From Caesar to Augustus (c. 49 BC–AD 14)

This unique book provides the student of Roman history with an accessible and detailed introduction to Roman and provincial coinage in the Late Republic and Early Empire in the context of current historical themes and debates. Almost two hundred different coins are illustrated at double life size, with each described in detail, and technical Latin and numismatic terms are explained. Chapters are arranged chronologically, allowing students quickly to identify material relevant to Julius Caesar, the second triumvirate, the relationship between Antony and Cleopatra, and the principate of Augustus. Iconography, archaeological contexts, and the economy are clearly presented. A diverse array of material is brought together in a single volume to challenge and enhance our understanding of the transition from Republic to Empire.

Clare Rowan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick. She bridges the disciplines of Roman history and numismatics, with recognised research excellence, having won a European Research Council Starting Grant, while her teaching excellence has been recognised through numerous awards, including the Warwick Award for Teaching Excellence and an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Award for Programmes that Enhance Learning (shared). She is the editor of the Coins at Warwick blog, which encourages and disseminates studies of different coins and what they reveal about the ancient world.
Guides to the Coinage of the Ancient World

General Editor
Andrew Meadows, University of Oxford

Coinage is a major source of evidence for the study of the ancient world but is often hard for those studying and teaching ancient history to grasp. Each volume in the series provides a concise introduction to the most recent scholarship and ideas for a commonly studied period or area, and suggests ways in which numismatic evidence may contribute to its social, political and economic history. The volumes are richly illustrated, with full explanatory captions, and so can also function as a numismatic sourcebook for the period or area in question.

Titles in the series
The Hellenistic World: Using Coins as Sources
by Peter Thonemann

From Caesar to Augustus (c. 49 BC–AD 14): Using Coins as Sources
by Clare Rowan
From Caesar to Augustus
(c. 49 BC–AD 14)
Using Coins as Sources

CLARE ROWAN
University of Warwick
Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Preface

List of Abbreviations

1 Approaching Coinage in the Late Roman Republic
   1.1 What was Money in the Roman World? 2
   1.2 Money and the Roman Economy 7
   1.3 The Practicalities of Coinage Production 12
   1.4 Using Coin Reference Works (RRC, RIC, RPC) 19

2 Competition, Legitimacy and Civil War (49–44 BC)
   2.1 From the Rubicon to Dictator for Life: Julius Caesar 24
   2.2 The Battle for Legitimacy: Pompeians after the Death of Pompey 40
   2.3 Caesar’s Elephant in the Provinces 50

3 Competition and Conflict after Caesar (44–36 BC)
   3.1 Caesar’s Inheritance: Antony versus Octavian 57
   3.2 Apollo and Libertas on the Coinage of Brutus and Cassius 65
   3.3 Piety, Neptune and the Sea: Sextus Pompey 72
   3.4 The Second Triumvirate and Roman Women 79
   3.5 The ‘Fleet Coinage’ of Mark Antony 86

4 The View from the East: Cleopatra and Mark Antony
   (38–31 BC)
   4.1 Cleopatra and the Monetary System of Ptolemaic Egypt 89
   4.2 The Coinage of Antony and Cleopatra 92
   4.3 Antony’s Supporters: Atratinus and Sosius 96
   4.4 Support in the Provinces 100
   4.5 The Donations of Alexandria 106
   4.6 The Legionary Denarii of Mark Antony 109

5 Representing the Augustan Principate (31 BC–AD 14)
   5.1 Octavian the Divine: Coinage before and after Actium 118
   5.2 The Restorer of the Republic 123
   5.3 Senatorial Honours and Augustus’ Titles 126
   5.4 Innovation and Tradition in Rome 130
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.5 The Saecular Games</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6 The Augustan Building Programme</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7 Imperial or Provincial? Augustan Coinage in the Provinces</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8 Provincial Responses to Augustan Ideology</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9 Establishing the Succession: Gaius, Lucius and Tiberius</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.10 After Augustus</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Coins and Daily Life</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Supplying the Army</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 Kalkriese and the Battle of Teutoburg Forest</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3 Coins in Ritual Practice</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4 Small Change in the City</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guide to Further Reading</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appendices</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Timeline</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Latin Numismatic Abbreviations</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Glossary (by Andrew Meadows, updated and revised by the author)</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Denominational Systems (by Andrew Meadows)</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 The Production of Ancient Coinage (by Andrew Meadows)</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bibliography</strong></td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Index</strong></td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tables

