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New Greek, Macedonian and Roman coin discoveries from the "Platou Est" sector at Histria (Romania)

Gabriel Mircea TALMAȚCHI*,
și Adam RABINOWITZ**

Introduction

Archaeological research at the site of Histria/Istros began in 1914 and has continued almost uninterrupted since then[1]. The bulk of this research has focused on the area of the city that was occupied earliest and persisted the longest, the so-called "Acropolis". The earliest evidence for activity on this elevated schist outcrop dates to the second half of the 7th century BC, while the final period of occupation lasts into the beginning of the 7th century AD. The Late Antique walls that surround the Acropolis have produced a rich epigraphic record for the site, and excavations in the main urban sanctuary, the early Roman residential areas buried by the later walls, the baths, and the Late Antique residential neighbourhood known as the "Domus sector" provide us with an extensive numismatic assemblage spanning the whole history of currency at Histria.

The area known as the "Plateau" – the "lower city" of Histria, located across the probable inner harbour on a sandy paleo-shore closer to the mainland – has received somewhat less attention from researchers. Intermittent excavations starting shortly after World War II, however, have uncovered evidence for the Archaic and Classical defensive wall circuits, Classical and Hellenistic kilns and pottery workshops, and an Archaic and a Hellenistic residential area, in addition to explorations of the visible remains of the new Roman city wall of the 1st/2nd century AD[2]. These excavations have often incidentally

* Museum of National History and Archaeology, Constanța; Doctoral School of History, "Ovidius" University, Constanța; gtalmatchi@yahoo.com

** Department of Classics and Institute of Classical Archaeology, The University of Texas at Austin, USA; arabinow@utexas.edu

[1] Herodotus calls the site Istrie, as do the coin legends of the Classical period. Both the city and the mint are also frequently referred to in ancient sources and modern scholarship as Istrus or Istros (for example, the mint is identified as "Istrus" in the nomisma.org numismatic schema: https://nomisma.org/id/istrus). Here we use "Histria", the name preferred by the publication series and adopted by the Histria Multiscalar Archaeological Project, to refer to the modern archaeological site and "Istros" to refer to the early polis and mint.

[2] E. Condurachi *et al*., *Histria I*, București, 1954; E. Condurachi *et al*., *Șantierul arheologic Histria*, MCA, 4, 1, 1957, p. 9-101; D. Pippidi *et al*., *Raport asupra activității șantierului Histria în campania 1956*, MCA, 5, 1959, p. 283-328; E. Condurachi *et al*., *Șantierul Histria*, MCA, 6, 1959, p. 265-306; E. Condurachi *et al*., *Șantierul arheologic Histria*, MCA, 7, 1961, p. 227-271; E. Condurachi *et al*., *Șantierul Histria*, MCA, 8, 1962, p. 383-438; M. Coja, *Activitatea meșteșugărească la Histria în sec. VI-I î.e.n.*, SCIV, 13, 1, 1962, p. 19-46; M. Coja, *Zidul de apărare al cetății Histria și împrejurările istorice ale distrugerii lui în secolul al IV-lea î.e.n.*, SCIV, 15, 3, 1964, p. 383-400; S. Dimitriu, *Cartierul de locuințe din zona de vest a cetății, în epoca arhaică. Săpături 1955-1960*, in E. Condurachi (ed.), *Histria II*, București, 1966, p. 19-132; E. Condurachi

revealed an inhumation necropolis covering the entire Plateau, in use from the period of the construction of the Roman city wall until at least the 6th century AD[3]. The earliest remains from the Plateau date to the end of the 7th century BC, and here, too, the numismatic finds span the 1200-year period from the earliest settlement to the last burials. The coins found on the Plateau between 1914 and 1970 were included among the numismatic material published by Preda and Nubar in *Histria III* in 1973[4]. This record has been supplemented on an occasional basis with material from later excavations[5], but the picture remains largely consistent. The earliest material is composed of cast bronze monetary signs of the arrowhead/leaf type from the later 6th century BC, followed by small cast bronze coins with a wheel on the obverse and the famous series of silver drachms and didrachms with juxtaposed heads, dating across the 5th and into the 4th century BC. From the 4th century to the late Hellenistic period, there is a wider range of small struck bronzes from both Histria and other Greek cities in the west Pontic region, followed in the Roman period by bronze coins and the occasional silver or plated denarii.

What is missing from this general picture is a close consideration of stratigraphic context. While some previous publications note coins or tokens as dating material in connection with specific deposits or structures[6], coins from excavations on the Plateau were usually presented in their numismatic context, rather than in connection with stratigraphy. This is due at least in part to the difficult and confused stratigraphy of the Plateau, where structures of very different periods are superposed and most deposits are riddled with pits and holes created by both human and natural agents. Nevertheless, methodical stratigraphic excavation and careful recording of finds by stratigraphic units can enrich the chronological and historical implications of the numismatic assemblage. This article presents a small group of coins recovered under such circumstances in the central-eastern area of the Plateau during a series of field campaigns of the Histria Multiscalar Archaeological Project between 2018 and 2023.

The Histria Multiscalar Archaeological Project (HMAP) was established as a formal collaboration between the Department of Classics and Institute of Classical Archaeology at The University of Texas at Austin and the Institute of Archaeology "Vasile Pârvan" in Bucharest (Romanian Academy), under the co-direction of Adam Rabinowitz (UT Austin) and Iulian Bîrzescu (IAB). The initial goal of HMAP was to explore the suitability of unexcavated areas on the Plateau (Platou Est sector) for the application of geophysical prospection and environmental archaeological methods. By assessing the results of geophysical work and the preservation of organic remains (of plants, animals, and humans), and by subjecting samples of some of those remains to various forms of archaeometric analysis, HMAP's initial five-year programme was intended to form the basis for a longer-term collaboration focused on human-environment interactions at the site and in its agricultural territory across more than a thousand years of its history.

The project's first season in 2018 therefore focused on the testing of magnetometric survey on the Plateau, in the course of which about 1.4 hectares were surveyed and four 2x2m test trenches were excavated to ground-truth the magnetic anomalies identified by the survey (test trenches 1-4, coded

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et al., *Şantierul arheologic Histria*, MCA, 9, 1970, p. 177-223; S. Dimitriu, *Fizionomia cartierului de locuințe extra muros de la Histria în perioada arhaică*, SCIV, 21, 2, 1970, p. 225-233; M. Coja, P. Dupont, *Histria V. Les résultats des fouilles. Ateliers céramiques*, București, 1979; P. Dupont *et al*., *Les enceintes grecques d'Histria: vers une nouvelle approche?*, in Religions du Pont-Euxine, Actes du VIIIe Symposium de Vani (Colchide), 1997, Besançon, 1999, p. 37-52. For a thorough overview of the activities carried out on the Plateau from 1914-2018, see M. Angelescu, *Histria. Cent campagnes archéologiques*, Saarbrücken, 2019.

[3] For a comprehensive summary of the evidence for this necropolis, see C. Crețu, *Practici funerare în mormintele de epocă romană și romano-bizantină de la Histria (secolele II-VII p. Chr.)*, Cluj-Napoca, 2022.

[4] C. Preda, H. Nubar, *Histria III. Descoperiri monetare 1914-1970*, București, 1973.

[5] E.g. G. Talmațchi, *Descoperiri monetare autohtone la Histria*, Peuce (serie nouă), 1, 1, 2003, p. 267-282.

[6] E.g. *Histria I*, p. 209, where a coin of Licinius, dating to the 310s and found in the mortar of a platform, is taken as a *terminus post quem* for the feature.

as TT1, TT2, etc.)[7]. Two of these test trenches (TT1 and TT3) revealed features that invited further exploration: a road leading to the south gate in the Early Roman defensive wall (early 2nd century AD), and a Classical or Hellenistic pottery kiln under a burial belonging to the Roman-period necropolis, respectively. Excavations in 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023 concentrated on these two features, which gave their names in turn to the trenches excavated around them: the Kiln Trench (KT, a designation that superseded TT3), which reached dimensions of 7.25x9m and up to 2m in depth at its full extent, and the Road Trench (RT, a designation that superseded TT1), a more modest intervention 1.75m wide, 7m long, and up to 1.6m deep. The coins catalogued in this article come from all of these trenches and represent the entire numismatic record recovered in the course of HMAP's excavations, with the exception of five coins found too late in the final season to be consigned to the National Museum of Archaeology in Constanța for conservation and study (**Fig. 1**).

Numismatic commentary

The five archaeological excavation campaigns in the sector yielded a total of 37 monetary signs and coins, of which 4 specimens were found in 2018, 7 specimens in 2019, 9 specimens in 2021, 6 specimens in 2022, and 11 specimens in 2023 (five of the latter are included in our statistics and general discussion but not in the catalogue). The coins from 2018 include three pieces struck at Istros (two with countermarks and one of the Helios type) and one countermarked but illegible example. The pieces from 2019 belong to Istros (2 monetary signs of the arrowhead/leaf type, 2 coins of the "four-spoked wheel" type, and one coin of the "River God" type), Olbia (the "Great God Borysthenes" type), and the Roman Empire (a denarius specific to the Antonine dynasty). The 2021 campaign produced monetary signs and coins issued by Olbia (2 Olbian dolphins), Istros (three specimens of the "four-spoked wheel" type), Macedonia (for Philip II), and the Roman Empire (for the emperors Valens/Valentinianus), as well as two more illegible pieces. The assemblage from the 2022 season comprises 6 specimens: one monetary sign of the arrowhead/leaf type, three coins issued by Istros (2 of the "four-spoked wheel" type and one of the "Helios" type), one coin of Macedonia (Philip II), and one illegible coin. Finally, the 2023 archaeological campaign yielded 6 catalogued coins, 4 of which were cast and struck at Istros (2 pieces of the "four-spoked wheel" type, one of the bronze "Apollo" type, and one silver plated obol of the "Apollo" type with juxtaposed heads), one of which was struck at an unidentified provincial mint of the Roman Empire (for Caracalla or Geta), and one of which was illegible. The five uncatalogued bronze coins from the 2023 campaign, identified from photos and drawings made before they were cleaned, consist of one arrowhead/leaf monetary sign and four probable cast wheel coins, one of which appears to have been pierced for suspension.

In summary, there are 6 monetary signs, of which 4 are arrowhead/leaf types and 2 are dolphins, representing 16.2% of the total; 20 pre-Roman coins minted at Istros, of which 13 are of the "four-spoked wheel" type, one of the "River God" type, 2 of the "Helios" type, one bronze "Apollo," one silver "Apollo" type, and two countermarked, representing 54.1% of the total; two pieces from Macedonia struck for King Philip II (5.41 % of the total); one from Olbia of the "Great God Borysthenes" type (2.7% of the total); three coins of the Roman Empire for the Antonine dynasty, Caracalla or Geta, and Valens/Valentinianus (8.11% of the total); and five illegible coins, one of which is countermarked (13.51% of the total).

