

A U C T I O N

41

20th November 2007

NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA NAC AG
ZÜRICH - LONDON

AUCTION 41

20th November 2007

Greek and Roman Coins

Featuring an Important Collection of Greek and Roman Gold Coins sold in association
with Oslo Mynthandel AS

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Mit der Teilnahme an der Versteigerung werden folgende Bestimmungen anerkannt:

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Für die Echtheit der Münzen wird vorbehaltlos und zeitlich unbeschränkt garantiert. Alle Angaben im Katalog sind nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen zusammengestellt.

Der Versand erfolgt eingeschrieben und versichert auf Kosten und Risiko des Empfängers. Im Ausland verrechnete Gebühren und Steuern gehen zu Lasten des Käufers. Es obliegt dem Erwerber, sich über ausländische Zoll- und Devisenvorschriften zu informieren. Die Veranstalterin der Auktion übernimmt keine Haftung für allfälliges Zuwiderhandeln solcher Vorschriften. Erfüllungsort und Gerichtsstand im Verhältnis zwischen der Veranstalterin und dem Erwerber ist Zürich. Die Abgabe eines schriftlichen oder mündlichen Gebotes bedeutet gleichzeitig die Anerkennung der Auktionsbedingungen.

Im übrigen kommen die ortsüblichen Gantbedingungen zur Anwendung. Vorliegende Bedingungen liegen in deutscher, französischer, italienischer und englischer Fassung auf. Bei Meinungsverschiedenheiten ist die deutsche Fassung massgebend.

Conditions de la vente aux enchères

En participant à la vente, les conditions suivantes sont considérées comme acceptées:

Les prix indiqués sont des prix estimatifs en francs suisses. La vente débute en principe à 80% du prix d'estimation, pour autant qu'il n'y ait pas d'offres plus élevées. Sur le prix d'adjudication une majoration de 16.5% est prélevée. En cas de livraison en Suisse, le prix total (prix d'adjudication + majoration et frais d'expédition) est augmenté de la TVA de 7.6%. **Les monnaies en or (AV) ne sont pas sujettes à la TVA.** Le prix total, y compris les taxes, est payable en francs suisses à la réception de la marchandise. En cas de paiement tardif, nous calculons un intérêt de retard au cours bancaire. L'adjudication a lieu après le 3e rappel de l'offre la meilleure et oblige l'acheteur à prendre son acquisition. A prix égal, les offres écrites ont la priorité. Chaque participant à la vente s'oblige pour les achats effectués par lui-même. Il ne peut faire valoir avoir agi pour un tiers.

Nous garantissons l'authenticité des monnaies sans condition et sans aucune limite de temps. Les indications de notre catalogue ont été faites en toute science et conscience.

L'envoi se fait sous pli recommandé, assuré, aux frais et risques du destinataire. Toutes taxes ou impôts prélevés à l'étranger sont à la charge du destinataire. L'acquéreur doit lui-même s'informer des prescriptions douanières et des taxes du pays d'importation. La maison organisatrice de la vente ne peut être tenue pour responsable au cas où ces prescriptions ne seraient pas respectées. Le domicile juridique entre l'organisatrice et les acheteurs est Zurich, ceci en cas de différences. La remise d'une offre écrite ou verbale signifie en même temps l'acceptation des conditions précitées de vente aux enchères.

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

Condizioni di vendita

La partecipazione alla vendita all'asta comporta l'accettazione integrale delle seguenti condizioni. I prezzi indicati rappresentano la stima in franchi svizzeri. Se non sono pervenute offerte più elevate, l'inizio di battuta d'asta corrisponde generalmente all'80% circa dello stesso. Al prezzo di aggiudicazione verrà aggiunto un diritto d'asta del 16.5%. Per le consegne all'acquirente in territorio svizzero sarà aggiunta al prezzo totale (prezzo di aggiudicazione + diritto d'asta e spese di spedizione) il 7.6% d'IVA. **Le monete in oro (AV) non sono soggette al pagamento dell'IVA.** L'importo complessivo sarà esigibile alla consegna dei lotti e pagabile in franchi svizzeri. In caso di ritardo nel pagamento sarà applicato l'interesse bancario sull'importo dovuto. L'aggiudicazione avviene dopo la terza chiamata della migliore offerta ed obbliga l'offerente ad accettarla. In caso di parità di offerte, avrà la precedenza quella effettuata per corrispondenza. Ogni partecipante alla vendita all'asta è personalmente responsabile degli acquisti effettuati: pertanto egli non può pretendere di avere agito per conto di terzi.

Gli oggetti offerti in vendita sono garantiti autentici senza limiti di tempo.

L'invio degli oggetti viene di regola effettuato in plico postale raccomandato a spese ed a rischio del destinatario, il quale, se residente all'estero, dovrà assumere a proprio carico ogni eventuale tassa o imposta applicata nel paese di residenza. E' onere dell'acquirente d'informarsi sulle prescrizioni doganali e valutarie del paese d'importazione e la società organizzatrice della vendita all'asta non può essere ritenuta responsabile nel caso in cui esse non vengano rispettate.

In caso di controversia è competente il foro di Zurigo. L'inoltro di un'offerta scritta o verbale implica l'accettazione senza riserve delle presenti condizioni d'asta.

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

Conditions of sale

The following conditions are acknowledged by all persons participating in the auction:

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 ZEITTAFEL ORDRE DE VENTE ORDINE DI VENDITA

Tuesday, 20th November 2007 11.30 – 13.00hrs 1 – 146

EXHIBITIONS AUSSTELLUNG EXPOSITION ESPOSIZIONI

London

20th October – 12th November

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

At our premises

Zürich

Monday, 19th November

9.30 – 18.30

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

Please visit our auction online at www.arsclassicacoins.com

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

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

Greek Gold Coins

Philip II struck under Antigonus Gonatas, 277 – 239 AD



- 1 Stater, Macedonia 277-239, AV 8.53 g. Laureate head of Apollo r. Rev. Prancing biga driven r. by charioteer holding *kentron* and reins; in lower field r., Macedonian helmet. In exergue, ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ. See Carmessinis Economides RN 1967 pp 242-244.

Apparently unique and unrecorded. A very interesting issue, minor die-break on obverse field at three o'clock, otherwise extremely fine

7'500

Seleucid Kings of Syria. Antiochus II, 261 – 256 AD



- 2 Stater, Aï Khanoum 261-256, AV 8.48 g. Diademed head of Antiochus I r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ANTIOXOY Apollo seated l. on *omphalos*, testing arrow and resting l. hand on grounded bow; above, star and in centre field, monogram. Before legs, cithara. ESM 709. Seleucid Coins 616.2.

Very rare. A bold elderly portrait. Two small nicks on reverse and minor marks on edge, otherwise extremely fine

15'000

The Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt. Ptolemy II Philadelphos, 285 – 246 BC



- 3 Octodrachm, Alexandria after 265 BC, AV 27.80 g. ΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ Jugate busts r. of Ptolemy II, draped and diademed and, Arsinoe II, diademed and veiled, in field l., shield. Rev. ΘΕΩΝ Jugate busts r. of Ptolemy I, draped and diademed and, Berenice I, diademed and veiled. Svoronos 603 and pl. XIV, 16. SNG Copenhagen 132. The Hellenistic Kingdom pl. 18-19. About extremely fine 9'000

Ex NAC sale 10, 1997, 262.

- 4 Tetradrachm, Alexandria after 265 BC, AV 13.91 g. ΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ Jugate busts r. of Ptolemy II, draped and diademed and, Arsinoe II, diademed and veiled; in field l., shield. Rev. ΘΕΩΝ Jugate busts r. of Ptolemy I, draped and diademed and, Berenice I, diademed and veiled. Svoronos 604 and pl. XIV, 19. SNG Copenhagen 133. Minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine 4'000

Ptolemy III Euergetes, 246 – 222



- 5 *In the name of Berenice II.* Octodrachm, Alexandria after 241, AV 27.82 g. Diademed and veiled bust of Berenice II r. Rev. ΒΕΡΕΝΙΚΗΣ – ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΗΣ Cornucopiae filled with fruits and bound with fillet. Svoronos 1113 and pl. 35, 1. SNG Copenhagen 169.
Very rare. Two light scratches on reverse field, otherwise good extremely fine 20'000

Ptolemy VI Philometor, 180 – 145 BC or Ptolemy VIII Euergetes, 145 – 116 BC



- 6 *In the name of Arsinoe II.* Octodrachm, Alexandria 180-116, AV 27.61 g. Diademed and veiled head of the deified Arsinoe II r.; in field l., K. Rev. ΑΡΣΙΝΟΗΣ – ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ Double cornucopiae filled with fruits and bound with fillets. Svoronos 1499 and pl. 51, 18. SNG Copenhagen 322. Boston 2293.
Minor marks, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc 12'500

Zeugitania, Carthago (?)



- 7 Stater circa 350-320, AV 9.27 g. Head of Tanit I., wearing barley wreath, triple-pendant earrings and necklace. Rev. Horse standing r., in lower field r., ♂ Jenkins-Lewis cf. 86.
Minor marks in field and a small nick at twelve o'clock on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 4'000

Roman Coins

The Roman Republic

The mint is Roma unless otherwise stated



8

- 8 *Julius Caesar.* Denarius, mint moving with Caesar 49-48. AR 3.92 g. Pontifical emblems: *culullus*, *aspergillum*, axe and *apex*. Rev. Elephant r., trampling dragon; in exergue, CAESAR. Babelon Julia 9. Sydenham 1006. C. 9. Sear Imperators 9. Crawford 443/1. Extremely fine 1'000



9

- 9 *L. Cornelius Lentulus and C. Claudius Marcellus.* Denarius, Apollonia and Asia 49, AR 3.88 g. *Triskeles* with winged head of Medusa in centre and corn-ears between legs. Rev. LENT – MAR / COS Jupiter standing facing, holding thunderbolt and eagle. Babelon Cornelia 64 var. and Claudia 9 var. Sydenham 1029a. Sear Imperators 4. Crawford 445/1b.

Minor areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine

750



10

- 10 *L. Cornelius Lentulus and C. Claudius Marcellus.* Denarius, Apollonia and Asia 49, AR 3.80 g. L·LENT·C·MARC COS Head of Apollo r. Rev. Jupiter standing facing, holding thunderbolt and eagle; in field l., star / Q. In field r., garlanded altar. Babelon Cornelia 65, Claudia 10 and Neria 2. Sydenham 1030. Sear Imperators 5. Crawford 445/2. Extremely fine 750



11

- 11 *Cn. Pompeius Magnus and Cn. Calpurnius Piso.* Denarius, mint moving with Pompey 49, AR 3.82 g. CN·PISO·PRO – Q Bearded head of Numa Pompilius r., wearing diadem inscribed NVMA. Rev. MAGN Prow r.; below, PRO·COS. Babelon Pompeia 8 and Calpurnia 30. C 4. Sydenham 1032. Sear Imperators 7. Crawford 446/1. Extremely fine 1'250



12

- 12 *Cn. Pompeius Magnus and Terentius Varro.* Denarius, mint moving with Pompey 49, AR 3.94 g. VARRO. PRO – Q Terminal bust of Jupiter r., wearing diadem. Rev. Sceptre between dolphin and eagle; in exergue, MAGN-PRO / COS. Babelon Terentia 15 and Pompeia 7. C 3. Sydenham 1033. Sear Imperators 8. Crawford 447/1a. Superbe old cabinet tone. Minor nick on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 2'750

Ex NAC sale 10, 1997, 536.



