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Coin Finds at Paestum: Contexts of Provenance and Digital Re-use of Documentation

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Abstract: The numismatic documentation of Paestum exemplifies a noteworthy case study within a defined monetary framework. The Archaeological Park of Paestum, in collaboration with the University of Salerno, initiated the “DiP_Coins – Digital Paestum Coins” project to enhance the accessibility and comprehensiveness of the numismatic records. Supported by the Foundation for Cultural Heritage, the project integrates the digital catalogue with the Coin Finds Hub - Italy portal. The multi-stage project involves recovering historical documentation, restoring materials, and creating the Paestum Coin Finds platform. The Hera digital catalogue, structured on a web-GIS platform, serves as a pivotal tool, facilitating geo-referencing and in-depth data association. Integration with Nomisma.org network platforms further expands the project’s visibility and accessibility. The Hera Catalogue’s GIS perspective integrates record-keeping and cartographic interfaces, contributing to the contextual understanding of archaeological finds. The initiative emphasises public archaeology, making archival data accessible and contributing to knowledge and identity-building processes in the field of archaeology. The collaborative and open nature of the project aligns with the broader goal of disseminating scientific research outcomes and fostering knowledge generation in the realm of numismatics.

Keywords: Numismatic Heritage, Archaeological Documentation, Digital Catalogue, Coin Finds, Public Archaeology.



The numismatic documentation relating to Paestum stands as an exemplary case study within the realm of a well-defined monetary framework. This study is particularly noteworthy for its contribution to the formulation of specialised management systems dedicated to the organisation and preservation of numismatic records.¹ The Archaeological Park of Paestum safeguards an impressive array of artefacts derived from excavations conducted within the environs of the ancient town, accompanied by pertinent contextual and archival documentation. Over the course of decades, state authorities and the numismatics chair at the University of Salerno have surveyed the distinctive characteristics of these unearthed relics. Notably, the university has consistently played a pivotal role as a primary collaborator in archaeological and numismatic investiga-

¹ Preliminary results have been presented in Carbone 2022a, 529–538; Carbone in Cantilena, Carbone, Pardini 2023, 135–170; Carbone, Pardini 2024, 31–38.

tions in the Paestum region, perpetuating research endeavours that persist into the present day.²

Regarding coin surveys, they have recently witnessed augmentation through the implementation of a pilot initiative known as “DiP_Coins – Digital Paestum Coins”. This endeavour has facilitated the experimentation with a model designed for the seamless integration and utilisation of numismatic documentation. It has in parallel given rise to the conceptualisation of a specialised portal for the ‘Coin Finds Hub – Italy’ project, entitled ‘Paestum Coin Finds’ (Carbone 2022a, 529–538). This initiative encompasses the enhancement of the Hera digital catalogue (Zuchtriegel et al. 2022),³ a project endorsed by the Archaeological Park of Paestum and Velia. Additionally, it extends its reach to various international systems configured in accordance with the framework delineated by Nomisma, a preeminent global network dedicated to the description and online dissemination of numismatic data on a broader scale.

Coin finds at the National Archaeological Museum of Paestum

The culmination of past research endeavours now enables the systematic organisation of an extensive dataset pertaining to coins accumulated since the initiation of systematic surveys in the urban precincts at the inception of the 20th century.

In juxtaposition to the limited number of specimens unearthed during the initial investigations within the walled confines, the Museo di Paestum’s medal collection predominantly comprises a substantial assemblage originating from excavations conducted during the Fascist era. These excavations encompassed both the urban expanse and the precincts surrounding the sanctuary of Hera Argiva at Foce Sele.

Significantly, the majority of the coins trace their provenance to the extensive excavations undertaken during the 1960s and 1970s, a period marked by comprehensive research not only within the urban confines but also in the necropolis areas. This prolific phase of exploration has significantly enriched our understanding of the numismatic landscape associated with Paestum.⁴ Subsequent excavations, spanning from the following years to the contemporary period and conducted by diverse research teams – including those from France, Germany, the Universities of Naples “L’Orientale” and “Federico II”, and notably the University of Salerno – persist in augmenting the corpus of knowledge pertaining to coin discoveries in Paestum.

