

# Coins in the Classroom: A History of Numismatic Education at the Universities in the Netherlands

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## *Samenvatting*

*Dit artikel schetst een historisch overzicht van de universitaire, numismatische cursussen te Nederland. Het artikel staat eerst stil bij prof. C.J.C. Reuvens en later prof. P.O. van der Chijs, die de eerste numismatische cursussen introduceerden. In het historische overzicht wordt ook speciaal aandacht besteed aan de ondersteunende rol die het Koninklijk Nederlands Genootschap voor Munt- en Penningkunde heeft gespeeld bij de promotie van de numismatiek aan de universiteiten. Ten slotte richt het artikel zich op de huidige situatie van de numismatische cursussen aan de Nederlandse universiteiten.*

## *Summary*

*The article presents the history of the numismatic courses taught at the Dutch universities, which started two centuries ago at Leiden University with its pioneers Prof. C.J.C. Reuvens and Prof. P.O. van der Chijs. In this historic overview, special attention is paid to the supportive role played by the Koninklijk Nederlands Genootschap voor Munt- en Penningkunde in promoting academic numismatic courses. The article ends with an overview of the current situation of numismatic teaching at the universities in the Netherlands.*

The implementation of numismatic courses in the academic curricula of the Dutch universities has never been self-evident. As a result, many numismatic scholars in the Netherlands have been and still are autodidacts, who were caught by a “numismatic virus” during their studies in archaeology, (ancient) history or classics. Their interests in numismatics have resulted in the creation of an academic numismatic course.

This article, which was presented during the 125<sup>th</sup> jubilee congress of the *Koninklijk Nederlands Genootschap voor Munt- en Penningkunde*, (in English: Royal Dutch Numismatic Society) gives an overview of the history of the numismatic courses taught at the Dutch universities.<sup>1</sup> First, the article will

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<sup>1</sup> Last year, a book on the numismatic courses at the universities of Europe has appeared (Ziegert & Wolters, 2017), in which J. van Heesch already gave a short overview of the numismatic courses taught in The Netherlands (van Heesch, 2017: 15-24).

discuss the pioneers who started to teach numismatic courses and the ones who promoted those courses. Secondly, it will focus on the 1960s during which numismatics was implemented in several university programs at Leiden University and the University of Groningen. Finally, the article will give a short overview of the later scholars who taught numismatic courses at a university, either as lecturers of permanent courses or as guest lectures. In the story presented, a special role is also attributed to the Royal Dutch Numismatic Society which from time to time did great efforts to promote the study of numismatics.

### **Caspar Jacob Christian Reuvens and Pieter Otto van der Chijs: the pioneers**

The father of numismatic education in the Netherlands is Pieter Otto van der Chijs, mostly known for his *opus magnus*, *De Munten [der Nederlanden] van de vroegste tijden tot aan de Pacificatie van Gend*, which still remains a standard reference work for medieval numismatics. Yet, he has done many other things as well, one of these being the promotion and teaching of numismatics. Because of the special role that Van der Chijs has played for the science in numismatics, more attention will be paid to him in this article.

Van der Chijs (1802-1867) was born into a wealthy family from Delft. His father, Jacobus van der Chijs (1776-1833), was a merchant selling the famous butter of Delft and was the owner of the Boterhuis in Delft. His mother Anna Susanna Bagelaar (1778-1846) was daughter of a famous general. Anna Bagelaar, and later also his sister, had good relations with the Dutch royal house, especially with queen Sofia van Wurtemberg.<sup>2</sup> Van der Chijs had two younger brothers and a sister.<sup>3</sup> They grew up together in the house Sasbout, which was also nicknamed *Die Weerelt*, in the Breestraat 1 in Delft.<sup>4</sup>

In the prologue of one of his first books Van der Chijs wrote that he had been interested in coinage starting at a very young age. His fascination was triggered by the tokens for the poor that were distributed by his family, which was well known for its charity work in Delft.<sup>5</sup>

In 1820, Van der Chijs started to study classics at Leiden University, during which he developed an interest in the new study of archaeology. Next to his regular classes, he also took some archaeological courses given by the newly

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.achterdegevelsvandelft.nl/huizen/Breestraat%201.html>.

<sup>3</sup> His sister, Anna Maria Margaretha *aka* Mienette, would later play a pivotal role in the promotion of education for women in the Netherlands. A memorial plaque at the facade of her parents' house, which Mienette inherited, commemorates her as one of the first feminists of the Netherlands and a globetrotter.

<sup>4</sup> His birth house is now the hotel "Grand Canal". Van der Chijs' son, Jacobus van der Chijs, was a specialist in Indonesian coinage and member of the Royal Dutch Numismatic Society.

<sup>5</sup> Van der Chijs, 1829: prologue.

appointed professor *extraordinarius* Caspar Reuvs (1793-1835), who introduced Van der Chijs to numismatics (Figure 1).<sup>6</sup>



Figure 1. Portrait of C.J.C. Reuvs (Archive Leiden University)

In his *levensbericht* published after his premature death in 1835, we can read that Reuvs' first courses were about Numismatics. Later, he would write to king Willem I, who had appointed him as professor, that when he started he "*niet veel meer kende dan de penningkunde*." Yet, linking archaeology to the history of Antiquity was combining the best of two worlds, as Reuvs argued.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> In 1818, Reuvs had been appointed "*professor extraordinarius* in de Algemeene Oudheidkunde" (Science of Antiquities) by king Willem I at the University of Leiden. A decade later, he became professor Archaeology at the same university. Reuvs became one of the pioneers of modern science of archaeology because of his innovative registration methods and field techniques. Cf. Halbertsma, 2003: 117-124.

<sup>7</sup> RMO archive ARA inv 4 17.1.1/2, Reuvs to king Willem I, Leiden 29 March 1826. Cf. Halbertsma, 2003: 26-27; Hoijtink, 2009: 4.

The numismatic course of Reuvens was called *Het nut en belang van de numismatiek*, which almost exclusively dealt with ancient numismatics. The first courses were attended by a group of 15 students. In his courses Reuvens used his own coin collection, which he had bought from his former colleague at Harderwijk, Prof. Bernard Nieuhoff.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, he bought new coins to add to his collection and on top of that, he received a legate of very beautiful Greek and Roman coins of mr. J.O. Arntzenius. By the Royal Coin Cabinet in The Hague, Reuvens was given more than a thousand sulphur cast coins, selected and produced by the numismatist Th.E. Mionnet. With this sulphur cast collection, Reuvens could show his students diverse coin specimens from almost every city, empire and emperor.<sup>9</sup> In his numismatic courses, of which some were also open to the public, Reuvens most likely used the volumes of Eckhel as source book.<sup>10</sup> Later, Van der Chijs wrote in the first volume of his *Tijdschrift voor Munt- en Penningkunde* that Reuvens introduced another classification system for ancient coins, attributing a less important role to Roman coinage than Eckhel had done. The new classification had a more chronological approach in which first the coins of free Greek *poleis* and other ancient tribes were discussed; secondly, the coinage of the Hellenistic kings and thirdly, the coinage of Rome. Roman coinage was divided into three periods: the time that Rome was ruled by kings, the Roman Republic and the imperial period.<sup>11</sup> No source book of Reuvens classes have been preserved, but it is possible that the Dutch summary of Eckel's *Doctrina Nummorum veterum* (1792-1828) published over the different volumes of *Tijdschrift voor Munt- en Penningkunde* is an offprint of Reuvens' syllabus. Later in his career, Reuvens started to teach other archaeological courses as well, after which his course in numismatics was only taught every two years.<sup>12</sup>

