

Krzysztof Jarzęcki

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**ROMAN AND BYZANTINE COINS FROM THE FORMER COLLECTION
OF FR. EDMUND MAJKOWSKI IN THE COLLECTION
OF THE LEON WYCZÓLKOWSKI DISTRICT MUSEUM IN BYDGOSZCZ**

ABSTRACT In the collection of the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum in Bydgoszcz, there are 43 Roman coins and 1 Byzantine, which were purchased in 1972 from the former collection of the famous numismatist, Fr. Edmund Majkowski (1892-1951). The article presents this collection along with considerations on how it was formed before it came to the museum.

Key words: Roman coins, Byzantine coins, Coin collection, Edmund Majkowski, Museum collection

ABSTRAKT W zbiorach Muzeum Okręgowego im. Leona Wyczółkowskiego w Bydgoszczy znajdują się 43 monety rzymskie i 1 bizantyńska, które w 1972 roku zakupiono z dawnej kolekcji znanego numizmatyka, ks. Edmunda Majkowskiego (1892-1951). Artykuł jest prezentacją tego zbioru i rozważaniami nad sposobem jego uformowania zanim trafił do muzeum.

In the collection of the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum in Bydgoszcz (hereinafter referred to as MOB), there are 43 Roman¹ and 1 Byzantine coin purchased in an antique shop in Bydgoszcz and on 11 January 1972 entered into the coin inventory under numbers 6294-6337. The card inventory of coins includes information that they come from the former collection of Fr. Edmund Majkowski.² This provenance of the coins mentioned is also indicated in one of the publications by Barbara Pietroń,³ who worked in the Numismatics Department of MOB at the time of purchasing the coins. This is also suggested by earlier entries in the coin inventory

(Nos. 6285-6293), made on the same day and concerning 9 hoards of medieval and modern silver coins, which B. Pietroń published as once belonging to Majkowski.⁴

Majkowski's numismatic and medallic passion is well known, but his interest in ancient coins has been very little known so far. At the same time, the collection of ancient coins he created stands out from the rest of the coins he owned. While he acquired other coins as whole hoards, which were most likely never separated,⁵ the collection of ancient coins gives the impression of being a composed of items purchased in small batches or individually. The question arises whether he created this collection himself, and therefore treated these coins differently than the others, or whether he acquired a collection already formed. The article

¹ The MOB collection includes a total of 6 ancient Greek and nearly 200 Roman coins. Some of them have been published: Ciołek 2007; Borowczak 2009: 10; Kokowski et al. [in print].

² The cards were completed by Barbara Pietroń. Some of the publications used while writing this article, especially those relating to the activities of Fr. Edmund Majkowski, were gathered by Jarosław Kozłowski. J. Kozłowski was particularly interested in the exhibition of Belgian medals organized by Majkowski (cf. Kozłowski 2020: 61-63.), but these studies were interrupted by his sudden death in September 2021.

³ Pietroń 2007a: 209.

⁴ Pietroń 1984: 33; 1994: 71-72; 2007: 209, 212, 215, 219.

⁵ See: Pietroń 1984: 33. As it turns out, there were very rare coins among them. The hoard of 970 denars from Nowy Kamień (MOB Mo-6285) included a denar of prince Przemysław I Noszak (1358-1409) of Cieszyn, a denar attributed to the Masovian prince Siemowit III (1341-1381) and a denar of the town of Gniewkowo from the 14th century (Pietroń 1994; Paszkiewicz 2005: 157-158, 170).

aims to present and study Majkowski's collection of Roman and Byzantine coins from the MOB collection. In this respect, the article is the conclusion of a series of works published by Barbara Pietroń.⁶ At the same time, it is a part of the MOB's activities related to the search for war losses, both their own and those of other institutions, which is still a very important issue for Polish museums. Experience shows that some objects lost in various ways during World War II can be found even in public collections for which they were acquired without awareness of their illegal origin.⁷ A tangible benefit for science from finding such losses is the ability to provide more precise information about the fate of the artifact before it was transferred to a specific museum, which increases its source value. It is worth keeping this in mind, remembering the lack of information about the fate of these coins before they reached Majkowski.

Edmund Majkowski was born on 5 November 1892 in Grodzisk Wielkopolski. He completed philosophical and theological studies at theological seminaries in Gniezno and Poznań. While still a student, he was employed in archives and libraries. In 1916 he was ordained a Catholic priest. From 1919 he headed the Archdiocesan Museum in Poznań. He was a very active participant in the numismatic movement. In 1920, he was a co-founder of the Poznań Numismatic Society. At his request, in 1923, the "Archdiocesan Numismatic Cabinet" was established in Poznań. He was also the director of the Archives and Library of the Archdiocese of Poznań from the beginning of this institution, opened in 1926, until 1933. On 1 July 1933, he was granted leave for a one-and-a-half-year trip abroad. He spent this time in Belgium and the Netherlands working in archives and libraries, organizing exhibitions of Polish items and giving

lectures. He was particularly closely associated with Belgium as a member of scientific societies, including The Royal Academy of Archaeology of Belgium (L'Académie royale d'archéologie de Belgique) and Association of Belgian Archivists and Librarians (Association des archivistes et bibliothécaires belges) and knight of distinctions, including Order of the Belgian Crown. In 1934, he returned to Poland and took over the management of the parish in Kopanica. On 3 September 1939, he was arrested by the Germans and held in prisons and a labor camp. In March he was exiled to the General Government. He ended up at the Dominican monastery in Tarnobrzeg, happy that he could use the library of the Tarnowski family in nearby Dzików. In April 1945, he became the parish priest in Kórnik.⁸ In 1947 he defended his doctorate in the history of Polish culture at the Catholic University of Lublin (hereinafter referred to as KUL). He died on 9 April 1951 in Śrem.⁹ Majkowski published over 70 works in various fields, in various journals, including *The Numismatic Chronicle*¹⁰ i *Revue Belge de Numismatique*.¹¹ These publications indicate that medieval coins and medallions occupied a special place among Majkowski's interests. Majkowski recorded information about coin finds in Poland (even during World War II), including ancient ones.¹² Some finds he purchased for his private collection. He thought about their educational and scientific potential. As he wrote: "I intend to donate my collections of books, coins and paintings to public use after my death".¹³ Under his will, he donated them to KUL.¹⁴ According to oral reports, KUL turned to the largest Polish museums with a proposal to donate Majkowski's numismatic collection, but none of these institutions was interested. They were obtained by an antiquarian and numismatist from Bydgoszcz, Leon Rózdzyński (1906-1978), a former friend of Majkowski. Rózdzyński informed the director of the MOB, who decided to purchase coins and medals.¹⁵

⁶ See note 4.

