

# Villa of Theseus at Nea Paphos (Cyprus) Fourth–Early Fifth Century Numismatic Evidence for Architectural Transformations and Seismic Events

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**Abstract:** This paper presents coins unearthed in three separate places at the Villa of Theseus at Nea Paphos (Cyprus). With just a few exceptions they date to the fourth–early fifth centuries AD. Even though only some specimens are precisely identifiable, they deserve presentation since they may suggest *termini post quem* for the reconstructions and enlargement of the Villa of Theseus. At the same time, the numismatic evidence helps to support the hypothesis that more than one earthquake occurred in the late Roman period at Nea Paphos and caused the destruction of its residences in the whole or in part of the area.

**Keywords:** late Roman Cyprus, Nea Paphos, Villa of Theseus, North-western House, coins, earthquakes

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The largest residence discovered at Nea Paphos, and so far the largest residence on Cyprus as well, named the Villa of Theseus after the third century AD mosaic (in room 36), studied by Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski,<sup>1</sup> was not originally created as such a vast complex (**Fig. 1**). Successive architectural alterations of the Villa were the subject of intensive research conducted by Stanisław Medeksza.<sup>2</sup> This paper is dedicated to the memory of these two excellent scholars, whose research carried out over several years was crucial for the history of the Villa of Theseus.

Daszewski suggested four essential phases of its spatial development.<sup>3</sup> He was of the opinion that the earlier part of the Villa of Theseus, the south wing, could possibly be dated to the third century AD.<sup>4</sup> The enlarged edifice partially covered the ruins of earlier

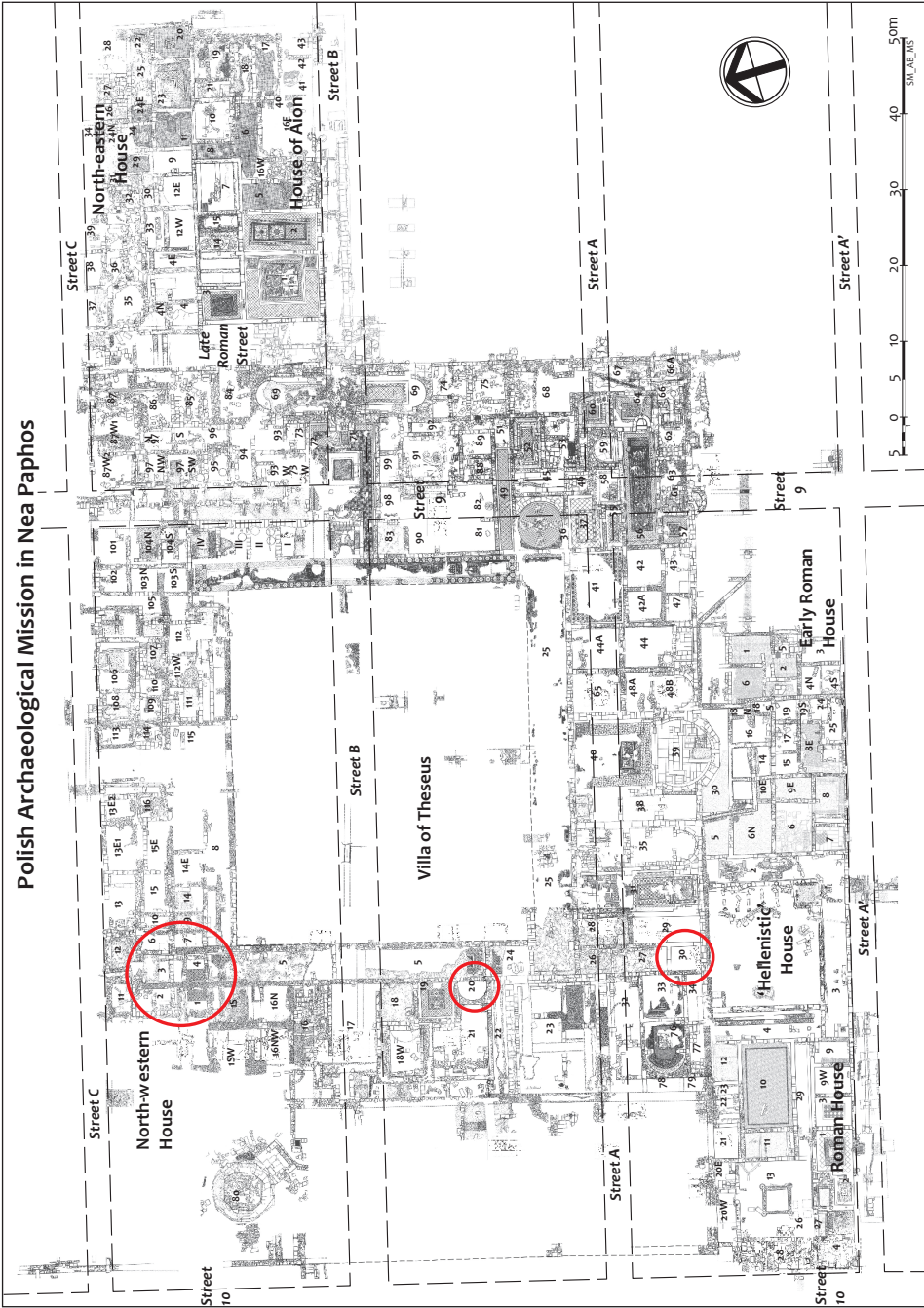
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<sup>1</sup> Daszewski 1977; see also: Daszewski, Michaelides 1988: 54–57, Figs 23–24, end of the third or early fourth century AD.

<sup>2</sup> A monographic study on Villa of Theseus in Nea Paphos was published in Polish; see: Medeksza 1992.

<sup>3</sup> Daszewski 1968: 37.

<sup>4</sup> Daszewski 1977: 12; Daszewski, Sztetyło 1988: 201.



