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MONEY CIRCULATION OF THALERS IN UKRAINE: HISTORIOGRAPHY

XVI century witnessed the Epoch of Thaler, this Epoch replaced the Period of Prague groschen. This event opened the new page of the money circulation history in Central and Eastern Europe. The thaler is a big silver coin, which is equal to golden gulden, and was minted by the duke of Tyrol¹ in 1484.

After the sudden depreciation of the small silver coins such as denarius, the thalers (the big silver coins) became popular. The thalers of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the golden ducats formed the basis for the money circulation. These coins were used in trade dealt, land and estate purchasing.

There were a lot of reasons, that caused the thalers minting in Europe, some of them were: growing value of the silver production in Tyrol, Saxony and Bohemia; growing raw materials from South Africa; technology improvement, which separated silver from the rock.

In XVI century the silver thalers were spread in the money circulation throughout the Ukrainian ethnic territories and in XVII century these coins became the significant currency such as the golden ducat. Local residents readily used the thalers, because these coins consisted of the sterling silver and had the same height as other coins.

The thalers circulation is very topical issue in modern historiography of numismatics. Tracing the thalers circulation, we can clarify the trade connections on the territory of Ukraine in Middle and New Ages². Using the annalistic sources we can estimate the role of thalers in money circulation in Ukraine in XVII³.

The first attempts of coins systematization was made by V. A. Shuhaevskyi⁴. Also M. F. Kotlyar has investigated about the money circulation bases⁵.

Nowadays thanks to the technology improvement for archeological exploration and existence of the new findings, there is a great necessity for detailing and specification of the Soviet scientific works.

Ukrainian modern numismatics has the following main approaches⁶:

- the topography expansion of thalers findings in treasures,
- knowledge improvement of thalers role of the separate emitters in the Ukrainian money circulation, which had not been earlier investigated,
- the research of coins in Ukrainian centers of stamping,
- the investigation of the counterfeited thalers production.

1 V. Zvarych, *Numismatic Dictionary*, Lviv 1978, 163p.

2 Trade in Ukraine in XIV - middle XVII century, Volyn and Naddniproshchyna, «Naukova Dumka», Kyiv 1990.

3 O. Bakalets, *Ukrainian Annals of XVII-XVIII centuries about Economy and Money Circulation of Zaporizhian Host*, Special historical subjects, Kyiv 1999, part 1, 222 p.

4 V. A. Shuhaevskyi, *Coin and Account in the Left-bank Ukraine in XVII century*, Short outline, Chernihiv 1918.

5 M. F. Kotlyar, *Money Circulation in Ukraine during Epoch of Feudalism*, Kyiv 1978, 122 p.

6 V. P. Kotsur, *Topical Trends of Modern Investigations of Medieval Numismatics in Ukraine* / Scientific Notes of Ukrainian history: Collected Scientific Articles. – Issue 33, Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyi 2013, 222-224 p.

Ukrainian researchers worked according to these approaches. O. O. Bakalets⁷ emphasized the role of thalers in money circulation of Ukraine. But his published works are inaccurate and his ideas are not so innovative.

There are several numismatic textbooks for universities, written by R. M. Shust⁸ and H. M. Holysh⁹. These manuals consider the role of thalers in Ukrainian money circulation, but they do not make the deep analysis.

The research, written by N. V. Turmis¹⁰, is very important and topical for historiography of Ukrainian numismatics because it includes a lot of approaches of numismatics and determines the role of this science in the history.

O. D. Ohui¹¹ surveyed the archives and established the counting denomination of the coins circulation in Bukovina. Also the researcher highlighted the role of thalers in the trade, exchange rate; slang names of thalers in Bukovina, Moldova and Bessarabia.

There are many scientists, who investigated the face value of the thalers in Ukraine, some of them are: O. D. Ohui¹² (in Bukovina), A. V. Shestopal¹³ (in Cherkasy), V. B. Antonovych¹⁴ and M. Kuchynko¹⁵ (in Volyn), V. B. Pyvorovych¹⁶ (in Причорномор'ї), R. M. Shust¹⁷ and S. V. Krauze¹⁸ (in Галичині), N. F. Bilshevskiy¹⁹ and Z. O. Zrazyuk²⁰ (in Kyiv region).

