

ABOUT THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE POSTHUMOUS LYSIMACHUS TYPE  
STATERS FROM WESTERN AND NORTHERN BLACK SEA REGION<sup>1</sup>

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We intend to present here several gold coins, staters of Alexander the Great and Lysimachus type, struck in the Western and Northern Black Sea region, at Istros, Tomis and Tyras. Except the second one, all of them belong to the collection of the Numismatic Department from the Library of the Romanian Academy and they represent one of the most famous, interesting and discussed coins from their category. Both by their rarity and significance they offer important suggestions concerning the monetary history and politics in Pontic area and a reason of intense debates between Romanian numismatists and not only.

CATALOGUE OF COINS

ISTROS

*Alexander the Great type*

1. Obv. Helmeted head of Athens, to right.  
Rv. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡ•Υ (right); to the left, ΙΣ and to the right, under the wing, Ε.  
Stater 6 h; 8,33 g; 19,5 mm; inv. AV.A.70 (895 / 975); plate I,1.  
Pridik, *Anadol*, p. 19, nr. 495–505.  
Price, p. 180, nr. 964, 250–225 B.C.  
Oct. Iliescu, *CreștCol*, 1, 1961, p. 383, nr. 19  
C. Preda, E. Petac, *Les monnaies d'or...*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 000, nr. 130 (under press).

*Lysimachus type*

2. Obv. Diademed head of Alexander the Great, to right.  
Rv. [B]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (right) and ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧΟΥ (left).  
Athens seated to left, with helmet and shield, keeping Nike in the extended right hand; in the left field, ΙΣ and in the exergue Π.  
Stater ; 8,47 g; 20 mm; plate I, 2.  
Müller, *Lysimachus*, - .  
G.F. Hill, *NC*<sup>5</sup>, 17, 1925, p. 8, nr. 27.  
Gorny & Mosch Giessener Münzhandlung, Auction 122, March 10th 2003, lot 1181, III–II centuries B.C.

3. Obv. Diademed head of Alexander the Great, to right.

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<sup>1</sup> For a first version of this study, see C. Preda, E. Petac, *Les monnaies d'or de la Bibliothèque de l'Académie Roumaine, I. Monnaies grecques et romaines*, Wetteren, 2006, *Introduction*, p. 000 (under press). At a very short time after the publication of the book, I received new essential information concerning the subject, so I decided to publish a new, partially different and complete study.

Rv. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩ[Σ] (right) and ΛΥΣΙΜΑ[X○Y] (left).

Athens seated to left, with helmet and shield, keeping Nike in the extended right hand; in the left field, ΙΣ and in the exergue Π.

Stater 12 h ; 8,39 g ; 18 mm ; inv. A. 44/ 40 / O. 44(Orghidan collection); plate I, 3.

Müller, *Lysimachus*, - .

G.F. Hill, NC<sup>5</sup>, 17, 1925, p. 8, nr. 27.

Type Gorny & Mosch Giessener Münzhandlung, Auction 122, March 10th 2003, lot 1181, III–II centuries B.C.

## TOMIS

### *Lysimachus type*

4. Obv. Diademed head of Alexander the Great, to right.

Rv. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (right) and ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧ○Y (left).

Athens seated to left, with helmet and shield, keeping Nike in the extended right hand; in the left field, TO and in the exergue N.

Stater 12 h ; 8,39 g ; 20 mm; inv. AV.A.154 (977); plate I, 4.

Müller, *Lysimachus*, - .

Regling, - .

Thompson, - .

Seyrig, *Levant*, - .

Oct. Iliescu, *CreştCol*, 1, 1961, p. 388, nr. 45<sup>2</sup>.

C. Preda, E. Petac, *Les monnaies d'or...*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 000, nr. 131 (under presse).

5. Obv. Diademed head of Alexander the Great, to right.

Rv. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (right) and ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧ○Y (left).

Athens seated to left, with helmet and shield, keeping Nike in the extended right hand; in the left field, ΛY, under the throne TO and in the exergue trident decorated with dauphins.

Stater 12 h ; 8,27 g ; 19 mm; inv. AV.A.147 (3); plate II, 5.

Müller, *Lysimachus*, pl. VI, nr. 274 (Tomis).