The earliest numismatic finds are the six monetary signs. Two categories are present, both of which are also the most important and numerous in the discoveries known in the area: those variously designated as arrowheads/laurel leaves/olive leaves/grains (numbers 5, 6, 21, and one uncatalogued piece) and the

[7] This work was carried out by Dr. Patricia Neuhoff-Malorzo, using a Foerster Ferex 4.032 fluxgate gradiometer with a data recorder. Data were processed in the field with the Surfer software package and then reprocessed after the season with Terrasurveyor package.

Olbian dolphins (numbers 12 and 13). The monetary signs presented in this article are creations of the Greek environment specific to the western and northwestern Black Sea area. They never embodied all the characteristics and functions that coinage would later have in the Greek world. Nevertheless, they were a key element in an early stage of exchange relations between the Greeks and the local populations, probably the main ethnic actors present in Dobruja in the 6th-5th centuries BC, when both parties sought reciprocal economic and commercial benefits[8]. They reflected the structural changes in the economy of the Greek centres on the Black Sea coast and their immediate surroundings, and, from the first part of the 5th century BC, also among local groups who lived in peripheral areas at a considerable distance from the minting centres. More than 50 years ago, in their analyses of the complex process of contacts between the indigenous populations and the Greeks, scholars identified a first stage of these relations, starting with product-for-product exchanges (barter) and ending with the appearance of monetary signs[9]. These monetary signs, whether from the category known as arrowheads/leaves or from that of the Olbian dolphins, are present in a multitude of archaeological contexts, especially in the agricultural territories outside the urban centres of the early settlements and near the more distant fortified or open residential centres of the local population. From a chronological, typological, and functional point of view, they represent a distinct chapter of general numismatics specific to the Greek world of the 6th-5th centuries BC, particularly within the western basin of the Pontos Euxeinos[10].

We begin the presentation of Istros' coinage in the catalogue with the coins of the "four-spoked wheel" type: nine such specimens enumerated in the catalogue and another four probable specimens uncatalogued. As one of the authors has observed in a recent article[11], consideration of the typological dimension of these coins is an important first step toward resolving several issues regarding the type – issues with direct implications for the phasing of these coins and for the correlation of the monetary chronology with the archaeological context. Constantin Preda arranged this coin type into five series, primarily according to typological features and less according to denomination ("from a weight perspective, we cannot establish a clear demarcation from one group to another")[12]. In this work, he drew attention to the difficulty of the endeavour, since the coins were highly diverse, to which must be added the fact that "there are no fixed boundaries between these groups." Thus, he faced numerous difficulties in cataloguing the coins, as the method of classification was "somewhat arbitrary." Later, Gheorghe Poenaru Bordea proposed, as a working hypothesis, the existence of successive series for this coin type, with parallel denominations[13].

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[8] G. Talmațchi, *Semne monetare din aria de vest și nord-vest a Pontului Euxin. De la simbol la comerț (secolele VI-V a.Chr.)*, Cluj-Napoca, 2010, p. 75.

[9] B. Mitrea, *Sur les monnaies des cités pontiques découvertes sur le territoire des populations locales*, Studii Clasice, 3, 1961, p. 84.

[10] On the monetary character of the two categories of monetary signs, see also D. Christov, *The Chronology of Arrowhead and Dolphin-Shaped Monetary Signs from Berezan*, in G. R. Tsetskhladze, S. Atasoy (eds.), *Settlements and Necropoleis of the Black Sea and its Hinterland in Antiquity*, selected papers from the third international conference „The Black Sea in Antiquity and Tekkeköy: An Ancient Settlement on the Southern Black Sea Coast, 27-29 October 2017, Tekkeköy, Samsun, Oxford, 2019, p. 99-107.

[11] G. Talmațchi, *Din nou despre activitatea monetăriei histriene în perioada preromană*, in G. Nuțu, S.-C. Ailincăi, C. Micu (eds.), *Omul, fluviul și marea: studii de arheologie și istorie în onoarea lui Florin Topoleanu la a 65-a aniversare*, Cluj-Napoca, 2017, p. 400-402.

[12] "Therefore, it is necessary, when working with the scheme of the five groups or making assessments about it, to take into account the drawbacks that such a classification presents": C. Preda, H. Nubar, 1973, *op. cit.*, p. 34.

[13] Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *Emisiunile monetare din atelierele grecești de pe litoralul românesc al Mării Negre (sec. VI î. Hr.-III). Un stadiu al problemei*, în *130 de ani de la crearea sistemului monetar românesc modern*, București, 1997, p. 57.

In a recent revision of this typology[14], several successive main series within the general "wheel" type, initially cast and later struck at Istros, have been differentiated on the basis of the manner of preparing the flans, the way the wheel and the legend were executed, and the overall style and technique of manufacture. We can note, in this sense, an early cast series in which the coins have small diameters and retain numerous irregular casting residues around the edges of the pieces, resulting from the pouring of molten metal into moulds; clearly, there was no interest in removing these excesses. Moreover, the letters are rendered in a rather archaic form. The weights of these specimens are also low (as in the 5 examples from the catalogue: numbers 7, 15, 22, 23, and 28). This is followed by a second cast series consisting of coins with mostly cleaned flans, though still preserving small remnants of the casting sprue; the legend on the reverse is not properly centred, oscillating in its placement within the monetary field (as in the 3 examples from the catalogue: numbers 8, 14, and 27). The third cast series, the last before the fully struck issues, comprises coins of larger module that may retain a very narrow remnant of the casting sprue, but the overall impression is that the artistic and technical quality of this coinage is far superior to the earlier series. The legend is very clear, carefully executed, and "linear," most often placed centrally (as in the one example from the catalogue, number 16). Until recently, differences in the rendering of letters in the legend were regarded as "engravers' spelling mistakes" or "imperfections of the casting process"[15], but we take these as a chronological indicator instead. The coins of the third series are of a higher denomination and have higher weights on average than those of the first two series. Such specimens were cast and ultimately struck at the local mint during the period 480-ca. 360/350 BC.

Of the "River God Istros" type, only a single specimen from the second monetary series is present (number 9). This type introduced the numerous iconographic varieties at Istros following the "four-spoked wheel" issues and were struck over a long period.

The "Apollo" type struck at Istros on bronze flans displayed a significant variety of series, which, over time, underwent iconographic changes in certain rendering details. Apollo is attested at Istros[16] under two epithets, *Iatros*[17] and *Pholeuterios*[18]. As the patron deity of the city, he was worshipped from the last decades of the 7th century BC[19], and a temple within the city was dedicated to him, as were numerous dedications, attested on various occasions in the 4th century BC and throughout the Hellenistic period[20]. His priest was the city's eponymous official. Two decades ago, based on several arguments, it was proposed that Temple A', discovered in the sacred area of the city, should be considered the sanctuary of the god Apollo[21]. A marble base of a statue of Apollo was also discovered at Histria[22], along with a 2nd-century BC dedication to Apollo *Bores* (Boreas)[23]. In addition, recognition of the presence of this cult in the city is confirmed by a dedication discovered at Olbia, which recounts an offering made by an Olbian to Apollo of Istros[24].

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[14] G. Talmațchi, *op. cit.,* p. 400-402.

[15] C. Preda, H. Nubar, 1973, *op. cit.*, p. 33.

[16] D. M. Pippidi, À propos du culte d'Apollon à Istros, Στήλη: τόμος εις μνήμην Νικολάου Κοντολέοντος, Athena, 1978, p. 40-43.

[17] M. F. Lambrino, *Les vases archaiques d' Histria*, București, 1938, p. 356, 358; I. Stoian, *În legătură cu eponimatul la Tomis*, SCIV, 11, 2, 1960, p. 309.

[18] Al. Ștefan, *Apollon*, in C. Preda, P. Alexandrescu (eds.), *Enciclopedia Arheologiei și Istoriei Vechi a României*, I, A-C, București, 1994, p. 80-81.

[19] P. Alexandrescu, *La destruction d'Istros par les Gètes. I. Dossier archéologique*, Il Mar Nero, 1, 1994, p. 179.

[20] D. M. Pippidi, *Decrete elenistice din Histria*, Studii Clasice, 7, 1965, p. 183-185, nr. 3.

[21] P. Alexandrescu, *Histria VII. La zone sacrée d`époque grecque (fouilles 1915-1989)*, București, 2005, p. 83-84.

[22] D. M. Pippidi, *Parerga. Ecrits de Philologie, d`Epigraphie et d`Histoire ancienne*, București-Paris, 1984, p. 128.

[23] I. Bîrzescu, *Histria. Graffiti din „zona sacră". Dedicații către divinități*, SCIVA, 54-56, 2003-2005, p. 209.

[24] P. Alexandrescu, *op. cit.*, p. 90-91.

The only specimen in this assemblage of the Apollo types usually struck in silver is a plated fraction of the Istrian drachm (number 29), judging by its weight, it could be classified as an obol. What stands out as a rarity is the practice of covering a bronze flan with a thin silver coating, even in the case of fractions of the Istrian drachm. At present, the coin has completely lost the silver coating that once covered the base metal. From an iconographic point of view, it appears to be a specimen struck before the fourth series of the Istros mint, which began of the period 340-240 BC[25].

Two other specimens from the mint at Istros belong to the "Helios" type (numbers 1 and 24), a type that was struck in relatively small numbers compared to the "Apollo" or "River God Istros" types. The representation on the coins of Istros has been linked to a colossal cult statue in marble of the same divinity, discovered in the city[26]. Stylistically, the sculpture corresponds to the unquestionable artistic quality manifested by representatives of the Rhodian school during the 3rd century BC. More recently, another chronological interval has been proposed for dating the colossal head of the statue, namely the end of the 2nd century or the beginning of the 1st century BC. Arguments in favour of this dating consider it to be closer to the portraiture associated with Alexander the Great[27] or suggest its reinterpretation as part of a statue representing Mithridates personified as Dionysos[28]. An older opinion even argued that no cult of Helios ever existed at Istros[29]. We cannot know for certain whether a cult of this god was permanently established at Istros[30], but neither can we exclude the possibility of its practice and presence in the city, at least on the basis of the monetary evidence. In our view, it is quite possible that a cult of this deity was present at Istros and was particularly favoured there around the year 250 BC[31].

Two specimens bearing countermarks (numbers 3 and 30) appear to belong to the mint at Istros (although number 3 may belong to the mint at Tomis). Another otherwise illegible example (number 4) also seems to bear a countermark. Within the mints of the western Pontos Euxeinos, the technique of countermarking was commonly practised as part of a succession of monetary reforms in the Late Hellenistic period. It is possible to identify at least two periods of countermarking during the 2nd-1st centuries BC, though it is difficult to specify the exact chronological sequence[32]. The use of this technique reveals that the cities were no longer able to procure sufficient metal resources to strike new coins to support local economic and commercial exchange, and found it easier and cheaper simply to re-certify the older coins that were still circulating with countermarks. The reuse of monetary pieces issued 100-200 years earlier, through the method of countermarking, was the only option left to the local authorities, with only a few exceptions. This reflects a general economic and monetary crisis affecting the Greek world in the northwestern and western Black Sea during this later chronological interval.

