

A U C T I O N

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NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA NAC AG

ZÜRICH - LONDON

AUCTION 38

21st March 2007



A Refined Collection of Roman Coins formed by a Connoisseur of Portraiture

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TIME TABLE ZEITTAFEL ORDRE DE VENTE ORDINE DI VENDITA

Wednesday, 21st March 2007 11.30 – 13.30 hrs 1 – 304

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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

Foreword

Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, in the course of its activity, has had the chance to offer several important collections of Roman coins, but the one presented here has a peculiarity of its own: the collector has not confined himself to a sheer research of "names", but has tried to put together a gallery of portraits of the highest artistic quality. Every specimen has been chosen with the utmost care; moreover the collector, rather than buying a highly graded coin of poor style, has preferred to wait many years to find a specimen where the high quality would match the finest style. Most of the coins are of prestigious provenance, among which we would like to cite: Ponton d'Amécourt, Montagu, Evans, Jameson, Weber, Bement, Caruso, Ryan, Platt Hall, J.P. Morgan, Mazzini, Magnaguti, E.S.R., Biaggi, Metropolitan Museum, Hunt, Moretti.

Roman iconography indeed reaches its zenith in numismatics. The artists called to engrave the dies were of the greatest skill and their work was often vetted by the emperor himself. Coins surely often served as the only models for statues or busts of the ruler scattered throughout the far corners of the realm.

The pace of change in Roman art was both fast and unceasing, a feature of quickly expanding societies. When the Romans came across certain religious and cultural novelties, frequently these were incorporated into their own cultural heritage.

The first Roman portraits from Julius Caesar to Octavian display a great sense of realism; the effigy is faithful, almost ruthless, as we can see with the first lot of the auction (Julius Caesar denarius). This appearance rapidly changes with Augustus, as the fantastic aureus (lot 2) shows. The art expressed with this extraordinary coin, perhaps the most beautiful Roman aureus we have ever handled, attains the climax of Hellenism. Octavian, purportedly not a beauty, as his early Imperial portraits show, is here portrayed with the handsomeness of a Greek god: it is the miracle of Hellenism that has swiftly conquered Rome. This coin, the work of an extremely skilled Greek artist, converts the features of the frail Octavian into those of Augustus Imperator, conqueror of the world.

Almost every other coin of this collection deserves praise, but considering the extent of the group it is impossible to mention all of them in detail in the foreword. The Julio-Claudian dynasty is represented with an astounding variety of portraits, single and in pairs. Similarly worthy of recognition are the three aurei of the civil wars, as they are not only exceptional in condition, but also their portraits are among the finest struck in gold for those emperors at the mint of Rome. Complete is the series of the Flavii, with the exceptional aureus of Divus Vespasianus and Diva Domitilla. The adoptive emperors and the Antonini are unrivalled, with some gems like the aureus of Commodus as Herculi Romano, as well as the Severi. The decadence of Rome is also apparent from its coinage, but our collector has been able to find, in a period of artistic decay, specimens still capable of realistic likeness.

Above all, we would like to mention the bronze of Nepotian, whose portrait is, we dare say, true to life if compared to the stylistic stiffness of the Constantinian era, but is still capable of producing coins like the aurei of Licinius I and II (lots nn. 228-229), and the hieratic beauty of the solidus of Licinia Eudoxia.

One needs a different approach for the gallery of portraits of the Augustae; of absolutely remarkable quality and almost complete, a collection within the collection. During the production of this catalogue, we had briefly considered setting apart the female series from the rest of the collection and making a comparative study of the hairstyle of Roman ladies but on balance, it was decided not to disrupt the integrity of the whole.

For many years the collector has rejoiced in searching throughout the numismatic world for those coins that would satisfy his refined taste, achieving a result which will be for ever remembered. We sincerely hope that these coins will pass to passionate and knowledgeable collectors, who will share the same joy.

A Refined Collection of Roman Coins formed by a Connoisseur of Portraiture

The Roman Republic



1

- 1 **Julius Caesar.** Denarius Roma 44 BC, AR 3.76 g. CAESAR IMP Laureate head r.; behind, *lituus* over *culullus*. Rev. M·METTIVS Venus standing l., holding Victory in r. hand and sceptre in l. and resting l. elbow on shield; in field l., G. FFC 25. Crawford 480/3. Babelon Iulia 32 and Mettia 4. Kraay, NC 1954, pl. III, 4. Alföldi, ANS Cent. Public., pl. I, 9. Alföldi, Caesar, pl. XII, 26 (this coin).

Rare. A superb portrait struck on a broad flan with an appealing old cabinet tone,
good extremely fine

12'000

Ex Naville XI, 1925, Lewis collection, 157 and Leu 10, 1974, 8 sales.

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

The peculiarity of the Roman monetary portraiture of this period lies in the absolutely realistic reproduction of the likeness of the personality portrayed. Julius Caesar is one of the first, if not the first, Roman who, while living, had himself immortalized on coins (excluding T. Quinctius Flaminius).

The coins with the effigy of Julius Caesar alive are of easy and certain dating. Even though done by several artists, they show with different personal styles a faithful image of the general.

On the specimen here offered, work of a highly talented engraver, preserved to perfection and well struck, are evident the folds of the neck that obliquely cover the sternocleidomastoid muscle, falling in parallel lines, and a vertical wrinkledness that clearly underlines the laryngo-thyroidal lump; moreover, an accentuation of the orbicular musculature of the mouth, matched by the prominence of the zygomatic arch.

These observations are due to Sergio Macchi, a well-known and skilled doctor from Lugano, scholar of coins of the Roman Republic, who in an interesting article privately published but deserving to be brought out again in a widely-circulated numismatic review, starting from the monetary portrayals of Caesar, also supported with a new and more convincing interpretation of the historical sources, has come to the conclusion that the leader, at the time of the mintage of the coins, was suffering from a terminal abdominal tumour. This fascinating and intriguing hypothesis casts a new light upon those tormented times and the coin we offer here is one of the most palpable evidence.

The Roman Empire

The mint is Roma unless otherwise stated

Augustus, 27 BC – 14 AD



- 2 Aureus, uncertain mint after 27 BC, AV 7.98 g. CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. AVGVSTVS Heifer, with head lowered, advancing l. RIC 538. BMC 659. C 26. CBN 1008 (this obverse die). Bahrfeldt 137 and pl. XII, 2 (this obverse die). Calicó 168 (this obverse die). Cf. Kent-Hirmer 127.
Excessively rare, the finest of very few specimens known. A spectacular portrait of the finest style struck on a very broad flan. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 150'000

Ex Hess-Leu sale 17, 1961, Sammlung ESR, 33. From the A. Moretti collection.

In terms of art, there are few Roman coins that can compare with this famous issue, on which the portrait of Augustus is the equal of any masterpiece of the Hellenistic Age. But its beauty is not at the expense of accuracy, for if we rely upon marble busts and the early coinage of Augustus, the image is true: a compact mouth and chin, a long nose, high cheeks and a broad forehead.

The portrait has much in common with the best-style *Aegypto Capta* issues struck for Augustus in the East c. 28-27 B.C. Furthermore, both this issue of aurei and the *Aegypto Capta* issues come in two distinct styles – one of especially good art, with a capricorn beneath the bust, and another of more pedestrian style without the capricorn.

The reverse type is of historical interest, for it reflects Augustus' well-attested interest in Greek antiquities. Like most of the senatorial aristocracy of Rome, Augustus had a keen interest in Greek culture, and after Actium he requisitioned from Athens four massive statues of cattle created by the sculptor Myron in the fifth century B.C. According to Sextus Propertius, Augustus used the statues to decorate an altar within his Temple of Apollo on the Palatine: "...round the altar, stood four of Myron's cattle, carved statues of oxen, true to life." (*The Love Elegies*, Book II:31).

Hill reports that Augustus dedicated the temple in 28 B.C., and since the cow on this aureus is of such individual character, and there seems no other explanation for the type, we should not doubt this coin depicts one of Myron's cows. Further, a cow of the same posture appears on coins of Vespasian struck in 74 and 76; since Vespasian used Myron's cows to decorate his new Temple of Pax, completed in 74, we find a good explanation for his recycling of the Augustan type. They remained there for a great length of time, for they are described by Procopius as being at that location in the sixth century.

Precisely when and where this aureus was struck is still a matter of debate, for the inscriptions and types are of no help in that respect. Authorities seem to agree it was produced at a mint in the East, perhaps at Pergamum or Ephesus. However, views on the date diverge greatly: Sutherland describes it in general terms as being struck after 27 B.C., Mattingly suggests 27-20 B.C., Kent places it in about 25 B.C., Hill in 20 B.C., and Calicó later still, between 19 and 15 B.C.



3

- 3 Denarius, Samos 21-20 BC, AR 3.62 g. CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. AVGVSTVS Bull standing r. RIC 475. BMC 663. C 28. CBN 943. Smoothed field, otherwise extremely fine 500



4

- 4 Denarius, Caesaraugusta 19-18 BC, AR 3.63 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Oak-wreathed head l. Rev. DIVVS – IVLIVS Eight-rayed comet with tail upwards. RIC 37b. BMC 326. C 97. CBN 1302. Superb old cabinet tone and good extremely fine 2'000

Ex Leu sale 33, 1983, 11



5

- 5 Denarius, Lugdunum 15-13 BC, AR 3.63 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI F Bare head r. Rev. Bull butting r.; in exergue, IMP·X. RIC 167a. BMC 451. C 137. CBN 1378. Marks on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine 600



6

- 6 Aureus, Lugdunum 11-10 BC, AV 7.85 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI F Laureate head r. Rev. IMP – XII Apollo Citharedus, in long drapery, standing r., holding plectrum in extended r. hand and lyre in l.; in exergue, ACT. RIC 192a (omits ACT). BMC 481. C 162. CBN 1443. Bahrfeldt 215. Calicó 229.

Very rare. Well-struck in high relief and with an insignificant mark on reverse field, otherwise extremely fine

15'000



7

- 7 Denarius, Lugdunum 8 BC, AR 3.80 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI F Laureate head l. Rev. Augustus, togate, seated l. on stool on platform, extending r. hand to infant held out by cloaked male figure; in exergue, IMP XIII. RIC 201b. BMC 494 var. (head r.). C 176. CBN 1456 (these dies).

Very rare. Toned and a light scratch on reverse, otherwise good very fine

1'200

Ex Sternberg sale XIII, 1983, 557.



8



8



- 8 Dupondius, (?), Cyprus (Paphos ?) 1 AD, Æ 15.79 g. IMP AVGVST – TR POT Laureate head r. Rev. AVGVST in laurel wreath. FITA p. 106, note 6 (this coin). Gneecchi, RIN XI 1898, p. 166 and pl. 3, 2 (this coin). Amandry 4. Howgego, NC 1982, p. 14, 6A and pl. V, 6 (this coin). RPC 3914 (this coin illustrated).
Of the highest rarity, only the second specimen known.
Brown-green patina and extremely fine 9'000

Ex Merzbacher 2.1.1909, 1130; Hamburger 19.10.1925, 516; Glendining 1950, Platt Hall part I, 851 and Aretusa 3, 1994, 245 sales.

In the name of Livia, wife of Augustus or Livilla, wife of Drusus



9



9



- 9 Dupondius 22-23 AD, Æ 14.13 g. PIETAS Veiled and diademed bust of Pietas or Livilla r. Rev. DRVSVS CAESAR TI AVGVSTI F TR POT ITER round S C. RIC Tiberius 43. BMC Tiberius 98. C 1. CBN Tiberius 74. Kraay-Hirmer 158. A gentle portrait and a delightful green patina, extremely fine 15'000

Ex CNG sale XXI, 1992, 305 (illustrated on the cover page).

This dupondius belongs to a series of nine *aera* issued by Tiberius in 22/23 in his name, and that of his son and heir Drusus. The series is meant to introduce a new dynastic arrangement and to celebrate some of Tiberius' proudest achievements. It has three dupondii – including this Pietas type – each of which bears a portrait of a woman that traditionally has been described as Livia or merely as the personification named in the accompanying inscription.

The bust on this coin does not seem to be Livia or Pietas, but Drusus' wife Livilla. It was first described as such in the 1880 *Numismatic Chronicle* by A. Colson. Since his new identification was not published in time for Cohen to consider it for the second edition of his eight-volume catalogue on Roman coins, Colson's epiphany had little effect on researchers who compiled the standard works of the twentieth century.

The confusion on the identification of the portrait may be attributed to the great influence of Cohen's catalogue, in which he attributed to Livia all three portraits on the dupondii in the dated *aes* of 22/23. In reality, only one of them – the SALVS AVGVSTA dupondius – portrays Livia. Of the remaining two, the Pietas bust represents Livilla, and Justitia is the personification herself, as the type reflects the justice Tiberius achieved in court against Piso, who was said to have murdered Tiberius' first heir Germanicus.

There is much evidence to support the identification of the Pietas bust as Livilla, which has been gathered for a forthcoming monograph. Foremost is the fact that the coin is the centerpiece of the only three imperial coins issued in the name of Drusus during his lifetime: an *as* bearing his portrait, this dupondius with the portrait of his wife Livilla, and a sestertius showing cornucopias topped with the heads of their twin boys Tiberius Gemellus and Germanicus Gemellus. The three coins represent a 'family set' of coinage organized in descending denominational order, which celebrates the relatives that Tiberius intended to succeed himself and his mother Livia.

Though Tiberius must have issued these coins with great satisfaction, his joy vanished when Drusus died soon thereafter. Nearly a decade would pass before Tiberius learned his son had been poisoned by Livilla, who was in league with the prefect Sejanus, to target not only Drusus, but Tiberius himself.

Tiberius, 14 – 37



- 10 Aureus, Lugdunum 14-37, AV 7.84 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – MAXIM Pax-Livia figure seated r., holding sceptre in r. hand and branch in l. RIC 29. BMC 46. C 15. CBN 27. Vagi 437. Calicó 305c.

An unusual and superb portrait well struck in high relief. Almost Fdc 14'000

Ex Leu sale 13, 1975, 392.

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 is a seated female holding a sceptre and branch – certainly must be Pax if it is meant to represent a deity or personification, as her attributes meet that requirement perfectly. More importantly: does Pax represent Livia? For the answer we might look at later coinage that might have been designed with an eye to the past. Galba provides ideal evidence, as he honoured his old friend and patroness Livia (then diva) to help legitimise his own principate. The fact that Galba struck aurei and denarii with the deified Livia standing and the accompanying inscription DIVA AVGVSTA is enough to establish the connection. However, to learn more about the seated Pax type of Augustus and Tiberius, we must look to Galba's sestertii. There we find a type with an identical seated Pax with the inscription AVGVSTA in the exergue. Kraay (Aes Coinage of Galba, NNM 133, p. 58) rightly showed no hesitation in identifying the seated figure as Livia – not even as Pax-Livia. The combination of Galba's explicitly labeled aurei and denarii, and his remarkable sestertii, 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.



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

A lovely portrait. Scuff on the wreath and light marks on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

4'500

Ex NFA sale 30, 1982, 209.



- 12 Denarius, Lugdunum 14-37, AR 3.73 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – MAXIM Pax-Livia figure seated r., holding sceptre in r. hand and branch in l. RIC 26. BMC 34. C 16. CBN 16.

Struck on an exceptionally large flan and nicely toned, about extremely fine / extremely fine

700

In the name of Nero Claudius Drusus, father of Claudius



- 13 Aureus 41-45, AV 7.80 g. NERO CLAVDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP Laureate head l. Rev. Triumphal arch surmounted by equestrian statue between two trophies, DE GERMANIS on architrave. RIC Claudius 71. BMC Claudius 100. C 3. CBN Claudius 4. Von Kaenel 310 (these dies) Calicó 316. Kent-Hirmer 176. Very rare. A very attractive portrait of superb style. A few minor marks, otherwise good extremely fine 24'000

Ex Leu sale 52, 1991, 164.

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

In the name of Antonia, mother of Claudius



- 14 Aureus 41-45, AV 7.85 g. ANTONIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., wearing crown of corn-ears. Rev. SACERDOS – DIVI – AVGVSTI Two long torches alighted and linked by ribbon. RIC Claudius 67. BMC Claudius 112. C 4. CBN Claudius 15. Vagi 500. Calicó 319a. von Kaenel 350 (this coin). Jameson vol. II, 37 (this coin). Mazzini 4 (this coin).

Very rare. Area of weakness on obverse, otherwise extremely fine / good extremely fine 15'000

Ex Sotheby's, Wilkinson & Hodge, 29.6.1983, Astronomer, 17 and NFA XXII, 1989, 34 sales. From the Hermann Weber, Jameson, Mazzini and A. Moretti collections.

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

In the name of Agrippina, mother of Gaius



15

- 15 Sestertius 50-54, Æ 30.42 g. AGRIPPINA M F GERMANICI CAESARIS Draped bust r.; hair in long plait. Rev. TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR P IMP P P round S C. RIC Claudius 102. BMC Claudius 219. C 3. CBN Claudius 236.

Lightly tooled brown patina and a corrosion on neck, otherwise good very fine

2'000

Gaius, 37 – 41



16

- 16 Aureus, Lugdunum 37-38, AV 7.90 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR POT COS Bare head of Gaius r. Rev. Radiate head of Augustus (or Tiberius) r., between two stars. RIC 1. BMC 1. C 10. CBN 1. Kent-Hirmer 165. Calicó 336. Extremely rare. Two attractive portraits and a few minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine

30'000

Ex Leu sale 18, 1977, 293.

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



17

- 17 Denarius, Lugdunum 37-38, AR 3.77 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR POT COS Bare head of Gaius r. Rev. Radiate head of Augustus (or Tiberius) r., between two stars. RIC 2. BMC 4. C 11. CBN 3.

Very rare and among the finest specimens known. Two enchanting portraits struck on sound metal and a delightful iridescent tone, good extremely fine

15'000

Ex NFA XXX, 1992, 214 and Tkalec 1991, 255 sales.



- 18 Aureus 37-38, AV 7.66 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM PM TR POT Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. AGRIPPINA MAT C CAES AVG GERM Draped bust of Agrippina r. RIC 13. BMC 14. C 1. CBN 22. Kent-Hirmer 166. Calicó 326a (this coin). Biaggi 194 (this coin).

Extremely rare. Two fantastic portraits of great beauty, especially the one of Agrippina is unusually nice. A scuff and a scratch on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

26'000

Ex Naville III, 1922, Evans, 26 and Glendining, 1950, Platt Hall, 1005 sales.

When Caligula became emperor he did so as the lone-surviving male of the lines of Augustus and Germanicus; though his three sisters were still alive, he had lost both parents and both brothers during the reign of Tiberius. His father had died under mysterious circumstances and the rest fell during the family's contest for power against Tiberius and his prefect Sejanus.

Since Caligula's claim to power rested upon his membership in the Julio-Claudian family, early in his reign he tried to curry favour by taking a journey to the islands of Potnia and Pandateria to gather the ashes of his mother Agrippina and his eldest brother Nero Caesar. (His brother Drusus Caesar died of starvation in prison, and none of his remains survived.) The seas were stormy, and the perilous nature of his journey only amplified the appearance of Caligula's devotion to the memory of his family.

As part of this programme of honouring his ill-fated relatives, Caligula issued this aureus with the portrait of his mother, who for the decade after Germanicus' death had been Tiberius' greatest critic, and his most persistent opponent. On this aureus her facial features are similar to those of Caligula – a feature that seems to combine family resemblance and a programmatic desire to show the kinship between the new emperor and his mother.



- 19 Aureus 40, AV 7.79 g. C CAESAR AVG PON M TR POT III COS III Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. GERMANICVS CAES P C CAES AVG GERM Bare head of Germanicus r. RIC 25. BMC 26. C 6. CBN -. Calicó 324. Extremely rare and in superb condition for the issue. Extremely fine 60'000

When Caligula became emperor in 37, many were overjoyed that the seemingly endless age of Tiberius had ended. He had been replaced by a young and promising emperor – the only surviving son of Germanicus, the martyred hero of the Rhine legions. But such optimism, which Philo cheerfully described as the return of the 'golden age', was misplaced: not only did Caligula lack any experience in government or military, but he suffered increasingly from what can only be described as insanity.

Despite his instability, Caligula was intelligent, and he recognized the weakness of his qualifications. Thus, he played his strongest hand by celebrating his illustrious ancestors. Initially he issued coins honouring his great grandfather the divine Augustus, and his great uncle the late emperor Tiberius. He followed with coins honouring his mother and father, both of whom perished during the troubled reign of Tiberius.

It is in this light we should see this aureus honouring Germanicus, and the one portraying his mother Agrippina (see previous lot). His relationship to his parents is made clear in the coin inscriptions with the abbreviations P C CAES (*Pater Caii Caesaris*) and MAT C CAES (*Mater Caii Caesaris*), respectively the father and mother of Caligula. For Caligula this was not only an overdue celebration of his martyred parents, but an essential political move that played to his only obvious strength – his illustrious pedigree.

Germanicus was extensively honoured on coinage by his relatives in the imperial family. During his lifetime provincial coins were struck in his name by his uncle Tiberius, and after his death he was honoured by his son Caligula and his brother Claudius with a full range of imperial gold, silver, orichalcum and copper coins, as well as silver and base metal coins in the provinces. To these we may add his inclusion more than six decades after his death in the 'restoration' coins of Titus and Domitian.

Claudius, 41 – 54



- 20 Aureus 41-42, AV 7.74 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P Laureate head r. Rev. CONSTANTIAE AVGVSTI Ceres seated l. on curule chair, raising r. hand. RIC 2. BMC 1. C 4. CBN 19. Calicó 339 (this reverse die). Von Kaenel 94 (this coin). Biaggi 198 (this coin).

Rare. A bold portrait struck on an exceptionally broad flan, extremely fine 15'000

Ex Sotheby's, Wilkinson & Hodge 10.6.1895, Bunbury collection, 5; Rollin & Feuadent, J. Evans collection, May 1909, 32 and Hess-Leu 17, ESR Sammlung, 68 sales.



- 21 Bronze, Crete (Koinon) 41-43, 7.15 g. TI ΚΛΑΥΔΙΟΣ ΚΑΙΣΑΡ ΓΕΡΜΑ ΣΕΒΑ Bare head of Claudius I. Rev. ΟΥΑΛΕΡΙΑ ΜΕΣΣΑΛΕΙΝΑ Draped bust of Messalina r. BMC Crete 9. Svoronos Crete 25 and pl. XXX, 14. Mc Clean 7219. RPC 1032. Very rare. Dark green patina and good very fine 4'500

Ex Naville-Ars Classica 11, 1925, Levis, 357; Naville-Ars Classica 17, 1934, 1262; Glendining 1969, 40 and Leu 30, 1982, 304 sales.

