

A U C T I O N

34

21st November 2006

NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA NAC AG
ZÜRICH - LONDON



AUCTION 34

21st November 2006

An Important Collection of Roman Gold Coins

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

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

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

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

TIME TABLE ZEITTADEL ORDRE DE VENTE ORDINE DI VENDITA

Tuesday, 21st November 2006 10.30 – 12.30 hrs 1 – 225

EXHIBITIONS AUSSTELLUNG EXPOSITION ESPOSIZIONI

London

9th October – 14th November

**from Monday to Friday 9.30 – 17.30 hrs
and Saturday - Sunday by appointment only**

At our premises

Zürich

20th November

9.30 – 18.30 hrs

**Hotel Baur au Lac
Talstrasse 1, 8022 Zürich
Tel. + 41 (44) 220 50 20**

Please visit our auction online at www.arsclassicacoins.com

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Gradi di conservazione	Grades of preservation	Erhaltungsgrad	Degrés de conservation	Grados de Conservación
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

An Important Collection of Roman Gold Coins

Part I

The Roman Republic

The mint is Rome unless otherwise stated



- 1 **Anonymous.** 60 Asses after 211, 3.33 g. Bearded and draped head of Mars r., wearing Corinthian helmet; in field l., mark of value, ↓X. Rev. Eagle standing r., with spread wings, on thunderbolt. Below, ROMA. Crawford 44/2. Syd. 226. Bahrfeldt 4a. Extremely fine 3'000



- 2 **L. Cornelius Sulla Imperator with L. Manlius Torquatus Proquestor.** Aureus, mint moving with Sulla 82 BC, 10.79 g. L·MANLI – PRO Q. Helmeted head of Roma r. Rev. *Triumphator* (Sulla) crowned by flying Victory in quadriga r., holding reins and caduceus; in exergue, L·SVLLA·IMP. Crawford 367/4. Syd. 756. B. Manlia 3 and Cornelia 38. Bahrfeldt 13. Vagi 4. Calicó 16 (this obverse die).
Very rare and in superb condition for the issue. Unusually well-centred on a full flan, extremely fine 20'000

In the Roman Republic gold coinage was struck only on rare occasions. It was introduced during the Second Punic War, when Rome and her Italian allies struggled to defeat the Carthaginian invader Hannibal, and it was not struck again for nearly 125 years. This next occasion was a crisis that equally tested the Romans, for they suffered an uprising of their Italian allies in 91 B.C., and for the first time Roman armies invaded the capital.

The circumstances behind these terrible events had long been forming. For centuries Rome had relentlessly subdued its neighbours, and in the process it had constructed a system of alliances which allowed her to collect taxes and levy troops every year. It was a double-edged sword for the allies – while it was better to join Rome than to oppose her, Rome could only remain powerful because it used their young men for their conquests.

There were several levels of alliance membership, and neighbouring cities within the same regions often had a very different status. The ultimate prize for Rome's Italian federates was obtaining Roman citizenship, and in 91 B.C. that cause was taken up by the tribune Livius Drusus. But, his swift and brutal murder dashed all hope, and a rebellion erupted throughout Italy. Leading the way were the Samnites, a fierce people living in the hills and mountains near Rome.

After suffering initial defeats, Rome was able in 90 and 89 to satisfy most of its former allies with promises of Roman citizenship (which, remarkably, remained unfulfilled until the census of 70). Though Rome pacified most of its opponents, the Samnites continued to resist, and in 88 even appealed to king Mithradates VI of Pontus for help. Mithradates sent financial aid and, in the meantime, he caused the murder of 80,000 Romans and Italians living in Asia before ravaging Roman territories in Asia Minor and Greece.

These two crises – the resistance of the Samnites and the aggressions of Mithradates – set the stage for a conflict between the Roman warlords Sulla and Marius. Though many tribulations, Sulla overcame all of his opponents, in part by unleashing Rome's own armies against the capital, something which had never before occurred. Sulla was able to impose what later Roman historians called the *Regnum Sullanum*, a dictatorial era during which he executed his enemies with appalling cruelty. However, he eventually restored the senate's power, and in 79 retired to Campania shortly before he died.

This rare aureus celebrates the triumphs Sulla was awarded for his defeat of Mithradates, and of the Samnites at the Battle of the Colline Gate in 82. On the reverse a triumphal quadriga bears the figure of Sulla, who is crowned by a Victory flying above.

The inscription L SVLLA IM makes it clear that Sulla is the figure in the quadriga. This aspect should not be overlooked, for it is an early example of a Roman coin depicting a living person – something that would eventually become a defining feature of coins of the Imperial period. In this aureus we have a precursor to the royal portraiture initiated by Julius Caesar nearly four decades later. Also, since this coin was issued either contemporarily or soon after Sulla's triumphal procession through the streets of Rome, it serves as a document of that great event.



3



- 3 **Marcus Junius Brutus with Casca Longus.** Aureus, mint moving with Brutus in the East circa 43-42 BC, 8.04 g. BRVTVS – IMP Bare head of Brutus r. within laurel wreath. Rev. CASCA – LONGVS Trophy, with curved sword and two spears in l. hand and figure-of-eight shield in r., mounted on a post set on a base formed by two prows back to back. Two shields are placed on the front of the prows and a sword with square handle extends to r. In inner field l., L. Crawford 507/1b. Syd. 1297. B. Junia 46 and Servilia 37. Bahrfeldt 65b. C 14 var. Kent-Hirmer pl. 27-28, 99 (this obverse die). Mazzini 14 (this coin). Sear Imperator 211. Vagi 94. Calicó 56. Extremely rare and among the finest of very few specimens known.

An issue of great historical interest and fascination.

Well-struck on a full flan and extremely fine

175'000

Ex Mazzini collection

Coins with the portrait of Brutus are among the most desired of all objects from the Roman world. Here we have a remarkable aureus with a realistic portrait of the conflicted nobleman who forged the plot to murder Julius Caesar, and whose legacy is still subject to a wide range of interpretations.

The fact that Brutus placed his own portrait on coinage is clear testimony to his confusion about his principles and his mission, for it contradicts some of the lofty Republican sentiments he proclaimed as a defence for his murder of Caesar. When Brutus came to lead his own political movement he, too, behaved as a despot, and like Caesar before him, he succumbed to the temptation to place his image on circulating coins.

Cassius, his principal ally, did not follow suit. This is a double-edged sword: though we may admire the nobility of Cassius' restraint, it is a great loss that no coin portraits of him exist. This deprives us not only of an assured image from coinage, but it means we are unable to assign to him any un-inscribed portraits in other media, such as marble or gemstone.

As with all coins that Brutus produced as Imperator, this aureus was probably struck in the late summer or in the fall of 42 B.C., not long before he and Cassius were defeated at Philippi by Marc Antony and Octavian. Since these Republican warlords were operating in the eastern Mediterranean, a host of mints in Asia Minor and Greece emerge as possibilities, though we may best describe them as products of "moving mints" that accompanied the imperators and their vast armies.

Brutus struck two issues of aurei with his portrait. We are fortunate that this issue of Servilius Casca offers a sober and realistic image, especially in comparison with his other aurei, struck by the legate Pedanius Costa, which bear what Sheldon Nodelman rightly describes as a portrait of "neoclassic" style.

The features of Brutus on this piece are fully developed, and there is no attempt to portray youthfully this noble Roman, who was probably forty-three at the time. In that respect, these aurei may offer the most truthful depiction of Brutus, perhaps eclipsing the very best portraits on the Eid Mar coinage.



4



- 4 **C. Cassius Longinus.** Aureus, mint-moving with Brutus and Cassius circa 43-42 BC, 7.88 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. Bahrfeldt 60. C 8. Calicó 67. Vagi 101. Sear Imperators 224. Vagi 116. Calicó 67 (these dies).

Very rare and in unusually good condition for the issue. About extremely fine / extremely fine

16'000

Ex M&M sale 68, 1986, 345.



- 5 **Marcus Antonius and Octavian with M. Barbatio Pollio.** Aureus, mint moving with M. Antonius (Ephesus ?) Spring – Summer 42 BC, 8.00 g. M·ANT·IMP·AVG·III·VIR·R·P·C·M·R·A·R·R·AT Q·P Bare head of M. Antonius r. Rev. CAESAR·IMP·PONT·III·VIR·R·P·C· Bare head of Octavian r. Bahrfeldt 78 and pl. VIII, 12 (these dies). Crawford 517/1b. Syd. —. C —. Vagi 174. Calicó 109b (these dies).

An excessively rare variety, only the third specimen known, of a very rare type.

A minor nick on obverse and a light graze on reverse, otherwise about very fine

10'000



- 6 **Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus.** Aureus, mint moving with Ahenobarbus 41 BC, 7.97 g. AHENOBAR Bare male head (Ahenobarbus ?) r. Rev. CN·DOMITIVS·L·F·IMP Tetrastyle temple; in upper field, NE – PT. Crawford 519/1. Syd. 1176. B. Domitia 1. Bahrfeldt 68. C 1. Kent-Hirmer pl. 27-28, 100 (these dies). Sear Imperator 338. Vagi 101. Calicó 69.

Excessively rare, probably only the tenth specimen known. Minor scuff on obverse

and marks on reverse, otherwise very fine / fine

30'000

This aureus ranks high among the prizes of Roman numismatics. Its remarkable portrait has been the subject of much debate, especially since it is different from the one on denarii issued at the same time by Ahenobarbus, the man who unwittingly was the great-grandfather of the emperor Nero.

Here we have a fleshy, indulgent, almost Vitellian portrait that is filled with character and individuality. On the denarii we have a portrait of a thin man that is stiff and noticeably stylized. The difference in the engraving quality may be due to the fact that a better artist worked on the aureus dies, but it is more likely that the denarius portrait was meant to represent an ancestor and that the aureus portrait is of the emperor himself.

On both issues the name AHENOBAR appears alone on the obverse, and his title is relegated to the reverse. To many scholars this suggests that both portraits are of Ahenobarbus' ancestors, but that argument is not conclusive. Had Ahenobarbus placed his portrait on one of the issues, the aureus would have been a good choice since it circulated among the most influential members of his retinue.

The temple of Neptune on the reverse may help narrow the portrait down to two men in the family who either built or restored such a temple. Most agree it is the *Aedes Neptuni*, the temple of Neptune on the Campus Martius, but some consider it to be one attributed to Domitius Ahenobarbus, who was consul in 192 B.C., and others favor the temple that the coin-issuing Ahenobarbus vowed between 42 and 38 B.C. (and seems to have realized in 32, when he was consul).

Philip Hill considers the temple to have "...every appearance of being a 'blueprint' rather than representing a building which had been in existence for more than a century and a half." He notes that the actual temple was hexastyle – having six columns on its façade – rather than tetrastyle, as it is shown on the coin. If the temple is the one attributable to the coin-issuing Ahenobarbus, then we might rightly describe the portrait as that of the emperor himself.

Since 1945, this issue has been offered in public auction only twice: Sotheby's sale 10 November 1972, lot 4 and Hirsch sale 193, lot 13 (graded very fine and sold for 117,000 DM). A third specimen was offered by NFA in 1989, but after a close examination the coin has been condemned as a modern forgery.

The Roman Empire

The mint is Rome unless otherwise stated

Augustus, 27 BC – 14 AD



- 7 Aureus, Lugdunum 8 BC, 7.95 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI F Laureate head r. Rev. C CAES Caesar galloping r., holding a sword in r. hand and shield in l.; behind, *aquila* between two standards; in exergue, AVGVST. RIC 198. BMC 498. C 39. CBN 1459. Bahrfeldt 233. Calicó 174a (this coin).
Very rare. A very appealing portrait, about extremely fine 18'000

Ex Lanz sale 109, 2002, 284.

Tiberius, 14 – 37



- 8 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 in r. hand and branch in l. RIC 25. BMC 30. C 15. CBN 15. Vagi 437. Calicó 305d.
Struck on an exceptionally large flan and about extremely fine 5'500

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 sesterii. 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 sesterii, 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.

Gaius, 37 – 41



- 9 Aureus 37-38, 7.73 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR POT Bare head of Gaius r. Rev. DIVVS AVG PATER PATRIAE Radiate head of Augustus r. RIC 15. BMC 16. C 1. CBN 19. Vagi 310. Calicó 332 (this coin). Very rare and among the finest specimens known. Two fabulous portraits of the finest style struck on a very large flan. Good extremely fine 60'000

Ex Gilhofer & Ransburg 22 November 1935, Trau Collection, 352; NFA XXX, 1982, 212 sales and Antiqua list VII, 2000, 7.

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, 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.

Claudius, 41 – 54



- 10 Aureus 50-54, 7.74 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TRIB POT P P Laureate head of Claudius r. Rev. AGRIPPINAE – AVGUSTAE Draped bust of Agrippina r., wearing crown of corn-ears. RIC 80. BMC 72. C 3. CBN 78. Vagi 655. Von Kaenel 1041 (this coin). Vagi 655. Calicó 396d (this coin). Biaggi 215 (this coin). Rare. Two lovely portraits, about extremely fine / good very fine 10'000

Ex Hess sale 9 May 1951, 22.

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.

Galba, 68 – 69



11

- 11 Aureus July 68 – January 69, 7.22 g. IMP SER GALBA CAESAR AVG P M Laureate head r. Rev. Galba, bare-headed and in military dress, riding r., rising r. hand in salutatio, in exergue, IMP. RIC 227. BMC 20. C 96. CBN –. Calicó 482 (this coin). Biaggi 257 (this coin).

Extremely rare and among the finest aurei of Galba in existence. A wonderful portrait perfectly struck in high relief and an enchanting reddish tone. Virtually as struck and Fdc 50'000

Ex Glendining sale 20 February 1951, Ryan collection part IV, 1665 and from the Boscoreale hoard of 1902.

The transformation of Galba from a provincial governor nearing retirement to a patriotic general determined to restore order to the Roman world is one that reminds us of how superstitious the Romans were, for his decision was dictated not only by political and military realities, but also good omens of every description.

The reverse of this aureus reminds us of that critical stage in Galba's career, when he assumed the helm with no guarantees that his bid to become emperor would succeed. He is shown on horseback, raising his right hand in salutatio, and he wears a general's cloak, which Suetonius tells us he began to use upon beginning his march toward Rome, and that he did not substitute it for his toga until all of his known enemies had been overthrown.

Plutarch reports that Galba learned of the death of Nero and of his own support by the senate and the people while he was at Clunia, an isolated city upon a tall hill in Hispania Tarraconensis. The city's full name, Colonia Clunia Sulpicia, almost certainly derives from the patronage of Galba, who was a member of the old and powerful *Sulpicii*.

While at Clunia, Galba received many omens favourable to his mission, including, according to Dio Cassius, the fact that "...ships full of weapons under the guidance of no human hand had come to anchor off the coast of Spain." But the most fascinating report is made by Suetonius, who says Galba was encouraged "...by the prediction of a young girl of high birth, and the more so because the priest of Jupiter at Clunia, directed by a dream, had found in the inner shrine of his temple the very same prediction, likewise spoken by an inspired girl two hundred years before."

This Jovian prediction would have appealed to Galba, for Suetonius tells us he traced his ancestry on his father's side back to Jupiter himself. The fact that it was also purported in verses that one day the ruler of the world would come forth from Spain no doubt added an incentive.

With this aureus Galba celebrates the origins of his rise to power at Clunia, which was followed by a swift march on Rome supported by his Spanish legionnaires. About the time Galba issued this aureus in Rome, he also struck sestertii bearing a reverse inscribed HISPANIA CLVNIA which showed Galba, seated in the guise of Jupiter, receiving the Palladium from a lady personifying Clunia.

Otho, January – April 69



12



12

- 12 Aureus January–April 69, 7.38 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. SECVRI – TAS P R Securitas standing l., holding wreath in r. and sceptre in l. RIC 7. BMC 13. C 16. CBN 7. Vagi 834. Calicó 529. Very rare. A very attractive portrait and a pleasant good very fine 20'000

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

Vespasian, 69 – 79



13



13

- 13 Aureus, Lugdnum 73, 7.48 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VES – TA Vesta standing r. in tetrastyle temple, holding long sceptre in l. hand and extending r.; on either side, statues. The one on l., holding vertical sceptre in r. hand and resting l. on hip; the one on r., naked, holding long sceptre in l. hand. RIC 304. BMC 413. C 581. CBN 310. Vagi 902 var. Calicó 695 (this coin). Biaggi 342 (this coin). Rare. A very interesting reverse composition, good very fine 7'500

Titus Caesar, 69 – 79



14



14

- 14 Aureus 75, 7.24 g. T CAESAR IMP VESPASIAN Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – TR P COS IIII Victory standing l. on *cista mistica*, holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l.; on either side, coiled snake. RIC Vespasian 184. BMC Vespasian 173. C 163. CBN Vespasian 152. Calicó 750. Biaggi 369 (this coin). Reddish tone and about extremely fine 7'000

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1516.

Domitian Augustus, 81 – 96



- 15 Aureus 90-91, 7.58 g. DOMITIANVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. GERMANICVS COS XV Germania seated r. on shield, mourning; below, broken spear. RIC 164. BMC 174. C 156. CBN 164. Calicó 846. An outstanding portrait of enchanting beauty. Virtually as struck and Fdc 25'000

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

Domitia, wife of Domitian



- 16 Aureus 82-84, 7.73 g. DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DO – MITIAN AVGVSTVS Draped bust r., hair elaborately bound up. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGVSTA Peacock standing r. RIC 215. BMC 249. C 4 var. CBN Domitian 217 var. Vagi 1143. Calicó 947 (these dies).

Extremely rare and probably the finest specimen known. A remarkable portrait of great beauty struck in high relief, good extremely fine 60'000

Ex Leu 36, 1985, 255; NAC 8, 1995, 804 and Tkalec 2002, 151 sales.

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

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

Nerva, 96 – 98



- 17 Aureus 97, 7.72 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDIA – EXERCITVM Clasped hands holding legionary eagle set upon prow l. Kent-Hirmer pl. 72, 252. RIC 15. BMC 27. C 28. CBN 16. Vagi 1211. Calicó 958. Biaggi 455 (this coin).

Rare. About extremely fine / extremely fine 16'000

Ex Bourgey sale 16 November 1957, 295.

