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HANS DIETRICH SCHULTZ (27.1.1934 STETTIN–20.3.2023 BERLIN)

Hans Dietrich Schultz studied classical philology with Werner Hartke and Johannes Irmscher at the Humboldt University. He completed an internship with Günther Klaffenbach in the *Inscriptiones Graecae* at the German Academy of Sciences and attended seminars in classical archaeology with Ludger Alscher. All his studies were rated as good or very good.¹

From 1951, Eberhard Erxleben was responsible for ancient coins in the coin cabinet of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin under the direction of Arthur Suhle. After the return of the coin collection from the Soviet Union was foreseeable,² Arthur Suhle requested the employment of Dipl. Phil. Hans Dietrich Schultz as a research assistant in October 1958, after Eberhard Erxleben had “thoroughly checked his ability to read and recognize ancient coins”.³ In January 1959, Arthur Suhle repeated his application for Hans Dietrich Schultz to be employed and wrote: “Since it became known that our collection is back in the old rooms, we have received inquiries and requests from Western countries, from the USA, from England, France, etc. All these inquiries must be answered and are extremely important for us in international exchange. We are thereby made aware of the books that are being written, and of the books themselves, when we supply appropriate plaster casts and photographs for them. This work is extremely time consuming and in itself requires one researcher. But now it is necessary to look through and organize the 150,000-specimen collection.⁴ An inventory of the Greek coins must also be prepared, which so far has not been done in a detailed way. It is impossible for Mr Erxleben to complete these tasks alone, which is why a second person is absolutely necessary, and which we always had in the past for the antique department”.⁵ Ultimately, Hans Dietrich Schultz was hired in September 1959.

* Director of the Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

¹ “Antrag auf Einstellung eines wissenschaftlichen Mitarbeiters”. Arthur Suhle’s letter to General Director Gerhard Rudolf Meyer from October 8, 1958. Central Archive of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin VA 4377.

² SCHMIDT 2020, pp. 121–127. The numismatic collection reached Berlin in November 1958.

³ “Einstellung eines wissenschaftlichen Mitarbeiters”. Arthur Suhle’s letter to General Director Gerhard Rudolf Meyer from January 9, 1959. Central Archive of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin VA 4377.

⁴ What is meant here are the holdings of Greek and Roman coins; the total holdings in 1958 amounted to over 500,000 objects.

⁵ “Antrag auf Einstellung eines wissenschaftlichen Mitarbeiters”. Arthur Suhle’s letter to General Director Gerhard Rudolf Meyer from October 8, 1958. Central Archive of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin VA 4377.

For the next thirty years, Hans Dietrich Schultz was involved in restoring the original order of the collection of 152,000 ancient coins. What he achieved there cannot be overestimated. It was necessary to examine every coin and its place on the trays.⁶ Current online publication of our holdings would be unimaginable without his detective work in reconstructing the collection's original arrangement. Perhaps his most important written work is the 1988 comprehensive final report on this revision, which does not exist in such detailed form for other collections (Fig. 1).

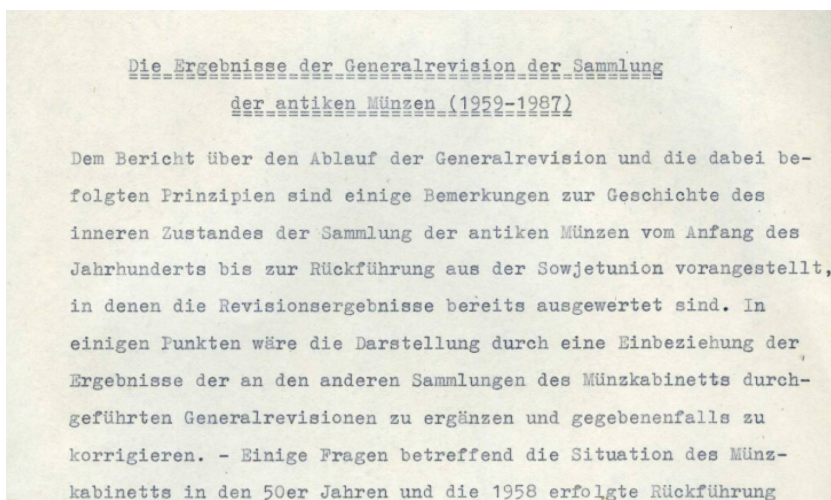


Fig. 1 - Beginning of the 1988 comprehensive report by Hans Dietrich Schultz on the general revision of the collection of ancient coins.
Coin Cabinet's archive, screenshot.