From the first volume of the *Tijdschrift voor Munt- en Penningkunde*, we learn that the young Van der Chijs followed Reuvens' courses *Oude Penningkunde*, and that this changed the course of Van der Chijs' life dramatically. Reuvens thought Van der Chijs an intelligent student, who by then had already won two awards, one from the University of Ghent – which even allowed him to travel to Belgium – and one from Leiden University.<sup>13</sup> In June 1827, Reuvens started his excavations of the Roman forum Hadriani at Arentsburg (Voorburg). Van der Chijs, together with Conrad Leemans, was appointed as a scientific assistant during these excavations, which would take seven years. Van der Chijs was the one responsible for the diary of the excavations, a task he failed to do

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<sup>8</sup> Brongers, 2002: 83.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>10</sup> Anonymus, 1835: 11.

<sup>11</sup> Van der Chijs, 1933: 119.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. Brongers, 2002: 146 with an overview of all courses given by Reuvens.

<sup>13</sup> Meijer, 1869: 219.

so, as can be concluded from letters written by Reuvens.<sup>14</sup> Presumably, Van der Chijs did not like the work in the muddy field and was unable to reproduce all details that he had come across each day of the excavation. Reuvens was frustrated by his pupil, and eventually took over the diary himself. During the second campaign, Conrad Leemans took over this task, and this started a silent feud between the two pupils of Reuvens.<sup>15</sup>

Yet, as a scholar sitting behind his desk, Van der Chijs achieved much more under the supervision of Reuvens. On 3 October 1828, the young man defended his dissertation *Commentarius geographicus in Arrianum de expeditione Alexandri Magni summa cum laude*. It was positively received, both nationally and internationally.<sup>16</sup>

Shortly after his graduation from Leiden University, Van der Chijs wrote a long essay on the utility of studying ancient, medieval and (early) modern coinage and medals, named *Beknopte handelng over het nut der beoefening van de Algemeene, dat is Oude, Middeleeuwsche en Hedendaagsche Munt- en Penningkunde*.<sup>17</sup> He listed more than ten reasons why a modern society would need numismatic studies, backed by many examples and provided historical overviews of how coin systems were introduced in and spread over the ancient, medieval and early modern world. With this essay, Van der Chijs demonstrated his broad knowledge of numismatics and his fierce will to promote the study of coins as a new branch in academia. It is not surprising that only a little later Van der Chijs started the *Tijdschrift voor Algemeene Munt- en Penningkunde* (1833), of which he was editor until 1843.<sup>18</sup> The journal was one of the oldest journals in the world that was dedicated solely to the science of numismatics. In this journal, Van der Chijs also published a study on numismatics referring back to the courses of Reuvens. Yet, as it appeared at irregular intervals, it did not have a clear table of contents, and as Van der Chijs got other obligations during the period of its appearance, the journal's last edition was published about ten years later.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> We read in the Diary excavations of Arentsburg, Museum Archive 19.1.2/53: "especially because my notes are an improvement of the earlier remarks of Mr. vdC, which otherwise would be unintelligible". Cf. Halbertsma, 2003: 120.

<sup>15</sup> Halbertsma, 2003: 120-121.

<sup>16</sup> Meijer, 1869: 234. Especially, the revised map Van der Chijs created of Alexander's expedition was perceived to be ground-breaking.

<sup>17</sup> Van der Chijs, 1829.

<sup>18</sup> Van der Chijs was also the editor of the journal *Vriend des Vaderlands: een tijdschrift toegewijd aan den roem en de welvaart van Nederland en in het byzonder aan de hulp-behoefigen in hetzelve*. This journal was committed to charity works and societies for the poor in the Netherlands.

<sup>19</sup> A year later, in 1834, the *Blätter für Münzfreunde* started, cf. Grierson, Spufford & Boffa, 2003: appendix 3. In his article, van Heesch 2017 also mentions that the *Revue numismatique* started in 1836, the *Numismatic Chronicle* in 1838 and the *Revue belge de Numismatique* in 1841.

After the sudden death of Reuvens in 1835, Conrad Leemans became the new director of the “Museum der Oudheden”. It was decided that the coin collection that was formerly part of the museum became an institution on its own, named the “Leids Academisch Penningkabinet” (Figure 2), of which Van der Chijs became the first director.<sup>20</sup> From 1837, the archaeological collection of the museum and the Academic Coin Cabinet shared a building at the Breestraat 18 in Leiden. The forced cohabitation led to disputes about the keys and, more important, finances. In addition, the former students of Reuvens clashed ideologically because the Academic Coin Cabinet also hosted a collection of modern coinage, a subject that Leemans did not want in his museum of antiquities.<sup>21</sup>



Figure 2: Ground plan of the “Museum der Oudheden” with the room of “Leids Academisch Penningkabinet” under the dir.[ection] of Prof. Van der Chijs in the Breestraat 18 (Archive of the RMO)

<sup>20</sup> Otterspeer, 2005: 128–129; 131–132.

<sup>21</sup> Halbertsma, 2003: 120; 145. Cf. a letter about a dispute about a *custos* of the RMO of Van der Chijs to Leemans: Archive of the RMO inv 131 | 17.01.04/02: 1841–1850, 25 April 1849.



Figure 3. Photograph of P.O. van der Chijs (Oud Gemeente archief Leiden)

The story mentioned does not give a very positive image of our numismatic pioneer. It is obvious, of course, that Van der Chijs' passion for numismatics, a science that is primarily related to antiquarian objects, increased his image as an outlaw in academia. Meijer, his successor in the Coin Cabinet in Leiden, would later describe Van der Chijs as a rigid and unsportsman-like personality. He also assumed that his predecessor was a typical example of a young boy "*die weinig onder de mensen verkeerd heeft*." The French occupation of the Netherlands, which took place during Van der Chijs' childhood and adolescence, also had a negative impact on the development of his personality. Spufford would later describe his behaviour as hypochondriac.<sup>22</sup> Meijer added that Van der Chijs often felt misunderstood because of his distant behaviour, whereas he had a big heart for the ones less fortunate in society.<sup>23</sup>

Some of his later colleagues at the Leiden University described Van der Chijs as a "*malle Pietje*" (Figure 3). Prof. J.R. Thorbecke, writer of the Dutch constitution of 1848 and professor in diplomacy and modern history, wrote that Van der Chijs had been better given "*een leeraarschap bij een Fransch instituut*". The classicist Prof. J. Bake thought Van der Chijs to be someone of lower rank than himself and Prof. Van Assen, a lawyer, was quite upset when he said "*dat deze [Van der Chijs] in de wandeling [on occasion of the start of the academic year] voor een brouillon wordt gehouden en zal dit altijd blijven*".<sup>24</sup>

Yet, there were also many scholars, especially abroad, who highly admired Van der Chijs and his work. Over the years, Van der Chijs was appointed member of several historical, literary and other scholarly societies.<sup>25</sup> Due to his personal communication with his broad network of friends and acquaintances and his persuasion skills, Van der Chijs succeeded to increase the collection of his Coin Cabinet. During his directorship, the collection of the Academic Coin Cabinet in Leiden multiplied by three. In the same time, Van der Chijs was also appointed as *professor extraordinarius* in Numismatics at Leiden University. From his letters kept at the University of Leiden, it becomes clear that

<sup>22</sup> Grierson, Spufford & Boffa, 2003: appendix 3.

