

A U C T I O N

39

The Barry Feirstein Collection of Ancient Coins Part I

16th May 2007

NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA NAC AG
ZÜRICH - LONDON

AUCTION 39

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The estimates are in Swiss Francs. The opening bids will be about 80% of estimate, unless there are higher offers. The purchase price plus a commission of 16.5% is due and payable in Swiss currency. For lots delivered in Switzerland, VAT of 7.6% will be added to the total (hammer price together with auctioneer's commission and sending charges). **Gold coins (AV) are free of VAT.** The total price is due after the final bid and payable on delivery. Late payment of the invoice will incur interest at bank rate. Adjudication ensues after the highest bid has been called three times, and commits the bidder to accept the coins. Written bids have preference over room bids. The buyer cannot claim to act on behalf of a third person.

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

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

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

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

TIME TABLE ZEITTADEL ORDRE DE VENTE ORDINE DI VENDITA

Wednesday, 16th May 2007 9.30 – 11.30 hrs 1 – 204

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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

Barry R. Feirstein, a Harvard graduate began a Wall Street career in the 1970's. A collector of American coins in his youth, he reconnected with his hobby after attending an ancient coin auction in New York in 1994.

The historical significance of ancient Roman coins became his primary interest and he focused on collecting portraits of Roman emperors. As his collection evolved he became interested in the artistic aspect of coins and added many Greek coins to his collection. Barry has been honoured to own and enjoy these coins and now offers them to others who will appreciate their beauty and historical significance

The ability to achieve something momentous in a very short space of time is possibly one of the most important American traits. Indeed, this collection demonstrates such a trait. It is surprising how Barry Feirstein has been able to form, in little less than ten years, a collection of such importance and taste. This collection marks not only his kudos as a collector but more importantly his eye for beauty. In the first catalogue dedicated to this collection we offer all the Greek coins and a selection of the Roman coins. A further one or two auctions will follow with the sale of the remaining Roman coins.

In Barry Feirstein, we can see the first cautious steps of a beginner, followed by an ever developing competence that leads not only to the purchase of many significant coins from all the important auctions in Europe and the U.S.A., but also several private acquisitions. Among the latter, we would like to mention following Greek coins: the Naxos didrachm (lot 16), the Camarina didrachm (lot 10), and the Athens tetradrachm (lot 40), the didrachm (lot 39) and the decadrachm (lot 41). Amongst the Roman coins, we would like to highlight the denarius of Brutus with EID MAR (lot 89), one of the most beautiful examples of this historically important coin. Furthermore, we have the fabulous aurei of Gaius (lot 98) and Otho (lot 109), combining perfect conservation and excellent style; the outstanding medallion of Trajan (lot 117); the extremely rare and impressive tetradrachm of Pescennius Niger struck at Antiochia (lot 132) and last, but not least, the extremely rare siliqua of Sebastian (lot 203). This is without of course having mentioned all the other coins coming from public sales, which we deemed unnecessary to mention.

The Barry Feirstein Collection of Ancient Coins Part I

Greek Coins

Spain, Carthago Nova (?)



- 1 ***Under the Carthaginians.*** Quarter-shekel after 221 BC, AR 1.85 g. Laureate head of Melqart l., with the features of Hannibal; club over far shoulder. Rev. Elephant walking r. Robinson Punic 6d (this reverse die). Villaronga 49 (this obverse die) and 53-2 (this reverse die). Monedas Hispánicas 10.
Scarce. Of pleasant style and with a light tone, about extremely fine 1'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

The mint of this coin is still a point of debate among scholars. It was previously thought that the mint was in the city of Carthage Nova, but recent published works have disputed such an attribution, and suggest that the coins may have been struck in Gadir and/or Akraleuke as well as Carthage Nova. Regarding the date, we can reference Robinson's work, which dates this coin to the period immediately succeeding the assassination of Asdrubale in 221 BC. We are reminded here that this type of reverse was recovered a few years after from the cities of Atella, Capua and Velecha, who had allied themselves with Hannibal against Rome. The style of the coin is unusually nice for a Carthaginian issue.

Calabria, Tarentum



- 2 Nomos circa 344-340, AR 7.75 g. Naked and helmeted horseman l., holding shield and two spears in l. hand and reins in r.; below, Δ. Rev. TAPAΣ Taras astride dolphin l., holding *cantharus* in extended r. hand and leaning l. on dolphin's back; below, E / small dolphin. In lower field, waves. Historia Numorum Italy 870. SNG ANS 904 (these dies). SNG France 1748 (these dies). Vlasto 387 (these dies). Fischer-Bossert 647.
Attractively toned and well-centred on a full flan. About extremely fine 1'500

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 46, 1998, 34.

Lucania, Metapontum



3



3

- 3 Nomos circa 500-480, AR 7.47 g. META Barley-ear with six grains. Rev. The same type incuse. Historia Numorum Italy 1482. SNG Ashmolean 655. Johnston-Noe 182.

Attractively toned, minor porosity on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

1'500

Privately purchased from CNG.

Poseidonia



4



4

- 4 Nomos circa 515-500, AR 6.94 g. Poseidon, diademed and wearing *chlamys* over shoulders, advancing r., hurling trident in upraised r. hand and holding sepia (?) in l. Rev. The same type incuse without trident and sepia. Historia Numorum 1107. Cf. SNG ANS 618.

An apparently unrecorded variety. Of fine style and with a very nice tone,
good very fine / about extremely fine

12'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Sybaris



5



5

- 5 Nomos circa 540-520, AR 7.82 g. Bull standing l. on dotted bar, head reverted; in exergue, VM. The whole within dotted border. Rev. Same type incuse on broken bar, without legend. The whole within radiate border. Historia Numorum Italy 1729. Cf. SNG Copenhagen 1388. Gorini 1 and enlarged p. 107 (this coin).

An extremely rare variety. Nicely toned and good very fine

2'500

Ex Triton sale 1, 1998, 121. From the Gillette collection.

Bruttium, Caulonia



- 6 Nomos circa 525-500, AR 8.05 g. KAVA Apollo, diademed, walking r., holding laurel branch in upraised r. hand and small running *daimon*, holding long branch on outstretched l. arm; in field r., stag r. on platform, with head reverted. Rev. The same type incuse l. without legend. *Historia Numorum* Italy 2035. SNG Lockett 579 (these dies). SNG ANS 145 (this obverse die). Boston 173 (this obverse die). Noe A 9.

Rare. A superb specimen of this desirable issue. Unusually well-struck and centred on a full flan. Old cabinet tone and extremely fine 18'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 115. From the Phoenix Art Museum and the Orme Lewis Senior Collection.

The design of the early nomoi of Caulonia has attracted various interpretations, many of which are documented in Barclay Head's *Historia Numorum*. Head saw the main figure as the mythical founder of Caulonia, who held a leaf from the plant *καυλός* as a punning allusion to the city name. Most scholars of the modern era seem to describe the figure as Apollo. The running figure in his hand – whose feet are winged on some examples – is thought by some to be a wind god, perhaps Zephyrus, but is almost universally described as a genius or a *daimon*, a deity of a lower order which served the higher gods.

Perhaps the most attractive explanation is that the figure, Apollo, is shown holding a laurel branch from the Vale of Tempe in Thessaly, and that the small figure is a *daimon* fulfilling the role of his messenger. If so, the type would reflect the story of how Apollo, after killing the serpent Pytho at Delphi with a well-aimed arrow, exiled himself for seven years of menial labor as penance for his murder; at the end of his period of atonement Apollo purified himself in the sacred grove of bay-trees. Specifically the type would represent his return to Delphi, announced by the *daimon*-messenger, to assume his oracular duties on behalf of Zeus. It is disturbing that the stag seems to defy explanation – this despite it being an integral part of the design on the earliest coins of the city, and its subsequent adoption as the standard reverse type.

The output of the mint at Caulonia was significant, especially considering it was a city of comparatively little significance. It was the last of the Achaean colonies on the Ionian coast to commence striking, and Robinson suggests that its disproportionately high output might be explained by the complete lack of early coinage by its wealthier and more important neighbor Locris.

Croton



- 7 Nomos circa 350-340, AR 7.88 g. Head of Hera Lakonia, wearing stephane decorated with palmette and annulets, looking three-quarter r. Rev. KPO – TΩNI – ATAN Heracles seated l. on rock covered with lion's skin, holding cup in extended r. hand and club in l.; bow resting on ground below. *Historia Numorum* Italy 2167. SNG ANS 374 (this obverse die). SNG Ashmolean 1522 (these dies). SNG Fitzwilliam 793 (this obverse die). Dewing 511 (this obverse die).

Rare and in unusually good condition for the issue. A very appealing representation in the finest style of the period, lightly toned and about extremely fine / extremely fine 10'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 125.

Sicily, Acragas



- 8 Tetradrachm circa 410, AR 17.42 g. A-K-P-A-Γ Two eagles r., perched on dead hare; the further one, with spread wings, is tearing the prey, while the nearer, with folded wings, raises its head to screech. Rev. AKRA-ΓA-[NTIN-ON] Crab; beneath, Scylla swimming to l., r. hand raised to eyes and l. hand trailing behind her; she has a feminine torso, canine protrusions from the trunk and a long, curling fish-tail with fins. Rizzo pl. 1, 20 (these dies). Seltman pl. 1, ii. Scheffold, MW 466 (this coin illustrated). Kent-Hirmer 175 (these dies). AMB 258 (these dies).

Extremely rare, only very few specimens known. Two spectacular representations finely engraved in superb style, a masterpiece of the Greek art. Minor porosity on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

175'000

Ex Leu sale 76, 1999, 23. From The Robert Käppeli collection.

Sometime around 420 B.C. the coinage of Acragas underwent a radical transformation. The city abandoned the utterly familiar types it had been striking for about a century and it replaced them with new issues embracing a modern style of art. The charming but minimalist eagle-and-crab design was radically updated to embrace a variety of subject matter that was treated in a lively and creative manner. One such coin, the tetradrachm offered here, startles the viewer in the same way it must have the Acragantines and their trading partners late in the 5th Century B.C.

We can only guess as to the motivation for this revolution in coin design: was it an influential engraver at the mint, or a general decision of leading citizens to use coinage to show the wealth, affluence and achievement of the city? Acragas was one of the gems of Sicily, second only to Syracuse in most every respect. It is a shame that Acragas was sacked by the Carthaginians a generation after these new coin types were introduced, for the city no doubt would have continued to produce ingenious masterpieces in the centuries that followed. Considering the "freshness" of the designs from the peak of the Classical age, it would have been interesting to see how the city's engravers found new ways to present the familiar types, and to invent entirely new ones.

The obverse offers a new take on the eagle: instead of it standing rigidly in its canonical, closed-wing position, new life has been breathed into this majestic bird, the familiar of Zeus. On what probably was the first of the new generation of coins, only one eagle is shown, but it is caught in the act of capturing a hare in its talons; its entire body is animated as its wings ruffle and it lowers its head to feast. On this issue that scene is repeated except that the direction of the eagle has changed, and a second eagle is added in the foreground; this companion is also perched on the hare, but its head is raised to the sky, as if to declare its triumph.

The reverse is equally remarkable, and it exceeds the obverse. Here the familiar crab is shown above as a subsidiary design, for it is the dynamic and terrifying Scylla beneath that captures our attention. This fearsome creature from Greek mythology had the torso of a woman, the tail of a sea-monster, and at its midriff were the foreparts of two fierce canines. She is said to have haunted the Straits of Messina between Sicily and Italy, and since those straits are some distance from Acragas, the type is mysterious, and would have been more appropriate on the coinage of Messina or Rhegium.



- 9 Half-shekel circa 213-211, AR 3.29 g. Laureate head of Zeus r.; behind, ΦΙ. Rev. ΑΚΡΑΓΑΝΤΙ – ΝΩΝ Eagle standing l.; in field l., Τ / Φ / Ι. Burnett, Enna Hoard p. 6. BMC 84. Lightly toned and extremely fine 600

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1997, 116.

Camarina



- 10 Didrachm signed by Eyainetos before 405, AR 8.55 g. Bust of young river-god Hipparis, facing three-quarter l., with horns on forehead and hair in long loose curls; a fish downwards on either side. On neck, signature [EYAI]. The whole within border of stylised waves. Rev. KAM – Α – ΠΙ – ΝΑ The nymph Camarina, with head l., dressed in low-necked *chiton* leaving the breast partly bare and with crossed legs, riding on swan l. over curved waves. She clasps with l. hand the swan's neck while r. holds billowing *chiton*. In field r., fish amid waves. SNG Lloyd 876 (these dies). Rizzo pl. 7, 9 (these dies). SNG Hunterian 5 (these dies). Kent-Hirmer pl. 54, 152 (these dies). Westermark-Jenkins 162.7 (this coin, the different weight is due to the cleaning). Extremely rare, only eight specimens known. An issue of tremendous fascination with an interesting reverse composition and a portrait of enchanting beauty work of one of the most celebrated Sicilian master-engravers. Minor flan crack at eleven o'clock on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine 65'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk. From the A.D.M. collection.

During the era of this didrachm, four artists signed at Camarina: VΛ, EXE, Exakestidas and Euainetos. The latter is the most famous of those artists, and is the one who signed the obverse die of the coin offered here. For this particular issue of didrachms only three dies are recorded, two obverse and one reverse. The other obverse die has no visible signature, though its quality assures us it was the work of a master artist – perhaps Euainetos or Exakestidas; it is known only from a single specimen, on which a die break obscures the base of the neck, and thus probably also the artist's signature.

On this obverse Euainetos creates a placid image in line with Kimon's facing-head Arethusa of Syracuse (from which it probably was inspired), and which bears a striking resemblance to a very rare drachm of Syracuse (SNG Lloyd 1397). The countenance of our river-god Hipparis is calm and reflective; even the turn of his head toward the viewer seems naturally posed.

The reverse scene, which recalls the myth of Leda and the swan, is similarly placid, and no less accomplished, for it shows a light-hearted and playful scene unfolding before our very eyes. The nymph Camarina devotes her attention to assuring her *chiton* billows in the wind above her head as she reclines carelessly on the back of her swan, steadying her position by placing her right hand upon the swan's breast. At this very moment the powerful, yet elegant bird is preparing to take flight or has just landed on the water; as its great wings are sprung into action, waves crest below and two fish, in response to the alarming state of affairs, are stirred, one propelling itself skyward. The inscription does not interfere with the delicate composition of this complex design, which required an optimal effort from a renowned engraver.

Camarina was located near the terminations of the Oanis and Hipparis rivers on the southern coast of Sicily. It may be of some consequence that both the obverse and the reverse of this coin show two fish; they could represent the two nearby rivers, or, perhaps even more likely, they could symbolize the river and the sea, both of which were important to Camarina. The Hipparis, the larger and more important of the two rivers, issued into the sea less than two miles from Camarina, and the Oanis was closer still. The Hipparis was personified in god-form and is honored on Camarina's coins. On this issue he is shown nearly full-facing, and on other didrachms of this period (bearing inscription that name him) he is shown in profile.

Gela



- 11 Didrachm circa 490-475, AR 8.70 g. Naked horseman r., hurling javelin from upraised r. hand. Rev. CE – Λ – A Forepart of man-headed bull r. Kent-Hirmer pl. 55, 155 (these dies). SNG Aberdeed 50 (these dies). Jenkins 7. Of fine archaic style. Area of weakness on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine 1'200

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1997, 118.

Leontini



- 12 Tetradrachm circa 440, AR 17.38 g. Laureate head of Apollo r. Rev. LEO – NT – I – NO – N Lions' head r., with open jaws and tongue protruding; around, four barley grains. SNG ANS 228 (this reverse die). SNG Ashmolean 1785 (these dies). Boehringer, Leontinoi 39 (this obverse die).
Lightly toned and about extremely fine 3'500

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1997, 132.



- 13 Tetradrachm circa 435-430, AR 17.35 g. Laureate head of Apollo l., hair plaited wreath-like around the head. Rev. Λ-EO-NTIN-O-N Lion's head l., jaws open and tongue protruding; around, four barley grains. SNG ANS 235 (these dies). Dewing 629 (these dies). SNG Ashmolean 1791 (these dies). Rizzo pl. 23, 19 (these dies). Boehringer, Leontinoi 51 (these dies).

Struck on a full flan with a light tone. Extremely fine 6'500

Ex CNG sale 42, 1997, 127.

Messana



- 14 Tetradrachm circa 425-421, AR 17.20 g. Biga of mules driven r. by charioteer, wearing long *chiton* and holding reins in both hand and *kentron* in r.; above, Nike flying r., holding wreath in r. hand and *taenia* in l. In exergue, laurel leaf with berry. Rev. ΜΕΣΣΑ – Ν – Ι – ΟΝ Hare leaping r.; below, dolphin r. SNG Tübingen 608 (these dies). SNG Lloyd 1094 (these dies). Caltabiano 494.

