

TOMASZ KOWAL

RISAN, MONTENEGRO. EXCAVATIONS IN 2012

Location: Risan, opština (county) of Kotor, Montenegro

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Excavation timeline: 18.06–11.07 2012

Risan, a town situated in the far sides of Kotor Bay, was once again an area of scientific research conducted by Polish archaeologists. Researchers from the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Centre, University of Warsaw, present in Montenegro since 2001, are not the first to excavate this important settlement, dating to Illyrian and Roman times.

The first archaeologist to lead the excavations at the site was Sir Arthur Evans. In the 1870s he conducted research in the Balkans, among others at Risan (EVANS 1885: 39–52; WILKES 2006: XIV). He initiated his work on the coastal strip of Carine in the northern outskirts of the town. Bounded on the south by the karst River Špila and on the west by the waters of Kotor Bay, on the north and east this area is limited by the slopes of Građine Hill (207 m a.s.l.), belonging to the mountain range of Krivošije. The area was already inhabited in the Illyrian times, which is fully certified by results of excavations. After a Roman settlement, a Late Antique necropolis was located there. During his works in the riverbed of the Špila, Evans revealed the existence of walls constructed of large stone blocks. He also obtained many interesting artefacts, including several coins with King Ballaios' image (EVANS 1880: 269–302).

Polish archaeologists under the direction of Professor Piotr Dyczek have been visiting the location of Carine every year since 2001. Based on the location of the works completed by Yugoslavian archaeologists in 1988 (KOVAČEVIĆ 1997: 22–48; UJES, KOVAČEVIĆ 1992: 9–24), during the seasons of 2001–2003 excavations were started in the Carine VI section. The researches brought some interesting results (DYCZEK ET AL. 2005: 112–117). In 2004 a new study in the area of Carine VII, some 100 m to the east was undertaken. These works are carried out till present, and the results have already been partially published (DYCZEK ET AL. 2009: 129–133).



In 2012 we continued the excavations at the site of Carine VII. The works were carried out in two separate areas of the section: the so-called House of Aglaos and its vicinity, as well as at the foot of Građine Hill (Fig. 1). In the House of Aglaos a whole quarter of the insula was uncovered. A broad passage led from the kitchen area to the bathroom, where we discovered several coins presenting King Ballaios himself. Occasionally, some other Greek coins from the Adriatic coast were found. We found many upholstery nails which, not unlike 25 pieces found in the previous year, were gathered in the kitchen. Most of them served constructional purposes, but some were used for the fittings and furniture products (KOWAL 2012: 205). Both of these clusters allow us to assume that Aglaos may have been a carpenter or an upholsterer. The nails are currently analysed and will be published soon by Przemysław Litwinowicz, MA.

Several rooms situated along the street to the west of the House of Aglaos were excavated as well. Parts of the rooms were already uncovered in 2011, but it was only in 2012 that we captured their extent and defined the subsequent phases of building activity. Originally there were three chambers, each of which had a separate entrance from the road. After rebuilding, four chambers were constructed. In one of the chambers we found a fragment of a black gloss plate with its bottom still present. On the undersurface of

