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Alexander the Great and his successors in Central Asia: monetary policies and traditions (3rd c. BC – 1st c. AD)

Olivier Bordeaux

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Olivier BORDEAUX

Alexander the Great and his successors in Central Asia: monetary policies and traditions (3rd c. BC – 1st c. AD)



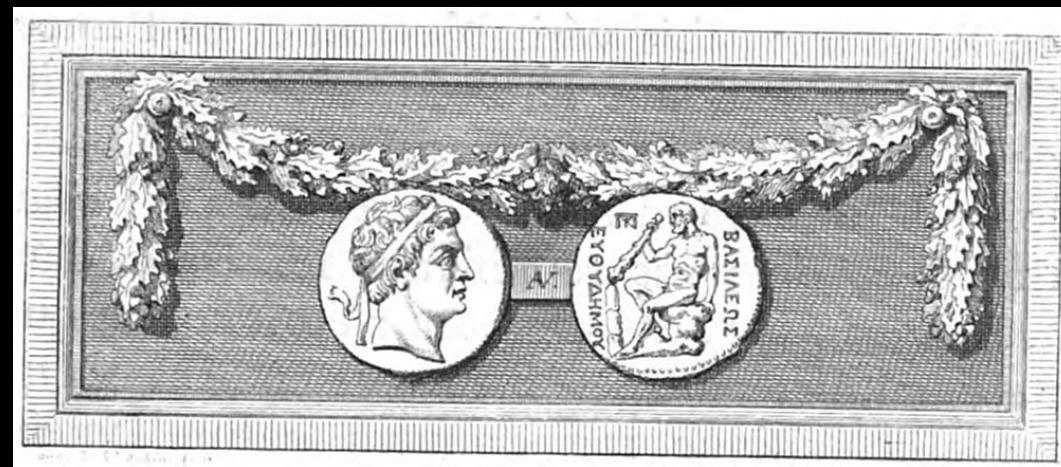
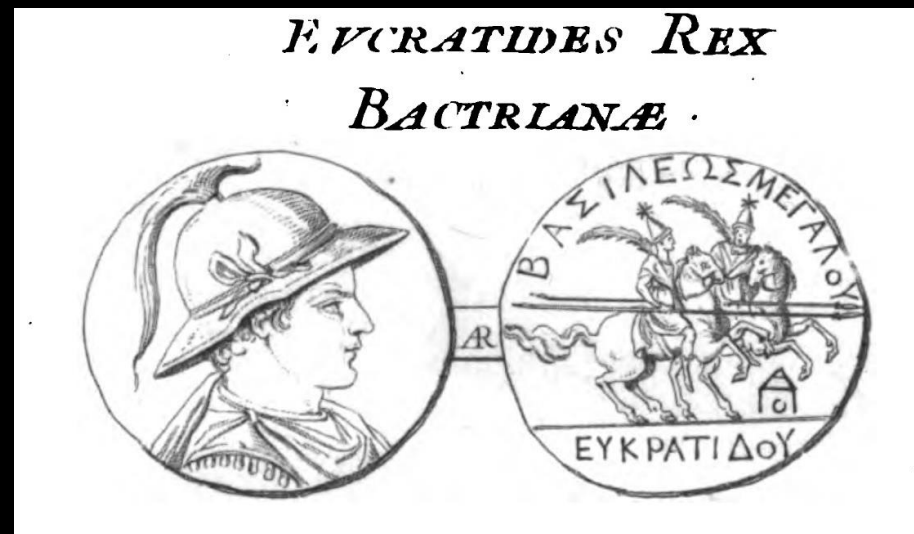
The Macedonian
Society
of Great Britain





Joseph Pellerin (1684 – 1783)

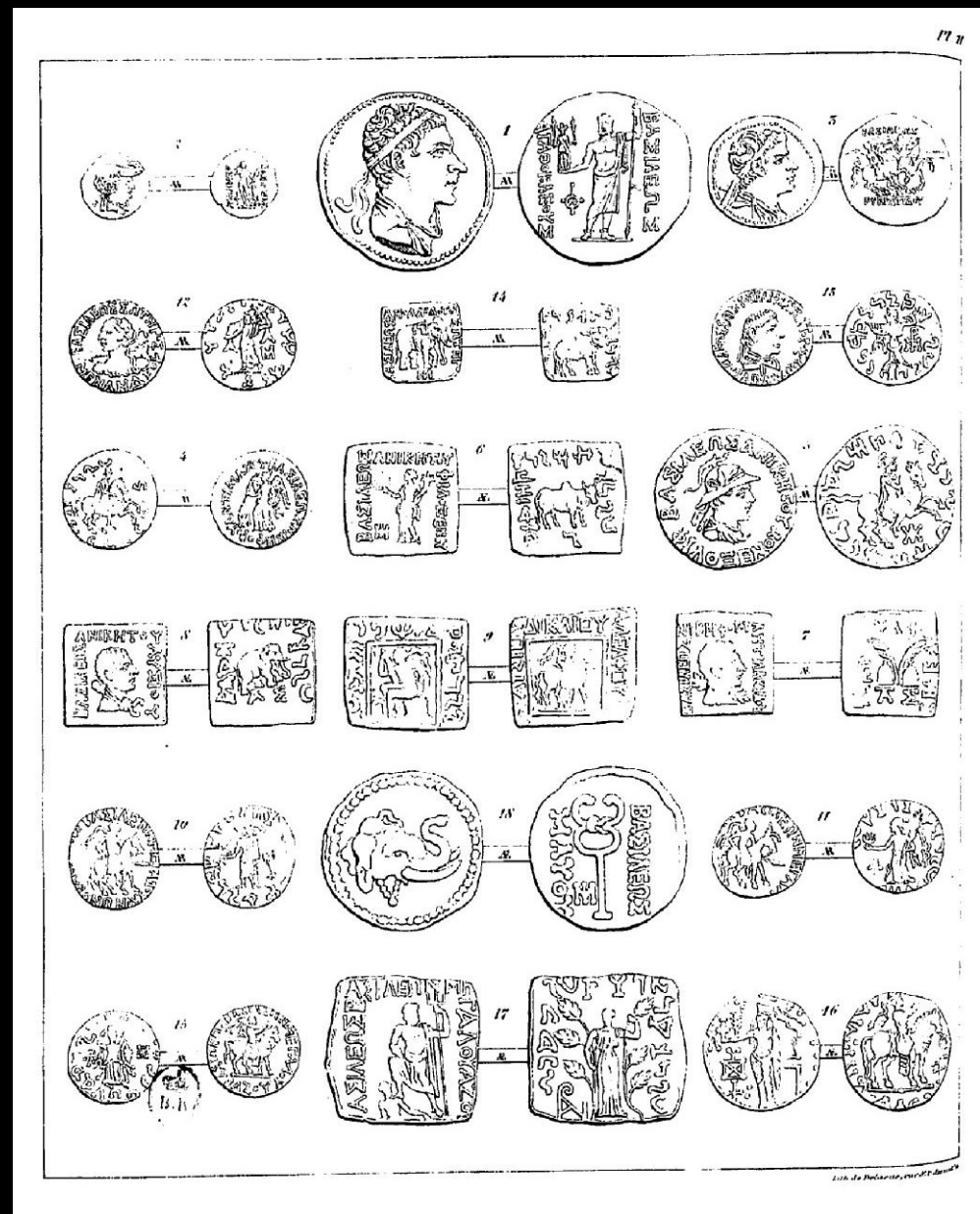
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Désiré Raoul Rochette, *aka* Raoul-Rochette
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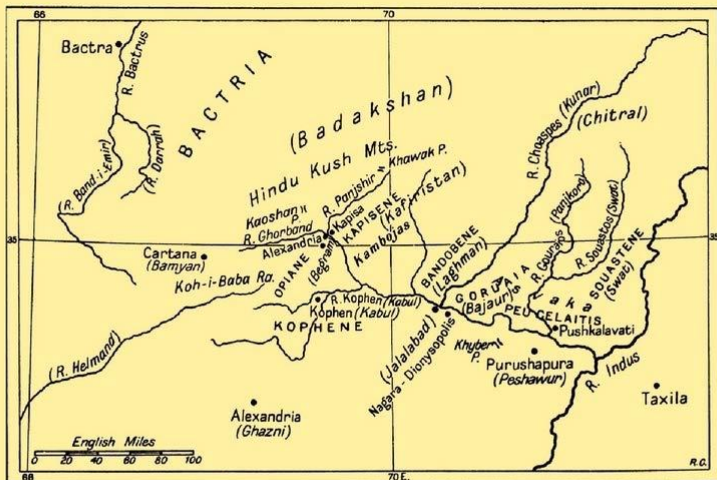


