

ROMAN IMPERIAL COINS IN THE VASILE CIOANĂ COLLECTION, MAGLAVIT, DOLJ COUNTY

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The commune of Maglavit is located in the south-western part of the Dolj county, in the Danube Meadow, at approximately 4 km east of the river's bank. In the Antiquity, the area was part of the Roman province of Dacia. The commune includes the villages of Maglavit and Hunia (Fig. 1). Until 1930, the commune also included the village of Golenți, which afterwards became part of the Calafat administrative unit¹. The Danube Meadow, „*the most anthropogenised part of the Romanian Plain*”², has been intensely inhabited since the earliest times, and the fortuitous archeological finds made on Maglavit area have raised interest since the 19th century. Beginning with 1966 the objects discovered have been gathered by Vasile Cioană, then a history teacher, who has made a collection of archaeological materials unearthed on the surfaces of the various sites in the area, which range from the Neolithic Age to the Middle Age³. The numismatic section of this collection includes coins minted in several historical periods, from Antiquity to contemporary times. Below, we present the Roman imperial coins in this collection:

CATALOGUE (Fig. 2–3)

Tiberius: Divus Augustus

1. AE; As; 29,7 × 28,6 mm; 7,24 g; Axis 6
Av. DIVVS AVGVSTVS PATER

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¹ C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor, *Antiquités celtiques en Olténie*, în „Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie”, 11–12, 1945–1947, [1948], p. 25

² Petre Coteș, *Câmpia Română: studiu de geomorfologie integrată*, Editura Ceres, București, p. 99.

³ Petre Gherghe, Florin Ridiche, Vasile Cioană, *Descoperiri arheologice din epoca geto-dacă la Maglavit, jud. Dolj*. în „Oltenia. Studii și comunicări. Istorie–Arheologie”, 22–23, 2015–2016, pp. 39–49; Petre Gherghe, Vasile Cioană, *Mărturii arheologice din prima vârstă a fierului recuperate din arealul geografic al localității Maglavit, jud. Dolj*, în „Litua. Studii și cercetări. Anuar, Muzeul Județean Gorj “Alexandru Ștefulescu”, 19, 2017, pp. 177–183; Ibidem, *Obiecte diverse din secolele II–XI existente în colecția arheologică de la Maglavit, județul Dolj*, în „Oltenia. Studii. Documente. Cercetări. Arhivele Naționale. Serviciul Județean Dolj”, Craiova, Seria a IV-a, 5, 2017, pp. 15–27; Ibidem, *Unelte din silex și piatră descoperite în localitatea Maglavit, județul Dolj*, în „Oltenia. Studii și comunicări. Istorie–Arheologie”, 24, 2017, pp. 18–25.

Laureate head, left.

Rv. In field: S–C, in exergue [PROVIDENTIA]

Altar enclosure with double panelled door.

RIC 1, 81, Roma, AD 22/23–(?)30 p. Chr.

Hadrianus

2. AE; Dupondius/As; 25,9 × 24, 9 mm; 12,12 g; Axis 5

Av. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P

Laureate head, right.

Rv. PROVIDEN – TIA AVG; in field S–C

Providentia standing left, leaning on column, holding wand over globe in right hand, and sceptre in left hand.

RIC 2, 823, Roma, AD 134–138.

Antoninus Pius

3. AE; Dupondius/As; 31,3 × 28, 8 mm; 8,30 g; Axis 5

Av. Laureate head, right.

Rv. in field S–C; female character standing left, holding cornucopiae in left hand, in right hand scales (?)

Marcus Aurelius

4. AE, Sestertius; 29,1 × 27,00 mm; 18,92 g; Axis 12.

Av. M AVREL ANTONI – NVS AVG TR P [?]

Laureate head, right.

Rv. [FELICITAS AVG IMP VIII ? COS III P P]; in field S–C

Felicitas standing left, holding *caduceus* and sceptre.

Cf. RIC 3, 1227, Roma, AD 177–178 p. Chr., or 1237, Roma, AD 178–179, or 1239 (IMP X), Roma, spring–december AD 179.

Marcus Aurelius: Faustina II

5. AE Tetrassarion; 29,5 × 28,7 mm; 15,99 g; Axis 7.

Av. ΦAYCTEIN – A CEB[ACTH]

Draped bust, right.

Rv. NIKAI – E[ΩN]

Tyche standing left, holding *cornucopiae* in right hand, rudder on globe on left hand.

William Henry Waddington, *Recueil général des monnaies grecques d'Asie mineure. Tome 1/3. Nicée et Nicomédie*, Ernest Leroux, Paris, 1910, p. 424, no. 204 (but head right); *Roman Provincial Coinage Online*, IV, 5532 <http://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/4/5532/> (accessed on: 03. 04. 2018).

Marcus Aurelius: Lucilla

6. AE; Sestertius; 32 × 30, 9 mm; 28,77 g; Axis 12.

Av. LVCILLAE AVG ANTONINI AVG F

Draped bust, right.

Rv. VE[S]TA; S–C

Vesta veiled, standing left by altar, holding *simpulum* and *Palladium*.
RIC 1779, Roma AD 164–166.

Commodus

7. AR, Denarius; 17,6 × 17, 3 mm; 2,48 g; Axis 12.

Av. M COMM ANT P F – EL AVG BRIT P P

Laureate head, right.

Rv. FIDEI COH P M TR P XV COS VI.

Fides standing left, holding corn-ears in right hand and standard in left hand.

RIC 3, 207, Roma, AD 190.

Septimius Severus

8. AE, Tetrassarion; 31,3 × 27, 3 mm; 18,46 g; Axis 7.

Av. [AYT K CE]ΠITI CEYHPOC Π CEB Ψ

Laureate, draped, and cuirassed bust right, seen from behind

Rv. ΗΓΕ ΚΑ[ΙΛΙΟΥ ΟΝ]ΕΡΑΤΟΥ ΠΑΥΤΑΛΙΩΤΩΝ

Eagle with wings spread standing on thunderbolt, holding wreath in its beak

Pautalia, AD ?194–195. Nikola Mushmov, *Античните монети на Балканския полуостров и монетите на българските царе (Antichnite moneti na balkanskiat poluostror i monetite na bulgarskite tsare)*, Pechatnitsa Grigori Ivan Gavazov, Sofia, 1912, p. 237, no. 4189⁴.

