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WHY SHOULD THE PALERMO MUSEUM AND ANTONINO SALINAS KEEP ARABIC COINS? NEW RECORDS ON CANON GIOVANNI PACETTO'S DONATION (1877)*

Abstract

The main scope of this paper is to understand the role of Italian authorities acquiring Arabic coins for Sicilian museums. In particular, this essay presents some valuable, unpublished records that are relevant to the history of state collections in Sicily. Antonino Salinas (1841–1914), Director of the Palermo Museum and skilful numismatist, played a leading role in the history of Sicilian archaeology. In 1877, he accepted a donation of some coins, which were offered by Giovanni Pacetto (1806–84), and he also purchased additional finds to increase the museum numismatic collections. Archival records are, therefore, vital to assess why Salinas appreciated Arabic coins, and how donations and acquisitions occurred in the early post-Unification period. These two valuable case studies can help us to understand the history of state collections and the role of the authorities in Sicily, who were constantly interested in acquiring not only classical but also Arabic coins for the newly-born Palermo Museum.

Keywords

Sicily, Palermo, Museum, Collections, Arabic coins, Salinas, Pacetto, Donations

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1. INTRODUCTION

The recent research that has been carried out at Italian state archives has generated much interest for the history of archaeology and museum collections in post-Unification Sicily (1861–1918). Undoubtedly, archives can keep vital records of past discoveries, excavations, archaeological safeguarding and classical, medieval and modern acquisitions by museum institutions. A recent exhibition that was held in Palermo in 2014 has even celebrated the centenary of the death of Antonino Salinas (1841–1914), who was the founder and first director of the local Museo Nazionale (Fig. 1).¹

After 1861 the Italian state re-founded the old pre-Unification institutions or forged new museums to establish a fresh and modernised cultural heritage. Therefore, professors, archaeologists and curators, such as Luigi Pigorini (1842–1925) operating in Rome, were now employed by the Italian government and were evolving from the old antiquarian collectors and/or scholars to professional ‘state’ academics and employees.²

This paper seeks to present a new set of archival records from Rome that are particularly relevant to the donation of ancient and Arabic coins to the Palermo Museum, which was carried out by Canon Giovanni Pacetto on the behalf of Antonino Salinas in January 1877 (docs. nn. 1–3). The latter also asked to purchase additional coins in November 1877 (docs. nn. 4–6). These records are worth studying and publishing for the following reasons. First, they form two significant case studies for the history of numismatic state collections in Sicily and they help us to better understand how and why Salinas appreciated donations by private collectors. Second, these records shed new light on the role of Canon Pacetto as an antiquarian and antiquities collector, and they illustrate his relationship with Salinas. Until now, these aspects have remained little known and neglected by scholars.

This paper offers an introduction to the Palermo Museum, especially its role between the Bourbon period and post-Unification era. Furthermore, this paper aims to present Antonino Salinas, while also explaining the importance of donations for his institution. Then, we provide a historical reconstruction of the donation by Pacetto and of Salinas’ purchase of coins, assessing all of the documentary evidence and contextualising the event in the history of archaeological collecting in post-Unification Sicily. Finally, the appendix contains all of the relevant records that are preserved at the Central State Archive of Rome, which we have traced and copied faithfully.

¹ SPATAFORA-GANDOLFO 2016; CRISÀ 2018.

² BARBANERA 1998: pp. 12–19.

