



Ans ter Woerds
*Numismatic libraries and the exchange of
information*

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Numismatic libraries and the exchange of information and knowledge

Ans B.M. ter Woerds
Librarian, Geldmuseum (Money Museum)
Utrecht, The Netherlands
a.ter.woerds@geldmuseum.nl

After a short introduction about the library of the Geldmuseum in Utrecht, its history and collections and the developments for the near future, the focus of this paper will be on co-operation among international numismatic libraries. How can we develop a better and more efficient way to exchange information, both among ourselves and towards researchers? Quite often the numismatic libraries are 'loners' in their countries due to their specific collections; they are small, do not have much money nor many staff, and could benefit from more international co-operation with libraries of the same kind. This ICOMON conference is the place to propose the formation of an 'International Numismatic Libraries' Group'. The main goals are to exchange ideas and information as well as to co-operate in different projects. One way of achieving this is to create a numismatic digital portal; a 'one-stop-shop' where researchers can find all (numismatic) information they need. We can make our catalogues available there (searchable with a global search engine); we can link relevant websites, digital publications, etc. We even can make it an interactive platform for the exchange of information and knowledge. Another possibility is to start a 'numispedia', a wikipedia on numismatic topics. There can also be the exchange of publications, coordination of collection development, a numismatic thesaurus and many other projects.

As librarian of the Geldmuseum it is my pleasure to tell you something about the library, the future plans and the ideas for exchange of information and knowledge exchange among numismatic libraries, researchers and users. After a brief introduction to the library, I will tell you something about its history and collection, as well as its users and facilities. More importantly, I would like to make an appeal for more co-operation and exchange of information among researchers and libraries of the numismatic institutions: the ICOMON conference is the ideal platform to do so.

Library of the Geldmuseum (Money Museum) in Utrecht, the Netherlands

I have been the librarian of the Money Museum since March 2006. It was started in a closed library environment in the former building of the Rijksmuseum Het Koninklijk Penningkabinet (the Royal Coin Cabinet) in Leiden, where three library collections were integrated and catalogued in one system, and where I had the help of two project assistants. In February 2007 we had the major move to the new Geldmuseum in the renovated building of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Munt (the Royal Dutch Mint) in Utrecht. Due to financial constraints, I am now running the library on my own. The library has found a nice place in the new Geldmuseum, on the first floor. It is next to the former library room of the Mint, which is now part of the museum (Stijlkamer) and filled with duplicate publications and auction catalogues. Above the bookcases the Stijlkamer paintings of Ids Wiersma show the production process of coins in a previous era.

The new library of the museum

The former library of the Mint

Integration of three collections

Three partners merged into the present Geldmuseum in 2004, but until the official opening of the Museum on May 24, 2007, the museums were closed to the public. The building of the Mint was renovated, the collections were integrated and the complicated move to Utrecht took place. Rijksmuseum Het Koninklijk Penningkabinet in Leiden, the Nederlands Munt Museum in Utrecht and the Numismatic Department of De Nederlandsche Bank in Amsterdam have merged in order to create the best place in Holland, where people can find everything on money: on coins, banknotes and

medals, on money production and banking history, but also on the sociological and psychological aspects of money. The central theme of the Museum is twofold: “What do people do with money?”, and “What does money do with people?”. Education of children is also an important mission of the Museum, and therefore the interactive aspect plays a large role. We also hope to be able to show more objects of our large and unique collection in near future. In the hall on the first floor there are temporary exhibitions with objects from the collections.

As far as the library is concerned, the three years prior to the official opening in May 2007 were used for integrating the three collections, describing and classifying the publications in one library system, sorting out the duplicate publications for exchange, setting up the exchange program with numismatic institutions again, and of course moving and shelving the three integrated collections in the new library rooms. Part of the collection is in open access, and another – larger – part in closed stacks, but fortunately everything is within close reach. Since the opening we have welcomed many visitors to the library, and many information requests are dealt with, in person and by e-mail.

Distribution of information

Just before the opening we managed to get our catalogue on the web. This allows the public to search the collection, although there is still a lot of work to do to describe the journal and auction catalogue collections in more detail. We also want to focus more on collecting digital publications and link them in our catalogue. These would be mainly for internal use by our researchers, due to copyright reasons. Networking also plays an important role in promoting the collection. Many collectors and researchers already know how to find the library and we get many requests for information by referring to our website and by e-mail. However, more marketing of the library collection is necessary. We would like to make the catalogue available, for example, in Worldcat, a catalogue system which searches through all library



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libraries and other specializ

Strategic plan 2008-2011

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ints on which we want to focus: 1. The library would like to play a more prominent role in sharing

and distributing knowledge and information, not only among the people within the museum, but also between the museum and its

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tween available information and knowledge and researchers, whoever they might be or wherever they come from. 2. Digitization of publications, especially

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iority. We will do this in co-operation with the Dutch Royal Library and we have to apply for special funds for this project. 3. Another priority is the expansion of inte

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formation and knowledge, hence my appeal, leading to the setting up of an International Numismatic Libraries' Group. 4. There is a lot of numismatic information on the internet, but it is all fragmented and it would be great if we, together, could set up an international numismatic portal. I made a small start in a wiki-format. I know there are already some wikipedia on numismatics, but they focus on certain, more national, aspects. We, as international numismatic experts, would be the ideal parties to make an international numismatic portal with qualified information and links to all kinds of relev

