

Late Imperial Mint Marks

ALE = Alexandria	L, LN, LON, AVG = London
AMB = Ambianum	LA, LD, LG, LVG =
AN, ANT = Antioch	Lugdunum
AQ = Aquileia	MD = Milan
AR, ARL = Arelate	N, NIK = Nicomedia
CON, CONT, CONST =	OST = Ostia
Arelate	RV = Ravenna
KA, KONT, KONSTAN =	R, RM, ROM, ROMA = Rome
Arelate / Constantina	SD, SER = Sordica
B, BA = Baracino	SIR, SIRM, SM = Sirmium
K, KART = Carthage	SIS, SISC = Siscia
C, CL = Colchester	TE, TES, THES, THS, TS =
C, CONS, CP, CN =	Thessalonika
Constantinople	T = Ticinum
C, CVZ, K, KV = Cyzicus	TR = Trier
H, HE = Heraclea	



Denominations

Early Imperial Coinage (c. AD 1)

Aureus – Gold – 25 denarii – 7.85 g – 20 mm

Quinarius – Gold – 12.5 denarii – 4 g – 15 mm

Denarius – Silver – 16 asses – 3.8 g – 19 mm

Quinarius – Silver – 8 asses – 2 g – 15 mm

Sestertius – Brass – 4 asses – 25–30 g – 25–35 mm

Dupondius – Brass – 2 asses – 12 g – 28 mm

As – Copper – Basic unit – 11 g – 24–28 mm

Semis – Brass – 1/2 as – 3–4 g – 18 mm

Quadrans – Copper – 1/4 as – 3 g – 15 mm

Diocletian's Reform Coinage (c. AD 305)

Aureus – Gold

Argenteus – Silver

Follis – Silvered bronze

Radiate – Bronze



Constantine's Coinage (AD 310s–330s)

Solidus – Gold – 4.5 g

Semissis – Gold – 1/2 solidus

1 1/2 Scripulum – Gold – 3/4 solidus

Miliarensis – Silver

Siliqua – Silver

Late Roman Bronze Sizes

AE1 – 25 mm+

AE2 – 21–25 mm

AE3 – 17–21 mm

AE4 – Under 17 mm



Resources

Roman Republican coins Roman Republican Coinage (RRC)

Roman Imperial coins Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC)

Coinage of the Roman Republic Online (CRRO):

<http://numismatics.org/crro/>

Coins of the Roman Empire (OCRE):

<http://numismatics.org/ocre/>

Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)

<https://finds.org.uk/database>

CoinArchives (assembles coins from dealers)

<https://www.coinarchives.com/a/>

Roman Economy project, Coin hoards of the Roman Empire Project:

http://oxrep.classics.ox.ac.uk/coin_hoards_of_the_roman_empire_project/

Ashmolean: <https://hcr.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/>



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www.warwick.ac.uk/mmn



Common Abbreviations

These are the abbreviations that appear constantly in RIC, Sear, auction catalogues, and museum records.

- AE = bronze coin
- AR = silver coin
- AU/AV = gold coin
- Obv. = obverse (front)
- Rev. = reverse (back)
- ex. = exergue
- laur. = laureate bust
- rad. = radiate bust
- diad. = diademed bust
- cuir. = cuirassed bust
- dr. = draped bust
- l. = facing left
- r. = facing right
- std. = seated
- stg. = standing

Desired Information

This is the standard amount of information that should be captured for each coin:

Emperor (regnal dates), denomination (metal abbreviation, diameter, weight, die axis), mint, production date (if known).
Obverse Legend; Obverse type description. Reverse Legend; Reverse type description. Reference.

Example:

Constantinus II, AE3 (AE, 18mm, 2.4g, 6h), Trier, AD 348–350. DN CONSTANTIVS PF AVG; Bust of Constantinus II, pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed, right. FEL TEMP REPARATIO; Soldier spearing fallen horseman. RIC VIII Trier 123.

Describing Coin Types

OCRE descriptions balance the brevity of RIC with the detail of BMC. They aim to describe each coin type clearly and consistently, focusing on key identifying features rather than minor die variations. Descriptions are written in full and never abbreviated.



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OCRE | ric.1(2).gai.38

Obv.: C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT

Head of Caligula, bare, left

Rev.: VESTA S C

Vesta, veiled and draped, seated left on throne with ornamented back and legs, holding patera in right hand and long transverse sceptre in left hand

Portrait Types

Portraits are described as either a Head or Bust, followed by the person's name and visible features from top to bottom, ending with direction.

Head/Bust of person, headpiece, clothing, direction

Examples:

- Head of Augustus, bare, right
- Bust of Marcus Aurelius, laureate, draped, right
- Bust of Geta, bare-headed, draped, right, three-quarter facing

Head = no drapery or armour visible

Bust = drapery, cuirass, or other clothing visible

Reverse Types

Describe the figure first, then clothing, pose, and attributes. If objects are held, record the right hand before the left.

Formula:

Figure, clothing, pose, right-hand attribute, left-hand attribute

Example

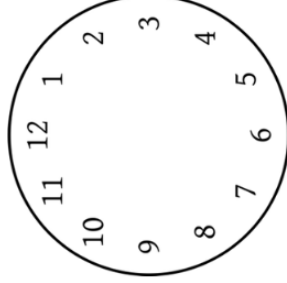
- Liberalitas, draped, standing left, holding abacus in right hand and cornucopia in left hand

Measurements

Diameter: millimetres (mm), recorded to 0.1 mm

Weight: grams (g), recorded to 0.01 g

Die Axis: recorded as a clock position (e.g. 6h, 12h)



Legends

Follow the inscription used in standard reference works (preferably OCRE). Use square brackets to indicate restored or non-visible text.

Example:

TI CLAVD CAES[AR AVG P M TR P X P P] IMP XVIII

Imperial Titles and Honorifics

AVG. = Augustus (Emperor, or Senior Emperor under the Tetrarchy)

AVG. FIL. = Augusti Filius/Filia (son or daughter of the emperor)

ARM. = Armeniacus (Conqueror of Armenia)

CAES. or CAESAR = Caesar (originally a family name; later the title of the heir-apparent or junior emperor)

CENS. = Censor

COS. or C. = Consul

DAC. = Dacicus (Conqueror of Dacia)

DICT. = Dictator

D.N. = Dominus Noster ("Our Lord")

DIVO or DIVA = Deified emperor or empress

DIVI FIL. = Son or daughter of a deified emperor

III VIR. ITER. R.P.C. = Refers to the Second Triumvirate (Antony, Octavian, and Lepidus)

IMP. = Imperator

IMP. C. = Imperator Caesar

IVN = Iuuentis ("The Younger")

N.C. = Nobilitas Caesar ("Noble Caesar"; imperial heir)

NOB. CAES. = Nobilitas Caesar ("Noble Caesar"; imperial heir)

OPTIMO PRINCIPI = "To the Best Ruler"

PART. = Parthicus (Conqueror of Parthia)

PERP. = Perpetuus/Perpetuae ("Everlasting", "Long-lived")

P.F. = Pius Felix ("Dutiful and Fortunate")

P.M. or PONT. MAX. = Pontifex Maximus (Chief Priest)

P.P. = Pater Patriae ("Father of the Country")

PRINC. IVVENT. = Princeps Iuuentutis ("Leader of the Youth")

TR. P. or TR. POT. = Tribunicia Potestas (Tribunician Power)