1. Plan of the structures excavated by the Polish Archaeological Mission of the University of Warsaw in 1965–2019 with indicated places of discovery of the coins mentioned in the paper (Drawing: S. Medeksza, A. Brzozowska-Jawornicka, M. Słowińska).

structures, including the building actually called the North-western House.<sup>5</sup> Daszewski believed that the expansive Villa of Theseus could have been the residence of a high-ranking imperial officer.<sup>6</sup>

Medeksza supposed that the origin of the Villa of Theseus could be dated to the second half of the second century AD and was associated with a private house with a portico and two side extensions. Medeksza considered this building as phase I of the Villa. Phase II involved numerous renovations and structural changes realised in three stages, which resulted in a large peristyle residence combining private and official functions.<sup>7</sup> Medeksza specified various renovations and remodellings which started already at the end of the third century and lasted until the third quarter of the fourth century AD.<sup>8</sup> In the first stage of phase II, a peristyle was added to the north side of the second-century AD house, which became the south wing of the enlarged Villa. Extensive rebuilding covered certain parts of Hellenistic streets (A, B, 9) and overlapped with a part of the North-western House (the so-called North villa),<sup>9</sup> as well as further to the east with the neighbouring devastated structure on the north side, and the relicts of Hellenistic structures (I, II, III, IV) on the east side. Medeksza believed that some works had stopped by the fourth-century AD seismic events.<sup>10</sup> It can also be assumed that after subsequent earthquakes several renovations were not only needed, but additionally created an opportunity for enlargement and remodelling of the residence.

When determining the dates of the earthquakes that had affected the Villa of Theseus, AD 332 and 342, Daszewski took numismatic evidence into account.<sup>11</sup> However, the coin data should be examined more closely.

According to Henryk Meyza, only several undisturbed contexts in the Villa of Theseus, namely in rooms 4, 6, 7, 20 and 30, contained groups of coins which were highly likely collected at the original site of the loss.<sup>12</sup> A few earlier specimens have also been found among the bronze and copper coins of low denominations typical of the fourth–early fifth-century AD coinage in rooms 4, 6, 8 and 20.

The appearance of the coins minted throughout the fourth century AD and first years of the fifth century AD in the same archaeological contexts suggests that some of them remained in circulation over a relatively extended period of time. Coin finds from the North-eastern House, room 12E at Nea Paphos,<sup>13</sup> as well as some from the West House, room 2 at Kourion<sup>14</sup> seem to support this opinion.

<sup>5</sup> Daszewski 1977: 12; Daszewski *et al.* 1984: 302–303; Daszewski, Sztetyło 1988: 201–202, Figs 2–3.

<sup>6</sup> Daszewski 1972: 206.

<sup>7</sup> Medeksza 1992: 48, 62, 64–65.

<sup>8</sup> Medeksza 1992: 35.

<sup>9</sup> Medeksza 1992: 31–32, 35–36; 1998: 28; for preliminary chronological sequence of the structures in the junction of the north and west wings of the Villa of Theseus drawn by P.M. Gartkiewicz, see: Młynarczyk 1990: 186, Fig. 23; Meyza 2007: 29, Fig. 4.

<sup>10</sup> Medeksza 1992: 32–33, 35, 40; 1998: 33–36.

<sup>11</sup> Daszewski 1977: 12; Medeksza 1992: 8, 35, indicates earthquakes, AD 332, 342 and AD 365–378.

<sup>12</sup> Meyza 2007: 26. According to Guest 2019: 244, coins are not often found in the place of loss.

<sup>13</sup> Lichočka, Meyza 2001: 189.

<sup>14</sup> Soren 1981: 126–130.

Monetary reforms in the fourth century AD and the introduction of new types, often associated with the debasement of size and weight, generally resulted in the withdrawal of earlier coins.<sup>15</sup> Some hoards illustrate that coins of Valentinian I largely displaced earlier currency.<sup>16</sup> However, in the eastern Mediterranean the long-term circulation of fourth-century AD coins issued both under the Constantinian and Valentinian Dynasties was not unusual, even for a period of one hundred or more years, as is shown by finds from different sites in Israel<sup>17</sup> or Egypt.<sup>18</sup>

In most cases, the time range of circulation of coin specimens remains unknown. It could have been from several years up to several decades.<sup>19</sup> It seems impossible to set up a uniform model scheme. The appearance of a few specimens of earlier origin in the contexts predominated by late Roman imperial coins found in the Villa of Theseus deserves some consideration.<sup>20</sup> Even withdrawn from use some time earlier, they may have survived and been kept by somebody, and eventually lost at the moment of construction, refurbishment or disaster. It cannot be ruled out that they had been lost or thrown away not in the place of discovery, but elsewhere, and moved during construction works on one of the residences, including levelling in preparation for the enlargement of the Villa of Theseus, perhaps after an earthquake. The appearance of earlier coins is not relevant with regard to the date of these events. Dating based on coins means establishing a date of issue, in the case of an assemblage of coins a date of issue of the latest specimen, and this date becomes a *terminus post quem* for an archaeological context.

As usual in the case of coins found in excavations, only some of the specimens unearthed in the Villa of Theseus are fully legible. A few specimens have survived with well-preserved mint-marks. Identification of a type or its variety, and consequently indication of the specific issue and its date, were not always possible. Traces of wear, independent of signs of corrosion processes, indicate that the coins were in use for quite a long period. Despite all well-known limitations, the study of the coins unearthed in, upon or below the floors of individual rooms of the Villa of Theseus plays a substantial role in dating the construction, renovation, and destruction of the rooms in which they were found.

#### JUNCTION OF THE NORTH AND WEST WINGS (ROOMS 1, 1S, 3–4, 6–8)

In the Villa of Theseus, famous for its mosaics, there were also very simple floors, which, as Daszewski observed, were made of ‘clay and lime mixed together’ (room 6), ‘of beaten clay’ (room 3), and possibly covered with ‘terracotta slabs’ (room 4).<sup>21</sup> The modest floors

<sup>15</sup> Burnett 1987: 132–133; cf. remarks in Guest 2019: 243–244, on money supply and fourth and early fifth-century AD reforms.

<sup>16</sup> See: RIC VIII: 82.

<sup>17</sup> Bijovsky 2000: 208.

<sup>18</sup> Lichocka 2005: 764, 767, Table 1.

<sup>19</sup> See, among others: Kraay 1956: 131; Sodini *et al.* 1980: 267; Augé 1987: 229.

<sup>20</sup> Cf. Walker 1997: 24–25.