9. AR; Denarius; 18,1 × 17, 2 mm; 3,26 g; Axis 5.

Av. L SEPT SEV PERT – AVG IMP VIII

Laureate bust right.

Rv. PROVIDEN – TIA AVG

Providentia standing left holding wand over orb and sceptre.

RIC 4/1, 92 (a), Roma, AD 196 – 197.

10. Plated denarius; 20, 1 × 18, 3 mm; 2,50 g; Axis 11.

Av. SEVERVS AVG – PART M[AX]

Laureate head right.

Legenda de Av. din anii 200–201 (RIC, 4/1: 62).

Rv. P M TR P XIII – COS III P P.

Roma standing left, holding Victory in right hand and spear in left hand.

Cf. RIC, 4/1, 197, Roma, AD 205.

Severus Alexander

11. AR; Denarius; 20,1 × 18, 6 mm; 2,99 g; Axis 6.

Av. IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXANDER AVG

Laureate bust right, draped.

Rv. PROVIDEN – TIA AVG

Providentia standing left, holding wand over globe in right hand, and sceptre in left hand.

RIC 4/2, 174, Roma, AD 233–235.

⁴ Théodore Edme Mionnet, *Description de médailles antiques, grecques et romaines: Supplément, Tome II*, M. P. Guyot, Paris, 1822, 376, no. 1027 (but laureate head; reverse legend read ΗΓΕ Τ ΑΙΛΙΟΥ ΝΕΡΑΤΙ ΠΑΥΤΑΛΙΩΤΩΝ).

Severus Alexander: Sallustia Barbia Orbiana

12. AR, Denarius; 19, 7 × 18, 4 mm; 2, 21 g; Axis 12.

Av. SALL BARBIA – ORBIANA AVG

Diademed bust right, draped

Rv. CONCORDI – A – AVGG

Concordia seated left on throne, holding patera in right hand, and double *cornucopiae* in left hand.

RIC 4/2, 319, Roma, AD 223–225.

Aurelianus: Severina

13. Antoninianus; 22,4 × 22,3 mm; 4,26 g; Axis 11.

Av. SEVERI – NA AVG

Diademed bust right, draped, on crescent.

Rv. CONCORDIAE MILITVM

Concordia standing facing, head left, holding standard in each hand.

RIC 5/1, 4, Roma, Per. III, AD 270–275.

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Constantinus I: Constantius II Caesar

14. AE, *Follis*; 18, 4 × 18, 00 mm; 2,38 g; Axis 11.

Av. FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB C

Diademed bust right, draped and cuirassed.

Rv. [PROVIDEN] – TIAE CAESS

Camp gate; star above.

RIC 7: 519, no. 158, Thessalonika, AD 326–328.

SMTSB

Before trying to discuss the structure of the collection, we must note some observations. First, it has to be mentioned that the coins originate from donations made by members of local community whom, over the years, have found them fortuitous during agricultural works. In most of the cases, the coins were donated to Mr. Cioană many years after the moment of their discovery, which means we cannot precisely determine their original findspots. On the other hand, archaeological finds dated between the AD 2nd–4th centuries have been reported in multiple locations around Maglavit commune territory, proving the existence of at least two rural settlements of the Roman age. A link between these sites and the numismatic material cannot be established.

Therefore, a roman settlement has existed near the actual village of Hunia. This was discovered by Dimitrie Papazoglu during the field survey he carried out in 19th century Papazoglu gathered Roman materials such as “*pottery and weapons*”. Numismatic discoveries have also been made, without any mention concerning the ruler or even their number⁵. A bronze figurine of an owl was also found here, now

⁵ Dumitru Tudor, *Oltenia Romană*, Ed. 4, București, Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1978, p. 224.

kept in the Oltenia Museum, Craiova⁶. The exact findspot for all of these materials rests unknown.



Sursa: <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.0574523,23.0705051,13z>.

Fig. 1. Maglavit area.

On the territory of the village of Maglavit, roman pottery and bricks have been found, but, similarly, we cannot determine their findspots. For the present work, it is of interest to mention that Dumitru Tudor noted multiple single finds of coins, “from Augustus, Trajan, Septimius Severus, Caracalla and Constantine the Great”⁷. Professor Tudor did not have exact details about these coins, but we can theoretically admit that at least one piece per ruler have been discovered.

⁶ George Cantacuzino, *Antiquités inédites d'Olténie*, în „Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie”, 11–12 (1945–1947), 1948, p. 316; Dorel Bondoc, *Bronzuri figurate romane. Muzeul Olteniei Craiova. I.*, n. p., Craiova, 2000, pp. 11–12, no. 5.

⁷ Constantin Voicu, *Catalogul descoperirilor monetare din Oltenia. Monede străine (sec. IV î.e.n – anul 102 e.n)*, Buletin informativ, Societatea Numismatică Română, Secțiunea Craiova, 2, 1976, p. 28, no. 32; Dumitru Tudor, *op. cit.* (n. 4), 1978, p. 225; Toma Rădulescu, *Un fragment de tezaur monetar din epoca romană de la Craiova – Metro și alte monede romane imperiale descoperite în Dolj*, în „Anuarul Institutului de Cercetări Socio-Umane „C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor”, 13, 2012, p. 243.