<sup>23</sup> Meijer, 1869: 217-218; 220-221; 233-234.

<sup>24</sup> Otterspeer, 2005: 132.

<sup>25</sup> In Meijer, 1869, an overview of all these societies is given.

after his promotion as *professor extraordinarius* in Numismatics Van der Chijs was involved in academic teaching. One particular note from the academic year 1836–1837 can be read as a testimony of his teaching activity and his sorrows as a lecturer, searching for a student who most likely had stopped his studies.<sup>26</sup>

“*Waarde vriend! Uw briefje vond mij niet thuis. Men zeide mij, dat er antwoord op afgehaald zou worden. Dat is niet geschied. Ik acht mij daarom verplicht, uwe (?), bij dezen, met een paar woorden te melden, - dat ik den Heer R. weinig of niet ken; zelfs van aangezicht niet; alleen mij herinnerde dat hij slecht collegieganger was; het welk geen gunstig vooroordeel inboezemt, maar toch nog geen stellig bewijs oplevert van kwaad gedrag in andere opzigten. Misschien weet Coll. Van Hengel meer van hem; of Coll. Kist<sup>27</sup>: ik niet. Ik gis, dat hij geen lust in de studie, in het algemeen, of bepaald in die den Thlgie (theology ed.), zal gehad hebben: maar, vóór dat u 't mij benigtet (?), wist ik niet dat hij ze dadelijk gequiteerd had. S.S. J.J. Clarisse.* V.H. 10 Juny 1837”

No official record has survived which states that Van der Chijs taught numismatic courses, nor has he written about it. The sole clue we have is the testimony of his successor Meijer, who wrote in an obituary for Van der Chijs that students had requested Van der Chijs to give some numismatic courses. Yet, Meijer does not mention a start or an end date for these courses; he only vaguely indicated that these courses had started around 1843/1844 when Van der Chijs stopped his editorship for *Tijdschrift voor Munt- en Penningkunde*. It is possible that the abovementioned Heer R. was a student who had taken some numismatic education in the Coin Cabinet. Yet, that does not fit with the account of Meijer. In addition, Meijer noted that after Van der Chijs' death a syllabus was found among his documents with the title *Inleiding tot de Numismatische Lessen bij den Cursus van 1846-1847*, being a testimony of the numismatic courses he had started before. The manuscript itself has been lost.<sup>28</sup>

In 1842, Van der Chijs won the prestigious prize of the Scientific Teylers Second Society to publish a compilation of the coinage under the former Dutch dukes, counts and cities from the earliest times up to the Pacification of Ghent in 1576. Van der Chijs, who was a specialist in this field, wanted to correct the

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<sup>26</sup> Archive Leiden University: inv BPL 1886, J.J. Clarisse to P.O. van der Chijs, 10 June 1837. For this paper, important lines of this letter are: l. 3-4: “I do not know student R. or only a little, I do not even remember his face. I only know that he was often absent during my courses”; and l. 6-8: “I think that he did not like to study, or did not like the study of theology, yet, I did not know, before you had written me, that he had stopped his study.”

<sup>27</sup> W.A. van Hengel (1779-1871): Professor Biblical studies, New Testament in Leiden and N.C. Kist (1793-1859): Professor Church History in Leiden.

<sup>28</sup> Meijer, 1869: 223; 225.



18<sup>th</sup> century work of Van Alkemade on the coins of the counts of Holland.<sup>29</sup> Soon it became clear that Van der Chijs could not deal with all the coins of the provinces of the Netherlands. After an extension period of two years, he presented eight thick stocks of paper to the commission of the Teylers Society, after which Van der Chijs received officially his prize medal in 1846. His wife Helena Catharina Maas, whom he had married in 1830 and who had given him six children, was one of his fierce supporters. She had helped him with the descriptions and the drawings of the coins, partly because the manuscript had to be handed in anonymously and therefore could not bear the handwriting of Van der Chijs.<sup>30</sup> Van der Chijs continued to publish his work, adding much more about the coinage of the dukes, counts and cities from the earliest times up to 1576. This resulted eventually in the publication of nine volumes, of which the first *De munten der voormaligen hertogdommen Brabant en Limburg van de vroegste tijden tot aan de pacificatie van Gend* [sic] was published in 1851 and the last *De munten der Frankische en Duitsch Nederlandsche vorsten* in 1866. The series would be the standard reference for medieval and early modern coinage in the Netherlands for a long time, and still has some impact on this field today.<sup>31</sup> The project, which he continued besides his job as professor and director, cost him a lot of time. Van der Chijs spent many holidays travelling throughout the Dutch provinces in search of new additions to his catalogue. In many of his letters that have survived, he complained about the work load of his research project that was added to his normal job. He also debated fiercely with the members of the Teylers Society and the publishers about the editorship of his books. Yet, he also took a lot of pride from his work. To almost everybody he wrote to, he talked about the travels he planned to collect new coin specimens for his research or about whether one of the volumes was almost finished or in press.

In 1865, we read in a *post scriptum* in one of Van der Chijs' letters that he encourages his colleague Prof. W.G. Pluygers (1812-1880), Professor in classical Archaeology, to visit the Coin Cabinet with his students in order to study the Greek and Roman collection (Figure 4).<sup>32</sup> Yet, no further information is given. Most likely, we can see this invitation to Prof. Pluygers as a continuation of Van der Chijs' mission to include coins as a valuable source in archaeological studies, as Prof. Reuvens had done before.

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<sup>29</sup> Van Alkemade, 1700. For more on this scholar, see Beek, 2018: 5.

<sup>30</sup> Meijer, 1869: 224.

<sup>31</sup> [www.nederlandsemunten.nl/van\\_der\\_chijs/home.htm](http://www.nederlandsemunten.nl/van_der_chijs/home.htm)

<sup>32</sup> Archive Leiden University: inv BA1 M 16, P.O. van der Chijs to W.G. Pluygers, 28 January 1865.

