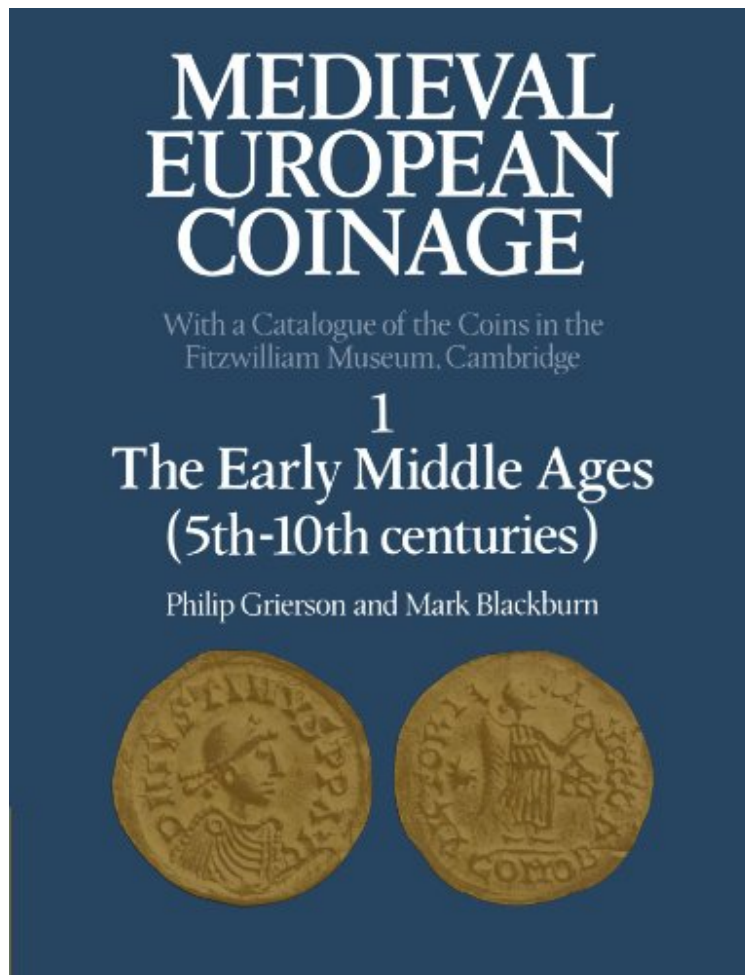


# Medieval European Coinage: Volume 1, The Early Middle Ages (5th-10th Centuries)

*Philip Grierson, Mark Blackburn*  
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In my book, "Astronomical Symbols on Ancient and Medieval Coins", I devote a number of chapters in the book to the astronomical symbols that were depicted on medieval European coinage as signs of divine right to sovereignty. As part of my research, I read numerous books on medieval European numismatics and history, and I found that Grierson's book, "MEC Volume I," was especially useful. It is extremely difficult to find so many coins of the first half of the middle ages described in a single volume. There are many, many plates of photographs of coins, and also some plates showing forgeries. This book was originally published as a hard back with a list price of \$125, but was soon sold out and was going for almost \$200 on secondary markets. I sold my first copy to a friend, and then found out how expensive it was to buy this book for a second time. Now that it is available as a paperback, the cost is once again more reasonable for obtaining a copy. I highly recommend this book to all who are interested in European numismatic history.  
Marshall Faintich

This, the first volume of Medieval European Coinage, surveys the coinage of Western Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire in the West in the fifth century to the emergence of recognizable 'national' political units in the tenth. It starts with the Vandals, Visigoths, Burgundians and other Germanic invaders of the Empire, whose coins were modelled on contemporary issues of the Western or Eastern emperors. The coinage of the Franks is followed from early Merovingian times through to the establishment and subsequent fragmentation of the Carolingian empire. Italy is represented by the coinages of the Ostrogoths, Lombards, Carolingians and popes down to the Ottoman conquest in the mid-tenth century. The coinage of the Anglo-Saxons is traced from the introduction of minting in the early seventh century to the emergence of a united kingdom during the first half of the tenth century, including the aberrant coinages of Northumbria and the Anglo-Viking coinages of the Danelaw.