<sup>21</sup> Daszewski 1968: 40 and 41, respectively; Daszewski, distinguished eight types of floors in rooms 3, 5–10 (W.A. Daszewski, P. Gartkiewicz, Preliminary Report 1968, unpublished manuscript, unnumbered pages).

of rooms 1S, 3 and 4 of the Villa of Theseus were superimposed on the floor paved with a geometric mosaic (partly preserved) belonging to the demolished early Roman North-western House.<sup>22</sup> Only the layer of reddish earth above the bedrock was found under the floors of rooms 1, 2, 6 and probably of the northern part of room 5.<sup>23</sup> The coins found in the layers between floor levels of the superimposed buildings, namely between the mosaic floor of the North-western House, whose complete plan is still unknown,<sup>24</sup> and the remains of the floors in the north-western part of the Villa of Theseus, are essential for the dating of this part of the residence (phase II, stage 2).

The earliest late Roman coins known from the area of the north-western corner of the Villa of Theseus are the *folles* struck during the reign of Constantine I. The latest coin is one minted for Gratian, AD 367–375 (see **Table 1**). Both earlier and later fourth-century coins were unearthed on or below the floors<sup>25</sup> of the Villa of Theseus (phase II). They all represent common types of the coinage circulating in these periods.

Three specimens of *Securitas Reipublicae*, Victory type, issued by Valentinian I and/or Valens between AD 364 and AD 375 were found in room 3 of the Villa of Theseus: two (nos 60/1966 and 61/1966) in a layer of greyish soil with mortar (floor or its substructure) above the early Roman mosaic, and one (no. 187/1971\*;<sup>26</sup> **Fig. 2:14**) in the lime mortar floor (washed out by rain?).

In room 4 two further specimens of *Securitas Reipublicae* type, AD 364–375, were discovered (nos 49/1966\* and 50/1966; **Fig. 2:10**) in a layer (about 15–20cm thick) between the floor level of the Villa of Theseus (indicated by the partially preserved mosaics in room 5) and early Roman mosaics belonging to the North-western House. There were also two partly legible specimens struck under the Constantinian Dynasty (nos 47/1966 and 48/1966) and additionally a coin minted for Claudius II Gothicus (no. 52/1966). A *Gloria Romanorum* (no. 43/1966) type(?) with another, Constantinian Dynasty specimen, showing *Spes Reipublice* reverse type (no. 42/1966\*; **Fig. 2:6**), were found about 1–2cm below the level of mosaics of the Villa of Theseus, under a layer of lime mortar.

The coins unearthed in brown soil covering the early Roman mosaic belonging to the North-western House, which was overlaid by room 4 of the Villa of Theseus come from the issues dated to the period ranging from AD 330–333 to AD 367–375. Coins of *Securitas Reipublicae* type are the latest (nos 57/1966 and 59/1966\*; **Fig. 2:15**). Two commemorative *folles*, one with *Urbs Roma* obverse type and a she-wolf suckling the twins on the reverse, dated to AD 330–333 (no. 55/1966\*; **Fig. 2:3**), and the other, with *Constantinopolis* obverse type and *Gloria Exercitus*, Victoria on a prow reverse type dated to AD 332–333

<sup>22</sup> Daszewski 1968: 41, 50; Daszewski, Sztetyło 1988: 202; Medeksza 1992: 31–32; 1998: 28; Meyza 2007: 28; also: Mavrojannis 2016: 335. The mosaics unearthed in this structure were described as ‘early Roman mosaic’ in the Journal of Excavations and this term was used in Table 1.

<sup>23</sup> Młynarczyk 1990: 185.

<sup>24</sup> See the plan referred to in footnote 9, above.

<sup>25</sup> Further designations of the floors were adopted after descriptions by Daszewski, the then director of excavations, made in field documentation, the Journal of Excavations.

<sup>26</sup> The illustrated coins are indicated with an asterisk (\*).





2. Coins found in the junction of the north and west wings of the Villa of Theseus, rooms 1, IS, 3–4, 6–7: 1. no. 78/1966; 2. no. 72/1966; 3. no. 55/1966; 4. no. 56/1966; 5. no. 62/1966; 6. no. 42/1966; 7. no. 91/1966; 8. no. 63/1966; 9. no. 38/1966; 10. no. 49/1966; 11. no. 30/1966; 12. no. 41/1966; 13. no. 70/1966; 14. no. 187/1971; 15. no. 59/1966 (1–2, 6–7, 9–15. Phot. Z. Doliński; 3–5, 8. Phot. M. Jawornicki).

(no. 56/1966\*; **Fig. 2:4**) are the earliest in this group. Apart from that, two specimens showing *Fel Temp Reparatio*, falling horseman type (nos 58/1966 and 63/1966\*; **Fig. 2:8**) were unearthed in a layer of brown soil. Just above the early Roman mosaic there was one coin of Constantine I, showing *Gloria Exercitus*, the variety with one standard, AD 336–337 (no. 62/1966\*; **Fig. 2:5**).

In room 1, the latest coin, AE4 of Valentinian I of *Securitas Reipublicae* type, dated to AD 364–375 (no. 70/1966\*; **Fig. 2:13**), was discovered just under the stone pavement.

It is not certain whether the place of discovery of Constantius II, *Fel Temp Reparatio*, the falling horseman type (no. 917/2007), that is, under the foundation of the north wall of the room was the original place of its loss or if it is an accidental fallout from the trench section.

A *follis* of Crispus, the *Iovis Conservator* type, dated to AD 317–320 (no. 78/1966\*; **Fig. 2:1**) was unearthed in room 1S below the floor level, above the level of the mosaic of the North-western House.

A coin of Constantine I, *Providentia Augg*, city-gate type, representing the issue dating to a time span from AD 324 to 330 (no. 72/1966\*; **Fig. 2:2**) was discovered in room 7 adjacent to room 8 (north portico), at the level of the greyish pavement above the early Roman mosaic. Two specimens (nos 70a/1966 and 70b/1966) found in the south-western corner, in mortar with soil, just above the mosaic of the North-western House, date to AD 330–347. The specimen preserved on the wall with the stone door is *Gloria Romanorum*, an emperor in military dress dragging a captive type, issued for Valens, AD 364–378 (no. 30/1966\*; **Fig. 2:11**).

