

# A U C T I O N

31

An Important Collection of Roman Gold Coins  
Property of an American Collector

26th October 2005

NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA NAC AG  
ZÜRICH - LONDON



# **AUCTION 31**

26 October 2005

## **An Important Collection of Roman Gold Coins, Property of an American Collector**

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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.

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<b>Gradi di conservazione</b>	<b>Grades of preservation</b>	<b>Erhaltungsgrad</b>	<b>Degrés de conservation</b>	<b>Grados de Conservación</b>
Fdc Fior di conio	Fdc Uncirculated	Stempelglanz	Fleur de coin (FDC)	FDC
Spl Splendido	Extremely fine	Vorzüglich	Superbe	EBC
BB Bellissimo	Very fine	Sehr schön	Très beau	MBC
MB Molto bello	Fine	Schön	Beau	BC



# Roman Gold Coins

## The Roman Republic

The mint is Rome unless otherwise stated



- 1 **Anonymous.** Half-Stater circa 216 BC, 3.89 g. Laureate Janiform head of the Dioscuri. Rev. Oath taking scene with two warriors, one Roman and the other one representing the Italian allies, standing facing each other, holding spears and touching with their swords a pig held by a figure kneeling between them. In exergue, ROMA. Crawford 28/2. Syd 70. Bahrfeldt 2.

Extremely rare. An interesting and fascinating issue, about extremely fine 26'000

Ex M&M sale 38, 1968, Voirol collection, 100.

The Second Punic War was a defining event in the history of Rome, a city-state on the verge of becoming an imperial power. It lasted nearly a generation and tested the government, the military and Rome's system of alliances in Italy and beyond. The war became critical in the fall of 218 when the Carthaginian general Hannibal led his army across the Alps and descended on the Po Valley.

In the wake of this catastrophe Rome struck its first gold coinage, which included staters and half-staters. They are often assigned to c. 218-216 B.C., when Hannibal was routinely defeating the Roman armies, including a crushing defeat at Cannae in 216, where many thousands of Romans perished in a single day. Though Hannibal enjoyed some notable successes thereafter, the early period from 218 to 215 represented the peak of his achievement.

To pay for the war the government of Rome – for the first and only time in its history – resorted to credit, soliciting loans from leading citizens and their ally Hieron II, king of Syracuse. The economic devastation is reflected in the coinage. Rome's monetary system came to be based on the silver denarius rather than the bronze as, which had lost 80 percent of its weight in the first six years of Hannibal's occupation of Italy.

The Romans produced a gold coinage twice during this war: the early series, to which this coin belongs, and the Mars head/standing eagle gold coins of 60, 40 and 20 asses struck c. 211-208 B.C. Beyond these, the Romans struck no other gold until the Imperial period, beginning with aurei for Sulla in the late 80s B.C.

The Janiform male head on the obverse is often described as Janus, but since it is un-bearded and youthful Crawford is right to describe it as the Dioscuri. The reverse shows an oath-taking scene in which two soldiers touch the tips of their swords to a pig held by an attendant. The man on the left, bearded and without armor, represents an Italian ally of Rome, and the man on the right, un-bearded, youthful and armored, is a Roman. The meaning of this scene – a masterpiece of propaganda – is clear: Rome demonstrates to her allies that the war against Carthage is a cooperative effort.

It has often been suggested that Hannibal's goal in invading Italy was not to capture the city of Rome, but to dismantle its system of alliances. The Romans were aware this was at least one of Hannibal's intentions, and these gold coins should be seen as historical documents of Rome's counterpoint to Hannibal's effort to undermine its emerging empire.



- 2 **Anonymous.** 60 Asses after 211, 3.32 g. Bearded and draped head of Mars r., wearing Corinthian helmet; in field l., mark of value, 4X. Rev. Eagle standing r., with spread wings, on thunderbolt. Below, ROMA. Crawford 44/3. Syd. 226. Bahrfeldt 4a.30 and pl. I, 25 (this coin).

About extremely fine / good very fine 2'500

Ex Naville sale I, 1920, Pozzi, 66.





- 3 **Julius Caesar.** Aureus, mint moving with Caesar 13 July 48-47 BC, 8.55 g. Female head r., wearing diadem and oak-wreath; in field I.,  $\perp$ II. Rev. CAE – SAR Trophy with Gallic shield and *carnyx*; in field r., axe. Crawford 452/1. Syd. 1008. C 17. B. Julia 25. Calicó 41 (this coin). Sear Imperators 10. Bahrfeldt 17. Extremely rare, among the finest of only nine specimens known. Two minor marks on the obverse, otherwise about extremely fine 30'000

Ex Hess 1935, 31; Glendining 1951, Ryan part IV, 1568 sales and Nordheim collection.

This aureus was struck at the height of Julius Caesar's campaign against Pompey and his allies, which climaxed on 9 August, 48 B.C., when Caesar defeated Pompey at the battle of Pharsalus. It is a self-promotional coinage that names only Caesar and bears the reverse type of a trophy of Gallic arms and armor. This design not only celebrates his success in the Gallic Wars, but it diverts attention from Caesar's less honorable civil war against his fellow Roman Pompey.

An unusual feature of this coinage is the numeral LII on the obverse. It is generally accepted to represent Caesar's age, 52, at the time this coinage was struck. Sydenham believed Caesar was born in 102 B.C., and thus concluded this issue was struck in Gaul while Caesar was still in that province. The general consensus, though, is that Caesar was born in 100 B.C., which places this coinage in the year commencing 13 July, 48 B.C. Whether it was struck as a prelude to the Battle of Pharsalus or in its aftermath is not known, but it certainly was associated.

This was the first aureus any Roman had struck for more than a generation, with the previous ones being issues of Sulla and Pompey in the late 80s and late 70s B.C. It is typical of gold of the Imperial age in that it was struck under extraordinary circumstances, and though these aurei are very rare today, they must have been struck in large quantities since the companion denarii with the same design survive in large number.

The identity of the female the obverse is far from certain. The goddess or personification wears an oak wreath, and she has been described as Venus, Pietas and Clementia. The uncertainty of her identification is echoed by Caesar's most substantial issue of aurei, from c. 46 B.C. (Cr. 466/1), which bear on their obverse a veiled female head normally described as Pietas or Vesta.



- 4 **Julius Caesar.** Aureus, mint moving with Caesar in the East circa 48-47 BC, 8.13 g. CAESAR – DICT Axe and *culullus*. Rev. ITER Jug and *lituus*. The whole within laurel wreath. Crawford 456/1a. Syd. 1027. C 21. B. Julia 15. Calicó 43 (this coin). Sear Imperators 15. Bahrfeldt 18a.1 (this coin). Extremely rare and in exceptionally good condition for this difficult issue. About extremely fine 24'000

Ex Sangiorgi 1907, Martinetti – Nervegna, 1372; Hess 1912, Prowe, 825; Rodolfo Ratto, 1924, 1294 and Glendining 1951, Ryan part IV, 1570 sales.

Caesar was in Greece and the East when this aureus was struck in the year beginning October, 48 B.C. Initially he was in Egypt sharing time with Cleopatra in Egypt, then he moved through Syria and Asia Minor en route to wage a quick and successful war against Pharnaces II, king of the Bosphorus. His victory over Pharnaces at Zela in August, 47 B.C. is likely the occasion represented on this coin by the wreath.

Considering his recent campaign against Pompey and his long absence from Italy, a reminder that his authority was based in venerable Roman institutions might have been recommended at this stage of his rise to supremacy. The inscriptions describe him as having held the dictatorship for the second time and the designs indicate his role as chief priest (*pontifex maximus*) of the Romans and his membership in the college of augurs.





5

- 5 **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. Cr. 491/1a. Syd. 1153. B. Cestia and Norbana 3. Calicó 3a. Sear Imperators 195. Bahrfeldt 24. Scarce. Reddish tone and very fine 4'000



6

- 6 **Octavian with L. Livineius Regulus.** Aureus circa 42 BC, 8.07 g. C·CAESAR – III·VIR R·P·C Bare head r. Rev. L·REGVLVS – III·VIR·A·P·F Aeneas r., carrying Anchises on l. shoulder. Crawford 494/3a. Syd. 1104. B. Livineia 5 and Julia 83. C 444. Calicó 135 (this coin). Sear Imperators 150. T. V. Buttrey, ANSNNM 137, 1957, The Triumviral Gold Portrait of the Quattuorviri Monetales of 42 BC, 49.7 (this coin). Bahrfeldt 49b.7 (this coin).

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

A magnificent coin with an appealing portrait and a reverse composition of great fascination. Struck on a very broad flan, an unobtrusive metal flaw at nine o' clock on obverse, otherwise extremely fine / about extremely fine

32'000

Ex Rollin & Feuardent 1887, Ponton D'Amécourt, 45; Hirsch 25, 1909, Weber, 898; Hess 1912, Prowe, 852 and M&M 17, 1957, 346 sales.

The portrait of Octavian first appears on gold coinage in the series of aurei to which this coin belongs. It was a varied and substantial mintage bearing the names of the three members of the second triumvirate – Octavian, Antony and Lepidus – and the four moneyers of 42 BC., Clodius, Mussidius, Varus and Regulus.

Buttrey's suggestion that all four of these moneyers struck in 42 B.C. generally has been accepted, and he notes that the aurei of Regulus are unique within the group because they have no die links with the coins of the other three moneyers. Based upon the unusual characteristics of some of Regulus' silver coins, Buttrey argued that Regulus was the *primus*, or leading member, of the college of four moneyers, and that his coins were struck first, with those of Clodius, Mussidius and Varus following in a manner that allowed them to be die linked among each other.

The reverse type of Aeneas carrying his father Anchises from the ruined city of Troy is a clear allusion to Octavian's adoptive father, the late Julius Caesar, who as a Julian claimed descent from Venus, the mother of Aeneas. Not only would it recall the massive issue of denarii Caesar struck with that design five years before (Cr. 458/1), but it was an unmistakable reference to Octavian's position as heir to Caesar's political legacy.



3 2:1



- 7 **Octavian with L. Mussidius T.F. Longus.** Aureus circa 42 BC, 8.01 g. C·CAESAR·III·VIR·R·P·C Bare head r. Rev. L·MVSSIDIVS·T·F·LONGVS·III·VIR·A·P·F Mars, wearing Corinthian helmet, standing r., holding sword in l. hand and spear in r. and resting l. foot on shield. Crawford 494/9a. Syd. 1098. B. Mussidia 15 and Julia 85. C 468. Calicó 141 (this coin). Sear Imperators 152a. Buttrey 52.13 (this coin). Bahrfeldt 52a. Extremely rare, only very few specimens known of which only two are in private hands. About extremely fine 25'000

Ex Bougey 1913, Vidal Quadras y Ramon, 767 and M&M 19, 1959, 174 sales.

The year 42 B.C. was extraordinarily rich in coinage. The obvious explanation is that the Caesareans were confiscating vast amounts of property in their proscriptions, which they in turn were using to prepare for the upcoming war against Brutus and Cassius. Crawford attributes more than ninety different coinages to 42 B.C., struck by four moneyers and eight commanders operating in Africa, the East, Greece, Italy and Sicily.

This aureus was struck by Lucius Mussidius Longus, one of the four moneyers of 42 B.C. Its reverse depicts Mars, nude except for his Corinthian helmet, holding a spear and sword, and placing his foot on a fallen shield, which must refer to the preparations being made by the triumvirs' desire to wage war on Brutus and Cassius. This reverse is known from only three dies, which Mussidius used interchangeably with portrait dies of Octavian, Antony and Lepidus.



- 8 **P. Clodius.** Aureus circa 42 BC, 8.14 g. Laureate head of Apollo r.; in field l., lyre. Rev. P·CLODIVS·M·F Diana standing facing, with bow and quiver over shoulder, holding lighted torch in each hand. Crawford 494/22. Syd. 1116. B. Clodia 14. Calicó 6a (this coin). Sear Imperators 183. C. Botrè, E. Fabrizi, C. Scibona, P. Serafin Petrillo, Applicazioni della spettroscopia con fluorescenza a raggi X nello studio di antiche monete romane: implicazioni di carattere storico ed economico, p. 136, 16 (this coin). Bahrfeldt 30.

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

About extremely fine / extremely fine 26'000

Ex Glendining 1951, Ryan part IV, 1562 and Ciani-Vinchon 6/7.5.1955, 248 sales.

The four moneyers of 42 B.C. struck aurei and denarii with portraits of Antony, Octavian and Lepidus, and non-portrait coins bearing types of personal value. P. Clodius was especially productive in that he supplemented his portrait aurei of the triumvirs with portrait denarii for Antony, Octavian and the deified Julius Caesar and non-portrait issues.

