

COIN FINDINGS FROM THE SURROUNDINGS OF THE TOWN OF BERESTECHKO: EVIDENCE OF 1651 BATTLE

BY

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Abstract:

The article deals with 74 coin findings from the area of one of the largest battle of Bohdan Khmelnytsky Uprising (1648-1657) – the battle of Berestechko (28.06. – 10.07.1651), fought between Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth army and the allied forces of Zaporozhian Cossacks and Crimean Tatars. These include three parcels containing 34, 10 and 19 coins, as well as single findings, stored in private collections. Most of the coins are the issues of the Ottoman Empire, supplemented by a small share of coins of the Crimean Khanate, city of Emden, Duchy of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, Republic of Ragusa and Tsardom of Russia. Most likely, the majority of these findings belonged to a soldier of Ottoman military unit that participated in the battle of Berestechko on side of Cossack-Tatar army. Since these coins did not circulate in the region where the battle took place (Volhynia), and reflect the monetary circulation of more distant lands, where their owner came from, the circulation in the territory of the European possessions of the Ottomans and vassal Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia in the mid-17th century has been examined.

Keywords: Bohdan Khmelnytsky Uprising; battle of Berestechko; Ottoman coins; akche.

Coins found at the area of the battle of Berestechko, which was one of the largest battles of Bohdan Khmelnytsky Uprising of 1648-1657, have already drawn the attention of researchers. At the site where the battle took place (the area from the town of Berestechko to the village of Plyashivka, nowadays Lutsk raion of Volyn oblast and Dubno raion of Rivne oblast of Ukraine) the archaeological excavations have been conducting since 1970¹. During these studies, at the site where the defeated Cossacks crossed the Styr River, 38 complexes containing a total of 495 coins were discovered. These findings are represented by the issues of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Brandenburg-Prussia, Sweden, Provinces of the Netherlands, Saxony, Flanders, Oldenburg and Transylvania². A particular interest of the researchers arose from the presumption that currency issued by Bohdan Khmelnytsky could have been present among these findings. However, the hypothetical Khmelnytsky's coins have not been found yet³.

In addition to archaeological excavations, this area has attracted the attention of amateurs with metal detectors. Unfortunately, the findings made as a result of their activity lose credibility as a historical source; their trace often gets lost in scattered private collections. Nevertheless, such findings should not be completely ignored by scholars since they can be used as an additional source. We managed to study 74 coins, which were reported to be found at the site of the battle – on a hill located two-three km from the town of Berestechko towards the village of Mytnitsa (Pl. IV, V). According to the information received, during 2019-2021 three parcels were found there, consisting of 34, 10 and 19 pcs. respectively, as well as a number of single findings (Cat. nos. 64-74). The majority of these coins could have originally been a single complex which belonged to a participant of the battle.

Generally, the compositions of three deposits and single findings are similar, consisting of the late 16th – mid-17th century coins of the Ottoman Empire and Crimean Khanate. There were also coins of city of Emden, Duchy of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, Republic of Ragusa and Tsardom of Russia among single findings. The latest coins from the introduced findings are the akches of Ottoman Sultan Mehmed IV (1648-1687) and Crimean Khan Islam III Giray (1644-1654), who were the contemporaries of the battle of Berestechko. Despite rather long reign of Mehmed IV, the chronology of

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¹ SVIESHNIKOV 1992: 151-163.

² SHUST 2005: 213-221; SVIESHNIKOV 1992: 196-201.

³ NECHYTAILO 2019: 92-93; SHUST 2005: 219.

issues of his akches is still unknown to researchers⁴. However, judging by the context of the find, these are the earliest issues of this ruler. An additional evidence that these coins belonged to the participants of the battle of Berestechko is that Ottoman and Giray silver coins never participated in the monetary circulation of this region (Volynia): with the Ottoman gold coins (sultanis or altuns) being arrived north from the Ottoman-Polish and Moldavian-Polish border through international trade⁵, the silver coins crossed this line mainly as a result of military raids⁶. This was due to the difference of gold:silver ratio, promoting the flow of African gold to Europe and the reverse flow of European silver to Ottoman Empire⁷, as well as severe financial crisis in the Ottoman Empire and difference in Ottoman and Polish currency systems.

The Battle of Berestechko was fought in 28 June – 10 July 1651 between Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth army, led by King John II Casimir Vasa, and the allied forces of Zaporozhian Cossacks and Crimean Tatars under the command of Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky and Khan Islam III Giray. After the retreat of Tatar army, Cossack camp was besieged and destroyed. Having suffered a devastating defeat, Khmelnytsky was forced to conclude a humiliating peace treaty of Bila Tserkva. Soon, in May 1652, the military activities have been resumed⁸.

Considering that the overwhelming majority of introduced findings are the Ottoman coins, while the Giray akches and other coins are few in number, the parcels under discussion were unlikely to belong to a Crimean Tatar from khan's army. It is more likely that they were the possession of one of the Ottoman soldiers who had been sent by sultan to help Khmelnytsky.

The Ottoman Empire supported Bohdan Khmelnytsky in order to weaken the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and encouraged the participation of Khan Islam III Giray on the side of the rebels⁹. Before the battle of Berestechko, in the spring of 1651, Sultan Mehmed IV ordered the border pashas to send troops for aid to Khmelnytsky. He also gave the same order to his vassals – Matei Basarab of Wallachia, Vasile Lupu of Moldavia and George II Rákóczi of Transylvania¹⁰. However, none of the vassals was in a hurry to send troops to join the Cossacks, while Vasile Lupu, secretly from Khmelnytsky, contributed to the supply of the Commonwealth army and sent troops to King John Casimir¹¹.

As for the military support from the Ottomans, written sources contain fragmentary and sometimes contradictory information regarding this. German officer in Polish service V. Krause in his letter dated 2 July 1651 reported on 1000 Turks on the side of Islam Giray and Khmelnytsky¹². Polish nobleman Stanisław Oświęcim, who participated in the campaign against Khmelnytsky, in his diary claims that Turkish military unit numbered 5000¹³, while John Casimir's historiographer Joachim Pastorius, referring to captives' testimony – at least 6000¹⁴. Another 4000th Turkish unit, together with the Tatar troops, was heading to the aid of Khmelnytsky. However, having learned about his defeat, they hurriedly returned back, as reported in a letter of the pantler of Halych Andrzej Miaskowski dated 18 July 1651¹⁵.