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[25] M. Dima, *Despre cele mai timpurii monede de tip Apollo emise la Istros (sec. al IV-lea a.Chr.)*, RCAN, 4, 2018, p. 239-253; idem, *The silver coinage of Istros during the Hellenistic period*, Wetteren, 2014, p. 24-26.

[26] G. Bordenache, *Histria alla luce del suo materiale scultoreo*, Dacia, N.S., 5, 1961, p. 195-197.

[27] D. M. Pippidi, *Studii de Istorie și Epigrafie*, București, 1988, p. 96.

[28] F. Panait-Bîrzescu, *Cele mai timpurii monede histriene de argint. Considerații stilistice și iconografice*, SCIVA, 54-56, 2003-2005, p. 217.

[29] M. Alexandrescu-Vianu, *Une alternative à l'identification de la statue colossale d'Istros*, in Al. Avram, M. Babeș (eds.), *Civilisation grecque et cultures antiques périphériques, Hommages à Petre Alexandrescu à son 70e anniversaire*, București, 2000, p. 274-281.

[30] R. Netzhammer, *Der Sonnengott in Istros*, BSNR, 27-28, 1933-1934, 81-82, p. 123-124.

[31] G. Talmațchi, *Monnaies et divinités. Remarques sur le culte d'Hélios à Istros à la basse époque hellénistique*, in V. Cojocaru, L. Ruscu, Th. Castelli, A-I. Pázsint (eds.), *Advances in Ancient Black Sea Studies: Historiography, Archaeology and Religion. The Proceedings of the International Symposium, Constanța, August 20-24, 2018*, Pontica et Mediterranea VIII, Cluj-Napoca, 2019, p. 587-599.

[32] Idem, *Monetăriile orașelor vest-pontice Histria, Callatis și Tomis în epoca autonomă. Iconografie, Legendă, Metrologie, Cronologie și Contramarcare*, Cluj-Napoca, 2011, p. 582.

A new connection with Olbia, after the dolphins, is represented by a specimen of the "Great God Borysthenes" type (number 10). Such examples are already known from discoveries in the Istro-Pontic territory and are understood to reflect the presence of Olbian merchants engaged in trade along the coastal zone toward the end of the 4th and the beginning of the 3rd century BC[33]. It may have made its way to Histria in the purse of one of the human agents circulating by ship within the western Black Sea basin in this period.

The last pre-Roman coins are two specimens struck in anonymous Macedonian mints for King Philip II (numbers 17 and 25). These coin issues may be contemporary with Philip II (359-336 BC) or posthumous. Their state of preservation deprives us of further details of interest, as it can be observed with most such specimens discovered on other occasions during systematic archaeological excavations at Histria[34]. The presence of monetary evidence specific to the Macedonian kingdom in the Istro-Pontic territory remains a significant constant in both archaeological and chance finds. The appearance of these coins, especially in the coastal area, can be attributed to the military involvement of the Kingdom of Macedonia in the Balkan Peninsula, in the context of ensuring the security of the Greek colonies located along the western Black Sea. These coins were used in trade exchanges and benefited, in their circulation process, from favourable political, administrative, and military conditions[35]. The military campaigns initiated by Philip II and Alexander the Great in the second half of the 4th century BC brought the Macedonian kingdom's borders significantly closer to Dobruja through the conquest of Eastern Thrace and its transformation into a province. Under Macedonian military protection, by the end of the 4th century BC, Istros and Callatis had reached a peak of economic and commercial development that they would not achieve again until the Roman conquest (the peak of Tomis came somewhat later, during the 3rd century).

For the Roman Imperial period, the catalogue includes three specimens: one struck for the Antonine dynasty (number 11, a plated denarius), one for Caracalla or Geta (number 31, a bronze *assarion*), and one for Valens/Valentinianus (number 18). The denarius is the earliest coin; it seems to belong to the issues corresponding to the Antonine period, after 138 AD and before the end of the 2nd century AD. The second specimen in chronological terms is an *assarion* struck for Caracalla or Geta, in a Thracian mint during the years 198-211 AD. Its state of preservation and the absence of visible legends are among the reasons guiding us toward a more general identification. The coin of Valens/Valentinianus, of the type GLORIA RO-MANORVM, from an unknown mint (probably eastern), struck between 364-375 AD, closes our short list of coins specific to the Roman Empire. Numerous Roman Imperial specimens (2nd-4th centuries AD) from systematic archaeological excavations at Histria have been published[36], and the pieces in our catalogue discreetly complete the known numismatic picture.

Finally, due to their very poor state of preservation, we conclude our commentary with five bronze specimens (numbers 2, 19, 20, 26, and 32) discovered during the archaeological campaigns of 2021, 2022, and 2023, which we have placed in the category of illegible coins.

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[33] Idem, *Les Monnaies autonomes d'Istros, Callatis et Tomis. Circulation et contexte*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 51; idem, *The Mints' issues from the Black Sea coast and other areas of Dobrudja: the Pre-Roman and early Roman periods (6th Century BC-1st Century AD)*, series "Coins from Roman Sites and Collections of Roman Coins from Romania", Cluj-Napoca, 2007, p. 15-16.

[34] C. Preda, H. Nubar, 1973, *op. cit.*, p. 51-53, 139-150.

[35] G. Talmațchi, *Aspecte ale difuziunii monedelor macedonene în nord-estul Thraciei (Dobrogea) prin intermediul noilor descoperiri*, SCN, IX-XIV (XXI-XXVI), 2018-2023 (2023), p. 185.

[36] C. Preda, H. Nubar, *op. cit.*, p. 58-75 and 157-194; Th. Isvoranu, M. Dabîca, *Coin finds in the southern area of Histria*, MCA (serie nouă), 10, 2014, p. 160-164; Th. Isvoranu, M. Dabîca, *Descoperiri monetare la Histria-Sectorul Sud (2013–2017)*, MCA (serie nouă), 14, 2018, p. 212-219; A. Vîlcu, A. Țârlea, V.-V. Bottez, *Recent numismatic finds of Greek and Roman periods from Histria (Romania)*, Bulgarian Numismatic Journal Supplementary Series, 1, 2025, p. 337-345 etc.

Stratigraphic context

Two of the coins in the catalogue were recovered from TT2 and TT4 (numbers 4 and 1, respectively). TT4 was almost certainly located in a spoil deposit associated with a trench excavated in the S sector during the field season of 1969.[37] Number 1 is from one of those spoil layers and therefore offers no contextual information, though the dating of this coin is consistent with the Late Hellenistic dates of a series of terracotta figurines found in the same layers.[38] TT2 similarly lacked decipherable stratigraphy: it had no clear features, other than a ground-squirrel burrow, although the ceramic material recovered suggests activity in the Hellenistic period. Sadly, the condition of Number 4 does not permit any chronological inferences, though if it does indeed bear a countermark, it is likely to have been deposited in or after the Late Hellenistic period. Numbers 2 and 3, from TT1 and TT3, respectively, were also poorly preserved, but the information they did provide was consistent with the stratigraphic and chronological contexts we subsequently uncovered in those areas. Number 2 was found corroded onto a stone from the final surface (TT1_005)[39] of the road to the southern gate in the Early Roman defensive wall, which seems to have been in service at least into the 4th or 5th century AD. Number 3 was found in an abandonment layer (TT3_003) above the pottery kiln, and its date in the last two centuries BC corresponds to one of the major phases of activity in this area after the kiln had gone out of use but before the Plateau became a necropolis.

The Road Trench (RT) was excavated in 2019 and 2023 and was intended to define the width of the road whose surface had been revealed in TT1 and identify the chronology of its construction and use. Unfortunately, most of the coins from this trench were either illegible or not *in situ* (**Fig. 2**). The Antonine *fourrée* denarius (number 11), however, was found in the abandonment layer over the road (RT_003), supporting the idea that the road was in use in the Roman period. Even more useful for interpretation is the obol (number 29), which was probably in primary deposition. This coin, dated in the 4th century BC, but before 340-330 BC was found just below the earliest road subsurface, at the top of the uppermost layer of fill deposited during the road's initial construction (RT_023). Its dating is consistent with the strongly Late Classical/Early Hellenistic character of the amphora fragments from the layers just above and below; with dated amphora stamps from various layers in this trench, most of which cluster around the late 4th or early 3rd century BC[40]; and with a terracotta protome, found in a lower fill layer (RT_024) and dated on stylistic grounds to the Early Hellenistic period[41]. Number 29 therefore contributes to a strong case for the initial construction of the road toward the end of the 4th century BC, during the period of economic growth under Macedonian rule mentioned above. The remaining datable coins, all in secondary deposition, may reflect activity in this area in the Classical (number 28 and one of the uncatalogued coins from 2023), Late Classical (number 9), and Early Hellenistic (number 30) periods.

The Kiln Trench (KT) produced a larger number of coins, but it was similarly lacked finds in primary deposition. The only primary deposits in this trench were the kiln itself; a midden associated with, or formed soon after the abandonment of, the kiln (KT_080); and a series of Roman burials that cut through the kiln, the midden, and other layers in the trench (**Fig. 3**). All of the other stratigraphic units excavated in this trench were fills of pits – deposited, to judge from the latest datable ceramic material, between

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[37] C. Domăneanțu, *Histria XI. Les bols hellénistiques à décor en relief*, București, 2000, plan 1, shows this trench as "Sc". M. Angelescu, in his account of the history of excavation at Histria, notes that the Sc section was excavated in 1969, see M. Angelescu, *op. cit.*, p. 106-107, 110.

[38] T. Shevchenko, forthcoming.

[39] Stratigraphic units are identified here by an alphanumeric trench designation followed by a three-digit number, to create unique codes for the stratigraphic sequence in each trench.

[40] T. Castelli, forthcoming.

[41] T. Shevchenko, unpublished catalogue.

the 2nd century BC and the early 1st century AD – or other intrusions of various sorts, including substantial disturbance by both ancient and modern burrows of European ground squirrels (*Spermophilus citellus*). The kiln provided no dating material of any sort, but its structure and size are analogous to some of the Classical kilns excavated by Maria Coja at the western edge of the Plateau.[42] The midden layer provided extensive datable ceramic material and amphora stamps, all of which also suggest a formation date in the middle decades of the 4th century BC – but no coins. Only two of the coins from KT seem to have been found *in situ*, and both are associated with Roman-period funerary activity. One (number 18) was found in a layer of amphora fragments and animal bones (KT_011) that may represent rituals carried out in association with repeated burials in the largest of the Roman graves (tomb 6). This coin of Valens/Valentinianus, dated to 364-375 AD, corresponds chronologically to the later burials in tomb 6, which have been dated by radiocarbon analysis to the mid-4th century AD. The other coin found in primary deposition, the *assarion* of Caracalla or Geta, dated 198-211 AD (number 31), was associated with a line of horizontal stone slabs located next to the kiln at the deepest level of the trench. This enigmatic feature was left unexcavated at the end of the final campaign, but on the basis of this coin, which matches the radiocarbon dating of several earlier burials in KT, it is likely that it covers one of the earlier Roman-period graves in this part of the necropolis.

