

A NEW DISCOVERY OF A CELTIC COIN HOARD FROM WESTERN LESSER POLAND

Celtic coins have until recently been extremely rare finds in Poland. A strong intensification of the investigations at La Tène period sites, initiated in the 1950s, did not bring any significant change. It was only when a new generation of metal detectors came into common use and a large group of so-called treasure hunters emerged, that new finds were discovered in greater numbers. Polish legal regulations make it extremely difficult for the scholars to access information on such finds. In spite of the fact that amateur metal detector surveys of archaeological sites are almost completely forbidden in Poland, it has become a mass phenomenon.

The hoard being a subject of this paper belongs to such amateur finds. It was recorded most probably in 2011 at a location within the administrative borders of the village of Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie/PL) close to the border with the neighbouring village of Niegardów (pow. Proszowice, woj. małopolskie/PL; **fig. 1**). The information about the discovery, its precise location, the basic photographic documentation, as well as the data on the weight of each of the coins were later handed over to archaeologists. The whereabouts of the finds are not known, most probably they are still kept in a private collection. The hoard was found within the Szreniawa river valley on a clearly visible promontory, partially eroded by the river (**fig. 2**). The hoard was deposited in a field close to a baulk, which constitutes a borderline between the two villages mentioned above. It contained 14 silver coins, which – according to the amateur investigators – were stuck together in one clod. Some 10m west of the already mentioned baulk, right by a high scarp, a single gold Celtic coin was discovered. Only this one was delivered to the museum collection by the finder. The storage location of the other coins is until now unknown. Since it was not found as a part of the deposit described above, it is hard to determine whether it was originally deposited with it. However, as it will be argued below, the silver coins and the gold one have a very similar dating and therefore it is possible that they originally had been parts of a single deposit, which was later scattered over the field due to deep ploughing.

In 2013 and 2014 regular surface surveys were conducted at the site. The results proved the existence of an archaeological site (marked later as Czechy 17) previously unknown and not recorded in the AZP system (Archaeological Picture of Poland)¹. It revealed traces of settlement associated with the early Iron Age Lusatian culture and the younger Pre-Roman Iron Age to Migration period Przeworsk culture, as well late medieval and early modern finds (Dulęba/Wysocki 2016). Although a large number of metal finds were recorded during the surface survey, no Celtic coins which might have potentially been part of the deposit were discovered. A detailed survey of the finds makes it possible to determine the size of the site Czechy 17, which is at least 4ha.

Information obtained from accidental finders, who are not professional archaeologists, are very often oversimplified and should not be taken uncritically. In this case, however, it seems to be accurate. Finds of metal items from the surface surveys in 2013 and 2014 provide strong evidence that there had existed a Przeworsk settlement at the site and its chronology overlaps with the time of the probable deposition of the hoard. This makes the location indicated by the finders more credible.

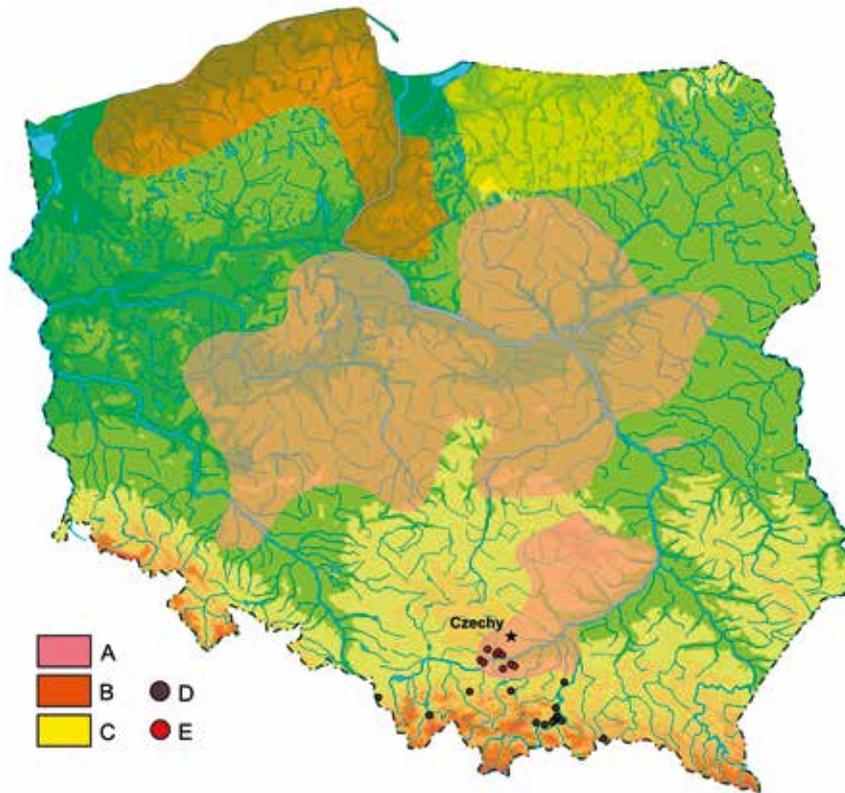


Fig. 1 Location of the site of Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie) and the cultural situation at the end of the younger Pre-Roman period on a map of modern Poland. – **A** Przeworsk culture; **B** Oksywie culture; **C** Baltic circle; **D** Púchov culture; **E** Tyniec group. – (Illustration P. Dulęba).

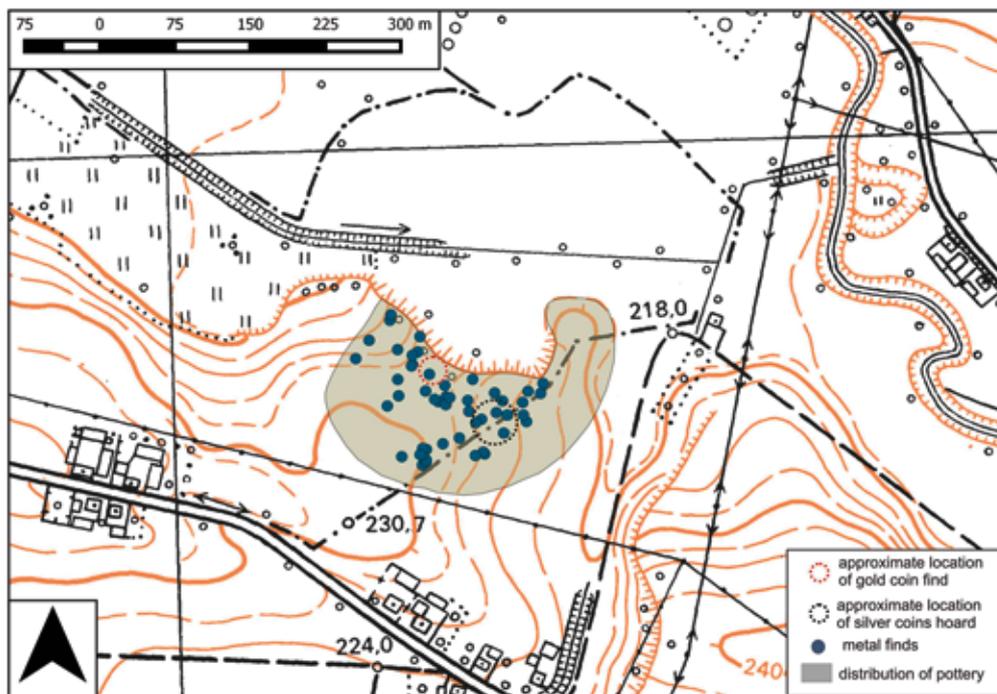


Fig. 2 Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie/PL). The exact location of the amateur finds and planigraphy of the finds from the surface surveys. – (Illustration P. Dulęba).

