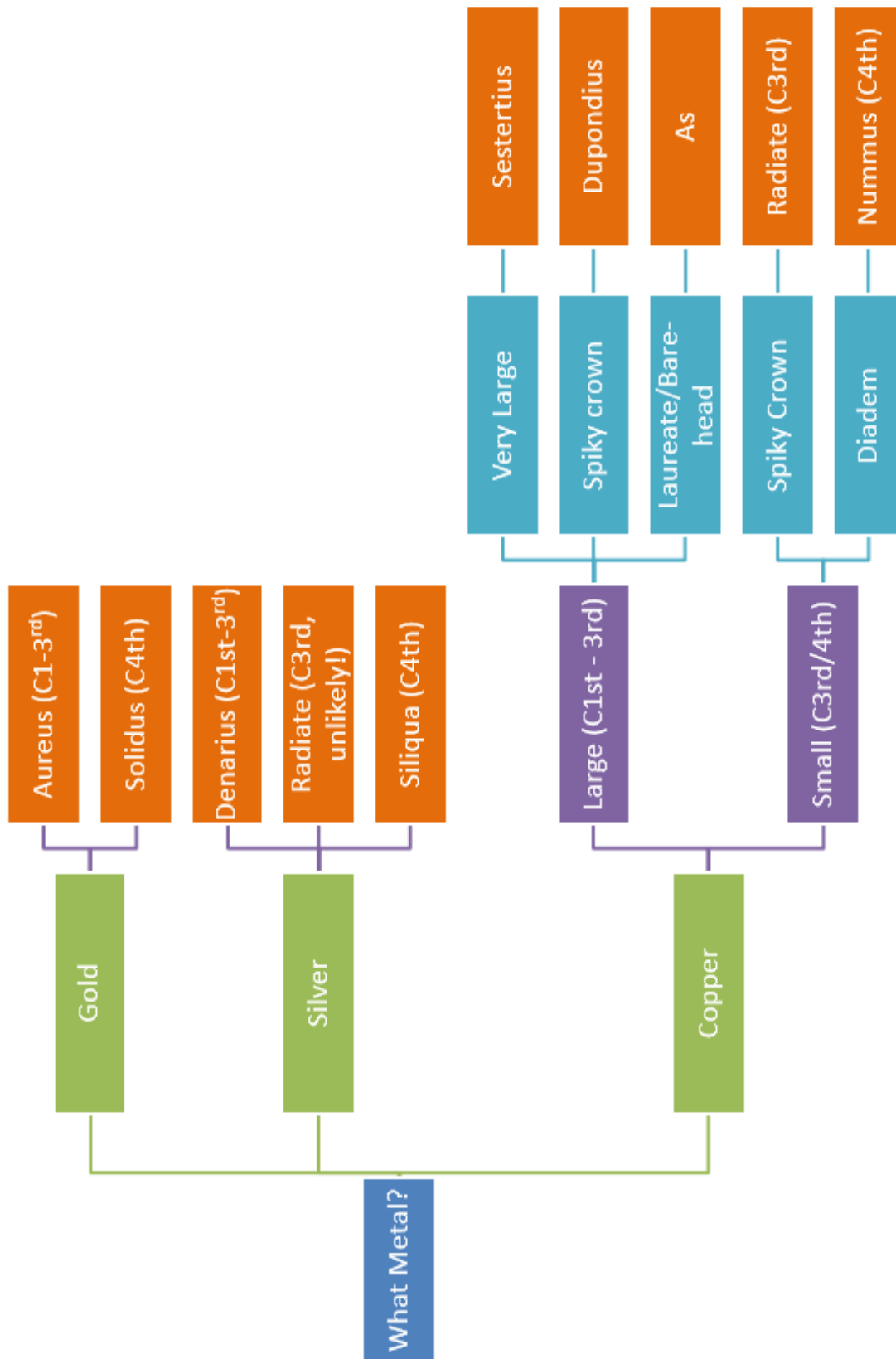


Identifying and Interpreting Roman Coins



Bust Styles (Not Exhaustive)

Image	Description	Broad Date
	Bare Head	C1st-3 rd
	Laureate	C1st-3 rd
	Laureate and Cuirassed	C1st-3 rd
	Laureate, Draped and Cuirassed	C1st-3 rd

	<p>Radiate and Draped</p>	<p>C3rd</p>
	<p>Radiate and Cuirassed</p>	<p>C3rd</p>
	<p>Radiate, Draped and Cuirassed</p>	<p>C3rd</p>
	<p>Pearl Diademed, Draped and cuirassed</p>	<p>C4th</p>
	<p>Rosette Diademed, Draped and Cuirassed</p>	<p>C4th</p>

Legends

Abbreviation	Meaning
ARM	ARMENIACUS Conqueror of Armenia
AVG	Augustus (Senior Emperor)
AVGVSTA	For empresses
BRIT	BRITTANNICUS Conqueror of Britannia
C, CAE, CAES	Caesar
CENS (PERP)	Censor oversaw public morals
CL	CLAUDIUS Family name of a number of emperors
COS	Consul (often followed by number indicating years)
COS DES	CONSUL DESIGNATUS. Designated the year before taking up their consulship
DAC	DACICUS Conqueror of Dacia
DIVA	Used to commemorate deified empresses
DIVUS/DIVO	Used to commemorate deified emperors
D N	DOMINUS NOSTER Our Lord, Christian phrase
FL	FLAVIUS Family name of a number of emperors
GERM	GERMANICUS Conqueror of Germania
IVL	IVLIVS Family name of various emperors
IVN	JUNIOR Used by junior emperors
M	MARCUS
M AVR	MARCUS AURELIUS A name used by a number of 3 rd century emperors including Elagabalus, Severus Alexander and Probus
MAX	MAXIMUS Greatest or Supreme
NOB	NOBILISSIMUS Most noble, used for junior emperors
P F	PIUS FELIX Blessed by the Gods
P M or PONT MAX	PONTIFEX MAXIMUS Chief priest
PARTH	PARTHICUS Conqueror of Parthia
PP or PERP	PERPETUUS forever
SARM	SARMATICUS Conqueror of the Sarmatians
S C	SENATUS CONSULTO By the authority of the Senate. Used on many base metal coins
S P Q R	SENATUS POPULUS QUE ROMANUS The Senate and People of Rome
TR P (TR POT)	TRIBUNCIA POTESTAS. Power of the tribune, adopted by emperors and often followed by a number indicating imperial reign length

