

# ILLYRICVM ROMANVM

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STUDIOLA IN HONOREM MILOJE VASIĆ

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EDITED BY  
Ivana POPOVIĆ  
Sofija PETKOVIĆ





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Belgrade 2020

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## Monetary Find from Paraćin. The Problem of Dating Scattered Coin Hoards\*

**Abstract.** – *The scattered coin hoard from Paraćin consists of ten denarii and one antoninianus, ranging from Marcus Aurelius to Gordian III. According to the information recorded in literature, it was found in a ceramic vessel, which indicates that it was part of a much larger hoard, the original contents and the size of which are unknown to us. The preserved number and the contents do not allow the possibility for the usual statistical analyses, nor a more precise dating of its depositing. Despite its significantly impaired integrity and it belonging to the category of insufficiently reliable historical sources, it nevertheless testifies to the existence of one more coin hoard in central Pomoravlje. A correlation with other well-documented hoards from this area, which were located on the main communication road in Roman times, and the closer and the wider surroundings of the Horreum Margi, almost all of which were stored around the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, allows, with all restrictions, the conditional assumption that the hoard from Paraćin could have been buried during the same period.*

**Key words.** – Roman Empire, scattered coin hoards, Paraćin, Horreum Margi, Moesia Superior

The first information on the scattered monetary find from Paraćin was given by R. Marić in 1956, in a report on the hoards that had arrived at the National Museum in Belgrade. According to him, the Roman coin hoard, which was stored in a ceramic vessel, was found on the premises of the Glass Factory in Paraćin. Following the discovery, one part was scattered,

another part retained in Paraćin for a museum that was to be established, while 10 antoniniani from Caracalla to Gordian III<sup>1</sup> arrived at the National Museum in Belgrade. This information from Marić's report was also cited later in litera-

<sup>1</sup> Марић 1956, 179–180, no. 7.

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\* The study results from the projects: *Roman Coin Hoards from Serbia. Numismatic Collection of the National Museum in Belgrade* (B. Borić-Brešković) – Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia; *Life in Antiquity: The Expansion of Cities and Urban Civilization in the Balkans and the City Neighbouring Areas from the Hellenistic to the Late Roman Period* (B. Borić-Brešković) (No. 177005) and *IRS – Viminacium, roman city and military legion camp – research of material and non-material culture of inhabitants by using the modern technologies of remote detection, geophysics, GIS, digitalization and 3D visualization* (M. Vojvoda) (No. 47018) – Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia.



ture,<sup>2</sup> however, with a new insight into the contents of this scattered find kept in the National Museum in Belgrade, it became clear that it consists of nine denarii and one antoninianus, ranging from Marcus Aurelius to Gordian III.<sup>3</sup>

The year of the discovery of the hoard is unknown, so we can only say that it was discovered before 1956. What also remains unclear is the fate of the part of the hoard that was “kept in Paraćin for a museum to be established”.<sup>4</sup> The authors of this paper have attempted to trace the lost part of the find. During the first post-war years, a biology professor Momir Jezdić established an archaeological, numismatic, and naturalistic collection at Radoje Domanović elementary school in Paraćin and, with a group of amateur enthusiasts, made efforts to establish a museum. The idea conceived in 1947 was not realised until 1975, when an institution called the Regional Museum Collection was established, which, at the end of 1977, was also given a permanent new space in a building built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, known as the “Ružić House”.<sup>5</sup>

The conclusion based on all of the above is that the aforementioned part of the hoard was originally housed in an elementary school and kept in an already existing collection, whose further fate is unknown to us.<sup>6</sup> On the other hand, for this territory for the period up to the establishment of the Museum Collection in Paraćin, the Regional Museum in Jagodina, established in 1954, was in charge. While tracing this information we learned that there is a Commodus denarius in the Jagodina Regional Museum, which is part of the coin hoard from the Paraćin Glass Factory premises.<sup>7</sup>

Paraćin is located 7.5 km south of the ancient Horreum Margi (present-day Ćuprija), on the right bank of the Great Morava, on one of the most important Balkan communication routes of Roman times – the *via publica*. Central Pomoravlje, with its centre at Horreum Margi, was a significant logistical base for supplying the army at the limes.<sup>8</sup> The economy of this part of Pomoravlje in Antiquity was based primarily on agriculture, trade, but also craft production. There was extensive transport of people, goods and raw materials

on the route from Viminacium to Naissus, with numerous staging posts for rest and the replacement of horses (*mansiones, mutationes*). Three itineraria (*Itinerarium Antonini, Itinerarium Hierosolymitanum*, also known as *Itinerarium Burdigalense* and the *Tabula Peutingeriana*) recorded the route, larger places, as well as some staging posts in this section of the *via publica*.<sup>9</sup>

At 12 Roman miles south of Horreum Margi, in the *Itinerarium Hierosolymitanum* the station *mutatio Sarmatorum* was recorded, also stated by Procopius, who uses the name Σάρματες for this place in the list of fortifications and states it was the first in the territory of Naissus.<sup>10</sup> Based on archaeological data and the given distances, *mutatio Sarmatorum* can be located near the village of Sikirica or the neighbouring village of Gornje Vidovo, about 9 km south of Paraćin.<sup>11</sup> Between the villages of Sikirica and Gornje Vidovo, the ancient site of Popovo Polje was recorded, where, during surveys, fragments of ancient pottery

<sup>2</sup> Mirnik 1981, 67, no. 204; Арсенијевић 2004, 227.