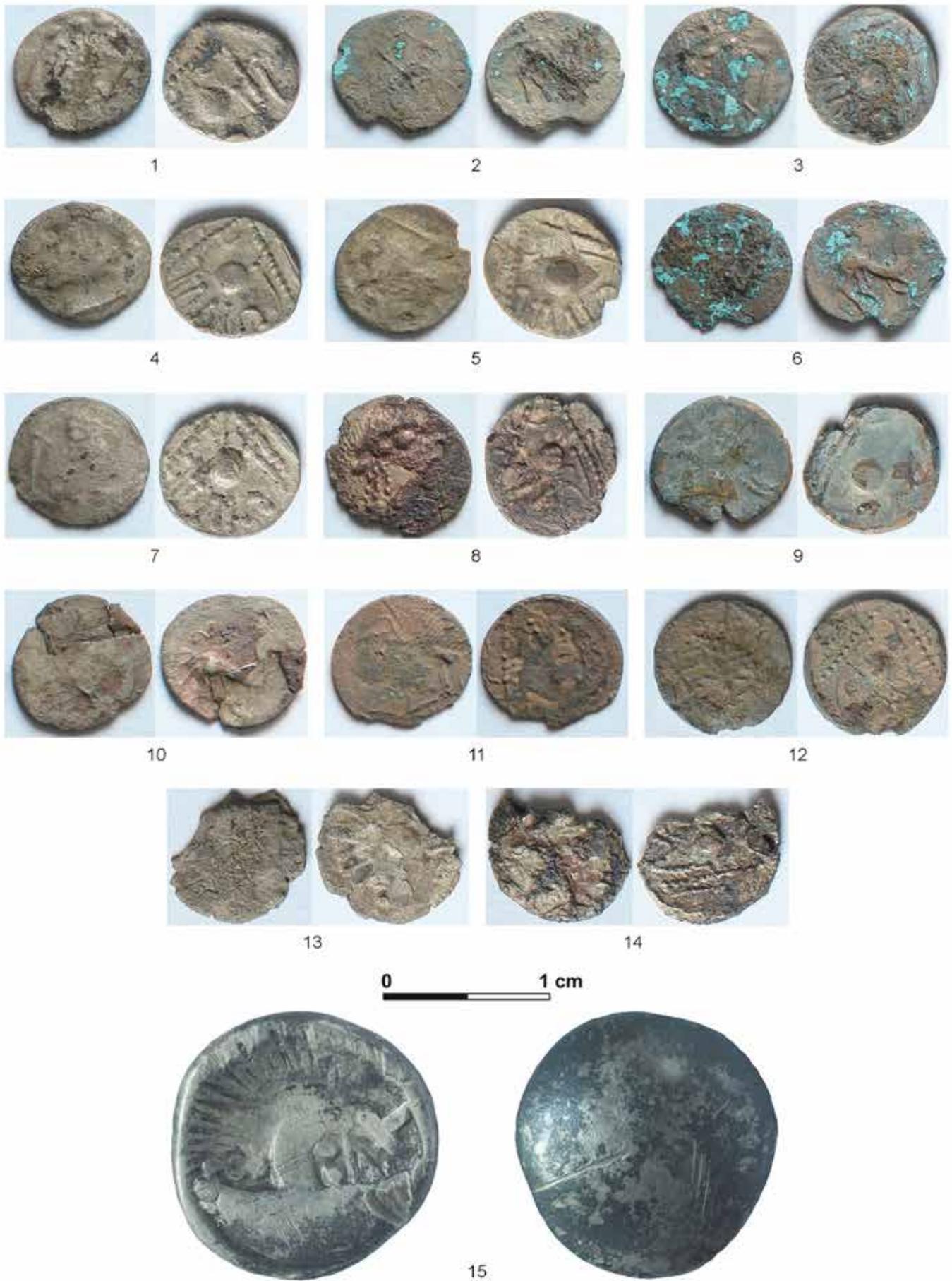


Fig. 3 Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie/PL). Celtic coins (1-14 silver [no scale]; 15 gold). – (Photo P. Wysocki).

CATALOGUE

1. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 1**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder
1.09 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
2. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type B (close to variant B/9h) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 2**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. gryphon right
1.40 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
3. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 3**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder, RAVIS legend
1.07 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
4. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 4**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder, RAVIS legend
1.09 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
5. Eravisci, AR, quinarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 5**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder, RAVIS legend
0.79 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
6. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type B (close to variant B/9h) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 6**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. gryphon right, S-shaped character
1.88 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
7. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 7**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder, RAVIS legend
0.76 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
8. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 8**)
Obv. *triumphus*, head (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder, RAVIS legend
1.06 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
9. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 9**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder
1.61 g, c. 15-17 mm (?); *subaeratus* (?)
10. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type B (close to variant B/9h) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 10**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right, strongly stylised (?)
Rev. gryphon right, S-shaped character
1.33 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
11. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 11**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder
0.88 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
12. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 12**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder
1.05 g, c. 15-17 mm (?)
13. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 13**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder, RAVIS legend
0.70 g, c. 15-17 mm (?); coin partially damaged
14. Eravisci, AR, denarius, type C (close to variant C/11i) according to Torbágyi 1984 (**fig. 3, 14**)
Obv. *triumphus*, male head right (strongly stylised)
Rev. *sceptrum*, globe and rudder
0.59 g, c. 15-17 mm (?); coin partially damaged
15. Boii, AV, stater, Cracovian type, group II: D/2 according to Rudnicki 2012b (**fig. 3, 15**)
Obv. flat, round bulge
Rev. in the bottom part a semi crescent with dots at the ending, above it five dots, sickle-shaped bulge curved right, aside a pointed projection and a T-shaped character, by the edge of the flan an irregular bulge; further radial lines around the rim
5.51 g, 16 mm × 17 mm

COIN TYPOLOGY

The nominal silver coins presented above had been found sticking together. It was only later that they became mechanically separated and photographed but did not undergo any proper conservation. Thus, considering their relatively poor state of preservation, the typological classification might not be entirely accurate. Additionally, some coins seem to have been *fouillées (subaerati)*. The gold coin was preserved in a satisfactory state and therefore its typological classification is more certain.

The silver coins from the deposit can be interpreted as characteristic of the coinage of the Celtic tribe of the Eravisci. This interpretation is supported by the distinctive iconography on the obverse sides but especially by the RAVIS legend recorded on some of them. A vast majority of the Eravisci coins are imitations of Roman denarii – emulating the originals also in terms of weight, which was c. 2.7-3.4 g (Torbágyi 1984). Unfortunately, the data on the exact sizes of the coins from Czechy is not available. Concluding from the photographic documentation only, it might be stated that the size of the coins is similar to that of the Roman denarii. Their weights – with the exception of the two damaged ones of 0.70 g and 0.59 g – fall within the range of 1.06 to 1.88 g. Thus, the coins from Czechy are much lighter than the original denarii. Interestingly enough, they are similar to another group of the Eravisci coins called quinarii, of which only 18 (!) have been recorded until now (Torbágyi 2005, 91). A small number of the quinarii together with the Eravisci denarii was deposited in a hoard found in Győr (Kom. Győr-Moson-Sopron/H; Haupt/Nick 1997). A few examples were also part of a large hoard of 70 coins recorded at the Bratislava-Devin oppidum. The hoard included in total 36 coins attributed to the Celtic Eravisci (Plachá/Fiala 1998; Kolníková 2005, 72-74). A further couple of quinarii was found at the settlement dated to the La Tène and Roman period in Páty (Kom. Pest/H; Torbágyi 2005, 95).