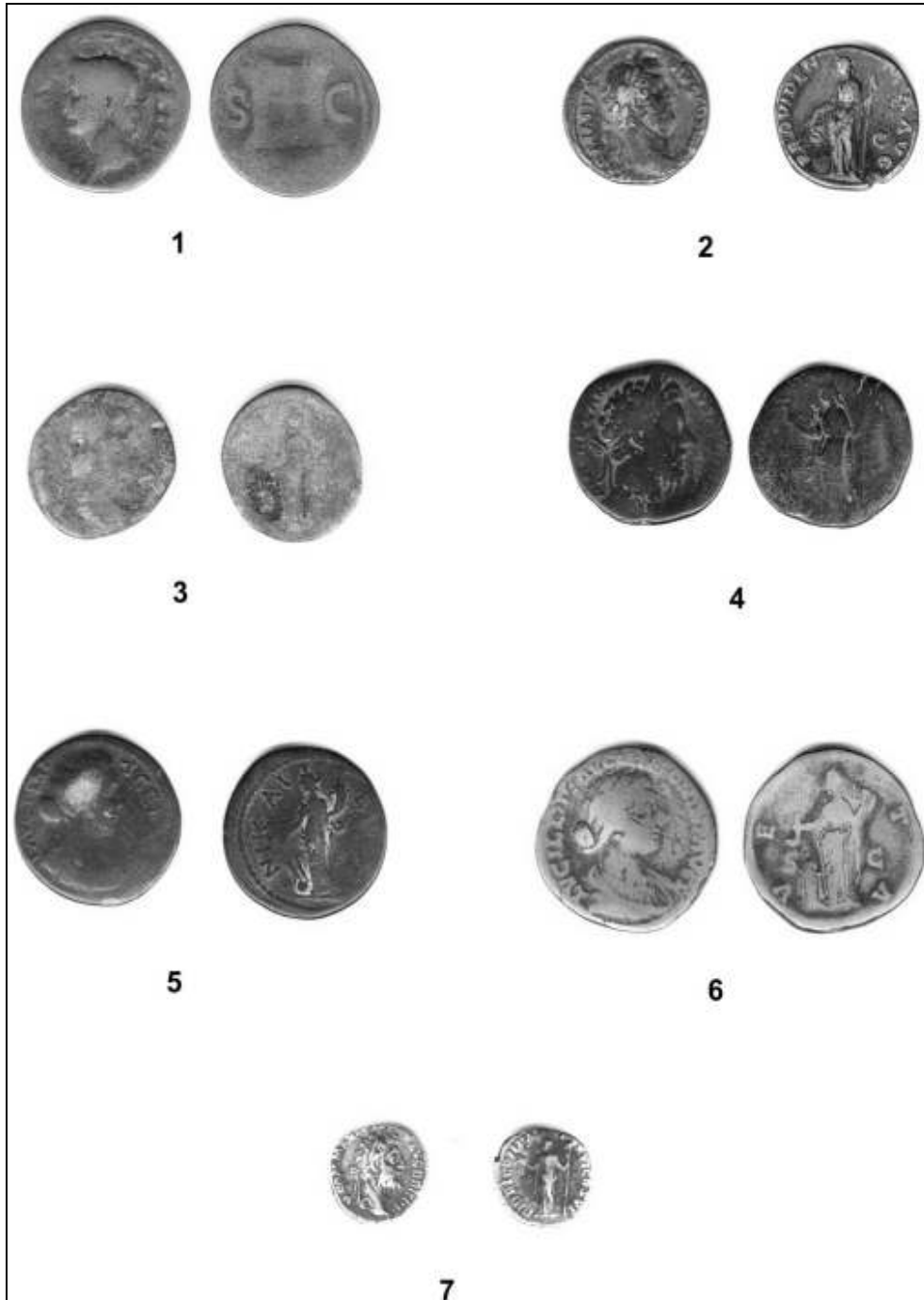


Fig. 2. Coins nos. 1–7.

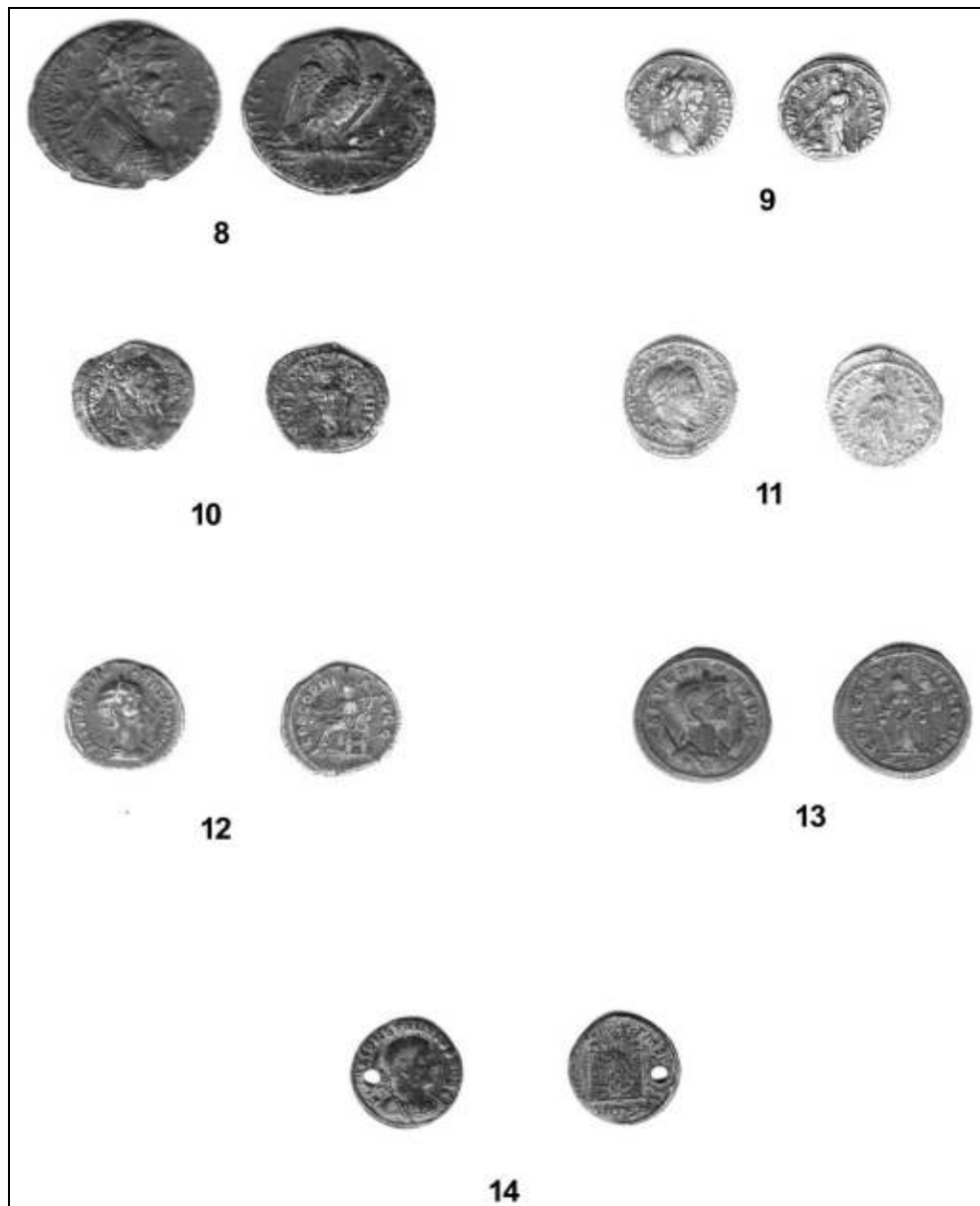


Fig. 3. Coins nos. 8–14.

