

A MESAMBRIAN COIN OF GETA

Luchevar Lazarov

Unlike the abundant production during the Classical and Hellenistic periods, the activity of the mint at Mesambria Pontica in Roman times was relatively limited¹. Until now, the following mints are known: Hadrian (117-138 AD), Septimius Severus (193-211 AD), Caracalla (198-217 AD), Gordian III (238-244 AD), Philip the Arab (244-249 AD), Philip II (247-249 AD) and the empress Acilia Severa, wife of the emperor Elagabalus (218-222 AD) (Karayotov 1992, 49-66).

Recently, a Mesambrian coin from the time of the emperor Augustus (27 BC - 14 AD) was found in the private collection of N. Mitkov from Provadija (NE Bulgaria)², showing the beginning of the Roman mint in the city (Karayotov 1994, 20). In this present note, a Roman Mesambrian coin of the emperor Geta (209-212 AD) is presented, testifying that in the beginning of the 3rd century AD, also coins bearing the name of this son of Septimius Severus were minted in Mesambria.

Obv.: ΑΥΚΠΙΣΕΠ / GETAC, showing a bust of Geta with laurel wreath and wearing a cuirass and paludamentum (Fig. 1).

Rev.: MECAMP / I / ANΠIN, showing a naked Hermes with a purse in his right and a caduceus in his left hand. The face is turned to the left (Fig. 2)

AE; ↗ ; D: 23-24 mm.

Taking the size of this coin in account, it probably belongs to nominal III (Schönert-Geiss 1990, 23-99).

¹ On Mesambrian coinage of the pre-Roman period, see: Karayotov 1992, Karayotov 1994, Topalov 1995.

² I would like to thank mr. N. Mitkov for his permission to publish this coin. The publication of the complete collection is forthcoming. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I cannot give the weight of the coin in this publication.



Figs. 1-2. Coin of Geta from Mesambria, obverse and reverse.

The presence of Mesambrian coinage from Septimius Severus, Caracalla and Geta makes it possible that this mint also issued coins from the empress Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus and mother of Caracalla and Geta. It is not unlikely that other Mesambrian coins from Roman emperors from the second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd century AD will be discovered in the near future.

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Luchevar Lazarov
Museum of Dalgopol,
Bulgaria