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THE SIZE OF NUMISMATIC LITERATURE
AS SEEN THROUGH THE FOUR LATEST
SURVEYS OF NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
(1990–2013)

Every six years, the International Numismatic Council (formerly “Commission”) organizes an international numismatic congress. Since the 1960s, these INC congresses have been systematically coupled with the publication of a *Survey of Numismatic Research*, which aims to provide for every field a synthetic view of what has been published during the previous six years. These *Surveys of numismatic research* are not only fundamental tools for anybody who wants to be aware of what has been achieved recently. They also offer a unique tool to estimate the size of research itself.

Nearly a quarter of a century ago, not long after having been deeply committed to the production of the Survey for the XIth INC Congress at Brussels (1991), I made use of the previous five surveys to estimate the numismatic activity at a national level (de Callataï 1992). There is a fundamental difference between the surveys released up to Brussels and the four published after that: while the old surveys proceeded with footnotes at the bottom of each page, the new ones group all the references at the end of each chapter in a numbered list (akin to what is often named the Chicago style of bibliography). The current way to proceed is certainly more efficient in terms of readability and space but it makes even more problematic any use of these data as a proxy for reputation and quality. Conversely and from a purely quantitative point of view, these numbered lists provide easy data to measure the number of contributions published through time for each field.

The reader will find in Annex 1 all the entries included in the last five *Surveys* (Brussels 1991, Berlin 1997, Madrid 2003, Glasgow 2009 and Taormina 2015). For each are given: the title of the paper in its original language, the name of the author(s), the number of pages and the number of footnotes (Brussels) or references (Berlin, Madrid, Glasgow and Taormina). These entries have here been classified in what appears to the present author as the most pertinent order, both chronologically and geographically. It should be noted that this is sometimes at great variance with the order adopted by some *Surveys*. To be sure, any classification is debatable

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I am very grateful to Andrew Meadows for having improved my English.

and the one proposed here is no exception. If there is one recommendation to strongly advise, it is to move to the front of the next *Surveys* the general sections about historiography, analyses, computers and museology.

Looking back to the first surveys, it would be interesting to study how the currently accepted scheme has been built over time. For a couple of decades now, numismatic literature has been divided into 5 main sections: 1) generalities (covering the topics just mentioned above), 2) ancient coinages, *i.e.* Greek, Celtic and Roman coinages (but excluding the Byzantine Empire and all the coinages struck by the Merovingians, the Lombards, the Vandals and the like), 3) western modern coinages, 4) oriental numismatics and 5) medals.^[1]

1. Size of numismatic literature

For each of these 5 main topics, Table 1 gives the total number of references provided by each of the four latest *Surveys*.

| | 1997 Berlin | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total | Survey average | Yearly average |
|--|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Generalities | 259 | 232 | 68 | 301 | 860 | 215 | 36 |
| Western numismatics Antiquity | 3,077 | 3,537 | 3,253 | 3,873 | 13,740 | 3,435 | 572 |
| Western numismatics Middle Ages and after | 4,500 | 4,346 | 5,139 | 5,110 | 19,095 | 4,774 | 796 |
| Oriental numismatics | 1,051 | 1,033 | 1,889 | 1,388 | 5,361 | 1,340 | 223 |
| Medals | 1,730 | 2,326 | 2,098 | 2,153 | 8,307 | 2,077 | 346 |
| Total | 10,617 | 11,474 | 12,447 | 12,825 | 47,363 | 11,841 | 1,973 |

Table 1. Numismatic literature (1990-2013) divided by main topics

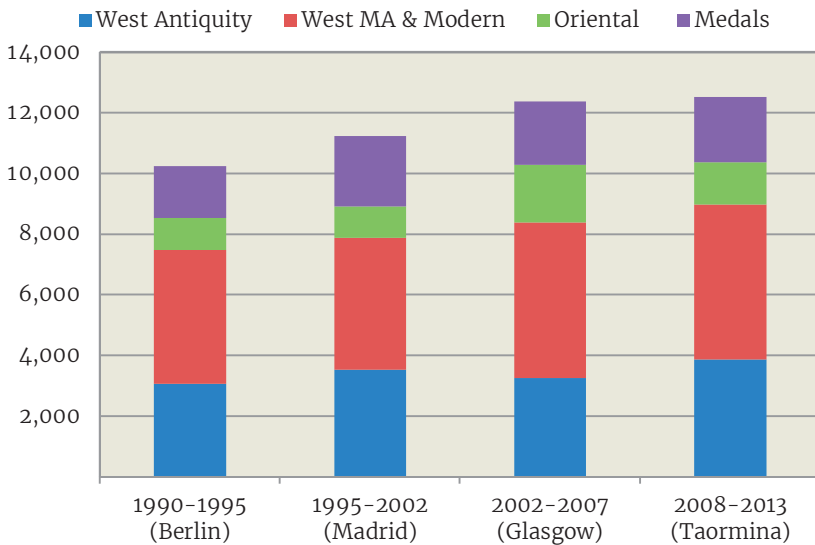
All in all, the 339 papers (see Table 2) of the last four *Surveys* have referred to 47,363 publications, which means nearly 12,000 references per *Survey* and a yearly average of nearly 2,000 publications (last column). Given the way sections are neatly divided, it is unlikely that the rate of duplication between papers will be higher than 10 percent. In other words, about six numismatic contributions are published every day, of which about two are on ancient coinages as well as on medieval and modern coinages, and about one on medals as well as on oriental coinages.

