

A FEW COMMENTS ON OCCURRENCE OF ROMAN COINS IN THE HRON AND IPEL RIVER BASINS

Ján Beljak

The purpose of this paper is to evaluate, against other categories of archaeological finds, the occurrence of Roman coins in the Hron and Ipeľ river basins in the period between the 1st century and the 4th century AD. This area lies in the western part of the Carpathians. Administratively it belongs to the eastern part of South-West Slovakia and to the southern part of Central Slovakia. Scholarly literature uses the term “behind the North-Pannonian frontier” to designate a large part of this area in connection with the Roman period. From the chronological point of view we talk about stages B1 to C3 of Egger’s periodization of the Roman period (EGGERS 1951), adjusted by K. Godłowski (GODŁOWSKI 1970a) and applied to the Slovak circumstances by T. Kolník (KOLNÍK 1971). In absolute chronology it is a period between the years +/- 10 and 375 AD, which corresponds to the reign of Roman emperors from Augustus (27 BC-14 AD) to Valentinian I (364-375 AD). The classification of Roman coin finds from Slovakia provided by E. Kolníková (KOLNÍKOVÁ 1986, 74) divides the monitored area in the Roman period into three areas. South-West and South Slovakia belonged to the Quadi settlement area in the Roman period (II). Central and North Slovakia was settled by Púchov culture (III) in the Early Roman period. The southernmost part of the monitored area, which lies on the left bank of the Danube, belongs to the border area of Limes Romanus with Roman building objects (I).

I. Overview of coin finds categories

In the Hron and Ipeľ river basins 1426 Roman coins have been recorded so far, of which five come from the period of the Roman Republic and the rest are imperial coinages. These coins have been found on 54 sites (NÁLEZY 1, 3, 4) and most of them come from hoards. They are most numerous in this territory compared to other areas of Slovakia.

A. Hoards

The following find collections are concerned:

1. The biggest hoard was discovered in 1930 during earth works in Vyškovce nad Ipľom (Tab. 1, No. 48 in the map). It is said to have contained around 1200 silver coins hidden in a clay vessel; but only 1064 items have been published (ONDROUCH 1933; 1934). The youngest one is a denarius of Marcus Aurelius from 171/172 (NÁLEZY 1, no. 279). This collection of finds has been associated with the Marcomannic Wars period (KOLNÍKOVÁ 1994, 494). Three other Roman coins (NÁLEZY 1, no. 269, 291, 408) have been found randomly in the same village in the “Kisváros hill” location. However, apart from the denarius of Antoninus Pius they are later coinages which have not proved their relation to the hoard. The youngest one is a bronze coin of Maximianus Herculius (286-305).

Tab. 1: Overview of coins from Vyškovce nad Ipľom hoard (Levice district)

Emperor	Period of reign	Nominal value	Total	Excavated in year	Literature
Nero	54-68	D	10	1930	NÁLEZY 1, no. 279; ONDROUCH 1933, 1934; KOLNÍKOVÁ 1980, 14-15, 30, 38-39, 41, 112-114, fig. 3-5, 16, 18, 29-31, 36-37; TIR M 34, no. 337
Galba	68-69	D	4		
Otho	69	D	5		
Vitellius	69	D	8		
Vespasianus	69-79	D	231		
Titus	79-81	D	52		
Iulia (Titus's daughter)	+ 91	D	1		
Domitianus	81-96	D	108		
Nerva	96-98	D	16		
Traianus	98-117	D	320		
Hadrianus	117-138	D	244		
Sabina	+ 136	D	9		
Antoninus Pius	138-161	D	36		
Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius		D	1		
Antoninus Pius for Marcus Aurelius		D	1		
Faustina I	+ 141	D	13		
Marcus Aurelius?	161-180	D	1		

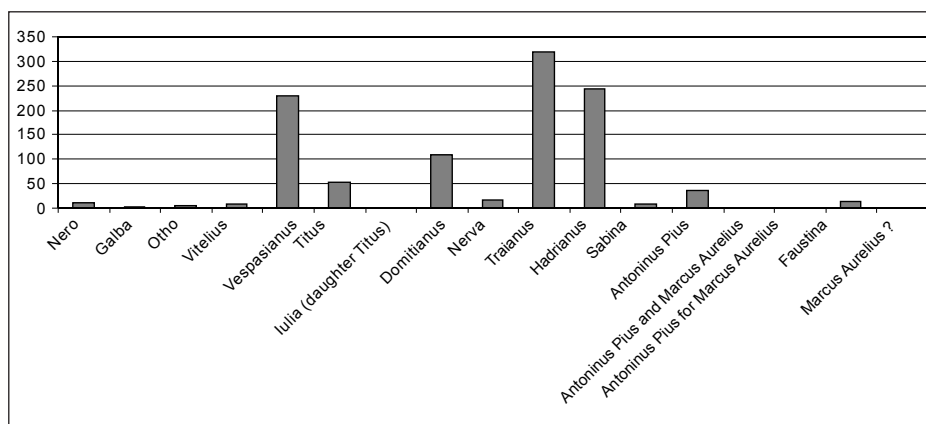


Fig. 1: Graphic overview of coins from Vyškovce nad Ipľom hoard (district Levice).

2. A hoard from the Marcommanic Wars period was randomly discovered in the village of Drženice-Za majerom Pereš in 1904/1905 (Tab. 2, No. 20 in the map). It has not been preserved but according to written accounts it contained around 236 golden and silver coins from the Emperor Marcus Aurelius's reign (KOLNÍKOVÁ 1994, 494).

