



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
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Single Currencies and Economic Development in Ancient Greece: the Evidence of Coinage.

On Sunday, November 19, 2017, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Robert Wallace, Professor of Classics at Northwestern University in a lecture titled: “Single Currencies and Economic Development in Ancient Greece: the Evidence of Coinage.” Admission will be free.

The event will take place at the Oakton Community College, Des Plaines Campus, Room 1610. The address is 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Please park in the Faculty/Staff parking lot C and enter through door entrance #37.

Please arrive between 2:30-3:00 pm so we can start the lecture promptly at 3:00 pm, as we have to the room reserved until 5:00 pm only.

Did the ancient Greeks strike coins to promote economic development and trade? In a wide-ranging, illustrated discussion of Greek numismatics, Professor Wallace shall challenge the standard answer—“no”—to this question, which is based largely on Roman practices. The Romans struck coins to pay soldiers; Greeks fought for their own cities without pay. Coins were first struck in western Asia Minor as a way to stabilize the alloy and value of electrum, a naturally occurring but variable mix of gold and silver. Electrum coins were too valuable to use in local commerce, and did not circulate abroad. Striking primarily in silver, the Greeks quickly turned the invention of coinage to a series of other economic and political purposes, including day-to-day market transactions (eventually in fiduciary bronze coinages) and the creation of single-currency trading zones.

Robert Wallace is Professor of Classics at Northwestern University. He is the author of some ninety articles on Greek law, history, intellectual history, literature, numismatics, and music theory. His books include “*The Areopagos Council, to 307 BC*” and “*Reconstructing Damon. Music, Wisdom Teaching, and Politics in Perikles’ Athens.*” He co-authored “*Origins of Democracy in Ancient Greece*” and “*Aristotle Constitution of the Athenians,*” and co-edited *Harmonia Mundi: Musica e filosofia nell’antichità; Poet, Public, and Performance in Ancient Greece; Transitions to Empire 360-146 BC; and Symposium 2001* on Greek law. Current projects include books on Sophokles, Thucydides, and *Plato’s Sokrates Project*. He has lectured widely in the US and Europe.

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