

POSTFACE

To be able to access the relevant data about any coin it is necessary to have the information stored in such a way that it is easily understandable.

Since the late 18th century catalogues of both public and private collections followed the geographical referencing structure proposed by Joseph Eckhel (1737-1798)¹. Then in the early decades of last century the British Academy launched a project to catalogue all Greek coins minted by authorities or cities in the Mediterranean area and those linked to them for whatever reason, but excluding issues of both Republican and Imperial Rome. The result was the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* which has become the standard accepted by all interested scholars².

The coins are described and photographed, and arranged by region (or mint), authority, date, type and metal content (gold silver or bronze). Other data included is denomination of coins, weight, synthetic reference to the O/ and R/ and, where appropriate, critical comments or reference to particular problems.

Subsequently the *Sylloge Nummorum Arabicorum* followed the same methods for describing and cataloging the Islamic coinage as did similar publications, for example³ in England and Israel, though with different format and graphics⁴.

The structure of the numismatic Corpora is quite different. These studies group coins by a well defined criteria or topic, for example by mint, city, emperor, period etc. but in addition highlighting regularities⁵, irregularities or unique examples. In particular these are supported by indices structured by rating, date or type and reducing the geographical and photographic material to a minimum.

1. G. Dembski, *Joseph Hilarius Eckhel*, "International Numismatic Commission. Comptes rendus" 48 (2001), pp. 55-59.

2. The publishing initiative, coordinated by the International Numismatic Council (CIN) today, has regular updates on the progress of publications in a special section of the magazine "International Numismatic Commission. Comptes Rendus", which in recent years has taken the form of a project for Database of anthologies, as reflected in the report Meeting of the INC Committee, "International Numismatic Council. Comptes rendus" 58 (2011), pp. 38-39.

3. The first volume, in folio: L. Ilisch, *Sylloge Nummorum Arabicorum: Palästina: IVa Bilād as Šām*, I, Tübingen 1993; cfr. V. Porter, review of Lutz Ilisch, *Sylloge Nummorum Arabicorum* etc., "The Numismatic Chronicle" 1997 (157), pp. 287-288.

4. 10 volumes have been published, for the editorial of which (titles and authors), cf. N.D. Nicol, *Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean Museum. 4. Later 'Abbasid Precious Metal Coinage (from 219 AH)*, Oxford 2012.

5. N.D. Nicol, *A Corpus of Fatimid Coins*, Trieste 2006.

Recently Islamic numismatics has seen a remarkable editorial vivacity through both the Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean Museum and some monographic Corpora able to synthesize information scattered in the Sylloges, in published articles and in catalogues often difficult to access. For example the contribution of the Fatimid Coinage⁶, and the Gold Coinage, from 65 H (684 C.E.) to 334 H (946 C.E.)⁷ is particularly interesting. Therefore a happy bibliographic coincidence occurred. This was possible because of a fortuitous coincidence; the publication Giulio Bernardi's Corpus of researches of gold monetization of this period (Arabic Gold Coins), a huge census of publications covering countless auctions, and the appearance, some years later, of Nicol's "Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean Museum. 4. Later 'Abbasid Precious Metal Coinage (from 219 AH)". Of the known 2164 Islamic of this period, only 35 are not listed in Bernardi's Corpus (only 1,6%) but there are significant differences in both in the methods used and in the information available. Hence the need for this Index which coordinates the contents of both publications and facilitates access to the data of these two essential, but different, reference works.

Bruno Callegher
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6. G. Bernardi, *Arabic Gold Coins. Corpus I*, 2nd ed., Trieste 2012.

7. In the coinage of the Roman Empire, a similar work is M.R. Alföldi, H. Mattingly, *Cohen-RIC Konkordanz. Von Augustus bis zur Follis-Reform Diocletians* (Cohen Bd. 1-6 und RIC Bd. I-V/1-2), Bonn 1978.