

A U C T I O N

62

THE S.C. MARKOFF COLLECTION OF ROMAN COINS

6 October 2011

NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA NAC AG
ZÜRICH - LONDON

AUCTION 62

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The S.C. Markoff Collection of Roman Coins

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The following terms and conditions are accepted by all persons participating in the auction:

1. Auction bidding is conducted in Swiss Francs. The highest bidder who has been acknowledged by the auctioneer when the hammer falls after the third call has legally bought the lot. Bidding usually begins at 80% of the estimate, provided no higher offers have been submitted. Written bids have priority. The successful bidder has committed himself personally to the purchases made. He cannot claim to have acted on behalf of a third party.
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5. A commission of 17.5% will be levied on the hammer price - phone bidders and bidders using our Live Internet facilities pay an additional charge of 1.5%. The Swiss value added tax (VAT) of 8% is payable on the final price (hammer price, plus buyer's commission and any other amounts chargeable by the Auction House to the buyer). **Gold coins (AV) are exempt from VAT.** If the purchases are exported, then the VAT will be refunded on production of a legally valid original export declaration stamped by Swiss Customs.
6. Payment is in Swiss Francs and is immediately due upon adjudication of the lot. Late payments will incur a monthly default interest of 1%.
7. Shipping and insurance are at the buyer's cost and risk. Any fees and charges payable abroad are borne by the buyer (successful bidder) who is responsible for acquiring the necessary information about any applicable customs and foreign exchange regulations. The Auction House accepts no liability for any contraventions of such regulations.
8. **The Auction House offers an unconditional and unlimited guarantee for the authenticity of coins.** All identifications and descriptions of the items sold in this catalogue are statements of opinion and were made in good faith.
9. The objects which come under the hammer are auctioned on behalf of a third party or are the property of the Auction House. The buyer (successful bidder) has no entitlement to have the identity of the consignor disclosed to them and acknowledges that the Auction House might receive a commission from the consignor for the sale.
10. The above conditions are a component of each individual contract of sale concluded at the auction. Alterations must be made in writing in order to be valid. If any parts of these Terms and Conditions should be no longer or not fully in conformity with the valid legal situation, this shall not affect the content and validity of the remaining parts. The above-mentioned conditions are written in German, French, Italian and English; the only valid text is the German one.
11. The contractual relationship between parties is subject in all facets to Swiss law. Place of performance is the registered office of the Auction House in 8001 Zurich, and the exclusive court of jurisdiction is Zurich.

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Du fait de la participation à la vente aux enchères, les conditions suivantes sont réputées être acceptées :

1. Les enchères sont effectuées en Francs Suisses. L'adjudication est réalisée après trois appels consécutifs du plus offrant dont l'offre a été acceptée par le commissaire priseur et qui constitue une obligation. La mise à prix est effectuée en règle générale à 80 %, dans la mesure où il n'y a pas d'offres disponibles et plus élevées. Les offres formulées par écrit sont prioritaires. Chaque enchérisseur s'engage personnellement en ce qui concerne les acquisitions réalisées par ses soins. Il ne peut pas faire valoir le fait d'avoir agi pour le compte d'une tierce personne.
2. Les demandes d'enchères par téléphone ou par écrit (également par moyen électronique) pour les personnes intéressées et non présentes sont réceptionnées jusqu'à 24 heures avant le début de la vente aux enchères. Les enchérisseurs par téléphone acceptent que la communication téléphonique puisse être enregistrée. La salle des ventes n'assume aucune responsabilité quant aux enchères effectuées par téléphone ou par écrit.
3. Les enchérisseurs sont priés de se légitimer avant la vente aux enchères et de se faire enregistrer à l'issue de la vente. La salle des ventes peut exiger une référence bancaire et/ou une garantie. La salle des ventes a le droit de ne pas laisser une personne participer à la vente aux enchères.
4. L'enchérisseur peut, à sa guise, surenchérir une offre ou bien la décliner sans indication de motifs. L'enchérisseur se réserve en outre le droit d'associer des lots, de les séparer, de faire des offres en dehors de l'ordre prévu ou de les laisser de côté, voire de se retirer de la vente aux enchères.
5. Une commission de 17,5% est perçue sur le prix d'adjudication. Les acquéreurs qui souhaitent participer aux enchères par téléphone ou en ligne avec nos facilités Live Internet paieront un frais supplémentaire de 1,5%. La taxe à la valeur ajoutée suisse d'un montant de 8,0 % sera perçue sur le prix définitif (prix d'adjudication plus supplément et sur tous les autres montants facturés à l'acquéreur par la salle des ventes). **Les pièces de monnaie en or (AV) sont dispensées de la TVA.**
En cas d'exportation de l'objet adjugé vers l'étranger, l'acquéreur se voit restituer la TVA lorsqu'il est en mesure de présenter une déclaration d'exportation réglementaire, en bonne et due forme, revêtu du cachet original des autorités douanières suisses.
6. Le prix total est exigible après application du supplément et doit être acquitté en devises suisses lors de la remise de l'objet adjugé. Pour les paiements effectués ultérieurement, une pénalité de retard de 1 % par mois sera facturée.
7. Les frais d'envoi et d'assurance sont à charge et au risque de l'acheteur. Les taxes ou les impôts facturés à l'étranger sont à la charge de l'acquéreur (enchérisseur). Il lui incombe de s'informer au sujet des directives étrangères en matière de douane et de devises. La salle des ventes décline toute responsabilité pour les éventuelles infractions à l'encontre de ces directives.
8. **La salle des ventes garantit l'authenticité des monnaies sans réserve et sans limitation dans le temps.** Toutes les indications mentionnées dans le catalogue sont rassemblées en toute conscience et en toute bonne foi.
9. Les objets mis aux enchères le sont pour le compte de tierces personnes ou bien sont la propriété de la salle des ventes. L'acquéreur (enchérisseur) n'a aucun droit d'obtenir communication du nom de la personne qui met en vente et se déclare en accord avec le fait que la salle des ventes perçoive une provision de cette dernière.
10. Les présentes conditions font partie intégrante de tout contrat de vente conclu dans le cadre de la vente aux enchères. Les modifications ne sont valables que par écrit. Le fait que des parties des présentes conditions de vente aux enchères venaient à ne plus correspondre, ou du moins plus intégralement, à la situation juridique en vigueur, n'affecte en rien les autres parties, ni dans leur contenu, ni dans leur validité. La version en langue allemande constitue la référence des présentes conditions de vente aux enchères.
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Condizioni di vendita

La partecipazione all'asta comporta l'accettazione delle seguenti condizioni:

1. La valuta in cui viene condotta l'asta è il Franco Svizzero. L'aggiudicazione al miglior offerente, individuato dal banditore, avviene dopo la terza chiamata e comporta per l'aggiudicatario l'acquisto con tutti i relativi obblighi di legge. Le offerte partono generalmente dall'80% del prezzo di stima a meno che una o più offerte d'importo maggiore siano state presentate. Le offerte scritte hanno la precedenza. Il partecipante all'asta è personalmente responsabile per l'acquisto effettuato e non può pretendere di avere agito per conto di terzi.
2. I partecipanti all'asta non presenti in sala possono presentare offerte telefonicamente, in forma scritta, o per via elettronica fino a 24 ore prima dell'inizio dell'asta. Chi trasmette la propria offerta telefonicamente presta il proprio consenso all'eventuale registrazione della telefonata. La casa d'asta non assume alcun tipo di responsabilità per le offerte trasmesse in forma scritta o telefonica.
3. I partecipanti, per concorrere all'asta, dovranno esibire un documento d'identità. La casa d'asta si riserva il diritto di richiedere referenze bancarie o un deposito cauzionale per permettere la partecipazione all'asta. La casa d'asta si riserva inoltre il diritto di non permettere a un soggetto la partecipazione all'asta.
4. Il banditore d'asta ha facoltà di aumentare o rifiutare un'offerta secondo la propria discrezionalità e senza necessità di fornire una motivazione. Il banditore si riserva inoltre il diritto di unire, separare, cambiare la sequenza prevista o di eliminare e/o ritirare dall'asta determinati lotti.
5. Al prezzo d'aggiudicazione va aggiunta una commissione del 17,5%. Gli offerenti che parteciperanno all'asta per telefono o 'live' attraverso internet pagheranno un costo supplementare dell'1,5%. L'imposta svizzera sul valore aggiunto, pari attualmente al 8,0%, viene applicata sul prezzo finale (prezzo d'aggiudicazione più commissione ed ogni altro importo imputabile al compratore dalla casa d'aste). **Le monete in oro (AV) sono esonerate dal pagamento dell'IVA.**
In caso d'esportazione dell'oggetto acquistato all'asta verso un paese estero, il compratore ha diritto al rimborso dell'IVA dietro consegna di una valida dichiarazione d'esportazione e corredata da timbro originale dell'ufficio doganale della Confederazione Elvetica.
6. Il pagamento è immediatamente dovuto in franchi svizzeri. In caso di ritardato pagamento, il tasso d'interesse moratorio applicabile è pari all'1% mensile.
7. I costi ed il rischio della spedizione sono a carico del destinatario. Qualunque imposta e contributo legalmente dovuto nel paese d'esportazione è a carico dell'acquirente (compratore in sede d'asta) su cui ricade la responsabilità per la conoscenza delle norme vigenti in materia doganale e di valuta. La casa d'aste non assume alcuna responsabilità per l'eventuale violazione di tali prescrizioni.
8. **La casa d'asta offre una garanzia incondizionata e senza riserva di tempo sull'autenticità delle monete.** Le indicazioni e descrizioni contenute nel catalogo sono opinioni soggettive e sono espresse in buona fede.
9. Gli oggetti offerti vengono messi all'asta per conto di terzi o sono di proprietà della casa d'asta. L'acquirente (compratore in sede d'asta) non ha il diritto di conoscere l'identità del consegnatario dell'oggetto e prende atto che alla casa d'asta potrebbe venir corrisposta dal consegnatario una commissione per la vendita.
10. Le condizioni sopra menzionate costituiscono parte integrante di ciascun contratto individuale di vendita concluso nell'asta. Eventuali modifiche saranno ritenute valide solo se fatte in forma scritta. Nel caso in cui una parte delle presenti Condizioni di Vendita dovesse essere non più totalmente conforme alla vigenti disposizioni di legge, cioè non avrà effetto sulla validità delle parti restanti. L'unica versione di testo delle Condizioni di Vendita che ha valore legale è quella in lingua tedesca.
11. Il rapporto contrattuale fra le parti è regolato in tutti i suoi aspetti dal diritto della Confederazione Elvetica. Il luogo d'adempimento è la sede della casa d'aste a Zurigo (8001). Il foro competente è esclusivamente quello di Zurigo.

TIME TABLE ZEITTADEL ORDRE DE VENTE ORDINE DI VENDITA**Thursday, 6 October 2011****15:00 – 17:30****2001 – 2133****EXHIBITIONS AUSSTELLUNG EXPOSITION ESPOSIZIONI**

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Saturday & Sunday by appointment only

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Tuesday, 4 October 2011 14:00 - 19:00
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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

The first time I had the chance to see the S.C. Markoff collection I couldn't help but be completely awestruck by its sheer beauty. The further I looked through the collection the more mesmerized I became by both the exceptional quality of the coins and the care with which every single piece had been selected.

The concept of the collection is simple, a coin for every significant male figure in Roman history, including the republican period which features some stupendous coins such as the denarius of Labienus (lot 2009) and the aureus of Cassius (lot 2004), in both cases the best specimen known. However, contrary to what often occurs, Steve chose to not restrict his collection to particular metals or denominations, opting instead, and rightly in our opinion, to give priority to the quality of the engraving over denominational uniformity. By virtue of this choice, for example, there is no aureus for Otho in this collection but the denarius (lot 2026) boasts probably the finest portrait of this emperor on a coin. The same decision was made for Gaius (lot 2020) with a denarius whose artistic quality is by no means inferior to the best aurei. On the contrary, for Domitian (lot 2030), Steve chose to purchase an aureus because no denarius or bronze coin presented as strong or as magnificent a portrait of the emperor as the coin offered here. In some isolated cases Steve chose to give pre-eminence to the historical significance of the coins he selected, and with this in mind, he bought the extremely important aureus of Titus struck in Judea (lot 2029). Meanwhile, in other cases he surrendered to the beauty of a bronze medallion such as that of Marcus Aurelius (lot 2037). As always in life, one cannot help but notice how fortune has played in Steve's favour giving him the possibility of buying coins that so rarely appear on the market such as the spectacular aureus of Clodius Albinus Augustus (lot 2044), one of the greatest rarities of the whole imperial series, missing in practically all the most important and prestigious collections, past and present, including those of Ponton d'Amecourt, Montagu, Platt Hall, Jameson, Biaggi and Hunt. Fate also dealt Steve the privilege of adding one of the most beautiful roman coins in existence to his collection: the stupendous aureus of Maxentius facing (lot 2091), one of only two specimens known.

The freedom to chose different types of coin gave Steve the option of assembling a series of beautiful, rare and interesting coins, even for the Late Empire, giving once again precedence to beauty. This meant that he was able to chose extremely rare solidi such as those of Priscus Attalus (lot 2121) and Vetranius (lot 2103), wonderful bronze coins such as that of Nepotian (lot 2104), fabulous silver medallions such as those of Arcadius (lot 2117) and Theodosius (lot 2114), and prefer, in the case of Romulus Augustus, the tremisses which bears a real portrait, over the solidus whose iconography is completely anonymous.

It is only right that we give special mention to the dealer that helped Steve put together his collection whose name, listed as the provenance of so many coins in the collection, will surely not elude you.

It is an honour and a pleasure for Numismatica Ars Classica to present such an important and prestigious collection, which has been so carefully and impressively assembled. Steve's passion for choosing the very best has created a truly exceptional selection, rich in quality, rarity and variety and those who have helped him in its formation also warrant merit. Our hope is that Steve's coins will meet the same passion and continue to give as much joy in the hands of their next collector.

None of the coins in this catalogue are subject to the recent US import restrictions on coins of Italian type.

The S.C. Markoff Collection of Roman Coins

The Roman Republic

The mint is Roma unless otherwise stated

Metellus Pius Scipio



- 2001 Denarius, Africa (Utica ?) 47-46 BC, AR 4.07 g. Q.METEL PIVS Laureate head of Jupiter r. Rev. SCIPIO Elephant walking r. Sydenham 1046. Babelon Caecilia 47. Sear Imperators 45. Crawford 459/1.
Perfectly struck and centred on a full flan with an enchanting iridescent tone, good extremely fine 1'500

Ex Spink sale 5014, 2005, 366.

Despite his noble lineage and strong family connections, Quintus Caecilius Metellus Pius Scipio was generally detested by his contemporaries. His connection by marriage to Pompey the Great earned him the consulship in 52 B.C., with the price that he target Julius Caesar through actions in the senate. Consequently, it was Scipio who introduced the legislation calling for Caesar to relinquish his command in Gaul and to disband his legions.

When Caesar ignored the demand and crossed the Rubicon in January of 49, Scipio and Pompey were among those who fled Italy. Scipio then took up his promised governorship in Syria, where he gathered two legions for the Pompeian cause. Scipio was present at Pharsalus, where he commanded Pompey's center, and when all was lost at that monumental battle, he fled to North Africa to assume supreme command of the Pompeian refugees gathering at Utica. During this period Scipio struck his attractive and historical denarii, and a limited number of aurei. When Caesar was finally able to confront the Pompeians in 46, he roundly defeated them at Utica and Thapsus, after which Scipio committed suicide..

Cnaeus Pompeius Magnus



- 2002 *Q. Nasidius*. Denarius, mint moving with Sextus Pompeius 44-43 BC, AR 3.44 g. NEPTVNI Head of Cn. Pompeius Magnus r.; below head, dolphin and in r. field, trident. Rev. Galley sailing r.; in field l., star. Below, Q·NASIDIUS. Babelon Pompeia 28 and Nasidia 1. C 20. Sydenham 1350. Sear Imperators 235. Crawford 483/2. Rare. Well-centred on a full flan with an insignificant area of weakness on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 15'000

Divus Julius Caesar



- 2003 *L. Mussidius Longus*. Denarius 42 BC, AR 3.75 g. Laureate head of Caesar r. Rev. L·MVSSIDIVS·LONGVS Rudder, cornucopiae on globe, caduceus and apex. Babelon Julia 58 and Mussidia 8. Sydenham 1096a. Sear Imperators 116. Crawford 494/39.

A superb portrait of the finest style with a lovely old cabinet tone. Extremely fine 12'000

The image of Julius Caesar was a powerful tool for the cause of Antony and Octavian, who were preparing to battle Brutus and Cassius when this denarius was struck in 42 B.C. When the great armies clashed at Philippi in October of that year, the Caesarians were victorious, and thus had avenged the murder of Caesar and moved the Roman world one step closer to monarchy.

Though the portrait of the slain dictator is arresting, the reverse is equally symbolic. The cornucopia-on-globe and the rudder allude to Caesar's success as a commander who brought so much of the Mediterranean world under his control, the apex reflects Caesar's position as Pontifex Maximus, and the winged caduceus may be seen as an emblem of the contentment his conquests had brought to the Roman world.

A few minor exceptions aside, Octavian last used Caesar's portrait as a main feature of his coinage in 38, when he issued impressive types to celebrate his descent from the deified Caesar

Gaius Cassius Longinus



- 2004 Aureus, mint moving with Brutus and Cassius (Sardis ?) 43-42 BC, AV 8.04 g. C·CASSI-IMP Laureate head of Libertas r. Rev. M SERVILIVS – LEG *Aplustre* with each branch ending in a flower. Bahrfeldt 60. Babelon Cassia 20. C 8. Sydenham 1311. Sear Imperators 224. Crawford 505/1. Calicó 67.

Extremely rare and undoubtedly the finest specimen known. Unusually well struck and centred on a full flan, good extremely fine 50'000

Ex Spink sale 5014, 2005, 389.

Plutarch held Cassius in low regard, describing him as a man who was not well liked and who ruled his soldiers through fear. He wrote: "...Cassius was known to be a man of violent and uncontrolled passions, whose craving for money had often tempted him to stray from the path of justice, and it therefore seemed natural that his motive for fighting, wandering about the empire and risking his life was not to win liberty for his fellow-countrymen, but to secure some great place for himself." Plutarch has precisely the opposite to say of Cassius' co-conspirator: "Brutus' virtues, on the other hand, made him popular with the rank and file, beloved by his friends, and admired by the nobility, while even his enemies found it impossible to hate him." With this in mind one can imagine the simmering conflict between the two leaders, with Cassius being increasingly resentful of Brutus' popularity; indeed, their rivalry was no less significant than that of their opponents,

Marc Antony and Octavian. By the time they met at Sardis and were hailed emperor by their troops, the strains of partnership had reached an intolerable pitch. Plutarch states: "...as often happens in great enterprises in which a large number of friends and commanders are engaged, there had been some sharp differences and mutual accusations had been exchanged. So...their first action was to meet in a room face to face. The doors were shut, and with no one else present the two men first began blaming one another and then fell to recriminations and counter-charges. These soon led to indignant reproaches and tears, and their friends, who were amazed at the vehemence and bitterness of their anger, were afraid that the quarrel might end in violence." This confrontation occurred just before Brutus departed to campaign in Lycia and Cassius set out to capture Rhodes, which he did successfully, but with extreme severity. We may be sure this aureus was struck after Cassius' defeat of the Rhodians, for the reverse depicts an *aplustre*, a ship ornament that symbolized naval victory. The flowers at the extremities of the ornament suggest Rhodes since the rose had been the symbol of that island for many centuries. Its symbolism is sealed when the other issue of this legate is considered: it shows a crab holding an *aplustre* in its claws, above a loose diadem and a rose. This rose is a certain reference to Rhodes, and it appears below the crab, the badge of the island of Cos, near where the decisive battle took place. The loosened diadem might symbolize the kingship Cassius claimed to have undone at Rhodes (Plutarch, Brutus, 30) or it could be a general reference to the termination of Julius Caesar's tyranny some two years before.

Marcus Junius Brutus



- 2005 *L. Plaetorius Caestianus*. Denarius, Northern Greece 43-42 BC, AR 3.45 g. BRVTVS IMP L·PLAET·CEST Bare head of Brutus r. Rev. EID·MAR Pileus between two daggers. Babelon Junia 52 and Plaetoria 13. C 15. Sydenham 1301. Sear Imperators 216. Kent-Hirmer pl. 27, 98. Cahn, *EIDibus MARTiis*, Q. Tic. 18, 1989, 22d (these dies). Crawford 508/3.

Very rare and in unusually fine condition for this issue of great historical importance and fascination. Struck on a very broad flan and lightly toned, minor areas of porosity, otherwise extremely fine

160'000

Ex Triton sale IX, January 2006, 1356.

Perhaps no coin of antiquity is as familiar, or as important, as the 'Eid Mar' denarius of Brutus: its dagger-flanked liberty cap and explicit inscription are a simple and direct monument of one of the great events in western history. This type is so remarkable that, unlike the anonymous mass of ancient coinage, it elicited commentary from the ancient historian Dio Cassius (XLVII.25). The murder of the dictator Julius Caesar in the Senate House on the Ides of March, 44 B.C., is one of the major turning points in western history. It is impossible to know how the Roman world would have changed had Caesar not been murdered on that day, but the prospect certainly taxes the imagination. Caesar was a populist and an opportunist bent upon dismantling the traditional arrangement of senatorial authority that concentrated power in the hands of the ancient and elite families. In the minds of Brutus and his fellow conspirators, theirs was a struggle to maintain the traditional hold on power, and with that aim they struck down Caesar. This class struggle was couched in the terms of the ancient form of Republican government, and of Rome's hatred for kings and autocrats; thus it is no surprise that the two leaders, Brutus and Cassius, follow the twin-symmetry of the two consuls, and even of Castor and Pollux, the mythical saviors of Rome. The designs are worth visiting individually, in detail. The reverse testifies to the murder of Caesar by naming the date of the event, by showing daggers as the instruments of delivery, and by displaying the pileus, or freedman's cap, which symbolizes the professed goal of the assassins' work. Though dozens of men were involved in the plot against Caesar, all are represented by only two daggers – a clear allusion to Brutus and Cassius as leaders of the coup and, subsequently, of the armed opposition to Antony and Octavian. The portrait is also of great interest and importance. The only securely identifiable portraits of Brutus occur on coins naming him emperor: the Eid Mar denarii of Plaetorius Cestianus and the aurei of Servilius Casca and Pedanius Costa. Indeed, all other portraits on coins or other media are identified based upon these three issues. S. Nodelman has made careful study of the Eid Mar series from the art-historical view, and H. A. Cahn has similarly done so from the numismatic perspective. The former has divided Brutus' inscribed coin portraits into three main categories: a 'baroque' style portrait on the aurei of Casca, a 'neoclassical' style on the aurei of Costa, and a 'realistic' style on the Eid Mar denarii of Cestianus. Nodelman describes the Eid Mar portraits as "the soberest and most precise" of all, and he divides them into two distinct categories, 'plastic' and 'linear', suggesting both were derived from the same sculptural prototype.