To delve into specifics, the current repository in Paestum shelters over 8,000 coins, predominantly sourced from the urban expanse, with relatively smaller numbers originating from the necropolis and sanctuaries beyond the city limits – notably, Santa Venera near the walls and the Heraion at Foce Sele. Among these, 5,125 coins have undergone restoration over time, while an additional 3,200 await meticulous cleaning and consolidation.

However, the challenge lies in the comprehensive documentation of these artefacts, as only approximately 2,600 of them boast a meticulously compiled catalogue card adhering to the standards articulated by NU Card 3.00 (Arslan 2004). This underlines the ongoing effort required to ensure a thorough understanding of the local numismatic heritage, while about 1,100 are inventoried only with preliminary documentation.

The information concerning the quantity of coins originating from the Paestum region remains incomplete, primarily for two overarching reasons. Firstly, a significant proportion of coin hoards from Paestum is housed in alternative institutions, having been transferred there prior

² For a summary of the numismatic research on Paestum to date, see EBNER 1970, 19–44; Crawford 1973, 47–109; Crawford 1976–77, 151–159; Cantilena, Pellegrino, Satriano 1999, 9–154; Cantilena, Pellegrino, Pantuliano, Satriano 2003, 25–156; Cantilena 2010c, 685–732; Cantilena 2011, 15–28; Carbone 2012, 253–260; Carbone 2014; Carbone, Grimaldi 2014, 92–97; Cantilena, Carbone 2015; Carbone 2017, 443–450; Debernardi, Carbone 2018, 305–314; Cantilena 2020, 407–414; Cantilena 2022, 201–222; Carbone 2022a, 529–538; Carbone 2022b, 223–250; Carbone in Cantilena, Carbone, Pardini 2023, 135–170; Carbone 2025, 91–118.

³ <https://hera.beniculturali.it/catalogo/> [last access 01/03/2024].

⁴ For the necropolis see Prisco 1980–81, 23–56; Sestieri 1967, 185; Scafuro 2019, 56, 62–63, 80, 152. On this topic see also Sallusto 1971–72, 57–71.

to the establishment of the museum. A notable example includes a certain modest yet significant silver hoard presently at the Medagliere of the National Archaeological Museum in Naples,⁵ and some coins from excavations carried out by the Provincial Authority.⁶ Additionally, another contributing factor to the incomplete data lies in the presence of several groups of coins, accompanied by contextual material, awaiting publication. These artefacts are dispersed, with a notable concentration in the Salerno Superintendency, poised for an eventual return to Paestum following the ministry reform concerning the restructuring of responsibilities. Consequently, the tally of coins associated with Paestum is an evolving metric, steadily expanding over the years, and is anticipated to persist in its growth path in the expected future.

Restricting our examination to the quantitative specifics, crucial for obtaining a condensed understanding of the discoveries, it becomes apparent that gold coins are notably scarce (only three specimens⁷); coin finds are generally of single bronzes, apart from some small change hoards (Polosa 2000, 113–117; Carbone 2024a).⁸

Regarding silver coins, there exists a considerable quantity, although it's essential to consider this in light of our examination of coin hoards. Among the approximately 1400 silver coins, nearly 1,000 originate from hoards. Notably, a significant portion – precisely 646 coins, slightly surpassing half of the total silver coins – can be traced back to a specific hoard of coins from the Augustan period. This particular hoard plays a pivotal role in shaping our understanding of Paestum's numismatic history, specifically during the era of Augustus (Cantilena 2000).

Indeed, while there are many individual finds, a significant number of specimens (about 15%) are made in silver (Cantilena 2000; Debernardi, Carbone 2018, 305–314).

Upon examining the comprehensive quantitative data, which is solely a numerical datum, it comes as no surprise that a substantial portion of attestations belongs to the coinage of Poseidonia/Paestum. This mint, exhibiting discernible productivity and sustained continuity, stands out prominently within the examined series (Carbone 2014; Cantilena, Carbone 2015).

Less than half of the base metal coins can be traced back to Greek issues, generally from other cities of Magna Graecia, being mainly bronzes from the nearest centres, including Velia.

