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HISTORY AND COMPOSITION OF THE GHENT UNIVERSITY COIN COLLECTION
« DE BAST » (*)

Few people know that the University of Ghent possesses a considerable public collection of coins and medals, consisting of approximately 7,943 items, of which 2,694 medals and tokens, 2 (ancient?) weights, 2,644 medieval and modern coins and 2,603 ancient coins (including Byzantines). No more than a handful of these pieces has ever been published or studied. In this article I propose to give a brief survey of the history and composition of the coin section of this forgotten collection (1).

Canon De Bast and his collection

The Ghent University collection goes back to the private collection of Canon Martin-Jean De Bast (1753-1825), vicar of the church of Saint-Nicolas, Canon of the Chapter of St. Pharaldis in Ghent since 1788 and Canon of Saint-Bavo’s cathedral since 1808. In his day, De Bast was one of the most renowned historians and authors in the Netherlands. He was a talented preacher and writer, and a prominent member of many of the most prestigious cultural, historical and literary societies. He was awarded the Légion d’honneur by Napoleon in 1808 and the Order of

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I owe thanks to many people for helping me collect the data for this paper at the University Library, the University Archives and the City Archives — too many to name them all in one footnote, but I would especially like to thank Mrs. Lucie Zabeau, curator of the Ghent University Coin Cabinet and her assistant Mrs. Magda Poppe, dr. Christian Dekesel, president of Numismatica Gandavensis and Honorary Managing Director of the Bibliotheca Numismatica Siliciana, prof. Raymond Bogaert, and Mr. Raf Van Laere who were so kind to donate their dossiers on the collection’s history to the University Library, Drs. Gerard Borst, librarian of the Royal Coin Cabinet in Leiden who helped me to trace the earliest documents pertaining to the collection, and Mrs Jeanine Baldevijs, curator of the Archaeological museum of the Bijkole, who helped me compare the collection with the city’s collection.

(1) Much of the material presented here was brought together and studied in preparation of an exhibition of part of the collection in January 2002. Cf. K. VERBOVEN, De zogenaamde collectie ‘De Bast’. Twintig eeuwen munigeschiedenis in de collectie van de Gentse Universiteitsbibliotheek, Gent, Universiteitsbibliotheek, 2001 (with a catalogue of 118 coins). Note that the Archaeological Museum of the university as well has a small number of (sometimes remarkable) coins in its collection, found in excavations, which were never part of the coin cabinet and which we will consequently not discuss here.

the Belgian Lion by king William 1 in 1819. In 1815-1816 he was a member of the commission of 5 appointed by the king to advise on the location for the new universities in the Southern Netherlands (the later Belgium). Whereas 4 out of 5 members of the commission pleaded in favour of only one university in Brussels, De Bast stuck to the idea of three universities, in Ghent, Louvain and Liege. Against his colleagues in the commission and with the help of J. K. Kesteloot he succeeded in persuading the influential baron Antoine-Reinhard Falck and thus king William himself (3).

De Bast's chief work was the *Recueil d'antiquités romaines et gaULOISES trouvées dans la Flandre proprement dite*, which has remained a reference work for archaeologists in Flanders until the present day. Much of the Canon's private collection of coins and antiquities is described (with drawings) in this work (4).

In his own day, Canon De Bast's collection of coins and medals was considered one of the finest in the Netherlands. At his death in 1825, it consisted of 3,366 ancient and 2,844 medieval and modern pieces (5). The *Biographie nouvelle des contemporains* describes it as "la collection la plus complète que l'on connaisse dans les Pays-Bas" (5).

A manuscript catalogue of the collection from the year 1817 gives us a good view on the composition of the collection (6). It appears to have

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(4) Figures from the rapport made by de Jonge in 1825, Leiden, Archives Koninklijk Penningkabinet, Uitgaande stukken 1824-1827 nr. 8. The catalogue made by De Bast himself from 1817 mentions a total of only 3,291 ancient and an unspecified number of medieval and modern coins and medals.


(6) Leiden, Archives Koninklijk Penningkabinet, Uitgaande stukken 1824-1827 nr. 8, *Bijlage I*. Notes in the margins of the manuscript refer to a *proces-verbaal*, also containing a description of the collection probably made at the time of the sale to king William (cf. *infra*). If the document still exists, it should be deposited in the national archives of the Netherlands in The Hague. An earlier report by me of a manuscript describing 28 coins from the collection kept in the Ghent University Library should be discarded as erroneous. The manuscript appears to be a later copy by an anonymous author of notes by Charles van Hulthem on some superb pieces in his collection (Ghent University Library *Collectie van de vliegende bladen*, HS 1 N 19, K. VERBOVEN, *De Bast [n. 1] p. 1*).
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consisted mainly of Roman coins (7). 2,531 imperial pieces are listed, and 367 Republican. Greek coins are much less numerous and conspicuously less well catalogued. With the exception of a gold stater from Philip II and some silver pieces De Bast mentions 324 unspecified mostly bronze coins from « cities and peoples ». Another very attractive part was formed by the 420 medieval coins from the Netherlands (mainly from Flanders and Brabant), among which 26 gold pieces. The early Middle Ages are presented by 20 Merovingian gold pieces and 11 silver Carolingian denarii. A series of 272 papal medals and a small but exceptional series of 16 medals of Charles de Lorraine stand out among the non-monetary pieces.

The 1817 catalogue is attached to a report written in 1825 by J.C. de Jonge, director of the Royal Coin Cabinet (at the time at 's Gravenhage (The Hague)). The report describes the collection as a whole as not very remarkable, but containing a number of very beautiful, rare and sometimes unique pieces. From an archaeological point of view the collection was and remains special because a considerable number of the ancient and medieval coins came from finds in Flanders and are described in some detail by Canon De Bast in his Recueil d'antiquités (8). Of course, not all coins came from finds. The 1817 catalogue also mentions a lot of 263 Roman coins, not yet classified but « provenant la plupart de la vente du Cabinet de M. Ghesquière » (9).

In 1822, Canon De Bast sold his coin and medal cabinet together with his collection of other antiquities to William I, king of the United Netherlands, for the huge sum of 22,000 guilders (10). According to the Biographie nécrologique written by Amand De Bast in honour of his uncle, the Canon ceded his collection « moyennant une pension viagère » (an annuity) (11). If this is correct the sum in question must refer to the estimated total value of the collection.

The agreement comprised that the Canon was allowed to keep his collection until his death, which occurred on April 11th 1825. In August of the same year the college of curators of the University of Ghent pleaded with the king to donate both the coin cabinet and the collection of anti-

(7) See also C. Ph. Serrure, Notice sur le cabinet monétaire de S.A. le prince de Ligne, Gand, 18802, p. i.i.
(8) Cf. also Biographie nationale, IV, p. 760.
(9) The bulk of this important coin and medal collection (5,477 pieces) was acquired by Van Hulthem; cf. C. Ph. Serrure, Nécrologie de Mr. de Bremmaecker — Collection de Van Hulthem, in RBN, 2, 1846, p. 202-205. On Ghesquière and his collection see also C. Ph. Serrure, Cabinet prince de Ligne [n. 7], p. XLIII-XLVI. The collection is described in some detail in the sale's catalogue: Catalogue d'une collection de médailles antiques, grecques et romaines, etc., délaissée par feu M. l'abbé Ghesquière, Rédigé par P. F. de Goesin-Verhaeghe, Gand, 1812, in-8°.
(11) A. DE BAST, Nécrologie [n. 3], p. 4-5.
quities to the university, arguing that the objects had mostly been found in Flanders and its neighbouring provinces (12).

The king was well disposed to the university and sent the director of the Royal Coin Cabinet, squire (jonkheer) J.C. de Jonge, to Ghent to examine the collection and to determine which coins were of interest for the Royal Collection. De Jonge noted his selection in the margins of the 1817 catalogue, which was added as a supplement to his report. On November 20th, 1825 the « entire » collection was officially donated to the university, except for the pieces singled out by de Jonge (13). De Jonge’s selection turned out to comprise no less than 989 ancient and 585 medieval and modern coins and medals, which were sent to The Hague in February 1826 (14). In exchange, the University received a series of 567 ancient, medieval and modern doubles from the Royal Cabinet, a survey of which was added as a supplement to de Jonge’s report (15).

The transfer naturally comprised the best and most interesting part of the collection, leaving the university with few extraordinary pieces (16). Nevertheless, de Jonge did his best to accommodate the university as much as possible. Thus, three (out of twenty) gold Merovingian tremisses were left in Ghent, as well three (out of nine) Celtic gold pieces and the gold Philip II stater we mentioned before.

(12) Ghent University Archives, 3 A 2 1825-1826, no. 34 (letter dd June 24th, 1826 from the college of curators to the vice-chancellor (rector magnificus) and secretary):
« die oudheden ten meerderen deelen in deze en in de naburige provincien ontdekt, gevonden en aangekocht, eene levendige proeven schenen te leveren of van het verblijf, of ten minste van den doortocht van de romainen en dus van die zelfde provincie van eener meer hoogere waarde en belang waren ».

(13) Royal Decree KB no. 121, November 20th, 1825; Ghent University Archives, 3 A 1 1820-1827, p. 110-111 (November 25th, 1825). Leiden, Archives Koninklijk Penningkabinet, Uitgaande stukken 1824-1827, nr. 8. The other antiquities in the collection of Canon De Bast were donated to the University by royal decree KB no. 122, June 4th, 1826, cf. Ghent University Archives, 3 A 1 1820-1827, p. 127, (June 24th, 1826); Ghent University Archives, 3 A 2 1825-1826, no. 34 (letter dd June 24th, 1826 from the college of curators to the rector magnificus and secretary).

