

Boian coins in the numismatic collection of The National Museum in Copenhagen

INTRODUCTION

Studies of the old material in museum collections still represent a very important aspect of numismatic research. A group of Celtic coins preserved in the Royal Collection of Coins and Medals in Copenhagen is a good example. This mostly neglected material consists of among others several Boian coins. They are not numerous, but there are some extraordinarily important specimens, that are helpful in detailed research in the field of Central European Celtic coinage. Some of the coins have been already published by K. Castelin (1976, p. 3), but the majority of them remains unknown to scholars, and this is the reason why the whole group is being re-published.

CATALOGUE

BOHEMIA, Boian tribes – coins of the so-called adjoining types



1. 1/8 *stater*, type: head / stylized Athena-Alkis - Castelin (1965) V:19.

Obv.: head in Gaelic style to left, diademed, with two braids of hair starting behind the head below in form of left-turned curls.

Rev.: standing figure with shield and spear to left, legs squatted in knees, two pairs of lines in form of reversed „V“ in raised arms, pair of three dots in triangle below left, three dots in line above left near the margin, cross with dots below right, and three dots in triangle above right.

Lit.: *Paulsen 1933*, p. 24, no. 199, Tab. 9:199; *Castelin 1965*, p. 45, V:19, Tab. 5:80.

Origin: registered in 1861, provenance unknown.

AV; 0.96 g; 9/9 mm; (inv. no. BP 542).



2. 1/3 *stater*, type: Hrušovka - Castelin (1976) VIIa.

Obv.: head in Gaelic style to left, with hair in form of left-turned curls encircling the whole head.

Rev.: horse running to left, mane stylized in strip along the upper part of the body, sharpened ears, leaf ornament behind the head, curled line below the head, ornament above the back.

¹ HWH provided the information of the coins in the collection and the collection provenances, while the type attributions and the research on Boian coinage are made by JM.

Ex.: *Castelin 1976*, p. 6, Fig. 4.

Lit.: *Nemeškalová-Jiroudková 1974*; *Castelin 1976*, p. 6, Figs. 4-5 (different dies).

Origin: registered before 1865, Coll. Thomsen (see Appendix no. 1).

AV; 2.55 g; 12/11 mm; (inv. no. Th. 2519).



3. 1/3 *stater*, type: kneeling figure / horse - *Castelin (1965) VII:22*.

Obv.: male (?) figure with squatted legs holding stick in right hand, stick with dots plus one, resp. two, additional ones at the end, hairy left hand lowered, irregular wavy line in the background, three dots in line diagonally right.

Rev.: horse with linear body jumping to left, clearly formed ears, mane in form of wavy line, hairy tail, crescent above head, unclear ornament in front of horse.

Lit.: *Castelin 1965*, p. 48, VII:22, Tab. 6:83.

Origin: registered before 1865, Coll. Thomsen (see Appendix no.1).

AV; 2.56 g; 12/13 mm; (inv. no. Th. 2622).



4. 1/8 *stater*, type: head / winged figure – unpublished.

Obv.: head to left in realistic style, fluttering hair, wavy line around, *torques* (?) in the lower part of neck.

Rev.: standing figure to left, legs squatted in knees, open wings instead of hands, grains - above wing left and below wing right.

Origin: registered before 1848, Coll. of the Danish King Christian VIII (see Appendix no. 2).

AV; 1.05 g; 9/8 mm; (inv. no. Ch. VIII).

Coins of the so-called main types



5. *Stater*, shell type - *Castelin (1965) C 14*.

Obv.: clear convex shape, bordered on one side, with irregular oval concave space in the middle.

Rev.: crescent in margin, opposite space around central cavity covered by rays, additional transversal cut in field.

Lit.: *Paulsen 1933*, as T. 19:390-391.

Origin: registered in 1951, ex Coll. Bagge.²

AV; 7.00 g; 14/15 mm; (inv. no. KP 2087).

² Peter Fr. Bagge (1886–1961), engineer and consul, Copenhagen, may have acquired the coin at Turda, Siebenbürgen, where he lived for a period.

UNSPECIFIED BOIAN (?) TERRITORY



6. *Drachm*, type: head / sitting figure – unpublished.

Obv.: stylized male head with moustache to right in dotted circle, complicated hair-style (lion skin ?), stylized ear, *torques* (?) in the lower part of neck.

Rev.: dotted circle, stylized figure sitting on rectangular pedestal of dots with *tri-quetra* in the middle, branch in right hand and shield with two dots in left hand.

Ex.: *Devegge 1866*, Tab. III:68. cf. p. 15.

Lit.: - .

Origin: registered in 1866, ex Coll. Devegge (see Appendix no. 4).

AR; 4.30 g; 16/16 mm; (inv. no. Dev. 68).

SOUTH WEST SLOVAKIA / SOUTH MORAVIA (?) / LOWER AUSTRIA (?)



7. *Tetradrachm*, type: lyre / lyre - Kolníková (1964), type II.

Obv.: male head (Apolonius ?) to left in dotted circle.

