

# A U C T I O N

24

A Highly Important Collection  
of Roman and Byzantine Gold Coins,  
Property of an European Nobleman

5th December 2002

NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA AG  
ZÜRICH

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# 130 AUCTION 24

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## **A Highly Important Collection of Roman and Byzantine Gold Coins, Property of an European Nobleman**

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Les conditions locales de mise aux enchères seront appliquées et celles-ci sont disponibles dans les langues allemande, française, italienne et anglaise. En cas de différences d'interprétation, le texte allemand fait foi.

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Saranno inoltre applicabili le consuetudini locali sulle vendite all'asta, il testo delle quali è disponibile nelle lingue tedesca, francese e inglese; in caso di divergenze di interpretazione farà fede il testo in lingua tedesca.

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The estimates are in Swiss Francs. The opening bids will be about 80% of estimate, unless there are higher offers. The purchase price plus a commission of 15% is due and payable in Swiss currency. For lots delivered in Switzerland, VAT of 7.6% will be added to the total (hammer price together with auctioneer's commission and sending charges). **Gold coins (AV) are free of VAT.** The total price is due after the final bid and payable on delivery. Late payment of the invoice will incur interest at bank rate. Adjudication ensues after the highest bid has been called three times, and commits the bidder to accept the coins. Written bids have preference over room bids. The buyer cannot claim to act on behalf of a third person.

**The authenticity of the coins is unconditionally guaranteed, without time limit.** All identifications of the items sold in this catalogue are statements of opinion and made in good faith.

The coins will be dispatched by registered and insured mail for the account and the risk of the purchaser. The purchaser is responsible for any dues or taxes outside of Switzerland and is advised to acquaint himself with the formalities. The auctioneer cannot be responsible for contraventions.

The auction is held in Zurich and any legal questions arising shall be determined in Zurich. A buyer consigning commissions or executing room bids acknowledges the acceptance of the above conditions.

The usual conditions applied to auction sales held in Zurich are here reiterated. The above mentioned conditions are written in German, French and English; the only legal valid text is German.



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**Thursday, 5th December 2002 14.30**

**1 – 452**

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**1st October – 5th November**

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**20th – 21st November**

**14.30 – 18.30 hrs (20th November) & 9.30 – 18.30 hrs (21st November)**

**The Connaught Hotel, 1 Savoy Hill**

Die Auktion erfolgt unter Mitwirkung eines Beamten des Stadtmannamtes Zürich 1. Jede Haftung des anwesenden Beamten, der Gemeinde und des Staates für Handlungen des Auktionators entfällt.

## Foreword

N.A.C. is proud to present to its clients this highly important collection of Roman and Byzantine gold coins. With regard to the Roman gold multiples, for the number and significance of the specimens proposed, it is by far the richest and most glamorous collection ever to appear in any time on the numismatic market, exceeding others such as Trau, Caruso, Garret, Hunt etc. It is worth pointing out that very few of the major public ones can display a similar number of multiples.

Such is the level that we are embarrassed in mentioning some specimens rather than others, but however we cannot refrain from drawing the attention on, among the medallions, the famed nine solidi multiple of Constantine I the Great, from the Arras hoard, a five aurei and a four aurei of Constantius Chlorus, also from the famous Belgian hoard, a charming eight aurei multiple struck by Gallienus, a spectacular eight aurei multiple of Maximianus Herculius and a superb five solidi multiple of Constantius Gallus.

The series of Roman aurei is indeed outstanding and of the highest quality, and although not up to the mythical Ponton d'Amercourt and Montague collections, surely it is the most important proposed in a single public sale after the last world war.

A collection of this kind absolutely deserved a particular presentation, and for this reason N.A.C. has produced a catalogue with a luxurious typographic appearance; in this occasion availing itself, for the drafting of most of the historical-numismatic notes, of the collaboration of the young and skilful American numismatist David Vagi, whom we are pleased to thank here for the originality and scientific value of his work.

As we have already said in previous occasions, behind every collection there is the sensitiveness and the sake for art of its owner; in this case, rather than dwelling on words suitable for the occasion, we defer to the collection the charge of telling about him. However scholars and collectors alike, and those keen on beauty in general, owe him some gratitude for this chance of appraising something of uncommon appeal.

Finally, N.A.C. takes the opportunity to thank here the noble collector for having been entrusted with the task of organizing this sale, which will doubtless remain a reference mark in the years to come.

**Please visit our auction sale on line at [www.arsclassicacoins.com](http://www.arsclassicacoins.com)**

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# Roman Gold Coins

## The Roman Republic

The mint is Rome unless otherwise stated

### The Civil Wars, 49 – 31 BC



- 1 **Julius Caesar with A. Hirtius Praetor.** Aureus circa 46 BC, 7.96 g. C CAESAR – COS TER  
Veiled head of Vesta r. Rev. A HIRTIVS P R *Lituus*, jug and axe. Bahrfeldt 19. Cr. 466/1. Syd.  
1017. C 2. Vagi 39. Calicó 36. Fine style. About extremely fine 3'500

The early career of Julius Caesar – certainly the most famous of all Romans – was far from remarkable. He followed the standard *cursus honorum* of a nobleman, and had he not been struck by great ambition in his 31st year, he may have been little more than a footnote in history. Caesar's moment of clarity seems to have occurred while serving as a *quaestor* in Spain: he gazed upon a statue of Alexander the Great, who by age 31 had already conquered Greece and the Persian Empire. Within a few years Caesar had joined Crassus in a populist movement against the nobility, and a decade later was consul. From there his career spiraled to ever-rising heights, including the pacification of Gaul, the defeat of Pompey Magnus at Pharsalus, and receiving the unprecedented title *dictator perpetuus* from the senate. However, shortly before he was to ask for the title of king in advance of his campaign against Parthia (for the Sibylline Books prophesied that only a king could conquer Parthia), Caesar was murdered by a group of senators led by Brutus and Cassius. So ended Caesar's life, but not his legacy, which was carried forth by Marc Antony and Octavian, and which survived in the form of the Julio-Claudians dynasty and the first six emperors of Rome.



- 2 **Julius Caesar with L. Munatius Plancus.** Quinarius circa 45 BC, 4.04 g. C-CAES – DIC-TER  
Draped bust of Victory r. Rev. L-PLANC – PRAEF-VRB Jug. Bahrfeldt 22.9 (this coin). Cr.  
475/2. Syd. 1020. Treasure of Ancient Coinage, December 1996, ANS / New York International  
Numismatic Convention Exhibit Catalogue, p. 77, 71 (this coin). C 32. Vagi 121.

Extremely rare, very few specimens known. Good very fine 6'000

Ex Hirsch XII, Consul Weber collection, 706; Hess 2.11.1912, Theodore Prowe collection, 1101; M&M XVII, 1957, 306; Hess-Leu 1963, 135 and Triton III, 1999, 823 sales.



- 3 ***L. Cestius and C. Norbanus.*** Aureus circa 43 BC, 8.04 g. Draped bust of Africa r., wearing elephant-skin headdress. Rev. L·CESTIVS / S C – PR Curule chair with legs decorated with eagles, on top, Corinthian helmet; in exergue, C·NORBA. Bahrfeldt 24. Cr. 491/1a. Syd. 1153. Calicó 3. Scarce. A few light marks, otherwise about extremely fine 5'500

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 728.

The circumstances under which this aureus, and its companion issue, were struck are not certainly known, but it almost certainly is an emergency issue of the senate. It was struck in the name of the praetors Lucius Cestius and Gaius Norbanus, presumably in the early part of 43 B.C., when the senate became allied with Octavian against Marc Antony, who had been declared a public enemy by the senate in February of this year following his 'war' against Decimus Brutus. The former right-hand-man of Julius Caesar, Antony, now realized just how formidable enemy he had in young Octavian. As perilous as the situation could have become (the production of these aurei indicates the senate was formulating plans for war), Antony and Octavian resolved their differences through negotiation. On November 11, 43 the Second Triumvirate was formed, which determined that Antony, Octavian and Lepidus would to work together rather than engage in a costly civil war.



- 4 ***C. Cassius Longinus with Lentulus Spinther.*** Aureus, mint moving with Cassius circa 43–42 BC, 8.21 g. C·CASSI·IMP – LEIBERTAS Diademed bust of Vesta r. Rev. LENTVLVS / SPINT Sacrificial vase and *lituus*. Bahrfeldt 59. Cr. 500/2. Syd. 1304. C Brutus 3. Kent-Hirmer pl. 27, 97. Vagi 99. Calicó 65. Rare. Extremely fine 14'000

Lentulus Spinther is perhaps the son of Spinther, cos 57, who became legendary for his lavish expenditure while aedile and praetor and whose taste, as evidenced by the bust of Libertas, was influenced by rich post-Sullan late hellenistic style that characterises the period of Pompey's triumphs. The spelling of Leibertas is self-consciously archaic, evoking ancient virtues in a style redolent of denarii issued earlier under Brutus. The reverse type symbolises the augurate of Spinther (or, of course, Cassius), authenticating his activities as moneyer.





- 5 ***Q. Iunio M. Caepio Brutus and C. Cassius Longinus with M. Servilius.*** Aureus, mint moving with Cassius and Brutus (Sardis ?) circa 43-42 BC, 7.96 g. M·SERVILIVS·LEG Laureate head of Libertas r. Rev. Q·CAEPIO· – BRVTVS·IMP Helmeted and cuirassed trophy with shield and two spears. Bahrfeldt 66. Cr. 505/4. Syd. 1314. C 9. Vagi 84. Calicó 61.

Very rare. An appealing specimen of this desirable coin. An almost invisible  
flan-crack, otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine

18'000

Ex M&M 43, 1970, 236 and Hirsch 193, 1997, 10 sales.

Though in history the names Julius Caesar and Brutus are virtually inseparable, as people they could not have had more distinct philosophies. Brutus was a supporter of the wealthy upper class, whereas Caesar found his political niche as a populist; Brutus defended the status quo, and Caesar wanted to restructure Roman society in favour of the common man. On many occasions Caesar recruited Brutus to his side, for his talents and honour were obvious to all. Brutus benefited greatly from Caesar's generosity, and on at least one occasion Caesar spared Brutus' life when he could have executed him without comment. Complicating matters further were their family ties and personal friendship – at the very least because Brutus' mother was one of Caesar's great lovers, and some even believed Caesar was Brutus' father. Clearly their fates were intertwined from the outset, and few could have predicted that Brutus would lead a coup to murder his benefactor Caesar. To this day historians question the integrity and the motives of Brutus in this act of regicide, for his personal character is contradictory on so many levels that it is impossible to summarise.



- 6 ***Q. Iunio M. Caepio Brutus with L. Costa.*** Aureus, mint moving with Brutus in late Summer – early Autumn 42 BC, 8.00 g. L·BRVTVS PRIM·COS Bare head of L. Iunius Brutus r.; all within oak wreath. Rev. M·BRVTVS IMP – COSTA LEG Bare head of M. Iunius Brutus r.; all within oak wreath. Bahrfeldt 64.6 (this coin). Cr. 506/1. Syd. 1295. C 16 (this coin). Vagi 93. Calicó 60.

Exceedingly rare, the only specimen in private hands of eight known.

A prestigious coin of great historical interest. Fine

25'000

Ex M&M 77, 1992, 141 and Triton III, 1999, 844 sales. From the duplicates of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

A classic and important coinage, this aureus pleads the case for Brutus' nobility and ancestry, and by extension, the righteousness of his 'Republican' cause. The obverse features the bearded head of Brutus' most famous ancestor, L. Iunius Brutus. The elder Brutus was the true hero of the early Republic, as in 509 B.C. he expelled Tarquinius Superbus, the last king of Rome. Thereafter he served as the first Consul of Rome and of the fledgling Republic – hence his inscription *primus consul*. The reverse depicts an almost Baroque head of Brutus himself, lightly bearded, and identified as *imperator*. Coins bearing the portrait of Brutus are coveted, for there are only four issues with this feature, all of them rare. One is a denarius (Cr. 515/2) that is not inscribed with his name, but which we must conclude is him based upon comparison with the known inscribed portraits, and the historical context of the issue. On this aureus both portraits are enclosed in oak wreaths, the *corona civica*, which was awarded to those who saved the lives of other citizens or who came to the aid of the Republic itself in times of distress.



7



7

- 7 **Marcus Antonius and Octavian with M. Barbatio Pollio.** Aureus, mint moving with M. Antonius (Ephesus ?) Spring – Summer 42, 8.05 g. M·ANT·IMP·AVG·III·VIR·R·P·C·M·BARBAT·Q·P Bare head of M. Antonius r. Rev. CAESAR·IMP·PONT·III·VIR·R·P·C Bare head of Octavian r. Bahrfeldt 77. Cr. 517/1a. Syd. 1180. C 2. Vagi 174. Calicó 109.

Rare. Good very fine / about extremely fine 10'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 848.



8



- 8 **Marcus Antonius and Lucius Antonius with M. Cocceius Nerva.** Aureus, mint moving with M. Antonius in the East circa 41 BC, 8.15 g. M·ANT·IMP·AVG VIR·R·PC·M·NERVA PRO Q·P Bare head of Marcus Antonius r. Rev. L·ANTONIVS COS Bare head of Lucius Antonius r. Bahrfeldt 80 var. (III VIR). Cr. 517/4b. Syd. 1184 var. (III VIR). C 2 var. (III VIR). Vagi 186. Calicó 111.

An exceedingly rare variety, only five specimens known, of an extremely rare and important issue. Two magnificent portraits of fine style, about extremely fine

30'000

Ex NFA XXII, 1989, 21; Sotheby's 27 / 28.10.1993, 1428 and NAC 9, 1996, 769 sales.

Another of the rare dual-portrait coinages of the Imperial period is this aureus depicting the bare heads of Marc Antony and his youngest brother Lucius Antony. The family resemblance is uncanny, and one wonders if they truly looked this much alike, or if it is another case of portrait fusion, much like we observe with the dual-portrait billon tetradrachms of Antioch on which the face of the Egyptian queen Cleopatra VII takes on the square dimensions of Marc Antony. When Antony fled Rome to separate himself from Octavian and to take up his governorship in Gaul, Lucius went with him, and suffered equally from the siege of Mutina. This coin, however, was struck in a later period, when Lucius had for a second time taken up arms against Octavian in the West. Marc Antony was already in the East, and that is the region from which this coinage emanates. Since Lucius lost the 'Perusine War' he waged against Octavian, and subsequently was appointed to an office in Spain, where he died, it is likely that he never even saw one of his portrait coins.

Crawford has "misgivings", yet in a coinage riddled with cacography, a simple scribal error as here is almost predictable. The die-engraver, instead of mindlessly copying his model, paused to think about what he was doing and started to make AVGVR which he was obliged when he returned to his senses to continue as AVGVR, omitting III for lack of space. The early imperial bronze coinage abounds in such errors.





- 9 **Marcus Antonius with Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus.** Aureus, mint moving with M. Antonius (Corcyra ?) Summer 40 BC, 8.03 g. ANT·IMP·III·VIR·R·P·C Bare head of M. Antonius r.; behind, *lituus*. Rev. CN·DOMIT·AHENOBARBUS·IMP· Prow r.; above twelve-pointed star. Bahrfeldt 86. Cr. 521/1. Syd. 1178. C 9. Vagi 117. Calicó 82.

Of the highest rarity, the third specimen known and the only one in private hands of this prestigious issue. Well-struck on a full flan, light scratches, otherwise extremely fine

38'000

Ex Leu 61, 1995, 218 and Triton III, 1999, 849 sales.

A great many coins were struck for Marc Antony, and if anything they prove he was not selfish on this account. He allowed, for example, his ally Ahenobarbus to strike some highly personalized types, and he struck coins with portraits of Divus Julius Caesar, Octavian, the triumvir Lepidus, his youngest brother Lucius Antonius, his son Marc Antony Jr. and of three of his four wives, Octavia, Fulvia and Cleopatra VII. On this aureus the obverse is dedicated to Antony and the reverse is dedicated to his naval commander Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus, whose name translates to "bronze beard." Throughout the period of Antony's opposition to Octavian, Ahenobarbus proved a staunch ally, patrolling the Adriatic and the Ionian seas and aiding in a variety of efforts, including an attempt to defeat Sextus Pompey. Ahenobarbus temporarily abandoned his naval duties to reside in Rome in 32 B.C. as one of the two consuls for the year. Since his colleague in the consulship, Sosius, was also an ally of Antony, they worked hard to censure Octavian. This backfired, though, and Octavian responded by occupying Rome and causing the two consuls and some 300 pro-Antony senators to seek asylum with Antony in Asia Minor. Ahenobarbus remained loyal to Antony until the bitter end, at which point, just before the Battle of Actium, he defected to Octavian, only to die of fever a few months later. The reverse of this aureus, which bears Ahenobarbus' name and a prow with a star above, is an obvious reflection of his status as a naval commander. It is of some interest that his design served as the prototype for coinages struck by the Flavians more than a century later.



- 10 **Sextus Pompeius.** Aureus, Sicily circa 39 BC, 7.84 g. MAG·PIVS – IMP·ITER Bare and bearded head of Sextus Pompeius r.; all within oak wreath. Rev. [P]RAEF / CLAS·ET·ORAE / MARIT·EX·S C Bare heads of Cnaeus Pompeius Magnus and Cnaeus Pompeius junior facing each other; in field l. and r., *lituus* and tripod. Bahrfeldt 87. Cr. 511/1. Syd. 1346. C 1. Kent-Hirmer pl. 27, 102 (obverse) and pl. 102, 28 (reverse). Vagi 28. Calicó 71.

Very rare. A pleasing specimen of this desirable coin, bearing three superb portraits.

Reverse slightly off-centre, otherwise about extremely fine

28'000

Ex NAC sale 9, 1996, 766.



11



11

- 11 **Octavian with M. Agrippa.** Aureus, mint moving with Octavian circa 38 BC, 8.10 g. IMP·DIVI·IVLI·F·TER·III·VIR·R·P·C Laureate head of Julius Caesar r.; on forehead, star. Rev. M·AGRIPPA·COS / DESIG. Bahrfeldt 99.7 (this coin) and pl. X, 7 (this coin illustrated). Cr. 534/1. Syd. 1329. C 33. Kent-Hirmer pl. 33, 119 (this obverse die). Calicó 46.

Extremely rare, only very few specimens known.

A delightful portrait of the deceased dictator.

Light marks on obverse and an abrasion on reverse, otherwise very fine 20'000

Ex Rollin et Feuardant 1887, Ponton d'Amécourt, 22; Rollin et Feuardant 1896, Montagu, 33; Hoffmann 1898, 1082; Tolstoi 1912, 736; Vierordt 1923, 478; Collection Robert Perret, 1958, 65 and Vinchon 23.1.2001, 11 sales.

Few great leaders in history have had as ally as capable and reliable as Marcus Agrippa (a close second in Roman history is Diocletian's colleague Maximian). In many respects, Agrippa was the brick-and-mortar of Octavian-Augustus' career: not only did he help build it, but he was perpetually relied upon to maintain it, even to the point of creating potential heirs to Augustus' throne through his marriage to Augustus' daughter Julia. On this aureus, struck at a mint moving with Octavian in 38 B.C., the obverse honors Octavian (in the inscription) and the deified father Julius Caesar (in the portrait), while the reverse is entirely devoted to Agrippa. Except for the copper asses struck in Agrippa's name long after his death, and certain provincial coinages (such as the massive issues of Nemausus), there were only two occasions in which Imperial coins were struck for Agrippa. This aureus belongs to the first issue in which three types were struck. Each has the common feature of Agrippa's inscription on the reverse, and their obverses differ in that Julius Caesar is portrayed on the aureus and the head of Octavian or the confronted heads of Caesar and Octavian appear on the denarii. Although all three are rare, this aureus is exceptionally rare. The bust of Julius Caesar is decidedly youthful, and far younger in appearance than even the coins struck during his lifetime, which depict an aged man, sometimes almost of buzzard-like appearance. Here Caesar has fallen under the rejuvenating spell of Octavian, who would make a career of his portraits becoming progressively more youthful in spite of his inevitably growing older.

## The Roman Empire

The mint is Rome unless otherwise stated

### Octavian, 31 – 27 BC



12



- 12 **Aureus, Italy (Brundisium ?) 29–27 BC, 7.73 g.** Bare head r. Rev. IMP – CAESAR Victory standing facing on globe, head l., holding wreath in r. hand and *vexillum* over l. shoulder in l. Bahrfeldt 109. RIC 268. BMC 622. C 113. CBN 85. Ponton d'Amécourt collection 53 (these dies). Calicó 205.

Rare. A very delicate portrait of Octavian, extremely fine / about extremely fine 14'000

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 238.

The gold and silver coinage bearing the legend CAESAR DIVI F and IMP CAESAR represents Octavian's war issue, struck for the payment of his troops before and after the battle of Actium. This aureus belongs to the series IMP CAESAR, which began around 29 BC and ended in 27 BC; the mint of this issue must have been Italian, probably at or near Octavian's naval headquarters in Brundisium.

The reverse type of this aureus celebrates Octavian's great victory over Antony and Cleopatra at Actium.



Augustus, 27 BC – 14 AD



- 13 Aureus, Pergamum 19–18 BC, 8.03 g. AVGVSTVS Bare head r. Rev. Sphinx, with wings raised, seated l. Bahrfeldt 141. RIC 511. BMC —, cf. 682 (sphinx r.). C 334. CBN 911 (these dies). Vagi 259. Calicó 157. Very rare and unusually well-preserved for this issue. Minor marks on obverse and a light scratch on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 25'000

Ex CNG sale 36, 1995, 2343.



- 14 Aureus, Lugdunum 15–13 BC, AV 7.87 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI·F Bare head r. Rev. Bull butting r.; in exergue, IMP·X. Bahrfeldt 201. Giard 18. RIC 166a. BMC 450. C 136. CBN 1372. Vagi 262. Calicó 212. Extremely fine 8'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.12.96, 85.



- 15 Aureus, Lugdunum 15–13 BC, 7.93 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI·F Bare head r. Rev. IMP – X Apollo Citharoedus wearing long drapery, standing l., holding *plectrum* in r. hand and lyre in l.; in exergue, ACT. Bahrfeldt 204. RIC 170. BMC 459. C 143. CBN 1394. Vagi 263. Calicó 215. Large abrasion in reverse field at ten o'clock, otherwise extremely fine 5'000

Ex Stack's sale 3.12.96, The Michael F. Price Collection, 321.



16



16

- 16 Aureus, Lugdunum 2 BC – 4 AD, 7.68 g. CAESAR AVGVSTVS· – DIVI F PATER PATRIAE Laureate head r. Rev. AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT Gaius and Lucius standing to front each togate and resting hand on shield; behind each, shield and spear. In centre field, *simpulum* and *lituus*. In exergue, CL CAESARES. Bahrfeldt 235. RIC 206. BMC 513. C 42. CBN 1648. Vagi 264. Calicó 176. Unusually well-centred and about extremely fine 6'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 749.



17



- 17 Aureus, Lugdunum 2 BC – 4 AD, 7.70 g. CAESAR AVGVSTVS· – DIVI F PATER PATRIAE Laureate head r. Rev. AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT Gaius and Lucius standing to front each togate and resting hand on shield; behind each, shield and spear. In centre field, *simpulum* and *lituus*. In exergue, CL CAESARES. Bahrfeldt 235. RIC 206. BMC 513. C 42. CBN 1648. Vagi 264. Calicó 176. Very fine 4'000

Ex Stack's sale 3.12.96, The Michael F. Price Collection, 106.

As Rome's first emperor, Augustus was enormously successful in transforming his political vision into reality. But one important matter over which the fates had more control than he was finding a suitable heir to his throne. A string of tragic deaths – and almost certainly murders – caused Augustus untold grief. First to die among his early choices was his only nephew Marcellus in 23 B.C., then his lifelong friend and commander Marcus Agrippa, who died in 12 B.C., and finally his stepson Nero Claudius Drusus, whom he had raised personally from infancy, and who died in 9 B.C. The next generation of candidates – his three grandsons – fared no better. Gaius Caesar and Lucius Caesar (his two oldest grandsons who are depicted on the reverse of this aureus) died tragically young, in A.D. 2 and A.D. 4 respectively. Augustus' final possibility was his youngest grandson Agrippa Postumus, so named because his father, Marcus Agrippa, had died very shortly before he was born. While the deaths of his earlier heirs were hard on Augustus, the disappointment of Agrippa Postumus must have been more painful still: his behaviour was so reprehensible that Augustus banished him to a barren island in A.D. 7. By doing so, Augustus knew that he was banishing his only hope for a blood-successor. After decades of heartbreak and dashed hopes, Augustus was finally succeeded by his stepson Tiberius, the one man whom he found most unsavoury of all.



18



- 18 Aureus, Lugdunum 13–14 AD, 7.72 g. CAESAR AVGVSTVS – DIVI [F PATER PATRI]AE Laureate head r. Rev. AVG F TR POT – XV Tiberius standing r. in triumphal quadriga, holding eagle-tipped sceptre and laurel branch; in exergue, TI CAESAR. Bahrfeldt 238 and pl. XVI, 17. RIC 221. BMC 511. C 299. CBN 1685. Vagi 428. Calicó 294 (this coin illustrated). Rare. Brilliant extremely fine 10'000

Ex Triton sale III, 2000, 969.





19



19

- 19 Aureus, Lugdunum 13–14 AD, 7.79 g. CAESAR AVGVSTVS – DIVI F PATER PATRIAE Laureate head r. Rev. AVG F TR POT – XV Tiberius standing r. in triumphal quadriga of horses (of which two facing l. and two r.), holding eagle-tipped sceptre and laurel branch; in exergue, TI CAESAR. Bahrfeldt 238 and pl. XVI, 19. RIC 223. BMC 508. C 299. CBN 1687. Vagi 428. Calicó 295 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. Struck on a broad flan. Insignificant scuff on horses,  
otherwise extremely fine 6'500

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 407.

Nearing the end of his life, the great Augustus must have felt betrayed by the gods, as all six of his potential heirs had expired or proved incapable of succeeding him. Though his only remaining grandson, Agrippa Postumus, theoretically could have been recalled from exile, it did not happen, and the great Augustus was succeeded by his dour stepson Tiberius. This aureus, struck in the last months of Augustus' life, seems a clear indication that Rome's first emperor had conceded – however reluctantly – to Tiberius' succession. The obverse bears the portrait of Augustus, just as one would expect, but the reverse is dedicated entirely to Tiberius, who is shown in a four-horse chariot celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> renewal of his tribunician power. Never terribly imaginative with his precious metal coinage, Tiberius retained this quadriga scene as his aureus and denarius reverse type for the first three years of his reign. When he eventually replaced the quadriga type, he did so with another late Augustan type depicting his mother Livia in the guise of Pax.

#### Tiberius, 14 – 37



20



- 20 Aureus, Lugdunum 14–16, 7.69 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head of Tiberius r. Rev. DIVOS AVGVST – DIVI F Laureate head of Augustus r., six-pointed star above. Giard 118. CNR X p. 213, 8 (this coin). RIC 24. BMC 29. C 3. CBN 1. Vagi 308. Calicó 311.

Rare and in unusually good condition for this issue. About extremely fine 12'000

Ex Sotheby's Zürich 1.7.1982, Virgil M. Brand collection, 5 and Sotheby's London 7.3.1996, 152 sales.

We know from sources that Augustus retired to Nola and, suspicious of his entourage, would eat only figs from his gardens. All the same, this cautious diet did not save him from a possible death by poisoning. Some have suggested the involvement of Livia, a powerful and controversial personality who may have been the shadowy orchestrator behind at least some of the inexplicable deaths of many heirs previously appointed by Augustus. The first to succumb to a sudden and questionable disease, in 23 BC, was his nephew Marcellus, son of the emperor's sister Octavia and most loved potential heir. Next in line for succession was now Agrippa, but he also was not to outlive the Emperor, for an untimely albeit natural death took him in 12 BC. Then it was the turn of Agrippa's sons: Lucius Caesar, who died of a suspicious illness in Gaul in 2 AD, his brother Gaius having died two years previously of a *too* fatal wound while at war in the East. Agrippa Postumus, younger brother of Gaius and Lucius, thus became the last male descendant of the Emperor who, if the truth be told, despised him for his intractability and madness, to the point of promoting a "*senatus consultu*" to have him transferred to an island, in perpetual isolation and surrounded by a body of soldiers (Suet., *Augusti Vita*, 65). But after Augustus' death the position of Agrippa, next of blood, as legitimate heir – madness notwithstanding – could not be challenged and so he was immediately disposed of by one of his guardians. Tiberius' path to the throne was finally clear.





- 21 Aureus, Lugdunum 14–37, 7.73 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – MAXIM Pax-Livia figure seated r., holding vertical sceptre and branch. Giard 149. RIC 29. BMC 46. C 15. CBN 26. Vagi 437. Calicó 305. About extremely fine 5'000

The aurei and denarii of Tiberius with the 'Pax seated' reverse are among the most familiar coins of antiquity, at the very least because the denarius is usually described as the 'Tribute Penny' of the Bible. The type was one of three used by Augustus in the final year of his life, 13–14, and was adopted by Tiberius, who struck it as the principal type of his reign. The figure on the reverse – a seated female holding a sceptre and branch – certainly must be Pax if it is meant to represent a deity or personification, as her attributes meet that requirement perfectly. More importantly: does 'Pax' represent Livia? For the answer we might look at later coinage that might have been designed with an eye to the past. Galba provides ideal evidence, as he honoured his old friend and patroness Livia (then *diva*) to help legitimise his own principate. The fact that Galba struck aurei and denarii with the deified Livia standing and the accompanying inscription DIVA AVGVSTA is enough to establish the connection. However, to learn more about the seated 'Pax' type of Augustus and Tiberius, we must look to Galba's sestertii. There we find a type with an identical seated 'Pax' with the inscription AVGVSTA in the exergue. Kraay (*Aes Coinage of Galba*, NNM 133, p. 58) rightly showed no hesitation in identifying the seated figure as Livia – not even as Pax-Livia. The combination of Galba's explicitly labeled aurei and denarii, and his remarkable sestertius, must lead us to conclude that the 'Pax' on the coins of Augustus and Tiberius represented Livia, as these coins still would have been current – even common – during Galba's reign, and he no doubt chose to depict Livia in the 'seated Pax' format because it would have been instantly understood by the public.



- 22 Quinarius, Lugdunum 18–19, 3.84 g. TI DIVI F – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. TR POT – XX Victory seated r. on globe, holding wreath. RIC 6. BMC 14. C 50. CBN –. Vagi 439. Very rare. Traces of mounting and few marks in fields, otherwise good very fine 3'500

#### In the name of Nero Claudius Drusus, father of Claudius



- 23 Aureus circa 41–45, 7.85 g. NERO CLAUDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP Laureate head l. Rev. Triumphal arch surmounted by equestrian statue between two trophies, DE GERMANIS on architrave. RIC Claudius 71. BMC Claudius 100. C 3. CBN Claudius 4. Vagi 487. Calicó 316. Rare. Good very fine 6'500

Ex Stack's sale 3.12.96, The Michael F. Price Collection, 118.

Roman history, like that of any enduring empire, allows for speculation about how the course of events might have changed had certain people died, or in this case, not died. A perfect study in this is Nero Claudius Drusus, the younger brother of Tiberius. Unlike Tiberius, whom Augustus had always disliked, Drusus was much beloved by Rome's first emperor. When Augustus wrested Livia from her first husband, she was pregnant with Drusus, and gave birth to him months after her marriage to Augustus. It is commonly understood that Livia's first husband had sired Nero Claudius Drusus – but perhaps it is not impossible that Augustus was the father. Speculation aside, Augustus took instantly to the newborn Drusus and treated him as if he was a son of his own blood. The same cannot be said for Drusus' brother Tiberius, who was already four years old when he came to live in Augustus' household. Augustus saw personally to Drusus' education and arranged his marriage to his extraordinarily noble and wealthy niece Antonia. Drusus' career advanced quickly and, after commanding alongside his brother, he spent three years leading a campaign in Germany. While there Drusus was able to dedicate the great Altar of Lugdunum to Augustus on August 1, 10 B.C., the very day that his youngest son, Claudius (who struck this aureus in posthumous remembrance 50 years after his death) was born. But Drusus' great possibilities ended tragically in 9 B.C. when he died of injuries he received falling off a horse at age 29. This reverse type celebrates his German campaign – for which his eldest son, Germanicus, was renamed – and depicts a now-lost triumphal arch.



## In the name of Antonia, mother of Claudius



24



24

- 24 Aureus circa 41–45, 7.65 g. ANTONIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., wearing crown of cornucopiae. Rev. CONSTANTIAE – AVGVSTI Antonia as Constantia standing facing, holding long torch and cornucopia. Kent-Hirmer pl. 51, 177. RIC Claudius 65. BMC Claudius 109. C 1. CBN Claudius 12 (these dies). Vagi 499. Calicó 318. Rare. About extremely fine 12'000

Ex NAC sale 11, 1998, 378.

Just like the previous lot, this aureus was struck by the emperor Claudius in honour of a deceased parent – in this case his mother, Antonia. Neither of Claudius' parents had been honoured with coinage during the previous three regimes, so the task was left to their afflicted 50-year-old son, whom no one could have predicted would one day be emperor. Antonia, even more so than Livia, was the model of a Roman noblewoman. Her parents Marc Antony and Octavia (Augustus' sister) represented both sides of the civil war that ended at the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C., and from her father, who died shortly after Actium, she inherited an economic empire in the east. Throughout her life Antonia managed her considerable business, political and domestic responsibilities with skill and personal flair. While in her late teens Antonia married Livia's youngest son Nero Claudius Drusus, with whom she seems to have been ideally matched. Together they had three children, with the youngest (the future emperor Claudius) being born in the summer of 10 B.C. on the same day her husband dedicated the Altar of Lugdunum to Augustus. To Antonia at that time, life must have seemed unimprovable. However, the remainder of her life would be a string of sore disappointments. In 9 B.C. her husband died tragically (and she refused ever to remarry), her youngest son Claudius developed severe physical disabilities, her promising son Germanicus was murdered in A.D. 19, and her only daughter, Livilla, was forcibly starved to death (by Antonia herself) after it was exposed that she had poisoned her husband. Antonia's grandchildren fared no better: the three girls were terribly disturbed and unfortunate, her two eldest grandsons were executed after being branded public enemies, and the behavior of her youngest grandson, Caligula, was so objectionable that many historians believe Antonia took her own life in 37 because she could not face the prospect of living in the reign of Caligula. The reverse of this aureus features Antonia in the guise of Constantia, the personification of courage and perseverance, both qualities for which she was renowned.



25



25

- 25 Aureus circa 41–45, 7.76 g. ANTONIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., wearing crown of cornucopiae. Rev. SACERDOS – DIVI – AVGVSTI Two long torches, lighted and linked by ribbon. RIC Claudius 67. BMC Claudius 112. C 4. CBN Claudius 15 (these dies). Vagi 500. Calicó 319. Rare. A minor metal flaw on reverse, good very fine / about extremely fine 7'000

Ex Lanz sale 94, Sammlung Leo Benz, 1999, 173.

All of the coins Claudius struck for his deceased mother Antonia honor her as Augusta, a status she shared only with Livia. We are told by Suetonius (*Gaius* 15) that Caligula compelled the senate to grant Antonia every honor possessed by Livia. However, the same historian (*Claudius* 11) tells us she refused what Caligula proposed and that only after her death was she hailed Augusta by Claudius. (It is worth noting that an inscription from Corinth indicates she was hailed Augusta by Caligula.). Antonia's portrait on the obverse of her two precious metal coinages represent her in the guise of Ceres (Demeter), for she wears a crown of grain ears. The reverse type of this aureus is inscribed SACERDOS DIVI AVGVSTI, and depicts two lighted torches linked by a ribbon or garland. The inscription is a direct reference to Claudius – the issuer of the coin – as the priest of the cult of Divus Augustus. The meaning of the two torches is less clear. Perhaps they signify Livia and Antonia as the only two women, both deceased, who held the title Augusta. Alternatively, they may represent the rites of the Augustan priesthood, of which Antonia was named priestess under Caligula, and Claudius since the accession of Tiberius. Equally likely is the possibility of the explanation involving the Ceres-Demeter connection already noted for the obverse. Demeter is usually depicted holding a torch, which illuminated her visits to the underworld. The worship of Ceres-Demeter in Rome involved annual celebrations (the *Cerealia*) and games (the *Ludi Cereales*). The cult was ancient and important, and was inextricably tied to the Eleusinian Mysteries. Claudius' interest in its occult rituals must have been deep since Suetonius (*Claudius* 25) tells us he tried to relocate the Eleusinian Mysteries from Attica to Rome.



## Gaius called Caligula, 37 – 41



26



26

- 26 Aureus, Lugdunum circa 37–38, 7.76 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR POT COS Bare head of Gaius r. Rev. Radiate head of Tiberius r. between two stars. RIC 1. BMC 1. C 10. CBN 1. Vagi 309. Calicó 336. Very rare. Good very fine 18'000

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 281.

Few of Rome's emperors enjoy as foul a reputation as Gaius, who is generally known by the nickname Caligula, meaning 'bootikin' or 'little boots', which he received from his father's soldiers while he was still an amiable child. He grew to despise the nickname almost as much as everyone grew to despise him. There is little need to revisit the list of his debaucheries, incests and acts of depravity – we need only note that his behaviour was a special blend of intellect and insanity, and that he has few peers beyond Nero, Commodus and Elagabalus. On the bright side, Caligula was dutiful when it came to his well-produced coinage. Caligula honoured his great-grandfather Augustus, very likely Tiberius (see below), his murdered parents, Germanicus and Agrippina Senior, and his murdered brothers, Nero Caesar and Drusus Caesar. Among the living he honoured his three sisters – in whom he had more than a casual interest – and, on provincial coinage, his final wife Caesonia and their daughter Drusilla Minor, both of whom were murdered within an hour of Caligula. This aureus belongs to an issue that is far more mysterious than generally known. It is attributed to Lugdunum, where Caligula may have struck only gold and silver during his inaugural year, and where the radiate portrait comes in two varieties: 1) without inscription and flanked by two stars (the type offered here), 2) without stars and with the inscription DIVVS AVG PATER PATRIAE (all issues attributed to Rome are of this second type). This duality invites us to speculate that the radiate portrait on the anepigraphic type offered here is actually Tiberius, and that the two stars represent Augustus and Julius Caesar – the only two men who had been deified. This becomes all the more likely if we consider that Caligula made an initial request for Tiberius' deification, but he dropped the matter not long after he returned to Rome and learned at first hand how poor the public sentiment was for Tiberius. Along with his change of heart, Caligula may have abandoned the anepigraphic type in favour of the issue that explicitly identifies the radiate head as Divus Augustus, which he continued to strike each and every year to the end of his reign.

## Claudius, 41 – 54



27



- 27 Aureus circa 41–42, 7.78 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P Laureate head r. Rev. Triumphal arch surmounted by equestrian statue between two trophies, DE GERMANIS on architrave. CNR XIV p. 57, 44. RIC 3. BMC –, cf. 2 (denarius). C –, cf. 27 (denarius). CBN –, Vagi 580. Calicó 344 (this coin illustrated).

Extremely rare, only one specimen listed in the main reference books.

Extremely fine 12'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.3.1996, 157.

By the time the emperor Claudius came to the throne after the murder of his depraved nephew Caligula, he had been properly schooled in how terribly people can treat one another. Indeed, it was his enduring, impotent position in the eye of the Julio-Claudian storm that made him the central character in Robert Graves' classic work of historical fiction, *I, Claudius*. As a child he could not benefit from his father, who died before he reached his first year, and he apparently suffered a lack of love from his mother, the otherwise admirable Antonia, who, according to Suetonius (*Claudius* 3) described him as "a monster: a man whom nature had not finished but had merely begun". In the bigger picture, Claudius' physical disabilities served him well, for he survived the treacherous reigns of Tiberius and Caligula (though not unscathed, for he suffered through the aftermath of many deplorable acts). His 13-year reign was entirely unexpected. In one of Tacitus' most memorable and personal passages, he states about Claudius: "The more I think about history, ancient or modern, the more ironical all human affairs seem. In public opinion, expectation, and esteem no one appeared a less likely candidate for the throne than the man for whom destiny was secretly reserving it." For most Romans, Claudius' reign was a pleasant departure from the more oppressive reigns of Tiberius and Caligula, both of whom were generally disliked. Claudius seems to have been popular with the people and often with the army, but he usually was at odds with the senate, from whom he demanded hard work and dedication. This aureus, from the initial year of Claudius' reign, honours his father Nero Claudius Drusus, who died half a century earlier. (For a related piece, struck contemporarily by Claudius, see lot 23.)





- 28 Quinarius circa 41–42, 3.96 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P Laureate head r. Rev. Victory flying l., holding shield inscribed OB/CI in her l. hand. RIC —. BMC —. C —. CBN —. Vagi 585. An apparently unique and unlisted issue of an exceedingly rare denomination about extremely fine 15'000

Among the consistent rarities of Roman Imperial coinage is the quinarius, be it gold, silver or billon. The denomination originated early in the Republic as half of a silver denarius, and re-emerged under Augustus as an Imperial denomination for both gold and silver, which leads some researchers to refer to them, respectively, as quinarius aureus and quinarius denarius. Gold quinarii of Augustus and Tiberius are rare, but occasionally are encountered. The same cannot be said of the remaining Julio-Claudians: quinarii of Caligula, Claudius and Nero are very rare. This particular coin seems to be unique, as other published examples — also from his accession year only — depict Victory seated or standing, accompanied with the usual inscription VICTORIA AVGVSTI. Though Augustus had struck anepigraphic gold quinarii at a Spanish mint nearly sixty years before, the flying Victory seems to have no prototype for this denomination.



- 29 Aureus circa 44–45, 7.73 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P IIII Laureate head r. Rev. PRAETOR — RECEPT Claudius, bare-headed and togate, standing r., clasping hands with soldier, in military attire, standing l. and holding aquila in l. hand. RIC 29. BMC 28. C —, cf. 80 (TR P VIII). CBN 46. Vagi 584. Calicó 376 (this coin illustrated).

Marks on obverse and two scuffs on reverse, otherwise very fine / good very fine 4'000

Ex Stack's 14.9.1983, J.P. Morgan Collection, 48 and Stack's 3.12.96, The Michael F. Price Collection, 125 sales.

The accession of Claudius might best described as an unplanned coup, for he was swept into office by a praetorian guard that believed he was an ideal replacement for Caligula. Just as it had insulated him from harm for the previous five decades, his physical disabilities and reputation for mental ineptness worked in his favor under these dire circumstances. For Claudius this must have been an alarming moment, for he just as easily could have been executed on account of his blood relation and close association with Caligula. Instead, he was hailed emperor by the praetorian guardsmen, who made certain the senate supported their decision. As a result, Claudius dedicated some of his early coinages to the praetorian guardsmen to whom he owed his principate. Previously, Caligula had acted similarly by striking a brass sestertius depicting himself addressing the praetorians. This particular aureus is inscribed PRAETOR RECEPT and shows Claudius clasping hands with a praetorian (presumably the praetorian prefect). A companion issue in gold and silver depicts Claudius standing safely within the praetorian camp, the walls of which are inscribed IMPER RECEPT.



- 30 Aureus circa 49–50, 7.79 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP Laureate head r. Rev. PACI AVGVSTAE Pax-Nemesis, winged, advancing r., rising fold of drapery below chin and holding caduceus pointed towards serpent moving r. RIC 46. BMC 51. C 60. CBN 61. Vagi 583. Calicó 369. Reddish Boscoreale tone and about extremely fine 6'500

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 296.





31



- 31 Aureus circa 50–54, 7.64 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TRIB POT P P Laureate head of Claudius r. Rev. AGRIPPINAE – AVGVSTAE Draped bust r. of Agrippina Minor, wearing barley wreath. RIC 80. BMC 72. C 3. CBN 79. Vagi 655.

Rare. Nick on edge at four o'clock, extremely fine 12'000

Claudius faced many challenges in his life, and though his physical disabilities ranked high on the list, perhaps even more trying were his four marriages. His first two attempts at marriage failed – the first because his would-be in laws fell out of favour, the second because his bride-to-be died on their wedding day. Of the four women Claudius actually married, he divorced the first three: one because she was the sister of the defamed Sejanus, the other two because of their adulterous affairs and apparent plans to murder him. His final, fatal marriage to his young niece Agrippina Junior, was similarly disastrous as it ended not only the life of Claudius, but also the life of his only son, Britannicus. According to Tacitus, Claudius' famous statement that "it was his destiny first to endure his wives' misdeeds, and then to punish them" may have expedited his own death, for upon hearing him utter these words, Agrippina wasted no time in murdering Claudius by serving him a dish of poisoned mushrooms. Adding insult to injury was Claudius' precocious teenage successor Nero, who, after Claudius had been deified by the senate, rudely observed that mushrooms must be the food of the gods. This aureus with Agrippina's bust on the reverse is an immediate predecessor of the three aurei of Nero that follow.

#### Nero Augustus, 54 – 68



32



32

- 32 Aureus October – December 54, 7.58 g. AGRIPP AVG DIVI CLAVD NERONIS CAES MATER Confronted busts of Nero, bare-headed r., and Agrippina Minor, draped l.; in field l., corn grain. Rev. NERONI CLAVD DIVI F CAES AVG GERM IMP TR P around oak wreath, enclosing EX S C. Kent-Hirmer pl. 54, 188 var. RIC 3. BMC 2. C 6 var. (no corn grain). CBN 4 var. (no corn grain). Vagi 656. Calicó 400 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. Two superb portraits of the young princeps and his dominating, doomed mother. Faint metal flaws on obverse between the portraits,

otherwise extremely fine 14'000

Ex Feuarent, 1896, Montagu collection, 153; Glendining 1951, Ryan collection, 1652; Leu 25, 1980, 250; NAC and Spink-Taisei, The Gilbert Steinberg collection, 1994, 235 and NAC 11, 1998, 381 sales.

Nero's most interesting precious metal coinages are his first three. The first two, struck from October 12 to December 3, 54, depict either the head of deified Claudius or the confronted busts of Nero and his mother Agrippina. These are replaced with his third issue, which shows the jugate busts of Nero and his mother. All of the precious metal issues Nero struck thereafter (December 4, 55 onward) bear only his portrait. This particular aureus is an important rarity because of the small object – either a grain kernel or a laurel leaf – behind Nero's bust. Thus far, only three or four dies with this feature, all used for aurei, have been noted: one for the confronted bust, one or two for the Divus Claudius, and one for the jugate bust. All of the 'marked' aurei are significant rarities: perhaps six of the confronted bust aurei, including this piece, are known, and the variant is noted in RIC; perhaps three of the Divus Claudius issue are known (though they were essentially unrecognised until von Kaenel's 1986 corpus), and only two of the jugate bust issue are known (similarly unrecognised until published by Curtis L. Clay in the 1982 *Numismatische Zeitschrift*). Considering these 'marked' coins are unusual in character and represent only a tiny percentage of the output, we can say they have no parallel on contemporary coinages. Furthermore, since the feature occurs on all three issues, it justifies a second look at the proposed chronologies: perhaps all of the marked pieces belong to late 54? Both the identification and the significance of the object are unknown. If a laurel leaf, it would probably note the bestowal of honors on Nero or would signify the funerary games Nero held for Claudius. More likely, however, the object is a kernel of grain, in which case it likely refers to a grain donative. Ancient sources reveal that Nero not only matched Claudius by paying each rank-and-file praetorian guard an accession bonus of 150 aurei (Suet. Claud. 10.2; Tacitus, *Annals*, XII, 69, 1-3), but that he added to this "...a free monthly issue of grain" (Suet. Nero 10). Perhaps the bonuses due to the praetorian guardsmen were paid with these aurei marked with the grain kernel to signify their additional bonus of grain. If we consider the comparative rarity of these coins, the fact that 'marking' dies in this manner was unprecedented, and that the marking occurs only on aurei, the scenario described above seems at least plausible.





33



33

- 33 Aureus October – December 54, 7.58 g. AGRIPP AVG DIVI CLAVD NERONIS CAES MATER Confronted busts of Nero, bare-headed r., and Agrippina Minor, draped l. Rev. NERONI CLAVD DIVI F CAES AVG GERM IMP TR P around oak wreath, enclosing EX S C. Kent-Hirmer pl. 54, 188. RIC 1. BMC 6. C 6. CBN 5. Vagi 656. Calicó 399.

Very rare. Struck in high relief with two appealing portraits, about extremely fine 10'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 447.

Since early in his reign, Nero paid heed to the input of his mother, his praetorian prefect Burrus and his famous tutor the younger Seneca, making his reign a breath of fresh air. Indeed, the first three months of his reign – to which this and the previous aureus belong – must have seemed a great relief from the oppressions the senatorial class suffered under Claudius. Nero's first coinage was mindful of his direct family: the deified Claudius is honoured, as is his mother Agrippina Junior, who initially had regency over him. Indeed, on his first mother-son coinage, Nero's inscription is not only relegated to the reverse, but it is presented in the dedicatory dative because it applied to the wreath which comprises the design. This would seem an unfavourable comparison to his mother's inscription, which not only is on the obverse, but is in the usual nominative case, indicating that it actually was an issue of hers. However, with the succeeding jugate-bust issue of 55 (see the following lot), Nero is clearly staking his independence as the inscriptions are reversed (Nero's is on the obverse, this time in the usual nominative, and his mother's is on the reverse). It may seem a minor change, but it would not have been overlooked by the Roman nobility. Inscriptions aside, the reason for the abrupt bust change from confronted to jugate may never be known. Since Nero holds the position of honor in both arrangements, there is no significance on that level. However, one might speculate that since mother and son appear ready to kiss on the confronted busts coins (rumours were rampant of Agrippina's seductive hold over her teenage son), the change might have occurred to prevent jokes at their expense.



34



- 34 Aureus circa 55, 7.71 g. NERO CLAVD DIVI F CAES AVG GERM IMP TR P COS Conjoined bust of Nero, bare-headed, and Agrippina Minor, draped, r. AGRIPP AVG DIVI CLAVD NERONIS CAES MATER Quadriga of elephants l., bearing two chairs holding Divus Claudius, radiate r., holding eagle-tipped sceptre and Divus Augustus, radiate r., holding patera and sceptre; in field l., EX S C. RIC 6. BMC 7. C 3. CBN 10. Vagi 657. Calicó 397 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare and interesting. Two finely engraved portraits struck in high relief.

Reddish Boscoreale tone and extremely fine 20'000

Ex Leu 22, 1979, 209; Leu 36, 1985, 240 and Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 102 sales.

The last of Nero's early issues, this aureus honours mother and emperor on the obverse and the deified Claudius on the reverse: as such we may consider it a compilation of the two separate coinages of Nero's accession issue. The reverse scene is of great interest as it depicts four elephants drawing a wheeled platform with two seated figures. Clearly this is a depiction of Claudius' funeral. He was only the second emperor to be deified, and the scene is virtually identical to the one on Tiberius' sesterii dedicated to Divus Augustus. The scenes differ in that on the coins dedicated to Claudius the elephants have no riders (undoubtedly because the format was smaller) and Augustus' statue is joined by another, which we must presume to be that of his divine companion Claudius. Some have described the seated figures differently: Cohen questioned if they were Augustus and Livia, and it has also been suggested that they are Augustus and *Fides Praetorianum*. However, these should be dismissed considering the direct iconographic link to the Tiberian sesterii and the remark by Tacitus, who notes that Claudius' funeral "...was modeled on that of the divine Augustus...". He further relates that the senate placed his widow Agrippina in charge of his priesthood, and that in his funeral she imitated "...the grandeur of her great-grandmother Livia, the first Augusta".





35

- 35 Aureus circa 60–61, 7.49 g. NERO·CAESAR·AVG·IMP· Bare head r. Rev. PONTIF MAX TR – P VII COS IIII P P EX – S C Virtus, helmeted and in military attire, standing l., holding *parazonium* in r. hand on knee and vertical spear in l. RIC 25. BMC 27. C 219. CBN 35. Vagi 686. Calicó 432. Two light marks on obverse, good very fine 4'000



36

- 36 Aureus circa 64–65, 7.30 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IANVM CLVSIT PACE P R TERRA MARIQ PARTA Temple of Janus with closed door. RIC 50. BMC 64. C 114. CBN 212. Vagi 688. Calicó 409.

Very rare, exceptionally well-preserved and unusually well-centred for this issue,  
brilliant extremely fine 14'000

Ex C. & E. Canessa 15.6.1923, Collezione Enrico Caruso, 214 and NAC sale 18, 2000, 453 sales.

The Temple of Janus – the god of beginnings and endings – was one of Rome's most ancient. It was believed that Romulus built it after he made peace with the Sabines, and that king Numa decreed its doors should be opened during war and shut during times of peace. Its doors had been shut perhaps five or six times in all Roman history prior to the reign of Nero – once under king Numa (who originated the tradition), once at the end of the Second Punic War, three times under Augustus, and, according to Ovid, once under Tiberius. Thus, when in 65 peace had been generally established on all the empire's fronts, Nero did not hesitate to close the temple's doors. He marked the event with great celebrations and struck a large and impressive series of coins. The inscription on this issue is one of the most instructive on all Roman coins, for it announces "the doors of Janus have been closed after peace has been procured for the Roman People on the land and on the sea". Despite Nero's contentment with affairs on the empire's borders, the year 65 was not a happy one on the home front: much of Rome was still in ashes from the great fire of the previous year, Nero had narrowly escaped murder in the Pisonian conspiracy, and not long afterward he had kicked to death his pregnant wife Poppaea.



37

- 37 Aureus circa 66–67, 7.32 g. IMP NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IVPPITER – CVSTOS Jupiter, bare to waist, seated l. on throne, holding a thunderbolt in l. hand and long sceptre in l. RIC 63. BMC 77. C 120. CBN 231. Vagi 683. Calicó 413.

Boscureale tone and extremely fine 9'000

Ex Ponterio sale 74, 1995, 261.