Y. M. Nikolchenko²¹ and I. D. Rudenko²² also researched the thalers in treasures description. Abovementioned topographic works tell us about thalers as the treasure with mentioning the place and circumstances, the boxes in which were the thalers and other coins. It is also very important to note the golden and silver coins are the first in the list of treasures, but the small change and counterfeited coins occupy the last points of this list. Topographical works of these scientists form the general notion of thalers on the Ukrainian territory, determine the main of trade ways and exchange rates.

In Ukraine thalers production was also in Lviv mint in late XVII century. The issue of thalers stamping in Lviv was researched by V. Shlapinskyi²³.

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- 7 O. A. Bakalets, *Money Circulation of Thalers in Ukraine in XVI – beginning XVIII century*, Bar 2004, 7-8 p.
 - 8 R. Shust, *Numismatics. History of Money Circulation and Coins in Ukraine / Manual*. – Kyiv: Znaniya 2007, 371 p.
 - 9 H. M. Holysh, *Principles of Numismatics. Manual*, Cherkasy 2002, 254.
 - 10 N. V. Turmis, *Historiography of Ukrainian Numismatics during Medieval period*. Thesis for a Doctor's Degree. Speciality 07.00.06., Lviv, 2005.
 - 11 O. D. Ohui, *History of Money Circulation and Denomination in Bukovina*, part 1, Chernivtsi 2010.
 - 12 O. Ohui, *Coins Findings in Bukovina*, System-Quantitative Collation, Chernivtsi 2008, 87-89 p.
 - 13 A. V. Shostopal, *Treasures of Cherkasy region*, Cherkasy 2007, 16-17 p.
 - 14 V. B. Antonovych, *Archaeologic Map of Volyn Province*, Kyiv: Starodavniy Svit 2013.
 - 15 M. Kuchynko, *Ancient and Medieval Treasures of Volyn*, Lutsk 2007.
 - 16 V. B. Pyvorovych, *Coins and Treasures Of South Ukraine*, Kherson 2009, 182 p.
 - 17 R. M. Shust, *Structure of Money Market of Podolia in XIV-XVIII* (accordint to the coins treasures materials of Khmelnytskyi Historical Museum), Lviv, LNU 2001, Issue 4, 39-50 p.
 - 18 S. V. Krauze, *Coins and Money Circulation of Galicia* (short scientific historical and economic outline), Kolomya 2000, 45-48 p.
 - 19 N. F. Belyashevskiy, *Monetary Treasures of Kyiv Province*, Kyiv, Korchak-Novytskyi 1889. – 149p.
 - 20 O. Z. Zrazyuk *Monetary Treasures of the beginning XVII century in Right-bank Ukraine* (modern territory of Kyiv and Zhytomyr region) // National Historical Museum of Ukraine, 110 Subject Collected Volume of Scientific Works, Kyiv 2009, part 1, 158-168 p.
 - 21 Y. M. Nikolchenko, *Unique Coins Treasure from Berezhne* // Volyn Dzvony, Scientific almanac, Rivne 1999, Issue 3, 15-16 p.
 - 22 A. D. Rudenko, *Coins Treasure from Peskari village*, Kyiv University bulletin, 1967, Issue 8.
 - 23 V. Shlapinskyi, *Four Stages of Mint Activity in Lviv (1656-1663)*, Lviv numismatic notes, 2004, Issue 1, 21 p.

Z. O. Zrazyuk²⁴ and A. S. Boyko-Haharin²⁵ investigated the counterfeited thalers. Usually the fake coins were small change. They revealed that it was hard to counterfeit the thalers because of their complicated production technology. The most famous findings of the fake coins belong to counterfeiter from Dutch provinces.

The fake thalers of Netherlands were produced due to especial technology (soldering silver segments to copper core) and now they are kept in National Historical Museum of Ukraine in Kyiv (the inventory numbers are AR-19420 and AR - 19365)²⁶.

There was another type of thalers, which belonged to Rietberg County, they were likely to thalers of Netherlands, but the production technology is different (coatication of silver coating on the copper thing). The investigation of native numismatists such as A. S. Boyko-Haharin and D. S. Staroverov, confirms that the thalers of Rietberg County were state credit coins. Thanks to the innovative technologies of physical measurement, the authors revealed the method of coatication of silver coating²⁷.