Rev.: horse to right in dotted circle, stylized motives of lyre above and below, horizontal line of dots below.

Lit.: *Museum Münterianum 1424*; *OTA*, no. 396:2.

Origin: registered in 1836, ex Coll. Münter (see Appendix no. 3).

AR; 12.13 g; 23/23 mm; (inv. no. 10 / Mus. Münt. 1424).

SOUTH WEST SLOVAKIA



8. *Tetradrachm*, group: **BIATEC**, after BC 70.

Obv.: dotted circle with garland, female and male heads (Honor and Virtus) to right, leaf at right.

Rev.: dotted circle with garland, rider to right with unclear branch, in exergue between lines: BIATEC.

Lit.: *Göbl 1994*, Tabs. 2:II/1(2/2)-3 or II/1(3)-4.

Commentary: The obverse copies a Roman Republican *denarius* of the following type: *RRC*, no. 403/1 (Q. Fuvius Calenus/ M. Cordus, BC 70).

Origin: registered in 1903/1904, ex Th. Lind (bookseller in Copenhagen, died 1896), ex. L. & L. Hamburger (Frankfurt a. M.).

AR; 16.91 g; 28/22 mm; irregular shape of flan (inv. no. KP 1031).



9. *Tetradrachm*, group: **BIATEC**, after BC 70.

Obv.: female and male heads (Honor and Virtus) to right in dotted circle.

Rev.: rider to right with raised right hand, linear oval behind rider (stylized shield ?), in exergue between lines: BIATEC.

Lit.: Göbl 1994, Tab. 3:II/3-12.

Note: The obverse copies a Roman Republican *denarius* of the type: *RRC*, no. 403/1 (Q. Fuvius Calenus/ M. Cordus, BC 70).

Lit.: Falbe: *Reguli vel Magistratus gallici* no.4, AR 6½ [cf. Appendix 2], [Mionnet] T.VI, p.717 no.5.

Origin: Ex Walker 1830³, then Coll. of the Danish King Christian VIII (see Appendix no. 2).

AR; 17.17 g; 25/23 mm (inv. no. Ch. VIII).



10. *Tetradrachm*, group: **BVSV**, after BC 79/68.

Obv.: male (?) bust to left in dotted circle, branch at left.

Rev.: dotted circle, centaur with female half-figure to left, wings opened and tail raised, looking backward, BVSV below.

Commentary: The hairstyle on the obverse copies Roman Republican *denarii* of the type: *RRC*, no. 383/1 (Claudius, BC 79) or *RRC*, no. 407/1 (Hosidius, BC 68).

Lit.: Göbl 1994, Tab. 4:IV/1-28.

Origin: registered in 1863, ex Coll. Reutze (see Appendix no. 5).

AR; 16.75 g; 27,5/24 mm (inv. no. Reutze 32).

³ Johann Daniel Walker, wholesale merchant. His collection of coins, small bronzes, etchings and books was sold by auction in Copenhagen: *Fortegnelse over den af Grosserer Johan David Walker efterladte Samling*...., Copenhagen 1830, p. 2, no. 22.



11. Tetradrachm, group: COVIOMARVS.

Obv.: stylized male head to right in wreath, hair in form of rays, ear with two dots.
 Rev.: stylized boar to left, flowers (?) below stylized in form of lines with dots, COVIOVAVVIII (COVIOMARVS) above.

Lit.: Göbl 1994, Tab. 4:VII/1-23.

Origin: registered before 1865, Coll. Thomsen (see Appendix no. 1).

AR; 16.91 g; 26/23 mm (inv. no. Th. 2632).



12. Tetradrachm, group: NONNOS.

Obv.: female head to right in dotted circle with garland.

Rev.: rider to right with his right hand raised with sword, in exergue between lines: NONNO[S].

Lit.: Göbl 1994, Tab. 5:XIV/1A-8.

Origin: registered in 1861, purchased from Pistorius (Zerbst), coin dealer.

AR; 17.19 g; 24/26 mm (inv. no. KP 369).



13. Tetradrachm, group: NONNOS.

Obv.: stylized male head to right in wreath, hair in form of rays.

Rev.: rider to right with sword in his right hand, unclear linear oval behind rider (stylized shield?), below in mirror form: NONNOS.

Lit.: Göbl 1994, Tab. 6:XIV/2-13.

Origin: registered in 1856, purchased as a part of a lot from Rollin (Paris), coin dealer.

AR; 17.21 g; 25/25 mm (inv. no. KP 229 /p. 126/).

COMMENTS

Massive use of metal detectors during the last two decades has resulted in finds of enormous numbers of coins. These new finds make it possible to present completely new (and mostly unpublished) views on the chronology of the coins, the role of coinage and its intensity of production on the Boian territory. New information about the oldest phase of the Boian coinage, i.e. the period before the existence of *oppidi* (LC 1 – LC 2, between the middle of the 3rd century and the middle of the 2nd century BC), is extraordinary. The geographical distribution of Boian coins in the new finds also helps to define the limits of Boian territory, now regarded to include Bohemia, Moravia, south west Slovakia, the Danube belt in Upper and Lower Austria, and possibly Silesia.⁴ Because of the new finds, we can also improve the interpretation of results brought to light by typological analysis of old material without clear provenance. Using this method, it is possible to make to most of the coins from the Copenhagen collection. The coins all lack information about their archaeological provenance, but the individual coins can be interpreted in a broader context in light of the new knowledge about the Boian coinage, and they even bring many completely new details. It should also be noted that the provenance stories of the individual coins reveal interest in collecting Celtic coins in northern Europe during the 19th century (see Appendices).