Lightly toned and good extremely fine

5'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 15 Tetradrachm circa 420-413, AR 17.25 g. ΜΕΣΣΑΝΑ Biga of mules driven r. by charioteer, wearing long *chiton* and holding reins in both hands and *kentron* in r.; in exergue, two dolphins swimming snout to snout. Rev. ΜΕΣ – ΣΑ – ΝΙ – Ο – Ν Hare leaping r.; below, dolphin r. SNG Copenhagen 400 (these dies). SNG Lockett 826 (these dies). SNG München 654 (these dies). Caltabiano 519.

Minor traces of over-striking, otherwise extremely fine

4'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Naxos



- 16 Drachm circa 460, AR 4.30 g. Bearded head of Dionysus r., wearing ivy-wreath, hair tied up with a knot on the nape of his neck. Rev. N – A – XI – ON Naked, bearded Silenus, with pointed ears, ruffled hair and long tail, facing squatting, the r. leg folded to the side and l. raised. He turns l. toward *kantharos* in his raised r. hand, while the l. rests on his l. knee, the tail showing behind his l. leg. Rizzo pl. 28, 13 (these dies). AMB 385 (these dies). Friedländer ZfN 6, 1879, pl. I (this coin). Seltman RIN 1896, pl. VII, 6 (this coin). Cahn 55, 3 (this coin) and pl. III (the obverse of this coin illustrated).

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. A superb issue of beautiful style,
nicely toned and extremely fine

36'000

Ex Sotheby's sale 1896, Bunbury collection, 365.

The dies created c. 460 B.C. for tetradrachms and drachms at Sicilian Naxos were used to strike some of the most admired examples of Greek coin art. The engraver of these dies clearly was inspired by the vase paintings of Attica rather than by the contemporary art of Sicily, and similar work can be observed on tetradrachms struck about this time at Catana and Aetna. Collectively, these issues from the formative years of the classical period represent an artistic microcosm that flourished briefly in eastern Sicily.

At Naxos only one pair of accomplished dies is known each for the tetradrachm and the drachm; in the years following three obverse and three reverse dies were engraved by lesser artists imitating the work of the originator of the design. Thus, we are fortunate that this drachm was struck from the important pair of dies (Kahn's obverse 40 and reverse 46), which many scholars, including Kraay, consider to have been cut by the artist responsible for the tetradrachm. Though the artist did not sign his dies, the similarity of his work to that of the celebrated tetradrachm of Aetna has convinced many scholars that the artists are one and the same, the so-named "Aetna Master".

The dating of the Aetna Master issues of Naxos is rather firmly established at c. 460 B.C., coinciding with the return of the Naxians to their city in c. 461. In 476 they had been forcibly moved to Leontini by the tyrant Hieron of Syracuse, and some fifteen years later, after the Syracusan tyranny had collapsed, they were able to return. There is every reason to believe this issue celebrates that triumphant event.

The diagnostics of archaic art have mostly vanished on this coin, leaving us with an early classical masterpiece that retains some archaic elements within a classical framework. Gone is the frontal eye so strongly associated with archaic art, but retained is an arching eyebrow, a faint 'archaic smile,' and a general rigidity of design. Most importantly, the proportions are fairly naturalistic, which helps to distinguish it from products of the archaic period.

Syracuse



- 17 Decadrachm signed work by Euainetos circa 400, AR 43.12 g. Fast quadriga driven l. by charioteer, holding reins and *kentron*; in field above, Nike flying r. to crown him. In exergue, display of military harness set on two steps and below l., [AΘΛΑ]. Rev. ΣΥ – PA – ΚΟΣ – ΙΩΝ Head of Arethusa (Kore-Persephone) l., wearing barley-wreath, triple pendant earring and beaded necklace. Around three dolphins, while a fourth makes dorsal contact with neck truncation; beneath, [ΕΥ – ΑΙΝΕ]. Gulbenkian 313 (this obverse die). SNG ANS 365 (this obverse die). SNG Fitzwilliam 1275 (these dies). Gallatin R. IV / C. VIII.

Well-struck on a full flan with a lovely old cabinet tone. Almost invisible traces of smoothing
in lower l. field on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

25'000

Ex Leu 61, 1995, 77 and NAC 11, 1998, 39 sales.

The Carthaginians



- 18 Tetradrachm, Sicily circa 320-300, AR 17.16 g. Head of Tanit-Persephone I., wearing barley-wreath, triple-pendant earring and necklace; around, four dolphins. Rev. Horse head l.; behind palm-tree and below neck truncation, 'MMHNT (*People of the Camp*) in Punic characters. McClean 3044 (this obverse die). SNG Lloyd 1631 (this obverse die). Jenkins SNR 56, O47 / R –.

A magnificent specimen with a lovely portrait and a light tone. Insignificant metal failing on horse's neck, otherwise good extremely fine

6'000

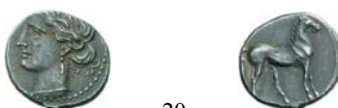
Ex NFA XXVIII, 1991, 33 and Triton II, 1998, 293 sales.



- 19 Stater, Carthage (?) circa 350-320, AV 9.29 g. Head of Tanit I., wearing wreath of barley and leaf, triple-pendant earring and necklace with pendants of acorn shape. Rev. Horse standing r.; below exergual line, Jenkins-Lewis 103.

Extremely fine

3'500



20

- 20 Quarter-shekel, Carthage (?) circa 220-210, AR 1.88 g. Head of Tanit I., wearing barley-wreath. Rev. Horse standing r. Dewing 994. Jenkins-Lewis pl. 28, 4.

Toned. Obverse slightly off-centre, otherwise extremely fine

200

Privately purchased from Stack's.

Macedonia, Acanthus



- 21 Tetradrachm circa 470, AR 16.80 g. Lion r., attacking bull kneeling to l. and biting into his hind-quarters; above, Θ. In exergue, stylized acanthus flower. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. SNG ANS 10. SNG Fitzwilliam 1889. Desneux group B, 52 var. (these dies unlisted).
Well-struck on a large flan with a delightful iridescent tone. Test-cut on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 3'000

Ex Leu 65, 1996, 131 and Triton II, 1998, 298 sales.

Amphipolis



- 22 Tetradrachm circa 356/5, AR 13.74 g. Laureate head of Apollo facing three-quarters r. Rev. [ΑΜΦ] – ΠΠΟ – ΑΙΤ – ΩΝ on raised square frame within which torch with bowl, on r., barley-corn. The whole within incuse square. Lorber 47c and pl. XXV, 47b (this coin).
Very rare. A magnificent portrait well-struck in high relief and a pleasant tone.
Metal somewhat porous, otherwise about extremely fine 35'000

Ex Leu sale 15, 1976, 175. From the Judd collection. (expertly conserved since)

Kings of Macedonia, Archelaus 413 – 399



- 23 Stater 413-399, AR 10.57 g. Head of Apollo r., wearing *taenia*. Rev. ΑΡΧΕ – ΑΑΟ Horse walking r., with trailing reins. The whole within linear incuse square. Westermark, Essays Carson-Jenkins, series 2 (O91 / R 115 this coin). SNG ANS 69.
Lightly toned and about extremely fine 4'000

Ex Kricheldorf 21, 1970, 54 and Triton II, 1998, 305 sales.

Philip II, 359 – 336 and posthumous issues



- 24 Stater, Pella circa 336-328, AV 8.59 g. Laureate head of Apollo r. Rev. Charioteer driving fast biga r.; below, Phrygian helmet. In exergue, ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ. Le Rider –, for symbol cf. 432 (tetradrachm)

An apparently unrecorded symbol for the gold issues. A gentle portrait of good style struck in high relief. Minor nick on reverse edge at three o'clock and light marks, otherwise good extremely fine

4'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Alexander III, 336 – 323 and posthumous issues



- 25 Di-stater, Macedonia circa 330-320, AV 17.21 g. Head of Athena r., wearing crested Corinthian helmet, bowl decorated with serpent. Rev. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Nike wearing long *chiton*, flying l., holding wreath and *stylus*; in field l., trident. Cf. Harlan J. Berk, *Celator* May 1993. Price –.

An apparently unrecorded variety of an excessively rare type. Well-struck in high relief and extremely fine

25'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

This "flying Nike" variety of the Alexander distater was published by Harlan Berk in an article entitled "A new distater of Alexander" (*The Celator*, vol. 7., no. 5; May, 1993). He describes Nike as being different from the usual composition because she is not standing, but appears to be either flying, or in the process of taking flight. That she is in motion is clearly revealed by the position of her feet, but also by the fact that her *chiton* is animated, and clings to her right leg. Mr. Berk also theorizes that this distater is not merely a variety within the series, but is in fact the prototype of the denomination which, for reasons unknown, was abandoned in favor of the familiar "standing Nike".



- 26 Tetradrachm, Tarsus circa 327-323, AR 17.18 g. Head of Heracles r., wearing lion skin headdress. Rev. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Zeus seated l., holding eagle and sceptre; in field l., plough. Below throne, pellet. Newell Tarsus 27. Price 3018. Lightly toned and good extremely fine 1'000

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1997, 256.

- 27 Stater, Abydos (?) 323-317, AV 8.55 g. Head of Athena r., wearing crested Corinthian helmet, bowl decorated with serpent. Rev. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Nike standing l., holding wreath and *stylus*; in field l., monogram / pentagram. At her feet, cornucopiae. Price 1524. Extremely fine 1'800

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Demetrius Poliorcetes, 306 – 285



- 28 Tetradrachm, Pella circa 294-293, AR 17.26 g. Nike, holding trumpet and *stylus*, standing l. on prow. Rev. ΔΕΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ / ΒΑ – ΣΙΑΕΩ – Σ Naked Poseidon striding to l., brandishing trident in upraised r. hand and stretching out l. arm which is wrapped in his mantle; in field l., monogram. In field r., dolphin / star. Dewing 1196. Newell 68. Virtually as struck and Fdc 4'000
Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 333.



- 29 Tetradrachm, Chalkis circa 290-287, AR 15.57 g. Diademed and horned head of Demetrius r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΔΗΜΕΤΡΙΟΥ Naked Poseidon standing l., with r. foot on prow, holding trident in l. hand; in outer field l., monogram. SNG Berry 343. Newell 151. Lightly toned and good very fine 2'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Kings of Paeonia, Lyceius 356 – 335



- 30 Tetradrachm 356-335, AR 12.09 g. Laureate head of Zeus r. Rev. ΑΙΚΚ – ΕΙΟΥ Heracles strangling the Nemean lion; in field r., bow and quiver. AMNG III/2, 8 (this obverse die). Paeonian Hoard 63 (this obverse die). SNG ANS 1019 (this obverse die). Lightly toned and extremely fine 800
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Black Sea Region, Istrus



31

- 31 Drachm 4th-3rd century BC, AR 5.55 g. Two young male heads facing and united, one inverted. Rev. ΙΕΤΡΗ Sea-eagle l., perching dolphin; below, A. SNG Copenhagen 193. SNG BM 240.

Lightly toned, extremely fine / good extremely fine

500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Thrace, Aenus



32

- 32 Tetradrachm circa 459/8-458/7 or later, AR 16.42 g. Head of Hermes r., wearing *petasus*. Rev. ΑΙΝΙ Goat standing r.; in field r., owl standing r. SNG Copenhagen 391. *Traité II* pl. 344, 7 (these dies). May 41.

Extremely rare variety. The obverse slightly off-centre, about extremely fine

5'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Islands off Thrace, Thasos



33

- 33 Tetradrachm circa 370, AR 15.32 g. Ivy-wreathed head of Dionysus l. Rev. ΘΑΣΙΟΝ Heracles, wearing lion skin headdress, kneeling r. and drawing bow; in field r., double-axe The whole within square frame. West ANNM 40, -. Robinson, NC 1934 part IV, 6 and pl. IV, 6.

Extremely rare variety, apparently only the second recorded specimen. Nicely toned, minor area of weakness and a small metal flaw on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine

3'000

Ex NFA sale X, 1981, 88.



34

- 34 Tetradrachm circa 360, AR 15.13 g. Ivy-wreathed head of Dionysus l. Rev. ΘΑΣΙΟΝ Heracles, wearing lion skin headdress, kneeling r. and drawing bow; in field r., thunderbolt. The whole within square frame. West ANNM 40, 39. Hurter Pixodarus Hoard pl. 31, 3 (this coin). Le Rider Group IV.

Very rare. Nicely toned and of pleasant late classical style, good very fine

7'500

Ex M&M sale 61, 1982, 84.

Thessaly, Larissa



- 35 Drachm circa 395-370, AR 6.06 g. Head of nymph Larissa facing three-quarter l., wearing *ampyx* inscribed ΓΕΥ, hair floating freely above head; above, ΙΑ. Rev. Horse grazing r., with loose bridle; below, ΑΙ. In exergue, ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙ. Lorber, *Florilegium Numismaticum*, 17.1 (this reverse die). Herman pl. VI, 18 (this obverse die).

Well-struck in high relief in superb classical style. Lightly toned and extremely fine

2'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 36 Stater circa 356-342, AR 12.15 g. Diademed head of the nymph Larissa facing three-quarter l., hair flowing loosely, wearing earring and necklace. Rev. ΛΑΡΙ – ΣΑΙΩΝ Horse walking r., with loose bridle and r. foreleg raised. Dewing 1397. Weber 2848. McClean 4611. Lorber, SNR 79, 64 var. Hermann pl. V, 1 var. Triton IX, lot 865 (these dies).

Of unusually good style, probably the prototype of the series. About extremely fine

4'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 37 Stater circa 379-371, AR 12.08 g. Boetian shield. Rev. BO – ΙΩ Amphora; above, club. BMC 45. SNG Copenhagen 169. Toned and very fine 500

Ex CNG Male Bid sale 43, 1997, 379.

Thebes

- 38 Stater circa 379-338, AR 12.19 g. Boetian shield. Rev. ΑΓ – ΑΑ Amphora. BMC 111. SNG Copenhagen 314. Toned and very fine 500

Ex CNG Male Bid sale 43, 1997, 389.

Attica, Athens



- 39 Didrachm circa 545-515, AR 8.52 g. Owl standing l. within circular border. Rev. Incuse square diagonally divided. Rosen 184. Svoronos 7. Hill, *Historical Greek Coins* pl. I, 5 (this obverse die). Seltman A 48 (this obverse die). Extremely rare and an exceptionally interesting type. Test-cuts on obverse, otherwise good very fine 18'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

The mint at Athens produced an extraordinary variety of denominations of its silver coinage, though the only one it struck in large quantities was the tetradrachm, which became something of a universal currency in the Greek world. Among the "owl" coinages, the didrachm was unusual, though in the earliest phase of Athenian coinage, the period of its "heraldic coinage" (*Wappenmünzen*), it was in fact the standard denomination. It is rather surprising the didrachm was not continued by Athens in quantity, for at about 8.6 grams it weighed the same as the staters of Corinth.

Stylistically and technically the "owl" didrachms are of great interest because the reverse takes the standard composition of the series and adds a remarkable twist – an artistic simulation of the "incuse square" that can be observed as a byproduct of the striking process on all other Athenian owls from the archaic and Classical periods. This unusual feature earmarks the Athens didrachm as something more than just a rarity, but an artistic and technical experiment at a mint that otherwise is renowned for its draconian uniformity.

In the usual case of an Athenian silver coin, the incuse square is created at the time of striking by the excess metal cupping around the edges of the square reverse die. The reverse dies used to strike the didrachms, however, were round, not square, and on examples with particularly broad planchets the full circumference of the die is revealed. For the didrachms, the engravers cut a square into the circular die, and within that square they engraved the traditional design. And yet there is another innovation to consider: the olive sprig that on the standard issue of Athens is placed wholly within the field of the square die is here shown overlapping the faux "incuse square" and the raised plane surface of the circular die, with the result being that one leaf is in the square and the other rests upon the ledge of the circular field.



- 40 Tetradrachm circa 475-470, AR 17.23 g. Head of Athena r., wearing round earring and crested helmet decorated with zig-zag and pellet pattern on crest, four olive leaves upright on forehead. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r., head facing; in field l., olive on short stalk and leaves on long stalks hanging vertically. To l. close to owl's neck, moon crescent. The whole within incuse square. SNG Lockett 1835. Starr Group I, cf. 4. Seltman Group N, cf. 410.

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for this difficult issue.

Of masterly style, toned and about extremely fine

15'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



41

- 41 Decadrachm circa 467-465, AR 41.98 g. Head of Athena r., wearing crested helmet, earring and necklace; bowl ornamented with spiral and three olive leaves. Rev. A - Θ - E Owl standing facing, with spread wings; in upper field l., olive-twig with two leaves and berry. The whole within incuse square. ACGC 188. Starr Group II C 61 (this obverse die). Svoronos pl. 8, 14 (this obverse die). Seltman pl. XXI, A 207 (this die). Kraay-Hirmer 358 (this obverse die).

