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Classics Ireland is the journal of the Classical Association of Ireland. The Association promotes an interest in the ancient world through lectures, field trips and social events. As well as this journal, members receive a newsletter three times a year. For further details, please contact: Prof. Andrew Smith, School of Classics, Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland (andrew.smith@ucd.ie).

Notes for Contributors

Contributions are welcome on all aspects of the language, history, archaeology, and literature of Greek and Roman antiquity, especially if there is an Irish dimension. Contributions should be scholarly, but not technical. All Greek and Latin must be translated. Minimal footnotes are preferred. Articles should not normally exceed 5,000 words and will be independently refereed before formal acceptance for publication. Copyright remains with the author. Authors will receive one copy of the journal in which their article appears. Reviews should not normally exceed 1,000 words. Please address all manuscripts and books for review to Shane Wallace, Department of Classics, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland (swallace@tcd.ie).

EDITORIAL NOTE

Classics Ireland has recently undergone a change in editor. Every care has been taken to ensure that all materials submitted to the previous editor have been forwarded to the current editor for inclusion in this volume, but the editor would like to apologise in advance for any omissions that may have taken place. All contributors are encouraged to submit articles and book reviews electronically to swallace@tcd.ie or print to:

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The Roman Republican Coin Collection of the UCD Classical Museum

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Abstract

The UCD Classical Museum includes several thousand coins from the ancient Mediterranean amongst its holdings. This extensive numismatic collection can be traced back to the initial interest of the museum's founder, Prof. Henry Browne S.J., in the role that coins could play in educating about the Classical world. Building upon several cataloguing projects that took place over the course of the twentieth century, recent work in the museum has focused on creating a digital database of its Roman Republican coinage. This information has also been exported into a Linked Open Data format, making the data available online and placing UCD at the forefront of a new wave of digital dissemination of numismatic research.

Introduction¹

¹ The project discussed in this article has benefitted from financial support from a number of sources, as well as the generous advice of colleagues. The construction of the new museum database as part of the CHIRON project was funded by a UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies Research Project / Initiative Scheme 2013, awarded to museum curator Dr Jo Day. Work on the Republican coin collection was funded by a UCD Seed Funding award to Dr Philip de Souza in 2012, and numismatic research was carried out by Dr Nicholas L. Wright. The authors would like to acknowledge the support of Philip de Souza, John Howard, Daniel Pett, Andrew Meadows, Frank

The University College Dublin (UCD) Classical Museum was established in the early years of the twentieth century by Henry Browne, a Jesuit and Professor of Greek at UCD from its authorisation by the Irish Universities Act of 1908 until he retired in 1922 (Souyoudzoglou-Haywood (2007) 147). A firm believer in using artefacts and lantern slides to complement ancient texts, a method he referred to as “eye-teaching”, Browne built up a collection of antiquities for use in teaching. The catalogue that he put together in 1913 gives details of how the small grants to the museum had been spent and illustrates how the collection was amassed. Contact with institutions such as the British Museum in London and the Ashmolean in Oxford were of prime importance, and it was through them that ceramics of Minoan, Cypriot and Greek origin, as well as glass, coins, bronzes, and various casts and replicas were brought to Dublin. Loans from the National Museum of Ireland helped fill Browne’s display cases, while some of the cases too were kindly provided by the same institution.

The entire collection was housed in a couple of rooms in Earlsfort Terrace in Dublin’s city centre (Browne (1913) 8), where UCD was initially located. When the Arts faculty moved out to the Belfield campus in 1970, the artefacts were rehomed in a purpose-built museum within the School of Classics in the Newman

Lynam, Aoife Walshe, the students of the 2013-2014 UCD MA in Classics module *Ancient Materialities*, and to thank the editors and reviewers of *Classics Ireland* for their comments.

Building, where it can still be found today. Other occasional acquisitions made during the course of the twentieth century have added to the holdings of the museum and, continuing Browne's legacy, it still plays an integral role in teaching within UCD and more widely for students of Classics across Ireland today. The museum is open to the public several days a week during the university semester and visits for individuals or groups can also be arranged by appointment: (<http://www.ucd.ie/classics/classicalmuseum/>).