One of the difficulties of working after 1945 was that the original large library of the coin cabinet remained in the Soviet Union. Inquiries to the cabinet related to literature triggered inquiries in response if the book title in question had not yet been acquired for the library. The library was also essential for restoring the collection's original arrangement. All of this meant that Hans Dietrich Schultz had to invest a great deal of energy in reconstructing the specialist library as an essential working tool for the coin cabinet. Nothing was easy, not even recruiting bookbinders. The procurement of literature and auction catalogues from western countries led to conflicts with customs and embarrassing questioning.⁷ The only way to

⁶ On the general revision, see also KLUGE 2020, pp. 132-133.

⁷ E.g. "Aussprache in der Zollangelegenheit" from July 23, 1979 (Archive of the Coin Cabinet): "Heute wurde nochmals mit dem Koll. Schultz eine Aussprache über die von der Zollverwaltung beanstandete versuchte Einfuhr eines BRD-Kataloges über wissenschaftliche Bücher aus der VR Polen in die DDR geführt. Nach Darlegung des Sachver-

procure older literature and the literature published ‘in the West’ without foreign currency was to have the many thousands of plaster casts of coins paid for in the form of books and catalogues, bypassing the foreign currency-hungry authorities. Each cast was carefully inscribed by him on the back. A folder with carbon copies of the lists of coins sent in the form of plaster casts to numismatists worldwide remains in the coin cabinet. The amount of time associated with the numerous requests for plaster casts (since 1990 also with black and white photos) was immense. With similar dedication, Hans Dietrich Schultz oversaw the 120,000-specimen collection of casts, which he, together with the restorers, brought to the good condition it is in today. This collection goes back to Julius Friedländer in the 19th century and supplements the original holdings, sometimes offering valuable information that is no longer available elsewhere.⁸

In 1964, Eberhard Erxleben moved to the *Inscriptiones Graecae* at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. At the suggestion of Arthur Suhle, the director of the coin cabinet at the time, the classical archaeologist Sabine Schultz moved from the Near Eastern Museum to the Coin Cabinet (Fig. 2). Until her retirement in 1992, the Schultz couple were in charge of 152,000 Greek, Roman and Byzantine coins. In 1972, Hans Dietrich Schultz was appointed head of the Greek and Roman department and in 1981 custodian.

Hans Dietrich Schultz put himself at the service of the museum needs associated with the care of ancient coins. This also included the printing of the work on the Roman medallions left behind by his predecessor, Heinrich Dressel, which Kurt Regling had already edited. The three and a half pages in the foreword testify to the fate of the manuscript, which was originally intended as volume 43 of the *Zeitschrift für Numismatik*.⁹ In 1942, printing was already underway when the Weidmannsche Verlagsbuchhandlung was destroyed. The eventual publication by the same publisher was one of those cases of East-West cooperation in numismatics, of which there were a number in Berlin. The Berlin Coin Cabinet remained a place frequented by West German and international numismatists, while its personnel restored and guaranteed the ability to work even under difficult conditions. The fact that between 1961 and 1990 it was almost impossible for them to travel to western countries and the countries of origin of ancient coins was an addi-

halts, der auch das spätere Schreiben des Koll. Schultz an die Zollverwaltung wegen Freigabe des eingezogenen Titels einschloß, erklärte Koll. Schultz, daß er nicht in privaten, sondern in Museumsinteresse gehandelt habe. Es wird von ihm der Vorwurf anerkannt, die Zollvorschriften und die innerbetriebliche Arbeitsordnung verletzt zu haben. Koll. Schultz hat aus der Angelegenheit Lehren gezogen und wird in Zukunft die bestehenden Vorschriften strikt beachten”. A western perspective on this subject can be found in the memoirs of the Swiss numismatist Albert Beck.

⁸ BERTHOLD 2015, p. 108 (Staniolo impression of a Syracusan gold coin, strengthened on the back with wax, made by Julius Friedländer in the collection of Baron Oliva in Campo-basso).

⁹ Schultz in DRESSEL 1972-1973.

tional burden. The construction of the Berlin Wall also had personal consequences for Hans Dietrich Schultz, separating him from his mother, who lived in West Berlin.¹⁰



Fig. 2 – Hans Dietrich Schultz (right) and Sabine Schultz (left) with Minister of Culture Hans-Joachim Hoffmann at the opening of the permanent exhibition on ancient numismatics in the Pergamon Museum (1982).

