



Roman Coin Circulation in the Caucasus

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Ashmolean Museum

Interdisciplinary Summer School 'Explore Caucasus: at the crossroad of
Empires'

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Dataset

- Greater Kingdom of Armenia
 - Dataset of 1440 coins from the Marie Słodowska-Curie Fellowship RoCCAA
 - Based on the consultation of coins from museums, Turkish archaeological reports, Pachomov volumes, Golenko, Kropotkin, Fabian 2018, Radjabli.
- Iberia and Colchis Kingdoms
 - Data entered in CHRE
 - Based on 9 volumes of Pachomov, Golenko, Kropotkin, Moneta, various papers.



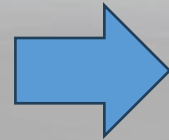
Mutafian Cl., Van Lawe E. (2001). *Atlas historique de l'Arménie*, p. 31

Plan

I. Gold Monetary Circulation (AV)

II. Silver Monetary Circulation (AR)

III. Bronze Monetary Circulation (AE)



Study by metal uses regional comparative analysis

Comparative perspective with Lari

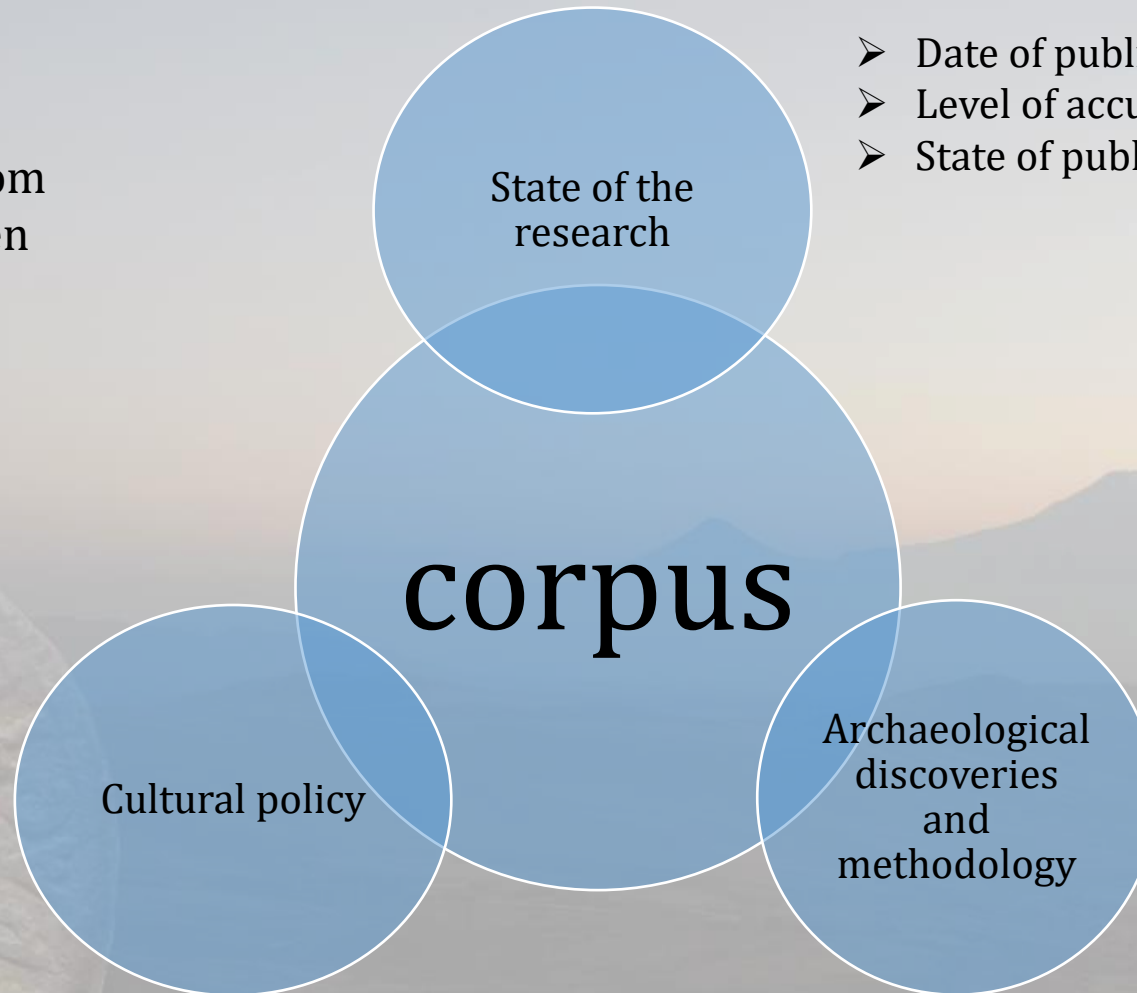
Value	Diameter	Weight	Composition	Image
50 tetri	24 mm	6,52 g	Stainless Steel	
1 Lari	26,2 mm	7,85 g	Copper and nickel	
2 Lari	27 mm	8 g	Bimetallic In the center: copper, aluminium & nickel on the outside: copper & nickel	

Images from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian_lari CC BY-SA 4.0 from Phamat123

Representativity and limits of the dataset

86% of the coins from the corpus have been examined

- Geographical disparity
- Diversity of languages
- Accessibility of the artefacts



State of the research

- Date of publication
- Level of accuracy of data from publication
- State of publication

Cultural policy

Archaeological discoveries and methodology

- Lack of context due to high number of accidental discoveries and looting
- Lack of use of stratigraphy in excavations
- Lack of exhaustive archaeological reports and artefacts study

Studying the monetary circulation

Deposits/ Hoards



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<https://www.inrap.fr/archeo-memo/autopsie-dun-tresor-monetaire>

Hoard from Saint-Vulbas (France)

Hoard: deposit containing at least several coins intentionally concealed together and, for a reason which escapes us, has not been recovered



Complementary sources

Single finds



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<https://cngcoins.com/>

I. Gold Monetary Circulation (AV)

a. The scarcity of gold coins in the Greater Armenian Kingdom

Gold coins: 1% of Roman coins dataset and 0.5% of the overall dataset

Record of gold coins in Armenia:

- Aureus from Tiberius (AD 14–37)
- 2 Aurei from Nero (AD 54–68)
- Aureus from the first century AD
- Solidus from Honorius (AD 393–423)
- 3 Solidi from Theodosius II (AD 408–450)

• 1 imitation of stater of Lysimachus from minted in North Caucasus

=> No gold coin from Parthia and no gold coin from Sasanian Empire discovered

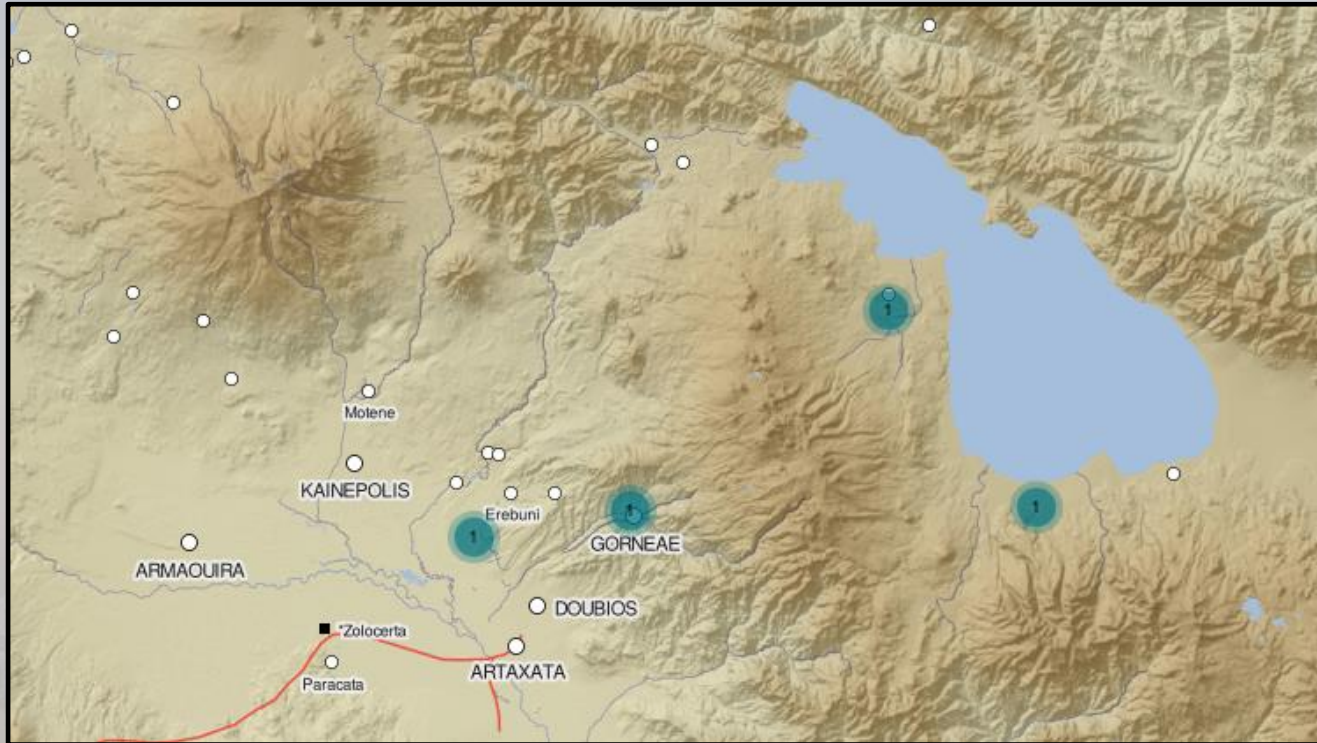
Background map: Mapswire.com CC-BY 4.0. <https://mapswire.com/>



