



UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DELL'ANTICHITÀ
Contrada Citola - Annunziata – 98168 MESSINA
Prof. Maria Caltabiano Caccamo

Messina 9th February 2010

To whom it concerns

Recently the University of Messina has been appointed as organizer of the XV International Numismatic Congress. The venue will be the town of Taormina an the date from the 20th to the 25th of September 2015. As Professor of Ancient Numismatics I have been elected President of the scientific Committee and therefore I have become one of the nine members of the International Numismatic Council.

The University of Messina is one of the most ancient Universities in Italy, founded in 1548. Myself and Daniele Castrizio are professors respectively of *Iconography and History of ancient Numismatics* and *Medieval Numismatics*. Doctor Mariangela Puglisi and other young and able numismatists are collaborating with us for the realisation of several research projects.

We are interested in promoting the importance of coins as historical documents, and have studied them reconstructing series on the basis/ of minting die sequence, publishing coin finds and studying the economic dynamics and functions of coinage in antiquity and medieval age. In 2000, with the Universities of Bologna, Genoa and Milan, we promoted the project for the realisation of the *Lexicon Iconographicum Numismaticae Classicae et Mediae Aetatis* (<http://lin.unime.it>). Our aim is to explain the meaning of images by applying a method which is as scientific and objective as possible. The LIN will respond to a real need, since there is currently no general work providing both organised documentation and research which complies with current scientific requirements in the field of coin iconography. In 2005 the LIN project obtained the patronage of the *International Numismatic Commission*, and in February 2009 that of the Accademia dei Lincei. The LIN is open to international collaboration.

The aim of our work is to attract the attention of national and international authorities on the numismatic heritage, to develop its extraordinary potential and promote knowledge of it among not only scholars but also the general public. We are planning coin exhibitions with an interdisciplinary approach , the first involving the marine environment: ***The Coin and the Sea: finds and images of marine animals, ships, ports, lighthouses***” in collaboration with the Department of Marine Heritage of the Sicilian Region and with the Department of Marine Biology and Ecology of the University of Messina.

To provide a permanent legacy of the 15th International Numismatic Congress on the territory we are planning an international network of collaboration among scholars and institutions interested in taking part in the *Lexicon Iconographicum Numismaticae* and in *The Coin and the Sea* Projects. So the COST is very useful and important to enlarge the network of our collaborators.

Coinage as direct and official document of the identity and the culture of peoples will act as a strong glue to hold together non only the Euromediterranean Nations but the Nations of the entire World.

Maria Caltabiano Caccamo

Maria Caltabiano Caccamo full Professor of Numismatics, Director of Doctoral Education in Archaeological and Historical Sciences, Department of Sciences of Antiquity; University Polo dell'Annunziata, 98 168 MESSINA.
Tel. 0039.90.3503397 fax 0903503889 maria.caltabiano@unime.it