The most important observation is that the iconographic representations on the coins from the deposit in question are fundamentally different from those on the other quinarii. Peculiarly enough, however, they are very similar to the representations from the Eravisci denarii. The 14 coins might be generally divided into two types, which largely reflect the types distinguished by M. Torbágyi in her classification (1984). M. Torbágyi divided the then known Eravisci coins into six main iconographic types (types A-G) and a number of variants. The analysis conducted with the use of her typology resulted in classifying eleven of the coins from the deposit in question as type C, close to the variant C/11i (fig. 3, 1. 3-5. 7-9. 11-14). On the obverse side a strongly stylised, bearded head with a laurel wreath (*triumphus*) was represented, on the reverse side a centrally placed globe flanked by a sceptre (*sceptrum*), a rudder and a Latin legend RAVIS. The representation on the reverse side was copied from the Republican denarius of Cornelius Lentulus P., issued in the years 76-75 BC (Torbágyi 1984, 164). The three further pieces might be classified as type B, close to the variant B/9h (fig. 3, 2. 6. 10). On the obverse side, as in the previous case, a strongly stylised male head with a laurel wreath (*triumphus*) was represented, on the reverse side a gryphon facing right and a character resembling the S-letter. The B-type reverse emulates the representation from the L. Papius denarius issued before 79 BC (Torbágyi 1984, 162).

The workmanship of almost all of the coins from the deposit was of very poor quality. In many cases, the iconographic representation did not accurately fit the flank and parts of it were not struck. Moreover, at least a few coins might be identified as a *fouillée*. Those observations lead to a cautious hypothesis that the Czechy deposit included imitations of the Eravisci coins, which were manufactured locally, perhaps at one of the Tyniec group settlements in the vicinity of the modern city of Cracow. This hypothesis, however, requires a more detailed study, which would only be feasible after a decent conservation of the finds presented here.

The gold coin found in the vicinity of the hoard belongs to a long known local issue of the Cracovian type stater associated with the coinage of the Celtic tribe of the Boii (Castelin 1976, 260; Woźniak 1978; Rudnicki 2012b). The find is all the more significant since it is only the 18th certain coin of this type known in the academic circulation (Rudnicki 2012b). The macroscopic analysis suggests that the coin from Czechy was manufactured from an alloy, which contained small quantities of gold. The Cracovian type staters were nominally gold coins, although some of the older publications describe them as made of electrum, bright gold or even silver (Woźniak 1978, 105. 107-108). In fact, the metallographic analyses proved that all of the examined Cracovian type staters contained gold. Their quantity, however, varied strongly (Rudnicki 2012b, 17-18). The weight of the Czechy stater (5.51 g) indicates that it belongs to group II, where typologically later specimens were classified (Rudnicki 2012b, fig. 9). The obverse side of the stater is featuring only a flat, round bulge, the reverse side a semi crescent, five dots, a sickle-shaped bulge curved right, a pointed projection, a T-shaped character and a surround of radial lines around the rim in the upper part (fig. 3, 15). These representations make it possible to classify the coin in question to type II, variant D/2 according to M. Rudnicki's classification system. The stater from Czechy does not have an exact analogy among the specimens known so far. The coins have occurred in various combinations of the obverse (marked with a character) and reverse (marked with a number) sides. Representations most closely resembling those from the Czechy stater might be found at the coins from the collections of the Collegium Maius – Muzeum Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego in Cracow and the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Rudnicki 2012b, cat. nos 10-11 figs 32-33).

COIN CHRONOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION

The Latin legends of RAVIS, RAVIZ, RAVISCI, IRAVISCI, which occur on the coins, have long been associated with the Latin name of the *Eravisci* or *Aravisci* tribe (Torbágyi 1984, 176-177). According to some hypothesis, this name might be derived from *Arabo* – the Celtic name of a river identified with the Rába river, Danube's right tributary (Szabó 1976, 32). The Eravisci coins are mostly imitations of the Republican denarii struck in the 80s and 70s BC, as well as the Augustan denarii. As a consequence, the chronology of these issues has until recently been determined very broadly from c. 80 BC to the end of the 1st century BC (Morawiecki 1986, 79). The Eravisci coins are only occasionally found in hoards with Roman coins of Tiberius (14-37 AD) and Caligula (37-41 AD). The most recent study suggests that they were issued during a shorter period of time, that is from about 40/30 BC to 12/9 BC (Haupt/Nick 1997, 52). According to this examination, the Eravisci coinage ended with the Augustan conquest of Pannonia. These dates are also in accordance with the laconic references in the written records referring to the power struggle in the 1st century BC Carpathian Basin. The beginnings of the Eravisci coinage might be synchronised with the collapse of the Boii tribe hegemony in the region. This, according to the ancient records, happened as a result of a great defeat of the confederation of the Boii and the Taurisci tribes under the leadership of Critasiros in a battle with the Dacian king Burebista (Strab. V 1, 6; VII 3, 11; VII 5, 2). According to G. Dobesch, this event might be dated to around 45/44 BC (Dobesch 1995). The Eravisci coins were struck in a mint located most probably in their main political centre, which is identified with the Gellérthegy-Tabán oppidum within the modern city of Budapest (Bónis 1969, 223). The largest number of finds was recorded within the primary settlement zone of the Eravisci (fig. 4), which according to written (Tac. Germ. 28) and archaeological evidence may be placed within the modern counties of Pest, Fejér and Tolna (Bónis 1969, 223). A large number of the Eravisci coins has also recently been recorded at the upland sites of the Púchov culture (Kolníková 2005), which is