Extremely rare and of the highest numismatic and historical interest, undoubtedly one of the most prestigious Greek coins. Metal slightly porous and a die-break on obverse, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine

225'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Athens decadrachms rank high among the prizes of ancient Greek coinage, with few examples existing in public or private collections. The purpose of these massive coins, and their dating, has long excited debate among scholars. In recent years a careful study of hoard evidence has shattered some enduring myths, and these coins are now attributed to a period of perhaps several years in the mid-460s B.C., making them contemporary with the 'Demareteion' decadrachms of Syracuse.

According to Herodotus, this denomination was used to pay bonuses to Athenian citizens for surpluses from the nearby silver mines at Laurium. Had this been true, the decadrachms would have been struck in the years following the Greek victory over the Persians at Marathon in 490 B.C. It is interesting that both ancient literary accounts concerning decadrachms – Herodotus for Athens and Diodorus Siculus for the 'Demareteion' issue of Syracuse – are incorrect, and have caused a great deal of misunderstanding.

The purpose of decadrachms has also been debated. Barclay Head, writing nearly a century ago, echoed the thoughts of his contemporaries when he said decadrachms were "...chiefly issued on special occasions or for the personal gratification of Tyrants or Kings, and not for common currency." In fact, we now know the decadrachms of Athens and the Syracusan issues in the style of Kimon and Euainetos had legitimate and enduring roles in the monetary system, though never a commonplace one. The large silver coins of Northern Greece (principally octadrachms and dodecadrachms) were purely commercial coins, quite often struck for export.

The decadrachms of Acragas, and possibly the 'Demareteion Master' decadrachms of Syracuse, may be exceptional in this regard, as the latter may have a yet-unrecognized commemorative purpose, and the former almost certainly commemorates a charioteer's victory at the 92nd Olympiad in 412 B.C.



42

- 42 Didrachm circa 465, AR 8.43 g. Head of Athena r., wearing crested helmet, earring and necklace; bowl ornamented with spiral and three olive leaves. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r., head facing; in upper field l., olive-twig with two leaves and berry. The whole within incuse square. Starr 143c (this coin). Seltman 473 (this coin). Svoronos-Pick pl. 8, 32 (this coin).

Very rare. Obverse surface somewhat porous and two banker's marks on reverse,
otherwise good very fine

8'000

Ex Hirsch XIII, 1905, Rhoussopolous, 1979 and Leu 76, 1999, 122 sales. From the collection of C. Gillet.



43

- 43 Tetradrachm circa 460-455, AR 16.66 g. Head of Athena r., wearing crested helmet, earring and necklace; bowl ornamented with spiral and three olive leaves. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r., head facing; in upper field l., olive-twig with two leaves and berry. The whole within incuse square. SNG Berry 644. Starr Group IV, cf. 124. Svoronos pl. 9, cf. 8-9. Seltman Group N, cf. 442.

About extremely fine

2'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



44

45

- 44 Tetradrachm circa 415-407, AR 16.95 g. Head of Athena r., wearing crested helmet, earring and necklace; bowl ornamented with spiral and three olive leaves. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r., head facing; in upper l. corner, olive-twig with two leaves and berry and below, crescent. The whole within incuse square. Svoronos pl. 14, cf. 17.

Obverse off-centre, otherwise very fine

200

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

- 45 Tetradrachm circa 137-136, AR 16.82 g. Helmeted head of Athena r., bowl decorated with palmette and pegasus. Rev. A – ΘE / MI – ΘEO / KI – ΦPA Owl standing r. on amphora on which Γ; below, ME. In lower field r., Nike in prancing quadriga r. The whole within wreath. SNG Lockett 1909. Thompson 317.

Lightly toned and good very fine

500

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1997, 433.

Aegina



- 46 Stater circa 479-456, AR 12.05 g. Sea turtle seen from above. Rev. Large skew incuse square. Rosen 219. Dewing 1674. ACGC. 123. Millbank pl. I, 15. Struck in high relief and about extremely fine 3'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 47 Stater circa 456-431, AR 12.39 g. Tortoise seen from above. Rev. Large skew incuse square. Dewing 1685. ACGC 127. Millbank pl. II, 10. A small test-cut on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 1'500
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 48 Stater circa 350-338, AR 11.95. Tortoise seen from above. Rev. A – IFI / dolphin within large skew incuse square. Dewing 1688. Millbank pl. III, 1. Oeconomides, *Florilegium Numismaticum*, 33. Nicely toned. Area of weakness on obverse, otherwise very fine 800
Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1998, 303.

Corinthia, Corinth



- 49 Stater circa 345-307, AR 8.57 g. Pegasus flying l.; below ϕ . Rev. Laureate, helmeted head of Athena l.; below chin and neck truncation, A – P. Behind, *aegis* within wreath. Calciati Pegasi, 427. Ravel 1009. Good extremely fine 750
Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 46, 1998, 363.

Sicyonia, Sicyon



- 50 Stater late 330s, AR 12.24 g. Chimera advancing l., with r paw raised; above, wreath and beneath, ΣΕ. Rev. Dove flying l., below its neck, I. The whole within olive wreath. BMC 56. BCD collection 219. Wartenberg, NC 1997, 80. Warren, Pour Denise, 10.

Attractively toned, well-centred and complete. Extremely fine 3'500

Privately purchased from CNG.

Elis, Olympia



- 51 Stater signed ΔΑ circa 400, AR 12.10 g. Eagle's head l., below, poplar leaf inscribed ΔΑ. Rev. Winged thunderbolt flanked by two olive twigs. Traité pl. 231, 1 (these dies). Kent-Hirmer pl. 157, 500 (this obverse die). Gulbenkian 541 (this obverse die). Weber 4039 (this coin). Seltman 150.

Very rare and with a superb obverse representation. Toned, weakly struck on reverse and with some light marks on obverse, otherwise very fine 7'500

Ex Leu 15, 1976, 252; NFA V, 1978, 119 and Sotheby's 19-20 June 1991, Hunt, 286 sales. From the H. Weber and R.A. van Every collections. Said to be Privately purchased from Merzbacher in 1886.

Kings of Bosphorus, Pharnaces II 63 – 47 BC



- 52 Stater, Panticapaeum circa 53-52, AV 8.25 g. Diademed head of Pharnaces II r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕ – ΩΝ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΦΑΡΝΑΚΟΥ Apollo, naked to waist, seated l., his l. arm resting on large *cithara*, holding laurel branch in his outstretched r. hand; in front of him, large tripod; in field r., date ΕΜΣ (= year 245 of the Seleucid era), below, Β Κ. V. Golenko and P. J. Karyszowski, The Gold Coinage of King Pharnaces of Bosphorus, NC 1972, 4 (these dies).

Very rare. Minor marks and light traces of double-striking, otherwise extremely fine 8'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Asander, 41 – 16 BC



- 53 Stater 38/37 BC (year 7), AV 8.23 g. Diademed head of Asander r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΑΣΑΝΔΡΟΥ Nike standing l. on prow, holding wreath and palm-branch; in inner field l., Z / monogram. Nawotka 7a. RPC 1849. Extremely rare and in exceptional state of preservation. Insignificant metal flaw on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine 12'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Kings of Pontus, Mithradates VI 120 – 63 BC



- 54 Tetradrachm 76-75 BC, AR 17.56 g. Diademed head of Mithradates VI r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΟΥ / ΕΥΠΙΑΤΟΡΟΣ / Θ (= 9th month) Deer drinking l.; in field l., star / crescent / monogram. In field r., ΒΚΣ / monogram. The whole within ivy-wreath. SNG Berry 895 var. (I = 10th month). SNG BM 1038 (these dies). Gulbenkian 946 (this obverse die). De Callatay D 34 / R 8d (this coin).

Toned and about extremely fine 2'500

Ex Giessener Munzhandlung 36, 1987, 179; Vinchon November 1990, 29 and Triton II, 1998, 403 sales.

Crete, Cnossus



- 55 Stater circa 420, AR 11.92 g. ΚΝΟΣΙ[ΟΝ] Minotaur running r., head facing with r. hand lowered and l. raised holding unidentified object. Rev. Labyrinth in the shape of counter-clockwise swastika with floral pattern in the centre; sunk squares in the four corners. Svoronos –; see *Addenda*, Arc. Eph. 1899, pl. 11, 14. Wroth, NC 1896 pl. 7, 6 var. = Le Rider p. 99, 5 and 25, 1 var. (this obverse die, but the labyrinth clockwise). Very rare and in unusually good condition for this interesting issue. Toned and good very fine 18'000

Ex Leu sale 76, 1999, 135. From the collection C. Gillet.

The earliest coinage of Crete was struck much later than its appearance would suggest. This stater, for example, looks very much like a product from the Archaic period, yet archaeological and hoard data shows it was struck well into the Classical period – at least a half century later than what its style and fabric would suggest. The relative isolation of Crete assured that in many other ways, such as forms of speech, it also developed more slowly than most other Greek lands. Crete had yet another interesting consideration for its coinage, namely that it relied upon imported coins for its silver; thus, this coin was probably overstruck on a stater of Aegina, the coinage that most frequently reached the island before about 330 B.C.

This coin is one of the earliest from Cnossus, a city on the northern coast of the island. Not surprisingly, its designs derive from the city's most famous mythological episode, the Minotaur in the labyrinth. The Minotaur had the body of a man and the head of a bull – a predictable composition for a creature born of an intimate encounter between a bull and Pasiphae, the wife of the Cretan king Minos. (Oddly enough, Suetonius tells us Pasiphae was claimed as an ancestress by the emperor Galba). The Minotaur was kept by Minos in a specially constructed labyrinth at Cnossus and was fed with condemned criminals, maidens and young boys sent from Athens as tribute to the Cretan king. It has been noted that the Phoenician Baal Moloch shared the form of the Minotaur and likewise fed on human sacrifice victims.

Itanus



- 56 Stater circa 380-350, AR 10.94 g. Bearded sea-god r., striking downward fish with trident held in raised r. hand. Rev. ITANION Two sea-monsters face to face. Svoronos 202 and pl. 18, 24 (this obverse die). Le Rider pl. 8, 14 (these dies). BMC 5 and pl. XIII, 2 (these dies). Wroth NC 1884, p. 39 and pl. II, 14 (this reverse die). *Traité III* pl. CCXLIV, 15 (these dies).

Extremely rare and unusually complete. Surface somewhat corroded, otherwise very fine

5'000

Ex M&M sale 66, 1984, 139.

Kings of Pergamum, Philetaerus 282 – 263



- 57 Tetradrachm, Pergamum circa 274-263, AR 16.99 g. Diademed head of Seleucus I r. Rev. ΦΙΛΕΤΑΙΡΟΥ Athena seated l., holding spear in l. hand and resting r. on shield; above her r. arm, ivy-leaf and in outer field r., bow. SNG France 1598. Newell, ANSNNM 76, pl. 10, 1 (this obverse die) and pl. 9, 3 (for the reverse).

Very rare. A portrait of great strength struck in high relief, good very fine / very fine

6'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Lesbos, Mytilene



- 58 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.57 g. Lion's head r., with open jaws. Rev. Cockerel's head l., incuse. De Luynes 2544. Bodensdt Em 7.

Very rare and in exceptional state of preservation. Good extremely fine

2'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 59 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.55 g. Forepart of winged boar r. Rev. Lion's head r. with open jaws, incuse. SNG Lockett 2759. SNG von Aulock 7717. Bodensdt Em 15.

Extremely fine

2'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 60 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.55 g. Ram's head r.; below, fighting hen standing l. Rev. Lion's head with open jaws, incuse. SNG Con Aulock 7719. Bodenstedt Em 16. Rare. Good extremely fine 2'750
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 61 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.52 g. Gorgoneion's head facing, surrounded by snakes. Rev. Head of Heracles r., wearing lion skin headress, incuse. SNG Lockett 2756. SNG von Aulock 1691. Bodenstedt Em 19. Very rare. Exceptionally well-centred and complete, good extremely fine 6'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- Ionia, Uncertain Mint**
62 Stater of Milesian standard circa 650-600, EL 14.29 g. Flattered-striated surface. Rev. Two rough incuse punches separated by a cleft. Cf. BMC 1 (Miletos). Cf. Traité I pl. I, 12. Cf. Mitchiner p. 238, 63. Triton IX, lot 938. Extremely rare, very few specimens known. Very fine 10'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

- Ephesus**
63 Tetradrachm circa 460, AR 13.17 g. ΕΦ – ΕΣΙ – Ο – Ν Bee seen from above. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. Head p. 20, 6 and pl. 1, 14. BMC 11. ACGC 901. SNG Kayhan 139. Extremely rare. Toned and very fine 3'500
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Phocaea



- 64 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.59 g. Head of warrior l., wearing crested helmet, bowl decorated with floral scroll; beneath, seal l. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. De Luynes 2645. Bodenstedt Em 30. Rare. Extremely fine 3'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



65



65

- 65 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.55 g. Head of Athena l., wearing Corinthian helmet, bowl decorated with floral scroll; behind, seal. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. Boston 1906. Bodenstein Em 32.
Extremely rare and unusually complete for the issue. Good extremely fine 3'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



66



66

- 66 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.54 g. Forepart of lion l., feasting on its prey; above, seal l. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. De Luynes 2646. Bodenstein Em 36.

Very rare. Well-struck and good extremely fine 5'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



67



67

- 67 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.59 g. Forepart of cockerel l.; behind, seal l. Rev. Irregular incuse square. SNG Kayhan 529. Bodenstein Em. 40.

Extremely rare and in superb condition for the issue. Almost Fdc 6'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



68



68

- 68 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.59 g. Facing head of satyr; to l., seal. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. SNG Fitzwilliam 4559. BMC 3. Bodenstein Em. 43.

Very rare and among the finest known. Well-struck in high relief and good extremely fine 5'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



69



69

- 69 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.56 g. Bearded head of Ares l., wearing crested helmet, bowl decorated with floral scroll; beneath, seal r. Rev. Irregular incuse punch. De Luynes 2643. Bodenstein Em 44.

Very rare. Good extremely fine 4'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



70



70

- 70 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.55 g. Bearded head of Ares I., wearing crested helmet, plain bowl; beneath, seal r. Rev. Irregular incuse punch. Cf. Bodentstedt Em 44a.
An apparently unrecorded variety. Good extremely fine 5'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



71



71

- 71 Hecte circa 521-478, EL 2.61 g. Two swimming seals at play. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. SNG von Aulock 7941. BMC 6. Bodentstedt Em 46.
About extremely fine 1'500
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



72



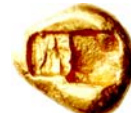
72

- 72 Hecte circa 477-388, EL 2.56 g. Forepart of goat l.; behind, seal. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. Bodentstedt Em 51.
Extremely rare and probably the finest specimen known. Good extremely fine 6'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Kings of Lydia, Croesus circa 561-546



73



73

- 73 Stater light series, Sardis (?) circa 561-546, AV 8.07 g. Confronted foreparts of lion, with extended and bent r. foreleg, and bull. Rev. Two incuse square punches of unequal size. Boston 2073. Dewing 2431. SNG von Aulock 2875.
Good extremely fine 6'000
Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 430.

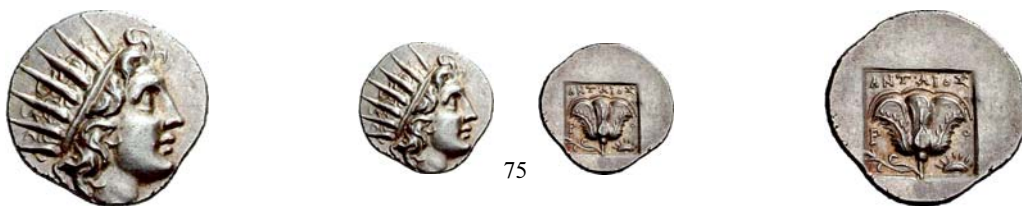
Islands off Caria, Rhodes



74



- 74 Tetradrachm circa 350, AR 15.00 g. Head of Helios, facing three-quarters r. Rev. [P]OΔION Rose with stem with bud upwards; in inner field, I – trident. The whole within incuse square. Traité III pl. CXLVII, 7. SNG Copenhagen 726.
Struck in high relief, toned and extremely fine 8'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 75 Drachm circa 125-88, AR 2.60 g. Radiate head of Helios r. Rev. ANTAIOΣ / P – O Rose between cornucopiae on l. and rising sun on r.; all within incuse square. Jenkins, Essay Kraay-Mørholm, 128.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 500

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 46, 1998, 449.

Lycian Dynasts, Mithrapata circa 380 – 375



- 76 Stater circa 380-375, AR 10.01 g. Lion's scalp; below, Lycian triskeles. Rev. ME)(PA – ΠΑ – Τ – P Head of Dynast l.; behind, triskeles. The whole within incuse square. Kraay-Hirmer 657 (this reverse die). Podalia Hoard 84.

