With the purpose of providing a detailed work and as part of a one-month predoctoral stay at Oxford (vid. App sent with budget), I requested a grant-in-aid (1.000 €) from the International Numismatic Council. The approval of this grant was notified to me by the secretary of the International Numismatic Council, Prof. François de Callataÿ, through a letter sent by email on the 4th of July 2017.

On the 26th of July, I travelled by plane from Valencia to London-Gatwick and then I arrived by bus to Oxford. It must be stated that the objectives proposed in my application were fulfilled. In the first place, I met the ‘Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project’ (Oxford) team, from its main responsible, the Prof. Christopher Howgego, to Cristian Gazdac, Marguerite Spoerri Butcher and Rahel C. Ackermann. Likewise, I met Volker Heuchert and Simon Glenn too and they gave me access to the numismatic collection of the Ashmolean Museum. All the colleagues were very kind to me.

The use of the references related to European Coin Hoards was threefold: to compare the Hispanic Hoards with the European ones; to understand the economic history of the Roman Empire; and to review the literature about the economic history of the Roman Empire. I fulfilled the objective of discussing with Prof. Howgego and team members about how to face the record of hoards from the Late Roman Empire, which are a little more complicated due to the diversity of mints and the volume of coins.

During the weeks I stayed there, I was going to the Sackler Library and sometimes to the Radcliffe Camera. Thanks to several books and papers1, I obtained much

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information about Roman Hoards and their interpretation, monetary circulation and Roman economy. Professor Howgego gave me directions which I appreciated. As regards approaches to the ancient economy, I will not waste too much time on the primitivist/substantivist-modernist/formalist discussion. This tends to go around in circles without making much real progress. There is more to be said for the structural approach influenced by New Institutional Economics.

Dr. Cristian Gazdac explaining to me the new utilities of the Coin Hoards app.

However, my thesis is an empirical subject (coin hoards) and I might find more helpful the empirical and quantitative approach taken by the Oxford Roman Economy Project (vid. Oxford Studies in the Roman Economy). In general, I will avoid too much work on economic theory and try to stay closer to my real subject. But it is obvious that Numismatics is not only a historical science, and that it is strictly in relation with the monetization and the economy, although sometimes, it is willing to forget its origins without difficulty.

Finally, I left Oxford on the 23rd of August. Thanks to this travel grant, I enjoyed a magnificent experience and I obtained an excellent numismatic formation. I would not like to finish without manifesting the need for institutions such as the INC’s maximum guarantee of the numismatic vitality in the world.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

David Martínez Chico

Valencia, September 25th, 2017