The remaining coins from KT are all from disturbed contexts, some of which are fills of Late Hellenistic pits and the rest of which are fills of the Roman-period tombs and their construction trenches. The coins from some of the tomb fills almost certainly reflect the period of the formation of the midden (visible in section in the pit cut to re-open tomb 6 repeatedly for new depositions) and – along with a few fragments of Attic black- and red-figure pottery – a period of activity in this area between the late 6th and late 5th centuries BC (**Fig. 4**). An Archaic arrowhead/leaf monetary sign (number 5) and two Olbian dolphins of the 5th century BC (numbers 12 and 13) found in fills associated with tomb 6 (foundation trench fill KT_050 and access pit fill KT_031, respectively) may be associated with this early activity, as may an uncatalogued arrowhead/leaf monetary sign found in the lower layers of disturbed stratigraphy at the southeast corner of KT. A larger group of wheel coins minted at Istros, distributed haphazardly across the secondary deposits in the trench, can be connected with the timespan in the 5th-4th centuries BC when the kiln was active and the midden was being formed (numbers 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, and 27, as well as three uncatalogued coins). The frequency of these coins in a relatively small area suggests an active monetised economy during this period.

A few coins found in pit and tomb fills (and one unstratified coin) offer a more precise chronology: two Macedonian issues date to the reign of Philip II of Macedon or shortly thereafter (number 17, in KT_053, the fill of tomb 6, and number 25, in pit fill KT_096), an Olbian bronze dates to the late 4th or 3rd century BC (number 10, unstratified), and a local coin with the radiate head of Helios was issued no earlier than the last few years of the 4th century and no later than the early 1st century BC (number 24, in pit fill KT_076). These coins seem to represent the boundary between the use-life of the kiln and midden and the harder-to-interpret phase of activity that followed: both the stratigraphy and the other datable finds indicate that there was a major interruption of life in this part of the Plateau at some point in the second half of the 4th century BC, and a resumption of activities of a different sort around the end of the century, perhaps including the construction of a new road system on the Plateau.

The remaining coins from KT (numbers 19, 20, 26, and 32) are all from disturbed contexts and are illegible, and thus provide no additional information about the chronology of the features in the trench or about broader historical trends at Histria. Number 19 is from the fill of tomb 6 (KT_053); number

[42] Kilns 2/1973 (dated to the end of the 5th/beginning of the 4th c. BC) and 3/1957 (dated to the first half of the 4th c. BC), both of Coja's type 1c; see M. Coja, P. Dupont, *Histria V. Les résultats des fouilles...,* p. 20-21, 22-23, 36.

20 is from a mixed deposit of the Roman period just south of tomb 6 (KT_012); number 26 is from the plough zone (KT_002) and number 32 is from the same fill that produced the Severan coin of Caracalla or Geta mentioned above (KT_130).

Conclusions

The present numismatic discoveries add to both older and more recent lots published from Histria. The publication of such finds is absolutely necessary in order to make full use of the existing numismatic documentation and to contribute to a better understanding of the political and military events, as well as the economic and monetary phenomena, that took place at Histria during its Greek and Roman phases of existence. The study of the presence of Macedonian coinage, for example, can continue to provide new and relevant information about the situation in northeastern Thrace during the period of Macedonian domination. Macedonian coins played an important role in the development of local economic and commercial markets – particularly those of the Greek *poleis* – and in establishing commercial contacts with centres in the core zones of the Macedonian kingdom across several phases of Macedonian expansion.

The discussion of these finds in their stratigraphic context is equally important. While the stratigraphic situation on the Plateau is not well-suited for the refinement of the chronology of typological series like that of the wheel coins, the combination of the few coins that were found in primary deposition with other absolute and relative dating evidence makes the chronology of human activity in this area much clearer. For example, the coins from the Road Trench, when combined with finds such as the terracotta protome fragment and amphora sherds and stamps, strongly suggest that the road that leads to the south gate in the Early Roman defensive wall was not constructed before the second half of the 4th century BC, but that it was constructed no later than the Hellenistic period, well before the Early Roman wall was built (and thus the position of that gate was dictated by an existing street network, rather than setting the orientation of a new street). Along the same lines, the two datable Roman coins from the Kiln Trench correspond well to earlier and later phases of activity in the necropolis, as confirmed by the radiocarbon dates of the human remains themselves. Even the decontextualised 5th/early 4th century issues of Istros in KT are consonant with the ceramic evidence for the period of operation of the kiln and the formation of the midden, which is further supported by radiocarbon dates for animal bones from this deposit that cluster around the mid-5th to early 4th century BC. Overall, this modest assemblage of coins from the Plateau illustrates both the challenges of the complex stratigraphy of this area and the potential contribution of careful contextual analysis to our understanding of the sector's long history.

Catalogue of monetary signs and coins discovered in the Platou Est sector (2018-2019, 2021-2023 campaigns of the Histria Multiscalar Archaeological Project)

2018

Istros, Helios type

1.Technical data: AE; 12 h; 1.35 g; 12 x 11 mm; **Fig. 5.1**.
Obv: Head of the deity facing forward, with a radiate crown.
Rev: Eagle on dolphin, both facing left; legend: (IΣTPI).
Trench: Platou Est, Test Trench 4.
Stratigraphic context: HIS18_PLAT_TT4_002.
Stratigraphic context description: Plough zone.
Find number: HIS18_PLAT_TT4_SF_0003.
Date of discovery: 08.VIII.2018.

Chronology: 313-72/71 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 167, no 464 (general type).

Istros?
2.Technical data: AE; ? h; 2.17 g; 16 x 15 mm; **Fig. 5.2**.
Obv: Illegible; possible male head facing right?
Rev: Illegible.
Note: Fragmentary coin.
Trench: Platou Est, Test Trench 1.
Stratigraphic context: HIS18_PLAT_TT1_005.
Stratigraphic context description: Final surface of road.
Find number: HIS18_PLAT_TT1_SF_0002.
Date of discovery: 06.VIII.2018.

Istros or Tomis
3.Technical data: AE; ? h; 5.21 g; 21 x 20 mm; **Fig. 5.3**.
Obv: Illegible; possibly two countermarks, the first intersecting the second.
Rev: Illegible.
Trench: Platou Est, Test Trench 3.
Stratigraphic context: HIS18_PLAT_TT3_003.
Stratigraphic context description: Layer of abandonment.
Find number: HIS18_PLAT_TT3_SF_0003.
Date of discovery: 03.VIII.2018.
Chronology: 2nd-1st centuries BC.

Issuer?
4.Technical data: AE; ? h; 2.37 g; 17.5 x 16.5 mm.
Obv.: Illegible; possible traces of countermark?
Rev.: Illegible.
Trench: Platou Est, Test Trench 2.
Stratigraphic context: HIS18_PLAT_TT2_007.
Stratigraphic context description: Fill layer.
Find number: HIS18_PLAT_TT2_SF_0003.
Date of discovery: 03.VIII.2018.

2019

Istros?
5.Technical data: AE; 3.96 g; 37.5 mm; **Fig. 6.5**.
Description: Cast monetary sign used for exchange, with two edges and a flattened central rib, elongated in shape like an olive leaf.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS19_PLAT_KT_031/043.
Stratigraphic context description: Fill of pit cut to access tomb 6; sediment inside tomb 6 (bottom of pit/fill right behind blocking slabs).
Find number: HIS19_PLAT_KT_SF_0064.

Date of discovery: 12.VII.2019.
Chronology: 6th century - first two or three decades of the 5th century BC.

Istros?
6.Technical data: AE; 6.67 g; 46 mm; Fig. 6.6.
Description: Cast monetary sign used for exchange, with two edges and a flattened central rib, elongated in the shape of an olive leaf.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS19_PLAT_KT_000.
Stratigraphic context description: Unstratified find.
Find number: HIS19_PLAT_KT_SF_0068.
Date of discovery: 13.VII.2019.
Chronology: 6th century - first two or three decades of the 5th century BC.

Istros, the "four-spoked wheel" type
7.Technical data: AE; ? h; 0.15 g; 7 x 6.5 mm; **Fig. 6.7**.
Obv: Anepigraphic; four-spoked wheel.
Rev: Legend (IΣT).
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS19_PLAT_KT_043.
Stratigraphic context description: Sediment filling interior cavity of tomb 6 (immediately behind blocking slabs, near floor of tomb).
Find number: HIS19_PLAT_KT_SF_0063.
Date of discovery: 12.VII.2019.
Chronology: post 480 - 360/350 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 182, no. 534.

Istros, the "four-spoked wheel" type
8.Technical data: AE; ? h; 0.68 g; 10 x 9.5 mm; **Fig. 6.8**.
Obv: Anepigraphic; four-spoked wheel.
Rev: Legend (IΣT).
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS19_PLAT_KT_027.
Stratigraphic context description: Disturbed mudbrick collapse between kiln and east edge of trench.
Find number: HIS19_PLAT_KT_SF_0059.
Date of discovery: 12.VII.2019.
Chronology: post 480 - 360/350 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 182, no. 534.

Istros, River God type
9.Technical data: AE; 6 h; 2.31 g; 14.5 x 13.5 mm; **Fig. 6.9**.
Obv: Bearded head with horns of the river god facing forward.
Rev: Eagle on dolphin facing left; in the upper part of the coin field, the legend (IΣ)TPI.
Trench: Platou Est, Road Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS19_PLAT_RT_002.
Stratigraphic context description: Plough zone.

Find number: HIS19_PLAT_RT_SF_0001.
Date of discovery: No date recorded.
Chronology: 360/350-313 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 167, no. 468 (second series).

Olbia, River God Borysthenes type
10.Technical data: AE; ? h; 6.47 g; 21 x 20.5 mm; **Fig. 6.10**.
Obv: Anepigraphic; bearded head with horns of the river god Borysthenes facing left.
Rev: Ceremonial axe and quiver with bow; legend on the right, vertical OΛBIO; in the left field, vertical symbol ΦI ?.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS19_PLAT_KT_000.
Stratigraphic context description: Unstratified material.
Find number: HIS19_PLAT_KT_SF_0071.
Date of discovery: 13.VII.2019.
Chronology: middle issue, 330-240/230 BC. (group II); 330-250 (group II); 320-310 (group II A-C)
Reference: SNG XI 2000, pl. XVIII, nos. 372-374?; SNG Poland III 2006, p. 22, pl. VII, nos. 87-90?; SNG State Pushkin 2011, p. 32, nos. 187-192?.