His two non-portrait types occur as both aurei and denarii and bear designs of a personal nature relating to the cults of Sol and Luna. This aureus pairs Apollo with Luna *Lucifera*, and his other non-portrait issue pairs the head of Sol with a crescent moon and stars. Since Apollo was considered a god of pure light and the bringer of daylight, his solar aspects are here paired with the goddess Luna in her guise as the light-bringer (*lucifera*).

The doubts regarding the authenticity of this coin have been definitively dispelled thanks to the analysis of the metal made by Professor Claudio Botrè of the University of Rome "La Sapienza", and published along with E. Fabrizi, C. Scibona, P. Serafin Petrillo, in the most exhaustive and interesting article: Applicazioni della spettroscopia con fluorescenza a raggi X nello studio di antiche monete romane: implicazioni di carattere storico ed economico. To be honest, we have to stress that we do not consider the analysis of the metal the ultimate test to prove the authenticity of a coin, as the most recent forgers use for their production ancient coin melt down to produce fakes. The case of this excessively rare coin here offered is different, as this specimen appeared on the numismatic market more than fifty years ago, when the techniques of production of fakes were not that sophisticated and were not taking into consideration the possibility of using ancient metal. As further evidence, the coin has been submitted to the Museum of Vienna, where to only other known specimen is kept, for comparison and once again the authenticity has been confirmed.





9



9

- 9 **C. Vibius Varus.** Aureus circa 42 BC, 7.95 g. Bust of Roma l., wearing helmet with a plume on each side, holding spear in r. hand and shield in l. over shoulder. Rev. C·VIBIVS – VARVS Winged Nemesis standing r., raising fold of dress with r. hand. Crawford 494/35. Syd. 1136. B. Vibia 25. Calicó 32 (this coin), Sear Imperators 191. Bahrfeldt 37.7 (this coin),

Extremely rare, only seven specimens known. An appealing example of this desirable coin.

Two abrasion on edge at four and seven o'clock, otherwise good very fine

30'000

Ex Hirsch XVIII, 1907, Himhoof-Blummer, 462, Hess 1912, Graf Tolstoi, 1182 and Schulman 1923, Vierordt, 432 sales.

Hardly a more explicit coin type could have been struck in 42 B.C. for the leaders of the Caesarean party, who were in the midst of final preparations for the war against Brutus and Cassius. Roma is shown on the obverse in a state of battle-readiness, as if already marching off to war. The reverse depicts Nemesis in her only appearance on Republican coinage as a reflection of the Caesarean desire to exact righteous revenge upon the murderers of Julius Caesar

Throughout the spring of 42 B.C. Brutus and Cassius campaigned in the East, finally meeting at Sardes in the summer before departing for Greece. Antony and Octavian traveled from Italy to Greece to confront them, with battle lines being drawn in the fall. The armies clashed at Phillipi in two great battles in October. The Caesareans emerged victorious as Brutus and Cassius, in response to presumed defeat, both committed suicide. Octavian's legacy was now sealed, though he would still require slightly more than a decade to eliminate Antony, Lepidus and the remnants of the Pompeian party.



10



10

- 10 **C. Cassius Longinus.** Aureus, mint-moving with Brutus and Cassius circa 43-42 BC, 8.28 g. C·CASSI·IMP Laureate head of Libertas r. Rev. M SERVILIVS – LEG Aplustre with each branch ending in a flower. Crawford 505/1. Syd. 1311. B. Cassia 20. C 8. Calicó 67. Vagi 101. Sear Imperators 224. Bahrfeldt 60.4 (this coin). Very rare. Good very fine 15'000

Ex Hess 1912, Graf Tolstoi, 478; Schulman 1923, Vierordt, 507 and Glendining 1950, Platt Hall, 654 sales.



6 2:1

# The Roman Empire

The mint is Rome unless otherwise stated

## Augustus, 27 BC – 14 AD



- 11 *L. Aquillius Florus*. Aureus circa 19 BC, 8.08 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Head r., wearing oak-wreath. Rev. L·AQVILLIVS FLORVS ·III·VIR· Open flower of six petals. Bahrfeldt 172. Calicó 125 (this coin). B. Aquilia 3. BMC 45. C 363. CBN 110. RIC 308.

Extremely rare, only three specimens known to Bahrfeldt.  
An unusual and attractive portrait, good very fine / extremely fine 28'000

Punning allusions were a well-established tradition on Greek and Roman coins, and we find a number of them on coins from the middle of Augustus's reign. This aureus shows a flower in bloom enclosed by an inscription naming the moneyer L. Aquillius Florus. The similarity of the Latin *floris* (meaning a flower or a blossom) to the moneyer's name *florus* would not have been lost on recipients of this coin.

That a coin type of such a personal nature was struck is evidence of Augustus' tolerance for Republican institutions. Indeed, he restored the appearance of moneyers' names on coinage in 19 B.C. after they had been absent for more than a generation. Augustus allowed moneyers to strike coins with their names and personalized designs until 12 B.C. and thereafter he allowed the tradition to linger until 4 B.C. in a more mundane fashion with moneyers' names still appearing on dupondii, asses and quadrantes with generic designs.



- 12 *P. Petronius Turpilianus*. Aureus circa 19 BC, 8.04 g. TVRPILIANVS – III·VIR Ivy-wreathed head of Liber r. Rev. AVGVSTO / OB·C·S within oak-wreath. Bahrfeldt 177. Calicó 143 (this coin). B. Petronia 1 and Julia 207. BMC 5. C 476. CBN 108. RIC 278.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. Insignificant abrasions on edge,  
otherwise extremely fine 18'000

Ex M&M sale 15, 1955, 706.

As Rome's first emperor, Augustus bridged the gap between Republic and Empire, from imperium to auctoritas. In terms of coinage, he initially retained two numismatic relics of the Republic: collegium of moneyers and the substantial issuance of non-Imperial portrait types. This aureus, issued in about 19 B.C., retains both of those Republican qualities, for the emperor's portrait is absent and the moneyer's name is prominent. This aureus names P. Petronius Turpilianus, clearly the dominant member of Augustus' earliest collegium of moneyers to sign coins at Rome as about half of the more than forty issues of the collegium bear his name. Turpilianus struck aurei and denarii with obverses bearing the heads of Augustus, the Liber (Bacchus) and Feronia, a goddess worshipped by the Sabines and the Etrurians, and considered by the Greeks to be the goddess of flowers and of emancipation from slavery. The reverse type of AVGVSTO OB C S within an oak wreath harkens back to his being awarded the title Augustus by the senate in 27 B.C., and to the privilege he enjoyed of decorating his doorposts with an oak wreath and laurel branches. This was a highly important distinction to Augustus, who was never shy about promoting his various honors, for he maintained the official line that his powers were derived through his influence, authority and prestige (auctoritas).



13



13

- 13 *M. Durmius*. Aureus circa 19 BC, 8.22 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Oak-wreathed head r. Rev. M·DVRMIVS / III VIR Crab holding butterfly. B. Damnski, SNR 76, 1997, Virgil's Siren on Coins of 19 BC, 10 and pl. 12, 10 (this coin). Bahrfeldt 174. Calicó 133. B. Durmia 11. BMC 60. C 433. CBN 112. RIC 316. Very rare. An attractive specimen of this desirable issue. Minor marks in obverse and reverse fields, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine 24'000

Ex M&M sale 13, 1954, 622.

This charming reverse has puzzled numismatists from Eckhel to Mattingly, none of whom could find a satisfactory explanation. Its decorative appearance suggests it is a punning or canting type (like the Augustus aureus with the floral reverse offered in this sale), but the moneyer's name, M. Durmius, does not support that conclusion. Further, the combination of a crab and butterfly does not yield any obvious answers when compared with Roman art in other media. The design is loosely comparable to denarii struck some three generations earlier by the emperor Cassius (Cr. 505/3) since they show a crab clutching an *aplustre*, with a diadem and a rose positioned below. With Cassius' denarii, though, the meaning of the design is both historical and clear since he had just scored an important victory over the Rhodian fleet – the crab thus represented the city of Cos and the rose the city of Rhodes.



14



- 14 *C. Antistius Vetus*. Aureus circa 16 BC, 8.18 g. C ANTISTI VETVS – III VIR Bust of Victory r. Rev. PRO VALETVDINE – CAESARIS Veiled priest standing l., holding patera over lighted and garlanded altar, to which *victimarius*, holding knife in r. hand, leads a bull. In exergue, S P Q R. Bahrfeldt 186.1 and pl. XIV, 12 (this coin). M.M. Evans, Hair-dressing of Roman Ladies as Illustrated on Coins, NC 1906, pl. III, 10 (this coin). J. Evans, On Some Rare and Unpublished Roman Gold Coins, NC 1908, 1 and pl. X, 1 (this coin). Calicó 122 (this coin). B. Antestia 23. BMC p.19, †. C –. CBN –, p. 96, \*. RIC 369.

Of the highest rarity, the only specimen in private hands of only three known.

A delightful portrait and a superb reverse composition. About extremely fine

50'000

Ex Naville III, 1922, Evans, 19 and Glendining 1951, Ryan part IV, 1627 sales. Gnechi collection.

Though this aureus bears the name of the moneyer C. Antistius Vetus its designs are devoted entirely to Augustus, who recently had left for Gaul following a Germanic invasion of that province. The bust of Venus is clearly a reference to Augustus' fanciful descent from the Trojan prince Aeneas, and the sacrifice scene on the reverse records vows the senate and the people of Rome made for the health of Augustus (PRO VALETVDINE CAESARIS S P Q R). Other coins struck for this occasion include aurei and denarii of an Imperial mint in Spain (RIC 146-153) and denarii of Rome (RIC 351-353) by L. Mescinius Rufus, one of Vetus' two colleagues in that year's *collegium* of moneyers.

Romans had good reason to be concerned, for Augustus' personal health was notoriously frail and the invasion of Gaul had been devastating. Three Germanic nations conspired to defeat Marcus Lollius, the legate commanding on the Rhine, after which they looted Gaul, gathered tremendous booty and returned across the Rhine.

This was the greatest defeat Augustus' armies had suffered to date. Augustus determined the best way to safeguard Gaul – at this time was the Empire's greatest provincial source of revenue and agricultural product – was to neutralize the threat, Germany. When Augustus left in 16 B.C. he would not see Rome again for three years, during which he re-organized Gaul, established the Imperial mint at Lugdunum and laid the groundwork for the costly campaigns of his stepsons Tiberius and Drusus.

The brothers initially gained control of Noricum and Rhaetia and then, separately, worked to stabilize the frontiers of the Rhine and Danube. Augustus established fifty legionary camps along the southern shore of the Rhine, built a fleet and placed Drusus in command of some 50,000 soldiers as the governor of Gaul. Drusus' conquest of Germany began in 13 B.C. when Tiberius was campaigning in Pannonia and Augustus returned to Rome. Drusus' war lingered until his own death in 9 B.C. without much lasting effect; indeed, a generation later, in A.D. 9, Augustus' attention was once again drawn to Germany following the massacre of Varus' three legions in the Tuetoburg forest.





15

- 15 *C. Antestius Reginus*. Aureus circa 13 BC, 7.88 g. CAESAR – AVGVTVS Oak-wreathed head r. Rev. C·ANTIST·REGIN GABINVS FOE / DVS Two veiled priests standing facing each other, holding pig over lighted and garlanded altar. In exergue, P R QVM. Bahrfeldt 184.1 (this coin). Calicó 123 (this coin). B. Antestia 17. BMC 118. C 346. CBN –, p.113, \* RIC 411.

Of the highest rarity, the only specimen in private hands of only two known.

An appealing issue with an interesting reverse composition. Light scratch at two o'clock on obverse and a graffito at eight o'clock on reverse, otherwise about very fine / very fine

12'000

Ex Rollin & Feuardent 1896, Montagu, 86; Hess 1898, Frankfurter Münzfreund, 3442; Egger 1904, Prowe, 2210; Hirsch XXIX, 1910, 918; Hess 1912, Prowe, 281; Naville III, 1921, Evans, 21 and Glending, 1951, Ryan part IV, 1626 sales.



16

- 16 Aureus, Lugdunum 15-13 BC, 7.97 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI·F Bare head r. Rev. Bull butting r.; in exergue, IMP·X. Bahrfeldt 201. BMC 450. C 136. CBN 1372. RIC 166a. Vagi 262. Calicó 212.

Well-struck in high relief and extremely fine

9'000

Ex Rollin and Feuardent sale 1896, Montagu, 92.

### Tiberius, 14 – 37



17

- 17 Aureus, Lugdunum 14-37, 7.72 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – MAXIM Pax-Livia figure seated r., holding vertical sceptre and branch. RIC 27. BMC 39. C 15. CBN 19. Vagi 437. Calicó 305.

An almost invisible mark on cheek, otherwise extremely fine / good extremely fine

6'000

Ex Stack's sale 3.12.1996, Michel F. Price, 115

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.

