

## PROJECT TILURIUM - COIN FINDS<sup>1</sup>

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During the decade long systematic archaeological research conducted on the site of Gardun (modern village of Trilj next to Sinj), the location of a former Roman military camp *Tilurium*, a total of 155 coins were discovered, of which 99 can be precisely identified and dated.<sup>2</sup>

As with all other items discovered during archaeological excavations at this site, numismatic findings were systematically documented, conserved, and published, and in this manner became available to the scientists and the broader public.

This is how 40 pieces (excavated in the period from 1997 to 2001) were published in the monograph "*Tilurium I, Research – Forschungen 1997-2001*",<sup>3</sup> and the remaining 75 pieces (excavated in the period from 2002-2006) are currently in the process of being published in the next monograph *Tilurium III. Istraživanja 2002-2006. godine.* (in print).

<sup>1</sup> The results presented here are a product of a scientific project "Roman Military Camps in Croatia", conducted with the financial support of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia.

<sup>2</sup> On archaeological excavations of *Tilurium* see in SANADER-TONČINIĆ in this Volume.

The earliest Greek coin is a bronze specimen from the 3th or 2nd century BC. This testifies to the trade contacts of the indigenous population with Greek colonies on the Adriatic coast (Fig. 1).<sup>4</sup>

Roman Republican coinage is represented with 4 silver denarii and 2 quinarii, 1 bronze as and 1 difficult to identify bronze fragment. Quinarii and denarii were minted in Rome and were precisely dated by one of *tresviri monetales*.<sup>5</sup> The denarii minted in 46 and 42 BC most likely made their way to Gardun during the Roman campaign in 34 and 33 BC when many strongholds of the Delmatae were captured.<sup>6</sup> Notable is the so-called legionary denarius from 32-31 BC which mentions the II. Legion, and was minted in a mint moving with Mark Anthony shortly before the battle of Actium (Fig. 2).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> See ŠEPAROVIĆ 2003.

<sup>4</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ in print, cat. no. 1

<sup>5</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ 2003, 195, cat. no. 1-2; ŠEPAROVIĆ in print, kat.br. 2-6

<sup>6</sup> ZANINOVIĆ 2007, 21-22.

<sup>7</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ in print, kat.br. 7; on legionary denarii from Croatia see ŠEPAROVIĆ 2009.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
KOM	0	15	12	11	5	7	8	12	34	11

Table 1



Fig. 1

Among the Roman imperial coinage, we observe greater proportion of coins issued during the first century. Augustus is represented with 21 coins, minted in Lugdunum (1), Nemausus (4), Ephesus (2), Rome (12) and Italy (2).<sup>8</sup> Notable is the silver quinarius from 29-26 BC, minted on the territory of Italy (Fig. 3).<sup>9</sup> Dupondii, asses and quadrantes, dated by the moneyers (the influence of the Republican monetary system), were issued from Roman mint. Two Ephesian asses (Fig. 4) give indication of widespread distribution of this type of money and could be linked with the movements of the VII. Legion.<sup>10</sup>

Fourteen examples date from the period of the reign of Tiberius, all minted in Rome, among which most notable are commemorative issues with the image of the divine Augustus on the obverse and two examples with the portrait of Tiberius' son Drusus (Fig. 5).<sup>11</sup> One very poorly preserved *as* with portrait of Agrippa on the obverse comes from the period of the reign of emperor Caligula.<sup>12</sup>

Findings of Claudius' coins are numerous: namely asses and quadrantes of various types, and one sestertius, minted in Rome (Fig. 6).<sup>13</sup> Since the Roman army was partly paid in coins made of non-precious metals, it is altogether clear that the examples from Gardun, just

<sup>8</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ 2003, 195-197, cat. no. 3-9; ŠEPAROVİĆ in print, cat. no. 8-21.

<sup>9</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ in print, cat. no. 12.

<sup>10</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ 2003, 196, cat. no. 5; ŠEPAROVİĆ in print, cat. no. 21.

