcianopolis mint (**Fig. 4**).

² At the 3rd International Roman and Late Antique Thrace (RaLATH) Conference 'Roads, Communication & Mobility', held between 18th–21st October, 2018, in Komotini, Greece, Vojvoda and Crnobrnja gave a presentation entitled: 'Coins from Thracian Mints on the Territory of Present-Day Serbia'. In 2019, the authors mentioned above submitted a paper with the same title for the conference proceedings (Vojvoda, Crnobrnja in print). Some of the data was mentioned in it (Figs. 2–3), and they are repeated here with minimal additional information (Figs. 2–3). Since the printing of the proceedings is currently unlikely, on this occasion we found it necessary to present the graphs mentioned earlier, in order to enable a better insight into the presence of coins from the provincial mints in Moesia Superior and, consequently, to follow the topic we are currently working on.

³ Some of them were published only within the exhibition catalogue: Roman Limes and Cities in the Territory of Serbia, in 2018 (Vojvoda, Redžić 2018, 50–55; 239–281), but not as a separate study connected to coinage from the Thracian and Lower Moesian mints.

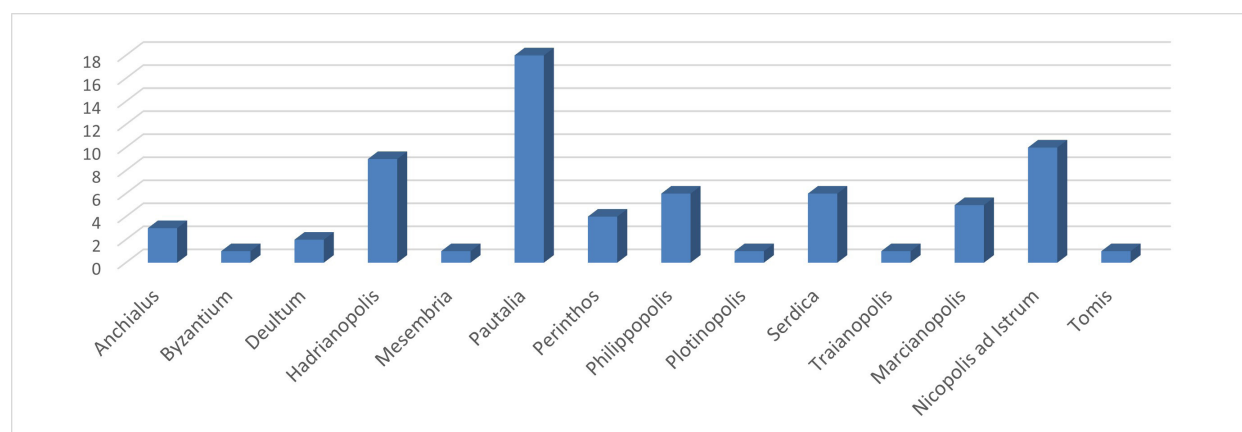


Fig. 4. Presence of Thracian and Lower Moesian mints at Viminacium.

The following detailed descriptions refer to the new coin finds of Thracian and Lower Moesian mints in Viminacium:⁴

Thrace:



1. Mint of Anchialus, Gordian III, AD 241–244

Obv. AVT K M ANT ΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟC AVΓ (around) // CEB TPAN // KVΛΛINA (in two rows). Confronted busts of Gordian III, draped and cuirassed right, head laureate, and of Tranquillina draped bust, head diademed, left.

Rev. [OV]ΛΠΙΑΝΩΝ – ΑΓΧΙΑΛΕΙΝ (NWN in ligature). Athena standing facing, head left, holding patera and inverted spear; at feet, shield.

Weight: 15.04 g; diameter: 28.15 mm; Viminacium, Thermae, Room 2

CN coin 55273, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55273

CN type 4792, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/4792>

(accessed 4 January 2024)

RPC VII.2, no. 1139: <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/7.2/1139> (accessed 27 October 2023)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_79; Field Inventory C-144

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2018, 270–271, Cat. no. 71; Vojvoda, Redžić 2019, 95, Cat. no. 152; Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 347, Cat. no. 271.

⁴ We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Ulrike Peter for her help in identifying the coins.



2. Mint of Deultum, Macrianus, AD 217–218

Obv. IMP C M OPEL SEV MA[CRINVS AV]. Bust cuirassed, head radiate, right.

