

ARROWHEAD-MONETARY SIGNS WITH A SYMBOL HATCHET (ANCHOR) FROM THE LOWER BUG REGION

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ABSTRACT

Arrowhead-monetary signs belong to the earliest primitive money, which were used in the Western and Northwestern Black Sea region by the Greek colonists in the Milesian apoikiai of Apollonia Pontica, Histria and Berezan. Arrowhead-monetary was, accordingly, known from the territories of Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. Modern scholars divide these objects into several types, which include simple leaf-shaped pieces and ornamented specimens. Among the ornamented arrowhead-monetary signs there are types with an additional symbol. The article is devoted to the examination of arrowhead-money found in the Lower Bug region, which contains the additional hatchet (anchor)-shaped symbol. The examples with an additional symbol shaped like a hatchet (anchor) are quite rarely found. The authors know up to ten specimens of these kinds of arrowhead-money which were found in the Western and the Northwestern Black Sea region. However, the very fact of finding ornamented arrowhead-money is significant, particularly of the type with an additional symbol shaped like a hatchet (anchor) in the area of a Milesian apoikiai in the Lower Bug region. These objects were previously discovered during archaeological excavations in the Milesian apoikia Tomis (modern Constanța, Romania), which points to the economic relations between these Milesian colonies in the Northern Black Sea region. It is quite possible that arrowhead-monetary signs, we have described from the Lower Bug region, came to Olbia as small change money from the West coast of the Black Sea, where they were manufactured.

Keywords: archaic monetary signs; arrowheads-money; Western Black Sea coast; Northwestern Black Sea region; Berezan; Olbia; Greek colonies

Arrowhead-monetary signs belong to the earliest primitive money¹, which were used in the Western and Northwestern Black Sea area by the

¹ François de Callatay expresses doubts about the monetary form of such products (Callatay, 2019, 268 – 270).

Greek colonists in the Milesian apoikiai of Apollonia Pontica, Histria and Berezan. Arrowhead-money was, accordingly, known from the territories of Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. François de Callatay points out that „many arrowheads have been found during official excavations of Greek settlements: at Berezan, Olbia, Nikonion, Istros, Tomis and Odessos“ (Callatay 2019, 264).

These finds may represent evidence of economic relations, probably even economical and territorial unity of specified apoikiai, at the least, during the period of being arrowhead-money in monetary circulation. The analysis of finds of these archaic monetary signs indicates the different centres of their manufacturing, particularly „the significant share of arrowhead-shaped coins within the total of cast monetary signs in the layers of Berezan settlement dated to the second half of the 6th century BC, in fact, eliminates the possibility of their West Pontic origin (Chistov 2019, 101). However, as D. Chistov observes completely right, the assortment of types of arrowhead coins from Berezan settlement is almost identical to one of the known West Pontic hoards, i.e., the same types were cast in different western and Northwestern Pontic centres simultaneously” (Chistov 2019, 101).

Arrowheads-money have been the subject of study by many scholars, particularly G. Severeanu (Severeanu 1926, 1–6), I. Pandaleev (Пандалеев 1929, 238), T. Gerasimov (Герасимов 1939, 424–427; Герасимов 1959, 85–87), T. Blavatskaya (Блаватская 1952), V. Skudinova (Скудинова 1956, 38-39), F. Preda (Preda 1960, 7–17), V. Lapin (Лалин 1966), B. Grakov (Граков 1971, 125–127), K. Marchenko (Марченко 1974, 149–161), A. Aricescu (Aricescu A. 1975, 17–24), B. Dimitrov (Димитров 1975, 43–48), C. Scorpan (Scorpan 1980, 25–34), A. Zaginaiilo (Загинайло 1982, 20–28), H.B. Wells (Wells 1981, 53–54), V. Ruban and V. Ursalov (Рубан, Урсалов 1986, 31–53), V. Anokhin (Анохин 1986, 68–89), D. Shelov (Шелов 1987, 124–131), P. Karyshkovsky (Карышковский 1988), G. Talmaçhi (Талмаçhi 2015, 23–37), S. Ol'govskii (Ольговский 2016, 272–276), D. Vladimirova-Aladzhova (Vladimirova-Aladzhova D. 2016, 526–531), F. de Callatay (Callatay 2019, 257–279), D. Chistov (Chistov 2019, 99–107) and others.

