

Short presentation of the career and works of François de Callataÿ

François de Callataÿ is an expert of ancient coinages, both Greek and Roman, with a specialization in Hellenistic royal coinages (from Alexander the Great to Mithradates Eupator).

He has extensively worked on quantification. The international jury of 13 international leading scholars in the humanities which gave him the Francqui Prize in 2007 (often called the 'Belgian Nobel Prize') motivated the decision as such: *"François de Callataÿ is making a revolutionary contribution to our understanding of the numismatics and the history of the classical world, and his methodological advances have implications for improving the study of many other past cultures. His research publications are many in number and of a uniformly high quality. In particular he has advanced our understanding of the numismatic, monetary and financial history of the Hellenistic period (the last 300 years BC), a period during which the Greek social concept of coined money spread from the Mediterranean to Afghanistan. He has made a decisive contribution to the debate between the primitivists and the modernists in the field of ancient economic history. He has convinced the scholarly community that it is possible to make meaningful statements about the size of the ancient monetary economy, and that we need no longer rely solely on descriptive approaches. The jury is convinced that François de Callataÿ's work has transformed our understanding of the world of classical antiquity, both Greek and Roman. This has implications for developing the political understanding of the role of historical precedents in the current debate about monetary and financial unions."*

More recently, he has turned part of his interests to the history of numismatics from the 16th onwards with a special focus on numismatic correspondences. With others, he has launched the international project *Fontes Inediti Numismaticae Antiquae* (FINA).

His bibliography currently includes 446 published entries, out of which 13 books (8 as the unique author), more than 200 articles and as many reviews, notes and prefaces. This represents about 6,000 pages published in 22 different countries.

Long the responsible for all the rare collections kept at the *Royal Library of Belgium* (i.e. the national collections of manuscripts, rare books, engravings, maps and plans, coins and medals, as well as the music section), he is also teaching at the *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes* (Paris/Sorbonne) with a chair on the monetary and financial history of the Greek world and at the *Université libre de Bruxelles* with a course on socio-economic history of Greco-Roman times.

A member of the *Academia Europaea*, of the *Royal Academy of Belgium* and a corresponding member of the *Académies des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*, he is also a fellow of *Wolfson College* (Oxford) and a member of the *School for Historical Studies* (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton). He is vice-president of the *Société Royale de Numismatique de Belgique* and co-director of the *Revue Belge de Numismatique de Belgique*. Among his awards, he got the *Huntington Medal Award* of the *American Numismatic Society* and the *jeton de vermeil* of the *Société française de numismatique*.

At an international level, he is the permanent representative of the General secretary of the *International Union of Academies* and a member of the *Committee for the Humanities of Science Europe*.