Rev. COL FL PA–C DEVL. Nude Aphrodite standing facing, covering her breasts with right hand and pudenda with left hand.

Weight: 7.01 g; diameter: 24.23 mm; Viminacium, Thermae, Room 5

CN coin 55274, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55274

CN type 7695, in Corpus Nummorum <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/coins/7695>
(accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_345; Field Inventory C-293

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2019, 85, Cat. 10; Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 346, Cat. no. 270.



3. Mint of Hadrianopolis, Gordian III, AD 238–244

Obv. AVT K M ANT ΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟC AVΓ (VΓ in ligature). Bust draped, cuirassed right, head laureate.

Rev. ΑΔΡΙΑΝΟΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ. City gate with one door, flanked by two towers.

Weight: 11.17 g; diameter: 27.17 mm; Viminacium, Više Grobalja, Grave G-2482

CN coin 55275, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55275

CN type 6637, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/6637>
(accessed 4 January 2024)

RPC VII.2, no. 695: <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/7.2/695> (accessed 27 October 2023)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_234; Field Inventory C-13592

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 344, Cat. no. 268.



4. Mint of Hadrianopolis, Gordian III, AD 238–244

Obv. AVT K M ANT – ΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟC AVΓ (VΓ in ligature). Bust draped, cuirassed, right, head laureate.

Rev. ΑΔΡΙΑΝ–Ο–ΠΟ–ΛΕΙΤΩΝ. Serapis standing left, wearing kalathos, raising right arm, holding long sceptre in left hand.

Weight: 10.50 g; diameter: 28.45 mm; Viminacium, Pećine, Grave G-5937

CN coin 55276, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55276

CN type 6574, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/6574>

(accessed 4 January 2024)

RPC VII.2, no. 737: <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/7.2/737> (accessed 27 October 2023)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_241; Field Inventory C-14248

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 343, Cat. no. 267.



5. Mint of Hadrianopolis, Gordian III, AD 238–244

Obv. AVT K M ANT Γ–OPΔIANOC [AVΓ]. Bust draped, cuirassed, head laureate, right.

Rev. ΑΔΡΙΑΝΟΠ–ΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ. Nemesis standing left, holding cubit rule and reins; at her feet, wheel.

Weight: 10.08 g; diameter: 27.41 mm; Viminacium, Burdelj, Grave G-31

CN coin 55277, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55277

CN type 6641, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/6641>

(accessed 4 January 2024)

RPC VII.2, no. 724: <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/7.2/724> (accessed 27 October 2023)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_255; Field Inventory C-161

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 345, Cat. no. 269.



6. Mint of Pautalia, Septimius Severus, AD 195–198

Obv. AVT K Λ CEΠT – CEVHPOC Π. Bust draped, cuirassed, right, head laureate.

Rev. ΗΓΕ • CTA • ΒΑΡΒΑΡΟΥ // ΠΑΥΤΑΛΙΑC. Emperor on horseback galloping right, brandishing spear to lion.

Weight: 13.62 g; diameter: 33.25 mm; Viminacium, Pirivoj, Grave G-199

CN coin 51481, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/coins/51481>

CN type 21112, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/21112> (accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_77; Field Inventory C-583

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2018, 269–270, Cat. no. 69; Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 333, Cat. no. 257.



7. Mint of Pautalia, Caracalla, AD 203

Obv. AVT [M AV]PH – ANTΩNEINOC. Bust, draped, cuirassed right, head radiate.

Rev. ΟΥΛΠΙΑC – ΠΑΥΤΑΛΙΑC. Serpent with fishtail coiling, bent four times, radiate head right.

Weight: 9.22 g; diameter: 29.68 mm; Viminacium, Thermae, Room 1

CN coin 55278, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55278

CN type 21264, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/21264> (accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_229; Field Inventory C-170

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2018, 270, Cat. no. 70; Vojvoda Redžić 2019, 95, Cat. no. 151; Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 334, Cat. no. 258.



8. Mint of Pautalia, Caracalla, AD 212–217

Obv. AVT K M AVP CEV – ANTΩNEINOC. Bust draped, cuirassed, right, head laureate.

Rev. ΟΥΛΠΙΑC – ΠΑΥ[ΤΑΛ]ΙΑC. Nude Heracles standing right, resting right hand on club, lion skin over left arm, holding bow in left arm.

