Obituary
Peter Jaeckel (1914-1996)

Peter Jaeckel passed away on 13 September 1996. He worked from 1948 to 1969 at the Staatliche Münz-sammlung in Munich. Most Islamic numismatists will know him as the editor of one of the most useful tools on Islamic numismatics: the life work of Eduard von Zambaur, *Die Münzprägungen des Islams*.

Jaeckel’s name is connected with the attempt to revive Islamic numismatics after the Second World War in West Germany. Once Heinrich Nützel had left the Berliner Münzkabinett in 1924 (he had already ceased publishing ten years previously), there was no Islamic numismatist in Germany for many decades. No-one replaced him as orientalist at Germany’s largest oriental collection.
in Berlin. The second largest German collection, in Jena/Thuringia, the Grand-ducal Oriental Coin Cabinet, fell into oblivion, when the Chair for Oriental Languages ceased in 1919.

After the Second World War, the collection of Frédéric Soret (1795-1865), formerly located in Jena and which was given back to the grand-ducal house immediately before the outbreak of the war, found its way into the Staatliche Münzkabinett Munich. It was the starting point for Peter Jaeckel to study Islamic numismatics, a field totally new for him. Before that, he had studied classical archaeology, art history and Latin in Berlin. In 1941, he submitted his doctoral thesis on the weapons on the reliques of the Pergamene starting point for Peter Jaeckel to study Islamic numismatics. A Chair for Oriental Languages ceased in 1919.

School of Applied Art in Berlin-Weilknsee, located within the enormous task: to reorganise the old holdings of oriental coins and to decipher the Arabic script and to become acquainted with Islamic history and topography. This he did, teaching himself. In 1956, he was promoted to Director of the Bavarian Army Museum in Ingolstadt, a position he held for ten years. Despite his new activities, he still managed to keep an eye on the oriental world. He was the "discoverer" of the famous "Turkish Booty" of 1683, slumbering in a museum store in Kassel/Hessen. He obtained this on long-term loan for the displays in Ingolstadt.

When he left the Staatliches Münzkabinett in 1969, he unfortunately had no successor in the oriental field. His move to Ingolstadt marked the end of the first attempt to re-institutionalise Islamic numismatics in West Germany. Nevertheless, he tried his best to revive it and to ease the way for new scholars to come. Until the early nineties, Peter Jaeckel taught at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, where he found in the Turkologist, Franz Babinger (1891-1971), a helpful friend. Jaeckel tried to bridge the gap between numismatics as a science in its own right and Islamic studies - but in vain. In a letter of 1988 he commented: "For over twenty years I have been teaching Islamic numismatics at the Institute for Turkish Studies and History of the Near East but do not have a single student who has really taken a serious interest in the subject. He was one of those who favoured the idea of a research unit for Islamic numismatics in Tübingen in the late eighties and helped to pave the way for the revival of Islamic numismatics in the nineties. Despite his wide-spread interests, Peter Jaeckel never published a great deal. There are only four short articles on Islamic numismatics and a number of short activity reports in the Munich Annual Work Reports: ‘Orient’, in Münchner Jahrbuch der bildenden Kunst 2/1951, pp.233f; 9/1958-9, p.426; 15/1964, pp.240f; 20/1969, p.245; 24/1973, pp.263, 266.

Numismatic reviews by Peter Jaeckel:

Editorial work:

Reviews on E. von Zambaur, Münzprägungen:
Brisch, Klaus, in Kunst des Orients 7/1970-1, p.79.
Hansman, John, in JRAS 1969, p.75.

Obituaries:

His manuscripts and lectures on Islamic numismatics are placed in the Thüringer Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek by courtesy of his niece, Mrs. Marianne Niemaber.

Stefan Heidemann, Jena