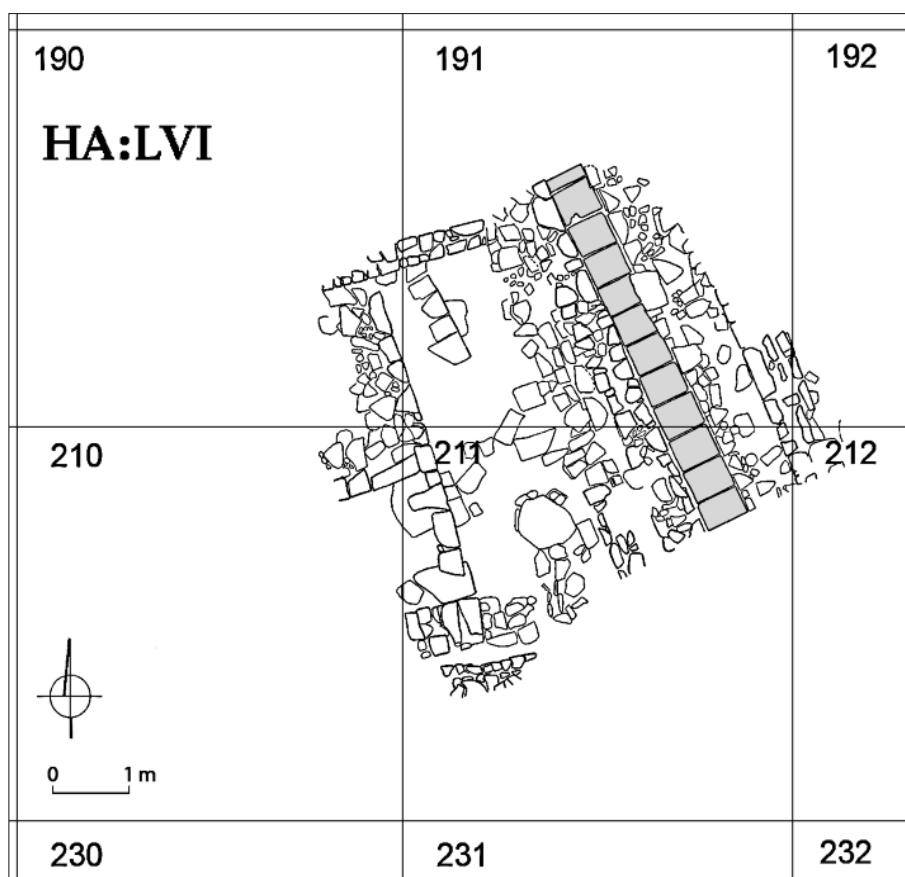


Fig. 1. Remains of buildings and a channel covered with tiles (shaded), unearthed in the trial trench near the foot of Gradine Hill (Drawing T. Kowal).

Ryc. 1. Pozostałości budowli i kanału pokrytego płytami terakotowymi (zaciemniany), odsłonięte w sondażu u podnóża wzgórza Gradine.

the vessel three Greek letters: API, were scratched. Those three letters could be an abbreviation for one of the following names: Aristion, Aristophanes, or Aristoteles. It is hypothesized that Aristion, forasmuch the researchers are most inclined to this interpretation, marked the bottom of the plate as his own.

After the excavation, a few general remarks can be made. The first one refers to the transformation of architecture. Construction of this part of the town was not the result of one particular project. Second, as it turned out, it was not uncommon for the Roman builders to erect new constructions on earlier Illyrian walls, retaining exactly the same orientation. The next remark concerns the function and purpose of surveyed areas. It is very likely that the buildings were arranged along the street, creating a row of little shops (*tabernae*). The chambers were rectangular and their shorter sides were adjacent to the street, which facilitated access for the residents of ancient *Rhizon*.

In the course of excavation many fragments of black gloss pottery, including Gnathia type vessels, were found. These served many different functions. Among tableware and serving dishes were various bowls, jugs, plates and fish platters used for consumption, as well as larger *krateres* for mixing wine and water. Several toilet vessels were also obtained, among them: *alabastra*, *unguentaria* and one *guttus* (inv. No. 92/12 W) (Fig. 2). One of the vessels

served only ritual purposes, a tiny *kylix* with one handle for pouring oblations in the honour of the dead (inv. No. 75/12 W) (Fig. 3). Some of the vessels were richly furnished with an ornament imprinted on the inner surface. The most popular motif consisted of concentrically arranged pelts. Painted ornaments were not uncommon either; from simple stripes, through running spirals, to intricately rendered floral motifs. Particularly interesting is a fragment of the rim of a red-figure *krater* from Attica. On the surviving part of the vessel a fragment of a single figure stepping to the left is visible. Another fragment of the same vessel was decorated with an ornament of laurel leaves just beneath the edge of the rim (inv. No. 118/12 W) (Fig. 4). This interesting find is not only a piece of evidence of high living standards of the town's inhabitants, but also provides some interesting information on *Rhizon's* extensive contacts with the Greek world. Additionally, as every year, a lot of pottery sherds of amphorae from the Adriatic coast, as well as typical Greco-Italic amphorae were recovered (mostly Types MGS III/HA 1, MGS V/HA 3, and MGS VI/HA 6) (VANDERMERSH 1994: 73–87; DYCZEK 2012: 71–80). There were also amphorae from the north of Africa, including Punic ones, and vessels from mainland Greece. Most of them are dated to the 3rd and 2nd c. BC. A significant number of inscribed amphorae stoppers, ceramic weights and bronze nails was also found.