Journal des Savants, 1836

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THE GREEKS IN BACTRIA AND INDIA

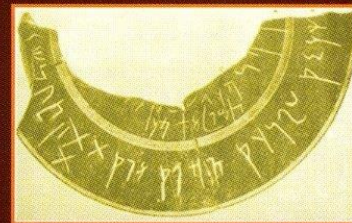
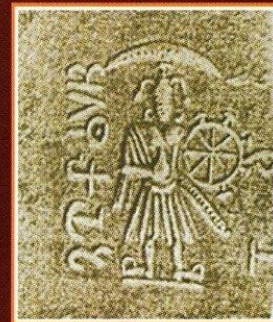
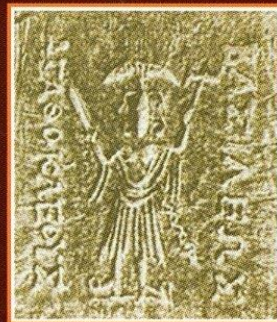
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THE INDO-GREEKS REVISITED AND SUPPLEMENTED



A.K. NARAIN

BR
Publication



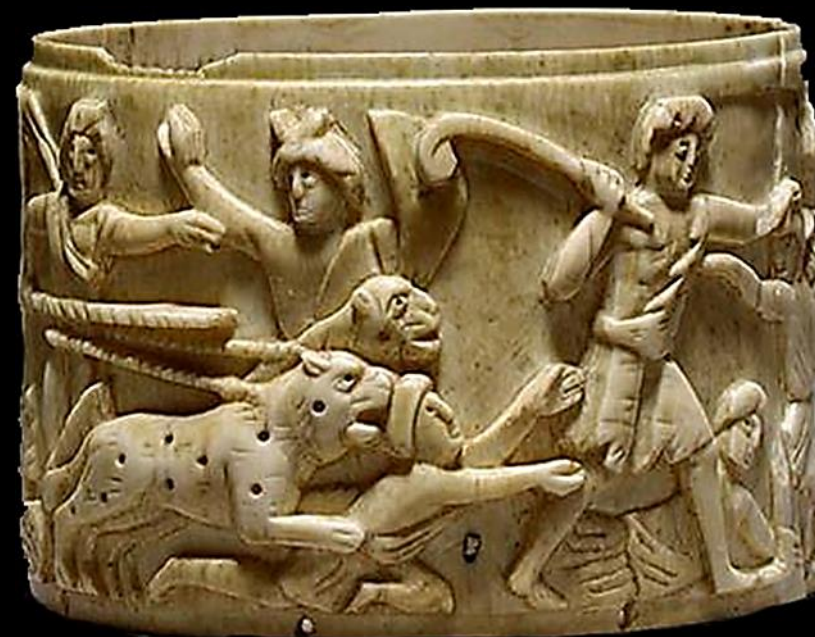
What architectural, sculptural, pictorial or simply textual evidence do we have that the same self-made *Basileis* called artists other than engravers to their court for their personal convenience? (...) – The answer, alas, is that we have none.

(...) In fact, on closer inspection, it appears to be no more than the product of a hallucination caused by the dazzle of our European eyes at the perfection of Greco-Bactrian numismatics.

(A. Foucher 1947, p. 310-311)



Dionysus under the grapevine, Attic amphora (5th century BC)
(© Wikimedia Commons)



Pyxis decorated with the triumph of Dionysus
(possibly made in Syria, found in Rome)
(The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 17.190.56)



Seleucus I (305-281 BC)

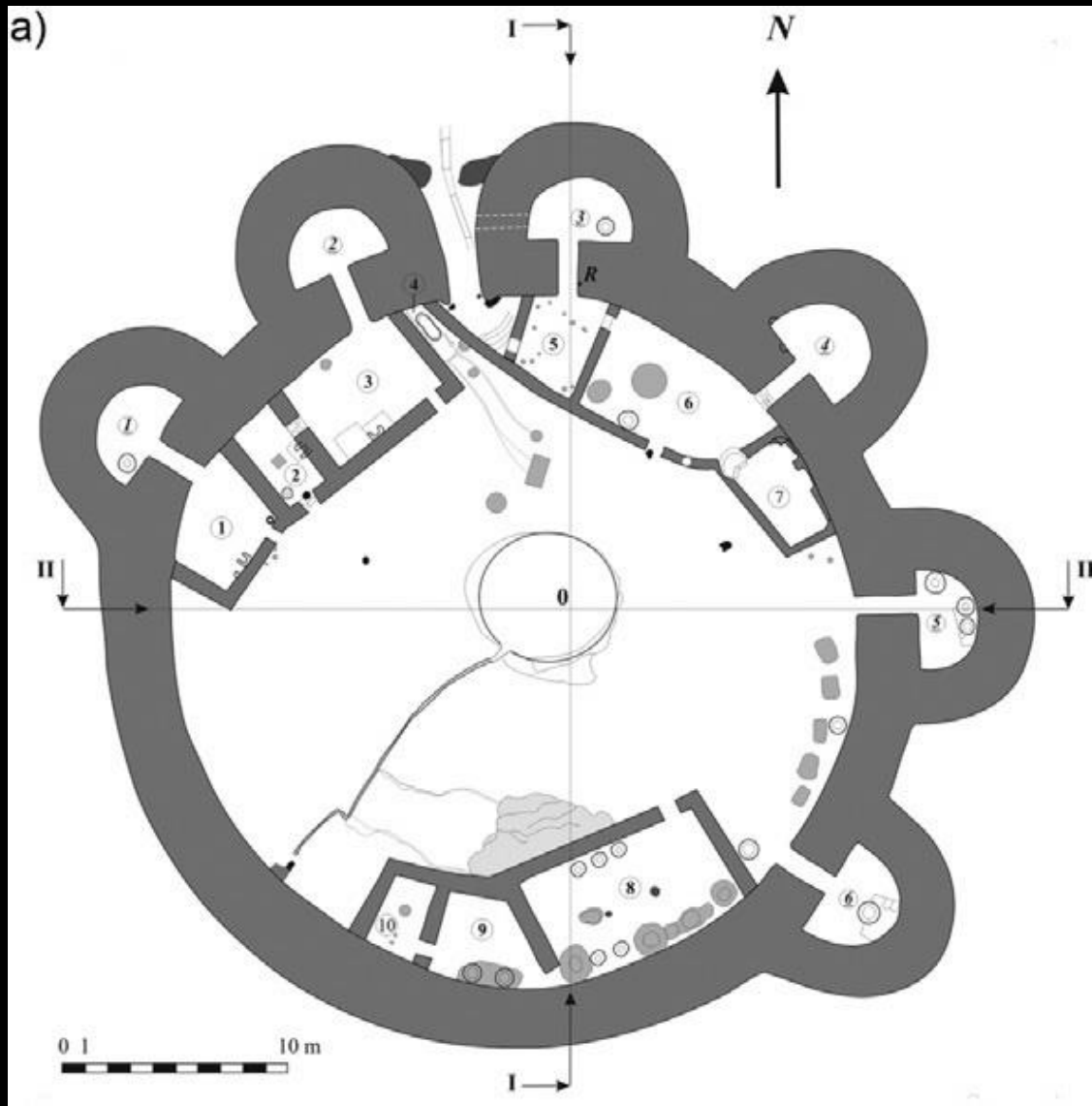


Agathocles
(180-176 BC)

Four types of coins following the *sigloi* standard:

- the “monnaies d’une espèce nouvelle”
 - the short bent-bars
 - the long bent-bars
- the single punch-marked coins





The Kurganzol citadel (Uzbekistan)

(V. Martínez Ferreras, « Pottery in Hellenistic tradition from ancient Bactria: The Kurganzol fortress (Uzbekistan, Central Asia)», *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 2016)



The Alexander Medallion

(F. L. Holt et O. Boppearachchi, *The Alexander Medallion. Exploring the Origins of a Unique Artefact*, Imago-Lattara, Lattes)



