



# Phoenician and Punic Antiquities in the Heart of Europe

## The Corpus of Phoenician and Punic Antiquities in Belgium

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Poster presented at the study day  
"Les Phéniciens, les Puniques et les autres. Échanges et identités  
entre le monde phénico-punique et les différents peuples de  
l'Orient ancien et du pourtour méditerranéen"  
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### Les Phéniciens, les Puniques, et les autres: The 'others' in time and space

Through their encounters and exchanges with others, the ancient Phoenician and Punic people left an imprint on the cultural heritage of the entire Mediterranean region. Phoenician and Punic artefacts are, furthermore, now spread to all corners of the world. This poster presents one of the initiatives aiming to virtually bring this Phoenician and Punic material culture back together, in a comprehensive *Corpus of Phoenician and Punic Antiquities*.

### 1. Project 44 of the IUA

The *Corpus des Antiquités phéniciennes et puniques* (CAPP) is an initiative promoted under the aegis of the Italian *Unione Accademica Nazionale* in 1987, which at once met with full support from several Mediterranean countries. In 1990, it was adopted by the IUA, the International Union of Academies, as its 44<sup>th</sup> project ([www.uai-iaa.org](http://www.uai-iaa.org)).

The IUA is the global organisation of national academies in the fields of the humanities and social sciences. It prides itself on supporting projects that cannot be realised in a short time span and therefore initiates, recognizes, fosters and funds basic long-term international research projects, aiming at the creation of fundamental reference tools such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias and text editions.

The objective of the CAPP project is to list, classify and study the artistic and epigraphical monuments of the Phoenician and Punic civilisation in association with the most important museums and with local and private collections. It will thus build up a coherent body of documentation, to be published as the work proceeds, for the benefit of specialists and the general public alike.

The CAPP network constitutes today of national committees in the following countries: Italy, Tunisia, Spain, Portugal, France and Belgium. Their first international meeting took place in 2006 and more national committees are being created.

### 2. CAPP.be

Contrary to Mediterranean countries that continuously have to take into account finds from new excavations, the Belgian collections are of a more manageable size to achieve a full inventory and publication. The Belgian committee therefore also decided to approach colleagues in the Netherlands, to encompass in the *Corpus* both Belgian and Dutch collections.

### Methodology

Instead of presenting the results of its work in a printed *Corpus*, CAPP.be considers that such a volume should be preceded by a user-friendly online database. To achieve this, the committee's work is based on 3 pillars:

- 1) to encourage and assist Belgian and Dutch collections in making their Phoenician and Punic antiquities available in online catalogues;
- 2) to provide an up-to-date bibliography and access to electronic off-prints of publications of these antiquities;
- 3) to develop a website as a central point to collect references to these catalogues and to ensure the visibility of the committee's activities and publications.

Parallel to this, the members continue to conduct and to promote scientific research on the objects.

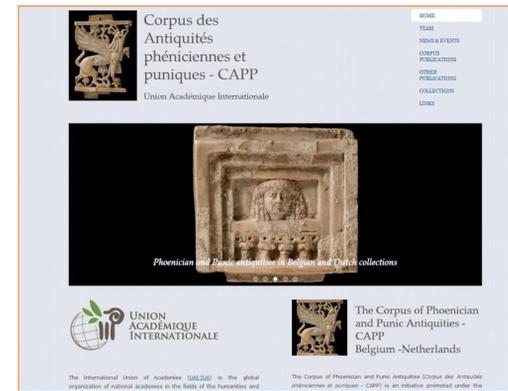
### Results anno 2016

The largest collection in Belgium, being the Phoenician and Punic antiquities kept at the Royal Museums of Art and History in Brussels, was selected as the first to be registered. The objects were entered and described in the museum's collection management database and subsequently made available on its website's Online Catalogue, Carmentis. The new version of Carmentis will not only include the images produced by the museum's Photolab, but also state-of-the-art interactive 2D and 3D recordings of small objects, which have been created with the Portable Light Dome system developed at the KU Leuven.

The same system is currently being used to image the nearly 160 Phoenician and Punic coins of the Royal Library of Belgium.

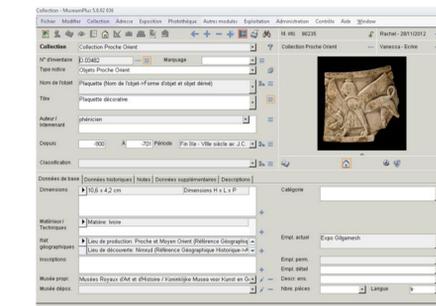
The project's output is gathered on the CAPP.be website that went live in 2015 and is being updated as the work proceeds. It is hoped that within the next six years, the website will be completed with references to all the Phoenician and Punic antiquities in Belgium.

### Visibility and valorisation of Phoenician and Punic Antiquities



Homepage of the website. The webpages give information on the project, its members and their publications, links to online catalogues, announcements of upcoming events, CAPP publications and links to partners and other initiatives.

### Inventory of collections



Screenshot of an entry in the collections database of the Royal Museums of Art and History.

### Imaging of objects



PLD recording session at the Royal Library of Belgium, 2015 (photo H. Hameeuw).

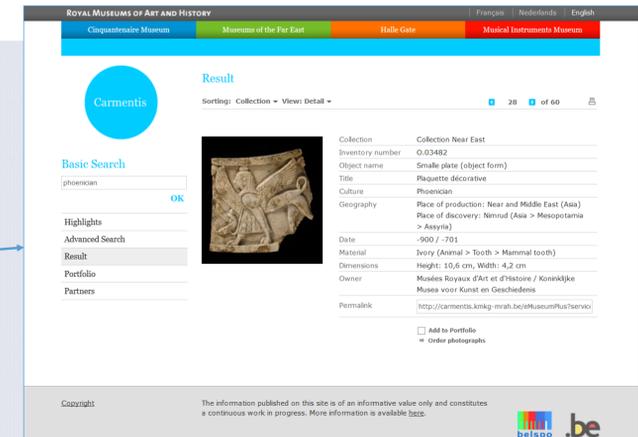
### Research

### Electronic and paper publications



Webpage with publications dealing with Phoenician and Punic antiquities (and .PDF's if available).

### Collections online



Presentation of the objects on the CAPP.be webpages (left): the thumbnails contain links to online catalogues, in this case [carmentis.kmkg.mrah.be](http://carmentis.kmkg.mrah.be) (right).

### Want to know more?

For more information on the project, its members, the objects registered to date, the publications and links to other CAPP national committees and partners, please visit:

[www.uai44-capp.be](http://www.uai44-capp.be)



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