<sup>3</sup> National Museum Belgrade o. inv. 1344.

<sup>4</sup> Марић 1956, 180.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.paraclin.rs/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=27](https://www.paraclin.rs/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=27)

<sup>6</sup> Based on oral information obtained from Aleksandar Srndaković, an archaeologist from The Regional Museum in Paraćin, the authors of this paper came to learn that the Paraćin Museum does not contain part of the hoard from the Glass Factory premises, nor was it part of the Jezdić collection at the time it arrived at the museum. Our appreciation is due to our colleague Srndaković for the information shared with us.

<sup>7</sup> Regional Museum Jagodina, inv. num. 50\_1691 with a note in the inventory: “part of the hoard from Paraćin (Glass Factory area) containing 6 pieces, the rest are at the National Museum in Belgrade”. Our utmost appreciation is due to our colleague Smiljana Dodić for the data and photographs provided from the documentation of the Regional Museum in Jagodina. The copy was published, cf. Додић, Грбовић 2009, 35, cat. 24.

<sup>8</sup> Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2013, 11, note 11.

<sup>9</sup> Petrović 1979, 21–29; For the route Viminacium–Horreum Margi, cf. Vasić, Milošević 2000, 139–158; Јермеић 2011, 47–48; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2013, 12, note 16.

<sup>10</sup> Procop., *De aedif.* IV, 4, 122, 33.

<sup>11</sup> TIR, K. 34, Naissus, 111; Petrović 1979, 23.

Ruler	Cat. no.	piece/pieces	piece/pieces
MARCUS AURELIUS	Cat. 1	1	1
COMMODUS	Cat. 2	1	1
SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS	Cat. 3-5		3
a) Julia Domna	Cat. 3	1	
b) Geta	Cat. 4	1	
c) Caracalla	Cat. 5	1	
ELAGABALUS	Cat. 6-7		2
a) Elagabalus	Cat. 6	1	
b) Julia Maesa	Cat. 7	1	
SEVERUS ALEXANDER	Cat. 8-9	2	2
GORDIAN III	Cat. 10-11	2	2
TOTAL			11

**Table 1.** The contents of the scattered coin hoard from Paraćin

dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century were discovered.<sup>12</sup> In addition, north of Sikirica, on the way to Paraćin, is the village of Striža, where Roman bricks, tiles, slag and coins have been found at the Livade site.<sup>13</sup> In the close vicinity, ancient sites in Donja Mutnica, Mirilovac were noted,<sup>14</sup> as well as several in the urban area of Paraćin: Zmižd, Straža, the so-called Constantinople Bridge and a spring below Karadjordje's Hill.<sup>15</sup>

In the immediate vicinity of present-day Ćuprija (Horreum Margi), no remains of *vici*, *pagi* or *villae rusticae* have been identified so far,<sup>16</sup> although remnants of various types of settlements,<sup>17</sup> as well as traces of fortifications defending roads in the interior of the province,<sup>18</sup> have been registered in its wider surroundings, through archaeological surveys and small trench excavations. A lack of more complete archaeological evidence is a consequence of the insufficient exploration of this part of Pomoravlje. Nevertheless, we can assume that in the immediate surroundings of Horreum Margi, which was an important agricultural region, and along the route of the *via publica* in Pomoravlje, numerous agricultural assets existed.

Today, the scattered coin hoard from Paraćin consists of ten denarii and one antoninianus, ranging from Marcus Aurelius to Gordian III (Table 1).<sup>19</sup> The information recorded in litera-

ture, that it was found in a ceramic vessel, indicates that it was part of a much larger hoard, the original contents and the size of which are not even remotely known to us. Unfortunately, the preserved number and the contents do not allow the possibility for the usual statistical analyses, much less to draw more precise conclusions regarding the date of its depositing. Notwithstand-

<sup>12</sup> Војвода, Срндаковић 2015, 32, note 6; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2016, 8, 10–11.

<sup>13</sup> Гарашанин М. и Д. 1951, 179; Рашковић 2009, 18.

<sup>14</sup> Петковић 2011, 70, notes 27–28.

<sup>15</sup> Гарашанин М. и Д. 1951, 178–179.

<sup>16</sup> Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2013, 12, notes 18–19.

<sup>17</sup> Registered sites in the surroundings of Horreum Margi: Gornje and Donje Štiplje, Miloševo, Bagrdan, Rekovac, Majur, Dragovo – Ilinjača, Popovac; cf. Петковић 2011, 70, notes 27–28.