Regling, p. 652, nr. 2482.

Callataÿ, p. 142, type D 7–R 1, 90–80 B.C.

Oct. Iliescu, type *Istro–Pontica*, p. 384–385.

C. Preda, E. Petac, *Les monnaies d'or...*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 000, nr. 139 (under press).

6. Obv. Diademed head of Alexander the Great, to right.

Rv. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (right) and [Λ]YΣΙΜΑΧ○Y (left).

Athens seated to left, with helmet and shield, keeping Nike in the extended right hand; in the left field,  $\overline{\Delta\text{III}}$ , under the throne TO and in the exergue trident decorated with dauphins.

Stater 12 h ; 8,19 g ; 18 mm; inv. AV.A.153 (978); plate III, 6.

Müller, *Lysimachus*, - .

Regling, - .

<sup>2</sup> Oct. Iliescu, NAC, 14, 1985, p. 149–158; idem, *Istro–Pontica. Muzeul tulcean la a 50–a aniversare*, Tulcea, 2000, p. 381.

Callataj, - .

Oct. Iliescu, *CreștCol*, 1, 1961, p. 388, nr. 44.


C. Preda, E. Petac, *Les monnaies d'or...*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 000, nr. 141 (under press).

## TYRAS

### *Lysimachus type*

7. Obv. Diademed head of Alexander the Great, to right.

Rv. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (right) and ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧ•[Υ] (left).

Athens seated to left, with helmet and shield, keeping Nike in the extended right hand; in the left field , under the throne TY and in the exergue trident decorated with dauphins.

Stater 12 h; 8,50 g; 21 mm; inv. AV.A.155 (977); plate III, 7.

Müller, *Lysimachus*, - .

Seyrig, *Levant*, - .

Thompson, - .

Price, - .

P. Nicorescu, BSNR, 27–28, 1933–1934, 81–82, p. 128, nr. 2.

C. Moisil, *CreștCol*, 44–47, 1938–1942 (1944), p. 130, nr. 1933.

Oct. Iliescu, *Istro–Pontica*, p. 384.



C. Preda, E. Petac, *Les monnaies d'or...*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 000, nr. 149 (under press).

## TYRAS ?

### *Lysimachus type*

8. Obv. Diademed head of Alexander the Great, to right.

Rv. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (right) and ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧ•Υ (left).

Athens seated to left, with helmet and shield, keeping Nike in the extended right hand; in the left field  and in the exergue .

Stater 12 h; 8,61 g; 19 mm; inv. AV.A.158 (782); plate III, 8.



Müller, *Lysimachus*, pl. IX, nr. 512 var. (unidentified mint).

Oct. Iliescu, *CreștCol*, 8, 1963, p. 328, nr. 310.

C. Preda, E. Petac, *Les monnaies d'or...*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 000, nr. 260 (under press).

9. Obv. Diademed head of Alexander the Great, to right.

Rv. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (right) and ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧ•Υ (left).

Athens seated to left, with helmet and shield, keeping Nike in the extended right hand; in the left field  and in the exergue .

Stater 12 h; 8,50 g; 19 mm; inv. A. 46 / 42 / O.46 (Orghidan collection); plate III, 9.

Müller, *Lysimachus*, pl. IX, nr. 512 (unidentified mint).

The problem consists in the establishment of a sequence of the different types staters struck in the Danubian district. The departure point is the chronology of the posthumous Lysimachus type gold issues with two monograms (left field and exergue) from the Greek cities of the Black Sea coast. Clearly attested at least at

Istros<sup>3</sup> (nrs. 2–3) and Tomis (nr. 4), they have a particularly significance. If the firsts of them was considered as early posthumous Lysimachus issues<sup>4</sup>, the chronology of the second one (nr. 4) – known until now by this single coin – caused different attitudes<sup>5</sup>. Although is generally accepted that this was the first gold issue from Tomis<sup>6</sup>, struck somewhere after 260 B.C. (very probable to the final part of the IIIrd century B.C.)<sup>7</sup>, the different and unequal development of Istros and Tomis generates also a different opinion. According to this, the tomitan issue was struck at the middle of the IIInd century B.C.<sup>8</sup>. The single reason for such a supposition consists in the later economic development of Tomis, who start to become an important and prosperous city not before this date. It was considered also that it represents a short and rare issue before the adoption at Tomis of the Byzantion posthumous Lysimachus type stater with the trident, supposed to be not longer after the middle of the same century<sup>9</sup>.

