

## Abstrakt

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### THE HRADIŠTĚ BY STRADONICE A COMMENTED CATALOGUE OF COIN FINDS AND EVIDENCE OF THE COIN PRODUCTION

The Boii numismatics had long been haunted by a huge research debt: absence of proper full critical catalogue of coin finds from the oppidum of Stradonice, traditionally connected with the Boii tribe. The haphazardly published data made it clear for a long time that the Stradonice collection is a unique and unprecedented assemblage in the central European context. This lack has only been corrected in 2015 by the present study.

The correct interpretation of the assemblage of coins and coin production evidence from the Stradonice oppidum needs to be preceded by a reflection on mechanisms through which it came to be. The collection consists in the first place from coin hoard; three hoards (A–C) are documented in the site, two of which were unknown until recently. Unfortunately, not more 17 coins are (with more or less certainty) preserved from the most important hoard C discovered in 1877.

Most information on coin circulation in the oppidum of Stradonice is provided by the collection of single coin finds (cat. nos. 1–2481). We have to keep in mind that the assemblage accumulated over a long period of time in a – to a large extent – random manner. It consists on the one hand from coins accumulated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century collections, on the other hand there are coins discovered in the private metal detector surveys over the last 20 years.

The Stradonice coin collection is the largest of its kind in Central Europe. No other oppidum yielded so many and so various Celtic coins, both local and imported. The Stradonice coin assemblage is thus a unique sample of the Bohemian coinage in late LT C2 and the entire LT D. In absolute dates the collection spans the years 130/120–40/20 BC. Traces of earlier occupation as well as earlier coins (LT C1–C2) are negligible in the site.

The most numerous coin group in the site are the coins of the Bohemian series of the oppidum period Boii coinage (late LT C2–LT D). Golden coinage are represented by 236 coins (including fourées) – 65 staters, 63 1/3-staters, 107 1/8-staters, and one 1/24-stater. These figures do not include the coins from the hoard C. This is the largest collection of single finds gold coin in any of the oppida in Central Europe. These coins were analysed in detail and – with the exception of staters – classified according to a new typology (TAB. 1–7).

Local silver coinage of the Stradonice oppidum includes the obols of newly defined types A–C represented by 1,822 pieces (cat. nos. 254–2075). The newly proposed classification of these coins (TAB. 8–33) demonstrated the enormous volume of their production. The series begins with a newly identified type A (Stradonice/Žehuň) with a female head on the obverse and a horse on the reverse. The most voluminous production was that of the type B (Stradonice), and the series comes to its end with

the most recent type C (Stradonice/Karlstein). These small silver coins were apparently intended for common everyday transactions. The number of documented variants testifies to the mass production of these small coins proving above all doubt that the oppidum society must have been highly monetized. The minted coins became important means of exchange not only in central places but also in the countryside.

The finds from the Stradonice oppidum include 406 Celtic and Mediterranean coins which can be considered imports, i.e. minted outside the territory of Bohemia (cat. nos. 2076–2481). All of them were found as single pieces and they make up 16% of all the single coin finds. The Stradonice collection of imported coins is one of the most interesting assemblages of this kind in Central Europe. It makes it possible to study the external contacts of the oppidum in a way impossible for other archaeological sources. The all the regions of the Celtic world are represented with the exception of only Spain, Britain and Cisalpine Gaul; from the Mediterranean, the Roman coins are flanked by those of some regions of Greece. It is the imported coins which make Stradonice a unique site of the oppida period.

It is often difficult to prove production of Celtic coins in the oppida and other central sites. The Stradonice collection nevertheless includes numerous artefact categories which can be obviously linked with coin production: test mints (cat. nos. T I/1–4), coin flans and semi-products (cat. nos. T II/ 1–65), ingots of precious metal (cat. nos. T III/1–2), gold and silver casting spills (cat. nos. T. IV/1–46), raw gold (cat. nos. T V/1–2), coin dies (cat. nos. T VI/1–3), and flan moulds (cat. nos. T VII/1–48). This collection – again one of the largest in central Europe – testifies to the extraordinary significance of the Stradonice oppidum which must have been the central site of the entire Bohemia from the last third of the 2<sup>nd</sup> until the last third of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.

The overall analysis of the Stradonice coin collection and its setting into a larger Central European context, which was undertaken in the presented study, open completely new horizons of the Central European numismatics. The newly established typologies enable us to classify and to compare coin spectra from other sites in Bohemia – this procedure has been successfully applied to the recently studied collections from Žehuň and Týnec nad Labem. Awaiting a similar evaluation are the collections from Třisov, Hrazany and Závist. It is, however, only thanks to the richness of the Stradonice assemblage that we can study the oppida coinage in its full complexity. This is one of the most important results of the study.

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