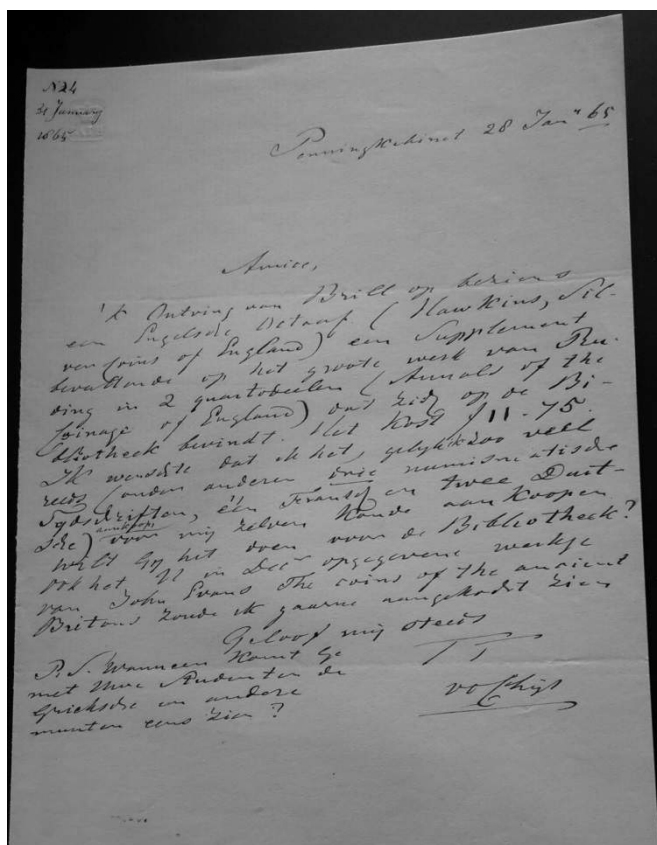


Figure 4. Letter of P.O. van der Chijs to W.G. Pluygers  
(Archive Leiden University: BA1 M 16)

After the manuscript of the last volume of his *magnum opus* was almost finished, Van der Chijs started to focus more on the advertisement of his Coin Cabinet internationally. In the *Revue belge de Numismatique* of 1862 a note was published in French about the collection of the Coin Cabinet of Leiden University.<sup>33</sup> In this paper, which included more than 60 pages, Van der Chijs wrote that it was a document that could be used to prepare a visit to the Cabinet by exploring pieces of its collection. Several abstracts of the paper were made and sent throughout the world with positive results, as Van der Chijs' successor Meijer stated.<sup>34</sup> In the introduction, Van der Chijs stressed that the Cabinet wanted to receive other people than the professors and their students of the university, hinting that the collection was predominantly used for educational

<sup>33</sup> Van der Chijs, 1862: 360-395; 480-505.

<sup>34</sup> Meijer, 1869: 232.

purposes – as the invitation of Pluygers mentioned above had suggested as well. Following an overview of the history of the Cabinet's collection dating back to its origins in 1801, the paper gives a description of all the pieces in the collection, sorted by country or region. It also gives some directions as how to get to the Cabinet by train. This way of travelling was still a novelty in those days, but Van der Chijs must have seen the opportunities it brought.<sup>35</sup> Later, a Dutch version was produced, which mentions the appointment of a *custos* to the Cabinet a decade later. This *custos* enabled the Cabinet to receive visitors between 12 and 3 o'clock. In the Dutch version some extra material is added, such as a short introduction to the science of coins and medals, a list of the most important numismatic catalogues and books and an historical overview of the introduction and spread of coinage over the world. It is highly likely that these pages come from Van der Chijs' former lecture material. The Dutch version was published posthumously, because Van der Chijs had suddenly died after a second nerve crisis in November 1867 on his way to his beloved Coin Cabinet.<sup>36</sup> He was buried at the graveyard at Groenesteeg in Leiden; his grave has been preserved.

### Promotion of Numismatics at the beginning of the 20th century

After Van der Chijs' death, no numismatic course was taught at Leiden University until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. *Le Congrès international de numismatique* of 1891, which was held in Brussels, led to the establishment of the Dutch Numismatic Society. This Society also took over one of the main future goals of the Congress: the promotion of numismatics among the youth.<sup>37</sup> A first step in this promotion is the note in the *Tijdschrift voor Munt- en Penningkunde* that the president of the Society and the director of the Royal Coin Cabinet (KPK) in The Hague, Dr. H.J. de Dompierre de Chaufepié (1861-1911), started to give guest lectures about ancient numismatics and gems at Leiden University (Figure 5).<sup>38</sup> Secondly, the Society started a remarkable initiative to send a series of Roman imperial bronze coins to the universities in the Netherlands. The initiative was even supported by the Dutch Ministry of Internal Affairs. The aim was that this series could be used in university courses dealing with Roman Antiquity.<sup>39</sup> Beside the coins, the universities also received a volume of plates

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<sup>35</sup> In 1854, a train road connection was made with Roosendaal, connecting Leiden to Brussels.

<sup>36</sup> Meijer, 1869: 233.

<sup>37</sup> For more on this congress, see De Witte & Tournier, 1910: 419-420; Claes, 2017a: 18-19.

<sup>38</sup> Van Kerkwijk, 1909: 172. Dompierre also guided several pupils from schools and gymnasias from The Hague around in his Royal Coin Cabinet. For more on this scholar see Jan Pelsdonk, 2018: 15.

<sup>39</sup> Van Kerkwijk, 1909: 172; 1911: 133. The collection had one coin of each of the first forty Roman emperors.

illustrating 200 of the finest Greek and Hellenistic coins in history.<sup>40</sup> The list and plates of these Greek and Hellenistic coins were also published by de Dompierre de Chaufepié in the *Tijdschrift voor Bouw- en Sierkunst* (Figure 6).<sup>41</sup> The aim of these initiatives was twofold: 1) to promote numismatics amongst a younger public; 2) to attract young people as members of the Dutch Numismatic Society. Yet, some years later, we read in the *Tijdschrift voor Munt- en Penningkunde* that only the first goal had been reached. The youth, possessed by football, was not interested anymore in collecting coins, as the later successor of Dompierre de Chaufepié, A.O. van Kerkwijk (1873-1957) observed:

*“Het eerste doel zou grotendeels in zijn opzet geslaagd zijn, lezen we verder, het tweede niet, er komen geen jeugdleden bij, klaagt de schrijver van het bericht in het TMP. Volgens hem ligt dat aan de veranderde levensstijl van de Nederlander, maar ook doordat de jeugd zich nu bezighoudt met voetbal en als ze verzamelen dan verzamelen ze postzegels, die goedkoper zijn.”*<sup>42</sup>



Figure 5.: Photograph of H.J. de Dompierre de Chaufepié (Haagse Beeldbank)



Figure 6. Fragment of the Greek and Hellenistic coin list (nos. 155-160) published in the journal *Tijdschrift voor Bouw- en Sierkunst*, 1901

Some years later, a similar initiative was proposed by the curator of the Teylers Museum, G.H. du Crocq, who was also curator of the coin and medal collection of the Society.<sup>43</sup> Inspired by the inauguration of a professor in Numismatics at the Goethe University in Frankfurt du Crocq suggested to create a

<sup>40</sup> Most likely, the Greek and Hellenistic coins displayed are ones selected from the J.P. Six collection, which Dompierre de Chaufepié managed to acquire for the KPK.

