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SOLIDI FROM THE ZAGÓRZYN HOARD

In late autumn of 1926 or what is less probable, in early spring of 1927, at Zagórzyn on the River Proсна, pow. (= district of) Kalisz in central Poland, three local peasants accidentally stumbled upon a hoard dating from the Migration Period, one of the largest such finds in Central Europe¹. Unfortunately when after a regrettable delay information about the deposit reached archaeologists and heritage officers, most of the objects belonging to the assemblage had been sold off, taken out of Poland or even melted down². With time, pieces belonging to the deposit entered many private and public collections in Europe and United States. Only a small number could later be traced, identified and linked to the Zagórzyn deposit. The fate of numerous other pieces sadly remains unknown.

Interviews made in 1998 with descendants of the peasants who originally discovered the hoard and a field survey carried out using metal detectors helped to locate the site of the deposit and recover the remaining pieces belonging to it³.

Basing on information now at hand it has been possible to reconstruct the contents of the deposit roughly as follows: an assemblage of gold objects was contained inside a large bronze cauldron; among them was a signet ring, a ring pendant, an anthropomorphic figure (?), several dozen beads, no less than six medallions⁴, two Germanic bracteats types B and C, at least one silver-gilt, zoo-

¹ Bursche 1998, pp. 51–61, 254–7, Pl. J & K, with an extensive list of earlier literature; the author is at present working on a monograph of the Zagórzyn hoard; cf. also Bursche 2000, 2001, pp. 88–9.

² Sadly enough one of the pieces lost in this manner was the largest gold medallion known to date, presumably a barbarian imitation of a Valens issue, weighing ca. 750 g.

³ Small fragments of bronze sheet from the destroyed vessel and seven denarii — Bursche 1999, pp. 126–7.

⁴ These include multiples of a Constantine II, two Constantius II, presumably two Valentinian I (one unpublished and unique) as well as two barbarian imitations, one of them presumably a Valens, the other a Valentinian I and Valens — Bursche 1998, pp. 254–5.

morphic belt-buckle and some three thousand (possibly many more) denarii from A.D. 1st and 2nd century and numerous solidi from the 4th and perhaps also the 5th century. Unfortunately it is no longer possible to establish the ratio of the solidi to the denarii or even to ascertain which of them prevailed⁵. The fact that relatively more information is available on gold coins may have been occasioned by their excellent condition and the much greater interest shown by antiquities dealers, collectors and museums in purchasing fine gold coins rather than the heavily worn, common denarii. Using information gleaned from various sources it has been possible to identify in all no less than 40 denarii⁶ and 18 or perhaps even as many as 21 solidi.

Before finally entering public or private collections some of the solidi first had passed through many hands often under very complicated circumstances. A part of them have fallen from the record altogether. A brief account of their fortunes is given below.

1. Six solidi from the Zagórzyn hoard were offered in 1927 to the collection of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw (PMA) by a lawyer of Kalisz, Mieczysław Siekiel-Zdzieniecki who had acquired the pieces from a middleman unwilling to disclose their origin⁷. These six issues are still to be found in the collection of the State Archaeology Museum⁸.
2. Early in 1929 a foreign dealer approached the Schlesisches Museum für Kunstgewerbe und Altertümer in Breslau (now Wrocław), at present no longer existing, offering a set of pieces originating from a hoard discovered in the region of Kalisz⁹. The set included a number of finely preserved solidi, which on this occasion were recorded and photographed at the Museum¹⁰.

In keeping with its policy the Breslau Museum collected pieces only from the region of Silesia. Purchase of specimens originating from outside this area (i.e., Poland) had to be justified by circumstances out of the ordinary. Museum staff, imaginably to buy time, informed the dealer that the Museum would conclude

⁵ If we are to credit the report that gold issues outnumbered silver issues, the solidi from the Zagórzyn deposit could well have exceeded the number of 445 issues discovered in the Dortmund deposit, universally considered to be the largest solidi hoard in Barbaricum — cf. Regling 1908; Albrecht 1957; FMRD VI, 5, pp. 39–54; RGA 6, pp. 124–7 (P. Berghaus).

⁶ Of these, 14 were identified more closely; they fall to the period Trajan to Commodus.

⁷ The purchase is certainly the same as the one reported in a note by an unknown author published in the *Wiadomości Numizmatyczno-Archeologiczne* (vol. 11, 1927, p. 68): „Drogą pośrednią nabył pewien obywatel kaliski kilka sztuk — resztę pokątni handlarze za granicę wywieźli” [=“Several pieces were purchased by a resident of Kalisz through indirect channels, the remainder was taken out of Poland by clandestine dealers.”].

