Collection Policy for Numismatics

1. Overview

1.1 General coverage of subject in the Bodleian Libraries

The subject of Numismatics (the study of coins, coinage, paper money, tokens and medals from all times and all places) is covered comprehensively in the Bodleian Libraries for the ancient Mediterranean region and the British Isles. There is good coverage for many other regions like Europe, the Middle East and South Asia. The Western Hemisphere, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Far East are less well covered. The collection is concentrated in the Sackler Library. Scattered items exist in the Bodleian Library due to copyright deposit over the years, as well as items among the special collections. All books and journals are entered in OLIS, the online catalogue of the Bodleian teaching, learning and research collections. The pamphlet collection is not yet entered in OLIS but a weeded and cataloguing project is under way. There is a substantial collection of sales catalogues that grows through gifts from the Keepers of Numismatics in the Ashmolean Museum, duplicates from the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and from dealers.

1.2 Legal deposit (including electronic legal deposit)

The Sackler Library has been selecting legal deposit material from the Bodleian Library since 2004. Approximately 10% of publications in the subjects can be acquired via legal deposit. Traditionally and currently, scholarship in the subjects has been French, German and to a lesser extent Italian and other languages. Also, English language scholarship is often published by non-UK based publishers.

1.3 Electronic resources

So far, the vast majority of electronic resources that exist for Numismatics are freely available on the WWW. In addition many of the more general resources like Intute: Arts and Humanities, JSTOR, PCI, ZETOC, Lexis-Nexis, etc. can contain very useful information.

1.4 Notes about particular formats or collections

The bulk of the collection is in book format, many of which are folio and large folio size. There are a very few titles that entirely consist of microforms or CD-ROMs. There are also significant holding of pamphlets, the growth of which is very slow.

1.5 Languages

Historically, the major scholarly languages of Numismatics have been French and German, followed by English and Italian. In reality, publications can be found in all languages. Since the 1970’s, as English has become more dominant, scholars who would have published in French or German are now publishing more frequently in English.

1.6 Bodleian Collection Management
Readers of this document are referred to the Bodleian Collection Management Policy (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/lib/oxonly/2001/cul01-75.shtml), which outlines the aims of correctly housing material within the Bodleian Libraries and reducing unplanned duplication. Collection policies are developed in accordance with these aims and the Library works closely with the Bodleian Collections and Resource Description in achieving them.

2. **Teaching collections**

Teaching collections for Numismatics are held primarily in the Sackler Library.

2.1 *Text books*

There are no text books for Numismatics at the University level.

2.2 *Journal articles*

The Sackler Library houses Numismatics journals regularly cited on reading lists. Surrogates of journal articles not available in Oxford will be obtained through inter-library loan.

2.3 *Levels of provision*

All reading list items are held by the Sackler Library in at least one copy. If, after consultation with the instructors, it is deemed necessary to purchase additional copies, this will be done. Also, items may be placed on short term loan and/or confined if the items are critical for the weekly essay.

3. **Research collections**

Research collections are concentrated almost exclusively in the Sackler Library. If a research level item is found to be in the Bodleian Library and not in the Sackler Library, a transfer will be requested.

3.1 *Research books*

Research books are acquired to reside in the Sackler Library.

3.2 *Monograph serials / standing-orders*

Most monographic series in Numismatics are acquired for the Sackler Library. A handful of such are acquired by the Bodleian Library because the scope of the series is broader than numismatics alone.

3.3 *Journals*

The Sackler Library houses all key journals in Numismatics.

4. **Special Collections**
5. **Subject coverage of selected purchased material**

In addition to the legal deposit intake and general works, the Bodleian Libraries will purchase non-deposited material in the following specific subjects:

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6. **Name of subject consultant(s) responsible for collections**

Diane Bergman May 2014.