

WEALTHY OR NOT IN A TIME OF TURMOIL?

THE ROMAN IMPERIAL HOARD FROM
GRUIA IN ROMAN DACIA (ROMANIA)

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Wealthy or not in a time of turmoil?

Introduction

Large hoards, of over 1,000 pieces, are often itemised according to the issuers plus the number of coins, or merely according to the quantity of coins.

At the same time, depending on the context of discovery, a detailed description of the hoard's composition may be impossible if the discovery is either a very old find with no records, or if the coins were distributed among the finders or other people after discovery.

Another aspect that must be emphasized in the case of the publication of large hoards regards the catalogues which are compiled under time pressure or page limitation resulting in a very concise form of presentation which may include various types of errors or may omit information about the coins.

In this book we try to present just such a large hoard (1,509 coins) offering as much information as possible on each coin (description, technical data, identification, photo) in order to provide an overall picture that may serve the needs of future numismatic approaches.

The hoard's name and the quantity of coins (1,501) were first mentioned by M. Davidescu in 1980.¹ In the year 2000, Gh. Popilian and M. Davidescu published an article on this hoard (1,501 coins).² It was the merit of these authors that they presented, for the first time, such a large hoard, producing a catalogue of technical data on the coins and attempting to identify the coin types. The external issues mentioned above led to the publication of this hoard with many errors: incorrect types, issuers, weights etc.

At the same time, the investigation of further references allowed us to discover that in 1997 the Oltenia Museum in Craiova (Romania) purchased 7 more pieces from the same hoard: 5 denarii and 2 antoniniani (catalogue nos 1503-1509; pl. 51). These pieces were published much later in 2011.³ Therefore, this book presents the catalogue of all the 1,509 coins known today. They are separated in two lots according to their place of keeping in Romania: the Iron Gates Region Museum, Drobeta-Turnu Severin (1,502 coins) and the Oltenia Museum, Craiova (7 coins).

Direct access to the numismatic material and the capabilities provided by IT analysis led us to the conclusion that this numismatic discovery needed to be re-published.

The discovery

The hoard was discovered on the 28th of August 1971 by Ion Olteanu from the village of Gruia (Mehedinți County, Romania) (map 1) while digging a pit in his garden.⁴ (figs. 1-2) The hoard of silver coins was found in a ceramic vessel which was broken at the time of the discovery and the sherds thrown away by the finder.⁵

By the time the local authorities became aware of such an important numismatic discovery, the finder had distributed some of the coins to other villagers. Despite the fact that some of these coins were recovered, around 30 pieces are still missing.⁶

¹ Davidescu 1980, 139.

² Popilian/Davidescu 2000, 69-104.

³ Rădulescu/Guțică-Florescu 2011, 108, 110-111; catalogue, 115-116.

⁴ Popilian/Davidescu 2000, 69.

⁵ Popilian/Davidescu 2000, 69.

⁶ Popilian/Davidescu 2000, 69.

Following a recent field investigation, we were able to work out that the hoard was found at the depth of circa 0.45 m. The coins were placed in a cooking pot of brownish colour.⁷

The village of Gruia is located on the left bank of the Danube, circa 50 km south-west of the city of Drobeta-Turnu Severin, the former *municipium Aelium Hadrianum Drobetense* and later *colonia Septimia Drobeta* in Roman Dacia.⁸ (map 4)

The village is known to have archaeological remains from the Bronze Age. Dwellings belonging to the Verbicioara Culture and graves of the Gârla Mare Culture have been identified on the flood-plane of the village.⁹

For the Roman period a rural settlement has been presumed in the close vicinity of where the hoard was discovered,¹⁰ very close to the Roman road connecting *Drobeta* to *Sucidava*. (map 3)

A medieval settlement and a necropolis dated to the 14th-15th centuries were also identified in the area of this village.¹¹

The denominations

The hoard consists of 1,509 silver coins (4.71 kg): 1,486 denarii, 17 antoniniani and 6 plated pieces (see tab. 1; catalogue).

The large presence of the denarius in a hoard ending with coins of Gordian III is a normal feature. The hoards not only from Roman Dacia but also in the area of the Middle and Lower Danube,¹² as well as throughout the Roman Empire¹³ indicate the same common pattern.