<sup>18</sup> The remains of the fortifications were found on the slopes of Juhor, on the sites of Belicalj, Županjevac, Staro Selo – Jerinin Grad and Veliki Vetren, near Bagrdan, in the village of Vojska, as well as along roads leading to the mining areas in present-day eastern Serbia: in the village of Zabrega, near the monastery of Sisojevac, in Jovanovac, cf. Петковић 2011, 70.

<sup>19</sup> The Commodus denarius is in the Regional Museum in Jagodina (inv. num. 50\_1691); the other specimens are in the National Museum in Belgrade (o. inv. 15\_1344 / 1–10).

ing the aforementioned, its small preserved part requires our attention and analysis, as it is a testimony to the existence of another hoard in this part of Pomoravlje.

All the specimens in the preserved part of the Paraćin hoard belong to the Roman mint issues, the oldest one being the coin of Marcus Aurelius minted in the period between December 175 and December 176. (Cat. no. 1). What follows is a denarius from the last issues of Commodus's independent reign, dated 191–192. (Cat. no. 2). The editions for Septimius Severus himself are completely missing, but with three denarii, all members of his family are represented. The first in the chronological sequence is a coin of Julia Domna, belonging to the 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the year 199 (Cat. no. 3), followed by a Geta denarius minted within the 13<sup>th</sup> issue of 202 (Cat. no. 4) and a Caracalla denarius minted as part of the second issue of 210 (Cat. no. 5). Elagabalus's editions are present with two denarii, one minted by the emperor himself (Cat. no. 6) and the other for Julia Maesa (Cat. no. 7), both without a precise dating within Elagabalus's reign. One of the preserved denarii of Severus Alexander dates to the year 224 (Cat. no. 8), while the other has been dated more widely but still within the first half of the Emperor's reign (222–228) (Cat. no. 9). The denarius of Gordian III with the reverse legend P M TR P III COS II P P (Cat. no. 11) belongs to the 4<sup>th</sup> issue, chronologically placed from January 1<sup>st</sup> AD 241 until after the end of July AD 243 (TR P VI).<sup>20</sup> From the same 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the Roman mint comes another Gordian specimen (rev. IOVI STATORI), which is also the only antoninianus in the rest of the find (Cat. no. 10).

Roman coin hoards registered in a similar degree of preservation and documentation are not uncommon and have been recorded throughout the entire former Roman Empire. In older literature, they were used as a reliable source in dating the depositing horizon and were linked to specific historical events.<sup>21</sup> The most common examples of this are smaller parts of hoards that, without good documentation, arrived at museum collections decades ago or, more recently, monetary finds that were unprofessionally excavated,

discovered during construction and agricultural work or with the help of detectors. The determination of the time and the circumstances of their depositing is not based on objective indicators, and sometimes such conclusions can be considered a misuse of material and historical sources.

More recently, K. Mizgin examined the validity of the data that coin hoards can offer using the example of the finds from the Eastern European Barbaricum area. Based on the reliability of the supporting documentation, he divided them into three groups:<sup>22</sup> reliable sources (finds obtained during archaeological research); conditionally credible sources (the documentation on the finds is accurate but not complete, which is a relatively common occurrence when the information comes from museum inventories, scientific reports and publications); unreliable sources (finds from museum collections regardless of the means by which they arrived there, but with limited information on the site and conditions of the discovery; in this group he also includes the finds discovered using detectors).

V. Varbanov also examined coin hoards as a historical source. He analysed 845 known hoards stored from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century in the territory of present-day Bulgaria, which he classified according to the degree of their integrity into four groups:<sup>23</sup> the first group – hoards with completely preserved contents and a known context of the finds (which, in the example of the examined

<sup>20</sup> RIC IV/3, p. 24, note\*.

<sup>21</sup> P. Kos (Kos 1997, 97–115), and more recently K. Mizgin (Mizgin 2015, 179–188) and V. Varbanov (Върбанов 2017, 56–58), have warned about this type of misuse of material and historical sources, citing numerous examples from practice.

<sup>22</sup> Mizgin 2015, 183–184.

<sup>23</sup> Mizgin (Mizgin 2015, 183–184) and Varbanov (Върбанов 2017, 57–58, Table I) in their categorisations rely on some earlier ones that were developed independently by V. Kropotkin (a. reliable hoards, b. dubious and c. unreliable; cf. Крѡпоткин 1966, 74–76) and P. Kos (hoards with original contents preserved; hoards where contents are not fully preserved but most probably reflect the original contents; partly documented hoards that should not be interpreted, cf. Kos 1986, 81–83, 126–132).

Bulgarian hoards, is 8.5 %); the second group – hoards that lacked a few specimens of coins or that preserved more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the original contents, of a known context (16.5%); the third group – hoards of unclear contents or of which less than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the original contents are preserved. Varbanov includes in this group some scattered finds of which the original contents are known (33.8%); the fourth group – hoards with only a few coins remaining of the original contents (41.2%). These also include completely scattered hoards with a summarised chronological frame known from literature.