[1] Banknotes have disappeared since Brussels 1991.

This is exactly the result we can obtain by considering the numbers of records added to the library catalogue of the American Numismatic Society (*DONUM*). In a recent paper about bibliometrics, I wrote that the increasing rate at the ANS “points in the direction of a yearly average of at least 1,500 new entries for recent years (likely closer to 2,000)”.^[2]

Could we estimate how many pages of numismatic literature are published every year? In the same article, I argued that the eight numismatic periodicals referenced by *ERIH* (the *European Review Index for the Humanities*) contribute to c. 8% of the total published every year.^[3] As these major reviews, taken together, publish c. 2,000 pages annually, the total amount of numismatic pages published every year should approximate 25,000.^[4] This figure of c. 25,000 pages is roughly in line – or at least not grossly out of proportion – with the average one may deduce from the data collected here: a length of c. 14 pages for the average entry combining books, articles and short notices.^[5]

As witnessed by the *Surveys*, the total amount of entries is not static but slightly growing over the decades (Graph 1).



Graph 1. Cumulative data for numismatic literature divided by main topics (1990-2013)

^[2] *Ibid.*, 295.

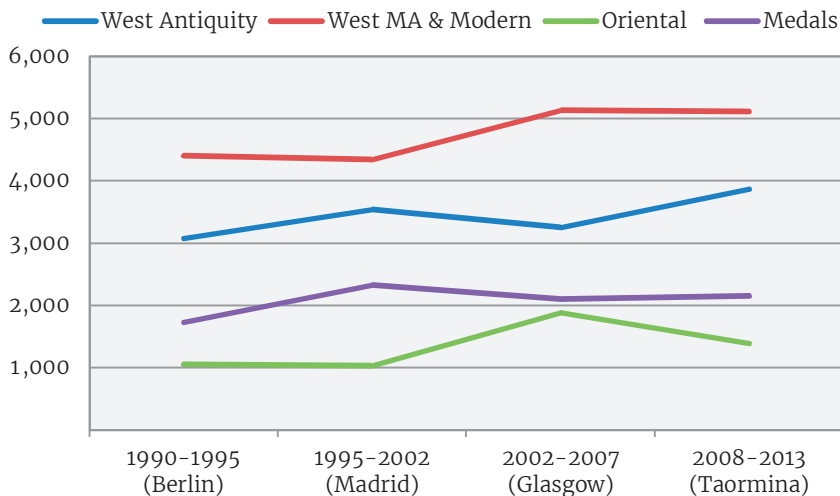
^[3] These reviews are: *Annali dell'Istituto Italiano di Numismatica*, *Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte*, *Numismatic Chronicle*, *Numismatische Zeitschrift*, *Revue belge de Numismatique*, *Revue numismatique*, *Schweizer Münzblätter* and *Schweizerische Numismatische Rundschau*.

^[4] de Callatay 2014, 292-295.

^[5] 25,000 pages / 1,800 = c. 13.9 pages.

We passed from 10,517 entries in 1997 to 12,825 in 2015, which means a total increase of nearly 22% in 18 years, corresponding to an annual increase of c. 1.1%. This is not spectacular but is far from the decline sometimes announced.