Sextus Pompeius with Cnaeus Pompeius Magnus and Cnaeus Pompeius Junior



- 2006 Aureus, Sicily 42-40, AV 8.13 g. MAG·PIVS· – IMP ·ITER. Bearded and bare head of Sextus Pompeius r.; the all within oakwreath. Rev. [PRAEF] Heads of Cn. Pompeius Magnus, on l., and Cn. Pompeius Junior, on r., facing each other; at sides, *lituus* and tripod. Below, CLAS·ET·ORAE / MARIT·EX·S·C. Bahrfeldt 87. Babelon Pompeia 24. C 1. Sydenham 1346. Sear Imperators 332. Kent-Hirmer pl. 27 and 28, 102. Crawford 511/1. Calicò 71.

Very rare. An appealing specimen with three handsome portraits, reverse slightly off-centre and an insignificant area of weakness on Pompeius Junior's head, otherwise extremely fine

60'000

Ex Ars Classica XVII, 1934, 680; Stack's 29 November 1990, Whitney, 12; Stack's 3 December 1996, Michel. F. Price collection, 96 (illustrated on the cover page) and NAC 45, Barry Feirstein Collection IV, April 2008, 43 sales.

Sextus Pompey was the first Roman to use dynastic imagery on coinage. This crucial step was taken in an age when the senate and traditions were losing ground to the cult of personality. The careers of the recent warlords Marius, Sulla, Crassus, Caesar, and Sextus' own father, Pompey Magnus, had benefited disproportionately from the strength of their charisma.

In 42 B.C., when aurei of this type originally were struck, Antony, Octavian, Lepidus, Brutus, Cassius, and Sextus Pompey all were fighting for supremacy. Thus, this issue sets an enormously important precedent with Sextus honouring his family in so complete a manner. He and his brother Cnaeus earlier had initiated that practice by portraying their deceased father on denarii as early as 45-44 B.C., but here Sextus takes it a step further by portraying himself with his deceased brother and father. The issue amounts to an exhibition of his pedigree, as well as a nostalgic call to arm for all who had thus far served the Pompeian cause.

Both Antony and Octavian made use of the coinage to advertise their relationship with the murdered Julius Caesar, a publicity war that was won by Caesar's nephew and heir, Octavian. But Antony took the practice to a level even beyond Sextus Pompey by representing living relatives on his coinage. Lacking a pedigree that was comparable with Octavian or Sextus Pompey, Antony pursued the next best option by promoting his active dynasty, for the coins bore portraits of his brother, his son, and perhaps three of his four wives.

On this aureus we find the only coin portrait of Sextus Pompey; it is shown within an oak wreath, traditionally an award for those who had saved the life of a Roman citizen, which must relate to the many lives he saved by taking in political refugees who escaped the Caesarean proscriptions. On the reverse the portraits of Pompey Magnus and Cnaeus Pompey are flanked by priestly objects, a *lituus* and a tripod, which represent the priesthoods to which they had been appointed.

Lucius Staius Murcus



- 2007 Denarius, mint moving with Murcus 42-41 BC, AR 3.65 g. Head of Neptune r., with trident over l. shoulder. Rev. Male figure l., holding sword in l. hand and raising kneeling female figure with r.; in the background, trophy. In exergue, MVRCVS IMP. Babelon Statia 1. Sydenham 1315. Sear Imperators 337. Crawford 510/1. Of the highest rarity and among the finest specimens known. Struck on a broad flan, unusually good metal, minor area of weakness on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine / good very fine 30'000

Ex Waddell sale 98, October 2005, 85.

The career of Lucius Staius Murcus, like that of so many commanders of the Imperial age, is not well documented. He seems to have been one of the more gifted military minds of his age, and it is clear from coinage that he was hailed Emperor, though the occasion is not recorded. Equally elusive are the circumstances under which he struck his coins, all of which provide ample ground for speculation.

According to Appian, Murcus did not participate in the murder of Julius Caesar, whom he had served as a legate, yet he was at that meeting where Caesar was killed and was among the first to raise their swords in defence of the assassins. Soon afterward, Murcus went to Syria as the designated proconsul of 44 B.C. He brought with him three legions to restore order in the wake of a rebellion that had broken among the Syrian army under the leadership of the ex-Pompeian Q. Caecilius Bassus.

Accounts vary, but it would appear that Murcus and the governor of Bithynia, Q. Marcius Crispus, joined forces to besiege Bassus in the stronghold of Apameia. The stalemate was resolved only when Cassius – who, with Brutus, was now preparing for war against the Caesarians – negotiated to acquire all of the legions for his Republican cause: three each from Murcus and Crispus, and one or two from Bassus.

In return for his legions and his change of loyalty, Murcus received a command position in Cassius' fleet. Murcus may have taken part in the infamous siege of Rhodes in the spring of 42, and soon afterward was entrusted with an important mission. He sailed with a large force to the southern tip of the Peloponnesus, where he was to intercept a fleet that Queen Cleopatra VII was leading westward to aid Antony and Octavian. But the two forces never met, as most of Cleopatra's fleet was destroyed in a gale, and Murcus could do little more than survey the wreckage.

His original mission now scrapped, Murcus engaged in some looting in the Peloponnesus before sailing further westward to the Italian port of Brundisium, where he began to blockade Antony's effort to transport troops and supplies to Macedon. He performed well against the under-supplied Antony until Octavian arrived with ships from Sicily. Thereafter, a great many vessels slipped through and Murcus' efforts were of little value until Cassius reinforced him with a fleet of warships and auxiliary vessels under the command of Ahenobarbus.

The enlarged blockade proved effective, and remained in force until the Battle of Philippi. Indeed, on the very day of the battle, Murcus and Ahenobarbus had their greatest success by intercepting a transport of soldiers and supplies under the command of Calvinus. The loss of those Caesarean reinforcements – on the day their comrades had triumphed at Philippi – was disheartening; many vessels and seasoned soldiers were lost in the Adriatic.

After learning that Brutus and Cassius were dead, and their armies defeated, Murcus and some Republican refugees gathered and eventually sailed westward to Sicily to join the ranks of Sextus Pompey. In doing so, he greatly enlarged the number of ships and soldiers at the rebel's disposal, and added a substantial sum of money to his coffers. It was perhaps in this period of uncertainty between Philippi and his joining Pompey, when Murcus was commander of a fleet without a cause, that he struck his denarii.

If we subscribe to Appian's view, the loyalty and support of Murcus was rewarded only by Pompey's growing suspicion and envy. It is equally likely that Murcus demanded to play a more prominent role in affairs, and that Pompey feared the consequences of sharing that much authority. In either case, it appears that Pompey began to suspect his comrade's motives, and isolated him from command decisions so plainly that by 39 an irreparable rift had developed. When Murcus took a leave of absence to Syracuse that same year he was murdered by men in the service of Pompey.

Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus.



2008

- 2008 Denarius, mint moving with Gn. Domitius Ahenobarbus 41-40 BC, AR 4.05 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. An enchanting iridescent tone and a bold portrait well struck on sound metal. Good extremely fine

12'000

Ex Leu 59, May 1994, 239 and Hess-Divo 307, June 2007, 1540 sales.

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 Calvinus 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 Sosius 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.

Quintus Labienus Parthicus.



- 2009 Denarius, mint moving with Labienus in Asia Minor 40 BC, AR 3.74 g. Q·LABIENVS· – PARTHICVS·IMP Bare head of Labienus r. Rev. Parthian horse r., with bridle and saddle, to which bow case and quiver are attached. Babelon Atia 3. C 2. Sydenham 1357. Sear Imperators 341. C. Hersh, SNR 59, 23. Crawford 524/2.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. A magnificent portrait of superb style struck on a full flan, unusually fine metal and a light iridescent tone, good extremely fine

75'000

The imperial age offered much opportunity to ambitious commanders, as anyone who could lead men in battle was a valued commodity. Loyalty was not always the most valued trait in this environment, for on many occasions defections were not only sensible, but invited, and rewarded. We tend to degrade traitors in the historical tradition, but we often are not privy to the multitude of factors faced by these men, which ranged from subtle personality conflicts to unexpected political developments. It is in this charitable light, perhaps, that we should judge Labienus, one of the vigorous commanders from the age of Antony, Octavian and Sextus Pompey. Originally Brutus and Cassius had sent Labienus to Parthia to seek support from king Orodes II, but he could not achieve his objective before his masters were defeated at Philippi in October, 42 B.C. Labienus was thus in a bind, being unable to return to the West. Rather than facing his punishment, Labienus switched strategies by encouraging Orodes II to invade Syria, with himself sharing the command with the king's son, Pacorus I. The invasion probably began early in 40 B.C. when Antony was torn between that calamity and an equally urgent situation in the West, where his brother Lucius had been defeated by Octavian in the Perusine War. Antony decided to sail westward to meet Octavian and, in the meantime, many cities and legions defected to Labienus, who presented himself as the last ember of the Republican cause. He and Pacorus initially defeated Antony's governor Lucius Decidius Saxa, and then they divided their forces: Labienus invaded Asia Minor and Pacorus drove into Palestine and Phoenicia. Alarmed by their success, early in 39 B.C. Antony sent his lieutenant Ventidius to restore order, which he did with great efficiency. He first captured and executed Labienus at the Cilician Gates in 39 B.C. and soon afterward chased Pacorus and his army back across the Euphrates. This famous denarius bears a portrait of the unfortunate Labienus, identified by his name, the title *imperator*, and the cognomen *Parthicus*, which he adopted as an expression of his success in gaining Parthian help in what he branded as the defense of the Republic. The reverse bears no inscription, but shows a bridled horse fitted with a saddle and bow-case; there can be little doubt that this represents the cavalry contingent of the invasion force, which was 20,000 strong. In essence it honours the famous Parthian cavalry, and in that regard we may see this as a coin of two cultures, with the obverse devoted to the Romans, the reverse to the Parthians.

Gnaeus Domitius Calvinus



- 2010 Denarius, Osca 39, AR 4.00 g. OSCA Head of Hercules, r. Rev. DOM·COS·ITER·IMP *Simpulum, aspergillum*, axe and apex. Burgos 1509. Sydenham 1358. Sear Imperators 342. Crawford 532/1. Rare and among the finest specimens known. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 4'500

Ex LHS sale 100, April 2007, 457.

Domitius Calvinus had a varied and interesting career of more than four decades that spanned the fall of the Republic and the rise of the empire under Augustus. Originally, Calvinus put himself in harm's way as an outspoken opponent of the First Triumvirate. As Tribune of the Plebs in 59 B.C., and Consul in 53, he withstood extraordinary threats and aggressions by three of the most powerful men in the Roman world, Julius Caesar, Pompey and Crassus.

However, after Crassus died and Caesar and Pompey became sworn enemies, Calvinus supported Caesar – a bold move for an ex-consul considering the senate had given Pompey the authority to defend the state against Caesar. Calvinus fought on Caesar's side before and during the Battle of Pharsalus, and was appointed governor of Asia, where in 48 he suffered an unfortunate defeat to the Pontic King Pharnaces II.

This apparently did not reduce Caesar's admiration for Calvinus, who was made Pontifex in 45 and who would have replaced Lepidus as Master of Horse had the dictator not been murdered in the following year. After Caesar's death, Calvinus remained loyal and fought on the side of Antony and Octavian, though not effectively: early in 42, on the day of the battle of Philippi, the Republican admirals Ahenobarbus and Murcus defeated him in the Adriatic, where he lost his fleet and barely escaped with his life.

In the aftermath of Philippi, Calvinus was elected Consul in 40 and in the following year was made a proconsul in Spain, where he struck his only coinage, Spanish-style denarii of the type offered here. Calvinus redeemed his lacklustre military record by leading a war against the Cerretani, a tribe which seems to have been in the north of Spain, near the Pyrenees. Precious few details are known of the conflict, but Calvinus' victory merited a triumph, which he was awarded upon his return to Rome in 36. Thereafter, little is heard of Calvinus, except that in 20 he held a priestly office.

Calvinus' denarii were designed to appeal to local tastes in northern Spain, as the obverse copies the indigenous denarii of Bolskan (Osca), with only the original Iberian inscription being changed to the Latin OSCA. The display of priestly implements reflects Calvinus' status as Pontifex, and is copied from the reverse of Julius Caesar's first coinage, his 'elephant' denarii. Conspicuously, there are no references to his benefactor at the time, Octavian, who had appointed him to the proconsulship in Spain.

Marcus Antonius



- 2011 *With Octavianus and M. Barbatius*. Denarius, mint moving with Mark Antonius 41 BC, AR 3.97 g. M ANT AVG IMP – III VIR R P C M BARBAT Q P Bare head of Mark Antonius r. Rev. CAESAR IMP PONT·III·VIR·R·P·C Bare head of Octavian r., with slight beard. Babelon Antonia 51, Julia 96 and Barbatia 2. C 8. Sydenham 1181. Sear Imperators 243. Crawford 517/2. Extremely fine 3'000

Ex NAC sale 29, May 2005, 420.

Marcus Antonius and Lucius Antonius



- 2012 *With Marcus Antonius, and L. Cocceius Nerva.* Denarius, mint moving with Mark Antonius 41 BC, AR 3.99 g. M·ANT·IMP·[AVG III VIR·R·P·C·M NERV]A PROQ·P Bare head of Mark Antonius r.; behind, jug. Rev. L·ANT[ONIVS] – COS Bare head of Lucius Antonius r. Babelon Antonia 48 and Cocceia 2. C 2. Sydenham 1186. Sear Imperators 247. Crawford 517/5c.

Very rare. Two attractive portraits, slightly off-centre, otherwise extremely fine 3'000

Ex Gemini sale II, January 2006, 294.

This denarius, depicting the bare heads of Marc Antonius and his youngest brother Lucius Antonius, 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 Antonius. When Antonius 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 Antonius 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 was subsequently appointed to an office in Spain, where he died, it is likely that he never even saw one of his portrait coins.

Marcus Antonius and Cleopatra



- 2013 Tetradrachm, Antiochia ad Orontem Syriae secondary mint (?) circa 36, AR 13.32 g. BACIAICCA ΚΛΕΟΠΑΤΡΑ ΘΕΑ ΝΕΩΤΕΡΑ Diademed bust of Cleopatra r. Rev. ANTΩΝΙΟC ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΩΡ ΤΡΙΤΟΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΑΝΔΡΩΝ Bare head of M. Antonius r. C 2. BMC 53. RPC 4094. Prieur 27. Kraay-Hirmer pl. 220, 809. Butcher, *Coinage in Roman Syria* p. 57, fig. 8.1.

Very rare. Two magnificent portraits struck on unusually good metal for the issue.

Lovely old cabinet tone and good very fine 50'000

Ex Münzen und Medaillen 38, 1968, Auguste Vioir 289, Hauck & Aufhäuser 18, October 2004, 417 and Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 12, no. 115 sales.

As the struggle between Mark Antony and Octavian dragged on in the 30s B.C., the geographical and political lines became ever more defined. Antony had become entrenched in the Eastern Mediterranean, and in doing so had allied himself with Cleopatra VII, queen of Egypt, whose original supporter in Rome, Julius Caesar, had been murdered years before. She had his son, Caesarion, at her side, but she needed an ally like Antony if she hoped to preserve Egypt from the ever-widening grasp of Rome. Importantly, Antony was easier to manipulate than Octavian, who had no sympathy for Cleopatra's motives.

Although this woman of blinding intellect may have found her marriage to Antony a degrading experience, personally, she was crafty enough to realise it was her only chance at survival. Hence, she was probably eager to issue dual-portrait coins, such as the billon tetradrachm offered here. The level of concession is clear, especially on this example: Cleopatra's portrait has taken on the facial features of Antony in a very strong way, yet she retains for herself the position of dominance by placing her portrait on the obverse. Little more indication is necessary to recognise that Cleopatra had effectively dominated her husband, the Roman warlord Antony.

The date and mint of these coins is uncertain, as the coins themselves provide no substantial clue. They are typically described as having been struck at Antioch, though there is good reason to believe that they were produced further south, in Cleopatra's Phoenician territory. The date c. 36 B.C. has been suggested, and is generally believed appropriate. If so, we might see this coinage as supporting Antony's invasion of Parthia – a colossal failure that cost the lives of many thousands of Roman soldiers.

The Roman Empire

The mint is Roma unless otherwise stated

Octavian, 32 – 29 BC



2014

- 2014 Aureus, Lugdunum 15-13 BC, AV 7.91 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI F Bare head r. Rev. Two soldiers (or Drusus and Tiberius) with *parazonium* giving branches to Augustus seated l. on a platform; in exergue, IMP X. C 132. Bahrfeldt 199. BMC 443. RIC 164a. CBN 1370 var. (head l.). Calicó 210.
Very rare and possibly the finest specimen known. Perfectly struck and centred
on a full flan, good extremely fine 45'000

Ex Millon & Associés, sale 14 November 2007, 12.

When Augustus departed for Gaul in 16 B.C. he would not see Rome again for three years. During his lengthy absence he re-organised Gaul, established the Imperial mint at Lugdunum and oversaw victorious campaigns in the Alpine provinces. Ostensibly, he had come to the province in person because a Germanic invasion followed by looting, but it is the current view that the German attacks were not as serious as some ancient sources suggest, and that they were merely a convenient pretext for the emperor's presence.

On this aureus, Augustus' adopted sons Tiberius and Nero Claudius Drusus are shown in military garb, each holding a *parazonium* and presenting branches to their father, who sits before them on a platform. It represents the successful conclusion of their daring campaigns in 15 B.C. to annex Raetia and Noricum. Rome now controlled regions with invasion routes between Italy and Free Germany, and by acquiring Raetia the Imperial frontier was extended to the Danube.

More valuable than the territorial gains was the groundwork that had been laid for the ambitious campaigns Augustus had planned for Drusus in Germany and Tiberius in Illyria. In preparation, Augustus established fifty legionary camps along the southern shore of the Rhine, built a fleet and placed Drusus in command of some 50,000 soldiers as the governor of Gaul.

Drusus' conquest of Germany began in 13 B.C. as Augustus returned to Rome and Tiberius commanded armies in Pannonia. Drusus led four daring campaigns into Germany between the Rhine and the Elbe as Tiberius brought Pannonia and Dalmatia under Roman control. When Drusus died of a tragic accident in 9 B.C., Tiberius took over the German campaign. He won a major victory, for which in the following year he was awarded a triumph, the tribunician power for five years, and a second consulship.

Octavian as Augustus, 29 BC – 14 AD



2015

- 2015 Aureus, Lugdunum 8 BC, AV 7.95 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI F Laureate head r. Rev. C CAES Caius Caesar galloping r., holding sword and shield in l. hand; behind, *aquila* between two standards. In exergue, AVGVST. C 39. Bahrfeldt 233. BMC 498. RIC 198. CBN 1459. Calicó 174a (this coin).

Very rare. A very appealing portrait and an interesting reverse composition depicting Caius Caesar, about extremely fine

30'000

Ex Lanz 109, 2002, 284 and NAC 34, 2006, 7 sales.

After the death of his favourite nephew Marcellus, Augustus' hopes for the succession turned to the young Caius and Lucius Caesars, his grandsons via his daughter Julia and his close friend and confidant, Marcus Agrippa. Caius was born in 20 BC and Lucius three years later. After the death of Agrippa in 12 BC, Augustus formally adopted both boys and accelerated their progress up the *cursus honorum*, or ladder of public offices. He also carefully supervised their education and displayed them at public events to endear them to the populace and army. "Augustus gave Caius and Lucius reading, swimming and other simple lessons, for the most part acting as their tutor himself," writes Suetonius. Caius was officially presented by Augustus to the public in 5 BC, and he became Consul in AD 1 at the age of 21. This was an extremely young age for so high an office, although Augustus probably viewed his own consulship at age 19 as an adequate precedent. During Caius' consulship, Augustus sent him on a tour of the eastern frontier with special powers to reassert Roman authority in Armenia. Augustus took care to select experienced advisors for the youth, and the expedition was largely successful. But a brief border conflict broke out with the Parthians in AD 3, and Caius received a wound during a siege. Though not mortally wounded, the injury sapped his energy and he grew ill and depressed. He died at Limyra in Asia Minor, en route back to Italy, in February of AD 4. Lucius had likewise fallen ill and had died in Mas-salia two years before, and the deaths left Augustus utterly bereft and devastated. Their demise also cleared the way for Tiberius, Augustus' dour son-in-law via his wife Livia, to succeed to imperial power, and rumours abounded that Livia had somehow conspired in the deaths of Caius and Lucius. Such speculation makes for lurid reading and viewing (most notably in the book and television series, "I, Claudius"), but the disparate circumstances of their deaths leaves little doubt regarding Livia's innocence.

This rare gold aureus, struck in the Gallic capital of Lugdunum (modern Lyon) in 8 BC, depicts Caius Caesar as a junior cavalry officer, charging headlong on his mount with sword and shield. As Caius would have been, at most, 12 years old at the time of striking, the coin indicates how seriously Augustus took the military training of his grandson.

Tiberius, 14 – 37



2016

- 2016 Aureus, Lugdunum 14-37, AV 7.80 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. C 15. BMC 46. RIC 29. CBN 32. Calicó 305a.