(14) Leiden, Archives Koninklijk Penningkabinet, Ingekomen brieven 1826-1827 nr. 43 (letter from the curators of Ghent University to the inspector February 28th, 1826). 978 ancient coins and 550 medieval and modern coins and medals are noted in the margin of the 1817 catalogue.

(15) Leiden, Archives Koninklijk Penningkabinet, Uitgaande stukken 1824-1827 nr. 8, Bijlage 2.

(16) Leiden, Archives Koninklijk Penningkabinet, Uitgaande stukken 1824-1827 nr. 8: « Al wat zich in de K(oninklijke) versameling niet bevond, wat eenige verscheidenheid aanbood, of wat door bijzonder conservatie uitmuntte, heb ik als nodig en nuttig voor het K(oninklijk) K(abinet) afgezonderd en opgetekend ». 
The founding and early years of the university coin and medal cabinet

The conspicuous ease and speed with which the donation was arranged suggests that the affair had been prepared long in advance. This may be confirmed by the creation by the university in 1822 — the very year that king William bought the Canon's collection — of a coin and antiquities cabinet ("Cabinet van Archeologie, penningen en zoo oudere als nieuwere zeldzaamheden") (17).

The core of this collection was donated by the Société des Beaux Arts et de Littérature and its secretary Lieven De Bast (a cousin of the Canon) and was subsequently increased with donations by (among others) baron Falck, minister of Education and Fine Arts at the time (from 1820 to 1824) whose role in the foundation of Ghent University we already noted and Philippe Balthasar, count de Lens, at the time governor of eastern Flanders, president of the university’s college of curators and himself a leading figure in Ghent’s cultural circles. Lieven De Bast was appointed director (without a salary) of the new cabinet (18). He was voted a budget of 400 guilders a year, a considerable sum, clearly intended for the acquisition of new pieces (19). The report of de Jonge confirms that by 1825 a small and modest collection had been formed.

The idea of providing the university with a cabinet of coins and antiquities is not surprising. From the very beginning it had been the intention of the king to provide the new state universities with a number of

(17) Ghent University Archives, 3 A2 1822-1823, nos. 25a en 37. The cabinet was presented to the king during his visit of Ghent in 1823 (Ghent University Archives, 3 A 3 (= 3 A 1 (1817-1833) dd June 24th, 1823)).

(18) A. DE BAST, Historische beschrijving van het paleis der hooge school te Gent, Gent, 1826, p. 48-51; A. VOISIN, Guide des voyageurs dans la ville de Gand, Gand, De Busscher, 18312, p. 232; A. VOISIN, Guide de Gand, ou Précis de l'histoire civile, monumentale et statistique des Gantois, Gand, Annoot-Braeckman, 18434, p. 154-155. Lieven De Bast had succeeded his uncle as secretary of the Société des Beaux Arts et de Littérature, which had already formed its own coin and medal cabinet (since at least 1819). Whether the entire cabinet was donated to the university or only part of it, is not known (cf. Leiden, Archives Koninklijk Penningkabinet D80.135, letter by Charles Van Hulthem to Canon De Bast, dd' Febr. 16th, 1819).

(19) Ghent University Archives, 3 A 2 1822-1823, nos. 25a en 37. The budget was reduced to 200 fl. the following years and raised back to 300 fl. in 1827, when Lieven De Bast was appointed deputy secretary of the university (Ghent University Archives, 3 A 2 1826-1827, no. 20, 22; 3 A 1 1820-1827, p. 179-180). The total university budget (not including salaries) only amounted to 8,400 fl. The Royal Cabinet in 's Gravenhage was granted a budget of 300 fl. in 1817, which subsequently rose to 1,200 fl. It was intended for regular purchases. Contrary to the University Cabinet, however, the Royal Cabinet enjoyed considerable special grants for extraordinary purchases that far outweighed the ordinary budget, cf. J. V. AN KUYK, Geschiedenis van het koninklijk kabinet van munten, penningen en gesneden stenen te 's Gravenhage, 's Gravenhage, Algemene Landsdrukkerij, 1946, p. 23.
collections that could be used for research and educational purposes. The Education Act of 1816 instituting universities in Liège, Louvain and Ghent prescribed that the cities harbouring the universities not only had to provide for buildings but would also hand over a number of collections. Thus, for instance, in 1818, the city of Ghent contracted its library and botanical garden (both in the former Baudeloo Abbey) to the university.

In 1817, under the mayorship of the same count de Lens, the city commissioned architect Louis Roelandt to design a new *Palais académique* in the Volderstraat. The grand hall (the *Aula Academica*) based on the Roman Pantheon is still a famous example of neo-classical architecture in Ghent. Behind the grand hall on the first floor, extended the university's classrooms and other facilities, while a large part of the second floor was occupied by various university collections: the cabinet of comparative anatomy, of osteology, of natural history, of mineralogy, of surgical instruments, of other technical instruments and machines and of course the cabinet of coins and antiquities located in a circular room just above one of the three ordinary entrances in the Lange Meer (now the Universiteitsstraat). All these collections (except for the cabinet of comparative anatomy) were open to the public (20). The foundation stone was laid in 1819 by baron Falck himself, in the presence of Canon De Bast as one of the distinguished guests. The entire complex was inaugurated on October 3rd, 1826 (21).

Thanks to the 1817 catalogue with de Jonge's annotations and the inventory of doubles donated by the Royal Cabinet, we have a good view on how the university collection was composed in 1826. It numbered at least 2,684 ancient coins (of which at least 2,340 Roman) and 2,519 medieval and modern coins and medals, totalling at least 5,203 pieces (22).

**The early Belgian years**

Lieven De Bast (who was promoted to deputy secretary of the university in 1827) stayed on as director of the museum of antiquities and coin cabinet until 1832, when he died of cholera (23). In 1828, however, he ar-

(20) An impression of the grandeur of these musea can still be acquired by visiting the Law Faculty library, now situated in these rooms.


(22) Figures inferred from de Jonge's rapport and the list of doubles donated. 978 ancient coins in the 1817 catalogue are marked for the Royal Cabinet, 2,315 were left in Ghent.

ranged for François Den Duyts — then curator of the cabinet for natural history — to serve as unofficial curator of the collection. In 1833 Den Duyts was officially confirmed as curator of the museum of antiquities and the coin and medal cabinet (24). De Bast was succeeded as director by prof. Joseph Roulez (25). Both Den Duyts and Roulez were to play an important role in the further history of the collection.

Although the university was obliged by the Dutch administration to make yearly inventories of its collections, I have been unable to find any trace of these in the university archives (26). We can be sure, however, that the collection continued to expand. Serrure mentions several purchases by Den Duyts in the 1830’s and 1840’s. According to Serrure, Den Duyts specialised in « Belgian » coins and medals; Greek coins were too expensive, but he did manage to acquire a number of « très remarquables » Roman coins. Both Serrure and Voisin’s Guide de Gand specifically mention multiple donations by the administrator-inspector D’Hane de Potter between 1835 and 1839 (27).

Unfortunately, no record is known to have survived of these early acquisitions. The only coins we know for sure were acquired in these years are the 17 coins from Namur and 6 from Luxemburg described in the second edition of the catalogue of medieval pieces published by Den Duyts (28). The first edition of this catalogue appeared in 1839 and covered the principalities of Flanders, Brabant and Hainaut, the second expanded edition, containing 318 coins with illustrations, was published in 1847 and covered also Namur and Luxemburg. It is the first detailed survey of part of the collection we have today (29).

(24) Ghent University Archives, 3 A 1, fragments of the minutes and correspondence of the college of curators of the university, minutes of the session of July 15th 1828. On François Benoit Den Duyts (a veteran of Napoleon’s army against Russia, *1792 † 1848) see C. Ph. SERRURE, Nécrologie Den Duyts, in RBN, 4, 1848, p. 290-295; Ghent University Library Collectie van de vliegende bladen, HS I D 73.

(25) cf. A. VOISIN, Guide 1843 [n. 18], p. 154-155. In 1830 the new Belgian state closed the faculties of Arts and Sciences, the university reacted by organising two independent « free » faculties. Roulez taught at the free faculty of Arts since 1832. When the state officially restored the two faculties in 1835, Roulez’s appointment was confirmed. On Roulez see Université de Gand. Liber memorialis notices biographiques. Tome 1, Gand, Vanderpoorten, 1913, p. 48-67. Serrure claims that Roulez was appointed director only at a later date (« une date postérieure »), but doesn’t specify when, cf. Ph. SERRURE, Nécrologie Den Duyts [n. 24], p. 291.

(26) Ghent University Archives, 3 A 2 (1822-1823) no. 19 (Letter of the minister to the college of curators).

(27) Ph. SERRURE, Nécrologie Den Duyts [n. 24], p. 292-293; A. VOISIN, Guide 1843 [n. 18], p. 155. D’Hane de Potter was the first Belgian administrator-inspector of the university appointed in 1835.

(28) Ph. SERRURE, Nécrologie Den Duyts [n. 24], p. 294.

(29) Fr. DEN DUYTS, Notice sur les anciennes monnaies des comtes de Flandre, ducs de Brabant et comtes de Hainaut, faisant partie de la collection des médailles de l’Université de Gand, Gand, 1839; Fr. DEN DUYTS, Notice sur les anciennes monnaies des comtes de
By 1843 the entire collection is claimed to have consisted of 2,000 «médaillons romains et grecs», 3,000 «concernant l’histoire des Pays-Bas» and 600 «monnaies anciennes et décorations», totalling therefore ca. 5,600 pieces (30). It would seem therefore that the acquisitions made since 1825 mainly concerned medieval and modern pieces and that the remnants of the former Canon De Bast’s collection still formed the bulk of the collection in 1843.