The existence of several posthumous Lysimachus type staters from Istros with the same characteristics (with ΙΣ in the left field and OE, ΛΟ<sup>10</sup> or Π<sup>11</sup> in the exergue) – and also of posthumous Alexander type gold coins with two monograms<sup>12</sup> struck in the same city in the third quarter of the IIIrd century B.C. – proves that the appearance of the same type of Tomis is not an accidental one. The posthumous Lysimachus type stater with TO in the left field and N in the exergue (nr. 4) is indeed the first gold issue from this city and a short and rare one, but struck probably not before the final part of the IIIrd century B.C. (as was correctly supposed<sup>13</sup>), after the victory of Tomis (in alliance with Byzantion) against Istros and Kallatis<sup>14</sup>. Observing that it is quite improbable that Istros struck in the same time staters of posthumous Alexander and

<sup>3</sup> G.F. Hill, NC<sup>5</sup>, 17, 1925, p. 8, nr. 27 (see plate I, A); Oct. Iliescu mentioned also two others Istros staters with the monograms OE, ΛΟ in the exergue, without any other information ; cf. Oct. Iliescu, *op.cit.*, p. 384, note 54.

<sup>4</sup> H. Seyrig, RN<sup>6</sup>, 5, 1963, p. 11; Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *Dacia, N.S.*, 18, 1974, p. 119, note 76, where he considered that the Istros posthumous Lysimachus type issues with ΙΣ in the left field and different monograms in the exergue are from the end of the IIIrd century B.C., after the years 228–220 ; see also Oct. Iliescu, *loc.cit.*

<sup>5</sup> First published by Oct. Iliescu, *CreștCol*, 1, 1961, p. 388, nr. 45 (see also note 1) and considered as an issue from the middle of the IIInd century B.C. (Oct. Iliescu, *NAC*, 14, 1985, p. 155; idem, *Istro–Pontica. Muzeul tulcean la a 50–a aniversare*, Tulcea, 2000, p. 381), it was contested by Gh. Poenaru Bordea (*BSNR*, 67–69, 1973–1975, 121–123, p. 22) and later gradually accepted by the same (*Dacia, N.S.*, 18, 1974, p. 119, note 76 and p. 122, note 91) to the complete acceptance as the first posthumous Lysimachus type stater issue, struck not before 260/255 B.C. (Gh. Poenaru Bordea, in *130 de ani de la crearea sistemului monetar românesc modern*, Bucharest, 1997, p. 63), but very probably in the last quarter of the IIIrd century B.C. (Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *Dacia, N.S.*, 18, 1974, p. 122, note 91).

<sup>6</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *loc.cit.*; Oct. Iliescu, *NAC*, 14, 1985, p. 155.

<sup>7</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *loc.cit.*

<sup>8</sup> Oct. Iliescu, *loc.cit.*; idem, *Istro–Pontica. Muzeul tulcean la a 50–a aniversare*, Tulcea, 2000, p. 381.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 383–384.




<sup>10</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 384, note 54 ; see also note 2.

<sup>11</sup> There are three Istros staters – posthumous Lysimachus type – with ΙΣ in the left field and the monogram Π in the exergue; first of them was published by G.F. Hill, *loc.cit.* (12 h; 8,47 g; 19 mm, from the collection of the Great Duke Alexei Michailovich and after in the collection of S.L. Courtauld, who gave to the British Museum, cf. *ibidem*, p. 65 plate I, A); the second, mentioned by Oct. Iliescu, *loc.cit.*, belonged probably to the collection of C. Orghidan, now at the Numismatic Department from the Library of the Romanian Academy (nr. 3; 12 h; 8,39 g; 18 mm); the third of them (nr. 2; 8,47 g; 20 mm) was sell by Gorny & Mosch Giessener Münzhandlung, Auction 122, March 10th 2003, lot 1181.

<sup>12</sup> M.J. Price, *The Coinage in the name of Alexander the Great and Philip Arrhidaeus*, I, Zürich–London, 1991, p. 180.