Following the given categorisation, the author believes that only the first group of hoards fulfils all the conditions to be a credible historical source, the second group can be used in the same way, but with caution, while the hoards of the third and the fourth group cannot be used as historical sources. It follows from the aforementioned that only about 25% of the known aggregate finds from the territory of present-day Bulgaria can be considered a reliable historical source.

The coin hoard from Paraćin, of a significantly compromised integrity and with unsatisfactory documentation, would certainly fall into the

Issuer number of Coins	Supska II tpq 236-238	Sikirica I tpq 248-249	Popovac tpq 253	Kruševac- Jagodina tpq 253	Sikirica III tpq 254	Supska I tpq 254
Marcus Antonius	1					
Galba	1					
Otho	2					
Vitellius	1					
Vespasian	29	1				
Titus	3					
Domitian	3					
Trajan	29					
Hadrian	18	1				
Antoninus Pius	85	1				
Marcus Aurelius	52	1				
Commodus	69	3				
Clodius Albinus	4	2			1	
Septimius Severus	414	71			12	
Caracalla	75	11			3	
Macrinus	3	2			1	
Elagabalus	88	48		4	15	
Severus Alexander	56	71		1	16	
Maximinus I	1	13			3	
Gordian III		64	4	66	55	32
Philip I		3	5	84	54	30
Trajan Decius			6	166	30	35
Trebonianus Gallus			13	26	49	17
Aemilian			2	2	2	
Gallienus (Joint reign)					13	1
<b>Σ</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>115</b>

**Table 2.** Contents of the documented coin hoards from the area of central Pomoravlje

category of unreliable historical sources. Having unknown original contents, it does not contain the parameters necessary to determine the exact depositing time or to place it reliably in one of the depositing horizons. Nevertheless, its preserved part, even if only very small, as well as the location of the finds, although without documentation on the conditions of the finds, are a significant confirmation of the appearance of another hoard in central Pomoravlje.

In addition to the finds from the premises of the Glass Factory in Paraćin, there were several Roman coin hoards from the close and wider surroundings, deposited in the span 236/238–254: Supska II,<sup>24</sup> Sikirica I,<sup>25</sup> Sikirica II,<sup>26</sup> Popovac,<sup>27</sup> Kruševac–Jagodina,<sup>28</sup> Sikirica III,<sup>29</sup> Gornje Štiple<sup>30</sup> and Supska I<sup>31</sup> (Table 2). None of these were discovered during archaeological research. Excluding the hoard from Gornje Štiple and Sikirica II, about the rest we can say that, based on the state of the documentation, they belong to a group of less scattered finds, which probably reflect the original contents.

The hoards found in the village of Sikirica, located about 9 km south of Paraćin (Map 1) is geographically the closest to the scattered finds from Paraćin. In addition to the documented hoards from Sikirica I and Sikirica III, Sikirica II has been scattered almost entirely.<sup>32</sup> The Sikirica I hoard ends with the antoninianus of Philip I with a short obverse legend, minted in Rome (RIC IV / 3, p. 75, no. 61). In the catalogue part of the RIC it is classified within the issues of 247–249, and in the introduction it is classified as 7 (8) issue from 248 (later – 249 AD),<sup>33</sup> while M. Vasić believes that it belongs to the 8<sup>th</sup> issue from 248–249.<sup>34</sup> This antoninianus also places the *terminus post quem* of the find of Sikirica I at the end of 248 and 249.<sup>35</sup> The find of Sikirica III ends with the antoninianus of Gallienus, which belongs to the third issue of the Viminacium Mint of 254 (RIC V / 1, p. 99, no. 397).<sup>36</sup>

In the area of the village of Supska, located c. 4.5 km north of Čuprija and c. 12.5 km from Paraćin, two Roman coin hoards were discovered. The summary find of Supska I ends with the same Gallienus antoninianus of the third issue of

the Viminacium mint of 254<sup>37</sup> as the Sikirica III hoard. The youngest specimen in the Supska II hoard is the Maximinus I denarius, which, according to the reference literature, dates from January / autumn (?) 236 to the beginning or the first quarter of 238, which is also the starting point for determining the *tpq* of this find.<sup>38</sup>

The hoard from Popovac (c. 10 km northeast of Paraćin) consists of 15 antoniniani, 15 coins of the provincial issues of the Viminacium mint and two coins of the “Provincia Dacia” issue. It was dated using Aemilian’s coin of the Viminacium

<sup>24</sup> Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2013, 9–153.

<sup>25</sup> Vasić 1972, 57–62; Марић 1956, 180, no. 9; Mirnik 1981, 69, no. 214; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2016, 7–101.

<sup>26</sup> Marić 1956, 180, No. 10; Mirnik 1981, 69, No. 215; Арсенијевић 2004, 228; Borić-Brešković, Stamenković 2008, 160, note 18; Војвода, Срндаковић 2015, 32–33, note 4; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2016, 8, note 4.