On this issue there is a significant shift in Nero's inscription, with the IMP moving from the end (where it had been prior to the change in 66), to the beginning of his inscription – thus changing from *acognomen* to a *praenomen*. Not only is this important to establishing an internal chronology for Nero's coinage, it is an indicator of the declining character of what remained of his reign. Suetonius recognized its importance, for it is the only salutation of Nero he mentions other than those he accepted upon his accession. Suetonius is careful to contrast Nero with Claudius in this regard, for Claudius did not add to his own dignity in this manner.





- 38 Aureus, Spanish mint (Tarraco ?) April–December 68, 7.53 g. GALBA – IM P Galba, bare-headed, in military attire, with r. extended on horse prancing r. Rev. HISPANIA Draped bust of Hispania r.; two javelins behind and a round shield below. RIC –, cf. 1 (denarius). BMC –, cf. 161 (denarius). C –, cf. 76 (denarius). CBN –, cf. 1 (denarius). Calicó –.

Unique and unpublished. An extremely interesting and historically significant issue.

Marks on obverse and reverse, otherwise good very fine

20'000

The revolt of the Gallic governor Vindex against Nero in March of 68 quickly grew beyond his province to become one of Rome's most shameful civil wars. Not since the contest of Marc Antony and Octavian a century before had Rome experienced civil war of consequence. First to support Vindex was Galba, then the governor of northern Spain, who declared himself Imperator on April 2, 68. Though Vindex was killed within two months of his rising, Galba continued the struggle against Nero, whose days clearly were numbered. Galba retained the title of Imperator until Nero died on June 9, 68, at which point the senate transferred to Galba the vacant title of Augustus. This rare aureus belongs to the early period of Galba's rise, prior to the death of Nero, and seemingly was struck at Tarraco, the capital of his old province Hispania Tarraconensis. Being perhaps the first issue struck by Galba, its types show Galba on horseback and celebrate the province that supported him and no doubt produced this coinage.



- 39 Aureus, Spanish mint (Tarraco ?) April–December 68, 7.80 g. SER GALBA IMP CAESAR AVG P M TR P Laureate head r. Rev. S P Q R / OB / C S in oak wreath. RIC 61. BMC 191. C –, cf. 288 (denarius). CBN 32. Vagi 801. Calicó 510 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. An appealing and unusually good Spanish portrait struck in high relief,

extremely fine

24'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1017.

With Galba, the numismatist is presented with a variety of portrait styles because he minted in several locations –Spain, Gaul, Rome and briefly in North Africa after the fall of Clodius Macer – each of which had a distinctive local style. (A comparison in the style of this Spanish mint aureus can be made with lot 41, a product of Rome with the same reverse type.) The Spanish mint at which Galba produced his main coinage is thought to be Tarraco, his old capital city. The locals were all too familiar with what Suetonius (Galba 12.1) tells us were Galba's two prominent characteristics: cruelty and greed. As an example, Suetonius reports that when the people of Tarraco gave him a golden crown from the ancient temple of Jupiter described as weighing 15 pounds, Galba demanded of them three more ounces of gold, for upon melting the crown fell short of its advertised weight by precisely that amount.



40



40

- 40 Aureus July 68 – January 69, 7.21 g. SER GALBA CAESAR AVG Cuirassed bust l. Rev. SALVS GEN – HVMANI Fortuna-Salus advancing l., r. foot on globe, sacrificing from patera over lighted altar and holding vertical rudder over l. arm. RIC 146. BMC p. 314 note † and pl. 52, 19 (these dies). C 232. CBN 66 (these dies). Vagi 801. Calicó 506.

Very rare. A beautiful portrait in high style. Good very fine 10'000

Ex NAC sale 9, 1996, 830.

Two of Galba's coins that clearly communicate his desire to repair Rome of the moral degradation it had suffered since the death of Augustus are represented with this lot and the one following. With Nero's death representing the end of the Julio-Claudian dynasty, Galba took the helm at a critical moment in history: all of Rome's emperors thus far had been Julio-Claudians, and Galba's principate was a turning point. It was also a turning point because at no other time had an emperor been hailed in the provinces – it had always occurred in Rome or its environs. On the aureus of lot 42 Galba announces *Roma Renascens* – 'Rome rising again', or 'Rome reborn', and on this aureus he announces *Salus Generis Humani*, proclaiming he will attend to the welfare of all mankind. However noble Galba's intentions, he was terribly naïve to think that radical reform of moral and social conduct could be achieved in short order, and especially under such chaotic circumstances. He removed incompetent men from their offices and replaced them with more qualified candidates, and was stern – even stingy – with his army. Tacitus reports he did not provide even a "mere token act of generosity" for his soldiers, which assured his downfall only six months into his reign.



41



41

- 41 Aureus July 68 – January 69, 7.29 g. IMP SER GALBA AVG Bare head r. Rev. S P Q R / OB C S in oak wreath. RIC 164. BMC 29. C 286. CBN 72. Vagi 801. Calicó 509.

Rare. An excellent strong portrait, about extremely fine / extremely fine 15'000

Ex Stack's sale 3.12.1996, The Michael F. Price Collection, 139.



42



42

- 42 Aureus July 68 – January 69, 7.29 g. IMP SER GALBA CAESAR AVG P M Laureate head r. Rev. R – OMA RENASCES Roma, helmeted and in military attire, standing l., holding Victory on globe and transverse eagle-tipped sceptre. RIC –, cf. 229 (denarius). BMC –. C –, cf. 208 (denarius). CBN –. Calicó 500 (this coin illustrated).

Apparently unique. A superb portrait, minor graze on obverse and an insignificant scratch on reverse, otherwise good very fine 8'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 467.



Otho, January – April 69



43

- 43 Aureus January–April 69, 7.38 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. SECVRI – TAS P R Securitas standing l., holding wreath and sceptre. RIC 7. BMC 13. C 16. CBN 7. Vagi 834. Calicó 529.

Very rare and in a superb state of preservation for this issue.  
Well-struck on a full flan with a delicate reddish Boscoreale tone.

About extremely fine / extremely fine 55'000

Ex Glendining 23.11.1966, 68; Hess-Leu 45, 1970, 480 and Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 105 sales. Probably from the Boscoreale hoard, 1895.

In the emperor Otho, as in his successor Vitellius, one can find little to admire. As a youth Otho was a lush, and he achieved the high office of emperor only through bribery and treachery. Indeed, there had been many 'firsts' of late: Claudius achieved his office through open support of the praetorian, Galba was the first non-Julio-Claudian emperor and the first emperor hailed outside of Rome, and now Otho was the first to openly attain his office through the murder of his predecessor. (Even if we believe Caligula suffocated Tiberius, or Nero had a hand in Claudius' death, these were achieved behind closed doors.) Otho had been governor of Lusitania (Portugal) when the Spanish governor Galba was hailed Emperor, so it was natural that Otho – long since tired of his cultural isolation – would join Galba on his trek to Rome. From this Otho had two great hopes: to exact revenge on Nero (who sent him to Lusitania to keep him far from his former companion Poppaea) and to be adopted as son and successor of the 70-year-old Galba. When neither of these goals came to fruition, Otho went heavily into debt in order to bribe the praetorian guardsmen to murder Galba, under whom they were suffering. After Galba had been brutally murdered in public view, the terrified senate hailed Otho emperor. Few in Rome would have wanted to be emperor since the German governor Vitellius was leading his army toward Italy at a rapid pace. Otho's reign was as brief, chaotic and desperate as it was degrading. It culminated in a battle in the north of Italy in at which as many as 40,000 Roman soldiers died. Having lost the battle to Vitellius' army, and no doubt disheartened at the carnage, Otho committed suicide some two days later.



43 3:1



## Vitellius, April – December 69



- 44 Aureus April–December 69, 7.30 g. A VITELLIVS GERM IMP AVG TR P Laureate head r. Rev. L VITELLIVS COS III CENSOR Lucius Vitellius, togate, seated l. on curule chair, feet on stool, holding eagle-tipped sceptre in l. hand and extending r. RIC 94. BMC 23. C 54 var. (holding branch in r. hand). CBN 54. Vagi 877. Calicó 570a (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. An unobtrusive metal flaw on obverse behind head,  
otherwise extremely fine 40'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 491.

Each of Rome's emperors (except Otho, whose lineage was not particularly distinguished) had celebrated their ancestors as a means of buoying their own legitimacy. Augustus made the most of his relationship with Julius Caesar, Tiberius did likewise with Augustus and Livia, Caligula and Claudius honored the many nobles from whom they were descended, and Nero initially trumpeted Agrippina and Claudius. Even Galba – the first non-Julio-Claudian emperor – trumpeted his close ties to the deified Livia. On this rare aureus, the newest emperor Vitellius acts likewise: he celebrates his illustrious father, Lucius Vitellius, who, as the reverse inscription indicates, was Censor and held the Consulship three times. Vitellius' father was undoubtedly the most important politician of his age. He was a shameless flatterer who would avert his eyes and prostrate himself in the presence of emperors and empresses; we are told he would even kiss the feet of Claudius' third wife Messalina. He was pragmatic in his dealings with Tiberius: not only did he 'provide' his son (the future emperor Vitellius) to Tiberius as one of his male prostitutes during his final years on Capri, but he was also skillful enough to survive the reign of Caligula. Under Claudius – who was perpetually at odds with the senate – Lucius reached the zenith of his career, running the government while Claudius was leading an invasion of Britain. After an illustrious, if not prideful, career, Lucius Vitellius probably died late in the reign of Claudius or early in the reign of Nero, long before the most famous of his four sons became emperor.

## Vespasian, 69 – 79



- 45 Aureus circa 69–70, 7.31 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. Jewess seated r. on ground, mourning; behind her, trophy. In exergue, IVDAEA. RIC 15. BMC 31. C 225. CBN 20. Vagi 899. Calicó 643. Rare. Good very fine / very fine 14'000

Ex Stack's 14.11.1983, J.P. Morgan Collection, 61 and CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1420 sales.

Vespasian's greatest triumph was the war in Judaea he waged at the end of Nero's reign. The campaign was difficult and taxing, and though the Roman victory was not complete when Vitellius came to the throne in April 69, neither that nor his great distance from Rome deterred Vespasian from making his bid for power. He entrusted the final leg of the campaign – the siege of Jerusalem – to his eldest son Titus while he joined his ally, the prefect Alexander, in Alexandria, and another of his compatriots, the Syrian governor Mucianus, to lead an army of 20,000 soldiers overland from Syria to Italy. The combination of Vespasian's choke-hold on the Egyptian grain supply and the slowly advancing armies of Mucianus caused panic in Rome. Further complicating matters was a preemptive strike against Vitellius led by a rogue Danubian commander named Primus: he overwhelmed Vitellius, whose forces were defeated in Northern Italy. The armies of Primus soon marched on Rome with the massive army of Mucianus only days behind. Vitellius was overthrown and Mucianus was able to establish Vespasian's authority. Mucianus ousted Primus and his legions, and ruled Rome on Vespasian's behalf until he finally arrived in October, 70 – wholly 15 months after he was hailed emperor by his soldiers. Meanwhile, the gruelling siege of Jerusalem had just ended in September, and Titus returned with spoils in unimaginable quantities. A large part of Vespasian's early coinage, including this rare aureus from his accession year, is devoted to the Judaeian victory.





46



46

- 46 Aureus, Lugdunum circa 70, 7.33 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG TR P Laureate head r. Rev. COS ITER – TR POT Neptune standing l., r. foot on prow, holding dolphin in extended r. hand and trident in l. RIC 279. BMC 374. C 92. CBN 290. Vagi 895. Calicó 611.

Struck on a broad flan and about extremely fine 6'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1357.

Both historians and citizens openly criticised Vespasian – the son of a man who made a fortune as a tax collector in Asia, and later as a Swiss banker – for his stinginess, but this proved to be an essential quality for an emperor in his troubled times. Suetonius (Vesp 16.3) reports that Vespasian claimed he needed 400 million aurei (10 billion denarii) to "...put the country back on its feet again". As a result of his close attention to finance, Vespasian struck aurei in large quantities, and unlike most of his predecessors, he employed a wide variety of reverse types. For generations researchers have recognised that many of Vespasian's reverse types recall types from earlier reigns, most especially those from the age of Augustus. Attempts have been made to connect his 'Augustan' types with the centenaries of the Battle of Actium (ending in 70) and the 'foundation' of the empire (ending in 74), but all seem to have failed, as the relevant types are strewn throughout Vespasian's ten-year reign. It is perhaps better to view his recycling of types as a political strategy favored by Vespasian and Titus, but subsequently abandoned by Domitian. In this case we have a depiction of the sea-god Neptune that certainly is derived from Octavian's pre-Imperial coinage struck in commemoration of Actium. On the aureus of lot 48 we find another 'borrowed' type, this time from an issue of Claudius.



47



- 47 Aureus, Antioch circa 71–72, 7.58 g. IMP CAES VESP AVG P M Laureate head of Vespasianus r. Rev. IMP CAES VESP AVG P TRI P COS II Bare head of Titus r. RIC 357. BMC p. 105, \* and pl. 18, 11 (these dies). C 1. CBN 316 and pl. XXXVII (these dies). RPC II 1918 (these dies). Vagi 987. Calicó 709.

Very rare. Absolutely minor surface mark in reverse field at three o'clock,

otherwise extremely fine / about extremely fine 24'000

In periods of civil war and their aftermaths, there arose special needs and opportunities for precious metal coinages in the provinces. Contrarily, when there was no civil war, such as during the reigns of Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius and Nero, there was less call for outputs of this nature. When Vindex and Galba revolted in A.D. 68, Rome entered a prolonged period of war and recovery – perhaps five years altogether – in which the eventual victor, Vespasian, struck important gold and silver coinages in the provinces. The chief mints in the east were Antioch and Ephesus, where aurei and denarii of distinctive style and fabric were produced until 72 for the former, and until 74 for the latter. In addition, there was renewed production of Imperial cistophori, Syrian tetradrachms and Alexandrine tetradrachms under the Flavians. Within such a vast array of coinage, this aureus of Antioch is one of the rarest and most important. It seems to be only the second known (the only one cited in RPC, vol. II, is in the Bibliothèque nationale), and was struck in the final year of Flavian aureus and denarius production at Antioch. Early in his reign, Vespasian worked hard to advertise his dynastic intentions, hoping it might help bring stability to the empire, which was still reeling from the fiscal and social consequences of the civil war. Some of his issues portray Vespasian on the obverse with Titus and Domitian confronted on the reverse, whereas others (such as this aureus) portray Vespasian on the obverse and Titus on the reverse. Considering Titus had been his father's comrade in the east, and his virtual co-emperor and designated heir in Rome, it is understandable that Titus was honoured so extensively.



48

48

- 48 Aureus, Lugdunum circa 72–73, 7.26 g. IMP CAES VESPAS AVG P M TR P IIII P P COS IIII Laureate head r. Rev. PACI AVGVSTI Nemesis advancing r., holding caduceus; before her, serpent. RIC 302. BMC 403. C 284. CBN 307. Vagi 895. Calicó 656 (this coin illustrated).  
Light abrasion on reverse at eleven o'clock, otherwise extremely fine 6'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 839.



49

- 49 Aureus circa 76, 7.39 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. COS VII Cow walking r. RIC 96. BMC 176. C 117. CBN –. Vagi 895. Calicó 622.  
Superb Boscoreale toning and a very appealing portrait,  
good extremely fine / extremely fine 14'000

Augustus greatly admired Greek art, philosophy and culture, and was not shy about confiscating works of art in Greece and relocating them in Rome. His fancy even extended to Egyptian culture, and he even brought many obelisks to Rome. Quite famous among the Greek works of art Augustus acquired were four massive bronze sculptures of bulls cast in the mid-5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. by the renowned Eleutheraean sculptor Myron. Augustus took the sculptures from their traditional home in Athens and placed them before his Temple of Apollo on the Palatine, which he consecrated in 28 B.C. in commemoration of his victory at Actium. Not only were Myron's cows among the most successful experimentations in post-Archaic Greek bronze sculpture, but the association of the bull with the sea-god Neptune (Poseidon) could not have been lost on Augustus, who was still basking in post-Actian glory. As a coin type the standing cow, or bullock, first occurs under Augustus about a year after Myron's originals had been relocated to Rome. Subsequently it is recycled by Vespasian (this lot) and Titus (lots 52 & 53), both of whom we know were fond not only of Augustan types, but also 'animal' types in general (they also depicted a butting bull, a sow, yoked oxen, a Capricorn, the she-wolf and twins, and a she-goat milked by a goatherd).



50

50

- 50 Quinarius circa 75–79, 3.55 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVST Victory advancing r., holding wreath in extended r. hand and palm over l. shoulder. RIC –, cf. 129 (silver quinarius). BMC –, cf. 285 (silver quinarius). C –, cf. 614 (silver quinarius). CBN –, cf. 252 (silver quinarius). Cf. Leu sale 2, 1972, 378. Vagi 903.  
Apparently unique and unrecorded. Struck on a very broad flan and good very fine 10'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 496.



**Titus Caesar, 69 – 79**



- 51 Aureus circa 73, 7.29 g. T CAESAR IMP VESP CEN Laureate head r. Rev. PAX AVG Pax standing l., leaning on cippus, holding branch in extended r. hand over lighted tripod and winged caduceus in l. RIC Vespasian 168a. BMC Vespasian 110. C 131. CBN Vespasian 93. Vagi 983. Calicó 744 (this coin illustrated).

Well-struck and centred on a very large flan with a superb portrait.

Extremely fine / good very fine

8'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 478.

For someone who died at the relatively early age of 41, Titus accomplished a great amount in a short period. Even from a young age, when he counted Britannicus, the ill-fated son of Claudius, among his best friends, Titus was recognized as having potential. Suetonius (Titus 2) tells us that "...when one day Claudius' freedman Narcissus called in a physiognomist to examine Britannicus' features and prophesy his future, he was told most emphatically that Britannicus would never succeed his father, whereas Titus (who happened to be present) would achieve that distinction". Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was the siege of Jerusalem in the First Jewish Revolt, a remarkable task of engineering genius and perseverance that he orchestrated personally. Upon returning to Rome his contributions to the empire were not quite so spectacular, but were even more valuable. For nearly a decade before he became emperor in 79, Titus was the backbone of his father's administration. When he became emperor his popularity rose, and though he was privileged to dedicate the Colosseum, he also had to deal with the terrible consequences from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. This aureus was struck in 73, just about the time Rome had begun to return to its prosperous self. As such the reverse type echoes the very real accomplishment of Vespasian and Titus: the re-establishment of peace after the civil war that brought them to power.



- 52 Aureus circa 76, 7.40 g. T CAESAR IMP VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS V Cow walking r. RIC Vespasian 188. BMC Vespasian 187. C 53. CBN Vespasian 164. Vagi 983. Calicó 734.

Delicate reddish Boscoreale toning and extremely fine

10'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 479.

see the note for lot 49.



- 53 Aureus circa 76, 7.22 g. T CAESAR IMP VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS V Cow walking r. RIC Vespasian 188. BMC Vespasian 187. C 53. CBN Vespasian 164. Vagi 983. Calicó 734 (this coin illustrated).

Light scratches and a graffito on obverse below the neck,

otherwise about extremely fine

5'500

Ex Berk sale 25.3.1995, 211.

see the note for lot 49.



54

- 54 Aureus circa 77–78, 7.40 g. T CAESAR IMP VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. Helmeted Roma seated on shield r., holding spear in l. hand, feet over helmet; in field l. and r., two birds and before her, she-wolf with twins; in exergue, COS VI. RIC Vespasian 194. BMC Vespasian 223. C 64. CBN Vespasian 199. Vagi 983. Calicó 738.

Struck on an exceptionally broad flan with a realistic portrait. Extremely fine 10'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 480.

During the years 77 and 78 the Flavians introduced a host of new reverse types to their precious metal coinage, most of which were based upon types from the Republican and Augustan age. This type is a remarkably faithful reproduction of the reverse from an anonymous Republican denarius struck circa 115/4 B.C. The type is steeped in the Roman legendary tradition: Roma is shown seated on a pile of shields observing the she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus as birds fly at either side. Literary tradition has it that nourishment was brought to the twins by a woodpecker (*picus*), and these birds undoubtedly represent them even if they are not that actual type of bird (for in various media similar scenes substitute other birds, such as eagles and ravens).

### Julia Titi, daughter of Titus



55

55

- 55 Aureus circa 90–92, 7.23 g. DIVA IVLIA – AVGVSTA Diademed and draped bust r., hair in long tail caught behind. Rev. Julia seated l., holding corn ears and sceptre, on car drawn l. by two elephants with mahouts on their backs. RIC Domitian 219. BMC p. 351, \*. C 19. CBN Domitian 272. Calicó 807.

Extremely rare. A severe portrait of fine style, good very fine / very fine 20'000

As so often was the case with Imperial women, Julia Titi, one of two daughters of Titus, was destined to be a dynastic pawn. While still young Titus tried to convince his younger brother Domitian to marry her (just as Claudius had married his niece Agrippina), but he was already married to Domitia, and refused on that account. Instead Julia Titi married a second cousin, Flavius Sabinus, a grandson of Vespasian's famous brother. But their respective marriages could not keep Domitian and Julia Titi apart, and for years they engaged in a secret affair. When Titus succeeded his father as emperor in 79, he bestowed his daughter with the title of Augusta. The enduring love affair of Julia Titi and Domitian only came to be known publicly in about 83, when Domitian exiled his wife. Uncle and niece soon were openly living together in the palace, and Domitian executed Julia's husband in the following year on the flimsiest imaginable charge. Their incestuous affair did not end pleasantly, though: Julia died in 90 or 91 of fatal complications of an attempted abortion. This was a terrible blow to Domitian, who deified Julia Titi and eventually recalled his wife Domitia from exile. His devotion was proven in the end, when one of his nurses, presumably acting on a wish Domitian had expressed near the end of his life, mixed his ashes with those of Julia Titi. This aureus was struck for Julia after she had died, and consequently is a much rarer issue than her lifetime coinages.



# Domitian Caesar, 72 – 79



- 56 Aureus circa 73, 7.37 g. CAES AVG F DOMIT COS II Laureate head r. Rev. VES – TA Round temple of Vesta with four columns; statue of Vesta standing l. within the temple. In field l. and r., two statues. RIC Vespasian 230. BMC Vespasian 412. C 614 var. (DOMITIAN). CBN –. Vagi 1067. Calicó 940 (this coin illustrated).

A very interesting reverse composition, about extremely fine 9'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 866.

Among the most elegant of all Roman architectural types is this issue depicting the Temple of Vesta. It is worth noting that it is one of the few Flavian reverse types that is wholly original, without a numismatic predecessor. This particular aureus, struck in the name of Domitian, theoretically should only have been struck for Vespasian or Titus. During the first three years of Vespasian's precious metal coinage (69/70, 70/71, 71/72), he struck only in his name. In the fourth full year, 72/3, he shared four of his eleven types with Titus, and introduced the Temple of Vesta type, which he assigned only to Titus. In the subsequent issue, 73, Vespasian shared it with Titus, and in its final year of production, 74, the type reverted to Titus only, just as it had begun. As an issue in the name of Domitian there seems to be no rational explanation: 73 was the first year of issue for any precious metal coins in the name of Domitian, and though in this year he did share with his brother and father the generic 'Victory' quinarius, he was accorded one aureus type depicting him on horseback, a type which at the time was unique to him. Thus, in this coin we have a most unusual item, which not only is from the first year of Domitian's production, but, as T.V. Buttrey pointed out in his 1972 Numismatic Chronicle article "Vespasian as Moneyer", it also represents the only significant exception to the rigid pattern of Vespasian's coinage.



- 57 Aureus circa 73, 7.25 g. CAES AVG F DOMIT COS II Laureate head r. Rev. Domitian, dressed, riding on horse prancing l., holding sceptre in l. hand and raising r. RIC Vespasian 232. BMC Vespasian 124. C 663. CBN Vespasian 104. Vagi 1065. Calicó 811.

Virtually as struck, good extremely fine 8'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 486.

As noted in the previous discussion, 73 was the first year of precious metal coinage in the name of Domitian, and this 'horseback' type was struck especially, and exclusively, for Domitian (though we must note for accuracy that a denarius, perhaps unique(?), of this type in the name of Titus exists in the Bibliothèque Nationale). There has been much casual commentary about the possible relation of this reverse to the triumphal parade held for the victory Vespasian and Titus earned in Judaea. The reports of Suetonius (Domitian 2) and Josephus reveal that while Vespasian and Titus rode in separate chariots, Domitian, "magnificently adorned," rode alongside Titus' chariot on a splendid white horse, which was



58

- 58 Aureus circa 74–75, 7.29 g. CAES AVG F DOMIT COS III Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCEPS – IVVENTVTIS Spes walking l., holding flower in extended r. hand and raising skirt with l. RIC Vespasian 233. BMC Vespasian 155. C 374. CBN Vespasian 131. Vagi 1065. Calicó 912.  
Struck on a very broad flan, good extremely fine 8'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 868.

As the youngest son of Vespasian, Domitian hardly benefited from his father's fame during his formative years, whereas his older brother, Titus, experienced quite the opposite. In both cases their childhoods and adolescences seem to have galvanised their personalities and their perspectives on the world. Titus grew up when his father was greatly favoured in the court of Claudius; indeed Titus was a boyhood friend of Claudius' son Britannicus and very nearly died from the poison that killed Britannicus. When Vespasian fell out of favor for most of Nero's reign (as he was closely associated with the fallen Narcissus), Domitian was then in his formative years, and his life experience was one of relative poverty and isolation. Then, when Nero recalled Vespasian from obscurity to serve as proconsul in Africa, and later still to lead the war in Judaea, Titus was 27 years old and was able to join his father; Domitian was only 15 years old and remained in Rome. While Vespasian and Titus gained glory in Judaea and Alexandria, Domitian lived dangerously in war-torn Rome. Once again, as Titus benefited, Domitian suffered – this time as a potential target of Galba and Otho, and as a dangerously obvious target of Vitellius. Indeed, in the final days of Vitellius' regime, Domitian narrowly missed death by disguising himself as a devotee of Isis and escaping the burning Temple of Capitoline Jupiter in which his uncle, the prefect of Rome Flavius Sabinus, perished. Even when his father and brother returned to Rome, Domitian was not taken seriously. He received many superficial honors (see Suetonius, Domitian 1-2), but was entrusted with no real responsibility and played a distant second fiddle to his brother. Thus, it is no surprise that Domitian was rumored to have murdered Titus, in whose shadow he had always lived enviously, nor is it any wonder that when Domitian finally assumed supreme power, he ruled in a more extravagant fashion than his father and brother.



59

- 59 Aureus circa 74–75, 7.30 g. CAES AVG F DOMIT COS III Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCEPS – IVVENTVTIS Spes walking l., holding flower in extended r. hand and raising skirt with l. RIC Vespasian 233. BMC Vespasian 155. C 374. CBN Vespasian 131. Vagi 1065. Calicó 912.  
Good extremely fine 8'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 487.



60

- 60 Aureus circa 76, 7.37 g. CAESAR AVG F DOMITIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS – IIII Cornucopia tied up with ribbons. RIC Vespasian 237. BMC Vespasian 196. C 46. CBN Vespasian 171. Vagi 1065. Calicó 817.

A realistic portrait of pleasant style, extremely fine 6'500

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1389.





- 61 Aureus circa 77–78, 7.29 g. CAESAR AVG F DOMITIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS V She-wolf standing l., suckling Romulus and Remus; in exergue, boat. RIC Vespasian 241. BMC Vespasian 237. C 50. CBN –. Vagi 1066. Calicó 820.  
Struck on very broad flan, extremely fine / good extremely fine 9'000

Ex Christie's 12.12.1993, McLendon Collection, 113 and Triton I, 1997, 1390 sales.

The 'wolf and twins' – the she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome – are perhaps the most enduring of all Roman emblems. As such it is somewhat surprising that they appear on coinage only infrequently, especially as a main type. Indeed, up until the reign of Vespasian it had been absent from coinage as a main type for nearly three centuries (previously it had occurred only on a Republican silver didrachm, c. 275–270 B.C., struck after Rome's defeat of Pyrrhus, and on a Republican copper sextans struck c. 217–215 B.C.). Under the Flavians the type is known for silver denarii of Vespasian and Titus, but principally it was struck in the form of aurei and denarii for Domitian in this issue of 77/78.

#### Domitian Augustus, 81 – 96



- 62 Aureus circa 82–83, 7.70 g. IMP CAESAR DOMITIANVS AVG P M Laureate head of Domitianus r. Rev. DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DOMIT Draped bust of Domitia r. RIC 210. BMC 58. C 58. CBN 58. Vagi 1142. Calicó 943. Very rare. Very fine 10'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1059.

In the first eight decades of the Empire, the title of Augusta was prized, and was awarded sparingly. Indeed, it was given only twice in that whole period – first to Augustus' wife Livia, then to the noble Antonia, who may have been hailed by her grandson Caligula, but who certainly was hailed posthumously by her son Claudius. However, it was awarded nine more times in the next four decades (twice more by Claudius, four times by Nero, once by Titus and twice by Domitian), thus greatly devaluing the once exalted title. The two women hailed Augusta by Domitian were his deceased sister Domitilla the Younger and his wife Domitia (his niece Julia Titi had already been given the title by Titus). Domitian probably awarded these titles concurrently in the period 81–83 – perhaps exactly in 82 – though the chronological evidence is scanty, and in some respects contradictory.



61 2:1



63

- 63 Aureus circa 85, 7.70 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P IIII Laureate head r. with aegis. Rev. IMP VIII COS XI CENSORIA POTESTAT P P Germania seated r. on shield, mourning; below, broken spear. RIC 66 b. BMC 81. C 182. CBN -. Vagi 1093. Calicó 865.

A superb portrait and a finely engraved reverse composition of high style.

An absolutely insignificant scratch on obverse and nick on edge

at five o'clock on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

10'000

As was related in the commentary on lot 58, Domitian harboured an inferiority complex toward his brother and father. In the matter of military glory, the jealousy was acute: his brother had led the siege of Jerusalem, and his father had led most of the war in Judaea, and had won much glory in his earlier years, including a triumphia ornamentalia for his command in Claudius' invasion of Britain. Domitian had always been eager for a military command, and Suetonius (Domitian 1) tells us that when his father established his government in Rome, Domitian greatly wanted glory so badly that he "...planned a quite unnecessary expedition into Gaul and Germany, from which his father's friends managed to dissuade him". In actuality, his skills in the arts of war were enviable: he is said to have been able to shoot an arrow between the spread fingers of a hand without fail. His first campaign – which this well-composed issue celebrates – was against the Chatti in 83. Domitian led a perfectly successful campaign in which the Chatti were roundly defeated and the Roman border was extended beyond the Rhine. In honor of this victory Domitian was hailed Germanicus, won a triumph, and even had an arch erected. The series of coins he struck for several years are especially beautiful and imaginative compared with the rather pedestrian issues of his later years.



64

- 64 Aureus circa 88, 7.52 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERMAN P M TR P VII Laureate head r. Rev. IMP XIII COS XIII CENS P P P Minerva, draped and helmeted, standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and spear in l.; at her feet, shield. RIC -, cf. 109 (denarius). BMC -, cf. 119 (denarius). C -, cf. 234 (denarius). CBN -, cf. 116 (denarius). Vagi 1090. Calicó 892 (this coin illustrated). Apparently unique. About extremely fine 7'500

Ex NFA XXX, 1992, 247 and Triton III, 1999, 1055 sales.



63 2:1



## Domitia, wife of Domitian



- 65 Aureus circa 82–84, 7.82 g. DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DOMIT Draped bust r. Rev. CONCOR DIA AVGVS – T Peacock standing r. RIC Domitian 212. BMC Domitian 64. C 1 var. CBN Domitian 64. Vagi 1143. Calicó 944.

Very rare. Well-centred with a delicate portrait,  
good very fine / about extremely fine 20'000

Ex Lanz sale 94, Sammlung Leo Benz, 1999, 401.

The chronology of Domitian and Domitia's relationship is difficult to ascertain. Suetonius (Domitian 3) reports that Domitia's first child, a daughter, was born during Domitian's second consulship, and that her son was born the following year. However, an earlier, pointed remark by Suetonius casts doubt on an otherwise simple chronology: "Of the six consulships enjoyed by Domitian before becoming emperor, only one was a regular one [presumably the other five were *suffect* consulships], and that came his way because Titus had stood down in his favour". Thus, historians have rightly questioned which 'second consulship' Suetonius meant: his second as Caesar, his first as emperor (if his one ordinary consulship as Caesar is counted), or his second as emperor? Simply put: the births likely occurred either in 73 and 74, or in 82 and 83. Considering it was usual for the wife of an emperor to be hailed Augusta near or upon the birth of child, and since Domitia's coinage was struck early in Domitian's reign, the later dates are preferable. Adding weight to this conclusion is the rare coinage Domitian issued for his long-deceased sister Domitilla, whom he hailed Augusta posthumously. Her portrait aurei and denarii undoubtedly belong to the early part of Domitian's reign, and without too much abandon we might presume both women were hailed Augusta around the same time.



- 66 Aureus circa 82–84, 7.70 g. DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DOMIT Draped bust r., hair in plait. Rev. DIVVS CAESAR IMP DOMITIANI F Baby boy seated l. on globe, lifting up both hands; around him, seven stars. Kent-Hirmer 242. RIC Domitian 213. BMC Domitian 62. C 10. CBN Domitian 70. Vagi 1160. Calicó 949.

Very rare. Two light marks on obverse, otherwise very fine 15'000

Ex Hirsch sale 200, 1998, 28.

Though Domitian's wife Domitia hailed from a most distinguished line – her father was the famous Neronian general Corbulo – her reputation was no better than her husband's: she was considered boastful, especially of her misdeeds, and was branded a frequent adulterer. Her most famous affair, with an actor named Paris, caused Domitian to exile her and to execute him. He quickly replaced her with his niece Julia Titi, with whom he had been infatuated for years, only to recall Domitia after Julia Titi died in 90 or 91. Their renewed relationship must have been less than satisfying, because within five or six years she joined a plot to murder Domitian, which was successful in the fall of 96. Domitia bore Domitian two children – first a girl, then a year later a boy. The names of neither are preserved, and the girl is not attested on coinage. The boy, however, is depicted on the reverse of certain precious metal coins – typically aurei and denarii with the portrait of Domitia on the obverse, but very rarely on denarii with the portrait of Domitian on the obverse. As the inscription and iconography indicate, the boy died young and subsequently was deified. He is depicted as a young Jupiter seated on a globe surrounded by the seven stars in the constellation of Ursa Major.



- 67 Aureus circa 82–84, 7.73 g. DOMITIA AVG IMP DOMITIAN AVG GERM Draped bust r., hair elaborately bound up. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGVST Peacock standing r. RIC 215A. BMC 249 var. C 4. CBN Domitian 218. Vagi 1143. Calicó 946.

Extremely rare. A very appealing portrait struck in high relief.

Light scrapes on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine 22'000

Ex Leu 59, 1994, 265 and 75, 1999, 1501 sales.

To collectors of Roman coins the peacock – the familiar of the goddess Juno – is a type frequently employed by empresses. The admiration of the peacock was nothing new even in Roman times, for it is said that upon reaching India Alexander the Great was so impressed with the variety and beauty of the plumage on this stately bird that he forbade killing them under the severest penalty. Though the Romans also held the bird in high esteem, they had no objections to eating the bird or its eggs. Although the peacock becomes commonplace on coins of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries, especially as a symbol for the deified empresses, it was inaugurated by the Flavians on issues struck for Domitia and Julia Titi. A point of some interest is that on the issues Domitian struck for his wife Domitia the peacock is shown in profile with its tail feathers gathered, whereas on the issues he struck for his niece Julia Titi, the peacock is shown facing with its tail in full splendour.

#### Nerva, 96 – 98



- 68 Aureus circa 97, 7.39 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDIA EXERCITVM Clasped hands. RIC 14. BMC –, note p. 4, 25. C 19. CBN 14. Vagi 1211. Calicó 955.

Rare and in exceptional condition. A wonderful portrait of great style.

Light scratches on reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 24'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1062.

The reign of Nerva was quite different than that of his predecessor: not only was Domitian militant in character, but he spoiled his army by increasing their salaries from 225 denarii per year (which had been the standard since the time of Julius Caesar) to 300 per year, and paid them in coins of increased weight and purity. This was a difficult act for an elderly senator to follow, especially since for at least six decades now the army had been instrumental in making and maintaining emperors. Money was a key to Nerva's success: he maintained Domitian's standards of heavy, pure aurei and he devoted reverse types to the army. This and the following aureus are typical examples of Nerva's appeal to the army for concord. Although a general symbol of *concordia*, the clasped hands may also represent Nerva's hope that the army and the senate could work together. On this piece we have simple clasped hands, whereas on the next the hands support a legionary eagle set upon a prow, representing the army and the navy. But even with Nerva's fiscal and numismatic overtures, his relationship with the army was strained at best. In the very year these aurei were struck there were two failed plots against the new emperor: one by troops stationed on the Danube, and another by praetorian guardsmen in Rome, who principally were seeking revenge on those who had murdered Domitian. Aware of his peril, Nerva wisely adopted as his successor the commander Trajan, then governor of Upper Germany, in September or October of the year these aurei were struck. Within four months Nerva had died of what we presume were natural causes, and he was lawfully succeeded by Trajan.





- 69 Aureus circa 97, 7.56 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDIA – EXERCITVM Clasp hands holding legionary eagle set upon prow l. RIC 15. BMC 27. C 28. CBN 16. Vagi 1211. Calicó 958. Rare. About extremely fine 12'000  
Ex NAC sale 11, 1998, 415.



- 70 Aureus circa 97, 7.54 g, IMP NERVA CAES AVG P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. FORTVNA AVGVST Fortuna standing l., holding rudder and cornucopia. RIC 16. BMC 36. C 65. CBN –. Vagi 1211. Calicó 964 (this coin illustrated). Rare. Extremely fine 16'000  
Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1412.

History is best understood in hindsight, and the Romans of the time could not have known how pivotal an event the murder of Domitian would prove to be. We have since recognised a clean break between the 'Twelve Caesars' and the 'Adoptive' emperors – something that would not have crossed the mind of a Roman living in the transition year of 96. Replacing Domitian was an elderly, childless senator named Marcus Cocceius Nerva, who was descended from a long line of successful lawyers. His reign was not remarkable, but it served as a buffer between the dynastic nature of the previous century and the 'adoptive' character of the era that followed. Nerva's reign was one of moderation and tolerance in comparison with that of his predecessor, and had he been a younger, more energetic man – perhaps with an heir – it is hard to predict how the fate of Rome might have been altered. Instead, it more or less continued along its militant and expansionist path throughout the reign of Trajan, only to be briefly curtailed under Hadrian, and restored out of necessity by later emperors.

### Trajan, 98 – 117



- 71 Aureus circa 103–111, 7.37 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Trajan, in military attire, on horse galloping r., hurling spear at fallen Dacian before horse. RIC 208. BMC 246. C 501 var. (not cuirassed). Vagi 1228. Calicó 1107 (this coin illustrated).  
A light abrasion on obverse ethnic, otherwise extremely fine 8'000  
Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 503.



72



72

- 72 Aureus circa 115, 7.16 g. IMP TRAIANVS AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. Façade of Trajan's Forum, formed by six columns; a central entrance, four niches containing statues; on top of the roof a facing quadriga between three statues on each side. In exergue, FORVM TRAIAN. RIC 256. BMC 509. C 168. Vagi 1230. Calicó 1031. Rare. Well-centred on a broad flan, good very fine / about extremely fine 8'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1066.

Many Roman emperors were fond of architecture, and consequently for striking coins with architectural types, but in this regard we must acknowledge that Trajan was the most prolific of them all. On this aureus we have a depiction of his marvelous forum, represented by the façade of its entrance. It appears as a building of six columns with its central entrance flanked by four distyle shrines, each containing a statue and situated beneath a circular shield. The roof supports an array of statues and statuary groups: in the center is a facing chariot of six horses; the outermost horses are assisted by standing warriors, and the whole scene is flanked by military trophies and figures of Victory. The forum was dedicated in 112 or 113, the coin types presumably were struck in 115, and the final touches seemingly were completed about two years later. Trajan struck a variety of Imperial coins with architectural reverses, including many with identifiable statues and statuary groups, such as Trajan's equestrian statue and the castellum of the *Aqua Traiana*. Foremost among his other architectural types are his basilica, the Circus Maximus, the 'Danube bridge,' a hexagonal harbor, a triumphal arch, Trajan's Column (see lot 73), a richly ornamented gateway to *Area Capitolina*, the temple of Jupiter Victor and an octastyle temple which may be that of Honos, or perhaps the one eventually dedicated by Hadrian to Trajan and Plotina that occupied the end of the forum opposite the entrance depicted on this aureus.



73



- 73 Aureus circa 115, 7.33 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI P P Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Trajan's Column surmounted with statue of the Emperor; at base, two eagles. RIC 292. BMC 449. C 557. Cf. Vagi 1236 (for type). Calicó 1117 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare and unusually pleasant for this issue. Two light scratches on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine 12'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.11.1997, 182.

Of all of the truly monumental buildings and commemorative structures the emperor Trajan built, only one, the *Columna Traiani*, has survived in a reasonable state of completeness. Indeed, it appears almost identical in person as it does on coins, except that the statue of Trajan that originally surmounted it was replaced in 1588 with a statue of St. Paul. When completed, the column occupied a prominent place between two libraries, the Basilica Ulpia and the Temple of Trajan and Plotina. The column was massive: it was over 12 feet in diameter at its base, and rose to a height of nearly 130 feet. Its core was comprised of 34 blocks of Carrara white marble that were made hollow so as to accommodate a circular staircase of 185 steps. The most remarkable feature of the column, however, was its ornamentation, for the friezes on its exterior are some of the most inspiring works of art ever produced. Monumental in scope and execution, they record Trajan's two Dacian campaigns, from 101-3 and 104-6. All told, there are more than 2,500 individually sculpted figures distributed throughout more than 150 scenes. The emperor himself is represented no less than fifty times – not a surprise considering his penchant for commemorative architecture and his pride in having added Dacia to the provinces of the empire.





- 74 Aureus circa 115, 7.25 g. IMP CAES NER TRAIAN OPTIM AVG P M TR P COS VI P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. DIVI NERVA ET TRAIANVS PAT Confronted busts of Nerva on l., laureate with drapery on l. shoulder and Trajan Pater on r., bare-headed and draped. Kent-Hirmer 258 var. RIC 726 var. BMC 499 var. C 1 var. Vagi 1312. Calicó 1138a.

Very rare and in superb condition for this issue. Three outstanding portraits of high style. A few insignificant surface marks and an edge cut, otherwise extremely fine 18'000

Ex Naville VIII, Clarence Beement Collection, 1924, 859; Leu-NFA, W. Garrett Collection Part I, 1984, 776; NFA XVIII, 1987, 469 and Sotheby's 8.7.1996, 107 sales.

Marcus Ulpius Traianus, the first senatorial member of the Ulpii, came to prominence under Nero, at which time he served with distinction commanding the 10<sup>th</sup> Legion during the Jewish War. For his successes in the East and as gratuity for having allowed Titus the honor of capturing Joppa after he had brought it to its final resistance, Vespasian awarded him the consulship in 70. Trajan Pater subsequently served as governor of Syria where he earned the *ornamenta triumphalia* for his successful defense of Rome's borders against Parthia, and he ended public life as proconsul of all Asia, a supreme honor bestowed upon him in 79. The final crown to his glory was accorded posthumously, for he was deified in about 115. This tribute is only recorded by this coinage. On the reverse of this aureus Trajan Pater's portrait is bare-headed, for he never was emperor, whereas the portrait of the former emperor Nerva is laureate.



- 75 Aureus circa 114–117, 7.33 g. IMP NER TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG GER DAC Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P COS VI P P S P Q R Fortuna seated l., holding rudder and cornucopiae. RIC 319. BMC 569. C 153 var. (not cuirassed). Vagi 1228. Calicó 1026.

Good extremely fine 10'000

Ex Stack's sale 7.12.1994, 2007.

#### Plotina, wife of Trajan



- 76 Aureus circa 112, 7.29 g. PLOTINA AVG IMP TRAIANI Diademed and draped bust r., hair in plait. Rev. CAES AVG GERM DAC COS VI P P Vesta seated l., holding palladium in extended r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC Trajan 730. BMC Trajan 525. C 2. Vagi 1314. Calicó 1146.

Very rare. A delightful portrait struck in high relief.

A few edge bumps and a nick in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 26'000

Ex Lanz sale 94, Sammlung Leo Benz, 1999, 467.



77

- 77 Aureus circa 117–118, 7.38 g. PLOTIN – AE AVG Draped bust of Plotina r., wearing stephane. Rev. MATIDI – AE AVG Diademed and draped bust r. RIC Hadrian 34. BMC Hadrian 53 and pl. 47, 15 (these dies). C 1. Vagi 1321. Calicó 1150.

Extremely rare and undoubtedly the finest specimen known of this desirable coin.

Two extraordinary portraits, perfectly struck in high relief.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

75'000

Ex NFA XX, 1988, 184 (illustrated on the cover page) and Giessener Münzhandlung 89, 1998, 434 sales.

This Aureus conjoins the portraits of Matidia, niece of Trajan (in that she was the daughter of Marciana, the emperor's older sister), and Plotina, his wife. From the marriage of Matidia and L. Vibrio came their first-born, Vibia Matidia, who was subsequently betrothed to Antonius Pius and their second-born, Vibia Sabina, later to become Hadrian's bride. Plotina was famous for the influence she exerted over her husband's decisions (he had been married for several years before coming to power in 98), particularly in his decision to adopt Hadrian as his successor to the throne. It was in fact the Augusta, who had been at her husband's side during the campaign against the Parthi where Trajan met his death, who brought the news of Hadrian's election, along with the urn containing her husband's ashes, to the senate in Rome. Plotina outlived her husband, dying around the age of 60 in 129 A.D., immortalised and honoured after her death.



77 3:1





### Diva Marciana, elder sister of Trajan



78

- 78 Aureus circa 112, 7.18 g. DIVA AVGVSTA – MARCIANA Draped bust r., hair elaborately dressed, above which crescent-shaped diadem. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle with spread wings walking l. on sceptre, head to l. RIC Trajan 743. BMC 648 Trajan 648 and pl. 21, 4 (these dies). C 3. Vagi 1325. Calicó 1152. Extremely rare. About very fine 8'000

Ex Lanz sale 94, Sammlung Leo Benz, 1999, 470.

Historians disagree about the date of Marciana's death; some place it in 105, the year that she and Plotina jointly took the title of Augusta, while others suggest a date as late as 112 or 114. One of the two later dates seem more likely. This posthumous coinage does represent a novelty in Roman numismatics, for the word *consecratio* first appears here, and thereafter was employed frequently for posthumous coinages. Following Marciana's death, her daughter Matidia was raised to the rank of Augusta, and coinage was struck in her name in addition to that already being struck in the name of Trajan's wife, Plotina.

### Matidia, daughter of Marciana



79

79

- 79 Aureus circa 112, 7.30 g. MATIDIA AVGVSTAE – MARCIANAE F Draped bust r., hair elaborately dressed, above which crescent-shaped diadem. Rev. PIETAS AVGVST Matidia, as Pietas, standing facing, head to l., placing hands over Sabina and Matidia at either side. RIC Trajan 759. BMC Trajan 659. C 9. Vagi 1334. Calicó 1157. Extremely rare. Light scratch on reverse, otherwise good very fine 16'000

Matidia was the only niece of the emperor Trajan who, having no children of his own, displayed the greatest affection for her. He essentially treated her as a daughter, and she often accompanied him on his travels. In addition to her close connection to Trajan, Matidia shared a mutual fondness for the future emperor Hadrian, who she admired enough to permit him to marry her youngest daughter Sabina. When Matidia died in 119, her funeral oration was delivered by Hadrian himself, as her uncle Trajan had died two years earlier. The reverse of this coin depicts Matidia in the guise of the goddess Pietas affectionately placing her hands on the heads of two young children, both female, who doubtless represent her own two daughters Matidia the Younger and Sabina.



81 3:1

## Hadrian Caesar, 117



80

- 80 Aureus circa 117, 6.99 g. HADRIANO TRAIAN – O CAESARI Laureate bust of adrian r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. IMP CAES NER TRAIAN OPTIM AVG GERM DAC Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Trajan r. RIC 1 var. (laureate head of Trajan r.). BMC p.124, \*. C 1 var. (laureate head of Trajan r.). Mémoires de l' Académie des Inscription et Belles-Lettres, tome 24. Vagi 1342. Calicó 1415 var.

Of the highest rarity, only the second specimen known and the only one still in existence (the other known specimen was stolen in the famous robbery at the Bibliothèque nationale de France and probably cast). A coin of exceptional historical importance and great fascination. Scratch on reverse,

otherwise good very fine 18'000

This extraordinary coin fits in the controversial and fascinating theme of Hadrian's adoption by Trajan. Deed greatly wanted and backed by Plotina and repeatedly postponed by the Emperor, who will consent to the adoption, to the detriment of other claimants to the throne only on his deathbed. On this event two version have come down to us: the first pretends that the decision of the adoption be ascribed to an actual conviction, albeit belated, of Trajan; the second, instead, suggest a real plot, engineered by Plotina, who would have delayed the spreading of the news of her husband's death, with the intent of arranging a documentary evidence substantiating Trajan's free will in adopting Hadrian.

Various inferences have been made on the nature of the relationship between Hadrian and Plotina, in fact some have even conjectured that the Empress were in love with his protégé, whom she assisted throughout his reign. Surely she played an instrumental role in the unhappy marriage between Sabina, Trajan's nephew, and Hadrian.

In our opinion this issue must be considered the only one struck by Hadrian as Caesar; in fact, notwithstanding the obverse legend suggest Trajan to be still alive and hence the issuing authority, we believe in reality the coin to have been struck after the demise of the old Emperor and therefore a ruse devised by Plotina and Hadrian to prove the occurrence of the adoption of the latter by Trajan.

## Hadrian Augustus, 117 – 138



81

- 81 Aureus circa 128, AV 7.24 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate bust r., drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. COS III Hadrian, with cloak floating behind, on horse galloping r., holding spear in r. hand. RIC 187. BMC 437. C 414. Vagi 1343. Calicó 1224.

Two insignificant edge nicks, otherwise almost Fdc 10'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1435.



84 2:1





82



82

- 82 Aureus circa 136, 7.28 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare head l. Rev. AEGYPTOS Egypt, reclining l., holding sistrum in r. hand and resting l. elbow on basket; in field l., ibis. RIC 296. BMC 795. C 114. Vagi 1343. Calicó 1183. About extremely fine 7'500  
Ex Sotheby's 10.11.1972, 300 and Triton IV, 2000, 539 sales. From the collection of Judge E.E. Farman.

Hadrian was an enigmatic figure composed of equally good and bad qualities. At times he could be incredibly cruel and calculating, like when early in his reign he executed several ex-consuls for allegedly conspiring against the throne, even though upon his accession he had promised never to execute a member of the senatorial order. At other times, he showed great sophistication in his understanding of the needs of the Empire. To start, he reverted the expansionist policies of his predecessor Trajan by pulling back some of the more ambitious borders, and then better fortifying them. He also made a virtual career of traveling throughout the provinces to administer his rule first-hand, which clearly had many positive effects. Hadrian commemorated his travels by issuing coins with types that allegorically depict the provinces, such as this aureus, which shows the reclining figure of *Aegyptus*. He is shown holding a sistrum (a rattle-like instrument originally associated with the goddess Hathor and which was used to ward off evil spirits and thus ensure the health of crops) and resting against a basket, both symbols of fecundity which reflect Egypt's role as the bread basket of the empire.



83



- 83 Aureus circa 136, 7.40 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. ADEVNTVI – AVG – ITALIAE Hadrian on l. standing r., raising r. hand and holding scroll in l.; before him, Italia on r. standing l., sacrificing out of patera over lighted altar and holding cornucopia. RIC 320. BMC 789 and pl. 62, 13 (these dies). C 43. Vagi 1343. Calicó 1177. About extremely fine 8'000  
Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1436.

#### Sabina, wife of Hadrian



84



- 84 Aureus circa 129, AV 7.29 g. SABINA AVGVSTA – HADRIANI AVG P P Draped bust l., hair in stephane and in long tail at back. Rev. CONCOR – DIA AVG Concordia seated l., holding patera in extended r. hand and resting l. elbow on statue of Spes; below the throne, cornucopia. RIC Hadrian 398. BMC Hadrian 901. C 13. Vagi 1390. Calicó 1430 (this coin illustrated).  
Rare and one of the finest aurei known of Hadrian's unhappy and unlucky wife.  
A beautiful portrait, perfectly struck in very high relief. Brilliant extremely fine 24'000  
Ex Leu 25, 1980, 306; Leu 48, 1989, 352 and Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 126 sales.

While Sabina's mother, Matidia, may have been quite fond of Hadrian, the same cannot be said of his wife Sabina. Their marriage in 100 essentially guaranteed Hadrian as successor to Trajan, but it did not bring with it domestic bliss. Hadrian was a flagrant adulterer, both with married women and handsome youths such as his favorite companion, the Bithynian youth Antinoüs. Hadrian, however, would not tolerate such behavior from his wife; in 121 or 122 he dismissed his praetorian prefect Septicius Clarus and the historian Suetonius, both court officials with whom Sabina had developed close relationships. After an unpleasant thirty-six year marriage, Sabina died in 136 or 137. It was widely rumored that her husband, knowing that his death was not far off, either her poisoned or forced her to commit suicide.

**Aelius, Caesar 136 – 138**



85

- 85 Aureus circa 137, 7.30 g. L·AELIVS – CAESAR Bare head l. Rev. TRIB POT COS II Concordia seated l., holding patera in extended r. hand and resting l. elbow on cornucopia; in exergue, CONCORD. RIC Hadrian 443. BMC Hadrian 999 and pl. 67, 9 (this obverse die). C 12. Vagi 1405. Calicó 1445.