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 aureus is a typical 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 clasped hands supporting 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.

Trajan, 98 – 117



- 18 Aureus 115, 7.30 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 sceptre in l. hand and thunderbolt in extended r. over the head of small figure of Trajan standing l., holding branch in extended r. hand and short sceptre in l. RIC 249 var. BMC 494. C 46 var. Calicó 991.

Rare. Minor marks, otherwise good extremely fine 15'000

Plotina, wife of Trajan



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

Extremely rare and undoubtedly the finest specimen known. Two extraordinary portraits perfectly struck in high relief. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 100'000

Ex NFA XX, 1988, 184 (illustrated on the cover page); Giessener Münzhandlung 89, 1998, 434 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 77 sales.

The *augustae* Plotina and Matidia both had coinages struck during their lifetimes by Trajan, who was, respectively, their husband and uncle. However, most researchers agree that this remarkable aureus was struck in the inaugural year of the emperor Hadrian, who assumed the throne upon the death of Trajan.

Hadrian issued a grand coinage for the newly deified Trajan and for Trajan's widow and niece, both of whom had always been strong supporters of Hadrian, and who were still alive during the first years of his principate. It was to Hadrian's advantage to honour them, for it showed dynastic continuity and thus legitimized his claim to the throne.

The obverse of this aureus bears a bust of Trajan's widow Plotina, the alleged architect of Hadrian's succession. The reverse portrays Trajan's niece Matidia, whom we are told he treated like a daughter. In addition to being a supporter of Hadrian, Matidia was also his mother-in-law, and she thus provided further proof of his dynastic legitimacy.

Coins like this helped to counter rumours that Hadrian's adoption was not official, and that Plotina had delayed the announcement of her husband's death so she could forge a letter of adoption that named Hadrian as his successor. Even the most flattering versions suggest that Plotina went to great effort to convince Trajan, on his deathbed, to adopt Hadrian. The *Historia Augusta* and Cassius Dio suggest two other men, Trajan's brother-in-law L. Julius Servianus and his confidant L. Neratius Priscus, were preferred heirs; and it was also rumoured that he intended to name no candidate at all, and to leave it to the senate to appoint his successor.

Hadrian Augustus, 117 – 138



- 20 Aureus 125-128, 7.37 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate bust r., drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. COS III Hadrian, with cloak floating behind, on horse galloping r., holding spear in r. hand. RIC 187d. BMC 437. C 414. Vagi 1343. Calicó 1224 (this coin). Biaggi 593 (this coin).

A small scratch at seven o'clock on obverse and an insignificant edge nick at seven o'clock on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 8'000

Ex J.P. Morgan collection.



21

- 21 Aureus 135-138, 7.28 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. IOVI – VICTORI Jupiter seated l., holding Victory in r. and long sceptre in l. RIC 251. BMC 658 var. C 863. Calicó 1278 (this coin). Biaggi 617 (this coin).

A very elegant portrait, brilliant extremely fine

10*000

Sabina, wife of Hadrian



22

- 22 Aureus 126-138, 7.11 g. SABINA AVGVSTA – IMP HADRIANI AVG P P Draped bust r., hair coiled and piled on back of head behind metal tiara. Rev. Vesta seated l., holding palladium in r. hand and sceptre in l. C 84 var. BMC Hadrian 922 var. RIC –. Calicó 1423.

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

A magnificent portrait finely executed well-struck in high relief,
good extremely fine

50*000

Ex NAC sale 27, 2004, 398.

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 favourite companion, the Bithynian youth Antinoüs. Hadrian, however, would not tolerate such behaviour 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 rumoured that her husband, knowing that his death was not far off, either her poisoned or forced her to commit suicide.

Aelius Caesar, 136 – 138



- 23 Aureus 137, 7.23 g. L-AELIVS – CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. TRIB POT COS II Concordia seated l., holding patera in extended r. hand and resting l. elbow on cornucopia; in exergue, CONCORD. RIC Hadrian 443. BMC Hadrian 997. C 11. Vagi1405. Calicó 1444.

Very rare. An appealing portrait struck in high relief, extremely fine 30'000

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 Augustus, 138 – 161



- 24 Aureus 140, 7.23 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P COS III Laureate head of Antoninus Pius l. Rev. AVRELIVS CAESAR AVG P II F COS Bare head of Marcus Aurelius r. RIC 421 var. (M. Aurelius bust draped). BMC 170 note. C 16. Vagi 1433. Calicó 1733 (this coin illustrated). Jameson 120 (this coin). Biaggi 796 (this coin). Very rare. Minor marks and light scratches on obverse and reverse, otherwise good very fine 10'000

Ex Jameson collection.

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



25



- 25 Aureus 158-159, 7.34 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P XXII Laureate bust r. with aegis. Rev. VOTA SUSCE – PTA DEC III Antoninus Pius, veiled, standing l., sacrificing with patera over tripod; in exergue, COS IIII. RIC 294a. BMC 954. C –. Calicó 1715. Virtually as struck and Fdc 10'000
Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 473.

Diva Faustina, wife of Antoninus Pius



26



- 26 Aureus after 141, 7.25 g. DIVA – FAVSTINA Draped bust r. Rev. AVGV – STA Ceres standing facing holding lighted torch in each hand. RIC A. Pius 357a. BMC A. Pius 403. C 75. Calicó 1758. Biaggi 808 (this coin). Minor marks on neck, good extremely fine 7'500



27



27

- 27 Aureus after 161, 7.39 g. DIVA – FAVSTINA Draped bust r. Rev. AETERNITAS Faustina seated l. in a car drawn l. by two elephants with riders on their back. RIC A. Pius 352a. BMC A. Pius 382. C 54. Calicó 1753 (this coin). Biaggi 805 (this coin). Very rare. Very light scratches on obverse, otherwise good very fine 7'000
Ex Hess sale 9 May 1951, 157.

Marcus Aurelius Augustus, 161 – 180



- 28 Aureus 166-167, 7.22 g. M ANTONINVS AVG – ARM PARTH MAX Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P XXI IMP III COS III Victoria advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l. RIC 174. BMC 444. C 883. Calicó 1995 (these dies). Good extremely fine 8'000



- 29 Aureus Autumn-December 175, 7.32 g. M ANTONINVS AVG – GERM SARM Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P XXIX – IMP VIII COS III Felicitas standing l., holding caduceus and long sceptre. RIC 332. BMC 628. C 925. Calicó 2015 (this coin). Biaggi 903 (this coin). Good extremely fine 8'000
Ex Hirsch sale XXIX, 1910, 1089.

Faustina II, wife of Marcus Aurelius



- 30 Aureus 161-176, 7.35 g. FAVSTINA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA Concordia seated l., holding patera in r. hand and resting l. elbow on chair; under chair, cornucopia. RIC M. Aurelius 671. BMC M. Aurelius 85 note. C 64 var. (CONCORDIA AVG). Calicó 2048 (this coin). Biaggi 919 (this coin). Good extremely fine 8'000



31

- 31 Aureus 161-176, 7.23 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 2073a (this coin). Biaggi 935 (this coin). Extremely fine 7'500

Lucius Verus, 161 – 169



32

- 32 Aureus 163-164, 7.30 g. L VERVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Bare head r. Rev. TR P IIII – IMP II COS II Verus seated l. on platform; behind and before him, respectively officer and soldier. Below platform, king Soahemus standing l. and raising r. hand to his head. In exergue, REX ARMEN / DAT. Kent-Hirmer 342 (these dies). RIC 512. BMC 300-301 (these die). C 158. Vagi 1579. Calicó 2154 (these dies). Virtually as struck and Fdc 14'000

Ex Hirsch XXIX, 1910, 1102; Bourgey 9 December 1935, 111; M&M 44, 1971, 85 and NFA XXII, 1989, 70 sales.

Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus



33

- 33 Aureus 164-169, 7.31 g. LVCILLAE AVG ANTONINI AVG F Draped bust r., hair caught up in double chignon. Rev. PIETAS Pietas, veiled, standing l., raising r. hand over lighted altar and holding a perfume box in l. hand. RIC M. Aurelius 774. BMC M. Aurelius 316. C 49. Calicó 2214 (this coin). Biaggi 976 (this coin). Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 14'000

Ex Glendining sale 7-8 March 1957, Property of a Late Foreign Ambassador, 402.



- 34 Aureus 164–169, 7.29 g. LVCILLAE AVG ANTONINI AVG F Draped bust r., hair caught up in double chignon. Rev. V – E – NVS Venus standing l., holding apple in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC M. Aurelius 783. BMC M. Aurelius 320. C 69. Vagi 1598. Calicó 2218 (these dies).
Well-struck in high relief and good extremely fine 12'500
Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1587.

Commodus Caesar, 166 – 177



- 35 Aureus 175-176, 7.29 g. COMMODO CAES AVG FIL GERM SARM Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. DE GERMANIS Two captive seated back to back at foot of trophy. RIC M. Aurelius 605 var. (draped only). BMC M. Aurelius 642 note. C 76 var. (head bare). Calicó 2229 (this coin). Biaggi 983 (this coin).
Very rare and of great historical interest. Extremely fine 16'000

This aureus celebrates Roman victory a series of wars on the empire's northern frontier known as the *Bellum Germanicum et Sarmaticum*. These annual confrontations demanded the presence of the emperor Marcus Aurelius while his young son, the Caesar Commodus, remained in Rome largely unaffected.

When this aureus was struck, c. 175-176, Commodus held the rank of Caesar and had not personally witnessed the terrors of war on the Rhine and Danube; that would be reserved until 178, when the heir-apparent joined his father to help wage the second Marcomannic War. Though Commodus had not yet participated in warfare, he none the less shared in his father's hard-earned titles of *Germanicus* and *Sarmaticus*, both of which are included in his inscription on this aureus.

These experiences at his father's side near the end of the old emperor's life may have convinced Commodus to later entrust such campaigns to his frontier generals while he remained in Rome to enjoy the comforts of his palace and the spectacles of the circus and the Colosseum.

The title *Germanicus* ('conqueror of the Germans') apparently was awarded on October 15, 172, and the title *Sarmaticus* at the end of the campaign season of 175. By then Commodus was thirteen and had not yet assumed the *toga virilis*, the toga of manhood.

The reverse of this aureus speaks of these campaigns with the inscription DE GERMANIS encompassing a military trophy flanked by two captives. The bound men would have come from the barbarian nations that occupied lands across the Rhine and Danube, for in recent years the Romans had won wars against Germans, the Quadi, the Jazyges and the Sarmatians.

Many other types celebrated Roman victories in this theatre, and they became the centrepiece of coin propaganda of the era. Considering these wars were not only a source of great financial strain, but they annually cost the lives of many young men, it was essential for Marcus Aurelius to demonstrate success in the form of attractive coin types showing bound barbarians, trophies, and piles of captured shields, weapons and trumpets.

Pertinax, 1st January – 28th March 193



- 36 Aureus 193, 7.20 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTIN AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. PROVID – DEOR COS II Providentia standing l., holding up both hands to large star. RIC 11b. BMC 12. C 41. A.M. Woodward, *The Coinage of Pertinax*, NC 1957, obv. A2, rev. —. Vagi 1654. Calicó 2390 (this coin). Biaggi 1044 (this coin).
Rare. A bold portrait, minor test-cut on edge at eleven o'clock on obverse,
otherwise about extremely fine / good very fine 18'000

Ex Hess 9 May 1951, 197 and NAC 23, 2002, 1592 sales.

Pescenius Niger, 193 – 194



- 37 Aureus, probably Antiochia 193-194, 6.94 g. [IMP CA]ES C PESC NI – GER IVST AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CAP – PR VRB Jupiter seated l., holding Victory in r. hand and scepter in l. RIC –. BMC –. C –. Calicó 2406 (this coin). R.F. Bland, A.M. Burnett and S. Bendall, *The Mints of Pescenius Niger*, NC 1987, 4 and pl. 10, 4 (this coin). Biaggi 1055 (this coin).

Of the highest rarity and among the finest aurei of Pescenius Niger known.

A portrait of excellent style, undoubtedly the finest of the whole series.

Well-struck in high relief, virtually as struck and Fdc 180'000

Ex Gilhofer & Ranschburg and Hess sale 22 May 1935, Trau collection and Glendining 20 February 1951, Ryan collection part IV, 1815 sales. From the A. Evans collection.

Certainly one of the most remarkable aurei to come to the market in recent years, this coin bears a portrait of incomparable style within the normally crude issues of Niger. His features are engraved in a refreshingly sculptural manner, and even the reverse shows that the engraver paid careful attention to the proportion and overall composition of the design. The inscription IOVI CAP PR VRB identifies the seated Jupiter as none other than the Capitoline Jupiter, and describes him as the ruler, or protector, to the city of Rome. On an issue of his denarii, Niger honors Jupiter as 'ruler of the world' with the inscription IOVI PRAE ORBIS – logical praise for the Capitoline Jupiter, though he is there shown holding an eagle rather than a Victory. On other denarii, dedicated to Jupiter the protector (conservatori), Niger shows Jupiter in the same manner as on this aureus. The specific reference on this aureus to the city of Rome comes as no surprise since Niger was hailed emperor partly in response to a plea from citizens who had gathered in the Circus Maximus during the disgraceful reign of Didius Julianus. Not only is it a natural component of Niger's pro-Roman propaganda, it also seems to represent a personal attack on Septimius Severus, whose rule in the capital city Niger considered unlawful. Here Niger claims that in the absence of lawful government in Rome, it is not Septimius Severus, but rather Jupiter Capitolinus who rules and protects the capital.

Septimius Severus, 193 – 211



- 38 Aureus 201, 7.26 g. SEVERVS PIVS AVG – P M TR P VIII Laureate head r. Rev. FELICITAS / SAECVLI Draped bust of Julia Domna facing, between, on l., laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Caracalla facing r. and on r., bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust of Geta facing l. RIC 175. BMC 255 var. C 1 var. Vagi 1705. Calicó 2589a (this coin). Biaggi 1124 (this coin).

Very rare and one of the finest specimen of this desirable issue. Well-centred on a full flan,

virtually as struck and almost Fdc 26'000

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



- 39 Aureus 202, 7.30 g. SEVERVS AVG P M – TR P X COS III Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ADVENTVS AVGVSTOR Galley to l. with five oarsmen; at prow, *vexillum*. At stern, two standards and seated figures of Septimius Severus, Caracalla and Geta. Mazzini d15 (this coin). RIC 178b. BMC p. 230 note †. C –. Vagi 1747. Calicó 2428 (this coin). J. Evans, NC 1908, pl. 10, 7 (this obverse die). Biaggi 1062 (this coin). Extremely rare, only four specimens known. A very interesting reverse composition, good extremely fine 25'000

Ex Mazzini collection.

Like many emperors of the 3rd Century, Septimius Severus often travelled great distances to meet the demands of warfare. This aureus, inscribed ADVENTVS AVGVSTOR, celebrates the return of Severus to Rome after one of his many journeys – in this case a long absence in the East.

His journey was overdue, and it had been delayed only long enough for Severus to defeat Clodius Albinus, his rival Caesar in the West. In the summer of 197 Severus and his family embarked by sea from Italy to Asia Minor and immediately waged war against the Parthians, who had invaded Roman territory while Severus had been fighting Albinus in Gaul. By January, 198 Severus had scored a resounding, vengeful victory. The Romans gathered a great amount of booty, killed all of the men who had remained in the capital Ctesiphon, and took as slaves perhaps 100,000 women and children.

The royal family remained in the East throughout 198 to 201, and on January 1, 202, Severus and Caracalla jointly assumed the consulate in Antioch. It was the first time they had shared the honour, and was also the first time in more than forty years that two emperors had been consuls.

Probably soon after this ceremony the royal family began its arduous journey back to Italy, this time proceeding by land, up through Asia Minor to Bithynia, crossing the Propontis into Thrace, then seemingly tracking the Danube until they descended upon Italy. The fact that this journey was overland underscores the symbolic nature of the vessel on this *adventus* type.

Severus' return was no ordinary event: not only had the royal family been gone for five years, but the yearlong celebration of Severus' *decennalia*, his tenth year of power, had begun and the royal wedding of Caracalla was planned. The imperial *adventus* was celebrated with games, spectacles and donatives to the people and to the praetorian guards, who Dio Cassius tells us each received ten aurei – no doubt including examples of this freshly minted type.



- 40 Aureus 202-210, 7.26 g. SEVERVS PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. INDVLGEN – TIA AVGG The Dea Caelestis riding r. on lion, holding thunderbolt in r. hand and scepter in l.; below, water gushing from rock. In exergue, IN CARTH. RIC 266 var. (laureate head r.). C 227 var. (laureate head r.). BMC –. Calicó 2463 (this coin). Biaggi 1072 (this coin).

Very rare and a very appealing reverse composition. Extremely fine 12'000

Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus



- 41 Aureus 196-211, 7.10 g. IVLIA DO – MNA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. VENERI VICTR Venus standing r., leaning l. elbow on column, holding apple in r. hand and palm in l. RIC S. Severus 536. BMC 47. C 193. Calicó 2641. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 8'500



- 42 Aureus 196-211, 7.63 g. IVLIA AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. MATER – DEVM Cybele seated l. on throne, holding branch in r. hand and long sceptre in l. and resting l. elbow on drum; on either side of throne, lion. RIC S. Severus 564. BMC S. Severus 50 note. C 122. Calicó 2628 (this coin). Biaggi 1148 (this coin). Rare. Extremely fine / about extremely fine 8'000

Caracalla, 198 – 217



- 43 Aureus 198-199, 7.32 g. IMP CAES M AVR – ANTONINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IVVE – NTA – IMPERII Caracalla, in military dress, standing r., holding Victory on globe in r. hand and reversed spear in l.; at feet, seated captive to l. RIC 20. BMC 115 note. C –. Calicó 2684 (this coin). Biaggi 1177 (this coin). Extremely fine / about extremely fine 7'500



44

- 44 Aureus 205, 7.23 g. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PONTIF TR P – VIII COS II Mars, naked but for cloak on l. shoulder, standing l., holding branch in r. hand and spear in l.; r. foot on helmet. RIC 80a. BMC 476. C 419. Calicó 2777 (this coin). Jameson 183 (this coin). Biaggi 1205 (this coin).
Good extremely fine 8'000

Ex Jameson collection.



