

## Small silver Tauriscan coins of the Đurđevac type

### Mali taviški srebrniki tipa Đurđevac

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#### Izvleček

Avtor je zbral vso dokumentacijo o malih taviških srebrnikih tipa Đurđevac. Dokazati je bilo mogoče kovanje dveh skupin malih novcev tega tipa. Prva skupina ima na sprednji strani upodobljeno tako imenovano Apolonovo glavo, na zadnji strani konja, novci druge skupine pa imajo na obeh straneh upodobljenega konja. Novci ustrezajo tretjinskemu delu drahme oziroma dvanajstini velikih srebrnikov tega tipa. Podobno kot tetradrahme tega tipa je tudi kovanje njihovega drobiža mogoče časovno umestiti na konec 2. stoletja pr. Kr.

**Ključne besede:** mali srebrniki Tavriskov, 2. st. pr. Kr.

#### Abstract

The author has collected all relevant documentation about the small silver Taurisci coins of the Đurđevac type. It was possible to prove that two groups of small change of this type had been minted. The first group has a so-called head of Apollo on the obverse, with a horse on the reverse, while the coins of the second group have a horse depicted on both sides. The coins correspond to one third of a drachm or one twelfth of the large silver coin of that type. Similarly to the tetradrachms of this type, the minting of their small change can be chronologically classified to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.

**Keywords:** small silver coins of the Taurisci, 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BC

The Celtic tribes in the area of the southeastern Alps (modern Carinthia in Austria, northeastern Italy, Slovenia, and north eastern Croatia)<sup>1</sup> also minted and used small change in addition to tetradrachms.<sup>2</sup> It seems that parallel with almost each type of tetradrachm, a corresponding type

of small change was minted.<sup>3</sup> This observation is valid for the Tauriscan as well as for the Norican groups of coinage.<sup>4</sup>

In the very early phase of the Tauriscan coinage, small silver change of tetradrachms of the “Varaždin” type was minted.<sup>5</sup> Individual small

<sup>1</sup> Göbl 1973 divided the minting into “west-Norican” and “east-Norican”. Later he defined the “west-Norican” group as the coinage of Norici and the “east-Norican” group as the coinage of the Taurisci (Göbl 1994, 37).

<sup>2</sup> See Göbl 1973, 40 ff.

<sup>3</sup> Göbl 1973, 41.

<sup>4</sup> E.g., for small silver coins of the “Kugelreiter” type see Kos 2013.

<sup>5</sup> Göbl 1973, 46, Taf. 45, GG. Mackensen 1972, 7–9. The name “Warasdin”, which derives from the German name

silver coins were also recognized for almost all types of the succeeding Tauriscan tetradrachms.<sup>6</sup>

Fractions can thus also be documented for the tetradrachms of the Đurđevac type.

In 1973, when publishing his study of the Norican (and Tauriscan) coinage R. Göbl was not aware of a small silver coin published by K. Castelin in 1968 (see cat. no. 10). In 1979, an additional small silver coin of the Đurđevac type was published (cat. no. 1).<sup>7</sup> Today seventeen small silver coins that can be regarded as fractures of tetradrachms of the Đurđevac type have been documented. They can be divided in two groups, the first showing a head on the obverse and a horse on the reverse, while in the second group a horse appears on both sides of the coins.

The greatest number of tetradrachms of this type was represented in the hoard found in 1887 on the outskirts of the village of Šemovci in northwestern Croatia.<sup>8</sup> However, the type of these silver coins was named after the neighbouring town of Đurđevac.

Characteristic elements for this type of tetradrachm are a torque-shaped mouth on the obverse, and a horse's head in the shape of a figure-eight with crescent shaped hooves on the reverse (Fig. 1).

The diadem on the head of the obverse of the small silver coins is always depicted with only two dot-lines (three dot-lines are represented on tetradrachms).



Fig. 1: Typical tetradrachm of the Đurđevac type (scale = 1:1).  
Sl. 1: Tipična tetradrahma tipa Đurđevac (M. = 1:1).  
(Kos, Mirnik 2009, cat. no. 45)

of the town, is usually used for the description of coins of this type. For the earliest Tauriscan coinage, see Kos 2012.