1 Main denominations of the denarius system after c. 141/0 BC.  
2 Main denominations of the Roman monetary system under Augustus.  
3 The titles of Caesar on Roman coinage, 49–44 BC.  
4 The ‘fleet coinage’ of Mark Antony.  
5 Contents of the Actium Hoard (ACT in Lockyear 2013, RRCH 473). *Terminus post quem* 31 BC.  
6 Number of dies for the CAESAR DIVI F and IMP CAESAR series. Data taken from Sutherland and Carson 1984, 30.  
7 Selection of ‘purses’ from Kalkriese.  

*page* 4 
4 
35 
86 
111 
122 
174
Figures

1.1. Terms used to describe a coin. Created by author. page 3

1.2. Semis of Paestum, Augustan period (?), HN Italy 1258, ANS 1967.152.70. 14

1.3. Semis of Paestum, early first century BC, HN Italy 1238, Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 27, lot 41. 14

1.4. Denarius, mint moving with Pompey, 49 BC, RRC 444/1a, ANS 1944.100.3267. 15

1.5. Denarius, Rome, 44 BC, RRC 480/3, ANS 1944.100.3630. 17

1.6. Denarius, mint moving with Antony, c. 33–32 BC, RRC 542/1, ANS 1944.100.6302. 18

1.7. Bronze coin, uncertain mint (Laodiceia-ad-Lycum?), 88 BC (?) or Caesarian period (?), RRC 550/2e, ANS 1944.100.6938. 20


