

ISOLATED FINDS OF ROMAN REPUBLICAN COINS FROM BURIDAVA, CONTAINED IN THE COLLECTION OF VÂLCEA COUNTY MUSEUM

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Abstract: *The archaeological researches from Buridava (Ocnița, Vâlcea County) have brought to light 40 roman republican coins: 24 isolated finds and 1 hoard with 16 coins. Of those 24 coins we found 18 in Vâlcea County Museum numismatic collection, despite the lack of information from inventory register. From a typological point of view 2 of them are from the second half of II century B.C., 9 from the first half of I century B.C. and 7 from the second half of I century B.C. It is very probable that many of the earliest issues were still in use in the second half of I century B.C., which is one of the most prosperous periods of Buridava's existence.*

Keywords: *Buridava, roman republican coins, Dacian settlement, signs on coins*

Rezumat: *Cercetările arheologice de la Buridava (Ocnița, județul Vâlcea) au scos la lumină un număr de 40 de monede romane republicane: 24 descoperiri izolate și 1 tezaur ce conține 16 monede. Din cele 24 de monede am reușit să găsim 18 în colecția numismatică a Muzeului Județean Vâlcea, în ciuda lipsei de informații din registrul inventar. Din punct de vedere tipologic 2 dintre ele se încadrează în a doua jumătate a secolului II î. hr., 9 în prima jumătate a secolului I î. Hr. și 7 în a doua jumătate a secolului II î. Hr. Este foarte probabil ca multe dintre emisiunile timpurii să fie încă în uz în a doua jumătate a secolului I î. Hr., care este una dintre perioadele foarte prospere din existența Buridavei.*

Cuvinte cheie: *Buridava, monede romane republicane, așezare dacică, semne pe monede*

The Dacian settlement of Buridava (Ocnița, Vâlcea County) is situated on the right side of the Salty Brook, north of Cosota Valley (see plate I), in a small depression surrounded by three hilly peaks. The hill peaks were fortified (named by archaeologists Cetatea 1, 2 and 3) and are placed in a kind of horseshoe which is opened toward Ocnița and the old salt mines (Berciu 1981, 15).

The archaeological researches carried out at Buridava lead to the discovery of 40 roman republican coins (Părpăuță 2003-2005, 90), of which 16 were part of a hoard (Berciu *et al.* 1987, 158-160) and 24 were isolated finds. After researching the numismatic collection of the Vâlcea County Museum we managed to identify the hoard and other 18 isolated found coins, despite the loss of the information from inventory register. The identification of the place these coins came from was done by studying the available archaeological information. In the coin catalog made for those 18 isolated coin finds is mentioned, addition to technical data, the known archaeological context.

CATALOG OF THE ROMAN REPUBLICAN COINS (see plate II)

1. L. SAVFEIVS

Obverse: X;
Reverse: L·SAVF/ROMA;
Crawford 204/1, 152 B.C.;
D, axis: 6, weight: 2,4 g, diameter: 16,6x18 mm.
Inventory number: 13813.
Was discovered in the year 1979, civil settlement,
level I, S XXXIX (Berciu 1981, 135).

2. L. SEMPRONIVS PITIO

Obverse: PITIO X;
Reverse: [L. SEMP]/ROMA;
Crawford 216, 148 B.C.;
D, axis: 2, weight: 3,70 g, diameter: 18,5x19 mm.
Inventory number: 13769.
Was discovered in the year 1982 in the deposits
from northern side of Cetatea 1 (Berciu *et al.* 1983,
112).

3. Q. TITIVS

Obverse: Without legend;
Reverse: /Q. TITI;
Crawford 341/1, 90 B.C.;

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D, axis: 10, weight: 3,07 g, diameter: 14,4x19,7 mm.

Inventory number: 4354.

Was discovered in the year 1966, is not mentioned the archaeological context (Berciu 1981, 132).

4. Q. TITIVS

Obverse: Without legend;

Reverse: /[Q. TITI];

Crawford 341/2, 90 B.C.;

D, axis: 6, weight: 3,1 g, diameter: 15,9x16,3 mm.