<sup>41</sup> Volume 1901: 63-86 and plates 107-121. I must thank my student Banban Wang for finding this journal in the archives of the Royal Library in The Hague.

<sup>42</sup> Van Kerkwijk, 1909: 172; 175-176. For more on this scholar, see Lennaerts, 2018: 27. The text reads that the first aim has succeeded. The second aim has not succeeded. Van Kerkwijk lamented that the youth is only interested in football, and that they do not collect coins anymore, and if they were collecting something, stamps were more popular.

<sup>43</sup> A catalogue of the Society's collection, which existed of almost 2,000 pieces, was published by du Crocq a few years earlier: Du Crocq, 1906.

numismatic collection for the Dutch universities, which could be used in courses on ancient languages, history and even geography. Yet, du Crocq's call had a very bad timing, as the First World War was about to break out, and accordingly nothing happened with this idea.<sup>44</sup>

After the First World War, the later successor of A.O. van Kerkwijk, Dr. A.M. Evelein (1879-1959) played a role in the promotion of numismatics at the University of Nijmegen. Being the director of the Museum Kam in Nijmegen, Evelein allowed the young professor *extraordinarius* Ferdinand J.M. De Waele (1896-1977) to work with the museum's coin collection. Originally a Belgian, De Waele studied in Ghent, Würzburg, Bonn and Utrecht, after which he did his doctoral studies under Prof. Drerup, a classicist in Nijmegen. In 1940, De Waele became a full professor in Classical Archaeology, Ancient History and later also New Greek at the Catholic University of Nijmegen (Figure 7).<sup>45</sup> De Waele was a scholar, who included the science of numismatics in his archaeological research. In addition, he also introduced his students to the world of ancient coinage through a workshop course, entitled *Archeologische oefeningen over Grieksche en Romeinsche schilderkunst en numismatiek* (in 1935 *numismatiek* in the title was changed into *muntenkunde*).<sup>46</sup> The course had not only workshops in the Museum Kam, De Waele also went with his students to the Gemeentemuseum, of which he himself was co-curator.<sup>47</sup> The course ran from 1932 until 1938.<sup>48</sup> In 1939, the course was reformed, focussing only on Greek coinage combined with the study of craftsmanship. After the Second World War had broken out, De Waele continued teaching, but the Greek coinage course was stopped.<sup>49</sup> Most likely, he still incorporated coinage in a new course, which dealt with the sources of [Greek and] Roman history. This course ran from 1940 onwards, but it was ended when the university was closed in 1943.<sup>50</sup> After the war, De Waele was allowed to teach again, yet, the visits with the students to the museums of Nijmegen stopped.<sup>51</sup> He introduced a new numismatic course for the first semester of 1946-1947, solely dedicated to Roman coinage and medals.<sup>52</sup> Yet, also this course run again for one year. After 1946, he started to

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<sup>44</sup> Scharp, 1913: 252-253.

<sup>45</sup> Brabers, 1998: 200.

<sup>46</sup> R.K. Universiteit Nijmegen, 1935: 54. *Gids van het studiejaar 1935-1936*, Brabers, 1998: 208.

<sup>47</sup> KDC archive Radboud University Nijmegen: inv LARC 6885, funeral oration spoken by Prof. Peeters.

<sup>48</sup> R.K. Universiteit Nijmegen, 1932: 53-54.

<sup>49</sup> R.K. Universiteit Nijmegen, 1939: 56.

<sup>50</sup> R.K. Universiteit Nijmegen, 1940: 56.

<sup>51</sup> Brabers, 1998: 274; 276-277. See also KDC archive Radboud University Nijmegen: inv RADB-754. De Waele's name was rehabilitated after the Second World War after some accusations accused him of a troubled involvement with the Nazis.

<sup>52</sup> R.K. Universiteit Nijmegen, 1946: 62.

teach about other primary sources, such as Greek and Roman inscriptions and even papyri. In 1961, he revived his old love for ancient coinage, introducing a course on ancient coinage in general which he combined with the study of ancient inscriptions.<sup>53</sup> The course, which was given to the classical students, stopped when he went on retirement in 1966.<sup>54</sup> In 1964, De Waele published the book *Historische kritiek en Romeinse numismatiek. Grepen uit de beschaving der Oudheid*. Most likely, his courses on ancient coinage were a pre-study for this oeuvre.<sup>55</sup>



Figure 7: Photograph of F.J.M. De Waele  
(KDC Archive Radboud University Nijmegen AFBK-1b11410)

### The golden age of numismatics in the Netherlands

After the Second World War, a golden age started for the science of numismatics in the Netherlands. The Academic Coin Cabinet had been merged with the Royal Coin Cabinet (KPK) which resided subsequently in the Gemeentemuseum, at the Lange Voorhout and later the Zeestraat in The Hague. The Royal Coin Cabinet became the major centre for numismatic research in the Netherlands. Furthermore, several of its employees played a crucial role in the promotion and teaching of numismatics among students from the 1960s until the 1990s.

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<sup>53</sup> Gids Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen, 1961: 74. The title of the course changed over the years from “Antieke munt- en penningkunde” to “Hoofdstukken over antieke munten” to “Hoofdstukken uit de antieke numismatiek”.

<sup>54</sup> In 1963, another special one year course was taught about the Roman history of Corinth and its coinage during that period. The course was given to classical and archaeological students. Gids Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen, 1963: 79; 106.

<sup>55</sup> Cf. KDC archive Radboud University Nijmegen: inv LARC 6885, funeral oration spoken by Prof. Peeters.

One of them was Prof. Annie Zadoks-Josephus Jitta (1904-2000). She wrote her doctoral thesis about Roman portraiture under the auspices of Prof. Snijder at the University of Amsterdam.<sup>56</sup> Her dissertation *Ancestral portraiture in Rome and the art of the last century of the Republic* was published later, giving her the status of an expert on Roman art. Originating from a wealthy Jewish family, she had suffered from several personal losses during the Second World War. She herself had been captured by the Nazis, but escaped and worked for some time under the pseudonym of Mrs. Van Vuren at the Dutch Tropical Institute.<sup>57</sup> Later, she started to work at the Coin Cabinet in The Hague, a position that she combined with a lectureship at the University of Groningen. In 1963, Zadoks was appointed professor in Classical Archaeology. Six years later, her expertise in (ancient) numismatics was added to her title.<sup>58</sup> More than 100 years after Van der Chijs, numismatics was again incorporated into a Dutch academic curriculum. Ancient gem stones and Roman coins, in particular stray finds and hoards in the Netherlands<sup>59</sup> and coin portraits, were the numismatic expertise of Zadoks. The coin hoard of Beilen for instance has been identified and published professionally by her (Figure 8).