45

- 45 Aureus 210-213, 7.16 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGVSTORVM Caracalla and Geta, both togate, standing facing each other, holding Victory between them. RIC 152. BMC 255 note. C –. Calicó 2662 (this coin).
Very rare. Extremely fine / about extremely fine 8'000

Ex Canessa 1923, Caruso collection, 427; Glendining 1950, Platt Hall part II, 1708 and NAC 27, 2004, 441 sales.

Plautilla, wife of Caracalla



46

- 46 Aureus 202, 7.28 g. PLAVTILLA AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. PIETAS AVGVSTA Pietas standing r., holding sceptre in r. hand and child in l. RIC Caracalla 367. BMC Caracalla 422 note. C 15. Calicó 2872 (this coin). Biaggi 1239 (this coin).
Extremely rare. Good very fine 12'000

Ex M&M sale XXI, 1960, 69.

Plautilla's marriage in 202 to the 14-year-old emperor Caracalla was an act of political expedience rather than love; we are told she despised her husband so much that she would not even dine with him. Plautilla's father Plautianus had for five years been Caracalla's praetorian prefect, and by this marriage he sought to strengthen his ties to the Imperial family. He had prepared his daughter well, sparing no expense along the way. Dio, who attended the wedding, tells us that Plautianus had castrated one hundred Romans of good birth just so his daughter would have a suitable number of eunuchs to school her in the finer arts of life, and that the dowry he offered was fifty times the normal amount for a royal woman.

Plautianus' wealth, power and ego grew immensely, and he even held the consulship in 203. This alone would have infuriated Caracalla, but the additional insult was that Geta, the brother who Caracalla hated perhaps even more than Plautianus, was his colleague in that consulship. The prefect had become virtual co-emperor with Septimius Severus, the senior emperor and Caracalla's father. But, as history has shown Caracalla was no shrinking violet, and as his own power and independence grew he became less tolerant of Plautianus and Plautilla. By early 205 he had assembled enough evidence to murder Plautianus and to banish his wife to Lipari, a volcanic island north of Sicily. Plautilla remained there for the better part of a decade until, upon becoming sole Augustus, Caracalla had her murdered.

Geta Caesar, 198 – 209



47

47

- 47 Aureus, Laodicea 198-200, 7.04 g. L SEPTIMIVS GETA CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. FELICIT – AS T – EMPOR Felicitas standing l., holding caduceus in r. hand and cornucopia in l. RIC 95 and pl. 14, 12 (these dies). BMC 682 and pl. 44, 20 (these dies). C 43. Calicó 2882 (this coin). Biaggi 1249 (this coin). Very rare. Extremely fine 14'000

Ex Hirsch sale XXII, 1908, 129; Canessa June 1923, Caruso collection, 452; Glendining 1950, Platt Hall part II, 1740 sales.

Geta Augustus, 209 – 211



48

- 48 Aureus 211, 7.28 g. P SEPT GETA PIVS AVG BRIT Laureate head r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. TR P III COS II P P Geta standing l., holding branch in l. hand, in front of Roma seated r., holding globe in r. hand and long spear in l. RIC 83 (this coin cited). BMC p. 423 * (this coin cited). C 203 var. (no drapery). Calicó 2921 (this coin). Biaggi 1278 (this coin).

Extremely rare and in exceptional state of preservation. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 18'000

Ex Canessa 1923, Caruso collection, 455 and Glendining 1950, Platt Hall part II, 1739 sales.



49 (2:1)

Diadumenian Caesar, 217 – 218



- 49 Aureus late 217, 7.14 g. M OPEL ANT DIADVMENIAN CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINC IVVENTVTIS Diadumenian standing facing, head r., holding standard in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field r., two standards. Kent-Hirmer pl. 116, 412 (these dies). RIC 101 var. (draped and cuirassed). BMC 83a and pl. 81, 2 (these dies). C 2. Vagi 1896. Calicó 2982 (these dies).

Extremely rare and in exceptional state of preservation. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 60'000

Ex Stack's November 1967, Mc Collough collection, 918; Leu 7, 1983, 410 and Leu 54, 1992, 285 sales

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

Elagabalus, 218 – 222



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

Rare. Extremely fine 12'000

Ex Triton II, 1998, 969 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 157 sales.

Severus Alexander, 222 – 235



- 51 Aureus 226, 6.62 g. IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P V COS II P P Emperor standing l., sacrificing with a patera in his r. hand over tripod and holding scroll in l. hand. RIC 54. BMC 372. C 288. Calicó 3107 (this coin). Biaggi 1326 (this coin).

Good extremely fine / extremely fine 6'000

Ex Glendining sale 1953, Rashleigh collection part I, 69.



- 52 Aureus 231, 6.42 g. IMP SEV ALE – XAND AVG Laureate head r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. IOVI CONSER – VATORI Jupiter standing l., holding sceptre in l. hand and thunderbolt in r. over small figure of Emperor. RIC 199b. BMC 688. C 72 var. (no drapery). Calicó 3058 (this coin). Biaggi 1305 (this coin).
Good extremely fine / extremely fine 5'500

Gordian III Augustus, 238 – 244



- 53 Aureus 241-243, 5.10 g. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVTI AVGVSTI Hercules, naked, standing r., resting r. hand on hip and leaning with l. on club set on rock; lion-skin beside club. RIC 108. C 401. Calicó 3242 (this coin). Biaggi 1373 (this coin).
Good extremely fine 4'500

Ex M&M sale 12, 1953, 843 and from the G. Bauer collection.

Philip I, 244 – 249



- 54 Aureus 244-247, 4.53 g. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE AETERNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at her side, shield. RIC 44a. C 168. Vagi 2085. Calicó 3256 (this coin). Biaggi 1383 (this coin).
Very rare. Light marks in obverse field, otherwise good very fine 12'000

Ex SBV 21, 1989, 199; Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 29 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 167 sales.

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

Otacilia Severa, wife of Philip I



- 55 Aureus 246–248, 4.64 g. M·OTACIL SEVERA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Concordia seated l., holding patera and double cornucopiae. RIC Philip I 125a. C 2. Vagi 2109. Calicó 3264. Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. The usual, for this type, porosity on cheek is almost invisible and it is much less evident than in all the other known specimens of this type. Extremely fine 25'000

Ex Naville III, Evans collection, 1922, 115 and Glendining 1950, Platt Hall part II, 1874 sales. Found in Haifa in 1896.

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

Trajan Decius, 249 - 251



- 56 Aureus 249–251, 4.43 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GENIVS EXERC ILLVRICIANI Genius standing l., holding patera in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in field r., standard. RIC 16a. C 48. Vagi 2157. Calicó 3290. Sharp extremely fine 7'500

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

Volusian 250 – 253



57



57

- 57 Bino 250-253, 5.95 g. IMP CAE 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. Minor marks on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 12'500
Ex Lanz 38, 1986, 85; Spink 13.4.2000, Dreesmann Collection, 38 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 188 sales.

Valerian I, 253 – 260



58



- 58 Aureus 253, 2.60 g. IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERALITAS AVGG Liberalitas standing l., holding tessera and cornucopia. RIC 43. C –. Calicó 3425 (this coin). Biaggi 1439 (this coin). Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Good extremely fine 16'000

Gallienus, 260 – 263



59



59

- 59 Aureus 257-258, 3.77 g. IMP GALLIENVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ORIENS AVG Sol standing r., head reverted, holding globe in l. hand and raising r. RIC –, cf. 86. C –, cf. 707. Calicó 3562a (this coin). A very pleasant portrait. About extremely fine 6'000
Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1636.



60

- 60 Aureus 258, 2.95 g. IMP GALLIENVS P F AVG GERM Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIC – TORIA – GERM Victory standing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l.; in field l., captive seated l. RIC 96. C 1158 var. (omits P F). Calicó 3630 (this coin). Biaggi 1484 (this coin).

An almost invisible scratch in obverse field in front of the bust,
otherwise good extremely fine

5'500

Ex Hess sale 9 May 1951, 246.



61



61

- 61 Aureus 263, 3.64 g. GALLIENVS P F AVG Radiate head r. Rev. VOT / X / ET / XX within laurel wreath. RIC 95. C 1354. Calicó 3668a (this coin). Very rare. A superb portrait, extremely fine 9'000

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1638.

Macrianus, 260 – 261



62



- 62 Aureus, Antiochia 260-261, 4.81 g. IMP C FVL MACRIANVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE AETERNAE Roma seated l. on shield, holding Victory in r. hand and spear in l. (draped). RIC 2 var. (draped). C 10 var (draped). Göbl, MIR 36, 43, 44, 1738a. Calicó 3700.

Of the highest rarity, the seventh aureus of Macrianus and only the third one with this reverse type known. Scuff on obverse in the hairs, three scratches in reverse field and several nicks on edge, otherwise extremely fine

100'000

Ex Gemini sale 1, 2005, 433.

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' vice-regent in Asia Minor.

Tetricus II Caesar, 273 – 274



63



63

- 63 Aureus 273-274, 4.17 g. C P ES TETRICVS CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. SPE – S AVGG Spes advancing l., holding flower in r. hand and raising robe with l. RIC 218. C 84. De Witte 70. Calicó 3933 var. Schulte 8. Of the highest rarity, one of only a dozen aurei of Tetricus II known. Minor traces of mounting (?), otherwise very fine 35'000

The loss of the western provinces to the rebel Postumus in 260 is generally viewed as a mournful event in the history of Rome, but for the Gauls it was somewhat of a renaissance compared to the neglect they had become accustomed to receiving from the central government. We can look to coinage for clues: the Gallic emperors issued gold coins of good weight and high purity that were struck with dies engraved by gifted artists allowed to exercise great imagination. They are truly inspired works of art in comparison with most coins of their contemporaries Gallienus, Claudius II and Aurelian.

This aureus is struck from dies that were unknown to Schulte when he published his study of Romano-Gallic gold coinage in 1983, though the bust style and the reverse type belong to a documented issue. None of the obverse dies used for aurei of Tetricus II indicate that he held the title of Augustus (for that we must look to the billon issues), yet the reverse type SPES AVGG indicates two emperors, and this type is not merely a transfer from the aurei of Tetricus I, but seemingly was used only for his son's aurei. Thus we are left with an enigma: had Tetricus II been raised to Augustus by the time this aureus was produced?

The portrait dies for aurei of Tetricus II are of uniformly good style, and they include some remarkable versions: one die presents him fully facing – a great rarity at this stage of Roman history – and two others show the young man wearing consular robes, which confirms that he held the Romano-Gallic consulship with his father in 274.

When the armies of Aurelian and the Tetricks clashed at Châlons-sur-Marne in the spring of 274, the rebel emperors surrendered to Aurelian, allowing him finally to unite his shattered empire. The Tetricks were displayed as spectacles in Aurelian's triumph in Rome, but afterward their senatorial status was restored and they were taken into Aurelian's administration. Both seem to have lived into old age, with the senior Tetricus being appointed governor of Lucania and his son serving in the senate with such distinction that apparently no peer of his age was so highly esteemed.

Quintillus, July – September 270



64



- 64 Aureus, Mediolanum 270, 4.82 g. IMP C M AVR QVI – NTILLVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FIDES EXERCITI Fides standing l., holding standard in each hand. RIC 1 var. (laureate and draped bust). C 10 var. (laureate and draped bust). H. Huvelin and J. Lafuarie, RN 1980, pl. 5, 50-52 (these dies). Vagi 2396. Calicó 3968 (this coin illustrated). Biaggi 1575 (this coin).

Excessively rare. A superb portrait well struck on a very broad flan.

Unusually good surface, extremely fine

45'000

Tacitus, 275 – 276



65



65

- 65 Aureus, Siscia 275–276, 4.36 g. IMP C M CL TACITVS P AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE AE – TERNAE Roma seated l. on throne, holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; below seat, shield. RIC 74. C 112. Estiot 43 (this coin). Vagi 2429. Calicó 4088.

Rare. A very small scrape over eye on obverse and a scratch in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine

12'000

Ex Sotheby's 28.10.1993, 1701; Triton I, 1997, 1633 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, sales.

Probus, 276 – 282



66



- 66 Aureus, Siscia 276–282, 6.50 g. IMP C M AVR PROBVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ADVENTVS AVG Emperor, preceded by Victory, riding l., holding sceptre in l. hand and raising r. RIC 582 var. C –. Calicó 4138a (this coin). Very rare. Good extremely fine 14'000

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1644.



67



- 67 Aureus, Cyzicus 276–282, 6.40 g. IMP C M AVR PROBVS P F AVG Helmeted and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS PROBI AVG Emperor galloping r., holding shield and spearing enemy under horse; below, shield. RIC 900. C 909. Calicó 4250 (this coin). Biaggi 1636 (this coin). Jameson part III 465 (this coin).

Extremely rare. Minor nick on edge at two o'clock and two minor marks on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

8'000

Ex Rollin & Feuarent 1887, Ponton d'Amécourt, 582; Naville III, 1922, Evans collection, 141 sales. From the Jameson collection.

Carus, 282 – 283



- 68 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 in biga galloping l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l. In exergue, crescent. RIC 166 var. (cuirassed only). C 83 var. (cuirassed only). Calicó 4283.
Rare. Good very fine / about extremely fine 8'000

Ex Triton sale V, 2002, 2125.

Numerian Augustus, 283 – 284



- 69 Aureus, Cyzicus 284, 4.56 g. IMP C NVMERIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ADVENTVS AV – GG NN Carinus and Numerianus standing face to face, holding between them globe surmounted by Victory, who crowns them with wreath; in exergue, C. RIC 462b. C 5 var. (laureate only). Calicó 4300 (this coin).
Very rare. Good extremely fine 18'000

Ex M&M sale XV, 1955, 846.

Carinus Caesar, 282 – 283



- 70 Aureus, uncertain mint or Alexandria 282-283, 4.66 g. IMP CAESAR M AVR CARINVS Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICT – O – R CARO Victory advancing r., holding wreath in r. hand and palm-branch in l. RIC 210. C 132. Calicó 4368 (this coin).
Extremely rare and a very interesting type. Almost Fdc / good extremely fine 10'000

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1648.

Carinus Augustus, 283 – 285



- 71 Aureus 283–285, 4.57 g. IMP CARINVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTU – S AVG Hercules standing r., leaning on club with lion-skin set on rock. RIC 233. C 160. Vagi 2491. Calicó 4394 (this coin). Pink, NZ 1980, p. 37, 5e issue. Jameson 302 (this coin). Du Chastel 789 (this coin). Biaggi 1682 (this coin). Rare. Nicks on edge at twelve and six o'clock, otherwise extremely fine 10'000
Ex Rollin & Feuadant sale 1896, Montagu collection, 719. From the Jameson and Du Chastel collections.

Magnia Urbica, wife of Carinus



- 72 Aureus, Siscia 283, 5.11 g. MAGNIAE V – RBICAE AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. CONCORD – I – A AVGG Concordia seated l., holding patera in r. hand and double cornucopiae in l. RIC 348. C 1. Vagi 2498. Calicó 4406 (these dies).
Extremely rare. Minor marks on obverse and scratches on reverse below the exergual line, otherwise extremely fine 20'000
Ex M&M XIX, 1959, 254 and Aufhäuser 17, 2003, 594 sales.

Julian I of Pannonia, October – December 284



- 73 Aureus, Siscia 284, 4.43 g. IMP C IVLIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERTAS PVBLICA Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in field r., large star. RIC 1. C 3. Vagi 2518. Calicó 4413 (this reverse die). Extremely rare. Extremely fine 35'000

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



- 74 Aureus, Cyzicus 284-286, 4.45 g. IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMA – E AE – TERNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory on globe in r. hand and spear in l.; in field r., shield. RIC 301b. C 431. Depeyrot 2/5. Lukanc 16. Calicó 4652.
Virtually as struck and Fdc 10'000



- 75 Aureus, Alexandria 305, 5.25 g. DIOCLETI – ANVS BAE AVG Laureate bust r., in imperial mantle, with fingers of l. hand raised and holding branch in r. hand. Rev. IOVI CON – SERVATORI Jupiter, with *chlamys* over l. shoulder, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and long sceptre in l.; in field r., Δ. In exergue, ALE. RIC 51 (this coin). C –. Jameson IV 524 (this coin). Depeyrot 9/1 (this coin). Lukanc –. Bastien, Donativa, p. 69 note 10 (this coin). Calicó 4480 (this coin). Biaggi 1755 (this coin).
Apparently unique. An unusual and very attractive portrait, about extremely fine 7'000

Ex Jameson collection.

Maximianus Herculius first reign, 286 – 305



- 76 Aureus 287, 5.49 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI – VICTORI Hercules seated facing on piles of rock, lion-skin on lap; in field l. club and on r., bow and quiver. In exergue, P R. RIC –. C 305. Depeyrot 6/3. Vagi 2704. Calicó 4680 (this coin). Biaggi 1792 (this coin).
Very rare and a very interesting type. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 9'000



- 77 Aureus, Cyzicus 287, 5.24 g. MAXIMIA – NVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VI – RT – VS AVGG NN Maximianus, cuirassed, carrying shield in l. hand and spear in r., riding prancing horse over fallen barbarian, lying over oval shield; in field r., second enemy, falling r. and raising r. arm in submission. RIC 3. C 613. Depeyrot 15/4. Pink pp. 39ff. Calicó 4743 (this coin). Biaggi 1804 (this coin).
Extremely rare. An appealing and interesting reverse composition, good extremely fine 8'000



- 78 Aureus 287, 5.27 g. MAXIMIAN – NVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. HERCV – L – I – VICTORI Hercules standing facing, head l., holding branch in r. hand and club and lion-skin in l.; in exergue, P R. RIC –. C 300. Depeyrot 5A/3. Calicó 4673 (these dies).
Extremely rare. Minor marks on edge, otherwise about extremely fine 6'500

Constantius Chlorus Caesar, 293 – 305



- 79 Aureus, Treveri 305, 5.87 g. CONSTAN – TIVS NOB C Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI CONSER – AVGG ET CAESS NN Hercules standing facing, head l., leaning with r. hand on club and holding bow in l.; lion's skin over l. shoulder and quiver behind r. shoulder. In exergue, TR. RIC 45. C –. Depeyrot 10B/7. Calicó 4836 (this coin).
A very appealing reddish tone and about extremely fine 9'000

Galerius Maximianus Augustus, 305 – 311



- 80 Aureus, Ticinum 305-306, 5.92 g. MAXIMIA – NVS PF AVG Laureate head r. Rev. FELICITAS AVGG NOSTR Felicitas seated l., holding caduceus in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in exergue, SMT. RIC 52. C M. Herculus 100. Depeyrot 8/5. Calicó 4900 (this coin). Biaggi 1870 (this coin).
Minor marks on edge, otherwise extremely fine 7'000

Galeria Valeria, wife of Galerius Maximianus



- 81 Aureus, Nicomedia 308-310, 5.34 g. GAL VAL – ERIA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENERI V – I – CTRICI Venus standing facing, head l., holding apple in upraised r. hand and raising drapery over l. shoulder; in exergue, SMN. RIC 53. C 1. Jameson 334. Depeyrot 13/1. Vagi 2837. Calicó 4964.
Extremely rare. Extremely fine 35'000

Ex NAC sale 27, 2004, 505.