⁷ An example is the early medieval hoard of hack-silver purchased in the 1970s for MOB from Wanda Niewitecka as a part of the former collection of her husband Stanisław Niewitecki. Along with the purchase, Wanda Niewitecka provided information that it was a treasure found in the locality of Uśc (MOB Mo-6698; Pietroń 1999: 9). In 2023, it was determined that this is part of the hoard discovered in 1872, which was stolen from the Władysław Łęga Museum in Grudziądz and was treated as a war loss. It was bought for his collection by Stanisław Niewitecki, who knew where the find came from. I would like to thank Mrs. Małgorzata Kurzyńska for talks about the activities of Stanisław Niewitecki, thanks to which it was possible to determine the fate of the hoard from Uśc.

⁸ Majkowski 1966.

⁹ Ujda 1955: 18.

¹⁰ Majkowski 1934.

¹¹ E.g. Majkowski 1937.

¹² Pietroń 2007b: 98-99.

¹³ Majkowski 1966: 288.

¹⁴ Ujda 1955: 19-20. Cf. Pietroń 1994: 71-72; 2007b: 97. About the fate of Majkowski's collection, see: Paluchowski 1978.

¹⁵ The MOB collection includes 168 medals from E. Majkowski's collection. Their unpublished study, by I. Borowczak, is in the MOB archive. The District

The only known source so far regarding Majkowski's interest in ancient coins are his few surviving notes devoted to the finds of such coins in Poland (see above). The set of coins from MOB is the only source of knowledge about ancient coins that Majkowski had. There is no information about places and methods of gathering these coins, or even old envelopes in which these coins could be stored. The analysis of individual coins, with particular emphasis on their state of preservation and comparison to published finds from Poland, allows us to shed some light on these issues and also introduce a group of coins containing rare items into scientific circulation. It may also be an example of the methodology of studying old collections.

The oldest coin in the group is an anonymous victoriatius minted in Rome and dated 211-206 BC (no. 1; Cr. 44/1). The coin is distinguished by its low weight – 2.725 g compared to the arithmetic average of 3.03 g obtained for 13 specimens (which also indicates that it is relatively a rare coin) available on the *acsearch.info* website.¹⁶ This can be explained by the coin being worn out in circulation. Most coins of this type available on *acsearch.info* come from offers from Spanish auction houses, which may be a reflection of their particular popularity in ancient times on the Iberian Peninsula. There has been no such discovery in Poland so far. Published information about finds indicates that Roman Republican coins from the late 3rd century BC are found here very rarely. An example of such a find is an anonymous denarius, which is the oldest element of the Połaniec hoard.¹⁷ Moreover, coins from that period have been noted in Szczecin: an uncia of type Cr. 39/4¹⁸ and in Sobótka: a quadrans Cr. 56/6.¹⁹

Two denarii date from the times of the Flavians. The Vespasian denarius of type RIC 77, RIC2 702 (no. 2) is a quite popular coin. In Poland, such a coin was been found, to name but one example, in the Nietulisko Małe hoard.²⁰ Its weight (3.007 g), much lower than the average (3.247 g for 87 pieces), can be explained by the wear of the coin. A rare coin is the Domitian denarius of type RIC 166, RIC² 735 (no. 3). The weight of the specimen which belonged to Majkowski (3.178 g) is only slightly lower than the average (3.238 g,

obtained for 6 copies, so with a large margin of error).²¹

An interesting coin is a rare Trajanic denarius of type MIR 278aD, dated 103-118 (no. 4). Compared to other denarii from the group under discussion, this specimen stands out as being clearly in a better state of preservation. The coin is distinguished by its high weight (3.314 g), clearly above the average (3.221 g) obtained for 24 copies of a similar type (RIC 118), probably a variant of the same issue, on which Trajan is depicted with drapery.²²

Among the coins from E. Majkowski's collection there is a popular Trajanic denarius featuring the Via Traiana on the reverse (RIC 266; no. 5). The coin is distinguished by its very low weight: 2.576 g with an average of 3.21 g for denarii types RIC 266 and 267 (170 pieces).²³ Finds of such coins in Polish lands have been recorded many times, including in the Nietulisko Małe hoard.²⁴

The relatively popular Trajanic denarius of the type RIC 337 (no. 6) is also distinguished by its low weight (2.892 g). The average (arithmetic mean) weight for coins of this type is 3.201 g. In the group of 119 denarii of this type I was able to study, only 8 pieces were lighter.²⁵

The latest silver coin in the collection is a Marcus Aurelius denarius of type RIC 303 (no. 7). Its very low weight: 2.397 g compared to an average of 3.20 g calculated for 9 pieces²⁶ may result not only from wear but also from the fact that it was struck as a lighter than average piece. Incidentally, the lightest coin in the group on which I was able to obtain data weighed 2.89 g. The same type of denarius occurred in the Tokar hoard in which the coins are quite worn, yet even so it weighed 3.351.²⁷

The group includes two sestertii of Gordian III, the first minted in Rome (RIC 306) in the year 242 (no. 8), and the second in Viminacium (RPC VII.225) in the year 242/243 (no. 9). So far, only a few finds of Gordian III sestertii have been recorded in Poland.²⁸ The find of a sestertius of the type 298a is known from Zabrze in Silesia.²⁹ The same coin, perhaps a find from the Inowrocław area,

Museum in Toruń also has a smaller collection of Majkowski's medals.

¹⁶ Access 24. 01. 2023.

¹⁷ Kunisz 1985: 165-171.

¹⁸ Ciołek 2007: 238.

¹⁹ Ciołek 2008: 231.

²⁰ Mitkova-Szubert 1989: 73.

²¹ *acsearch.info* [access 24. 01. 2023].

²² *acsearch.info* [access 30. 01. 2023].

