



Ancient Coin Legends:

Composition, Design, Lexicography,
and Framing Potential

Munich, Residenz

(Thesaurus Linguae Latinae, Bavarian
Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

26–28 June 2025 & hybrid option



Organisers:

Elisabeth Günther

Institute for Classical Archaeology
and Byzantine Archaeology,
University of Heidelberg, Germany

Hongxia Zhang

Institute for the History of Ancient Civilizations,
Northeast Normal University,
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Registration: via email to sveneca@aol.com or svenguenther@nenu.edu.cn until 15 June 2025

Conference programme

26 June 2025 (afternoon & evening):

14.30–15.00: welcome addresses & thematic introduction

(representative(s) from co-organising institutions; organisers E. Günther; H. Zhang; S. Günther)

panel 1: coin legends and interdisciplinary studies

15.00–15.45: Andreas Grüner (Classical Archaeology, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg):

“Epigraphica numismatica: giant letters and minuscule coins.”

15.45–16.30: François de Callataÿ (Royal Library Belgium, Brussels):

“To properly read monetary legends: a preliminary but often tricky task for 16th–18th c. numismatists.”

reception in Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities

17.30–18.30: keynote by Prof. Dr. Stephanie Geise

(Professor for Communication and Media Studies, Centre for Media,

Communication and Information Studies, University of Bremen):

“The logic of Visual Framing: patterns, potentials & effects.”

27 June 2025 (full day)

panel 2: coin legends in the Greek & Hellenistic world

8.30–9.15: Ute Wartenberg (Sydney F. Martin Executive Director, American Numismatic Society, New York):

“Voices of the provinces: multilingualism in Achaemenid coinage.”

9.15–10.00: Caterina Schorer (Classical Archaeology, University of Heidelberg & University of Zurich):

“Framing a parasemon: coin legends of Elea in Classical and Hellenistic periods.”

Coffee break

10.30–11.15: Annette Haug (Classical Archeology, University of Kiel) / Ulrike Peter

(Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities):

“Texts and images on Greek coins between paratextuality and parapictoriality.”

11.15–12.00: Gunnar Dumke (Coin Cabinet Winterthur):

“basileus and maharaja – reading (and understanding) Indo-Greek coin legends.”

Lunch break

panel 3: coin legends during the Roman Republic

14.00–14.45: Manfredi Zanin (Ancient History, University of Bielefeld):

“Not one without the other. The semantic coherence of signatures, legends and portraits in Roman Republican coinage.”

14.45–15.30: Hongxia Zhang (IHAC, NENU, Changchun):

“Aristocratic messages on Roman Republican coin legends.”

Coffee break

16.00–16.45: Niklas Unterdörfel (Helmut Schmidt-University Hamburg):

“The bilingual Neo-Punic coins of Numidia and Mauretania: cultural exchange and identity in Ancient Numismatics.”

16.45–17.30: Sven Günther (IHAC, NENU, Changchun):

“How coin legends work at the rims of the Roman world.”

Conference dinner

28 June 2025 (morning):

panel 4: coin legends in the Roman Empire

8.30–9.15: Elisabeth Günther (Institute for Classical Archaeology and Byzantine Archaeology, University of Heidelberg):

“The iconography of words. Legends as pictorial elements in Roman imperial coinage.”

9.15–10.00: Fleur Kemmers (Institute for Archaeological Sciences, Goethe-University Frankfurt):

“Images and ambiguity, or when to (not) use a legend on Roman imperial coinage.”

Coffee break

10.30–11.15: Sven Betjes (Department of History – Art History, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen):

“Engaging the viewer: the various functions of the legend in Roman imperial coinage.”

11.15–12.00: Clare Rowan (University of Warwick):

“Everyday literacy and Roman tokens.”

Concluding discussion