Tab. 2: Coins from Drženice hoard (Levice district)

Emperor	Period of reign	Nominal value	Total	Excavated in year	Literature
Marcus Aurelius+?	161-180	aureus+ denarius?	236?	1904-1905	NÁLEZY 3, no. 46; TIR M 34, no. 56

3. Denarii allegedly placed in a clay vessel were randomly discovered on the Slatina river bank in Hriňová in 1924 (Tab. 3, No. 24 in the map). Originally they were 14 but no more than five coins have been preserved, the youngest one being a coinage of Antoninus Pius from 140-143 (TIR M 34, no. 73).

Tab. 3: Coins from Hriňová hoard (Detva district)

Emperor	Period of reign	Nominal value	Total	Excavated in years	Literature
Traianus	98-117	D	2	1929	NÁLEZY 1, no. 272; TIR M 34, no. 73
Hadrianus	117-138	D	2		
Antoninus Pius	138-161	D	1		

4. The content of the Roman hoard found in an unfortified hilltop settlement in the village of Selce-Hrádok is also interesting; most of the 52 denarii that are at disposal today originate from the reign of Marcus Aurelius (Tab. 4, No. 39 in the map). However, this collection was first buried in the middle of the 5th century AD, which is documented by a simultaneous find of two silver brooches characteristic of the early phase of the Migration period (PIETA 1990, 138). An analogous situation is represented by the assemblage from Siedlikow in Poland, which apart from 400 denarii also contained two silver brooches with a solid catchplate and rectangular foot (Almgren, group VI, series 2), as well as an oval buckle with a massive frame from the Late Roman period and the early phase of the Migration period (GODŁOWSKI 1970a).

Two brooches of the Szilágy-Somlyó-Untersiebenbrunn type dated to the late 4th or early 5th century AD have also been found along with 1312 denarii from the period between Nero to Septimus Severus in the hoard from Nieżina (GODŁOWSKI 1970b). Denarii from the 2nd century AD constituted majority in the hoard from Zagórzyn dated to the 5th century AD. According to K. Godłowski, most of the Roman coins – including denarii from the 2nd century AD – found in the Roman period settlements on the territory of Poland come from structures dated to the late stage of the Late Roman period or even to the early phase of the Migration period. The period concerned stretches thus from the second half of the 3rd century to the first half of the 5th century AD (GODŁOWSKI 1970b, 240).

A denarius of Marcus Aurelius has also been found in Jaskyna Ciemna cave in Ojcowie where a Late Roman settlement has been confirmed (GODŁOWSKI

1970b 240; 1995, 132).

Tab. 4: Coins from Selce-Hrádok hoard (Banská Bystrica district)

Emperor	Period of reign	Nominal value	Total	Excavated in years	Literature
Traianus	98-117	D	2	1934	NÁLEZY 1, no. 307; TIR M 34, no. 221
Hadrianus	117-138	D	2		
Antoninus Pius	138-161	D	5		
Marcus Aurelius	161-180	D	22		
Lucius Verus	161-169	D	2?		
Commodus	180-192	D	11		
Didius Iulianus	193	D	1		
Traianus	98-117	D	1	1999	UŠIAK - KOLNÍKOVÁ 2002, 218-219
Antoninus Pius	138-161	D	1		
Lucius Verus	161-169	D	1		
Commodus	180-192	D	2		
Septimius Severus	193-211	D	1		

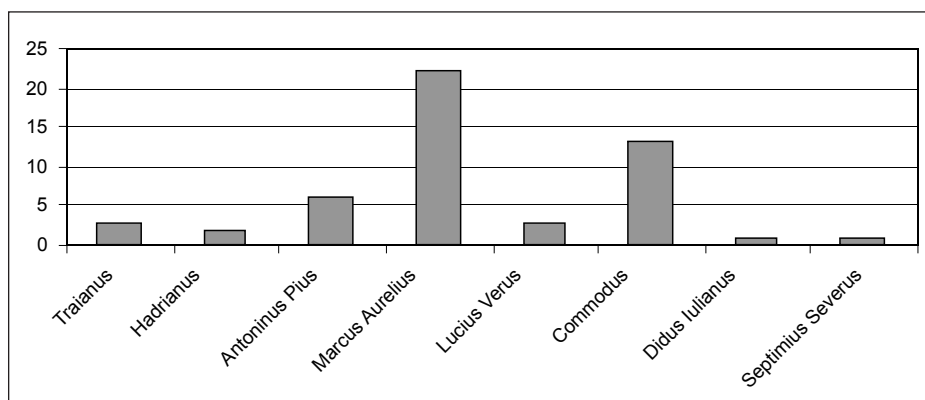


Fig. 2: Graphic overview of coins from Selce-Hrádok hoard (Banská Bystrica district).

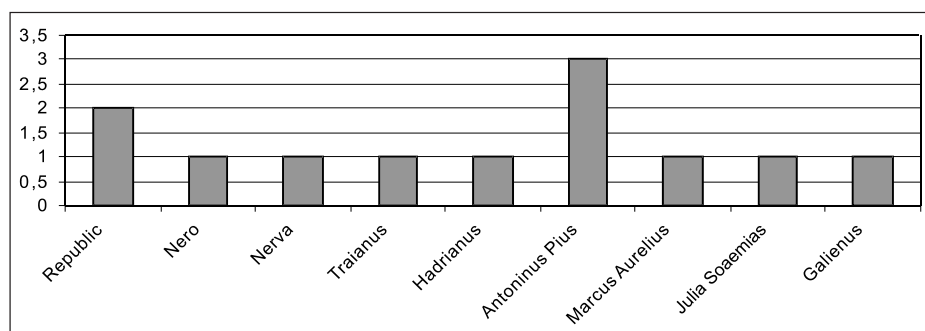
B. Coin finds with archaeological context

The second finds category, though less numerous, is represented by the coins found in field walking. These concentrate especially in the lower Hron river basin. Some of them come from locations where other evidence of settlement has been recorded (especially fragments of clay vessels). An example of such are the Republican coinages found on Dekýš and Zvolen sites, where Germanic settlement in the Late Roman period has been confirmed. In Zvolen, however, they may also be related to the earlier Púchov culture settlement, namely on Haputka site. The questions of Roman coins in North Slovakia have been dealt with by K. Pieta (PIETA 1986).