⁸ Bellow, catalogue nos. 4, 7, 11, 12, 13 & 15; in PMA inventory no 5088/1–6.

⁹ The deposit from Zagórzyn is frequently referred to in this manner — Petersen 1930, p. 56; 1933, p. 31.

¹⁰ In our catalogue, respectively, nos 5, 6, 9, 16, 17 & 18.

the purchase under the formal condition that he specify circumstances of discovery in more detail and furnish the remainder of artefacts belonging to the assemblage¹¹. E. Petersen notes (1930, p. 56), that the dealer took back the goods, which in fact were not even his property (he reportedly had had them from third-hand) and promised to learn something more about the find itself and its composition. After consulting with Polish researchers on a visit to Berlin in the summer of 1929, during centenary celebrations of the German Institute of Archaeology, the Museum finally was ready to make the purchase (Petersen 1933, p. 31).

In autumn of the same year the Breslau Museum was again approached by a dealer, a different individual than before; however this time he offered only a portion of the goods presented earlier that year. Going against its rules Museum in concern to prevent a further erosion of the valuable assemblage and armed with the approval given by Polish researchers purchased 5 solidi (two Valentinian I and Gratian issues each, and a Theodosius)¹² and subsequently published the pieces together with photographs of the sixth solidus, a Theodosius I, no longer available for sale when the deal was finally concluded in the autumn¹³. During the war the five solidi in question went missing. Only the negatives of their photographs from before the war remain, in the Archaeology Department of the History Museum in Wrocław¹⁴.

3. At least six further numismates from the Zagórzyn deposit passed into the Coin Cabinet in Berlin (at present: Münzkabinett Berlin, Staatliche Museen Preußischer Kulturbesitz), they included the well-known Valentinian I and Valens imitation medallion¹⁵, three denarii¹⁶ and two gold Gratian issues. The first Gratian was obtained still in 1927 from a Berlin coin dealer — Robert Ball. The label belonging to this solidus informs that it came “*aus poln. Fund*”¹⁷. The next solidus was acquired by the Münzkabinett early in 1928 from Ph. Lederer’s antiquities shop, who reported that it also originated from a find made in Poland¹⁸. Lederer also played the part of intermediary in

¹¹ A few years later however E. Petersen reported that the only reason for the Museum’s unwillingness to buy the offered pieces was the dealer’s inability to prove they were rightly his property (Petersen 1933, p. 31).

¹² In the inventory of the day they figured respectively as nos 8: 29, 9: 29 and 10–14: 29.

¹³ Petersen 1930, p. 57 pl. 1; 1933, p. 30; in our catalogue, nos 5, 6, 9, 16, 17 & 18.

¹⁴ I am grateful for assistance in establishing these facts to Artur Błażejowski, Jacek Wolfram and Krzysztof Demidziuk.

¹⁵ Bursche 1998, pp. 254–7; Seipel 1999, pp. 35–7, 48, 186–8 — here earlier literature; recently Dembski 2003, pp. 200–1 erroneously as found in Szilágysomlyó.

¹⁶ Bursche 1999, pp. 125–6.

¹⁷ See also annotation in the Acquisitions Book of the Münzkabinett: “*von R. Ball, aus dem poln. Fund*”; inv. no. 465/1927; no 10 in the catalogue below.

¹⁸ The Acquisitions Book of the Münzkabinett contains the following annotation next to the description of this coin “*Herrn Dr. Lederer anscheinend aus dem poln. Fund*”; the inventory number 19/1928 suggests early 1928; no 14 in the Catalogue below.

purchasing for the Münzkabinett the unique Valentinian I and Valens barbarian medallion acquired in 1927 also offering on this occasion three denarii originating from Zagórzyn. The Münzkabinett in Berlin may have acquired other solidi from the deposit of interest given that substantial number of these issues passed during this period through the hands of Berlin dealers. After all, a number of denarii was added to the collection the next year and some years later still, following the discovery made at Zagórzyn, when information about their provenance had begun to fade.