As far as Republican coins are concerned, there are less than 1,000 specimens, most of which come from small treasuries: in addition to the Augustan treasure mentioned above, there are two Victorian hoards from the so-called Ara Basilica. As for the Republican bronze currency, it seems to be very scarce among the circulating currency, a fact that has already been linked to the abundant production of Paestum bronzes between the 2nd and 1st centuries BC (Carbone 2014; Carbone 2017, 443–450).

The number of coins from later series increases significantly, with a good concentration from the mid-imperial period. This suggests a greater influx of numismatic material in a more recent timeframe, potentially providing insights into the economic and historical dynamics of Paestum during the imperial era (Cantilena, Pellegrino, Pantuliano, Satriano 2003, 25–156). Considering the city's history, the scarcity of late antique coins is expected. Similarly, later coin series, while indicating continuous occupation of the area, offer limited insights into the gradual abandonment of the site and the military events impacting the region.⁹

⁵ These are the hoards *IGCH* 1876 (Pozzi 1962–64, 77–82), *IGCH* 1892 (Pozzi 1962–64, 82–90), *IGCH* 1893 (Pozzi 1962–64, 91–109; Kraay 1967, 127–129).

⁶ A survey at Museo Archeologico Provinciale of Salerno made it possible to identify more groups of coins collected in past excavations in the urban area of Paestum, such as those from the Villa Salati property.

⁷ A gold stater from Lampsacus (see Cipriani 2012, 104; Cantilena 2017, 323–327); an aureus of Clodius M.f., and one of Augustus (see Carbone 2016, 101).

⁸ To these must be added the recent discovery of two other small hoards made of bronze coins – from the excavations carried out in the Licinella area (not in the necropolis area located here, but most probably during the building of infrastructure) in the 1930s – both still with a small jar in which they were contained.

⁹ Recent research on the Paestum material has made it possible to detail the post-classical material and

However, it is crucial to recognise that a substantial number of coins face uncertain attribution due to their deteriorated condition and limited legibility. Many of these coins are awaiting restoration, and based on their specific features – especially in terms of module and weight – they appear to align with the final bronze emissions of Poseidonia or Paestum semisses and quadrants. This would complement the evidence of coins originating from the local workshop.

The reconstruction of provenances from archaeological contexts also allows us to reason about their quality. On the attestations of the various types of coins in situations that – although referable to the same territorial compartment – have different connotations, modes, and phases of use. This may be, just to cite an example, the case of coins from the Heraion of Foce Sele (an important extra-urban sanctuary that has long-standing frequentation) and urban area contexts.

In general, single finds are characterised by the good presence of bronze coins. But, if we look at republican small change, several of these specimens come from the area of the Sanctuary of Foce Sele, while a few others from the city are usually associated with early imperial local coinage.

There is indeed a discrepancy between the two contexts. Republican bronze coinage is much more prevalent in the area of the Heraion of Foce Sele, while it is scarcer in the urban area. This datum is closely related to the characterisation of the contexts. It is sufficient to consider that the area within the walls underwent major upheavals precisely in the final years of the Republic with the construction of large, monumental buildings that caused great upheavals in the terrain (**Fig. 1**).

Therefore, before considering the presence of Roman Republican coins as indicative of their diffusion, it is necessary to assess the reliability of the lying conditions.

Still on the subject of the presence of Republican coins at Paestum, one last element can be analysed: the presence of a good number of fractional coins. Silver and bronze coins are found more frequently than in neighbouring sites. We have no data to determine the time of their frac-