The Polish report on the victory (*Relatio*), written 12-13 July 1651, contains information from captured Cossacks about numerous Thomelian, Silistrian and Dobrudgean Turks and other nations that came with sultan's permission¹⁶. The abovementioned Stanisław Oświęcim, as well as the consul of the town of Kazimierz Marcin Goliński, who used the same written source, mention the hordes of Turks from Silistra, Dobruja and Rumelia in Cossack-Tatar army, as well as the Moldavians (*Woloszy/Woloszey*)¹⁷, Nogais from Orumbet-oğlu or Or Mambet-oğlu clan

⁴ SREĆKOVIĆ 2009: 103-105.

⁵ KAPLUN 1974: 104.

⁶ KUROM, BAKALET'S 2018: 75-80.

⁷ TEZCAN 2009: 490-501.

⁸ SVIESHNIKOV 1992: 66-130.

⁹ DOV 1965: 375-376; LITAVRIN 1998: 208; SEREDA 2018: 37-38.

¹⁰ DOV 1965: 402; DRAGNEV 1987: 208; LITAVRIN 1998: 208.

¹¹ DRAGNEV 1987: 208; LITAVRIN 1998: 236-237; MYTSYK 1998: 112.

¹² VYTKALOV, PONOMARYOVA 2005: 84.

¹³ OŚWIĘCIM 1907: 336.

¹⁴ VYTKALOV, PONOMARYOVA 2005: 229.

¹⁵ DOV 1965: 570.

¹⁶ ...multitudo thomeliensium, sylistriensium, dobruciensium Turcarum (DOV 1965: 550, 555). The *thomeliensium Turcarum* could possibly mean the Turks from Tomis, i.e. the ancient name of Constanța.

¹⁷ Oświęcim, as well as the other contemporary Polish authors, called the Moldavians *Woloszy*, while the Wallachians were called *Multariy* (DOV 1965: 24, 401; OŚWIĘCIM 1907: 24).

(Urumbetów/Urumbegow)¹⁸, janissaries, Petyhorcy cavalry (Petyorców), from «Glacial Sea, Hiperborea mountains and Caspian Sea»¹⁹. A multitude of Turks on the side of the Tatars and Cossacks are also mentioned by the Grand Chancellor of Lithuania Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł in his memoirs²⁰. The French diplomat Pierre Chevalier notes the presence of a unit of janissaries as a part of the Tatar army²¹.

However, a number of sources contradict the abovementioned. Thus, the Greek monk Paul, who was present in Khmelnytsky's camp, wrote to Moscow Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich on 28 March that Khmelnytsky had given an audience to Turkish ambassador and had refused the military assistance offered by sultan²². According to I. Sveshnikov, this refusal was due to the fact that even then Khmelnytsky has prepared to conclude a military alliance with Russia, which happened later, in March 1654²³. At the same time, Cossack hetman continued to strengthen diplomatic relations with the Ottoman Empire²⁴. After the battle of Berestechko, the Poles captured Turkish ambassador²⁵ and the sultan's decree, which allegedly entitled Khmelnytsky to rule over the Principality of Rus' (as a vassal state of the Ottomans)²⁶.

The report from Polish camp located near Sokal, dated 21 May, claimed that the Ottoman Empire was not considering the possibility of providing aid to the Cossacks because of the wars with Venice and Persia, as well as the suppression of internal revolts²⁷. The same information is confirmed by the testimony of captured Cossacks, recorded on 2 June, and the letters of abovementioned A. Miaskowski, dated 9 and 10 June²⁸. Among the sources of information of A. Miaskowski, in addition to «rumors», there were letters from Moldavian Prince Vasile Lupu to Hetman Khmelnytsky, intercepted by the Poles²⁹.

Nevertheless, the listed information was recorded before the arrival of main body of Islam Giray's army to aid Khmelnytsky, which included the Turkish unit. Khan's army was most likely to come on 17 June³⁰. In addition, the information about the absence of Turkish aid could have resulted from the efforts of Vasile Lupu to misinform Khmelnytsky and force him to abandon direct military confrontation with the Commonwealth army, in order to help the latter³¹.

Thus, the participation of the Turkish unit on the side of Khmelnytsky in the battle of Berestechko is confirmed by a number of sources. However, it was very small in number, and its participation was rather a symbolic help of sultan to his potential vassal: with the Cossack-Tatar army being numbered ca. 145-155 thousand in total, and the Commonwealth army – ca. 180-200 thousand, according to the estimates of researchers³², the share of Turkish forces (from one to six thousand) was very small.

The abovementioned evidences from the *Relatio* and notes of A.S. Radziwiłł, S. Oświęcim and M. Goliński about the multiplicity of Turkish troops is probably an exaggeration aiming to glorify King John Casimir's victory. In addition, Oświęcim and Goliński mentioned the presence of the Moldavians (Woloszy/Woloszey) in the Cossack-Tatar army,

¹⁸ W. Czermak assumed that this name could mean the Uzbeks (OŚWIĘCIM 1907: 342, fn. 1), but we believe these are the *Orumbet-oğlu* or *Or Mambet-oğlu* – one of the Nogai clans (SEREDA 2009: 78-87).

¹⁹ **Oświęcim**: «Tak ich na ten dzień jeden furor sociaverat, ze razem i nieprzejżane ordy sylistryjskich, urumelskich, dobruckich Tatarów, Turków, Woloszy, Urumbetów, Petyorców, gdzieś a mari Glaciali, montibus hiperboreis et mari Caspio zawołanych dzikich Tatarów, których Pan Bóg walecznej szabli JKMP subiecit...»; **Goliński**: «Tak ich na ten dzień ieden furor sociaverat, ze razem y nieprzeżane ordy Tatarskie y Sylistryskie, rumelskich, Dobruckich Turków, Woloszey, Urumbegow, lanczarow, Petyorcow gdzieś za mari glacioli et montibus hyperboreis et mari Caspio zawołanych dzikich Tatarów waleczney Szabli JKMP naszego subiecit...» (KHOTKEVYCH 1930: 186-187; OŚWIĘCIM 1907: 342). Polish historian L. Kubala cites the same fragment, but mentions Ural Mountains instead of Hiperborea Mountains (KUBALA 1896: 292).

²⁰ VYTKALOV, PONOMARYOVA 2005: 201.

²¹ SHEVALIE 1993: 150.

²² VYTKALOV, PONOMARYOVA 2005: 304.

²³ SVIESHNIKOV 1992: 68.