The summary inventories and the acquisition of the «Greek» series

François Den Duyts died in 1848. He was succeeded by his son, Charles, who died prematurely, aged 42, in 1860. Charles appears to have aided his father in preparing the second edition of his catalogue in 1847, but no record survives showing that he played an active part in the further history of the collection. He in turn was succeeded by Jules La-fontaine, who was in fact little more than a housekeeper.

Nevertheless, our view on the collection’s history substantially improves from the 1850’s onwards. In 1853, a Royal Decree stipulated that each director had to draw up a catalogue systématique and a registre d’entrée et sortie for his collections, which would be inspected yearly by the administrator-inspector. Yearly also the directors had to verify the content of their collections and send a formal report with a summary inventory to the administrator-inspector, who in turn would send these to ministry of Interior Affairs and Education (31). With exception of the Greek series (to which we shall return shortly) no catalogue systématique or registre d’entrée et sortie is known to have survived. However, from 1854 onwards we find copies of the yearly summary inventories in the university archives. The inventories of the coin and medal cabinet distinguish between ancient coins, medieval coins and medals from the Middle Ages up to king Leopold I (1831-1865), further subdivided according to the metals used. Most responsible directors and curators also sent relatively detailed surveys to accompany the summary inventories. Unfortunately, however, Roulez was not so diligent. Nevertheless, the inventories do give us a good view of how the collection further developed.


(30) A. Voisin, Guide 1843 [n. 18], p. 155.

(31) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 12 (71), copy of the Royal Decree dd” Febr. 10th 1853. Two letters from the year 1851 in the university archives mention an earlier inventory drawn up on request of the government. Unfortunately, however, I have been unable to trace this document. Ghent University Archives, 4 A 10 (82): letter dd” May 17th 1851 from the minister of Interior Affairs to the administrator-inspector and letter dd” May 20th 1851 from the administrator-inspector to the minister.
The inventory of 1854 mentions a total of 2,142 ancient and 477 medieval coins and 2,232 medals, totalling 4,851 items. A comparison with the situation in 1826 suggests that several hundred ancient coins (approximately 480) were lost. Curiously, however, the number of gold pieces would have decreased only from 22 to 21 (32). This seems to indicate that the loss reflects some kind of policy option (33).

Accompanying the inventory of 1858 is a note of Roulez mentioning the purchase of two lots of Greek coins in Paris in 1856 and 1858 (34). The letter reports the provenance of the lots as respectively the cabinet of abbé (reverend) H. G. Greppo de Montpellier (1788-1863) and J. F. Tochon d'Annecy (1772-1820) (35). In 1863 we find another very similar letter reporting the purchase of Greek coins from the Balkan area in 1859-1860 (Illyria, Aetolia, Thessalia, Macedonia, Thracia and the Thracian Chersonesus). Where and from whom the coins were purchased is not specified (36).

Roulez does not mention how many coins he bought, but the bulk of the Greek series was certainly acquired in these years. Comparing the figures from 1826 with those of the 1888 inventory (cf. infra), suggests that the purchases from 1856-1860 totalled ca. 657-670 pieces. The early inventories suggest a somewhat lower figure of 506 to 514 (cf. infra).

The 1860 inventory mentions a total of 2,648 Greek and Roman coins (21 gold, 1,004 silver, 1,623 bronze pieces) and 477 medieval coins (60 gold, 373 silver, 44 bronze), totalling 3,126 coins, besides 2,397 médailles et médaillons in various metals and paper (37). The following 28 years, the composition of the collection hardly seems to have changed. (38) The last summary inventory available of 1886 shows a total of 2,656 Greek and

(32) According to the 1817 catalogue, De Bast had 34 Roman gold pieces. 18 of these were transferred to 's Gravenhage. 2 gold doubles were donated by the Royal Cabinet at 's Gravenhage, making a total of at least 18 Roman gold pieces in Ghent in 1826. Furthermore, there was at least one gold Greek coin (the Philipp II stater) and 3 gold Gallic coins. According to the 1888 inventory the number of Roman gold coins would have risen to 19 (cf. infra).

(33) To remove items too badly worn to identify or to use doubles for exchange purposes?

(34) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 17 (82), dd’ March 27th, 1859.


(36) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 19 (82), dd’ February 4th, 1863.

(37) 24 gold, 730 silver, 14 guilded silver, 1,512 bronze, 59 guilded bronze, 56 lead, tin or iron and 2 in paper, the latter are mentioned already in the 1817 catalogue.

(38) Apart from the acquisition of 1 gold medieval coin in 1866 and one other in 1880 and the acquisition in 1879 of 8 ancient coins.
Roman coins (21 gold, 1,004 silver and 1,631 bronze pieces) and 479 medieval coins (62 gold, 373 silver, 44 bronze), totalling 3,135 coins besides 2,457 médailles et médailles in various metals and paper.

The reliability of the summary inventories is doubtful. Thus, for instance, the 1879 inventory mentions a rise of the number of ancient bronze coins from 1,623 to 1,631, the 1881 and 1882 inventories mention the figure of 1,623, whereas the 1883 inventory resumes the figure of 1,631. The 1880 inventory mentions 62 medieval gold pieces, the 1883 inventory records 63, in 1884 the number rises to 68, while the 1886 inventory resumes the former number of 62. The earliest inventories also note the totals of resp. ancient, medieval and modern coins and medals. Thus the 1858 inventory mentions a total of 2,473 ancient coins, but if we add up the different figures we only come to 2,463 coins, which is exactly the total number mentioned in the 1857 inventory. Clearly the inventories were made in haste and without much care.

The transfer to the library and the 1888 inventory

In 1888, however, the collection was temporarily transferred to the university library (then in the former Baudeloo Abbey) because of redecoration works. At the occasion a more or less detailed survey was made of the collection (\(\text{\textsuperscript{9}}\)). It is the oldest known survey of the entire collection since 1817. The inventory mentions 3,478 coins, among which 2,808 ancient, 417 medieval and 253 unclassified monnaies en cuivre (presumably all medieval or modern). The ancient coins are subdivided into 935 Greek (202 of which unclassified), 1,738 Roman, 17 « Gallic » and 118 pièces diverses, classified as « Roman », but among which presumably also early-medieval. The coins were displayed in 14 show-cases: 3 containing Greek coins, 8 Roman, 1 pièces diverses and 2 medieval. Apart from the coins, the 1888 inventory mentions a total of 2,895 medals, seals, decorations and other coin like objects. Except for 329 unclassified items, they were displayed in another 14 show-cases, 12 of which containing médailles, 1 pièces pontificales and 1 méreaux et sceaux. All in all the 1888 inventory numbers 6,373 items, of which 5,589 in the show-cases.

Comparing the 1888 inventory with the earlier summary inventories is not straightforward. The « Roman » show-case with pièces diverses can hardly have been included in the section of ancient coins in the summary inventories because the latter only mention 21 gold coins, whereas if we include the pièces diverses we obtain a total of 35 gold coins. Without this one show-case — and of course excluding the « Gallic » coins that were in the medieval show-case 1 — but including the 202 unclassified « Greek » coins not in show-cases, we would arrive at 20 ancient gold coins in the

\(\text{\textsuperscript{9}}\) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 45 (82) (February 7th, 1888).
1888 inventory and a total of 2,673 ancient coins, both figures are close to the 21 gold coins and 2,656 ancient coins in the summary inventory of 1886. If we add the number of gold pieces in the show-case pièces diverses (15) to those of the two show-cases of the medieval section (48, including the Gallic coins), we come at 63, which is close to the number of 62 medieval gold pieces mentioned in the 1886 inventory. However, the total number of coins in these 3 show-cases numbers 552, whereas the 1886 inventory only mentions a total of 479. Moreover, if this is so, then why were the 202 unclassified « Greek » coins included in the summary inventories, but the 253 unclassified medieval and early modern coins not?

The catalogue systématique of the Greek series

Sometime after 1860 a new catalogue systématique of the Greek series was set up. It is a large leather bound register showing traces of different hands (40). The catalogue was started after the acquisitions of 1856-1860 but was more or less finished before 1864, as can be inferred from the presence of Roulez's handwriting, who was replaced as director of the collection by August Wagener in 1864 (41). It contains a detailed description of the pieces, each of which (initially) received a catalogue number. Many pieces have also received a number referring to the registre d'entrée, which is missing today.

We can distinguish three to five hands. The first hand shows a continuing catalogue numbering from 1 to 674, although a small number of pieces have no number and some numbers refer to more than one piece. Roughly one half of the pieces have an accompanying acquisition register number. The second hand — possibly belonging to the same person writing with an interval of some years — continues the catalogue numbers from 675 to 733 and all numbers are accompanied by an acquisition register number. It can hardly be a coincidence that the highest catalogue number 733, corresponds exactly to the number of Greek items mentioned in the 1888 inventory as being in the display cases. Since some coins are not numbered and some numbers refer to more than one coin, the number of 733 items in the 1888 show-cases as well must be considered too low. The third hand is certainly that of Roulez (42). The catalog-
gue numbers are not continued, but all pieces have an acquisition register number.

The fifth hand and presumably also the fourth — the former in ink, the latter in pencil — are Georges Brunin's, who was curator of the collection from 1905 to 1928. Brunin made many corrections and added new catalogue numbers, not continuing the old numbering but adding superscript numbers to insert newly catalogued pieces. Many if not all of the pieces identified and added by Brunin presumably come from the 202 unclassified pieces reported in the 1888 inventory.