Athenian owls imitations



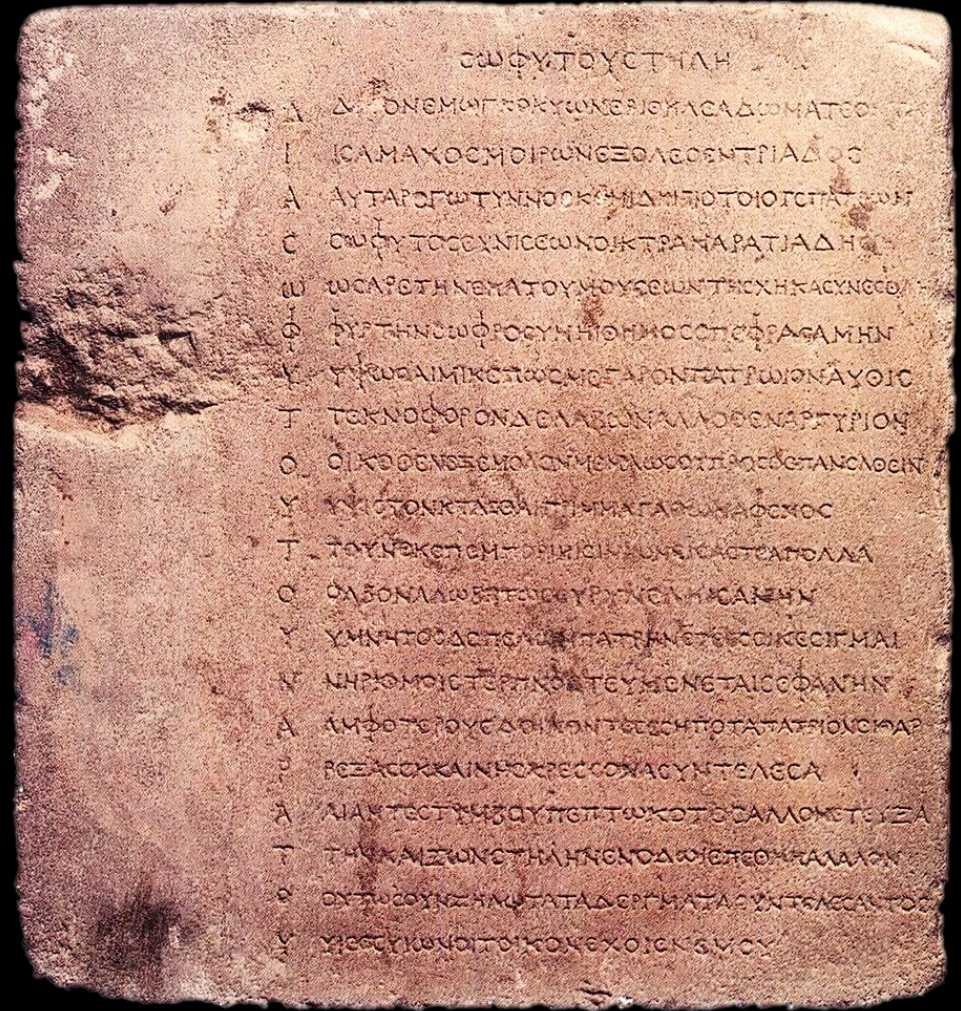
Eagle Series



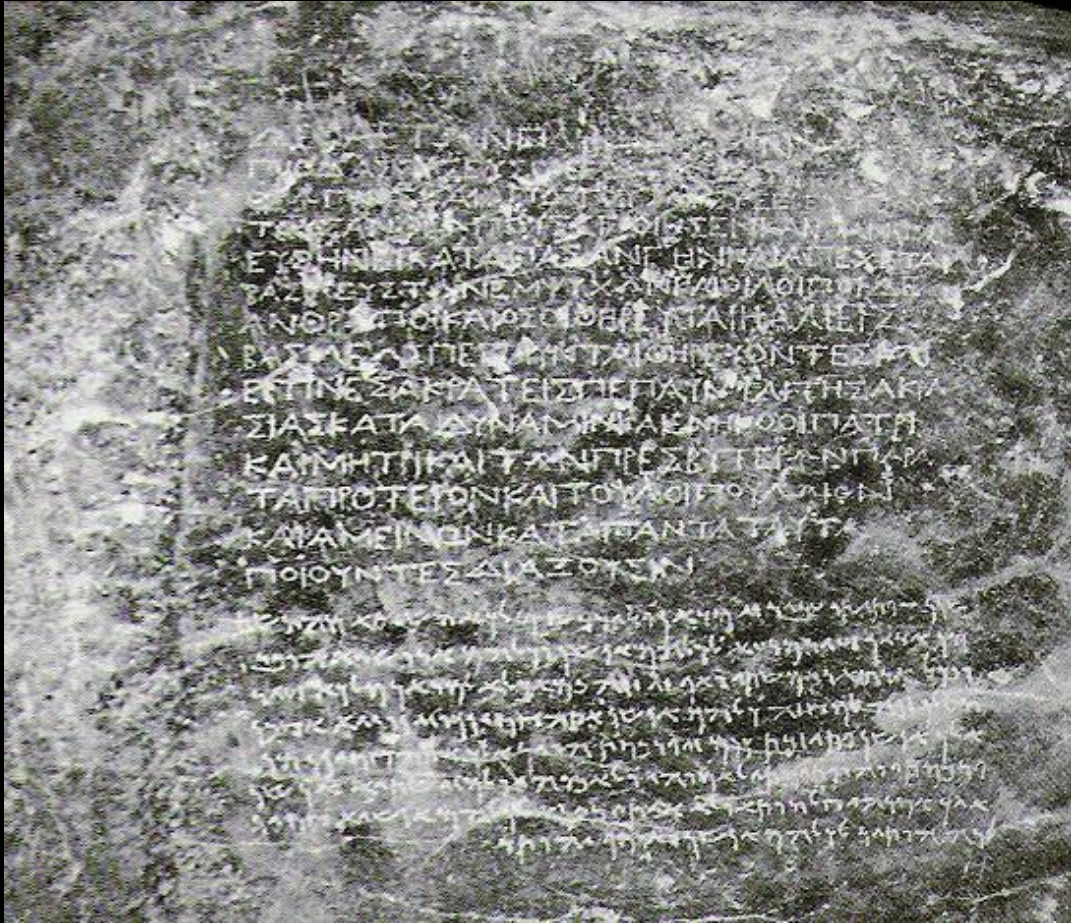
Sophytos coins



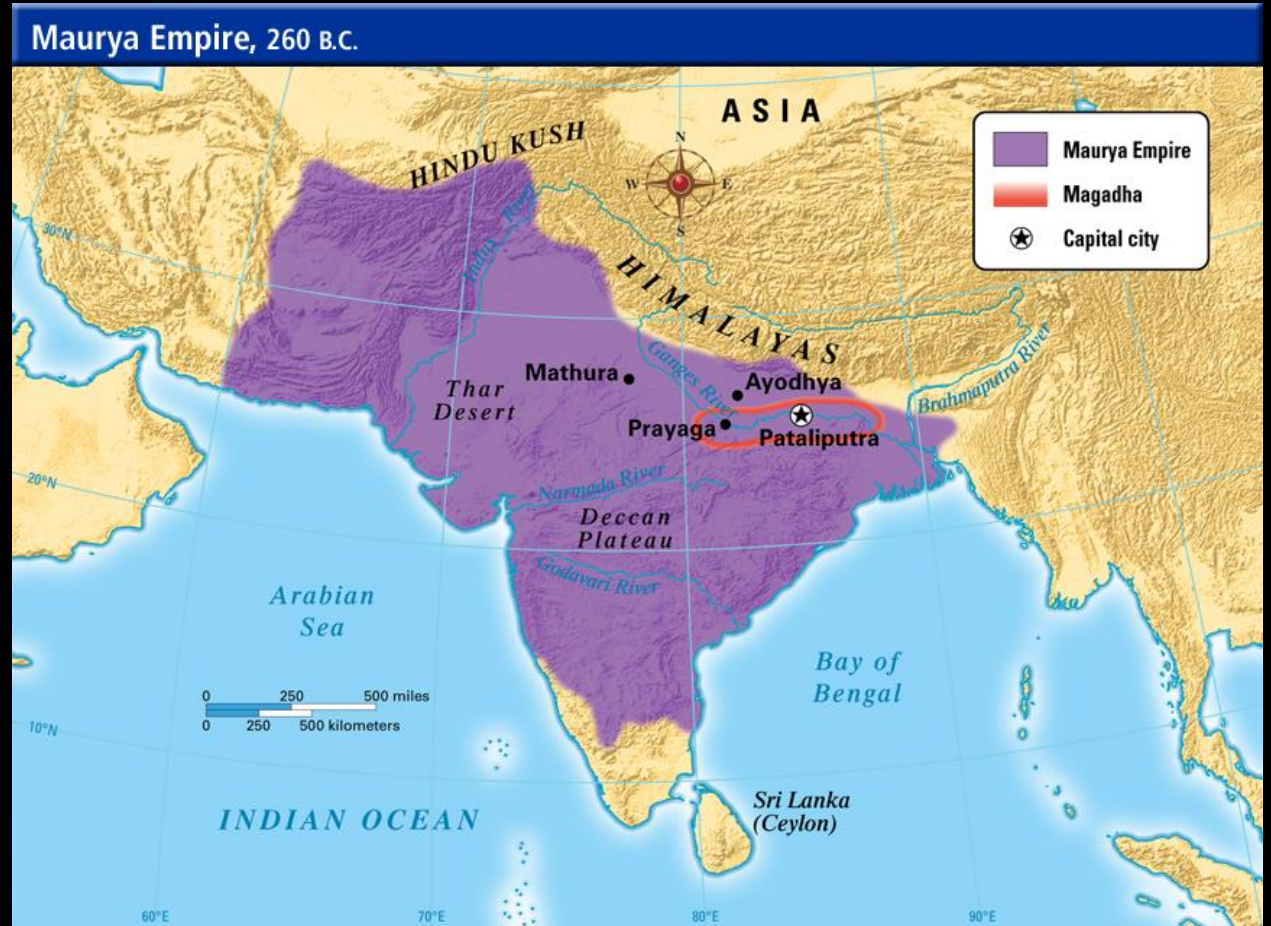
Andragoras coins

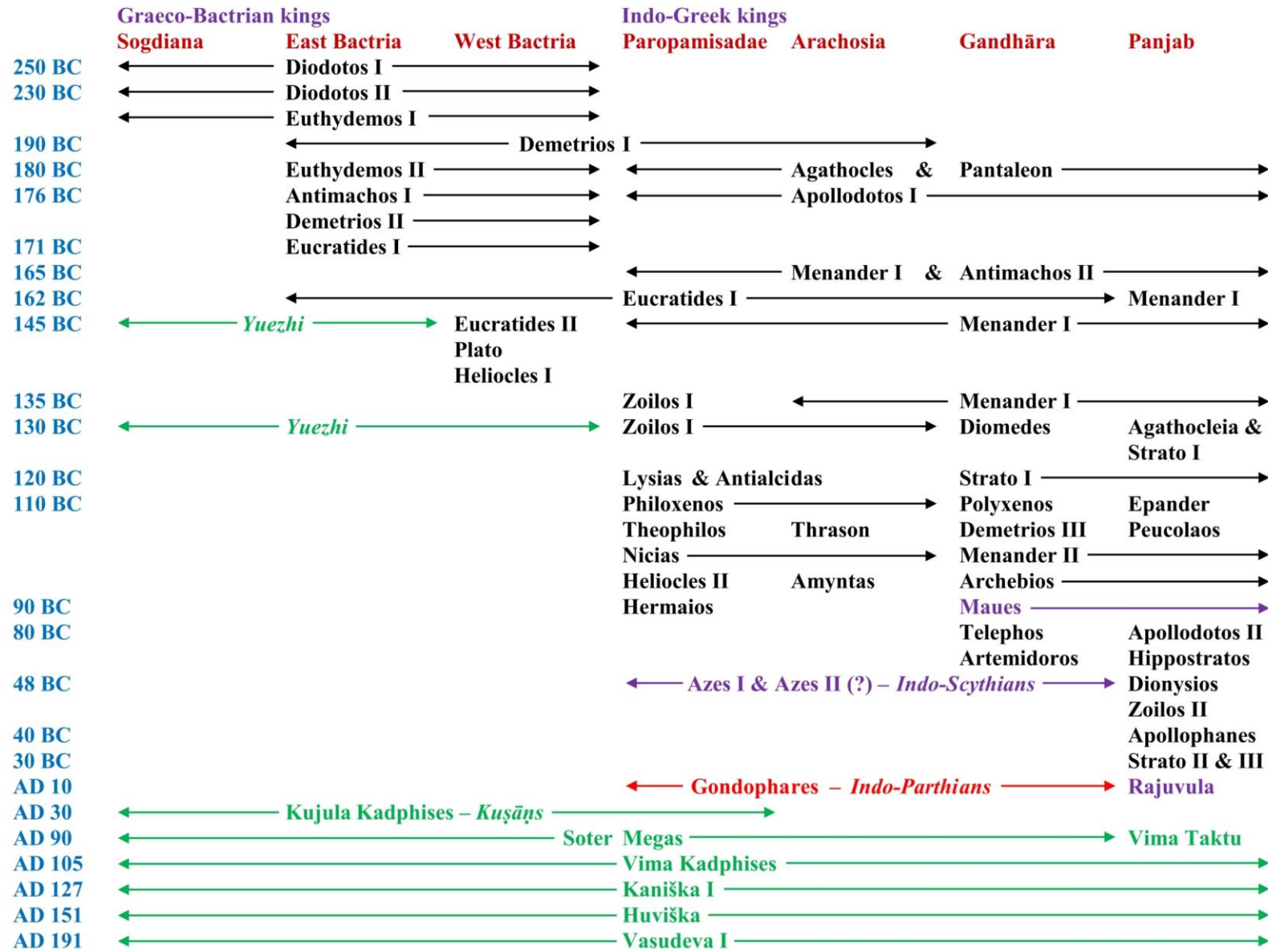


The Kandahar Sophytos Inscription,
unearthed in Kandahar (Afghanistan)
(P. Bernard, P.-G. Pinault & G. Rougemont, « Deux nouvelles
inscriptions grecques de l'Asie centrale », *Journal des savants*, 2004)



Edit bilingue d'Asoka (304-232 av. J.-C.)





The Graeco-Bactrian, Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian, Indo-Parthian, Yuezhi & Kushan dynasties



ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ



ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ



ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΔΙΟΔΟΤΟΥ



Bactra (Balkh)