A lovely portrait of the finest style struck on a full flan, good extremely fine

12'000

Ex Leu 38, May 1986, 226 and LHS 97, 2006, 3 sales.



- 2017 Drachm, Caesarea in Cappadocia 33-34, AR 3.76 g. TI. CAES. AVG. P.M.-TR. P. XXXV Laureate head of Tiberius r. Rev. DRVSVS. CAES. TI. AVG. COS. II. TR. P. Bare head of Drusus I. C 2. BMC 171. Sydenham Caesarea 46. RIC 86. CBN 159. RPC 3622.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Two attractive portraits and a very attractive iridescent tone, extremely fine.

5'000

Ex CNG sale 70, 2005, 862.

In the name of Nero Claudius Drusus, father of Claudius



- 2018 Denarius circa 41-45, AR 3.80 g. NERO CLAVDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP Laureate head I. Rev. Triumphal arch surmounted by equestrian statue between two trophies, DE GERMANIS on architrave. C 4. BMC Claudius 101. RIC Claudius 72. CBN Claudius 6.

Very rare and among the finest specimens known. Well struck on a large flan with a superb portrait, lightly toned and good extremely fine

15'000

Ex Tkalec sale 2000, 234 and NAC 29, 2005, 466 sales.

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

In the name of Germanicus, father of Gaius



2019



2019

- 2019 As circa 37-38, Æ 12.08 g. GERMANICVS CAESAR TI AVGVST F DIVI AVGVSTI N Bare head l. Rev. C CAESAR AVGVSTI GERMANICVS PON M TR POT around S C. C 1. BMC Gaius 49. RIC Gaius 35. CBN Gaius 73 A bold portrait and an attractive dark brown-green patina, extremely fine 3'000

Gaius, 37 – 41



2020

- 2020 Denarius, Lugdunum circa 37-38, AR 3.69 g. C CAESAR AVGVSTI GERMANICVS PON M TR POT Bare head of Gaius r. Rev. AGRIPPINA MAT C CAES AVGVSTI GERMANICVS Draped bust of Agrippina r., hair falling in queue down her neck. C 24. BMC 8. RIC 8. CBN 12

Very rare and among the finest specimens known. Two magnificent portraits of the finest style perfectly struck and centred on a full flan. Good extremely fine

25'000

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 denarius 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 denarius 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.

Claudius, 41 – 54



- 2021 Denarius 43-44, AR 3.58 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TRP III Laureate head r. Rev. PACI – AVGUSTAE Pax-Nemesis, winged, advancing r., holding with l. hand winged caduceus pointing down at snake and holding out fold of drapery below chin with r. C 53. BMC p. 167 note †. RIC 22. CBN 38

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A lovely portrait struck on sound metal, good extremely fine 12'000

Ex Waddell sale 98, 2005, 63.

Britannicus, son of Claudius



- 2022 Sestertius, Thracian mint circa 50-54, Æ 29.83 g. TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG F BRITANNICVS Bare-headed and draped bust l. Rev. S – C Mars, helmeted and cuirassed, advancing l., holding shield and spear. C 2. BMC 226 and pl. 37, 5 (these dies). RIC p. 130 note. Von Kaenel, SNR 63, pl. 20, 4 (these dies).

Extremely rare and undoubtedly the finest specimen known by far.

Dark green patina and extremely fine 90'000

Ex Gemini I, 2005, 317 (illustrated on the cover page) and NAC 39 2007, Barry Ferstein part I, 103 sales.

Julio-Claudian history is rife with promising young heirs who did not live long enough to succeed their fathers as emperor: eleven had perished before Britannicus was born, and he would be the last of the Julio-Claudian heirs to die at the hands of a rival. Even though Britannicus was the legitimate son of Claudius, he was never his father's preferred heir. It is difficult to know whether this was due to Claudius' personal misgivings or if, as the ancient sources indicate, Claudius had succumbed to the will of his niece and final wife Agrippina Junior, who wanted her own son Nero to succeed him. Whatever his motivation, Claudius promoted Nero strongly: he married Nero to Britannicus' sister Claudia Octavia and adopted him as his son, and since Nero was older than Britannicus it made him Claudius' principal heir. Few coinages were struck for Britannicus, and this sestertius is the only one that may be described as an imperial issue. It belongs to a series of sestertii and dupondii struck at an imperial branch mint in the Balkans, and though in the past some scholars have described it as a memorial issue under Titus, that view has been abandoned in favour of a Claudian vintage. It is linked with four other rare bronzes: sestertii and dupondii of Nero and Agrippina Junior. The five issues clearly represent a mintage under Claudius while Nero held the title of Caesar, and Britannicus was the imperiled back-up heir. The style and fabric of the issue is consistent with Balkan mint bronzes, especially those of Perinthus, though it is always possible that it emanated from a mint in nearby Bithynia. Marking this Britannicus sestertius as an imperial issue is the fact that Latin is used for its inscription, and the reverse bears the traditional formula SC (although this feature is not shared by all of the coins ascribed to this emission). Von Kaenel notes it may have been a special issue for the creation of Thracia as a province in about the year 46, though a date toward the end of Claudius' reign, c. 50-54, is more generally accepted.

Nero augustus, 54 – 68



- 2023 Denarius circa 64-65, AR 3.42 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. AVGVSTVS – AVGVSTA Nero, radiate and togate, holding long sceptre and patera, standing l. beside empress, veiled and draped, holding patera and cornucopiae. C 43. BMC 54. RIC 45. CBN 201.
Rare and in superb condition for the issue. Lovely iridescent tone and extremely fine 7'000

Ex NAC sale 27, 2004, 333 and Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 10, Spring 2005, 87.

Clodius Macer, April – October 68



- 2024 Denarius, Carthago April-October 68, AR 3.11 g. L CLODI MACRI Draped bust of Victory r.; at sides, S – C. Rev. LI – B – AVG Legionary eagle between two *vexilla*; in field below, above exergual line, LEG – III. C 4. BMC 4. RIC 17. CBN 4. Hewitt, NC 1983, 26-27 (these dies).
Extremely rare. Lightly toned, almost invisible marks, otherwise good very fine 40'000

Ex CNG sale 72, 2006, 1404.

The revolt of Clodius Macer in North Africa gave further momentum to the downfall of Nero, who had survived the uprising of Vindex in Gaul and was dealing with Galba's more formidable challenge from Spain. It was clear from the outset that Galba had intended to replace Nero as emperor, yet that may not have been the professed goal of Clodius Macer.

One remarkable aspect of his coinage was the use of S.C. (*senatus consulto*) on denarii. That inscription otherwise had not been used on Roman silver coins since about 40 B.C., and its presence was meaningful. Furthermore, on his portrait coins Macer is shown bareheaded; the fact that he does not wear the laurel crown of an emperor is noteworthy. Both may have been intended to assure the senate that his revolt was principally – if not exclusively – aimed at ending the tyranny of Nero.

While the coins of his revolutionary contemporaries usually are restricted to the themes of victory, unity and recovery, most of Macer's issues are restorative, recalling the battle of Actium in 31 B.C. He must have thought it no less than an omen that Rome's new revolutionary war was being waged in the centenary year of Actium, a battle that had effectively ended Rome's previous civil war.

The legionary denarii that Marc Antony struck leading up to Actium were still a common sight in circulation a century later (indeed, hoards show that heavily worn examples circulated well into the 3rd Century). Macer adopted both of Antony's designs: the galley as a reverse type for his portrait denarii and the legionary eagle-and-standards in combination with four obverse types – the heads of Africa and a lion, the bust of Victory and the standing figure of Libertas.

Macer also followed the arrangement of the inscriptions on Antony's legionary coins. The war galley design was accompanied by Antony's personal inscriptions, and with Macer's restoration it bore a personal inscription that identified him as the *legatus Augusti propraetore* of Africa. Antony's eagle-and-standards reverse named various legions and specialised units; Macer followed suit by naming the two legions under his control, the Legion I Macriana and the Legion III Augusta. He had raised the former in the course of his rebellion and had originally commanded the latter in Numidia.

Galba, 68 – 69



- 2025 Aureus, Gaul April to late Autumn 68, AV 7.39 g. IMP SER GALBA – CAESAR AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – P R Draped Victory standing facing on globe, head l., holding wreath and palm branch. C 327. BMC 46. RIC 216. CBN 96. Calicó 514.

Very rare. A bold portrait struck in high relief on a full flan, good extremely fine 60'000

Ex Tkalec sale 2006, 137.

Almost more remarkable than Galba's legacy as an emperor for seven months in 68 and 69 is the life he enjoyed before he claimed the purple. He was among the wealthiest men in the empire, and is said not to have travelled anywhere, not even on a casual afternoon ride, with less than ten thousand gold pieces. Being so wealthy and belonging to a noble family, the Suplicii, it is not surprising that he held many important posts in Rome and in the provinces, and was a personal acquaintance of the Julio-Claudians. Galba began his association with the Julio-Claudians with a pinch on the cheek from Augustus when he was a child, and thereafter he was a personal acquaintance of the emperors from Tiberius to Nero, whom he overthrew in 68. Agrippina Junior was apparently infatuated with him, and he enjoyed especially close friendships with Claudius and Livia. Suetonius tells us Livia made Galba her principal heir, leaving him 500,000 aurei, but that Tiberius nullified her bequest on a technicality, reducing the amount to only 5,000.

Otho, 15 January – mid April 69



- 2026 Denarius March-April 69, AR 3.39 g. IMP OTHO CAESAR AVG TRP Bare head r. Rev. PONT – MAX Ceres standing l., holding two corn ears and cornucopiae. C 9. BMC 9. RIC 20 note. CBN 24.

A magnificent portrait, probably the finest for this ruler, struck in high relief.

A lovely old cabinet tone and extremely fine 7'500

Ex NAC sale 33, 2006, 441.

In the emperor Otho, as in his successor Vitellius, one can find little to admire. As a youth Otho was a lush, and he achieved the high office that only through bribery and treachery. Indeed, there had been many 'firsts' of late: Claudius achieved his office through open support of the praetorian, Galba was the first non-Julio-Claudian emperor and the first one hailed outside of Rome, and now Otho was the first to openly attain his office through the murder of his predecessor.

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

Vitellius, January – December 69



2027

- 2027 Denarius late April-early December 69, AR 3.19 g. A VITELLIVS GERM IMP AVG TR P Laureate head of Vitellius r. Rev. L VITELLIVS COS III CENSOR Laureate and draped bust of L. Vitellius r., holding eagle-tipped sceptre. C 2. BMC 26. RIC 99. CBN 58.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, possibly the finest specimens known.

Two magnificent portraits and an appealing iridescent tone, extremely fine

24'000

Ex Tkalec 1992, 241, Tkalec 1998, 129 and NAC 45, Barry Feirstein part IV, 2008, 102 sales.

The elder Vitellius, who is shown on the reverse of this denarius struck by his son, the emperor Vitellius, was a familiar figure at court during the reign of Claudius, and was the most successful politician of his age. This was, however, a dubious distinction: during his lifetime it earned him praise and rewards, but afterward, Tacitus tells us he was despised for his methods. Despite his mixed legacy, this denarius shows that Vitellius used his father as proof of his own fitness to be emperor – a fact that sheds much light on Vitellius' own faulty moral compass.

When entering the Imperial presence Lucius Vitellius would uncover his head, prostrate himself and avert his gaze. He pursued and flattered Imperial ladies, including Antonia (who he apparently tried to marry) and Messalina, the third wife of Claudius, before whom he would grovel and request the honour of removing her shoes so he could kiss them. He was supportive of some of the most grotesque excesses of the Julio-Claudians, including the practice of Caligula's worship as a god and Claudius' final marriage to his niece Agrippina Junior. For Lucius Vitellius, it seems, no idea was too far-fetched and no cost too high if it benefited him: he even volunteered a son, the future emperor, for the troop of male prostitutes who served Tiberius during his self-exile on Capri.

On the less scandalous side, the elder Vitellius helped lead the Roman armies in Armenia in 18, served as Legate of Syria from 35 to 37 (during which he deposed Pontius Pilate in Judaea) and he was consul three times: in 34, 43 and 47. Two of those consulships were held under Claudius, under whom he reached the zenith of his career; indeed, he virtually ran the government while Claudius was helping to lead the invasion of Britain. An attempt to prosecute Lucius Vitellius failed in 51, and it is believed that he died soon thereafter.

Vespasian, 69 – 79



2028

- 2028 Sestertius, 71, Æ 26.50 g. IMP CAES VESPAS AVG P M TR P P P COS III Laureate head r. Rev. IVDAEA – CAPTA Palm tree; on r., Jewess seated r. on cuirass in attitude of mourning, and on l., captive standing l., looking back. In l. field on exergue line, helmet and in exergue, S C. C 236. BMC 539. RIC 234. CBN 492. Hendin 1501.

Very rare and possibly the finest specimen known of this interesting issue. A bold portrait struck in high relief and a incredibly detailed reverse composition.

A very attractive brown tone, very gently smoothed on obverse field, otherwise good extremely fine

50'000

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 difficult and costly, and upon taking the helm of an empire still suffering the privations of a civil war, Vespasian celebrated Rome's victory in the Jewish War with games, triumphal processions, a triumphal arch, and an extensive series of coins.

With dual sympathies, the Jewish chronicler Josephus wrote a 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 finally breached the walls of Jerusalem and began to search the subterranean parts 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 passages..."

In the aftermath, Josephus reports that one of Titus' freedmen, and his friend Fronto "...selected 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 by Titus to the various provinces, to be destroyed in the theaters by the sword or by wild beasts; those under seventeen were sold".

Titus caesar, 69 – 79



2029

- 2029 Aureus, Judaea 70, AV 7.52 g. IMP T [CAESAR V]ESPASIANVS Laureate head r., with aegis. Rev. IVDAE[A] – [DEVI]CTA Victory standing r., l. foot on helmet, inscribing VICT / AVG on shield set on palm tree. C –. BMC –. CBN –. RIC 1536 (this coin). RPC –. Hendin 1478a (this coin).

Unique. An issue of tremendous historical importance and fascination. One of the very few Roman issues to be struck in Judaea and possibly the most important coin of the whole series. A very unusual portrait and a reverse composition of great symbolism.

Slightly off-centre, otherwise about extremely fine

250'000

Ex Freeman & Sear list 10, 2005, 93.

The production of imperial-style coinage was greatly expanded during the civil war of 68-69 and its aftermath. New imperial mints – mostly temporary – were activated throughout the empire, including in Gaul, Spain, North Africa, the Balkans, Asia Minor, Syria and, perhaps, Judaea and Egypt. Distinguishing the products of these mints demands a careful study of style, fabric, technical features and historical circumstances.

The style of engraving on this aureus is arresting. The portrait is deeply cut, vigorous and forceful, and has a Late Hellenistic quality. The reverse is equally sculptural, and creates a strong multi-dimensional composition. By contrast, the peripheral elements are far less accomplished. The beaded border is in no way precise and the inscriptions are cut in a cursory manner that suggests the engraver was a copyist unfamiliar with Latin, or, at the very least, not accustomed to engraving Latin inscriptions. On balance, it seems likely that the engraver of the designs was not the same person who cut the peripheral elements, as so often seems to be the case with Roman coins.

Determining the mint of this seemingly unique aureus is a challenge, as there are no precise parallels for some of its features. The spectacular reverse type cannot provide a certain answer as the Flavians celebrated their victory in Judaea on coinage empire-wide.

The authors of RIC have suggested a mint in Judaea in 70. If so, this issue likely would have been used to pay Roman soldiers who had participated in the nearly five-month siege of Jerusalem which concluded in September of that year. After razing the Temple and stripping the city of its portable wealth, the legions of Titus began to oversee the dispersal of many surviving Jews throughout the empire, typically as slaves.

The other known issue of aurei with this IVDAEA DEVICTA type (RIC II pt.I 1535; RPC II 1912) is also attributed by the authors of RPC and RIC to a mint in Judaea in 70. There are notable differences between the two issues, including the character of the portrait, the style of lettering, the arrangement of the reverse inscription, and the decoration on the shield (IMP T CAES rather than VICT AVG). However, the two issues have so much else in common that they may well be contemporary issues from the same mint struck with dies created by engravers with different artistic approaches.

Domitian augustus, 81 – 96



2030

- 2030 Aureus 90-91, AV 7.58 g. DOMITIANVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. GERMANICVS COS XV Germania seated r. on shield, mourning; below, broken spear. C 156. BMC 174. RIC 699. CBN 164. Calicó 846. One of the best preserved aurei of Domitian in existence with an outstanding portrait of enchanting beauty. Virtually as struck and Fdc 60'000

Ex NAC sale 34, 2006, 15.

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

Vespasian the younger, adopted son of Domitian



2031

2031

- 2031 Bronze, Smyrna 95-95, Æ 3.05 g. OYECPIACIANOC NEΩTEPOS Bare-headed bust of Vespasian the Younger r. Rev. ZMYRNA – ΙΩΝ Nike walking r., holding wreath in right hand and palm branch over l. shoulder. BMC 319. Klose, XLII, 1; plate 31, V1/R1. RPC 1028.

Very rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. Attractive olive green patina and about extremely fine. 4'000

Ex Hauck & Aufhäuser sale 19, 2006, 285.

In the late 90s the principate of Domitian was in crisis on many fronts, not the least of which was dynastic. The emperor had no children of his own, and without an heir the Flavian Dynasty would not survive him. Thus, Domitian looked to close relatives for salvation – unfortunately, the Flavian family tree was tightly knit and not particularly fruitful.

Vespasian Junior, the boy depicted on this provincial bronze of Smyrna, was more or less the emperor Domitian's last hope. The family tree had two branches representing the families of Vespasian and his brother, Flavius Sabinus. Not only was Vespasian Junior a great-grandson to both of these men, but he was a great-nephew of Domitian.

The boy's parents were Domitian's niece Flavia Domitilla III and her husband Flavius Clemens. In addition to having produced seven children, their union was also blessed with strong dynastic qualities: it tied together the two branches of the family tree, for she was the granddaughter of Vespasian, and he was a grandson of Flavius Sabinus.

Flavius Clemens is portrayed as an unsavoury man, with Suetonius describing him as being of 'despicable idleness'. Even so, he was always a potential rival to Domitian due to his abundance of children and his Flavian blood. Indeed, his descent from Flavius Sabinus, perhaps, was not significantly less noble than Domitian's decent from Vespasian. After all, when Vespasian was hailed emperor, Sabinus was the city prefect, and he died a violent death in Rome in the final days of Vitellius' reign. Had he survived, it is difficult to say how prominent a role Sabinus would have played in Vespasian's regime – perhaps even eclipsing Titus.

Perhaps in an effort to lessen the threat of Clemens, Domitian adopted two of Clemens' sons, seemingly in 94 or 95, and renamed the elder boy Vespasian and the younger Domitian. After the adoption something went terribly wrong, and Domitian dealt the family a fatal blow in 95, the year Clemens was serving as consul. He levelled a charge of atheism against the couple and Clemens was executed and Flavia Domitilla III was exiled to Pandateria. The fate of Vespasian Junior and Domitian Junior is not recorded and they disappear from the historical record after 96. It is possible they were executed or were exiled as a result of their parents' downfall.

The portrait on this Smyrnian bronze, which is accompanied by the inscription OYECTIACIANOC NEΩTEPOC ('the younger Vespasian'), has been a subject of much debate since at least the time of Eckhel. The more credible suggestions for who it represents include Titus, Domitian and the son of Domitian (who died young and whose name is not recorded) and Vespasian Junior. An accidental mulling of a Vespasian Junior portrait die and a reverse die showing Nemesis intended for an issue of Domitian's wife Domitia makes it clear that the subject must be Vespasian Junior. Beyond this single issue, no other coins are known to name or portray Vespasian Junior, and no coinage appears to have been struck for his younger brother, Domitian Junior.

Trajan, 98 – 117



2032

- 2032 Aureus 114-116, AV 7.28 g. IMP CAES NER TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG GER DAC Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P COS VI P P S P Q R Jupiter standing l., holding a long sceptre in l. hand and a thunderbolt in r. over a smaller figure of Trajan, togate, standing l. holding a branch in l. hand and a small sceptre in r. C 268 var. (no cuirass). BMC 533. RIC 336 var. (no cuirass). CBN 814. Calicó 1065.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 25'000

Ex LHS sale 85, 2005, 800.

Hadrian augustus, 117 – 138



- 2033 Aureus 119-122, AV 7.15 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M – TR P – COS III Jupiter seated l. on throne, holding thunderbolt with r. hand and leaning l. on vertical sceptre. C 1060. BMC 107. RIC 64. Calicó 1304a.

A very attractive portrait struck in high relief. Good extremely fine 18'000

Ex LHS sale 85, 2005, 807.

Hadrian was an enigmatic figure composed of equally good and bad qualities. At times he could be incredibly cruel and calculating, like when early in his reign he executed several ex-consuls for allegedly conspiring against the throne, even though upon his accession he had promised never to execute a member of the senatorial order. At other times, he showed great sophistication in his understanding of the needs of the Empire. To start, he reverted the expansionist policies of his predecessor Trajan by pulling back some of the more ambitious borders, and then better fortifying them. He also made a virtual career of traveling throughout the provinces to administer his rule first-hand, which clearly had many positive effects.

Antinous, favourite of Hadrian



- 2034 Bronze, Alexandria 134-135, Æ 14.86 g. ANTINOY – HPWOC Draped bust r., wearing a hem-hem crown. Rev. Antinous, wearing *chlamys*, riding on horse prancing r., holding caduceus; before, L and below, IO. Bloom 13 and pl. V, 9 (these dies). Dattari 2080.

Very rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. Brown tone somewhat tooled, otherwise extremely fine 9'000

Ex Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 6, 2001, F113. From the Zigmond collection.

The appearance on coinage of Antinous, the favourite companion of the emperor Hadrian, is remarkable, for he was not related to the emperor by blood or marriage, and was never an heir-apparent. Indeed, Antinous is honoured only after his death and deification.