A Roman rural settlement can be located with certitude in the findspot called “La Țiglării”, where the fortuitous finds indicate a multi-strata site. Its earliest layer can be dated in La Tène Period (2nd–1st centuries BC). This layer is superposed by a Roman settlement (a fibula dated in the 2nd century AD was found here) and the

existence of a Late Roman layer is indicated by a lamp belonging to a 4th–5th centuries AD type⁸.

The late Roman imperial coins from the area of Maglavit were recorded by Octavian Toropu. Here, we have informations about the rulers and the mints, as well as the exact number of coins. They have been described as follows: “1 AE Carinus; 1 AE Maximianus Herculeus; 2 AE Constantine the Great: Constantinopolis (1), Cyzicus (1); 2 AE Constantius II: Thessalonika (1); 1 AR Constantius II; 1 AE Valentinianus I: Sirmium”⁹. Therefore, the coins described in the present work would be considered a third sample of Roman coins discovered at Maglavit, and the following commentary has to take into account the numismatic material which was previously recorded, even if, at the current date, the first two groups of coins cannot be studied further, being almost certain that they are lost.

The Vasile Cioană’s collection presented here contains 14 coins: 13 of them were issued during the Principate, and a coin was minted in the 4th century AD (table 1). The pieces are in a good condition, and they have been easily identified with two exceptions. All identified coins are registered in the reference catalogues, except the plated denarius of Septimius Severus (no. 10), which is a hybrid type: the obverse legend is recorded for AD 200–201¹⁰, but the reverse depicts the legend and representation of RIC, 4/1, 197, struck in Rome in AD 205. Such plated denarii were identified in high percentages on archaeological sites from the Roman province of Dacia, in both military and civil areas. This phenomenon covers also vast parts of the empire, especially during the Severan Dynasty, and it was explained as an effect of the shortage in official coinage, that occurred simultaneously with an increased military expenditure¹¹.

The size of the sample is too small to allow the identification of a certain pattern in coins circulation, but considering the fact that we have an overall number of at least 27 Roman coins if we count those previously registered (table 2), we can make some observations. We assume from the very beginning that such an approach based on uncharted results of “plough archaeology” (as shown above) has

⁸ Petre Gherghe, Florin Ridiche, Vasile Cioană, *op. cit.* (n. 3), pp. 41–42; Petre Gherghe, Vasile Cioană, *Obiecte diverse din secolele II–XI existente în colecția arheologică de la Maglavit, județul Dolj*, în „Oltenia. Studii. Documente. Cercetări. Arhivele Naționale. Serviciul Județean Dolj”, Craiova, Seria a IV-a, 5b, pp. 15–16, no. 1–2, fig. 2, 1–4.

⁹ Octavian Toropu, *Romanitatea târzie și străromânii în Dacia traiană sud-carpatică*, Editura Scrisul Românesc, Craiova, 1976, p. 213, no. 84; Bucur Mitrea, *Descoperirile monetare în România (1974–1976) (XVIII–XX)*, în „Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române”, 70–74 (1976–1980), 124–128, [1981], p. 587, no. 197; Rădulescu, *op. cit.* (n. 6), p. 244, n. 55.

¹⁰ RIC, 4/1, p. 62.

¹¹ Cristian Găzdac, Ágnes Găzdac-Alföldy, *The Roman Law against Counterfeiting between Theory and Practice: the Case of Roman Dacia*, in „Acta Musei Napocensis”, 38/1, 2001, pp. 144–145; Răzvan Bogdan Gaspar, *Counterfeiting Roman Silver Coins in the 1st – 3rd Centuries A.D. Study on Roman Provinces from Middle Danube to Lower Rhine*, in „Journal of Ancient History and Archeology”, 2/4, 2015, pp. 70–72.

a lot of limitations. For example, the calculation of a coefficient coins/year of reign, the basic indicator for the evolution of monetary circulation, should be completely irrelevant for such a reduced number of pieces. So, terms as "growth" or "decrease" for this sample will refer only to the number of coins. On the other hand, for any further comparisons for our sample, we rely on the data obtained for other sites located on the left bank of Danube: Sucidava, Orlea, Dierna, Drobeta, and Desa.

Table 1

Coins in the collection by ruler

	AE	AR	AR plated	Total	% of the total coins
1 st century	1			1	7.14%
Hadrian (117–138)	1			1	7.14%
Antoninus Pius (138–161)	1			1	7.14%
Marcus Aurelius (161–180)	3			3	21.43%
Commodus (180–192)		1		1	7.14%
Septimius Severus (193–211)	1	1	1	3	21.43%
Severus Alexander (222–235)		2		2	14.28%
Aurelianus (270–275)	1			1	7.14%
Constantinus I (306–337)	1			1	7.14%
Total	8	5	1	14	

Table 2

Single-finds of coins in Maglavit area by ruler

	AE	AR	AR plated	Unspecified	Total	% of the total coins
1 st century	1			1	2+	7.41%
Traianus (98–117)				1	1+	3.70%
Hadrianus (117–138)	1				1	3.70%
Antoninus Pius (138–161)	1				1	3.70%
Marcus Aurelius (161–180)	3				3	11.11%
Commodus (180–192)		1			1	3.70%
Septimius Severus (193–211)	1	1	1	1	4+	14.81%
Caracalla (211–217)				1	1+	3.70%
Severus Alexander (222–235)		2			2	7.41%
Aurelianus (270–275)	1				1	3.70%
Carinus (283–285)	1				1	3.70%
Maximianus Herculius (286–306)	1				1	3.70%
Constantinus I (306–337)	3			1	4+	14.81%
Constantius II (337–361)	2	1			3	11.11%
Valentinianus I (364–375)	1				1	3.70%
Total	20	6	1		27	

The sample opens with a bronze coin, a commemorative issue for Augustus, minted during Tiberius' reign. Considering the worn grade of the piece, proving a long period of circulation, we can almost surely conclude that it originates from one of the Roman age rural settlements in the area, established after AD 106 (the founding date of the province of Dacia). Such coins, from the 1st century AD, which remained in circulation during the 2nd century, are frequently discovered in settlements which surely began their existence in AD 106¹². A coin belonging to the same commemorative issues for Augustus was discovered at Buridava, in a Roman settlement which was founded after AD 106¹³. It is very unlikely that it can be linked with the Dacian settlements around Maglavit¹⁴, although we cannot completely discard this theory as invalid.