Henry Browne and the UCD Coin Collection

Coins featured prominently amongst the museum's early acquisitions; in Browne's words "the chief outlay has been upon Greek and Roman coins" (Browne (1913) 9). It seems that he had a personal interest in numismatics, evidenced not least by the fact that he "perpetrated a small book on the subject" (Browne (1917) 187): *First Lessons in Numismatics for Junior Students of Latin and Greek* (1915). He advocated for the establishment of a circulating loan collection of antiquities, and of coins in particular, that would enable schools (especially those not near a museum) to benefit from hands-on learning. The recommendations he laid out for the coins specified assembling five cabinets of originals, three of Greek coins and two of Roman, while three cabinets of electrotypes and casts should also be included; the entire cost of such an educational numismatic collection was estimated at £130 (Browne (1917) 277).

In building up the UCD collection, Browne seems to have closely followed his own guidelines, and he could state in his 1913 report: “We are, however, beginning to gather a useful collection of Greek silver and bronze; we have also an exceptionally fine set of Roman Aes; some good Romano-Campanian pieces; a good though as yet incomplete set of Roman Republican silver; and a fine set of Roman Imperial coins, especially the copper” (Browne (1913) 9). Further detail is provided on these in his accompanying summary catalogue. For example, listed below the heading Roman Republican Silver are “55 denarii or smaller denominations. The early issues are well represented; also coins of Pompey the Great, Julius Caesar, M. Anthony and Lepidus” (Browne (1913) 15). Acquisitions in 1914 consisted of “two important silver coins of the Romano-Campanian series...; a few more consular denarii, and a large number of bronze and silver coins of the later Emperors.” (Browne (1915) 1). Replica coins formed an important part of the collection too, and a set of 220 electrotypes of the finest examples of Greek coins in the British Museum were purchased, complete with a wooden, velvet-lined display case (Plate 1).

The coins were acquired through a number of channels, including auction houses and dealers in London, Paris and Germany as well as the British Museum. Catalogues from British and German dealers (including Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge; and Adolph E. Cahn) remain in the Classical Museum’s archives (Figure 1), and pencil marks in their margins show which lots Browne considered buying or purchased. He must have

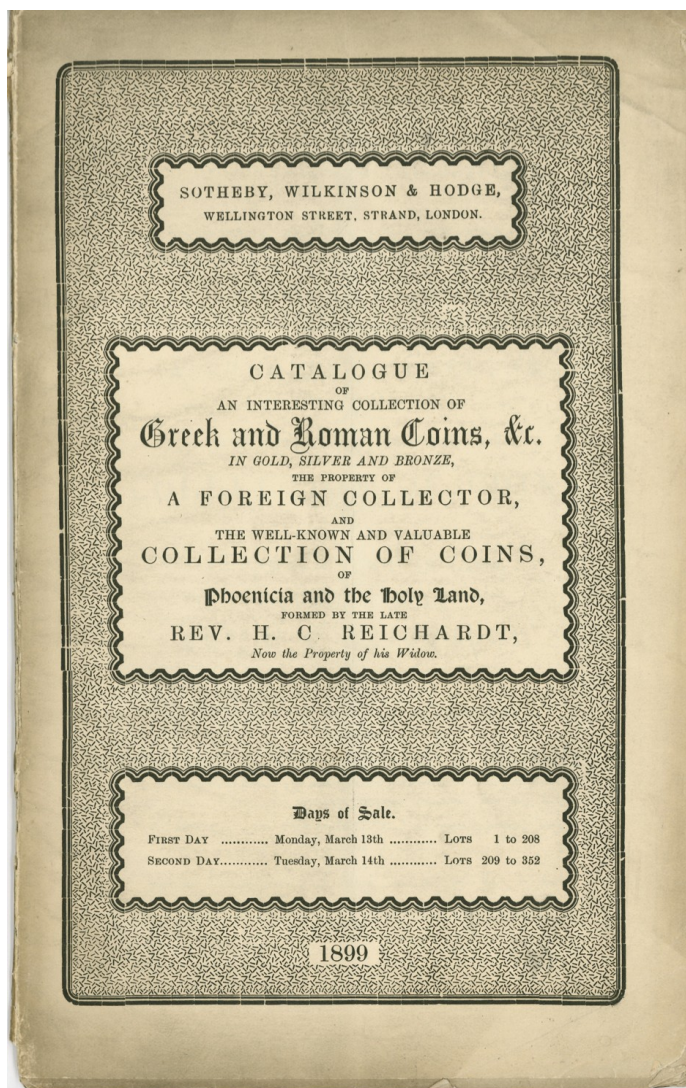


Figure 1. Cover of auction catalogue for a sale of Greek and Roman Coins by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, 1899.
© UCD Classical Museum archive.

