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REFINING THE “VALENCIA MINT” ENTRIES WITHIN DÉDALO AND MONEDAIBERICA.ORG: THE KINGDOM OF VALENCIA NUMISMATIC PROJECT FOR MEDIEVAL COINAGES (IBERIAN PENINSULA) IN A COMPLETELY DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

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Defining the “Valencia Mint” Entries within Dédalo and monedaiberica.org: the Kingdom of Valencia Numismatic Project for Medieval Coinages (Iberian Peninsula) in a Completely Digital Environment

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Abstract: At the end of 2022, we had the idea to expand the Moneda Ibérica project (monedaiberica.org), which focuses on the ancient coinage of the Iberian Peninsula, to encompass the Christian medieval period of the Kingdom of Valencia. This period is well-documented through decades of study and is thus well understood. For this reason, we thought that it was suitable as a test for potential expansions to other periods or territories of Moneda Ibérica in the future. Consequently, between 2022 and 2023, it was decided to initiate the Kingdom of Valencia Project, a database intended to compile all Valencian coinage from the 13th to the 15th centuries. The ultimate goal is to produce an accessible digital catalogue based on Dédalo, encompassing all of these coin productions.

Keywords: Database, Online catalogue, Dédalo, Medieval ages, Kingdom of Valencia.



1. Introduction: Dédalo and Moneda Ibérica (monedaiberica.org)

In June 2023, we made the decision to present the initial steps of the Kingdom of Valencia Project for the digital cataloguing of medieval coinage from this region – situated in the Iberian Peninsula and presently part of Spain – at the “10th Joint Meeting of ECFN and Nomisma.org & 2nd BulgNR Together” held in Sofia, Bulgaria. Alongside showcasing our project, we seized the opportunity to discuss the challenges related to data introduction and the concept of definition for digital entries. These are concerns we share with other digital initiatives like Nomisma Medieval and Modern, currently in the development phase. Our focus has centred on the Valencia mint as an exemplar, as it is the workshop responsible for producing all coinages featured in the future catalogue. However, similar to many other medieval cases in Europe, the Valencia mint has a history characterised by prolonged and irregular activity.

The Kingdom of Valencia Project doesn’t emerge out of nowhere. It’s being developed by leveraging robust tools like Dédalo, and is founded on the functionality of another well-established

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digital coin catalogue, such as MIB (an abbreviation for Moneda Ibérica / Iberian Coins, accessible on the site monedaiberica.org, **Fig. 1**), managed through a content system called Numisdata, again built upon the open-source engine Dédalo. The outcome is an openly accessible website serving as a digital repository for ancient coinage, focusing on the Iberian period across the Iberian Peninsula and southern France. Presently, it compiles approximately 4,200 monetary types issued by over 200 different cities from the 6th to the 1st centuries BC, sourced from auctions, private collections, museums, monetary hoards, and archaeological discoveries.

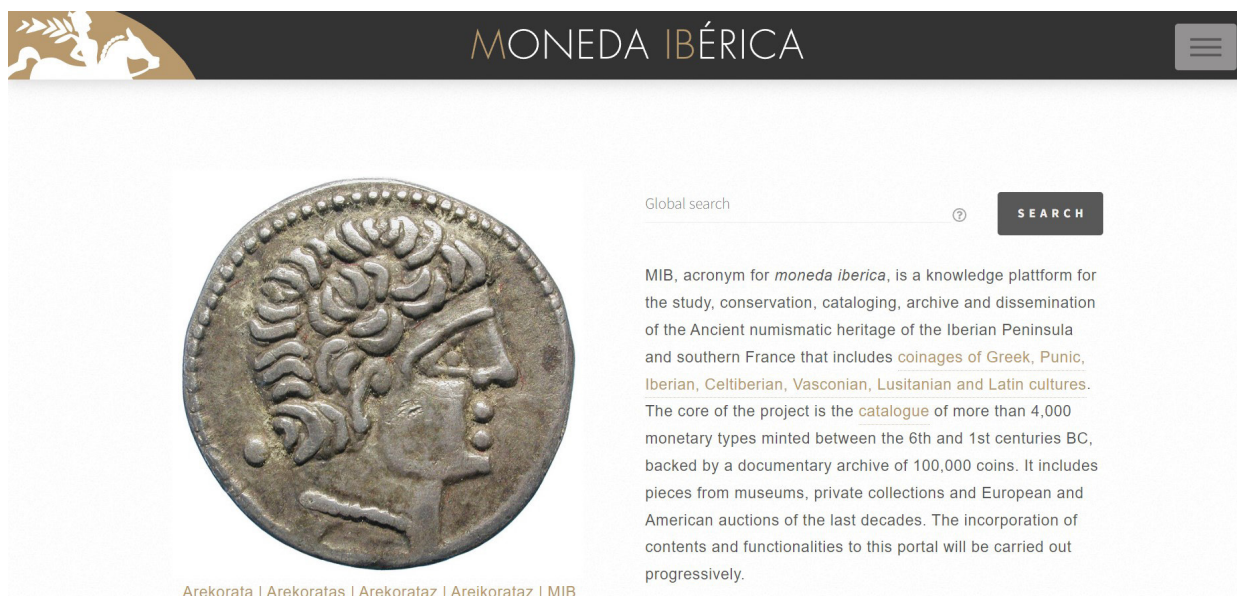


Fig. 1. Screenshot of the Moneda Ibérica homepage (monedaiberica.org; accessed on 15/02/2024).