Trajan's coins are not present in this collection, but Dumitru Tudor mentioned at least one piece of this emperor between the coins noted in the past. From Hadrian's reign, we have a single coin, a *dupondius* struck at Rome. Likewise, from Antoninus Pius' rule, we have only one coin. The situation is similar at Sucidava¹⁵, Dierna¹⁶, and Drobeta – the town area¹⁷, where the three reigns are present in approximately equal percentages, but also matches with the model built for the province of Dacia¹⁸. The neighboring Roman rural area of Desa shows a similar pattern in distribution of single finds for these periods¹⁹. For the period of the first three emperors which ruled after the establishment of the province of Dacia, we can say that our sample indicates constant circulation in the area, but its reduced size does not allow more substantiated observations, as in the case of sites which allow for a more in depth study of monetary circulation²⁰.

Our collection shows a significant increase for Marcus Aurelius' rule, a particularity to be noted, as other sites offer a totally different image, marked by

¹² Maria Chițescu, Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *Contribuții la istoria Diernei în lumina descoperirilor monetare din săpăturile arheologice din 1967*, în „Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române”, 75–76, 129–130, 1981–1982, p. 186; Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *Monede din vremea Imperiului Roman din colecția școlii din cartierul Celeiu al orașului Corabia, jud. Olt*, în „Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică”, 12, 1997, pp. 58–59.

¹³ Silviu I. Purece, *Monede romane descoperite la Buridava romană (Stolniceni, județul Vâlcea), aflate în colecția Muzeului Județean Vâlcea*, în „Monedă și comerț în sud-estul Europei”, I, Sibiu, pp. 99; 102, no. 1.

¹⁴ The Latène sites are registered by Petre Gherghe, Florin Ridiche, Vasile Cioană, *op. cit.* (n. 3), pp. 39–49.

¹⁵ Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 59.

¹⁶ Maria Chițescu, Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 184.

¹⁷ Cristian Găzdac, Ágnes Găzdac-Alföldy, Marin Neagoe, Oana Neagoe, *Drobeta. The never Abandoned City of Roma Dacia*, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca 2015, p. 84.

¹⁸ Cristian Găzdac, *Circulația monetară în Dacia și provinciile învecinate de la Traian la Constantin I*, Editura Nereamia Napocae, Cluj-Napoca, p. 442.

¹⁹ Petre Gherghe, Florin Ridiche, Marius Bâsceanu, *Considerații privind descoperirile monetare de la Desa, județul Dolj și consecințele crizei economice a Imperiului roman la nord de Dunăre*, în „Analele Universității din Craiova, Seria Istorie”, XVI, no. 1(19), 2011, p. 256; Delia Moșil, *Descoperiri monetare antice din România (III)*, în „Cercetări numismatice”, 17, 2011, p. 217–218.

²⁰ Cristian Găzdac, *op. cit.* (n. 17), p. 274–282.

significant decline in circulation at Sucidava²¹, Orlea²², Dierna²³, and Drobeta – both auxiliary camp and town areas²⁴, decline reflected also in the provincial model of circulation²⁵. The general decrease in circulation is also not reflected in the sample from Desa, where the index for the reign of Marcus Aurelius maintains the same level as previous periods²⁶. In our collection, as for previous reigns, the three coins struck for Marcus Aurelius and his family are bronze issues. The absence of silver coins for the period preceding AD 180 is a special case in our sample, no doubt explained by its small size, which reduces its significance as numismatic evidence, since the situation in the rest of the province is completely different²⁷. The bronze coins issued between AD 161 and 180 are: two *sestertii*, minted in Rome for Marcus Aurelius and Lucilla and civic coin issued at Nicaea for Faustina II.

With Commodus' reign, the nominal structure of the collection changes, most coins from this point onwards being denarii. The presence of the Commodus piece in our sample, which means therefore the same percentage as the issues of the first Antonins, indicates a different situation from the rest of the province, where a significant decrease in the number of coins is registered²⁸, a general decline reflected at Sucidava²⁹, Orlea³⁰, Dierna³¹ and Drobeta – both auxiliary camp and town areas³². The lack of Commodus' coins in the Desa single find sample has also to be noted. During this reign the area was probably affected by some barbarian raids, as shows the hoard of Desa, buried after AD 186³³. So an unstable military situation in the area should have as effect a decrease in circulation, at least in theory. The fact that this denarius is part of Commodus' last issues, from 190 BC, and that therefore is highly probable it entered the province market after the emperor's death, does not change the previously stated facts at all. Here, we can see once again the limits imposed by the small sample size: a single piece could change in a significant way the percentages. So, our lot probably does not represent the real situation in Antiquity, or, at best, represent only a particular case in a rural community, where economical evolution could be different from that registered in urban areas.

²¹ Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 59.

²² Iudita Winkler, Constantin Băloi, *Circulația monetară în așezările antice de pe teritoriul comunei Orlea*, în „Acta Musei Napocensis”, 8, 1971, p. 16.

²³ Maria Chițescu, Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 184.

²⁴ Cristian Găzdac, Ágnes Găzdac-Alföldy, Marin Neagoe, Oana Neagoe, *op. cit.* (n. 16), pp. 82; 84.

²⁵ Cristian Găzdac, *op. cit.* (n. 17), p. 442.

²⁶ Petre Gherghe, Florin Ridiche, Marius Bâsceanu, *op. cit.* (n. 18), p. 256; Delia Moisil, *op. cit.* (n. 18), pp. 217–218.

²⁷ Cristian Găzdac, *op. cit.* (n. 17), pp. 84–86.

²⁸ *Ibidem*, pp. 68–69; 442.

²⁹ Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 59.

