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Giornate numismatiche svizzere 2024

Quest'anno, le Giornate numismatiche svizzere si sono svolte a Bellinzona. In collaborazione con l'UBC (Ufficio per i beni culturali), Servizio archeologia, la Società svizzera di numismatica (SSN) ha organizzato un programma ricco e variegato per il fine settimana del 13 e 14 settembre. L'evento si è tenuto a Palazzo Franscini, sede dell'UBC e dell'Archivio di Stato del Canton Ticino.

Venerdì 13 settembre 2024

Le Giornate numismatiche svizzere di quest'anno hanno preso il via nel primo pomeriggio di venerdì con i saluti del Circolo numismatico ticinese e del suo presidente Fabrizio Rossini, portati dal vicepresidente Giovanni Maria Staffieri, e dell'Ufficio per i beni culturali (UBC) e del suo responsabile Endrio Ruggero, portati dalla signora Rossana Cardani Vergani, responsabile del Servizio archeologia.

La prima presentazione della signora *Rossana Cardani Vergani* ha fornito un'interessante panoramica della storia e dell'organizzazione del Servizio archeologia del Canton Ticino, che fa parte dell'UBC. Il Servizio archeologia è responsabile della cura e della conservazione del patrimonio archeologico del Cantone. Oltre a sostenere progetti edilizi in aree sensibili dal punto di vista archeologico e a pianificare e realizzare scavi archeologici in collaborazione con società di scavo private, cura un archivio dei siti archeologici e un deposito con circa 50000 reperti. Gestisce inoltre le tre esposizioni archeologiche nei musei Castelgrande e Montebello di Bellinzona e nel Castello di Locarno, nonché la collezione di monete cantonali (Monetario cantonale), che comprende monete di tutto il mondo, dall'antichità all'epoca moderna, e una vasta collezione di medaglie ticinesi. Oltre alla collezione di monete cantonali, esiste anche un Monetario archeologico che raccoglie le monete rinvenute durante i regolari scavi archeologici sul territorio dell'attuale Canton Ticino.

Rossana Cardani Vergani ci ha poi accompagnato in un interessante viaggio nel tempo, presentando i più importanti siti archeologici dell'attuale Cantone, dal Mesolitico al passato più recente, con uno sguardo alle scoperte degli ultimi anni. Ad oggi, il Canton Ticino

conta circa 3000 siti archeologici sul suo territorio.

Maira Morinini Pè, collaboratrice scientifica presso il Servizio archeologia, ha poi presentato l'evoluzione dell'amministrazione dei reperti, dai primi archivi cartacei dei siti archeologici all'inizio del XX secolo, all'attuale SIBC (Sistema Informativo dei Beni Culturali). Oltre a fungere da banca dati, il SIBC permette lo scambio diretto tra i vari servizi dell'amministrazione cantonale, registra in modo georeferenziato tutti i siti e i reperti e offre una serie di opzioni applicative per le indagini e le valutazioni, come la creazione di liste, tabelle, rappresentazioni grafiche, ecc. <<https://www4.ti.ch/dt/dstm/sst/ubc/temi/inventario-dei-beni-culturali/inventario-dei-beni-culturali/inventario/sibc>>.

Nella sua presentazione, il *Dr. Giulio Carraro* dell'Università degli Studi di Trieste ha illustrato i risultati preliminari della sua ricerca sulla circolazione monetaria transalpina nei secoli XII e XIII. A tal fine, negli ultimi mesi si è recato in Svizzera per visionare e raccogliere il materiale rilevante. Sembra ormai certo che i flussi commerciali lungo l'arco alpino non andavano solo da nord a sud, ma anche da est a ovest e viceversa. È interessante notare che i Grigioni appartenevano all'area monetaria lombarda fino al XIV secolo.

Mentre i ritrovamenti significativi di monete italiane a nord delle Alpi possono essere fatti risalire alla seconda metà del XIII secolo, le monete tedesche sembrano non aver quasi raggiunto l'Italia settentrionale nell'Alto e nel Tardo Medioevo. Ulteriori approfondimenti potranno essere ottenuti grazie alla ricerca sulla circolazione monetaria nelle Alpi occidentali e all'analisi delle fonti scritte.