If we look more closely at the four different main sections, we may note that each of them has experienced some growth. This is never purely linear, as for the total amount of entries, but that is always the case if we compare the results between 1997 and 2015 (Graph 2):



Graph 2. Numismatic literature divided by main topics (1990-2013)

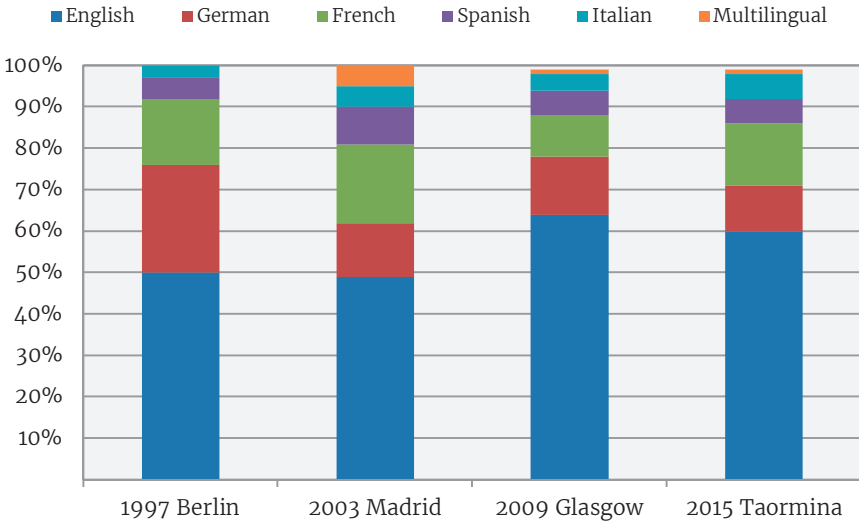
2. Languages

What has also moved, although again not dramatically, is the use of different languages. The *International Numismatic Council* is very attached to the principle of multilingualism. Contributions for the *Surveys* may be submitted in one of five languages: English, French, German, Italian and Spanish (Table 2).

| | 1997 Berlin | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total | % |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| English | 40 | 43 | 50 | 56 | 189 | 56 |
| German | 21 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 53 | 16 |
| French | 13 | 17 | 8 | 14 | 52 | 15 |
| Spanish | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 23 | 7 |
| Italian | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 4 |
| Bilingual | - | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| Total | 80 | 88 | 78 | 93 | 339 | 100 |

Table 2. The use of languages in the four latest *Surveys of Numismatic Research*

With a general average of 56%, English is more and more dominant, but German and French are still often used (c. 15% each) and Spanish and Italian continue to play a significant role. Graph 3 visualizes in percentages the data of Table 2:



Graph 3. The use of languages in the four latest Surveys of Numismatic Research

What is also clear is the influence of the location of the congresses and hence the responsibility to distribute the work to 80/90 colleagues. German has never been used as frequently as in Berlin, and the same is true for Spanish in Madrid, English in Glasgow, and Italian in Taormina. French and German are nearly on the same footing, with differences highly linked to the location of the Congress: French slightly above in Madrid and Taormina, German in Berlin and Glasgow.

| | Generalities | West Ancient coins | West MA & Modern | Oriental numismatics | Medals | Total |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------|-------|
| English | 16 | 41 | 60 | 18 | 54 | 189 |
| German | 2 | 13 | 17 | 4 | 17 | 53 |
| French | 2 | 16 | 11 | 14 | 9 | 52 |
| Spanish | - | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 23 |
| Italian | - | 5 | 6 | - | 4 | 15 |
| Bilingual | 4 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Total | 24 | 81 | 101 | 40 | 93 | 339 |

Table 3. The use of languages in of the main sections (for the four latest Surveys of Numismatic Research)

The use of languages also varies slightly between the main sections (Table 3). Not surprisingly, English is mostly used for general topics. French is astonishingly well represented in oriental numismatics.^[6] German benefits from Austria and Switzerland for Medieval and Modern coinages as well as for medals.

3. Within the main sections

The four latest *Surveys* offer a great tool to consider the progress of sections and subsections. We should keep in mind, however, how the number of references for each contribution depends on the author, their zeal to gather all the information but also the idea he/she has of the task: to be completed or – as promoted by the INC since the beginning – to deal only with the truly relevant literature, excluding papers not based on original research.

