

Anatomy of a Coin



Device: The main theme of relief that occupies the central and largest part of each side. There are various device themes (portraits, national emblems, archaic coin designs)

Dentils: tooth like designs around the circumference of the rim. Help prevent "shaving."

Field: The coin's surface that is smooth and free from lettering and designs.

Rim: The raised edge of both sides of the coin. It helps protect the upper parts of the device's relief from wear.

Legend (Peripheral Inscription): Generally the full name of the issuing state or the name of the depicted ruler. It is engraved in relief of the field of the obverse or the reverse, on the inside of the rim and its possible decorative pattern

Year of minting: Four – digit number (without the addition of a thousands separator) sometimes written on the reverse and some times underneath obverse's device.

Denomination: It is usually written on the coin's reverse.

Exergue: Circular portion beneath the device that usually features the denomination or the year of the minting.

Mintmarks: Very small representations or lettering indentifying the mint where the minting took place.