ARCL2001
Roman Coinage
Second/third year half unit option

2015–2016

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1 Overview

The aim of the course is to provide you with a broad understanding of the development of the Roman monetary system and the current debates which surround it, both in terms of purely “numismatic” problems, but also in the broader use of coinage evidence for archaeological purposes and in the study of Roman society and economy.

Course syllabus

January 12th
1. Introduction to the course: coinage, money and exchange.
   2. Numismatic History: coinage during the early Republic.

January 19th
1. Numismatic history: coinage during the later Republic.
   2. Numismatic History: the denarius system from Augustus to Commodus.

January 26th
1. Art and propaganda in Roman coinage: the case of Augustus (Andrew Burnett)

February 2nd
1. Numismatic History: the collapse of the denarius system from the Severans to Aurelian.
   2. Numismatic History: the reforms of Aurelian and Diocletian.

February 9th
1. Numismatic History: Numismatic History: the fourth century from Constantine to the end of Fel Temp Reparatio.
   2. Numismatic History: the end of Roman coinage in the west (Sam Moorhead)

February 15th–19th Reading week.

February 23rd
1. Analysing site finds I: early methods of Casey, Reece and others.
   2. Analysing site finds II: Reece’s current methods and Lockyear’s advanced methods.

February 29th First assessment due

March 1st Coin identification practical (Adrian Popescu, Kris Lockyear)

March 8th Coin identification practical (Adrian Popescu, Kris Lockyear)

March 15th
1. Coin Hoards (Kris Lockyear)
   2. Copies, imitations and forgeries of coins: manufacture, epidemics, use and interpretation.

March 22nd Roman Provincial Coinage (John Casey)

March 24th Second assessment due.
Basic texts

You should aim to read the entirety of *Coinage in the Roman World* (Burnett, 1987). This is a short but excellent book. It has been recently reprinted and is available from Spink (69 Southampton Row). Please do not hog the limited library copies. The *Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman coinage* (Metcalf, 2012) has many period-based chapters which are essential reading for much of the monetary history part of the course. This book is available online through the library catalogue. Moorhead (2013) is excellently illustrated and a great companion to the *Handbook*.

In addition, there are a number of other books worth reading, all of which are pretty short and easy going. Howgego (1995) provides a classicists view of the usefulness of coin studies, Reece (2002) provides an overview of coinage in Roman Britain, Casey (1986) and Reece (1987a) provide information on how to analyse coin assemblages, pitfalls in interpretation and so forth. You should aim to read substantial sections (if not all) of these books.


Reading


**CASEY, P. J. 1986.** *Understanding Ancient Coins*. Batsford, London. YATES R5 CAS; INST ARCH ISSUE DESK KM CAS.

**CASEY, P. J. 1994a.** *Carausius and Allectus: the British Usurpers*. Batsford, London. INST ARCH DAA 170 CAS; INST ARCH ISSUE DESK DAA 170 CAS.


**CASEY, P. J. & R. REECE (eds.) 1988.** *Coins and the Archaeologist*. Seaby, London, second edition. The second edition of the classic work. Contains many fundamental papers (despite original critical review by Crawford); many papers revised, and new ones added in this edition — see the review by King in NC 1990. INST ARCH KM CAS; INST ARCH ISSUE DESK KM CAS.


Reece, R. 1987a. *Coinage in Roman Britain*. Seaby, London. Useful summary of his methods and results up to the mid 1980s. INST ARCH DAA 170 REE; ISSUE DESK DAA 170 REE.


**Method of Assessment**

This course is assessed by means of two pieces of course-work: an essay of 2,375–2,625 words and a data analysis exercise with a discussion of a maximum of 2,375–2,625 word discussion (it could be much less if you use the graphs well). Each contribute 50% to the final grade for the course.

If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should discuss this with the Course Co-ordinator.

The Course Co-ordinator is willing to discuss an outline of the student’s approach to the assignment, provided this is planned suitably in advance of the submission date.

