

# THE PRESENCE OF THE TETRADRACHMS FROM THASOS IN THE ISTRO-PONTIC TERRITORY

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**Cuvinte-cheie:** *tetradrahme, Thasos, secolele II–I a.Chr., Dobrogea.*

**Keywords:** *tetradrachms, Thasos, 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC, Dobruja.*

**Rezumat:** *Pătrunderea tetradrahmelor din Thasos până în nord-estul Traciei și în nordul Dunării poate fi pusă în legătură cu conflictele militare din Balcani, cu eforturile diplomatice ale Romei pentru plata aliaților mercenari și a stipendiilor sau ca pradă de război. Tetradrahmele din Thasos cunosc o prezență relativ abundentă și omogenă în teritoriile tracice și dobrogean, pe un fond preexistent comercial relativ uniform, dar nu și zona coloniilor pontice și a teritoriilor lor de influență economică. Prezența lor, cu precăderea de-a lungul malului drept al Dunării, în interiorul comunităților locale getice, trebuie înțeleasă în primul rând ca o componentă de prestigiu, fiind erau bunuri dintr-un metal nobil, larg recunoscute calitativ în Peninsula Balcanică și care exprimau un nivel de prestigiu individual și familial aparte, o rezervă de metal de bună calitate. Descoperirea tuturor acestor monede în teritoriul istro-pontic indică participarea Dobrogei la evenimentele politico-militare și, posibil, la schimburile de bunuri materiale ce au avut loc între Peninsula Balcanică și bazinul Mării Negre, oferind, cu un indice de probabilitate acceptabil, sugestii privind teritoriile dinspre care veneau aceste monede și posibilele legături. Spre diferență de direcția obișnuită de apariție a monedelor grecești în mediile greco-autohtone și autohtone din Dobrogea, cunoscută ca fiind dinspre est și sud-est, tetradrahmele din Thasos (ca și cele din Macedonia Prima) pătrund dinspre vest, sud și sud-vest, fiind favorizate de apropierea militară și politică a Romei Republicane, fiind orientate spre vadurile comerciale de la Dunăre.*

**Abstract:** *The penetration of tetradrachms from Thasos into northeastern Thrace and north of the Danube can be linked to military conflicts in the Balkans, to Rome's diplomatic efforts to pay mercenary allies and stipends, or as war booty. Tetradrachms from Thasos know a relatively abundant and homogeneous presence in the Thracian and Dobrujan territories, on a relatively uniform pre-existing commercial background, but not the area of the Pontic colonies and their territories of economic influence. Their presence, especially along the right bank of the Danube, within the local Getic communities, must be understood primarily as a component of prestige, as they were goods made of a noble metal, widely recognized in the Balkan Peninsula and expressing a special level of individual and family prestige, a good quality metal reserve. The discovery of all these coins in the Istro-Pontic territory indicates the participation of Dobruja in the political-military events and, possibly, in the exchanges*

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*of material goods that took place between the Balkan Peninsula and the Black Sea basin, offering, with an acceptable probability index, suggestions regarding the territories where these coins came from and the possible connections. Unlike the usual direction of appearance of Greek coins in the Greek-autochthonous and autochthonous environments of Dobruja, which is known to be from the east and southeast, the tetradrachms from Thasos (like those from Macedonia First) penetrate from the west, south and southwest, being favored by the military and political proximity of Republican Rome, being oriented towards the commercial fords of the Danube.*

## Introduction

For the late Hellenistic period specific to the area between the Danube and the sea, two important ethnic components can be identified: the indigenous and the Greek. In the evolution of the indigenous society in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC, the transformations in various stages of development of its material and spiritual culture can be traced, as well as its organization and manifestation in each of the stages passed and the differences existing from one micro zone to another. The changes occurred in its social and economic organization allowed a significant development of the indigenous society, creating, also on the background of Greek influence, the possibility of using coinage in various forms, coming from the colonial mints. The Greek world on the west coast of the Black Sea, especially in the 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC, had a precarious social, economic, and commercial situation, with frequent political and military events mediating a turbulent period politically and militarily and not least a state of internal tension.

A separate chapter from the monetary presence within the indigenous and Greek communities in Dobruja, in the 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC, is the existence of three categories of late Greek coins, those from Macedonia Prima, Thasos and Maroneia. Their circulation occurred in a period when the transition was made from the specific realities of the late Hellenistic era to those of the Roman Republic, including in terms of the monetary system<sup>1</sup>. Their minting in the local mint is due to the increasing financial demands manifested by the Roman Republic, considering the payment needs dedicated to supporting military strategic efforts<sup>2</sup>. The coins from Thasos, in terms of iconography, present all the characteristic and specific elements of Greek-style coins, but they are minted in close connection with the urgent strategic requirements of the Romans<sup>3</sup>.

## The Tetradrachms from Thasos

The mint on the island for the original new-style tetradrachms, with high-quality silver content, thin and wide flans<sup>4</sup>, started around 168/167 BC (to decline towards the middle and second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC), and for those that are also original

<sup>1</sup> CRAWFORD 1985; PROKOPOV 2012, p. 17, 21.

<sup>2</sup> PAUNOV 2015, p. 273.

<sup>3</sup> We express our total gratitude to our colleague and friend Silviu Purece (Lucian Blaga University Sibiu, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, Department of History, Heritage and Protestant Theology) for his help provided in completing this article.

<sup>4</sup> PICARD 1994, p. 33.

but considered in the bibliography as Thasian type, it started after 149/148 BC (to continue until the 80s of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC<sup>5</sup>). More precisely, the same author, Illya Prokopov, categorizes the original ones as being produced towards the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, the Thasos type under the control of the Roman administration in Macedonia, until around 80 BC, and imitations after 70 BC<sup>6</sup>. Or, in general, the original coins from Thasos were minted between 168/7–148 BC<sup>7</sup>, while those considered of the Thasian type were issued between 148 and 90/80 BC<sup>8</sup>, and the raw material used, specifically silver, comes from the island and mines on the peninsula<sup>9</sup>. Finally, for the completion of the possible chronological picture, another form revises some of the datings presented above. Thus, the tetradrachms established in groups I–VIII by PROKOPOV 2006 in around 150–140 BC? those in groups IX–XI in the years 120 or 115–86 BC, and those in groups XII–XX in the years 100–80 or 90–75 BC<sup>10</sup>.

Thasos tetradrachms replaced the Macedonian ones, a necessary act staged by Rome after its victory in the conflict with Philip V and Perseus. In a desire to control the coins on the respective market, Rome imposed the creation and penetration of Greek-style (but new) coins, which the inhabitants were accustomed to. Thus, Rome took over from the Macedonian kings the authority and succession of legitimacy, choosing Thasos and not another center due to, on the one hand, its popularity from previous eras<sup>11</sup>, and on the other hand, its silver deposits. In general, the mints from Macedonia Prima and that from Thasos start at the same time, while that from Maroneia is slightly later than that on the island of Thasos (when we refer to tetradrachms, due to differences in style and quality performance)<sup>12</sup>.

