



LEU NUMISMATIK

THE COLLECTION OF ERIC TEN BRINK (* 1968): COINS OF HADRIAN

Traveling emperor, political realist, foe of the Senate, amateur architect, philhellene and pederast – the emperor Hadrian (117-138 AD) was a man with many faces. His alleged adoption by Trajan on the latter's deathbed in Selinus, Cilicia, in August 117 was already controversial among his contemporaries, and his relationship with the Senate, soured early on by the execution of several influential senators, was to improve only marginally throughout his life. As a result, the majority of senatorial historiography was critical of him, and even modern historians hold mixed opinions of his reign. However, his extensive travels, his moderation in foreign policy after Trajan's extensive conquests, and his pronounced philhellenism earned him much admiration as well, and even today, the Villa Adriana, built near Tivoli in 118-134 AD with an area of 125 hectares, counts as the largest Roman palace complex ever constructed and is considered the highlight of imperial monumental architecture. On the other hand, the merciless suppression of the Bar Kochba Revolt of 132-135 AD, the subsequent extensive depopulation of parts of Judea and the refoundation of the destroyed Jerusalem as the Roman colony Aelia Capitolina were equally burned into the memory of contemporaries and later generations. Finally, Hadrian's relationship with the beautiful Bithynian youth Antinous, whom he even elevated to the status of hero after his untimely death in the waters of the Nile, was often the center of debate throughout the centuries.


Eric ten Brink has made it his mission to bring together the entire range of Hadrian's incredibly diverse coinage in his collection. Through a meticulous, ten-year search, he succeeded in acquiring almost 1,800 coins of this important emperor. His passion knew no bounds - whether provincial or imperial, gold, silver, or bronze, missing types or merely minor variants, new coins always found their way into his collection. Over the years, Eric ten Brink generously made this unique corpus of 'Hadrianic numismatics' available to the scientific community, and thus, many of his coins can be found illustrated in the corpora of the Roman Provincial Coinage (RPC and RPC online) and the Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC) projects.



Eric ten Brink

Three areas in particular captured Eric's interest: Alexandrian coins, cistophori, and Eastern denarii. Here he has not only succeeded in compiling an impressive series, but he has also collected a large number of previously unknown types especially in the case of the cistophori and the closely related eastern denarii of Hadrian. Consequently, we have split these areas in the auction from the main categories and offer them in their own subcategories - a separate treatment, which is also scientifically justified. The collection of Eric ten Brink will be offered for sale in Web Auction 26, lot numbers 2494-3408, on Monday, 10 July 2023, starting at 12 pm CEST. Please note that the group lots from the Eric ten Brink collection are grouped under lot numbers 7002-7010, 7015-7019 and 7039-7047.

We are very pleased that Eric ten Brink has entrusted us with his collection, and that we can offer you, valued customers, a unique opportunity to engage with the numismatic heritage of one of the most significant Roman emperors with such intensity. Take advantage of it - we wish you much luck!



Yves Gunzenreiner



Lars Rutten