Roman Empire, Antonine dynasty
11.Technical data: AE (*fourrée* denarius); 1.54 g; 17.5 mm; **Fig. 6.11**.
Note: Coin is fragmentary; poor state of preservation.
Trench: Platou Est, Road Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS19_PLAT_RT_002.
Stratigraphic context description: Plough zone.
Find number: HIS19_PLAT_RT_SF_0003.
Date of discovery: 06.VII.2019.
Chronology: post 138 AD, 2nd century AD.

2021

Olbia
12.Technical data: AE; 1.24 g; 19.2 mm; **Fig. 7.12**.
Description: cast monetary sign used for exchange, in the shape of a dolphin.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS21_PLAT_KT_050.
Stratigraphic context description: Fill of construction cut along north side of tomb 6.
Find number: HIS21_PLAT_KT_SF_0118.
Date of discovery: 28.VII.2021.
Chronology: 5th century BC.

Olbia
13.Technical data: AE; 1.93 g; 22.5 mm; **Fig. 7.13**.
Description: cast monetary sign used for exchange, in the shape of a dolphin.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS21_PLAT_KT_031.
Stratigraphic context description: Fill of pit cut to access tomb 6.

Find number: HIS21_PLAT_KT_SF_0088.
Date of discovery: 23.VII.2021.
Chronology: 5th century BC.

Istros, the "four-spoked wheel" type
14.Technical data: AE; 1.35 g; 13.5 x 12.5 mm; **Fig. 7.14**.
Obv: Anepigraphic; four-spoked wheel.
Rev: Legend (IΣT).
Note: a remnant of the sprue?
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS21_PLAT_KT_053.
Stratigraphic context description: Lower level of sediment filling tomb 6.
Find number: HIS21_PLAT_KT_SF_0144.
Date of discovery: 21.VII.2021.
Chronology: post 480 - 360/350 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 182, no. 531.

Istros, the "four-spoked wheel" type
15.Technical data: AE; 0.23 g; 8 x 7 mm.
Obv: Anepigraphic; four-spoked wheel.
Rev: Legend (IΣT).
Note: destroyed from the inside after cleaning (now almost dust).
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS21_PLAT_KT_031.
Stratigraphic context description: Fill of pit cut to access tomb 6.
Find number: HIS21_PLAT_KT_SF_0084.
Date of discovery: 23.VII.2021.
Chronology: post 480 - 360/350 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 182, no. 534.

Istros, the "four-spoked wheel" type
16.Technical data: AE; 0.84 g; 10 x 9.5 mm; **Fig. 7.16**.
Obv: Anepigraphic; four-spoked wheel.
Rev: Legend IΣT.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS21_PLAT_KT_031.
Stratigraphic context description: Fill of pit cut to access tomb 6.
Find number: HIS21_PLAT_KT_SF_0074.
Date of discovery: 21.VII.2021.
Chronology: post 480 - 360/350 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 182, no. 534.

Macedonia
Philip II
17.Technical data: AE; 12 h; 4.07 g; 16.5 x 16 mm; **Fig. 7.17**.
Obv: Head of Apollo facing right.

Rev: Horse and rider facing right; legend: (ΦΙΛΛΙΠΟΥ).
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS21_PLAT_KT_053.
Stratigraphic context description: Lower level of sediment filling tomb 6.
Find number: HIS21_PLAT_KT_SF_0130.
Date of discovery: 29.VII.2021.
Chronology: probably 359-336 BC?

Roman Empire
Valens/Valentinianus
18.Technical data: AE2; 6 h; 1.95 g; 16.5 x 15.5 mm; **Fig. 7.18**.
Obv: Diademed, draped, and cuirassed bust facing right; legend illegible.
Rev: Emperor advancing right, dragging captive and holding labarum; legend illegible; type GLORIA RO-MANORVM; mint illegible, probably eastern.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS21_PLAT_KT_011.
Stratigraphic context description: Layer of broken pottery and small stones over and immediately north of the cover slabs of tomb 6.
Find number: HIS21_PLAT_KT_SF_0077.
Date of discovery: 22.VII.2021.
Chronology: AD 364-375.

Issuer?
19.Technical data: AE; 1.72 g; 15 x 14 mm.
Obv: Illegible.
Rev: Illegible.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS21_PLAT_KT_093.
Stratigraphic context description: Soil between slabs of tomb 8.
Find number: HIS21_PLAT_KT_SF_0229.
Date of discovery: 11.VIII.2021.

Issuer?
20.Technical data: AE; ? h; 0.58 g; 10.5 x 9 mm.
Obv: Illegible.
Rev: Illegible.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS21_PLAT_KT_012.
Stratigraphic context description: Layer of abandonment over tomb 6 along west side of the trench.
Find number: HIS21_PLAT_KT_SF_0109.
Date of discovery: 27.VII.2021.

2022

Istros?
21.Technical data: AE; 5.68 g; 44.5 mm; **Fig. 8.21**.

Description: cast monetary sign used for exchange, with two edges and a flattened central rib, elongated in the shape of an olive leaf.

Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.

Stratigraphic context: HIS22_PLAT_KT_076.

Stratigraphic context description: Lower layer of fill of large rectangular pit postdating kiln but predating Roman burials.

Find number: HIS22_PLAT_KT_SF_0298.

Date of discovery: 22.VII.2022.

Chronology: 6th century - first two or three decades of the 5th century BC.

Istros, the "four-spoked wheel" type

22.Technical data: AE; 0.95 g; 14 x 11.5 mm; **Fig. 8.22**.

Obv: anepigraphic; four-spoked wheel.

Rev: legend (IΣT).

Note: a remnant of the sprue?

Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.

Stratigraphic context: HIS22_PLAT_KT_102.

Stratigraphic context description: Lowest layer of fill of large rectangular pit postdating kiln but predating Roman burials.

Find number: HIS22_PLAT_KT_SF_0306.

Date of discovery: 22.VII.2022.

Chronology: post 480 - 360/350 BC.

Reference: Pick 1898, p. 182, no. 534.

Istros, the "four-spoked wheel" type

23.Technical data: AE; 0.88 g; 12.5 mm; **Fig. 8.23**.

Obv: anepigraphic; four-spoked wheel.

Rev: legend (IΣ).

Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.

Stratigraphic context: HIS22_PLAT_KT_067.

Stratigraphic context description: Uppermost layer of fill of large rectangular pit postdating kiln but predating Roman burials.

Find number: HIS22_PLAT_KT_SF_0267.

Date of discovery: 18.VII.2022.

Chronology: post 480 - 360/350 BC.

Reference: Pick 1898, p. 182, no. 534.

Istros, Helios type

24.Technical data: AE; 12 h; 1.81 g; 12.5 mm; **Fig. 8.24**.

Obv: Head of the deity facing forward, with a radiate crown.

Rev: Eagle on dolphin facing left; legend: (IΣTPI).

Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.

Stratigraphic context: HIS22_PLAT_KT_076.

Stratigraphic context description: Lower layer of fill of large rectangular pit postdating kiln but predating Roman burials.

Find number: HIS22_PLAT_KT_SF_0294.

Date of discovery: 21.VII.2022.
Chronology: 313-72/71 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 167, no. 464 (general type).

Macedonia
Philip II
25.Technical data: AE; 7 h; 4.33 g; 17 x 16.5 mm; **Fig. 8.25.**
Obv: Head of Apollo facing right.
Rev: Horse and rider facing right; legend: ΦΙ(ΛΙΠΠΟΥ).
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS22_PLAT_KT_096.
Stratigraphic context description: Fill of tomb 9.
Find number: HIS22_PLAT_KT_SF_0281.
Date of discovery: 20.VII.2022.
Chronology: probably 359-336 BC?

Issuer?
26.Technical data: AE; ? h; 0.40 g; 10.5 x 10 mm.
Obv: Illegible.
Rev: Illegible.
Note: coin broken in two, glued.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS22_PLAT_KT_002.
Stratigraphic context description: Plough zone.
Find number: HIS22_PLAT_KT_SF_0244.
Date of discovery: 08.VII.2022.

2023

Istros, the "four-spoked wheel" type
27.Technical data: AE; 0.61 g; 9 x 8.5 mm; **Fig. 9.27**.
Obv: Anepigraphic; four-spoked wheel.
Rev: Legend ΙΣΤ.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS23_PLAT_KT_027.
Stratigraphic context description: Disturbed mudbrick collapse between kiln and east edge of trench.
Find number: HIS23_PLAT_KT_SF_0359.
Date of discovery: 21.VII.2023.
Chronology: post 480 - 360/350 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 182, no. 534.

Istros, the "four-spoked wheel" type
28.Technical data: AE; 1.04 g; 14 x 12.5 mm; **Fig. 9.28**.
Obv: Anepigraphic; four-spoked wheel.
Rev: Legend ΙΣ(Τ).
Note: a remnant of the sprue; two perforations remaining from the casting process.
Trench: Platou Est, Road Trench.

Stratigraphic context: HIS23_PLAT_RT_023.
Stratigraphic context description: Fill of road bed under use surfaces.
Find number: HIS23_PLAT_RT_SF_0048.
Date of discovery: 12.VII.2023.
Chronology: post 480 - 360/350 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898, p. 182, no. 531.

Istros, Apollo type (silver)
29.Technical data: AE; 2 h; 0.59 g (obol); 8.8 x 8.5 mm; **Fig. 9.29**.
Obv: Two youthful male heads facing, the right inverted, filling almost the entire coin field.
Rev: Eagle and dolphin facing left; above them, in the upper part of the coin field, legend IΣTPI; beneath the dolphin ?.
Trench: Platou Est, Road Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS23_PLAT_RT_023.
Stratigraphic context description: Fill of road bed under use surfaces.
Find number: HIS23_PLAT_RT_SF_0045.
Date of discovery: 12.VII.2023.
Chronology: 4th century BC, before 340/330 BC.
Reference: Pick 1898 (catalogue), general type.

Istros?, Apollo type?
30.Technical data: AE; ? h; 2.57 g; 16 x 15 mm; **Fig. 9.30**.
Obv: Head of Apollo, laureate, facing right? a possible oval countermark, illegible.
Rev: Destroyed by the countermark struck on the obverse.
Trench: Platou Est, Road Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS23_PLAT_RT_000.
Stratigraphic context description: Unstratified material.
Find number: HIS23_PLAT_RT_SF_0015.
Date of discovery: 05.VII.2023.
Chronology: 313-280 BC or 339-280 BC, but possibly still in circulation in the 2nd-1st centuries BC.

Roman Empire (provincial mint in Thrace?)
Caracalla or Geta
31.Technical data: AE; *assarion*; 12 h; 4.75 g; 22 x 19.5 mm; **Fig. 9.31**.
Obv: Bust of a male figure, diademed, youthful, in profile facing right.
Rev: Eagle facing left, wings spread and oriented backwards.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS23_PLAT_KT_130.
Stratigraphic context description: Disturbed mudbrick collapse in southeast corner of trench, over line of unexcavated slabs.
Find number: HIS23_PLAT_KT_SF_0376.
Date of discovery: 25.VII.2023.
Chronology: 198-211 AD.