²⁴ SEREDA 2018: 11-12, 37-38.

²⁵ VYTKALOV, PONOMARYOVA 2005: 153.

²⁶ DOV 1965: 565.

²⁷ DOV 1965: 418.

²⁸ DOV 1965: 432, 450, 459.

²⁹ DOV 1965: 450.

³⁰ SVIESHNIKOV 1992: 98-99

³¹ DRAGNEV 1987: 208.

³² BREKHUNENKO 2013: 74-75, 83.

whereas this contradicts the other sources. Although Vasile Lupu in October 1650, as a result of the Cossack-Tatar campaign against Moldavia, was forced to make an alliance with Khmel'nitsky, on the contrary he secretly helped John Casimir in the battle of Berestechko, as mentioned above. Before the battle, Lupu assured Khmel'nitsky in his letter that he was not able to send troops to aid the Cossacks³³.

The findings of coins under discussion can be considered as an additional source testifying to the participation of Ottoman troops in the battle of Berestechko. At the same time, one should not deny that these coins could have belonged to the warrior of Budjak Horde, also known as Belgorod Horde. Numerous evidences about the presence of this Horde in Islam Giray's army during the battle of Berestechko have been preserved in written sources³⁴. Unlike the other Tatar and Nogai clans in the khan's army, Belgorod Horde was under double subordination: to the Crimean khan and beylerbey of Silistra and Özi (Ochakov)³⁵. Coin findings in Budjak, which could have belonged to the Tatars and Nogais of the Budjak Horde, show that the principal component of their monetary circulation was the Ottoman (predominantly) and Giray coins³⁶.

Judging by the reported place where the coins were found – a hill near the road between Berestechko and Mytnitsa, this area was occupied by the left flank of khan's army during the battle. The fighting took place there on 28-30 June 1651³⁷. Apparently, the owner (or owners) of these coins was killed or fled, having left his belongings at the battlefield.

The fact that introduced findings belonged to a participant of the battle of Berestechko significantly increases their interest in research, since one gets a picture of monetary circulation recorded precisely at that moment, which is especially important due to the very small number of known findings of contemporary or nearly contemporary hoards containing Ottoman coins: Iași³⁸, Akkerman county³⁹, Nalbant⁴⁰, Otaci⁴¹, Izmail⁴², Pomorie I, Paleokastro⁴³.

The composition of three parcels and single findings shows that in 1651, three years after Mehmed IV's accession to the throne, the akches of his predecessor Ibrahim (1640-1648) still formed the basis of monetary circulation, supplemented by the coins of previous sultans of the late 16th – first third of the 17th centuries. The akches of new Sultan Mehmed IV were only being introduced into circulation. Shortly after the discussed events, since the mid-1650s, the minting of akches would drastically decline, and up until the mid-1680s the capital mint in Kostantiniye (Istanbul) struck gold and silver coins in very limited volume, used primarily by the sultan and his retinue in ceremonial occasions⁴⁴. Generally, the recorded findings of Mehmed IV's akches, both as single findings and as a part of hoards, are very few in number. During the reign of Mehmed IV (1648-1687), another silver denomination, called medini or para, minted in Egypt (Misr), started to replace akche as a basic currency of small daily transactions, in conditions of severe devaluation of the latter. It is the Egyptian para that significantly prevails among the recorded findings of the coins of Mehmed IV⁴⁵. Coin findings from Berestechko battlefield indicate that in 1651 the process of replacing akches with paras in monetary circulation had not yet developed on a full scale⁴⁶. The closest in composition to the parcels from Berestechko is Paleokastro hoard, consisting of 605 coins of a number of European states and the Ottoman Empire. Judging by its composition, it also dates to the beginning of Mehmed IV's reign⁴⁷.

³³ DRAGNEV 1987: 208; LITAVRIN 1998: 236-237; MYTSYK 1998: 112.

³⁴ DOV 1965: 391, 431, 445, 534-535, 555.

³⁵ SEREDA 2009: 76-77.

³⁶ YANOV 2018A: 90-92; YANOV 2018B: 242-247. In contrast to Ottoman coins, the findings of Giray coins from Budjak still remain unpublished.

³⁷ SVIESHNIKOV 1992: 104-110.

³⁸ OBERLÄNDER-TÄRNOVEANU 2006: 413-429.

³⁹ NUDEL'MAN 1988: 145.

⁴⁰ MAXIM 1996: 199-208.

⁴¹ NUDEL'MAN 1976: 102.

⁴² ISLAMOV 2016: 89-96.

⁴³ KRUSTEV 2017: 163-184.

⁴⁴ PAMUK 2000: 143.

⁴⁵ ISLAMOV 2013: 116; YANOV 2018B: 245.

⁴⁶ The Izmail hoard consists mostly of Ottoman akches, although it dates to the 1690s. This was due to the fact that the owner of this hoard intentionally selected akches and avoided paras. The latter are represented in the composition of the hoard only by heavyweight pieces, which considerably exceed the average weight paras (ISLAMOV 2016: 91).

⁴⁷ KRUSTEV 2017: 166, 182-183.

Among the coins under discussion there is one para, minted during the reign of Ibrahim (1640-1648) (Cat. no. 8). It is remarkable that it was minted in Kostantiniye, not in Misr, like the majority of coins of this denomination. The paras struck at Kostantiniye mint, despite having been introduced during Murad IV's reign (1623-1640) following the model of the Egyptian paras⁴⁸, managed to replace the latter in circulation only during Ahmed III's reign (1703-1730), judging by coin findings⁴⁹. Other Ottoman denominations, presented among the introduced findings, are onluk (10 akches) and beshlik (5 akches) (Cat. nos. 66-67). Their minting at Kostantiniye was rather short term and lasted during 1618-1648 (onluks) and 1623-1648 (beshliks)⁵⁰.

The late 16th – the first half of the 17th century akches, judging by recorded findings, still participated in monetary circulation in a limited number in the second half of the 17th century. The position of this denomination, which formed the basis of monetary circulation of the Ottoman state since its very beginning, has significantly weakened as a result of a drastic reduction of weight standard in the second half of the 1580s, during the reign of Murad III (1574-1595) – from 0.681 to 0.384. At the beginning of 17th century, the weight standard of akche was 0.323 g. In 1618 it fell to 0.307 g. This standard remained unchanged for four decades, until 1659, when it was reduced to 0.257 g, although in fact during this period akche was dramatically devaluating, as evidenced by its market rate against other currencies⁵¹. The introduced coins, like the other recorded findings⁵², indicate that the average weight of akches of Osman II (1618-1622), Murad IV (1623-1640) and Ibrahim (1640-1648) was below the established weight standard of 0.307 g. The Ottoman government attempted to restrain the drastic decline of exchange rate of akche and support the 1618 weight standard (0.307 g) by carrying out so called corrections of coinage (*tashih-i sikke*) in 1624 and 1640. However, these measures were not enough to overcome the monetary crisis, which intensified considerably during Mehmed IV's reign (1648-1687)⁵³.