2.2. Occurrences of RRC 439/1 (50 BC) in hoards. Data retrieved from <http://numismatics.org/chrr> on <16/12/16>. 25

2.3. Occurrences of RRC 443/1 (49 BC) in hoards. Data retrieved from <http://numismatics.org/chrr> on <16/12/16>. 26

2.4. Denarius, Rome, 48 BC, RRC 448/2a, ANS 1937.158.247. 28

2.5. Denarius, Rome, 48 BC, RRC 448/3, ANS 1944.100.3279. 28

2.6. Denarius, mint moving with Julius Caesar, 48–47 BC, RRC 452/2, ANS 1948.19.225. 29

2.7. Denarius, Rome, 48 BC, RRC 450/1a, ANS 1957.172.111. 29

2.8. Denarius, Rome, 48 BC, RRC 449/4, ANS 1937.158.252. 30

2.9. Denarius, the eastern Mediterranean, 47–46 BC, RRC 458/1, ANS 1937.158.262. 31

2.10. Aureus, Rome, 46 BC, RRC 466/1, ANS 1980.109.152. 32

2.11. Theoretical die sequence. Diagram created by author. 33

2.12. Denarius, uncertain mint, 46 BC, RRC 467/1b, ANS 1944.100.3337. 37
List of Figures

2.13. Denarius, Rome, 44 BC, RRC 480/19, ANS 1944.100.3636. 37
2.14. Denarius, Rome, 44 BC, RRC 480/1, ANS 1944.100.3607. 38
2.15. Denarius, Rome, 44 BC, RRC 480/3, ANS 1937.158.290. 39
2.16. Brass 24mm of Nicaea (Bithynia), 47/6 BC, RPC 1 2026, ANS 1944.100.42156. 40
2.17. Denarius, Apollonia Mordiaeum (Pisdia), 49 BC, RRC 445/1b, ANS 1941.131.290. 41
2.18. Denarius, Rome, 56 BC, RRC 426/4b, ANS 1944.100.2621. 41
2.19. Denarius, African mint, 47–46 BC, RRC 460/2, ANS 1944.100.3307. 43
2.21. Denarius, North Italian mint, 81 BC, RRC 374/2, ANS 1937.158.112. 44
2.22. Denarius, African mint, 47–46 BC, RRC 459/1, ANS 1944.100.3305. 45
2.23. Denarius, North Italian mint, 81 BC, RRC 374/1, ANS 1957.172.27. 45
2.24. Bronze 29mm, Numidia, Juba I, 60–46 BC, ANS 1944.100.81054. 46
2.25. Denarius, African mint, 47–46 BC, RRC 461/1, ANS 1944.100.3309. 46
2.27. Denarius, Spanish mint, 46–45 BC, RRC 469/1a, ANS 1937.158.279. 48
2.28. Denarius, Spanish mint, 46–45 BC, RRC 470/1b, ANS 2012.34.17. 49
2.29. Denarius, Spanish mint, 45–44 BC, RRC 477/1a, ANS 1944.100.3553. 49
List of Figures


2.33. Bronze 22mm, Osicerda, 49–40 BC, ACIP 1292–3, ANS 1944.100.83987.

2.34. Silver quinarius, Rome, 47 BC, RRC 454/3, Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 63, lot 367.


2.36. Bronze 22–23mm, Hadrumentum, 6–5 BC, RPC 1 781, ANS 1944.100.79606.

