



Call for papers: „Money and Ritual in the Greco-Roman World”

International Workshop
Tübingen University, Institute of Classical Archaeology, October 15–16, 2015

Institut für Klassische Archäologie

In the last two decades, the archaeology of Greek and Roman ritual has become one of the central research topics in international scholarship: Archaeologists, ancient historians, anthropologists, and scholars in religious studies have recognized the materiality of ancient ritual practices and its various manifestations as key scholarly themes.

While the meaning of votive statuary and so-called monumental sacred architecture or the function(s) of ‘humbler’ materials such as figurines, pottery, and lead tablets have been long studied carefully, coins recovered in ritual contexts have not yet received the attention they certainly deserve.

Our understanding of coins – as opposed to other objects used in a ritual context – is biased largely by our assumption that they function solely as currency in the context of trade and commerce. The picture that emerges from numismatic studies that place coins in their archaeological context is significantly different. A growing amount of material evidence indicates that coins played an important role in the performance of rituals and served both ceremonial and religious functions in various spheres of daily life in the Ancient Mediterranean. Thanks to their functional complexity and polyvalence, they occupied a prominent place in ancient ritual. Thus, for example, coins could symbolize or substitute actual objects, act as tokens for the pecuniary value of votive offerings, or serve as dedicatory objects in their own (monetary and/or aesthetic) right.

This international workshop aims to address the nexus of coin use and ritual practice in a diachronic approach

that will cover primarily the ancient Greek and Roman worlds. Discussions will include both the religious agency of coins as objects and the human involvement in the mental and practical process of symbolically charging and selecting, depositing, and finally curating coins in a sacred context. Archaeologists, numismatists, anthropologists, and historians are invited to present their research and thus actively contribute to this timely topic. Papers that explore methodology or specific case studies are welcome.

Keynote address: David Wigg-Wolf (German Archaeological Institute)

Abstracts in English of no more than 500 words should be sent by email both to stefan.krmnicek@uni-tuebingen.de and jm3193@columbia.edu

Deadline for the submission of the abstracts is **30 April 2015**.

Papers will be held in English. We ask that the colleagues whose papers will be selected submit a summary in English of no less than 500 and no more than 1,000 words by 31 August 2015.

For further information visit:
<http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/moneyandritual>

Organizers:
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