It is hard to imagine two people less suited for marriage to each other than the emperor Claudius and his third wife Valeria Messalina. When they married in 39, Claudius was nearly 50 years old, and though of the Julio-Claudian family, he was not seriously considered a candidate for the throne. His academic, conservative ways, and his continual suffering from the impairments of childhood diseases must have contrasted sharply with his new bride Messalina, who was about 14 years old, vain and promiscuous. Though ambitious, she was completely unprepared for the role she would soon assume as empress of the Roman world.

Less than a decade into their union, after she had borne Claudius the children Britannicus and Claudia Octavia, her outrageous personal behaviour began to exceed all tolerance. She sealed her own fate when she married the consul-designate Gaius Silius, despite already being married to the emperor, holding the title of Augusta, and even being the head Vestal. Predictably, Claudius did not react well, and both Messalina and Silius perished in the aftermath.

No imperial coins were struck for Messalina, though she appears on a few provincial coins, such as this Cretan bronze, which bears an uncommonly fine portrait.



- 22 Aureus 49-50, AV 7.76 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P VIII IMP XVI Laureate head r. Rev. PACI AVGVSTAE Pax-Nemesis, winged, advancing r., spitting into *peplos* and holding caduceus pointed towards serpent moving r. RIC 46. BMC 51. C 60. CBN 61. Vagi 583. Von Kaenel 778 (these dies). Calicó 369 (this coin). Light scratches on reverse, extremely fine / about extremely fine 9'000



- 23 Aureus 50-54, AV 7.76 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 76. Vagi 655. Kent-Hirmer 179. Calicó 396f (this coin).
Rare. Minor marks and a nick on edge at seven o'clock on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine 15'000

Ex Naville II, 1922, Vautier, 303; Sotheby's 1988, 857; Stack's November 1990, Whitney, 23 and Stack's December 1996, Michael F. Price, 127 sales. From the Laughling and Tilmann collections.

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



- 24 Denarius 50-54, AR 3.69 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 81. BMC 75. C 4. CBN 82.
Toned. Minor porosity on obverse, otherwise very fine / about extremely fine 3'000



- 25 Denarius 50-54, AR 3.69 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 81. BMC 75. C 4. CBN 82.
Old cabinet tone, area of weakness on obverse, otherwise good very fine 2'500

Ex Leu sale 52, 1991, 168.

Nero Caesar, 50 – 54



26



26

- 26 Denarius 50-54, AR 3.61 g. NERONI CLAVDIO DRVSO GERM COS DESIGN Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. EQVESTER / OR – DO / PRINCIPI / IVVENT on shield with vertical spear. RIC Claudius 79. BMC Claudius 93. C 97. CBN Claudius 96.

Very rare and in unusually good condition for the issue.

Nicely toned and about extremely fine

5'500

Ex Numismatic Auction 1, December 1982, 298.

Nero Augustus, 54 – 68



27



- 27 Denarius 55, AR 3.65 g. NERO CLAVD DIVI F CAES AVG GERM IMP TR P COS Jugate busts r. of Nero, bare-headed and with drapery at back of neck, and of Agrippina II, bare-headed and draped. Rev. AGRIPP AVG DIVI CLAVD NERONIS CAES MATER Quadriga of elephants l., bearing two chairs holding Divus Claudius, radiate r., holding eagle-tipped sceptre and Divus Augustus, radiate r., holding patera and sceptre; in field l., EX S C. RIC 7. BMC 8. C 4. CBN 13.

Very rare and among the finest specimens know. Two finely engraved portraits struck in high relief with an old cabinet tone, good extremely fine / extremely fine

16'000

Ex NFA sale XXV, 1990, 356.

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



28



28

- 28 Denarius 60-61, AR 3.80 g. NERO CAESAR · AVG · IMP Bare head r. Rev. PONTIF MAX TR P VII COS IIII P P around oak-wreath enclosing EX S C. RIC 22. BMC 24. C 216. CBN 30.

In exceptional condition for the issue. Well-struck in high relief with a superb tone, good extremely fine

5'000

Ex NFA sale XXV, 1990, 350.



29

- 29 Drachm, Antioch circa 62-63, AR 3.34 g. ΝΕΡΩΝ ΚΑΙΣΑΡ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ Laureate head r. Rev. ΠΟΠΠΑΙΑ ΝΕΡΩΝΟΣ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΥ Draped bust of Poppea r. C 1 var. Wruck 49. RPC 4187 (this reverse die). Very rare. Surface somewhat porous, otherwise very fine 2'500

Ex Leu sale 53, 1991, 211.



30

30

- 30 Aureus 64-65, AV 7.28 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IVPPITER – CVSTOS Jupiter, bare to waist, seated l. on throne, holding sceptre in l. hand and thunderbolt in r. RIC 52. BMC 67. C 118. CBN 213. Calicó 412.

Slightly off-centre. Otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

10'000

Ex Leu sale 7, 1973, 348.



31

- 31 Denarius 64-65, AR 3.10 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. Roma seated l. on cuirass, holding Victory in r. hand and *parazonium* in l.; in exergue, ROMA. RIC 55. BMC 83. C 258. CBN 224.

A bold portrait with a very appealing tone. Extremely fine

3'500



32

- 32 Sestertius 66, Æ 22.71 g. IMP NERO CLAVD CAESAR AVG GER P M TR P P P Laureate head r., with aegis. Rev. S – C Roma seated l. on cuirass, holding Victory in r. hand and *parazonium* in l.; in exergue, ROMA. RIC 329. BMC 181. C 270. CBN 417 var. (head l.).

Green patina and good very fine / very fine

1'200

Galba, 68 – 69



- 33 Aureus July 68 – January 69, AV 7.34 g. IMP SER GALBA – CAESAR AVG Laureate head r. Rev. DIVA – AVGVSTA Livia, draped, standing l., holding patera in extended r. hand and vertical sceptre in l. RIC 184. BMC 4. C 54. CBN 82 var. (draped bust). Calicó 473 (this coin). Kent-Hirmer pl. 59, 207. Jameson III 436 (this coin). Biaggi 254 (this coin).
Very rare. A bold and realistic portrait in the finest style of the period. Good extremely fine 70'000

Ex Naville 3, 1922, Evans, 33 and Leu 22, 1979, 217 sales.

Almost more remarkable than Galba's legacy as an emperor for seven months in 68 and 69 is the life he enjoyed before he claimed the purple. He was among the wealthiest men in the empire, and is said not to have travelled anywhere, not even on a casual afternoon ride, with less than ten thousand gold pieces. Being so wealthy and belonging to a noble family, the *Suplicii*, it is not surprising that he held many important posts in Rome and in the provinces, and was a personal acquaintance of the Julio-Claudians.

Galba began his association with the Julio-Claudians with a pinch on the cheek from Augustus when he was a child, and thereafter he was a personal acquaintance of the emperors from Tiberius onward to Nero, whom he overthrew in 68. Agrippina Junior apparently was infatuated with him, and he enjoyed especially close friendships with Claudius and Livia. Suetonius tells us Livia made Galba her principal heir, leaving him 500,000 aurei, but that Tiberius nullified her bequest on a technicality, reducing the amount to only 5,000.

The reverse of this aureus depicts the standing figure of Livia, who had been deified since the accession of her grandson Claudius in 41. The point is clear: Galba advertises his famous attachment to the early Julio-Claudians, and specifically to the first empress Livia. In doing so he offers proof of his fitness to wear the purple as the first non-Julio-Claudian to claim that honour. It was an appropriate message in this age of chaos and civil war, when faith in the more recent Julio-Claudians had been justifiably shaken, and Galba proposed a return to the *severitas* of a bygone era.



- 34 Denarius July 68 – January 69, AR 3.43 g. IMP SER GALBA AVG Bare head r. Rev. SPQR / OB / C S in oak-wreath. RIC 170. BMC 34. C 287 var. CBN 77.
Attractively toned and good extremely fine 4'500

Otho, 15th January – April 69



- 35 Aureus, 15th January – April 69, AV 7.44 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. PAX ORB – IS TERRARVM Pax, dressed, standing l., holding branch in r. hand and caduceus in l. RIC 3. BMC 1. C 2. CBN 2. Calicó 524. An attractive portrait perfectly struck in high relief with a delightful reddish tone. Good extremely fine 80'000

Ex Sotheby's sale November 1972, Metropolitan Museum, 49. From the Boscoreale hoard.

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 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.



- 36 Denarius, January – April 69, AR 3.43 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. SECVRITAS P R Securitas standing l., holding wreath in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 8. BMC 18. C 17. CBN 10. Nicely toned and extremely fine 4'500

Vitellius, April – December 69



37



- 37 Aureus April – December 69, AV 7.44 g. A VITELLIVS GERMAN IMP TR P Laureate head r. Rev. S P Q R / OB / C S in oak wreath. RIC 82. BMC 14. C 85. CBN 42. Calicó 574 (this coin). Biaggi 283 (this coin). Very rare and one of the finest aurei of Vitellius in existence. A marvellous portrait with an appealing reddish tone. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 90'000

Ex Hirsch 30, 1911, 923; Glendining 1951, Ryan, 1676 and Leu 22, 1979, 221 sales. From the Boscoreale hoard.

The quality of the portraits on aurei of Vitellius varies greatly, from virtual caricatures to the shrewdly realistic, and this one ranks among the finest. Many of this artist's contemporaries succumbed to the temptation to portray Vitellius as so obese as to be virtually featureless. That criticism cannot be levelled against the master who engraved this portrait: hardly a more pleasing image could have been created of this complex, if less-than-admirable personality of Rome's civil war.

The 'civic crown' that appears on the reverse had been traditionally presented to Romans who in battle saved the life of another citizen, though it could also be awarded for saving a life under other circumstances, or for saving the state. It was one of the greatest public honours, and recipients received wide ranging perks from the practical to the honorary, such as having spectators rise when they entered a public theatre. The crown was awarded to Augustus in 27 B.C. as a reflection of his restoration of peace in the realm, which, by logical extension saved the lives of many Romans and preserved the state. This coin type became standard among the emperors, even if they had not personally earned the *corona civica*; indeed, the bestowal of the oak wreath probably had become a standard part of the accession honours by the reign of Claudius.



38



38

- 38 Denarius April – December 69, AR 3.13 g. A VITELLIVS GERM IMP AVG TR P Laureate head r. Rev. XV VIR – SACR AVG Tripod-lebes with dolphin lying r. on top and raven standing r. below. RIC 109. BMC 39. C 111. CBN 77.

A strong portrait and a very attractive tone. Good extremely fine / extremely fine

5'000

Ex M&M 38, 1968, Voirol, 384 and Sternberg 2, 1974, 52 sales.

Vespasian, 69 – 79



39



39

- 39 Denarius 73, AR 3.47 g. IMP CAES VESP AVG P M COS IIII CEN Laureate head r. Rev. SALVS – AVG Salus seated l., holding patera in extended r. hand. RIC 58. BMC 87. C 432 var. (CENS). CBN 76. Toned. Minor weakness on reverse, extremely fine 500



- 40 Aureus 79, AV 7.27 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head l. Rev. TR – POT X – COS VIII Capricorn standing l.; below, globe. RIC 117. BMC 252. C 555. CBN 217 (these dies). Calicó 685 (this coin). An outstanding portrait of great strength. Virtually as struck and Fdc 26'000

Ex Leu sale 13, 1975, 418.

This aureus was struck in the final year of Vespasian's life, when he was especially inventive with his coinage. He introduced a dozen new reverse types, using five for himself, four for Domitian and three for Titus. Some of these designs were recycled from familiar Republican and Augustan issues and from bronzes of the recent emperors Galba and Vitellius. This particular type had been used by Augustus on coins struck in his eleventh imperatorship.

It has long been recognized that Vespasian tended to recycle designs of earlier emperors. One must ask: why would Vespasian re-use old types rather than prepare new ones that might be of current value to his regime as propaganda? Faced with this dilemma, Laffranchi saw Vespasian's precious metal coinage, in general, as a celebration of the centennial of the Battle of Actium; Mattingly suggested it was evidence of a restoration effort, even if the inscription *restituit* was not used. Buttrey pointed out the flaws in those two views, and suggested the "antiquarian attitude in the Flavian mint" is best explained as a reflection of Vespasian's sentimental nature and his lack of family nobility, which, of course, had been a favourite theme of earlier emperors. But most inventively, Buttrey suggested that if Vespasian had served the office of *triumvir monetalis* earlier in his career, he may have acquired a personal interest in 'antique' Roman coins while he performed the duties of that post. If so, Vespasian may have paid particularly close attention to his own coinage upon becoming emperor, which could explain such a profusion of antique types.



- 41 *Divus Vespasianus and Diva Domitilla*. Aureus circa 81-84, AV 7.70 g. DIVVS AVGVSTVS VESPASIANVS Radiate head of Vespasian r. Rev. DIVA DOMITILLA AVGVSTA Draped bust of Domitilla r. RIC Titus 69. BMC Domitian 68. C 1 (1000 fr.). CBN Domitian 73. Calicó 720 (this coin). Mazzini 1 (this coin). Jameson II 60 (this coin). Biaggi 359 (this coin).

Of the highest rarity, the finest of less than half a dozen specimens known. Two appealing portraits well-centred on a very broad flan. About extremely fine 200'000

Ex Rollin & Feuadent 1896, Montagu, 202; Rollin & Feuadent 1909, Evans, 65 and Leu 22, 1979, 233 sales. From the Jameson and Mazzini collections.

The identification of the deified lady on the reverse of this coin has long been a matter of debate because Vespasian's wife, daughter and granddaughter were all named Flavia Domitilla. Though the granddaughter survived well beyond the period of this coinage (and thus cannot be a candidate), Vespasian's wife and daughter are potential candidates, as both died before he came to power in 69.

Studies of the metrology and iconography of this coinage conducted after the publication of the major sources of the 20th Century shows that all of the portrait aurei and denarii in the name of Diva Domitilla were struck by Domitian soon after his monetary reform of 82. Since we know from other evidence that Domitian deified his sister, we can safely rule out Vespasian's wife as a candidate for these portrait coins, for there is no evidence she was deified.

The other coins struck in the name of a Domitilla are the *carpentum* sestertii produced by Titus in 80-81. These coins now are generally attributed to Vespasian's wife on the strength that the coins' inscriptions do not state that this Domitilla was deified. This alone, however, does not rule out Vespasian's daughter, for she was not yet deified when those sestertii were struck. In fact, the strongest reason to attribute the sestertii to Vespasian's wife is a parallel offered by Tiberius' dated *aes*

of 22/23, a series to which we know the Flavians paid particular attention in their restoration coinages. In the *aes* of 22/23 Tiberius honoured his adoptive father Augustus with sestertii that showed him seated, and his mother Livia with a *carpentum* sestertius. The same can be observed with Titus, who issued sestertii depicting Vespasian seated in the fashion of Augustus and also issued *carpentum* sestertii in the name of Domitilla. It would make sense that Titus' sestertii would represent his mother and father, following the same pattern of Tiberius, who identically honoured his parents.

Titus Caesar, 69 – 79



42

- 42 Denarius 76, AR 3.01 g. T CAESAR IMP VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS – V Eagle standing on cippus, head l. RIC Vespasian 191b. BMC Vespasian 192. C 60 var. (head l.). CBN Vespasian 168. Iridescent tone and extremely fine 800



43

- 43 Aureus 79, AV 7.35 g. T CAESAR IMP VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. TR POT VIII – COS VII Venus standing r., leaning on cippus, holding helmet in extended r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC Vespasian 205. BMC Vespasian 255 note. C 331. CBN -, cf. Vespasian 223 (denarius). Calicó 790. An exceptionally detailed portrait, one of the finest aurei of Titus in existence. Virtually as struck and Fdc 26'000

Ex Leu sale 10, 1974, 110.

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

The reverse of this aureus, depicting Venus Victrix ('the victorious Venus'), is one of many designs the Flavians copied from Augustan coinage (see lot 40 for a discussion). The original type appeared on a denarius Octavian struck in preparation for his contest with Marc Antony at Actium. In its original context the figure of Venus would not only reflect the claim laid by the Julian family that it was descended from the goddess, but it would also speak to the goddess' role as a bringer of victory. The image on the Augustan denarius and the Flavian aureus are virtually identical, except that on the original issue a shield is set at the base of the cippus.

Julia Titi, daughter of Titus



44

- 44 Denarius circa 80-81, AR 3.22 g. IVLIA AVGVSTA TITI AVGVSTI F Draped and diademed bust r. Rev. VENVS - AVGVST Venus standing r., naked to waist, leaning on cippus, holding helmet in r. and sceptre in l. RIC Titus 55a. BMC Titus 140. C 12. CBN Titus 104.

Light scratches and minor porosity, otherwise toned and good very fine / very fine

1'200

Ex Leu sale 25, 1980, 278.

Domitian Caesar, 69 – 81



- 45 Aureus 76, AV 7.40 g. CAESAR AVG F DOMITIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS – IIII Cornucopiae tied up with ribbons. RIC Vespasian 237. BMC Vespasian 196. C 46. CBN Vespasian 171 (this obverse die). Calicó 817a. Extremely fine 10'000

Ex Rollin & Feuardent 1896, Montagu, 223 and Sotheby's November 1972, Metropolitan Museum, 70 sales.



- 46 Denarius 79, AR 3.49 g. CAESAR AVG F – DOMITIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS V She-wolf standing l., suckling twins; in exergue, a boat. RIC Vespasian 241. BMC Vespasian 240. C 51. CBN Vespasian 208. Toned and good extremely fine 1'000

Ex Schulman 243, 1966, Tinchant, 1693 and Sternberg 1, 1973, 93 sales.



- 47 Aureus 82-83, AV 7.74 g. IMP CAESAR 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. Calicó 943b (this coin). Biaggi 443 (this coin).

Extremely rare. Two superb portraits of high style struck in high relief.

Insignificant area of weakness on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

35'000

Ex Hess 1951, Gotha, 88 and Leu 22, 1979, 244 sales.

Like the aurei depicting Divus Vespasian and Domitilla (lot 41), this piece was issued by Domitian early in his reign to honour a royal lady of the Flavian dynasty. However, the two issues have a completely different flavour: the one of Vespasian and Domitilla honours the dead, and this one celebrates the living. In this case the portraits are Domitian himself and his wife Domitia, who at the time was alive and held the title of Augusta.

That title had also been awarded to two other Flavian women, Domitian's deceased sister Domitilla and his niece Julia Titi, who in the future would succumb, tragically, to a romance with her uncle, only to consequently die of what seems to have been a botched abortion. Uncle and niece were already engaged in their love affair when this coin was struck, though their attachment remained hidden from the public until after Domitian divorced and banished his wife in about 83. Hence, this aureus was hardly a reflection of a blissful marriage, but rather an insincere representation of a royal marriage that was, at the moment of this coin's striking, on the brink of collapse.

Nerva, 96 – 98



- 48 Aureus 97, AV 7.48 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG – P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. LIBERTAS – PVBLICA Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 19. BMC 46 note. C 112. CBN 31. Calicó 976. Rare. About extremely fine 18'000

Ex Vinchon sale June 1978, 126.

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



- 49 Denarius 97, AR 3.30 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG – P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. LIBERTAS – PVBLICA Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 19. BMC 46 note. C 113. CBN 32. Nicely toned and extremely fine 1'000

Ex Sternberg sale 1, 1973, 67.

Trajan, 98 – 117



- 50 Denarius 103-104, AR 3.08 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P Laureate bust l., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Genius standing l., holding patera in extended r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 185 var. BMC 206 note. C 394 var. (bust r.). RSC II 394e. A masterly engraved portrait. Attractively toned and good extremely fine 1'000



- 51 Aureus 112-114, AV 7.26 g. IMP TRAIANVS AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. Façade of Trajan's forum showing main entrance flanked by a double colonnade; above, sculptured frieze with three facing quadrigae and two standing soldiers. In exergue, BASILICA VLPPIA. RIC 248. BMC 492 note. C 43. Calicó 990.

Very rare and in unusually good condition for this difficult issue.

Insignificant marks, otherwise extremely fine

18'000

Ex Leu sale 7, 1973, 367.

Trajan's obsession with architectural types must be seen as a reflection of his personal brand of megalomania – not as outrageous as Commodus, not as all-encompassing as Aurelian or Constantine – but a far cry from the *moderatio* of emperors like Tiberius, or his own predecessor Nerva. If Trajan's coinage tells us anything, it is that he wished to be acknowledged by future generations for his accomplishments, notably in conquest and architecture.

On this aureus we have a depiction of the Basilica Ulpia, part of a large building complex known as Trajan's Forum (the *Forum Traiani*), which was the source of his other architectural commemoratives, including Trajan's Column, the equestrian statue of Trajan, the entrance to the forum, and very likely also the Temple of Trajan.

The basilica, which occupied an area of about 550 by 200 feet in the centre of Trajan's Forum, was intended to be used for meetings, making speeches, and a host of other public activities. It was dedicated in 112 in the name of Trajan's family, the *Ulpia*, and its first commemorative coins were sestertii of 111, struck just prior to its formal dedication. The next group, to which this coin belongs, was struck in 115. By then the basilica had been completed to the point of being useful to the public, and that aspect was celebrated with a second round of coinage, including more sestertii and a lone issue of aurei.



- 52 Aureus 115, AV 6.96 g. IMP TRAIANVS AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Trajan r. Rev. DIVVS PATER TRAIANVS Bare-headed and draped bust of Trajan's father r. RIC 763. BMC 506. C 2. Calicó 1135.

Very rare. About Very fine / fine

5'000

Ex Künker sale 52, 1999, 3333.

Plotina, wife of Trajan



- 53 Aureus 112, AV 7.35 g. PLOTINA AVG - IMP TRAIANI Diademed and draped bust r., hair in plait. Rev. CAES AVG GERM DAC COS VI P P Vesta seated l., holding palladium in extended r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC Trajan 730. BMC Trajan 525. C 2. Vagi 1314. Calicó 1146.

Very rare. A pleasant portrait, about extremely fine / good very fine

28'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 1972, Metropolitan Museum, 83.

Marciana, elder sister of Trajan



- 54 Aureus 112, AV 7.19 g. DIVA AVGVSTA – MARCIANA Draped bust r., hair elaborately dressed, above which crescent-shaped diadem. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle with spread wings walking l. on sceptre, head to l. RIC Trajan 743. BMC Trajan 648. C 3. Vagi 1325. Calicó 1152a. Kent-Hirmer pl. 78, 273.
Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. An outstanding portrait well-struck in high relief. A few almost invisible marks and matt surface, otherwise extremely fine / good extremely fine 40'000

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

Matidia, daughter of Marciana



- 55 Aureus 112, AV 7.17 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 at either side. RIC Trajan 759. BMC Trajan 659. C 9. Vagi 1334. Calicó 1157 (this coin). Kent-Hirmer pl. 78, 274 (this obverse die). Biaggi 559 (this coin).
Extremely rare. A few minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine 24'000

Ex Glendining 1950, Platt Hall, 1344; Leu 22, 1979, 251 and Sotheby's December 1990, Hunt part III, 77 sales.