There is no consensus among researchers about the period of circulation of arrowhead-monetary signs. Thus, V. Ruban and V. Ursalov have suggested that in the Northwest Black Sea area (Berezan) this archaic money „began to be issued in the period between the emergence of Borysthenes and the beginning of the 6th century BC” (Рубан, Урсалов 1986, 48). These scholars attribute the circulation of these objects in the rural areas of Borysthenes and Olbia to the first stage of monetary circulation, which, according to archaeological data, lasted from 600 to 550 BC (Рубан, Урсалов 1986, 51). Shelov shares the same opinion and suggests that arrowheads-money circulation was from the turn of the 7th –

6th century BC to the middle of the 6th century BC (Шелов 1987, 125). According to A. Zaginailo, the period of circulation of these archaic pre-monetary signs was longer, lasting from the end of the 7th to the middle of the 6th century BC to the 5th century BC (Загинайло 1982, 25). In the opinion of the Romanian scholar G. Talmaçhi, „Monetary signs of this form, ... are found throughout the second half of the 6th century BC” (Talmaçhi 2015, 26). The idea of a later and longer period of circulation of the arrowheads in the Northwest Black Sea region is supported by Karyshkovsky, who considered that their circulation lasted in the 6th century BC – and the first decades of the 5th century BC (Карышковский 1988, 30). The analysis of finds of arrowhead-money in the early archaeological complexes on the island of Berezan, carried out by D. Chistov, nevertheless presents an evidence „beginning of their circulation on Berezan as early as the second quarter (or middle) of the 6th century BC” (Chistov 2019, 101). However, it should also be noted that arrowhead-money, as an archaic form of loose exchange money, may function within their range of distribution not always simultaneously. Arrowheads-money most likely appeared for the first time in the Western Black Sea region, and from there they have already spread to the Northwestern Black Sea territories. While the archaeological information indicates their presence in archaeological sites in the Northwestern Black Sea coast in the second quarter – the mid-6th century BC, in the Western Black Sea coast this form of archaic pre-monetary signs appears a little earlier in the 7th century BC. And if in the Northwestern Black Sea region they were replaced by other archaic monetary signs in the form of dolphins, then in the Western Black Sea area the arrowhead-money continued to be in circulation. For this reason, more types of arrowhead-money have been found in the Western Black Sea lands. In addition, the area of distribution of arrowheads-money in the Northwestern Black Sea region was rather smaller than that of pre-monetary signs in the form of dolphins, finds of which are known far beyond the Olbian chora, particularly in the forest on the right bank of the Dnieper – the steppe zone (Орлик 2021, 5 – 44).

The arrowheads-money known to modern scholars are divided into several types, which include simple leaf-shaped pieces and ornamented specimens. The Ukrainian numismatist V. Anokhin distinguishes four different types of arrowheads-money. Particularly, they include: 1) narrow leaf-shaped pieces; 2) narrow leaf-shaped arrowheads-money with skew nervures moving away from the central rib; 3) arrowheads-money of three types with an additional symbol (wheel, flat side, letter A); 4) items imitating in one aspect arrowheads form, in another – dolphins or fish (Анохин 1986, 76). The Romanian researcher G. Talmaçhi divides all known arrowhead-money into six types: 1) “classic pieces”, 2) “arrowhead-monetary signs” shaped with the wheel symbol”, 3) “arrowhead-monetary signs” – shaped with the fir tree symbol”, 4) “arrowhead-monetary signs”

shaped with the wheel symbol, 5) “arrowhead-monetary signs” shaped with the anchor and A letter symbol, 6) “arrowhead-monetary signs” – shaped with the hatchet symbol (Talmaçhi 2015, 25, 27). The classification of G. Talmaçhi considerably extends types of arrowhead-money which were included to the third type of pre-monetary signs with an additional symbol by V. Anokhin.

We shall stay in more detail at one of the varieties of arrowhead-monetary signs with an additional symbol (**Fig. 1**), the finds of which were known only in the Western Black Sea region.

According to G. Talmaçhi, this type of arrowhead-money contains the hatchet symbol as an additional symbol (**Fig. 2**). It is quite possible, however, that an object resembling an anchor was depicted as an additional symbol. For this reason, when describing this type of arrowheads-money, we will use the double term hatchet (anchor).

Finds of arrowheads-money with an additional symbol, in particular with a relief image shaped like a hatchet (anchor) were known from the archaeological excavations in the city of Tomis (Romania) in the first half of the 1970s, when two such items have been found (Rădulescu, Scorpan 1975, 36). G. Talmaçhi cited the images of six “arrowheads-monetary signs” with a relief image (Talmaçhi 2015, Fig. 4.11 – 4.12, Fig. 5.8 – 5.11). The long-term study of museum and private collections of ancient coins, communication with collectors and researchers of ancient Greek numismatics made it possible to obtain information about 3 arrowheads-money with an additional symbol shaped like a hatchet (anchor), which were found on the territory of

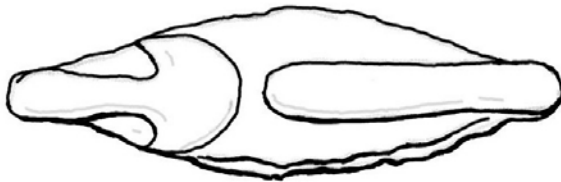


Fig. 1. Arrowheads-money with an additional symbol hatchet (anchor).
Фиг. 1. Стрели-пари с допълнителен символ брадва (котва).