commissioned coin specialists Spink and Son Ltd. to bid on his behalf at auctions too, as telegrams signed “Spink” give updates of lots purchased and prices paid (Plate 2).

Since Browne’s days, two private collections of coins have been donated to the museum: the Brindley Collection in 1980, and the Clarke Collection in 1987.² The entire coin collection now numbers over 4,000 examples, although a number of these are heavily worn with little discernable detail on either obverse or reverse. There have been several attempts to catalogue the museum’s numismatic holdings during the twentieth century, starting with Browne, but none of them have managed to get through the entire collection. One of the results of this project, and a key aim of ongoing/future numismatic ones, is the assignation of UCD museum numbers and a corresponding database entry for each coin, thus locating all known information relating to each coin in a centralised repository.

The Roman Republican Coin Collection at UCD

The UCD collection of Republican Roman coins consists of 262 coins representing 212 different types or variations.³ Within the collection, 201 coins are nominally silver although at least three can be shown to be *fourrées* or *subaerati*, consisting of silver-plated, base metal cores; the remaining 61 coins are all struck or cast

² Professor John Richmond and Professor Andrew Smith were instrumental in bringing these two private collections to the UCD Classical Museum.

³ The catalogue of these coins is available online via the UCD Digital Library at: <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdclm:10>



Figure 2. AE triens from Hatria, c. 290-268 BC (HN Italy 13, UCD 2000).

in copper alloy consistent with their denominations. The earliest coins in the Republican collection are two *aes grave* produced for Rome at Hatria in Picenum, c. 290-268 BC (HN Italy 13, HN Italy 15; Figure 2).⁴

These are followed by a cast semis (RRC 18/2), a litra (RRC 17/1a) and a double litra (RRC 16/1a) all produced in Rome itself before 269 BC. In total, there are 31 early Republican coins – i.e. those belonging to the pre-denarius standard (see, for example, Figures 3-4) – and 231 coins produced on the denarius standard dating to the period after 211 BC (Figures 5-7).

⁴ All coins are identified throughout this paper by their standard HN (*Historia Numorum*) or RRC (*Roman Republican Coinage*) reference numbers to facilitate their location through the online catalogues. Each coin's unique UCD number is also visible through the online catalogues.



Figure 3. AR didrachm, 269-266 BC (RRC 20/1, UCD 2217).



Figure 4. AR didrachm (quadrigatus), 225-212 BC (RRC 28/3, UCD 2036).



Figure 5. AR denarius in the name of L. Saufeius, 152 BC (RRC 204/1, UCD 2256).



Figure 6. AR denarius in the name of P. Licinius Nerva, 113 or 112 BC (RRC 292/1, UCD 2072).



Figure 7. AR denarius in the name of M. Volteius, 78 BC (RRC 385/4, UCD 2135).

The collection has good coverage of the period between 91 and 32 BC. Within this period, the dictatorship of C. Julius Caesar is well represented with 20 coins struck during the period 49-44 BC (Figure 8).

Of potential note to students and researchers studying mint administration, three or more different moneyers (usually but not always the *tresviri monetales*) are represented in the collection for the years 136 BC, 108 or 107 BC, 90 BC, 82 BC, 55 BC and 42 BC. The latest of the Republican coins are represented by a selection of legionary denarii produced by Mark Antony in the lead up to Actium in 32-31 BC (RRC 544/14, RRC 544/30, RRC 544/36, RRC 544/24-39, RRC 544/8-39; Figure 9). The most notable gap in the entire Republican sequence is the last fifteen year period, which, aside from Antony's legionary denarii, includes only a single other coin, dating between 42 and 27 BC.

