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**The numismatic collection of the
National History Museum of
Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca**

Proceedings of the ICOMON meetings held in Madrid, Spain, 1999.

[Madrid] : Museo Casa de la Moneda, [2001]
543 p. (Multilingual) p.549

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Museum Of Transylvania, Romania

The National History Museum of Transylvania is one of the oldest museums in Romania, founded in 1859 in Cluj - the capital of Transylvania in those days - and named the Transylvanian Museum.

Since the beginning, the museum had a numismatic collection, firstly based on donations.

The first and the most important donation was the Esterhazy's family donation. They gave to this museum more than 2,000 pieces, coins and medals in platinum, gold, silver and common metal. Today, this important donation is still our most valuable collection.

In 1919, the numismatic collection of the Transylvanian Museum was divided between Hungary and Romania and it was taken by The Institute of Classic Studies in Cluj. In 1940, after the Dictate from Vienna, all the collection was taken by Hungarians and all the documents relating to the collection were lost, so we don't know how many pieces were taken. A part of this collection (around 45,000 pieces) came back to Romania in 1961.

At the moment, our collection has more than 100,000 pieces, most of them from the old collections of the Transylvanian Museum, but, at the same time, the collection was enriched with hoards found by our archaeologists or by acquisitions. The coins, in platinum, gold, silver and common metal, range from the VIth century BC to the present day (Greeks, Romans, medieval etc), and the medals from the XIVth century to 1999. Today the numismatic collection from ClujNapoca is the second public collection in Romania, with fewer pieces, but the richest collection of central and European coins and medals in our country.

At the present we try to present to a large public, the most important coins and medals of our collection in permanent or temporary exhibitions. The most important exhibition is the Thesaurus where are displayed more than 2,500 numismatic pieces.