Original coins represent 90% of the known pieces in southern Bulgaria, while in northern Bulgaria, 90% are of the Thasos type. These discoveries increased in the northern region after 120/119 BC, following the Scordiscian and Thracian raids in the Macedonian and Achaean provinces<sup>13</sup>. Thasian-type tetradrachms were produced in the western part of the Roman province of Macedonia, from where they moved north and northeast along the Nestos (current Mesta) and Strymon (current Stryma) river valleys, towards the western Balkan passes and beyond, into the Moesian space and north of the Danube. Two main diffusion areas were identified (today's central-northern Bulgaria, between the Ogosta/Augusta and Jantra/Jatrus rivers, and central-southern Bulgaria, between the Maritsa, Sazliyka, and Tundzha rivers)<sup>14</sup>. These coins, both originals and imitations, were considered the most widespread coins in the 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC in the Balkans and Central Europe<sup>15</sup>.

Differences between the original coins and those so-called of the Thasos type

<sup>5</sup> PROKOPOV 2009, p. 250–251; PAUNOV, PROKOPOV 2013, p. 113.

<sup>6</sup> PROKOPOV 2018, p. 373.

<sup>7</sup> PROKOPOV 2006, p. 111, no. 1–558, groups I–XI.

<sup>8</sup> PROKOPOV 2006, no. 559–1.861, groups XII–XX; DE CALLATAŇ 2008, p. 31.

<sup>9</sup> LUKANC 1996, p. 25.

<sup>10</sup> DE CALLATAŇ 2008, p. 33–34; DE CALLATAŇ 2012, p. 310.

<sup>11</sup> PROKOPOV 2009, p. 252–253.

<sup>12</sup> PROKOPOV 2009, p. 252.

<sup>13</sup> PROKOPOV 2009, p. 250.

<sup>14</sup> PAUNOV 2013, p. 142.

<sup>15</sup> LUKANC 1996, p. 24.

were made after stylistic and iconographic observations<sup>16</sup>, which provided relative results regarding their chronology and places of production<sup>17</sup>. A step forward was made about two decades ago when several variants corresponding to their research were proposed. Stylistically, three groups can be identified within the larger general one of the Thasian imitations, which also correspond to their geographical distribution: a first subgroup dated between 120–80/70 BC, being direct copies after originals from the island of Thasos; a second dated in the 80/70 BC, appearing parallel to the Thasian-type pieces and is produced overwhelmingly regularly; a third dated between 50–10 BC, with imitated pieces with barbarized traits, copying the Thasian-type coins, excluding the originals from Thasos, and circulating also at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, being produced in mints of local populations in Transylvania and the eastern Rhodope Mountains<sup>18</sup>. Anyway, they will circulate regularly until the years 20–10 BC, and later, after the monetary reform of Octavianus, they will disappear more or less quickly. Another research on Thasian imitations, from almost three decades ago, proposes the existence of three distinct chronological stages of their production: from the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC; from the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC until around the 70s, and the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC<sup>19</sup>.

Ilyya Prokopov came with some precise substantive clarifications, considering that the main role of the Thasian tetradrachms was ideological-propagandistic, and the high-quality tetradrachms are minted in parallel with the Thasos type (between 90 and 70 BC). The second group was made up of barbarized tetradrachms, minted shortly after 28 BC, in the context of the events with Marcus Licinius Crassus<sup>20</sup>. The original tetradrachms were naturally minted primarily on the island. However, it's been suggested in specialized literature that there was a partial "production line" within the Thracian world, which integrated well into the neighboring Hellenistic Greek system. An internationalized character of their production under Celtic influence by newly arrived non-native populations is also not excluded<sup>21</sup>. Recent contributions present the authors of Thasian imitations as a mixed population of Celts and local Thracians<sup>22</sup>, with possible participation from the Bastarnae<sup>23</sup>. Their territorial distribution across the entire Balkan Peninsula is remarkable, with several production centers, though their exact locations or concentrated geographic areas are not clearly indicated. This could even include mobile mints with adjacent craftsmen<sup>24</sup>. The copies, referred to as imitations, circulated for a period alongside the original Thasos coins<sup>25</sup>. François de Callatay suggests that the original Thasian-type

<sup>16</sup> Among numerous works that deal with this theme from the mentioned perspective, we especially mention the most recent ones: ALLEN 1987; DE CALLATAȚ, PROKOPOV 1995; LUKANC 1996; DEMBSKI 1998; PROKOPOV, MINKOVA 1998; PROKOPOV 2000a; PROKOPOV 2000b.

<sup>17</sup> PROKOPOV 2003, p. 337.

<sup>18</sup> PROKOPOV 2003, p. 338.

<sup>19</sup> LUKANC 1996, p. 58–60.

<sup>20</sup> PROKOPOV 2002, p. 84.

<sup>21</sup> PROKOPOV 2003, p. 338–339, 341–342.

<sup>22</sup> PROKOPOV 2021, p. 207.

<sup>23</sup> PROKOPOV 2006, p. 57.

<sup>24</sup> PROKOPOV 2003, p. 339, 341.

<sup>25</sup> PROKOPOV 2003, p. 341.

and adjacent imitations should be collectively termed as minted “in the name of the Thasians”<sup>26</sup>. He also proposes slightly modified chronological dates for the Thasos tetradrachms, particularly noting the start of minting of the originals in 160 BC<sup>27</sup>. In Thrace, the transition from the late Hellenistic era to the Roman monetary system took place over 150 years<sup>28</sup>.

Over the last two decades, Bulgarian researcher Illya Prokopov has published numerous articles, studies, and volumes focused on the monetary circulation in the Thracian region and beyond during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC. His analyses demonstrate that most of the original Thasian tetradrachms are predominantly found in southern Bulgaria (accounting for 65.2% of those catalogued in 2006), while the imitations or Thasian-type tetradrachms are mainly discovered in northern Bulgaria and southern Romania (62.3% of the total catalogued also in 2006)<sup>29</sup>. Over time, the number of findings in southern Bulgaria has varied: initially 3.738 Thasian tetradrachms<sup>30</sup>, then 4.221 coins<sup>31</sup>, and later the number was reduced to 2.900 pieces (Thasos, Thasos-type, and barbarian imitations<sup>32</sup>), following a reorganization of the geographical term “southern Bulgaria”, referring to the area between the Haemus Mountains and the Aegean Sea. In northern Bulgaria, initially 3.650 tetradrachms were counted<sup>33</sup>, then 4.490 coins<sup>34</sup>, and later the number was strictly calculated for the future province of Moesia, at about 4.000 pieces<sup>35</sup>. The silver emissions from Thasos reached areas where the Romans were keen to pay in order to minimize any potential hostile attitudes from various tribes or tribal unions, such as those in Thrace, Dacia, Dardania, in light of their political and military objectives<sup>36</sup>.

The last phase of circulation of Greek-style coins in Thrace did not extend beyond the years 70–50 BC, coinciding with the increasing presence of the Roman Republican denarius, found in isolated discoveries and hoards (either alone or in association with Thasian-type tetradrachms), many of which date back to before the period of Octavian Augustus<sup>37</sup>. Octavian’s final victory in Egypt in 30 BC laid the groundwork for the establishment of a new economic and monetary trend in the Eastern Mediterranean and the rest of the Balkan Peninsula, extending to the Black Sea coast. Consequently, large-weight coins were replaced and gradually withdrawn, hence the temptation to produce Thasian-type imitations in the absence of the original mintings, but not later than the years 20–10 BC<sup>38</sup>, as afterwards we witness the monetary reform promoted by Octavian Augustus with its respective

<sup>26</sup> DE CALLATAÿ 2008, p. 32.

<sup>27</sup> DE CALLATAÿ 2008, p. 53.

<sup>28</sup> PROKOPOV 2009, p. 253.