Weight: 16.03 g; diameter: 30.06 mm; Viminacium, Pirivoj, Trench 54

CN coin 55300, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55300

CN type 21704, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/21704> (accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_252; Field Inventory C-1560

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 335, Cat. no. 259.



9. Mint of Pautalia, Caracalla, AD 212–217

Obv. AVT K M AVP CEV – ANTΩNEINOC. Bust draped, cuirassed, head laureate, right.

Rev. ΟΥΛΠΙΑC – [ΠΑΥΤΑΛΙΑC]. Nude Hermes standing facing, head left, holding purse in right hand, caduceus in left arm.

Viminacium, Na Kamenju, Square D/8; Weight: 16.66 g; diameter: 29.20 mm

CN coin 55279, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55279

CN type 21693, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/21693>
(accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_257; Field Inventory C-85

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 336, Cat. no. 260.



10. Mint of Philippopolis, Domitian, AD 88–89

Obv. [IMP] CAES DOMIT AVG GERM – COS XIII CENS [PER P P]. Head laureate, right.

Rev. ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟ–ΠΟΛ[ΕΙΤΩΝ]. River god and city goddess; to left, river god reclining right, holding reed and resting on water-urn; behind him, reed; to right, city goddess standing left, wearing kalathos, holding patera and ears of corn.

Weight: 18.60 g; diameter: 24.10 mm; Viminacium, Nad Klepečkom, Trench 56

CN coin 55280, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55280

CN type 7527, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/7527>
(accessed 4 January 2024)

RPC II, no. 351: <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/2/351> (accessed 27 October 2023)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_300; Field Inventory C-1100

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 341, Cat. no. 265.



11. Mint of Philippopolis, Commodus, AD 177–192

Obv. AY KAI M – K[ΟΜΟΔΟC]. Head laureate, right.

Rev. ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟ–ΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ. Demeter standing right, holding patera and torch.

Weight: 4.08 g; diameter: 18.44 mm, perforated; Viminacium, Više Grobalja, Trench 311

CN coin 55281, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55281

CN type 8466, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/8466>
(accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_238; Field Inventory C-14097

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 342, Cat. no. 266.



12. Mint of Serdica, Marcus Aurelius, AD 161–169

Obv. AV KAI M AVRH – ANTQNINOC. Head laureate, right.

Rev. CEP–ΔQN. Tyche standing left, wearing kalathos, holding rudder and cornucopia.

Weight: 8.97 g; diameter: 25.60 mm; Viminacium, Rit, Trench 13

CN coin 55282, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55282

CN type 11480, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/11480> (accessed 4 January 2024)

RPC IV.1, no. 25088 (temporary no.): <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/4/25088>

(accessed 24 November 2023)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_253; Field Inventory C-602

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2018, 269, Cat. no. 67; Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 337, Cat. no. 261.



13. Mint of Serdica, Septimius Severus, AD 198

Obv. AV • K • Λ • CEΠT Π – CEVHPOC • Π. Bust with drapery on left shoulder, head laureate, right.

Rev. • HΓE KAIKINA • ΛΑΡΓΟΒ • ΟΥΛΠΙΑC • CEP (around); ΔIKEC (below eagle). Eagle standing facing on thunderbolt, head right, wings spread, holding a wreath in beak.

Weight: 13.91 g; diameter: 32.52 mm; Viminacium, Pirivoj, Trench 42

CN coin 55283, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55283

CN type 21696, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/21696> (accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_82; Field Inventory C-1349

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 338, Cat. no. 262.



14. Mint of Serdica, Caracalla, AD 212–217

Obv. AVT K M AVP CEV – ANTΩNEINOC. Bust draped, cuirassed right, head laureate.

Rev. ΟΥΛΠΙΑC – CΕΡΔΙΚΗC. Asklepios standing front, head left, right arm leaning on serpent-staff, garment over left shoulder.

Weight: 16.25 g; diameter: 30.27 mm; Viminacium, Thermae, Room 1

CN coin 55289, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55289

CN type 11453, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/11453> (accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_78; Field Inventory C-311

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2018, 269, Cat. no. 68; Vojvoda, Redžić 2019, 95, Cat. no. 150; Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 339, Cat. no. 263.



15. Mint of Serdica, Caracalla, AD 212–217

Obv. AVT K M AVP CEV ANTΩNEINOC. Head radiate, right.