<sup>6</sup> Castelin 1965; 1968; 1971; Mackensen, Wankmüller 1973; Kos 1976a; 1976b; 1977; 1979.

<sup>7</sup> Kos 1979, 31, no. 1.

<sup>8</sup> Kos and Mirnik 2009. In the professional literature, the name Gjurgjevac is usually used (compare Göbl 1973).

## CATALOGUE

### First group

#### Head / horse

**Cat. no. 1.** Kos 1979, 31, 34, Fig. 1a–b.

Magyar Nemzeti Muzem, Budapest, inv. no. R.I. 6052.



0.92 g; 3h

(I am indebted to Melinda Torbaghy (Magyar Nemzeti Muzem, Budapest) for the photo and relevant data.)

**Cat. no. 2.** Roma Numismatics Ltd., E-Sale 3 (Auktion 30.11.2013), Lot no. 4.



0.78 g; 4h

*Comment:* The obverse was minted with the same die as cat. no. 3. The reverse was minted with the same die as cat. nos. 3, 4, 8 and 9.

**Cat. no. 3.** Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, Mail Bid Sale 11 (12.09.2006), Lot no. 109.



0.63 g

*Comment:* The obverse was minted with the same die as cat. no. 2. The reverse was minted with the same die as cat. nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9.

The reference in Rauch (citing Göbl 1973 – rv. pl. 45, GG) is erroneous, since the cited photo in TKN depicts a small silver coin of the Varaždin type (Göbl 1973, 46, referring to Mackensen 1975, Pl. 4, 74).

**Cat. no. 4.** Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, Summer Auction 2011 (19.09.2011), Lot no. 25. Gorny & Mosch Giessener Münzhandlung, Auktion 207 (15. 10. 2012), Nr. 7 (the same coin).



0.86 g

*Comment:* The reverse was minted with the same die as cat. nos. 2, 3, 8 and 9.

**Cat. no. 5.** Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, Summer Auction 2011 (19.09.2011), Lot no. 26.

*Comment:* The obverse and reverse were minted with the same dies as cat. no. 6.



0.85 g

**Cat. no. 6.** Ziegau 2010, 221, cat. no. 585.



0.816 g; 6h

(Photo M. Eberlein, Archäologische Staatssammlung München)

*Comment:* The obverse and reverse were minted with the same dies as cat. no. 5.

**Cat. no. 7.** Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, Mail Bid Sale 11 (12.09.2006), Lot no. 110.



0.80 g

The coin is erroneously determined in the auction catalogue as TKN- (rv. pl. 45, GG), which,

however, is a small silver coin of the Varaždin type with depiction of a horse on both sides of the coin.

**Cat. no. 8.** Jandrasits 2014, 51, Abb. 24.



0.96 g

*Comment:* Minted with the same obverse die as cat. no. 9. Minted with the same reverse die as cat. nos. 2, 3, 4 and 9.

(I would like to thank Tomislav Bilić of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, who drew attention to this coin.)

**Cat. no. 9.** Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, Auktion 91 (5.12.2012), D 16. Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, Auktion 94 (9.4.2014), Lot no. 97.



0.81 g

*Comment:* Minted with the same obverse die as cat. no. 8. Minted with the same reverse dies as cat. nos. 2, 3, 4 and 8.

**Cat. no. 10.** Castelin 1965, 3, ill. 2; Castelin 1968, 39, pl. 2, ill. 2; Castelin 1971, 2, ill. 2; Kos 1979, 32, 34, photo 3a–b.

*Private collection.*



0.435 g

*Comment:* The obverse and reverse were minted with the same dies as cat. nos. 11 and 12.

The weight of the coin published by Castelin substantially deviates from the weights of other coins. His information should, however, be taken into consideration with the utmost caution. He has in fact given the very same weight data (0.435 g) for a small silver coin (Göbl 1973, pl. 45, GG1) that actually weighs 0.76 g (Göbl 1973, 42).