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.

Maximinus II Caesar, 309 – 313



- 82 Aureus, Serdica 307-308, 5.22 g. MAXIMINVS NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVV – ENTVTIS Maximinus II, in military attire, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and leaning l. on sceptre; in field r., two standards and in field l., Σ / crescent. In exergue, ·SM·SD·. RIC 31. C 143. Depeyrot 7/1. Vagi 2924 var. Calicó 5026 (this coin). Biaggi 1896 (this coin).
Very rare. Extremely fine 8'000

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1670.



83

- 83 Medallion of 4 aurei 308, 21.53 g. IMP C M VAL MAXENTIVS P F AVG Head r., wearing lion-skin headdress. Rev. FELIX PROCESS – CONSVLAT AVG N Maxentius, togate, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and baton in l.; in exergue, P R. RIC 167 (this coin). Gneecchi –. Toynbee –. R.A.G. Carson, *A Treasure of Aurei and Multiples from the Mediterranean*, Mélanges de Numismatique, d'Archéologie et d'Histoire offert à Jean Lafaurie, 101 and pl. 7, 101 (this coin). Depeyrot p. 153. Bastien, Donativa, p. 71, note 6. Biaggi 1921 (this coin).

Apparently unique. An extraordinary issue with a fabulous portrait in the finest style of the period. Well-struck in high relief on a very broad flan. Good extremely fine

240'000

By the time Maxentius struck this medallion he had earned the right to portray himself in the guise of Hercules, the Greco-Roman hero renowned for achieving the impossible. Maxentius had raised a rebellion against powerful emperors with large, loyal armies. By this time he had repelled invasions led personally by the emperors Severus II and Galerius, and throughout he had retained the loyalty of his armies in Italy and had kept control of the senatorial elite and the rowdy *plebs* of Rome.

But we must look beyond this for the meaning of the rebel's Herculean imagery. It was, in fact, a reflection of his family's recent imperial heritage, which helped Maxentius to demonstrate his fitness to rule. When Diocletian had appointed Maxentius' father Maximian as his co-emperor in 286, he insisted they each adopt themselves into a divine family. Diocletian chose the supreme god Jove (Jupiter), and Maximian was accorded Hercules, the semi-divine son of Jove who performed epic feats. In doing so they created the *Jovian* and *Herculean* houses of the Tetrarchic Age.

This was not mere chicanery – Diocletian and Maximian took seriously their adoption into the divine houses. They each substituted their own birthday (*dies natalis*) with their new divine birthday (*geminis natalis*), which they celebrated on the same day, July 21, representing the day in 287 when they adopted the names *Jovius* and *Herculius*. In official propaganda they described themselves as being “born of God and themselves creators of Gods.” They considered themselves to be the earthly incarnations of their patron deities, which elevated them above even the most elite members of the Roman world and which proved that their rule was divinely sanctioned.

The reverse of this medallion is equally important for demonstrating Maxentius' legitimacy, for he celebrates his upcoming consulate of 308. It was his first consulate, and he shared it with his son Romulus. Considering his recent victories against two emperors, we should see this medallion as part of a bonus Maxentius had promised his armies in Italy, whose loyalty had been inspired by the rebel's assurance of a great donative once Galerius' invading army was finally expelled.

Licinius II Caesar, 317 – 324



84



84

- 84 Solidus, Nicomedia 321–322, 5.21 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 r., eagle with wreath in beak. The platform inscribed SIC·V· / SIC·X·. In exergue, SMNΔ. RIC 42. C 38. Depeyrot 31/2. Vagi 3026. Calicó 5152a.
Rare. An almost invisible graze on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine / good very fine 14'000

Constantine I Augustus, 307 – 337



85



- 85 Solidus, Ticinum 320, 4.63 g. CONSTANT – INVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CONCOR – D – I A AVGG NN Concordia seated l. on throne, holding caduceus in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in exergue, SMT. RIC 101. C 65. Depeyrot 17/1.
About extremely fine 5'000



86



86

- 86 Solidus, Nicomedia 330, 4.44 g. CONSTANT – NVS MAX AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PIETAS AVGVSTI NOSTRI Constantine I, in military attire, standing l. and holding sceptre in l. hand, raising turreted kneeling female (Constantinople), holding cornucopia, presented by soldier (Roma) with shield; the emperor is crowned by Victory standing behind him. In exergue, SMNP. C 393 var. Depeyrot 42/2. RIC 168. Extremely rare, very few specimens known. Minor nick on edge at six o'clock on obverse and an almost invisible graze on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 10'000

This solidus is important for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the occasion for its striking – a special donative for the dedication of Constantinople. Even more arresting, though, is its composition, which for anything but medallions is virtually unknown for Roman mint products of the previous two centuries. With the exception of formulaic *adlocutio* and *congiarium* scenes or tetrarchs standing before city walls, it was rare after the Antonines for more than two figures to appear on the reverses of Roman coins; even with the rare exceptions, additional figures tend to be spurned or captive enemies.

This reverse is a celebration of a glorious past. It draws on engraving traditions long since abandoned and has a composition that is indebted to a medallion tradition that had been woefully neglected in the recent decades. The symbolism of the design is no less interesting. Here we see the victorious emperor symbolically inaugurating his new capital, surrounded by an inscription that credits him with dutiful conduct (*pietas*).

The central figure – towering above the others – is Constantine, being crowned by a Victory. He faces two female figures, extending his hand to the one closest, which he raises from her knees, as the other stands guard with her shield at the ready. It is impossible to miss the symbolism: Constantine, Rome's great victor, personally gives rise to his eponymous new capital as Roma, the personification of the old capital of the West, stands by to protect her younger sister at the moment of her birth.

Constantine can be credited here with a design that had no precedent on Imperial coinage or medallions prior to his reign. It seems to be an adaptation of a design Constantine had used earlier at Ticinum in 316 (C. 657; Leu 71, lot 533), which had one city goddess. It is probable that this design was inspired by a painting, mosaic or sculptural group that had been commissioned for Constantine's new capital.



87



- 87 Solidus, Nicomedia 335, 4.60 g. CONSTANTINI – NVS MAX AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA CONSTANTINI AVG Victory seated r. on cuirass, inscribing VOT XXX on shield held by Cupid standing l. before her; in exergue, SMNP. RIC 180. C 615 var. (VOT XX). Depeyrot 44/2. Extremely fine / good extremely fine 6'500



88



- 88 Solidus, Nicomedia 335, 4.64 g. Diademed head r. Rev. VICTORIA CONSTANTINI AVG Victory seated r. on cuirass, inscribing VOT XXX on shield held by Cupid standing l. before her; in exergue, SMNC. RIC 175. C 617 var. (VOT XX). Depeyrot 44/1. Rare. Almost invisible marks on obverse, good extremely fine 9'000



89



89

- 89 Uniface medallion with antique gold ring for suspension, Treveri (?) 309-310 (?), 4.02 g. IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG Bust l., in military dress, wearing crested helmet, holding transverse spear over r. shoulder and shield over l. Rev. Plain with narrow rim and central point. For obverse type see RIC 805 and Gnechi pl. 7, 14. Very rare. A very pleasant portrait. Two scratches on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 5'000

Crispus Caesar, 317 – 326



- 90 Medallion of 1½ solidi, Treveri 320, 6.70 g. FL IVL CRISPVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r., holding spear in r. hand and globe in l. Rev. GAVDIVM ROMANORVM Alemannia seated l., head reverted, before trophy of arms; in exergue, FRANCIA. RIC 240 (this coin). Gneccchi –. Alföldi, JNG 9, 1958, pl. 8, 3 (this coin). Toynbee p. 187 and pl. 34, 10 (this coin). Jameson II, 359 (this coin). Depeyrot –. Bastien, Donativa p. 76, footnote 8. Biaggi 2061 (this coin).

Apparently unique. A coin of great fascination with an appealing portrait, good very fine 35'000

Ex NAC 5, 1992, 596; NAC 10, 1997, 702 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 285 sales and from the Jameson collection.

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

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

Constantine II Caesar, 317 – 337



- 91 Solidus, Treveri 322, 4.37 g. FL CL CONSTAN – TINVS IVN N C Laureate head r. Rev. GAVDIVM ROM – ANORVM Alemannia seated l., head reverted, before trophy of arms; in exergue, SARMATIA. RIC 364. C 109. Vagi 3188. Depeyrot 30/1. Biaggi 2076 (this coin).

Very rare and interesting. About extremely fine 5'500

Constans Augustus, 337 – 350



- 92 Solidus, Treveri circa 345, 4.60 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. Depeyrot 6/3.
Extremely fine 1'500

Constantius II, 337 – 361



- 93 Solidus, Antiochia 337-347, 4.48 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS PERP AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM Victory seated r. on cuirass, inscribing VOT / XX / MVLT / XX on shield held by Cupid standing l. before her; in exergue, SMANA. RIC 25. C 243. Depeyrot 5/3. Biaggi 2168 (this coin).
Good extremely fine 1'500



- 94 Solidus, Constantinopolis 351–355, 4.52 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS PERP AVG Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust facing, holding spear in r. hand and ornamented shield in l. Rev. GLORIA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis, enthroned facing, supporting between them a wreath inscribed VOT / XXX / MVLT / XXXX; in exergue, CONS. RIC 96. C 116. Depeyrot 3/3.
Good extremely fine 1'500

Magnetius, 350 – 353



95

- 95 Medallion of 3 solidi, Aquileia 351, 13.70 g. D N MAG MAGNE – NTIVS P F AVG Bare-headed bust r., wearing imperial mantle. Rev. LIBERATOR-REI-PVBLICAE Magnentius, nimbate and in military attire, on horse r., offering his r. hand to turreted and draped figure of Aquileia, holding cornucopia in l. hand and scroll in r. RIC 127 (this coin with wrong weight). C 26 var. (different bust). Gneccchi 1 var. (different bust). P. Bastien, *Le Monnayage de Magnence*, NR I, 1964, 339a and pl. SV, 339a (this coin with wrong weight). Kent-Hirmer pl. 168, 669 (this reverse die). A. Jelocnik, *Les Multiples d'or de Magnence découverts à Emona*, RN 1967, 4 and pl. XXXVI, 3 (this coin with wrong weight). Paolucci-Zub 534 (this coin). Biaggi 2204 (this coin). Sagradora 478 (this coin with wrong weight). Bastien Donativa p. 87, 6 note.

An apparently unique variety of a very rare type. An impressive medallion with a fabulous portrait and an appealing reverse composition. Almost invisible marks, otherwise good extremely fine

55'000

Gold and silver medallions of the Late Roman Empire, such as this three-solidus issue of Magnentius, are best described as money-medallions. Unlike the large bronze medallions of earlier times, where intrinsic value was not as critical as the artistic merit or the occasion of distribution, medallions from the age of the Tetrarchs onward were increasingly valued for their precious metal content.

We find this trend gaining momentum in the reign of Gallienus, and the explanation is obvious: the wages of soldiers had become inconsequential due to the crippling effects of inflation and the poor quality of the coinage in which they were paid. Thus, the donative, often in the form of gold coins and medallions, largely replaced wages.

This medallion was distributed late in 350 or at the start of 351 to reward Magnentius' loyal partisans in Italy. The year 350 had been dramatic: not only had Magnentius' revolt been sparked with the murder of the legitimate emperor Constans, but during the course of the year Spain, Britain, North Africa and Italy all had defected to Magnentius. However the rebel's eastward expansion was halted in the spring by the defensive maneuvers of the Master of the Infantry Vetricio, who remained loyal to Constantius II, the legitimate emperor in the East. To add to the drama, Magnentius' grip on Italy was tested in the summer by the brief counter-revolution of Nepotian, a Constantinian nobleman.

By the fall of 350, when this medallion may have been produced, Constantius II himself had arrived in the Balkans to confront Magnentius. Since the magnificent obverse die of our piece shows Magnentius wearing consular robes, we may identify its occasion as his assumption of his first and only consulate, presumably on January 1, 351.

Due to the military crisis unfolding, though, these medallions may have been issued prior to the ceremony so as to counter any bribes that Constantius II was offering to win back the loyalty of the armies in Italy. Another possibility is that this consular medallion was distributed early in 351, and that the more numerous medallions in this series without the consular bust were issued the second half of 350.

This series of medallions has two principal issues. The first is a two-solidus medallion with a reverse inscribed VIRTUS AVGUSTI NOSTRI ('the manliness of our emperor') that shows the emperor dragging a bound captive by his hair. The second, to which our piece belongs, is a three-solidus medallion with a reverse inscribed LIBERATOR REIPVBLICAE ('liberator of the republic') that shows the nimbate emperor riding on horseback toward a female who genuflects before him. She may represent Aquileia, but more likely is *Respublica*, a female personification of the empire.

This scene is one of action that speaks to a saviour-mythology then being cultured by Magnentius (indeed, on some of his billon coins he claims to have "twice liberated" Rome – first from Constans, then from the uprising of Nepotian). Such an appeal was not uncommon in the western provinces, for the needs of this region had been routinely ignored by emperors from the late 3rd Century onward.



96

- 96 Solidus January-June 350, 4.44 g. D N MAGNEN – TIVS P F AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVG LIB ROMANOR Victoria standing r. and Libertas standing l., supporting between them a trophy. In exergue, R. RIC –. C 48 var. Depeyrot 1/2 (this coin). P. Bastien, Le monnayage de Magnence pl. S VI, 470a (this coin). Biaggi 2196 (this coin).

An apparently unique variety of a very rare type. Minor marks on obverse,
otherwise extremely fine

4'500

Ex Leu sale 22, 1979, 392.

Julian II Augustus, 361 – 363



97

- 97 Solidus, Sirmium 361–363, 4.50 g. FL CL IVLIA – NVS P P AVG Perl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS EXERCI – TVS ROMANORVM Soldier, helmeted, standing r., holding trophy over l. shoulder and placing r. hand on head of kneeling captive; in exergue, SIRM. RIC 95. C 78. Depeyrot 20/1.

Extremely fine

4'500



98

- 98 Solidus, Antiochia 361–363, 4.50 g. FL CL IVLIA – NVS P P AVG Perl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS EXERCI – TVS ROMANORVM Soldier, helmeted, standing r., holding trophy over l. shoulder and placing r. hand on head of kneeling captive; in exergue, ANTA. RIC 197. C 79 var. Depeyrot 15/2. Biaggi 2221 (this coin).

Extremely fine

4'000

The death of Julian II in 363 was followed by the brief and uneventful reign of Jovian that lasted only a year, and which proved to be the final blow to a unified Roman Empire. The social, ethnic, political and religious differences between Asiatic Romans and European Romans were too great to be dismissed. In the end it was not the senate or the people who determined to divide the Roman Empire, it was the army. Significant portions of the eastern and western armies had been united in 361 when Julian II marched toward Asia Minor to battle Constantius II. With the unexpected death of Constantius II, the Empire, and its army, was uncomfortably united for the remaining three years under Julian II and Jovian. However, with the death of the latter in 364, the army took matters into its own hands and forced an east-west split under the brothers Valentinian I and Valens. Except for being united for half-year periods under Gratian and Theodosius I, the empire was divided and had separate emperors for all of its remaining 112 years.

Valentinian I, 364 – 375



99



99



- 99 Solidus, Antiochia 366-367, 4.47 g. D N VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RESTITVTOR – REIPVBLICAE Emperor standing facing, holding *labarum* ornamented with Christogram in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.; in exergue, ANTIQV. RIC 2a. C 28. Depeyrot 27/2. Biaggi 2231 (this coin). Extremely fine 1'200

Gratian, 367 – 383



100



100



- 100 Solidus, Treveri 369, 4.52 g. D N GRATIA – NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors seated facing holding globe; above Victory facing with spread wings between them, below, a palm-branch. In exergue, TROBT. RIC 39d. C 38. Depeyrot 45/2. Minor marks in obverse field, otherwise good extremely fine 1'200



101



101



- 101 Solidus, Constantinopolis 380, 4.44 g. D N GRATIA – NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCOR – DIA AVGGGG Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., on throne ornamented with lion's heads, holding sceptre in r. hand and globe in l.; r. foot on prow. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 44 var. (rosette diadem). C 5. Depeyrot 31/1. Biaggi 2273 (this coin). Slightly bent otherwise extremely fine 1'000

Ex M&M sale XVII, 1957, 627.