There are four specimens of the so-called adjoining types in the Copenhagen collection described by K. Castelin (1965, pp. 40–52, Tabs. 4:59–64, 5:65–80, 6:81–91; and 1976).⁵ From the typological point of view, there are minor groups of Boian gold coins with the highly probable Bohemian origin. They were mainly struck between the middle 3rd century BC to the middle 2nd century BC, and, in that way, they represent the oldest phase of the Boian coinage in Central Europe. They are the following: gold *staters*, 1/3 *staters*, 1/8 *staters* and 1/24 *staters*⁶ with weights corresponding to coins of the so-called main types – *staters* of the Nike type (Paulsen 1933, nos. 5–34), *staters* of the Plumlov type (Paulsen 1933, nos. 48–58) and fractions of *staters* of the Athena-Alkis type (Paulsen 1933, nos. 59–99, 112–150). The location of the mints remains unknown.

One gold 1/8 *stater* (No. 1) with head of the Gaelic style on obverse and stylized figure of Athena Alkidemos on reverse belongs to the so-called adjoining type V (Castelin 1965, p. 45, V:17–19). There are 9 pieces of three different denominations known in this group (Tab. A)⁷, and four of them

⁴ It is not possible to prove that such a large territory was inhabited by the Celtic Boian tribes only. The name Boii evidently appeared in the non-Slavonic toponym for the Czech land → *Boiohaemum* → *Bohemia* → *Böhmen* + *La Bohême*. The distribution of (Boian) coins of related types points to close relations of the territories from the 3rd to the 1st century BC.

⁵ K. Castelin distinguished among 11 groups, but their real number is higher, and new types continue to appear, as is documented by coin no. 4 here.

⁶ In many cases, not all denominations have been documented for one group, and in some cases, they have possibly never been even produced.

⁷ Only safely checked coins without problematic provenance stories have been implemented in Tables A-C.

come from finds on Bohemian territory (A 1–2, 7–8) and two of them from Moravia (A 3–4). The motive on the reverse could be synchronized with coins of the Athena-Alkis type among the so-called main types (*Paulsen 1933*, nos. 59–87). The specimen from Copenhagen was mentioned by K. Castelin (*1976*, p. 3), but it is described in detail in this study.

Tab. A: Confirmed specimens of the head / stylized Athena-Alkis type (*Castelin 1965*, p. 45, V:17-19).

1.	<i>Stater</i>	Podmokly / CZ	7,724	MK Dresden 108	<i>Arnold - Castelin 1972-1975</i> , no.1
2.	-,,-	Nový Dvůr u Dobříše / CZ	7,16	Coll. K. Chaura	<i>Chaura 1940</i> , Tab. 3:1
3.	-,,-	Moravia (?)	7,85	BN Paris 9479A	<i>Paulsen 1933</i> , no. 197
4.	1/3 <i>stater</i>	Lipník nad Bečvou / CZ	2,618	Coll. E. Mikš	<i>Paulsen 1933</i> , no. 1255
5.	-,,-	?	2,65	BN Paris 9488	<i>Paulsen 1933</i> , no. 198
6.	-,,-	?	2,52	NM Budapest, Coll. Dessewffy 131	<i>Paulsen 1933</i> , no. 1254
7.	1/8 <i>stater</i>	Mirovice / CZ	0,96	Coll. M. Donebauer	<i>Fiala 1888</i> , no. 9, Tab. I:9
8.	-,,-	Bohemia	0,962	NM Praha H5-29932	<i>Paulsen 1933</i> , no. 199
9.	-,,-	?	0,96	NM Copenhagen BP 542	<i>Castelin 1976</i> , p. 3

The 1/3 *stater* with stylized Gaelic head on its obverse and horse to left on its reverse (No. 2)⁸ belongs to coins of the so-called adjoining type VIIa (*Castelin 1976*, pp. 5, 8), mentioned as the Hrušovka type in references. This group is represented by three *staters* in two varieties and two 1/3 *staters* (Tab. B). Only one of them comes from a confirmed locality – Hrušovka in north west Bohemia (B 4). By their style with a head on the obverse, coins of the Hrušovka type are very close to the previous group, with which they are evidently contemporary, influenced by the Gaelic coinage.

Tab. B: Confirmed specimens of the Hrušovka type (*Nemeškalová-Jiroudková 1974*; *Castelin 1976*, pp. 5, 8, VIIa).