13

- 13 *Julius Caesar.* Denarius, Africa 47-46, AR 3.85 g. Diademed head of Venus r. Rev. CAESAR Aeneas advancing l., carrying *palladium* in r. hand and Anchises on l. shoulder. Babelon Julia 10. C 12. Sydenham 1013. Sear Imperators 55. Crawford 458/1.

Hairline flan crack at eleven o'clock on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

750



14

- 14 *Q. Metellus Pius Scipio with P. Licinius Crassus.* Denarius, Africa 47-46, AR 3.90 g. CRASS-IVN – LEG-PRO-PR Turreted female head r.; above and below respectively, uncertain object and *rostrum tridens*. On l. and r. respectively, ear of corn and caduceus. Rev. METEL-PIVS – SCIP-IMP Trophy between *lituus* and jug. Babelon Caecilia 52. Sydenham 1049. Sear Imperators 42. Crawford 460/3.

Very rare and unusually complete for the issue. About extremely fine

5'000



15

- 15 *Cn. Pompeius Magnus and M. Poblivia.* Denarius, Spain 46-45, AR 3.92 g. M-POBLICI-LEGI PRO Helmeted head of Roma r.; behind, PR. Rev. CN-MAGNVS-IMP Female figure standing r., with shield slung on back, holding two spears in l. hand and presenting palm-branch to soldier standing l. on prow of ship. Babelon Pompeia 9 and Poblivia 10. Sydenham 1035. C 1. Sear Imperators 48. Crawford 469/1a.

Exceptionally well centred on a full flan and extremely fine

2'000



- 16 *Julius Caesar and C. Cossutius Maridianus*. Denarius 44, AR 3.86 g. CAESAR – PARENS PATRIAE Veiled and wreathed head of Caesar r.; behind, *apex* and before, *lituus*. Rev. C-COSSVTIVS and MARIDIANVS arranged in form of cross; in angles, A – A – A – F. FFC 6. Babelon Iulia 43 and Cossutia 2. C 18. Sydenham 1069. Sear Imperators 112. Crawford 480/19.

A superb portrait of high style. Minor areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine

7'500



- 17 *P. Sepullius Macer*. Denarius 44, AR 3.87 g. Bearded and veiled head of M. Antony r.; behind, *lituus* and before, jug. Rev. P-SEPVLLIVS – MACER *Desultor* galloping r., holding whip in r. hand and reins of second horse with l.; in field l., wreath and palm branch. Babelon Sepullia 8 and Antonia 2. C 74. Sydenham 1077. Sear Imperators 142. Crawford 480/22.

Very rare. A very pleasant portrait. Minor areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine / about extremely

2'500



- 18 *L. Flaminius Chilo*. Denarius 43, AR 3.88 g. Laureate head of Caesar r. Rev. L-FLAMINIUS – IIII VIR Goddess standing l., holding caduceus in r. hand and sceptre in l. Babelon Julia 44 and Flaminia 3. C 26. Sydenham 1089. Sear Imperators 113. Crawford 485/1.

A fantastic portrait well struck on an exceptionally large flan, extremely fine

10'000



- 19 *Petillius Capitolinus*. Denarius 43, AR 3.91 g. PETILLIVS Eagle on thunderbolt r., with open wings; below, CAPITOLINVS. Rev. S – F Hexastyle temple with decorated roof; between central four columns, hanging decoration. Babelon Petillia 3. Sydenham 1151. Sear Imperators 174a. Crawford 487/2b.

Extremely fine

500



- 20 *Marcus Antonius*. Denarius, Gallia Transalpina and Cisalpina 43, AR 4.01 g. M·ANTON·[IMP] Bare and bearded head of M. Antonius r.; behind, *lituus*. Rev. CAESAR D[IC] Laureate head of Caesar r.; behind, jug. Babelon Antonia 4 and Julia 54. C 2. Sydenham 1165. Sear Imperators 118. Crawford 488/1.
Rare. Two unusually pleasant portraits and a very appealing tone. Two counter-marks, otherwise about extremely fine 3'500



- 21 *Octavianus*. Aureus, Gallia Transalpina and Cisalpina 43, AV 7.68 g. C·CAESAR·COS·PONT·AVG Bare and bearded head of Octavianus r. Rev. C·CAESAR·DICT·PERP·PONT·MAX Laureate head of Julius Caesar r. Bahrfeldt 28. Babelon Julia 64. C 2. Sydenham 1321. Sear Imperators 132. Calicó 52. Crawford 490/2.
Extremely rare, very few specimen known. Unusually well centred with two appealing portraits, very fine 20'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 826. From the Marian A. Sinton collection.

This aureus is a declaration of triumph by Octavianus over military opponents and factions in the senate that wished to renew the independence of that body. Octavianus had achieved much since he arrived in Rome in the summer of 44 B.C., but each accomplishment was backed with threats or the use of arms. For the meantime, though, Octavianus had triumphed in Italy: Marc Antony was in Gaul, Brutus and Cassius were in the East, and Sextus Pompey was in command of a fleet.

Gold from this issue probably was used to pay the eight legions Octavianus brought to invade and take control of Rome in May, 43 B.C. after he did not receive satisfaction from the senate. Once in the capital with his army he was able to extort from the senate the consulship for himself and his uncle Q. Pedius, as the original consuls for the year, Hirtius and Pansa, had died while relieving Antony's siege of Decimus Brutus.

With this in mind, hardly a more useful design could have been selected for this aureus, as most of Octavianus' soldiers had served under Caesar. It was also good propaganda against Antony, for it reinforced the claim that Octavianus – not Antony – was the rightful heir of Caesar.

The inscriptions are of some interest, for Octavianus cites his membership to the colleges of the augurs and pontifices and advertises his newly extorted consulship; that of Caesar bears his titles *dictator perpetuus* ('dictator for life') and *pontifex maximus* ('chief priest'). The first of these titles had expired upon Caesar's death and the second had been assumed by Lepidus, the man who was destined to join the second triumvirate that would be formed not long after this aureus was struck.



- 22 *L. Cestius and C. Norbanus*. Aureus January-April 43, AV 7.96 g. Draped bust of Africa r., wearing elephant-skin headdress. Rev. L·CESTIVS / PR – EX·S·C Curule chair with legs decorated with eagles, on top, two snakes facing each other; in exergue, C·NORBA. Bahrfeldt 25. Babelon Cestia 2 and Norbana 4. Sydenham 1154. Sear Imperators 195a. Calicó 4. Crawford 491/1b.
An extremely rare variety. Minor area of weakness on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine 12'000



23

- 23 *L. Cestius and C. Norbanus*. Aureus January-April 43, AV 8.05 g. C·NORBANVS / L·CESTIVS Draped bust of Sibyl r.; in field r., PR. Rev. Cybele on throne in biga of lions l., holding patera in r. hand and resting l. hand on *tympanum*; in upper field l., S·C. Bahrfeldt 26. Babelon Cestia 3 and Norbana 5. Sydenham 1155. Sear Imperators 196. Calicó 5b. Crawford 491/2.

Rare and in excellent condition for the type. Extremely fine

9'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 828. From the collection of Marian A. Sinton.



24

- 24 *Marcus Antonius with M. Mussidius Longus*. Aureus circa 42, AV 8.05 g. M·ANTONIVS·III·VIR·R·P·C Bare head of Mark Antony r. Rev. L·MVSSIDIVS – LONGVS Cornucopiae with fillet. Bahrfeldt 42.7 (this coin). Babelon Antonia 23 and Mussidia 11. Sydenham 1110. C 20. Vagi 161. Sear Imperators 146. Calicó 85. Crawford 494/14. Buttrey, pl. 2, 42.7 (this coin).

Excessively rare, very few specimens known of which only four are in private hands.

Well-struck and centred on a full flan, about extremely fine

40'000

Ex Rollin et Feuadent May 1909, J. Evans, 11; Bourgey December 1911, Chabénat, 288 and Ars Classica XVIII, 1938, 31 sales.

When this aureus was struck in 42 B.C. Rome was sharply divided into Caesarean and Republican factions and was on the brink of war. This coin belongs to a series of aurei which must have been commissioned to pay the mounting costs of the war that the triumvirs Antony, Octavian and Lepidus intended to wage against Brutus and Cassius.

These aurei of the moneyers of 42 B.C., Regulus, Clodius, Mussidius and Varus, continue the recent tradition of living Romans placing their images on coinage. In addition to this reverse type of Longus (on which the cornucopia must represent the hope for a return to bountiful times), four other reverses of aurei were paired with Antony's portrait this year: Longus also depicts Mars standing, Regulus shows a seated Hercules, Varus uses a clasped-hands motif, and Clodius depicts an enigmatic winged, pantheistic figure holding a caduceus and a cornucopia.



25

- 25 *P. Clodius M.f. Turrinus*. Aureus 42, AV 7.98 g. Radiate head of Sol r.; behind, quiver. Rev. P·CLODIVS / ·M·F Crescent surrounded by five stars. Bahrfeldt 31. Babelon Clodia 16. Sydenham 1114a. Sear Imperators 181a. Calicó 8. Crawford 494/20a.

Rare. Extremely fine

12'000



- 26 *C. Vibius Varus*. Aureus 42, AV 8.00 g. Laureate head of Apollo r. Rev. C·VIBIVS – VARVS Venus standing l., looking at herself in mirror held in l. hand; behind her, column. Bahrfdt 36. Babelon Vibia 27. Sydenham 1137. Sear Imperators 190. Calicó 33a. Crawford 494/34.

Very rare. About extremely fine 9'000

Ex Leu sale 91, 2004, 488.



- 27 *L. Mussidius Longus*. Aureus 42, AV 8.11 g. Head of Ceres r., wearing barley wreath. L·MVSSIDI / LONGVS within wreath of corn tied at bottom. Bahrfdt 35b. Babelon Mussidia 3. Sydenham 1091. Sear Imperators 185b. Calicó 24a. Crawford 494/45.

Very rare, only ten specimens listed by Crawford. About extremely fine 9'000

Ex Santamaria 7 October 1959, 80; Christie's October 1985, The Property of a Lady, 5 and Triton III, 1999, 837 sales.



- 28 *C. Cassius Longinus with Lentulus Spinther*. Aureus, mint moving with Cassius (probably Smyrna) 43-42, AV 8.21 g. C·CASSI·IMP – LEIBERTAS Diademed bust of Vesta r., wearing necklace. Rev. LENTVLVS / SPINT Sacrificial vase and *lituus*. Bahrfdt 59. Babelon Cassia 15. Sydenham 1306. Sear Imperators 220. C Brutus 3. Kent-Hirmer pl. 27, 97. Calicó 65. Crawford 500/2.