© DAFA



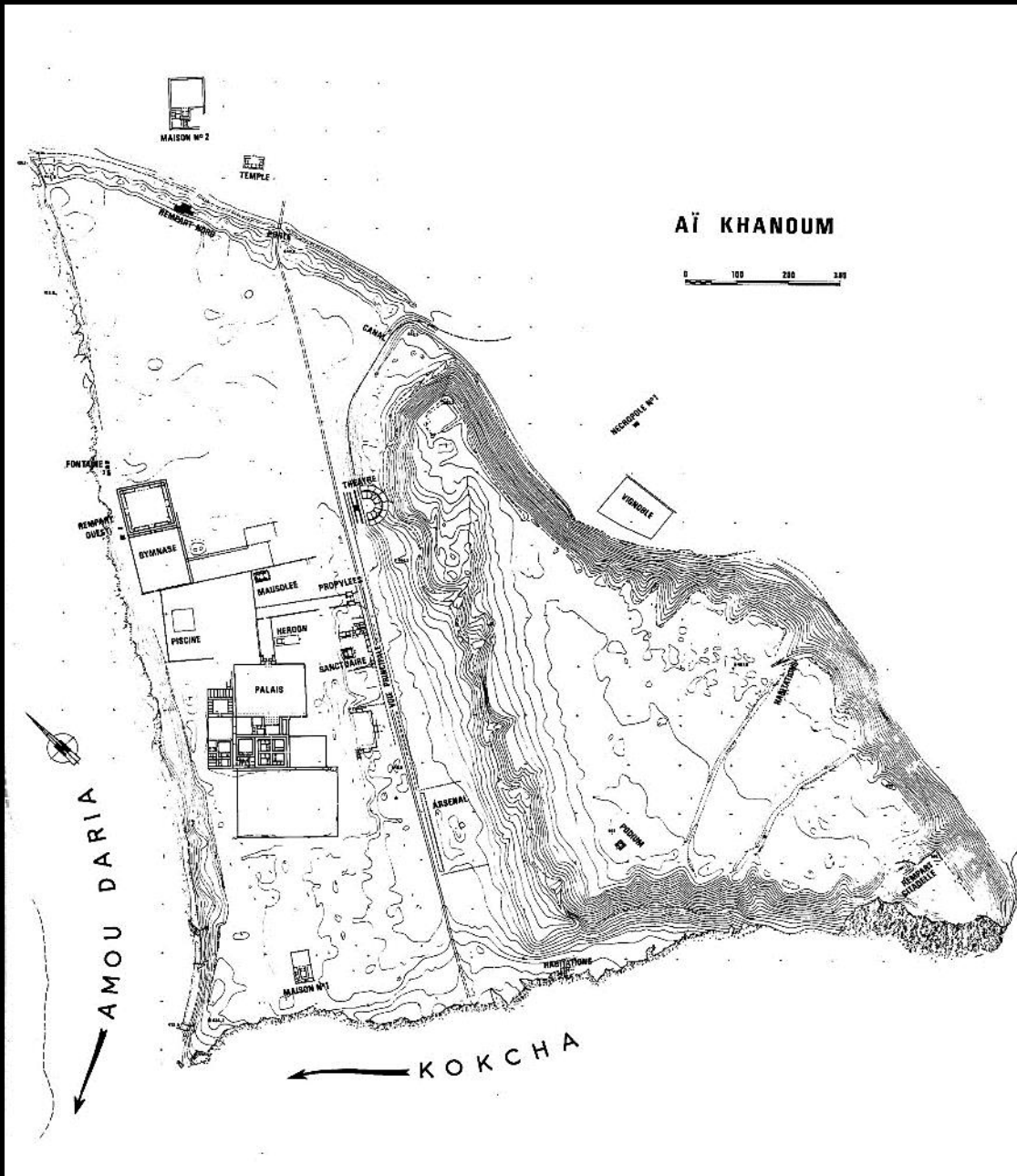
Ai Khanoum

© DAFA



Euthydemus I
(230-190 BC)

(© BNF)



The Cybele Plaque

(P. Cambon et J.-F. Jarrige, *Afghanistan, les trésors retrouvés*, Collections du musée national de Kaboul, Paris, 2006)



Silver coin of Agathocles struck with the Balarāma-Saṃkarṣaṇa and Vāsudeva-Kṛṣṇa types



“Monnaies d’une espèce nouvelle”, 5th century BCE



Punch-marked coins, 3rd century BCE



Bilingual coins struck in Indian territories by Agathocles and Pantaleon (180-176 BCE)

(© CNG)



Bent-bars, 2nd century BCE



The Hindu Kush mountain range in Afghanistan



Eucratides I (171-145 BC)
20-staters coin (169.20 g)
(© BNF)



Bazira, modern Barikot (Pakistan) and its redan defense wall

KING	LEGEND	MONOGRAMS							
Apollodotus I	☉ / ☉								
Antimachus II	☉ / ☉	☞	☞	☞					
Menander I	☉ / ☉	☞	☞	☞					
Eucratides I	☉ / ☉	☞	☞						
Menander I	☉ / ☉	☞	☞	☞	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉

Menander I (165-130) & Eucratides I (171-145)

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ /
ΕΥΚΡΑΤΙΔΟΥ



171 – 162 BCE



162 BCE



162 – 145 BCE

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ /
ΕΥΚΡΑΤΙΔΟΥ

165 – 162 BCE



ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ / ΜΕΝΑΝΔΡΟΥ

145 BCE



145 – 130 BCE





Double decadrachm struck by Amyntas (95-90 BC)



Maues (Indo-Scythian)



Apollodotus II (Indo-Greek)



Hippostratus (Indo-Greek)



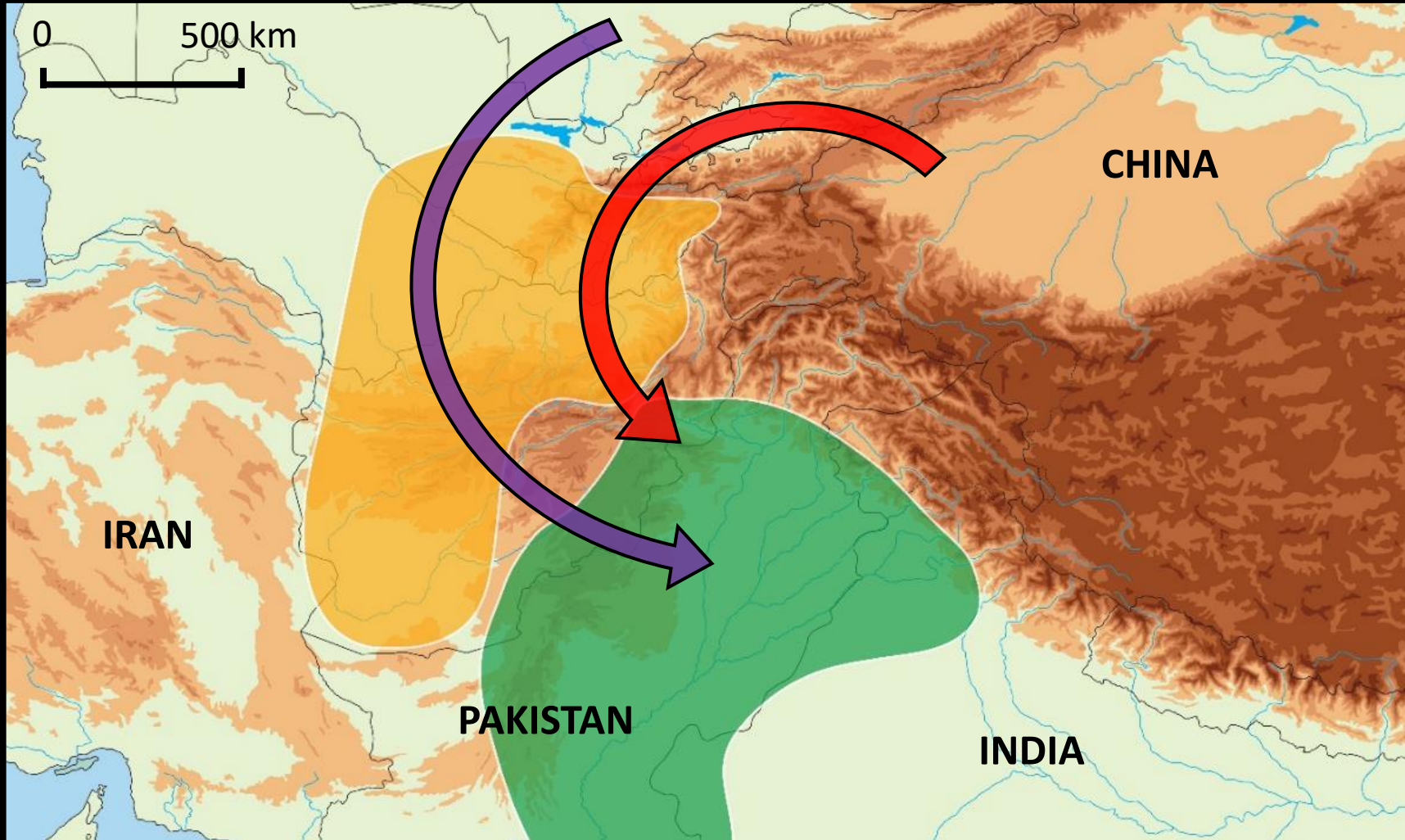
Azes I (Indo-Scythian)



Objects from the second Mir Zakah deposit
kept in the Miho Museum
(*Treasures of Ancient Bactria*, Miho Museum, Japon, 2002)



Coins from the second Mir Zakah deposit in food aid bags
© Osmund Boppearachchi



Migrations of Scythian nomads and the Yuezhi in Central Asia, mid-2nd century BCE



Khaltchayan, Uzbekistan
(1st c. CE)



Tetradrachm of Heraos
(1st c. BCE – 1st c. CE)
(© CNG)