*Gloria Romanorum* of Gratian (no. 41/1966\*; **Fig. 2:12**) and *Fel Temp Reparatio*, the falling horseman type (no. 40/1966), were found in the south-eastern corner of room 6, at the floor level. Among the five coins retrieved from the extension of room 6, near the west wall on the upper greyish pavement, there were two coins of *Gloria Exercitus*, both varieties, with two standards (no. 85/1966) and with one standard (no. 87/1966), dated to AD 330–337. Apart from that, another coin belonging to the latter variety (no. 91/1966\*; **Fig. 2:7**) was found separately.

The fourth-century AD coins from the north-western corner of the enlarged Villa of Theseus, especially from rooms 1, 3 and 4, appear to suggest that the North-western House was destroyed in the fourth century AD and in a relatively short period of time was covered by a new structure belonging to the Villa of Theseus. Among the coins unearthed in the fill under room 4, earlier than phase II, stage 2 of the Villa of Theseus, four coins dated to AD 364–375 (nos 49–50/1966, 57/1966, 59/1966) were discovered, so we may assume that the floor of room 4 may be dated to a period not earlier than the chronology of these specimens. Similar chronology is associated with the following coins: one found in room 1, under the pavement (no. 70/1966\*; **Fig. 2:13**), three found in room 3 at the floor level (nos 60/1966, and 61/1966, 187/1971\*; **Fig. 2:14**) and one discovered in room 6, at the floor level (no. 41/1966).

One late Ptolemaic bronze coin (no. 29/1966) was discovered in room 8 (north portico), at the level of the pavement. East of the wall with the door, just below the level of the mosaic of the Villa of Theseus, a *follis* *Urbs Roma* obverse type with *Gloria Exercitus*, two soldiers and one standard reverse type, dated to AD 336–337 (no. 39/1966\*; **Fig. 3:2**) was discovered in greyish soil. Three coins: one of *Sol Invictus* type, minted for Constantine I, AD 316–317 (no. 67/1966\*; **Fig. 3:1**) and two struck several decades later, a *Gloria Exercitus*, one standard variety, AD 346–348(?) (no. 66/1966\*; **Fig. 3:3**), and *Fel Temp Reparatio*, falling horseman type (no. 68/1966) AD 348–361(?) were found *c.* 63cm below the floor level, in brown soil reaching down to the bedrock.



3. Coins found in the junction of the north and west wings of the Villa of Theseus, room 8: 1. no. 67/1966; 2. no. 39/1966; 3. no. 66/1966 (1–2. Phot. M. Jawornicki; 3. Phot. Z. Doliński).

The coins found under the floor level of room 8 of the Villa of Theseus (nos 39/1966\*, 66/1966\*, 68/1966 the latest) undoubtedly belong to a period of some reconstructions or constructions added to the portico in the north, which may probably be dated not earlier than AD 352–361.

#### WEST WING (ROOM 20)

According to Medeksza, a relatively small apse room 20, adjacent to room 5 (west portico), which could be used as a *lararium*, was created (phase II, stage 2) after a series of earthquakes hit Paphos in the fourth century AD, up to the third quarter.<sup>27</sup>

Eleven coins were discovered in the rubble at the floor level (**Table 2**). Unfortunately, their poor state of preservation makes the identification of about half of the specimens uncertain or impossible. Leaving aside the *sestertius* of Philip the Arab (no. 86/1967), found in the course of cleaning the floor, AE4 *Gloria Exercitus*, variety with two standards between two soldiers, dated to AD 335–340 (no. 77/1967) is the earliest. *Spes Reipublice*, an emperor in military dress, holding a globe and spear type of Constantius II, dated to AD 355–361 (no. 79/1967\*; **Fig. 4**) is the latest. There were also partly legible coins of Constantius II of *Fel Temp Reparatio*, the falling horseman type (nos 85/1967 and 87/1967).

One of AE4 *Spes Reipublice* type (no. 185/1971), was found under the stone blocking the entrance to the apse, which may suggest a *terminus post quem* of AD 355–361 for the destruction, most likely from natural causes.<sup>28</sup> This may point to speculation that the use of the apse may have ended in the second half of the fourth century, which in turn may raise the question of when the apse room was built. Was it really as late as Medeksza supposed? Single-coin dating, however, is risky. It is possible that the *Spes Reipublice* coin found in room 20 originated from the third quarter of the fourth century AD, but it remained a long time in circulation, and was lost only at the end of the fourth century or later, as may be suggested by the presence of the coin of probably *Salus Reipublicae* type, AD 383–395(?) (no. 76/1967), found in the rubble at the floor level. However, it cannot be ruled out that it was lost after the destruction of room 20.

<sup>27</sup> Medeksza 1992: 33, 40; 1998: 35.

<sup>28</sup> Unfortunately, there were no ceramic finds and we cannot confront our suppositions with pottery evidence.





4. Coin found in the west wing of the Villa of Theseus, room 20: no. 79/1967 (Phot. Z. Doliński).

One of the heavily corroded coins (no. 82/1967) can be identified as 12 *nummus* piece of Heraclius (613–618), but not without a doubt.<sup>29</sup> This coin, the only early seventh-century(?) specimen documented in room 20, might have been lost by a kind of visitor or squatter living in the residence, not necessarily in this wing.<sup>30</sup>

Summing up, it cannot be ruled out that the destruction of room 20 occurred shortly after the construction, and it could have happened at the end of the fourth or in the early fifth century AD.