Rare. Extremely fine 22'000

Ex Hess-Leu 1, 1954, 215 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 4 sales.

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



29



29

- 29 *C. Cassius and Lentulus Spinther.* Denarius, mint moving with Brutus and Cassius (probably Smyrna) 43-42, AR 3.78 g. C-CASSI-IMP – LEIBERTAS Veiled head of Libertas r. Rev. Jug and *lituus*; below, LENTVLVS / SPINT. Babelon Cassia 18 and Cornelia 77. C 6. Sydenham 1305. Sear Imperators 223. Crawford 500/5. Rare. Almost invisible flan crack at six o'clock on reverse, extremely fine 1'500



30



30

- 30 *Q. Caepio Brutus and L. Sestius Pro. Q.* Denarius, mint moving with Brutus in Asia Minor 43-42, AR 3.82 g. L-SESTI PRO Q Veiled and draped bust of Libertas r. Rev. Q-CAEPIO BRVTVS PRO C – O – S Tripod between axe and *simpulum*. Babelon Junia 37 and Sestia 2. C 11. Sydenham 1290. Sear Imperators 201. Crawford 502/2. Rare. Extremely fine 1'250



31



- 31 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. Bahrfeldt 60. Babelon Cassia 20. Sydenham 1311. C 8. Sear Imperators 224. Calicó 67. Crawford 505/1. Very rare. Minor edge marks, otherwise good very fine 16'000

Ex Sotheby's July 1982, Brand collection part I, 2 and CNG 45, 1998, 1788 sales.

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 while he himself suffered from doing the lion's share of the hard work, regardless of how it tarnished his reputation. In point of truth, their rivalry no less significant than the one being experienced by their opponents, Marc Antony and Octavian. By the time they met at Sardis and were hailed *imperator* by their troops, the strains of partnership 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 disastrously 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 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 reference to the undoing of Julius Caesar's tyranny some two years before.



- 32 *Q. Iunio M. Caepio Brutus and C. Cassius Longinus with M. Servilius.* Aureus, mint moving with Cassius and Brutus (probably Sardis ?) 42, AV 8.07 g. M·SERVILIUS – LEG Laureate head of Libertas r. Rev. Q·CAEPIO – BRVTVS·IMP Helmeted and cuirassed trophy with shield and two spears. Bahrfeldt 66. Babelon Junia 47. Sydenham 1314. C 9. Sear Imperators 206. Calicó 61. Crawford 505/4.
Very rare. A very attractive specimen of this desirable issue. Extremely fine 45'000

Ex Hirsch XXXIV, 1914, 778 and Sotheby's July 1982, Brand collection part I, 3 sales.

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



- 33 *Marcus Antonius, Lucius Antonius and M. Cocceius Nerva.* Aureus, mint moving with Mark Anthony circa 41, AV 8.03 g. M·ANT·IMP·AVG III VIR·R·P·C·M·NERVA PROQ·P Bare head of Mark Anthony r. Rev. L·ANTONIVS COS Bare head of Lucius Antonius r. Bahrfeldt 80. Mazzini 1 (this coin). Babelon Antonia 47 and Cocceia 1. Sydenham 1184. C 2. Sear Imperators 245. Calicó 120a. Crawford 517/4a.
Extremely rare. An interesting issue with two appealing portraits, very fine 40'000

Ex NAC sale 33, 2006, 388.

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



34

- 34 *Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus*. Denarius, mint moving with Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus 41-40, 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. Very rare and among the finest specimens known. A bold portrait well struck on sound metal, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 10*000

Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus ('bronze beard') was well acquainted with the risks and rewards that faced noblemen in times of civil war, for his father Lucius had opposed the First Triumvirate and paid for it with his life at the Battle of Pharsalus in 48 B.C.

Ahenobarbus was present at Pharsalus, but unlike his father he survived and was pardoned by Julius Caesar. The self-serving purpose of Caesar's mercy did not fool him, and after Caesar was struck down on the Ides of March, he fled to Macedon with Brutus. When he was named in Octavian's proscriptions of 43 B.C. Ahenobarbus had little option but to cast his lot with the cause of Brutus and Cassius.

Ahenobarbus patrolled the Adriatic for the Republicans, and together with Murcus, the naval commander of Cassius, he defeated the Caesarean Calpurnius in a sea battle. For this critical victory, which prevented additional supplies and men from reaching the main forces of Antony and Octavian in Illyria, Ahenobarbus was hailed Imperator. Since this coin bears the inscription IMP we must date it to soon after that event at the earliest.

After Brutus and Cassius were defeated at Philippi in October, 42 B.C., Ahenobarbus patrolled the seas until 40 B.C., when the political tide shifted yet again, and he allied himself with Marc Antony just when war between Antony and Octavian seemed imminent. The Treaty of Brundisium restored peace, Ahenobarbus was made governor of Bithynia and then witnessed Antony's disastrous campaign against the Parthians in 36 B.C., and in the following year helped capture the renegade Sextus Pompey.

Having thus far survived the civil war, Ahenobarbus was returned to Rome to assume the consulship in 32 B.C. However, the inevitable showdown between Antony and Octavian began when Octavian marched on Rome and forced the consuls Ahenobarbus and Sossius to flee to the East along with some 300 senators who opposed Octavian. By this stage of his life Ahenobarbus' health was suffering and he was not enthusiastic about throwing his lot in with Cleopatra, so he defected to Octavian just before the battle of Actium took place on September 2, 31 B.C. He did not long survive, dying of natural causes late in 31, or early in 30 B.C.



35

- 35 *Octavianus and Marcus Antonius*. Aureus, mint moving with Octavian in South or Central Italy circa 40-39, AV 7.90 g. CAESAR – IMP Bare head of Octavian r. Rev. ANTONIVS IMP Bare head of Mark Antony r. Sydenham 1327. Barfeldt 29.19 (this coin). Babelon Julia 62 and Antonia 14. Sydenham 1327. C 5. Calicó 105 (this coin). Sear Imperators 301. Newmann, ANSAJN 2, 1990, Antony and Octavian p. 46, 39.8. Crawford 529/1.

Extremely rare. Well-struck and centred on a full flan with two bold portraits.

An almost invisible mark on reverse, otherwise good very fine

30*000

Ex Hess 1912, Prowe, 302; Naville III, Evans, 1922, 14; Glendining 1956, Platt Hall, 678 and NAC 27, 2004, 678 sales.

The relationship between Marc Antony and Octavian was adversarial even in the best of time. They clashed twice in less than two years after Caesar's murder, after which they formed a Triumvirate with Lepidus, preferring it to a winner-take-all contest. Both lived uncomfortably in their new skins, biding time in the hope they might gain the upper hand with the passage of time. However, the battle they avoided later in 43 B.C. was only postponed until they faced off at Actium a dozen years later.

Their cooperation in the short term allowed Antony and Octavian to jointly Brutus and Cassius at Philippi later in 42, after which victors went their separate ways: Antony departing for the east, and Octavian returning to the east. Upon arriving in Italy, Octavian was faced with the two unexpected foes, Antony's wife Fulvia and his youngest brother Lucius Antony, who took up arms against Octavian. The young triumvir scored a military victory against them in the Perusine War, and both of his opponents died of natural causes within months of war's end.

Civil war with Antony was now imminent, but was averted when the two met in southern Italy in October 40, and signed the pact Brundisium, by which they divided the Roman world between themselves. Not surprisingly, Antony took the east and Octavian took the west, and together they confirmed the Lepidus, the "third wheel" of triumvirate, should remain restricted to North Africa. In an effort to strengthen the new agreement, Antony entered into an ill-fated marriage with Octavian's only sister, Octavia.

The rare and impressive aureus was struck at the Italian mint by Octavian soon after the pact was signed. The portraits are of exceptional quality, especially when compared with the more common dual-portrait struck by Antony in the East. The youth Octavian is shown bearded in the style that, rather ironically, is reminiscent of Brutus' "Eid Mar" portraits

The Roman Empire

The mint is Roma unless otherwise stated

Octavian, 32 – 27 BC



36



36

- 36 Aureus, Brundisium and Roma (?) circa 29-27 BC, AV 7.91 g. Draped bust of Diana r., with bow and quiver on far shoulder. Rev. IMP.CAESAR on architrave of temple enclosing military trophy on naval base; triskeles in pediment. RIC 273. BMC 643. C 121. CBN 91. Bahrfeldt 110. Calicó 206.
Very rare. Surfaces with minor scratches and very fine 9'500

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1454.

Octavian as Augustus, 27 BC – 14 AD



37



- 37 Aureus, uncertain mint after 27 BC, AV 7.88 g. CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. AVGVSTVS Heifer standing r. RIC –, cf. 538 (for obverse). BMC –, cf. 660 (for obverse). C –, cf. 26-27. CBN –, cf. 1010. Bahrfeldt –, cf. 137. Calicó 172 (this coin). Biaggi 88 (this coin).

An apparently unique variety of this extremely rare and prestigious issue. A superb portrait of realistic style. Minor marks, otherwise extremely fine 150'000

Ex M&M XIII, 1954, 614; Leu 22, 1979, 188; NFA 22, 1989, Moretti collection, 29 and Sotheby's 8.7. 1996, 84 sales.

The portrait of Augustus on this aureus continues to excite comment, and its fine artistry has led scholars to conclude that it was produced in the East. Of the five portrait dies illustrated for these aurei in Bahrfeldt and Calicó, the one used to strike this aureus is arguably the most engaging: we see sharp, clearly modeled features, suggesting the engraver came close to the mark.

We should presume that at least two artists worked on the portrait dies of this coinage, for there is a clear division in style – a voluminous head characterized by two dies of great artistic affinity, and three dies with a thin portrait, which also might have been produced by a single artist. In terms of style, the reverses are quite uniform, and it would come as no surprise if all had been cut by one artist.

We observe different postures and viewing angles for the heifer on the reverse. Usually it walks slowly to the left or to the right with its head lowered, but in this case it stands at a full stop with its head raised. Since the heifer's posture resembles that found on the aurei and the relatively plentiful denarii of this type often attributed to Samos or Pergamum (see RIC 475), some catalogers have linked the two issues. However, the stylistic treatment is vastly different, and it is best to include this coin in the finest-style group of RIC 536-538, attributed to an uncertain mint in the East.

