

ACTA NUMISMATICA  
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II

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# ACTA NUMISMATICA HUNGARICA

## II

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## 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 rare Byzantine medallion of Gordian III from the legionary fort of Brigetio

Lajos JUHÁSZ\*

Preventive excavations were carried out due to the laying of new sewage pipes through the legionary camp and the canabae of Brigetio.<sup>1</sup> The site was very difficult to investigate because of various cables and pipes running next to the bicycle road, the national road nr. 1 and the railway. Despite these challenging circumstances there was a plethora of metal finds mostly brought to light thanks metal detecting.<sup>2</sup> There were over a hundred coins mostly 4<sup>th</sup> c. bronze ones from the Constantinian era, the bulk of them still uncleaned. One peculiar coin immediately stood out from the rest due to its large size that seemed like a non-imperial piece.

The restoration revealed the following medallion:

Gordian III

Byzantium, Thrace

AE medallion

36.92 mm

30.10 g

6 h

Obv: M ANT ΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟC [A]ΥΤΟ

Radiate bust left, wearing cuirass and paludamentum, holding spear and shield

Rev: ΕΠ ΑΥΡ ΔΙΟΝΥCΙΟΥ Τ Β Κ Π ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΑC // ΒΥΖΑΝΤΙΩΝ/ΣΕΒΑΚΤΑ

Laureate emperor standing right, wearing toga capite velato and City goddess standing facing, head left, wearing mural crown, holding cornucopia in left arm; each holding a patera in outstretched right hand over an agonistic table in the middle, surmounted by prize crown with palm branches.



*Fig. 1 Medallion of Gordian III, found in Brigetio.*

The coin came from an intact Roman pit with mortar and bricks, under a debris layer in the middle or eastern part of the legionary fort.

The Brigetio medallion has an obverse die-link with a piece in the Parisian Cabinet des médailles with a reverse depicting the emperor in a quadriga.<sup>3</sup>

A very similar coin was recently auctioned by Roma Numismatics (*Fig. 2*) "from the inventory of a UK dealer".<sup>4</sup> The piece is less well preserved as the one from Brigetio and also shows a different obverse legend. The two reverses are the same, but do not seem to be from

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1 BARTUS et al. 2020.

2 We owe our thanks to Attila Kiss and Tamás Gregus.

3 CN coin 11692, in: Corpus Nummorum, [https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN\\_11692](https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_11692) [Last downloaded: 2021/04/14]

4 E-Sale 63 (07.11.2019), Lot 542. [www.romanumismatics.com](http://www.romanumismatics.com) <https://www.acsearch.info/search.html?id=6458424>

the same die. Apart from these two coins the reverse is only known for Severus Alexander.<sup>5</sup>

The newly discovered piece fits well into the previously noted phenomenon of a great number of primarily Perinthian, Philippopolian and to a lesser extent Byzantine medallions in Brigetio.<sup>6</sup> As Barkóczi and Kerényi pointed out these can be explained with the Eastern campaigns of the Severan emperors and Gordian III in which vexillations of the legio I Adiutrix, the legion stationed in Brigetio, participated.<sup>7</sup> These were distributed among the soldiers at festivals held in the honour of the emperor, local deities and the amusement of the troops. The findspot within the legionary fort of Brigetio also supports this thesis alongside two other medallions discovered here previously, although one was also found in the municipium.<sup>8</sup>

This rare find further strengthens the importance of the Thracian medallions in Brigetio as part of decorative souvenirs of the military campaigns in the east at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c.



Fig. 2 Coin auctioned by Roma Numismatics.

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5 CN coin 990, in: Corpus Nummorum, [https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN\\_990](https://www.corpus-nummorum.eu/CN_990) [Last downloaded: 2021/04/02]

6 Recently this topic was also dealt with in a conference paper presented at the *Numismatica Pannonica* III in September 2020 by the author and Tamás Fehér. At the time the coin published here was not yet cleaned and thus was not presented in the lecture.

7 BARKÓCZI-KERÉNYI 1958, 83–87.

8 For the camp see BARKÓCZI-KERÉNYI 1958, 85. and the municipium JUHÁSZ 2018, 12.