Figure 8: Photograph of  
A.N. Zadoks-Josephus Jitta  
(Boersma, J.S. (ed.))  
at her 70th birthday

Zadoks was also very active in valorising her research among a broad public. When she worked at the Royal Coin Cabinet, after having moved to the Zeestraat, she co-organised public exhibitions. She wrote numerous articles and books for a non-academic public. *Muntwijzer voor de Romeinse tijd*, an introduction to determining and interpreting Roman coinage was written specifically for non-professional archaeologists and others interested in Roman coinage. Moreover, Zadoks must have been a talented speaker. In many reports of meetings and conferences, published in the *Geuzenpenning*, the *Florijn* and in *De Beeldenaar* it is mentioned that she held fantastic lectures, illustrated by projected images of an epidiascoop. Most likely, her courses at the university were elucidated with similar tools, although there is no proof of it.

<sup>56</sup> Marcus-De Groot, 2003: 64.

<sup>57</sup> Visser, 1974; Steins, 30 November 1990. For the history of her family and family in law, see Toebosch, 2010.

<sup>58</sup> [http://hoogleraren.ub.rug.nl/?page=showPerson&type=hoogleraar&hoogleraar\\_id=2032&lang=nl](http://hoogleraren.ub.rug.nl/?page=showPerson&type=hoogleraar&hoogleraar_id=2032&lang=nl); Jensma & De Vries, 1997: 282; 350.

<sup>59</sup> Although I have been told that Zadoks was an archaeologist behind her desk and not in the field.

Besides her numismatic courses at the University of Groningen, Zadoks also visited the Royal Coin Cabinet with her students. For her students, among whom the later Prof. W. van Es, she even arranged an internship at the Coin Cabinet. In 1975, she retired officially, although she stayed very active in her nineties.<sup>60</sup>

A second scholar of the Royal Coin Cabinet who played a pivotal role for numismatic science in the Netherlands was Prof. Hendrik Enno van Gelder (1916-1998). During the Second World War, he had started to work at the Royal Coin Cabinet in The Hague. Before that, he had graduated in Ancient History at Leiden University, where his intelligence was noticed by the classicist and papyrologist Prof. Bernard A. van Groningen (1894-1987). In a letter to Prof. Willem J.M. van Eysinga, Prof. Van Groningen advised him to hire the young student, Van Gelder, for his planned publication of the correspondence of Grotius, because “*Enno van Gelder is verstandig en actief*” (Figure 9).<sup>61</sup> For Van Gelder, it was one of the first steps of his academic career. In 1949, Van Gelder defended his dissertation on the currency reforms under the Dutch Republic: *Munthervorming tijdens de Republiek 1659-1694*, under the auspices of Prof. J.G. van Dillen. During most of his numismatic research, Van Gelder had to collect and interpret the evidence on his own, as his supervisor did not possess any numismatic knowledge.<sup>62</sup> Soon after the defence of his dissertation, Van Gelder became director of the Royal Coin Cabinet, succeeding its former director Van Kuyk who had died in 1949.

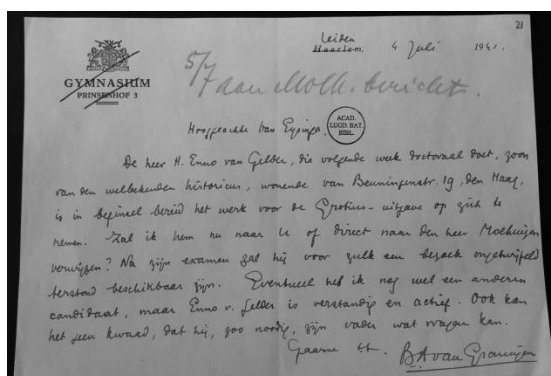


Figure 9: Letter of B.A. van Groningen to W.J.M. van Eysinga (Archive Leiden University: BPL 2657: 1941)

<sup>60</sup> Her farewell address is titled: *Votis L solutis V susceptis (Afscheidscollege)*, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, 1975. The text primarily discusses the evolution of the archaeological science during her academic career.

<sup>61</sup> Archive Leiden University: inv BPL 2657: 1941, Letter of B.A. van Groningen to W.J.M. van Eysinga, 4 July 1941.

<sup>62</sup> Van der Meer, 1980: 8; Scheffers, 1997: 305.





Figure 10: Photograph of H.E. van Gelder (*Geuzenpenning 1* (1957), 1)



Figure 11: Cover of the exhibition “Klein geld, grof geld: Munten van de Nederlandse steden” at the Royal Coin Cabinet, Den Haag 1974-1975 (*Haagse Beeldbank*)

Under his directorship, during which the Cabinet moved to the Zeestraat, the field of numismatics flourished (Figure 10). Besides scientific research, the Cabinet now also organised several exhibitions for a wider public (Figure 11). In addition, educational projects were created for school children. Van Gelder himself became active in several national societies, such as het Koninkrijk Nederlands Genootschap voor Munt- en Penningkunde, Numismatische Kring Den Haag, Vereniging voor Penningkunst and the Musement manifestatie Teylers Museum. He even was elected secretary of the International Numismatic Council, a position that he held for 10 years.<sup>63</sup>

In the 1960s, there were calls to have a professor of Numismatics in the Netherlands. By the efforts of some scholars, such as the curator of Greek coins at the Coin Cabinet J.-P. Guépin and A.T. Puister and C.J.F. Klaassen, both members of the Royal Dutch Numismatic Society, a plan was made to create a position for a professor *extraordinarius* in Numismatics at Leiden University, the home university of Prof. Van der Chijs. The Stichting Leids Universitair Fonds provided the money. On 28 May 1976, Van Gelder gave his inaugural speech as professor *extraordinarius* in Numismatics and Monetary History at

<sup>63</sup> Van der Meer, 1998: 100.

Leiden University.<sup>64</sup> The numismatic lectures were open to students of History and Art History. The subjects of the courses ran from the currency of the Carolingian dynasty to that of the Early Modern Period. The classes were organised as workshops that were held in the Coin Cabinet in The Hague and later in the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities, so the students could immediately see the coins discussed and contribute actively to the latest debates around them.<sup>65</sup> Yet, the courses of Van Gelder were more than just about coins, he also taught about political and economic topics in which coinage could be a valuable source.<sup>66</sup> The courses were accompanied by a syllabus, kept in the archive of Van Gelder which is preserved by the Numismatic National Collection. After Van Gelder's death, the author of his necrology in the JMP critically writes that the courses had not had a big impact on the academic curriculum of Leiden University, because Van Gelder had not been a passionate lecturer. Subsequently, only a handful of students took his courses.<sup>67</sup> In 1983 Van Gelder chose to retire early and to stop teaching his numismatic courses. As he had no doctoral students who graduated during his professorship, it was decided not to continue the position of professor *extraordinarius*.

