

**C. Găzdac, F. Humer, Living by The Coins.  
Roman Life in the Light of Coin Finds and  
Archaeology within a Residential Quarter of  
Carnuntum, Wien: Hollitzer Wissenschaftsverlag,  
2013. 372 pp. ISBN 987-3-88012-092-7**

**S**ince ancient times currency has influenced human lifestyle, important chapters belonging to Civilization such as Economy, Society or History depict in many ways the mysterious power that we often attributed to money. The lack of currency may bring us poverty and in the other way around surplus of money may bring us prosperity. The current book that I am presenting is focusing on the numismatic discoveries from a Residential Quarter of Carnuntum, the possible relationships with other artefacts uncovered there and even the possible lifestyle of the inhabitants during a small period in History.

The outside of the paper is covered in burgundy coloured cover and in the top of the cover there was placed a photo representing the studied. Against this background the colour white was used to write down the names belonging to the authors, name of the title and publisher.

Only having 370 pages, summed up in 11 chapters, the authors have tried to undertake the task of presenting the numismatic discoveries in a more interesting way, so that the main subject, the coin catalogues, alongside with other materials from the archaeological site, can be presented in a easy reaching way as the paper dose not only address to those possessing an advanced knowledge regarding Archaeology or Numismatics but also to the general public that may only know a thing or tow about History.

„Carnuntum – The Reborn City of Emperors” is the name representing the second chapter of the book, where you may find a brief History regarding the roman town of Carnuntum which lies under the present Austrian towns of Bad Deutsch-Altenburg and Petronell-Carnuntum, the capital that governed the roman province of Pannonia Superior from the first until the fifth century.

In this chapter you may also find out why dose Carnuntum have a great archaeological potential, the huge surface on witch the ancient civilian town and legionary fort are situated, historical background and geographical advantages that influenced the establishment of roman military and later civilians on this site near the Danube. Because of this strategically position, Carnuntum was one of the most important military bases of operations on the middle Danube, the roman legionaries controlling most of the flat region near the fort and controlling a bridgehead over the Danube in „Barbaricum”. They could either hit the bearded enemy or defend from it behind the fortified forts.

Thanks to Mother Nature, the northern part of the old walls, houses and other monument along with all the archaeological material was washed away by the Danube, still from the roman Emperor Hadrian to the abandonment of the roman province to the Huns in the year 433, Carnuntum has benefited from historical events knowing more then one prosperity boom. Thus from the „Golden Age” of the Roman Empire under the Emperors Hadrian,

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Antonius Pius or Marcus Aurelius to the „Conference of the Emperors” held in Carnuntum in the year 308 between Diocletian, Galerius and Maximianus, there are many evidences of intensive building activity suggesting a continuous social and economical growth of the provincial capital.

Excavations of the site have begun in the middle of the nineteen century and continued with some interrupts until the present time. One of the great problems that the site confronts with is the need of conservation of its discoveries. The old method of poring concrete over the ancient remaining walls has proven out to dissolve in time the old wall, thus proving not safe or even proper for conservation methods.

The main idea of an Archaeological Park is presenting to visitors the real dimensions of the buildings that were found, replicas of artefacts used in those times, certain lifestyles and the material objects that came along with it.

The Archaeological Park Carnuntum was implemented to do just that, first of all to show the real extend of the sites limits by using all the extracted data from archaeology, geomagnetism, aerial view, airborne laser scanning and combine them in realizing a 3D model of the ancient town of Carnuntum and a scale model of 1:300, which now gives every visitor a good picture of the real size of the complex.

In the second step a new process of partial or full reconstruction has began aiming to mark the dimensions of some buildings or to rebuild the entire building using the tools and

materials known in ancient times as well. Until today there are three fully working roman constructions, all of them showed and described in every detail in the book.

After some small chapters that present the different types of abbreviations and bibliography used, credits for the photography, you may find the main objective of this work, the catalogues of coins and tables. These two chapters show in detail all the discovered coins and the information that we have obtain from each one of them after they were examined.

To help the reader even more there are many different graphs, those enable different points of view for all of the coins regarding period, find spot, denomination, all of the graphs are painted in different colours so that they can be easily understand. You can find the plates for the most important coins in black and white, all of them after the precise dimension of the original piece.

Finally I can reassure that the paperwork was intended to reach not only the most experienced scholars from the field of history but also to those with less knowledge of archaeology, using photographs, eye catching pictures and simple explanations so that everybody becomes curios one way or another about some part of the subject.

A most interesting form of coin catalogue that brings useful information for specialists and interesting facts for the public is ending this extremely useful book.