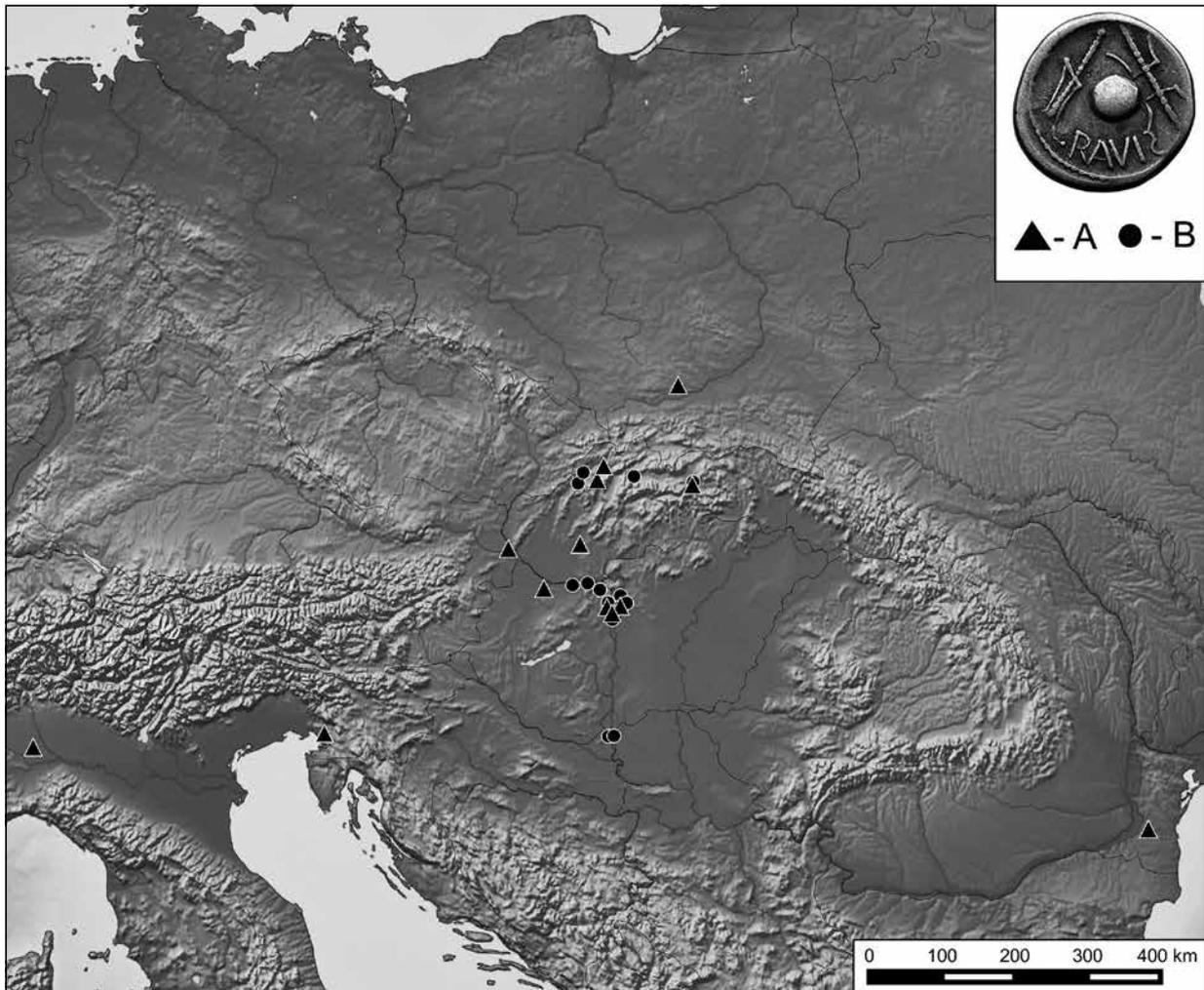


Fig. 4 Finds of the Eravisci coins (appendix). – **A** hoard; **B** stray find. – (After Torbágyi 1984; Kolníková 2005 with additions).

identified as a material culture of the Celtic Cotini tribe – mentioned in the written records (Pieta 1982, 207-213).

Staters of the Cracovian type are local coins, which can be associated with the well-proven minting activity of the Boii in Lesser Poland. According to the most recent study by M. Rudnicki, the Cracovian type staters were issued from the beginning of the late La Tène period (Lt D1a) all the way up to the beginning of phase B1a of the Roman Iron Age (Rudnicki 2012b, 41-42). Whereas the final date, which according to E. Droberjar may be set to the 20s and 30s of the 1st century BC (Droberjar 1999, 157-158), is unquestionable, the initial date seems very controversial. The turn of the middle and late La Tène period in western Lesser Poland saw a major settlement crisis in this La Tène culture enclave. It originated most probably from migratory movements associated with the migration of the Cimbri and Teutones tribes as recorded in the written sources (Dulęba 2009, 27-29 fig. 10). This might have resulted in a great influx of the Przeworsk culture groups, which settled the area previously inhabited by the Celts. At that point, in Lt D1a, La Tène finds are not numerous and occur only as imports at Przeworsk sites or in Przeworsk assemblages. Comparing this

region to the other areas inhabited by the Przeworsk culture societies at that time, there is no significant evidence in the material culture, which could indicate strong ties with the La Tène cultural zone. The phase Lt D1b brings significant changes, as the settlement net in the modern Cracow region underwent a dynamic development.

It is noteworthy that so far there are no sufficient grounds for precise dating of the particular variants of the local monetary issues from western Lesser Poland, as well as for synchronising this chronology with the chronological system used for other categories of archaeological finds. The Cracovian type staters from western Lesser Poland did not occur in well-dated archaeological contexts, which is different from the situation of the issues attributed to K. Castelin's minting phase A. Therefore, they are hard to synchronise with the more and more precise dates obtained from typological analyses of jewellery and garment accessories. If one accepts the very hypothetical attempts to associate Castelin's minting phases B-D with the La Tène period chronology (Militký 2008, 127 tab. 7), they would have to fall to the whole Lt D1 phase. The evidence of Celtic minting activity does not have to be associated with the permanent Celtic settlement. The best example for this are the newest finds from the area of Kalisz (woj. wielkopolskie/PL), where the presence of a Celtic mint has been testified (Rudnicki et al. 2009). The finds from Czechy clearly indicate that the Cracovian type staters were in circulation later than Lt D1a, which might be in concert with the typological dating suggested for the later issues of the Cracovian type coins (Rudnicki 2012b, fig. 17). Therefore, the examples from Rudnicki's group II may be closely connected to the time corresponding to phases Lt D2 and Roman Iron Age B1a. This matches very well the chronology of feature 187/54 from Kraków-Mogiła, where two pieces of a coin mould for producing local electrum coins were found (Woźniak 1978, 107-108).

SETTLEMENT CONTEXT OF THE FIND

Site 17 in Czechy yielded numerous Iron Age settlement traces, which were spread over the whole examined area. Of the total number of 119 Przeworsk sherds, at least the half might be dated to the younger Pre-Roman Iron Age. It is noteworthy that the sherds did not represent only the so-called early pottery style, which disappeared with the end of stage A2 (Lt D1). Neither were there found any sherds characteristic of the La Tène culture (dated to the middle La Tène period), which otherwise were abundantly recorded in the Szreniawa river valley (cf. fig. 7). A relatively large number of well-dated finds made it possible to determine precise time frames, within which the site was occupied by the Przeworsk communities. The finds originating from the initial period of the existence of the settlement were two metal clothing accessories: a bronze fibula of the Kostrzewski's K-type (fig. 5, 1) and another example being a specific hybrid of a *Schüsselfibel* and the Almgren's A65-type (fig. 5, 2).

The K-type fibulae are very characteristic of the Germanic areas in the whole northern European Barbaricum (Völling 1994, 163-171 attachment 3). Iron fibulae of this type were recorded at numerous sites with Przeworsk culture assemblages and they constitute a leading form during stage A2 of the Pre-Roman Iron Age (Dąbrowska 1988, 29 pl. 3, 47). The K-type fibulae made of bronze are much less frequent. In western Lesser Poland, analogous bronze fibulae were found at the Przeworsk site in Jakuszowice (pow. Kazimierza Wielka; woj. małopolskie; Godłowski 1995, fig. 6, 3) and at the site 17 in Kraków-Pleszów, where a Tyniec group settlement had existed (Poleska 2006, 147-148 fig. 20, 8). A bronze example of a K-type fibula, very similar to the one from Czechy, was also recorded at the Celtic oppidum of Manching (Lkr. Pfaffenhofen an der Ilm) in Bavaria (Gebhard 1991, pl. 12, 201), which might be interpreted as evidence for the presence of

some individuals with a Germanic background at the site.

