SigNet
a digital platform for
Hellenistic sealings & archives

Branko van Oppen
“Encoding Inscriptions, Papyri, Coins & Seals”
Cologne, Oct. 9 – 13, 2017

UniKöln Workshop
SigNet

Hellenistic sealings & archives
- Period from Alexander the Great to Cleopatra (ca. 336-30 BCE)
- Major hoards from Aegean, Babylonia, Israel & Egypt (ca. 50,000 sealings)
- ANS coin collection (ca. 50,000+)
- Cross-referential multi-media qualitative & quantitative analysis

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Administration, culture & art
- Seals (esp. signet rings) officiated public & private business
- Sigillography, glyptic & numismatics separate & isolated fields of specialization
- Connections in artistic creation, imagery & cultural significance
- Serial nature & abundance of evidence suitable for computer-aided analysis

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Chief consortium partners

- ArScAn, Nanterre (West Paris)
- HiSoMa, Lyon University
- University of Turin
- Kelsey Museum, Ann Arbor, University of Michigan
- American Numismatic Society, New York
- Allard Pierson Museum, University of Amsterdam

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Iconography & ideology

- Iconographic and stylistic analysis
- Agents and processes involved in production and distribution
- Geographic distribution of iconographical and technical features
- Archival practice: administration and business, public and private
- Definition of royal portraiture and propaganda, circulation & reception
- Religious and cultural environments (of owners & users)

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Consortium objectives

- Automated queries across repositories of miniature artifacts
- Linked Open Data access to unique collections
- Validation through education & museum presentations
- Community outreach & public engagement (via citizen science)

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Digital tool development

- Multifunctional web-portal
- Overarching platform for cross-referential analysis
- Image recognition software
- Open-access metadata and API
- Standardized ontology and data management among repositories
- User dashboard tools for compilations, annotations, narratives, etc.

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3D scanning technology

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3D visualization & annotation

digital application prototype

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Big Data Statistical Analysis

- Iconographical study of sealings
- Comparison with contemporary coins (plus gems at later stage)
- 100,000+ sealings & coins
- Qualitative & quantitative analysis of imagery & styles
- Chronology, iconography, production, diffusion, archival practices, aspects of social & political history

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