3.1. The most referenced contributions and fields of research

To give an idea of how papers could be variously referenced, one may rank the 30 contributions which include more than 300 entries (Table 4):

| Rank | Numbers | Titles, authors and dates |
|------|---------|--|
| 1 | 1,149 | Islamic section (S. Heinemann, A. Canto, V. Nastich – Taormina) |
| 2 | 911 | China (H. Wang, Z. Weirong & F. Thierry – Glasgow) |
| 3 | 646 | Italia (S. Balbi de Caro & A. Saccocci – Madrid) |
| 4 | 544 | Kelten (S. Krmnicek et alii – Taormina) |
| 5 | 530 | Aksumite coins (W. West – Taormina) |
| 6 | 472 | Peninsula iberica (J. de Francisco Olmos & J. de Santiago Fernandez – Glasgow) |
| 7 | 459 | Italia: X-XX secolo (L. Travaini – Glasgow) |
| 8 | 446 | France (X-XIXe s.) (M. Bompaire – Glasgow) |
| 9 | 429 | France X-XXe s. (M. Bompaire – Taormina) |
| 10 | 420 | Italia (medals) (V. Casarotto & V. Vettorato – Taormina) |
| 11 | 407 | Byzanz (M. Grünbart – Glasgow) |
| 12 | 394 | Byzance (C. Morrisson – Madrid) |
| 13 | 383 | Russia (P.G. Gaïdukov – Glasgow) |
| 14 | 381 | Roman Provincial Coinage (V. Heuchert – Madrid) |
| 14 | 381 | Islamic numismatics (North Africa to Central Asia) (L. Ilisch – Glasgow) |
| 16 | 373 | Italia medievale e moderna (E.A. Arslan, A. Rovelli, L. Travaini – Berlin) |
| 17 | 359 | Oceania (W.R. Bloom – Glasgow) |
| 18 | 356 | The Roman Republic (B. Woytek & R. Witschonke – Taormina) |

[6] Due to the combined papers of Osmund Bopearachchi, Ryka Gyselen & François Thierry.

| | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 19 | 349 | Greece and the Balkans in the Hellenistic period (K. Liampi – Madrid) |
| 20 | 348 | England, Wales and Scotland: Medieval (M. Blackburn – Berlin) |
| 21 | 345 | Deutschland (U. Klein, B. Kluge & B. Schoner – Berlin) |
| 22 | 343 | France (987–1500) (M. Bompaire – Madrid) |
| 22 | 343 | Oceania (W.R. Bloom – Taormina) |
| 24 | 341 | Italia: XI–XX secolo (L. Passera & A. Saccocci – Taormina) |
| 25 | 314 | USA, Canada, Central and South America (medals) (A.M. Stahl – Berlin) |
| 26 | 312 | Balkanraum und nördliche Schwarzmeergebiet (U. Peter & V.F. Stolba – Taormina) |
| 27 | 310 | Von Pertinax bis zur Diocletianischen Reform (M. Peter – Madrid) |
| 28 | 307 | Rome from the Death of Caesar to Commodus (J. van Heesch – Berlin) |
| 29 | 305 | De Pertinax à la réforme de Dioclétien (V. Drost – Taormina) |
| 30 | 303 | De Pertinax à la Réforme de Dioclétien (S. Estiot – Glasgow) |

Table 4. Contributions of the last four Surveys documented by more than 300 entries

There is only one subsection that appears four times in Table 4: Italian medieval and modern coinages (ranks 3, 7, 16 and 24), while two others are attested three times: French medieval and modern coinages (ranks 8, 9 and 22) and Roman 3rd c. coinages (ranks 27, 29 and 30). Attested twice in this list of top-scorers are Islamic coinages (ranks 1 and 14), Byzantine coinages (ranks 11 and 12) and, presumably to the astonishment of many, coinages from Oceania (ranks 17 and 22).

Beyond specific papers (Table 4) and looking at the various fields, with some grouping of sections when appropriate, we may build the following table for the latest three *Surveys* (Table 5):

| Rank | Fields | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total | Yearly average |
|------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 1 | Oriental: Islamic coinages | 367 | 479 | 1,149 | 1,995 | 111 |
| 2 | Greek : Greece & Balkans | 681 | 390 | 579 | 1,650 | 92 |
| 3 | MA&M: Italy | 646 | 459 | 341 | 1,446 | 80 |
| 4 | MA&M: France | 343 | 446 | 429 | 1,218 | 68 |
| 5 | MA&M: Great Britain | 453 | 372 | 290 | 1,115 | 62 |
| 6 | MA&M: Byzantium | 394 | 407 | 278 | 1,079 | 60 |
| 7 | MA&M: Spain & Portugal | 276 | 472 | 292 | 1,040 | 58 |
| 8 | Greek: Asia Minor | 435 | 268 | 323 | 1,026 | 57 |
| 9 | MA&M: Scandinavia & Balticum | 346 | 294 | 349 | 989 | 55 |
| 10 | MA&M: Russia | 137 | 383 | 441 | 961 | 53 |
| 11 | Rome: Pertinax to Diocletian | 310 | 303 | 305 | 918 | 51 |
| 12 | Rome: Roman Provincials | 381 | 191 | 330 | 902 | 50 |

