

NUMISMATICS AND INSCRIPTIONS: ANCIENT COINS AT UPPSALA UNIVERSITY BROUGHT ONLINE

The Uppsala University Coin Cabinet (UUCC) is working with a new project, aiming at making the collection of ancient coins, in total some 4,600 pieces, accessible digitally. This is the first phase of a long-term endeavour to make the whole collection of the UUCC available on the Internet. The project will be undertaken from 2014 to 2016. It will be a collaborative effort between the UUCC, the Uppsala University Museum and the Uppsala University Library. The latter assumes responsibility for long-term handling and storage of project information within its Alvin framework (<http://www.alvin-portal.org/>).

This ensures the maintenance of the data in a long-term perspective. A common platform means that all components of the database, such as search engines or database software, can be upgraded as technology develops. It also means that the system will not depend on individual persons, as its preservation is institutionalized. In our opinion, this is an important strength in this project, as long-term stability and accessibility represent one of the



Fig. 1 – A Roman *denarius* struck for the emperor *Septimius Severus*, featuring the obverse inscription L SEPT SEV AVG IMP XI PART MAX. Such inscriptions, providing important epigraphical evidence for the titles of emperors, will be easier to study, as numismatic collections are made accessible online in databases (Photo: S. Hanelt).

major challenges in current database projects. Moreover, the integration of the numismatic data into the Alvin portal means that the collections of UUCC will become available far beyond the ordinary outreach of a coin cabinet in general and of the UUCC in particular.

Among other things, the database will provide epigraphic material for scholars. Roman imperial coins, for instance, usually feature prominent inscriptions, that provide important evidence regarding the titles of the Roman emperors. Thus, our material will be valuable for epigraphists as well. The database will be made available online and through national and international search engines devoted to the study of heritage, for instance Europeana (<http://europeana.eu/>) and K-samsök (<http://www.ksamsok.se/> on a Swedish level). Information about the project will be spread through the website of the UUCC (<http://www.coincabinet.uu.se/>) and through social media such as the UUCC facebook page (www.facebook.com/coincabinet/) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/coincabinet/>). The project is generously funded by the Swedish Central Bank's Tercentenary Fund (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond), the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences, and directed by Ragnar Hedlund, PhD in Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University.

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