Lightly toned and extremely fine 3'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Trbbenimi 380 – 370



- 77 Stater circa 380-370, AR 9.78 g. Lion's scalp; below, T. Rev. T – P – B Lycian triskeles; in field r., club. The whole within incuse square. Jameson 1588. SNG von Aulock 4213 (this obverse die). Podalia hoard 125.

Unusually well-struck on the obverse. Lightly toned and extremely fine 1'500

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1997, 646.

Pamphilia, Aspendus



- 78 Stater circa 370, AR 10.66 g. Two wrestlers grappling; in lower centre field, EI. Rev. ΕΣΤΦΕΛΙΥ Slinger to r.; in field r., triskeles / club.

Apparently unrecorded in all the major collections. Lightly toned, flan crack at eleven o'clock on obverse, otherwise virtually as struck and Fdc 1'500

Privately purchased from CNG privately.

Cilicia, Tarsus



- 79 Stater circa 370, AR 10.63 g. Athena enthroned l., holding spear in r. hand and resting l. elbow on round shield propped against throne; behind, trunk of olive-tree. Rev. ΤΕΡΣΙΚΟΝ Girl crouching l., throwing knuckle bones; behind, lotus plant. SNG Levante 64. *Traité* 1374. Kraay-Hirmer 674. SNG Paris 238.
Very rare. Toned and good extremely fine 2'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 80 **Mazaios, 361-334.** Stater circa 361-344, AR10.91 g. B'LTRZ in Aramaic characters Baaltars seated l., holding bunch of grapes, ear of grain and eagle in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in lower field l. and below chair, Aramaic characters. Rev. MZDI in Aramaic characters Lion l. attacking bull. SNG Levante 106 (obverse) and 105 (reverse). SNG Levante supp. 20.
Iridescent tone and virtually as struck and almost Fdc 1'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 81 **Balakros, 333-323.** Stater circa 333-323, AR 10.90 g. Draped bust of Athena facing three-quarters l., wearing triple-crested Attic helmet, earring and necklace; in upper field l., crested Corinthian helmet. Rev. Baaltars seated l., holding sceptre in r. hand and resting l. on stool; in outer field l., ear of barley and bunch of grapes. In outer field r., ivy-leaf / B. Below stool, T. SNG von Aulock 5964 var. BMC 78.
Nicely toned, reverse from a worn die, otherwise almost Fdc 1'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Persia, Achaemenid Kings



82



82

- 82 **Time of Darius I – Xerxes I.** Daric circa 513-500, AV 8.32 g. The Great king in kneeling-running stance r., shooting bow. Rev. Oblong incuse punch. ACGC 81. Carradice Type II pl. XI, 11. Mithchiner Early Coinage 1932. Very rare. Unusually complete and about extremely fine 5'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Bactria, Demetrius I circa 200 – 190



83



- 83 **Tetradrachm, Panijhir (?) circa 200-190, AR 16.91 g.** Draped bust r., wearing elephant headdress. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ Heracles standing facing, crowning himself with r. hand and holding club and lion's skin in l.; in lower inner field l., monogram. MIG 103d. Bopearachchi Série 1D, 2-3. A bold portrait struck on a very large flan, about extremely fine 3'000

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 46, 1998, 615.

Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy I Satrap circa 323-305



84



84

- 84 **Tetradrachm struck in the name of Alexander III of Macedonia, Alexandria or Memphis circa 323-318, AR 16.71 g.** Diademed head of Alexander r., wearing elephant skin headdress. Rev. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Zeus Aëtophoros seated left, holding eagle in outstretched r. hand; in field l., thunderbolt. Below throne, PY. Svoronos 20. Zervos Issue B-VII. SNG Copenhagen 11 var. (monogram). Very rare. Toned, struck in high relief and about extremely fine 7'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

The Roman Republic

Titus Quinctius Flaminius, Consul in 198 BC



85



85

- 85 Stater, Chalkis (?) Circa 196, AV 8.41 g. Bare head of Titus Quinctius Flaminius r. Rev. [T] QVINCTI Nike, standing l., holding palm in l. hand and wreath in r., crowing the name of the Consul. Babelon Quinctia 2. Bahrfeldt 9. Biaggi 9. Kraay-Himer 579 var. (legend downward). Kent-Hirmer 29 var. (legend downwards). C. Botrè, RIN XCVI, p. 49 (this coin cited). C. Botrè, SNR 76 pp. 65-73. Calicó 29. Wealth of the Ancient World 109 (these dies). Crawford 548/1b.

Of the highest rarity, only ten specimens known of which four are in museums. An issue of great historical importance, bearing the first portrait of a living Roman. An unusually good portrait of the Consul in fine Hellenistic style. Light scratches on cheek, a graffito and weakly struck on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine

150'000

Ex Leu 20, 1978, 79 and Triton IV, 1999, 179 sales.

Portraiture has long been recognized as the hallmark of Roman coinage, and since the gold staters of T. Quinctius Flaminius are the forerunners of that tradition, they understandably are among the great prizes of ancient coinage. The coin portrait was a Persian invention of the late 5th Century B.C. that was embraced by the Greeks about a century later, and reluctantly was adopted by the Romans in the 40s B.C. Once that Roman taboo was shattered by Julius Caesar and his successors, coin portraits became a tradition in which no Roman could find fault or shame. But the gold staters of Flaminius predate this by more than 150 years, and it is that quality, in concert with their beauty, historical context and rarity that make them the object of such admiration.

Only a remarkable circumstance could account for such an issue, and we find it in 196 B.C., in the aftermath of the Roman defeat of the Macedonian army of King Philip V. It was a moment of great triumph, Rome's international prestige reached a new height.

The Romans had first encountered a professional Greek army in Southern Italy when they fought Pyrrhus, the king of Epirus, late in the 3rd Century B.C. Later still, the Romans defeated the Illyrians in 228 and 219, by which they secured their first foothold in the Balkan peninsula. In doing so, however, they aroused the suspicions of the Macedonian King Philip V, who opened a second front against Rome in the midst of its terrifying war with Hannibal. Rome forged alliances with the Aetolians and other Greeks to keep Philip V at bay while they remained focused on Hannibal. Only in 205, after Rome had turned the tide against Carthage, were they in a position to negotiate peace with the Macedonians.

The Romans had not forgotten the liberties Philip took during their time of weakness, and in 200 they intervened in his affairs at the request of their own allies in Greece and Asia. The consul Galba and his successor made little headway over the course of two years, but when Flaminius became a consul in 198 he fought with great vigor in Greece and Macedon. Upon learning that his consular powers would be renewed for the following year, Flaminius sabotaged the Macedonian diplomatic efforts so he could exact a more favorable settlement through his anticipated military success. His gamble paid off, and Flaminius roundly defeated the Macedonian at Cynoscephalae in 197. If possible, the terms for peace were more devastating than the battle: though Philip remained king of Macedon, he had to free every Greek city from his yoke, to pay an indemnity of 1,000 talents, and to forfeit all but six vessels from his navy.

Thus we find the context for this gold stater: when Flaminius, on behalf of himself and the senate of Rome, proclaimed the freedom of all the cities of Greece. These coins likely were struck as a donative to the victorious army, though we probably will never know if the coins were produced by Flaminius or by the thankful Greeks. At least a portion of the mintage was paid to Roman legionnaires, since several of the known specimens have been found in Italy, and presumably were brought home by veterans of the Second Macedonian War (who returned to Italy almost immediately).

In all but its Latin inscription, this coin is Greek. Its denomination is the attic-weight stater, its style and fabric are consistent with Greek coins of the period, its use of a portrait on the obverse (even if not diademed in a regal fashion) derives from the legacy of Greek royal portraiture and, finally, its reverse design is based upon the gold staters of the type introduced by Alexander the Great. They probably were distributed at the Isthmian Games in the summer of 196, the deadline by which Philip was to have withdrawn his garrisons from all Greek cities; it was an ideal occasion for Flaminius to proclaim his universal freedom, for Greeks had gathered there from throughout the Mediterranean world.

Julius Caesar and posthumous issues



86

- 86 Denarius, mint moving with Caesar in 49-48 BC, AR 3.86 g. Elephant r., trampling serpent; in exergue, CAESAR. Rev. *Culullus, aspergillum*, axe and apex. Babelon Iulia 9. Sydenham 1006. Sear Imperatorial 9. C 49. Crawford 443/1. Lightly toned, virtually as struck and Fdc 1'000

Privately purchased from CNG.



- 87 *L. Livineius Regulus*. Denarius 42 BC, AR 3.86 g. Laureate head r.; behind, laurel-branch and before, caduceus. Rev. L LIVINEIVS / REGVLVS Bull charging r. Babelon Livineia 1 and Iulia 57. Sydenham 1106. Sear Imperial 115. C 27. Crawford 494/24.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. An appealing portrait well-centred on a broad flan, toned and good extremely fine

10'000

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 63, 2003, 1195.

C. Cassius Longinus



- 88 Aureus, mint-moving with Brutus and Cassius circa 43-42 BC, 7.97 g. C-CASSI-IMP Laureate head of Libertas r. Rev. M SERVILIUS – LEG *Aplustre* with each branch ending in a flower. Sydenham 1311. Babelon Cassia 20. Bahrfeldt 60.19 (this coin). C 8. Calicó 67. Vagi 101. Sear Imperators 224. Calicó 67 (these dies). Crawford 505/1. Very rare. About extremely fine 20'000

Ex Rollin & Feuardent 1909, Evans, 7 and Lanz 88, 1998, 808 sales. Found in Sicily in 1886.

Plutarch held Cassius in low regard, describing him as a man who was not well liked and who ruled his soldiers through fear. He says: "...Cassius was known to be a man of violent and uncontrolled passions, whose craving for money had often tempted him to stray from the path of justice, and it therefore seemed natural that his motive for fighting, wandering about the empire and risking his life was not to win liberty for his fellow-countrymen, but to secure some great place for himself." Plutarch has precisely the opposite to say of Cassius' co-conspirator: "Brutus' virtues, on the other hand, made him popular with the rank and file, beloved by his friends, and admired by the nobility, while even his enemies found it impossible to hate him."

With this in mind one can imagine the simmering conflict between the two leaders, with Cassius being increasingly resentful of Brutus' popularity; indeed, their rivalry was no less significant than that of their opponents, Marc Antony and Octavian. By the time they met at Sardis and were hailed *imperator* by their troops, the strains of partnership had reached an intolerable pitch. Plutarch states: "...as often happens in great enterprises in which a large number of friends and commanders are engaged, there had been some sharp differences and mutual accusations had been exchanged. So...their first action was to meet in a room face to face. The doors were shut, and with no one else present the two men first began blaming one another and then fell to recriminations and counter-charges. These soon led to indignant reproaches and tears, and their friends, who were amazed at the vehemence and bitterness of their anger, were afraid that the quarrel might end in violence." This confrontation occurred just before Brutus departed to campaign in Lycia and Cassius set out to capture Rhodes, which he did successfully, but with extreme severity.

We may be sure this aureus was struck after Cassius' defeat of the Rhodians, for the reverse depicts an *aplustre*, a ship ornament that symbolized naval victory. The flowers at the extremities of the ornament suggest Rhodes since the rose had been the symbol of that island for many centuries. Its symbolism is sealed when the other issue of this legate is considered: it shows a crab holding an *aplustre* in its claws, above a loose diadem and a rose. This rose is a certain reference to Rhodes, and it appears below the crab, the badge of the island of Cos, near where the decisive battle took place. The loosened diadem might symbolize the kingship Cassius claimed to have undone at Rhodes (Plutarch, *Brutus*, 30) or it could be a general reference to the termination of Julius Caesar's tyranny some two years before.

Marcus Junius Brutus



89

- 89 *L. Plaetorius Caestianus*. Denarius, Northern Greece circa 43-43, AR 3.71 g. BRVTVS IMP L·PLAET·CEST Bare head of Brutus r. Rev. EID·MAR Pileus between two daggers. FFC 10. Babelon Iunia 52 and Plaetoria 13. Sydenham 1301. C 15. Sear Imperators 216. Kent-Hirmer pl. 27, 98. Cahn, *EIDibus MARTiis*, Q. Tic. 18, 1989, 6 (these dies). Crawford 508/3. S. Nodelman, *Brutus the Tyrannicide* in *Ancient Portraits* in the J. Paul Getty Museum: Volume 1, p. 51, fig. 8 (these dies). Vagi, vol. II, p. 198, 95 (this coin).

Very rare and one of the finest specimens known of this issue of great historical importance and fascination. Struck on sound metal and with a beautiful tone. Good extremely fine 160'000

Privately purchased from CNG.

Perhaps no coin of antiquity is as familiar, or as important, as the 'Eid Mar' denarius of Brutus: its dagger-flanked liberty cap and explicit inscription are a simple and direct monument of one of the great events in western history. This type is so remarkable that, unlike the anonymous mass of ancient coinage, it elicited commentary from the ancient historian Dio Cassius (XLVII.25).

The murder of the dictator Julius Caesar in the Senate House on the Ides of March, 44 B.C., is one of the major turning points in western history. It is impossible to know how the Roman world would have changed had Caesar not been murdered on that day, but the prospect certainly taxes the imagination. Caesar was a populist and an opportunist bent upon dismantling the traditional arrangement of senatorial authority that concentrated power in the hands of the ancient and elite families. In the minds of Brutus and his fellow conspirators, theirs was a struggle to maintain the traditional hold on power, and with that aim they struck down Caesar. This class struggle was couched in the terms of the ancient form of Republican government, and of Rome's hatred for kings and autocrats; thus it is no surprise that the two leaders, Brutus and Cassius, follow the twin-symmetry of the two consuls, and even of Castor and Pollux, the mythical saviors of Rome.

The designs are worth visiting individually, in detail. The reverse testifies to the murder of Caesar by naming the date of the event, by showing daggers as the instruments of delivery, and by displaying the *pileus*, or freedman's cap, which symbolizes the professed goal of the assassins' work. Though dozens of men were involved in the plot against Caesar, all are represented by only two daggers – a clear allusion to Brutus and Cassius as leaders of the coup and, subsequently, of the armed opposition to Antony and Octavian.

The portrait is also of great interest and importance. The only securely identifiable portraits of Brutus occur on coins naming him imperator: the Eid Mar denarii of Plaetorius Cestianus and the aurei of Servilius Casca and Pedanius Costa. Indeed, all other portraits on coins or other media are identified based upon these three issues. S. Nodelman has made careful study of the Eid Mar series from the art-historical view, and H. A. Cahn has likewise done so from the numismatic perspective. The former has divided Brutus' inscribed coin portraits into three main categories: a 'baroque' style portrait on the aurei of Casca, a 'neoclassical' style on the aurei of Costa, and a 'realistic' style on the Eid Mar denarii of Cestianus. Nodelman describes the Eid Mar portraits as "the soberest and most precise" of all, and he divides them into two distinct categories, 'plastic' and 'linear', suggesting both were derived from the same sculptural prototype. The portrait on this particular coin belongs to Nodelman's 'linear' group, and is struck from one of the two portrait dies he used to illustrate that category.

Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus



- 90 Denarius, mint moving with Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus, AR 4.16 g. AHENOBAR Male head r., slightly bearded. Rev. CN DOMITIVS IMP Trophy with two spears and shield standing facing on prow r. Babelon Domitia 21. Sydenham 1177. Sear Imperators 339. Crawford 519/2.

Rare and unusually well-centred and complete. Toned, invisible metal-flaw on reverse field, otherwise extremely fine

3'500

Ex Vecchi sale 8, 1997, 209.

Quintus Labienus Parthicus



- 91 Denarius, mint moving with Labienus in Asia Minor 40 BC, AR 3.79 g. Q LABIENVS – PARTHICVS IMP Bare head of Labienus r. Rev. Parthian horse r., with bridle and saddle, to which bow-case and quiver are attached. Babelon Atia 3. Sydenham 1357. Sear Imperators 341. C 2. C. Hersh, SNR 59, 15. Crawford 524/2.

Very rare. Well-centred on unusually good metal with a lovely iridescent tone.

Area of weakness on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

25'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

The imperial age offered much opportunity to ambitious commanders, as anyone who could lead men in battle was a valued commodity. Loyalty was not always the most valued trait in this environment, for on many occasions defections were not only sensible, but invited, and rewarded. We tend to degrade traitors in the historical tradition, but we often are not privy to the multitude of factors faced by these men, which ranged from subtle personality conflicts to unexpected political developments. It is in this charitable light, perhaps, that we should judge Labienus, one of the vigorous commanders from the age of Antony, Octavian and Sextus Pompey.

Originally Brutus and Cassius had sent Labienus to Parthia to seek support from king Orodes II, but he could not achieve his objective before his masters were defeated at Philippi in October, 42 B.C. Labienus was thus in a bind, being unable to return to the West. Rather than facing his punishment, Labienus switched strategies by encouraging Orodes II to invade Syria, with himself sharing the command with the king's son, Pacorus I.