The heifer is generally believed to represent a group of bronze statues cast in the fifth century B.C. After his victory at Actium, Augustus requisitioned from Athens four massive statues of cattle that had been created by the sculptor Myron. They were monumental prizes of great antiquity, but the Greeks could do little to object, and Augustus used them to adorn an altar in his Temple of Apollo on the Palatine. Interestingly, a cow that must also represent these sculptures appears on coins of Vespasian struck in 74 and 76, and since that emperor used Myron's cows to decorate his new Temple of Pax, completed in 74, we find a good explanation for the recycling of this attractive Augustan type

In the name of Agrippa



38

- 38 As after 37 AD, Æ 10.26 g. M AGRIPPA L – F COS III Head l., wearing rostral crown. Rev. S – C Neptune, cloaked, standing l. holding small dolphin and trident. RIC Gaius 58. BMC Tiberius 161. C 3. CBN Gaius 78. Dark tone gently smoothed and extremely fine 1'000

Tiberius, 14 – 37 AD



39

- 39 Aureus, Lugdunum 14-16, AV 7.79 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – [AVG F AVGVST]TVS Laureate head of Tiberius r. Rev. DIVOS AVGVST – DIVI F Laureate head of Augustus r., six-pointed star above. Giard 118. RIC 24. BMC 29. C 3. CBN 1. Calicó 311.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Two magnificent portrait of superb style, obverse slightly off-centre, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

18'000

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



40

- 40 Aureus, Lugdunum 14-37, AV 7.74 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVF F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF MAXIM Pax-Livia figure seated r. on chair with ornamented legs, holding long vertical sceptre and branch. RIC 29. BMC 46. C 15. CBN 27. Calicó 305. About extremely fine 6'000

Ex NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 21.



41

- 41 Denarius, Lugdunum 14-37, AR 3.76 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – MAXIM Pax-Livia figure seated r., holding sceptre in r. hand and branch in l. RIC 30. BMC 48. C 16. CBN 34. Lightly toned and good extremely fine 1'500

In the name of Antonia, wife of Nero Claudius Drusus and mother of Claudius



42

- 42 Aureus 41-45, AV 7.71 g. ANTONIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., wearing crown of corn-ears. Rev. SACERDOS – DIVI – AVGVSTI Two long torches alighted and linked by ribbon. RIC Claudius 67. BMC Claudius 112. C 4. CBN Claudius 15. Calicó 319b. Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Minor marks, otherwise extremely fine 25'000

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



43

- 43 Denarius 41-45, AR 3.85 g. ANTONIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., wearing barley-wreath. Rev. CONSTANTIAE – AVGVSTI Antonia as Constantia standing facing, holding long torch and cornucopiae. RIC Claudius 66. BMC Claudius 111. C 2. CBN Claudius 14. Rare and in good condition for the issue. Nicely toned and about extremely fine 6'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 426.

In the name of Germanicus, father of Gaius



44

- 44 Dupondius 37-41, Æ 17.37 g. GERMANICVS / CAESAR Germanicus, bare-headed and cloaked, standing in ornate quadriga r., holding eagle-tipped sceptre. Rev. SIGNIS – RECEPT / DEVICTIS – GERM / S – C Germanicus, bare-headed and cuirassed, standing l., holding eagle-tipped sceptre in l. hand and raising r. RIC Gaius 57. BMC Gaius 93. C 7. CBN Gaius 140.

Brown-green patina and extremely fine

1'500

Gaius 37 – 41



45

- 45 Denarius, Lugdunum 37-38, AR 3.75 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM PM 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 bold portraits well struck in high relief. Nicely toned, two minor test-cuts on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine

7'000

Ex Egger LXIII, 1913, E. Herzfelder, 397; Glendining 1969, F. Baldwin, 37; and Leu 71, 1997, 299 sales.



46

- 46 Aureus 37-38, AV 7.76 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM PM TR POT Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. AGRIPPINA MAT C CAES AVG GERM Draped bust of Agrippina r. RIC 13. BMC 14. C 1. CBN 22. Kent-Hirmer pl. 48, 166. Calicó 326.

Extremely rare. Two appealing portraits well centred on a full flan. Minor edge mark at three o'clock on obverse, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine

25'000

Ex Stack's sale 3 December 1996, Michel F. Price, 119.

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.



47

- 47 As circa 37-38, Æ 12.06 g. C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT Bare head l. Rev. VESTA / S – C Vesta, diademed and veiled, seated l. on ornamental throne, holding patera and long transverse sceptre. RIC 38. BMC 47. C 27. CBN 54. Green patina and extremely fine 2'500

Claudius, 41 – 54



48

- 48 Aureus 41-42, AV 7.78g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR P Laureate head r. Rev. CONSTANTIAE AVGVSTAE Ceres seated l. on curule chair, raising r. hand. RIC 13. BMC 11. C 5. CBN 28. Calicó 338 (this coin).

Rare. A bold portrait well struck in high relief, almost invisible marks, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

25'000

Ex Stacks' sale 3 December 1996, Michel F. Price, 124.



49

- 49 Denarius 50-54, AR 3.51 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. Two lovely portraits struck on a broad flan, extremely fine 5'500



50



50

- 50 Sestertius 50-54, Æ 30.03 g. TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP P P Laureate head r. Rev. SPES – AVGVSTA Spes, draped, advancing l., holding flower in upraised r. hand and raising skirt with l.; in exergue, S C. RIC 115. BMC 192. C 85. CBN 216.

A very pleasant portrait and a finely detailed reverse die. Lovely green patina, nick on edge at twelve o'clock on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

4'500

Nero augustus, 54 – 68



51



51

- 51 Sestertius, Lugdunum circa 65, Æ 25.36 g. NERO CLAVD CAESAR AVG GER P M TR P IMP P P Laureate head l., with globe at point of neck. Rev. ANNONA – AVGVSTI – CERES Ceres, veiled and draped, seated l., holding corn-ears and torch, her feet on stool, facing Annona standing r., r. hand resting on hip and l. holding cornucopiae; between them, modius on garlanded altar. In the background, ship's stern. RIC 431. BMC 307. C 15. CBN 78.

Well-centred on a full flan and with an appealing green patina, extremely fine

4'000



52



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

Reddish Boscoreale tone. Several scratches in fields, otherwise extremely fine

4'000

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



- 53 Denarius, Carthago (?) April-October (?) 68, AR 3.46 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. Kent-Hirmer pl. 59, 206. Hewitt 62-71 (?).

Extremely rare. A nice portrait unusually well-centred and complete, surface somewhat porous, otherwise about extremely fine

45'000

Possibly from the Tunis Hoard.

Galba, 68 – 69



- 54 Aureus July 68-January 69, AV 7.34 g. IMP SER GALBA CAESAR AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. HISPANIA Hispania advancing l., holding poppy and corn-ears in r. hand and round shield and two transverse spears in l. RIC 192 (this coin). BMC p. 311 note (this coin). C –. CBN –. Calicó 480a (this coin).

An apparently unique variety of an extremely rare type. A strong portrait and a magnificent reddish Boscoreale tone. Brilliant extremely fine

90'000

Ex Sotheby's 10 November 1972, Metropolitan Museum of Art part I, 42 and Triton IV, 2000, 480 sales. From the Boscoreale hoard.

The uprising of Vindex in Gaul that sparked the civil war of 68 to 69 was important, but doomed to failure; the soldiers he had gathered were no match for the legions being sent from Germany to confront them. Even that did not prevent Galba from offering his support to Vindex, after which he was hailed imperator at Carthago Nova on April 2, 68. Soon enough he learned of Vindex's defeat and left Hispania Tarraconensis to lead his legions on the long march to Rome. Fortunately for Galba, no battle was necessary since Nero committed suicide while he and his soldiers were still en route, and the capital lay open to receive him as emperor when he arrived.

Nero's death represented the end of the Julio-Claudian dynasty and Galba took the helm at a critical moment, for he was not only the first emperor who was not a member of the ruling house, but his revolt had shown the senate that emperors easily could be made in the provinces – a lesson that would be learned time and again during the next few centuries. Certainly one of Galba's most elegant coin types, this aureus celebrates Spain, the land he had governed at the time of his insurrection against Nero. Hispania, the personification of Spain, is here shown as a woman of dual virtue: fertility of the land, and prowess in war. In some later representations she is accompanied by a rabbit – a symbol of the region. Both Stabo and Pliny wrote that rabbits were so plentiful in Spain that occasionally entire towns had to be moved because their communities were overrun and, on at least one occasion, a city's foundation had been dangerously undermined by burrows.



55

- 55 Denarius July 69-January 69, AR 3.58 g. [IMP SER] GALBA – CAESAR AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. SALVS GEN – HVMANI Draped female figure standing l., r. foot on globe, sacrificing from patera over lighted altar and holding vertical rudder. RIC 214. BMC 43. C 236. CBN 95.
Lightly toned. Slightly off-centre, otherwise extremely fine 3'500

Otho, January 15th – mid April 69



56



- 56 Aureus January 15th-March 8th 69, AV 7.35 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. VICTORIA OTHONIS Victory, draped, alighting l., holding wreath and palm branch over l. shoulder. RIC 15. BMC 23. C 23. CBN 20 (these dies). Calicó 535.
Extremely rare. Several marks on edge, otherwise about extremely fine 40'000

If Galba's rise to power was a shocking novelty because he was the first emperor to be hailed by legions outside of Rome, the stakes were raised by his successor Otho, who was the first emperor to openly attain his office through the murder of his predecessor.

Galba's last moments were filled with terror, and, as Suetonius (*Galba*, 20) reports, his corpse was callously defiled: "Galba was murdered beside the Curian pool, and left lying just as he fell. A private soldier returning from the grain issue set down his load and decapitated Galba's body. He could not carry the head by the hair – for there was none – but stuffed it in his cloak; and presently brought it to Otho with his thumb thrust into the mouth. Otho handed the trophy to a crowd of servants and camp-boys, who stuck it on a spear and carried it scornfully round the camp..." Such was the environment in which Otho took control – a disturbing state of affairs that seemed like it could not persist, yet would get worse for the next eleven months until soldiers loyal to Vespasian entered Rome on December 20, 69 and restored some semblance of order.

Otho's coinage is unique among his contemporaries, for he struck only at the mint in Rome, produced no imperial bronzes, nor any reverse types of direct historical value. The other emperors of the civil war – Galba, Vitellius and Vespasian – all had a variety of interesting reverse types, struck a full range of imperial bronzes, and produced many of their imperial coins at mints in the provinces. With this in mind we can see how this superb aureus distinguishes itself from the mass of Otho's coinage: not only does it have an unusually sensitive and dignified portrait, but it employs his only interesting reverse type, with which he attempts to curry optimism among his soldiers despite the long odds they faced in the upcoming contest with Vitellius.



57



57

- 57 Denarius January 15th-March 8th 69, AR 3.44 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. SEC – VRI – TAS P R Securitas standing l., holding wreath in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 8. BMC 18. C 17. CBN 10.
A very appealing portrait and an old cabinet tone, extremely fine 5'000

Ex Tkalec sale 1991, 262.

Vitellius, January – December 69



- 58 Aureus April-December 69, AV 7.30 g. A VITELLIVS GERM IMP AVG TR P Laureate head r. Rev. L VITELLIVS COS III CENSOR Lucius Vitellius, togate, seated l. on curule chair, feet on stool, holding eagle-tipped sceptre in l. hand and extending r. RIC 94. BMC 23. C 54 var. (holding branch in r. hand). CBN 54. Calicó 570a (this coin). Very rare. A metal flaw on obverse behind head, otherwise extremely fine 60'000

Ex Triton IV, 2000, 491 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 44 sales.