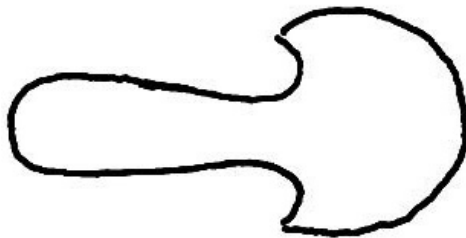


Fig. 2. The symbol with the double term hatchet (anchor).
Фиг. 2. Символ брадва (котва).

Ukraine and kept in private Ukrainian collections. When describing these arrowheads-money, the side with an additional hatchet (anchor) symbol will be considered obverse and the other will be considered reverse.

The first of the arrowheads-money we examined (**Fig. 3**), was purchased by the owner at the Ukrainian Internet auction Violity in September 2017.

Obverse: Additional symbol in the shape of hatchet (anchor) with length 14 mm, a central shaft rib with length – 19 mm.

Reverse: A central rib.

AE; 36 mm; width 11 mm.

Detailed information about the circumstances and location of the find is not known. It is only known that it was found on the territory of the Ochakov region, Mykolaiv district.



Fig. 3. Arrowhead-monetary sign from Violity auction (September 2017).

Фиг. 2. Стрела-монета от аукциона Violity (септември 2017 г.).

The second of the arrowheads-money known to the authors with an additional symbol shaped like an anchor (**Fig. 4**) has the following description:

AE; length 36 mm, width 8.5 mm. Weight: 3.07 g.

Obverse: hatchet (anchor) 14mm, through 6 mm a central rib 16 mm.

Reverse: A central rib.

Regarding the information about the circumstances and location of the find of this arrowhead-money, the owner reported that it has been found during household work in a private farmstead in the village of Parutyne, Ochakov region, Mykolaiv district (that is in the vicinity of ancient Olbia) in early 2021.

The third, from the known to the authors, arrowheads-money with an additional symbol shaped like a hatchet (anchor) is from a Ukrainian collection, which is similar to the two items described above.



Fig. 4. Arrowhead-monetary sign found on the territory of the Ochakov region, Mykolaiv district.

Фиг. 4. Стрела-монета открита на територіята на Очаковския район, Николаевска област.

All these three arrowheads-money were found in the Ochakov region, Mykolaiv district, therefore, in any case, they were found on the territory of the Olbian chora, and one of them was found almost on the territory of ancient Olbia. Unfortunately, there is no archaeological context for these finds, making their dating impossible. However, significant is the very fact of finding the ornamented arrowheads-money, particularly the type with an additional symbol shaped like a hatchet (anchor) in the area of a Milesian apoikia in the Lower Bug region, which was previously noticed during archaeological excavations in the Milesian apoikia Tomis (modern Constanța, Romania) that points out the economic relations of these Milesian colonies in the Northern Black Sea region. All these three arrowhead-monetary signs with an additional symbol shaped like a hatchet (anchor), which were found in the Ochakov region were made by three different casting moulds. None of the coin-like objects in the form of arrowheads found in the Lower Bug region share casting moulds with the items of this type found in Romania and published by G. Talmatchi. Arrowhead-money with an additional symbol in the form of a hatchet (anchor) are quite rarely found. The authors know up to ten specimens of this type of arrowheads-money found in the Western and Northwestern Black Sea region. It is quite possible that the arrowheads-money we have described from the Lower Bug region came to Olbia as small change money from the western coast of the Black Sea, where they were manufactured.

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СТРЕЛИ-ПАРИ СЪС СИМВОЛ БРАДВА (КОТВА) ОТ РАЙОНА НА ДОЛЕН БУТ

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Стрелите-пари са сред най-ранните примитивни пари, използвани в Северозападния Черноморски район от гръцките колонисти в милетските апойкии Аполония, Истрия, Березан. Съответно стрели-пари са били открити в България, Румъния и Украйна. Сред известните орнаментирани стрели-пари има и екземпляри, към които са добавяни допълнителни символи. Тази статия е посветена на стрелите-пари, при които е приба-

вен допълнителен символ във формата на брадва (или котва), намерени в Долно Побужие (долното течение на река Буг). Този тип стрели-пари е много рядък, или поне авторите познават по-малко от десет екземпляра, намерени в Западния и Северозападния Черноморски райони. Фактът, че подобни орнаментирани стрели-пари и в частност такива, маркирани със символ брадва (котва), са известни от територията на милетската апойкия в Долно Побужие, а преди това регистрирани на територията на милетската колония Томи (съвременна Констанца, Румъния), показва тесните икономически връзки между милетските колонии в Черноморския район.