The low number of antoniniani (17) represents 1.12% of the total number of coins in this hoard. There are various principal reasons for this small percentage. This denomination has a short period of production (possibly a low rhythm, too) in its first phase, AD 215-219.¹⁴ Furthermore, the hoard ends with early issues of Gordian III, 12 – all antoniniani, minted in the period of AD 238-240 when this denomination was minted again. Additionally, distrust in this overvalued coinage must be taken into account and this led to the selection of only a small number of pieces of this denomination.¹⁵

The presence of the plated coins, 6 denarii, although it is very low – at first sight – 0.39% of the total number of coins, may be in fact significant. As can be easily noticed, at the first sight, the coins look as if they have a high-quality finish of silver (pl. 1-51). However, on careful examination of the coins, one can spot areas where the silver foil is missing revealing a copper core. While on some of these plated coins the copper area is highly visible, on others there are only small spots where the copper core can be noticed. (Catalogue no. 186, pl. 7; no. 360; pl. 12; no. 322, pl. 11; no. 505, pl. 17; nos 1293, 1298, pl. 44). The second aspect of the plated coins may raise the question of the real number of plated coins in this hoard. If the silver foil is entirely preserved, we cannot say and we do not have the required non-invasion technology to discover whether if the coin is entirely made of silver or if it has a copper core. The presence of these 6 plated coins indicate that such coins could have passed as genuine ones at the time of hoarding as the design is one of 'official' quality style, especially if the silver foil did not crack.

⁷ The information (25th of January 2018) was provided by Ms. Mărioara Olteanu, widow of the late Mr. Ion Olteanu the finder of this hoard.

⁸ Tudor 1968, 180; Ardevan 1998, 36.

⁹ Ridiche 2000, 60, no. 121; Rădulescu/Guțică-Florescu 2011, 110.

¹⁰ Popilian/Davidescu 2000, 69.

¹¹ Stuparu 1985, 135.

¹² Găzdac 2010, Tab. A 1-5.

¹³ Depeyrot/Moisil 2004, 46-73.

¹⁴ Katsari 2015, 79.

¹⁵ Găzdac 2010, 139-140.

The presence of plated coins, not only within the hoards but also as single finds at various sites, is no longer a peculiarity as plating/clipping/casting was part of state monetary policy in the Roman Empire, mainly starting with the reign of Septimius Severus.¹⁶

The hoard structure (tab. 1; graphs 1-2; graph 3)

From the coins of Vespasian to the coins bearing the portrait of Septimius Severus and his family, the structure of the hoard from Gruia shows a very low number for both the number of coins as well as for the coefficient/year of reign of the coins issued by earlier emperors – even lacking coins of Domitian's reign (AD 81-96).

The coins of Septimius Severus represent, according to the number of coins, a peak for the hoard structure. From the coin number point of view (416 coins issued in the period of AD 193-211) this reign is among the ones with the highest figure but the situation is different regarding the coefficient/year of reign. The following reigns, of Caracalla and Macrinus, show a decrease of values. The reign of Elagabalus represents the highest value of the coefficient/year of reign for the entire chronological sequence framed by this hoard. Although the highest number of coins in this hoard belong to Severus Alexander (500 pieces) the value of the coefficient/year of reign comes second after the one for the coins of Elagabalus.

The latest reign present in this hoard, that of Gordian III, is documented by 12 coins which, overall, indicate a very low value for the coefficient/year or reign.

Is the structure of the Gruia hoard a particular one or there is a general pattern of hoarding during the time of Gordian III?

In order to offer an accurate answer to this question, we used the database offered by the 'Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire' of the University of Oxford, Ashmolean Museum,¹⁷ to select similar hoards from the Roman Empire ending with coins of Gordian III, with a significant number of the same silver denominations (over 200 pieces of denarii and antoniniani) and with a very high percentage of coin recovery from the initial number of coins. Such hoards are: Țaga¹⁸ (1,013 coins), Sâmburești¹⁹ (4,148 coins), Bălești²⁰ (356 coins), Geomal²¹ (216 coins) in Romania, *Dacia*; Veselinovo²² (727 coins), Yudelnik²³ (520 coins), Vladislav 2²⁴ (226 coins) in Bulgaria, *Moesia Inferior*; Levergies²⁵ (208 coins), France, *Gallia Belgica*; Dereham²⁶ (1,084 coins), Great Britain, *Britannia*.