**Cat. no. 11.** Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, 11<sup>th</sup> live e-Auction (23.03.2012), Lot no. 10.



0.86 g

*Comment:* The obverse and reverse were minted with the same dies as cat. nos. 10 and 12.

**Cat. no. 12.** Ziegaus 2010, 220, cat. no. 582.



0.84 g; 5h

(Photo M. Eberlein, Archäologische Staatssammlung München)

*Comment:* The obverse and reverse were minted with the same dies as cat. nos. 10 and 11.

**Cat. no. 13.** Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, Auktion 96 (9.12.2014), Lot no. 11.



0.89 g

*Comment:* The reverse was minted with the same die as cat. nos. 14 and 15.

**Cat. no. 14.** Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, Auction 88 (17.5.2011), Lot no. 12.



0.82 g

*Comment:* The obverse was minted with the same die as cat. no. 15. The reverse was minted with the same dies as cat. no. 13 and 15.

**Cat. no. 15.** Auktionshaus H. D. Rauch GmbH, Münzen Auktion 87 (8.12.2010), Lot no. 16.



0.79 g

*Comment:* The obverse was minted with the same die as cat. no. 14. The reverse was minted with the same dies as cat. nos. 13 and 14.

### Second group

*Horse / horse*

**Cat. no. 16.** Gorny & Mosch Giessener Münzhandlung, Auction 176 (10.3.2009), Lot no. 1007.



0.86 g

*Comment:* The coin was erroneously determined in the auction catalogue as TKN 45, GG (Typ Warasdin B).

**Cat. no. 17.** Kos 1977, cat. 3: 739, pl. 22: 13. Provenance: Celje – the Savinja River.

*Narodni muzej Slovenije, Numizmatični kabinet* [National Museum of Slovenia, Numismatic Cabinet], inv. no. 15466.



0.74 g; 12h

*Comment:* In Kos 1977, 104 the specimen was erroneously determined as Varaždin A type.

### TYPOLOGY

For the minting of fifteen small silver coins of the first group, nine different obverse and six different reverse dies were used, implying intensive and numerous minting of small silver coins of the Đurđevac type.

#### Obverses (Fig. 4)

The obverse of coin cat. no. 1 was already originally determined as matching the tetradrachms obverse dies 56–58, and the reverse the tetradrachm reverse die 124,<sup>9</sup> as represented in the hoard of Šemovci (Fig. 2).<sup>10</sup>

The obverse die of coin cat. no. 7 shows very similar characteristics to the tetradrachm obverse die 9 (Fig. 3).<sup>11</sup>

A group of die-linked coins (cat. nos. 10–12; Fig. 4) shows typical elements for the Đurđevac type: eye execution, depiction of the diadem and hair, as well as a torque-shaped mouth on the obverse, which, however, was clumsily set beneath the nose. That prompts me – in spite of their atypical reverse representations – to place them among fractions of tetradrachms of the Đurđevac type.

The obverses of coins cat. nos. 14 and 15 are due to style and manufacture, evidently closely related to coin cat. no. 7. The obverse die of the latter, however, most probably derives from the



Fig. 2: Tetradrachm with dies TKN 56–124 (enlarged).  
Sl. 2: Tetradrahma, kovana s pečatomo TKN 56–124 (povečano).  
(Kos, Mirnik 2009, cat. no. 30)



Fig. 3: Obverse of small silver coin cat. no. 7 and the tetradrachm obverse die 9 (a) (both enlarged).  
Sl. 3: Sprednja stran malega srebrnika kat. št. 7 in tetradrahme (a), kovane s pečatom 9 (oboje povečano).  
(a: Kos, Mirnik 2009, cat. no. 26)

<sup>9</sup> Kos 1979, 31.

<sup>10</sup> Kos, Mirnik 2009, 294, nos. 25–31.

<sup>11</sup> Kos, Mirnik 2009, 294–295.



