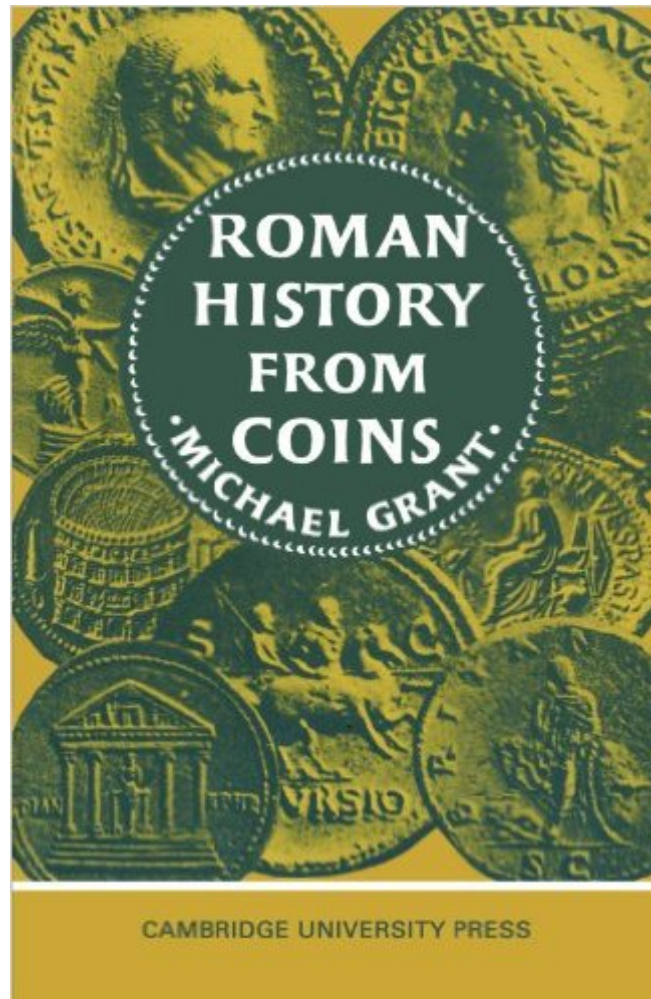


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# Roman History From Coins: Some Uses Of The Imperial Coinage To The Historian



## Synopsis

In this 1968 study, Michael Grant examines the varied ways in which Rome used currency to inform direct or deceive public opinion and also considers results of this exploitation. Cunning historians can read in the coins matters of art politics, religion, economics - even personalities not to be found in surviving books: or if found, can set what the books say against what the coins say. Professor Grant astutely masters his difficult and complex subject matter, producing a brief exposition of it in words which the general reader and specialist alike can understand and profit from. Complemented by a series of half-tone plates, Professor Grant's book is an excellent introduction for students of history to the value of coins as evidence for their subject.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book gives an interesting analysis of imagery on coins as they relate to the intended propaganda of the issuing emperor. The book only covers a handful of emperors with a focus on Augustus and Nero. It's an informative and enjoyable read, however the brevity is disappointing. I wish the topics were expanded to more emperors and time periods.

While I found the book interesting I found it very distracting to have to flip from page of text to the back of the book to find the correct plate and illustration of the coin referred to in the text.

Sandwiched between the text and plates are found notes and the index-all in that order. On the plus side there is a wealth of history covering a large part of the Empire as well as the people in power.

Roman history is a very convoluted one and that has made Roman Numismatics a convoluted one. While coins are primarily a medium of exchange, Roman rulers used money for multiple purposes: for exchange, for propaganda, for promotion of ideas, and so on. Thus a study of Roman coins is much more fascinating, and difficult, compared to coins of other kingdoms. What is more, Roman coins have been discovered in abundance wherever the Romans ruled or where they did business transaction. This book is a fascinating study of Roman history, the ups and downs of their history, curiosities and other fascinating items. It is a pioneering work and perhaps there is much left to discover. However, as a pioneering work this book has made a substantial contribution.

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