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**Farnese.** A noble Italian family which produced many notable persons, including one Pope (Paul III), who gained a well deserved reputation as a rapacious collector of ancient works of art. The Farnese collections of books and artistic masterpieces were famous. The Farnese Gardens and the Palazzo Farnese occupied a large part of Rome near the Forum, and some major works of ancient art are located there.

**Fasces.** ‘Faggot’ (the Latin word is plural, and should be used with a plural verb). This was the name given to a bundle of twigs, with an axe bound in the middle, which was carried before the highest Roman magistrates as a sign of their rank. They originally symbolised the power of the holders of these offices to beat (with twigs) and behead (with an axe) criminals, but in the course of time this symbolism was weakened, and they came to suggest nothing more than the formal power and legitimacy of office. The idea of the fasces (without the axe) as a symbol of unity through strength is a more modern one, perhaps originally inspired by a fable of Aesop.

**Fascia.** A flat strip forming part of the architectural decoration of a building, particularly one of the three into which the architrave of the Ionic order is usually divided (cf. Fillet).

**Faun.** A mythical creature or divinity in Italy, the approximate equivalent of the Greek satyr, represented originally as a creature having the tail and ears of a goat attached to a male human body, and later, like Pan, with the legs of a goat as well.

**Festivals and Games.** In Greek and Roman life, religious festivals and athletic contests played an important part, and were often the subject of artistic representations in one medium or another. In modern life we might consider religion and athletics to be two quite separate things, although among Australian Christians this seems to be changing. In the ancient world, however, competitions of different kinds, ranging from wrestling, and chariot races to gladiatorial contests, sometimes took place during the course of ceremonies which had a primarily religious purpose. This may be partly the result of the inclusion in the earliest times of athletic contests in the funeral rites of kings.

Some festivals were held in honour of gods, for instance the Olympian Games which were held in honour of Zeus, the Pythian Games in honour of Apollo and the dramatic festivals held at Athens and elsewhere in honour of Dionysus. The posthumous cult of Alexander the Great inspired festivals and games, and some festivals were instituted in honour of Roman emperors.

Many of the scenes which are to be found on Greek vases and coins, or in the art of the Roman world, were inspired by this kind of event, and the works of art which show them were in many cases created to advertise a festival, or as prizes (see also Secular Games).

**Fibula.** A brooch or clasp, used to hold a garment together.

**Field.** In relief sculpture, coinage or painting, the area around the main scene or object represented, which may contain minor subjects.

**Fillet.** In architecture, a narrow flat strip raised from the surrounding surface (cf. Taenia); also a strip of wool or other material which might be bound around an object as a mark of distinction or respect, or worn around the head of someone performing a ceremony or attending a formal party.

**Fleuron.** A flower-shaped ornament.

**Fulmen.** A thunderbolt (Latin; the Greek *keraunos* is rarely used in English). In Greek and Roman art it is an attribute of the sky god Zeus/Jupiter, and is represented as a bundle of flames shooting out forwards and backwards, bound with a tie around the middle.

**Fylfot,** see Swastika.