

At the end of the 13th century in Kutná Hora, only 70 km from Prague, rich deposits of silver ore have been discovered. These deposits contributed to the changes in Czech monetary system. One-sided and double-sided deniers, used so far, began to be insufficient and did not meet the expectations of modern people, focused on long-distance trade and storing their goods. The discovery of huge ore resources enabled King Wenceslas II (1278–1305) to conduct in July 1300 the monetary reform. According to this reform, the Prague groschen was put into circulation (*denaro grosso* = „big” denier) and the fraction coin – Prague parvus – worth 1/12 of groschen. The new monetary unit initially weighed around 3.8 g, and was made of XV-lot silver. It had to meet the assumptions of „eternal” coin, i.e. one with constant and unchanging value. Referring to the Prague weight system (the heavy Prague mark measured 253.14 g) they were called Prague groschen (which is reflected in the reverse inscription - GROSSI PRAGENSES), although they were struck in Kutná Hora, just next to the silver deposits. The Czech coin, thanks to the issue lasting nearly 250 years and a wide circulation range, dominated the money economy of Central and Eastern Europe. Thanks to it, the monetary system of many countries has been transformed, and sometimes even re-formed. The wide Czech groschen affected on the economies of Hungary, Transylvania, Wallachia and Moldavia, Silesia, Prussia and German countries. Its impact is also seen in 14<sup>th</sup>-century Poland, where Casimir the Great (1333–1370), reforming coinage, introduced into circulation a Cracow groschen (around 1360) which was modelled after *grossi pragenses*, both because of representations on its obverse and reverse, and its metrology. However, at the end of the fifteenth century, we observe the creation of money in the area of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and dependent lands, which was shaped on the basis of the Prague groschen.

Numerous hoards, containing Prague groschen – homogeneous: from Błotnica Strzelecka, Błazejowice, Oleśnica, Wałbrzych or Kramarska street in Poznań, as well as hoards, in which the Czech coin was only the addition: from Dębrznik, Gorzanów, Krzczonów or Jankowice Rudzkie – constitute the source base for studies about the circulation of a large coin in Central and Eastern Europe. These relics of the past, which resulted from the accumulation of capital by our ancestors, usually lie not researched in museum magazines or, without scientific description, are shown on exhibitions.

The purpose of my research is to bring the hoards and single finds of Prague groschen from Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Belarusian and Ukrainian institutions closer for the wider audience – both specialists and local communities. Typological, metrological and quantitative analysis will us to compare the issues from the reign of Charles I (1346–1378), Wenceslaus IV (1378–1419), George of Podiebrad (1458–1471), Wladislaus II (1471–1516), Louis II (1516–1526) and Ferdinand I (1526–1564). Additionally, the analysis of coins of Wenceslas IV, the most numerous in the hoards from Central and Eastern Europe, will allow to verify and possibly to discern among Prague groschen with the title of this ruler coins struck after his death (in the years 1420–1423). The types of these coins were immobilized, because of what the issue with the WENCEZLAVS TERCIVS inscription after 1419 was continued.

Planned articles, published in prestigious Polish, Czech and Lithuanian periodicals, will have a pioneer character. Till this moment no one treated the role of Czech coinage in the territory in question detailed enough. The number of analyzed coins – over 22,000 – will be the large database for further studies on money circulation in this part of Europe.