Adolf De Ceuleneer, Georges Brunin and the new « Museum of Antiquities »

The collection remained in the library until the end of 1896, when Professor Adolf De Ceuleneer persuaded the university administration to entrust it to his care as successor of August Wagener (43). It probably returned to its original show-cases, where it was to remain until at least the First World War (44).

No more summary inventories are preserved after 1896. De Ceuleneer's first « inventory » dates from 1903 (45). It consists of little more than a sketchy survey of the history of the university collection of antiquities, of which the coin and medal cabinet was part. De Ceuleneer claimed that « le cabinet de numismatique est un des plus beaux du pays », but the text remains very vague. Interestingly, however, De Ceuleneer claims that « la collection des médailles est la seule qui ait été notablement augmentée depuis 1830, grâce à des dons faits par le Gouvernement et par des particuliers » (46). De Ceuleneer doesn't specify which gifts he had in mind, but perhaps he thought mainly of the treasure of Bouillon, to which we will return in few moments. Remarkably, however, a letter written by De Ceuleneer in 1896 explicitly states that no purchases had taken place since the Belgian revolution of 1830 (47). It seems, therefore, that De Ceuleneer was unaware of the important purchases of 1856-1860.

De Ceuleneer was nevertheless very concerned about the fate of the archaeological and numismatic collection. The records in the university archives from around the turn of the century show almost every year requests by De Ceuleneer to increase the collection through new purchases, nearly all of which were refused by the Ministry of Interior Af-

(43) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 68 (82) (1896), Letter dd” December 18th, 1896.
(45) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 103 (82) (April 30th, 1903).
(46) De Ceuleneer's letter is not unequivocal, but contrary to what I originally thought, I now believe that « la collection des médailles » refers to both coins, medals and other non-monetary objects.
(47) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 68 (82), dd” June, 17th, 1896.
fairs. De Ceuleneer's greatest success was the acquisition in 1895/1896 of a collection of pre-Columbian antiquities from Guatemala excavated by Georges Léger (48).

Another great success for De Ceuleneer was the acquisition of the treasure of Bouillon in 1901, consisting of 705 silver pieces, 1 gold piece and 1 bronze piece from the sixteenth and seventeenth century (fig. 11). Interestingly De Ceuleneer's report concerning the purchase mentions that he was unable to check the university collection for doubles of the coins in question for lack of a good catalogue. Nevertheless he expressed his enthusiasm for the project because the sixteenth century was particularly badly represented in the collection at that time. The treasure was sold by the Ministry of Interior Affairs to the University for the very low price of 270 francs (49).

In 1900 De Ceuleneer requested a yearly budget of 450 francs for the museum of antiquities. This time, the minister finally agreed, although he reduced the amount to 250 francs. The first allowance (of 1901) was withheld to finance the purchase of the treasure of Bouillon (50). The budget allowed the collection to expand little by little and enabled De Ceuleneer to revive the archaeological and numismatic collection as the Museum voor Oudheidkunde, which was eventually (in 1920) to grow out into the History of Arts Institute (51).

In 1904 the collection's history took a new turn, when De Ceuleneer introduced Georges Brunin. By permission of the administration Brunin undertook, from 1905 onwards, to make a new and complete catalogue of the coin collection (52). Brunin was very meticulous. He used the catalogue systématique as a starting point, which he corrected in many places and completed with the unidentified pieces mentioned in the 1888 inventory and with later acquisitions. Every coin was identified and described on a

(48) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 68 (82).
(49) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 36 (82) (8 letters from January 29th to May 11th). A complete inventory of the hoard is added to the letter from the minister dd” January, 29th, 1901.
(50) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 36 (82) (1900-1901), Letter of the minister dd” February 23th, 1901. De Ceuleneer’s request shows that the cabinet of antiquities had lost its budget by the end of the nineteenth century. When this exactly occurred is not clear. In the 1830’s the budget fluctuated between 600 and 900 francs, but was paid out irregularly. Just as in De Ceuleneer’s time, however, extraordinary credits were sometimes extended for important purchases, cf. C. Ph. Serrure, Nécrologie Den Duyls [n. 24], p. 291-292. In the mid fifties, the «museum of antiquities and coin cabinet» received a yearly budget of 800 Belgian francs, cf. Ghent University Archives 4 A 16 (61).
(51) Cf. Gedenkboek [n. 2], p. 131.
(52) Ghent University Archives, 4 A 109 (82) (1904-1905), Letter dd” April 25th, 1905. Until recently it was thought that Brunin catalogued only the ancient coins or at least that only the index cards of the ancient series had been preserved. In the course of the preparation of this article, however, we were able to retrieve part of the cards of the medieval and modern coins.
separate index card. Interestingly, Brunin added a note to the *catalogue systématique* (on a separate paper pinned to the catalogue’s first page) listing 22 pieces that were found missing when drawing up his own index card catalogue. Among these we find the gold Philip II stater, the disappearance of which can therefore be situated between 1888 and 1905 (53).

In 1907, De Ceuleneer introduced Joseph Maertens de Noordhout as curator of the archaeological collection alongside Brunin. Under the curatorship of Brunin for the coin and medal cabinet (1905-1928) and Maertens de Noordhout for the archaeological cabinet (1907-1931), the revived «Museum for antiquities» would see new days of glory. While Brunin composed his index card catalogue, Maertens de Noordhout compiled the catalogue of the archaeological collection (54). When De Ceuleneer retired in 1912, he stayed on as director of the Museum of Antiquities, but the university guide for 1913-1914 explicitly mentions Brunin and Maertens de Noordhout as «conservateurs à titre honorifique».

Among the documents pertaining to the history of the current University Archaeological Museum in these years, we find a hand written copy of a catalogue of the Cloquet collection of antiquities (without coins) acquired in 1896, corresponding with a hand written acquisition register (*Inkomregister* (sic)). Both documents closely resemble the *catalogue systématique* of the Greek coins we already mentioned and are without doubt successors of the catalogues and acquisition registers required by the royal decree of 1853. For an unknown reason, neither the catalogue, nor the acquisition register were used the following years to document the important acquisitions made by De Ceuleneer. From 1906 onwards, however, the register was again used until 1930 (55).

It documents the acquisition of at least 1,982 coins and medals (among which at least 1,964 coins), mostly stemming from donations, but partly also from purchases. Most of the acquired items (but certainly not all) appear to date from the early modern period and the nineteenth century, although unfortunately the register notes are mostly too vague to enable us to identify the pieces in detail. An acquisition deserving special note is the purchase in 1914 of 450 coins from the collection of Lohers from Liege, among which *ca.* 200 from the Prince-bishopric of Liege (56).

(53) According to Raf Van Laere, the first disappearances would have been noted already in 1899 (dossier Raf Van Laere (1972), deposited at the Ghent University Library, map room and coin cabinet). I have been unable to trace the source of this observation. Presumably it was in a dossier accompanying the transfer to the university library in 1968 (cf. *infra*), mentioned in Bogaert’s dossier concerning the transfer (cf. *infra*), but missing today.

(54) Finished in 1933, but published only in 1938: *J. Maertens de Noordhout, Catalogue* [n. 10].

(55) Two volumes, unnumbered, kept by the department of Archaeology and Ancient History of Europe as part of the dossier of the Archaeological Museum.

(56) *Inkomregister* no. 948, complemented by a gift by Brunin, cf. *infra*. 
The register is certainly incomplete. By far most of the registered acquisitions (numismatic and other) date to the years before the First World War. After the War the register seems to have been used only occasionally. A newspaper clipping from 1912 mentioned the donation of 150 coins, while another clipping from 1922 mentioned the acquisition of another 354 pieces, among which 121 Roman Republican denarii. Neither of these important acquisitions is mentioned in the register (57). Some of the Brunin cards have notes on the back referring to purchases or donations not indicated in the acquisition register.

One donor stands out: Georges Brunin himself. Between 1907 and 1914, Brunin donated no less than 1,017 coins, more than half the number of acquisitions mentioned in the register. The list of Brunin's donations starts in 1907 with one Greek coin from Selge (Pisidia), besides 300 unspecified silver and bronze coins (58). On the 29th of May 1908, he donated 32 unspecified coins (59), on July 2nd of the same year, another 32 « Italian coins » and one « Bactrian coin » (60), in 1911 another 598 coins, 8 medals and 9 assignates (61), and in 1914 53 coins « to complete the series from Liege » (62). The acquisition register proves that the majority of medieval and modern pieces were added to the collection only then.

Brunin's index card catalogue for the ancient coins is complete, indicating that he made sure that the newly acquired pieces were properly catalogued. The reverse of a number of cards explicitly mentions a specific origin (e.g. « donated by ... » or « purchased for the price of ... »). We may surmise, therefore, that the pieces without a provenance note on the back were already in the collection in 1905, when Brunin started the catalogue. Interestingly, the situation for the Roman Republican coins is exactly the opposite: here, the reverse mentions which pieces stem from the collection De Bast. Unfortunately, however, the provenance notes at the back of the cards are often inconsistent. Thus, for instance, the cards for the series from Liege only mention which were donated by Brunin, the lot of 200 that were bought in January 1914, received no comparable notes.