<sup>29</sup> See the presentation at DE CALLATAÿ 2008, p. 48; see the data initially present at PROKOPOV 2000a, p. 385.

<sup>30</sup> PROKOPOV 2000a, p. 385.

<sup>31</sup> PROKOPOV 2009, p. 248.

<sup>32</sup> PROKOPOV 2000a, p. 385.

<sup>33</sup> PROKOPOV 2009, p. 249.

<sup>34</sup> PAUNOV, PROKOPOV 2013, p. 110, no. 1.

<sup>35</sup> PAUNOV, PROKOPOV 2013, p. 111, no. 1.

<sup>36</sup> PAUNOV 2013, p. 836–839; PAPAGEORGIADOU 2020, p. 226.

<sup>37</sup> PROKOPOV 2009, p. 253.

<sup>38</sup> PROKOPOV 2006, p. 299; PAUNOV, PROKOPOV 2013, p. 115.

consequences, even at the edge of the Roman world. The reform involved the subordination of the monetary system, which was based on three metals (gold-aureus, silver-denarius, and copper alloy-sestertius, dupondius, as, and semis), directly to the emperor (to ensure a tool for army control), and the coins, expressing central authority, featured on their obverse the portrait of Augustus<sup>39</sup>.

The Thasian tetradrachms had a very wide presence and circulation in Dacia, both isolated and in hoards, often in Geto-Dacian settlements<sup>40</sup>. However, large concentrations of them appear, on the one hand, in the center and southwest of Wallachia (between the Vedea and Ialomița rivers), and on the other hand, as with those from Macedonia Prima, we highlight the area along the upper and middle course of the Mureș River, the Târnava valleys, the Someș rivers, and the upper course of the Olt River<sup>41</sup>. What has been observed is the abundance of Thasian tetradrachms in findings from Transylvania and Wallachia and their penetration along with the second decade of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC<sup>42</sup>. In hoards, we note associations with tetradrachms from Macedonia Prima, Geto-Dacian tetradrachms, drachms from Dyrrhachium and Apollonia, Roman Republican denarii<sup>43</sup>, and locally made ornaments (silver vase, fibulae, necklaces, bracelets, gold pendant, silver jewelry, cups, goblets, silver bars, etc.)<sup>44</sup>. Moreover, Roman Republican denarii are the most common and quasi-permanent monetary category we find in associations with Thasian tetradrachms, followed by tetradrachms from Macedonia Prima<sup>45</sup>. Mixed hoards of Thasian tetradrachms and drachms from Dyrrhachium and Apollonia seem to have penetrated Dacia between the years 79–56 BC, possibly including those containing tetradrachms from Macedonia Prima (some could have been formed here too)<sup>46</sup>. One reason for their penetration around the second decade of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC is that the city of Thasos was an ally of the Roman Republic in the conflict with Mithridates VI Eupator, the king of Pontus, and provided silver coinage for the payment of Roman troops<sup>47</sup>. On the other hand, Mithridates' mints knew a rapid pace of striking their own silver pieces between February 74 and December 75 BC, necessary for paying their soldiers<sup>48</sup>. Some of these issues might have been minted in the chronological interval 88–80 BC, being considered as new-style Dionysos-Herakles pieces<sup>49</sup>, and they are part of a very abundant series in quantitative terms, subject to the politico-military interest for paying Roman troops engaged in a prolonged conflict with the kingdom of Mithridates VI Eupator<sup>50</sup>. In other words, considering them

<sup>39</sup> DUDĂU 2006, p. 1–3.

<sup>40</sup> PĂRPĂUȚĂ 2006, p. 119.

<sup>41</sup> BOGDAN-CĂTĂNICIU 1975, p. 186; PREDĂ, MARINESCU 1986, p. 54.

<sup>42</sup> BOGDAN-CĂTĂNICIU 1975, p. 155; PREDĂ, MARINESCU 1986, p. 54; MIHĂILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, p. 84; PROKOPOV 2011, p. 79.

<sup>43</sup> MOISIL 1944, p. 20; BOGDAN-CĂTĂNICIU 1975, p. 186; PREDĂ, MARINESCU 1986, p. 55.

<sup>44</sup> PĂRPĂUȚĂ 2006, p. 119–121.

<sup>45</sup> PREDĂ, MARINESCU 1986, p. 55.

<sup>46</sup> CONOVICI 1986, p. 81.

<sup>47</sup> PĂRPĂUȚĂ 2006, p. 120.

<sup>48</sup> DE CALLATAȚ 1987, p. 58.

<sup>49</sup> KACAROVA 1964, p. 131–152; GRĂMĂȚICU 1996b, p. 27.

<sup>50</sup> MIHĂILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, p. 84.

as imitations might be an outdated observation (at least in part)<sup>51</sup>, as they would rather be late period originals<sup>52</sup>, minted and “crafted” iconographically and technically in a period crowded with demand for the central mint<sup>53</sup>.

Generally, from a chronological perspective, they penetrated the area north of the Danube during the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and remained in circulation until towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC<sup>54</sup>. East of the Carpathians they have a relevant presence, but incomparable with that in Wallachia and Transylvania<sup>55</sup>. They reached the north of the Danube as payment for mercenaries, stipends, war booty, with a magico-religious role, as raw material for making ornaments, and much reduced in economic-commercial scale<sup>56</sup>. Also, a possible origin of their penetration could have been “the trade of monetized silver imported from the southern regions of the Balkan Peninsula”<sup>57</sup>.

For the category of barbaric-style imitations, present both north and south of the Danube, we note that the iconography of the obverse and reverse is rendered in a crude style, with the emphasis sometimes particularly noticeable on the reverse. Clear are the distortion of some anatomical details and the evident difficulties in copying the original legend, in various forms and inaccuracies<sup>58</sup>. Possible highly barbarized imitations of Thasian pieces could have been struck around the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC<sup>59</sup>.

### The presence of tetradrachms from Thasos in Dobruja

A few decades ago, the presence and circulation of Thasian tetradrachms, as well as those from Macedonia Prima, was a topic that suffered due to their lack of appearances in the repertoires of discoveries made in Dobruja or in what is today northeastern Bulgaria. However, the few references suggested more a pronounced absence of their circulation (alongside other coins that existed on the commercial markets of the synchronous era, more or less in time). In fact, this was considered a particularity of the Dobrujan space, with the few pieces of information about these tetradrachms referring to the peripheries of the region<sup>60</sup>. From the old bibliography, we also retain the clarification, made almost four decades ago, regarding the existence of three hoards containing Thasian tetradrachms<sup>61</sup>.

Hoards composed solely or partly of Thasian tetradrachms are much more numerous in Dobruja, following 30 years of intensive research into their penetration (**Fig. 1**). A total of 10 discovery sites with 11 hoards (including three unpublished,

<sup>51</sup> For the existence of some imitations see PREDA 1998, p. 252.

<sup>52</sup> POENARU BORDEA, CONDREA 1972, p. 124; MIHĂILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, p. 85.

<sup>53</sup> POENARU BORDEA, CONDREA 1972, p. 124; PĂRPĂUȚĂ 2006, p. 119.

<sup>54</sup> PĂRPĂUȚĂ 2006, p. 119–120.

<sup>55</sup> MIHĂILESCU-BÎRLIBA 1990, p. 85.

<sup>56</sup> PREDA, MARINESCU 1986, p. 63–64; PĂRPĂUȚĂ 2006, p. 121–122; PURECE, MUNTEANU 2020, p. 49–50.

