

Final Travel Grant Reports 2017

With the purpose of providing a detailed work and as part of a one-month predoctoral stay at Oxford (*vid.* App sent with budget), I requested a grant-in-aid (1.000 €) from the International Numismatic Council. The approval of this grant was notified to me by the secretary of the International Numismatic Council, Prof. François de Callataÿ, through a letter sent by email on the 4th of July 2017.

On the 26th of July, I travelled by plane from Valencia to London-Gatwick and then I arrived by bus to Oxford. It must be stated that the objectives proposed in my application were fulfilled. In the first place, I met the 'Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project' (Oxford) team, from its main responsible, the Prof. Christopher Howgego, to Cristian Gazdac, Marguerite Spoerri Butcher and Rahel C. Ackermann. Likewise, I met Volker Heuchert and Simon Glenn too and they gave me access to the numismatic collection of the Ashmolean Museum. All the colleagues were very kind to me.

The use of the references related to European Coin Hoards was threefold: to compare the Hispanic Hoards with the European ones; to understand the economic history of the Roman Empire; and to review the literature about the economic history of the Roman Empire. I fulfilled the objective of discussing with Prof. Howgego and team members about how to face the record of hoards from the Late Roman Empire, which are a little more complicated due to the diversity of mints and the volume of coins.

During the weeks I stayed there, I was going to the Sackler Library and sometimes to the Radcliffe Camera. Thanks to several books and papers¹, I obtained much

¹ *E.g.* WEBER, M. (1891): *Die romische Agrargeschichte in ihrer Bedeutung fur das Staatsund Privatrecht*, Ámsterdam, P. Schippers; POLANYI, K. (1944): *The Great Transformation*, Nueva York, Rinehart, POLANYI, K. (1968): "The Semantics of Money Uses", en Dalton, G. (ed.), *Modern Economies: Essays of Karl Polanyi*, Boston, Beacon Press, pp. 175-203, POLANYI, K. (1977): *The Livelihood of Man (Studies in Social Discontinuity)*, London, Academic Press; FINLEY, M. (1999): *The Ancient Economy* (Updated with a New Foreword by Ian Morris), Berkeley, University of California Press; JONES, A.H.M. (1974): *The Roman Economy: Studies in Ancient Economic and Administrative History* (Edited by P. A. Brunt), Oxford, Blackwell; CRAWFORD, M.H. (1970): "Money and Exchange in the Roman World", *JRS* 60, pp. 40-48; CRAWFORD, M.H. (1974): *Roman Republican Coinage*, Cambridge, CUP, CRAWFORD, M.H. (1975): "Finance, Coinage and Money from the Severans to Constantine", *ANRW* 2-2, pp. 560-593; CRAWFORD, M.H. (1985): *Coinage and Money under the Roman Republic - Italy and the Mediterranean Economy*, London; DUNCAN-JONES, R. (1990): *Structure and Scale in the Roman Economy*, Cambridge, CUP; DUNCAN-JONES, R. (1994): *Money and Government in the Roman Empire*, Cambridge, CUP; DUNCAN-JONES, R. (1999): "The Monetization of the Roman Empire", en Paul, G.M. y Ierari, M. (eds.), *Roman Coins and Public Life under the Empire*, Ann Arbor, UMP, pp. 61-82; HOPKINS, K. (1961): "Social Mobility in the Later Roman Empire: The Evidence of Ausonius", *CQ* (n.s.) 11, pp. 239-249; HOPKINS, K. (1980): "Taxes and Trade in the Roman Empire (200 BC - 400 AD)", *JRS* 70, pp. 101-25; HOPKINS, K. (1995-1996): "Rome, Taxes, Rents and Trade", *Kodai: Journal of Ancient History* 6/7, pp. 41-75; LO CASCIO, E. (1978a): "Moneta e politica monetaria nel principato: a proposito di due lavori recenti", *Annali dell'Istituto Italiano di Numismatica* 25, pp. 242-261; LO CASCIO, E. (1978b): "Gli alimenta, l'agricoltura italica e l'approvvigionamento di Roma", *Rendiconti dell'Accademia dei Lincei* 8, pp. 311-352; LO CASCIO, E. (1981): "State and Coinage in the Late Republic and the Early Empire", *JRS* 71, pp. 76-86; HOWGEGO, C. (1992): "The Supply and Use of Money in the Roman World 200 BC to AD 300", *JRS*

information about Roman Hoards and their interpretation, monetary circulation and Roman economy. Professor Howgego gave me directions which I appreciated. As regards approaches to the ancient economy, I will not waste too much time on the primitivist/substantivist-modernist/formalist discussion. This tends to go around in circles without making much real progress. There is more to be said for the structural approach influenced by New Institutional Economics.



Dr. Cristian Gazdac explaining to me the new utilities of the Coin Hoards app.

However, my thesis is an empirical subject (coin hoards) and I might find more helpful the empirical and quantitative approach taken by the Oxford Roman Economy Project (*vid.* Oxford Studies in the Roman Economy). In general, I will avoid too much work on economic theory and try to stay closer to my real subject. But it is obvious that Numismatics is not only a historical science, and that it is strictly in relation with the monetization and the economy, although sometimes, it is willing to forget its origins without difficulty.

Finally, I left Oxford on the 23rd of August. Thanks to this travel grant, I enjoyed a magnificent experience and I obtained an excellent numismatic formation. I would not like to finish without manifesting the need for institutions such as the INC's maximum guarantee of the numismatic vitality in the world.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

David Martínez Chico

Valencia, September 25th, 2017

82, pp. 1-31; HOWGEGO, C. (1995): *Ancient History from Coins*, London, Routledge; recently a more cultural approach in HOWGEGO, C. (2013): "The Monetization of Temperate Europe", *The Journal of Roman Studies* 103, pp. 16-45 and a free-market approach in TEMIN, P. (2013): *The Roman Market Economy*, Princeton, PUP.