2.37. Bronze 17–18mm, Thrace, c. 48–42 BC, RPC 1 1703, Classical Numismatic Group Inc., Electronic Auction 364, lot 263.

2.38. Aureus, mint moving with Brutus and Cassius, 43–42 BC, RRC 505/4, ANS 1944.100.4550.


3.2. Denarius, Rome, 44 BC, RRC 480/22, ANS 1944.100.3637.


3.4. Denarius, mint in Gallia Transalpina and Cisalpina, 43 BC, RRC 488/1, ANS 1937.158.306.

3.5. Aureus, mint in Gallia Cisalpina and Italy, 43 BC, RRC 490/2, ANS 1967.153.29.

3.6. Denarius, mint in Gallia Cisalpina and Italy, 43 BC, RRC 490/1, ANS 1955.21.1.


3.9. Leaded bronze 29–30mm, Italian mint, c. 38 BC (?), RRC 535/1 = RPC 1 620, ANS 1944.100.6017.

3.10. Bronze 29–30mm, Italian mint, c. 38 BC (?), RRC 535/2 = RPC 1 621, ANS 1944.100.6022.

3.11. Denarius, mint moving with Octavian, 38 BC, RRC 534/2, ANS 1944.100.6004.

3.15. Aureus, mint moving with Cassius, 43–42 BC, RRC 498/1,
Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 51, lot 108.
3.16. Denarius, mint moving with Brutus, 43–42 BC, RRC 501/1,
ANS 1944.100.4546.
3.17. Denarius, Rome, 55/54 BC, RRC 433/2, ANS 1944.100.3245.
3.19. Aureus, mint moving with Brutus, 43–42 BC, RRC 506/1,
Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 24, lot 6.
3.20. Denarius, mint moving with Brutus, 43–42 BC, RRC 508/3,
ANS 1944.100.4554.
3.21. Aureus, mint moving with Brutus and Cassius, 43–42 BC,
RRC 505/1, ANS 1967.153.32.
3.22. Denarius, mint moving with Brutus and Cassius, 43–42
BC, RRC 505/3, Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG,
Auction 83, lot 494.
3.27. Aureus, Rome, 42 BC, RRC 494/3a, Numismatica Ars
Classica NAC AG, Auction 31, lot 6.
3.28. Denarius, Rome, 108/7 BC, RRC 308/1a, ANS 1944.100.644.
3.30. Aureus, mint moving with Ahenobarbus, 41 BC, RRC 519/1,
Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 83, lot 509.
3.31. Denarius, mint moving with Ahenobarbus, 41 BC,
RRC 519/2, ANS 1944.100.4798.
3.32. Aureus, mint in Cisalpine Gaul, 43 BC, RRC 492/1,
Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 83, lot 460.
3.33. Leaded bronze 18mm, Fulvia/Eumenea, c. 41–40 BC,
RPC 1 3139, Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG,
Auction 78, lot 762.
3.34. Quinarius, Lugdunum, 42 BC, RPC 1 513 = RRC 489/6,
ANS 1944.100.4491.
3.35. Cistophorus, Ephesus (?), c. 39 BC, RPC 1 2201,
ANS 1935.117.40.
List of Figures