As can be expected, the overwhelming majority of the coins (221 specimens) were produced at the mint of Rome itself. Other coins in the collection were produced by Romans or on behalf of Rome in subsidiary mints scattered around Italy, especially in the



Figure 8. AR denarius in the name of C. Julius Caesar, 46–45 BC (RRC 468/1, UCD 2179).



Figure 9. AR denarius in the name of M. Antonius, 32–31 BC (RRC 544/30, UCD 2193).

south of the peninsula, Sicily, Sardinia, Spain, Gaul, Africa, Phrygia and by a series of first century BC mobile mints, travelling with the military commanders Sulla, Pompey, Caesar, Octavian and Antony.

Although dominated by silver denarii (179 examples), other silver denominations represented in the collection include early didrachms (4), victoriatii (4), sestertii (5) and quinarii (9). Bronze or other copper alloy denominations are represented by the following breakdown: double litrae (2), litrae (2), asses (23), semisses (6), triens (1), quadrantes (5), sextantes (11), unciae (6), semiunciae (4) and a single AE unit produced in Phrygia.

A denarius in the UCD collection struck by T. Carisius in 46 BC (RRC 464/2; Figure 10) offers an



Figure 10. AR denarius in the name of T. Carisius, 46 BC (RRC 464/2, UCD 2176).

insight into Roman Republican monetary practice and provides a useful teaching tool. The obverse of the coin depicts a female head identified by the legend as (Juno) Moneta, Juno of the Warnings, patroness of Rome's treasury. The reverse is often interpreted as depicting the tools used during the minting practice – a garlanded punch die, anvil die, tongs and (somewhat obscured) a hammer or mallet. An alternative is to view the assemblage as the accoutrements of Vulcan, the god of metal working. In this context the object above the anvil might be interpreted as the deity's wreathed pileus rather than a reverse die.

Two other denarii, both struck in 84 BC in the name of C. Licinius Macer (RRC 354/1) reveal more physical signs of the minting process. Possible tong marks are visible on both obverses and reverses – presumably impressed into the coin flan while the metal was still hot. A third coin, produced in the name of Mark Antony in 43-42 BC (RRC 489/6; Figure 11) was struck twice during the minting process. The double striking is most clearly seen on the obverse head of Victory where the goddess's profile can be seen twice. While none of these coins or their features are particularly rare, their presence within the holdings of the UCD Classical



Figure 11. Double struck AR quinarius in the name of M. Antonius, 43–42 BC (RRC 489/6, UCD 2240).

Museum highlights the potential of the collection as a valuable teaching resource.

As noted above, three of the denarii are clearly *fourrées*. Composed of a base metal core, usually of copper alloy or lead, *fourrées* used various methods to apply a thin coating of precious metal to the surface, thereby producing a coin which looked authentic but at a fraction of the cost. There is no conclusive evidence as to who was responsible for the production of *fourrées* in the Roman Republic. The plated coins often show a very high artistic style, comparable to the official issues and it has been suggested that quite a few plated coins may have been struck by the same dies which were also used to strike official unplated coins (Campbell (1933); Sydenham (1952) xlv; however, note the reservations of Crawford (1968); id. (1974) 560-2).

It appears that either authentic dies were stolen by ancient forgers and used to produce unofficial imitations of contemporary coins produced by the state, or else the state-employed mint workers were supplementing their silver supplies, with or without official consent, to produce *fourrées* alongside pure silver coins. There is certainly analogous evidence from the mid-seventeenth

century scandal at the mint of Potosí in Spanish Bolivia where mint workers were caught and prosecuted for producing debased coins and keeping the excess silver themselves (Cunietti-Ferrando (1986); Craig (2000)). However, there may also be evidence, with specific reference to late fifth century BC Athens, of the state commissioning plated coins as an emergency measure to meet the costly expenses of continuous war (Aristophanes *Frogs* 718-37; id *Assembly of Women* 813-22; Robinson (1960); Giovannini (1975) 185-90).

