Giovanni Dattari (1853‒1923), an Italian numismatist and antiquary living in Cairo from 1875 onwards, wrote that he had personally examined about 2 million Alexandrian coins while in Egypt. Of these, only a small share finished in the different museums and store rooms around the country; still, today the public collections in Egypt contain more than 500000 coins altogether. Of this material, only a meagre part has a known provenance. To say the least, in the past Egyptologists were not too keen on spending time on the numismatic material. More recently, things have changed, and more and more data are becoming available from regular excavations, completing the hoard evidence. This talk offers the opportunity to present an overview of the numismatic material found in Egypt and to speak about its relevance for our understanding of the monetary economy of the country in antiquity.