

FOREWORD

Sylloge Nummorum Parthicorum 2 is the second in the series of the SNP publications. Fabrizio Sinisi's Volume 7, Vologases I – Pacorus II, paved the way for an innovative approach in Parthian numismatics, based on the model of the *Sylloge Nummorum Sasanidarum* (SNS). SNP 2 deals with the coins of one Parthian ruler only,¹ namely Mithradates II, who reigned from c. 122/121 to 91 BC. A detailed research on the Parthian coins in the participating institutions, as well as the late David Sellwood's collection, has enabled the authors to establish a chronology for Mithradates' coinage that is associated with their new typology. His coinage is on the whole uniform, undated and with few mint marks, and it is therefore difficult to identify from the small differences the patterns that allow us to impose a detailed sequence on the series. Despite all this, the authors were able to build a typology, which led to both a chronology and also mint attributions. The tools that were used were partly numismatic and partly historical. Information extracted from the coins themselves was blended with the historical information available, both primary and secondary. Once again, a detailed study of coinage has proved invaluable for the understanding of a crucial but poorly documented period of history.

This type of multi-national project would not have succeeded without the support of all participating museums. Throughout the preparation of Volume 2, the team was generously hosted on visits to the various museums. There is no substitute for seeing the actual coins rather than working solely from images. We are also grateful to the late David Sellwood, who with his vision allowed the SNP project to include his important collection. Chris Hopkins proved once again an invaluable source of technical support with his *sylloge.org* website, as well as the database which he built especially for SNP 2.

It is anticipated that the next volume published in this series, SNP 5, will be about Phraates IV – Orodes III (c. 38 BC – AD 6), followed by SNP 6, Vonones I – Vonones II (c. AD 8 – 51). Both volumes will be authored by Fabrizio Sinisi. The London team will be working next on SNP 4, Mithradates III – Pacorus I (c. 57–39 BC).

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¹ Originally SNP 2 was to cover Phraates II to Mithradates II, but Phraates will now be dealt with in SNP 1. This decision was taken on the basis that the coinage of Phraates II forms a natural group with that of Mithradates I, which falls within SNP 1. For a detailed project plan cf. the Foreword in SNP 7.