3.36. Cistophorus, Ephesus (?), c. 39 BC, RPC 1 2202, ANS 1944.100.7032. 84

3.37. Cistophorus, reign of Hadrian, Alabanda, Metcalf 35, ACANS inv. 07GH411 (Gale Collection). Courtesy of the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies, Macquarie University. 85

3.38. Sestertius, Peloponnesian mint, 34mm, 38 BC, RPC 1 1453, ANS 1944.100.7100. 87


4.2. Bronze 29–30mm, Paphos (Cyprus), 47–31 BC, RPC 1 3901, ANS 1951.116.420. 91

4.3. Denarius, mint moving with Antony, 38 BC, RRC 533/2, ANS 1937.158.355. 92

4.4. Denarius, mint moving with Antony, 36 BC, RRC 539/1, ANS 1944.100.6056. 93

4.5. Aureus, mint moving with Antony, 34 BC, RRC 541/2, Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 54, lot 285. 93

4.6. Denarius, mint moving with Antony, 32 BC, RRC 543/1, ANS 1941.131.350. 94


4.8. Map of places mentioned in Chapter 4. 96

4.9. Bronze 19mm, Sparta, 43–31 BC, RPC 1 1101, LHS Numismatik AG, Auction 96, lot 900. 97


4.11. Bronze 17mm, Zacynthus, c. 34 BC, RPC 1 1292, ANS 1944.100.38799. 98


4.15. Bronze 21mm, Philippi, 42–30 BC, RPC 1 1647, ANS 1944.100.10656.

4.16. Leaded bronze 27mm, Thessalonica, 37 BC, RPC 1 1551, ANS 1944.100.11863.

4.17. Leaded bronze 20mm, Thessalonica, 37 BC, RPC 1 1553, ANS 1991.9.188.


4.20. Bronze 21mm, Patras, 32–31 BC (?), RPC 1 1245, LHS Numismatik AG, Auction 96, lot 531.


4.22. Bronze 20mm, Chalcis, 32/31 BC, RPC 1 4771, ANS 1944.100.70149.


4.25. Bronze 25mm, Damascus, 37/6 BC, RPC 1 4781, ANS 1944.100.79323.


4.27. Denarius, mint moving with Antony, c. 32–31 BC, RRC 544/12, ANS 1944.100.6311.


5.1. Denarius, uncertain Italian mint, c. 34–29 BC, RIC 1² 250a, ANS 1944.100.39138.

5.2. Denarius, uncertain Italian mint, c. 34–29 BC, RIC 1² 251, ANS 1950.70.4.
List of Figures

5.3. Denarius, uncertain Italian mint, c. 34–29 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 254B, ANS 1944.100.39139. 119
5.4. Denarius, uncertain Italian mint, c. 34–29 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 256, ANS 1937.158.439. 119
5.5. Denarius, uncertain Italian mint, c. 29–27 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 269a, ANS 1957.172.1504. 120
5.6. Denarius, uncertain Italian mint, c. 29–27 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 270, ANS 1954.203.150. 120
5.7. Denarius, uncertain Italian mint, c. 29–27 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 271, ANS 1937.158.448. 121
5.8. Denarius, uncertain Italian mint, c. 29–27 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 272, ANS 1947.2.413. 122
5.9. Denarius, uncertain Italian mint, c. 29–27 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 275, ANS 1944.100.39163. 123
5.10. Cistophorus, Ephesus, c. 28 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 476 = RPC 1 2203, ANS 1937.158.453. 124
5.11. Aureus, Ephesus (?), c. 28 BC, Blackburn Museum, RNUM.063004. 125
5.12. Aureus, uncertain Italian mint, c. 27 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 277, Numismatica Ars Classica, NAC AG Auction 67, lot 106. 127
5.13. Denarius, uncertain Spanish mint 2 (Colonia Patricia?), c. 19 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 86a, ANS 1944.100.39063. 127
5.14. Denarius, Rome, 12 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 415, ANS 1944.100.38345. 128
5.15. Denarius, uncertain Spanish mint 2 (Colonia Patricia?), c. 18 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 96, ANS 1906.236.201. 129
5.16. Aureus, Lugdunum, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 219, AD 13–14, UBS Gold and Numismatics, Auction 75, lot 1007. 129
5.17. Dupondius, Rome, AD 21–22, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} Tiberius 47, ANS 1992.121.76. 130
5.19. Denarius, Rome, c. 19–18 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 301, ANS 1944.100.38316. 132
5.20. Denarius serratus, Rome, 71 BC, RRC 401/1, ANS 1937.158.147. 133
5.21. Denarius, Rome, c. 19–18 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 309, ANS 1937.158.383. 133
5.22. Denarius, Rome, c. 19 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 310, ANS 1944.100.38321. 133
5.23. Denarius, Rome, c. 19 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 322, ANS 1937.158.364. 134
5.24. As, Rome, c. 22–19 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 382, ANS 1944.100.38350.


5.26. Gold multiple (Au4, 30mm, 31.97 g), uncertain mint, 27 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 546. Photo: Fernando Velasco Mora, Museo Arqueológico Nacional, Spain (N.I. 1921/9/1).

5.27. Denarius, uncertain Spanish mint 1 (Colonia Caesaraugusta?), 19–18 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 37a, ANS 1944.100.39031.


5.29. Denarius, mint moving with Octavian, 36 BC, RRC 540/2, ANS 1937.158.360.


5.31. Denarius, uncertain Spanish mint 2 (Colonia Patricia?), c. 18 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 105a, ANS 1937.158.417.

5.32. Denarius, uncertain Spanish mint 2 (Colonia Patricia?), c. 18 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 115, ANS 1954.203.148.

5.33. Cistophorus, Pergamum, 19–18 BC, RPC 1 2220 = RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 507, ANS 1937.158.454.

5.34. Bronze 25mm, 13.76g, Alexandria, after 19 BC, RPC 1 5003, ANS 1944.100.6967.

5.35. Denarius, Rome, c. 16 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 362, ANS 1944.100.38335.

5.36. Denarius, Rome, c. 16 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 356, ANS 1972.134.1.

5.37. Denarius, Rome, c. 16 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 358, ANS 1955.22.7.

5.38. Aureus, uncertain Spanish mint 2 (Colonia Patricia?), c. 18–17/16 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 140, Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 84, lot 1728.


