Preface

The present publication presents the results of research completed within the ‘Coins of the Roman Republic in Central Europe’ project, financed from the resources of the National Science Centre, awarded on the basis of decision No. DEC-2013/09/D/HS3/04515. The project is scheduled to run 2014-2017 at the Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw, its other participants Dr. Kirill Myzgin of the Vasyl Karazin Kharkiv National University (collecting, analysis and interpretation of the coin finds from Ukraine and Belarus), Marcin Rudnicki of the University of Warsaw (analysis and interpretation of some of the finds from Poland, most importantly, the hoard from Nowa Wieś Głubczycka, and planning the analysis of imitative coins) and Andrzej Romanowski of the National Museum in Warsaw (archaeological surface survey with metal detectors conducted at the findspots of Roman Republican coins). I am very grateful to them not only for their invaluable contribution to the study of Roman Republican coin finds from Poland, Ukraine and Belarus, its effect – articles and inventories of finds already published or pending publication – but also for the many valuable comments and observations which assisted my perception of the group of issues presented in this work. My special thanks go also to Vital’ Sidarovich of the Belarusian State University in Minsk whose findings from the research on Republican coin finds from Belarus, presented with his permission in the publications of Kirill Myzgin, could be used in my work. I am grateful to the authorities of the University of Warsaw Faculty of History and Institute of Archaeology, especially to Prof. Dr. hab. Wojciech Nowakowski, for enabling my research at this university and for organizational support to the Project.

I am greatly indebted to the following researchers for sharing with me their impressive knowledge of Roman Republican coinage, imitative issues and coin finds: Prof. Dr. hab. Aleksander Bursche of the University of Warsaw, Dr. Kris Lockyear of the University College London, Dr. Jiří Militký of the National Museum in Prague, and Dr. David Wigg-Wolf of the Roman-Germanic Commission of the German Archaeological Institute. For their unflagging efforts, ultimately crowned with success, taken to convince me that the countermark (I)MP•VES really dates to the reign of Vespasian, my thanks go to Tomasz Więcek of the University of
Warsaw, and again, to Marcin Rudnicki, with special thanks to both for initiating me into the mysteries of Greek and Celtic coinage. I owe many invaluable pieces of advice and comments also to other fellow researchers, the list of whose names is too long to include here, for which I must apologise, and also to the various participants of scholarly conferences at which Kirill Myzgin, Marcin Rudnicki and I presented some of the results of our research conducted within the ‘Coins of the Roman Republic in Central Europe’ project. The most notable conferences in this respect were: “Nálezy Mincí” IV (Bechyně, Czech Republic, 2014), “Peníze v proměnách času” X. (Mikulov, Czech Republic, 2015), XV International Numismatic Congress (Taormina, Italy, 2015), XI. Frühgeschichtliche Konferenz “Archäologie der Barbaren” (Mistelbach, Austria, 2015). Equally valuable comments were received from the reviewers of articles in which I presented the partial results of my research made within the Project, published in Acta Archaeologica Carpathica, in Notae Numismaticae-Zapiski Numizmatyczne and in Wiadomości Numizmatyczne; for their advice my thanks go also to the members of the Editorial board of these periodicals.

For information given about the findings from their own archaeological research, and for time generously given to assist me in obtaining information about coin finds and in accessing coins from finds now in the care of public and private collections, I am greatly indebted to Prof. Dr. hab. Piotr Kaczanowski of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, recently deceased and sorely missed, and also to Prof. Dr. hab. Wojciech Blajer of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Prof. Dr. hab. Borys Paszkiewicz of the University of Wroclaw, Dr. hab. Jaroslaw Bodzak of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the National Museum in Krakow, Dr. Marek Budaj of the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava, Jan Bulas of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Daniel Czernek of the Provincial Office of Monument Preservation in Kielce, Dr. Przemysław Dulęba of the University of Wroclaw, Dr. Michał Grygiel, Bartłomiej Gwóźdź, Dr. Adam Kędzierski of the Archaeological Post in Kalisz of the Polish Academy of Science, Sławomir Milek of the Regional Museum in Kalisz, Jacek Pikulski and, once again Andrzej Romanowski. I remain, moreover, a lifelong debtor to the few dozen anonymous sources of information about the hitherto unknown coin finds from Polish discoveries made over the last two decades or so.

I am warmly grateful for assistance in gaining access to coins in public collections to the staff of institutions where they are kept: Monika Bajka of the Regional Museum in Sandomierz, once again, Dr. hab. Jaroslav Bodzek of the National Museum in Krakow, Piotr Chabrzyk and Piotr Komorowski of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Łódź, Dr. Jacek Górska, Director of the Museum of Archaeology in Krakow, Andrzej Grzymkowski of the Museum in Mlawa, Anna Kaszubowska of the Regional Museum in Bydgoszcz, Krystyna Kieferling and Anna Gronkowska of the Museum in Jarosław, the Orsetti House, Włodzimierz Kisza, Vice-Director of the Jagiellonian University Museum in Krakow, Adam Kostek of the National Museum in Przemyśl, Janusz Koziół, Vice-Director of the
Regional Museum in Tarnów, Anna Latos-Paryska of the National Museum in Kielce, Dr. Joanna Podgórska-Czopek of the Regional Museum in Rzeszów, Dr. Bartłomiej Rogalski of the National Museum in Szczecin, Leszek Ziąbka of the Regional Museum in Kalisz and, yet again, to Andrzej Romanowski of the National Museum in Warsaw. My thanks go also to the Directors of these museums, both those already named, and those not named, for permission to use in the present book, mostly free of charge, the photographs of coins now held by their institutions. I am grateful also to specialists who, during my preliminary search, helped to negatively verify information about coins reportedly in the museum collections: Dr. Jacek Andrzejowski of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, Dr. Adam Degler of the Ossoliński National Institute in Wrocław, Dr. Witold Garbaczewski of the National Museum in Poznań, Gundula Knuth of the Stralsund Museum, Tomasz Kucharczyk of the Museum in Łęczyca, Maciej Widawski of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, Marcin Woźniak of the Museum in Inowrocław and Michał Zawadzki of the Royal Castle in Warsaw – Museum. My special thanks go to Dr. Karsten Dahmen of the Berlin State Museums for assisting my search of the collections of Berlin museums for coins from Polish finds.

This book would not have taken its final form without the assistance of Anna Kinecka who not only translated its chapters into English but, on occasion, also drew my attention to some logical errors and inaccuacies, subsequently adjusted. My thanks go also to Dr. Katarzyna Jażdżewska of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw for guidance on how to use information contained in the works of the historians of Antiquity, and for the linguistic consultation in the field of Latin. For their comments to the original version of the book, thanks to which it assumed the form now presented to the reader, I am grateful to the Authors of the Publisher’s reviews – Prof. Dr. hab. Borys Paszkiewicz and Dr. hab. Jarosław Bodzek.

But above all, my warmest thanks go to my wife Katarzyna and to my son Wiktor for their patience and understanding, and apologies also, for devoting less time and attention to my family than they deserve while I was working on this book.

Gdynia, February 2016