Numisdata, as previously mentioned, is built upon Dédalo, a powerful tool created in 1998 for managing cultural heritage content (since then, the creators and developers have been A. Peña and J. F. Onielfa, from Render Comunicación). Its implementation began at the Museum of Pre-history in Valencia in 2015. Recognising the vast potential of Dédalo, it was harnessed to develop a numismatic catalogue capable of facilitating collaborative work and online content publication. Development of the dedicated numismatic manager, known as Numisdata, commenced in 2016.

The foundational content framework was derived from the numismatic archive curated by P. P. Ripollès since the 1980s and gradually digitised from 2006 onward into an initial FileMaker database. Furthermore, Numisdata refined its functionality based on data collected from two smaller digital catalogues: one dedicated to monetary finds in Sardinia¹ (**Fig. 2**), and the other to the Vidal Valle collection of Valencian coins (**Fig. 3**). The latter encompasses monetary emissions from all historical periods, ranging from antiquity to the 20th century, within Valencian territory.²

Towards the end of 2017, with all these previous developments, the implementation of MIB commenced, and content testing for the digital catalogue was initiated, hosted at the address <https://monedaiberica.org/> (Gozalbes et al. 2021, 538–539). Presently, monedaiberica.org has established itself as a prominent catalogue of ancient coins, offering complete accessibility and featuring a continuously expanding corpus of information.

With the support of the Dédalo engine, the content organisation of Numisdata, and the model of monedaiberica.org, and with the aim of expanding Moneda Ibérica to other chronological periods, the Kingdom of Valencia Project was born. The first steps were taken between 2022 and

¹ https://sardinia.numisdata.org/web_sardinia/web/ [last accessed on 29/07/2025].

² <https://numisdata.org/vidalvalle/> [last accessed on 15/02/2024].

2023, planning and organising all of the content that the project would encompass. This content would consist, for the time being, of the Valencian monetary productions from the Christian or feudal medieval period, with a well-defined range between the year 1247 and the reign of Ferdinand II of Aragon (1479–1516).

NUMISDATA SARDINIA

HOME CONTS PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Catalano Italiano Francés English

HOME

COIN FINDS IN SARDINIA, TERRALBA

This web shows the monetary findings coming from the area of Terralba municipality. This web catalogues, describes and illustrates all the coins meticulously. The studied pieces come from various sources, such as the archaeological excavations conducted in Turicu 'e Molas and Pauli Sincus, the collections of Gino Artudi and Sandro Perra (given to the Italian State), and also from the published findings.



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Fig. 2. Screenshot of the Numisdata Sardinia homepage (https://sardinia.numisdata.org/web_sardinia/web/; accessed on 29/07/2025).




Colección Vidal Valle | 31

Ceca Valencia
Cronología 1247
Creador Jaime I
Rol Rey / Reina
Denominaciones Real
Material Vellón | Ve

Peso 0,41 g
Diámetro 17 mm

Anverso
Leyenda :IACOBVSREX
Diseño Busto coronado, a la izquierda

Reverso
Leyenda ✕VALE-NCIE
Diseño Árbol a modo de flor, surmontado de cruz; ramas altas con punto cruzado de línea en sus extremos

Ref. bibliográfica Crusafont 2009 2132 Jaime I
URI <https://numisdata.org/vidalvalle/mon/31>

JSON

CSV

Fig. 3. Screenshot of a Vidal Valle digital catalogue page (<https://numisdata.org/vidalvalle/>, accessed on 15/02/2024).

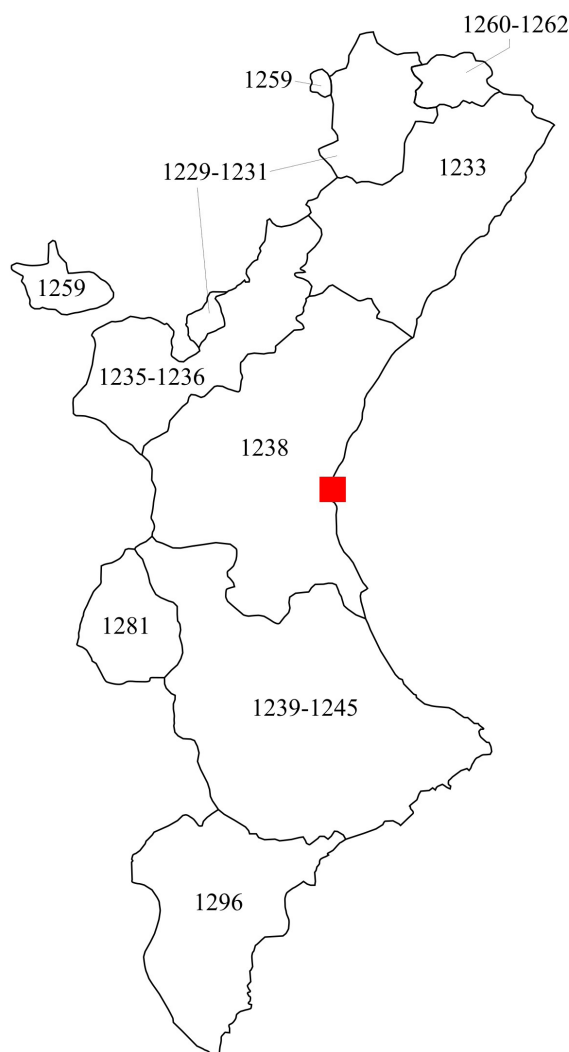
2. The coinage of medieval Christian Valencia: an urgent need for digitalization