<sup>13</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *loc.cit.*

<sup>14</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, in *Istoria Românilor, I. Moștenirea timpurilor îndepărtate*, Bucharest, 2001, p. 568–569.

Lysimachus types, we are not agree that the last of them were struck between 280–260 B.C.<sup>15</sup> In fact, there are only two possibilities : to place the posthumous Lysimachus type staters with two monograms from Istros and Tomis somewhere around the years 280–260/255 B.C.<sup>16</sup> or to include them between the issues immediately following the burial of the Anadol hoard<sup>17</sup>. Their absence from the great Anadol hoard<sup>18</sup> and the appearance of the same monograms as on the posthumous Alexander type staters from Istros, struck between 250–225 B.C.<sup>19</sup>, suggest to Gh. Poenaru Bordea a later date, after the burial of this hoard (228–220 B.C.<sup>20</sup>). But the Istros staters are not present in the hoard of Dăeni, Tulcea county (Romania)<sup>21</sup> also, which was buried at the end of the IIIrd century or the beginning of the IIInd century B.C.<sup>22</sup> The Istros staters cannot be placed at the beginning of the IIInd century, because at this time the cities from the Western Black Sea coast begun to struck posthumous Lysimachus type staters with trident in the exergue, following Byzantion model<sup>23</sup>. So, they must be placed somewhere soon around 220 and 210 B.C., not before, but after the posthumous Alexander type staters with two monograms from the same city<sup>24</sup>. A very good argument in this sense, the first in fact, is given by the posthumous Lysimachus type stater with  in the left field and  in the exergue (nr. 8) which belongs to the hoard of Dăeni, that means that it was struck in the IIIrd century B.C. It is true that Dăeni hoard contains staters from the end of the IVth century B.C. to the end of the IIIrd. We must observe that the posthumous Lysimachus type staters from Odessos with KOI / KAEAN in the exergue of the reverse are from the last quarter of the IIIrd century B.C.<sup>25</sup> Also, the tetradrachms from Kallatis with a monogram or a name in the exergue are from the third quarter of the IIIrd century B.C. or even 225 – 220 B.C.<sup>26</sup> So, in the same order, posthumous Lysimachus type Tomis stater with TO in the left field and N in the exergue belongs to the same period 220–210 / 200 B.C.<sup>27</sup>. The preservation, at least until now, of a single coin of this type (from Istros we have five with  $\Sigma$  in the left field : with monogram OE 1,  $\Lambda O$  1 and  3) offers only an image of the economic power of Istros compared with Tomis, giving to the tomitan issue the character of an exceptional issue, struck for a special event, as a part of a

<sup>15</sup> Oct. Iliescu, *loc.cit.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem.*

<sup>17</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *Dacia*, N.S., 18, 1974, p. 119, note 76.

<sup>18</sup> E.M. Pridik, *Anadolskij klad zolotykh staterov 1895 goda*, Sankt Petersburg, 1902.

<sup>19</sup> See note 11.

<sup>20</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *loc.cit.*; for a similar opinion, see M.J. Price, *loc.cit.*

<sup>21</sup> B. Mitrea, *Dacia*, N.S., 2, 1958, p. 493–494, nr. 1; idem, *Dacia*, N.S., 3, 1959, p. 603, nr. 3; Oct. Iliescu, *CreștCol*, 8, 1963, p. 326–329, nr. 297–311; B. Mitrea, *Pontica*, 14, 1981, p. 171–179; Gh. Poenaru Bordea, B. Mitrea, *Dacia*, N.S., 37, 1993, p. 311, nr. 5; Gh. Poenaru Bordea, in *Simpozion de numismatică dedicat centenarului Societății Numismatice Române (1903–2003)*, Chișinău, 26–28 noiembrie 2003, Bucharest, 2005, p. 11–22; C. Preda, E. Petac, *op.cit.*, p. 000, *Catalogue*, nrs. 93, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 107, 108, 110, 111, 115, 116, 120, 197, 217, 226, 245, 260 (under press).

<sup>22</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *op.cit.*, p. 12.

<sup>23</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *Dacia*, N.S., 18, 1974, p. 123, note 97.