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



- 18 Aureus circa 41-45, 7.71 g. NERO CLAVDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP Laureate head l. Rev. DE – GE – R – MA – NIS *Vexillum* between two oblong shields crossed, and two pair of spears and two trumpets crossed. RIC Claudius 73. C 3. BMC Claudius 104. CBN Claudius 7. Vagi 488. Calicó 317a (this coin). Rare. A finely engraved portrait, extremely fine 14'000
- 19 Aureus circa 41-45, 7.85 g. NERO CLAVDIVS 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. A very rare variety of a rare type. About extremely fine / extremely fine 7'500

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.

### Gaius called Caligula, 37 – 41



- 20 Aureus. Lugdunum circa 37, 7.80 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR POT COS Bare head of Gaius r. Rev. Radiate head of Tiberius (or Augustus) r. between two stars. RIC 1. BMC 1. C 10. CBN 1. Vagi 309. Calicó 336. Very rare. A minor scuff on edge at nine o'clock on obverse and a few light marks in fields, otherwise good very fine 14'000

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



21



21

- 21 Aureus circa 41-42, 7.78 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P Laureate head r. Rev. EX / S C / OB / CIVES / SERVATOS within oak wreath. RIC 5. BMC 3. C 34. CBN –. Vagi 581. Calicó 357.  
Good very fine 7'500



22



- 22 Aureus circa 46-47, 7.69 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P VI IMP XI Laureate head r. Rev. PACI – AVGSTAE Pax-Nemesis advancing r., holding caduceus in l. hand pointing at snake and raising fold of drapery below chin. RIC 38. BMC 39. CBN 49. C 57. Vagi 583. Calicó 367.  
A magnificent portrait well struck in high relief. Good extremely fine 14'000

Ex Italo Vecchi sale 10, 1998, 766.



23



- 23 Aureus circa 50-54, 7.74 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TRIB POT P P Laureate head of Claudius r. Rev. AGRIPPINAE – AVGSTAE Draped bust of Agrippina r., wearing crown of corn-ears. RIC 80. BMC 72. C 3. CBN 78. Vagi 655. Calicó 396c.  
Rare. Two insignificant light scratches in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 12'000

Ex Italo Vecchi sale 10, 1998, 768.

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.





- 24 Aureus circa 50-54, 7.74 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TRIB POT P P Laureate head of Claudius r. Rev. NERO CLAVD CAES DRVSVS GERM PRINC IVVENTVTIS Bare-headed and draped bust of Nero I. RIC 82. BMC 79. C 4. CBN 85. Calicó 391.  
Very rare. Two superb portraits well struck in high relief and a lovely reddish tone.  
An almost invisible scratch on the reverse in lower left field,  
otherwise extremely fine / about extremely 10'000

Ex M&M sale 43, 1970, 301 and Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 6, 2001, F 96.



- 25 *Divus Claudius*. Aureus October-December 54, 7.70 g. DIVVS CLAVDIVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head l. Rev. Ornamental slow quadriga r., surmounted by four miniature horses flanked by Victories on either side. In exergue, EX S C. RIC Nero 4. BMC Nero 4. C 31. CBN Nero 1. Vagi 607. Calicó 354.  
Rare. Well centred on a very large flan, extremely fine 12'000

#### Nero Caesar, 50 – 54



- 26 Aureus circa 50-54, 7.65 g. NERO CLAVD CAESAR DRVSVS GERM PRINC IVVENT Bare-headed and draped bust of Nero I. Rev. SACERD COOPT IN OMN CONL SVPR NVM EX S C *Simpulum* on r. and *littus* on l., above respectively tripod and patera. RIC Claudius 76. BMC Claudius 84. C 311. CBN Claudius 91. Vagi 675. Calicó 441.  
Two small nicks on edge at one o'clock on obverse and at seven o'clock on reverse,  
otherwise extremely fine 9'000

## Nero Augustus, 54 – 68



- 27 Aureus October-December 54, 7.56 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 (these dies). RIC 1. BMC 6. C 6. CBN 5. Vagi 656. Calicó 399.

Very rare and among the finest specimens known. Two marvellous portraits well struck in high relief. Good extremely fine 20'000

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 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, 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 the Roman nobility would not have overlooked it. 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.



- 28 Aureus circa 60-61, 7.74 g. NERO CAESAR AVG IMP Bare head r. Rev. PONTIF MAX TR P VII COS IIII P P around oak wreath enclosing EX S C. RIC 21. BMC 23. C 215. CBN 28. Vagi 684. Calicó 427.

About extremely fine 5'000

Ex Leu sale 61, 1995, 242.



- 29 Aureus circa 65-66, 7.35 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. Salus seated on throne l., holding patera in l. hand; in exergue, SALVS. RIC 59. BMC 87. C 313. CBN 225. Calicó 443.

Reddish Boscoreale tone and extremely fine 7'500

## Galba, 68 – 69



- 30 Aureus July 68-January 69, 7.35 g. IMP SER GALBA CAESAR AVG P M Laureate head r. Rev. HISPANIA Hispania advancing l., holding poppy and corn-ears in r. hand and round shield and two transverse spears in l. RIC 225. BMC 14. C 84. CBN –. Calicó 481.  
Extremely rare, only very few specimens known. An excellent strong portrait,  
about extremely fine / good very fine 22'000

## Vespasian, 69 – 79



- 31 Aureus circa 69-70, 7.28 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. COS ITER – TR POT Pax seated l., holding branch and caduceus. RIC 10. BMC 23. C –. CBN 17. Calicó 607.  
Wonderful reddish tone and extremely fine / about extremely fine 6'500  
From the Boscoreale hoard of 1895.
- 32 Aureus circa 75, 7.31 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. Bull butting r.; in exergue, COS VI. RIC 87. BMC 160. C 112 var. CBN 137. Calicó 620.  
About extremely fine / good very fine 5'500  
Ex Hirsch XXIX, 1910, 948; Hess-Leu 1969, 138 and Leu 54, 1992, 235 sales.

## Titus Caesar, 69 – 79



- 33 Aureus circa 74, 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.  
Good very fine 4'500

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.



### Domitian Caesar, 72 – 79



34

34

- 34 Aureus circa 79, 7.09 g. CAESAR AVG F DOMITIANVS COS VI Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCEPS – IVVENTVTIS Two clasped hands holding eagle on prow. RIC Vespasian 246. BMC Vespasian 267. C 392. CBN Vespasian 239. Vagi 1065. Calicó 916 (this coin). About extremely fine 6'000

Ex M&M sale 13, 1954, 667.

### Domitian Augustus, 81 – 96



35

35

- 35 Aureus circa 81-83, 7.69 g. IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG P M Laureate head r. Rev. IVPPITER CONSERVATOR Eagle standing facing on thunderbolt. RIC 40. BMC 51. C 319. CBN 50. Calicó 895. About extremely fine 5'000

### Nerva, 96 – 98



36

- 36 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 for this issue. A wonderful portrait of excellent style. Light scratches on reverse field, otherwise extremely fine

20'000

Ex Triton III, 1999, 1062 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 68 sales.

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 is an example 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 a different issue 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.



37



37

- 37 Aureus circa 97, 7.52 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 *cornucopiae*. RIC 16. BMC 36. C 65. CBN - . Vagi 1211. Calicó 964. Rare. About extremely fine / good very fine 10'000

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



38



38

- 38 Aureus circa 112-117, 7.34 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONSERVATORI PATRIS PATRIAE Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l., protecting Trajan who stands l. below him, holding branch in r. hand. RIC 249 var. (not cuirassed). BMC 494. C 46 var. (not cuirassed). Calicó 991a. About extremely fine 7'000

### Hadrian Augustus, 119-138



39



- 39 Aureus circa 119-122, 7.29 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P COS III Hercules seated facing on shield and cuirass, holding club and distaff. RIC 55. BMC 97. C 1082. Vagi 1349. Calicó 1318. Extremely fine 7'000



40



- 40 Aureus circa 125-128, 7.29 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. COS – III Sol in quadriga l. RIC 168. BMC 378. C 292. Calicó 1209. Traces of mounting, otherwise good very fine 4'000



- 41 Aureus circa 125-128, 7.36 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS – III She-wolf suckling twins r. RIC 192d. BMC 444. C 420. Calicó1231.  
Well struck on a full flan and extremely fine 10'000



- 42 Aureus circa 134-138, 7.24 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS P P Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. COS – III Hadrian on horse pacing r., raising r. hand. RIC 348e. BMC 503. C 410. Calicó 1221.  
Almost invisible mark on the reverse below the exergual line, about extremely fine 6'500



- 43 Aureus circa 134-138, 7.28 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare head r. Rev. G – EN – I – O P R Genius standing l., holding *cornucopiae* in l. hand and sacrificing out of patera over altar. RIC 249. BMC 656. C 800. Calicó 1269.  
A bold portrait of excellent style. Extremely fine / good extremely fine 7'500



- 44 Quinarius circa 134-138, 3.65 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVG Victoria standing l., holding wreath and palm. RIC 285. BMC 770. C 1458.  
Extremely rare. Good very fine 6'000

Ex Sternberg sale 13, 1983, 657.



## Sabina, wife of Hadrian



- 45 Aureus circa 129, 7.32 g. SABINA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., hair in stephane and in long tail at back. Rev. VES – TA Vesta seated l., holding palladium and sceptre. RIC 397a. BMC 950. C 78 var. (no draped). Calicó 1436. Rare. Well struck in high relief and extremely fine 15'000

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.



- 46 Aureus circa 129, 7.41 g. SABINA AVGVSTA – HADRIANI AVG P P Diademed and draped bust l., hair coiled and piled on back of head. Rev. Vesta seated l., holding palladium and sceptre. RIC 413b. BMC 927 and pl. 65, 9 (these dies). C 86 var. (no drapery). Göbl, *Antike Numismatik*, pl. 24, 256 (this coin). Calicó 1421. Rare. An excellent portrait in the finest style of the period. Good very fine 12'000

## Aelius Caesar, 136 – 138



- 47 Aureus circa 137, 7.48 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 *cornucopiae*; in exergue, CONCORDIA. RIC Hadrian 443. BMC Hadrian 999 and pl. 67, 9 (this obverse die). C 12. Calicó 1445. Very rare. A strong portrait of excellent style, about extremely fine 16'000

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 Pius together with Marcus."

### Antoninus Pius Caesar, 138



- 48 Aureus circa 138, 7.38 g. IMP T AEL CAES – ANTONINVS Bare head r. Rev. TRIB – POT – COS / PIE – TAS Pietas, veiled, standing r., holding box of incense and raising r. hand; in field r., altar. Kent-Hirmer pl. 87, 302 (these dies). RIC Hadrian 454a. BMC 1017a. C 597. Vagi 1426. Calicó 1596.  
Very rare and in excellent condition for this issue. Extremely fine / good extremely fine 9'000

### Antoninus Pius Augustus, 138-161



- 49 Aureus circa 145-161, 7.42 g. ANTONINVS – AVG PIVS P P Bare head r. Rev. TR POT – COS IIII Roma seated l., holding palladium and spear; at side, shield. RIC 147a. BMC 554. C 935. Calicó 1653 (this coin).  
A superb portrait perfectly struck in high relief, good extremely fine 6'500  
Ex Tkalec sale 1991, 289.



- 50 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 Victoria advancing l., holding wreath and palm. RIC 205a. BMC –, p. 111, note \*. C 260. Vagi 1438.  
Rare. Very fine 3'500  
Ex Canessa sale 1923, Caruso, 332.