The main researches of thalers circulation on territory of Moscow State were made by I. H. Spaskyi²⁸ (Soviet scientist, who is Ukrainian by origin). The most significant works are about the circulation and classification of European thalers on the territory of Ukraine. In Moscow State yefimky (Russian name of the thalers) were recoined in the silver change²⁹.

I.H. Spaskyi researched the issue of the silver coins as adornment for women—ducats³⁰. Modern investigation in the historical sphere uses the innovative methods and technologies, first of all in the numismatics. V. M. Orlyk described in his scientific works the importance of WEB-resources. The Internet gives great possibilities to study the types of coins, technology production, topography of findings and others³¹.

Also very topical theme for investigation is counterfeited thalers in the market of collection. S. S. Bilopolskyi wrote about the most qualitative and dangerous fakes of thalers for numismatists.

Many scientists reached the great achievements in the study of thalers and their role in Ukrainian money circulation. Though there are some unproved issues. To solve them we should make the following steps: to explore the topography of thalers findings on the territory of Ukraine; to create the single Internet source; to classify the collections of museum funds; to create the public catalogues of collections; to improve the method of the fake thalers identifying; to ascertain the role of the big silver coins in Ukrainian money circulation, especially the role of Ottoman corush, which have been not investigated yet.

It is very important to continue the study of thalers using the modern precise physical methods, such as the analysis of the chemical composition of metal; to research the

24 Z. A. Zrazyuk, *Counterfeited Coins from Treasure found in Lelyukhivka village (Poltava region) in 2000* // Thesis of Articles of XIV Numismatic Conference in Russia, Saint Petersburg 2007, 124-125 p.

25 A. S. Boyko-Haharin, *Falsification from the Epoch of Transylvanian Thaler of Syhizmund Batoriy* // Lviv Numismatic Notes, 2009-2010, Lviv 2012, Issue 6 and 7, 39-41 p.

26 Z. O. Zrazyuk, *Monetary Treasures in Kyiv and Zhytomyr region in the beginning XVII century* // National Historical Museum in Ukraine 110, Subject Collected Volume of Scientific Works, Kyiv 2009, part 1p 124-125 p.

27 Bojko-Gagarin A., Staroverov D., *Talary hrabstwa Rietberg – falszerstwa emitenta?*, Biuletyn Numizmatyczny, Nr 1(369), Warszawa 2013, s. 11-14.

28 I. H. Spaskyi, *Catalogue of Thalers 1655*, Numismatics and Sigillography, Issue 4, 96-110 p.

29 *Collected Volume of Laws of Russia Empire*, Volume 3 [editor – M. M. Speranskyi], Publishing House of Imperator, 1830, №1687.

30 I. H. Spaskyi, *Ducats in Ukraine*, Kyiv, Naukova Dumka, 1970, 167 p.

31 V. M. Orlyk, *Information Potential of WEB-resources in Numismatics Investigations (using examples of crusader countries)* // Theses of articles of International conferences, Kyiv 2013, 129-133 p.

technologies of thalers production; to investigate the fake thalers, which were on the territory of Ukraine, especially to determine their main prototypes, regions of findings, to find out the centers of fake coins production; to study to archives to determine the role of thalers in the trade and so on.

Though the numismatics is full the new historiographic survey. We have a good chance to explore the intellectual world of the numismatists, their way of thinking, moral and psychological world of personality, their esthetic life. It gives possibilities for the numismatics to be more “human” and obtain the new shades.

Талери в грошовому обігу на теренах України: історіографія Резюме

Дослідження присвячене питанню вивчення в українській та зарубіжній історіографії проблеми участі талерів у грошовому обігу українських земель. Як відомо, з XVI століття в історії грошового обігу Центральної та Східної Європи починається «епоха талера», що змінила «епоху празького гроша». У XVI столітті срібні талери широко розповсюджуються у грошовому обігу українських етнічних земель, ставши до початку XVII століття основою крупних грошових розрахунків поряд із золотими дукатами. Тому дослідження обігу талерової монети є досить актуальним у фокусі вивчення торговельних зв'язків українських міст та земель у добу Середньовіччя та Нового часу.