

BİRİNCİ ULUSLARARASI
ANADOLU PARA TARİHİ VE
NUMİSMATİK KONGRESİ
25-28 ŞUBAT 2013

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF THE ANATOLIAN MONETARY
HISTORY AND NUMISMATICS
25-28 FEBRUARY 2013

ANTALYA

BİLDİRİLER PROCEEDINGS

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Kayhan DÖRTLÜK
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Suna – İnan Kiraç Akdeniz Medeniyetleri Araştırma Enstitüsü
Suna & İnan Kiraç Research Institute on Mediterranean Civilizations



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Anadolu Para Tarihi ve Numismatik Kongresi - Bildiriler**

*First International Congress
of the Anatolian Monetary History and Numismatics - Proceedings*

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Kayhan DÖRTLÜK
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SUNUŞ

Taşınır kltr mirasıyla ilgili resmi istatistik rakamları, Trkiye mzelerindeki en geniř koleksiyonların giderek artıř gsteren byk bir farkla sikkelerden oluřtuđunu gstermektedir. Oysa, sikkeyi icat etme onurunu da tařıyan bu ayrıcalıklı topraklar zerinde numismatik bilimi, her birinin adını saygıyla, řkranla andıđımız bireysel sınırlı abaların tesinde akademik anlamda arzu edilen dzeyde geliřmemiř ve kurumsallařmamıřtır. Buna bađlı olarak, mzelerde ođu kez basit bir tasnif ya da envanter bilgisi ile saklanan bu zenginlikler, tarihe ıřık tutma grevlerini yeterince yerine getiremeyerek salt “obje” gibi algılanmanın mahsunluđu ve mahcupluđu iindedirler.

Artık bu bakıř aısında son yıllarda olumlu deđiřimler olmaktadır. Bazı niversitelerin ilgili blmlerinde antik numismatik eđitimi verilmekte, arařtıran, yazan, meraklı gen bilimciler yetiřtirilmektedir.

Suna - İnan Kırա Akdeniz Medeniyetleri Arařtırma Enstits, grev ve amaları dođrultusunda eskiađ bilimlerine ynelik ktphanesini oluřtururken numismatiđe farklı bir ncelik tanımıřtır. Temel hedef, yerli-yabancı arařtırmacıların ilk tercihleri olabilecek nitelikte bir ktphane zerine programlıdır.

Donanımlı numismatların yetiřmesine katkı sađlamak bir diđer misyonumuzdur. Dzenlenen Uluslararası Birinci Anadolu Para Tarihi ve Numismatik Kongresi dnyada bu alanın otoritesi olan sekin bilginler ile genleri bir araya getirmeye muvaffak olmuř, sunulan birbirinden ilgin ve dzeyli 55 bildiri bizleri numismatik adına yeni ufuklara, yeni dostluklara, yeni umutlara tařımıřtır.

2. Anadolu Para Tarihi ve Numismatik Kongresi’nde ok daha kalabalık bir bilim grubuyla birlikte olmak dileđiyle, tek tek tm katılımcılara, Dzenleme, Bilim, Koordinasyon kurullarının yelerine bir kez daha teřekkr ediyoruz. Bize bu imkanı sađlayan Kongre řeref bařkanları Suna ve İnan Kırա’a řkranlarımızı sunuyoruz.

Kayhan Drtlk

Antalya, 2014

PREFACE

Official statistics regarding portable cultural assets at Turkish museums indicate that the largest collections are of coins, and that they are constantly growing, thus increasing the gap with the other materials. However, the science of numismatics has not developed enough academically nor is it institutionalised, beyond individual efforts each one of which is remembered with deference and gratitude. This is unfortunate, especially in the land that has the honour of being the place where coinage was invented. Accordingly, this wealth is usually kept at the museums with simple classification or inventory information, diffident and languishing with limited perception as mere “objects” instead of casting stronger light on numismatic history.

Nevertheless, recent years have witnessed positive changes regarding this perspective. Some universities now provide numismatic training in related departments, thereby raising up an inquisitive generation of young scholars that is investigating and writing on the subject.

In the course of building a library on antiquity in conformity with the scope of its foundation, the Suna & İnan Kır  Research Institute on Mediterranean Civilizations has given special priority to numismatics. The main goal is to create a collection that will be preferred as the first choice by both local and foreign scholars.