Geldmuseum – ‘one is more than the sum of three’ As previously mentioned, there are three partners who now form the one and only Geldmuseum. The three library collections of course showed som



auction catalogues and journals, but most of all they were supplementary. They all had their own specialization in building their collections. Rijksmuseum Het Koninklijk Penningkabinet in Leiden was founded in 1806 as ‘s Lands Penningkabinet and focused on coins, medals, gemstones, ancient coins and numismatics in general. It also contributed a rich collection of old books, edicts or proclamations on coining, auction catalogues and documentation material. The library of the Nederlands Munt Museum also had a lot of old books and edicts, but in addition many publications on mint reforms, minting techni

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So now the Geldmuseum library owns a

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Collection integration and migration I think that you all know that the integration and migration of large collections is a lot of work and needs a lot of preparation. During the past three years everybody has been working hard to integrate both museum and library collections of the merging parties. In the library, we had to catalogue the whole collection in one database, sort out the duplicates and register them, start up the process of exchange of journals and publications with different international numismatic institutions again, and prepare the large move of the collection from Leiden to the renovated building of the new Geldmuseum in Ut

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Material in library collection The library consists of over 20,000 publications, including 350 digital publications linked, and has around 500 different titles of journals. These titles still have to be catalogued properly. The collection of auction catalogues consists of around 16,000 volumes. 3000 are from Dutch auctioneering firms, and approximately 13,000 from international auctioneers. Then there is a collection of old books, handwritten documents and proclamations; in total about 4000 items. We also have a collection of different types of documents and audiovisual material, which still has to be catalogued properly. At the mom

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catalogue is available via th

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Topics of library collection As far as topics are concerned, the library collects mainly information and publications which are unique for Holland. It is of no use collecting publications which are available in different libraries in Holland, therefore we decided to collect those which are unique and necessary for our own numismatic research. Th

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with other libraries and with international numismatic institutes. We have to cooperate by being inventive and co-operative. The main topics of our present collection focus on ancient coins, numismatics in general, and of course Dutch coins, paper money and medals. Minting techniques and production processes are the other main topics, but in the future the focus will shift away from this. The same applies to money

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main goal of collecting. **Users** The main users are of course the internal researchers and curators. They need the collection for work and research, identifi

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'money guides' who guide the visitors of the museum, seek information from the library. In future we hope to focus more, also, on providing information for the educational part of the museum and for the exhibitions. External users are more diverse: we have quite a few collectors of coins, detector amateurs, students in archaeolog

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Colleagues fhristel Scho

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oigtmann, Erik van der Kam, (sitting) Paul Beliën and Arent Pol **Facilities** As far as facilities are concerned, we do have a unique and specialized collection of scientific value for our researchers. The collection is available through the catalogue on the website, and can be used physically in the library. Many questions come to us through the general mail addresses of the museum, but also through the personal addresses

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collections mail address. Users can look for information on the pc in the library, use the copy machine and use the collection of the library itself. Many users can also study the Museum collection when one of the researchers is available to help them. Focus in future will be on digitization. More,



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important in the exchange and availability of information and knowledge for our users, but also for the visibility of our unique collections. **Developments** There are many ideas to distribute as well as the exchange of information and knowledge on numismatic topics, both nationally and internationally. However, we also need to be realistic in our goals, because we are a small institute with staffing and financial constraints. During the last two

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Worldcat, where what we can offer will be visible to the numismatic world. We have been able to add necessary publications to our collection, due to a special grant of the Ministry of Finance of € 10,000 in 2007, as well as pay for a project assistant to catalogue these publications. We are now in the process of converting our present catalogues to a new version of Filemaker Pro, and hopefully in future more collection databases can be made accessible via the world wide web -

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efficient for our users to look for and find t

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we also hope that older publications, which are longer under copyright, can be digitally presented. **Exchange of information and knowledge** There are so many ways to exchange information, and there seem to be more ways constantly developing. I have tried to start up the exchange of publications, which is very important for us as a small library without money, but that is a strenuous and time-cons

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into this exchange. There is an inventory of duplicates of publications and auction catalogues at the moment, but we have to find a way to start a realistic and not too time-consuming way of exchanging publications. Some institutes have already given their 'wish lists', but it has to be a rather 'fair'

exchange; this is something that must be worked out better.

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efficient and workable way through an interactive portal. Of course there are the conferences, and I always see these as most valuable for networking and exchanging information. Therefore, I hope to be able to use this ICOMON conference as a platform for this exchange and for launching some new initiatives. I do not know how your institution manages the digitization process of your publications or the collection of digitized publications. I sincerely think, however, that there is a future in giving access to our collections in a more digitized way. Worldwide accessibility and 'findability' is very important in this process. In the previous ICOMON confere

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already mentioned that the researchers have to be more prolific in making available their research worldwide. We have to 'prove' to our sponsors, whether these are ministries, universities or public sponsors, that we distribute our knowledge to the broader numismatic world and that we do not just spend their money for internal reasons or for 'fun'. Therefore we need colleagues worldwide to cooperate with, and we need an easy accessible and findable platform for the information we want and need to distribute.

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Source: <http://www.hieservices.com/contact.htm> **International cooperation** There are, of course, different ways to co-operate internationally, and you all have your contacts and relations. My goal is to integrate all these contacts, information and knowledge into a big international portal, numism

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Libraries' Group, which can be the 'spider-in-the-web' to mediate between the knowledge sharing part of all the internation

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Coordination of collection development

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Finding a more effective way of sharing publications and knowledge ○ Digitization projects

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Accessibility of journal articles and grey literature: describing them in our catalogues or separate database and making them internationally available ○ Creation ○

worldwide and in a more standardized way ○ Creation of a numismatic portal or wikipedia in which we all participate and make our own numismatic information and knowledge available to the world,

using web 2.0 software I have tried to set up a small wiki, which only became available just before the ICOMON conference, and I have not had time in