Theodosius I, 379 – 395



- 102 Solidus, Aquileia 381, 4.46 g. DN THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors seated facing, holding globe together; above, Victory facing with spread wings. In lower field between them, palm-branch; in exergue, AQOB. RIC 21c (AQOBF). C 37 var. (AQOBF). Depeyrot 15/4 var. (pearl diadem). Paolucci-Zub 774 var. (AQOBF).
An apparently unrecorded variety of a rare issue. Extremely fine 1'000



- 103 Solidus, Mediolanum 389-391, 4.53 g. DN THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG M – D Two emperors seated facing, holding globe together; above, Victory facing with spread wings. In lower field, between them, palm-branch; in exergue, COM. RIC 20b. C 37. Depeyrot 9/2.
Very rare. Extremely fine 2'000

Eugenius, 392 – 394



- 104 Solidus, Mediolanum 392-394, 4.49 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; in lower field, between them, palm-branch. In outer field l. and r., M – D; in exergue, COM. RIC 28. C 6. Depeyrot 11/1.
Extremely rare. An attractive portrait of fine style, about extremely fine / extremely fine 22'000

History records little of Eugenius, a professor of Latin and rhetoric who gave up teaching to occupy the throne of the Western Roman Empire for two years and a few days. The very fact that he was not qualified to be emperor made him the perfect candidate, for the Frankish general Arbogast wanted him as a puppet. It was a perfect follow-up to his murder of Valentinian II – the young Western emperor whom Theodosius had entrusted to Arbogast's regency. Afterward the throne remained vacant for three months as Arbogast sought a replacement. Although only Theodosius I, the senior reigning emperor in the East, had the constitutional right to appoint the next emperor in the west, this did not deter Arbogast, who was firmly in control of the West. The elevation of Eugenius was of value to Arbogast on some level, for the old professor was not prone to religious fanaticism, and (as his bearded effigy attests) he was tolerant of pagans. When the army backing Eugenius seized Italy in 393, Theodosius responded with a campaign of his own, and routed them in September, 394. In the aftermath Eugenius was executed and the former Master of Infantry, Arbogast, was driven to flight and soon took his own life. During the six months between the defeat of Eugenius and Theodosius' natural death in January of 395, he remained in Milan and from there ruled over a united empire. Unity occurred on only two occasions after the empire had been divided by Valentinian I and Valens in 364, both of which were equally as brief and transient. With the death of Theodosius the temporary unity of east and west ceased, and the empires entered a period of great unrest under his two incompetent sons, Arcadius and Honorius, who promptly divided the empire between themselves.



105



105

- 105 Tremissis, Treveri 392–394, 1.42 g. DN EVGENI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTORVM Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm-branch; across field, T – R; in exergue, COM. RIC 103. C 10. Very rare. Good very fine 8'000

Ex Sotheby's 7.11.1997, 205 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 325 sales.

Magnus Maximus, 383 – 388



106



- 106 Solidus, Treveri 385-386, 4.40 g. DN MAG MA – XIMVS P F AVG Rosette-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; in lower field between them, palm-branch. In exergue, TROB. RIC 77b. C 9. Depeyrot 52/1.

Extremely rare and in superb condition for this issue. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

8'000



107



- 107 Solidus, Londinium-Augusta 387-388, 4.57 g. DN MAG MA – XIMVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors seated on throne, together holding globe between them; behind, Victory with outspread wings. Below, palm-branch; in exergue, AVGOB. RIC 2. C 9. Depeyrot 2/1. Biaggi 2312 (this coin).

Very rare. Traces of mounting, otherwise very fine

3'500

This extremely rare issue has been ground of confrontation among scholars, in that the attribution of the coins bearing the mint-name AVG to Londinium Augusta is not universally accepted. The first one to advance this hypothesis was Sir Arthur Evans in NC 1915, but his ideas were considered unacceptable first by George Elmer, in NZ 1934, and then by Friedrich Mayreder, in NC 1947. They instead suggested Augustodunum, basing their argument on the assumption that coinage in precious metal, at the time, always implied the presence or immediate closeness of the Emperor, and that Maximus never visited Britain after 383. This attribution has not been accepted by Pearce in RIC vol. IX. As soon as Maximus raised to the rank of augustus in Britain, we might reasonably expect to find his earliest coinage coming from a British mint, which could have been only Londinium. Since it is evident the importance for Maximus to strike coins for propagandistic reasons and to pay donatives to the soldier, we do not understand why the work of the mint should have been stopped after this earlier issue.

Our coin belongs to the second issue, which is extremely difficult to date. In it we find no trace of the previous policy of Maximus of dissociating himself from the coinage of Gratian, whose types and styles of mint mark (with OB and PS) are now carried over by him. It also quite interesting to notice the presence on the reverse of the legend VICTORIA AVGG; in fact it is quite difficult to establish who is the second Augustus implied in the legend. It is most probably Theodiusus and this means that the iSenior Augustus Valentinian II is ignored. Is there implicit in the matter a claim of Maximus to the whole Valentinian I's inheritance ?

Arcadius, 383 – 408



108



108

- 108 Solidus, Thessalonica 403-408, 4.44 g. D N ARCADI – VS P F AVG Helmeted, draped and cuirassed bust facing, holding spear in r. hand over r. shoulder and shield decorated with horseman and enemy motif on l. arm; Christogram on cuirass. Rev. CONCORDI – A AVGGG Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., on throne, holding sceptre in r. hand and Victory on globe in l. r. foot on prow; in field l., eight-rayed star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 42. MIRB V52a. LRC 242 var. (no star). Depeyrot 46/1.

Very rare. About extremely fine

1'000

Aelia Eudoxia, wife of Arcadius



109



- 109 Solidus, Constantinopolis 402-403, 4.41 g. AEL EVDO – XIA AVG Pearl-diademed and draped bust r., wearing necklace and earrings and crowned by the hand of God. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE Victory seated r. on cuirass, supporting on her l. knee a shield inscribed with single-lined Christogram to which she points. In exergue, CONOB. RIC Arcadius 28 var. (shield behind cuirass). Ratto 139 var. (shield behind cuirass) LRC 273 var. (shield behind cuirass).

An apparently unrecorded variety of a rare type. Good very fine

5'000

Ex Sternberg sale XIX, 1987, 950.

The daughter of Bauto the Frank, a general and consul under Valentinian I, Aelia Eudoxia was married to Arcadius with the help of the court eunuch Eutropius. Her position was one of great power, and she used it to dominate palace politics as well as her weak husband. A very pious woman who often argued with the Church's leadership, Eudoxia gave birth to five children, among them the future emperor Theodosius II, and the chaste empress Aelia Pulcheria, wife of the future emperor Marcian. After only a decade of marriage and deep involvement in court affairs, Eudoxia died in the midst of a miscarriage in October, 404.

Constantine III, 407 – 411



110



110

- 110 Solidus, Lugdunum 407-411, 4.41 g. D N CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AA AVGGGG Emperor standing r., holding standard in r. hand and Victory on globe in l., spurning captive with his l. foot; in field, L – D. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 1506. C 5. LRC 793. Depeyrot 22/3.

Very rare. Minor nick on obverse and light scratches on reverse,

otherwise about extremely fine

5'000

Constantine III, a general of obscure origins but considerable talent, was proclaimed emperor in Britain in 407 by his soldiers following the assassinations of the usurpers Marcus and Gratianus (neither of whom issued coins). He led his troops across the Channel into Gaul, where his authority was swiftly accepted locally, but was opposed by the reigning Western emperor Honorius, who sent his general Sarus from Italy to harass his defences. After initial setbacks, Constantine gained the upper hand and occupied all of Gaul up to the Alps, establishing his base at Arles. At its greatest extent, the territories controlled by Constantine included all of Western Europe, from Britain in the North and Spain in the South. Soon, however, his grip began to loosen. First Britain rose in revolt, and then Gerontius, Constantine's own *magister militum*, whom he had sent to Spain to quell another revolt, ended up turning against him. His fate was sealed in 411 when Honorius sent a general by the name of Constantius (the future emperor Constantius III) to defeat him. Although he had taken refuge in a church and was ordained before surrendering, the former rebel was murdered in captivity and his head sent to Ravenna where it was exhibited for some time.

Theodosius II, 402 – 450



111



111

- 111 Solidus, Thessalonica 403-408, 4.36 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Helmeted, draped and cuirassed bust facing, holding spear in r. hand over r. shoulder and shield decorated with horseman and enemy motif on l. arm; Chrstogram on cuirass. Rev. CONCORDI – A AVGGG Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., on throne, holding sceptre in r. hand and Victory on globe in l. r. foot on prow; in field l., eight-rayed star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC Arcadius 44. MIRB 52a. LRC 307. Depeyrot 46/3.
Very rare. Extremely fine 1'200

Valentinian III, 425 – 455



112



- 112 Medallion of 2 solidi, Constantinopolis 435, 8.96 g. DN VALENTIN – IANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GLORIA R – O – MANORVM Helmeted figures of Roma and Constantinopolis seated facing. Roma on l., with head facing, holds Victory on globe in r. hand and spear in l.; Constantinopolis on r., head turned to l., r. foot on prow, holds Victory on globe in r. hand and long sceptre in l.; above cross. In field l., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC –, cf. 216=LRC 377=MIRB 2 (the unique medallion of 2 solidi of Theodosius II, with the same reverse).

Apparently unique and unpublished and only the third gold medallion known for this emperor. An impressive medallion with an appealing reverse composition.

Minor areas of weakness, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

100'000

Ex NAC sale 21, 2001, 601.

This extraordinary novum is not only important in itself, it also allows us to far better understand the chronology of the unique multiples of Theodosius II: a 4 1/2 solidus in Sofia, a 2 solidus and an aureus (both now in Dumbarton Oaks; RIC 215-217). On the basis of their bearded busts of Theodosius II, and their close stylistic relations, Kent considers that all three formed part of the same issue, and, on p. 85, places them in the general period of Theodosius II in 430, so the date can be narrowed down even further. Hahn, p. 21 dates them to 430, as do Grierson & Mays, in their case based on the connection to the bearded bust on the consular solidus of 430 (RIC 254). In fact, similar busts appear on consular solidi issued in 435 (RIC 266), 439 (RIC 268) and 444 (utilising the same obverse die as the issue of 439), so the date really can only be narrowed down to the period 430–44 (430–435) seems even more likely given the closer stylistic parallels between the portrait on the multiples with those of the consular solidi of those years. In resolving this question, the appearance of Valentinian II on a multiple issued by his senior colleague Theodosius II is a great help, since it can only have occurred for a very important reason. It is perfectly clear that this multiple must be part of the same issue as those of Theodosius II since the way the bust is treated on this piece is the same as that of the Sofia example. Our coin obviously cannot be earlier than 430 (the bearded bust of Theodosius II first appears then), and it seems unlikely to be as late as 439 or 444 (those bearded busts of Theodosius II seem later than those on his multiples). The year 435 seems most likely: in that year Theodosius II celebrated his 15th consulship and his 7th quinquennialia, and Valentinian III celebrated both his 4th consulship (held jointly with his cousin) and his decennialia (otherwise they only held joint consulships in 425, 426 and 430). Not only were these all significant events deserving of commemoration, the appearance of Valentinian III on a multiple of that year would emphasise his status as Theodosius II's prospective son-in-law, as preparations had surely begun for the marriage which would take place in October 437.



- 113 Solidus, Ravenna 426-430, 4.40 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 in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.; r. foot on man-headed serpent. In field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. C 19. RIC 2011. LRC 842. Vagi 3607. Good extremely fine 900



- 114 Solidus, Thessalonica 437-438, 4.48 g. D N PLA VALENTI – NIANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, helmeted, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FELICITER – NVBTIIS Three nimbate and draped figures standing facing: in the middle, Theodosius II, clasping the hands, of Valentinian III on l. and Licinia Eudoxia on r. In exergue, COMOB. RIC –. C –. LRC –. MIRB –. Depeyrot –.

Of the highest rarity, only the sixth specimen known. An issue of tremendous fascination with an appealing reverse composition. Good extremely fine

30'000

Royal marriages were events of great importance in the Roman world, especially in the Late Roman Empire, by which time royal women had assumed roles of great importance. Not only were they the biological continuators of the imperial dynasties, but royal ladies often were policy makers when emperors were young or incapable.

Here we have a superb 'marriage solidus' depicting the royal couple Valentinian III and Licinia Eudoxia accompanied by Theodosius II. The composition is carefully managed: the central, and tallest, figure is Theodosius II, who not only was the father of the bride, but as senior emperor in the East was the source of Valentinian III's authority in the West. A touch of humanity is lent to this austere scene by the fact that the royal couple joins hands as Theodosius II, in a show of support and unity, places his hands on their shoulders.

The newlyweds were distant relatives who shared Theodosius I as their great-grandfather. Dynastically, the bride was the more important of the two, for she was the direct descendant of the imperial couples Theodosius I and Aelia Flacilla, Arcadius and Aelia Eudoxia, and Theodosius II and Aelia Eudocia. A better pedigree did not exist in the 5th Century Roman world.

The wedding was held on October 29, 437, and it was an affair of great pomp. Afterward the newlyweds wintered in Thessalonica, where this solidus was issued in celebration. The coin shows all three figures nimbate, that is, bearing the radiant circle of light around their heads. Though the nimbus is often perceived exclusively in relation to Christ, it had been used on coins depicting emperors and empresses (albeit uncommonly) for nearly 125 years by the time this piece was issued.

Many scholars have rightly seen the nimbus as an alternative of the radiate halo of the sun-god Sol. Under the Illyrian emperors, notably Aurelian, the adoration of *Sol Invictus* (the 'unconquered sun') became fashionable. Many soldiers came to view him as the *Summus Deus* (the 'Supreme God') or the *dominus imperii Romani* (the 'heavenly lord of the Roman Empire'), and thus we need not seek a specifically Christian connection for the legacy of nimbate imperial portraits.

Licinia Eudoxia, wife of Valentinian III



115

- 115 Solidus, Ravenna 430-445 or 439, 4.43 g. LICINIA EVD – OXIA P F AVG Draped bust facing, wearing pearl necklace and a radiate crown. Rev. SALVS RE – I PVBLICAE Empress, nimbate, enthroned facing, holding cross on globe in r. hand and long cruciform sceptre in l.; in field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 2023. LRC 870. Depeyrot 16/2.

Extremely rare. A wonderful portrait perfectly struck and centred on a full flan.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

50'000

As described in the commentary on the 'marriage solidus' of Valentinian III (lot 114), no woman in the Roman Empire could compare with the nobility of Licinia Eudoxia. As an Augusta who was the daughter of the eastern emperor Theodosius II and the wife of the western emperor Valentinian III, she was among the most influential people of late antiquity.

Though Licinia Eudoxia had coins struck for her with the usual profile portrait, we have here a remarkable solidus with a full-facing bust, adorned with strings of pearls and a radiate crown, the rays of which flank a cross. The powerful imagery of this portrait, though impressive on our coin, must have been even more imposing in the flesh with the radiant colors of her richly woven garments and an overpowering display of pearls, precious stones and her golden crown.

Frontal portraits on Roman coins were a rarity before the reign of Constantius II (337-361), at which point emperors came to be routinely shown full-facing, holding a shield and spear. But beyond this standard type, facing portraits were still uncommon even in the 5th Century, and this one of Eudoxia is of great iconographic value.

The date of this solidus is a matter of speculation. There are two main issues of solidi bearing frontal portraits of Eudoxia: the first, struck at Ravenna and Rome, bears the obverse and reverse type of this piece (RIC 2016 and 2023); a the second issue, from Rome (RIC 2046), bears a reverse celebrating the *tricennalia* of her husband Valentinian III and has a portrait of a different character, for Eudoxia wears consular garb and her crown has two large triangular projections rather than six radiate spikes.

The second issue is dateable to late 454 through early 455, for Valentinian III entered his eighth and final consulship on January 1, 455 and he was then celebrating his *tricennalia*, the period of which would have been October 23, 454 through March 16, 455 (when he was murdered in a palace coup organized by his successor, Petronius Maximus).

The relation of that consular solidus of Rome to the present coin (and its sister-issue of Rome) is a matter of speculation; except for the fact that they all bear a facing portrait of Eudoxia, there are few similarities in style, and, as already noted, the details of busts of the busts vary.

The reverse of our coin, inscribed SALVS REIPVBLICAE and showing the nimbate, enthroned, empress, likewise offers no obvious chronological clues. Kent assigns our solidus to a group broadly dated to c. 430-c. 445, and Grierson and Mays prefer the year 439 specifically, seeing it as a commemorative issued when Eudoxia assumed the title of Augusta.

Aelia Eudocia, wife of Theodosius II



116



116

- 116 Solidus, Constantinopolis 443-450, 4.47 g. AEL EVDO – CIA AVG Pearl-diademed and draped bust r., wearing necklace and earrings, crowned by the Hand of God. Rev. IMP XXXXII COS – XVII P P Constantinopolis enthroned l., holding sceptre and *globus cruciger*, l. foot on prow, shield at her side; in field l., star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 304. MIRB Theodosius II 36. LRC 459. Depeyrot 84/4. Boyce, ANSMN 6, 1954, p. 136, 4 and pl. XV, 6.

Very rare. Light scratches in obverse field, otherwise good very fine

3'000

Ex NFA-Leu sale 16-18 October 1984, Garrett collection part II, 366.

Avitus, 455 – 456



117



117

- 117 Solidus, Arles 455-456, 4.33 g. DN AVITVS – PERP F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing r., holding long cross in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.; resting l. foot on captive. In field, A – R and in exergue, COMOB. RIC 2401. C 5. LRC 875. Lacam 4. Depeyrot 24/1. Extremely rare. Minor areas of weakness, otherwise about extremely fine

25'000

Like many of Rome's emperors, Avitus was hailed Augustus outside of Italy. In his case the location was the provincial capital of Arles, and the circumstances were grim. In September, 454 the emperor Valentinian III murdered his *magister militum* Aëtius, which was repaid by his own murder six months later. Valentinian was replaced by Petronius Maximus, a usurper whose tyranny invited an invasion of Italy by the Vandals, who sacked Rome on June 1.

The void in the summer of 455 was considerable: there was no emperor in the West, and every portable item of value in the capital (including royal hostages) had been carted away by the Vandals. It was at this moment that Avitus courageously became emperor of the West. He did so with the support of the Visigothic king Theoderic II, but he only received the consent of the Eastern emperor Marcian later in the year, when he had made his way to Italy.

Avitus had strong connections with the Visigothic court at Toulouse, for whom he was serving as an imperial envoy. He also had extensive experience in government and had acquired military experience under Aëtius, one of the most accomplished soldiers of his age.

Without Aëtius to lead the western armies and fleets, Avitus found a new *magister militum* in Ricimer, who in 456 scored a major victory against the Vandals off the coast of Corsica. The talent of the new commander was a double-edged sword, for Ricimer became the most important man in the West for the next 16 years. Of more direct interest to Avitus was the fact that Ricimer soon deposed him and replaced him with a sequence of puppet emperors.

Local circumstances began to weigh against Avitus, including a famine in Rome and the loss of support from the Visigoths, who were occupied with a war against the Suevi in Spain. All the while, the popularity of Ricimer was on the rise because of his follow-up victory over the Vandals. Finally, on October 17, 456, Avitus was deposed by Ricimer, who made him bishop of Piacenza, an appointment he did not long survive.