<sup>27</sup> Борић-Брешковић 1979, 39–54; Борић-Брешковић 1983, 72, note 21; Арсенијевић 2004, 228; Borić-Brešković, Stamenković 2008, 163, note 28.

<sup>28</sup> Kubitschek 1900, 185–194; Mirnik 1981, 65, no. 183; Рашковић 1995, 198; Арсенијевић 2004, 228; Borić-Brešković, Stamenković 2008, 163, note 28.

<sup>29</sup> Војвода, Срндаковић 2015, 31–88.

<sup>30</sup> Арсенијевић, Додић 2004, 235–250; Арсенијевић 2004, 228; Borić-Brešković, Stamenković 2008, 160, note 16.

<sup>31</sup> Mirnik 1981, 71, no. 232; Арсенијевић 2004, 228; Borić-Brešković, Stamenković 2008, 157–207.

<sup>32</sup> At the site of Moravište in the village of Sikirica, a Roman coin hoard was found before 1951, which was stored in a ceramic vessel. Only one antoninianus of Philip II Caesar (RIC IV.3, 96, no. 220b, third issue from 245–247) has been preserved. It is located in the National Museum in Belgrade and has been registered under inv. no. VII, 728; cf. *supra* note 26.

<sup>33</sup> RIC IV.3, 59, 63; Fitz (1978, 702) also supports this date.

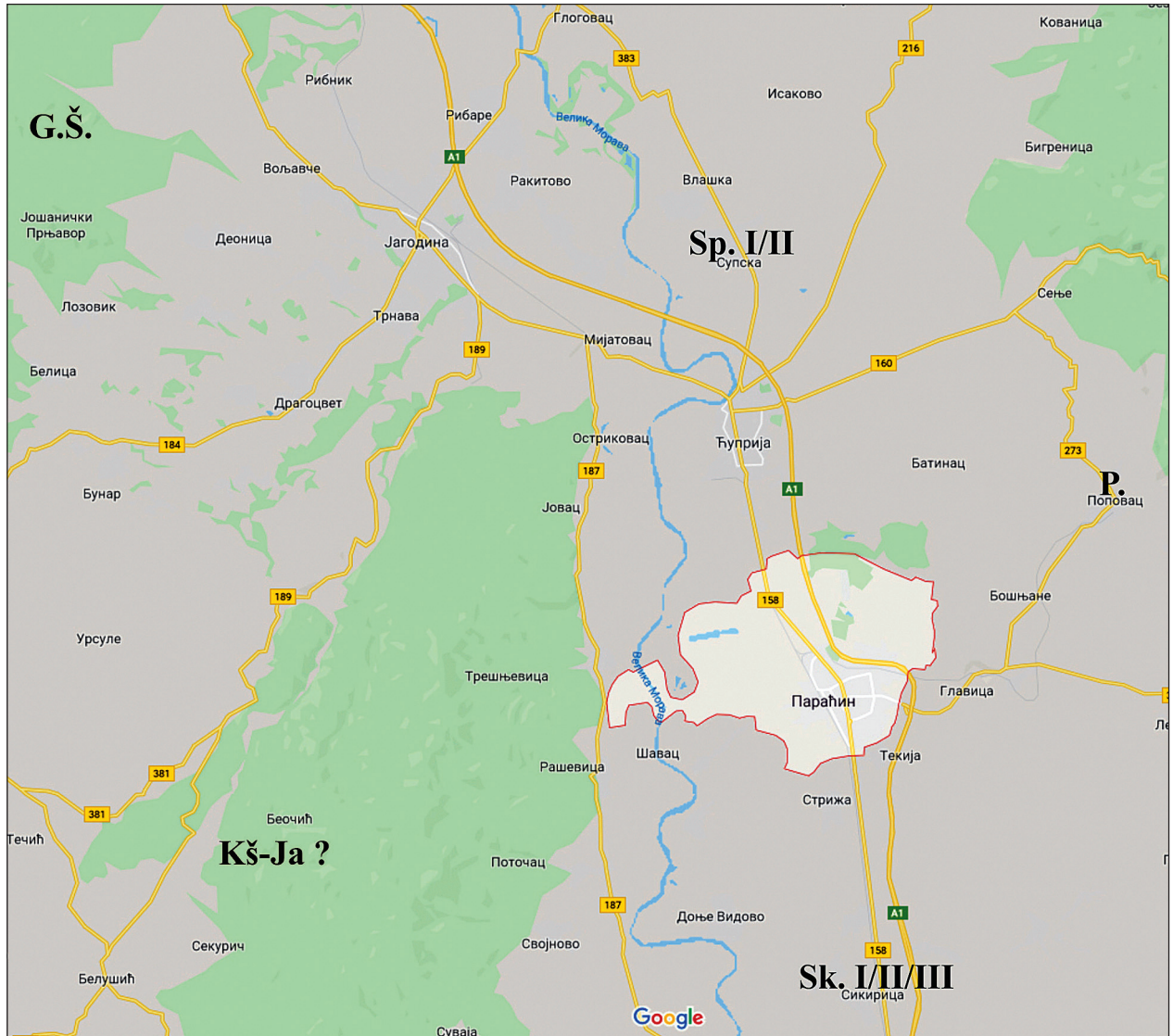
<sup>34</sup> Vasić 2005, 18, 157, cat. 564. Unlike the authors of RIC, Fitz and M. Vasić, S.K. Eddy includes RIC specimen no. 61 in the second issue of the Mediolanum mint (Milan) and dates it to the year 248, cf. Eddy 1967, 99 – Mediolanum 248, Issue 2.