The nature of the assignment and possible approaches to it will be discussed in class, in advance of the submission deadline.
Teaching methods

The course is taught via 10 two-hour sessions. *Attendance at all elements of the course is compulsory.* Of these, 16 classes will be lectures (given by KL, Andrew Burnett, Sam Moorhead and John Casey) and four will be practical coin identification classes given by KL and Adrian Popescu.

The lectures are designed to introduce you to the topics and provide necessary theoretical background to the subject. The practicals are designed to allow you to handle Roman coins and start to develop your coin identification skills.

Workload

There will be 16 hours of lectures and 4 hours of practical sessions for this course. Students will be expected to undertake around 100 hours of reading for the course, plus 68 hours preparing for and producing the assessed work. This adds up to a total workload of approximately 188 hours for the course.

Prerequisites

While there are no formal prerequisites for this course, students are advised that previous attendance at ARCL1002 is likely to facilitate comprehension of the material presented in this course. Note that the second assignment involves handling data and producing graphs, either in R or in Excel so some familiarity with one or other software package is needed. *Please let me know as soon as possible if you need help with the software.*

2 Aims, Objects and assessment

Aims of the course

The aim of the course is to provide you with a broad understanding of the development of the Roman monetary system and the current debates which surround it, both in terms of purely “numismatic” problems, but also in the broader use of coinage evidence for archaeological purposes and in the study of Roman society and economy.

Objectives of the course

This course is designed to give students

1. A history of Roman coinage as struck from the introduction of the *denarius* to the fall of Rome in the west.
2. An understanding of numismatic method and theory.
3. An understanding as to how numismatic evidence may be used in archaeological research.
4. A knowledge of the methods that can be used for the analysis of hoards and site assemblages.
5. A knowledge of some of the current debates.
6. The ability to undertake basic coin identification and cataloguing.
Learning Outcomes

Beyond the course specific aims and objectives, students should also gain experience in:

- critical reflection and the evaluation of arguments;
- the use of a spreadsheet in the analysis and presentation of a large data set;
- examining and undertaking a critique of analytical methodologies;
- constructing a logical argument;
- writing and referencing an academic text;
- independent problem-solving based on real data sets.

3 Coursework

3.1 Assessment 1: Essay

Choose one of the following essay topics. **Deadline: February 29th 2016.** The essay should be 2,375–2,625 words long. Use of appropriate tables, graphs or illustrations is strongly encouraged — they can save you words! — as are headings which can help strengthen the structure of your essay.

The Mazin and related hoards have puzzled numismatists for many years. **How might an understanding of broader concepts of money, gifts and exchange help us interpret these hoards?**

There isn’t much to read about the hoards themselves apart from the list of their contents, RRCH 142, 145 and 146 (Crawford, 1969b) and an article by Crawford (1978) and the relevant section of his later book (Crawford, 1985, pp. 222–3, Ap. 49). You will need to think about possible reasons for these very odd collections in the light of anthropological work starting with, of course, *The Gift* (Mauss, 1990). Following that there are lots of possibilities although I find the article by Valeri (1994) fascinating, and the work of Bradley (1982, 1990) very useful.


Should applied numismatists rise to the challenge posed by Kemmers and Myrberg? If so, how might their perspectives be applied in a Roman context?

Kemmers & Myrberg (2011) posed a challenge to applied numismatists to “get away from dating and the economy” and look at other aspects of interpreting coin finds. See (Lockyear, 2012) for a discussion of dating and (Howgego, 2009) looks at the problems of studying the economy. See also the papers in Coins in Context I (von Kaenel & Kemmers, 2009), and the article by (Aarts, 2005).


How did the rôle of the denarius expand and change under the Roman Republic?

Start with Woytek (2012) and the relevant sections of Burnett (1987). Crawford (1985) is a major work on this period, although not uncontroversial (see the review by Buttrey, 1989, although ignore the stuff on die estimation). You might find some of the papers in the volume edited by Burnett & Crawford (1987) useful, as might that by Lo Cascio (1981). The relevant section of the book by Harl (1996) has many oddities (use with caution) but is a good source of references.