Table 5. Fields of the three latest Surveys documented by more than 900 entries

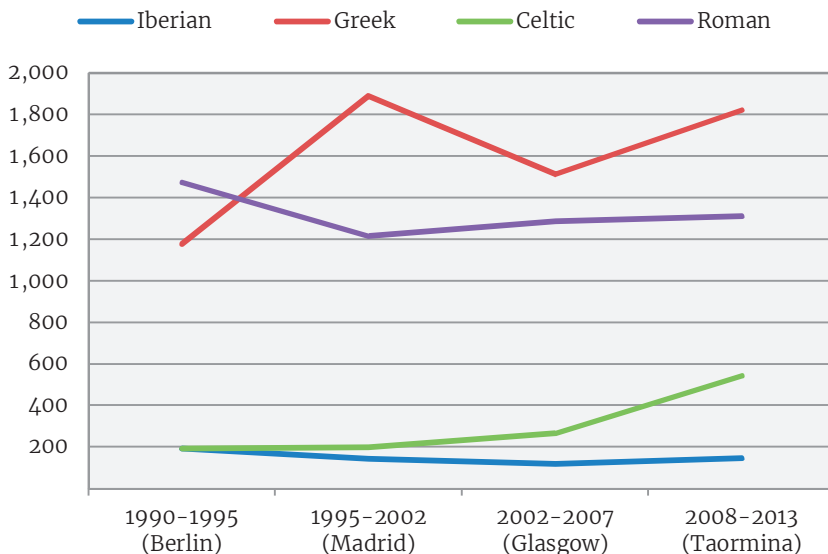
There are only 12 fields with an average superior to 300: none for medals, 1 for oriental coinages, 4 for ancient coinages (2 for Greek and 2 for Roman), and 9 for medieval and modern coinages. As it stands and putting aside the stratospheric result obtained for Islamic coinages in 2015, it is likely that continental ancient Greece is the most investigated field in the broad realm of numismatics (with an average of nearly two publications per week).

3.2. Western ancient coinages

Interesting trends emerge if we look closer at the four main sections of each *Survey*. The first main section is traditionally devoted to western ancient coinages. Data for western ancient coinages have been summed up in Table 6 and Graph 4.

| | 1997 Berlin | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total | Survey average | Yearly Average |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Various | 40 | 93 | 69 | 49 | 251 | 63 | 10 |
| Greek Numismatics | 1,179 | 1,891 | 1,513 | 1,824 | 6,407 | 1,602 | 267 |
| Celtic Numismatics | 191 | 197 | 266 | 544 | 1,198 | 300 | 50 |
| Iberian numismatics | 193 | 141 | 118 | 144 | 596 | 149 | 25 |
| Roman Numismatics | 1,474 | 1,215 | 1,287 | 1,312 | 5,288 | 1,322 | 220 |
| Total | 3,077 | 3,537 | 3,253 | 3,873 | 13,740 | 3,435 | 572 |

Table 6. General data for western ancient coinages



Graph 4. General data for western ancient coinages

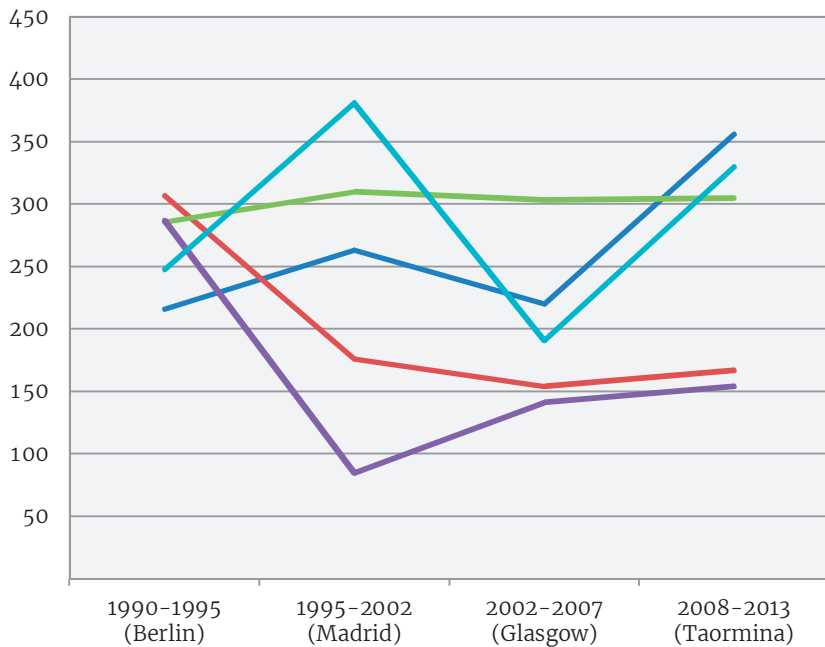
Greek and Roman numismatics are obviously the largest fields of research. As indicated by the last column of Table 5, there is approximately one new publication every working day for Greek and Roman numismatics (yearly averages of 267 and 220). But while Iberian numismatics seem to decline slightly, it seems that Celtic coinages are in an ascending trend, in line with the current broad and keen interest in the Iron Age.

