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Carmen ARNOLD-BIUCCHI *

**ULLA WESTERMARK (TROLLHÄTTAN, MARCH 30, 1927 – UPPSALA,
22 FEBRUARY 2020)**



At the XIIth International Numismatic Congress in Berlin, on September 11, 1997, the Committee of the INC elected Ulla Westermark as Honorary Member, in recognition of her great personal merit as a scholar and a museum professional, as well as for her contributions to the INC. From 1986 to 1998, she served as President and Chief Editor of the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum*, founded in the UK in 1931, and since 1969 under the patronage of the INC; she wrote the annual reports for the *Compte Rendu*, and published and edited several volumes herself:

- *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. Sweden I. The collection of His late Majesty King Gustaf VI Adolf. – The Fred Forbat collection, Stockholm 1974*
- *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. Sweden II. The collection of the Royal Coin Cabinet. National Museum of Monetary History, Stockholm, Part 1. Gallia – Sicily, Stockholm 1976*
- *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. Sweden II. The collection of the Royal Coin Cabinet. National Museum of Monetary History, Stockholm, Part 2. Thrace – Euboea, Stockholm 1980. (with H. NILSSON)*
- *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. Sweden II. The collection of the Royal Coin Cabinet. National Museum of Monetary History, Stockholm, Part 3. Attica – Lesbos, Stockholm 1991. (with H. NILSSON)*

* Past president of the International Numismatic Council.

- *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. Finland. The Erkki Keckman collection in the Skopbank, Helsinki, Part 1. Karia, Helsinki 1994. (With R. ASHTON)*
- *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. Finland. The Erkki Keckman collection in the Skopbank, Helsinki, Part 2. Asia Minor except Karia, Helsinki 1999. (With R. ASHTON)*

Education and Career

Ulla was born Lundström in Trollhättan on March 30, 1927. Later her family moved to Örebro where she went to school. In 1947, she received her high school degree – the ‘student-examen’ – from the local gymnasium for girls. She then started studying history of literature, art history and archaeology at the University of Stockholm (Högskola until 1960), where she received her B.A. (Fil.Kand.) in 1954 and her PhD in 1959, with a dissertation on: “Philetairos’ porträtt på dynastipräglingen i Pergamon”, which in 1961 was published as a book in German (see below). One of her teachers was Willy Schwabacher, who would have a profound influence on her: he trained her eye for ancient art and introduced her to coins and numismatics. Schwabacher came from a well-known Frankfurt family of dealers and numismatists: his grandfather was Adolph E. Cahn (1839–1918), the founder of the famous auction house. Erich B. and Herbert A. Cahn were his cousins. They all fled from Germany when the Nazis came. Willy was rescued by the Danish resistance and ended up in Stockholm, where he remained to the end of his life. From 1952 he was Lecturer at the University, and from 1954 to his retirement in 1963, he was curator of the Royal Coin Cabinet of the National Museum. Ulla Westermark was his pupil, colleague and successor. She always said that she owed her passion for coins and archaeology to Willy Schwabacher. Through him she also met Herbert Cahn and the two cousins no doubt steered her towards Sicily.

In 1955 Ulla Westermark started working part time at the Royal Coin Cabinet as a student, and full time after receiving her PhD. She climbed the ladder from assistant (amanuens) until 1963, to curator (antikvarie) in 1965, senior curator (förste antikvarie) in 1975. She was named director in 1979 and became the Head of the Royal Coin Cabinet. Administrative work, however, was not what she liked, and she felt that she was not the right person to promote and advertise the museum. In 1983, she asked and was allowed to step down and switch position with her colleague Lars O. Lagerqvist. She wanted to devote herself to the coin collection, studying it and publishing it in the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* series, following the example of her colleague and friend Otto Mørkholm in Copenhagen. She retired in 1992 at the age of 65. Her colleagues at the Coin Cabinet organized a memorable Symposium in her honor to which I participated with a paper on the silver coinage of Himera. It was followed by a sumptuous dinner where colleagues and friends paid tribute to Ulla’s work and teaching and expressed their gratitude. The high point was Anne Kromann and Kolbjørn Skaare singing limericks on Ulla and Philetairos of their own

composition. That evening for me eradicated forever the preconceived idea that Scandinavians are reserved and cold. The celebration reflected how much Ulla had done in more than thirty years at the Coin Cabinet for the collection and for colleagues and students, and how much they venerated her. Stockholm under her helm, and thanks to her warm hospitality and generosity, became an international center for numismatics. The volume *Florilegium Numismaticum. Studia in Honorem U. Westermark Edita*, edited by H. Nilsson, and published that same year by the Swedish Numismatic Society capped the celebration. It was nicknamed the “Who is Who of Numismatics.”