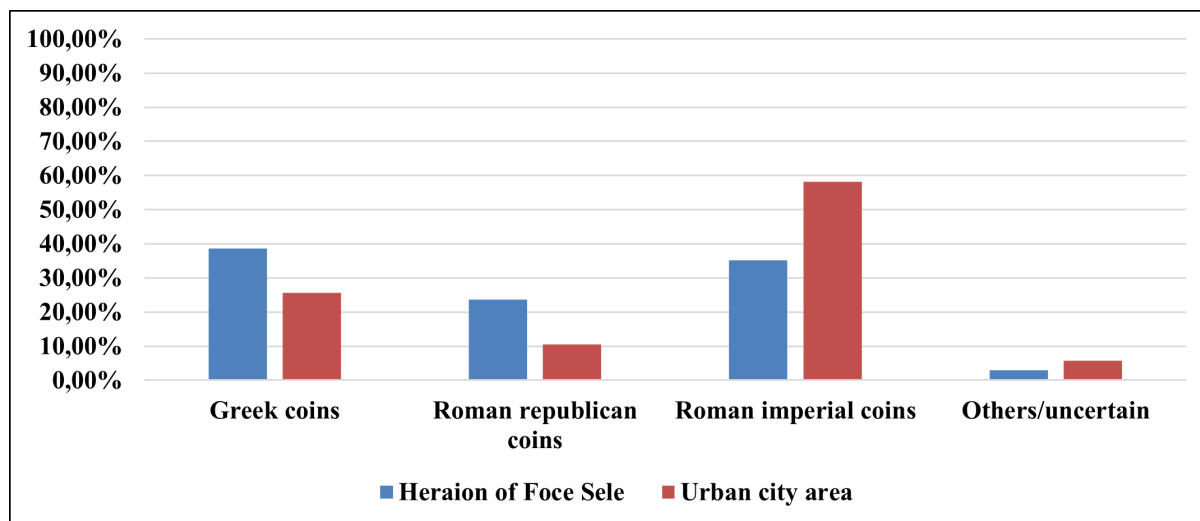


Fig. 1. Distribution of finds of individual bronze coins between the area of the extra-urban sanctuary of Foce Sele (Heraion) and those of the urban area.

to enrich what has already been identified (see Sallusto 1969–1970, 247–251). Currently, discoveries within the urban area and the Heraion of Foce Sele reveal notable concentrations dating back to the Swabian and Aragonese periods. Exclusive to the Heraion are findings of coins belonging to the Byzantine series, underscoring a continuous habitation spanning the 10th to the 19th centuries. Meanwhile, the walled area exhibits more substantial concentrations, although certain gaps persist in the documentation. Additionally, evidence from modern times, particularly Bourbon coins from the site's latest phases, further enriches the historical narrative uncovered by these coin finds. (see Carbone 2022b, 223–250).

tioning, but it is evident — especially from hoards — that these circulated together with local coins. Broken asses and semisses are associated on a fairly regular basis.

The “Paestum Coin Finds” thematic portal

Due to the considerable volume and the specific nature of the archaeological material under consideration, we have devised a project aimed at the revision and augmentation of the documentation pertaining to these discoveries. The proposed initiative involves the development of a tool intended to establish a connection between the digital catalogue of the archaeological park and the pilot thematic project focused on Paestum within the framework of the Coin Finds Hub - Italy portal. This endeavour seeks to enhance the accessibility and comprehensiveness of our archaeological records, aligning with contemporary digital methodologies for the advancement of scholarly undertakings in our field.

This accomplishment has been made feasible through the generous support of the Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Activities, a direct emanation of the Ministry of Culture, and the collaborative efforts of partners engaged in the primary project, Coin Finds Hub – Italy (Cantilena, Carbone, Pardini 2023, 135–170; Pardini 2022, 519–527). Following the formal establishment of a comprehensive collaboration among the University of Salerno, the Archaeological Park of Paestum and Velia, and the foundation, a collaborative network has been established, driven by a shared objective: the digital exploration and documentation of Paestum’s numismatic heritage, encompassing the imperative tasks of knowing, managing, analysing, and documenting.

Both the university and the Paestum Park have independently developed their digital infrastructures. Consequently, a crucial consideration arose regarding the necessity of facilitating interaction between these structures and providing data compatibility with platforms utilising different languages, such as those based on the ontology endorsed by the Nomisma.org project’s working groups.

The formalisation of the network occurred through a series of agreements derived from the overarching framework agreement within the Coin Finds Hub project. The proactive collaboration of partners, particularly with the steadfast support of the Fondazione Scuola dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali (SBAC), enabled the strategic planning of three pivotal activities essential for achieving our objectives: the establishment of scholarships for aspiring scholars with a focus on numismatics, the procurement of tools and equipment for the restoration and conservation of coins, and the development of content for effectively communicating the museum’s numismatic heritage, with a specific emphasis on this ground-breaking project. This whole approach underscores our commitment to advancing both scholarly endeavours and public engagement in the context of numismatics.