The specimen being a hybrid of a *Schüsselfibel* and a A65-type fibula is a very rare find. Nevertheless, an almost identical item was discovered in the accumulation layer during the excavations at the Tynec group settlement in Podłęże (pow. Wieliczka, woj. małopolskie/PL; Woźniak 1990, 57 pl. XXX, o). The fibula from Podłęże has recently been classified as belonging to the Mailhac variant of group 6 *Schüsselfibel* according to H. Meller's typology (2012, 83 pl. 65, 12). Brooches of this variant come almost exclusively from sites located in the Po valley and in Languedoc (Meller 2012, map 26). Two further ones have recently been recorded at the oppidum of Trenčianske Bohuslavice (okr. Nové Mesto nad Váhom/SK), where otherwise a large number of southern imports was found (Pieta 2008, 43 fig. 16, 20. 22). The oppidum is located in western Slovakia in the Váh river valley, which in the Iron Age served as an important communication route. This might indicate that the find from Czechy is yet another evidence for intensive cultural contacts along the so-called amber route running northwards from Aquileia (prov. Udine) in northern Italy. It is also noteworthy that the *Schüsselfibeln*, also those of the Mailhac variant, were manufactured from a very characteristic alloy called »white metal« – *Weißmetall*

(Meller 2012, 91). The »white metal« is an alloy containing at least 40 % tin and therefore the term is not very precise, especially in the case of the finds in question. They should rather be described as manufactured from »tin bronze«. Both of the basic fibulae forms, which were combined in the hybrid version from Czechy, that is the *Schüsselfibeln* and the A65-type fibulae, were characteristic of phase Lt D1b in the La Tène period chronology (Waldhauser 1983, 332-334 pl. 1; Fischer 1988, 237; Gebhard 1991, 94-96 fig. 42). Phase Lt D1b in a Przeworsk culture settlement context might be synchronised with the period corresponding more or less to the end of A2 and the transitional A2/A3 horizon (Dąbrowska 1988, 57-59).

The next step of the existence of the settlement in Czechy might be dated by the Kostrzewski's O-type fibula (fig. 5, 3). In Th. Völling's classification these correspond with variant A2a (Völling 1994, 222 fig. 35 a-b). In the Barbaricum, the O-type (A2a) fibulae occur in grave assemblages with metal finds characteristic of the initial stage of the Roman Iron Age (Demetz 1999, 113). This dating is further verifiable through finds from the Roman march camps and from the limes area (Völling 1994, 224-226 chart 15). The O-type fibulae have been recorded within the whole area of the northern European Barbaricum, as well as in the Alpine and Danubian provinces (Völling 1994, attachment 9). They are relatively prevalent in the Przeworsk culture contexts with a distinct concentration in the region of Kuyavia, where in grave assemblages they occur with fibulae characteristic of the B1a stage (Cofta-Broniewska/Bednarczyk 1998, 39 fig. 20).

A small piece of a bronze bracelet or armband comes supposedly from the same period (fig. 6, 2). This – relatively characteristic – find belongs to a group of artefacts recorded mainly in Dacia and mentioned in the

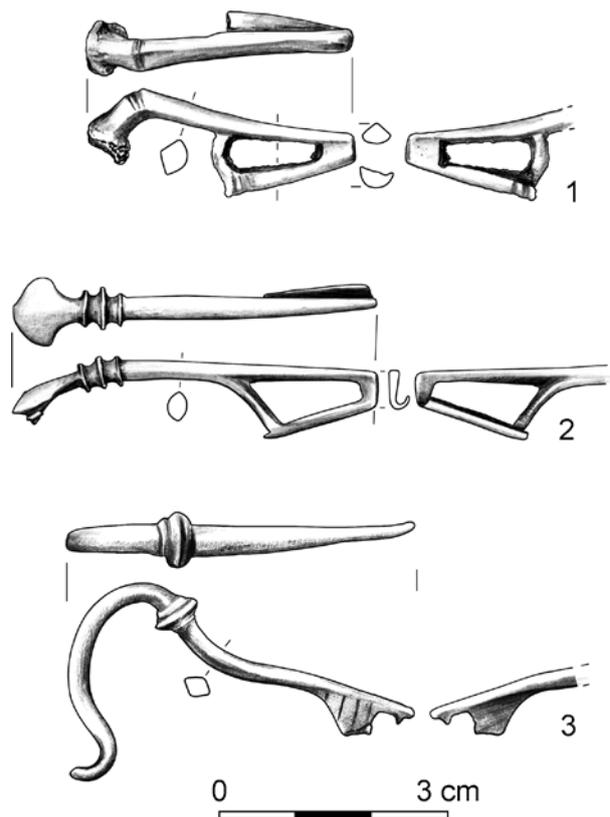


Fig. 5 Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie/PL), site 17. Brooches (1. 3 bronze; 2 white metal). – (Drawing N. Lenkow).