Contributing to the training of well-equipped numismatists is another one of our missions. The First International Congress on Anatolian Monetary History and Numismatics that AKMED organised succeeded in bringing together select leading scholars in the field as well as young numismatists. A total of 55 papers of high academic level and interest were presented that conveyed new horizons, fostered new friendships, and created new hopes on behalf of numismatics.

We would like to express our gratitude once again to all the delegates as well as the members of the Organizing, Academic and Coordinating Boards with the wish that at the Second International Congress on Anatolian Monetary History and Numismatics an even larger group of academics can gather. Additional thanks are certainly due to Suna and İnan Kır  for providing us with this opportunity.

Kayhan D rtl k

Antalya, 2014

The Numismatic Web Portal for Ancient Coins of Thrace: <http://www.corpus-nummorum.eu>

Ulrike PETER*

The *Münzkabinett* of the National Museums in Berlin (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) and the former research project for Greek coins –the *Griechisches Münzwerk*– at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities have developed the idea to create an online portal for the coins of ancient Thrace¹. For its realization we were granted funding by the German Research Foundation for three years². As the project is in its first phase of realization, this article will introduce our intentions and goals, and invite those who wish to take part in the project.

The portal will allow the coins of one ancient region to be digitally collected, documented as comprehensively as possible including all necessary data for analysis, and then published online. By focusing on one region, criteria –as we hope– will be developed which can be implemented for similar digital projects for other regions. A fundamental part of this project –based in close collaboration with *nomisma*³– is the further development of numismatic web standards.

Why Thrace? As is already known, the coins of the historical region Thrace have been a focus of numismatic research in Berlin since the nineteenth century⁴. In the year 1888, at the then Prussian Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Berlin, the *corpus nummorum* was started by the renowned Th. Mommsen. The project collected coins, especially from ancient northern Greece and Asia Minor, in the form of plaster casts, photos and excerpts of literature. This valuable collection, which currently rests at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, offers unique research material: for instance, nearly 120,000 casts and hundreds of boxes with excerpts of literature and auction catalogues.

For the historical area of Thrace alone there exist over 30,000 plaster casts from the obverse and reverse of coins. These include coins which today are missing or which are in collections that are no longer accessible. This collection, unique both in academic and historical regard, contains not only plaster casts, casts of sealing-wax, and photos of coins from diverse public and private collections throughout the world, but also further details regarding the physical characteristics of the coins. Here you can also find more information on former publications.

