

# ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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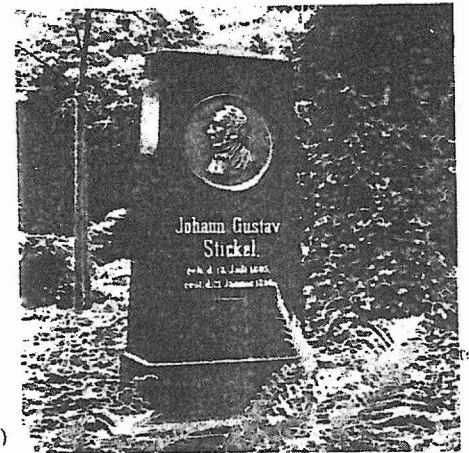
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(Photo. P. Cott, Jena)

## **Johann Gustav Stickel, one of the founders of Islamic Numismatics honoured**

*by Stefan Heidemann*

Johann Gustav Stickel (1805 - 1896) was one of the founders of Islamic Numismatics. He received his philological education in Jena and Paris. He studied with the venerable orientalist A. Silvestre de Sacy (1758-1838), who worked in his philological studies with papyri and coins as well. Stickel traced his initial interest in sphragistic and numismatic studies back to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, an admirer of the Orient and a devoted coin collector. In 1840 Stickel succeeded in buying an oriental coin collection, which formed the nucleus of the Grandducal Oriental Coin Cabinet and the basis for his later studies. His main works in the field of numismatics are the *Handbuch zur Orientalischen Münzkunde*, Leipzig 1845, 1870, which was reprinted in 1975, and his studies on Oriental lead seals in the *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*. At the end of his life he was awarded honours of various kinds and membership of many academic and numismatic societies. In 1889 The Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar and Eisenach sponsored a medal in honour of Johann Gustav Stickel on the 50th Anniversary of his membership of the faculty of philosophy at the University in Jena. This medal was made by the sculptor Waldemar Uhlmann. It served as a model for the portrait medallion on the monument erected on his grave in 1897. Some time during the 1970s the medallion disappeared.

In 1994, after being vacant for 75 years, the chair of Semitic Philology and Islamic Studies was re-established and Prof. Dr. Norbert Nebes was appointed to it. The Oriental Coin Cabinet in Jena, which was almost forgotten, received a new lease of life as a research facility. Recently (as mentioned in the previous newsletter) the Peter Jaekel Collection was acquired. In order to honour Johann Gustav Stickel, whose numismatic achievements are now being appreciated anew, the great-grand son of the founder, Mr. Arnd Kniese, has sponsored the restoration of the monument and the casting of the Medaillon to fill the gap left by the robbery. The monument lies in a romantic garden in the heart of the city of Jena, and which served as a graveyard until 1900.

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