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

Vespasian, 69 – 79



- 59 Sestertertius 71, Æ 22.95 g. IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M TR P P P COS III Laureate head r. Rev. IVDAEA – CAPTA Jewess seated l. on cuirass under palm-tree in attitude of mourning; at her l., two shield. Behind palm, Jew standing l., hands tied behind his back; in field r., pile of arms. In exergue, S C. RIC 426. BMC 542 var. C 238. CBN 494.

Rare. Green patina heavily tooled on obverse and untouched on reverse, otherwise good very fine / good extremely fine

15'000



60

- 60 Sestertius, Roma 71, Æ 23.49 g. IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M TR P P P COS III Laureate head r. Rev. IVDAEA – CAPTA Jewess seated r. on cuirass under palm-tree in attitude of mourning. Behind, palm-tree, Emperor standing r. with l. foot on helmet, holding spear and *parazonium*; in exergue, S C. RIC 427. BMC 543. C 239. CBN 498.

Very rare and among the finest specimens known. A portrait of great beauty and strength and an exceptionally clear and detailed reverse composition. Dark green patina gently smoothed, good extremely fine

25'000

Vespasian's greatest military triumph was the war he and his son Titus waged in Judaea at the end of Nero's reign. The campaign was so difficult that the Flavians celebrated its conclusion with triumphal processions, games, a triumphal arch and an uncommonly extensive series of coins. This sestertius is one of the most remarkable examples to have survived, with even the smallest details perfectly preserved. Most impressive is the miniature portrait of Vespasian on the reverse, the engraving of which would have tested the skills of even the most gifted artist.

With dual sympathies the chronicler Josephus wrote an in-depth narrative of the Roman campaign in Judaea. We are told of great suffering by both Jews and Romans, though in the final analysis the Jews bore the lion's share of the consequences. The Roman dead numbered in the tens of thousands, and Josephus counts the number of Jewish dead in the millions, with most having succumbed to famine or pestilence.

Josephus describes what the Romans encountered when they breached the walls of Jerusalem and began to search the subterranean portion of the city: "So horrible was the stench from the bodies which met the intruders, that many instantly withdrew, but others penetrated further through avarice, trampling over heaps of corpses; for many precious objects were found in these passagesÉ"

In the aftermath, Josephus reports that the Romans "Éselected the tallest and most handsome of the youth and reserved each of them for the triumph; of the rest, those over seventeen years of age he sent in chains to the mines in Egypt, while multitudes were presented to Titus to the various provinces, to be destroyed in the theatres by the sword or by wild beasts; those under seventeen were sold."



61

- 61 Aureus, Antiochia 72–73, AV 7.58 g. IMP CAES VESP AVG P M Laureate head of Vespasian r. Rev. IMP CAES VESP AVG P TRI P COS II Bare head of Titus r. RIC 359. BMC p. 105, * and pl. 18, 11 (these dies). C 1. CBN 316 and pl. XXXVII (these dies). RPC II 1918 (these dies). Calicó 709 (this coin).

Extremely rare. Absolutely minor surface mark in reverse field at three o'clock, otherwise extremely fine / about extremely fine

12'000

Ex NAC sale 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 47.



- 62 Aureus 74, AV 7.33 g. IMP CAESAR – VESP AVG Laureate head r. Rev. FORTVNA – AVGVST
Fortuna standing l. on garlanded altar decorated with ram's heads, holding rudder in r. hand and cornucopiae
in l. RIC 81. BMC 145. C 174. CBN 117. Calicó 632. Extremely fine 10'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 475.

Diva Domitilla, wife of Vespasian



- 63 Denarius 82-83, AR 3.53 g. DIVA DOMITILLA AVGVSTA Draped bust r., hair in long plait at back.
Rev. FORTVNA – AVGVST Fortuna standing l., holding rudder and cornucopiae. RIC Titus 71. BMC
Titus 137. C 3. CBN Titus 102.

Very rare and probably the finest specimen known. A wonderful portrait well struck on
sound metal, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 30'000

Coinage in the name of Domitilla has long been a source of confusion, for the denarii and aurei bear portraits with the designation DIVA, and the sestertii, which are dated to the sole reign of Titus, have no portrait and no indication that the lady they honor was deified. The obvious conclusion is that they are separate coinages that presumably honor different women. Fortunately two candidates are known, Vespasian's wife Flavia Domitilla and their daughter, who bore the same name.

Both women died before Vespasian became emperor in 69, an appropriate circumstance for the memorial in nature of these coinages. Titus' sestertii for his mother, the elder Domitilla, are inscribed MEMORIAE DOMITILLAE SPQR and show a *carpentum* drawn by mules. Metrological study by Carradice has shown that the aurei and denarii of the deified Domitilla were struck by Domitian sometime after his monetary reform of 82. This conclusion is reinforced by their portraits, which incorporate the features of Domitian (as can clearly be observed on the coin offered here).

Despite having died before her family came to rule the empire, the younger Domitilla had at least one daughter who, rather inconveniently, bore the same name as her mother and grandmother, and who is thus called Domitilla III. This young woman eventually married Flavius Clemens, a grandson of Vespasian's brother Flavius Sabinus. The royal couple had several children of their own, though coins were struck for only one of them, the unfortunate Vespasian Junior, who eventually was murdered by Domitian

Titus caesar, 69 – 79



- 64 Denarius, Antiochia 72-73 (?), AR 3.36 g. T CAES IMP VESP PON TR POT Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. Jewess seated r. on ground under palm-tree in attitude of mourning; behind, Titus standing r., l. foot on globe, holding sceptre and *parazonium*. RIC Vespasian 367. BMC Vespasian 518. C 392. CBN Vespasian 322. Very rare and in superb condition for the issue. Extremely fine 2'000



- 65 Aureus 78-79, AV 7.43 g. T CAESAR – VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. ANNONA – AVG Annona seated l., holding bundle and ear of corns in both hands. RIC Vespasian 218. BMC Vespasian 316. C 16. CBN Vespasian 279. Calicó 726a. Extremely fine 8'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1378.

Julia Titi, daughter of Titus



- 66 Denarius 80-81, AR 3.52 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 Titus104. About extremely fine 2'500

Domitian caesar, 69 – 81



- 67 Denarius 79, AR 3.38 g. CAESAR AVG F DOMITIANVS COS VI Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCEPS – IVVENTVTIS Salus standing r. leaning on column and nourishing serpent out of patera held in l. hand. RIC Vespasian 243. BMC Vespasian 265. C 384. CBN Vespasian 237. Struck on a very broad flan and good extremely fine 1'200

Domitian augustus, 81 – 96



68

- 68 Dupondius or as 85, Æ 13.86 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM COS XI CENS PER P P Laureate bust r. with aegis. Rev. VICTORIAE – AVGVSTI Victory standing l. inscribing shield set on trophy and holding palm; in centre field, S – C. RIC 305 (misdescribed). BMC 367. C 642. CBN 389.

A very attractive portrait and a lovely untouched light green patina, good extremely fine

2'500



69

- 69 Aureus 88-89, AV 7.60 g. DOMITIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. GERMANICVS COS XIII Germania seated r. on shield, in attitude of mourning; below, broken spear. RIC 127. BMC 143. C 148. CBN 133. Kent-Hirmer 243 (these dies). Calicó 838.

A light scratch on neck, otherwise good extremely fine

12'000

Ex NFA XX, 1988, 168 and Sotheby's 8 July 1996, 168 sales.

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



- 70 Denarius circa 81-84, AR 3.58 g. DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DOMIT Bust draped r., with hair in long tail, domed on top. Rev. DIVVS CAESAR IMP DOMITIANI F Infant seated on globe, raising both hands; around him, seven stars. RIC Domitian 213. BMC Domitian 63. C 11. CBN Domitian 71. Carradice, Essays Carson-Jenkins, pl. XXIX, 10. Very rare and among the finest specimens known.
A superb portrait and an old cabinet tone, good extremely fine 20'000

Ex Sotheby's 1983, Brandt part III, 302; Sotheby's 5 July 1995, 113 sales and privately purchased from Jacob Hirsch in 1920.

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

Nerva, 96 – 98



- 71 Denarius 97, AR 3.40 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG – P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. FORTVNA – AVGVST Fortuna standing l., holding rudder and cornucopiae. RIC 16. BMC 37. C 66. CBN 25. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 800

Trajan, 98 – 117



- 72 Aureus 107, AV 7.29 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Trajan galloping r. and trusting spear at fallen Dacian in front of horse. RIC 208. BMC 246 var. C 501. Calicó 1107a (this coin).
About extremely fine 7'500

Ex Mario Ratto 19.1.1956, 121 and Leu 75, 1999, 1505.

Matidia, daughter of Marciana



73

- 73 Aureus 112, AV 7.08 g. MATIDIA AVG DIVAE – MARCIANAE F Draped bust r., hair elaborately dressed, above which crescent-shaped diadem. Rev. PIETAS AVGVST Matidia, as Pietas, standing facing, head to l., placing hands over Sabina and Matidia at either side. RIC Trajan 759. BMC Trajan 659. C 9. Calicó 1157. Kent-Hirmer pl. 78, 274. Extremely rare. Good very fine / very fine 10'000

Plotina, wife of Trajan



74

- 74 Denarius circa 112-115, AR 3.14 g. PLOTINA AVG – IMP HADRIANI Draped bust r., wearing double metal *stephane*. Rev. CAES AVG GERMA DAC COS VI P P Altar on face of which figure of Pudicitia standing on curule chair; in exergue, ARA PVDIC. RIC Trajan 733. BMC Trajan 529. C 7. Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for this issue. An attractive portrait struck in high relief, old cabinet tone and extremely fine 10'000



75

- 75 Aureus 117-118, AV 7.42 g. PLOTIN – AE AVG Draped bust of Plotina r., wearing double metal *stephane*. Rev. MATIDI – AE AVG Diademed and draped bust of Matidia r. RIC Hadrian 34. BMC Hadrian 53 and pl. 47, 15 (these dies). C 1. Vagi 1321. Calicó 1150.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. Two extraordinary portraits perfectly struck in high relief. Extremely fine

80'000

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

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

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

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

Hadrian augustus, 117 – 138



- 76 Sestertius 119, Æ 25.86 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIANVS – HADRIANVS AVG Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. PONT MAX TR POT – COS III S – C Hadrian seated l. on platform, extending r. hand to woman standing r., holding child on l. arm and placing r. on head of a second child at her r. side; in exergue, LIBERTAS RES / TITVTA. RIC 568. BMC 1160. C 949.
An appealing portrait and a pleasant brown-green patina somewhat broken on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 5'000



- 77 Sestertius 119-121/2, Æ 27.78 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIANVS HADRIANVS AVG P M TR P COS III Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. PIETAS – AVGVSTI S – C Pietas, veiled, standing l., raising r. hand and holding small vase of incense in l.; at her feet, lighted altar. RIC 587 var. BMC 1198 note. C 1040 var.
A fantastic portrait and magnificent untouched light green patina, extremely fine 9'000



78



78

- 78 Aureus 128, AV 7.16 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. COS She-wolf r., suckling twins; in exergue, III. RIC 192. BMC 444. C 420. Calicó 1231.
Traces of mounting, otherwise about extremely fine 4'000

Ex Mario Ratto 26-29 June 1955, Giorgi, 589; Hess-Leu 36, 1968, 479 and NAC-CNG 40, 1996, 1487 sales. From Myron Stepath collection.