In seguito, i presenti hanno potuto ammirare il ricco patrimonio archeologico del Canton Ticino. Maira Morinini Pè ha guidato i visitatori in una divertente visita dei depositi del Servizio archeologia, ripercorrendo la storia del Canton Ticino attraverso alcuni reperti. Tra i momenti salienti, la presentazione del ritrovamento del tesoro di Orselina con quasi 5000 sesterzi romani, venuto alla luce durante un progetto edilizio nel 2014, e un'occhiata alle monete e alle medaglie del Monetario cantonale.

Rapporti

La giornata si è conclusa con una ricca e abbondante cena al Cantinin del Gatt, nel centro storico di Bellinzona.

Sabato 14 settembre 2024

L'Assemblea generale della SSN di sabato mattina (10:00–11:00) è stata seguita da una serie di interessanti conferenze su vari argomenti relativi alla numismatica svizzera. La prima presentazione è stata tenuta da *Rahel C. Ackermann* (responsabile dell'Inventario dei ritrovamenti monetali in Svizzera), che ha utilizzato l'esempio della zecca di Haldenstein (GR) per fornire un affascinante spaccato dell'attrezzatura e del funzionamento di una zecca della prima età moderna. Il castello di Haldenstein è stato oggetto di indagini archeologiche negli anni Ottanta del XX secolo. Questo ha portato alla luce non solo numerosi reperti della produzione monetale, ma anche elementi che hanno permesso di localizzare l'antica zecca negli ampi edifici del castello, tra cui le fondamenta di un bilanciere per la coniazione delle monete. Sulla base di numerosi reperti, dei ritrovamenti archeologici e della valutazione di fonti pittoriche e scritte, nonché delle stesse monete di Haldenstein, disponibili in collezioni pubbliche, la relatrice è riuscita a tracciare un quadro vivido della produzione di monete dei Signori di Haldenstein, iniziata all'inizio del XVII secolo e terminata nella seconda metà del XVIII secolo.

Nicolas Consiglio (curatore del gabinetto numismatico del Musée d'art et d'histoire de Neuchâtel) ha poi illustrato, in qualità di presidente della Smed'A (Società svizzera d'arte della medaglia), le attività della società, fondata lo scorso anno con l'obiettivo di promuovere e visualizzare l'arte contemporanea della medaglia in Svizzera. In collaborazione con il *Münzkabinett* di Winterthur, Smed'A ha organizzato nel 2024 un concorso internazionale di medaglie a cui hanno partecipato 78 artisti, di cui 28 svizzeri, con 108 opere. Come risultato diretto degli sforzi di Smed'A, la Svizzera sarà rappresentata con 18 medaglie alla FIDEM 2025 di Monaco (rispetto alle 7 medaglie della FIDEM Firenze 2023: 7 medaglie).

Nicole Beuret del *Münzkabinett* di Winterthur ha presentato una relazione sul progetto in corso sulla tipologia degli Schilling e dei Sechser di Zurigo d'età moderna, avviato insieme a Benedikt Zäch. Dopo aver completato la fase iniziale, che prevedeva la registrazione, la descrizione e la categorizzazione del ricco materiale proveniente dalle collezioni museali, il passo successivo è ora quello di incorporare gli Schilling e i Sechser provenienti dai ritrovamenti archeologici per creare una tipologia completa con approcci di datazione calibrati per gli Schilling di Zurigo conati in un periodo di circa 200 anni, tra il XVI e XVIII secolo. Il programma della mattinata si è concluso con il suo contributo.



Nel pomeriggio, sotto la guida esperta del Dr. Paolo Ostinelli, abbiamo potuto visitare la Murata. Questo esteso muro di fortificazione fu costruito nella sua forma attuale dai duchi di Milano in diverse fasi costruttive nel corso del XV secolo e serviva come argine per proteggere il confine settentrionale del Ducato di Milano dall'invasione territoriale dei Confederati a sud. Chiudeva ermeticamente il fondovalle dal fiume Ticino a Castelgrande. In tempo di guerra, importanti contingenti di soldati potevano essere acuartierati nei cor-

ridoi e nei sotterranei della Murata. La visita della Murata e l'ascesa a Castelgrande, accompagnate da un fortissimo favonio, hanno rappresentato un'esperienza unica per tutti i partecipanti. Alle 16:15, il Dr. Paolo Ostinelli ha concluso la visita in Piazza Collegiata. Con molte nuove impressioni, i partecipanti alle Giornate numismatiche svizzere 2024 hanno fatto ritorno a casa.