5.40. Denarius, uncertain mint 2 (Colonia Patricia?), c. 18–17/16 BC, RIC 1\textsuperscript{2} 145, ANS 1944.100.39075.

5.41. Map of places mentioned in Chapter 5.
5.43. Denarius, Emerita Augusta, c. 25–23 BC, RIC 1^2 9, ANS 1944.100.39023.
5.44. Bronze 27mm, Nemausus, c. 16/15(?–10 BC, RPC 1 523, ANS 1944.100.68863.
5.45. Sestertius, Lugdunum, AD 9–14, RIC 1^2 231a, ANS 1944.100.39131.
5.46. Brass 35mm, mint in Asia (?), c. 25 BC, RPC 1 2234, ANS 1944.100.39189.
5.47. Bronze 27mm, Antioch, c. 5/4 BC, RPC 1 4246, ANS 1995.87.1.
5.48. Leaded bronze 26mm, Philippi, reign of Augustus, RPC 1 1650, ANS 1944.100.10663.
5.49. Brass 20mm, Pergamum, c. AD 1 (?), RPC 1 2362, ANS 1944.100.43375.
5.50. Cistophorus, Pergamum, 19–18 BC, RPC 1 2219, ANS 1944.100.39187.
5.52. Bronze 20–22mm, Lepcis Magna, reign of Augustus, RPC 1 845, ANS 1944.100.79595.
5.54. Bronze 13mm, Smyrna, c. AD 4–14, RPC 1 2468, ANS 1944.100.47008.
5.55. Leaded bronze 19mm, Smyrna, c. 10 BC (?), RPC 1 2464, ANS 1944.100.47011.
5.56. Leaded bronze 19mm, Smyrna, c. AD 4–14, RPC 1 2467, ANS 1944.100.47014.
5.57. Leaded bronze 18mm, Aegae (Asia), 10–1 BC, RPC 1 2428, ANS 2008.29.18.
5.61. Denarius, Lugdunum, 9–8 BC, RIC 1^2 199, ANS 1944.100.39112.
5.63. Denarius, Lugdunum, c. 2 BC–c. AD 5 or later, RIC 1² 207, ANS 1954.203.149.
5.64. Denarius, Lugdunum (?), c. 2 BC – c. AD 5 or later, RIC 1² 212, ANS 1950.70.3.
5.67. Denarius, Lugdunum, AD 13–14, RIC 1² 222, ANS 1944.100.39116.
5.68. Denarius, Lugdunum, AD 13–14, RIC 1² 226, ANS 1944.100.39115.
5.69. As, Rome, AD 14–37, RIC 1² Tiberius 72, ANS 1944.100.39230.
5.70. Sestertius, Rome, AD 35–36, RIC 1² Tiberius 62, ANS 1944.100.39214.
5.71. As, Rome, AD 34–37, RIC 1² Tiberius 82, ANS 1944.100.39231.
6.3. Lugdunum as with countermark VAR on the obverse, ANS 1944.100.53383.
6.4. As of Lugdunum from Kalkriese showing cut marks and piercings. © Varusschlacht im Osnabrücker Land.
6.5. Brass 18–19mm, quadrans (?), auxiliary mint of Lugdunum, c. 10 BC, RPC 1 508 = RIC 1² 227, ANS 1951.61.30.
6.6. Brass 18–19mm, quadrans (?), auxiliary mint of Lugdunum, c. 10 BC, RPC 1 509 = RIC 1² 228, ANS 1944.100.78386.
6.7. Thesaurus from Orvieto in situ. From Ranucci 2011, pl. II.
6.9. Bronze coin of Cyrene, 260–96 BC, 13mm, 1.85g, BMC 30, ANS 1944.100.79539.
6.10. Bronze coin of Corinth, 400–200 BC, 1.58g, ANS 1944.100.37152.
6.12. Terracotta lamp of the first century AD, Metropolitan Museum New York, Rogers Fund, 1906; Met. 06.1021.291. 188
7.1. Diagram illustrating the coin striking process. 210
Preface

This book began when Andrew Meadows asked if I might write a volume for a series that aimed to provide affordable and accessible introductions to coinage for students of ancient history. I was happily assigned the period 49 BC to AD 14. The final result differs from the first volume released in the series (Peter Thonemann’s *The Hellenistic World: Using Coins as Sources*), in that it focuses on particular moments in time, inviting an examination of numismatic evidence relevant to a particular individual or period of history. Since the civil wars and the Augustan age are often taught separately, the volume is more chronological than thematic. The case study approach largely reflects the way coinage is used by historians of this period, although it is hoped that the breadth of coin types covered here may provoke wider thinking about connections between the late Republic and early Empire.

