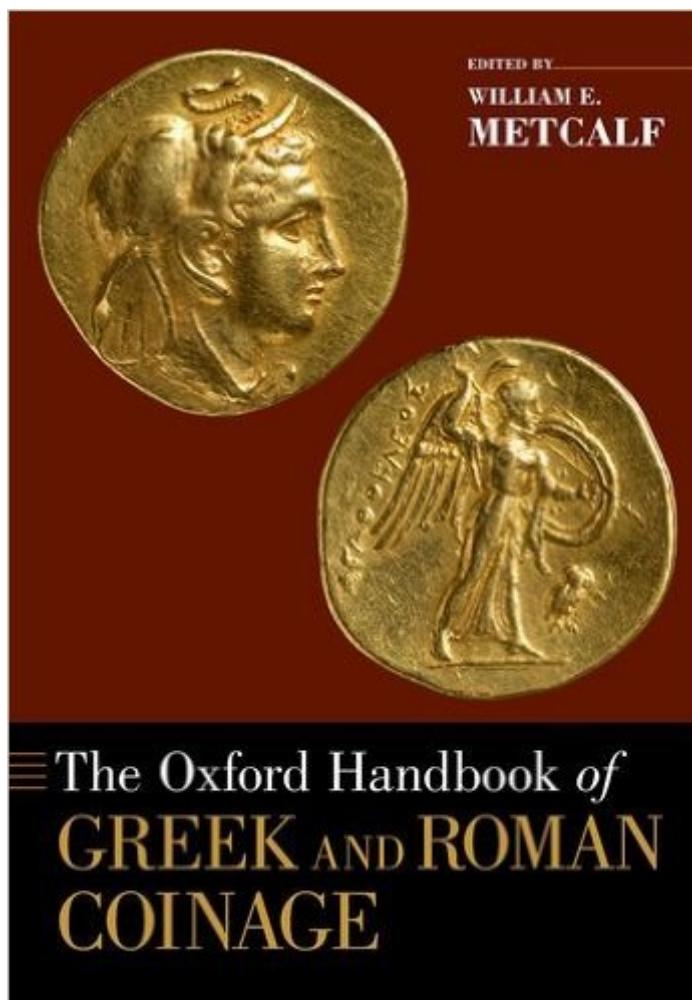


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The Oxford Handbook Of Greek And Roman Coinage (Oxford Handbooks)



Synopsis

A large gap exists in the literature of ancient numismatics between general works intended for collectors and highly specialized studies addressed to numismatists. Indeed, there is hardly anything produced by knowledgeable numismatists that is easily accessible to the academic community at large or the interested lay reader. The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Coinage will fill this gap by providing a systematic overview of the major coinages of the classical world. The Handbook begins with a general introduction by volume editor William E. Metcalf followed by an article establishing the history and role of scientific analysis in ancient numismatics. The subsequent thirty-two chapters, all written by an international group of distinguished scholars, cover a vast geography and chronology, beginning with the first evidence of coins in Western Asia Minor in the seventh century BCE and continuing up to the transformation of coinage at the end of the Roman Empire. In addition to providing the essential background and current research questions of each of the major coinages, the Handbook also includes articles on the application of numismatic evidence to the disciplines of archaeology, economic history, art history, and ancient history. With helpful appendices, a glossary of specialized terms, indices of mints, persons, and general topics, and nearly 900 illustrations, The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Coinage will be an indispensable resource for scholars and students of the classical world, as well as a stimulating reference for collectors and interested lay readers.

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Customer Reviews

This Oxford Handbook is a lovely book with generous black and white coin photos. Each chapter was written by a different specialist so their approaches vary. For example, some chapters examine the coin design typology and symbology (my core interest) in more depth than others. The attribution of illustrations range from full attribution to relatively unhelpful catalog numbers in other references. WHAT I REALLY LOVE about this book is that the illustrations depict accessible coins, ones that I can and do have in my collection. I find books that focus on rarities to be dispiriting and unhelpful. I mainly want to learn about the coins that I can collect, not worship at the altar of coins so removed from my life that they are effectively abstractions. None of the chapters is dry or boring. I find that each one captivates in its own way. I really appreciate the detailed bibliography following each chapter. For my uses these surpass any other bibliographic material that I have available to me (Ancient Greek Numismatics, Ancient Coin Reference Reviews). Overall I am very pleased with the chapter on Roman Egypt, my main collecting area. I was cheered by the author's assertion: "The chief value of the Alexandrian coinage resides in its abundance of reverse types; their importance as a source for the study of the political history, culture and religion of the province can scarcely be exaggerated." which contrasts with Poole and others who downplay the uniquely Egyptian aspects of the designs. It also corresponds to my approach to collecting, which organizes Alexandrines and other provincials by their reverse type, rather than by emperor.

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