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ARCHAEOLOGY

Sensational discovery of precious collection of 101 coins in Demir Hisar



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Special attention has been drawn by a large number of coins of the Macedonian Kings Alexander III of Macedonia, Kassandar, Antigon Gonat, Philip V, Perseus, and the cities of Pella, Thessalonika, Amfaksitida area (findings connected with Gevgelija-Valandovo, came here by way of trade).

Within the framework of the project "The ancient kingdom of Macedonia", actively realized recently were archaeological excavations of the ancient Macedonian city Brianij, the archaeological site Gradiste - Graishka Cuka, above the village Graishte where the precious collection of 101 coins was discovered, one silver and the others bronze.

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The project is implemented by the Office for Protection of Cultural Heritage, Faculty of Philosophy - Skopje and the Institute of History of Art and Archaeology.

"We believe that these coins illustrate the direction of marching by the Macedonian army under King Antigone Gonat through Pelagonia and Demir Hisar for defence against enemy aggression which came from the direction of Kicevo in the III century BC," said the Office for Protection of Cultural Heritage of Republic of Macedonia.

The archaeological site presents a dominant low hill above the village Graishte, around which Erigon River (Black River) circles, in the center of the Demir Hisar region.

A settlement was founded on the hill even in the Archaic period (7-7 century BC), which since the ancient route along the river quickly grew into a city. On top of the hill was the acropolis - Uptown, while around it along the slopes, the terraces were formed which cost the lower town, the total area of 12 hectares.

Also found were 25 lead grains - missiles from the Middle Macedonian period, 2 arrow heads made of iron, 4 bronze rings, 2 lead weights, 1 medieval bronze cross, enkolpion type.

"Over the past decades, I have been convinced of the high civilizational values of the city near Graishte in Demir Hisar. This archaeological site was researched minimally, and basic information collected about its cultural horizons. Precisely because of that, I am very pleased that this year, 2016, finally and decisively we started the first archaeological research on a large scale in the ancient city Brianij / Dobrun, which has brought to light this precious collection of 100 antique and medieval coins, among which in particular I am delighted about the coins of the Macedonian kings, which complement the huge stock of thousands of coins of the Macedonian kings discovered across the entire territory of the Republic of Macedonia and of course, it makes crystal clear and unambiguous testifying the ancient right to the name of our Republic of Macedonia. On this occasion, I sincerely thank the Project Leader "Ancient Kingdom of Macedonia Prof. Antonio Jakimovski, and the mayor of the municipality Demir Hisar, for cooperation in the realization of the project activities", " said Dr. Victor L. Adams Director of the Office for Protection of Cultural Heritage.

According to Prof. Dr. Antonio Jakimovski, the project started in 2005.

"This year we paid much attention to the documentation of movable archaeological findings and research of several sites in the Republic of Macedonia. Currently the emphasis is on Demir Hisar region streaming archaeological sites Graishka, Cuka and Bucin. There are numerous findings from which most are coins - over 100 so far, and most belong to the Macedonian kings, "said Dr. Jakimovski.

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