A closer look at Roman numismatics also allows the detection of peculiar trends (Table 7 and Graph 5).

| | 1997 Berlin | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total | Survey average | Yearly Average |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Roman Republic | 216 | 263 | 220 | 356 | 1,055 | 264 | 44 |
| Augustus to Commodus | 307 | 176 | 154 | 167 | 804 | 201 | 34 |
| Pertinax to Diocletian | 286 | 310 | 303 | 305 | 1,204 | 301 | 50 |
| 4th and 5th c. AD | 287 | 85 | 141 | 154 | 667 | 167 | 28 |
| Roman Provincials | 248 | 381 | 191 | 330 | 1,150 | 288 | 48 |

Table 7. Data for Roman coinages

— Roman Republic — Augustus to Commodus — Pertinax to Diocletian
— 4th-5th c. — Roman Provincials



Graph 5. Data for Roman coinages

While the 3rd c. (from Pertinax to the reform of Diocletian) is remarkably stable at a high level (as already noted, see Table 4), this is less true for the other subsections. One notices a slight decline for the High Empire as well as for the Late Empire (4th and 5th c.), while Roman Republic and Roman provincials continue to grow.

3.3. Western medieval and modern coinages

Medieval and modern western coinages have always formed the biggest section of the *Surveys* (see Table 1).

| | 1997 Berlin | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total | Survey average | Yearly Average |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Various | 19 | - | - | - | 19 | | |
| Byzantium | 272 | 394 | 407 | 278 | 1,351 | 338 | 56 |
| Early Middle Ages ⁷ | 244 | 178 | 182 | 468 | 1,072 | 268 | 45 |
| Scandinavia+Baltic | 338 | 346 | 394 | 249 | 1,327 | 332 | 55 |
| Poland | 231 | 279 | 266 | 212 | 988 | 247 | 41 |
| Germany | 345 | 242 | 250 | 276 | 1,113 | 278 | 46 |
| Benelux | 194 | 176 | 193 | 100 | 663 | 141 | 23 |
| Great Britain | 646 | 453 | 372 | 290 | 1,761 | 440 | 73 |
| France | 519 | 343 | 446 | 429 | 1,737 | 434 | 72 |
| Spain & Portugal | 262 | 276 | 472 | 292 | 1,302 | 326 | 54 |
| Italy | 373 | 646 | 459 | 341 | 1,819 | 455 | 76 |
| Switzerland | 83 | 90 | 113 | 145 | 431 | 108 | 18 |
| Austria | 92 | 114 | 122 | 97 | 425 | 106 | 18 |
| Balkans (to Greece) | 331 | 236 | 407 | 320 | 1,294 | 324 | 54 |
| Russia | 131 | 137 | 383 | 441 | 1,092 | 273 | 46 |
| Americas | 239 | 197 | 244 | 299 | 979 | 245 | 41 |
| Africa | 103 | 113 | 70 | 530 | 816 | 204 | 34 |
| Oceania | 78 | 126 | 359 | 343 | 906 | 227 | 38 |
| Total | 4,481 | 4,346 | 5,139 | 5,110 | 19,095 | 4,774 | 796 |

