

— ad laborem inscriptiones interpretandi pertinet. Praeterea etiam alia argumenta, cur nomina a cognominibus separentur, afferri possunt, cur in unum congerantur, — ut mihi quidem videtur — nulla.

*Olli Salomies*

*Robert Göbl: System und Chronologie der Münzprägung des Kušānreiches. Veröffentlichungen der Numismatischen Kommission. Sonderband. Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien 1984. 94 S., 180 Tafeln, 40 Tabellen. ATS 2.100.*

Robert Göbl is a well-known authority in the field of classical and Irano-Indian numismatics. During some 30 years his learned contributions have shed much light on the history of the Kushans, the Iranian dynasty which founded one of the great empires of the early centuries A.D. and was the heir to Hellenism in northwestern India and Central Asia. Archaeology, epigraphy and numismatics have recently added much to our knowledge of this obscure period and shown how important its assimilated culture with its Iranian, Indian and Hellenistic elements has been for the art, culture and even religion of the vast area extending from Central India to Soviet Middle Asia in the northwest and to Chinese Central Asia in the northeast. Bactria has ceased to be a *terra incognita* with merely the short accounts of classical authors and some coins as the only evidence of its past. Excavations in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and China have also shown how the Hellenistic elements were little by little merged into local traditions, where they often had a lasting influence. A new epigraphy, the so-called Bactrian epigraphy, has developed. But for history and chronology, the numismatic evidence still holds the key position and its quantity has greatly increased since the classical studies of the 19th and early 20th century.

Göbl's new work is a kind of summary of his studies. He deals extensively with the imperial and late Kushan coinage, constructing its evolution and sequence. Much attention is given to typological questions and the identification of individual mints. Two excursuses deal with related Iranian coinage. Questions of history, chronology and iconography are discussed. All relevant coins are fully depicted in excellent plates and forty tables deal with typology, chronology (including the individual coinings) and legends. All numismatic material on the Bactrian language is collected and published here. Although Göbl's absolute chronology — beginning with the Kushan era in exactly 232 A.D. and introduced already in his earlier publications — has not won universal approval, his arguments are always worthy of attention. The book is an important contribution to this difficult yet increasingly important field.

*Klaus Karttunen*

*Gerhard Ries: Prolog und Epilog in Gesetzen des Altertums. Münchener Beiträge zur Papyrusforschung und antiken Rechtsgeschichte, Heft 76. Verlag C. H. Beck, München 1983. 248 S. DEM 86.*