2. THE PALERMO MUSEUM, ANTONINO SALINAS AND FIND DONATIONS

The Bourbons, who dominated the island of Sicily as part of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (1816–1860), undertook a series of measures to establish a well-organised system for archaeological safeguarding. Their legislation was fairly innovative and it allowed the Bourbons to protect antiquities, offer excavations licenses and increase the collections of the University of Palermo's Museum, which was founded in 1814. The Bourbons aimed to create a new cultural institution in Sicily, which was to be also used to deposit new finds from excavations and preserve antiquarian collections.³

Once Garibaldi had liberated Sicily from the Bourbon army and the island became a region of the Kingdom of Italy, this system underwent a series of administrative reforms but still maintained some bodies (such as the Commission of Antiquities and Fine Arts, which survived until 1875). During this period, the University of Palermo's Museum, which was already well-established, undertook a crucial transformation. Thus, once the Italian state had placed many compulsory orders on the Church's property due to the Laws of 10 August 1862 and 7 July 1866, the old Oratorio of the Olivella in Palermo's city centre became empty and available for reuse. Consequently, the cultural institution was transferred from the university to via Bara dell'Olivella. Meanwhile, it acquired the substantial Etruscan Bonci-Casuccini collection.⁴

Antonino Salinas (1841–1914) (Fig. 2) played a leading role in this crucial process. Once the substantial series of archaeological and fine arts collections were fully moved, Salinas became Director of the Museum (1873), a position which he kept until he died. Salinas, who was mainly a numismatist and also Professor of Archaeology at the University of Palermo, opted to shape a new, modern institution that would represent all of the phases of the history of Sicily. His strong support for local regionalism was in contrast to the Italian government's policy to promote a national identity, as his manifesto *Del Real Museo di Palermo e del suo avvenire* and substantial archival records clearly prove. Consequently, Salinas professionally re-arranged the old collections of Greek and Roman archaeological finds—including paintings, dresses, weapons, medieval and Modern Age artefacts—to shape an innovative museum, which he could also use for educational purposes.⁵

³ MOSCATI-DI STEFANO 2006: p. 15; CRISÀ 2012: pp. 10–11.

⁴ TAMBURELLO 1970: pp. 31–36; MOSCATI-DI STEFANO 2006: pp. 14–21; CRISÀ 2012: pp. 10–11; CRISÀ 2018: pp. 18–19, 34–36.

⁵ SALINAS 1874: p. 56; CAGIATI 1914: pp. 125–31; ORSI 1915: pp. 1–9; DE VIDO 1993: pp. 17–26; CRISÀ 2018: pp. 31–34.

As a well-known and skilful numismatist, Salinas appreciated all ancient, medieval and modern coins as historical sources. Salinas had already gathered a very substantial collection of ca. 6000 coins, which he donated to the Museum after becoming director. This action had a powerful ‘political’ meaning, demonstrating Salinas’ willingness to promote donations for the new-founded Kingdom of Italy and marking, therefore, the start of a brilliant career as state curator and professor. In terms of scientific outputs, Salinas had even written a significant monograph on Sicilian Greek coins, entitled *Le monete delle antiche città di Sicilia* (1867), which, however, remained incomplete.⁶

We know that Salinas markedly promoted donations of archaeological and numismatic finds among Sicilian collectors. He even travelled in fairly unknown and poorly accessible towns of the Messina province to meet collectors and invite them to donate their inscriptions and coins. For instance, a significant donation of rare silver tetradrachms of Syracuse, found at Mondello (Palermo) and offered to the Palermo Museum in 1868, was made by Delfino Trucchi and was directly supported by Salinas. The latter wrote a paper on these new numismatic acquisitions and officially thanked the collector on the behalf of the Italian state, as archival records effectively testify.⁷

The city of Palermo itself benefitted from significant Arabic coin collections. One of the most substantial was stored in the Biblioteca Comunale. This collection was studied by the Sicilian Arabist Bartolomeo Maria Lagumina (1850–1931), who published the monograph *Catalogo delle monete arabe esistenti nella Biblioteca Comunale di Palermo* (1892). The Biblioteca had initially acquired a substantial set of Arabic coins, donated by Cesare Airoidi in 1849.⁸

Subsequently, between 1868 and 1892, Salinas had even spent £1499.59 to buy additional coins, which he constantly transferred to the Biblioteca Comunale. The National Museum also had Arabic coins, which stimulated Salinas’ attention as vital sources to reconstruct the history of medieval Sicily. The Bourbon authorities had also begun to gather Arabic coins before 1860, as the acquisition of gold finds from Cefalù

⁶ SALINAS 1867; CRISÀ 2014b: pp. 281–83; GANDOLFO 2014: pp. 37–43; CRISÀ 2018: pp. 32–36.