This solidus was struck at the mint in Arles, which Avitus reopened using workers from Ravenna. Thus, it should not surprise us to see the mint signature of Arles (AR), but the style of Ravenna. Avitus' strong ties with the Visigoths also resulted in a large production of imitations of his solidi and tremisses, which presumably were struck at Toulouse for distribution among the Visigoths.

Aelia Verina, wife of Leo I



- 118 Solidus, Constantinopolis 462-466, 4.47 g. AEL VERI – NA AVG Pearl-diademed and draped bust r., wearing necklace and earrings, crowned by the Hand of God. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGGGB Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 607. Vagi 3795. LRC 593. Depeyrot 93/2. Extremely rare. An almost invisible nick on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine 25'000

Ex Ratto sale 9 December 1930, 269.

As the wife of Leo I and the mother-in-law of his successor Zeno, Aelia Verina held the title of Augusta for nearly the last three decades of her life. We have relatively detailed accounts of her machinations from 474 onward, and considering all of the power plays being made at court during Leo's reign, we might presume she was deeply involved in the intrigues.

When her husband Leo I was ailing in 473, Verina helped arrange his adoption of their six-year-old grandson, Leo II, as successor rather than their son-in-law Zeno, a healthy man in his mid-30s with significant military experience. Despite his ideal qualifications, Zeno was not well liked, a feeling that Leo and Verina must have shared. The child Leo II was first raised to Caesar in October, 473, and finally to Augustus in January, 474, less than a month before his grandfather died.

The saga continued when the already fragile health of Leo II began to fail and it was necessary on February 9, 474, to have the boy proclaim his own father, Zeno, his co-emperor. When Leo II died in November, the cause of his demise must have been the fodder of palace gossip. Zeno was now sole emperor, and this displeased his mother-in-law Verina so much that she caused a false rumour to be spread of an impending palace coup, upon which she recommended that Zeno and Ariadne flee Constantinople for their own safety.

Verina now hoped to get her lover, the *magister officiorum* Patricius, installed as emperor, but she met unexpected resistance in the senate which instead hailed emperor her brother Basiliscus. Thus, after her initial plot against her son-in-law, Verina now plotted against her brother, who responded by executing her lover Patricius. Once again, Roman history proves truth is stranger than fiction.

The old empress was forced into hiding as she worked for the return of Zeno as the lesser of two evils. Once Zeno recovered his throne from Basiliscus, Verina still devoted the rest of her life to undermining Zeno, which resulted in her exile to a fortress in the wilds of Isauria. Two of her counter-revolutionary efforts included backing a coup in 479 in the name of her other son-in-law, an ambitious young nobleman named Marcian, and her support of the rebellion of Leontius in 484.

Verina's coins are rare today, but the must have been issued in some quantity at the time. Her solidi, tremisses and Æ2s all bear her profile portrait, and she is also portrayed on some of Leo's smallest bronzes as a standing figure flanked by the letters bE, representing the Greek version of her name, Berina.

The date of the present solidus is not certainly known. Kent, Grierson and Mays all describe it as an issue under her husband's successor Zeno, with Kent suggesting it may have been struck in 462 or 466, two of the five occasions on which Leo I held the consulship.

Anthemius, 467 – 472



- 119 Solidus 468, 4.41 g. D N ANTHE – MIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and draped bust three-quarters facing, holding spear over r. shoulder. Rev. SALVS R – EI P – VBLICAE Two emperors, in military attire, standing facing, holding spears and supporting between them a globe surmounted by cross; in centre field, ROMA in monogram. In exergue, COMOB. C 6. RIC 2831. Lacam pl. 25 41. LRC 925. Vagi 3645. Biaggi 2375 (this coin).

Rare. Area of weakness on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

4'000

Ex Bourgey sale 1958, Perret collection, 168.

Olybrius, 472



- 120 Tremissis, Mediolanum 472, 1.46 g. D N ANICIVS OLVBRIVS AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. Cross within wreath. RIC 3004. C 5. Mazzini 5 (these dies). Lacam 7 (these dies). Ulrich-Bansa pl. XIII, 147 (these dies). Vagi 3567. Biaggi 2385 (this coin). Depeyrot 33/1.
Of the highest rarity, only the fifth specimen of this type and the twelfth coins of Olybrius to be known. Good very fine 35'000

Olybrius, who reigned as a puppet emperor for six or seven months in 472, was only too familiar with the troubled state of affairs in the Western Roman Empire, for he was a member of the senatorial nobility who had evacuated Rome just before it was sacked by the Vandals in 455.

Fortunately for Olybrius, he had sufficient wealth to relocate in Constantinople in high style. In addition to wealth, he had political influence, for in 462 he married Placidia the younger, the daughter of the former western emperor Valentinian III, and in 464 he held the consulship.

Whatever horrifying tales Olybrius could have told, they must have paled in comparison with those of his new teenage bride Placidia, for she had been carried off by the Vandals as booty in the sacking of Rome that Olybrius had escaped. The two were wed upon her return after the eastern emperor Leo I had negotiated her release from seven years as a hostage of king Gaiseric in Carthage.

In striking this marriage Olybrius became related to the House of Theodosius and to Gaiseric, whose son Huneric had married Placidia's sister, Eudocia the younger. These unusual qualifications made Olybrius an obvious choice for Leo I to send to Italy in 472 as an ambassador to resolve a conflict between the *magister militum* Ricimer and Leo's chosen candidate for the Western throne, Anthemius. Though the details have been garbled, the result of Olybrius' trip was that in April, 472 he accepted Ricimer's offer to make him emperor in place of Anthemius, who was the besieged in Rome and eventually beheaded.

However, Olybrius' unexpected windfall quickly turned sour, for Ricimer unexpectedly died a few weeks later. Ricimer was replaced as *magister militum* by his nephew Gundobad, and though his relationship with Olybrius may have been stable, it hardly mattered for the new emperor died of dropsy, perhaps on November 2, 472, after having reigned about half a year.

Olybrius seems to have coined only solidi and tremisses, and they are all extremely rare, in fact only four solidi and six tremisses are listed by Lacam to which this specimen and another specimen auctioned by Leu must be added. He certainly valued his noble ancestry, for he uncharacteristically includes his full family name, ANICIVS, on all of his coins. There is debate among authorities as to the mints used to strike his coins, as none of them bear mint signatures. Kent and Lacam attribute all solidi to Rome, and divide the tremisses between Rome and Milan; Grierson and Mays agree with them on the tremisses, but divide the solidi between Rome and Ravenna.

It is noteworthy that before this tremissis only four coins of Olybrius have been offered in auction: three tremisses (Naville XI, 1925, 1055; Hirsch XXIV, 1919, 2848 and Leu 54, 1992, 341) and one solidus (Naville VII, 1924, 1023). These coins seem to be the only ones of this ruler in private hands.

Julius Nepos first reign, 474 – 475



- 121 Tremissis, Mediolanum 474-475, 1.46 g. D N IVL NEPOS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. Cross within wreath; in exergue, COMOB. RIC 3220. Lacam 91. Ulrich-Bansa pl. XIII, 167. Depeyrot 43/1.
Very rare. Very fine / good very fine 2'500

Aelia Ariadne, wife of Zeno and Anastasius



- 122 Tremissis, Constantinopolis 474-491, 1.47 g. AEL ARI – AUNE AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. Cross within wreath; beneath, CONOB*. RIC 933a var. (no star). LRC 606 (this obverse die). Tolstoj 71. Boyce, ANSMN 7, 1957, pl. XVIII, 20. MIRB Zeno 17. Vagi 3284.
Extremely rare. Good very fine 25'000

Ex Platt 1970, Longuet, 289 and Leu 22, 1979, 424 sales.

Authorities disagree about when the coins of Aelia Ariadne were struck. Grierson and Mays attribute them to the earliest possible period, the first sole reign of her first husband Zeno (474-475). Kent suggests the style of the Victory and the absence of the *Manus Dei* above her head on solidi places them in the second sole reign of Zeno (477-491), with the possibility that some were issued by her second husband, Anastasius I (491-518). Since her solidi and tremisses occur with a heavy bust and a slight bust, and there is a strong argument for two distinctive issues.

The high position and longevity of Ariadne is demonstrated by the fact that she was married to two long-lived Eastern emperors, Zeno (in 466/7) and Anastasius (in 491). Indeed, she survived for nearly sixty eventful years in the Imperial household in Constantinople. We further testify to her nobility by citing other relations, including her father Leo I, her son Leo II, and her uncle Basiliscus, all of whom were emperors.

When her father, the emperor Leo I, fell mortally ill in 474, Ariadne was instrumental in making the transition of power from her father to her husband Zeno (for which her son Leo II, who died young, was the instrument for the transfer). Since Ariadne was now the wife of an emperor, she was hailed Augusta late in 474, much to the dismay of her own mother Aelia Verina, who apparently did not want to share that title with anyone, not even her own daughter. Within two months Verina had fabricated a palace coup, and in doing so tricked Ariadne and Zeno to flee Constantinople in fear for their lives on January 9, 475.

Verina's follow-up plans were not as inventive as her fabricated coup (see the commentary for lot 115, a solidus of Verina), and Ariadne and Zeno had recovered the throne by the end of summer, 476. Ariadne faced many dangers during the fifteen years that remained of her husband Zeno's reign, and she survived his death in the spring of 491 to participate in the election of the next emperor of the East, Anastasius I, who, out of political necessity, she married after only six weeks of being a widow.

That royal wedding on May 20, 491 is celebrated by an exceedingly rare 'marriage solidus' of Constantinople that has a reverse similar to the one struck for the wedding of Valentinian III and Licinia Eudoxia (see lot 111). Its reverse it is inscribed FELICITER NVBTIIS and it has the same design composition except that instead of the bride's father, it is Christ who blesses the union. Ariadne remained at the forefront of politics in the East until she died in 515 after having overseen what modern historians regard as the transition from the Roman to the Byzantine Empire.

The last tremissis of Aelia Ariadne to be offered in auction (a specimen graded very fine) has been sold by Spink on the 13th April 2000, Dressman collection, lot 377, for the considerable amount of 17'000 pounds.



115 (3:1)

An Important Collection of Roman Gold Coins

Part II

The Roman Republic

The mint is Rome unless otherwise stated



123

- 123 **Julius Caesar with A. Hirtius Praetor.** Aureus 46 BC, 8.02 g. C CAESAR – COS TER Veiled head of Vesta r. Rev. A IHRTIVS P R *Lituus*, jug and axe. Crawford 466/1. C 3 var. Syd. 1017 var. B. Hirtia 2 var. and Julia 23 var. Bahrfeldt 19 var. Calicó 37b var.

An apparently unrecorded variety. Very fine 2'000

The reverse legend of this coin is apparently unrecorded. Crawford notices that styles and legends of this issue vary considerably, but he only mentions one die with a legend reading: AIIIRTIVS PR. Scholars disagree about the reasons for such differences. Sydenham assumes that part of the issue, in particular the coins of inferior style, had not been struck in Rome and suggest the employment of provincial mints. Ulrich Bansa maintains that the issue has been all struck in Rome and explains the deterioration of the style and the different legends with the lack of ability of the occasional engravers recruited to face the enormous quantity of coins to struck. It is noteworthy that this is the largest issue of gold coins of the Republican period issued partly for the payment of Caesar's troop and partly to defray the expenses of his quadruple triumph; in fact Caesar paid for the occasion, among others, a premium of 80'000 sesterterii for each tribune, 40'000 sesterterii for each centurion and 20'000 sesterterii for each veterans. Julius Caesar took the gold for this gigantic issue, thanks to his office of Pontifex Maximus, from the treasure of the City.



124

- 124 **L. Cestius and C. Norbanus Praetores.** Aureus 43 BC, 7.99 g. C NORBANVS / L CESTIVS Draped bust of Sybil r.; in field r., PR. Rev. Cybele, seated l. on throne, in biga of lions l., holding patera in r. hand and resting l. hand on *tympanum*; in upper field l., S C. Crawford 491/2. Syd. 1155. B. Norbana 5 and Cestia 3. Bahrfeldt 26. Calicó 5b. Rare. Very fine 5'000

The Roman Empire

The mint is Rome unless otherwise stated

Augustus, 27 BC – 14 AD



125

- 125 Aureus, Pergamum 19-18 BC, 7.99 g. AVGVSTVS Bare head r. Rev. Sphinx, with wings raised, seated r. Bahrfeldt 140. RIC 512 (misdescribed). BMC 682. C 333. CBN 973. Vagi 259. Calicó 156 (this coin). Jameson 424 (this coin). Biaggi 153 (this coin).

Very rare. Traces of mounting, otherwise very fine 8'000

Ex Jameson collection.



126

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

Minor marks, otherwise very fine 5'000

Ex NAC sale L, 2001, 1631.



127

127

- 127 Aureus, Lugdunum 2 BC – 4 AD, 7.84 g. CAESAR AVGVSTVS – DIVI F PATER PATRIAE Laureate head r. Rev. [AVGVSTI F COS DESIG] PRINC IVVENT Gaius and Lucius, both togate, standing to front and resting hand on shield; behind each, shield and spear. In centre field, *simpulum* and *lituus*. In exergue, CL CAESARES. Bahrfeldt 235. RIC 206. BMC 515. C 42. CBN 1648. Vagi 264. Calicó 176.

Good very fine 4'000

Tiberius, 14 – 37



128

128

- 128 Aureus, Lugdunum 14-37, 7.76 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – MAXIM Pax-Livia figure seated r. on throne with ornamented legs, holding spear in r. hand and branch in l. RIC 27. BMC 39. C 15. CBN 19. Vagi 437. Calicó 305a.

Scuff at nine o'clock on obverse and marks on edge, possibly mounted.

Good very fine / very fine 3'500



129

- 129 Aureus, Lugdunum 14-37, 7.62 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – MAXIM Pax-Livia figure seated r. on throne with plain legs, holding long sceptre in r. hand and branch in l. RIC 25. BMC 30. C 15. CBN 15. Vagi 437. Calicó 305d.

Nicks on edge at nine and five o'clock on obverse, otherwise about very fine

1'500

In the name of Nero Claudius Drusus, father of Claudius



130



130

- 130 Aureus 41-45, 7.62 g. NERO CLAVDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP Laureate head l. Rev. Triumphal arch surmounted by equestrian statue between two trophies; over and on architrave, DE / GERM. RIC Claudius 69. BMC Claudius 95. C 1. CBN Claudius 2. Vagi 486. Calicó 315.

Rare. Very fine 5'500

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

In the name of Antonia, mother of Claudius



131



131

- 131 Aureus 41-45, 7.78 g. ANTONIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., wearing crown of corn-ears. Rev. SACERDOS – DIVI – AVGVSTI Two long torches lighted and linked by ribbon. RIC Claudius 67. BMC Claudius 112. C 4. CBN Claudius 15. Vagi 500. Calicó 319a.

Rare. About very fine / very fine 5'000

Ex NAC sale L, 2001, 1660.

Gaius, 37 – 41



132



132

- 132 Aureus 37-38, 7.56 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR POT Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. AGRIPPINA MAT C CAES AVG GERM Draped bust of Agrippina r. RIC Gaius 13. BMC Gaius 14. C 1. CBN Gaius 22. Vagi 526. Calicó 326b.

Very rare. Test cut on reverse, about very fine 11'000

Ex NAC sale L, 2001, 1668.

Claudius, 41 – 54



133

- 133 Aureus 41-42, 7.65 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P Laureate head r. Rev. PRAETOR – RECEPT Claudius, bare-headed and togate, standing r., clasping hands with soldier, in military attire, standing l., holding *aquila* in l. hand. RIC 11. BMC 8. C 77. CBN 24. Vagi 584. Calicó 374a.

Rare. Scratches in fields and marks on edge, otherwise very fine

4'500

Ex NAC sale L, 2001, 1674.



134

- 134 Aureus 50-54, 7.82 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TRIB POT P P Laureate head of Claudius r. Rev. AGRIPPINAE – AVGVSTAE Draped bust of Agrippina Minor r., wearing barley wreath. RIC 80. BMC 72. C 3. CBN 79. Vagi 655. Calicó 396d.

Very rare. A pleasant very fine

7'000

Ex Rauch sale 75, 2005, 327.

Nero Augustus, 54 – 68



135

- 135 Aureus 58-59, 7.74 g. NERO CAESAR AVG IMP Bare head r. Rev. PONTIF MAX TR P V P P around oak wreath enclosing EX S C. RIC 16. BMC 17. C 210. CBN 24. Calicó 424.

The hairs on obverse re-engraved and light marks, otherwise good very fine

3'500



136

- 136 Aureus 61-62, 7.66 g. NERO-CAESAR-AVG-IMP Bare head r. Rev. PONTIF MAX TR – P VIII COS IIII P P EX – S C Virtus, helmeted and in military attire, standing l., holding *parazonium* in r. hand on knee and vertical spear in l. RIC 31. BMC 33. C 225. CBN 42. Calicó 432.

An unobtrusive nick on edge at eleven o'clock on obverse, otherwise very fine

3'500



137



137

- 137 Aureus 64-65, 7.34 g. NERO CAESAR AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGVSTA Concordia seated l., holding patera in r. hand and cornucopia in l. RIC 48. BMC 61. C 66. CBN 207. Calicó 405. Good very fine 5'000

Galba, 68 – 69



138



- 138 Aureus July 68-January 69, 6.97 g. IMP SER GALBA AVG Bare head r. Rev. S P Q R / OB C S in oak wreath. RIC 164. BMC 29. C 286. CBN 72. Calicó 509a. Very rare. About very fine 5'000

Vitellius Imperator, 2 January – 18 April 69



139



- 139 Aureus, Lugdunum 2 January-18 April 69, 7.21 g. A VITELLIVS GER IMP AVG P MAX TR P Laureate head r. Rev. VESTA P R QVIRITIVM Vesta seated l., holding patera in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC -. C -. BMC -. CBN -. Calicó 575a.