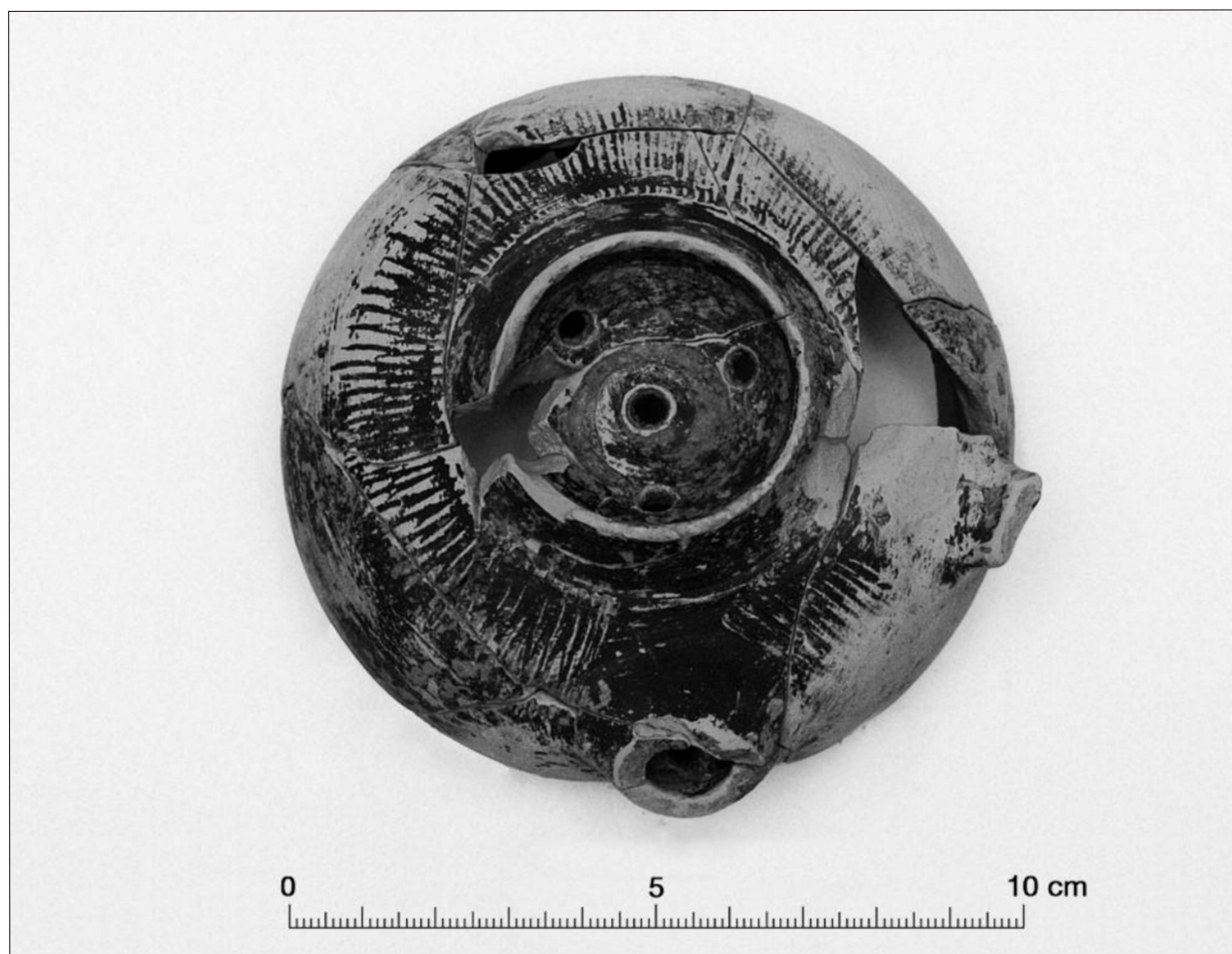


Fig. 2. Black gloss *guttus*, Inv. No. 92/12 W (Photo P. Kajak).

Ryc. 2. *Guttus*, ceramika czarnopokostowana, nr inw. 92/12 W.

