

NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

ZAPISKI NUMIZMATYCZNE



Tom XV

MUZEUM NARODOWE W KRAKOWIE
SEKCJA NUMIZMATYCZNA
KOMISJI ARCHEOLOGICZNEJ PAN
ODDZIAŁ W KRAKOWIE

Kraków 2020

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Szanowni Państwo,

oddajemy w Państwa ręce tom XV *Notae Numismaticae – Zapisków Numizmatycznych*. Zgodnie z przyjętymi przez nas zasadami wszystkie teksty publikujemy w językach kongresowych, z angielskimi i polskimi abstraktami. Zawartość obecnego numeru oraz tomy archiwalne są zamieszczone w formie plików PDF na stronie internetowej Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie (<https://mnk.pl/notae-numismaticae-zapiski-numizmatyczne-1>). Na stronie internetowej są ponadto dostępne wszelkie informacje ogólne o czasopiśmie oraz instrukcje dla autorów i recenzentów.

Redakcja

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present volume XV of *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne* to you. In accordance with the principles that we have adopted, our texts are published in the conference languages with English and Polish abstracts. The whole of the present volume can be found as PDF's on the website of the National Museum in Krakow (<https://mnk.pl/notae-numismaticae-zapiski-numizmatyczne-1>), as are previously published volumes of the journal. The website also contains general information about the journal as well as information for prospective authors and reviewers.

The Editors

STEFAN KRMNICEK and HENNER HARDT (eds.)

A Collection in Context. Kommentierte Edition der Briefe und Dokumente Sammlung Dr. Karl von Schäffer, Tübinger Numismatische Studien 1, Tübingen 2017, 199 pages, 56 illustrations; ISBN 978-3-947251-00-1; DOI: 10.15496/publikation-19401

One of the aspects of the research on the history of museum collections is an attempt to put them within the contexts of both their period of development and the factors which were decisive in their creation. Such an attempt has been undertaken by Stefan Krmnicek and Henner Hardt with regard to the numismatic collection of the University of Tübingen, one of the oldest and greatest in Germany. The collection was established in 1798 on the basis of the donated collection of Carl Sigmund Tux (1715–1798), which consisted of 4,500 pieces. It is noteworthy that the core of this collection was created in Silesia by Friedrich, the donator's father, in the first half of the 18th century. In the course of the 19th century, the university collection became larger with many acquisitions and donations, most notably the gift of Dr Karl von Schäffer (1888), which comprised 3,000 coins and medals. As the editors point out, Dr von Schäffer's bequest made a very significant contribution to the growth of the collection and would also have an impact on the development of the research and the interest in numismatics at the University of Tübingen. The numismatic donation was accompanied with a set of documentation connected with Schäffer's collection: correspondence with coin dealers and private collectors, purchasing offers, invoices, mail, as well as lists of planned and completed acquisitions of coins. The present volume is concerned with an analysis of precisely this particular archival material. Several authors have assisted the editors and made contributions to the publication (Veronika Holdau, Hadrien J. Rambach, Philipp Baas). It is also worth noting that this volume inaugurates a new series (*Tübinger Numismatische Studien*) to be published by the University of Tübingen's Classical Archaeology Institute. As the title makes it clear, the series is dedicated to numismatics.

The work consists of two parts: an extensive introductory chapter and a catalogue of documents. The first part opens with an extended introduction and a commentary by the volume's editors entitled "Der Briefverkehr und die Sammlung. Einleitung und Kommentar" (pp. 9–26), which summarizes the history of the University of Tübingen's numismatic collection, with a particular emphasis on Karl von Schäffer's donation, its position and significance in the history of this university collection, as well as a brief presentation of the archival documents published. As can be seen, the body of the documents was divided into three files by the collection owner himself,

with the following titles: Seyffer, Jungfer-Rappaport, and Hirsch File. The first one concerns the correspondence with Otto Ernst Julius Seyffer (1823–1890), a fellow-antiquities collector and the owner's trusted advisor. The second file contains the papers relating to Robert Jungfer and Edmund Rappaport, alongside those connected with the company Thieme and Fuchs of Leipzig, while the third one is concerned, for the most part, with Heinrich Hirsch of München and also features documents attesting to the correspondence with Adolf Cahn from Frankfurt am Main. The mail exchange included in the particular files is briefly discussed and analyzed here. It gives us an insight into the social life of the numismatic circles, conceptions of successful collecting, and methods of numismatic trading in the 19th-century Germany. Beside the strictly factual issues, the correspondence, especially the letters included in the Seyffer File, contains a number of more personal opinions, assessments, and details referring to von Schäffer's acquaintances and contacts from the coin collecting and trading circles.