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

Hadrian, 117 – 138



56



- 56 Aureus 117, AV 7.25 g. IMP CAES TRAIAN HADRIANO AVG DIVI TRA PARTH F Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. DIVI NER NEP P M TR P COS Radiate bust of Sol r.; below, ORIENS. RIC 16. BMC 35 and pl. 46, 16 (this obverse die). C 1003. Calicó 1293.

Very rare and in superb condition. Two fantastic portraits well-struck in high relief, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

16'000

Ex M&M 12, 1953, 811; Hess-Leu 1958, 329 and Leu 10, 1974, 140 sales.



57



57

- 57 Aureus 125-128, AV 7.31 g. HADRIANVS –AVGVSTVS Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. COS – III Sol, radiate, in quadriga r. RIC 167. BMC 377. C 292 var. (no drapery). Calicó 1207 (this coin). Biaggi 582 (this coin).

Rare. A few scratches, otherwise extremely fine

6'500

Ex Schulman 1923, Vierordt, 1293 and Santamaria 1950, Magnaguti III, 302 sales.



58



- 58 Aureus 119-122, AV 7.25 g. IMP CAESAR TRAI – AN HADRIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. P M TR – P COS III Roma helmeted seated l. on cuirass, holding Victory in r. hand and spear in l.; behind, shield and quiver. RIC 77. BMC –, cf. 133 (head r.). Calicó 1335 (these dies). Mazzini 1105 (this coin). Well-struck in high relief. Minor marks and good extremely fine

12'000



59



- 59 Denarius 119-122, AR 3.00 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIAN H – ADRIANVS AVG Laureate, draped bust r. Rev. P M TR – P COS III Roma helmeted seated l. on cuirass, holding Victory in r. hand and spear in l. RIC 78 var. (cuirassed). BMC 145. C 1098 var. (cuirassed). Toned and extremely fine

400



- 60 Aureus 134-138, AV 7.27 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare head l. Rev. HISPANIA Hispania reclining l., holding branch in r. hand and resting l. arm on rock behind; in front, rabbit. RIC 305. BMC 844. C 828. Calicó 1273 (these dies).

Very rare. A spectacular portrait and a very interesting type. Good extremely fine

28'000

Ex NFA XXII, 1989, 57 and Stack's December 1996, Price, 174 sales. From the A. Moretti collection.

Of all Rome's provinces, Spain was perhaps the most Romanized. It had been won by the Romans through centuries of contests with Carthaginians and local Celt-Iberians and it proved to be one of the empire's most useful possessions. Though Hadrian was born and raised in Rome, his father was a member of the *Aelii*, a Roman family which had prospered at Italica since the time of the Scipios, and his mother was from nearby Gades.

The only evidence we have of Hadrian spending time at his family estates in Spain is in the year 90, just after he assumed his *toga virilis*. He spent less than a year there, during which he became involved in military training and no doubt continued to be tutored. Before the end of 90 Hadrian seems to have returned to Rome with the future emperor Trajan, who was preparing to assume the consulship on January 1, 91. When Hadrian's father had died five years before, Trajan was appointed one of his wards, for he was a first cousin once removed who also hailed from two noble families of Italica, the *Ulpii* and the *Traii*. We have no good details about Hadrian's brief stay in his ancestral homeland, but the fact that he did not visit Italica during his travels to Spain as emperor more than three decades later suggests that the young aristocrat considered his time in Italica uninspiring; indeed, while there we are told he indulged himself in hunting, perhaps to pass the boredom of provincial life.

Sabina, wife of Hadrian



- 61 Aureus 126-138, AV 7.27 g. SABINA AVGVSTA – 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. RIC Hadrian 413a. BMC Hadrian 922 and pl. 65, 6 (this obverse die). C 84. Calicó 1420 (this coin). Biaggi 684 (this coin).

Very rare and among the finest specimens known. A magnificent portrait well-struck in high relief. Minor marks in reverse field, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

65'000

Ex Leu 22, 1979, 260.

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 poisoned her or forced her to commit suicide.



62



62



- 62 Denarius 126-138, AR 3.12 g. SABINA AVGVSTA – HADRIANI AVG P P Draped bust r. Rev. PVDI – CITIA Pudicitia, veiled, standing l., raising veil with r. hand. RIC Hadrian 407. BMC Hadrian 911. C 62.
Toned and extremely fine 600

Aelius Caesar, 136-138



63



63



- 63 Aureus 137, 7.24 g. L-AELIVS – CAESAR Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. TRIB POT COS II PIE – TAS Pietas standing r., raising r. hand and holding box of perfumes in l.; in field r., altar. RIC Hadrian 444. BMC Hadrian 1003 and pl. 67, 10 (these dies). C 41 var. Vagi 1405. Calicó 1448 (these dies).
Rare. Minor marks on edge, otherwise about extremely fine / good very fine 16'000

Aelius Caesar, formerly known as L. Ceionius Commodus (Aelius Spartianus recounts his life in Historia Augusta) was of Etruscan origin. He became consul in AD 136, having been adopted by Hadrian in the summer of that year. His appointment came as a general surprise: according to the gossip, Hadrian chose him for his beauty, or perhaps because he considered him a suitable caretaker who would make way for his own favourite, M. Annius Verus, just fifteen years old at the time. In the opinion of Carcopino, Aelius had been adopted because he was Hadrian's illegitimate child. A wan figure with delicate constitution, he suffered a heavy fall while making an address of thanks for Hadrian and died of an 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."



64



64



- 64 Denarius 137, AR 3.18 g. L-AELIVS – CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. TR POT – COS II Pietas standing l. by altar, raising r. hand and laying breast on breast. RIC Hadrian 432. BMC Hadrian 972. C 53.
Extremely fine 800

Antoninus Pius Augustus, 138 – 161



65



- 65 Aureus 138, AV 7.29 g. IMP T AEL CAES HAD – RI ANTONINVS Bare head r. Rev. AVG PIVS P M TR P COS DES II Pietas standing r. by altar, raising r. hand and holding box of incense in l. RIC 13. BMC 27. C 70. Calicó 1469a. A magnificent portrait struck in high relief, good extremely fine 10'000

Ex Vinchon sale June 1978, 134.



66



66

- 66 Denarius 145-161, AR 2.82 g. ANTONINVS – AVG PIVS P P Laureate head r. Rev. COS IIII Clasp-
ing hands holding caduceus and corn-ears. RIC 136. BMC 530. C 344.
Toned and extremely fine 300



67



- 67 Aureus 153-154, AV 7.29 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P XVII Laureate head l. Rev. COS –
IIII Antoninus, togate, standing l., holding globe in r. hand. RIC 233. BMC 815. C 314. Calicó 1530.
Virtually as struck and Fdc 10'000

Ex Stack's sale December 1996, Price, 189.

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

Diva Faustina I, wife of Antoninus Pius



68



- 68 Aureus after 141, AV 7.23 g. DIVA – FAVSTINA Draped bust r. Rev. AETER – NITAS Fortuna
standing l., holding globe in r. hand and rudder in l. RIC A. Pius 348. BMC A. Pius 359 and pl. VIII, 19
(this reverse die). C 5. Calicó 1747.
Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 10'000

Ex Leu sale 10, 1974, 173.



69



69

- 69 Aureus after 141, AV 6.95 g. DIVA FAV – STINA Draped and veiled bust l. Rev. AVGV – STA Ceres, veiled, standing l., holding torch in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC A. Pius 356d. BMC A. Pius 398. C 98. Calicó 1765 (this coin).
Extremely fine 6'500



70



70



- 70 Denarius after 141, AR 2.82 g. DIVA – FAVSTINA Draped bust r. Rev. AVGV – STA Ceres, veiled, standing l., holding torch in l. hand and corn-ears in r. RIC A. Pius 360. BMC A. Pius 408. C 78.
Toned and extremely fine 300

Marcus Aurelius Caesar, 139 – 161



71



- 71 Denarius 140-144, AR 3.56 g. AVRELIVS CAESAR AVG PII F COS Bare head r. Rev. PIETAS AVG Knife, sprinkler, ewer, *lituus* and *simpulum*. RIC A. Pius 424a. BMC A. Pius 277. C 451.
Nicely toned and good extremely fine 400

Ex Lanz sale 38, 1986, 708.



72



- 72 Denarius 151-152, AR 3.37 g. AVRELIVS CAESAR ANTO – NINI AVG PII FIL Bare head r. Rev. TR POT VI – COS II *Genius Exercitus* standing l., sacrificing out of patera over altar and holding legionary eagle in l. hand. RIC A. Pius 453c var. BMC A. Pius p. 113, note † var. C 647 var.
Toned and good extremely fine 400



73



- 73 Aureus 159-160, AV 7.16 g. AVRELIVS CAES – AVG PII F Bare head r. Rev. TR POT XIII – C – OS II Mars advancing r., carrying spear and trophy over shoulders. RIC A. Pius 481a. BMC A. Pius 994 note. C 752. Calicó 1973a (this obverse die). Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 16'000

Marcus Aurelius Augustus, 161 – 180



74



- 74 Denarius 165, AR 3.33 g. M ANTONINVS – AVG ARMENIACVS Laureate and cuirassed bust l. Rev. P M TR P XIX – IMP III COS III Annona standing l., holding corn-ears in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; in field l., modius and on r., ship. RIC 142 var. (head r.). BMC 373 var. (draped and cuirassed). C 484 var. (head r.). An apparently unrecorded variety. Toned and about extremely fine / good very fine 300

Ex Sternberg sale XIII, 1983, 702.



75



- 75 Aureus 166, AV 7.34 g. M ANTONINVS AVG – ARM PARTH MAX Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P XX IMP III COS III Victory standing to front, head r., holding palm in r. hand and fixing to a palm-tree a shield inscribed VIC / PAR. RIC 160. BMC 405. C 877. Calicó 1992.

Good extremely fine 9'000

Ex Sotheby's sale November 1972, Metropolitan Museum, 106.



76



76

- 76 *Divus Marcus Aurelius*. Denarius 180, AR 3.56 g. DIVVS M ANT – ONINVS PIVS Bare head r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing r. on thunderbolt, head l. RIC Commodus 269. BMC Commodus 22. C 83. Toned and extremely fine 300

Faustina II, wife of Marcus Aurelius



- 77 Aureus 145-161, AV 7.17 g. FAVSTINA F AVG – PII AVG FIL Draped bust r. Rev. VENERI GE – NETRICI Venus standing l., holding sceptre in l. hand and extending r. RIC 511 var. BMC A. Pius 1057 note. C 230 var. Calicó 2079a. Kent-Hirmer pl. 94, 327 (this obverse die).

A delicate portrait very elegantly engraved. About extremely fine

7'000

Ex Leu sale 7, 1973, 388.



- 78 Aureus 145-161, AV 7.31 g. FAVSTINA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. MATRI – MAGNAE Cybele seated r. on throne, holding drum; on either side, a lion. RIC M. Aurelius 704. BMC M. Aurelius 133. C 168. Calicó 2071. Kent-Hirmer pl. 93, 328.

Virtually as struck and Fdc

12'000

Ex Sculmann 1954, 679 and Hess 257, 1986, 348 sales.



- 79 Denarius 145-161, AR 3.40 g. DIVA FAV – STINAE PIAE Veiled and draped bust r. Rev. MATRI CASTRORVM Faustina seated l., holding sceptre in l. hand and globe surmounted by phoenix in l.; in field l., two standards. RIC M. Aurelius 753. BMC M. Aurelius 705. C 161.

Rare. Old cabinet tone. Weakly struck on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

300

Ex Hess-Divo sale 268, 1996, 37.

Lucius Verus, 161 – 169



- 80 Aureus 163-164, AV 7.33 g. L VERVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P IIII IMP II COS II Victory, half-draped, standing r., placing on a palm-tree a shield inscribed VIC / AVG. RIC M. Aurelius 525. BMC M. Aurelius 296 note. C 247 var. Calicó 2177 (these dies).
Virtually as struck and Fdc 10'000



- 81 Denarius 162-163, AR 3.42 g. IMP L VERVS AVG Bare head r. Rev. PROV – DEOR TR P III COS II Providentia standing l., holding globe in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC M. Aurelius 491. BMC M. Aurelius 229. C 156.
An attractive tone and virtually as struck and Fdc 500
Ex Leu sale 38, 1986, 286.



- 82 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. RIC M. Aurelius 512. BMC M. Aurelius 300 (these dies). C 158. Vagi 1579. Calicó 2154 (these dies). Kent-Hirmer pl. 98, 342 (these dies).
Virtually as struck and Fdc 16'000

Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus



83



- 83 Aureus 169-183, AV 7.31 g. LVCILLA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., hair caught up in double chignon. Rev. PVDI – CITIA Pudicitia, veiled, standing l., drawing back veil with r. hand and resting l. at side. RIC M. Aurelius 779. BMC M. Aurelius 347. C 59. Calicó 2216 (this coin).

A delicate portrait well-struck in high relief. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

15'000

Ex Leu sale 10, 1974, 195.

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

Commodus Augustus, 177 – 192



84



- 84 Aureus circa 178, 7.29 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P III IM – P II COS P P Castor standing l., holding horse by bridle in r. hand and spear in l. hand. RIC M. Aurelius 648. BMC M. Aurelius 774. C 760. Calicó 2337b (these dies).

A very appealing reddish tone, virtually as struck and Fdc

15'000

Ex Hess sale 257, 1986, 364.



85



85

- 85 Denarius 179, AR 2.61 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. TR P III IMP III – COS II P P Victory seated l., holding patera in r. hand and branch in l. RIC M. Aurelius 666. BMC M. Aurelius 801. C 775.

Toned and extremely fine

300



86

- 86 Denarius 179, AR 3.44 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. TR P IIII IMP III – COS II P P Victory seated l., holding patera in r. hand and branch in l. RIC M. Aurelius 666. BMC M. Aurelius 801. C 775. Lovely tone and good extremely fine 400



87



- 87 Aureus 180, AV 7.31 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P V IMP IIII C – OS II P P Victory seated l., holding patera in r. hand and branch in l. RIC 8b. BMC M. Aurelius 814 and p. 691. C 788. Calicó 2343. Very rare. An almost invisible mark in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 12'000

Ex M&M 10, 1951, 65 and Hess 257, 1986, 365 sales.



88



- 88 Aureus 186-189, AV 7.21 g. M COMM ANT P – FEL AVG BRIT Laureate head r. Rev. VICTO – RIAE – FELICI Victory, turreted, flying l., holding diadem in both hands; below, two shields and tablet inscribed C V P P. RIC –. BMC –. C –. Calicó 2360a (these dies). Coin Hoard II p. 66, fig 15, 6 (these dies). Excessively rare, only four specimens known. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 18'000

Ex Leu sale 10, 1974, 199.

When this aureus was struck, sometime after his fifth consulship on January 1, 86, Commodus must have had a fresh and wary perspective on the hazards of being emperor. The previous year had begun well enough: on the heels of a swift victory in Britain, Commodus began to celebrate the vows for his *decennalia*, or tenth year of power; he even went so far as to describe the event as the dawn of a new golden age, which he inaugurated with the *Primi Decenales* games. However, the celebratory atmosphere was quickly tarnished with the revolt in that same year of his praetorian prefect Perennis, who intended to replace Commodus as emperor with his own son. It was a serious coup that shook his confidence, and that required him to pay a largess to the army (which he honoured with special coin types, including one depicting the emperor haranguing the troops). This fiasco was followed in 286 with a guerilla war in Spain and Gaul led by a deserter named Maternus, who in the following year came to Rome in disguise to murder Commodus, and who might have succeeded had he not been betrayed the day before he intended to strike. With so much treachery about his person, Commodus could hardly have been enjoying his lot as emperor, and the rather festive appearance of this aureus, inscribed C. V. P. P. for *Consul V Pater Patriae*, represented the bright side of his otherwise perilous life.



- 89 Aureus August – December 192, AV 7.23 g. L AEL AVREL COMM AVG P FEL Head r., wearing lion skin headdress. Rev. HERCVLI ROMANO AVG Club flanked by bow and quiver. RIC 253. BMC –. C 196. Calicó 2260. Biaggi 990 (this coin).

Extremely rare. A very impressive representation of superb style. Perfectly struck on a full flan, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

50'000

Ex Leu sale 22, 1979, 287.

Few Roman coins excite as much commentary as those of Commodus which show him possessed of Hercules. Not only do they present an extraordinary image, but they offer incontrovertible support to the literary record. The reports of Commodus' megalomania and infatuation with Hercules are so alarming and fanciful that if the numismatic record was not there to confirm, modern historians would almost certainly regard the literary record as an absurd version of affairs, much in the way reports of Tiberius' depraved behaviour on Capri are considered to be callous exaggerations. Faced with such rich and diverse evidence, there can be no question that late in his life Commodus believed Hercules was his divine patron. Indeed, he worshipped the demigod so intensely that he renamed the month of September after him, and he eventually came to believe himself an incarnation of the mythological hero.

The Herculan imagery on this famous coin type is arresting. Though the concept of an emperor donning a lion's scalp was novel to coinage, it would have compared favourably to the countless images throughout the empire of Hercules in his mature, bearded incarnation. The reverse depicts familiar instruments of the hero: the club, bow, and quiver with arrows. By tradition, Hercules had fashioned his knotted club from a wild olive tree that he tore from the soil of Mount Helicon and subsequently used to kill the lion of Cithaeron when he was only 18 years old. Probably the most familiar account of his bow and arrows was his shooting of the Stymphalian birds while fulfilling his sixth labour. The reverse inscription HERCVLI ROMANO AVG ('to the August Roman Hercules') makes the coin all the more interesting, especially when it put into context with those of contemporary coins inscribed HERCVLI COMMODO AVG, which amounts to a dedication 'to Hercules Commodus Augustus'

Crispina, wife of Commodus



- 90 Aureus 180-182, AV 7.23 g. CRISPINA AVGVSTA Draped bust r., hair in coil at back. Rev. VENVS FELIX Venus seated l., holding Victory and sceptre; below seat, dove standing l. RIC Commodus 287. BMC 48. C 39. Vagi 1646. Calicó 2377d (this coin). Biaggi 1036 (this coin). Kent-Hirmer pl. 107, 366.

Rare. Extremely fine

12'000

Ex Leu sale 25, 1980, 335

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

Pertinax, 1st January – 28th March 193



- 91 Aureus 193, 7.25 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTIN AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PROVID – DEOR COS II Providentia standing l., raising r. hand toward star in upper field l., and resting l on breast. RIC 11a. BMC 11. C 42. Calicó 2389.

Rare. An excellent portrait well struck in high relief, good extremely fine 25'000

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

Didius Julianus, 28th March – 1st June 193



- 92 Aureus 193, AV 7.25 g. IMP CAES M DID – IVLIAN AVG Laureate head r. Rev. RECTOR – ORBIS Julianus standing l., holding globe and roll. RIC 3a. BMC 7 note. C 14. A.M. Woodward, The Coinage of Didius Julianus and his Family, NC 1961, 3 and pl. 6, 8 (these dies). Vagi 1670. Calicó 2398 (this coin). Biaggi 1051 (this coin).

Very rare. A very attractive portrait, about extremely fine 35'000

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

Manlia Scantilla, wife of Didius Julianus



- 93 Aureus March-June 193, 6.66 g. MANL SCAN – TILLA AVG Stolate bust r., hair dressed in two flowing waves and caught up behind in loose chignon. Rev. IVNO-RE – GINA Juno, draped and veiled, standing l., holding patera in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at her feet, peacock l. RIC D. Julianus 7a and PL. I, 16 (this obverse die). BMC D. Julianus 10 and pl. III, 13 (this obverse die). C 1. A.M. Woodward, *The Coinage of Didius Julianus and his Family*, NC 1961, 1 and pl. VI, 9 (these dies). – Vagi 1675. Calicó 2400a (this obverse die). Kent-Hirmer pl. 108, 372 (this obverse die). Jameson II 157 (this coin).

Extremely rare and probably the finest specimen known of this difficult issue.

A fabulous reddish tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

65'000

Ex Rollin & Feuardent 1888, Vicomte de Quelen, 1265 and Hirsch XXIV, 1909, 1776 sales.

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

Didia Clara, daughter of Didius Julianus



- 94 Aureus March-May 193, AV 6.43 g. DIDIA CLA – RA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. HILA – R – TEMPOR Hilaritas standing l., holding palm-branch in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC Didius Julianus 10. BMC Didius Julianus 13. C 2. Calicó 2402 (this obverse die). Woodward, NC 1961, 3 and pl.6, 11 (this obverse die).

Extremely rare and among the finest of very few specimens known.

A delightful portrait of fine style, extremely fine

55'000

Ex NFA sale XXII, 1989, 78. From the A. Moretti collection.

After Didius Julianus purchased the throne of the Roman Empire at an auction held by the praetorian guardsmen early in 193, he was accorded the title of Augustus by a terror-stricken Senate. Also recognized were his wife Manlia Scantilla and his daughter Didia Clara, both of whom received the title of Augusta. Didia Clara was reputedly one of the most beautiful women in Rome, but virtually nothing is known about her life or her personality.

She was married to Cornelius Repentinus, a cousin who served as prefect of Rome during the brief period that his father-in-law reigned. Repentinus' predecessor had been Flavius Sulpicianus, the father-in-law of the murdered emperor Pertinax. Since Sulpicianus had been Didius Julianus' main competitor at the auction for the throne, Julianus probably showed no remorse when he removed Sulpicianus from office and appointed his son-in-law in his place.