The medieval kingdom of Valencia was established by King James I of Aragon in 1239 after the conquest of the territory known as Sharq al-Andalus from the Muslims (**Fig. 4**). This event occurred within the broader context of European feudal expansion during the 12th and 13th centuries, particularly the pressure exerted by the Hispanic kingdoms on the various Muslim territories of the Iberian Peninsula. James I of Aragon's conquest, carried out roughly between 1233 and 1245, involved the capture and annexation of a large new territory that became part of the royal domains of the counts of Barcelona and kings of Aragon (**Fig. 5**). This newly acquired area, now integrated into Western Christendom, required organisation according to Christian customs and practices, encompassing social, legislative, and fiscal aspects.



Fig. 4. Location map of the medieval Kingdom of Valencia and its two main mints (A: mint of Valencia; B: mint of Alicante). Map taken from Wikipedia, under CC license.

Fig. 5. Christian conquest process of the Kingdom of Valencia from the Muslims.



Therefore, in the year 1247, James I of Aragon ordered the reorganisation of the circulating currency, which until then had been very diverse and from different origins due to the arrival of conquerors and settlers. This currency presented varying rates of purchase and exchange, so it seemed necessary to establish a unified value. For this reason, in 1247, a mint was established in the capital of the kingdom, Valencia, and a new type of currency was imposed for the Kingdom of Valencia and Mallorca (in the latter, until the death of King James I in 1276). The new currency was named as *reial*, a penny made of billon (**Fig. 6**). It would be minted with a standard of three silver diners out of twelve, imitating the composition of other European currencies of the time. The silver content had to be eleven and a half diners. The reial would henceforth be the mandatory currency for tax payment in the Kingdom of Valencia.



Fig. 6. James I of Aragon's reial coined in the Valencia mint in 1247.

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It is known that the mint of Valencia carried out two major coinages during the lifetime of James I of Aragon. The first occurred between the years 1247 and 1249, with the typical interruptions inherent to medieval minting works, and the other in 1271. Researchers such as J. Torró estimate that, between the two coinages, approximately 40 million pieces were released into the markets, including pennies and half-pennies (Torró 2000, 55, 57). Small and fractional currency during the Late Middle Ages was always a significant concern. This massive issuance aimed to address the currency needs of settlers and new inhabitants of the kingdom, although it soon became apparent that it would be insufficient.

Since the conclusion of the coinage in 1271, the Valencia mint remained closed. None of the successors of James I of Aragon resumed coin minting in the city until the reign of Peter IV of Aragon (1336–1387), who exclusively minted gold coins in the capital. In this instance, they aimed to replicate the gold florins that had saturated the European markets, albeit with a lower purity in this case. The emergence of new base metal coinage in Valencia would have to wait until the 15th century, during the reign of Alfonso V of Aragon. From then onward, the Valencia mint would resume almost uninterrupted activity until the 18th century. Throughout the 15th century, it would produce various types of currency, some enduring successfully over time, while others were swiftly withdrawn due to their lack of acceptance among users, such as the gold *timbres* (Fig. 7). The mint also produced gold ducats of varying values (15th and 16th centuries), *corones* or Valencian crowns (16th century), and silver coins such as royal ducats, half ducats (15th and 16th centuries), *dihuités*, valued at 18 pence (17th century), and *reials* (18th century), along with other denominations in copper and base metals such as *sisons* or *tresetes* (18th century). The mint halted its operations in 1748, though it would sporadically mint coins again in 1810 under the name of Ferdinand VII of Spain, albeit under vastly different circumstances from those of the preceding monetary establishment (Mateu y Llopis 1929).



Fig. 7. Various coins of billon, silver, and gold produced at the Valencia mint (A: gold florin of Peter IV; B: silver rial of Martin I; C: menut or billon penny of Alfonso V; D: gold timbre of Alfonso V; E: gold ducat of John I; F: menut, diner or billon penny of Ferdinand II; images taken from Aureo&Calicó auctions).