Very rare. A strong portrait of excellent style, extremely fine 18'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 548.



86

- 86 Aureus circa 137, 7.24 g. L·AELIVS – CAESAR Bare head l. Rev. TRIB POT COS II PIE – TAS Pietas standing r., raising r. hand and holding box of perfumes in l.; in field r., altar. RIC Hadrian 444c. BMC Hadrian 1004. C 42. Vagi 1405. Calicó 1449.

Rare. About extremely fine 16'000

Ex Ponterio sale 74, 1995, 266.



87

- 87 Quinarius circa 137, 3.69 g. L·AELIVS – CAESAR Bare bust r. Rev. TR·POT – COS·II Felicitas standing l., holding caduceus and cornucopia. RIC Hadrian 430. BMC Hadrian 968 and pl. 66, 14 (these dies). C 51. Vagi 1406.

Of the highest rarity, only two specimens known of this denomination.

Struck in high relief with a pleasant portrait, extremely fine 47'500

Ex NAC 21, 2001, 460.

Aelius Caesar, formerly known as L. Ceionius Commodus (Aelius Spartianus recounts his life in *Historia Augusta*) was of Etruscan origin. He became consul in AD 136, having been adopted by Hadrian in the summer of that year. His appointment came as a general surprise: according to the gossip, Hadrian chose him for his beauty, or perhaps because he considered him a suitable caretaker who would make way for his own favourite, M. Annius Verus, just fifteen years old at the time. In the opinion of Carcopino, Aelius had been adopted because he was Hadrian's illegitimate child. A wan figure with delicate constitution, he suffered a heavy fall while making an address of thanks for Hadrian and died of haemorrhage. The *Historia Augusta* (*Vita Ael* 7) tells us that "Hadrian had gigantic statues raised to Aelius Verus in all regions of the empire, temples too in some cities, and desired that Aelius' son Verus, who had remained within the imperial family after his father's death, be adopted as his grandson, by Antoninus Oius together with Marcus."



# Antoninus Pius Augustus, 138 – 161



88



88

- 88 Aureus circa 140, AV 6.99 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P COS III Laureate head of Antoninus Pius r. Rev. AVRELIVS CAESAR AVG P II COS Bare head of Marcus Aurelius r. RIC –, cf. 417a (denarius). BMC –, cf. 155 (denarius) and pl. 4, 8 (this reverse die). C –, cf. 15 (denarius). Vagi 1433 var. Calicó 1726 (this coin illustrated).

An apparently unique variety of this interesting issue,  
bearing a lovely portrait of a young Marcus Aurelius. Good very fine 8'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 534.

Although Antoninus Pius succeeded Hadrian as emperor of Rome, he truly was third or fourth down the line of preference. Hadrian's first choice as successor was the nobleman Aelius, who was hailed Caesar in 136, but who died unexpectedly after a year in office. Hadrian then determined he would pass the throne to Aelius' son Lucius Verus – then only seven years old – and to the 17-year-old Marcus Aurelius, who was a distant relative and a close companion. In truth the middle-aged Antoninus Pius was merely a surrogate emperor in the eyes of Hadrian, and he remained truthful to his promise to act as guardian for Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus. Indeed, he was so faithful to the memory of Hadrian that he earned his surname "Pius" because he fought so diligently to convince the senate's to deify Hadrian. Over the years of his own principate, Antoninus Pius groomed both as his eventual successors, and thus continued the tradition of adoptive succession. He enjoyed a productive and mostly peaceful reign, and unlike Hadrian, who traveled extensively, Antoninus Pius never once left Italy in his twenty-two years on the throne. Unlike the great variety of Hadrian's coinage on which he celebrates his extensive travels, Antoninus' reverse types are localized, and on occasion they reflect the attention he paid to the betterment of Rome and Italy. This aureus is one of his more interesting types, as it bears the portrait of Antoninus Pius on the obverse and that of his elder heir Marcus Aurelius on the reverse.



89



- 89 Aureus circa 140, AV 7.28 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P COS III Laureate head of Antoninus Pius l. Rev. AVRELIVS CAES AVG P II F-COS Bare-headed and draped bust of Marcus Aurelius r. RIC 421c. BMC 170 note. Montagu collection 351 (these dies). C –. Vagi 1433 var. Calicó 1720b (this coin illustrated).

An extremely rare variant. Well-centred on a very broad flan, about extremely fine 8'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 551.



90



90

- 90 Aureus circa 140–143, 7.34 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P COS III Laureate head l. Rev. Antoninus Pius, in military attire, standing r., l. foot on globe, holding spear in r. hand and *parazonium* in l. RIC 105a. BMC p. 40, note \*. C 1172. Vagi 1432. Calicó 1464 (this coin illustrated).

Edge nick on obverse at five o'clock, light scratches on reverse,  
otherwise about extremely fine 4'000

Ex Dürre and Michel sale 8.11.1999, 3.



91



- 91 Aureus circa 140–144, 7.47 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P COS III Laureate head r. Rev. SA – LVS AVG Salus seated l., feeding snake out of patera; snake coiled around altar and holding sceptre. RIC –, cf. 82 (not holding sceptre). BMC –, cf. 722 (not holding sceptre). Vagi 1432. Calicó 1620 (this coin illustrated).

Apparently unique. Brilliant extremely fine

5'500

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 535.



92



92

- 92 Aureus circa 145, 7.06 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P COS IIII Laureate head r. Rev. A. Pius seated l. on platform, extending r. hand and holding scroll in l.; Liberalitas, standing before Pius, holding counting board and cornucopia. In field l., citizen standing r. with outstretched hands. In exergue, LIB IIII. RIC 141. BMC 545. C 495. Vagi 1434 var. Calicó 1570.

Rare. About extremely fine

5'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 552.



93



- 93 Aureus circa 147–148, 7.21 g. ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XII Laureate head r. Rev. COS IIII Aequitas standing l., holding scales in r. hand and cornucopia in l. RIC 177. BMC 646. C 237. Vagi 1432. Calicó 1498.

Extremely fine

4'000

Ex Stack's sale 7.12.1994, 2010.



94



- 94 Aureus circa 148–149, 7.28 g. ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XII Laureate head r. Rev. COS IIII Aequitas standing l., holding scales in r. hand and cornucopia in l. RIC 177. BMC 649. C 239. Vagi 1432. Calicó 1502.

Brilliant extremely fine

5'000

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 364.





- 95 Aureus circa 148–149, 7.14 g. ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XII Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. COS IIII Aequitas standing l., holding scales in r. hand and cornucopia in l. RIC 177. BMC 651. C 235. Vagi 1432. Calicó 1505. About extremely fine 4'000

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 365.



- 96 Quinarius circa 151–152, 3.73 g. ANTONINVS – AVG PIVS P P TR P XV Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CO – S IIII Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm. RIC 205a. BMC –, p. 111, note \*. C 260. Vagi 1438. Rare. Very fine 3'500



- 97 Quinarius circa 152–153, 3.69 g. ANTONINVS – AVG PIVS P P TR P XVI Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CO – S IIII Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm. RIC 225 (misdescribed). BMC 794. C 261 (misdescribed). Vagi 1438.

Rare. Traces of mounting, otherwise about extremely fine 2'500

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 1088.



- 98 Aureus circa 158–159, 7.28 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P XXII Bare head r. Rev. VOTA SVSCE – PTA DEC IIII Antoninus, veiled, standing l., sacrificing out of patera over tripod; in exergue, COS IIII. RIC 294a. BMC 952. C –. Vagi 1432. Calicó 1711 (this coin illustrated).

A superb portrait struck in high relief. Good extremely fine 7'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 541.



98 2:1

### Diva Faustina I, wife of Antoninus Pius



99



- 99 Aureus after 141, 7.34 g. DIVA FAV – STINA Veiled and diademed bust l. Rev. AVG – V – STA Ceres standing l., holding torch in each hand. RIC 375a. BMC 406. C 76 var. (laureate and not diademed). Vagi 1497. Calicó 1760. Good extremely fine 7'500

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.3.1996, 188.

### Marcus Aurelius Caesar, 139 – 161



100



- 100 Aureus circa 145–147, 7.26 g. AVRELIVS CAES – AR AVG P II F COS Bare head r. Rev. HILAR – RI – TAS Hilaritas standing l., holding long palm and cornucopia. RIC A. Pius 432a. BMC A. Pius 606. C 233. Vagi 1518. Calicó 1860. Good extremely fine 8'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 914.



101



- 101 Aureus circa 145–147, 7.26 g. AVRELIVS CAES – AR AVG P II F COS Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. HILAR – I – TAS Hilaritas standing l., holding long palm and cornucopia. RIC A. Pius 432b. BMC A. Pius 608. C 234. Vagi 1518. Calicó 1862 (this coin illustrated). Good extremely fine 7'500

Ex Tkalec 1994, 217 and Triton I, 1997, 1485 sales.



102



102

- 102 Aureus circa 145–147, 7.23 g. AVRELIVS CAE – SAR AVG P II F COS II Bare head r. Rev. VOTA PV – B – LICA Faustina II, veiled, standing r., clasping r. hands with Marcus Aurelius standing l.; between and behind them, Concordia standing r. RIC A. Pius 434. BMC A. Pius 610 and pl. 13, 4 (this reverse die). C 1021. Vagi 1519. Calicó 2035. Rare. About extremely fine 6'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 572.

The pivotal event of Marcus Aurelius' reign as Caesar was his marriage in 145 to Faustina Junior, the daughter of the emperor Antoninus Pius. This event secured his co-emperorship with his father-in-law, and by 147, when Faustina II was hailed Augusta, his succession to the throne was certain. This aureus, which depicts Concordia standing between the imperial couple as an indication of harmony, commemorates the public vows celebrated at the time of their marriage.





- 103 Aureus circa 147–148, 7.21 g. AVRELIVS CAE – SAR AVG PII F Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. TR·POT II – COS·II Mars, helmeted, standing r., holding spear and resting l. hand on shield. RIC A. Pius 438a. BMC –, cf. A. Pius 640 (denarius). C 606. Vagi 1518. Calicó 1925.  
A lovely portrait struck in high relief. Good extremely fine 9'000

Ex C. & E. Canessa 28.6.1923, Enrico Caruso collection, 366; Christie's 9.10.1984, "Property of a Lady", 63 and Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 128 sales.



- 104 Aureus circa 151–152, 7.38 g. AVRELIVS CAESAR – ANTONINI AVG PII FIL Bare head l. Rev. TR POT VI – COS II Clementia standing l., holding patera in r. hand and drawing skirt with l.; in exergue, CLEM. RIC A. Pius 456c. BMC 779 var. (draped bust). C 26. Vagi 1518. Calicó 1815 (this coin illustrated).  
About extremely fine 4'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1487.

### Marcus Aurelius Augustus, 161 – 180



- 105 Aureus circa 163–164, 7.25 g. M ANTONINVS – AVG ARMEN P M Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P XVIII IMP II COS III Armenia seated l., supporting head with r. hand and resting l. hand on bow; behind her, trophy; in exergue, ARMEN. RIC 86. BMC 278 and pl. 58, 4 (this obverse die). C 11. Vagi 1526. Calicó 1813 (this coin illustrated).  
Extremely fine / about extremely fine 6'500

The joint reign of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus began in crisis. The Parthians under Vologases IV broke their treaty with Rome and crossed their western border, easily overrunning Roman defenses and capturing Armenia. Lucius Verus sailed to Asia Minor, where he eventually led the Roman army to victory within its former territories and followed that up with an extremely successful counter-offensive. The result was the recovery of Armenia and Syria, the sack of Ctesiphon and Seleucia, and the conquest of Media and Mesopotamia. It was one of the most successful Roman military efforts east of the Euphrates in all Roman history, but with it came the unexpected consequence of the plague, which soldiers returning from this campaign brought into the empire. The pestilence was terrifying, and it had devastating consequences for much of Asia Minor and Europe during the next decade.



- 106 Aureus circa 168, 7.16 g. M ANTONINVS AVG ARM PARTH MAX Laureate head r. Rev. TR P XXII IMP V COS III Aequitas, veiled and draped, seated l., holding scales and cornucopia. RIC 189. BMC 465. C 898. Vagi 1525. Calicó 2005. Extremely fine 6'000  
Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 374.



- 107 Aureus circa 173–174, 7.25 g. M ANTONINVS – AVG TR P XXVIII Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IMP VI – COS III Marcus Aurelius on horse r., raising r. hand. RIC 295. BMC 590 note. C 313 var. Vagi 1525. Calicó 1870. Extremely fine 7'000  
Ex Sotheby's Zürich 28.11.1986, "The Collection of a Deceased Nobleman", 81 and Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 130 sales.

Although absolute proof does not exist, there good reason to believe the reverse of this aureus depicts the well-known equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius which, until recently when it was removed for restoration and replaced by a copy, stood at the center of the Campidoglio (Capitolium Square) in Rome. The statue originally stood in front of the Lateran Palace, but in 1536 the Farnese pope, Paul III, commissioned Michaelangelo to improve the appearance of the Capitolium, and the statue was subsequently moved there as a central focal point. It is the only equestrian statue which survives from the Roman Empire, and then only because it was misidentified. Indeed, it survived the reactionary anti-classicism of the Christian Church because it was thought that the emperor depicted on horseback was Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman emperor. Originally the statue was gilded, but the golden layer quickly peeled away and very soon only a few patches of gold remained. For a long time, however, people believed the statue was actually made of gold, and that it had a bronze layer which was slowly flaking off. This belief inspired the urban legend that on the day the statue turned completely gold, the "owl" (i.e., a tuft of hair on the horse's head) would sing, and the city of Rome - meaning the entire world - would come to an end.



- 108 Aureus circa 173–174, 7.25 g. M ANTONINVS – AVG TR P XXVIII Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IMP VI – COS III Marcus Aurelius on horse r., raising r. hand. RIC 295 var. BMC 590. C 313 var. Vagi 1525. Calicó 1870. About extremely fine 7'000

Ex Sotheby's 5.10.1988, 927 and Leu 75, 1999, 1528 sales.



## Faustina II, wife of Marcus Aurelius



- 109 Aureus circa 145–161, 7.24 g. FAVSTINA – AVGVSTA Draped bust l. Rev. AVG – VSTI – P II FIL Diana standing l., holding bow and arrow. RIC A. Pius 494b. BMC A. Pius 1097. C 19. Vagi 1555. Calicó 2039. A delicate portrait, very elegantly engraved. Extremely fine 8'500  
Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 559.



- 110 Aureus circa 145–161, 7.28 g. FAVSTINA AVG – P II AVG FIL Draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA Dove standing r. RIC A. Pius 503. BMC A. Pius 1089. C 61. Vagi 1555. Calicó 2045. Extremely fine 5'500  
Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 583.

## Lucius Verus, 161 – 169



- 111 Aureus circa 161, 7.28 g. IMP CAES L AVREL VERTVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDIAE AVGVSTOR TR P Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus standing facing each other, clasping hands; in exergue, COS II. RIC 456. BMC –. C 51. Vagi 1578. Calicó 2127. Good very fine 5'000

The co-emperors Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus were of quite different personalities: Marcus Aurelius was a minimalist and a confirmed stoic, whereas we are told that Verus was self indulgent. The vices of Verus, however, did not outweigh his admirable qualities. He was an excellent military commander who repulsed a massive Parthian invasion and razed to the ground the Parthian capital. Furthermore, he had a strong sense of duty and loyalty toward his co-emperor Aurelius. Though many were quick to criticize Lucius Verus, Marcus Aurelius was not, and it was truly a tragic day when his junior colleague died of an apoplectic fit.



112



- 112 Aureus circa 163, 7.32 g. IMP CAES L VERVS AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SALVTI AVGVSTOR TR P III Salus standing l., holding sceptre and feeding from patera serpent rising from altar; in exergue, COS II. RIC 496. BMC 232. C 172 var. (not draped). Szaivert 54. Vagi 1578. Calicó 2163 (this coin illustrated). Well-struck in high relief, good extremely fine 9'500

Ex NFA XXX, 1982, 264 and Triton II, 1998, 921 sales.



113



- 113 Aureus circa 163, 7.24 g. L VERVS AVG ARMENIACVS Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P III IMP II COS II Armenia seated l., supporting head with r. hand and resting l. hand on bow; behind her, trophy; in exergue, ARMEN. RIC 500 var. (laureate). BMC 236-237 (this obverse die). C 5 var. (laureate). Vagi 1578. Calicó 2103.

Rare. Traces of mounting (?), light scratches on obverse and reverse,

otherwise extremely fine 5'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1101.

#### Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus



114



- 114 Aureus circa 169–183, 7.29 g. LVCILLA AVG ANTONINI AVG F Draped bust r., hair caught up in double chignon. Rev. V - E - NVS Venus standing l., holding apple in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC M. Aurelius 783. BMC M. Aurelius 320. C 69. Vagi 1598. Calicó 2218.

Well-struck and with a lovely reddish tone, extremely fine 10'000

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 383.

Lucilla was the second of six daughters born to the emperor Marcus Aurelius and his wife Faustina II. She was a twin of Titus Aurelianus Antoninus, but he died within a year of their birth. When the emperor Antoninus Pius died in 161 and was succeeded by Lucilla's father and his co-heir Lucius Verus, Lucilla was betrothed to Verus in a gesture meant to tie the two emperors along family lines as well as by their collective Imperial duties. However, since she was just twelve years old, the marriage was delayed until 164, when Lucilla was fifteen or sixteen. At that time her prospective husband was in Asia Minor leading a campaign against the Parthians, so she sailed east and he took leave of campaign to marry her at Ephesus. The imperial couple had at least one child, but the fate of it or any others they may have had is unknown. After Verus' unexpected death in 169, Lucilla's personal life worsened. The young woman was next married to an elderly senator and she engaged in frequent infidelities. A decade later Lucilla was involved in the plot to assassinate her only surviving brother Commodus, who had become unstable and despotic as emperor. However, her role was discovered in the plot before it came to fruition, and in 182 or 183 she was banished to Capri where she subsequently was executed.





- 115 Aureus circa 169–183, 7.29 g. LVCILLA AVG ANTONINI AVG F Draped bust r., hair caught up in double chignon. Rev. V – E – NVS Venus standing l., holding apple in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC M. Aurelius 783. BMC M. Aurelius 320. C 69. Vagi 1598. Calicó 2218.  
Extremely fine 9'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 10.11.1972, The Property of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 117 and Leu sale 65, 1996, 396 sales.  
From the collection of Joseph H. Durkee.

### Commodus Augustus, 177 – 193



- 116 Aureus circa 175–176, 7.20 g. IMP L AVREL COMM – ODVS AVG GERM SARM Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. TR P II COS P P Pile of arms; in exergue, DE GERM. RIC M. Aurelius 633. BMC p. 498, †. C 89. Vagi 1613. Calicó 2235 (this coin illustrated).  
Rare. Good very fine 6'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 573.



- 117 Aureus circa 179, 7.25 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P III – IMP III COS II P P Mars Victor, naked but for helmet and chlamys around waist, advancing r., carrying spear in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder. RIC 659. BMC 795. C 768. Vagi 1613. Calicó 2239 (this coin illustrated).  
Struck on a broad flan and good extremely fine 9'000

Ex NAC sale 8, 1995, 859.



118



118

- 118 Aureus circa 185, 7.22 g. M COMM ANT AVG – P BRIT FEL Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. P M TR P X IMP VII COS IIII P P Commodus in military attire standing l. on platform, holding sceptre and haranguing three soldiers, each with scutum and aquila; in exergue, FID EXERC. RIC 110b. BMC –, cf. 160 (denarius). C 139. Cf. Vagi 1623 (type). Calicó 2250 (this coin illustrated). Very rare. An appealing reverse composition, extremely fine 12'000

Ex NAC and Spink-Taisei, "The Gilbert Steinberg collection", 1994, 505 and NAC 11, 1998, 459 sales.

This type, widely employed on all denominations and metals, recalls Commodus' panic-stricken dependence on the army after the sudden execution of Perennis, the Praetorian Prefect.



119



119

- 119 Aureus circa 186–187, 7.25 g. M·COMM·ANT·P – FEL·AVG BRIT Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P – XI·IMP VIII COS V·P Galley with full sail going l., steersman and two soldiers within; below, PROVID AVG. RIC –, cf. 158 (XI). BMC –, cf. p. 730, † (XII). C –. Du Chastel 657 (these dies, but IMP XII). Cf. Vagi 1633 (for type). Calicó 2316a (this coin).

An apparently unrecorded variety of this interesting and very rare type.

Surface smoothed, otherwise about extremely fine 15'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 590.

Ships are not uncommon on Roman coins, but usually they are associated with military activities or the journeys of the emperor. In this case we have a commercial vessel, which is essentially identical to a commercial ship depicted on the famous mosaics of Tunis in the Sousse Museum. This coinage was struck to commemorate the creation of a new grain fleet in 186, an action that in the reverse inscription Commodus attributes to his own *providentia*. A gifted, if not paranoid emperor, Commodus went to great expense to build this new fleet to assure there would be grain shipments from Carthage in the event the usual supply was disabled. This particular aureus seems to be unpublished as it is dated to the emperor's eleventh tribunician. Another aureus of this issue, in the Du Chastel collection and struck from the same dies, is dated to the twelfth tribunician, as are all the sestertii of this issue. It is possible that this reverse die originally was engraved TR P XI in error, and subsequently corrected to the proper TR P XII, but not before some aurei were struck and released.



120



- 120 Quinarius circa 190, 3.68 g. M COMM ANT P – FEL AVG BRIT P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR XV IMP VIII COS VI Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm. RIC 211. BMC 279. C 553. Vagi 1620. Very rare. About extremely fine 10'000

Ex NAC sale 11, 1998, 461.



## Crispina, wife of Commodus



- 121 Aureus, 7.37 g. CRISPINA AVGVSTA Draped bust r., hair in coil at back. Rev. VENVS FELIX Venus seated l., holding Victory and sceptre; below seat, dove standing l. RIC Commodus 287. BMC 48. C 39. Vagi 1646. Calicó 2377.

Sharply struck on a full flan, good extremely fine 16'500

The daughter of a nobleman who had campaigned alongside Marcus Aurelius against barbarians on the norther border of the empire, Crispina reportedly was an exceptionally beautiful woman, a fact which the portrait on this coin supports. She was married to the fifteen year old future emperor Commodus, but as he steadily became more paranoid and megalomaniacal, their relationship disintegrated, and they both partook of extramarital affairs. In 182 Crispina was banished to the island of Capri where she met her end by strangulation, presumably on the orders of her husband. The official reason given for her severe treatment was her adulterous activities, but more than likely it was because she, along with her sister-in-law Lucilla, was implicated in the a failed plot to assassinate Commodus.

## Pertinax, 1st January – 28th March 193



- 122 Aureus circa 193, 7.19 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTIN AVG Laureate head r. Rev. LAETITIA·TEMPOR COS II Laetitia standing l., holding wreath and sceptre. RIC 4a. BMC 7. C 19. A.M. Woodward, The Coinage of Pertinax, NC 1957, obv. 3, rev. –. Vagi 1654. Calicó 2383. Rare. An elegant and appealing portrait, reddish tone and extremely fine 22'000

Ex Sotheby's Zürich 10.11.1972, The Property of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 126; M&M 64, 1984, 262 and Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 136 sales. From the Joseph H. Durkee collection.

A self-made man who rose to prominence through dedication and talent, Pertinax's career was illustrious. His father was a former slave and merchant whose wealth bought Pertinax a good education. Pertinax began his adult life as a teacher, but afterward he embarked on a military career. He rose through the ranks serving in Parthia, Britain and Noricum, and he subsequently serving as governor of several provinces. In 189 the emperor Commodus appointed him prefect of Rome, and he was still serving in that capacity when Commodus was assassinated on New Year's Eve, 192. Though Pertinax has often been portrayed as an unimpeachable moralist, he was more likely an opportunist who was intimately involved in the plot against Commodus. After his accession, Pertinax may have viewed himself as a benevolent dictator, but the praetorians none the less murdered him after a reign of just eighty-six days.



123

- 123 Aureus circa 193, 7.21 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTIN AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. PROVID – DEOR COS II Providentia standing l., holding up both hands to large star. RIC 11b. BMC 12. C 41. A.M. Woodward, *The Coinage of Pertinax*, NC 1957, obv. –, rev. B1. Vagi 1654. Calicó 2390. Rare. Light abrasion on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 20'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.11.1997, 186.

#### Didius Julianus, 28 th March – 1st June 193



124

- 124 Aureus 28th March-May 193, 6.65 g. IMP CAES M DID – IVLIAN AVG Laureate head r. Rev. RECTOR – ORBIS Julianus standing l., holding globe and roll. RIC 3. BMC –. C 14. A.M. Woodward, *The Coinage of Didius Julianus and his Family*, NC 1961, obv. –, rev. 3B. Vagi 1670. Calicó 2400.

Very rare. Insignificant die-break on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 40'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 71, 1995, 698.

In the confusion that followed the assassination of Pertinax, the praetorian guard held a scandalous spectacle: an auction for the emperorship. There was spirited bidding between Flavius Sulpicianus, the father-in-law of the murdered Pertinax, and the senator Didius Julianus, one of the wealthiest men in Rome. When Julianus pledged an accession bonus of 25,000 sesterii per guard, it was a bid that Sulpicianus could not top. The praetorians led Julianus before the terrified Senate, which had no choice but to ratify the *coup d'état*. The people of Rome, however, were disgusted by this shameful turn of events and sent messengers to seek help from the commanders of the legions in the provinces. Three generals responded and marched on Rome. Septimius Severus, being the closest to Rome, had the upper hand. The praetorians were no match for the battle hardened soldiers from the frontier, and they quickly decided in favor of Severus. Didius Julianus was not so fortunate, as he was captured at the beginning of June and beheaded in the manner of a common criminal.



125

- 125 Aureus April–May 193, 6.95 g. IMP CAES·M·DID·SEVER·IVLIAN AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCO – R – D – MILIT Concordia standing facing, head l., holding aquila in r. hand and standard in l. RIC 5. BMC 9. C 1. Kent-Hirmer pl. 108, 372. A.M. Woodward, *The Coinage of Didius Julianus and his Family*, NC 1961, dies 1/1A (this coin cited). Vagi 1670. Calicó 2394. Extremely rare. Well-centred with a very attractive portrait.

Minor marks, otherwise extremely fine 35'000

Ex Hirsch XXIV, Consul E.F. Weber collection, 1909, 1769; Schulman 5.3.1923, L. Vierordt collection, 1785 and Leu 77, 2000, 579 sales.



## Manlia Scantilla, wife of Didius Julianus



126



126

- 126 Aureus March–June 193, 6.73 g. MANL·SCA – NTILLA AVG Stolate bust r., hair dressed in two flowing waves and caught up behind in loose chignon. Rev. IVNO·RE – GINA Juno, draped and veiled, standing l., holding patera and sceptre; at her feet, peacock l. Kent-Hirmer pl. 108, 372. RIC D. Julianus 7a. BMC D. Julianus 10. C 1. A.M. Woodward, *The Coinage of Didius Julianus and his Family*, NC 1961, 3. Vagi 1675. Calicó 2400.

Extremely rare. Struck on a large flan, good very fine 30'000

Ex Feuardent 1914, Marquis de Traynel, 440; Hess-Leu 1960, 352; NFA 14, 1984, 465; NAC & Spink-Taisei, "The Gilbert Steinberg Collection", 1994, 533 and NAC 11, 1998, 465 sales.

At the same time that Didius Julianus was recognized as emperor by the Senate, his wife and daughter were both accorded the title of Augusta – at that time an unusual occurrence at the beginning of a reign. Very little is known about these imperial ladies. S.W. Stevenson, the noted 19<sup>th</sup> century antiquarian, described Scantilla as "the most deformed of women," while it is well known that her daughter, Didia Clara, was thought perhaps to be the most beautiful young woman in Rome. Scantilla's coinage, while very rare, was issued in the three principal metals, and all of her coins bear the same reverse type that honors Juno as queen of the Roman pantheon.

## Clodius Albinus Caesar, 193 – 195



127



127

- 127 Aureus circa 194–195, 7.28 g. D CLOD SEPT AL – BIN CAES Bare head r., drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. SAECVLO FRVG – IF – ERO COS II Saeculum Fregiferum standing l., radiate and bare to waist, holding caduceus and trident. RIC 9b. BMC p. 38, note \*. C 70 var. (no drapery on shoulder). V. Zedelius, *Untersuchungen zur Münzprägung von Pertinax bis Clodius Albinus*, pl. 6, 2 var. (no drapery on l. shoulder). Sotheby's sale 8.7.1996, lot 133 (these dies). Vagi 1692. Calicó 2423.

Of the highest rarity, only the fifth specimen known of this type.

Counter-mark on obverse, otherwise good very fine / very fine 47'500

We may count this and a related type of Clodius Albinus among the most interesting of all Roman reverse types, for they depict two different North African deities, both of whom are accompanied by a dedicatory inscription, SAECVLO FRVGIFERO, meaning "to the fruitful age". The inscription was used by Albinus' enemy Septimius Severus – also a Roman of North African extraction – with a type identical to the one on this aureus. The inscription also had been used by their predecessor Pertinax, but is paired with a caduceus and grain ears, which certainly is related to this piece as the god in question holds in his right hand precisely what is shown on the coins of Pertinax. If only one deity were paired with this inscription we might well identify him as *Saeculum Fregiferum*, which by some is thought to equate *Aion Karpophoros*, a Greek name perhaps representative of a North African god worshipped at Hadrumetum, the home of Albinus. However, there are two different gods depicted on Albinus' coins. One is an elderly, bearded male, fully draped, raising his right hand in salutation and holding a plant, and wearing a headdress similar to a satrap's cap. He is shown seated on a high-back throne flanked by two fantastic creatures matching the description of an Androsphinx, with the bodies of lions, wings of birds, and male human heads donning Phrygian-style caps. Conversely, the god on this coin is decidedly younger, unbearded, wears a radiate crown, holds a caduceus with grain ears and also holds a trident-like object which is too blunt to serve in war, so rather it must be an agricultural tool, perhaps for tilling, or more likely for harvesting fruit from trees. This younger figure is truly a composite deity, as pointed out by the 18<sup>th</sup> century numismatist Johann Eckhel. His radiate crown likely alludes to the value of sunlight to the growth of crops; the caduceus and grain ears no doubt allude to Mercury, protected of merchants, and if the object he held was a trident, as Eckhel supposed, it certainly would have alluded to Neptune, as the old Punic colonies were major hubs for trade and grain shipments.



Septimius Severus, 193 – 211



128

- 128 Aureus circa 193, 7.36 g. IMP CAE·L·SEP SEV PERT AVG Laureate head r. Rev. LEG·XIII·GEM·M·V Legionary eagle between two standards; two small capricorns projecting outward from standards. In exergue, TR P COS. RIC 14. BMC 18. C 271. Cf. Vagi 1751 (for type). Calicó 2472. Very rare. Sharply struck on a full flan, extremely fine 14'000

Ex Triton sale 1, 1997, 1523.

Among the very first coins issued by Septimius Severus were legionary types in gold, silver and base metal. He derived the type from the famous 'legionary denarii' of Marc Antony struck 225 years before. This type had been revisited on more than one occasion: it inspired issues of the rebel Clodius Macer on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Actium, and was copied almost verbatim on a joint issue of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Actium. Like Marc Antony, Severus issued his coins for numerous legions. This coin is dedicated to the Legion XIV *Gemina*, which in 60 earned the additional title *Martia Victrix* for its role in the defeat of the British queen Boudicca, and at the time Severus came to power was probably stationed in Pannonia. Curiously, of all the legions Severus honors on this coinage, the IV *Scythia*, a legion he once commanded, is absent.



129

- 129 Aureus circa 197–198, 7.29 g. L SEPT SEV PERT – AVG IMP X Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P VI – COS II P P Sol, radiate and with cloak over l. shoulder, raising r. hand and holding whip in l. RIC –, cf. 117 (denarius). BMC –, cf. 263 (denarius). C –, cf. 449 (denarius). Vagi 1739. Calicó –. Apparently unique and unpublished. Extremely fine 10'000



130

- 130 Aureus, Laodicea circa 198–202, 7.09 g. L SEPT SEV AVG IMP XI PART MAX Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCOR – DIAE M – ILITVM Concordia facing, head l., holding standard in each hand. RIC 502a and pl. VIII, 18 (these dies). BMC 653 and pl. 44, 2 (these dies). C 77. Vagi 1739. Calicó 2439. Very rare. Extremely fine 12'000

Ex Christie's 6.10.1987, 445 and Spink, The Dr. Anton C. R. Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 2000, 4 sales.





- 131 Aureus circa 201, 7.27 g. SEVERVS AVG – PART MAX Laureate bust r., lion-skin over shoulders. Rev. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. RIC 161b. BMC 192. C1. Vagi 1707. Calicó 2587.  
Very rare. Two magnificent portraits of excellent style.  
Virtually as struck and good extremely fine 25'000

Ex Leu 50, 1990, 332; CNG 38, 1996, 1040 and Triton I, 1997, 1531 sales.

Beginning in 201 and extending through the following year there was a tremendous emission of coinage bearing dynastic types. After so many years of civil war and social turmoil, Septimius Severus thought it prudent to publicize the dynasty he had founded, and the stability that represented to the Roman people. The portrait of Septimius Severus on this coin is particularly interesting as the style of the hair and beard derives from the iconography of the Alexandrian god Serapis. This is meant to illustrate Severus' identification with this African god, as he himself was a Roman of African extraction. The reverse bears a portrait of his wife, Julia Domna, who was of Syrian origin.



- 132 Aureus circa 202, 7.11 g. SEVER P AVG P M – TR P X COS III Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FELICITAS / SAECVLI Draped bust of Julia Domna facing, between, on l., laureate and draped bust of Caracalla facing r. and on r., bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust of Geta facing l. RIC 181c. BMC 380 var. (bust of Caracalla draped and cuirassed). C 5. Kent-Hirmer pl. 112, 389 (these dies). Vagi 1705. Calicó 2593.  
Very rare. A very pleasing specimen of this desirable issue, well-centred on a full flan and extremely fine 26'000

Ex Christie's 8.10.1995, The Property of a Lady, 142 and CNG 36, 1995, 2425 sales.

Certainly among the most famous Roman coin types, this issue occurs only as an aureus. With the exception of a possibly unique aureus of c. 209 that depicts the confronted heads of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna on the obverse, and the confronted heads of Caracalla and Geta on the reverse, this is the only Severan dynastic coin that depicts all four members of the imperial family. More importantly, though, it is the first instance in Imperial coinage where the principal type includes a facing bust. The specific positioning of the three heads on the reverse – mother facing between the confronted heads of her sons – brings to mind a heated piece of advice Julia Domna gave to her quarrelsome sons about a decade after this aureus was struck: "You may divide the empire, but you cannot divide your mother!"



133



- 133 Aureus circa 206, 7.17 g. SEVERVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. LAETITIA / TEMPORVM Ship in circus, between four quadrigae l.; in field l., cock standing r. and on r., bear. Beneath ship: lion and two tigers r., bull and tiger l. Kent-Hirmer pl. 113, 391. RIC 274. BMC –, cf. 343 (denarius). C 254. Cf. Vagi 1750 (for type). Calicó 2469 (this coin illustrated).

Extremely rare and probably one of the finest specimens known of this prestigious issue. Perfectly struck and centred on a very broad flan and with an interesting and finely executed reverse composition. Extremely fine 80'000

Ex Hirsch 29, Lambros Collection, 1910, 1132; Sotheby's 28.11.1986, Collection of a Deceased Nobleman, 97 (illustrated on the back cover page) and Sotheby's 8.7.1996, 137 sales.

It is noteworthy that this celebrated type – rare in silver and a great rarity in gold – is represented by two examples in this sale: one of Septimius Severus, and one of his eldest son, Caracalla (lot 147). In 204 the Severans, now a firmly established dynasty, held Saecular Games (*Ludi Saeculares*) with sacrifices, a donative, Circus races and games, all of which they represented on coin types. It is worth speculating that this is a compression of two separate events, as the four quadrigae above the ship may well represent the Circus races since they are not mentioned in the otherwise superb description by the historian Dio Cassius: "The whole construction in the amphitheatre was constructed in the form of a ship, and was so conceived that 400 beasts might be received into it, and at the same time be sent forth from it. Then, when it suddenly collapsed there issued out of it bears, lionesses, panthers, lions, ostriches, wild asses and bison, so that seven hundred beasts, both wild and domesticated, were seen running about at the same time and were slaughtered." (LXXVII, 4-5). The type is so cleverly engraved that many fittings on the deck of the ship are clearly identifiable, as are each of the seven beasts below. Indeed, a viewer of this coin with the commentary of Dio fresh in the mind might almost believe they are witnessing the spectacle unfolding.



133 3:1







134

- 134 Aureus circa 207, 7.58 g. SEVERVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. RESTITVTOR – VRBIS Roma seated l., holding palladium in r. hand and sceptre in l.; round shield at her side. RIC 288. BMC 358. C 605. Vagi 1739. Calicó 2529. Good very fine 5'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 612.



135

- 135 Aureus circa 209, 7.14 g. SEVERVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. LIBERALIT – AS Septimius Severus, Caracalla and Geta seated l. on platform; Liberalitas standing before and officer standing after; citizen climbing steps on platform; in exergue, AVGG VI. RIC 279. BMC 352. C 300. Calicó 2481 (this coin illustrated).

Rare. A very interesting type, extremely fine 14'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 946.

Platform scenes, comprising a variety of formal events, such as donatives and speeches, are among the most sought-after of all reverse types. Typically they are ornate, can be tied to specific historical events, and often the physiognomic features of Imperial personages can be divined. In this case we have a truly historical type depicting the donative that accompanied the promotion of Geta from Caesar to Augustus. Though the coin was struck in Rome, the investiture took place in Britain, presumably at the frontier city of York, which the Severans made their base of operations for the campaign against the Caledonians. In truth it was not necessary for Severus to lead the campaign personally, but he did so to get his quarrelling sons, who accompanied him, out of Rome. The ageing emperor hoped that the experience might help bring perspective to matters and inspire a new harmony between his sons, but his hopes were in vain. Severus died at York early in February, 211 after having made no headway on the matter. This scene of a donative to the army is especially relevant to this late period of Severus' life considering his parting wisdom to his sons was: "Agree with each other, give money to the soldiers, and scorn all other men."

### Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus



136

- 136 Aureus circa 194, 7.17 g. IVLIA DO – MNA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. VENERI VICTR Venus standing r., leaning l. elbow on column, holding apple in r. hand and palm in l. RIC 536. BMC 47. C 193. Vagi 1775. Calicó 2641. Extremely fine 7'500



137

- 137 Aureus circa 201, 6.95 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. AETERNIT IMPERI Confronted busts of Caracalla laureate, draped and cuirassed facing r. and Geta, bare-headed, draped and cuirassed facing l. RIC 540. BMC 3. C 1. Kent-Hirmer pl. 110, 383 (these dies). Jameson 178 (this coin). Vagi 1719. Calicó 2563 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. An outstanding specimen with three delightful portraits.

Virtually as struck and good extremely fine 25'000

Ex Hirsch XIV, 1905, 1221; Leu 22, 1979, 299 and Leu 75, 1999, 1547 sales. From the Robert Jameson collection part II, 178.

Tailor made to serve the purposes of a dynastic coinage, this aureus with the reverse inscription AETERNI IMPERI, "the eternity of the empire," purposefully equates the continuity of the empire with the continuity of the Severan dynasty. The positioning of the portraits is just as would be expected: the mother Julia Domna occupies the position of honor on the obverse, and her two sons occupy the reverse, with the eldest, Caracalla, on the left wearing a laurel wreath to indicate his senior status as Augustus, and the younger, Geta, is shown bare-headed on the right to denote his lesser status as Caesar.



138

- 138 Aureus circa 201, 6.95 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. AETERNIT IMPERI Confronted busts of Caracalla laureate, draped and cuirassed facing r. and Geta, bare-headed, draped and cuirassed facing l. RIC 540. BMC p. 157, 3 note. C 1. Vagi 1719. Calicó 2566.

Very rare. Well-struck and centred on a very broad flan,

extremely fine / about extremely fine 18'000

Ex Feuardent, 1887, Ponton d' Amécourt, 409; Sotheby's 10.11.1972, The Property of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 140; SKA 7, 1987, 905 and Spink, 2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 10 sales.



139

- 139 Aureus, Laodicea circa 196–202, 7.13 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. L – AETI – TIA Laetitia standing l., holding wreath in r. hand and rudder in l. RIC –, cf. 641 (denarius). BMC –, cf. 604 (denarius). C –, cf. 101 (denarius). Vagi 1775. Calicó –.

An apparently unrecorded reverse type in gold. Light abrasion on edge,

otherwise about extremely fine 5'500

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 615.





- 140 Aureus circa 196–211, 7.10 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. IVNO Juno, veiled, standing l., holding patera and sceptre; at her feet, peacock. RIC 559. BMC 37. C – . Vagi 1775. Calicó 2617. About extremely fine 5'000

#### Caracalla, 198 – 217



- 141 Aureus circa 199, 7.21 g. IMP CAES M AVR – ANTONINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PONTI – FE – X – TR P II Caracalla, in military attire, standing l., holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at his feet, captive seated l. RIC 27b. BMC 152 and pl. 30, 15 (these dies). C 405. Vagi 1803. Calicó 2773.

A delicate portrait struck in high relief, good extremely fine 14'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 954.



- 142 Aureus circa 199–200, 7.17 g. ANTONINVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RECTOR – ORBIS Sol standing facing, head l., holding globe and spear. RIC 39b. BMC 163. C 541. Vagi 1803. Calicó 2804. Finely detailed and extremely fine 12'000



- 143 Aureus circa 201, 7.26 g. ANTONINVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Caracalla r. Rev. P SEPT GETA – CAES PONT Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust of Geta r. RIC 38. BMC –. C 1. Vagi 1729. Calicó 2861.

Very rare and among the finest specimens known of this superb issue.

Well-struck in high relief and perfectly centred, almost Fdc 26'000

Ex Leu sale 75, 1999, 1551.

Among the least ornate, yet the most beautiful of the Severan dynastic aurei is this issue with the bust of Caracalla on the obverse and that of his younger brother Geta on the reverse. Although the two boys were relatively close in age, Caracalla was hailed Augustus in 198, whereas Geta remained Caesar until 209. This piece was struck quite early in their Imperial experience, and the hatred that existed at this point was probably viewed as simple boyhood competitiveness rather than the true disdain into which it later evolved. By that time each had their own faction of supporters in Rome and throughout the empire, and after Caracalla had murdered Geta in their mother's arms he wasted no time in tracking down and murdering a great many other people who had been loyal to Geta. Beyond that Caracalla went to great length to destroy busts and images of his brother, even to the point of having his portrait chiseled off of dual-portrait coins struck in the provinces.



- 144 Aureus circa 201, 7.35 g. ANTONINVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Caracalla r. Rev. P SEPT GETA – CAES PONT Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust of Geta r. RIC 38. BMC –. C 1. Vagi 1729. Calicó 2861.

Very rare. Two appealing and delicate portraits, extremely fine 22'000



- 145 Aureus circa 201, 7.08 g. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG PON TR P IIII Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Caracalla r. Rev. CONCORDIAE AETERNAE Jugate busts r. of Septimius Severus radiate, draped and cuirassed and Julia Domna diademed, draped and on crescent. RIC 52. BMC 260. C 1. Kent-Hirmer pl. 112, 388 (these dies). Vagi 1728. Calicó 2849.

Very rare. Traces of mounting, otherwise good very fine 6'500

The Severans, not unlike previous emperors, often associated themselves with certain deities. In general terms Septimius Severus likened himself to Serapis, Caracalla to Hercules, and Geta to Bacchus. On this dynastic aureus we find entirely different associations: Septimius wears a radiate crown, equating himself with the sun-god Sol, and Domna's bust rests upon a crescent moon, equating her with the moon-goddess Luna, the celestial consort of Sol. Such imagery reinforces the long-held idea that the very nature of men and women is polar: night and day. This form of expression for that distinction extends through much of Roman coinage, especially later in the empire when double-denominations are indicated, in which case if it is a coin depicting a male, he typically he wears a radiate crown, and if the coin bears the portrait of a female, her bust usually rests upon a crescent.





- 146 Aureus circa 204, 7.25 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICT·PART·MAX Victory running l., holding wreath and palm. RIC 144a. BMC 295. C 660. Vagi 1803. Calicó 2843. Extremely fine 10'000  
Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1541.



- 147 Aureus circa 206, 7.30 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LAETITIA / TEMPORVM Ship in circus, between four quadrigae l.; in field l., cock standing r. and on r., bear. Beneath ship: lion and two tigers r., bull and tiger l. Kent-Hirmer pl. 113, 391 (these dies). RIC 133. BMC 263 and pl. 34, 4 (these dies). C 117. Vagi 1806. Calicó 2686 (this coin illustrated).

Extremely rare. A beautifully executed and historically significant reverse composition. A few minor marks, otherwise extremely fine 47'500

Ex Glendining sale 1950, Platt Hall collection part II, 1710 and NAC 21, 2001, 501 sales.

For a discussion of this important reverse, see the commentary for lot 133.



- 148 Aureus circa 206–210, 7.27 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORIAE Victory in fast biga r.; in exergue, AVGG. RIC 170. BMC –, cf. 518 (denarius). C –, cf. 622 (denarius). Vagi 1803. Calicó 2829 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. Light scratches in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 8'000



149



- 149 Aureus circa 209, 7.21 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – TR P XII – COS III Mars walking l., holding branch in r. hand and trophy in l. RIC 109a. BMC p. 358, \* var. (laureate and bearded). C –. Vagi 1803. Calicó 2788 (this coin illustrated).

Rare. Brilliant good extremely fine 12'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 956.



150



150

- 150 Aureus circa 214, 7.36 g. ANTONINVS PIVS – AVG GERM Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROVIDENTIAE – DEORVM Providentia standing l., holding wand in l. hand and sceptre in r.; in lower field l. globe. RIC 309b. BMC 76. C 530. Vagi 1803. Calicó 2803.

Rare. Minor scuff on obverse and dent on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 6'000

Ex Leu sale 71, 1997, 458.



151



- 151 Aureus circa 217, 6.35 g. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P XX COS III P P Sol mounting quadriga l., raising r. hand and holding whip. RIC 294b and pl. 12, 20 (these dies). BMC 195 and pl. 58, 2 (these dies). C 391. Vagi 1803. Calicó 2767.

Strong portrait. Light scratches on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine 10'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1543.



### Plautilla, wife of Caracalla



- 152 Aureus circa 205, 7.36 g. PLAVTILLA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. DIANA – LV – CIFERA Diana standing l., holding torch with both hands. RIC 366. BMC –, cf. 420 (denarius). C –. Vagi 1842. Calicó 2870 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. A superb specimen of this difficult issue with  
a very pleasing portrait. Extremely fine 30'000

Ex Hirsch XXIX, J. Lambros Collection, 1910, 1192; Ars Classica, Viscomte de Sartiges Collection, 1938, 353; Sotheby's 4.12.1990, The Hunt Collection part III, 87; Stack's 9.12.1991, 66 and Stack's 3.12.1996, The Michael F. Price Collection, 222 sales.

Plautilla, the daughter of the Caracalla's praetorian prefect Gaius Fulvius Plautianus, was the unfortunate wife of Caracalla. Her marriage to the young emperor in 202 was an act of political necessity rather than love, and she despised him so much that she refused even to dine with him. Apparently, the feeling was mutual, for although she had already been banished to the volcanic island of Lipari off of the north-eastern coast of Sicily for the better part of a decade, Caracalla had Plautilla murdered as soon as it was expedient following his elevation as sole Augustus.

### Macrinus, 217 - 218



- 153 Aureus April–December 217, 7.33 g. IMP C M OPEL SEV MACRINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PONTIF MAX T – R P COS P P Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 16. BMC 30 and pl. 79, 2 (these dies). C –. Vagi 1880. Calicó 2949.

Very rare. A very attractive portrait struck in high relief, good extremely fine 30'000

Ex NAC sale 8, 1995, 886.

A trusted administrator under the Severans, Macrinus rose to become one of two praetorian prefects under the emperor Caracalla. He took a leading role in the plot to murder his benefactor, having himself enlisted the assassin. Three days after Caracalla's assassination, Macrinus was nominated Augustus by the soldiers after pretending to show sorrow for his master's death. For a time he continued the war against the Parthians, but soon tired of it and sued for peace, offering the enemy large payments in exchange for a non-aggression pact. This did not bode well with the soldiers, who perhaps wanted to pursue the campaign and have an opportunity to claim their share of the legendary wealth of the East. Thus, many soldiers soon deserted to the cause of a new rival, the 14-year-old grandnephew of Julia Domna, Elagabalus, who was alleged to be an illegitimate son of Caracalla. When the opponents finally clashed near a small Syrian village outside Antioch, the forces of Elagabalus got the upper hand and Macrinus fled the field. He made his way in disguise as far as Calchedon before he was captured and executed.



154



- 154 Aureus late 217, 7.14 g. M OPEL ANT DIADV MENIAN CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINC IVVENTVTIS Diadumenian standing facing, head r., holding in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field r., two standards. Kent-Hirmer pl. 116, 412 (these dies). RIC 101 var. (draped and cuirassed). BMC 83a and pl. 81, 2 (these dies). C 2. Vagi 1896. Calicó 2892.

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition. Well-centred on a full flan,  
with an elegant portrait of the young Caesar, extremely fine 60'000

Ex Leu 33, 1983, 109; NAC 5, 1992, 533; Sotheby's 27/28.10.1993, 1651 (illustrated on the cover page) and NAC 9, 1996, 900 sales.

For the majority of his father Macrinus' brief reign, young Diadumenian held the title Caesar, but near the bitter end he was raised to the rank of Augustus. When the tide finally turned against their regime, loyal supporters of his father attempted to smuggle Diadumentian to Parthia for safe keeping, but he was captured *en route* at Zeugma and executed shortly thereafter. Although we can determine Diadumenian's appearance from coin portraits such as this, there is an unusually personal literary account in the *Historia Augusta*, wherein he is described as: "...beautiful beyond all others, somewhat tall of stature, with golden hair, black eyes and an aquiline nose; his chin was wholly lovely in its modeling, his mouth designed for a kiss, and he was by nature strong and by training graceful."



154 3:1





**Elagabalus, 218 – 222**



- 155 Aureus circa 218–219, 6.39 g. IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONSERVATOR AVG Slow quadriga l., on which is the Stone of Emesa surmounted by eagle; in upper field l., star. RIC 61. C 16. BMC 198 and pl. 88, 19 (this obverse die). Vagi 1924. Calicó 2987 (this coin illustrated).

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known of this interesting type.

Perfectly struck in high relief, an almost invisible mark  
on reverse on the horses, otherwise almost Fdc

36'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 8.7.1996. 146.

Few emperors are known almost exclusively for their peculiarities and perversions, but on the short list of qualified applicants, Elagabalus rises to the top. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century antiquarian S.W. Stevenson, ever a delight for his artfully delivered comments, did not fail to deliver in his summary of Elagabalus whom he called : "...the most cruel and infamous wretch that ever disgraced humanity and polluted a throne..." Elagabalus and his family had lived in Rome during the reign of Caracalla, who was rumored to have been Elagabalus' natural father. When Caracalla was murdered, his prefect and successor, Macrinus, recalled the family to their homeland of Syria. Upon arriving, Elagabalus assumed his role as hereditary priest of the Emesan sun-god Heliogabalus. For the Roman soldiers in the vicinity, who engaged in the common practice of solar worship, and who had fond memories of the slain Caracalla, Elagabalus was an ideal candidate for emperor. He soon was hailed emperor against Macrinus, who was defeated in a pitched battle just outside Antioch. Conservative Rome was introduced to their new emperor's eccentricities and religious fervor when they learned of his overland journey from Emesa to Rome, with a sacred meteorite in tow. The journey, which consumed a year or more, in this collection is depicted on two aurei, this piece from Rome and another from Antioch. Both show the sacred conical stone of Emesa – in all likelihood a meteorite – being transported in a chariot drawn by four horses. The stone usually is emblazoned with an eagle, which on the Rome piece is uncommonly bold. For additional commentary and to compare style and iconography see lot 158.



- 156 Aureus circa 218–219, 6.43 g. IMP CAES M AVR ANTONINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FIDES EXERCITVS Fides seated l., holding eagle in r. hand and standard in l.; in field l., standard. RIC 69. BMC 10 and pl. 85, 6 (these dies). C 34. Vagi 1923. Calicó 2992.

Extremely fine 10'000

Ex NFA XVII, 1987, 522 and Triton IV, 2000, 625 sales.





157

- 157 Aureus circa 218–219, 6.78 g. IMP CAES M AVR ANTONINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR ANTONINI AVG Victory walking r., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l. RIC 154. BMC 30 and pl. 85, 14 (these dies). C 288. Vagi 1923. Calicó 3038.

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 969.

Extremely fine 8'000



158

- 158 Aureus, Antioch circa 218–219, 7.30 g. IMP C M AVR ANTONINVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r., drapery on far shoulder. Rev. SANCT DEO SOLI Slow quadriga r., on which is the Stone of Emesa surmounted by eagle, surrounded by four parasols; in exergue, ELEGABAL. RIC 196A var. (IMP CAESAR and bust draped and cuirassed) and pl. 2, 19 (this reverse die). BMC 273 var. (bust draped) and pl. 91, 2 (this reverse dies). C 265 var. (laureate head r.). Cf. Kent-Hirmer pl. 117, 414 (this reverse die). Vagi 1924. Calicó 3031.

Extremely rare. Struck in high relief on an exceedingly broad flan and almost Fdc 40'000

Ex Tkalec sale 1996, 199.

