

ABOUT A NEW 3RD CENTURY BC LYSIMACHUS TYPE STATER FROM TOMIS

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Rezumat: *Un nou stater de tip Lysimach bătut la Tomis după mijlocul secolului al III-lea a.Cr. având sigla atelierului TO în exergă și monograma $\overline{\text{AP}}$ în camp stânga trebuie inclus în seria emisiunilor orașului, crescând importanța seriilor monetare anterioare celor cu trident în exergă, adăugând o nouă monogramă de magistrat monetar celor deja cunoscute și confirmând autenticitatea unui alt exemplar unic având sigla de atelier TO în câmpul stânga, iar monograma N în exergă. Absența unei serii complete de legături de ștanțe lasă posibilitatea ca staterii cu monogramele N respective $\overline{\text{AP}}$ să poată schimba locul între ei.*

Abstract: *A new 3rd c. BC stater from Tomis, having on the reverse the mintmark TO (inner left field) and the monogram $\overline{\text{AP}}$ in the exergue must be inserted into the series of mid-3rd c. BC issues of the city, growing the importance of the pre-trident series, adding a new monogram and confirming the authenticity of the another unique sample having the mintmark TO in the left field and the monogram N in the exergue. Actually, because we have not a complete die-links sequence, we cannot be sure that the staters with monograms N respectively $\overline{\text{AP}}$ will change their place between them.*

During the last few years several articles made the history of the early gold and silver coins from Tomis much more comprehensive¹. One by one, extraordinary coins (many of them unique) coming from famous public collections all around the world or from public auctions of the last years suggest a serial arrangement of the first staters from Tomis. None of them came from an identified coin hoard or from archaeological excavations, but some were recently confirmed by the appearance of few tetradrachms from the same series, having exactly the same mintmark and monograms and belonging to the so-called “Black Sea hoard”². So, we know today that the first gold coins from Tomis were Lysimachus type staters struck at the middle of the 3rd c. BC, having the mintmark $\overline{\text{T}}$ in the inner left field of the reverse and the monogram $\overline{\text{ME}}$ in the exergue, while the first silver series were Alexander the Great type tetradrachms having the same mintmark and monogram. As we now know, there

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¹ Petac, Vîlcu 2012, p. 51-63; Petac, Vîlcu 2016, p. 499-508.

² Marinescu, Lorber 2012, p. 197-259.

were four Tomis gold and silver pre-trident series, but the appearance of a new unknown stater seems to modify this situation as follows:

First series: <LF> ΜΕ; <EX> Τ³

Tetradrachms (Alexander type)

- O 1. Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin headdress.
R 1-2. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (left) – [Α]ΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ (right). Zeus seated left, holding eagle and sceptre; in the left field, ΜΕ; in the exergue, Τ.
Price 1991, p. 204, nr. 1318; years 250-200 BC; pl. I, 1 (1×1).
Marinescu, Lorber 2012, p. 199, nr. 1 (Black Sea hoard, lot B); pl. I, 2 (1×1).

Second series: <LF> Τ; <EX> ΜΕ⁴

Staters (Lysimachus type)

- O 1. Head of Alexander the Great, to right.
R 1. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (right); ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧΟΥ (left); Athena seated left, resting on shield, holding Nike and spear; inner left field, Τ; in the exergue, monogram ΜΕ.
Petac, Vîlcu 2012, p. 53, nrs. 1-2; pl. I, 3 (1,5×1).

Tetradrachms (Alexander type)

- O 1. Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin headdress.
R 3. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (left) – [Α]ΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟ[Υ] (right). Zeus seated left, holding eagle and sceptre; in the left field, Τ; in the exergue, unclear monogram, probably ΜΕ.
Marinescu, Lorber 2012, p. 199, no. 2 (Black Sea hoard, lot C); pl. I, 4 (1×1).