⁷ SALINAS 1868: pp. 193–207; CRISÀ 2014b: pp. 280–81; CRISÀ 2018: pp. 34–36.

⁸ Bartolomeo Lagumina studied Hebrew with Canon D. Turano. He was ordained priest on 23 December 1872 and Professor of Hebrew at the University of Palermo, where he met M. Amari and became strongly interested in studying Arabic language. He was also Inspector at the Palermo Museum. Among his most significant works we can mention: *Codice diplomatico dei guidei di Sicilia* (1884), *Cronaca di Cambridge* (1890), *Catalogo delle monete arabe esistenti nella Biblioteca Comunale di Palermo* (1892) and *Catalogo dei codici orientali esistenti nella Biblioteca Comunale di Palermo* (1898). He was finally appointed Bishop of Agrigento in 1898. For Lagumina’s activity in late nineteenth-century Palermo see: AA.VV. 1939: pp. 280–81; DE LUCA 2016: pp. 1–23.

clearly proves (1824). After the Unification, new discoveries increased the collections. For example, we can mention the substantial Arabic coin hoard found by some ‘fontanieri’ – skilled workers maintaining water conduits and pipelines – at Porta Termini (Palermo). Nevertheless, the Arabic numismatic collection at the Palermo Museum was evidently lacking and Salinas was willing to increase it as far as he could.⁹

Among newly-discovered Sicilian donors in the Messina province, who gave Salinas their finds to increase the Palermo Museum, we can mention the Baroness Merlo (Tindari), Canon Giardina (Tindari), professor Todaro (Tripi), Mr Consentino (Sant’Agata di Militello), the pharmacist Mancuso (Lipari) and Mr Di Salvo (Santa Maria delle Palate, Tusa).¹⁰ We can also add Giovanni Pacetto as a new collector who was operating in the Ragusa province and was willing to donate finds to the Palermo Museum.

As many other Sicilian priests, Giovanni Pacetto (1806–84) was very passionate about antiquarian studies. As a canon based in Scicli (Ragusa) (Fig. 3), he was able to sustain himself while studying local history and archaeology, and collecting antiquities. He could easily obtain artefacts on the prosperous province market, fuelled by excavations or sales of old pre-Unification collections. Pacetto also explored some sites in the Ragusa’s and Scicli’s area. He was evidently quite well-known in Sicily and also joined the Società di Storia Patria of Palermo for a while (1876–79), which also included Salinas as a member. Among Pacetto’s main antiquarian works, we can mention *Ricordi archeologici di un viaggio eseguito nel territorio di Scicli nell’anno 1867* (1872), *Memorie per un’antica greco-sicula medaglia scoperta nel modicano territorio* (1872), *Memorie di un antico bagno recentemente scoperto nella contrada Maulli in territorio di Ragusa* (1875) and finally *L’antichità di Scicli, anticamente chiamata Casmene* (1879).¹¹

3. CANON PACETTO AND SALINAS: A NUMISMATIC DONATION FOR THE PALERMO MUSEUM (1877)

Thanks to archival records from Rome, we now know that Pacetto offered some coins to Salinas in 1877 through a donation, which occurred in January (docs. nn. 1–3). Our records provide us with historical data to reconstruct these events, which were unknown until now.

⁹ LAGUMINA 1892: p. IV: ‘Esaminando i conti consuntivi della Biblioteca, dal 1868 a questa parte, rilevasi che furon spese non più di L. 1996,99 per acquisto di monete, vetri e pietre con iscrizioni arabe: delle quali L. 1499,59 per mezzo del prof. Salinas [...]’; LAGUMINA 1895: pp. 360–74; CRISÀ 2012: pp. 36–37; DE LUCA 2016: pp. 3–5; D’OTTONE RAMBACH 2017: pp. 13–14.