1.	<i>Stater</i> , type A	?	7,45	MK Berlin 28330	<i>Castelin 1976</i> , Fig. 1
2.	-,,-	?	7,45	Coll. König, Göttingen	<i>Castelin 1976</i> , Fig. 2
3.	<i>Stater</i> , type B	?	7,914	MK München	<i>Castelin 1976</i> , Fig. 3
4.	1/3 <i>stater</i>	Hrušovka / CZ	2,510	M Teplice NU 6034	<i>Nemeškalová-Jiroudková 1974</i> , Tab. I:1
5.	-,,-	?	2,55	NM Cop. Th 2519	<i>Castelin 1976</i> , Fig. 4

The 1/3 *stater* with kneeling figure on its obverse and horse to left on its reverse (No. 3) belongs to coins of the so-called adjoining type VII (*Castelin 1965*, p. 48, VII:21–22). This group is represented by one *stater* only and

⁸ Originally published by K. Castelin (*1976*, Fig. 4)

four 1/3 *staters* (Tab. C). One of these coins comes from an unspecified locality in Bohemia (C 3) and another specimen is known from Serbia (C 2). The motive of the kneeling figure on obverse is not unknown in the Boian coinage (*Paulsen 1933*, nos. 200–214), but its meaning remains unclear. The specimen from Copenhagen has not been registered yet, and taking in mind the rare appearance of that type, the coin is filling a gap in data describing this coin group. There is one silver coin found at Křivoklát (C 6: *Fiala 1891*, p. 9, no. 48, Tab. I:10; *Castelin 1965*, Tab. 6:84) belonging to this group of mostly gold denominations. Very little is known about silver denominations produced together with coins of the so-called adjoining types. Therefore, this single specimen in itself confirms the existence of a more complicated bimetallic coin circulation.

Tab. C: Confirmed specimens of the kneeling figure / horse type (*Castelin 1965*, p. 48, VII:21–22).

1.	<i>Stater</i>	?	7,70	KHM Wien, 26694	<i>Paulsen 1933</i> , no. 232
2.	1/3 <i>stater</i>	Serbia	2,38	NM Beograd	<i>Paulsen 1933</i> , no. 1270
3.	-,,-	Bohemia	2,40	Coll. E. Mikš	<i>Paulsen 1933</i> , no. 1271
4.	-,,-	?	2,56	NM Cop. Th. 2622	-
5.	-,,-	?	?	BN Paris P 9373	<i>La Tour 1892</i> , no. 9373
6.	AR coin	Křivoklát / CZ	1,80	?	<i>Castelin 1965</i> , Tab. 6:84

One unknown 1/8 *stater* with a head on its obverse and a winged figure on its reverse (No. 4) also belongs to the so-called adjoining types. The head with ragged hair and *torques* on the neck represents evidently a specific Gaelic art expression. There is an analogy for the standing winged figure on the reverse in the 1/4 *stater* of the Colombey type (Class 2) from Gaelia (*Sills 2003*, p. 36, Pl. 5:139), but the coin from Copenhagen is certainly of Boian origin. The form of the head is very similar to another 1/3 *stater* found at Roudnice na Labem (*Paulsen 1933*, no. 196; Fig. 1A).⁹ Because of its rarity the coin was not recognized by K. Castelin (1965) as a coin of the so-called adjoining types. Now, another coin produced of the same dies is known, unfortunately without provenance (Fig. 1B).¹⁰ The coins are mentioned as those of the Roudnice nad Labem type in references. There is a standing figure to right with an arm reminding a wing on the reverse of these coins. The mirror-like picture of Athena-Alkis is probably a prototype for this image. With the exception of the mentioned 1/3 *staters*, one unpublished 1/8 *stater* is known (Fig. 2)¹¹, unfortunately also without provenance. This coin with a head of the similar style on its obverse shows a bird with wings spread hol-

⁹ NM Praha (inv. no. HM1-27289), 2.118 g, 11 mm.

¹⁰ Private collection Praha, 2.061 g, 11 mm. The very low weights of these coins do not exclude the possibility, that they could be regarded as 1/4 *staters* of the Macedonian standard (cf. *Price 1991*, Pls. XVII:165–169A, 2081–2117, 2538). This alternative has never been considered in case of the Boian coins, and in the future, a detailed analysis will be needed.

¹¹ NM Praha (inv. no. HM5-201021), 1.067 g, 9 mm. The coin is prepared for publication by J. Militký.

ding a snake in its beak on its reverse. Because of the similar form of the head on the obverse and the clearly soft relief, it could be regarded as a very close parallel to the above mentioned $1/3$ *staters*. The specimen from Copenhagen seems to be of the same group, and the shape of the head on the obverse is again very close to the two mentioned types. With its weight of 1.05 g, it is almost identical to the $1/3$ *stater* from Prague. The winged hands and the squatted legs on the reverse also point to a certain connection with the reverse image of the $1/3$ *stater* pieces. Finally, it is possible to declare these coins as being of Boian origin. Only future finds will be able to add more information about these extraordinary pieces, which, however, must have been produced on Bohemian territory. The very high quality of die-engraving performance, probably by Greek engravers, allows us to consider these coins the oldest issues of the so-called adjoining types, possibly dated in the period around the middle of the 3rd century BC.