Clearly, Brunin was a key figure in the collection's history. Interestingly, he played an equally important role for the municipal collection of Ghent. In the early 20th century the city of Ghent possessed a modest

(57) Dossier Raf Van Laere (1972), deposited at the Ghent University Library, map room and coin cabinet (no source references).
(58) Inkomregister nos. 869 (= 318/3/G) en 873.
(59) Inkomregister no. 890.
(60) Inkomregister no. 893; Ghent University Archives, 4 A 128 (191).
(61) Inkomregister no. 919.
(62) Inkomregister no. 950. « om de Luiksche reeks te voltooien ». The gift was related to the purchase of 450 coins among which 200 from Liege, we just mentioned (Inkomregister no. 948).
collection of approximately 300 coins and medals that were kept in the Archaeological Museum. In 1909, this small collection was moved to the City Library, which at the time was located in the same buildings as the University Library. Georges Brunin was officially appointed curator of the collection without a salary (63). By 1914, Brunin had transformed the insignificant collection into a full fledged Coin and Medal Cabinet, numbering 2,650 coins, medals, tokens and other coin-like objects, catalogued on index cards. Just before the War, in 1914, the city cabinet was joined with the university cabinet in De Ceuleneer’s museum (64). The timing couldn’t have been worse.

The First World War and the « Instituut voor oudheidkunde en beschavingswetenschap »

At the outbreak of the First World War the university closed its doors. In 1915 the German governor-general von Bissing decided to reopen the university as an officially Flemish institution. The majority of professors refused to cooperate and the Germans were forced to appoint a largely new staff. So, in 1916, André Jolles was appointed director of the new « Institute for antiquities and civilisation sciences; archaeological museum and coin cabinet » (65). Jolles’s institute was not only the direct successor of De Ceuleneer’s « museum », it was also the immediate forerunner of the later History of Arts Institute. Brunin and Maertens de Noordhout were replaced as curators by the German Grittli Boecklen — soon to become Jolles’s mistress. Jolles stayed only two years in Ghent. In 1918, just before the cease-fire of November 11th, he accepted a professorship at Leipzig. Although Jolles allegedly received unbeschränkte Mittel for his collections, several archaeological objects are known to have disappeared in these years. We don’t know whether the same happened to the coin and medal collection, but it would explain the loss of several hundred coins — among which a large number of gold coins — between 1888 and 1977. Whether Jolles took the pieces to Leipzig or they simply disappeared in the chaos following the German withdrawal, is unknown (66).

(63) Jaarverslag van de stad Gent in 1911, Gent, Hoste, 1912, p. 660-666.
(64) Jaarverslag van de stad Gent in 1914, Gent, Hoste, 1915, p. 604.
(65) Instituut voor oudheidkunde en beschavingswetenschap. Archæologisch museum; munkabinet.
(66) On Jolles see W. THYS, André Jolles (1874-1946) « Gebildeter Vagant ». Brieven en documenten bijeengebracht, ingeleid en toegelicht door Walter Thys, Amsterdam University Press & Leipziger Universitätsverlag GmbH, 2000, p. 37-38, 384-388, 397. After his divorce in 1918, Jolles married Boecklen. For the objects found missing after the war see dossier of the Archaeological Museum (currently at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History), notes added by Maertens de Noordhout to Catalogues A & B (manuscript by Den Duyts 1835) and Catalogue C (manuscript De Ceuleneer, s.d.).
What happened to the city cabinet is equally uncertain. The Annual reports of the city of Ghent no longer mention the total number of coins in the collection after the War, making comparisons with the pre-war period impossible. It is plausible nevertheless that the city collection suffered the same fate as the university collection (67).

The Interbellum

Brunin en Maertens de Noordhout returned as curators after the War, but no new director was appointed until the History of Arts Institute (68) was established in 1920, the head of which seems to have been considered director ex officio of the museum of antiquities.

The city coin and medal cabinet was separated from the university cabinet almost immediately after the War. In January 1919, it was transferred to the building of the Commission of Monuments. Separating both collections allegedly led to a row between the university and the city (69). Nevertheless, Brunin continued to be honorary curator for both cabinets until his death in 1928 and the Annual reports of the city of Ghent record numerous new acquisitions in these early Interbellum years (70).

In 1931 Maertens de Noordhout retired. The acquisition register breaks off in 1930. With Brunin and Maertens de Noordhout gone, De Ceuleneer's museum languished and especially the coin collection slowly sank into oblivion. Presumably at some time during the Interbellum, the coins were taken out of their show-cases and transferred to a specially designed wooden coin cabinet that can still be admired in the university library today. Brunin's card catalogue was lodged in two specially designed file card drawers at the bottom.

Brunin was succeeded as curator of the university coin cabinet by professor Hubert Van de Weerd (71). In 1933, Van de Weerd exchanged the

(67) Today the collection numbers approximately 4,500 pieces, of which approximately 1,300 coins, mostly medieval and early modern from the Southern Netherlands. The computerised survey of the inventory contains 4,319 records among which 1,144 records pertaining to coins, but some records refer to more than one inventory number and some inventory numbers refer to more than one item.

(68) Hoger Instituut voor Kunstgeschiedenis en Oudheidkunde, HIKO.

(69) Ghent City Archives, archive of the Archives, map 26, Muntencabinet: extract from the minutes of the commission for monuments, Jan. 31st, 1919. On the alleged row, see dossier Raf Van Laere (1972), deposited at Ghent University Library, map room and coin cabinet.

(70) After Brunin's death, A. Nowé, curator of the city archives was appointed curator of the collection, which was transferred to the city archives in 1931, from whence it moved to the Archaeological Museum of the Bijloke in 1967. Cf. Ghent City Archives, archive of the Archives, map 26, Muntencabinet: containing a short history of the collection illustrated with copies from the city's year reports, and some (haphazard) letters.

(71) Ghent University Archives 4H2/1, box no. 255, dossier Van de Weerd, letter of the minister to the administrator-inspector dd' September 17th 1928. Contrary to Bru-
curatorship of the coin and medal collection for that of the archaeological collection and professor Henri De Sagher (an economic historian specialised in the medieval period, successor of Pirenne) took over the curatorship of the coin and medal collection (72). De Sagher, who had been suffering from ill health since 1938, died shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War and Van de Weerd was again appointed curator of the numismatic collection in 1941 (73). He was to be the last director who was responsible for both collections simultaneously.

When the Second World War broke out, the coins and medals were put in a large iron coffer for safekeeping. After the War, Van de Weerd, who was an ancient historian and archaeologist, put back the ancient coins in the wooden coin cabinet, at which occasion the Brunin cards were probably numbered in red ink (cf. infra). The medieval and modern coins and medals, however, remained in the iron coffer. Significantly, the gold coins as well were kept separately from the main collection and received no catalogue number.

When Van de Weerd died in 1948, the archaeological collection was put under the direction of professor Siegfried De Laet, while the coin and medal cabinet was entrusted to the care of professor Pieter Lambrechts. Both the iron coffer and the wooden cabinet moved to the new university buildings at the Blandijnberg in the early sixties, where they were placed in the office of professor Lambrechts.

In 1968 the medieval and modern pieces and the medals and tokens were transferred to the University Library. The transfer was arranged by professor Raymond Bogaert (74). The ancient coins remained with professor Lambrechts until after his death in 1974. In 1977 professor Bogaert also arranged the transfer of the ancient coins. Today the collection is kept in the map room of the university library together with Brunin’s index card catalogue and part of the historic numismatic reference library.

After the Brunin period acquisitions became exceedingly rare. Only a handful of pieces have index cards in a different handwriting as Brunin’s (possibly Van de Weerd’s). This is true of (only) three coins in the « Greek » series, which are also not mentioned in the catalogue systématique and were presumably acquired after 1928. Unfortunately we cannot make the same assumption for the Roman series because here we find

nin, who was merely honorary curator, Van de Weerd (who was ordinary professor) was responsible director of the collection.

(72) Ghent University Archives 4H2/1, box no. 255, dossier Van de Weerd, letter dd° September 18th.

(73) Ghent University Archives, 4H2/1, box no. 255, dossier Van de Weerd, letter dd° January 14th, 1941 to the administrator-inspector; letter dd° February 7th, 1941 to the rector.

(74) The index cards, however, remained in the cabinet and went therefore « missing ».
that all of the remaining gold coins have index cards in a different handwriting. Although none of these received a Van de Weerd red ink number, we must assume that they are the remnants of the 19 Roman gold coins mentioned in the 1888 inventory.

A letter from 1965 mentions the transfer in that year to the coin cabinet of 8 small Late-Roman bronze coins, found in the village of Lier (province of Antwerp) in 1937 (75). These coins (together with some other small coins) were not classified and were kept separately from the main collection.

Besides these 8 small bronze coins, only 9 other coins were until recently also kept unclassified and separate from the main collection. Two of these are mentioned in the catalogue systématique attributed to resp. Perga and Laodiceum ad Lycum, with notes by Brunin expressing doubt about their identification (76). A third badly worn (presumably Roman Provincial) small bronze coin as well may have been in the collection already in the 19th century, but four other unclassified coins are too easily identifiable to have puzzled Brunin, and are presumably later acquisitions. Two more come from finds in North-Africa (Cyrene) and were donated by professor Nenquin in 1955. The latest acquisition is a beautiful aureus of Trajan (RIC 726var., fig. 7), found at the excavations in Maldegem and donated by professor Hugo Thoen to the university collection in 2002.

**Losses incurred**

Throughout its history the collection has suffered from theft and neglect. One of the two copies of the catalogue Den Duyts kept in the university library, has notes in the margin attesting a survey of the collection held on the occasion of the transfer in February 1888 (77). No less than 9 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze coins are reported missing, all from Flanders, 14 from the city of Ghent alone, some of which were very rare and valuable pieces. Of the 33 medieval gold coins from Flanders

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(75) Letter dd' March 22th, 1965, dossier Raymond Bogaert, concerning the transfer of the collection to the library 1968 & 1977 (deposited at Ghent University Library, map room and coin cabinet). A note written in pencil mentions that one of these was missing in 1975. Today, however, the missing piece is accounted for.