Mintmarks (not exhaustive) – many variations!

AMB	Ambianum (Amiens, France)
ANT, SMAN, SMANTA	Antioch (Turkey)
AQP, SMAQP, AQPS	Aquileia (Italy)
ARL, CON, CONST	Arelate (Arles, France)
C, CL	Uncertain 'C' mint in Britain (London?)
SMHA	Heraclea (Turkey)
LON, PLON	London
LPLG, PLVG	Lugdunum (Lyon, France)
R, ROMA	Rome (Italy)
SIS, ASIS	Siscia (Sisak, Croatia)
TR, PTR	Treveri (Trier, Germany)

Common Emperor List

For a full list, including minor emperors see: <https://finds.org.uk/romancoins/emperors>

The Julio Claudian Dynasty		Gallic Empire	
Augustus	31 BC - AD 14	Postumus	AD 260 - AD 269
Tiberius	AD 14 - AD 37	Victorinus	AD 269 - AD 271
Caligula	AD 37 - AD 41	Tetricus I	AD 271 - AD 274
Claudius	AD 41 - AD 54	Tetricus II	AD 272 - AD 274
Nero	AD 54 - AD 68	Brittanic Empire	
The Flavians		Carausius	AD 286 - AD 293
Vespasian	AD 69 - AD 79	Allectus	AD 293 - AD 296
Titus	AD 79 - AD 81	The Tetrarchy	
Domitian	AD 81 - AD 96	Diocletian	AD 284 - AD 305
Adoptive Emperors		Maximian	AD 286 - AD 310
Nerva	AD 96 - AD 98	Constantius Chlorus	AD 293 - AD 306
Trajan	AD 98 - AD 117	Maxentius	AD 306 - AD 312
Hadrian	AD 117 - AD 138	Licinius	AD 308 - AD 324
The Antonines		The House of Constantine	
Antoninus Pius	AD 138 - AD 161	Constantine I	AD 306 - AD 337
Marcus Aurelius	AD 139 - AD 180	Crispus	AD 317 - AD 326
Commodus	AD 175 - AD 192	Constantine II	AD 317 - AD 340
The Severans		Constantius II	AD 323 - AD 361
Septimius Severus	AD 193 - AD 211	Constans	AD 333 - AD 350
Julia Domna	AD 193 - AD 217	Decentius	AD 350 - AD 353
Caracalla	AD 198 - AD 217	Magnentius	AD 350 - AD 353
Macrinus	AD 217 - AD 218	Constantius Gallus	AD 351 - AD 354
Elagabalus	AD 218 - AD 222	Julian the Apostate	AD 355 - AD 363
Alexander Severus	AD 222 - AD 235	House of Valentinian	
Third Century Emperors		Valentinian I	AD 364 - AD 375
Maximinus Thrax	AD 235 - AD 238	Valens	AD 364 - AD 378
Gordian	AD 238 - AD 244	Gratian	AD 367 - AD 383
Philip the Arab	AD 244 - AD 249	Valentinian II	AD 375 - AD 392
Gallienus	AD 253 - AD 268	House of Theodosius	
Valerian	AD 253 - AD 260	Theodosius I	AD 379 - AD 395
Claudius Gothicus	AD 268 - AD 270	Arcadius	AD 383 - AD 408
Aurelian	AD 270 - AD 275	Honorius	AD 393 - AD 423

References

Introductory texts:

Richard Reece, **Coinage in Roman Britain** (1987)

Richard Abdy, **Romano-British Coin Hoards** (2002)

John Casey, **Roman Coinage in Britain** (1980)

Printed Reference Works:

Richard Reece and Simon James, **Identifying Roman Coins** (2000)

Mattingly, Sutherland et al, **Roman Imperial Coinage** (1923-) [often abbreviated as RIC]

For C3rd coins:

R. Bland and E. Besly, **The Cunetio Treasure. Roman Coinage of the Third Century AD** (1983)

R. Bland and A. Burnett, **The Normanby Hoard and other Roman coin hoards** (1990)

For C4th Coins:

Guide Bruck, **Late Roman Bronze Coinage: An attribution guide for poorly preserved coins** (2015)

Kent, Hill and Carson, **Late Roman Bronze Coinage** (1960) [often abbreviated as LRBC]

Digital Resources

Portable Antiquities Scheme – Finds.org.uk (especially, <https://finds.org.uk/romancoins>)

Online Coins of the Roman Empire - <http://numismatics.org/ocre/> [Under construction but brilliant]

www.wildwinds.com

www.coinarchives.com

For C4th coins:

<http://www.tesorillo.com/aes/home.htm>

<http://www.romancoin.info/>

Suppliers

Capsules – coingallery.co.uk

Viewers – Lindner

Envelopes – Coingallery/Spink

Pins – model railway shops (we use PECO stramline)