Inventory number: 1670.

Is not mentioned the archaeological context and the discovery year (Berciu 1981, 132).

5. L. TITVRIVS L. f. SABINVS

Obverse: SABIN;

Reverse: Q. /L. TI[TVRI];

Crawford 344/1b, 89 B.C.;

D, axis: 7, weight: 3,3 g, diameter: 17,3x18,1 mm.

Inventory number: 13804.

Was discovered in the year 1978, S XXXVIII, level IIa (Berciu 1981, 132).

6. L. RUBRIVS DOSSENVS

Obverse: DOS;

Reverse: /[L. RV]BRI;

Crawford 348/3, 87 B.C.;

D, axis: 1, weight: 3,4 g, diameter: 17x18,1 mm.

Inventory number: 13840.

Was discovered in the year 1987, S KL II, square 2, depth 1m (Berciu *et al.*, 1988, 178).

7. L. IVLIVS BVRSIO

Obverse: Without legend;

Reverse: /[L. IVLI BVRSIO] ?;

Crawford 352/1 a ?, 85 B.C.;

D, axis: 6, weight: 3,3 g, diameter: 18,1x19,1 mm.

Inventory number: 4368.

Was discovered in the year 1974, S XXV D, level II (Berciu 1981, 132).

8. L. IVLIVS BVRSIO

Obverse: Without legend;

Reverse: LVII/[L. IVL]I BVRSIO;

Crawford 352/1 c, 85 B.C.;

D, axis: 12, weight: 3,51g, diameter: 17,7x20 mm.

Inventory number: 4352.

Was discovered probably in the year 1974 (Mitrea 1972, p. 367, nr. 42). B. Mitrea mention that the coin is fragmented; certainly this coin was discovered at Buridava, it is mentioned in the inventory register of the Vâlcea County Museum in a group of three coins, two of them being documented with bibliographical references as found in the Dacian settlement.

9. M. VOLTEIVS M. f.

Obverse: Without legend;

Reverse: /M VOLTEI M [F];

Crawford 385/4, 78 B.C.;

D, axis: 6, weight: 2,4 g, diameter: 16,6x18 mm.

Inventory number: 13810.

Was discovered in the year 1979 in the civil settlement, level IIa, S IX, terrace II (Berciu 1981, 135).

10. C. CALPVRNIVS PISO L. f. FRUGI

Obverse: Without legend;

Reverse: C·PISO L F [FRV];

Crawford 408/1 a, 67 B.C.;

D, axis: 5, weight: 3,3 g, diameter: 17,7x18 mm.

Inventory number: 13814.

Was discovered in the year 1979 in the civil settlement, level I, S XXXIX (Berciu 1981, 135) (is more probably to be part of level II).

11. Q. POMPEIVS RVFVS

Obverse: [SVLLA COS];

Reverse: [RVFVS COS-Q POM RVFI];

Crawford 434/1, 54 B.C.;

D, axis: 7, weight: 3,46 g, diameter: 16,5x17,1 mm.

Inventory number: 13801.

Was discovered in the year 1977, S XIV A, L II, level IIb (Berciu 1981, 132).

12. C. VIBIVS PANSA C. f. C. n. CAETRONIANVS

Obverse: PANSA;

Reverse: C VIBIVS C F C N-[IOVIS] AXVR;

Crawford 449/1 a, 48 B.C.;

D, axis: 7, weight: 3,46 g, diameter: 16,5x17,1 mm.

Inventory number: 13805.

Was discovered in the year 1978 on Colina Sacră, pit 21, in the fine sand layer (Berciu 1981, 133).

13. CAESAR

Obverse: CAESAR;

Reverse: Without legend;

Crawford 443, 49-48 B.C.;

D, axis: 2, weight: 2,35 g, diameter: 17,2x17,9 mm.

Inventory number: 13765.

Was discovered in the year 1982 in the civil settlement, S XII B/82, depth 1,10m, square 15, level IIa (Berciu *et al.*, 1983, 112).