²³ *acsearch.info* [access 30. 06. 2021].

²⁴ Mitkova-Szubert 1989: 82.

²⁵ *acsearch.info* [access 25. 01. 2023].

²⁶ *acsearch.info* [access 24. 01. 2023].

²⁷ Kunisz 1993: 75.

²⁸ See: Jarzęcki 2021: 80.

²⁹ Ciołek 2008: 304.

was in his collection of Fr. Kazimierz Miaskowski.³⁰ Finds of sestertii minted in Viminacium during the reign of Gordian III are even rarer in Poland. However, there are isolated finds of sestertii from Viminacium, minted by other emperors, which are concentrated in south-eastern Poland.³¹

Coins struck during the reign of Volusianus are found very rarely in Poland and Central Europe. The few Polish finds described in the literature come from Pyrzyce³² and Żeliszewice³³ in north-western Poland (antoniniani), also from Jelenia Góra (as or dupondius)³⁴ in south-western Poland. The piece that E. Majkowski had in his collection: a bronze of Antioch in Pisidia with a primitive design and an unusual, carelessly made legend containing errors (SNG Paris 1294 var.) is one of the rare issues of the short-lived Volusianus coinage (no. 10).

There is one coin of Gallienus in E. Majkowski's collection: an antoninianus of type RIC 160 (no. 11). Finds of coins of Gallienus have been recorded many times in Poland. An outstanding find is the hoard from Piła containing 2,734 coins with his effigy,³⁵ including about 170 antoniniani of type RIC 160.³⁶ The same hoard also contained antoniniani of Claudius II Gothicus of type RIC 149,³⁷ which issue is represented by another coin from Majkowski's collection (no. 12).

The coinage of the Gallic Empire is represented in this collection by antoniniani of Victorinus (no. 13), Tetricus I (no. 14), and Tetricus II (no. 15). Finds of Victorinus coins are very rarely encountered in Poland. The largest concentration is known from the Piła hoard containing four antoniniani.³⁸ Other finds come from Przezmark,³⁹ Krosno Odrzańskie,⁴⁰ and Krzyżowice,⁴¹ all made in the 19th century. Finds of coins of Tetricus I and II have been more frequently recorded in Poland. In the locality of Zielona in Masovia, an antoninianus of Tetricus I of type RIC 136 was discovered; it was, however, considered to be a barbaric

imitation.⁴² Other coins, the type of which could not be clearly determined, come from the locality of Perkowo (RIC 145-148) in Kuyavia,⁴³ Bolków (RIC 148),⁴⁴ and Pietrowice Wielkie (RIC 273-274)⁴⁵ in Silesia, and also Malechowo (RIC 166, 168?),⁴⁶ Szczecin Zdroje (RIC 148), Piła (Tetricus I: RIC 80, 90, 148; Tetricus II: RIC 232, 255, 260, 270, 272) in north-western Poland. Unspecified coins are known from four sites in Silesia⁴⁷ five sites in north-western Poland,⁴⁸ and two more from the Inowrocław area.⁴⁹

The only Aurelian coin in this group is an antoninianus of type RIC 227 struck in Siscia (no. 16). One probable find of a coin of this type in Poland has been recorded only in the locality of Łubiana in Pomerania,⁵⁰ and a similar one (RIC 225) in Wrocław.⁵¹

The coinage of Constantinus Chlorus is represented by two coins. One is a small bronze (nummus) of the type RIC 19a, struck in Cyzicus (no. 17) and the other a follis of the Genio Populi Romani type, struck probably in Thessalonica (RIC 20?, no. 18). Coins of Constantinus Chlorus are found very rarely in Poland. Before 1911, in unclear circumstances, an unspecified aureus was found in the town of Strzegom.⁵² Three coins were discovered in Opole before 1902 (RIC 214a and RIC 181-183), but this is a find that may come from a former numismatic collection.⁵³

Among the ancient coins of Fr. E. Majkowski, which were purchased for MOB, there are 3 Licinius coins from 3 different mints (nos. 19-21). Only one of them has a certain analogy among rare finds of Licinius coins in Poland. This is a nummus minted in Siscia (RIC 17), but the circumstances of its discovery and the subsequent fate of the coin are unclear.⁵⁴

The coinage of Maximinus Daia is represented by one coin: a follis struck in Siscia (RIC 227; no. 22). In Poland, finds of coins of this emperor

³⁰ Jarzęcki 2021: 80, 84.

³¹ See Bodzek, Jellonek, Zajac 2019.

³² Ciołek 2007: 195.

³³ Ciołek 2007: 264.

³⁴ Ciołek 2008: 93.

³⁵ Ciołek 2020: 188.

³⁶ Ciołek 2007: 157.

³⁷ Ciołek 2007: 176.

³⁸ Ciołek 2007: 178.

³⁹ Ciołek 2007: 191.

⁴⁰ Ciołek 2008: 123.

⁴¹ Ciołek 2008: 125.

⁴² Romanowski 2008: 154.

⁴³ Kurpiewski, Rakoczy 2015: 28.

⁴⁴ Ciołek 2008: 32.

⁴⁵ Ciołek 2008: 196.

⁴⁶ Ciołek 2007: 128.

⁴⁷ Ciołek 2008: 59, 186, 224, 317.

⁴⁸ Ciołek 2007: 45, 60, 99, 191, 247.

⁴⁹ Jarzęcki, Rakoczy 2010: 57, 58.

⁵⁰ Ciołek 2007: 124.

⁵¹ Ciołek 2008: 291. The legend on the reverse should be read: "IOVI CONSER".

⁵² Ciołek 2008: 235.

⁵³ Ciołek 2008: 187.

