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THE SIZE OF NUMISMATIC LITERATURE. II. PLAYING THROUGH TIME
(C. 1800–2018) WITH DONUM (AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY)

This paper prolongs a general reflection started a long time ago about the size of numismatic literature. One specific paper was about auction catalogues.^[1] Two others extrapolated from the data provided by the last *Surveys of Numismatic Surveys*.^[2] Another, focusing on numismatic journals, underlined how poorly numismatic literature is referenced by actual tools.^[3] The present paper aims to take advantage of the unique possibilities offered by DONUM (Database of Online Numismatic Materials), the online catalogue of the American Numismatic Society (ANS) library.^[4]

All libraries possess a catalogue for monographs but, with very few exceptions, none have the internal resources to catalogue articles. For the numismatic world, the American Numismatic Society is the only library – since the 1930s onwards – to systematically establish a file for every published article, auction catalogue, and pamphlet. The ANS catalogue consequently offers a unique resource, one of the most complete worldwide.

For the sake of historiography, it is worth remembering that the ANS was not the first to develop such a vast bibliographic ambition. The *Numismatisches Literatur-Blatt* created in 1880 by Max von Bahrfeldt (1856–1936) already aimed to inform readers about recent numismatic publications,^[5] which was done for more than half a century, from February 1880 to July 1939.^[6] Since WW II, the ANS positioned itself as the leading force for numis-

* Secretary of the INC. Head of department at the Royal Library of Belgium, professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and directeur d'études at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris). callatay@kbr.be. I am very grateful to Andrew Reinhard, current librarian at the ANS, for having improved both the text and my English.

[1] Callataï 1990.

[2] Callataï 1992 (mainly from a national angle) and 2016 (mainly from a thematic angle).

[3] Callataï 2014.

[4] <http://numismatics.org/resources/>. On DONUM, see Hahn 2012 and <http://numismatics.org/basslibrary/historyofdonum/>.

[5] Each issue was divided in two parts: 1) what has been published in numismatic journals, given without comments (*I. Inhaltsverzeichnis der numismatischen Zeitschriften*); 2) notable publications and papers which appeared in non-numismatic publications (*II. Selbständige Publikationen und Aufsätze in nichtnumismatischen Zeitschriften*). This second part proves to be of especially great interest with fine abstracts and even long reviews (10 or more pages). Every two years Bahrfeldt added a table of contents by alphabetical order of quoted authors. Unfortunately these tables of contents do not take into account papers published in numismatic journals.

[6] As often happens, it did not survive its founder who died on April 1936. Richard Gaettens (1886–1965), director of the company Riechmann & Co. in Halle where the *Numismatisches Literaturblatt* was printed since 1919, was able to maintain the publication three additional years before giving up in 1939.

matic bibliography creating and hosting the *Numismatic Literature* which first appeared in 1947. With two printed issues per year and with an abstract for each entry, *Numismatic Literature* covered every category of artefacts kept by coin cabinets, including tokens, banknotes, medals, and decorations.^[7] This great international enterprise did not survive the digital turn and finally disappeared as a printed periodical in 2007. While nothing has replaced the abstracts carefully produced for *Numismatic Literature* under the guidance of dozens of local (national) responsible numismatists, DONUM offers a good illustration of what large databases could perform with their multiple functions.

1. Reliability

The ANS library is certainly one of the largest numismatic libraries in the world, but how comprehensive is it especially towards literature written in languages other than English? We know from the four previous *Surveys of Numismatic Research* – admitting only five languages: English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish – that 56% of the papers have been submitted in English, 16% in German, 15% in French, 7% in Spanish, and 4% in Italian.^[8] Of course, these percentages do not reflect the real diversity. It is likely that English, as the modern *lingua franca*, is inflated here, and that the real percentage of contributions originally written in English is well below 56% (one should ideally count for each language the number of references out of the 47,363 made in the last four *Surveys*).

For the ANS library, DONUM offers a ‘language’ function which allows one to go far back in time. Table 1 gives the number of references obtained for books and articles in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish every 20 years from 1780 onwards to today.

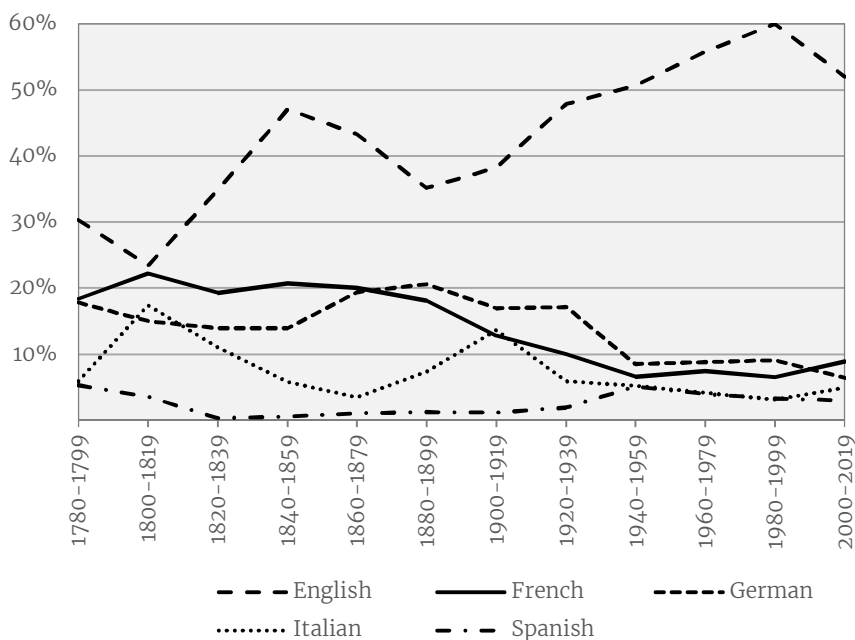
Years	All	% Five lang.	English	% Eng.	French	German	Italian	Spanish
1780–99	152	118 (77.6%)	46	30.3%	28	27	9	8
1800–19	167	136 (81.4%)	39	23.4%	37	25	29	6
1820–39	373	296 (79.4%)	130	34.9%	72	52	41	1
1840–59	1,051	925 (88.0%)	495	47.1%	217	146	61	6