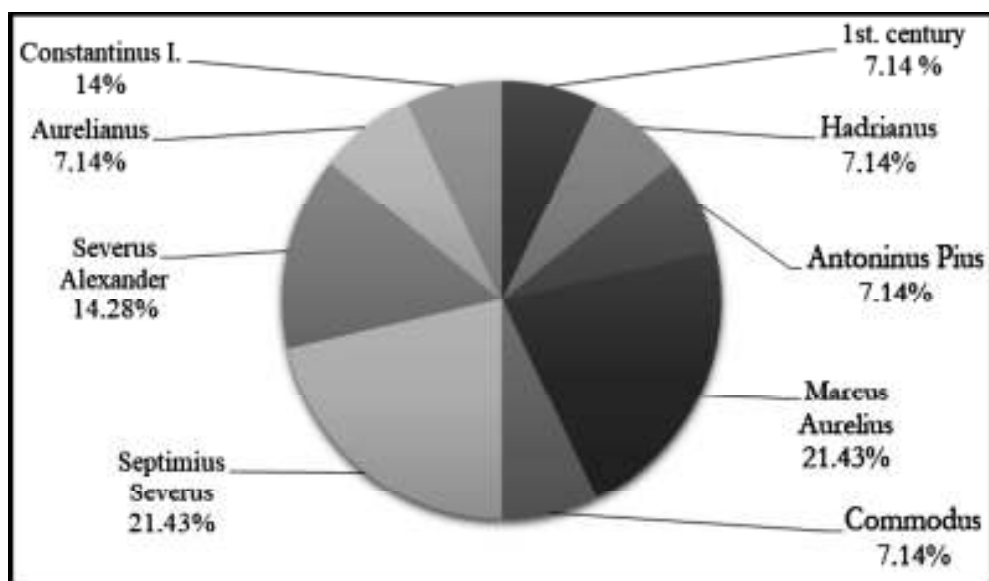
³⁰ Iudita Winkler, Constantin Băloi, *op. cit.* (n. 21), p. 16.

³¹ Maria Chițescu, Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 184.

³² Cristian Găzdac, Ágnes Găzdac-Alföldy, Marin Neagoe, Oana Neagoe, *op. cit.* (n. 16), pp. 82; 84.

³³ Petre Gherghe, Florin Ridiche, Marius Bâsceanu, *op. cit.* (n. 18), p. 254.

The Severan Dynasty is the period best represented in our sample, 5 of the 14 coins being issued between 193–235 (graphs 1 and 2). This growth has been also registered in other areas of the province³⁴. For Septimius Severus' rule, we can notice an obvious increase compared to previous periods, and we can observe that this emperor's reign represented the period of maximum as regard the number of coins in the Maglavit area during the Principate. The nominals are also diversified: a denarius, a colonial bronze coin and a plated denarius.



Graph 1. Structure of the collection by ruler.

The reigns of Caracalla (AD 211–217 AD), Macrinus (AD 217–218) and Elagabalus (AD 218–222) are not represented in the collection, but at least one coin of Caracalla was previously discovered in Maglavit area. The situation is quite surprising, at least for Elagabalus reign, a period of growth in monetary circulation for most sites of southern Dacia³⁵.

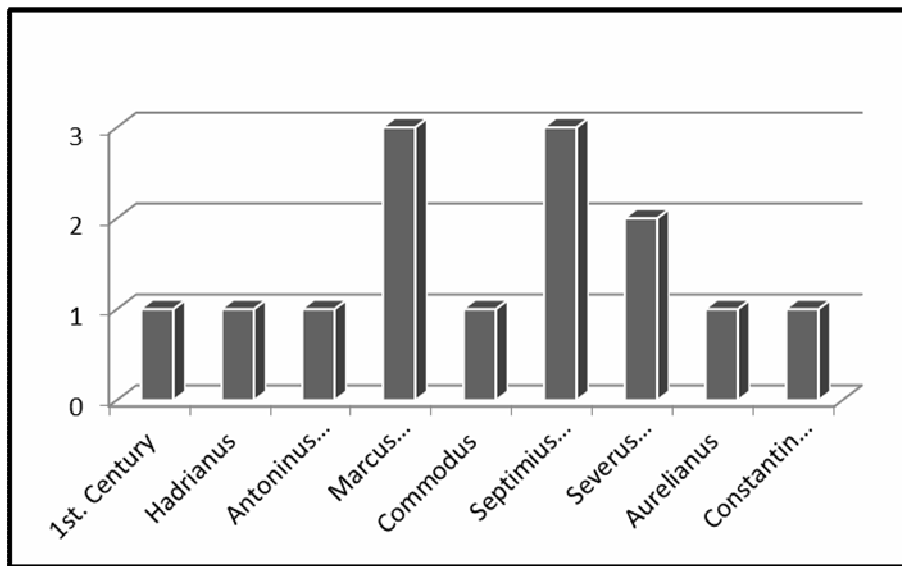
Beginning with Severus Alexander (AD 222–235), we have two denarii in this sample, one being an issue for Barbia Orbiana. For this period of stability in our province, the numismatic coefficients rest at similar levels with the previous reign³⁶. In our case, following a hiatus, such a previous period for comparison is missing. The coins issued between the reigns of Severus Alexander and Aurelianus (AD 270–275) are missing in all lots known from Maglavit. This situation can be

³⁴ Cristian Găzduc, *op. cit.* (n. 17), pp. 274–286; 442.

³⁵ Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 59.

³⁶ Cristian Găzduc, *op. cit.* (n. 17), pp. 274–282.

owed to the lack of relevance of our samples, but it can also be an illustration of the difficult military situation in Southern Dacia, and especially its south-western area, at the half of the 3rd century AD, when, starting with Maximinus Thrax's rule (AD 235–238), the region was affected by barbarian invasions³⁷. To be noted that, the sample of single find coins in the neighboring area of Desa, does not register such a long hiatus. At Desa, the circulation is continuous for all the reigns between Severus Alexander and Aurelianus³⁸.



Graph 2. Coins in the collection by ruler.

As it results from the information we currently have available, monetary circulation in Maglavit resumes again during Aurelianus' rule, an *antoninianus* issued in Rome for Severina being part of the current sample. On the Danube line, monetary circulation is resumed at Dierna starting with Aurelianus' rule³⁹, while the decrease of the index at Sucidava reflects the anti-inflationary measures adopted by the emperor⁴⁰. Our sample contains no other coins from the period of the Principate, but the coin issued by Carinus (283–285 AD), which was previously recovered from Maglavit, shows that circulation continued in the area.