Issuer?
32.Technical data: AE; ? h; 0.88 g; 13 x 12.5 mm.
Obv: Illegible (a head facing right?).

Rev: Illegible.
Note: The coin is fragmentary.
Trench: Platou Est, Kiln Trench.
Stratigraphic context: HIS23_PLAT_KT_130.
Stratigraphic context description: Disturbed mudbrick collapse in southeast corner of trench, over line of unexcavated slabs.
Find number: HIS23_PLAT_KT_SF_0373.
Date of discovery: 26.VI.2023.

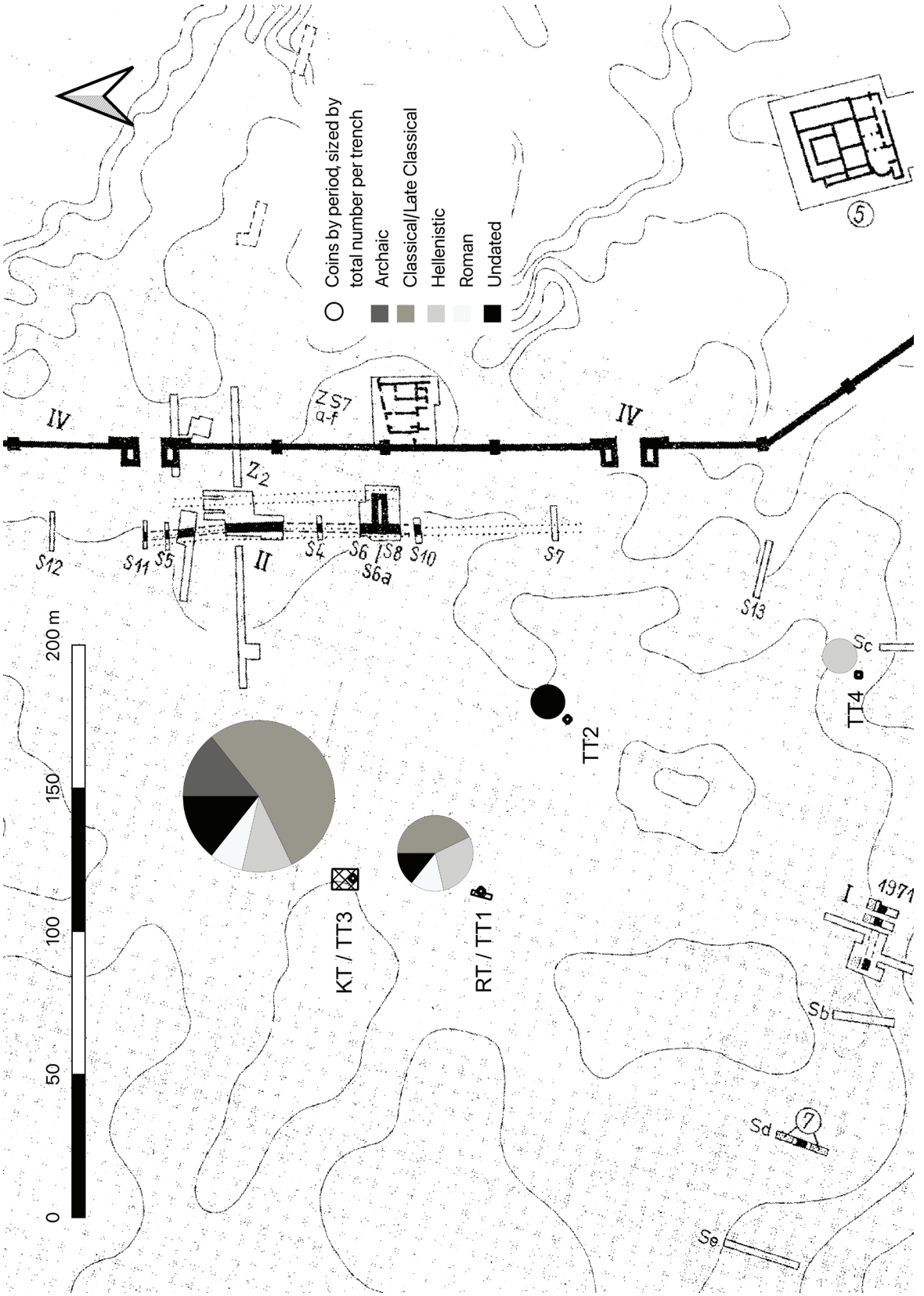

Fig. 1. Locations of the Histria Multiscalar Archaeological Project trenches on the Plateau, placed on the 1980 topographical map of the site, with pie charts representing the proportion of coins from each period, sized by the number of coins found in each trench. Map by A. Rabinowitz.

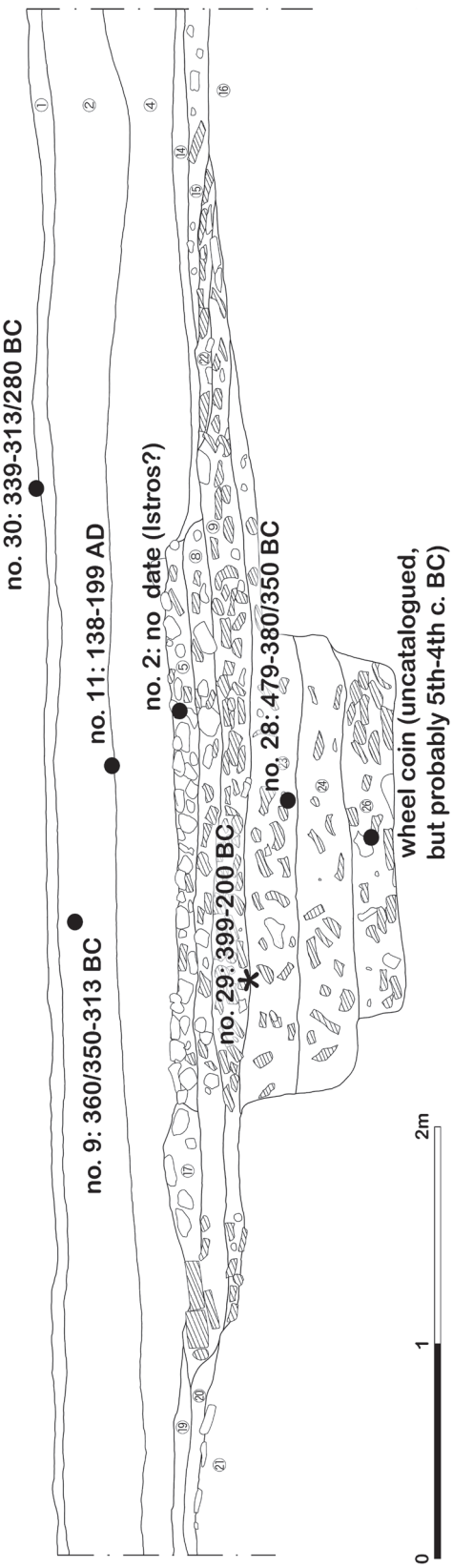

Fig. 2. Drawing of the west section wall of the Road Trench, with the vertical location of coins indicated. The star indicates a coin that may have been in primary deposition; the others are in residual depositions. Drawing by A. Rabinowitz.

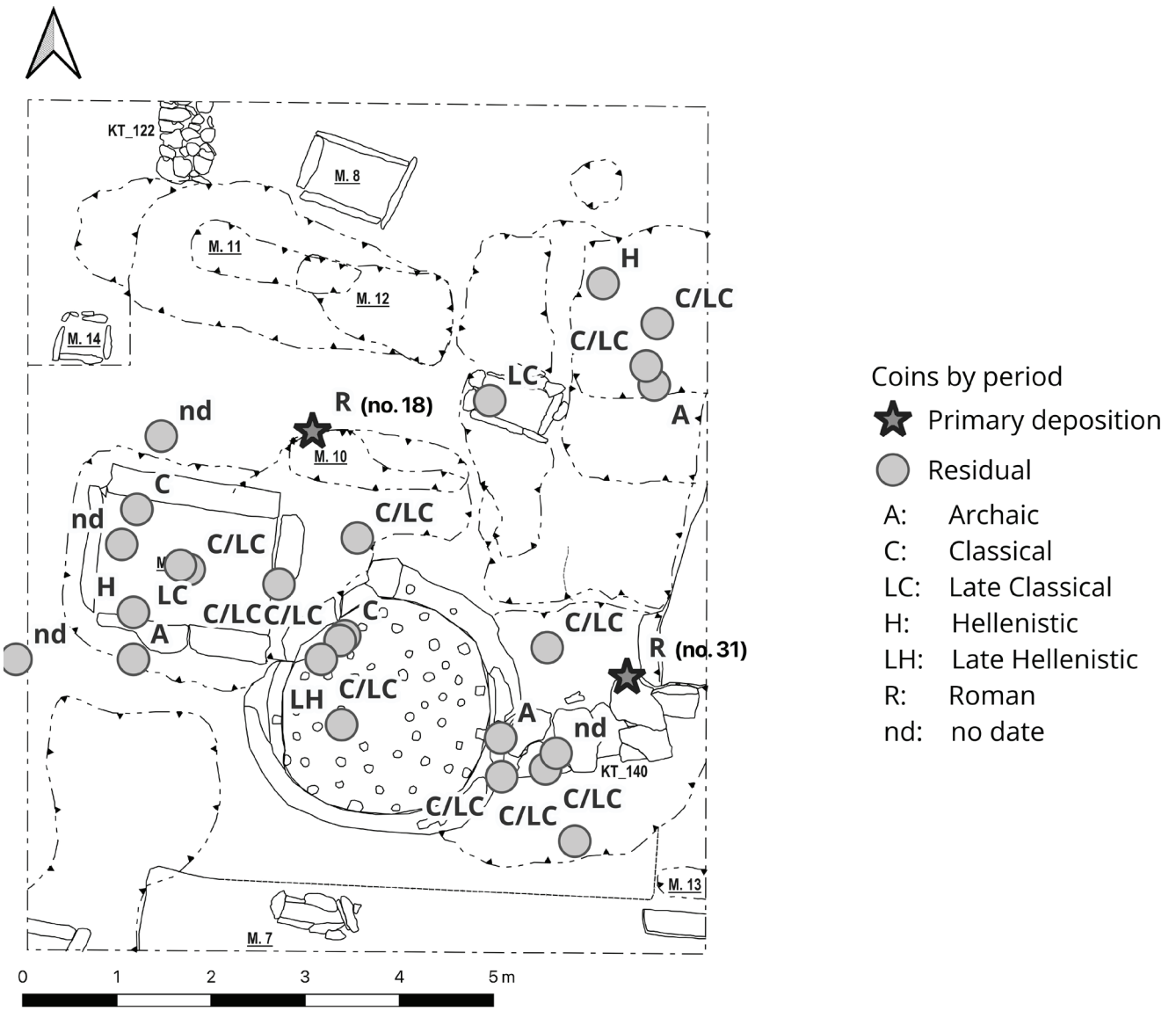

Fig. 3. Plan of the Kiln Trench showing position of coins with recorded findspots, labelled by period. The two coins with locations marked by stars may have been in primary depositions; the others are in residual depositions. Plan by A. Rabinowitz and L. Iancu.