Although the medieval and modern coinage repertoire of the Kingdom of Valencia is well known and has been previously studied (to name a few: Mateu y Llopis 1929; Petit 1981; Petit, Aledón 1983; Sendra 2008), and is also fairly well serialised (Crusafont 2009), there is currently no digital catalogue that rigorously compiles all these coinages produced in the Valencian terri-

tory between the 13th and 15th centuries. It's worth noting that there is also none available for Muslim coinages or for those of the modern era, beyond an interesting attempt to digitise the series of *dieciochenos* or *dihuités* (pieces of 18 pence) driven by J. A. Sendra.³ In June 2019, a significant step forward was taken in utilising digital resources to make Valencian medieval productions available online, starting with the donation of the private collection of Vidal Valle Ortí, "whose greatest effort, and the one he devoted more time to [...], was his collection of Valencian coins [...]. The collection of coins gathered by Valle Ortí were all Valencian and covered the spectrum of monetary production in the Valencian territory throughout all periods."⁴ That year, the Museum of Prehistory of Valencia launched the website <https://numisdata.org/vidalvalle/>, making part of Vidal Valle's collection accessible to all interested users, along with some texts containing key information about the periods covered by the different coins in the Valencian territory (Ripollès et al. 2020, 313–314).

However, while <https://numisdata.org/vidalvalle/> provides a good representation of the medieval monetary productions of the Christian Kingdom of Valencia, it does not function as a specific digital catalogue encompassing all coinages from the Valencian territory. Instead, it serves as a catalogue of part of a private collection. Consequently, it lacks types, variants, dies, and other aspects that would provide a comprehensive overview of the productions from a specific location or mint. Significant efforts are being made for the digitisation of types and the creation of online catalogues for Castilian coinage, such as <https://monedamedieval.es/>, led by A. Roma, or <https://wearenumismatics.com/imperatrix/>, spearheaded by A. Serrano. However, these efforts do not constitute collaborative databases of the same kind as the one based on Dédalo for MIB. This is the issue that the Kingdom of Valencia Project aims to address, building upon all the aforementioned precedents.

3. The Kingdom of Valencia Project: From Early Steps to Future Prospects

The content of the Kingdom of Valencia Project is centred around the medieval Christian coin productions of the Valencia mint spanning from 1247 to the reign of Ferdinand II of Aragon (1479–1516). Additionally, it includes the brief coinage production of the Alicante mint during the reign of James II of Aragon (operating between 1296 and 1301; see **Fig. 4**). This planned content, which is actively being developed, generates a significant amount of data – encompassing not only coin types but also mints, authorities, coin images, die identification, weights, modules, and other fields of information that require proper management. Therefore, from the outset, it was recognized the necessity of employing a robust management tool like the Dédalo engine, not only for its capacity to handle vast volumes of data but also due to the positive prior experience with the Prehistory Museum of Valencia and the University of Valencia in cataloguing projects for Sardinia, Vidal Valle, and Moneda Ibérica.

In our case, we faced two options when approaching the new project: either starting a fresh installation of the Dédalo platform, essentially from scratch, or integrating into the existing set-up for Moneda Ibérica. Perhaps, in this context, the more fitting term would be "integration". Between the two choices, the latter appeared the most reasonable, as it allowed us to build upon much of the existing work and utilise resources such as thesauri or libraries. Additionally, it provided an opportunity to enhance the already progressed work by defining fields and terms beyond the ancient period. Moreover, with the new project, the scope of Moneda Ibérica was expanded, giving a broader interpretation to its name: encompassing coinages from the Iberian Peninsula across any period.

As previously mentioned, embedding ourselves within MIB provided us with several advantages and helped to mitigate some of the major challenges inherent in such digital projects, with maintenance being the primary concern. In this context, Numisdata – and specifically in our case, Moneda Ibérica – facilitates shared maintenance. This ensures that the responsibility for upkeep is not solely placed on one individual, manager, or institution. Such a collaborative ap-

³ <https://dieciochenos.wordpress.com/> [last accessed on 06/02/2024].

⁴ <https://numisdata.org/vidalvalle/>, [last accessed on 15/02/2024].

proach minimises the risk of potential data loss and significant disruption if personnel or funding were to be withdrawn from the platform, database, or website where the catalogue is published. Dédalo, serving as the management engine, operates as a collaborative and open access system where authorised project administrators can introduce and modify data at any time. The departure of a contributor does not result in data loss, as the information remains stored in the system and can be accessed and utilised by future project members or repurposed for other initiatives.

From this standpoint, the initial stages of the Kingdom of Valencia Project have entailed the extensive data input into the system: a catalogue of coin types sourced from existing series of Valencian coinage; photographs of the types obtained, primarily from public auctions and institutions that have shared their content online; as well as information on weights, measurements, descriptions, and legends (to which their own typography will be applied in the future, already designed for previous works, such as Sanchez, 2021, and in press). Additionally, all relevant supplementary data allowing for independent cataloguing in the near future has been included. Once the primary database containing all known coin types minted in the Valencian territory during the medieval Christian period is finalised, the online catalogue can be launched. This catalogue will continue to evolve through the refinement of existing data and the addition of new entries. Looking ahead, the Kingdom of Valencia Project aims to integrate numismatic discoveries – both individual and from archaeological contexts, as well as those from coin hoards, many of which are already well-documented (Sanchez 2022) – while others are still under study. It’s worth noting that the integration of numismatic findings has already been successfully implemented in Numisdata (Peña, Gozalbes 2021).