As the quantity of coins hoarded varies from one hoard to the other (e.g. Levergies – 208 coins, Sâmburești – 4,148 coins), Casey's extension to the Ravetz formula²⁷ was used in order to obtain a coin index that would allow us a comparative analysis on the same scale of value – the monetary index.

$$\frac{\text{coins per issuer}}{\text{length of reign}} \times \frac{1,000}{\text{total for site}}$$

¹⁶ Găzdac/Alfödy-Găzdac 2001, 137-154, for plated silver coins in Roman Dacia, including references for the topic of counterfeiting in the Roman Empire.

¹⁷ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk.

¹⁸ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/2627.

¹⁹ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/2629.

²⁰ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/2632.

²¹ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/2635.

²² chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/10344.

²³ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/10272.

²⁴ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/10173.

²⁵ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/3313.

²⁶ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/6915.

²⁷ Casey 1974, 41.

Owing to certain specific characteristics of these hoards, this formula has been slightly modified. The calculation for the ‘total no. of coins’ is substituted for the ‘total for site’. Therefore, the formula used in this study to calculate the monetary index is:

$$\frac{\text{coins per issuer}}{\text{length of reign}} \times \frac{1,000}{\text{total no. of coins}}$$

In order to achieve a more accurate result, the short reigns (e.g. Pertinax, Didius Julianus, Macrinus, Balbinus and Pupienus) were incorporated in longer chronological segments (e.g. AD 190-193, AD 193-218, AD 238-244). At the same time, the coins depicting the portrait of Caracalla on the obverse were incorporated in the chronological segment AD 193-217 as the coins were not separated by series issued in the time of Septimius Severus from those minted in the time of Caracalla’s single reign (AD 211-217).

The graph resulting from the application of this formula (graph 3) indicates a general pattern for the hoards ending with coins of Gordian III. The earliest coins are from the reign of Nero (AD 54-68) or the Civil War (AD 68-69). Up to the reign of Septimius Severus the monetary index has a very low value for all the hoards studied here, including gaps for reigns such as Domitian and Nerva. Then, the monetary index records an increase for the chronological segment of AD 193-218 reaching a peak for the reign of Elagabalus. This increase of Septimius Severus’ denarii may be linked to the debasement of the silver coinage, both in weight and fineness; this seems to be accompanied by a peak in denarius production in AD 197-198 at the end of the Civil War.²⁸ The next reign, that of Severus Alexander, represents an abrupt decrease of the monetary index that will gradually continue into the reign of Maximinus I Thrax and Gordian III. Only two hoards, Bălești and Yudelnik, record an increase of the monetary index for the reign of Gordian III. The same explanation applies to both hoards. Unlike the other hoards studied here, these two end with coins issued in the last two years of Gordian’s III reign (AD 243-244),²⁹ therefore, the coins of this emperor were more available for hoarding.

The group of hoards indicates the strong dominance of the denarius over the antoninianus. The silver denomination, antoninianus, issued for the first time in AD 215, is scarcely represented in these groups, either having a very low value, Gruia – 17 pieces (1.12%) (tab. 1; catalogue); Țăga³⁰ – 9 pieces (0.88%); Dereham³¹ – 17 pieces (1.56%) or totally missing: Sâmburești,³² Geomal,³³ Levergies.³⁴ At the same time, it must be stated that this very low representation or complete absence of the antoninianus among the hoards with large numbers of coins may suggest either the rejection of this overvalued denomination for hoarding,³⁵ or a small antoninianus-production. On the same vein, it must be pointed out that the large majority of these antoniniani were issued for Gordian III, when the production of this denomination powerfully re-started. The highest representation in the number of coins of this denomination occurs in the hoard of Bălești³⁶ – 62 pieces (17.41%). As this hoard ends towards the late part of the reign of Gordian III or very early in the reign of Philip I (AD 244-249), due to monetary policy,³⁷ the number of antoniniani in circulation was already much larger than the denarii.³⁸

²⁸ Carson 1965, 226; Crawford 1978, 152; Carson 1990, 61; Duncan-Jones 1994, 104, 142 Haim/Ponting 2003, 42.

²⁹ For Bălești see Mitrea 1979, 15-37; Găzdac 2010, CD-ROM/Catalogues/Hoards/Dacia_Bălești; for Yudelnik, see Gerov 1977, 156, no. 104.