Excessively rare, apparently only the second specimen known. Traces of edge filling, light scratches, two test marks and one scuff on reverse, otherwise about very fine

5'000



140



140

- 140 Aureus, Tarraco (?) 2 January-18 April 69, 7.54 g. A VITELLIVS – IMP GERMAN Laureate head l. with globe at point of bust. Rev. LIBERIS IMP GERMANICI Bust of Vitellius' sons: on l., a boy, bare-headed and draped with a globe at point of bust and on r., a girl, bare-headed and draped. RIC 8 var. (GERMANICVS). BMC 386 note § var. C 8 var. (GERMANICVS). CBN -. Calicó 561 var. (GERMANICVS). An apparently unrecorded variety of an extremely rare type. Very fine 7'000

Vespasian, 69 – 79



141



141

- 141 Aureus 69-70, 7.25 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.
Good very fine 3'500



142



142

- 142 Aureus 69-71, 7.30 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PAX AVGVS Pax seated l., holding branch in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 18. BMC 280. C 319. CBN 251. Calicó 662.
Reddish tone and about extremely fine 6'000
From the Boscoreale hoard of 1902.



143



- 143 Aureus 77-78, 7.19 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. Vespasian standing l., holding long sceptre in r. hand and *parazonium* in l., crowned by Victory standing l. behind him, holding palm in l. hand; in exergue, COS VIII. RIC 105. BMC 204. C 130. CBN 181. Calicó 624a.
Traces of restoration on obverse (part of the laurel wreath re-engraved),
otherwise good very fine / very fine 3'000



144



- 144 Aureus 78-79, 7.13 g. CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head l. Rev. ANNONA AVG Annona seated l., holding bundle of corn-ears on lap in both hands. RIC 131a. BMC 297. C 29. CBN 256 var. (laureate head r.). Calicó 591.
About very fine 1'500

Titus Caesar, 69 – 79



145



145

- 145 Aureus 75, 7.34 g. T CAESAR IMP VESPASIAN Laureate head r. Rev. Bull butting r.; in exergue, COS IIII. RIC Vespasian 181. BMC Vespasian 171. C 48. CBN Vespasian 145. Calicó 731.
A few scratches on obverse and reverse and several nicks on edge,
otherwise about extremely fine 4'500

Titus Augustus, 79 – 81



146



146

- 146 Aureus 80, 7.29 g. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M Laureate head r. Rev. TR P IX IMP XV COS VIII P P Throne with round back, on which are cornucopias. RIC 24a. BMC 57. C 312. CBN 46. Calicó 781a.
A very pleasant good very fine 5'000

Domitian Augustus, 81 – 96



147



147

- 147 Aureus 82–83, 7.70 g. IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG P M Laureate head of Domitian r. Rev. DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DOMIT Draped bust of Domitia r. RIC 210. BMC 58. C 58. CBN 58. Vagi 1142. Calicó 943a (this coin).
Very rare. Very fine 8'000

Ex Triton III, 1999, 1059 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 202, 62 sales.

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



148



148



- 148 Aureus 87, 7.58 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG – GERM P M TR P VI Laureate head r. Rev. IMP XIII COS XIII CENS P P P Minerva standing r. on prow, brandishing javelin in upraised r. hand and holding shield in l.; at feet, owl. RIC –, cf. 92 (denarius). BMC 103 note. C –, cf. 218 (denarius). CBN –, cf. 104 (denarius). Calicó 886. An extremely rare variety. Matt surface, otherwise extremely fine 5'500



149



- 149 Aureus 92-94, 7.56 g. DOMITIANVS AVGVSTVS Bare head r. Rev. GERMANICVS Domitian standing in quadriga l., holding laurel branch in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, COS XVI. RIC 185a. BMC 213. C 161 var. (laureate head r.). CBN 190. Calicó 853. Rare. Good very fine 3'500



150



- 150 Aureus 95-96, 7.57 g. DOMITIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. GERMANICVS COS XVII Germania seated r. on shield, mourning; below, broken spear. RIC 202. BMC 228. C 169. CBN 205. Calicó 862 (this coin). Biaggi 414 (this coin). Rare. Minor marks on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine 8'000

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1528.

Trajan, 98 – 117



151



- 151 Aureus 101-102, 7.25 g. IMP CAES NERVA TRA – IAN AVG GERM Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. P·M·T·R·P·COS·III·P·P Hercules standing to front on altar, holding club in r. hand and lion-skin in l. RIC 49 var. (bust with aegis). BMC 81 note. C 233. Calicó 1054 (this coin). Very fine 3'500

Ex NAC sale M, 2002, 2681.



- 152 Aureus 103-111, 7.34 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 124 var. (not cuirassed). BMC 308 note. C 70 var. (not cuirassed). Calicó 1002 (this coin). Biaggi 472 (this coin). Rare. About extremely fine 5'000

Ex Gilhofer&Ranschburg-Hess sale 22 May 1935, Trau collection, 885.



- 153 Aureus 103-111, 7.36 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC Trajan, togate, standing l., raising kneeling figure of Italy, holding globe in l. hand; between them, two children standing r.. In exergue, REST ITAL. RIC 106. BMC 404. C 326 var. (laureate head). Calicó 1080 (this coin). Jameson 90 (this coin). Biaggi 524 (this coin). Very rare. Good very fine 7'000

Ex M&M sale X, 1951, 41 and Jameson collection.



- 154 Aureus 112-114, 7.11 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Genius, naked, standing l., holding patera in r. hand and ears of corn in l. RIC 275 var. (not cuirassed). BMC 426. C 397 var. (not cuirassed). Calicó 1092. Light scratches in reverse field, otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine 6'000



155

- 155 Aureus 117, 7.28 g. IMP CAES NER TRAIAN OPTIM AVG GER DAC PARTHICO Laureate bust r., with aegis on l. shoulder. Rev. P M TR P COS VI P P S P Q R Two mourning captives seated on ground back to back with trophy between them; on either side of captive, bow in bow-case erect. In exergue, PARTHIA CAPTA. RIC 325 var. (globe below bust). BMC 606 var. (globe below bust). C 186 var. (globe below bust). Calicó 1037 (this coin). Biaggi 498 (this coin).

Very rare and a very interesting type. Two unobtrusive nicks on obverse,
otherwise good very fine

6'500

Ex M&M sale XI, 1953, 113.

Trajan departed Rome in October, 113, to launch his last great campaign in the east. After rejecting a proposal by a Parthian embassy in Athens, Trajan moved onto Antioch, where he wintered in preparation for the anticipated Armenian campaign of 114. After the successful conclusion of this initial campaign, Trajan once again wintered in Antioch, and in the spring of 115 led his army into northern Mesopotamia and Adiabene; he found success in both places and added the former to the Empire. Trajan's greatest triumph, however, did not come until 116, when he once again left Antioch, initially to revisit Adiabene, and then to march down the Tigris and sack the Parthian capital Ctesiphon. The campaign was an enormous success: the capital was stripped of its legendary wealth and by mid-116 the defeat of Parthia seemed complete. Afterward, Trajan felt sufficiently secure to make a brief excursion to the Persian Gulf. However, he soon realized his gains were ephemeral, and in an effort to preserve some control over the Parthians he installed the pro-Roman king Parthamaspates on the throne, but his puppet-king did not fare well. At the end of Trajan's long and productive life he witnessed the consequences of his decades of expansionism, as revolts erupted in Armenia, Mesopotamia, Cyprus, Egypt, Cyrene, western North Africa and the Empire's northern borders in Europe. Before Trajan could march westward to address some of these uprisings, he died while encamped in Cilicia. His successor, Hadrian, scaled back Trajan's expanded empire to a more manageable size and as a result enjoyed a relatively peaceful reign.

This aureus was struck at the height of Trajan's success, and is dated by Hill to early 117. The reverse type is of an ancient and familiar composition, with two dejected captives seated at the base of a trophy composed of arms and armour. In this case the captives are in Parthian attire with bows-in-cases upright at their feet. Beneath is the explicit and unapologetic inscription PARTHIA CAPTA.

Plotina, wife of Trajan



156

- 156 Aureus 112, 7.00 g. PLOTINA AVG – IMP TRAIANI Diademed and draped bust r., hair in plait. Rev. CAES AVG GERM DAC COS VI P P Vesta seated l., holding palladium in extended r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC Trajan 730. BMC Trajan 525. C 2. Vagi 1314. Calicó 1146a.

Extremely rare. Scuff on edge at twelve o'clock on reverse, otherwise about very fine / fine

9'000

Ex M&M sale 44, 1971, 67.

Diva Marciana, elder sister of Trajan



157

- 157 Aureus 112, 7.01 g. DIVA AVGVSTA – MARCIANA Draped bust r., hair elaborately dressed, above which crescent-shaped diadem. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle with spread wings standing l. on sceptre, head to r. RIC Trajan 743. BMC 648 Trajan 649. C 3. Vagi 1325. Calicó 1152b.

Extremely rare. Nick on edge at one o'clock on obverse and traces of restoration
in obverse field, otherwise very fine

7'500

Ex Hirsch XXIV, 1909, Consul Weber, 1370; M&M XXI, 1960, 43 and Aufhäuser 17, 2003, 291 sales.

Matidia, daughter of Marciana



158

- 158 Aureus 112, 7.03 g. MATIDIA AVG DIVAE – MARCIANAE F Draped bust r., hair elaborately dressed, above which crescent-shaped diadem. Rev. PIETAS AVGVST Matidia, as Pietas, standing facing, head to l., placing hands over Sabina and Matidia. RIC Trajan 759. BMC Trajan 659. C 9. Vagi 1334. Calicó 1157a. Extremely rare. Very fine / about very fine 9'000

Ex Egger XXXIX, 1912, 911; M&M XIX, 1959, 211 and Aufhäuser 17, 2003, 293 sales.

Hadrian Augustus, 117 – 138



159

159

- 159 Aureus 117, 7.50 g. IMP CAES TRAIAN HADRIANO AVG DIVI TRA PART F Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. DIVI NER NEP P M TR P COS Fortuna seated l., holding rudder in r. hand and cornucopia in l.; in exergue, FORT RED. RIC 15 var. (rudder on globe and PARTH). C 741 var. (rudder on globe). BMC 34. Calicó 1257 var. (PARTH).

An apparently unrecorded variety. Traces of mounting, otherwise about extremely fine

3'500



160

160

- 160 Aureus 134-138, 7.19 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare head r. Rev. ROMA AE – TERNA Roma, helmeted, seated l. on cuirass, holding heads of Sun and Moon in r. hand and spear in l.; behind, shield. RIC 263. BMC 700. C 1303 var. (draped bust). Calicó 1359 (this coin).

A very attractive portrait, good very fine

5'500

Sabina, wife of Hadrian



161

- 161 Aureus 129, 7.23 g. SABINA AVGVSTA – HADRIANI AVG P P Draped bust r., hair in *stephane* and in long tail at back. Rev. VES – TA Vesta seated l., holding palladium in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 410. BMC 915 note. C 80 var. (no draped). Calicó 1439.

Rare. Minor marks on obverse, light scratch on reverse and three nicks on edge, otherwise very fine

4'500

Aelius Caesar, 136 – 138



162

- 162 Aureus 137, 7.04 g. L·AELIVS – CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. TRIB POT COS II Concordia seated l., holding patera in extended r. hand and resting l. elbow on cornucopia; in exergue, CONCORDIA. RIC Hadrian 443. BMC Hadrian 997. C 11. Calicó 1444. Minor marks, otherwise very fine 6'000
Ex NAC sale L, 2001, 1868.

Antoninus Pius Augustus, 138 – 161



163

163

- 163 Aureus 151-152, 7.25 g. IMP CAES T AEL HADR ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P Bare head r. with aegis. Rev. TR POT XV C – OS IIII Pax standing l., holding branch in r. hand and long sceptre in l.; in exergue, PAX. RIC 216b. BMC 745 note. C 586. Calicó 1591. Good very fine 4'000



164

- 164 Aureus 153-154, 7.22 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P XVII Laureate head r. Rev. CO – S IIII Antoninus Pius, togate, standing l., holding globe in extended r. hand and resting l. arm at side. RIC 233b. BMC 813. C 312. Calicó 1527. About extremely fine 5'000

Diva Faustina, wife of Antoninus Pius



165

- 165 Aureus after 141, 7.49 g. DIVA – FAVSTINA Draped bust r. Rev. AVGV – STA Ceres standing facing holding lighted torch in each hand. RIC A. Pius 356a. BMC A. Pius 395. C 95. Calicó 1763. Minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine 5'500

Marcus Aurelius Caesar, 139 – 161



166

- 166 Aureus 140-144, 7.12 g. AVRELIVS CAESAR – AVG PII F COS Bare-headed bust l., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. PIETAS AVG Knife, sprinkler, ewer, *lituus* and *simpulum*. RIC A. Pius 424d (this coin, misdescribed). BMC A. Pius 276 note (this coin). C 450 var. (head r.). Calicó 1884 (this coin). Biaggi 861 (this coin).
Marks in fields and on edge, otherwise good very fine 5'500

Ex Santamaria sale 16 January 1924, 448.



167

- 167 Aureus 148-149, 6.81 g. AVRELIVS CAE – SAR AVG PII F Bare head l., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. TR POT III – COS II Fides standing r., holding corn-ears in r. hand and basket of fruits in upraised l. RIC A. Pius 445A var. (draped). BMC A. Pius 696. C 626 var. (FIL and draped). Calicó 1934.
Traces of mounting, otherwise about very fine / very fine 2'400



168

- 168 Aureus 152-153, 7.29 g. AVRELIVS CAE – SAR AVG PII FIL Bare head r. Rev. TR POT – VII – COS II Roma, helmeted, standing l., holding Victory in r. hand and *parazonium* in l. RIC A. Pius 457a. BMC A. Pius 799. C 657. Calicó 1945 (this obverse die).
A very attractive portrait. Minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine 5'500

Faustina II, wife of Marcus Aurelius



169

169

- 169 Aureus 145 – 161, 7.03 g. FAVSTINAE AVG – PII AVG FIL Draped bust r. Rev. IVNONI – LVCINAE Juno standing l., holding patera in r. hand and long sceptre in l. RIC A. Pius 505b. BMC A. Pius 1045. C 131 var. Calicó 2061.
Good very fine 4'000



170

- 170 Aureus 145-161, 7.24 g. FAVSTINA – AVG P II AVG FIL Draped bust r. Rev. VE – NVS Venus standing l., holding apple in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC A. Pius 513b. BMC A. Pius 1091. C 247. Calicó 2092. Marks on edge, otherwise very fine 3'500

Lucius Verus, 161 – 169



171



171

- 171 Aureus 165, 7.28 g. L VERVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P V IMP II COS II Victoria standing r., placing on a palm tree shield inscribed VIC / AVG. RIC 534. BMC 383. C 268 (not cuirassed). Calicó 2179. Good very fine 4'500

Commodus Augustus, 177 – 192



172



- 172 Aureus 180, 6.80 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. TR P V IMP III – COS II P P Victory seated l., holding patera in r. hand and palm in l. RIC 8b. BMC 814. C 788. Calicó 2343 (this obverse die). Struck on a very broad flan. Marks on edge, otherwise about extremely fine 7'500



173



- 173 Aureus 183-184, 7.16 g. M COMMODVS – ANTON AVG PIVS Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P VIII IMP VI COS III P P Jupiter seated l., holding Victory in r. hand and long sceptre in l. RIC 69e. BMC 118. C 421. Calicó 2296. Marks on edge, otherwise good very fine 5'500

Pertinax, 1st January – 28th March 193



174



174

- 174 Aureus 193, 7.34 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTIN AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. LAETITIA · TE – MPOR COS II Laetitia standing l., holding wreath in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 4b. BMC 6 and pl. I, 6 (these dies). C 18. Calicó 2384 (this coin). Biaggi 1040 (this coin).

Rare. A very appealing portrait, about extremely fine / good very fine

15'000

Septimius Severus, 193 – 211



175



- 175 Aureus 193-194, 7.13 g. IMP CAE L SEP – SEV PERT AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICT AVG T R – P COS Victory advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l. RIC 22. BMC 28. C 681 var. (SEPT). Calicó 2546.

A very appealing portrait. Extremely fine / about extremely fine

9'500

Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus



176



- 176 Aureus 198-211, 7.31 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. DIANA – LV – CIFERA Diana, with crescent on neck, standing l., holding long torch with both hands. RIC S. Severus 548. BMC S. Severus 14 note. C 26. Calicó 2609.

Struck on a very broad flan and about extremely fine

7'000

Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 511.

Caracalla, 198 – 217



177



- 177 Aureus, Laodicea 198, 7.11 g. IMP CAE M AVR ANT AVG P TR P Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. MINE – R VICT – RIX Minerva standing l., holding Victory in r. hand and spear in l; in field r., trophy. RIC 336a. BMC 639. C 158. Calicó 2695.

Rare. Traces of mounting, otherwise good very fine

4'000

Ex M&M sale 44, 1971, 94.



178

- 178 Aureus 199–200, 7.22 g. ANTONINVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RECTOR – ORBIS Sol standing facing, head l., holding globe in r. hand and spear in l. RIC 39a. BMC 163. C 541. Calicó 2804. About extremely fine 7'500

Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 516.



179

- 179 Aureus 205–207, 7.21 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. Caracalla, holding eagle-tipped sceptre in l. hand, in triumphal quadriga r.; in exergue, COS II. RIC 87c. BMC 487 note. C 37 var. (cuirassed). Calicó 2667 (this coin). Biaggi 1171 (this coin). Jameson 184 (this coin) Very rare. Minor marks on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 7'000

Ex Jameson collection.

Geta Caesar, 198 – 209



180

- 180 Aureus 198 – 200, 7.05 g. L SEPTIMIVS – GETA CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. SEVERI PII AVG FIL Knife, sprinkler, ewer, *lituus* and *simpulum*. RIC Caracalla 3. BMC 147 note. C 187. Calicó 2916 (this coin). Biaggi 1259 (this coin). Rare. Light scratches on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 7'000

Ex NAC sale 27, 2004, 450.