For further commentary on this historical reverse type, see lot 155. The inclusion of two examples of this rarity in a single auction allows us to compare styles of engraving, as the previous coin was struck in Rome, and the present piece was struck in Antioch. This piece clearly is of eastern execution, and by comparison is rigid and stylized. One result is a tight, vertical symmetry on the reverse, which is made all the more apparent by the inclusion of four shade-umbrellas surrounding the stone. The inscription on this piece, SANCTO DEO SOLI ELAGABAL ("to the holy god, the sun Elagabalus"), differs from the inscription of the Rome aureus, CONSERVATOR AVG ("protector of the emperor"). It is worth noting that the minting locations of these two coins, in essence, represents both the starting and ending points of Elagabalus' curious overland journey.



158 3:1





159



- 159 Aureus circa 219, 6.15 g. IMP CAES M AVR ANTONINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PONTIF MAX TR P II COS II P P Roma seated l., holding Victory in r. hand and spear in l.; by her side, shield. RIC 26. BMC 90. C 229 var. (ANTONINVS M). Vagi 1923. Calicó 3024. Rare. Lustrous good extremely fine 15'000

Ex Lanz 40, 1987, 745 and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 17 sales.



160



- 160 Aureus circa 220, 6.52 g. IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P III COS III P P Elagabalus in slow quadriga r., holding branch and sceptre. RIC 35. BMC 183. C 171. Vagi 1926. Calicó 3013. About extremely fine 7'500

Ex Ponterio sale 74, 1995, 268.

### Severus Alexander, 222 – 235



161



161

- 161 Aureus circa 222, 6.46 g. IMP C M AVR SEV – ALEXAND AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P C – OS P P Jupiter, naked but for cloak, standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 4. BMC 12. C 203. Vagi 1973. Calicó 3080 var. Area of weakness on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 6'000



- 162 Aureus circa 226, 6.00 g. IMP C M AVR SEV – ALEXAND AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR – P V – COS III P P Severus seated l. on curule chair on platform, extending r. hand; at his side r., Liberalitas standing l., holding cornucopia and *abacus*. Before the Emperor, citizen raising his hands; in exergue, LIB AVG III. RIC –. BMC –. C –. Cf. NAC sale 23, 2002, 1620 (laureate and draped bust). Vagi 1974 var. Calicó 3110 var.

Apparently unique and unrecorded. A very interesting type, good extremely fine 15'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1567.

As successor to his cousin Elagabalus, whose fanatical behavior made him unpopular in virtually all social circles, Severus Alexander represented a return to normalcy – or at least as close as was possible. He was hailed Caesar in the middle of 211 as a counterbalance to Elagabalus, and early in the next year he replaced his cousin as emperor, for Elagabalus made the fatal error of forcing the praetorian guardsmen to choose between them. Both had been about 14 years old when they ascended the throne, but Alexander proved more willing to take the advice of his family elders: his mother Julia Mamaea and his grandmother Julia Maesa. Docile by nature, Alexander showed little desire for independent action, and the careful maternal tutelage he received no doubt contributed to his reign lasting thirteen years. When this important aureus was struck, Alexander was 17 or 18 years old, and already had reigned longer than his unfortunate cousin. Alexander is shown distributing coins to a diminutive figure who climbs a ladder at the front of the platform upon which Liberalitas stands beside the emperor, who sits on a *curule* chair. The rectangular object held by Liberalitas is traditionally described as a counting device (an *abacus*), but it might be a coin counter in the form of a flat board with shallow, coin-size depressions matching the appropriate number of coins required for distribution. Such a device no doubt would have added greatly to the efficiency and the accuracy of such distributions.



- 163 Quinarius circa 231–235, 3.61 g. IMP ALEXANDER PIVS Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. PROVIDE – NTIA AVG Providentia standing l., holding two corn-ears over modius in r. hand and cornucopia in l. RIC –, cf. 249 (aureus). BMC –, cf. 880 (silver quinarius). C –, cf. 471 (aureus). Vagi 1973. Apparently unique and unrecorded. Good very fine 14'000

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 414.



## Julia Mamaea, mother of Severus Alexander



164



- 164 Aureus, 6.76 g. IVLIA MAMAEA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. IVNO CON – SERVATRIX Juno, diademed and veiled, standing l., holding patera and sceptre; at her feet, peacock. RIC 342. BMC 42. C 36. Vagi 1959. Calicó 3152.

Exceedingly rare. Well-struck in high relief and good extremely fine 60'000

Ex Tkalec sale 1996, 210.

Julia Mamaea, Julius Avitus and Julia Maesa's daughter (Julia was Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus, sister and mother of Geta and Caracalla) was the mother of the emperor Severus Alexander (the son of Julia Soaemias, Julia Maesa's other daughter) who, after the murder of his cousin Elagabalus, succeeded to the throne at the age of 13, in 222. Having taken care of her son's education and given Severus' tender years, Julia Avita Mamaea took up the reins of government in 222 when she became Augusta. Mamaea always looked to the senate rather than the army for support. As a result, senators and wise men were advisors to the prince, who is believed to have been quite a scholar and, unlike his cousin Elagabalus, strict in his habits. Julia Mamaea was killed at Magontiacum (March 235) along with Severus Alexander, by soldiers sent by Maximinus the Thracian. Julia Mamaea interfered in politics, even when Severus Alexander was in Rome in 219 awaiting instruction. During Elagabalus' reign she created intrigue with her sister Soaemia, who had been accepted by Elagabalus as a member of the senatorial assembly. This nurtured quite a lampoon, permeated with misogyny, which spoke of nothing less than "the little senate of women".



164 3:1



## Maximinus I, 235 – 238



165

- 165 Aureus circa 235–236, 6.03 g. IMP MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SALVS AVGVSTI Salus seated l., feeding serpent rising from altar. RIC 14. BMC 20. C 83. Vagi 2000. Calicó 3163. Exceedingly rare. Fine 10'000

A peasant of barbarian parentage, Maximinus *Thrax* ('the Thracian') was a soldier who caught the attention of the emperor Septimius Severus, who first observed him at a wrestling match. He was legendary for his abnormal stature and it is likely that he suffered from gigantism, a disorder that causes excessive growth. The *Historia Augusta* reports that he was at least eight and a half feet tall, and while that is certainly an exaggeration, it indicates that he was demonstrably taller than the average person. Maximinus' lack of sophistication and brutishness offended the senatorial class, who he taxed excessively. As a frontier general who never set foot in Rome during the entirety of his three-year reign, that might have been acceptable had he not also offended his soldiers by dismissing many of their high ranking officers and replacing them with his hand-picked men. The disastrous result for Maximinus was that the senate declared him a public enemy, and when he marched on Rome to exact his revenge, he was assassinated by some of his disaffected soldiers.

## Gordian III Augustus, 238 – 244



166

- 166 Aureus circa 240, 6.03 g. IMP CAES M ANT GORDIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERALITAS AVGVSTI Liberalitas standing facing, head l., holding *abacus* and cornucopia. RIC 42. C 129. Vagi 2056. Calicó 3205.

Extremely fine / good extremely fine 5'000

## Philip I, 244 – 249



167

167

- 167 Aureus circa 244–247, 4.53 g. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE AETERNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at her side, shield. RIC 44a. C 168. Vagi 2085. Calicó 3256 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. Light surface marks in obverse field, otherwise good very fine 12'000

Ex SBV 21, 1989, 199 and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 29 sales.

Despite his menacing portrait and vicious rise to power, Philip I – the son of a Romanised Arab sheikh – was one of the least effective of Rome's emperors. After the murder of the praetorian prefect Timesitheus and the coup-style murder of Gordian III on the Persian front, Philip stepped into the vacant role of emperor. Instead of capitalising on Gordian's recent military gains against the Sasanians, Philip patched up a hasty and humiliating treaty with Shapur I. We cannot be sure why Philip acted in this manner – either the campaign had begun to turn against the Romans or Philip was more concerned with being confirmed by the senate than continuing to prosecute the war. Philip proceeded to Rome to gain confirmation from the senate; the timetable for this is quite uncertain, as one inscription may suggest his arrival in July, 244, but the numismatic evidence calls for 245, as that is when his *adventus* types seem to have been struck. If the latter is correct, we must presume Philip stayed in Asia Minor either to oversee the Persian front or to attend to duties his brother Priscus eventually would assume. Once in Rome there was little time for rest. Philip spent much of 245 to 247 (the period during which this aureus was probably struck) on the Danube repelling invasions by the Carpi, and possibly Germans, but managed to return to Rome for the much-anticipated millennial celebrations held throughout 248. His glory in the capital suffered by several rebellions within the provincial armies. With so many catastrophes in one year, Philip was doomed. In the fall of 249 he was challenged and defeated by Trajan Decius, the commander who recently had restored order in Moesia and Pannonia.





168

- 168 Aureus circa 244–247, 4.11 g. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE AETERNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at her side, shield. RIC 44a. C 168. Vagi 2085. Calicó 3256.

Very rare. Scuff on cheek on obverse and light scratches on reverse,

otherwise very fine

7'500

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1596.



169

169

- 169 Quinarius circa 244–247, 2.38 g. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FIDES – M – I – LIT Fides standing l., holding sceptre and standard. RIC 32a. C 56. Vagi 2086. Extremely rare. Minor knock on forehead and light scratches on reverse,

otherwise good very fine

12'000

Ex Hirsch May 1935, Trau collection, 2697; Christie's 6.10.1997, 447 and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 30 sales.

As a seldom-struck denomination, quinarii are considered special distribution coins. The most probable recipients were soldiers, and Philip was an emperor in great need of unity within his armies. Throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Rome had suffered a dearth of enemies along its borders, but its greatest enemy was rebellion from within. We should presume that this gold quinarius, from the first three years of Philip's reign, was struck for distribution to soldiers since the reverse type calls for the loyalty of the troops. Given the fact that Philip came to power by exploiting dissatisfactions among the soldiers and commanders on Gordian's campaign, he had little reason to expect that he would be held to a better standard. In the years 248 and 249 rebellions broke in Roman armies stationed throughout the empire: Jotapian in the East, Silbannacus on the Rhine, and Pacatian and Sponsianus on the Danube, both of which brought renewed invasions by the Carpi, Goths and Germans. Seriously shaken by the events, we are told that Philip tried to abdicate, but was dissuaded by the city prefect Decius (the future emperor Trajan Decius), whom Philip sent to the Balkans to expel the recent wave of invaders and to restore unity in the army. By the end of 248 Decius had succeeded in his task, but he then was compelled to revolt against Philip. The chronology of this is suspect: evidence awaiting publication essentially proves it happened sooner rather than later, but for now attribute it to the middle of 249. In September or October of that same year, the armies of Philip and Decius clashed in a battle in which Philip was killed and Decius was universally hailed Rome's new emperor.



170

- 170 Aureus circa 248, 4.60 g. IMP PHILIPPVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SAECVLARES AVGG Low column inscribed COS III. RIC 24a. C 191. Vagi 2085. Calicó 3258. Extremely rare. Sharply struck on a broad flan with a very strong portrait.

Almost invisible nick on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

30'000

One of the most interesting series of coins of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century was issued by Philip I, his wife, and his son, for the thousandth anniversary of Rome's foundation. Though archaeological evidence proves the hills of Rome were settled at least two centuries earlier than the legendary foundation date of 753 B.C. set by the sage Varro, the Romans considered that date gospel. The close of the millennium occurred, ironically, in the unsettling year 248 when four separate rebellions broke within the ranks of the army. However, none of them could lure Philip from the capital, where he initiated celebrations on April 21, and where remained to witness the much-anticipated games later in the year. Public celebrations were accompanied by an ornamental series of coins inscribed SAECVLARES AVGG, MILIARIVM SAECVLVM and SAECVLVM NOVVM. Other coins inscribed AETERNITAS AVGG and ROMAE AETERNAE bear general relevance to the celebration. The reverse types are varied and exotic: a lion, gazelle, antelope, goat, stag, hippopotamus and elephant all relate to the games, whereas the she-wolf and twins, a low column (or cippus) and the temple of Roma Aeterna relate to the event in general, and to the hope that it would represent the beginning of a new age. Unfortunately it did – but the age was not to be happier, safer or more prosperous. Instead it would be more tragic, violent and unsettled. (See also the note for lot 175.)



## Otacilia Severa, wife of Philip I



- 171 Aureus circa 246–248, 4.94 g. M-OTACIL SEVERA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Concordia seated l., holding patera and double cornucopiae. RIC Philip I 125a. C 2. Vagi 2109. Calicó 3264.

Exceedingly rare. Well-struck in high relief, metal on cheek slightly porous.

Extremely fine 47'500

Ex NAC sale 21, 2001, 526.

The life of Otacilia Severa, like so many Roman empresses, is largely a mystery. Little of substance is known of her except what can be gleaned from surviving artifacts and the occasional Imperial record. Her portrait is familiar from her numerous coins, and it is known that she was honoured with the titles mother of the army, the senate and the empire. There is also good reason to believe that she was a direct relative – perhaps even the daughter – of a certain Severianus (or Severus) whom her husband appointed to a high position in the Balkans. Philip was, after all, partial to promoting relatives, including his brother Priscus, who remained in the east as praetorian prefect and *rector Orientis*. (Unfortunately Philip's nepotism backfired as the cruel exactions of Priscus sparked the revolt of Jotapian and the apparent incompetence of Severianus required his replacement by the prefect of Rome, Trajan Decius, who restored order and eventually overthrew Philip.) Beyond this we must rely on later Christian writers who suggest she and her husband were Christians, or at the very least sympathised with the plight of Christians. As such they serve as a foil to the subsequent regimes of Trajan Decius and Trebonianus Gallus, both of whom were particularly harsh to Christians. It is even suggested that Otacilia Severa sought penance from Saint Babylas, Bishop of Antioch, for the role she played in the murder of Gordian III. Unfortunately, there is no supporting evidence for their pro-Christian activities, and some of their actions seem to contradict the supposition. Even Otacilia's death is veiled in mystery: she may have been murdered along with her son by the praetorian guardsmen, or, as one source suggests, she retired unharmed.

## Philip II Caesar, 244 – 247



- 172 Aureus circa 245–246, 4.65 g. M IVL PHILIPPVS CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVVENT Philip II, in military attire, standing r., holding globe in r. hand and transverse spear in l. RIC 216a. C 52. Vagi 2124. Calicó 3276.

Extremely rare. Scrape across bust and several marks, very fine

4'000

Ex Triton III, 1999, 1149 and from the collection of Marian A. Sinton.

Numbering among the unfortunate boy-emperors of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century, Philip II was only about seven years old when his eponymous father hailed him Caesar early in 244. These formative years must have been traumatic for the young Caesar, as his father had come to the throne by way of a coup in Asia Minor, and upon returning to Europe he was perpetually at risk on the Danube front, where he fought hard to keep Rome's enemies at bay. Philip II held the title Caesar for slightly more than three years, during which time he had many attractive coins struck in his honour – principally silver double-denarii and brass sestertii. It is worth noting that the once-abundant aureus became increasingly rare during this period, and, as a consequence, their weight declined. The slide was considerable: the aureus of Severus Alexander (222–235) was generally struck at 50 per pound of gold, under Maximinus I (235–238) it decreased to about 55 per pound, under Balbinus and Pupienus (238) it slid further to 60 per pound, and under Gordian III (238–244) it decreased to about 65 per pound. Gordian's successors Philip I and II (244–249) reduced the aureus to a new low of 70 per pound. Although it fluctuated thereafter (often considerably: ranging from 50 to 90 per pound), this new standard was important, for it is very near the weight of the solidus, the coin introduced by Constantine the Great at 72 to the pound that remained constant into Byzantine times.





173



- 173 Aureus circa 245–246, 4.65 g. M IVL PHILIPPVS CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI I – VVENT Philip II, in military attire, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and spear in l. RIC 218a. C 46. Vagi 2124. Calicó 3275.

Extremely rare. Insignificant light scratch in reverse field,

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 435.

otherwise brilliant extremely fine

30'000



174



- 174 Aureus circa 245–246, 4.65 g. M IVL PHILIPPVS CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI I – VVENT Philip II, in military attire, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and spear in l. RIC 218a. C 46. Vagi 2124. Calicó 3275.

Extremely rare. Very fine

10'000

Ex M&M XVII, 1957, 544 and Hirsch 193, 1997, 98 sales.

### Philip II Augustus, 247 – 249



175



- 175 Aureus circa 248, 4.90 g. IMP PHILIPPVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. SAECVLARES AVGG Low column inscribed COS / II. RIC 225. C 77. Vagi 2133. Calicó 3277.

Exceedingly rare. An absolutely unobtrusive metal-flaw on reverse

at eleven o'clock, otherwise good extremely fine

30'000

Aurei of Philip II, both as Caesar and as Augustus, are extremely rare, and having four in a single auction is a truly remarkable occurrence. Making this offering more interesting still is this aureus, struck as Augustus, with a reverse that celebrates the thousandth anniversary of Rome's foundation. Also in the sale is an aureus of his father (lot 170) with the same reverse type, except that the column, or cippus, is inscribed with the appropriate consulship designation. Were it not for the provincial tetradrachms struck for circulation in Antioch, the verdict on consulships held by Philip I and II would be a foregone conclusion: the father originally was consul in 245, and assumed the office for a second time in 247, and a third time in 248. In the two latter cases he shared it with his son, presumably in honour of his being raised from Caesar to Augustus in the first of those years. Both of these aurei were struck in 248, when Philip I was consul for the third time, and his son was consul for the second. These are the two highest consulships recorded on Imperial coinage for the Philips. However, on Antiochene tetradrachms we have a confusing scenario. To start, tetradrachms were struck for Philip II (both as Caesar and as Augustus!) with an inscription naming an unattested third consulship. As if that were not troublesome enough, both father and son have issues naming a fourth consulship. The evidence provided by the Imperial issues of Rome does not match up with that of the provincial coins of Antioch. Even the Imperial double-denarii struck at Antioch do not support the evidence provided by the provincial tetradrachms struck at the same mint. At present there seems no rational explanation for this incongruity, and it must be chalked up to a combination of imprecise knowledge at Antioch (i.e., they were one year ahead on consulship reckonings) and a presumption that the issues of Philip II naming his fictional fourth consulship are simply mules employing reverse dies intended for his father.



## Trajan Decius, 249 – 251



- 176 Aureus circa 249–251, 4.74 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GENIVS EXERC ILLVRICIANI Genius standing l., holding patera in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in field r., standard. RIC 16a. C 48. Vagi 2157. Calicó 3290 (this coin illustrated).  
Brilliant extremely fine 7'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.7.1995, 154.

If we consider the reign of Philip I to have been an exercise in futility, that of his successor, Trajan Decius, represents something even worse, for he was the first Roman emperor to be killed by the enemy in battle. (This is true, assuming, as we probably should, that Gordian III was murdered, and not killed by soldiers of Shapur.) Decius was the first in a long line of 'military emperors', usually of humble origins, to hail from the Balkans. Despite his energy and commitment, Decius ruled less than two years and spent the lion's share of that time defending Rome's borders. The character of his regime was made clear from the outset, when his friends in the senate bestowed upon him the surname Trajan in memory of the famous 2<sup>nd</sup>-century emperor, who also was a proactive militarist. But the Trajan of the previous century reigned in a time of Roman military supremacy, and was mainly concerned with enlarging his empire rather than defending it. Early in 250 Decius was defending the Danube from multiple attacks by the Carpi and the Goths, and he soon hailed his eldest son Herennius Etruscus Caesar. Initially the two successfully fought side by side, but over the succeeding months a revolt within the besieged city of Beroe allowed the Goths, under their chief Kniva, to pillage Thrace. Helpless to stop the feeding frenzy, Decius determined he would ambush the Goths as they returned home with their booty. His first engagement in the spring of 251 was a great success (causing Decius to raise his eldest son from Caesar to Augustus), but his army was later ambushed at Abrittus, about 75 miles from the Black Sea coast in modern Bulgaria. It was a devastating blow to the Roman armies, and to the people, for not only did many soldiers die, but Decius and his teenage son also perished. For an emperor who was fully occupied with military affairs, Decius did find time to attend to coinage. Not only did he eliminate the officina markings used by his predecessor Philip I, but he introduced two new base metal coins, the innovative double-sestertius, and an 'as' of reduced size, which traditionally is called a semis. In addition to these he struck a series of double-denarii commemorating eleven deified emperors, beginning with Augustus and ending with Severus Alexander. In the series there are notable exceptions (such as Claudius) and inclusions (such as Commodus) which have long puzzled numismatists and historians.



- 177 Aureus circa 249–251, 4.70 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GENIVS EXERC ILLVRICIANI Genius standing l., holding patera in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in field r., standard. RIC 16a. C 48. Kent-Hirmer pl. 128, 464 (this reverse die). Vagi 2157. Calicó 3290. Light scratches on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine 5'500

Despite the best efforts of Philip I, the problems that had erupted on the Danube early in his reign continued unresolved. His successor Decius hailed from a provincial family of good standing and had increased his social status by marrying a noble Etruscan lady, Herennia Etruscilla. Before becoming emperor, Decius had gained senatorial status, served as a governor in Spain and Moesia, and had been the city prefect in Rome. In addition to his earlier governorship in Moesia and his return to the Danubian front with a command under Philip I, Decius had been born at Budalia, a small city outside Sirmium, only a few miles from the Danube. Decius could rightly claim to be an Illyrian, for that region traditionally comprised Dalmatia and the two Pannonias. In the time of Decius, Illyria was extremely important as a recruiting ground for soldiers, and the commanders who hailed from the region came to be known as Illyricians. The reverse of this and the following two aurei demonstrate the focus of Decius' brief reign, both in an honorary and an historical sense. This particular aureus Decius celebrates the spirit (genius) of the embattled Illyrian army, no doubt because so many of these gold pieces ended up in the hands of soldiers in that region.





- 178 Aureus circa 249–251, 4.89 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PANNONIAE The two Pannoniae, veiled and draped, standing to front, turning l. and r. away from one another, each holding *signum* outward. RIC 21a. C 85. Vagi 2157. Calicó 3296 var. Faint scratch on reverse, otherwise almost Fdc 6'500

Ex NAC & Spink Taisei, The Gilbert Steinberg Collection, 1994, 688 and NAC 11, 1998, 506 sales.

In addition to honouring Illyricum in general (see the previous aureus), Decius also honours Pannonia, the northern portion of Illyricum. This region was important because it bordered the Danube, and was an invaluable buffer between the barbarians and Italy. The province was established in A.D. 9, and was named after a group of Illyrian peoples who had absorbed many Celtic customs into their own culture. Early in Imperial history Octavian, Marcus Agrippa and Tiberius had campaigned there, with the latter completing its subjugation by extending Roman control to the Danube. Pannonia was divided into two regions by the emperor Trajan when he annexed Dacia in 106. The western portion, which was larger, was called Superior, and the smaller eastern portion was called Inferior. They were home to different consular legates who, in the western region, faced Germans and in the eastern region largely fought Sarmatians. On the reverse of this aureus the two Pannoniae are depicted as draped, veiled female figures standing beside one another, holding military standards, one facing west, the other facing east in reflection of their protective roles. On some of Decius' Pannoniae issues they face in the same direction or face each other, either clasping hands or holding the same military standard, or the provinces are depicted as one woman holding a standard. In such cases their postures (or posture) would seem to demonstrate unity rather than individual duties.



- 179 Aureus circa 249–251, 4.49 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. DACIA Dacia standing l., holding staff surmounted by a draco. RIC –, cf. 12a (denarius). C –, cf. 17 (denarius). Vagi 2157. Calicó 3286 (this coin illustrated).

Apparently unique. A few light scratches and an area of weakness on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 6'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 996.

Much like the two previous coins, this aureus of Decius honours the embroiled Balkan region. In this case it honours Dacia, an important region beyond the Danube containing the rich gold, silver and iron mines of the Transylvanian Alps (Carpathians). The region had been annexed about 140 years earlier by Trajan, who celebrated his conquest with the magnificent friezes on his column in Rome. In Roman times more than a dozen cities were established in Dacia as it was populated by people from nearby Roman provinces, notably Illyricum. However, in the reign of Decius, Dacia was no longer a promised land for skilled workers, but a place of great danger. Over the course of time the more remote portions of the province fell from Roman control until, by the reign of Aurelian, only the Transylvanian highlands remained in Roman hands. Indeed, it was Aurelian who forfeited Dacia, and in 274 oversaw a mass evacuation of its citizens and soldiers to the two Moesias south of the Danube. On Decius' coinage Dacia is represented as a draped, veiled woman holding either a military standard or, in this case, a 'draco' staff. This is usually described as a staff surmounted with the head of an ass. However, it is best identified as a 'draco', a dragon military standard adopted by certain detachments of the Roman legions from their contact with Dacian, Scythian and Sarmatian warriors. Comprised of a long cloth tube attached a hollow metal head of a wolf, the draco apparently would make a menacing sound and its tail would fly erect as the standard bearer charged into battle. The device is depicted numerous times on Trajan's column, is mentioned in Arrian's *Tactica* (composed in 136/7), and also by the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>-century military historian Vegetius, in his *Epitoma rei militaris*. The best description of the draco, however, was penned by the empire's last great Latin historian, Ammianus Marcellinus, who describes a parade of triumph of 357 in which Constantius II "...was surrounded by purple banners woven in the form of dragons and attached to the tops of gilded and jewelled spears; the breeze blew through their gaping jaws so that they seemed to be hissing with rage and their voluminous tails streamed behind them in the wind."



## Herennia Etruscilla, wife of Trajan Decius



- 180 Aureus circa 249–251, 4.29 g. HER ETRVSCILLA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. PVDICITIA AVG Pudicitia, veiled, seated l., holding sceptre in l. hand and drawing veil with r. RIC 59a. C 18. Vagi 2195. Calicó 3308. Almost Fdc 10'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.11.1997, 191.

Yet another of the 'blank pages' of Roman history, Herennia Etruscilla may have enjoyed the privileged upbringing of an Etruscan noblewoman, but the end of her days were anything but pleasant. Even though she held the title Augusta and resided in Rome, she was largely powerless because before he left the capital her husband installed Publius Licinius Valerianus (the future emperor Valerian) in a newly created position that gave him almost unlimited authority in the city of Rome. When the news arrived that her husband and eldest son had been killed in a Gothic ambush, Etruscilla and her youngest son, Hostilian might have expected the worst. However, they not only survived, but were honoured by the new emperor Trebonianus Gallus, who did not hail his own wife Augusta, but rather allowed Etruscilla to retain the title. Numismatic evidence shows that Etruscilla probably retained the title into Gallus' reign, for the output for her and Hostilian is higher at Antioch than that of her slain husband and son.



- 181 Aureus circa 249–251, 4.32 g. HER ETRVSCILLA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. PVDICITIA AVG Pudicitia, veiled, seated l., holding sceptre in l. hand and drawing veil with r. RIC 59a. C 18. Vagi 2195. Calicó 3308. Extremely fine 8'000



- 182 Aureus circa 249–251, 3.92 g. HER ETRVSCILLA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. PVDICITIA AVG Pudicitia standing l., holding sceptre in l. hand and veil with r. RIC 58a. C 16. Vagi 2195. Calicó 3307. Good very fine 5'500

Ex Lanz 40, 1987, 795 and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 34 sales.



### Herennius Etruscus as Caesar, 250 – 251



- 183 Aureus circa 251, 3.44 g. Q HER ETR MES DECIVS NOB C Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS Herennius Etruscus, in military attire, standing l., holding wand in r. hand and transverse spear in l. RIC 147a. C 25. Vagi 2204. Calicó 3311.

Extremely rare. Very light marks on obverse,  
otherwise good extremely fine 26'000

The teenage years of Herennius Etruscus, the eldest son of the emperor Trajan Decius, were anything but carefree. Not long after his father had been hailed emperor, Etruscus was hailed Caesar and placed at the head of a Roman army, which he subsequently led to the Danube front. His objective was to help the armies already stationed there expel Goths and Carpi, who had crossed the frozen Danube very early in 250. His father remained in plague-infected Rome for a while longer to stabilise the capital, and if the failed revolt in the capital by a certain Julius Valens Licinianus in 251 is any indication, Rome was in a state of turmoil. The young Caesar managed to hold his own until his father arrived, after which they commanded jointly. Among their allies they counted the governor of Moesia (and future emperor) Trebonianus Gallus, who commanded a reserve force. The fate of young Etruscus was determined in June or July of 251 when he, his father, and most of their army were ambushed and killed by the Goths near Abrittus. It is a matter of speculation whether or not the main army suffered this monumental defeat because Gallus failed to warn them, or to reinforce them. In any event, Gallus was hailed emperor in their place. Both the circumstance and the scale of the event bears a haunting resemblance to the even more critical defeat of the eastern emperor Valens in a Gothic ambush at Adrianople in 378.

### Hostilian as Caesar, 251



- 184 Aureus circa 251, 3.62 g. C VALENS HOSTIL MES QVINTVS NC Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRICIPI IVVE –NTVTIS Hostilian, in military attire, standing l., holding standard in r. hand and spear. RIC 182b. C 33. Vagi 2214. Calicó 3316.

Extremely rare. A light scratch in obverse field at three o' clock,  
otherwise extremely fine 24'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 71, 1995, 783.

Life for Hostilian, the youngest of two sons of Trajan Decius and Herennia Etruscilla, was brief and tragic. His is one of the most difficult reigns for historians to reconstruct due to the poor evidence of the period and the great many changes that occurred in the political scenario. As the youngest son of Trajan Decius, perhaps only just beginning his 'teen' years, Hostilian remained in Rome with his mother when his father and older brother departed for the Danube, never to return. During the course of his father's absence, Hostilian was hailed Caesar. This may have occurred as early as 250 when his brother Herennius Etruscus was still Caesar, or more likely it occurred when his brother was raised to the rank of Augustus after the initial defeat of the Goths in the spring of 251. In either case, when his father and brother died in battle in the summer of 251 Hostilian and his mother were still safely residing in Rome. The new emperor, Trebonianus Gallus, soon journeyed to Rome where he was confirmed by the senate and honoured Hostilian and his mother by sparing them of harm. The widowed empress seemingly retained her title of Augusta, and young Hostilian was actually raised from Caesar to Augustus, a title he shared with his new 'adoptive father' Gallus. This was no minor act, for Gallus' son Volusian (who apparently was older than Hostilian) was given the junior rank of Caesar. As honourable as Gallus' overture was, it mattered little, for within a few months Hostilian died of the plague that was then ravaging the capital.





- 185 Aureus circa 251, 3.57 g. G VALE QVT M OSTILIAN N C Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. PROVIDENTIA AVG Providentia standing l., holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC —, cf. p. 144, footnote to 181 (this obverse die) and pl. 13, 11 (aureus of Trebonianus Gallus, this reverse die). C —. Leu 45, 1988, 368 = NAC 5, 1992, 592 = Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 156 sales (these dies). Vagi 2214. Calicó 3320.

Of the highest rarity, only the second specimen known of this extremely interesting issue struck under Trebonianus Gallus and utilising one of his reverse die.

A very appealing and unusual portrait, extremely fine

30'000

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 441.

This coin illustrates the great confusion into which the Rome mint, or at least the precious metal section, had fallen during the outbreak of plague which was ravaging the empire at this time. Hybrids are common, with early obverses of Decius, for example, being found with late reverses of Gallus. The reverse belongs to the first, brief (say, June 51) issue of Gallus aug. and Hostilian caes., Volusian not yet being caes. The laureate obverse indicates that a die had been prepared for Hostilian aug. (with which would have been associated dies for Volusian caes., RIC 129-130), but the legend is stuck half-way between his style as Caesar and a tentative one as Augustus, and is moreover in composition absolutely irregular, even though the letters themselves are perfectly normal, since (a) "Hostilian's" cognomen was Quintus, cf. sesterius RIC 222, QVINTO FELIX, and his style usually a form of C. Val. Host. Mes. Quintus, HOSTILIAN, and still less, MOSTILIAN, being unacceptable, (b) the contractions for VALENS are VAL. or VALES, not VALE ("farewell") and (c) C. (Gaius) is never written as here, G, i.e., as pronounced. The legend is therefore no more than incompetent apprentice work as arranged, applied with normal letter punches to a die properly prepared with a portrait of Hostilian Augustus.

### Trebonianus Gallus, 251 – 253



- 186 Binio circa 251–253, 5.85 g. IMP CAEC VIB TREB GALLVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Concordia standing l., holding patera in r. hand and cornucopia in l. RIC 6. C 28. Vagi 2224. Calicó 3331.

Very rare. Minor scuff on reverse edge at five o'clock, otherwise extremely fine

15'000

Ex Leu sale 65, 1996, 457.

For most of the first 250 years of the Roman Empire, its gold aureus was relatively consistent in weight and purity. It was affected only by adjustments in weight – usually downward, but occasionally upward. The first major decline in later history occurred under Caracalla, and subsequently under Severus Alexander (see the comment for lot 172). Beginning with the reign of Trebonianus Gallus, however, gold coinage became increasingly variable in weight and denomination, and medallions intended as bonuses or bribes also came to be struck with regularity. Something that certainly can be attributed to Gallus is the mainstream introduction of the 'binio', a gold homologue to the silver double-denarius. In some if not all cases, the binio was struck with double-denarius dies, at a heavier weight than the aureus. With the typical aureus of Gallus weighing about 3.60 grams, his average 'binio' weighed about 5.75 grams. The binio weighed roughly 1½ times as much as the aureus, and if we examine the weight relationship between Caracalla's silver double-denarius and denarius, we find an identical weight ratio. Furthermore, they are identically different in terms of iconography, thus giving us a perfect parallel. Indeed, had the denarius not been scrapped as a mainstream issue under Gordian III, the same comparison would probably be possible with Gallus' denarii and double-denarii. Predecessors to the binios of this era were struck by Caracalla. However, only a handful of these have survived, and Caracalla's truly are double-aurei medallions because their weight is double that of his contemporary aurei.





187



- 187 Aureus circa 251–253, 3.50 g. IMP CAE C VIB TREB GALLVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERTAS AVGG Libertas standing l., holding pileus in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 20. C 60. Vagi 2225. Calicó 3334.

Very rare. Insignificant scratch on reverse at seven o'clock,  
otherwise about extremely fine

9'000

Ex Hess-Leu 4.1959, 365 and Hirsch 193, 1997, 104 sales.

Trebonianus Gallus reigned near the end of a terrible trend that nearly damaged the empire beyond repair. After the murder of Gordian III in 244 a string of four 'military emperors' ruled in quick succession, each being killed by the enemy or by Romans, and then being succeeded by a general who held an important field command. Gallus was the third of these unfortunates, and he came to the throne under what were simultaneously the best and worst circumstances of the period: the best because his predecessor had died in battle (i.e. Gallus did not murder or defeat him), and the worst because an already hopeless situation in the Balkans was worsened with the loss of an army and the emperors who led it. In addition to this, the Goths invaded the Balkans yet again, the Sasanian king Shapur I captured Armenia, and the plague was becoming more serious. All of the empire must have been shocked when Gallus' co-emperor Hostilian succumbed to the disease. Though this was a new low-point for the empire, matters became worse in the east as Shapur sacked Antioch in 252/3, and the Goths and other Germans turned their attention from the Balkans (apparently because it had been picked clean) and invaded Asia Minor. They pillaged as far south as Ephesus before returning to their homelands. A single bright spot on the horizon was the vigorous activity of the commander Aemilian, who had taken the place of Gallus as governor of Lower Moesia. Aemilian was especially forceful: he executed Goths who had remained in Roman lands after their recent raids, and then pushed beyond the Danube to deliver even more crushing defeats. A now painfully familiar cycle repeated itself when Aemilian was hailed emperor by his troops and marched against Gallus, whom he caused to be murdered outside of Rome in the spring or summer of 253. Aemilian's glory was short-lived because reinforcements from the Rhine that Gallus had ordered finally arrived in Italy under the command of the future emperor Valerian. In what is described by ancient sources as an exceptionally bloody battle, Aemilian perished after a reign of only three months. The vacant throne was filled by Valerian, who compelled his son Gallienus to become his co-emperor. While history shows that even they could not turn back the tide of Rome's misfortunes, they at least brought a temporary respite to a cycle that many historians rightly believe did more damage to the empire than any of its enemies.

### Volusian, 251 – 253



188



188

- 188 Binio, 5.95 g. IMP CAES C VIB VOLVSIANO AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PIETAS AVGG Pietas standing l. with both hands raised; in field l., altar. RIC 151. C –. Calicó 3365.

Extremely rare. A few light marks and an irregular piece of metal on  
the edge at ten o'clock, otherwise extremely fine

15'000

Ex Lanz 38, 1986, 851 and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 38 sales.

As the Caesar and eventual co-Augustus of his father Trebonianus Gallus, the coinage of Volusian was similar to his father's. In this case we have a second example of a gold 'binio', or 1½-aureus. Its weight is comparable to that of his father (lot 186), though the aureus of Volusian that follows is about ten percent heavier than a typical aureus of these emperors.





189

- 189 Aureus circa 251–253, 3.91 g. IMP CAE C VIB VOLVSIANO AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. AETERNITAS AVGG Aeternitas standing l., holding phoenix on globe with r. hand and raising skirt with her l. RIC 154. C 10. Vagi 2241. Calicó 3349.

Very rare. Extremely fine 9'000

Ex NAC sale 9, 1996, 920.

Associated with the troubled reign of Trebonianus Gallus was his son Volusian, who probably was about 20 years old when he was hailed Caesar, and soon after Augustus, in the tragic year 251. When his father replaced as emperor the slain Trajan Decius and his eldest son Herennius Etruscus in June or July of 251, two complications remained in Rome: Decius' widow and youngest son. Since Decius had not been branded a rebel or overthrown, Gallus treated his surviving relatives honourably. The widow Herennia Etruscilla seems to have retained the title Augusta (as Volusian's mother Afinia Gemina Baebiana was never hailed Augusta), and her young son Hostilian was raised in rank from Caesar to co-Augustus with Gallus. This may have been difficult for Volusian to accept, for he was the new emperor's son and if coin portraits are any judge, he was considerably older than Hostilian. In any event, if Volusian had been envious of the title Augustus, he did not have long to wait, for within months Hostilian died of the plague. Volusian was immediately hailed Augustus in the fallen boy's place. But the titles jointly held by Volusian and Gallus were of little value, for they remained in Rome while the Roman empire collapsed around them. Plague was rampant, and the Goths and the Sasanians ravaged Asia Minor and Syria. The only source of inspiration was Aemilian, governor of Lower Moesia, who was roundly defeating the Goths in the Balkans. Good news for Rome, however, spelled bad news for Gallus and Volusian, for recent history was about to repeat itself. Riding the tide of his success, Aemilian gave to his soldiers a large sum of money intended to subsidize a peace agreement with the Goths, and they hailed him emperor and urged him to march on Rome. Panic-stricken, Gallus and Volusian instructed the noble Valerian, who was raising recruits on the Rhine, to quickly return to Italy with his army. Valerian did so, but arrived too late to save Gallus and Volusian, both of whom were murdered outside Rome by their own soldiers before an engagement with Aemilian even occurred. A pitched battle soon did occur between Aemilian's seasoned Balkan soldiers and Valerian's fresh recruits from the Rhine. In a bloody battle, Aemilian died and Valerian was hailed emperor, allowing him to establish an ill-fated dynasty comprised of himself, his son Gallienus and his two grandsons Valerian II and Saloninus.

#### Uranus Antoninus, 253 – 254



190

- 190 Aureus, Emesa circa 253–254, 5.79 g. L IVL AVR SVLP ANTONINVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FE – CVND – ITAS AVG Fortuna standing l., holding rudder and cornucopia. RIC 3 and pl. 15, 16 (these dies). C 3. H.R. Baldus, Uranus Antoninus, Münzprägung und Geschichte, 57f (these dies). R. Delbrueck, Uranus at Emesa, NC 1948, p. 17, 6-8 and 9. Vagi 2264. Calicó 3385.

Extremely rare. Metal flaw on the chin on obverse and small nick on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine 24'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung 73, 1995, 443.

The irrefutable evidence that this coin presents has put paid to the false legends relating to Uranus Antoninus by the historian Zosimus. According to Zosimus, there were two separate usurpers, a man by the name of Uranus and another by the name of Antoninus, who were rebels at the time of Severus Alexander. In reality, Uranus Antoninus was not actually a usurper because his power was strictly local and limited to the city of Emesa, in the Syrian Apamene, the birthplace of Julia Domna, Mamaea, Elagabalus and Severus Alexander. The reverse sides of the coins issued by Uranus Antoninus refer to local religion and reflect the close link between Principi Sacerdotes of Emesa and the great local god Elagabal, or the Baal of Emesa.



Gallienus, 253 – 268



191



191

- 191 Quinarius circa 255–256, 1.88 g. IMP C P LIC GALLIENVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS AVG Soldier standing l., holding globe and sceptre. RIC —. C 1217. Vagi 2302. Calicó 3639 (this coin illustrated). Extremely fine 3'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 679.

Gallienus is one of the most interesting and enigmatic of all Roman emperors. Throughout his uncharacteristically long reign of 15 years, he fought on all fronts to keep Rome's enemies at bay. Meanwhile, he survived perhaps a dozen serious coups and revolts within the empire. From a statistical point of view his reign was a disaster: he lost the western provinces to the rebel Postumus, and he lost most of the Roman east to the Palmyrene king Odenathus. What remained of the central empire was in chaos until the day Gallienus died at the hands of assassins. What is seldom considered, however, is how badly the odds were stacked against Gallienus, and how an emperor with less dedication, talent and ingenuity would not have lasted so long. Clearly, Gallienus operated at a level of genius few possessed or appreciated, and for which few historians have given him sufficient credit. He suffered the deaths of his two sons and the capture of his father, yet he continued the struggle. Indeed, if we believe the characteristically biased sources for this period, Gallienus found solace in every imaginable vice and distraction: sloth, alcohol, philosophy, the arts, adultery and materialism. Much as historians have rightly cast doubts on the extremes of Tiberius' behavior while exiled on Rhodes and Capri, we should extend the same benefit of the doubt to Gallienus. Even if even most of his bad press is in some way based in truth, we must appreciate the balance he managed to achieve while a collapsing world was set squarely on his shoulders. For commentary on the denomination and weight of this fractional gold piece, see lot 195.



192



- 192 Heavy aureus circa 260–261, 4.13 g. GALLIENVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICT – ORIA AVG III Victory advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l.; in field l., T. RIC 84. C 1116. Göbl, MIR 36, 441 (this obverse die). Vagi 2300. Calicó 3619. Rare. Extremely fine 7'000

Ex Tkalec sale 1996, 236.

The radiate portrait and somewhat heavy weight make it clear that this piece was not intended as a normal aureus. After his robust accession issue, Gallienus' aurei were usually struck at the rate of 90 per pound of gold. Unlike the bulk of Gallienus' production, this piece was struck to a heavier standard of 80 aurei per pound. For another 'heavy aureus', see lot 196.



193



193

- 193 Heavy aureus, Mediolanum circa 262, 4.13 g. GALLIENVS AVG Radiate head r. Rev. VOT /X / ET / XX within laurel wreath. RIC 96. C 1353. Göbl, MIR 36, 1065. Vagi 2300. Calicó 3669. Good very fine 4'000

Ex Naville VIII, Beement collection, 1924, 1407 and Triton I, 1997, 1625 sales.

This 'heavy aureus,' like lot 192, was struck at the heavier standard of 80 aurei per pound. The reverse commemorates the anticipated *decennalia*, or 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gallienus' rule, and offers a vow to undertake ten more years. Had Gallienus the benefit of hindsight when this issue was produced, he no doubt would have inscribed it VOT X ET XV, for he only reigned fifteen years. For a 'binio' of this same issue struck in Rome mint, see lot 194.



194

- 194 Medallion of 4 aurei circa 262–263, 13.89 g. IMP GALLIENVS AV – G Bust l., wearing crested helmet and bearing spear over r. shoulder and round shield over l. Rev. FIDES MILITVM Fides standing facing, head l., holding ensign in each hand. RIC 10 second specimen (this coin). Gnecci p. 6, 6 second specimen (this coin). Jameson 254 (this coin). C 230. Göbl, MIR 36, 532 (these dies).

Of the highest rarity, only three specimens known. A very attractive and unusual portrait of fine style. A few minor marks, otherwise extremely fine

55'000

Ex Hirsch 24, Consul Weber Collection, 1909, 2281; Tkalec-Rauch 3, 1987, 410; Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 158 and NAC 10, 1997, 679. From the Jameson Collection.

Gold medallions were struck on a variety of occasions, notably accessions, marriages, promotions, victories and milestones. In this case the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gallienus' rule, his *decennalia*, is the occasion. The previous five years had not been pleasant: in 258 the Alemanni invaded Italy and his eldest son Valerian II had died; in 260 his father Valerian was captured by the Sasanians, his youngest son Saloninus was killed in the successionist rebellion of Postumus, and revolts were sparked by Regalianus and Macrianus; and in 262 Aureolus staged his first revolt. Despite all of this, Gallienus brought a measure of consistency the empire had not known in recent memory. During in the eighteen years prior to the accession of Gallienus there had been eight legitimate regimes – meaning the average emperor of the era reigned slightly more than two years. In this day and age the achievement of a *decennalia* was truly remarkable, and was an event that Gallienus – an emperor who never shied away from ceremonies – returned to Rome to celebrate. Among all of the coins and medallions struck for distribution at the ceremony, this four-aureus piece was among the more impressive. It is entirely militant in character: the emperor is shown with helmet, armour and spear, and the reverse calls for harmony in the army. Furthermore, it might have raised a few eyebrows, as according to Toynbee (*Roman Medallions*, p. 155) it is the first medallion with a helmeted bust type. In the succeeding decades and centuries helmeted busts became commonplace – even standard – on coins and medals, but when this piece was struck it was truly a novelty.



194 2,5:1





- 195 Binio circa 265–266, 5.69 g. GALLIENV – S P F AVG Head l., wearing wreath of reeds. Rev. VICTORIA A – VG Gallienus standing l., holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l., crowned by Victory standing behind him. RIC 81. C 1112. Göbl, MIR 36, 692B (this coin). Vagi 2299. Calicó 3614. Rare. A very interesting portrait; traces of mounting and bent, otherwise extremely fine 2'500

Ex Hirsch 18, 1907 and Triton III, 1999, 1158 sales.

Of the same emission and unique portrait style as the eight-aureus medallion (lot 196), this piece qualifies as a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  aureus medallion, which often is called a 'binio'. The weight standard for the aureus during the reign of Gallienus has long puzzled scholars: not only is it difficult to divine the weight of a standard aureus, but in this particular reign it often is difficult to separate 'binios', heavy aurei and quinarii from the standard aurei. Compounding the problem is the fact that adjustments were made over the course of Gallienus' 15 years on the throne, and unless the issues can be dated with confidence, the patterns of adjustment cannot be understood. Some generalizations can be gleaned from a study published by West in 1941 (ANS NNM 94). He concluded that Gallienus struck his aurei at 70 to the Roman pound (c. 4.7 grams) in his initial issue of 253–254, which represented a great improvement over his predecessor, Trebonianus Gallus, who had dropped the aureus to 90 per pound. However, Gallienus soon faced a chronic shortage of precious metals, and there is ample reason to believe that for the remainder of his long reign he coined his aurei at Gallus' weight of 90 per pound. A notable exception is the 'heavy aureus' Gallienus struck with some regularity, which can be distinguished by their heavier weight standard (80 per pound) and the fairly consistent feature of a radiate portrait.

Thus, we might consider the following as weight guidelines for the post-accession gold of Gallienus: a 'binio' should weigh about 5.46 grams (1/60 lb.), a 'heavy aureus' should weigh about 4.10 grams (1/80 lb.), an aureus should weigh about 3.64 grams (1/90 lb.), and a quinarius should weigh about 1.82 grams (1/180 lb.). Though a broad survey of Gallienus' gold will reveal many pieces that fall uncomfortably in-between these ideal weights, all seven pieces in this offering, including the two multiple aureus medallions, support the prospect that Gallienus' standard aureus was struck at 90 to the pound.



196 2,5:1





196

- 196 Medallion of 8 aurei circa 265-266, 29.67 g. IMP GALLIENVS – PIVS FEL AVG GERM Head l., wearing wreath of reeds. Rev. CONCORD·P·R·ET·MILIT Two clasped hands; all within laurel wreath closed by round shield. RIC –. C –. Gneecchi – Toynbee –. Cf. Göbl, MIR 36, 700 (medallion of 10 aurei).

Apparently unique and unpublished. An extremely important medallion, one of the largest of Gallienus in existence, bearing a very appealing portrait.

A few minor marks and an insignificant edge nick at six o'clock on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine 300'000

Without question this is one of the most impressive and important Roman gold medallions to have survived antiquity. Not only is it apparently unique and of extraordinary size, but its portrait is of remarkable style, representing the apex of Gallienus' "classical renaissance".

It belongs to a single emission late in his reign that seems to have followed his initiation into the most important of all Greek occult rituals, the Eleusinian Mysteries. This portrait style occurs only on ceremonial gold pieces and large bronze medallions. The most striking aspect of the portrait is its style, which arguably is the best achieved in Gallienus' 15-year reign. The 'binio' that proceeds, lot 196, is of the same issue.

There can be little doubt that the dies of this series either were cut by the same master, or at the very least were derived from his prototype. Indeed, it is surprising that this die cutter has not been singled out and named (perhaps the "Eleusinian Master"), as his work is virtually beyond comparison in this troubled era. In addition to style points, this bust type captures interest because it is left-facing and is wreathed with grain ears.

Determining the date of this issue is no easy task, as Gallienus' reign is one of the most difficult to comprehend. Even his coinage, when inscribed with tribunician dates, is often contradictory, and thus the internal chronology of his reign is not well understood. This issue must fall near the end of his reign, c. 265-268. If it is associated with the enigmatic INT VRB bronzes with the GENIVS P.R. obverse bearing a portrait of Gallienus in the guise of the Genius of the Roman People, then it probably belongs in 266 or 268. Kent, in *Roman Coins*, prefers a date of c. 267.

Göbl, in his posthumously published corpus on this period, argues for a date of c. 265 on the strength of the Eleusinian Mysteries connection. He cites an inscription in which Gallienus reformed rules for the marketplace that served Eleusinian initiates. It is dated to his 14<sup>th</sup> tribunician, which perhaps began in August, 265 or simply ran the length of 266 (theories vary). The nature of the inscription presumes the emperor's presence in Athens at that time, which is not opposed by any other evidence. In about 265 Gallienus delegated the war against Postumus to his subordinate, the future rebel Aureolus, which allows a window for his visit to Athens between his departure from Gaul and the Gothic invasion of late 267 or early 268.

The reverse of this medallion, inscribed CONCORD. P. R. ET. MILIT, is most unusual, as it calls for harmony between the Roman people (*Populus Romanus*) and the army (*Militarium*). Often inscriptions on Roman coins and medallions will honour, or call for the harmony of the senate and the people or the emperor and the army, but this combination is quite irregular.

Roman interest in the secretive Eleusinian Mysteries had a long history: Cicero, Augustus and Marcus Aurelius had been initiated, and Claudius attempted to move the rituals from Eleusis to Rome. The most famous Roman benefactor to the Mysteries, Hadrian, was initiated to the lower grade of *mystes* in 125, and achieved the higher grade of *epoptes* ('one who has seen') on his visit to Athens in 128. With this in mind it should not escape our attention that the composition of Gallienus' portrait on this medallion is almost Hadrianic, which may have been purposeful due to their Eleusinian connection.

The Great Mysteries of Eleusis drew participants and onlookers from throughout the western world. The final rituals required utmost secrecy, which is remarkable considering up to three thousand could be seated in the hall of initiation (the *Telesterion*), and the event occurred every year. Yet few who attended even spoke of it, out of respect, and out of fear of the penalties for doing so.

Central to the Mysteries was Demeter's search for her daughter Persephone, who had been taken by Pluto to his personal domain, Hades. Upon discovering her daughter's absence, Demeter, goddess of the earth, abandoned the pleasures of Mt. Olympus and descended to earth to commence the search (while there she was aided by the king of Eleusis). Demeter's absence brought what threatened to be an eternal winter on earth, and this required divine intervention. Persephone was allowed to return, but only on the condition that she return to Hades every winter to serve as the grim spouse of Pluto.

The core of the Demeter-Persephone myth, and the initiation ritual of the Mysteries, was first the value of devotion, and second, the hope one gains in the confirmation of an afterlife. No doubt in these troubled times such messages interested Gallienus and his wife, Salonina (who, along with the philosopher Plotinus, was his companion in the arts and related pursuits). Considering Gallienus had lost his father and both sons in recent years, the rituals may have been especially meaningful to his personal life experience.

(continues)





196 2,5:1



The Mysteries comprised two annual events devoted to Demeter and Persephone, but also involved Iachus-Dionysus. The major ritual of the *Eleusinia*, for Persephone's descent into Hades, was celebrated at Eleusis in September; the minor ritual, for Persephone's emergence from Hades, was celebrated in the Athenian suburb of Agrae in or about February.

All initiates on procession to Eleusis wore crowns of myrtle, and had Demeter foremost in their minds. On this medallion Gallienus wears an elaborate crown of grain, which, if the Eleusinian connection is factual, must be meant to represent Demeter and Persephone, goddesses inextricably tied to the harvests and the seasons. On other medallions and coins Gallienus had assimilated himself with Hercules, Mercury and the Genius of the Roman People, and to this list we may add Demeter.

Since certain gold pieces from this emission bear the unusual obverse inscription GALLIENAE AVGVSTAE, many consider it a defining feature of the coinage. Some have speculated that it was a mint master's insult to Gallienus for his effeminacy, and that it was changed to the usual nominative case when the emperor took offence. If effeminacy was intended, it certainly would have been on the instructions of Gallienus, who might have believed it appropriate for an association with Demeter, who, after all, was a goddess.

Others suggest GALLIENAE AVGVSTAE represents a seldom-used form of the vocative case, which would qualify it as an acclamation of the emperor. This is possible, as Gallienus seems to have introduced the concept of inscriptions in cases other than the nominative or dative, including a series of small bronze medallions on which his name is rendered GALLIENVM.



- 197 Quinarius circa 260–268, 1.76 g. IMP GALLIENVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. ORIENS AVG Pax walking l., holding whip and palm. RIC 113 var. C 696. Vagi 2302. Calicó –. Rare. Good extremely fine 5'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.11.1997, 192.