³⁰ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/2627.

³¹ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/6915.

³² chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/2629.

³³ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/2635.

³⁴ chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/3313.

³⁵ Protase 1958, 263. The author also considers low antoninianus-production as an explanation for the small numbers of antoniniani in this group of hoards.

³⁶ Mitrea 1979, 15-37; Găzdac 2010, CD-ROM/Catalogues/Hoards/Dacia_Bălești.

³⁷ Katsari 2015, 79.

³⁸ It must be mentioned here that in the case of the hoards from Veselinovo, Vladislav 2, Yudelnik the style of publication did not allow to separate antoniniani from denarii.

In this work, we do not intend to go deeper into the study of the weight and structure fluctuations of the hoards ending in this period as such approach has already been carried out in detail by G. Depeyrot and D. Moisil.³⁹ The hoard from Gruia is not an exception to the observations and comments of these scholars made on the general patterns of the hoards throughout the Roman Empire.

The mints (tab. 2; graph 4; catalogue)

The 1,509 coins from the hoard from Gruia seem to have been minted mainly in Rome – 1,436 pieces (95.16%) and some of them in the eastern mints in Syria such as Laodicea ad Mare, Emesa and Antioch – 67 pieces (4.44%). Due to the difficulty to be absolutely certain on the number of plated coins – for the reasons previously mentioned – we cannot fully rely on these statistics regarding the real number of plated coins – 6 at the moment (0.39%) – probably, higher than expected.

Up to the reign of Septimius Severus the genuine coins in this hoard were minted in Rome.

In the case of the coins depicting Septimius Severus and the members of his family (AD 193-211) 378 pieces were minted in Rome, 35 in the East. For the sole reign of Caracalla (AD 211-217) and Macrinus (AD 217-218) the mint of Rome is the only one represented by the coins in this hoard. This is normal as Rome was the only official mint to produce silver coins for these emperors.⁴⁰

The following reigns, from Elagabalus to Gordian III, reveal the dominance of the mint of Rome over the eastern mint. For the reign of Elagabalus 404 coins were minted in Rome, 3 in the East. Almost the same proportions can be noticed for the coins of Severus Alexander: Rome 469 coins, East 29 and 2 plated coins. The coins of Maximinus I Thrax, Balbinus, Pupienus and Gordian III were all minted in Rome.

The hoard value

Regarding the quantity of coins in hoards from Roman Dacia – almost entirely recovered – the hoard of Gruia is among the largest. At the moment, the largest are: Pădurețu (4,942 coins), Sâmburești (4,148 coins), Sălașuri (3,200 coins), Micia (2,064 coins).⁴¹

In order to establish the value of the hoard from Gruia we have to take into account, if possible, the prices and wages, around the moment when the hoard was assembled, probably soon after AD 240.

At the moment, there is no evidence from the territory of the former Roman province of Dacia for the prices of daily transactions, dated precisely, to have survived to today. However, a list of products bought, probably for a banquet of a guild (*collegium*) has survived on one of the wax tablets from *Alburnus Maior* (Roșia Montană) in Roman Dacia (map 2).⁴² This wax tablet is dated between AD 131 and AD 167.⁴³ Among other products that were bought, the list states that 5 lambs cost 18 denarii, while 1 piglet cost 5 denarii.⁴⁴ Although the prices are over 80 years older than the moment when, probably, the hoard under study was buried/hidden, and even with a double rate of inflation – some scholars have agreed for a low rate for it⁴⁵ while others consider it as severe at the end of the 2nd century AD⁴⁶ – it can be assumed that 1,509 denarii did represent quite a considerable sum in the first part of the 3rd century AD.

Regarding salaries, the only evidence, for our topic (both, the amount of money and the date) are military payments. While Herodian states explicitly that Caracalla, in AD 212, increased the payment

³⁹ Depeyrot/Moisil 2004, 7-45.

⁴⁰ RIC IV.1 and RIC IV.2.

⁴¹ Găzdac 2010, Tab. 1. A hoard of 8,000 denarii was discovered at Reșca (Olt County) in the last century, but nowadays lost, Preda 1996, 112.

⁴² Russu 1975, 243-246.

⁴³ Russu 1975, 175.

⁴⁴ Russu 1975, 244, 246.

