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**“Images of Monarchical Power on the Coins from the Seleukid Kingdom”**

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Coinage is the most complete source type we have for a study of the Seleukid monarchs. Coins show how the interests of the kings evolve, how the way of thinking of each reign changes as reflected in the king’s representation, and how gods or symbols rise in popularity or fall into neglect. In some cases, one can study the ambiguity in the depiction of certain gods or symbols to appeal to the varying interests of different social or ethnic groups and to enhance the perception of legitimacy. This helps to combat the idea that the Seleukids would only have ruled over the kingdom by and for the Greco-Macedonian minority.

Zeus and Apollo were the two favorite gods of the Seleukids, as is reflected on their coinage. While there is some modification expressing the preference for the one or the other, the imagery also had to consider the rich and complex iconographic traditions to which Seleukid kings responded and added. The main types were the seated Zeus and the seated Apollo, which continued types of Alexander, albeit with modifications. This way, the Seleukid kings conveyed the message to their subjects that they were not just heirs of Alexander but Greco-Macedonian kings ruling over vast eastern territories. These types best represent aspects of royalty, divine lineage, and the longevity of the dynasty.