Rev. ΟΥΛΠΙ–AC CΕΡΔΙΚ // HC. Emperor in military attire riding right on horseback, raising right arm.

Weight: 15.05 g; diameter: 30.14 mm; Viminacium, Rit, Trench 124

CN coin 55288, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55288

CN type 559, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/559> (accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_254; Field Inventory C-2191

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 340, Cat. no. 264.

Lower Moesia:



16. Mint of Tomis, Antoninus Pius, AD 138–161

Obv. [...] – ANTWNINOC. Head with taenia, left.

Rev. TOMITON – H MHTPON (HM in ligature). Apollo (Bonus Eventus) standing facing, head left, holding patera and laurel branch.

Weight: 4.43 g; diameter: 20.00 mm; Viminacium, Nad Klepečkom, Trench 43

CN coin 55290, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55290

CN type 21700, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/21700> (accessed 4 January 2024)

RPC IV.1, no. 4381 (temporary number): <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/4/4381>
(accessed 27 October 2023)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_231; Field Inventory C-381

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 354, Cat. no. 278.



17. Mint of Nicopolis ad Istrum, pseudo-autonomous coinage, end of the 2nd – beginning of the 3rd c. AD

Obv. No legend. Bust of winged Nike with mural crown, right.

Rev. ΠΡΟC[I] // ICTPON (dot in the middle). Legend within border of dots.

Weight: 1.34 g; diameter: 14.90 mm; Viminacium, Amfiteatar, Square F/3

CN coin 55291, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55291

CN type 21701, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/21701> (accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_236; Field Inventory C-579

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 351, Cat. no. 275.



18. Mint of Nicopolis ad Istrum, Elagabalus, AD 218–222

Obv. AYT K M AVP – [ANTONEINOC]. Bust draped, cuirassed, head radiate, right.

Rev. [ΥΠ ΝΟΒΙΟΥ ΡΟΥΦΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ] // ΠΡΟC IC // ΤΡΟΝ. Serpent with fishtail coiling,

bent four times, head surrounded by nimbus and rays, right.

Weight: 10.65 g; diameter: 25.90 mm; Viminacium, Više Grobalja, Trench 341

CN coin 55292, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55292

CN type 7530, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/7530>

(accessed 4 January 2024)

RPC VI, no. 1279 (temporary no.): <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/6/1279>

(accessed 27 October 2023)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_245; Field Inventory C-14635

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 353, Cat. no. 277.



19. Mint of Nicopolis ad Istrum, Elagabalus, AD 218–222

Obv. [AVT K M AVPH] – ANTΩNEINOC. Bust draped, cuirassed, head laureate, right.

Rev. [VΠ NOBIOV POYΦOV] – ΝΙΚΟΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΙΚΤ. Tyche standing left, wearing kalathos, holding rudder and cornucopia.

Weight: 15.39 g; diameter: 26.30 mm; Viminacium, Više Grobalja, Grave G-2762

RPC VI, no. 1287 (temporary no.): <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/6/1287> (accessed November 24th 2023)

CN coin 55293, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/coins/55293>

CN type 6427, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/6427>

(accessed 4 January 2024)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_247; Field Inventory C-14218

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 352, Cat. no. 276.



20. Mint of Marcianopolis, Caracalla, AD 211–217

Obv. Illegible. Confronted head of Caracalla, laureate, and bust of Iulia Domna, draped.

Rev. VΠ KVNTIAIANOV ΜΑΡΚΙΑΝΟΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ // E. Temple front of a tetrastyle temple, shield (?) in pediment; within statue of Serapis, left, wearing kalathos, raising right arm, resting left arm on sceptre.

Weight: 9.15 g; diameter: 26.43 mm; Viminacium, Više Grobalja, Grave G-2335

CN coin 55294, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55294

CN type 8645, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/8645>
(accessed 4 January 2024)
Viminacium Museum inv. 04_235; Field Inventory C-13279
Unpublished.



21. Mint of Marcianopolis, Elagabalus, AD 218–222
Obv. AVT K M AVPH – [ANTΩNEINOC]. Bust draped, cuirassed, head laureate, right.
Rev. VΠ [ΙΟΥΛ ANT CEΛΕ]VKOV MAPKIANOΠOΛITΩN. Hygieia standing right, feeding serpent from patera.