4. A specific challenge to address: defining the concept of “mint” over time in a digital catalogue

One of the initial tasks within the Kingdom of Valencia Project has been to define working concepts. While this task had previously been undertaken for Numisdata and monedaiberica.org, it required adaptation for a project focused on the medieval period. The specific concept under consideration here is that of a “mint”, or, more precisely, the “Valencia mint”. Faced with this challenge, we must determine where and how to delineate this broad concept based on the historical period being studied, without resorting to more complex concepts such as “medieval mint of Valencia”, which, in turn, presents its own set of challenges. Dédalo has enabled us to address this issue by establishing various relationships among the entries created in the database.

At this point, before moving forward, it’s crucial to note that mints are part of a thesaurus in Dédalo. Through this tool, different types of relationships can be established between mints or across different time periods, addressing one of the challenges we needed to tackle. The platform encompasses two key relationships: “changes to” and “related to”. These fields are indicated in red in **Fig. 8**, which depicts one of the most extensively developed mint entries in MIB. This example serves to illustrate the complexity surrounding the concept of a “mint” for the medieval Valencia mint.

The Iberian mint of Bolskan stands out as one of the most extensively studied within the context of Moneda Ibérica. Through the establishment of internal connections, users can navigate to other related mints, such as the Bolskan mint during the Roman era. In this scenario, despite minting activities remaining centralised in the same locale, a decision was made to bifurcate Bolskan into two distinct entries, driven by two primary factors: the transition between historical periods (from the Iberian era to the Roman era) and the shift in nomenclature from Bolskan to Osca (**Fig. 9**). The link between them remains steadfast, unaffected by any alterations in content, ensuring that URLs remain unchanged and relationships remain intact. Moreover, if linked from another webpage, the connection to the Bolskan mint remains stable even amidst modifications to the original entry’s content. This functionality exemplifies one of the most significant aspects of Dédalo and Moneda Ibérica, facilitating the establishment of enduring relationships across different periods, such as the case of Bolskan-Osca: the same minting facility, situated in the same location, but operating in distinct historical periods, reflecting temporal evolution.

The matter becomes more intricate when we delve into the medieval mint of Valencia. The initial inquiry we must pose is: how many mints bearing the same name have existed from the city's foundation in the 2nd century BC to the permanent closure of the mint in the mid-18th century? Is it consistently the same concept, or are there ample indications to justify creating several distinct entries with similar names and interlinking them?

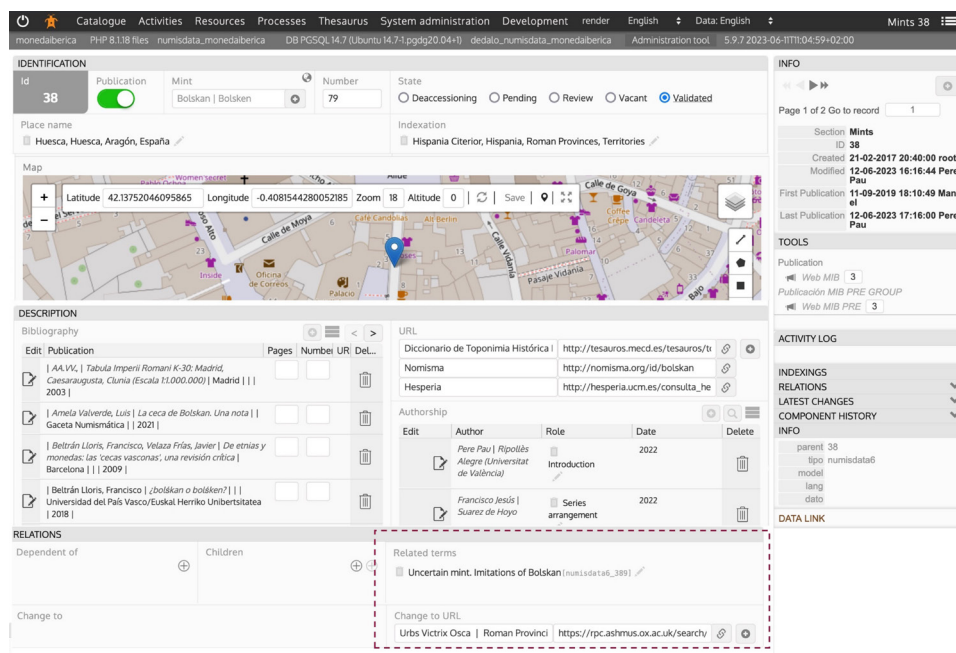


Fig. 8. Fields “changes to” and “related to” in a mint entry.

