Ljubljanca river phalerae

from the National Museum of Slovenia.

Relief bust depicted on a medallion made of tinlead alloy, recovered from the Ljubljanica at Kamin,represents (most likely) Emperor Augustus wearing a tunic and toga with a laurel wreath on his head. A sceptre with an eagle is depicted to the right of his face, whilst the left side features a myrtle twig, symbolising the military and diplomatic successes of Augustus at the end of the B.C. and the beginning of the D.C.. This is most probably a phalera – a military decoration attached to an armour of one of officer or an soldier. Diameter **4.8 cm** (NMS; photo by: T. Lauko). In collage with my replica!

It is possible that this medallion was part of the decoration of a gladius scabbard. Like the sword of Tiberius which is comparative from the same historical period. The size is very suitable for this purpose. Or part of a decoration of other military equipment as legionary standards!Phalerae could be tinned in the center of the signum disk!

After a long reading of posts on the subject published in several scientific publications I decided to interpret the theories of scientists which suggest that this medallion is part of phalerae to which it was tinned. So most likely this medallion is part of a more complex phalerae. There are clear traces of tin on the back of the medallion (according to the scientific publication). When making my replica I made some creative decisions:The branch on the left (myrtle twig) made me depicting a wreath from myrtle or laurels, like the

wreath on the head of Augustus. The lack of an oak wreath created a difficulties for me, but this is understandable! Augustus was a noble ruler and has created Pax Romana (Roman peace) so it is normal for his images the lack the oak wreath. According to my interpretation Augustus, through his imperial regalia, gave messages to a people that he was the ruler of the empire who wanted peace and perseverance!

Diameter of the assembled phalerae can be implemented in 2 variants

77mm. or 80 mm.

Quote of scientific publications: Nonferrous metals on late Republican and early Principate Roman military metal work found in the River Ljubljanica (Slovenia).

The medallion, presumably from a military award (a phalera), was cast in pewter and silvered at the front (fig. 8a).17 The torc, probably also a military decoration, is of tin (fig. 8b).18

Fig. 8a–b: Military decorations found in the River Ljubljanica: a medallion, presumably from a phalera (a) and a torc (b).

I did the two parts separately like the original itself . So they are cast from brass separately (like the original).The assembly are made with tin like the original.All these greatly complicated my creative work. I had to make these phalerae parts of the wax in advance. Subsequently, all these waxed parts must be carefully fitted to each other. All this must be provided in advance to comply with wax and bronze casting technology.

Most likely this phalerae of Augustis is related to Great Illyrian Revolt erupted on 6 AD. This is an epic event on which is not given much attention unfortunately! This is my publication on the subject.

http://legio-iiii-scythica.com/index.php/en/history-and-artifacts/anniversary-events/2010-yearsof-illyrian-revolt.html

Quote of scientific publications: 2014_Prehistoric_and_Roman_Emona._A_Gui

During the Augustan period, the area of the Ljubljana Gate was still characterised by the presence of an occasionally significantly increased number of military units. This is especially relevant to the last stage of the Roman conquest of the western Balkans and Pannonia, i.e. during the wars in 16–9 BC; the time of preparations for the campaign against the Marcomannic king Marbodus (Maroboduus) in 6 AD to the north of the Danube River; and the period of the Pannonian-Dalmatian Rebellion in 6–9. Moreover, the same applies to later periods when transport infrastructure was being consolidated, e.g. in 14 AD, when roads and bridges were constructed and other works accomplished in the area surrounding the vicus Nauportus. The said activities, which by Lidar image analyses) were straightened. This was done to facilitate the transport of goods between the two posts situated at the far ends of the Moors prior to establishing a proper road link between Nauportus and Emona. As the course of the Ljubljanica is relatively nondangerous,the many finds of predominantly Augustan-period weaponry (helmets, swords, pila, spearheads) and other military equipment (decorations, belt-fittings, pickaxes, turf-cutters, bronze vessels etc.) recovered from the riverbed at Vrhnika, Blatna Brezovica, Bevke, Črna vas and Volar most probably cannot only be considered in the context of chance losses and other accidents during transport and might, to some extent, suggest the continuation of older ritual practices.

From scientific publications “GERMANIA 81,2003

“I understand that the surface of the medallion bears traces of silvering.”

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My wax prototypes.Recreated of course through my creative gaze.

The size is Diameter 4.8 cm.

Another of my wax version.The relief of the face is very specific it must be observed to achieve similarity.

My creative wax project of the double phalerae.According to me the oak wreath in this case will be inappropriate!

Diameter of the assembled phalerae is 77 or 80 mm.

The production and adjustment of the individual wax parts is a slow process. If all the details of the next stages of work are not provided this will lead to difficulties in the subsequent stages.

The raffle on the wreath I have achieved is very satisfactory.

This is the back of the phalerae with the provided brackets for attachment to the leather harness.

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Brass finished models.

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Quote from a scientific publication-“What Was Happening in Emona in AD 14/15?”

“…….It is highly probable that the Roman army was temporarily present in the area of Emona both at the time of Tiberius’ Pannonian War and during the four years of the great Pannonian-Dalmatian Revolt (AD 6–9). Situated at the far end of the area bordering on the Pannonian part of Illyricum, the Emonan Basin had to be well protected. Roman troops must have been in full control of the valleys of the Ljubljanica and the Sava Rivers, i.e. the entire stretch of land between Nauportus (Vrhnika), which like Emona also served as an important logistical base, and Siscia. Archaeological evidence indicates that the Augustan-age Nauportus was fortified.48 Recent years have seen major excavations in Ljubljana in both Emona proper and in the area
situated directly outside its city walls, i.e. in the direction of Siscia. These excavations have exposed wooden structures that might be attributable – judging by the finds that include coins – to a shortlived military camp datable to the mid-Augustan period.49

The new finds prove Emona's logistical role during Tiberius' Pannonian War, which was just as important as that of Nauportus. The military camp was situated close to the Ljubljanica River, which in addition to connecting Nauportus and Emona served as the initial stage of the river route leading from Nauportus to Siscia; this route was ideal for conveying various types of cargo and even troops…."

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This is a partially gilded version.

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The first one has already been installed on leather harness and is waiting for its first participation.