#### SOUTH WING (ROOM 30)

Coins found in room 30 (**Table 3**) with the floor originally paved or made of beaten earth,<sup>31</sup> range from the early fourth century to the early fifth century. *Follis* of Maximinus II Daza, *Caesar*, dated to AD 306–307 (no. 99/1968\*; **Fig. 5:1**), found in the south-west corner below the floor level, is the earliest. A group of eight coins unearthed at the floor level, in daub, near rectangular blocks of stone comprise issues attributed to Constantius II (nos 125\*–126/1969, 131/1969; **Fig. 5:2**), dated to AD 348–351, Valentinian II (nos 130/1969\*; **Fig. 5:3**), dated to AD 383–388, and Arcadius or Honorius (nos 124/1969\* and 128/1969; **Fig. 5:4**), dated to AD 395–401. One small module coin minted for Honorius (no. 181/1970) was found between the stones of the pavement. More coins were discovered at the level of the floor, the specimens being attributed to Arcadius, Honorius and/or Theodosius II (nos 133–134/1969, 139/1969), AD 395–408 and AD 406–408. They represent the following issues: *Fel Temp Reparatio*, an emperor with two captives, *Gloria Romanorum*, emperor with Victory on the ship, *Virtus Exerciti*, an emperor crowned by Victory. Perhaps one of these pieces (no. 142/1969) bears the Victory type of *Salus Republicae*, issued between AD 383 and 402. Most likely, these coins were not deposited intentionally, but accidentally were lost by one or more persons at the time of disaster.

<sup>29</sup> Preliminary identification by Aleksandra Krzyżanowska, unpublished; Lichočka 2001: 256, no. 6.

<sup>30</sup> Daszewski 1970: 117, was of the opinion that the west wing of the Villa of Theseus was not occupied by squatters. According to Medeksza 1992: 45, squatters occupied the junction of the north and west wings of the Villa of Theseus already in the fifth century AD.

<sup>31</sup> Daszewski 1970: 123.



5. Coins found in the south wing of the Villa of Theseus, room 30: 1. no. 99/1968; 2. no. 125/1969; 3. no. 130/1969; 4. no. 124/1969; 5. no. 139/1969 (Phot. Z. Doliński).

Daszewski expected that room 30 had served as a storeroom.<sup>32</sup> According to Medeksza, its construction or major reconstruction belongs to phase II, stage 1, and it took place most likely at the beginning of the fourth century AD.<sup>33</sup> A *terminus post quem* date for the destruction suggested by the coins is about a hundred years later, not before AD 406–408.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Daszewski was of the opinion that the North-western House, could have been erected in the first century AD (although the mosaics were laid in the second century)<sup>34</sup> and destroyed before the beginning of the third century AD.<sup>35</sup> He also supposed an early fourth century destruction.<sup>36</sup> According to Medeksza, the North-western House was very likely destroyed at the beginning of the fourth century AD.<sup>37</sup>

Coins found below the floor level in the west part of room 8 appear to suggest the *terminus post quem* of AD 352–361 for some construction works in the north portico of the

<sup>32</sup> Daszewski 1970: 123.

<sup>33</sup> Medeksza 1992: 35.

<sup>34</sup> Daszewski 1968: 50; Daszewski, Sztetyło 1988: 202.

<sup>35</sup> Daszewski 1977: 11.

<sup>36</sup> Daszewski 1968: 50.

<sup>37</sup> Medeksza 1992: 32.

Villa of Theseus (phase II, stage 1?). Numismatic evidence from rooms 1, 2, 3, 6 indicates the *terminus post quem* of AD 364–375 or AD 367–375 for construction of some rooms in the junction of the north and west wings of the Villa of Theseus (phase II, stage 2), probably after an earthquake.

The suggestion that more than one disaster affected Nea Paphos seems to be indisputable. Most likely one of the earthquakes destroyed the North-western House. The *termini post quem* indicated by coins found in undisturbed strata in the House of Aion and North-eastern House are AD 355–361 and/or AD 364–367.<sup>38</sup> A comparative study of pottery and coins found in both residences opens room for probable interpretations. One of the hypotheses is that the disaster took place around AD 380–400.<sup>39</sup> These dates coincide with the *termini post quem* suggested by the coins discovered in the Villa of Theseus: AD 355–361 (room 20), AD 364–375 or AD 367–375 (rooms 1, 3–4), and AD 406–408 (room 30). It cannot be ruled out that some parts or even rooms of the Villa of Theseus were unequally affected by successive fourth–fifth century AD earthquakes of varying intensity and extent.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Lichočka, Meyza 2001: 189.

<sup>39</sup> Lichočka, Meyza 2001: 207.

<sup>40</sup> This paper has been inspired by the article Lichočka, Meyza 2001, which in turn was inspired by a study presented in a joint presentation with Bounegru, F., Hanut, H., Meyza, H., Poblome, B. entitled 'Sherds and Coins – a Methodological Approach', at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference, Roman Crafts and Trade in the Roman East and West (ROCT), organised by Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, May 19–20, 2000. The author's part concerning coins, announced also by Lichočka 2005: 765, n. 17, finally was not submitted for print.

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Table 1. Villa of Theseus, coins found in rooms 1, 1S, 3–4, 6–8

Find spot	Inv. no. (Field reg.)	Obverse	Reverse	Ruler, Date	Mint	References
Room 1, under the stone pavement	70/1966* (S II 1/66, 47n)	[D] N VALENTINIANVS P F [AVG]. Bust r., diademed, draped	SECVRTAS [REIPVBLICAE]. Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch	Valentinian I, AD 364–375		
Room 1, north wall	71/1966 (S II 1/66, 48n)	[---]-TIVS(?) P F [AVG]. Bust r.	Illegible	Constantius II, AD 337–361(?)		
Room 1, under the foundation of the north wall (accidental fallout from the trench section?)	917/2007	D N CONSTAN-TIVS [P F]. AVG. Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed	FEL TEMP-REPAR[ATIO]. Helmeted soldier l., spearing falling horseman. In ex.: SMKB	Constantius II, AD 355–361	Cyzicus	RIC VIII: 499, no. 110
Room 1, south-western part, under the floor level	918/2007	Illegible	Illegible			
Room 1, west part, level of the top of the north wall	938b/2007	[---]VS [---]. Head r.	Emperor in military dress stg. l., holding globe and spear	AD 348–361(?)		
Room 1S, between the floor level and the early Roman mosaic	78/1966* (S II 1/66, 55n)	[D N] FL IVL CRISPVS NOB CAES. Bust l., laureate, draped, holding mappa and sceptre	IOVI CONSERVATOR[O] CAESS]. Iovis stg. l., holding Victory on globe, and sceptre, captive to the left. In ex.: SMANT. In field r.: A	Crispus, <i>Caesar</i> , AD 317–320	Antioch	RIC VII: 680, no. 28
Room 3, pavement made of greyish soil with mortar, above the early Roman mosaic	60/1966 (S II 37n)	D N VALEN[TINI-A]NVS P F AVG. Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed	[SE]CV[RITAS] REIPVBLICAE]. Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch. In ex.: [---]Δ(?). In field l.: symbol(?)	Valentinian I, AD 364–375		
Room 3, as above	61/1966 (S II 38n)	[D] N VA [---]. Bust r. pearl-diademed	Victory advancing l., holding wreath	Valentinian I or Valens, AD 364–375		

