

EDITORS' FOREWORD

The aim of the international joint research project “Sylloge Nummorum Sasanidarum” carried out by the Numismatic Commission of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, and the department “Mondes iranien et indien” at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Ivry-sur-Seine, is the publication of three most important European collections of Sasanian and Arab-Sasanian coins housed in the Museums in Berlin, Paris and Vienna. Two out of the total of six volumes have been published so far (vol. 1 by M. Alram and R. Gyselen, vol. 3 by N. Schindel). Apart from presenting the coins in sylloge format, a detailed general analysis of Sasanian coinage and its historical background is also incorporated in these volumes.

No single collection, however large it may be, covers all known variants of types or mints. Therefore, the inclusion of additional material to SNS Paris – Berlin – Vienna has been pivotal. While this remains the main series which also contains the typological references which replace Robert Göbl's “Sasanian Numismatics” from 1971, it has always been planned to cover other collections in additional volumes.

The present study, compiled by Nikolaus Schindel, presents the Sasanian and Arab-Sasanian holdings of the major public coin collections in Israel. It is a highly welcome addition to the SNS main series, especially when it comes to the Arab-Sasanian coins which are of high quality, and comprise several rare pieces. Also the large Late Sasanian copper hoard housed at the Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv (*Appendix 1*) is noteworthy, and greatly enlarges our knowledge of Late Sasanian copper coinage.

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