The invasion probably began early in 40 B.C. when Antony was torn between that calamity and an equally urgent situation in the West, where his brother Lucius had been defeated by Octavian in the Perusine War. Antony decided to sail westward to meet Octavian and, in the meantime, many cities and legions defected to Labienus, who presented himself as the last ember of the Republican cause. He and Pacorus initially defeated Antony's governor Lucius Decidius Saxa, and then they divided their forces: Labienus invaded Asia Minor and Pacorus drove into Palestine and Phoenicia. Alarmed by their success, early in 39 B.C. Antony sent his lieutenant Ventidius to restore order, which he did with great efficiency. He first captured and executed Labienus at the Cilician Gates in 39 B.C. and soon afterward chased Pacorus and his army back across the Euphrates.

This famous denarius bears a portrait of the unfortunate Labienus, identified by his name, the title *imperator*, and the cognomen *Parthicus*, which he adopted as an expression of his success in gaining Parthian help in what he branded as the defense of the Republic. The reverse bears no inscription, but shows a bridled horse fitted with a saddle and bow-case; there can be little doubt that this represents the cavalry contingent of the invasion force, which was 20,000 strong. In essence it honors the famous Parthian cavalry, and in that regard we may see this as a coin of two cultures, with the obverse devoted to the Romans, the reverse to the Parthians.

The Roman Empire

The mint is Roma unless otherwise stated

Augustus, 27 BC – 14 AD



92

- 92 *C. Marius C.f. Tromentina*. Denarius 13 BC, AR 3.89 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI F Bare head r.; the whole within oak-wreath. Rev. C MARIVS TR – O – III – VIR Head of Julia r., surmounted by oak-wreath, between the heads r. of her sons Caius and Lucius. RIC 405. BMC 108. C 2. CBN 529 (these dies).

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known of this intriguing issue.

Two minor banker's marks on obverse and an area of weakness on reverse,
otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine

20'000

Ex Leu 54, 1982, 218 and Leu 71, 1997, 287 sales.

Though the Romans traditionally had considered the hereditary monarchies of the Greeks and Persians to be a degenerate form of government, they were soon to embrace the same principles. As Rome made this great transformation from a republic to an empire in which powerful individuals ruled without the consent of the senate, it was natural for the concept of dynasty to emerge.

The first Roman to use dynastic imagery on coinage was Sextus Pompey, who portrayed his deceased father on denarii as early as 45-44 B.C. and who showed himself, his father and his brother on aurei of 42 B.C. But since both of these relatives were dead, the coinage was little more than an exhibition of his pedigree. Marc Antony took the concept to the next level when he began to depict his living relatives on coins not long after Julius Caesar was murdered. In doing so, Antony presented an active dynasty, for the coins bore portraits of several relatives, including his brother, his son, and perhaps three of his four wives.

Augustus was not so bold as Antony, and his cautious, methodical approach to introducing monarchy proved more successful: it quietly emerged as a byproduct of his increasing *auctoritas*, whereas Antony shamelessly advertised his family in the manner of an Oriental potentate. Augustus waited more than three decades, until 13 B.C., to make his first public expression of dynasty on coinage. Even then, in that same year, Dio tells us Augustus was nervous about public demonstrations of dynasty, for when Tiberius, then Consul, placed seven-year-old Gaius Caesar at the emperor's side at public games, Augustus showed his displeasure to those in the crowd who offered praise, and he later reprimanded Tiberius for having placed his eldest grandson at his side (Dio LIV, 27).

We are fortunate to have here the centerpiece of Augustus' effort to represent his dynasty on coinage – a rare denarius showing on its obverse the portrait of Augustus and on its reverse portraits of his daughter Julia and her two sons at that time, Gaius Caesar and Lucius Caesar. The dynastic display is completed with another denarius showing the portrait of Julia in the guise of the goddess Diana, and with several coins depicting Marcus Agrippa, the husband of Julia and the father of Gaius and Lucius. For a portrait coin of Agrippa from this series, see lot XXXXXX.

Tiberius caesar, 9 – 14



93

93

- 93 As 10-11, Æ 11.71 g. TI CAESAR AVGVST F IMPERAT V Bare head r. Rev. PONTIFEX TRIBVN POTESTATE XII around S C. RIC Augustus 469. BMC Augustus 271. C 27. CBN Augustus 878.

Green patina and extremely fine

2'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

In the name of Nero Claudius Drusus, brother of Tiberius



- 94 Denarius circa 41-45, AR 3.67 g. NERO CLAVDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP Laureate head l. Rev. Triumphal arch, on which equestrian statue of Drusus between two trophies, each with bound captive at base; above and on architrave, DE / GERM. RIC Claudius 70. BMC Claudius 97. C 2. CBN Claudius 3.
Rare. Toned and about extremely fine 5'000

Ex CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1379.

In the name of Nero and Drusus Caesares, sons of Germanicus



- 95 Dupondius 40-41, Æ 15.52 g. NERO ET DRVSVS CAESARES Nero and Drusus riding r., with cloaks flying. Rev. C CAESAR DIVI AVG PRON AVG P M TR P IIII P P round S C. RIC Gaius 49. BMC Gaius 70. CBN Gaius 120. C 2.
Pleasant brown-green patina and extremely fine 3'000

Ex Hess-Leu sale 1962, ESR Sammlung, 66; M&M 52, 1975, 569 and M&M 86, 1998, 140 sales.

Antonia, wife of Nero Claudius Drusus and mother of Claudius



- 96 Denarius circa 41-45, AR 3.70 g. ANTONIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., wearing barley-wreath. Rev. COSTANTIAE – AVGVSTI Antonia as Constantia standing facing, holding long torch and cornucopiae. RIC Claudius 66. BMC Claudius 111. C 2. CBN Claudius 14.
Rare. Nicely toned, minor nicks in fields and a light scratch on neck, otherwise good very fine 2'000

Gaius 37 – 41



- 97 Denarius, Lugdunum 37-38, AR 3.69 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.
Rare. Two attractive portraits, nicely toned and about extremely fine 5'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk..

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.



- 98 Aureus 37-38, AV 7.77 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR POT Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. AGRIPPINA MAT CAES AVG GERM Draped bust of Agrippina r. RIC 13. BMC 14. C 1. CBN 22 (Lugdunum, this reverse die). Kent-Hirmer 166. Trillmich pl. 1, 40. Calicó 326 (this coin).

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. Two elegant portraits well-centred on a broad flan. Good extremely fine

80'000

Ex NFA sale XIV, 1984, 324.

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.



99

- 99 Denarius 37-38, AR 3.69 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR POT Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. AGRIPPIN[A MAT C]AES AVG GERM Draped bust of Agrippina r. RIC 14. BMC 15. C 2. CBN 25 (Lugdunum). Trillmich pl. 1, 19.

Very rare. Two superb portraits with an old cabinet tone, minor area of weakness on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine / extremely fine

6'500

Ex CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1362. From the James Fox collection.



100

- 100 Drachm, Gortyna (?) circa 37-41, AR 2.86 g. Γ ΚΑΙΣΑΡ ΣΕΒ ΓΕΡΜ ΑΡΧ ΜΕΓ ΔΗΜ [ΕΞΟΥ ΥΠΙΑ] Bare head of Gaius r., with drapery at back of neck and transverse sceptre. Rev. Radiate head of Divus Augustus l.; around, seven stars. SNG Copenhagen 569. McClean 7216. RPC 965.

Two bold portraits. Iridescent tone and extremely fine

1'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Claudius, 41 – 54



101

101

- 101 Denarius circa 50-54, AR 3.67 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TRIB POT P P Laureate head of Claudius r. Rev. AGRIPPINAE – AVGVSTAE Draped bust of Agrippina r., wearing barley-wreath. RIC 81. BMC 75. C 4. CBN 82.

Rare. Old cabinet tone and good very fine

2'500

Ex CNG sale 36, 1995, 2356.



102

102

- 102 Tetradrachm, Epehsus (?) circa 41-54, AR 10.43 g. TI CLAVD – CAES AVG Bare head l. Rev. COM – ASI Distyle temple within which Claudius stands facing, on l., holding spear and globe, being crowned by female figure standing facing on r., holding cornucopiae in l. hand. Architrave inscribed ROM ET AVG. RIC 120 (Pergamum). BMC 228 (Pergamum). C 3. CBN 304 (Pergamum). RPC 2221.

Toned and extremely fine / about extremely fine

4'000

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 46, 1998, 1161 (illustrated on the back cover page).

Britannicus, son of Claudius



103

- 103 Sestertius, Thracian mint circa 50-54, Æ 29.83 g. TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG F BRITANNICVS Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. S – C Mars, helmeted and cuirassed, advancing l., holding shield and spear. RIC p. 130 note. BMC 226 and pl. 37, 5 (these dies). C 2. Von Kaenel, SNR 63, pl. 20, 4 (these dies).
Extremely rare and undoubtedly the finest specimen known.
Dark green patina and extremely fine 60'000

Ex Gemini sale I, 2005, 317 (illustrated on the cover page).

Julio-Claudian history is rife with promising young heirs who did not live long enough to succeed their fathers as emperor: eleven had perished before Britannicus was born, and he would be the last of the Julio-Claudian heirs to die at the hands of a rival. Even though Britannicus was the legitimate son of Claudius, he was never his father's preferred heir. It is difficult to know whether this was due to Claudius' personal misgivings or if, as the ancient sources indicate, Claudius had succumbed to the will of his niece and final wife Agrippina Junior, who wanted her own son Nero to succeed him. Whatever his motivation, Claudius promoted Nero strongly: he married Nero to Britannicus' sister Claudia Octavia and adopted him as his son, and since Nero was older than Britannicus it made him Claudius' principal heir.

Few coinages were struck for Britannicus, and this sestertius is the only one that may be described as an imperial issue. It belongs to a series of sestertii and dupondii struck at an imperial branch mint in the Balkans, and though in the past some scholars have described it as a memorial issue under Titus, that view has been abandoned in favor of a Claudian vintage. It is linked with four other rare bronzes: sestertii and dupondii of Nero and Agrippina Junior. The five issues clearly represent a mintage under Claudius while Nero held the title of Caesar, and Britannicus was the imperiled back-up heir.

The style and fabric of the issue is consistent with Balkan mint bronzes, especially those of Perinthus, though it is always possible that it emanated from a mint in nearby Bithynia. Marking this Britannicus sestertius as an imperial issue is the fact that Latin is used for its inscription, and the reverse bears the traditional formula SC (although this feature is not shared by all of the coins ascribed to this emission). Von Kaenel notes it may have been a special issue for the creation of Thracia as a province in about the year 46, though a date toward the end of Claudius' reign, c. 50-54, is more generally accepted.

Nero augustus, 54 – 68



- 104 Aureus 60-61, AV 7.71 g. NERO CAESAR AVG IMP Bare head r. Rev. PONTIF MAX TR P – VII COS III P P EX – S C Ceres, veiled and draped, standing l. holding two corn-ears in r. hand and long vertical torch in l. RIC 23. BMC 25. C 217. CBN 33. Calicó 428.

A superb portrait well struck in high relief. Reverse slightly off-centre,
otherwise good extremely fine

8'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 105 Denarius 64-68, AR 3.56 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IVPPITER – CVSTOS Jupiter, bare to waist, seated l. on throne, holding thunderbolt and long sceptre. RIC 53. BMC 74. C 119. CBN 221.

Lightly toned and extremely fine

2'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Poppaea, second wife of Nero



106

106

- 106 Æ 23,5 mm. Perinthus Thraciae circa 60-63, 9.36 g. ΠΟΠΠΑΙΑ - ΣΕΒΑΣΤΗ Diademed and draped bust of Poppaea, r. Rev. Π - Ε Headdress of Isis within laurel wreath. RPC 1756. BMC Thrace 15. Schönert-Geiss, Perinthus, pl. 12, 259-271.

Rare. Brown patina and very fine

400

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 46, 1998, 812.

Clodius Macer, April (?) – October (?) 68



- 107 Denarius, Carthago (?) April-October (?) 68, AR 3.62 g. L CLODI – VS MACER Bare head of Clodius Macer r.; below, S – C. Rev. PRO / PRAE / AFRICAE Galley r., with five oarsmen and thirteen oars. RIC 37. BMC 1. C 13. CBN 8. Gara, RIN 1970 7 and pl. 1, 11/12. Kent-Hirmer pl. 59, 206. Hewitt 55 (this coin). L. Mildenberg in *Vestigia Leonis* p. 165 and pl. 51, 1 (this coin).

Extremely rare and probably the finest specimen known of this difficult issue. A nice portrait unusually well-centred and complete, old cabinet tone and good extremely fine

60'000

Ex Sternberg III, 1974, 47; Sotheby's June 1990, Hunt part I, 126 and CNG-NAC 40, 1996, 1402 sales. From the James Fox collection and from the Tunis Hoard.

The rebellion of Clodius Macer in North Africa was sparked at a time when the last thing Nero desired was more bad news. He had just overcome the uprising of Vindex in Gaul only to learn of the more formidable insurrection of Galba in Spain. The revolts showed that Nero's dismissive and callous treatment of his governors and administrators in the provinces would not pass without consequences.

Of all the coinages from this civil war, those of Clodius Macer are the most inventive. It is remarkable that he uses the formulaic abbreviation S C (*senatus consulto*) on his denarii, for this abbreviation otherwise had not appeared on Roman silver coins since about 40 B.C. We may take this and his decision to portray himself without a laurel wreath or a diadem as evidence that he wished to portray his revolt as being against Nero, not the senate.

Most coins of his contemporaries cling to the predictable themes of loyalty, unity, recovery and victory, but Macer's are restorative, recalling an event of precisely a century before: the battle of Actium in 31 B.C. Macer must have thought it no mere coincidence – but rather an omen – that Rome's new revolutionary war was being waged in the centenary year of Actium, the battle that for all intensive purposes had ended Rome's previous civil war.

The reverse of this denarius is copied from the obverse of Marc Antony's famous legionary coinage, of which the denarii were still to be commonly seen in circulation. Furthermore, another of Macer's coins replicates the reverse of Antony's legionary coinage by depicting a legionary eagle between two standards. He was careful in his reproductions, for he even followed the arrangement of the inscriptions on Antony's originals: the obverse, with the war galley, had borne Antony's personal inscriptions, and the reverse, with the standards, had borne the names of various legions and specialized units. With Macer's versions the galley design bears his personal inscription (identifying himself as the *legatus Augusti propraetore* of Africa), and the eagle-and-standards type bears the names of two legions under his control, the Legion I *Macriana* and the Legion III *Augusta*.

Galba, 68 – 69



- 108 Denarius, Gaul April to late Autumn 68, AR 3.63 g. SER GALBA – IMPERATOR Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORIA – P R Draped Victory standing facing on globe, head l., holding wreath and palm branch. RIC 111. BMC 227. C 322. CBN –.

Rare. An unusual portrait well-struck in high relief, toned and extremely fine

3'500

Ex CNG-NAC 40, 1996, 1405.

Otho January 15th – mid-April 69



- 109 Aureus, 15th January – 9th March 69, AV 7.26 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.

Very rare. An attractive portrait of fine style perfectly centred and struck in high relief. Good extremely fine 90'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

In the emperor Otho, as in his successor Vitellius, one can find little to admire. As a youth Otho was a drunkard, 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.



- 110 Denarius 9th March – mid-April 69, AR 3.52 g. IMP OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. PONT – MAX Vesta, draped, seated l., holding patera and transverse sceptre. RIC 24. BMC 11. C 7. CBN 29.

Very rare. A fabulous portrait perfectly struck in high relief. Nicely toned, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 8'000

Ex Tkalec sale 1996, 136.

Titus augustus, 79 – 81



- 111 Denarius 80, AR 3.31 g. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M Laureate head l. Rev. TR P IX IMP XV COS VIII P P Elephant standing l. RIC 22b. BMC 47. C 304. CBN 41.
Lightly toned and extremely fine 800

Ex CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1441.

Julia Titi, daughter of Titus



- 112 Denarius 80-81, AR 3.47 g. IVLIA AVGVSTA T AVG F Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENVS - AVG Venus standing r., l. elbow leaning on cippus, holding helmet and spear. RIC Titus 55a. BMC Titus 140. C 14. CBN 104.
Rare and in exceptional condition. Lightly toned, well-struck on a very broad flan and good extremely fine 5'000

Ex CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1448.

Domitian Augustus, 81 – 96



- 113 Denarius 94-96, AR 3.15 g. DOMITIANVS - AVG GERM Bare head r. Rev. IMP - CAES Tetrastyle temple within which Serapis seated facing on throne, holding patera and sceptre; at feet, unidentified animal. In pediment, eagle holding wreath l. and above, quadriga in centre and statues at corners. RIC 204. BMC 238 and pl. 67, 4 (these dies). C -. CBN 214. Carradice, Essays Carson-Jenkins, pl. XXX, 31 (these dies)
Extremely rare and a very interesting reverse type. Toned, marks in fields and edge broken at six and nine o'clock on reverse, otherwise good very fine 2'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Vespasian Junior Caesar, adopted son and heir of Domitian



- 114 Æ 18mm, Smyrne Ioniae circa 95, 3.08 g. OYECTIACIANOC NEΩTEPOC Bare head of Vespasian Junior r. Rev. ZMIPNAIΩN Nike advancing right. Klose pg. 244, 3 (pl. 31 V1/R3). SNG Copenhagen 1360. SNG von Aulock 2208. BMC Ionia p. 276, 320. RPC 1028.