Room 3, pavement over the early Roman mosaic	71/1967 (S I 66 / S2/66, 48n)	Illegible	Illegible	Late Roman, imitation(?)	
Room 3, lime mortar floor (washed out by rain?)	187/1971*	[D N VAL]ENTINI-ANVS P F AVG. Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed	[S]E[CV]RITAS [RE]I[PVBLICAE]. Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch	Valentinian I, AD 364–375	
Room 3, as above	188/1971	Bust r., diademed, draped	Traces of figure l.(?)	Second half of the fourth–early fifth century AD(?)	
Room 3–4, wall between rooms 3 and 4	72/1967	D N CONST[AN-TIVS P F AVG]. Bust r., pearl-diademed	Helmeted soldier l., spearing falling horseman	Constantius II, AD 348–361(?)	
Room 4, 1–2cm below the level of the floor mosaic, below the layer of mortar	42/1966* (S II 19)	[D] N CONSTAN[TIVS] AV[G]. Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed	SP[ES REI-PVB]LICE. Emperor in military dress stg. l., holding globe and spear	Constantius II, AD 355–361	
Room 4, as above	43/1966 (S II 20)	Bust r., diademed, draped	Emperor in military dress advancing l., dragging captive	AD 364–367(?)	
Room 4, c. 15–20cm below the level of the floor mosaic, layer of the early Roman mosaic	47/1966 (S II 24)	[---]NSTAN[---]. Head r., pearl- diademed	Traces of standing figures(?)	Constantinian Dynasty	
Room 4, as above	48/1966 (S II 25)	D N CONSTAN-[TIVS P F AVG]. Bust r., diademed	Helmeted soldier l., spearing falling horseman(?)	Constantius II, AD 348–361(?)	
Room 4, as above	49/1966* (S II 26)	[D N] VALENTINI-ANVS P F. AVG. Bust r., diademed, draped	SECVRIT[AS [RE]I[PVBLICAE]. Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch. In ex.: [---]Δ	Valentinian I, AD 364–375	
Room 4, as above	50/1966 (S II 27)	[---]VS P F AVG. Bust r., diademed, draped	[SECVRIT]AS [RE]I[PVBLICAE]. Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch	Valentinian I, AD 364–375	

Find spot	Inv. no. (Field reg.)	Obverse	Reverse	Ruler, Date	Mint	References
Room 4 as above	51/1966 (S II 28)	Bust r., diademed, draped	Traces of male figure stg.(?)	Late Roman, imitation(?)		
Room 4, as above	52/1966 (S II 29)	[IMP C CLAUDI]VS P F AVG. Bust r., radiate, draped	PA-X [AV]-G. Pax walking l. In ex.: T	Claudius II Gothicus, AD 269	Mediolanum	RIC V.1: 223, no. 157
Room 4, as above	53/1966 (S II 30)	Illegible	Illegible			
Room 4, brown soil covering the early Roman mosaic	55/1966* (S II 32)	VRBS ROMA. Bust of Roma l., helmeted, draped	She-wolf l., suckling twins, two stars above. In ex.: SMHE	Constantine I, AD 330-333	Heraclea	RIC VII: 557, no. 114
Room 4, as above	56/1966* (S II 33)	[CONSTAN]-TINOPOLIS. Bust of the city personified l., helmeted, laureate, cuirassed, mantled with sceptre over the shoulder	GLORIA EXERCITVS. Victory advancing l., on prow, holding spear and leaning on shield. The palm branch in front. In ex.: P[C]ONST	Constantine I, AD 332-333	Arles	RIC VII: 273, no. 369
Room 4, as above	57/1966 (S II 34)	[---]N[---]. Bust r., diademed, draped	[SECVRITAS] REI-PV[B][L]ICAE]. Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm(?)	Valentinian I or Valens, AD 367-375		
Room 4, as above	58/1966 (S II 35)	Bust on head r.	Helmeted soldier l., spearing falling horseman	AD 348-361		
Room 4, as above	59/1966* (S II 36)	DN VALEN-S P F AVG. Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE. Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch. In ex.: SMAQ	Valens, AD 367-375	Aquileia	RIC IX: 96, no. 12(a), (b)
Room 4, just above the early Roman mosaic	62/1966* (S II 39)	D N CONST[ANT][I]-NVS [MAX AVG]. Bust r., rosette- diademed and draped	GLOR-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, flanking one standard, each holding spear and leaning on shield. In ex.: S[M]NA	Constantine I, AD 336-337	Nicomedia	RIC VII: 635, no. 199

Room 4, brown soil above the early Roman mosaic	63/1966* (S II 40)	DN CONSTAN-TIVS P F AVG. Bust r., rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmets soldier l., spearing falling horseman. In ex.: SMK I. In field l.: Γ	Constantius II, AD 351–354	Cyzicus	RIC VIII: 497, no. 93
Room 4, as above	64/1966 (S II 41)	Bust r., diademed	Helmets soldier l., spearing falling horseman(?)	AD 348–361(?)		
Room 4, as above	65/1966 (S II 42)	Traces of head r.(?)	Illegible.	Late Roman; east(?)		
Room 6, south-eastern corner, floor level	40/1966 (S II 17)	D N CO[---]. Bust r., diademed	Helmets soldier l., spearing falling horseman(?)	AD 348–361		
Room 6, as above	41/1966* (S II 18)	[ID N] GR[ATIA]NVS P F AVG (?). Bust r., pearl- diademed	[GLORIA RO]-MANORVM. Emperor in military dress advancing r., holding <i>labarum</i> and dragging captive. In ex.: [S]MH[A](?)	Gratian, AD 367–375	Heraclea(?)	RIC IX: 194, no. 9(c)
Room 6, south-eastern corner, under the greyish pavement	44/1966 (S II 21)	Obliterated	Obliterated	First–second century AD(?)		
Room 6, brown soil (fill)	77/1966 (S II a 54n)	[---]S AVG. Bust r., radiate	MCAI(?). Mars sig. l. holding branch and shield, a spear behind. In field l.: X	AD 264–266 or later		Prototype Gallienus, <i>Marti</i> <i>Pacifero</i> type, RIC V.1: 151, no. 236
Room 6, just above the bedrock	83/1966 (S II a 60n)	Illegible	Illegible	Late Roman(?)		
Room 6, extension, near the west wall, uppermost greyish pavement	85/1966 (S II a 62n)	[CONS]TANTINVS IVN NOB C. Bust r., laureate, draped and cuirassed	GLOR-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, flanking two standards, each holding spear and leaning on shield. In ex.: SMKNA	Constantine II, <i>Cæsar</i> , AD 330, 334	Cyzicus	RIC VII: 653, no. 67
Room 6, as above	86/1966 (S II a 63n)	Bust r.	Illegible	Late Roman		

