Quadrans. A Roman bronze coin, 1/4 of an as, which at first weighed a quarter of a pound, but during the Republic was successively reduced in weight until it weighed no more than half an ounce and sometimes less. It continued to be struck as the smallest unit of coinage until the 3rd century AD. In the New Testament it is one of the words used for a small coin, and is translated as ‘farthing’ in the King James version of the Bible.

Quadratum, see Opus.

Quadrifrons. An archway set at the intersection of two streets (a quadrivium), with four arched façades.


Quadrigatus. A Roman silver coin of the 2nd century B.C., so called because the reverse type was a quadriga (cf. Bigatus).

Quadriporticus. An enclosed four-sided courtyard with porticoes or colonnades on all four sides.

Quadrivium. A place where four roads meet, or cross-roads.

Quasi-reticulatum, see Opus.

Quincunx. ‘Five-ounce’, the name of a rare Republican bronze coin worth five-twelfths of an as. The same word is also used in English to describe an arrangement of five objects with one at the centre and the remaining four forming the corners of a square.

Quinquennalia. The five-year anniversary of a Roman emperor's accession, which might be celebrated by the issuing of coins or other celebratory gestures (cf. Decennalia, Vicennalia, Vota).

Quinquereme. ‘Five-oar’, a type of vessel with the oars arranged in five banks (cf. Trireme).

Quoin, coin or coigne. A brick or stone placed at the corner of a building or at an opening in a wall.