It is noteworthy that among the introduced akches there are no clipped pieces. Among the findings of 17th century akches there are quite a lot of pieces with very low weight, which have the signs of clipping on the edges⁵⁴. Although such a fact as clipping was not always mentioned in publications, since it can be detected only after a thorough examination of the coin edge, one can assume that the majority of not fragmented akches weighting below 0.18-0.19 g were clipped. Thus, such lightweight coins were recorded among the findings in the territory of European possessions of the Ottomans and the Principality of Moldavia⁵⁵.

Clipping is one of the types of coin debasement intended to derive illegal profit⁵⁶. However, this process could have been legal, having been carried out by money changers (*sarrafs*) in order to conform the old coins to a new weight standard, which was reflected in the decree (*firman*) from Bursa Court Registers dated to 1591⁵⁷. In the 17th century, with the scarcity of silver at the mints having been grown and the exchange rate of akche having been fluctuated, coin clipping should have been increased. The introduced coins may indicate that another burst of mass akche clipping, the result of which can be observed in Izmail hoard, had not yet started in 1651⁵⁸.

Among not fragmented akches from the findings under discussion, five lightweight coins of Murad IV and Ibrahim weighting 0.18, 0.20, 0.20, 0.17, 0.19 g (Cat. nos. 2, 4, 10, 48, 49 respectively) attract attention. The examination of their edges showed no sign of clipping. Their low weight could have resulted from insufficient control over coin weights at the mint, which, however, was not typical for the Ottoman Empire, as evidenced by the analysis of Beçin hoard⁵⁹.

The distribution of the introduced Ottoman coins by mints is not as diverse as is the case of rich hoards of the 16th century. Although the capital mint in Kostantiniye started striking coins in the 1460s, for the most part the share of its production has not ranked first among the Ottoman currency of the 15th - 16th centuries, since the highest volume of akches

⁴⁸ SREČKOVIĆ 2002: 31.

⁴⁹ VILCU 2009: 179-200.

⁵⁰ ALBUM 2011: 143.

⁵¹ MAXIM 1996: 202; SAHILLIOGLU 1999: 63, Tab. 8.

⁵² MAXIM 1996: 201, 204; OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 2006: 424; SREČKOVIĆ 2007: 180, fn. 1.

⁵³ MAXIM 1996: 204-206; PAMUK 2000: 140.

⁵⁴ ISLAMOV 2016: 91-93.

⁵⁵ DOBROLIUBSKYI, YANOV 2013: 157-159; ISLAMOV 2016: 93; KRUSTEV 2015: 91; MUNTEANU, MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA, OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 2006: 400-401.

⁵⁶ BOIKO-GAGARIN 2017: 15-17.

⁵⁷ SAHILLIOGLU 1999: 45-46, fn. 44.

⁵⁸ ISLAMOV 2016: 92.

⁵⁹ PFEIFFER-TAŞ, SCHINDEL 2013: 662.

was minted at the Balkan mints, where silver mines were concentrated⁶⁰. Towards the end of the 16th century, with the financial crisis having been increased and the minting in the Balkans having been declined, the share of the capital's mint was increasing, which is evident from the geographical distribution of coins in the composition of hoards⁶¹. The number of operating mints sharply declined during the reign of Ibrahim: while Murad IV struck akches at 28 mints, Ibrahim did it at only four mints, not counting the doubtful and trial issues⁶².

Therefore, the mint variety among the coins under discussion is characteristic for the earlier issuers, mainly for the coins of Murad IV. Apart from Kostantiniye, first parcel contains Murad IV's akches struck at Misr and Saray. Unlike gold altuns/sultanis and silver medinis/paras, the share of akches struck at Misr in the circulation of European possessions of the Ottomans and vassal Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia was rather small. The composition of rich hoards of 16th century from these regions shows almost complete absence of akches from Misr, with the exception of two coins of Suleyman I from Budjak hoard⁶³. However, with many Balkan mints having been closed, in the 17th century their share has increased, although they still remained few in number. The akches from Misr were present in the composition of Pomorie I, Nalbant, Iași, Paleokastro and Izmail hoards⁶⁴. According to published findings, medinis/paras of Misr appeared in Rumelia and Danubian Principalities during the reign of Ahmed I (1603-1617)⁶⁵.

Akches of Saray mint (nowadays Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina) are even rarer than those of Misr, being recorded so far only in Nalbant hoard. This mint struck akches only during Murad IV's reign. It was reopened in 1687-1688 (under the name of *Bosna* and the same name *Saray*), during Suleyman II's reign, to strike copper mangirs⁶⁶.

The akches of Crimean Khanate are present in the composition of all three parcels. They all belong to Islam III Giray (1644-1654), struck at Baghchesaray. In the catalog of O. Retowski, two types of coins of this khan are described: in the first type taraq tamga is located above the first line on the reverse, in the second – within dotted circle⁶⁷. Both types are present among the examined findings (first type – Cat. nos. 33-34, 43; second type – Cat. no. 63). Outside the territory of Crimean Khanate⁶⁸, these coins are quite rare among the recorded findings. The akches of Islam III are present in a small hoard (50 pcs.) of Giray coins from the village of Raygorod (Nemiriv raion of Vinnitsa oblast of Ukraine), which also contains the akches of Bahadur Giray (1637-1641) and Mehmed IV Giray (first reign, 1641-1644)⁶⁹.

The coin of the Republic of Ragusa (Cat. no. 71) apparently got to the Berestechko battlefield together with Ottoman coins: the findings of coins of this maritime republic, which was a vassal of the Ottoman Empire, were recorded in the territory of Rumelia and Danubian Principalities, while being so far unknown among the published findings in Western Ukraine⁷⁰.