These three initiatives align seamlessly with the foundation’s overarching mission, placing a primary emphasis on training and concurrently addressing the imperative of developing effective tools for the conservation and communication of heritage. A fourth facet, overseen by the university, acts as the coordinating force, focusing on scientific research into the materials in question, specifically the coins curated by the Archaeological Park of Paestum. This facet aims to advance the comprehensive protection and valorisation of these cultural assets.

The DiP_Coins project, strategically structured into three distinct stages, unfolded with meticulous planning. The initial phase involved the recovery of historical documentation, encompassing the transfer of paper files generated by previous study and documentation activities. Additionally, it entailed the retrieval of ancillary documents essential for reconstructing the “coin object’s” biography, including labels, envelopes, tags, and cataloguing notes.

Moving to the second stage, the project concentrated on the restoration of newly acquired materials, updating existing records, and cataloguing recently discovered specimens. This phase represents a critical step in ensuring the preservation and accessibility of the numismatic heritage.

The final stage of the DiP_Coins project involved the conceptualisation and development of the Paestum Coin Finds platform. Simultaneously, data integration into the Hera Catalogue, the

digital catalogue of the Archaeological Park, was carefully executed. This comprehensive platform facilitates the seamless exploration and study of the numismatic heritage of Paestum.

Particularly noteworthy is the meticulous recovery of documentation, involving not only the assimilation of paper records from prior studies but also the retrieval of additional materials essential for reconstructing the biographies of each “coin object”. These supplementary elements, such as labels, envelopes, tags, and cataloguing notes, play a crucial role in providing a comprehensive understanding of the historical context surrounding these artefacts.

Catalogue cards have emerged as the linchpin in this historical documentation recovery effort, featuring subaccounts and inventories that meticulously trace the formation of the collection. These documents describe the various compositions and competencies of the collection, offering valuable insights into the history of individual objects. This process is indispensable for reconstructing the trajectory of these artefacts, tracing their journey from the moment of discovery to their current placement. Notable examples include materials from suburban necropolis and artefacts from the Heraion of Foce Sele.

Moving into the second stage, dedicated efforts were directed towards the restoration and updating of the catalogue. This pivotal phase benefited significantly from the active participation of the park, which engaged two students from the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples. Together, a meticulously crafted work plan was devised to guide the restoration process.

The involvement of two restorers specialising in metals played a crucial role in refining their skills specifically for the restoration of coins sourced from the two distinct contexts under examination, namely the “Roman garden”¹⁰ and the “Athenaion”.¹¹ This focused and specialised approach ensured a nuanced restoration process, enhancing the overall preservation and study of these numismatic artefacts.

The collaboration between the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, the archaeological park, and the skilled restorers underscored a commitment to not only fostering educational opportunities but also advancing the technical expertise required for the meticulous restoration of coins from these significant archaeological contexts. This collaborative effort serves as a testament to the multifaceted approach undertaken to safeguard and illuminate the historical significance encapsulated within these materials.¹²

Embarking on the initial phase of recovering historical documentation involved the meticulous task of converting existing paper records into a digital format. The earlier catalogues, originally in RA format, were systematically updated to adhere to NU 3.00 standards (Arslan 2004), ensuring compatibility and compliance with contemporary protocols.

The ensuing step saw the transformation of the new data sheets into .csv format, aligning with a structured model conducive to seamless integration with three distinct reference portals:

1. Paestum Coin Finds: This serves as the thematic portal for the overarching Coin Finds Hub – Italy project, consolidating and presenting the comprehensive data related to coin discoveries in the Paestum region.

2. Hera: The digital catalogue of the archaeological park, designed in a web-GIS format. This platform serves as a crucial repository for organising and presenting archaeological data, contributing to the scholarly exploration of the numismatic heritage within the park’s purview.

3. Platforms utilising Nomisma’s ontology: The integration with Nomisma’s ontology ensures compatibility with international systems following the standards set by this prominent global network dedicated to the description and dissemination of numismatic data.