(76) Catalogue systématique nos. 540 and 731.

(77) Two notes read « manque avant 3 fév. 1888 », one « manque avant 7 fév. 1888 », the others read « manque idem ». There were serious frictions with the curator Jules Lafontaine at the time, who was suspended from his office twice for insolvency, once at the occasion of the transfer of the collection to the library, and who was forced to ask for his retirement in 1891. But nothing indicates that Lafontaine was suspected of theft or even negligence and although he had to be pressed to ask for his retirement, he was 72 years old at the time. Ghent University Archives 4 A 44 (221) (1888); 4A 48 (221) (1890); 4A 51 (201) (1891).
and Brabant recorded in the 1888 inventory only 18 are still in the collection.

8 "Greek" coins in the catalogue systématique have similar annotations reporting their loss by 1888. At least 30 more "Greek" coins are known to have been lost since that date. Among these we find the gold Philip II stater, an Alexander III tetradrachm, a tetradrachm from Macedonia as a Roman province and possibly an electrum one sixth stater from Mytilene (cf. infra).

Of the 19 Roman gold coins listed in the 1888 inventory, only 7 were still present in 1977. Several hundred other Roman Republican and Imperial coins as well are now missing. At least 3 Byzantine solidi and three Byzantine silver pieces have been lost probably after 1888.

The history of the Ghent University Coin Collection is not very cheerful. In the nineteenth century it was one of the attractions of the city and its university. The collection was generally acknowledged as one of the finest public collections in the country and was on permanent display until Roulez closed it to the general public at some time between 1863 and 1873 (possibly because of the disappearances we just mentioned) (78). Each year, however, the cabinet (together with the other university museum) continued to open its doors to the public at the occasion of the "ker-messe communale", the so-called "Gentse Feesten". It is still mentioned as one of the attractions of the city in the early 20th century city guides (79). Today the collection is stacked away, the world has forgotten its existence and those few who know about it, rarely even remotely know what it contains.

**Composition of the coin section of the collection**

The oldest known catalogue numbers (apart from the numbers in Den Duyts's catalogue) are those of the catalogue systématique which probably correspond to the position of the coins in the show-cases. Curiously, Brunnin did not complete or continue these numbers. In fact, he included no numbers at all on the filing cards he composed. Today, the cards for the ancient coins show two different catalogue numbers, both added to the cards at a later date. The latest number (in pencil) notes the current arrangement in a metal coin cabinet, each drawer of which contains 9 rows

(78) In his position as administrator-inspector, cf. C. Ph. Serreure, Cabinet prince de Ligne [n. 7], p. 13.

(79) Cf. Ghent University Archives 4 A passim (almost yearly in the 1880's under rubric 82 « verzamelingen »); C. Celis, Beschrijving van Gent, Gent, Vander Schelden, 1909, p. 38, n. 1. Note also that the 1888 inventory shows that the pieces were then still in their show cases, where they presumably returned in 1896.
(numbered 1-9) and 7 columns (numbered A-G). The number was added by the library staff in the 1970's when the coins were placed in the metal cabinet and in the case of the ancient coins is nothing more than a transposition of the earlier catalogue numbering to the new situation. The oldest numbers, written in red ink, are missing on the index cards of the medieval and modern pieces. Presumably, therefore, the numbers were added when the ancient coins were put back in the wooden cabinet by Van de Weerd some time between 1944 and 1948. As I already explained, the index cards of the medieval and modern coins were lost at the time when they were transferred to the library. They were identified and numbered by Raf Van Laere in 1972, who was unaware of the existence of the Brunin cards.

The classification used distinguishes between ancient (including Byzantine) and medieval and modern coins. The ancient coins are further subdivided between « Greek » and Roman. The « Greek » section includes all non-Roman coins and the Romano-Campanian coins, the Roman section includes the Byzantine coins. The « Greek » section is arranged geographically, the Roman Republican coins are arranged according to gentile names of the moneyers, the Roman Imperial (and Byzantine) are classified by emperor. The medieval and modern coins are arranged geographically and chronologically. As shown by the red ink number, the arrangement of the collection today still reflects the arrangement of the coins in the wooden cabinet.

« Greek » coins

The original collection of Canon De Bast numbered few Greek coins. The 1817 catalogue mentions 324 unspecified, mostly bronze coins from « cities and peoples » (Numismata urbiun et populorum). The catalogue does not distinguish between polis-coins, hellenistic royal coins or Roman Provincial coins. A large number of these were certainly Roman Egyptian coins (80). The catalogue does mention several (« plusieurs ») silver pieces from Massalia and Nicomedia, besides 12 silver pieces from Dyr-rhachium and one silver piece from Nero, presumably an Egyptian tetradrachm noted and taken away by de Jonge. The account here is very muddled and it isn't clear, for instance, whether or not the 13+ silver pieces are comprised in the 324 unspecified specimens. Apart from these ordinary pieces from « cities and peoples », the catalogue mentions 8 spe-

(80) De Bast specifies in the 1817 catalogue that « les médailles égyptiennes y sont comprises avec les grecques en bronze ... parmi ces médailles se distinguent plusieurs de Claude le Gothique frappées en Égypte à Alexandrie, Vaballathus, Gallienus, Aurelianus, Commodus, Elagabalus, Maximianus, Alexandre Severus frappées en Nicomédie, Gordiana-nus junior, Moustis roi dans le voisinage de la Syrie, Mithridate roi du Pont, un roi de Commagène, des rois d'Égypte, Dioclétian ». 
cial coins from hellenistic kings (81): 2 tetradrachms of Alexander the Great, 1 large bronze of a Ptolemy, 1 gold Philip II stater, 1 large silver Mithridates tetradrachm and 3 false silver pieces, one of which also attributed to Mithridates.

De Jonge took away the genuine Mithridates besides 5 other silver pieces (among which the Neronian tetradrachm) and 147 bronze coins, leaving 179 in Ghent (or 192* if the silver pieces were not included in the number of 324 coins). De Jonge arranged the donation of 73 Greek doubles (among which 11 silver pieces) from the Royal Cabinet to the University Cabinet. This yields a total of at least 252 (possibly 265+) «Greek» coins in the University collection in 1826, including coins from city states, kings and Roman Egyptian coins. This number presumably also included at least a number of the Carthaginian and Parthian coins that are in the collection today.

The Celtic, Spanish and Jewish coins were classified separately in the 1817 catalogue, totalling 64 pieces, 30 of which were left in Ghent by Jonge (we will return to these in more detail shortly). All together, therefore, there were at least 282 (possibly 295+) non Roman ancient coins in the collection in 1826. The bulk of the Greek collection today stems from the purchases by Roulez in 1856, 1858 and 1859-1860. The latter purchases concerned coins from Illyria, Aetolia, Thessalia, Macedonia, Thrace and the Thracian Chersonesus.

According to the 1888 inventory, the collection numbered at least 935 «Greek» coins, besides 17 «Gallic» pieces («pièces gauloises»), totalling therefore 952 non Roman ancient coins, indicating that approximately 670 (or perhaps somewhat less than 657) coins were acquired by Roulez in 1856-1860. The early summary inventories suggest a lower figure of ca. 506 to 514 pieces: in 1856 — the year of the abbé Greppo auction — the series of ancient coins rose with 318 items from 2,142 to 2,460, in 1857, 3 more pieces were added. No acquisitions are recorded for 1858 but in 1859 the number of ancient coins rose with 123 pieces to 2,586. In 1860 the number again rose with 62 items to 2,648. Afterwards the figures remain unchanged until in 1879 when the number increased to 2,656.

The catalogue systématique also records a total of 952 «Greek» coins (including the «Gallic» pieces), but this is sheer coincidence. In fact, the number of the catalogue systématique is difficult to compare with that the 1888 inventory because Brunin kept the catalogue more or less up to date until at least the First World War. The donation of coin from Selge by Brunin in 1907 is duly added to the catalogue, as is the donation of a Parthian drachm by Maertens de Noordhout from an unknown date, but donations by Brunin of a Bactrian piece in 1908 and of 13 Roman Egyp-

(81) 2 of these are classified under a separate heading Numismata majora, vulgo médaillons, comprising 7 specimens, among which 5 Roman.
tian pieces at an unknown date are not mentioned. Besides these 14 pieces, we find another 9 coins with Brunin cards not mentioned in the *catalogue systématique*, while 3 more have catalogue cards in a different handwriting, presumably that of Van de Weerd. This leaves us with at least 975 « Greek » coins documented in some way as having once been part of the university collection before 1928 (the death of Brunin) and 978 before 1948 (the death of Van de Weerd).

The 1977 inventory gives a total of 934 classified « Greek » coins and 3 gold Celtic coins. It appears, however, that the inventory missed one coin (82); the total of classified « Greek » coins should be 935. Among the unclassified coins in the 1977 inventory, we find 5 « Greek » pieces: 1 (false) Palmyrene coin of Odenathus, 1 bronze coin of Ptolemy V found in Cyrene, 1 bronze from Perga (?), and at least 1, probably 2 Roman Provincial coins. This gives a total of 943 « Greek » coins in the collection today.

However, as we already saw, at least 8 « Greek » coins were lost by 1888. Fortunately of the 22 coins reported missing by Brunin in 1905, only 5 (apart from the 8 already missing in 1888) are still missing today. However, another 21 listed in the *catalogue systématique* appear to have been lost between 1905 and 1944/48 (when Van de Weerd numbered the ancient coins in the wooden cabinet) (83), and 4 more were lost between 1944/48 and 1977. The Bactrian coin, donated by Brunin in 1908 was never even added to the *catalogue systématique*.