¹⁰ CRISÀ 2018: pp. 117–119.

¹¹ MILITELLO 2008: pp. 18, 27.

Francesco Lanza, Prince of Scalea (1834–1919), Special Commissariat for Excavations and Museums of the Sicilian Island, sent the Ministry of Public Education a short letter on 4 January 1877 (doc. n. 2). It quoted a message by Salinas, written on 2 January and sent to the Special Commissariat. The archaeologist asserted that Pacetto had just donated (probably at the very end of December 1876?) to the Palermo Museum 12 bronze classical coins, one Arabic coin and a Byzantine lead seal. Among the bronze coins, two were minted by Syracuse and were considered ‘rare’ by Salinas.

In particular, the Arabic coin was issued in Sicily by the Fatimid Caliph Abū al Hasan ‘Alī ibn al Ḥākīm (or ‘Alī al Zāhir), who is known as al Zāhir lii ‘zāz al Dīn Allāh (AH 411–27; AD 1005–36). He ruled in Sicily between 1020 and 1036. Thanks to Salinas’ antiquarian reference, we learn that the gold *dinar* was struck in AH 420 (1029 AD) (Fig. 4)¹². The coin was considered to be historically valuable by Salinas for two main reasons. First, its legend reported the actual month when the coin was struck. Second, Vincenzo Mortillaro (1806–88), a well-known Arabist operating in Palermo, could not read the full coin legend on a similar issue. This specimen was previously studied by the antiquarian Salvatore Morso (1766–1828), who was an active scholar in the Bourbon Sicily.¹³

As other archival records have recently demonstrated regarding Delfino Trucchi’s donation, the Italian authorities were certainly grateful to all donators who contributed to increase the national and regional collections. Thus, Giuseppe Fiorelli (1823–96), a famous archaeologist working at the Ministry of Public Education, sent the Special Commissariat in Palermo a short letter on 13 January 1877, asking him to thank Canon Pacetto for his kind and generous donation (doc. n. 3). His action was worth of high commendation and public gratification (‘gesto meritevole di alto encomio e degno delle pubbliche riconoscenze’).

Following this remarkable donation by Canon Pacetto, we learn that Salinas was willing to acquire other finds to increase the museum collections, as a letter of 9 November 1877 clearly proves (doc. n. 5). Again, the Special Commissioner Lanza di Scalea alerted Fiorelli, reporting that Salinas wanted to buy seven coins on the antiquarian market. Four were silver *stateri* showing the head of Athena Pallas and Pegasus — one also had the Greek ethnic name of Syracuse. The fifth was a silver Punic tetradrachm (priced £32), while the sixth was a silver *due tari* of Philip III (1598–1621).

The seventh find was a gold *dinar* that was issued by Ibrahim II, one of the Emiri Aglabidi of North Africa and Sicily (AH 261–89; AD 874–902). We do not have

¹² Coin figure does only represent an illustrative example of Al-Zahir’s gold coin, struck in Sicily.

¹³ MORTILLARO 1846: vol. III, p. 378, n. LIII (2); LAGUMINA 1892: pp. 156-60; O’LEARY 1923: pp. 189-92; D’OTTONE RAMBACH 2017: pp. 20-22 (on the Fatimid Caliphate’s coinage in Sicily).

enough data on this coin, only a brief hint on its issuer ('quest'ultima è di Ibrahim'). Unfortunately, Lanza di Scalea did not provide a reason why Salinas was interested in buying this coin. It can be argued that the Palermo collections were evidently lacking in this specific issue of Ibrahim.

Finally, Fiorelli approved this numismatic purchase, as he wrote to Lanza di Scalea in a very short letter on 12 November 1877 (doc. n. 6).

