

## *Posthumous Alexander type stater from Sardes discovered at Cocorăștii Mislui (Teleajen area), Prahova county*

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Few years ago, a posthumous Alexander the Great type stater was bought for the numismatic collection of the Coins Cabinet of the Romanian Academy Library<sup>1</sup>. A child found it in his grandparents courtyard from Cocorăștii Mislui, Prahova county, in the clay brought from Teleajen area to built a stove.

Obv. Head of Athena right, wearing crested Corinthian helmet decorated with serpent, and necklace.  
Rv. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡ[ΟΥ]. Nike standing left, holding wreath in extended right hand and cradling stylis in left arm; torch below left wing, monogram  $\Delta$  or  $\Delta$  below right wing.

AV 12 h; 8,56 g; 19 mm (fig. 1; 2×1); inv. M. 76.

Müller, *Alexander*, 30, Amphipolis.

Thompson, *Sardes*, series XV, 301 a (same dies), years 319-318 BC.

Price 2633 var.? (uncertain), Sardes, years 323-319 BC.

In fact, Price 2633 (Thompson, *Sardes*, 299, 301-302, 303) covers several different combinations of dies and maybe two different controls. If Price 2633 (Thompson 299, 302 and 303) keep the same control  $\Delta$  and the torch, using several pair of dies, it seems that Price 2633 (Thompson 301a) introduce a new control,



Fig. 1. Alexander type stater from Sardes discovered at Cocorăștii Mislui.

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<sup>1</sup> The coin was bought in 2012 from Gabriela Micu,

maybe  $\Delta$ , below the right wing of the goddess, maintaining the torch below the left wing. Despite this particular situation it is quite clear that Thompson 301a belongs to the same sequence from the series XV because of the obverse die-link between Thompson 301a and Thompson 301b, the latter struck with a different reverse die using control  $\Delta$  (plate I, nos. 1-2). We have secured now the link between Thompson 301 and 302. So, Thompson 301a and 301b share the same obverse die while Thompson 301b and Thompson 302 were struck with a different pair of dies; despite Thompson opinion<sup>2</sup>, the reverse dies are very close, but different (pl. I, nos. 2-3). Thompson 301a seems to be a very rare issue, apparently only three samples being known today<sup>3</sup>, all of them struck using the same pair of dies (pl. I, nos. 4-6).

The appearance of only one or two gold coins or even the discovery of similar small finds, not only in Dobruđja and Southern Danube but also in the Northern Danube region, is not surprisingly now, a recent study investigating the spread of gold Hellenistic coins in this specific area<sup>4</sup>. We have a Philip III Lampsacus stater from Albești-Muru (Albești-Paleologu commune, Prahova county)<sup>5</sup> and another one (struck at Abydos) from Reșca (Dobrosloveni commune, Olt county)<sup>6</sup>. An Alexander type stater from Sardes comes from Cățunu (Cornești commune, Dâmbovița county) or from Cojasca (Dâmbovița county)<sup>7</sup>. We have a suggestive horizon of gold coins coming from the territories controlled by Antigonos Monophtalmos in Asia Minor<sup>8</sup> especially after 320 BC, reflecting the large scale use of the Thracians and probably Getians mercenaries in the Diadochi conflicts. It seems that they had a significant involvement in the Second War of the Diadochi (319-315 BC), when the Thracians mercenaries provided the Antigonid heavy cavalry in the battles from Paraetacene (November 317 BC; North-West of Persepolis<sup>9</sup>, 70 km North-East of Shiraz, Iran) – where 1000 men from Thracian cavalry<sup>10</sup> fought against Eumenes – and Gabiene<sup>11</sup> (January 316 BC; near modern Isfahan, Iran<sup>12</sup>). The finds of isolated gold coins or even small hoards containing few staters from this period in the North Danubian area reflect a direct relation between the events from the Diadochi Wars and the participation of strong contingents of Thracians and Getians mercenaries in these major conflicts.