Imitations of Hellenistic coinages struck by the Yuezhi

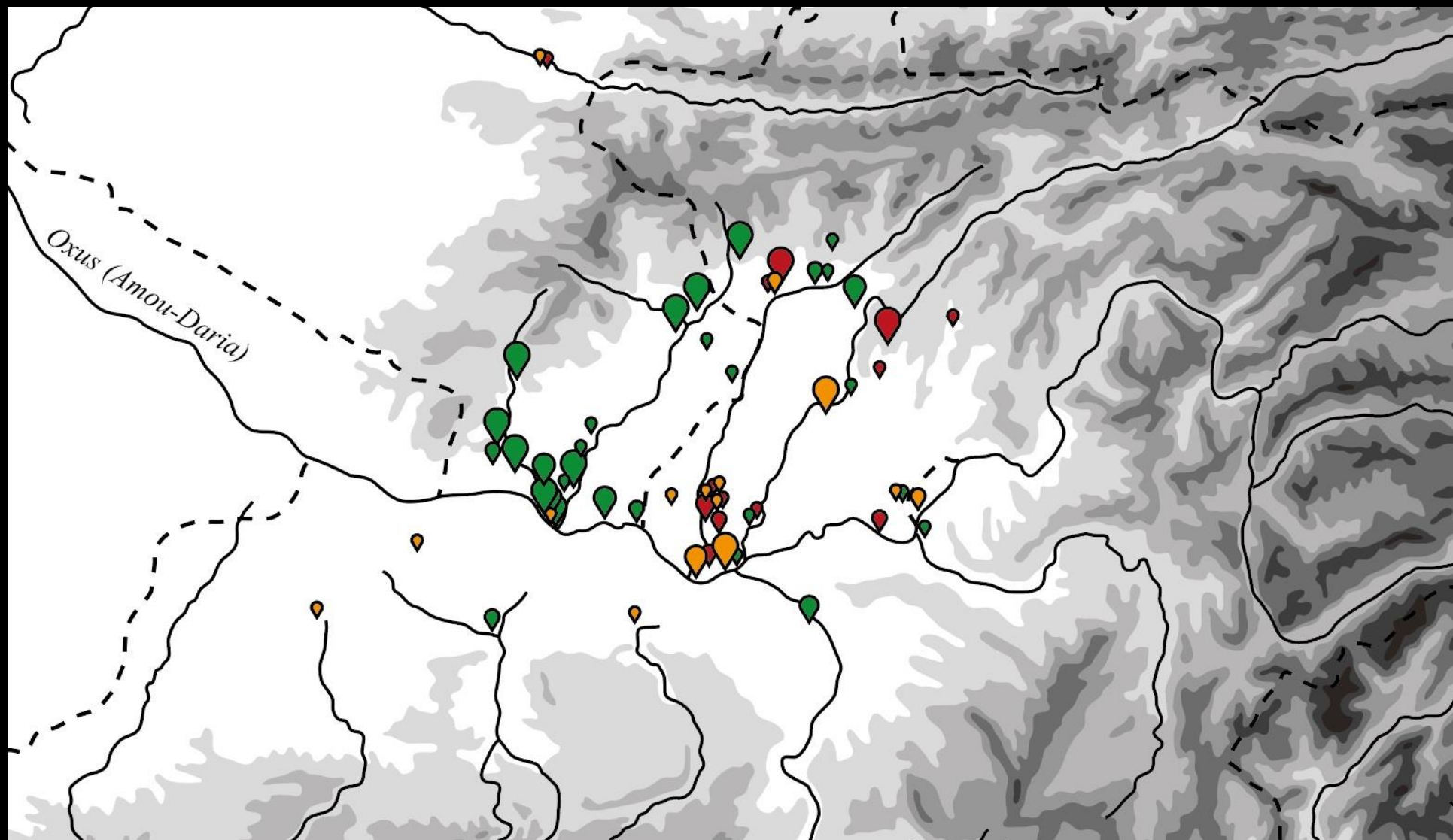


Eucratides I
(171-145 BC)

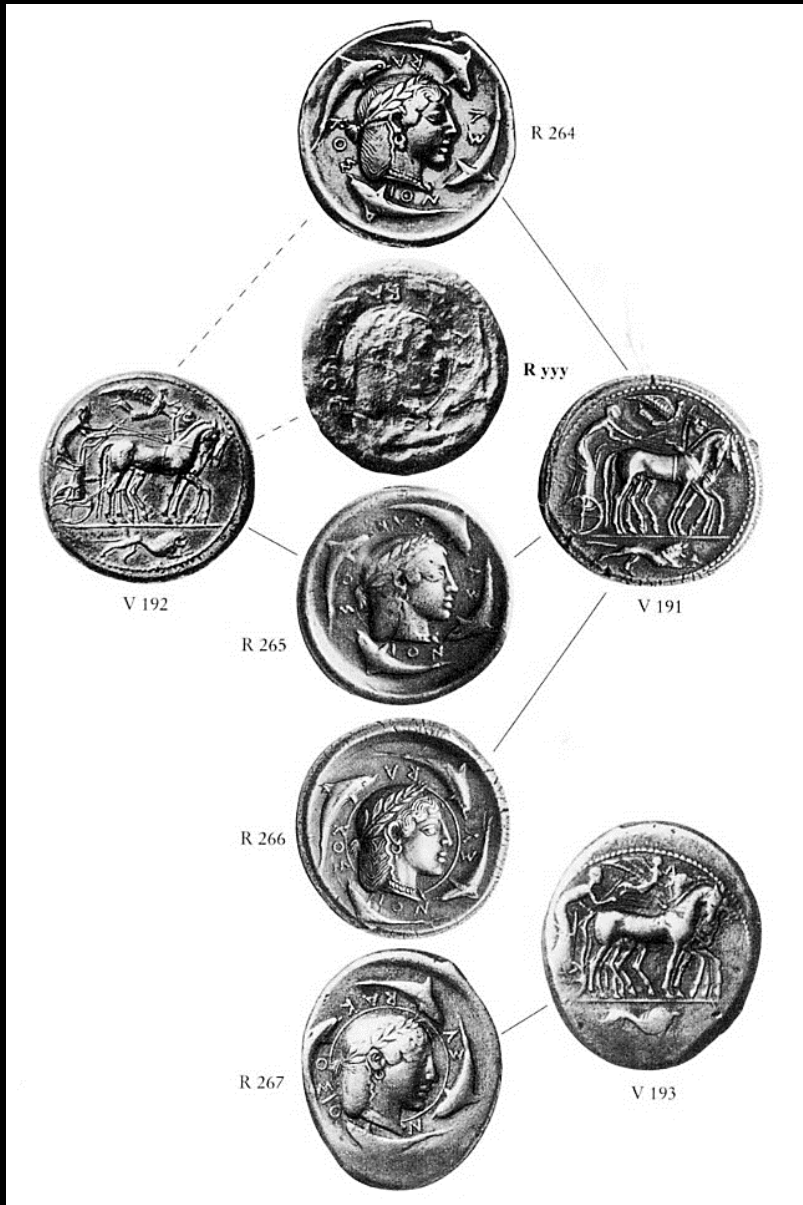


Heliocles I
(145-130 BC)