- 51 Aureus circa 159-160, 7.26 g. ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XXIII Laureate head r. Rev. PIETATI – AVG COS IIII Pietas standing l. between two children, holding globe and child. RIC 302a. BMC 984. C 622. Calicó 1602.  
Well struck on an excessively large flan. Extremely fine 5'500

### Diva Faustina, wife of Antoninus Pius



52



- 52 Aureus after 141, 7.25 g. DIVA – FAVSTINA Draped bust r. Rev. AETE – R – NITAS Fortuna standing l., holding globe in r. hand and rudder in l. RIC A. Pius 349a. BMC A. Pius 368. C 2. Calicó 1743.  
Brilliant Fdc 7'500



53



53

- 53 Aureus after 141, 7.26 g. DIVA – FAVSTINA Draped bust r. Rev. AV – G – V – STA Ceres standing facing, holding lighted torch in each hand. RIC A. Pius 357a. BMC A. Pius 403. C 75.  
About extremely fine 4'500

### Marcus Aurelius Augustus, 161 – 180



54



- 54 Aureus circa 166-167, 7.27 g. M ANTONINVS AVG – ARM PARTH MAX Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P XXI IMP IIII COS III Victoria advancing l., holding wreath and palm. RIC 174. BMC 444. C 883. Calicó 1995.  
Extremely fine 7'000



55



- 55 Aureus circa 179-180, 7.27 g. M AVREL ANTO – NINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P XXX – IIII – IMP X – COS III P P Fides Militum standing l., holding Victory in r. hand and standard in l. RIC 410. BMC 804. C 973. Calicó 2027.  
An appealing portrait struck on a very large flan. Extremely fine 7'500



## Faustina II, wife of Marcus Aurelius



- 56 Aureus circa 145-161, 7.13 g. FAVSTINA F AVG – PII AVG FIL Draped bust r. Rev. VENERI GE – NETRICI Venus standing l., holding sceptre in l. hand and extending r. Kent-Hirmer pl. 94, 327 (this obverse die). RIC –. BMC A. Pius 1057 note. C –. Calicó 2079.  
A delicate portrait very elegantly engraved. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 9'000



- 57 Aureus circa 145-161, 7.32 g. FAVSTINA – AVG P II AVG FIL Draped bust r., with band of pearls round head. Rev. VE – NVS Venus standing l., holding apple in r. hand and rudder in l. RIC A. Pius 515a. BMC A. Pius 1063. C 260. Calicó 2094.  
Extremely fine 5'500
- 58 Aureus circa 161-176, 7.33 g. FAVSTINA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. SALVTI AVGVSTAE Salus seated l., feeding snake twined round altar. RIC M. Aurelius 716. BMC M. Aurelius 151. C 198. Calicó 2073.  
A few abrasions on edge, otherwise about extremely fine 4'000

## Lucius Verus, 161-169



- 59 Aureus circa 163-164, 7.31 g. L VERVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Bare head r. Rev. TR P IIII IMP II COS II Victoria standing r., placing on a palm tree shield inscribed VIC / AVG. RIC 522. BMC 294. C 248. Calicó 2174.  
Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 10'000

### Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus



- 60 Aureus circa 166-169, 7.30 g. LVCILLA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. PVDI – CITIA Pudicitia, veiled, standing l. RIC M. Aurelius 779. BMC L. Verus 347. C 59. Calicó 2216.

A portrait of exquisite style. Good extremely fine

9'500

Ex Stack's sale 3.12.1995, Michel F. Price, 115.



- 61 Aureus circa 166-169, 7.23 g. LVCILLA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA Concordia seated l., holding patera in r. hand and leaning l. elbow on statue of Spes; under throne, *cornucopiae*. RIC M. Aurelius 755. BMC L. Verus 332. C 4. Calicó 2210.

Well centred on a very broad flan and extremely fine

9'000

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.

### Commodus Augustus, 177-193



- 62 Aureus circa 178, 7.29 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P IM – P II COS P P Castor standing l., holding horse by bridle in r. hand and spear in l. hand. RIC M. Aurelius 648. BMC 175. C 760. Calicó 2337b.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

12'000



63

- 63 Aureus circa 184, 7.30 g. M COMM ANTON – AVG PIVS BRIT Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. VOT SVSC DEC P M TR P VIII IMP VII Commodus, veiled, standing l., sacrificing over tripod. In exergue, COS IIII P P. RIC 99b. BMC –, cf. 150 note. C 1002. Calicó 2367.  
A very appealing portrait. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 12'500

### Crispina, wife of Commodus



64

64

- 64 Aureus circa 180-182, 7.26 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. Rare. Extremely fine 12'000

Ex Triton sale V, 2002, 2005.

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



65

- 65 Aureus 193, 7.25 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTIN AVG Laureate head r. Rev. AEQVIT AVG TR P COS II Aequitas standing l., holding scales and *cornucopiae*. RIC 1a. BMC 14. C 1. Calicó 2379. Rare. An excellent portrait well struck in high relief, good extremely fine 18'000

Ex Berk Buy or Bid sale 14.6.1997, 27.

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.





66

- 66 *Divus Pertinax*. Aureus after 193, 7.14 g. DIVVS PERT – PIVS PATER Bare head r. Rev. CONS – ECRATIO Funeral pyre. RIC S. Severus 24b. BMC –. C 11. Calicó 2382.  
Of the highest rarity, only two specimens known. Traces of edge filing, one nick on obverse and one on reverse, otherwise about very fine 6'000

Septimius Severus understood the value of a good pedigree. He first adopted himself into the family of Pertinax as a son of the slain emperor, which gave him a platform for entering Rome as a liberator to avenge his father's murder. He used this transparent pretext to terrorize the senate and replace the praetorian guardsmen with his own picked men. On this consecration aureus struck by Severus he describes the slain Pertinax as *pater*, his 'father'; and on early coins he struck in his own name Severus incorporates his adopted name Pertinax (abbreviated as Pert) into his obverse inscriptions. Though Severus continued to use the name Pertinax on his coinage until 199, that did not prevent him from creating a second, more valuable pedigree: he claimed to be a son of Marcus Aurelius, the emperor under whom he had achieved senatorial rank. This invention also took form in his coin inscriptions, in which he describes himself as *pius*, which had first been used as an imperial title by Antoninus Pius. In 196 he also changed his eldest son's name from Bassianus to Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, though he is best known to later generations by his nickname 'Caracalla'.

### Manlia Scantilla, wife of Didius Julianus



67

- 67 Aureus March-June 193, 6.66 g. MANL SCAN – TILLA AVG Stately 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 (these dies). RIC D. Julianus 7a. BMC D. Julianus 10. C 1. A.M. Woodward, *The Coinage of Didius Julianus and his Family*, NC 1961, obv. 1, rev. –. Vagi 1675. Calicó 2400.  
Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. About extremely fine 55'000

Ex Tkalec 1998, 197 and NAC 23, 2002, 1594 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 19th 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.

### Septimius Severus, 193 – 211



68

- 68 Aureus circa 202-210, 7.29 g. SEVERVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORIAE Victoria, holding whip, in fast quadriga r. In exergue, AVGG. RIC 299. BMC 369. C 712. Calicó 2559.  
One scuff at eight o'clock, one abrasion at ten o'clock on obverse and one on edge at two o'clock on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 6'500



- 69 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); Sotheby's 8.7.1996, 137 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 133 sales.

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.

### Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus



- 70 Aureus circa 194, 7.17 g. IVLIA DO – MNA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. VENER – I – 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

Ex NAC sale 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 136.



- 71 Aureus circa 201, 7.10 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust of Julia Domna r. Rev. AETERNIT IMPERI Confronted busts of Caracalla laureate, draped and cuirassed facing r. and Geta, bare-headed, draped and cuirassed facing l. Collection du Vicomte de Sartiges pl. XXXV, 258 (this coin). Kent-Hirmer pl. 110, 383 (this coin). Giacosa, Ritratti di Auguste, p.118, XXXIX (this coin). Mazzini 1 and pl. 24 (this coin). RIC S. Severus 540. BMC 3. C 1. Vagi 1719. Calicó 2563.

Very rare. An outstanding specimen with three delightful portraits.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

25'000

Ex Naville – Ars Classica 18, 1938, 332; NFA 22, 1989, 83; NAC-Spink Taisei 1994, Gil Steinberg, 579 and M&M 92, 2002, Friends of the Romans, 128 sales. Ex Vicomte de Sartiges and Mazzini collections. From the Karnak hoard of 1901.

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 bear-headed on the right to denote his lesser status as Caesar.



- 72 Aureus circa 196-211, 7.22 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. VE – S – TA Vesta, veiled, seated l., holding palladium in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC S. Severus 582. BMC 69. C 156. Calicó 2648 (this coin). Extremely fine 7'500

Ex NFA –Leu 1984, Garrett part II, 836 and NAC-CNG 40, 1996, 1568 sales.

### Caracalla, 198-217



- 73 Aureus circa 198, 7.10 g. IMP CAE M AVR ANT – AVG P TR P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. MINER – VIC – TR – IX Minerva standing l., holding Victory and spear, at her feet, shield; in field r., trophy. RIC 25a. BMC 106. C 158. Calicó 2696.

A delicate portrait well struck in high relief, extremely fine

9'000





74

- 74 Aureus circa 204, 7.03 g. ANTON P AVG – PON TR P VII Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICT – PART MAX Victoria advancing l., holding wreath and palm. RIC 78. BMC p. 249, note \*. C –. Calicó 2843a. Extremely fine 8'000



75

- 75 Aureus circa 210-213, 6.89 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG BRIT Laureate head r. Rev. SECVRITATI PERPETVAE Securitas seated r., leaning her head on r. hand and holding sceptre in l.; at feet, altar. RIC 229a. BMC 101. C 575. Calicó 2813. A bold portrait in the finest style of the period. Extremely fine 10'000

Ex CNG Fixed Price List June 1997, 18.



76

- 76 Aureus circa 216, 6.47 g. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P XVIII COS IIII P P Serapis standing facing, head l., raising r. arm and holding sceptre in l. hand. Kent-Hirmer pl. 116, 408 (these dies). RIC 280a. BMC 164. C 347. Calicó 2745 (this coin). Brilliant extremely fine 8'000

Ex Triton sale VI, 2003, Marc Melcher, 1024.

### Geta Caesar, 198 – 209



77

- 77 Aureus circa 200-202, 7.32 g. P SEPT GETA – CAES PONT Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FELICITA – S PVBLICA Felicitas standing l., holding caduceus and cornucopiae. RIC 9b. BMC 220. C 37. Calicó 2881. Rare. Well struck on a very broad flan and good extremely fine 16'000

Ex NAC sale 27, 2004, 451.

## Geta Augustus, 209 – 211



- 78 Aureus circa 211, 7.23 g. IMP CAES P SEPT – GETA PIVS AVG Laureate head r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. VICTO – RIAE BRIT Victoria advancing r., holding trophy in r. hand over shoulder and leading captive by hand. RIC –. BMC –. C –. Calicó 2922a.

Of the highest rarity, only the second specimen known of this historically significant issue.

Good very fine 6'000

The last campaign of the emperor Septimius Severus occurred on the northern border of Britain – far from Rome, and even further from his original home in North Africa; indeed, Severus would die there, at the military headquarters at York in February, 211, just as the emperor Constantius I 'Chlorus' would nearly a century later. Accompanying him on the campaign against the Caledonians were Severus' wife Julia Domna and his two quarrelsome sons, Caracalla and Geta. The campaign perhaps had begun in 207, but was in full swing in 208 and continued until 211. It was led by Septimius and Caracalla, and when Septimius fell ill in the course of events, Caracalla took supreme command. Father and eldest son did not see eye-to-eye on all matters of strategy, and we are told that at one point Caracalla became so incensed he appeared ready to stab his father in the back before the whole of the army. When Septimius died a natural death early in 211, Caracalla made peace with the Caledonians on less-than-favorable terms that required the Romans to withdraw to Hadrian's Wall, which would serve as the border. Even though it had not been a total success, the British campaign had merited the presence of the Imperial family, and the consequent 'victory' was widely celebrated on coinage. Though the reverse types vary, this as, inscribed VICTORIAE BRIT, is among the most explicit.

## Macrinus, 217 – 218



- 79 Aureus circa 217-218, 6.71 g. IMP C M OPEL SEV – MACRINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FIDES MILITVM Fides standing facing, head r., holding standard in each hand. RIC 65. C 22. BMC 64. Calicó 2940a.

Very rare. An attractive portrait of excellent style well struck

in high relief, good extremely fine 26'000

Ex Hess sale 1935, Trau, 2372.

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.

## Elagabalus, 218 – 222



- 80 Aureus circa 218-222, 6.42 g. IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r., with horn. Rev. INVICTVS SACERDOS AVG Elagabalus, standing l., sacrificing out of patera over altar and holding branch in l. hand; in field l., star. RIC 86b. BMC –, cf. 209 note. C –. Calicó 2997.

Excessively rare, only very few specimens known. A fabulous and unusual portrait of superb style, perfectly struck on a full flan.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

26'000

On this magnificent aureus the emperor-priest Elagabalus is shown at his most mature and depraved – even to the point of assuming the menacing scowl of Caracalla's final portraits. The comparison is not far-fetched: within Severan dynastic rhetoric Elagabalus was alleged to have been Caracalla's biological son, and it seems likely that the posthumous coins of Caracalla were produced early in the reign of Elagabalus. We may be sure that many of the artists who cut dies late in the reign of Caracalla were still at the mint during the reign of Elagabalus.

This highly individualized portrait shows the emperor at the end of his teenage years. It is quite different than the innocuous images on his earliest coins, when he assumed the throne at age 14 or 15. By the time this aureus was struck his personal depravities and religious eccentricities were well known to the metropolitan Romans. Elagabalus seems to have taken singular pleasure in offending Roman sensibilities, and his unprecedented use of a horn upon the emperor's head was not only symbolic of his religious devotion, but no doubt was meant to be provocative.