<sup>2</sup> Margaret Thompson, *Alexander's drachm mints, I: Sardes and Miletus*, American Numismatic Society, Numismatic Studies, 16, New York, 1983, p. 29, no. 302.

<sup>3</sup> American Numismatic Society, 1944.100.31023, bequest by E.T. Newell; Classical Numismatic Group, Mail Bid Sale 57, April 4<sup>th</sup> 2001, no. 178; Coins Cabinet of the Romanian Academy Library, inv. M. 76.

<sup>4</sup> A. Vilcu, *La diffusion de l'or monnayé au nord du Danube à la fin du IV<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C. et les guerres des Diadoques*, Peuce, 13, 2015, 1, pp. 193-208.

<sup>5</sup> Price, p. 213, no. P 13 A, years 323-317 BC; Thompson, *Lampsacus*, p. 20, no. 183 b, series IX, years 319/318-318/317 BC; see B. Mitrea, *Découvertes monétaires en Roumanie, 1977 (XXI)*, Dacia, N.S., 22, 1978, p. 365, no. 1; C. Preda, *Istoria monedei în Dacia preromană*, București, 1998, p. 108; T.D. Părpăuță, *Moneda în Dacia preromană (secolele IV a.Chr.-I p.Chr.)*, Iași, 2006, p. 168, no. 8; A. Vilcu, Th. Isvoranu, E. Nicolae, *Les monnaies d'or de l'Institut d'Archéologie de Bucarest*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 64, no. 52; A. Vilcu, *op. cit.*, p. 198.

<sup>6</sup> Price, p. 229, no. P32, years 323-317 BC; Thompson, *Abydos*, p. 50, nos. 140-144, series X, years 319-318 BC; see

B. Mitrea, *Découvertes récentes et plus anciennes de monnaies antiques et byzantines en Roumanie*, Dacia, N.S., 5, 1961, p. 585, no. 9; C. Preda, *op. cit.*, p. 109; T.D. Părpăuță, *op. cit.*, pp. 224-225, no. 383, III; C. Preda, E. Petac, *Les monnaies d'or de la Bibliothèque de l'Académie Roumaine, I. Monnaies grecques et romaines*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 49, no. 194; A. Vilcu, *op. cit.*, p. 198.

<sup>7</sup> Price, p. 330, nos. 2619 or 2620, Sardes, years 323-319 BC; Thompson, *Sardes*, p. 23, nos. 219 b-220 b or nr. 221 a-b, series XIV, years 320-319 BC; see B. Mitrea, *Découvertes monétaires en Roumanie: 1981, 1982 et 1983 (XXV, XXI et XXVII)*, Dacia, N.S., 28, 1984, p. 185, no. 7; C. Preda, *op. cit.*, p. 104; T.D. Părpăuță, *op. cit.*, p. 187, no. 132.

<sup>8</sup> A. Vilcu, *op. cit.*, p. 195.

<sup>9</sup> E. Anson, *Eumenes of Cardia: A Greek among Macedonians*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Boston-Leiden, 2015, p. 190, note 69.

<sup>10</sup> Diodorus, XIX, 29, 4.

<sup>11</sup> Diodorus, XIX, 40.

<sup>12</sup> E. Anson, *loc. cit.*, note 70.



Plate I. Alexander type staters from Sardes, Price 2633: 1-2. Thompson, *Sardes*, 301 a (Bucharest, Romanian Academy Library, Coins Cabinet) and 301 b (American Numismatic Society); 3. Thompson, *Sardes*, 302 (Berlin); 4-6. Thompson, *Sardes*, 301 a (4. Bucharest, Romanian Academy; 5. CNG Mail Bid Sale 57, April 4<sup>th</sup> 2001, nr. 178; 6. ANS 1944.100.31023).