Lo Cascio, E. 1981. ‘State and coinage in the late Republic and early Empire.’ *Journal of Roman Studies* 71: 76–86. CLASSICS PERS.


**Essay: Compare and contrast the monetary system of (a) The Roman Republic c. 100 bc; (b) at the end of Augustus’ reign and (c) in the fourth century ad.**

As always, start with the relevant bits of the books by Burnett (1987, 1991) and Howgego (1995). Quite good but quick “potted” histories are given by Casey (1994b) and Reece (2002). A more detailed (if a little old and detailed) account is given by Reece (1970). You should follow up other references where needed.


**How helpful are modern concepts of propaganda in understanding the designs used on Roman coins?**

For the bibliography for this question, see the reading list for Andrew Burnett’s lecture on page 5.5.
Discuss the metrology of Roman coinage during the first three centuries AD. What problems do we have in studying metrology and how may they be overcome?

Start with Ponting (2012), Burnett (1987) and Howgego (1995). The three volume work by Walker (1976, 1977, 1978) has been used by many people but is fundamentally flawed because the analyses are only of the surface, often not representative of the coin as a whole. Various articles by Butcher and Ponting are extremely important (Butcher & Ponting, 1995, 1998, 2005, 2015; Ponting & Gitler, 2003).

Casey (1994b) has some useful bits and the famous graph. Have a look through the series *Metallurgy in Numismatics* for other useful articles.


**How did Aurelian or Diocletian reform the coinage system?**

Start with Estiot (2012) and Abdy (2012b) (and follow-up references there-in). Crawford (1976) gives an overview of the relevant period and one set of possible reconstructions, and those by Hendy (1985) are important too. Williams (1985) gives and interesting account of the period but his comments on the coinage are out of date. The inscription discussed by Erim et al. (1971) is important. Harl (1996) is good for references but be careful with the text. Some of Lo Cascio (1996) is useful.


**How did coinage in the fourth century function?**

Start with Abdy (2012b) and Moorhead (2012). Burnett (1987, chapter 7) is also useful. The books by King (1980) and Hendy (1985) has useful information but you need to mine them carefully for relevant information. Use the book by Harl (1996) for chasing up further references.


3.2 Assessment 2: site find analysis

Deadline: Thursday March 24th 2016. As this assignment contains a practical and computing element, the final report could be shorter than official word-limit of 2,375–2,625, especially if you use graphs effectively. (You will not be penalised for being under 2,375 but you will be for being over 2,625.)

Table 1 presents a list of coins from an excavation of a small rural site in central Hertfordshire at Hook’s Cross. The coins were identified by an expert and abbreviated details written on the envelope. Your task is to tidy-up this list, and produce a report on the coins. This should contain the following elements:

1. General introduction.

2. Catalogue of coins.

3. Table showing Hooks Cross coins by issue period.

4. Analysis of the Hooks Cross data with a discussion of the method chosen and the comparative data used.

5. Discussion of the results.

For the catalogue and table you will probably not be able to resolve all the problems with the list, and so must make ‘judgement’ decisions on how to deal with some of the entries. The catalogue should be of the fuller type favoured by Casey (see Casey & Hoffman, 1999) which will mean you will need to consult RIC and LRBC. Note that all the coins are bronze issues, there are no silver or gold coins in this assemblage.

To complete this task you will need to look at some excavation reports and see how the task has been approached by other scholars, for example Richard Reece (there are lots of these in the reading list). The coins will have to be divided-up in issue periods (see discussion in

You should discuss the list in relation to other sites as published by Reece (1991b). You may use any method you consider suitable, including using the tables provided by Reece, Reece’s graphical methods, or more statistical methods. You can use all Reece’s data or subsets of it (e.g., Hertfordshire sites, rural sites etc.). You may find the article by Moorhead (2015) helpful.

For published examples using Reece’s data see (Guest, 2008a) and Garrard (2010).

You will need to download two files from the web from Moodle. The first, hcross.xls, is the Hook’s Cross data, the second, cbook01.xls is Reece’s 140 sites data. Both are Excel spreadsheets.