4. According to E. Petersen (1936, p. 41) in the 1930s the Wallraf Richartz Museum in Cologne reportedly had in its keeping three solidi originally belonging to a hoard discovered near Kalisz: a Constantius I¹⁹, a Valens and a Valentinian I. Petersen had this information from Dr. F. Fremersdorf. In fact, the Römisch–Germanisches Museum, Köln, which after 1945 succeeded to the numismatic collection of the Wallraf Richartz Museum, houses three solidi: a Constantius II, a Valens and a Valentinian II²⁰. The date of their acquisition entered in the inventory books is 22 January 1929, the source given as Dr Ph. Lederer's in Berlin and their provenance is given as a large hoard discovered on the territory of Poland²¹. Imaginably January 1929 was the date when the transaction with Lederer's had been concluded whereas the solidi could have entered the Museum earlier, in 1928; this is as suggested by their inventory numbers, both of which start with "28" (28,600–28,602)²². If we consider that during the same period Lederer had sold the Berlin Numismatic Cabinet three denarii and the Valentinian I and Valens medallion imitation, all of them from Zagórzyn, and a Gratian solidus "*aus poln. Fund*" we may safely conclude that the three solidi from the collection at Cologne had belonged to the Zagórzyn hoard as well.
5. At least until the time of the Nazi occupation of Poland in 1939 a Gratian solidus had been in keeping of a lawyer unknown by name, acquaintance of the father of E. Dąbrowski, known Polish archaeologist. The lawyer had been offered the coin in late 1920s in lieu of payment after working on a case for a farmer from the village of Zagórzyn on the river Proсна²³. In 1941–42 the lawyer lent the solidus for a brief time to E. Dąbrowski, then visiting Kalisz, who made a pencil rubbing of the coin. The archaeologist subsequently sent the rubbing to Tadeusz Szczurek, older keeper of Lubuskie Museum in

¹⁹ This must surely be a misprint and the emperor in question is Constantius II.

²⁰ Inv. Nos. 28,600; 28,601; 28,602; nos 1–3 in our Catalogue.

²¹ "*Am 22.01.1929 von Dr. Lederer, Berlin... gekauft. Angeblich aus einem großen Schatzfund in Polen*". Quoted basing on correspondence with Dr F. Naumann–Steckner of 15 and 30 January 1996, for which I am grateful.

²² For this suggestion I am indebted to Dr F. Naumann–Steckner.

²³ It is highly probable that he was the same Siekiel–Zdzieniecki, who also offered the six solidi to the Warsaw State Archaeological Museum.

Zielona Góra who later passed it on to M. Mielczarek for publication²⁴. As to the solidus itself, it was lost from the record²⁵.

The list of solidi certain to have belonged to the Zagórzyn deposit is thus complete. Nevertheless a handful of rather tenuous clues suggests that the hoard may also have contained solidi from the 5th century. Basing on these indications it was possible to convincingly link to the Zagórzyn deposit four pieces formerly published as discovered on the Beresina river in Russia, i.e. two medallions of Constantius II and two Germanic bracteates type B and C.

In February 1928 Ernst Unger, a known collector purchased two bracteates at an auction held by Leo Hamburger²⁶. In his will Unger left the numismates to the Württembergisches Landesmuseum in Stuttgart²⁷ which in 1935 also came into the possession of all records and papers of this collector, among them the copy of Leo Hamburger's 20 February 1928 catalogue²⁸. This record contains Unger's handwritten notes of the estimated value of specimens which had been of interest to him together with an information that three solidi (Libius Sever, Glicerius and Licynia Eudoxia) offered for sale at the same auction belonged to the same find from the Beresina²⁹. Ultimately E. Unger never bought the solidi³⁰, presumably because he specialised in "barbarian" pieces. We may never learn what happened to them later. And we cannot be fully sure whether Unger's handwritten note may be credited.

As it is, out of a definitely very extensive set of solidi originally contained in the Zagórzyn deposit it has been possible to trace and identify 18 specimens. Their description, as full as possible, is given below:

1. Constantius II, 6 Nov. A.D. 355 — 3 Nov. A.D. 361, Nicomedia, 4.48 g³¹
Obv. DNCONSTAN TIVSPFAVG
Head pearl-diademed, r.

²⁴ Mielczarek 2003; I am indebted to Mr. Tadeusz Szczurek for letting me view the copy of archival records and to Prof. Mariusz Mielczarek for sending them to me together with an as yet unpublished study; no 8 in the Catalogue below.

²⁵ This coin was never even properly illustrated.

²⁶ Nöbbe 1930/31, p. 54; Mackeprang 1952, p. 42.

²⁷ Axboe 1982, pp. 86–7, no 337; IK, 1,1, pp. 48–50, no 20 (pl. 23–24); IK, 2,1, pp. 19–20, no 217 (pl. 3–4); IK, 3, p. 249, no 20.

²⁸ Axboe 1982, pp. 86–7, and additional information in a letter from Dr. U. Klein of the Württembergisches Landesmuseum Stuttgart, of 19 May 1994; for these and for sending me the copy of materials concerning the Unger collection I am grateful.

²⁹ This annotation appeared four times on the pages and in the tables of the auction catalogue and is repeated in the typescript of the catalogue of the Unger collection (no 1943), in the Museum in Stuttgart.