Weight: 9.46 g; diameter: 26.26 mm; Viminacium, Više Grobalja, Grave G-2776
CN coin 55295, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55295
CN type 11080, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/11080>
(accessed 4 January 2024)RPC VI, no. 1386 (temporary no.): <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/6/1386>
(accessed 27 October 2023)
Viminacium Museum inv. 04_248; Field Inventory C-14248
Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 349, Cat. no. 273.



22. Mint of Marcianopolis, Elagabalus, AD 218–222
Obv. AVT K M AVPH – ANTΩNEINOC. Head laureate, right.
Rev. YΠ ΙΟΥΛ ANT CEΛΕΥΚΟΥ Μ[ΑΡΚΙΑΝΟΠΟΛΙΤΩ]N. Nike advancing, left, holding laurel wreath and palm branch.

Weight: 11.34 g; diameter: 26.71 mm; Viminacium, Pirivoj, PLB V-15 (next to the Graves G-156 and G-157)
CN coin 55296, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55296
CN type 11008, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/11008> (accessed 4 January 2024)
RPC VI, no. 1488 (temporary no.): <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/6/1488>
(accessed 27 October 2023)
Viminacium Museum inv. 04_391; Field Inventory C-425
Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 348, Cat. no. 272.



23. Mint of Marcianopolis, Severus Alexander, AD 222–226

Obv. AVT K M AVP CEVH AΛEZANΔPOC. Head laureate, right.

Rev. VΠ TIB IOVA ΦHCTOV MAPKIANOΠOΛIT // ΩN. Eagle with spread wings facing, head left, holding wreath in beak.

Weight: 9.16 g; diameter: 25.70 mm; Viminacium, Pećine, Trench 534

CN coin 55297, in Corpus Nummorum: https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_55297

CN type 11975, in Corpus Nummorum: <https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/types/11975> (accessed 4 January 2024)

RPC VI, no. 1641 (temporary no.): <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/6/1641>

(accessed 27 October 2023)

Viminacium Museum inv. 04_240; Field Inventory C-14092

Published: Vojvoda, Redžić 2024, 350, Cat. no. 274.

If one considers both the examples of Thracian and Lower Moesian mints published earlier (Vojvoda 2011, 139–152, Tables 1–2; Vojvoda, Tapavički-Ilić 2018, 129–143, Table 1) and the newly presented ones discovered in Viminacium, listed according to the rulers and members of their families, their frequency shows the following:

Table 1. The number of coins from Thracian and Lower Moesian mints discovered in Viminacium, listed according to the rulers.

No.	Mint	Mint Total pc. / pcs.	Emperor or family member	Piece / Pieces
1	Anchialus	3		
			Hadrian	1
			Gordian III	2
2	Byzantium	1		
			Unknown (Caracalla ?)	1
3	Deultum	2		
			Macrinus	1
			Gordian III	1
4	Hadrianopolis	9		
			autonomous coinage 3 rd c.	1
			Caracalla	3
			Gordian III	5
5	Mesembria	1		
			Philip I	1
6	Pautalia	18		

No.	Mint	Mint Total pc. / pcs.	Emperor or family member	Piece / Pieces
			Antoninus Pius	1
			Marcus Aurelius	2
			Faustina II	3
			Septimius Severus	3
			Caracalla	7
			Geta	2
7	Perinthos	4		
			Septimius Severus	1
			Caracalla (medallion)	1
			Geta	1
			Severus Alexander	1
8	Philippopolis	6		
			Domitian	1
			Antoninus Pius	4
			Commodus	1
9	Plotinopolis	1		
			Faustina II	1
10	Serdica	6		
			Marcus Aurelius	1
			Lucius Verus	1
			Septimius Severus	1
			Caracalla	3
11	Traianopolis	1		
			Geta	1
12	Marcianopolis	5		
			Caracalla	2
			Elagabalus	2
			Severus Alexander	1
13	Nicopolis ad Istrum	10		
			Commodus	1
			Septimius Severus	1
			Caracalla	3
			Plautilla	1
			Elagabalus	4
15	Tomis	1		
			Antoninus Pius	1
	TOTAL	68		68

If this data is listed chronologically, regardless of the mint they originate from, the following results are gained:

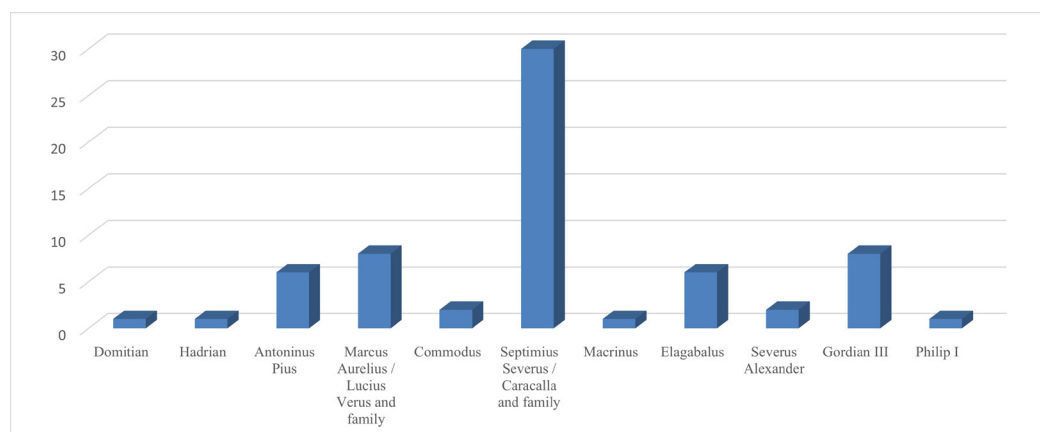


Fig. 5. The total number of coins from Thracian and Lower Moesian mints discovered in Viminacium, listed according to rulers.

It turns out that the greatest influx of the coinage from the Thracian and Lower Moesian mints discovered in Viminacium so far took place during the reigns of Septimius Severus and Caracalla (**Fig. 5**). This fits well into the image of provincial coinage circulation in the entire territory of Upper Moesia (**Figs. 2–3**), where there is a certain influx of coinage from mints in Macedonia, Thrace, and Lower Moesia, which ended during the reign of Caracalla. If one observes the influx of coins from the Thracian and Lower Moesian mints in Viminacium, one notices that during the 1st century, these mints contributed a lower percentage of coinage. From the beginning of the 2nd century and especially during the reigns of Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius, this influx grew significantly bigger (**Fig. 5**). From the 1st and the 2nd centuries, there are coins from six Thracian and two Lower Moesian mints: Anchialus, Pautalia, Philippopolis, Plotinopolis, Serdica, Nicopolis ad Istrum, and Tomis (**Table 1**).

The greatest influx of coinage from the Thracian and Lower Moesian mints in Viminacium occurred during the reigns of Septimius Severus and Caracalla (**Fig. 5**). They originated from the following mints: Hadrianopolis, Pautalia, Perinthos, Serdica, Traianopolis, Marcianopolis, and Nicopolis ad Istrum (**Table 1**). After this period, there was a significant decrease in the influx from these mints, since this was the period in which coinage from the Bithynian mint Nicaea was dominant in monetary circulation. This situation remained unchanged until the reign of Gordian III and the establishment of the provincial mint in Viminacium in the year 239. In the period that followed, it dominated the circulation of this kind of coinage.

Besides the already mentioned data and the lack of small bronze coinage at the end of the 2nd and the beginning of the 3rd centuries in Upper Moesia and in both Pannonias – also confirmed with monetary finds analyses – it is possible that additional circumstances occurred for the appearance of provincial coinage in the coin circulation of these provinces, especially in Viminacium. Its geographic position at the crossroads of land routes, with the main route among them leading towards the south and the city of Naissus, then further on to Thrace and the Bosphorus, caused it to become one of the important stops on the road towards the East. The wars that took place in the East from the reign of Septimius Severus, and becoming more and more frequent during the reign of his heirs, led to a large circulation of people, merchandise, and money along the road through Thrace and Upper Moesia. It is obvious that at the same time, several factors combined to lead to a larger monetary circulation between the provinces in the Balkans and Asia Minor – especially Bithynia – over Thrace and Upper Moesia and even further on, towards the west. With their large sample and clear find contexts, monetary finds from the archaeological excavations of Viminacium have to a large extent contributed to solving the question of provincial coinage circulation in this part of the Roman Empire. We hope that further attempts to publish as

many monetary finds as possible from Moesia Superior, Thrace, and Moesia Inferior will help to bring about a better understanding of the historical circumstances and consequences they had on life in these neighbouring provinces.

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