NB. HK is Reece’s abbreviation for Late Roman Bronze Coinage. Part I and CK for Part II (Carson et al., 1978). Copies of all the catalogues are available in the library and for consultation in my room.

References for Assessment 2


REECE, R. 1987a. Coinage in Roman Britain. Seaby, London. Useful summary of his methods and results up to the mid 1980s. INST ARCH DAA 170 REE; ISSUE DESK DAA 170 REE.


REECE, R. 2002. The Coinage of Roman Britain. Tempus, Stroud. INST ARCH KM REE.

Deadlines


If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should discuss this with the Course Co-ordinator.

Students are not permitted to re-write and re-submit essays in order to try to improve their marks. However, students may be permitted, in advance of the deadline for a given assignment, to submit for comment a brief outline of the assignment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urbs Roma</td>
<td>HK76</td>
<td>330–35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tetricus II</td>
<td>as RIC 270</td>
<td>270–73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Radiate</td>
<td>rev Mars</td>
<td>270–90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Radiate</td>
<td>rev illegible</td>
<td>270–90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnentius</td>
<td>copy as CK8</td>
<td>350–60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tetricus I</td>
<td>as RIC 130</td>
<td>270–73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tetricus I</td>
<td>as RIC 121</td>
<td>270–73</td>
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<td>Theodora</td>
<td>HK120</td>
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<td>Constantine I</td>
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<td>350–60</td>
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<td>Carausius</td>
<td>rev illegible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Radiate</td>
<td>rev Pax</td>
<td>270–90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallienus</td>
<td>as RIC 280</td>
<td>260–68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Radiate</td>
<td>rev Altar</td>
<td>270–90</td>
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<td>Constantine I</td>
<td>RIC 6 London 155</td>
<td>310–17</td>
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<td>Carausius</td>
<td>RIC as 362</td>
<td>286–93</td>
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<tr>
<td>House of Constantine</td>
<td>rev illegible</td>
<td>330–60</td>
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<td>Illegible</td>
<td>illegible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Radiate</td>
<td>rev Salus</td>
<td>270–90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constantine I</td>
<td>as RIC 6 Trier 203a</td>
<td>293–305</td>
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<td>House of Constantine</td>
<td>copy as HK137</td>
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<td>as HK137</td>
<td>345–55</td>
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<tr>
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<td>copy as CK25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Radiate</td>
<td>rev Salus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constantinopolis</td>
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<td>Carausius</td>
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<td>? Constantine I</td>
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<td>Barb Radiate</td>
<td>rev Fides</td>
<td>270–90</td>
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<td>? Claudius II</td>
<td>? as RIC 18</td>
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<td>Allectus</td>
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<td>House of Constantine</td>
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<td>Claudius II</td>
<td>RIC 266</td>
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<td>as RIC 100</td>
<td>270–73</td>
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<td>Maximian</td>
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<td>Constantinopolis</td>
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<td>Claudius II</td>
<td>as RIC 104</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Constantine</td>
<td>copy as CK25</td>
<td>350–60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: The Hooks Cross find data.
Word-length

The following should not be included in the word-count: title page, contents pages, lists of figure and tables, abstract, preface, acknowledgements, bibliography, lists of references, captions and contents of tables and figures, appendices. The word length for both assignments is 2,375–2,625. Penalties will only be imposed if you exceed the upper figure in the range. There is no penalty for using fewer words than the lower figure in the range: the lower figure is simply for your guidance to indicate the sort of length that is expected.

4 Schedule and syllabus

Teaching schedule

Lectures/practicals will be held 11am–1pm on Tuesdays in room 412.