Fig. 4: Obverses of documented coins. Cat. nos. 1-15 (first group), 16-17 (second group). Scale = 3:1.  
 Sl. 4: Sprednje strani dokumentiranih novcev. Kat. št. 1-15 (prva skupina), 16-17 (druga skupina). M. = 3:1.



Fig. 5: Reverses of documented coins. **Cat. nos. 1-17** (scale = 3:1).  
 Sl. 5: Zadnje strani dokumentiranih novcev. **Kat. št. 1-17** (M. = 3:1).



die with which the obverse of coin cat. no. 4 was minted (Fig. 4).

All fifteen small silver coins of the first group are fractures of tetradrachms of the older Đurđevac type, not yet showing the prickles on the nose on the obverse that appear in a second group of tetradrachms of this type.<sup>12</sup>

### Reverses

(Fig. 5)

The reverses of specimens cat. nos. 1 and 2 show almost identical characteristics, however, the latter die must have been already worn out at the time of its use and was perhaps refreshed beforehand. For the minting of coins cat. nos. 3, 4, 8 and 9, the same reverse die as for cat. no. 2 was used (Fig. 6).

The reverse die of coin cat. no. 7 exhibits the same distinctive thick line on the lower part of the horse's neck as depicted on the tetradrachms' reverse dies nos. 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 (Fig. 7).<sup>13</sup>

A group of three coins (cat. nos. 10–12: Figs. 4 and 5) with die-linked obverses and reverses shows only one distinctive characteristic that is typical for coins of the Đurđevac type – a torque shaped mouth on the obverse. On the reverses of this group no other characteristic elements of the Đurđevac type (figure-eight shaped horse's head or crescent shaped hooves) are depicted. The horse's chest and foreleg musculature are illustrated through accentuated dots that are typical for almost all types of Tauriscan tetradrachms.<sup>14</sup> The reverse, however, demonstrates strong similarities to the reverses on tetradrachms of the Samobor C 15 and 16 types.<sup>15</sup> Tetradrachms of these types were minted simultaneously with the tetradrachms of the Đurđevac type.<sup>16</sup>

K. Castelin indecisively determined coin cat. no. 10 as fitting somewhere among the groups of coins of the Varaždin, Samobor, and Đurđevac types.<sup>17</sup> In 1979 I had indicated that this coin could be

<sup>12</sup> Kos, Mirnik 2009, 299–308, cat. nos. 70–144.

<sup>13</sup> Kos, Mirnik 2009, 292, 293.

<sup>14</sup> Göbl 1973, 97.

<sup>15</sup> Göbl 1973, Taf. 42.

<sup>16</sup> Göbl 1973, Synchronogramm / Ostnoriker. The minting of tetradrachms of the Samobor C 16 type before the mid second century BC is clearly demonstrated by the composition of the Ljubljana hoard: Kos, Šemrov 2003.

<sup>17</sup> Castelin 1965, 3; 1968, 39; 1971, 2.



1



2



3



9

Fig. 6: Reverse die comparison of coins cat. nos. 1, 2, 3 and 9 (all enlarged).

Sl. 6: Primerjava pečatov zadnjih strani novcev kat. št. 1, 2, 3 in 9 (vse povečano).



Fig. 7: Comparison of reverse dies of small silver coin **cat. no. 7** (scale = 4:1) with the tetradrachms' reverse dies 12 (a) and 13 (b) (both enlarged).

Sl. 7: Primerjava pečatov zadnjih strani malega srebrnika **kat. št. 7** (M. = 4:1) in pečatov zadnjih strani tetradrahem št. 12 (a) in 13 (b) (oba povečana).

(a,b: Kos, Mirnik 2009, cat. nos. 19 [a], 22 [b])

typologically placed in the proximity of the group of tetradrachms of the type "Augentyp-Stamm".<sup>18</sup>

The typical eye execution, the depiction of the diadem and hair, as well as the torque shaped mouth on the obverse of these three coins (Fig. 4) allow me to place them reasonably securely among fractions of tetradrachms of the Đurđevac type.