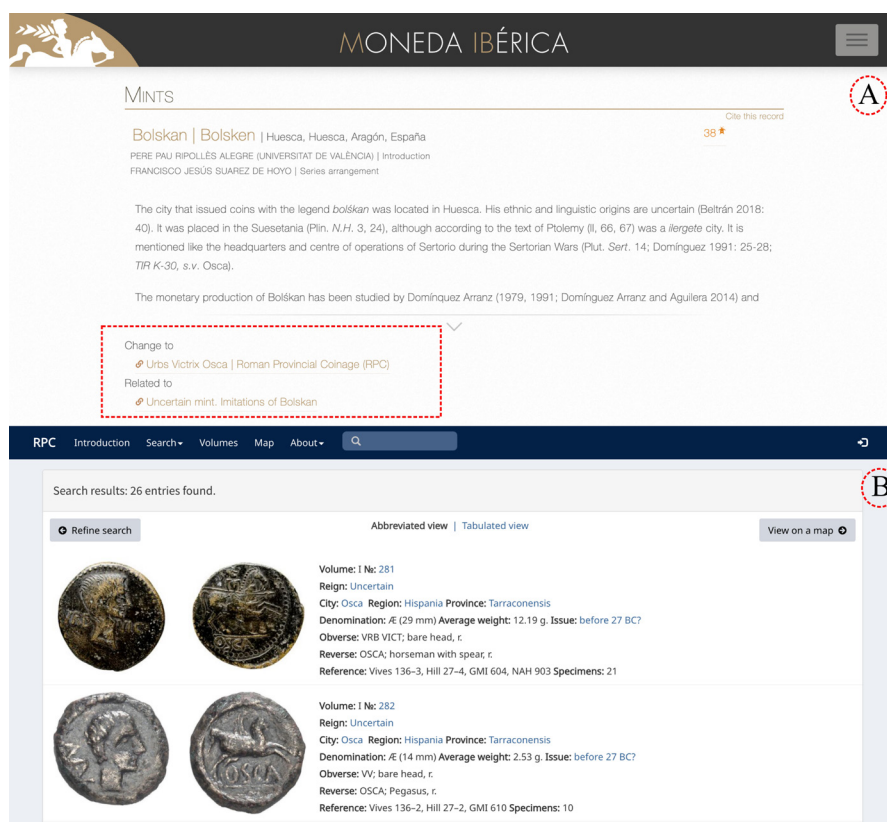


Fig. 9. Related pages dedicated to the mints of Bolskan (A: MIB) and Osca (B: RPC).

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The traditional historiographical division of Valencia’s coin production, focused not on the territory (which also includes the mint of Alicante during the Late Middle Ages, as previously indicated), but on the city’s workshop, establishes five chronological periods according to the main historical divisions of the region:

1. The Roman mint, when the city was named Valentia (2nd century BC to the 5th century AD).
2. The Visigothic mint, with the same name as the previous one (5th century AD to the 8th century AD).
3. The medieval Muslim mint, when the city changed its name to Balansiya (from the early 11th century to the first half of the 13th century, until the feudal conquest in 1238; **Fig. 10**).
4. The medieval Christian mint, established after the feudal conquest of the territory and founded in 1247 by order of King James I of Aragon with the name of Valencia.
5. The Modern Age mint, which retained the name Valencia until its closure. This period is established between the death of Ferdinand II of Aragon in 1516 and the closure of the mint in 1748. It includes occasional reopenings, such as that of 1810. Although portrayed as a unified period, it encompasses a significant duration marked by essential changes, which will unveil its complexity in the broader undertaking of cataloguing Valencia’s coinage.

From all these divisions – following the criteria we’ve outlined for Bolscan-Osca – it seems evident that the Roman, Visigothic, and Islamic mints present enough distinctions to warrant being regarded as separate entries, albeit with connections between them. There are clear breaks in production and issuing authorities, but do the same distinctions apply between the medieval and modern-era mint?

The screenshot displays the nomisma.org interface for the 'Balansiya' entry. The header includes navigation links like 'Browse IDs', 'About', and 'Research Tools'. The main content area for 'Balansiya (Mint, Concept)' provides a canonical URI, multilingual labels, a detailed English definition of the mint's activity from the 11th to 13th centuries, and precise geospatial coordinates. A map of Valencia is shown on the right, with a legend for 'Mints', 'Hoards', and 'Finds'. The map also includes a 'View fullscreen' link.

Fig. 10. Balansiya entry in nomisma.org.

The need to separate the mint of Balansiya from the mint of Valencia seems undeniable, given that both had distinct monetary systems under entirely separate social, political, and fiscal structures. It is logical to establish separate entries for Balansiya and Valencia in Dédalo, mirroring the differentiation made in the definitions on nomisma.org.⁵ However, the distinction between productions of the Late Middle Ages and the Modern Age is more ambiguous. Aside from the introduction of new coin types, the monetary system, as well as the political, fiscal, and social systems, remain largely unchanged, along with the currency’s usage and circulation networks.

⁵ <https://nomisma.org/id/balansiya> for the medieval Islamic mint and <https://nomisma.org/id/valencia> for the medieval Christian and modern mint.