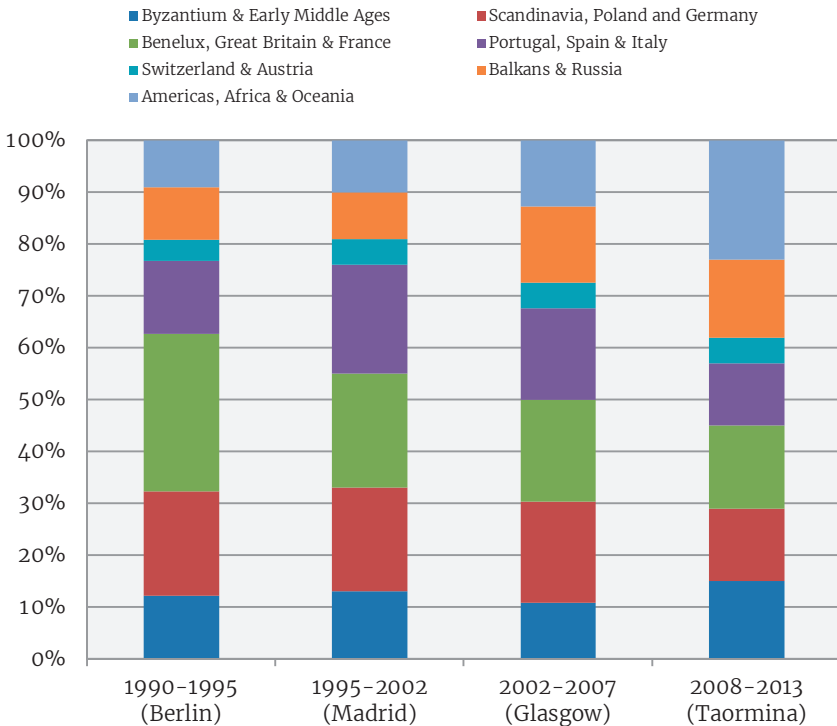
Table 8. Western medieval and modern coinages

[7] This is a composite section including coinages from the Merovingians, Carolingians, Vandals, Lombards, Visigoths, etc. as well as the Latin Orient.

As indicated by Table 8, Italy (1819), Great Britain (1761) and France (1737) are the most referenced subsections. But their relative share of the total is declining as indicated by Table 9 and Graph 6.

| | 1997 Berlin | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Byzantium + Early Middle Ages | 516 | 572 | 589 | 746 | 2,423 |
| Scandinavia + Poland + Germany | 914 | 867 | 910 | 737 | 3,428 |
| Benelux + Great Britain + France | 1,359 | 972 | 1,011 | 819 | 4,061 |
| Portugal + Spain + Italy | 635 | 922 | 931 | 633 | 3,121 |
| Switzerland + Austria | 175 | 204 | 235 | 242 | 856 |
| Balkans + Russia | 462 | 373 | 790 | 761 | 2,386 |
| Americas + Africa + Oceania | 420 | 436 | 673 | 1,172 | 2,701 |
| Total | 4,481 | 4,346 | 5,139 | 5,110 | 19,076 |

Table 9. Western medieval and modern coinages, grouped by areas



Graph 6. Western medieval and modern coinages, grouped by areas

There are significant changes in this pattern. The group formed by 'Benelux, Great Britain and France' no longer dominates the others (passing from 30% in 1997 to 16% in 2015). A negative trend also affects the groups 'Scandinavia, Poland and Germany' (from 20% to 14%) and 'Portugal, Spain and Italy' (from 14% to 12%). In this global world, the emerging groups are 'the Balkans and Russia' (from 10% to 15%) and much more even the conglomerate of 'the Americas, Africa and Oceania' (from 9% to 23%).

3.4. *Oriental numismatics*

Oriental numismatics groups obvious subsections such as 'Islamic coinages', 'China' or 'Japan' with others which prove to be less easy to define, in particular for pre-islamic Central Asia. It is also a section for which it has been difficult to obtain a report systematically while some reports prove to be gigantic (see Table 4: ranks 1 [Islamic section, 2015] and 2 [China 2009]).

| | 1997 Berlin | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total | Survey average | Yearly Average |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Islamic coinages | 421 | 367 | 479 | 1,149 | 2,416 | 604 | 101 |
| Central Asia | 334 | 306 | 379 | 186 | 1,105 | 276 | 46 |
| East Asia | 296 | 360 | 1,031 | 253 | 1,940 | 485 | 81 |
| Total | 1,051 | 1,033 | 1,889 | 1,388 | 5,361 | 1,340 | 223 |

Table 10. Numismatic literature on oriental coinages grouped by areas (1990-2013)

These biases of the data make it more difficult to detect any trend. It is likely, however, that this section is the one with the fastest rate of growth (Table 10).