After the retirement of Prof. Zadoks, the university of Groningen opted again for a professor Archaeology with numismatic expertise: Marianne Kleibrink-Maaskant (1938). Prof. Kleibrink had studied art history and archaeology at Leiden University. During her studies, she became a student-assistant of Prof. H. van de Waal by whom she was asked to assist the exhibition of ancient and modern gems in the Royal Coin Cabinet in The Hague. During her years at the Coin Cabinet (around 1967-1970), she learned a lot about numismatics. Especially, the staff meetings at 4 p.m. at Van Gelder's office were the occasions where she learned the most, as she had told in a personal interview. Eventually, she wrote a doctoral thesis on ancient gems, under the auspices of Prof. F.L. Bastet and J.-P. Guépin. Her innovative method to determine gems was lauded, nationally and internationally. She defended her thesis in 1975.<sup>68</sup>

In 1976/7, she was appointed as successor of Prof. Zadoks and became the new professor in Classical Archaeology with inclusion of Numismatics at the University of Groningen. Kleibrink taught numismatic courses to undergraduates as well as to graduate students.<sup>69</sup> For the undergraduates, her numis-

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<sup>64</sup> This oration is published in the *Festschrift* for Van Gelder: 1980: 163-182.

<sup>65</sup> Scharloo, 1998: 101.

<sup>66</sup> Purmer, 1998: 103-104.

<sup>67</sup> Van der Meer, 1996: 6. For matter of completeness, a story circulates that a student subscribed to Leiden University in 1984 to study under Van Gelder, but was disappointed to find out that he had retired; Van der Meer, 1996: 11.

<sup>68</sup> Van Leusen, 2011: 12-13. Kleibrink is nationally and internationally renowned for her method to determine antique gems.

<sup>69</sup> In that period, the Dutch university programme was split between undergraduate and graduate students, a similar division as the BA and MA levels now.

matic courses (12 × 3h) contained an introduction to the science of numismatics, monetary history and die studies. The students had to read individually about the historical chronological development of the innovation and spread of coinage in the ancient world. For her courses, she also used the syllabus *Inleiding antieke numismatiek* of Jos van der Vin, her successor at the Royal Coin Cabinet. The course ended with a visit to the Royal Coin Cabinet, first in The Hague and later in Leiden, where she or Jos van der Vin guided the students. Students who followed these courses were students of archaeology, art history and classics; they had to take an exam at the end.

Prof. Kleibrink's expertise was Greek Archaeology of the South of Italy. Therefore, her numismatic courses for graduate students focused on Greek coins, especially those from southern Italy. Each year, a numismatic debate concerning a case study about these South-Italian Greek coins was held. Students first received an introduction about the topic, after which they had to perform their own research and write a paper. One of the subjects that Kleibrink remembered was about the coinage with the Syracusan nymph Arethusa.



Figure 12: Photograph of M. Kleibrink-Maaskant during one of her excavations in Calabria (Commune Francavilla Marittima, Italy)

In addition, Kleibrink also gave some guest lectures about ancient gems and how to identify them in undergraduate courses centred on source material. With the reforms of the university's curricula in 1995/96 a new program for Archaeology was introduced, and as a result, the optional courses in numismatics stopped being taught. Also Kleibrink herself had less time as she coordinated several excavations in Calabria (Figure 12). Numismatics was now only taught as part of the courses centred on source material.<sup>70</sup> Under Kleibrink's auspices, some students wrote a numismatic thesis. With her successor, Prof. P. Attema, who was appointed Professor in Classical Archaeology in 2003, the study of Numismatics ended at the University of Groningen.

<sup>70</sup> Van Leusen, 2011: 12-13.

Jos P.A. van der Vin (1945-2011) started at the Royal Coin Cabinet in The Hague in 1971. After he graduated in classics and archaeology at Leiden University, he wrote a PhD thesis about the journals of pilgrims travelling to Greece and Constantinopel in the Middle Ages and their preference for certain antiquities. Afterwards, he lectured for a while in Leiden before he became curator of ancient coinage and gems.



Figure 13: Photograph of J.P.A. van der Vin (Beeldenaar 1997)

In the same year as Van Gelder and Kleibrink were appointed professors in Numismatics (1976), Van der Vin started to teach courses in ancient numismatics at Leiden University, first at the faculty of Humanities and later at the new faculty of Archaeology (Figure 13). These courses were optional for students of classics, archaeology, ancient history and art history. The course of Van der Vin did not follow an historical overview starting from the invention of coinage to the spread and use of coinage in the ancient world. Instead, his courses dealt with a particular theme, which changed each year. One of his former students, Paul Beliën, remembered to have taken the course about the coinage of Augustus.<sup>71</sup>

It seems that the courses of Van der Vin were quite popular, and because of the thematic approach some students even followed his courses twice. By Van Gelder and his successor, Hans Jacobi, Van der Vin received permission to teach at his office at the Royal Coin Cabinet where students were also allowed to measure, weight, determine, date and interpret a sample of ancient coins from the collection.<sup>72</sup>

In 1982, Van der Vin published his Dutch syllabus *Inleiding: antieke numismatiek*, which he and also Prof. Kleibrink used in their courses. Some years later, in 1984, the syllabus was re-edited as a book and published under the title *Het Geld van Grieken en Romeinen: Inleiding in de antieke numismatiek*. The courses inspired many students to write a thesis and even to start doctoral research on the coin finds in the Netherlands. In the prologue of an article of

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<sup>71</sup> Beliën, 1997: 308. In 1996 and 1997 an exhibition ran about the coinage of Augustus at the Royal Coin Cabinet in Leiden and subsequently, a book on this exhibition was published by Van der Vin, entitled *De Euro van de Oudheid: nieuw geld onder keizer Augustus*.

<sup>72</sup> Bouke van der Meer & Moorman, 2012: ix.

one of his doctoral students, Van der Vin is very proud that she could publish new research on the coinage at the Dutch *limes* in the *Jaarboek voor Munt- en Penningkunde*.<sup>73</sup>

In 1997, Van der Vin celebrated his 25th anniversary as curator at the Royal Coin Cabinet. On the occasion, an interview was published in *De Beeldenaar*. In the interview, he said he always enjoyed lecturing.<sup>74</sup> When in 2005 the Coin Cabinet moved to Utrecht and merged together with the coin collection of the Central Bank of the Netherlands and the Money museum of the Royal Dutch Mint into one new museum, called the Geldmuseum<sup>75</sup>, Van der Vin chose to retire. Some years later, he died of cancer after a short period of illness.

### **The survival and revival of numismatics**

During and after these numismatic heydays, several other lecturers have given courses in numismatics, either of Antiquity, the Middle Ages or the Early Modern Period. What follows here is a short overview of the course programs and guest lectures which dealt with numismatics.