#### Valerian II Caesar, 256 – 257/8



- 198 Aureus circa 256, 2.45 g. P C L VALERIANVS NOB CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. PRINC – IPI IV – VENTVTIS Prince, in military attire, standing l., holding standard in r. hand and spear in l. RIC 11. C Saloninus 79. R. Delbrueck, *Das römische Herrscherbild*, Band 2, *Münzbildnisse von Maximinus bis Carinus*, pl.13, 21 (this coin). Vagi 2345. Calicó 3698. Extremely rare. Ragged edge and a few minor marks, otherwise extremely fine 40'000

Ex Rollin et Feuadent, *Pontion d' Amécourt*, 1887; Rollin et Feuadent, *Montagu*, 1896, 644; Sotheby's 10.11.1972, The Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, 180 and Leu 71, 1997, 516 sales.

When Valerian I and Gallienus came to the throne in 253, the Roman world was in great disorder. Father and son committed themselves to solving Rome's problems, which at the time included enemy incursions on the Rhine, the Danube and the Euphrates. Valerian I went east to battle the Sasanian king Shapur, and Gallienus remained in the west with his hands full. Though the joint rulership of father and son constituted an instant dynasty, Gallienus found hope for its continuation in his two sons, Valerian II and Saloninus. Gallienus wasted no time in training his eldest son, Valerian II and raising him to rank of Caesar in 256, after which he fought against Germans on the Rhine. There the young Caesar seems to have performed well, and in 258 he accompanied his father on a more urgent campaign against the Goths on the Danube, where he died. We do not know the cause of the death of Valerian II – natural causes or battle injuries are likely possibilities – but its effect was devastating on his proud father Gallienus, who then raised his youngest son, Saloninus, to the rank of Caesar in his place.



## Saloninus as Caesar, 255 – 259



199

- 199 Aureus, Commagene circa 258–259, 3.65 g. SALON VALERIANVS NOB CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. SPES PVBLICA Spes standing l. raising skirt with l. and presenting flower. RIC –. C –. Vagi 2357. Calicó 3693a (this coin illustrated).

An apparently unique type of an exceedingly rare gold issue.

Minor scratch in obverse field at nine o'clock,  
otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine

40'000

Ex Hess-Leu 1963, 230 and Hirsch 193, 1997, 109 sales.

The sudden death of Valerian II on the Danubian front must have come as grim news to the teenage Saloninus: not only had he lost his elder brother, but it also meant that he would be called to arms. As one might expect, Gallienus wasted little time in raising Saloninus – his only remaining son – to the rank of Caesar, for he was occupied on the Danube at the same time: the Alemanni launched an invasion of Italy late in 258. The Empire's difficulties were so great that two emperors would not suffice, leadership was required on the three active fronts: the Rhine, the Danube and the Euphrates. Saloninus was dispatched to Cologne, where he established court and was in position to react quickly to incursions along the Rhine. Aiding the young Caesar were the praetorian prefect Silvanus and the German governor Postumus. In 260 Germans crossed the Rhine en masse, with the Alemanni pillaging Gaul and the Franks striking even further south into Spain. To make matters worse, all were probably aware by now that Valerian I, the senior emperor, had been captured by the Sasanians. Isolated and inexperienced, Saloninus stood little chance of retaining the loyalty of the disheartened Roman armies, who in opposition hailed the governor Postumus emperor. Saloninus raised himself to the rank of Augustus during a siege of Cologne by Postumus, which soon ended in the young emperor's execution, and the creation of a separatist 'Romano-Gallic Empire' by Postumus.



199 3:1



Postumus, 260 – 269



200



- 200 Aureus, Cologne (?) circa 262, 6.17 g. POSTVMVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VOT – PVBL Postumus standing l. in quadriga facing, holding branch in r. hand and sceptre in l.; beside him, Victory standing l., holding palm. On either side of the quadriga l. and r., Virtus and Mars; in the background, two citizens' heads on the l. and one on the r. RIC –. C –. B. Schulte, Die Goldprägung der gallischen Kaiser von Postumus bis Tetricus, 30 var. (this reverse die, but on the obverse draped and cuirassed bust r.). Vagi –. Calicó –.

An apparently unique variety of a type of the highest rarity,  
only two specimens known. Well-centred on full flan with  
a beautiful portrait and a finely executed reverse composition.

Extremely fine

60'000

Ex Leu sale 61, 1995, 297 (illustrated on the cover page).

Marcus Cassius Latinus Postumus, usurper of imperial power in the third century and one of the group known as the "thirty tyrants", is portrayed in a favourable light by Trebellius Pollio in the *Historia Augusta*, where the historian even attempts to free him of all responsibility for the death of Augustus Saloninus. This is how Pollio recounts the story: "He was valiant in war, fair in times of peace and serious in all situations in life. Thus, when Gallienus sent his son Saloninus to Gallia, believing in these qualities, he entrusted him to Postumus in the belief that the latter would guard his life and watch over his every action and behaviour. According to the majority, he did not keep his word and subsequently had Saloninus killed in order to seize power for himself." However, this behaviour is not in keeping with Postumus' character and as such, the following version of events is more likely: The Gauls, who hated Gallienus and could not bear to be ruled by a child, had Saloninus killed by soldiers so that they could declare the emperor regent to be a fully-fledged emperor. What is known, however, is that whilst Gallienus spent his time in taverns and engaged in revelry, aged beyond his years through his love for a barbarian woman, Postumus, when he had been elected by the troops and citizens, spent seven years dedicating himself to improving conditions in Gallia. Postumus actually governed Gallia for ten years, not seven, as the coins which were issued at the time testify and as Eutropius (IX 10) also confirms. Once he had become emperor (sometime between 258 and 260), Postumus successfully defended the empire's eastern borders. His victory over Laelianus' rebels at *Magontiacum* proved fatal for him, and Postumus was assassinated by his own soldiers 'due to his excessive strictness' (also confirmed by Pollio), in that he refused to allow them to sack the city.



200 3:1





## Claudius Gothicus, 268 – 270



201

- 201 Medallion of 8 aurei, Mediolanum circa 268, 38.83 g. IMP C M AVRL CLAVDIVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r., aegis on l. shoulder and *toga palmata* on r. Cuirass ornamented with Emperor on horse r., spearing fallen enemy. Rev. CONCORD – IA EX – ERCITVM Concordia standing facing, head l., holding standard surmounted by legionary eagles in each hand. RIC –, cf. 1 (medallion of six aurei). C –. Gneecchi –, cf. p. 9, 1 and pl. 3, 8 (medallion of six aurei). J. Lafaurie, RN 1958, p. 101, 7-10 and pl. 8, 9 (these dies). H. Huvelin / J. Lafaurie, *Trésor d' un navire Romain trouvé en Méditerranée nouvelles découvertes* in *Bulletin de la Soc. Française de Numismatique* 1975, p. 719. Vagi 2376.

Very rare and among the finest specimens known of this prestigious issue.

Struck on a very broad flan and with an unusually well-detailed and pleasant portrait.

Flan crack and a few very minor surface marks,

otherwise about extremely fine

95'000

The final year of Gallienus' reign was not altogether different from any of the fourteen years before: a Gothic invasion and a rebellion within the army, both of which had to be addressed simultaneously. In this case the difference was in the magnitude of the events, for we are told that the Gothic invasion of late 267 or early 268 involved 2,000 vessels and 320,000 soldiers. After the Goths had pillaged Greece, Thrace, Macedon, and even parts of Asia Minor, they suffered a crushing defeat near Naïssus where perhaps as many as 50,000 of them died in a single day.

The victory is traditionally given to Claudius II 'Gothicus', but many scholars now attribute it to Gallienus. If the defeat was the work of Gallienus, then he was not afforded the opportunity to follow it up, because a rebellion at Milan by the commander Aureolus commanded his attention. This was a dangerous situation because Aureolus had taken control of Milan, one of the empire's most strategic cities, and had allied himself with the Gallic rebel Postumus. (We are certain of this because during his revolt Aureolus struck coins at Milan in Postumus' name.)

By the time Gallienus arrived in northern Italy, the siege of Milan seems to have been initiated by the commander of the Dalmatian Cavalry, the future emperor Claudius II. Upon arriving in northern Italy, Gallienus assumed command of the siege. His reasons were certainly personal: Aureolus was a trusted commander whom Gallienus had already forgiven for an earlier revolt, perhaps in 262. Regardless, the takeover must have upset Claudius, who probably suspected Gallienus had arrived at the pivotal moment to capture the glory for himself.

Claudius then conspired with other officers, including the future emperor Aurelian, to murder Gallienus. The deed was achieved as Gallienus emerged from his tent upon hearing a false alarm indicating a counter-offensive. After the promise of a liberal bribe, the soldiers hailed Claudius their new emperor, and he continued the siege until Aureolus had been ousted and executed. It is possible – even likely – that these large gold medallions were struck to help pay for the accession promises Claudius had made outside the walls of Milan shortly after he murdered Gallienus.

One of the first measures taken by Claudius was to improve the purity and the weight of the aureus. They had been struck at the rate of 80 to 90 per pound for most of Gallienus' reign, and Claudius raised the standard to the 60 to 70 per pound range. These massive gold medallions probably were intended as eight-aureus pieces, and if so they were based upon a weight slightly heavier than the low end of Claudius' range. The weight increase achieved by Claudius is easy to recognize when his eight-aureus medallions are compared to the eight-aureus medallion of Gallienus, for there is about a 30 percent difference in their intrinsic value.



201 1,5:1





202

- 202 Medallion of 8 aurei, Mediolanum circa 268, 38.48 g. IMP C M AVRL CLAVDIVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r., aegis on l. shoulder and *toga palmata* on r. Cuirass ornamented with Emperor on horse r., spearing fallen enemy. Rev. CONCORD – IA EX – ERCITVM Concordia standing facing, head l., holding standard surmounted by legionary eagles in each hand RIC –, cf. 1 (medallion of six aurei). C –. Gneecchi –, cf. p. 9, 1 and pl. 3, 8 (medallion of six aurei). J. Lafaurie, RN 1958, p. 101, 7-10 and pl. 8, 9 (these dies). H. Huvelin / J. Lafaurie, *Trésor d' un navire Romain trouvé en Méditerranée nouvelles découvertes* in *Bulletin de la Soc. Française de Numismatique* 1975, p. 719. Vagi 2376. Very rare. About very fine 30'000

Ex M&M 52, 1975, 740 and Lanz 72, 1995, 797 sales.

### Victorinus, 269 – 271



203

- 203 Aureus, Cologne late 269, 5.34 g. IMP CAES VICTORINVS AVG Laureate bust r., drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. COME – S AVG Victory standing l., holding wreath and palm-branch. RIC 94. C 16. Schulte 5a and pl. 17 (this coin). Jameson II 461 (this coin). Elmer, *Die Münzprägung der gallischen Kaiser in Köln, Trier und Mailand*, 685. Vagi 2573. Calicó 3811.

Very rare. Light edge smoothing, few minor marks and a small pin-prick in reverse field, good very fine 30'000

Ex Rollin et Feuarent 1887, Ponton d' Amécourt, 548; Naville III, 1922, Sir Arthur Evans Collection, 132; M&M 12, 1953, 848; NFA XXVI, 1991, 293 and Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 159 sales. From the Jameson collection.

M. Piavonius Victorinus was the penultimate usurper in Gallia during the period of military anarchy. He was born to a noble family and had a brilliant military career, culminating in his becoming Postumus' tribune and colleague on the IV consulate. After Postumus' death during the siege of Mogontiacum, Victorinus was declared emperor of the independent realm of the north-west. The *Storia Augusta*, which lists him as one of the 'thirty tyrants' (or rather thirty usurpers or anti-emperors), records this brief political parable: "When Lollianus was eventually killed, Victorinus found himself the only figure in power, but this was not to last. He wasted his time chasing and molesting the wives of both soldiers and officers until one day, in the vicinity of Agrippina (Colonia) he was assassinated as the result of a plot organised by a clerk whose wife he had raped."



# Tetricus I, 271 – 274



- 204 Aureus, Cologne or Trier circa 272, 4.73 g. IMP TETR – ICVS AV – G Laureate and cuirassed bust l., holding spear over l. shoulder and bearing round shield over l. Rev. VIRTVS AVG Emperor standing l., holding globe in r. hand and parazonium in l.; at his feet l., captive seated l. RIC –. C –. Schulte 34a and pl. 24 (this coin). Elmer 820. J. Lafaurie, *L'empire Gaulois*, ANRW II, 1975, pl. 5, 100 (this coin). *Wealth of the Ancient World* 146 (this coin). Vagi 2587. Calicó 3920 (this coin illustrated).

A unique variety of an extremely rare issue. An unusual and impressive portrait of great beauty in the finest style of the period. Area of weakness on reverse,

otherwise extremely fine 35'000

Ex Rollin and Feuadent, *Vicomte de Quelen Collection*, 1799; Bourgey 1925, E. Récamier Collection; Sotheby's 1974, J.H. Barnes Collection, 39; Sotheby's 19.6.1990, Nelson Bunker Hunt Collection, 146 and Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 160 sales. From the S. Weintraub collection.

Following the sudden and unexpected murder of Victorinus – a valiant emperor who preserved the Romano-Gallic Empire from disintegration – the political scenario in the western provinces became precarious. Stepping into the void, if we believe the notoriously unreliable *Historia Augusta*, was Victoria, mother of the slain Victorinus. Through various means she was able to have Tetricus I, who probably was her grandson, hailed emperor at Bordeaux in 271. The once strong and independent empire founded more than a decade ago by Postumus began to split at the seams under Tetricus, who associated his eponymous son with his regime. In 272 the mighty emperor Aurelian returned to Europe after having just brought a much stronger separatist empire in Palmyra to its knees. He then set his sights on recovering the western provinces. Finally, in the spring of 274, the armies of Aurelian and Tetricus met at Châlons-sur-Marne, where the central armies defeated the Gallic legions and the separatist empire was absorbed back into the central empire. Historians have questioned if the battle was legitimate or merely orchestrated based upon an earlier covert agreement by Tetricus to surrender. Afterward, Tetricus was treated with great honor by Aurelian, who restored his family's senatorial status and appointed him governor of Lucania, where he is said to have lived to an advanced age.



- 205 Aureus, Cologne (?) circa 272–273, 4.01 g. IMP C TETRICVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r., drapery over l. shoulder. Rev. P M TR P III COS II P P Emperor, in military attire, standing r., resting l. foot on globe and holding inverted spear in r. hand and parazonium in l. RIC 7 and pl. 14, 16 (these dies). C 130. Schulte 50a (this coin). J. Lafaurie, *L'empire Gaulois*, ANRW II, 1975, pl. 5, 107 (this coin). Jameson 278 (this coin). Vagi 2587. Calicó 3893.

Extremely rare. Reddish tone and a pleasant portrait, good very fine / very fine 16'000

Ex Naville III, Sir Arthur Evans Collection, 1922, 134; NFA XVI, 1985, 525 and Spink, *The Dr. Anton C.R. Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins*, 2000, 46 sales. From the Jameson and John Evans collections.



- 206 Aureus, Cologne circa 272–273, 4.42 g. IMP C TETRICVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS AVG Virtus seated l. on cuirass, holding laurel-branch and spear. RIC 39. C 202. Schulte 21a. J. Lafaurie, *L'empire Gaulois*, ANRW II, 1975, pl. Vagi 2587. Calicó 3916. Extremely rare. Scratches on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 20'000

Ex Sotheby's 10.11.1972, The Property of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 193 and Hirsch sale 204, 1999, 202 sales.

### Quintillus, July – September 270



- 207 Aureus, Mediolanum circa 270, 4.82 g. IMP C M AVR QVI – NTILLVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONC – ORD EXER Concordia standing l., holding standard in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in exergue, T. RIC 1 var. (laureate and draped bust). C 10 var. (laureate and draped bust). H. Huvelin and J. Lafaurie, *op. cit.* RN 1980, pl. 5, 50–52 (these dies). Vagi 2396. Calicó 3968 (this coin illustrated).

Extremely rare and unusually well preserved for this issue.  
An elegant portrait of excellent style. A few very minor marks,  
otherwise extremely fine 40'000

Ex Tkalec-Rauch 3, 1987, 425 and Sotheby's 8.7.1996, 156 sales.

Another of Rome's short-lived emperors of the late 3<sup>rd</sup> Century, Quintillus was doomed from the outset. He came to power late in the summer of 270 after his older brother, the popular and effective Claudius II 'Gothicus,' died of the plague. Unaware of the peril he faced, Quintillus quickly paid a donative to the soldiers in Italy, curried the support of the senate and began to strike coins to pay for his promises. Meanwhile, the Illyrian cavalry commander Aurelian was hard at work in the Balkans, overseeing the return of the large, vanquished Gothic army to its own territories beyond the Danube. Revered by his own soldiers, Aurelian was hailed emperor in Sirmium, and when news of this reached Italy, Quintillus' soldiers abandoned his cause. Quintillus committed suicide after a reign which seemingly lasted two or three months. During that short time he struck aurei of magnificent style and careful manufacture, no doubt with the futile aim of buying the loyalty of his army.

### Aurelian, 270 – 275



- 208 Aureus circa 274, 4.25 g. IMP CL DOM AVRE - LIANVS PF AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. V – IRTVS – AVG Mars walking r., holding spear in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder; at his feet, captive. RIC 182. C 269. R. Göbl, *Die Münzprägung des Kaisers Aurelianus*, qO 2. Vagi 2403. Calicó 4048. Extremely fine 5'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 74, 1996, 451 (illustrated on the cover page).





- 209 Aureus, Mediolanum circa 270–275, 4.00 g. IMP C D AVRE – LIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. MARTI – P – A – CIFERO Mars standing l., holding branch in r. hand and transverse spear in l. RIC –. C –. R. Göbl, *Die Münzprägung des Kaisers Aurelianus*, 12i (O 14 / R 148). Huvelin and Lafaurie, *op. cit.* RN 1980, 77 (these dies). Vagi 2403. Calicó 4014 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare, only two specimens listed by Göbl. Flan crack, otherwise extremely fine 5'000

Ex Triton sale III, 2000, 1164.

#### Tacitus, 275 – 276



- 210 Heavy aureus, Cyzicus circa 275–276, 6.42 g. IMP C M C L TACITVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTU – S MILITVM Emperor galloping on horse r., holding spear in r. hand. RIC 179 var. (radiate, draped and cuirassed). C –. S. Estiot, *L'or romain entre crise et restitution, 270-276 Apr. J.-C.*, 111 (this coin). Cf. Vagi 2428. Calicó 4122 var.

Very rare. Well struck on very broad flan, extremely fine 18'000

Ex Tkalec sale 1996, 245.

The weight standards of the aureus under Tacitus and Florian are of some interest, and in a sense the point is well illustrated by the six lots in this collection – four of Tacitus and two of Florian. An informative study by West (ANS NNM 94) concluded that both emperors coined aurei at 70 per pound in some of their mints, but at 60 or even 50 per pound in other of their mints. A review of these pieces indicates that the standard aureus of both emperors likely was 70 per pound (lots 212, 213 and 215), but that in one instance it has slid to 75 per pound (lot 211), and in two other cases they were coined at the heavy weight of 50 per pound (this coin, and lot 214). Although we can be certain the four lighter pieces are simply aurei, the latter two are at the very least 'heavy aurei', or quite possibly are meant to be 'binios' (1½ aurei) of the 70 per pound aureus, as they only miss that mark by ten percent, and seemingly that is an acceptable margin of error in this period.



- 211 Aureus, Siscia circa 275–276, 4.36 g. IMP C M CL TACITVS P AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE AE – TERNAE Roma seated l. on throne, holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; below seat, shield. RIC 74. C 112. Estiot 43 (this coin). Vagi 2429. Calicó 4088. Rare. A very small scrape over eye on obverse and scratch in field on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 12'000

Ex Sotheby's 28.10.1993, 1701 and Triton I, 1997, 1633 sales.



- 212 Aureus, Antioch circa 275–276, 4.74 g. IMP C M C L TACITVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE – AET – ERNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory on globe on r. hand and spear in l.; beside her, shield. In exergue, S C. RIC 78 var. (without S C). C 116 var. Estiot 117 (this coin). Vagi 2429. Calicó 4096. Rare. Light marks on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 12'000

Ex Leu sale 57, 1993, 306.



- 213 Aureus, Serdica circa 275–276, 4.67 g. IMP C M C L TACITVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE – AET – ERNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory on globe on r. hand and long sceptre in l.; beside her, shield. In exergue, S C. RIC 75. C 116. Estiot 102 (this coin). Vagi 2429. Calicó 4096. Rare. Light surface marks, otherwise extremely fine 12'000

Ex Oslomynthandel 41, 1998, 1299.



Florian, June – August 276



214



- 214 Heavy aureus, Cyzicus circa 276, 6.54 g. IMP C M C L TACITVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONSERVATOR AVG Sol in quadriga l., holding reins in r. hand and whip in l. RIC 18. C 17. Ponton d' Amécourt 569 (these dies). Estiot 107 (these dies). Vagi 2441. Calicó 4127.

Extremely rare. Perfectly struck in high relief and with a very appealing portrait.

Almost Fdc 65'000

Ex NAC sale 11, 1998, 515.

Marcus Antonius Florianus, brother of Tacitus on his mother's side, accompanied the emperor in the office of *praefectus praetorii* as he set out for Asia Minor to fight the Goths. When his step-brother died, Florian succeeded him on the imperial rank, hailed by the troops. However, he died shortly afterwards at Tarsus in 276, while preparing for the war against Probus (set up against him by Syrian legions). He was most likely killed by his own soldiers, who had been struck by a pestilence. Notwithstanding the information we have from sources that depict him bald, Florian is represented on the coin with short hair, evenly spread on the skullcap, a similarly short beard, and an expression exuding strength and determination.

For a discussion of the weight of this gold piece, see the comment following lot 210.



214 3:1





215

- 215 Aureus, Ticinum circa 276, 4.64 g. VIRTVS F – LORIANI A – VG Laureate and cuirassed bust l., holding spear in r. hand and round shield over l. shoulder. Rev. VIRTV – S AV – GVSTI Mars advancing r. carrying spear in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder; before him, bound captive. RIC 24. C 106. Cf. Kent-Hirmer 542 (this obverse die). Estiot 6a (this coin). Vagi 2442. Calicó 4135 (this coin illustrated).

Extremely rare. An exceptional portrait of great intensity, extremely fine 65'000

Ex NFA XXII, 1989, 110 and Sotheby's 8.7.1996, 159 sales.

The designs and inscriptions of this aureus are boastful and militant. This is among the earliest regular-issue coins to depict the emperor with shield and spear, for the popularity of that design, introduced largely by Gallienus, had since waned, and did not achieve prominence again until the reign of Florian's successor, Probus. The inscriptions on both sides speak to the valor (*virtus*) of the emperor, and as such match up well with his armored bust and the charging Mars. The reverse type clearly is copied from the most common aurei of Aurelian, which were struck in large quantities and no doubt were well distributed among the soldiers. To gain proper perspective on this exceptional aureus, we should pause and examine earlier aurei, such as those of Hadrian, to understand just how fully militarized the empire had become late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century.



215 3:1





Probus, 276 – 282



216



- 216 Heavy aureus. Siscia 276, 6.09 g. IMP C M AVR P – ROBVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SECVRITAS SAECVLI Securitas seated l., holding sceptre in r. hand and raising l. hand to head; in exergue, SIS. RIC 594. C 629. Vagi 2449. Calicó 4198a.

Extremely fine 12'500

Ex Leu sale 61, 1995, 298.



217



217

- 217 Aureus. Siscia 276, 5.32 g. IMP C M AVR P – ROBVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SECVRITAS SAECVLI Securitas seated l., holding sceptre in r. hand and raising l. hand to head. RIC 594 var. (SIS in exergue). C 629 var. (SIS in exergue). Vagi 2449. Calicó –.

About extremely fine 8'000

Ex Stack's sale 3.12.1996, The Michael F. Price Collection, 238.



218



- 218 Heavy aureus, Serdica circa 276–282, 6.30 g. IMP C M AVR PROBVS – AVG Helmeted and cuirassed bust l., holding spear in r. hand and shield over l. shoulder. Rev. VICTORIAE Victory in slow quadriga l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l.; in exergue, AVG. RIC 831. C 781. Vagi 2449. Calicó 4222.

Very rare. An excellent portrait sharply struck in high relief, Fdc 28'000

Ex NAC sale 11, 1998, 516.

Inconsistency of weight standards applied to Imperial gold began in the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> Century and continued without respite until in 324 Constantine's 72-per-pound solidus supplanted the aureus, which from then onward was only struck for the occasional ceremony. It has already been observed in the commentary following lot 210 that three or four standards existed for the 'aureus' under Tacitus and Florian. Here, with 15 gold pieces from the reign of Probus, the family of Carus and Julian of Pannonia, we have another opportunity to study what standards, if any, were used. Excepting lot 219 (a 'quinarius'), their weights are as follows: 6.30, 6.09, 5.45, 5.36, 5.32, 5.24, 5.00, 4.93, 4.85, 4.81, 4.70, 4.68, 4.67, 4.31, 4.23. Even those who are unfamiliar with the various benchmarks of aureus standards, it is easy to see that there are few natural breaks in the range, and that these 'aurei' were struck haphazardly at weights often only approximating a standard. This small census shows that 11 of the 15 pieces were struck within the range of 60 and 70 per pound; but only about half of these 11 coins adhered reasonably to the benchmark standards of 60 and 70 per pound. The rest floated somewhere uncomfortably in between. The four pieces that fell outside the range divided equally: two of Probus were notably high (this piece and lot 216), and two of Carinus were quite low (lots 226 and 227), falling even below the 75-per-pound mark. This particular coin – the heaviest in the census – is clearly an unusual striking



219

- 219 Quinarius circa 276–282, 2.63 g. PROB – VS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FIDES MI – LITVM Fides standing l., holding standard in each hand. RIC 147. C –. Vagi 2450.

Exceedingly rare, very few specimens known of this denomination.

Light scratch on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

20'000

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 450.

### Carus, 282 – 283



220

- 220 Aureus, Siscia circa 282–283, 4.93 g. DEO ET DOMINO CARO AVGVSTVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTVS Victory standing l. on globe, holding wreath in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder. RIC 96. C 86. Kent-Hirmer pl. 144, 556 var. (bust cuirassed). Vagi 2472. Calicó 4287 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. A superb specimen struck on a very large flan, good extremely fine

20'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 1020.

On this rare and superb aureus we may witness the early phase of an important transition in the Roman Empire. Historians have long attempted to understand the empire in terms of the stages of development. Sometimes the stages are precise and focused (such as dynasties), and other times they are more general, such as determining the point at which the empire formally divided between East and West. One broad parameter that often is applied to the empire is its evolution from a *principate* to a *dominate*. The former refers to the early period in which emperors were not considered divine while alive, even though they often were consecrated after their death. The latter applies to the subsequent period, beginning late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century, when the office of emperor often takes on semi-divine dimensions. On this aureus the inscription DEO ET DOMINO CARO AVGVSTVS identifies Carus as *Deus et Dominus*, or "god and lord." This brazen identification was first used prominently by the great Aurelian, who also claimed the high distinction *restitutor orbis*, "restorer of the world." In some cases Aurelian inflated the already grandiose *Deus et Dominus* to the highly presumptuous DEO ET DOMINO NATO, meaning "born God and master." This trend advanced through the next five decades and finally took a firm hold later in the Constantinian era, when coin inscriptions typically began with the abbreviation D.N. (*Dominus Noster* = "our lord"), not the IMP (*Imperator*) of earlier times. Coins have proven to be among the most important, abundant and reliable pieces of evidence for historians attempting to more clearly define the difference decline of the *principate* and the rise of the *dominate*.





- 221 Aureus, Siscia circa 282–283, 5.24 g. IMP C M AVR CA – RVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VI – CTORIAE AVG G FEL Victory advancing l., holding open wreath in both hands; in field l., shield on base. RIC 98. C 95 var. Vagi 2471. Calicó 4291.  
Rare. Perfectly struck in high relief, Fdc 24'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 673.



- 222 Aureus, Cyzicus circa 282–283, 4.67 g. IMP C M AVR CARVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ORIEN – S CARI AVG Sol standing l., holding whip in l. hand and raising r. hand; in exergue, crescent. RIC –. C –. Calicó –.  
Apparently unique and unrecorded. Two nicks in reverse field,  
otherwise extremely fine 9'500

Ex Stack's sale 3.12.1996, , The Michael F. Price Collection, 239.



- 223 Aureus, Cyzicus circa 282–283, 5.36 g. IMP C M AVR CARVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS CARI INVICTI AVG Hercules standing r., leaning on club with lion-skin on rock; in exergue, K. RIC 117. C 118. Vagi 2471. Calicó 4294.  
Rare. Good very fine 6'500

### Numerian as Caesar, 282 – 283



224



224

- 224 Aureus, Antioch early 283, 5.45 g. IMP C M AVR NVMERIANVS NOB C Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONSER – VAT AVGGG Sol standing l., holding globe in l. hand and raising r.; in exergue, SMA. RIC 373. C 13 var. Vagi 2507. Calicó 4303 (this coin illustrated).

Very rare. Some abrasions, otherwise extremely fine 10'000

Ex Auctiones 13, 1983, 728 and Leu 77, 2000, 645 sales.

### Carinus as Caesar, 282 – 283



225



- 225 Aureus, Siscia circa 282–283, 5.00 g. M AVR CARINVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust l., with spear pointing l. and round shield over l. shoulder. Rev. ROMAE AET – ERNAE Roma seated l. on shield, holding wreath in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 189. C 114. Vagi 2485. Calicó 4356.

Very rare. An extraordinary military portrait in the finest style of the period.

An unobtrusive nick on the border at six o'clock on reverse,  
otherwise good extremely fine

25'000

Ex NAC sale 10, 1997, 685.

Carinus is, perhaps, one of the underrated evil-doers of the Roman Empire. If the words of the historian Eutropius are of any value, this emperor's reputation was terrible: "He put to death very many innocent men on false charges, seduced the wives of nobles and even ruined those of his school fellows who had taunted him at school, even with trivial banter." (*Breviarium* IX.19). The histories are persistent about his seemingly insatiable desire for women. The *Historia Augusta* reports that he was married and divorced nine times, and that he abandoned some of his wives while they were pregnant. We must, of course temper our view, as it is a fact that history is written by the victor. Considering Carinus was overthrown by Diocletian, who subsequently ruled with unquestioned supremacy for two decades, we might suspect that Carinus was unfairly maligned to add greater justification for the revolt of Diocletian who, after all, was little more than just another usurper when his army hailed him emperor against the legitimate emperor Carinus.



226



- 226 Aureus, Siscia circa 282–283, 4.23 g. M AVR CARINVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – RIA AVG Victory standing l. on globe, holding wreath in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder. RIC 190. C 139. Vagi 2485. Calicó 4372.

Rare. About extremely fine 11'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 1024.





227



227

- 227 Aureus, Antioch circa 283, 4.31 g. IMP C M AVR CARINVS NOB C Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR - IAE - AVGG Victory advancing r., holding wreath and palm-branch. RIC —, cf. Carus 122 and Numerian 374 (this reverse die). C —. NAC & Spink-Taisei, The Gilbert Steinberg Collection, 733. Vagi 2485. Calicó 4393 (this coin illustrated).

Exceedingly rare, apparently only the second specimen known.

Minor surface abrasion, otherwise extremely fine

7'000

Ex NAC sale 8, 1995, 925.

This important new discovery almost completes the 283 Antiochene gold coinage of Carus Aug. and Carinus and Numerian Caes. and Augg., only Carus Aug. waiting to be found with this reverse. Carinus Caes. is shown with *ornamenta consularia* as he was *cos i* with his father this year, indicating that it was not until a little while after the capture of Ctesiphon, the event the coin clearly celebrates, that he and his brother were raised by Carus to the Augustate, perhaps simultaneously.

### Carinus as Augustus, 283 – 285



228



- 228 Aureus circa 283–285, 4.70 g. IMP CARINVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTU - S AVG Hercules standing r., leaning on club with lion-skin set on rock. RIC 233. C 160. Vagi 2491. Calicó 4394.

Rare. An enjoyable portrait and a pleasant reverse composition, extremely fine

15'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 697.

### Magnia Urbica, wife of Carinus



229



229

- 229 Aureus, Siscia circa 283, 4.81 g. MAGNIAE V - RBICAE AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. CONCOR - DI - A AVGG Concordia seated l., holding patera and cornucopia. RIC 348. C 1. Jameson 304 (these dies). Vagi 2498. Calicó 4407.

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition. Struck in high relief with an attractive portrait, brilliant good extremely fine

25'000

Ex CNG sale 36, 1995, 2478.

Known principally from her coinage, Magnia Urbica is not mentioned by the ancient authors. She certainly was the wife of Carinus, whom she probably married in 283, as both of their busts appear on a quinarius and a gold medallion. However, considering she was one of nine wives the *Historia Augusta* reports Carinus to have had, we cannot be certain she is the natural mother of Carinus' son Nigrinian.



230

- 230 Aureus circa 283, 4.68 g. MAGNIA VR – BICA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENERI VICTRICI Venus standing r., holding up drapery at her l. shoulder and apple in l. hand. RIC 340. C 8. Kent-Hirmer pl. 146, 560. Vagi 2498. Calicó 4410.

Very rare. About extremely fine / extremely fine 18'000

Ex Bourgey 18.11.1957, R. de Castro Maya collection, 366; Leu 65, 1996, 473 and Leu 75, 1999, 1596 sales.

#### Julian I of Pannonia, October – December 284



231

- 231 Aureus, Siscia circa 284, 4.85 g. IMP C IVLIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERTAS PVBLICA Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in field r., large star. RIC 1. C 1. Vagi 2518. Calicó 4413.

Extremely rare. A minor abrasion in reverse field and a small nick on edge, otherwise good extremely fine / extremely fine 40'000

Ex Tkalec sale 1996, 254.

In 284 the Empire was in crisis: the 'dynasty' founded by Carus and his two sons in 282 had virtually collapsed, for not only had Carus died in 283 while campaigning against the Persians, but his youngest son, Numerian, who was leading the army back from the Persian front, died in the fall of 284. Remaining in power legitimately was the older brother, Carinus, who in the meantime had been ruling in the West. Following Numerian's murder, another commander, Diocles (the future emperor Diocletian), was hailed emperor in his place, and in opposition to Carinus in the West. Caught between these two rivals was a third commander, Julian of Pannonia, who then was governing the province of Venetia and determined to stake his claim. While keeping a wary eye on the approach of Diocletian, Carinus quickly dealt with the nearer usurper, Julian, whom he defeated early in 285. All of Julian's coins – billon antoniniani and gold aurei (of which perhaps thirty are known) – were struck at Siscia, the only mint-city under his control.



Diocletian, 284 – 305



- 232 Aureus, Antioch circa 284–286, 4.41 g. IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CONSERV – ATORI AVG Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at his feet on the l., O. In exergue, SMA. RIC 316. C 272. Depeyrot 1/1. Lukanc p. 225, 10. Vagi 2649. Calicó 4515 var. Extremely fine 7'500

The weight of this aureus, struck at Antioch not long after Diocletian's accession, is indicated by the Greek letter Omicron positioned at Jupiter's feet on the reverse. Omicron held the numerical equivalency of 70, and was understood to mean this aureus was struck at the weight of 1/70<sup>th</sup> of a pound of gold. In reality this piece falls short of its advertised weight by about four percent.



- 233 Aureus circa 289–290, 5.02 g. DIOCLETIAN – VS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI FVL – GE – RAT – ORI Jupiter standing l., head turned back, hurling thunderbolt at kneeling Titan; in exergue, P R. RIC 146. C 285. Depeyrot pl. 12, 6/8. Lukanc p. 221, 15. Vagi 2649. Calicó 4531 (this coin illustrated).

A very light scratch in obverse field, otherwise extremely fine 6'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.3.1996, 207.



- 234 Aureus, Cyzicus circa 290–292, 5.42 g. DIOCLETIANVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS IIII Emperor riding r., raising r. hand. RIC 288. C 55. Depeyrot 9/1. Lukanc p. 215, 4. Vagi 2649. Calicó 4446. Extremely fine 5'000

Ex Stack's sale 7.12.1994, 2012.



235

- 235 Quinarius circa 290–294, 2.10 g. IMP DIOCLETIANVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. IOVI C – ONS – E – RVAT AVGG Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 153. C 235. Depeyrot 2E/1. Lukanc p. 123, 1 and p. 260 (this coin listed). Vagi 2666.  
Very rare. Light scratches on reverse, otherwise good very fine 10'000

Ex Tkalec and Rauch 15/16.4. 1985, 365 and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton C. R. Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 69 sales.



236

- 236 Aureus, Antioch circa 293–295, 5.29 g. DIOCLETIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. CONSVL V – P P PRO COS Diocletian standing facing, head l., holding globe in r. hand and baton in l.; in exergue, ΣΜΑΣ. RIC V, 309 and VI, 5. C 49. Depeyrot 8/1. Lukanc p. 224, 3. Calicó 4438 (this coin illustrated).

Two light scratches on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine 4'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1172.



237

- 237 Aureus, Nicomedia circa 294, 5.30 g. DIOCLETIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONSE – RVATORI Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, ΣΜΝ. RIC 5a. C 251. Depeyrot 2/4. Lukanc p. 230, 2. Calicó 4494.

Good extremely fine 6'000

Ex Ponterio sale 74, 1995, 269.





238

- 238 Medallion of 2 1/2 aurei, Antioch circa 296, 13.29 g. IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONSVL VI – P P PRO COS Diocletian standing facing, head l., holding globe in r. hand and baton in l.; in exergue, SMA. RIC 1. C 50. Lukanc p. 121, 13 (one specimen cited). Gnecci p. 11, 2 and pl. 4, 9 (one specimen cited). Depeyrot p. 155.

Of the highest rarity, only the second specimen known and the only one in private hands (the other is in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France).

A small edge nick on obverse at nine o'clock and another on reverse at three o'clock, otherwise about extremely fine

95'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1171.

Though gold medallions were struck by earlier emperors – notably Gallienus and Claudius Gothicus – they became an essential element of maintaining an empire during the Tetrarchy and the Constantinian Era. As emperor, Diocletian voluntarily elected a co-emperor, Maximian, to help rule the empire. Both men held the title of Augustus, and were equal in virtually every respect except one: Diocletian reserved the exclusive right to legislate. On this aureus we have a depiction of Diocletian in consular robes, depicted essentially as a lawmaker. He holds in his left hand a staff or scepter to indicate his status as emperor, and in his right a globe, representing both his terrestrial and celestial domains. Because of the inscription we can be certain this medallion was struck in 296, as he assumed his sixth consulship in that year. It comes as no surprise that this ceremonial striking occurred at Antioch, for Diocletian was then in Syria or Egypt dealing with the manifold problems of a new, aggressive Sasanian king named Narses, and a rebellion in Alexandria, Egypt, under the leadership of Achilleus and Domitius Domitianus.



238 2,5:1



### Allectus usurper in England, 293 – 295



239

- 239 Aureus, Londinium circa 293, 6.34 g. IMP C ALLE – CTVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. ADVENTVS AVG Allectus, in military attire and with radiate wreath, raising r. hand and holding sceptre in l.; at foot, captive. In exergue, ML. RIC 1. C –. A. Burnett, *Studies in the Coinage of Carausius and Allectus*, pl. 2, 4 (these dies). Depeyrot 4/1. Vagi 2639. Calicó 4786.

Extremely rare. Nick on edge at seven o'clock and light scratches in reverse field,

otherwise very fine 20'000

Ex Künker sale 38, 1997, 446.



240

- 240 Aureus, Londinium circa 295, 4.44 g. ALLECT – VS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PA – X – AVG Pax standing l., holding olive-branch in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, ML. RIC 7. C –. A. Burnett, *Studies in the Coinage of Carausius and Allectus*, pl. 2, 2 (this coin). Depeyrot 4/12. Vagi 2639. Calicó 4795.

Extremely rare. Few light marks on edge and a light scrape across cheek,

otherwise extremely fine 47'500

Ex Leu 36, 1985, 333 and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton C.R. Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 75 sales.

Another rebel about whom as few details survive is Allectus, a highly placed member of the revolutionary government founded by Carausius in Britain in 286 or 287. Allectus came to power in 293 by arranging the murder of his former master, who had just returned to Britain after having lost vital seaports on the Gaulish coast to the newly appointed Caesar, Constantius I. It is known that Allectus' three- or four-year reign was repressive, as ancient chroniclers record that he "miserably oppressed the Britons and afflicted them with manifold disasters." Unlike his predecessor, Allectus was to meet his end in battle against the prefect Asclepiodotos, whom Constantius had placed in command of the southern wing of a naval invasion. But the usurper did not die until, having retreated to London, he had the opportunity to see Constantius' fleet sailing up the Thames and landing soldiers on shores of London itself. If we believe the ancient sources, the return of Imperial control in Britain was welcomed by its inhabitants.

### Maximianus Herculus first reign, 286 – 305



241

- 241 Aureus circa 286–287, 5.17 g. IMP C M AVR VAL MAXIMIANVS AVG Draped bust r., wearing lion-skin. Rev. IOVI CO – NSER – VAT AVGG Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 494 = Glending sale 1929, Nordheim collection, 535 (these dies). C –. Depeyrot 2D5. Vagi 2704. Calicó 4698.

Extremely rare. A very appealing and unusual portrait of great strength,

good extremely fine 18'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.7.1995, 174.





242



- 242 Aureus circa 287, 5.51 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI – VICTORI Hercules seated facing on piles of rock, lion-skin on lap; in field l. club and on r., bow and quiver. In exergue, PR. RIC –. C 305. Depeyrot 6/3. Vagi 2704. Calicó 4680.

Very rare. A very interesting reverse composition, extremely fine

8'000



243



- 243 Aureus, Cyzicus circa 293, 5.93 g. MAXIMIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDI – AE AVGG NN The two Augusti seated l., each holding globe and parazonium, crowned by Victory between them. RIC 601. C 47. Depeyrot 13/1. Vagi 2728 var. Calicó 4612.

Almost Fdc

6'500

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 708.

If Diocletian was the model of innovation and reform, his Imperial colleague Maximian was the model of loyalty. There no doubt were ample opportunities for Maximian to rebel against Diocletian, or at the very least attempt to set up his own empire in the west. But throughout twenty years of joint rulership, no such attempt was made. Maximian had been a high-ranking soldier of undistinguished parentage, and he clearly was grateful for the opportunity Diocletian had afforded him. However, during these two decades Maximian became addicted to power, and unlike Diocletian, who was more than willing to retire, he had no desire to step down. In May of 305 Maximian was forced to abdicate along with Diocletian. Months dragged on for Maximian, who stewed in forced retirement in his Italian villa until his son, Maxentius, raised a revolt in Rome against the senior emperor Galerius. Maximian jumped at this new opportunity to exercise power, but it is doubtful that he ever planned on playing second fiddle to his estranged son. Maximian was responsible for the initial survival of the revolt, for he rebuffed an invasion of Italy led by the new Caesar Severus II. Having secured Italy, Maximian eventually challenged his son, but could not gain enough support. Having worn out his welcome in Rome, the former emperor fled to the court of his son-in-law Constantine the Great in the west. In a repeat performance, Maximian eventually tired of his idleness and challenged Constantine, only to lose again, and this time to die in the aftermath. After twenty years of honourable service under Diocletian, Maximian tarnished a lifetime's achievement because of his behaviour in his last three years of life. This aureus, an interesting piece struck at Cyzicus at the intermediate weight of 55 to the pound, depicts Diocletian and Maximian seated beside one another with a Victory crowning them for their achievements, both civic and military, as indicated by their globes and swords.



244



- 244 Aureus, Ticinum circa 299–300, 6.08 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVS – MILITVM Camp gate with three turrets in front and two behind; in exergue, T. RIC 8. C 626 var. Depeyrot 6/1. Calicó 4753 (this coin illustrated).

Rare. About extremely fine

6'000

Ex Christie's 9.10.1984, 148 and Triton II, 1998, 1041 sales.





245

- 245 Medallion of 8 aurei, Trier circa 303, 42.62 g. IMP MAXIMIANVS PIVS FELIX AVG Head r., wearing lion-skin headdress. Rev. HERCVLI CONSERVATORI AVGG ET CAESS NN Hercules, nude and with quiver over r. shoulder, holding bow in l. hand and lion-skin over outstretched l. arm and leaning r. on club; in exergue, PTR. RIC -. C -. Gneecchi -. Bastien -. Toynbee -. Depeyrot -. Vagi 2704.

Apparently unique and unpublished. A prestigious medallion of enchanting beauty, sharply struck in high relief. Masterfully executed and finely detailed on both obverse and reverse. Two minor edge nicks on reverse at eleven o'clock and some traces of oxidation. Extremely fine

375'000

The emperors of Rome had long associated themselves with the hero Hercules, known to the Greeks as Herakles. His exploits and 'labors' had been celebrated for many centuries, and demigod Hercules came to represent strength, virility and power – all personal features that were important to an emperor.

There were countless minor emperor-associations with Hercules earlier in the empire, as well as several blatant ones: Commodus donned the lion's skin on coins and medals late in his reign, Caracalla was likened to Hercules (and his brother Geta to Bacchus), and Gallienus often promoted his Herculean efforts by striking coins and medals with just such an association. We certainly must include Postumus, the Romano-Gallic rebel who founded his own separatist empire, as chief among rulers who likened themselves to Hercules.

The Tetrarchy created by Diocletian in 293 was a logical expansion of the Diarchy he founded in 285 by hailing Caesar his comrade-in-arms Maximian. The arrangement became more logically structured in 286, when Diocletian raised Maximian from Caesar to Junior Augustus. In this Diarchy there were two divine associations, which, in terms of describing the dynastic structure, came to be known as 'houses.'

The Senior Augustus, Diocletian, chose as his patron the supreme deity Jupiter (Jove), whereas Maximian adopted the mythological hero Hercules: hence the common reference to the *Jovian* and *Herculian* houses of the Tetrarchy. Whenever an emperor selected a Caesar, that Caesar was adopted as a member of their emperor's house, and in turn paid homage either to Jupiter or Hercules.

On this tremendously important medallion we have a near perfect representation of Maximian's unwavering devotion to Hercules: on the obverse he assumes the guise of Hercules himself, and on the reverse he is shown as the demigod is shown in full figure. The reverse inscription identifies Hercules as the protector or preserver (*conservator*) of the Augusti (AVGG) and of "our Caesars" (CAESS NN).

The obverse is a masterwork in Tetrarchic portraiture, for it betrays a much greater degree of individualism – and even realism – than usually is observed. No longer are we gazing upon a stylized image of a draconian team player, but rather we see a real person. His facial features are highly individual, right down to the extra fold of flesh vertically tracing his jaw line down to beneath his chin.

The lion's scalp he wears is entirely naturalistic, which is indicative of the late date of this medallion's production: the lion's mane is neatly contained, almost as if to mimic long locks of human hair. This voluminous, naturalistic style of portraiture represents a true departure from the stiff renderings of the recent past. This style is carried forth in the Central Empire after the abdication of 305, most noticeably in the portraits of Galerius, and the posthumous portraits of Constantius I, Severus II and Maximian himself.

The depiction of Hercules on the reverse is undoubtedly based on monumental statuary, as its guarded naturalism seems to indicate. Maximian-Hercules is shown nude except for the strap of the quiver slung over his right shoulder and the skin of the Nemean lion draped over his left arm. He holds his two principal weapons, the bow and club. We must presume since he wears a laurel wreath and has highly individualized facial features, that he is meant to represent the emperor Maximian in the guise of Hercules, in essence a full figure version of the portrait on the obverse.

Among the more substantial gold medallions struck in ancient times, this is the equivalent of eight aurei struck to Diocletian's reformed weight of 60 aurei to the pound. As such it falls in line with other issues struck at the weights of four and two aurei.





245 3:1





- 246 Aureus, Nicomedia circa 303–304, 5.33 g. MAXIMIA – NVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. XX / MAXI / MIAN / I AVG / SMN all within wreath. RIC 14. C 704. Depeyrot 7/3. Vagi 2721. Calicó 4468. Virtually as struck, Fdc 9'000

Ex NFA XVIII, 1987, 556 and Sotheby's 8.7.1996, 172 sales.

### Maximianus Herculeus second reign, 305 – 308



- 247 Medallion of 4 aurei late 306 – early 307, 21.39 g. IMP C M AVR MAXIMIANVS P F AVG Head r., wearing lion-skin headdress. Rev. HERCVLI COMITI AVGG ET CAES N Hercules, nude and with quiver over r. shoulder, standing facing, head l., holding bow in r. hand, lion-skin over r. arm and leaning l. hand on club set over globe; in exergue, PR. RIC 170. R.A.G. Carson, A Treasure of Aurei and Multiples from the Mediterrean, Mélanges de Numismatique, d'Archéologie et d'Histoire offert à Jean Lafaurie, 92 and pl. VI, 92 (these dies). Depeyrot p. 153. Vermeule pl. 9, 84 (these dies). Alföldi, C.G. 190 (these dies). London News, 14 November 1959, fig. 3 (these dies). Gnecci –.

Of the highest rarity, only two specimens known and the only one in private hands

A splendid medallion of superb style, bearing a spectacular portrait.

Extremely fine 280'000

Ex NAC sale 11, 1998, 534,

Galerius Valerius Maximianus made his military career under Aurelianus and Probus: he was proclaimed Augustus by Diocletianus, perhaps on the 1st of April 286, and was entrusted with the government and the defence of the Danubian provinces and the Balkan peninsula.

The unsuccessful attempt to reconquer Britain against the usurpation of Carausius obliged Diocletianus to form the tetrarchic system, assigning to Maximianus, Constantius Chlorus as Caesar. Thus Maximianus went to Africa to fight the Mauretanian rebel tribes, which he defied between 297-298.

The portrait of Maximianus in the medallion seems to have undergone a process of idealisation: the head of Augustus is wearing a lion-skin, the nose puts on a more regular contour (not hooked and flattened), while the face is framed by a ring of beard and the chin appears strong.

The motive of the *pellis leonina* (that of the Nemean lion, strangled by Heracles in one of his twelve labours), proclaims the figure of Hercules Comes, standing with his typical attributes (the bow and the club) of the reverse. Maximianus credited the special divine protection under which his power continued to the hero of the Roman-Italic tradition, from whom he had taken the name of "Herculean".





247 3:1



Constantius I, as Caesar, 293 – 306



- 248 Aureus, Trier circa 293–294, 5.07 g. CONSTA – NTIVS N C Laureate head r. Rev. COMES – AVGG Minerva standing r., holding sceptre in r. hand and placing l. hand on shield; in exergue, PT. RIC 5. C –. Depeyrot 1D / 2. Vagi 2851. Calicó 4810.

Very rare. Extremely fine 9'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 1045.



- 249 Aureus, Ticinum circa 294–295, 5.45 g. FLA VAL CONSTANTIVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROVIDENTIA – DEORVM Providentia seated l. pointing at globe with short baton and leaning on sceptre. RIC 7. C –. Depeyrot 5/3. Vagi 2851. Calicó 4870.

Extremely rare. Extremely fine 6'000



252 2:1





250



- 250 Aureus, Trier circa 295–296, 5.06 g. CONSTA – NTIVS N C Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONS – ERVATORI Jupiter seated l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field l., eagle. In exergue, PTR. RIC –, cf. 55 (Maximianus). C 156. Bastien, Donativa, p. 65, note c. Depeyrot 2B/4 var. (CONSTANTINVS NOB C). Vagi 2858. Calicó 4847.

Apparently unique. Good extremely fine 9'000

Ex Tkalec sale 1996, 270.



251



- 251 Aureus, Cyzicus circa 294–299, 5.23 g. CONSTAN – TIVS NOB C Laureate head r. Rev. FIDES M – I – LITVM Fides standing facing, head r., holding standard in each hand. RIC 1. C –. Depeyrot 15/1. Vagi 2851. Calicó 4826.

Minor nick on cheekbone, otherwise extremely fine 6'000

Ex Ponterio 74, 1995, 270.



253 2:1



252



- 252 Medallion of 5 aurei, Trier circa 295–296, 26.15 g. FL VAL CONSTANTIVS NOBILISSIMVS C Head r., wearing lion-skin headdress. Rev. MARTI – V – ICTORI Mars walking r., carrying transverse spear in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder; in exergue, TR. RIC 31. Cf. Kent-Hirmer pl. 150, 586 (this obverse die). P. Bastien and C. Metzger, *Trésor de Beaurains*, 223 (this coin). J. Shulmann, *Onbekend Gouden Medaillon van Constantius I Chlorus 292-306, te Trier geslagen*, *Jaarboek van het Koninklijk Nederlansch Genootschap van Munten Penningkunde*, 1983, pp. 80-82. A. Baldwin, *Four Medallions from the Arras Hoard*, *NNM* 28, pp. 20-32, pl. ii (this coin). Pink, *NZ* 1931, p. 33 (this coin). Depeyrot p. 151 (this coin). Toynbee, pl. IX, 3 (this coin). P. Bastien, *Multiplés d'or inédits du trésor de Beaurains, dit d'Arras*, *Bulletin de la Commission Départementale des Monuments Historique du Pas de Calais* IX, 1973, p. 241. Evans, *NC* 1930, p. 243.

Unique. A marvellous coin of great beauty and importance,  
bearing a beautiful portait of Constantius Chlorus.  
Struck on a broad flan in high relief, area of weakness on reverse,  
otherwise about extremely fine 280'000

Ex J. Schulman, private sale to J. W. Garrett, October 1923 and NFA-Leu, The John W. Garrett collection, 1984, 918. and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton C. R. Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 93 sales. From the Arras hoard.

The rendering of Hercules-emperor on this five-aureus medallion from the famous Arras Hoard is noticeably different than that on the eight-aureus piece of Maximian (lot 244). Though both medallions were struck at the western mint of Trier, this one predates the other by at least seven years, which explains the stylistic differences.