Lorenzo Fedel, traduzione di Andrea Casoli

Numismatische Tage Schweiz 2024

Dieses Jahr fanden die Numismatischen Tage Schweiz in Bellinzona statt. In Zusammenarbeit mit dem UBC (Ufficio per i beni culturali), Servizio archeologia organisierte die Schweizerische Numismatische Gesellschaft (SNG) ein reiches und vielfältiges Programm für das Wochenende vom 13. und 14. September. Der Anlass fand im Palazzo Frascini, dem Sitz des UBC und des Archivio di Stato del Canton Ticino, statt.

Freitag, 13. September 2024

Den Auftakt zu den diesjährigen Numismatischen Tagen bildeten am frühen Freitagnachmittag einerseits die Grussbotschaften des Circolo Numismatico Ticinese und dessen Präsidenten Fabrizio Rossini, welche durch den Vizepräsidenten Giovanni Maria Staffieri überbracht wurden, andererseits diejenigen des Ufficio per i beni culturali (UBC) und seines Vorstehers Endrio Ruggero, welche durch Frau Rossana Cardani Vergani, Leiterin des Servizio archeologia, ausgesprochen wurden.

Der erste Vortrag von Frau *Rossana Cardani Vergani* bot einen spannenden Überblick über die Geschichte und Organisation des Servizio archeologia des Kantons Tessin, welcher Teil des UBC ist. Der Servizio archeologia ist zuständig für die Betreuung und den Erhalt des archäologischen kantonalen Erbes. Neben der Begleitung von Bauprojekten in archäologisch sensiblen Gebieten sowie der Planung und Ausführung archäologischer Grabungen in Zusammenarbeit mit privaten Ausgrabungsunternehmen unterhält es ein entsprechendes Fundstellenarchiv und ein Depot mit rund 50 000 Fundstücken. Zusätzlich betreut es die drei archäologischen Aus-

stellungen in den Museen des Castelgrande und Montebello in Bellinzona und im Schloss von Locarno sowie die kantonale Münzsammlung (Monetario cantonale), welche sich aus Münzen der ganzen Welt, von der Antike bis zur Neuzeit und einer umfangreichen Sammlung Tessiner Medaillen zusammensetzt. Zusätzlich zur kantonalen Münzsammlung gibt es auch einen Monetario archeologico, in welchem die Fundmünzen aufbewahrt werden, die auf dem Gebiet des heutigen Kantons Tessin während regulärer archäologischer Grabungen entdeckt werden.

Einer kurzweiligen Zeitreise gleich präsentierte Rossana Cardani Vergani in der Folge die wichtigsten Fundstellen auf dem Gebiet des heutigen Kantons, vom Mesolithikum (Mittelsteinzeit) bis in die neueste Vergangenheit, mit Blick auf die Entdeckungen der letzten Jahre. Bis heute zählt der Kanton Tessin auf seinem Gebiet rund 3000 archäologische Fundstellen.

Moira Morinini Pè, wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin des Servizio archeologia, stellte in der Folge die Entwicklung von den ersten Fundstellenarchiven in Papierform von Anfang des 20. Jahrhunderts bis zum heutigen SIBC (Sistema Informativo dei Beni Culturali) vor, welches nicht nur eine Datenbank ist, sondern auch den direkten Austausch zwischen den verschiedenen Diensten der kantonalen Verwaltung ermöglicht, alle Fundstellen und Funde georeferenziert verzeichnet und eine Vielzahl von Anwendungsmöglichkeiten für Anfragen und Auswertungen bietet wie das Erstellen von Listen, Tabellen, grafischen Darstellungen usw. <<https://www4.ti.ch/dt/dstm/sst/ubc/temi/inventario-dei-beni-culturali/inventario-dei-beni-culturali/inventario/sibc>>.

Berichte

Dr. *Giulio Carraro* von der Università degli Studi di Trieste stellte in seinem Referat die Zwischenergebnisse zu seiner Forschungsarbeit zum Geldumlauf über die Alpen im 12. und 13. Jahrhundert vor. Zu diesem Zweck war er in den vergangenen Monaten zur Materialaufnahme in der Schweiz. Es zeichnet sich ab, dass die Handelsströme im gesamten Alpenbogen nicht nur von Norden nach Süden, sondern auch von Osten nach Westen und umgekehrt verliefen. Graubünden gehörte noch bis ins 14. Jahrhundert zum lombardischen Währungsraum. Während nördlich der Alpen bedeutende Funde italienischer Münzen bereits seit der 2. Hälfte des 13. Jahrhunderts feststellbar sind, scheinen deutsche Münzen im Hoch- und Spätmittelalter kaum nach Norditalien gelangt zu sein. Weitere Erkenntnisse dürften die Untersuchungen zum Geldumlauf in den Westalpen und die Auswertung schriftlicher Quellen bringen.