Distribution map of gold coin by mint

First group: first century AD

Distribution map of Roman *aurei* from first century AD in Ancient Armenia



CHRE Online database

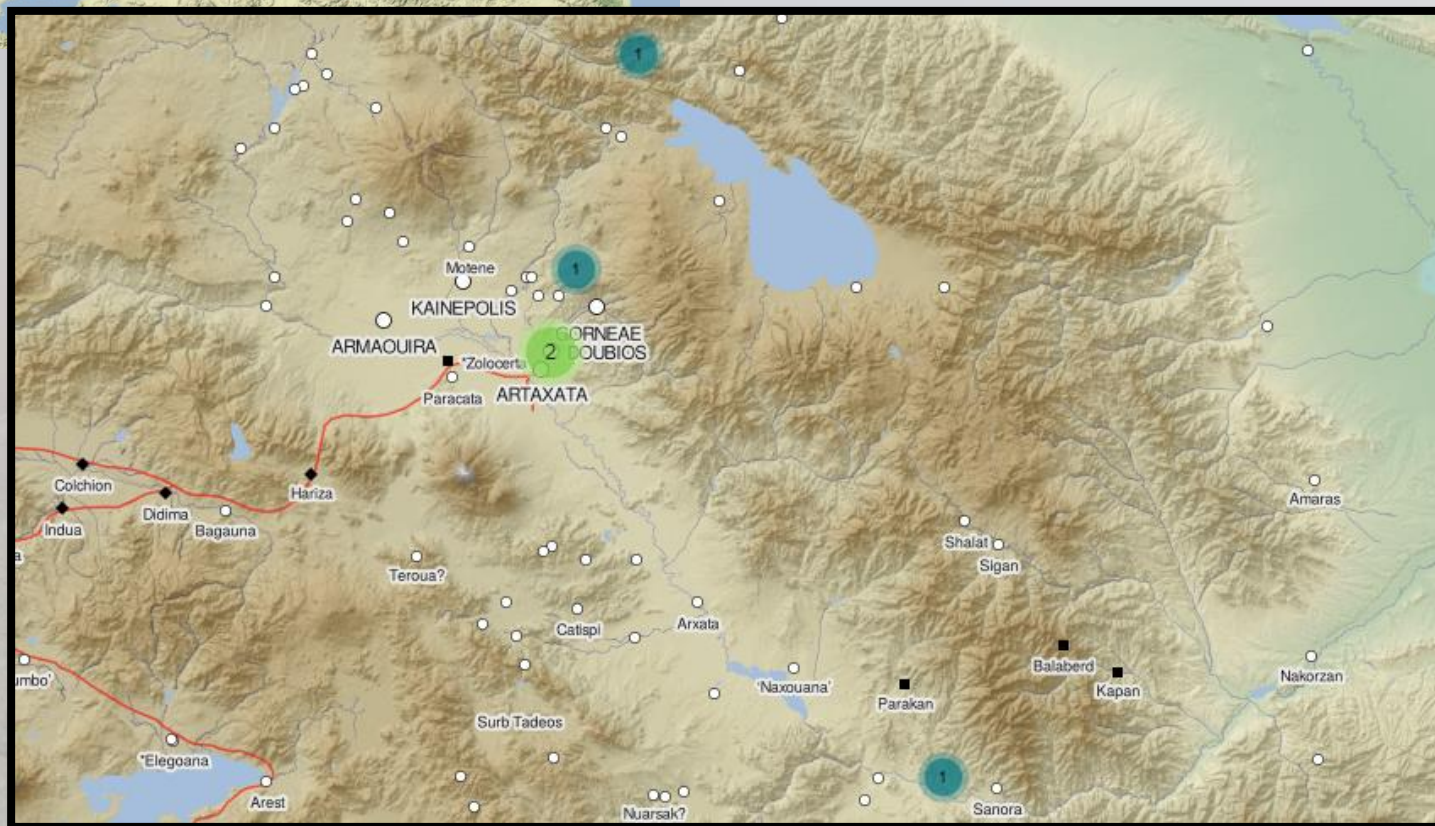
Record of gold coins:

- Aureus from Tiberius (AD 14–37)
- 2 Aurei from Nero (AD 54–68)
- Aureus from the first century AD

- Good state of preservation
- Coins not pierced or mounted in jewellery ≠ Roman *denarii* pierced or mounted in jewellery
- Unclear context: seems not in funerary context

Second group: end fourth - first half of fifth century AD

CHRE Online database



Distribution of gold coins (end of fourth – first half of fifth century AD)

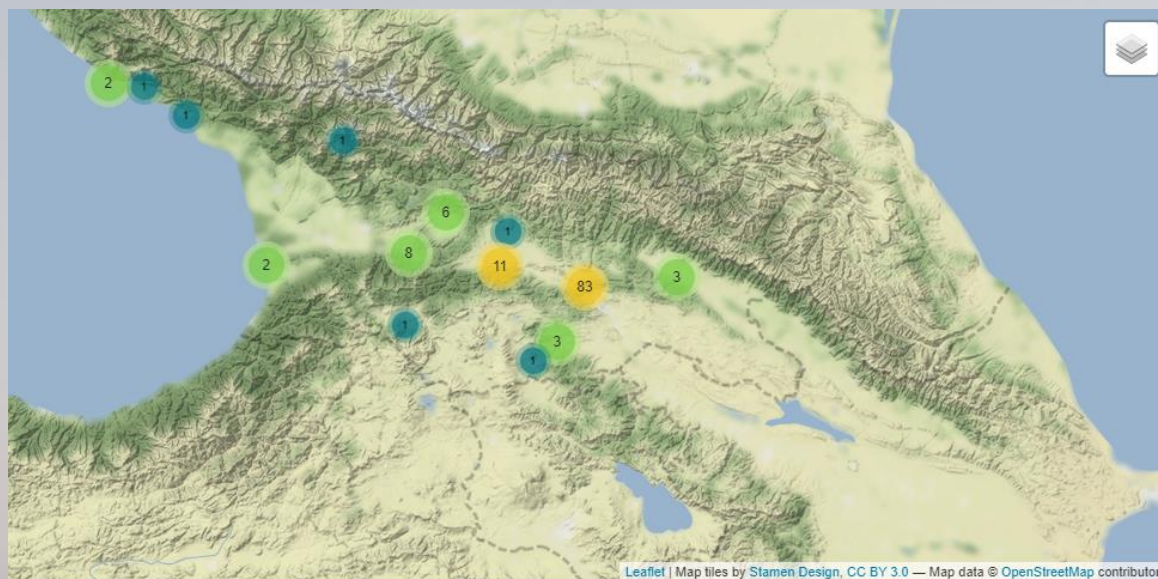
Record of gold coins:

- Solidus from Honorius (AD 393–423)
- 3 Solidi from Theodosius II (AD 408–450)

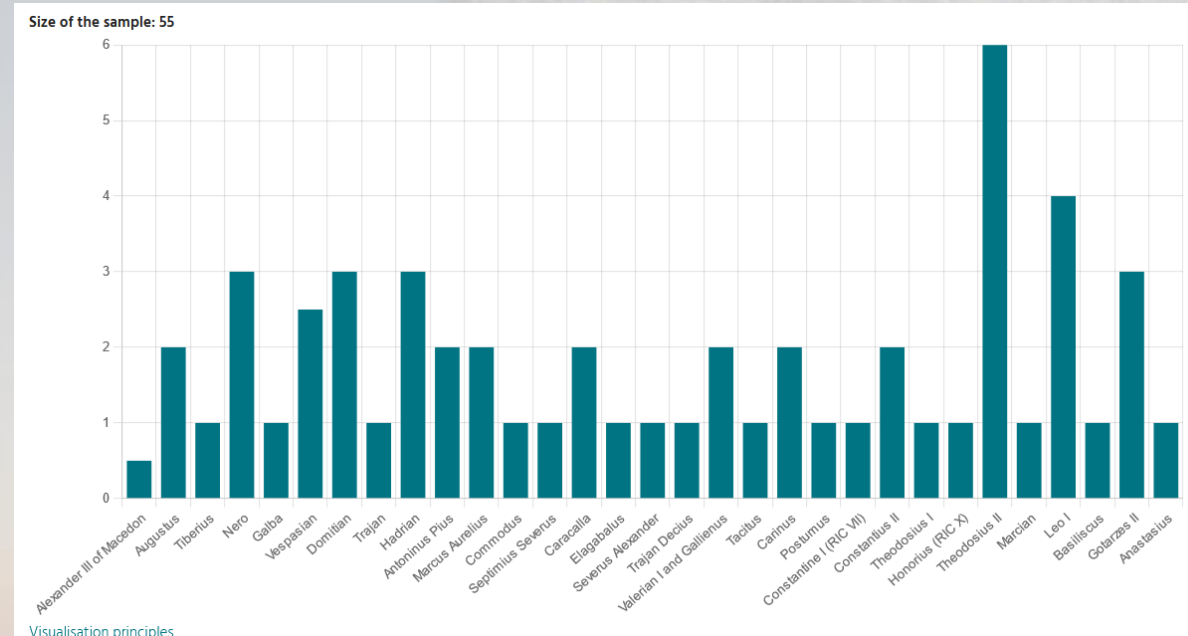
b. Gold coins from the Kingdoms of Colchis and Iberia according CHRE Database

Deposits by closing reign

Distribution map of gold coins in Georgia



[CHRE online database](#)



Visualisation principles

[CHRE online database](#)

124 coins find in 55 deposits:

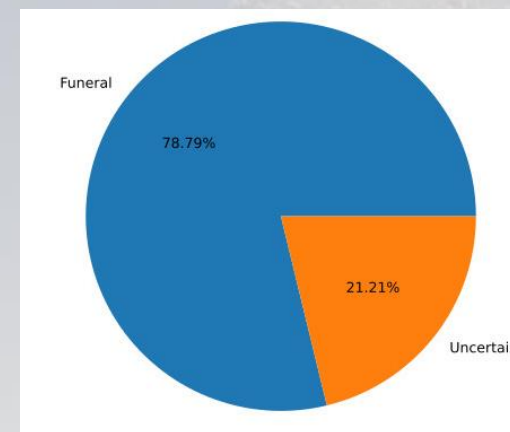
- Mostly in Iberia; only 5 gold coins in Colchis against 117 gold coins from Iberian Kingdom
- Ranging from imitations of Alexander III's stater from old Iberia and Colchis to Leo I (AD 457-474)

Observations resulting from Georgian dataset:

- Higher average of gold coins in Iberia
79 % of data from CHRE are from funerary context
but according to Lara Fabian:



- gold coins in funerary context: 11 %
- gold coins in overall context: 3 %



Distribution of gold coins according to the context in CHRE

- Other factors confirm the significant role of gold coins in Iberia
 - Local via production: imitations of Alexander III and Lysimachus; imitations of Roman gold coins:

[Georgian imitations to Lysimachus'](#)
type staters



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/public/en/catalogue/types?type=7>

[Georgian imitations to Alexander's](#)
type staters



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/public/en/catalogue/types?type=15>

[Imitations to aurei](#)



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/public/en/catalogue/types?type=28>

- Mixed currencies and patterns:

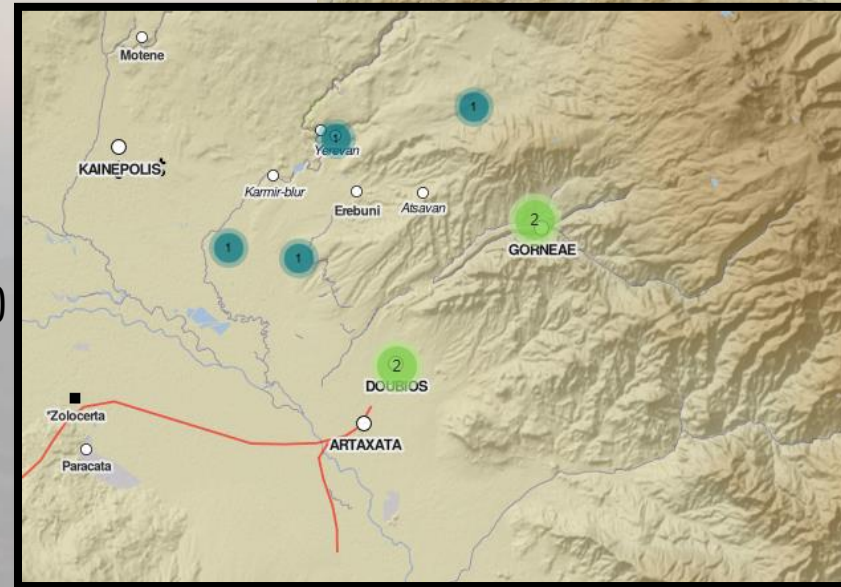
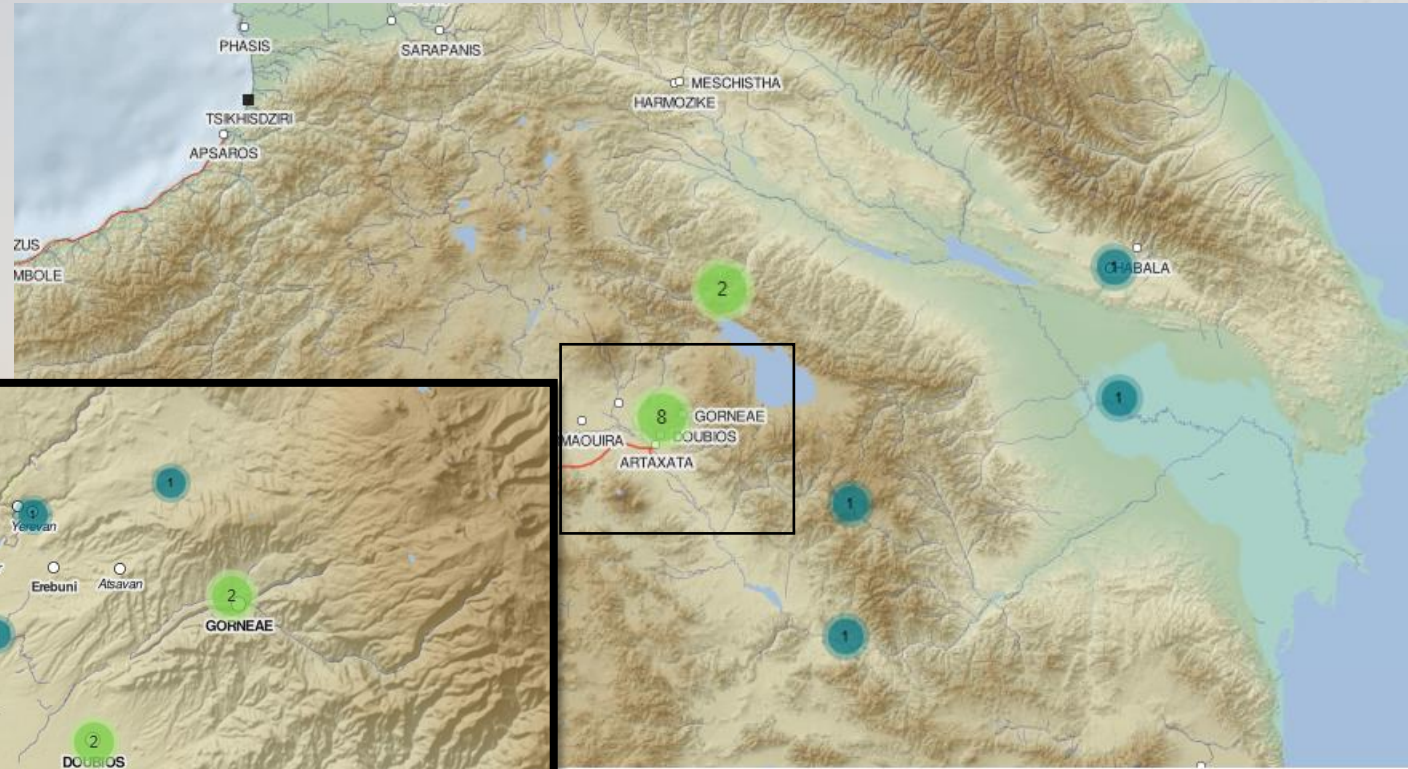
- gold single coin = 1 gold coin.
- Hoards made of several gold coins. ex: Mtskheta – Armazi 1940 CHRE ID 16034.
- Mixed gold coins with silver coins from different issuers: Roman coins are deposited with local imitation and Parthian coins. ex: Bori 1902 CHRE ID 16076.

II. Silver Monetary Circulation (AR)

a. The prevalence of silver monetary circulation

- 8 gold single finds
- 9 hoards
- 8 groups of single finds
- 2 hoards?

Distribution map of Roman deposits from Armenia



[CHRE online database](#)

- Armenian monetary system based on silver and especially drachma
- Idem for Parthian monetary system
- Predominance in silver in Hoards (8/9 hoards)
- Singularity of hoards:
 - Aşvan (48 Cappadocian coins)
 - Artaşat 1971 (28 Armenian coins)
 - Qaradonlu (47 Parthian coins)
 - Garni (48 Roman coins)=> Hoards composed of single currency

- Variety of patterns

	Single currency	Mixed currencies	Uncertain
Deposits	Aşvan (48 coins) Artaşat 1971 (28 coins) Garni (48 coins) Qaradonlu (47 coins)	Hoard: Artaşat 1972 (44 coins) Sarnakunk' (373 coins) Groups of single finds Tavuš (8 coins) P'arak'ar (7 coins) Sisian (15 coins)	Təzəkənd (12 coins only 4 known) Erevan (50 coins only 30 known)

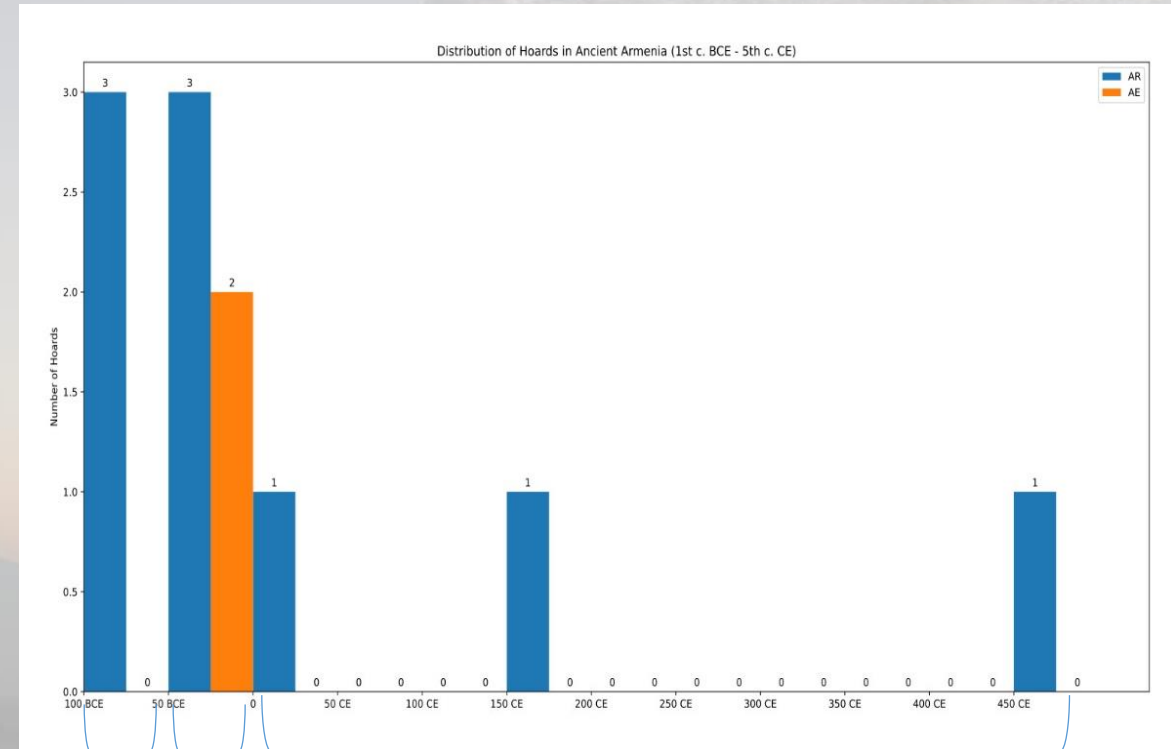
- Size of hoards:

Median average:

- For hoards: 48
- For groups of single finds: 8

Three main groups:

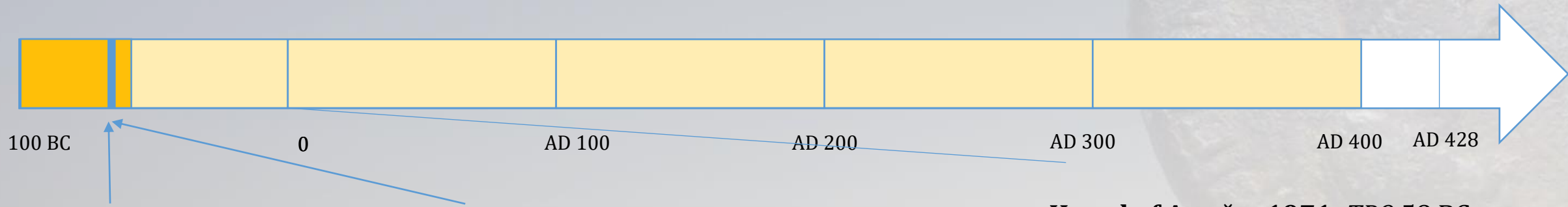
- Group 1: Seleucid, Armenian, Parthian amongst other coinages, but no Roman coins
 - Asvan hoard : Cappadocian coins (TPQ 63 BC)
 - **Hoard of Artašat 1972 (TPQ 63 BC)**
 - Hoard of Artašat 1971 (TPQ 58 BC)
- Group 2: Circulation of Armenian, Parthian, Roman coins amongst other coinages
 - **Hoard of Sařnakunk' (TPQ 34 BC)**
 - Hoard of Qaradonlu (TPQ 37-2 BC)
- Group 3: Predominance of Roman coins
 - Hoard of Təzəkənd (incomplete TPQ ?)
 - **Hoard of Gařni (TPQ AD 185-191)**
 - Hoard of Erevan (incomplete TPQ ?)
 - **Hoard of Artašat (TPQ mid-end of 2nd century ?)**
 - => exception imitations of Roman Provincial coins
 - => Require a larger dataset to ascertain the tendencies



1st group 2nd group

3rd group

Group 1: 1st half 1st c. BC



Hoard of Aşvan: TPQ 64 BC
48 Cappadocian drachms
At the border with
Cappadocian Kingdom

Hoard of Artaşat 1972: TPQ 63 BC

- 8 Seleucids ranging from 150-87 BCE
- 24 Cappadocian
 - * 10 Antiochos VII (posthumous) 130-80 BCE
 - * 14 from 130-62 BCE
- 8 Parthian from 171-80 BCE
- 2 Athenian tetradr.
- 1 Albanian imitation
- 1 add. coin (waiting to access)

Den. 56 % drachms and 44 % tetradrachms
Chisel cuts

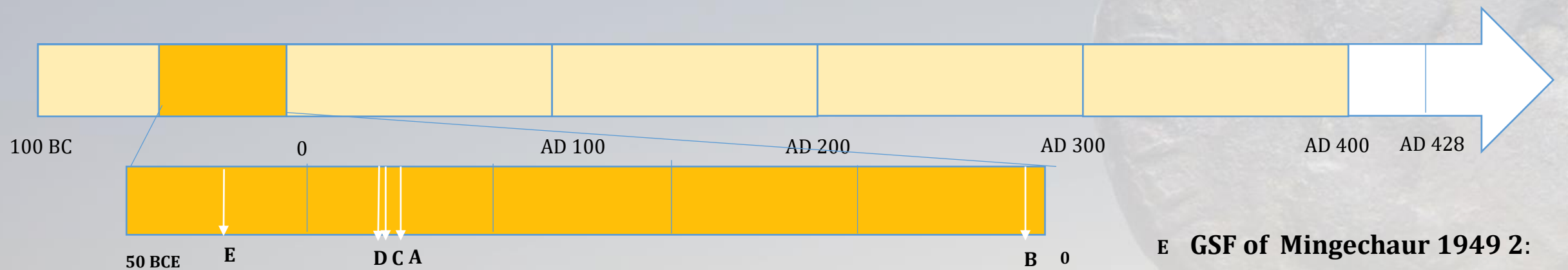
Hoard of Artaşat 1971: TPQ 58 BC

28 Armenian coins and 96,4 % of
drachms and 3,6 % of tetradrachms
Found in a forgery

1st half of 1st c. BC:

- Circulation of Seleucid, Parthian, and Armenian coins ...
- Aşvan and Artaşat hoards highlight the importance of its context: deliberate choice to conceal a particular currency.

Group 2: 2nd half 1st c. BC



A Hoard of Saġnakunk':
 TPQ 36-31 BC
 South
 373+ coins
 - 2 Alexander coins
 - 225 Roman denarii
 - 58 Seleucid tetradrachms
 - 39 Phoenician tetradrachms
 - 22 Parthian drachms
 - 10 Armenian 2 tetradrachms
 & 8 drachms
 - 10 Cappadocian drachms
 - 8 Cistophori from Asia Minor
 - 1 Pontus tetradrachm

B Hoard of Qaradonlu:
 TPQ 37-2 BC
 South
 47 Parthian

C GSF of Mingechaur 1949 1:
 TPQ 54-37 BC
 North
 5 Parthian drachms

D GSF of Sisian:
 TPQ 57-38 BC
 South
 15+ coins
 - 1 Athenian tetradrachm
 - 4 Seleucid tetradrachms
 & 1 drachm
 - 8 Parthian drachms
 - 1 gold Albanian imitation of Lysimachus
 - 1 uncertain

E GSF of Mingechaur 1949 2:
 TPQ 46-45 BC
 North
 6 coins
 - 2 Armenian coins of Tigranes II
 - 4 Republican denarii

2nd half of 1st c. BC:
 - Circulation of Parthian, Armenian and Roman coins
 - Difference of coin circulation in the South?

Introduction of Roman silver coins in Ancient Armenia

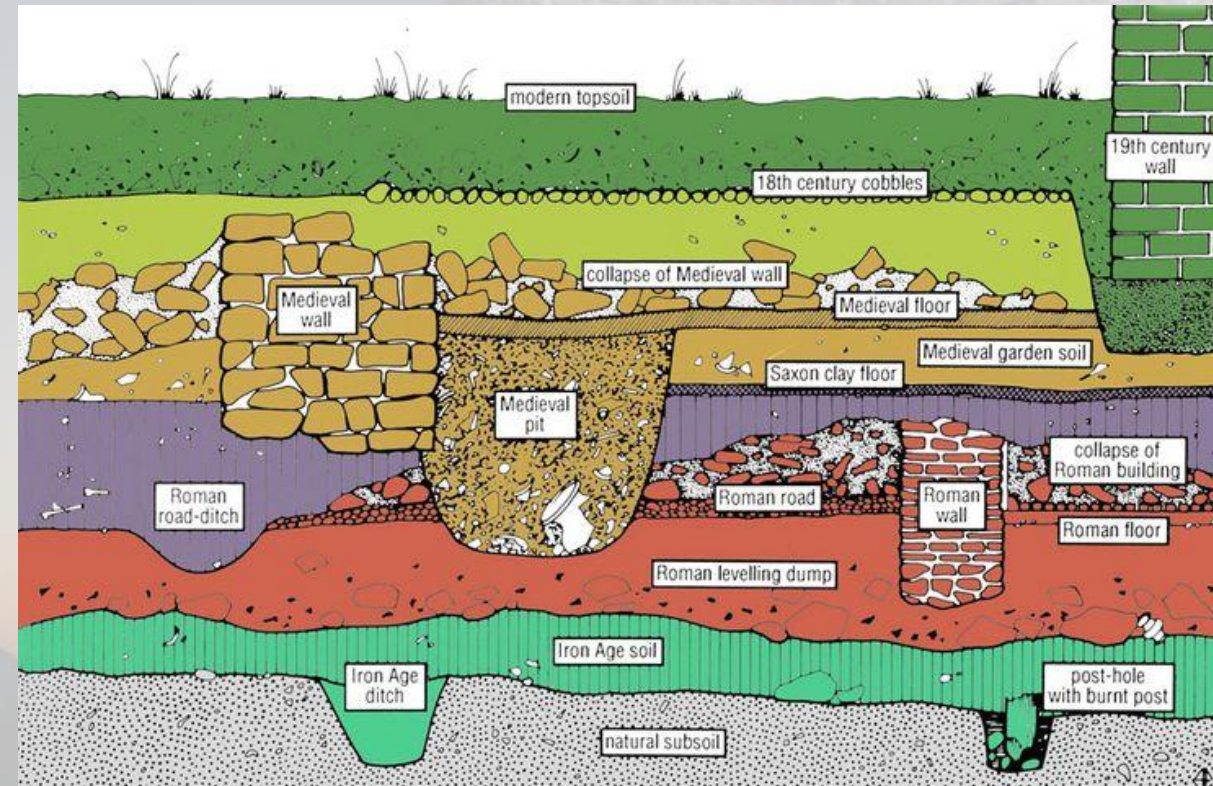
➤ *Hoard*s offer a *TPQ* (*Terminus Post Quem*) based on the minting date of the coin ➡ It is only a milestone.

- First context: minting of the coin
- Second context: the use of the coin
- Third context: the deposition of the coin
➡ it should be this date of deposition used for dating pattern of circulation and not context 1

➤ Why the date of deposition escapes from our knowledge:

- Old discoveries
- Looting
- Chance finds
- Archaeological excavations without stratigraphy

Coins are deprived of their archaeological context and the third context cannot be determined in the lack of the environment.




© Canterbury Archaeological Trust
<https://www.explorethepast.co.uk/2018/07/find-of-the-month-june-2018/>

Introduction of Roman silver coins in Ancient Armenia

- Republican coins could have been introduced much later => Attested until the end of the second century AD
- Ongoing research taking into consideration multifactorial factors (weight, the wear of coin, regional comparison and historical contextualisation) in order to narrow the timespan of introduction of Roman silver coins

Location

City Barbura
County Hunedoara
Region Transylvania
Country Romania
Lat/Long/Alt 46.005 / 22.9 / 290.55 view
Location details Centred on village/city



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Information

ID 2609
Permalink <https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/2609>
Hoard name BARBURA
Data type Hoard
Date of discovery (from) 1900
(to) 1915
Total number of coins 80
Summary 80 denarii from Mark Anthony to Marcus Aurelius with a tpq of AD 165.