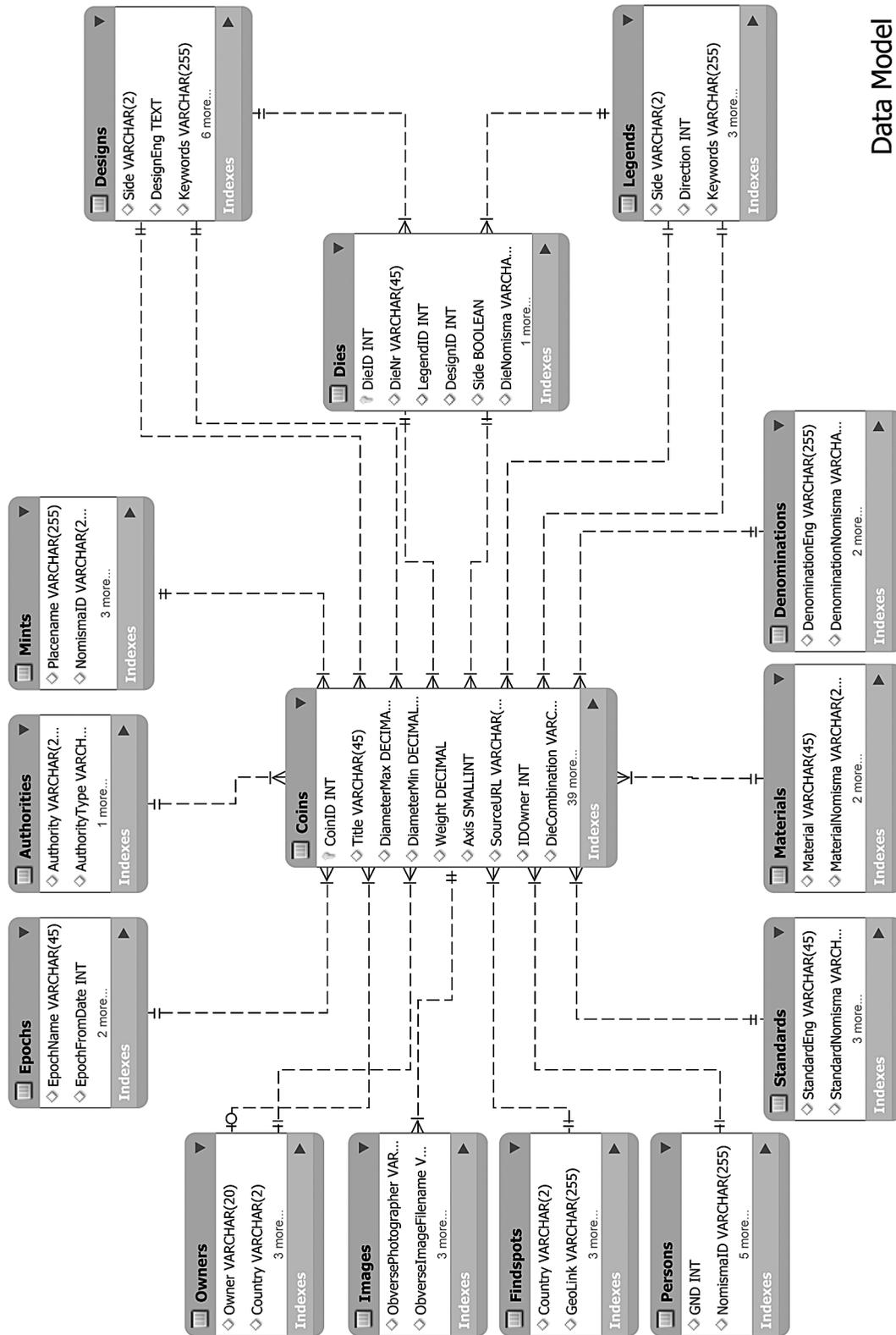
* Dr. Ulrike Peter, Jaegerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin – Germany. E-mail: peter@bbaw.de

¹ For the collaboration in this project I would like to thank E. Walther Hanrahan and B. Weisser.

² We applied for special funding for the documentation and digitalization of artifact collections (http://www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/infrastruktur/lis/lis_foerderangebote/abgelaufene_ausschreibungen/index.html#micro7862806).

³ www.nomisma.org: “The common currency for digital numismatics”.

⁴ von Kaenel 2004a, with further literature in n. 1; Peter 2004.



Data Model

Fig. 1

These notes can sometimes be helpful for reconstructing the collection history of a coin⁵. The *Griechisches Münzwerk* existed continuously until the year 2003, when the funding for the project at the Berlin Academy came to an end. The material collected up to that point is still available for academic research, but at the moment only on site in Berlin.

The *Griechisches Münzwerk* has always collaborated with the *Münzkabinett* in Berlin. Due to this close relationship, Thracian coins are an important collection focus of the *Münzkabinett*, and consequently serious research on Thracian coins without consulting the collection of the Berlin *Münzkabinett* is unthinkable. In the *Münzkabinett* you can find more than 3,600 Thracian coins. In 2007 the *Münzkabinett* started to publish their entire collection in an interactive online catalogue (<http://www.smb.museum/ikmk/>). This online publication, which currently contains almost 19,000 objects, is the most successful website of a numismatic collection in German-speaking countries⁶.

In order to establish a numismatic web portal for one region, the first step is to create a database. This database starts with the plaster casts of the Thracian coins at the Berlin Academy, with about 30,000 obverse and reverse sides of coins⁷.

But how it will be possible to digitize, in such a relatively short time period, such a large number of plaster casts? We have been getting good results with a normal flatbed scanner⁸. Due to a scanner's slanted light source, a beneficial shadow is cast on the surface of the plaster cast. The clear advantage of using a flatbed scanner is that multiple plaster casts can be scanned at once, and that this is significantly faster than working with a camera. In addition, we have developed an automatic tool for cutting and saving the scans in ©Photoshop. For example, scanning, editing, and saving 12 casts of coins, or 24 pictures, requires only about 20 minutes.