79



- 79 Aureus 136, AV 7.37 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. RESTITVTORI – ACHAIAE Hadrian, togate, standing r., holding roll in l. hand and extending r. to raise up kneeling figure of Achaia in front of him; between them, palm in vase. RIC 321c. BMC 868. C 1214. Calicó 1345. Very rare. A magnificent portrait of high style. Almost invisible mark on reverse,
otherwise extremely fine 25'000

Ex NAC 18, 2000, 525.

If any emperor could claim to be the 'restorer of Greece' it was Hadrian, whose love of the Greeks earned him the nickname "the Greekling" (*Graeculus*). His infatuation with Greek culture predated his reign: his first documented visit to Greece was in 111-112, during which he was made an honorary citizen of Athens and was elected *archon eponymus*. This was the most important magistracy in Athens, and that year in Athenian history took the name of the 36-year-old future emperor. The Athenians knew of Hadrian's importance, and their gestures paid off well, for when he became emperor Hadrian lavished Greece – particularly Athens – as would no other emperor in the history of Rome.

While emperor Hadrian visited Athens at least three times: 124, 128/9 and 131/2. Without question it was his favorite destination, and had he not been afflicted by a general wanderlust and a sense of duty, Hadrian might have spent the whole of his reign in the shadow of the Parthenon. This spectacular aureus is part of the 'travel series' issued by Hadrian, and it does not require too much imagination to believe this coin pleased him the most: an aureus in honor of the Greeks.

Hadrian paid for many capital improvements in Greece – new temples, statues and monuments were erected, and dilapidated ones were restored. He also sponsored games and festivals, launched the cult of Antinoös, and established a league of Greek states, the council of the Panhellenion. This latter innovation was a focus of intense competition among Greek cities, which worked hard to demonstrate the authenticity of their Greek heritage and their record of friendship with Rome.

During his last visit to Athens Hadrian attended a revitalization of the mysteries of Eleusis and presided at the consecration of the newly completed temple of Olympian Zeus. It is believed that the council of the Panhellenion was inaugurated at this time, and that its first *archon* was installed, perhaps with the title 'high priest of Hadrian Panhellenios'. Plans were made for the *Hadriania*, a festival associated with the council and its member-cities that was to be held in Athens every four years. Hadrian went further still by assuring Athens had major festivities every year, including the rotating events of the festival of the Dionysia, the *Panhellenia*, new Olympic games, new Panathenaic games, and the *Hadriania*, which began near the end of his life or soon after he died.

Hadrian understood the cultural and political importance of games to the Greeks, and the design of this aureus clearly reflects that by the inclusion of the agonistic urn with a palm branch – a symbol of Greek games. It may specifically relate to Hadrian's most distinctive contribution, the council of the Panhellenion, as it seems likely that games were held at the council's inauguration during Hadrian's visit of 131/2.

Sabina, wife of Hadrian



- 82 Aureus 126-137, AV 7.19 g. SABINA – AVGVSTA Diademed and draped bust r., hair in long plait behind neck. Rev. IVNONI – REGINAE Juno standing l., holding patera and long sceptre; at her feet l., peacock looking backwards. RIC Hadrian 394. BMC Hadrian 937 (these dies). C 46. Calicó 1435.

A superb portrait well-struck in high relief and good extremely fine 25'000

Ex Sternberg 15, 1987, 639 and NAC 4, 1991, 366 sales.

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



- 83 Denarius 126-137, AR 3.54 g. SABINA AVGVSTA – HADRIANI AVG P P Draped bust r. Rev. PVDI – CITIA Pudicitia, veiled, standing l., raising veil with r. hand. RIC Hadrian 407. BMC Hadrian 911. C 62.

About extremely fine 750

Antoninus Pius, 138 – 161



- 84 Denarius 140-143, AR 3.23 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P COS III Laureate head r. Rev. ITA – LIA Italia, seated l. on globe, holding cornucopiae and sceptre. RIC 73c. BMC 214. C 463.

About extremely fine 350



85

- 85 Aureus 143, AV 7.30 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P COS III Bare head r. Rev. IMPERA – T – OR II Victory advancing r., holding trophy in both hands. RIC 109b. BMC –, 492 note. C 428. Calicó 1547. Rare. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 12'000

Ex Leu 10, 1974, 164; Leu 30, 1982, 375 and Leu 75, 1999, 1518 sales.



86

- 86 Aureus 146, AV 7.27 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P COS IIII Laureate head r. Rev. Roma seated l., holding *palladium* and spear; at side, shield. RIC 159c. BMC 590. C 1149. Calicó 1455. Minor scuff above the ear on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine 4'500

Ex Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge 13 July 1908, Osborne O'Hagan, 383; Sotheby's 10 November 1972, Metropolitan Museum, 310 and Triton IV, 2000, 554 sales.



87

- 87 Denarius 148, AR 3.00 g. ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P XI Laureate head r. Rev. C – OS – IIII Annona standing l., holding corn-ears over *modius* and anchor. RIC 162. BMC 621. C 283. Hairline flan-crack at four o'clock on obverse, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc 250



88

- 88 Aureus 151, AV 7.26 g. IMP CAES T AEL HADR – ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P Laureate head r. Rev. TR POT XIII – COS IIII Pax standing l., holding branch and sceptre; in exergue, PAX. RIC 200c. BMC 728. C 581 (misdescribed). Calicó 1590. Good extremely fine 8'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 556.



89

- 89 Aureus 152, AV 7.22 g. IMP CAES T AEL HADR AN-TONINVS AVG PIVS P P Laureate head r. Rev. TR POT XV COS IIII Antoninus on horseback l., raising r. hand and holding *parazonium*. RIC 214. BMC 744. C 965 var. (COS III). Calicó 1665.

Rare and a very interesting reverse type. Good extremely fine

12'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 557.



90

- 90 Aureus 153, AV 7.33 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P XVI Laureate head r. Rev. CO – S – IIII Antoninus standing l., holding globe; l. arm at side. RIC 226c. BMC 796. C 309. Calicó 1521.

An almost invisible nick at six o'clock on obverse edge, otherwise good extremely fine

6'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 540.

Faustina I, wife of Antoninus Pius



91

- 91 Aureus after 141, AV 7.32 g. DIVA – FAVSTINA Draped, diademed and veiled bust l. Rev. AETER – NITAS Fortuna standing l., holding patera and rudder. RIC A. Pius 349 var. (head r.). BMC A. Pius 372 var. (head r.). C 414 var. (head r.). Calicó 1745a (this coin).

An extremely rare variety and a very elegant portrait. Minor marks, otherwise good extremely fine

8'000

Ex Baldwin sale 11 November 1995, 575.



92

- 92 Aureus after 141, AV 7.16 g. DIVA AVG – FAVSTINA Draped bust r., hair waved and coiled on top of head. Rev. PIET – AS AVG Pietas, veiled, standing l., dropping incense on altar and holding box. RIC A. Pius 394a. BMC A. Pius 310. C 233. Calicó 1799.

Good extremely fine

7'500



93

- 93 Denarius after 141, AR 3.59 g. DIVA FAV – STINA Draped bust r., hair waved and coiled on top of head. Rev. AVGV – STA Vesta standing l., holding *simpulum* and *palladium*. RIC A. Pius 368. BMC A. Pius 436. C 108. Extremely fine 250

Marcus Aurelius caesar, 139 – 161



94

- 94 Aureus 145, AV 7.31 g. AVRELIVS CAE – SAR AVG PII F COS II Bare head r. Rev. HILA – RI – TAS Hilaritas standing l., holding long palm and cornucopiae. RIC A. Pius 432. BMC A. Pius 606. C 233. Calicó 1860. Good extremely fine 10'000

Ex Sotheby's 14 October 1999, 100.



95

- 95 Aureus 145-147, AV 7.21 g. AVRELIVS CAE – SAR AVG PII F Bare-headed and draped bust l. Rev. TR POT – COS II Minerva standing r., holding spear and resting l. hand on shield. RIC A. Pius 435b. BMC A. Pius 614. C 595. Calicó 1924 (this coin). Biaggi 871 (this coin). Extremely fine 9'000

Ex NFA XXX, 1992, 915 and Triton II, 1998, 915 sales.



96

- 96 Aureus 149, AV 7.29 g. M AVRELIVS CAE – SAR AVG PII F Bare head r. Rev. TR POT III COS II Clementia standing front, head l., holding patera and raising ham of skirt with l. hand; in exergue, CLEM. RIC –, cf. A. Pius 448d (denarius). BMC A. Pius –, cf. 703 (denarius). C –, cf. 16 (denarius). Calicó 1814a (this coin). Well-struck in high relief and extremely fine 7'500

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 573.

Marcus Aurelius augustus, 161 – 177



97



- 97 Aureus 161, AV 7.26 g. IMP CAES M AVREL ANTONINVS AVG Bare-headed and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCORDIAE AVGVSTOR TR P XV M. Aurelius and L. Verus standing facing each other with clasped hands; the one on l. holds roll. In exergue, COS III. RIC 9. BMC 7 note. C 71. Calicó 1823. Perfectly struck and centred in high relief, Fdc 18'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 576.



98



- 98 Aureus 161, AV 7.29 g. IMP CAES M AVREL ANTONINVS AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PROV DEOR TR XV COS III Providentia standing l., holding globe and *cornucopiae*. RIC 20 var. (laureate). BMC 13 note. C 509 var. (laureate). Calicó 1905 (this coin, misdescribed). Biaggi 864 (this coin). Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 12'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 548.



99



- 99 Aureus 175, AV 7.21 g. M ANTONINVS AVG GERM TR P XXIX Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERAL AVG VI IMP VII COS III Liberalitas standing l., holding *abacus* and *cornucopiae*. RIC 319. BMC 620. C 416. Calicó 1881. Virtually as struck an almost Fdc 10'000

Ex NAC sale 15, 1999, 377.



- 100 Aureus 178, AV 7.30 g. M AVREL ANTO – NINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P XXXII IMP – VIII COS III P P Annona standing l., holding two corn-ears and cornucopiae; on l., *modius* and on r., ship. RIC 389. BMC 771. C 957 var. Calicó 2019.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

12'000

Ex Triton II, 1998, 917.

