

giving a good overview of the debate. Additionally the author demonstrates the existence of distinct regional numismatic patterns, which did not, however, impede financial and monetary supra-regional trade and transactions for the élite and middle class entrepreneurs. In what is easily the best chapter of the book (7) the author gives an excellent overview of modern economic theories on the nature and origin of money, and investigates which one would best describe the Roman imperial monetary system. Convincingly she argues for middle ground between a purely state-run nominalist (or chartalist) system deriving from the state's needs to make payments and a metallist system, purely commercial in origin (the Aristotelian point of view) and driven by market forces. She concludes by coining a term for this in-between theory: fiscal metallism. Whether this phrase actually describes the situation in the Roman Empire remains to be tested by further empirical studies, based on a more methodologically sound treatment of numismatic data. The theoretical ground has been well prepared in this volume.

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B. WOYTEK, *DIE REICHSPRÄGUNG DES KAISERS TRAIANUS (98–117)* (Denkschriften/Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Philosophisch-Historische Klasse 387; Veröffentlichungen der Numismatischen Kommission 48; MIR – Moneta Imperii Romani 14). Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2010. 2 vols: pp. 682, 156 pls, illus. ISBN 9783700165651. €136.00.

It has long been recognized that the coinage issued by the Roman emperor Trajan (A.D. 98–117) is in urgent need of a comprehensive (re-)assessment, honouring modern standards of numismatic analysis. This emperor's reign not only witnessed the high water mark of Roman rule in ancient Europe and beyond, but produced an immense amount of coins; and rare epigraphic evidence from this period sheds light on the organization of the capital's mint. Woytek's study *Die Reichsprägung des Kaisers Traianus* can now fill the gap in scholarship, making amends for the lacunae left by what previously have served as standard reference works, both written by Harold Mattingly: volume II (Vespasian to Hadrian) of the *Roman Imperial Coinage* series (RIC), published in 1926, and, released ten years later, volume III (Nerva to Hadrian) of the series *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum (BMCRE)*, which was influenced in many respects by Strack's *Untersuchungen zur römischen Reichsprägung des zweiten Jahrhunderts I. Die Reichsprägung zur Zeit des Traian* (1931). These two works provide contrasting examples of numismatic study — that is, a catalogue of known coin-types versus a listing of all coin specimens kept in one individual collection. And yet these two volumes, along with the numismatic community more generally, could not cater for the specific situation of the period A.D. 103–112 (=COS V), failing to systematize, or even date, emissions from what is more than half of the emperor's entire reign — a major obstacle to the use of Trajan's coins by historians and archaeologists. Even a recent publication of the important holdings of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris by P.-A. Besombes (*Monnaies de l'empire romaine. IV Trajan (98–117 après J-C)* in 2008) could not help to solve this problem.

The study under review here, in turn, now presents a convincing argument on how to tackle this previously seemingly insurmountable problem. W. presents an exemplary and elaborate survey of all known coins, with structured and transparent examinations of types, emissions, stylistic developments and chronology. The material covered in the discussion comprises the Imperial coins from the mint of metropolitan Rome, including the 'metalla' (coins restituted in the name of Trajan), mules (i.e. coin struck from two dies which did not belong to the same emission), medallions (including one-sided ones), and non-precious metal coins with Latin legend which circulated in Syria, and in addition potential fakes and other dubious pieces; excluded from the study are, however, cistophoric coins from Asia Minor, the bilingual coinage of Caesarea in Cappadocia and that of Dacian origin, incuse coins, and contemporary imitations. These have mostly been covered by W. in various journal articles.

W.'s chapter on the development of Trajan's portrait-type on coins, and in comparison with surviving sculpture in the round (55–67; 67–73), is sure to kindle debate among archaeologists. W. concentrates on facial contours and the rhythm of the lower line of the bust, along with physiognomic detail more generally, to establish his Types A–D (Type B is the most

influential, and C–D are dependents). The insights he forges from the numismatic evidence fit our general understanding of Trajan's portrait in the round (for references see 67–73) — perhaps not actually surprising, given that W. H. Gross as early as 1940 had been heavily dependent on Strack's study. What is remarkable, however, is that W.'s arguments for the importance of taking into consideration the lower bust line — an indicator already recognised by previous scholars — reflects the sequence reached through the 'traditional' method of 'lock counting' in sculpture and sheds new light on the dependence of numismatic portraits on prototypes in the round. W. also argues for A.D. 105 (and not 108) as the start date for his Type B, which corresponds to the so-called 'Decennalienbildnis'.

Published as Volume 14 of the *Moneta Imperii Romani* series (*MIR*), and in notable contrast to previous *MIR* instalments, this book presents a laudable example of how a numismatic study should be organized, with regard to both accessibility and presentation (the impressive catalogue comprises more than 23,600 single coins, serving as a basis for nearly 1,000 catalogue entries). The Classics community will be grateful for this corpus, which should provide a valuable resource for research in years to come.

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A. POLOSA, *MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO NAZIONALE DELLA SIBARITIDE. IL MEDAGLIERE* (Tekmeria 12). Paestum: Pandemos, 2009. Pp. 304, numerous pls. ISBN 9788887744224. €80.00.

It has long been one of the oddities of numismatic research that we have been better served with publications of excavations from the Roman provinces than from Italy; this volume takes a major step to remedy the imbalance. It begins with a number of hoards: S. Nicola di Amendolara, containing incuse staters and drachms of Metapontum, Sybaris and Croton, and coming from one of the key sites for the early history of Greek colonization; Rossano, containing 96 denarii down to 42 B.C., and coming from a 'villa rustica'; and Montegiordano, containing three fractional silver pieces of Heraclea, Croton and perhaps Thurii, and nine bronzes of Metapontum, going down to the early third century; the 'fattoria' where the hoard was found also produced graffiti in Oscan (*Imagines Italicae* (2011) Metapontum 2). But it is excavation material that forms the richness of the volume, some of which I highlight here: the libral Prow quadrans from Laos (p. 73, n. 2, no. 2) is also published in *NSc* 1978, pp. 453–4, whence *Coinage and Money* (1985), p. 287; a libral Prow sextans from Laos (p. 70, no. 21) was first published in 1989. Booty acquired by the enemies of Rome in the early years of the Hannibalic War still seems the best explanation: note the libral Prow triens from Torre Mordillo (p. 93, no. 95, reference to *RRC* 35/5 missing; nos 98–9 are *RRC* 38/5 (the reference is also wrong for p. 172, no. 387; and p. 172, no. 388, is *RRC* 39/4); see also p. 125, no. 1). The place of Torre Mordillo within the economic orbit of Thurii, until it became a Brettian stronghold, emerges with absolute clarity. For the dramatic and violent end of the site in c. 207 B.C. it is necessary to go back not only to Colburn's article in *NSc* 1977, but also to his article in *Expedition* 1967. By contrast, Castiglione di Paludi has already become well-known as a Brettian centre that continued to function well down into the second century B.C., a site with which Polosa rightly compares Oppido Mamertina (p. 131, n. 7): it is good to have all the numismatic material laid out and discussed. Page 164, no. 310 is ascribed to Brentesion and rather idiosyncratically sandwiched between Agrigentum and Syracuse; but the view of P. Attianese, cited and rejected in n. 9, is in fact clearly right: the coin is an issue of ΒΡΕΙΤ ( *Imagines Italicae*, p. 57, n. 247), probably yet another Brettian community, perhaps located at Castiglione or Pietrapaola (*ibid.*, n. 248); the coin from there, p. 124, no. 1, is a bronze of Syracuse, as *SNG Copenhagen* 736 (as Paolo Visonà observes to me).

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