<sup>57</sup> PURECE 2009, p. 59.

<sup>58</sup> PURECE 2004, p. 159–160.

<sup>59</sup> PROKOPOV 2000a, p. 377.

<sup>60</sup> PROKOPOV, VLADIMIROVA-ALADJOVA 1995, p. 520.

<sup>61</sup> OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 1978, p. 72.

accounting for 27.27% of the total) have been catalogued. The difference lies in the discovery of two such coin hoards at Silistra. All ten of these hoards originate from the right bank of the Danube or its vicinity (from Turtucaia, Silistra, Ostrov, Floriile, Hârșova, Turcoaia, and Măcin) or nearby (from Popina, Coslugea, and Niculițel), amounting to 100% of the total. The one from Floriile is relatively close to the Danube area, and thus, it can be integrated into the river-near area (the last group mentioned above), considering it's approximately 9 or 10 kilometers in a straight line from the right Dobrujan bank of the river. Currently, there is no coin hoard containing Thasian tetradrachms discovered near the coastal area. Returning to those mentioned, it is possible that three of them (Silistra, Măcin, and Niculițel, representing 27.27% of the total), according to those who published them, may contain only imitations of tetradrachms. Generally, they have been briefly published and subsequently lost, making any detailed re-verification impossible. Those from Coslugea and Floriile were discovered in local environments, inside late Hellenistic fortified or open native settlements. Compositionally, three hoards (from Coslugea, Silistra, and Turcoaia, representing 27.27% of the total) contain only Thasian tetradrachms (4 pieces, 17 pieces, and 7 pieces respectively), while the other eight are mixed.

The first category of coins associated in hoards is that of Thasian and Macedonia Prima tetradrachms, in varying ratios, from 3:4 to 24:3. There are a total of four known hoards, comprising 39 Thasian and 16 Macedonian tetradrachms. We also mention a hoard containing associations between Thasian imitations and a Geto-Dacian silver piece of the Măcin type (at Niculițel, with several imitations and one recovered Măcin piece), then associations between Thasos (or Thasian-type, 170 discovered and 144 recovered pieces) and Maroneia tetradrachms (2 pieces). We continue with a final hoard discovered at Ostrov, composed of Thasian tetradrachms (89 pieces) and Roman Republican denarii (89 pieces).

The tetradrachms from Maroneia (Thracia) were minted in the period between 189/8–49/5 BC<sup>62</sup>, in the Attic standard, under Roman control and authority<sup>63</sup>. These coins belong to the tenth minting period of the local mint, a period during which bronze coinage was also issued<sup>64</sup>. This coinage was briefly interrupted at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century due to the invasion of Mithridates VI Eupator in the Aegean region<sup>65</sup>. Tetradrachms from Maroneia are present only through two pieces discovered in the Popina hoard. So that the products of the respective mint represent a percentage that is too little relevant for the territory between the Danube and the Black Sea. In general, these tetradrachms have an important relevance to the interior of Thrace, circulating until the end of the 60s of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, being cataloged in 2013 a number of 29 monetary hoards that include silver pieces from Maroneia<sup>66</sup>. They appear to have been minted in association with Thasian tetradrachms, following the same direction of diffusion. A situation that can also be demonstrated by the composition of the Popina hoard. The total of all pieces from hoards composed solely

<sup>62</sup> HEAD 1911, p. 251, fig. 158; SCHÖNERT-GEISS 1982, p. 7–8; SCHÖNERT-GEISS 1987, p. 64–75.

<sup>63</sup> REINACH 1911, p. 356–360; CRAWFORD 1985.

<sup>64</sup> SCHÖNERT-GEISS 1987, p. 64.

<sup>65</sup> PAUNOV 2013, p. 277.

<sup>66</sup> PROKOPOV 2006, p. 335; PAUNOV 2013, p. 158–159.

or partly of Thasian tetradrachms presents the following situation by issuers: 325 Thasian tetradrachms/Thasian-type/imitations of poor style; 16 tetradrachms from Macedonia Prima; one Măcin-type piece; 2 tetradrachms from Maroneia, and 89 Roman Republican denarii.

Chronologically, it might be possible, through the associations present in the discovered hoards, to make some differentiations on certain hoard horizons, in accordance with the observed situations. Thus, the oldest hoard could be the one that includes a Geto-Dacian silver piece of the Măcin type, the only one recovered among several such pieces (possibly dated from the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC), followed or joined to the same chronological ceiling, by the one from Ostrov, where Roman Republican denarii are also present (from the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century or the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC). These two hoards would constitute a first identified horizon. Next, the second hoard horizon is composed of Thasian and Macedonia Prima tetradrachms (at Silistra, Floriile, Hârșova, and Turtucaia–36.36% of the total), which could have penetrated along with the first quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Here we could also add the hoard discovered at Popina, where two Maroneia tetradrachms are present. A third hoard horizon contains Thasian tetradrachms (original or not), which do not associate with other monetary emissions. However, the “Thasian” hoards could be hidden at the same time as those combined with Macedonia Prima tetradrachms. The hoards containing only Thasian tetradrachms could very well belong to the previous horizon or be slightly posterior to it, after the end of the first quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.

For isolated findings, 33 points have been mapped with a total of 51 pieces, and another 13 pieces if we include the *passim* discoveries from Dobruja and Northern Dobruja (Fig. 2). So, a total of 64 pieces. Among the present points, 26 are unpublished (78.78% of the total), comprising a total of 44 Thasian tetradrachms (68.75% of the total). Several localities have multiple discoveries, with two pieces each (at Capidava, Comana, Galița, Gârliciu, Oltina, and Satu Nou), three pieces each (at Floriile, Garvăn, Gârlița, and Izvoarele), and six pieces each (at Ostrov–9.37% of the total).

The numismatic material that forms the basis of our research allows us to cautiously anticipate certain directions of penetration or, more precisely, zones<sup>67</sup>. A significant part of the isolated discoveries comes from the right bank of the Danube (from Silistra, Ostrov, Canlia, Izvoarele, Satu Nou, Oltina, Capidava, and Garvăn, with 21 pieces representing 32.81% of the total) or from the immediate vicinity (from Galița, Gârlița, Făgărașul Nou, Viile, Vlahi, Horia, Gârliciu, and Luncavița, with 12 pieces representing 18.75% of the total). Additionally, from the southwest zone, we note a series of discoveries (at Făurei, Floriile, Ion Corvin, and Lipnița, with 6 pieces representing 9.37% of the total), from the southern part of central Dobruja and southern Dobruja (at Cetatea, Comana, Șipotele, Zorile, and Dobrici, with 6 pieces representing 9.37% of the total), from the central zone (at Cheia, Pantelimon, and Țibrinu, with 3 pieces representing 4.69% of the total), and from the coastline (at Constanța and Shabla, with 2 pieces representing 3.12% of the total). Finally, from the central-northern zone, we know of a single discovery, one piece at Nalbant

<sup>67</sup> Penetration directions are always mobile and areas are often statistical.

(1.56% of the total). Once again, the Danube region and its surroundings stand out (as with the findings of Macedonia Prima), being those that include the most isolated discoveries of Thasian tetradrachms. From the coastal area, there are two isolated pieces to note, representing nearly the last place in the order of areas of interest (by the number of pieces discovered according to the data from the repertoire). What can be observed at first glance is the higher frequency of Thasian coins compared to tetradrachms from Macedonia Prima, a situation observed in Dacia and other geographical areas<sup>68</sup>.