Im Anschluss durften die Anwesenden das reiche archäologische Erbe des Kantons Tessin bestaunen. Moira Morinini Pè verstand es, auf einer kurzweiligen Führung durch das Depot des Servizio archeologia den Besuchern anhand von ausgesuchten Fundstücken die Vergangenheit des Kantons Tessin näherzubringen. Einen Höhepunkt bildete dabei die Präsentation des Hortfundes von Orselina mit rund 4900 römischen Sesterzen, der 2014 bei einem Bauvorhaben zum Vorschein gekommen war, sowie der Einblick in den Monetario cantonale (kantonale Münzsammlung).

Beendet wurde der Tag mit einem ausgiebigen Abendessen im Cantinin dal Gatt in der Altstadt von Bellinzona.

Samstag, 14. September 2024

Im Anschluss an die GV der SNG am Samstagvormittag (10.00–11.00 Uhr) folgte eine Reihe spannender Vorträge zu unterschiedlichen Themenbereichen der Schweizer Numismatik. Den Auftakt bildete das Referat von *Rahel C. Ackermann* (Leiterin des Inventars der Fundmünzen der Schweiz), das am Beispiel der Münzstätte Haldenstein (GR) einen spannenden Einblick in die Ausstattung und den Betrieb einer frühneuzeitlichen Münzstätte gewährte. Das Schloss Haldenstein wurde in den 1980er-Jahren archäologisch untersucht. Dabei kamen nicht nur

zahlreiche Fundstücke aus der Münzproduktion zutage, sondern auch Befunde, welche die Lokalisierung der einstigen Prägestätte in den weitläufigen Gebäulichkeiten des Schlosses ermöglichten, unter anderem das Fundament für ein Balancier (Stosswerk/Spindelwerk) zum Prägen von Münzen. Anhand zahlreicher Funde, des archäologischen Befunds und der Auswertung von Bild- und Schriftquellen sowie der Haldensteiner Münzen selbst, die in öffentlichen Sammlungen greifbar sind, gelang es der Referentin, ein lebendiges Bild der Münzproduktion der Herren von Haldenstein zu zeichnen, welche im frühen 17. Jahrhundert einsetzte, um in der 2. Hälfte des 18. Jahrhunderts zu enden.

Nicolas Consiglio (Konservator am Münzkabinett des Musée d'art et d'histoire de Neuchâtel) berichtete anschliessend als Präsident der Smed'A (Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Medaillenkunst) über die Tätigkeit der im vergangenen Jahr gegründeten Gesellschaft, deren Ziel die Förderung und Sichtbarmachung der zeitgenössischen Medaillenkunst in der Schweiz ist. In Zusammenarbeit mit dem *Münzkabinett Winterthur* organisierte die Smed'A 2024 einen internationalen Medaillenwettbewerb, an dem sich 78 Künstler, davon 28 aus der Schweiz, mit 108 Werken beteiligt haben. Als direkte Folge des Einsatzes der Smed'A wird an der FIDEM 2025 in München die Schweiz neu mit 18 Medaillen vertreten sein (FIDEM Florenz 2023: 7 Medaillen).

Nicole Beuret vom Münzkabinett Winterthur präsentierte einen Werkstattbericht zum laufenden Projekt zur Typologie der Zürcher Schillinge und Sechser der frühen Neuzeit, welche sie zusammen mit Benedikt Zäch in Angriff genommen hat. Nach Abschluss einer Anfangsphase, welche die Aufnahme, Beschreibung und Gliederung des reichhaltigen Materials aus Museumssammlungen beinhaltet hat, soll nun in einem weiteren Schritt die Einarbeitung der Schillinge und Sechser aus Fundbeständen erfolgen, um so eine umfassende Typologie mit verfeinerten Datierungsansätzen der während rund 200 Jahren geprägten Zürcher Schillinge zu schaffen. Mit ihrem Beitrag endete das Vormittagsprogramm.