Third series: <LF> ΤΟ; <EX> Λ⁵

Staters (Lysimachus type)

- O 1. Head of Alexander the Great, to right.
R 2. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, to right; ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧΟΥ, to left; Athena seated left, resting on shield, holding Nike; no spear; inner left field, ΤΟ; in the exergue, Λ.
Petac, Vîlcu 2012, p. 53, nr. 3; pl. I, 5 (1,5×1).

³ Petac, Vîlcu 2016, p. 500-501, nrs. 1-4.

⁴ Petac, Vîlcu 2016, p. 501, nrs. 5-7.

⁵ Petac, Vîlcu 2016, p. 501-502, nr. 8.

Fourth series: <LF> TO; <EX> N⁶


Stater (Lysimachus type)

- O₂. Head of Alexander the Great, to right.
R₃. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, to right; ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧ●Υ, to left; Athena seated left, resting on shield, holding Nike; no spear; inner left field, TO; in the exergue, N.
Petac, Vilcu 2012, p. 53, nr. 4; pl. I, 6 (1,5×1).

We have now a new Lysimachus type stater belonging to the pre-trident series and also coming from the international market. At this moment it seems to be the last one before the trident-in-the-exergue series.

Fifth series: <LF> ; <EX> TO


Staters (Lysimachus type)

- O₃. Head of Alexander the Great, to right.
R₄. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, to right; ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧΟΥ, to left; Athena seated left, resting on shield, holding Nike; no spear; inner left field, ; in the exergue, TO.
AV 1 h; 8,19 g (cut); 20,2 mm.
Agora Auction, Numismatic Sale 49, February 2, 2016, nr. 49-013; pl. I, 7 (1,5×1).

It becomes the last pre-trident series. Nobody could guarantee that the things will not change again in the future, until we will have a complete or more appropriate die-sequence – if we will have it. In fact, we cannot be sure that this coin must stay before that having monogram N in the exergue, so the fourth and the fifth issues can change their place between them anytime.

Sixth series: <LF> ; <TH> TO; <EX> ornamented trident⁷

Staters (Lysimachus type)

- O₄. Head of Alexander the Great, to right.
R₅. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, to right; ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧΟΥ, to left; Athena seated left, resting on shield, holding Nike; no spear; inner left field, ; under the throne, TO; in the exergue, trident with dolphins.
Müller 1858, 280; pl. I, 8 (1,5×1).

⁶ Petac, Vilcu 2016, p. 502, nr. 9.

⁷ Petac, Vilcu 2012, p. 53, nr. 5.

Seventh series: <LF>AI; <TH> TO; <EX> ornamented trident⁸

O₅₋₆. Head of Alexander the Great, to right.

R₆₋₇. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, to right; ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧΟΥ, to left; Athena seated left, resting on shield, holding Nike and spear; inner left field, AI; under the throne, TO; in the exergue, trident with dolphins.

American Numismatic Society collection, 1944.100.81593 (former Alexandrescu collection).

Vîlcu, Isvoranu, Nicolae 2006, p. 64, nr. 54 ; pl. I, 9 (1,5×1).

With the significant exception of the earliest issues, where we find obverse die-links between the tetradrachms belonging to the 1st and 2nd series and also between the staters from the 2nd and 3rd series⁹, suggesting a quick transition from 1st to 3rd series, not a single other die-link was later found, reflecting an episodically activity. It becomes also clear that the beginning of the spectacular political growth of Tomis dates from the middle of the 3rd century BC, after the Monopoly War. Several monograms present on the gold and silver coins (ME, Λ, N, AP, Α, AI), belonging to very important political persons, extend the prosopography of the city, provoking the epigraphically investigators.

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⁸ Petac, Vîlcu 2012, p. 54, nrs. 6-8.

⁹ Petac, Vîlcu 2016, p. 499-508.

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Plansa I. Stateri și tetradrahme din secolul III î. Hr. de la Tomis.



Plate I. 3rd c. BC staters and tetradrachms from Tomis: 1-2, first issue; 3-4, second issue; 5, third issue; 6, fourth issue; 7, fifth issue; 8, sixth issue; 9, seventh issue.