Find spot	Inv. no. (Field reg.)	Obverse	Reverse	Ruler, Date	Mint	Refer- ences
Room 6, as above	87/1966 (S II a 64n)	[CONSTANTI-NVS MAX AVG]. Bust r., rosette-diademed	GLOR-IA EXERC-I[TVS]. Two soldiers, flanking one standard, each holding spear and leaning on shield. In ex.: SMKE	Constantine I, AD 336–337	Cyzicus	RIC VII: 659, no. 122
Room 6, as above	88/1966 (S II a 65)	Head r.	Male figure(?)	Late fourth–early fifth century AD		
Room 6, as above	90/1966 (S II 67)	Head r., diademed	Illegible	Late Roman		
Room 6, extension, preserved level	91/1966* (S II a 68)	CONSTAN-TI[NVS AVG]. Bust r., laureate, draped and cuirassed	GLOR-[I]A EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, flanking one standard, each holding spear and leaning on shield. In ex.: SMANS	Constantine II, AD 337–347	Antioch	RIC VIII: 515, no. 40
Room 7, on the wall	30/1966* (S II 7)	D N VALEN-S P F AVG. Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed	GLORIA RO-MANORVM. Emperor in military dress r., holding <i>labarum</i> and dragging captive. In ex.: SMAQS	Valens, AD 364–378	Aquileia	RIC IX: 95, no. 7(b); 96, no. 11(b); 97, no. 17(a)
Room 7, south-western corner, mortar with soil, just above the early Roman mosaic	70a/1966 (S II 24a)	CONSTAN-TIV[S AVG]. Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed	GLO[R]IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers flanking one standard, each holding spear and leaning on shield. In ex.: SMANB	Constantius II, AD 337–347	Antioch	RIC VIII: 515, no. 49
Room 7, as above	70b/1966 (S II E 25)	CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C. Bust r., laureate, cuirassed	GLOR-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers flanking two standards, each holding spear and leaning on shield. In ex.: CONST	Constantine II, <i>Caesar</i> , AD 330–335	Constantinople	RIC VII: 579, no. 60; 581, no. 74; 582, no. 81



Room 7, pavement above the early Roman mosaic	72/1966* (S II 1/66, 49/n)	CONSTANTINVS AVG. Head r., laureate	PROVIDEN-TIAE AVGG. City gate. One star above. In ex.: R P	AD 324–330	Rome	RIC VII: 325, no. 264
Room 8, level of the pavement	29/1966 (S I 6)	Head of Zeus Amon r.	[IITOA]EMA[IOY BAΣIΛEQΣ], Two eagles l. on thunderbolt. In field l. a symbol(?)	Late second–first century BC	Paphos(?)	
Room 8, below the floor mosaic, in greyish soil	39/1966* (II S 16)	VRBS [R]OMA. Bust of Roma l., helmeted, in imperial mantle	[G]LOR-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers flanking one stan- dard, each holding spear and leaning on shield	Constantine I, AD 336–337		
Room 8, c. 63cm below the floor, brown soil, lime mortar with sand reaching down to bedrock	66/1966* (S II [1/66], 43n)	CONST-[ANS P F AVG](*). Bust l., rosette-diademed, draped	GLOR-IA EXER[C-ITVS]. Two soldiers flanking one stan- dard, each holding spear and leaning on shield	Constans, AD 346–348(?)		
Room 8, as above	67/1966* (S II [1/66], 44n)	IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG. Bust r., laureate, draped and cuirassed	SOLI INV-I-CTO COMITI. Sol stg. l., radiate head, chlamys on l. shoulder, holding globe; with captive at his feet to l. In ex.: A S	Constantine I, AD 316–317	Aquileia	RIC VII: 392, no. 1, mint- mark AQS
Room 8, as above	68/1966 (S II [1/66], 45n)	[DN] CON[---]. Bust r., pearl- diademed, draped	Helmeted soldier l., spearing falling horseman(?)	AD 348–361(?)		
Room 8, as above	69/1966 (S II [1/66], 46n)	Illegible	Illegible			

The illustrated specimens are indicated with an asterisk (\*) after the inventory number.  
The term 'mosaic' refers to mosaics in the Villa of Theseus, the term 'early Roman mosaic' refers to mosaics in the North-western House.