^[7] In September 1967 (vol. 79), an international committee was created with the idea to have one or two delegates per country in charge of writing the abstracts of what has been published in their respective countries. All the issues since then have been digitized with OCR technology allowing queries with keywords and are now downloadable for free via Hathitrust: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/ls?field1=ocr;q1=%22numismatic%20literature%22;a=srchls;lmt=ft>.

^[8] CallataÏ 2016, pp. 52–53.

1860–79	1,636	1,427 (87.2%)	708	43.3%	327	318	57	17
1880–99	3,527	2,906 (82.4%)	1,243	35.2%	639	725	258	41
1900–19	5,844	4,834 (82.7%)	2,240	38.3%	748	988	794	64
1920–39	6,360	5,256 (82.6%)	3,037	47.8%	639	1,085	375	120
1940–59	15,348	11,689 (76.2%)	7,787	50.7%	1,008	1,300	805	789
1960–79	36,191	28,985 (80.1%)	20,183	55.8%	2,680	3,198	1,487	1,437
1980–99	54,787	44,996 (82.1%)	32,871	60.0%	3,576	5,005	1,720	1,824
2000–19	26,042	19,572 (75.2%)	13,533	52.0%	2,314	1,658	1,281	786

Table 1 – Chronological evolution of languages used for books and articles recorded in DONUM (1780–2019)



Graph 1 – Chronological evolution of languages used for books and articles recorded in DONUM (1780–2019)

As illustrated by Graph 1, the recent percentage for English is very close to what it is in the previous four *Surveys* (around 55%), which is considerably more than at the beginning of the 19th c. (c. 30%). Once close to 20%, French and German are now under 10% (less than the c. 15% from the earlier *Surveys*), while Italian and Spanish are around 5% (with various highs and lows worthy of future research).

One is tempted to conclude that: 1) as expected, the ANS library is indeed favouring literature in English (the same bias will inevitably occur for any language in libraries where it is the spoken language), but 2) on the whole, we see similar results with what could be obtained from the prior four *Surveys* and that consequently DONUM could be used as a reliable tool at large to estimate the size of numismatic literature through the ages.

2. General trends

With this in mind, let's start the investigation taking advantage of the 'Date Range' function on the one hand and the ability to select categories of sources as 'books', 'articles', 'auction catalogues', or 'pamphlets' on the other.^[9] Table 2 shows the cumulated number of entries (from 1790 to today) returned at the end of each decade for 'books', 'articles', 'auction catalogues' and 'pamphlets.'

Years	Total	Books	Articles	Auction Catalogues	Pamphlets
1790	1,052	946	26	39	41
1800	1,156	1,014	26	47	58
1810	1,250	1,086	30	54	66
1820	1,387	1,180	34	76	82
1830	1,583	1,303	42	123	96
1840	1,981	1,513	117	191	131
1850	2,666	1,759	331	357	175
1860	3,600	2,099	568	616	255
1870	4,850	2,469	949	959	376
1880	6,467	2,893	1,524	1,377	529
1890	8,949	3,475	2,487	2,074	732
1900	11,825	4,183	3,826	2,662	926
1910	16,302	4,893	6,276	3,684	1,155
1920	20,136	5,532	8,303	4,610	1,346
1930	23,887	6,353	10,070	5,463	1,583

^[9] Pamphlets are mainly offprints and therefore often a redundant category of evidence.

1940	29,208	7,314	13,091	6,361	1,912
1950	35,854	8,204	17,530	7,283	2,205
1960	48,248	9,750	26,712	8,425	2,617
1970	66,145	12,040	39,567	10,161	3,431
1980	93,174	14,786	59,255	13,452	4,467
1990	124,880	17,649	82,790	17,409	5,570
2000	157,758	20,423	107,525	21,563	6,076
2010	177,253	22,324	121,538	24,717	6,339
2019	187,968	23,517	128,811	26,865	6,417

Table 2 – Cumulative number of entries returned at the end of each decade for ‘books’, ‘articles’, ‘pamphlets’ and ‘auction catalogues’ from 1790 to 2019 (source: DONUM)

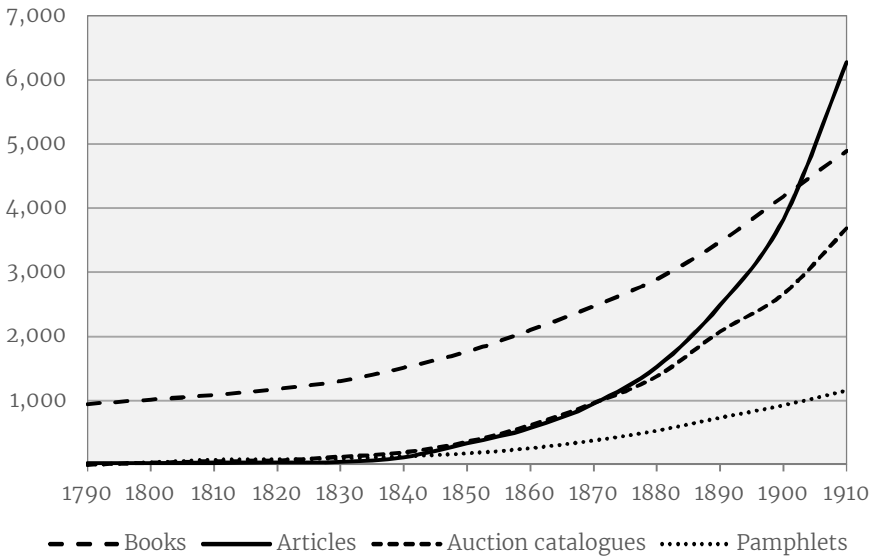
Books long dominated the landscape as the most common form of numismatic publication with c. 70/80% of the total, as they did during the first half of the 19th c. ^[10] The near-simultaneous launch of several numismatic journals in the late 1830s/early 1840s changed the pattern. ^[11] Only at the beginning of the 20th c. did articles become more numerous than books at the ANS (see Graph 2), and this is a trend which became more pronounced through the 20th c. (see Graph 3).