Severus Alexander, 222 – 235



181

- 181 Aureus 233–235, 6.31 g. IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERALITAS AVGVSTI Liberalitas standing l., holding *tessera* and cornucopiae. RIC 149. BMC 1 note. C 110. Calicó 3065a (this coin). Biaggi 1309 (this coin). About extremely fine 5'000

Gordian III, 238 – 244



- 182 Aureus 238-239, 4.60 g. IMP CAES M ANT GORDIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROVIDENTIA AVG Providentia standing to front, head l., holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 10. C 301 var. Calicó 3230 (this coin). Biaggi 1369 (this coin).
Minor marks on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 4'500



- 183 Aureus 241-243, 4.83 g. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P V COS II P P Gordian, in military attire, standing r., holding globe in l. hand and transverse spear in r. RIC 106. C 265 var. (not draped and cuirassed). Calicó 3226.
Nick on edge at twelve o'clock on obverse, otherwise good very fine 3'500



- 184 Aureus 241-243, 5.20 g. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVTI AVGVSTI Hercules, naked, standing r., resting r. hand on his hip and leaning with l. on club set on head of bull; lion-skin beside club. RIC 108 note. C 407 var. (laureate head r.). Calicó 3243.
A very rare variety. An almost invisible mark on neck on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine 4'000

Philip II Caesar, 244 – 247



- 185 Aureus 245-246, 4.65 g. M IVL PHILIPPVS CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVVENT Philip II, in military attire, standing r., holding globe in r. hand and transverse spear in l. RIC 216a. C 52. Calicó 3276.
Extremely rare. Scrape across bust and several scratches, otherwise very fine 5'000
Ex Triton III, 1999, 1149 and NAC 24, European Nobleman, 2002, 172 sales. From the collection of Marion A. Sinton.

Trajan Decius, 249 – 251



- 186 Aureus 249, 3.77 g. IMP TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PANNONIAE Pannonia, veiled, standing to front, raising r. hand and holding standard in l. RIC –, cf. 5 (antoninianus). C –, cf. 79 (antoninianus). Calicó 3298 (this coin). Biaggi 1399 (this coin).
Apparently unique. Minor marks on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 5'000



- 187 Aureus 249-251, 3.00 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ABVNDANTIA AVG Abundantia standing r., emptying cornucopia held in both hands. RIC 10. C 1. Calicó 3282.
Slightly bent, otherwise very fine 3'000
Ex NAC sale L, 2001, 2056.

Herennia Etruscilla, wife of Trajan Decius



- 188 Aureus 249–251, 3.91 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 T. Decius 59a. C 18. Calicó 3308.
Rare. About very fine / fine 3'000
Ex NAC sale M, 2002, 2800.

Hostilian Caesar, 251



- 189 Aureus 251, 4.54 g. C VALES HOSTIL MES QVINTVS NC Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRICIPI IV – VENTVTIS Hostilian, in military attire, standing l., holding wand in r. hand and spear in l. RIC 181a (this coin misdescribed). C 37 var (VALENS). Calicó 3318 (this coin, misdescribed). Biaggi 1406 (this coin). De Sartiges 343 (this coin). Mazzini 37v (this coin).
An apparently unique variety of an extremely rare type. Very fine 8'000

Ex Hirsch XXIV, Consul Weber, 1909, 2227 and Ars Classica XVIII, 1938, 419 sales. From the de Sartiges and Mazzini collections.

Trebonianus Gallus, 251 – 253



190



190

- 190 Binio 251-253, 5.16 g. IMP CAE C VIB TREB GALLVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FELICITAS PVBLICA Felicitas standing l., holding caduceus in r. hand and cornucopia in l. RIC 8. C 36. Calicó 3333 (this coin). Biaggi 1415 (this coin). Very rare. Slightly bent, good very fine 8'000

Volusian, 251 – 253



191



191

- 191 Binio 251-253, 5.96 g. IMP CAE C VIB VOLVSIANO AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Concordia seated l., holding patera in r. hand and double cornucopiae in l. RIC 144. C 24. Calicó 3354 (this coin). Biaggi 1417 (this coin). Very rare. Nick on edge at eleven o'clock, otherwise good very fine 7'000

Postumus, 260 – 269



192



- 192 Aureus, Lugdunum 260-269, 5.37 g. POSTVMVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. ROMAE AET – ERNAE Roma seated l. on throne, holding palladium in r. hand and sceptre in l.; below throne, shield. RIC 36. C 327. Calicó 3775. Schulte 51a (these dies). Very rare. Fine 8'000

Claudius II Gothicus, 268 – 270



193



193

- 193 Aureus, Mediolanum 268-270, 5.45 g. IMP CLAV – DIVS AVG Laureate head l. Rev. V – IRT – V – S AVG Mars advancing r., holding spear in r. hand and trophy in l. over shoulder. RIC –. C –. Calicó 3964 (this coin). Biaggi 1571 (this coin). Huvelin-Lafaurie, RN 1980, 45 (this coin). Extremely rare, only very few specimens known. Minor marks and matt surface, otherwise good very fine 8'000

Ex NAC sale 27, 2004, 478.

Aurelian, 270 – 275



- 194 Aureus, Antiochia 270-275, 5.50 g. IMP C AVREL – IANVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust l. Rev. VICTORIA AVG Victory advancing r., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l. over l. shoulder. RIC 376. C 244 (misdescribed). Calicó 4033 (this coin). Göbl 362d O2 and pl. 137 (this coin). Biaggi 1586 (this coin).
Very rare. Extremely fine / about extremely fine 6'000
Ex Rollin & Feuardent sale 1909, Evans collection, 265.



- 195 Aureus, Siscia or Roma 270-275, 4.62 g. IMP C L DOM AVRE – LIANVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – R – IA AVG Victoria advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l.; at her feet, captive. RIC –. C –. R. Göbl, Die Münzprägung des Kaisers Aurelianus 126q. Calicó 4041 (these dies).
Very rare. Extremely fine / about extremely fine 6'000

Tacitus, 275 – 276



- 196 Aureus, Ticinum 275-276, 4.53 g. IMP CM CL TA – CITVS PFE – AVG Laureate bust l., holding spear in r. hand over r. shoulder and shield over l. Rev. VICT – O – R – IA AVG Victory standing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l.; in exergue, TI. RIC 119. C –. Calicó 4117 (this coin). Biaggi 1606 (this coin).
Very rare. Several nicks on edge and traces of expert restoration on obverse at two o'clock, otherwise about extremely fine 7'500

Probus, 276 – 282



- 197 Aureus, Siscia 277-278, 5.15 g. IMP C PROB – VS P F AVG Laureate bust r., wearing cuirass decorated with aegis. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVG Victory standing r. on globe; on ground on either side, captive; the one on seated and the one on r. kneeling. RIC 599 var. (different bust). C 748 var. (omits globe). Calicó 4212 (this coin). Biaggi 1641 (this coin).
Extremely rare. A very appealing portrait, about extremely fine 8'000
Ex NAC sale 27, 2004, 488.

Carus, 282 – 283



- 198 *Divo Caro.* Aureus, Lugdunum after 283, 4.38 g. DIVO CARO PIO Laureate head r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing r. on globe, looking l. RIC 4 var. (omits globe). C 14 var. (omits globe). Calicó 4262 (this coin). Biaggi 1654 (this coin).
Extremely rare. Extremely fine 7'500
Ex M&M 35, 1967, 121 and Leu 45, 1970, 629 sales.

Diocletian, 284 – 305



- 199 Aureus, Cyzicus 286-287, 5.20 g. IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FATIS VICTRICIBVS The three *Parcae* standing facing. From l. to r.: the first two, clasping hands and holding rudder between them and conucopiae, the third one, holding rudder and cornucopia. In exergue, S C. RIC 294. C 58. Depeyrot 5/5. Lukanc p. 142, 23. Calicó 4449 (this coin). Biaggi 1704 (this coin).
Very rare and a very interesting reverse type. Graffito in reverse field, otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine 6'500



200



- 200 Aureus, Cyzicus 294-295, 5.47 g. DIOCLE – TIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTU – S A – VGG NN Emperor seated on throne r., holding sceptre and globe, crowned by Victory standing behind him; at his feet, captive seated with hands tied behind back. RIC 2. C –. Lukanc p. 180, 36 and Cyzicus 1. Baldwin Brett, NC 1933, pl. XXII, 8 (these dies). Calicó 4580 (this coin). Biaggi 1761 (this coin).

Very rare. About extremely fine / extremely fine

6'500

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1657.



201



- 201 Aureus, Treveri 303, 5.09 g. DIOCLETI – ANVS P AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONSERVAT AVGG – ET CAESS NN Jupiter seated l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, TR. RIC 52. C –. Lukanc 13. Depeyrot 10b/1. Bastien, Arras, 315. Calicó 4478 (this coin). Biaggi 1712 (this coin).

Beautiful reddish tone and about extremely fine

7'000

Maximianus Herculius first reign, 286 – 305



202



- 202 Aureus, Cyzicus 288, 5.43 g. MAXIMIANVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS – II Emperor on horse r., raising r. hand. RIC 598. C 86. Depeyrot 8/1. Calicó 4633 (this coin). Biaggi 1779 (this coin).

About extremely fine / extremely fine

7'000

Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 578.

Galerius Maximianus Caesar, 293 – 305



- 203 Aureus, Nicomedia 294, 5.30 g. MAXIMIAN – VS NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONSE – RVATORI Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. In exergue, SMN. RIC 6. C 122. Depeyrot 2/5. Calicó 4916 (this coin). Biaggi 1860 (this coin).

Minor marks on obverse and a light scratch on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine

6'000

Ex Rollin & Feuardent 1909, Evans collection, 311 and Glendining November 1950, Platt Hall part II, 2005 sales.

Galerius Maximianus Augustus, 305 – 311



- 204 Aureus, May 305-June 306, 5.50 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CON – SERVA – T – AVGG ET CAESS Jupiter seated l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and long sceptre in l.; in exergue, P R. RIC 113. C –. Depeyrot 13/1. Calicó 4913 (this coin). Biaggi 1869 (this coin).

About extremely fine

6'500

Galeria Valeria, wife of Galerius Maximianus



- 205 Aureus, Siscia 308-309, 5.26 g. GAL VALE – RIA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. VENERI – VICTRICI Venus standing l., holding apple in upraised r. hand and raising drapery over l. shoulder; in exergue, SIS. RIC 196. C 1. Depeyrot 11/7. Vagi 2837. Calicó 4969 (these dies).

Extremely rare. Hole expertly filled at twelve o'clock and stretch on cheek,

otherwise very fine

10'000

Maxentius Caesar, 306 – 307



206



206

- 206 Aureus 306–307, 5.42 g. MAXENTIVS – PRINC INVICT Laureate head r. Rev. MARTI CONS – ERV – A – VGG ET CAESS NN Mars advancing r., holding shield in l. hand and transverse spear in r.; in exergue, P R. RIC 148. C 89. Depeyrot 14/8. Calicó 5066 (this coin). Biaggi 1916 (this coin).

Extremely rare. Nick on edge at ten o'clock on obverse, otherwise very fine / good very fine

10'000

Ex Rollin & Feuadent sale 1896, Montagu, 783.

Licinius I, 308 – 324



207



- 207 Aureus, Antiochia 311–313, 5.27 g. LICIN – IVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CONSVL P P – PROCONSVL Constantine, togate, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and short sceptre in l.; in l. field, Q / II and in exergue, 'SMAΣ*. RIC 156a. C 9. Depeyrot 32/2. Calicó 5087 (this coin). Biaggi 1933 (this coin).

A very bold portrait. Minor marks on obverse, otherwise
about extremely fine / extremely fine

7'500

Ex Santamaria 1951, Magnaguti collection, 599 and NAC 23, 2002, 1673 sales.



208



208

- 208 Aureus, Nicomedia 316, 5.32 g. LICINIUS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONS – ERVATORI Jupiter standing l., holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at feet, eagle holding wreath in beak. In exergue, SMN. RIC 11. C 63. Deperot 20/1. Calicó 5112.

Minor marks on obverse, otherwise good very fine

5'000

Constantine I Augustus, 307 – 337



209

- 209 Solidus, Sirmium 320, 4.57 g. **CONSTANTI – NVS P F AVG** Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. **SOLI COMITI AVG N** Sol standing r., presenting Victory on globe to Emperor standing l.; between them, kneeling captive raising both hands towards Emperor; in exergue, **SIRM.** RIC 8 (this coin). C 505. Alföldi 481. Depeyrot 2/5 (this coin). Biaggi 1996 (this coin).

Very rare. Several marks on edge, otherwise extremely fine

6'000

Ex Hess-Leu sale 28, 1965, 526.



210

- 210 Solidus, Ticinum 315, 4.41 g. **CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG** Laureate head r. Rev. **VICTORE AVG N VOTIS** Victory standing r. on cuirass, holding shield inscribed **X / MVL / XX**; in front, trophy with captive on either side; in exergue, **P T.** RIC 40 (this coin). C 577. Depeyrot 13/4 (this coin). Alföldi 538 (this coin). Depeyrot 13/4 (this coin). Biaggi 2006 (this coin).

Very rare. Minor marks on obverse and on edge, otherwise extremely fine

6'000

Constantine II Caesar, 317 – 337



211

- 211 Solidus, Thessalonica 317, 4.45 g. **CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB CAESAR** Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. **VIRTVS EXER – CITVS GALL** Mars, nude but for cloak, advancing r., holding spear in r. hand and trophy in l. over shoulder; on ground on either side, captive. In exergue, **SMTS.** RIC 17. C 263. Depeyrot 8/9 var. (CAES). Jameson 352 (this coin). Biaggi 2093 (this coin).

Very rare. Traces of mounting, otherwise good very fine

3'500

Ex Jameson collection.

Constans Augustus, 337 – 350



- 212 Solidus, Aquileia 337-340, 4.44 g. FL IVL CONS – TANS PF AVG Laureate, rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIAE D N AVG Two Victories standing facing, holding between them a wreath inscribed VOT / V / MVLTVLT / X; in exergue, SIIAQ. RIC 6 var. (SMAQ). C –. Depeyrot 1/4 var (SMAQ). Paolucci-Zub 368 var. (SMAQ). Biaggi 2120 (this coin).

An apparently unrecorded variety of a rare type. Graze on obverse and two marks on edge, otherwise good extremely fine

1'500

Constantius II Caesar, 324 – 337



- 213 Solidus, Siscia 334, 4.30 g. FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB C Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI – IVVE – NTVTIS Prince, in military dress, standing l., holding *vexillum* in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field r., two standards. In exergue, SIS. RIC 227 (this coin). C 165. Depeyrot 22/3. Biaggi 2161 (this coin). Traces of mounting, otherwise good very fine

1'200

Ex Rollin & Feuardent 1887, Ponton d'Amécourt, 726 and Rollin & Feuardent 1896, Montagu, 863 sales.

Valens, 364 – 378



- 214 Solidus, Constantinopolis 367-375, 4.41 g. D N VALENS – P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RESTITVTOR – REI REIPUBLICAE Emperor standing facing, head r., holding *labarum* in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.; in exergue, *CONS. RIC 25b. C 34. Depeyrot 21/2.

Good very fine

600

- 215 1 ½ scripula, Treveri 367-375, 1.65 g. D N VALEN – S P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTORVM Victory advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l.; in exergue, TROB. RIC 21c. C –. Depeyrot 32/4. Very rare. Very fine

600

Gratianus, 367 – 383



- 216 Solidus, Treveri 375-383, 4.44 g. D N GRATIA – NVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors seated facing holding globe between them; above, Victory facing with spread wings; below, a palm-branch. In exergue, TROBS. RIC 39c. C 38. Depeyrot 43/4.

Good very fine

700

Honorius, 393 – 423



- 217 Solidus, Ravenna 404-407/8, 4.50 g. D N HONORI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding standard and Victory on globe, spurning captive with his l. foot; in field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 1287. C 44. LRC 736. Depeyrot 7/1. Extremely fine 750
- 218 Solidus, Ravenna 404-407/8, 4.35 g. D N HONORI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG R – V Emperor standing r., holding standard in r. hand and Victory on globe in l., spurning captive with his l. foot. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 1287. C 44. LRC 736. Depeyrot 7/1. Good very fine 650

Galla Placidia, wife of Constantine III and mother of Valentinian III



- 219 Solidus, Constantinopolis 423-424, 4.32 g. AEL PLACI – DIA AVG Pearl-diademed and draped bust r., wearing necklace and earrings, crowned by the Hand of God. Rev. VOT XX – MVLT XXX Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in upper field l., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 230. C 14. Depeyrot 75/4. LRC 824. MIRB Theodosius II 21a. Vagi 3594. Biaggi 2334 (this coin). Rare. Light scratches in obverse field, otherwise good very fine 4'000

Theodosius II, 402 – 450



- 220 Tremissis, Constantinopolis 402-450, 1.48 g. D N THODO – SIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – RIA AVGVSTORVM Victoria standing facing, holding wreath in r. hand and *globus cruciger* in l.; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 275. LRC 319. Good extremely fine 500
- 221 Solidus, Constantinopolis 424-425, 4.41 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 Emperor standing facing, holding *labarum* in r. hand and globe surmounted by cross in l.; in field l., star. In exergue, TESOB. RIC 363. MIRB 58. LRC 368. Depeyrot 51/1. Good very fine 500

Aelia Pulcheria, sister of Theodosius II, 414 – 453



222



222

- 222 Solidus Constantinopolis 441–450, 4.41 g. AEL PVLCH – ERIA AVG Pearl-diademed, draped bust r., wearing necklace and earrings, crowned by the Hand of God. Rev. IMP XXXXII COS – XVII P P Constantinopolis enthroned l., holding sceptre in r. hand and *globus cruciger* in l., l. foot on prow, shield at her side. In field l., star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 288 (this coin). Depeyrot 84/3. LRC 441 var. MIRB Thodosius 35ba var. Rare. Good very fine 3'000

Ex NFA-Leu sale October 1984, Garrett part II, 367.

Valentinian III, 425 – 455



223



- 223 Solidus, Ravenna 426–430, 4.33 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. RIC 2010. C 19. LRC 841. Depeyrot 17/1. Lacam 9. Good very fine 600



224



- 224 Tremissis 425–455, 1.41 g. D N PLA VALENTINIANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. Cross within wreath with base-ties XIX; below, COMOB. RIC 2060. C 49. Lacam 37. Depeyrot 47/7. Very rare. Very light scratch on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine 500

Leo I, 457 – 474



225



225

- 225 Solidus, Constantinopolis 462–466, 4.40 g. D N LEO PE – RP ET AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Γ Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 605. LRC 518. MIRB 93/1. Depeyrot 93/1. Good very fine 700