The discoveries at Canlia, Cetatea, Floriile, Gârliciu, Ion Corvin, Izvoarele, Oltina, Poarta Albă, Satu Nou, and Vlahi are made within or near specific settlements of the Getae population. The contexts of some pieces found in isolation in Dobruja generally belong to the centuries BC (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC). As it happened north of the Danube, these tetradrachms found in Dobruja could have served as payment for mercenaries, stipends, war loot, and as raw material for crafting jewelry items. To a lesser extent, they may have had an economic-commercial role<sup>69</sup>. Additionally, a possible cause of their penetration could have been “trade with monetized silver imported from the southern regions of the Balkan Peninsula”<sup>70</sup>.

Thasian tetradrachms enter Dobruja from the west, south, and southwest, whereas the “classic” direction of coin penetration in the region is more eastern and southeastern. This period corresponds to a time when the western Pontic mints, of some weakened colonies, had issues with the current issuance of new currency and supporting a dynamic economy.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, for the tetradrachms from Thasos, we are aware of a relatively abundant and homogeneous presence in a relatively uniform commercial background, spread across Thracian regions, with the exception of the Pontic colonies and their economic influence territories (except for those from Maroneia). Their penetration into northeastern Thrace and even north of the Danube can be linked to military conflicts in the Balkans and beyond, as well as Rome’s diplomatic efforts to pay allies, stipends, or as war booty.

The coins from Thasos, from an iconographic perspective, exhibit all the characteristic elements of Greek-type coins. However, they were minted in close connection with the strategic urgencies of Rome. These coins were considered to be the most widely accepted and used currency in Thrace between 167–148 BC and until the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (alongside the tetradrachms of Macedonia Prima)<sup>71</sup>. They might have been used on the right bank of the Danube as a source of noble metal, indicating a lack of monetary circulation in the local society. In some cases, a mere monetary penetration or presence can be mentioned. The association of coins

<sup>68</sup> PAUNOV, PROKOPOV 2013, p. 110–113.

<sup>69</sup> PREDA, MARINESCU 1986, p. 63–64; PĂRPĂUȚĂ 2006, p. 121–122; PURECE, MUNTEANU 2020, p. 49–50.

<sup>70</sup> PURECE 2009, p. 59.

<sup>71</sup> PAUNOV, PROKOPOV 2013, p. 113.

from different geographic areas with noble metal jewelry in hoards led to considering them as “prestige goods” hoards, where coins hold only intrinsic value<sup>72</sup>.

It is emphasized that these coins appear both in hoards and as isolated pieces (Thasos and Macedonia Prima), often associated with Roman Republican denarii, Maroneian tetradrachms, and Geto-Dacian imitations of the Măcin type. As observed across Thrace<sup>73</sup>, the circulation of the Roman Republican denarius significantly influenced the presence of Thasos and Macedonia Prima coins in the Istro-Pontic area. The denarius was not the first coin to penetrate the region with the rise of Roman power in the Balkan Peninsula<sup>74</sup>. In the north of the Danube, their appearance in hoards is typical<sup>75</sup>. In Dobruja or northeastern Thrace, numerous isolated finds are known, possibly representing remnants of former hoards.

The discovery of all these coins in the Istro-Pontic territory demonstrates Dobruja’s active involvement in political and military events, and possibly in the exchange of material goods between the Balkan Peninsula and the Black Sea basin. Potential political connections and sometimes only geographical directions are added to this analysis. The absence of these coins in previous discoveries is now a thing of the past, as new numismatic evidence significantly changes earlier completely negative opinions about their actual presence. It’s possible that the Danube riverbank area, where most hoards are also known, is more connected to what’s happening in Wallachia, rather than the monetary reality in Dobruja. Some pieces, like those from Thasos and Macedonia Prima, considered to have possibly been used in Dacia for internal commercial transactions, extended into other Getic territories as common silver currency<sup>76</sup>, appear to be a rare phenomenon in Dobruja (though not impossible).

## THE REPERTOIR OF HOARDS COMPOSED OF TETRADRACHMS FROM THASOS DISCOVERED IN DOBRUJA

### 1. COSLUGEA (Lipnița commune, Constanța County)

At least two decades ago, a small coin hoard consisting of four Thasian silver coins was discovered. All pieces are dated to the period between 148–80/70 BC. The discovery was made approximately 1 kilometer southwest of the fortified Getic settlement located at “Colțul pietrei”.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### 2. FLORIILE (Aliman commune, Constanța County)

Several isolated discoveries of Thasian tetradrachms were made in the early 1990s and in the latter part of that decade in the area of the “Adâncata” I and II settlements. In addition to these, there is a small coin hoard consisting of six Thasian silver pieces. The Tetradrachm from Thasos dates belong to the years 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

<sup>72</sup> ZIRRA, SPÎNU 1992, p. 408.

<sup>73</sup> PROKOPOV 2000a, p. 376.

<sup>74</sup> According to the opinions expressed by PAUNOV, PROKOPOV 2013, p. 113.

<sup>75</sup> PURECE, MUNTEANU 2020, p. 50.

<sup>76</sup> MITREA 1978, p. 95; OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 1978, p. 72.

### 3. HÂRȘOVA (Hârșova city, Constanța County)

In the year 1965, a hoard composed of six tetradrachms from Thasos and three from Macedonian Prima was discovered in a vessel. However, the entire hoard was subsequently lost and is not part of the numismatic collection of the Municipal Museum of History in Bucharest. It is believed that the hoard was buried between the years 150 and 125 BC or later. The exact location of its preservation is unknown, but it is possible that it belonged to a private collector. There is also an opinion suggesting the possibility of this discovery being fabricated (see R. Ocheșeanu, an idea also mentioned by S. Marin), although there is no explanation for this theory.

**Bibliographic references:** MITREA 1967a, p. 193, no. 11; MITREA 1967b, p. 380, no. 11; LUKANC 1996, p. 44, no. 38; PREDĂ 1998, p. 243; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 155, no. 5; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 168, no. 1; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 215, no. 60.III; PROKOPOV 2012, p. 221, no. 70.

### 4. MĂCIN (Măcin city, Tulcea County)

In the year 1965, a hoard of monetary imitations of tetradrachms from Thasos, bearing a barred M symbol on the reverse, was found and deposited in a vessel. It is believed that the hoard was buried between the years 125 and 100 BC. However, over time, the entire hoard was lost and is not part of the numismatic collection of the Municipal Museum of History in Bucharest. The exact location of its preservation is unknown, but it is possible that it belonged to a private collector.

**Bibliographic references:** MITREA 1967a, p. 193, no.12; MITREA 1967b, p. 380, no. 12; LUKANC 1996, p. 44, no. 43; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 157, no. 8; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 169, no. 2; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 267, no. 86.VI.

### 5. NICULIȚEL-SARICA (Niculițel commune, Tulcea County)

From a hoard composed of several tetradrachms from Thasos, imitations of Thasos, and Măcin, only two more coins have been recovered. One is a tetradrachm from Thasos, and the second is a silver coin of the Măcin type.

**Bibliographic references:** OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 1980, p. 44; MITREA 1984, p. 186, no. 21.; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 157, no. 10; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 169, no. 3; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 286, no. 97.VII.