Unter der sachkundigen Führung von Dr. Paolo Ostinelli konnten wir am Nachmittag die Murata besichtigen. Diese ausgedehnte

Befestigungsmauer wurde im 15. Jahrhundert in mehreren Bauphasen von den Mailänder Herzögen in der heutigen Form errichtet und diente als Talsperre dem Schutz der nördlichen Grenze des Herzogtums Mailand gegenüber dem territorialen Ausgreifen der eidgenössischen Orte nach Süden. Sie sperrte den Talboden vom Fluss Tessin bis zum Castelgrande hermetisch ab. In Kriegszeiten konnten in den Gängen und Gewölben innerhalb der Murata grössere Kontingente an Söld-

nern einquartiert werden. Die Besichtigung der Murata und der Aufstieg zum Castelgrande bei stürmischem Nordföhn boten ein einzigartiges Erlebnis für alle Beteiligten. Um 16.15 Uhr beendete Dr. Paolo Ostinelli auf der Piazza Collegiata die Führung. Mit vielen neuen Eindrücken traten die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer der Numismatischen Tage Schweiz 2024 ihren Heimweg an.

Lorenzo Fedel

Alexandria in Nummis: International Symposium on the Roman Imperial Coinage of Alexandria (30 B.C.–A.D. 298), 20th–21st September 2024 in Lugano.



Photo: Fabio Luraschi

On 20th and 21st September, after a long period of planning, the Alexandria in Nummis symposium finally took place in the historical surroundings of the Ex-Asilo Ciani, a villa built in 1892 as a childrens' home and nursery school by Filippo Ciani (and thus nothing to do with the Parisian coin dealer Ciani). Attending the symposium, which was organised by Fabrizio Rossi and Giovanni Maria Staffieri from the Circolo Numismatico Ticinese, along with Bernhard Woytek, Angelo Geissen and Adriano Savio, it was very clear that this was a meeting of experts in the field of Alexandrian numismatics in the Roman imperial period; but also, that this field still held many areas to explore and problems to solve.

The symposium was opened by the well-known *Zahi Hawass*, archaeologist and former minister of tourism and antiquities in Egypt, who stepped in at the last moment after Michael Amandry was unable to attend and gave an account of the archaeological investigations since 1998 of the Temple of Isis and Osiris at Taposiris Magna, West of Alexandria, which was believed to contain the tomb of Cleopatra and Mark Antony. Hawass detailed the long archaeological examination

of the area, which was situated in an area known to have links to Alexander the Great and the Ptolemaic dynasty. He reported that hundreds of statues of royal figures had been found there, many of them having been disfigured at a later period, as well as thousands of coins. He concluded, however, that given that she was a public enemy in the eyes of Octavian (soon to be emperor Augustus), there was no way Cleopatra could have been buried in the temple, and that it was also very unlikely that she would have been buried alongside Marcus Antonius; she was probably buried next to her parents. Of Cleopatra, he remarked, "many ladies have a big nose, but [they are still] beautiful".

The conference continued with *Christopher Howgego's* talk on "The Coin Hoards of Roman Egypt in Context", in which he discussed the composition of the hoards, which are now online as part of the mammoth Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project. Howgego discussed the role and presence of gold in the hoards; although it seems at first glance like a small percentage, for the period 30 B.C.–A.D. 290, more gold coins have been found in Egyptian find contexts than in the whole of the Levant, and there is more gold

than in all the finds in Pompeii. He noted the scarcity of papyrological mentions of gold and its use, but added that lack of written sources for this subject is also a problem in other areas of the ancient world, as large sums of money are commonly registered by the Romans in (bronze) sestertii. His talk also addressed the phenomenon of mixing of different denominations – i. e. gold and bronze – in hoards, as well as possible reactions to the changes in coinage as the Alexandrian tetradrachms increasingly lost their value over time. He also added, however, that new finds from the Augustan period could change current views of the development of the monetary system. Howgego then addressed the issue of mixed hoards, looking at evidence that suggested that most Romans separated their gold, silver and bronze coinage according to metal type. Using a wide range of statistics, he showed that hoards are very different in the West compared to the East. He also showed that there is a change in usage at the time of Commodus and Marcus Aurelius, with hoards either closing or starting at this period. New evidence from Karanis sheds a light on the role of moneyers who may have been responsible for the withdrawal of coinage at the time of Diocletian's reforms.