Antinous' cult was wide-spread, and a great many busts were produced: at least 1,500 can be presumably attested, of which at least 115 survive today. His coinage was also substantial, with more than 30 mints striking approximately 150 different issues. Though most of these coins were struck during the reign of Hadrian, concentrating from 134 to 137, it is believed that a few mints continued to strike them as late as the reign of Marcus Aurelius, and that his hometown of Bithynium (Claudiopolis) perhaps issued them as late as the time of Caracalla.

Aelius caesar, 136 – 138



- 2035 Aureus 137, AV 7.33 g. L·AELIVS – CAESAR Bare head l. Rev. TRIB POT COS II PIE – TAS Pietas standing r., raising r. hand and holding box of perfumes in l.; in r. field, altar. C 42. BMC 1004. RIC 444c. Calicó 1449. Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A superb portrait struck in high relief. Good extremely fine 75'000

Ex Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge 10 June 1895, Sir E.H. Burbury, 10; Sotheby's 10 November 1972, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 90 and Ira & Larry Goldberg 41, 2007, 2922 sales.

Aelius Caesar, formerly known as L. Ceionius Commodus (Aelius Spartianus recounts his life in Historia Augusta) was of Etruscan origin. He became consul in AD 136, having been adopted by Hadrian in the summer of that year. His appointment came as a general surprise: according to the gossip, Hadrian chose him for his beauty, or perhaps because he considered him a suitable caretaker who would make way for his own favourite, M. Annianus Verus, just fifteen years old at the time. In the opinion of Carcopino, Aelius had been adopted because he was Hadrian's illegitimate child. A wan figure with delicate constitution, he suffered a heavy fall while making an address of thanks for Hadrian and died of haemorrhage. The Historia Augusta (Vita Ael 7) tells us that "Hadrian had gigantic statues raised to Aelius Verus in all regions of the empire, temples too in some cities, and desired that Aelius' son Verus, who had remained within the imperial family after his father's death, be adopted as his grandson, by Antoninus Pius together with Marcus."

Antoninus Pius augustus, 138 – 161



- 2036 Aureus 148-149, AV 7.20 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P XII Bare head r. Rev. C – OS – IIII Aequitas standing l., holding scales and cornucopiae. C 237. BMC 646. RIC 177. Calicó 1498. A magnificent portrait in the finest style of the period and a lovely reddish tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 15'000

Ex M&M 37, 1968, 308 and LHS 97, 2006, 25 sales.

Marcus Aurelius augustus, 161-180



2037

- 2037 Medallion 163-164, Æ 47.07 g. M AVREL ANTONINVS AVG P M IMP II TR P XVIII COS III Laureate head r. Rev. Marcus Aurelius, togate, standing l., presenting Lucius Verus, standing r. and holding *parazonium* in l. hand, with small Victory holding wreath and trophy. Behind Aurelius, two male figures of which the most outer, togate, holds a spear. Behind Verus, four figures, of which one is at his side and looks at him, another is the background and holds standard and two are behind him, one togate holds a shield and the farthestmost is barely visible. Museo Corraio Pisano pl. XXII. C 1052 var. (no IMP II in the legend). Gnechi 85.

Exceedingly rare, apparently only the third specimen known. Undoubtedly one of the finest bronze medallions in existence. A bold portrait of superb style perfectly struck in high relief and an incredibly finely detailed reverse composition.

Untouched dark green patina and good extremely fine

250'000

Ex NAC sale 33, 2006, 500.

The workmanship of this medallion is not only pleasing to the eye, but is worthy of careful study, for the reverse is engraved with a technique that could only be employed by an artist of remarkable talent. The artist of this reverse die created a multi-layered scene by engraving the figures on different planes, thus giving the illusion of far greater depth than can literally exist on a piece of this scale. It is a brilliant work of art on every level: style, composition, invention and technique. The emperors Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus occupy the highest-relief plane, with two other principal figures existing within the second plane, followed by four additional figures, each cut in ever-finer gradations of shallower relief. Indeed, two of the soldiers are cut in such low relief that only portions of their bodies are visible; the soldier behind Verus, who occupies the shallowest plane of all, is represented only by his head and the standard he carries. The technique of layering the figures is given even greater impact because all of the main figures are shown at slight angles so that each, individually, appears in three dimensions within their own plane. The cumulative effect of these two techniques is remarkable, and it could only have been achieved by an artist of the highest caliber. The context of the scene is clearly militant, and it is worth noting that Marcus Aurelius is togate and Lucius Verus is dressed in campaign garb. Considering the date of the medallion, we should see it as a reflection of Verus' ongoing war against the Parthians and, more specifically, his conquest of Armenia. Since the globe the emperors hold has a Nike who faces Marcus Aurelius and holds a trophy of arms, there is no doubt it represents Verus delivering a victory to Marcus Aurelius.

Annus Verus, son of Marcus Aurelius



2038

- 2038 Medallion 167, Æ 42.73 g. COMMODVS CAES VERVVS CAES Confronted laureate busts of Commodus, on l., and Annus Verus, on r. Rev. The four seasons, represented as four boys at play; in exergue, TEMPORVM / FELICITAS. C 1. Gneecchi 1 and pl. 72, 1.

Extremely rare. A very attractive and interesting type, surface somewhat porous,
otherwise about very fine

25'000

Ex NAC sale O, 2004, 2035 and Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 10, 2005, 105.

Marcus Aurelius was the first emperor in nearly a century faced with the privilege of founding a dynasty. His wife Faustina Jr. gave birth to perhaps 13 or 14 children, but her fertility was not accompanied by the good fortune of a high survival rate. By the close of 165 the imperial couple had only two boys living, the brothers Commodus and Annus Verus, and the prospect of dynasty was focused squarely on them. It would be a difficult road ahead since Commodus was four or five years old, and Annus Verus was perhaps three.

This medallion was struck in commemoration of ceremonies that took place on October 12, 166 marking the elevation of Commodus and Annus Verus to the rank of Caesar. Though Commodus survived to become his father's successor as emperor, his younger brother died while still a child, either in 169 or 170. These medallions bear the only certain likeness of Annus Verus. Small provincial bronzes of Tarsus inscribed KOPOI CEBACTOV are believed to portray Commodus and Annus Verus, though some authorities suggest the two young busts actually are Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, the adopted sons of Antoninus Pius.

The four seasons reverse type, inscribed TEMPORVM FELICITAS ('kindly fruits of the earth'), is ideal for this medallion since, at least in part, it is a celebration of a household blessed with children who may perpetuate the family line. It also has a strong connection with wishes for a fruitful and prosperous New Year, and suggests it was issued at the beginning of 167 rather than at the ceremony of October, 166 where the boys received their titles. The type was especially popular in this period, from the reigns of Hadrian through Commodus, though it again came into vogue starting in the mid-3rd Century.

Lucius Verus, 161 – 169



2039

- 2039 Aureus 166, AV 7.26 g. L VERVS AVG – ARM PARTH MAX Laureate draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PAX AVG TR – P VI COS II Pax standing l., holding olive branch in extended r. hand and a cornucopiae in l. C 130 var. (no cuirass). BMC 421 note (this coin cited). RIC 559. Calicó 2140 (this coin). Rare. A very attractive portrait perfectly struck in high relief, good extremely fine

15'000

Ex Hirsch XXXIII, 1913, 1321; Hess-Leu 41 1969, 400 and LHS 97, 2006, lot 34 sales. From the Virgil M. Brand collection.

Commodus caesar, 166 – 177



2040

- 2040 Aureus 175-176, AV 7.32 g. COMMODO CAES AVG FIL GERM SARM Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRI – NC – IVVENT Commodus standing l., holding twig in r. hand and spear in l.; before him, trophy with arms at foot. C 606 var. (not cuirassed). BMC 648. RIC 615 var. (not cuirassed). Calicó 2316 (this coin). Rare. A gentle portrait struck in high relief on a full flan. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 20'000

Ex Tkalec sale 2005 293.

Pertinax, 1st January-28th March 193



2041

- 2041 Denarius 193, AR 3.40 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTIN AVG Laureate head r. Rev. OPI DIVIN – TR P COS II Ops seated l., holding two corn ears. C 33. BMC 19. RIC 8a. A bold portrait struck on sound metal and extremely fine 6'000

Ex Ponterio sale 133, 2005, 1501 and Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 10, 2005, 106

Of the five men proclaimed emperor in the civil war that raged from 193 to 197, Helvius Pertinax was perhaps the most admirable and deserving. Born in north-west Italy the son of a timber merchant, Pertinax was a self-made man who abandoned a career in teaching to join the army. His talents must have been exceptional, for he gained powerful friends attached to the family of Marcus Aurelius, married the daughter of an ex-consul, and by his early 50s this son of a freedman was adlected into the senate. The reverse of this denarius shows Ops, the personification of wealth. It is an unusual choice for any emperor, and she was used only one other time, by Antoninus Pius. Here she may relate to events of the day since she holds grain ears and one of Pertinax's first priorities was to travel to Ostia to oversee the grain supply; indeed he only rushed back to Rome upon learning the praetorian guards were attempting to replace him with the new Consul, Q. Sosius Falco.

Didius Julianus, 28th March – 1st June 193



- 2042 Aureus 193, AV 6.87 g. IMP CAES M DID – IVLIAN AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. RECTOR – ORBIS Didius Julianus standing l., holding globe and scroll. C 14 var. (no drapery). BMC 7 note. RIC 3a var. (no drapery). Woodward NC 1961, obv. – / rev. 3a. Calicó 2399 (these dies).

Very rare and in exceptional condition for this difficult issue. Unobtrusive die-break
(usual for this die) on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine 60'000

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

Pescenius Niger, 193 – 194



- 2043 Denarius, Antiochia 193-194, AR 3.41 g. [IMP] CAES PESC – NIGER IVST AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTO – RI – [AE – AV] – G Victory standing l., writing AVG on shield set on column. . C 72. BMC 316 note. RIC 83a. Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Unusually well struck on

sound metal and extremely fine 6'000

Ex Ponterio sale 133, 2005, 1505 and Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 10, 2005, 107

Clodius Albinus augustus, 193 – 195



2044

- 2044 Aureus, Lugdunum 195-197, AV 6.76 g. IMP CAES D CLOD SE – PT ALBIN AVG Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. IOVI VICTO – RIC. COS II Jupiter, naked but for cloak on back, standing facing head l., holding victory on r. hand and vertical sceptre in l.; at feet, eagle. C 42. BMC p. 70 *. RIC 25. Calicó 2419.

Of the highest rarity, only the second specimen known of this type and only the fourth aureus of Clodius Albinus augustus to be known. A superb portrait well struck in a high relief on an exceptionally large flan. Insignificant die-break on reverse, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

450'000

Aurei of Clodius Albinus as Caesar rank among the true prizes of Roman gold, and his aurei as Augustus are so rare as to be virtually unobtainable. Not only do the latter bear his title of Augustus, but they are engraved in a rustic style that is distinct from his issues as Caesar, which were produced at Rome by Septimius Severus.

Circumstances demand that Albinus' mint was in the West, presumably in Gaul, and his denarii with the GENIO LVGDVNI reverse are generally taken as evidence that it was located in Lugdunum. Though this city had been the site of a major Roman mint under the Julio-Claudians that continued to strike until 78, no dedicated facilities would have existed when Albinus declared himself Augustus in 195, and suddenly had the need to strike coins. After his revolt failed, no mint would again operate in Lugdunum until perhaps the mid-3rd Century.

The life of Albinus, like so many emperors who reigned after the murder of Commodus, is difficult to reconstruct. Primary sources are scant, and even those that appear to have had some utility in ancient times, such as the *Historia Augusta*, are notoriously unreliable. The section of the *HA* devoted to Albinus is so flawed as to be virtually a work of fiction.

Early in the *HA*'s treatment of Albinus is what purports to be the content of an authentic letter of the Emperor Commodus in which he offers Albinus the subordinate rank of Caesar – in essence, appointing him his successor. In the commentary that follows, the author says Albinus declined because he realized that he could not support an emperor who he believed must be struck down.

The origin of the epithet Albinus is described in the *HA* as having been given to him on the day of his birth, for when he emerged from his mother's womb Albinus was "very white" rather than having the usual reddish coloration. His father, in what certainly is another fictional letter, wrote: "A son was born to me on the seventh day before the Kalends of December, his whole body being straightaway of such whiteness as to outdo the cloth in which he was wrapped." In a later passage, the author notes that the extreme whiteness of his complexion persisted into his later years: "He was remarkably white, so much so that many think he got his name from that."

The *HA* attributes a wide spectrum of personal traits to Albinus, ranging from the worst to the finest, depending on the source of its information. Of special note is the assessment of his military talents: "He was expert in arms. In short, he was called not inappropriately the Catiline of his age."

The rivalry between Septimius Severus and Albinus is referenced at several points in the *HA*. It begins with the letter in which Commodus selects Albinus as Caesar, partly out of annoyance that Severus and a certain Nonius Murcus were speaking ill of the emperor to the soldiers "...in order to make ready for themselves their seizure of the position of Augustus." The narrative continues by suggesting that Severus initially considered Albinus and Pescennius Niger as his heirs to the throne he had taken by force, but that later he reserved that honour for Caracalla and Geta.

After the death of Niger, the *HA* suggests Severus hatched a plot to murder Albinus. He sent envoys bearing false news that Severus wanted Albinus to share rule with him, hoping to catch him off-guard, and to use that opportunity for the envoys to murder him with daggers they had secreted away. However, the *HA* tells us Albinus did not fall for the ruse, and discovered the details of the plot after torturing the would-be assassins. Nothing remained but for Albinus to march against Severus.

The veracity of these events aside, Albinus originally had forged an uncomfortable truce with Severus in 193, after the latter had overthrown Didius Julianus and taken control in the capital. The arrangement, which included Albinus remaining in Gaul and accepting the subordinate title of Caesar, lasted until Severus had defeated Niger in the East and returned in 195 to name his sons Caracalla and Geta successors and to force the senate to declare Albinus a public enemy. The news could hardly have been a shock to Albinus, who soon thereafter was hailed emperor by his own soldiers at Lugdunum. Severus remained in Rome for at least a year afterward and did not confront Albinus until January, 197. They commanded massive armies that clashed on February 19 near Lugdunum in one of the largest battles in Roman history. After an initial setback, the battle went in favour of Severus, who is said to have decapitated Albinus' body so his head could be displayed in Rome.



Septimius Severus, 193 – 211



- 2045 Aureus, 201-210, AV 7.14 g. SEVERVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. RESTITVTOR – VRBIS Roma seated l. on shield, holding palladium and spear. C 605. BMC 358. RIC 288. Calicó 2529.
A bold portrait struck on a full flan and good extremely fine 18'000

Ex Triton sale XI, 2007, 659.

Caracalla augustus, 198 – 217



- 2046 Aureus 216, AV 6.58 g. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P XVIII COS IIII P P Serapis standing facing, head l., raising r. arm and holding sceptre in l. hand. C 347. BMC 164. RIC 280a. Calicó 2745 (this coin).
A superb portrait struck on a full flan and good extremely fine 15'000

Ex Glendining, 1950, H. Platt Hall Collection 1713; Leu 36, 1985, 297 and Lanz 102, May 2001, 730 sales.

Geta augustus, 210 – 211



- 2047 Sestertius 211, Æ 29.28 g. P SEPTIMIUS GETA – PIVS AVG BRIT Laureate head r. Rev. FORT RED TR P III COS II P P Fortuna seated l., holding rudder and cornucopiae; wheel under chair; in exergue, S C. C 52 (misdescribed). BMC 40. RIC 168b.

Rare. An attractive enamel-like green patina and about extremely fine

18'000

Ex NAC sale 33, 2006, 534.

Macrinus, 217 – 218



- 2048 Aureus 217-218, AV 7.00 g. IMP C M OPEL SEV – MACRINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERALITAS AVG Macrinus and Diadumenianus seated l. on platform; behind officer standing l.; before Liberalitas, holding *abacus* and cornucopiae. Below platform, citizen. C 43. BMC 71. RIC 79. Kent-Hirmer pl. 97, 414 (this reverse die). Calicó 2947.

Very rare. A magnificent portrait struck in high relief and an interesting reverse composition. Good extremely fine

50'000

Ex Bourgey sale 18 November 1957, 336.

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

Diadumenian, 217 – 218



2049



2049

- 2049 Denarius 217-218, AR 2.88 g. M OPEL ANT DIADVMEIAN CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINC IVVENTVTIS Diadumenian standing facing, head r., holding standard and sceptre; in r. field, two standards. C 3. BMC 87. RIC 102. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 1'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 142, 2005, 2762

Elagabalus, 218 – 222



2050



- 2050 Quinarius 220-222, AR 1.36 g. IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBER – TAS AVG Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* and sceptre. C 91. BMC 222a. RIC 109.

Very rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. Old cabinet tone, flan crack, otherwise extremely fine

4'500

Ex Gilhofer & Ranschburg and Hess, 1935, Trau, 2437; Hess-Leu 1954, 347; Hess-Leu, 17, 1961, von Schulthess, 284; and Leu 86, 2003, de Guermentes, 928 sales.

Severus Alexander, 222 – 235



2051



- 2051 Aureus 226, AV 6.00 g. IMP C M AVR SEV – ALEXAND AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR – P V – COS III P P Severus Alexander seated l. on curule chair on platform, extending r. hand; at his r. side, Liberalitas standing l., holding cornucopia and *abacus*. At base of platform, citizen raising both hands; in exergue, LIB AVG III. C –. BMC –. RIC –. Cf. NAC sale 23, 2002, 1620 (laureate and draped bust). Calicó 3110a (this coin).

An apparently unique variety of a very interesting reverse type known in only two specimens. Perfectly struck in high relief and good extremely fine

16'000

Ex Triton I, 1997, 1567 and NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 162 sales

As successor to his cousin Elagabalus, whose fanatical behaviour made him unpopular in virtually all social circles, Severus Alexander represented a return to normalcy – or at least as close as was possible. He was hailed Caesar in the middle of 211 as a counterbalance to Elagabalus, and early in the next year he replaced his cousin as emperor, for Elagabalus made the fatal error of forcing the praetorian guardsmen to choose between them. Both had been about 14 years old when they ascended the throne, but Alexander proved more willing to take the advice of his family elders: his mother Julia Mamaea and his grandmother Julia Maesa. Docile by nature, Alexander showed little desire for independent action, and the careful maternal tutelage he received no doubt contributed to his reign lasting thirteen years. When this important aureus was struck, Alexander was 17 or 18 years old, and already had reigned longer than his unfortunate cousin. Alexander is shown distributing coins to a diminutive figure who climbs a ladder at the front of the platform upon which Liberalitas stands beside the emperor, who sits on a curule chair. The rectangular object held by Liberalitas is traditionally described as a counting device (an abacus), but it might be a coin counter in the form of a flat board with shallow, coin-size depressions matching the appropriate number of coins required for distribution. Such a device no doubt would have added greatly to the efficiency and the accuracy of such distributions.

Maximinus I, 235 – 238



- 2052 Sestertius 235-236, Æ 22.85 g. IMP MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. SALVS AVGVSTI Salus seated l. on throne, feeding snake, rising from altar, out of patera. C 88. BMC 100. RIC 64.
A very attractive portrait, brown-green patina and extremely fine 3'000

Ex Tkalec sale, April 2007, 290.

Gordian I, 1st – 22nd April 238



- 2053 Denarius 1st-22nd April 238, AR 2.99 g. IMP M ANT GORDIANVS AFR AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SECVRITAS AVGG Securitas seated l., holding short sceptre. C 10. BMC 11. RIC 5.
A magnificent portrait struck on a very broad flan and on an unusually good metal. Good extremely fine 5'000

Gordian II, 1st – 22nd April 238



- 2054 Denarius 1st-22nd April 238, AR 3.34 g. IMP M ANTONINVS GORDIANVS AFR AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS – AVGG Virtus standing l., resting r. hand on shield and holding reverted spear in l. C 14. BMC 30. RIC 3.

Rare and possibly the finest specimen known. Lovely old cabinet tone and good extremely fine 15'000

Ex NFA XX, 1988, 335; Superior 1995, John Jacobs, 912; CNG 37, 1996, 1712 (illustrated on the cover page) and NAC 39, 2007, Ferstein part I, 151 sales.

With the unprecedented rise of a peasant to the highest office in the state in 235, the senatorial elite found themselves in a vulnerable position as Rome entered a new phase of its history. In order to pay for the war he was prosecuting on the northern frontiers, Maximinus used public funds and targeted wealthy aristocrats for excessive taxation and the outright confiscation of their estates.

Heavy taxation in North Africa had reached an unacceptable level early in 238, when a group of young noblemen mobilized their servants and tenant farmers and murdered the imperial procurator. Now in a desperate situation, they convinced the elderly proconsul Gordian to be their candidate for emperor. He accepted and was joined by his son as co-emperor, though the sources disagree whether they were proclaimed emperor at the same time, or if the younger Gordian joined the revolt a few days afterward.

The Gordiani established themselves in Carthage and, upon learning of the approach of the Numidian governor Capellianus with the Legio III Augusta and its auxiliaries, the younger Gordian helped muster a rag-tag army to defend the capital. Herodian (7.9.3-10), perhaps our most vivid source on the rebellion, offers this shocking account:

"...the governor marched toward Carthage at the head of a huge army of young, vigorous men equipped with every type of weapon and trained for battle by military experience gained in fighting the barbarians. ...When the battle was joined, the Carthaginians were superior in numbers, but they were an undisciplined mob, without military training...To make it worse, they were without arms and proper equipment. Each man brought from home a dagger, an ax, or a hunting spear; those who found hides cut out circles of leather, arranged pieces of wood as a frame, and fashioned shields as best they could. The Numidians, by contrast, were excellent javelin men and superb horsemen. ...They easily routed the huge Carthaginian mob; without waiting for the Numidians' charge, the Carthaginians threw down their arms and fled. Crowding and trampling one another underfoot, more Carthaginians were killed in the crush than fell by enemy action. There the son of Gordian died, together with all his companions, and the number of dead was so great that it was impossible to gather them for burial. The body of the young Gordian was never found. A few of the many who rushed into Carthage and found a place to hide managed to save themselves... The rest of the mob crowded before the gates of the city, trying to force their way in; attacked by the cavalry and legionary troops, they were cut down to the last man. Loud wailing of women and children was heard everywhere in the city when they saw their loved ones slaughtered before their eyes. ...When Capellianus entered Carthage, he put to death all the prominent men who survived the battle, plundered the temples, and seized the public and private funds."

