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МОНЕТНИ НАХОДКИ ОТ ОБЕКТ АЙДАРИЦА,
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ХРИСТИНА ИВАНОВА-АНАПЛИОТИ

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Монетни находки от обект Айдарица, общ. Петрич, през 2025 г.

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Abstract: The report includes an overview of the numismatic material found during the excavations at the archaeological site of Aydaritsa in 2025, representing a total of thirteen coins.

Keywords: Excavation Coins Finds, Greek and Roman Coinage, Aydaritsa, Heraclea Sintica.



This report presents the coin findings from 2025 at the site of Aydaritsa (AKB no. 1900251) located near the village of Mitino, Petrich district, conducted under the direction of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivo Cholakov (NAIM-BAS) (Чолаков, Василева, forthcoming, b). The present overview follows the report on the coin finds from 2024 (Ivanova-Anaplioti 2025) which was connected to the rescue excavation of the water management system and the Southern necropolis of Heraclea Sintica (Чолаков, Василева, forthcoming, a). In 2025, the investigations covered the entire area.

The discoveries include more heterogeneous material than in the previous year. The findspots can be divided into those connected to regular trenches, and those found in the graves of the necropolis, presumed to have been used as Charon's obol. For clarity, the coins will be listed chronologically, and the context in which they were found will be indicated for each coin.

The earliest coins found are two bronzes that can be attributed to Philip II type, with Amphipolis as a mint, dated both within the broad range of 359–294 BC. The first (**Fig. 1**) comes from a trench context and is of the type with the head of Apollo to the left and a youth galloping on a horse to the right (not listed in Gaebler 1935, 167–168 nos. 34–36).¹ The second is from a grave context and represents a similar type, but with the head of Apollo to the right (Gaebler 1935, 167 n. 35, pl. XXXI n. 12).²

¹ <https://numismatics.org/collection/1944.100.12497>

² <https://numismatics.org/collection/1944.100.12397>



Fig. 1. Philip II type (359–294 BC), Amphipolis, Apollo/horseman type, AE, D 16–19 mm, T 4 mm, 5.46 g, 12 h (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).

Following these coins, a peculiar silver 1/5 tetradrachm issued by Philip III Arrhidaeus (**Fig. 2**) comes again from a burial context.³ It depicts the head of a youth to the right with a *strophion* and a youth riding a horse to the right. On top of the coin, there are remains that could be interpreted as a loop for using the coin as a pendant. However, it does not form a complete ring, and it seems to be part of the flan. This refers to poor cleaning of the flan, and the sprue can be interpreted as metal remnants from the flan casting in the mold channels connecting different flans.



Fig. 2. Philip III Arrhidaeus (323–315 BC), Pella, Youth/horseman type, AR, D 15–17 mm, T 2 mm, 2.46 g, 12 h (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).

The Roman coins are seven in total. The earliest is a provincial coin found in a trench. It is a very poorly preserved bronze for Marcus Antonius and Octavian from Thessalonike, depicting Agonothesia on the obverse and the legend on the reverse.⁴ Three coins of the Philippi type with Victoria and three standards (Gaebler 1935, 102–103 n. 14–15, pl. XX n. 10)⁵ were also uncovered, with one found in a trench and two in graves. One coin from a grave shows the outline of a Flavian emperor's portrait – probably Vespasian or Titus – and can be dated to the 70s of the 1st century. Two further grave coin finds have metrical data consistent with provincial coinage, but they cannot be identified any further.

The only imperial assarion is a grave coin find attributed to Marcus Aurelius, dated to AD 148–149 (**Fig. 3**) with the head of the emperor to the right and Pietas.⁶



Fig. 3. Marcus Aurelius (AD 148–149), Rome, Marcus Aurelius/Pietas type As, AE, D 23–26 mm, T 3 mm, 8.2 g, 5 h (Photo by Lily Grozdanova).

The only probable Late Antique coin recovered from a trench context cannot be identified. An additional specimen, a coin of the 16 nummi denomination of Justinian I from Thessalonica, dated to AD 527–565 (Hahn, Metlich 2013, 153–154 n. 169, pl. 28–29 n. 169), depicts the usual emperor's portrait to the right on the obverse and the legend on the reverse, also originates from a trench context.

³ i.e., https://numismatics.org/pella/id/pella.philip_ii.78

⁴ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coin/407354>

⁵ <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/1/1651>

⁶ https://numismatics.org/ocre/id/ric.3.ant.1293A_as

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