Pescenius Niger, 193 – 194



95

- 95 Denarius, Antioch 193-194, AR 3.41 g. IMP CAES PESC – NIGER IVST AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTO – RI – AE – AV – G Victory standing l., writing AVG on shield set on column. RIC 84 var. BMC 316 note. C 73 var. Rare, unusually complete and centred. Toned and good very fine 3'500

Ex Sternberg sale 2, 1974, 849

Clodius Albinus Caesar, 193 – 195



96



96

- 96 Denarius 193, AR 2.52 g. D – CLOD SEPT – ALBIN CAES Bare head r. Rev. MINER PA – CIF COS II Minerva, helmeted, standing l., holding olive-branch in r. hand and leaning l. on shield on ground; spear against l. arm. RIC 7. BMC 98. C 48. Toned. About extremely fine / good very fine 400

Ex Sternberg sale XIII, 1983, 734

Clodius Albinus Augustus, 195 – 197



97



97

- 97 Denarius, Lugdunum 195-197, AR 3.42 g. IMP CAES D CLO – SEP ALB AVG Laureate head r. Rev. FIDES LEGI – ON COS II Clasped hands, holding legionary eagle. RIC 20b. BMC 284. C 24. Well-struck in high relief. Toned and good extremely fine 600

Septimius Severus, 193 – 211



98



- 98 Aureus 196-197, AV 7.28 g. L SEPT SEV PERT AVG IMP VIII Laureate head r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. FORTVN – AE REDVCI Fortuna seated l., holding rudder in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 78c. BMC 160 and pl. IX, 10 (this obverse die). C 187 var. (draped and cuirassed). Calicó 2455 (this obverse die). A superb portrait struck in high relief. Minor marks on reverse, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc 12'500



99



- 99 Aureus 202-210, AV 7.15 g. IMP INVICTI PII AVGG Conjoined laureate, draped and cuirassed busts of S. Severus and Caracalla r. Rev. VICTORIA – PARTHICA MAXIMA Victory advancing l., holding palm in l. hand and wreath in r. RIC 311. BMC 265. C 8 var. Calicó 2597. Kent-Hirmer pl. 110, 82. Very rare. Two portraits of pleasant style struck on a full flan. Extremely fine 24'000

Ex Naville-Ars Classica 8, 1924, Beement, 1181; Christie's October 1984, Property of a Lady, 100 and NFA XXII, 1989, 82 sales. From the A. Moretti collection.

At first glance the jugate busts on this aureus suggest it belongs to the dynastic series initiated by the Severans in 201, but the overriding theme of the coin is the defeat of Parthia in 198. This is shown not only by the explicit reverse type, but also by the obverse inscription, which describes the two emperors as *invicti* – unconquered and invincible.

Because Severus and Caracalla are also described as *pii* (dutiful and god-fearing), the coin must date to 201 or later, for only in that year did they adopt the title *Pius*, seemingly to reflect the membership they claimed to the dynasty founded long ago by Antoninus Pius. Thus, the issue may have been produced for the anticipated return of the royal family to Rome early in 202, following a nearly five-year absence in the East, during which they conquered the Parthians and oversaw affairs in the provinces.

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 *donativa* to the people and to the praetorian guards, who Dio Cassius tells us each received ten aurei – perhaps including examples of this freshly minted type.



100



- 100 *Divo Severo Pio*. Denarius after 211, AR 3.27 g. DIVO SEVERO PIO Bare head r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle, with spread wings and head l., standing to front on globe. RIC Caracalla 191c. BMC Caracalla 21. C 84. Kent-Hirmer pl. 115, 401. Extremely fine 500

Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus



101



- 101 Aureus 196-211, AV 7.20 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. DIANA – LVCIFERA Diana standing l., holding torch in both hands. RIC S. Severus 548 var. (no crescent). BMC S. Severus 14 and pl. XXVII, 7 (these dies). C 31. Calicó 2610 (these dies). Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 10'000



102



103



- 102 Antoninianus 211-217, AR 5.12 g. IVLIA PIA – FELIX AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. LVNA LVCIFERA Luna with cloak floating round head, in biga l. RIC Caracalla 379 var. BMC 8. C 106 var. Toned and about extremely fine 300
- 103 Denarius 211-217, AR 3.55 g. IVLIA PIA – FELIX AVG Draped bust r. Rev. VES – TA Vesta standing l., holding palladium in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC Caracalla 390. BMC Caracalla 29. C 230. Toned and extremely fine 300

Caracalla Caesar, 195 – 198



104



- 104 Aureus 196, AV 7.25 g. M AVR ANTO – NINVS CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SPEI – PERPETVAE Spes advancing l., holding flower in r. hand and raising skirt with l. RIC 5. BMC 189 and pl. 10, 5 (this obverse die). C 593 var. (not cuirassed). Calicó 2819 (these dies). Biaggi 1221 (this coin). Very rare. Perfectly struck in very high relief, virtually as struck and Fdc 14'000

Ex Glendining sale February 1951, Ryan, 1833.



105



- 105 Aureus 195-198, AV 7.45 g. M AVR ANTON – CAES PONTIF Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRIN – CIPI – IVVE – NTVTIS Caracalla, togate, standing l., holding baton in r. hand and spear in l.; in field r., trophy. RIC 13b. BMC 207 (misdescribed). C 504. Calicó 2797 (this obverse die). Rare. Extremely fine 8'000



106



106

- 106 Denarius 199, AR 3.38 g. ANTONINVS – AVGVSTVS Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PONT – TR P II Securitas seated r., by altar, propping head on r. and holding sceptre in l. hand. RIC 29. BMC 157. C 498. Toned and extremely fine 250



107



- 107 Aureus 213, AV 7.28 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS FEL AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – GERMANICA Victory advancing r., holding palm in l. hand and wreath in r. RIC 237 var. (also draped). BMC 64. C 645 (also draped). Calicó 2833 (this coin). Biaggi 1223 (this coin). Jameson II 188 (this coin).
A strong portrait of high style. Good extremely fine 14'000

Ex Leu sale 25, 1980, 358.



108



- 108 Denarius 209, AR 3.46 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF TR P – XII COS III Concordia seated l., holding patera in r. hand and double cornucopiae. RIC 111. BMC 10. C 465.
Nicely toned and good extremely fine 300



109



- 109 Aureus 215, AV 7.15 g. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. P M TR P XVIII – COS IIII P P Isis standing r., holding *sistrum* and presenting two cornucopiae to Caracalla standing l., in military dress, holding spear in l. hand and trampling crocodile. RIC 275b (this coin). BMC p. 452, note * (this coin). C 319 var. (laureate only). Calicó 2739 (this coin). Biaggi 1195 (this coin).
Very rare and in superb condition. A very interesting reverse composition and an attractive portrait. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 20'000

Ex Hirsch 29, 1910, Lambros, 1172 and Leu 22, 1979, 304 sales.



110



- 110 Antoninianus 215, AR 4.31 g. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P – XVIII COS IIII P P Sol, radiate, standing to front, head l., raising r. hand and holding globe in l. RIC 264c. BMC 135. C 287.
Toned and extremely fine 400

Plautilla, wife of Caracalla



111

- 111 Aureus 202-205 (?), AV 7.38 g. PLAVTILLA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Concordia seated l., holding patera in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC Caracalla 364. BMC Caracalla 417 and pl. 38, 6 (this obverse die). C 4. Calicó 2867 (these dies). Kent-Hirmer pl. 113, 393.

Extremely rare. A portrait of exquisite style well struck in high relief. Two insignificant scratches on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

30'000

Ex M&M 52, 1975, 707.

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.



112

- 112 Denarius 202-205 (?), AR 3.44 g. PLAVTILLAE – AVGVSTAE Draped bust r. Rev. PROPAGO IMPERI Caracalla and Plautilla clasping hands. RIC Caracalla 362. BMC Caracalla 406. C 21.

Toned and extremely fine

400

Ex Astarte sale II, 1999, 244.



113

- 113 Denarius 202-205 (?), AR 3.47 g. PLAVTILLA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. VENVS – VICTRIX Venus standing l., holding apple and palm-branch and resting l. elbow on shield; to her r., Cupid standing l., holding helmet. RIC Caracalla 369. BMC Caracalla 429. C 25. Toned and extremely fine

400

Geta Caesar, 198-209



114



- 114 Aureus 200-202, AV 7.17 g. P SEPT GETA CAES PONT Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PR - INC - IVVE - NT Geta standing l., holding branch in r. hand and spear in l.; behind, trophy. RIC 16a. BMC 228 and pl. 32, 13 (this obverse die). Calicó 2910 (this coin). Biaggi 1254 (this coin).

Very rare. A very attractive young portrait struck in high relief,
good extremely fine / extremely fine

20'000

Ex Glendining sale November 1950, Platt Hall part II, 1738. From the Karnak hoard.



115



- 115 Denarius 209, AR 3.47 g. P SEPTIMIVS GETA CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PONTIF - COS II Geta standing l., sacrificing out of patera over lighted altar in r. hand and holding corn-ears in l. RIC 59a. BMC 584. C 114.

Toned and extremely fine

300

Geta Augustus, 210 - 211



116



- 116 Aureus 210-211, AV 7.11 g. P SEPT GETA - PIVS AVG BRIT Laureate head r. Rev. LIB AVG G V ET V Caracalla and Geta seated l. on platform; in front, Liberalitas standing l., holding abacus and cornucopiae; on platform, citizen. RIC 87 (misdescribed). BMC 64 and pl. 54, 18 (this obverse die). C 70. Calicó 2888.

Very rare and in exceptional state of preservation. A very interesting reverse composition and
a bold portrait, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

25'000

Ex Canessa 1923, Caruso, 453 and Vinchion December 1999, 738 sales.

When this aureus was struck the fate of the empire was in the balance, for the brothers Caracalla and Geta were bitterly at odds. The *congiarium* (imperial bounty) celebrated on this coin took place upon the brothers' return to Rome after concluding a war against the Caledonians with their father, who died of natural causes at York early in February, 211. The inscription names the distribution as the sixth of Caracalla and the fifth of Geta, thus demonstrating there was no concord between the emperors. By now their relationship had been reduced to a bitter contest in which the elder Caracalla would prove victorious by murdering Geta before the year 211 had closed.

The brothers are accompanied on the platform by Liberalitas, who personifies the distribution. She holds a cornucopia - a symbol of bounty - and a board with a handle that is perpetually mis-described as an abacus (a counting device). In fact, it is a flat board with circular depressions, each designed to accommodate a single coin. This made the distribution of the correct number of coins more efficient.

In practice, these distributions would have been tightly controlled affairs, with many soldiers and bureaucrats on hand to assure they were handled properly. For evidence we need only examine a large frieze on the north face of the Arch of Constantine, on which a line of citizens with outstretched hands await the distribution of coins. In two windows above there is a repeated scene of togate officials and their assistants removing coins from a strongbox for placement in the depressions in the tray, which represented each citizen's allotment. Meanwhile, a secretary records each distribution on a scroll. Once filled, the trays are passed to a senior official at the emperor's side, at which point the coins are distributed.

Macrinus, 217 – 218



- 117 Aureus January–June 218, AV 7.53 g. IMP C M OPEL SEV MACRINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PONTIF MAX TR P II COS II P P Felicitas standing l., holding long caduceus in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 41 (this coin). BMC 56. C 92 var. Calicó 2965 (this coin).
Very rare. A spectacular portrait, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 40'000

Ex Henry Chapman 25-29 June 1912, Earle, 657 and Naville-Ars Classica VIII, 1924, Bement, 1239 sales. From the Karnak hoard.

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



- 118 Denarius 217-218, AR 3.35 g. IMP C M OPEL SEV MACRINVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ANNONA AVG Annona seated l., holding corn-ears in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 55b. BMC 6. C 8 var. (draped and cuirassed).
Old cabinet tone. Minor weakness on obverse, otherwise almost Fdc 500

Ex Sternberg sale 2, 1974, 180.

Diadumenian Caesar, 217 – 218



- 119 Denarius late 217, AR 3.35 g. M OPEL ANT DIADVMEIAN CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINC IV - VENTVTIS Diadumenian standing facing, head r., holding standard in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field r., two standards. RIC 102. BMC 87 var. (only draped). C 3 var. (only draped).
Toned. Weakly struck on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 500

Elagabalus, 218 – 222



120

- 120 Aureus, Antiochia circa 218–219, 7.30 g. IMP C M AVR ANTONINVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r., drapery on far shoulder. Rev. SANCT DEO SOLI Slow quadriga r., on which is the Stone of Emesa surmounted by eagle, surrounded by four parasols; in exergue, ELEGABAL. RIC 143b var. (bust draped and cuirassed). BMC 273 var. (bust draped and cuirassed) and pl. 91, 2 (this reverse die). C 265 var. (laureate head r.). Kent-Hirmer pl. 117, 414 (this reverse die). Calicó 3031 (this coin). Biaggi 1291 (this coin).

Extremely rare. Struck in high relief on an exceedingly broad flan, almost invisible scrape

on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

28'000

Ex Hess-Leu 1963, 219 and Leu 25, 1980, 368 sales.

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



121

- 121 Aureus, Antiochia 218-219, AV 6.90 g. IMP C M AVR ANTONINVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust l. Rev. SANCT DEO SOLI Slow quadriga r., on which is the Stone of Emesa surmounted by eagle, surrounded by four parasols; in exergue, ELEGABAL. RIC 196a (this coin). BMC 273 note (this coin). C 265 var. (laureate head r.). Calicó 3034 (this coin). Evans, NC 1902, pp. 353-354 and pl. 18, 11 (this coin). An excessively rare variety of an extremely rare type. Two minor nicks on obverse

and light marks, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine

24'000

Ex Naville III, 1922, Evans, 107 and Leu 38, 1986, 320 sales.

Before becoming emperor through the artful designs of his grandmother and mother, Elagabalus served as the hereditary priest of the Emesan sun-god Heliogabalus. To Roman tastes it was a strange cult, and most were probably thankful its patronage was thus far largely restricted to the East. But when Elagabalus left Syria to assume his duties as emperor in Rome, he brought with him the central object of worship for his priesthood, a sacred stone that is shown on this coin emblazoned with an imperial eagle. The black, conical stone – seemingly a meteorite – was taken overland from Emesa to Rome in a royal procession that consumed a year or more.

The stone probably made its entire journey in a shaded chariot drawn by four horses. The long-anticipated entry into Rome must have been electric, equally for the novelty of the religious procession as for the public's fascination with seeing their new emperor. We are told he wore sacerdotal robes of purple silk ornamented with gold and precious stones, that he wore a tiara, bracelets and necklaces, and that he painted his cheeks and the area above his eyes. Being unwilling to divert his eyes from the great stone, in the procession he walked backward before the chariot amid the pungent odour of incense, the crash of cymbals, the melodic song of flutes, and the cryptic chants of Syrian priests and priestesses.

Though this exciting coin type is merely scarce in silver, it is rare and highly prized in gold. Most of the known examples are struck from dies engraved in a stiff Eastern style, but this aureus defies that expectation, for the artist responsible for these dies was among the most gifted of the engravers at Antioch. The quality of the artistry is only heightened by the special bust type in which Elagabalus – a boy of 14 or 15 years – is shown facing left and wearing an elaborate cuirass with a gorgon on his breastplate.



122



122

- 122 Aureus, Antiochia 218-222, AV 7.02 g. IMP C M AVR ANTONINVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RECTOR – ORBIS Elagabalus standing l., with drapery over l. shoulder, holding globe in r. hand and reversed spear in l. RIC 192 (this coin). BMC 272 note (this coin). C –. Calicó 3027 (this coin). Biaggi 1297 (this coin).

Extremely rare. Struck on a very broad flan and about extremely fine

12'000

Ex Hirsch 24, 1909, Consul Weber, 1987; Ars Classica 18, 1938, 372 and Leu 38, 1986, 319 sales.



123



123

- 123 Denarius 218-222, AR 3.01 g. IMP CAES M AVR ANTONINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SALVS ANTONINI AVG Salus standing l., feeding snake which she holds in her arms. RIC 140d. BMC 28 note. C 258.

Toned and extremely fine

300



124



124

- 124 Denarius 218-222, AR 3.20 g. IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. SACERD DEI SOLIS ELAGAB Elagabalus standing r., sacrificing over lighted altar, holding patera and upright club; in field r., star. RIC 131. BMC 225. C 246.

Toned and good extremely fine

300



125



125

- 125 Denarius 218-222, AR 2.60 g. IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r., with horn. Rev. SVMMVS SACERDOS AVG Elagabalus standing l., sacrificing over tripod holding patera and branch; in field l., star. RIC 146. BMC 232. C 276.

A bold portrait. Nicely toned and good extremely fine

300

Julia Paula, first wife of Elagabalus



- 126 Denarius, Antiochia 219-220, AR 3.10 g. IVLIA PAVLA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA Elagabalus and J. Paula standing front to front, clasping hands. RIC Elagabalus 214. BMC Elagabalus 319. C 12. Lightly toned and extremely fine 500

Ex Sternberg sale 3, 1975, 189.

Aquila Severa, second wife of Elagabalus



- 127 Denarius, Antiochia 220-222 (?), AR 2.91 g. IVLIA AQVILIA SEVERA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA Concordia standing l., sacrificing out of patera over lighted altar and holding double cornucopiae; in field l., star. RIC Elagabalus 225. BMC Elagabalus 336. C 2. Toned and extremely fine 500

Ex M&M sale 53, 1977, 283.

Julia Soaemias, mother of Elagabalus



- 128 Denarius 218-222, AR 2.50 g. IVLIA SOAEMIAS AVG Draped bust r. Rev. VENVS CAE – LESTIS Venus standing l., holding apple in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field r., star. RIC Elagabalus 241. BMC Elagabalus 45. C 8. Toned and extremely fine 300

Julia Maesa, grandmother of Elagabalus



- 129 Denarius 218-223, AR 2.87 g. IVLIA MAESA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. PVDI – CITIA Pudicitia seated l., raising veil with r. hand and holding sceptre in l. RIC Elagabalus 268. BMC Elagabalus 76. C 36. Toned and good extremely fine 300

Ex Sternberg sale XIII, 1983, 862.

Severus Alexander, 222 – 235



130



130

- 130 Aureus 228-231, AV 6.23 g. IMP SEV ALE – XAND AVG Laureate head r., with slight drapery on far shoulder. Rev. LIBERA – LI – TAS AVG IIII Liberalitas standing l., holding abacus in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 204 var. (no drapery). BMC 557 (misdescribed). C 132 var. (no drapery). Calicó 3069 (these dies). Minor marks on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 5*500

Ex M&M sale 11, 1953, 135.



131



131

- 131 Denarius 228-231, AR 3.08 g. IMP SEV ALE – XAND AVG Laureate head r., with drapery on far shoulder. Rev. ANNO – NA AVG Annona standing r., holding rudder placed on globe in r. hand and modius in l.; her l. foot rests on prow. RIC 190b. BMC 595. C 32.

Toned and good extremely fine

300



132



132

- 132 Denarius 228-231, AR 2.83 g. IMP SEV ALE – XAND AVG Laureate head r., with drapery on far shoulder. Rev. VIRTVS – AVG S. Alexander, in military attire, standing l. with r. foot on helmet, holding globe in r. hand and reversed spear in l. RIC 226b. BMC 647. C 586 var. (no drapery).

Toned and extremely fine

250

Orbiana, wife of Severus Alexander



133



- 133 Denarius 225, AR 2.78 g. SALL BARBIA – ORBIANA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA – AVGG Concordia seated l., holding patera in r. hand and double cornucopiae in l. RIC S. Alexander 319. BMC S. Alexander 288. C 1.

Rare. Toned, extremely fine / good extremely fine

1*000

Ex Sternberg sale 1, 1973, 297.

Julia Mamaea, mother of Severus Alexander



- 134 Denarius 228, AR 3.10 g. IVLIA MA – MAEA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. FELICI – TA – S PVBLICA Felicitas standing to front, head turned l., holding caduceus in r. hand and leaning on column with l. elbow. RIC S. Alexander 335. BMC S. Alexander 483. C 17.
Toned and about extremely fine 250

Maximinus, 235 – 238



- 135 Aureus March - Summer 236, AV 5.71 g. IMP MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROVIDENTIA AVG Providentia standing l., holding wand over globe in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 13 (this coin). BMC 85 (this coin). C -. Calicó 3161 (this reverse die). Mazzini 74 (this coin). Jameson 223 (this coin). Alram 11-1/B and pl. 5, 11/1B (this coin).
Extremely rare and among the finest aurei of Maximinus in existence.
A bold portrait struck on a full flan, extremely fine 120'000

Ex Rollin & Feuardent 1887, Ponton d'Amécourt, 473 and Hirsch XXIV, 1909, Consul Weber, 2068 sales. From the Mazzini and Jameson collections.

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



- 136 Denarius 237, AR 3.14 g. MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG GERM Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P III – COS P P Maximinus, in military attire, standing l. between two standards, leaning l. hand on spear and raising r. RIC 5. BMC 161. C 64.
Good extremely fine 400

Diva Paulina, wife of Maximinus



- 137 Denarius 236, AR 3.26 g. DIVA PAVLINA Draped and veiled bust r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Paulina, raising r. hand and holding sceptre in l., seated l. on peacock flying r. RIC 2. BMC Maximinus 127. C 2.
Rare. Lightly toned and good extremely fine 1'500

Ex Sternberg sale XVIII, 1986, 566.

Maximus Caesar, 235 – 238



- 138 Denarius March-April 238, AR 3.04 g. MAXIMVS CAES GERM Draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCI IVVENTVTIS Maximus standing l., holding baton in r. hand and transverse spear in l.; in field r., two standards. RIC 3. BMC Maximinus 211. C 10. Rare. Toned and about extremely fine 500

Gordian I, 1st – 22nd April 238



- 139 Denarius April 238, AR 3.44 g. IMP M ANT GORDIANVS AFR AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE AETERNAE Roma seated l. on shield, holding Victory on r. hand and leaning l. on sceptre. RIC 4. BMC 8. C 8. Very rare. Toned and about extremely fine 3'000

Ex The Numismatic Auction sale 1, 1982, 425.

Gordian II, 1st – 22nd April 238



- 140 Denarius April 238, AR 3.21 g. IMP M ANT GORDIANVS AFR AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROVIDENTIA AVGG Providentia standing l., leaning on column, holding wand over globe in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. and leaning l. elbow on column. RIC 1. BMC 19. C 5. Very rare. Toned and extremely fine 4'000

Ex M&M 28, 1964, 441 and Sternberg 1, 1973, 315 sales.

Balbinus, 22nd April – 29th July 238



- 141 Denarius April-June 238, AR 3.18 g. IMP C D CAEL BALBINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROVIDENTIA DEORVM Providentia standing l., holding wand over globe in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 7. BMC 33. C 23. Toned and good extremely fine 700

Ex Sternberg sale 1, 1973, 320.

Pupienus, 22nd April – 29th July 238



- 142 Denarius, April-June 238, AR 2.92 g. IMP C M CLOD PVPIENVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PAX – PVB – LICA Pax seated l., holding branch in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 4. BMC 46. C 22. Toned and extremely fine 500

Ex The Numismatic Auction sale 1, 1982, 429.

Gordian III, 238 – 244



- 143 Aureus 240, AV 4.78 g. IMP CAES M ANT GORDIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. A – EQVITAS AVG Aequitas standing to front, head l., holding scales in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 40. C 16. Calicó 3183 (this coin). Biaggi 1349 (this coin). Struck on an exceptionally large flan and good extremely fine 4'500

Ex M&M sale 11, 1953, 138.