Yet how should the coins be documented in our freely accessible web-based SQL database? Or, in other words, what is our data model (Fig. 1)? On the one hand we record the concrete specimen itself, but on the other hand –in accordance with Mommsen's concept of the project– we see the die as the decisive criterion. As Mommsen said, "Research needs the die, not the single coin"⁹. Hence we have always worked according to this method of comparing dies, a tradition which was established in the nineteenth century by F. Imhoof-Blumer¹⁰, and which is today widely accepted as the standard practice for numismatics¹¹. Thus we have begun to enter the coin dates in the database which have already been recorded in the die catalogues for Thracian mints.

With our database we are pursuing multiple goals. Similar to the Oxford colleges who created the type database for RPC IV online¹², we are also recording every single coin with its parameters, such as weight, diameter, its photo, and so on. Our next step, however, is not only to document the type, but additionally to record the die combination, and to constitute a master for every single die combination. Therefore we will provide precise descriptions together with illustrations that will allow a clear identification.

⁵ See, for instance, an example: Peter 2013, 114 and 127 no. 16.

⁶ Freundel – Weisser 2009.

⁷ Due to the fact that one cast represents only one side of the coin and occasionally one side might be missing, this number refers to the coin side, not to the entire coin.

⁸ We use the model Epson Perfection V500.

⁹ "Die Wissenschaft braucht den Stempel, nicht das Exemplar", wrote Mommsen 1887 (Archiv der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften II-VIII 133, Bl. 23–26). See von Kaenel 2002, 9; von Kaenel 2004b, 85.

¹⁰ Imhoof-Blumer 1878.

¹¹ See, for instance, Elkins 2009, 32.

¹² <http://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/>.

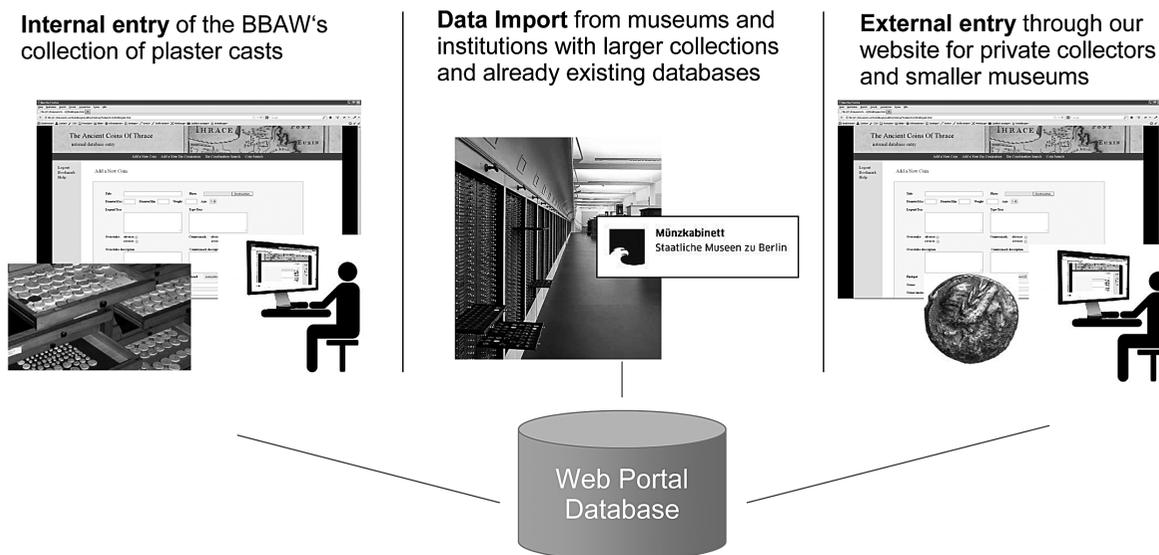


Fig. 2

The direct comparison of coins with identical descriptions and legends through pictures should help to identify coins minted from the same die. This is not only useful to identify the die-links of a mint, but also die-links between coins of various cities. This phenomenon is well known in Asia Minor, but can also be observed in Thrace¹³.