Faustina II, daughter of Antoninus Pius and wife of Marcus Aurelius

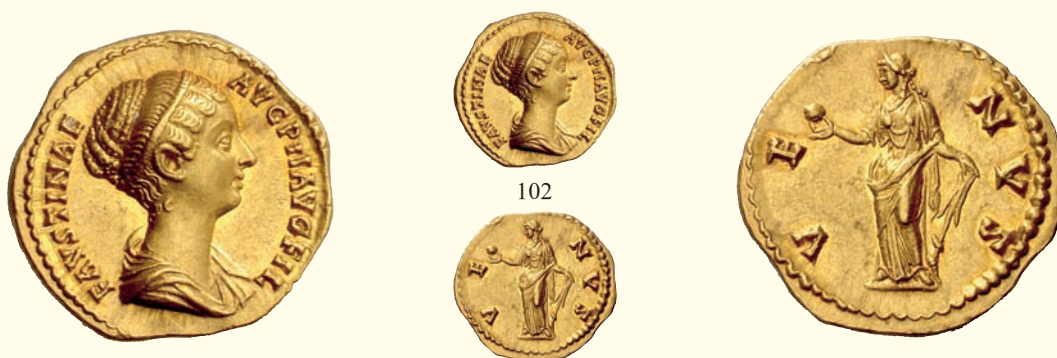


- 101 Aureus 147-152, AV 7.50 g. FAVSTINAE AVG – PII AVG FIL Draped bust r., with band of pearls round head. Rev. VENERIGE – NETRICI Venus standing l., holding sceptre in l. hand and extending r. RIC –. BMC A. Pius 1057 note. C –. Calicó 2079. Kent-Hirmer pl. 94, 237 (these dies).

A delicate portrait very elegantly engraved. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

14'000

Ex Stack's sale 3 December 1996, Michel F. Price, 202.



- 102 Aureus 147-152, AV 7.43 g. FAVSTINAE – AVG PII AVG FIL Draped bust r., with band of pearls round head. Rev. VE – NVS Venus standing l., holding apple in r. hand and rudder in l. RIC A. Pius 515a. BMC A. Pius 1063. C 260. Calicó 2094. A magnificent portrait of high style. Good extremely fine

12'000

Ex Triton sale III, 1999, 1097.



103

- 103 Aureus 147-152, AV 7.22 g. FAVSTINAE AVG – PII AVG FIL Draped bust r., with band of pearls round head. Rev. LAETITIAE – PVBLICAE Laetitia standing l., holding wreath and sceptre. RIC A. Pius 506b. BMC A. Pius 1046. C 155. Calicó 2067 (this coin). Kent-Hirmer pl. 94, 226.

Minor marks, otherwise extremely fine

7'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 582.

Lucius Verus, 161 – 169



104

- 104 Sestertius 161, Æ 26.08 g. IMP CAES L AVREL – VERVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. CONCORD AVGVSTOR TR P COS II S – C M. Aurelius and L. Verus clasping hands; M. Aurelius holds a scroll. RIC 1285 var. BMC 1023 var. C 29 var.

A splendid portrait and a finely engraved reverse composition. A superb untouched green patina with two light scratches on obverse on the ear and on reverse field, otherwise extremely fine

5'000



105

- 105 Aureus 164, AV 7.28 g. L VERVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Bare head 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 522. BMC M. Aurelius 294. C 248. Calicó 2174.

Good extremely fine

10'000

Ex Triton II, 1998, 922.



- 106 Aureus 164, 7.30 g. L VERVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Bare head r. Rev. TR P III – IMP II COS II Verus seated l. on platform; behind and before him, respectively officer and soldier. Below platform, king Soahemus standing l. and raising r. hand to his head. In exergue, REX ARMEN / DAT. RIC M. Aurelius 512. BMC M. Aurelius 300 (these dies). C 158. Calicó 2154 (these dies). Kent-Hirmer pl. 98, 342 (these dies).
 A hairline mark at nine o'clock on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine 16'000

Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus



- 107 Aureus 164–169, AV 7.35 g. LVCILLAE AVG ANTONINI AVG F Draped bust r., hair caught up in double chignon. Rev. V – E – NVS Venus standing l., holding apple in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC M. Aurelius 783. BMC M. Aurelius 320. C 69. Calicó 2218 (this obverse die).
 Well-struck in high relief and virtually as struck and almost Fdc 12'000

Commodus augustus, 177 – 192



- 108 Aureus 178, AV 7.23 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P III IM – P II COS P P Castor standing l., holding horse by bridle in r. hand and spear in l. hand. RIC M. Aurelius 648. BMC M. Aurelius 774. C 760. Calicó 2337a (these dies).
 Virtually as struck and Fdc 15'000

Ex CNG 36, 1995, 2414.



- 109 Aureus 180, AV 7.34 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. TR P V IMP III COS II P P Victory seated l., holding patera in r. hand and branch in l. RIC 8b. BMC M. Aurelius 814 and p. 691. C 788. Calicó 2343 (this coin).
 Extremely fine 10'000

Ex Triton sale IV, 2000, 589.

Pertinax, January 1st – March 28th 193



- 110 Aureus January 1st – March 28th 193, AV 7.26 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTIN AVG Laureate head r. Rev. AEQVIT AVG TR P COS II Aequitas standing l., holding scales and cornucopiae. RIC 1a. BMC 14 (these dies). C 1. Woodward pl. 10, 2 (these dies). Calicó 2379a.

Rare. A fantastic portrait perfectly struck on a very broad flan, virtually as struck and Fdc 30'000

Ex NFA XXX, 1992, 268 and Triton I, 1997, 1511 sales.

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

Didius Julianus, March 28th – early June 193



- 111 Aureus May (?) – June 7th 193, AV 6.75 g. IMP CAES M DID SEVE – R IVLIAN AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR – P COS Fortuna standing l., holding rudder on globe and cornucopiae. RIC 6. BMC p. 12, *. C 11. Woodward 1/2B and pl. 6, 2. (these dies). Calicó 2397 (this coin). Biaggi 1049 (this coin).

Very rare and in excellent condition for the issue. A magnificent portrait of fine style struck in high relief, extremely fine 50'000

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

Septimius Severus, 193 – 211



112

- 112 Aureus 196-197, AV 7.27 g. L SEPT SEV PERT – AVG IMP VIII Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. P M TR P – IIII – CO – S II – P – P Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch. RIC 86 var. (no drapery). BMC 145 var. (no drapery). C 418 var. (no drapery). Calicó 2495.
An invisible nick on Victory's body, otherwise good extremely fine 8'000

Ex NAC 15, 1999, 391.



113

- 113 Aureus 200, AV 7.11 g. SEVERVS AVG – PART MAX Laureate bust r., with aegis or drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. PR – OFEC – T AVG – G FEL S. Severus on prancing horse r., holding spear in r. hand. RIC 165b or 165c. BMC p. 193, . C –. Calicó 2520 (this coin).
Very rare and an appealing reverse type. Extremely fine 12'000

Ex Triton sale II, 1998, 944.



114

- 114 Aureus 202-210, AV 7.38 g. SEVERVS – PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. INDVLGEN – TIA AVGG The Dea Caelestis riding r. on lion, holding drum in r. hand and scepter in l.; below, water gushing from rock. In exergue, IN CARTH. RIC 267b. BMC 333. C 217. Calicó 2462.
Very rare. Minor traces of edge filing and minor marks on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 10'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 592.



- 115 Aureus 202, AV 7.10 g. IMPP INVICTI PII AVGG Conjoined laureate, draped and cuirassed busts of S. Severus and Caracalla r. Rev. VICTORIA – PARTHICA MAXIMA Victory advancing l., holding palm in l. hand and wreath in r. RIC 311. BMC 265. C 8. Calicó 2597. Kent-Hirmer pl. 110, 82 (this obverse die).
Very rare. Two portraits of pleasant style struck on a full flan, good extremely fine 28'000

Ex Hess-Leu 4, 1963, 211 and Leu 54, 1992, 272 sales.

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

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

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



- 116 Denarius 206, AR 3.37 g. SEVERVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. P M TR P XIII The Capitoline Triad: Jupiter seated facing, holding thunderbolt and sceptre; between, Minerva on his l., and Juno on his r., both holding sceptre; in exergue, COS III P P. RIC -. C -. BMC -. Hill -.
Apparently unique and unpublished. A very interesting issue, extremely fine 4'500

On this rare and important denarius we see the Capitoline Triad – Jupiter, Juno and Minerva – in their canonical form as the sculptures housed within the Capitolium, the temple on the Capitoline Hill devoted to the sacred Triad. It was the most important religious center in the Roman world, and, on balance, it is surprising that the temple or its most familiar statues did not appear more frequently on Roman coins.

This piece is remarkable since the Triad usually was shown only on medallions, and even then only on rare occasions (notably under Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus). The Triad is here represented in its statuary form, and on other occasions it is represented by the three birds sacred to these gods: Jupiter's eagle, Juno's peacock and Minerva's owl. Vespasian restored the temple after its virtual destruction in the last days of the civil war, and he issued sestertii and cistophori that showed the facade of the temple with the three statues visible (though only Jupiter is seated).

The occasion for this issue by Severus in 206 is not immediately apparent. One possibility is that Severus made restorations to the Capitolium that are not recorded by our sources, for he is known to have made many capital improvements in Rome. It could also relate to the crisis of January, 205, when the prefect Plautianus – virtual co-emperor of Severus and the father-in-law of Caracalla – was savagely executed by Caracalla in the presence of his father. Perhaps this denarius reflects vows or sacrifices made by Severus for the health of the empire following this shocking event?

More likely, though, it reflects a general celebration to the mores of Roman culture and religion. By the age of the Severans the *gens* of the ruling family was closely associated with the Capitoline Triad, and at Severus' home town of Lepcis Magna we find some outstanding comparative evidence. A frieze from the Arch of the Severi at Lepcis depicts the Triad accompanied by Concordia; the facial features of Juno are a precise match for Julia Domna and though those of Jupiter do not survive, the diagnostic 'cork screw' beard of Severus remains, and we should not hesitate to presume the connection of Severus and Domna with Jupiter and Juno. Since the image on this denarius faithfully copies the images found on medallions of 2nd century emperors it may have a secondary function of reflecting the relationship Severus had fabricated between his own family and the Antonines.

Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus



- 117 Aureus 196-211, AV 7.44 g. IVLIA DO – MNA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. VENERI VICTR Venus standing r., leaning l. elbow on column, holding apple in r. hand and palm in l. RIC S. Severus 536. BMC 47. C 193. Calicó 2641.). Kent-Hirmer pl. 112, 381. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 10'000

Caracalla augustus, 196 – 217



- 118 Aureus 199, AV 7.25 g. ANTONINVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PONT – TR P II Securitas seated r. by altar, propping head on r. hand and holding sceptre. RIC 29. BMC p. 156, *. C 497. Calicó 2793 (this coin). A delicate young portrait, extremely fine 10'000

Ex Leu 45, 1988, 356 and Spink 13.4.2000, Dreesmann part I, 12 sales.



- 119 Denarius 201, AR 3.59 g. ANTONINVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. AETERNIT IMPERI Confronted busts of Septimius Severus on l., and Caracalla on r.; both laureate, draped and cuirassed. RIC 32b. BMC S. Severus p. 158 note. C 2.
Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. Struck on sound metal and good extremely fine 4'000



- 120 Aureus 209, AV 7.13 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – TR P XII – COS III Mars walking l., holding branch in r. hand and trophy in l. RIC 109a. BMC p. 358, * var. (laureate and bearded). C –. Calicó 2787 (this coin). Biaggi 1209 (this coin).
Rare. Good extremely fine / extremely fine 8'000

Ex Hirsch 8, 1903, 2599; Hess-Leu 41, 1969, 329 and NAC 23, 2002, 1609.