Balbinus, 22nd April – 29th July 238



- 2055 Denarius 22nd April – 29th July 238, AR 3.64 g. IMP C D CAEL BALBINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M T R P – COS II P P Balbinus, togate, standing facing, head l., holding up branch in r. hand and short transverse sceptre in l. C 20. BMC 26. RIC 5.

A superb and finely detailed portrait. Old cabinet tone and good extremely fine 1'000

Pupienus, 22nd April – 29th July 238



2056



- 2056 Denarius 22nd April – 29th July 238, AR 3.50 g. IMP C M CLOD PVPIENVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCORDIA AVGG Concordia seated l., holding patera and double cornucopiae. C 6. BMC 42. RIC 1. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 1'000

Ex Triton sale X, 2007, 710.

Gordian III augustus, 238 – 244



2057



- 2057 Aureus 241-243, AV 4.93 g. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI – STATORI Jupiter standing facing, head r., holding sceptre and thunderbolt. C 108. RIC 99. Calicó 3200. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 7'000

Ex Ponterio sale 141, 2007, 1696.

Philip I, 244 – 249



2058



2058

- 2058 Sestertertius circa 244-249, Æ 19.05 g. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. AEQVITAS AVGG S – C Aequitas standing l., holding scales and cornucopiae. C 10. RIC 166a. A bold portrait and an appealing enamel-like dark green patina. Good extremely fine 2'000

Ex Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 9, 2004, 98.

Divus Marinus, father of Philip I



2059

- 2059 Bronze, Philippopolis Arabiae circa 244-249, Æ 9.51 g. ΘΕΟ ΜΑΡΙΝΟ Bare-headed bust r. supported by eagle. Rev. ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ ΚΟΛΩΝΙΑΣ S – C Helmeted Roma standing l., holding patera and long spear at foot which, oval shield. BMC p. 42, 2. A. Spijkermann, The Coins of the Decapolis and the Provincia Arabia, 2 and pl. 58, 2.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for this very difficult issue.

Dark tone and good very fine

5'000

Ex CNG sale 72, 2006, 1250.

In addition to promoting his immediate family, Philip I also lavished honours upon his deceased father, Julius Marinus, whom he deified. Philips family hailed from a somewhat obscure town in Arabia Trachonitis (the modern village of Shahba, Syria) situated about 60 miles east of the Sea of Galilee and 25 miles north of Bostra, the capital of Roman Arabia. Philip took full advantage of his new position as emperor to honour his hometown, which he elevated to a Roman colonia, and renamed Philippopolis.

Beyond these honorary upgrades, Philip made capital improvements in his hometown. He built a temple for the worship of his now-deified father, and had numerous mosaics, a theatre, baths and temples constructed. The ruins of these survive today, and it is likely that most – if not all – were completed under Philips watch. Since the town was not on a major road or trade route, its prosperity and fame eventually faded.

The coinage of Philippopolis was an isolated event, as no coins had been struck there before Philips reign, and none were produced afterward. Since no die links between this cities coinage and any other was documented in Konrad Krafts monumental 1972 study of provincial die links, it is possible the coins were actually produced in Philippopolis, rather than at a larger regional mint. The coinage was struck only in the name of Philip I, his wife, his son and deified father, and was limited to two base metal denominations. A further peculiarity is that even though Philippopolis was a Roman colonia, its coin inscriptions (except the formulaic SC) are rendered in Greek

The reverses depict a seated goddess and a standing goddess. Though the standing goddess still merits her identification as Roma, the seated goddess is perhaps better identified as Allat based upon her similarity to statues found at Palmyra and Suweida. Allat was a remarkably old fertility/mother goddess representing the earth. Her worship was important to agriculture, and she belonged to the trinity of desert goddesses, the other two being Al-Uzza, the morning-star goddess, and Menat, the goddess of fate and time.

Philip II caesar, 244 – 247



2060

- 2060 Aureus 245-246, AV 4.35 g. M IVL PHILIPPVS CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINCIPI I – VVENT Philip II, in military attire, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and spear in l. C 46. RIC 218a. Calicó 3275.

Very rare. A delightful portrait struck on a very broad flan, minor marks, otherwise good extremely fine

25'000

Pacatian, 248 – 249



2061

2061

- 2061 Antoninianus or double denarius, Viminacium 248-249, AR 4.55 g. IMP TI CL MAR PACATIANVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PAX AETERNA Pax standing l., holding olive branch and transversal sceptre. C 6. RIC 5.

Very rare and in superb condition for the issue. Unusually well-centred and complete, toned and about extremely fine

15'000

The year 248 marked what Romans believed was the thousandth anniversary of their capital city – a milestone by any standard. While the games went on in Rome the empire was sinking ever deeper into danger from its enemies on the borders, and these concerns were taking their toll in the provinces. One particularly vulnerable region was the Balkans, which existed under the ever-present threat of barbarian invasion across the Danube.

Finally, in the spring or early summer of 248 the legions on the Danube supported their commander Pacatian in a rebellion against the reigning emperor Philip I 'the Arab, who sent his prefect Decius to put down the uprising. The revolt lasted a few months at the most, and sometime between the spring of 248 and early 249 Pacatian was murdered by his own men.

Though it had ended, Pacatian's revolt indirectly caused the downfall of Philip, for the soldiers brought their complaints forth to Decius, who in the meantime had won his men's respect by cleaning the region of Goths, Germans and Dacian Carpi who had invaded Roman territory during the rebellion. In about June, 249 the same soldiers who had sponsored Pacatian hailed Decius their emperor, and encouraged him to march on Rome. Philip brought a large army against him, but was defeated in September or October, 249, thus ending his bashful and ineffective reign of five years.

Jotapian, 248 – 249



2062

2062

- 2062 Antoninianus or double denarius, Nicopolis Seleucia (?) 248-249, AR 3.49 g. IM C M F R IOTAPIANVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVG Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm. C 2 var. (obverse legend IM C C F RV IOTAPIANVS). RIC 2C var. (obverse legend IMP C M F RV IOTAPIANVS). Bland, Essays Carson, 10.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. An unusually pleasant portrait well-centred on a full flan, dark tone with some minor porosity, otherwise about extremely fine

18'000

From the outset of his reign, Philip I displayed a general gift of incompetence. He clearly was skilled enough to climb the ranks and then to treacherously eliminate the prefect Timesitheus and the emperor Gordian III, but once he had no peer to overcome it was clear that he did not have the talent to rule.

Philip's first mistake was to make peace with the Sasanians on terms which were not only disgraceful to the army, but expensive. Zosimus (I, 20, 2) tells us this was the spark for the revolt of Jotapian among the Syrian legions. Philip had to pay a severe ransom to the Persians in exchange for Roman captives, while also having to absorb the expense of building his home town of Philippopolis in Arabia from the ground-up and staging lavish games for the millenary celebration in Rome. Another mistake was entrusting the administration of the East to his brother Priscus, who ruled harshly and increased taxation beyond what could be sustained.

These circumstances brought forth Jotapian, an army commander who Aurelius Victor says was related to Severus Alexander, and who may in fact have been a descendant of the royal house of Commagene. Jotapian was proclaimed emperor by his soldiers and for several months may have controlled a vast area, for Polemius Sylvius places the revolt in Cappadocia and Victor describes it as having started in Syria (which, if true, could only include the northern part, for he did not strike coins at Antioch).

Opinions on when the uprising began vary, with the conventional view being the summer of 248. But much light was shed on the subject by Roger Bland in a 1993 study, in which he suggests the revolt did not occur until the fall of 249. More importantly still, Bland produced convincing evidence that Jotapians coins were struck at Nicopolis, a city located about 100 miles north of Antioch, quite near the former kingdom of Commagene. Bland catalogued only double-denarii for Jotapian, but since his study was published a piece of double-denarius weight but with a laureate bust has surfaced (CNG 61, lot 2027), allowing for the possibility, at least, that Jotapian coined aurei or intended to do so.

Trajan Decius, 249 – 251



2063

- 2063 Double-sestertius 249-251, Æ 35.06 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIC – TORIA AVG S – C Victory walking l., holding wreath and palm. C 115. RIC 126d.
A magnificent portrait struck in high relief and an untouched green patina. Extremely fine 15'000

Ex Sotheby's, Zurich, Brand Sale 3, 1983, Virgil M. Brand Collection 429.

Hostilian caesar, 251



2064

- 2064 Aureus 251, AV 4.16 g. C VALENS HOSTIL MES QVINTVS N C Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRICIPI IVV – ENTVTIS Hostilian, in military attire, standing l., holding standard in r. hand and sceptre in l. C 33. RIC 181b. Calicó 3316.

Very rare and in exceptional condition. A gentle portrait well-struck in high relief, almost invisible marks, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc 35'000

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

Volusian, 251 – 253



- 2065 Bino 251-253, AV 6.08 g. IMP CAE C VIB VOLVSIANO AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PIETAS AVGG Pietas, veiled, standing l. raising both hands; to l., altar. C –. RIC 151. Calicó 3365.
Very rare and in an exceptional state of preservation. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 20'000

Ex New York Sale XI, 2006, 324.

Associated with the troubled reign of Trebonianus Gallus was his son Volusian, who probably was about 20 years old when he was hailed Caesar, and soon after Augustus, in the tragic year 251. When his father replaced as emperor the slain Trajan Decius and his eldest son Herennius Etruscus in June or July of 251, two complications remained in Rome: Decius' widow and youngest son. Since Decius had not been branded a rebel or overthrown, Gallus treated his surviving relatives honourably. The widow Herennia Etruscilla seems to have retained the title Augusta (as Volusian's mother Afinia Gemina Baebiana was never hailed Augusta), and her young son Hostilian was raised in rank from Caesar to co-Augustus with Gallus. This may have been difficult for Volusian to accept, for he was the new emperor's son and if coin portraits are any judge, he was considerably older than Hostilian. In any event, if Volusian had been envious of the title Augustus, he did not have long to wait, for within months Hostilian died of the plague. Volusian was immediately hailed Augustus in the fallen boy's place. But the titles jointly held by Volusian and Gallus were of little value, for they remained in Rome while the Roman empire collapsed around them. Plague was rampant, and the Goths and the Sasanians ravaged Asia Minor and Syria. The only source of inspiration was Aemilian, governor of Lower Moesia, who was roundly defeating the Goths in the Balkans. Good news for Rome, however, spelled bad news for Gallus and Volusian, for recent history was about to repeat itself. Riding the tide of his success, Aemilian gave to his soldiers a large sum of money intended to subsidize a peace agreement with the Goths, and they hailed him emperor and urged him to march on Rome. Panic-stricken, Gallus and Volusian instructed the noble Valerian, who was raising recruits on the Rhine, to quickly return to Italy with his army. Valerian did so, but arrived too late to save Gallus and Volusian, both of whom were murdered outside Rome by their own soldiers before an engagement with Aemilian even occurred. A pitched battle soon did occur between Aemilian's seasoned Balkan soldiers and Valerian's fresh recruits from the Rhine. In a bloody battle, Aemilian died and Valerian was hailed emperor, allowing him to establish an ill-fated dynasty comprised of himself, his son Gallienus and his two grandsons Valerian II and Saloninus.

Aemilian, 253



- 2066 Antoninianus or double-denarius 253, AR 2.89 g. IMP AEMILIANVS PIVS FEL AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS – AVG Virtus standing l., r. foot on helmet, holding branch and spear. C 60. RIC 12.
Good extremely fine 1'000

Uranus Antoninus, 253 – 254



2067

- 2067 Aureus, Emesa 253-254, AV 5.39 g. L IVL AVR SVLP VRA ANTONINVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FORTVNA PEDVX Fortuna seated l. on throne, holding rudder and *cornucopiae*; below throne, wheel. C –. RIC 4*. Calicó 3388. Baldus, Uranus Antoninus 72 (this coin).

Extremely rare and among the finest aurei of Uranus Antoninus in existence.

A finely-detailed portrait struck in high relief on full flan.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

100'000

Ex Leu 91, 2004, 648 and NGSA 4, 2006, 227 sales.

Uranus Antoninus, the hereditary priest of Aphrodite and the sun-god El-gabal in Emesa who was hailed emperor in the midst of a Sasanian invasion of Roman territories. His extraordinary coinage includes imperial-style aurei (and very rare denarii struck from aureus dies) and three types of provincial-style coinage, and can be dated to 253/4 due to the fortunate use of a Seleucid Era date on a provincial bronze.

All of his aurei bear Latin inscriptions, and since they do not display any imperial titles they are able to record (in abbreviated form) his full name, Lucius Julius Aurelius Sulpicius Uranus Antoninus. By contrast, his provincial coins have Greek inscriptions that bear the Greek versions of the titles *imperator* and *Augustus*, and generally provide him only with the name Sulpicius Antoninus.

The usurper's aurei were struck at a heavy standard for the period – something between 55 and 60 per Roman pound. His contemporaries lagged far behind: Trebonianus Gallus (251-253) struck aurei at 1/90th of a pound, and even in their accession year of 253/254, when aurei of Valerian and Gallienus were struck at the heaviest standard of their reigns, they were only 1/70th of a pound. Since Uranus Antoninus' silver 'tetradrachms' are about 90 percent pure and weigh about eight grams they likely were valued at ten per aureus.

The aurei bear an interesting array of reverse types, some distinctive and others which are borrowed from imperial coins that would have been found in circulation. The FORTVNA REDVX type used here had been a standard choice for many of Rome's emperors since the reign of Augustus. However, Fortuna 'the bringer-back' normally was used in anticipation of an emperor's return from a journey. It is possible that the type reflects an absence of Uranus from Emesa, perhaps in response to Valerian's efforts to recover Syria, but it is probably best to presume the type does not reflect historical events, but is simply adopted from Imperial coinage that was familiar to the soldiers and merchants of Emesa

Valerian I, 253 – 260



- 2068 Aureus 253, AV 2.60 g. IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERALITAS AVGG Liberalitas standing l., holding tessera and cornucopiae. C 104 var. (different obverse legend, no drapery on cuirass. RIC 43. Calicó 3425 (this coin). Biaggi 1439 (this coin).
Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Good extremely fine 30'000

Ex NAC sale 34, 2006, 58. From the Biaggi collection.

Publius Licinius Valerianus was born around AD 190 into a wealthy senatorial family. He showed considerable talent as a politician and served as consul during the reign of Severus Alexander.

During the years AD 238-250, he held a series of important civilian and military posts as the Roman Empire plunged into an era of civil war, invasion, pestilence, and economic collapse. In AD 253, he was commander of the Rhine garrison when he and his army were summoned to Rome by the embattled emperor Trebonianus Gallus to defend his regime against the usurper Aemilian.

While Valerian was en route, Gallus was murdered by his own troops and Aemilian seized the throne. In a pattern typical of the age, Valerian's troops proclaimed him emperor and he, in turn, marched against Aemilian, who suffered the same fate as Gallus. Valerian's elevation was quickly approved by the Senate. He appointed his son Gallienus as co-ruler and sent him to defend the crumbling Rhine frontier while Valerian focused on a deepening crisis in the east.

The Goths had commandeered some Roman ships and were plundering Asia Minor at will while, at the same time, Shapur I, king of resurgent Sasanian Persia, had crossed the eastern frontier and sacked Antioch. After taking stern measures against those he considered subversives, including Christians (against whom he mounted a major persecution), Valerian mustered a large legionary force and marched east in AD 255. After forcing the Goths to retreat, he spent the next four years campaigning in the Syrian desert in a fruitless effort to force Shapur into a decisive battle. In AD 260, with his army weakened by pestilence and exhaustion, Valerian agreed to a peace parlay with Shapur. But on his approach, he and his bodyguards were seized and taken prisoner by Shapur. This was an unprecedented calamity and marked the Empire's darkest hour.

Gallienus was unwilling or unable to come to his rescue, and Valerian remained in ignominious captivity for many years, where he endured such humiliations as being forced to serve as Shapur's footstool. After his death, Valerian's skin was flayed and stuffed, the effigy being presented to later Roman envoys as an object lesson.

Gallienus, 253 – 268



- 2069 Aureus 254-255, AV 2.94 g. IMP C P LIC GALLIENVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CONSERV Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt and sceptre. C 349 var (draped). RIC 76. Calicó 3515.
An attractive and unusually well struck and centred portrait. Extremely fine 8'000

Ex NAC sale 31, 2005, 98.

Saloninus caesar, 256 – 260



- 2070 Aureus 256, AV 2.23 g. LIC COR SAL VALERIANVS N CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PIETAS AVGG Sacrificial implements. C 48. RIC 17 (these dies). Calicó 3688 (these dies). Delbrueck pl. 13, 23. Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. Extremely fine 60'000

Ex Leu 10, 1974, 362; Sotheby's June 1990, Hunt part II, 822 and NAC 40, 2007, 815 sales. From the Weintraub collection.

Saloninus, the youngest son of Gallienus, came to the throne during one of the darkest periods of Roman history. Prior to his elevation to Caesar late in 258 that position had been held by his older brother Valerian II. But while campaigning with his father along the Danube in that same year, Valerian II died unexpectedly; the history is so poorly recorded that we cannot be certain how he died, though natural causes or battle wounds have both been suggested. Needless to say, when Saloninus was called to duty it was during a period of personal anxiety and grief, to which he could add the grave misfortunes then being experienced by the empire as a whole. The teenager Saloninus had less than two years remaining of his life, yet there could hardly have been a moment of that time in which he experienced calm, or the chance to indulge in the frivolities of youth. Instead he was thrust into the grave responsibilities of the age. Saloninus' first task probably was to accompany his father on campaign against the Alamanni, who had launched a terrifying invasion of Italy. Then he set up his court at Cologne, far from his father at a time when the western provinces were in an appalling condition. In addition to the usual and persistent bad news in the West, in due time the young Caesar also learned of the capture of his grandfather Valerian by the Persians and of the revolts in Illyricum by Ingenuus and Regalianus. But the worst was yet to come, for in 260 Saloninus fell victim to invasion and revolt. In that year the Franks crossed the Rhine and laid waste to Gaul, Germania Inferior, Belgica and Spain while the Alamanni poured into the agri Decumates and ventured into the interior of Gaul. Amid the chaos of these invasions, some of the Rhine legions hailed their commander Postumus, and then besieged Saloninus and his praetorian prefect Silvanus in Cologne. Either in June or in the fall of 260 Saloninus was raised from Caesar to Augustus, but that did not change his fate, as the city soon capitulated and handed over the new emperor and his prefect for execution.

Macrianus, 260 – 261



- 2071 Antoninianus or double denarius, Antiochia 260-261, billon 3.93 g. IMP C FVL MACRIANVS P F AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r., drapery on far shoulder. Rev. SOL INVICTO Sol standing facing, head l., raising r. hand and holding globe; In l. filed, star. C 12. RIC 12. Good extremely fine 750

Ex Ponterio sale 142, 2007, 1842.

Quietus, 260 – 261



2072



2072

- 2072 Antoninianus, Antiochia (?) 260-261, billon 3.70 g. IMP C FVL QVIETVS P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CONS – ERVATORI Jupiter seated l., holding patera in r. hand and sceptre in l.; at foot, eagle. C 8. RIC 6. Extremely fine 750

Ex NFA XX, 1988, 409 and NAC 38, 2007, 169 sales.

Postumus, 260 – 269



2073



- 2073 Aureus, Lugdunum 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. C 300. RIC 32. Calicó 3770. Schulte 59a (this coin). Biaggi 1527 (this coin). Very rare. A very elegant portrait struck on a broad flan and extremely fine 50'000

Ex Bourgey 18-19 November 1957, 358; NAC 21, 2001, 535 and NAC 41, 2007, 133 sales. From the Biaggi collection

Vabalathus, 270-272



2074



2074

- 2074 Antoninianus, Antiochia or Emesa 272, billon 3.27 g. IM C VHABALATHVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA AVG Victory advancing l., holding wreath in outstretched r. hand and palm branch in l.; in l. field, star. In exergue, Z. C 6. RIC 6. CBN 1267.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, among the finest specimens known.

Green patina and good extremely fine

2'000

Tacitus, 275 – 276



- 2075 Aureus 275, AV 5.13 g. IMP C M CLA TACITVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE – AET – ERNAE Roma seated l. on throne holding Victory on globe in outstretched r. hand and sceptre in l.; below throne, shield. C 114 var. (shield beside). RIC 77d var. (shield beside). Calicó 4101 (this coin). Rare. Perfectly struck on a broad flan and good extremely fine 18'000

Ex NGSA sale 4, 2006, 240.

Probus, 276 – 282



- 2076 Medallion 276-282, billon 22.43 g. IMP PRO – BVS AVG Laureate bust l., wearing cuirass decorated with *medusa* and holding spear in r. hand over shoulder. Rev. MO – NETA AV – G The three Monetae standing l., each holding scales and cornucopiae; at their feet, three piles of coins. C 373. Kent-Hirmer pl. 122, 555 (this obverse die). Gnechi p. 117, 17 (this coin).

Rare. A masterpiece with a portrait struck in high relief in the finest style of the period. The original silvering almost intact and extremely fine 35'000

Ex M&M 92, 2002, Friends of the Roman, 258 (illustrated on the front cover); NGSA 3, 2004, 158 and Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 10, 2005, 123. From the duplicates of the Cabinet des Médailles, Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

The *Tres Monetae* make their first appearance on brass medallions of Commodus, after which it becomes a staple of medallions struck throughout most of the 3rd Century. The type rarely was used for circulating coins, including sestertii from early in the reign of Septimius Severus. Initially the medallions of this type featured inscriptions such as AEQVITAS PVBLICA(E) or AEQVITAS AVGVSTI, but by the reign of Trajan Decius (249-251) it had assumed its most familiar form – as on this medallion of Probus – with the inscription MONETA AVG(G).