Table 2. Villa of Theseus, coins found in room 20

Find spot	Inv. no. (Field reg.)	Obverse	Reverse	Ruler, Date	Mint	References
Room 20, floor level, rubble	76/1967	Illegible	Victory advancing l., dragging captive(?)	AD 383–395(?)		
Room 20, as above	77/1967	Uncertain	[GLOR]IA EXE[RC-ITVS]. Two soldiers flanking one standard, each holding spear and leaning on shield. In ex.: SMALA(?)	AD 335–340	Alexandria(?)	
Room 20, as above	78/1967	Illegible	Illegible			
Room 20, as above	79/1967*	D N CONSTA[N]-TIVS P F AVG. Bust r., pearl- diademed, cuirassed and draped	SPES REL-PVBLI[CE]. Emperor in military dress stg. l., holding globe and spear	Constantius II, AD 355–361		
Room 20, as above	80/1967	Illegible	Illegible	Late Roman		
Room 20, as above	82/1967	Illegible	[+ ]B (?). In ex.: A[ΛEΞ] (?).	Heraclius, AD 613–618(?)	Alexandria(?)	
Room 20, as above	83/1967 (S II 67)	Head r.	Illegible			
Room 20, as above	84/1967	Bust r.	Standing figure(?)	Late Roman		
Room 20, as above	85/1967	[---]NT[---]. Traces of head r.	Helmeted soldier l., spearing falling horseman(?)	AD 348–361		
Room 20, as above	86/1967	IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG. Bust r., laureate, draped	IMP TR P II COS. Emperor seated l., holding globe and sceptre	Philip I the Arab, AD 245	Rome	RIC IV:3 87, no. 148* (a)

Room 20, as above	87/1967	Bust r., pearl-diademmed(?)	FEL T[EMP RE-PARATIO]. Helmsted soldier l., spearing falling horseman	AD 348-361		
Room 20, under the stone blocking the door to the apse	185/1971	[D N CONST]AN-TIVS P F [AVG]. Bust r., pearl- diademmed, draped and cutrassed	Emperor in military dress stg. l., holding globe and spear. In ex.: SMHA(?)	Constantius II, AD 355-361	Heraclea(?)	RIC VIII: 437, no. 98

The illustrated coins are indicated with an asterisk (\*) after the inventory number

Table 3. Villa of Theseus, coins found in room 30

Find spot	Inv. no.	Obverse	Reverse	Ruler, Date	Mint	References
Room 30, south-western corner; c. 5cm below the level of the floor	99/1968*	MAXIMINVS NOB CAES. Head r., laureate.	VIRTVS [AGG EIT] CAESS N N. Mars walking r., holding spear and trophy. In ex.: [--]T. in field I.(?).	Maximinus II Daza, <i>Caesar</i> , AD 306–307	Ticinum(?)	RIC VI: 292, no. 80
Room 30, in front of door to room 27, floor level (daub)	123/1969	Head r.(?).	Illegible.	Late Roman		
Room 30, as above	124/1969*	Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped	VIR[TVS EXERCITI]. Emperor stg. l., holding spear and leaning on shield with Victory holding palm branch and crowning him	Arcadius or Honorius, AD 395–401		RIC X: 246–247, nos 56–76
Room 30, as above	125/1969*	D N CONSTAN-TIVS P F AVG. Bust l., pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed, holding globe	FEL TEMP REPARATIO. Emperor stg. l, holding a standard with Chi-Rho, resting l. hand on a shield; in front of him two captives. In ex.: [S]MNT	Constantius II, AD 348–351	Nicomedia	RIC VIII: 476, no. 71
Room 30, as above	126/1969	D N CONSTAN-TIVS P F AVG. Bust l., pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed, holding globe	FEL TEMP [REPARATIO]. Emperor stg. l, holding a standard with Chi-Rho, resting l. hand on a shield; in front of him two captives. In ex.: SMK[-]	Constantius II, AD 348–350	Cyzicus	RIC VIII: 496, nos 75, 80

Room 30, as above	127/1969	Head r., diademed	Illegible				
Room 30, as above	128/1969	Bust r., diademed, draped	VIRTUS EXERCITIL. Emperor stg. l., holding spear and leaning on shield, crowned by Victory	Honorius or Arcadius, AD 395-401			RIC X: 246-247, nos 56-76
Room 30, as above	130/1969*	D N VALENTINIANVS P F AVG. Bust, helmeted r., draped	GLORI[A] ROJ-MANORVM. Emperor on a ship stg. l., Victory behind. In ex.: TESA. In field I.(?)	Valentinian II, AD 383-388	Thessalonica		RIC IX: 183, no. 44(a)
Room 30, as above	131/1969	D N CONST[AN]-TIVS P F A[V]G. Bust l., pearl-diademed, draped	FEL TEMP REPARATIO. Emperor in military dress stg. l., holding a Chi-Rho standard and leaning on shield; in front of him two captives. In ex.: SMHA[?]	Constantius II, AD 348-350	Heraclea		RIC VIII: 435, no. 69
Room 30, floor level	133/1969	Bust r., pearl-diademed	VIRTUS-[EXERCITII]. Emperor stg. l., holding spear and leaning on shield with Victory holding palm branch and crowning him. In ex.: ANTA	Arcadius, AD 395-401	Antioch		RIC X: 247, nos 70-73
Room 30, as above	134/1969	Illegible	GLORI[A] ROJ-MANORVM. Three emperors stg. facing, each holding spear and leaning on shield	Arcadius, Honorius or Theodosius II, AD 406-408			RIC X: 251-252, nos 141a- 159
Room 30, as above	135/1969	Traces of bust r., diademed(?)	Illegible	Late Roman(?)			



Find spot	Inv. no.	Obverse	Reverse	Ruler, Date	Mint	References
Room 30, as above	136/1969	Traces of head r.(?)	Illegible	Late Roman(?)		
Room 30, as above	137/1969	Illegible	Traces of stg. figure(?)	Late Roman		
Room 30, as above	139/1969	D N [HO]NORI-VS P F AVG. Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped, cuirassed	GLORI-A ROMA-NORVM. Three emperors stg., each holding spear and leaning on shield. In ex.: CON[S]A	Honorius, AD 406-408	Constantinople	RIC X: 251, no. 143
Room 30, as above	140/1969	[---] P F AV[G](?). Bust r., diademed, draped	Emperor in military dress(?)	Late fourth-early fifth century AD(?)		
Room 30, as above	142/1969	Head r., pearl-diademed	Victory advancing l., dragging captive(?)	AD 383-402(?)		
Room 30, between the stones of the pavement	181/1970	D N [H]ONORI-[VS P F AVG]. Bust r., pearl-diademed	[VIR]TV[S EXERCITI]. Emperor stg. l, with Victory holding palm branch and crowning him. In ex.: [AN]T[A] (?)	Honorius, AD 395-401	Antioch(?)	RIC X: 246-247, nos 70-74

The illustrated coins are indicated with an asterisk (\*) after the inventory number.

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## XXXIV / 2021



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