Several hoards, like Codlea (Brașov county; IGCH 409)<sup>13</sup>, probably Galați<sup>14</sup> (IGCH 799), buried after 317-316 BC or few years later<sup>15</sup>, Gâldău (Călărași county; IGCH 774)<sup>16</sup> and Lărguța<sup>17</sup> (Cantemir county, Moldova Rep.), together with those from Jasna Poljana (IGCH 777)<sup>18</sup>, Dobrogea 1954 (IGCH 796 ?<sup>19</sup>), Samovedene (IGCH 395)<sup>20</sup> and Ruse 1979<sup>21</sup> suggest the financial support of Antigonos for the West Pontic Greek cities uprisal against Lysimachus at the end of the 4th c. BC and also proved the major military role of the Thracians, Getians and Scythians contingents in the Antigonid politics of the region in the same period<sup>22</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> B. Mitrea, *Le trésor de statères d'or de Codlea*, in Sabine Scheers (editor), *Studia Paulo Naster Oblata, I, Numismatica antiqua*, Leuven, 1982, pp. 65-73 : A. Vilcu, *op. cit.*, pp. 197-198.

<sup>14</sup> Al. Pappadopol-Callimachi, *Journal de Galați*, no. 15, 13 august 1872 ; O. Iliescu, *Caiet selectiv de informare asupra creșterii colecțiilor Bibliotecii Academiei R.P.R.*, 8, 1963, p. 300, no. 115, p. 301, no. 122, pp. 306-307, no. 162; B. Mitrea, *Dacia*, N.S., *Découvertes récentes et plus anciennes de monnaies antiques et byzantines en Roumanie*, 11, 1967, p. 380, no. 8; C. Preda, *op. cit.*, p. 105; T.D. Părpăuță, *op. cit.*, p. 197, nr. 206, II; A. Vilcu, E. Petac, *Despre o veche descoperire de stateri de aur la Dunărea de Jos: tezaurul de la Galați (IGCH 799)*, see present issue, p. 127-131.

<sup>15</sup> A. Vilcu, E. Petac, *op. cit.*, under press.

<sup>16</sup> B. Mitrea, *Stateri de aur de la Alexandru cel Mare descoperiți într-o așezare geto-dacă din estul Munteniei, în Omagiu lui P. Constantinescu-Iași cu prilejul împlinirii a 70 de ani*, Bucharest, 1965, pp. 73-79; idem, *Notă suplimentară cu privire la tezaurul de stateri de aur de la Alexandru cel Mare, descoperit la Gâldău (jud. Ialomița)*, SCN, 4, 1968, pp. 327-330; A. Vilcu, *op. cit.*, pp. 195-196.

<sup>17</sup> A.A. Nudelman, *Antičnyi klad iz sela Lărguța*, in *Trudy Gosudarstvennogo Istoriko-Kraevedčeskogo Muzeja MSSR*, 2, 1969, Chișinău, pp. 129-133; G. Le Rider, *Le monnayage d'argent et d'or de Philippe II, frappé en Macédoine de 359 à 294*, Paris, 1977, pp. 264-266; A. Vilcu, *op. cit.*, pp. 194-195.

<sup>18</sup> G. Le Rider, *op. cit.*, pp. 266-267.

<sup>19</sup> Called "Varna 1949" in IGCH; Boryana Rousseva, *A new interpretation of the gold treasure from Dobroudja 1954 (IGCH 796?)* in J. Bouzek, L. Domaradzka (eds.), *The Culture of Thracians and their Neighbours, Proceedings of the International Symposium in Memory of Prof. Mieczyslaw Domaradzki, with a Round Table "Archaeological Map of Bulgaria"*, BAR I.S., 1350, Oxford, 2005, pp. 253-258.

<sup>20</sup> G. Le Rider, *op. cit.*, pp. 259-261; Boryana Rousseva, *La circulation monétaire en Thrace pendant la haute époque hellénistique d'après un certain nombre de trésors trouvés en Bulgarie*, RN, 32, 1990, pp. 17-27.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 26.

<sup>22</sup> Diodorus; XIX, 73; A. Vilcu, *op. cit.*, p. 196.