### 6. OSTROV (Ostrov commune, Constanța County)

In the year 1903, a total of 178 coins were discovered, with half of them being Thasian tetradrachms, and the rest Roman Republican denarii. The hoard dates broadly to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC.

**Bibliographic references:** MOISIL 1922, p. 58, no. 91; MOISIL 1943, p. 156, no. 1; MOISIL 1944, p. 11, no. 1; MITREA 1945, p. 68, n. 9, p. 113, no. 113; MITREA 1970, p. 132, no. 1; CHIȚESCU 1981, p. 226, no. 138; LUKANC 1996, p. 45, no. 53; PREDĂ 1998, p. 308; MOISIL, DEPEYROT 2003, p. 208, no. 234; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 157, no. 11; TALMAȚCHI 2006b, p. 27, no. 15.; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 169, no. 4; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 295, no. 107.I.

### 7. POPINA (Sitovo commune, Silistra District, Bulgaria)

In the year 1957, at a distance of approximately 30 kilometers west of Silistra, a hoard composed of 170 monetary pieces was discovered in a bronze vessel. Among these were 144 tetradrachms from Thasos and two from Maroneia. It is believed that the hoard was buried between 125 and 100 BC. It appears that there were actually 168 Thasian tetradrachms, including 4 originals, and 129 of the Thasian type. A total of 146 tetradrachms are preserved at the History Museum in Silistra.

**Bibliographic references:** GERASIMOV 1959, p. 362, 365; PROKOPOV, BAČVAROV 1990, p. 3–22; DE CALLATĂY, PROKOPOV 1994, p. 37–42; GRĂMĂTICU 1996a, p. 25; LUKANC 1996, p. 39, no. 50; PROKOPOV 2000a, p. 383; MEADOWS, WARTENBERG 2002, p. 28, no. 268.; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 157, no. 12; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 169, no. 5, p. 170, no. 1; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 315, no. 123; PAUNOV 2013, p. 712, no. 112, p. 729, no. 18.

## 8. SILISTRA (Silistra city, Silistra District, Bulgaria)

8.1. In the year 1915, a deposit consisting of 17 tetradrachms from Thasos was discovered. Among these pieces, there could have been imitations, some bearing the M symbol, with one having a deep cut.

**Bibliographic references:** MOISIL 1943, p. 156, no. 2; MOISIL 1944, p. 11, no. 2; GRĂMĂTICU 1996a, p. 24, n. 7; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 157, no. 14/a; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 169, no. 6; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 327, no. 140.III.

8.2. In the collection of the Museum of History and Art in the city of Bucharest, there is a hoard discovered in Silistra, which includes four tetradrachms from Macedonia Prima and three from Thasos, of which two are possibly imitations.

**Bibliographic references:** GRĂMĂTICU 1996a, p. 23–26; MEADOWS, WARTENBERG 2002, p. 28, no. 361; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 157, no. 14/b; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 169, no. 7; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 344, no. 140. XL; PROKOPOV 2012, p. 228, no. 106; PAUNOV 2013, p. 714, no. 135, p. 722, no. 79.

## 9. TURCOAIA (Turcoaia commune, Tulcea County)

In the early 1990s, at approximately 250 meters from the “Dealul lui Manole” point, to the southeast of the locality and south of Mount “Iacobdeal”, not far from the Capriel and “Colții Babei” quarries, a small hoard of seven Thasian tetradrachms was discovered. These tetradrachms were found stuck together due to metal interaction and were all tetradrachms. The information comes from a presentation given at the Constanța branch of the Romanian Numismatic Society in the years 1994–1995, with details reported by M. Bogdan, the former president of the Romanian Numismatic Society’s Constanța branch.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

## 10. TURTUCAIA (Turtucaia city, Silistra District, Bulgaria)

During agricultural work near the city in 1916, a hoard of coins was discovered, consisting of 24 tetradrachms from Thasos and 8 tetradrachms from Macedonia Prima. The silversmith who initially offered the coin hoard to the Numismatic Cabinet of the Romanian Academy later sold it to private antique dealers in the capital of Romania.

**Bibliographic references:** MOISIL 1943, p. 156, no. 3; MOISIL 1944, p. 11, no. 3; CUSTUREA, TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 370, no. 163.III.

## REPERTOIRE OF ISOLATED MONETARY DISCOVERIES OF THASOS TETRADRACHMS FROM DOBRUJA

### 1. CANLIA (*Lipnița commune, Constanța County*)

1.1. In the approximate vicinity of the village, at the location known as “Gura Canliei”, situated about 2.5 km downstream from the Byzantine fortress of Păcuiul lui Soare, at the confluence of the Canlia stream with the Danube, a tetradrachm from Thasos was fortuitously discovered. It dates back to the period between 148–80/70 BC. It might have originated from a settlement where ceramic forms typical of the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and 1<sup>st</sup> century AD have also been found.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### 2. CAPIDAVA (*Topalu commune, Constanța County*)

Without being able to specify the exact discovery location, we note among the discoveries in the area along the Danube’s bank, downstream from the Roman and early Byzantine fortress, two tetradrachms from Thasos, dating to the period between 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### 3. CETATEA (*Dobromir commune, Constanța County*)

At approximately 950 meters west of the settlement, likely from the area of a Getae settlement, during irrigation system construction works in the 1970s–1980s (by the Trust of Construction and Land Improvement in Constanța), several coins and ceramic fragments of both local and imported origin were recovered. Among the retrieved coins, there stands out a Thasian tetradrachm.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### 4. CHEIA (*Grădina commune, Constanța County*)

A Thasian tetradrachm was fortuitously discovered on the southwest edge of the settlement, in the plowed area, in the spring, after 1990. No other accompanying details are known.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### 5. COMANA (*Comana commune, Constanța County*)

From a simple mention, we know of the discovery of two Thasian tetradrachms in isolation near the locality, sometime in the second half of the 1980’s. It is possible, in our opinion, that they belong to the period of 148–80/70 BC. From the locality, there are also known funerary discoveries specific to the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### 6. CONSTANȚA (*Constanța city, Constanța County*)

Coming from the collection of Constantin Băcăoanu, we have a Thasian tetradrachm dated to the years 148–80/70 BC. The pieces from this old numismatic collection in Constanta were gathered from the city and its surroundings.

**Bibliographic references:** TALMAȚCHI 2002, p. 144, no. 10.

**7. DOBRICI (Dobrici city, Dobrici District, Bulgaria)**

A fortuitous and isolated discovery worth mentioning is a tetradrachm from Thasos.

**Bibliographic references:** PROKOPOV, VLADIMIROVA-ALADJOVA 1995, p. 53; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 160, no. 11; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 155, no. 1.

**8. FĂGĂRAȘU NOU (Topolog commune, Tulcea County)**

Without knowing complex details about the discovery context, a Thasian tetradrachm was fortuitously found in the vicinity of the locality (possibly on the plateau located in the northwest of the locality, where a fragmentary Hellenistic amphora also originated). It can be dated to the period between 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**9. FĂUREI (Băneasa commune, Constanța County)**

Without knowing details about the discovery context, a Thasian tetradrachm was fortuitously found in the vicinity of the locality. It can be dated to the period between 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**10. FLORIILE (Aliman commune, Constanța County)**

Several isolated discoveries of Thasian tetradrachms and Macedonia Prima tetradrachms were made in the early 1990s and the second part of that decade at the “Adâncata” I and II locations. Detailed technical data is available for three Thasian pieces and one from Macedonia Prima. The Thasian tetradrachms belong to the years 168/167–148 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**11. GALIȚA (Ostrov commune, Constanța County)**

**11.1.** In the vicinity of the locality, at the end of the Cuiugiuc Valley (“Caraghioz”), towards Galița, approximately 30 years ago, a Thasian tetradrachm was discovered under unknown circumstances. It is dated to the years 168/167–148 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**11.2.** Another Thasian tetradrachm is added to the list, discovered during the 1990s in the vicinity of the locality. It is dated to the years 148–80/70 BC and features a monogram M on the reverse side.