<sup>35</sup> Црнобрња 2008, 23; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2016, 21.

<sup>36</sup> Војвода, Срндаковић 2015, 45.

<sup>37</sup> Borić-Brešković, Stamenković 2008, 174.

<sup>38</sup> Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2013, 30–31.



**Map 1.** Hoards discovered in the vicinity of Paraćin: G.Š. (Gornje Štiplje), Sp. I/II (Supska I, Supska II), P. (Popovac), Sk. I/II/III (Sikirica I, Sikirica II, Sikirica III), Kš-Ja? (Kruševac–Jagodina)  
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mint from the XIV year of the local era in the summer of 253.<sup>39</sup>

The scattered hoard from Gornje Štiplje (c. 28 km northwest of Paraćin) consisted of approximately 600 antoniniani, around ten denarii and an unknown number of provincial issues of the Viminacium mint.<sup>40</sup> In the small remaining part of the hoard, the youngest specimen is a Gallienus antoninianus from 254.<sup>41</sup> However, as the hoard does not fall into the category of reliable histori-

cal sources due to its considerable dispersal, we cannot accept this dating as certain.

<sup>39</sup> Борић-Брешковић 1979, 43.

<sup>40</sup> It was found using a metal detector, and the Jagodina Regional Museum purchased a small part of five denarii, 34 antoniniani and two coins of the provincial issues of the Viminacium mint, cf. Арсенијевић, Додић 2004, 235.

<sup>41</sup> Borić-Brešković, Stamenković 2008, 160, note 16.

Finally, we should also mention the hoard found in an unknown village between Kruševac and Jagodina in 1900.<sup>42</sup> It was bought in Vienna in 1901 and published the same year.<sup>43</sup> It consists of 348 antoniniani, two gold rings and two gold earrings. V. Kubitschek, the author of the paper on this hoard, emphasises that, based on discussions with the seller, he is convinced that the find was obtained in its entirety. The youngest specimens are the antoniniani of Aemilian (RIC IV / 3, p. 195, nos. 6, 12), dated to the summer of 253.

It is clear from the aforementioned that most of the documented hoards from central Pomoravlje, regardless of some dispersal, reflect the original composition and that they were all stored around the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, with the exception of the Supska II hoard (*tpq* 236–238) which was buried slightly earlier, and the hoard in literature known as “Svetozarevo” (present-day Jagodina), containing exclusively antoniniani (1,973 pieces) ranging from Valerian I to Diocletian (*tpq* 285).<sup>44</sup> It should also be emphasised that no hoard from this area belongs to the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, and that “Svetozarevo” is the only hoard whose *tpq* is near the second half of the same century, but which is not the subject of our consideration.

Based on the composition of the documented hoards from central Pomoravlje, it also follows that only the hoards of Supska II and Sikirica I contain denarii of the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and that the others (Popovac, Kruševac–Jagodina, Sikirica III and Supska I) are the oldest specimens from the time of Septimius Severus (Table 2). The scattered find from Paraćin also contains 2<sup>nd</sup> century denarii, so its original composition would probably have been more similar to that of Supska II or Sikirica I. On the other hand, the youngest preserved specimens from the Paraćin find, one antoninianus and one denarius, belong to the Roman Mint emissions issued for Gordian III, 241–243. It has been said that these coins cannot be the basis for dating the hoard because we cannot be sure about how many younger specimens might have been discovered. However, we can notice that, also according to the approxi-

mate determination of the *tpq* of its depositing, it is relatively close to other hoards from central Pomoravlje and perhaps closest to the mentioned hoard, Sikirica I, discovered in the immediate vicinity of Paraćin.

A similar correlation can be observed in the example of a hoard from Gornje Štiplje where about 6.5% of the original composition was preserved, ranging from Caesarean issues of Caracalla to Gallienus (254 AD).<sup>45</sup> Regardless of the degree of the scattering of this find, it is noticeable that, with its remaining part, it largely follows the composition of Sikirica III (Table 2). The biggest unknown is still the fully scattered hoard of Roman coins from Sikirica II, originally stored in a ceramic vessel, of which only one antoninianus of Philip II from 245–247 remains.<sup>46</sup>

In the cases of hoards of an incomplete composition and not accompanied by satisfactory documentation, it is crucial that the location of their finding is known. This knowledge is certainly not insignificant when collecting data on the total number of hoards discovered in a particular geographical area. Based on the analysis of the composition and the manner of thesauration, it was concluded that they represent successive savings most likely of the owners of agricultural estates.<sup>47</sup> The aforementioned lack of archaeological evidence of the existence of agricultural assets in this region is considered a consequence of insufficient exploration of the terrain. This is supported by the fact that the largest number of coin hoards stored in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century in the territory

<sup>42</sup> The name of the village remained unknown to Kubiček: “Ein serbischer Händler bot heute in Wien einen Schatzfund zum Verkauf aus, der in einem nicht näher bezeichneten Dorfe, zwischen Jagodina und Kruschewatz, während des Sommers 1900 gehoben worden war” (Kubitschek 1901, 185).