After her retirement, Ulla Westermark was able to focus on her research and continued to write articles at least until 2007 or later. Most importantly, she was able to finish her much-anticipated *magnum opus*, the corpus of the coinage of Akragas. She had an office at the Swedish Numismatic Association, where she could work, and to which she left most of her numismatic library. She later moved to Uppsala to be near her brother Sven Lundström to whom she was very close.

Ulla Westermark's Numismatic Work and Publications

Ulla Westermark main field of interest and expertise was Greek numismatics: she was a specialist of Hellenistic coinage, bronze coinage, the coinages of the Macedonian kings, and Sicilian coinages. But her training and work at the Royal Coin Cabinet for over thirty years gave her a much broader knowledge: she also published articles on Roman coins, medieval coins from Scandinavia, modern coins, and medals. There are two exhaustive bibliographies: one in her *Florilegium* in 1992, compiled by Harald Nilsson, and the other published shortly after the publication of *The Coinage of Akragas c. 510-306 BC* (Uppsala 2018) by H. Nilsson and Brita Alroth.^[1] Many articles are in Swedish, and not easy to read for non-Scandinavians, but they attest to the breath of her knowledge.

- Hellenistic Numismatics

Her first book: *Das Bildnis des Philetairos von Pergamon. Corpus der Münzprägung*^[2] (1961) was a revised version of her dissertation of 1959. It is a complete corpus of the coinage with the portrait of Philetairos, struck in his name after his death in 263 BC by the first three Attalid kings - his brother Eumenes I, Attalos I and Eumenes II in the first part of his reign. Philetairos never took the title of *basileus*. It remains the standard definitive reference. The discovery of the large Meydancikkale hoard in 1980, and the reexamination of three others hoards, allowed G. Le Rider to suggest some slight revisions of chronology in the latest groups VI and VII, but also con-

^[1] *Florilegium Numismaticum. Studia in Honorem U. Westermark Edita* Svenska Numismatiska Föreningen, Stockholm, 1992, ed. H. Nilsson, p. 377-382. *NNUM* 4 (2018) p. 117-125.

^[2] *Acta Universitatis Stockholmensis*, Stockholm Studies in Classical Archaeology 1 (1961)

firmed the accuracy of the die study^[3]: only three or four new dies could be added.

As already mentioned, Ulla came to numismatics through archaeology and her works always include comparisons with works of sculpture or vase painting, or a study of the portraiture and the iconography: Philetairos is one of the most stunning and realistic examples.

Other important contributions to Hellenistic numismatics, were her collaboration to the *IGCH* for the Levant (mainly Hellenistic Syria and Palestine),^[4] and to Otto Mørkholm, *Early Hellenistic Coinage. From the Accession of Alexander to the Peace of Apamea (336–188 BC)* (CUP, 1991), the first handbook of Hellenistic coinage. Mørkholm's intention was to cover the entire Hellenistic period down to the Roman conquest of Egypt after the battle of Actium in 31 BC, but his premature death prevented him. Philip Grierson added a remarkable short summary of the last one hundred and fifty years, the most complicated ones, and edited the volume with Ulla Westermark. Among the most important articles are "Notes on the Saïda Hoard (*IGCH* 1508),^[5] one of the largest gold hoards ever discovered (c. 7,200 + gold staters) first published by Waddington in *RN* 1865, and dispersed in different collections; it is remarkable for the condition of the coins, and the number of mints included: besides the staters of Philip II and Alexander III, are staters of Kios, Pergamon, Rhodes and Pnytagoras of Cyprus. "Bronze Coins of Pergamon"^[6] discusses the small issues of Philetairos and the civic issues. Other articles deal with portrait coins of Eumenes II and other dynasts.

– Macedonian Coinage

Westermark's contributions to Macedonian coinage aimed at filling the gap between the early Macedonian Kings, Alexander I to Archelaos (498–413 BC) published by Doris Raymond,^[7] and Philip II (359–294 BC) by Georges Le Rider.^[8] One of the articles is an overview from Archelaos (413–399 BC) to Perdikkas III (365–360/59 BC), focused on the less known bronze coinage: "Remarks on the Regal Macedonian Coinage c. 413–359".^[9] "Notes on

[3] G. Le Rider, Les tétradrachmes attalides au portrait de Philétaire, *Florilegium Numismaticum*, p. 233–245.