The reverses of coins **cat. nos. 13–15** (Fig. 5) with a depiction of a horse in llama pose bear a resemblance to the reverse die 163Z of the "Augentyp-Stamm" tetradrachms ("Pferd lamaköpfig").<sup>19</sup> The only difference is represented by the crescent-like hooves that do not appear on 163Z. Their obverse, with the typical torque-shaped mouth, demonstrates almost identical characteristics as shown on coin **cat. no. 7**. This coin, however, should according to the depiction on the reverse undoubtedly be placed in the group of specimens of the Đurđevac type.

On both the obverse and reverse of coin **cat. no. 16**, a typical Đurđevac type horse with a figure-eight shaped head and crescent-shaped hooves is illustrated, once pacing to the left, and once to the right. Both sides of the coin reveal an almost mirror depiction of the horse.

On the contrary, the much worn coin **cat. no. 17** depicts on the reverse a Đurđevac type horse with a figure-eight shaped head, whereas on the obverse a horse, also walking to the left, cannot be discerned clearly.

The use of the reverse images on coins **cat. nos. 10–15** cannot be directly linked with coins of the Đurđevac type but rather present characteristics of the Samobor C and "Augentyp-Stamm" group of coins. This fact can be interpreted with the simultaneous minting of these types of the Tauriscan tetradrachms and (or) as the activity of the same (travelling) die-cutter.<sup>20</sup>

## METROLOGY

The average weight of the first group of tetradrachms of the Đurđevac type is 9.84 g, while the weight of the second group is 9.67.<sup>21</sup> The coins minted with the early dies of the first group weigh over 10 g, those with the later dies of the first group less than 9.5 g.<sup>22</sup>

The weights of small silver coins of the Đurđevac type are as follows:

### Head / horse

0.96 g (cat. no. 8)

0.92 g (cat. no. 1)

0.89 g (cat. no. 13)

0.86 g (cat. no. 4)

<sup>18</sup> Kos 1979, 32.

<sup>19</sup> Göbl 1973, Taf. 36, 8–10.

<sup>20</sup> See, for instance, Kos 2012, 354–355.

<sup>21</sup> Kos, Mirnik 2009, 309.

<sup>22</sup> Kos, Mirnik 2009, 310.

0.86 g (cat. no. 11)  
 0.85 g (cat. no. 5)  
 0.84 g (cat. no. 12)  
 0.82 g (cat. no. 14)  
 0.816 g (cat. no. 6)  
 0.81 g (cat. no. 9)  
 0.80 g (cat. no. 7)  
 0.79 g (cat. no. 15)  
 0.78 g (cat. no. 2)  
 0.63 g (cat. no. 3)

#### *Horse / horse*

0.86 g (cat. no. 16)  
 0.74 g (cat. no. 17)

The average weight of the fourteen small silver coins of the first group (head / horse) is 0.830 g. The obviously erroneous weight of coin cat. no. 10 (0.435 g) was not taken into account.<sup>23</sup> Considering the average weight of tetradrachms of both groups as represented in the hoard of Šemovci (9.755 g), this would lead us to a conclusion that small silver coins of the Đurđevac type represent one third of a drachm or the twelfth part of a tetradrachm ( $12 \times 0.830 = 9.96$  g). The average weight of small silver coins of the second group (horse / horse), which is 0.8 g, leads us to the same conclusion.

In the first publication of the small silver coins cat. nos. 1 and 10 I had already stated that small silver coins of this type represent the twelfth part of a tetradrachm, i.e. correspond to one-third of a drachm.<sup>24</sup> This fact, however, is not in accordance with the assumption that small silver coins as fractions of tetradrachms always represented quarter-drachms.<sup>25</sup> Small silver coins of the “Kugelreiter” type, for instance, undoubtedly represent quarter-drachms of this type.<sup>26</sup>