Tab. 5: Coins from detected and presumptive settlement structures

No. (map)	Site	District	Emperor	Period of reign Dating	Nominal value	Total	Chronology	Literature
10.	Bíňa-fara a kostolná záhrada	LV	Julia Soemias	(† 222)	An	2	C1→	HABOVŠTIAK - PRÁŠEK 1993, 44-45; PRÁŠEK 1995, 111
12.	Čaka-Diely	LV	Gallienus	254	An	1	B2-C3/D1	NÁLEZY 1, no.366; TOČÍK 1951, 158
14.	Dekýš-Zažihlavie	BS	Q. Antonius Balbus Hadrianus Antoninus Pius	81 BC 118 po 141	D D D	3	C1→	NÁLEZY 1, no. 144, 213, 277; KUKA 1959, 16
27.	Chľaba	NZ	Nerva Traianus Antoninus Pius Antoninus Pius	97-98 98-99 139 145-161	As D As As	4	B2→	NÁLEZY 1, no. 195, 244, 252
31.	Kamenín-Lavý breh Hrona	NZ	Nero	54-68	Au	1	B2-C1	NÁLEZY 1, no. 166; OŽDÁNI 1984, 167
44.	Šarovce-Tehelňa	LV	Marcus Aurelius	177	S	1	B2-C3/D	NÁLEZY 1, no. 293; BELJAK 2003
50.	Zvolen-Pod dráhami - Haputka	ZV	L. Memmius (rep.)	109 BC	D	1	B1-B2-PK B2/C1-C3 /D1-KK	NÁLEZY 1, no. 141; BELJAK 2003

Fig. 3: Graphic overview of coins from detected and presumptive settlement structures.



C. Coins without archaeological context – random finds

Coins without an archaeological context form the most numerous category in the monitored area. These are random finds discovered mostly during earth works. However, it is possible that these coins also indicate a settlement in the Roman period on the sites concerned, and whether this will be confirmed is a question of future excavations. The sites concerned are as follows:

Tab. 6: Coins without direct archaeological context

No. (map)	Site	District	Emperor	Period of reign Dating	Nominal value	Total	Archeol. context	Literature
1.	Banská Bystrica-Pod Suchým vrchom	BB	Constantinus I Constantius Gallus	306-337 351-354	Fol Fol	2		N 4, no. 111; TIR M34, no. 2
2.	Banská Bystrica-„?“	BB	?	?	?	1		N. 1, no. 528
3.	B. Bystrica-Radvaň	BB	Nerva	97	D	1		N. 1, no. 194
4.	Banská Bystrica-„?“	BB	Traianus	103-111	D	1		N. 4, no. 50
5.	Banská Štiavnica	BS	Tiberius Domitianus Traianus 2 Traianus Antoninus Pius Gordianus III 2 Philippus I Arabs Valentinianus I	13-16 81-96 103-111 99-100 140-144 241-243? 246 364-375	S D D As As S S S	10		N. 3, no. 103; TIR M 34, no. 7
6.	Banská Štiavnica	BS	Marcus Aurelius Commodus	161-167 180	S S	2		N. 1, no. 283, 298
7.	Bielovce	LV	?	?	An	1		N. 4, no. 46
8.	Bíňa-kaštieľ	NZ	Diocletianus	284-305	?	1	g. o	N. 3, no. 88
9.	Bíňa-„?“	NZ	Lucilla Augusta	147-183	D?	1	g. o	N. 3, no. 55
11.	Čabradský Vrbovok	KA	Republik Anonym	187-168 B	D	2		N. 1, no. 140
13.	Čaka-Pod vinohradmi	LV	Hadrianus	117-138	D	1	g.o†	Unpublished
15.	Dobrá Niva	ZV	? ?	? ?	AE M	2		N. 1, no. 541
16.	Dolné Plachtince	VK	?	?	M	1		N. 1, no. 532
17.	Dolné Semerovce	LV	Gordianus III	238-244	D	1		N. 1, no. 337
18.	Drienovo	KA	Hadrianus	125-128	D	1		N. 1, no. 218
19.	Drienovo	KA	Probus	276-282	MedAE/ AR	1		N. 1, no. 392
21.	Žurkovce	VK	?	4. century.	M	1		N. 1, no. 533
22.	Gbelce	NZ	Gratianus	375-383	Sol	1	g.o,†	Unpublished
23.	Horná Seč	LV	Maximianus Herculius	286-305	Fol	1		N. 4 no. 104
25.	Hronovce-Domaša	LV	Caracalla	210-213	D	1		N. 1, no. 321
26.	Hronovce-Vozokany nad Hronom	LV	Antoninus Pius	138-161	D	1		N. 1, no. 272
28.	Ilija-Sitno	BS	?	2 . - 3 . century	AE	1	g. o	N. 4, no. 158
29.	Ipeľský Sokolec	LV	Severus Alexander	222-235	An	1		N. 3, no. 64