[4] *An Inventory of Greek Coin Hoards*, eds. M. Thompson, O. Mørkholm and C.M. Kraay (ANS, New York, 1973, p. 200–224).

[5] *NNÅ* 1979–80, p. 22–35. See also H.A. Troxell, *Studies in the Macedonian Coinage of Alexander the Great*, *ANS NS* 21, 1997, p. 118–119 no. 6 for the burial date of 323–320 BC.

[6] *QTic Num Clas XX* (1991), p. 147–159.

[7] *Macedonian Royal Coinage to 413 BC*, *NNM* 126, 1953.

[8] *Le monnayage d'or et d'argent de Philippe II frappé en Macédoine de 359 à 294 av. J.-C.* Paris, 1978 ; *Monnayage et Finances de Philippe II. Un état de la question*, *MELETEMATA* 23 (1996).

[9] *Kraay–Mørkholm Essays. Numismatic Studies in Memory of C.M. Kraay and O. Mørkholm*, eds. G. Le Rider, K. Jenkins, N. Waggoner & U. Westermark (Louvain-la-Neuve, 1989), p. 301–315.

Macedonian Bronze Coins”^[10] presents the bronze coinages of the Macedonian cities and the tribes. “The staters of Archelaus. A die study”^[11] does not claim to be a complete corpus, still it includes 242 examples, mainly from the Ptolemais hoard 1969 (IGCH 365), which she divided in two groups: 1) horseman/forepart of goat 2) head of Apollo/ standing horse, and established the sequence during the short reign of 413–400/399 BC. Her “Influences from South Italy on Early Macedonian Bronze Coins”^[12] is an interesting analysis on the typology of Greek bronze coins: she showed that the bronze coins of Archelaus were influenced both in their weight standard and in their typology by South Italian coins, in particular by Rhegion: the facing lion head on the obverse is borrowed from that mint. Aineia borrowed the Athena head from Sybaris and Thourioi.

In ‘The coinage of the Chalcidian League reconsidered’^[13] Westermark argued on hoard evidence, that the coinage of the Chalcidian League only started around 400 BC, and not already in 432 BC, as D.M. Robinson and P.A. Clement proposed in their publication of the excavation coins of Olynthos in 1938. Her demonstration is quite solid, but it has not won acceptance in recent studies.^[14] In part, as Westermark herself wrote, because: “The debate whether the Chalcidian organization was a confederacy or a unitary state is an old one” and it continues to this day. Most early numismatists, such as Hill, Head, Babelon, Regling, and others, believed that the coinage of the Chalcidians belonged in the fourth century, before Philip II took Olynthos in 358 BC.

– Sicilian Coinage

It is to the coinage of Sicily that Westermark contributed the most: she was one of the most productive and authoritative scholars in that field. She published two monographs. The first is *The Coinage of Kamarina*,^[15] written with Kenneth Jenkins, with whom she closely collaborated for many years. It covers the entire coinage of the city, in all three metals, from its inception in 492 BC, to its destruction by the Carthaginians in 405 BC, as well as the 4th-century coins, struck during the short revival after Timoleon’s restoration in 339 BC. The issues are divided in four periods. The book includes a historical introduction, a discussion of the hoards and the engravers, and of the older literature with wrong attributions.

^[10] *Studi per Laura Breglia. Suppl. Al n. 4/1987. Bollettino di Numismatica*, p. 179–187.

^[11] *Essays in Honour of Robert Carson and Kenneth Jenkins*, eds. M. Price, A. Burnett and R. Bland (Spink, London 1993), p. 17–30.

^[12] *Hellas und der griechische Osten. Studien zur Geschichte und Numismatik der griechischen Welt. Festschrift für Peter Robert Franke zum 70. Geburtstag*, eds. W. Leschhorn, A.V.B. Miron & A. Miron, Saarbrücken 1996, p. 291–299.

^[13] *Studies in ancient history and numismatics presented to Rudi Thomsen*, eds. A. Damsgaard-Madsen, E. Christiansen & E. Hallager, Aarhus 1988, ss. 91–103.

^[14] M. Zahrnt, *Polis Makedonias, Polis Thrakis, Afieroma ston G.L. Hammond*, Thessalonique 1997, p. 78 & 82–90. S. Psoma, *Olynthe et les Chalcidiens de Thrace* (Stuttgart, 2001), p. 210ff.

^[15] *The Royal Numismatic Society. Special Publication*, 9, London 1980. With G.K. Jenkins.

Ulla Westermark's last book is her highly anticipated corpus: *The Coinage of Akragas c. 510–406 BC*.^[16] Ulla had finished the manuscript in 2004 and originally it was destined to be published in the now defunct *AMuGS*. The evolution of printing in the 21st century, however, required significant changes in the typesetting of the text, and most of all, a total revision of the plates to update them from black and white prints to digital images, a Sisyphean task that Ulla could not have done by herself. We must be grateful that Harald Nilsson, who out of devotion and gratitude for his teacher and mentor, shouldered that responsibility, later with the help of Hendrik Mäkeler and the editors and production team of the press. The result is a beautiful two volumes publication, one for the text and plates, and the other for the catalogue, which is very user-friendly. The quality of the images is excellent even for the bronzes. The plates begin with drawings of the legends for all the groups. After an historical introduction and a discussion of the types, the coinage is presented in three periods: I. the didrachms (c. 510–470 BC), II. the tetradrachms and cast bronzes (c. 450–430 BC), III. the later tetradrachms and their subdivisions, struck bronzes, and gold (c. 420–415/13 to 406 BC) and the decadrachms (c. 408–406 BC). Westermark wrote in a beautifully clear language and her *Akragas* is one of the most readable and enjoyable die studies, with a sound chronology based on hoard evidence.

Many of her numerous articles on Sicilian coins were preliminary studies for her corpus of Akragas, especially for the bronze issues. Among them, the most important are perhaps those on overstrikes. The abundant early didrachms of Akragas often served as flans for South Italian coinages. With her "Overstrikes of Taras over Akragas"^[17] Westermark was able to revise Herbert Cahn's high chronology of the archaic coinage of Tarentum.

Awards

For her many accomplishments and contributions to numismatics, Ulla Westermark, beside the Honorary Membership in the INC, received the prestigious Huntington Medal from the *ANS* in 1997, the Gunnar Holst medal that same year, and the medal of the Royal Numismatic Society in 2011.

Ulla the person

Most importantly, those who met Ulla in person will remember her as a wonderful colleague and friend, generous with her time and advise to those who visited her at the Royal Coin Cabinet, and to students. She was understated and modest, with a great sense of humor, and a wonderful host. Many of us have unforgettable memories of get-togethers and celebrations

^[16] Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis. *Studia Numismatica Upsaliensia*, 6:1–2., Uppsala 2018.

^[17] *Greek Numismatics and Archaeology. Essays in Honor of Margaret Thompson*, eds. O. Mørholm & N.M. Waggoner, Wetteren 1979, p. 287–293.

at her beautiful Bastugatån apartment in Stockholm, with the spectacular view on the water, and later in Uppsala.

Ulla loved music and opera and played the piano herself. She liked reading poetry and novels, especially from women writers: she introduced me to Willa Cather, and I her, to Andrea Camilleri. She loved flowers. She used to spend the summers at the little house she had with her brother Sven, outside Pålsboda, a small village near the city of Örebro, where she grew up, and where she could dedicate herself to gardening.

I met Ulla at the 1973 INC Congress in New York and Washington, and later at the CISN Convegno in Naples, with Kenneth Jenkins. I visited the Stockholm Coin Cabinet and Uppsala several times. She came to the US for the 125th ANS anniversary in 1983 and stayed with us in Princeton. When she received the Huntington medal, she was our guest in New York. My fondest memories are of Ulla singing lullabies in Swedish to my three-week-old daughter in Princeton, and in Paris, a visit to the “Cimetière des Chiens” with my teenager son, who was more interested in that than in going to the Louvre. Ulla was always a good sport. I was able to participate in the celebration of her 90th birthday in March 2017, which she organized herself mainly for her Swedish colleagues. The Uppsala Coin Cabinet held a formal presentation of her book *The Coinage of Akragas* in June 2018. Ulla did not care to speak nor attend, which was typical of her reserve, so I spoke about it. However, she was very eager to attend the dinner in the honor. I feel immensely grateful for her mentorship and friendship.

Ulla Westermark is survived by her daughter-in-law Pawnee, her grandson Christian and his wife Malvina, and their twin little girls, who were Ulla's greatest joy in her last year. She died peacefully in her home in Uppsala after a brief battle with colon cancer, lucid to the end.