

Honors Thesis Proposal
XXXXXXXXXX XXXX

Working Title:

Money Talks: A Survey of Nabataean Coin Iconography

Project Purpose:

Nabataean coins are the best source of chronology and history for this ancient Near Eastern kingdom. These coins have been the subject of study for over 150 years, but most of this research has focused on creating timelines and cataloguing coins. The purpose of this thesis is to study the iconography of these coins to show the cultural and personal significance of each coin design.

Project Importance:

Coin iconography has ability to help historians and archaeologist better understand the past. The focus on the historical nature of these coins has left a huge gap in what these coins are able to tell us about the Nabateans. It's important to know the regnal years of kings and all the various marriages and wars that these coins can date. Equally as important is the nature of Nabataean royalty, their personalities, how they related to their people, and how they saw themselves fitting in to the larger world. These coins can tell us just as much about these things as about when certain kings came into power and it's just as important to know.

Project Overview:

The project will include a full chronological survey of Nabataean coins as well as a thorough analysis and discussion of their meanings and implications.

Project Timeline:

I officially started this project before going to Petra, Jordan for field school in 2017. I have been working on a thesis paper for several years and recently submitted this work as my senior thesis. This summer I will take the feedback on that paper to develop an even better Honors Thesis. I will also develop a more complete catalogue of published Nabatean coins. The thesis will be completed and submitted Fall 2019.

Culminating Experience:

I hope to compile all of my work and research into a guidebook for Nabataean coins. This will include a catalogue of all known coin types and all published Nabatean coins. I hope this work will further the work being done on Nabataean coins and help the conversations about the Nabataeans have more depth.

Thesis Committee:

Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Cynthia Finlayson

Dr. Finlayson has 41 years of experience working in the Near East and is the director of the field school in Petra Jordan. She has been guiding me on this project since before field school and is acquainted with my research. She has the knowledge to help me further develop my thesis and get it to publishable quality.

Faculty Reader:

Dr. Zach Chase

Dr. Chase works primarily in Andean Archaeology and has many published books and articles. He is the professor who most recently taught the Senior Thesis class for Archaeology majors. He helped us students develop technical writing skills and refine our research ideas.

Honors Coordinator:

Dr. Charles Nuckolls

Danielle Hess

Honors Thesis Timeline

Research Completed- May 25, 2019

First Draft - April 22, 2019

Second Draft- August 20, 2019

Final Draft- September 13, 2019

Thesis Defense Form Submitted - September 18, 2019

Thesis Defense- November 6, 2019 (Prospective)

Submit Thesis Submission Form and Final Thesis Submission- November 20, 2019

Thesis Poster Completed – November 20, 2019

Thesis Publication – December 20, 2019

I plan on communicating with members of my committee at least bi-monthly starting in August 2019.