<sup>43</sup> Kubitschek 1900, 185–194.

<sup>44</sup> Crnobrnja 1987.

<sup>45</sup> Cf. *supra* notes 40–41.

<sup>46</sup> Cf. *supra* note 32.

<sup>47</sup> Borić-Brešković, Stamenković 2008, 159, note 10, 174–177; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2013, 12–13; Вojвода, Срндаковић 2015, 35; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2016, 11.

of present-day Serbia was discovered near main or vicinal roads, and for some there are also archaeologically confirmed links with specific agricultural estates.<sup>48</sup> All the known coin hoards in the central Pomoravlje region (Map 1) are located in an important agricultural area of Roman times, in the immediate vicinity of the *Horreum Margi*, on the main communication road and were all stored around the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Consequently, we can assume, with considerable caution, that the scattered finds from Paraćin, Gornje Štiplje, as well as Sikirica II could have been deposited in the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

In view of the above facts, the Paraćin hoard, of which there are 10 specimens left in the National Museum in Belgrade and one kept in the Jagodina Regional Museum, is an unreliable source in terms of both the original structure and the dating to Gordian III. Of the three hoards discovered in the village of Sikirica, which are geographically closest to the site of the Paraćin find, Sikirica I, whose *terminus post quem* of depositing has been linked to the end of 248 and 249, as well as Supska I whose *tpq* is somewhat earlier, could, in some way, be the pattern by which coins arrived in the Paraćin hoard. Namely, the Paraćin hoard, in chronology and in the sequence of the few issues present, as well as in the remaining composition exclusively consisting of denarii with the exception of one Gordian III antoninianus, is, to some extent, similar to the aforementioned hoards. This correlation, with all the limitations present, encourages us to make the conditional assumption that the scattered hoard from Paraćin could also have been buried around the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

Finally, with this article, our intention was to investigate, process and interpret one of the scattered finds using the information available, and to try to resolve the uncertainties that exist about it in the scientific community.

## CATALOGUE

### Abbreviations:

Cat. No. = Catalogue Number;  
 W = Weight (g);  
 D = Diameter (mm);  
 Inv. No. = Inventory Number;  
 NMB = National Museum in Belgrade;  
 RMJ = Regional Museum Jagodina.

*Translated by Dave Calcutt*

<sup>48</sup> On the sites where hoards of coins from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century were found, in the broader vicinity of Kruševac, and their connection with the agricultural estates that gravitated towards the main routes or vicinal roads, cf. Рашковић 1995, 203; For the *villae rusticae* in Mačva and Podrinje, their links with the system of communications, as well as the hoards of coins found in this region, cf. Васић 1985, 124–141; The composition of the hoards from Dvorska (*tpq* 254) and Donje Crniljevo (*tpq* 259/260) are indicative of successive savings over a longer period. While one can reliably say that the hoard from Donje Crniljevo contained the savings of the villa's owner, there is no precise data on the circumstances surrounding the hoard from Dvorska, cf. Vasić 2005, 64. A smaller find from Podrimce in the vicinity of Leskovac (*tpq* 244) has been linked with the remains of a *villa rustica*, cf. Стаменковић 2005, 151; for a summary of the known hoards from 252/253 and 254, based on which one can observe those with a longer period of thesaurization (Vlajića Brdo I: Trajan – Valerian I/Gallienus; Jablanica: Diva Faustina I – Gallienus), although the majority start with specimens of Septimius Severus and his family, and end with Volusian/Aemilian/Valerian/Gallienus (Glibovac, Serbia unknown locality, Belgrade Cara Uroša Street, Smederevo), as well as chart them, from which one can clearly discern the connection of all these hoards with the chief Balkan communication route – the *via militaris*, cf. Borić-Brešković, Stamenković 2008, 159–161, notes 14–21; Map on 165; a Roman treasure from Čortanovci (*tpq* 210) is linked with the remains of a *villa rustica* near the village, cf. Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2011, 13–14, note 21; the hoard from Mehovine (*tpq* 238; Nero-Maximinus I) was found in close proximity to a *villa rustica*, cf. Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2012, 28, note 21; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2013, 13, note 21; Borić-Brešković, Vojvoda 2016, 11, note 31.