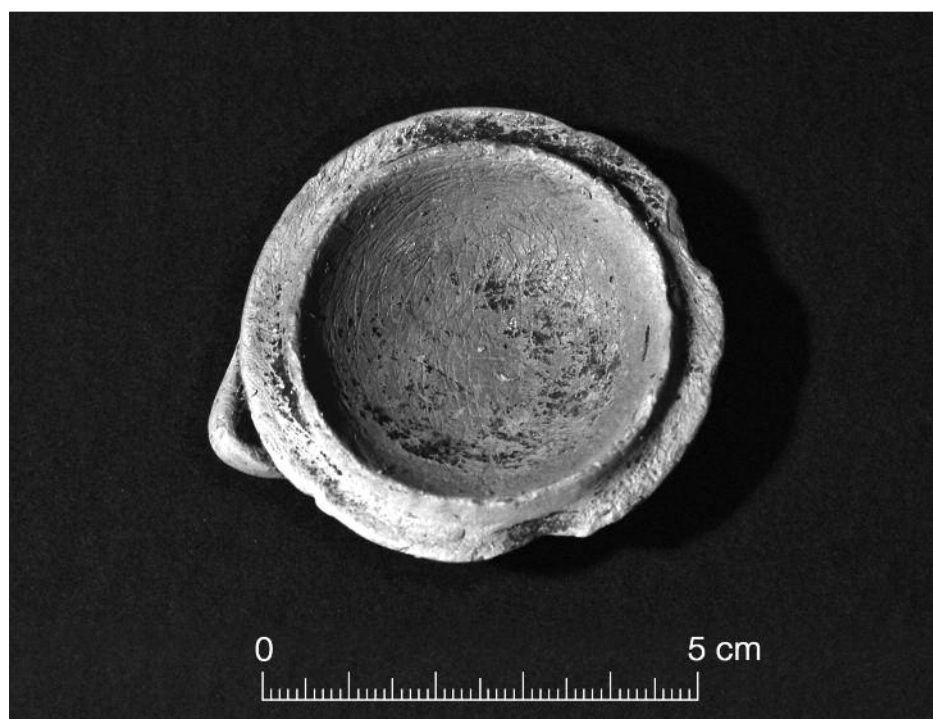


Fig. 3. Miniature *kylix* for pouring oblations in the honour of the dead, Inv. No. 75/12 W (Photo J. Reclaw).

Ryc. 3. Miniaturowy kyliks do wylewania obiat ku czci zmarłego, nr inw. 75/12 W.



Fig. 4. Fragments of a red-figure *krater*, Inv. No. 118/12 W (Photo P. Kajak).

Ryc. 4. Fragmenty krateru czerwonofigurowego, nr inw. 118/12 W.

Another area of exploration lies at the foot of Gradine Hill. A survey was done to capture the intersection of the main road, made of large limestone slabs, leading from the main gate of the ancient town to the north. The works were initiated at the site of previous year's geomagnetic survey. The results of these studies confirmed the supposition that beneath the surface of the study area, there is a solid stone structure, and other architectural fragments of unidentified substance (RUMMEL forthcoming). A 5×5 m surface area was examined. In the place of the alleged cross-road was a broad channel, the bottom of which was lined with ceramic plates (*tegulae*?). Additionally, parts of walls of different architectural phases were uncovered; however they did not allow for a clear definition of functions of the exposed areas. It can be assumed that the town was rebuilt by the Romans. The limestone slabs forming the path were removed and used for other construction purposes. In the fill of the channel was a bronze coin portraying Emperor Vespasian (AD 69–79) (inv. No. 143/12 W) (Fig. 5). In

addition, fragments of Roman glass vessels were recovered. In the vicinity of the road we found several Roman amphorae, and among them those of Types Dressel 1 and Dressel 6 (DRESSEL 1899: pl. II:1,6).

The most interesting find coming from this trench was a part of a cup (Inv. No. 384/12 W). It was richly decorated with bas-relief with a figurative battle scene. On the preserved fragment, there is displayed a rider in a billowing cloak, galloping on horseback. Above his head, he is holding a spear, ready to throw (Fig. 6). This is a fine example of the Corinthian relief ware. A similar artefact, with the same representation, was found in *Dyrrhachion*, modern Durrës, Albania. It is dated to the end of the 2nd – beginning of the 3rd c. AD (SHEHI 2005: 97, fig. 1). The findings of such cups are testified on the entire Adriatic coast. They were found on the territory of Montenegro, at the following sites: *Doclea* near modern Podgorica, *Bouthoe*, *Bouthoua* (modern Budva), and on the territory of Albania, at: *Scodra* (Shkodra), *Lissos* (Lezhe),



Fig. 5. Bronze coin of Vespasian (AD 69–79), obverse and reverse; Inv. No. 143/12 W (Photo M. Radunović).

