

ACTA NUMISMATICA HUNGARICA

2024



JOURNAL OF THE HUNGARIAN
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

ACTA NUMISMATICA
HUNGARICA

II

JOURNAL OF THE HUNGARIAN
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



BUDAPEST 2024

ACTA NUMISMATICA HUNGARICA

II

Editor-in-chief:

ISTVÁN VIDA

Editorial board:

JÓZSEF GÉZA KISS

JUHÁSZ LAJOS

LAJOS PALLOS

GERGELY SALLAY

FERENC SOÓS

RÓBERT UJSZÁSZI

Technical editor:

ENIKŐ KOVÁCS

Contact: acta@numizmatika.org

Available online at <http://acta.numizmatika.org>

© Hungarian Numismatic Society

Cover design: Gábor Vácz

ISSN

Budapest 2024

Contents

Abbreviations of Journals and Periodicals _____	7
Tamás SZABADVÁRY A lost aureus of Magnia Urbica _____	9
Lajos JUHÁSZ A rare Byzantine medallion of Gordian III from the legionary fort of Brigetio _____	13
Lajos JUHÁSZ Coin finds from the excavations at the canabae of Brigetio (Szöny-Dunapart) between 2014 and 2017 _____	15
Ferenc BARNA The coin finds from the 2015 excavations at the legionary camp of Brigetio _____	33
Judit SZIGETI – Zoltán RÓZSA Seals from the Árpád era? _____	49
Szilárd TÓTH Duke Bernhard's coinage – did a mint operate in Tschatesch? _____	61
Gábor BAKOS U-Boat War Badge – U-Boot Kriegsabzeichen (1939–1945) _____	71
Lajos PALLOS The Numismatic Collection of the Hungarian National Museum II. _____	79

Abbreviations of Journals and Periodicals

ActaNumHung	Acta Numismatica Hungarica. Budapest.
AECO	Archivum Europae Centro Orientalis. Budapest.
ArchÉrt	Archaeologiai Értesítő. Budapest.
ArsDec	Ars Decorativa. Az Iparművészeti Múzeum és a Hopp Ferenc Keletázsiai Művészeti Múzeum Évkönyve. Budapest.
AT	Antik Tanulmányok. Studia Antiqua. Budapest.
BIMf	Blätter für Münzfreunde. Leipzig-Dresden-Halle-Heidelberg.
BolNum	Bollettino di Numismatica. Roma.
CommArchHung	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae. Budapest.
DissArch	Dissertationes Archaeologicae ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae. Budapest.
Érem	Az Érem. Budapest.
FolArch	Folia Archaeologica. Budapest.
FolHist	Folia Historica. Budapest.
HaRég	Határtalan Régészet. Szeged.
HtMÉ	A Hadtörténeti Múzeum Értesítője. Budapest.
MEFRA	Mélanges d'Archéologie et d'Histoire de l'École Française de Rome. Rome.
MFME MonArch	Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve – Monumentum Archaeologica. Szeged.
MK	Múzeumi Közlemények. Budapest.
MM	Magyar Múzeumok. Budapest.
MÖNG	Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Numismatischen Gesellschaft in Wien. Wien.
Művészet	Művészet. Budapest.
Numizmatičar	Numizmatičar, Beograd.
NK	Numizmatikai Közlöny. Budapest.
NZ	Numismatische Zeitschrift. Wien.
Pontica	Pontica. Studii și materiale de istorie, arheologie și muzeografie. Constanta.
RégFüz	Régészeti Füzetek, Budapest.
RIN	Rivista Italiana di Numismatica. Milano.
Stratpl	Stratum plus. Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology. Kishinev.
TÜBA-KED	Kültür Envanteri Dergisi – Journal of Cultural Inventory, Online Journal.
ZiStA	Ziridava Studia Archaeologica. Arad.

A lost aureus of Magnia Urbica

Tamás SZABADVÁRY

In 1910 Ödön Gohl, the editor of the first Hungarian numismatic journal, the *Numizmatikai Közlöny*, reported a rare coin find¹ from the territory of Dunapentele (Roman Intercisa, now Dunaújváros, Fejér County). It was a pierced 'gold coin' of Magnia Urbica, the wife of Emperor Carinus.² By reference to the monumental work of Henri Cohen, we are able to identify the piece as:

Magnia Urbica 283–285

Roma aureus

Obv: MAGNIA VRBICA AVG

Diademed, draped bust r.