Unless tested, the deception would only have been exposed due to wear at the high points of the coin which, after time, revealed the base metal below. Alternatively, when moisture is trapped between the noble and base metal layers, active corrosion of the core could cause the foil to bubble and then break. The collection contains a late second century BC fourrée struck in the name of C. Caecilius Metellus Caprarius (RRC 269/1) that shows where the silver plating has worn away from the neck of the obverse head of Roma and the raised ear and shoulder area of the elephants on the reverse (Figure 12). The exposed copper alloy core has subsequently oxidised in the form of a corrosive bloom. Two mid-first century BC fourrées were struck in the names of P. Plautius Hypsaeus and F. Cornelius Sulla respectively (RRC 420/2a, RRC 426/4b). Both coins have fractured along one entire side of the flan, potentially as a result of the underlying weakness of the base metal cores.



Figure 12. Plated denarius in the name of C. Caecilius Metellus Caprarius, 125 BC (RRC 269/1, UCD 2061).

A fourth coin, a denarius struck by L. Appuleius Saturninus (RRC 317/3a), appears externally sound but weighs a surprisingly low 2.60 grams, well over a gram less than what would normally be expected. It is entirely possible that this coin is also a *fourrée* consisting of a silvered copper alloy core. The surface of the coin is coated in many places with archaeological accretions but is otherwise sound and shows no evidence of flaking to reveal the underlying corrosion evident on the other *fourrées*. A late second century denarius struck in the name of M. Lucilius Rufus (RRC 324/1) was also produced at a suspiciously low weight of 2.62 grams. However, in the case of this coin, the low weight is probably accounted for by the very thin nature of the flan rather than any possibility of a base metal core. The piece may then be considered an official issue produced (perhaps inadvertently) on an especially light flan.

Two of the coins (RRC 385/1, RRC 487/2a) depict successive incarnations of the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus on the Capitoline Hill. While not especially rare, these images serve to remind modern viewers of the important role that can be played by coins in illustrating structures that no longer exist. The first Capitoline temple was supposedly built during the reign



Figure 13. AR denarius in the name of M. Volteius, 78 BC (RRC 385/1, UCD 2134).



Figure 14. AR denarius in the name of Petillius Capitolinus, 43 BC (RRC 487/2a, UCD 2183).

of the kings and consecrated in the first year of the Republic. It was burnt to the ground in July 83 BC during the struggle between L. Cornelius Sulla and C. Marius the Younger (Plutarch *Poplicola* 15; Tacitus *Histories* 3.72; Appian *Civil War* 1.83, 86; Plutarch *Sulla* 27). Sulla commissioned the building of the second temple during his dictatorship and it is perhaps in light of this process that RRC 385/1 was struck in 78 BC (Figure 13).

The reverse of the coin shows a tetrastyle portico supporting a pediment and roof adorned with acroteria. The image is generally understood as representing the façade of the first structure. In effect, it commemorated the loss of the earlier building and perhaps aspired towards its restoration. RRC 487/2a was struck in 42 BC and depicts the façade of the new second temple,



Figure 15. AR denarius in the name of M. Furius Philus, 119 BC (RRC 282/1, UCD 2066).

completed by Q. Lutatius Catulus in 69 BC (Pliny *Natural History* 7.138, 19.23; Suetonius *Augustus* 94). Clearly Catulus created a grander edifice than the one he replaced and the temple on this coin's obverse shows a magnificent hexastyle portico and includes more elaborate pedimental sculptures and acroteria (Figure 14).

One coin in the Roman Republican collection also provides a tantalising indicator of one of the ways coins have traditionally been used during their post-circulation 'afterlife'. A denarius struck in the name of M. Furius Philus in 119 BC (RRC 281/1; Figure 15) was drilled at some point after it was minted to be hung as a pendant. The position of the hole, located in the right field of the obverse but above the centre of the composition on the reverse, indicates that it was the reverse type, depicting Roma crowning a trophy adorned with captured Gallic arms, which was prioritised for viewing during the coin's use as an adornment. While there can be no guarantee that this coin was holed in antiquity, various studies have illustrated the contemporary use of Republican and later Roman coins as talismans linked to the power of their issuers or the imagery they carried (Wolters (1999) 308-18; Meadows and Williams (2001) 27-49; Rowan (2009)).