5 Reading Lists and Lecture summaries

The following is an outline for the course as a whole, and identifies essential and supplementary readings relevant to each session. Information is provided as to where in the UCL library system individual readings are available; their location and Teaching Collection (TC) number, and status (whether out on loan) can also be accessed on the “Explore” computer catalogue system. Readings considered essential to keep up with the topics covered in the course are noted at the start of each section. Copies of individual articles and chapters identified as essential reading are in the Teaching Collection in the Institute Library (where permitted by copyright). Remember that many journals are now available online, e.g., The Numismatic Chronicle, check out jstor via the library catalogue. A number of books, for example The Oxford Handbook to Greek and Roman Coinage are also available electronically via the library catalogue.

5.1 Introduction to the course: coinage, money and exchange

This session will introduce the course and get you to handle some coins. We will think about what we could use coinage evidence for and its limitations. We will also think about its role in the study of the economy.

Crockett (1979, chapter 1) provides the rationalist theory for the origin of money, cf. Crump (1981) and Gregory (1982, esp. p. 11). The other papers are an eclectic selection intended to look at exchange and money in a wide range of contexts.

Essential reading for this class is the paper by Kemmers & Myrberg (2011).

Reading


5.2 Numismatic History: coinage during the early Republic

This course will look at the development of coinage in Italy from the earliest Roman coins up to the introduction of the denarius system in 211 BC.

The essential reading for this lecture is Burnett (2012).

The standard catalogue for the Roman Republic is that by Crawford (1974) who has also produced a corpus of coin hoards (Crawford, 1969b). His *Coinage and Money under the Roman Republic* Crawford (1985) is an important, if controversial book (see the review by Buttrey, 1989).

Reading


Crawford, M. H. 1974. Roman Republican Coinage. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. The standard catalogue of this material which should be used to reference Republican coins. Yates R30 CRA; Inst Arch Issue Desk KM QTO CRA.


5.3 Numismatic history: coinage during the later Republic

This lecture will look at the development of the denarius system under the Roman Republic. The essential reading for this lecture is Woytek (2012). Mattingly (2004, chapters 13 and 16) has some important material for the dating of issues.

Reading


This lecture will consider the changes in the coinage system implemented during the reign of Augustus, and then various changes and debasements that occurred thereafter.

The essential readings for this lecture are Wolters (2012), Carradice (2012), Amandry (2012), Beckmann (2012) and Yarrow (2012).

**Reading**


5.5 Art and propaganda under Augustus (Andrew Burnett)

The imagery on coins has attracted a great deal of attention as to meaning and purpose. This lecture will take the coinage of Augustus as an example and examine the choice of designs from both an artistic and a political viewpoint.

Essential reading is Wallace-Hadrill (1986)

Reading


5.6 Estimating the size of coin issues: the Crawford–Buttrey debate

Estimating the volume of coin production is a topic which has generated considerably more heat than light. This lecture will look at one specific case in detail, that of the production of the denarius during the later Republic.

Essential reading is my paper (Lockyear, 1999).

Reading


5.7 Numismatic History: the collapse of the denarius system from the Severans to Aurelian

This lecture will examine what happened in the third century from the introduction of a new coin, variously called the antoninianus or the radiate, and the reform of the coinage in the latter part of the third century.

The essential readings for this lecture are Abdy (2012a), Bland (2012) and Estiot (2012).

Reading


5.8 Numismatic History: the reforms of Aurelian and Diocletian

This lecture will examine the extremely important reforms of the coinage by Aurelian and Diocletian, and the various possible reconstructions of the system. Williams (1985) is good for the history of the period but his comments on the coinage are out of date, and Harl (1996) is good for references but be careful with the text.

Essential readings are Estiot (2012) and Abdy (2012b), as well as the relevant parts of the book by Hendy (1985).

Reading


5.9 Numismatic History: Numismatic History: the fourth century from Constantine to the end of *Fel Temp Reparatio*

This lecture will look at the changes in the coinage from Constantine until the end of the *Fel Temp Reparatio* issues.

The essential reading for this lecture is Abdy (2012b).

Reading


5.10 Numismatic History: the last century of Roman Coinage in the West

This lecture by Sam Moorhead will survey the final century of Roman coinage in the west.

The essential reading is Moorhead (2012).

