

CROATIAN FRIESACHS – THE FIRST CROATIAN COINS (2)

In the introduction the author gives a short historical survey of the situation that led to the beginning of minting the first Croatian coins. He attempts to discover when Duke Andrija began to mint his coins and where his mint was, and concludes that it had to be in the interior of Croatia or somewhere in Dalmatia. He suggests that Bertold IV Andechs-Meranski could have played an active role in the appearance of Andrija's denars, and also that they could have been struck in his mints in Kamnik or Slovenj Gradec. The author also writes about the Rengjeo Type 1 denar and gives his opinion about the symbols of the crescent and star (which he thinks symbolises the sun). He emphasises that Andrija did not create this symbolical design, which later became common on Croatian territory and the country's arms. He furthermore believes that Croatian friesachs developed from the ERIACENSIS type of friesach, and in addition to the Rengjeo Type 1 he considers that the Rengjeo Types 7 and 9 were also struck as the first Croatian friesachs.