14. MARCVS ANTONIVS

Obverse: M ANTONI-IMP;

Reverse: [III] VIR R·P·C;

Crawford 496/1 a, 42 B.C.;

D, axis: 1, weight: 3,36 g, diameter: 16,8x18,1 mm.

Inventory number: 13802.

Was discovered in the year 1977 in house L 3 from the civil settlement, S XIV A, level IIb (Berciu 1981, 133).

15. MARCVS ANTONIVS

Obverse: ANT AVG-[III VIR R P C];

Reverse: ?;

Crawford ?, 32-31 B.C.;

D, axis: 10, weight: 3 g, diameter: 18,5x19 mm.

Inventory number: 4353.

Was discovered in the year 1972 in „Orizontul IV de viitură” (Berciu 1981, 133).

16. MARCVS ANTONIVS

Obverse: [ANT AVG]-III·VIR·R·P·C;

Reverse: LEG ?;

Crawford ?, 32-31 B.C.;

D, axis: 12, weight: 3,14 g, diameter: 18x20 mm.

Inventory number: 4351.

Was discovered in the year 1969 in the civil settlement, level IIb (Berciu 1981, 133).

17. MARCVS ANTONIVS

Obverse: [ANT AVG]-III·VIR·R·P·C;

Reverse: LEG III;

Crawford 544/15, 32-31 B.C.;

D, axis: 9, weight: 3,51 g, diameter: 17x18,2 mm.

Inventory number: 13806.

Was discovered in the year 1978 on Colina Sacră (C1), in pit 23a (Berciu 1981, 133).

18. MARCVS ANTONIVS

Obverse: ANT·AVG III·VIR·R·P·C;

Reverse: LEG·XVII [CLASSI] CAE;

Crawford 544/10, 32-31 B.C.;

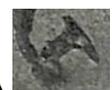
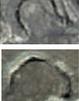
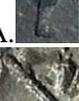
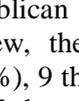
D, axis: 6, weight: 3 g, diameter: 17,3x17,4 mm.

Inventory number: 13770.

Was discovered in the year 1982 on the northern side of Cetate 1, in S A13, square 4, at a depth of 0,30 m, in a mixture of archaeological materials from various times (Berciu *et al.* 1983, 112).

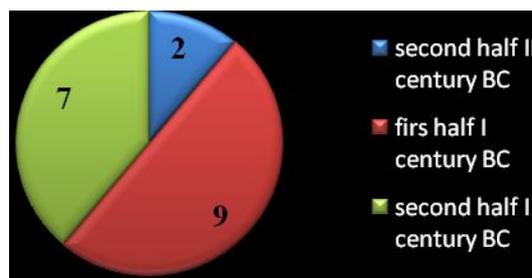
Due to advanced wear noted on most of the coins it was impossible to distinguish with accuracy the form of all incisions present on them. We have to mention some visible interventions that can be connected to metal quality verification or with contra marking phenomenon.

SIGNS ON COINS

COIN	SIGN ON OBVERSE	SIGN ON REVERSE
1	A. 	
3	A. 	A. 
	B. 	
4	A. 	
	B. 	
8	A. 	
	B. 	
10	A. 	
12	A. 	A. 
	B. 	
18	A. 	A. 

Of the 18 roman republican total 2 fit, from typological point of view, the monetary issues from II century B.C. (12%), 9 the first half of the I century BC (47 %) and 7 the second half of the I century BC (41 %).

CHRONOLOGICAL DISTRIBUTION OF COINS



An important problem connected with the roman republican coin presence in the Dacian space is

generated by the massive copying (Preda 1998, 285-286). Lack of means to identify locally produced pieces can create some chronological problems, coins minted in Rome at the end of II century B.C. could have been copied in I century A.D (Lupu 1967, 102-121). Other chronological problems are generated by long roman republican coin circulation. To correct these chronological problems it is compulsory to associate them with other objects which allow a more precise framing.