³⁰ Originally he could have intended to buy the entire „Beresina” set, as suggested by estimated valuation of the medallion and solidi given on the margins. The latter were valued as follows: Licynia Eudoxia at 800–1200 marks, Severus III at 50–60 marks, the Glycerius at 500–600 marks.

³¹ Römisch–Germanisches Museum, Köln inv. no. 28,600; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 13, pl. K.

Rev. GLORIA REI PVBLICAE

Roma and Constantinopolis enthroned, the former facing, the latter turned to the l. Between them they support a wreath inscribed in two lines VOT/XXXX. Roma holds spear in l. hand; Constantinopolis holds sceptre in l. hand and rests r. foot on a prow.

Mint mark: SMNI

RIC VIII, p. 480, no 100.

2. Valens, 25 Feb. A.D. 364 — 24 Aug. A.D. 367, Antiochia, 4.55 g³²

Obv. DNVALENS PERFAVG

Bust pearl–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. RESTITVTOR REIPVBLICAE

Emperor stg. facing, head r., holding *labarum* in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.

Mint mark: •ANTΘ•

RIC IX, p. 272, no 2(d).

3. Valentinian I, 24 Aug. A.D. 367 — 17 Nov. A.D. 375, Treveri, 4.51 g³³

Obv. DNVALENTINI ANVSPFAVG

Bust rosette–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG

Two emperors seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have l. leg bare.

Mint mark: TROBC

RIC IX, p. 16, no 17(b).

4. Valentinian I, 24 Aug. A.D. 367 — 17 Nov. A.D. 375, Treveri, 4.43 g³⁴

Obv. DNVALENTINI ANVSPFAVG

Bust rosette–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG

Two emperors seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have l. leg bare.

Mint mark: TROBS

RIC IX, p. 16, no 17(b).

5. Gratian, 24 Aug. A.D. 367 — 17 Nov. A.D. 375, Treveri³⁵

Obv. DNGRATIA NVSPFAVG

³² Römisch–Germanisches Museum, Köln inv. no. 28,601; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 14, pl. K.

³³ Römisch–Germanisches Museum, Köln inv. no. 28,602; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 15, pl. K.

³⁴ In Warsaw State Archaeological Museum collection; Kietlińska 1967, p. 289, no 163; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 7, pl. J.

³⁵ Until World War Two in the Schlesisches Museum für Kunstgewerbe und Altertümer; Petersen 1930, p. 57, no 2c, pl. I; Bursche 1998, p. 255, no 2, pl. K.

Bust rosette–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG

Two emperors seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have l. leg bare.

Mint mark: TROBC

RIC IX, p. 17, no 17(g).

6. Gratian, 24 Aug. A.D. 367 — 17 Nov. A.D. 375, Treveri³⁶

Obv. DNGRATIANVSPFAVG

Bust pearl–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG

Two emperors seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have l. leg bare.

Mint mark: TR•OB•

RIC IX, p. 17, no 17(f).

7. Walens, 24 Aug. A.D. 367 — 9 Aug. A.D. 378, Treveri, 4.50 g³⁷

Obv. DNVALENS PFAVG

Bust rosette–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG

Two emperors seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have l. leg bare.

Mint mark: TROBS

RIC IX, p. 17, no 17(e) or p. 21, no 39(a)³⁸.

8. Gratian, 17 Nov. A.D. 375 — 9 Aug. A.D. 378, Treveri³⁹

Obv. DNGRATIA NVSPFAVG

Bust pearl–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG

Two emperors seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have l. leg bare.

Mint mark: TROBS

RIC IX, p. 21, no 39(c).

³⁶ Until World War Two in the Schlesiſches Museum für Kunstgewerbe und Altertümer; Petersen 1930, p. 57, no 2d, pl. I; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 3, pl. K.

³⁷ In Warsaw State Archaeological Museum collection; Kietlińska 1967, p. 289, no 165; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 8, pl. J.

³⁸ I am indebted for consultation of that piece and also some other to D. Backendorf and D. Wigg–Wolf from the Fundmünzen der Antike in Frankfurt/Main.

³⁹ During World War Two in a private collection, present location unknown; Mielczarek 2003.