The finding of counterfeit florin (28 stüber) (Cat. no. 72) reflect the spread of this large silver denomination in monetary circulation. The counterfeit florins, issued in German North-western and Dutch cities, were recorded both in the territory of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (particularly, in Volhynia region, where the battle of Berestechko took place)⁷¹ and Ottoman Empire⁷². But unidentified Ottoman or Giray akche (Cat. no. 70), having been discovered stuck together with the florin, suggests that the latter belonged to Ottoman or Tatar warrior of Islam Giray's army. The findings of counterfeit coins have already been recorded at Berestechko battlefield – one of the parcels owned presumably by a Cossack from Khmelnytsky's army contained counterfeit taler of Brabant Province of the Spanish Netherlands⁷³. Coins of the Duchy of Brunswick-Lüneburg (Braunschweig-Lüneburg) and its subordinate principalities, like groschen no. 73

⁶⁰ BOLDUREANU 2013: 57-62, 174-175, Tab. 11.

⁶¹ ISLAMOV 2016: 93; MAXIM 1996: 200; OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 2006: 416-417.

⁶² SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 13, 81.

⁶³ KRIVENKO, SREČKOVIĆ 2011: 100, 104.

⁶⁴ ISLAMOV 2016: 93; KRUSTEV 2017: 181-182; MAXIM 1996: 200; OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 2006: 417.

⁶⁵ OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 2006: 413-419; KRUSTEV 2017: 182.

⁶⁶ SREČKOVIĆ 2002: 182.

⁶⁷ RETOWSKI 1903: 73.

⁶⁸ Unfortunately, the amount of published Giray coin findings in the territory of Crimean Khanate itself remains very few in number.

⁶⁹ BAKALET'S 2015: 308.

⁷⁰ KRUSTEV 2015: 214-216; MUNTEANU, MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA, OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 2006: 400; PÎRVULESCU, NEAGU 2018: 386-405.

⁷¹ BOIKO-GAGARIN 2017: 473-474, Nos. 486, 488-489.

⁷² BOIKO-GAGARIN 2017: 474, No. 491.

⁷³ SVIESHNIKOV 1992: 198.

from the catalogue, are also found both in the territory of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth⁷⁴ and Ottoman Empire (including the vassal Principality of Moldavia)⁷⁵. The Russian kopeck of Mikhail Fyodorovich (1613-1645) (Cat. no. 74) could have belonged to a Don Cossack or a Moscow infantryman (*strelets*), whose participation in the battle of Berestechko on the side of Khmelnytsky is confirmed by archaeological findings (weapons and jewelry)⁷⁶.

Thus, despite the fact that the introduced coin findings do not reflect the monetary circulation of the region where they were found, being brought from distant Ottoman possessions, they are of significant interest for research. Their loss could be traced in time accurate to a couple of days – 28-30 June 1651. Most likely, the majority of these coins belonged to a soldier of Ottoman military unit that participated in the battle of Berestechko on side of Cossack-Tatar army. In addition to the fact that these findings supplement information from written sources about the composition of participants of the battle, they are an important source on the history of monetary circulation in the Ottoman Empire. A few decades after their loss, the monetary reform would be carried out by Sultan Suleyman II (1687-1691), which will lead to almost complete disappearance of old currency (like those from the catalogue below) from circulation.

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CATALOGUE

THE LEGENDS OF COINS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE⁷⁷:

Murad III (1574-1595)

Obv.:

A, A*a, A2, A2a: سلطان / مراد بن / سليم / خان

Rev.:

II: ٩٨٢ / ...⁷⁸ / عز نصره / ضرب

Ahmed I (1603-1617)

Obv.:

B: سلطان / احمد محمد بن / خان

Rev.:

II*5: ١٠١٢ / ... / عز نصره / ضرب

Osman II (1618-1622)

Obv.:

A: سلطان / عثمان بن / احمد خان

B: سلطان بن احمد خان, عثمان in center, around.

Rev.:

II*5: ١٠٢٧ / ... / عز نصره / ضرب

Vy*5: ١٠٢٧ / ... / نصره / عز ضرب / ب

Mustafa I, 2nd reign (1622-1623)

Obv.:

O1: ١٠٣١ / سلطان محمد خان ضرب قسطنطينية, مصطفى بن in center, around.

Rev.:

⁷⁴ BAKALETS 2005: 160-161.

⁷⁵ KRUSTEV 2015: 185-186; MUNTEANU, MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA, OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 2006: 392-393.

⁷⁶ SVIESHNIKOV 1992: 266-269.

⁷⁷ Taking into account the specificity of the Ottoman coins, their legends are given at the beginning of the catalogue. The names of obverse / reverse types are indicated according to S. Srečković's catalogue. Otherwise, the letters O and R (for obverse and reverse respectively) with sequence number are used.

⁷⁸ Third line contains the mint name, which is indicated in brackets in the catalogue.

سلطان البرين / و خاقان البحرین / السلطان بن / السلطان: R1:

Murad IV (1623-1640)

Obv.:

B: سلطان / مراد بن / احمد خان

C1: سلطان احمد خان عز نصر, مراد بن in center

Rev.:

II*5: ١٠٣٢ / ... / ضرب / عز نصره

01 ms: ١٠٣٢ / سنة / ضرب مصر / خلد ملکه. Two lines with the ornaments (*knots of bliss*) at the left and at the right between the first and second lines.

Ibrahim (1640-1648)

Obv.:

A: سلطان / ابراهيم بن / احمد خان

O2: سلطان ابراهيم / احمد خان in tuga.

Rev.:

II*5: ١٠٤٩ / ... / ضرب / عز نصره

R2: ١٠٤٩ / ... / ضرب / خلد ملکه, the word ضرب within cartouche.

Mehmed IV (1648-1687)

Obv.:

A, A*a, A*c: سلطان / محمد بن خان / ابراهيم

Rev.:

II*5: ١٠٥٨ / ... / ضرب / عز نصره

Unknown issuer

Rev.:

II*5: ... / ضرب / عز نصره

1ST PARCEL (34 PCS.)

Ottoman empire

Ahmed I (1603-1617)

Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)

1. AR, akche, 0.33 g, 11.5 mm. B / II*5⁷⁹. SREČKOVIĆ 2007: 140, Nos. 06-08.

Murad IV (1623-1640)

Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)

2. AR, akche, 0.18 g, 9-10.5 mm. B / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 41, No. 03.
3. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 11-12 mm. B / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 41, No. 06 (?).

Saray (سراي)

4. AR, akche, 0.20 g, 10.5 mm. B / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 57, Nos. 02-03.
5. AR, akche, 0.26 g, 11-12mm. B / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 57, No. 02.