No. (map)	Site	District	Emperor	Period of reign Dating	Nominal value	Total	Archeol. context	Literature
30.	Jasenie	BR	Maximianus Herculus	286-305	M	1		N. 1, no. 407
32.	Kuraľany-na poli	LV	Traianus	104-111	D	1		N. 4, no. 52
33.	Levice	LV	Hadrianus	137	As	1		N. 1, no. 226
34.	Levice	LV	Marcus Aurelius	161-176	As	1		N. 3, no. 50
35.	Medovarovce	KA	Gallienus	261	An	1		N. 1, no. 368a
36.	Plášťovce	LV	Gordianus III Trebonianus Galus	238-241 251-253	S An	2		N. 1, no. 344, 359
37.	Predajná	BR	Constantinus I?	306-337	AE	1		N. 3, no. 128
38.	Rybník	LV	Vespasianus	79	D	1		N. 4, no. 48
40.	Sikenica	LV	Aurelianus	270-275	An	1		N. 1, no. 387
41.	Slovenská Lupča	BB	Period of Augusta	...	?	1		N. 1, no. 56
42.	Starý Tekov	LV	Claudius II Gothicus	268-270	An	1		N. 1, no. 376
43.	Šahy	LV	Constantinus I	335-337	AE	1		N. 1, no. 426
45.	Štúrovo-bočný kopec	NZ	Marcus Aurelius Marcus Aurelius	161-180 161-180	Dp S	2	g. o	N. 3, no. 48; N. 4, no. 77
46.	Veľké Turovce- Stredné Turovce	LV	Traianus	103-111	Dp	1		N. 4, no. 57
47.	Veľký Krtíš	VK	(rep.)	86 BC	D? As?	1		ONDROUCH 1962, 172
49.	Vyškovce nad Ipľom	LV	Antoninus Pius Aurelianus Maximianus Herculus	138-161 270-275 286-305	S D AE	3		N. 1, no. 269, 291, 408

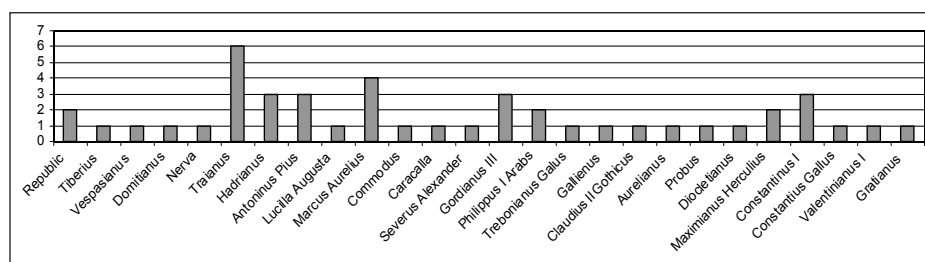


Fig. 4: Graphic overview of coins without direct archaeological context.

Randomly found separate coins without an archaeological context concentrate in areas of the lower Hron and Ipel' river basins. This has probably to do with the short distance between this area and the border of the

Roman province of Pannonia, and thus with the more intensive flow of coins to the Barbaricum. Behind the North-Pannonian frontier Roman coins may have been a means of exchange not only between the Romans and the Quadi but also among the local Barbarian population. The reason for this was first of all the value of the precious metal used for the coinage (KOLNÍKOVÁ 1973, 174-175, 178). Most of the Roman coins were found in the vicinity of rivers, which indicates the concentration of settlement and the existence of trading routes in these areas. Coins in exposed mountain locations do not date earlier than to the Late Roman and Migration periods.

II. Geographic distribution of finds

On the basis of the Roman coin finds as well as other categories of archaeological objects (terra sigillata, Pannonian coarse pottery, provincial bronze vessels etc.), three zones of their occurrence can be marked out in the Hron and Ipeľ river basins. The structure of imports varies in this area according to their distance from the Pannonian centres. The most intensive ties seem to have been those that linked the population of the monitored area with the Roman towns of Aquincum and Brigetio.

The first zone of occurrence of the Roman imports is the lower Hron and lower Ipeľ river basins. Pannonian coarse pottery is represented; it is here that most fragments of terra sigillata can be found (KUZMOVÁ 1997). Apart from Roman coins without an archaeological context, coin finds from Germanic settlements have been found here (Bíňa, Čaka, Chľaba, Kamenín, Šarovce).

The second zone is the middle Hron and middle Ipeľ river basins. The barrier the numerous mountain ranges represented here influenced the contacts between the Quadi settlements in the mountains and the Quadi settled in the lowlands which immediately bordered to the trading centres of Pannonia. Roman products were not imported to the mountain basins of Central Slovakia to the same extent as they were to the first zone. Roman coins have been discovered here randomly, without any context.

The third zone is the upper Hron river basin. Due to the hiatus in the settlement, which is obvious between B1 and C3 stages of the Roman period, the characteristic Roman provincial imports such as terra sigillata are missing here. These are frequent in the Central-European Barbaricum at the beginning of the early stage of the Late Roman period. Roman coins have been found here randomly and they probably have relation to the settlements from the late stage of the Late Roman and the Migration periods, when the territory is being colonised by the rest of the Quadi. There are also other categories of Roman imports from this period. The upper Hron river basin is marked by an insufficient state of archaeological excavations, and no Roman coin finds are known from the area.

III. Distribution of sites – trading routes

The distribution of Roman coin sites in the Barbaricum area enables the reconstruction of trading routes (KOLNÍKOVÁ 1998, 52). In the monitored

