

# THE COIN HOARD FOUND AT SÂNNICOLAU ROMÂN (BIHOR COUNTY). RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEȘU AURIT AND TOC-CHERELUȘ COIN-TYPES

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**Keywords:** Sânnicolau Român, hoard, *Medieșu-Aurit* and *Toc-Chereluș* coin-types, technical characteristics, cronology

**Abstract:** The article brings back to attention the La Tène coin hoard found (during the 70's) at Sânnicolau Român (com. Cefa, Bihor county). The content of the hoard has only been partially recovered: 24 from circa 100 coins, one of them *Toc-Chereluș* type, and the others *Medieșu Aurit* type – *group c*. Using the relationship between these two type of coins, we reopen the discussion about the characteristics of *Medieșu Aurit* coins, and the issue of dating them in relation with the *Toc-Chereluș* scyphate.

**Rezumat:** Articolul readuce în atenție tezaurul format din monede de tip *Medieșu Aurit* și *Toc-Chereluș* găsit, în anii '70, în așezarea de epocă La Tène din hotarul localității Sânnicolau Român (com. Cefa, jud. Bihor). Pornind de la asocierea inedită a celor două tipuri monetare sunt readuse în discuție caracteristicile emisiunilor din seria *Medieșu Aurit* și, prin prisma relației cu „scyphatele” de tip *Toc-Chereluș*, problema datării acestora.

More than four decades ago, a coin hoard discovered in a settlement of La Tène period from the border of Sânnicolau Român (Cefa commune, Bihor county) was published in the *Crisia* magazine.<sup>1</sup> The number of coins found around 1972 is unknown, but according to the discoverers' estimates, the hoard contained more than 100 coins, of which 23 *Medieșu Aurit* – *group c* coins (*Ohne Kinn – mit Schnabelpferd*) and a *Toc-Chereluș* coin (*Mit Bartkranzavers*).<sup>2</sup> The unique association of two coin-types with different distribution areas and the controversial dating determine us to bring back into discussion the discovery from Sânnicolau Român. Following the analysis made by the editors of the coin hoard, Sever Dumitrașcu and Alexandru Sășianu, we turn our attention to the characteristics of the coins attributed to the *Medieșu Aurit* type and their data in terms of association with the “scyphate” *Toc-Chereluș*.

## The typological classification of the editors vs. the corpus of dies

The publishers divided the *Medieșu Aurit* coins from Sânnicolau Român, included in *group c* of this type of coins, into two groups, each with two variants (tab. 1).<sup>3</sup> The classification was made according to the particularities of the monetary representations and the size of the planchet, the authors trying to capture the characteristics of each variant. Without a direct reference to this typological construction, but in close connection with the striking process, for the 23 *Medieșu Aurit* – *group c* coins, five obverse dies and two reverse dies were identified, in general.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dumitrașcu, Sășianu 1977, pp. 9-26; Repertoriul 1974, p. 67/357; Sășianu 1980, p. 159/114; Dumitrașcu, Crișan 1988, pp. 42-119; Dumitrașcu, Crișan 1990, pp. 99-100; Dumitrașcu 1992, pp. 187-194.

<sup>2</sup> In the collection of the Țării Crișurilor Museum are kept 22 coins (*Registrul de evidență comun* inv. 6786, *Registrul numismatic* inv. 4). Two of the *Medieșu Aurit* coins published in 1977 come from a private collection (Bara 1975, p. 75-76; Dumitrașcu, Sășianu 1977, pl. II/8 and III/11).

<sup>3</sup> Dumitrașcu, Sășianu 1977, pp. 11-13.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 15