If we look at the composition of the collection, the numerous small bronze coins in general and the Roman Provincial coins in particular are the most problematic. Many of these pieces are very worn and difficult to identify. Brunin’s cards are likely to be often unreliable here. We can now say that there are at least 290 Roman Provincial coins in the collection, but this is still probably just a minimum number. Among these we find one beautiful tetradrachm of Trajan struck in Antioch ad Orontem in Syria (fig. 1) and a well preserved series of 47 Roman Egyptian coins, 13 of which were donated in the Brunin period, while most others probably stem directly from Canon De Bast’s collection.

At least 68 coins can be attributed to non-Greek kings, cities or tribes (Italy not included). Punic coins (*sensu largo*) form the largest batch, with 21 coins from Carthage/Zeugitana (among which one beautiful tetradrachm), 2 Siculo-Punic coins, 2 coins from Melita (Malta), 1 from Cos-sur, and 2 Hispano-Punic coins.

In Northern Africa, the kingdom of Numidia is represented by 3 coins, among which 1 *denarius* of Iuba. The kingdom of Mauretania is repre-

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(82) In batch XIV; all 42 specimens are duly accounted for in the Brunin cards and Van de Weerd’s numbering, but the 1977 inventory mentions only 41 coins.

(83) 8 of these are struck through in pencil in the *catalogue systématique*, but when and by whom?
sent by 1 denarius of Iuba II. The 1817 catalogue mentions 2 denarii of rex Juba that are almost certainly these same two denarii from Numidia and Mauretania.

Except for the two Punic coins already mentioned, Spain is represented by 4 Celt-Iberic (of which two silver) and 1 Iberic coin. The 1817 catalogue mentions 12 « ancient Spanish » coins (monnaies antiques espagnoles), 6 of which (1 silver, 5 bronze) were left in Ghent by de Jonge. Whether or not the Hispano-Punic coins are included in this number is not clear.

The original collection De Bast numbered no less than 49 médailles gauloises, among which 9 gold pieces. De Jonge left 22 médailles gauloises in Ghent of which 3 gold. The 1888 inventory, however, mentions 17 « Gallic » coins (monnaites gauloises) among which no less than 8 gold pieces besides 8 potin and one bronze. Remarkably, according to the 1888 inventory, the monnaites gauloises were placed in the first show-case of medieval coins. The present collection numbers 10 Celtic pieces, among which 3 gold, 6 potin, billon or silver and 1 bronze. All of these are properly accounted for in the catalogue systématique by Brunin, although curiously a beautiful Ambiani quarter stater (fig. 2) was added only in pencil and with a question mark (84).

In the east, the Parthian empire is represented by 10 well preserved drachms. One of these was donated by Maertens de Noordhout, the origin of the others is not clear, but they were included in the catalogue systématique from the very beginning and so must have been in the collection by the 1860's. Two old Fenician cities, Aradus and Berytus, are represented in the collection by respectively 1 and 2 pre-Roman coins.

The most intriguing coin from this region, however is a forgery of Odenathus from Palmyra (fig. 3). Bogaert studied and published this coin in 1982 (85). Only one other coin attributed to Odenathus is known to exist (in Oslo), but reports of other specimens are found in early numismatic handbooks. Bogaert believes all of these reports are either false or refer to counterfeits. In his opinion, both the Oslo specimen and the Ghent specimen are false. The provenance of the Ghent specimen is unknown, but it isn't mentioned in the catalogue systématique and it was found among the unclassified pieces in 1977. Presumably, therefore it was acquired only after the death of Brunin (86).

Another coin from this region is a silver shekel from Jerusalem, struck during the Jewish revolt of AD 66-70 (87). Unfortunately this coin as well

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(86) True, at least two of the unclassified coins in 1977 are mentioned in the catalogue systématique, but these are very worn and virtually impossible to identify with certainty. The Odenathus coin, although artificially worn, is easy to read and therefore to attribute.
is certainly false. It is already mentioned in the 1817 catalogue, along with two other silver « monnaies samaritaines ». De Jonge left two of these Jewish coins in Ghent. Both are listed in the catalogue systématique with the annotation fausse. Brunin does not mention the now missing piece in his list of missing pieces, which indicates that the loss occurred after 1905.

The Italian section provides 40 coins from non-Greek communities. 10 of these are Romano-Campanian coins, while 2 coins attributed to Ardea are in fact a Roman aes grave triens and a sextans (88). 1 other coin is a denarius minted by the Italian Allies during the Social War. The remaining 27 coins are from all parts of the peninsula and include both non-Roman aes grave and Greek style silver and fiduciary bronze.

At least 89 coins can be attributed to hellenistic kings (including Philip II (fig. 4)) and 10 to pre-hellenistic kings (5 Macedonian, 4 Paeonian and

(88) K. VERBOVEN, De Bast [n. 1], no. 51 (RRC 14/03), no. 53 (RRC 14/05).
1 Carian). Macedonian (27), Seleucid (15) and Thracian (9) kings are represented best with numerous beautiful tetradrachms. The Ptolemaean series (23) numbers only 2 tetradrachms, but has several large and well preserved bronze denominations. All are accounted for in the *catalogue systématique*, which unfortunately also documents the loss of Canon De Bast’s gold Philip II stater (lost between 1888 and 1905), an Alexander III tetradrachm (lost between 1905 and 1944/48) and a tetradrachm of Lysimachus (lost by 1888).

This leaves 446 coins from Greek city states or leagues. Many of these are small bronze and some may be Roman Provincial. The geographic origin of the pieces covers the entire Mediterranean. The most beautiful series is formed by the 123 coins from Magna Graecia (53 from Italy, 70 from Sicily). All *poleis* of some importance are attested for, often by beautiful didrachms and tetradrachms. Syracuse alone provides 28 pieces.

The contrast with continental Greece, is remarkable. All in all we have 143 pieces from Greece proper (including Epirus and Thessalia). However, although occasionally we find some pretty staters among these, by far most are small bronze or silver denominations. Apart from Corinth (12 pieces), no city state is well attested. Athens provides 10 pieces, mostly small bronze or silver denominations apart from one tetradrachm old style and one new style, neither of which is very well preserved. Aegina as well, offers only 6 smaller denominations. Beotia and Thebes provide 15 coins, among which only two staters. The *catalogue systématique*
also mentioned one « gold » coin from Lilybaeum, which was corrected by Brunin to an electrum hekte (sixth stater) from Mytilene (Sear 4253?). But Brunin never saw the actual coin which was missing already by 1905. The 1888 inventory mentioned only one Greek gold coin, presumably the Philip II stater, which is known to have been in the collection since the very beginning. If Brunin’s identification is correct, we would expect 2 Greek gold coins to be listed in the 1888 inventory. However, we don’t know the condition of the coin in 1888; possibly the inventory mistook it for a silver coin.

The Balkan area north of Greece is represented by 59 pieces, among which some beautiful staters and tetradrachms. The majority of these was undoubtedly acquired in 1859-1860. North of the Black Sea, Pantikapeum and Phanagoria both provides 2 pieces, Olbia 1.

Asia Minor provides 105 coins, among which some very nice drachms and didrachms, but here too the majority are smaller denominations, often in bronze. No single city is particularly well represented, although the series of 8 from Rhodus (among which presumably one false) catches the eye.

Syria offers 4 pre-Roman Greek city coins (Apamea ad Orontem (1), Seleucis Pieria (1), Seleucia (2)). At the other end of the Mediterranean, Massalia is represented by 5 pieces (all drachms and smaller denominations) (89).

**Roman Republican coins**

According to the 1817 catalogue, Canon De Bast possessed a nice series of Roman Republican coins, consisting of 340 silver denarii and quinarii, 20 bronze (among which at least 3 aes grave) and 7 Romano-Campanian coins (among which 3 quadrigati). The catalogue lists the denarii and quinarii by the gentes of the moneyers. De Jonge selected 107 pieces for the Royal Cabinet, leaving 260 Republican coins in Ghent consisting of at least 244 denarii and quinarii, 12 bronze pieces (of which at least 1 aes grave), 1 quadrigatus and 3 bronze Romano-Campanian pieces.

The 1888 inventory mentions 291 pieces from the période consulaire. Whether the higher figure (+31) represents doubles donated by ’s Gravenhage in 1826 or later acquisitions is unknown. In 1922 another 121 Republican coins were added to the collection, bringing the total up to 412.

By 1977, however, only 347 classified Republican pieces were left in the collection, among which 10 Romano-Campanian coins and 2 early aes grave, classified among the Greek pieces. Only 179 index cards have a note on the back claiming their provenance as being the collection De

(89) Two Massalian pieces were lost quite recently between 1948 and 1977. The Brunin cards (with Van de Weerd number) are still preserved.
Bast. Among the 17 unclassified coins in 1977, we find 1 very handsome early Republican denarius, raising the total to 348.

The small but handsome series of aes grave is certainly eye-catching, comprising libral (2), decuncaal (3) and semilibral specimens (5), all in very good condition. Yet, it is mainly the beautiful series of denarii and quinarii that is note-worthy, ranging from the very first emissions of the late third century to Marc Antony’s legionary issues and Octavian’s (pre-augustan) emissions. The few bronze coins surfacing here and there in the series, are usually much more worn. The large number of plated coins (approximately 3-5% of the total) also draws attention. Possibly de Jonge’s selection is here to blame.

Coins from the Roman Empire

The Ghent University collection is mainly rich in Roman imperial coins, most of which stem directly from the collection of Canon De Bast.