**Bibliographic references:** TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 458, no. 15.

**12. GARVĂN (Jijila commune, Tulcea County)**

Three Thasian tetradrachms, fortuitous discoveries in different years during the early 1990s in the vicinity of the village, are worth noting. No additional details about the discoveries are known. These Thasian coins date back to the period between 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**13. GÂRLICIU (Gârliciu commune, Constanța County)**

Between 1999–2000, at approximately 500 meters from the Hârșova-Gârliciu road,

on the southeast shore of Lake Hâsarlâk, within the perimeter of a possible Getic settlement, several ceramic fragments and some silver coins were discovered. These discoveries include two Thasian tetradrachms, one Geto-Dacian tetradrachm of the Vârteju Bucharest type, another of the Inotești-Răcoasa type, and several isolated Roman republican denarii. The Thasian coins date back to the period between 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

#### **14. GÂRLIȚA (Ostrov commune, Constanța County)**

**14.1.** I mention a first discovery of a Thasian tetradrachm in isolated conditions, without specifying any details regarding the context. This piece can be dated to the years 168/167–148 BC. The discovery location, from 1992, is situated in the Chesen Valley, at the end towards Lake Bugeac.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**14.2.** A second discovery was made in 1994, still in the vicinity of the locality (to the southeast), but this time in the Babii Valley. The Thasian tetradrachm was of very good quality and belonged to the period of 168/167–148 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**14.3.** In the vicinity of the locality, approximately 30 years ago, a Thasian tetradrachm was discovered under unknown circumstances. It dates back to the years 168/167–148 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 457–458, no. 16.

#### **15. HORIA (Horia commune, Tulcea County)**

In the locality, without knowing further details, a Thasian tetradrachm was discovered approximately twenty-five years ago.

**Bibliographic references:** TALMAȚCHI 2002, p. 145, no. 14; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 161, no. 15; TALMACHI 2007, p. 155, no. 2.

#### **16. ION CORVIN (Ion Corvin commune, Constanța County)**

In the southeast of the locality, during the 1970s, excavations conducted on a hill in the southeast of the locality led to the discovery of several archaeological materials, including fragments of amphorae, a miniature vessel, and a silver coin that was a Thasian tetradrachm.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

#### **17. IZVOARELE (Lipnița commune, Constanța County)**

At the “Kale Gherghi” point and on the Danube shore, several silver coins from Thasos and Macedonia Prima have appeared. Three Thasian examples and one from Macedonia Prima have been identified and recorded as verifiable from chance discoveries. The Thasian coins are dated to the period between 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

#### **18. LIPNIȚA (Lipnița commune, Constanța County)**

Halfway between Lipnița and the village of Goruni, within the same commune,

after spring plowing, a few decades ago, a tetradrachm from Thasos was discovered, dating back to the period between 168/167–148 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### 19. LUNCAVIȚA (Luncavița commune, Tulcea County)

Originating from the locality, in the private collection of I. Ștefan, there was a tetradrachm from Thasos over twenty years ago. It dates back to the period between 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** TALMAȚCHI 2001, p. 133, no. 100; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 162, no. 21; TALMACHI 2007, p. 155, no. 3.

### 20. NALBANT (Nalbant commune, Tulcea County)

Without further details, in the mid–1990s, we were asked to identify a tetradrachm struck by Thasos from the period between 148–80/70 BC. Other discoveries specific to the 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> century BC are known from the area.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### 21. OLTINA (Oltina commune, Constanța County)

21.1. Between the hills Cetatea and Nichita, south of the early medieval settlement at the point “Coada Dealului”, on the beach on the right bank of the Danube, fortuitously appeared in 1996 a tetradrachm from Thasos.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

21.2. A Thasian tetradrachm was discovered as a result of work carried out in the mid–20<sup>th</sup> century during the terracing of the hill above the port for vineyards. Until the 1990s, it was part of the collection of the historical cabinet at the local general school.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### 22. OSTROV (Ostrov commune, Constanța County)

22.1. In the area of the old local farm from the communist period, during excavations carried out for the foundation, two Thasian tetradrachms dating from the period 148–80/70 BC were discovered in isolation. On the same occasion, ceramic fragments that may have belonged to a possible Getic necropolis were also found.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

22.2. Around halfway between Dervent Hill and the mouth of the “La Plantation” valley, on an upper terrace, a Thasian tetradrachm dating between 148–80/70 BC was discovered in 1993.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

22.3. Coincidentally, at the end of the 1990s, near the locality, towards the Danube, a Thasian tetradrachm dating between 148–80/70 BC was discovered.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

22.4. Approximately 1.5 kilometers east of the headquarters of the company S. C. Ostrovit S. A., about 300 meters west of the area where archaeological excavations are being carried out at “Farm No. 4”, and approximately 1 kilometer north of road DN3A, in the year 2005, a series of manual excavations were carried out to

install an irrigation pipeline. On this occasion, two Thasian tetradrachms were fortuitously discovered at a depth of 0.80 meters.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### **23. PANTELIMON (Pantelimon commune, Constanța County)**

Approximately 2.5 kilometers north-northwest of the locality, after the year 1995, a Thasian tetradrachm was fortuitously discovered. It dates back to the period between 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### **24. POARTA ALBĂ (Poarta Albă commune, Constanța County)**

In the 1960s–1970s, amphorae and stamped amphora handles from Sinope, Rhodes, and Heraclea were discovered in the quarry of the former brick factory in the locality. These artifacts correspond chronologically to the 3<sup>rd</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> centuries and the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Alongside these findings, two silver coins were said to have been discovered, a Thasian tetradrachm dating to the period 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### **25. SATU NOU (Oltina commune, Constanța County)**

Approximately 3 kilometers southeast of the settlements in the “Valea lui Voicu” and “Vadu Vacilor” areas, located on the banks of the Danube, several coins were fortuitously discovered on a partially preserved country road between several parcels (partially plowed) and over a wide area. Among these coins were two Thasian silver coins and two silver coins from Macedonia Prima. These coins were discovered at significant distances from each other. The Thasian coins date to the period 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

### **26. SILISTRA (Silistra city, Silistra District, Bulgaria)**

A Thasian tetradrachm is mentioned as fortuitous discovery.

**Bibliographic references:** PROKOPOV, VLADIMIROVA 1995, p. 53; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 163, no. 31; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 155, no. 4.

### **27. ȘABLA (Șabla commune, Dobrici District, Bulgaria)**

Without further details, the discovery of a tetradrachm from Thasos is reported.

**Bibliographic references:** PROKOPOV, VLADIMIROVA-ALADJOVA 1995, p. 53; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 163, no. 34; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 155, no. 5.