⁵⁴ Ciołek 2008: 235.

are extremely rare. In 1857, in the locality of Moczydły (Police district), a follis possibly of type RIC 209b was found.⁵⁵

The group includes 9 coins of Constantine I (nos. 23-31), which makes them the largest sub-group among E. Majkowski's ancient coins. They are distinguished by their relatively good condition and originate from seven different mints. As in the case of other coins from this collection, one can also ask whether this sub-group was formed from coins found in Poland. Finds of coins of Constantine I in Poland have been recorded many times, but the information about them found in the relevant literature often does not allow for a precise determination of the coin type. Among those coins whose types have been determined, a find from Sibin in Pomerania stands out from the rest, where 35 coins bearing the effigy of Constantine I were discovered.⁵⁶ Among them, there was only one coin with any analogy to Majkowski's coins – a follis from the mint in Rome (RIC 19). Another analogy to finds from Poland is perhaps a follis from the mint of Cyzicus, (RIC 24) discovered in Płońsk.⁵⁷ Analyzing these coins against the background of finds from Polish lands, the occurrence of such a set of coins in one find, or its composition from various finds, seems unlikely. A clear example is the follis from the mint of Arelate, which has no analogy amongst any published finds from Poland, and other issues of Constantine I from this mint are very rarely found in Poland.⁵⁸ Bearing all this in mind, it seems that the sub-group of Constantinian coins appears to have been formed from individual pieces acquired on the antiquarian market, rather than from coins which were found in Poland.

The coinage of Crispus is represented by a follis type RIC 133 from the mint of Lugdunum (no. 32). Only a few published finds come from Poland, including Brzesk (C 42),⁵⁹ Gnojno,⁶⁰ Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki (RIC 123),⁶¹ Radomice in Silesia,⁶² and from Pomerania: Białogóra,⁶³ Garbina,⁶⁴ Przezmark,⁶⁵ Sibin (RIC 212).⁶⁶

Among the coins from E. Majkowski's former collection is a bronze (centenionalis or nummus) of Constans, struck in Thessalonica (RIC 201, no. 33). Although finds of different coins of this emperor have been recorded many times in various parts of Poland, including Rynkowo near Bydgoszcz,⁶⁷ no coin of the same type has been found.

Three coins from the Majkowski collection (nos. 34-36) and perhaps a fourth, hardly legible (no. 37) can be confidently attributed to Constantius II. Although finds of coins of this emperor are not rare in Poland, there is no information in the literature that a coin of the same exact type as the one in Majkowski's collection has been found anywhere else in Poland.

The group includes a bronze coin of Magnentius struck in Treveri (no. 39). Its characteristic feature is an error in the legend on the obverse, where instead of "MAGNENTIVS" there appears the legend "MAGEITIVS". The images do not differ from official issues. The weight of the coin at 3.686 g does not differ from the weight of the original pieces (from 3.21 to 5.81 g), although it is much lower than the average of 4.752 g obtained for 34 specimens.⁶⁸ It can therefore be concluded that the item described is not an ancient forgery or imitation, but rather a die variation of type RIC 307. In Poland, finds of coins of Magnentius are very rare. The find of a bronze coin of the same type RIC 307 is only known from the locality of Gostyń in Silesia.⁶⁹

The collection includes one relatively rare coin of Julian the Apostate (no. 40). Finds of any coins of this emperor in Poland are rare and according to the literature have been recorded in only Bielsko-Biała,⁷⁰ Rynkowo near Bydgoszcz,⁷¹ and Elbląg.⁷²

The only coin of Valens from Majkowski's collection (no. 41) has no analogy among published finds from Poland. This may be because precise identification of the coin is difficult due to its poor condition.

⁵⁵ Ciołek 2007: 132.

⁵⁶ Ciołek 2007: 213-214.

⁵⁷ Romanowski 2008: 99.

⁵⁸ Cf. Ciołek 2007: 213, 215; 2008: 302.

⁵⁹ Kunisz 1985: 33.

⁶⁰ Kunisz 1985: 62.

⁶¹ Romanowski 2008: 87.

⁶² Ciołek 2008: 214.

⁶³ Ciołek 2007: 15.

⁶⁴ Ciołek 2007: 49.

⁶⁵ Ciołek 2007: 192.

⁶⁶ Ciołek 2007: 215.

⁶⁷ Ciołek 2007: 24.

⁶⁸ acsearch.info [access 16.10.2023].

⁶⁹ Ciołek 2008: 77.

⁷⁰ Kunisz 1985: 27; Ciołek 2008: 20.

⁷¹ Ciołek 2007:24. The severely damaged coin is in the MOB collection (Mo-6182). The identification of the other two coins from Bydgoszcz, which R. Ciołek attributes to Julian the Apostate (MOB Mo-6193, 6198), is very doubtful due to their poor condition.

⁷² Ciołek 2007: 46.

E. Majkowski's former collection includes two small bronze coins (nummi) of Valentinian I, struck in Aquileia and Constantinople (no. 42, 43). The coin from the mint in Constantinople has the emperor's name written as "VALERTINIANVS" in the legend, which is the reason why it is considered a variant of the type of RIC 16a. Coins of Valentinian I are some of the most frequently found ancient coins in Poland.

The latest coin in the collection is a Byzantine follis of Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus and his wife Zoe struck during the years 914-919 (no. 44). Finds of Byzantine coins, mainly silver, which are not very common in Poland, are most often recorded in the south-eastern part of the country.⁷³ A telling example that gives an idea of the popularity of these coins in Polish lands are finds from Greater Poland, which was the cradle of Polish statehood in the early Middle Ages. In this vast region, a total of 162 Byzantine coins were recorded (including 80 in the hoard from Dzierżnica and 21 in the hoard from Zalesie), and 31,559 Islamic ones.⁷⁴ In the area of Masovia, Podlasie, and central Poland, a total of at least 29 Byzantine coins (including 11 in the Ciechanów hoard) and at least 7,363 Islamic ones were recorded.⁷⁵