One desired result of our efforts is to obtain a reference for the description and picture of the master. This reference will be provided by *nomisma.org* and will be a recognizable URI. This could be the first step towards a reference book for Thracian coin types.

Our goal is not only to use this method to digitize and publish our own plaster casts and the coins from the Berlin Cabinet, but to encourage all who are interested in this material to publish their Thracian coins in the portal as well. There are two possible ways to participate (Fig. 2). Of course, many museum collections already offer accessible databases, and we would be very happy to import Thracian coins from these museum-databases to our portal-database. The first example of this kind will be the import of Thracian coins from the Berlin *Münzkabinett*. The Thracian coins of the *Münzkabinett* will first be recorded and published in its own database and then imported into our project database. There are two individual description fields for the obverse and the reverse added especially for the import to facilitate the process. These individual descriptions will then be designated to a standardized type description for that die, and when possible the die pair will also be identified. Through this procedure all relevant material will be documented and available through one database. Thus all corresponding coins in collections from institutions who are interested in presenting their data in this way can be integrated in the database.

There are, however, also smaller museums or private collectors of Thracian coins, who perhaps do not use databases, and who might be interested in making their data available through our web portal. They will be able to enter their coins directly into the web database. The requirements for entering a coin in the database are a picture of the obverse and reverse sides of the coin and the repository information. Helpful also are the physical characteristics such as

¹³ See Peter 2005, 112 with n. 64.

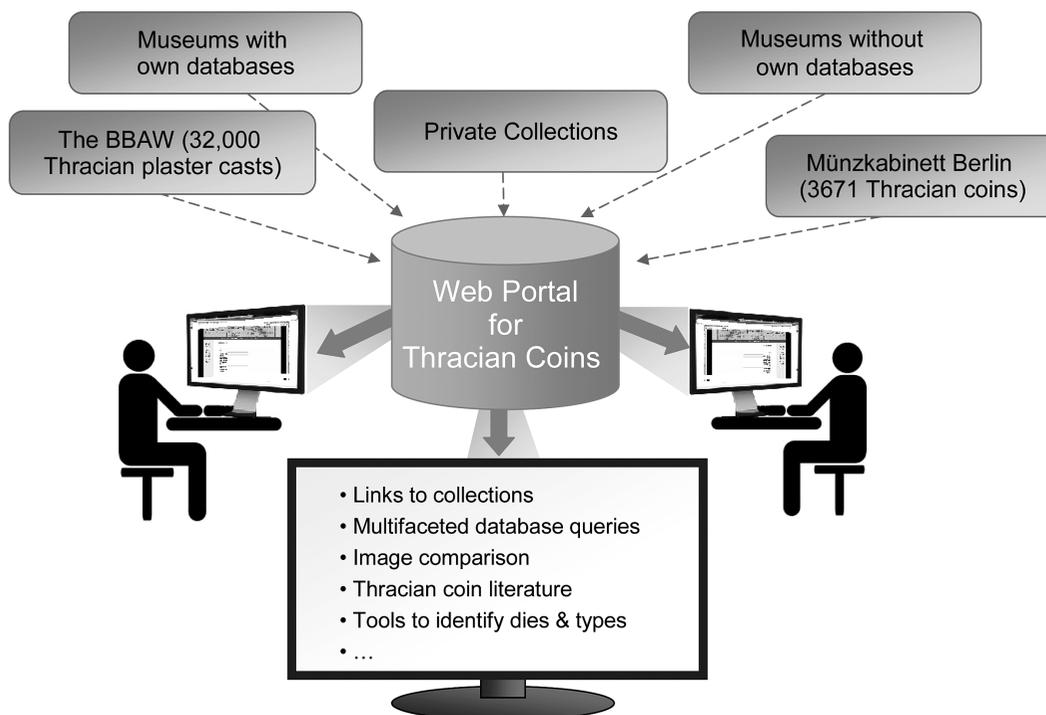


Fig. 3

weight, diameter and axis. Smaller institutions can therefore not only assist the enlargement of the inventory of our database, but also create a digital record of their own collections. Additionally, due to the already existing description types found in our database, the entry of a new coin should be fairly fast and convenient.