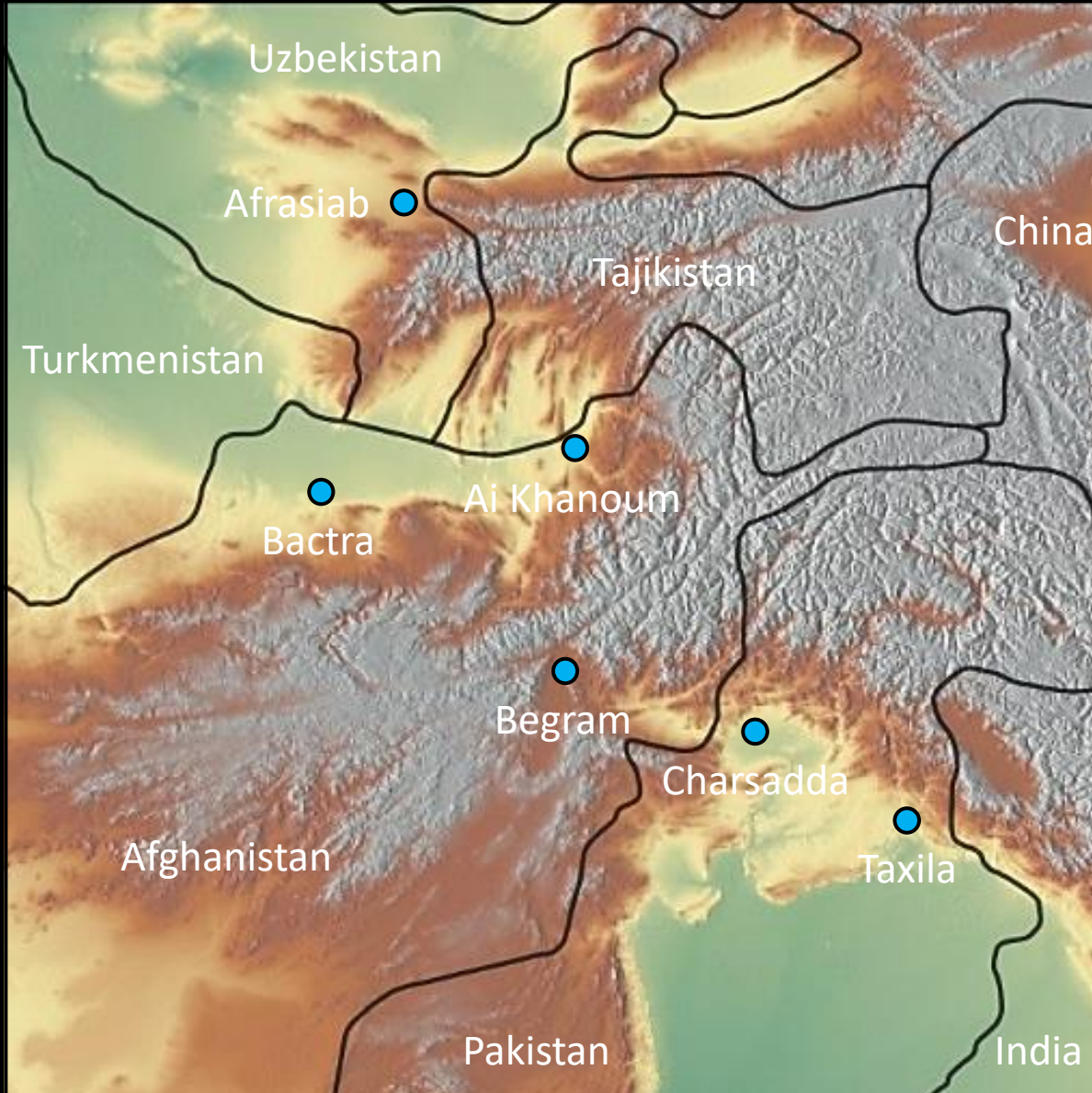


Distribution of Yuezhi imitations of Hellenistic and Heraios coins



Graeco-Bactrian reverse die belonging to Demetrius I

Mints and monograms: what do they mean?



City names?
Regnal years?
Mint marks?
“Corporate name” ?
Monetary’s mark?

 **BAKTPA**

 **ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΙΑ**



SOUVERAINS	MONOGRAMMES											
Ménandre I	⌘	⌘	⌘									
Eucratide I	⌘	⌘	⌘	⌘	⌘							
Ménandre I	⌘	⌘	⌘	⌘		⌘	⌘	⌘				
Agathocléia								⌘	⌘			
Zoïle I	⌘	⌘	⌘			⌘	⌘					
Diomède			⌘	⌘	⌘				⌘	Σ	⌘	
Ag. et Straton I								⌘	⌘			
Straton I			⌘	⌘	⌘			⌘	⌘	⌘	Σ	

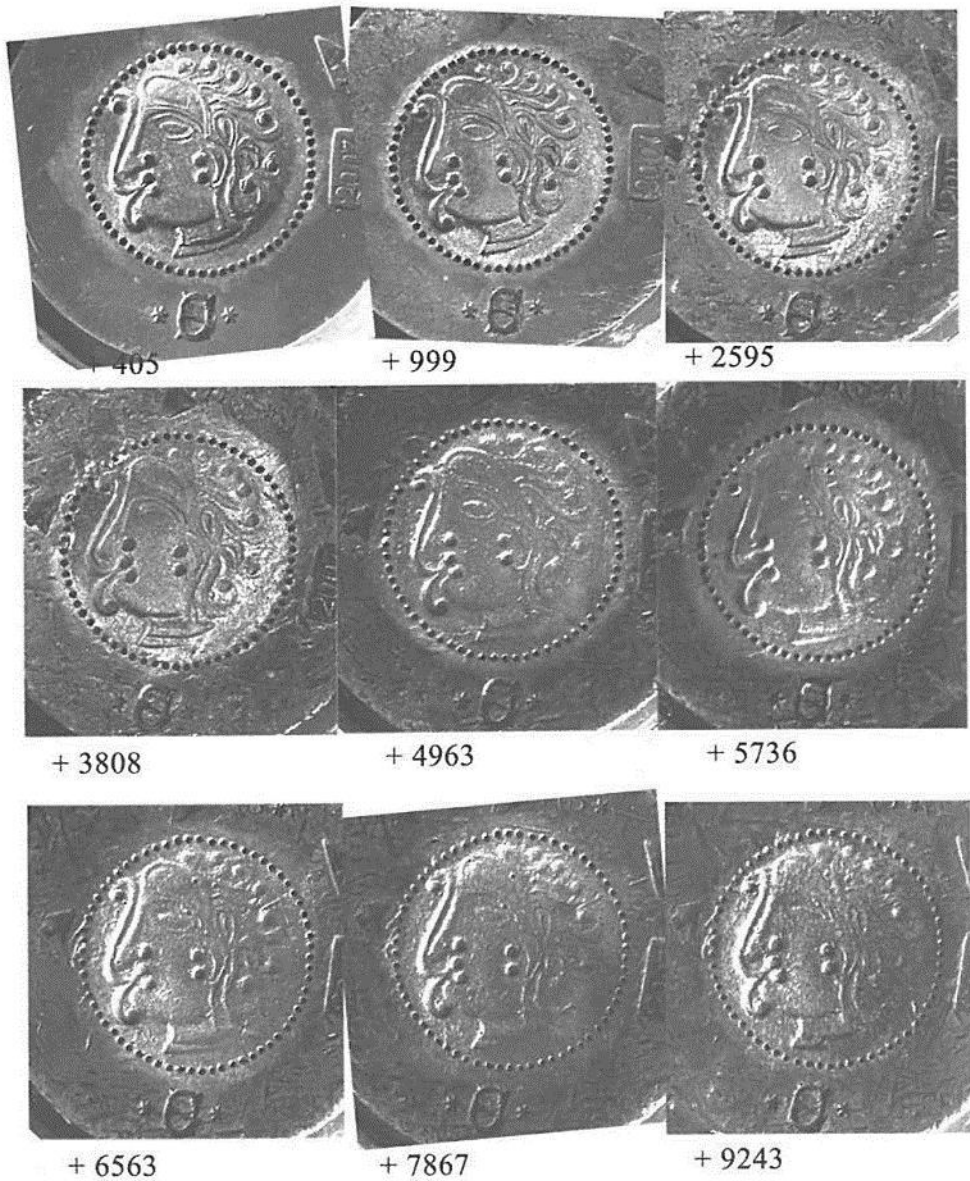


Fig. 15 : Usure du coin de droit en bronze en 2007.

King	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Diodotus I	237	162	
Diodotus II	4	70	
Euthydemus I	12	531	123
Eucratides I		751	
Menander I	2	1714	261
Hippostratus		143	57

The so-called “pedigree coins” or commemorative issues



Agathocles
(180-176 BC)

