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## How to refer to coins?

For coins, just as for literary texts or for inscriptions, conventions exist of how to refer to them. Conventions have been created in order to standardise basic information and thus to facilitate communication among scholars.

### References to standard reference works

Standard reference works are authoritative catalogues that include a full list of coin types of a given period or geographic area for a given class of coins. For ancient coins, three classes of coins exist, and these are their standard reference works:

Greek coins *Historia Numorum (HN<sup>3</sup>)*

Roman coins of Rome:

Roman Republican coins *Roman Republican Coinage (RRC)*

Roman Imperial coins *Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC)*

Roman coins of the Provinces *Roman Provincial Coinage (RPC)*

*HN<sup>3</sup>* and *RPC* have not been completed yet, and work on the new edition of several *RIC*-volumes is in due course. Thus other catalogues have to be used to complete these reference works: For Greek and Roman provincial coins mainly the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum (SNG)* or other specialised catalogues which contain coins of specific collections. The disadvantage of these catalogues is that they include only the coins present in the respective collections or taken into account by the author of these books, and thus they will not cover all coin types. *HN<sup>3</sup>*, *RRC* and *RPC* are all well illustrated and therefore coins can easily be found on the plates. *RIC* - which is complete – on the other hand is, with the exception of its recent volumes (esp. the revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of vols I and II), poorly illustrated; but illustrations of Roman coins can be found in the volumes of the *British Museum Coin Catalogue (BMC)* which includes coins of the Emperors up to Balbinus and Pupienus (both reigned in AD 238).

Yet, whenever a reference is available for a coin in *HN<sup>3</sup>*, *RRC*, *RIC* and *RPC* it is preferable to give a reference from these books.

When you give a reference, please use the abbreviation of the work, and give the full details for the coins' location in the book, i.e. the volume, the page, and the number and eventually the plate.

Examples:

*HN<sup>3</sup>, Italy*, p. 158, no. 1946.

*RIC VIII*, p. 272, no. 253.

*SNG Cop., North Africa*, nos 109-19.

If you are discussing specific coins in detail, you should give somewhere, either in a note or in a caption, a reference to the standard reference work.

For the full references of the above mentioned catalogues, see the [list at the bottom of this document](#) (which is identical to the handout of the first lesson of the coin module).

Please list the abbreviations of the standard reference works you use at the top of your bibliography as you do with works of ancient authors or for inscriptions. Put them under the title 'Abbreviations of standard reference works and catalogues', and list the remaining bibliography under the title 'Secondary sources' (unless you give references to ancient authors which you would list in a special section).

### Figures and captions

Please number your figures (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc.) and refer to these figures in the text by inserting the figure's number in brackets, e.g. '(Fig. 1).

Give in a caption the following elements:  
Minting authority, mint, denomination, date.

For Greek coins, the minting authority and the mint are often identical and therefore have not to be repeated (e.g. as for Athens, Corinth or any other city state and community).  
In some instances, especially of Greek coins, denominations are not known. Please give then the metal.

The data you present are those from the reference book or from the source you use.

Examples:

Fig. 1. Rubi, diobol, c. 325-275 (for *HN<sup>3</sup>, Italy*, p. 91, no. 808).

Fig. 2. Ptolemy II Philadelphus, Sidon, tetradrachm, 285-246 BC (for *SNG Cop., Egypt*, no. 506-7).

Fig. 3. Constantius II, Rome, Aes 2, 352-355 AD (for *RIC VIII*, p. 272, no. 253).

Fig. 4. Panormos, bronze, 50/40-30/20 BC (for Gàbrici 1927, p. 161, nos 305-312).

Or you may like to give a multiple legend as here:



Fig. 5. Coin finds from Sicily: left Punic coin from uncertain mint in Western Sicily, c. 310-280 BC; right: bronze coin of Panormos, 50/40-30/20 BC.

You may prefer to describe your picture differently and use a different order. Yet, the elements will still be the same.

Example:

Fig. 6. Dupondius of moneyer L. Naevius Surdinus issued in Rome under Augustus 15 BC.

For finds you mention the find place, and if possible the year when it was found, the museum where it is stored and the inventory number. You also give any other information you find important, e.g. if you show a hoard, or a votive deposit, say that it is a hoard or a votive deposit.

Examples:

Fig. 7. Dupondius of moneyer L. Naevius Surdinus issued in Rome under Augustus 15 BC.

Fig. 8. The pot-hoard from the Temple of Artemis at Ephesos, c. 600 BC. Found in 1904-5 during the British excavations.



Fig. 9. Caligula, Rome, sesterce, 37-38 AD; RIC I<sup>2</sup>, p. 111, no. 33.

Obv.: C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT; laureate head of Caligula left.

Rev.: AGRIPPINA, DRVSILLA, IVLIA Caligula's three sisters standing facing: Agrippina is represented as Securitas, Drusilla as Concordia and Iulia as Fortuna; in exergue S C.

or:

Fig. 10. Caligula, Rome, sesterce, 37-38 AD. On the reverse Caligula's three sisters standing facing: Agrippina is represented as Securitas, Drusilla as Concordia and Iulia as Fortuna.

### Reference to the source of pictures and list of illustrations

Please give always the source for your illustrations, either from a book or from an internet source.

You can put the reference into the caption of the picture, but this may be heavy. Therefore it may be easier to assemble this information in a list of illustration at the end of the essay.

Example:

Fig. 1. Crawford 1985, p. 213, fig. 89.

Fig. 2. [http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/cm/t/the\\_pot-hoard\\_from\\_the\\_temple.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/cm/t/the_pot-hoard_from_the_temple.aspx) (accessed 20 November 2012).

Fig. 3. Wikimedia Commons: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sesterce\\_Hostilian-s2771.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sesterce_Hostilian-s2771.jpg) (accessed 20 November 2012).