¹⁰ The so-called Giardino romano has never been the subject of a systematic study (preliminary data are in Cipriani 2012, 97–102; Casalnuovo, Siani 2017, 647–652; Casalnuovo 2018, 787–794).

¹¹ A general framework is in Longo 2019, 111–121 (with previous bibliography).

¹² Restoration and cleaning work was carried out on two lots of coins characterised by the presence of a self-passivating patina, typical of the alteration of copper over time. In some cases, particularly in the case of silver or silver alloy coins, the presence of material indicative of previous restorations was noted, such as resinous patinas for protective purposes and adhesives for the adhesion of fragments.

This is without taking into account that – following the Italian national regulations on cultural heritage – all these records are in any case present on the heritage catalogue database promoted through the General Catalogue of Cultural Heritage (**Fig. 2**). This is intended to collect essential data and certainly does not have the specificity of reasoning about contextual information or the integration of documentation and related materials, but nevertheless returns an essential database.



Fig. 2. Example of coins from the Paestum Archaeological Park included in the General Catalogue of Cultural Heritage (<https://catalogo.beniculturali.it>).

Subsequently, with the retrieval of archival documentation and the completion of a cataloguing update, the transition of the previous storage of objects to a digital format marked a significant milestone. A prototype platform was then developed and utilised for a preliminary test, facilitating an initial assessment of the effectiveness and functionality of the digital model. This iterative process ensures the refinement of the platform, aligning it with the specific requirements of each reference portal and optimising its utility in facilitating the exploration and analysis of Paestum's numismatic heritage.

This is the digital catalogue of the archaeological park, meticulously designed on a web-GIS platform. This system is specifically configured to compile data related to the contexts, discoveries, and monuments uncovered through research in the Paestum area. Serving as a collaborative digital platform, it enables the effective management and accessible consultation of artefacts, documents, and images associated with the archaeological heritage under the jurisdiction of the park.¹³

This tool boasts numerous capabilities, with a standout feature being the ability to geo-reference all the documented finds and link them to dedicated in-depth sheets, complete with essential information adhering to the ICCD standards. The user-friendly graphical interface has been thoughtfully structured to streamline consultation and study activities for the end user. Notably, all elements are integrated within the same cartographic system utilised for the numismatic portals within the Nomisma network, especially those employing the Numishare software.¹⁴ This ensures a cohesive and seamless experience, enhancing the accessibility and interconnectedness of information for scholars and enthusiasts alike,¹⁵ namely the Leaflet application.

Therefore, the Hera system excels in delivering comprehensive data on archaeological contexts, presenting them on updated cartography while seamlessly integrating relevant graphic, descriptive, and bibliographic documentation. This inclusive system extends its coverage to both tangible and intangible evidence, encompassing a spectrum from more conspicuous monuments to the material culture derived from them. Essentially, it embodies the practical implementation of a cultural endeavour aligned with the principles of "public archaeology". By rendering archival data, excavation reports, restoration efforts, and cartographic elements accessible to a broad audience, it acts as a catalyst for knowledge and identity-building processes.

This approach equips individuals with the tools to initiate a multifaceted process of understanding and constructing identity, generating interpretive pathways at various levels. From the engagement of interested users with individual discoveries to the requirements of scientific research, the Hera system plays a pivotal role in fostering accessibility, engagement, and scholarly exploration within the realm of archaeology.

From a Geographic Information System (GIS) perspective, the Hera Catalogue is structured with two seamlessly integrated interfaces, namely a record-keeping and a cartographic component. The schedographic component comprehensively incorporates all the documentation related to the materials, systematically organising them into specific categories. Presently, the catalogue encompasses more than 27,000 items catalogued according to the ICCD standards. This extensive repository includes plans and documentation of both a scientific and administrative nature, bibliographic references, photographs, detailed records of mobile finds, and archaeological reference surveys.

Moreover, the documentary section of the catalogue includes maps that can be modified,

¹³ A summary of the methodology and approach of the Hera Digital Catalogue can be found in Zuchtriegel, Scelza, Auci, De Vita, 2022.

¹⁴ <https://numishare.blogspot.com/> [last accessed 01/03/2024].