Constantius I 'Chlorus' ('the pale' – a surname applied posthumously) was hailed Caesar in March, 293 along with Galerius; it was at this moment the Tetrarchy – the rule of four – was founded. But it was not for folly: the empire was under siege on many fronts, and Diocletian and Maximian agreed that two rulers were not sufficient to deal with the threats, real and potential, that faced the empire.

Constantius, then in his early or mid-forties, was immediately put to work on the task of recovering Britain and the much of the Gallic coast from the usurper Carausius, who six or seven years ago had founded the Romano-British Empire. An earlier attempt by Maximian in 288 or 289 to oust Carausius never materialized, and now that he could delegate the task to his new Caesar, Maximian thought the time right to make a fresh attempt.

From the outset the campaign was a success, and Constantius managed to expel Carausius from his Gallic seaports and at the same time began construction of a fleet for the anticipated invasion of Britain. When Caraiusius finally abandoned his struggle to maintain bases on the continent, he sailed back to Britain and was murdered by his minister Allectus. The crafty minister succeeded his victim as 'Augustus' in Britain, and it was he who suffered the fatal consequences of Constantius' naval expedition.

With the defeat of Allectus, Britain returned to Roman hands. Such a victory would be the crowning glory at the end of a reign, but Constantius earned it early in his career. Not surprisingly, a series of commemorative gold medallions were struck in honor of this monumental victory, which had made the empire whole again. Among them was this piece, which eventually was buried as part of the famous Arras Treasure.

Constantius is shown wearing the scalp of the Nemean lion, a reference to the Greco-Roman hero Hercules. This was appropriate not only because of the Herculan task the new Caesar had undertaken, but more directly because he was Caesar under Maximian, whose patron was Hercules. The style of the image is more formal than that on the medallion of Maximian listed earlier in the sale, and the hair and beard of Constantius are considerably more pronounced.

The reverse is somewhat anachronistic, recalling earlier types of Aurelian and other soldier-emperors. Its inscription, "to mars the victor," is appropriate both to the type of Mars advancing, and to the military victory it commemorates.





252 3:1





253

- 253 Medallion of 4 aurei, Trier circa 305, 20.86 g. FL VAL CONSTANTIVS NOBIL CAES Laureate bust l., wearing imperial mantle and holding eagle-tipped sceptre. Rev. TEMPO – RVM FEL – ICITAS Two emperors, both nimbate, sacrificing from paterae over tripod-altar before tetrastyle temple with wreath in pediment; to r. of altar, forepart of sacrificed bull; behind flute-player; on either side of emperors, two attendants. In exergue, CAESS XIII COSS V / PTR. RIC 35 (this coin). W. Seston, *Dioclétien et la Tétrarchie*, p. 366, note 18 (this coin cited). Pink. NZ 1931, p. 37 (this coin). Depeyrot p. 151 (this coin). Bastien, *Donativa*, p. 67, note m and pl. IV, 2 (this coin). Sir. A. J. Evans, *Some Notes on the Arras Hoard etc.*, NC 1930, pl. XVI, 5 (this coin). P. Bastien and C. Metzger, *Le trésor de Beaurains*, 394 (this coin). Gneecchi –. Toynbee pl. VIII, 7 (this coin). Unique. An outstanding medallion from the celebrated Arras hoard.  
A wonderful portrait and a richly detailed fine artistic reverse composition.  
Reddish tone and about extremely fine 300'000

Ex Ars Classica 17, Evans Collection, 1934, 1861 and NAC 11, 1998, 536 sales. From the Arras hoard.

On 21st September 1922, in the territory of Beaurains (northern France), a treasure (the so-called Arras hoard) was found by some Belgian workmen. It contained several hundred gold and silver coins, some forty gold medallions, jewels, cameos and various silverware, most likely the property of the family of a very high officer serving in Gaul. Part of the hoard went to the market, while a good share ended up in the Arras Museum.

The piece we are proud to offer here today belonged to Sir Arthur Evans, one of the founding fathers of Minoic archaeology, who dedicated a long memoir (NC 1930, pp. 221-274) just to this medallion.

Remarkable from the iconographic point of view is the portrait of Constantius Chlorus (Chlorus, "with pale complexion", a nickname given to him by Byzantine writers because of his delicate health, corroborated from the Latin side by *Lactatianus*): strong head, long nose curved at middle, conspicuous superciliary brow, protruding massive chin, beard and hair cut short after the fashion of the tetrarchs.

During the first tetrarchy, set up by Diocletian, Constantius, adopted by Maximianus, was Caesar from the 1st of March 293 to the 1st of May 305 (abdication of Maximianus), with a diocese in Gaul. The medallion is, therefore, ascribable to the first four months of 305 and celebrates the *temporum felicitas*, a propagandistic theme of the late empire which finds large development in some *Panegyrici Latini* (a collection of eleven encomia dedicated to the emperors, going from 289 to 389 AD). The V (*Incerti Panegyricus Constantio Caesari dictus*) of 297, just meant for Constantius Chlorus, father of Constantine the Great (to whom are addressed as many as four panegyrics in the sylloge), celebrates the *felicitas imperatorum* (cf. Paneg. V 15) after the "lucky" landing of Constantius in Britain that led to the defeat and subsequent death, in 296, of the usurper Allectus.





253 3:1



**Galerius Maximianus Caesar, 293 – 305**



254



254

- 254 Aureus, Aquileia circa 293–294, 5.25 g. MAXIMIA – NVS CAES Laureate head r. Rev. VOT / X / CAESS within wreath closed by eagle with spread wings. RIC 5b (these dies). C 238. Depeyrot 2 / 4. Paolucci 82. Vagi 2800. Calicó 4959.

Rare. Nick on obverse at nine o'clock,  
otherwise good very fine

5'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 1048.



255



- 255 Aureus, Antioch circa 293–295, 5.34 g. MAXIMIA – NVS NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONS – CAES Jupiter standing facing, head l. and chlamys spread behind, holding thunderbolt in r. hand and leaning l. on sceptre; in field l., eagle; in exergue, SMAΣ. RIC 9, note 6 (this coin), C 118 var. Depeyrot 8/4 var. Vagi 2794. Calicó 4910 var.

Rare. Struck in high relief with a strong portrait. Graffito in obverse field,  
otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine

4'500

Ex C. & E. Canessa 28.6.1923, collezione Enrico Caruso, 533; Hess-Leu 12.4.1962, 504 and M&M 81, 1995, 334 sales.



256



- 256 Aureus, Antioch circa 293–295, 5.34 g. MAXIMIA – NVS NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONS – CAES Jupiter standing facing, head l. and chlamys spread behind, holding thunderbolt in r. hand and leaning l. on sceptre; in field l., eagle; in exergue, SMAΣ ★. RIC 10. C 118. Depeyrot 9/5. Vagi 2794. Calicó 4910.

Brilliant good extremely fine

7'500



**Galeria Valeria, wife of Galerius Maximianus**



257



- 257 Aureus, Serdica circa 307–308, 5.23 g. GAL VALE – RIA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. VENERI – V – ICTRICI Venus standing facing, head l., holding apple in upraised r. hand and raising drapery over l. shoulder; in field l., Σ. In exergue, ·SM·SD·. RIC 34. C 1. Depeyrot 6/3. Vagi 2838. Calicó 4967.

Extremely rare and in an exceptional state of preservation.

An unusually pleasing portrait, well-struck on a large flan, almost Fdc

55'000

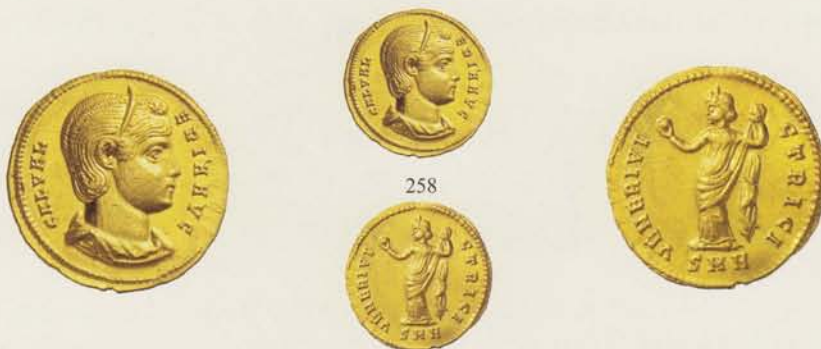
Ex Tkalec sale 1998, 323.

Of Valeria Galeria's life as Augusta, while her husband was alive, we know very little. As a daughter of the Senior Augustus Diocletian, she was wed to her father's new Caesar, Galerius, in 292 or 293. Galerius was famous for his persecutions of Christians, and we are told that she was especially supportive of her husband in that regard. After Galerius' death, however, her stable, regal life was turned upside down: fearing the treatment she would receive from the emperor Licinius I, she and her mother sought asylum at the court of Maximinus Daia, her former husband's nephew. However, when Daia proposed marriage to her, and she refused, he confiscated all of her properties and banished mother and daughter to Syria, where they are said to have wandered until being discovered in 314 or 315 and subsequently beheaded by Licinius. The weight of this aureus is indicated by the Greek letter Σ at the right of Venus. Σ held the numerical equivalency of 60, and was understood to mean this aureus was struck at the weight of 1/60<sup>th</sup> of a pound of gold. In reality this piece falls short of its advertised weight by about six percent.



257 3:1





- 258 Aureus, Nicomedia circa 308–310, 5.42 g. GAL VAL – ERIA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENERI VI – CTRICI Venus standing facing, head l., holding apple in upraised r. hand and raising drapery over l. shoulder; in exergue, SMN. RIC 53. C 1. Jameson 334. Depeyrot 13/1. Vagi 2837. Calicó 4964.

Extremely rare. Nick on edge at six o'clock and a very light abrasion on neck,  
otherwise extremely fine

35'000

#### Severus II Caesar, 305 – 306



- 259 Aureus, Antioch circa 305, 5.33 g. SEVERVS – NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI – CONS CAES Hercules, naked but for lion-skin on l. shoulder, standing to front, head l., resting r. hand on club and holding apple in l. hand; in exergue,  $\cup$ SMAS $\ast$ . RIC 67. C –. O. Voetter, Collection Prinz Ernst zu Windischgrätz 4, 4344. Dr. Lhullier, Un aurèus inédit de Sévère II César, RN 1984, p. 123 ff (this coin). Kent-Hirmer pl. 154, 602 (this coin). Depeyrot 20/3. Vagi 2905. Calicó 4986 (this coin illustrated).

Extremely rare, probably only five specimens known of this type.

One of the best portraits of the entire coinage of Severus II  
in the finest style of the period. About extremely fine

24'000

Ex Leu 25, 1980, 427; Sotheby's 1991, The Nelson Bunker Hunt Collection part IV, 923; NAC & Spink-Taisei, The Gilbert Steinberg Collection, 1994, 762 and Triton III, 1999, 1186 sales.

Severus II certainly ranks among the least fortunate of the rulers of the Tetrarchic period. When Diocletian and Maximian abdicated their thrones in 305, their loyal Caesars, Constantius I and Galerius, assumed the vacant titles of Augustus, and in turn selected replacement Caesars. For himself Galerius chose his nephew Maximinus Daia, and for Constantius I he chose his old comrade-in-arms Severus II (though Constantius was Senior Augustus, the true power was held by Galerius, who had the ear of Diocletian). Passed over in all of this was Maxentius, son of the just-retired emperor Maximian. Incensed at the turn of events, Maxentius revolted in Rome, first declaring himself Princeps and Caesar, and soon thereafter Augustus. Since the affected areas of Italy and North Africa were in the territory of Severus II, the grim task of marching on Rome and overthrowing Maxentius landed squarely on his shoulders. It might have seemed an easy task – the rebel had a small, ill-trained army – but that was before Maxentius lured his father out of unwanted retirement. Most of the soldiers Severus II was leading had served under Maximian, and through liberal bribes and crafty politicking Maximian turned the tide against Severus II, who fled north and eventually surrendered on the condition that his life would be spared. Father and son rebels were true to their promise until Galerius himself invaded Italy to finish the job, at which point they executed Severus II, and managed to expel Galerius from Italy.



### Maximinus II Caesar, 309 – 313



- 260 Aureus, Serdica circa 305–306, 4.96 g. MAXIMIN – VS NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVV – ENTVTIS Maximinus II, in military attire, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and leaning l. on sceptre; in field r., two standards and in field l., Σ. In exergue, ·SM·SD·. RIC 9b. C 143. Depeyrot 1/6. Vagi 2924 var. Calicó 5025.

Rare. Some light abrasion, otherwise extremely fine 8'000

Ex Hirsch sale 193, 1997, 129.

The ideal weight of this aureus is indicated by the Greek letter Σ beside the emperor on the reverse. Σ was the numerical equivalent of 60, and this aureus should have been struck at the weight of 1/60<sup>th</sup> of a pound (approximately 5.46 grams). In reality it falls considerably short, as it doesn't even quite measure up to the 1/65<sup>th</sup> of a pound standard. However, variations such as this are relatively commonplace.

### Maxentius Caesar, 306 – 307



- 261 Aureus circa 306–307, 5.00 g. MAXENTIVS – PRINC INVICT Laureate head r. Rev. MARTI – CONS – ERV – A – VG ET CAESS NN Mars advancing r., holding shield in l. hand and transverse spear in l.; in field l., E. In exergue, PR. RIC 140. C 87 var. Depeyrot –, cf. 15/5 (obverse) and 15/7 (reverse). Vagi 2961. Calicó 5067.

Extremely rare. Struck in high relief and extremely fine 15'000

Ex Stack's sale 3.12.1996, The Michael F. Price Collection, 248.

When he raised the standards of revolt against Galerius and Severus II on October 28, 306, Maxentius did not proclaim himself Augustus, but rather styled himself first as Caesar, and soon thereafter as *Princeps Invictus* ('unconquered leader' or 'invincible leader'), which should not to be confused with the honorary title *Princeps Iuventutis* ('leader of the youth') so commonly observed on earlier Roman coins. He retained these intermediary titles until February or April, 307, when the invasion of Italy by Severus II was imminent, at which point he and his father assumed the unlawful titles of Augustus. This aureus, boldly inscribed MAXENTIVS PRINC INVICT, numbers among the rare pieces struck during this initial period of the Maxentian revolt, and rightly should be viewed as a precursor to his more voluminous coinage as Augustus.



266 2:1



262



- 262 Medallion of 4 aurei, Carthage circa 307, 20.90 g. IMP C VAL MAXENTIVS P F AVG Bare head r. Rev. MARTI CONSER – V AVGG ET CAES N Mars standing r., holding shield in l. hand and transverse spear in r.; in exergue, P K. RIC –. C –. Gneecchi –. R.A.G. Carson, A Treasure of Aurei and Multiples from the Mediterranean, Mélanges de Numismatique, d'Archéologie et d'Histoire offert à Jean Lafaurie, –.

Of the highest rarity. A masterly engraved medallion.

A few light surface marks and an edge nick at five o'clock on reverse,  
otherwise extremely fine

80'000

Ex Spink sale 114, 1996, 109.

The portraiture of Maxentius, generally minimalist in appearance, seems in keeping with his grassroots appeal to the patriotic instincts of his fellow Romans. It perhaps is no coincidence that his portrait, though in line with the conventions of his age, has an almost indescribably anachronistic quality, as if it was unearthed from the ashes of the Republic itself. On medallions such as this, where Maxentius does not don the laurel wreath, the antique quality of his image is only magnified. The reverse of this four-aureus medallion pays homage to Mars, the god of war, and describes him as preserver of the two emperors and the one Caesar. We must presume that the two emperors are Maxentius and his father Maximian, and the Caesar is none other than Constantine the Great, for whom he also struck medallions (lot 270).



262 2:1







- 263 Medallion of 2 aurei circa 307, 10.62 g. IMP MAXENTIVS P F AVG Radiate head r. Rev. FELIX PROCESS – CONSVLAT AVG N Maxentius, togate, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and baton in l.; in exergue, P★R. RIC 169 (this coin). Gneecchi –. Toynbee –. R.A.G. Carson, *A Treasure of Aurei and Multiples from the Mediterranean*, *Mélanges de Numismatique*, d'Archéologie et d'Histoire offert à Jean Lafaurie, p. 71 and pl. 115 (this coin). Depeyrot p. 153.

Of the highest rarity, very few specimens known. Two magnificent portraits in high style. Graffito on obverse at eleven o'clock and minor surface marks, otherwise extremely fine

40'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.7.1994, 177.



253 3:1



264



- 264 Medallion of 4 aurei circa 308, 21.41 g. IMP C M VAL MAXENTIVS P F AVG Bare head l. Rev. CONSERVA – TO – R VRBIS SVAE Roma seated l. on shield decorated with the she-wolf and the twins, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and long sceptre in l.; in exergue, P R. RIC –, cf. 166 (this reverse type). C –. Gneecchi –. Carson, *A Treasure of Aurei and Multiples from the Mediterranean* –, cf. 106-108 (this obverse die, different reverse type) = Carson, *The Greatest Discovery of Roman Gold Pieces Since the Great Find at Arras*, London Illustrated News, 14 November 1959, p. 650, fig 1. Depeyrot p. 153. Cf. Bastien, Donativa, p. 71, note 6.

Of the highest rarity, only two specimens known. An impressive medallion with a delightful portrait of Maxentius. Light scratch in reverse field,

otherwise extremely fine.

70'000

Another of the impressive medallions of Maxentius from our collection, this piece features an especially patriotic reverse, the inscription of which identifies Roma as the preserver of her city. In all of her majesty, Roma, holds a scepter and a Victory upon a globe and sits upon an oval shield emblazoned with the she-wolf suckling the twins Romulus and Remus. Close examination of this piece suggests the scene is contained within a grotto in the same manner as it was presented on coins of Antoninus Pius for the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rome in the year 147.



264 2:1







265

- 265 Medallion of 4 aurei circa 308, 21.09 g. IMP C M VAL MAXENTIVS P F AVG Bare head l. Rev. PRINCIPI IM - PERII ROMANI Virtus advancing r., cloak billowing behind, holding trophy over l. shoulder, shield in l. hand and transverse spear in r. hand. RIC 172. Gneecchi -. C -. Depeyrot p. 153. Carson, *The Greatest Discovery of Roman Gold Pieces Since the Great Find at Arras*, p. 650, fig. 1. Carson, *A Treasure of Aurei and Multiples from the Mediterranean*, 108 (this coin). Bastien, *Donativa*, p. 71, 6. Vagi 2966.

Of the highest rarity, only three specimens known. Scuff on head and  
a few scratches on obverse, the reverse double-struck,  
otherwise about extremely fine

50'000

Ex Sotheby's 26.10.1993 and Triton I, 1997, 1679 sales.



265 2:1





266



- 266 Medallion of 2 aurei circa 308–309, 10.74 g. IMP MAXENTIVS P F AVG Head l., wearing lion-skin headdress. Rev. CONSERVA – TO – R VRB SVAE Roma seated l. on shield decorated with the she-wolf and the twins, holding sceptre in l. hand and presenting globe to Maxentius, in military attire, standing r., holding sceptre in l. hand; in exergue, P★R. Carson, *A Treasure of Aurei and Multiples from the Mediterranean*, 112 and pl. VII, 111 (this coin). RIC 166. Vermeule 87. Depeyrot p. 153. Bastien, *Donativa* p. 72 and note 2. Sotheby's sale, *Hunt collection part I*, 154.

Of the highest rarity, only three specimens known. An issue of great fascination, bearing a portrait of wonderful style and an appealing reverse composition.

Insignificant scuff on headdress, light scratch on reverse and a few minor surface marks, otherwise extremely fine

95'000

Ex Leu 48, 1989, 420 and Sotheby's 8.7.1996, 175 sales.

Certainly among the most interesting of the Maxentian gold medallions to have survived antiquity, this two-aureus piece features the rebel Maxentius in the guise of the Greco-Roman hero Hercules. It is worthwhile to compare its bust style with those of significantly different styles that occur on the two lion-scalped portrait medallions of Maximian, the first of which (lot 244) is earlier and from Trier, and the second of which Maxentius struck on his father's behalf (lot 247). Here Maxentius is emulating his father, for by way of blood relation and political alliance Maxentius had automatic membership in the *Herculian* house. The reverse inscription describes Roma as the preserver of her city and encloses a particularly attractive scene of Roma and Maxentius each holding scepters and sharing responsibility for the world, as represented by the globe they support. The combination of the powerfully rendered obverse and carefully composed reverse make this an especially charming piece that no doubt would have impressed its original recipient as much as it does us today.



266 2:1







- 267 Medallion of 2 aurei circa 308–309, 10.72 g. IMP MAXENTIVS P F AVG Radiate head r. Rev. HERCVLI C – OMITI AVG N Hercules standing facing, head r., leaning with r. hand on club and holding bow in l. hand and lion-skin over l. arm. RIC 171. Vermeule 86. Cf. Alföldi, C.G., 198. Cf. R.A.G. Carson, *A Treasure of Aurei and Multiples from the Mediterranean*, *Mélanges de Numismatique, d'Archéologie et d'Histoire offert à Jean Lafaurie*, 103. Vagi 2967.

Extremely rare. Extremely fine 47'500

Ex Spink sale 114, 1996, 108.

#### Licinius I, 308 – 324



- 268 Solidus, Trier circa 310–313, 4.15 g. LICINI – VS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VBIQVE VIC – TORES Prince standing r., holding spear in r. hand and globe in l., captive seated outward at each side; in exergue, PTR. RIC 817c. C 167. Depeyrot 15/10. Cf. Vagi 3008 (for type). Calicó 5135.

Rare. Minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine 6'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.3.1996, 220.

#### Licinius II Caesar, 317 – 324



- 269 Solidus, Nicomedia 321–322, 4.14 g. DN VAL LICINIVS NOB C Draped and cuirassed bust facing. Rev. IOVI CONSER – VATORI CAES Jupiter seated facing enthroned on platform, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field eagle with wreath in beak. The platform inscribed SIC·V· / SIC·X·. In the exergue, SMNA. RIC 42. C 38. Depeyrot 31/2. Vagi 3026. Calicó 5152a.

Rare. A very appealing issue, well-centred on a full flan.

Brilliant good extremely fine 25'000

Ex Berk sale 25.3.1995, 256.

Constantine I Caesar, 306 – 307



270

- 270 Medallion of 4 aurei circa 306–307, 22.08 g. CONSTANTINVS NOC CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. PRIC – IP – I IVVENTVTI Constantinus, in military attire, standing facing, head l., holding sceptre in l. hand, raising r.; in field l., standard. In exergue, P R. RIC –. C –. Gneccchi –. R.A.G. Carson, *A Treasure of Aurei and Multiples from the Mediterranean*, Mélanges de Numismatique, d'Archéologie et d'Histoire offert à Jean Lafaurie, –. NAC sale 5, 1992, 589 (these dies). Vagi 3065.

Of the highest rarity, probably only the second specimen known  
of this interesting issue. Well struck on a full flan and extremely fine 90'000

Among the most interesting medallions produced by Maxentius at Rome is this discovery piece, which he struck on behalf of Constantine the Great. Because Constantine and Maxentius were both sons of reigning or former emperors, and both had been passed up for promotion by Galerius in 305, each subsequently declared themselves emperors illegally. Acting as negotiator was Maximian, who actively sought a pact with Constantine (even to the point of arranging his marriage to his daughter Fausta) against Galerius. Though it was not uncommon for cooperating rulers in this era to strike coins in each other's names, this is a remarkable instance. Equally of interest – both as a parallel and as a numismatic item – is an issue of billon nummi struck by Constantine at Trier, presumably in 307, in the names of Maxentius and his father Maximian. When Constantine 'rebelled' against Galerius upon his father's death, he without hesitation assumed the unlawful title of Augustus, for he considered himself the replacement for his father, who had possessed that title. However, Constantine was smart enough to trade his lofty, illegal, title for the lesser, legal title of Caesar that later was offered by Galerius. It was a masterstroke by Constantine, for in one fell swoop he was transformed from a usurper to a legitimate member of the Tetrarchy. This medallion no doubt was struck soon after he had received the legal title of Caesar from Galerius. The style and fabric of the medallion is identical to the medallions Maxentius produced in his own name, though the reverse, in a generic sense is specific to Constantine, as it refers to him as 'leader of the youth.'



270 2:1





- 271 Aureus, Siscia circa 306–307, 5.29 g. CONSTAN – TINVS NOB C Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCIPI – IVVENTVTIS Constantinus, in military attire, standing facing, head l., holding sceptre in l. hand, raising r.; on either side, standards. In exergue, SIS. RIC 152. C 422. Cf. Vagi 3067. Calicó 5188.

Very rare. Sharply struck with a portrait of great strength, almost Fdc 10'000



279 3:1





272

- 272 Medallion of 9 solidi, Trier circa 310, 40.26 g. IMP CONSTANTINVS PIVS FELIX AVG Laureate draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS Constantine, in military attire, standing r., holding globe in l. hand and transverse spear in r.; in exergue, PTR. RIC 801 (this coin). C –. Bastien and Metzger, 446 (this coin). Toynbee pl. IX, 5 (this coin). J. Babelon and A. Duquenoy, Médallion d'or du Trésor d'Arras, 9 (this coin). M.R. Alföldi, CGT, 57, pl. 5, 1 (this coin). M. R. Alföldi, CG, 324 (this coin). IRI 3, 1972, pl. 69, 240 (this coin). A. Chasagnol, A propos des *quinquennalia* de Constantin, RN 1980, 113 (this coin). Depeyrot p. 501 (this coin). A. Baldwin, Four medallions from the Arras Hoard, NNM 28, 1926, fig. 1 (this coin). P. Bastien, Donativa, p. 126 and pl. IV, 6 (this coin).

Unique. The largest medallion of Constantine  
The Great in existence, struck for the celebration of the fifth anniversary  
of his rise to power. A medallion of great prestige and importance,  
bearing a beautiful realistic portrait. Ancient graffiti in obverse and reverse field,  
otherwise good very fine 300'000

Ex Sotheby's, The Nelson Bunker Hunt, 1990, 156 and NAC 10, 1997, 406 sales. From the Arras hoard.

There is a graffito in roman cursive on the reverse of this coin that could be read as VITALIANI P P O, in the field 1. between the emperor figure and the inscription. This Vitalianus may have been the owner of this medal, and consequently the whole Arras hoard, and would have held the office of Praetorian Prefect which is normally abbreviated P P O in inscriptions. No such praetorian prefect is known at this period, but our list of these is very incomplete. However, the owner of this hoard, who had received accession, consular and quinquennial donatives present therein, ought to have been a person of such high rank, and hence such an interpretation of the graffito becomes more plausible. There is a so far unexplained graffito in the obverse field in front of the face.

There are relatively few historical personages whose decisions have set the path for generations to come. Constantine the Great is one of these. To review his life is needless in our opinion, so plentiful is the literature on this subject. But it is surely worth remembering that our daily actions, our way of living and thinking stem from the vision he had, while dreaming, the night before the battle of the Milvian Bridge (312).

From the numismatic point of view, Constantine I has two great merits. First, his supremacy put an end to the monetary chaos of Tetrarchy. Second, and just as significant, are the numerous masterpieces numismatic art that remain as testimony to his thirty-year reign.

NAC is therefore proud to offer for sale today the gold medallion of 9 solidi described above, struck at Treviri in the summer of 310 to commemorate the anniversary of Constantine's rise to power. This unique specimen is the largest known multiple of this emperor, and comes from the famous hoard of Beaurains-les-Arras, in northern France, discovered in 1922 by some Belgian workmen. Luckily the panegyric delivered on the occasion of the Quinquennalia has survived, thus allowing a precise dating of the piece.

During those celebrations it was custom for the sovereign to distribute the medallion to select individuals, civilian and military alike. The presence in the hoard of some 30 to 35 multiples, of which, as already said, ours is the largest surviving, and the choice of the reverse types directly alluding to the army, tells us that the recipient must have been a very prominent officer, such as a legionary or Praetorian Guard commander.

Since there were more than 700 coins, together with various jewels, necklaces and gems, it is plausible to assume, as asserted above, that the treasure as a whole belonged to a wealthy family residing in Gaul, of some higher personage of the army who was presented, during its service, with some of the medallions as marks of distinction.





272 2,5:1





273

- 273 1 1/2 scripilulum, Trier circa 310, 1.69 g. IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI I – VVENTVTIS Constantine, in military attire, standing r., holding globe in l. hand and transverse spear in r.; in exergue, TR. RIC 796 var. (bust l.). C 413. Alföldi 329a var. (radiate l.). Depeyrot 307 var. (radiate l.). Vagi 3108.

An apparently unique and unrecorded variety. Light surface marks,  
otherwise extremely fine

5'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1198.

By the time of the final defeat of Licinius I in 324, Constantine's various coinage reforms had taken hold: he had replaced the aureus with the lighter and broader solidus, he had reintroduced Diocletian's argenteus in the form of a broad, thin coin we call a siliqua, and he had stabilised the ever-declining billon nummus in the form of an 'AE3'. These core denominations were complemented by fractions and multiples, one of the rarest being the Nine-Siliqua or 1 1/2 Scripulum. The true reckoning of this small gold piece is not known, as it is inconvenient within the existing system. Since it was rarely struck and was incompatible with the other coinages, we must regard it as a ceremonial denomination. The name we apply depends on how we reckon its value – in terms of silver or gold? From the silver perspective it is relatively simple, for it was the equivalent of nine of Constantine's early silver siliquae. From the gold perspective it rests awkwardly between one-third and one-fourth of a solidus, but its weight is 1 1/2 scripula. Considering the scripulum (1/288<sup>th</sup> of a Roman pound), like the carat (1/1728<sup>th</sup> of a Roman pound), was a common unit for precious metals, the Romans may well have reckoned it in those terms, especially since Constantine's solidus weighed precisely four scruples.



274

- 274 Aureus, Alexandria circa 313–314, 5.78 g. CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CON – SERVATORI Jupiter standing l., holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at his feet on l., eagle. In exergue, ALE. RIC –. C –. Depeyrot 13/1. Vagi 3091. Calicó 5171 (this coin).

Apparently unique. Probably the earliest gold issue of Constantine I  
from the mint of Alexandria. Traces of mounting, otherwise extremely fine

6'000

Ex Sotheby's 1.7.1982, Virgil M. Brand Collection, 67 and Sotheby's 5.7.1995, 180 sales.



275

- 275 Solidus, Ticinum circa 315, 4.35 g. CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. FELIX PROCESSVS COS IIII AVG N Constantine standing l., holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, SMT. RIC 26. C 152. Alföldi 130. Depeyrot 12 /1.

A few light surface marks, otherwise extremely fine

5'500

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 1057.





276

- 276 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Sirmium circa 320, 6.60 g. D N CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG Laureate head r. Rev. SOLI INVICTO C – OMIT Sol, radiate, standing r., crowning Constantine standing r., holding spear in r. hand and globe in l.; in exergue, SIRM. RIC 3 var. (draped bust). C 516 (draped and cuirassed). Gneccchi –. Bastien, Donativa, p. 76 note i. Depeyrot –. Toynbee pl. XXXIV, 7 var. (draped and cuirassed, but this reverse die). Alföldi 490 var. (draped and cuirassed, but this reverse die).

An apparently unrecorded variety. Minor surface marks,  
otherwise about extremely fine

16'000

Ex M&M 35, 1967, 135 and Triton I, 1997, 1692 sales.



277

- 277 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Ticinum circa 320–321, 6.91 g. IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SOLI INVI – CTO COMITI Sol, radiate, standing l. and holding whip, crowning Constantine standing l., holding spear in l. hand and globe in r.; in exergue, SMT. RIC 98. C 516. Gneccchi 54. Bastien, Donativa, p. 76 note i. Toynbee –.

Extremely rare. A very interesting reverse composition.

Extremely fine / about extremely fine

20'000



278

- 278 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Nicomedia circa 325, 6.56 g. D N CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. EQVIS ROMANVS Constantine on horseback r., raising r. hand; in exergue, SMN. RIC 100. C 139. Gneccchi 9. Depeyrot p. 154. Bastien, Donativa, p. 79 note 1 and pl. 4, 16.

Rare. About extremely fine

15'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.11.1997, 196.





- 279 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Antioch circa 326, 6.59 g. D N CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust l., raising r. hand and holding globe in l. Rev. CONSTANTINVS ET CONSTANTIVS NOB CAESS Confronted laureate busts of Constantine II and Constantius II, each wearing consular *trabae* and holding eagle-tipped sceptre in one hand and globe in the other; in exergue, SMAN. RIC 70. C 1. Gneecchi p. 23, 1 and pl. 8, 15. Alföldi 63. Toynbee p. 197. Kent-Hirmer 643 (these dies). Depeyrot p. 155. Bastien, Donativa, p. 79 note 13. Vagi 3094. Of the highest rarity, the finest of only three specimens known of this fascinating issue. Well-struck on a broad flan and about extremely fine 42'000

Ex Sternberg sale XXIX, 1995, 528 and Triton I, 1997, 1698 sales.

Reminiscent of the dynastic issues struck by the Severans precisely 125 years before (the closest parallel in this collection being lot 137), the small gold medallions comprising this and the following lot no doubt had a similar effect: to inform the world that Constantine was all-powerful, and had heirs ready to take his place. It was struck in 326, a year that started on a high note, for in the summer of the previous year Constantine had won what he considered a major victory over Arianism at the Council of Nicaea. Immediately afterward, in Nicomedia, he held the first of two celebrations of his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in power, his *vicennalia*. He spent the early part of 326 traveling between the Bosphorus and Italy, and in July again celebrated his *vicennalia* in Rome. Though this medallion was struck for his seventh consulship, held jointly with his son Constantius II for the first time (the other son on this medallion, Constantine II, already had been consul), it may have been distributed for his *vicennalia*, a far greater affair. More importantly, since Constantine had begun to celebrate his *vicennalia* in mid-325, and held his final celebration a year later in the summer of 326, this medallion almost certainly predates the later, and more important events of 326: the executions of his oldest son Crispus and Fausta, his wife of nearly two decades. For a discussion of these great tragedies, see the comment following lot 288.



- 280 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Antioch circa 326, 6.59 g. D N CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust l., raising r. hand and holding globe in l. Rev. CONSTANTINVS ET CONSTANTIVS NOB CAESS Confronted laureate busts of Constantine II and Constantius II, each wearing consular *trabae* and holding eagle-tipped sceptre in one hand and globe in the other; in exergue, SMAN. RIC 70 (this coin cited). C 1. Gneecchi p. 23, 1 and pl. 8, 15. Alföldi 63. Toynbee p. 197. Kent-Hirmer 643 (this coin). Depeyrot p. 155. Bastien, Donativa, p. 79 note 13. Vagi 3094.

Of the highest rarity, only three specimens known. A scuff on obverse on globe and one on reverse at the end of the ethnic, otherwise extremely fine 36'000

Ex M&M XXVIII, 1964, 479; NFA XXX, 1992, 307 and Sotheby's 26.10.1993, 136 sales.





281



- 281 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Thessalonica circa 327, 6.65 g. Diademed head r. Rev. GLORIA CONS – TANTINI AVG Constantine walking r., holding spear in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder.; on either side, captive seated outward looking back; in exergue, SMTS. RIC 163. C 238. Gnechi p. 17, 23 and pl. 7, 5. Depeyrot p. 154. Bastien, Donativa, p. 79, note c. Toynbee pl. VI, 3. Vagi 3095. Rare. Evidence of slight die deterioration in hair and jaw, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine 16'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 1060.



282



- 282 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Nicomedia circa 328–329, 6.63 g. Diademed head r. Rev. GLORIA CONSTA – NTINI AVG Constantine standing l., holding spear and Victory on globe; on either side, two captives seated outward and looking back. In exergue, SMN and in field r., S. RIC 151. C 240. Gnechi p. 17, 27. Depeyrot p. 155. Bastien, Donativa, p. 80, footnote 8. Cf. Vagi 3095. Rare. Light edge marks, otherwise extremely fine 15'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.3.1996, 216.



283



283

- 283 Solidus, Antioch circa 335, 4.49 g. CONSTANTI – NVS MAX AVG Diademed and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA CO – NSTANTINI AVG Victory advancing l., holding trophy in r. hand and palm in l.; in exergue, SMAN. RIC 93. C 603. Alföldi 568. Depeyrot 45/1. Vagi 3097. Good extremely fine 2'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.11.1997, 197.



284



284

- 284 Solidus, Siscia circa 335, 4.43 g. CONSTANTINI – NVS MAX AVG Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA CONSTANTINI AVG Victory advancing r., holding shield inscribed VOT / XXX; at his feet, captive seated r. In exergue, 'SIS'. RIC 244 var. (SIS). C 606 var. Alföldi 598 var. Depeyrot 22/3 var. (SIS). Vagi 3097. Extremely fine 2'000  
Ex NFA XXVI, 1991, 316.

### Crispus Caesar, 317 – 326



285



- 285 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Trier circa 320, 6.70 g. FL IVL CRISPVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r., holding spear in r. hand and globe in l. Rev. GAVDIVM ROMA – NORVM Alemannia seated l., head reverted, before trophy of arms; in exergue, FRANCIA. RIC 240 (this coin). Gnechi –. Alföldi, JNG 9, 1958, pl. 8, 3 (this coin). Toynbee p. 187 and pl. 34, 10 (this coin). Jameson II, 359 (this coin). Depeyrot –. Bastien, Donativa p. 76, footnote 8.

Unique. A coin of great fascination with an appealing portrait,

good very fine 30'000

Ex NAC 5, 1992, 596 and NAC 10, 1997, 702 sales and from the Jameson collection.

The coin here presented is possibly a unique gold medallion struck appropriately at Trier, the mint closest to the barbarian frontier, and celebrating victories against the Germanic tribes to the east. FRANCIA here denotes the Frankish tribes who at that time inhabited modern Germany and central Europe. She is depicted in what was for the metropolitan Roman typically uncivilized garb, leather trousers and a jerkin, and a so-called Phrygian hat. Also noteworthy is the half-length medallion portrait of Crispus.



286



- 286 1 1/2 scipulum, Sirmium circa 321, 1.67 g. CRISPVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS Crispus, in military attire, standing r., holding spear in r. hand and globe in l. RIC –. C 89. Cf. Alföldi 345-346.

Unique. Scrape on breast and a few light marks,

otherwise extremely fine 6'500

Ex Leu 25, 1980, 436 and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton C.R. Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 147 sales.





287



- 287 Solidus, Sirmium circa 323, 4.39 g. FL IVL CRIS – PVS NOB CAES Nude and laureate bust l., holding spear pointing forward and shield on l. shoulder. Rev. CONCOR – D – IA AVGG NN Concordia seated l., holding caduceus in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in exergue, SIRM. RIC 38. Cf. C 56 (laureate and cuirassed bust). Depeyrot 7/3. Vagi 3162.

Very rare. A very attractive portrait, slight graze on obverse,

otherwise extremely fine

12'000

Ex NAC 11, 1998, 548.

Much like Germanicus three centuries earlier, Crispus was a young man of tremendous potential who was cut down in his prime due to family intrigues. As the eldest son of Constantine – and the only one from his early association with Minervina – Crispus was at least twenty years older than any of the three stepbrothers his father later sired by Crispus' stepmother Fausta. Needless to say, this greatly concerned Fausta, who not only wanted the throne for her three boys, but who no doubt feared for their safety until they became old enough to defend themselves. Making matters worse for Fausta were the obvious talents of Crispus. In the First Licinian War (316-317) he had distinguished himself as a skilful naval commander by winning a great victory that allowed his father to defeat Licinius much sooner than might otherwise have been expected. Crispus clearly had an enemy in Fausta, and one that proved more difficult to defeat than an armada. By popular account Fausta accused her stepson of making uninvited advances on her, which so incensed Constantine that he called for a trial in which Crispus was found guilty of the charge and was executed. Constantine later came to regret his hasty decision, for he soon put Fausta to death on the belief that she had invented the charge, and he erected a large golden statue of Crispus, honouring him as "the son whom I unjustly condemned".



288



- 288 Solidus, Antioch circa 324, 4.49 g. FL – IVL CRISPVS NOB CAES Laureate and cuirassed bust l. with spear pointing forward and shield before chest. Rev. PRINCIPI I – VVENTVTIS Crispus, in military attire, standing r., holding globe in l. hand and transverse spear in r. RIC 43. C 90. Alföldi 340. Depeyrot 39/5. Bastien, Donativa p. 78, footnote 10. Vagi 3162.

Very rare. A very appealing obverse composition. A few light abrasions,

otherwise good extremely fine

22'000

The execution of Crispus in 326 was a watershed moment in the reign of Constantine the Great: not only did he lose his eldest son (at the time his only realistic heir as his other three sons were merely boys), but in the aftermath he also executed his wife Fausta for what he thought to be her leading role in a grand deception. But if we dig deeper into the historical record, another possibility for Crispus' execution emerges. In 326 Constantine was at, or was approaching, his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, depending on whether he counted 306 or 307 as his starting point as Augustus. There is reason to believe that, like Diocletian, Constantine had promised to abdicate after two decades of rule. His natural heir would have been Crispus, a popular young man approaching 30 years old and of proven ability. Some historians believe Constantine may have allowed the trial and execution of Crispus out of a desire – actual or subliminal – to remove him from contention for the throne. After all, his other sons were only 10 years old or younger, and if they were the only options as a replacement, Constantine would have to rule for at least another decade. Though the truth may never be known, it seems hard to believe that Crispus would have tried to seduce his stepmother, who was at least ten years his senior and was his father's wife. Indeed, the seduction story reads more like a fictional, revisionist account, and the truth may lie in the more practical explanation. The golden statue mentioned in the previous note could apply to a guilty conscience equally well under either circumstance.



## Delmatius Caesar, 335 – 337



- 289 Solidus, Constantinople circa 336–337, 4.43 g. FL DELMATIVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IV – VE – NTVTIS Delmatius standing l., in military attire, holding *vexillum* in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field r., two standards. In exergue, CONS. RIC 113. C 15 var. (in exergue, TSE). Depeyrot 7/10. Bastien, Donativa p. 81, footnote 7. Vagi 3178. Extremely rare. Very fine 15'000

Ex Christie's 9.10.1984, 165 and Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton C.R. Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 149 sales.

Though Constantine the Great made many impressive and correct decisions in his three decades as emperor, one must seriously question his plan for succession. Not only did he divide the empire among his remaining three sons, but he added to the mix two of his half-nephews, Delmatius and Hanniballianus. With the benefit of hindsight we know this arrangement failed, but even at the time it must have seemed half-baked: only in a fantasy world could five young noblemen share an empire. Constantine tested his theory by having all five of his successors installed by 335 so during the remaining two years of his life the ageing emperor could shepherd them. Arguably, he had created a new Tetrarchy, but unlike Diocletian's merit-based model of two emperors and two caesars, all four of Constantine's choices were family members holding the title Augustus, and a fifth member, Hanniballianus, was given a special title ('King of Kings') and function on the Persian border. After Constantine's death in May of 337, his three sons wasted little time in murdering Delmatius and Hanniballianus along with many members of that branch of the family. (Among the few survivors were Julian II and Constantius Gallus, both of whom emerged later.) If the brief reign of Delmatius represents anything, it is that the level-headed and practical Constantine – despite his decades of cynical decision making – still harboured a naïve hope that his descendants could rule more wisely and generously than he.

## Constantine II Caesar, 317 – 337



- 290 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Sirmium circa 320, 6.86 g. DN CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI – IVVE – NTVTIS Constantine II, in military attire, standing facing, head l., holding standard in r. hand and spear in l.; in field r., two standards. In exergue, SIRM. RIC 2. C –, cf. 153. Gneecchi 9 (misdescribed) and pl. 9, 3. Depeyrot p. 153. Bastien, Donativa p. 76, footnote 11.

Very rare. Light scratches on cheek and in obverse field, graze at twelve o'clock on reverse edge and nick on leg on reverse, otherwise brilliant extremely fine

18'000





291



- 291 Medallion 1 1/4 solidi, Nicomedia circa 325 (?), 5.08 g. CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS CON – STANTINI CAES Constantine II, in military attire, standing r., holding spear in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder; before him, captive seated r. and looking back. In exergue, SMN. RIC –, cf. 105 (solidus). C –, cf. 243 (solidus). Gnechi – Bastien, Donativa p. 79, footnote 1.

Apparently unique and unrecorded. Light scratch in obverse and reverse field, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine

10'000



292



- 292 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Siscia circa 326–327, 6.54 g. CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VBIQVE VI – CTORES Constantine II standing r., in military attire and with cloak spread, holding transverse spear in r. hand and globe in l.; on either side, captive seated outward and looking back. In exergue, SIS. RIC –, cf. 164 (Thessalonica). C –. Gnechi –. Depeyrot p. 153 (this coin listed).

Extremely rare. An appealing specimen in fine style, extremely fine

18'000

Ex Tkalec 26.3.1991, 465 and NAC 11, 1998, 550 sales.



293



- 293 Solidus, Trier circa 326–327, 4.47 g. FL CL CONSTAN – TINVS IVN N C Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCIPI IV – VENTVTIS Constantine II standing r., in military attire and with cloak spread, holding transverse spear in r. hand and globe in l.; in exergue, TR. RIC 500 (this coin cited). C 142. Alföldi 347.

Rare. Extremely fine

3'000

Ex M&M 7, 1948, 659 and M&M 81, 1995, 345 sales.



294



- 294 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Nicomedia circa 327, 6.74 g. CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS CON – STANTINI CAES Constantine II standing r., in military attire and with cloak spread, holding transverse spear in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder.; on either side, captive seated outward and looking back. In exergue, SMN. RIC 134 var. (SMNI). C 244 var. Depeyrot –. Bastien, Donativa p. 80, footnote 3.

Very rare. Two edge nicks and a graze on reverse, otherwise brilliant extremely fine 18'000

#### Constans, 337 – 350



295



- 295 Medallion of 2 solidi, Aquileia circa 337–340, 8.82 g. FL IVL CONSTANS – PIVS FELIX AVG Draped and cuirassed bust r., wearing diadem ornamented with rosette. Rev. GAVDIVM POPV – LI ROMANI Constans standing l., holding standard with Christogram on banner in r. hand and sceptre in l., crowned with wreath by Victory standing l. behind him, holding palm-branch; in exergue, SMAQ. RIC 1a. C 31. Gnechi 3 and pl. 9, 12 (this reverse die). Paolucci 364 (this coin illustrated). Depeyrot –. Bastien, Donativa p. 82, footnote 4.

Extremely rare. A very impressive medallion with a few scratches and nicks.

Good very fine 35'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 728.



296



- 296 Medallion of 1 1/4 solidi, Thessalonica circa 337–340, 5.53 g. FL IVL CONSTANS – PIVS FELIX AVG Draped and cuirassed bust r., wearing diadem ornamented with rosette. Rev. GAVDIVM POPV – LI ROMANI Laurel wreath within which SIC / V / SIC / X; in exergue, TSE. RIC 7. C 32. Gnechi 4. Bastien. Donativa p. 83, footnote 9.

Extremely rare. Slightly bent, a few marks and traces of repair on the obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

6'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung 90, 1998, 1291





297



- 297 Medallion of 1 1/2 solidi, Siscia circa 340–350, 6.73 g. FL IVL CONS – TANS P F AVG draped and cuirassed bust r., wearing diadem ornamented with rosette. Rev. VICTORIAE DD NN AVGG Two Victories standing facing, holding between them a wreath inscribed VOT / X / MVL / XX; in exergue, Ó SIS •. RIC 110. C 168. Gnechi 16. Toynbee pl. 13, 4. Bastien, Donativa p. 85, footnote 5.

Very rare. Traces of mounting and a few scratches and marks,

otherwise good very fine

10'000

### Constantius II, 337 – 361



298



298

- 298 Solidus, Thessalonica circa 337–340, 4.44 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS P F AVG Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS – EXERCITVM Constantius II standing l., holding trophy in r. hand and resting l. on shield; on either side, captive seated outward looking back. In exergue, TES. RIC 32. C –. Vagi 3256.

Extremely fine

1'500

Ex Sotheby's sale 28.10.1993, 1739



299



299

- 299 Solidus, Antioch circa 337–340, 4.45 g. CONSTAN – TIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – RIA AVGG Victory advancing l., holding trophy in r. hand and palm in l.; in field l., star and in field r., LXXII. In exergue, SMANE. RIC 7. C 200. Depeyrot 2/2. Vagi 3256.

Very rare. About extremely fine

2'000

Ex Leu sale 77, 2000, 686 and from the collection of Victor Adda.

The weight of this solidus is demonstrated by the numerals LXXII (=72) to the right of Victory on the reverse. This numeral indicated this solidus was struck at the weight of 1/72<sup>nd</sup> of a pound of gold. It is a well produced coin, being within about two percent of its ideal full weight.



- 300 Medallion of 2 solidi, Antioch circa 337-342, 9.04 g. CONSTAN – TIVS AVG Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. GLORIA RO – MANORVM Roma seated l. on shield, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, SMANT. RIC –, cf 1 (for reverse type). C –. Gneecchi –. Toynbee –. Bastien, Donativa pp. 82-83, note a.

Apparently unique and unrecorded. An impressive medallion with an excellent portrait. Light scratches on obverse and reverse,

otherwise extremely fine

40'000

Ex Leu 18, 1977, 395 and NAC 15, 1999, 492 sales.



- 301 Solidus, Antioch circa 337-347, 4.65 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS P F AVG Draped and cuirassed bust r., wearing pearl diadem. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM Victory seated r. on cuirass, inscribing VOT / XV / MVL / XX on shield held by Cupid standing l. before her. RIC 25. C 243. Depeyrot 5/3. Vagi 3256. Good extremely fine 2'500

Ex Leu and M&M, Walter Niggeler collection part 3, 2.12.1967, 1534 and Leu 77, 2000, 687 sales.



- 302 Imitative solidus, after Antioch circa 337-347, 4.11 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS PF AVG Draped and cuirassed bust r., wearing pearl diadem. Rev. FELICITAS ROMANORVM Wreath containing VOTIS / XV / MVL / XX. In exergue, SMANS. RIC 31. C 76. Depeyrot 5/9.

Very rare and probably unrecorded. Good extremely fine

1'200

Ex Leu sale 77, 2000, 688.





303



303

- 303 Solidus, Thessalonica circa 340, 4.43 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS P F AVG Draped and cuirassed bust r., wearing rosette diadem. Rev. VICTORIA – DD NN AVGG Victory advancing l., holding trophy in r. hand and palm-branch in l.; in exergue, TES. RIC 26. C 261.

Extremely fine 1'500

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.1990, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 3.



304



- 304 Medallion of 2 solidi, Antioch circa 347–355, 8.89 g. CONSTANTIVS – AVGVSTVS Half-length bust l., wearing rosette diadem and consular robes, raising r. hand and holding mappa in l. Rev. DD NN CONSTANTIVS CONSTANS AVGG Constantius II and Constans, nimbate and wearing consular robes, standing facing, each holding sceptre in r. hand and globe in l.; in exergue, SMANT. RIC –, cf. 75 (same reverse type). C –. Gnechi –. Toynbee –. Bastien, Donativa, p. 86, note c.

Apparently unique and unrecorded. A very appealing issue with a spectacular portrait and a very interesting reverse composition. A few marks,

otherwise extremely fine 45'000

This apparently unique medallion of two solidi is of special of interest because its design content and general composition more closely resembles later coinages of Valentinian I, Valentinian III and Leo I than issues of its own time. The date of striking is of interest, as it celebrates what we must assume to be a joint consulship of Constantius II and his only remaining brother Constans, who was murdered in 350. From the period of their father's death in 337 onward, the two brothers are recorded as having shared the consulship only in 339, 342 and 346. Considering the style of the piece we can safely rule out the earliest date, and should strongly favor the latest date, 346.



304





305



- 305 Medallion of 1 1/4 solidi or festaureus, Antioch circa 347–355, 5.31 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS PERP AVG Draped and cuirassed bust l., wearing rosette diadem. Rev. Facing quadriga pulled by galloping horses; in the car, Constantius II facing, head l., holding eagle-tipped sceptre in l. hand and tossing coins with his r.; in field r., Christogram. In exergue, SMAN. RIC 78 (misdescribed). C –. Bastien, Donativa p. 86, note c.

Of the highest rarity, only three specimens known. A fascinating issue with a fine reverse composition. Some minor marks, otherwise good extremely fine

47'500



305 3:1



Ex Leu sale 71, 1997, 542.

Few Roman coins possess such an impressive frontal image as is on the reverse of this ceremonial gold coin. Constantius II is shown standing in a chariot drawn by four rearing horses, engraved in a manner that is decidedly uncommon for Roman coins of any age. The contrary posture of the horse heads is reminiscent, in concept (though certainly not in style), of the works of the master engravers of 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Sicily. In this Imperial procession the emperor is shown holding an eagle-tipped scepter (*scipio*) and tossing coins outward to what we must presume was an anxious crowd of spectators. Although probably not intentional, the composition equates the distribution in the left field with the Chi-Rho in the right field, and perhaps may allude to the general concept of Christian charity. The denomination is an anachronism, for by the late 340s the aureus had not been used as currency in the empire for a generation or more. This small medallion weighs approximately 1/60<sup>th</sup> of a Roman pound, the rate that Diocletian attempted to make standard as part of his currency reform of the early 290s.



306



- 306 Solidus, Nicomedia circa 351–355, 4.47 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS PERP AVG Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust facing, holding spear in r. hand and ornated shield in l. Rev. GLORIA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis, enthroned facing, supporting between them a wreath inscribed VOT / XXX / MVL / XXXX; in exergue, SMNT. RIC 74. C 112. Vagi 3256. Light graffito in obverse field, otherwise about extremely fine 1'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 67, 1994, 840.