Extremely rare only very few specimens known. Dark green patina and
good very fine / very fine

3'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Domitia, wife of Domitian



- 115 Denarius 81-84, AR 3.57 g. DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DOMIT Draped bust r., hair falling in long plait behind neck. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGVS – T Peacock standing r. RIC Domitian 212. BMC Domitian 61. C 2. CBN Domitian 65.

Very rare. A very attractive portrait with an old cabinet tone. Area of weakness on
obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

4'000

Ex Leu 28, 1981, 422; Sotheby's June 1990, Hunt part II, 713 and CNG-NAC 40, 1996, 1465 sales. From the James Fox collection.

Nerva, 96 – 98



- 116 Denarius 97, AR 3.49 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVGV P M TR P II COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDIA – EXERCITVM Clasped hands holding legionary eagle on prow. RIC 27. BMC 54. C 34. CBN 40.

Toned and about extremely fine

300

Ex Superior sale 13.8.1995, John Jacobs, 779.

Trajan, 98 – 117



117

- 117 Medallion circa 103-111, Æ 31.30 g. IMP CAES NERVAE TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P Laureate bust r., with drapery on far shoulder. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Trajan on horse prancing r., about to hurl spear at Dacian enemy kneeling below horse, where a second enemy also lies dead with a spear in his side and head falling across exergual line.

Apparently unique and unpublished, one of very few Trajan's medallion known.

A spectacular reverse composition finely engraved by a talented artist.

Dark green patina and extremely fine

25'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

The first emperor to regularly issue bronze medallions in any recognizable way was Trajan. Even so, his medallions tend to resemble his sestertii, except that they usually lack the S C (*senatus consultum*) on the reverse, and usually they are heavier and are engraved in a finer style than standard sestertii. It was not until the reign of Hadrian that bronze medallions started to become more distinctive, and even more so, not until the reign of Antoninus Pius that they achieve the fully 'medallic' attributes that even a non-specialist can easily recognize.

In her 1944 study of Roman medallions Toynbee describes in some detail the ways in which bronze medallions are distinguished from coins of the realm. With due caution she notes: "Each piece must be considered on its own merits and tested by its style and content. If the results are such as to establish its character as a special commemorative piece, suitable for solemn presentation within a restricted field, then we may safely include it in our class of medallions proper."

Toynbee knew of only six bronze medallions of Trajan, none of which qualified as the "large bronze medallions" of later decades. She summarizes: "...in the early decades of the second century we are confronted with a number of bronze pieces without S C, which, for all their structural kinship with the regular aes, satisfy all other medallic criteria...(they) were, indeed, transitory and experimental in character. Just occasionally a piece was executed in a somewhat more commonplace style, which leaves its content as its sole, yet decisive, medallic criterion. But, taken as a whole, none of these issues can be adequately described as "imperial bronze": they are true medallions."

Though the obverse die of this medallion appears to have been intended for circulating sestertii, the reverse die is spectacular and was never intended for the general distribution coinage upon which this design is based. Even if the S C was present in the exergue we could easily recognize it as a medallion that commemorates Trajan's victories in Dacia. On the usual sestertii there is only one Dacian, without a shield, who cowers below the horse or in front of the horse's raised hooves. On this medallion Trajan encounters two Dacians in an arresting scene: the main figure is not cowering, as on the usual sestertii, but is pleading for his life in the most expressive possible way as he pushes aside his shield. His plea for mercy seems well advised, for at his feet is a fallen comrade whose torso is pierced by a spear, which we might presume was landed by Trajan in his first encounter with these Dacians. The posture of the fallen warrior is just as dramatic as that of his pleading comrade, for his back is sharply arched, his arms outstretched, and his head hangs lifelessly over the normally inviolable ground line.



- 118 Dupondius 112-115, Æ 10.92 g. IMP NERVAE TRAIANO AVG DAC P M TR P COS VI P P Radiate bust r., with aegis. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Via Traiana reclining l., head r., holding wheel and branch; in exergue, VIA TRAIANA / S C. RIC 641 var. (no aegis). BMC 998 note. C 652.
Very rare. An absolutely enchanting turquoise green patina and almost Fdc 8*000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

One of the best investments ever made by the Romans was their road system, which included at least 250,000 miles of highways designed for high-speed travel that was reliable virtually year-round. No less than eleven of these major roads entered Rome, giving rise to the phrase "all roads lead to Rome". The system gave the Romans a distinct advantage over their enemies in war and their partners in commerce; in essence, it gave them an unparalleled ability to grow and to maintain their empire.

The construction of these super-highways was no mean feat: it required engineering expertise, time, and significant resources. It also required a powerful centralized government and a societal belief that the enormous short-term expenses of construction were justifiable in view of the long-term benefits that would accrue. With this in mind it is hardly surprising that the construction of roads (and other architectural feats, such as the building of aqueducts, harbors and temples) is commemorated on coinage. Trajan was never shy about using coinage for this purpose, and here he celebrates his *via Traiana*, a new road in Italy linking Beneventum and Brundisium. It took a path alongside the famous Appian Way, which by then had been used as a military highway for more than four centuries.



- 119 Aureus 116, AV 7.42 g. IMP CAES NER TRAIANO OPTIM AVG GER DAC PARTHICO Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. REGNA AD – SIGNATA Trajan seated l. on platform with two attendants standing behind him; before platform, three kings standing r. RIC 367. C 324. BMC 613. Calicó 524.
Very rare. A very interesting reverse composition finely executed, good extremely fine 20*000

Ex NAC sale 11, 1998, 423.

This attractive type records Trajan's assignment of rulers to the kingdoms of Armenia, Parthia and Mesopotamia in concert with his invasion of the East. The event may have resembled the design on this coin: kings approaching a platform to receive their charters from Trajan and his attendants. In his campaign of 114-116 Trajan briefly enlarged the Roman Empire to its greatest territorial extent, from the shores of the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, but all of his gains except Arabia were ephemeral, and were abandoned by his successor Hadrian.

Like so many of Rome's emperors, Trajan was campaigning in the shadow of Alexander the Great. Alexander's success was not quantifiable merely in terms of the amount of territory he conquered, but in how he established an enduring Greek presence in so much of that territory, and how he was able to impart Western culture in even the remotest parts of the Near East.

By contrast, Trajan's conquest was typical of warfare between Rome and the Parthians or the Sasanians: one side would gain the upper hand because of the emergence of an energetic ruler or by consequence of difficulties caused by barbarian invasion or civil war. The result inevitably was a half-hearted campaign in which the aggressor would drive deep into the lands of its enemy, sack wealthy cities, and soon return to its homeland. Long-term occupation often occurred in disputed border territories and buffer states, but never deep in enemy territory.

(continue)

Trajan left Rome in October, 113 after the Parthians had placed their own candidate on the throne in Armenia; understandably he rejected a settlement offered by a Parthian embassy in Athens, and from there he moved to Antioch, which served as the winter headquarters throughout the campaign. In 114 Trajan campaigned in Armenia, in 115 he was victorious in northern Mesopotamia and Adiabene, and in 116 he revisited Adiabene before marching down the Tigris to sack Ctesiphon. Afterward he made a brief excursion to the Persian Gulf before returning to Babylon to sacrifice in honor of Alexander. Trajan's presence in the East, however, did not prevent unrest at the end of his life, and soon afterward revolts erupted in Armenia, Mesopotamia, Cyprus, Egypt and Cyrene, as well as in western North Africa and along the northern borders in Europe.

Hadrian augustus, 117 – 138



- 120 Denarius, Eastern mint (?) 128-132, AR 3.42 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Bare-head bust r., with drapery of l. shoulder. Rev. COS – IIII Aequitas standing l., holding scales and cornucopiae. RIC –. BMC 1034. C –. Extremely rare. Good extremely fine 500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Antinous, favorite of Hadrian



- 121 Medallion, Smyrna Ioniae circa 134-135, Æ 40.41 g. ANTINOOC - HPΩC Bare head of Antinous l. Rev. ΠΟΛΕΜΩΝΑΝΕΘΗΚΕ – CMVP – NAIΟΙC Bull standing r. Blum p. 40, 8 and pl. II, 5. BMC 399. SNG von Aulock 8000. Klose 1.

Very rare. Light scratches on light green patina gently smoothed, about very fine

5'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Sabina, wife of Hadrian



- 122 Denarius 128, AR 3.38 g. SABINA AVGVSTA – HADRIANI AVG P P Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. CONCOR – DIA AVG Concordia seated l., holding patera and resting elbow on figure of Spes; below chair, cornucopiae. RIC Hadrian 398. BMC Hadrian 895. C 12.

Nicely toned and extremely fine

750

Ex CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1504. From the James Fox and Bauer collections.

Aelius caesar, 136 – 138



123



123

- 123 Denarius 137, AR 3.23 g. AELIVS – CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. TR POT – COS II Concordia seated l. on throne, holding patera and resting elbow on cornucopiae balanced on ground. RIC Hadrian 436. BMC Hadrian 981. C 1. Lightly toned. Good very fine 300

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Antoninus Pius, 138 – 161



124



124

- 124 Dupondius 140-144, Æ 9.21 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P COS III Radiate head r. Rev. PROVIDENTIAE – DEORVM S – C Winged thunderbolt. RIC 663. BMC 1342. C 685. Green patina, good very fine / about extremely fine 500

Marcus Aurelius augustus, 161 – 180



125



- 125 Denarius 174-175, AR 3.19 g. M ANTONINVS AVG GERM TR P XXIX Laureate head of Marcus Aurelius r. Rev. COMMODVS CAES AVG FIL GERM Bare-headed and draped bust of Commodus r. RIC 336a. BMC 625 var. C 1. Mazzini 1 (this coin).

Of the highest rarity, very few specimens known. Attractively toned and extremely fine

7'500

Ex Leu 30, 1982, 386 and Leu 71, 1997, 408 sales. From the Mazzini collection.

This denarius was struck eight years after Commodus was hailed Caesar by his father Marcus Aurelius, and it demonstrated the boy's role as heir-apparent, even though he had not yet assumed the *toga virilis*, the toga of manhood. The contrast between the two portraits is obvious: Marcus Aurelius is bearded, aged and war-weary, whereas Commodus looks youthful to the extreme – more an object of hope than a source of confidence. He would not be hailed co-emperor by his father until 177, soon after which he would leave his palace life in Rome to experience the brutal, seasonal warfare on the empire's northern frontier in a campaign known as the second Marcomannic War. It is interesting to note that even though Commodus had not yet participated in warfare, since 172 he had shared in his father's title *Germanicus*, which is included at the end of his inscription on this denarius.

Lucius Verus augustus, 161 – 169



- 126 Aureus 163-164, AV 7.38 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).
Perfectly struck in high relief with a light reddish tone, virtually as struck and Fdc 12'000

Ex Tkalec sale 2000, 282.

Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus



- 127 Denarius 164-169 or later, AR2.76 g. LVCILLA – AVGVSTA Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENVS – VIC – TRIX Venus standing facing, head l., holding Victory on r. hand and resting l. on round shield set on ground. RIC M. Aurelius 786. BMC M. Aurelius 353. C 89. Toned and extremely fine 300

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Commodus augustus, 180 – 192



- 128 Aureus 1811-182, AV 7.31 g. M COMMODVS – ANTONINVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P VII – IMP IIII C – OS III P P Commodus seated l. on platform between soldier standing l., holding spear and Liberalitas standing l., holding *abacus* and cornucopiae; at foot of platform, citizen r. mounting steps. In exergue, LIBERAL V. RIC 37. BMC 74. C 13. Calicó 2277.
Extremely rare and a very interesting reverse type. Virtually as struck and Fdc 18'000

Ex Hess sale 1935, Trau, 1846.

Didius Julianus, 28th March – 1st June 193



- 129 Denarius March-June 193, AR 3.04 g. IMP M CAES M DID IULIAN AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CONCO – R – D – MILIT Concordia standing l., holding legionary eagle and standard. RIC 1. BMC 2. C 2. Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Attractively toned, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 7'500

Ex CNG sale 38, 1996, 1038 (illustrated on the back cover page).

Manlia Scantilla, wife of Didius Julianus



- 130 Denarius March-June 193, AR 3.24 g. MANL SCAN – TILLA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. IVNO RE – GINA Juno, veiled, standing l., holding patera and sceptre; at her feet, peacock l. RIC D. Julianus 7. BMC D. Julianus 11. C 2. Very rare. Toned, light scratch on obverse field and very fine 2'000

Ex CNG sale 36, 1995, 2419.

Pescenius Niger, 193 – 194



- 131 Denarius, Antiochia 193-194, AR 2.57 g. IMP CAES C PESC NIGER IVST Laureate head r. Rev. INVICT P – IMPEPAT Trophy and arms. RIC 34a var. (different legend on both obverse and reverse). C 33 var. BMC –. An apparently unrecorded variety of a rare type. Unusually well centred for the issue, good very fine 2'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



132

- 132 Tetradrachm, Antiochia 193-194, AR 11.67 g. AVTOK KAICAP – Γ ΠΙΕΚ ΝΙΠΩ ΔΙ Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. [ΠΙΟ]ΝΙΑ ΘΕΩΝ Eagle standing facing, head r., talons grasping palm branch (?). Prieur 177 var. Bland, Burnett and Bendall, NC 1987, 3 var.

An apparently unrecorded variety of an extremely rare type, only nine specimens known.

A fantastic portrait, undoubtedly one of the finest of Pescennius Niger in existence, perfectly struck on a large flan. Superb dark tone and good extremely fine

45'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Of the four unsuccessful contestants in the civil war of 193-195, only Pescennius Niger struck tetradrachms at Antioch, for his revolt was based in the East. Though Niger's tetradrachms originally may have been a substantial coinage, very few specimens survive: Butcher confirms six coins (noting that each was struck from a different die pair) and Prieur lists seven (with each of the five coins he illustrates being struck from a different obverse die). The style of the dies varies considerably, and it may be said without hesitation that the obverse die used to strike this example is by far the most artful of those known, and that this coin is very likely the finest known in every other respect.

It is not surprising that Niger produced tetradrachms at Antioch, as they often reflected an imperial presence, usually during a time of military emergency. At the same time, from 193 to 194, Niger was producing denarii and aurei; his mints for these 'imperial' denominations have been identified as Caesarea in Cappadocia, Alexandria and Antioch. The reverse inscription on Niger's tetradrachms, *pronoia theon*, differs from every other Syrian tetradrachm in Roman history. Rather than following the usual formula, Niger expresses an idea, namely *providentia deorum* – a declaration that the gods favored his enterprise.

Niger's fall did not bode well for the people of Antioch; Septimius Severus understandably viewed them as traitors. Had Antioch not been of such economic and strategic value it might well have shared the severe fate of Byzantium, upon which Severus brought much destruction for its stubborn resistance during the war with Niger. Instead, Antioch briefly suffered what appears to have been economic sanctions and a degrading reduction to the status of a village (*kome*) within the territory of Laodicea, a coastal city which had proven loyal to Severus (and which paid for it when it was sacked by Niger). Severus probably for some time directed Antioch's civic revenues to Laodicea, which he immediately raised to the status of *metropolis* and then, in 198, raised to a *colonia* with *ius Italicum*. For a time Laodicea became the most favored city in the northern part of Syria (Syria Coele), which Severus formally separated from the southern part (Syria Phoenice). The duration of Antioch's suffering is not known, but clearly it did not affect its long-term prosperity.

Clodius Albinus augustus, 195 – 197



- 133 Denarius Lugdunum 195-197, AR 3.01 g. IMP CAES D CL – O SEP ALB AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. AEQVITAS – AVG COS II Aequitas, draped, standing facing, head l., holding scales and cornucopiae. RIC 13a var. (laureate only). BMC 280. C 1.

Toned and good very fine

300

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Septimius Severus, 193 – 211



- 134 Aureus circa 202, AV 7.36 g. SEVERVS PIVS – AVG P M TR P X Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FELICITAS / SAECVLI Draped bust of Julia Domna facing, between, on l., laureate and draped bust of Caracalla facing r. and on r., bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust of Geta facing l. RIC 181b. BMC 380 var. (bust of Caracalla draped and cuirassed). C 4. Calicó 2590. Kent-Hirmer pl. 112, 389 var.

Very rare. Three magnificent portraits well-struck in high relief, good extremely fine

28'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

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



- 135 Denarius circa 201-210, AR 3.24 g. SEVERVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. RIC 273. BMC 342. C 3. Hill 556.