The collection of 44 Roman and Byzantine coins which came to the MOB from the former collection of Fr. Edmund Majkowski is very specific, especially compared to the other coins in his collection. First of all, this part of his collection was not assembled from hoards, in contrast to Majkowski's medieval and early modern coins. It is also not a collection made of selected coins, as was the case with the collection of ancient Greek coins assembled by Walery Amrogowicz (1863-1931) which after his death ended up in the collection of the District Museum in Toruń.⁷⁶ This collection cannot be considered a reflection of finds of ancient coins from Poland, which would indicate the owner's interests not in numismatics but in archeology, as exemplified by the collection of Fr. Antoni Laubitz from Inowrocław⁷⁷ or respect for the past in general, which may have been the main motive for collecting coins by Fr. Kazimierz Miaskowski from Ostrowo in Kujavia.⁷⁸ The fact that priests recorded coin finds may result from both the trust and

authority they enjoyed, but also their education, thanks to which they were aware of the value of the finds for science. It was the priest's knowledge that influenced the dissemination of information about Hadrian denarius, which before 1962 was donated to the church in Brześć Kujawski in a collection tray.⁷⁹ The fact that Majkowski's coins do not represent finds from Poland is indicated by the lack of very popular coins such as denarii of Antoninus Pius, Faustina the Elder, Faustina the Younger, Commodus, or Septimius Severus. Suffice to compare coins from this collection with finds from archaeological sites with a similar chronological framework, e.g. Perkowo.⁸⁰ The same conclusions are supported by the presence of coins in his collection which are very rarely recorded in Poland, or not at all. Examples include the victoriatius from 211-206 BC (no. 1), the sestertius of Gordian III from Viminacium (no. 9), or the provincial bronze of Volusian (no. 10). At the same time, a large part of the coins were poorly preserved due to wear in circulation (e.g. the denarius of Domitian, no. 3), corrosion (e.g. the follis of Constantine Chlorus, no. 18), and often both factors together (e.g. the coin of Constantine II, no. 36). Their state of preservation, visible in the appearance of the coins, which is important for collectors, but also in the noticeable loss of weight, is typical for finds.⁸¹ Such coins, as shown above, were most likely found abroad, but some of the finds, e.g. the denarii of Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, and Marcus Aurelius (nos. 2-7) could have been found both abroad and in Poland. Regardless of how Majkowski obtained them, they were probably treated as objects of very low value. One of these coins: a small bronze of Constantius II (?) (no. 37), came to the MOB collection almost illegible, with a thick layer of patina and sand, especially on the reverse.⁸² Of course, for Majkowski it could not have been a rarity sought for his collection, but rather an independent find or an addition to another numismatic purchase. Among other coins belonging to Majkowski, it can be considered an exception to the rule of purchasing coins from selected finds. Some of the coins are in good condition. One example is an antoninianus of Victorinus (no. 13). These coins could have been obtained by Majkowski from people who found them accidentally, or on the antiquarian

⁷³ Cf. Bodzek, del Hoyo-Meléndez, Wołoszyn 2019: 29.

⁷⁴ Bogucki, Ilisch, Suchodolski 2017: 810-819.

⁷⁵ Bogucki, Ilisch, Suchodolski 2015: 550-555.

⁷⁶ Mielczarek 2023.

⁷⁷ Jarzęcki 2021: 74.

⁷⁸ Ibid: 75-76.

⁷⁹ Grygiel 2020: 69.

⁸⁰ Kurpiewski, Rakoczy 2015: 27-29, 115-118.

⁸¹ Cf. Mielczarek 2021.

⁸² Weight before cleaning 2.209 g, after cleaning 1.999 g. Conservation work on all coins from this group was carried out by Jan Marciniak from MOB.

market as selected items, which for him constituted a deliberate addition to the collection. They were probably purchased both abroad and in Poland, although in the latter case, they would be coins found outside Poland but imported to satisfy the needs of Polish collectors.⁸³ Comparing these observations with the activities of Karol Halama (1871-1948),⁸⁴ known from the relevant literature on the subject, we see that such scenarios are probable. There are several ways, sometimes surprising from our perspective, in which in past times collectors could acquire ancient coins. In Majkowski's case, a possible area for obtaining coins that are not typical for Poland is Belgium and the Netherlands, where he stayed in the 1930s. Maybe he bought coins in local antique shops that were in good condition, and at the same time much more popular in that part of Europe than in Poland. Such assumptions can be made regarding the coins of the Gallic Empire (nos. 13-15), the nummus of Licinius from the mint of Londinium (no. 19), two follis of Constantine I from the mint in Arelate (nos. 27, 28), the follis of Crispus from the mint of Lugdunum (no. 32), or the rare bronze Volusian from Antioch (no. 10). It is very possible that Majkowski acquired his Roman and Byzantine coins from different sources and in different ways, e.g. by supplementing accidental finds with purchases on the antiquarian market. It is worth asking whether the presence of some of these coins can be interpreted as attempts to supplement accidental finds to create a thematic collection. Chronologically, 1 coin comes from the Republic period, 2 coins from the 1st century AD, 4 from the 2nd century, 11 from the 3rd century, 25 from the 4th century, and 1 from Byzantium. If Majkowski had some archaeological motive he could have acquired the finds from some specific site or area in Western (Belgium or the Netherlands?) or Southern Europe. However, it seems more likely that the collection was created based on the iconography of easily accessible coins. It is possible that the reason for acquiring the Domitian denarius with a depiction of Minerva on the reverse (no. 3) was that he considered it a coin typical of this emperor, which well illustrates his famous cult of this goddess. A similar motive could have inspired his acquisition of the Trajanic denarius depicting the personification of Via Traiana (no. 5) on the reverse, which was associated with the road network in the Roman Empire. Such associations regarding these specific coins

of Domitian and Trajan were obvious to people learning Latin from ancient literature. The heavy representation in the collection of coins from the 4th century may have served as "witnesses" for the cessation of persecution against Christians, the baptism of Constantine I, and attempts to restore paganism by Julian the Apostate, may reflect the personal interest in these issues on the part of a Catholic priest. Perhaps this collection was intended to witness the rule of Constantine I the Great with well-preserved coins that were not repeated, so they could have been deliberately added to the collection. Even if these assumptions are correct, the great unknown is the extent to which they were realized, as well as whether Majkowski was responsible for assembling the collection in the form in which it was later purchased for the MOB himself, or perhaps acquired by him. In the turmoil of World War II, which Majkowski experienced in Poland under German occupation, various exceptional scenarios are possible, including the possibility that he purchased a part of a collection stolen from a museum without being aware of the origin of the coins. Such losses are known from the area where Majkowski was living at the time and from many other places in Poland. It would be worth comparing his collection with the descriptions of various collections lost by museums at this period.