[CHRE online database](#)

Location

City Chervena Voda
County Ruse
Region
Country Bulgaria
Lat/Long/Alt 43.806 / 26.102 / 93.12 view
Location details Centred on village/city



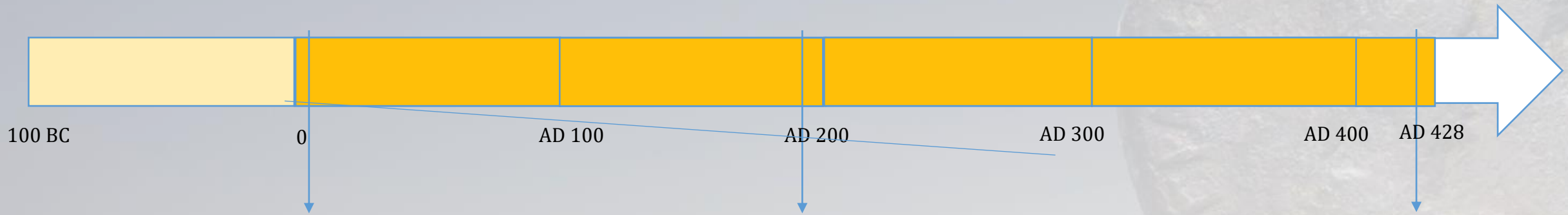
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Information

ID 2675
Permalink <https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/2675>
Hoard name CHERVENA VODA 1967
Alternative names TCHERVENA VODA; ČERVENA VODA; CERVENA VODA; Червена вода 2
Data type Hoard
Date of discovery (from) 1967
Total number of coins 900
Summary (ca. 900) 889 denarii: 46 republican, 843 imperial: Republic - Hadrian (AD 125-128). Found in two vessels.

[CHRE online database](#)

Group 3: 1-428 AD



Hoard of Təzəkənd: TPQ ? (2BC- AD 4?)

- 12 coins:
- 4 denarii of Caius and Lucius (2BC- AD 4?)
 - 8 uncertain coins

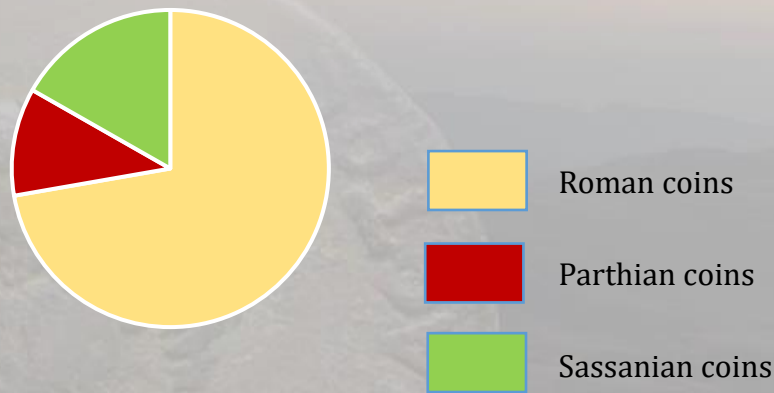
Hoard of Garni: TPQ185-191

48 Roman denarii ranging from Vespasian (AD 69-79) to Commodus (AD 180-192)
 In a room adjacent to the eastern part of the fortress wall.

Hoard of Yerevan: TPQ ? (392-455?)

- 50 coins:
- 30 Siliquae ranging from Theodosius I (AD 379-395), Honorius (AD 393-423), Valentinian III (AD 425-455)
 - 20 uncertain coins

Coin supplies from 1 - 428 according to single finds



AD 1-428 :

- Hoards and single finds tend to show that coin supplies were mainly Roman
- Being cautious as missing complete data and series: gap data from Vałaršapat and Dvin

Batches of coins from Ancient Armenia: 1. Roman Republican *Denarii*

59% *denarii* are republican (509-28 BC)

Hoard of Saġnakunk': TPQ 36-31 BC

South

373 coins

- 2 Alexander coins
- 225 Roman *denarii*
- 58 Seleucid tetradrachms
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When the Republican coins of Saġnakunk' were introduced?

- Lucullus? (Arm in 39-37 BC)
- Pompeus? (Arm 66-65 BC)
However Fr. De Callataġ showed that Pompeus used local coinage to cover military expenses
- Marcus Antonius? (36, 34 BC) during his retreat to Armenia after the failure in taking Medi Atropatene in 36 BC
- Augustus ? via Tiberius (20 BC) or Caius (AD 3 - 4)
- Later on? Claudius, Nero,...

When the Republican coins of Saġnakunk' were deposited?

- The last coins have been minted by Marcus Antonius in 36-31 BC
- Deposited when Marcus Antonius was in Armenia
 - Under Augustus
 - Or even later



Interpreted as a commercial hoard, but the denarius not in circulation in the East before the end of the first century AD. May rather be a hoard in context of military movements?

Climax of monetary production of local coinage d'après F. De Callataÿ 1997a and 2011

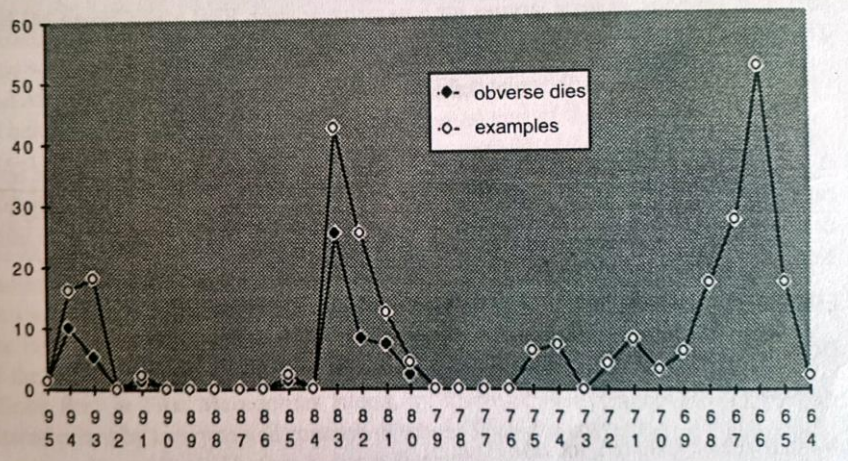


Figure 1. Drachm production of Ariobarzanes I Philoromaios. After Callataÿ 1997a: 211.

Monetary production of Ephesus mint

Monetary production from Ariobarzanes I of Cappadocia

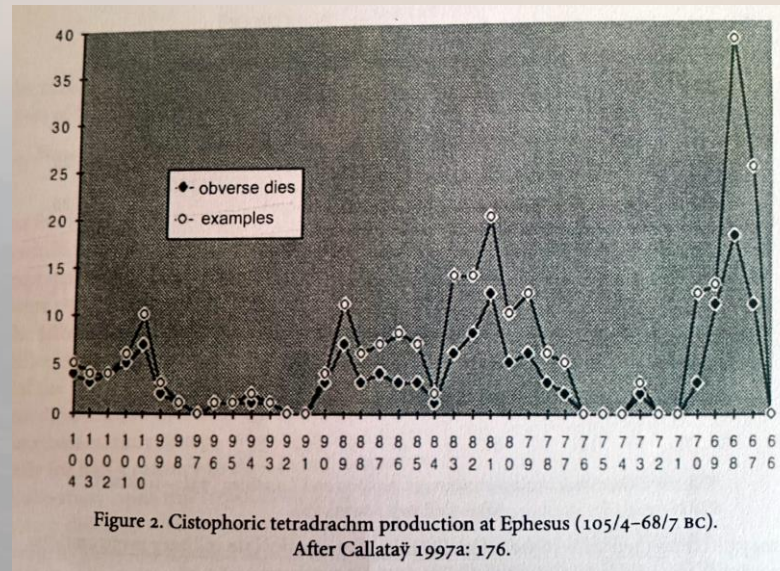


Figure 2. Cistophoric tetradrachm production at Ephesus (105/4-68/7 BC).
After Callataÿ 1997a: 176.

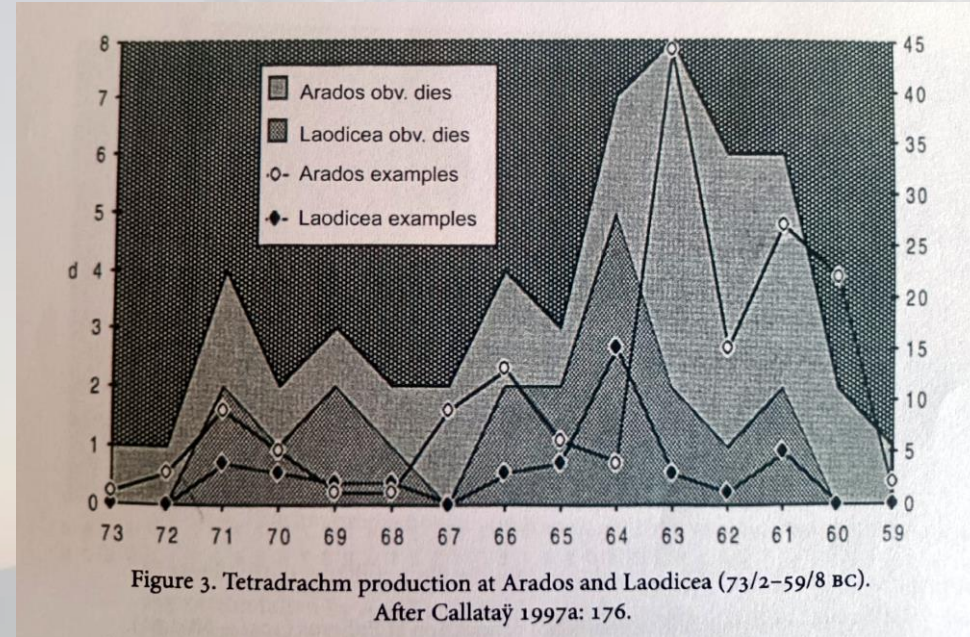


Figure 3. Tetradrachm production at Arados and Laodicea (73/2-59/8 BC).
After Callataÿ 1997a: 176.