<sup>11</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ 2003, 198, cat. no. 10-11; ŠEPAROVİĆ in print, cat. no. 22-32.

<sup>12</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ in print, cat. no. 33.

<sup>13</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ 2003, 199-201, cat. no. 13-19; ŠEPAROVİĆ in print, cat. no. 34-45.



Fig. 2

as in the period of Claudius' reign (as well as older examples, such as Augustus' and Tiberius'), were in the possession of soldiers of the VII. Legion who resided in Gardun.

#### HOARD OF ROMAN IMPERIAL COINS FROM GARDUN

In 1930 a coin hoard was accidentally discovered in Gardun containing 29 pieces of bronze coins stored in a jar. The hoard can undoubtedly be associated with military presence in this area during Claudius' reign. Coins from Claudius' reign predominate (the content of the hoard: 2 coins from the reign of Augustus, 10 Tiberius, 1 Caligula and 16 Claudius). The findings were bought and stored in the AMS.<sup>14</sup> The hoard was concealed during a time of political crisis after Caligula's assassination, when the Dalmatian governor Skribonian, who was supported by the Senate opposition, rebelled against the newly appointed Emperor Claudius. An important role in crushing this rebellion was played by the VII Legion from Tilurium, who remained faithful to the Emperor, and received the title *Cl(audia) P(ia) F(idelis)*.<sup>15</sup> This concealed money probably once belonged to a soldier from the VII Legion, who for security purposes buried his assets during the time of the rebellion.

<sup>14</sup> GRGIN 1932, 26-29.

<sup>15</sup> *Suet. Claud.* 13 and 35; *Tac. Ann.* XII, 52; *Hist.* I, 89, II, 75; *Plin. Ep.* III, 16; *Dio Cass. Hist.* LX, 15, 1-4.



Fig. 3



Fig. 5



Fig. 7

The period of Flavians is represented by a single dupondius issued from the mint of Rome during the time of Emperor Vespasian.<sup>16</sup>

During a decade of archaeological research at Gardun, a relatively small amount of money was found from the period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century – one Trajan's *as*,<sup>17</sup> one *as* that can be attributed to Sabina, the wife of

<sup>16</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ in print, cat. no. 47.

<sup>17</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ in print, cat. no. 48.



Fig. 4



Fig. 6



Fig. 8

Emperor Hadrian,<sup>18</sup> and the sestertius of Severus Alexander (Fig. 7).<sup>19</sup> The coins from the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, issued by the Emperors Gallienus and Claudius Gothicus, as well as Tacitus (Fig. 8) are somewhat more numerous (a total of 6 pieces). In addition to Rome, other mints now appear, such as those in Siscia and Ticinum.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ 2003, 201, cat. no. 20.

<sup>19</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ 2003, 201, cat. no. 21.

<sup>20</sup> ŠEPAROVİĆ 2003, 202-203, cat. no. 22-25; ŠEPAROVİĆ in print, cat. no. 49-50.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

The period of Late Antiquity is represented with a *nummus* of Licinius (Fig. 9), numerous specimens minted during the time of the Constantine family, and with some pieces attributed to the Valentinian Dynasty, all the way to specimens from the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century attributed to Valentinian III or Honorius. The period of the reign of Emperor Constantine and his successors is commemorated in the centeniales (type VOTA XX and SARMATIA DEVICTA, as well as GLORIA EXERCITVS), as well as their successors, AE3 types FEL TEMP REPARATIO with the standard image of a fallen horseman.<sup>21</sup> This is a common 4<sup>th</sup> c. numismatic repertoire; the site's contents and the proportion of various types within it is analogous with other similar finds at archaeological sites of this period.<sup>22</sup>

From the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, namely the period of the Valentinian Dynasty, the types RESTITUTOR REI P and SECVRTITAS REI PVBLICAE are represented. Accordingly, it should be noted that the coinage from this period testifies to the continuation of the crisis and high inflation that was then engulfing the Roman Empire, and that it is often of poor quality and difficult to determine (Fig. 10).<sup>23</sup> Specimens attributed to Theodosius I are also represented (Fig. 11).<sup>24</sup>

<sup>21</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ 2003, 203-205, cat. no. 26-30; ŠEPAROVIĆ in print, cat. no. 51-57.