Catalogue:⁸⁵

1. Anonymous victoriatius, 211-206 BC, mint of Rome, Cr. 44/1

Aw: Laureate head of Jupiter right, dotted border
 Rew: Winged Victory standing right, crowning trophy with wreath and holding palm-branch, in exergue ROMA, line border

Silver, weight 2.725 g, diam. 17.5-19.3 mm, die axis 2 h, inv. no. MOB Mo-6294



⁸³ Cf. Kurpiewski 1988.

⁸⁴ Bodzek 2003.

⁸⁵ Photographs by Wojciech Woźniak, MOB.

2. Vespasian, denarius, 74 AD, mint of Rome, RIC 77, RIC² 702

Obv: Laureate bust of Vespasian right, IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS [AVG]

Rev: Vespasian togate seated right on curule chair, holding vertical sceptre in right hand and branch in extended left, PON MAX TR P COS V

Silver, 3.007 g, diam. 17.8-18.7 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6299



3. Domitian, denarius, 92, mint of Rome, RIC 166, RIC² 735

Obv: Laureate bust of Domitian right, IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P XI

Rev: Minerva advancing right, holding spear in right hand and shield in left, IMP XXII COS XVI CENS P P P

Silver, 3.178 g, diam. 16.9-18.8 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6297



4. Trajan, denarius, 103-111, mint of Rome, MIR 278aD

Obv: Laureate bust of Trajan right, IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P, dotted border

Rev: Aequitas standing left, holding scales in right hand and cornucopiae in left, COS V P P SPQR OPTIMO PRINC, dotted border

Silver, 3.314, diam. 16.8-19.2 mm, 6 h; MOB Mo-6295



5. Trajan, denarius, 112-114, mint of Rome, RIC 266

Obv: Laureate bust of Trajan right, slight drapery on left shoulder, IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P C[OS VI P P], dotted border

Rev: Personification of Via Traiana reclining left on rocks, with wheel and branch, SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI, in exergue VIA TRAIANA, dotted border

Silver, 2.576 g, diam. 17.9-18.9 mm, 8 h, MOB Mo-6296



6. Trajan, denarius, 114-117, mint of Rome, RIC 337

Obv: Laureate and draped bust of Trajan right, IMP CAES NER TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG GER DAC

Rev: Mars advancing right, transverse spear in right hand and trophy in left over shoulder, P M TR P COS VI P P SPQR

Silver, 2.892 g, diam. 18.8-20.2 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6300



7. Marcus Aurelius, denarius, 174-175, mint of Rome, RIC 303

Obv: Laureate bust of Marcus Aurelius right, M ANTONINVS AVG TR P XXVIII, dotted border

Rev: Draped winged Victory seated left on seat, holding patera in extended right hand and palm in left hand, IMP VII COS III

Silver, 2.397 g, diam. 16.7-18.8 mm, 12 h, MOB Mo-6298



8. Gordian III, sestertius, 242, mint of Rome, RIC 306

Obv: Laureate draped and cuirassed bust of Gordian III right, IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG

Rev: Gordian III standing right, holding spear in right hand and globe in left hand, in fields S – C, PM TR P III COS II P P, dotted border

Bronze, 19.159 g, diam. 29.9-31.2 mm, 12 h, MOB Mo-6301



9. Gordian III, sestertius, 242/243, mint of Viminacium, RPC VII.2 25

Obv: Laureate draped bust of Gordian III right, IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG

Rev: Moesia standing left between bull and lion, P M S COL VIM, in exergue AN IIII

Bronze, 16.937 g, diam. 30.1-30.5 mm, 1 h, MOB Mo-6302



10. Volusian, AE, 251-253, mint of Antiochia (Pisidia), SNG Paris 1294 var.

Obv: Radiate draped bust of Volusian right, IMP CAE RASLOVNAHIA AVG, dotted border

Rev: Legionary eagle on vexillum between two standards, ANTIOCHIO, in exergue S A, dotted border

Bronze, 5.260 g, diam. 21.2-21.9 mm, 1 h, MOB Mo-6321



11. Gallienus, antoninianus, 261, mint of Rome, RIC 160

Obv: Radiate draped bust of Gallienus right, GALLIENVS AVG, dotted border

Rev: Radiate Sol, nude except for cloak draped over shoulders, standing left, raising right hand and holding globe in left hand, in left field Γ, AETERNITAS AV[G]

Billon, 3.673 g, diam. 18.7-20.5 mm, 12 h, MOB Mo-6328



12. Claudius II Gothicus, antoninianus, 269-270, mint of Mediolanum, RIC 149

Obv: Radiate draped bust of Claudius II right, IMP CLAVDIVS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Fides standing facing, head left, holding two standards, [FI]DES MILIT, dotted border

Billon, 2.938 g, diam. 15.8-18.3 mm, 5 h, MOB Mo-6327



13. Victorinus, antoninianus, 269-271, mint of Colonia Agrippinensis, RIC 118

Obv: Radiate draped bust of Victorinus right, IM[P C] VICTORINVS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Pax draped standing left, holding in extended right hand olive-branch and long sceptre in left hand, in fields *, PAX AVG, dotted border

Bronze, 3.111 g, diam. 18.2-20.4 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6304



14. Tetricus I, antoninianus, 271-274,
mint of Colonia Agrippinensis, RIC 126
Obv: Radiate draped bust of Tetricus I right,
IMP C TE[TRICVS P] F AVG, dotted border
Rev: Salus draped standing left, feeding snake
rising from altar with right hand and holding
anchor in left hand, SAL[VS AVG],
dotted border
Bronze, 2.362 g, diam. 17.8-18.9 mm, 11 h, MOB
Mo-6333



15. Tetricus II, antoninianus, 273-274,
mint of Colonia Agrippinensis, RIC 255
Obv: Radiate draped bust of Tetricus II right,
C P T[ETRI]CVS CAES, dotted border
Rev: Pontifical implements, PIETAS AVGG
Bronze, 2.551 g, diam. 18.9-21.2 mm, 6 h, MOB
Mo-6326



16. Aurelian, antoninianus, 271-272,
mint of Siscia, RIC 227
Obv: Radiate draped bust of Aurelian right,
IMP AVRELIANVS AVG, dotted border
Rev: Aurelian in military attire, holding short
sceptre and standing right, receiving globe
from nude Jupiter, holding sceptre and
standing left, IOVI CONSERVATORI,
in exergue *Q
Billon, 3.526 g, diam. 20.1-22.6 mm, 12 h, MOB
Mo-6320