Interestingly, the small silver coins of the Đurđevac type show a higher average weight than the small silver coins of the “Kugelreiter” type. The weight is 8% higher in comparison with the first group of small silver coins of the “Kugelreiter” type (head / rider – 0.76 g), and even 23% higher than coins

of the second group of the “Kugelreiter” type (head / cross – 0.67 g).<sup>27</sup> This could indicate at least simultaneous production of small silver coins of the Đurđevac and the “Kugelreiter” types. The minting of tetradrachms of type “Kugelreiter” A1 was dated by Göbl to his stages II and III, and type “Kugelreiter” C1 to the later part of stage III,<sup>28</sup> whereas the coining of tetradrachms of the Đurđevac type should according to him begin in stage IV and continue to the end of stage X.<sup>29</sup>

## CHRONOLOGY

The minting of tetradrachms of the Đurđevac type (the types represented in the Šemovci hoard) was dated by Kos and Mirnik to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BC.<sup>30</sup> The small silver coins, as corresponding small change, must have been struck simultaneously.

## AREA OF DISTRIBUTION

Regretfully, nothing can be stated with certainty about the area of distribution of these small silver coins, since almost all documented specimens (with the exception of specimen cat. no. 17) originate from various auctions. The single specimen with known provenance is coin cat. no. 17, which was found in the Savinja River in Celje (Slovenia).

Since tetradrachms have predominantly been discovered in the area of eastern Slovenia and western Croatia, and are only sporadically also found in faraway Celtic centres (like Gomolava in Serbia, Szalacska and Velem in Hungary, or Bratislava-Zohor in Slovakia)<sup>31</sup> there is no doubt that fractions of tetradrachms were also in use in the same area. The provenance of coin cat. no. 17 merely corroborates this assumption.

*Translation: Barbara Smith Demo*

<sup>23</sup> See above.

<sup>24</sup> Kos 1979, 32.

<sup>25</sup> Pink 1958, 142. See also Mackensen 1975, 257. Compare Kos 1977, 70; Göbl 1973, 45, however, argued that the conclusions reached through metrology should not be overstressed for small silver coins.

<sup>26</sup> Kos 2013, 364.

<sup>27</sup> Kos 2013, 364.

<sup>28</sup> Göbl 1973, Synchronogramm / Westnoriker.

<sup>29</sup> Göbl 1973, Synchronogramm / Ostnoriker.

<sup>30</sup> Kos, Mirnik 2009, 311.

<sup>31</sup> The distribution map of coins discovered up to 1975 is presented in Kos 1977, 46, map 6. Zohor: Kolníková 1996, 14.

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## Mali tavrški srebrniki tipa Đurđevac

### Povzetek

Keltski Tavrski so – podobno kot Noriki – skupaj s tetradrahmami kovali tudi drobiž. Sistematično dokumentiranje gradiva kaže, da so kovali male srebrnike skoraj k vsakemu tipu tetradrahem. Tako je bilo mogoče dokumentirati tudi sedemnajst malih srebrnikov, ki ustrezajo tetradrahmam tipa Đurđevac. Tetradrahme so poimenovane po novčnem zakladu iz bližine Đurđevca na severozahodnem Hrvaškem, čeprav je bilo dejansko najdišče na obrobju vasi Šemovci. Značilnost velikih srebrnikov tega tipa so usta v obliki torkvesa na sprednji strani, na zadnji strani pa konjeva glava v obliki osmice ter kopita srpaste oblike. Omenjene značilnosti opredeljujejo tudi male srebrnike tega tipa.

Med malimi srebrniki je mogoče razlikovati dve skupini. V prvi (15 primerkov) je na sprednji strani upodobljena glava, na zadnji konj, v drugi skupini z dvema primerkoma pa je na obeh straneh upodobljen značilen konj.

Na podlagi razmeroma velike povprečne teže je mogoče ugotoviti, da je mali srebrnik tega tipa tretjina drahme oziroma dvanajstina tetradrahme. To je sicer v nasprotju z ustaljenimi domnevami, da mali srebrnik vedno pomeni četrtno drahme.

Žal razen za en primerek ne poznamo najdiščnih podatkov, na podlagi katerih bi lahko ugotavljali območje njihovega obtoka.

Kovanje malih srebrnikov tega tipa je nedvomno sočasno s kovanjem tetradrahem, torej ob koncu 2. stoletja pr. Kr.

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