Fig. 1A
Captions, p. 20



Fig. 1B



Fig. 2

A *stater* of the shell type is represented by only one specimen in the Copenhagen collection (No. 5). Such coins were struck in Bohemia¹² and Moravia¹³ in the period of the *oppidi* – between the second half of the 2nd century and the first half of the 1st century BC. In the typological-chronological system constructed by K. Castelin (1965, pp. 12–15), they represent coins of the so-called main types and belong to the B and C periods. The coin from Copenhagen has an irregular oval cavity on its convex obverse, and it belongs to the younger production phase of this denomination – period C (Castelin 1965, pp. 14–15), about the first half of the 1st century BC. *Staters* of the shell type with cavities on the obverse are relatively rare.¹⁴ R. Paulsen (1933, nos. 388–392) published several specimens related to the above mentioned coin, but none of them have been struck from the same pair of dies. The weights of the coins in this group range between 7.23 g and 7.035 g, and the Copenhagen specimen with its weight of 7.00 g represents the base level of the interval. An additional and extraordinary cut in its reverse field could best be explained as an attempt at testing of the core quality.¹⁵ No such mo-

¹² In the *oppidi* **Stradonice** (Pič 1903, pp. 9–31, Tab. II; Paulsen 1933) and **Závist** (Drda – Rybová 2001, pp. 314–316), and evidently on other localities.

¹³ *Oppidum* at **Staré Hradisko** (Meduna 1970).

¹⁴ The rare appearance of these coins is relative and it evidently does not reflect the output of the mint. Coins of these types were certainly found in larger numbers in the hoards **Podmokly 1771** (Voigt 1771; Paulsen 1933, pp. 62–63; Radoměřský 1955, no. 92; Arnold – Castelin 1972–1975) and **Stradonice 1877** (Paulsen 1933, p. 63; Radoměřský 1955, no. 28). The majority of the coins from both these hoards were melted down. Furthermore, some specimens were part of the hoard found at **Gaggers** in 1751, Bavaria (Kellner 1990, nos. 1972–1976).

¹⁵ There is a relatively large proportion of plated coins registered among the *staters* of the shell type and their fractions.

dified *staters* of the shell type have been found on the Boian territory. Gold Boian coins served as a medium of long-distance trade (*Waldhauser 1995*), and the testing cut could be regarded as an indirect indication for a hypothetical find spot of the Copenhagen coin outside the Boian territory.

The most interesting coin in the Copenhagen Museum is represented by a unique silver coin (No. 6), which must be regarded as a Boian specimen. It has a male head in Celtic style, but with no specific analogy in the Celtic coinage, on its obverse. It is suggested that the complicated hairstyle is a stylized lion skin. In that case the whole image could be regarded as a Celtic transformation of the obverse of a *drachm* struck either under Alexander III (336–323 BC; cf. *Price 1991*, Pls. CXXI–CXXXVI) or under Philip III (323–317 BC; cf. *Price 1991*, Pls. CXXXVII–CXXXIX). If that identification of the prototype is correct, it is an extraordinary proof of copying of such coin types in the Boian world.¹⁶ On the reverse of the above mentioned coin, there is a stylized figure sitting on a rectangular pedestal of dots with a *triquetra* in the middle, a branch in the right hand and a shield with two dots in the left hand (Fig. 3). No direct analogy for the whole composition of the image exists, but there are analogies for some of its particular details: By its style, the sitting figure reminds of the Boian coins of the so-called adjoining types – convex obverse / kneeling warrior on reverse – struck on Bohemian territory (*Castelin 1965*, pp. 42–43, IIIa:7; *Paulsen 1933*, nos. 200–201). The *triquetra* motive appears on Boian small silver fractions of the lyre / *triquetra* type (*Kolníková 1964*, p. 198, Fig. 4), but also on *tetradrachms* found in the Hungarian area (*OTA*, nos. 415, 434, 436; *Torbágy 2000*, nos. 19–20, 71) and on other eastern Celtic coins (*OTA*, nos. 442–443). The shield in the left hand of the sitting figure is an interesting element. An oval shield is found on an interesting gold coin, presumably a Boian one, that may belong to coins of the adjoining types with a standing naked male figure to the right holding a sword and an oval shield (*La Tour 1892*, Pl. XXXVIII:9374). The coin is unpublished. Similar shields can be seen on eastern Celtic *drachms* of the shield-sword type (*OTA*, no. 347; *Dembski 1998*, no. 1272; *Kolníková 2002*, p. 101, no. 14) and the shield-wreath type (*OTA*, no. 346; *Kolníková 2002*, p. 101, no. 15). These coins come from Gališ-Lovačka, Carpathian Ukraine (*Kolníková 2002*), and they have been dated to the period between the middle of the 3rd century and the middle of the 2nd century BC. The motive with a branch in a rider's hand can also be seen on eastern Celtic *tetradrachms* (e. g. *OTA*, nos. 447–449).