At Buridava III main levels of La Téne habitation were identified placed chronologically thus: level I – II century B.C., level II - I century B.C. and level III – I century A.D. Out of the 18 coins we know in which archaeological level were discovered only 9. In level I are mentioned coins number 1 and 10. We consider that in case of coin 10 a typing error was made (Berciu 1981, 135) because the level dating was before this coin

minting moment, while from the level II we know the provenience of 7 coins: 5, 7, 9, 13, 14 and 16.

As we have shown, 16 coins fit, from a typological point of view, the issues from I century B.C. It is possible that the majority of them were in use in the second half of I century B.C., although the report is 9 to 7 in favor of coins minted in the first half of this century. We must take into account this situation also due to the fact that the roman republican coins have, in general, a long circulation period in the area north of the Danube, a fact confirmed also by the intense wear out of many pieces. We think that a large presence of roman republican coins after the first half of the I century B.C may be explained by Buridava's situation after Burebista's power collapse, when it recovered its political and economical independence (Purece 2010, 104-107).

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Plate II – Illustrated catalog of the roman republican coins

LISTA ILUSTRĂȚIILOR

- Plate I – Localizarea Buridavei
Plate II – Catalogul monedelor republicane romane

PLATE I

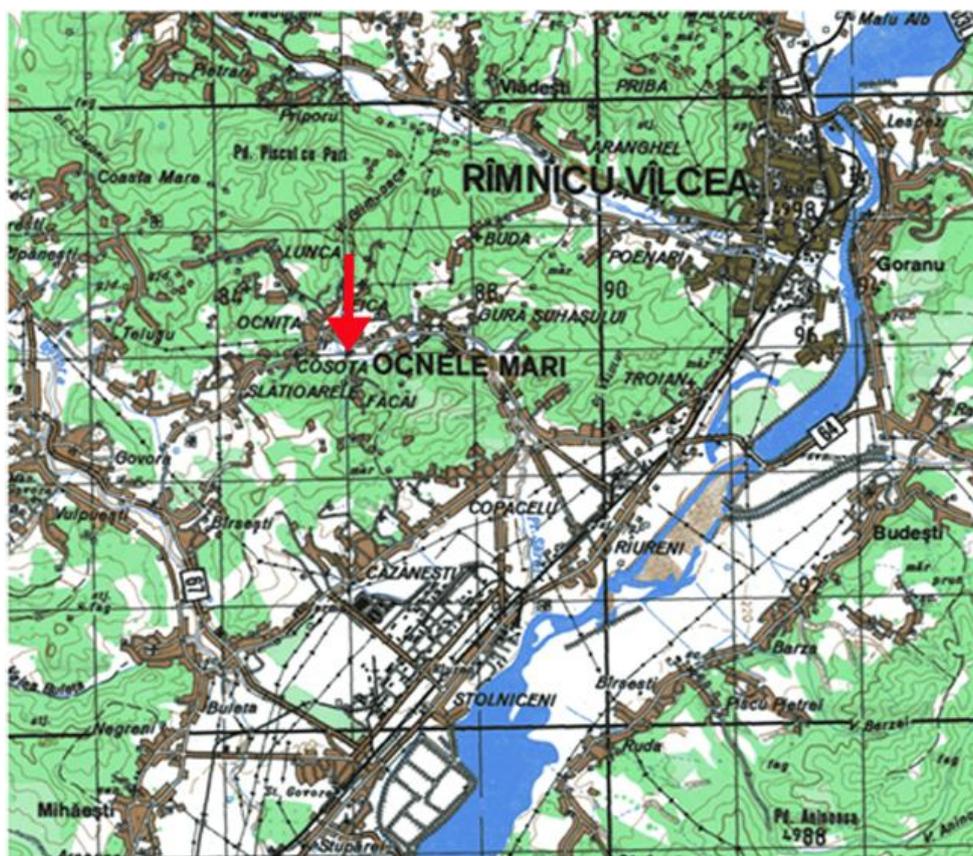


Plate I. Location of Buridava



Plate II. Illustrated Catalog of the Roman Republican Coins