Reading


5.11 Analysing site finds I: early methods of Casey, Reece and others

This lecture will look at how assemblages of coins from excavations have been analysed up to c. 1995, and in particular the development of coinage periods by Reece, Casey and others, and the wide variety of graphical methods used in the analysis of these assemblages.

Reece (1987a) summarises his work up to that date, and his latest book gives the results (although not the methods) since then (Reece, 2002). Papers in *Coins and the Archaeologist* are represent some important early work (Casey & Reece, 1974, 1988). There is plenty of data to play with published by Reece (1991b). The remainder of the reading list consists of some of the many useful articles published on this topic, and overlaps with the next lecture.

Reading


REECE, R. 1987a. Coinage in Roman Britain. Seaby, London. Useful summary of his methods and results up to the mid 1980s. INST ARCH DAA 170 REE; ISSUE DESK DAA 170 REE.


5.12 Analysing site finds II: Reece’s current methods and Lockyear’s advanced methods

This lecture will look at Reece’s current method for analysing site finds and compare it to the use of two statistical methods, Cluster Analysis and Correspondence Analysis.

The essential readings for this lecture are the articles by Reece (1995b) and Lockyear (2000). Reports using Reece’s latest method includes those by Reece (1998) and Esmonde Cleary (2001). Many of the articles listed for the previous lecture are also relevant here. Other applied numismatic papers are also listed.

Reading

5.13 Practicals

Four hours of coin identification practicals.

5.14 Hoards and hoarding

This lecture will examine the nature of hoarding. Why do people hoard? What uses do numismatists and archaeologists use coin hoards for? What can they tell us about patterns of coinage production and use? What are the problems and pitfalls in the interpretation of coin hoard evidence?


HOBBS, R. 2006. *Late Roman precious metal deposits, c. AD 200–700: changes over time and space*. BAR International Series No. 1504, Oxford. INST ARCH KEA 3 QTO HOB.


5.15 Copies, imitations and forgeries of coins: manufacture, epidemics, use and interpretation

The copying and forgery of coins became endemic almost as soon as coinage was invented. This lecture looks at some of the aspects of the copying of coins including the technology of copying, the difference between 'copies' and 'forgeries' and periods of endemic copying.

The essential reading for this lecture is King (1996) although Boon (1988) is extremely useful.


5.16 Roman Provincial Coinage (John Casey)

Details and bibliography to be announced although many of the chapters in *The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Coinage* cover provincial issues.

5.17 Websites

There are lots of websites but please be careful with them. Many are written by enthusiastic but ignorant amateurs, and many are for collectors and dealers. Some useful ones include the list below.

- Royal Numismatic Society (including bibliography of articles in *The Numismatic Chronicle*).
  http://www.numismatics.org.uk/

- The American Numismatic Society. Lots of useful pages and links including *Numismatic Literature*.
  http://www.numismatics.org/

- The Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Rather odd in places but some useful parts especially the bibliography.
  http://www.coinbooks.org/

- The Harry Bass Foundation maintains an index of numismatic journals.
  http://www.harrybassfoundation.org/search_numlit.asp

- *De Imperatoribus Romanis: An Online Encyclopedia of Roman Rulers and their Families*.
  http://www.roman-emperors.org/

- The Virtual Catalog of Roman Coins.
  http://vcrc.austincollege.edu/

- *Coin Hoards of the Roman Republic Online* is the online version of my coinage database:
  http://numismatics.org/chrr/.

6 Online resources

Information will be posted on Moodle for course ARCL2001, including resources needed for the second assignment. Previous course participants have been contributing to a Roman coinage wiki. You will be asked to contribute to this.

7 Additional information

Libraries and other resources

In addition to the Library of the Institute of Archaeology, other libraries in UCL with holdings of particular relevance to this degree are the main library in the classics and history section. Additional copies of some works can be found in the Senate House library.
Information for intercollegiate and interdepartmental students

Students enrolled in Departments outside the Institute should obtain the Institute’s course-work guidelines from Judy Medrington (email j.medrington@ucl.ac.uk), which will also be available on the IoA website.