Numismatics and Online Publication

This study of the Roman Republican coins held at UCD Classical Museum is a pilot project for establishing an online database of the complete numismatic holdings, an undertaking that will place UCD at the forefront of the global shift towards digital publication of coins. The British Museum and the American Numismatic Society have pioneered online databases of ancient coinage (Gruber et al., (2013)). For example, *Online Coins of the Roman Empire* (OCRE; <http://numismatics.org/ocre/>) is an online corpus of Roman coins dating from Augustus to Zeno that currently includes about 25,000 coins from various collections. Republican coins can be found in the *Coinage of the Roman Republic Online* (CRRO; <http://numismatics.org/crro/>), while Republican hoards are available at *Coin Hoards of the Roman Republic Online* (CHRR; <http://numismatics.org/chrr/>) (Gruber and Lockyear (2013)).

The key element in this online numismatic publishing surge is the implementation of a Linked Open Data format by museums. Open data is released under a license (for example, Creative Commons) that allows it to be used, reused and redistributed for free, without restrictive copyright conditions. Open data as a concept is inextricably linked to the internet, and allows the widest possible dissemination of the results of research. Linked Data “is machine readable, its meaning is explicitly defined, it is linked to other external data sets, and can in turn be linked to from external data sets” (Bizer, Heath and Berners-Lee (2009) 2). Following

certain protocols allows data to be published on the web in a linkable manner, meaning that it is more likely to become part of what is known as the Semantic Web, i.e. readable by machines. This facilitates much wider access to information because diverse databases and datasets can be linked to each other by the use of references to diverse resources, vocabularies, etc., at a scale that cannot be achieved using traditional research methods. Linked Open Data, therefore, is linked in a multiplicity of ways across the web and is facilitated by an open license.

Numismatics is a field especially suited to Linked Data, as the terminology used to classify coins has long been fixed (for example, obverse type, axis, denomination), meaning an international standard descriptive vocabulary already exists. Each concept or term can be assigned a stable URI (uniform resource identifier) to “facilitate cross-project and machine readable representations of this information” (Gruber et al. (2013) 250). These URIs are the building blocks of Linked Data,⁵ and those relevant for the study of coins are listed at the Nomisma project (<http://nomisma.org>), which provides “stable digital representations of numismatic concepts according to the principals of Linked Open Data.” (Nomisma (2013) – Introduction). For example, the word *quinarius* is defined in Nomisma as “Roman silver coin worth 5 or 8 asses”, and the term is translated into numerous languages. Any numismatic

⁵ See Gruber et al. (2013) and Bizer, Heath and Berners-Lee (2009) for a detailed discussion of the technical details of Linked Open Data.

database that intends to expose its information as Linked Data can identify the type of coin using any of the variant forms of the term referring to *quinarius*, but by referencing the term with its Nomisma URI ensures that its meaning is unambiguous, i.e. a *quinarius* is a Roman silver coin worth 5 or 8 asses.

Linked Data also facilitates linking the numismatic data, as found in any non-digital catalogue, with other types of online information. Maps are a popular option and allow the locations of mints and coin findspots to be seen at a glance. Links can be made between similar coins in different collections around the world, enabling a specialist to see numerous examples of any particular coin issue, for example. This is possible with the corpus of Roman coins because of two key publications: Michael Crawford's 1974 *Roman Republican Coinage* (RRC), and *Roman Imperial Coinage* (RIC), a multivolume catalogue published throughout the twentieth century, both of which provide fixed classifications and a universal referencing framework. Each of these volumes assigns a unique number to a coin type; for example RRC 518/1 is the number for a denarius issued by Octavian in 41 BC. The entry for this in *Coinage of the Roman Republic Online* not only includes the expected numismatic information (as available in the printed RRC) with links to Nomisma URIs, but also a map showing findspots of examples of this coin, and other illustrated examples of this type from the British Museum, the American Numismatic Society and Staatliche Museen in Berlin. As more museums place their collections online and use the Nomisma

vocabulary, further examples of RRC 518/1 can be added to the CRRO, thereby continually increasing the data available to scholars.

