

## STAND

on the Dissertation Thesis of Dr. Yanislav Tachev  
with a subject : „**The Coinage of Anchialus**“, presented  
for Conferment of the scientific degree „Doctor of historical Sciences“  
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The Dissertation thesis presented for defense is devoted on the study of the coinage of one of the most significant Roman cities on the territory of Bulgaria. The main goal of the study is to be collected and analyzed the coined in Anchialus autonomous coins and their chronological and typological systematization (p. 6).

Except scarcity of general studies of that type I see the actuality of this study in the accumulation of large amounts of new numismatic material needed to be processed and interpreted from the point of view of the actual visions on the coinage of the city and the important information, which this thesis would provide in aid to archaeologists and historians in the further processing and modern interpretation of the results of the rescue excavations of the last few years on the territory of Anchialus (between 2007 and 2018), which added and most probably would add much more new and maybe surprising information about the Roman city in question. An instructive example was provided by the rescue excavations of the season 2018, which have revealed data for a firm dating of the constructing of the early fortification wall of the Roman Anchialus in the period between 178 and 184/5 AD.

In aim to obtain the goals of the study, which completion predetermine the structure of the thesis, in the introduction of the text the main scopes are defined (in 8 points - p. 6) .

There the research methods used in the analysis and interpretation of the coin material – iconographical and stylistic; paleographical; comparative and metrological & stylistic are presented.

The territorial and chronological frames of the study are clearly defined as well.

An usual chapter I with historiographical review in which in a compact way are presented data from the ancient sources, epigraphical monuments, as well as the stage of the archaeological researches of the Roman Anchialus, then review of the numismatic publications on the subject and the actual state of the knowledge on the coinage of Anchialus is given.

There follow seven chapters, which reveal the results of the research of the author of a huge data base and which present all the aspects autonomous coinage: “Reverse iconographic types” (ch. II), “Coin legends” (ch. III), “Metric parameters and nominals” (ch. IV), “Interrelation between the coin dies and the chronology of the issues”(ch. V), “Countermarks” (ch. VI), “Circulation and diffusion” (ch. VII), “Fakes” (ch. VIII).

Having in disposition an impressive massif of data, in chapter II the author presents a convincing support to the opinion of the specialists after which the reverse representations of the civic coinage are closely interrelated with the local cultural history, architectural and religious traditions. In the iconographic repertoire stand out with its variety of types and variants with the corresponding number of dies deities like Demeter (51 exs.), Apollo (31), Artemis (17) and etc. which probably testifies to local traditions since yet from the Hellenistic times and probably to lodgments of the religious life in the city and the West-pontic area in the Imperial age as well.

By others, Heracles for example, the multiplicity of iconographical types and mythological stories they are connected, probably are testimony of a superposition of the hero’s vogue and his distinct honoring by the dynasties of Antonin’s and Severs’ over Hellenic tradition from the Classical and Hellenistic times. Another group of reverse issues rich in iconographical types and variants almost without parallel among the provincial coinage is that of the representations of the city gates and fortification walls. In this case it is to interpret not only as common conventional iconographical themes but most probably as reflection of local phenomena of the fortification architecture. Accumulation of new and more substantial archaeological and epigraphic data base in the course of future research of Anchialus has the chance to step on a rich comparative ground.

Very important results have been achieved in chapter V as well with the attested interrelations between the historical events and the internal dynamics of the coin emissions reflecting dependencies between nominal, iconography, combination of the coin dies and the chronology of the coinage of the given emperor. I would highlight the scrupulous analysis, quality illustrations

of coins of Anchialus which reveal the peculiarities that indicate Ancient, Mediaeval and Modern fakes given in chapter VIII. This is of importance for the professional numismatists, archaeologists and historians, museums and collectors, who would work with such a numismatic artefacts.

In the voluminous but informal conclusion of the thesis is synthesized the basic data, accents and results of this important research.

Really important part of the work is the catalogue in which are presented 3112 coins, known at the moment from museums and private collections in Bulgaria and abroad, and auctions, with its 288 obverse and 914 reverse dies and the relations between them illustrated in 193 tables in actual scale, in optimum quality of the representations. The information of the catalogue is interrelated with the main text. The coins are presented in chronological order, provided with the information on the nominal, the number of the obvers and the reverse die, metrical data, place of storage, initial publication of the type and etc.

It is a research impressive by volume and scope being in fact a corpus of the coinage of Roman Anchialus, relevant to the actual requirements in the numismatics.

After my modest opinion Dr. Yanislav Tachev has achieved decisively the defined aims and the propositions of the study.

The summary of the thesis correspond to the requirements and represent adequate the contents of the dissertation thesis. The self-presentation about the contributions reflects correctly the main achievements and contributions of the study.

Dr. Yanislav Tachev is author of a monograph and fifteen articles. Five of them are devoted to subjects and problems of the coinage of Roman Anchialus.

In conclusion, I express my opinion that presented dissertation thesis has an complete and contributive appearance, and match the statutory requirements for the acquisition of the scientific degree „Doctor of historical Sciences“ in the professional range 2.2 *History and Archaeology (Numismatics)* and I will vote for this.

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