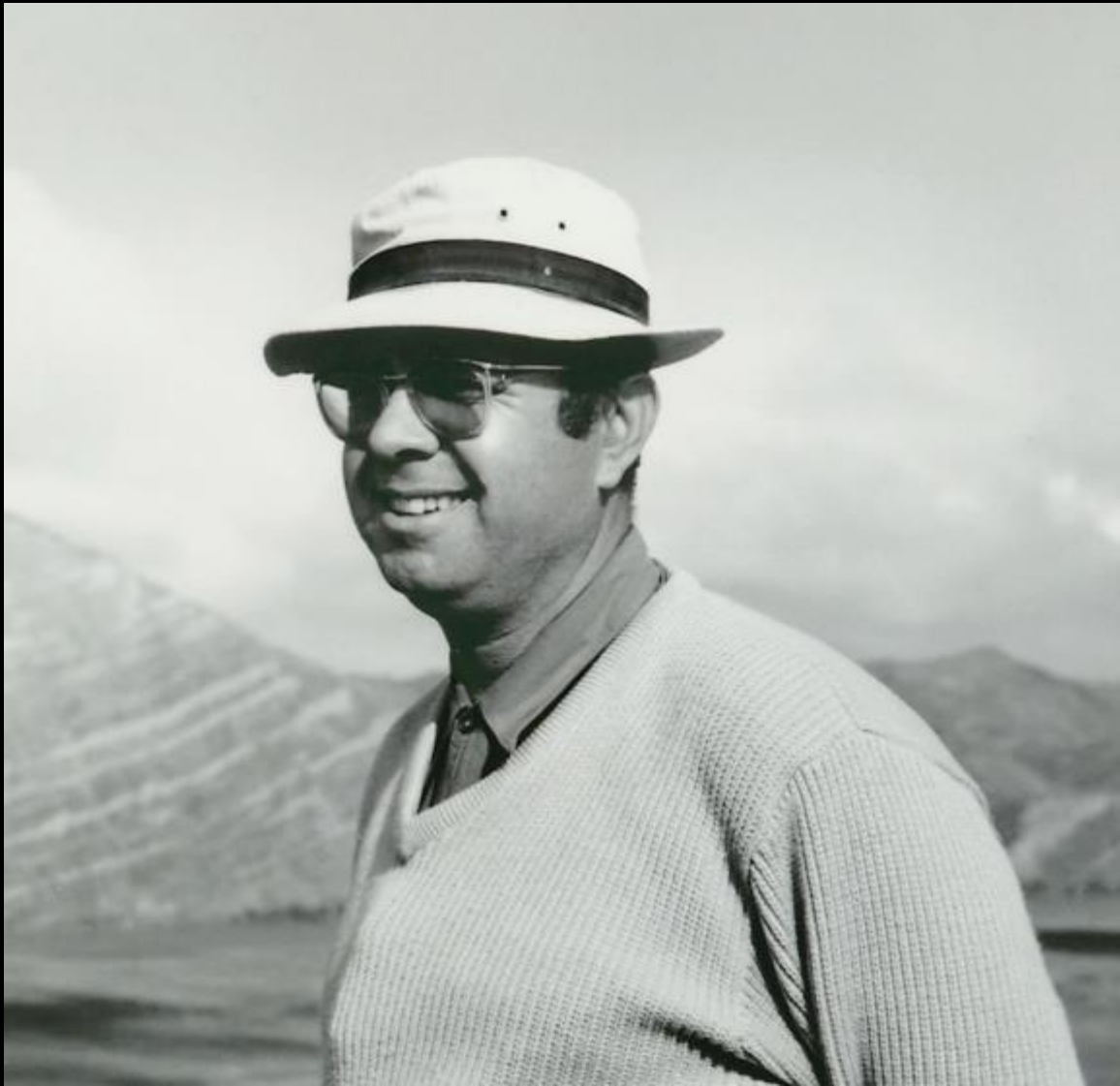


Antimachus I
(176-171 BC)

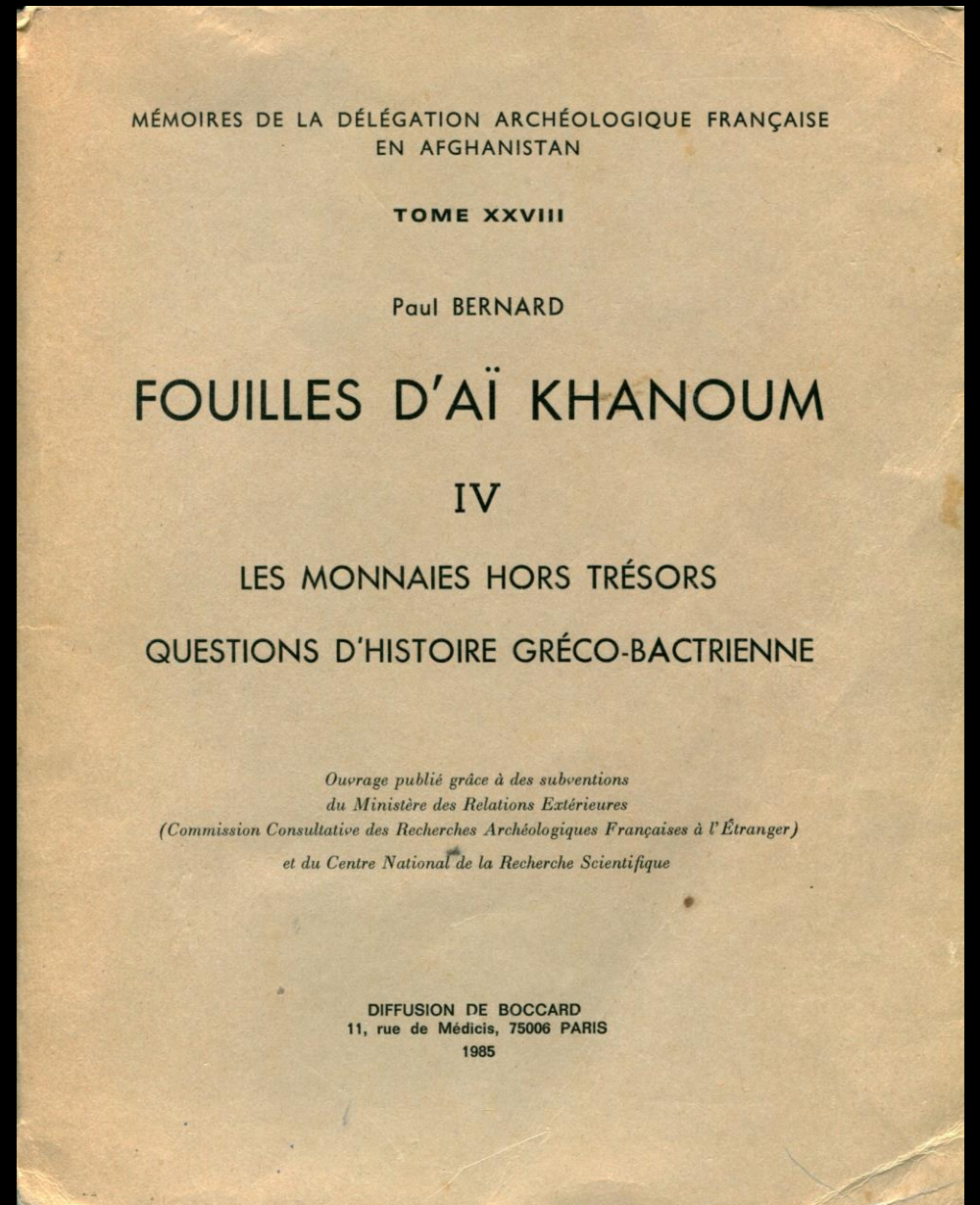




The attribute *par excellence* of the conqueror of India: the elephant scalp
(Holt & Bopearachchi 2011; © CNG)



Paul Bernard (1929 – 2015)
(H.-P. Francfort 2016, p. 415, fig. 1)





The Mir Zakah II deposit (Paktiya province, Afghanistan) © Osmund Boparachchi



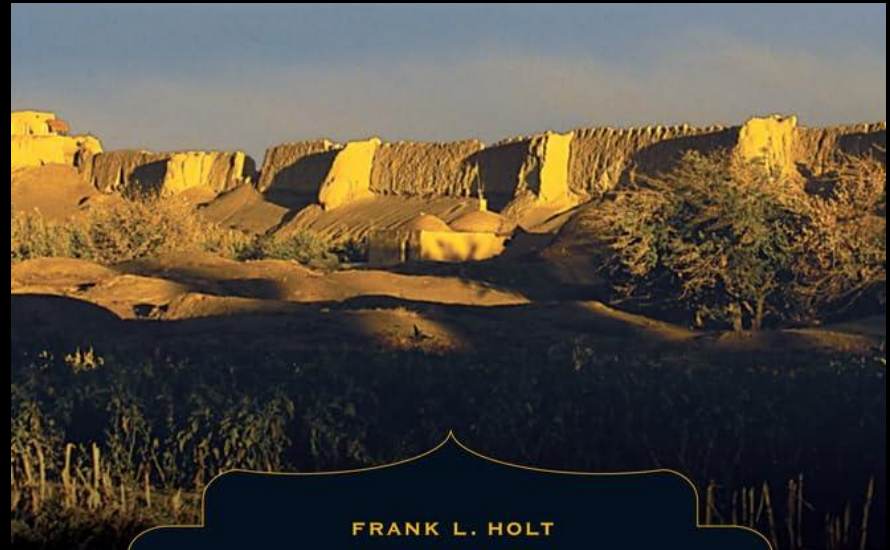
FRANK L. HOLT

Into the Land of Bones

ALEXANDER THE GREAT IN AFGHANISTAN

WITH A NEW PREFACE

FOREWORD BY PETER GREEN



FRANK L. HOLT

Lost World of the Golden King

IN SEARCH OF
ANCIENT AFGHANISTAN