Misr (مصر)

6. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 10.5-12 mm. C1 / 01 ms. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 45, Nos. 01-02.
7. AR, akche, 0.33 g, 11-13 mm. C1 / 01 ms. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 45, Nos. 01-02.

⁷⁹ The names of obverse / reverse types, described at the beginning of the catalogue, are given after the weight and size of the coin.

Ibrahim (1640-1648)**Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)**

8. AR, para, 0.56 g, 12-14 mm. A / II*5, but the letter **خ** from the word **خان** lies above the letter **د** from the word **احمد** on the obverse. DAMALI 2012: 1718, 18-K-G3.
9. AR, akche, 0.15 g, 9-10 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01. Split, fragment absent.
10. AR, akche, 0.20 g, 11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
11. AR, akche, 0.27 g, 10-11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01. Fragment.
12. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
13. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 11-13 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
14. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 10-11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
15. AR, akche, 0.29 g, 11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
16. AR, akche, 0.29 g, 12 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
17. AR, akche, 0.29 g, 11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
18. AR, akche, 0.29 g, 13 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01. Multiple strike.
19. AR, akche, 0.30 g, 11-13 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
20. AR, akche, 0.30 g, 11-12 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
21. AR, akche, 0.31 g, 10-11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
22. AR, akche, 0.31 g, 11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
23. AR, akche, 0.31 g, 10-11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
24. AR, akche, unknown weight, 10-15 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01, but with an ornament (*knot of bliss*) below the letter **ب**.
25. AR, akche, 0.31 g, 10-11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, Nos. 01-03.

Unknown mint (probably Kostantiniye)

26. AR, akche, 0.31 g, 11-13 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, Nos. 01-03 (?). Pierced.
27. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 11-12 mm. A / ?. Obverse brockage.
28. AR, akche, 0.30 g, 10.5-12 mm. A / ?. Obverse brockage.

Mehmed IV (1648-1687)**Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)**

29. AR, akche, 0.27 g, 11-17.5 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 119, No. 02. Planchet deformity.

Unknown mint (Belgrad, Kostantiniye or Novaberda)

30. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 10-13 mm. A, A*a, A*c / ?. Obverse brockage.

Unknown issuer**Unknown mint**

31. AR, akche, 0.30 g, 11-12 mm. ? / ?. Almost erased obverse legend of this coin contains the name **احمد** (*Ahmed*) in third line, i.e. it is the name of sultan's father, so the issuer is either Osman II, Murad IV or Ibrahim.
32. AR, akche, 0.31 g, 10-11.5 mm. ? / ?. Probably reverse brockage.

Crimean khanate**Islam III Giray (1644-1654)****Baghchesaray**

Obv.: **خان / اسلام کرای / بن سلا / مت**

Rev.: **باغچه سراي / ضرب ۵۴** Taraq tamga above the first line.

33. AR, akche, 0.26 g, 11-12 mm. RETOWSKI 1903: 73, Nos. 1-2.
34. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 11-12.5 mm. RETOWSKI 1903: 73, Nos. 1-2.

2ND PARCEL (10 PCS.)***Ottoman Empire*****Osman II (1618-1622)****Edirne (ادرنه) (?)**

35. AR, akche, 0.30 g, 10-12 mm. B / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 190, No. 03.

Murad IV (1623-1640)**Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)**

36. AR, akche, 0.27 g, 11 mm. B / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 41, Nos. 01-08. Pierced.

Edirne (ادرنه)

37. AR, akche, 0.27 g, 10-11.5 mm. B / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 33, Nos. 01-02. Pierced.

Ibrahim (1640-1648)**Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)**

38. AR, akche, 0.24 g, 11-13 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01. Fragment.

39. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 10-12 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01. Fragment.

Unknown mint (probably Kostantiniye)

40. AR, akche, 0.27 g, 11-13 mm. A / II*5. Fragment.

Unknown issuer**Belgrad (بلغراد)**

41. AR, akche, 0.25 g, 10-12 mm. ? / II*5 (?). Fragment.

Unknown mint

42. AR, akche, 0.18 g, 10 mm. Fragment.

Crimean Khanate**Islam III Giray (1644-1654)****Baghchesaray**

Obv.: خان / اسلام کرای / بن سلا / مت

Rev.: باغچہسرای / ضرب ۵۴ Taraq tamga above the first line.

43. AR, akche, 0.22 g, 11-12 mm. RETOWSKI 1903: 73, Nos. 1-2. Fragment.

Ottoman empire or Crimean Khanate**Unknown mint**

44. AR, akche, 0.11 g, 6-10 mm. Fragment.

3RD PARCEL (19 PCS.)***Ottoman Empire*****Murad IV (1623-1640)****Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)**

45. AR, akche, 0.27 g, 11 mm. B / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 41, No. 03.

46. AR, akche, 0.27 g, 11-12.5 mm. B / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 41, No. 03, but two vertical dots above the letters نية

Ibrahim (1640-1648)**Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)**

47. AR, akche, 0.15 g, 11.5-12 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01. Three fragments.

48. AR, akche, 0.17 g, 10-11 mm. ? / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
 49. AR, akche, 0.19 g, 9.5-11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
 50. AR, akche, 0.26 g, 10-10.5 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
 51. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 11.5-12.5 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
 52. AR, akche, 0.29 g, 10.5-12 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
 53. AR, akche, 0.29 g, 11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
 54. AR, akche, 0.29 g, 10-12 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
 55. AR, akche, 0.29 g, 11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
 56. AR, akche, 0.30 g, 11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.
 57. AR, akche, 0.30 g, 11 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, No. 01.

Unknown mint (probably Kostantiniye)

58. AR, akche, 0.29 g, 11 mm. A / ?. Obverse brockage.

Mehmed IV (1648-1687)

Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)

59. AR, akche, 0.28 g, 11-13 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 119, Nos. 01-04. Multiple strike, bent.
 60. AR, akche, 0.32 g, 10-12 mm. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 119, No. 02.

Unknown issuer

Unknown mint

61. AR, akche, 0.10 g. ? / ?. Fragment, pierced.
 62. AR, akche, 0.16 g. ? / ?. Fragment.

Crimean Khanate

İslam III Giray (1644-1654)

Baghchesaray

Obv.: اسلام کرای / سلامت کرای / خان. Horizontal dotted line between the first and second lines.

Rev.: تاراق تامغا within dotted circle, (؟) ضرب باغچسرای around.