Ryc. 5. Brązowa moneta z przedstawieniem Wespazjana (69–79 r. n.e.), awers i rewers; nr inw. 143/12 W.

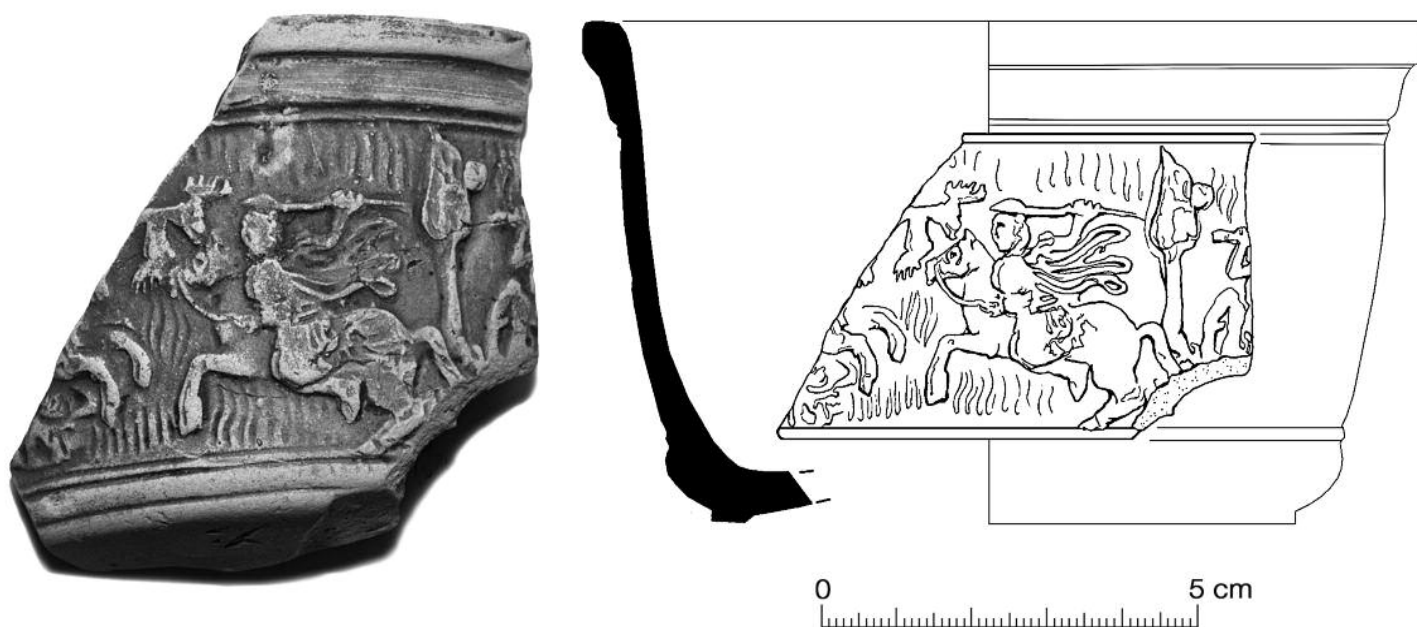


Fig. 6. Fragment of a relief bowl with a galloping rider; Inv. No. 384/12 W (Photo P. Kajak, drawing K. Michałowska).

Ryc. 6. Fragment czarki z przedstawieniem galopującego jeźdźca, nr inw. 384/12 W.

Albanopolis (Zgërdhesh), *Dyrrhachium* (Durrës), *Apollonia* (Apoloni), *Hadrianopolis* (Sofratika), *Onchesmus* (Saranda), *Buthrotum* (Butrint) (HOXHA 2012: 74–79; for more on the Corinthian relief ware see: MALFITANA 2007).

