A HOARD OF BOSPORAN GOLD STATERS OF THE 2nd CENTURY AD FROM THE CITY-SITE KRASNOBATUREINOYE

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In 1960 near the city-site of Krasnobatereinoye, 3-4 kilometres from Pavlovskii hamlet (Krymskii District, Krasnodarskii Territory) a hoard of Bosporan gold staters was found. The whole set of 89 coins was handed in to the Krasnodar Museum, where it is still kept (KM 925-1013). This hoard has already been mentioned in the academic literature, yet no identifications of the coins or detailed description of them has so far been published. The hoard contains coins of four different Bosporan Kings: 3 coins (Nos. 1-3) from the reign of Sauromates I (93-123 AD), 6 coins (Nos. 4-9) from the reign of Cotys II (123-132 AD), 11

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** The “Krasnobatereinoye” city-site is situated on a terrace along the bank of the Varnavinskii Canal. It measures approximately 165 × 150 metres and has ramparts and ditches along three sides of it. The canal forms its northern edge. N.V. Anfimov dates the site to the 5th century BC - 4th century AD (see: N.V. Anfimov, 1948: “A City-site on the eastern edge of the Bosporan state”, *Istoriko-arkheologicheskii sbornik* (Collection of Historical and Archaeological Articles), Moscow, p. 42; V.P. Shilov, 1950: “On the Distribution of Maeotian Tribes” *SA* (Soviet Archaeology), XIV, pp. 113-115). Three hundred metres east of the city-site between the flat part of the lower Kuban valley and spurs of the North-Western Caucasus a rampart and ditch were recorded complete with towers and extending over a distance of more than one kilometre. In the northern part of the latter there was a small fortified section and while this was being excavated a slab was found bearing the mark (*tamga*) of the Bosporan king, Eupator, and Bosporan copper coins from the 1st, 2nd and first half of the 3rd century AD (N. Zakharov, 1937: Frontier Fortifications of the Bosporan state in the Northern Caucasus and the “Krasnobatereinoye” city-site”, *SA* (Soviet Archaeology), II, 1937, pp. 229-230). To the south there was a further rampart and ditch approximately 4 kilometres long, which filled the space between the two small rivers — Chebak and Psif, thus creating another defensive barrier. There is no doubt that this was one of the strategic points in the defence of the eastern frontiers of the Bosporan state.

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coins (Nos. 10-20) from the reign of Rhoemetalces (131-154 AD) and 69 coins (Nos. 21-89) from the reign of Eupator (154-174 AD).

On the basis of its composition this hoard can be regarded as belonging to the compact group of hoards including gold coins of the Bosporan kings listed below:

1) a hoard found in 1849 on the bank of the Laba River in the large village of Ust-Labinskaya, which included among its 600 coins of the Bosporan kings of the 1-3rd centuries AD staters of Sauromates I, Cotys II, Rhoemetalces and Eupator.

2) a hoard found in 1852-1853 in the vicinity of Anapa which along with other coins included staters of Bosporan kings reigning in the 2nd century AD.

3) a hoard from Mount Mithridates (Kerch) found in 1867 and including among coins of other Bosporan kings staters of Cotys II, Rhoemetalces and Eupator.

4) a hoard found in 1868 on the bank of the Mertvyi Donets, not far from the city-site of Gnilovskoye, and consisting of 200 Sauromates I and Eupator staters.

5) a hoard from Nymphaeum found in 1949 including one Eupator stater and nine Sauromates II ones.

6) a hoard from the “Gnilovskoye” city-site found in 1958 including 7 examples of Eupator staters, 20 examples of Sauromates II staters and four examples of Rhescuporis II staters.

The earliest coin from the hoard published in this article is a Sauromates I stater with the date EIY (415 BE, i.e. 118 AD). The Sauromates staters in this hoard

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6 Ibid., p. 53.