A more accurate attribution of that coin is complicated, having in mind its rarity and lack of archaeological provenance. Because of its weight (4.30 g), it could be taken for a *drachm*. In the Boian coinage, silver *drachms* of the

¹⁶ Copies of *drachms* struck under Alexander III (*OTA*, nos. 574–577) and Philip III (*OTA*, nos. 591, 595) come mainly from the Lower Danube region. These copies are of a different character, because their obverse and reverse always explicitly remind of their prototypes, disregarding the level of their barbarization.

Macedonian standard (about 4 g) seem to appear only among coins of the lyre-star type (Kolníková 1964, pp. 197-198; Dembski 1998, nos. 739-747). *Drachms* as denominations are registered also in eastern Celtic coinage, for example among the above mentioned *drachms* of the shield-sword type (OTA, no. 347) and the shield-wreath type (OTA, no. 346). From an iconographic point of view, the *drachm* from Copenhagen represents an absolutely unknown type, which brings an interesting combination – the obverse obviously copying Macedonian *drachms* of either Alexander III or Philip III with his head in a lion's skin, and the reverse showing a totally unknown figural motive, the meaning of which has not been explained. Iconographic details from the reverse suggest that the coin is closely connected with the gold Boian coins of the adjoining types (Paulsen 1933, nos. 175-182, 196-225, 227-237, 243-258; Castelin 1965, pp. 40-52, Tabs. 4:59-64, 5:65-80, 6:81-91), apparently struck on Bohemian territory in the most cases. It is impossible to determine where the coin was struck, not having any specimens from finds at our disposal. The whole Boian territory could be considered, the Boian-eastern Celtic borderland inclusive. On the other hand, the coin must certainly be dated between the middle 3rd century and the middle 2nd century BC, i.e. it represents the oldest phase of the Celtic coinage.



Fig. 3

Caption, p. 20

There is a *tetradrachm* with a lyre motive on its reverse (No. 7) among the Boian coins described by K. Pink (1939, p. 66, Tab. XX:396 - type „*Wellkopf mit Leierblume*“) and R. Göbl (OTA, no. 396:2 - type „*Apollokopf / Leierblume*“) as an eastern Celtic piece. *Tetradrachms* (e. g. OTA, nos. 395-396, 398; Dembski 1998, nos. 734-738) and small denominations (e. g. OTA, nos. 385-393; Dembski 1998, nos. 739-752) were systematized by E. Kolníková (1964), and the mentioned coin was identified as being of the type II – lyre-lyre (Kolníková 1964, pp. 196-197). E. Kolníková (1964, pp. 200-201, Fig. 6) proved a certain concentration of finds of these coins in south west Slovakia and she recently interpreted this coin group using finds at settlements in Nĕmčice nad Hanou, Moravia (Čižmářová 2004, pp. 257-258) and in Roseldorf, Lower Austria (Dembski 1998, nos. 742, 747, 750-752; Dembski 1998a, p. 112, Abb. 1:12). It is probable, that they have been spread and possibly also struck in a larger territory, not only in south west Slovakia. They belong to the oldest phase of the Celtic coinage in Central Europe, the period between the middle 3rd century and the middle 2nd century BC.

There are six large silver *tetradrachms*¹⁷ of the Biatec¹⁸ type in the Co-

¹⁷ R. Göbl (1994) described these coins as *hexadrachms*.

¹⁸ The term “Biatec” is not fully consistent, because it does not cover other groups with different inscriptions. But this indication of the whole coin group has become traditional.

penhagen collection (Nos. 8-13). These coins have been discussed quite frequently (e. g. *Ondrouch 1958*; *Kolníková 1991*), and R. Göbl (*1994*) was the last to study them in detail. *Tetradrachms* of the Biatec type have been struck together with gold *staters* bearing BIATEC inscription (*Paulsen 1933*, nos. 695–701), 1/3 *staters* bearing BIAT inscriptions (*Paulsen 1933*, nos. 704–705), 1/8 *staters* bearing BIA inscriptions (*Paulsen 1933*, nos. 709–710) and small silver coins of the Simmering type (*Paulsen 1933*, nos. 831–978). This coin group represents the latest phase of the Boian coinage described as “D” period by K. Castelin (*1965*, pp. 15–17) in his typological-chronological system. Several motives on silver *tetradrachms* have been copied from Roman prototypes, the Republican *denarii* of 80–46 BC (*Göbl 1994*, pp. 13–21), and these coins together with gold denominations and pieces of the Simmering type have recently been dated to the period between 70 and 40 BC. Most probably, these coins have been struck at the Celtic *oppidum* in Bratislava, south west Slovakia (for the locality see *Čambal 2004*). Inscriptions on the reverses of *tetradrachms* of the Biatec type are most frequently interpreted as names of the local rulers. The specimens from Copenhagen bear the following inscriptions: **BIATEC** (Nos. 8–9), **BVSSV** (No. 10), **COVIOMARVS** (No. 11) and **NONNOS** (Nos. 12–13).¹⁹ They have clearly been struck in large quantities as shown by various single finds and hoards found in south east Slovakia and Austria.²⁰ All the Copenhagen coins lack their original archaeological provenance. They were acquired individually in the period 1830-1903/4, and they most likely came from miscellaneous finds discovered on the territory of south west Slovakia and Lower Austria.

