

HARVARD PORTRAIT



**Carmen Arnold-Biucchi**

HARVARD'S first curator of numismatic collections, overseeing a trove of 22,000 coins in the Department of Ancient and Byzantine Art and Numismatics at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, is Carmen Arnold-Biucchi, who comes to the job after 18 years at the American Numismatic Society in New York City. "The collection is most famous for having been stolen. I hope to change that," she says, referring to the 1973 armed robbery of thousands of ancient coins. Most were finally recovered (see "Picking Harvard's Pocket," May-June 2000, page 44). She is rearranging the collection, by mint; updating the electronic database; identifying gaps to be filled by acquisitions; pursuing scholarly work—including a book on the archaic coins of Selinus, Sicily—that will publish the collection more extensively; and demonstrating ways to use the coins in teaching. In Betsey Robinson's archaeology course on the Seven Wonders of the World, for instance, Arnold-Biucchi showed students bronze coins from Roman Alexandria that provide the best contemporary depiction of its wondrous Pharos, or lighthouse, long since in ruins. Trained as a classical archaeologist in her native Switzerland and in Germany, she has taught at several universities and will step to the lectern for "Ancient Greece through Its Coins" in the Extension School this coming spring. Here she holds a great treasure, a 10-drachma silver coin struck in the Greek city of Akragas in Sicily in the late fifth century B.C., with two eagles and a hare on the reverse. Only eight such coins are known. Says Arnold-Biucchi, "I never dreamed I'd have one in my collection."

A second goal is to "bind this community closer together." In the 1980s, she said, "The law school was really engaged in civil war of a kind" over ideological questions. Thereafter, she said, faculty members calmed the waters by retreating to their offices and closing their doors. Now, she hoped, it was time for faculty, students, staff, and alumni to "emerge" and function collaboratively.

How and where HLS might do so will be critical issues shaping its future. The \$100 million the campaign seeks for infrastructure represents a large down payment on a long-term master plan calling for both renovation and 260,000 square feet of new offices, residential space, and other facilities—30 percent growth from the current campus of 864,000 square feet. Much needs to be done to secure regulatory permission to proceed, so HLS is pursuing discussions with Cambridge neighbors concerning its intended use of the northwestern corner of campus along Massachusetts Avenue and Everett Street (see "North Precinct Plans," March-April, page 64, where a site map appears).

In the more distant future looms the Allston question—a fundraising issue henceforth for all Harvard schools based in Cambridge. The campaign literature finesses the issue ("Whether or not the Law School ultimately moves across the Charles River...funds will be needed to improve the current HLS campus"). One can expect other University development officers to attend closely to prospective donors' queries about the matter and reactions to Harvard's unfolding plans.

The campaign also implicitly addresses the rationale for seeking twice the largest sum ever raised by a law school. Like Harvard Business School, which prepared a sort of financial statement for its own \$500-million fundraising (see "Capitalism Campaign," November-December 2002, page 55), an appendix to the "Setting the Standard" case statement makes a limited bow toward disclosure of HLS's finances. Prospective donors can review the size of the endowment (\$840 million in mid 2002); the school's dependence on tuition and fees (in part because it lacks operations like the business school's publishing and executive-education arms); and its