

## Monetary deposit found in building XI of the Military Vicus at *Tibiscvm* (Jupa), Caraş-Severin County

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**Abstract:** Monetary deposit found in building XI of the Military Vicus at *Tibiscvm* (Jupa), Caraş-Severin County. As a result of the systematic archaeological excavations conducted at Jupa in 2008 in building XI a small bronze monetary deposit of 7 sestertii was found. The paper describes and analyses the 7 bronze coins based on: the individual presentation of each coin, the images of the obverse and reverse, the monetary workshop that issued it, the issue year, the metal, the diameter, the weight, the temporary inventory and the catalogue based on which the determination was done.

**Key words:** *Tibiscvm*, monetary deposit, sestertii, *vicus militaris*, home-building.

### Introduction

In 2008, the systematic archaeological research in building XI within the military *vicus* at *Tibiscvm* were led by PhD. Lecturer Regep Simona, a member of the West University of Timișoara team of archaeologists, and coordinated by PhD. Professor Doina Benea.

The archaeological research undertaken between 2005 and 2011 in the *Tibiscvm* military *vicus* were concentrated on building XI, identified as a house. It is placed next to building X, at 1,3 meters West of it, with a North-South orientation. From a typological point of view, building XI fits in the series of those with a narrow fronton and developed in the depth of the plot. This feature suggests a house built on a typical parcel for constructions within *vici militares*.

The dimensions of the building are: the inner length on the North-South direction of 25,50 meters, and the inner width on the East-West direction of 14 meters.

Regarding the planimetry a portico was observed at the entrance, then a space of about 10–11 by 6 meters representing a yard. Rooms appear in the Northern half, placed on one side

and on the other of a middle wall; thus there are 3 rooms on the East side and 2 rooms on the West side.

From a stratigraphic point of view, 2 wood and clay phases were observed, and afterwards the stone construction was built, somewhere in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D., which suffered several restorations; at least 2 of them are datable.

During the research, rich pottery archaeological material resulted: amphorae, *terra sigilata*, usual provincial pottery, *Firmalampen* oil lamps. Iron items of everyday use found are the usual in a Roman house: spikes, nails, padlock, keys, *etc.* The construction materials discovered were numerous, some have the following stamps: MID, MA SY, MIT.

In 2008, while demolishing the partition wall between cassettes (2/2007 and 1/2008) positioned between the portico and the inner yard, seven bronze coins were discovered. The coins were discovered in the first level of the wood phase. The archaeological material discovered consists of very few and unimportant pottery and another small monetary deposit of denarii datable in the period Vespasianus – Hadrianus (S. Regep, C.

Matei, 2011).

Deposit: CSIATIM  
Unpublished

### Catalogue

#### 1) **TRAIANVS**

S; dimensions 30x31 mm, weight 24,6 g, axis 6; very poor conservation state (worn-out).

Obv.: [.....]; laureate head right

Rev.: [.....]; female diety holding the cornucopiae in the right hand

Unidentified mint; struck 98-117 A.D.

Temporary Inventory: 116a/2008

Deposit: CSIATIM

Unpublished

#### 2) **ANTONINVS PIVS**

S; dimensions 32x31 mm, weight 28,7 g, axis 1; good conservation state.

Obv.: ANTONINVS AVGVSTVS PIVS PP TRP XII, laureate head right

Rev.: COS [IIII] S – C; Aequitas to the left, holding scales in the right hand and cornucopiae in the left hand

Mint: Rome; struck 148-149 A.D.

RIC III, 855

Temporary Inventory: 116b/2008

Deposit: CSIATIM

Unpublished

#### 3) **ANTONINVS PIVS**

S; dimensions 32x30 mm, weight 24,3 g, axis 1; fair conservation state.

Obv.: [ANTONIN]VS AVG PIVS PP TR P [COS III], laureate head right

Rev.: [IMP]ERA[TOR II] S – C; Fides standing, head right, holding corn-ears in the right hand and a basket heaped with fruit in the left hand

Mint: Rome; struck 143-144 A.D.