- 121 Aureus 217, AV 6.54 g. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P XX COS IIII P P Diana, with crescent on head and scarf flying behind her, in biga of bull l. RIC 284b. BMC –. C 394. Calicó 2769.
Very rare. A magnificent portrait and an interesting reverse composition.
Insignificant marks, otherwise good extremely fine 18'000

Plautilla, wife of Caracalla



- 122 Aureus 202-205, AV 7.40 g. PLAVTILLA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA – AVGG Concordia seated l., holding patera and double cornucopiae. RIC Caracalla 364. BMC Caracalla 417. C 4. Calicó 2867.
Very rare. A very pleasant portrait and about extremely fine 24'000

Severus Alexander, 222 – 235



- 123 Aureus 230, AV 5.84 g. IMP SEV ALE – XAND AVG Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. P M TR P VIII – CO – S III P P Romulus advancing r., holding spear and trophy. RIC 103. BMC 620. C –. Calicó 3121. Virtually as struck and Fdc 6'500

Ex Leu 75, 1999, 1575.



- 124 Aureus 230, AV 5.83 g. IMP SEV ALE – XAND AVG Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. P M TR P VIII – CO – S III P P Romulus advancing r., holding spear and trophy. RIC 103. BMC 620. C –. Calicó 3121. Virtually as struck and Fdc 6'500

Julia Mamaea, mother of Severus Alexander



- 125 Aureus 226, AV 6.35 g. IVLIA MA – MAEA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENVS GE – NETRIX Venus standing l., holding apple and sceptre; at foot l., Cupid standing r. extending both hands towards her. C 71. BMC Severus Alexander 354. RIC Severus Alexander 151. Calicó 3154. Excessively rare and among the finest specimens known. Extremely fine 80'000

Ex NAC sale 18, 2000, 634.

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

Gordian I, 1st – 22nd April 238



- 126 Denarius 1st-22nd April 238, AV 2.95 g. IMP M ANT GORDIANVS AFR AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SECVRITAS AVGG Securitas seated l., holding short sceptre. RIC 5. BMC 11. C 10. Rare and among the finest specimens known. Well-struck on sound metal and good extremely fine 7'000

Gordian II, 1st – 22nd April 238



- 127 Denarius 1st - 22nd April 238, AR 2.36 g. IMP M ANT GORDIANVS AFR AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – RIA AVGG Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm-branch RIC 2. BMC 28. C 12. Rare and among the finest specimens known. Well-struck on sound metal and good extremely fine 7'000

Gordian III augustus, 238 – 244



- 128 Aureus 241-243, AV 4.58 g. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P VI COS II P P The Emperor standing r., holding transverse spear and globe. RIC 107. C 275. Calicó 3228 (this coin). One scratch on obverse and two on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine 3'500

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1594.

Otacia Severa, wife of Philip I



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

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

Extremely fine

35'000

Ex NAC 21, 2001, 526 and NAC 24, 2002, 171 sales,

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

Herennia Etruscilla, wife of Trajan Decius



- 130 Double-sestertius 249-251, Æ 40.68 g. HERENNIA ETRVSCILLA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. on crescent. Rev. PVDICITIA AVG Pudicitia, veiled, seated l., holding sceptre in l. hand and drawing veil with r.; in exergue, S C. RIC T. Decius 136a. C 21.

Very rare and in exceptional condition. Well-struck on a full flan with an attractive brown tone and extremely fine

20'000

Hostilian caesar, 251



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

Extremely rare. A light scratch on obverse field at three o' clock,
otherwise extremely fine 20'000

Ex Gorny sale 71, 1995, 783 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 184 sales.

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

Gallienus, 253 – 268



- 132 Aureus circa 265–266, AV 3.30 g. GALLIENVS – S P F AVG Head l., wearing wreath of reeds. Rev. VICTORIA A – VG Gallienus standing l., holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l., crowned by Victory standing behind him. RIC 81. C 1112. Calicó 3614.

Rare. A very appealing portrait, extremely fine 8'000

Ex Leu 20, 1978, 296 and Leu 61, 1995, 296 sales.

Postumus, 260 – 269



- 133 Aureus, Lugdunum Autumn 263, AV 5.38 g. POSTVMVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PROVIDENTIA AVG Providentia standing l., leaning against column, holding cornucopiae and pointing with wand to globe at her feet. RIC 32. C 300. Calicó 3770. Schulte 59a (this coin). Biaggi 1527 (this coin).

Very rare. A very elegant portrait struck on a broad flan, extremely fine 35'000

Ex Bourgey 18-19 November 1957, 358 and NAC 21, 2001, 535 sales.

Tacitus, 275 – 276



- 134 Heavy aureus, Cyzicus 275–276, AV 6.42 g. IMP C M C L TACITVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTV – S MILITVM Emperor galloping on horse r., holding spear in r. hand. RIC 179 var. (radiate, draped and cuirassed). C –. S. Estiot, L'or romain entre crise et restitution, 270-276 Apr. J.-C., 111 (this coin). Calicó 4122 var. Very rare. Well struck on very broad flan and extremely fine 18'000

Ex Tkalec 1996, 245 and NAC sale 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 210 sales.

Probus, 276 – 282



- 135 Quinarius 276–282, AV 2.63 g. PROB – VS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FIDES MI – LITVM Fides standing l., holding standard in each hand. RIC 147. C –. Exceedingly rare, very few specimens known of this denomination. Light scratch on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 15'000

Ex NAC 15, 1999, 450 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 219 sales.

Divo Nigriniano, son of Carinus



- 136 Antoninianus 283-284, billon 3.40 g. DIVO NIGRINIANO Radiate and naked half bust r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing facing with spread wings, head to l.; in exergue, KAA. RIC 472. C 3. Very rare. An enchanting portrait struck on a very broad flan, extremely fine / good extremely fine 5'500

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

Diocletian, 284 – 305



- 137 Aureus, Siscia 286, AV 5.67 g. IMP C DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed half bust l., with r. hand raised. Rev. IOVI CO - NSERVATORI Jupiter standing facing, head r., holding sceptre and thunderbolt. RIC -, cf. 248. C - Calicó 4498 (these dies). Lukanc p. 205, 6 (these dies) and p. 229, 2. Kent-Hirmer 581 (these dies). Depeyrot 1/5 (these dies).

Extremely rare, only very few specimens known. An interesting and unusual portrait, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

20'000

Ex Triton sale I, 1997, 1656.



- 138 Quinarius circa 290–294, AV 2.10 g. IMP DIOCLETIANVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. IOVI C - ONS - E - RVAT AVGG Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. RIC 153. C 235. Lukanc p. 123, 1 and p. 260 (this coin listed). Depeyrot 2E/1. Biaggi 1711 (this coin).

Very rare. Light scratches on reverse, otherwise good very fine

7'500

Ex Tkalec and Rauch 15/16.4. 1985, 365; Spink 13.4.2000, The Dr. Anton C. R. Dreesmann Collection of Ancient Coins, 69 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman sales.



- 139 Medallion of 2½ aurei, Antiochia 296, AV 13.29 g. IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONSVL VI - P P PRO COS Diocletian standing facing, head l., holding globe in r. hand and baton in l.; in exergue, SMA. RIC 1. C 50. Lukanc p. 121, 13 (one specimen cited). Gneccchi p. 11, 2 and pl. 4, 9 (one specimen cited). Depeyrot p. 155.

Of the highest rarity, only the second specimen known and the only one in private hands (the other is in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France). A small edge nick on obverse at nine o'clock and another on reverse at three o'clock, otherwise about extremely fine

90'000

Ex Triton III, 1999, 1171 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 238 sales.

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

Maximianus Herculius, 286 – 305



- 140 Aureus, Nicomedia 195, AV 5.36 g. MAXIMIA – NVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI – VICTORI Hercules standing facing, head r., leaning r. hand on club and holding apple in l. hand; lion-skin on l. arm. In exergue, SMN. RIC 8. C –. Calicó 4670. Depeyrot 5/1.

Rare. Insignificant marks, otherwise extremely fine

6'500

Ex Sternberg XVI, 1985, 343 and Spink 13 April 2000, Dreesmann part I, 90.

Maxentius augustus, 307 – 312



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

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

75'000

Ex Sotheby's 26 October 1993; Triton I, 1997, 1679 and NAC 24, 2002, 265 sales.

Licinius I, 308 – 324



- 142 Aureus, Nicomedia 315, AV 5.26 g. LICINIUS AVG OB D V FILII SVI Draped and cuirassed bust facing. Rev. IOVI CONS – LICINI AVG Jupiter seated facing enthroned on platform, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field eagle with wreath in beak. The platform inscribed SICX· / SIC·XX·. In the exergue, SMNT. RIC 41. C 128. Depeyrot 19/1. Calicó 5096. Kent-Hirmer pl. 159, 622.
Very rare. Well centred on a full flan and extremely fine 26'000

Constantine I augustus, 307 – 337



- 143 Medallion of 1½ solidi, Ticinum 320-321, AV 6.91 g. IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SOLI INVI – CTO COMITI Sol, radiate, standing l. and holding whip, crowning Constantine standing l., holding spear in l. hand and globe in r.; in exergue, SMT. RIC 98. C 516. Gneccchi 54. Bastien, Donativa, p. 76 note i. Toynbee –. Biaggi 1999 (this coin).
Extremely rare. An interesting reverse composition, extremely fine / about extremely fine 15'000

Ex NAC sale 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 277.



- 144 Medallion of 1½ solidi, Nicomedia 325, AV 6.56 g. D N CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. EQVIS ROMANVS Constantine on horseback r., raising r. hand; in exergue, SMN. RIC 100. C 139. Gneccchi 9. Depeyrot p. 154. Bastien, Donativa, p. 79 note 1 and pl. 4, 16. Biaggi 1966 (this coin).
Rare. Minor nick on edge at five o'clock on reverse, about extremely fine 15'000

Ex Sotheby's 7 November 1997, 196 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 278 sales.

Constans augustus, 337 – 350



- 145 Medallion of 2 solidi, Aquileia 337–340, AV 8.82 g. FL IVL CONSTANS – PIVS FELIX AVG Draped and cuirassed bust r., wearing diadem ornamented with rosette. Rev. GAVDIVM POPV – LI ROMANI Constans standing l., holding standard with Christogram on banner in r. hand and sceptre in l., crowned with wreath by Victory standing l. behind him, holding palm-branch; in exergue, SMAQ. RIC 1a. C 31. Gnechi 3 and pl. 9, 12 (this reverse die). Paolucci-Zub 364 (this coin illustrated). Depeyrot –. Bastien, Donativa p. 82, footnote 4. Biaggi 2103 (this coin).

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

Good very fine

35'000

Ex Hess-Leu 28, 1965, 531; NAC 18, 2000, 728 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 295 sales.

Constantius II augustus, 337 – 361



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

Apparently unique and unrecorded. An impressive medallion with an excellent portrait.

Light scratches on obverse and reverse, otherwise extremely fine

45'000

Ex Leu 18, 1977, 395; NAC 15, 1999, 492 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 300 sales.