

# COINS, ART AND CHRONOLOGY II

THE FIRST MILLENNIUM C.E. IN THE  
INDO-IRANIAN BORDERLANDS



Michael Alram, Deborah Klimburg-Salter,  
Minoru Inaba, Matthias Pfisterer (eds.)

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ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN  
PHILOSOPHISCH-HISTORISCHE KLASSE  
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Edited by  
Michael Alram, Deborah Klimburg Salter,  
Minoru Inaba and Matthias Pfisterer

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MICHAEL ALRAM – DEBORAH KLIMBURG-SALTER –  
MINORU INABA – MATTHIAS PFISTERER

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## FOREWORD

In celebration of his seventieth birthday, this volume is dedicated to Professor Emeritus Shōshin Kuwayama of Kyoto University in honour of his life's work and his contribution to the formation of an entire generation of scholars in Japan and abroad. The present volume contains essays resulting from the scholarly exchange at two symposia held sequentially in October and November 2008 in Kyoto and Vienna respectively. All the participants at the Kyoto symposium organized by Minoru Inaba who is a student of Professor Kuwayama, have been associated with him for long periods of time and have been inspired and encouraged by his generosity and kindness to young people and junior scholars. At the same time, we remember Professor Kuwayama's many years of long friendship and his scholarly association with Professor Maurizio Taddei. This collaboration between Professor Kuwayama and Professor Taddei has enabled many young scholars from Japan, Italy and Austria to become acquainted and to engage in collaborations of their own. Based on these collaborations, a rather small scholarly meeting simply entitled "Afghanistan Meeting" was organized by Deborah Klimburg-Salter at the University of Vienna, Institute of Art History in March 2006 and sponsored by the Austrian Science Fund / FWF. Impressed and inspired by the discussions and the intimate atmosphere of this meeting, Inaba titled the Kyoto symposium "Afghanistan Meeting 2008: Reconsidering Material and Literary Sources on the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> Century", which was the most recent gathering of these scholars. A month later in Vienna an expanded international conference organized by Michael Alram and Deborah E. Klimburg-Salter, "Iranian Huns and Western Turks: Archaeology – History – Art History – Numismatics" was held at which almost all the participants of the first "Coins, Art and Chronology" conference were present. At this occasion we particularly missed Domenico Faccena, Robert Göbl, Boris Marshak, Maurizio Taddei, and Evgeny Zeymal who sadly were no longer with us. Professor Kuwayama could not attend because of prior obligations.\*

A comparison of the table of contents of the two volumes – *Coins, Art and Chronology* and the present *Coins, Art and Chronology II* – reflects changes in the current state of research on the cultural history of the Indo-Iranian borderlands. In both volumes, the range of contributions extends from the Achaemenid to the early Islamic periods. However the chronological weight of the articles has shifted away from the Kushana period to the later periods, the so-called Hephthalite and Turkic periods.

Articles that fall within the numismatic field can now examine in much greater depth specific coin issues and dynasties. In contrast, in the archaeological and art historical disciplines, one can now begin to appreciate much larger patterns of cultural development and change. Thanks to the increase in primary information, such as the increased number of Bactrian documents, new coin hoards, and coin types, and new archaeological finds, our understanding of the cultural history of this large geographic region has advanced significantly since the publication of *Coins, Art and Chronology I*. Perhaps the most dramatic conceptual change is a new awareness of the thoroughly heterogeneous nature of contemporary society that, as such, calls into question the applicability of ethnic and religious designations as descriptive terms. Likewise we are beginning to understand that categories previously seen as sequential time frames in fact overlap: this is true, for instance, for the Hephthalite and Turkic periods, and for the pre-Islamic and Islamic periods.

\* Participants of the conferences (in alphabetical order):

Kyoto: Michael Alram, Kurt Behrendt, Pia Brancaccio, Anna Filigenzi, Erika Forte, Minoru Inaba, Deborah Klimburg-Salter, Shoshin Kuwayama, Giovanni Verardi.

Vienna: Michael Alram, Pierfrancesco Callieri, Carlo Cereti, Joe Cribb, Elizabeth Errington, Harry Falk, Anna Filigenzi, Erika Forte, Frantz Grenet, Rika Gyselen, Minoru Inaba, Deborah Klimburg-Salter, Aydogdy Kurbanov, Judith Lerner, Ciro Lo Muzio, Gudrun Melzer, Susanne Novotny, Luca Olivieri, Matthias Pfisterer, Charles Ramble, Cristina Scherrer-Schaub, Nikolaus Schindel, Nicholas Sims-Williams, Klaus Vondrovec, Verena Widorn.

It is also a pleasure to thank all those whose contributions made the conference and publications possible. We thank the members and staff of the National Research Network (NFN) who organized the conference, the Austrian Science Fund, who finances the NFN “The Cultural History of the Western Himalaya from the 8<sup>th</sup> Century” including the primary research and the conference in Vienna. In addition, the University of Vienna who finances the Research Platform CIRDIS, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and the Kunsthistorisches Museum have also contributed to the Conference. As to the Kyoto symposium, special thanks should be extended to the International Research Center of the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS) and École Française d’Extrême Orient (EFEO) for their support of the symposium; the JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Promoting Scientific Researches for funding the symposium; Professor Silvio Vita, the Director of ISEAS, for not only participating in the symposium but also giving us a lovely reception party; Prof. Vita’s staff at the Institute for helping with the preparations; Her Excellency Dr. Jutta Stefan-Bastl, the Austrian Ambassador to Japan, and Mr. Peter Stefan; Dr. Ayako Ninomiya and Mr. Ryoichi Miyamoto; and Mr. Hajime Inagaki, the Curator of the Miho Museum; and Dr. Kosei Morimoto, former Abbot of the Todaiji Temple, for extending us their hospitality.

To our regret, Afghanistan is still trapped in violence and poverty. We sincerely hope that this volume will help expand our knowledge and stimulate further consideration of the field of research in question. Above all it is our hope to draw attention to this country and its people with their invaluable cultural heritage.

M. ALRAM, D.E. KLIMBURG-SALTER, M. INABA, M. PFISTERER