According to the 1817 catalogue, his collection numbered 2,531 coins from the Roman Empire, among which 34 gold, 949 silver, 1,486 bronze and 62 «quinaires dont quelques-uns en argent», undoubtedly mostly fourth and fifth century small bronze and silver. With the exception of 464 small bronze coins (mainly antoniniani?) and the 62 quinarii, the number of coins per emperor are recorded with a further subdivision in gold, silver, large bronze and middle bronze. Five large medaillons (one of which in silver) are recorded separately. Also worthy of note is the separate mentioning (without further specification) of 242 large and middle bronze and 21 silver pieces, that were bought at the auction of the cabinet of Ghesquière (1812). The top piece of the collection was an aureus of Postumus with two heads.
De Jonge left 1,846 pieces in Ghent, among which 16 gold pieces, 692 silver pieces and 1,138 bronze pieces. The gold Postumus was taken to 's Gravenhage. In exchange de Jonge sent 2 gold pieces, 74 silver pieces and 158 bronze doubles from the Royal Cabinet. Assuming that all donated doubles dated from the Empire, the collection in 1826 numbered ca. 18 imperial gold pieces, 766 silver pieces and 1,296 bronze pieces, totalling 2,080 pieces.

Comparing this number to the 1888 inventory shows an increase of the number of gold coins to 19, but a decrease of the imperial silver and bronze pieces to 1,428 totalling therefore 1,447 Roman imperial pieces. The total of 1,447 Roman imperial pieces would imply a loss of approximately 633 pieces since 1826. The real figure must have been somewhat lower, since a small but unknown number (31 at most) of the donated doubles in 1826 were probably Republican coins. Presumably also, part of the «missing» pieces were in a separate show-case containing 118 pièces diverses, among which 15 gold pieces. Possibly also, as in the case of the «Greek» pieces, the inventory numbers occasionally refer to more than one coin. Clearly, however, even so all the missing pieces cannot thereby be accounted for. The fact that the number of gold pieces shows a slight increase, may indicate that the «loss» in reality reflects some kind of conscious policy option. Whatever the reason, the summary inventory of 1854 already shows a loss of ca. 480 ancient coins since 1826. Most, if not all, must be assumed to be the missing Roman pieces.

The 1977 inventory mentions only 1,282 pieces, among which only 7 gold coins. Curiously the 7 remaining gold coins have catalogue cards in a different handwriting than Brunin's and were not classified or put in the wooden cabinet by Van de Weerd. Lambrechts is known to have kept these coins in a private safe rather than leave them unguarded in his office at the university.

Besides these 1,282 Roman coins, another 32 Byzantine coins (beginning with 3 coins of Arcadius, 383-408) are listed separately. Presumably the Byzantine coins were numbered among the coins from the Roman Empire in the 1888 inventory. But even so it is obvious that the collection suffered an enormous loss of at least 133 pieces, among which no less than 12 gold pieces. The actual loss must be considerably higher, not only because the 1888 inventory figures should be considered as minima,
but also because the acquisitions under Brunin very likely also comprised an unknown number of coins from the Roman empire.

Among the 17 unclassified pieces in 1977, we find 8 small bronze coins found in Lier in 1937 dating from the reign of Honorius (395-423). In 2002 professor Thoen donated a beautiful aureus from Trajan, found in Maldegem (RIC 726var., fig. 7). This brings the total of Roman coins in the collection today up to 1,291.

The bulk of the collection dates from the second and third centuries, as shown in the following table.

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<th>Era</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Julio-Claudian family</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil War</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interregnum</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galba</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otho</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitellius</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flavian family</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonines</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil War</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertinax (false)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Didius Julianus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clodius Albinus</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valentinian's and Theodosius's family</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnus Maximus</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the fourth century only Constantine's family is well represented, although 3 beautiful solidi from Valens, Valentinian II (fig. 8) and Theodosius are worthy of note. The fifth century is virtually absent. The last Roman emperor of the Western Empire in the collection is Honorius (395-423), with 12 pieces, of which 1 solidus, 1 siliqua and the batch of 8 coins found in Lier we already mentioned.

Fig. 8. Honorius, solidus (RIC 1321) (371/6/B).
Byzantine coins

The Byzantine emperors are particularly badly represented in the present collection, numbering only 33 coins, all bronzes of various sizes. One of these is recorded as a donation in the 1906-1930 acquisition register. One other was donated by Nenquin in 1955. The first emperor present is Arcadius (395-408), the last is Alexius III Angelus Comnenus (1195-1203).

The 1817 catalogue and de Jonge's annotation, however, show that the collection in 1826 numbered 45 Byzantine coins, among which 2 gold pieces and one silver piece from Justinian, one unidentified gold piece and two unidentified silver pieces. The original collection De Bast comprised 76 Byzantine pieces, among which 8 gold pieces and 7 silver pieces. Unfortunately the 1888 inventory doesn't specify the Byzantine coins, but the large number of gold pieces both in the Roman show-case *Fin du Bas-Empire* (11 pieces) and in the show-case with *pièces diverses* (15 pieces) suggests that the 1826 Byzantines were then still accounted for.

Medieval, early modern and modern coins in the collection

The composition of the medieval, early modern and modern series in the Ghent University collection has been adequately described by Raf Van Laere in the early seventies, so I will limit myself to a short survey of how these series were formed (90).

The early Middle Ages are relatively poorly documented in the collection. Canon De Bast, however, possessed 31 Merovingian and Carolingian pieces, among which 20 gold pieces. Of these, de Jonge left only 5 silver pieces and 3 gold pieces in Ghent. The 1888 inventory doesn't specify these. Today only 2 silver pieces (one badly damaged denarius from Charlemagne and a denarius from Charles the Bald (91)) and 2 gold pieces, both from Dorestad (92) (fig. 9) are accounted for. Besides these we find

![Fig. 9. Merovingian, tremissis Dorestad (Prou M 1224var.) (055/4/C).](image)


(91) K. VERBOVEN, *De Bast* [n. 1], no. 114 and 115.

(92) One of which a contemporary imitation, cf. K. VERBOVEN, *De Bast* [n. 1], no. 113, 055/4/C and 055/4/D.
a 40 nummia piece of the Ostrogothic king Theodahad, mentioned in the 1817 catalogue among the Roman pieces (93).

The 1817 catalogue also mentions 22 English coins, among which (according to the annotations by de Jonge) some from very early kings. All of these were taken to 's Gravenhage.

The series of 18 Visigothic coins — not mentioned in the 1817 catalogue — are all Becker forgeries. The earliest mention of this series is in De Ceuleneer's 1903 «inventory» (94).

Canon De Bast had an important collection of medieval coins from the Netherlands. The 1817 catalogue mentions no less than 420 pieces, among which 26 gold pieces (only the latter are specified in the catalogue). De Jonge left only 4 of these gold pieces in Ghent, besides 244 silver pieces. Presumably a number of other medieval coins (and medals) were among the 211 médailles avant 1566, of which de Jonge left 199 in Ghent.

A comparison of these figures with the catalogue of Den Duyts, shows that this part of the collection was considerably expanded in the early years of the University collection. Den Duyts lists and attributes 318 pieces, of which several dozen gold pieces. The 1888 inventory mentions 417 medieval and early modern pieces, among which 40 gold pieces, in show-cases, besides 253 unattributed bronze pieces.

A large number of the almost 2,000 pieces acquired in the Brunin period according to the acquisition register were undoubtedly medieval and early modern pieces, but it is rarely possible to determine which these were. The main exception, is the purchase (for 400 Belgian francs) in January 1914 of 450 coins from the collection of Lohers of Liege, among which ca. 200 from the Prince-bishopric of Liege. Brunin added another 55 coins from Liege as a gift to the collection. The register further mentions the purchase of 2 13th century denarii from Ghent in 1908 and 14 denarii from Brabant in 1913. Among the unclassified pieces in 1977, we find two small denarii.

If we look at the present collection we find a large variety of coins from various principalities and countries. Only Flanders, Brabant and Liege are well represented; Flanders numbers 178 pieces, among which 8 gold pieces (mostly from 16th and 17th century), Brabant numbers 308 pieces, among which 10 gold coins, and one unique silver presentation piece from Philip the Handsome from 1504 (95) (fig. 10). According

(93) K. VERBOVEN, De Bast [n. 1], no. 111 (055/2/B).

(94) As pointed out to me by Raf Van Laere and confirmed after comparison with G.F. HILL, Becker the Counterfeiter, Chicago, 1977 [= 1924-1925]; one of the pieces has a die combination not mentioned by Hill.

(95) K. VERBOVEN, De Bast [n. 1], no. 135 (006/3/B); J. ROUVER, Remarques concernant un ancien recueil manuscrit de figures de monnaies, in RBN, 38, 1882, p. 428-429; R. VAN LAERE, Munt- en penningkabinet [n. 90], p. 185.
to the 1888 inventory, both principalities together numbered 322 pieces, among which 33 gold pieces. Clearly the collection has been considerably enlarged since then, but it has also lost a considerable number of gold pieces (at least 15 out of 33). The section from Flanders suffered considerable losses already before 1888. Notes in the margins of one of the copies of Den Duyts's catalogue reports the loss of no less than 9 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze coins (14 from the city of Ghent), some of which are very rare and valuable.

Liege is not mentioned in the 1888 inventory, while today the Prince-bishopric is very well represented with 317 pieces, among which 8 gold pieces, ranging from Othbert (1092-1119) to the French invasion in 1792. Clearly, the majority of these (at least 253) were acquired in 1914.

The other principalities fall much behind. Only Luxemburg with 21 pieces (coming from 6 in 1888), Namur with 43 pieces (coming from 21 in 1888) and Hainaut with 29 silver and bronze pieces (coming from 23 in 1888, among which one gold piece) are worthy of note.