

Coins in the World, and the World (Cosmos) in Coins:

A Cosmographic Approach

Amanda-Alice Maravelia

The world of coins is a very interesting virtual universe. Coins have been used in the past three Millennia for purposes related to financial transactions. However, many of them are small works of art that imply a different—more cultural and sometimes also cultic—significance. By their representations and motifs they were used for political, religious and financial reasons. Still, the motifs, and pictures on some of them have a mere cosmo visional approach and present us with the ancient imago mundi of their creators. We examine a few coins belonging to the Collection of the Numismatic Museum in Athens, that bear certain cosmographic motifs and symbols (stars, constellations, zodiacal asterisms, planets, and the like). We are examining and discussing the semantics of these very cosmovisional representations, that make of the related coins small virtual worlds inside our Universe, the Cosmos ...