The reverse gives us further pause, as it bears witness to the emperor's fanatical dedication to his Eastern religion, having been the hereditary priest of the cult of the Syriac sun god before he was hailed emperor. Several of his later reverse types reference his role as priest, which he clearly took more seriously than his role as emperor. In this case Elagabalus is shown sacrificing at an altar, and is accompanied by the inscription INVICTVS SACERDOS AVG, which describes him as the unconquered emperor-priest.

## Severus Alexander, 222 – 235



- 81 Aureus circa 228, 5.58 g. IMP C M AVR SEV – ALEXAND AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. P M TR VI – C – OS II P P Mars advancing r., holding spear and trophy. RIC 71d. BMC 451. C 331. Calicó 3115.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

6'000



- 82 Aureus circa 231-235, 7.08 g. IMP ALEXAN – DER PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. LIBERA – LI – TAS AVG Liberalitas standing l., holding tessera and *cornucopiae*. RIC 242b. BMC 945 note. C 141 var. Calicó 3071.

Good extremely fine

5'500



## Balbinus, April – June 238



83



83

- 83 Aureus April-June 238, 5.18 g. IMP C D CAEL BALBINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – RIA AVGG Victoria standing facing, head l., holding wreath and palm. RIC 8. BMC 37. C 27. Vagi 2042. Calicó 3174. Of the highest rarity, only the third aureus known of this reign.  
Traces of mounting, flan crack and two scratches in the obverse field, otherwise very fine 55'000

The revolt of 238 was one of the few times the senate played a significant role in overthrowing an emperor. Initially its members supported the North African uprising of the Gordiani against the reigning emperor Maximinus 'Thrax', but when the Gordiani were defeated in the spring the senate appointed two of its own members, Balbinus and Pupienus, as replacement emperors on April 22. Their task was urgent: not only did they have to keep order in the capital, but they had to mount a defense against Maximinus, who was preparing to march on Rome.

Though the extreme rarity of these co-emperors' aurei prevents us from compiling a good sampling of weights, they seem to have been struck to the standard of 60 to the Roman pound – a significant drop from the 50-per-pound standard of the last Severan emperors. Considering the dire circumstances of 238, though, a drop in weight and production would not be surprising.

Balbinus and Pupienus despised each other, and they seemingly were elected co-emperors because they were leaders of opposing political factions. If they had enemies within the senate they found more among the public; Balbinus was so deeply disliked that he was pelted with bricks on one of the occasions he addressed the public.

Their co-rulership was idealistically based on the concept of two consuls – one of the ancient concepts of Roman government that survived into the principate. They even went so far as to divide the chief priesthood, the *pontifex maximus*, which had never been done before. Despite the external signs of cooperation, their rivalry was deep. If one looks closely enough it can even be detected on the coinage: the busts of Balbinus are shown with his shoulder drawn back, those of Pupienus are shown with his shoulder forward.

Balbinus stayed in the capital to manage local affairs while Pupienus mustered an army to lead against Maximinus. In the end, Pupienus had the easier of the two jobs because Maximinus was murdered by his own soldiers while bogged down in a siege of Aquileia.

The main problem they faced, though, was the praetorian guard, which felt slighted for not having been consulted when the senate appointed new emperors. Tensions rose when senators murdered unarmed praetorians who had barged into one of their sessions. Two senators followed up by leading a mob of citizens and gladiators to attack the praetorian camp. The praetorians then went on the offensive for several days before being besieged in their camp, and breaking out yet again to slaughter citizens. A large part of Rome was burned during this guerilla-style warfare.

The praetorians soon had their way, murdering both emperors and choosing as their candidate the teenage Gordian III, a relative of the slain Gordiani, who Balbinus and Pupienus had been pressured to raise to the rank of Caesar. Thus ended the revolution of 238 in which the two Gordiani, Balbinus and Pupienus and Maximinus and his son Maximus had all perished. Balbinus and Pupienus seem to have ruled only 98 or 99 days, and for the praetorian guards their murder was a warning to future senators not to disregard the praetorian or the army when hailing a new emperor.

## Gordian III Augustus, 238 – 244



84



85



- 84 Aureus circa 241-243, 5.12 g. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. AETER – NITAS AVG Sol, radiate, standing l., raising r. arm and holding globe in l. RIC 97. C 37. Vagi 2056. Calicó 3186. Good extremely fine 4'500  
Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 545.
- 85 Aureus circa 241-243, 4.96 g. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI – STATORI Jupiter standing facing, head r., holding sceptre and thunderbolt. RIC 99. C 108. Calicó 3200. Good extremely fine 4'500

## Philip I, 244 – 249



86

- 86 Aureus circa 246, 4.38 g. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P III COS P P Felicitas standing l., holding caduceus and *cornucopiae*. RIC –, cf. 3 (antoninianus). C –,cf. 124 (antoninianus). Calicó 3254a note.

An apparently unique variety of a very rare type. A strong portrait sharply struck, almost Fdc

20'000

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.

## Philip II Caesar, 244 – 247



87

- 87 Aureus circa 245-246, 4.27 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. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

20'000

Numbering among the unfortunate boy-emperors of the 3rd 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.

## Philip II Augustus, 247 – 249



88

- 88 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 3279 (this coin).

Exceedingly rare. An absolutely unobtrusive metal-flaw at eleven o'clock,  
otherwise good extremely fine

25'000

Ex NAC sale 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 175.

This aureus, is part of one of the most interesting series of coins of the 3rd century which 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.

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



89

- 89 Aureus circa 249-251, 4.35 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 var. (draped and cuirassed). C 85. Vagi 2157. Calicó 3295. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 7'500

Decius with this aureus 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.





90



90



- 90 Aureus circa 249-251, 4.43 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VBERITAS AVG Uberitas standing l., holding purse and *cornucopiae*. RIC 28. C 104. Calicó 3299. Extremely fine 5'500

### Herenna Etruscilla, wife of Trajan Decius



91



- 91 Aureus circa 249-251, 4.76 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 invisible scratches in reverse field, otherwise good very fine 5'000

Yet another of the 'blank pages' of Roman history, Herenna 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.

### Herennius Etruscus Caesar, 250 – 251



92



- 92 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 and in superb condition for this difficult issue.

Very light marks on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

20'000

Ex NAC sale 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 183.

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 Caesar, 251



- 93 Aureus circa 251, 4.57 g. C VALENS HOSTIL MES QVINTVS NC Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVV – ENTVTIS Hostilian, in military attire, standing l., holding standard in r. hand and spear in l. RIC 182b. C 33. Vagi 2214. Calicó 3316.

Extremely rare. A bold portrait of unusual beauty well struck in high relief.

Reddish tone and good extremely fine / extremely fine

22'500

Life for Hostilian, the younger 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.

## Trebonianus Gallus, 251 – 253



- 94 Binio circa 251-253, 6.36 g. IMP CAE C VIB TREB GALLVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FELICITAS PVBLICA Felicitas standing l., holding caduceus and *cornucopiae*. RIC 8. C 36. Calicó 3333. Very rare. Sharply struck on broad flan. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 12'500

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. 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.

### Volusian, 251 – 253



- 95 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.  
Very rare. Sharply struck on a broad flan and almost Fdc 12'500

Ex Leu Sale 83, 2002, 815.

### Uranus Antoninus, 253 – 254



- 96 Aureus, Emesa circa 253-254, 5.90 g. L IVL AVR SVLP ANTONINVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FE – CVND – ITAS AVG Fortuna standing l., holding rudder and *cornucopiae*. 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. Slightly bent, otherwise extremely fine 18'000

Ex Leu 18, 1977, 376 and NAC 18, 2000, 657 sales.

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.

### Valerian I, 253 – 260



- 97 Aureus circa 253-254, 3.66 g. IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CONSER – VATORI Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt and sceptre. RIC 37. C 91 var. (laureate only). Calicó 3421.  
Very rare. Extremely fine 10'000



## Gallienus, 253 – 268



98



98

- 98 Aureus circa 254-255, 2.94 g. IMP C P LIC GALLIENVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CONSERV Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt and sceptre. RIC 76. C 350. Calicó 3515.  
An attractive portrait unusually well struck and centred. Extremely fine 5'000



99



- 99 Aureus circa 263-266, 1.87 g. GALLIENVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VBERITAS AVG Uberitas standing l., holding money bag in r. hand and *cornucopiae* in l. RIC 120. C 1007. Calicó 3594a.  
Slightly crinkled, otherwise extremely fine 3'000

Ex Leu sale 71, 1997, 514.



100



100

- 100 Aureus circa 266-267, 3.45 g. GALLIEN – VS P F AVG Head r., wearing wreath of reeds. Rev. VBI – QVE PA – X Victoria in fast biga r., holding reins in l. hand and whip in r. Kent-Hirmer pl. 132, 496. RIC 72. C 1018. Göbl 691. H. Huvelin and J. Lafuarie, RN 1980, Trésor d'un navire romain trouvé en Méditerranée; nouvelles découvertes, 5 (these dies). Calicó 3598.

Very rare. A superb portrait of excellent style well struck on a full flan. Insignificant light scratch on reverse below exergual line, otherwise good extremely fine / extremely fine 12'000

Ex Sternberg 24, 1990, 318 and M&M 92, Friends of the Romans, 2002, 227 sales.

The portrait of this coin 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. 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.

### Salonina, wife of Gallienus



- 101 Aureus circa 257-258, 2.26 g. SALONINA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENVS GENETRIX Venus standing l., holding apple and sceptre; at her l. feet, Cupid standing r. RIC 12. C 119. Calicó 3681 (this coin). Very rare. About extremely fine / good very fine 8'000

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1639.

### Postumus, 260 – 269



- 102 Aureus, Cologne circa 263-264 (?), 5.92 g. POSTVMVS PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. DIANA LV – CI – FERA Diana advancing r., with bow and quiver on shoulder, holding lighted torch with both hands; at her r. side, dog r. RIC –. C –. Calicó –. B. Schulte, Die Goldprägung der gallischen Kaiser von Postumus bis Tetricus, –.

Apparently unique and unrecorded. An impressive portrait well struck in high relief in the finest style of the period. Delightful reddish tone and extremely fine

60'000

Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 559

Like many gods and goddesses, Diana (Artemis) had numerous guises. One of her most popular was Lucifera, 'the bringer of light'. Diana is here shown advancing with her faithful hound at her feet; her bow and quiver are retired over her shoulder as she leads with her lighted torch. The other way in which Diana was commonly shown as Lucifera was wearing a lunar crescent headdress and holding a torch while driving a chariot drawn by two stags. In this latter case she is closely identified with moon-goddess Luna Lucifera, for Diana's brother Apollo was identified with the sun-god Sol. (Apollo was also honored by Postumus on his coinage.) On other coins Postumus honors Diana in her guise as Reduci – advancing, holding a bow and leading a stag, with an inscription dedicated "to the return of Diana". Postumus was brazen with his depictions of the gods on his coins, as he typically represented them as his protectors or companions. With Hercules – clearly Postumus' favorite god – he does not shy from making bold and direct comparisons between himself and the god, even to the point of assimilating himself with Hercules. Postumus' highly personal associations with the gods suggest he truly sought their assistance in protecting and strengthening his fragile empire.

## Macrianus, 260-261



103

- 103 Aureus, Antioch circa 261, 4.37 g. IMP C FVL MACRIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGG Victoria advancing r., holding wreath in outstretched r. hand and palm in l. RIC 3d. C-. Göbl 1744a. Vagi 2367. Calicò 3702.

Of the highest rarity, only the seventh aureus known of Macrianus and by far the finest.

Only two specimens known with this reverse type. Perfectly struck on a very broad flan, virtually as struck and Fdc

150'000

When Valerian I was captured by the Sasanian king Shapur I in the spring or summer of 260 the Roman east was shattered. Not only had their emperor been subjected to the unthinkable, but Shapur followed up with an invasion of Syria, sacking Antioch more completely than it had been seven years earlier, when Uranius Antoninus revolted. Though Valerian's son Gallienus was still the legitimate emperor, he was bogged down defending Europe from a host of calamities. In that sense we may see the uprising of Macrianus and Quietus as less of a revolt than a response to dire circumstances.

The eastern legions sparked a revolt at Antioch in September, turning to the praetorian prefect Callistus (nicknamed Ballista, meaning 'catapult') and the quartermaster-general Macrianus Senior for leadership. Though neither man assumed the purple himself, they proposed Macrianus' two sons, Macrianus and Quietus, as emperor candidates. The revolt was well received throughout the Eastern provinces and Egypt, for Macrianus Senior controlled of Valerian's treasury and Callistus had led the Roman legions to a follow-up victory over the Persians.

Gallienus entrusted his subordinates with the task of deposing Macrianus and Quietus some six months after their revolt had begun, which caused the rebels to divide their forces; Callistus and Quietus remained in the East while father and son Macrianus led an army westward, seemingly in hopes of overthrowing Gallienus. In the spring of 261 the Macriani were defeated in Illyricum by one of Gallienus' commanders, Aureolus or Domitianus. In the East, Callistus and Quietus held out for eight months, spending their final days at Emesa, where the citizens murdered them when the city was besieged by Odaenathus, the king of Palmyra and Gallienus' viceregent in Asia Minor.

