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ἄκοινόν τύχη, γνώμη δὲ τῶν κεκτημένων

-Aeschylus, Fr. 389 (ed. Radt)

Over the Rainbow: An Introduction to *KOINON* VII, with Recourse to Iris

NICHOLAS J. MOLINARI



Figure 1. Silver hemidrachm from Kaunos, Caria, c. 490 to 370 BC, featuring a winged Iris. Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group.

Each year, I start the journal with an ancient quote that uses the word *κοινόν*, and so far the Muses have not lead me astray. This year is no different: The quote from Aeschylus on the last page can be translated with something like, “fortune is common, but judgment belongs to those who possess it.” It is with that sentiment in mind, namely, that I have made the most of my good fortune but I’m (at least) wise enough to know when my time is up, that I announce I will be stepping down from my role as General Editor starting with the next volume. For those who have followed *KOINON* since its inception, we are now “over the rainbow,” both literally in the color of the journal and figuratively with my transition to the Editorial Board. It is a perfectly timed transition, and there isn’t a better symbol of good luck for our next editor than the very god of rainbows, Iris (Figure 1). The person I have selected is to take the reins, and who graciously accepted, is Dr. Rosanagh Mack, currently at the University of Reading as a researcher in the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, who over the years has earned my trust, admiration, and, most importantly, friendship. I can think of no better person to lead us into the future, and so this issue is dedicated to her and her success as we move forward into a new generation. While Rosie is now free to steer the ship however she pleases, I am comforted to know that she too appreciates and encourages contributions to numismatics from a wide varied of perspectives: numismatics, to stay with the rainbow analogy, is like a prism, opening up a beautiful, multicolored world and, like Iris, connecting us with something transcendental (if we pay close enough attention, that is).

This volume is full of beautiful approaches to numismatics, each revealing a small part of the colorful world of antiquity. We begin with a substantial section on Greek coinage. First, Marvin Kushnet provides a comprehensive synopsis of his dissertation in the form of a statistical analysis of archaic and classical coins and pottery from Cyprus, one of the most intriguing areas for numismatics in the entire ancient world. I had the benefit of meeting Marvin at a meeting of the Society *Historia Numorum*, and I hope our newfound friendship means he will continue to share

his work with us for years to come. A good indication that he will is the second essay in this volume, also from Marvin, which documents new die varieties from 5th century Selinus, exhibiting his wide range of expertise and keen eye. Next, we feature Vincenzo Marrazzo's study of some new, early 5th century overstrikes noticed in the numismatic trade, a welcome addition that helps add further clarity to the dating scheme organized by Fischer-Bossert.

Moving to Hellenistic times, we have many terrific essays. First is an essay by first-time contributors Steluța Marin and Virgil Ioniță, concerning countermarked coins from the area west of the Black Sea, which carefully reconsiders the dating of certain key types. Next, we feature Catherine Lorber's long-awaited formal publication of the Hamadan Hoard of 1977. We are very grateful to have Cathy contributing to our journal and especially with the publication of such an important part of numismatic history. Lloyd Taylor's first (of three) essay appears next. It offers a comprehensive overview of the tetradrachms and didrachms of Sophytos, an important update to our knowledge of such coinage. Following that work is an essay by Lloyd and his co-author, Julian Wunsch, which catalogs the coinage of Andragoras, offering another important update to our knowledge of such coins and their larger context. This essay is followed by Dr. Taylor's final contribution detailing a modern Agathokles cupro-nickel forgery. The final Greek essay is by long-time contributor and numismatic giant David MacDonald, who offers an updated, comprehensive overview of Apollo/Three Nymph denarii of Apollonia Illyriae. David has been working on such coins as long as I have known him, and I'm truly delighted that his work, which is sure to become the standard reference in the field for many years to come, has found a home in *KOINON*.

In the Roman section we have two essays—an enormous increase from the last journal, which had not one! First, an important reassessment of RRC 442 by Francesco Di Jorio, which convincingly argues we ought to view the iconography as a piece of propaganda. Following that essay, Jack Nurpetlian documents an interesting occurrence in which several coins that appear at first glance to be examples of brockage have a missing leaf on one side—a mystery indeed. In the next section on Oriental Numismatics we feature an essay by Bob Langnas that discusses an unconventional portrait attributed to Kamnaskires V. Bob's keen eye and love of all things Elymain is a welcome inclusion in this year's installment. Finally, we have the important documentation of a new silver coin of the Gothic Kingdom in Italy and related types by long-time contributor Dirk Faltin.

Although I do not know what is in store for *KOINON* in the years to come, it has been an honor, and great pleasure, overseeing the journal's establishment and growth over the last seven years. To the best of my knowledge it is the first international print journal dedicated exclusively to classical numismatics, and something we should all be proud of. If tradition is anything to go by, we can all rest assured that there will indeed be a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and Rosie will be the perfect curator.

Vivat Achelous!

Dr. Nicholas J. Molinari, General Editor

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