



# The E-Sylum

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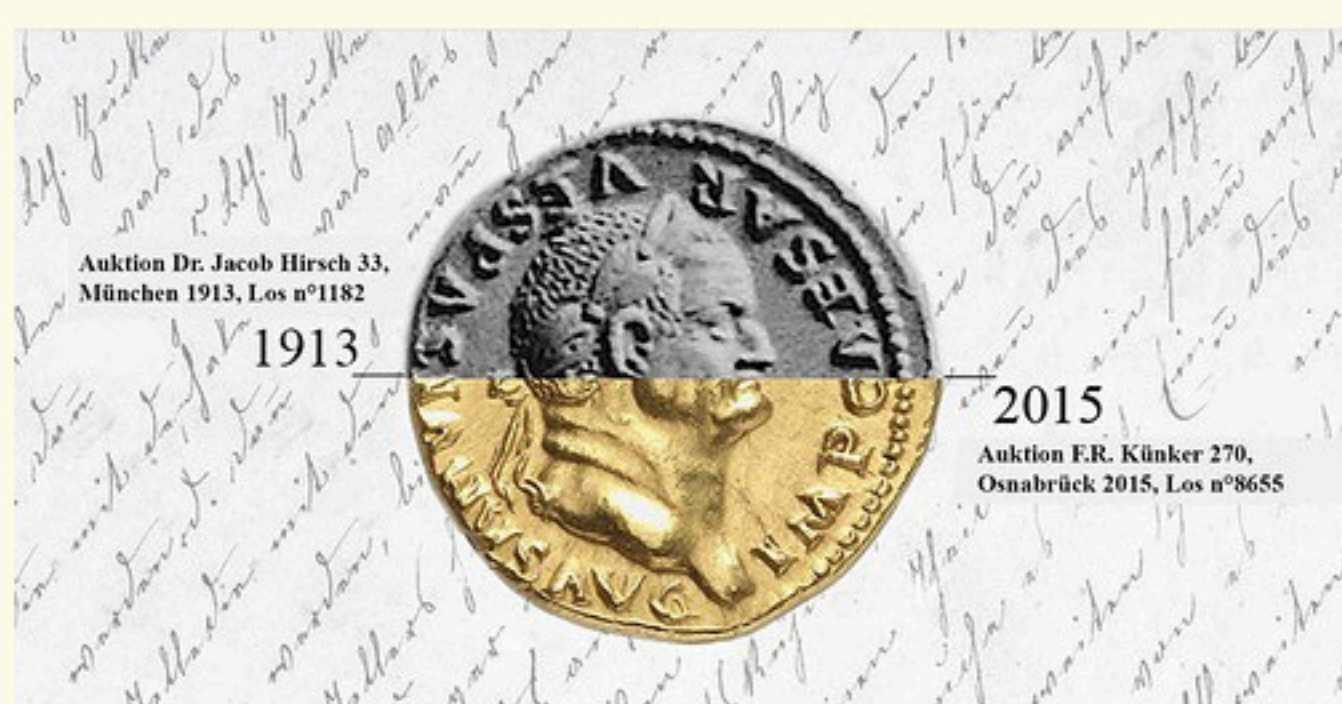
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## EX-NUMIS ENABLES COIN AUCTION SALE SEARCH BY IMAGE

I said this recently while describing software tools like the Newman Numismatic Portal and the online Numismatist archive, and I'll repeat it here: [Welcome to the Future](#). This press release announces a new service for collectors and dealers in ancient coins which uses image recognition software to locate coins illustrated in auction catalogs, saving a great deal of time when compiling or verifying a coin's provenance. Wow! (Yeah, I've been saying that a lot lately, too). -Editor



### **Do you know which collection your coin is from?**

*Ex-Numis®*, a new website, can answer an important question: *Has your coin been published at an auction? Instead of looking through thousands of auction catalogues, you can now send a request to [www.ex-numis.com](http://www.ex-numis.com).*

In the last years it has become more and more important to know a coins' pedigree. On the one hand there are legal requirements, which ask for due diligence. On the other, coins deriving from large, historical collections realize higher prices, compared to coins with no known provenance. Until now, the only thing to do, in order to find out from which collection, that is auction the coin stems from, was to go through thousands of auctions catalogues. A new online tool by *Ex-Numis®* is now available for collectors, museums and coin dealers, which can be used to look for provenances.

Dr Jonas Flueck, a young scholar with a lot of experience in the coin auction business, is the founder of this website. With the help of an image recognition program, the tool compares images fed into the system to an extensive database. The material for comparison is exceptional: the database contains almost a million images of ancient coins and is constantly expanded. The images come from auction catalogues starting in the 19th century up to 2000. The clients' coin will be compared to images from auction catalogues such as *Ars Classica*, *Otto Helbing*, *MMAG*, *Ratto*, *Rolin & Feuardent* and many more.

The best: It doesn't cost a fortune to get your collection checked. Go to [www.ex-numis.com](http://www.ex-numis.com) to get more information. For anybody who wants to try out *Ex-Numis®* we are currently providing an introductory offer: Newly registered clients instantly receive 25 credits and can send in their images. The *Ex-Numis®* staff will then compare your images to the database and will let you know, if there is a direct hit and your piece derives from a large, renowned collection.

*Ex-Numis®* makes hours of searching for provenances in old catalogues become redundant and offers you more time to marvel and enjoy the beauty of your coins.

You can find the website under the following address: [www.ex-numis.com](http://www.ex-numis.com). If you'd like additional information, please write us an email under: [info\[at\]ex-numis.com](mailto:info[at]ex-numis.com) or give us call at 0041 / 76 / 706 18 19.

So, does it work? If so, how well? I invite *E-Sylum* readers knowledgeable about ancient coins to give it a try and report back their results. Use the "First Time User? Get 25 Free Credits!" link: <https://www.ex-numis.com/page/news/8> .

I wouldn't trust a computer alone on a task that has to be so precise, so I'm not surprised that they've kept humans in the loop. But it could be a big timesaver in narrowing down a set of possible matches for humans to review. Joel Orosz mentioned another roadblock, writing "It'll be interesting to see how they plan to correct for the use of 'stock' images, which we know were used all too often in the past." -Editor

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