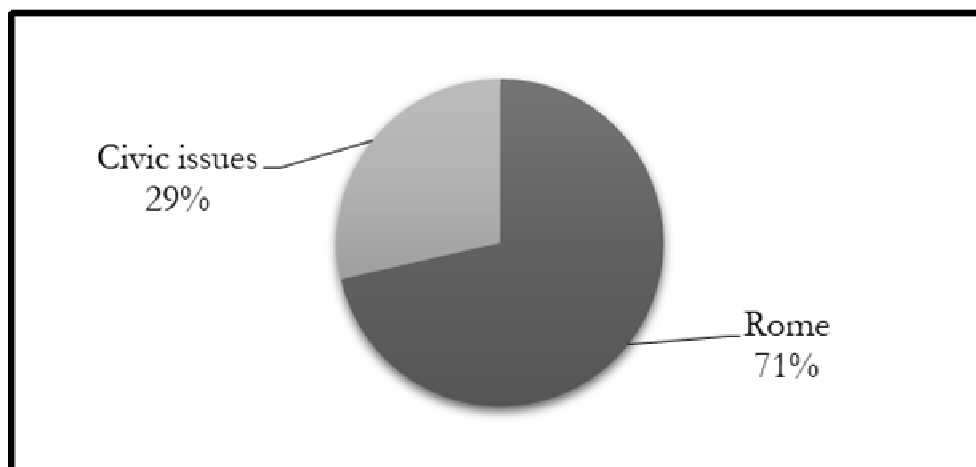
³⁷ Ioan Piso, *Maximinus Thrax und die Provinz Dazien*, in „Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik”, 49, 1982, pp. 225–238; Emanuel Petac, *Considerații cu privire la data finală a tezaurilor îngropate la mijlocul sec. III p. Chr. în Dacia romană de la sud de Carpați*, in „Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică”, 12, 1997, pp. 27 – 40.

³⁸ Petre Gherghe, Florin Ridiche, Marius Bâsceanu, *op. cit.* (n. 18), p. 256, Fig. 1.

³⁹ Maria Chițescu, Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 184.

⁴⁰ Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 67.

All denarii belonging to the collection are issues of the mint of Rome, as well as the *antoninianus* struck for Severina, and five out of the seven bronze coins. Two of the bronze coins present in this collection are colonial issues minted in two of the Greek speaking cities (graph 3). The first of these is an issue of Nicaea (province of Bithynia et Pontus), struck under Marcus Aurelius for Faustina II. The existence of this piece is quite surprising, considering the very small sample size: more specifically, because, in that period, civic coins, even if they were a constant presence on the Dacian market, had a relatively low share, most bronze coins recorded in this time period originating from the mint of Rome⁴¹. Afterwards, in the age of the Severi, Nicaea will become the main bronze currency supplier for the provinces of Dacia⁴², and Moesia Superior⁴³.



Graph 3. Structure of bronze nominal in the collection.

The coin of Pautalia, struck for Septimius Severus, falls in the period of maximum activity recorded for this mint during the Severan Dynasty⁴⁴, but also in the age when Dacia's need for bronze coins began to be covered by civic issues⁴⁵. The coin is to be dated in the first years of Septimius Severus' reign, approximately

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, p. 69.

⁴² Cristian Găzdac, *op. cit.* (n. 17), p. 436.

⁴³ Mirjana Vojvoda, Adam Crnobrnja, *Circulation of Coinage from the Bithynian Mint of Nicaea in the Territory of Present Day Serbia*, in „Proceedings of the International Numismatic Symposium “Circulation of Antique Coins in Southeastern Europe” – Viminacium, Serbia 15th–17th September 2017”, Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade, 2018, pp. 132–133.

⁴⁴ Lily Grozdanova, *The Die Study of the Coinage of Pautalia. Conducting a Traditionally Numismatic Research in the Age of Digital Technologies*, in „Bulgarian-German Scientific Cooperation: Past, Present and Future. Proceedings of the Humboldt Kolleg. Sofia, November 26–28, 2015”, Faber Publishing House, Sofia, 2016, pp. 117–118, fig. 1.

⁴⁵ Cristian Găzdac, *op. cit.* (n. 17), pp. 72–73.

AD 194–195, according to the chronology suggested for the mission as legate of Thrace of Caelius Oneratus, the governor mentioned on the reverse⁴⁶.

Concerning the metrology of the pieces, with the same limitations imposed by the small sample size we have previously stated, we have to note that the average weight of the four denarii (with the exception of the plated one) is 2.74 g. Septimius Severus' denarius weighs 3.26 g (so, it was struck at a standard very close to 100 pieces/libra), and the other three weigh under 3 grams.

The collection contains a single coin from the 4th century AD, a *follis* of *Providentiae Caess* type minted at Thessalonika between AD 326–328 for Constantius II Caesar. For this century, additional evidence is offered mainly by the sample registered by Octavian Toropu. At Maglavit, the series of coins issued during the Late Empire opens with a piece of Maximianus Herculus (AD 286–306). Next, for the period of Constantine the Great and his family, four coins issued between AD 306–337 are recorded: the piece in the above catalogue, two more in professor Toropu's sample and another one mentioned by Dumitru Tudor. Considering the sample size, this amount means a substantial growth compared to all other previous periods, a fact which matches the well-known situation on the Danubian *limes*, where growth peaks registered in all centers located north of the river (Sucidava, Orlea, Drobeta, Hinova, Dierna) are linked to large scale military campaigns led by Constantine the Great against the Goths, north of the Danube, and also with the intense defensive works carried on the left bank⁴⁷.

For Constantius II's rule, the situation is similarly stable, professor Toropu's sample recording three coins, and most importantly, a *siliqua*. Regarding the spread of silver coinage in the 4th century AD, a large number of pieces has been recorded in the region of Oltenia (21), comparable to that in Dobrogea (25). The Maglavit *siliqua*, minted under Constantius I, falls into the early period of silver issues circulation in the Oltenia region during the 4th century. This period is marked by a weaker penetration of the silver nominal, and worth to be noted that the majority of 4th century silver coins discovered north of the Danube – Romanian sector, in Barbaricum, were issued between AD 364–375⁴⁸. We must mention that we cannot make more detailed observations about Constantius II's monetary series, to which the previously mentioned three coins belong, but even so, the features of monetary circulation in the Maglavit area fits in the general limits of the period.

