

Lisa Auanger TSRs Coin Design

COINS AND CIVIL STRIFE

Scenario: Imagine you are a Roman emperor or someone in his family, e.g., his son, brother, wife or daughter. You have accomplished many things as emperor, but you are having trouble maintaining your rule over one area recently added to the empire. You have many opponents in this region, and they are trying to win support for themselves and take back control of the government. You yourself want the people of this particular region, where your reputation is not as strong and your power has not yet been fully established, to know about your accomplishments. In short, you are advertising or attempting to get the message of your dynasty out to your supporters.

THE PROJECT: Design a coin with your own portrait or a portrait of someone in your family, i.e., the imperial family. This coin will circulate in the problematic region. It is one way you will let the people know about your rule.

First **sketch** the coin and then decide on how you will **make it into your project**. You may mount it on a poster board or on cardboard circle, complete it in metallic colors, use aluminum foil, etc. You will turn in large coin or a project that shows both sides of the coin. Your coin may be **bronze** or **silver**, and may have a **patina** that gives it a greenish appearance.

_____ 1. The coin must have both an **obverse** and a **reverse**. A **rim** must be visible on both sides.

_____ 2. The **obverse motif** must be a **bust** (=a portrait head) in a profile view, i.e., from the side. The head should be depicted wearing one of the following: a. diadem b. wreath
c. radiate crown d. helmet e. other

_____ 3. A **legend** or **inscription** must encircle the head, near the rim of the coin. The inscription must include the Latin name of the person who is depicted. Write the inscription in all capital letters, using the form of a V for the U. The inscription should also include the Latin for the person's relationship to the emperor, e.g., R VFVS FILIVS AVGVSTI

_____ 4. The **reverse** can hold any of a variety of images.
a. a scene from your life
b. a symbol that is meaningful to you, e.g., a graduation cap, medical tools, a religious symbol, an animal, etc.
c. something you support or believe in, like a political promise, e.g., grain for the plebs
d. an ancient Roman god/goddess or personification, e.g., Pax (peace) or Venus (Love) or Apollo (Music) or
Ceres (grain)

_____ 5. An **inscription** (legend) should also at least partially encircle the reverse. This should be meaningful and refer to the meaning of the image on this side of the coin. It should be in Latin. Examples of possible reverse inscriptions are: PAX DEORUM (Peace of the gods); FELICIUM TEMPORUM REPARATIO (A restoration of happy times). You may abbreviate your inscription as the Romans did.

_____ 6. An **exergue** is the space below the ground line in a circular composition. The exergue may hold a **mint mark** (i.e., an abbreviation showing where your coin was produced).

_____ 7. The field (space in which there is no image) of the reverse may hold a **workshop mark**.

GRADING (Please turn in this page with your project)

Points:

_____ **sketches** 20

_____ **obverse** (following all directions, complete, accurate, etc.) 30

_____ **reverse** (following all directions, complete, accurate, etc.) 30

_____ **creativity** 5

_____ **professionalism** 5

_____ **overall effect** 10

COINS AND CLASSES

Scenario: Coins were one way ancient Roman rulers spread the messages of and news about their regime to the people, because there were few other media for communications. Imagine you were the emperor or a person in his family (wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, mother, father) and design a coin that you believe would have been an effective image to win over the support of people of a particular social class (slaves, plebeians, equestrians, senators).

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