As every year, a large number of coins was found. Most of them belong to the Illyrian King Ballaios issues (CIOLEK 2011: 13–108). Preliminary analysis has already confirmed that a dozen or so recovered coins were Greek

coins from the east coast of the Adriatic Sea. One group of the coins deserves special attention. In the corner of one of the rooms, near the entrance we found nearly 100 bronze coins (inv. No. 209/12 W) (Fig. 7). The cluster was situated in the ceiling of alluvial soils and silts filling one of the rooms, most likely forming the complex of shops located along the stone road. It seems that we deal here with contents of a personal pouch that slipped out of owner's grasp



Fig. 7. Cluster of Ballaios' coins found in the corner of a shop (*taberna*), condition before conservation; Inv. No. 209/12 W (Photo P. Kajak).

Ryc. 7. Skupisko monet Ballaiosa znalezionych w narożniku jednej z *tabernae*, stan przed konserwacją; nr inw. 209/12 W.

and the coins fell down and formed a cluster. Analysis of archaeological layers at this point, with a level of burning and roof debris above, suggests an occurrence of some disturbing events in *Rhizon*, which might have suffered from external attack, internal conflicts or a fire that consumed the city. Therefore, it cannot be excluded that the holder of the coins lost his pouch as a result of these tragic events. In some cases, the coins were conglomerated together forming rolls in groups of 5 to 10 items. Preliminary analysis in the field enabled us to determine that the coins were in fact

minted by King Ballaios. Unfortunately, their current state of preservation does not allow for an unambiguous assignment to one of two basic types of these coins. Accurate analysis of the coins will be possible only after cleaning, and further detailed study will follow their conservation.

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TOMASZ KOWAL

RISAN, CZARNOGÓRA. WYKOPALISKA W 2012 R.

W roku 2012 w Risan badaniami wykopaliskowymi objęto dwa obszary należące do odcinka Carine VII, gdzie prace trwają od 2004 r. (DYCZEK ET AL. 2005; 2009; KOWAL 2012). Kontynuowano odsłanianie pomieszczeń znajdujących się w zachodniej części odcinka na terenie „domu Aglaosa” i w jego najbliższych okolicach (1) oraz u podnóża wzgórza Građine (2).

1) Najważniejsze ustalenia architektoniczne po tegorocznej kampanii są następujące: po pierwsze, zabudowa okolic „domu Aglaosa” nie powstała w wyniku realizacji jednego projektu; po drugie, okazało się, że często na osnowie starych murów iliryjskich późniejsi budowniczowie wznosili kolejne budowle, zachowując tą samą orientację. Można też zaproponować przeznaczenie (funkcję) odkry-

tych tu pomieszczeń – analiza planu i znalezisk zdają się wskazywać, że mamy tu do czynienia z rzędem sklepików (*tabernae*).

2) Wytyczono tu sondaż (**Ryc. 1**) w celu uchwycenia skrzyżowania głównej drogi, zbudowanej z dużych płyt wapiennych, wiodącej od głównej bramy antycznego miasta w kierunku północnym, z hipotetyczną ulicą poprzeczną. Skrzyżowania takiego nie odsłonięto, można jednak było stwierdzić, że w późniejszej fazie rzymskiej obecności w Risan dokonywano licznych przebudów, do których m.in. użyto płyt kamiennych zdjętych z drogi.

W trakcie kampanii znaleziono także interesujące zabytki, m.in. fragmenty krateru czerwonofigurowego (**Ryc. 4**), naczynia czarnopokostowane dekorowane motywami roślinnymi i ornamentami wyciskany, naczynia

o przeznaczeniu toaletowym – alabastrony, unguentaria, a także *guttus* (**Ryc. 2**). Jedno z naczyń służyło celom kultowym – miniaturowy kylik z uchwytem do wylewania obiat ku czci zmarłego (**Ryc. 3**). Szczególnie efektownym znaleziskiem sezonu był fragment reliefowanej czarki, datowanej na przełom II i III w. n.e., pochodzącej z Koryntu (**Ryc. 6**). Jest na nim ukazany jeździec w powiewającym płaszczu, galopujący na koniu. Postać ta ponad głowę trzyma oszczep gotowy do rzutu.

W trakcie prac wydobyto także bogaty materiał numizmatyczny – kilkaset monet, w tym skupisko ok. 100 monet z wizerunkiem króla Ballaios, zapewne zawartość zgubionej sakiewki (**Ryc. 7**), oraz brązową monetę z portretem Wespazjana (**Ryc. 5**), znaną w sondażu u stóp Gradine.