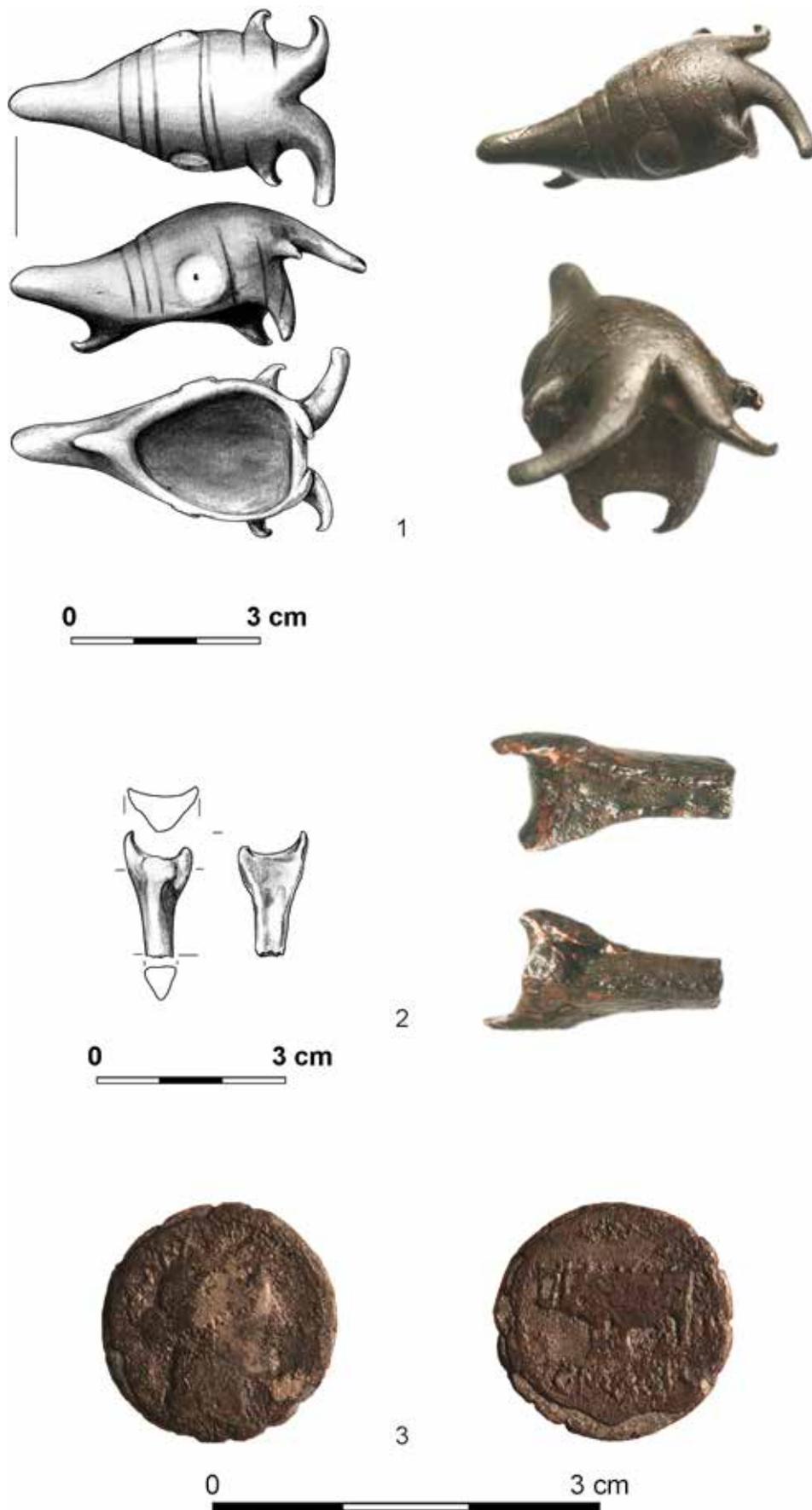


Fig. 6 Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie/PL), site 17. Finds (1-2 bronze; 3 silver). – (Drawing N. Lenkow; photo P. Dulęba).

literature as the Şimleul Silvaniei type. The specimen discovered in Czechy is at least the tenth one recorded in the Przeworsk culture zone (Rudnicki 2012a, fig. 3).

Another import from the broadly understood Celtic world found in the course of the surface surveys in Czechy is a unique figurine in the form of a stylised goat head (or head of a fantastic creature) made of bronze (**fig. 6, 1**). The find does not have any accurate analogies. Its specific form might indicate that it was originally part of a decoration of a metal vessel or another container (e. g. a chest). This type of metal decorative elements occurs mostly at the oppida and other late La Tène sites (e. g. van Endert 1991, pls 9-10; Pieta 2008, photo 30, 2; Beneš 2015, fig. 5).

A vast majority of the remaining metal artefacts found during the surface surveys in Czechy might be dated to the Roman Iron Age. A relatively large number of them came from the Roman Empire. Among those finds a series of 13 Roman silver coins shall be mentioned, of which one is a Republican denarius (*serratus*) of C. Marius Capito, issued in 81 BC (**fig. 6, 3**). This find seems especially important in the context of the Eravisci coins, which in hoards often occurred together with Republican denarii (see Gohl 1903; Torbágyi 1984). The influx of Roman denarii into the Przeworsk culture environment seems to have culminated in the end of the younger Pre-Roman Iron Age and in the early Roman Iron Age. It has recently been suggested that the Celtic inhabitants of the Cracow area could have played an important role in this process even as late as in the beginning of the 1st century AD (Dymowski 2011, 136-138).

SUMMARY

In the light of the most recent research, we can observe the double-stage model of Celtic settlement development on the territory of western Lesser Poland (Duleba 2009). The earliest traces of Celtic communities recognised in this region are connected with the La Tène culture local group (**fig. 7**). The chronological range of these finds covers the end of the early and the middle La Tène period (Lt B2b-C2). A profound change in the character of the material culture is observed at the beginning of late La Tène and is connected with the decline of the La Tène culture settlement and the arrival of Przeworsk culture communities. The second phase of the Celtic settlement in western Lesser Poland belongs to the Tyniec group. This is a multi-cultural (with the distinct elements of Celtic, Dacian and Germanic communities material culture), quite well-researched archaeological unit represented by a few large and well-examined settlements from the small area in the vicinity of Kraków (**fig. 8**). The existence of sites of the Tyniec group can be precisely dated from Lt D1b to the beginning of the Roman period (B1a stage).

The Czechy hoard testifies beyond any doubt that the ties linking western Lesser Poland to the Carpathian Basin in the final phase of the La Tène period were very strong. Despite the relatively modest number of finds, it might be firmly stated that the settlement at the site 17 in Czechy was an important point within the ancient trade and communication system. So far, the research has not provided sufficient grounds for the cultural association of the Czechy settlement with the Tyniec group (Duleba 2009, 26-27). Considering the distance between the Tyniec group settlements and the site in question, it might have functioned as a »station« on the way to the north – the first one within the cohesive Przeworsk settlement zone (**fig. 8**).

The emergence of a dense settlement net attributed to the Tyniec group in the vicinity of Cracow might have been associated with a new group of Celtic migrants from the area south of the Carpathians. It has often been suggested in the literature that their area of origin had most probably been the Zemplín region in eastern Slovakia. This assumption was mainly made on the basis of the pottery finds characteristic of the

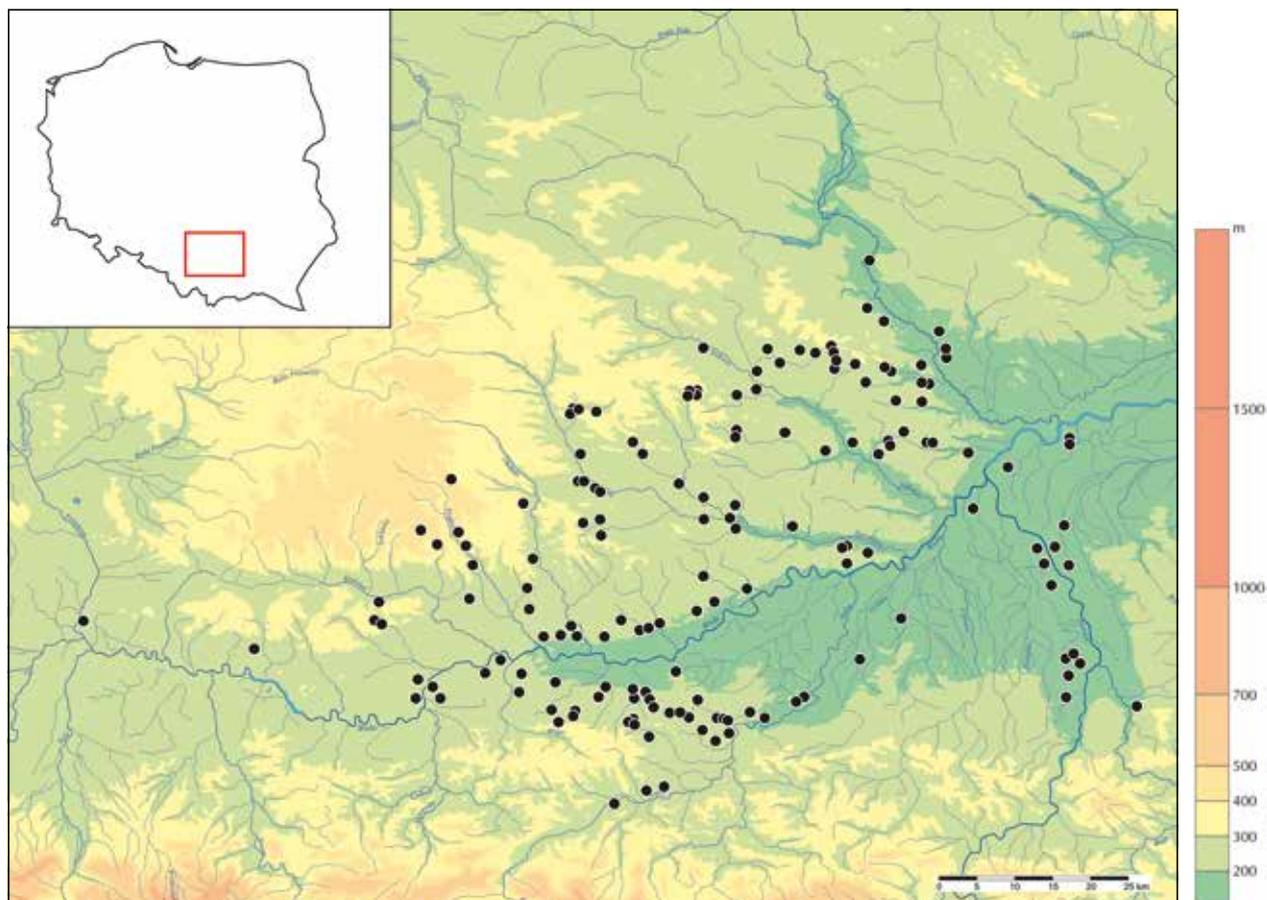


Fig. 7 La Tène culture settlements in western Lesser Poland, phases Lt B2b-C2. – (Illustration P. Dulęba).