Monetary production of Laodicea and Arados mints

De Callataÿ, F., 'More than it Would Seem: The Use of Coinage by the Romans in Late Hellenistic Asia Minor (133-63 BC)', *American Journal of Numismatics* 23, 2011, p. 55-86

Batches of coins from Ancient Armenia:

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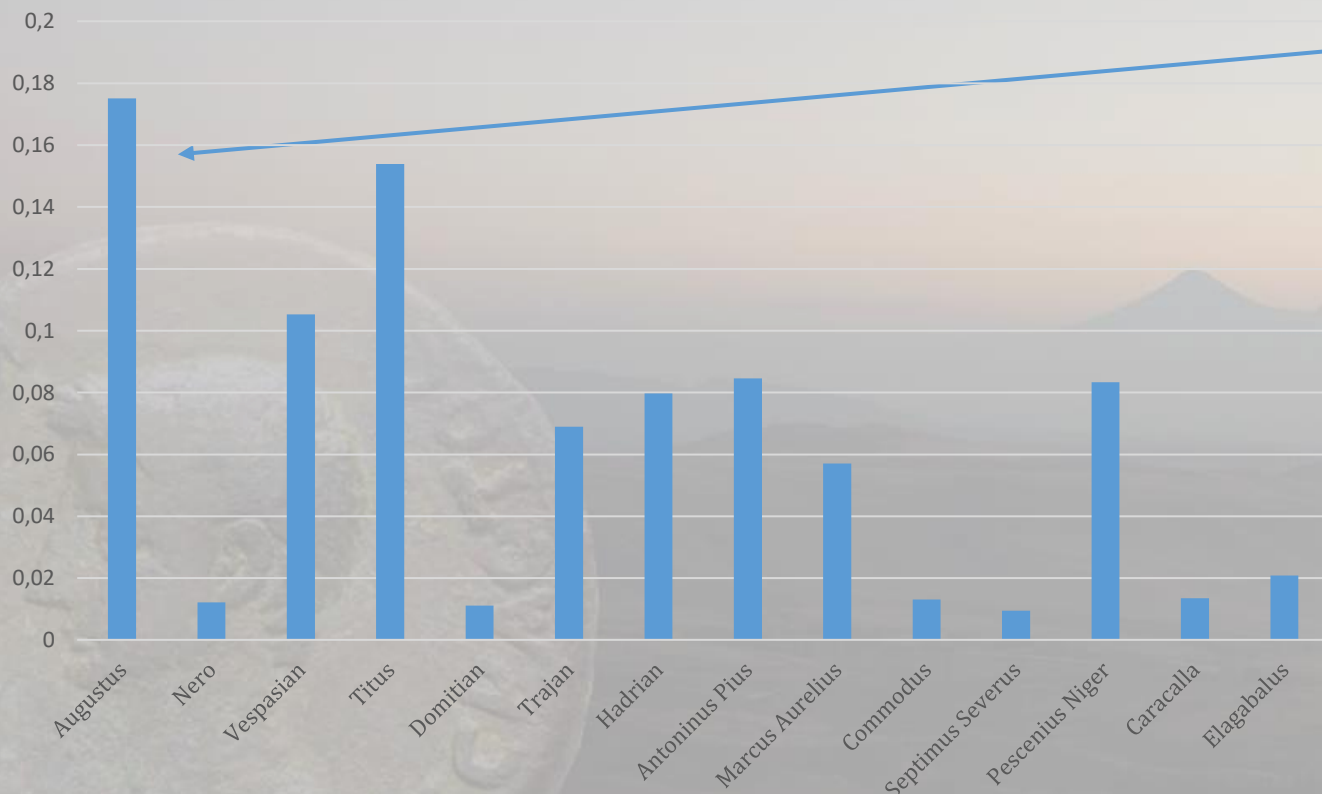


Interpreted as a commercial hoard, but the denarius not in circulation in the East before the end of the first century AD. May rather be a hoard in context of military movements?

Batches of coins from Ancient Armenia: 2. Caius and Lucius coins

77 specimens discovered up to date mainly in the territory of the Republic of Armenia → more is expected to be discovered in the former territory of the Greater Kingdom of Armenia.

Distribution of silver imperial coins in the Greater Armenian Kingdom by length of the reign of Roman emperor



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<https://cngcoins.com/>

59% denarii are republican (509 – 28 BC)
41% denarii are imperial (27 BC – AD 294)

b. The silver circulation in the Kingdom of Iberia

Hoards	Silver in funerary context (groups of single finds)
4	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mtsheta - Bagneti 1944 (ID 18190) (Hoard of 22 denarii of Augustus found in one layer during archaeological excavations)• Bori 1902 (ID 16076) (Hoard of 25 coins composed of 2 drachms minted in Olbia; 2 gold imitations of Alexander's stater; 5 Parthian drachms: 1 Phraates IV and 4 Gotarzes II; 12 denarii: Augustus, Gaius, Trajan, Faustina II, Julia Domna)• Bolnisi 1975 (ID 16149) (Hoard of 29 Sasanian drachms of Peroz (AD 459-484))• Tsinskaro (ID 16077) (Hoard with uncertain number of coins from different periods. Only one denarius of Augustus is known)	Mixed currencies

Uncertain data: 5 entries

Circulation in significant proportion of:

- 350 Caius and Lucius coins (Medea Sherozia 2002)
- 235 so called Gotarzes II drachms (uncertain attribution. According to D. Sellwood they must be divided between coins of Artabanus II (12-38/41), Gotarzes II (40-51) and Artabanus III (79/80-81)). Gotarzes II coins followed by 178 Orodes II coins (57-37 BC) ≠ ancient Armenia where Orodes II and Phraates IV (37-2 BC) coins are rather dominant.



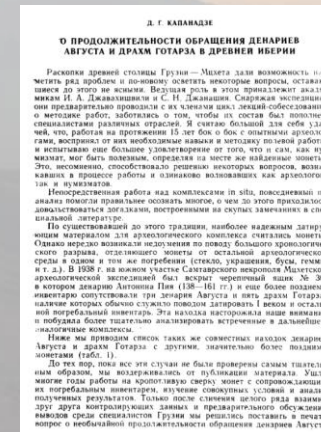
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<https://cngcoins.com/>

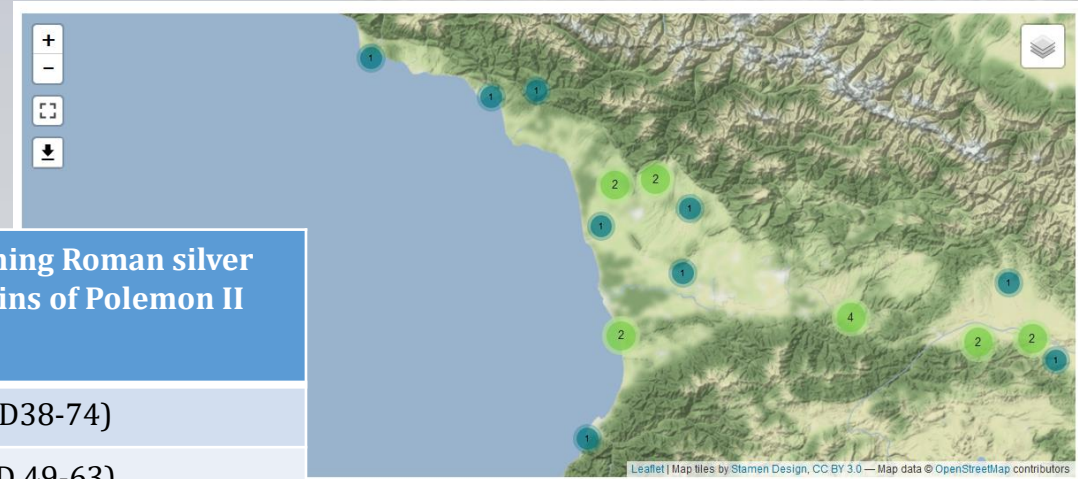
Long time circulation:

They are in circulation at least until the 2nd – 3rd centuries:

- SHEROZIA, Medea. 2002. 'Spreading of denarii of Octavianus Augustus and so-called Gotarzes on the territory of Kartli Kingdom', *Bulletin du Cercle d'Etudes Numismatiques*, 39, 1: 173–80.
- КАПАНАДЗЕ, Давид Георгиевич (1962). 'Опродолжительности обращения денариев Августа и драхмы Готарза в древней Иберии'. *Советская археология* no. 4, 59-65.



c. The silver circulation in the Kingdom of Colchis



[CHRE online database](#)

	Hoard containing Roman silver provincial coins from Caesarea of Cappadocia	Hoard containing Roman silver provincial coins of Polemon II
Pakhulani (ID 18826)		X (AD38-74)
Samurzakan (ID 18754)		X (AD 49-63)
Takhulani (ID 16068)	X (AD 117-138)	
Nosiri (ID 16059)	X (AD 131-168)	
Gerzeul (ID 5478)	X (AD 161- 169)	
Novabeki (ID 16079)	X (AD 193-211)	
Gonio 1998 (ID 16080)	X (AD 193-211)	
Otobaya (ID16060)	X (AD 193-211)	
Pitsunda (ID 16062)	X (AD 244-245)	
Ureki 1942 (ID 16070)	X (AD 275-276)	
Ureki 1948 (ID 16071)	X	

The dataset attests the circulation of :

➔ provincial coins from Pontus

➔ of silver provincial coins in significant proportion from Caesarea of Cappadocia

Location

City Nazodelavo

County Chkhorotsku [ჩხოროწყუ]


Region Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti [სამეგრელო-ზემო სვანეთი]

Country Georgia

Lat/Long/Alt 42.533092 / 42.155484 / 1721 view

Location details Centred on village/city

Find spot comment On the left bank of the Zaka-Tskhali.