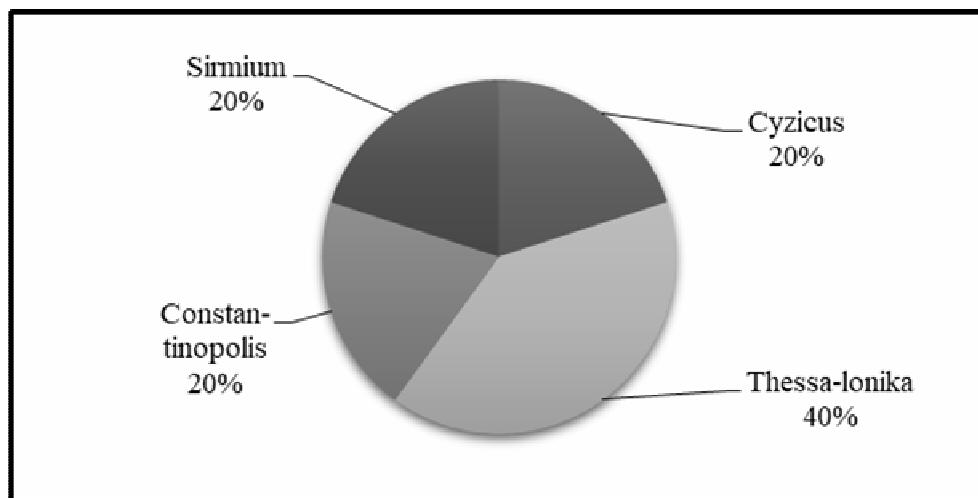
⁴⁶ Dilyana Boteva, *Die Statthalter der römischen Provinz Thracia unter Septimius Severus und Caracalla (Probleme der Datierung)*, in Ulrike Peter (ed.), *Stephanos nomismatikos: Edith Schönert-Geiss zum 65. Geburtstag*, Akademie Verlag, Berlin, 1998, pp. 132–133; 138. See also Arthur Stein, *Römische Reichsbeamte der Provinz Thracia*, Zemaljska Štampalija, Sarajevo, 1920, pp. 40–41, no. 31, but the name was read Caelius Honoratus.

⁴⁷ Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), pp. 71–72.

⁴⁸ Delia Moisil, *The Danube Limes and the Barbaricum (294–498 A.D.)*, in „Histoire & mesure [Online]”, XVII, 3/4, 2002, pp. 5–6, #27–32. See: <http://journals.openedition.org/histoiremesure/884> (accessed on: 03. 04. 2018).

The monetary circulation in Maglavit area ceases with a piece issued by Valentinianus I. Its presence here has two meanings: monetary circulation continued under Valentinianus I and Valens' common reign, but additionally, the war between the Empire and the Goths, which ended in the Hadrianopolis battle (AD 378), had repercussions on rural life in Maglavit area, where monetary circulation ends after this period. By contrary, in the neighboring area of Desa, the circulation ceases only in the reign of Theodosius II (AD 408–450), during the Hunic invasions, as in the other sites located on the left bank of Danube⁴⁹. The monetary circulation resumes in Maglavit area during the Medieval Age, a C type imitation of a Byzantine coin of Alexios II Comnenus being registered⁵⁰.

For five out of the nine Late Empire coins discovered at Maglavit the mints are precised. The best represented, with two pieces (40%) is Thessalonika; Constantinopolis, Cyzicus and Sirmium have only one issue each (20%) (graph 4). The reduced sample size does not allow for more detailed analysis, but generally, we can say that the situation is similar to other sites. At Sucidava and Drobeta, the Thessalonika mint is in the leading position, with Siscia mint closely behind⁵¹, the latter being absent in the Maglavit sample. Geographical proximity caused Siscia to occupy the first rank in Dierna, but Thessalonika is on the second rank with a significant percentage⁵².



Graph 4. 4th century mints – Maglavit area overall.

⁴⁹ Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), pp. 75–76.

⁵⁰ Ernest Oberländer-Târnoveanu, *Monedă și societate în teritoriile de la sud și est de Carpați (secolele VI–XIV)*, Editura Nereamia Napocae, Cluj-Napoca, 2003, p. 101.

⁵¹ Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 77; Cristian Găzdac, Agnes Găzdac-Alföldy, Marin Neagoe, Oana Neagoe, *op. cit.* (n. 16), p. 92.

⁵² Maria Chițescu, Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea, *op. cit.* (n. 11), p. 199.

We can conclude that the coins in Vasile Cioană's collection, as well as the samples which were previously published in literature, offer useful information regarding the monetary circulation in a rural area of Dacia. Even if the image of this circulation is limited by multiple factors, such as: the lack of systematical excavation, or the fact that the coins discovered in the past can no longer be studied, we can observe that general economical trends recorded for the entire province are also reflected in this rural area. On the other hand, we can also notice some particularities, especially regarding nominal structure and the amount of civic issues. Regarding the historical evolution of this geographical area, we believe that major political and military events which have affected this region are reflected by fluctuations in monetary circulation, and this shows that, despite the limited nature of this study, the monetary sample presented here is relevant in some way. Concerning the evolution of the Roman rural settlement at Maglavit during the 4th century AD, as we can deduce from monetary circulation, it matches in the pattern observed for the sites located directly on the northern bank of Danube for this period, showing a constant penetration of Roman coins, with varying intensities.

ROMAN IMPERIAL COINS IN THE VASILE CIOANĂ COLLECTION, MAGLAVIT, DOLJ COUNTY

(Abstract)

The paper presents a small collection of 14 Roman imperial coins formed by Vasile Cioană by gathering the fortuitous finds in the area of Maglavit, Dolj county. The authors also summarize the single finds of Roman imperial coins recorded in the past for Maglavit area. All finds come from Roman rural settlements. The reduced size of the sample allows only general numismatic considerations, but this sparsely evidence contributes in some way to the research of rural life during the 2nd–4th centuries AD.

Keywords: Roman imperial coins, single finds, Roman rural settlements.