Dacian culture (Woźniak 1990, 74; Poleska 2006, 183). However, it had not been considered that Dacian features were common in the late La Tène archaeological material in the whole Carpathian Basin area and probably constituted more part of a certain cultural trend than testified the existence of mixed Celto-Dacian communities. The hoard of the Eravisci coins analysed here is a convincing argument that it was the middle Danube area, where the new wave of Celtic settlers in Lesser Poland originated. The oppida of Bratislava-Devin, Bratislava-Hrad and Budapest-Gellérthegy were major centres of craft and trade at the end of the La Tène period. It was through these centres that the main trade route between the expanding Roman Empire and the territories north of the Carpathians and the Sudetes ran.

The Celtic groups, which inhabited the area around the modern city of Cracow were beyond any doubt the most influential societies of the younger Pre-Roman period. They might have well-served as a bridge in the contacts between them and the inhabitants of the middle Danube area. These contacts do not seem to have ceased with the fall of the Celtic centres in the Carpathian Basin, as a relatively large number of early Roman Iron Age imports in the Tynieć group settlement area indicates (Poleska 2006, 186-188. 258). On the contrary, they were maintained also in the Roman Iron Age. Perhaps it was a common or similar language, which made the contacts between the Celtic groups associated with the Tynieć group and the Celtic inhabitants of the Danubian provinces of the Roman Empire easier.

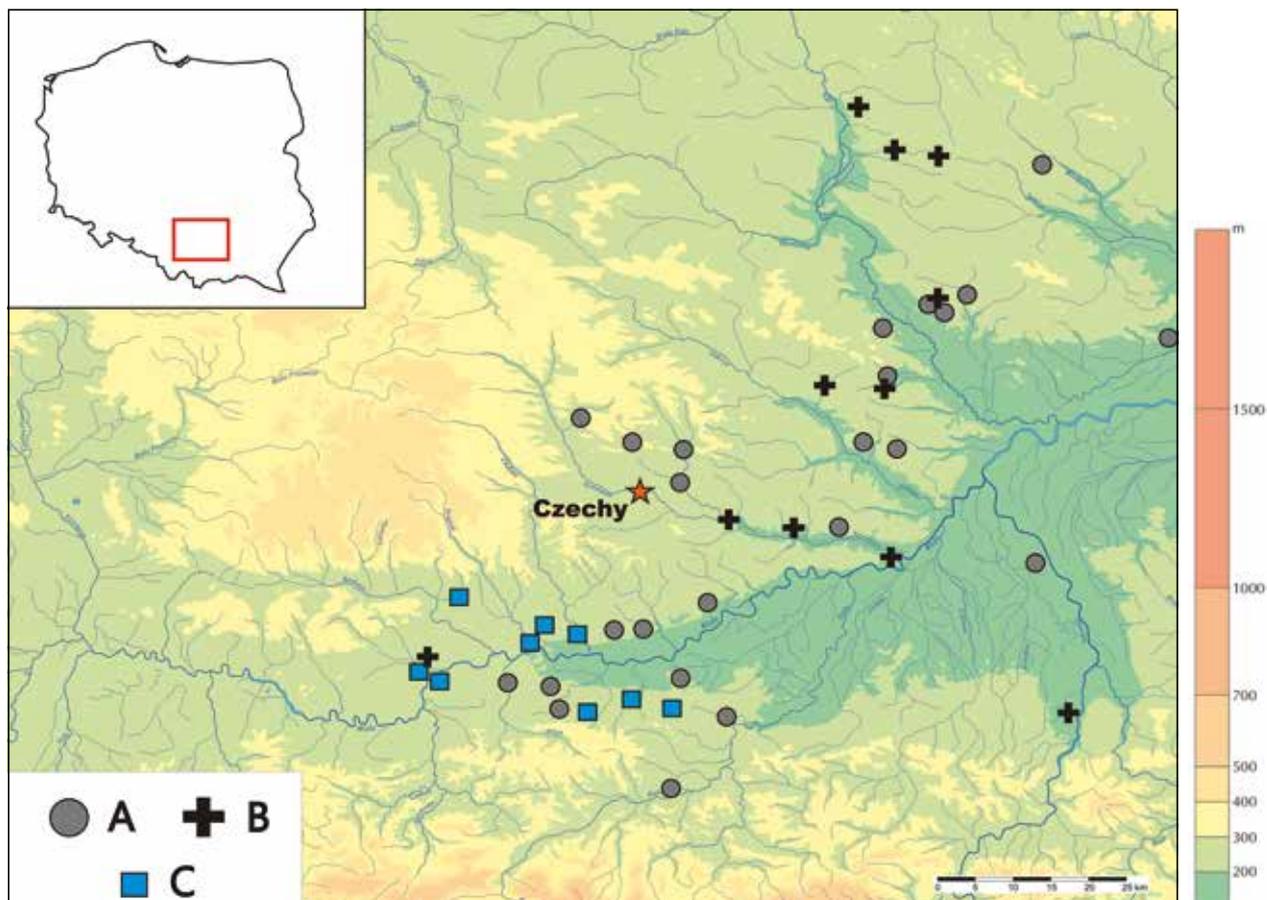


Fig. 8 Przeworsk culture sites in western Lesser Poland dated to A3 (Lt D2) and Tyniec group settlements. – **A** settlements and settlement traces (only those sites were included, where larger series of the younger pottery style sherds or artefacts with precise chronology were recorded); **B** single graves and burial sites; **C** Tyniec group settlements. – (After Dulęba 2009, 30 fig. 8 with additions).

The Czechy hoard with its extraordinarily interesting settlement context is a precious evidence for the intensiveness of the contacts between western Lesser Poland and the area south of the Carpathians. Whether the coins in question were original Eravisci issues or their imitations remains an open question. The latter possibility would make the case for the importance of the relations between the Tyniec group Celts and the Eravisci area even stronger. The very act of imitating the coins would suggest that they were of great significance in trade and exchange, and their presence at the Czechy settlement was by no means accidental.