Around 1900, the average yearly acquisitions included around 170 books, 250 articles, and 60 auction catalogues. ^[12] A century later, in 2000, the ANS acquired 280 books, 2,500 articles, and 420 auction catalogues, a yearly total of more than 3,000 new entries when compared to c. 500 a century ago. In between, the number of articles has been multiplied by ten while the number of books did not double. In absolute terms, however, and using averages of c. 150 pages for books and c. 10 pages for articles, we passed less spectacularly from a yearly production of c. 50,500 pages in 1900 to c. 72,600 pages in 2000.

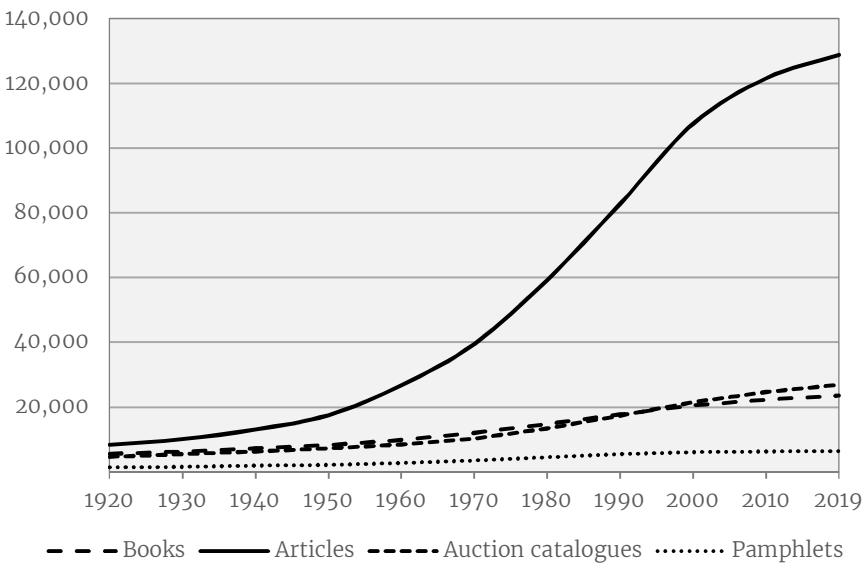
^[10] Formed in the 19th c., the ANS library is rich, albeit not too rich in numismatic books published before 1800. The 1,014 books possessed by the ANS have to be compared with the 10,558 books fully or partly devoted to numismatics as recorded by Christian and Yvette Dekesel, out of which 1,873 (Category 1) are fully devoted to numismatics (on this see Callataj 2017, p. 45).

^[11] *Revue Numismatique* in 1836, *Numismatic Chronicle* in 1839, *Revue belge de Numismatique* in 1841, etc.

^[12] With some 27,000 auction catalogues, the ANS is certainly one of the richest public libraries, but is far behind the largest one: the coin cabinet of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge which, due mainly to the combined efforts of Philip Grierson and Ted Buttrey, owned c. 55,000 at the end of 2016 (see: <https://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/dept/coins/library/salecatalogue/>).



Graph 2 – Cumulative number of entries from the end of each decade for ‘books’, ‘articles’, ‘pamphlets’ and ‘auction catalogues’ from 1790 to 1910 (source: DONUM)

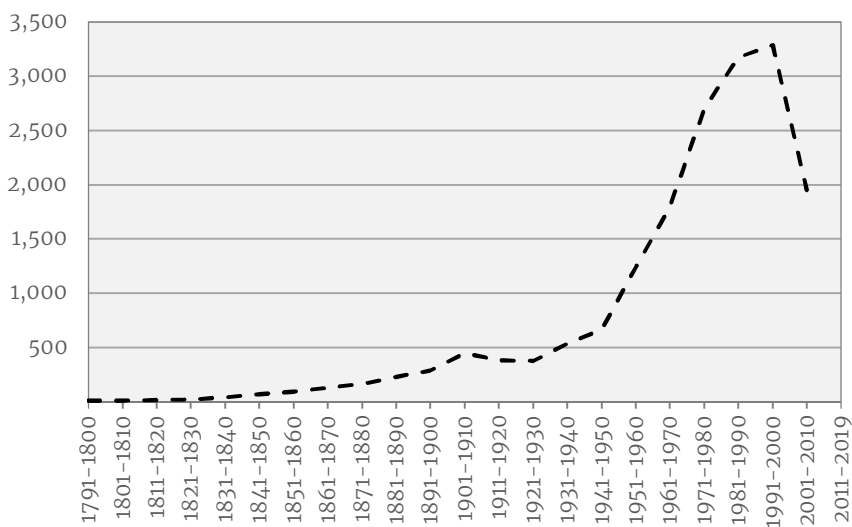


Graph 3 – Cumulative number of entries from the end of each decade for ‘books’, ‘articles’, ‘pamphlets’ and ‘auction catalogues’ from 1920 to 2019 (source: DONUM)

If using the same estimates of 150 pages per book and 10 per article, one obtains a grand total of c. 5 million numismatic pages published so far, out of which no less than two thirds would have been published as books.^[13] This is a substantial body of reading, which would take a person 50 years if they read 275 pages every day!