area, the trading connections led along the Hron and Ipel flows, and between them (in the middle part of the flows) along the Krupinica and Neresnica rivers. From the point of view of coin finds the route has been discussed by J. Hunka (HUNKA 1986, 268-269). He draws attention to their frequent occurrence along the Krupinica river in different chronological periods (Celtic coins: Drieňovo, Vyškovce nad Ipľom; Roman coins: Čabradský Vrbovok, Dobrá Niva, Dolné Semerovce, Medovarovce, Plášťovce, Šahy, Vyškovce nad Ipľom, Zemianský Vrbovok, Zvolen; medieval coins and coins from the modern ages: Drieňov, Hrkov, Krupina, Mladonice, Sebechleby, Šahy, Tekovské Trsfany, Uňatín, Vyškovce nad Ipľom, Zemianský Vrbovok, Zvolen). The mapping of these sites allows us to trace along the Krupinica the only access path to the Central-Slovak mining area, which served trading purposes (HUNKA 1986, 269). This route, running from the south to the north, was known as „Via Magna“ in the Middle Ages and linked what is today Budapest (the Antique Aquincum) with the regions of Liptov, Orava, Turiec and Zvolen, and over the mountain passes also with the Krakow region (HANULIAK 1996, 443-449). It had undoubtedly older roots but the state of the excavation does not allow a thorough reconstruction of its run in the Roman period. Based on the mapping of the Roman imports (TIR M 34, map B) and on analogies from the Middle Ages, we can presume its run on the following route: Aquincum – the middle Ipel river basin – the Krupinica river basin – the Neresnica river basin – the Zvolen microregion – mountain passes of the Lower Tatras – Orava – the Krakow region. Another significant trading route was running along the River Hron and linked South-West Slovakia with the Spiš region. As in the case of the previous route, this one is also marked by Roman coin finds.

E. Kolníková relates the Roman coin finds in the mountain area of Central Slovakia (Banská Bystrica, Drženice, Jasenie, Nová Baňa, Selce-Hrádok, Slovenská Lupča, Predajná, Zvolen-Pod drahami-Haputka) to raw mineral material deposits (gold, silver, copper, iron; KOLNÍKOVÁ 1998, 52). Iron deposits are found in the mountain ranges of Poľana and Slovenské Rudohorie, deposits of non-ferrous metals in Štiavnické vrchy hills and Kremnické vrchy hills. Iron production in the Zvolen area in the Roman period is attested by a furnace revealed on the site of Zvolen - Pod drahami - Haputka in 1999 (HANULIAK - MALČEK - PIETA 2000, 47-48).

IV. Overview of coins of nominal value

With respect to the nominal value of Roman coins the following coins have been recorded in the Hron and Ipel river basins: 1140 denarii (D), 9 asses (As), 3 dupondii (Dp), 11 sestertii (S), 9 antoninianii (An), 3 folles (Fol), 4 solidi (Sol), 1 aureus (Au) and 249 unidentified coins (of which 236 come from the hoard

in Drženice - za majerom Pereš).

Tab. 7: Overview of represented coins of nominal value: a. including hoards from Selce and Vyškovce nad Ipľom, b. without hoards

a.			b.		
Nominal value	Amount	Percentage	Nominal value	Amount	Percentage
AE	7	0,5	AE	7	9
An	9	1	An	9	12
As	9	1	As	9	12
Au	1	0,1	Au	1	1,5
D	1140	95,2	D	25	32
Dp	3	0,2	Dp	3	4
Fol	3	0,2	Fol	3	4
M	4	0,3	M	4	5
MedAE/	1	0,1	MedAE/	1	1,5
S	11	1,1	S	11	14
Sol	4	0,3	Sol	4	5
Total	1192	100	Total	77	100

Amounts (and percentual rate) of Roman coins of nominal value will be different when analysed together with the denarii from the hoard from Selce and Vyškovce nad Ipľom, and when analysed without them. In the former case the denarii constitute c. 95% of the total amount of classifiable coins of nominal value, in the latter c. 33%. However, denarii have in both cases the highest representation in the evaluated collection. The temporal aspect must be considered here as well.

V. Temporal criteria of occurrence

Only five Republican coins come from the analysed area, of which two have probably been found in the Germanic settlement area. One of them was found before 1935 on Pod drahami-Haputka site in Zvolen (ONDROUCH 1962, 170) where both Púchov culture and Quadi settlements have been documented (BELJAK 2003). It is a denarius of L. Memmius from year 109 BC (NÁLEZY 1, no. 141). The other Republican denarius – that of Q. Antonius Balbus from year 81 BC was found on Dekýš-Zažihlavie site in 1959, where fragments of terra sigillata and imported Roman glass had been found two years before (KUKA 1961, 260). This fact might indicate that we have to do with settlement finds. Denarii of Hadrian (118 AD) and Antoninus Pius (after 141 AD) have also been found in this area (ONDROUCH 1962, 170). The remaining coins are random finds. From Čabradský Vrbovok there are two Republican denarii which have

not been identified more closely (ONDROUCH 1962, 170). The as found in Veľký Krtíš in 1898 is probably a Republican as of A. Martius (ONDROUCH 1962, 172). However, it is possible that these sites also had settlement structures, which a future archaeological excavation may confirm.

Interpretation of the influx of Republican coins is ambiguous. They came probably in a later period than the one of their coinage, probably not before year 9 BC when the province of Pannonia came into being. In connection with the so-called "long circulation" of Roman coins these items could have arrived to the area between the Hron and Ipel' rivers much later than the date of their emission indicates.

This hypothesis is confirmed by the finds from Dekýš-Zažihlavie village where two imperial denarii, terra sigillata and imported Roman glass have been found in addition to the Republican denarius. Eventually, Tacitus's information about the Germans settled north of Rhine still using Republican denarii – serrati and bigati – in barter around year 98 AD (TACITUS, Germania 5) may also refer to the find situation in the monitored area.

It is necessary that the dating of coin finds not only takes into account the coinage period but also the find circumstances of the excavation, i.e. the find context or simultaneous finds. If a hoard contains coins with coinages of only one or two emperors, we may have to do with the so-called "short circulation", i.e. short time between the coin emission and the point at which they were buried. By contrast, the hoard containing various emissions of several emperors indicate the "long circulation", i.e. long time between the coinage and their burial (KOLNÍKOVÁ 1970, 476). For example denarii from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, which were characterised by a high content of silver compared to the later emissions, may have been used for a longer time both in the territory of the Empire and in the Barbaricum.