UCD Classical Museum Collection Online

Over the next five years, the museum intends to make its entire collection available for browsing and searching online. This goal accords with the global contemporary practice for museums to make their collections accessible to a wider community through increased web presence. The UCD pilot project focused on making the Roman Republican coins available online in a Linked Open Data format. This was a multi-step process that firstly required the location and identification of all the Republican examples in the museum and the creation of a basic catalogue. Each coin was assigned a UCD museum number and an RRC number, and all relevant information was entered into the museum's Filemaker Pro database.⁶ Every artefact in the museum has a record in this database, organised by UCD museum number. Images of both sides of the coin and basic information about condition and comparanda, together with numismatic-specific information including denomination, mint, issuing authority, axis, and obverse and reverse legends and types were recorded (Plate 3). These fields were chosen according to NUDS, the Numismatic Description Standard, which recommends field names for

⁶ This database was constructed as part of the CHIRON project (Classical Museum Resources Online). Filemaker Pro 12 was chosen as it is fully searchable, can be easily hosted online, and has a very user-friendly interface.

databases.⁷ Terms not covered by NUDS conformed to the Oxford Classical Dictionary (3rd ed.) anglicised versions to further ensure standardisation. Older catalogue numbers assigned by Henry Browne and recorded in a simple copybook with handwritten entries are also included so that a full biography of each coin is available (Plate 4).

Stage two of the process was to make the collection accessible online in a Linked Open Data format. The database field names (such as axis, denomination) were derived from NUDS and so already compatible with other online databases and the Nomisma stable URIs. The mint field was linked to the Pleiades project (<http://pleiades.stoa.org>), which provides a map for locating the mint.⁸ The complete data set of 262 Republican coins was then passed on to the UCD Digital Library to host online. The Digital Library provides access to resources from a variety of the UCD cultural heritage collections and is free to use. The Republican coins are available at <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdclm:10>. Each coin, or record, has been assigned a DOI (digital object identifier), which gives it a stable link that can be cited in publications. Descriptive information about each coin can also be downloaded from this site in a variety of formats.

The final step in bringing the collection to a wider

⁷ <http://nomisma.org/ontology>

⁸ Pleiades project is a linked online gazetteer of ancient places, each given a URI; information is available under a Creative Commons license.

audience was to link it to the *Coinage of the Roman Republic Online* project (<http://numismatics.org/crro/>). A workshop with representatives of the American Numismatic Society and the British Museum held in UCD in May 2013 ensured that the UCD data was presented in the optimum manner for this linking. Using the RRC numbers and the vocabulary from Nomisma enabled this collaboration and the UCD coins are now linked to the RRCO. This is a ground-breaking achievement for a university museum and the Classical Museum is one of the six founding contributors to RRCO, alongside such numismatic giants as the British Museum and the American Numismatic Society. To balance this emphasis on digital dissemination, a new exhibition of the Roman Republican coins at the UCD Classical Museum was curated by MA students in the School of Classics in June 2014, and will remain on view for several years.

Next Steps

Now that a protocol has been established for the cataloguing of coins in the museum to a standard that facilitates online dissemination of the collection, it is intended to continue working towards completion of the numismatic holdings. Focus has turned towards the Roman Imperials, and a grant in 2014 from the Heritage Council facilitated conservation on some of the specimens from this period that were in need of stabilisation and/or cleaning. Ultimately these will be available in *Online Coins of the Roman Empire*, as well as the UCD Digital Library. After coins get entered into the museum database, they are re-arranged in

conservation-grade storage cabinets in the museum and this work, along with scanning them, relies on museum volunteers, who tend to be keen students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. In due course, the entire museum collection will be hosted online, making it one of the first in Ireland to have a complete artefact database available via the internet. The collection has come a long way since the days of Henry Browne, but he would surely approve of these new methodologies that bring coins, and the Classical world, to a wider audience.

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Plate 1. Wooden case containing the collection of electrotypes of Greek coins purchased by Browne from the British Museum. © UCD Classical Museum.



POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1d. being reckoned as 1d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Office Stamp.

Charges
to pay } s. d.

Handed
in at } 4/11/10

Received
here at } 6/11/10

TO

Post Office
Browne
Spink
brought lots one 1/3 two
258 Whitpave 1/3 one eightpence
21

Plate 2. Telegram from Spink to Browne in 1915, detailing successful purchase of coins at auction in London.
© UCD Classical Museum.



Plate 3. Screenshot of a coin record in the new museum database. Note the general information available on the left, while the artefact-specific tabs are on the right.