63. AR, akche, 0.18 g, 8-11 mm. Only the letters خا and لام, probably from the father's name of khan (*Selyamet*), have survived on the obverse. RETOWSKI 1903: 73, No. 3. Fragment.

SINGLE FINDINGS

Ottoman Empire

Murad III (1574-1595)

Unknown mint

64. AR, akche, unknown weight and size. A, A*a, A2, A2a / II (?).

Osman II (1618-1622)

Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)

65. AR, akche, 0.27 g, 10-10.5 mm. A / Vy*S. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 196, No. 01.

Mustafa I, 2nd reign (1622-1623)

Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)

66. AR, onluk, 2.23 g. O1 / R1. DAMALI 2012: 1502, 15-K-G1.

Ibrahim (1640-1648)

Kostantiniye (قسطنطينية)

67. AR, beshlik, unknown weight and size. O2 / R2. DAMALI 2012: 1717, 18-K-G2a – 18-K-G2c.

68. AR, akche, 0.30 g, unknown size. A / II*5. SREČKOVIĆ 2009: 91, Nos. 01-03⁸⁰.

Unknown issuer

Unknown mint

69. AR, akche, unknown weight and size. ? / II*5 (?). The letter و from the mint name has remained, under the letters *ضر*, so it could probably be Bursa, Novaberda, Ohri, or Tokat..
70. AR, akche, unknown weight and size. ? / ?. This coin is stuck together with Cat. no. 72. Common weight is 18.14 g.

Republic of Ragusa

1617-1621

Obv.: St. Blase standing facing. S•BLASIVS at the right, RAGVSII• at the left. Mintmark R under St. Blase's right hand.

Rev.: Christ standing facing within a pearled mandorla. Ω / IЄ at the left, Ω / XP at the right.

71. AR, grosso, unknown weight and size. CNI VI: 475, 10th type, Nos. 66-71.

City of Emden

1624-1637

Obv.: FLOR•ARGEN – CIVITAT•EMB around, crowned coat of arms in center, numbers 28 beneath.

Rev.: FERDINAN•II•ROM•IMP•SEM•AVG around, double eagle with imperial orb in center, numbers 28 inside the orb.

72. AE, counterfeit florin (28 stüber), unknown weight and size. This coin is stuck together with Cat. no. 70. Common weight is 18.14 g. SCWC 2008: 474, KM#10.2.

Duchy of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel (Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel)

Julius (1568-1589)

Goslar, 1572 (?)

Obv.: V•G•G•I – H•Z•B•V•L• around, shield of 4-fold arms in center, ornate helmet above.

Rev.: MAX•IM•A•P•F•D•SILBER•GR• (?) around, wildman with imperial orb in right hand (numbers 24 inside the orb) and a tree in left hand in center, numbers 7-2 (?) to the left.

73. AR groschen (1/24 thaler). APPEL 1824: 121, No. 410.

Tsardom of Russia

Mikhail Fyodorovich (1613-1645)

Moscow

Obv.: Crowned horseman holding spear on galloping horse, «Мо» monogram beneath.

Rev.: ЦРЬ І ВЕЛ / ИКИ КНѦЗ / МІХЯІЛЪ ОЕ / ДОРОВІЧ ВС / ЕЯ РУСІ.

74. AR, kopeck, 0.43 g. GRISHIN, HRAMENKOV 2012: 39, Nos. 179, 181.

⁸⁰ Unfortunately the images of four coins (Cat. nos. 68, 70, 72, 73) are absent in the plates.