<sup>24</sup> For a different opinion, see Oct. Iliescu, at Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *op.cit.*, p. 117, note 62 and idem, *Istro–Pontica. Muzeul tulcean la a 50–a aniversare*, Tulcea, 2000, p. 380 : in the quoted presentation from 1961 he proposed for Istros staters a sequence of posthumous Lysimachus types (280–260 B.C.), followed by posthumous Alexander types (250–225 B.C.) and again posthumous Lysimachus types.

<sup>25</sup> A. Rogalski, *Numizmatika*, 12, 1978, 4, Sofia, p. 5–6 and 8–9, where he prosed the years 235/227–217 B.C.; M.J. Price, *op.cit.*, p. 191.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 175.

<sup>27</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, in *Istoria Românilor, I. Moștenirea timpurilor îndepărtate*, Bucharest, 2001, p. 568.

short and rare issue. Also, we must observe that all the three staters from Istros with  $\Sigma$  and  $\overline{\text{M}}$  were struck with the same die, meaning that we have five coins with three dies or, more exactly, three monograms associations with three dies, sustaining probably an enough larger issue.

The same problems rise from the examination of the last coins from our catalogue (nr. 8–9), having also two monograms on the reverse ( $\Psi$  in the left field,  $\overline{\text{M}}$  and  $\overline{\text{M}}$  in the exergue). The location of the monograms (the same as Istros and Tomis) and also the very good style of the coins sustain a date from the final part of the IIIrd century B.C., maybe some years earlier then Istros and Tomis (c. 235–230 B.C.?). Maintaining the entire necessary prudence, we consider that the first monogram could be interpreted as an abbreviation for Tyras. The affiliation of one of this coins (nr. 8) to the hoard of Dăeni (Romania)<sup>28</sup>, burried to the end of the IIIrd century or begining of the IInd century B.C.<sup>29</sup> and also the presence of several coins with the monograms  $\Psi$  and probably  $\overline{\text{M}}$  and  $\overline{\text{M}}$  in the Anadol hoard<sup>30</sup>, burried somewhere after 228–220 B.C.<sup>31</sup>, sustain both the chronology and the location of this issue.

Two questions remain yet to be solved: why the Pontic cities (at least Tyras, Istros, Tomis, Mesembria<sup>32</sup>, Odessos) have changed the type of their staters after 245/237<sup>33</sup> and 230 B.C. from posthumous Alexander the Great stater type to posthumous Lysimachus type and also why Byzantion didn't struck gold coins of Alexander the Great type? It seems that the changes were caused by political reasons, maybe a late consequence of the defeat of Istros and Kallatis face of Byzantion and his allies in c. 260/255 B.C. The use of the same coin type – Lysimachus with two monograms, placed in the left field and in the exergue – at Tyras, Istros, Tomis and Odessos at least suggests a common politics in this matter. The absence of the early posthumous Lysimachus staters at Kallatis<sup>34</sup> is probably a question of time. We have no reason to suppose that Kallatis, even less and less important then in the first part of the century, begin to struck posthumous Lysimachus type staters much later then in any other neighbouring cities, even Tomis. Also, the change from posthumous Alexander type staters to posthumous Lysimachus type, already knew from Istros<sup>35</sup>, is probable for Tyras<sup>36</sup>. We don't know yet what is happened at Tomis after the Lysimachus type issue with TO in the left field and N in the exergue. We know only that at the end of the IIIrd century and beginning of the IInd century B.C. we have at Tomis few posthumous Lysimachus type staters<sup>37</sup>. We cannot say if the change from the first posthumous Alexander type staters to posthumous Lysimachus type was general in the Black Sea area as it seems, except Byzantion, which struck from the begining staters in the name of Lysimachus and also we cannot say what caused this

<sup>28</sup> Oct. Iliescu, *op.cit.*, nr. 310; C. Preda, E. Petac, *op.cit.*, p. 000, *Catalogue*, nr. 260 (under press).

<sup>29</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, in *Simpozion de numismatică dedicat centenarului Societății Numismatice Române (1903–2003)*, Chișinău, 26–28 noiembrie 2003, Bucharest, 2005, p. 12.

<sup>30</sup> E.M. Pridik, *op.cit.*, p. 30, nrs. 226–239.

