SUMMARY

ZOOMORPHIC, THERIOMORPHIC AND TETRAMORPHIC SYMBOLS ON COINS Part 5

In the fifth part of this work, the author studies the symbolism of the lion on coins. As in the case of the bull symbol, which he treated in Part 4, the lion is a zoomorphic symbol that underwent many changes and transformations throughout history, sometimes within the same areas and in the same cultures. These transformations used to alternate with the change of lunar (bull) to solar (lion) beliefs, which led to changes in the symbolism. It is this symbolic connection between the bull and the lion that the author deals with in most of the work. Since the lion was, to the best of our knowledge, the first motif to appear on coins, special attention is paid to that aspect. The work covers the period from the very beginnings of coin use to the end of Antiquity. In the Middle Ages, the lion symbolism lost its "hidden" meanings since it was usually a symbol of Christ, Mark the Evangelist, or part of a heraldic motif.