Rev: VENERI VICTRICI

Venus stg. r., raising robe on shoulder and holding apple.

COH¹ Nr. 3. = RIC V/2 Nr. 340.

Gohl did not give any further information about the coin. It was most likely found under illegal circumstances and he later somehow learned of its existence, perhaps because of a declined offer of acquisition to the Coin Cabinet of the Hungarian National Museum (HNM-CC). The HNM-CC's database has no record concerning the coin, thus there is absolutely no information about its background. In 1908 a series of illegal excavations took place in the vineyard of the Hauzer/Hauser family launched by József Fejér (c.1871–1935), an infamous antiques dealer from Budapest.³ His campaigns resulted in the catastrophic dispersal of finds from Dunapentele all over Europe, primarily to German museums and private collections, much to the regret of later generations of archaeologists.

Subsequently the territory was heavily looted by unknown persons probably sometime in late 1909 or early 1910. This is well attested in the auction catalogues of the newly established *Szent-György-Czéh Magyar Amatőrök és Gyűjtők Egyesülete* (*St. George's Guild of Hungarian Amateurs' and Collectors' Society*) (Fig. 1). The catalogues clearly mention several prehistoric, Roman and early migration period items (ceramics, clay lamps, belt fittings, glass, other copper-alloy items, iron and bone objects, but no coins) originating from illegal 'excavations' at Dunapentele.⁴ The Roman finds, seemingly grave goods, one catalogue mentions a complete

1 GOHL-HARSÁNYI 1910, 134.

2 On the coinage of Magnia Urbica see PINK 1961, 5–8.

3 The estate of Ferenc Hauzer sen. is a well-known territory, situated at the late Roman cemetery of Dunapentele-Óreghegy (PPN 2013–2016). The HNM had long connections with veterinarian Pál Hauzer (1874[?]-1916), who sold hundreds of illegally excavated objects to the museum that also managed to carry out excavations on his land, close after the 1908 lootings. The property parcel numbers (= PPN) could be identified on the 1906 excavation map of Ede Mahler: HNM-Central Database (Archaeological Documentation Collection) 32.D.I.

4 Auctions on 06.17.1910 and 09.23.1910: AUCTION SzGyC 1910, Nr. 198–226/d; AUCTION SzGyC 1910a, Nr. 356–365, 414, 475–476, 486–487. Tab. V.



Fig. 1 Prehistoric, Greek and Roman antiquities from various sites including Dunapentele, organised by Armand Hutflesz (after AUCTION SZGYC 1911, Figure [1])

'set' of grave finds.⁵ Since the Magnia Urbica coin must have been known to Gohl before the late summer of 1910, it is a striking coincidence with the 1909/1910 lootings in Dunapentele. It therefore is also most likely that the aureus was a grave find but now forever lost and found its way abroad via the antiquities trade. As a rare and valuable grave good, it has chronologically close parallels among other Dunapentele coin finds. The HNM-CC purchased two *aurei* of Tacitus and one of Probus, all originating from György Horváth's vineyard, which was also located on the territory of the Roman cemetery.⁶

Some 25 years later, in May 1935 the iconic auction of the Franz Trau collection (Vienna) took place. Item Nr. 3230 was an aureus (Fig. 2) of the aforementioned type weighing 4.58 grams with a hole piercing the inscription on both sides.⁷ Although, the 'VENERI VICTRICI' reverse type of the Rome mint is by far the 'most common' among the Magnia Urbica *aurei* issued that coincidence suggests a connection with the lost Dunapentele piece, though the identification remains problematic and uncertain.⁸ The Trau collectors dynasty could easily purchase antiquities from the territory of historical Hungary due to the aforementioned active antiquities trade. A prominent example of that was the 1885 coin find of *Brigetio* (Komárom-Szőny) where one of the unique 5 *aurei* gold multipla of Maximianus Herculius had been acquired by the Trau collection, becoming the most valuable item of the 1935 auction more than half a century following its discovery.⁹



Fig. 2 Magnia Urbica aureus from the Franz Trau collection (after AUCTION TRAU 1935, Tab. 39 / 3230.)

