Issuing Authority and Legal Tender in the Greek World

Ancient epigraphic and literary sources determine that, with few exceptions, civic issues were accepted only within the territory of the state that issued them. However, coins travelled, and the patterns of their movement changed throughout the centuries. How can we interpret the changing movement of coins and to what extent do they reflect actual coin circulation? Furthermore, coin types were sometimes imitated by other issuing authorities, thus indicating that the originals must have been accepted for payments. This, somewhat contradictory, evidence shall be discussed through specific examples.