On his retirement in 1999, after nearly forty years at the Coin Cabinet, his colleague, Bernd Kluge, published an acknowledgment. It emphasized the care and dedication with which Schultz had curated the collection: “His expertise, the depth of information he provided, the service to the collection and its users made Hans-Dietrich Schultz a sought-after and valued partner.”¹¹ Various honours he received include: a corresponding membership of the American Numismatic Society (1976) and the German Archaeological Institute (1990), an honorary membership of the International Numismatic Commission (1997), and, together with his wife Sabine Schultz, the 1999 Eligius Prize.¹² In 1996, when I started working at the Coin Cabinet as a museum assistant in training, Hans Dietrich Schultz was to me a role

¹⁰ In 1987, Herta Schultz still lived at Münchenerstraße 21 in Berlin-Schöneberg, where she celebrated her 80th birthday on April 8th.

¹¹ KLUGE 1999, p. 122.

¹² OVERBECK 1999, p. 560.

model and trainer who introduced me to the secrets of museum work and the peculiarities of the Coin Cabinet. The joint lunch in the museum canteen was more valuable than all the printed museum stories. Here I first heard about the affair with Kaplan Zimmer, who, caught as a thief, was spared by the attentive curators from being reported and inevitably deported to the Soviet Union; yet he did not thank them with a remorseful return of the stolen goods, but rather settled in the West. There were many such unwritten stories. He conveyed to me the respect for the achievements of previous generations, for the objects themselves and the idea that, in a museum institution, the service to guest scholars and visitors is a priority.

For the 25-year-old university graduate Hans Dietrich Schultz, as well as for his superior Arthur Suhle, it was clear that part of the museum's work should also include a doctorate. The first topic, the supervision of which was undertaken by Arthur Suhle, concerned the depictions of Roman ships. Various factors impeded progress.¹³ Later, the intended dissertation topics changed.¹⁴ Writing a doctoral thesis alongside museum work is a challenge, even if the employer makes some time available for it. In the Coin Cabinet, most employees succeeded; in other museums the rate was worse. This did not necessarily mean poorer opportunities for advancement in the museum. It was possible to attain the post of director without a doctoral title, but in an academic environment, the qualification played at least a mental role. As an author, Hans Dietrich Schultz often failed because of the high demands he made of himself. Repeatedly he lacked material, the latest information, a further check of the results. Carefully and cleverly, he always put together the right selection of objects for exhibitions and documented everything conscientiously. However, his wife, Sabine Schultz, often published the exhibition catalogues and contributions.¹⁵ What remains are advanced die studies and research that accompanied his professional life and retirement to the end.¹⁶ His hidden achievements include translations from Latin that he made for his own pleasure. What he has published is of the highest scientific quality (see below). A much larger written legacy of Hans Dietrich Schultz survived on the tickets in the collection cabinets, in the internal files of the Coin Cabinet (particularly the extensive files on the general revision of ancient coins) and the extensive correspondence he kept.

¹³ Zum Stand der Dissertationen im Münzkabinett. Arthur Suhle's letter to General Director Gerhard Rudolf Meyer from February 24, 1964. Central Archive of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin VA 4379.

¹⁴ Vgl. Minutes of conversation from September 1, 1978 (Archive of the Coin Cabinet).

¹⁵ WEISSER 2023, pp. 139–140.

¹⁶ In particular: the 1912 hoard from Samos (local civic bronze coins, deposited in the Heraion of Samos after 276 AD), the coinage of Samos in the Roman Imperial period (a die corpus), the Roman gold treasure of Sakha 1930, intended for the *Numismatische Zeitschrift*, the denarius of P. Crassus M. f. Lectures on this, e.g. in London 1986, Berlin 1987, Athens 1988, Munich 1994.

The older generation of numismatists knows how much they owe him. Hans Dietrich Schultz died alone in his beautifully furnished and well-kept apartment on 20 March 2023, after his wife Sabine had preceded him on 31 December 2021. The move to a nursing home was imminent. Even if a lonely death is not to be wished for anyone, it may be a small consolation that he was spared the liquidation of his apartment and the separation from his research materials, which he delayed until the end.

There remains the honoured memory of the serious, quiet colleague who inspired companions with his botanical and historical knowledge on long hikes around Potsdam, a scientist who performed his service calmly and undeterred for the benefit of the Coin Cabinet and ancient numismatics.

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Editorship

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Antike Münzen. Bildheft zur Ausstellung des Münzkabinetts, Das Kabinett 3, Berlin, 1997.

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