

## EDITORS' FOREWORD

The collection assembled by Robert W. Schaaf (New Jersey, USA) is without doubt one of the most important collections of Sasanian coins in private hands, the unique product of decades of collecting and great expertise. We thus had no hesitation in taking on the publication of the collection in order to make it accessible as a whole to the scholarly community. It should be mentioned here that Bob Schaaf has always provided access to his collection for scholars and has accompanied our *Sylloge Nummorum Sasanidarum* project from the beginning, giving his support in many different ways. For this, we would like to express our special thanks to him here.

As elaborated in the preface to SNS 1, our aim is to publish not only the main series of the SNS Paris–Berlin–Vienna, but also other important public and private collections in order to provide the broadest possible basis for research into the history of Sasanian finance and economy. In keeping with this aim the SNS Israel was published in 2009, followed by the SNS Usbekistan in 2012, while Rika Gyselen published the collection of Ahmad Saeedi in 2005.

Currently numbering 723 coins, the Schaaf Collection represents a further substantial advance in our endeavors to extend our relevant material knowledge, which still remains far too meager, in order better to understand and reconstruct the structure of Sasanian coinage in the various phases of its development.

Michael Alam  
Direktor des Münzkabinetts  
Kunsthistorisches Museum  
Burgring. 5  
1010 Vienna, Austria

Rika Gyselen  
CNRS UMR 7528:  
Mondes Iranien et Indien  
27 rue Paul Bert  
94204 Ivry, France