Tomaso Maria Lucchelli looked at written sources (papyri and ostraca) referring to the debasement of coinage, showing that this was clearly observed by normal people in their everyday transactions: Harpolus complains to his friend Sarapammon that the banker he trusted gave him worthless bronze coins (P. Yale 79, ca. 150 A. D.), while Herakleides asks Demetria to give a false stater back to the messenger bringing his letter (P. Michaelis 12, 1st-2nd cent. A. D.). In 260 A. D. Aurelius Ptolemaeus called Nessianus complains that the banks no longer accept the divine coin of the emperors (P. Oxy 1411). Lucchelli looked at the terminology used and the words for false and tested coinage in the papyri. He ended with Dattari's observation that many barbarised, subaerate coins occur as early as Nero, and that many are found between the reigns of Tiberius and Septimius Severus, showing that this was not a problem confined to the later imperial period.

Angelo Geissen, University of Cologne, looked at certain aspects of the vast bronze coinage issued under Antoninus Pius during his 23-year reign (which led to 24 years of coins in Alexandria), noting the changes in legend use over the period, as well as the use of particular mythological images such as the rape of Persephone and Isis with the Apis bull, which may have been symbolically linked to the death of the Elder Faustina and the marriage of Marcus Aurelius with the Younger Faustina as well as the births of their children. He speculated whether the portrait of the emperor with a corn wreath had a link to a particular time of year and to the cult of Demeter, and also examined the introduction of radiate imperial busts, which, looking at the Alexandrian coins of Nero, Trajan and Antoninus, he suggested *may* have been indicative of attempts to reform the coinage, and noted that some radiate heads had been re-cut from laureate heads on the coinage of Antoninus, although he emphasised this was solely speculation.

Bernd Klesper, also from Cologne, examined the complicated problem of denominations in Roman imperial coinage minted in Alexandria; in a system where the metal content became increasingly debased over time so that original differences between denomination types became blurred. He concentrated on the small denominations, especially those of the Nomes, which often have no clear system of marks and often use identical reverses for single and double nominals. He noted that there is no consensus in the many publications on Alexandrian coinage as to the names and exact sizes of these coins: small bronzes issued in the time of Hadrian are sometimes referred to as (mono)chalkoi, sometimes as dichalkoi. He observed, however, that if these coins were dichalkoi and regarded as double units, people would have halved them, as they did elsewhere with coinage, but no halved examples are known, leading to the conclusion that these are indeed (mono)chalkoi.

There followed a general discussion in which the question of gold was discussed; F. De Callatay pointed out that although a lot of gold was present in Egypt, it was not used for coinage, so how was it used within the financial system? Ch. Howgego noted that some of

the gold may have travelled from Egypt to India, possibly in sealed bags, and that there is some evidence that the gold present in Egypt under Rome originated in Dacia. There is very little mention of gold in Egyptian papyri, and A. Burnett observed that, given the vast amount of written source material, this must be significant. Ch. Howgego added that gold was not used to keep accounts in, all sums of money being reckoned in denarii under Rome, and that there was equally little evidence for gold use elsewhere in the Empire. Since Roman mints produced coins for other geographical areas, gold circulating in Egypt did not also have to be sourced and minted there.

In the evening, participants attended a gala dinner after a short cruise on Lake Lugano, taking in views of the mountain scenery and the estate of Baron Thyssen (viewed from afar).

On day two, *Bernhard Woytek*, who wrote a comprehensive study of Trajan's imperial coinage in 2010, gave a paper on the typology of Trajan's coinage in Alexandria. After looking at the denominations minted in Trajan's reign at the mint, he discussed the question of cooperation between the mints of Rome, Alexandria and Antioch in Syria. Such cooperation is suggested by the sharing of numerous reverse types, such as the emperor galloping in a chariot, and even a die-link, although even more types are evidently inspired by the imperial coins without being direct copies. Woytek noted that some of the coin issues date from the period immediately after the dedication of Trajan's column in Rome, and may have been influenced by the event. He then looked at a reverse type featuring the legend *BAAANOY*, apparently showing Trajan's baths and the Forum Traianum in Rome, but pointed out that it is very difficult to identify exact buildings from coins – the *ARA PACIS* coins issued under Nero and the *PROVIDEN* issue of Tiberius show Augustus' Ara Pacis and no newly constructed monument. He concluded that hardly any of Trajan's reverse types from Rome was directly copied in Alexandria.

