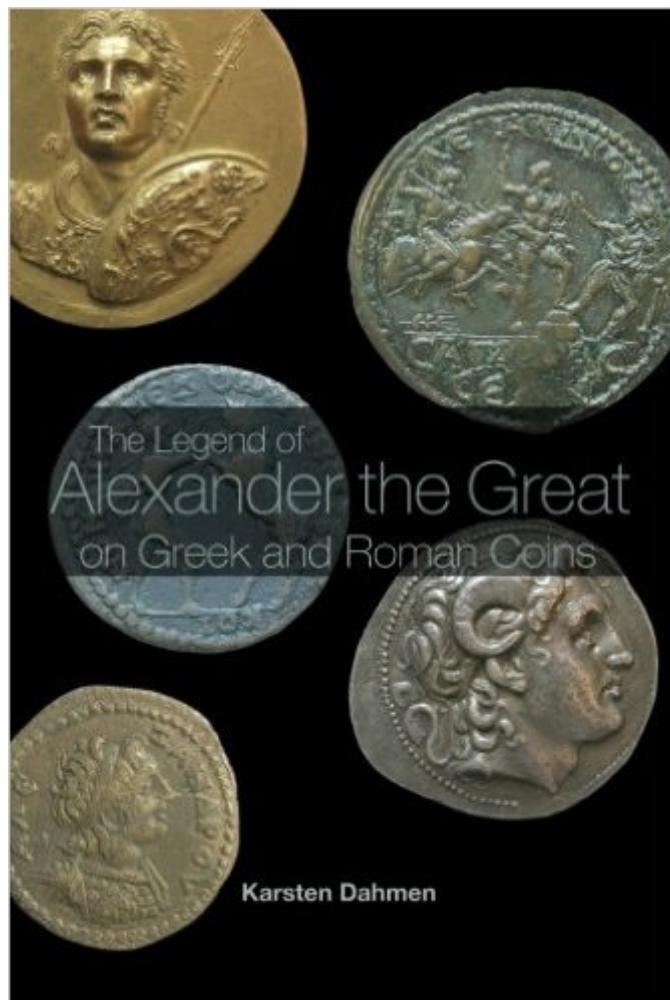


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The Legend Of Alexander The Great On Greek And Roman Coins



Synopsis

This outstanding introductory survey collects, presents and examines, for the very first time, the portraits and representations of Alexander the Great on the ancient coins of the Greek and Roman period. From 320 BC to AD 400, Karsten Dahmen examines not only Alexander's own coinage and the posthumous coinages of his successors, but also the re-use of his image by rulers from the Greek world and the Roman empire, to late antiquity. Also including numismatic material that exceeds all previous published works, and well-illustrated, this historical survey brings Alexander and his legacy to life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alexander the Great has been a constant theme in art and history; there has been a recent big-budget movie by Oliver Stone, and there are always new, sometimes revisionist, biographies coming out. The historic figure was remarkable enough with conquests that no one has ever matched. The legendary Alexander was coming into being even in the real Alexander's lifetime, and afterward his image was borrowed to define or proclaim political power. He was frequently depicted upon ancient coins, and in The Legend of Alexander the Great on Greek and Roman Coins (Routledge), Karsten Dahmen has reviewed the coins produced from about 320 BCE to 400 CE which carry images of Alexander. This is a remarkably full review of a very specific sphere of numismatics. Dahmen is a classical archeologist and a numismatist in the Berlin Coin Cabinet, and his book offers insight not only into coinage of the time, but also into the esteem in which Alexander

was held and how his image was employed by rulers and cities all over the lands he had conquered. Each coin mentioned here is illustrated by photograph, and the history described will make the volume interesting to more readers than just those interested in ancient coins. Alexander died in 323 BCE, so that the coins here are almost all tributes to Alexander after his death. The coins here of the Hellenistic age were struck not only by the absolute monarchs of the different lands, but also by cities whose coins would be used in only a limited region. It was Ptolemy in Egypt (ruling 322 - 283 BCE) that first borrowed some of Alexander's glory by putting him on coins, and he made the most elaborate use in this way of any of Alexander's lieutenants.

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