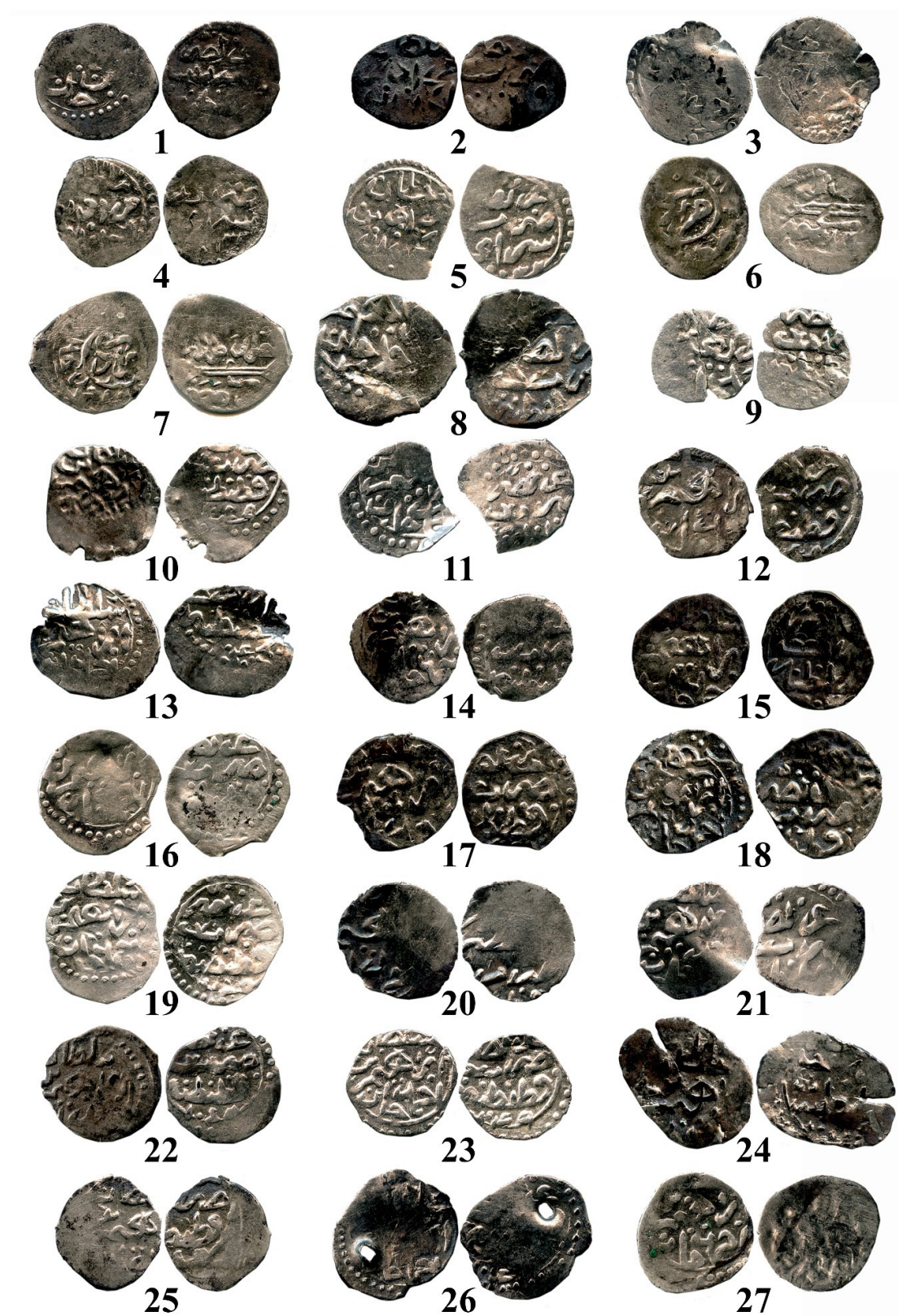
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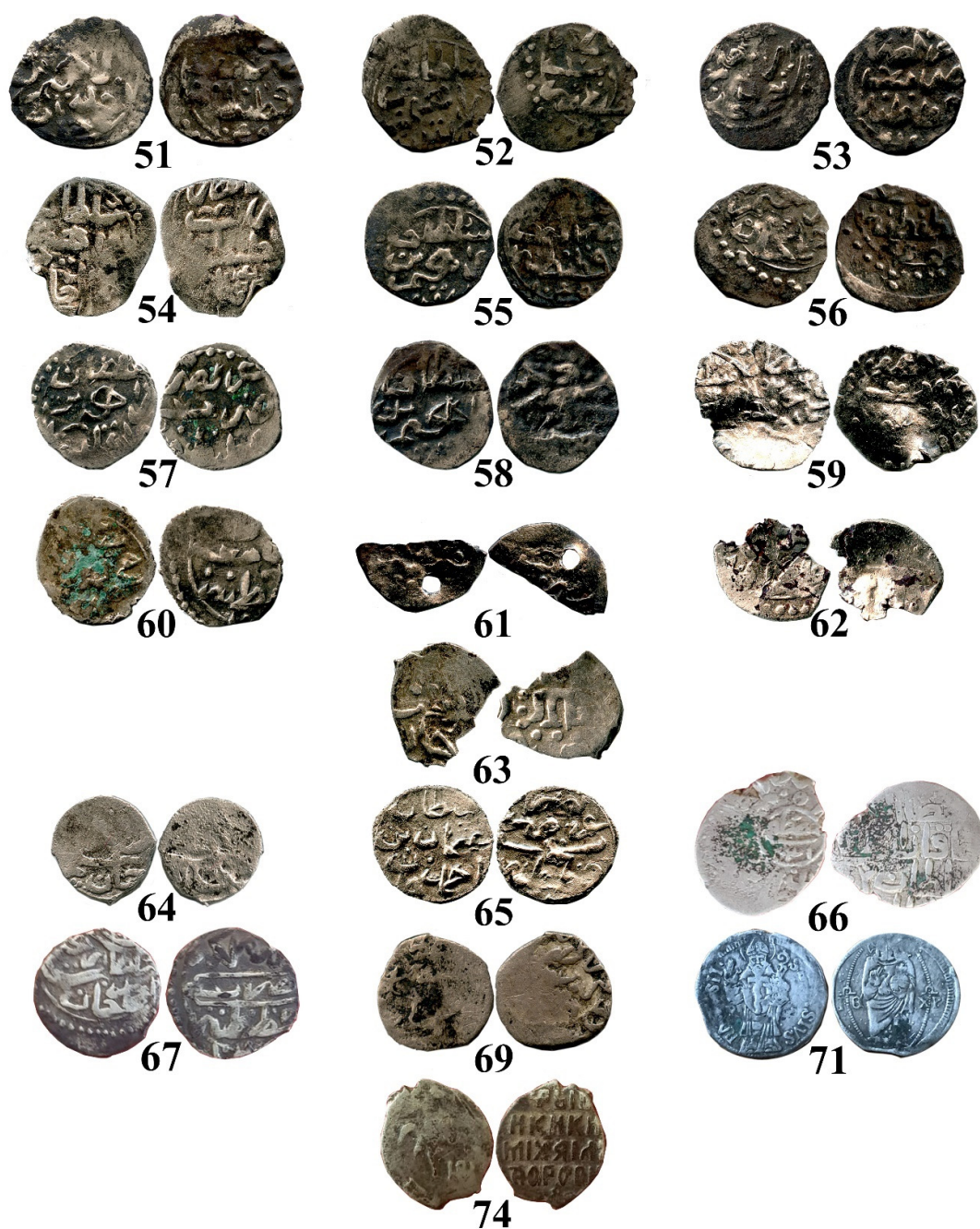
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Pl. I. Coins from Berestechko battlefield. Cat. Nos. 1-27.



Pl. II. Coins from Berestechko battlefield. Cat. Nos. 28-50.



Pl. III. Coins from Berestechko battlefield. Cat. Nos. 51-74.

State	Issuer	Mint	Denomin.	Amt.
Ottoman Empire	Murad III (1574-1595)	unk. m.	akche	1
	Ahmed I (1603-1617)	Kostantiniye	akche	1
	Osman II (1618-1622)	Kostantiniye, Edirne	akche	2
	Mustafa I, 2 nd reign (1622-1623)	Kostantiniye	onluk	1
	Murad IV (1623-1640)	Kostantiniye, Saray, Edirne, Misr	akche	10
	Ibrahim (1640-1648)	Kostantiniye, unk. m.	bashlik, para, akche	38
	Mehmed IV (1648-1687)	Kostantiniye, unk. m.	akche	4
	Unknown issuer	Belgrad, unk. m.	akche	8
Crimean Khanate	Islam III Giray (1644-1654)	Baghchesaray	akche	4
Ottoman Empire or Crimean Khanate	Unknown issuer	unk. m.	akche	1
Republic of Ragusa	Anonymous (1617-1621)	Ragusa	grosso	1
city of Emden	Anonymous (1624-1637)	Emden	florin	1
Duchy of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel	Julius (1568-1589)	Goslar (?)	groschen	1
Tsardom of Russia	Mikhail Fyodorovich (1613-1645)	Moscow	kopeck	1

Pl. IV. List of findings from Berestechko battlefield.



Pl. V. Place where coins were found (marked with white sign).
 Modern borders are marked by yellow lines (source: Google Earth).