Each of the *Monetae* holds a cornucopia and set of scales, and stand beside a heap of coins. Invariably, the two outer figures hold scales hung on rods or cords of approximately equal length, whereas the central figure suspends her scale from a much longer rod or cord. Since the figures represent the three principal coining metals – gold, silver and copper – we may presume the central figure represents gold, and that her longer rod or cord somehow represents the more careful standard to which gold was weighed.

Carus , 282 – 283



- 2077 Aureus, Lugdunum 282, AV 4.47 g. IMP C M AVR CARVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SPES – P – VBLICA Spes advancing l., holding flower in r. hand and raising skirt with l. C 76. RIC 3. Calicó 4275. Rare. Perfectly struck and centred, good extremely fine 15'000

Carinus caesar, 282 – 283



- 2078 Aureus, Siscia circa 282, AV 4.67 g. M AVR CARINVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust l., holding a transverse spear and shield with horseman-enemy motif. Rev. MARS V – LTOR Mars advancing r., holding spear and shield. C 50. RIC 188. Calicó 4396. Rare. A magnificent portrait and a lovely reddish tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 18'000

Carinus is, perhaps, one of the underrated evil-doers of the Roman Empire. If the words of the historian Eutropius are of any value, this emperor's reputation was terrible: "He put to death very many innocent men on false charges, seduced the wives of nobles and even ruined those of his school fellows who had taunted him at school, even with trivial banter." (*Breviarium* IX.19). The histories are persistent about his seemingly insatiable desire for women. The *Historia Augusta* reports that he was married and divorced nine times, and that he abandoned some of his wives while they were pregnant. We must, of course temper our view, as it is a fact that history is written by the victor. Considering Carinus was overthrown by Diocletian, who subsequently ruled with unquestioned supremacy for two decades, we might suspect that Carinus was unfairly maligned to add greater justification for the revolt of Diocletian who, after all, was little more than just another usurper when his army hailed him emperor against the legitimate emperor Carinus.

Divo Nigriniano, son of Carinus



- 2079 Antoninianus or aurelianus 283-284, billon 3.40 g. DIVO NIGRINIANO Radiate and naked half bust r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing facing with spread wings, head l.; in exergue, KAA. C 3. RIC 472. Very rare and in superb condition for the issue. An enchanting portrait struck on a very broad flan, extremely fine / good extremely fine 5'000

Ex NAC sale 41, 2007, 136

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

Numerian, 283-284



- 2080 Aureus, Siscia circa 284, AV 4.74 g. IMP C NVMERIANVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ORIO – N – S AVGG Sol standing facing, head l., raising r. hand and holding globe in l.; in l. field, star. C 33. RIC 454. Calicó 4309 (these dies). Very rare and in an exceptional state of preservation. A bold portrait struck in high relief on a full flan, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 30'000

When Numerian's father Carus died unexpectedly at the army camp near the bank of the Tigris river, the burden of authority fell upon the 30-year-old Numerian, who had had been hailed emperor at the start of their campaign against the Sasanians. Numerian was now in sole command in the east while his older brother, Carinus, had identical authority in the west. Whether he was startled by his father's mysterious death, daunted the burden of supreme authority, or he wisely reacted to a change in military circumstances, Numerian negotiated a treaty with the Sasanian king Varhan II and led the bulk of his army westward. However, before he could make it to Europe to meet his brother, Carinus died – again seemingly a murder committed by Aper. Following Numerian's murder, another commander, Diocles (the future emperor Diocletian), executed Aper and was hailed emperor in Numerian's place. This inevitably placed Diocletian in opposition to the Numerian's brother Carinus in the West. Caught between these two rivals was yet a third commander, Julian of Pannonia, the governor of Venetia, who decided to stake his claim. While keeping a wary eye on the approach of Diocletian, Carinus quickly dealt with Julian, whom he defeated early in 285, only to soon be murdered by his own soldiers before he could fight Diocletian.

The aureus of Numerian is exceptionally well detailed, and the differences in the artists' execution aside, one can readily compare this portrait to the one of Geta on his sestertius offered earlier in this sale.

Julian I of Pannonia, October – December 284



- 2081 Aureus, Siscia circa 284, AV 4.24 g. IMP C IVLIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERTAS PVBLICA Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; in r. field, large star. C 3. RIC 1. Calicó 4413 (this coin).

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. An attractive portrait struck on a full flan and a lovely light reddish tone, good extremely fine 75'000

Ex Rollin & Feuardent, 1887, Ponton D'Amécourt, 595; Hirsch XVIII, 1907, Himhoof-Blummer, 1574; Hess-Leu 41, 1969, 520; Leu 7, 1973, 427; Leu 30, 1982, Leu 455; 77, 2000, 648 and NAC 31, 2005, 117 sales.

In 284 the Empire was in crisis: the 'dynasty' founded by Carus and his two sons in 282 had virtually collapsed, for not only had Carus died in 283 while campaigning against the Persians, but his youngest son, Numerian, who was leading the army back from the Persian front, died in the fall of 284. Remaining in power legitimately was the older brother, Carinus, who in the meantime had been ruling in the West. Following Numerian's murder, another commander, Diocles (the future emperor Diocletian), was hailed emperor in his place, and in opposition to Carinus in the West. Caught between these two rivals was a third commander, Julian of Pannonia, who then was governing the province of Venetia and determined to stake his claim. While keeping a wary eye on the approach of Diocletian, Carinus quickly dealt with the nearer usurper, Julian, whom he defeated early in 285. All of Julian's coins – billon aureliani and gold aurei (of which perhaps thirty are known) – were struck at Siscia, the only mint-city under his control.

Diocletian, 284 - 305



- 2082 Argenteus, Siscia circa 294-295, AR 3.22 g. DIOCLETI – ANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORI – A SARMAT The four tetrarchs sacrificing over tripod before, eight-turreted camp gate. C 488. RIC 37a. Sisak 4b and pl. I, 10. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 1'200

Carausius, 286 – 293



2083

- 2083 Denarius, Londinium circa 287-289, AR 4.94 g. IMP CARAVSIVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RENOVAT ROMANO She-wolf standing r., suckling Romulus and Remus; in exergue, RSR. C 293. RIC 571. Shiel 68.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, possibly the finest denarius of Carausius in existence. A very attractive portrait struck on an unusually good metal with a delightful old cabinet tone.

Extremely fine

30'000

Ex NFA sale XX, 1988, 459.

Carausius was a man of considerable talent who rose from humble origins in Menapia, a seafaring region between the Waal and the Scheldt rivers, to achieve command of the Channel Fleet and, ultimately, to found his own empire.

Whether Carausius abused his authority over the Channel fleet or he was a victim of false accusations, the issuance of an arrest warrant caused the new commander to believe his only chance for survival was to stage a revolt, using Britain as his base. After making landfall and forging agreements with the Scots and the Picts, Carausius defeated the army of the Roman governor Quintus Bassianus and absorbed many of those soldiers into his own army.

He was in a good position at the start of his revolt, for he had an expert knowledge of the waters surrounding the island, there were many new fortresses along the Saxon shore, and Maximianus was distracted by persistent warfare on the Rhine. This gave Carausius a chance to develop his philosophy of governance, which included copying much of what he admired about the Roman Empire and its ancient institutions.

This denarius, for example, celebrates the foundation of Rome by portraying the she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus. It goes a step further with the inscription RENOVAT ROMANO, which presents his own enterprise as an effort to restore the greatness of a bygone era. It is easy to recognise why Maxentius, a nobleman who later would revolt in Rome, adopted this approach to his public messages, but it is remarkable that a provincial of humble origin would attempt this in a remote corner of the empire. In the process, Carausius spared no aspect of empire-building: he hosted Saecular Games, held consulships and even assumed the titles *pontifex maximus* and *pater patriae*.

His success did not long endure, though. In 293 the emperors Diocletian and Maximian each adopted a Caesar, with Constantius I being assigned in the West. Constantius' main purpose seems to have been recovering the lost territories, and his initial efforts expelled Carausius from his possessions in Gaul. He also terrified the rebel's Frankish allies so greatly that Carausius' sphere of influence was effectively reduced to Britain. Upon returning to the island, Carausius was murdered and replaced by his chief minister Allectus, who survived three years before he was defeated in a daring invasion of Britain by which Constantius brought an end to the rebel state.

Allectus, 293 – 297



2084



2084

- 2084 Quinarius, Londonium circa 294-297, Æ 3.77 g. IMP C ALLECTVS P F AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTVS AVG Galley r., with five oarsmen; in exergue, QL. C 85. RIC 55.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Lovely green patina and good extremely fine

500

Ex Hauck & Aufhäuser sale 19, 2006, 414.

Another rebel about whom few details survive is Allectus, a highly placed member of the revolutionary government founded by Carausius in Britain in 286 or 287. Allectus came to power in 293 by arranging the murder of his former master, who had just returned to Britain after having lost vital seaports on the Gaulish coast to the newly appointed Caesar, Constantius I. It is known that Allectus' three or four-year reign was repressive, as ancient chroniclers record that he "miserably oppressed the Britons and afflicted them with manifold disasters." Unlike his predecessor, Allectus was to meet his end in battle against the prefect, Asclepiodotos, whom Constantius had placed in command of the southern wing of a naval invasion. But the usurper did not die until, having retreated to London, he had the opportunity to see Constantius' fleet sailing up the Thames and landing soldiers on shores of London itself. If we believe the ancient sources, the return of Imperial control in Britain was welcomed by its inhabitants.

Maximianus Hercules, 286 – 305



2085



2085

- 2085 Argenteus circa 294, AR 2.79 g. MAXIMI – ANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORI – A SARMAT The four tetrarchs sacrificing over tripod; before, eight-turreted camp gate. C 548. RIC 17. Sisak 59b.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

1'200

Constantius Chlorus caesar, 293 – 305



2086



2086

- 2086 Argenteus, Siscia circa 294-295, AR 3.34 g. CONSTANTI – VS CAESAR Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVS – MILITVM The four princes sacrificing over tripod; before, archway in eight-turreted camp-gate. C 318. RIC 44a. Sisak 9a and pl. II, 6.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

1'200

Domitius Domitianus, 295 – 296



- 2087 Follis, Alexandria circa 295-296, Æ 12.19 g. IMP C L DOMITIVS DOMITIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. GENIO POPV - LI - ROMANI Genius standing l., holding patera and cornucopiae; eagle at feet. In r. field, B and in exergue, ALE. C 1. RIC 20.

Very rare and in superb condition for this issue. Brown tone and extremely fine

5'000

Ex NAC sale 29, 2005, 630.

The personal history of Lucius Domitius Domitianus and the circumstances of his attempted usurpation in Egypt remain obscure. All that is known for certain is that early in Diocletian's Tetrarchy, Egypt attempted to break away from the Empire, perhaps spurred by Roman military setbacks against Persia in AD 296. Historical records name the leader of the revolt as a certain Aurelius Achilleus, who took the title "Corrector of Egypt," but it is uncertain whether this rebel was the same man as Domitianus, or whether he was a supporter of Domitianus, or perhaps even a general who instigated the revolt and selected Domitianus as a figurehead ruler. In addition to bronze folles such as this one on the regular imperial denominational system, Domitianus also struck coins on the old Egyptian standard, all of them dated "Year Two," suggesting the revolt lasted longer than a year. The rebels may have had pro-Persian sympathies or may have been directly supported by the Persians. In any case, Diocletian undertook to crush the rebellion in mid-AD 297 and stormed Alexandria after a bitter siege. The fates of Domitianus and his alter-ego or backer Achilleus are unknown, but no doubt unpleasant. Diocletian's rage at the city was such that one chronicler claims he vowed to slaughter the inhabitants until blood reached his horse's knees. Fortunately, his horse stumbled early in the pogrom, sparing thousands of lives. The Alexandrians, famous for their fatalistic humour, later erected a bronze statue of Diocletian's horse.

This rare bronze follis of Domitianus is identical in most respects to the pre-revolt coins struck in Alexandria for Diocletian and the other three tetrarchs, with an imperial portrait rendered in the almost generic "hard" style of the period. The reverse depicts the Genius, or spirit, of the Roman People, pouring out a libation with an eagle, representing Jupiter, at his feet.

Galerius Maximianus caesar, 293 – 305



- 2088 Argenteus circa 294, AR 3.01 g. MAXIMIA - NVS CAES Laureate head r. Rev. PROVIDE - NTIA AVGG The four princes sacrificing over tripod; before, archway in eight-turreted camp gate. C -. RIC 11b. Sisak 82a.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

1'200

Severus II caesar, 305 – 306



- 2089 Argenteus, Serdica 305-306, AR 3.36 g. SEVERV – S NOB C Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVS – MILITVM Camp gate with three forward turrets; in exergue •SM•SDA•. C –. RIC –.
Of the highest rarity, only very few specimens known. Struck on a broad flan, lightly toned and good extremely fine 12'000

Severus II certainly ranks among the least fortunate of the rulers of the Tetrarchic period. When Diocletian and Maximian abdicated their thrones in 305, their loyal Caesars, Constantius I and Galerius, assumed the vacant titles of Augustus, and in turn selected replacement Caesars. For himself Galerius chose his nephew Maximinus Daia, and for Constantius I he chose his old comrade-in-arms Severus II (though Constantius was Senior Augustus, the true power was held by Galerius, who had the ear of Diocletian). Passed over in all of this was Maxentius, son of the just-retired emperor Maximian. Incensed at the turn of events, Maxentius revolted in Rome, first declaring himself Princeps and Caesar, and soon thereafter Augustus. Since the affected areas of Italy and North Africa were in the territory of Severus II, the grim task of marching on Rome and overthrowing Maxentius landed squarely on his shoulders. It might have seemed an easy task – the rebel had a small, ill-trained army – but that was before Maxentius lured his father out of unwanted retirement. Most of the soldiers Severus II was leading had served under Maximian, and through liberal bribes and crafty politicking Maximian turned the tide against Severus II, who fled north and eventually surrendered on the condition that his life would be spared. Father and son rebels were true to their promise until Galerius himself invaded Italy to finish the job, at which point they executed Severus II, and managed to expel Galerius from Italy.

Maximinus II Daia, 310 – 313



- 2090 Argenteus, Serdica circa 305-306. MAXIMI – ANVS NOB C Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVS – MILITVM Camp gate with three forward turrets; in exergue •SM•SDT•. C 206. RIC 22.
Very rare. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 4'000

Ex Freeman & Sear Fixed Price List 9, 2004, 123.

Maxentius augustus, 307 – 312



2091

- 2091 Aureus, Ostia circa 310-312, AV 5.51 g. MAXENTI – VS P F AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust facing. Rev. VICTORIA AET – ERNA AVG N Victory advancing r. presenting globe to Maxentius, in military attire, seated l. on cuirass, extending his r. hand to receive globe and leaning l. on shield set on the ground. At emperor's feet, helmet and in exergue, P OST. C –. A. Baldwin Brett, NC 1933, 139 (1) and pl. XXVI, 7 (this coin). Beaurains 191 (this coin). Fred C. Albertson, *Maxentian hoards and the Ostia Mint*, ANSMN 30, 1985, pl. 40, 7 (this coin). Biaggi 1918 (these dies). Jameson 476 (this coin). Kent-Hirmer 615 (this coin). RIC 10. Depeyrot 1/10. Calicó 5080 (these dies).

Of the highest rarity, only the second specimen known. A spectacular portrait struck on a full flan and a magnificent reverse composition. Undoubtedly one of the most important and impressive Roman coins. A lovely reddish tone and good extremely fine

350'000

Ex Ratto Fixed Price List April 1923, 440; Hess-Leu 17, 1961, E. von Schulthess, 406 and Leu 93, 2005, 128 sales. From the Jameson collection and the Beaurains (Arras) Hoard of 1922.

Facing portraits were not a regular feature of Roman coinage until late in the Constantinian Era, and even then were only produced in quantity at Eastern mints. On very rare occasions, facing busts were issued in the West in earlier times, and we may be certain that in each case the circumstances were special.

Some of those issues were struck at Rome and Ostia in the name of Maxentius, whose propaganda was steeped in tradition rather than innovation, which makes his facing-head coins all the more remarkable. This aureus is a remarkable object that not only ranks among the most desirable of all Roman coin types, but is also beautifully preserved and comes from the fabled Arras Hoard.

For precedents we can hardly look to the obscure facing-bust coinages of Postumus or Carausius, and we might presume the facing-head issues of Maxentius were inspired by sculpture in the round. These arresting coins made a strong impression on contemporaries, as both Tetrarchic finalists, Licinius and Constantine I, later struck their own facing-head aurei and medallions.

The innovation may not have been Maxentius' at all, but that of a gifted engraver. Fred C. Albertson, in his "Maxentian Hoards and the Mint at Ostia" (ANSMN 30), suggests the engraver of this pair of dies had been the chief die engraver and designer at Rome before he was transferred to Ostia. For this reason, and a host of other issues of style and fabric, he rejects Carson and Kent's idea that the new mint was founded by personnel from the recently closed Carthage mint.

Scholars have long puzzled over the founding of Maxentius' new mint at the harbour town of Ostia in 308/9. Various theories have been offered, but most likely it was founded to supplement production at Rome, and to diversify coining activities in the region. The politically charged environment in the capital no doubt made it advisable to mint at least part of the regional coinage outside the Aurelian Wall. Ostia offered the advantage of close proximity, good fortification and fast access to the sea if evacuation was necessary.

The date of this aureus and other closely related issues from Ostia is still a matter of debate. Depeyrot suggests 310-312 and Kent suggests 308 (presumably late in the year) as what would have been an inaugural issue. Bastien and Metzger consider it to have been struck late 310 or 311 as a *quinquennalia* issue. Brett placed it in the first half of 311 and, largely because of its reverse inscription VICTORIA AETERNA AVG N ('the eternal victory of our emperor'), described it as a celebration of the recovery of Africa from the rebel Alexander of Carthage. Though the date of Alexander's defeat is not certainly known, it likely occurred in the summer or winter of 310.



Licinius I, 308 – 324



2092



2092

- 2092 Aureus, Nicomedia circa 317-318, AV 5.28 g. LICINIVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONS – ERVATORI Jupiter standing l. on platform, *chlamys* across l. shoulder, leaning on sceptre and holding Victory on globe; at feet, eagle with wreath. The platform is inscribed SIC X / SIC XX. In exergue, SMN. C –. RIC –, cf. 18 (reverse legend IOVI CONS LICINI AVG). Calicó –, cf. 5103 (reverse legend IOVI CONS LICINI AVG).

An apparently unrecorded variety. A bold portrait, minor edge marks and an almost invisible trace of double-striking on obverse on top of the head, otherwise extremely fine

9'000

Ex Gemini sale III, 2007, 458 (misdescribed).

Licinius II caesar, 317 – 324



2093



- 2093 Aureus, Nicomedia 321-322, AV 5.24 g. DN VAL LICIN LICINIUS NOB C Draped and cuirassed bust facing. Rev. IOVI CONSER – VATORI CAES Jupiter seated facing enthroned on platform, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in l. field, eagle with wreath in beak. The platform inscribed SIC·V· / SIC·X·. In exergue, SMNE. C 28. RIC 42. Depeyrot 31/2. Calicó 5152.

Very rare and among the finest specimens known. A superb and impressive portrait, virtually as struck and Fdc

35'000

Ex Rauch sale 76, 2005, 653.

This aureus of Licinius represents an impressive attempt to capture the spirit of the emperor as an individual, not merely as a universal being. Four important issues of gold with facing busts were produced from c. 310 to c. 321. The first was by Maxentius on aurei of c. 310-312 (lot 91), and the second by Constantine on solidi of 316; the former was shown Bare headed and bearded, in the guise of a model Tetrarch, the latter was shown nimbate and clean-shaven, as a reflection of his unique brand of monotheism, which embraced solar worship and the Christian faith. Similarities in the style of the two issues make it possible that both were the work of the same artist, who initially worked for Maxentius, and who remained in Italy after Constantine's takeover and produced a facing-head for his new master. Following these two coinages are the solidi of c. 321 struck for Licinius I and Licinius II, and we should not doubt that they were inspired by one or both of the predecessor issues. The Licinian solidi mark a special event, the taking of imperial vows. The statue of Jupiter in this specimen rests upon a monumental base inscribed SIC V SIX X and clearly alludes to the quinquennialia (fifth anniversary) of Licinius II. Equally worthy of comment is the reverse type, on which Jupiter makes one of his last appearances on Roman coinage. This can be seen as evidence of the simmering hostilities between Constantine and Licinius II father's Licinius I, who not only were co-emperors, but were brothers-in-law. Their rivalry increasingly took on a religious tone, with Constantine now favouring Christianity and Licinius I embracing the supreme pagan god – partly because of his own beliefs, partly in opposition to Constantine. Licinius I had initially adopted religious ambiguity in 313 as a token of good faith toward Constantine, who early in that year had issued the 'Edict of Milan' in both of their names. Here that position is rejected: the inscription describes Jupiter as the protector of Licinius, and the god is represented by an especially powerful and ancient image, seemingly derived from Phidias' famous gold and ivory statue in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia.

Valerius Valens. 316 – 317



- 2094 Follis, Alexandria circa 316-317, Æ 3.99 g. IMP C AVR VAL VALENS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONSER – VATORI AVGG Jupiter standing l., *chlamys* across l. shoulder, holding sceptre and Victory on globe; at feet, eagle with wreath in beak. In field, K – wreath / X / B. In exergue, ALE. C 2 var (official not recorded). RIC 19 var. (official not recorded). Sternberg sale VII, 1977, 1026 (this obverse die). Extremely rare and undoubtedly the finest specimen known by far. Exceptionally well struck on a full flan with a pleasant dark tone, good extremely fine 40'000

Ex Triton sale X, 2007, 778

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

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

During the fighting retreat from Constantine, copper nummi were struck for Valens at Cyzicus and Alexandria. In type and style they were identical to the companion coins of Licinius I, with little more than the inscription to distinguish them.

Constantine I caesar, 306 – 307



- 2095 Aureus, Siscia circa 306-307, AV 5.29 g. CONSTAN – TINVS NOB C Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCIPI – IVVENTVTIS Constantine, in military attire, standing facing, head l., holding sceptre in l. hand and raising r.; on either side, standards. In exergue, SIS. C 422. RIC 152. Depeyrot 10/2. Calicó 5188. Very rare. Sharply struck with a portrait of great strength, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 18'000

Ex NAC 24, 2002, European Nobleman, 271 and NAC 31, 2005, 143 sales.