9. Valentinian II, 17 Nov. A.D. 375 — 9 Aug. A.D. 378, Treveri⁴⁰
 Obv. DNVALENTINIANVSIVNPF AVG
 Bust pearl–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.
 Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG
 Two emperors seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have l. leg bare.
 Mint mark: TROBC
 RIC IX, p. 21, no 39(e).
10. Gratian, 9 Aug. A.D. 378 — 25 Aug. A.D. 383, Treveri, 4.46 g⁴¹
 Obv. DN GRATIA NVSPF AVG
 Bust pearl–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.
 Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG
 Two emperors of whom the one on the r. is smaller, seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have both legs draped.
 Mint mark: TROBT
 RIC IX, p. 24, no 49(b).
11. Gratian, 9 Aug. A.D. 378 — 25 Aug. A.D. 383, Treveri, 4.45 g⁴²
 Obv. DN GRATIA NVSPF AVG
 Bust pearl–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.
 Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG
 Two emperors of whom the one on the r. is smaller, seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have both legs draped.
 Mint mark: TROBT
 RIC IX, p. 24, no 49(b).
12. Valentinian II, 9 Aug. A.D. 378 — 25 Aug. A.D. 383, Treveri, 4.45 g⁴³
 Obv. DNVALENTINIANVSIVNPF AVG
 Bust pearl–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.
 Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG
 Two emperors of whom the one on the r. is smaller, seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of

⁴⁰ Until World War Two in the Schlesiſches Museum für Kunstgewerbe und Altertümer; Petersen 1930, p. 57, no 2a, pl. I; Bursche 1998, p. 255, no 1, pl. K.

⁴¹ In Berlin Münzkabinett collection inv. no. 465/1927; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 16, pl. J.

⁴² In Warsaw State Archaeological Museum collection; Kietlińska 1967, p. 289, no 166; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 10, pl. J.

⁴³ In Warsaw State Archaeological Museum collection; Kietlińska 1967, p. 289, no 164; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 9, pl. J.

a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch.
The emperors have both legs draped.

Mint mark: TROBT

RIC IX, p. 24, no 49(c).

13. Gratian, 9 Aug. A.D. 378 — 25 Aug. A.D. 383, Mediolanum, 4.43 g⁴⁴

Obv. DN GRATIA NVSPFAVG

Bust pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG

Two emperors, equal size, not nimbate, seated, facing on throne, together holding globe; the one on r. holding *mappa* in l. hand. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have both legs draped.

Mint mark: MDOB

RIC IX, p. 76, no 5(a).

14. Theodosius I, 19 Jan. A.D. 379 — 25 Aug. A.D. 383, Treveri, 4.49 g⁴⁵

Obv. DN THEODO SIVSPFAVG

Bust pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG

Two emperors equal size, seated facing on throne, together holding globe. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have both legs draped.

Mint mark: TROBC

RIC IX, p. 24, no 50.

15. Theodosius I, 19 Jan. A.D. 379 — 25 Aug. A.D. 383, Mediolanum, 4.47 g⁴⁶

Obv. DN THEODO SIVSPFAVG

Bust pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.

Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG

Two emperors, equal size, not nimbate, seated, facing on throne, together holding globe; the one on r. holding *mappa* in l. hand. Behind and between them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have both legs draped.

Mint mark: MDOB

RIC IX, p. 77, no 5(b).

⁴⁴ In Berlin Münzkabinett collection, inv.no 19/1928; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 17, pl. J.

⁴⁵ In Warsaw State Archaeological Museum collection; Kietlińska 1967, p. 289, no 167; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 11, pl. J.

⁴⁶ In Warsaw State Archaeological Museum collection; Kietlińska 1967, p. 289–90, no 168; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 12, pl. J.

16. Theodosius I, 19 Jan. A.D. 379 — 25 Aug. A.D. 383, Constantinopolis⁴⁷
 Obv. DNTHEODO SIVSPFAVG
 Bust pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.
 Rev. CONCOR DIAAVGGG
 Constantinopolis, turreted, seated facing on high-backed throne, head r.,
 holding sceptre in r. hand and globe in l. r. foot on prow.
 Mint mark: CONOB
 RIC IX, p. 223, no 43(b).
17. Valentinian II, 25 Aug. A.D. 383 — summer A.D. 388, Mediolanum⁴⁸
 Obv. DNVALENTINI ANVSPFAVG
 Bust pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.
 Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG
 Two emperors, equal size, nimbate, seated facing on throne, together
 holding globe; the one on r. holding *mappa* in l. hand. Behind and between
 them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them
 below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have both legs draped.
 Mint mark: COM
 RIC IX, p. 78, no 8(a).
18. Theodosius I, 25 Aug. A.D. 383 — 28 Aug. A.D. 388, Mediolanum⁴⁹
 Obv. DNTHEODO SIVSPFAVG
 Bust pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.
 Rev. VICTOR IAAVGG
 Two emperors, equal size, nimbate, seated facing on throne, together
 holding globe; the one on r. holding *mappa* in l. hand. Behind and between
 them the upper portion of a Victory with outspread wings; between them
 below globe, a palm branch. The emperors have both legs draped.
 Mint mark: COM
 RIC IX, p. 78, no 8 (b).