3.5. *Medals*

The last main section of the *Surveys* is devoted to medals. Although well behind the sections on medieval and modern coinages or ancient coinages, this section generates an important flow of publication. We may consider that there is one paper on medals for every four or five papers on coins (see Table 1).

| | 1997 Berlin | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total | Survey average | Yearly Average |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Introduction | 13 | 22 | 21 | - | 56 | 14 | 2 |
| Scandinavia + Baltic | 121 | 144 | 181 | 117 | 563 | 141 | 23 |
| Poland | 159 | 149 | - | 112 | 420 | 105 | 18 |
| Germany | 167 | 183 | 96 | 136 | 582 | 146 | 24 |
| Benelux | 120 | 185 | 182 | 280 | 767 | 192 | 32 |
| Great Britain | 96 | 84 | 78 | 64 | 322 | 81 | 13 |
| France | 117 | 103 | 86 | 85 | 391 | 98 | 16 |
| Spain & Portugal | 70 | 175 | 167 | 180 | 592 | 148 | 25 |
| Italy | 126 | 154 | 254 | 420 | 954 | 239 | 40 |
| Switzerland | 54 | 59 | 58 | 76 | 247 | 62 | 10 |
| Austria | 103 | 236 | 138 | 65 | 542 | 136 | 23 |
| Balkans (to Greece) | 209 | 325 | 407 | 216 | 1,157 | 289 | 48 |
| Russia | 61 | 193 | 195 | 166 | 615 | 154 | 26 |
| Americas | 314 | 280 | 135 | 66 | 795 | 199 | 33 |
| Oceania | - | 34 | 100 | 170 | 304 | 76 | 13 |
| Total | 1,730 | 2,326 | 2,098 | 2,153 | 8,307 | 2,047 | 341 |

Table 11. Numismatic literature on medals (1990-2013)

As the birthplace of modern medals, Italy is the single country which not surprisingly attracts the greatest amount of interest in the literature. The Low Countries (Benelux), Germany and Austria are also well served. Compared to the size of the population, Austria is likely to be the country producing the highest amount of literature *per capita* related to medals.

4. General comments

The data provided by the last four *Surveys of Numismatic Research* strongly deny the vision that numismatics is an old-fashioned discipline poorly connected with the present world. On the contrary, the field continues to grow, despite the fact that it is, to be sure, one of the oldest established disciplines in the realm of what are now called the humanities, with a strong tradition for scientific research going back to the Renaissance. With about 2,000 publications and 25,000 printed pages per year, this is not an insignificant field when compared with others.

It is a field sensitive to the language issue. Although multilingualism is fortunately not about to die, English is more and more dominant, passing from 50% to 60% of all the literature in 24 years.

As in every field of knowledge, trends affect locally the size of scientific research. These trends could be chronological (as with the Greeks and the Celts); they are above all geographical. They reflect the global world we are living in. Some sections of oriental numismatics are growing fast but none as fast as Oceania due to the thorough contributions of Walter Bloom (see Table 12).

| | 1997 Berlin | 2003 Madrid | 2009 Glasgow | 2015 Taormina | Total | Survey average | Yearly Average |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Oceania (coins) | 78 | 126 | 359 | 343 | 906 | 227 | 38 |
| Oceania (medals) | – | 34 | 100 | 170 | 304 | 76 | 13 |
| Total | 78 | 160 | 459 | 513 | 1,210 | 303 | 50 |

Table 12. Numismatic literature for coins and medals in Oceania (1990–2013)

Whatever the definition of what should be retained or not, who would have believed yesterday that Oceania could provide more contributions on local coins and medals (513 in 2015) than Great Britain (354), Spain (400) or Germany (412)?

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- de Callataÿ, F. (2014), How poor are current bibliometrics in the humanities? Numismatic literature as a case study, *American Journal of Numismatics. Second Series*, 26, 275-316.

**Annex: Details of entries for the four latest
(1990–**

| Berlin 1997 (1990–1995) | | Madrid 2003 (1995–2001) | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Introduction | A. Burnett 3 p. – 39 ref. | General introduction | C. Alfaro-Asins & A. Burnett 4 p. |
| Méthodologie, techniques, historiographie | C. Morrisson 2 p. | Numismatica general Introduccion | K. Jonsson & J. Torres 3 p. |
| History of numismatics | G. van der Meer 13 p. – 99 ref. | History of numismatics | C.E. Dekesel 8 p. – 50 ref. |
| Méthodes d'analyse appliquées à la numismatique | J.-N. Barrandon & M.F. Guerra 6 p. – 85 ref. | Scientific Analysis | M.R. Cowell 5 p. – 24 ref. |
| Statistics in Numismatics | W.W. Esty 7 p. – 35 ref. | Statistics in Numismatics | W.W. Esty 7 p. – 49 ref. |
| Computer applications | K. Jonsson 3 p. – 8 ref. | Computers and Internet | D.G. Wigg 8 p. – 21 ref. |
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