4. CONCLUSIONS

These archival records have demonstrated how Antonino Salinas was interested in acquiring Arabic coins to increase the Palermo Museum collections. These two case studies are strictly limited to 1877, although we know that Salinas had also purchased or acquired many coins for the Biblioteca Comunale. But how can we assess these acquisitions in terms of the history of Sicilian state collections? And, what was the final destiny of these two Arabic coins, donated by Pacetto?

Previous assessments of archival records have revealed similar bureaucratic procedures to approve any potential purchase of small antiquities or 'officialise' find donations. First, the museum curator, namely Salinas, spotted a good find or set of artefacts—eventually owned by a local collector—which might be potentially vital for increasing the collections. Once he was fully aware of its price, he normally contacted a regional authority, such as the Commissioner Lanza di Scalea, who had to consider and evaluate the purchase. Subsequently, Lanza wrote to the Ministry of Public Education for a final purchase approval, which implied that the relevant fund allocation had been made.

In terms of donations, Salinas firstly approached collectors, who could be based in all Sicilian provinces. For instance, Delfino Trucchi was in Palermo, while Pacetto operated in Ragusa and many other local collectors were active in the Messina province (e.g. Professor Todaro at Tripi or Luigi Mancuso, a pharmacist in Lipari). Salinas might also contact a state authority, such as the city mayor of San Marco d'Alunzio (Messina), who he personally encouraged to donate ancient inscriptions that were found scattered in his small town. Salinas was perfectly experienced to benefit from a wide-ranging and dense contact network over the whole island. He knew many collectors and local authorities. If acquiring finds from very peripheral Sicilian areas would have impoverished local archaeology and partially prevent the creation of local museums or *antiquaria*, then this could enrich the Palermo collections and ease any use or study of finds by national and international scholars.

Salinas' actions can be summarised as follows: 'Acquiring means preserving'. This sort of 'policy' has been clearly detected also in the Bourbon period, when state authorities acquired finds to be moved and especially preserved in the central

Museum of the University of Palermo. For instance, we can mention the case studies on the Arabic coins found in Cefalù in (1824) and some ancient coins seized to Giuseppa Giammone in Giarre (1832); both sets of numismatic finds were promptly moved to that museum institution.¹⁴

Both Salinas and national authorities were very keen to thank all of the collectors, who donated finds for the regional and state benefit. Above all, the donors gave their own contribution to enrich the whole Italian cultural heritage. It is evident that ministerial authorities always used laudable words to thank donors and they sometimes asked Salinas to personally be grateful to them.¹⁵

Salinas' selection of finds was not strictly based on 'personal' collecting tastes but followed a precise programmatic plan to boost the Museum collections, which were somehow lacking and needed to be completed. This aspect has been fully demonstrated for the Bourbon eighteenth-century coins of the 'Cerda Hoard' (1868), for Delfino Trucchi's donation of rare Greek silver tetradrachms of Syracuse (1868) and one more time for the Arabic coins offered by Pacetto (1871), as discussed here.¹⁶

We can also speculate about the final destiny of these numismatic acquisitions. First, we should exclude that all coins mentioned in our new records had been stored in the Biblioteca Comunale of Palermo, whose Arabic numismatic collection was published by Lagumina at the very end of the nineteenth century. It seems that our coin, issued by 'Alī alZāhir, does not appear in the catalogue. The other coin of Ibrahim II has not been properly described by Salinas, which makes it difficult to trace it in Lagumina's catalogue. Therefore, it can be inferred that these Arabic specimens have been finally preserved in the Palermo Museum's collections together with the other classical and modern coins that were acquired by Salinas in 1877. Future and desirable investigations may clarify this issue.¹⁷

In conclusion, we should stress how our new records represent just two selected case studies that assess a limited chronological period of the history of Sicilian collections. Of course, further archival research may strongly improve our knowledge on find donations and acquisitions by Sicilian nineteenth-century curators. They may also offer fresh data on the history of regional collecting, a theme which needs a more constant, in-depth analysis.

