

## FINLAND

At the moment there is no real 'coin find project' in Finland - it is not possible because the staff of the coin cabinet of the National Museum of Finland consists of no more than two persons, and only one of them, Tuukka Talvio, works with coin finds.

In 1900, Professor W. Lagus, former keeper of the Helsinki University Coin Cabinet (which now belongs to the National Museum of Finland) published a catalogue of the coin finds known from Finland, *Om mynt funna i finsk jord* (600 finds made between 1547 and 1900). Since then, there have been intermittent attempts to continue Lagus's work, and Talvio has published a work on the finds dating from 800-1200 (see list of publications below). There is a topographical archive in which information of finds is collected. Originally it contained only documents related to the finds that have been sent to the museum, but other information is now also included. It is hoped that some day the Helsinki Cabinet could start publishing a catalogue of the same type as in Sweden ("Landskapsinventeringen"), and in fact there is already a draft for one such volume, dealing with the finds from the former Finnish territory now belonging to Russia. Unfortunately the person who compiled it left the museum without completing the work.

At the moment there are simply no resources for doing more than documenting the finds that are made by archaeologists or sent to the museum by the public. All material is taken care of, from Antiquity to modern and contemporary times, coins and other numismatic objects, hoards and single finds. The database has not yet been developed, and most of the material is still kept in envelopes that are arranged in alphabetical order according to parishes. The total number of the finds has not been estimated, but they are known from some 500 parishes – usually several finds per parish.

There is much other work to be done on coin finds. Talvio is at present working with a 14th-century hoard that may contain some 2,000 coins, found at Ulvila on the west coast of Finland in October 2004. Talvio has also started teaching numismatics at the University of Turku in 2004, and he hopes eventually to find a student who would be seriously interested in working with the finds. This could make it possible for the National Museum of Finland to start a Fundmünzen-Projekt within a few years.

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Tuukka Talvio

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