

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AHRC COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL PARTNERSHIP

Department of Classics, University of Warwick in collaboration with the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Gold Coinage in the Roman World

Applications are invited for a fully-funded three-year doctoral studentship, commencing in October 2016. The studentship will be based in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Warwick University. The studentship will be supervised jointly by Professor Kevin Butcher (Warwick), Professor Christopher Howgego (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford) and Professor Mark Pollard (Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, Oxford), and the student will be expected to spend time in both Warwick and Oxford, as well as becoming part of a wider cohort of CDP funded students across the UK. This is one of the studentships awarded by the Oxford University Museums AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership.

The Project

This project seeks to study the metallurgy and circulation of Roman gold coinage of the first century BC to fifth century AD, in order to define its significance within Roman society and the Roman economy. This will draw on the combined expertise of Warwick and Oxford in historical metallurgy, scientific analytical techniques, and monetary history. It will combine evidence for metallurgy and circulation to enable an increased understanding of the relationship of gold coinage to the development of Roman society and economy. It will aim to produce a reliable set of metallurgical analyses for Roman gold coinage, a set of data on metal sources and production technology, a new set of metrological data, and a delineation and analysis of patterns of circulation and deposition over time. The Ashmolean collection includes a representative sample of over 600 Roman gold coins which can form a basis for the metallurgical study. The student will also have access to the existing data on gold coinage in the *Oxford Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project*.

The thesis will be expected to address major historical questions:

- The fineness of Roman gold appears remarkably stable, with minor changes only in the mid-third and mid-fourth centuries, unlike the silver coinage (the dramatic decline of which has been regarded as an indicator of the fiscal inadequacy of the Roman Empire). How can this apparent contradiction be resolved?
- To what extent can metal analyses illuminate metal sources and metal flows as well as fineness?
- At what point did gold coin cease to circulate at a fixed nominal value and become more like a circulating ingot?
- Was the apparent scarcity of gold in the third century AD due to export from the Empire, most importantly through subsidies paid to 'barbarians'?
- What was the nature of the major new source of gold in the fourth century AD?

- The initial provision of gold to the military in the early empire is evident, but what was the initial function of gold after that?
- By the fourth century AD control of gold appears to have been both a marker of, and a means to enhance, social hierarchy throughout the provinces. How did this change come about?

Financial Support

Subject to standard AHRC eligibility criteria, the studentship will cover tuition fees at home/EU rate and provide a maintenance award at RCUK rates for a maximum of three years of full-time doctoral study. See <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/media/news/160125/>

In addition, the Ashmolean Museum will provide research expenses of up to £2,000 to the student each year, to a maximum of £6,000 over the duration of the studentship, to cover costs associated with undertaking research in Oxford.

Eligibility

We are looking for a highly promising and suitably qualified student who will value the opportunity of combining academic research with involvement and training in a leading British museum. The successful applicant will have a good background in Ancient History and/or Roman Archaeology at undergraduate and Masters level. They will require formal training in metallurgical analysis and the interpretation of analytical results deriving from the analyses, and in Roman numismatics. They will be expected to participate in the Warwick postgraduate work-in-progress seminars and in the annual Warwick postgraduate conference.

All applicants should meet the AHRC's academic criteria and residency requirements, including holding a first or upper-second class honours degree or equivalent; having completed a Masters-level qualification by 1 October 2016, and being a resident of the UK or European Economic Area (EEA). Note that in general, full studentships are available to students who are settled in the UK and have been ordinarily resident for a period of at least three years before the start of postgraduate studies. Please see:

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/documents/guides/research-funding-guide/>

How to Apply

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Professor Kevin Butcher - K.E.T.Butcher@warwick.ac.uk - with any questions about the studentship. Interested candidates are asked to submit the following by the **deadline of 5.00 pm on Wednesday 23 March 2016:**

1. A letter of application (maximum 2 sides of A4) explaining how their current academic interests relate to the doctoral project, their reasons for applying for the studentship, and how their prior education and other experiences have equipped them to undertake the project;
2. A curriculum vitae (no more than 2 pages);
3. Full transcripts of all previous degree results;
4. Evidence of competence in English if your first language is not English;

5. A writing sample (maximum 7,000 words);
6. Two academic references (submitted directly by the referees not the applicant; see below). The referees should ideally be familiar with the candidate's academic work, and able to assess their potential and preparedness to undertake PhD research.

These materials should be sent by email to Harriet Warburton, Oxford University Museums Research Facilitator (harriet.warburton@ashmus.ox.ac.uk) no later than **5pm on Wednesday 23 March 2016**.

Applicants should also ensure that their referees email references for the attention of Professors Butcher and Howgego to the same email addresses – harriet.warburton@ashmus.ox.ac.uk - by the same deadline (5pm on Wednesday 23 March 2016). It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that references, as well as the applications, are received by the deadline. Please ensure the subject line of all the emails is "CDP Studentship: Ashmolean/Warwick".

Interviews are likely to be held in Oxford during the week beginning 11th April 2016. The successful applicant will be required to complete a standard application for graduate study at the University of Warwick - <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply/>

Further Information

Informal enquiries relating to the project can be directed to Professor Kevin Butcher – K.E.T.Butcher@warwick.ac.uk

Further information about the Department of Classics at the University of Warwick is available at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/>

Further information about research at the Ashmolean Museum is available at <http://www.ashmolean.org/research/>

For any other information please contact Dr Harriet Warburton, Oxford University Museums Research Facilitator (harriet.warburton@ashmus.ox.ac.uk)