- 144 Antoninianus 243-244, AR 5.01 g. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROVIDEN – TIA AVG Providentia standing l., holding wand over globe in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 150. C 299. Toned and extremely fine 150

Tranquillina, third wife of Gordian III



- 145 Antoninianus after 241, AR 5.00 g. SABINA TRANQVILLINA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Gordian and Tranquillina standing facing each other and clasping hands. C 4. RIC Gordian III 250. Extremely rare and probably the finest specimen known. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 20'000

Ex Lanz sale 38, 1986, 811 (illustrated on the cover page).

The coins of Tranquillina are inexplicably rare. They include the full range of denominations then being struck for her husband in silver and bronze, lacking only gold coins or medallions. Though Tranquillina's series shows every sign of being the first output of a substantial coinage, it must have ceased after the initial issue.

Tranquillina was the daughter of Timesitheus, whom Gordian III made commander of his praetorian guards in 241; his appointment must have occurred contemporarily, or just prior, to the royal wedding in May, 241. Celebrations were probably brief as Gordian, Timesitheus and Tranquillina soon marched east at the head of an army to answer the invasion of Roman Syria by the Persian king Shapur.

To have arranged his own high appointment and the marriage of his daughter to the emperor, we may be sure Timesitheus held sway over the timid boy-emperor. It remains a mystery why Tranquillina's coinage ended as soon as it began, for Timesitheus remained praetorian prefect until his death two years later, and Gordian remained married to Tranquillina for the remaining three years of his own life.

Philip I, 244 – 249



- 146 Antoninianus 244-247, AR 4.93 g. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SALVS - AVG Salus standing l., feeding out of patera snake coiled round altar, and holding rudder in l. hand. RIC 47. C 205. Extremely fine 150



- 147 Antoninianus, Antioch 247, AR 4.17 g. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust l., with drapery on far shoulder. Rev. P M TR P III COS II P P Felicitas standing l., holding long caduceus in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 76. C 135. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 200

Otacilia Severa, wife of Philip I



- 148 Antoninianus 246-248, AR 4.45 g. M OTACIL SEVERA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Concordia seated l. holding patera in r. hand and double-cornucopiae in l. RIC Philip I 125c. C 4. About extremely fine 150

Philip II Caesar, 244 – 247



- 149 Aureus 245-246, AV 4.25 g. M IVL PHILIPPVS CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI I – VVENT Philip II, in military attire, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and spear in l. RIC 218a. C 46. Vagi 2124. Calicó 3275. Extremely rare. Extremely fine 24'000

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



- 150 Antoninianus 245-246, AR 4.44 g. M IVL PHILIPPVS CAES Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVVENT Philip II, in military attire, standing r., holding globe in r. hand and holding transverse spear in l. RIC 216c. C 54. Extremely fine 200

Trajan Decius, 249 – 251



151



- 151 Aureus 249-251, AV 5.01 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ABVNDANTIA AVG Abundantia standing r., emptying cornucopiae held in both hands. RIC 10a. C 1. Calicó 3282b (this coin). Biaggi 1391 (this coin). Good extremely fine 7'500

Ex Glendining sale January 1953, Rashleigh, 75.



152



152

- 152 Antoninianus 249-251, AR 4.57 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust t. Rev. DACIA Dacia standing l., holding vertical staff with ass's head in r. hand. RIC 12b. C 16. Extremely fine 150

Herennia Etruscilla, wife of Trajan Decius



153



153

- 153 Antoninianus 249-251, AR 3.57 g. HER ETRVSCILLA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. PVDICITIA Pudicitia seated l., drawing veil with r. hand and holding sceptre in l. RIC T. Decius 59b. C 19. Toned and about extremely fine 100

Herennius Etruscus Caesar, 250 – 251



154



154

- 154 Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.07 g. Q HER ETR MES DECIVS NOB C Radiate and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS Apollo seated l., holding branch in r. hand and resting l. elbow on lyre. RIC T. Decius 146. C 22 var. About extremely fine 150

Hostilian Caesar, 250 – 251



155



155

- 155 Antoninianus 251, AR 3.61 g. C VALENS HOSTIL MES QVINCTVS N C Radiate and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI IVVE – NTVTIS Hostilian standing l., holding standard in r. hand and spear in l. RIC 181d. C 34. Good extremely fine 300

Trebonianus Gallus, 251 – 253



156



156

- 156 Antoninianus 251-253, AR 4.08 g. IMP CAE VIB TREB GALLVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ANNONA AVGG Annona standing r., holding rudder in r. hand and corn-ears in l.; l. foot on prow. RIC 31. C 17. Lightly toned and good extremely fine 250

Volusian, 251 – 253



157



157

- 157 Antoninianus 251-253, AR 2.90 g. IMP CAE C VIB VOLVSIANO AVG Radiate and draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Concordia standing l., holding patera in r. hand and double cornucopiae in l. RIC 167. C 120. Lightly toned and good extremely fine 250

Aemilian, 253



158



158

- 158 Antoninianus 253, AR 2.89 g. IMP CAES AEMILIANVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P I PP Aemilian standing l., sacrificing out of patera over lighted altar and holding transverse spear; in field l., standard. RIC 16. C 33. Rare. Toned and about extremely fine 500

Cornelia Supera, wife of Aemilian



- 159 Antoninianus 253, AR 3.71 g. C CORNEL SVPERA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. VESTA Vesta standing l., holding patera in r. hand and transverse sceptre in l. RIC Aemilian 30. C 5.
Extremely rare and in superb condition for this difficult issues. Extremely fine 10'000

Ex NFA sale XXVII, 1991, 166.

Like a handful of shadowy figures of Roman history, Gaia Cornelia Supera is known only from coinage, by which we can also determine she was the wife of the short-lived emperor Aemilian. A study of Aemilian's coinage has shown he produced one brief issue of double-denarii at a Balkan mint – seemingly Viminacium – and had a more substantial coinage of double-denarii at Rome. The Rome mint coinage consisted of three distinctive issues, with only the first including aurei. This is a good indication that he paid an accession bonus to the troops and perhaps secured the loyalty of others, but that sufficient gold was not gathered afterward to sponsor a second round of payments.

Cornelia Supera's imperial issues consist of double-denarii from two issues – one with a Juno reverse struck at the Balkan mint, and this issue with a Vesta reverse struck at Rome. Both coinages today are quite rare, which would suggest that her Rome mint coins were limited to only one of the six officinae then producing coins for her husband, and that they were struck in only one of the three phases. Provincial coins were also struck on a small scale for Supera, with issues emanating from Parium in Mysia, Julia in Phrygia and Aegae in Cilicia.

Uranus Antoninus, 253 – 254



- 160 Tetradrachm, Emesa 253-254, billon 12.28 g. AVTO K COVAΠ ANTWNINOC CE Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ΔΗΜΑΡΧΟΣ – ΕΞΟΥΣΙΑΣ Eagle standing facing with head r., holding wreath in beak; S C between its legs. In exergue, EMICA. SNG Copenhagen 313 (these dies). Baldus 8. Prieur 1033 (this coin illustrated).
Very rare. Very fine 7'500

Ex Leu sale 50, 1990, 356.

Valerian I, 253 – 260



- 161 Antoninianus, Antiochia 253-254, AR 4.16 g. IMP C P LIC VAELRIANVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VOTA ORBIS Two Victories affixing shield, inscribed S C, on palm tree. RIC 294. C 280.
Lightly toned and extremely fine 200

Ex Sternberg sale XI, 1982, 768.

Diva Mariniana, wife of Valerian I



162



162

- 162 Antoninianus 256-257, AR 3.49 g. DIVAE MARINIANAE Veiled and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. CONSECRATIO Peacock flying r., carrying Mariniana to heaven. RIC 6. C 14.

Rare. Extremely fine

400

Ex Sternberg sale XI, 1982, 769.

Gallienus joint reign with Valerian I, 253 – 260



163



163

- 163 Antoninianus 255-257, AR 4.19 g. IMP C P LIC GALLIENVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS – AVGG Soldier, helmeted, standing l. holding spear in l. hand and leaning r. on shield. RIC 181. C 1288.

Extremely fine

150

Valerian II Caesar, 253 - 256



164



164

- 164 Antoninianus, Colonia (?) 255, AR 4.04 g. VALERIANVS CAES Radiate and draped bust r. Rev. IOVI CRESCENTI Infant Jupiter on goat r. RIC (Lugdunum) 3. C 26.

About extremely fine

150

Ex Sterneberg sale XIII, 1983, 933.

Salonino Caesar, 256 – 260



165



165

- 165 Antoninianus, Mediolanum or Viminacium 256, AR 3.74 g. SAL VALERIANVS C S Radiate and draped bust r. Rev. PRINC IVVENT Saloninus standing l., holding baton in r. hand and in spear in l.; in field r., two standards. RIC 10. C 62.

Toned and about extremely fine

200

Gallienus sole reign, 260 – 268



- 166 Aureus 260-268, AV 6.07 g. GALLIENAE – AVGVSTAE Head l., wearing barley wreath. Rev. Rev. VBI – QVE PA – X Victoria in fast biga r., holding reins in l. hand and whip in r. RIC 74. C 1015. Calicó 3595 (this coin). Biaggi 1472 (this coin)

Very rare. A superb portrait of excellent style well struck on a full flan.
Insignificant light marks, otherwise about extremely fine

7'000

The portrait of this coin is of remarkable style, representing the apex of Gallienus' "classical renaissance". It belongs to a single emission late in his reign that seems to have followed his initiation into the most important of all Greek occult rituals, the Eleusinian Mysteries. This portrait style occurs only on ceremonial gold pieces and large bronze medallions. The most striking aspect of the portrait is its style, which arguably is the best achieved in Gallienus' 15-year reign. Gallienus is one of the most interesting and enigmatic of all Roman emperors. Throughout his uncharacteristically long reign of 15 years, he fought on all fronts to keep Rome's enemies at bay. Meanwhile, he survived perhaps a dozen serious coups and revolts within the empire. From a statistical point of view his reign was a disaster: he lost the western provinces to the rebel Postumus, and he lost most of the Roman east to the Palmyrene king Odenathus. What remained of the central empire was in chaos until the day Gallienus died at the hands of assassins. What is seldom considered, however, is how badly the odds were stacked against Gallienus, and how an emperor with less dedication, talent and ingenuity would not have lasted so long. Clearly, Gallienus operated at a level of genius few possessed or appreciated, and for which few historians have given him sufficient credit. He suffered the deaths of his two sons and the capture of his father, yet he continued the struggle. Indeed, if we believe the characteristically biased sources for this period, Gallienus found solace in every imaginable vice and distraction: sloth, alcohol, philosophy, the arts, adultery and materialism. Much as historians have rightly cast doubts on the extremes of Tiberius' behaviour while exiled on Rhodes and Capri, we should extend the same benefit of doubt to Gallienus. Even if most of his bad press is in some way based in truth, we must appreciate the balance he managed to achieve while a collapsing world was set squarely on his shoulders



Salonina, wife of Gallienus

- 167 Antoninianus 260-268, billon 3.99 g. SALONINA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. PIETAS AVG Pietas standing l., holding box of perfumes. RIC 21 var. C 78 var.

Extremely fine

150

Macrianus, 260 – 261

- 168 Antoninianus, Antiochia (?) 260-261, billon 4.22 g. IMP C FVL MACRIANVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. APOLINI CONSERVA Apollo standing l., standing l., holding laurel branch in r. hand and resting l. on lyre at his side. RIC 6. C 2.

Very fine

200

Quietus, 260 – 261

- 169 Antoninianus, Antiochia (?) 260-261, billon 3.70 g. IMP C FVL QVIETVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CONS – ERVATORI Jupiter seated l., holding patera in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at foot, eagle. RIC 6. C 8.

Scarce. Extremely fine

500

Ex NFA sale XX, 1988, 409.

Dryantilla, wife of Regalianus



- 170 Antoninianus, Carnutum circa 260-261, AR 3.15 g. SVLP DRYANTILLA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. AEQVITAS AVGG Aequitas standing l., holding scales in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 1. C -. Göbl p. 26, Di and pl. III (these dies).

Excessively rare and among the finest specimens known. Struck on unusually good metal and extremely fine

12'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 661.

The rebel coinage of Regalianus and his wife Dryantilla was struck briefly in 260/261, at a moment when the Empire was in complete chaos. The Persian king Shapur had captured Rome's senior emperor, Valerian I, in the summer of 260, and several rebellions soon broke out: Postumus in Gaul, Macrianus and Quietus at Antioch, and the governor Ingenuus at Sirmium. The latter was soon defeated, only to be succeeded by Regalianus, who was hailed by his soldiers at Carnuntum. Regalianus struck coins in his own name and in the name of a Sulpicia Dryantilla, a woman we must presume was his wife, though it has been suggested she was his mother. Virtually nothing is known of her except that she was the daughter of Claudia Ammiana Dryantilla and Sulpicius Pollio, an accomplished senator and officer under Caracalla. Their coins were extremely crude productions over-struck on earlier coins, principally Severan denarii, but ranging in date from Septimius Severus to Maximinus I 'Thrax'.

Postumus, 259 – 268



- 171 Aureus, Cologne December 265, AV 6.51 g. POSTVMVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PIETAS AVGG Pietas standing l., holding two infants in their arms, and another two standing with raised hands at her sides. RIC 279. C 229. Schulte 106 (this coin). Calicó 3750 (this coin). Biaggi 1522 (this coin).

Extremely rare. A superb portrait of exquisite style well struck in high relief. Minor marks on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

35'000

Ex Naville-Ars Classica sale XVI, 1933, 2005.

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

Claudius II Gothicus, 268 – 270



172

- 172 Aureus, Mediolanum 270, AV 5.21 g. IMP CLAVD – IVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r, with drapery on far shoulder. Rev. PAX – E – X – ERC Pax standing l., holding branch in r. hand and transverse sceptre in l. RIC 131 var. C 207 var. Calicó 3947 (this coin). Jameson 281 (this coin). Biaggi 1562 (this coin).
Very rare. Minor marks on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 20'000

Ex Rollin & Feuardent 1896, Montagu, 675; Sotheby's, Wilkinson e Hodge June 1906, Astronomer, 108; Leu 22, 1979, 348 and Leu 77, 2000, 636 sales.

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

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

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

Claudius then conspired with other officers, including the future emperor Aurelian, to murder Gallienus. The deed was achieved as Gallienus emerged from his tent upon hearing a false alarm indicating a counter-offensive. After the promise of a liberal bribe, the soldiers hailed Claudius their new emperor, and he continued the siege until Aureolus had been ousted and executed.

Laelianus, 269



173

173

- 173 Antoninianus, Moguntiacum or Treviri 269, billon 2.17 g. IMP C LAELIANVS P F AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – R – I – A AVG Victory advancing r., holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch over l. shoulder. RIC 9. C 4. Elmer 625 and pl. 8, 18. Gilljam pl. F, 33.
Scarce. Very fine 800

Marius, 269



174

174

- 174 Antoninianus, Cologne 269, billon 3.13 g. IMP C MARIVS P F AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SAEC – F – ELICITAS Felicitas standing l., holding caduceus in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC 10. C 13.
Rare. Brown tone and extremely fine 500

Ex Sternberg sale XV, 1985, 576.

Victorinus, 269 – 271



175



175

- 175 Antoninianus, Cologne 269-271, billon 3.39 g. IMP C M PIAVONIVS VICTORINVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PA – X – AVG Pax standing l., holding branch and transverse spear. RIC 116. C 85. Toned and extremely fine 200

Tetricus I, 271 – 274



176



176

- 176 Antoninianus, Southern mint 271-274, billon 2.71 g. IMP C TETRICVS P F AVG Radiate and draped bust r. Rev. VICTO – R – IA AVG Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch. RIC 141. C 185. Brown tone and about extremely fine 100

Tetricus II Caesar, 273 - 274



177



177

- 177 Antoninianus, Cologne (?) 273-274, Æ 4.14 g. PIV ESV TETRICVS CAES Radiate and draped bust r. Rev. SPES AVGG Spes advancing l., holding flower and raising skirt. RIC 270. C 88. Brown tone and good very fine 100

Quintillus, July – September 270



178



178

- 178 Antoninianus July-September 270, Æ 3.74 g. IMP C M AVR CL QVINTILLVS AVG Radiate and draped bust r. Rev. CONC – ORD – EXER Concordia standing l., holding standard in each hand. RIC 10. C 11. Brown tone and extremely fine 250

Aurelian, 270 – 275



179

- 179 Aureus 274, AV 3.98 g. IMP C L DOM AVRE – LIANVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. V – IRTVS – AVG Mars walking r., holding spear in r. hand and trophy in l. over l. shoulder. RIC 15. C 269 var. (draped ad cuirassed). Göbl 127qo (these dies). Calicó 4048 (these dies).

Well struck in high relief and extremely fine

6'500

Ex Lanz sale 38, 1986, 877.



180



180

- 180 Antoninianus 274, billon 4.66 g. IMP AVRELIANVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ORIE – N – S AVG Sol walking r., holding laurel branch and bow and treading down an enemy; in exergue, XXIR. RIC 64. C 159. Göbl 130F-2.

Extremely fine

200

Severina, wife of Aurelian



181



181

- 181 Antoninianus, Siscia 275, Æ 4.18 g. SEVERINAE AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. CONCORDIAE M – ILITVM Concordia standing facing, head l., holding standard in each hand; in exergue, XXI. RIC 13. C 8. Göbl 237.

Extremely fine

200

Aurelian and Vabalathus, 270 – 271



182



- 182 Antoninianus, Antiochia 270-271, billon 4.21 g. IMP C AVRELIANVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust of Aurelian r.; below, S. Rev. VABALATHVS VCRIMOR Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. RIC 381. C 1.

Good very fine

200

Zenobia, mother of Vabalathus



- 183 Antoninianus, Emesa (?) late April – early Summer 272, billon 3.68 g. S ZENOBIA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. IVNO REGINA Juno standing l., holding patera in extended r. hand and sceptre in l.; at her feet, peacock standing l.; in exergue, H. RIC 2. C -. Carson, Q. Tic VII, 1978, 5 (this obverse die). Extremely rare and among the finest specimens. A superb specimen with the silvering almost intact, extremely fine 9'000

Ex NFA sale XXV, 1990, 457.

When Zenobia came to power as queen of Palmyra, the Roman Empire was in its weakest position since its foundation some three centuries before. Decades of political and economic instability had caused the central government to lose the West to Gallic usurpers and to forfeit control of the East to the rulers of Palmyra.

Initially the Romans had entrusted the defense of its provinces in the East to Odenathus, the king of the desert oasis of Palmyra, who had effectively battled the Sasanian king Shapur I. But with the murder of Odenathus in 267 the kingdom fell into the hands of a more ambitious character, his former wife Zenobia, who associated with her rule her son Vabalathus. Zenobia's poor relations with Rome were brought to a head in 268 when Gallienus sent an unsuccessful expedition against her. No progress was made under the subsequent emperors Claudius II and Quintillus, under whom Zenobia won control of virtually the whole of the Roman East.

When Aurelian came to power in 270 he did much to repair the breach, for he knew firsthand the weak position of Rome. Late in his accession year, Aurelian even jointly issued coinage with Vabalathus at imperial mints in the East and at the provincial mint in Alexandria, and finally he had to approve the royal titles that had been demanded by Zenobia and Vabalathus. The stalemate lasted until Aurelian settled affairs in Europe and could lead an army against them, which he did at the end of 271 or the spring of 272. His campaign was a great success, and it resulted in the capture of Zenobia and Vabalathus.

This rare portrait coin of Zenobia can be attributed to the brief period between her claim of the title of Augusta and her capture by the armies of Aurelian. The mint for these coins has been a topic of debate, though all seem to agree that they were struck in Syria, presumably at Antioch or Emesa, and that production did not begin until the late spring of 272, shortly before Aurelian besieged Palmyra and took his royal captives back to Rome for display in a great triumph.

Tacitus, 275 – 276



- 184 Antoninianus, Ticinum 275-276, billon 3.67 g. IMP C M CL TACITVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. MART - I - P - ACIF Mars walking l., holding olive-branch, spear and shield; in exergue, S. RIC 145. C 60. Minor flan crack, otherwise good extremely fine 150

Florian, 276



- 185 Antoninianus, Lugdunum 276, billon 3.68 g. IMP C M AN FLORIANVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS AVGVSTI Mars advancing r., holding spear and trophy; in exergue, II. RIC 14. C 104. Bastien Lyon 136. A very attractive portrait and good extremely fine 250

Ex Sternberg sale 3, 1974, 317.

Probus, 276 – 282



- 186 Aureus, Siscia 276-282, AV 5.92 g. IMP C M AVR P – ROBVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SECVRITAS SAECVLI Securitas seated l., holding sceptre in r. hand and raising l. to head; in exergue, SIS. RIC 594. C 629 (misdescribed?). Calicó 4189 (this coin).

Rare. Perfectly struck on a broad and with a light reddish tone. Good extremely fine

10'000

Ex Glendining sale 1950, Platt Hall part II, 1961.



- 187 Antoninianus 276-282, billon 4.41 g. IMP PROB – VS – AVG Radiate, helmeted and cuirassed bust l., holding spear and shield. Rev. ROMAE AE – TERNA Roma seated in hexastyle temple, holding Victory and sceptre; in exergue, R. RIC 195. C 546.

Good extremely fine

200



- 188 Antoninianus 276-282, billon 3.85 g. IMP PRO – BVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA GERM Trophy between two captives; in exergue, R crescent A. RIC 222. C 768.

Good extremely fine

150



- 189 Antoninianus, Ticinum 280-282, billon 3.71 g. IM – P C M AVR PROBVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust l., holding shield and spear. Rev. VIRTVS AVG Soldier standing l., holding Victory and spear and leaning on shield; in exergue, QXXT. RIC 435. C 280 var.

Minor corrosion on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine

100

Carus, 282 – 283



190



190

- 190 Antoninianus, Ticinum 282-283, billon 3.88 g. IMP CARVS P F AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SPES – PVBLICA Spes advancing l., holding flower and raising skirt; in exergue, SXXI. RIC 82. C 79. Good extremely fine 200
Ex Sternberg sale XII, 1982, 808.

