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NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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BUDAPEST 2019

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Prohászka Péter – Torbágyi Melinda: Regesten der antiken Fundmünzen und Münzhorte in Ungarn, Band 1-3. (Komitat Tolna, Veszprém und Vas). Budapest 2017. ISBN 978-963-9987-21-0, 978-963-9987-22-7, 978-963-9987-23-4

Despite the new title the authors' intention, as is stated in the introduction, was clearly to continue the monumental *Die Fundmünzen der römischen Zeit in Ungarn* (FMRU) series, which for the last time appeared in 1993. This is indicated by the choice of the German language as well as that besides the Roman, also Celtic and Byzantine coins and hoards were included.

First of all the authors deserve great respect for taking on such an ambitious task. The volumes' sophisticated appearance and smaller format, compared to the FMRU, eases their use. The collection of material is based on the material of the Hungarian National Museum and the respective county museums (Wosinsky Mór, Laczkó Dezső és Savaria Múzeum). Szombathely differs greatly from the other two counties' material, because here the numismatic collection began as early as the 18th c. that together with the excavations of the Iseum, had a great effect on the number of coins. Important part of the collection process was the extensive research in the archives that made the information on the material more complete.

The structure of the books is very logical and transparent, which eases their use greatly. Each volume begins with a short introduction and acknowledgments, which is followed by the review of the structure of the catalogue. By the finds the very important information is noted, whether they came from a settlement, a hoard, a grave or is it just a stray find. According to the RIC first the gold and silver denominations are listed, followed by the aes. The Greek, Celtic and Roman provincial coins' findspot is listed geographically from West to East. The Roman republican coins follow Crawford's catalogue. Up to 294 A.D. the coins are grouped chronologically according to the reigning years. From the tetrarchy the coins systemized by period, rulers and the mints' geographical location from West to East. The Roman names of the findspots are only indicated, when they can doubtlessly be identified. This is followed by the list of abbreviations, as well as the chapters on research history, the collections and sources. Here based on the thorough archival research we are presented by an interesting and short summary of the respective county's research history with respect to the coin finds and collecting activity. The last chapter prior to the catalogue is the bibliography that attest the thorough knowledge of the scientific literature.

The authors' were aiming for the most complete collection of the material, but they were often hindered by the circumstances, which they openly admit and often point out the delimitations of the volumes. A big problem was the identification of the findspots, or if this is possible, then the identification of the coins themselves. The finds without findspot were understandably neglected, since the coins from other territories could also find their way to the collection of another county museum. This was often the case with donation of private collections. Further difficulties were caused by the various turmoils of war, the lack or loss of documentation. The foundation of the county museums greatly contributed to the systematic collection, but it did not provide a solution for everything. General problem is the coins were not taken into inventory or were not restaured, which makes their identification impossible. But this is completely understandable at a work of such a grand scale, and does not diminish the volumes' scientific value.

The three volumes fill a large gap in the Hungarian and thanks to the publication in German also the international numismatic literature. All in all we are greatly indebted to Melinda Torbágyi and Péter Prohászka for completing this grand collecting work and for making it accessible for the public. The RFMU abbreviation will undoubtedly become commonplace next to the FMRU acronym.

Lajos Juhász