<sup>22</sup> DUNCAN 1993, 62.

The latest Late Antiquity coins from the 5<sup>th</sup> century are extremely worn and therefore impossible to identify. We can only date them approximately, and among them is also one *minimus*, a very small coin of poor quality that testifies to the degradation and decay of the Western Roman Empire in the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>25</sup>

Two early modern period specimens were also found: one undetermined denarius from the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century, and one specimen from the time of the Habsburgs, minted in Vienna and dated 1858 (Fig. 12).<sup>26</sup>

From the two diagrams that illustrate the findings of imperial coinage at the site of Gardun we can see that the Julio-Claudian coinage is more significantly represented. These numismatic findings support the time frame of the functioning of the camp and presence of the VII Legion in it. Findings of coinage from later periods prove that life did not stop in this area with the departure of the Legion and the abandonment of the camp at Gardun (Diagram 2).

<sup>23</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ 2003, 205, cat. no. 31-32; ŠEPAROVIĆ in print, cat. no. 58-59, 63-65.

<sup>24</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ in print, cat. no. 60-62.

<sup>25</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ in print, cat. no. 71-73.

<sup>26</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ in print, cat. no. 74-75.

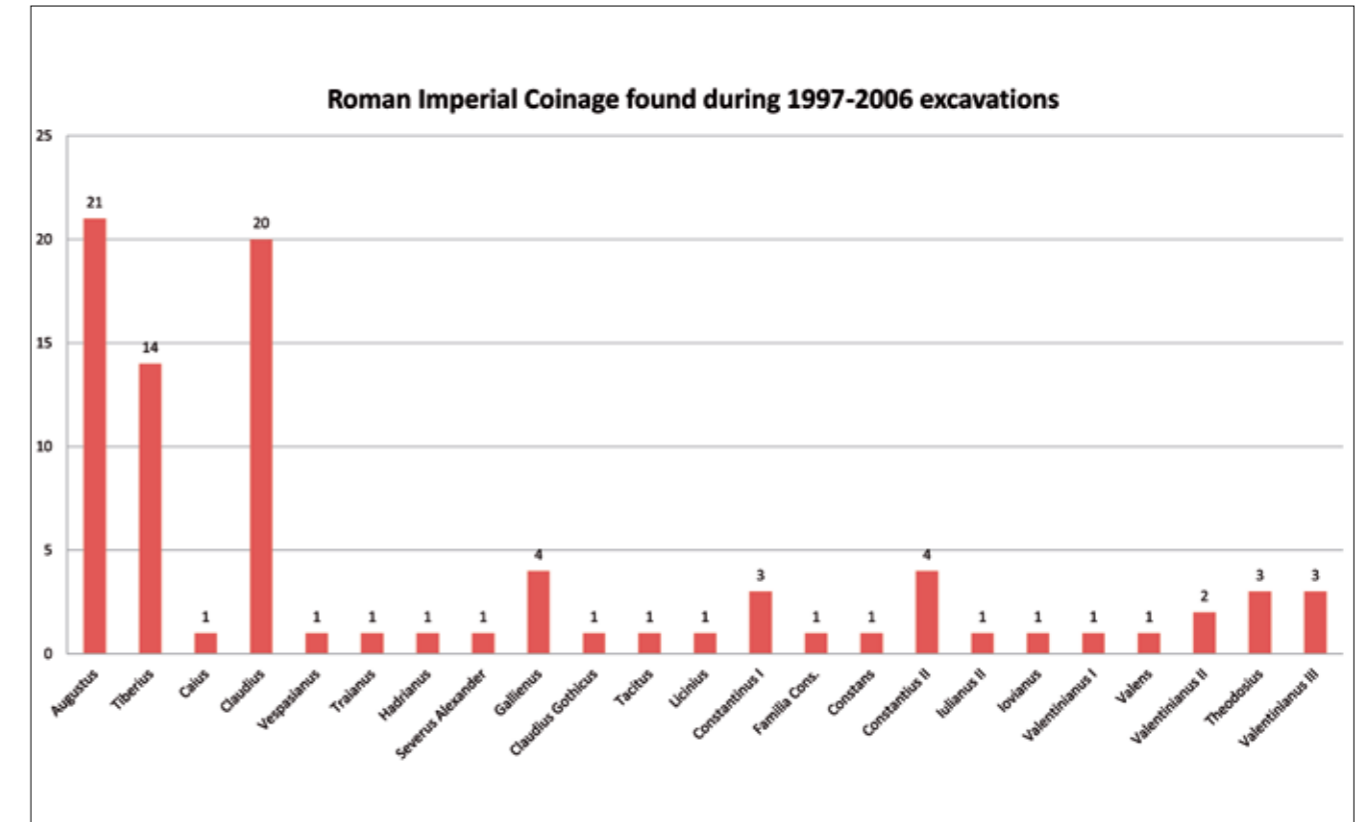


Diagram 1

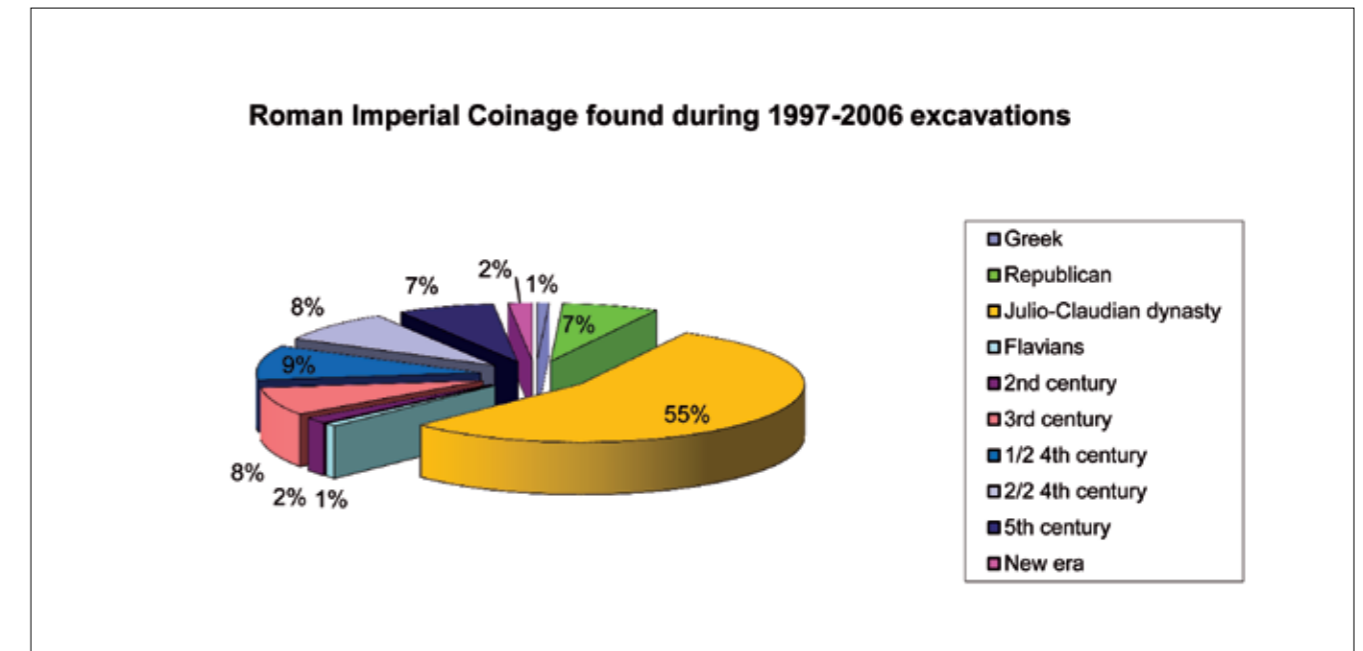


Diagram 2



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

### COINS FROM GARDUN AT THE MUSEUM OF CETINSKA KRAJINA

With its wealth of archaeological material, the site of Gardun attracted the attention of a number of collectors and historical enthusiasts even before the start of systematic archaeological excavations. For this reason, coins found in this area can be found in many Croatian museums. A significant portion of the numismatic material kept in the Museum of Cetinska Krajina is made up of money found in the area of the village of Gardun. The coins were mostly bought by or donated to the museum, of which 162 examples can be precisely or at least generally identified (2 Numidian coins, 150 Roman (where we have to include 3 Roman provincial coins), 5 Byzantine and 2 modern period). When analyzed together with the coins recovered during ar-

chaeological excavations they certainly contribute to a more precise interpretation of the coin circulation in this area. Their composition can be seen in diagram 3.

The composition of these findings does not contrast with the composition of findings in 1997-2006 excavations. The most numerous examples remain those from the Julio-Claudian Dynasty, and findings from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, particularly from the Constantine Dynasty. Special attention should be accorded to a few of the findings only, which can do no more than complete the numismatic picture of the Gardun site:

- 1) Numidian coins with an image of a bearded man on the obverse and a horse on the reverse (Fig. 13).<sup>27</sup> These coins are quite frequent in hoards and individual finds in the territory of northern Dalmatia, Lika and western Bosnia.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ 2011, 51, cat. no. 1-2.

<sup>28</sup> MIRNIK 1983, 150; Bonačić-Mandinić 2006, 203.

- 2) A well preserved antoninianus of Philip I, which due to the proportion and quality of silver is significantly different from other antoniniani from the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (Fig. 14).<sup>29</sup>

- 3) Three examples can be included in the so called Roman provincial or Greek imperial coinage. One belonging to Hadrian and the other to Gordian were minted in the city of Alexandria, while it was not possible to identify a specimen of Alexander Severus (Fig. 15).<sup>30</sup>

<sup>29</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ 2011, 55, cat. no. 59.

<sup>30</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ 2011, 61, cat. no. 1-3.

- 4) Byzantine coinage is especially interesting since it testifies to the time of conflict with the Eastern Goths when these areas once again came under the authority of Constantinople. All five examples are Justinian's issues, but from various mints (Fig. 16).<sup>31</sup>

<sup>31</sup> ŠEPAROVIĆ 2011, 61-62, cat. no. 1-5.