## Magnentius, 350 – 353



307

- 307 Medallion of 3 solidi, Aquileia circa 351, 13.35 g. IMP CAES MAG – NENTIVS AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERATOR REI PVBLICAE Magnentius, nimbate and in military attire, on horse r., offering his r. hand to turreted and draped figure of Aquileia, holding cornucopia in l. hand and scroll in r. RIC 122. C 26 var. (bust draped). Gnecci 1. P. Bastien, *Le Monnayage de Magnence*, NR I, 1964, pl. 10, 302. Kent-Hirmer pl. 168, 669 (this reverse die). A. Jelocnik, *Les Multiples d'or de Magnence découverts à Emona*, RN 1967, 4 and pl. XXXV, 4 (these dies). P. Bastien, *Donativa*, p. 87, note 6. Paolucci 529. Vagi 3283.

Very rare. Well-centred on a full flan with an appealing reverse composition. Extremely fine

45'000

Ex Sotheby's 27.10.1993, 145 and Tkalec 1996, 299 sales.

The gold medallions struck by the Gallic usurper Magnentius for his entry to the north Italian city of Aquileia late in 350 or in 351 are among the most impressive of all late Roman issues. We are indeed fortunate that both this issue and the even larger medallion of Constantius Gallus appear in the same sale, as it provides a perfect opportunity for comparison. This is of particular value considering they are uncommonly large gold medallions struck within months of each other, and yet one is the product of a rebel in the West, and the other was struck for a noble heir-apparent in the East.

We may first compare the portraits: that of Gallus conveys the full majesty of a legitimate, nearly divine emperor hailing from the most-noble family in the empire, whereas in Magnentius' portrait we see a provincial soldier who, even from an arm's length, seems uncomfortable with the subtleties of court life. We know Magnentius was of peasant, or even slave, origin, and that in the army he worked his way up from a barbarian contingent to one of the highest ranking field commanders.

Clearly their portraits were meant to convey different ideals. The strength of Gallus lay not in his skill or proven record, but rather in his membership to the House of Constantine, whereas with Magnentius we have the opposite, a common man whose success was based on his skill as a soldier and commander. Indeed, the former emperor Constans, who Magnentius had overthrown, was generally despised for his depraved, avaricious and arrogant behaviour. He was especially unpopular with the soldiers, and it no doubt would have been a mistake for Magnentius to step into those regal shoes.

The imagery of the reverse of this medallion is simply stunning and, like the obverse, it offers a fine contrast to the medallion of Gallus. This piece communicates an event, Magnentius entering Aquileia as liberator from the tyranny of the House of Constantine. He is shown as a saviour – nimbate, armoured, on horseback with flowing cape – being greeted by the reverent city goddess, who kneels before him, holding a horn of plenty and offering a scroll, which perhaps was inscribed with the formal welcome of the city's nobility.

The scene is one of action, it tells a story, and it speaks to a saviour-mythology then being cultured by Magnentius (indeed, on some of his billon coins he claims to have "twice liberated" Rome – first from Constantius II, then from Nepotian, a relative of Constantius II who briefly usurped in Rome). Contrarily, the reverse of Gallus is one of untarnished nobility resting upon his relation to Constantine the Great, who had the foresight to found Constantinople, and to nurture its growth until it became capital of the empire and the main line of defence against invasion from the East.



307



308



- 308 Medallion of 3 solidi, Aquileia circa 351, 13.35 g. IMP CAES MAG – NENTIVS AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERATOR REI PVBLICAE Magnentius, nimbate and in military attire, on horse r., offering his r. hand to turreted and draped figure of Aquileia, holding cornucopia in l. hand and scroll in r. RIC 122. C 26 var. (bust draped). Gneecchi 1. P. Bastien, *Le Monnayage de Magnence*, NR I, 1964, pl. 10, 302. Kent-Hirmer pl. 168, 669. A. Jelocnik, *Les Multiples d'or de Magnence découverts à Emona*, RN 1967, 2 and pl. XXXV, 2 (these dies). P. Bastien, *Donativa*, p. 87, note 6. Paolucci 529. Vagi 3283.

Very rare. Extremely fine 40'000

Ex Christie's 12.6.1993, 215 and Triton I, 1997, 1910 sales.



308







309

- 309 Solidus, Trier 351, 4.27 g. DN MAGNEN – TIVS P F AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA'AVG LIB'ROMANOR Victory standing r. and Libertas standing l. and holding short sceptre in l. hand, supporting between them a hooked shaft carrying a trophy. In exergue, TR. C 48. RIC –, cf. 276 (obverse) and 254 (reverse). P. Bastien, *Le monnayage de Magnence*, cf. obv. 45, rev. 15. Rare. Light scratches, good very fine 2'000

The western half of the Empire was a place where even someone of humble origins could achieve great success through a military career. Much of the later 3<sup>rd</sup> century was ruled by soldier-emperors of Balkan peasant stock; Postumus and Carausius – both seemingly of obscure parentage – carved empires in the far West from Roman lands. In Magnentius, who ruled the western provinces from 350-353, we have another rags-to-riches success story. We are told by ancient sources that he was born to a Frankish mother and a British father of such low status that Magnentius originally was a slave of Constantine the Great, and only escaped what would have been a tragic and degrading life by serving in the army. Once in place his ambition must have taken hold, and his talents recognised, for he began his career with a barbarian contingent and rose to the exalted rank of field commander of the senior palatine units of the Western army. If we believe the sources, such as the historian Victor, who says Constans was "outstandingly contemptuous" to his soldiers, it is remarkable that he lasted a decade as emperor. However, in 350 Magnentius staged a coup that culminated in the flight and execution of Constans. He assumed control of the west and made overtures to the only legitimate emperor, Constantius II, in the East – including striking coins in his name – for recognition. A three-year war ensued between the emperors, which were spiced by uprisings by Nepotian in Rome, Vetrician in the Balkans, and Peomenius in Trier. Constantius tried to maintain the line at the eastern border of Italy and engaged in some very costly battles, the worst of which cost the lives of 55,000 Roman soldiers. Eventually, though, the tide turned against Magnentius and his relative, Decentius, whom he had hailed Caesar, and late in the summer of 353 both men committed suicide, resulting in the West's return to Constantinian rule. Surviving all of this was the wife of Magnentius, Justina, who some fifteen years later married the Western emperor Valentinian I.



304 3:1



## Constantius Gallus Caesar, 351 – 354



310



- 310 Medallion of 5 solidi, Antioch circa 351, 20.24 g. DN CONSTANTINVS – VS NOB CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. GLORIA ROMANORVM Constantinopolis, pearl-diademed and draped, seated l. on decorated throne, holding thyrsus in l. hand and Victory on globe in r.; her l. foot on globe. In exergue, SMANT. RIC p. 517, 71A (this coin). *Wealth of the Ancient World* 163 (this coin). Vagi 3326.

Unique. An outstanding medallion, bearing a portrait of great strength and a finely executed and richly detailed reverse composition. Extremely fine 300'000

Ex Leu 28, 1981, 580; Sotheby's 19.6.1990, Nelson Bunker Hunt Collection, 161 and Sotheby's 8.7.1996, 185 sales.

Without hesitation we may attribute this medallion to an engraver of the greatest skill, for it is an artistic masterpiece of Late Antiquity. The obverse confers a noble, godlike, status on Gallus, whereas the reverse is of monumental composition, and is enriched with detail rarely if ever equalled.

If doubts had existed in the East about Gallus' qualifications to rule in place of the emperor Constantius II, who was campaigning against the rebel Magnentius in Europe, a medallion such as this might have helped assuage any fears. It no doubt was produced for his accession in 351, and was distributed alongside medallions of equal value bearing the likeness of Constantius II.

Portraits from the Constantinian period – especially from late in the period – represent a departure from all earlier portrait styles. Over the course of centuries the Imperial portrait evolved from the realistic to the idealized, and eventually to the stylised. One can readily observe the change from the military emperors and the tetrarchy to the Constantinian era: rigorous, practical, bearded portraits with shortly cropped hair and hard edges gave way to clean-shaven, long-haired portraits comprised mainly of soft contours indicating Oriental opulence and divine majesty.

On this medallion we have a pristine example of late Constantinian portraiture in all of its sublime glory. His is a monumental, 'holy countenance' that elevates the new Caesar above the world he rules. It is more than an image of a man, it is a representation of his divine power and his unique station between the human and the divine.

Statuesque imagery such as this recalls the famous passage of Ammianus Marcellinus (16,10) wherein he describes the formal entry of Constantius II into Rome: "He looked so stiffly ahead as if he had an iron band about his neck and he turned his face neither to the right nor to the left, he was not as a living person, but as an image."

The reverse is a stunning example of how deeply the courts of the Roman east had been influenced by Greek and Oriental cultures. This inscription – "the glory of the Romans" – originally was introduced by Constantine the Great in reference to himself as the source of Rome's renewed glory. On this piece it seemingly refers to the seated figure Constantinopolis, indicating that the city itself was the glory of the Romans and their empire.

The seated figure is simply extraordinary, and we may delight in its overall composition, which is ingeniously aligned high and to the right. Not only does this preserve open space at the left, and give prominence to the bold mintmark that trumpets its value as sacred money of Antioch, but more importantly it shakes the usual temptation of die engravers to achieve perfectly central symmetry.

Adding to the impact of the composition is the rich detail and ornamentation, and the artful blending of the soft, flowing image of Constantinopolis against the rigid, jewelled frame of the throne and stylised ship's prow. These incongruous elements, which might have clashed under the hand of a less-gifted artist, here merge seamlessly.

There can be little doubt that this powerful image is indebted to Phidias' famous gold and ivory statue of Zeus (Jupiter), which earlier had been the model for the facing seated Zeus on aurei of Licinius and his son (lot 269). T. F. Matthews (*The Clash of Gods, A Reinterpretation of Early Christian Art*; Princeton, 1993) considers Phidias' statue not only to have been the source of Licinius' Zeus, but also the source of the enthroned cult images of Roma and Constantinopolis.

Providing an element of immediacy to the engraver of this medallion, perhaps, was the fact that a famous copy of Phidias' statue of Zeus Olympios had been erected at Daphne, a sanctuary outside Antioch, more than 500 years before. Also, a large percentage of Licinius' Zeus aurei were struck at Antioch and, more recently still, sometime after 330 Phidias' great statue was moved from Olympia to Constantinople.

(continues)





310 2,5:1



The figure of Constantinopolis – the personification of Constantine's new capital – became common to coins and medals after the city was dedicated on May 11, 330. She is shown on obverses as a helmeted bust, or on reverses as a seated or standing figure. Here she is enthroned with her foot on the prow of a warship, indicative of Constantine's naval defeat of Licinius late in 324. That is when Constantine determined to build his new capital on the site of the old Greek city of Byzantium. On this medallion the prow is adorned with a lion's head, whereas on the companion issue struck for Constantius II the prow terminates in an eagle's head.

Constantinopolis holds two pagan objects: a Victory upon a globe and a thyrsus. This comes as no surprise, for Constantine had made a career out of blending paganism and Christianity. The Victory is a Christianised version of Nike, whereas the thyrsus was still a thoroughly pagan object representing Bacchus (Dionysus). Here the thyrsus must allude to the familiar role Bacchus played as conqueror of the East. As such, it would reflect upon the importance of Constantinople to the empire, and perhaps even the perpetual dream of all emperors of the last century: conquering the Sasanians.

The 'circulation' value of medallions (or whether they even circulated) has often been questioned. We have a perfect test case with this piece, which weighs almost precisely 4- solidi – a cumbersome figure by any reckoning. Attempts to value it in terms of other gold units, such as scruples, carats, fractions of a pound, and even 'festaurei', lead to dead ends. As such, we have a chance to examine the valuations of late gold medallions, especially in terms of their equivalency in silver and their gift value versus redemption value.

Few contemporary sources shed light on monetary topics, but the *Codex Theodosianus* (13.2.1) equates five gold solidi with one pound of silver in terms of tax payments in 397 (a subsequent edict of 422, perhaps in response to a temporary condition, downgrades a pound of silver to four solidi: *C.Th.* 8.4.27). Ammianus Marcellinus (XX.4.18) tells us that upon his accession in 360 Julian II fixed his quinquennial *augustaticum* payments at five solidi and a pound of silver. Constantinus Porphyrogenetus (*ceremoniis* I, 91) reports these same figures for donatives of the years 473, 491 and 518.

With the two sums – five solidi, and a pound of silver – being mentioned in this context, we should conclude that the two sums were valued as equals, and that the bonus was traditionally paid with appropriate quantities of the two metals. The combination of these pieces of evidence, spanning more than 150 years, suggests that, in the eyes of the late Roman government at least, five gold solidi generally held the same value as a pound of silver.

Considering five solidi were 1/14- of a pound of gold, we arrive at a gold-to-silver ratio of 14:1. This is an ideal match for the generally held belief that during most of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries the ratio of gold to silver was 14:1 or 15:1. Rarely do independent sources in this period offer confirmation this complete, especially when subjected to practical testing.

In taking this to the next level, we would convert the intrinsic value of this 4- solidus medallion to 9/10 of a pound of silver. It is now worth asking: what reason would there be not to strike a medallion of this size, beauty and obvious importance at the full weight of five solidi, since that figure not only represented the benchmark of a full pound of silver, but also represented a fixed level of the accession bonus?

The answer is simple: this medallion, which certainly was struck for Gallus' accession in 351, was valued at five solidi, and was the gold equivalent of a pound of silver. The ten percent differential between its 'donative value' and the intrinsic value of its gold was probably retained by the mint to cover costs, and perhaps even to generate a small profit.

We must also remember that in the late Constantinian period the solidus (already a notch below the old aureus in the eyes of Rome's trading partners) had virtually lost its reputation to an epidemic of false and underweight solidi. Public confidence in Rome's once-venerable gold coinage was low, and the government's opinion was lower still (see the commentary for Valentinian I). Underweight coins and outright fakes were enough of a concern, but even the 'good' solidi of the age were only about 95 percent pure.

Considering the five percent purity gap of solidi, the government's probable desire for profit (or at least to cover costs), and the likelihood that the five-solidus/pound of silver ratio was an obvious benchmark, it seems best to consider this a five-solidus medallion. If not, why would the mint not simply have increased its weight by ten percent to make perfect this otherwise beautifully conceived medallion?

In earlier times the situation might have been different, but in the late Constantinian Era it requires no great stretch of the imagination to believe that the government would have valued this piece at five solidi upon distribution, but only at its melt value of 4- solidi if it was later redeemed for tax payment.



305 2:1





311



- 311 Solidus, Nicomedia circa 351–353, 4.34 g. DN FL CL CONSTANTIVS NOB CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GLORIA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis enthroned facing, the latter turned to l., supporting between them a shield inscribed VO / TIS / V; in exergue, SMNC. RIC 75. C 24. Vagi 3327.

Rare. Extremely fine 6'000

The brief and cruel reign of Constantius Gallus as Caesar in the east in many ways caused his emperor Constantius II more problems than it solved. However, when Constantius II appointed Gallus Caesar, he was in a bind, and only two young men remained in the family stable: his half-cousins, Gallus and Julian II. Had Constantius II known the problems these two eventually would cause him, he would have included them in his murderous purge of that branch of the family in 337. In the end, Gallus proved to be a thorn in his side, and Julian staged a revolt in the west and succeeded him as emperor. After the fallout that followed the death of Constantine the Great, the empire came to be ruled by his three sons: Constantius II in the east and his two brothers in the west. In 340 the eldest, Constantine II, was killed, and a decade later the youngest, Constans, was murdered, leaving the middle son Constantius II as the only legitimate emperor. However, his supremacy was not recognised by Magnentius, the Gallic commander who had murdered Constans. Most of the west had fallen into the rebel's hands, including, at certain times, Rome itself. Constantius II marched to Europe and prepared for a long campaign to reclaim the west. While at Sirmium, he arranged for his sister Constantia to marry her half-cousin Gallus, who was then hailed Caesar on the Ides of March, 351. After the formalities ended, the new Caesar and his bride (a woman so wicked Ammianus Marcellinus described her as a "mortal fury") marched eastward to establish court at Antioch, where they could most easily react to an invasion by the Sasanians. As Constantius II made steady progress against Magnentius, Gallus behaved recklessly, incompetently and cruelly in the East. Not long after Magnentius was defeated in August, 353, Gallus was recalled to the west under the pretence that he would rule in the west and Constantius II would return to his traditional roost in the East. The ruse was a success, and when Gallus neared the Italian border late in 354 he was arrested, tried and beheaded in his 29<sup>th</sup> year. On this gold solidus of Nicomedia, Gallus offers vows for his fifth year as Caesar, which history shows he was unable to achieve.

#### Julian II Caesar, 355 – 361



312



312

- 312 Solidus, Antioch 355–361, 4.52 g. D N IVLIANV – S NOB CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GLORIA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinople enthroned facing and supporting shield bearing an eight-pointed star; in exergue, SMANE. RIC 167 (officina E unlisted). C 22. Vagi 3337.

Nick on cheek, otherwise extremely fine 3'000

Ex Spink sale 100, 1993, 311.

Few men of late antiquity are as well known as Julian II, usually referred to as "the Philosopher" or "the Apostate". Julian was not satisfied with Christianity, even from an early age. His formative years were spent studying philosophy, paganism, 'magic', occultism and related subjects that were frowned upon by the Church. So much did Julian enjoy his scholarly pursuits that he avoided any call to Imperial duties, even though he was one of the few surviving males of the House of Constantine. His memories of family politics could not have been fond, as many of his direct and extended family were murdered in the purge of 337. Among the survivors – because of their youth – were Julian and his cousin Constantius Gallus. When Julian was compelled by Constantius II to rule in the west as Caesar, he knew that he faced a difficult task: not only was the west constantly in danger from barbarian invasion, but it was under-funded and had too small an army. Nonetheless he proved resourceful, persistent and, above all, capable. Indeed, he grew in popularity so much that it alarmed Constantius II in the east. Finally, in 360, Julian was hailed emperor by his western army, and he marched eastward to confront Constantius II. The empire was fortunate that Constantius II died before the armies of the east and the west could clash, for each army was extremely loyal to their emperor, and the resulting battle would have been horrific. As sole emperor for two years, Julian's principal tasks were to restore pagan institutions that had suffered at the hands of the Christian Church, and to launch a much-anticipated invasion of Persia. Julian was remarkably successful in both endeavours, but was cut down in a battle against the Persians, either by an enemy or by one of his own Christian soldiers.



## Julian II Augustus, 361 – 363



- 313 Solidus circa 361–363, 4.52 g. FL CL IVLIA-NVS P P AVG Perl-diademed and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS EXERCI – TVS ROMANORVM Soldier, helmeted, standing r., holding trophy over l. shoulder and placing r. hand on head of kneeling captive; in exergue, RT. RIC 323. C 78. Vagi 3349. Extremely fine 4'500

Ex NFA sale XXVI, 1991, 361.

The death of Julian II in 363 was followed by the brief and uneventful reign of Jovian that lasted only a year, and which proved to be the final blow to a unified Roman Empire. The social, ethnic, political and religious differences between Asiatic Romans and European Romans were too great to be dismissed. In the end it was not the senate or the people who determined to divide the Roman Empire, it was the army. Significant portions of the eastern and western armies had been united in 361 when Julian II marched toward Asia Minor to battle Constantius II. With the unexpected death of Constantius II, the Empire, and its army, was uncomfortably united for the remaining three years under Julian II and Jovian. However, with the death of the latter in 364, the army took matters into its own hands and forced an east-west split under the brothers Valentinian I and Valens. Except for being united for half-year periods under Gratian and Theodosius I, the empire was divided and had separate emperors for all of its remaining 112 years.

## Valentinian I, 364 – 375.



- 314 Solidus, Lugdunum 364–367, 4.46 g. D N VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RESTITVTOR – REIPVBLICAE Emperor standing facing, holding *labarum* ornamented with Christogram and Victory on globe; in exergue, SMLVG. C 24. RIC 1a. Vagi 3484. A few light scratches, otherwise good very fine 600

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.1990, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 6.

With the death of Julian II and his ephemeral successor Jovian, The House of Constantine had become extinct except for two usurpers who claimed membership. After the collapse of such an important a dynasty, in which the empire was transformed from paganism to Christianity, the stage was set for another monumental event - the division of the East and the West. Through historians will forever disagree about when the division began (under Diocletian ? Constantine and his sons ? Theodosius I?), the most logical point is 364, when Valentinian was hailed emperor and within a month had shared Imperial responsibilities with his young brother Valens. Valentinian was somewhat of a renaissance man: well educated, an excellent soldier and commander, and apparently an accomplished painter and sculptor. As emperor he was particularly lenient on the poorer people in the empire, perhaps because his family was not noble. When he hailed emperor, Valentinian in Gaul trying to restore order, so when he divided the empire with his brother, he took responsibility for the west. His reign was an unending sequence of border wars, initially on the Rhine, and then later on the Danube. Valentinian's service to his empire cannot be underestimated, and many historians consider him to be the last truly capable ruler in Roman history. For a glimpse of his intensity and dedication we need only look to the circumstances of his death at age 55, for he died of a rage-induced stroke while negotiating with a particularly offensive delegation sent by the Quadi.





315

- 315 1 1/2 scripulum, Thessalonica circa 364–367, 1.66 g D N VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PAX PERPETVA Victory seated r. on cuirass, writing VOT/V/MVL/X on shield supported by winged Genius; in exergue, TES•. C 15, RIC 5. Vagi 3487. Rare. Extremely fine 2'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1719.

These small ceremonial gold coins were probably intended for distribution to people of lesser importance, as they are light coins that fall awkwardly between a tremissis (one-third of a solidus) and a semissis (half of a solidus). It would have taken a dozen of these to equal the medallion of Constantius Gallus described earlier in this sale. Some have speculated that small coins like this were given to the general public under a variety of circumstances. Along this line of thought, some suspect this is why so many gold tremisses were struck in the names of the eastern empresses Aelia Pulcheria and Aelia Eudocia, who, though bitter enemies, were renowned for their pious acts of charity.



316

- 316 Solidus, Mediolanum Quinquennalia of 368, 4.45 g. D N VALENTINI – NIANVS AVG Pearl-diademed bust l., wearing imperial mantel and holding mappa and short sceptre. Rev. VOTA – PV – BLICA Valentinian and Valens, nimbate, draped in imperial mantle, seated facing on throne, each holding mappa and sceptre. The emperor on l. is raising his mappa. In exergue, MED. Cf. C 65–68, RIC 3a, Ulrich-Bansa, *Moneta mediolanensis*, pl.1, 10 (*tabulae* of trabea pearl-ornamented) and cf. 9 (Valens, this rev. die). P. Bastien, QT 14, 1985, pl. 2, 9b (this coin). Vagi 3484.

Extremely rare. Scratch on cheek, otherwise about extremely fine

700

Ex NAC Autumn sale 1995, 661.

Some of the most important reforms of gold coinage occurred in the first three years of the joint reign of Valentinian I and Valens. In recent years the solidus had earned a poor reputation: not only were the 'good' pieces only about 95 percent pure, but there was an epidemic of false and underweight solidi. So bad was the problem that the government refused to accept its own coins for tax payments, and instead insisted on bullion or other acceptable goods. The *Codex Theodosianus* (12.7.2) reveals that earlier, in 363, the emperor Julian II tried to remedy the problem by installing officials (*zugostates*) in each city to weigh and test solidi. However, even this failed, because false or underweight solidi were often substituted for good ones while they were in transit from the point of collection to the point of deposit. In the period 366–367 Valentinian and Valens decreed that all gold received was to be melted into ingots and tested before it could be accepted for tax collection. Their new system even required that provincial governors who collected taxes deliver payments directly to the Imperial residence rather than to the central treasuries, as had been the practice. These reforms paid off, and the reputation of the solidus was to some degree salvaged, with their post-reform coins rarely falling below 99 percent purity. To distinguish their reform solidi, the ones struck at palatine mints (in cities with Imperial residences) were marked OB (meaning *obryziatum*) beginning in January or February, 368. Starting a year later, and lasting until 374, the same high control standards were applied to products of the ordinary mints (*monetae publicae*) located in cities without an Imperial residence, as they were forbidden to strike solidi with 'private' gold.



324 2:1

### Procopius, 365 – 366



317



317



- 317 Solidus, Constantinople circa 365–366, 4.39 g. D N PROCO – PIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. REPARATI – O FEL TEMP Emperor standing facing right, holding labarum ornamented with cross in r. hand and resting l. on shield; in exergue, CONS. C –. RIC 2b.

Extremely rare. A few light marks, otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine 30'000

In Procopius we have one of the more legitimate rebels in Roman history. When Julian II was killed in battle against the Persians in the summer of 363, it was Procopius, a relative of Julian II and one of his campaign commanders, who bore his body back to Cilicia for burial. Furthermore, it was rumoured that he had been named successor. Despite all this, the divided army did not recognize Procopius' claim and selected Jovian, who seems to have been neutral in the east-west divide within the ranks. Another reason Procopius might have been denied was his probable sympathy toward paganism, which we might presume from his close association with Julian and his choice to wear a beard. Because of his prominence, Procopius was in grave danger and so went into hiding, emerging only when the new eastern emperor Valens was travelling to Syria. Much was working in favour of Procopius: not only was Valens far away, but the locals in Constantinople were desperate for relief from Petronius, the corrupt father-in-law of Valens who had been left behind in command. Procopius' revolt was easily sparked, but proved impossible to maintain. The contemporary historian Ammianus reports that Procopius tried to extend his rule into the strategically important Illyricum through the offer of an 'accession donative', but apparently even this failed. With the passage of time Procopius' support in the army eroded until he left the capital with what remained of his army to confront Valens. The pitched battle Procopius no doubt considered his only chance for survival never materialized, as he was handed over to Valens after the 'battle of Nacolia' in the summer of 366 and was executed.

### Gratian, 367 – 383



318



318



- 318 Solidus, Trier circa 369, 4.48 g. D N GRATIANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors seated facing holding globe; above Victory facing with spread wings between them, below, a palm-branch. In exergue, TR·OB·. RIC 17(f). C 38. Vagi 3496.

Extremely fine 1'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 28.10.1993, 1764.

### Valentinian II, 375 – 392



319



- 319 Solidus, Trier circa 378–383, 4.42 g. D N VALENTINIANVS IVN P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed small bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGG Two emperors seated facing, the one on the r. smaller, together holding globe; above, Victory facing with spread wings. Between them, below, palm-branch; in exergue, TROBS. C 36. RIC 49(c).

Rare. Edge smoothing, otherwise about extremely fine 1'000

Ex Dürr & Michel sale 8.11.1999, 61.





320



- 320 Solidus, Constantinople 378–383, 4.46 g. D N VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCOR – DIA AVGGG Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., on throne ornamented with lion's heads, holding sceptre and globe; r. foot on prow. In exergue, CONOB. C 1. RIC 45(b) (Officina Γ unlisted). Vagi 3512.

**Theodosius I, 379 – 395**

Good extremely fine 1'000



321



- 321 Solidus, Constantinople circa 378–383, 4.46 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCOR – DIA AVGGG Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., on throne ornamented with lions' heads, holding sceptre and globe; r. foot on prow; in exergue, CONOB. C –. RIC 43(b). Vagi 3693.

Abrasion on edge and light marks on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

750

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.1990, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 9.



322



- 322 Solidus, Constantinople circa 380–383, 4.48 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCOR – DIA AVGGG I Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., on throne ornamented with lions' head, holding sceptre and shield inscribed VOT / X / MVLT / XV; r. foot on prow. In exergue, CONOB. C 11. RIC 71(a). Vagi 3693.

About extremely fine 1'000

Ex Giessener Münzhaltung sale 67, 1994, 856.

### **Aelia Flaccilla, wife of Theodosius I**



323



323

- 323 Solidus, Constantinople circa 383–386, 4.47 g. AEL FLAC – CILLA AVG Draped bust r., with elaborate headdress, necklace and mantle. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE B Victory seated r. on throne, writing Christogram on shield held on small column; in exergue, CONOB. C 1. RIC 72. Vagi 3707.

Extremely rare. A small flan imperfection above ear on obverse,

otherwise extremely fine 18'000

Like her husband, the emperor Theodosius, Aelia Flaccilla was born to a good family in Spain, and when she married in about 376 it may never have occurred to her that Theodosius' career would draw her far from her homeland. After a year or less of marriage Flaccilla gave birth to her first son, Arcadius, and about six years later (long after she had moved to Constantinople and been hailed Augusta) to her second son, Honorius. Throughout her life – even as an empress – she bore a reputation for her piety and her generosity to the poor. Her coins were the first struck for an empress since the 330s and they reinstated the practice, which soon took an especially firm hold in the East. On her coins it is easy to see the iconographic connection to earlier issues of Fausta, Helena and Theodora, and to observe how they influenced future empress coinages. Additionally, her name Aelia, which is abbreviated AEL on her coin inscriptions, apparently was assumed to have been part of her title, for it was adopted as a title by later Augustae.

## Eugenius, 392 – 394



- 324 Solidus, Lugdunum circa 392–394, 4.51 g. D N EVGENI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors, nimbate, seated facing on throne; the emperor on r. holding mappa and the two together holding globe. Above, Victory facing with spread wings; below, palm-branch. In outer field l. and r., L – D; in exergue, COM. RIC 45. C 6. Vagi 3543. Extremely rare. Nick on edge at seven o'clock and an unobtrusive abrasion on the ethnic on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 28'000

History records little of Eugenius, a professor of Latin and rhetoric who gave up teaching to occupy the throne of the Western Roman Empire for two years and a few days. The very fact that he was not qualified to be emperor made him the perfect candidate, for the Frankish general Arbogast wanted him as a puppet. It was a perfect follow-up to his murder of Valentinian II – the young Western emperor whom Theodosius had entrusted to Arbogast's regency. Afterward the throne remained vacant for three months as Arbogast sought a replacement. Although only Theodosius I, the senior reigning emperor in the East, had the constitutional right to appoint the next emperor in the west, this did not deter Arbogast, who was firmly in control of the West. The elevation of Eugenius was of value to Arbogast on some level, for the old professor was not prone to religious fanaticism, and (as his bearded effigy attests) he was tolerant of pagans. When the army backing Eugenius seized Italy in 393, Theodosius responded with a campaign of his own, and routed them in September, 394. In the aftermath Eugenius was executed and the former Master of Infantry, Arbogast, was driven to flight and soon took his own life. During the six months between the defeat of Eugenius and Theodosius' natural death in January of 395, he remained in Milan and from there ruled over a united empire. Unity occurred on only two occasions after the empire had been divided by Valentinian I and Valens in 364, both of which were equally as brief and transient. With the death of Theodosius the temporary unity of east and west ceased, and the empires entered a period of great unrest under his two incompetent sons, Arcadius and Honorius, who promptly divided the empire between themselves.



- 325 Tremissis, Trier circa 392–394, 1.42 g. DN EVGENI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTORVM Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm-branch; across field, T – R; in exergue, COM. RIC 103. C 10. Vagi 3544. Very rare. Good very fine 5'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 7.11.1997, 205.

## Arcadius, 383 – 408



- 326 Solidus, Constantinople circa 383, 4.45 g. D N ARCADII – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed small bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA – A AVGGGGZ (Z reversed and recut on other letter) Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., on throne ornamented with lions' heads, holding sceptre and globe; r. foot on prow. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 46(g). LRC 2/4 (not represented). Vagi 3714. Extremely fine 750





327

- 327 Solidus, Mediolanum circa 395–402, 4.48 g. D N ARCADI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing r., r. foot on captive, holding standard and Victory on globe; in field, M – D and in exergue, COMOB. RIC Honorius 1205. Ulrich-Bansa, *Moneta Mediolanensis*, 60. LRC 265. Vagi 3713. Extremely fine 750



328

- 328 Solidus circa 402–403, 4.45 g. DN ARCADI – VS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. NOVA SPES REI PVBLICAE S Victory seated r. on cuirass, supporting on her l. knee a shield inscribed XX / XXX to which she points; behind cuirass, a shield; in field l., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 29. LRC 250. Vagi 3715 var. Rare. Extremely fine 750

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 67, 1994, 864.



329

- 329 Medallion of 1 1/4 solidi or aureus, Ravenna circa 403–405, 5.38 g. DN ARCADI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – ROMANORVM Victory advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l. RIC 1285. LRC –.

Of the highest rarity, apparently only two specimens known. Extremely fine 15'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1730 and NAC 15, 1999, 523 sales.

One of the uncommon denominations of Late Roman gold is the aureus, which by 324 had been abandoned in favour of the solidus, a lighter coin Constantine had introduced to a mixed reception in 309. Diocletian had attempted to stabilize his aureus at 60 to the Roman pound (the standard to which these later aurei were struck), which was considerably heavier than Constantine's solidus, struck at 72 to the pound. Once the lighter solidus had supplanted the aureus, it remained the standard of the empire well into Byzantine times. By the time Arcadius reigned, the aureus was but a memory, and the few that were struck certainly were intended for ceremonial use. The relationship between the two denominations is of some interest, for the aureus was essentially 1 solidi. Because of its rarity and archaic weight standard, some researchers refer to the post-Constantinian aureus as a 'festaureus'. Since four 'festaurei' were the equivalent of five solidi the denomination was at least compatible with accession bonuses, which had been fixed at five gold solidi and a pound of silver during the period of Julian II (and remained so through the reign of Anastasius I). Though not an accession issue, this 'festaureus' belongs to an important period, c. 403, when Arcadius celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> year as emperor (*vicennalia*), and Honorius celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> (*decennalia*).

## Eudoxia, wife of Arcadius



330



- 330 Solidus, Constantinople circa 402–403, 4.44 g. AEL EVDO – XIA AVG Pearl-diademed and draped bust r., wearing necklace and earrings and crowned by the hand of God. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE Victory seated r. on cuirass, supporting on her l. knee a shield inscribed with single-lined Christogram to which she points; behind cuirass, a shield. In exergue, CONOB. RIC Arcadius 28. Ratto 139. LRC 273. Vagi 3727. Rare. Good very fine 3'500

The daughter of Bauto the Frank, a general and consul under Valentinian I, Aelia Eudoxia was married to Arcadius with the help of the court eunuch Eutropius. Her position was one of great power, and she used it to dominate palace politics as well as her weak husband. A very pious woman who often argued with the Church's leadership, Eudoxia gave birth to five children, among them the future emperor Theodosius II, and the chaste empress Aelia Pulcheria, wife of the future emperor Marcian. After only a decade of marriage and deep involvement in court affairs, Eudoxia died in the midst of a miscarriage in October, 404.

## Honorius, 393 – 423



331



- 331 Solidus, Constantinople circa 408–420, 4.49 g. D N HONORI – VS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. CONCORDI – A AVGGG H Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., on throne ornamented with lions' heads, holding sceptre and Victory on globe, r. foot on prow; in field l., eight-rayed star. In exergue, CONOB. C 3. RIC Theodosius II 201. MIRB Theodosius II pl. 1, 13b. LRC 779. Vagi 3552. Extremely fine 700

Ex Baldwin sale 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 14.



332



332



- 332 Solidus, Ravenna after 408, 4.40 g. D N HONORI – VS P F AVG Helmeted bust r., diademed, draped and cuirassed. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, crowned from above by the Hand of God, holding long staff surmounted by Christogram and placing l. hand on hilt of sword, r. foot resting on recumbent serpent-tailed lion. In field, R – V; in exergue, COB. C 43. RIC 1310. LRC 742. Vagi 3553. Rare. Extremely fine 2'500

Ex Leu sale 71, 1997, 573.



333



- 333 Solidus, Ravenna after 408, 4.41 g. D N HONORI – VS P F AVG Helmeted bust r., diademed, draped and cuirassed. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, crowned from above by the Hand of God, holding long staff surmounted by Christogram and placing l. hand on hilt of sword, r. foot resting on recumbent serpent-tailed lion. In field, R – V; in exergue, COB. C 43. RIC 1310. LRC 742. Vagi 3553.

Rare. Light scratch on obverse and nick on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 1'500

Ex NFA sale XXVI, 1991, 377.



### Constantine III, 407 – 411



- 334 Solidus, Arles after 408, 4.45 g. D N CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AAVGGG Emperor standing r., holding standard and Victory on globe, spurning captive with his l. foot; in field, A – R. In exergue, CONOB. C 5. RIC 1517. LRC 803. Vagi 3565. Very rare. Extremely fine 5'000

Ex Superior sale 12.12.1992, 2553.

Constantine III, a general of obscure origins but considerable talent, was proclaimed emperor in Britain in 407 by his soldiers following the assassinations of the usurpers Marcus and Gratianus (neither of whom issued coins). He led his troops across the Channel into Gaul, where his authority was swiftly accepted locally, but was opposed by the reigning Western emperor Honorius, who sent his general Sarus from Italy to harass his defences. After initial setbacks, Constantine gained the upper hand and occupied all of Gaul up to the Alps, establishing his base at Arles where this coin was struck. At its greatest extent, the territories controlled by Constantine included all of Western Europe, from Britain in the North and Spain in the South. Soon, however, his grip began to loosen. First Britain rose in revolt, and then Gerontius, Constantine's own *magister militum*, whom he had sent to Spain to quell another revolt, ended up turning against him. His fate was sealed in 411 when Honorius sent a general by the name of Constantius (the future emperor Constantius III) to defeat him. Although he had taken refuge in a church and was ordained before surrendering, the former rebel was murdered in captivity and his head sent to Ravenna where it was exhibited for some time.

### Galla Placidia, wife of Constantine III and mother of Valentinian III



- 335 Solidus, Constantinople circa 441–443, 4.43 g. GALLA PLA – CIDIA AVG Pearl-diademed, draped bust r., wearing necklace and earrings, crowned by the Hand of God. Rev. IMP XXXXII COS – XVII P P' Constantinopolis enthroned l., holding sceptre and globus cruciger, l. foot on prow, shield at her side; in field l., star. In exergue, COMOB. C 2. RIC Theodosius II 317. MIRB Theodosius II 38ba. LRC 834 (these dies). Vagi 3593 var.

Metal-flaw on neck, otherwise extremely fine 5'000

Ex Lanz sale 70, 1994, 210.

The life of Galla Placidia, daughter of the Eastern emperor Theodosius I and his second wife Galla, is replete with tragedies. In 410 she was taken hostage by the Visigoths after they sacked Rome, and four years later she became the wife of the Visigothic King Athaulf, who married her in an attempt to unite his house with Rome. A son was born of the union, but tragedy struck when he was murdered along with his father by a rival chieftan. The Visigoths then ransomed her to the Romans, after which her half-brother Honorius forced her to marry his prize general Constantius III. The marriage was unhappy, but produced two offspring – the future emperor Valentinian III and the troublesome empress Honorina. After her husband Constantius died unexpectedly in 421, there soon developed an incestuous affair between Placidia and her half-brother, the emperor Honorius. The scandal caused riots, and as a result the imperial siblings grew to hate each other. Honorius banished his sister, who fled to the court of her nephew in Constantinople, Theodosius II, but she returned shortly to witness the elevation of her own son as emperor of the West after her Honorius' death. Placidia remained in Italy because she became the *de facto* ruler of the western half of the empire during her son's minority, but she eventually came into conflict with the general Aëtius, from which she lost much of her influence over her son. After a traumatic and exhausting life, Galla Placidia died at Rome in 450.

## Johannes, 423 – 425



- 336 Solidus, Ravenna circa 423–425, 4.17 g. D N IOHAN – NES P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing r., holding standard and Victory on globe, spurning captive with his l. foot; in field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. C 4. RIC 1901. LRC 819. Vagi 3600. Rare. Good very fine 5'000

Ex NFA XXII, 1989, 161; Leu 52, 1991, 290 and CNG-NAC 40, 1996, 1819 sales. From the James Fox collection

The closest surviving male relative of the Western emperor Honorius when he died in August 423 was Valentinian III, the son of Galla Placidia. When alive Honorius had banished his half-sister, so at the time of his death both she and her son were living in Constantinople. Her absence afforded the *primicerius notariorum* (chief notary) Johannes the opportunity to seize power in Rome, which he did with support from Castinus and Aëtius, both barbarians in the service of the Western empire. However, Johannes' rule was short-lived. Theodosius II had sent a small armada to Italy under the command of the general Arbadurius to oust Johannes and then install Valentinian III on the throne. Although Johannes managed to capture Arbadurius, the crafty general convinced several of Johannes' officers to betray him. The rebel was captured and then taken to Aquileia where, before he was executed, he was mutilated and paraded before jeering crowds.



- 337 Tremissis, Ravenna circa 423–425, 1.41 g. D N IOHAN – NES P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTORVM Victory advancing r., holding wreath and globus cruciger; in field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. C 8. RIC 1904. LRC 820. Vagi 3602. Very rare. About extremely fine 2'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1738.

## Theodosius II, 402 – 405



- 338 Solidus, Constantinople circa 408–420, 4.47 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. CONCORDI – A AVGG A Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., on throne ornamented with lions' heads, holding sceptre and Victory on globe, r. foot on prow; in field l., eight-rayed star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 202. MIRB 12b. LRC 313. Vagi 3735. About extremely fine 500

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 67, 1994, 867.





- 339 Solidus, Constantinople circa 415, 4.48 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust r., holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. GLORIA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis seated facing, supporting between them a shield inscribed, VOT / XV / MVLT / XX; in field l., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 207. MIRB 5. LRC 346. Vagi 3737 var.

Rare. Reverse slightly double-struck, otherwise extremely fine 1'500

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.1990, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 15.



- 340 Solidus, Constantinople circa 420–422, 4.45 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VOT XX – MVLT XXX I Victory standing l., holding long jewelled cross; in exergue, CONOB. RIC 219. MIRB 15b. LRC 350 var. (this officina unlisted). Vagi 3739 var.

Extremely fine 700

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.1990, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 16.



- 341 Semis, Constantinople circa 420 or 422, 2.19 g. DN THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGG Victory seated r. on cuirass, behind which shield, inscribing XX / XXX on shield. In field l., star and in field r., Christogram; in exergue, CONOB. RIC 223. MIRB 39. LRC 356. Vagi 3743.

Metal flaw on cheek and graffito on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine 700

Ex Sotheby's sale 20.6.1991, 1008.



- 342 Solidus, Constantinople circa 425–429, 4.32 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE Δ Two emperors, nimbate, enthroned facing, both in consular robes, holding mappa and cruciform sceptre; above them a star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 237. MIRB 23b. LRC 375 var. (this officina unlisted). Vagi 3740.

Extremely fine 700

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 67, 1994, 871.



343

- 343 Solidus, Constantinople circa 430–440, 4.44 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VOT XXX – MVL T XXXX € Constantinopolis seated l., holding spear and globus cruciger, r. foot on prow, shield at her side; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 257. MIRB 25b. LRC 381. Vagi 3735. About extremely fine 500



344

- 344 Solidus, Constantinople circa 441, 4.48 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. UIRT EX – ERC ROM Emperor advancing r., bearing trophy and carrying captive by the hair; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 282. MIRB 31 and on plate 31b. LRC 432. Vagi 3735. Extremely fine 700

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 67, 1994, 884.

#### Aelia Pulcheria, sister of Theodosius II, 414 – 453



345

- 345 Solidus, Constantinople circa 420–422, 4.39 g. AEL PVLCH – ERIA AVG Pearl-diademed, draped bust r., wearing double necklace and earrings, crowned by the Hand of God. Rev. VOT XX – MVL T XXX Δ (last letter recut on another one) Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in exergue, CONOB. RIC Theodosius II 220. MIRB Theodosius II 17b (officina Δ unlisted). LRC Theodosius II 437. Vagi 3755. Graffiti on obverse and reverse, otherwise extremely fine 2'800





346



346

- 346 Solidus, Constantinople circa 441–443, 4.47 g. AEL PVLCH – ERIA AVG Pearl-diademed, draped bust r., wearing double necklace and earrings, crowned by the Hand of God. Rev. IMP XXXXII COS – XVII P P Constantine enthroned l., holding sceptre and globus cruciger, l. foot on prow, shield at her side; in field l., star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC Theodosius II 316. MIRB Theodosius II 35. LRC 442 (reverse legend ends with four points). Vagi 3756.

Extremely fine 3'500

Ex Spink sale 100, 1993, 318.

### Valentinian III, 425 – 455



347



347

- 347 Solidus, Constantinople circa 425–429, 4.36 g. D N VALENTIN – IANVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE A Theodosius II and Valentinian, nimbate, enthroned facing, both in consular robes, holding mappa and cruciform sceptre; above, between them, star. In exergue, CONOB. C 9. RIC Theodosius II 242. MIRB Theodosius II 24b. LRC 837. Vagi 3607. Double-struck on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 700

Ex Leu-NAC sale 26.5.1993, 18.



348



348

- 348 Solidus, Ravenna circa 430–445, 4.49 g. D N PLA VALENTI – NIANVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding long cross and Victory on globe, foot on man-headed serpent; in field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. C 19. RIC 2018. LRC 842. Vagi 3607. Extremely fine 700

Ex Sotheby's sale 28.10.1993, 1807.

**Licinia Eudoxia wife of Valentinian III, 439 – 490**



- 349 Solidus, January 455, 4.44 g. LICINIA EVD – OXIA P F AVG Facing bust wearing trabea crossed over stola, pearl necklace and diadem of pearls surmounted by central jewel. Rev. VOT XXX – MVL – T XXXX Valentinian, in consular robes, and Empress standing facing; he hands her with his r. hand a sceptre (?), while holding with his l. a plain-tipped sceptre; between them, R. In field r, M. In exergue, COMOB. C 2 var. (Valentinian holds a globus cruciger and Licinia a sceptre). RIC 2046 var. (Valentinian holds mappa and cross-tipped sceptre, Licinia holds transverse cross-tipped sceptre). Vagi 3620 var.

An apparently unique and unrecorded variety of an extremely rare type.

Exceptionally well-preserved and a wonderful testimony to the art of transition from the classical world to the early middle ages.

Brilliant extremely fine 35'000

Ex NAC 7, 1994, 882 and NAC 9, 1996, 959 sales.

The portrait of Licinia Eudoxia on this solidus surely must number among the most memorable images of Late Antiquity. This empress was renowned for her beauty, and her life story is every bit as unconventional as her portrait. Eudoxia was the only daughter of the long-reigning Eastern emperor Theodosius II, and upon reaching the requisite age she was married to the reigning Western emperor Valentinian III, who was only three or four years her senior. The marriage was an opportunity for union of East and West, and proved as fruitful as was possible in those troubled times. However, after nearly two decades of marriage, her husband was murdered in a palace coup orchestrated by his chamberlain Petronius Maximus, and Eudoxia faced an uncertain future. In the aftermath it was Petronius Maximus who emerged as the next emperor, and in doing so he forced the widow Eudoxia to marry him. Desperate for a solution, Eudoxia is thought to have summoned help from the Vandal king Gaiseric. Considering her eldest daughter was engaged to one of Gaiseric's sons, she no doubt believed she was exercising good judgment. Gaiseric responded quickly, and in less than three months his Vandal army was marching on Rome. While attempting to flee Rome after a reign of only 76 days, Petronius Maximus was murdered by an angry mob. The Vandals then sacked Rome for more than two weeks, taking anything of value they could locate, including Eudoxia and her two daughters, whom they took as captives. The three Imperial women remained hostage in Carthage for the next seven years, until their release was secured through a large payment by the Eastern emperor Leo I. Whether Eudoxia returned to Rome or Constantinople is not certainly known, but she is thought to have lived in Constantinople until about age 70. It is surprising that Eudoxia made her appeal to the Vandals, as only five years earlier she personally witnessed how her sister-in-law Honoria (also an empress facing a forced marriage) summoned help from Attila the Hun, which resulted in a devastating Hunnic invasion of the West that nearly ended with the sack of Rome.

**Marcian, 450 – 457**



- 350 Solidus, Constantinople circa 450, 4.48 g. D N MARCIA – NVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG H Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 510. MIRB 5b. LRC 482. Vagi 3769.

Extremely fine 1'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 67, 1994, 898.



**Petronius Maximus, 16 March – 31 May 455**



- 351 Solidus circa 455, 4.47 g. D N PETRONIVS MA – XIMVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing holding long cross and Victory on globe, foot on man-headed serpent; in field, R – M. In exergue, COMOB. C 1. RIC 2202. LRC 874. Lacam, FIN, pl. 4, 3 (these dies). Vagi 3626.

Very rare. As usual minor marks on cheek, otherwise extremely fine 15'000

Ex Berk sale 25.3.1995, 266.

As the commentary for lot 349 will testify, the 76-day reign of Petronius Maximus was anything but a success. Much to his credit, though, Petronius Maximus was one of the wealthiest senators in Rome, who after having twice served as consul, prefect of Italy, and prefect of Rome, rose to the grand position of chamberlain to the emperor Valentinian III. More powerful still was the Master of Soldiers Aetius, who controlled the army. Tensions increased, and in a surprisingly courageous move the emperor himself murdered Aetius. This solved one of the Valentinian's problems, but had he lived long enough, he no doubt would have realized his mistake, for Aetius was the best commander in a Western empire. But Valentinian's end came soon, as his chamberlain Petronius Maximus encouraged two of Aetius' former bodyguards to seek revenge by murdering the emperor. Now that the palace was cleared of both general and emperor, Petronius Maximus seized the throne himself, and with it demanded the hand of Valentinian's beautiful 33-year-old widow, Licinia Eudoxia. Desperate for help, she sent a plea to the Vandal king Gaiseric, who quickly landed an army outside of Rome. Petronius Maximus tried to flee on horseback, but instead was pelted with stones by an angry mob that dragged him off his horse, beat him to death and tossed his mutilated body into the Tiber. The Vandals breached the walls of Rome on June 1, 455 and sacked the Eternal City for fifteen days before they departed with untold treasures and three Imperial hostages, Licinia Eudoxia and her two daughters, for whom they eventually receive a king's ransom.

**Leo I, 457 – 474**



- 352 Solidus, Constantinople circa 462–466, 4.47 g. D N LEO PE – RPET AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Δ Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 605. MIRB 3b. LRC 520. Vagi 3780.

Extremely fine 700

Ex Leu-NAC sale 26.5.1993, 22.



- 353 Solidus, Thessalonica circa 462 and / or 466, 4.39 g. D N LEO PERPET AVG Pearl-diademed bust l., in consular robes, holding mappa and cruciform sceptre. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor, nimbate, enthroned facing, in consular robes, holding mappa and cruciform sceptre; in field l., star. In exergue, THSOB. RIC 620. MIRB 13. LRC 556. Metcalf, The Minting of Gold Coinage at Thessalonica etc., ANSNS 17, pl. 20, 191 (this obverse die). Vagi 3781.

Rare. Extremely fine / about extremely fine 2'000

Ex Superior 12.1998, Moreira Collection, 2582 and Baldwin 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 19 sales.



**Leo II, 18 January – 17 November 474, and Zeno from 9 February**



- 354 Solidus, Constantinople circa 474, 4.48 g. D N LEO ET Z – ENO P P AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE Two emperors, nimbate, enthroned facing, each holding mappa in r. hand; above them a star, behind them a cross. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 803. MIRB 1b. LRC 600. Vagi 3800. Rare. Extremely fine 3'500

Ex Baldwin sale 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 21.

**Majoran, 457 – 461**



- 355 Solidus, Ravenna circa 457–461, 4.43 g. D N MAIORI – ANVS P F AVG Helmeted bust r., diademed, draped and cuirassed, holding spear pointing forward and shield bearing Christogram. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding long cross and Victory on globe, foot on man-headed serpent; in field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. C 1. RIC 2614. LRC 877 var. (MAIOR – IANVS). Cf. Lacam pl. 11, 7-9. Vagi 3632.

Very rare. Edge somewhat tooled, otherwise good very fine 3'500

Ex Coin Galleries sale 16.2.1994, 27.

**Libius Severus, 461 – 465**



- 356 Solidus circa 462, 4.36 g. D N LIBIVS SEVE – RVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding long cross and Victory on globe, foot on man-headed serpent; in field R – M. In exergue, COMOB. C 8. RIC 2706. LRC 895. Lacam, FIN, pl. 15, 15 (this obverse die). Vagi 3638.

About extremely fine 5'000

Ex CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1832. From the James Fox collection.

For having reigned a substantial four years, surprisingly little is known of Libius Severus, an emperor often called Severus III to distinguish from predecessors who also bore the name. Apparently, he was a native of Lucania in south-western Italy, he was proclaimed emperor by the generalissimo Ricimer at Ravenna on November 19, 461. Though we hear nothing of Severus' activities during his tenure, his master Ricimer was kept fully occupied campaigning against the Alans and the Vandal king Gaiseric. It would appear that Severus was nothing more than a puppet emperor who died on November 14, 465, presumably of natural causes, but the suspicion naturally exists that he may have been murdered.





357



357

- 357 Solidus, Mediolanum circa 462, 4.41 g. D N LIBIVS SEVER – VS PERPETV AG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding long cross and Victory on globe, foot on man-headed serpent; in field, M – D. In exergue, COMOB. C 10 var. RIC 2724 (these dies). LRC 894. Lacam, FIN, pl. 17, 45. Ulrich-Bansa, *Moneta Mediolanensis*, 112. Vagi 3638. Very rare. Extremely fine 5'000

Ex NFA sale XXVI, 1991, 384.

#### Anthemius, 467 – 472



358



358

- 358 Solidus circa 468, 4.50 g. D N ANTHE – MIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. SALVS R – EI P – VBLICAE Two emperors, in military attire, standing facing, holding spears and supporting a globe surmounted by cross between them; in centre field, star. In exergue, CORMOB. C 4. RIC 2823. LRC 917 (these dies). Lacam, FIN, pl. 27, 71. Vagi 3645.

Rare. Area of weakness on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 3'500

Ex NFA sale XXVI, 1991, 384.