In addition it cannot be excluded that the deposit also contained solidi from the 5th century, among them the following pieces⁵⁰:

⁴⁷ Until World War Two in the Schlesisches Museum für Kunstgewerbe und Altertümer; Petersen 1930, p. 57, no 2e, pl. I; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 4, pl. K.

⁴⁸ Until World War Two in the Schlesisches Museum für Kunstgewerbe und Altertümer; Petersen 1930, p. 57, no 2b, pl. I; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 5, pl. K.

⁴⁹ Until World War Two in the Schlesisches Museum für Kunstgewerbe und Altertümer; Petersen 1930, p. 57, no 2f, pl. I; Bursche 1998, p. 256, no 6, pl. K.

⁵⁰ Cf. above p. 45 and Münzen-Sammlung Prinz Philipp von Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha in Wien [auction catalogue], Leo Hamburger, Februar 1928, p. 24, no 595–597, pl. 7.

1. Valentinian III (Licinia Eudoxia), A.D. 437–55, Ravenna
 Obv. LICINIAEVDO XIAPFAVG
 Bust radiated with cross r.
 Rev. SALVSREI PVBLICAE
 Empress nimbate seated on throne facing, with long cruciform scepter in l. hand and globe with cross in r. In field: R V
 Mint mark: COMOB
 RIC X, p. 367, no 2023.
2. Libius Sewer, A.D. 461–5, Ravenna
 Obv. DNLIBIVSSE VERVSPFAVG
 Bust rosette–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r
 Rev. VICTORI AVGGG
 Emperor in military dress standing facing, holding long cross in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.; his r. foot on serpent with human head. In field: R V
 Mint mark: COMOB
 RIC X, p. 408, no 2719.
3. Glycerius, A.D. 473–4, Ravenna
 Obv. DNGLVCER IVSPFAVG
 Bust rosette–diademed, draped and cuirassed, r.
 Rev. VICTORI AAVGG
 Emperor in military dress standing facing, holding long cross in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.; r. foot on stool. In field: R V
 Mint mark: COMOB
 RIC X, p. 424, no 3101.

Solidi dating from the 2nd half of A.D. 4th c., are recorded on Roman Empire territory mostly in the western provinces, i.e. Gaul, the Rhineland and Britain⁵¹ but they are also known elsewhere, i.a., in Egypt⁵².

In Central European Barbaricum and the Baltic basin finds of these issues are exceedingly rare. When occasionally noted in Pomerania they represent the oldest specimens in large series of gold coins brought to the area during the latter half of the 5th century⁵³. Very rare 4th century solidi encountered in south Scandinavia (Fyn is exceptional), in Pomerania as solitary finds⁵⁴, probably appeared in the region with a later wave of these issues. Gold coins from the latter half of A.D.

⁵¹ The decided majority of coins originating from these areas are issues struck in Western mints, especially in Treveri — cf. Bastien 1981; Callu 1983; Iluk 1987, p. 3; Wigg 1991.

⁵² However, the Egyptian deposits register a definite domination of eastern mints, Antioch and Constantinopolis in particular — Dürr & Bastien 1984; Arce 1987.

⁵³ E.g. both hoards from Trąbki, pow. Braniewo, included in all five issues of Valentinian I, Valens and Theodosius I (Ciołek 2001, pp. 230–1); the deposit from Karlino, pow. Białogard, contained at least one Valentinian I solidus (Ciołek 2001, pp. 94–5).

⁵⁴ Including Komorowo Żuławskie, pow. Elbląg (Theodosius I — Ciołek 2001, p. 102) or Gdańsk–Krakowiec (Valentinian I — Ciołek 2001, p. 53).

4th century are not recorded at all in finds from Central Poland⁵⁵, being noted as solitary finds in southern and southeastern Poland⁵⁶.

The only two areas of Barbaricum with unmistakable concentrations of later 4th c. solidi are the island of Fyn, north-eastern Holland and north-western Germany, particularly, Westphalia and south-western Lower Saxony.

On Fyn finds of 4th c. solidi, most of them House of Constantine issues⁵⁷, are associated primarily with the so-called Dancheny-Brangstrup horizon. As such they were brought in together with aurei from the latter half of the 3rd c. and their imitations from the Lower Danube⁵⁸. Even so, the deposit from Gudme containing solidi struck mostly at Treveri, including a series of Magnentius issues, suggests a western line of contact⁵⁹. During the 4th century Fyn was without doubt one of the leading centres of redistribution of Roman goods throughout the Barbaricum, Baltic zone in particular.