17. Constantius Chlorus, nummus, 295-299,
mint of Cyzicus, RIC 19a
Obv: Radiate, draped, and cuirassed bust of
Constantine I right,
FL VAL CONSTANTIVS NOB CAES,
dotted border
Rev: Constantine in military dress, standing
right, receiving small Victory on globe from
Jupiter standing left, each holding sceptre,
between K B, CONCORDIA MILITVM,
dotted border
Bronze, 2.152 g, diam. 20.2-22.7 mm, 11 h, MOB
Mo-6306



18. Constantius Chlorus, follis, 298-299 ?,
mint of Thessalonica?, RIC 20?
Obv: Laureate head of Constantius Chlorus right,
FL VAL CONSTAN[TIVS NOB] CAES
Rev: Genius nude standing left,
GENIO POPVL[I ROMANI],
in exergue TSB?
Bronze, 9.080 g, diam. 25.8-26.8 mm, 6 h, MOB
Mo-6335



19. Licinius, nummus, 310-312,
mint of Londinium, RIC 209c
Obv: Laureate and cuirassed bust of Licinius right,
IMP LICINIVS P F AVG, dotted border
Rev: Genius draped standing left, holding patera
in right hand and cornucopiae in left hand,
in right field *, GENIO POP ROM,
in exergue PLN, dotted border
Bronze, 4.284 g, diam. 22.0-22.9 mm, 5 h, MOB
Mo-6323



20. Licinius, nummus, 315-316, mint of Siscia, RIC 17 var.
 Obv: Laureate head of Licinius right, IMP LIC LICINI[VS P] F AVG, dotted border
 Rev: Jupiter nude with chlamys draper across left shoulder standing left, holding Victory on globe in right hand and long sceptre in left hand, eagle with wreath in beak at feet, in right field Δ, IOVI CONSERV[ATORI], in exergue SIS, dotted border
 Bronze, 3.547 g, diam. 19.9-23.5 mm, 7 h, MOB Mo-6324



23. Constantine I, follis, 312-313, mint of Ostia, RIC 74
 Obv: Laureate, cuirassed bust of Constantine I right, C CONSTANTINVS P F AVG, dotted border
 Rev: Genius nude, chlamys draped over left shoulder, standing left, holding patera in right hand and cornucopiae in left hand, GENIO POP ROM, in exergue M OSTIS, dotted border
 Bronze, 4.241 g, diam. 20.2-21.7 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6305



21. Licinius, follis, 316, mint of Treveri, RIC 121
 Obv: Laureate and cuirassed bust of Licinius right, IMP LICINIVS P F AVG, dotted border
 Rev: Genius standing left, holding patera in right hand and cornucopiae in left hand, in fields T – F, GENIO POP ROM, in exergue ATR, dotted border
 Bronze, 3.907 g, diam. 20.1-21.3 mm, 5 h, MOB Mo-6325



24. Constantine I, follis, 313-315, mint of Siscia, RIC 6
 Obv: Laureate bust of Constantine I right, IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG, dotted border
 Rev: Jupiter nude with chlamys draper across left shoulder standing left, holding Victory on globe in right hand and long sceptre in left hand, eagle with wreath in beak at feet, in right field B, IOVI CONSERVATORI, in exergue SIS
 Bronze, 2.968 g, diam. 19.4-21.4 mm, 12 h, MOB Mo-6310



22. Maximinus Daia, follis, 312, mint of Siscia, RIC 227
 Obv: Laureate bust of Maximinus Daia right, IMP MAXIMINVS P F AVG, dotted border
 Rev: Juppiter standing left, holding thunderbolt in right hand and long sceptre in left hand, eagle with wreath in beak at feet, IOVI CONSERVATORI, in right field Γ, in exergue SIS, dotted border
 Bronze, 6.069 g, diam. 23.5-24.8 mm, 11 h, MOB Mo-6303



25. Constantine I, nummus, 313-315, mint of Treveri, RIC 42
 Obv: Laureate, cuirassed bust of Constantine I right, CONSTANTINVS P F AVG, dotted border
 Rev: Sol, radiate, chlamys draped across left shoulder, standing left, raising right hand and holding globe in left hand, in fields T – F, SOLI INVICTO COMITI, in exergue PTR, dotted border
 Bronze, 3.773 g, diam. 18.9-20.2 mm, 5 h, MOB Mo-6309



Bronze, 2.554 g, diam. 20.2-20.7 mm, 1 h, MOB Mo-6315

26. Constantine I, follis, 314, mint of Rome, RIC 19

Obv: Laureate, draped, and cuirassed bust of Constantine I right, IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Sol, radiate, chlamys draped across left shoulder standing facing, head left, raising right hand and holding globe in left hand, in fields R – F, SOLI INVICTO COMITI, in exergue R * Q?, dotted border

Bronze, 2.449 g, diam. 19.6-20.9 mm, 7 h, MOB Mo-6307



29. Constantine I, follis, 324-325, mint of Cyzicus, RIC 24

Obv: Laureate bust of Constantine I right, CONSTANTINVS AVG, dotted border

Rev: Camp gate with two turrets, starr above, PROVIDENTIAE AVGG, in exergue SMKI, dotted border

Bronze, 2.314 g, diam. 18.2-19.1 mm, 7 h, MOB Mo-6311



27. Constantine I, follis, 317-318, mint of Arelate, RIC 145

Obv: Laureate, draped bust of Constantine I right, IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Sol standing left, raising right hand and holding globe in left hand, in fields C – S, SOLI INVICTO COMITI, in exergue PARL, dotted border

Bronze, 2.743 g, diam. 19.9-21.1 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6322



30. Constantine I, follis, 326, mint of Rome, RIC 287

Obv: Laureate, draped bust of Constantine I right, CONSTANTINVS AVG, dotted border

Rev: Camp gate with two turrets, starr above, PROVIDENTIAE AVGG, in exergue R wreath P, dotted border

Bronze, 2.585 g, diam. 17.9-18.6 mm, 5 h, MOB Mo-6308



28. Constantine I, follis, 317-318, mint of Arelate, RIC 146

Obv: Laureate, draped bust of Constantine I right, IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Sol, radiate, chlamys draped across left shoulder, standing left, raising right hand and holding globe in left hand, in fields C – S, SOLI INVICTO COMITI, in exergue QARL, dotted border