The current flow of numismatic literature is certainly impressive and unprecedented in absolute terms, but it also calls for two mitigating comments.

First, the decade 2000–2009 seems to be characterized by a severe decline whatever the category: c. 190 books, c. 1,400 articles, and c. 250 auction catalogues, i.e., only two-thirds of what was recorded for the preceding decade (a yearly total of c. 2,000 entries as compared to c. 3,000).^[14] And this decline may be even sharper for the years 2010–2019 (with so far a yearly average of only 1,000 entries *per annum*). While the strong decline in printed auction catalogues is rather easy to explain (they are expensive to produce and mail and it is tempting for dealers to suppress these costs, all the more since electronic auctions also allow for better pictures that everyone can enlarge at home), it is more surprising to observe a decline for monographs and articles as well (see Graph 4).



Graph 4 – Yearly average total number of entries for each decade from 1791–1800 to 2001–2010 for ‘auction catalogues’ (source: DONUM – see Table 2)

^[13] C. 3.5 million for books (23,517 × 150 pp.) and c. 1.3 for articles (128,811 × 10 pp.). As books are generally not yet taken into account by current bibliometrics, here is the main reason why numismatic literature is poorly covered by tools such as the WoS or Scopus (see Callataj 2014).

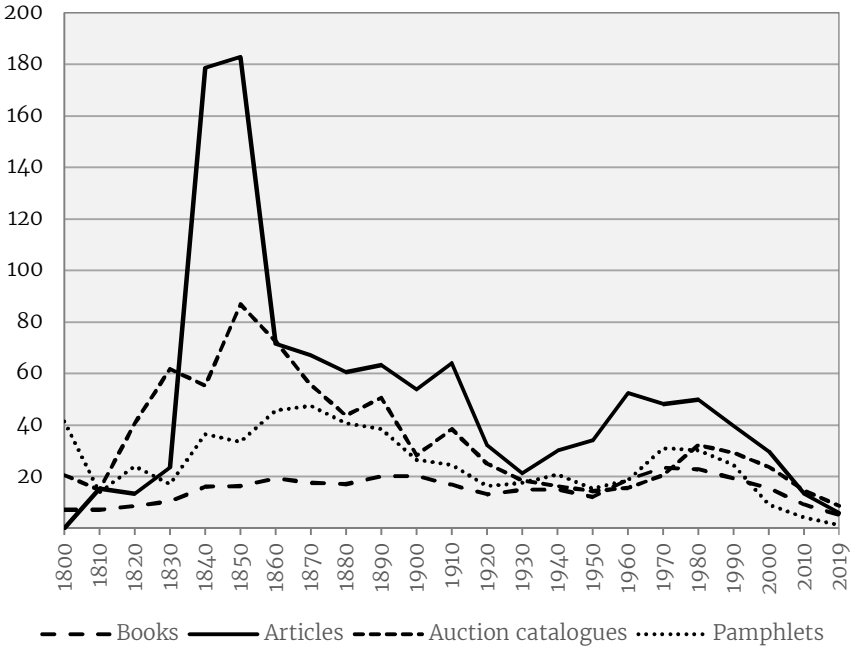
^[14] Same results working with the prior *Surveys of Numismatic Research*, see Callataj 2016, p. 50.

Second, in terms of decennial growth, it is far below what was experienced by the past. Table 3 gives for each decade the percentage of absolute growth (i.e., calculated taking into account the total number of what existed so far):

Years	Total	Books	Articles	Auction Catalogues	Pamphlets
1800	+9.8	+7.2	+0.0	+20.5	+41.5
1810	+8.1	+7.1	+15.4	+14.9	+13.8
1820	+11.0	+8.7	+13.3	+40.7	+24.2
1830	+14.1	+10.4	+23.5	+61.8	+17.1
1840	+25.1	+16.1	+178.6	+55.3	+36.5
1850	+34.6	+16.3	+182.9	+86.9	+33.6
1860	+35.0	+19.3	+71.6	+72.5	+45.7
1870	+34.7	+17.6	+67.1	+55.7	+47.5
1880	+33.3	+17.2	+60.6	+43.6	+40.7
1890	+38.4	+20.1	+63.2	+50.6	+38.4
1900	+32.1	+20.4	+53.8	+28.4	+26.5
1910	+37.9	+17.0	+64.0	+38.4	+24.7
1920	+23.5	+13.1	+32.3	+25.1	+16.5
1930	+18.6	+14.8	+21.3	+18.5	+17.6
1940	+22.3	+15.1	+30.0	+16.4	+20.8
1950	+22.8	+12.2	+33.9	+14.5	+15.3
1960	+34.6	+18.8	+52.4	+15.7	+18.7
1970	+37.1	+23.5	+48.1	+20.6	+31.1
1980	+40.9	+22.8	+49.8	+32.4	+30.2
1990	+34.0	+19.4	+39.7	+29.4	+24.7
2000	+26.3	+15.7	+29.9	+23.9	+9.1
2010	+12.4	+9.3	+13.3	+14.6	+4.3
2019	+6.0	+5.3	+6.0	+8.7	+1.2

Table 3 – Decennial percentage of absolute growth for ‘books’, ‘articles’, ‘pamphlets’ and ‘auction catalogues’ kept at the ANS (1790–2019; source: DONUM – see Table 2)

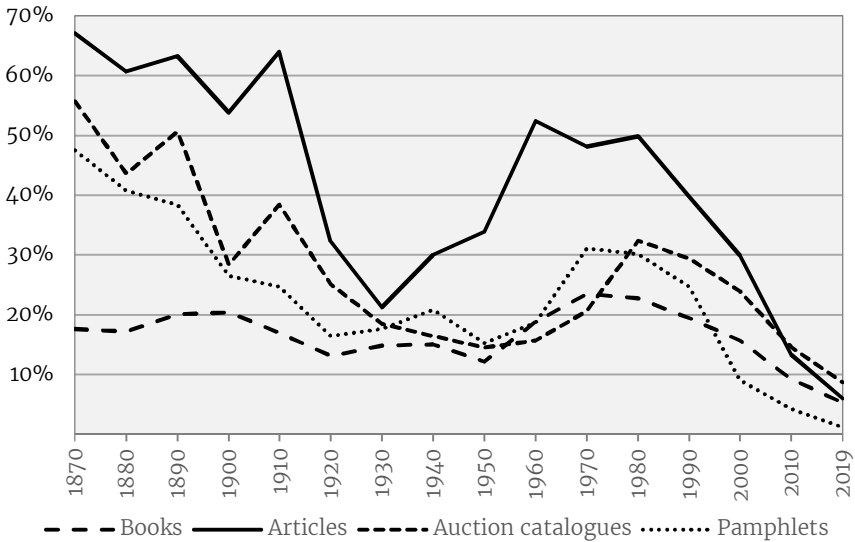
As made clear by Graph 5, maximal growth is recorded during the years 1830–1840, i.e., when national numismatic journals were launched, creating automatically a boom of papers. During two decades, the increasing ratio reached the amazing level of 180%. It is interesting to observe that auction catalogues, too, experienced a boom which, in terms of frequency (c. 80% in the 1840s) was not experienced before and will not be reproduced after.



Graph 5 – Decennial percentage of absolute growth for ‘books’, ‘articles’, ‘pamphlets’ and ‘auction catalogues’ kept at the ANS (1800–2019; source: DONUM – see Table 2)

Looking more closely (Graph 6), it turns out that the development of numismatic articles is now proceeding on a reduced pace (c. 20% for the years 2000) as compared with the years 1950–1970 (c. 50%) and even more with the decades preceding ww I (c. 60%). With some nuances, the same pattern is observed for auction catalogues and pamphlets, with books as the only category to remain rather stable around 15/20% through each decade.

Giving some support to the recent concept of Great World War (1914–1945), we do observe a general low for the decades 1910–1940 combining ww I, ww II, and a major economic crisis in the middle. Then came what is called in French the ‘*trente glorieuses*’ (1946–1975) characterized by high economic growth. With a major development in the 1950s–1970s (+50%), scientific journals grew more quickly than books for which best performances are recorded in the 1960s–1970s (+24%) or auction catalogues (+30% in the 1970s–1980s).



Graph 6 – Decennial percentage of absolute growth for ‘books’, ‘articles’, ‘pamphlets’, and ‘auction catalogues’ kept at the ANS (1870–2019; source: DONUM – see Table 2)

Whatever the way to calculate – looking at cumulative (Table 2) or absolute growth (Table 3) – results for the 3rd millennium are marked by a decline.

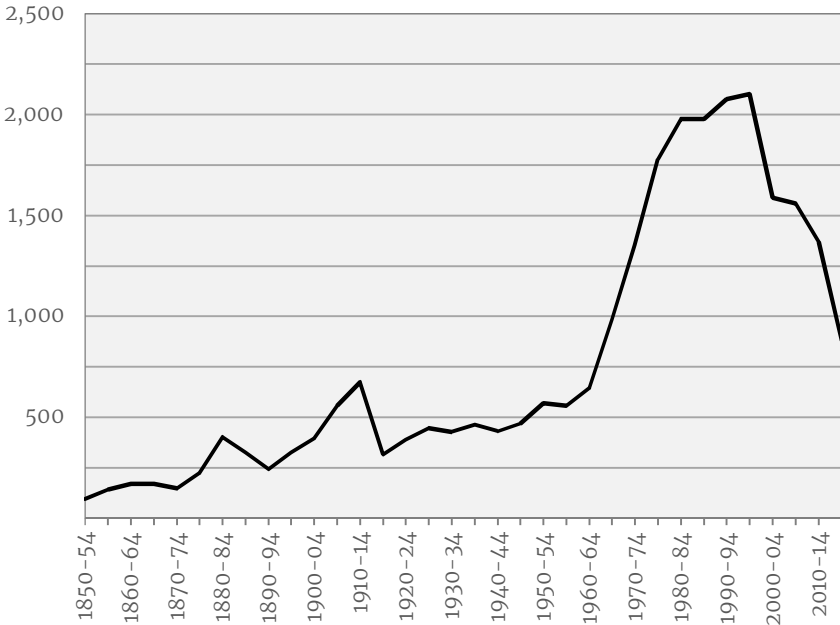
For reasons already mentioned, this is particularly visible for auction catalogues.^[15] Table 4 gives for each period of five years from 1850 onwards the number of auction catalogues kept at the ANS.

Years	Number	Years	Number	Years	Number	Years	Number
1850–54	94	1895–99	325	1940–44	429	1985–89	1,977
1855–59	140	1900–04	394	1945–49	467	1990–94	2,077
1860–64	169	1905–09	558	1950–54	570	1995–99	2,102
1865–69	171	1910–14	674	1955–59	556	2000–04	1,587
1870–74	147	1915–19	315	1960–64	647	2005–09	1,560
1875–79	224	1920–24	390	1965–69	982	2010–14	1,369
1880–84	401	1925–29	445	1970–74	1,353	2015–19	883
1885–89	325	1930–34	427	1975–79	1,779		
1890–94	242	1935–39	463	1980–84	1,979		

Table 4 – Quinquennial numbers of numismatic auction catalogues in NONUM (1850–2019)

^[15] Not foreseen when I published a specific paper on the topic in 1993 (see CallataÏ 1993).

Put on a graph (Graph 7), these numbers show the rapidity of decline with a result for the years 2010–2014, which is similar to the one obtained 40 years earlier for 1970–1974.



Graph 7 – Quinquennial numbers of numismatic ‘auction catalogues’ in DONUM (1850–2019)

3. Some specific trends

The general scheme presented so far is by nature the result of the aggregation of many sub-trends. What follows aims to underline some of them as a demonstration of the many possibilities offered by DONUM.

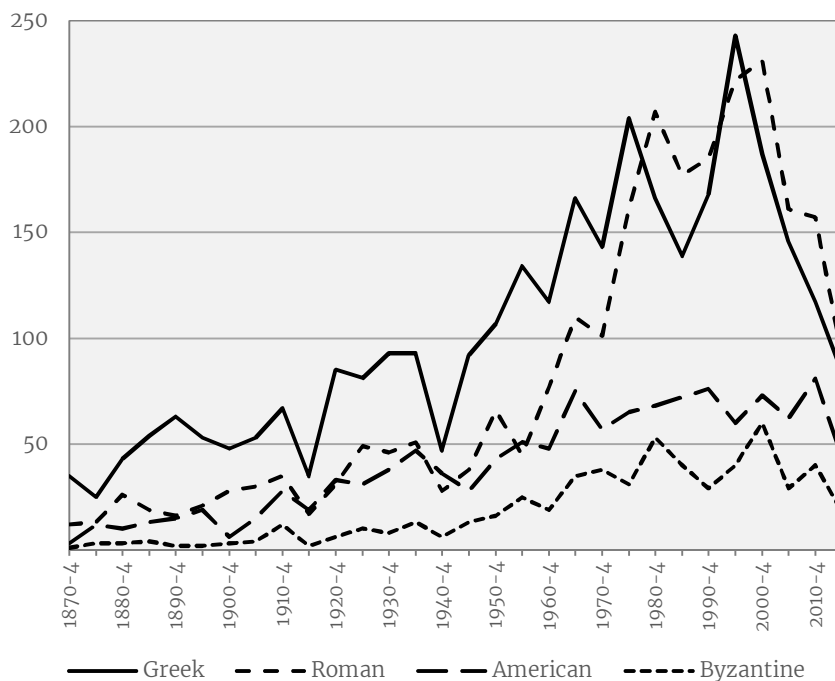
Let us first consider four thematic categories easily identifiable by their names: ‘Greek’, ‘Roman’, ‘American’, and ‘Byzantine.’ Table 5 gives for each period of five years the number of ‘book’ acquisitions for these four categories.

Beyond the general but comparatively modest growth through the 20th c. (see Table 2: $\times 1.8$ for books instead of $\times 10$ for articles), it is interesting to observe how books on Greek coins long dominated the landscape before being slightly superseded by books on Roman coins, which doubled their numbers in the 1960s and 1970s, passing from 20 to 40 every year.^[16]

^[16] The same is observed using NGram Viewer (Callataj 2018, p. 521, Graph 14).

Years	Greek	Roman	American	Byzantine
1870-74	35	12	3	1
1875-79	25	13	12	3
1880-84	43	26	10	3
1885-89	54	19	13	4
1890-94	63	16	15	2
1895-99	53	21	19	2
1900-04	48	28	6	3
1905-09	53	30	15	4
1910-14	67	35	28	12
1915-19	35	17	19	2
1920-24	85	31	33	6
1925-29	81	49	31	10
1930-34	93	46	38	8
1935-39	93	51	47	13
1940-44	47	28	36	6
1945-49	92	38	28	13
1950-54	107	66	43	16
1955-59	134	45	51	25
1960-64	117	77	48	19
1965-69	166	110	75	35
1970-74	143	101	57	38
1975-79	204	162	65	31
1980-84	166	207	68	53
1985-89	139	177	72	40
1990-94	168	185	76	29
1995-99	243	222	60	40
2000-04	187	231	73	60
2005-09	146	161	62	29
2010-14	117	157	81	40
2015-19	84	91	43	18

Table 5 – Quinquennial acquisitions for ‘Greek’, ‘Roman’, ‘American’ and ‘Byzantine’ numismatic ‘books’ in DONUM (1870–2019)



Graph 8 – Quinquennial acquisitions for ‘Greek’, ‘Roman’, ‘American’, and ‘Byzantine’ numismatic ‘books’ in DONUM (1870-2019)

Based on periods of five years, Graph 8 also allows us to take the measure of the negative impact of the two World Wars on scientific publications, although in both cases this impact seems ephemeral. The same scenario with nuances could be observed looking at ‘articles’ (Table 6 and Graph 9).

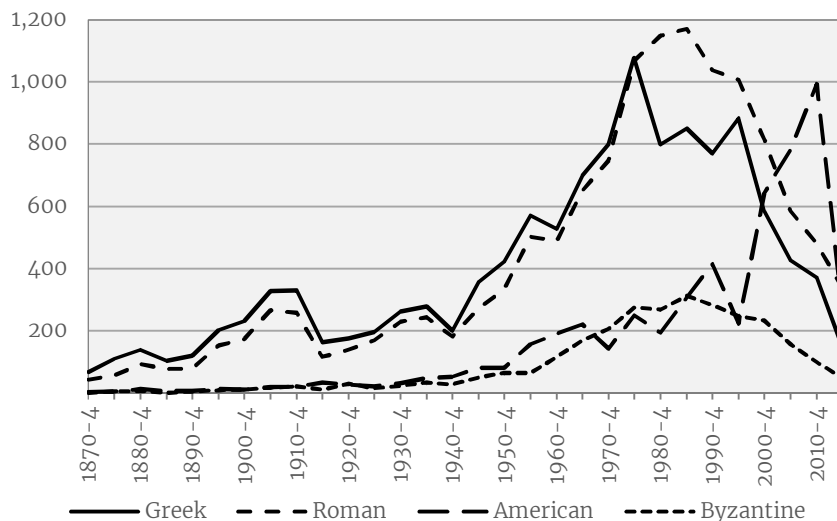
Years	Greek	Roman	American	Byzantine
1870-74	67	43	4	1
1875-79	109	56	5	4
1880-84	138	92	13	6
1885-89	103	76	7	0
1890-94	120	78	7	5
1895-99	202	153	12	9
1900-04	230	174	11	10
1905-09	327	265	18	17
1910-14	330	258	20	21