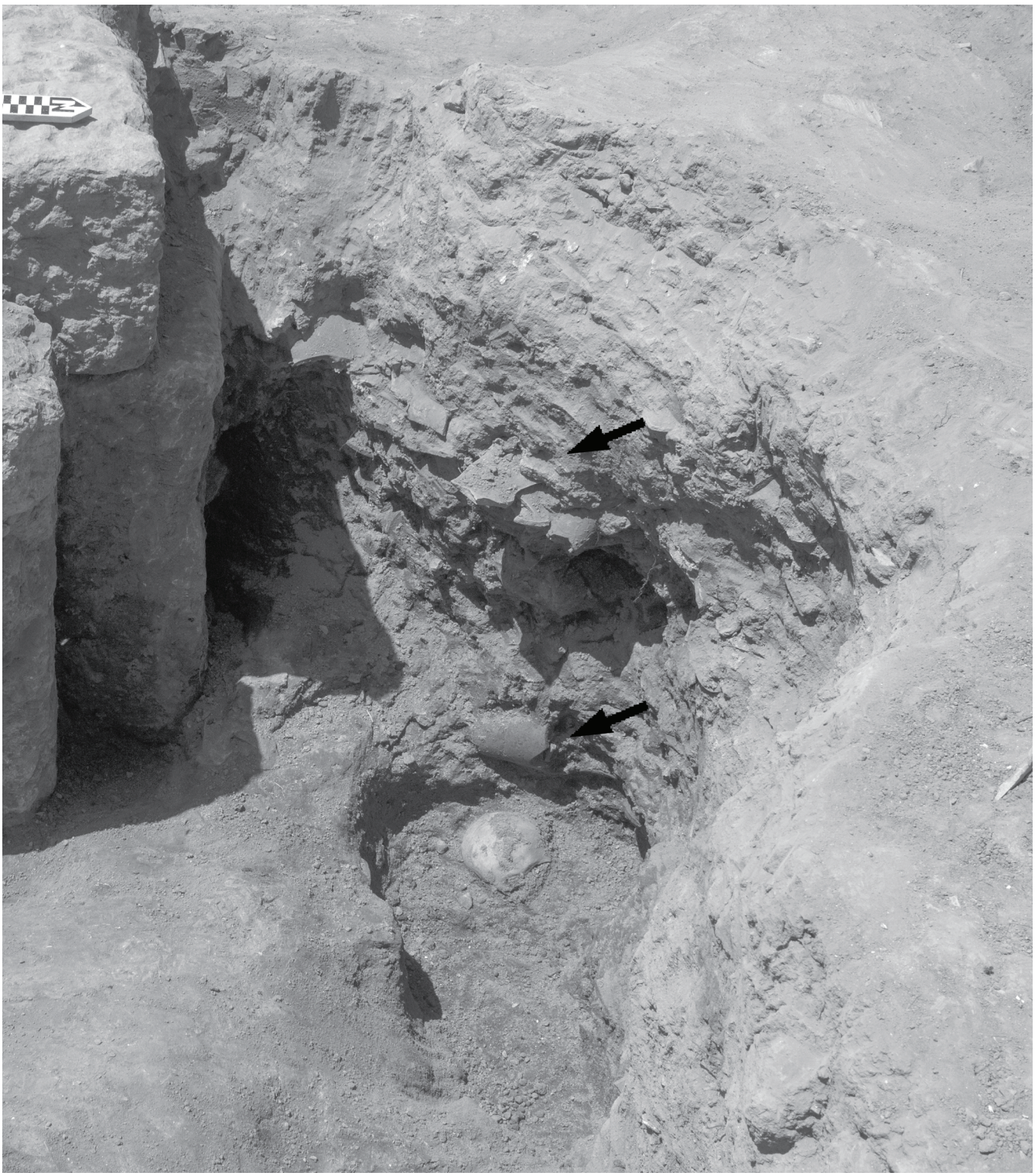

Fig. 4. Photograph showing the two layers of debris (indicated by arrows) visible in the wall of a pit cut to re-open tomb 6. The upper layer belongs to a midden contemporary with, or just subsequent to, the use period of the kiln. The lower layer may be a 5th-century destruction deposit. Photo by A. Rabinowitz.



Fig. 5. Pre-Roman coins discovered in the East Plateau sector of Histria (nos. 1-3). Photo by G. Talmațchi.

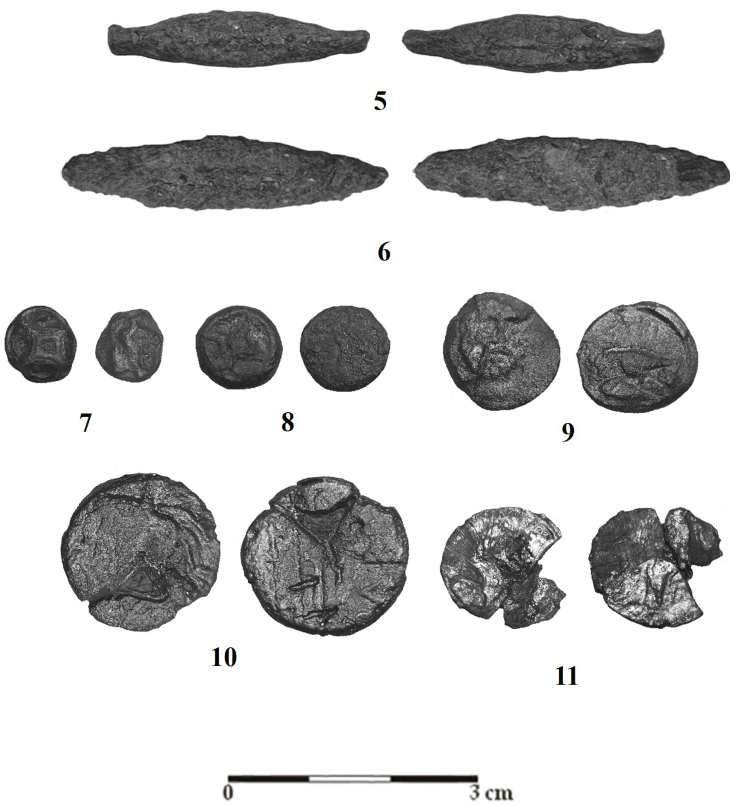

Fig. 6. Monetary signs, pre-Roman and Roman coins discovered in the East Plateau sector of Histria (no. 5-11). Photo by G. Talmațchi.

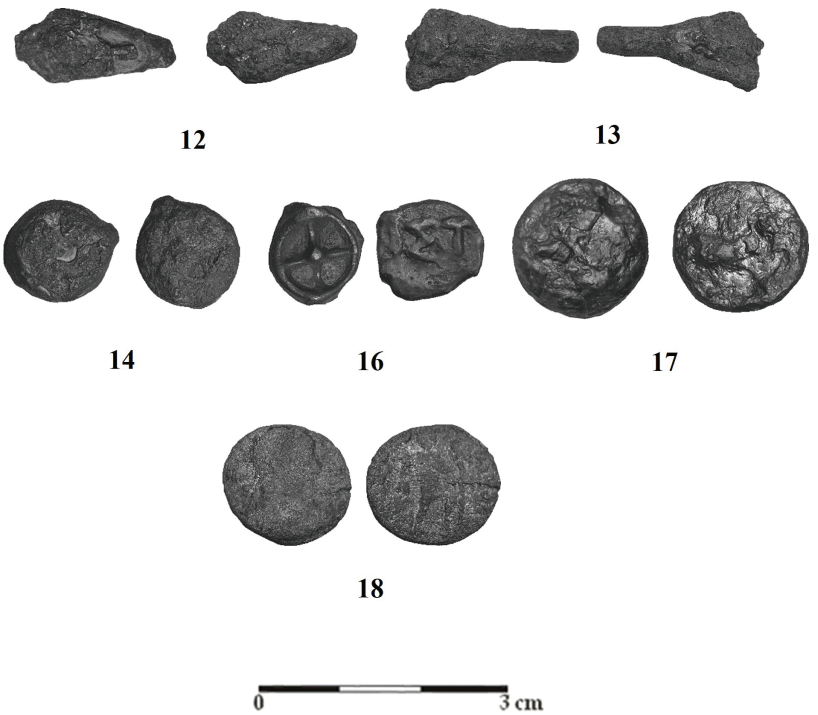

Fig. 7. Monetary signs, pre-Roman and Roman coins discovered in the East Plateau sector of Histria (no. 12-14, 16-18). Photo by G. Talmațchi.

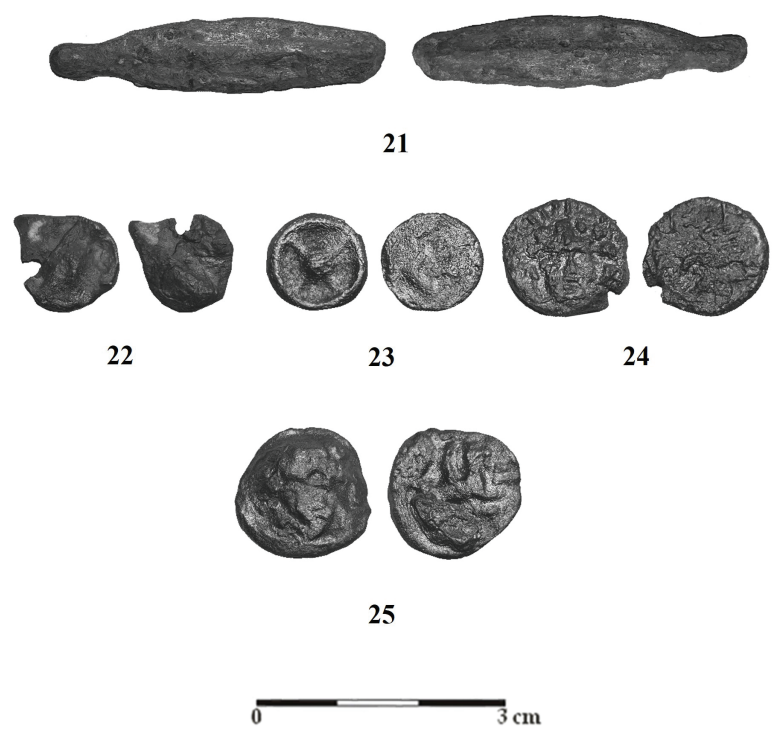

Fig. 8. Monetary sign and pre-Roman coins discovered in the East Plateau sector of Histria (no. 21-25). Photo by G. Talmațchi.

