

# LEU NUMISMATIK

## AUCTION 6

### THE KLEINKUNST COLLECTION

## FOREWORD

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Leu Auction 6. It is a great pleasure and privilege for us to present to you in this catalogue the 'Kleinkunst' Collection, with 300 selected classical Greek coins.

The 'Kleinkunst' Collection has been assembled since the early 1980s, with the majority of pieces coming from the famous auctions of Sotheby's in New York and London, Leu and Numismatica Ars Classica in Zurich, as well as Münzen & Medaillen AG in Basel. The coins share two commonalities: they are characterized by their exceptional qualities, and have mostly excellent provenances. When one considers the number of pieces offered here which come from the most famous collections of the late 19th and 20th centuries, the significance of the 'Kleinkunst' Collection becomes clear. Among the previous owners of many of the coins are renowned personalities and institutions such as *de Guermantes*, *Viscount Wimborne* ('Outstanding Collection'), *A. D. Moretti*, *Nelson Bunker Hunt*, *J. P. Rosen*, *A. Trampitsch*, *Martine-Marie-Pol de Béhague* (Countess of Béarn), *C. Gillet* ('Kunstfreund'), *H. von Aulock*, *W. Niggeler*, *Comte Chandon de Briailles*, *R. C. Lockett*, *Barone Agostino Pennisi di Floristella*, *M. P. Vlasto*, *Viscount L. E. P. de Sartiges*, *Captain S. Mavrojani of Clyro Court, Herefordshire*, *R. Burrage*, *W. Lamb*, *L. Vierordt*, *M. Simon*, *O. Bloch*, *Osman Nouri Bey*, *Sir Hermann Weber*, *J. Wertheim*, *H. de Nanteuil de la Norville*, *C. S. Bement*, the *British Museum*, *Grand-Duc Alexandre Michailovitch*, *E. J. Seltman*, *P. Mathey*, *T. Prowe*, *J. P. Lambros*, *G. Philipsen*, *Prof. Carlo Stiavelli*, *Consul E. F. Weber*, *E. P. Warren*, *A. Rhusopoulos*, *R. Allatini*, *Baron Rothschild*, *H. Montagu*, *L. Naville*, *G. Locker Lampson*, *W. H. Woodward*, *R. Jameson*, *Sir Arthur Evans* and *the Dukes of Gotha*, *Duke Frederick II (1676-1732)*, and *Count Anton Günther II of Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen-Arnstadt (1653-1716)*.

Some provenances were already known to the collector upon purchasing the pieces from various auction houses. In many cases, however, our meticulous research has brought to light even more extensive pedigrees. Due to their beauty, rarity and provenance, many of the coins from the 'Kleinkunst' Collection have also been included in important monographs, scientific articles and exhibition catalogues. For example, no fewer than 46 of the coins on sale here come from the famous collection of A. D. Moretti, part of which was on loan to the 'Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig' and which, due to its 'artistic ranking', was published in the permanent exhibition catalog 'Greek Coins from Magna Graecia and Sicily', edited in 1988 by Herbert A. Cahn, Leo Mildenberg, Roberto Russo and Hans Voegtli.

The current owner of the collection has always strived to acquire coins of good style and with aesthetically pleasing motifs. Thus, numerous pieces exhibit artistically designed heads, often in frontal view, as well as detailed depictions of animals, which constitute the charm and character of this magnificent collection. The selection and acquisition of the 'Kleinkunstwerke' arose over many years from the fruitful exchange between the collector and his numismatic adviser, George Muller, who in the 1950s succeeded Leonard Forrer Sr. as managing director of the traditional London coin auction house Spink.

We now wish you much enjoyment in reading the catalogue and hope that one of our pieces will find its way into *your* collection, making you the proud owner of a 'Kleinkunstwerk'. We look forward to welcoming you in Zurich on 23-25 October 2020 in person, by telephone or via the Internet and wish you much success in the auction.