

**AN INTRODUCTION TO  
THE STUDY OF ANCIENT  
AND MODERN COINS**

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An introduction to the study of ancient and modern coins by John Yonge Akerman

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**JOHN YONGE AKERMAN**

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TO

MARTIN FARQUHAR TUPPER, Esq.

D.C.L., F.R.S.

AS A TOKEN OF PLEASANT DAYS SPENT WITH HIM IN

DIGGING FOR ANCIENT COINS,

ON FARLEY HEATH, NEAR GUILDFORD,

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED BY HIS FRIEND,

JOHN YONGE AKERMAN.

296026

## P R E F A C E.

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ALTHOUGH there are few persons who have not, at some period of their lives, possessed old coins, the number of those who have attentively regarded them, or who are aware of the amount of information and amusement to be derived from their study, is very limited. To such the following pages are addressed, and not to the practised numismatist, who will perceive that, as an epitome of ancient and modern numismatic history, it is necessarily brief and general, though, at the same time, sufficiently comprehensive to afford an idea of the great number and variety of a class of monuments, which, as works of art alone, and independent of their historical value, have no parallel.

With this intimation it will only be necessary to append a list of works, in which more detailed information may be obtained by those whom the perusal of the following pages may tempt to enter on the study.

- 
- Doctrina Numorum Veterum, conscripta a Josepho Eckhel. Vindobonæ, 1792. 8 vols. 4to.
- Descriptive Catalogue of a Cabinet of Roman Imperial large brass Medals. 4to. Bedford, 1834. (*Printed for private distribution only.*) By Capt. Wm. Henry Smyth, R. N., F. R. S., etc.
- A descriptive Catalogue of rare and unedited Roman Coins from the earliest period to the taking of Rome under Constantine Paleologus. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1834. By John Yonge Akerman, F. S. A.
- Numismatic Illustrations of the narrative portions of the New Testament. 8vo. London, 1846. By John Yonge Akerman, F. S. A.
- Coins of the Romans relating to Britain, described and illustrated. 8vo. London, 1844. By John Yonge Akerman, F. S. A.
- Ancient Coins of Cities and Princes, geographically arranged and described. Containing the Coins of Hispania, Gallia, and Britannia. 8vo. London, 1846. By John Yonge Akerman.
- Annals of the Coinage of Great Britain and its dependencies. 3 vols. 4to. London, 1840. By the Rev. Rogers Ruding.
- The Silver Coins of England, arranged and described, etc. 8vo. London, 1841. By Edward Hawkins, F. R. S., F. S. A., etc.
- An Essay toward an Historical Account of Irish Coins and of the currency of foreign monies in Ireland. 4to. Dublin, 1810. By James Simon of Dublin, Merchant.

- A View of the Coinage of Ireland, from the Invasion of the Danes to the reign of George IV., etc. 4to. Cork, 1839. By John Lindsay.
- A View of the Coinage of Scotland, etc. 4to. Cork, 1845. By John Lindsay.
- A Numismatic Manual. 8vo. London, 1840. By John Yonge Akerman, F. S. A.
- Description of the Anglo-Gallic Coins in the British Museum. London. 4to. 1826. Edited by Edward Hawkins.
- Illustrations of the Anglo-French Coinage. London. 4to. 1830.
- Numismatique du Moyen Age considérée sur le rapport du type, etc. Paris. 8vo. 2 vols., and an Atlas of Plates. Par Joachim Lelewel.
- Revue Numismatique, dirigée par E. Cartier et L. de la Saussaye. Blois et Paris. 8vo. 10 vols. (*Still publishing in numbers, six of which appear annually.*)
- Zeitschrift für Münz-, Siegel- und Wappenkunde, herausgegeben von Dr. B. Koehne. Berlin, Posen und Bromberg. 7 vols. 8vo. (*Still publishing in numbers.*)
- The Numismatic Journal, edited by J. Y. Akerman. London. 8vo. 2 vols.
- The Numismatic Chronicle, edited by J. Y. Akerman. London. 8vo. 10 vols. (*Still publishing in quarterly numbers.*)

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES' APARTMENTS,

SOMERSET PLACE,

May 29, 1848.



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### PRICES OF ENGLISH COINS.



# ANCIENT & MODERN COINS,

ETC.

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## § 1.

ORIGIN OF COINAGE—ATTRIBUTED TO THE LYDIANS BY HERODOTUS—BY OTHER AUTHORITIES TO PHIDO THE ARGIVE—CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EARLIEST COINAGE—REVIEW OF THE SERIES OF GREEK REGAL COINS.

LEAVING the question of the invention of coinage still open to the inquiries and discussions of Archæologists, we can turn to many specimens of considerable antiquity. The statement of Herodotus, that the Lydians first coined money of gold and silver, and traded in retail\*, is certainly not negated by the record of the Arundelian marbles, which tell us that Phido the Argive



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\* Clio, c. 94.