Carinus, 283 – 285



191



191

- 191 Antoninianus, Lugdunum 283-284, Æ 5.62 g. IMP C M AVR CARINVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. AEQVITAS AVGG Aequitas standing l., holding scales and cornucopiae; in field r., A. RIC 212. C 8. Bastien Lyon 533. Brown tone and extremely fine 150

Magna Urbica, wife of Carinus



192



- 192 Aureus 283, AV 4.85 g. MAGNIA VR – BICA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENERI VICTRICI Venus standing r., holding up drapery at her l. shoulder and apple in l. hand. RIC 340. C 8. Kent-Hirmer pl. 146, 560. Giacosa, Women of the Caesars, p. 123 and pl. 57 (this coin). Calicó 4409. Mazzini 8 (this coin). Very rare. Good extremely fine 28'000

Ex NFA sale XXII, 1989, 114. From the A. Moretti and Mazzini collections.



193



193

- 193 Antoninianus, Ticinum 283-285, Æ 4.84 g. MAGNA VRBICA AVG Draped and diademed bust r. on crescent. Rev. VENVS VI – CTRIX Venus standing l., holding helmet and sceptre and leaning on shield; in exergue, SXXIT. RIC 347. C 15. Scarce. Brown tone and extremely fine 750

Divo Nigriniano, son of Carinus



194



- 194 Antoninianus 283-284, billon 3.40 g. DIVO NIGRINIANO Radiate and naked half bust r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing facing with spread wings, head to l.; in exergue, KAA. RIC 472. C 3. Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. An enchanting portrait perfectly struck and with most of the original silvering still visible. Good extremely fine 5'000

Ex Leu sale 77, 2000, 647.

The coinage of Nigrinian, the son of Carinus who died in childhood, is limited to gold aurei (which are exceedingly rare) and billon Aureliani which, despite the large finds from this period, are still rare and elusive. We are fortunate that this piece combines a pristine state of preservation with a truly remarkable 'heroic' bust type, making it among the most desirable of the surviving examples of his coinage.

Numerian Augustus, 283 – 284



195



195

- 195 Antoninianus, Cyzicus 283-284, billon 4.80 g. IMP C NVMERIANVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CLEMENTIA – TEMP Numerian standing r., holding sceptre and receiving Victory on globe from Jupiter (or Carus) standing l., holding sceptre; in lower centre field, B. In exergue, XXI. RIC 463. C 8. Good extremely fine 200

Julian of Pannonia, November 284 – February 285



196



196

- 196 Antoninianus, Siscia late 284, billon 4.17 g. IMP C M AVR IULIANVS PF AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICT – ORI – A – AVG Victory standing l, holding wreath and palm-branch; in fields, S – A. In exergue, XXI. RIC 5. C 8.

Very rare and in superb condition for the issue. Most of original silvering still visible, extremely fine

4'500

Ex NFA sale XXVII, 1991, 179.

Diocletian, 284 – 305



197



- 197 Aureus, Cyzicus 284-286, AV 4.50 g. IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CONS – ERVAT – ORI ORBIS Jupiter standing l., holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 299. C 283. Lukanc 14. Calicó 4524. Depeyrot 2/3.

Extremely fine

7'000



198



- 198 Aureus 1st April 286, AV 5.81 g. IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CO – NSER – VAT AVGG Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 134. C 216. Lukanc 5. Calicó 4465a. Depeyrot 2D/1.

A magnificent portrait perfectly struck and centred on a full flan. Virtually as struck and Fdc

12'500

Ex Leu sale 52, 1991, Distinguished American Collection, 262.



199



199

- 199 Antoninianus, Heraclea 291, billon 4.16 g. IMP CC VAL DIOCLETIANVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA MI – LITVM Diocletian standing r., holding parazonium, and receiving Victory from Jupiter standing l., holding sceptre; in lower centre field, A. In exergue, XXI. RIC 284. C 34. Depeyrot 2/3.

Extremely fine

150



200



- 200 Argenteus 294, AR 3.39 g. DIOCLET – IANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORI – A SARMAT
Four-turreted camp gate with the four tetrarchs swearing above tripod. RIC 19a. C 488. Sisak Hoard pl. 7, 2.
Nicely toned and good extremely fine 1'000

Ex Leu sale 38, 1986, 348.



201



- 201 Follis, Ticinum 296-297, billon 10.53 g. IMP C DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. GENIO
POPV – LI ROMANI Genius standing l., with *modius* on head and *chlamys* over l. shoulder, holding patera
and cornucopiae; in field l., star. In exergue, PT. RIC 31a. C 101.

Silvering almost intact on obverse and good extremely fine

150

Maximianus Herculus Augustus, first reign 286 -305



202



- 202 Aureus, Cyzicus 293, AV 5.43 g. MAXIMIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head l. Rev. CONCORDI –
AE AVGG NN The two Augusti seated l., each holding globe and *parazonium*, crowned by Victory between
them. RIC 616 (Antiochia, this coin). C 47 var. (laureate head r.). Calicó 4613 (this coin). Depeyrot 13/4.

Extremely fine

7'500

Ex Canessa sale June 1923, Caruso, 516.

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



203



203



- 203 Antoninianus, Cyzicus circa 293, billon 4.50 g. IMP C MAXIMIANVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA MI – LITVM Maximianus standing r., holding *parazonium* and receiving Victory on globe from Jupiter standing l., holding sceptre; in lower centre field, €. In exergue, XXI. RIC 607. C 53. Traces of silvering, extremely fine 150



204



- 204 Argenteus, Ticinum circa 295, AR 2.94 g. MAXIMIA – NVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVS – MILITVM Six-turreted camp gate with the four tetrachs swearing over tripod. RIC 18b. C 622. Sisak Hoard 36 and pl. 6, 3.

Attractively toned. Insignificant flan crack, otherwise good extremely fine

1'000

Carausius, 286 – 293



205



205



- 205 Antoninianus, Londinium 286-293, Æ 5.03 g. IMP CARAVSIVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LEG - II AVG Capricorn l.; below, ML. RIC 58. C 133. Hunterian 4. Very rare. Brown tone and extremely fine / about extremely fine 500

Allectus, 294 – 297



206



206



- 206 Antoninianus, Camulodunum 294-297, Æ 3.78 g. IMP C ALLECTVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PA – X AVG Pax standing l., holding olive-branch and vertical sceptre; in fields, S – P. In exergue, C. RIC 86. C 31 var. Hunterian 47.

Rare. Of pleasant style. Brown tone and extremely fine

600

Ex M&M sale 86, 1998, 197.

Constantius I Chlorus Caesar, 293 – 305



207

- 207 Argenteus, Ticinum circa 294, AR 2.90 g. CONSTANTI – VS CAESAR Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORIA – SARMAT Six-turreted camp gate with the four tetrarchs swearing over tripod. RIC 13a. C 286. Sisak Hoard 35 and pl. 6, 1. Nicely toned and extremely fine 1'000

Ex Leu sale 10, 1974, 395.



208

- 208 Follis, Alexandria circa 301, Æ 8.92 g. FL VAL CONSTANTIVS NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. GENIO POPV – L I ROMANI Genius standing l., holding patera and cornucopiae; in fields, XX – A / I. In exergue, ALE. RIC 33a. C 89. Extremely fine / about extremely fine 200



209



- 209 Aureus, Treveri circa 303, AV 5.45 g. CONSTN – TIV NOB C Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI CONSER – AVGG ET CAESS NN Hercules standing facing, with head l., leaning with r. hand on club and holding bow in l.; lion's skin over l. shoulder and quiver behind r. In exergue, TR. RIC 43. C –. Calicó 4836. Biaggi 1850 (this coin). Depeyrot 10B/7. Baldwin-Brett, NC 1933, 105 and pl. 25, 3.

An outstanding portrait well-struck in high relief. Virtually as struck and Fdc

12'000

Ex Ratto sale January 1955, Giorgi, 1085.



210

- 210 *Divo Constantio*. Follis, Ticinum 307-308, Æ 6.61 g. DIVO CONSTANTIO AVG Veiled head r. Rev. MEMORIA DIV – I CONSTANTI Eagle with spread wings standing r., head l., on domed shrine with arched double doors closed. In exergue, S T. RIC 97. C 171. Brown tone and extremely fine 300

Ex Sternberg sale XV, 1985, 660.

Domitius Domitianus, 295 – 296



211

- 211 Follis, Alexandria 295-296, Æ 10.19 g. IMP CL DOMITIVS DOMITIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. GENIO POPVLI – L – I ROMANI Genius standing l., with modius on head and naked but for *chlamys* over l. shoulder, holding patera in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; in field l., eagle. In field r., B and in exergue, ALE. RIC 20. C 1. Very rare. Olive-green patina and about extremely fine 3'000

Ex NFA sale XXV, 1990, 481.

Galerius Maximianus Caesar, 293 – 305



212

- 212 Aureus, Antiochia 293, AV 5.39 g. MAXIMIANVS – NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONS – CAES * Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in upraised l. hand and vertical sceptre in r.; at his feet, eagle. In exergue, SMAΣ. RIC 15. C 118. Calicó 4910. Biaggi 1858 (this coin). Depeyrot 9/5. Extremely fine 8'000

Ex Glendining sale November 1950, Platt Hall part II, 2003.



213

213

- 213 Antoninianus, Antiochia 293-294, billon 4.02 g. GAL VAL MAXIMIANVS NOB CAES Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI ET HERCVLI CONS CAES Jupiter standing r., holding globe and sceptre, facing Hercules standing l., holding Victory, club and lion's skin; in centre field, Γ. In exergue, XXI. RIC. 719. C 127. Extremely fine 150



214

- 214 Argenteus circa 294, AR 3.15 g. MAXIMIA – NVS CAES Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVS – MILITVM Six-turreted camp gate in front of which the four tetrachs swear over tripod. RIC 29b. C 219. Sisak Hoard 79 and pl. 10, 12. Attractively toned. Flan crack and about extremely fine 800



215

- 215 Follis, Ticinum 298-299, Æ 9.44 g. MAXIMIANVS NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. GENIO POPVLI ROMANI Genius standing l., with *modius* on head and naked but for *chlamys*, holding patera and cornucopiae; in field l., star. In exergue, PT. RIC 35b. C 87. Extremely fine 150

Galerius Maximianus Augustus, 306 – 311



216

- 216 Follis early Autumn 307, Æ 7.23 g. IMP C MAXIMIANVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CONSERVATO – RES VRBS SVAE Roma seated facing, holding globe and sceptre, within hexastyle temple; in exergue, R * S. RIC 194b. C Maximianus Herculeus 75. Extremely fine 150

Galeria Valeria, wife of Galerius Maximianus



217



- 217 Aureus, Siscia 308-309, AV 5.38 g. GAL VALE – RIA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. VENERI – VICTRICI Venus standing facing, head l., holding apple in upraised r. hand and raising drapery over l. shoulder; in exergue, SIS. RIC 196. C 4. Calicó 4969 (this coin). Depeyrot 11/7. Kent pl. 154, 601 (this obverse die).

Very rare. Light scratches and a nick at twelve o'clock on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

24'000

Ex NFA sale XIV, 1984, 551.

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.



218

- 218 Follis, Antiochia 309, Æ 7.50 g. GAL VAL – ERIA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENERI VICTRICI Venus standing facing, head l., holding apple in upraised r. hand and raising with l. drapery over l. shoulder; in field r., O / B. In exergue, ANT*. RIC 115. C 3. Brown tone and extremely fine 250



219



219

- 219 Follis, Alexandria 310, Æ 6.39 g. GAL VAL – ERIA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENERI V – ICTRICI Venus standing facing, head l., holding apple in upraised r. hand and raising with l. drapery over l. shoulder; in field l., K and in field r., Γ / P. In exergue, ALE. RIC 110. C 3.
Scarce. Brown tone and good extremely fine 250

Severus II Caesar, 305 – 306



220



220

- 220 Follis, Treveri 305-306, Æ 9.72 g. FL VAL SEVERVS NOB C Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GENIO POPV – LI – ROMANI Genius standing l., head towered, holding patera and cornucopia; at sides, S – F. In exergue, PTF. RIC 651. C 26.
Porous surface on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine 250

Maximinus II Daia Augustus, 310 – 313



221



- 221 Aureus, Alexandria 311-313, AV 5.26 g. MAXIMI – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. SOLI IN – VICTO Sol, radiate and in long robe, standing l., raising r. hand and holding with l. head of Serapis; in exergue, ALE. RIC 132. C -, Calicó 5038. M. Alföldi 488. Depeyrot 13/4.
Rare. Almost invisible marks in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 8'000

Ex Leu sale 13, 1974, 492.

Maxentius Caesar, 306 – 307



222

- 222 Aureus late 306 – early spring 307, AV 5.28 g. MAXENTIVS – PRINC INVICT Laureate head r. Rev. CONSERVAT – O – R VRBIS SVAE Roma seated l. on shield, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field l., E. In exergue, P R. RIC 135 (this coin). C 48 var. (no E). Calicó 5051 (this coin). Biaggi 1910 (this coin). Depeyrot 15/2. Carson, Essays Lafaurie, 86.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue.

Well-struck in high relief and extremely fine

26'000

When he raised the standards of revolt against Galerius and Severus II on October 28, 306, Maxentius did not proclaim himself Augustus, but rather styled himself first as Caesar, and soon thereafter as *Princeps Invictus* ('unconquered leader' or 'invincible leader'), which should not be confused with the honorary title *Princeps Iuventutis* ('leader of the youth') so commonly observed on earlier Roman coins. He retained these intermediary titles until February or April, 307, when the invasion of Italy by Severus II was imminent, at which point he and his father assumed the unlawful titles of Augustus.

Maxentius Augustus, 307 – 312



223

- 223 Follis, Aquileia late summer 307, Æ 8.48 g. IMP C MAXENTIVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CONSERV – VRB SVAE Roma seated l. on shield within tetrastyle temple, handing globe to Maxentius in military attire, standing l. and holding sceptre; between them, a seated captive. In exergue, AQS. RIC 113. C 42. Paolucci-Zub 173.

Brown-green patina and extremely fine

250

Divo Romulo, son of Maxentius



224

- 224 Follis 308-310, Æ 6.57 g. DIVO ROMVLO N V BIS CONS Bare head r. Rev. AETERNAE – MEMORIAE Domed shrine with doors ajar surmounted by eagle; in exergue, RBP. RIC 207. C 4.

In exception condition for the issue. Brown tone and extremely fine

1'000

Ex Leu sale 36, 1985, 337.

Alexander, 308 – 310



225

- 225 Follis, Carthago 308-310, Æ 4.29 g. IMP ALEXANDER P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. ROMAE A – ETERNAE Roma seated l. in hexastyle temple, holding globe and leaning on sceptre; in exergue, P K. RIC 70. C 10.

Very rare. Brown tone and about extremely fine

5'000

Licinius I, 308 – 324



226

- 226 Follis, Antiochia 312, Æ 4.62 g. IMP C LIC LICINIVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. SOLI IN – VICTO Sol, radiate in long robe, standing l., raising r. hand and holding in l. head of Serapis; at sides, Δ - *. In exergue, ANT. RIC 167a. C 160 var. Mazzini d. 160 (this coin) About extremely fine 150

Ex Sternberg sale XIV, 1984, 490. From the Mazzini collection.



227

- 227 Aureus, Nicomedia 321-322, AV 5.30 g. LICINIVS AVG OB D V FILII SVI Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust facing. Rev. IOVI CONS – LICINI AVG Jupiter seated facing enthroned on platform, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field l., eagle with wreath in beak. The platform is inscribed SIC X / SIC XX. In exergue, SMNA. RIC 41. C 128 var. Calicó 5094 (this coin). Alföldi 262. Jameson 477 (this coin). Depeyrot 31/1.

Very rare and in exceptional state of preservation, one of the finest specimens known.

A magnificent portrait well-struck in high relief. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

35*000

Ex Florange-Ciani 1923, 107; M&M 15, 1955, 861; Hess-Leu 1961, ESR Sammlung, 408 and Leu 22, 1979, 379 sales. From the Jameson collection.

The facing portrait on Roman coins was an extremely rare occurrence until the reign of Constantius II, who eventually adopted the form as his standard obverse type at eastern mints. However, the form he used was simplistic in comparison to earlier attempts: the face of the emperor was small and inarticulate, with the true impact of the design being derived from the form and the ornamentation of the armoured, helmeted bust, which could be easily replicated on a large scale. By contrast, this aureus of Licinius represents an impressive attempt to capture the spirit of the emperor as an individual, not merely as a universal being.

Four important issues of gold with facing busts were produced from c. 310 to c. 321. The first was by Maxentius on aurei of c. 310-312, and the second by Constantine on solidi of 316; the former was shown bare-headed and bearded, in the guise of a model Tetrarch, the latter was shown nimbate and clean-shaven, as a reflection of his unique brand of monotheism, which embraced solar worship and the Christian faith. Similarities in the style of the two issues make it possible that both were the work of the same artist, who initially worked for Maxentius, and who remained in Italy after Constantine's takeover and produced a facing-head for his new master. Following these two coinages are the solidi of c. 321 struck for Licinius I and Licinius II, and we should not doubt that they were inspired by one or both of the predecessor issues.

The Licinian solidi mark a special event, the taking of imperial vows. The statue of Jupiter rests upon a monumental base inscribed SIC X SIC XX, a substitute for the usual *votum*, in which Licinius gives thanks for ten years of rulership and demonstrates a desire to reign for twenty. Based on this alone, the issue might be attributed to 317, when those vows were taken on the occasion of Licinius' *decennalia*, but a formula cleverly integrated into the obverse inscription, OB D V (*ob diem quinquennialium*), alludes to the *quinquennalia* (fifth anniversary) of his son Licinius II, for whom a companion issue of facing-head solidi was struck. Thus, we must date this aureus to c. 320/321.

Equally worthy of comment is the reverse type, on which Jupiter makes one of his last appearances on Roman coinage. This can be seen as evidence of the simmering hostilities between Constantine and Licinius, who not only were co-emperors, but were brothers-in-law. Their rivalry increasingly took on a religious tone, with Constantine now favouring Christianity and Licinius embracing the supreme pagan god – partly because of his own beliefs, partly in opposition to Constantine. Licinius had initially adopted religious ambiguity in 313 as a token of good faith toward Constantine, who early in that year had issued the 'Edict of Milan' in both of their names. Here that position is rejected: the inscription describes Jupiter as the protector of Licinius, and the god is represented by an especially powerful and ancient image, seemingly derived from Phidias' famous gold and ivory statue in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia.

Licinius II Caesar, 317 – 324



- 228 Aureus, Nicomedia 319, AV 5.26 g. DN LICINIUS – NOB CAES Laureate bust r., wearing *trabea* and holding globe in r. and eagle-tipped sceptre in l. Rev. IOVI CONS – D N NOB CAES Jupiter seated facing on high-backed throne, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and vertical sceptre in l.; at feet on l., eagle with wreath in beak. In exergue, SMN. RIC 21 (this coin). C –. Calicó 5148 (this coin). Biaggi 1953 (this coin). Depeyrot 91/1 (this coin). Jameson 478 (this coin).

Of the highest rarity, apparently only two specimens known and one of the finest aurei of Licinius II in existence. A fantastic and unusual portrait in the finest style of the period.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

40'000

Ex Canessa sale June 1923, Caruso, 550. From the Jameson collection.

This remarkable aureus marks the first consulship of Licinius II, which he assumed on January 1, 319 with Constantine as his colleague in the West. It was the last moment of open cooperation between Licinius and Constantine in the years that followed their first war in 316. In that conflict Constantine had scored a quick and masterful victory, though one that was too hazardous to build upon; so he was content to assume control of most of Licinius' European territories, leaving to him the easternmost part of the Balkans and the vast Asiatic territories beyond.

As the senior emperor, Constantine had the right to appoint the consuls each year. In a cooperative arrangement with Licinius, Constantine initially made sure he appointed consuls in a way that would not cause offense: in 317, the first opportunity after the war, he appointed two senators; in 318 he awarded them to Licinius I and Crispus; and in 319 he named himself and Licinius II. This is the occasion for this remarkable aureus, which depicts the young heir of Licinius draped in the regalia of a consul and holding the *scipio*, the eagle-tipped scepter.

But the relations of the rival emperors were not destined to last. In the next year, 320, Constantine reversed his policy of shared consulships, and instead awarded both positions to members of his own family – himself and his second son, Constantine II. This alarmed and offended Licinius, to whom it was an obvious display of hostility. In the next year, 321, Licinius responded by appointing himself and his son as consuls in opposition to the candidates of Constantine. This petty baiting by Constantine, and confrontational response by Licinius escalated until, eventually, the two went to war a second time in 324. In that contest Licinius, the issuer of this magnificent aureus on behalf of his son, was roundly defeated and surrendered on the promise he and his son would be spared execution. Like many of Constantine's promises, though, this one rang hollow, and the vanquished were soon executed – the father in 325 and the son in 326.

Martinian, 324



- 229 Follis, Nicomedia 324, AE 4.20 g. D N M MARTINIANO P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CONS – ERVATORI Jupiter standing l., holding Victory on globe in r. hand and eagle-tipped sceptre in l.; at feet, eagle holding wreath in beak. In upper field r., X / IIII and below, captive on ground. In exergue, SMNB. RIC 46. C 4. Extremely rare and in unusual good condition for the issue.

Green patina, about extremely fine / good very fine

8'000

Ex M&M 52, 1975, 762; SKA Berne 2, 1984, 611 and NFA XXV, 1990, 488 sales.

Martinian was the unfortunate soul who Licinius made his co-emperor in a moment of desperation following his defeat by Constantine at Adrianople on July 3, 324. Under virtually identical circumstances eight years before, Licinius had done the same disservice to Valerius Valens, who was executed after Licinius sued for peace. With this in mind, we can only imagine Martinian's desperation in accepting his hasty promotion from *magister officiorum* (head of the civil service) to emperor. We are fortunate that coins were struck in Martinian's name, for their inscriptions provide him the title of Augustus – a contradiction to most of the literary sources, which only describe him as having held the subordinate rank of Caesar. The war quickly evolved on a disastrous path. Licinius was no better prepared the second time to meet Constantine, who this time was determined to make his victory complete. The armies were enormous: the combined land forces exceeded 250,000 men and the seas were crowded with some 500 ships. From the first engagement Licinius was on the retreat, falling back to the Bosphorus and instructing Martinian to raise reinforcements and to prevent Constantine from crossing into Asia Minor. But Crispus, the eldest son of Constantine, won a spectacular naval battle and took command of the Sea of Marmara, thus allowing a flotilla to deliver Constantinian troops onto Asian soil. Eventually Licinius took refuge in Nicomedia with a fraction of his original army. His surrender was arranged by Constantia, who was trapped in the middle as the wife of Licinius, the mother of Licinius II, and the half-sister of Constantine. Though the lives of Licinius and his son were initially spared, Martinian was executed not long after he had been sent in exile to Cappadocia.

Constantine I Caesar, 306 – 309



230

- 230 Follis, Aquileia late summer 307, Æ 6.11 g. CONSTANTINVS NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. CONSERV – VRB SVAE Roma seated facing, head l., within hexastyle temple, holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, AQΓ. RIC 117. C 80. Paolucci-Zub 230.

