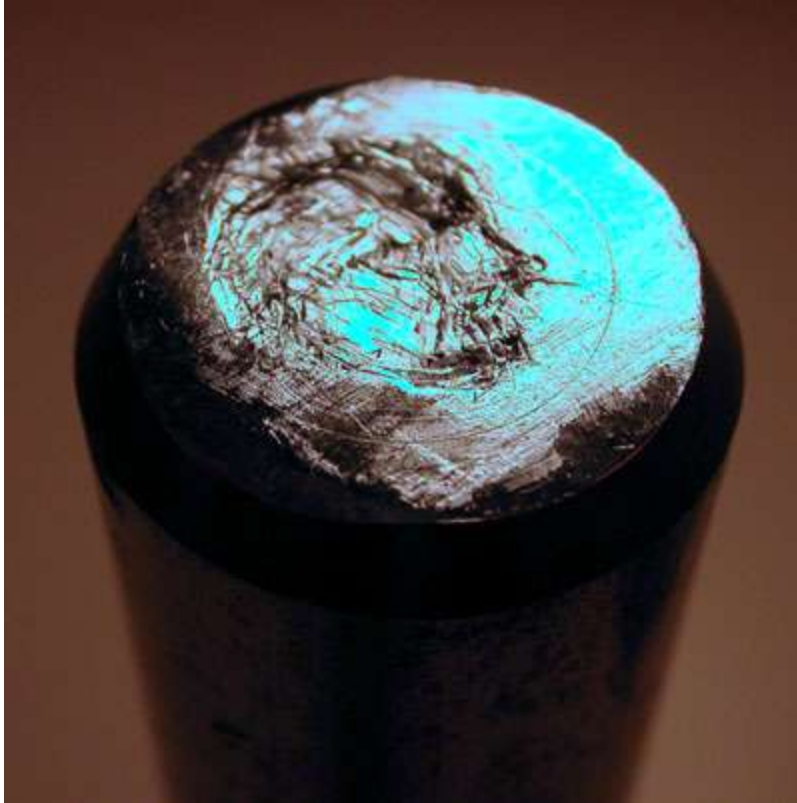


## Di Hu:

### Experiments in Ancient Roman Coin Minting

#### What I have done so far in the die making process

My “experimental” die. I made this to test out quickly the practicalities of carving a die by hand using old tools called “gravers.”



This is the impression that the die makes...



## Some experiments with coin blank casting.

These experiments were done to find the best way to cast coin blanks en masse for my experiment.

Methodology number 1) Testing with blowtorch, charcoal block, and silver granules. First, you carve a round depression in a block of charcoal, then you put the silver granules inside the depression.



Then you blowtorch the silver to melt it.



Finished result. A pellet forms.



Here is another coin blank made through the blowtorch-charcoal method.

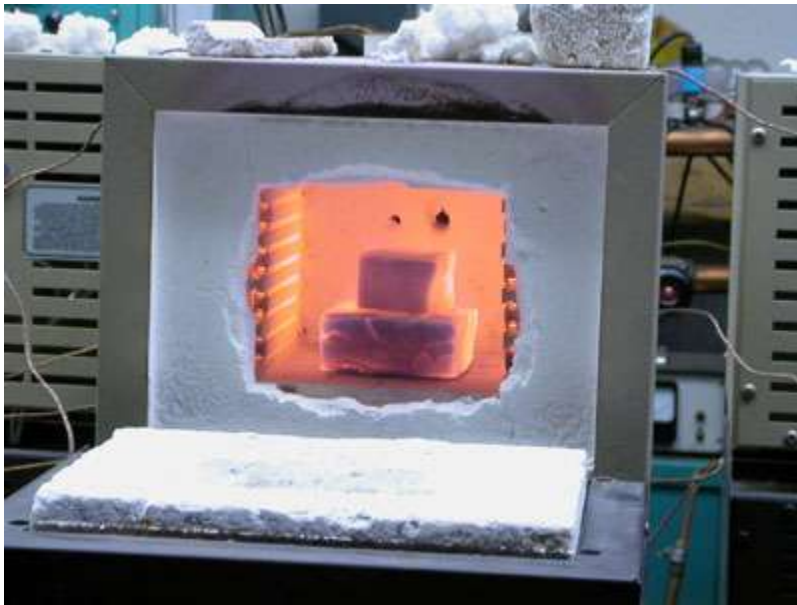


Here's a "coin" made with the experimental blank and experimental die.



Methodology number 2) Casting blanks using a furnace and charcoal blocks. It turned out to be a disaster because the charcoal disintegrated. See below pictures.

These are the blocks in the furnace after about half an hour. Notice how the charcoal blocks turned grayish because of disintegration.



Note the deterioration of the charcoal block. However, even at this stage, the silver has not yet melted.



When the silver has finally melted, the charcoal block is in a sorry state. This shows that I have to stick to the blow-torch method.



### Making the first Die

Step 1- File down the end of the die to make it smooth.



Step 2-Punch outline of the coin onto die. Draw the design with a pencil on the die.



Step 3- Etch out the shape of the design.



Step 4- Carve, carve, carve.



Step 5-Finish the details.



