Roman Provincial Coinage

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Provincial Coinage: Structure

• From the Republic to Diocletian, coinage circulating in the Roman Empire was extremely heterogeneous.
  - “Imperial” coins with Latin legends (gold, silver, aes), produced by the government, circulated over large areas or empire-wide.
  - “Provincial” coins with Latin or Greek legends were often struck locally in silver or bronze, mostly in local denominations. These normally did not circulate beyond specific monetary zones (e.g. Asia minor, Egypt etc.).
Provincial Coinage: Structure

• Gradually, the coinage in circulation was unified.
  - In the West, local bronze was discontinued already under Caligula (AD 37-41).
  - The last Eastern bronzes outside of Egypt were struck under Tacitus (AD 275/276).
  - In AD 295/296, Alexandria ceased to strike local coins as well.

→ From Diocletian onward, the Roman Empire was a unified monetary zone.
Important provincial silver coinages

• Asian Cistophori
• Syrian Tetradrachms (Antioch, Tyre etc.)
• Silver Coins of Caesarea Cappadociae (Asia minor)

• Billon-Tetradrachms of Alexandria
IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL SILVER COINAGES

- Rome
- Alexandria
- Caesarea
- Antioch
- Tyre
- Asia
Kistophoroi / Cistophoroi

Hellenistic Tetradrachms struck under the Attalids

*Cista mystica*
in ivy wreath

Bowcase
*(Gorytros)*
Proconsular Cistophorus (57/56 BC): (partly) Latin legend!

Cistophorus of Mark Antony (39 BC)
1 Cistophorus = 3 Denarii
Syria and Phoenicia

Regal Issues

Antiochos X. (94–83 BC), Tetradrachm

Civic Issues

Tyre, Shekel (102/101 BC)
Syrian Tetradrachms

ΝΕΡΩΝ ΚΑΙΣΑΡ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ
(= NERO CAESAR AVGVSTVS)
Caracalla, Berytus

Vespasian, Antioch
Caesarea Cappadociae

Typical reverse: Mount Argaios

Tiberius

Marcus Aurelius

Drachms, Didrachms, Tridrachms
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Local Bronzes in the West: Julio Claudians

Augustus (27 BC – AD 14)
Nemausus / Nîmes
“Group III”
ca. AD 10-14 (?)

Tiberius (AD 14-37)
Colonia Romula / Sevilla
“with permission of Divus Augustus”
Local Bronze Coinage in the West ended with Caligula (AD 37-41)

Caligula, Segobriga

Caligula, Caesaraugusta