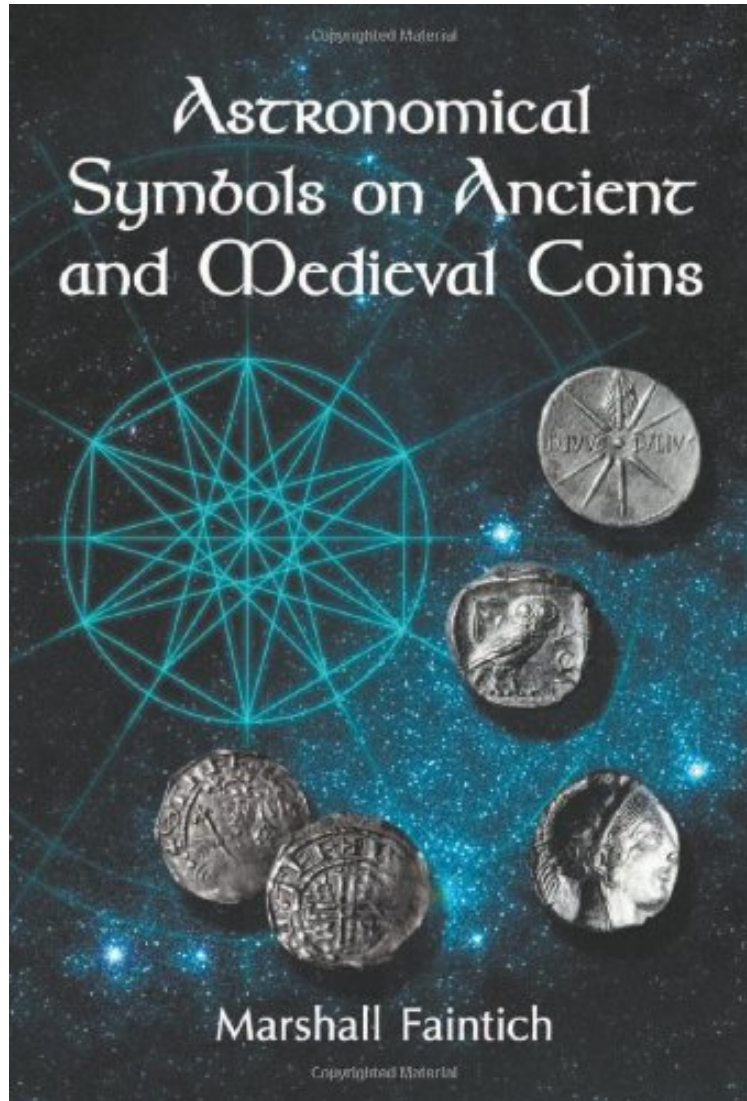


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Astronomical Symbols on Ancient and Medieval Coins

Marshall Faintich

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Marshall Faintich : Astronomical Symbols on Ancient and Medieval Coins before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Astronomical Symbols on Ancient and Medieval Coins:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What all those little marks meanBy Simcha L. KuritzkyThe author gives a plausible explanation for what all the little symbols on medieval coins mean, but he has no hard evidence. While I don't doubt that a sun in eclipse may look like a circle, that doesn't prove that replacing stars with circles on a coin is related to an eclipse.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Must for Astronomical Coin EnthusiastsBy Gerald ArmstrongAnyone who specializes in ancient coins with an astronomical motif will find this

book a must for their library. Marshall Faintich does an excellent job of describing in detail ancient coins that reveal eclipses, planets, comets and stars. The book is very strong in Medieval coins while curiously weak in Roman and Greek coins. For example, the crescent and stars of the various Roman emperors are only touched upon briefly usually at the beginning of each chapter. The book would have gotten five stars if the author had included the denarius of Hadrian as well as Septimius Severus and their many different reverses of crescent and stars. Very little is mentioned of the Provincial coins of Septimius Severus, Diadumenian, Geta and Caracalla, nor Gordian III. The Romans produced a large number of coins with astronomical symbols on them. Where the author does his best work is in the field of Medieval coins. Here is a detailed analysis of coins throughout the Dark Ages that he describes in minute detail. If a second edition is ever printed, let us hope that the author will expand on the Roman and Greek coinage to possibly even match the amount written about the Medieval coins. There are very few photographs in the book, but this is offset by clear and clean ink drawings of the coins described. The drawings are probably better suited for explaining the various symbols that would get lost in a photograph. I recommend this book highly for anyone who collects ancient astronomical coins. It should also be included in the library of any ancient coin collector.

Gerald Armstrong
Astronomical Coin Collector
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A Historical Reference
By Victor Failmezger Jr.
I have known the author for many years and have watched the amazing effort and attention to detail that went into this work. The final result is splendid. It is a work of love for both the subjects of astronomy and ancient and medieval coinage. From our perspective it is often impossible to gain insights as to why these coins depict what they do. Here Faintich solves part of the puzzle in a clear and engaging manner. The ancients were very more in tune as what was going on in the heavens and the astronomical symbols (and their interpretation) were used to commemorate the events of the times. Your purchase of this work will give you a much greater understanding and appreciation of the ancient and medieval world.

The coins of ancient and medieval Europe provide unique insights into the economic and political history of their period. In a time when few members of the population could read or write, the symbols depicted on coins offered a medium for communication, propaganda, and historical archiving. This work hypothesizes that astronomical symbols on ancient and medieval coins were often used as a way to record actual celestial events. The author provides more than 550 figures and line drawings of coins, maps, and astronomical events to illustrate this hypothesis. In addition, several appendices evaluate the historical accuracy of ancient and medieval coinage and offer additional examples not included in the main text.

"Marshall Faintich scores gold...remarkable...analyses are highly detailed...This is a book not to be read in a hurry. It is one to be savoured and digested at leisure" --Auckland Astronomical Society Journal

About the Author
Marshall Faintich has a Ph.D. in astronomy, is a past national director of the American Cartographic Association, and has been a numismatist for more than 50 years. He lives in central Virginia.