Rare. Nicely toned, flan crack at nine o'clock on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

1'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Caracalla Augustus, 198 – 217



- 136 Denarius 206, AR 3.43 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. FELICIA / TEMPORA The four seasons. RIC 153. BMC 505. C 59. Hill 807. Extremely rare. Toned and very fine 1'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 137 Denarius 207, AR 3.16 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PROVIDENTIA Winged head of Medusa facing. RIC 164. BMC p. 258, note †. C 526. Hill 879.

Excessively rare, only very few specimens known. A very interesting issue of fine style, lightly toned and extremely fine

4'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

This reverse type, though dramatic, at first glance seems non-specific. From this we might presume its meaning was sufficiently clear at the time that the mint masters did not see the need to specify its meaning. The Medusa and Medusa-upon-Aegis types occur on precious metal coins of Septimius Severus and Caracalla, all of which perhaps belong to c. 207 since one of them names the 15th renewal of Severus' tribunician power in its reverse inscription. The obverses of all of these issues are comparable, and are contemporary. The meaning of this type seems fairly clear: it is a reference, foresighting the two Augusti, Septimius and Caracalla, in their preparation to invade Britain in the following year, 208. Not only does the inscription name their foresight, their providentia, but Medusa was sacred to Minerva, the protectress of heroes who is said to have come forth from the brain of Jupiter fully armed and of mature age. Minerva is said to have worn the Aegis as a protective garment and as a symbol of her bravery, and eventually to have placed the snake-haired head of Medusa upon it. The emperors were fond of this imagery and many adopted it by adorning their cuirass breastplates with the Medusa head. One might consider these Medusa issues as pre-campaign propaganda by which the emperors hoped to assure the people and the army that they had fully investigated the need for, and felt confident in the certainty of success of a war against the Britons.

Plautilla, wife of Caracalla



- 138 Denarius 203, AR 3.36 g. PLAVTILLA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA – AVGG Concordia, diademed, standing half l., holding patera and sceptre. RIC 363b. C 1. BMC 411a. Toned and extremely fine 150

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Geta augustus, 209 – 211



- 139 As 211, Æ 11.07 g. P SEPTIMIUS GETA – PIVS AVG BRIT Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. FORT RED TR P III COS II Fortuna seated l., holding rudder over globe in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; below chair, wheel. In exergue, S C. RIC 175b. BMC 276. C 54.
Green patina and about extremely fine 1'500

Macrinus, 217 – 218



- 140 Denarius March-June 218, AR 3.10 g. IMP C M OPEL SEV MACRINVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROVIDENTIA – DEORVM Providentia standing, holding wand over globe and cornucopiae. RIC 80. BMC 74. C 108 var.
Lightly toned and about extremely fine 200
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Elagabalus, 218 – 222



- 141 Denarius 220-222, AR 2.57 g. IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. PAX – AV – GVSTI Pax advancing l., holding branch and sceptre. RIC 125. C 120. BMC 223.
Toned and extremely fine 200
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Julia Paula, first wife of Elagabalus



- 142 Denarius 219-220, AR 3.20 g. IVLIA PAVLA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA Elagabalus and J. Paula standing face to face, clasping hands. RIC Elagabalus 214. BMC Elagabalus 319. C 12.
Extremely fine 500
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Annia Faustina, third wife of Elagabalus



- 143 Tetradrachm, Alexandria 221 -222, billon 14.55 g. ANNIA - ΦΑΥΣΤΙΝΑ - [CEBA] Draped bust r. Rev. L – E S Serapis standing facing, head r., holding sceptre. Curtis 1028. BMC 1552. Dattari 4198.
Rare. Brown tone and very fine 1'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Julia Soaemias, mother of Elagabalus



- 144 Denarius 218-222, AR 2.88 g. IVLIA SOAEMIAS AVG Draped bust r. Rev. VENVS CAELESTIS Venus standing l., holding apple in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in front, child standing r. raising both hands. RIC Elagabalus 243. BMC Elagabalus 56. C 14.
Good extremely fine 500
Ex Superior sale December 1995, 956.

Severus Alexander, 222 – 235



- 145 Denarius 231-235, AR 3.36 g. IMP ALEXANDER PIVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. IOVI – PRO – P – VGNATORI Jupiter, naked but for cloak, standing to front with head r., hurling thunderbolt with r. hand and holding eagle in l. RIC 238 var. (also cuirassed). BMC 824. C 83.
Toned, virtually as struck and Fdc 250

Ex Superior sale December 1995, 959.

Julia Mamaea, mother of Severus Alexander



- 146 Denarius 230, AR 2.77 g. IVLIA MA – MAEA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. FELICI – TA – S PVBLICA Felicitas seated l., holding caduceus in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. RIC S. Alexander 338. BMC S. Alexander 658. C 24.
Toned and extremely fine 200

Privately purchased from Freeman & Sear.

Maximinus, 235 – 238



- 147 Denarius 235, AR 3.42 g. IMP MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – RI – A AVG Victory advancing r., holding wreath and palm branch. RIC 16. BMC 105. C 99.
Good extremely fine 200

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1997, 2172.

Diva Paulina, wife of Maximinus



- 148 Denarius 236, AR 2.62 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. Extremely fine 600

Privately purchased from Freeman & Sear.

Maximus Caesar, 235 – 238



149

- 149 Denarius March-April 238, AR 2.85 g. MAXIMVS CAES GERM Bare-headed, 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

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Gordian I, 1st – 22nd April 238



150

- 150 Denarius April 238, AR 2.71 g. IMP M ANT GORDIANVS AFR AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M T – R P COS P P Emperor standing l., holding up branch in r. hand and *parazonium* in l. RIC 1. BMC 1. C 2. Mazzini 2 (this coin). Kent-Hirmer 438 (this coin).

Rare and among the finest specimens known. Toned and good extremely fine

5'000

Ex Santamaria 1953, Signorelli part III, 964 and CNG 37, 1996, 1771 (illustrated on the front cover) sales. From the Mazzini collection.

Gordian II, 1st – 22nd April 238



151

- 151 Denarius April 238, AR 3.34 g. IMP M ANT GORDIANVS AFR AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS – AVGG Virtus standing l., resting r. hand on shield and l. holding reverted spear. RIC 3. BMC 30. C 14.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Toned and good extremely fine

5'000

Ex NFA XX, 1988, 335; Superior August 1995, John Jacobs, 912; CNG 37, 1996, 1712 (illustrated on the cover page) sales.

Pupienus, April – July 238



- 152 Antoninianus 238, AR 5.04 g. IMP CAES PVPIEN MAXIMVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CARITAS MVTVA AVG Clasped hands. RIC 10b. BMC 87. C 3.

Rare. Toned and extremely fine 750

Ex NFA XX, 1988, 340 and Superior August 1995, John Jacobs, 918 sales.

Tranquillina, wife of Gordian III



- 153 Denarius 241, AR 3.00 g. SABINIA TRANQVILLINA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Concordia seated l. on high-backed throne, holding patera and double cornucopiae. RIC 252. C –, cf. 1 (antoninianus). Delbrueck p. 74.

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

Toned and virtually as struck and almost Fdc 16'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

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



- 154 Antoninianus 247, AR 4.47 g. IMP PHILIPPVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA CARPICA Victory advancing r., holding wreath and palm branch. RIC 66. C 238.

Extremely rare. Lightly toned and about extremely fine 750

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 37, 1996, 1723.

Aemilian, 253



- 155 Antoninianus 253, AR 3.26 g. IMP AEMILIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Radiate and draped bust r. Rev. P – ACI AVG Pax standing facing, head l., holding branch and sceptre and leaning l. arm on short column. RIC 8. C 26. Lightly toned and extremely fine 400

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Cornelia Supera, wife of Aemilian



- 156 Antoninianus 253, AR 3.66 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. Kent-Hirmer 478. Extremely rare. Toned and about extremely fine 7'000

Ex Leu 30, 1982, 442; Leu 48, 1989, 399 and Triton I, 1997, 1622 sales.

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



- 157 Tetradrachm, Emesa 253-254, AR 8.42 g. AVTOK COVA [CEOYHPOC ANTONIN]OC CE Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ΔΗΜΑΡΧ ΕΞΟΥΣΙΑC VIIB Saddled camel standing r.; above, S C. Baldus 28. Prieur 1086 (this coin). Very rare. Well-struck and extremely fine 5'000

Ex NFA X, 1975, 392; Sotheby's June 1991, Hunt part IV. 872 and CNG-NAC 40, 1996, 1658 sales. From the James Fox collection.

Diva Mariniana, wife of Valerian I



- 158 Antoninianus 256-257, AR 3.50 g. DIVAE MARINIANAE Veiled and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. CONSECRATIO Peacock in splendour standing facing and looking l. RIC 3. C 3.
Rare. Toned and about extremely fine 400
Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 37, 1996, 1747.



Macrianus, 260 – 261

- 159 Antoninianus, Antiochia (?) 260-261, billon 4.07 g. IMP C FVL MACRIANVS P F AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r., with drapery on far shoulder. Rev. ROMAE AETERNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory and spear; at her side, shield; in upper field l., star. In exergue, two pellets. RIC 11. C 11.
Very fine 200
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Quietus, 260 – 261

- 160 Antoninianus, Antiochia (?) 260-261, billon 4.30 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. About extremely fine 300
Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1997, 2290.

Postumus, 259 – 268



- 161 Antoninianus, Lugdunum 264-265, billon 3.58 g. IMP C POSTVMVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROVIDE – NTIA AVG Providentia standing l., holding globe and transverse sceptre. RIC 80. C 295 var. Cunetio Hoard 2415.
Lightly toned. Weakly struck on reverse, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc 200
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Claudius II Gothicus, 268 – 270



- 162 Aureus, Mediolanum 269-270, AV 4.37 g. IMP CLAVDIVS AVG Laureate head l. Rev. V – IRT – V – S AVG Mars, in military attire, advancing r., holding spear and trophy. RIC –. C –. Calicò 3964. Huvelin-Lafaurie, RN 1980, 45 (this obverse die).

Extremely rare, only very few specimens know, and one the finest aurei of Claudius II in existence. A spectacular portrait of high style and an unusually good surface. Insignificant die-break on reverse field, otherwise virtually as struck and Fdc

32'000

Ex Tkalec sale 2000, 368.

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



- 163 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 622. Gilljam pl. F, 33.

Rare. Brown tone and extremely fine

1'200

Ex M&M sale 86, 1998, 193.

Aurelianus, 270 – 275



- 164 Denarius, Antiochia 273, billon 2.72 g. AVRELIA – NVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r.; with lion skin (?) over l. shoulder. Rev. RESTITV – TOR ORIENTIS Aurelianus on prancing horse r., attacking with spear two fallen enemy, of which the one on the l., has already been pierced through by a spear while the one on the r. covers his head in protection. C –. RIC –. Göbl –, cf. pl. 138, 365 (aureus, these dies) = Estiot pl. 85, 260 (aureus, these dies, Cyzicus).

Apparently unique and unrecorded. Green patina and about extremely fine

1'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Severina, wife of Aurelian



- 165 Antoninianus, 273, Æ 4.06 g. SEVERI – NAE AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. CONCORDIAE MILITVM Concordia standing facing, head l., holding standard in each hand; in field r., A. In exergue, XXIR. RIC 4. C 7. Göbl 154a. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 200

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Tacitus, 275 – 276



- 166 Antoninianus, Ticinum 276, billon 4.01 g. IMP C M CL TACITVS AVG C III Radiate bust l in consular robes, holding eagle-tipped sceptre in l. hand. Rev. MART – I – P – ACIF Mars walking l., holding olive-branch, spear and shield; in exergue, S. RIC –, cf. 120 and 121 for obverse and 145 for reverse. C –, cf. 92 (for obverse) and 60 (for reverse). Cf. Kent-Himer 538 (for obverse type).

Apparently unrecorded. A very interesting portrait, green patina and about extremely fine

500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 167 Antoninianus, Emesa (?) late April – early Summer 272, billon 2.59 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 upper field l., star. RIC 2. C -. Carson, Q. Tic VII, 1978, 4 (these dies).

Extremely rare and in good condition for the issue. Brown tone and good very fine 4'000

Ex M&M sale 86, 1998, 195.

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 issued coinage with Vabalathus jointly 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 to 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.

Florian, 276



- 168 Antoninianus 276, billon 6.10 g. IMP C FLORIANVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI – STATORI Jupiter standing facing, head r., holding sceptre and thunderbolt; in exergue, XXIZ. RIC 32. C 35. Brown tone and extremely fine 200

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Probus, 276 – 282



169

- 169 Heavy aureus, Siscia 276-282, AV 5.98 g. IMP C M AVR P – ROBVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust l., wearing imperial mantle, holding eagle-tipped sceptre. Rev. HERCVLI ERY – MANTHIO Hercules standing r., carrying the Erymanthian boar over his shoulder. RIC –, cf. 586 (for reverse type). C –, cf. 272 (for reverse type). Calicò 4156 (this coin).

Extremely rare and undoubtedly one of the finest aurei of Probus in existence.
A wonderful obverse portrait in the finest style of the period and an incredibly well-detailed reverse composition. An almost invisible mark in reverse field, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

40'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1168.

Among the rarest and most impressive of Probus' types in gold, this reverse celebrates the fourth of the 'twelve labours' that Hercules was directed to perform in the service of the cowardly Argolid king Eurystheus. This labour, the capture of the Erymanthian Boar, was depicted on provincial and Imperial coinage in a variety of ways, indicating that several sculptural prototypes existed to represent this scene. Most feature Hercules standing or advancing with the boar on his shoulders, yet on others he has the boar across his knee. Some include in the scene king Eurystheus cowering in a jar at Heracles' feet because the hero had returned with the fearsome animal while it was still alive.

Considering Probus struck two other 'labour' types – the captures of Cerberus and the Cerynean hind – it is possible that the other nine within the series were struck, but did not survive or have yet to surface. Postumus, the rebel in Gaul a generation before, struck a more complete series of aurei depicting the labors and adventures of Hercules, among which is this type, though Hercules is shown advancing with Eurystheus' jar at his feet.

Carus, 282 – 283



170

- 170 Antoninianus, Ticinum 282-283, billon 4.35 g. IMP CARVS P F AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PAX E – XE – RCITI Pax standing l., holding branch and standard; in exergue, PXXI. RIC 75. C 56.

Extremely fine

150

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Carinus, 283 – 285



171



171

- 171 Antoninianus, Lugdunum 283-285, billon 3.47 g. IMP C M AVR CARINVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SAECVLI FELICITAS Emperor standing r., holding spear and globe; in field r., D. RIC 214. C 120. Extremely fine 100

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Divo Nigriniano, son of Carinus



172



172

- 172 Antoninianus 283-284, billon 4.44 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. Green patina and good very fine / about extremely fine 2'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Numerian, 283 – 284



173



173

- 173 Antoninianus 283-284, billon 3.83 g. IMP NVMERIANVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ORIE – NS AV – GG Sol advancing l., holding whip in l. hand and raising r.; in exergue, KAT. RIC 412. C 37. Extremely fine 100

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Diocletian, 284 – 305



174



- 174 Argenteus, Siscia circa 294, AR 3.10 g. DIOCLETI – ANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVS – MILITVM The four tetrarchs sacrificing over tripod before eight-turreted camp gate. RIC 32a. C 516. Sisak Hoard pl. 1, 1. Wonderful iridescent tone and virtually as struck and almost Fdc 800

Ex Superior sale December 1995, 991.

Maximianus Herculius augustus, 286 - 305



- 175 Aureus 293-294, AV 5.42 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Bust r., wearing lion-skin. Rev. HERCVLI D – EBELLAT Hercules standing l., about to strike the hydra with his club; in exergue, PROM. RIC –. C 255. Calicó 4661. Extremely rare and in exceptional condition. Virtually as struck and Fdc 24'000
Ex Canessa sale 1923, Caruso, 524.



- 176 Argenteus, Cyzicus circa 294-295, AR 3.29 g. MAXIMIA – NVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORI – A SARMATICA The four tetrarchs sacrificing over tripod before six-turreted camp gate. RIC 5b. C 551. Extremely fine 700
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Carausius, 286 – 293



- 177 (Medallie) antoninianus (?), Londinium circa 287, Æ 7.11 g. IMP CARAVSIVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PAX – AVG Pax standing l., holding branch and sceptre. RIC –, cf. 880. Hunterian –, cf. 70. Very rare. Brown tone and good very fine 500
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 178 Antoninianus, uncertain mint 287-293, Æ 3.48 g. IMP CARA[VSIVS] AVG Radiate, helmeted and cuirassed bust l., holding eagle-tipped sceptre in r. hand and shield on l. arm. Rev. PACAT – ORBIS Carausius standing l., holding wreath and sceptre; four supplicants around him. In exergue, OXXVL. RIC –. C –. P.J. Casey p. 81, 7 and pl. 3, 7 (this coin). Kirkham NC 1940, p. 28, 14 (these dies). Of the highest rarity, only the second specimen known. Irregular flan, otherwise good very fine 2'500

Ex Sotheby's October 1989, 173 and CNG-NAC 40, 1996, 1728 sales.