1915-19	162	115	33	11
1920-24	176	139	27	29
1925-29	195	170	20	15
1930-34	261	229	31	23
1935-39	279	244	47	33
1940-44	199	181	52	27
1945-49	356	271	81	49
1950-54	422	333	80	65
1955-59	571	503	157	65
1960-64	527	488	190	116
1965-69	699	650	220	168
1970-74	798	747	143	206
1975-79	1,077	1,068	250	273
1980-84	798	1,149	193	267
1985-89	851	1,170	307	312
1990-94	771	1,037	414	283
1995-99	883	1,006	223	247
2000-04	585	816	642	233
2005-09	426	585	783	157
2010-14	370	480	994	98
2015-19	145	335	267	47

Table 6 – Quinquennial acquisitions for ‘Greek’, ‘Roman’, ‘American’ and ‘Byzantine’ numismatic ‘articles’ in DONUM (1870-2019)

Here again, articles on Greek coins were long more numerous than on Roman coins before the situation reversed in the 1980s and here again the last two decades have corresponded to a rather sharp decline. The most noticeable and peculiar fact is here the great and recent expansion of articles about American coins which are now substantially more abundant than articles on Greek coins.

So, from at least a century (from 1870 onwards until the 1970s), Greek coins were the most studied type of coinages. If going back in time down to the beginning of the 19th c., it turns out that Greek coins already enjoyed that special status.



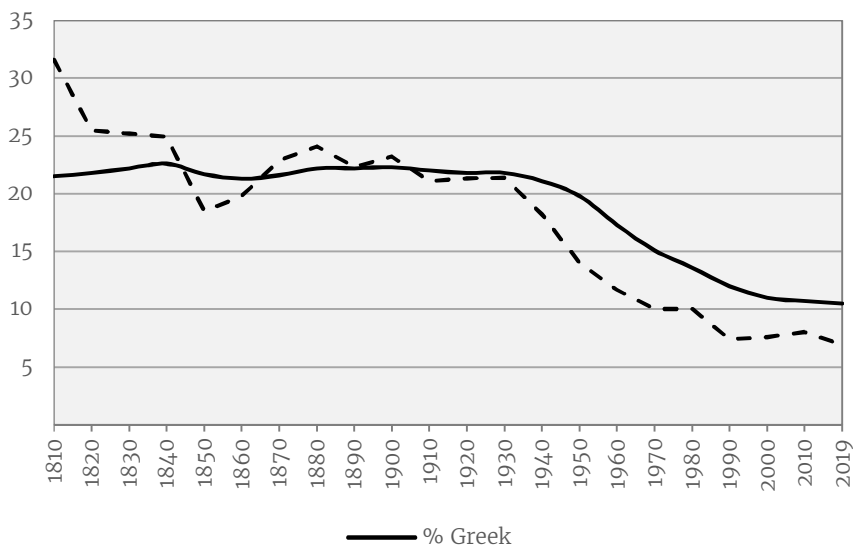
Graph 9 – Quinquennial acquisitions for ‘Greek’, ‘Roman’, ‘American’, and ‘Byzantine’ numismatic ‘articles’ in DONUM (1870–2019)

Years	2) Total Number	3) Greek Entries	4) Greek Entries vs. Total Number	5) Increase Greek vs. Total Number
1790	972	206	21.2%	-
1800	1,040	216	20.8%	14.7%
1810	1,116	240	21.5%	31.6%
1820	1,214	265	21.8%	25.5%
1830	1,345	298	22.2%	25.2%
1840	1,630	369	22.6%	24.9%
1850	2,090	454	21.7%	18.5%
1860	2,667	569	21.3%	19.8%
1870	3,418	739	21.6%	22.9%
1880	4,417	980	22.2%	24.1%
1890	5,962	1,324	22,2%	22.3%
1900	8,009	1,788	22.3%	22.7%
1910	11,169	2,454	22.0%	21.1%
1920	13,836	3,023	21.8%	21.3%
1930	16,424	3,577	21.8%	21.4%
1940	20,406	4,300	21.1%	18.2%

1950	25,735	5,046	19.6%	14.0%
1960	36,463	6,302	17.3%	11.7%
1970	51,608	7,818	15.1%	10.0%
1980	74,042	10,056	13.6%	10.0%
1990	100,440	12,022	12.0%	7.4%
2000	127,948	14,125	11.0%	7.6%
2010	143,862	15,398	10.7%	8.0%
2019	152,358	15,983	10.5%	6.9%

Table 7 – Cumulative decennial increases for ‘books’, ‘articles’, and ‘pamphlets’ with levels of increase of the library of the American Numismatic Society (DONUM)

Table 7 gives the cumulated number of entries for ‘books’, ‘papers’, and ‘pamphlets’ at the end of each decade from 1790 to 2019, both for all the literature (column 2) as well as for the entries labelled ‘Greek’ only (column 3). Column 4 indicates the percentage of the total taken by ‘Greek’ entries out of the total number. Column 5 reports for each decade the increase percentage taken by ‘Greek’ entries (column 3) compared with the total number (column 2). Table 10 illustrates the last two columns of Table 7.