APPENDIX: FINDS OF ERAVISCI COINS (fig. 4):

Hungary

Békásmegyér, find from the settlement (Hunyady 1942, pl. C, 4,6)

Bia, hoard of c. 600 Roman denarii (Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula) and c. 80 Celtic coins (Gohl 1903, 147)

Buda, stray find (Dessewffy 1910, no. 509)

Budapest-Lágymányos, hoard of 365 Celtic coins and 123 Roman denarii, Republican and Augustan (Gohl 1903, 146)

Budapest-Lipót körút, 4 coins, stray find (Gohl 1903, 146)
Érd, hoard (Torbágyi 1984, fig. 10)
Győr, hoard (Haupt/Nick 1997)
Ó-Szöny, stray find (Torbágyi 1984, fig. 10)
Páty, finds (a few coins) from the settlement (Torbágyi 2005)
Sárisáp, stray find (Torbágyi 1984, fig. 10)
Süttő, stray find (Gohl 1903, 147)
Százhalombatta, stray find (Torbágyi 1984, fig. 10)

Slovakia

Bratislava-Devín, hoard (Plachá/Fiala 1998; Kolníková 2005)
Hrabušice, hoard (Kolníková 2005)
Jánovce-Machalovce, find from the settlement (Kolníková 2005)
Košeca-Nozdrovce, find from the settlement (Kolníková 2005)
Likavka, find from the settlement (Kolníková 2005)
Nimnica, finds from the settlement (Kolníková 2005)
Rajecká Lesná-Trstená (hun. Trsztenna), hoard of c. 100 coins, Roman denarii and Celtic coins (Gohl 1903, 147)

Vráble (hun. Verebély), hoard (Torbágyi 1984, 192 fig. 11)
Žilina (hun. Zsolna), hoard (Torbágyi 1984, 192 fig. 11)

Poland

Czechy, hoard

Croatia

Batina, stray find (Gohl 1903, 147)

Serbia

Bezdán, stray find (Gohl 1903, 147)

Slovenia

Krajna vas (Kraina), hoard (Torbágyi 1984, fig. 11)

Romania

Gherghina-Barbosi, hoard (Torbágyi 1984, fig. 11)

Italy

Mortara, hoard (Torbágyi 1984, fig. 11)

France (outside of the map)

Venduil-Chaply, hoard (Gohl 1903, 147)

Note

1) The Archeologiczne Zdjęcie Polski (AZP; Archaeological Picture of Poland) is a national research and cultural heritage preservation programme launched in 1978. Its main goal is mapping archaeological sites in the whole country by means of surface surveys and archive research, and creating a database of them. The whole present territory of Poland was divided into rectangular sectors of 37.5 km² (7 km × 5.5 km) marked with Arabic

numerals according to the principle: strip number – post number. The surveys have so far been conducted on 270 000 km², which makes 87 % of the Polish territory. According to the Narodowy Instytut Dziedzictwa (National Heritage Institute), the programme has so far resulted in recording over 435 000 archaeological sites (by 2008).

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Zusammenfassung / Summary / Résumé / Streszczenie

Neuentdeckung eines keltischen Münzhorts aus dem westlichen Kleinpolen

Der hier vorgestellte Hort wurde von einem Hobbyarchäologen gefunden. Er kam höchstwahrscheinlich 2011 in Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie/PL) zutage. 2013 und 2014 wurden dort Oberflächensurveys durchgeführt. Die Ergebnisse bestätigen, dass es sich um eine vorher unbekannte Siedlung handelt, die mit der Przeworsk-Kultur der jüngeren vorrömischen Eisenzeit bis zur Völkerwanderungszeit in Verbindung gebracht wird. Die Silbermünzen aus der Deponierung können aufgrund ihrer Charakteristika der Münzprägung des keltischen Stammes der Eravisker zugeordnet werden. Eine andere Goldmünze, die in der nahen Umgebung des Horts gefunden wurde, gehört zu einer lokalen Emission

von Stateren des krakauischen Typs, der mit der Münzprägung des keltischen Stammes der Boier verbunden wird. Eine relativ große Anzahl gut datierter Funde ermöglicht es, genaue Zeitfenster zu bestimmen, innerhalb derer der Fundort von Gruppen der Przeworsk-Kultur besetzt war. Der Hort von Czechy belegt, dass es in der Endphase der Latènezeit sehr starke Verbindungen zwischen dem westlichen Kleinen Polen und dem Karpatenbecken gegeben hat.

A New Discovery of a Celtic Coin Hoard from Western Lesser Poland

The hoard presented in this paper is an amateur find. It was recorded most probably in 2011 in the village of Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie/PL). In 2013 and 2014 regular surface surveys were conducted at the site. The results proved it to be a previously unknown settlement associated with the younger Pre-Roman Iron Age to Migration period Przeworsk culture. The silver coins from the deposit can be interpreted as characteristic for the coinage of the Celtic tribe of the Eravisci. Another gold coin found in the vicinity of the hoard belongs to a local issue of the Cracovian type stater associated with the coinage of the Celtic tribe of the Boii. A relatively large number of well-dated finds made it possible to determine a precise time frame, within which the site was occupied by the Przeworsk communities. The Czechy hoard testifies without any doubt to strong ties linking western Lesser Poland to the Carpathian Basin in the final phase of the La Tène period.

Nouvelle découverte d'un trésor de monnaies celtiques en la Pologne occidentale inférieure

Le trésor présenté dans cet article a été mis au jour par un amateur. Il a très probablement été découvert en 2011 dans le village de Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie/PL). En 2013 et 2014 des prospections systématiques ont été conduites sur le site. Les résultats montrent qu'il s'agit d'un habitat jusqu'alors inconnu à attribuer à la fin de la période préromaine jusqu'à la période des migrations de la culture de Przeworsk. Les monnaies en argent du dépôt sont caractéristiques des émissions de la tribu celte des Eravisci. Une pièce en or trouvée à proximité du dépôt correspond à un type de statère local de type Cracovien, associé aux monnaies des Boiens. Un nombre important d'artefacts datant permet de préciser les occupations durant lesquelles le site a été occupé par des communautés Przeworsk. Le trésor de Czechy atteste sans aucun doute les liens forts entre la Pologne occidentale inférieure et le bassin des Carpates à la fin de La Tène.

Traduction: L. Bernard

Nowe znalezisko skarbu monet celtyckich z Zachodniej Małopolski

Prezentowany w tym artykule skarb został zlokalizowany przez przypadkowych znalazców, prawdopodobnie w 2011 r. w miejscowości Czechy (pow. Kraków, woj. małopolskie/PL). Dzięki badaniom powierzchniowym, przeprowadzonym w latach 2013-2014, natrafiono na osadę kultury przeworskiej, która funkcjonowała od młodszego okresu przedrzymskiego, aż po okres wędrówek ludów. Srebrne monety stanowiące depozyt należy uznać za okazy mennictwa celtyckiego plemienia Erawisków. Z tego samego miejsca pochodzi także znalezisko innej, złotej monety celtyckiej – statera typu krakowskiego, który jest lokalną emisją, związaną z mennictwem plemienia Bojów. Relatywnie duża liczba znalezisk różnych kategorii (metalowe ozdoby i części stroju, ceramika) oraz przedmioty będące niewątpliwymi importami, potwierdzają, iż lokalna społeczność w późnym okresie lateńskim utrzymywała silne kontakty z obszarem Kotliny Karpackiej.

Schlüsselwörter / Keywords / Mots clés / Słowa kluczowe

Polen / Vorrömische Eisenzeit / Przeworsk-Kultur / Tyniec-Gruppe / keltische Münzen

Poland / Pre-Roman Iron Age / Przeworsk culture / Tyniec group / Celtic coins

Pologne / âge du Fer préromain / culture de Przeworsk / groupe Tyniec / monnaies celtiques

Polska / okres przedrzymski / cultura przeworska / grupa tyniecka / monety celtyckie

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