Therefore, it is worth considering whether it is necessary to create a division between these two concepts – medieval and modern – or if maintaining unity, as done in the Nomisma Med/Mod project, would be more appropriate for ours.

4.1. The “mint” entry in the Kingdom of Valencia project

Within the structure of the monedaiberica.org system, which is utilised to establish the foundations of the Kingdom of Valencia Project, a specific structure is designated for entries concerning a mint. Illustrated in **Fig. 11** is an example of such an entry from the latest iteration of Dédalo (October 2023), representing the mint of Valencia during the medieval and modern periods. While the entry has been created, it remains incompletely defined in terms of content, pending a decision on whether to consolidate the medieval Christian period with the Modern Age.

The screenshot displays the 'monedaiberica' web application interface for creating or editing a mint record. The main form is divided into several sections:

- IDENTIFICACIÓN:** Includes a unique ID (506), a 'Publicable' checkbox, and a 'Ceca' dropdown menu set to 'Valencia'.
- Localización:** A map showing the location of the mint in Valencia, with coordinates (39.462438824746, -0.37628173828125) and a zoom level of 12.
- Marco temporal:** A date range selector set to '1238' to '1492'.
- Información interna:** A rich text editor with a toolbar for text formatting and a 'Guardar' (Save) button.
- Georeferenciación:** A section for georeferencing the mint's location.
- Descripción:** A text area containing the following text: "Mint established in the city of Valencia. Opened by Jaime I in 1247 for the minting of copper pennies and half pennies, called realis; its production ceased in 1271. It would not reopen until the reign of Pedro IV of Aragon, and it would remain in operation throughout the late medieval and modern times, minting copper, silver and gold coins."
- RELACIONES:** A section for defining relationships between the mint and other entities, including 'Dependiente de', 'Hijos', and 'Términos relacionados'.

The right sidebar provides additional information and tools:

- INFO:** Displays the record's ID (506), creation date (31-10-2022 13:59:11), modification date (10-06-2023 18:53:01), and first/last publication dates.
- HERRAMIENTAS:** Includes a 'Publicación' section with 'Web MIB' and 'Web MIB PRE' options.
- ACTIVITY LOG:** A section for tracking changes to the record.
- INDEXACIONES:** A section for indexing the record.
- RELACIONES:** A section for managing relationships.
- ÚLTIMOS CAMBIOS:** A section for viewing recent changes.
- HISTORIAL DEL COMPONENTE:** A section for viewing the component's history.
- DATA LINK:** A section for managing data links.

Fig. 11. Fields comprising a mint record, such as the one for Valencia.

Firstly, the mint is identified by a unique and immutable number, enabling its permanent location within the system. This identifier, akin to the relationship links previously described, remains entirely stable. Secondly, the mint's name is established, with Valencia being the case in point, along with the provision to incorporate alternative or additional denominations if required. Like the majority of fields, this one supports multilingualism.

Following this, the mint's location is specified, referencing the city or region where it is situated and drawing information from a thesaurus that has been developed over the years for MIB. Once again, we see the advantage of participating within the existing installation for monedaiberica.org, avoiding the need for the unnecessary duplication of content.

One of the recently incorporated fields is the one for chronology, which enables us to establish – or in certain instances, re-establish – the start and end dates of coin production activity. These

dates are typically expressed in years, although if more precise information is available from documentation indicating the exact month or day when the workshop commenced or ceased operations, this can also be included.

Additionally, there is a specific field for including a description with as much detail as needed or deemed necessary. Similarly, this field supports multiple languages and can be expanded to accommodate extensive information. Internal annotations, however, are confined to another specific section of the entry and are not intended for publication on the web catalogue. These annotations can encompass any necessary notes helpful to the content creator, serving both their own reference and that of other collaborators engaged in the project at present or in the future.

Finally, the georeferencing field enables us to precisely determine the geographic location of the mint, provided it is known; this information is displayed on an interactive map. For instance, a pinpoint can be placed at the exact location of the mint, or a radius can be marked if the exact location is uncertain. Concerning the mint of Barcelona, its location is clear from the reign of Peter IV of Aragon, as this monarch purchased a building on Flassaders Street in 1349, where all coin production permanently relocated from 1351 until the definitive closure of the mint in the 19th century (Ripoll 2008). However, the location of the medieval mint of Valencia is more ambiguous, and although we assume it would be in the vicinity of La Virgen Square – La Paz Street – San Vicente Street, it cannot be guaranteed that this is the exact location. Therefore, the georeferencing field allows us to specify a broader point or area. In the case of Barcelona, we know that the mint from 1351 onwards was situated on Flassaders Street, but due to the non-permanent and mobile nature of the mint before the second half of the 14th century, we only have records of some buildings rented by the Crown for coin production, while documentation for others is not preserved. Hence, a decision must be made when creating the mint entry to determine its location: the Flassaders building if we choose the mint from 1351 onwards, or the city of Barcelona in general if we do not wish to specify such an exact point. The same applies to Valencia: since the proposed location appears to be that of the mint from the Late Middle Ages or even the Modern Era, and we do not know where the mint of 1247 or 1271 was (which may have been in different locations), the decision can be made to designate Valencia city as the production site without georeferencing a specific location. If its exact location is discovered in the future, thanks to documentation or archaeology, this field could be modified. As the links are stable, these modifications would not affect the relationships or other pages that have directly used this information.