Graph 10 – Relative shares, in absolute numbers and in relative increase, of Greek numismatics (entry ‘Greek’) to compare with the total number of recorded literature by DONUM (1810–2018)

Publications on Greek coins have long taken an impressive and stable share of 22% of all numismatic literature. That situation was maintained through the whole 19th c. up until 1930. Even better: at the beginning of the 19th c., nearly 30% of all recent numismatic literature was devoted to Greek coinage! From 1930 onwards, development of other areas of research severely reduced that historical predominance. Studies on Greek coinage now count for some 7% of the new acquisitions and is still at c. 10% of the full holdings of the ANS library. This of course does not mean that the second half of the 20th c. was not characterized by a spectacular development in absolute terms for Greek coins as well, but it underlines the fact that even stronger developments were observed elsewhere.^[17]

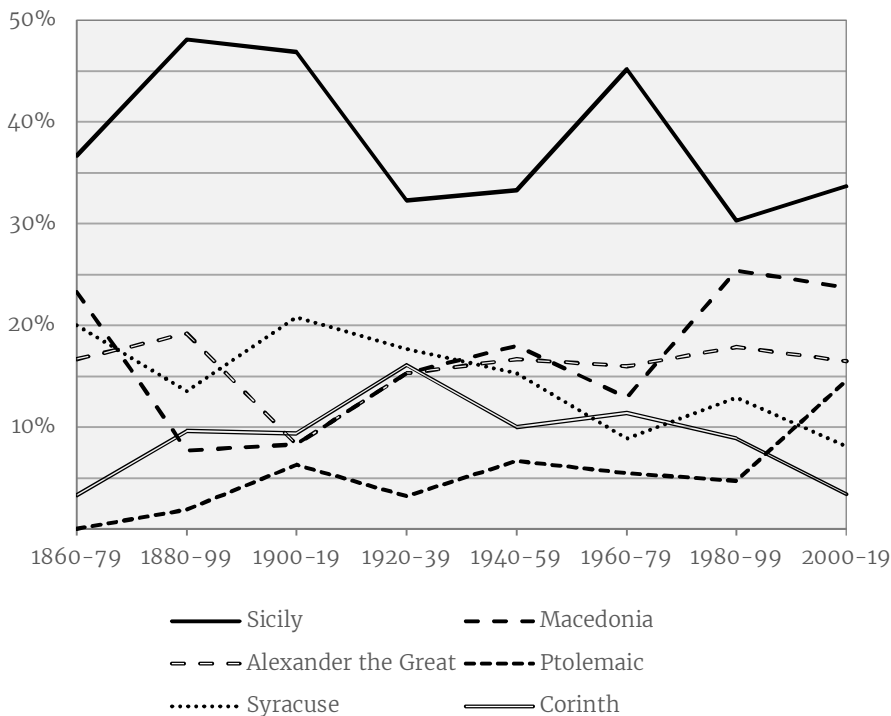
Finally, and as an additional example of what could be achieved by DONUM, Table 8 and Graph 11 both investigate the chronological trends experienced by publications related to some Greek sub-fields such as ‘Sicily’, ‘Macedonia’, ‘Alexander the Great’, ‘Ptolemaic’, ‘Syracuse’, and ‘Corinth.’ Data are provided for every 20-year period from 1860 to 2019 (Table 8).

Years	Sicily	Macedonia	Alex. Great	Ptolemaic	Syracuse	Corinth	Total
1860–79	11	7	5	–	6	1	30
1880–99	25	4	10	1	7	5	52
1900–19	45	8	8	6	20	9	96
1920–39	40	19	19	4	22	20	124
1940–59	50	27	25	10	23	15	150
1960–79	147	42	52	18	29	37	325
1980–99	212	178	125	33	90	62	700
2000–19	178	125	87	77	43	18	528
Total	708	410	331	149	240	167	2,005

Table 8 – Entries for certain Greek themes by periods of 20 years: ‘Sicily’, ‘Macedonia’, ‘Alexander the Great’, ‘Ptolemaic’, ‘Syracuse’, and ‘Corinth’ (1860–2019 – source: DONUM)

Graph 11 gives the relative percentage of the total for each period and each sub-field.

^[17] This proportional decline is affected by the boom in American numismatic literature (see Graph 9).



Graph 11 – Relative percentages for certain Greek themes over 20-year periods: ‘Sicily’, ‘Macedonia’, ‘Alexander the Great’, ‘Ptolemaic’, ‘Syracuse’, and ‘Corinth’ (1860–2019; source: DONUM)

Despite the smallness of the samples got for the 19th c., some general trends appear. Publications about Alexander the Great remained stable, around 18%. There is a decline of interest through time for Syracuse (passing from c. 20% to c. 10%) and Corinth (now below 5% to be compared with the peak at 26% for the years 1920–1939 [The Ravel years]). There is a recent and spectacular growth for the Ptolemies (passing from 5% to 15% due to the joints efforts of Cathy Lorber, Thomas Faucher, Julien Olivier, and others). Sicily and Macedonia are characterized by multidirectional trends which are curiously symmetrically inversed with a general trend of growth for Macedonia and decline for Sicily, still the largest subfield here considered, however.

To be sure, none of these trends comes as a surprise for the specialist of Greek coinage but it is now possible to measure what was subjectively felt so far. The expected conclusion of this paper is that DONUM is a unique and powerful tool allowing many queries and bringing – without too many biases – a tremendous extra value for chronological investigations. The librarians of the ANS, past and present, should be warmly thanked for this great achievement.

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