RIC III, 716

Temporary Inventory: 116c/2008

Deposit: CSIATIM

Unpublished

#### 4) **MARCVS AVRELIVS: Faustina II**

S; dimensions 29x27 mm, weight 22,4 g, axis 1; good conservation state.

Obv.: FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, head right, draped bust right

Rev.: VE[NVS VIC]TRIX S – C; Venus standing left, holding Victory in right hand and shield in left.

Mint: Rome; struck 161-180 A.D.

RIC III, 1688

Temporary Inventory: 116g/2008

Tome XV, Numéro 1, 2013

#### 5) **MARCVS AVRELIVS: diva Faustina II**

S; dimensions 30x30 mm, weight 28,6 g, axis 6; fair conservation state.

Obv.: DIVA FAVSTINA PIA, head right, draped bust right

Rev.: [SIDERIBVS RECEPTA] S – C; Faustina as Diana, standing right, holding torch, crescent behind neck.

Mint: Rome; struck post 175 A.D.

RIC III, 1715

Temporary Inventory: 116d/2008

Deposit: CSIATIM

Unpublished

#### 6) **COMMODOVS: Crispina**

S; dimensions 29x27 mm, weight 24,2 g, axis 0; poor conservation state.

Obv.: CRISPINA [AVG]VSTA, head right, draped bust right

Rev.: [PVDICITIA] [S] – C; Pudicitia seated left

Mint: Rome; struck 177-182 A.D.

RIC III, 670

Temporary Inventory: 116f/2008

Deposit: CSIATIM

Unpublished

#### 7) **COMMODOVS**

S; dimensions 27x28 mm, weight 20,2 g, axis 11; very poor conservation state.

Obv.: COMMODOVS [.....]; laureate bust right

Rev.: [.....] S – C; female deity helmeted, standing left, left arm holding spear and leaning on shield; right arm half raised from the elbow.

Mint: Rome; struck 181-182 – 192 A.D.

Temporary Inventory: 116e/2008

Deposit: CSIATIM







Unpublished







### Conclusions

The seven bronze coins are 7 sestertii. The oldest coin is 1 S, struck by Trajanus, the most recent is 1 S struck by Commodus between 181-182 and 192 A.D.



The bronze flans were of good quality in some cases and have a square aspect, such as the coins with the following temporary inventory: 116a/2008, 116b/2008, 116f/2008 and 116g/2008.

Monetary deposit found in building XI of the Military Vicus at *Tibiscvm* (Jupa), Caraş-Severin County

Nr. Crt.	Description	Obverse	Reverse	Mint	Struck year	Metal	Dimensions	Weight	Temporary inventory	Catalogue
01	<p><b>TRAIANVS</b> S; 30x31 mm; 24,6 g; axis 6; very poor conservation state (worn-out) Obv: [ .....]; laureate head right Rev: [ .....]; female deity holding the cornucopiae in the right hand</p>			Unidentified	98-117 A.D.	AE	30X31 mm	24,6 g	116a/2008	-
02	<p><b>ANTONINVS PIVS</b> S; 32x31 mm; 28,7 g; axis 1; good conservation state Obv: ANTONINVS AVGVSTVS PIVS P P TR P XII; laureate head right Rev: COS [IIII] S – C; Aequitas to the left, holding scales in the right hand and cornucopiae in the left hand</p>			Rome	148-149 A.D.	AE	32X31 mm	28,7 g	116b/2008	RIC III, 855
03	<p><b>ANTONINVS PIVS</b> S; 32x30 mm; 24,3 g; axis 1; fair conservation state Obv: [ANTONIN]VS AVGVSTVS PIVS P P TR P [COS III]; laureate head right Rev: [IMP]ERA[TOR II] S – C; Fides standing, head right, holding corn-ears in the right hand and a basket heaped with fruit in the left hand</p>			Rome	143-144 A.D.	AE	32X30 mm	24,3 g	116c/2008	RIC III, 716