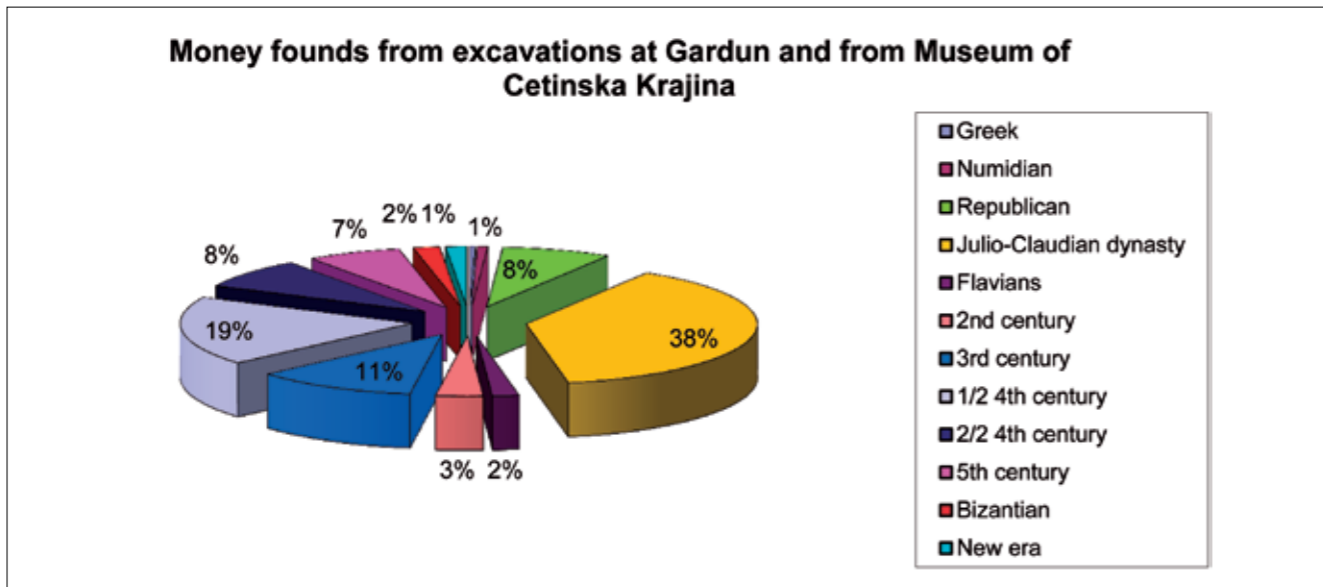


Diagram 3

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**PROJECT TILURIUM - GLASS FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>**

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Glass findings from Gardun attest to the continuity of life since the Augustan Age. Its quantity and quality is best documented from the period of the 1st century AD, however findings stretch from throughout the period of the entire Empire, and there are also medieval findings. It is clear that the army here was also part of a demanding market where glass workshops meet the needs for the most luxurious products.

**CAST GLASS  
MOSAIC GLASS**

Several fragments of a ribbed bowl were found in Gardun (Isings f. 3), just like those that were produced in Syrian-Palestinian and Roman-Italic workshops in the second half of the 1st century BC and in the 1st century AD (No. 1). The fragments from Gardun are probably of Roman-Italic production from the Augustan Age. Italic examples were namely distributed exclusively for Italy or for civilian and military settlements founded by Augustus or his immediate successors in the neighboring western provinces.

Fragments of smooth bowls and those with wavy sides also have Italian analogies (No. 2). Ribbon mosaic glass appear in the first half of the 1st century BC. Most of the dated ribbon mosaic glassware dates from the Augustan Age, and are mostly bowls that have no base-rings, as opposed to its Hellenistic predecessors. These vessels from Gardun were probably imported from Italy in the Augustan Age.

<sup>1</sup> The results presented derived from a scientific project (Roman Military Camps in Croatia), conducted with the support of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia.

**MONOCHROME GLASS**

Found in Gardun were plenty of fragments of Roman monochromatic ribbed bowls (Isings, f. 3) that developed from Hellenistic Syrian-Palestinian prototypes (No. 3). The Gardun fragments of shallow and deep bowls are primarily in natural shades of greenish colored glass. The ribbed bowls of Gardun are probably imported from Italy - namely, Rome, northern Italy (Aquilaia) or Campania, but possibly also from the Syrian-Palestinian area. Only one such bowl from Gardun is kept at the Archaeological Museum in Split.

A fragment of a linear-cut bowl (No. 4) belonging to a bowl type that was widespread throughout the Mediterranean basin and produced on the Syrian-Palestinian coast and in Italy found its way to Gardun at the turn of the 1st century BC into the 1st century AD.

A fragment of a handle from a rectangular tray (No. 5) belongs to the type confirmed in Italy and the Western Mediterranean in the first half of the 1st century AD.

A fragment of a dish (No. 6), and fragments of a bowl made from transparent glass on base-rings probably originated from some Eastern (Egyptian or Syrian) workshop, and analogous findings in Dura-Europos from the second half of the 1st century AD also point to this.

Only a funnel neck bottle was preserved in Gardun (No. 7), an example of Islamic glass, possibly of Iranian origin, from the 8th - 10th centuries AD, through either Byzantine intermediation or direct contact between the Croats and the Islamic world.