Crispus caesar, 317 – 326



2096



2096

- 2096 Solidus, Nicomedia circa 324-325, AV 4.47 g. F IVL CRIS – PVS NOB CAES Naked laureate bust l., holding spear pointing forward and shield on l. shoulder. Rev. VIRTVS – CAESARI N Crispus on horse galloping r., holding shield in l. hand and striking kneeling enemy with spear in r.; below horse, another fallen enemy. In exergue, SMNK. C 164 var. RIC 85. Depeyrot 35/6.

Very rare. A very attractive heroic portrait, extremely fine 24'000

Ex NAC sale 31, 2005, 150.

Much like Germanicus three centuries earlier, Crispus was a young man of tremendous potential who was cut down in his prime due to family intrigues. As the eldest son of Constantine – and the only one from his early association with Minervina – Crispus was at least twenty years older than any of the three stepbrothers his father later had sired by Crispus' stepmother Fausta. Needless to say, this greatly concerned Fausta, who not only wanted the throne for her three boys, but who no doubt feared for their safety until they became old enough to defend themselves. Making matters worse for Fausta was the obvious talents of Crispus. In the First Licinian War (316-317) he had distinguished himself as a skill-full naval commander by winning a great victory that allowed his father to defeat Licinius much sooner than might otherwise have been expected. Crispus clearly had an enemy in Fausta, and one that proved more difficult to defeat than an armada. By popular account Fausta accused her stepson of making uninvited advances on her, which so incensed Constantine that he called for a trial in which Crispus was found guilty of the charge and was executed. Constantine later came to regret his hasty decision, for he soon put Fausta to death on the belief that she had invented the charge, and he erected a large golden statue of Crispus, honouring him as "the son whom I unjustly condemned".

Martinian, 324



2097



2097

- 2097 Follis, Nicomedia 324, Æ 4.20 g. D N M MARTINIANO P F AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. IOVI CONS – ERVATORI Jupiter standing l., holding Victory on globe in r. hand and eagle-tipped sceptre in l.; at feet l. and r., eagle holding wreath in beak and captive on ground. In upper r. field, X / IIF.. In exergue, SMNB. C 4. RIC 46.

Extremely rare and in unusually good condition for the issue. Green patina, about extremely fine / good very fine 12'000

Ex M&M 52, 1975, 762; SKA Berne 2, 1984, 611; NFA XXV, 1990, 488 and NAC 38, 2007, 229 sales.

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

Hannibalian Rex Regum, 335 – 337



- 2098 Æ 4, Constantinopolis 336-337, Æ 1.52 g. FL HANNIBALIANO REGI Draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SE – CVRITAS PVBLICA Euphrates seated r. on ground, leaning on sceptre; urn at his side and reed in background; in exergue, CONSS. C 2. RIC 147.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Brown tone and extremely fine

750

Ex NAC sale 38, 2007, 244.

Constantine II augustus, 337 – 340



- 2099 Heavy miliarensis, Siscia 337-340, AR 5.16 g. CONSTANTINI – NVS P F AVG Laurel and rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GAVDIVM POPVLI ROMANI Laurel wreath within which SIC / XX / SIC / XXX; below SIS pellet in crescent. C-. Gnechi 18. RIC 47.

Extremely rare. An elegant portrait of excellent style and a superb old cabinet tone, almost invisible scratch on obverse field and a hairline flan crack at seven o'clock on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

10'000

Ex Bourgey, Paris, 1913, 667, NAC 1, 1989, 985 and M&M 92, 2002, Friend of the Romans, 315 sales. From the R. Vidal Quadras y Ramón collection.

Constans, 337 – 350



2100

- 2100 Medallion of four heavy siliquae or three light miliarenses, Siscia 342-343, AR 12.96 g. FL IVL CONS – TANS P F AVG Laurel and rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TRIVMFATOR – GENT – IVM BARBARARVM Emperor standing l., in military attire, holding standard with Christogram and transverse sceptre; in exergue, •SIS•. C 112. RIC 148. Gnechi 18.

Extremely rare. An impressive medallion with a spectacular portrait in the finest style of the period. Struck on a full flan, light iridescent tone, almost invisible marks,

otherwise extremely fine 100'000

The reverse of this medallion, inscribed TRIVMFATOR GENTIVM BARBARARVM ('triumfator over the barbarian nations'), is a gloating celebration of Roman supremacy over its foreign enemies. The claim was well deserved in the era of the Constantinian dynasty: foreign enemies had been thoroughly dominated by Constantine I, a state of affairs that may have persisted for some time had he not antagonized the Sasanians just prior to this death in 337.

The recent record of his sons also was laudable. Though Constantius II, in the East, was burdened with a long and persistent war with the Sasanians, success was more visible in the West. The issuer of this piece, the Western emperor Constans, had defeated the Sarmatians in 339, and in 342 had scored a resounding victory over the Franks.

It would seem that this medallion celebrates that recent victory over the Franks, and it perhaps was distributed as a bonus to troops. It may also have been associated with the beginning of his tenth anniversary (*decennalia*), which began on December 25, 342 and was followed by a visit to Britain, which required a winter crossing of the channel early in 343.

This boastful type was an invention of Constans who struck it only at mints under his control: Trier, Aquileia, Siscia and Thessalonica. It took the form of silver medallions and miliarenses that Constans struck in his name and on behalf of his brother Constantius II. Later emperors also adopted the type, with the most exceptional case being the rebel Magnentius, who struck silver medallions of the same weight after he overthrew Constans and assumed control of Italy.

The weight of these medallions is of some interest, for they consistently weigh about 13 grams (slightly less than 12 scruples), meaning about 25 were produced per Roman pound of silver. They were nearly the equivalent of three light miliarenses or four heavy siliquae and, depending on the prevailing gold-to-silver exchange ratio, approximately five would have been equal to a gold solidus.

Constantius II, 337 – 361



2101



2101

- 2101 Heavy miliarensis, Cyzicus 347-355, AR 5.10 g. FL IVL CONSTAN – TIVS PERP AVG Rosette-didemed head r. Rev. VIRTUS EXERCITVS Three military standards topped by vexillia; in exergue, •SMK. C –. Gnecci –. RIC –.

Apparently unique and unpublished. A spectacular miliarensis struck on a full flan with a delightful old cabinet tone, good extremely fine

12'500

Magnentius, 350 – 353



2102



2102

- 2102 Medallion of three solidi, Aquileia circa 351, AV 13.35 g. IMP CAES MAG – NENTIVS AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERATOR REI PVBLICAE Magnentius, nimbate and in military attire, on horse r., offering his r. hand to turreted and draped figure of Aquileia, holding cornucopiae in l. hand and scroll in r. C 26 var. (bust draped). Gnecci 1. P. Bastien, NR I, 1964, pl. 10, 302. Kent-Hirmer pl. 168, 669 (this reverse die). A. Jelocnik, RN 1967, 6 and pl. XXXVI, 1 (these dies). Kent-Hirmer pl. 143, 672 (this reverse die). Paolucci-Zub 529. RIC 122.

Very rare. An impressive medallion with a bold portrait and an appealing reverse composition. Minor marks, otherwise extremely fine

80'000

Ex NAC sale 33, 2006, 605

The gold medallions struck by the Gallic usurper Magnentius for his entry to the north Italian city of Aquileia late in 350 or in 351 are among the most impressive of all late Roman issues. We are indeed fortunate that both this issue and the even larger medallion of Constantius Gallus appear in the same sale, as it provides a perfect opportunity for comparison. This is of particular value considering they are uncommonly large gold medallions struck within months of each other, and yet one is the product of a rebel in the West, and the other was struck for a noble heir-apparent in the East. We may first compare the portraits: that of Gallus conveys the full majesty of a legitimate, nearly divine emperor hailing from the most-noble family in the empire, whereas in Magnentius' portrait we see a provincial soldier who, even from an arm's length, seems uncomfortable with the subtleties of court life. We know Magnentius was of peasant, or even slave, origin, and that in the army he worked his way up from a barbarian contingent to one of the highest ranking field commanders. Clearly their portraits were meant to convey different ideals. The strength of Gallus lay not in his skill or proven record, but rather in his membership to the House of Constantine, whereas with Magnentius we have the opposite, a common man whose success was based on his skill as a soldier and commander. Indeed, the former emperor Constans, who Magnentius had overthrown, was generally despised for his depraved, avaricious and arrogant behaviour. He was especially unpopular with the soldiers, and it no doubt would have been a mistake for Magnentius to step into those regal shoes. The imagery of the reverse of this medallion is simply stunning and, like the obverse, it offers a fine contrast to the medallion of Gallus. This piece communicates an event, Magnentius entering Aquileia as liberator from the tyranny of the House of Constantine. He is shown as a saviour – nimbate, armoured, on horseback with flowing cape – being greeted by the reverent city goddess, who kneels before him, holding a horn of plenty and offering a scroll, which perhaps was inscribed with the formal welcome of the city's nobility.

Vetranio, 1st March – 25th December 350



2103

- 2103 Solidus, Siscia March-December 350, AV 4.60 g. D N VETRA – NIO P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SALVATOR – REI – PVBLICAE Emperor, in military attire, standing facing, head l, holding *labarum* inscribed with *Christogram* and transversal sceptre; behind him, Victory advancing l. to crown him. C 7. RIC 260. Depeyrot 17/1.

Exceedingly rare and among the finest solidi of Vetranio in existence. A bold portrait struck on a full and good extremely fine

125'000

Ex Tkalec sale, 2007, Bolla, 111.

In January, 350 the ruling family descended from Constantine the Great was reduced to just one emperor when Constans was murdered in southern Gaul. This put at risk both empire and dynasty, as the family had for decades relied upon two or more family members to rule the vast empire.

The coup must have been a shock to the only remaining, legitimate emperor, Constantius II, who ruled the East and was embroiled in a protracted war with the Persians. In the West, power had been seized by Magnentius, the field commander of the senior palatine units of the western army. Constantius, who was preparing for a renewed campaign against the Sasanians, was powerless at that moment to oppose him.

Magnentius established his regime by taking full control of the West and advancing into Italy, perhaps with the intention of marching further eastward to challenge Constantius himself. Upon arriving, however, Magnentius was unable to forge an alliance with Vetranio, the emperor's Master of the Infantry in Pannonia. Vetranio decided to support Constantius, the only surviving son of his old commander, Constantine the Great.

Vetranio's decision was not easy, and he wavered before taking sides. Indeed, he might even have considered taking his own side, for his troops hailed him emperor at Mursa on March 1; this strategy, however, seems to have been formulated by the emperor's sister, Constantina, who herself had refused a marriage proposal from Magnentius.

The crisis was complicated further when Magnentius lost Italy for a few weeks to the counter-revolution of Nepotian, a half-cousin of Constantius. During that reversal, it does not seem that Vetranio took action. In fact, during the ten months Vetranio held the title of Augustus he seems to have had no significant conflict with Magnentius, but merely contained the rebel until Constantius could arrive late in the fall of 350.

Constantius and Vetranio met at Nassius on Christmas day, when Vetranio abdicated peacefully. The ceremony must have been laden with dynastic symbolism, for it was held in the city that reputedly was the birthplace of Constantine the Great. Thereafter Constantius waged war on Magnentius, defeating him in 353. Vetranio, who already was an elderly man, retired to an estate Constantius provided for him at Prusa in Bithynia, dying perhaps five years later.

Vetranio struck coins only at Siscia and Thessalonica, both cities in his realm, where he issued a variety of coin types in own name and that of Constantius II. Some issues from Siscia depict on their reverse Victory crowning an emperor holding a *labarum* and scepter (or spear); the billon coins are inscribed HOC SIGNO VICTOR ERIS ('by this sign you shall conquer') and solidi SALVATOR REIPVBLICAE ('saviour of the state').

It is impossible to know which emperor is being crowned by Victory – Vetranio, Constantius II or Constantine the Great. The unprecedented use of HOC SIGNO VICTOR ERIS suggests Constantine, for it is a reference to the vision he is said to have experienced prior to the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. That prospect is dampened, however, by the use of SALVATOR REIPVBLICAE with that same reverse type, for that probably refers to Vetranio or Constantius II as a saviour against the aggression of Magnentius. Alternatively, it could refer in a historical sense to Constantine as the saviour of the state by virtue of his support of Christianity, his unification of the empire and his foundation of the dynasty that still was in power at the time.

Nepotian, 3rd – 30th June 350



2104



2104

- 2104 Æ 2, 3rd – 30th June 350, Æ 5.32 g. FL POP NEPOT – IANVS P F AVG Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed r. Rev. VRBS – ROMA Roma seated l. on shield, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, R P. C 3. RIC 202. Bastien Nepotien, p. 408 (this officina unlisted). Kent-Hirmer pl. 169, 671.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. An enchanting portrait
work of a skilled master engraver. Brown tone and good extremely fine

60'000

Ex NFA XX, 1989, 550 and Ex NAC 38, 2007, 253 sales.

Though often artistic, coin portraits by the mid-4th Century had lost any sense of identity. Thus, the portraits of Nepotian, a counter-revolutionary from the Constantinian ranks, must be appreciated as an unexpected revival in an age of bland anonymity. Were it not for the shallower technique of die engraving, there would be little to distinguish this highly personalized image from one engraved at the same mint two centuries earlier, during the golden age of the Antonines. The reverse is remarkable for its simplicity, and it recalls the propaganda of Maxentius, the usurper who based himself in Rome from 306 to 312. Nepotian's brief reign was desperate and violent, but the times could hardly have produced anything else, for Rome was in a state of chaos. Only about 20 weeks earlier the rebel Magnentius had assumed control of the city after murdering the emperor Constans; Nepotian responded by gathering an army of ruffians to kill Anicius, the praetorian prefect Magnentius had left behind to govern Italy. In the days that followed, more supporters of Magnentius were murdered, but that could not prevent the city from being re-taken by those loyal to Magnentius less than a month after Nepotian's counter-revolution had been launched. A vengeful purge then followed in which many of the rebel's supporters fell, including his mother.

Decentius caesar, 351 – 353



2105



2105

- 2105 Argenteus, Treveri 352-353, AR 3.30 g. DN DECENTI – VS FORT CAES Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTUS – EXERCITI Virtus, wearing helmet and short tunic, breast exposed, standing facing, head r., resting l. hand on shield and holding spear in r.; in exergue, TR. C 49. P. Bastien, Le monnayage de Magnence, 55. RIC 305.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A portrait of excellent style
and a lovely old cabinet tone. Extremely fine

18'000

Ex Glendining, November 1969, Baldwin, 386; Sternberg 1, 1973, 454; NAC 7, 1994, 812 and Lanz 100, 2000, Benz, 591 sales.

The revolt of Magnentius in 350 followed those of previous rebels in the West, two of whom, Postumus and Carausius, were able to establish their own empires modelled after Rome. In all three cases these men hailed from obscure, peasant origins and rose through successful military careers. The background of Magnentius, perhaps the son of a Frankish father and a British mother, was so obscure that he is said to have been a slave before he was a soldier; eventually he became a field commander of the senior palatine units of the Western army. Magnentius soon realized he needed help to defend his fledgling empire, for he not only was contending with the army of the legitimate emperor Constantius II, but also with Germans across the Rhine who had been stirred up by Constantius' agents. Thus, he raised a certain Decentius – variously described as his brother or a cousin – to the rank of Caesar and placed him in charge of the Rhine defence. This probably occurred in July or August of 350, but some scholars believe he was hailed Caesar sometime between March and July of 351, in response to Constantius having raised Gallus to the rank of Caesar in the East. Defending the Rhine would be a daunting task even for the most capable of soldiers, and it proved too great for Decentius, whose resources were so limited that he could do little more than scramble from one emergency to another. The Germanic raids across the Rhine, some led by Chnodomarius of the Alemanni, were devastating, and laid waste too much of the Roman lands. They even caused the defection of Cologne to Constantius II, seemingly in 353, not long before Magnentius and Decentius committed suicide as the armies of Constantius advanced.

Constantius Gallus caesar, 351 – 354



2106



2106

- 2106 Siliqua, Sirmium 351-354, AR 3.30 g. D N CONSTANTI – VS NOB CAES Bare head r. Rev. Laurel wreath within which VOTIS / V / MVLTIS / X; below, SIRM. C 56. RIC 16.

Rare. An outstanding portrait struck on a very broad flan and exceptional metal, almost invisible marks on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

3'500

Ex Vinchon Montecarlo sale 12, 1982, 61.

Julian II, 360 – 363



2107



2107

- 2107 Æ 1, Sirmium 361-363, 9.36 g. D N FL IVLI – ANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SECVRITAS REIPVB Bull standing r.; above, two stars; in exergue, *ASIRMΩ. C 38. RIC 106.

Brown tone and virtually as struck and almost Fdc

1'000

Jovian, 363 – 364



2108



2108

- 2108 Solidus, Sirmium 363-364, AV 4.49 g. D N IOVIA – NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. SECVRITAS – REIPVBLICE Jovianus, in military attire, standing l., holding globe in l. hand and *labarum* inscribed with *Christogram* in r.; at his feet, Persian captive seated l. In exergue, *SIRM. C 16. RIC 110. Depeyrot 32/1.

Rare and in exceptional state of preservation. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

8'000

Valentinian I, 364 – 375



- 2109 Light miliarensis, Treveri 367-375, AR 4.30 g. D N VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTUS – EXERCITVS Valentinian standing facing, head l., holding *vexillum* in r. hand and resting l. on shield set on ground; in exergue, TRPS. C 58. Kent-Hirmer pl. 154, 711. RIC 26a.

Rare. Perfectly struck and centred, a wonderful iridescent tone and good extremely fine 5'000

Ex Spink sale 5014, 2005, 498.

Valentinian was somewhat of a renaissance man: well educated, an excellent soldier and commander, and apparently an accomplished painter and sculptor. As emperor he was particularly lenient on the poorer people in the empire, perhaps because his family was not noble. When he was hailed emperor, Valentinian was in Gaul trying to restore order, so when he divided the empire with his brother, he took responsibility for the west. His reign was an unending sequence of border wars, initially on the Rhine, and then later on the Danube. Valentinian's service to his empire cannot be underestimated, and many historians consider him to be the last truly capable ruler in Roman history. For a glimpse of his intensity and dedication we need only look to the circumstances of his death at age 55, for he died of a rage-induced stroke while negotiating with a particularly offensive delegation sent by the Quadi.

Valens, 364 – 378



- 2110 Solidus, Nicomedia *quinquennalia* 368, AV 4.41 g. D N VALENS P F AVG Pearl-diademed bust l., wearing imperial mantle and holding *mappa* in r. hand and sceptre in l. Rev. VOTA PV – BLICA Valentinian and Valens, nimbate and wearing imperial mantle, seated facing on throne, each raising *mappa* and holding sceptre. In exergue, two kneeling captives; between them MN ligate and on outer side, S – I. C 86. RIC 16b. Depyrot 22/2.

Rare. Extremely fine 3'500

Ex Leu sale 7, 1973, 447; Triton VII, 2004, 1054 and Triton XI, 2008, 1010 sales.

Procopius, 365 – 366



- 2111 Solidus, Nicomedia 365-366, AV 4.59 g. D N PROCO – PIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. REPARATI – O FEL TEMP Procopius standing facing, head r., holding spear in r. hand and resting l. on shield. In exergue, SMNE. C 5. RIC 1. Depeyrot 15/1.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. An unusually attractive portrait of fine style well struck on a full flan. An absolutely unobtrusive metal flaw on reverse field, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

50'000

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

Gratian, 367 – 383



- 2112 Solidus, Constantinopolis 367-375, AV 4.47 g. D N GRATIA – NVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PRINCIPIVM IVVENTVTIS Gratian standing r., in military attire, holding globe and transversal spear; in exergue, *CONS wreath. C 35. RIC 24. Depeyrot 21/3.

Very rare and possibly the finest specimen known. An exquisite portrait, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

5'000

Ex Gemini sale III, 2007, 484

Valentinian II, 375 – 392



2113



2113

- 2113 Light miliarensis, Lugdunum 388-392, AR 4.52 g. D N VALENTINI – ANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. GLORIA – ROMANORVM Valentinian standing l., in military attire, holding *labarum* in r. hand and resting l. on shield; in exergue LVGPS. C 18. RIC 40. Bastien, Monnayage de Lyon, 207b (this obverse die). Gnechchi 1 and pl. 34, 5 (under Valentinian I).

Very rare. A superb portrait and a delightful old cabinet tone, good extremely fine

2'500

Ex NFA sale XX, 1988, 570.

Theodosius I, 379 – 395



2114



- 2114 Medallion of three light miliarenses circa 389, AR 12.92 g. D N THEODO – SIVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TRIVMFATOR – GENT BARB Theodosius, in military attire, standing facing, head l., holding globe in l. hand and *labarum* inscribed with *Christogram* in r.; at his r. side, captive kneeling. In exergue, R T. C 34. Gnechchi 7. Toynbee pl. XXXIII, 8 (this obverse die). RIC 52a.

Of the highest rarity, only the third and by far the finest specimen known. A spectacular medallion with an impressive portrait struck on sound metal, light iridescent tone.

An almost invisible trace of double striking on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

100'000

On this silver medallion Theodosius trumpets the idea of Rome as the “vanquisher of the barbarian nations” – something that at the time was more wishful thinking than fact. The Roman frontiers were significantly less intact and secure than they had been when Constantius introduced this inscription to coinage in the 340s, yet it continued to be used by a succession of emperors in the late 4th and early 5th Century.

Rome's relationship with foreign peoples along its borders had always been tense, and in 378 it resulted in a devastating ambush of Valens' army by Visigoths who recently had settled in Thrace under terms that proved unbearable. Perhaps two-thirds of the army of the Eastern Roman Empire perished along with their emperor at Adrianople. The Eastern Roman Empire was left in an unprecedented state of weakness, and in that same year Theodosius was called out of retirement in Spain, initially as *magister militum*, and as emperor of the East in 379.