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[CHRE online database](#)

Nazodelvu (ID 16046)
terminus post quem: 27 BC – AD 14

Gerzeul (ID 5478)
terminus post quem:
 AD 161-169

ID 16046

Permalink <https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/16046>

Hoard name NAZODELAVO

Alternative names NAZODELAVU; Назоделаву

Data type Hoard

Date of discovery (from) 1897

Total number of coins 25

Summary 25 silver coins found with ceramic vessel: 23 republican denarii, 1 denarius Augustus, 1 drachm Archaelaus IV of Cappadocia.

[CHRE online database](#)

Location

City Gurzul; Ghurzuli


County Sukhumi

Region Abkhazia

Country Georgia

Lat/Long/Alt 43.002 / 41.023 / 716 view

Location details Centred on village/city



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Informa

ID 5478

Permalink <https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/5478>

Hoard name GERZEUL

Alternative names GERZEULI; GURZUL; Gerzeouli; გურზული; Герзеул

Data type Hoard

Date of discovery (from) 1925

(to) 1926

Total number of coins 469

Summary 469 (or more?) silver coins of Caesarea in Cappadocia found with a ceramic vessel. These range from Nero to Marcus Aurelius (Lucius Verus) (AD 161-169). The hoard also included one denarius of Augustus and a barbarous imitation of a stater of Lysimachus.

[CHRE online database](#)

III. Bronze Monetary Circulation (AE)

- Local circulation
- Proportion much higher in single finds
- Lower value of coins → may lead its owner to care less about its recovery when the coin is lost

Available dataset for the study of bronze coins:

- No comprehensive data for Iberia (≠ CHRE only hoards data);
- Some hoards attest the circulation of bronze coins in Colchis, but not enough for a comprehensive understanding.

a. The bronze circulation in the Kingdom of Colchis

Location

City Pitsunda [ბიჭვინთა]

County Gagra [გაგრის]


Region Abkhazia

Country Georgia

Ancient place Pityous
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pitsunda>

Lat/Long/Alt 43.159902 / 40.339007 / 2.1 view

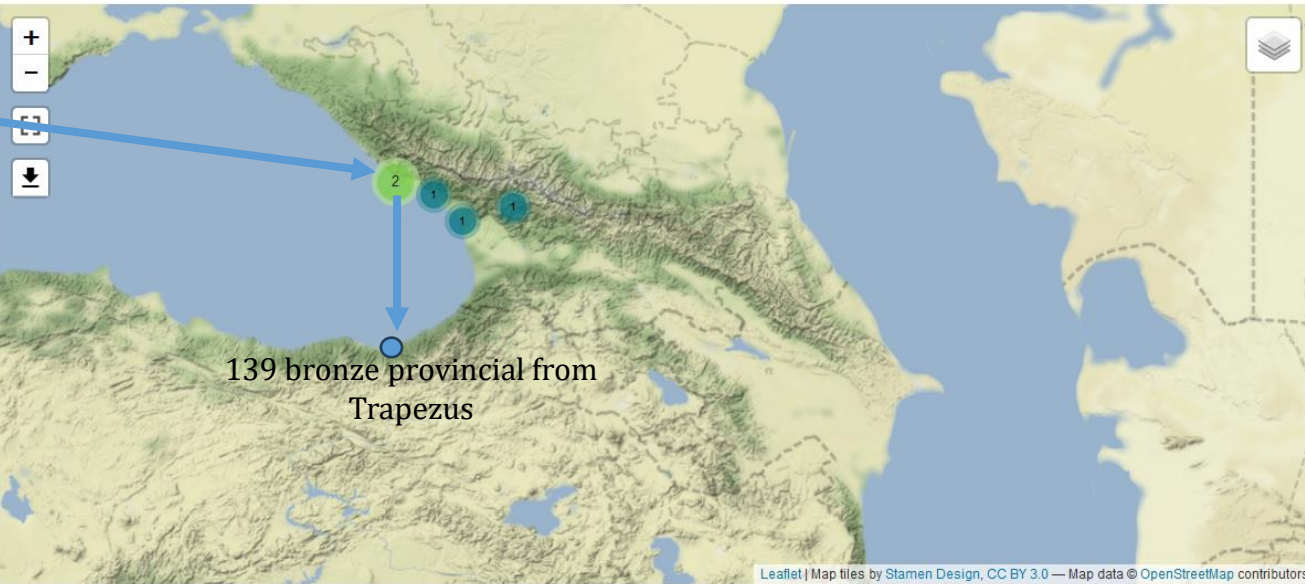
Location details Centred on village/city



Leaflet | Map tiles by Stamen Design, CC BY 3.0 — Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

[CHRE online database](#)

Pistunda 1958



139 bronze provincial from Trapezus

Leaflet | Map tiles by Stamen Design, CC BY 3.0 — Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

[CHRE online database](#)

PITSUNDA 1958

Date: 1958

Size: 149

Terminal Year: 244 - 245

Country: Georgia

Summary: 149 Roman provincial silver and bronze coins found with a bag during archaeological excavations: 10 silver coins (4 didrachms, 6 drachms) of Caesarea in Cappadocia, ranging from Hadrian to Septimius Severus; 139 bronze provincial coins of Trapezus, ranging from Commodus (? or Septimius Severus?) to Philip I (certainly AD 244/5, as this is the last time Trapezus produces coins). Authors disagree on the identification of the coins of Trapezus. These are badly preserved and were never published in detail. The list given here follows Kropotkin, as given in Depeyrot's translation. Golenko has a slightly different breakdown, including the mention of 4 coins of Clodius Albinus, allegedly from Trapezus. Kapanadze and Golenko also list 7 coins of Commodus, though these were grouped with Septimius Severus as uncertain by Kropotkin. The list provided in Tsetelia / Depeyrot 2010 does not offer further clarifications.

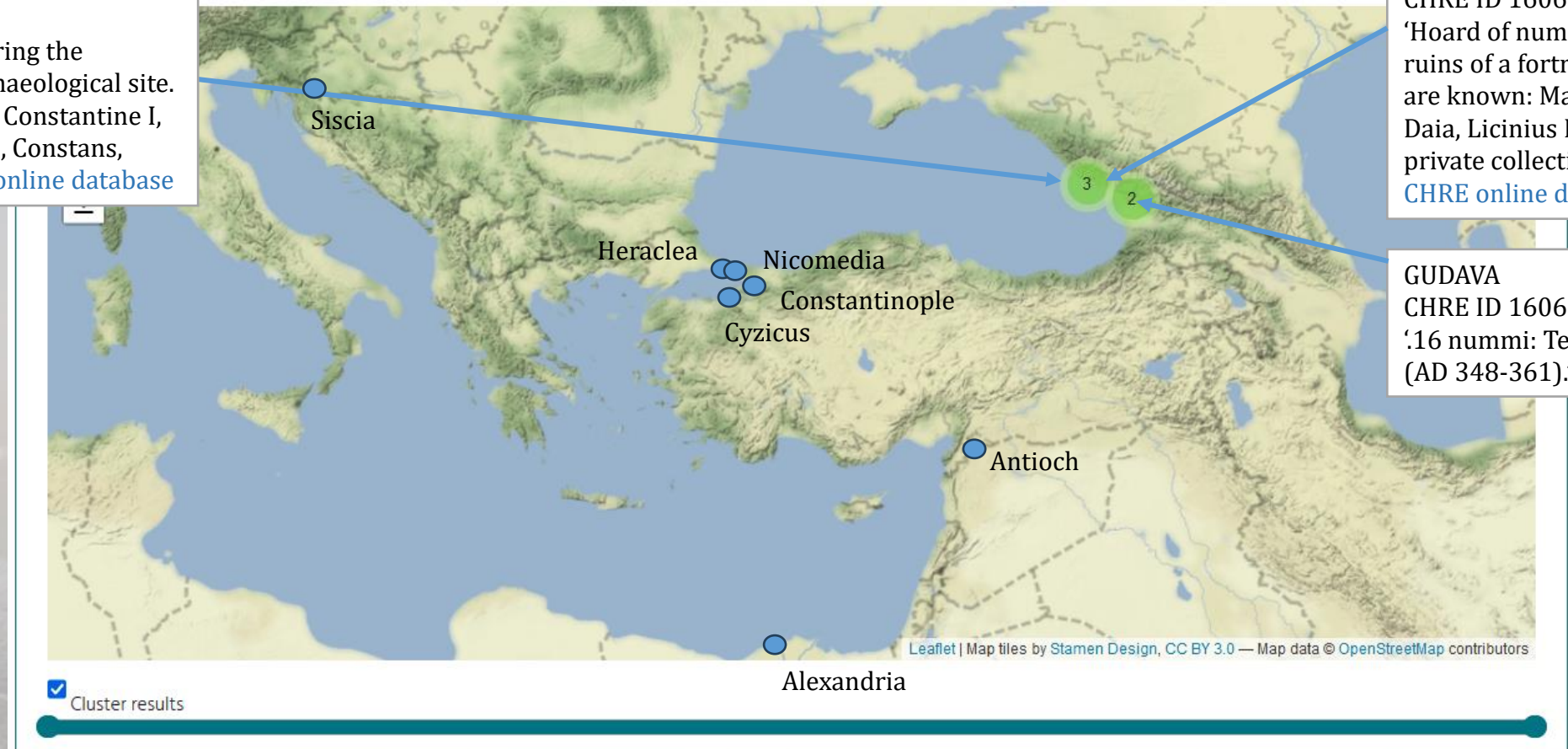
[CHRE online database](#)

Circulation of tardive Roman coins in Colchis

PITSUNDA 1961
CHRE ID 16065
'310 nummi found during the excavations at the archaeological site. Among them issues of Constantine I, Constantine I (Fausta), Constans, Constantius II.' [CHRE online database](#)

SUKHUMI
CHRE ID 16067
'Hoard of nummi found within the ruins of a fortress. Only three coins are known: Maximian I, Maximinus II Daia, Licinius I as they entered the private collection A.N.Simonov.' [CHRE online database](#)

GUDAVA
CHRE ID 16065
'16 nummi: Tetrarchy - Constantius II (AD 348-361)!' [CHRE online database](#)



[CHRE online database](#)

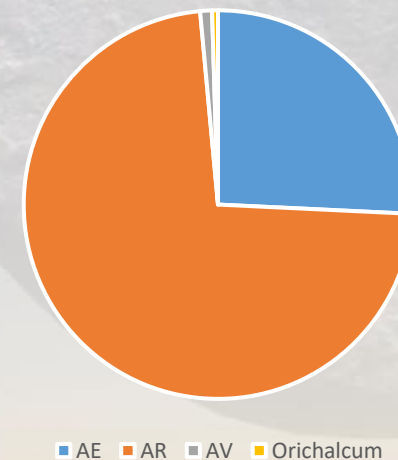
● Mints of the late Roman coins found in Colchis

b. The bronze circulation in the Kingdom of Greater Armenia

- 26% of the total of coins
- 65% of bronze coins in single finds

- Only one hoard made of bronze coins: hoard of Artašat 2005
 - 1 Roman Provincial coin from Antoninus Pius from Corinth (Achaia)
 - 1 Roman Provincial coin from Antoninus Pius from Laodicea ad Mare (Syria)
 - 53 imitations of SC series called 'Slocum Series 3'
 - One illegible coin

Distribution of coins according to the metal



Slocum 3 Series



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Զոհրաբյան, Արսինե և Վարդանյան, Ռուբեն eds. 2018.
Հայաստանի դրամաշրջա-նառության պատմությունը (Erevan:
ՀՀ կենտրոնական բանկ) p. 28.