Giovanni Maria Staffieri studied depictions of the Sphinx at Gizeh on Alexandrian coinage, observing different elements such as

the addition of a column or the presence of a stele between the forepaws. He observed that it is the only monument built in pharaonic Egypt to appear on imperial tetradrachms (under Domitianus, Antoninus Pius and Hadrian).

Sandra Matthies, who incidentally was the only female speaker, discussed the portrayal of Severan women on Alexandrian coins. Her research also focussed on the contribution of Josef Vogt in the research history of Alexandrian coinage; his seminal study *Die alexandrinischen Münzen* was published in Stuttgart exactly 100 years ago in 1924. After noting that women were not always well represented at the mint in earlier periods – there was a 70(!)-year gap between the depiction of Agrippina the Younger under Nero and that of Plotina under Trajan – Matthies discussed a range of issues for female members of the royal family under the Severans, from the frequently found Iulia Maesa and Iulia Mamaea to the rarely depicted Iulia Soemias, and compared these with Josef Vogt's analysis of the types.

Andrew Burnett of the British Museum, London, looked at the reign of Elagabal (whose true Roman name was Sextus (?) Varius Avitus Bassianus), which has been heavily distorted by the sensationalism with which later historians depicted his orientalisising and religious syncretism, in terms of its depiction through the coinage of Alexandria. He started by detailing some of the sensationalist tradition about Elagabal, which comes from the considerably later authors Herodian, Dio Cassius and the *Historia Augusta*, and then examined the actual evidence from the Alexandrian coins, which provide a chronological framework of the emperor's reign and his marriages. He looked at the Alexandrian coinage for Elagabal's mother, Julia Maesa, who is depicted in the literary sources as a controlling influence on her son, and noted that she only appears from year 2 of Elagabal's reign in Alexandria and Syria (and from ca. 219 in Rome), which is unusually late if she really was so heavily involved in securing his succession to the throne. Burnett also examined the evidence that Elagabal was an illegitimate son of Caracalla with Julia Soemias, noting that in

Edessa in Syria he is portrayed on coinage alongside both Caracalla and Plautilla, perhaps with the intent of presenting the latter as his 'true' mother. He noted that in year 1 in Alexandria Elagabal is given the name *Αντωνωοc*, thus connecting him to the imperial family. Burnett looked at the cult of Elagabal in the East, showing that the famous sacred stone of Emesa which he brought to Rome is only depicted by 11 out of 202 cities that minted coins during his reign (according to Claire Rowan, these may have also been the cities that accepted Elagabal's cult). After looking at evidence for cult images on the coinage from Alexandria (less than 1% of all images and thus less than the depictions of Jupiter), Burnett concluded that it did not play a prominent role in Egypt (which did not get as outraged over new religious practices as the conservative Romans). He showed that despite Elagabal's bad reputation as an emperor, the coinage remained basically stable in the period of his reign and beyond.

Adriano Savio discussed the coin reverses of the usurper Pescennius Niger minted in Alexandria, their relationship with his imperial coinage and the complexities of chronology in his brief reign in 193–194 A.D., which ended in his defeat by Septimius Severus and *damnatio memoriae*.

Gilles Bransbourg looked at the theme of coin debasement and the search for silver in the late second century, using detailed analyses of coin finds and their composition from across the Roman Empire to try to determine which resources were used. He looked at some of the causes of debasement in the sec-

ond and third centuries A.D., noting that while there were many indications of problems in the monetary system in particular periods, such as under Marcus Aurelius, and in the period 161–190, there was never any total collapse; epigraphic evidence for cash handouts and military pay suggest that prices remained largely stable. Bransbourg also discussed the wheat prices in Roman Egypt and asked what effect the faltering monetary system had on these; he suggested that plague outbreaks affected the prices as there were fewer consumers.

François de Callataj ended the symposium by summarizing the papers presented, remarking that Alexandria had seen five centuries of numismatic history.

In this conference we saw a picture of an empire that was constantly on the verge of monetary collapse but in fact remained more stable than one might have expected, often due to changes implemented by anonymous members of the mints. The two-day event brought up many interesting questions about coinage and its use during various periods of Alexandrian history. It is clear that new internet tools for hoards and coin iconography such as the Online Hoards of the Roman Empire Project and the Roman Provincial Coinage Online have had a very positive effect on the flow of information between scholars in recent years. It was a great privilege to hear a group of internationally acclaimed numismatists, archaeologists and historians discuss the problem points.

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