Reddish tone and extremely fine

100

Constantine I Augustus, 310 – 337



231

- 231 Reduced follis, Siscia 320, Æ 3.31 g. CONSTA – NTINVS AVG Helmeted and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS EXERCIT Standard inscribed VOT / XX; on either side, captive seated on ground; in fields, S – F. In exergue, ASIS[. RIC 109. C 693. Mazzini pl. XXVIII, 693 (this coin).

Good extremely fine

100

Ex Kunst und Munzen sale XXIV, 1984, 325. From the Mazzini collection.



232

- 232 Solidus, Thessalonica 324, AV 4.50 g. CONSTANT – INVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTOR OMN – IVM GENTIVM Constantine, in military attire, standing l., holding standard in r. hand and resting l. on shield; in front, two suppliants and behind, captive seating on ground. In exergue, SMTSB. RIC 135. C 574. Alföldi 659.

Virtually as struck and Fdc

12'000

Ex NAC sale 10, 1997, 700.



233

233

- 233 Solidus, Ticinum 324-325, AV 4.40 g. Diademed head r. Rev. CONSTANTINVS AVG Victory seated l. on globe, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; in exergue, SMT. RIC 179. C 102. Alföldi 42.

Of pleasant style and extremely fine

7'000

Ex Leu sale 13, 1975, 494.



234

- 234 Solidus, Nicomedia 335, AV 4.27 g. CONSTANTI – NVS MAX AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA CONSTANTINI AVG Victory seated r. on cuirass and shield, writing VOT / XXX on shield supported by Genius; in exergue, SMNM. RIC 179. C 615. Alföldi 607.

Extremely fine

5'000



235

- 235 *Divo Constantino*. Æ 4, Alessandria before April 340, 1.64 g. DV CONSTANTI – NVS P T AVGG Veiled bust r. Rev. Emperor veiled in prancing quadriga r.; above, the Hand of God reaches down to him. In exergue, SMALΔ. RIC 12. C 760. Extremely fine 100

Helena, mother of Constantine



236

- 236 Solidus, Nicomedia 324-325, AV 4.45 g. FL HELENA – AVGVSTA Diademed and draped bust r., wearing double pearl necklace. Rev. SECVRITAS – REIPVBLICAE Securitas standing l., lowering branch in r. hand and raising robe with l.; in exergue, SMNT. RIC 80. C 11. Depuyrot 35/4. Alföldi 465. Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. An attractive portrait well-centred, extremely fine 70'000

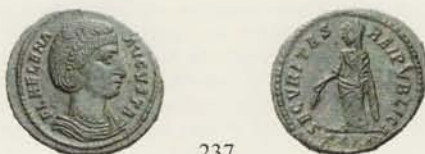
Ex NFA sale XXII, 1989, 133. From the A. Moretti collection.

Helena's legacy evolved dramatically over the centuries that followed her death. There can be no doubt of her humble origins, of her abandonment by Constantius "Chlorus", and of her exalted position in the court of her son Constantine, who Eusebius tells us was responsible for his mother's conversion to Christianity. All of these points are supported by contemporary source materials.

The fanciful elements of Helena's legacy only begin to take form many decades after her death, by which time she was being credited with the discovery (*inventio*) of the True Cross during her visit to the Holy Land in c. 327. There is good, contemporary evidence for her visit to the Holy Land and for the excavation of the True Cross either during the lifetime of Constantine or soon afterward, but these separate events became melded in the later 4th Century.

No source close to Helena's lifetime credits her with the discovery of the Cross. The account of the Pilgrim of Bordeaux, who visited the Holy Land in 333, does not record the discovery of the cross nor does it mention Helena; nor does Eusebius of Caesarea, who wrote his glowing biography of Constantine soon after the emperor's death in 337. Cyril of Jerusalem, in c. 351, was aware of the remains of the Cross, but he does not credit Helena with the discovery. Equally valuable is the silence of Julian II (360-363), who ridicules Christians for worshipping the Cross, yet he does not demean Helena in connection with it; since Julian would have availed himself of any opportunity to disgrace his "wicked stepmother" we must presume that during his lifetime it was not commonly believed that Helena discovered the Cross. The pilgrim Egeria, who visited Jerusalem in c. 380/384 describes the celebrations in Jerusalem relating to the discovery of the Cross, yet she does not mention Helena in connection. Even some major sources of later date, including St. John Chrysostom and Jerome, fail to identify Helena as discoverer of the Cross.

However, at least by c. 390, when Gelasius of Caesarea was writing his now lost Ecclesiastical History, the discovery of the Cross was fully developed as a legend. The first surviving sources to credit Helena with the discovery were Ambrose of Milan (*De obitu Theod.* 40-49) in 395 and Rufinus of Aquileia (*Hist. Eccl.* 10.7-8). With the passage of time the details of Helena's fanciful *inventio* were further embellished in the accounts of Paulinus of Nola (*Epist.* 31.4-5), Socrates (*Hist. Eccl.* 1.17 PG 67, 117ff.), Sozomen (*Hist. Eccl.* 2.1-2), Theodoret (*Hist. Eccl.* 1.18), Sulpicius Severus (*Chron.* 2.22-34) and others.



237

- 237 Æ 3, Treveri 327-328, 2.93 g. FL HELENA – AVGVSTA Diademed and draped bust r., wearing double pearl necklace. Rev. SECVRITAS – REIPVBLICAE Securitas standing l., lowering branch in r. hand and raising robe with l.; in exergue, PTRE. RIC 508. C 12. Green patina and about extremely fine 100

Fausta, wife of Constantine I



- 238 Solidus, Nicomedia 324-325, AV 4.48 g. FLAV MAX – FAVSTA AVG Draped bust r., wearing pearl necklace. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE Fausta, draped and veiled, standing facing, head l., holding two children in her arms; in exergue, SMNB. RIC 78. C 5. Depeyrot 35/3. Alföldi 443.

Extremely rare. A very appealing portrait, two almost invisible marks in reverse field,

otherwise extremely fine

80'000

Ex Naville-Ars Classica 18, 1938, Vicomte de Sartiges, 507; Glendining 1950, Platt Hall part II, 235 and Leu 22, 1979, 385 sales.

This solidus bears an extraordinary portrait of understated elegance. When compared to the highly bejeweled portraits of later Augustae – especially the facing bust of Licinia Eudoxia – we can easily recognize the trend of increasing adornment of royal women during the fourth and fifth centuries.

Almost from birth, Fausta's role in life had been determined: while still a toddler she was betrothed to Constantine, the son of Constantius "Chlorus", who was her father's second in command and son-in-law. If a bit incestuous and complex, this arrangement helped create a sense of solidarity and obligation within the royal line that Maximian had founded. Fausta hardly saw Constantine from the moment of her betrothal until 307, when she travelled to Gaul for her wedding. Upon arriving at her husband's court, Fausta found she had two competitors for his attention and loyalty – his son Crispus by his former wife Minervina, and his mother Helena, who not only cast a long shadow in court, but would outlive her new daughter-in-law.

On the coins he issued in their names, Constantine distinguished the roles of his wife and his mother. Helena is shown in the guise of Securitas, and thus personified the "well-being of the State"; Fausta was shown as the mother of Constantine's children, and filled the dual role of Spes, and Salus, the "hope of the State" and the "health of the State". Based upon what actually transpired, Fausta would have been best described as the desperation and disgrace of the state, for in a paranoid and feeble attempt to protect her three sons from the rising star of Crispus, Fausta helped cause his downfall and execution in 326. No reliable account of Fausta's role in the affair is preserved by the ancient sources, but Constantine came to believe in her guilt, and in a vain hope that a second monstrous crime would absolve the first, he soon ordered the execution of Fausta

Crispus Caesar, 316 – 326



- 239 Solidus, Aquileia circa 319, AV 4.45 g. FL IVL CRI – SPVS NOB C Heroic laureate bust l. with spear pointing forward and shield before chest. Rev. PRINCIPI • I – VVENTVTIS Crispus, in military attire, standing r., holding globe in l. hand and transverse spear in r.; in exergue, AQ. RIC 29 var. C 90 var. Depeyrot 11/3. Paolucci-Zub 280.

Extremely rare. A very appealing portrait of fine style. About extremely fine

14'000

Ex NFA sale XXII, 1989, 135. From the A. Moretti collection.

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.



240



240

- 240 Æ 3, Siscia 320-321, 3.42 g. IVL CRIS – PVS NOB C Laureate head r. Rev. CAESARVM – NOSTRO RVM around wreath within which VOT / •• / V; in exergue, ΓΣΙΣ*. RIC 161. C 34. Mazzini 34 (this coin). Good extremely fine 100

Ex Sternberg sale XIV, 1984, 510.

Constantine II Caesar, 316 – 337



241



241

- 241 Solidus, Nicomedia 324-325, AV 4.41 g. CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI – I – V – ENTVTIS Emperor standing facing, head r., holding standard surmounted by eagle in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field r., standard. In exergue, SMNP. RIC 72 var. (different officina). C –. Depeyrot 35/1. Apparently unrecorded variety of an extremely rare type. Light scratch on cheek, otherwise extremely fine 6'500

Ex Gitta Kastner sake 4, 1973, 296.



242



- 242 Æ 3, Cyzicus 324-325, 2.52 g. CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. PROVIDEN – TIAE CAESS Two-turreted camp gate; above, star. In exergue, SMKB. RIC 26. C 164. Good extremely fine 150

Constantine II Augustus, 337 – 340



243



- 243 Solidus, Aquileia 337, AV 4.43 g. CONSTANTI – NVS P F AVG Laurel and rosette diademed, cuirassed bust r. Rev. GAVDIVM – POPVLI ROMANI Victory seated r. on cuirass, supporting on her l. knee a shield inscribed VOT / XX / MVLX XXX, also supported by Genius; in exergue, SMAQ. RIC 4. C –. Paolucci-Zub –. Bastien Numismatica 2, 1961, pp. 68-69, fig. 2. Biaggi 2039 (this coin, Constantine I). Depeyrot 1/1.

Of the highest rarity, possibly only the second recorded specimen. A very attractive portrait and virtually as struck and almost Fdc

12'000

Hannibalian Rex Regum, 335 – 337



244



244

- 244 Æ 4, Constantinopolis 336-337, 1.52 g. FL HANNIBALIANO REGI Draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SE – CVRITAS PVBLICA Euphrates seated r. on ground, leaning on sceptre; urn at his side and reed in background; in exergue, CONSS. RIC 147. C 2. Rare. Brown tone and extremely fine 500

Delmatius Caesar, 335 – 337



245



245

- 245 Æ 4, Siscia 337, 1.61 g. FL DELMATIVS NOB C Diademed and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GLOR – IA EXERC – ITVS Two soldiers standing facing holding spear in outer hand; between them, standard. In exergue, B SIS*. RIC 266. C 4. Rare. Extremely fine 100

Ex Sternberg sale XII, 1982, 847.

Theodora, grandmother of Delmatius



246



246

- 246 Æ 4, Treveri before April 340, 1.43 g. FL MAX THEO – DORA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev/ PIETAS – ROMANA Pietas (or Teodora) standing l., holding child in her arms. RIC 91. C 3. Green patina and good very fine 200

Constans Augustus, 337 – 350



247



- 247 Solidus, Treveri circa 345, AV 4.56 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. Good extremely fine 1'800

Constantius II Caesar, 324 – 337



- 248 Solidus, Cyzicus 324, AV 4.52 g. FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB C Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI I – V- VENTVTIS Caesar standing l., in military attire and with head r., holding sceptre and standard with eagle; behind him, standard surmounted by hand. In exergue, SMK. RIC 21. C 159 var. Alföldi 390. Depeyrot 16/2. Mazzini dopo 158 (this coin).
Very rare and in exceptional state of preservation. Extremely fine / good extremely fine 5'000

Constantius II Augustus, 337 – 361



- 249 Solidus, Antiochia 355-361, AV 4.48 g. DN CONSTAN – TIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed head r. Rev. GLORIA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis enthroned supporting between them a wreath inscribed VOT / XXXX; Constantinopolis holding sceptre in l. hand and resting r. foot on prow and Roma holding spear in l. hand. In exergue, ANTA. RIC 172. C 126. Depeyrot 12/1.
An almost invisible mark on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 1'500

The Numismatic Auction 2, 1983, 398.



- 250 Solidus, Sirmium 355–361, 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 / XXXV / MVL / XXXX; Constantinopolis holding sceptre in l. hand and resting r. foot on prow and Roma holding spear in l. hand. In exergue, BSIRM. RIC 61. C 124. Depeyrot 15/1. Biaggi 2149 (this coin).
Virtually as struck and Fdc 2'000



251



- 251 Solidus 357, AV 4.44 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS PERP AVG Pearl-diademed bust l., wearing consular robes and holding *mappa* in r. hand and sceptre in l. Rev. GLORIA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis enthroned supporting between them a shield inscribed VOT / XXXV / MVLT / XXXX; Constantinopolis holding sceptre in l. hand and resting r. foot on prow and Roma holding spear in l. hand. In exergue, RSMT. RIC 298. C –. Depeyrot 15/3.

Very rare. A very interesting obverse representation, minor marks on obverse,

extremely fine

3'500

Ex Sternberg sale XIV, 1984, 527.

Vetranio, March 350



252



- 252 Æ 2, Siscia March 350, 5.02 g. DN VETRA – NIO P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r.; behind, A. Rev. CONCORDIA MILITVM Emperor, in military attire, standing facing, head l., holding in each hand a standard with Christogram on the banner; above his head, a star. In exergue, •€SIS*. RIC 281. C 1.

Rare. Extremely fine

500

Nepotian, 3rd – 30th June 350



253



253

- 253 Æ 2, 3rd – 30th June 350, 5.32 g. FL POP NEPOT – IANVS P F AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed r. Rev. VRBS – ROMA Roma seated l. on shield, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, R P. RIC 202. C 3. Bastien Nepotien, p. 408 (this officina unlisted). Kent-Hirmer pl. 169, 671.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. An enchanting portrait work

of a skilled master engraver. Brown tone and good extremely fine

18'000

Ex NFA sale XX, 1989, 550.

Though often artistic, coin portraits by the mid-4th Century had lost any sense of identity. Thus, the portraits of Nepotian, a counter-revolutionary from the Constantinian ranks, must be appreciated as an unexpected revival in an age of bland anonymity. Were it not for the shallower technique of die engraving, there would be little to distinguish this highly personalized image from one engraved at the same mint two centuries earlier, during the golden age of the Antonines. The reverse is remarkable for its simplicity, and it recalls the propaganda of Maxentius, the usurper who based himself in Rome from 306 to 312.

Nepotian's brief reign was desperate and violent, but the times could hardly have produced anything else, for Rome was in a state of chaos. Only about 20 weeks earlier the rebel Magnentius had assumed control of the city after murdering the emperor Constans; Nepotian responded by gathering an army of ruffians to kill Anicius, the praetorian prefect Magnentius had left behind to govern Italy. In the days that followed, more supporters of Magnentius were murdered, but that could not prevent the city from being re-taken by those loyal to Magnentius less than a month after Nepotian's counter-revolution had been launched. A vengeful purge then followed in which many of the rebel's supporters fell, including his mother.

Magnentius, 350 – 353



- 254 Solidus, Treveri January-February 350, AV 4.54 g. IM CAE MAGN – ENTIVS AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIAE AVG LIB ROMANOR Victoria standing r. and Libertas standing l., supporting between them a trophy. In exergue, T R. RIC 247. C 46. Depeyrot 80/1. P. Bastien, Le monnayage de Magnence 7. Very rare. Metal flaw on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine 5'000

Ex Leu sale 18, 1977, 398.

Decentius, 351 – 353



- 255 Æ 2, Lugdunum August – end 252, 4.69 g. D N DECENTIVS NOB CAES Bare-headed and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIAE DD NN AVG ET CAE Two Victories standing facing each other, holding between them a wreath inscribed VOT / V / MVLT / X; in lower centre field, SP. In exergue, RSLG. RIC 146. C 33 var. Bastien Lyon 188. Extremely fine 200

Constantius Gallus Caesar, 351 – 354



- 256 Solidus, Nicomedia circa 351–353, AV 4.44 g. DN FL CL CONSTANTIVS NOB CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GLORIA REI PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis enthroned facing, the latter turned to l., supporting between them a shield inscribed VO / TIS / V; in exergue, SMNB. RIC 75. C 24. Depeyrot 5/3. Very rare. Extremely fine / good extremely fine 6'000

The brief and cruel reign of Constantius Gallus as Caesar in the east in many ways caused his emperor Constantius II more problems than it solved. However, when Constantius II appointed Gallus Caesar, he was in a bind, and only two young men remained in the family stable: his half-cousins, Gallus and Julian II. Had Constantius II known the problems these two eventually would cause him, he would have included them in his murderous purge of that branch of the family in 337. In the end, Gallus proved to be a thorn in his side, and Julian staged a revolt in the west and succeeded him as emperor. After the fallout that followed the death of Constantine the Great, the empire came to be ruled by his three sons: Constantius II in the east and his two brothers in the west. In 340 the eldest, Constantine II, was killed, and a decade later the youngest, Constans, was murdered, leaving the middle son Constantius II as the only legitimate emperor. However, his supremacy was not recognised by Magnentius, the Gallic commander who had murdered Constans. Most of the west had fallen into the rebel's hands, including, at certain times, Rome itself. Constantius II marched to Europe and prepared for a long campaign to reclaim the west. While at Sirmium, he arranged for his sister Constantia to marry her half-cousin Gallus, who was then hailed Caesar on the Ides of March, 351. After the formalities ended, the new Caesar and his bride (a woman so wicked Ammianus Marcellinus described her as a "mortal fury") marched eastward to establish court at Antioch, where they could most easily react to an invasion by the Sasanians. As Constantius II made steady progress against Magnentius, Gallus behaved recklessly, incompetently and cruelly in the East. Not long after Magnentius was defeated in August, 353, Gallus was recalled to the west under the pretence that he would rule in the west and Constantius II would return to his traditional roost in the East. The ruse was a success, and when Gallus neared the Italian border late in 354 he was arrested, tried and beheaded in his 29th year. On this gold solidus of Nicomedia, Gallus offers vows for his fifth year as Caesar, which history shows he was unable to achieve.

Julian II Caesar, 355 – 360



- 257 Solidus 355–357, AV 4.46 g. DN CL IVL – IANVS N C Bare-headed and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FEL TEMP – RE – PARATIO Roma and Constantinople enthroned facing and supporting shield bearing an eight-pointed star; in exergue, RSMS. RIC 295. C 8. Kent-Hirmer pl. 175, 689. Depeyrot 14/3.
A fabulous portrait of great strength and of unusually fine style. Virtually as struck and Fdc 12'000

Ex Naville III, 1922, Evans, 213; Glendining 1950, Platt Hall part II, 2056 and NFA XXII, 1989, 147 sales. From the A. Moretti collection.

Few men of late antiquity are as well known as Julian II, usually referred to as "the Philosopher" or "the Apostate". Julian was not satisfied with Christianity, even from an early age. His formative years were spent studying philosophy, paganism, 'magic', occultism and related subjects that were frowned upon by the Church. So much did Julian enjoy his scholarly pursuits that he avoided any call to Imperial duties, even though he was one of the few surviving males of the House of Constantine. His memories of family politics could not have been fond, as many of his direct and extended family were murdered in the purge of 337. Among the survivors – because of their youth – were Julian and his cousin Constantius Gallus. When Julian was compelled by Constantius II to rule in the west as Caesar, he knew that he faced a difficult task: not only was the west constantly in danger from barbarian invasion, but it was under-funded and had too small an army. Nonetheless he proved resourceful, persistent and, above all, capable. Indeed, he grew in popularity so much that it alarmed Constantius II in the east. Finally, in 360, Julian was hailed emperor by his western army, and he marched eastward to confront Constantius II. The empire was fortunate that Constantius II died before the armies of the east and the west could clash, for each army was extremely loyal to their emperor, and the resulting battle would have been horrific. As sole emperor for two years, Julian's principal tasks were to restore pagan institutions that had suffered at the hands of the Christian Church, and to launch a much-anticipated invasion of Persia. Julian was remarkably successful in both endeavours, but was cut down in a battle against the Persians, either by an enemy or by one of his own Christian soldiers.



- 258 Solidus, Arles 355–360, AV 4.42 g. FL CL IVLIANVS NOB CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GLORIA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis enthroned facing and supporting shield inscribed VO / TIS / V; between them, palm branch upright. In exergue, KONSAV. RIC 237. C 25. Depeyrot 6/2. Extremely fine 5'000

Julian II Augustus, 360 – 363



- 259 Reduced siliqua, Treveri 360–363, AR 2.14 g. DN CL IVLIANVS AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VOTIS / V / MVLTIS / X within wreath; below, T R. RIC 364. C 158.
An interesting portrait. Iridescent tone and about extremely fine 400



260



260



- 260 Solidus, Sirmium 361–363, AV 4.38 g. FL CL IVLIA – NVS P P AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS EXERCITI – 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 21/1.

Insignificant nick on edge at seven o'clock on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

4'000



261



261



- 261 Æ 3, 361–363, 3.36 g. D N FL IVLI – ANVS P F AVG Helmeted and cuirassed bust l., holding spear and shield. Rev. VOT / X / MVLT / XX within wreath; below, R * Q. RIC 328. C 151.

Brown tone and about extremely fine

150



262



262



- 262 Solidus, Constantinopolis 361–363, AV 4.48 g. FL CL IVLIA – NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS EXERCITI – TVS ROMANORVM Soldier, helmeted, standing r., holding trophy over l. shoulder and placing r. hand on head of kneeling captive; in exergue, CONSP. RIC 158. C 78. Depeyrot 7/1.

About extremely fine / extremely fine

4'000

Ex Vinchon sale June 1978, 160.



263



263



- 263 Solidus, Antiochia 361–363, AV 4.48 g. FL CL IVLIA – NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS EXERCITI – TVS ROMANORVM Soldier, helmeted, standing r., holding trophy over l. shoulder and placing r. hand on head of crouching captive; in exergue, ANT. RIC 202. C 79 var. Depeyrot 15/2. Kent-Himer pl. 175, 690.

Extremely fine

4'000

Ex Naville-Ars Classica 17, 1934, Burrange-Evans, 951; M&M-Leu 1967, Niggeler part III, 1544 and Leu 48, 1989, 437 sales.

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.