<sup>31</sup> H. Seyrig, *RN*<sup>6</sup>, 11, 1969, p. 44; Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *Dacia*, N.S., 18, 1974, p. 119, note 76.

<sup>32</sup> A. Rogalski, *op.cit.*, p. 7 and p. 9–11; M.J. Price, *op.cit.*, p. 180.

<sup>33</sup> A. Rogalski, *op.cit.*, p. 5–6 and 8–9.

<sup>34</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *Dacia*, N.S., 18, 1974, p. 119, note 76; we have from Kallatis only numerous posthumous Alexander type staters which were struck before those present in the Anadol and Dăeni hoards, cf. idem, *BSNR*, 67–69, 1973–1975, 121–123, p. 22.


<sup>35</sup> M.J. Price, *op.cit.*, p. 180.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 196, nr. 1214; for possible early posthumous Lysimachus type staters from Tyras, see nrs. 8–9 from our catalogue.

<sup>37</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, in *Istoria Românilor, I. Moștenirea timpurilor îndepărtate*, Bucharest, 2001, p. 568.

change (the victory of Byzantium in 260/255 against Istros and Kallatis, followed by the adoption, city after city, of the Byzantium model for the gold coins?). But it seems to be clear that the monetary politics is the result of the leading level political decision making and less a result of a long and “necessary” economic evolution.

This conclusion seems to be sustained by another posthumous Lysimachus type stater, struck at Tyras (nr. 7), which could offer some suggestions concerning the moment of the adoption at least at Tyras of the Byzantium Lysimachus type stater with trident in the exergue.

It has the monogram  in the left field, TY under the throne and decorated trident in the exergue. Published in the 30's<sup>38</sup>, it was considered initially as a Mithridatic war issue<sup>39</sup> and later as a coin struck at the second part of the IInd century B.C.(130–110<sup>40</sup>). We must observe that especially the very good style of this stater, the weight (8,50 g)<sup>41</sup>, the type of the trident, the big letters under the throne<sup>42</sup>, suggest an earlier date<sup>43</sup> (190–170 ?; the beginning of the second quarter of the IInd century B.C. ?). Again, the adoption of Byzantium type stater (with trident in exergue and big letters under the throne) seems to be the result of a political decision of the cities from the Black Sea region and not of an economic long term evolution<sup>44</sup>. If the Tyras stater were from the final part of the IInd century (130–110 B.C.) it must have the same style or iconographical and technical characteristics as the contemporary types from Byzantium<sup>45</sup>, but it is not the case. If the earlier chronological attribution is a correct one, it suggests that the adoption of Byzantium model with a monogram in the left field, the trident in exergue and big letters under the throne for the posthumous Lysimachus staters from the Western coast of the Black Sea cities was made relatively soon after his introduction, in c. 190–180 B.C.<sup>46</sup> The Tyras issue known by E. Minns coin<sup>47</sup> (TY under the throne, no monogram in field and decorated trident in the exergue) was struck at the same time or even a little early.

The tomitan coin Regling, 2482 (nr. 5) – also a posthumous Lysimachus stater, with the monogram ΛY in the left field, TO under the throne and decorated trident in the exergue – was of a special interests. Six other coins are known for this type; three of them, registered by Regling, but without photos and technical data<sup>48</sup>, are not usefull for our study; another one was brought by the British Museum in 1924 (8,36 g; 20 mmϕ plate II, B)<sup>49</sup>, the fifth is at the National Bank of Romania, in Bucharest (8,42 gϕ

<sup>38</sup> P. Nicorescu, BSNR, 27–28, 1933–1934, 81–82, p. 128, nr. 2; the weight is not 8,40 g but 8,50 g.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>40</sup> Oct. Iliescu, *Istro–Pontica. Muzeul tulcean la a 50–a aniversare*, Tulcea, 2000, p. 384.

<sup>41</sup> Fr. de Callataÿ, *L'histoire des guerres mithridatiques vue par les monnaies*, Louvain La Neuve, 1997, p. 150 : 8,40–8,49 g for the first half of the IInd century B.C.

<sup>42</sup> H. Seyrig, in *Essays in Greek Coinage presented to Stanley Robinson*, ed. C.M. Kraay & G.K. Jenkins, Oxford, 1967, p. 200, nrs. 11–14 and plate 24.