From the “school” of Prof. Zadoks, two PhD’s became professor in Classical Archaeology: J.W. Boersma (1936–2015) and W. van Es (1943). Both gave introductory courses in numismatics at the Free University of Amsterdam (VU). On their turn, they inspired a new scholar in numismatics: Joris Aarts (1962). He defended his PhD thesis at the Free University of Amsterdam (VU) on the function of money in Roman society and the monetarisation of Gallia Belgica and Germania Inferior (2000). For his PhD research, he took an internship by Jos van der Vin, and created a new research method to analyse coins and coin hoards under the auspices of the renowned scholars Richard Reece and Clive Orton (UC London). After his graduation, he started as university lecturer at the Free University of Amsterdam (VU), where he introduced a complete BA course in Ancient Numismatics. In 2008, an MA course in Ancient Numismatics was added, which Aarts still teaches until today. In this course, Aarts wants to build a bridge between theoretical models and the analysis of stray finds and coin hoards of the Late Iron Age and the Roman Period. In addition, he also lectures a special MA tutorial on the function and use of money in ancient and medieval society.

After her studies at the University of Amsterdam (UvA), Fleur Kemmers (1977) started to analyse the coin finds of the *canabae legionis* (the so-called “Hunerberg”) at Nijmegen at the Radboud University Nijmegen. During her

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<sup>73</sup> Van der Vin, 1996a: 51–52.

<sup>74</sup> Beliën, 1997: 307–309.

<sup>75</sup> This article wishes not to go deeper into this dark chapter of Dutch numismatics. I refer to the article of Nissen, 2016: 24–28 who has made a report on the creation and failure of the Geldmuseum.

PhD, and the years after, Kemmers also taught several courses for students of Classics and Archaeology, in which coins received a special place. In her courses, she even took Roman coins to the class room. In addition, she created a self-study syllabus for students interested in numismatics. In 2010, Kemmers became *Professorin für Münze und Geld in der griechisch-römischen Antike* at the Goethe Universität in Frankfurt am Main.

Also at the university in Nijmegen, from 2013 onwards Jos Benders (1965), chair of the JMP's editorial committee, teaches as guest lecturer about *Medieval coinage* in a course *Sources of the Middle Ages*. The lecture is an introduction to basic terms and to medieval coins used in the Low Countries.

After the retirement of Prof. Van Gelder, Hans Jacobi (1943) and later Arent Pol (1951) continued to give guest lectures about medieval and Early Modern coinage at Leiden University. Paul Beliën (1967) became the successor of Jos van der Vin. He continued the courses of Ancient Numismatics in Leiden from 2005/2006. Until today, the BA course is still part of the history curriculum. Around twenty Bachelor students from different programs follow the course. In the first part, Beliën provides the students with an overview in the history of coinage and the value of coins as sources for different research areas. The excursion to the National Numismatic Collection at the Central Bank of the Netherlands is still part of the course. The author of this article, Liesbeth Claes (1985), teaches the second part of this BA course in which students are introduced to ongoing monetary debates (the emergence of coinage and the *bellum monetariorum*) and peculiar series of coins (restitution coinage, contorniates, and *spintriae*). Already during her PhD studies at the Radboud University Nijmegen, Claes gave MA tutorials about Roman imperial coinage. Nowadays, she also teaches an MA course at Leiden University *Numismatics: a practical guide*. In this course students learn to identify and examine the ancient coin hoards of the Netherlands. In addition, she introduces students to software used for the creation and statistical exploitation of databases (e.g. SQL and QGIS). In the course students also collaborate with the project “Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire” of the University of Oxford.

From 2017 onwards, the Netherlands have again a professor *extraordinarius* in Numismatics of Antiquity and the Middle Ages, Panagiotis Iossif, who was appointed at the Radboud University Nijmegen. He works on several numismatic projects, including the encouragement of die studies, hoard analysis and publication of excavation coins, the publication of the Greek coin collections in the Netherlands and the promotion of coin studies among a broad public. In Nijmegen he teaches an introductory BA course to Numismatics and an MA course on specific themes, covering the ancient and medieval world, including Byzantine and Arabic numismatics.

In addition, a numismatic course under the auspices of OIKOS, the Dutch National School of Classical Studies, is organised by a team of numismatic

scholars. Aim is to introduce Dutch students and students affiliated to a Dutch university to the study of numismatics. After two editions in Rome in cooperation with the Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut te Rome (KNIR) and the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI), an alternating course on coinage as a historical source in Athens (in even years) and Rome (in uneven years) has been launched in 2018. The course in Athens, led by Prof. P. Iossif and Prof. F. de Callatay will focus on Greek numismatics by addressing questions of methodology, history, archaeology, and economy. Students will be introduced to the main coin productions of the Greek world from the birth of coinage to the Roman conquest. In addition, practical skills in coinage identification will be trained. The course in Rome, organised by Liesbeth Claes, Erika Manders and Marleen Termeer, deals with the construction of identity through coins issued in the Roman world and the Early European city states. In this course, the theme is explored by examining the development of coinage production and the medial characteristics of these periods. The course provides students with theoretical knowledge of the ideological function of coins and medals as well as of different numismatic methods. Furthermore, practical skills in the field of coin identification and exhibiting coins are an integral part of the course.

### **End note**

Nowadays, the implementation of numismatic courses in the academic curricula of the Dutch universities is well established. Yet, there are still differences between the study of coinage in various historical periods. At three universities, Leiden, Nijmegen and the Free University of Amsterdam (VU) students can take a BA or MA course in ancient Numismatics. In these courses, different aspects of the science of numismatics are passed under review as students are offered courses on historical overviews, methodological questions, stray finds and coin hoards, database creation and statistics and die studies.

Regarding medieval numismatics, the situation is less well developed. Only Amsterdam (VU) and Nijmegen offer a course focused on (the use of) sources of which two classes are dedicated to the Middle Ages. Numismatic courses on the Early Modern Period are only fragmentarily covered by the OIKOS/KNIR/DAI course at Rome. Therefore, numismatics of the Netherlands itself from the Middle Ages up to now is as good as absent in the academic curricula.

The history of Dutch numismatic education shows that it mostly stayed peripheral in the academic landscape, yet that it also survived for almost two centuries, largely due to driven individual scholars. Hopefully, the current numismatic courses will bring forward new numismatic talents that maybe one day will teach their own numismatic courses and fill the present gaps.

## Thank note

Official sources about lecturers and the contents of their courses in the Netherlands are rare or do not exist (anymore). For this article, I have therefore consulted different numismatic and archaeological journals, read a lot of obituaries and visited several university archives. Besides that, personal communication and interviews with several scholars and coin lovers contributed a lot to this research. I must therefore thank Joris Aarts, Paul Beliën, Jos Benders, Willem Blockmans, Jan Brabers, Mariëlle Bulsink, Peter Drenth, Wim A. van Es, A.M. Gehardtl, Panos Iossif, Johan van Heesch, Fleur Kemmers, Marianne Kleibrink-Maaskant, Paul Klep, J. Mostert, Arent Pol, Marjan Scharloo, Peter Spufford (†), Robert Stein, J.M. van Winter and Mieke Zilverberg. For the final form of this article and for its remaining blemishes, I am responsible.

## Biographical note

Dr. Liesbeth Claes (1985) is a University Lecturer in Ancient History at Leiden University with a particular interest in ancient coinage and scholarly history.

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