¹⁴ CRISÀ 2012: pp. 27–28 (Giarre, 1832), 36–37 (Cefalù, 1824); CRISÀ 2018: pp. 128–129.

¹⁵ Doc. n. 4: '[...] sentite grazie al Sig. Can. Giovanni Pacetto [...] l'autorizzo a rendere palese il gesto meritevole di alto encomio e degno delle pubbliche riconoscenze'; CRISÀ 2014b: p. 273, doc. n. 2: 'La prego di ringraziare con mano del Governo il sig(nor) Delfino Trucchi per il dono, che ha fatto al Museo'; CRISÀ 2018: doc. TRIP.1.3: '[...] la Direzione di questo Museo sin dal 23 Ottobre 1886 non mancò di rendere all'illustre Professore Todaro i dovuti ringraziamenti pel dono da lui fatto delle sapute iscrizioni di *Abacaenum*'.

¹⁶ CRISÀ 2014a: pp. 339–62; CRISÀ 2014b: pp. 277–86; CRISÀ 2018: pp. 85–86.

¹⁷ LAGUMINA 1892: pp. 156–60.

5. ARCHIVAL RECORDS

[Doc. n. 1] ACS, MPI, AA.BB.AA., versamento I, busta 287 | file folder | 1 side

MUSEI, GALLERE E PINACOTECHES

152-103-34

[Doc. n. 2] ACS, MPI, AA.BB.AA., versamento I, busta 287 | headed paper | 2 sides

{1} Palermo 4 Gennaio 1877.

62-1-1

Palermo

COMMISSARIATO SPECIALE PER GLI SCAVI E PER I MUSEI DELL'ISOLA
DI SICILIA

Num. 4

OGGETTO: Dono di monete ed altro al nostro Museo.

N.° 68.
Direz. Arch
7. g.°

A S.E.

Il Signor Ministro per la Pubblica Istruzione

Roma

Dal Sig.^r Direttore di questo Museo, con lettera del 2 corrente mese N.° 2, mi si scrive quanto io mi premuro portare alla conoscenza di cotesto Ministero, perché ne voglia restare inteso, e per autorizzarmi a renderlo palese per le stampe, sempre allo scopo di servire ad eccitamento di altri cittadini, e spingerli a donare le loro raccolte al nostro Museo.

“Dal Sig.^r Can. Giovanni Pacetto da Scicli mi sono state regalate N.° 12 monete di bronzo, una araba di oro e un sigillo bizantino di piombo, che io mi affretto a donare da parte mia al nostro Museo.

Fra le monete di bronzo ve ne ha due di Siracusa importanti per la loro rarità, alla {2} quale, una specialmente, aggiunge una bella conservazione.

Quella araba di oro è coniatà in Sicilia, a nome del Califfo fatemita El Zâhir, importante, perché per un fatto singolare in numismatica, è espresso il mese in cui fu battuta la moneta.

Questo esemplare serve pure a completare la leggenda di quel dinar, perché vi si vedono alcune parole che non furono lette dal Morso nella nota manoscritta pubblicata dal Mortillaro, opere vol. III, pag. 378, n.° LIII”.

[Doc. n. 3] ACS, MPI, AA.BB.AA., versamento I, busta 287 | headed paper | 1 side

Roma, addì 13. Gennaio 1877

Al Commissario dei Musei e Scavi di Sicilia
Palermo

Prot.° Gen.° N.° 68

N.° di Posiz.° 62-1-1

N.° di Part.ª 244.

Risposta a nota del 4 Gennaio 1877

Div. Sez. N. 4

OGGETTO: Dono al Museo di Palermo

Prego la S.V. di esprimere a nome del Governo sentite grazie al Sig.ª Can. Giovanni Pacetto di Scicli, per aver voluto generosamente donare al Museo di Palermo alcune sue monete, e l'autorizzo a rendere palese il gesto meritevole di alto encomio e degno delle pubbliche riconoscenze.