Accumulation of Roman coins from the periods of around the middle of the 2nd century AD, from the second half of the 3rd century AD and the first half of the 4th century AD is characteristic of the region of South-West Slovakia including the Hron and Ipel' river basins (their lower flows) (KOLNÍKOVÁ 1994, 494). The most numerous are, on the one hand, coins of Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius and Commodus, and those of Gordian III, Philip the Arab and Constantine I (compare Fig. 4) on the other. Coins of Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius dominate also among the relatively poor coin finds from settlements (compare Fig. 3). The emissions of Gordian III, Philip the Arab and Constantine I constitute a new influx wave of Roman coins in the area of the Central-European Barbaricum. This probably reflects a period of socio-economic stability on both sides of Limes Romanus.

Coin finds from the Central-European Barbaricum indicate that the majority of denarii came to the area from the Empire in the second half of the 2nd century AD in connection with the Marcommanic Wars. This falls

approximately to the B2/C1 and C1a stages of Roman periodization (BURSCHE – KACZANOWSKI - RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK 2000, 117-118). From the territory of the Barbaricum there are known numerous hoard finds of the youngest emissions from before Septimius Severus' monetary reform (193-211). This reform reduced the amount of silver in denarii to 47% (KACZANOWSKI 1998, 320). On the other hand, the decline in the number of coins in the first half of the 3rd century AD might be a result of the economic crisis of the Roman Empire, which led Rome to stop the payment of subsidies to some of the Barbarian tribes. At the same time the decrease in the number of coins circulating within the provincial borderlines did not favour the barter and thus their export to the areas behind the frontier (KACZANOWSKI 1998, 320). A new increase in the number of coins, though less extensive than the one of the 2nd century, is obvious during the reign of Emperor Constantine (KOLNÍKOVÁ 1973, 167-176).

VI. Comparison of coin finds with results of archaeological excavations and field walking

In regard of the fact that Roman coins have only been revealed in seven Germanic settlements so far, and that none have been found in a burial ground, there is only a minimal possibility of their comparison with other archaeological sources. However, we have to take into account the low number of archaeological excavations carried out so far in this region. One of the factors that have influenced the state of coin finds is also the inaccessibility of modern methods (e.g. metal detector) during the earlier excavations on the significant sites of this region (Bíňa, Čaka, Šarovce, Štúrovo). As far as the geographical area is concerned, it is important to note that coins, other types of Roman imports as well as Germanic finds are documented in small distances from the lower flows of the Hron and Ipeľ rivers. This region belongs to the zone I of Roman imports mentioned above.

VII. Conclusions

The regions of the Hron and Ipeľ river basins are characterised by accumulation of Roman coins in three intervals: 1. around the middle of the 2nd century AD; 2. in the second half of the 3rd century AD; 3. in the first half of the 4th century AD. The most numerous are on the one hand coins of Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius and Commodus, and on the other those of Gordian III, Philip the Arab and Constantine I (compare Fig. 4). Among the less numerous coin finds from Germanic settlements we find e.g. coins of Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius (compare Fig. 3). While the occurrence of the emissions of Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius and Commodus can be related to the events around the Marcommanic Wars, the emissions of Gordian III, Philip the Arab and Constantine I probably reflect the period of socio-economic stability. From the point of view of the nominal value of coins, denarii, sestertii, asses and antoninianii are the dominant coins in the analysed area.

In the Hron and Ipeľ river basins the coins (as well as other imports) concentrate in three zones of occurrence: 1. the lower Hron and Ipeľ river

basins; 2. the middle Hron and Ipeľ river basins; 3. the upper Hron river basin (and perhaps the Ipeľ river basin). The geographic features of the terrain have determined also the direction of trading routes. These run along the Hron and Ipeľ rivers and between them (in the middle part of the flows), along the Krupinica and Neresnica rivers. The only access route to the Central-Slovak mining area, which served trading purposes, can be observed along the Krupinica. The route had undoubtedly older roots but the state of the excavation does not enable a thorough reconstruction of its run in the Roman period. Based on the mapping of Roman imports, we suppose it was running as follows: Aquincum – the middle Ipeľ river basin – the Krupinica river basin – the Neresnica river basin – the Zvolen microregion – mountain passes of the Lower Tatras – Orava – the Krakow region. Another significant trading route went along the Hron and linked South-West Slovakia with the Spiš region. This one is, like the previous one, also marked by Roman coin finds.

The hoards of denarii from the time of Marcus Aurelius's reign, which have been excavated in Selce-Hrádok, and the simultaneous find of two silver brooches typical of the Early Migration period do, however, suggest that the coins from the 2nd century AD were used in this part of the Barbaricum for a long time.

Translation Eubka Kuzmová

LITERATURE:

- BELJAK, J. 2003: Germánske osídlenie Pohronia – osady v Šarovciach a Zvolene. Dissertation. Trnava.
- BURSCHE, A. - KACZANOWSKI, P. - RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK, J. 2000: Monety rzymskie z Jakuszowic. In: SVPERIORES BARBARI. Księga pamiątkowa ku czci Profesora Kazimierza Godłowskiego (eds. R. Madyda-Legutko, T. Bochnak). Kraków, 101-130.
- EGGERS, H, J. 1951: Der römischen Import in freien Germanien. Atlas der Urgeschichte 1. Hamburg.
- GODŁOWSKI 1970a: The Chronology of the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods in Central Europe. Kraków.
- GODŁOWSKI, K. 1970b: (Review) Kunisz, A.: Chronologia napływu pieniądza rzymskiego na ziemię Małopolski. Archeologia, 21, 236-241.
- GODŁOWSKI, K. 1995: Okres lateński i rzymski. Natura i kultura w krajobrazie Jury. 4. Pradzieje i średniowiecze. Kraków, 113-136.
- HABOVŠTIK, A. - PRÁŠEK, K. 1993: Pokračovanie výskumu v Bíni v roku 1992. AVANS 1992, 44-45.
- HANULIAK, V. 1996: Via magna na strednom Slovensku v období včasného a vrcholného stredoveku. In: Arch. Hist. 21, 443-449.
- HANULIAK, V. - MALČEK, R. - PIETA, K. 2000: Záchranný výskum vo Zvolene. AVANS 1999, 47-49.