Between the middle and the upper Weser and the River Rhine, in the *Mittelgebirge* and to the north, we encounter numerous finds of solidi dating from the latter half of the 4th c. both as single finds, and in assemblages — occasionally in early Frank burials and in several hoards⁶⁰. Predomination of coins struck in Western mints indicates their provenance from areas of Italy, Gaul and the Rhineland. A point of particular interest is that next to coins some deposits contain precious metal ornaments such as gold necklaces, bracelets, finger rings or brooches (of *Zwiebelknopffibel* type)⁶¹. It is interesting that similar to the Zagórzyn

⁵⁵ Cf. Kubiak 1979, p. 16, map 5; Kunisz 1985; Bursche 1996.

⁵⁶ Including Rzeszów — vicinity (Valentinian I — Bursche 1996, p. 206), Tuszyn, pow. Wałbrzych, Valentinian II — Bolin 1926, p. [83]) or Krasnystaw, pow. Krasnystaw (Theodosius I — Kokowski 1984, p. 45). It may not be excluded that solidi from the described period also featured in the deposit from Metelin, pow. Hrubieszów (Bursche 1998, pp. 236–7) reported to have contained also a medallion of Alexander Severus.

⁵⁷ Kromann 1987, p. 72; 1989, p. 263–74; 1990; 1994; Fønnesbech-Sandberg 1989, p. 421; Bursche 2002, p. 73.

⁵⁸ Werner 1988; Henriksen 1992.

⁵⁹ Kromann & Vang Petersen 1985; Kromann 1985, pp. 129–30; 1989, pp. 263–74; Bursche 1996, p. 132; 2002, p. 73 cf. Lower Saxony and Westphalia — Berghaus 1956, Wigg 1991.

⁶⁰ Even though coins from hoards in this zone as a rule date either from a slightly earlier (A.D. 365–70) or somewhat later (A.D. 407–11) horizon than solidi from Zagórzyn — Regling 1908; Waterbolk & Glasbergen 1955; Zadoks-Josephus Jitta 1955; Berghaus, 1956; Albrecht 1957; Zedelius 1974, 1987; RGA 6, pp. 124–7 (P. Berghaus); RGA 7, pp. 160–1 (F. Berger); Berger 1992, pp. 171–87; closest analogies to solidi from Zagórzyn are represented by assemblages from Eidinghausen (FMRD VI, 6, pp. 75–6 no 6097 — 10 specimens from 364/67 to 388/92), or Beilen (Zadoks-Josephus Jitta 1955, 22 solidi from 364/7 to 394/5).

⁶¹ Westerkappeln (FMRD VI, 4, pp. 121–2 no 4074) — two gold rings; Beilen (Waterbolk & Glasbergen 1955) — five gold necklaces and a bracelet; Dortmund (Regling 1908; Albrecht 1957; FMRD VI, 5, pp. 39–54; RGA 6, pp. 124–7 [P. Berghaus]) — two gold rings; Lengerich (Zedelius 1987; FMRD VII, p. 87 no 1034) several gold ornaments and elements of attire.

deposit the hoard from Lengerich to the west of Osnabrück, secreted under three stones⁶², in addition to other pieces contained also a large number of denarii⁶³ as well as a single medallion of Constantius II⁶⁴. Let me add, that next to numerous solidi dating from the times of house of Constantine up to Constantine III and Johannes the deposit from Velp near Arnhem contained five gold framed solidi (3 Honorius and 2 Gallia Placidia) and a number of gold necklaces, bracelets and finger rings⁶⁵.

In view of the above discussion the 4th century solidi from the Zagórzyn hoard may be considered an exceptional find in Central European Barbaricum. Among the 18 identified specimens no less than 15 (i.e. over 80%) were struck in the West: 11 (i.e. over 60%) at Treveri, the remainder at Milan (4 pieces), Antioch, Constantinopolis and Nicomedia (one piece each). This proportion of mints points to an unquestionably western, presumably Rheinisch-Gaulish or north Italian provenance of this part of the series and ties it to the horizon of solidi originating from the area of north-western Germany. The oldest specimen from Zagórzyn dates from A.D. 355–361 while the youngest out of 18 solidi definitely belonging to our deposit most probably belongs to the period A.D. 383–388. The series is evidently a chronologically very close assemblage spanning no more than 30 years. Imaginably it left territory of the Empire close to A.D. 385. Let us recall at this point that in A.D. 383–4 Hunnic and Alannic *foederati* recruited from Pannonia II were used in Rhaetia and Germania against the Juthungi and paid in gold the same year⁶⁶ and that in A.D. 385 Valentinian II used Ostrogothic *foederati* to smooth a religious conflict in the region of Milan⁶⁷. Needless to say our solidi from Zagórzyn seem to fit the context of these events extremely well.