<sup>43</sup> A.N. Zograff, *Monety Tiry*, Moscow, 1957, p. 26–28 (where he propose the end of the IIIrd century); Gh. Poenaru Bordea, RBN, 125, 1979, p. 49; Fr. de Callataÿ, *loc.cit.*, note 47.

<sup>44</sup> As suppose Oct. Iliescu, *op.cit.*, p. 383 ; the coins seems indeed to be struck “apparently in a short period of time and without any direct connection with the economic importance of the city” (cf. Fr. de Callataÿ, *op.cit.*, p. 150).

<sup>45</sup> H. Seyrig, *loc.cit.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 200, nr. 13.

<sup>47</sup> E. Minns, *Scythians and Greeks*, Cambridge, 1913, p. 448, fig. 339 bis; P. Nicorescu, *loc.cit.*, but nr. 1 (8,40 g).

<sup>48</sup> K. Regling, in B. Pick, K. Regling, *Die antiken Münzen von Dacien und Moesien*, II, Berlin, 1910, p. 652, nr. 2482.

<sup>49</sup> Fr. de Callataÿ, *op.cit.*, p. 142 (British Museum, inv. 1924–7–8–23); Oct. Iliescu, *op.cit.*, p. 382.

plate II, C)<sup>50</sup> and the sixth (if this is not a modern forgery) belongs to the numismatic collection of the Archaeological Institute “Vasile Pârvan” also from Bucharest (8,31 g; plate II, D)<sup>51</sup>. Despite the opinion of its publisher<sup>52</sup>, the coin from the National Bank of Romania (Bucharest) was struck with the same die with that of the British Museum collection<sup>53</sup>. Our coin, the seventh (8,27 g), was struck with another die than the staters from the British Museum / National Bank of Romania or Archaeological Institute from Bucharest. So, we have four coins struck with three dies. This situation supposes an enough larger issue, the probable explanation consisting in the war effort during the Mithridatic conflicts<sup>54</sup>. Also, the medium weight of the fourth coins for which we have the necessary informations is 8,34 g, a little more than c. 8,25 g (medium weight for Tomis staters following Callataÿ<sup>55</sup>). Despite this difference, we have no reason to suppose several issues at different moments, with the same magistrate name<sup>56</sup>. Probably all of the coins are issues from the Mithridatic wars time. Quite significant for our discussion is a posthumous Lysimachus type stater with the same monogram ΛΥ in the left field and decorated trident in the exergue, but ΚΑΑ under the throne<sup>57</sup> (8,42 g; plate II, E). It seems to be contemporary and to belongs to the same issue with the similar Tomis coins, that suggests a mobile mint, a movement of the monneyer or a single mint striking for several cities. A coincidence of the name<sup>58</sup> is more less plausible, because it is more less probable to have in two neighboured cities as Tomis and Kallatis, in the same time (the weight of Kallatis coin is the same as that of Tomis stater), on the same type of coin the same monogram but belonging to different persons. It will be a too great coincidence. We have now another view, much more circumspect, in rejecting the chronology of the Tomis late staters proposed by Gh. Poenaru Bordea<sup>59</sup>; his two chronological groups (90–80 and 80–72 B.C.) are much more probable then to suppose that one of them are from the middle of the IIInd century and another one from the beginning of the first century<sup>60</sup>, but with the same monogram ΔΙ on the heavier and lower weight Tomis staters and also with the same monogram ΛΥ on the heavier weight staters from Tomis and Kallatis and lower weight staters from Tomis.

We have also from Tomis another posthumous Lysimachus stater, with the monogram  $\begin{matrix} \text{P} \\ \text{C} \\ \text{II} \end{matrix}$  in the left field, TO under the throne and decorated trident in exergue (nr. 6). We still have just this single gold coin with this monogram, read ΠΟΣΕΙΑΘ

<sup>50</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 383.

<sup>51</sup> A. Vilcu, Th. Isvoranu, E. Nicolae, C. Preda, *Les monnaies d'or de l'Institut d'Archéologie de Bucarest*, Wetteren, 2006, p. 000, nr. 58 (under press); many thanks to our colleagues, who gave us the information and photo of the coin.