5 The sixth auction (03.20.1911) mentions Armand Hutflesz bank official as the main supplier of the material: AUCTION SZGYC 1911, 5 [Note], Nr. 82–160. Fig. [1] (Dunapentele finds under 'Roman antiquities').

6 HNM-CC 13/1906.1–2. Tacitus aureus: RIC VA Nr. 74, 113, 174 (Ticinum/Siscia). Probus aureus: RIC V/2, Nr. 590. (Siscia). Both registered on 04.02.1906., Purchased from György Horváth (PPN 1807-1808). HNM-CC 63/1906. Tacitus aureus: RIC VA Nr. 74 or 174. Registered on 09.19.1906. Purchased from József Pálinkás. The HNM-CC now only possesses one antoninianus (RIC V/2 Nr. 343) of Magnia Urbica, purchased from Károly Tiszuczky (local catholic schoolteacher): HNM-CC 11/1907.2.

7 AUCTION TRAU 1935, Nr. 3230, Tab. 39 / 3230.

8 The Trau-piece was probably unknown to the editors of RIC V, because its weight is not listed in the register, see RIC V/2 184.

9 HAMPÉL 1891, 350.; AUCTION TRAU 1935, Nr. 3459., Taf. 41/3459. [15.000 Austrian schillings]. The medallion was resold in 1990 by Sotheby's New York: SOTHEBY'S 1990, Nr. 153., Fig. 153.

As far as our research discloses, the Magnia Urbica aureus did not appear at any later auctions or enter a public collection, however, the coin is identifiable.¹⁰ Its significance lies in the extreme rarity of the coin, there are no recorded finds of this type in Hungary.¹¹

Bibliography

AUCTION SZGYC

- 1910 *Szent-György-Czéh Magyar Amatőrök és Gyűjtők Egyesülete Második műtárgy-árverésének katalógusa Szűry Dénes hagyatéka. Divald Kornél gyűjtése a Szent-György-Czéh számára.* Budapest.
- 1910a *Szent-György-Czéh Magyar Amatőrök és Gyűjtők Egyesülete Harmadik műtárgy-árverésének katalógusa Dr. Bugsch Gusztáv hagyatéka. A Szent-György-Czéh gyűjtése.* Budapest.
- 1911 *Szent-György-Czéh VI. Művészeti Aukciója 1911 március hó 11–25 Váci-utca 9. / Szent-György-Czéh Magyar Amatőrök és Gyűjtők Egyesülete Hatodik művészeti aukciójának katalógusa.* Budapest.

AUCTION TRAU

- 1935 *Sammlung Franz Trau Münzen der Römischen Kaiser.* Wien.

AUCTION ZURICH

- 1991 *Auction 52 Greek and Roman Coins from a distinguished American collection.* Zurich.

COH¹

Cohen, H. Description historique des monnaies frappées sous l'Empire Romain communément appelées médailles impériales. Tome cinquième. Paris 1861.

GOHL Ö. – HARSÁNYI P.

- 1910 *Éremleletek.* NK 9/3–4, 133–136.

HAMPEL J.

- 1891 *Egy bregetioi éremkincs.* *ArchÉrt* 11/4, 350–352.

PINK, K.

- 1961 *Magna Urbica Gattin des Carinus.* *NZ* 79, 5–9.

RIC

- V/2 *Mattingly, H. – Sydenham, E. A. – Webb, P. H. The Roman Imperial Coinage V/2.* London 1972.

¹⁰ <https://www.coinarchives.com/a/results.php?results=100&search=Magna+Urbica> The 'life' of a long known Magnia Urbica aureus is recorded from the R. Jameson collection, see with further references: AUCTION ZURICH 1991, Nr. 260.

¹¹ The HNM-CC possesses two Magnia Urbica aurei (RIC V/2 Nr. 340) both originating from the collection of Miklós Jankovich (1772–1846) without any information about their provenance: HNM-CC J.364, J.544. We would like to express our gratitude toward István Vida (HNM-CC), who helped our research.

SOTHEBY'S

1990

Sotheby's The Nelson Bunker Hunt Collection Highly Important Greek and Roman Coins. New York.