The next chapter consists of a brief account of Karl von Schäffer's biography by Veronika Holdau (pp. 27–35), who is also the author of a biographical dissertation on this prominent collector of coins (cf. p. 32). Although presented in a summary form, it highlights the most important points in the collector's life and career. Another chapter, authored by Hadrien J. Rambach (pp. 37–61), gives us an overview of the coin collectors' milieu in the 19th-century Germany and Dr von Schäffer's role and position therein. This article is of particular value as it represents a survey of the evolution of the collecting of ancient coins in Germany and the (numismatic) antiquities market, based on a wide-ranging analysis of various documents, including those directly in connection with Karl von Schäffer and featured as part of the present publication. At the same time, the author surveys von Schäffer's collecting activity in various aspects, such as amounts of money paid for numismatic pieces and the geographical range of contact and relations with dealers. The same author has contributed another chapter, "A List of Coin Dealers in Nineteenth-Century Germany" (pp. 63–84). For this one, Rambach has made a list of basic, short or long, notes on antiquarians and coin dealers active in the 19th-century Germany. As such, this chapter complements and follows on from the previous one. In consequence, we get to know not only the background to Dr von Schäffer's activity, but also a certain view on the numismatic market in his time. As a result, this is an excellent resource for those interested in this subject matter. It can be seen that there are some repetitions in the text of the first of these chapters as compared with the editorial introduction, but Rambach's analysis is laid out against a wider background, in some aspects not only European. In the next section, Philipp Baas' article entitled "Die Antiken des Oberst von Wundt in Tübingen" makes reference to the collection of Colonel Herman von

Wundt, one of von Schäffer's fellow-collectors (pp. 85–103). A portion of von Wundt's collection was incorporated into the University of Tübingen's numismatic collections in 1893. In his text, Ph. Baas provides a brief account of the collector's biography as well as some information on the history of his collection and selected items of value with details on the circumstances of their acquisition. This article is of particular interest as it portrays some of the more significant aspects of coin collecting and the complexities of the situation of the non-numismatic antiquities market in the 19th-century Germany.

The main part of the volume is composed of a catalogue of documents drawn from the legacy archives of Karl von Schäffer (pp. 105–198), which has been edited by Stefan Krmnicek and Henner Hardt. These are published either *in extenso* or in part, with some of them also featured in an illustrated form. The catalogue is arranged according to the above file names, i.e., in the following order: Seyfer, Jungfer-Rappaport, Hirsch. The arrangement is chronological and each document is given a title referring to its contents. More information, such as dimensions (in centimetres), is also added with some extra details provided where necessary (type of paper, colour, imprints, etc). For every single document, a numerical reference to the place of storage in the archives of the numismatics section of the Archaeology Institute is given. Unfortunately, particular entries are not numbered, which makes it a little more difficult to use the catalogue. Letters and notes are published with great attention to detail, with the original text (including errors) intact, while the lists of acquired (or planned to be purchased) coins are reproduced in an abridged form. In any case, some of the relevant lists are published in full thanks to the use of illustrations. The total number of documents included in the catalogue is 136.

To sum up, those interested in the history of the University of Tübingen's collection, but also in the broader history of coin collecting and the antiquities market in the 19th-century Germany, have received a body of documentation which allows the reader to follow the history of von Schäffer's collection as well as such issues as ways and methods of expanding numismatic collections in the 19th century, the *modus operandi* of the contemporary auction houses, and the presence of random ancient coins or groups of coins on the 19th-century auction markets, which may produce results in the field of the further research into the provenance of coins. Among some minor shortcomings of the present volume, perhaps the most conspicuous one is the lack of a reference index which would allow the reader to find specific names and items in the text more quickly and conveniently. To the editors' credit, we should not fail to notice the well-planned and effective use of illustrations which, besides the above-mentioned documents, also include a selection of photographs of figures, coins, and buildings. All things considered, we should commend the editors

and the authors of the particular sections of the publication for the overall concept and its realization, and we can only wish for the subsequent volumes of *Tübinger Numismatische Studien* to be at least as much of a success as the first one.

Translation: Marcin Fijak

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