<sup>52</sup> Oct. Iliescu, *loc.cit.*

<sup>53</sup> We want to express our sincerely consideration and many thanks for our colleague Mihai Dima, who gave the possibility to study the coin.

<sup>54</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *loc.cit.*; Fr. de Callataÿ, *op.cit.*, p. 150.

<sup>55</sup> Fr. de Callataÿ, *op.cit.*, p. 143.

<sup>56</sup> Oct. Iliescu, *loc.cit.*

<sup>57</sup> The coin belonged to the collection of the Great Duke Alexei Michailovich and after that to the Gulbenkian collection, who gave the coin to the British Museum; G.F. Hill, *op.cit.*, p. 7, nr. 26 (ax 12; 8,42 g; 20 mm; no photos). We want to express our sincerely thanks for their amnability and help to the British Museum's Department of Coins and Medals team, to Mr Andrew Meadows, Mr Ian Leins and Mrs Amanda Gregory, who gave me the possibility to publish this informations and offer the photo of the coin.

<sup>58</sup> The situation was not known by Fr. de Callataÿ, *op.cit.*, p. 139–140.

<sup>59</sup> Gh. Poenaru Bordea, *op.cit.*, p. 48.

<sup>60</sup> Fr. de Callataÿ, *op.cit.*, p. 147.

by Oct. Iliescu<sup>61</sup>. We cannot say if he is the same magistrate with ΠΟCΕΙ from the Tomis silver (Regling, 2451) and bronze coins (Regling, 2439, 2450 and 2460). The supposed chronology – middle of the II<sup>nd</sup> century B.C.<sup>62</sup> – is attractive, but the weight of the coin (8,19 g) suggests a later date (I<sup>st</sup> century B.C., possible the years 80–72)<sup>63</sup>.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

BSNR	Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române, Bucharest
Callataÿ	Fr. de Callataÿ, <i>L'histoire des guerres mithridatiques vue par les monnaies</i> , Louvain La Neuve, 1997
CN	Cercetări Numismatice, Bucharest
C. Preda, E. Petac, <i>Les monnaies d'or</i>	C. Preda, E. Petac, <i>Les monnaies d'or de la Bibliothèque de l'Académie Roumaine, I. Monnaies grecques et romaines</i> , Wetteren, 2006
CreștCol	Creșterea Colecțiilor. Biblioteca Academiei Române, Bucharest
Dacia, N.S.	Dacia. Revue d'Archéologie et d'Histoire Ancienne, Nouvelle Série, Bucharest
Müller, <i>Lysimachus</i>	L. Müller, <i>Die Münzen der Thrakischen Königs Lysimachus</i> , Copenhagen, 1857
NAC	Numismatica e antichità classiche, Lugano
NC	Numismatic Chronicle, London
Price	M.J. Price, <i>The Coinage in the name of Alexander the Great and Philip Arrhidaeus</i> , I, Zürich–London, 1991
Pridik, <i>Anadol</i>	E.M. Pridik, <i>Anadolskij klad zolotykh staterov 1895 goda</i> , Sankt Petersburg, 1902
RBN	Revue Belge de Numismatique et Sigillographie, Bruxelles
Regling	B. Pick, K. Regling, <i>Die antiken Münzen von Dacien und Moesien</i> , II, Berlin, 1910
RN	Revue Numismatique, Paris
Seyrig, <i>Levant</i>	H. Seyrig, <i>Trésors du Levant anciens et nouveaux</i> , Paris, 1973
Thompson	Margaret Thompson, <i>The Mints of Lysimachus</i> , in <i>Essays in Greek Coinage presented to Stanley Robinson</i> , ed. C.M. Kraay & G.K. Jenkins, Oxford, 1967, p. 163–182.

<sup>61</sup> Oct. Iliescu, CN, 2, 1979, p. 6 and plate 3; idem, *Istro–Pontica. Muzeul tulcean la a 50–a aniversare*, Tulcea, 2000, p. 139.

<sup>62</sup> Oct. Iliescu, CN, 2, 1979, p. 7.

<sup>63</sup> Fr. de Callataÿ, *op.cit.*, p. 150 (8,20–8,24 g for the time of Mithradates VI Eupator).



1



2



3



A



4



5



B



C



D



E



6



7



8



9