- HUNKA, J. 1986: Hromadný nález mincí v Uňatíne, okres Zvolen. *Slov. Num.* 9, 268-269.
- KACZANOWSKI, P. 1998: Wpływy państwa rzymskiego na ludy Barbaricum. In: KACZANOWSKI, P. – KOZŁOWSKI, J. K.: *Wielka historia Polski. 1. Najdawniejsze dzieje Ziemi Polskich (do VII w., eds. S. Grodziski, J. Wyrozumski, M. Zgorniak)*. Kraków, 315-324.
- KOLNÍK, T. 1971: Prehľad a stav bádania o dobe rímskej a sťahovaní národov. *Slov. Arch.*, 19-2, 499-548.
- KOLNÍKOVÁ, E. 1970: (Review) Kunisz, A.: *Chronologia napływu pieniądza rzymskiego na ziemię Małopolski*. *Slov. Arch.*, 18-2, 475-477.
- KOLNÍKOVÁ, E. 1973: Ku konfrontácii nálezov mincí s výsledkami archeologického bádania o dobe rímskej na Slovensku. *Slov. Arch.*, 21-1, 167-186.
- KOLNÍKOVÁ, E. 1980: Prírastky mincí v Archeologickom ústave SAV v r. 1978. *AVANS* 1978, 155-160.
- KOLNÍKOVÁ, E. 1986: Kritický rozbor a klasifikácia nálezov rímskych mincí na Slovensku. *Slov. Num.*, 9, 59-99.
- KOLNÍKOVÁ, E. 1994: Die Markomannenkriege im Lichte der Fundmünzen aus der Slowakei. In: *Markomannenkriege. Ursachen und Wirkungen* (eds. H. Friesinger, J. Tejral, A. Stuppner). Brno, 487-496.
- KOLNÍKOVÁ, E. 1998: Numizmatické pramene. In: *Pramene k dejinám Slovenska a Slovákov 1*. Bratislava, 40-52.
- KUKA, P. 1959: Nález rímskych mincí pri Banskej Štiavnici. *Moravské Num. Zprávy*, 6, 16.
- KUKA, P. 1961: Nález Terry sigillaty a rímskeho skla v Dekýši. *Štud. Zvesti AÚ SAV*, 6, 260-261.
- KUZMOVÁ, K. 1997: *Terra sigillata im Vorfeld des Nordpannonischen Limes*. Nitra 1997.
- NÁLEZY 1 = ONDROUCH, V. 1964: Nálezy keltských, antických a byzantských mincí na Slovensku. Bratislava.
- NÁLEZY 3 = HLINKA, J. - KOLNÍKOVÁ, E. - KRASKOVSKÁ, L. - NOVÁK, J. 1978: Nálezy mincí na Slovensku III. Bratislava.
- NÁLEZY 4 = KOLNÍKOVÁ, E. - HUNKA, J. 1994: Nálezy mincí na Slovensku IV. Nitra.
- ONDROUCH, V. 1933: Vyškovecký nález rímskych denárů z rané doby císařské. Bratislava, 7, 240-250.
- ONDROUCH, V. 1934: Der römische Denarfund von Vyškovce aus der Frühkaiserzeit. Bratislava.
- ONDROUCH, V. 1962: Mince rímskej republiky na Slovensku. *Štud. Zvesti AÚ SAV*, 9, 169-186.
- OŽĎÁNI, O. 1984: Výsledky prieskumu stredného Poiplia v okrese Levice. *AVANS* 1983, 168-171.