⁴⁵ Scheidel 2009, 68.

⁴⁶ Rathbone 1996, 323.

of praetorians by 50%,⁴⁷ Dio Cassius suggests that all army payments were doubled.⁴⁸ According to M.A. Speidel, in AD 212 a basic legionary would receive 3,600 sestertii/year (900 denarii) while an infantryman from the *auxilia* 3,000 sestertii/year (750 denarii).⁴⁹ Certainly, at the first sight, one should think also about the inflationary effect after AD 194 when the official silver bullion content of 46% seemed to be applied throughout the Roman Empire.⁵⁰ As has been demonstrated, it is most likely that this coinage debasement under Septimius Severus came with no inflationary consequences⁵¹ as, probably, the number of the requested denarii for payments were divided 'into the amount of silver bullion available, which had been dropping because of the reduced silver supply coming from the mines'.⁵² However, for the emperors succeeding Caracalla, Macrinus, Elagabalus and Severus Alexander, the pressure of army expenditure remained inexorable. 'The emperor needed the soldiers' support first of all to sustain himself in power and therefore he had to ensure that they were content.'⁵³

Returning to the hoard under discussion, we should not forget that the coins were placed by the owner in a container – a ceramic vessel – an aspect that indicates a deliberate approach to hiding/burying something of great value. Therefore, it may be assumed that this hoard represents someone's savings. As mentioned at the beginning of this study, a rural Roman settlement is known in the vicinity of hoard's findspot, which suggests that the owner could have been a local.

The reason for the hoard burial and non-recovery

On the basis that the latest coins in a hoard provides a *terminus post quem*, a view on the map of the provinces from the Middle and Lower Danube area ending with coins of Gordian III and the next emperor, Philip I, suggest a strong concentration of hoards in Dacia and Moesia Inferior.⁵⁴ (map 5)

The reason for burial of this group of hoards together with those ending with coins of Gordian III has been considered to have been the massive attack on the provinces of Dacia and Moesia Inferior by the Carpic tribes in AD 245/246-247.⁵⁵

The Carpic War in AD 245-247 has been described as one of a big impact on the provinces on the Lower Danube.⁵⁶ In AD 247, this war required the presence in person of the emperor, Philip I, in order to end the conflict.⁵⁷ The war seems to have been over by the end of AD 247 – beginning of AD 248, when the emperor received the title *Carpicus Maximus*.⁵⁸ Hoards of this horizon found inside auxiliary forts from Dacia were discovered in layers covered by others of fire: Săpata de Jos,⁵⁹ Bumbesti,⁶⁰ Pons Aluti.⁶¹ The hoard from Pons Aluti was found in a burned layer in one of the towers of the fort that was later rebuilt.⁶²

Following the map of hoards, it seems that the Carpic attack had targeted the central part of Dacia: the territory inside the Carpathian Mountains; the main road Drobeta-Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa and the two *limites*, *Alutanus* and *Transalutanus*.⁶³ (map 5)

⁴⁷ Herodian, III.8.4.

⁴⁸ Dio Cassius, LXXVIII.36.3-4.

⁴⁹ Speidel 1992, 106.

⁵⁰ Bursche 1993, 300-301.

⁵¹ Gitler/Ponting 2003, 26.

⁵² Gitler/Ponting 2003, 26. For similar opinions see Crawford 1975, 562-563; Howgego 1992, 8-9; Harl 1996, 83.

⁵³ Campbell 2002, 84.

⁵⁴ Găzdac 2012, 194, map 5.

⁵⁵ Gerov 1977, 127-131.

⁵⁶ Fontes Iuris Romani Antejustiniani, 2, 657; Lorient 1975, 793.

⁵⁷ Zosimos I, 20, 2-3; Mócsy 1974, 203; Piso 1974, 306.

⁵⁸ Kienast 1996, 198.

⁵⁹ Christescu 1938, 447; Mitrea 1968, 197-206.

⁶⁰ Petolescu 1990, 46.

⁶¹ Petre-Govora 1968, 207; Mitrea 1968, 209-222.

⁶² Petre-Govora 1968, 207.

⁶³ Piso 1974, 308; Petolescu 1995, 120.