31. Constantine I, follis, 326-327, mint of Antioch, RIC 71

Obv: Laureate head of Constantine I right, CONSTANTINVS AVG, dotted border

Rev: Camp gate with two turrets, starr above, PROVIDENTIAE AVGG, in exergue SMANTA

Bronze, 3.118 g, diam. 18.1-18.8 mm, 5 h, MOB Mo-6312



32. Crispus, follis, 321, mint of Lugdunum, RIC 133

Obv: Laureate, cuirassed bust of Crispus right, CRISPVS NOB CAES, dotted border

Rev: Altar inscribed VO/[T]IS/[XX] and surmounted by globe, three stars above, in fields C – P, below PLC, BEATA TRANQVILLITAS, dotted border

Bronze, 2.395 g, diam. 18.4-19.8 mm, 7 h, MOB Mo-6331



33. Constans, centenionalis or nummus, 335-336, mint of Thessalonica, RIC 201

Obv: Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Constans right, CONSTANS NOB CAES

Rev: Two helmeted, draped and cuirassed soldiers, standing facing each other, holding spear in outer hand and resting inner hand on shield, between them, two standards, GLORI[A EXERCITVS], in exergue SMTSA

Bronze, 2.409 g, diam. 17.8-18.1 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6318



34. Constantius II, centenionalis, 350-355, mint of Thessalonica, RIC 168

Obv: Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust of Constantius II right, D N CONSTANTIVS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Constantius II, draped and cuirassed, standing left on galley, holding phoenix on globe in extended right hand and standard with a Christogram in left hand, seated Victory behind, steering galley, FEL TEMP REPARATIO, in left field Γ, in exergue * TSI * , dotted border

Bronze, 6.218 g, diam. 21.6-24.2 mm, 5 h, MOB Mo-6313



35. Constantius II, centenionalis, 351-355, mint of Heraclea, RIC 82

Obv: Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust of Constantius II right, D N CONSTANTIVS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Helmeted, draped and cuirassed soldier, advancing left, spearing fallen horseman with right hand and wearing shield on left arm, in left field Γ, FEL TEMP REPARATIO, in exergue SMHT, dotted border

Bronze, 5.980 g, diam. 22.1-23.1 mm, 10 h, MOB Mo-6314



36. Constantius II, 1/2 centenionalis, 337-361, mint of Antioch?, RIC 153?

Obv: Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust of Constantius II right, D N CONSTANTIVS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Helmeted, draped and cuirassed soldier, advancing left, spearing fallen horseman with right hand and wearing shield on left arm, FEL TEMP REPARATIO, in exergue ANB?

Bronze, 2.269 g, diam. 16.3-17.6 mm, 10 h, MOB Mo-6330



37. Constantius I or II ?, nummus?

Obv: Laureate head right, [...] NVS (?) [...], dotted border

Rev: Naked (?) male figure standing right, right hand raised over head

Bronze, 1.999 g, diam. 14,6-15,2 mm, 10 h, Mo-6336



38. Delmatius?, nummus

Obv: Laureate, draped bust right

Rev: Two soldiers, between them standard

Bronze, 1.452 g, diam. 12.3-12.7 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6334



39. Magnentius, centenionalis, 351, mint of Treveri, RIC 307 var.

Obv: Bareheaded, draped and cuirassed bust of Magnentius right, in left field A, DN MAGEITIVS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Two winged and draped Victories, facing each other, holding a wreath inscribed V.../ V / MHH X, supported on a short column, VICTORIAE DD NN AVG ET CAE, in exergue TRP, dotted border

Bronze, 3.686 g, diam. 20.3-22.4 mm, 4 h, MOB Mo-6319



40. Julian the Apostate, nummus, 355- 361, mint of Rome, RIC 306

Obv: Bareheaded, cuirassed bust of Julian the Apostate right, D N CL IVLIANVS N C, dotted border

Rev: Soldier advancing left, spearing fallen horseman with right hand and wearing shield on left arm, FEL TEM REPARATIO, in exergue RS palm branch, dotted border

Bronze, 2.346 g, diam. 18.4-19.1 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6332



41. Valens, nummus, 364-367, mint of Siscia, RIC 14b

Obv: Perl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust of Valens right, D N VALENS P F AVG, dotted border

Rev: Valens advancing right, head in left, dragging captive with right hand and holding labarum in left hand, in right field D, GLORIA ROMANORVM, in exergue BSISC, dotted border

Bronze, 1.909 g, diam. 17.4-17.8 mm, 12 h, MOB Mo-6329



42. Valentinian I, nummus, 364-367, mint of Aquileia, RIC 7a

Obv: Perl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust of Valentinian I right, DN VALENTINIANVS P F AVG

Rev: Valentinian I advancing right, head in left, dragging captive with right hand and holding labarum with a Christogram in left hand, in right field Ω, GLORIA ROMANORVM, in exergue SMAQS

Bronze, 2.105 g, diam. 16.4-17.9 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6317



43. Valentinian I, nummus, 364-367, mint of Constantinople, RIC 16a var.
 Obv: Perl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust of Valentinian I right, D N VALERTINIANVS P F AVG
 Rev: Valentinian I advancing right, head in left, dragging captive with right hand and holding labarum with a Christogram in left hand, GLORIA ROMANORVM, in exergue CONSPA
 Bronze, 2.277 g, diam. 18.4-18.6 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6316



44. Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus, with Zoe, follis, 914-919, mint of Constantinople, DOC 22
 Aw: Crowned facing busts of Constantine, wearing loros, and Zoe, wearing chlamys, holding patriarchal cross between them, +COnSTAnT CE ZOE bA
 Rew: +COOnS / TAnTInO / CE ZOH bA / SILIS RO / MEOn
 Bronze, 5.744 g, diam. 24.7-26.8 mm, 6 h, MOB Mo-6337



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Krzysztof Jarzęcki
ORCID 0000-0002-4137-9729
The Leon Wyczółkowski
District Museum in Bydgoszcz
krzysztof.jarzecki@muzeum.bydgoszcz.pl