Furthermore, it is possible to include any necessary bibliography, utilising an extensive library established in MIB, as mentioned earlier. This library continues to expand regularly by incorporating articles and books, which are integrated and linked within the system.

Lastly, the entry incorporates relationship fields, crucial for establishing links between mints or with other relevant concepts we may be addressing.

4.2. Defining the entry “Valencia Mint”: an issue to confront

Given the definitional challenge presented by the concept of a mint, the first task in creating the entry is to clarify what we mean by the “Valencia Mint”. It appears evident that there should be a division between the mint of the Muslim period and that of the Christian period following the feudal conquest of the territory, thereby justifying the existence of two distinct concepts. However, we must consider whether it will be necessary to differentiate between the late medieval mint and the modern mint, or even to establish separate entries for the 13th-century workshop and those of the 14th and 15th centuries.

In essence, the system requires a decision between concept division and correlation, or simplification. Both approaches are valid, each with its own advantages and drawbacks. Simplification entails creating a single entity termed “Valencia Medieval Mint”, encompassing coinage from James I of Aragon to Ferdinand II of Aragon, spanning 1247 to 1516. This necessitates a comprehensive description detailing Valencia’s progression as a minting centre. Should we perceive no significant political, social, economic, or material schism between the Late Middle Ages and the Early Modern era, simplification could extend to encompass the mint’s closure in 1748 or even 1810 under the umbrella of the “Valencia Mint”. This aligns with the name associated

with the workshop and city since the mid-13th century. It would be distinct from the “Muslim Mint of Valencia” concept, although an alternative might be considered for the project involving Muslim medieval coinage in the Valencian territory, such as “Balansiyah” or “Balansiyah Mint”, as employed on nomisma.org.

Division, on the other hand, involves creating distinct concepts, each requiring a more comprehensive set of data to justify its inclusion. For instance, one might consider introducing concepts such as “Feudal Mint of Valencia”, “Late Medieval Mint of Valencia”, and “Modern Mint of Valencia”. All these entries must be interconnected through the fields we’ve discussed, facilitating stable links for navigation across the various divisions. However, pursuing this option, as mentioned earlier, demands a more detailed dataset, including precise information such as the exact location of James I of Aragon’s mint and that of Peter IV of Aragon. The differing locations could serve as arguments favouring concept differentiation. Another consideration could be the use of different metals, such as exclusive billon minting during James I’s reign and gold minting during Peter IV’s reign.

However, opting for division poses certain challenges. The two main ones we encounter are, firstly, the introduction of new coin types and metals while certain productions continue. In this scenario, we consider the reopening of the mint in the 14th century, during which exclusively florins were coined. These florins continued to be produced throughout the century and into the 15th century, alongside the reintroduction of billon and the beginning of silver coinage. In our opinion, this indicates continuity.

Secondly, the introduction of new techniques and machinery raises an important question: does the concept of the mint change when transitioning from coinage by hammer to production using a roller, flywheel, or any other method, while the physical location remains unchanged? Consider, for instance, the Segovia mint: should we consider separate mints within the same building each time new machinery is introduced? (see Murray 2018). Our view is that no, there is still continuity in the concept, and these changes should be incorporated into its description.

5. Conclusions

It is evident that the definition of the mint concept using Dédalo is influenced by specific needs and the volume of available information pertaining to the particular mint in question. Our approach leans towards simplifying entries, aligning with the political and social evolution of the region, which delineates clear historical divisions between accepted periods according to current research. This implies, for now, a singular entry within the Kingdom of Valencia Project, distinctly separating the Islamic mint, designated as the “Balansiyah mint” – following the criterion chosen for nomisma.org – and the mint established from 1247 onwards, marking a stark shift in political, fiscal, and social regimes, accompanied by radical and definitive changes in both the monetary system and currency mass. Hence, the concept of the “Valencia mint” encompasses the mint from its inception in 1247 until its ultimate closure.

Having only one concept simplifies the work and understanding. However, this does not imply that in the future, when the Kingdom of Valencia Project needs to incorporate all Valencian productions from 1516 onward, this entry can be split into two: one for the late medieval period and another for the modern period. This decision must be based on solid criteria that allow for a reasoned differentiation.

Our example, although local and specific, addresses a broader issue concerning the definition of concepts in digital projects, not limited to just mints. It highlights the importance of defining entries for inclusion in digital catalogues, thesauri, or libraries, as these definitions shape the organisation and accessibility of digital content. The Dédalo platform facilitates the establishment of stable relationships and the rearrangement of information and concepts in a collaborative manner. For us, ensuring the establishment of stable links that facilitate understanding the evolution of a mint, for instance, is crucial, as demonstrated in our discussion.

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