

the 4th century 1 solidus was paid for a short man's overcoat, while 5/6 solidus for liturgical clothing⁴³. A tunic was not more expensive and it cost about 1 solidus if we consider information given by Cassian as unreliable. He quotes the price of 1/10 solidus for a tunic. Coats were more expensive and their price amounted to 1 000 folles⁴⁴.

We are also provided with very scanty data concerning silk and purple dye. Whereas *Diocletian's edict* quotes 12 000 denarii, i.e., 54 g of gold, for 1 pound of silk, so Procopius cites 8 solidi, i.e., 36 g of gold⁴⁵. Moreover, *Anecdota* give some information referring to the price of 1 ounce of emperor purple dye called oloberon for which 24 solidi were paid, which, when converted into 1 pound, equals 288 solidi, i.e., 1 299 g of gold⁴⁶. A similar situation occurs with the prices of wool, which according to the papyrus documents from the turn of the 6th and 7th centuries amounted to 1/23 solidus per pound, i.e., 0,2 g of gold, whereas *Diocletian's edict* quotes 100 denarii, i.e., about 0,4 g of gold for *pellis Faenizea*⁴⁷.

Turning to the problem of wages in the 5th century, there is only *Auxentius' vita* from the year 422 left for us to examine. He quotes the wages as being 1/70 solidus, i.e., about 0,06 g of gold, which was approximate to a year's salary of 5 solidi and considered as unworthy by Gregory the Great⁴⁸.

In comparison with the size of wages prevailing in the 4th century, the above sources indicate there was a decrease in their real value, which was accompanied by increase in the buying power of gold in relation to goods. It was confirmed by the system, then in practise, of prices of the main articles on the market⁴⁹. Although at the beginning of the 5th century a certain stabilization of prices can be noticed, a new decrease occurs in the basic level of market values in relation to the prices of gold in the later period⁵⁰.

As a result of Diocletian's breaking with the bimetallism principle for the benefit of the monetary monometallic system based on gold cur-

⁴³ Paulin. Perig. *De vit. s. Mart.*; *Cod. Theod.* VII 6,4. See Mazzarino, *o.c.* p. 153.

⁴⁴ Cass. Coll. IX 5,5; P. Lond. 247; Aug. *De civ. Dei* XXII 8,9. Compare *Ed. Diocl.* 19,7; Baba Mezia 65 A (4 den.); Temerah 6 B (from 4 to 5 den.); Baba Kama 115 A (4 den.). See West, Johnson, *Byz. Egypt*, p. 187; Mazzarino, *o.c.* p. 153; Sperber, *o.c.* p. 252-253; IX 1966, p. 194.

⁴⁵ Procop. *De arc.* 25. See Mazzarino, *o.c.* p. 351.

⁴⁶ Procop. *De arc.* 25. See Mrozek, *Le prix de la pourpre dans l'histoire romaine*, [in:] *Les „Dévaluations”*, p. 238.

⁴⁷ *Ed. Diocl.* 8,4; CPR Copt. 6. See West, Johnson, *Byz. Egypt*, p. 191.

⁴⁸ *Vita et conv. Auxent.* PG 114, col. 1378; Greg. M. IX 43.

⁴⁹ Salv. *De gub. Dei* IV 14. See R. Thouvenet, *Salvien et la ruine de l'Empire Romain*, Mém. l'Ecole Franç. Rome XXXVIII 1920, p. 145 f.; Westermann, *o.c.* p. 101, note 51.

⁵⁰ Compare E. Ashtor, *Histoire des prix et des salaires dans l'Orient médiéval*, Paris 1969.