Aurei of these two usurpers are very rare, and this specimen is struck from the same dies as the piece illustrated by Göbl. The portrait was certainly the work of the same engraver who cut the obverse die used to strike the billon double-denarius Göbl illustrates as no. 1732k on plate 124. This aureus emanates from the principal mint used by the rebels – probably Antioch, but perhaps Emesa because Quietus' coins are somewhat more common than those of Macrianus and he would have continued to strike in his own name after the death of his brother. An ancillary mint, distinguished by the crude style of its products, also struck double-denarii for the rebels.



## Claudius Gothicus, 268 – 270



104

- 104 Medallion of 8 aurei, Milan September 268, 39.09 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). Vagi 2367. H. Huvelin and J. Lafuarie, RN 1980, Trésor d'un navire romain trouvé en Méditerranée; nouvelles découvertes, 13-21 (these dies).

Very rare. Usual rough surface, otherwise very fine

25'000



105

- 105 Aureus, Milan circa 268-270, 4.71 g. IMP CLAVD – IVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICT – ORIA AVG Victoria advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l. RIC 135a var. (radiate). C 300. Calicò 3957. H. Huvelin and J. Lafuarie, RN 1980, 36 (these dies).

Very rare and unusually well preserved for this issue. Extremely fine

18'000

## Quintillus, 270



106

- 106 Aureus, Milan September-November 270, 5.15 g. IMP C M AVR QVI – NTILLVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FIDES – E – X – E – RCITI Fides standing facing, holding standard in each hand. RIC –. C –. Vagi 2396. Calicò 3968 (these dies). H. Huvelin and J. Lafuarie, RN 1980, 54 (these dies).

Excessively rare, only the third specimen recorded with this reverse type. A superb portrait well struck on a very broad flan. Unusually good surface, brilliant extremely fine

50'000

## Aurelian, 270-275



- 107 Aureus, Siscia circa 270-275, 4.25 g. IMP C AVREL – IANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONC – OR – DIA MILI Concordia seated l., holding standard in each hand. RIC 166. C 41. Calicó 3985. H. Huvelin and J. Lafuarie, RN 1980, 78-85 (these dies).

Rare. A very attractive portrait, good extremely fine 6'500

Ex NFA 20, 1988, 432; NFA 29, 1992, 420 and Stack's 3.12.1996, Michel F. Price, 338 sales.



- 108 Aureus circa 274, 4.17 g. IMP C L DOM AVRE – LIANVS P F 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 NAC-CNG sale 40, 1996, 1681.

## Tacitus, 275 – 276



- 109 Aureus circa 275-276, 4.76 g. IMP C M CL TACITVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE AET – ERNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory and sceptre; shield leaning against throne. RIC 75. C 115. Vagi 2429. Calicó 4092.

Well struck on a full flan and extremely fine 10'000

## Florian, June – August 276



- 110 Heavy aureus 276, 6.51 g. IMP C M ANNIVS FLORIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONSERVATOR AVG Sol in quadriga l., holding reins in r. hand and whip in l. RIC 17. C 16. Vagi 2441. Calicó 4125. Extremely rare. A light nick on edge at six o'clock on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 40'000

Marcus Annius 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.

## Probus, 276 – 282



- 111 Aureus, Cyzicus circa 276-282, 5.03 g. Laureate draped and cuirassed bust r. VIRTVTI AVGVSTI Hercules standing r., leaning on club covered with lion's skin. RIC 902. 943. Calicó 4255. Two minor metal flaws on obverse outside border of dots at eleven and twelve o'clock, otherwise extremely fine 7'000

Ex Berk Buy or Bid Sale 106, 10/1998, 10.



- 112 Aureus circa 277-282, 5.41 g. Laureate bust r., wearing cuirass decorated with medusa and holding spear in r. hand over shoulder. Rev. V – B – IQVE PAX Victory in biga r., holding branch in r. hand and reins in l. RIC 139. C –. Calicó 4209 (this coin). Very rare, only very few specimens known. A beautiful and unusual bust of fine style Two insignificant nicks: one at twelve o'clock on obverse and the other below the exergal line on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 12'000



### Carus, 282 – 283



- 113 Aureus, Cyzicus circa 282, 4.58 g. IMP C M AVR CARVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A – VG Victoria galloping l. in biga, holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l. In exergue, K. RIC 116 var (not draped). C 83. Calicò 4282. Rare. Extremely fine 12'000

### Carinus Caesar, 282 – 283



- 114 Aureus, Siscia circa 282, 4.31 g. M AVR CARINVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – RIA AVG Victoria standing l. on globe, holding wreath in r. hand and trophy over l. shoulder. RIC 190 var. C 190. Calicò 4373 Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 9'000

Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 571.

### Carinus Augustus, 283 – 285



- 115 Aureus circa 283–285, 4.18 g. IMP CARINVS P F AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. VIRTV – S AVG Hercules standing r., leaning on club covered with lion-skin set on rock. RIC 233. C 160 var. (cuirassed). Vagi 2491. Calicò 4395 (this coin). Rare. Traces of mounting on the edge and two light scratches in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 5'500

## Magna Urbica, wife of Carinus



- 116 Aureus circa 283, 4.60 g. MAGNIA V – RBICA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENERI V – ICTRICI Venus standing r., holding up drapery at her l. shoulder and apple in l. hand. Kent-Hirmer pl. 146, 560. RIC 340. C 8. Vagi 2498. Calicó 4409.

Very rare. A very appealing portrait well struck in high relief, good extremely fine 24'000

Ex Lanz sale 120, 2004, 549

Known principally from her coinage, Magna 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 quinarius and gold medallion. However, considering she was one of nine wives the *Historia Augusta* reports to Carinus to have had, we cannot be certain she is the natural mother of Carinus' son Nigrinianus.

## Julian I of Pannonia, October – December 284



- 117 Aureus, Siscia circa 284, 4.24 g. IMP C IVLIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERTAS PVBLICA Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* in r. hand and *cornucopiae* in l.; in field r., large star. RIC 1. C 3. Vagi 2518. Calicó 4413 (this coin).

Extremely rare. Brilliant extremely fine 42'500

Ex Rollin & Feuarent, 1887, Ponton D'Amécourt, 595; Hirsch XVIII, 1907, Himhoof-Blummer, 1574; Hess-Leu 41, 1969, 520; Leu 7, 1973, 427; Leu 30, 1982, 455 and 77, 2000, 648 sales.

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 aureliani and gold aurei (of which perhaps thirty are known) – were struck at Siscia, the only mint-city under his control.

Diocletian, 284 – 305



118

- 118 Aureus, Antioch circa 284, 4.56 g. IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO - RI - A AVG Victoria advancing r., holding wreath and palm; in lower field r., O. In exergue, SMA. RIC 320. C 469. Depeyrot 1/2. Calicó 4570.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

6'500



119

119

- 119 Medallion of two aurei or binio circa 286, 9.20 g. IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CO - NSE - R - VATORI Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC -, cf. 133 (aureus). C -. Depeyrot -. Lukanc -. Calicó 4458 (this coin).

An apparently unique denomination for this ruler. About extremely fine

28'000



120

120

- 120 Aureus, Antioch circa 290, 5.31 g. DIOCLETIANVS AVGVSTVS Laureate and cuirassed bust r., holding spear in r. hand and shield decorated with horseman and enemy motif in l. over shoulder. Rev. IOVI CONS - ERVATORI Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt and sceptre; at his feet, eagle. In field r., Σ. In exergue, SMA. RIC -, cf. 315 var. C -, cf. 261. Depeyrot 6/4. Hunter 65. Glasgow 9. Calicó 4503.

Extremely rare, only the fifth and finest specimen known. A superb portrait well struck in high relief, virtually as struck and Fdc

14'000





121



- 121 Aureus, Antioch circa 293, 5.33 g. DIOCLETIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. CONSVL V – PP PROCOS Diocletian, in consular robes, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, SMAΣ\*. RIC 6. C 49 var. Depeyrot 9/1. Calicó 4439. Good extremely fine 6'500

Ex Berk Buy or Bid Sale 106, 1999, 14.



122



- 122 Aureus circa 294-296, 5.83 g. DIOCLETI – ANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CO – NSER – VAT AVGG Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. In exergue, PROM. RIC –. C –. Depeyrot –. Lukanc –. Calicó –, cf. 4073. An apparently unrecorded variety. Extremely fine 6'000



123



- 123 Aureus, Antioch circa 299, 5.34 g. DIOCLETIA – NVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. CONSUL VII – P P PROCOS Diocletian standing l., in consular robes, holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field l., \*. In exergue, SMAΣ\*. RIC 22. C 52. Depeyrot 16/1. Calicó 4441. Good extremely fine 6'500



124



124

- 124 Aureus, Aquileia circa 303, 5.18 g. DIOCLETIA – NVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. XX / DIOCL ETIAN / I AVG / SMAQ within laurel wreath. RIC 12. C 549. Depeyrot 4/2. Paolucci-Zub 4. Calicó 4591. Very rare. About extremely fine 6'000

## Maximianus Hercules first reign, 286 – 305



- 125 Aureus circa 287, 4.67 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVS AVGG Hercules standing r., kneeling on the Cerynean hind, which he seizes by its antlers; in field l., lion's skin over club. In exergue, PROM. RIC –. C 595. Depeyrot 9/15. Calicó 4737.  
Very rare and an interesting and fascinating issue. Extremely fine 10'000

Soon after Diocletian assumed supreme power in mid-285 he appointed as co-ruler a comrade-in-arms named Maximian. He was initially invested with the rank of Caesar, but by April 1, 286, Diocletian had raised Maximian to the rank of Augustus. The two ruled jointly for seven years until they expanded their diarchy into a tetrarchy by each appointing a Caesar as their deputy.

Each also chose a god to follow: Jove (Jupiter) for Diocletian and Hercules for Maximian. In Diocletian's new system the emperors were represented as having received their mandate to rule from the gods, and so they adopted the names Jovius and Herculus and, beginning in 287, celebrated divine birthdays – their *geminis natalis* – on July 21. All of this was important in Diocletian's new world order, for divine parentage made them incalculably more legitimate than any usurper who might claim the purple.

On this aureus Maximian celebrates his membership in the Herculan house. His portrait appears on the obverse, and on the reverse his divine companion Hercules is engaged in his fourth labor, capturing the Cerynean hind. Hercules' twelve labors and many of his other adventures were common themes in art and literature and were as familiar to the Romans as the episodes of the Trojan War or the adventures of Odysseus were to the Greeks.



- 126 Aureus circa 286, 5.52 g. IMP C M AVR VAL MAXIMIANVS P F AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. IOVI CONSER – VATORI Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt and sceptre. RIC 492. C 348. Depeyrot 2D/3. Calicó 4688.  
Minor graze on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 4'500



127 2:1



- 127 Aureus circa 287, 5.80 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIR – TVS – AVG – G Hercules, naked but for lion's skin around shoulder, standing r. and attacking with a club in his r. hand centaur who attempts to flee to r. In exergue, P R. RIC –. C –. Depeyrot 5B/8. Calicó 4739.  
Extremely rare, only very few specimens known. Extremely fine 12'000

Ex CNG Fixed Price List 10/1996, 64.

Just like the Maximian aureus in this auction depicting Hercules capturing the hind, this aureus shows Hercules engaged in a struggle; this time he battles a centaur, a feat outside the scope of the canonical twelve labors. Both coins belong to Maximian's first issue of gold at Rome, which is variously attributed to 287 or to 289-290.

The reverse themes were appropriate for the times – not only did they demonstrate Maximian's new patronage of Hercules, but they also address the magnitude of the tasks he faced in restoring order to the western provinces.

His first task was to disband the Bagaudae ('the fighters'), a group of oppressed Gaulish peasants, army deserters and veterans who had turned to marauding. He defeated them by early 286 and spent the remainder of the year repelling an invasion by the Alemanni and Burgundians. He then spent all of 287 defending the Rhine, which required a punitive expedition deep into Germany. In 288 he and Diocletian campaigned together on the Rhine and Upper Danube, by which they recovered Rhaetia and struck into Germany. These early efforts bore fruit, doing much to stabilize the Rhine and the Low Countries.

However, Maximian's remaining years were less successful as the scope of his task became clear. His greatest failure was with the semi-barbarian naval commander Carausius, who Maximian had recruited to stop Frankish and Saxon pirates from raiding the shores of Gaul and Britain. Maximian was unable to manage Carausius and in the process forced him into a position in which he had little choice but to stage a rebellion and set up his own regime in Britain, which soon grew to include important Gaulish port cities.