APPENDICES:

Commentaries on the collection provenances of the Copenhagen coins

1. Thomsen, Christian Jürgensen (1788–1865) /Th. mark/:

All coins marked as “Th.” belong to the collection of Christian Jürgensen Thomsen. Thomsen is known for his work in field of Nordic archaeology and he is regarded as the first to establish the Three-Period System, dividing Pre-History into stone, bronze and iron ages. His outstanding personality played a very important role in the foundation of the Danish National Museum (*Jensen 1992*). He worked in the Royal Coin Cabinet from 1832, and in 1842 he became the director of the Coin Cabinet. Being a leading coin collector in Copenhagen in the mid 19th century, Thomsen was an active member of the international network of collectors

¹⁹ The following names are also known: AINORIX, BUSSVMARVS, COBROVOMARVS, COISA, COVNOS, DEVIL, EVOIVRIX, FARIARIX, IANTVMARVS, MACCIVS and TIITO.

²⁰ **Bratislava I/1776** (*Paulsen 1933*, p. 103; *Ondrouch 1964*, no. 61), **Deutsch Jahrendorf 1855** (*Paulsen 1933*, pp. 113–115), **Wien-Simmering 1880** (*Paulsen 1933*, pp. 117–119), **Schottwien 1902** (*Paulsen 1933*, pp. 119–120), **Gerlitzenalpe 1903** (*Paulsen 1933*, pp. 123–124), **Reca 1905** (*Paulsen 1933*, pp. 107–109; *Ondrouch 1964*, no. 91), **Bratislava II/1920** (*Paulsen 1933*, p. 105; *Ondrouch 1964*, no. 62), **Bratislava III/1923** (*Eisner 1925*; *Paulsen 1933*, pp. 104–105; *Ondrouch 1964*, no. 63), **Trnava 1925 + Stupava** (*Paulsen 1933*, pp. 106–107; *Ondrouch 1964*, nos. 82–82a), **Bratislava IV/1927** (*Ondrouch 1964*, no. 63a), **Bratislava V/1930** (*Paulsen 1933*, p. 103; *Ondrouch 1964*, no. 64), **Bratislava VI/1937** (*Ondrouch 1937*; same author 1964, no. 65), **Bratislava VII/1942** (*Ondrouch 1958*; same author 1964, no. 66).

and museum peoples. His private collection of primarily medieval coins was bought by 25 landowners in 1868 and then donated to the Royal Collection of Coins and Medals (the collection had been renamed in 1867). Also Thomsen's collection of Ancient coins was auctioned after his death. Some 320 of the total number of more than 2.700 Greek coins were purchased for the Royal Collection. Thomsen himself had bought many of his Ancient coins - some 1.200 Greek coins among others - as a young collector in 1808 from the collection of the late statesman and former Royal Secret Secretary, Ove Høegh Guldberg (1731–1805; see *Kromann – Jensen 1988*). This means that a good deal of the Greek coins now known from Thomsen's collection ultimately may have derived from the Høegh Guldberg collection. The "Th." numbers are used as references in *Catalogue de la Collection de Monnaies de Feu Christian Jürgensen Thomsen, Première Partie, Les Monnaies Antiques, Tome I. Les Monnaies Grecques (Thomsen 1869)*.

2. Christian VIII, the Danish King (b. 1786, King 1839-1848) /Chr. VIII mark/:

These coins come from the collection of the Danish King, Christian VIII. The King used to be one of the most important collectors of coins of the Classical period in his time (*Jensen 2000*). The catalogue of the collection was produced by the archaeologist Peter Oluf Brøndsted and Prince Christian Frederik, the later King, himself. Later on, in 1830, another catalogue of the collection was finished by Chr. Tuxen Falbe (*Falbe*). The King's private collection came to the Royal Coin Cabinet a few years after his death.

3. Münter, Friedrich (1761–1830) /Mus. Münt. mark/:

Friedrich Münter was bishop of Copenhagen and a collector of coins and other artifacts of the Classical period. Some of them still can be seen in the bishop's residence in Copenhagen, while a number of other objects are now part of the Collection of Ancient and Near Eastern Antiquities in the National Museum. In many fields, Münter was a polyhistorian in a European context. As a numismatist, he specialized in coins of the Vandal tribes and the Crusaders. His coin collection of about 10.000 coins was sold in three auctions held in Copenhagen between 1836 and 1839. The part of his collection sold in the first auction (Greek and Celtic coins) represented more than 3,000 pieces. Some 400 Islamic coins had already been donated to the Royal Coin Cabinet by his heirs (*Mus. Münt. III, 1839*, p.148-165).

4. Devegge, Ole (1772–1847) /Dev. mark/:

Ole Devegge worked in the Royal Coin Cabinet from 1820 as an assistant, and then as an assistant keeper in 1832-1847. About 7.000 coins of his private collection were bequeathed to the Royal Coin Cabinet (*Devegge 1866*). Some 800 other coins of the Classical period came to the Thorvaldsens Museum, and they are presently preserved at the Odense Municipal Museums.