Cat. No.	W	D Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Emperor or member of the Imperial Family / Mint / References	Date	Inv. No.
1	3.34	19.00 S	M ANTONINVS AVG - GERM SARM Head of Marcus Aurelius, laureate, right.	TR P XXX IMP - VIII COS III Aequitas, draped, standing front, head left, holding scales in extended right hand and cornucopiae in left hand.	Marcus Aurelius Roma BMC IV, p. 482, no. 672; RIC III, p. 241, no. 359	175–176	NMB 1344/1
2	2.75	16.80 SW	L AEL AVREL COMM AVG P FEL Head of Commodus, wearing lion-skin, right.	HERCVLI ROMANO AVG Bow, club, and quiver with arrows.	Commodus Roma BMC IV, p. 753, nos. 343-345; RIC III, p. 395, no. 253	191-192	RMJ 50_1691
3	3.16	20.00 N	IVLIA - AVGVSTA Bust of Julia Domna, hair waved and coiled at back, draped, right.	VENVS - FELIX Venus, draped, standing front, head left, holding apple in extended right hand and drawing drapery from left shoulder with left hand.	Julia Domna under Septimius Severus Roma BMC V, p. 167, no. 85; RIC IV.1, p. 170, no. 580; Hill 2001, p. 18, no. 379 (199 AD Issue 4)	199	NMB 1344/2
4	3.67	20.00 NW	P SEPT GETA - CAES PONT Bust of Geta, bare-headed, draped, right.	SECVRIT - IMPERII Securitas, draped, seated left, holding globe in right hand, left arm resting on arm of chair.	Geta under Septimius Severus Roma BMC V, p. 199, no. 240; RIC IV.1, p. 316, no. 20a; Hill 2001, p. 21, no. 554 (202 AD, Issue 13)	202	NMB 1344/4
5	3.13	20.00 NW	ANTONINVS - PIVS AVG Head of Caracalla, laureate, bearded, right.	PONTIF TR P - XIII COS III Concordia, draped, seated left, holding patera in extended right hand and double cornucopiae in left hand.	Caracalla under Septimius Severus Roma BMC V, p. 362, no. 29; RIC IV.1, 230, no. 116a; Hill 2001, p. 28, no. 1082 (210 AD, Issue 2)	210	NMB 1344/3
6	3.14	19.00 NW	IMP ANTONINVS - PIVS AVG Bust of Elagabalus, horned, laureate, draped, right.	SVMMVS SACERDOS AVG Elagabalus, in Syrian priestly robes, standing left, sacrificing out of patera in right hand over tripod, holding branch downwards in left hand; in field, star.	Elagabalus Roma BMC V, p. 565, no.231; RIC IV.2, p. 38, no. 146	218–222	NMB 1344/5
7	2.78	20.00 SW	IVLIA MAESA AVG Bust of Julia Maesa, hair waved and turned up low at the back, draped, right.	PVDI-CITIA Pudicitia, draped, seated left, drawing veil over face with right hand and holding sceptre in left hand.	Julia Maesa under Elagabalus Roma BMC V, p. 541, no. 76; RIC IV.2, p. 50, no. 268	218–222	NMB 1344/6
8	2.67	19.00 SW	IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped, right.	P M TR P III - COS P P Jupiter, cloak behind and over right arm, standing left, holding thunderbolt in right hand and sceptre in left hand.	Severus Alexander Roma BMC VI, p.129, no.160; RIC IV.2, p. 73, no. 35 (Issue IV)	224	NMB 1344/8
9	2.46	20.00 S	IMP C M AVR SEV - ALEXAND AVG Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped, right.	ANNO-NA AVG Annona, draped, standing left, holding corn-ears in right hand and cornucopiae in left hand; at feet, modius.	Severus Alexander Roma BMC VI, p.148, no. 341; RIC IV.2, p. 80, no. 133 (Issue VI)	226	NMB 1344/7
10	4.56	25.00 NE	IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Bust of Gordian III, radiate, draped, cuirassed, right.	IOVI - STATORI Jupiter, nude, standing front, head right, holding long sceptre in right hand and thunderbolt in left hand.	Gordian III Roma - Antoninianus RIC IV.3, p. 25, no. 84 (Issue IV)	241–243	NMB 1344/9
11	2.29	20.00 NW	IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Bust of Gordian III, laureate, draped, cuirassed, right	P M T-R P III COS II P P Apollo, nude to waist, seated left, holding branch in extended right hand and resting left elbow on lyre.	Gordian III Roma RIC IV.3, p. 27, no. 114 (Issue IV, officina 3)	241–243	NMB 1344/10

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**Plate I.** 1. Cat. no. 1 (Marcus Aurelius); 2. Cat. no. 2 (Commodus); 3. Cat. no. 3 (Julia Domna); 4. Cat. no. 4 (Geta); 5. Cat. no. 5 (Caracalla); 6. Cat. no. 6 (Elagabalus); 7. Cat. no. 7 (Julia Maesa); 8–9. Cat. nos. 8–9 (Severus Alexander); 10–11. Cat. nos. 10–11 (Gordian III)

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