



Online coin excavations' Hackathon

École française d'Athènes from 26 to 28 June 2023.

Organised by the École française d'Athènes, the Institut français d'archéologie orientale in Cairo and the Centre d'Études Alexandrines and the MONOM programme (La Monnaie dans l'Occident Méditerranéen)

The development of online databases has opened up a new field for the dissemination of archaeological objects. Ahead of many other disciplines, numismatics has been open to Digital Humanities since the end of the 2000s. First with the online publication of the *Inventary of Greek Coin Hoards*, and then by using the nomisma.org website as the basis of the numismatic vocabulary (ontology). The work of the American Numismatic Society in this field must be particularly highlighted, without forgetting the fundamental work of numismatic institutions, in the forefront of which are the main [European medal cabinets](#) (Paris, Oxford, Berlin, London, etc.). A succession of projects has been launched on both Greek and Roman coins, offering specialists and the general audience access to interoperable databases containing hundreds of thousands of specimens.

In this environment, excavation coins have long remained a weak part of the discipline. While stray finds are the subject of extremely valuable databases (the [Portable Antiquities Scheme](#) in the United Kingdom naturally comes to mind, not forgetting the work carried out in a large number of European countries with the benevolence of the [European Coin Find Network](#)), the material collected during archaeological operations (whether preventive or programmed) has suffered from a number of biases which have, until now, prevented their massive publication online. The first obstacle has long been archaeological ontology, which has been the victim of numerous projects that were not always coordinated, as well as the lack of an institution background for excavation teams, which does not provide a solid environment (both perennial and stable) conducive to the online publication of coins. Other obstacles have appeared, such as the sometimes misinterpreted definition of the intellectual property of the object, which is often linked to the archaeologist, who is not a specialist in coins in general; but also the difficulty of putting online material that is often ungrateful to publish in its entirety.

These difficulties are beginning to be overcome and many specialists want to give their material better exposure by making it available to the academic world. Archaeological ontologies are stabilizing, and offer everyone the possibility, sometimes by country or by language, of having tools which are finally interoperable. The last obstacle to be removed is often institutional. An excavation organized by a university, or a museum, does not have the IT framework required to put data online, or does not have the support of an IT team and no visibility on the maintenance of an online database. In addition to these obstacles, it is difficult for the archaeologist or numismatist to understand the methods of operation of online databases or portals, and to know the different steps to follow.

The hackathon, which the EFA, Ifao, CEAlex and the MONOM programme is organizing in Athens from 26 to 28 June 2023, is an attempt to overcome these obstacles. Thanks to the presence of specialists in the field, we want to offer the different coin operators, or archaeologists, the keys to put their data sets online. This practical workshop aims to bring together different actors, with a series of coins already recorded (whatever the database used) and to work together on the different steps that will allow them to put the data online and later, to perpetuate their database.

This Hackathon does not present a call for papers, but offers the possibility to everyone to come and familiarize themselves, or to improve their knowledge, with the different steps leading from the



discovery of a coin on an archaeological site, to its putting online according to the FAIR principle (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).

This meeting will focus particularly on excavations in North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean, without excluding other actors.

To participate, please contact Thomas Faucher at <mailto:thomas.faucher@cea.com.eg> before April 30th 2023.