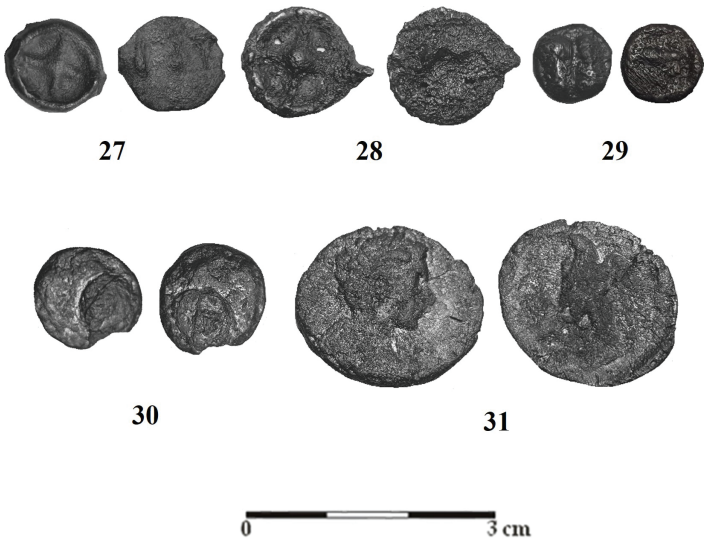

Fig. 9. Pre-Roman and Roman coins discovered in the East Plateau sector of Histria (no. 27-31). Photo by G. Talmațchi.

Abrevieri

ActaMN	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
AÉ	L'Année épigraphique, Paris
AJN	American Journal of Numismatics, New York
ANRW	Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt
ANS	American Numismatic Society, New York
ARA	Asociația Arhitectură. Restaurare. Arheologie
ArhMold	Arheologia Moldovei, Iaşi-Bucureşti
BAR, I.S.	*British Archaeological Reports*, *International Series,* Oxford
BAR, S.S.	British Archaeological Reports, Supplementary Series, Oxford
BMC	*Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum*, Londra: I, *Augustus to Vitellius*, 1923; II, *Vespasian to Domitian*, 1930; III, *Nerva to Hadrian*, 1936; IV, *Antoninus Pius to Commodus*, 1968; V, *Pertinax to Elagabalus*, 1950 (H. Mattingly); VI, *Severus Alexander to Balbinus and Pupienus*, 1962 (R.A.G. Carson)
BSNR	Buletinul Societăţii Numismatice Române, Bucureşti
BIAB	Bulletin de l'Institut Archéologique Bulgare, Sofia
CAB	Cercetări Arheologice în Bucureşti, Bucureşti
CCA	Cronica cercetărilor arheologice din România, Bucureşti
CICSA	Centrul de Istorie Comparată a Societăților Antice, Bucureşti
CIL III	Th. Mommsen (ed.), *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum. Vol. 3, Parts 1-2. Inscriptiones Asiae, provinciarum Europae Graecarum, Illyrici Latinae*, Berlin, 1873.
CN	Cercetări Numismatice, Bucureşti
CNA	Cronica Numismatică şi Arheologică, Bucureşti
CNH	L. Réthy, Corpus nummorum Hungariae, I-II, Budapesta, 1899-1907
CNRS	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris
Crawford, RRC	M.H. Crawford, *Roman Republican Coinage*, Cambridge, 1974
Crawford, RRCH	M.H. Crawford, *Roman Republican Coin Hoards*, Londra, 1969
CreştCol	Creşterea Colecţiilor, Biblioteca Academiei Române, Bucureşti
Dacia	Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie, Bucureşti, I-XII (1924-1947)
Dacia, N.S.	Dacia, Revue d'Archéologie et d'Histoire Ancienne, Nouvelle Série, Bucureşti (1957-)
DIR	*Documente privind istoria României*
D.J.A.N. Argeş	Direcția Județeană a Arhivelor Naționale Argeş
DOW-LRC	Ph. Grierson, Melinda Mays, *Catalogue of Late Roman coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and in the Whittemore Collection. From Arcadius and Honorius to the Accession of Anastasius*, Washington, 1992
DRH	*Documenta Romaniae Historica*, Bucureşti
Herinek	L. Herinek, *Österreichische Münzprägungen von 1740-1969*, Viena, 1970
Huszár	Lajos Huszár, *Münzkatalog Ungarn von 1000 bis heute*, Budapesta, 1979
IAB	Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan", Bucureşti
IGBulg II	G. Mihailov (ed.), *Inscriptiones Graecae in Bulgaria repertae*. *Vol. II. Inscriptiones inter Danubium et Haenum repertae*, Sofia, 1958.

SCN, s.n., XV-XVII (XXVII-XXIX), Bucureşti, 2026, p. 227-229.

ISM	*Inscriptiones Scythiae minoris*, I (1983), II (1987), III (1999), IV (2015), V (1980)
JIAI	Journal for Historical and Archaeological Research, Šumen
JNG	Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte, München
LRBC	*Late Roman Bronze Coinage A.D. 324-498*, Londra, 1965: I – P.V. Hill, J.P.C. Kent, The Bronze Coinage of the House of Constantine A.D. 324-346; II – R.A.G. Carson, J.P.C. Kent, *Bronze Roman Imperial Coinage of the Later Empire A.D. 346-498*
Martin	F. Martin, *Kolonialprägungen aus Moesia Superior und Dacia*, Bonn, 1992
MBR	G. Buzdugan, O. Luchian, C.C. Oprescu, *Monede și bancnote românești*, Bucureşti, 1977
MCA	Materiale şi Cercetări Arheologice, Bucureşti
MemAntiq	Memoria Antiquitatis, Piatra-Neamţ
MINAC	Muzeul de Istorie Naţională şi Arheologie, Constanţa
MJIAP	Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Prahova
MNA	Muzeul Naţional de Antichităţi
NC	Numismatic Chronicle, Londra
NK	Numizmatikai Közlöny, Budapesta
NZ	Numismatische Zeitschrift, Viena
Pere	Nuri Pere, *Osmanlılarda madenî paralar*, Istanbul, 1968
Pick	B. Pick, *Die antiken Münzen von Dacien und Moesien*, I, 1, Berlin, 1898
Pick-Regling	B. Pick, K. Regling, *Die antiken Münzen von Dacien und Moesien*, I, 2, Berlin, 1910
Pohl	Artúr Pohl, *Münzzeichen und Meisterzeichen auf ungarischen Münzen des Mittelalters, 1300-1540*, Graz-Budapesta, 1982
Preda	C. Preda, *Monedele geto-dacilor*, Bucureşti, 1973
RCAN	Revista de Cercetări Arheologice și Numismatice, Bucureşti
Recueil	W.H. Waddington, E.Babelon, Th. Reinach, *Recueil général des monnaies grecques d'Asie Minéure, I-IV,* Paris, 1904-1912
RÉSEE	Revue des Études Sud-Est Européennes, Bucureşti
RI	Studii, 1948–1952; din 1953, Studii. Revista de Istorie, Bucureşti.
RIC, I	H. Mattingly, E.A. Sydenham, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, I, *Augustus to Vitellius*, Londra, 1923
RIC, I^2	C.H.V. Sutherland, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, I, ediţie revăzută, Londra, 1984
RIC, II	H. Mattingly, E.A. Sydenham, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, II, *Vespasian to Hadrian*, Londra, 1926
RIC, III	H. Mattingly, E.A. Sydenham, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, III, *Antoninus Pius to Commodus*, Londra, 1930
RIC, IV, 1	H. Mattingly, E.A. Sydenham, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, IV, 1, *Pertinax to Geta*, Londra, 1968
RIC, V, 2	P.H. Webb, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, V, 2, Londra, 1933 (reimprimat 1968)
RIC, VI	C.H.V. Sutherland, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, VI, *From Diocletian's reform (A.D. 294) to the death of Maximinus (A.D. 313)*, Londra, 1967
RIC, VII	P.M. Bruun, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, VII, *Constantine and Licinius A.D. 313-337)*, Londra, 1966
RIC, VIII	J.P.C. Kent, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, VIII, *The Family of Constantine I A.D. 337-364)*, Londra, 1981
RIC, IX	J.W.E. Pearce, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, IX, *Valentinian I-Theodosius I*, Londra, 1933 (reimprimat 1968)
RIC, X	J.P.C. Kent, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, X, *The Divided Empire and the Fall of the Western Parts A.D. 395-491)*, Londra, 1994
RPC	Roman Provincial Coinage

Ruzicka 1928	Leon Ruzicka, *Inedita aus Moesia Inferior*, Vjesnik Hrvatskoga Arheološkoga Društva, 15, 1928, p. 225-248.
SCBC	*Standard Catalogue of British Coins. Coins of England and the United Kingdom*, 41st Edition, London, 2006
SCIV(A)	Studii şi Cercetări de Istorie Veche (şi Arheologie), Bucureşti
SCN	Studii şi Cercetări de Numismatică, Bucureşti
SHA	*Scriptores Historiae Augustae*
Simpozion Chişinău 2000	*Simpozion de Numismatică dedicat împlinirii a patru secole de la prima Unire a românilor sub Mihai Voievod Viteazul, Chişinău, 28-30 mai 2000, Comunicări, studii şi note*, Bucureşti, 2001
Simpozion Chişinău 2001	*Simpozion de Numismatică organizat în memoria martirilor căzuţi la Valea Albă, la împlinirea a 525 de ani (1476-2001), Chişinău, 13-15 mai 2001, Comunicări, studii şi note*, Bucureşti, 2002
Simpozion Chişinău 2002	*Simpozion de Numismatică dedicat împlinirii a 125 de ani de la Proclamarea Independenţei României, Chişinău, 24-26 septembrie 2002, Comunicări, studii şi note*, Bucureşti, 2003
Simpozion Chişinău 2003	*Simpozion de Numismatică dedicat Centenarului Societăţii Numismatice Române (1902-2003), Chişinău, 26-28 noiembrie 2003, Comunicări, studii şi note*, Bucureşti, 2005
Simpozion Chişinău 2004	*Simpozion de Numismatică, organizat cu ocazia comemorării sfântului Ştefan cel Mare, domn al Moldovei (1504-2004), Chişinău, 29 septembrie-2 octombrie 2004, Comunicări, studii şi note*, Bucureşti, 2007
SMMIM	Studii şi Materiale de Muzeografie şi Istorie Militară, Bucureşti
SNG	*Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum*: Black Sea - *The British Museum*, IX, 1, *The Black Sea*, Londra, 1993; Rusia - M. G. Abramzon, N. A. Frolova, Ulrike Peter (eds.), *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum Russland, Staatliches Historisches Museum Moskau: Münzen des Nördlichen Schwarzmeergebietes*, Berlin-Boston, 2019
Woytek	Bernhard Woytek, *Die Reichspragung des Kaisers Traianus (98-117)*, Viena, 2010.