

## **DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Trajan is considered as a one of the best emperors, associated with the period of stability and development of the Roman Empire (years 98-117 A.D.), unfortunately not well reflected in historical sources. Usually, this period is considered with Dacian wars or the Parthian campaign, with less focus on the local politics of individual regions. One of the sources familiarizing the administration and finances in the province is the correspondence of Pliny the Younger with the emperor. However, this is not a source providing full information on financial policy in Bithynia and Pontus, in which one of its aspects is the monetary policy pursued. Provincial coinage is a problematic issue due to the lack of a unified monetary system and different types of coins, as opposed to imperial issues struck in Rome, which had to be relevant to local politics and production.

The main goal of the research is to determine the monetary policy of Bithynia and Pontus during the period of Trajan's reign, based on numismatic research, supplemented with other categories of sources, collected on the basis of queries, in order to obtain a broader economic and cultural context. During the research, particular aspects should be considered, which have not been worked out so far, concerning the impact on the local production of the Emperor's intervention, the status of cities, trade, cult and army, as well as neighboring provinces such as Thrace, Asia or Cappadocia. It should be consider the mints and their emissions in terms of the denomination structure, metal, quantity, number of dies used, production rhythm and images. For this purpose, queries will be carried out to obtain the necessary photos and information on the quantity of coins or metrological parameters. Due to similarities in the emission of various centers, the cooperation of individual provincial cities should be considered, bearing in mind the rivalries between them. In addition, some of Trajan's coins from Bithynia and Pontus are copies of the Flavian units struck in an imperial mint between 80-82AD, presumably in Thrace. This issue should be considered much more thoroughly due to the lack of research carried out so far. Attention should also be paid to circulation of the provincial and imperial coins, which provide a source of model for some imperial portraits of local issues. On this basis, it is possible to establish a more accurate chronology of coins as well as the rhythm of local production. Listing of individual images, their verification, classification and finding similarities will be provided by software used for engineering and vision works, based on photographs of coins made by the author of the project.

Research on provincial coinage in the Roman period is currently developing dynamically, however, due to the lack of consideration of this issue in previous years, these are general studies. So far, research has focused mainly on the provinces of Asia, Syria, Judea and Egypt. Bithynia and Pontus, due to its location, was a strategic place, enabling the movement of people to the eastern areas, as well as many connections and commercial transactions. Defining the minting policy, when compared to the economic and cultural situation, will have a significant impact on the development of provincial and imperial coinage, Roman provinces and the influence of Roman culture, contacts and relations between various local communities, as well as the reign of Trajan.