Maximian responded by building a massive fleet to oust Carausius from Britain, but his effort in 289 was a colossal failure. Carausius' empire remained intact for a decade as a thorn in Maximian's side and a lingering embarrassment to Diocletian, who was trying to bring order and stability to the whole empire. Indeed, it was not until Maximian entrusted the recovery of Britain to his praetorian prefect Constantius that the Western empire was again united.



- 128 Aureus, Antioch circa 290, 5.41 g. MAXIMIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. CONSVL III – P P PROCOS Maximianus, in consular robes, standing l., holding globe; in field r., Σ. RIC 609 var. C 73 var. Depeyrot 7/2. Calicó 4623 (this coin).

Extremely rare variety, only the second specimen recorded.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

7'500

Ex Triton sale III, 1996, 1180.



- 129 Aureus, Antioch circa 299, 5.30 g. MAXIMIA – NVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. CONSVL VI – P P PRO COS Maximianus, in consular robe, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and baton in l.; in field l., star. In exergue, ΣΜΑΣ\*. RIC 17 var. (no star, in field l. on rev.). C 83 (no star, in field l. on rev.). Depeyrot 16/2. Calicó 4627 (no star, in field l. on rev.).  
Brilliant good extremely fine 6'000



## Maximianus Hercules second reign, 305 – 308



- 130 Aureus circa 306-307, 5.59 g. MAXIMIAN – VS SEN P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. FELIX ING – R – ESS SEN AVG Roma seated l., holding sceptre and shield inscribed VOT XXX; in field l., E. In exergue, P R. Kent-Hirmer pl. 156, 609 (this reverse die). RIC 136. C –, cf. 109 (for reverse type). Depeyrot 15/3. Vagi 2759. Calicó 4641.

Very rare and of great historical interest. Good very fine / about extremely fine 8'000

Ex NFA sale 18, 1987, 559 and Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 6 2001, 18.

The historical value of this aureus has long been appreciated, with Eckhel considering the specimen in Vienna a highlight of that collection. It was struck late in 306 or early in 307, a chaotic period when Diocletian's well-ordered empire began to dissolve under its new senior emperor, the heavy-handed Galerius.

When Maxentius revolted against Galerius late in 306, he accepted his father, the former Tetrarch Maximian, as his Imperial colleague. Maxentius knew this was a mixed blessing, but if he was to defend Italy and North Africa from Galerius, his father ñ who had led armies for decades ñ would be useful.

This aureus belongs to Maxentius' first issue of gold at Rome, the epicenter of his rebellion. Its reverse celebrates Maxentius' emergence from his forced retirement of 305 and his return to the center stage of Imperial politics and warfare. Though father and son were co-rebels, Maxentius made it clear that he held the position of honor; thus, we may describe this aureus as having been struck by Maxentius for his father.

It was wise for Maxentius to court his father, as Rome was threatened by invading armies twice in 307: first by the emperor Severus II, a drinking partner of Galerius who was not qualified for the job, and later by senior emperor himself. The experience and *auctoritas* of Maximian spared Rome during Severus' invasion in February, as he caused dissent in the invading legions, which had been under his command until 305. It is less certain whether he helped repel Galerius' invasion later in the year, as he may have been in Gaul at the time.

The reverse inscription FELIX INGRESSVS SEN AVG describes "the happy entry of the elder emperor (the *senioris augusti*)". Maximian made two important entries into Rome during the period this aureus was struck: late in 306 when he joined his son's rebellion, and early in 307 after having defeated and captured Severus II. Almost certainly this aureus was struck late in 306 to celebrate Maximian's initial return to power.

Roma holds a shield inscribed VOT XXX for the *vota tricennalia suscepta* - a vow indicating Maximian's desire for thirty years of power. Since he had been forced in 305 to retire after about twenty years of service, this inscription suits his return to power late in 306, for only by then would he have achieved twenty years and asked for thirty.

This aureus was followed at the Rome mint by an issue identical in every way except that the "E" is absent from the reverse field. It may have been a continuation of the sentiment of this initial issue, or it may reference Maximian's return to Rome after his diplomatic mission in Gaul, where he forged a fair-weather alliance with Constantine the Great.

## Constantius I Caesar, 293 – 306



- 131 Aureus, Antioch circa 293, 5.31 g. CONSTANTIVS – NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI – CONS CAES Hercules standing facing, head l., holding apple and lion's skin and leaning on club. In exergue, SMAΣ★. RIC 8. C 145. Depeyrot 9/4. Calicó 4833.

Rare. A very appealing portrait well struck in high relief. Good extremely fine 9'000

Ex Berk Buy or Bid Sale 109, 5/1999, 15A.



132

- 132 Aulus, Cyzicus (?) circa 293, 6.55 g. CONSTANTIVS – NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTUTI HERCVLIS Naked Hercules standing r., leaning on club, covered with lion-skin, set on rock. RIC –. C –. Depeyrot –. Calicó –. Apparently unique and unrecorded. Good extremely fine 10'000



133

- 133 Aureus, Ticinum circa 305, 4.88 g. CONSTANT – IVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. FELICITAS AVGG NOSTR Felicitas seated l., holding caduceus and cornucopiae. In exergue, SMT. RIC 51A. C 38. Depeyrot 8/4. Calicó 4823. Extremely fine 7'000

Ex NAC - CNG Sale 40, 1996, 1745

#### Galerius Maximianus Caesar, 293 – 305



134

- 134 Aureus, Antioch circa 293–295, 5.34 g. MAXIMIA – NVS NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONS – CAES Jupiter standing facing, head l., 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. Good extremely fine 7'500

Ex Berk Buy or Bid Sale 94, 1996, 20.

#### Galerius Maximianus Augustus, 305 – 311



135

- 135 Aureus, Trier circa 305–306, 6.06 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VBIQVE V – IC – TORES Galerius standing r., holding spear and globe, between two captives seated on ground; in exergue, TR. P. Bastien – C. Metzger, Le Trésor de Beaurains, 409 (this coin). A. Evans, Some Notes on the Arras Hoard, NC 1930 36 and pl. 18, 4 (this coin). RIC 634b. C –. Depeyrot 11A/8. Calicó 4952 (this coin). Very rare. Appealing reddish tone and almost Fdc 8'000

Ex Hirsch 1934, 1865; Schulman 1966, 2237 and M&M 43, 1970, 449 sales. Ex Evans and Graham collections. From the Arras hoard.

### Galeria Valeria, wife of Galerius Maximianus



- 136 Aureus, Serdica circa 308, 5.40 g. GAL VAL – ERIA 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 r., Σ and in field l., crescent. In exergue, ·SM·SD·. RIC 33. C 1 var. Depeyrot 9/2. Vagi 2838. Calicó 4966 (this coin).

Extremely rare. An impressive portrait perfectly struck on a very broad flan.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

35'000

Ex Tkalce sale 2002, 245.

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 left of Venus. Σ held the numerical equivalency of 60, and was understood to mean this aureus was struck at the weight of 1/60th of a pound of gold. In reality this piece falls short of its advertised weight by about six percent.

### Severus II Caesar, 305 – 306



- 137 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, ΨΜΑΣ\*. 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

20'000

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; Triton III, 1999, 1186 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 259 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 Daia Caesar, 309 – 313



138

- 138 Aureus, Antioch circa 311, 5.30 g. MAXIMI – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CONSVL P P – PROCONSVL Maximinus II, in consular robes, standing l., holding globe and sceptre; in exergue,  $\Sigma$ MAΣ\*. RIC 127a. C 10. Depeyrot 26/1. Calicó 5003. Extremely fine 7'000

Ex Berk Buy or Bid sale 106, 1998, 23.

## Maxentius Augustus, 307 – 312



139

- 139 Medallion of 2 aurei circa 308–309, 10.72 g. IMP MAXENTIVS P F AVG Radiate head r. Rev. HERCVLI C – OMIT 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. An impressive portrait of great beauty and an appealing reverse composition, extremely fine

55'000

Ex Spink 114, 1996, 108 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 1996, 108 sales.

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 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.

## Licinius I, 308 – 324



- 140 Solidus, Nicomedia circa 315, 5.26 g. LICINIVS AVG OB D V FILII SVI Draped and cuirassed bust facing. Rev. IOVI CONS – LICINI AVG 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·X· / SIC·XX·. In exergue, SMNΓ. RIC 41. C 128. Depeyrot 19/1. Vagi 3005. Calicó 5096.  
Very rare. Well centred on a full flan and extremely fine 18'000

Ex Berk Buy or Bid sale December 1996, 22



- 141 Aureus, Siscia circa 215, 5.25 g. LICINIVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CON – SERVATORI Jupiter standing l., holding Victory on globe and sceptre, at feet, eagle holding wreath in beak; in field r., X. In exergue, SIS. RIC 18 var. (sceptre in beak). C 62 var. (sceptre in beak). Deperot 16/1 var. (sceptre in beak). Calicó 5108a.  
An extremely rare variety. Good extremely fine 7'000

## Licinius II Caesar, 317 – 324



- 142 Solidus, Nicomedia 320, 5.19 g. DN VAL LICIN 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 l., eagle with wreath in beak. The platform inscribed SIC·V· / SIC·X·. In exergue, SMNΔ. RIC 42. C 28. Depeyrot 31/2. Vagi 3026. Calicó 5152a.  
Rare. A very appealing portrait, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 22'000

### Constantine I Caesar, 306 – 307



- 143 Aureus, Siscia circa 306–307, 5.29 g. CONSTAN – TINVS NOB C Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCIPI – IVVENTVTIS Constantine, in military attire, standing facing, head l., holding sceptre in l. hand and raising r.; on either side, standards. In exergue, SIS. RIC 152. C 422. Depeyrot 10/2. Cf. Vagi 3067. Calicó 5188. Very rare. Sharply struck with a portrait of great strength, almost Fdc 10'000

Ex NAC sale 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 271.

### Constantine I Filius Augustorum, 308 – 309



- 144 Aureus, Thessalonica circa 308-early 309, 5.13 g. CONSTANTI – NVS FIL AVGG Laureate head r. Rev. CONSVL – DD NN Constantine standing l., holding globe and sceptre; in field r., Σ. In exergue, SM·TS. RIC 28. C 113. Depeyrot 4/2. Vagi 3087. Calicó 5158. Very rare and an historically important issue. An almost invisible mark on neck, otherwise extremely fine / about extremely fine 10'000

Ex Lanz 28, 1984, 761, Spink 2000, Dreesman, 129 sales and Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 6, 2001, F 158.

Soon after Diocletian and Maximian abdicated in 305 the government of the empire began to spin out of control. The junior emperor Galerius behaved in a despotic manner by denying Constantine and Maxentius – both sons of Tetrarchs – what most would have considered their rightful inheritance. Instead Galerius raised to the rank of Caesar his drinking companion Severus II and his nephew Maximinus II Daia. It is hard to believe Galerius thought Constantine and Maxentius would absorb this insult quietly, but he does not seem to have been prepared for their responses.

After the deaths of Constantius I and Severus II, who had been Augusti in succession, Galerius appointed his old comrade in arms Licinius I as the new Augustus. Daia understandably took this as an insult, for he had been leap-frogged by Licinius, a man who had never held Imperial rank. Irrational decisions like this caused the political landscape to erupt between 305 and 309: Constantine, Maxentius and Maximian revolted, the emperor Severus II died in his attempt to recover Italy, and Daia was enraged by Licinius' promotion. Clearly, Galerius had inherited none of Diocletian's administrative or strategic genius.

This aureus was struck during a brief period in 309 when Daia and Constantine had become unsatisfied with their rank of Caesar and were on the verge of rebellion. In a naïve and insincere gesture, Galerius gave both men the rank of *filius augustorum* ("son of the Augusti"); it was an empty title that fell short of Augustus, but theoretically was a promotion from Caesar.

Neither were pleased with the overture, and within their own territories Constantine and Daia never used *filius augustorum* on coins or documents. Indeed, the only coins bearing this title were produced on their behalf by the augusti, with Galerius striking at Thessalonica and Licinius at Siscia.

Though billon nummi were struck for both men at both mints, aurei were struck only for Constantine at Thessalonica. The reason is clear: in 309 Constantine and Licinius were co-consuls in Licinius' territories, and these aurei bear a consular reverse. Licinius also struck aurei with the same reverse in his own name, and we may be sure that had Licinius not shared the consulship that year with Constantine no aurei would have been struck with the title *filius augustorum*.

The rarity of these aurei is explained by the unpopularity of the title and the short period of their striking, for in the subsequent year, 310, Licinius installed two new consuls, Andronicus and Probus. The billon nummi bearing this title all have generic reverses depicting Virtus or the genius of the Roman people, and they probably were struck from 309 to early 310, after which Galerius had little choice but to raise Constantine and Daia to the rank of Augustus on May 1, 310.

