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Treasures from the past

Old coins do not just turn up at auctions or exchanges. Countless valuable coins also lie buried in the ground right beneath our feet. Some of these are on display at the Museum of Money in Lausanne. This is home to around 1,400 valuable coins and medals from the region dating from antiquity to the present day.

Musée Monétaire: Palais de Rumine (3e niveau), Place de la Riponne 6, Lausanne. www.musee-monetaire.ch

An obverse and reverse die for the screw-press striking of the 20 Batzen coin. Canton of Vaud, Lausanne, 1810.

A moveable iron die for the falling-hammer or screw-press striking of the quarter ecu coin. Kingdom of France, Henry IV (1589 to 1610), unknown mint.

A fixed die for hammer striking anonymous coins minted by the Bishopric of Lausanne. The stamp is illegible. 14th century.

Photos: Cantonal Museum of Money in Lausanne

A general of steel: The obverse die for the screw-press striking of the Swiss General Dufour medal by the medal-maker Antoine Bovy. Geneva, 1846.

1 Kreuzer coin made of iron: A moveable die for the hammer striking of coins. Bishopric of Sion, Hildebrand I of Riedmatten (1565 to 1604), Sion.

An ancient bronze find:
Die for hammer striking the Denarius coin minted by Naevius Balbus, 79 BC.

A die for the screw-press striking of the one franc coin showing a coat of arms. Canton of Vaud, Lausanne, 1846.

This moveable iron die for hammer striking the coins minted by Louis II, Baron of Vaud, in the 14th century was found in Rovray.