¹⁵ This is a comprehensive set of open-source applications designed for the digital administration of archaeological artefacts, specifically emphasising numismatic objects. Developed and consistently updated by the American Numismatic Society, this software was initially employed to establish its online database (<https://numishare.blogspot.com/>). The application framework relies on XML, and the detailed description of coins adheres to an XML adaptation of NUDS, the Numismatic Description Standard (<http://nomisma.org/nuds>). For the depiction and coding of other materials, VRA Core 4.0 is utilised.

exported, and supplemented by authorised personnel working within the structure. This dynamic feature not only enhances the adaptability of the system but also allows for collaborative contributions, ensuring that the catalogue remains a living and evolving resource within the framework of archaeological research and documentation.

The second interface is inherently cartographic, realised through a georeferenced, computerised map of the ancient city. This cartographic interface remains highly dynamic, allowing for complete updatability through the addition and overlay of additional documentation derived from diverse sources across different scales and temporal contexts. This includes surveys, cadastral maps, regional technical maps, and more.

The seamless integration of these two catalogue components holds the key to digitally reconstructing the contextual link between the archaeological finds, specifically the coins, and the locations and events of their discovery. This intricate process enables the reconnection of this specific class of material with the original research endeavours that produced it and the accompanying documentation related to it. This digital reconstruction enhances the depth of understanding by placing numismatic artefacts within their historical and spatial contexts, fostering a more comprehensive and nuanced interpretation of their significance.

The integration with the Nomisma.org network

In conjunction with the assimilation into the Hera Catalogue, successful testing has been carried out for the integration with the Nomisma.org network platforms. A noteworthy aspect is that certain platforms within the Nomisma.org network are inherently organised as thematic portals. This inherent structure facilitates a seamless incorporation of the data generated by the DiP_Coins project now available on the thematic portal Paestum Coins Finds. The synergy between these platforms and the DiP_Coins initiative underscores the adaptability and complementary nature of the project within broader networks dedicated to the systematic exploration and dissemination of numismatic data. This collaborative integration will serve to enhance the accessibility and visibility of the DiP_Coins project, embedding its findings within a broader scholarly landscape dedicated to the nuanced understanding and appreciation of numismatic heritage.

These are, for example, the thematic projects on Greek¹⁶ Roman Republican¹⁷ and Imperial hoards¹⁸, on Republican¹⁹ and Imperial coinage²⁰, as well as provincial issues²¹ including the latest Paestum coin production as minted in the administrative unit of Lucania during the years of Augustus and Tiberius.

In this particular scenario, the importation of Paestum coin records was seamlessly executed using the same dataset employed for the Hera Catalogue integration. This achievement owes its success to the semantic alignment facilitated by the Coin Finds Hub – Italy project. This initiative correlates the terms outlined by the NUDS (Numismatic Description Schema) with the national NU 3.00 standards, ensuring a harmonious and consistent integration process. Moreover, to accommodate the unique characteristics of Paestum coins, specific fields have been incorporated for collecting contextual data.

In the case of these coins, it was imperative to integrate data from other portals managed by a sizable and specialised network. This strategic collaboration was essential for implementing a robust preservation strategy for the data. The act of sharing datasets across portals, each associated with different projects and ontological models, while maintaining communication, not only facilitates integration but also ensures the medium-term preservation of the transferred information.

Furthermore, the open accessibility of this information base creates opportunities for utilisation

¹⁶ Inventory of Greek Coin Hoards (IGCH): <http://coinhoards.org/>.

¹⁷ Coin Hoards of the Roman Republic (CHRR): <http://numismatics.org/chrr/>.

¹⁸ Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire (CHRE): <http://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/>.

¹⁹ Coinage of the Roman Republic Online (CRRO): <http://numismatics.org/crro/>.

²⁰ Online Coins of the Roman Empire (OCRE): <http://numismatics.org/ocre/>.

²¹ Roman Provincial Coinage online: <http://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/>.

tion in third-party projects. This aligns with the broader objective of disseminating the outcomes of scientific research and fostering the reuse of data to catalyse the generation of new knowledge processes. The interconnectedness and openness of these data systems contribute significantly to the collaborative and cumulative nature of scientific endeavours in the field of numismatics.

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