The historical narrative of this period is already covered in several other excellent books; consequently this volume is not intended to provide an overview of ‘what happened’. Rather this book shows how coinage can be used to enhance, challenge, and change our understanding of the period 49 BC–AD 14. The first chapter provides an entry point into the world of numismatics, exploring what money was, who made it, and how it operated in the economy, with the key literature explained. The second chapter covers the civil war and the first triumvirate, exploring the different coinage struck by the supporters of Caesar and Pompey, as well as provincial reactions. The aftermath of Caesar’s assassination in 44 BC and the competition between Antony, Octavian and Sextus Pompey form a focal point for the third chapter, with the fourth focusing on Antony and Cleopatra. The principate of Augustus is examined in the fifth chapter, and the volume ends with a consideration of coinage in daily life. Often coin types are discussed in isolation as if they were viewed in some sort of ancient museum or art gallery; the reality is much messier, and I urge all readers to consider coin imagery in the light of Chapter 6.

A small volume cannot be exhaustive, and readers are encouraged to explore beyond what is covered here for further evidence and case studies. Although the traditional apprehensions ancient historians might feel towards coin evidence are diminishing, it is hoped that this volume will
further encourage the use of this material in the study of antiquity. Many of the coins from this period are now freely available online in glorious colour, and direction is given to these resources, as well as a further bibliography, at the end of the volume. Here readers will also find a timeline, an index of Latin abbreviations commonly found on coins in this period and their meanings, and a glossary of technical terms. The figure captions provide the denomination, the location of the mint, the authority or moneyer responsible for the issue (where relevant), the date and a standard reference, followed by a description of the obverse (Obv.) and reverse (Rev.). Space constraints mean only an abbreviated description of each type is given. The denominations of many provincial bronze coins are uncertain, so frequently the metal and diameter of the coin is given instead. Unless specified, all coin images are reproduced at a scale of 2:1.

Thanks are due to Andrew Meadows for approaching me to write the volume in the first instance, and for providing guidance and feedback on several drafts. Alison Cooley helpfully read the Augustus chapter and provided comment. Thanks are owed to Tom Hillard and Lea Beness, who read the chapters on the late Republic, and who first taught me Republican history in Sydney as an undergraduate. The volume has also been influenced by conversations with Kathryn Welch, whose support of scholars of the Roman Republic is unflagging. Hannah Mitchell, Suzanne Frey-Kupper, Liv Yarrow, Kevin Butcher and Andrew McCabe have all provided assistance (even if they were unaware at the time), and I have been able to test out sections on the wonderful Warwick undergraduate body. The Coinage of the Roman Revolution panel at the Celtic Classics Conference in Dublin in 2016 both assured me I had included a representative sample of the material, and provided final points of finesse to the volume – thanks are due to Anton Powell and Nandini Pandey, who organised the panel, and to all the participants of that event. Finally, thanks are owed to the anonymous readers of the manuscript and Michael Sharp at Cambridge University Press, who waited patiently for the volume to finally appear. This book is dedicated to Ronika: as always, this is shared.
Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used:


AE   L’Année Épigraphique (1888–)

AJN  American Journal of Numismatics

ANS  American Numismatic Society

App. Appian, The Civil Wars


Caes. BCiv. Julius Caesar, The Civil War

CIL  Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum (1863–)

Dio Cassius Dio, Roman History


IG  Inscriptiones Graecae (Berlin, 1873–)

JRS Journal of Roman Studies


NC The Numismatic Chronicle

Obv. Obverse

Rev. Reverse

RGDA Res Gestae Divi Augusti

RIC The Roman Imperial Coinage (1923–) (also available digitally at http://numismatics.org/ocre/)

RPC Roman Provincial Coinage (1992–) (select volumes available digitally at http://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/)

List of Abbreviations


SEG  *Supplementum epigraphicum graecum* (1923–)

SNG  *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* (1931–)