NEW RESTORED DENARIUS OF TRAJAN FROM CARCABOSO, CÁCERES (CONVENTUS EMERITENSIS, LUSITANIA)

Abstract: A recent and new Republican denarius restored by Trajan is studied and discussed. The issue is extremely rare as no image of its coins is known so far. It was found in Carcaboso, Cáceres (Conventus Emeritensis, Lusitania), very near of the road known as Via de la Plata, very surely in a Roman mansio. 

Keywords: Trajan Denarius, Restored Denarius, Republican Iconography, Imperial Coinage, Second Roman-Dacian War.

Years ago a Spanish source has informed us of a superb denarius of the highest importance. The coin was found in Carcaboso (Cáceres) and finally auctioned in Áureo & Calicó (Barcelona) (= Fig. 1). This issue is known like Republican restoration, minted under Trajanic standards, and listed and described in some classic works. Emperor Trajan, at the end of the Second Roman-Dacian War (AD 105-106), undertook a propaganda campaign with constructions and Republican imitative coins which have been connected with a passage of Cassius Dio (68, 5). One of the most outstanding constructions was the Trajan’s new forum in order to connect with the “Republican virtues”. As for the coin that is the subject in this short study, the Republican old type copied is RRC 319/1 (Fig. 2).

The description and measurements are as follows:

Trajan. Rome, struck c. AD 106/7-117.

Obv.: Head of Mars, wearing crested and plumed helmet to left. Anepigraph.

Rev.: Two soldiers fighting. The one on left protects a fallen comrade, the other one, a barbarian, wears helmet ornamented with two horns. Legend IMP CAES TRAIAN AVG GER DAC P P; in exergue, Q THERM M F.

2.82 g; 19 mm; 7 h.

The Trajanic type was reported in the 19th century literature and


2 MATTINGLY 1926, 236, n. 8; RIC II 306, n. 774; KOMNICK 2001, 9.0; WOYTEK 2010, 555, X22 denarius (in dubious and false section). Recently OCRE - http://numismatics.org/ocre/id/rk.2.tr.774 (30/05/2019), with small mistake (its obverse was described with head of Rome to right).
Fig. 1. Photo of Áureo & Calicó, on-line auction 310 (30/05/2018), lot 1063.

Fig. 2. Republican Denarius of Q. Minucius Thermus M. (103 BC). Prototype. Editions V. Gadoury, auction 2014 (06/12/2014), lot 49.

Fig. 3. Roman Republican denarius of Q. Minucius Thermus M. Manipulated. Nº inv. 1026 from Bibliothèque nationale de France (https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b104494247).
until now we did not know the image of some coin. First of all, Borghesi\(^1\), Italian antiquarian, cited similar type which he extracted of Novelle letterarie Fiorentine (1774), p. 680, deposited at the Vatican Museums. However, there are no traces of that supposed denarius. On the other hand, there is another “second denarius”, apparently made by mold castings of an original denarius RRC 319/1, which was published as a fake and deposited at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (Fig. 3)\(^4\). Notwithstanding, it requires attention. To be at a healthy weight (3.80 g), it really seems to be an authentic Republican denarius (same style of obverse, Fig. 2) but with reverse manipulated through the use of burin. In any event, the discovery of a new specimen from Hispania undoubtedly confirms a Trajanic issue struck in Rome.

We know that the denarius was found in a private land, with corn cultivated and therefore its archaeological context is partly recorded. As we said before, the find happened in Carcaboso, Cáceres (\textit{Conventus Emeritensis, Lusitania}), very near of the road known as Via de la Plata, apparently in a Roman \textit{mansio}. In these times, Carcaboso was an official stopping place, connected to Via de la Plata which separates Plasencia and Carcaboso\(^5\). Furthermore, several Roman milestones has found next to the village church. Among the diverse and important epigraphic evidence, very well known\(^6\), we can highlight those erected in times of Trajan and Hadrian\(^7\).

It is also thanks to the Antonine numismatic documentation\(^8\), that we can attest a great coin supply, encouraged by travelers and traders, which explains the import of this great denarius found in Carcaboso. And it must be remembered that the roads of communication stimulated commercial relations between provinces\(^9\).

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\textbf{RIC II}


\textbf{RRC}


\textbf{CIL}

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