Jovian, 363 – 364



264



- 264 Solidus, Sirmium 363-364, AV 4.51 g. D N IOVIAN – VS P F P AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SECVRITA – REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis enthroned facing and supporting shield inscribed VOT / V / MVL / X; in exergue, •SIRM. RIC 115. C 12. Depeyrot 25/1. Rare. Virtually as struck and Fdc 5'000

Ex Sternberg sale XVII, 1986, 698.



265



265

- 265 Solidus, Antiochia 363-364, AV 4.48 g. D N IOVIAN – VS P F P AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SECVRITA – S REI – PVBLICAE Roma and Constantinopolis enthroned facing and supporting shield inscribed VOT / V / MVL / X; in exergue, ANTH. RIC 224. C 9 var. Depeyrot –. Rare. About extremely fine 3'500

Valentinian I, 364 – 375



266



- 266 Solidus, Treveri 367-375, AV 4.44 g. D N VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors seated facing, holding globe; behind them, Victory facing with spread wings. In lower centre field, palm-branch upright. In exergue, TROBT. RIC 17b. C 43. Depeyrot 43/1. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 1'500

Valens, 364 – 378



267



267

- 267 Solidus, Antiochia 367-375, AV 4.39 g. DN VALENS – PERF AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM Victory seated r. on cuirass with shield behind, writing VOT / X / MVL / XX on shield; in lower field r., Christogram. In exergue, KANOB. RIC 22c. C 62. Depeyrot 41/2. Extremely fine 1'000



268

- 268 Solidus, Constantinopolis quinquennalia of 368, AV 4.41 g. D N VALENS P F AVG Pearl-diademed bust l., wearing imperial mantle and holding *mappa* and short sceptre. Rev. VOTA - PV - BLICA Valentinian and Valens, nimbate, draped in imperial mantle, seated facing on throne, each raising *mappa* and holding sceptre. On either side, captive seated on ground; in exergue, *CONS. RIC 29b. C 82. Depeyrot 22/2. Bastien, Vota Publica, Q. Tic XIV, 1985, 15.

Extremely rare. A light scratch on obverse and minor marks on reverse,

otherwise extremely fine

2'000

Ex Vinchon sale, Montecarlo, June 1978, 164.

Procopius, 365 - 366



269

- 269 Solidus, Constantinopolis 366, AV 4.47 g. D N PROCO - PIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. REPARATI - O FEL TEMP Procopius standing facing, head r., holding spear in r. hand and resting l. on shield. In exergue, CONS. RIC 2a. C 5. Depeyrot 14/4. Kent-Hirmer pl. 178, 699 (this coin).

Extremely rare. A very appealing portrait. Light scratch on obverse,

otherwise extremely fine

30'000

Ex NFA sale XXII, 1989, 152. From the A. Moretti collection.

In Procopius we have one of the more legitimate rebels in Roman history. When Julian II was killed in battle against the Persians in the summer of 363, it was Procopius, a relative of Julian II and one of his campaign commanders, who bore his body back to Cilicia for burial. Furthermore, it was rumoured that he had been named successor. Despite all this, the divided army did not recognize Procopius' claim and selected Jovian, who seems to have been neutral in the east-west divide within the ranks. Another reason Procopius might have been denied was his probable sympathy toward paganism, which we might presume from his close association with Julian and his choice to wear a beard. Because of his prominence, Procopius was in grave danger and so went into hiding, emerging only when the new eastern emperor Valens was travelling to Syria. Much was working in favour of Procopius: not only was Valens far away, but the locals in Constantinople were desperate for relief from Petronius, the corrupt father-in-law of Valens who had been left behind in command. Procopius' revolt was easily sparked, but proved impossible to maintain. The contemporary historian Ammianus reports that Procopius tried to extend his rule into the strategically important Illyricum through the offer of an 'accession donative', but apparently even this failed. With the passage of time Procopius' support in the army eroded until he left the capital with what remained of his army to confront Valens. The pitched battle Procopius no doubt considered his only chance for survival never materialized, as he was handed over to Valens after the 'battle of Nacolia' in the summer of 366 and was executed.



270

- 270 Æ 3, Cyzicus 365-366, 2.66 g. D N PROCO - PIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. REPARATI - O FEL TEMP Emperor standing facing, head r., holding *labarum* in r. hand and resting l. on shield; in upper field r., Christogram. At feet on l., a small indeterminate object. In exergue, *SMKT. RIC 7. C 8.

Rare. Dark green patina and extremely fine

400

Ex Sternberg sale XVIII, 1986, 688.

Gratian, 367 – 383



271

- 271 Solidus, Constantinopolis 367-375, AV 4.51 g. DN GRATIA – NVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM Victory seated r. on cuirass with shield behind, writing VOT / V / MVL / X on shield set on column; at sides, O – B. In exergue, CONS*. RIC –. C 49. Depeyrot 27/3. Biaggi 2283 (this coin). Very rare. Extremely fine 2'000

Ex Wayte Raymond sale 1953, J.P. Morgan, 179.



272

- 272 Siliqua, Aquileia 375-378, AR 2.30 g. DN GRATIA – NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VRBS – ROMA Roma seated l. on cuirass, holding Victory on globe and reversed spear; in field r., star. In exergue, AQPS*. RIC 15b. C 87. Paolucci-Zub 701. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 1'000

Valentinian II, 375 – 392



273

- 273 Solidus, Thessalonica 378–383, AV 4.49 g. D N VALENTINIANVS IVN P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed small bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG• Two emperors seated facing holding together globe; above, Victory facing with spread wings. In lower centre field, palm-branch. In exergue, TESOB. RIC 34b var. C 36. Depeyrot 35/2. An extremely rare variety. Extremely fine / good extremely fine 2'000

Ex Vinchon sale, Montecarlo November 1977, 137.



274

- 274 Solidus, Constantinopolis 383-388, AV 4.44 g. D N VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCORDI – A AVGGGS Constantinopolis, helmeted and with head r., seated facing on throne, holding sceptre and globe; r. foot on prow. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 67a. C 2. Depeyrot 48/5. A portrait of unusually fine style. Insignificant mark in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 1'500

Ex Numismatic Auction 1, 1982, 467.

Theodosius I, 379 – 395



- 275 Solidus, Constantinopolis 378-383, AV 4.37 g. DN THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCOR – DIA AVGGG Constantinopolis, helmeted and with head r., seated facing on throne ornamented with lion's heads, holding sceptre and globe; r. foot on prow. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 45d. C 8. Depeyrot 33/2. Light traces of edge filing, otherwise extremely fine 1'000



- 276 Æ 2, Constantinopolis 378-383, 6.41 g. DN THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Draped and cuirassed bust r., wearing helmet decorated with pearl-diadem, holding spear and shield. Rev. GLORIA RO – MANORVM Emperor standing facing on ship, head r., raising r. hand; at his feet, Victory seated at helm and in upper field l., wreath. In exergue, CONA. RIC 52. C 19. Brown tone and extremely fine 200

Ex Sternberg sale XV, 1985, 790.



- 277 Solidus, Mediolanum or North Italy 383-387, AV 4.49 g. DN THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors, nimbate, seated facing holding globe together; the one on r. holds a *mappa* in l. hand. Above Victory facing with spread wings between them. Below, a palm-branch. In exergue, COM. RIC 8b. C 37. Depeyrot 1/3. Scarce. Good extremely fine 1'500

Ex Leu sale 7, 1973, 449.



- 278 Solidus, Mediolanum 388-394, AV 4.51 g. DN THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed bust l., wearing imperial mantle and holding *mappa* in upraised r. hand and short sceptre in l. Rev. VOTA – PV – BLICA Two emperors, nimbate, draped in imperial mantle, seated facing on throne, each raising *mappa* and holding sceptre. In field, M – D. In exergue, COM. RIC 21b. C 62. Depeyrot 10/2. Ulrich-Bansa pl. 4, 42. Extremely rare. Good extremely fine 6'000

Ex NAC sale 7, 1994, 840

Aelia Flaccilla, wife of Theodosius I



279

- 279 Solidus, Constantinopolis 378-383, AV 4.50 g. AEL FLAC – CILLA AVG Draped bust r., with elaborate headdress, necklace and mantle. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE Victory seated r. on throne, writing Christogram on shield held on small column; in exergue, CONOB. RIC 48. C 1 var. Depeyrot 36/1.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. Good extremely fine

35'000

Ex NAC sale 10, 1997, 720.



280

- 280 Æ 2, Antiochia 378-383, 5.63 g. AEL FLAC – CILLA AVG Draped bust r., with elaborate headdress, necklace and mantle. Rev. SALVS REI – PVBLICAE Victory seated r. on throne, writing Christogram on shield held on small column; in exergue, ANT. RIC 43. C 4.

Good very fine

200

Magnus Maximus, 383 – 388



281

- 281 Solidus, Treveri 385-386, AV 4.49 g. DN MAG MA – XIMVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors, 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. Good extremely fine

10'000

Flavius Victor, 387 – 388



282

- 282 Reduced siliqua, Mediolanum 387-388, 1.52 g. DN FL VIC – TOR P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS RO – MANORVM Roma seated facing on throne, head l., holding globe and reversed spear; in exergue, MDPS. RIC 19b. C 6. Ulrich-Bansa pl. 3, 30.

Very rare. Toned and about extremely fine

1'500

Ex NAC sale 7, 1994, 850.

Eugenius, 392 – 394



283



283

- 283 Solidus, Lugdunum 392–394, AV 4.46 g. D N EVGENI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors, nimbate, seated facing on throne; the emperor on r. holding *mappa* and the two together holding globe. Above, Victory facing with spread wings; below, palm-branch. In outer field I. and r., L – D; in exergue, COM. RIC 45. C 6. Depeyrot 18/1. Extremely rare. An absolutely insignificant metal flaw on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 25'000

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.



284



- 284 Light miliarensis, Mediolanum 393–394, AR 4.06 g. D N EVGENI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GLORIA – ROMANORVM Emperor standing facing, head l., holding standard in r. hand, and resting l. on shield; in exergue, MDPS. RIC 31a. C 2. Bansa pl. V, 45. Extremely rare. A superb specimen with an appealing old cabinet tone. Minor marks on edge and insignificant traces of double-striking on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 15'000

Ex NAC sale 7, 1994, 865.

Honorius, 393–423



285



285

- 285 Solidus, Mediolanum 395–402, AV 4.35 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, M – D. In exergue, COMOB. C 44. Depeyrot 16/2. LRC 712. RIC 1206. Good extremely fine 900



- 286 Solidus, Constantinople circa 402–403, AV 4.46 g. D N HONORI – VS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. CONCORDI – A AVGG H Constantinopolis, helmeted, seated facing, head r., holding sceptre and Victory on globe, r. foot on prow; in exergue, CONOB. RIC Theodosius II 24. LRC 748. C 3. Depeyrot 55/2. Extremely fine 800

Ex Leu sale 38, 1986, 372.

- 287 Solidus, Ravenna after 408, AV 4.35 g. D N HONORI – VS P F AVG Helmeted bust r., diademed, draped and cuirassed. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, crowned from above by the Hand of God, holding long staff surmounted by Christogram and placing l. hand on hilt of sword, r. foot resting on recumbent serpent-tailed lion. In field, R – V; in exergue, COB. RIC 1310. C 43. LRC 742. Depeyrot 3/1. Rare. Graffito in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 2'500

Constantinus III, 407 – 411



- 288 Solidus, Lugdunum 408–409, AV 4.43 g. D N CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – AA AVGGG 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 1512. C 5 var. Bastien Lyon pl. 28, 250n (this coin). LRC 793. Depeyrot 22/2.

Very rare. About extremely fine 6'000

Ex Canessa 1923, Canessa, 622; Glendining 1950, Platt Hall part II, 2090 and Leu 54, 1992, 338 sales.

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.

Galla Placidia wife of Constantine III and mother of Valentinian III



- 289 Solidus, Ravenna 430–445, AV 4.46 g. D N GALLA PLA – CIDIA P F AVG Pearl-diademed and draped bust r., wearing necklace and crowned above by the hand of God; Christogram on shoulder. Rev. VOT XX – MVL T XXX R – V Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in upper field, star. In exergue, COMOB. C 13. RIC 2020. LRC 828. Depeyrot 13/2.

Minor edge marks and a light scrape on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 5'000

Ex Vinchon sale Montecarlo 1977, 146.

Constantius III, 8th February – 2nd September 421



- 290 Solidus, Ravenna 421, AV 4.46 g. DN CONSTAN – TIVS P F AVG Rosette-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 1325. C 1. Depeyrot 7/4.
Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. Well-struck and centred on a full flan and extremely fine 35'000

Ex NFA sale XXX, 1992, 315.

The Danubian commander Constantius III had enjoyed a stellar career by the time he undertook a naval blockade of Spain and Gaul in 415, which caused the murder of the Visigothic king Athaulf. In achieving this victory Constantius secured the return of the emperor Honorius' half-sister Galla Placidia, who had been captured by the Visigoths when they sacked Rome in 410, and who in the meantime had been forced to marry king Athaulf. Riding the tide of his triumph, Constantius pressed for a royal marriage with the rescued empress, which occurred on January 1, 417, when he also assumed his second consulship. Slightly more than four years passed before Constantius gained enough prestige at court that Honorius reluctantly declared him co-emperor.

This elevation was well-received in the West, where the soldiers were relieved to have a proven soldier sharing the throne, but it was not acknowledged by the Eastern emperor Theodosius II. The specter of civil war loomed for seven months until the stalemate was finally resolved by Constantius' death, seemingly of natural causes, on September 2, 421. Due in part to the brevity of his reign, only gold solidi and tremisses from Ravenna were struck in Constantius' name. Beyond coinage, his other lasting legacy was his son Valentinian III, by Galla Placidia, who eventually ruled the Western Roman Empire, albeit impotently, for thirty years.

Jovinus, 411 – 413



- 291 Solidus, Arles 411-413, AV 4.50 g. DN IOVIN – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RESTITV – TOR REIP Emperor standing r., holding standard and Victory on globe, spurning captive with his l. foot; in field, A – R. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 1708. C 1. LRC –. Depeyrot 23/2.
Extremely rare. Two minor edge nick, otherwise extremely fine 50'000

When the Gallic nobleman Jovinus was proclaimed emperor in Germania Secunda in 411, his timing was ideal; the luckless Honorius had only just emerged from the horrors of 407-411, during which many crises had struck the Western empire, including the sack of Rome by the Visigoths. Jovinus already had agreements with kings of the Alans and Burgundians, and he immediately set about making alliances with other barbarian leaders, including Athaulf, king of the Visigoths. All was proceeding according to plan until Jovinus courted the Gothic dissident Sarus, and hailed his own brother Sebastianus co-emperor, for both of these actions alienated Athaulf, who instead began to co-operate with Honorius. The alliance of Athaulf and Honorius was effective, and the rebels Sebastianus and Jovinus were, in turn, captured and executed.

Sebastian, 412 - 413



292

- 292 Reduced siliqua, Arles 412-413, AR 1.56 g. DN SEBASTIA - NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RESTITV - TOR ROM Roma seated l., holding Victory on globe and reversed spear; in exergue, KON. RIC -. C -. LRC -. Mazzini prima di 1 (this coin). Jameson 89 (this coin). King, Melanges P. Bastien, pp. 290-291 (this coin cited).

Extremely rare. Toned and extremely fine / about extremely fine

5'000

Ex Hirsch 24, Weber, 1909, 2817 and Lanz 100, 2000, Benz, 667 sales.

The most recent studies on the coinage of Sebastian have come to the conclusion that most of the coins of this usurper were forgeries produced in the 19th century. Unfortunately, the coin here offered, which was in several prestigious collection, is among those. We have anyway decided to include it in the auction with an extraordinary low estimate, because a few scholars disagree with this conclusion. We sell the coin as it is and no return will be accepted.

Johannes, 423 - 425



293

293

- 293 Solidus, Ravenna 423-425, AV 4.44 g. D N IOHAN - NES P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI - A AVGGG Emperor standing r., holding standard and Victory on globe, spurning captive with his l. foot; in field, R - V. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 1901. LRC 819. C 4. Depuyrot 12/1.

Rare. Good very fine

7'500

Ex Santamaria 1938, Trivulzio, 1007; M&M 38, 1968, 652; Sternberg I, 1973, 489 and Michel-Dürr November 1999, 117 sales.

Valentinian III, 425 - 455



294

294 1,5:1

295

- 294 Solidus, Ravenna circa 426-430, AV 4.44 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. LRC 841. C 19. Depuyrot 17/1.

About extremely fine

800

Ex Leu sale 25, 1980, 459.

- 295 Solidus, Roma 440-455, AV 4.39 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 - M. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 2014. LRC 849. C 19. Depuyrot 46/1.

Good very fine

500

Licinia Eudoxia, wife of Valentinian III



- 296 Solidus, Ravenna after 6th August 439, AV 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. C 1. LRC 870. Lacam vol. I, pl. V (this coin). Depeyrot 16/2. Biaggi 2356 (this coin). Extremely rare. A wonderful portrait perfectly struck and centred on a full flan.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 75'000

Ex Santamaria 1924, Marchese B.L., 669; Glendining 1950, Platt Hall part II, 2095 and Leu 22, 1979, 409 sales.

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 colours 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); and 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 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.

Iusta Gratia Honoria, sister of Valentinian III Augusta 426 (?)



- 297 Solidus, Ravenna circa 430-445, AV 4.62 g. D N IVST GRA HO – NORIA P F AVG Pearl-diademed and draped bust r., cross on shoulder, crowned above by the Hand of God. Rev. BONO – REIPVBLICAE R – V Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in upper field, star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 2022. C 1. LRC 866. Depeyrot 15/1. Very rare. Good very fine 12'000

Petronius Maximus, 16th March – 31st May 455



298



298

- 298 Solidus 455, 4.48 g. DN PETRONIVS MA – XIMVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding long cross and Victory on globe, foot on man-headed serpent; in field, R – M. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 2202. C 1. LRC 874. Lacam pl. IV, 3 (these dies). Depeyrot 48/3. Very rare. The usual flatness on cheek and scratches on obverse field, otherwise good very fine 18'000

The 76-day reign of Petronius Maximus was anything but a success. Much to his credit, though, Petronius Maximus was one of the wealthiest senators in Rome, who after having twice served as consul, prefect of Italy, and prefect of Rome, rose to the grand position of chamberlain to the emperor Valentinian III. More powerful still was the Master of Soldiers Aëtius, who controlled the army. Tensions increased, and in a surprisingly courageous move the emperor himself murdered Aëtius. This solved one of the Valentinian's problems, but had he lived long enough, he no doubt would have realized his mistake, for Aëtius was the best commander in the Western empire. But Valentinian's end came soon, as his chamberlain Petronius Maximus encouraged two of Aëtius' former bodyguards to seek revenge by murdering the emperor. Now that the palace was cleared of both general and emperor, Petronius Maximus seized the throne himself, and with it demanded the hand of Valentinian's beautiful 33-year-old widow, Licinia Eudoxia. Desperate for help, she sent a plea to the Vandal king Gaiseric, who quickly landed an army outside of Rome. Petronius Maximus tried to flee on horseback, but instead was pelted with stones by an angry mob that dragged him off his horse, beat him to death and tossed his mutilated body into the Tiber. The Vandals breached the walls of Rome on June 1, 455 and sacked the Eternal City for fifteen days before they departed with untold treasures and three Imperial hostages, Licinia Eudoxia and her two daughters, for whom they eventually receive a king's ransom.

Avitus, 455 – 456



299



- 299 Solidus, Arles 455-456, 4.33 g. DN AVITVS – PERP 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 (this coin). Depeyrot 24/1. Kent-Hirmer pl. 193, 759 (this obverse die).

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for this difficult issue, undoubtedly one of the finest specimens known. Unusually well-struck and centred, good extremely fine / extremely fine

40'000

Ex NFA sale XXII, 1989, 166. From the A. Moretti collection.

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.

Anthemius, 467 – 472



302

- 302 Solidus, Ravenna 467-472, AV 4.39 g. D N PROC AN – THEMIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. SALVS REI – PV – BLICAE Two Emperors nimbate facing, supporting a long cross between them with r. hand and globe in l.; in field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 2868. C 2. LRC 902. Lacam pl. 23, obv, 7 and rev. 8 (these dies). Depeyrot 28/1. Biaggi 2374 (this coin).

Extremely rare. Extremely fine / good extremely fine

7'500

Julius Nepos, first reign 474 – 475



303

- 303 Solidus, Ravenna 474-475, AV 4.44 g. D N IVL NE – POS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG: Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in fields, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 3212. C 6. Lacam pl. 37, 11 (this coin). LRC 939. Depeyrot 41/1.

Very rare. Extremely fine

8'000

Romulus Augustus, 475 – 476



304

304

- 304 Solidus, Mediolanum 475-476, AV 4.34 g. DN ROMVLVS – A – GVSTVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG: Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., star. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 3418. Lacam pl. 48, 21. LRC –. Depeyrot (Roma) 81/1.

Extremely rare. A few scratches on obverse and light edge marks,
otherwise about very fine

18'000

The last legitimate ruler of the Western Roman Empire was Julius Nepos, who remained the constitutional emperor *in absentia* from his base in Dalmatia. However, traditionally that honour has been incorrectly given to Romulus Augustus (sometimes surnamed Augustulus, "the little emperor"), who, after Nepos fled Italy, was hailed emperor as a figurehead of his father's army. His reign lasted just ten months before Germans under Odovacar withdrew their support and deposed both the young emperor and his father. The Germans allowed the former boy-emperor to live, and provided him with an ample pension so he could engage in an early retirement to an estate on the Gulf of Naples in Campania, where he is said to have lived for at least thirty more years.

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.

Majoran, 457 – 461



- 300 Solidus, Arles 457–461, AV 4.40 g. D N IULIVS MAIOR – IANVS P F AVG Helmeted, diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r., holding spear pointing forward and shield bearing Christogram. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding long cross in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.; foot on man-headed serpent; in field, A – R. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 2630. C 1. Lacam pl. 12, 23 (this coin). LRC 884. Depeyrot 25/3. Very rare and in an unusually good state of preservation for the issue.

Insignificant metal flaw on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

8'000

Ex Leu 7, 1973, 457 and Michel-Dürr November 1999, 143 sales.

Libius Severus, 461 – 465



- 301 Solidus 462, AV 4.40 g. D N LIBIVS SEVE – RVSP F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding long cross and Victory on globe, foot on man-headed serpent; in field R – M. In exergue, COMOB. RIC 2704. C 8. LRC 895. Lacam pl. 15, 10 (this coin). Depeyrot 52/1. Rare. Minor marks on reverse on Emperor face,

otherwise good extremely fine

7'500

Ex Hess-Leu 1961, E.S.R., 473; Christie's October 1984, Property of a Lady, 192 and NFA XXII, 1989, 168 sales. From the A. Moretti collection.

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