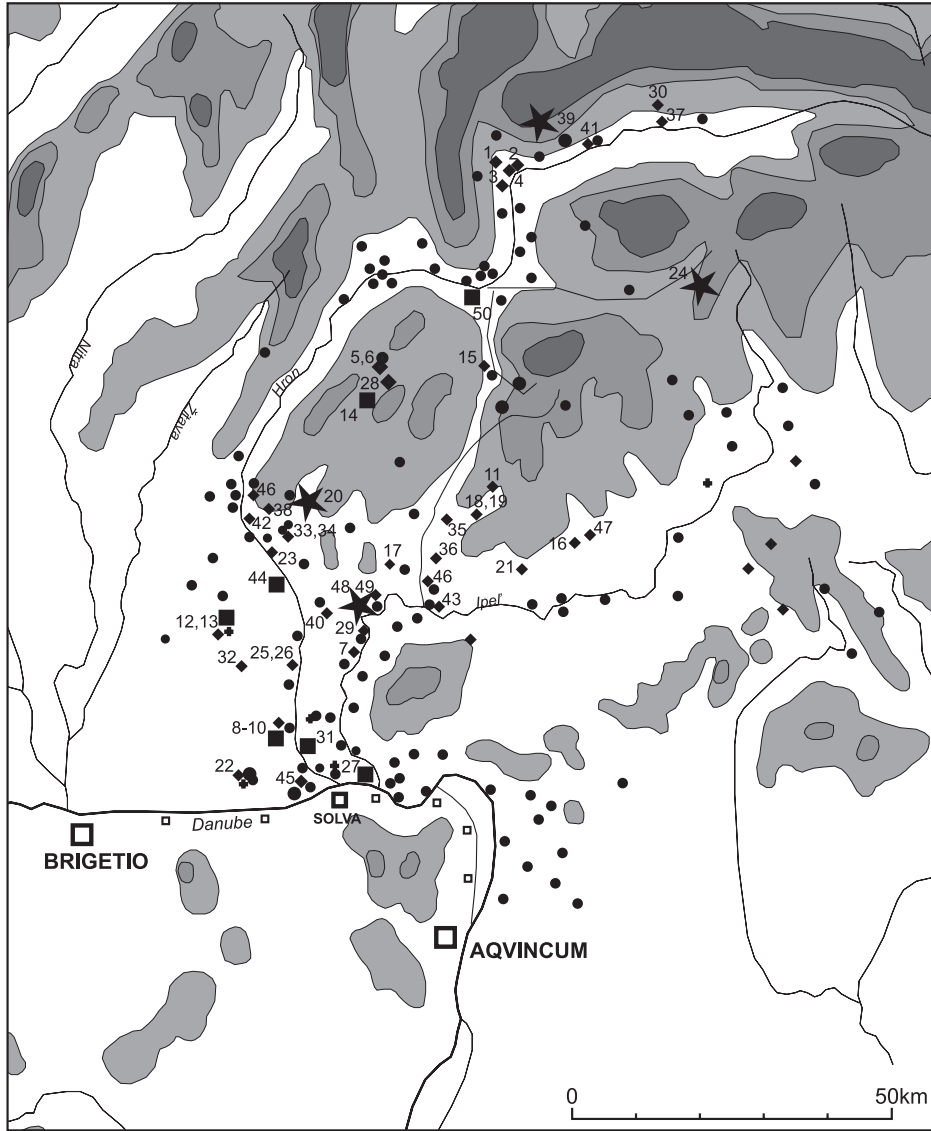
- PIETA, K. 1986: K nálezom mincí na severnom Slovensku. *Slov. Num.*, 9, 145-156.
- PIETA, K. 1990: Nové nálezy na Hrádku v Selciach pri Banskej Bystrici. *AVANS* 1988, 138.
- PRÁŠEK, K. 1995: Pokračovanie výskumu v Bíni. *AVANS* v roku 1993, 111-112.
- TACITUS, Germánia = ŠKOVIERA, D. 1980: P. C. Tacitus. Agricola. Anály, Germánia, História. Bratislava.
- TIR M 34 = KACZANOWKI, P. – MARGOS, U. 2002: TABVLA IMPERII ROMANI M 34-KRAKÓW. Kraków.
- TOČÍK, A. 1951: Výskum v Čake na Slovensku. *Arch. Rozhledy*, 3, 158-160.
- UŠIAK, P. - KOLNÍKOVÁ, E. 2002: Nový nález rímskych mincí zo Seliec-Hrádku. *AVANS* 2001, 218-219.

NIEKOĽKO POZNÁMOK K VÝSKYTU RÍMSKÝCH MINCÍ NA POHRONÍ A POIPLÍ (súhrn)

Región Pohronia a Poiplia sa vyznačuje nahromadením rímskych mincí v troch časových úsekoch: 1. okolo polovice 2. stor. po Kr.; 2. v 2. pol. 3. stor. po Kr.; 3. v 1. polovici 4. stor. po Kr. Najpočetnejšie sú tu zastúpené na jednej strane mince Hadriána, Antonina Pia, Marka Aurélie, Kommoda, na druhej strane Gordiana III., Filipa I. Araba a Konštantína I. Medzi málo početnými nálezmi mincí z germánskych osád sa vyskytujú napr. mince Antonina Pia a Marka Aurélie. Kým výskyt emisií Antonina Pia, Marka Aurélie a Kommoda môžeme spájať s udalosťami okolo markomanských vojen, tak emisie Gordiana III., Filipa I. Araba a Konštantína pravdepodobne odrážajú obdobie sociálno-ekonomickej stability. Z pohľadu nominálnej hodnoty mincí na analyzovanom území prevládajú denáre, potom sestercie, asy a antoniniány.

Na Pohroní a Poiplí sa mince, ako aj iné importy, koncentrujú v troch zónach výskytu: 1. dolné Pohronie a Poiplie; 2. stredné Pohronie a Poiplie; 3. Horehronie (príp. horné Poiplie). Geografické danosti terénu predurčovali aj smer obchodných ciest. Tie viedli pozdĺž tokov Hrona a Ipľa, a medzi nimi (v strednej časti tokov) pozdĺž riek Krupinica a Neresnica. Popri rieke Krupinici možno sledovať jedinú prístupovú cestu do stredoslovenskej banskej oblasti, ktorá slúžila obchodným účelom. Určite mala staršie korene, avšak stav výskumu nedovoľuje dôkladne rekonštruovať jej trasu v dobe rímskej. Na základe zmapovania rímskych importov jej priebeh možno predpokladať na trase: Aquincum – stredné Poiplie – povodie Krupinice – povodie Neresnice – mikroregión Zvolena – horské priesmyky Nízkych Tatier – Orava – Krakovsko. Ďalšia významná obchodná cesta viedla pozdĺž Hrona a spájala juhozápadné Slovensko s regiónom Spiša. Rovnako ako v prípade predchádzajúcej, aj túto trasu vytyčujú nálezy rímskych mincí.

Hromadný nález denárov z doby vlády Marka Aurelia zo Seliec-Hrádku a spoluobjavené dve strieborné spony typické pre časnú fázu doby sťahovania národov však naznačujú, že mince z 2. stor. po Kr. boli v tejto časti barbarika používané dlhú dobu.



- - settlement
- + - burial ground
- - coins from detected and presumptive settlement structures
- ◆ - coins without direct archaeological context
- ★ - treasure
- - Roman military fort