The true provenance of three solidi from the second and third quarter of the 5th c. and their possible association with the hoard from Zagórzyn is much less sound. Nevertheless if we accept that they also belonged to the same deposit we have to assume that the three issues, struck at Ravenna during a relatively narrow period (some 30 years or so), were added to the hoard only later, presumably on

⁶² However it contained earlier solidi from the House of Constantine period — FMRD VII, p. 87 no 1034.

⁶³ At least 1147 pieces from Trajan to Septimius Severus, perhaps also a solitary Alexander Severus; the denarii were discovered under another stone nearby — FMRD VII, pp. 67–87 no 1032.

⁶⁴ However, this was a silver medallion, so far the only such specimen registered in Barbaricum, which was discovered under the third stone together with silver (silliquae) mainly Magnentius coins — FMRD VII, p. 88 no 1035.

⁶⁵ Van Kerkwijk 1910; Roes 1947; Waterbolk & Glasbergen 1955; Bursche 1998, pp. 61–5; 250–2.

⁶⁶ Várady 1969, pp. 31–6; Demougeot 1974, pp. 145–9; 1981, p. 389; Wolfram 1979, pp. 154–5, 310; Paschoud 1989, p. 183.

⁶⁷ Schmidt 1934, p. 261; Várady 1969, p. 425. A dominance of Milan issues in the latest group of solidi from the Zagórzyn hoard is particularly interesting in this context.

territory of the Barbaricum. The time of their imaginable outflux from Roman Empire territory to the North would correspond to the dating of the main wave of solidi brought to Pomerania, falling to the close of the third quarter of A.D. 5th century⁶⁸.

ABBREVIATIONS

- FMRD VI *Die Fundmünzen der Römischen Zeit in Deutschland* (ed. M.R.–Alföldi), vol. VI: *Nordheim–Westfalen*, 4–6 (B. Korzus), Berlin 1971–1975
- FMRD VII *Die Fundmünzen der Römischen Zeit in Deutschland* (ed. M.R.–Alföldi), vol. VII: *Niedersachsen und Bremen* (F. Berger & Ch. Stoess), Berlin 1988
- IK *Die Goldbrakteaten der Völkerwanderungszeit. Einleitung und Ikonographischer Katalog*, vol. 1–3 (eds. M. Axboe & al.). München 1985–1989
- RGA 6 *Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde*, (2nd eds. H. Beck & al.), Berlin — New York 1986
- RGA 7 *Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde*, (2nd eds. H. Beck & al.), Berlin — New York 1989
- RIC VIII *The Roman Imperial Coinage* (C.H.V. Sutherland & R.A.G. Carson), vol. VIII: *The Family of Constantine I A.D. 337–364* (J.P.C. Kent), London 1981
- RIC IX *The Roman Imperial Coinage* (ed. H. Mattingly, C.H.V. Sutherland & R.A.G. Carson), vol. IX: *Valentinian I — Theodosius I* (J.W.E. Pearce), London 1951
- RIC X *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, vol. X: *The Divided Empire and the Fall of the Western Parts AD 395–491* (J.P.C. Kent), London 1994
- SFMA *Studien zu Fundmünzen der Antike* (ed. M. R.–Alföldi), Berlin

⁶⁸ Ciołek 2002.

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SOLIDY Z ZAGÓRZYNA

(Streszczenie)

Czwartowieczne solidy ze skarbu w Zagórzynie, pow. Kalisz⁶⁹ są w strefie środkowoeuropejskiego Barbaricum znaleziskiem całkowicie wyjątkowym. Rzeczywista liczba monet złotych wchodzących w skład depozytu nie jest możliwa do odtworzenia. Wśród 18 pochodzących zeń bez wątpienia egzemplarzy aż 15 (tj. ponad 80%) zostało wybitych w mennicach zachodnich, głównie Trewirze i Mediolanie. Taka proporcja wskazuje jednoznacznie na zachodnią, zapewne północnoitalską, nadreńską lub galijską proveniencję tej części skarbu i wiąże go z horyzontem znalezisk z obszarów północno-zachodnich Niemiec. Czwartowieczne solidy z Zagórzyna stanowią spójny chronologicznie zespół zawarty w przedziale ok. 30 lat, który opuścił obszary Cesarstwa w połowie lat osiemdziesiątych IV w.

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⁶⁹ W przygotowaniu pełna monografia skarbu, w której zostanie opublikowana polskojęzyczna wersja prezentowanego tekstu.



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14



15



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17



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Pl. 1. Solidi from Zagórzyn, Kalisz district. Scale 1:1.