This aureus bears on its reverse a symbol that looks like a retrograde *Sigma*, but which is the letter *Xi*, the alphabetic equivalent of the number 60. When Diocletian reformed the aureus he chose the weight of 60 per Roman pound, approximately 5.45 grams, as the ideal. Many Tetrarchic aurei fell short of that heavy standard, and the aureus was eventually replaced by the solidus, a coin nearly one gram lighter which was struck at 72 to the pound.



**Constantine I Augustus, 307 – 337**



145



- 145 2 Scripula circa 312, 2.35 g. IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SOL IN – V – ICTO COMITI Sol standing l., raising r. hand and holding globe in l. In exergue, P R. Mazzini 1958 (this coin). RIC –. C –. Depeyrot 17/14. Apparently unique. Extremely fine 6'000

Ex Leu 22, 1979, 382; Spink 2000, Dreesman, 123 sales and Mazzini collection.



146



- 146 Aureus, Antioch 313, 5.14 g. CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CONSVL P P – PROCONSVL Constantine, togate, standing l., holding globe and short sceptre; in l. field, Q / II and in exergue, ΣΜΑΣ\*. RIC 5. C 116. Calicò 5160. Depeyrot 32/1.

Bold portrait. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

14'000

Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 590.



147



147

- 147 Solidus, Antioch circa 324-325, 4.39 g. CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. AOVENTVS – AVGVSTIN Constantine on horse l., cloak flying, raising r. and holding sceptre in l. RIC 48 var. C 11 var. Depeyrot 41/1 var. An apparently unrecorded variety of a very rare type. Light smoothing on cheek, otherwise about extremely fine 5'000



148



148

- 148 Solidus, Nicomedia circa 324, 4.48 g. Diademed head r. Rev. CONSTANTINVS AVG Victoria seated l., holding Victory on r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; in field r., shield. In exergue, SMN. RIC 70. C 102. Depeyrot 34/1. Rare. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 8'000



149

- 149 Medallion of 1 ½ solidi, Nicomedia circa 330, 6.68 g. **CONSTANTI – NVS MAX AVG** Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. **ADV – EN – TVS AVG** Emperor on horse l., raising r. hand, preceded by Victoria walking l. and holding wreath and palm branch. In exergue, **SMNT**. RIC 160 var. (MNT) and 52 note. C 5. Depeyrot p. 155. Rare. An appealing and well executed reverse composition, extremely fine / good extremely fine 18'000

### Crispus Caesar, 317 – 326



150

- 150 Solidus, Nicomedia circa 324-325, 4.47 g. **F IVL CRIS – PVS NOB CAES** Nude laureate bust l., holding spear pointing forward and shield on l. shoulder. Rev. **VIRTVS – CAESARI N** Crispus on horse galloping r., holding shield in l. hand and striking kneeling enemy with spear in r.; below horse, another fallen enemy. In exergue, **SMNK**. RIC 85. C 164 var. Depeyrot 35/6. Very rare. Extremely fine 14'000

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 had 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 was the obvious talents of Crispus. In the First Licinian War (316-317) he had distinguished himself as a skillful 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, honoring him as “the son whom I unjustly condemned”.

### Constantine II Caesar, 317 – 337



151

- 151 Medallion of 1 ½ 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. Gnecci 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

Ex NAC sale 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 290.





152

- 152 Solidus, Nicomedia circa 325-326, 4.38 g. Diademed head r. Rev. CONSTANTI – NVS CAESAR Victoria advancing l., holding wreath and palm; in exergue, N. RIC 112. C 75. Vagi 3187. Depeyrot 38/4 (misdescribed).  
Very rare. Extremely fine 6'000

#### Constans Augustus, 337 – 350



153

- 153 Solidus, Siscia circa 337-338, 4.60 g. FL IVL CONS – TANS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA CONSTANTIS AVG Victoria advancing r., l. foot on bound captive, holding shield in l. hand and inscribing it VOT / V / MVLT / X. RIC 38. C –. Depeyrot 5/6.  
Very rare. Extremely fine 2'400



154

- 154 Solidus, Trier circa 345, 4.45 g. CONSTANS – AVGVSTVS Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIAE DD NN AVGG Two Victories standing facing, holding between them a wreath inscribed VOT / X / MVLT / XX; in exergue, TR. RIC 135. C 171. Vagi 3225. Depeyrot 6/3.  
Extremely fine 2'000

#### Constantius II Augustus, 337 – 361



155

- 155 Solidus, Trier circa 345, 4.53 g. CONSTANTI – VS AVGVSTVS Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIAE DD NN AVGG Two Victories standing facing, holding between them a wreath inscribed VOT / XX / MVLT / XXX; in exergue, TR. RIC 132. C 280. Depeyrot 6/1.  
Extremely fine 2'000





156

- 156 Solidus, Antioch circa 355-361, 4.52 g. DN CONSTAN – TIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed head r. Rev. GLORIA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis, enthroned facing, supporting between them a wreath inscribed VOT / XXXX. In exergue, ANTA. RIC 172. C 126. Vagi 3256. Depeyrot 12/1. Extremely fine 1'800



157



- 157 Medallion of 2 solidi, Antioch circa 346, 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 –. Gnecci –. Toynbee –. Bastien, Donativa, p. 86, note c.

Apparently unique and unrecorded. A very appealing issue with a spectacular portrait and an interesting and finely detailed reverse composition.

A few marks, otherwise extremely fine

50'000

Ex NAC sale 24, European Nobleman, 304

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.

### Magnentius, 350 – 353



158



- 158 Solidus, Trier circa 350, 4.47 g. IMP CAE MAGN – ENTIVS AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVG LIB ROMANOR Victoria standing r. and Libertas standing l., holding short sceptre in l. hand, supporting between them a hooked shaft carrying a trophy. In exergue, TR. RIC 248. Depeyrot 8/1. P. Bastien, Le monnayage de Magnence, obv. –, cf. rev. 4.

Very rare and in superb condition for this difficult issue.

Extremely fine / good extremely fine

7'000



159

- 159 Solidus, Trier 351, 4.27 g. DN MAGNEN – TIVS P F AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVG LIB ROMANOR Victoria standing r. and Libertas standing l., holding short sceptre in l. hand, supporting between them a crossed shape shaft carrying a trophy. In exergue, TR. RIC 272. C 48. Depeyrot 10/1. Bastien 45. Rare. Traces of mounting, otherwise about extremely fine 3'000

#### Julian II Caesar, 355 – 361



160

- 160 Solidus circa 355–357, 4.46 g. D N IVLI – ANVS N C Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FEL TEMP – RE – REPARATIO Roma and Constantinopolis enthroned facing and supporting shield between them bearing an eight-pointed star. In exergue, RSMS\*. RIC 295 var. C 8. Depeyrot 11/1. Rare. Traces of over-striking, otherwise good very fine 2'000

#### Julian II Augustus, 361 – 363



161

- 161 Solidus, Constantinople circa 361-363, 4.41 g. FL CL IVLIA – NVS P P AVG Pearl-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 captive. In exergue, & CONSP. RIC 157. C 78. Depeyrot 8/1. Reddish tone and extremely fine 5'000

#### Valentinian I, 364 – 375



162

163

- 162 Solidus, Trier circa 367-375, 4.47 g. DN VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed and draped 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, TROBS. RIC 17b. C 43. Depeyrot 43/1. Good extremely fine 1'200
- 163 Solidus, Trier circa 367-375, 4.43 g. DN VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed and draped 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, TROBT. RIC 17b. C 43. Depeyrot 43/1. Extremely fine 1'000

### Valens, 364 – 378



164



164

- 164 Solidus, Trier circa 367-375, 4.46 g. DN VALENS – P F AVG Rosette-diademed and draped 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, TROBS. RIC 17e. C 53. Depeyrot 43/1.  
Good extremely fine 1'200

### Procopius, 365 – 366



165



- 165 Solidus, Constantinople circa 366, 4.27 g. D N PROCO – PIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. REPARATI – O FEL TEMP Procopius standing facing head r., holding spear in r. hand and resting l. on shield. In exergue, CONS. RIC 2a. C 5. Vagi 3686. Depeyrot 15/1.  
Extremely rare and in exceptional state of preservation for this issue.  
Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 45'000

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



166



166

- 166 1 ½ scripulum, Trier circa 367-375, 1.73 g. D N GRATIA – NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTORVM Victoria advancing l., holding wreath and palm. In exergue, TROB. RIC 21d. C 44. Vagi 3498. Depeyrot 32/5. Very rare. Extremely fine 2'750



## Aelia Flaccilla, wife of Theodosius I



- 167 Solidus, Constantinople circa 383–386, 4.38 g. AEL FLAC – CILLA AVG Draped bust r., wearing elaborate headdress, necklace and mantle. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE B Victoria seated r. on throne, writing Christogram on shield held on small column; in exergue, CONOB. RIC 48. C 1. Vagi 3707. Depeyrot 40/1. Extremely rare and in exceptional state of preservation for this issue.

Extremely fine 24'000

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



- 168 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. Depeyrot 18/1. Bastien 229

Extremely rare. Nick on edge at seven o'clock and an unobtrusive abrasion on the ethnic on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 28'000

Ex NAC sale 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 324.

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.

### Aelia Eudoxia, wife of Arcadius



- 169 Solidus, Constantinople circa 403-408, 4.46 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 Victoria 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 field l., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC Arcadius 32. LRC 290. Vagi 3727. Rare. Extremely fine 6'500

### Honorius, 393 – 423



- 170 Solidus circa 404-407/8, 4.43 g. D N HONORI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG R – M Emperor standing r., holding standard in r. hand and Victory on globe in l., spurning captive with his l. foot. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 1254. C 44. LRC 724. Extremely fine 750

### Theodosius II, 402 – 450



- 171 Tremissis, Constantinople circa 408-419, 1.40 g. D N THODO – SIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTORVM Victoria standing facing, holding wreath in r. hand and *globus cruciger* in l.; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 249. LRC 319. Good extremely fine 600
- 172 Solidus, Constantinople circa 424-425, 4.36 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarter facing, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman-enemy motif. Rev. GLOR ORVI – S TERRAR B Emperor standing facing, holding labarum and globe surmounted by cross; in field l., star. In exergue, TESOB. RIC 362. MIRB 58. LRC 764 ff. Extremely fine 800

### Valentinian III, 425 – 455



- 173 Solidus, Ravenna circa 426-430, 4.41 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 2011. LRC 842. Vagi 3607. Good extremely fine 900



174

- 174 Solidus, Thessalonica circa 437, 4.46 g. D N PLA VALENTINIANVS P F AVG Draped, cuirassed and rosette-diademed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Helmeted Emperor on horse l., cloak flowing behind him, raising r. hand. In exergue, CONOB. RIC –. C –. Depeyrot –. LRC –.  
Apparently unique and unrecorded. Extremely fine / good extremely fine 15'000

Ex NAC sale 23, 2003, 1718.

The unique solidus we here offer, unrecorded for its reverse, poses a riddle for its mint and dating. Valentinian III, born in 419 from Flavius Constantius (who was emperor for a few months with the name of Constantius III) and Galla Placidia daughter of Theodosius the Great and step sister of the emperors Arcadius and Honorius, was in succession to become Augustus. After a misunderstanding between his mother and Honorius, the young Valentinian followed her to Constantinople (423), where Theodosius II, son of Arcadius, reigned. On Honorius' death, was first made Caesar at Thessalonica (424) and the following year was crowned Augustus in Rome. Now, because of his status, that the solidus was struck at the Greek mint in 424 must be ruled out, so one has to look for a later date. We know that on 29 October 437 he married in Constantinople Licinia Eudoxia, daughter of Theodosius II (see RIC 267, for the solidus struck in this occurrence) and that the couple spent the winter at Thessalonica before reaching the imperial court at Ravenna the following year. The presence of Valentinian III at Thessalonica thus ascertained, 437 remains the only possible date of issue of this solidus. It is likely that the piece was struck to emphasise his arrival and / or stay here, even if for such an event a reverse with the normal VICTORIA AVGGG legend seems at odds with the circumstances: the type of the reverse with the emperor on the horseback (cf. Honorius, RIC X 1202, Marcianus, MIRB 1), would suggest something other than a sojourn. Finally, it is worth pointing out that the peculiar make of the coin sets it apart from the usual style of Thessalonica, in that it is more reminiscent of one of the empire's western mint.

#### Marcian, 450 – 457



175

- 175 Solidus, Constantinople circa 450, 4.47 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 B Victoria standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 510. MIRB 5b. LRC 482.  
Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 800

#### Basiliscus and Marcus joint reign, Autumn 475 – August 476



176

176

- 176 Tremissis Constantinople circa 475-476, 1.48 g. D N BASILISCI ET MARC P AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM Victoria standing facing, holding wreath in r. and globus cruciger in l.; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 1031. MIRB 10. LRC 626.  
Very rare. Good very fine 1'400