

Inscriptions and iconography from coins of the Macedonian Kings at Dion

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This paper introduces and discusses for the first time a selection of 309 important coins from Dion, the sacred city of the ancient Macedonian Kingdom. These coins provide us with important evidence for the entire period of Macedonian rule, dating from Alexander I (498-454 BCE) to the final ruler Perseus (179-168 BCE).

Although the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has been conducting ongoing excavations in Dion since 1973, this paper constitutes the first opportunity for these coins to be discussed, placing them in historical and archaeological context. We discuss both the inscriptions and the iconography of these coins and what this new evidence reveals of the nature of Macedonian rule in all, as well as the weighting system and the variety of metals used in their manufacture. All were excavated from within the extra muros area of Dion, a large religious center containing numerous sanctuaries, theaters and a stadium, suggesting that a proportion of these were likely votive offerings.