Certainly, an individual tragedy for the hiding and non-recovery of the hoard from Gruia cannot be totally ruled out. The findspot is located on the territory of the *colonia Drobeta*, an area known for the multitude of hoards discovered there. (map 4) One possible reason for the non-recovery of these hoards could also be robbery activity on the roads. It can be easily discerned that the roads in this area were quite unsafe.⁶⁴ (map 4) The epigraphic evidence from Drobeta indicates that there were travellers killed by thieves – ‘*interfecti a latronibus*’.⁶⁵

The ‘weird’ coins

Such a large hoard, as it is the case of the one from Gruia, beside numismatic and historical aspects, inevitably produces examples of various anomalies: plated coins; striking technique malfunctions, mismatchings of obverse with reverse; later interference with the coins in various ways; new variants of the RIC types.

Here are these cases.

A holed coin



This denarius of Lucius Aelius (Caesar) issued in Rome in AD 137 presents a hole made a later date, probably, to hang onto something. However, it seems that its monetary value was not affected as it was still worth hoarding. (Catalogue no. 10; pl. I)

Hybrid coin



The obverse depicts the laureate head of Lucius Verus, co-emperor with Marcus Aurelius (AD 161-169). On the reverse, the inscription and the design – Annona holding corn-ears and cornucopiae; modius and ship in the field – belong to the coin series issued for Marcus Aurelius in AD 165 (RIC III, 540). This is most likely to have been a moneyer mistake. (Catalogue no. 28; pl. I)

⁶⁴ Găzdac 2012, 179 and map 9; Găzdac *et al.* 2015, 44.

⁶⁵ Russu 1977, 71, 118.

New variant



On the reverse, a star can be noted in the left field, which is not listed in the RIC type for this coin (RIC III, 230). (Catalogue no. 47; pl. II)

Engraving error



On this eastern issue, the engraver has misplaced the letters D and E on the reverse inscription, FORT RDEVC instead of FORT REDVC. (Catalogue no. 56; pl. II)



The reverse shows the presence of a first striking which can be partially noticed on the right side covered by the re-struck present one. (Catalogue no. 56; pl. II)

Striking malfunction



This denarius of Severus Alexander shows that the coin-die had technical issues as can be easily spotted on the emperor's shoulder on the obverse and the shape of some letters on the reverse. (Catalogue no. 1105; pl. 37)



Another denarius of Severus Alexander indicating an unbalanced striking. (Catalogue no. 1348; pl. 45)



Denarius of Maximinus I Thrax with the same traces of an unbalance striking. (Catalogue no. 1447; pl. 49)



Antoninianus of Gordian III showing a coin-die failure on the reverse – letters I C hardly visible, blurred Jupiter body – due to a technical malfunction or die damage. (Catalogue no. 1494; pl. 50)



In the case of this denarius minted for Severus Alexander the reverse die slid at the time of striking. (Catalogue no. 1289; pl. 43)



A coin flan badly shaped for striking. Part of the obverse inscription falls off. (Catalogue no. 1340, pl. 45)



Denarius of Julia Mamaea showing traces of double striking on both obverse and reverse. (Catalogue no. 1420, pl. 48)

Plated coins



Plated and hybrid denarius bearing the portrait of Septimius Severus. Despite the high-quality design the copper can be easily spotted beneath the silver foil. Furthermore, in this case, according to the RIC, the moneyer has mis-combined a slightly later obverse (AD 202) with an earlier reverse (AD 201, cf. RIC IV.1, 152). (Catalogue no. 186; pl. 7)



Plated and hybrid denarius bearing the portrait of Caracalla. Despite the high-quality design the copper can be easily spotted beneath the silver foil. Furthermore, in this case, according to the RIC, the moneyer has mis-combined an obverse of Caracalla with a reverse from a coin type designed for Geta series (cf. RIC IV.1, 45). (Catalogue no. 360; pl. 12)



Plated denarius bearing the portrait of Julia Domna. Despite the high-quality design the copper can be easily spotted beneath the silver foil on the obverse. (Catalogue no. 322; pl. 11)



Plated denarius plated bearing the portrait of Caracalla. Despite the high-quality design the copper can be easily spotted beneath the silver foil on the obverse. (Catalogue no. 505; pl. 17)



Plated denarii plated bearing the portrait of Severus Alexander. Despite the high-quality design the copper can be easily spotted beneath the silver foil on the obverse and reverse. (Catalogue nos 1293, 1298; pl. 44)