### **28. ȘIPOSELE (Șipotele commune, Constanța County)**

Approximately 2–3 kilometers towards the intersection with the Deleni-Adamclisi road, not far from two tumuli located on the left side of the highway, a Thasian tetradrachm dating to the period 148–80/70 BC was fortuitously discovered while plowing.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**29. TELIȚA (Frecăței commune, Tulcea County)**

Approximately 1 kilometer from Edirlen Hill and a few hundred meters from the Celic Dere Monastery, approximately three decades ago, a Thasian tetradrachm was fortuitously discovered. It bore the monogram M with a bar.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**30. ȚIBRINU (Mircea Vodă commune, Constanța County)**

In the early 2000s, on the lakeshore facing the village of Țibrinu, a Thasian tetradrachm was fortuitously discovered in the eroded bank. It dates back to the years 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** TALMAȚCHI 2011, p. 466, no. 54.

**31. VIILE (Ion Corvin commune, Constanța County)**

During the early 2000s, while reshaping the hills in the area, a Thasian tetradrachm dating to the years 148–80/70 BC was discovered.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**32. VLAHI (Aliman commune, Constanța County)**

Near the location known as “Piscu Blaborului”, where a Getic settlement from the Hellenistic period is known to exist, a Thasian tetradrachm dating to the period 148–80/70 BC was discovered. We don’t have specific information about the exact place and year of discovery.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**33. ZORILE (Adamclisi commune, Constanța County)**

With the water receding after massive floods that occurred approximately a decade and a half ago, affecting the entire southwestern corner of the Dobruja region, a Thasian tetradrachm was discovered at the end of the road on the outskirts of the town towards the east-southeast (towards Șipotele). It dates back to the years 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** unpublished discovery.

**34. DOBRUJA**

Isolated, from the numismatic collections of the museum in Constanța, a total of 11 Thasian tetradrachms have been discovered. The original Thasian tetradrachms can be dated to the years 148–80/70 BC.

**Bibliographic references:** TALMAȚCHI 2002, p. 144–146, no. 8–13, 15–20; TALMAȚCHI 2006a, p. 164, no. 40; TALMACHI 2007, p. 156–157, no. 8–19.

**35. NORTH DOBRUJA**

Without further details, it is mentioned the fortuitous discovery of two tetradrachms from Thasos, one being original and the other being an imitation with a barbarized execution and an error in the legend.

**Bibliographic references:** OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 1978, p. 84, no. 54–55; MITREA 1981, p. 382, no. 15; TALMAȚCHI 2007, p. 156, no. 6–7.

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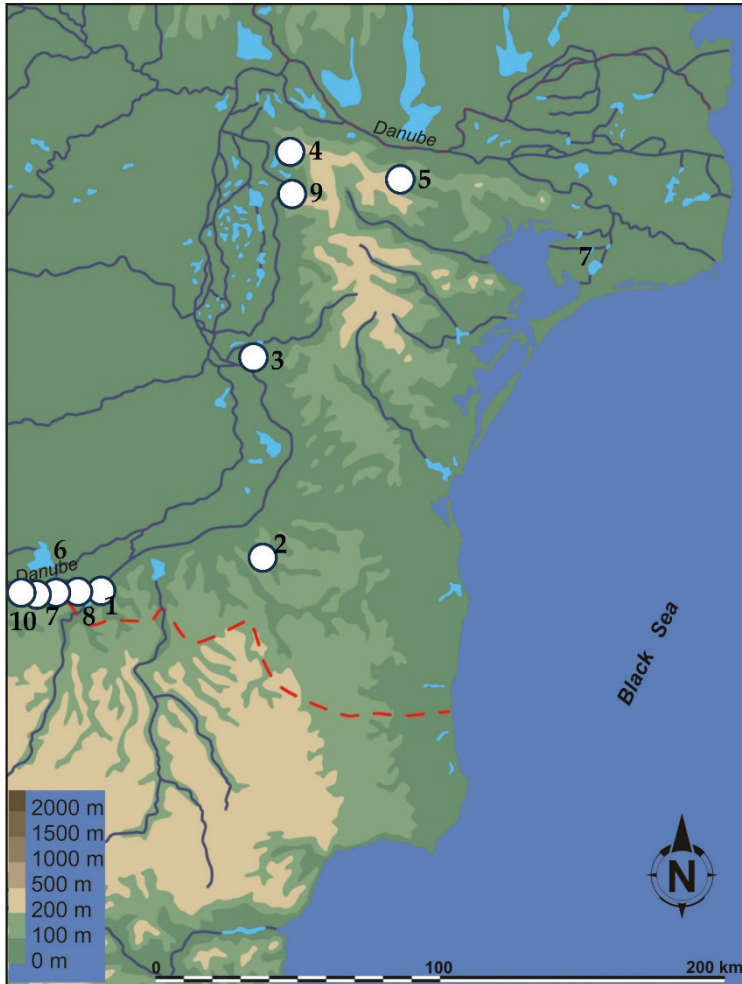


Fig. 1. Distribution of monetary hoards composed of tetradrachms from Thasos in Dobruja.

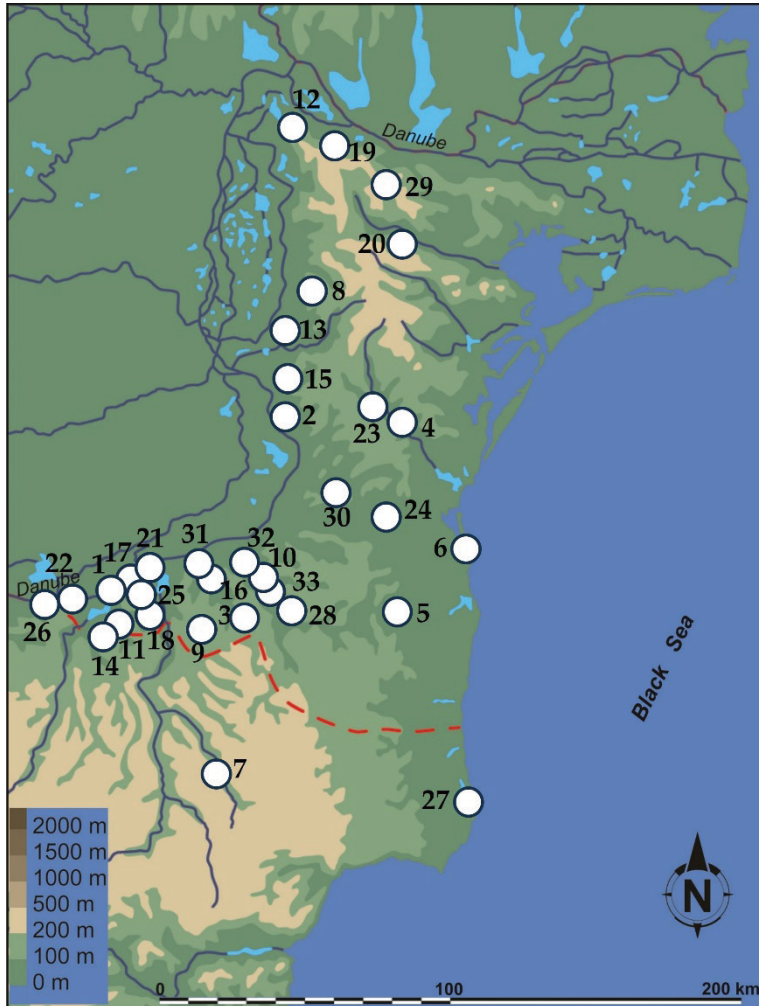


Fig. 2. Distribution of isolated finds of tetradrachms from Thasos in Dobruja.