The die descriptions will be recorded in English as well as in German. One can thus enter, search, and find data in both languages. In addition, thesauruses will be created which will allow words with different spellings to be found, as well as synonyms for identifying terms.

Furthermore, our aim is to describe the coins according to a consistent schema in order to avoid different descriptions for the same type. Additionally, in order to offer more precise search possibilities we always describe, for example, in which hand the figure carries an attribute. These kinds of specifications will make it much easier to find similar or identical coin images.

In the entry mask for adding a new coin there are fields for the individual, not yet standardized, description. These are, as already said, especially added for the import as well as when needed for coins entered through the website. This individual description will then be supplemented with a standardized description. As expressed in the last Survey of Numismatic Research, "Initiatives to standardize the description and designation of coins" are still as it always has been a necessity¹⁴.

Needless to say, the data collected in the portal will be available for future use and academic research (Fig. 3). To this aim different research and data presentation possibilities will be offered. On the basis of the portal, editions of mints, collection-publications or type catalogues of

¹⁴ Zäch 2009, 710: "Initiativen zur Vereinheitlichung der Beschreibung und Ansprache von Münzen [sind] nach wie vor notwendig".

Thracian coins can be created. For volume V of “Roman Provincial Coinage” for the Severan Dynasty, currently in preparation, the portal could, for example, offer preliminary work for the area of Thrace. By choosing XML as the interchange format and through the creation of MODS data, the requirements for long-term digital preservation are met. The scans of the plaster casts will be saved as an open format TIFF file.

The material will be connected to overarching portals through interfaces. To this aim we are using CIDOC-CRM as a reference model¹⁵. Thus the data collected for the project will remain connected, accessible, and compatible to international and national projects.

Finally, using these methods serves heritage protection. The publication of a coin, including information about the owner, physical characteristics and a picture online, offers the best protection against theft.

As mentioned above, every coin will receive a permanent URI, and for this we are drawing on the standards established by *nomisma.org*. Besides the already existing recognizable URIs for mints, find spots, etc., it is planned, through collaboration with *nomisma*, to add the list of URIs for provincial governors and other persons related to the coinage and possibly as well for die descriptions and types.

The website will not just contain a database that has import, data entry, search and export functions, but will also provide a tablet to compare coins, as well as offer relevant literature. The idea is to create a comprehensive numismatic web portal for the ancient region of Thrace.

Through this portal an important step for numismatic research will be taken, which has always begun with collecting and evaluating material. We are reminded of the necessity of a numismatic reference book repeatedly as, for instance, M. R. Alföldi postulated in 1992, at that time already referring to the possibility of a die-descriptive database. In her words, the benefit of “a uniform numbering system for dies would be as great for numismatics as the Latin letter or the Arabic number is around the world”¹⁶.

The thematic online portal promises a definite research value for its user. Interesting questions regarding monetary and financial history are only answerable on the basis of the publication of the coin dies. The identification of the coin series of Thrace, a region with a dynamic history and multifaceted coin issues, would for the first time allow a comparative syn- and diachronic examination of the coinages within a historical area.

The flexibility of the data and, above all, the direct comparison of pictures will offer novel possibilities for numismatic research and promises new insights. The portal will be more than a virtual coin collection. It contains corresponding literature, connects information and allows space for academic analysis. It offers ultimately a fundamental resource for all disciplines in classical studies.

This material should be, as Mommsen already argued, common property¹⁷. In our times the easiest way to realize this goal is to make the material accessible through the internet: this is the aim of our portal for the coin dies of Thrace.

¹⁵ ISO Standard 21127: 2006.

¹⁶ Alföldi 1992, 256: “Viel wesentlicher erscheint mir die Einrichtung einer einheitlichen Numerierung der Stempel ... Der Nutzen ... wäre für die Alltagspraxis in der Numismatik ungefähr so groß wie etwa der der lateinischen Buchstaben und der arabischen Zahlen rund um die Welt”.

¹⁷ Kaenel 2002, 15: “Worauf es ankommt, ist die tadellose und vollständige Publication desjenigen Münz-Materials, das Gemeingut sein sollte und es nicht ist...”. For the still very present relevance of this postulate, see von Kaenel 1994, 9.

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