

et de grouper ces pièces pour leur étude"). The definition of the method quoted gives a very inadequate picture of how the writer tackles his material, but the process of research is explained in minute detail in the work itself. One need only remark here that the coins and hoards are studied as groups, as autonomous entities. The analytical method used comes very close to that introduced 10-15 years ago in Sweden by the archaeologist Mats P. Malmer and his numismatist wife, Brita Malmer, now Director of the State Museum of Coins in Stockholm. The latter uses the method above all in her doctoral dissertation of 1966, "Nordiska mynt före år 1000" (Nordic Coins before A.D. 1000, with a comprehensive English summary).

Dr. Malmer's Nordic Coins has attracted far too little attention, apart from that shown by those experts who participated in the research project into the Viking hoards in Sweden (I have seen a short summary, but not proper evaluation, by M. Jean Lafaurie in the *Revue Numismatique* 1966, 343-345). Now, there are remarkable affinities both in approach and in subject between the studies of M. Colbert de Beaulieu and Dr. Malmer. Both have as their field the study of uninscribed anonymous coins, both are consequently forced to elicit all their information from that inherent in the coins themselves or that can be obtained from the circumstances of the discovery or the burial of the hoard. The French characteroscopy does not, however, differ very much from the Swedish typological method, although in the latter case typological criteria (*characteristics*) also include technical data, such as weight, diameter, metallic composition of the coin, and die axis. These criteria are to be considered valid evidence in the classification of the coins given that their properties are independent of other aspects of the process of coin production. Thus, Mrs. Malmer's methodology takes us somewhat further than the characteroscopy of M. Colbert de Beaulieu. I may add that Mrs. Malmer is severe in her disapproval of references to "style" and "stylistic criteria" unless the meaning of the reference is exactly defined verbally. Numismatists who cannot obey this rule are regarded as "impressionists".

M. Colbert de Beaulieu would most certainly not rank among them; his efforts to make characteroscopy and *la méthodologie des ensembles* an exact science are commendable and impressive. And the historical results of 360 pages of painstaking analysis are certainly of the highest interest although some of them at least may not remain unchallenged. He maintains that Roman coins were not handled by the Gauls before 58 B.C., although they may have circulated among the invaders during the war. This goes both for the Roman province and for Gallia Comata. As regards the money circulated prior to the Roman conquest, one has to distinguish several phases of development and different areas of circulation, starting with the introduction of the gold stater standard. The foundation of Narbo effected considerable changes in the hinterland; silver coins of regionally varying standards came into use. Comata, however, stuck to the gold stater until c. 80 B.C., when in the territories of the *Aedui*, *Sequani*, *Lingones* and probably the *Leuci* in the East, the silver standard of the Roman denarius was introduced. Along the rivers Seine and Marne the *Parisi*, exceptionally, were able to maintain a stable gold standard almost to the end of the period of independence. All, however, changed with the arrival of the Romans, although the process of Romanization and unification was slow and painful. It was brought to its conclusion only through the coinage of Augustus.

Patrick Bruun

Peter-Hugo Martin: Die anonymen Münzen des Jahres 68 nach Christus. Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz 1974. 95 p., 12 plates. DM 78.-.

A systematic study of the autonomous coinages issued in the course of the rebellions under Nero and after his death has long been overdue. Harold Mattingly dominated the field for 40 years (his first contribution was published

in 1914, his last in 1954); Colin Kraay with two papers in 1949 and 1952, respectively, is almost the only other figure of note. Mr. Martin now tackles the question of these coinages afresh, and does so comprehensively.

Many problems have been connected with these coinages, the origin and range of which have posed questions so far not satisfactorily answered. Mr. Martin has collected a substantial body of material, vastly superior to the lists of RIC and BMCRE.

The coins he has brought together and studied were previously generally divided into three groups:

- (1) a Spanish group connected with Galba,
- (2) a Gallic group originating in the camp of Vindex and
- (3) a group of disputed date and origin, normally, however, connected with Vitellius.

The analysis of the coins and the coin groups shows that they are all part of the same population as can be shown by frequent die linkage (see diagrams, pp. 19-23, 28-32, 37). A grand chart (p. 87) maps die links, correspondence of rev. types and other similarities, thus providing us with a visual illustration of the coherence of this group. The origin of the group is identified as Galba's entourage in Spain, and this finding would seem to terminate a controversy of long standing.

Whereas the identification of the group can scarcely be challenged after Mr. Martin's searching inquiry, the historical evaluation of the numismatic conclusions is a different matter. Nevertheless, Mr. Martin's book with its conscientious coin catalogue and excellent plates offers the historian a new body of source material on a troubled period in Roman history, very unsatisfactorily covered by the literary sources. We owe Mr. Martin a debt of gratitude for his achievement.

Patrick Bruun

The McGill University Collection of Greek and Roman Coins. Edited by *Michael Woloch*. B.R. Grüner, Amsterdam 1975. Vol. I: **Roman Coins**, by *D.H.E. Whitehead*. 239 p., XXV plates. Hfl. 60.-. Vol. II: **Greek Gold and Silver Coins**, by *Franziska E. Shlosser*. 72 p., XXV plates. Hfl. 30.-.

Publications of source material are always welcome. A decade ago the McGill University of Montreal suddenly found itself the possessor of a collection of, mainly, ancient coins, the origin of the collection and the provenance of the coins being unknown. The editor, Prof. Woloch, however, assumes that the lot constitutes a private collection which was passed on to the university around the turn of the century.

The Classics department conscientiously identified and listed the coins, and as a consequence two neat volumes are now available to international scholars. The Roman coins of vol. I number about 800. They represent nearly all time periods and mints. The Greek coins, mostly silver, number 324, 213 of which are Tarentine. All specimens are illustrated (the Greek imperials will be published in the third vol. of the series). The 25 plates of both volumes are uneven in quality.

Patrick Bruun

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Aspetti e problemi dell'Etruria interna. Atti dell'VIII Convegno Nazionale di Studi Etruschi ed Italici, Orvieto 27-30 giugno 1972. Leo S. Olschki Editore, Firenze 1974. 346 p., LXXI plates.

The importance of a congress report may depend on (1) the point in time of the congress, with regard to the general progress of the branch of learning in question, (2) the representative character of the participants of the congress,