



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**The 9th Joint Meeting of ECFN
and nomisma.org**

**Viminacium, Serbia,
September 21st-25th 2021**

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development
of the Republic of Serbia
Institute of Archaeology Belgrade
European Coin Find Network

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The Circulation of Viminacium Coins in the Southern Part of Pannonia Superior

In their studies of Roman coin circulation in the area of Pannonia Superior and the surrounding provinces, several authors have discussed the phenomenon of the coinage of Viminacium, both in terms of stray finds and hoards. Over the last two decades, a great deal of archaeological research has been carried out in Croatia, especially in modern day Sisak (Roman Siscia), which has yielded significant quantities of Roman coins. This paper will study the role of coins from Viminacium in the circulation of Roman coins in the area of Pannonia Superior, with an emphasis on the southern part of the province. It will also offer a comparison with the situation in the surrounding provinces, based on the study of hitherto published finds.

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The coin hoards from Viminacium's southern necropolis – *viaticum* or an indication of the deceased's social status?

Recorded in graves at Viminacium's southern necropolises were 15 mini-hoards (from 7 to 13 pcs.) and six hoards (from 22 to 88 pcs.). Among the mini-hoards, six ended with specimens minted in the 3rd century, four ended with coins from the 4th century, two with coins from the first half of the 5th century, while three of them ended with coins minted at the end of the 4th or at the beginning of the 5th century. These mini-hoards mainly contain imperial bronze coins, but there was also smaller number of imperial silver coins and finds of provincial coinage. One of them consists exclusively of solidi ranging from Honorius to Theodosius II. Among the six hoards, one ended with specimens minted in the 3rd century, two ended with coins of Constantius II and the other three with specimens of Valens and Gratian.

In these cases, the hoards cannot be regarded as serving the purpose of payment for the transition to the underworld, or the so-called "Charon's obol", but as coins intended for "expenses" in the other world (*viaticum*). However, it appears that coin hoards in 4th century graves more likely represent an indication of the deceased's social status and prestige rather than a tax for Charon.

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