Nr. Crt.	Description	Obverse	Reverse	Mint	Struck year	Metal	Dimensions	Weight	Temporary inventory	Catalogue
04	<p><b>MARCVS AVRELIVS: Faustina II</b>                      S; 29x27 mm; 22,4 g; axis 1; good conservation state                      Obv: FAVSTINA AVGVSTA; head right, draped bust right                      Rev: VE[NVS VIC]TRIX S – C; Venus standing left, holding Victory in right hand and shield in left</p>			Rome	161-180 A.D.	AE	29X27 mm	22,4 g	116g/2008	RIC III, 1688
05	<p><b>MARCVS AVRELIVS: diva Faustina II</b>                      S; 30x30 mm; 28,6 g; axis 6; fair conservation state                      Obv. DIVA FAVSTINA PIA; head right, draped bust right                      Rev: [SIDERIBVS RECEPTA] S – C; Faustina as Diana, standing right, holding torch, crescent behind neck</p>			Rome	post 175 A.D.	AE	30X30 mm	28,6	116d/2008	RIC III, 1715
06	<p><b>COMMODVS: Crispina</b>                      S; 29x27 mm; 24,2 g; axis 0; poor conservation state                      Obv: CRISPINA [AVG]VSTA; head right, draped bust right                      Rev: [PVDICITIA S] – C; Pudicitia seated left</p>			Rome	177-182 A.D.	AE	29X27 mm	24,2 g	116f/2008	RIC III, 670

Monetary deposit found in building XI of the Military Vicus at *Tibiscvm* (Jupa), Caraș-Severin County

Nr. Crt.	Description	Obverse	Reverse	Mint	Struck year	Metal	Dimensions	Weight	Temporary inventory	Catalogue
07	<p><b>COMMODVS</b> S; 27x28 mm; 20,2 g; axis 11; very poor conservation state Obv: <b>COMMODVS</b> [Commodvs .....]; laureate bust right Rev: [ .....] S – C; female deity helmeted, standing left, left arm holding spear and leaning on shield; right arm half raised from the elbow</p>			Rome	180-192 A.D.	AE	27X28 mm	20,2 g	116e/2008	-

All the coins are minted by the central mint in Rome.

Coin repartition by emperors is the following: Traianus – 1 S, Antoninus Pius – 2 S, Marcus Aurelius – 2 S and Commodus – 2 S.

The hoarding of the coins started during Antoninus Pius (2 coins) and it continues during Marcus Aurelius and Commodus, each being present with 2 coins each, with the coins struck during Commodus the hoarding comes to an end.

Until now, in Roman Dacia, beside the monetary deposit at Jupa, 7 other coin hoardings ended with coins struck by Commodus were found: 3 in Transilvania – "Alba Iulia I" (I. Winkler, 1965, p. 231), "Cristuru Secuiesc" (D. Protase, 1969, p. 512), "Reghin-Dumbrăvioara" (B. Mitrea, 1954, p. 383) and 4 in Oltenia – "Butoiești" (V. Suciu, 2000, p. 31), "Gârla Mare" (V. Suciu, 2000, p. 40), "Drăghiceni" (V. Suciu, 2000, p. 36), "Slatina" (D. Tudor, 1969, p. 129), from a geographic or chronological point of view these hoardings do not form coin hoarding horizons (V. Suciu, 2000). "Thus it seems that these coin hoardings were hidden due to events of local importance or their hiding was caused by events of personal reasons" (A. Husar, 2002, p. 400).

In our opinion this coin hoarding cannot be connected to any political or military event of the era, as its value is very low.

Considering the relative short period of hoarding, the coins were probably accumulated during only one generation. The type of coin hoarded can indicate that this small coin deposit represents current capital, which, from different reasons, was never recovered by the owner.

Building XI is a typical house for the colonists in *vicus militaris*, the first 2 phases of the construction being related to a Norico-Pannonian family.

#### Abbreviations

AE - bronze

Obv. - obverse

Rev. - reverse

S – *sestertius*

CSIATIM – Centrul de Studii de Istorie și Arheologie „Constantin Daicoviciu” Timișoara

RIC – *The Roman Imperial Coinage*

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