D'Ordine

F.° Fiorelli

[Doc. n. 4] ACS, MPI, AA.BB.AA., versamento I, busta 287 | file folder | 1 side

MUSEI, GALLERE E PINACOTECHE

152-103-10

[Doc. n. 5] ACS, MPI, AA.BB.AA., versamento I, busta 287 l headed paper l 2 sides

{1} Palermo 3. Novembre 1877.

COMMISSARIATO SPECIALE PER GLI SCAVI E PER I MUSEI DELL'ISOLA
DI SICILIA

Num. 921.

OGGETTO: Acquisto di monete.

N.º 5353.
Direz. Archeol
6. 9^{mbre} 77

Senza precedenti di approv.

A S.E.

Il Signor Ministro per la Pubblica Istruzione

Roma

Questo Sig. Direttore del Museo faceasi a proporre a questo Ufficio lo acquisto nello interesse di quell'Istituzione di N.º sei monete di argento, ed una di oro araba.

Quest'ultima è di Ibrahim. Delle sei di argento quattro stateri con tipi corinzi colla testa di Pallade, e col Pegaso, ed una di esse porta l'iscrizione "Dei Siracusani".

La quinta è un tetradramma punico con l'iscrizione Tritz, e la sesta un due tarì di Filippo III.

Lo stato di conservazione e propriamente la freschezza del tetradramma, non che la modicità del prezzo che se ne chiede in £ 32., m'inducono ad accogliere una tale proposta, e pregare di {2} conseguenza cotesto Ministero a volermi autorizzare l'uscita del fondo da imputarsi alle doti del Museo pel corrente esercizio.

Il Commissario

F. Lanza P.º di Scalea

[Doc. n. 6] ACS, MPI, AA.BB.AA., versamento I, busta 287 / headed paper / 1 side

Roma, addì 12. Nov. 1877

Al Commiss.º dei Musei e degli Scavi di Ant.à in Sicilia
Palermo

Prot.º Gen.º N.º 5353

N.º di Posiz.º 62-1-1

N.º di Part.ª 8156.

Risposta a lett. 3 Nov. del 77

Div. Sez. N. 921

OGGETTO: Acquisto di monete.

Nell'approvare l'acquisto per cotesto Museo Nazionale delle monete descritte da V.S. col contromarcato foglio, l'autorizzo a riportare il prezzo di esse in lire trentadue nei conti delle anticipazioni, indicanti il numero nel quale d.ºe monete furono segnate nell'inventario.

D'ord.º

f.º Fiorelli

Abbreviations

9^{mbre} = Novembre

AA.BB.AA. = Antichità e Belle Arti

ACS = Archivio Centrale dello Stato

Ant.ª = Antichità

approv. = approvazione

Arch = Archeologia

Archeol = Archeologia

Can. = Canonico

Commiss.º = Commissario

d.ºe = dette

Direz. = Direzione

doc. = document

F.º = firmato

f.º = firmato

g.º = gennaio

Gen.º = Generale

lett. = lettera

MPI = Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione

Nov. = Novembre

Num. = Numero

ord.º = ordine

P.º = Principe

pag. = pagina

Part.ª = Partita

Posiz.º = Posizione

Prot.º = Protocollo

S.E. = Sua Eccellenza

S.V. = Signoria Vostra

Sez. = Sezione

Sig.^r = Signor

V.S. = Vostra Signoria

vol. = volume

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Figure 1 – Palermo: view of the internal cloister of the Museo Archeologico Regionale ‘A. Salinas’ (source: author)



Figure 2 – Picture of Antonino Salinas (1841–1914) (source: Wikipedia)



Figure 3 – Scicli (Ragusa): early twentieth-century postcard showing Piazza Busacca (private collection)



Figure 4 – Al-Zahir (AH 411–427; AD 1005–36), Palermo, ¼ gold dinar (AH 421, AD 1030) (ex Numismatica Ltd, E-Sale 17, 25 April 2015, lot n. 1189)