5. Reutze, Thomas (Allerup, Funen 1779–Vienna 1859):

Thomas Reutze, a collector, spent some 20 years of his life in Vienna. He had a very good relationship with Danish museums and frequently sent various objects to Copenhagen. He stated the following condition in his last will: any specimen of a coin type in his collection, which was not represented in the Royal Coin Cabinet, should be donated to Royal Coin Cabinet. The auction catalogue of his collection prepared for the auction held in Vienna, on April 5, 1866 (*Reutze 1863*) includes both the coins, which had been donated to the Copenhagen cabinet (entries with markings), as well as the coins sold at the auction.

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Summary

Helle W. Horsnæs – Jiří Militký: BOIAN COINS IN THE NUMISMATIC COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN COPENHAGEN

The collection of Boian coins preserved at the National Museum in Copenhagen is not large in number, but very important. Four specimens represent coins of the so-called adjoining types (*Castelin 1965*, pp. 40–52, Tabs. 4:59–64, 5:65–80, 6:81–91; *same author 1976*), which, as a minor part in the group of gold Boian coins, obviously come from Bohemian territory. They were struck there between the middle of the 3rd century and the middle of the 2nd century BC. One 1/8 stater (No. 1, Tab. A) belongs to the so-called adjoining type V (*Castelin 1965*, p. 45, V:17–19). Another 1/3 stater (No. 2, Tab. B) belongs to the so-called adjoining type VIIa (*Castelin 1976*, pp. 5, 8), mentioned as the Hrušovka type in references. One 1/3 stater (No. 3, Tab. C) belongs to the so-called adjoining type VII (*Castelin 1965*, p. 48, VII:21–22). Also, a previously unpublished 1/8 stater of the head / winged figure type belongs to the so-called adjoining types (No. 4). The form of the head on the obverse of this coin is very similar to that of a 1/3 stater found at Roudnice nad Labem (*Paulsen 1933*, no. 196; Fig. 1A), and recently, another specimen of the same pair of dies but unfortunately with unspecified find location was presented (Fig. 1B). These coins are mentioned as the Roudnice nad Labem type in references.

Apart from the before-mentioned 1/3 *stater*s, there is another unpublished 1/8 *stater* (Fig. 2), with a head in a similar style on its obverse and a standing bird with spread wings and snake in pecker on its reverse. The specimen from Copenhagen belongs to the same group of coins, but it was probably struck around the middle of the 3rd century BC. There is only one *stater* of the shell type (No. 5) preserved in the Copenhagen collection. It is a typical example of the Celtic production during the *oppidi* period, between the second half of the 2nd century and the first half of the 1st century BC.

A unique silver *drachm* (No. 6, Fig. 3) represents the most interesting coin in Copenhagen. There is a male head in Celtic style on its obverse, but it is not possible to exclude, that the complicated hairstyle is a stylized lion skin. In this case the whole image could be regarded as a Celtic transformation of the obverse of *drachms* struck either under Alexander III (336–323 BC; cf. *Price 1991*, Pls. CXXI–CXXXVI) or under Philipus III (323–317 BC; cf. *Price 1991*, Pls. CXXXVII–CXXXIX). On its reverse, there is a stylized figure to the left sitting on a rectangular pedestal of dots, with a *triqueter* in the middle. Not regarding individual details, we have no analogies for the whole image composition. We suggest that this coin should be ascribed a Boian production, but the mint cannot be localized with any precision. The coin was most likely struck between the middle of the 3rd century and the middle of the 2nd century BC. A *tetradrachm* with a lyre motive on its reverse (No. 7) also belongs to the Boian group and represents the oldest phase of the Celtic coinage – the period between the middle of the 3rd century and the middle of the 2nd century BC. Six massive silver *tetradrachms* of the Biatec type in the Copenhagen collection (Nos. 8–13) document the latest phase of the Boian coinage (70–40 BC). With the highest certainty, these coins were struck at the Celtic *oppidum* in Bratislava, Slovakia. The specimens bear the following inscriptions: **BIA-TEC** (Nos. 8–9), **BVSSV** (No. 10), **COVIOMARVS** (No. 11) and **NONNOS** (Nos. 12–13).

Figures:

Fig. 1A: Bohemia, Boian tribes, AV 1/3 *stater*, type: Roudnice nad Labem, National Museum Praha (inv. no. HM1-27.289), 2.118 g, 11 mm.

Fig. 1B: Bohemia, Boian tribes, AV 1/3 *stater*, type: Roudnice nad Labem, private collection, Praha, 2.061 g, 11 mm.

Fig. 2: Bohemia, Boian tribes, AV 1/8 *stater*, National Museum Praha (HM5-201.021), 1.067 g, 9 mm.

Fig. 3: Cat. no. 6, drawing (*Magnus Petersen del. & sc.*) from the auction catalogue (see: *Devegge 1866*, Tab. III:68).

1-13 (Fotos of Coins /1:1/ with Nr. from Catalogue).