His immediate task was damage control. Theodosius patched up agreements with the Sasanians, the Visigoths and the Huns to preserve the empire, but these were achieved at the great cost of annual payments and allowing even more Visigoths, and also Huns, to cross the Danube and settle in Thrace. In this case, the barbarians were not so much being vanquished as they were being appeased and assimilated.

The occasion for this Rome mint medallion struck sometime between 383 and 392 is not certainly known. A likely candidate, however, is Theodosius' stay in Rome in the summer of 389. It was his first visit to the capital as emperor, and it seems to have coincided with the one-year anniversary of his defeat of the usurper Magnus Maximus. While in Rome, Theodosius was treated to a painfully long and flattering panegyric by the Gallic orator Latinus Pacatus Drepanius, which survives as the *Panegyrici Latini* II(12).

Magnus Maximus, 383 – 388



2115

- 2115 Solidus, Londinium-Augusta 387-388, AV 4.64 g. DN MAG MA – XIMVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors seated on throne, together holding globe between them; behind, Victory with outspread wings. Below, palm branch; in exergue, AVGOB. C 9. RIC 2b. Depeyrot 2/1.

Extremely rare and an issue of great historical importance. Several minor marks
on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine

35'000

Ex Naville XI, 1925, Levis, 1032 and Bonhams-Vecchi 8, 1982, 709 sales.

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

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

Eugenius, 392 – 394



2116

- 2116 Solidus, Treveri 392–394, AV 4.38 g. D N EVGENI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTOR – IA AVGG Two emperors, nimbate, seated facing on throne; the emperor on r. holding *mappa* and the two together holding globe. Above, Victory facing with spread wings; below, palm branch. In outer field l. and r., T – R and in exergue, COM. C 6. RIC 101. Depeyrot 55/1.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A superb portrait struck
on a full flan and good extremely fine

35'000



2117

- 2117 Medallion of 3 light miliarenses, Aquileia January 387, AR 13.49 g. D N ARCADI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VOT / V / MVLT / X within elaborate wreath. In exergue, AQPS. C –. Gneccchi –. Toynbee –. Paolucci-Zub –. RIC –.

Apparently unique and unpublished. A spectacular medallion with a bold portrait struck on a full flan, excellent metal and a lovely light tone. Good extremely fine 100'000

This remarkable piece seems to have been struck for ceremonies held January 19, 387 to mark the start of Arcadius' *quinquennialian* year. The ancient literature suggests the main ceremonies in Constantinople were on so grand a scale that the boy's father, Theodosius I, moved plans for his own *decennalia* ahead of schedule by two years so they could share the celebration.

The expense for these events was extraordinary, and caused violent, anti-government riots in Antioch that were followed by harsh reprisals. Perhaps the greatest evidence of the lavish spending, however, is the record of the coinage. Grierson and Mays describe substantial and varied issues of gold medallions and coins for this occasion, with silver perhaps being limited to siliquae and to medallions of this weight.

When this medallion was issued early in 387, Aquileia was still within the realm of Valentinian II, the Western colleague of Theodosius and Arcadius. But about four months after it was struck, Aquileia fell into the hands of the rebel Magnus Maximus, who broke a four-year peace with Valentinian and invaded Italy in May, 387. It would be interesting to know the fate of this medallion at the time: did it come into the possession of the legions of Magnus Maximus, was it secreted away in Italy, or was it carried eastward by members of Valentinian's court, who found refuge in Thessalonica?

Like all silver medallions of this calibre, their weight and value can be viewed in more than one way. Strictly speaking, it is a medallion of 1/24th of a pound, and thus equal to three light miliarenses (calculated at 72 to the pound) and roughly 1/5th of a gold solidus. It is more difficult, however, to arrive at a valuation in siliquae, coins that had suffered a noticeable weight decline in the later 4th Century. We might consider 2.0 grams an acceptable average weight in this period, yet individual weights vary so much that this piece arguably could have been worth six, eight, or even ten siliquae.

The purity of the Roman silver coins struck in the West after the reform of Valentinian I in 368 is reflected in a new mint signature, which includes PS (*pusulatus* or *argentum pusulatum*). In this case, the mint signature AQ is linked with PS to form the complete inscription. It is believed that PS refers to the purity of the coin silver since PS (along with PST, PV and PVS) appears on some Roman ingots to indicate they are made of refined silver.

About three years before this medallion was struck, a new law reinforced the idea that the distribution of medallions of high intrinsic value was the exclusive prerogative of the government. In 384 the *Codex Theodosius* (15.9.1) records that the emperors Valentinian II, Theodosius I and Arcadius thought it necessary to reinforce the idea that *privati* were not allowed to distribute as gifts silver coins weighing more than 1/60th of a pound. Such a high weight standard meant that medallions were the only target, for the heaviest regular-issue coins, heavy miliarenses, were struck within the tolerance at 1/60th of a pound. This law likely was introduced in 384 to address some aspects of the crisis in the West that resulted from the revolt of Magnus Maximus.

Honorius, 393 – 423



2118

- 2118 Light miliarensis, Constantinopolis circa 403, AR 4.21 g. D N HONORI – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. GLORIA – ROMANORVM The Emperor, nimbate and in military attire, standing facing, head l., raising r. hand and holding globe in l.; in l. field, star and in exergue, CON. C –. RIC Theodosius II 369. MIRB Theodosius II 62. LRC 782.

Lightly toned and good extremely fine

1'800

Constantine III, 407 – 411



2119

2119

- 2119 Solidus, Lugdunum 408-411, AV 4.47 g. D N CONSTAN – TINVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVG GGG Emperor standing r., holding standard in r. hand and Victory on globe in l., spurning captive with his l. foot; in field, L – D. In exergue, COMOB. C 5. RIC 1512. Depeyrot 22/2. Bastien, Monnayage de Lyon, 250a. LRC 793 var.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Extremely fine

12'000

Ex Leu 86, 2003, 1055 and Helios 1, 2008, 622 sales.

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

Maximus, 409-411



2120

2120

- 2120 Siliqua, Barcinona 410-411, AR 1.12 g. D N MAXIM – VS P F A [VG] Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. [VICTOR] – A AAVGGG Roma seated l. on cuirass, holding Victory on globe and reversed spear; in exergue, [S] MBA. C 1. King, Melanges Bastien, p. 291. LRC –. RIC 1601.

Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known (if not the finest). An exceptionally detailed portrait and an unusually clear obverse legend, toned and extremely fine

10'000

Ex CNG sale 75, 2007, 1152.

The fortune of Rome shifted incalculably downward on New Years Eve, 406, when the Rhine froze and several barbarian nations, including Vandals, Alans and Suebi crossed into Roman territory. It could not have happened at a more critical moment, for Honorius was fully occupied with the Visigothic king Alaric (who, in 410, would sack Rome).

What followed in 407 and beyond was a mass devastation of the Western provinces: Germany and Gaul bore the brunt of the invasion, and Picts invaded Britain. Initially, Spain was spared these horrors due to its southerly position, but in 409 Vandals and other barbarians forced their way through the pass of the Pyrenees and laid waste to that land too.

There was no government in Spain to speak of, and Honorius could not help; this left only the ephemeral presence of Constans II and his British prefect Gerontius. They had arrived in 408 to oppose the pro-Honorius militias that had been raised from the estates of Honorius relatives. Thus, even under these dire circumstances, Romans with competing loyalties still found reasons to clash with each other.

Constans II and Gerontius overcame the local militias but failed to bring northern Spain into their 'empire' for long. Vandals and Germans soon poured from Gaul and into Spain. It is difficult to know whether Gerontius betrayed Constans II by coming to a secret arrangement with the invaders, but before matters got too far out of hand Constans II returned to Gaul. Meanwhile, Gerontius and the people of Spain were left to their own fate. As Salvianus of Marsielle reports in his *De gubernatione Dei* (52): "The Spaniards now began to burn in the same flames in which the Gauls had burned." Spain was looted by the invaders and a famine caused many who took refuge in walled cities to resort to cannibalism.

The blame fell upon Gerontius, who then made a pact with the invading Vandals in which he hailed Maximus the emperor of Spain; he may have been Gerontius son, but more likely he was his senior household officer (*domesticus*). Nothing of substance is known of his reign except that it lasted until 411, by which time Honorius was in a position to recover the western provinces. In short order the rebels Constantine III and Constans II were killed and Gerontius was forced to commit suicide when his troops defected to Honorius general Constantius III.

Maximus had apparently been in Gaul with Gerontius just before his suicide. The two-year reign of Maximus ended when he returned to Spain in 411 to seek asylum with his barbarian allies. He likely survived until about 418, but if he is the same Maximus *tryannus* who rebelled in Spain in about 420, we would have to extend his lifespan to 422, for that rebel was executed in the year of Honorius tricennialia.

Priscus Attalus, 409 – 410



- 2121 Solidus 409-410, AV 4.47 g. IMP PRISCVS AT – TALVS P F AVG Pearl and rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTI Emperor standing r., holding *labarum* in r. hand and Victory on globe in l., treading with his l. foot on bound captive to r.; in field, R – M and in exergue, COMOB. C 9. LRC –. Depeyrot 37/1. RIC 1401.

Exceedingly rare and among the finest specimens known.

Well-struck on a full flan and extremely fine 275*000

Ex NAC 18, 2000, 773 and NAC 42, 2007, Feirstein part II, 236 sales.

The Roman world was at risk of extinction in 409 when Visigoths under king Alaric occupied Italy, captured Rome's granaries and laid siege to the great, walled capital. Faced with eventual starvation, the senate cooperated by electing one of their own members, Priscus Attalus, as emperor in opposition to Honorius, whose court was based in Ravenna. Attalus, a senator of Ionian Greek extraction, was known to Alaric, for in the previous year he had been the senate's representative in negotiations with the king. Since he was a pagan, Attalus had to be baptized before he could be crowned.

In the following year, 410, Alaric led part of his army north to challenge Honorius in Ravenna, but his venture failed and the Vandal king returned to Rome. In June he deposed Attalus (who was pardoned by Honorius), and late in August he led his armies into Rome, sacking the great city for three days, August 24 through 26. Every portable item of value, including hostages such as Priscus Attalus and the emperor's half-sister Galla Placidia, was taken.

Attalus remained a prisoner of the Visigoths until he was again hailed emperor against Honorius in 415 by Alaric's successor Athaulf. His second reign was based in Gaul, not Rome, and it was equally brief. Attalus' career as puppet emperor of the Goths ended in the spring of 416 when he was captured by Honorius' soldiers and taken to Rome to be paraded through the streets. He was then banished to the Lipari islands where he lived out the rest of his days, having been relieved of his right thumb and forefinger in a symbolic gesture against any future revolt.

Jovinus, 411 – 413



- 2122 Siliquea, Arelate 411-413, AR 1.72 g. D N IOVIN – VS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RESTIT – [VT] OR REIP Roma seated l. on curule chair, holding Victory on globe and reverted spear; in exergue, KONT. C 2. King, *Melanges Bastien*, pl. 22,9. RIC 1601.
Very rare and in unusually good condition for the issue. Toned and about extremely fine / good very fine 4'000

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

Johannes, 423 – 425



- 2123 Solidus, Ravenna 423-425, AV 4.47 g. D N IOHAN – NES P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing r., holding standard and Victory on globe, spurning captive with his l. foot; in field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. C 4. Ranieri 52. RIC 1901. Depeyrot 12/1. LRC 819.
Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Exceptionally well struck without the usual areas of weakness, extremely fine 15'000

Ex Ponterio sale 141, 2007, 1749.

The closest surviving male relative of the Western emperor Honorius when he died in August 423 was Valentinian III, the son of Galla Placidia. When alive Honorius had banished his half-sister, so at the time of his death both she and her son were living in Constantinople. Her absence afforded the *primicerius notariorum* (chief notary) Johannes the opportunity to seize power in Rome, which he did with support from Castinus and Aëtius, both barbarians in the service of the Western empire. However, Johannes' rule was short-lived. Theodosius II had sent a small armada to Italy under the command of the general Arbadurius to oust Johannes and then install Valentinian III on the throne. Although Johannes managed to capture Arbadurius, the crafty general convinced several of Johannes' officers to betray him. The rebel was captured and then taken to Aquileia where, before he was executed, he was mutilated and paraded before jeering crowds.

Theodosius II, 402 – 450



- 2124 Solidus, Constantinopolis circa 430–440, AV 4.49 g. D N THEDO – SIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VOT XXX – MVLT XXXX E Constantinopolis seated l., holding spear and *globus cruciger*, r. foot on prow, shield at her side; in r. field, star. In exergue, CONOB. RIC 257. MIRB 25b. LRC 382.
Good extremely fine 1'000

Marcian, 450 – 457



- 2125 Solidus, Constantinopolis circa 450, AV 4.35 g. D N MARCIA – NVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG H Victoria standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in r. field, star. In exergue, CONOB. MIRB 5b. Depeyrot 87/1. LRC 482. RIC 510.
Good extremely fine 1'000

Avitus, 9th July 455 – 17th October 456



2126



2126

- 2126 Solidus, Arles 455-456, AV 4.47 g. DN AVITVS – PERP F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing r., holding long cross in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.; resting l. foot on captive. In field, A – R and in exergue, COMOB. C 5. LRC 875. Lacam pl. 9, 16 (this coin illustrated). Depeyrot 24/1. RIC 2401.

Extremely rare. A portrait of unusually fine style struck on a full
flan and about extremely fine

75'000

Ex Hess-Leu 22, 1963, 292 and Cuvreau-Parsy, April 2008, 166 sales.

Like many of Rome's emperors, Avitus was hailed Augustus outside of Italy. In his case the location was the provincial capital of Arles, and the circumstances were grim. In September, 454 the emperor Valentinian III murdered his magister militum Aëtius, which was repaid by his own murder six months later. Valentinian was replaced by Petronius Maximus, a usurper whose tyranny invited an invasion of Italy by the Vandals, who sacked Rome on June 1. The void in the summer of 455 was considerable: there was no emperor in the West, and every portable item of value in the capital (including royal hostages) had been carted away by the Vandals. It was at this moment that Avitus courageously became emperor of the West. He did so with the support of the Visigothic king Theoderic II, but he only received the consent of the Eastern emperor Marcian later in the year, when he had made his way to Italy. Avitus had strong connections with the Visigothic court at Toulouse, for whom he was serving as an imperial envoy. He also had extensive experience in government and had acquired military experience under Aëtius, one of the most accomplished soldiers of his age. Without Aëtius to lead the western armies and fleets, Avitus found a new magister militum in Ricimer, who in 456 scored a major victory against the Vandals off the coast of Corsica. The talent of the new commander was a double-edged sword, for Ricimer became the most important man in the West for the next 16 years. Of more direct interest to Avitus was the fact that Ricimer soon deposed him and replaced him with a sequence of puppet emperors. Local circumstances began to weigh against Avitus, including a famine in Rome and the loss of support from the Visigoths, who were occupied with a war against the Suevi in Spain. All the while, the popularity of Ricimer was on the rise because of his follow-up victory over the Vandals. Finally, on October 17, 456, Avitus was deposed by Ricimer, who made him bishop of Piacenza, an appointment he did not long survive. This solidus was struck at the mint in Arles, which Avitus reopened using workers from Ravenna. Thus, it should not surprise us to see the mint signature of Arles (AR), but the style of Ravenna. Avitus' strong ties with the Visigoths also resulted in a large production of imitations of his solidi and tremisses, which presumably were struck at Toulouse for distribution among the Visigoths.

Leo I, 457 – 474



2127



- 2127 Solidus, Constantinopolis 462 or 466, AV 4.49 g. Pearl-diademed, helmeted and cuirassed bust facing three-quarters r., holding spear and ornamental shield. Rev. Victory standing l. supporting long jewelled cross; in r. field, star and in exergue CONOB. Depeyrot 93/1. MIRB 3b. RIC 605.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

1'200

Majoran, 457 – 461



- 2128 Solidus, Arles 457-461, AV 4.17 g. D N IVLIVS MAIOR – IANVS P F AVG Helmeted, diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r., holding spear pointing forward and shield bearing *Christogram*. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding long cross in r. hand and Victory on globe in l.; foot on man-headed serpent; in field, A – R. In exergue, COMOB. C 1. Depeyrot 25/3. LRC 884. Lacam 26. RIC 2632. Very rare. Minor edge marks, otherwise about extremely fine 18'000

Ex M&M XVII, 1957, 649 and Cuvreau-Parsy, April 2008, 166 sales.

Libius Severus, 461 – 465



- 2129 Solidus circa 462, 4.43 g. D N LIBIVS SEVE – RVS P F AVG Rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGG Emperor standing facing, holding long cross and Victory on globe, foot on man-headed serpent; in field R – M. In exergue, COMOB. C 8. Depeyrot 52/1. LRC 895. Lacam 11. RIC 2706. Very rare and in unusual fine condition for the issue. About extremely fine / extremely fine 12'000

Ex Helios sale 1, 2008, 633.

For having reigned a substantial four years, surprisingly little is known of Libius Severus, an emperor often called Severus III to distinguish from predecessors who also bore the name. Apparently, he was a native of Lucania in south-western Italy, he was proclaimed emperor by the generalissimo Ricimer at Ravenna on November 19, 461. Though we hear nothing of Severus activities during his tenure, his master Ricimer was kept fully occupied campaigning against the Alans and the Vandal king Gaiseric. It would appear that Severus was nothing more than a puppet emperor who died on November 14, 465, presumably of natural causes, but the suspicion naturally exists that he may have been murdered.

Anthemius, 467 – 472



2130

- 2130 Solidus, Ravenna 467-472, AV 4.39 g. D N PROC AN – THEMIVS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust three-quarters facing, holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. SALVS REI – PV – BLICAE Two Emperors nimbate facing, supporting a long cross between them with r. hand and holding globe in l.; in field, R – V. In exergue, COMOB. C 2. LRC 902. Lacam pl. 23, obv, 7 and rev. 8 (these dies). Depeyrot 28/1. Biaggi 2374 (this coin). RIC 2868.

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue.

Extremely fine / good extremely fine

20'000

Ex NAC sale 38, 2007, 302. From the Biaggi collection.

When the shadowy emperor Libius Severus (Severus III) died in November, 465, the Western Roman Empire existed without an emperor for more than a year – the whole time, however, the all-powerful general Ricimer continued to make command decisions, he just did so without a figurehead on the throne. The situation had clearly gotten out of hand in the eyes of the Eastern emperor, Leo I, who appointed Procopius Anthemius, a high-ranking Constantinopolitan of Galatian descent, to rule in the West. Shortly before to Anthemius' arrival in Rome on April 12, 457, he wisely offered his daughter's hand in marriage to Ricimer, whose support would be essential if he wished to stay in power. Ricimer accepted the offer for political reasons, but he always viewed Anthemius as a threat to his own supremacy. Anthemius was never popular with the Romans who were prejudiced towards his 'Eastern Greek' ancestry. After an armada of 1,100 ships Leo I sent against the Vandals in 468 was destroyed due to the incompetence of its commander, Basiliscus, and because Anthemius had not effectively dealt with the Visigoths who threatened Gaul, what little support existed for his regime quickly eroded. In 472, Ricimer arranged a coup in which Anthemius was murdered and replaced with a more malleable candidate from the East, the patrician Olybrius.

Julius Nepos, first reign 474 – 475



2131

2131

- 2131 Solidus, Mediolanum 474-475, AV 4.40 g. D N IVL NE – POS P F AVG Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust facing three-quarters r., holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTORI – A AVGGGŌ Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; at sides, M – D. In exergue, COMOB. C 5. Lacam 27. Ulrich-Bansa 152. LRC 945. Depeyrot 38/1. RIC 3218.

Very rare. Good extremely fine

24'000

NAC sale 46, 2008, 752.

The year 472 was of critical importance to the Western Roman Empire: not only had two emperors, Anthemius and Olybrius, perished, but the 'emperor-making' general Ricimer also had died. Ricimer was replaced by his nephew Gundobad, who, after a four-month hiatus, appointed Glycerius, a man of no particular distinction, to the vacant throne. The usurpation was not recognized by the emperor Leo I in Constantinople, as the right to rule, or to determine who would rule, had rightfully passed to Leo. To remedy the situation, Leo sent Julius Nepos, the magister militum of Dalmatia and a relation by marriage to Italy at the head of an army. Nepos captured Glycerius without a fight, and appointed him bishop of Salona (in his own land of Dalmatia), and thus spared his life. With Leo's death in 474 and the eruption of contest for power in the East, Nepos acted decisively and seized the western throne himself. The new emperor was immediately beset by many difficulties: the local population did not support him, and he had to cede Gaul and Spain to the Visigoths under their new and energetic king Euric. Furthermore, he appointed the former secretary to Attila the Hun, Orestes, as his magister militum, an unfortunate choice since Orestes soon rebelled. Nepos was forced to flee back to his native Dalmatia, and afterwards Orestes placed his own son Romulus Augustus on the throne. Though he had no real power in the West, Nepos was still the constitutional emperor, and at least initially was viewed as such by the new Eastern emperor Zeno. Nepos continued to rule Dalmatia autonomously as he had done before until in 480 he was murdered, seemingly at the instigation of Glycerius, the former emperor whose life he had mercifully spared.

Romulus Augustus, 475 – 476



- 2132 Tremissis 475-476, AV 1.43 g. [D N] ROMVLVS AVGVSTVS P F A Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. Cross within wreath; below, COMOB. C 10. Lacam 24. LRC 950. Depeyrot 87/1 (these dies). RIC 3409. Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. An unusually attractive portrait, minor areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine 35'000

Ex NFA XXVI, 1991, 385 and New York sale XIV, 2007, 481 sales

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

Basiliscus sole reign, 9th January 475 – August 476



- 2133 Solidus, Constantinopolis early 475, AV 4.47 g. D N BASILIS – CYS P P AV Helmeted, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust facing three-quarters r., holding spear and shield with horseman and enemy motif. Rev. VICTOR I – A AVGGG Victory standing l., supporting long jewelled cross; in r. field, star. In exergue, CONOB. MIRB 1a. LRC 607. Depeyrot 101/1. RIC 1003.

Rare. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

4'000