When the shadowy emperor Libius Severus (Severus III) died in November, 465, the Western Roman Empire existed without an emperor for more than a year – the whole time, however, the all-powerful general Ricimer continued to make command decisions, he just did so without a figurehead on the throne. The situation had clearly gotten out of hand in the eyes of the Eastern emperor, Leo I, who appointed Procopius Anthemius, a high-ranking Constantinopolitan of Galatian descent, to rule in the West. Shortly before to Anthemius' arrival in Rome on April 12, 457, he wisely offered his daughter's hand in marriage to Ricimer, whose support would be essential if he wished to stay in power. Ricimer accepted the offer for political reasons, but he always viewed Anthemius as a threat to his own supremacy. Anthemius was never popular with the Romans who were prejudiced towards his 'Eastern Greek' ancestry. After an armada of 1,100 ships Leo I sent against the Vandals in 468 was destroyed due to the incompetence of its commander, Basiliscus, and because Anthemius had not effectively dealt with the Visigoths who threatened Gaul, what little support existed for his regime quickly eroded. In 472, Ricimer arranged a coup in which Anthemius was murdered and replaced with a more malleable candidate from the East, the patrician Olybrius.



359



- 359 Solidus circa 468, 4.46 g. D N ANTHE – MIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and draped bust three-quarters facing, holding spear over r. shoulder. Rev. SALVS R – EI P – VBLICAE Two emperors, in military attire, standing facing, holding spears and supporting a globe surmounted by cross between them; in centre field, ROMA monogram. In exergue, COMOB. C 6. RIC 2831. Lacam pl. 25, 44 (these dies). LRC 925 (these dies). Vagi 3645.

Rare. Obverse from a slightly rusty die, otherwise extremely fine 5'000

Ex CNA sale XVI, 1991, 564.





- 360 Solidus, Mediolanum circa 468, 4.46 g. D N ANTHEMI –VS PERPET AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. SALVS REI – PV – BLICAE Two emperors, in military attire, standing facing, holding spears and supporting a globe surmounted by cross between them; in centre field, MD. In exergue, COMOB. C 9. RIC 2893. Ulrich-Bansa, *Moneta Mediolanensis*, 122. LRC –. Lacam, FIN, pl. 29, 94. Vagi 3645. Rare. Extremely fine 5'000

#### Julius Nepos first reign, 474 – 475



- 361 Solidus circa 474–475, 4.39 g. D N IVL NE – POS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTOR – I – A AVGGG: Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross, a dot next to her l. foot; in field r., star. In exergue, COMOB. C 5. Cf. RIC 3206. LRC –, cf. 476. Cf. Lacam, FIN, pl. 37, 5. Vagi 3662.

Extremely rare. Area of weakness on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 5'000

Ex CNA sale XVI, 1991, 564.

The year 472 was of critical importance to the Western Roman Empire: not only had two emperors, Anthemius and Olybrius, perished, but the 'emperor-making' general Ricimer also had died. Ricimer was replaced by his nephew Gundobad, who, after a four-month hiatus, appointed Glycerius, a man of no particular distinction, to the vacant throne. The usurpation was not recognized by the emperor Leo I in Constantinople, as the right to rule, or to determine who would rule, had rightfully passed to Leo. To remedy the situation, Leo sent Julius Nepos, the *magister militum* of Dalmatia and a relation by marriage to Italy at the head of an army. Nepos captured Glycerius without a fight, and appointed him bishop of Salona (in his own land of Dalmatia), and thus spared his life. With Leo's death in 474 and the eruption of contest for power in the East, Nepos acted decisively and seized the western throne himself. The new emperor was immediately beset by many difficulties: the local population did not support him, and he had to cede Gaul and Spain to the Visigoths under their new and energetic king Euric. Furthermore, he appointed the former secretary to Attila the Hun, Orestes, as his *magister militum*, an unfortunate choice since Orestes soon rebelled. Nepos was forced to flee back to his native Dalmatia, and afterward Orestes placing his own son Romulus Augustus on the throne. Though he had no real power in the West, Nepos was still the constitutional emperor, and at least initially was viewed as such by the new Eastern emperor Zeno. Nepos continued to rule Dalmatia autonomously as he had done before until in 480 he was murdered, seemingly at the instigation of Glycerius, the former emperor whose life he had mercifully spared.





362



- 362 Solidus in the name of Zeno circa 474–475, 4.42 g. D N ZENO P – ERP F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTOR – I – A AVGGG: Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC p. 204 and 3205. Cf. LRC 670 (Zeno restored, 475–476 Ravenna). Lacam, FIN, pl. 42, 97. W. Hahn, *Die Münzstätte Rom unter den Kaisern Julius Nepos, Romulus und Basiliscus (474–491)*, RIN 90, 1988, ill. 2. Vagi 3807.

Very rare. Almost Fdc 12'000

Ex Lanz sale 70, 1994, 212.

#### Romulus Augustus, 475 – 476



363



- 363 Solidus circa 475–476, 4.41 g. D N ROMVLVS AV – GVSTVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTOR – I – A AVGGG: Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; R – M across field. In exergue, COMOB. C 3. RIC 3405 (this coin). LRC –. Lacam, FIN, pl. 47, 13 (these dies). Vagi 3667. Extremely rare. Area of weakness on obverse on nose, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine 20'000

Ex Naville III, 1922, Sir. A. J. Evans collection, 266 and Superior 12.12.1992, 2565 sales.

The last legitimate ruler of the Western Roman Empire was Julius Nepos, who remained the constitutional emperor *in absentia* from his base in Dalmatia. However, traditionally that honor has been incorrectly given to Romulus Augustus (sometimes surnamed Augustulus, "the little emperor"), who, after Nepos fled Italy, was hailed emperor as a figurehead of his father's army. His reign lasted just ten months before Germans under Odovacar withdrew their support and deposed both the young emperor and his father. The Germans allowed the former boy-emperor live, and provided him with an ample pension so he could engage in an early retirement to an estate on the Gulf of Naples in Campania, where he is said to have lived for at least thirty more years.

#### Zeno second reign, 476 – 491



364



- 364 Solidus, Constantinople circa 476–491, 4.47 g. DN ZENO – P – ERP AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – AAVGGGS Victory standing l., holding long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 929 var. (PERP). MIRB 7. LRC 643 (officina I). Vagi 3806. Extremely fine 700

Ex Spink sale 78, 1990, 222.

### Basiliscus sole reign, January 475 – April 476



365

- 365 Solidus, Constantinople circa 475–476, 4.47 g. D N bASILIS – CUS P P AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTOR – I – A AVGGG Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 1003. MIRB 1a. LRC 607. Vagi 3285.

Extremely fine 1'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 21.6.1991, 25.

### Basiliscus and Marcus joint reign, Autumn 475 – August 476



366

- 366 Solidus, Constantinople circa 475–476, 4.41 g. D N bASILISCI – Et MARC P AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGGA Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 1024. MIRB 8.1. LRC –. Vagi 3838.

Rare. About extremely fine 2'000

Ex NFA sale XXVI, 1991, 386.

### Zeno and Leo Caesar, 476 – 477



367

- 367 Solidus, Constantinople circa 476–477, 4.49 g. D N ZENO ET L – EO NOV CAES Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTOR – I – A AVGGG€ Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 906. MIRB 6 (this coin). LRC –. Vagi 3844.

Very rare. Traces of overstrike, otherwise good very fine 1'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 35

### The Ostrogoths, Athalaric – Theodad, 526 – 536



368

- 368 Solidus in the name of Justinian, 4.42 g. D N IVSTINI – ANVS Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTOR – I – A AVGGGA Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field l., six-rayed star. In exergue, COMOB. MIB 1, 28. MEC 122.

About extremely fine / extremely fine 1'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 28.10.1993, 1830.



## Byzantine Gold Coins

The mint is Constantinople unless otherwise stated

### Anastasius, 491 – 518



369



369

- 369 Solidus circa 491, 4.48 g. D N ANASTAS – IVS PERP AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGGA Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. DO –. MIRB 1, 3a (this coin). Sear 3. J. M. Fagerlie, *The First Gold Issue of Anastasius*, ANSMN 13, 1967, pl. 29, 2 (this coin). Very rare. Extremely fine 1'000

Ex *Ars Classica* XVII, 1934, Sir A.J. Evans Collection, 2023 and Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 36.

On Zeno's death in April, 491, the task of naming a successor was given to Zeno's widow Ariadne. She selected one of the palace marshals (*Silentiarii*), Anastasius, who was commended to the people because of his lack of avarice. Anastasius succeeded to the throne without opposition, but his reign was sometimes troubled due to his strong, unusual religious beliefs. He was a Monophysite, and although he was required by the Patriarch to sign a statement of orthodox belief before he ascended the throne, his religious views were suspect and caused troubles, particularly toward the end of his reign when there was a serious rebellion. Anastasius' most enduring contribution to numismatics was his reformation of the bronze coinage, in which he replaced the tiny *nummus minimus* (Æ 4) of his predecessors with a selection of larger denomination coins whose values were based on a follis of forty *nummi*.



370



370

- 370 Solidus circa 498–518, 4.47 g. D N ANASTA – SIVS P P AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGGH Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled staff surmounted by Christogram; to l., star. In exergue, CONOB. DO 7h. MIRB 7. Sear 5. Extremely fine 800

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 29.



371



- 371 Tremissis circa 491–518, 1.50 g. D N ANASTA – SIVS P P AVG Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM Victory walking r., head l., holding wreath and globus cruciger; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. DO 10a. MIB 1, 11. Sear 8. Extremely fine 350

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 62, 1993, 656.

**Justin I, 518 – 527**



372



372

- 372 Solidus, Thessalonica circa 518–522, 4.38 g. D N IVSTI – NVS P P AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Victory standing l., holding long voided cross; in field l. and r., star. In exergue, CONOB. DO –. MIB 1, 6. Sear 77a. Extremely fine 1'000

Ex Baldwin sale 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 27.

The emperor Justin I, who is said to have hailed from from Illyrian peasant stock, gained prominence through a career in the military. He was uneducated and illiterate, but it was felt that he was a competent leader and he was therefore put before the Senate as a candidate for the throne upon the death of the great Anastasius. During Justin's reign, the Blue and the Green political factions caused great unrest in Constantinople and other major cities which were home to circus factions, but Justin forcefully quelled their revolts. His most enduring accomplishment was holding a synod that condemned the Monophysites, the peculiar Christian religious sect to which his predecessor belonged. This led to a reconciliation of the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, and paved the way for his nephew Justinian's eventual reoccupation of Italy.



373



373

- 373 Tremissis circa 518–527, 1.49 g. D N IVSTI – NVS P P AVG Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM Victory walking r., head l., holding wreath and globus cruciger; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. DO 4. MIB 1, 5. Sear 58.

Good extremely fine 350

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 62, 1993, 660.



374



374

- 374 Solidus circa 522–527, 4.38 g. D N IVSTI – NVS P P AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGGH Angel standing facing, holding long cross and globus cruciger; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. DO 2 (officina H unlisted). MIB 1, 3. Sear 56.

Extremely fine 600

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 56.



## Justin I and Justinian I, 4 April – 1 August 527



- 375 Solidus circa 527, 4.49 g. D N IVSTIN ET IVSTINI P P AVG Emperors, nimbate, seated facing on backless throne, clasping their breasts with their r. hands and holding globes in their l.; cross above, between their heads. In exergue, CONOB. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG S Angel standing facing, holding long cross and globus cruciger; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. Cf. DO (5c) (IVSTINAN). MIB 1, 1d. Sear 117. Metcalf, *Studies in Early Byzantine Coinage*, ANSNS 17, Pl. 2, 17 (these dies). Rare. Extremely fine 5'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 63.

A soldier of peasant stock, Justin had depended heavily on his nephew, Justinian, as a trusted adviser. When the elderly Justin fell ill in 527, he elevated his nephew to the rank of co-emperor to ensure a smooth transition of power upon his death. These interesting solidi, portray the co-emperors on the obverse advertise their joint reign. Judging from the number of dies employed, the issue must have been quite extensive, but today they are anything but common. Perhaps the most obvious explanation for the coins' rarity is that after the death of his uncle, Justinian felt that there was no need to advertise a joint rule and the coins were withdrawn from circulation, melted, and coined anew.

## Justinian I, 527 – 565



- 376 Solidus circa 527–538, 4.46 g. D N IVSTINI – ANVS P P AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG I Angel standing facing, holding long cross of pellets and globus cruciger; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. DO 3i. MIB 1, 5. Sear 137.

About extremely fine 600

Ex Sotheby's sale 21.6.1991, 37.



- 377 Tremissis circa 527–565, 1.48 g. D N IVSTINI – ANVS P P AVG Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM Victory walking r., head l., holding wreath and globus cruciger; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. DO 19. MIB 1, 19. Sear 145.

Extremely fine 300

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 62, 1993, 666.



378



378

- 378 Solidus circa 538–545, 4.41 g. D N IVSTINI – ANVS P P AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGGЄ Angel standing facing, holding long linear staff surmounted by Christogram and globus cruciger; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. DOC 9e. MIB 1, 7. Sear 140. Extremely fine 400



379



- 379 Solidus, Carthage circa 547–548, 4.37 g. D N IVSTINI – ANVS P P AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding globus cruciger and shield with horseman motif on l. shoulder. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGGIA Angel standing facing, holding long cross and globus cruciger; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. DO 277a. MIB 1, 25. Sear 250. Some very light scratches on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine 500

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 76.

### Justin II, 565 – 578



380



- 380 Solidus circa 565–578, 4.52 g. D N IVSTINI – ANVS P P AVG Helmeted and cuirassed bust facing, holding globus surmounted by Victory; on his l. shoulder, shield with horseman motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Δ Constantinopolis seated facing, head r., holding spear and globus cruciger; in exergue, CONOB. DO 5 (this officina unlisted). MIB 2, 1. Sear 346. Extremely fine 400

Ex Superior sale 30.5.90, 7373.



**Justin II and Tiberius Constantine, 26 September – 5 October 578**



- 381 Solidus 578, 4.46 g. D N IVSTINI ET COSTAN P P Crowned busts of Justin II and Tiberius facing, both draped and cuirassed; above, cross and beneath, PP AVG. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGGZ Angel standing facing, holding long linear staff surmounted by Christogram and globus cruciger; in exergue, CONOB. DO 1 (Antioch). MIB 2, 1. Sear 417.

One of the rarest coin of the Byzantine series, probably only four specimens

known. Extremely fine / about extremely fine

40'000

Ex Spink sale 144 13.7.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann Collection part II, 426.

Perhaps the only thing more remarkable than the fact that coins were struck during the nine-day joint rule of Justin II and Tiberius Constantine is the fact that examples have survived. The handful of known solidi come in two varieties: regular and light weight. Interestingly, they share obverse dies. Bellinger states that this could only happen in three instances: 1. obverse dies were shared by different mints; 2. both were struck at the mint of the normal solidus; 3. both were struck at the mint of the light weight solidus. The first seems unacceptable, and Kent proposes that the QS on the light weight solidi represents an officina, and that the coins were struck at Constantinople. Grierson counters that theory, suggesting the letters signify the mint of Antioch, where he believes all specimens were struck (the CONOB on the heavy weight solidi, after all, does not necessarily indicate they were struck at Constantinople). The find sites seem to corroborate Grierson's theory since the two specimens in the Dumbarton Oaks collection – one of each variety – were found in Syria and Cyprus.

**Tiberius II Constantine, 578 – 582**



- 382 Consular solidus circa 579, 4.50 g. CONSTANT A – CC UIU FELIX Crowned bust facing, wearing consular robes, and holding mappa and eagle-tipped sceptre surmounted by cross. Rev. [VICT]OR TI – bERI AUG Cross potent on four steps; in exergue, CONOB. DOC 2. MIB 2, 2. Sear 420. Rare. Some areas of weakness, otherwise almost Fdc 2'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 125.



383

- 383 Solidus circa 579–582, 4.42 g. Dm Tib CONS – TANT P P AVI Crowned and cuirassed bust facing, holding globus cruciger and shield with horseman motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVCCS Cross potent on four steps; in exergue, CONOB. DOC 4f. MIB 2, 4. Sear 422.

Extremely fine 500

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 131.

### Maurice Tiberius, 582 – 602



384

- 384 Consular solidus 583 or 602, 4.47 g. D N MAVRC – Tib P P AVG Emperor, enthroned facing, wearing crown and consular robes, holding mappa and cross. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGΔ Angel standing facing, holding long linear staff surmounted by Christogram and globus cruciger; in exergue, CONOB. DO (2b). MIB 2, 2. Sear 474.

Very rare. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 4'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung 44, 198, 1003 and Baldwin 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 41 sales.

It is not certain for which consulship this coin was struck, the first at the end of 583 (25-31 December), or the second in 622 (6 July-22 November). There is an impressive series of related six-solidus medallions, four of which were set in a girdle in ancient times (see P. Grierson, "The Kyrenia Girdle of Byzantine Medallions and Solidi," *NC* (1955), pp. 55-70). The fact that ten officinae were striking these coins suggests that the issue was very large.



385

- 385 Solidus circa 583, 4.45 g. D N MAVRIC – Tib P P AV Crowned and cuirassed bust facing, holding globus cruciger and shield with horseman motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGI Angel standing facing, holding long linear staff surmounted by Christogram and globus cruciger; in exergue, CONOB. DO 4 (officina I unlisted). MIB 2, 5. Sear 477. Extremely fine 400

Ex Sotheby's sale 21.6.1991, 44.





- 386 Solidus, Carthage circa 583–584, 4.45 g. D N MAVRI – CTb P P ANB Draped and cuirassed bust facing, wearing plumed helmet and holding globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGB Angel standing facing, holding long linear staff surmounted by Christogram and globus cruciger; in exergue, CONOB. DO 217 var. MIB 2, 25b.2. Sear 548.

Edge nick at two o'clock on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine

800



- 387 Solidus, Carthage circa 596–597, 4.40 g. D N MAVRI – CTb P P ANE Draped and cuirassed bust facing, wearing plumed helmet and holding globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGIE Angel standing facing, holding linear staff surmounted by Christogram and globus cruciger; in exergue, CONOB. DO 229. MIB 2, 25b. Sear 549.

Extremely fine

700

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 62, 1993, 674.

### Phocas, 602 – 610



- 388 Solidus circa 607–610, 4.40 g. d N FOCAS – PERP AVC Draped and cuirassed bust facing, wearing crown surmounted by cross and holding globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORI – AVGY H Angel standing facing, holding long linear staff surmounted by Christogram and globus cruciger; in exergue, CONOB. DO 10h. MIB 2, 9. Sear 620.

Extremely fine

350



- 389 Solidus circa 609–610, 4.46 g. d NN FOCAS – PERP AVC Draped and cuirassed bust facing, wearing crown surmounted by cross and holding globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORIA – [AV]GYI Angel standing facing, holding long linear staff surmounted by Christogram and globus cruciger; in exergue, CONOB. DO 10j.7. MIB 2, 11. Sear 620.

Extremely fine / almost Fdc

350

Ex Leu-NAC sale 26.5.1993, 104.



390



390

- 390 Solidus, Carthage circa 604–605, 4.43 g. D N FOCAS – P E R P A N H Draped and cuirassed bust facing, wearing crown, surmounted by cross, and holding globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORI – A AVCCH Angel standing facing, holding globus cruciger and long linear staff surmounted by Christogram; in exergue, CONOB. DO (109). MIB 2, 32. Sear 681. Extremely fine 800

Ex Superior sale 2.12.90, 2575.

### The revolt of the Heraclii, 608 – 610



391



- 391 Solidus, Alexandria indication 11 (608), 4.45 g. D N E R A C A I C O N S V A I I T Facing busts of Heraclius, to l., beardless, and his father the Exarch, bearded, on r.; both are bare-headed and wearing consular robes, cross between heads. Rev. VICTORIA CONSABIA Cross potent on three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 11. MIB 2, 3 (Cyprus). Sear 719.

Extremely rare. Extremely fine 8'000

Ex NFA XVIII, 1987, 749 and Spink 144, 13.7.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann Collection part II, 465 sales.

### Heraclius, 610 – 641



392



392

- 392 Solidus circa 610–613, 4.46 g. d N H E R A C L I – U S P P A V C Helmeted, draped and cuirassed bust facing, holding cross. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVE (€ recut over another letter) Cross potent on three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 3b. MIB 3, 5. Sear 731.

Scratch in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 400

Ex Aufhäuser sale 90, 1990, 861.



**Heraclius with Heraclius Constantine, Augustus from 613**



- 393 Solidus January 613, 4.47 g. [dd] NN HERACLVS ET ERACONST P P AV Facing busts of Heraclius, with short beard, on l., and Heraclius Constantine, beardless, on r., wearing chlamys and crown ornamented with trefoil. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVE Cross potent on base and three steps; in field r., I. In exergue, CONOB. DO –. MIB –. Sear –. S. Bendall, *The First Constantinopolitan Solidus of Heraclius and Heraclius Constantine*, SM 157, pp. 6-7.

Of the highest rarity, apparently only the second specimen known.

Some areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine

5'000

Ex CNG sale 26, 1993, 637.

The trefoil ornamentation on the crowns, which were used in place of crosses, is reminiscent of the crown design on the sole reign follis of Heraclius dated year 3 (MIB 158.5), which was struck at the time of Heraclius Constantine's proclamation.



- 394 Solidus, Ravenna circa 613–629, 4.43 g. D D NN HERACLIVS ET HERA CONST P P Facing bust of Heraclius, on l., and Heraclius Constantinus, beardless, on r., wearing chlamys and crown ornamented by cross; above, cross. Rev. VICTORI – A AVCCC H Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 271 var. MIB 110 b.1. Sear 896.

About extremely fine / extremely fine

1'200

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 62, 1993, 685



- 395 Solidus, Carthage from 614–615, 4.49 g. D N ERACLI ET ERA CONST P P V Facing busts of Heraclius, with short beard, on l., and Heraclius Constantine, beardless, on r., wearing chlamys and crown; above, a cross. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVCC Γ Cross potent on base and two steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 205. MIB 3, 84a.3. Sear 867.

Weakly struck on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

650

Ex Superior sale 21.12.90, 2576.

**Heraclius with Heraclius Constantine, Augustus from 613,  
and Heraclonas, Caesar from 632**



396



- 396 Solidus circa 632–635, 4.45 g. Heraclius, with long beard, standing between his two sons, the figure of Heraclonas on the l. much smaller and uncrowned; all wear chlamys and hold globus cruciger in r. hand. Heraclius and his elder son wear crowns; in field, above Heraclonas' head, star. Rev. VICTORIA – AYG Y H Cross potent on base and three steps. In field r., Heraclian monogram. In exergue, CONOB. DO 33d var. (cross above Heraclonas' head) MIB 39 var. (cross above Heraclonas' head). Sear 758 var. (cross above Heraclonas' head).

Extremely fine 400



397



- 397 Solidus circa 638–639 (?), 4.35 g. Heraclius, with long beard, standing facing between his two sons; all wear chlamys and hold globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGYE Cross potent on base and three steps. In field l., Heraclian monogram, I over B to r.; in exergue, CONOB. DO (41e). MIB 3, 48. Sear 767. Area of weakness on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 400

**Constans II, 641 – 668**



398



398

- 398 Solidus circa 641–646, 4.44 g. dN CONSTAN – TINYS P P AVC (VC ligate) Bust facing, beardless, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, and holding globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORIA – AYG Y Θ Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOBK. DO (2c). MIB 4a. Sear 937.

Very light scratches in reverse field, otherwise good extremely fine 500

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 67, 1994, 925.



399



- 399 Solidus circa 642–643, 4.29 g. dN CONSTAN – TINYS P P AVG Bust facing, with beardless small head, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, and holding globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGY Z Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOBK. DO Heraclonas 2 (officina Z unlisted). MIB 3, 4. Sear 937.

About extremely fine / extremely fine 500





400

- 400 Semissis circa 642–646, 2.18 g.  $\text{dN CONStAN} - \text{tINYS P P AV}$  Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev.  $\text{VICTORIA AVGYS}$  Cross potent on globe. DO 44. MIB 3, 50. Sear 983. Extremely fine 300

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 344.



401

401

- 401 Solidus, Carthage circa 643–644, 4.38 g.  $\text{dN CON} - \text{StAtIN P}$  Beardless bust facing, wearing crown and chlamys and holding globus cruciger. Rev.  $\text{VICTOR} - \text{IA GUB}$  Cross potent on base and two steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 107.2 var. (GIB). MIN 3, 56.7. Sear 1029. Extremely fine 500

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 348.



402

402

- 402 Solidus circa 647–648, 4.44 g.  $\text{dN CONStAN} - \text{tINYS P P AVG}$  Bust facing, with larger head with slight beard, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, and holding globus cruciger. Rev.  $\text{VICTORIA} - \text{AVGYT}$  Cross potent on base and three steps; in field r, S and in exergue, CONOB. DO (7b). MIB 3, 11. Sear 944. Good extremely fine / extremely fine 500



403

- 403 Solidus, Ravenna circa 648–651/2, 4.33 g.  $\text{N CONStAN} - \text{tNYS P P AV}$  Bust facing, with larger head with slight beard, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, and holding globus cruciger. Rev.  $\text{VICTORIA (sic!) - AVGYT}$  Cross potent on base and three steps; in field r, K and in exergue, CONOB. DO 200 var. MIB 3, 131 var. Sear 1133. Ricotti Prina 82. Very rare. Extremely fine 1'500

Ex Bonham-Vecchi I, 1980, 621 and Spink 144, 13.7.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesman Collection part II, 503 sales.

**Constans II with associate rulers:  
Constantine (IV) from 654, Heraclius and Tiberius from 659**



- 404 Solidus circa 662–667, 4.46 g. dN CONST – ANT Facing bust of Constans, with long beard, on l., wearing plumed helmet and chlamys, and Constantine IV, on r., wearing crown and chlamys; in field above, between them, cross. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVS Cross potent on base and three steps between Heraclius and Tiberius standing facing; in exergue, CONOB. DO 30e. MIB 3, 31. Sear 964. Almost Fdc 500

Ex Superior sale 30.5.1990, 7384.



- 405 Solidus circa 667–668, 4.32 g. VICTORIA – AVGVΘ Bust of Constans II facing, wearing plumed helmet and chlamys, holding globus cruciger. Rev. Constantine IV in centre, Heraclius on r. and Tiberius on l., standing facing, each wearing crown and chlamys and holding globus cruciger; in exergue, CONOB. DO 42 (Θ unlisted). MIB 3, 41. Sear 974.

Rare. Area of weakness on reverse,  
otherwise good extremely fine / about extremely fine 800

Ex Sotheby 's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 390.

**Constantine IV, Pogonatus, 668 – 685, and associate rulers Heraclius and Tiberius,  
Augusti until 681**



- 406 Solidus circa 669–674, 4.39 g. dN CONST – A – NYS P P Beardless bust, three-quarters facing, wearing helmet and cuirass and holding spear. Rev. VICTORIA – A VGYΔ Cross potent on base and three steps between facing figures of Heraclius, on l., and Tiberius, on r., both beardless, each wearing crown and chlamys and holding globus cruciger. In exergue, CONOB. DO (6d). MIB 3, 4c. Sear 1153. Good extremely fine 800

Ex Sotheby 's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 396.





407



407

- 407 Solidus, Carthage circa 679–680, 4.26 g. [DO]N – S – COVSP Bearded, hemeted and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing r., holding transverse spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. Cross potent on base and three steps between facing figures of Heraclius, on l., and Tiberius, on r., both beardless, each wearing crown and chlamys and holding globus cruciger; across field, H – S (reversed). In exergue, CONOB. DO –. MIB 3, 25. Sear 1189A. Extremely fine 1'400

Ex Sotheby 's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 414.



408



408

- 408 Solidus circa 681–685, 4.39 g. N CONST – AN – YS P P A Bearded bust, three-quarters facing, wearing helmet and cuirass, holding spear and shield. Rev. VICT[ORIA] – AVGYA Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 12a. MIB 3, 10. Sear 1157.

A few areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine

800

Ex Sotheby 's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 405.

### Justinian II first reign, 685 – 695



409



409

- 409 Solidus circa 685–686, 4.40 g. IYSTINIA – NYS PE AV Beardless bust facing, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGYZ Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO (2a). MIB 3, 2. Sear 1243.

Almost Fdc

1'500

Ex Sotheby's sale 21.6.1991, 60.



410



410

- 410 Solidus circa 687/88–692, 4.46 g. DIYSTINIA – NYS PE AV Bust, with short beard, facing, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys and holding globus cruciger. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVYH Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO (6e). MIB 3, 7. Sear 1247.

Good extremely fine / extremely fine

1'500

Ex Aufhäuser 2, 1985, 454 and Giessener Münzhandlung 50, 1990, 781 sales.



411



- 411 Solidus circa 692–695, 4.32 g. *ih̄s CRISTOS REX – RESNANTIYM* Bust of Christ facing, cross behind head, holding Gospels and raising r. hand in benediction. Rev. *D IYSTINI – AN – YS SERY Ch̄RISTI* Justinian standing facing, wearing crown and *loros*, and holding cross potent on three steps and *akakia*; in exergue, CONOP. DO 7. MIB 8a. Sear 1248. Almost Fdc 2'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 48, 1990, 1049.

#### Leontius, 695 – 698



412



412

- 412 Solidus circa 695–698, 4.44 g. *D LEO – N PE AV* Bearded bust facing, wearing crown with cross on circlet and *loros*, and holding *akakia* and globus cruciger. Rev. *VICTORIA – AVGYA* Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 1a. MIB 3, 1. Sear 1330.

Ex Sotheby's sale 5.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 464.

Extremely fine 1'000

#### Tiberius III Apsimarus, 698 – 705



413



413

- 413 Solidus circa 698–705, 4.36 g. *D tībERI – YSPĒ – AV* Bearded bust facing, wearing crown with cross on circlet and cuirass, and holding spear before body and shield with horseman motif. Rev. *VICTORIA – AVGYΣ* Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 1e. MIB 3, 1. Sear 1360.

Ex Superior sale 25.5.1990, 7386.

Good extremely fine 1'400



414



414

- 414 Solidus circa 698–705, 4.47 g. *D tībERI – YSPĒ – AV* Bearded bust facing, wearing crown with cross on circlet and cuirass, and holding spear before body and shield with horseman motif. Rev. *VICTORIA – AVGYΘ* Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO (1h). MIB 3, 1. Sear 1360. Minor scratches in reverse field, otherwise good extremely fine 1'200

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 67, 1994, 938.



Justinian II second reign, 705 – 711



- 415 Solidus circa 705, 4.45 g. *dn Ihs Chs REX – REGNANTIYM* Facing bust of Christ, with short beard and curly hair, wearing *pallium* over *colobium*, holding Gospels and raising r. hand in benediction; cross behind head. Rev. [*dn IYS*] – *TINIA – NYS MYLTYS AN* Bust facing, slightly bearded, wearing crown with cross on circlet and *loros*, holding cross potent on three steps and patriarchal cross on globe inscribed *PAX*. DO 1. MIB 3, 1. Sear 1314.

Good extremely fine 2'200

Ex Sotheby 's sale 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 498.

Justinian II with associate ruler Tiberius, Augustus 705 – 711



- 416 Solidus circa 705–708, 4.43 g. *dn Ihs Chs REX REGNANTIYM* Facing bust of Christ, with short beard and curly hair, wearing *pallium* over *colobium*, holding Gospels and raising r. hand in benediction; cross behind head. Rev. *dn IYSTINIAN YS ET TIBERIYS P P A'* Facing busts of Justinian, on l., and Tiberius much smaller, on r., each wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding a cross potent on two steps between them. DO 2a. MIB 3, 2a. Sear 1414.

Good extremely fine 1'800

Ex Sotheby 's sale 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 506.



- 417 Tremissis circa 708–711, 1.43 g. [*dn Ihs Chs RE*]X *REGNANTIYM* Facing bust of Christ, with short beard and curly hair, wearing *pallium* over *colobium*, holding Gospels and raising r. hand in benediction; cross behind head. Rev. [*dn IYSTINIANYS ET*] *TIBERIYS [P P A]* Facing busts of Justinian, on l., and Tiberius, of almost equal size, on r., each wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding a cross potent on base between them. DO 6b. MIB 3, 6b. Sear 1420.

Slightly off-centre, almost Fdc 1'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 62, 1993, 701.

### Philippicus Bardanes, 711 – 713



418



418

- 418 Solidus circa 711–713, 4.32 g. [DN FILIPICYS] – MYL – TYS AN Facing bust, wearing crown with cross on circlet and *loros*, holding globus cruciger and eagle-tipped sceptre surmounted by cross. Rev. VICTO[RI]A – AVGYI Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 1j. MIB 3, 1. Sear 1447. Rare. Extremely fine / about extremely fine 1'500

Ex Sotheby's sale 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 528.

### Anastasius II Artemius, 713 – 715



419



419

- 419 Solidus circa 713–715, 4.43 g. DN ARTEMIIYS A – NASTASIYS MYL Facing bust, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding *akakia* and globus cruciger. Rev. VICTO[RI]A – AVGYΘ Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 2h. MIB 3, 2. Sear 1463. Rare. Extremely fine 2'500

Ex Sotheby's sale 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 543.

### Theodosius III, 715 – 717



420



- 420 Solidus circa 715–717, 4.43 g. dN theODO – SIYS MYL A Facing bust, wearing crown with cross on circlet and *loros*, holding patriarcal cross on globe and *akakia*. Rev. VICTORIA (*sic!*) – AVS'YZ Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO (1c). MIB 3, 1. Sear 1487. Extremely rare. Virtually as struck, almost Fdc 5'000

A minor treasury official, and thus an unlikely candidate for the throne, Theodosius was elevated against his will by soldiers stationed at Rhodes, who were revolting against the burdensome rule of Anastasius II. After a six-month siege of Constantinople, Theodosius took the city in November, 715. His reign lasted just less than two years, and he abdicated in favor of Leo III, who had captured his son in Nicomedia. Both Theodosius and his son were permitted to retire to a monastery, and the former emperor subsequently became the bishop of Ephesus.





421



421

- 421 Tremissis circa 708–711, 1.43 g.  $\delta\text{N th}\epsilon\text{DO} - [\text{SIYS MYL A}]$  Facing bust, wearing crown with cross on circlet and *loros*, holding patriarchal cross on globe and *akakia*. Rev. VICTORIAGYS Cross potent on base; in exergue, CONOB. DO 4. MIB 3, 4. Sear 1490.

Very rare. About extremely fine 2'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 21.6.1991, 74

#### Leo III the Isaurian, 717 – 741



422



422

- 422 Solidus circa 717–720, 4.42 g.  $\delta\text{N D LEO} - \text{N PA MYL A}$  Facing bust, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding globus cruciger and *akakia*. Rev. VICTORIA - AVGYA Cross potent on base and three steps; in exergue, CONOB. DO 1a. MIB 3, 1. Sear 1502.

Rare. Some areas of weakness, otherwise about extremely fine 1'200

Ex Bonham-Vecchi 3, 1980, 238 and Leu-NAC 26.5.1993, 197 sales.

#### Leo III and Constantine V associate ruler, Augustus from 720



423



- 423 Solidus circa 720, 4.47 g.  $\delta\text{N D LEO} - \text{N PA MYL A}$  Facing bust, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding globus cruciger and *akakia*. Rev.  $\text{ON CONST} - \text{ANTINYS MA}$  Facing busts of youthful Constantine, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding globus cruciger and *akakia*. DO 4 (officina  $\Delta$  unlisted). Sear 1504.

Very light scratch in reverse field, otherwise good extremely fine 750

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 48, 1990, 1057.



424



424

- 424 Solidus circa 725–732, 4.46 g.  $\delta\text{N LEO} - \text{N PA MYL}'$  Facing bust, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding globus cruciger and *akakia*. Rev.  $\text{CONST} - \text{ANTINYS M}$  Facing busts of youthful Constantine, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding globus cruciger and *akakia*. DO 5. Sear 1504.

Good extremely fine 500

Ex Sotheby's sale 21.6.1991, 77.



425



- 425 Tremissis circa 737–741, 1.43 g. 6 N LEO – N PA MYL' Facing bust, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding globus cruciger and *akakia*. Rev. CONSTANTIN' Facing bust of youthful Constantine, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding cross potent and *akakia*. DO 18a. Sear 1508. Scratch on obverse, otherwise very fine 400

**Artavasdus, 742 – 743 with his son Nicephorus associate ruler**



426



- 426 Solidus circa 742–743, 4.43 g. b APTAUA – SdOS MYLT Facing bust of Artavasdus, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding globus surmounted by patriarchal cross before chest. Rev. b NICH LOR – YS MYLT Y A Facing bust of Nicephorus, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding globus surmounted by patriarchal cross before chest. DO 2a (these dies). Sear 1542. Extremely rare. Slightly double-struck on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 20'000

Ex NFA XVIII, 1987, 887 and Baldwin 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 85 sales.

An able and popular general under Leo III, Artavasdus was given the hand in marriage of that emperor's daughter, Anna. He coveted the throne that had been inherited by his brother-in-law Leo III, and while Constantine V was on campaign in 742 Artavasdus broke into open revolt. He captured Constantinople where he was proclaimed emperor, but much of the army remained loyal to Constantine V. The legitimate emperor subsequently laid siege to the capital, and Artavasdus fled to Nicaea and soon was captured. The usurper and his sons (including the elder, with whom he had shared the throne), were subjected to public insult in the Hippodrome and then blinded. Though Artavasdus' coinage is varied, all of it is extremely rare. It can be divided into two main groups: one in the name of Artavasdus alone, another jointly in his name and the name of his co-emperor and eldest son, Nicephorus. The present specimen is an example of the latter.

**Constantine V Copronymus, 741 – 775, with Leo IV associate ruler, Augustus from 751**



427



- 427 Solidus circa 741–751, 4.46 g. 6 N CO – N – STANTINYS• Facing bust of Constantine, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding cross potent and *akakia*. Rev. 6 – LEO – N PA MYL• Facing bust of Leo III, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding *akakia*. DO 1d. Sear 1550. Extremely fine 750

Ex Sotheby's sale 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 598.





- 428 Solidus circa 751–757, 4.46 g. **CONStAntihnos S LEOhn O'nEOS** Facing busts of Constantine V and young Leo IV, each wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys; cross in upper field. Rev. **6 – LЄ – ON PA MYL'** Facing bust of Leo III, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding cross potent. DO 2a. Sear 1551. About extremely fine 1'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 599.



- 429 Solidus circa 751–757, 4.44 g. **CONStAntInOS S [LEO]n O'nEOS** Facing busts of Constantine V and young Leo IV, each wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys; cross in upper field. Rev. **C – LEO – N PA MYL'** Facing bust of Leo III, wearing crown with cross on circlet and chlamys, holding cross potent. DO 2a. Sear 1551.

Metal flaws on reverse at eleven o'clock, otherwise extremely fine 1'000

#### Leo IV the Armenian, 775 – 780, with Constantine VI associate ruler, Augustus from 776



- 430 Solidus circa 778–780, 4.38 g. **[LEOn VS S EGGON CONStAn]tinOS O nEOS•Δ** Leo IV, on l., and Constantine VI, on r., seated facing on throne, each wearing crown with cross and chlamys; cross in upper centre field. Rev. **LEOn PAP' COhStAhtihOS PATHR** Facing busts of Leo III, on l., and Constantine V, on r., each wearing crown with cross and *loros*; cross in upper centre field. DO 2 (officina Δ unlisted). Sear 1584 var. Rare. Extremely fine 1'000

Ex Sotheby 's sale 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 612.

#### Constantine VI and Irene, 780 – 797



- 431 Solidus circa 792–797, 4.52 g. **HRHNI – AVTYTH** Bust of Irene facing, wearing *loros* and crown with four pinnacles and pendilia, holding globus cruciger and sceptre. Rev. **COhSTAn – tinOS BAS'** Bust of Constantine VI facing, wearing crown with cross and chlamys, and holding globus cruciger and *akakia*. DO 3c.2 (these dies). Sear 1594.

Rare. A few light scratches, otherwise good very fine 2'000

Ex Bourgey sale 27.10.1992, N.K. Collection, 435.

**Nicephorus I, 802 – 811, with Stauracius associate ruler, Augustus from 803**



432

- 432 Solidus circa 803–811, 4.42 g. **NI CI – FOROS BASILEY]** Facing bust of Nicephorus wearing crown and chlamys, holding cross potent and *akakia*. Rev. **STAVRA – CIS dESPOSE** Facing bust of Stauracius, wearing crown and chlamys, holding globus cruciger and *akakia*. DO 2a.4. Sear 1604. Rare. About extremely fine 600

Ex Leu-NAC sale 26.5.1993, 211.

**Leo V the Armenian, 813 – 820, with Constantine associate ruler, Augustus from 813**



433

- 433 Solidus circa 813–820, 4.47 g. **• – LE – Oh BASILEY]** Facing bust of Leo wearing crown and chlamys, holding cross potent and *akakia*. Rev. **COHst – Aht]dESP]E** Facing bust of Constantine, wearing crown and chlamys, holding globus cruciger and *akakia*. DO 2a. Sear 1627. Very rare. Extremely fine 2'000

Ex Sotheby's 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 637 and Baldwin 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 98 sales.

**Theophilus, 829 – 842, with associate rulers Constantine, Augustus from 830 – 831, and Michael, Augustus from 840**



434

- 434 Solidus circa 829–830/1, 4.49 g. **\*ΘEOFI – LOS BASILE]** Bust facing, with short beard, wearing *loros* and crown, holding globus cruciger and cruciform sceptre. Rev. **CVRIE BOHΘH TO SO DOVLO\*E** Patriarcal cross on three steps. DO 1a. Sear 1655. Very rare. Extremely fine 2'500

Ex Sotheby's 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 647 and Baldwin 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 104 sales.





435



435

- 435 Solidus circa 830/1–840, 4.44 g. \*ΘΕΟΦΙ – LOS BASILE[Θ] Bust facing, bearded, wearing chlamys and crown, holding patriarchal cross and *akakia*. Rev. + ΜΙΧΑΗΛ Σ ΚΟΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝ[Ο] Facing busts of Michael II, with short beard, on l., and Constantine, beardless, on r., each wearing crown and chlamys; between their heads, cross. DO 3e.1. Sear 1653.

Good very fine / about extremely fine

600

#### Theophilus, 829 – 842



436



- 436 Solidus, Syracuse circa 831–842, 3.86 g. ΘΕΟ – ΦΙΛΟΣ Facing bust, wearing crown and chlamys, and holding globus cruciger. Rev. ΘΕΟΦΙ – ΛΟΣ Facing bust, wearing crown and *loros*, holding cross potent. DO 24. Sear 1670.

Extremely fine

600

#### Michael III "the Drunkard", 842 – 867



437



437

- 437 Solidus circa 843–856, 4.34 g. ΙΗΣΥΣΧ – ΡΙΣΤΟΣ\* Bust of Christ facing, bearded, with cross behind head, wearing tunic and *himation*, raising r. in blessing and holding the book of Gospels in l. hand. Rev. + ΜΙΧΑΗΛ ΣΘΕ – Ο – ΔΟΡΑ Facing bust of Michael, beardless, on l., and Theodora, on r., both crowned; the emperor wears chlamys, his mother *loros*; between their heads, cross. DO 2. Sear 1687.

Very rare. Good very fine

3'500

Ex CNG sale 33, 1995, 1419.

## Leo VI "The Wise", 886 – 912



- 438 Solidus circa 886–908, 4.04 g. +MARIA+ Facing bust of the Virgin, *orans*, wearing tunic and *maphorion*; across field, MR – ΘΥ. Rev. LEOHEHCISTO – BASILEYSROMEOH Facing bust of Leo, with long beard, wearing crown and jewelled chlamys, and holding patriarchal cross on globus. DO 1b. Sear 1723.

Extremely rare. Edge bump at two o'clock, otherwise very fine 10'000

Ex K. Kress 138, 1967, 671 and Spink 144, 13.7.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann collection part II, 638 sales.

This extremely rare piece represents the first instance in which the Virgin is depicted on a Byzantine coin. It was struck at a time when almost no gold coinage was issued and was apparently ceremonial in nature (the vast majority of Leo's gold has in addition to his own name, that of his son, and thus it must have been struck between 908 and 912). Since gold was plentiful during the first twenty-two years of Leo's reign, it is curious that it was not coined. The most likely explanation is a law (Novel 52) passed during Leo's reign. He greatly disagreed with a previous edict, perhaps issued by Basil I, that demonetised a previous ruler's coinage. Leo felt that as long as a coin was of the proper weight and fineness then it should pass current at the same rate, and therefore he probably did not issue a gold coinage for several years. From a modern perspective it seems that this was somewhat irrelevant, as hoard evidence proves that attempts at demonetisation were generally ineffective, or only rarely were practiced, as the gold hoards tend to be of a mixed nature.

## Alexander, 912 – 916



- 439 Solidus circa 912–913, 4.06 g. +IHS XRS REX – REGNANTIYM Christ enthroned facing, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding the book of Gospels in l. Rev. +ALEXAND – ROS AYGYSTOS ROM' Alexander standing facing, wearing crown and *loros* and holding globus cruciger, crowned by St. Alexander, on r., wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, and holding cross. DO 2.2 (these dies). Sear 1737.

Of the highest rarity. Abrasion on edge, very fine 20'000

Ex NFA XVIII, 1987, 920 and Spink 144, 13.7.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann collection part II, 640 sales.

When his brother, Leo VI, died, Alexander was left as senior Augustus because Leo's son Constantine was still a minor. Alexander had hated his brother, and he took to the opportunity of his elevation to destroy all of his brother's most important advisors. He even forced the empress Zoe to retire to a convent and become a nun. He also viewed his nephew as a threat, and the boy was narrowly spared by Alexander's untimely death. With no more than a couple of dozen coins known, Alexander's coinage is difficult to obtain. The iconography on this solidus is of interest, for it represents the first time a full length imperial coronation scene was used as a coin type. Furthermore, it is also the first instance in which the effigy of a Saint (St. Alexander) was used in place of the Virgin.



Constantine VII Porphyrigenitus and colleagues, 913 – 959



440



440

- 440 Solidus circa 921–931, 4.42 g. +IHS XPS REX REGNANTIYM\* Christ enthroned facing, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding the Book of Gospels in l. Rev. ROMAN' ET XPISTOFO AGG' b' Facing busts of Romanus I, with short beard, on l., wearing crown and *loros*, and, Christopher, beardless on r., wearing crown and chlamys, holding patriarchal cross between them. DO 7.12 var. Sear 1745.

Minor scratches, otherwise about extremely fine

800

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung 55, 1991, 905.



441



- 441 Solidus circa 949–959, 4.42 g. +IHS XPS REX REGNANTIVM Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with two pellets in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding the Book of Gospels in l. Rev. ONSTANT CE ROMAN AGG III (*sic!*) Facing busts of Constantine, with short beard, on l., wearing crown and the *loros*, and Romanus II, beardless, on r., wearing crown and chlamys, holding long patriarchal cross between them. DO 15.32 var. (end of legend blundered). Sear 1751.

Extremely fine

600

Ex NFA XVIII, 1987, 928 and Baldwin 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 125 sales.

Nicephorus II Phocas, 963 – 969, with Basil II, co-emperor throughout the reign



442



- 442 Histamenon nomisma circa 963–969, 4.39 g. +IHS XPS REX REGNANTIYM Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with three pellets in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l. Rev. NICHFOR'CEBASIL' AYGG b R Facing busts of Nicephorus II, with short beard, on l., wearing crown and *loros*, and Basil II, beardless on r., wearing crown and chlamys, holding long patriarchal cross between them. DO 1 var. Sear 1776.

Rare. Extremely fine

1'200

Ex Bourgey, 27/29.10.1992, Collection N.K., 493 and Baldwin 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 126 sales.



- 443 Histamenon nomisma circa 963–969, 4.39 g. +IHSXTS REX REGNANTIHM Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with three pellets in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l. Rev. + ΘΕΟΤΟC·b'ΗΘ'ΗICHF,deSP Facing busts of Virgin, nimbate, wearing tunic and *maphorion*, flanked by M – Θ and Nicephorus, bearded, on l., wearing crown and *loros*, and holding long patriarchal cross between them. DO 4. Sear 1778.  
Extremely fine 600

Ex Baldwin sale 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 127.

#### John I Tzimiskes, 969 – 976



- 444 Histamenon nomisma circa 969–976, 4.36 g. +IHSXISREX REGNANTIHM Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with two pellets in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l. Rev. + ΘΕΟΤΟC·bOHΘ'IWdeSP Facing busts of Virgin, nimbate, wearing tunic and *maphorion*, M – Θ above her head, crowning John, with short beard, on l., wearing crown and *loros*, and holding long patriarchal cross. Above, *Manus Dei*. DO 3. Sear 1785.  
Rare. Obverse from a rusty die, otherwise extremely fine 1'000



- 445 Histamenon nomisma circa 969–976, 4.39 g. +IHSXISREX REGNANTIhm Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with two pellets in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l. Rev. + ΘΕΟΤΟC·bOHΘ'IWdeSP' Facing busts of Virgin, nimbate, wearing tunic and *maphorion*, M – Θ above her head, crowning John, with short beard, on l., wearing crown and *loros*, and holding long patriarchal cross. Above, *Manus Dei*. DO 3. Sear 1785.  
Rare. About extremely fine 1'000

Ex Sotheby's 6.12.90, The William Herbert Hunt Collection, 726 and Baldwin 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 128 sales.



**Basil II Bulgaroctonos, 976 – 1025, with Constantine VIII,  
co-emperor throughout the reign**



446



446

- 446 Histamenon nomisma beginning of 977, 4.41 g. +IHSXISREX REGNANTIHM Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with one (?) pellet in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l. Rev. +BASIL' C CONSTAHTIB'IP' Facing crowned bust of Basil, with short beard, on l., wearing *loros* of square pattern, and Constantine, beardless, on r., wearing plain chlamys holding long patriarchal cross between them. DO (1). Sear 1795.

Very rare. Obverse weakly struck, otherwise extremely fine 1'200

Ex Baldwin sale 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 129.



447



- 447 Histamenon nomisma circa 1001–1005, 4.37 g. +IHSXISREX REGNANTIHM Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with rosette of seven pellets in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l. Rev. • +BASIL' C CONSTAHTI b R• Facing crowned bust of Basil, with short beard, on l., wearing *loros* of square pattern, and Constantine, beardless, on r., wearing jewelled chlamys holding long patriarchal cross between them. In upper field l., a crown suspended over Basil's head. Cf. DO 4d (pellets on obverse legend). Sear 1798.

Light scratch on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine 1'000

Ex NFA sale XVIII, 1987, 938 and NAC Autumn sale 95, 919 sales.

**Constantine IX Monomachus, 1042 – 1055**



448



- 448 Histamenon nomisma circa 1042–1055, 4.42 g. + IHS XIS REX REGNANTIHM Nimbate figure of Christ enthroned facing, wearing tunic and *himation*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding book of Gospels in l. Rev. +Cōhs-tAhtH-BASILEYS RM Bearded bust of Constantine IX facing, wearing crown and *loros*, and holding *labarum* and globus cruciger. DO 2a. Sear 1829.

Good extremely fine 300

## Theodora, 1055 – 1056



- 449 Tetarteron nomisma circa 1055–1056, 4.04 g. Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with two pellets in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l.; IC – XC across field. Rev. +ΘΕΟΔΩ – ΑΥΤΟΥ Crowned bust of Theodora facing, wearing *loros* and holding jewelled sceptre and globus cruciger. DO 2 and pl. 2.2. Sear 1838.

About extremely fine 1'500

Ex NFA XVIII, 1987, 960 and Sotheby's 28.10.1993, 1887 sales.

## Michael VI Stratioticus, 1056 – 1057



- 450 Histamenon nomisma 1056–1057, 4.42 g. + IHS XIS REX REGNANTIHM Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with one pellet in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l. Rev. MIXA – HLAY – TOCRATJ Standing figures of Michael VI, l., wearing crown and jewelled chlamys, holding globus cruciger, blessed by Virgin, r., wearing *pallium* and *maphorion*, between their heads, MΘ. DO 1b. Sear 1840.

Extremely rare. About extremely fine 12'000



450 2:1

Ex Peus 294, 1978, 863 and Spink 144, The Dr. Anton C. R. Dreesmann Collection part II, 2000, 682 sales.

The elderly Michael VI was crowned emperor by Theodora the very same day she died, and he was proclaimed throughout the imperial city later in the day. Michael was an incompetent leader, and he quickly alienated several important military commanders. One of them was Isaac I, who entered the city on August 31, 1057, the day after Michael had abdicated and retired to a monastery. While Michael's tetartera are fairly common, this denomination is rare, surprisingly so for a reign that lasted for exactly one year.



Isaac I Comnenus, 1057 – 1059



- 451 Tetarteron nomisma circa 1057–1059, 3.98 g. +  $\text{I}\eta\text{X}\text{I}\text{S}\text{R}\text{E}\text{X}\text{R}\text{E}\text{C}\text{S}\text{G}\text{N}\text{A}\text{N}\text{T}\text{I}\eta\text{M}$  Facing bust of Christ, nimbus with one pellet in each limb, wearing *pallium* and *colobium*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l. Rev. + $\text{I}\text{C}\text{A}\text{A}\text{K}\text{I}\text{O}\text{C} - \text{R}\text{A}\text{C}\text{I}\text{A}\text{E}\text{V}\text{C}\text{P}\text{M}$  Isaac standing facing, in military attire, wearing crown and holding globus cruciger in r. hand and resting l. on sheathed sword. DO 3. Sear 1845. Very rare. Extremely fine 2'500

Ex Baldwin sale 2, The William J. Conte Collection, 1994, 159.

Constantine X Ducas, 1059 – 1067



- 452 Histamenon nomisma circa 1067, 4.43 g. +  $\text{I}\text{X}\text{I}\eta\text{R}\text{E}\text{X}\text{R}\text{E}\text{G}\text{N}\text{A}\text{N}\text{T}\text{I}\eta\text{M}$  Nimbate figure of Christ enthroned facing, wearing tunic and *himation*, raising r. hand in blessing and holding Book of Gospels in l. Rev. + $\text{K}\omega\text{N}\text{R}\text{A}\text{C}\text{A} - \text{O}\Delta[\text{O}\text{U}]\text{K}\text{A}\text{C}$  Emperor standing facing, wearing crown and *loros*, and holding *labarum* with pellet on shaft and globus cruciger. DO 1b. Sear 1847. About extremely fine 250



381 3:1

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