Two uncertain bronze hoards

Number of coins	Issuing	Dating	Denomination
1	Mithradates II	122-91BCE	Dichalkous
1	Darius?	70 BCE	Chalkous
2	Mithradates IV	57-54 BCE	Chalkous
2	Phraates IV	37-2 BCE	Chalkous
1	Vardanes I	40-45 CE	9.2 g

Art'tik hoard? composition

Vardenut hoard? composition

Number of coins	Issuing	Dating	Denomination
2	Mithradates IV	57-54 BCE	Chalkous
9	Orodes II	57-37BCE	Chalkous 9.2 (one coin)
1	Phraates IV	37-2 BCE	Chalkous

The single bronze coin from the dataset: Artašat 2005

- Only one hoard made of bronze coins: hoard of Artašat 2005
 - 1 Roman provincial coin from Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161) from Corinth (Achaia)
 - 1 Roman provincial coin from Antoninus Pius from Laodicea ad Mare (Syria)
 - 53 imitations of SC series called ‘Slocum Series 3’
 - One illegible coin

Casted imitation called Slocum 3 Series



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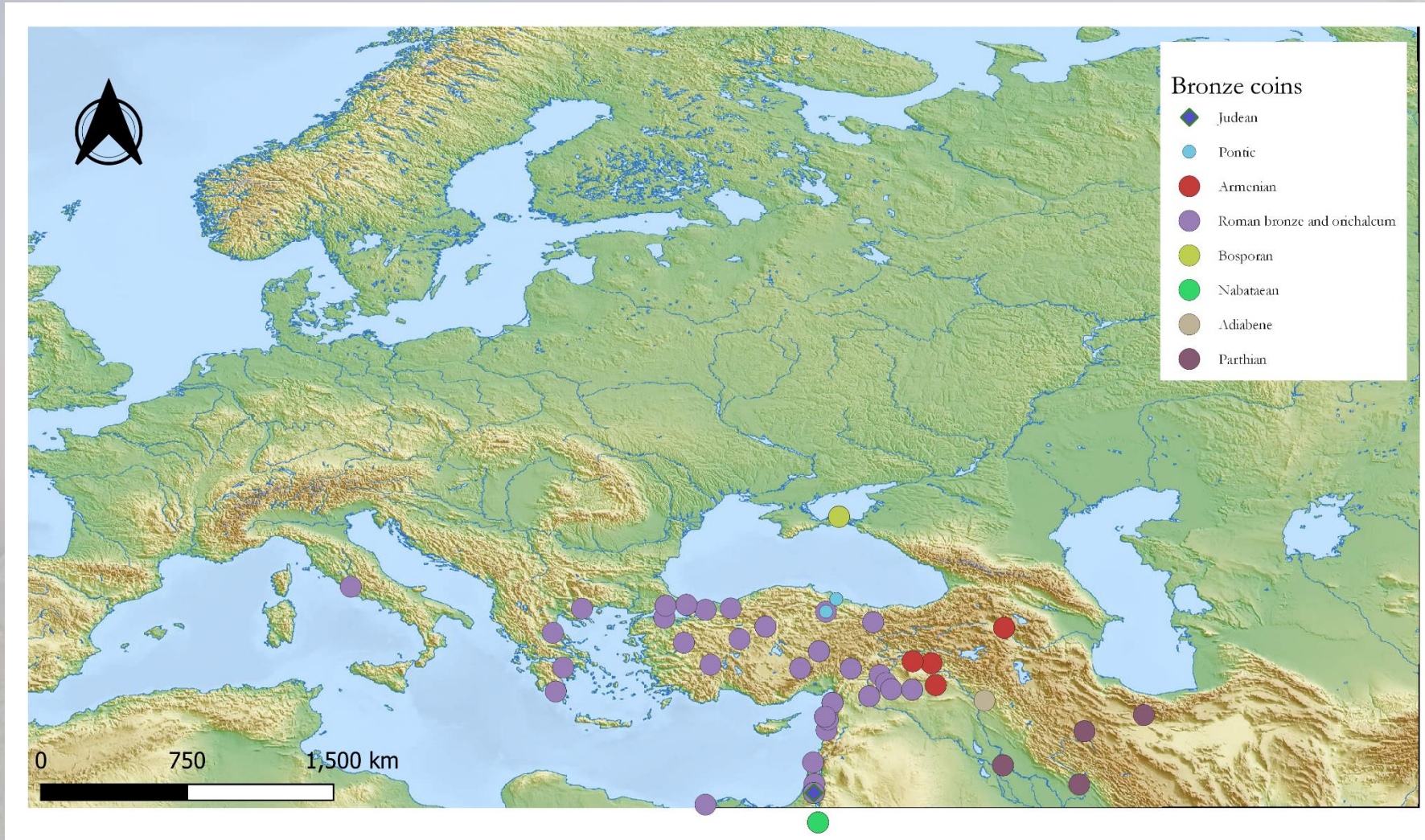
Զոհրաբյան, Արմինե և Վարդանյան, Ռուբեն eds. 2018. Հայաստանի դրամաշրջա-նառության պատմությունը (Erevan: ՀՀ կենտրոնական բանկ), p. 28.

Genuine SC coins from the reign of Trajan



Roma Numismatics Ltd - E-Sale 112, Lot 765
www.romanumismatics.com

Distribution of bronze coins by mint



Bronze coins:

- Armenian 27%
- Parthian 5.2%
- From Commagene and Adiabene 0.5%
- Upper Mesopotamia or Armenia 10%
- Bosporan 1.2%
- Pontic 2%
- Roman: provincial 45.1% & imperial 0.85%
- Judean 0.33% but 1.7% of Prutah
- Nabataean 3%
- Uncertain 5%

Background map: Mapswire.com CC-BY 4.0. <https://mapswire.com/>

Antiochene SC bronze coins: ROCCAA contribution

Circulation of genuine SC coins

Antiochene SC bronze coins:

- Vast production of coins from Antioch
 - Obverse: the portrait of the emperor
 - Reverse: SC within laurel wreath
- Production from Augustus (6-4 BC) to Philip I (AD 244-249)
- Use in military sphere: 'Brunk hoard' (see Howgego 1982, Butcher 2001)

Countermarks of Legions: XII Fulminata; XV Apollinaris ...

- Representativity in the dataset
 - 23% of the discoveries
 - Long time circulation: countermarks and worn coins



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www.romanumismatics.com

Countermark *GIC*, no. 503 on SC genuine coins

- Before the dataset known in 4 specimens:
 - 2 from Dura-Europos
 - 2 unknown provenances
- Dataset brings 10 new specimens:
 - Unknown meaning: interpreted as set of horns or crescent => rather Iranian substrate symbol or letters?
 - All applied on SC genuine coins (Claudius to Domitian)
 - Applied in Greater Armenian Kingdom or Upper Mesopotamia?
 - Function: validate or claim the coin into circulation by local authority?



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Զոհրաբյան, Արմինե և Վարդանյան, Ռուբեն eds. 2018. *Հայաստանի դրամաշրջա-նառության պատմությունը* (Erevan: ՀՀ կենտրոնական բանկ) p. 28.

Circulation of SC imitations

Minted and casted:

➤ Diversity of minted coins: See Butcher 2017, 2022 for the varieties

Ex. Slocum 1 Series:

Obverse: Head of Shamash

Reverse: SC retrograded with above eagle with wings spread; all within laurel wreath;

=> **Only one specimen discovered in Tigranakert**

➤ Casted coins called 'Slocum 3 Series':

- Slocum made the assumption of production at Hatra since few discoveries
- K. Butcher called into question the hypothesis by the lack of data
- Confirmed by the new **54 specimens discovered in Artasat**

=> May be produced in Upper Mesopotamia or eventually Armenia.

Lack of real evidence to confirm the production at Hatra.



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Զոհրաբյան, Արմինե և Վարդանյան, Ռուբեն eds. 2018. *Հայաստանի դրամաշրջա-նառության պատմությունը* (Erevan: ՀՀ կենտրոնական բանկ). p. 28.

Conclusion

➤ Scientific outcomes:

- Role of gold coins in Iberia by contrast to ancient Armenia and Colchis
- Domination of silver coins in ancient Armenia and regional pattern of coin from Pontus and Caesarea Cappadocia observed in Colchis linked to his geographical and historical context.
- Disparity in the state of documentation of discoveries and comprehensive dataset is lacking from bronze coins. Once again, Colchis offers a different pattern while ancient Armenia highlights the circulation of various bronze coins.

➤ Methodological outcomes:

- Research In progress : new discoveries with archaeological context are required
- ➡ Quantitative and qualitative dataset is still required for further deeper analysis
- Important to question the limit and representativity of the corpus
- Collaboration and extensive research are necessary in the future.



Anahide Kéfélian

Thank you for your attention