- 179 Antoninianus, Londinium 288, Æ 4.67 g. CARAVSI – VS AVG Radiate, helmeted and cuirassed bust l., holding spear and shield decorated with medusa. Rev. ADVE – N – TVS AVG Emperor riding horse l., raising r. hand and holding sceptre in l.; at foot, captive. In exergue, ML. RIC 11. C 6. Hunterian -, cf. 18 for reverse. Very rare and an interesting type. Brown tone and good very fine 1'200

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 180 Antoninianus, Camulodunum circa 292-293, Æ 3.90 g. CARAVSIVS ET FRATRES SVI Jugate, radiate and cuirassed busts of Maximianus, Diocletian and Carausius l. Rev. PAX – AVGGG Pax standing l., holding olive-branch and vertical sceptre; in field, S – P. In exergue, C. RIC 1 (these dies). N. Shiel, "Carausius et Fratres Sui," *BNJ* 48 (1978), p. 8, 10. R.A.G. Carson, "Carausius et Fratres Sui: A Reconsideration," in *SPNO*, 5. Very rare and a very interesting type. About very fine 2'500

Privately purchased from CNG.

Few Roman coins are more wishful in their iconography than the "three brothers" issue of Carausius, the fleet commander who late in 286 revolted against Maximian, emperor in the West, and took control of Britain and the northern coast of Gaul. As damaging as this defection was for Maximian, it perhaps was taken harder by Diocletian, the senior emperor in the East, for it revealed a weakness in the new imperial dyarchy that might inspire other would-be rebels. Fortunately, no other rebellions found such success during their two decades at the helm.

This type was an invention of Carausius and we have no reason to believe either of the legitimate emperors approved, despite their being portrayed on the coin and being described as 'brothers' of the usurper. It is impossible to know whether Carausius issued this type in the naive hope that the goodwill might have a softening effect on his rival emperors, or, more likely, that he wished to convince his own subjects of a fictional concord between the three emperors. A similar message is echoed in a less dramatic fashion on a variety of Carausius' issues with reverse inscriptions ending in AVGGG (indicating three emperors) and with coins struck entirely in the names of Diocletian and Maximian.

This issue is dated to 292 by Carson, meaning it was struck as the future Caesar Constantius 'Chlorus' was making his final preparations to eject Carausius from his coastal strongholds in Gaul. If the issue was isolated to that year alone, it would suggest these coins were part of a final attempt at reconciliation with the legitimate emperors, and that once his overtures had failed, Carausius turned his attention more thoroughly to his preparations for the looming offensive. Unlike Maximian's previous efforts, the campaign of Constantius was effective: the new Caesar besieged Bolougne and caused its surrender, after which the remaining of Carausius' Gallic allies switched their allegiance to the legitimate emperors. Constantius immediately followed up with a savage war against the usurper's Frankish allies in Batavia, who occupied the estuaries of the Rhine and the Scheldt. Though it should be assumed that Carausius was not in Bolougne during the siege, we have no direct evidence of his whereabouts. Equally mysterious are the circumstances of his death, which has traditionally been attributed to the minister Allectus, who succeeded him as emperor of Britain and who survived another three years before Constantius defeated him with a bold naval invasion.

Allectus, 293 – 297



- 181 Antoninianus, Londinium 293-296, Æ 4.38 g. IMP C ALLECTVS P F AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust l., holding shield and spear over shoulder. Rev. LAETITIA AVG Laetitia standing l., holding wreath and baton; in field, S – A. In exergue, ML. RIC 22. C –. Hunterian –.
Very rare. Brown tone and about extremely fine 1'200

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 182 Antoninianus, Camulodunum circa 293-296, Æ 4.52 g. IMP C ALLECTVS P F AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PA – X – AVG Pax standing l., holding branch and transverse sceptre; in field, S – P. In exergue, C. RIC 91. C 37. Hunterian 49.
Struck on an exceptionally broad flan. Minor traces of double-striking on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine 500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Galerius Maximianus caesar, 293 - 305



- 183 Argenteus, Antiochia circa 297, AR 3.37 g. MAXIMIA – NVS CAESAR Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVS – MILITVM Three-turreted camp gate without doors; in exergue, *ANTH. RIC 38b. C 225.
Minor marks on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 600

Ex Pegasi sale 2, 1996, 426.

Domitius Domitianus, 296 – 298



- 184 Follis, Alexandria 295-296, Æ 9.87 g. IMP CL DOMITIVS DOMITIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. GENIO POPV – L – I ROMANI Genius standing l., with modius on head and naked but for *chlamys* over l. shoulder, holding patera in . hand and cornucopiae in l.; at feet., eagle. In field r., A and in exergue, ALE. RIC 20. C 1.

Very rare and in exceptional condition. Appealing brown tone and extremely fine

4'500

Ex Tkalec sale 1998, 315.

Severus II augustus, 306 – 307



- 185 Follis, Ticinum 306, Æ 11.42 g. IMP C SEVERVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. FIDES – M – I LITVM Fides seated l., holding standard in each hand; in outer field r., pellet. In exergue, P T. RIC 73. C 13.
Brown tone and extremely fine 200

Ex Stack's sale November 1967, McCullough, ???.

Maxentius augustus, 307 - 312



186



186

- 186 Follis, Ostia 309-312, Æ 4.36 g. IMP C MAXENTIVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. FIDES MI – L – I – TVM AVG N Fides standing l., holding standard in each hand; in exergue, MOSTT. RIC 45. C 71. Hunterian 34. Extremely fine 200

Ex CNG Mail Bid sale 43, 1997, 2467.

Divo Romulo, son of Maxentius



187



- 187 Follis 310-311, Æ 5.19 g. IMP MAXENTIVS DIVO ROMVLO N V FILIO Bare head r. Rev. AETERNAE – MEMORIAE Hexastyle domed shrine, with doors ajar, surmounted by eagle; in exergue, REP. RIC 256. C 1. A rare variety. Brown tone and extremely fine 800

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Alexander, 308 – 310



188



- 188 Follis, Carthago 308-310, Æ 5.45 g. IMP ALEXANDER P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. INVICTA ROMA FELIX KARTHAGO Carthago standing facing in long robe, head l., holding up fruits in both hands; in exergue, P*K. RIC 68 var. C 16. Very rare. Green patina and about extremely fine 4'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



- 189 Follis, Carthago 308-310, Æ 4.25 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. Green patina and good very fine 3500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Valerius Valens. 316 – 317



- 190 Follis, Cyzicus circa 316-317, Æ 2.84 g. IMP C AVR VAL VALENS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONS – ERVATORI Jupiter standing l., *chlamys* across l. shoulder, holding sceptre and Victory on globe; at feet, eagle with wreath in beak. In field r., I and in exergue, SKM. C –. RIC 7 var. (different officina). An apparently unrecorded variety of an excessively rare type. Among the finest coins known for this ruler. Appealing green patina on unusually good metal, extremely fine / about extremely fine 35000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1193.

Valerius Valens was among Rome's less fortunate emperors, as there was little time or cause for celebration during his three-month reign, and his execution was swift and unceremonious. Historians should rightly describe this Valens as "Valens I" since a later Valens (who should be "Valens II"), ruled the Eastern Roman Empire from 364-378. By comparison, the Julian who reigned from 360-363 is called "Julian II" because the usurper Julian of Pannonia reigned before him, in 284-285.

The first civil war between Licinius and Constantine I began poorly for Licinius: his army was narrowly defeated at Cibalae on October 8, 316, which sent him into a retreat. In a hasty move either at Cibalae or while on the run, Licinius declared Valerius Valens, one of his frontier generals, emperor in place of Constantine, whom he symbolically deposed. Constantine's relentless pursuit ended in a truce by which Constantine gained control of much of the Balkans and claimed for himself the title of Senior Augustus. His third condition was that Valens be deposed; Licinius exceeded his demand by executing Valens. Whether this was a demonstration of good faith or a convenient excuse to remove a potential rival is not known.

During the fighting retreat from Constantine, copper nummi were struck for Valens at Cyzicus and Alexandria. In type and style they were identical to the companion coins of Licinius I, with little more than the inscription to distinguish them. At Cyzicus, all eight officinae were striking for Licinius, and it is possible that all eight were also striking for Valens. At present, however, RIC documents only the sixth officina, and this specimen confirms the first officina.

Constantine I, 307 – 337



- 191 Follis, Londinium 310-312, Æ 4.08 g. **CONSTANTI – NVS P AG** Laureate bust l., holding eagle-tipped sceptre in r. hand and wearing consular robes and cuirass decorated with medusa on breast plate. Rev. **COMITI – AVGG NN** Sol standing l., with *chlamys* falling from l. shoulder, holding up globe in r. hand and whip in l.; in exergue, TLN. RIC 178. C 44. P. Strauss, *Mélanges Bastien*, pl. 13, 9.
Rare. A beautiful obverse representation and an untouched green patina. Good extremely fine 1'200
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.



Delmatius caesar, 335 – 337

- 192 Æ 3, Alexandria 335-337, Æ 1.59 g. **F L DELMATIVS NOB C** Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. **GLOR – IA EXERCITVS** Two soldiers standing face to face, each holding reversed spear and resting hand on shield; between them, standard. In exergue, SMALB. RIC 69. C 4. Rare. Extremely fine 150
Ex M&M sale 86, 1998, 208.

Constantius II augustus, 337 – 361

- 193 Siliqua, Constantinopolis 351-355, AR 2.37 g. **D N CONSTAN – TIVS P F AVG** Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. **VOTIS / XXX / MVLTIS / XXXX** within wreath; below, **C•A**. RIC 102. C 342 var.
Attractive old cabinet. Light scratch on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 200
Ex CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1767. From the James Fox collection.



- 194 Light miliarensis, Nicomedia circa 355-360, AR 4.02 g. **D N CONSTAN – TIVS P F AVG** Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. **GLORIA RO – MANORVM** Emperor, in military attire, standing facing with head l., holding standard with Christogram on banner in r. hand and resting l. on shield. In exergue, SMN. RIC -. C -.
Apparently unique and unrecorded. Attractively toned, minor marks and two flan cracks at eleven and one o'clock on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine 4'000
Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Vetranio, 1st March – 25th December 350



195

- 195 Light Miliarensis, Siscia March-December 350, AR 4.39 g. DN VETRA – NIO PF AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTORVM Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch; in field l., palm branch. In exergue, SIS. RIC 262. C 10. Gnechi 1.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. A fabulous portrait and beautifully tone, good extremely fine

35'000

Ex NFA XX, 1988, 547; Superior August 1995, John Jacobs, 987 and Triton I, 1997, 1711 sales.

By the year 350 only two of Constantine's five heirs remained in power – his youngest sons, Constantius II in the East and Constans in the West. But that number was reduced to one quite early in the year, when Constans was murdered in a coup led by Magnentius, a former slave who had risen to become a senior field commander, and now emperor of the West. The rebel soon attracted the loyalty of Spain, Britain, North Africa and Italy, but his eastward progress was halted in the spring by the defensive maneuvers of Vetranio, the Pannonian commander who remained loyal to Constantius II.

Vetranio was by then an elderly soldier who originally had served under Constantine the Great and had risen to become the Master of the Infantry (*magister peditum*) in Pannonia. His loyalty initially wavered, but within two months he had decided to oppose Magnentius, who was marching eastward at a time when Constantius II was occupied on the Persian front. Vetranio's troops thus hailed him emperor at Mursa on March 1, perhaps at the urging of Constantina, a sister of Constantius II. Vetranio's ambitions seem to have been limited to defending the Balkans against Magnentius, and he thus accepted his promotion reluctantly. His ten months as Augustus were relatively uneventful, for he avoided taking any offensive action against Magnentius (or the counter-revolutionary Nepotian), and simply held the line until Constantius II arrived with an army of his own late in the fall of 350.

Though Constantius II probably had good reason to believe that Vetranio was loyal, he must have been relieved to learn this in person when at Heraclea he met with embassies sent by both men. He then met with Vetranio at Nassius, praised him for his loyalty, and on Christmas day of 350 accepted his abdication. The old general was rewarded with an estate at Prusa in Bithynia, to which he soon retired.

Nepotian, 3rd – 30th June 350



196

- 196 Æ 3, 3rd – 30th June 350, 5.84 g. FL NEP CONST – ANTINVS AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VRBS – ROMA Roma seated l. on shield, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in r.; in exergue, R E. RIC 203. C 4. Bastien Nepotien, p. 409 (this coin cited).

Extremely rare. Green patina with some oxidation on reverse, otherwise very fine

5'000

Ex Hess sale 1935, Trau, 4279.

Jovian, 363 – 364



197

- 197 Siliqua, Nicomedia 363-364, AR 1.52 g. D N IOVIAN – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VOT / V / MVLT / X within wreath; below, SMN. RIC 127. C33 var. Iridescent tone and about extremely fine 300

Ex CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1787. From the James Fox collection.

Valens, 364 – 378



198

- 198 Light miliarensis, Treveri 367-375, AR 3.80 g. D N VALEN – S P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTORVM Victory standing r., l. foot on globe, holding shield propped on low column and inscribing it VOT / V / MVLTIS / X. In exergue, TRPS. RIC 25. C –. Extremely rare. Nicely toned and extremely fine 2'500

Ex Leu sale 71, 1997, 559.



199

200

Procopius, 365 – 366

- 199 Æ 3, Constantinopolis 365-366, 2.75 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, CONST. RIC 17. C 8. Rare. Dark green patina and extremely fine 500

Privately purchased by Harlan J. Berk.

Magnus Maximus, 383 – 388

- 200 Siliqua, Trier 383-388, AR 2.04 g. D N MAX – IMVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS RO – MANORVM Roma enthroned facing, head l., holding globe and reversed spear; in exergue, TRPS. RIC 84b. C 20. Toned and extremely fine 200

Ex CNG-NAC sale 40, 1996, 1808. From the James Fox collection.

Eugenius, 392 – 394



201

201

- 201 Siliqua, Trier 392-394, AR 1.80 g. D N EVGENI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS RO – MANORVM Virtus or Roma seated l. on cuirass, holding Victory on globe and reversed spear; in exergue, TRPS. RIC 106d. C 14 var. Rare. Toned and extremely fine 1'500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Constantine III, 407 – 411



202



202

- 202 Siliqua, Lugdunum 408-411, AR 1.78 g. D N CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AAVGGG Roma seated l. on cuirass, holding Victory on globe and reverted spear; in exergue, SMLD. RIC 1531. C 7. Bastien 251.
Very rare. Toned and about extremely fine / good very fine 500

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

Sebastianus, brother of Jovinus, 412 – 413



203



203

- 203 Siliqua, Arelate 412-413, AR 1.32 g. [D N SEBASTIA] – NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGG Roma seated l. on curule chair, holding Victory on globe and reverted spear; in exergue KONT. RIC 1719. C 4. King, *Mélanges Bastien*, pl. 22, 11.
Of the highest rarity and probably the finest of very few specimens known. Struck on an unusually good metal with areas of weakness, otherwise good very fine 30'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.

It appears that all known coins of Sebastianus are siliquae from a single emission Arelate – a point that reveals the desperate circumstances of his reign. No solidi seem to have been struck in his name, though they are known for his brother Jovinus, who was the senior emperor of the revolt. It is equally interesting that no small change is known for Sebastianus or Jovinus, and it is doubtful that either of them produced leaded bronze *nummi minimi*.

Just as one might expect of a 5th Century revolt in the West, Jovinus was hailed emperor in a moment of crisis by leaders of barbarian nations – in this case Germans along the Rhine. Jovinus was seemingly the most powerful nobleman in Gaul, and in 411 he was hailed at Mainz or Mundiacum by the Alan king Goar and the Burgundian king Gundahar (Guntiarus), who later were joined by the Visigothic king Athaulf. This great alliance, however, was ruined about a year after it had begun, for Jovinus hailed his brother Sebastianus co-emperor and sought the aid of the Gothic dissident Sarus. Neither of these choices pleased Athaulf, who began to plot the defeat of the rebels with the help of Honorius and his Gallic prefect Dardanus.

After having ruled for less than a year, Sebastianus was betrayed by Athaulf, who captured and beheaded him. The next target was Jovinus, whom Athaulf and Dardanus trapped in the Gallic city of Valentia; Jovinus soon surrendered, and as he was being taken to the court of Honorius he, too, was executed. The decapitated heads of both rebels were sent to Honorius at Ravenna as proof of their deaths, and thus, the end of their revolts.

Anthemius, 467 – 472



204



- 204 **In the name of Leo I.** Solidus 472, AV 4.40 g. D N LEO PE – RP ET AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGGΘ Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in field r., *. In exergue, COMOB. RIC –. Lacam pl. 33, 172.
Extremely rare. Good extremely fine 4'000

Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk.