

A U C T I O N

101

The Ernst Ploil Collection of Roman Coins Part III

24 October 2017

NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA NAC AG
ZÜRICH - LONDON

AUCTION 101

24 October 2017

The Ernst Ploil Collection of Roman Coins - Part III

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TIME TABLE ZEITTAFEL ORDRE DE VENTE ORDINE DI VENDITA

Tuesday, 24 October 2017

14:00 – 16:30

1 – 311

EXHIBITIONS AUSSTELLUNG EXPOSITION ESPOSIZIONI

London – At our premises

10 September – 12 October 2017

Monday to Friday 9:30 – 17:30

Saturday & Sunday by appointment only

Zurich

At the Zurich premises (2nd Floor):

Saturday, 21 October 2017

by appointment

Sunday, 22 October 2017

09:30 – 17:30

At the Hotel Baur au Lac, Talstrasse 1, 8001 Zurich:

Monday, 23 October 2017

11:30 – 18:00

Tuesday, 24 October 2017

09:00 – 13:30

Please visit our auction online at www.arsclassicacoins.com

Die Auktion erfolgt unter Mitwirkung eines Beamten des Stadttammannamtes 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 Roman Republic

The mint is Roma unless otherwise stated



- 1 Didrachm, Neapolis (?) after 276, AR 7.27 g. Head of Hercules r., hair bound with ribbon, with club and lion's skin over shoulder. Rev. She-wolf r., suckling twins; in exergue, ROMANO. Sydenham 6. SNG Lockett 3479. RBW 23. Crawford 20/1. Historia Numorum Italy 287.

Rare. Wonderful old cabinet tone and of superb style. An almost invisible flank crack on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine / good very fine

2'500

Ex CNG 40, 1996, 1223; Künker 59, 2000, 321 and M&M Germany 9, 2001, 320 sales.



- 2 Uncia circa 217-215, Æ 11.45 g. Draped bust of Sol facing; in l. field, pellet. Rev. Pellet between two stars over crescent; below, ROMA. Sydenham 96. RBW 108. Crawford 39/4.

In unusually fine condition for the issue. Dark patina on the obverse and light green patina on reverse. A small encrustation and a light scratch on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

350

Ex Leu sale 86, 2003, 653.



- 3 60 Asses circa 211-207, AV 3.36 g. Bearded and draped head of Mars r., wearing Corinthian helmet; in l. field, mark of value, ↓X. Rev. Eagle standing r., with spread wings, on thunderbolt; below, ROMA. Bahrfeldt 4. Sydenham 226. RBW 160. Crawford 44/2.

Two almost invisible marks on reverse field, otherwise extremely fine

4'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 73, 1995, 281.



- 4 **The Bellum Sociale.** Denarius, Bovianum (?) circa 89 (?), AR 3.90 g. Laureate head of Italia l.; behind, *viteliu* retrograde in Oscan characters. Rev. Soldier in helmet and cloak, standing facing, head r., holding reversed spear; his l. foot is placed on a Roman standard; by his side, on r., recumbent bull. In exergue, symbol. Sydenham 627. Campana 147. Historia Numorum Italy 407. RBW 1218.

Rare. Struck on unusually good metal and with a lovely old cabinet tone. Slightly off-centre, otherwise about extremely fine

1'500

Ex Sternberg XXVII, 1994, 286 and Auctiones 27, 1996, 4 sales.



- 5 **The Bellum Sociale.** Denarius, Corfinium circa 90, AR 3.73 g. Laureate head of Italia l.; behind, ITALIA. Rev. Oath-taking scene: Eight soldiers, four on each side, pointing their swords at pig held by kneeling youth; in the background, standard. In exergue, M. Sydenham 621. Campana 69. Historia Numorum Italy 408 (these dies).

Rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue.

Attractive iridescent tone and extremely fine

5'000

Ex Leu 100, 2000, 385 and NAC 52, 2009, 231 sales.



- 6 **The Bellum Sociale.** Denarius, mint moving with C. Paapius (in Campania?) circa 90, AR 3.46 g. Helmeted and draped bust of Mars r., bowl decorated with plume; behind, *viteliu* in Oscan characters. Rev. Oath-taking scene: four soldiers, two on each side, pointing their swords at pig held by kneeling youth; in exergue, *c.paapii.c* retrograde in Oscan characters. Sydenham 637. SNG Lockett 59. Campana 83. Historia Numorum Italy 425. RBW 1225.

Very rare. Struck on a very broad flan and exceptionally complete, lovely old cabinet tone and extremely fine

6'000

Ex NAC sale 51, 2009, 17.



- 7 **L. Cornelius Sulla**. Denarius, uncertain mint 81, AR 4.18 g. Diademed head of Venus r.; behind, E. Rev. EX – S·C Cornucopiae; all within wreath. Babelon Cornelia 44. Sydenham 763. RBW 1399 var. (different letter on obverse). Crawford 376/1.

Very rare. Struck on a broad flan and complete, good very fine 2'000

Ex NAC sale 54, 2010, 212.



- 8 **L. Cassius Longinus**. Denarius 63, AR 3.97 g. Diademed and veiled head of Vesta l.; below chin, S. In r. field, dish. Rev. LONGIN·III·V Voter standing l., dropping tablet inscribed V into cista. Babelon Cassia 10. Sydenham 935. RBW 1493. Crawford 413/1.

Light iridescent tone and about extremely fine 250

- 9 **Q. Cassius Longinus**. Denarius 55, AR 4.08 g. Q·CASSIVS – VEST Veiled head of Libertas r. Rev. Temple of Vesta with curule chair inside; in l. field, urn and in r. field, tablet inscribed AC. Babelon Cassia 9. Sydenham 917. RBW 1533. Crawford 428/1.

Wonderful iridescent tone, slightly off-centre, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc 300

Ex Sternberg sale XXV, 1991, 281.



- 10 **C. Julius Caesar**. Denarius, mint moving with Caesar 49-48, AR 3.92 g. Pontifical emblems: *culullus*, *aspergillum*, axe and *apex*. Rev. Elephant r., trampling dragon; in exergue, CAESAR. Babelon Julia 9. C 9. Sydenham 1006. Sear Imperators 9. RBW 1557. Crawford 443/1.

Lovely iridescent tone and good extremely fine 750

Privately purchased in December 1980.



- 11 **Cn. Pompeius Magnus and Terentius Varro.** Denarius, mint moving with Pompey 49, AR 3.93 g. VARRO·PRO – Q Terminal bust of Jupiter r., wearing diadem. Rev. Sceptre between dolphin and eagle; in exergue, MAGN·PRO / COS. Babelon Terentia 15 and Pompeia 7. Sear Imperators 8. C 3. Sydenham 1033 var. Woytek Arma et Nummi p. 558. RBW –. Crawford 447/1a.
Rare. Lovely old cabinet tone and about extremely fine / good very fine 2'000



- 12 **C. Julius Caesar.** Denarius, Illyria (Apollonia ?) early to mid 48, AR 3.76 g. Female head r., wearing diadem and oak wreath; behind, TII. Rev. CAE – SAR Trophy with Gallic shield and carnyx; on r., axe. Babelon Julia 26. Sydenham 1009. Sear Imperators 11. Woytek Arma et Nummi p. 558. RBW –. Crawford 452/2.
Light iridescent tone and extremely fine 750

Privately purchased from Gorny & Mosch in June 2006.



- 13 **C. Julius Caesar.** Denarius, Asia 48-47, AR 3.87 g. Diademed head of Venus r. Rev. CAESAR Aeneas advancing l., carrying *palladium* in r. hand and Anchises on l. shoulder. Babelon Julia 10. C 12. Sydenham 1013. Sear Imperators 55. Woytek Arma et Nummi, p. 218 ff. RBW 1600. Crawford 458/1.
Perfectly struck and centred on a full flan and with a lovely light iridescent tone. Good extremely fine 1'250

Ex NFA & Sotheby's 28 October 1993, 1371 and UBS 53, 2002, 106 sales.



- 14 **C. Julius Caesar and A. Hirtius.** Aureus 46, AV 7.78 g. C·CAESAR – COS TER Veiled head of Vesta r. Rev. A·HIRTIVS·P·R *Lituus*, jug and axe. Babelon Julia 24 and Hirtia 2. C 2. Bahrfeldt 19. Sydenham 1018. Sear Imperators 56. Calicó 37c. RBW 1634. Crawford 466/1. Good very fine 2'000

Privately purchased in March 1981.



15

- 15 **C. Iulius Caesar.** Denarius, Sicily (?) 46, AR 3.97 g. COS·TERT – DICT·ITER Head of Ceres r., wearing wreath of barley. Rev. AVGVR *Culullus, aspergillum, jug and lituus*. In outer r. field, [M] and below, PONT·MAX. Babelon Julia 16. C 4. Sydenham 1024. Sear Imperators 57a. Woytek Arma et Nummi p. 558. RBW 1638. Crawford 467/1b. Lovely old cabinet tone and extremely fine 750

Ex M&M 88, 1999, 412 and UBS 55, 2002, 1856 sales.



16



16

- 16 **C. Iulius Caesar.** Denarius, Spain 46-45, AR 4.07 g. Diademed and draped bust of Venus l., with star in hair and Cupid perched on shoulder. In l. field, *lituus* and in r. field, sceptre. Rev. A female and a male Gaulish captive at feet of trophy; in exergue, CAESAR. Babelon Julia 12. C 14. Sydenham 1015. Sear Imperators 59. RBW 1640. Crawford 468/2.

Struck on a very broad flan and with an enchanting old cabinet tone. Minor areas of weakness, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine

600

Ex Tkalec sale May 2010, 141.



17



17

- 17 **C. Iulius Caesar and L. Munatius Plancus.** Aureus 45, AV 8.11 g. C·CAES – DICT·TER Draped bust of Victory r. Rev. L·PLANC – PRAEF·VRB Jug. Babelon Julia 19 and Munatia 2. Bahrfeldt 20. Sydenham 1019b. Sear Imperators 60. Calicó 45. RBW 1663. Crawford 475/1a.

Struck on a very broad flan, unobtrusive metal flaw on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

6'000

Ex Rauch sale 68, 2001, 186.



18

- 18 **C. Iulius Caesar and L. Munatius Plancus.** Brockage aureus circa 45, AV 8.05 g. C·CAES – DICT·TER Draped bust of Victory r. Rev. Same type incuse. Cf. Babelon Julia 18 and Munatia 1. Bahrfeldt 20. Sydenham 1019b. Sear Imperators 60a. RBW 1664. Crawford 475/1b. Calicó 44.

Exceedingly rare. Several light marks, otherwise about very fine

3'500

Ex Künker sale 182, 2011, 503.



19

- 19 **L. Aemilius Buca.** Denarius 44, AR 3.88 g. L·BVCA Diademed head of Venus r. Rev. Sulla reclining on rock l.; on r., Luna descending from mountain and behind, Victory with spread wings holding staff in raised r. hand. Babelon Aemilia 12. Sydenham 1064. Sear Imperators 164. RBW 1677. Crawford 480/1.

Very rare. Struck on a very broad flan and with a lovely light iridescent tone.

An almost invisible graffito on obverse and a minor area of weakness on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine

6'000



20



20

- 20 **C. Iulius Caesar with L. Aemilius Buca.** Denarius 44, AR 3.49 g. CAESAR·DI[CT] – [PE]RPETVO Wreathed head of Caesar r. Rev. Fasces and caduceus in saltire; on l., axe and on r., globe. Above, clasped hands and below, L·BVCA. Babelon Julia 37 and Aemilia 17. C 25. Sydenham 1063. Sear Imperators 103. RBW 1680. Alföldi Caesar, pl. XCVIII, 74 (this coin). Crawford 480/6.

Rare. Lovely old cabinet tone, slightly off-centre, otherwise about extremely fine

2'000

Privately purchased in March 1997.



21

- 21 **C. Iulius Caesar and P. Sepullius Macer.** Denarius 44, AR 3.87 g. CAESAR – DICT PERPETVO Wreathed head of Caesar r. Rev. P·SEPVLLIVS – MACER Venus standing l., holding Victory and sceptre resting on shield. Babelon Julia 48 and Sepullia 3. C 38. Sydenham 1073. Sear Imperators 107a. Alföldi Caesar, pl. LXVIII, 25 (this coin). RBW –. Crawford 480/10.

Light iridescent tone, minor areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine

3'500

Ex Leu-M&M sale 21-22 October 1966, Niggeler, 935.



- 22 **C. Julius Caesar and C. Cossutius Maridianus.** Denarius 44, AR 3.53 g. CAESAR – [PARENS]-PATRIAE Veiled and wreathed head of Caesar r.; behind, *apex* / ↑ and before, *lituus*. Rev. C·COSSVTIVS and MARID – IANVS arranged in form of cross; in angles, A – A – A – F·F. Babelon Julia 43 and Cossutia 2. C 8. Sydenham 1069. Sear Imperators 112. Alföldi Caesar 39 (this coin). RBW 1687. Crawford 480/19.
Very rare and in unusually good condition for the issue. An intriguing portrait and a superb cabinet tone, extremely fine / good extremely fine 12'500

Ex Glendining's 14-16 January 1953, Rashleigh I, 411 and NAC 21, 2001, 294 sales.



- 23 **Marcus Antonius.** Denarius, Gallia Cisalpina 43, AR 4.17 g. M ANTO IMP·R·P·C Bearded head of Marcus Antonius r.; behind, *lituus*. Rev. CAESAR DI[C] Laureate head of Caesar r.; behind, jug. Babelon Antonia 4 and Julia 54. C 2. Sydenham 1165. Sear Imperators 118. Woytek Arma et Nummi p. 558. RBW 1708. Crawford 488/1.
Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Two superb and unusually well centred portraits. Lovely iridescent tone and about extremely fine 4'000

Ex Hirsch sale 246, 2006, 2177.



- 24 **C. Caesar Octavianus.** Denarius, Gallia Cisalpina 43, AR 3.62 g. C·CAESAR – [III·VIR·R·P·C·] Head of Octavian r., slightly bearded. Rev. Equestrian statue r.; in exergue, [S·C]. Babelon Julia 65. C 243. Sydenham 1316. Sear Imperators 134. RBW 1715. Crawford 490/3.
Very rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. Lovely old cabinet tone, slightly off-centre, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine 1'500



- 25 **L. Cestius and C. Norbanus.** Aureus January-April 43, AV 8.06 g. Draped bust of Africa r., wearing elephant skin headdress. Rev. L·CESTIVS / S C – PR Curule chair with legs decorated with eagles; on top, Corinthian helmet. In exergue, C·NORBA. Babelon Cestia 1 and Norbana 3. Bahrfeldt 24. Sydenham 1153. Sear Imperators 195. RBW 1717. Crawford 491/1a. Calicó 3a.
In superb condition for the issue. Almost invisible marks, otherwise extremely fine 10'000

Privately purchased in July 1997.

The circumstances under which this aureus, and its companion issue, were struck are not fully known, but it almost certainly is an emergency issue of the senate. It was struck in the name of the praetors Lucius Cestius and Gaius Norbanus, presumably in the early part of 43 B.C., when the senate became allied with Octavian against Marc Antony, who had been declared a public enemy by the senate in February of this year following his 'war' against Decimus Brutus. The former right-hand-man of Julius Caesar, Antony, now realized just how formidable an enemy he had in young Octavian. As perilous as the situation could have become (the production of these aurei indicates the senate was formulating plans for war), Antony and Octavian resolved their differences through negotiation. On November 11, 43 the Second Triumvirate was formed, which determined that Antony, Octavian and Lepidus would work together rather than engage in a costly civil war.



- 26 **L. Cestius and C. Norbanus.** Aureus January-April 43, AV 8.09 g. C·NORBANVS / L·CESTIVS Draped bust of Sibyl r.; in r. field, PR. Rev. Cybele on throne in biga of lions l., holding patera in r. hand and resting l. hand on *tympanum*; in upper l. field, S·C. Babelon Cestia 3 and Norbana 5. Bahrfeldt 26. Sydenham 1155. Sear Imperators 196. Calicó 5. RBW 1719. Crawford 491/2.
Rare. In exceptional condition for the issue, among the finest specimens known. Struck on a very broad flan and good extremely fine 12'500

Privately purchased in July 1997.



- 27 **L. Livineius Regulus.** Denarius 42, AR 3.81 g. Laureate head of Caesar r.; behind, laurel branch and before, caduceus. Rev. L·LIVINEIVS / REGVLVS Bull charging r. Babelon Julia 57 and Livineia 1. Sydenham 1106. Sear Imperators 115. RBW 1730. Crawford 494/24.

Rare. An attractive portrait struck on a very broad flan and with a lovely light iridescent tone. About extremely fine / extremely fine

4'000

Ex Hirsch sale 264, 2009, 448.



- 28 **C. Cassius and Lentulus Spint.** Denarius, mint moving with Brutus and Cassius 43-42, AR 3.90 g. C·CASSI – IMP Tripod with *cortina*, decorated with two laurel branches and fillets. Rev. Jug and *lituus*; below, LENTVLVS / SPINT. Babelon Cassia 14 and Cornelia 76. C 7. Sear Imperators 219. RBW 1761. Crawford 500/1. Rare. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine

2'500

Ex Tkalec sale 7 May 2009, 120.



- 29 **Q. Caepio Brutus and Lentulus Spint.** Denarius, mint moving with Brutus and Cassius 43-42, AR 3.95 g. BRVTVS Axe, *culullus* and knife r. Rev. Jug and *lituus*; below, LENTVLVS / SPINT. Babelon Junia 41 and Cornelia 71. C 6. Sydenham 1310. Sear Imperators 198. RBW 1766. Crawford 500/7. Rare. Lovely old cabinet tone and extremely fine

2'500

Ex Hess & Leu 36, 1968, 409 and Künker 133, 2007, 8440 sales.



- 30 **Q. Caepio Brutus.** Denarius, mint moving with Brutus 43-42, AR 3.69 g. LEIBERTAS Head of Libertas r. Rev. CAEPIO-BRVTVS-PRO-CO – S Plectrum, lyre and laurel branch tied with fillet. Babelon Junia 34. C 5. Sydenham 1287. Mazzini 5 (this coin). RBW 1767. Crawford 501/1.

Rare. Struck on a very broad flan and with a superb old cabinet tone, good very fine 500

From the Mazzini collection.

- 31 **Sextus Pompeius.** Denarius, Sicily 37-36, AR 3.92 g. [MA]G-PIVS-IMP-ITER Head of Cn. Pompeius Magnus r.; behind jug and before, *lituus*. Rev. [PRÆF] Neptune standing l., foot on prow, between the brothers Anapias and Amphinomus, with their parents on their shoulders; in exergue, CLAS·E·T·ORÆ / MARIT·EX·S·C. Babelon Pompeia 27. C 17. Sydenham 1344. Sear Imperators 334. Woytek, Arma et Nummi p. 558. RBW 1785. Crawford 511/3a.

Rare. Lovely iridescent tone and good very fine 1'500

Ex Künker sale 100, 2005, 46.



- 32 **Marcus Antonius.** Denarius, mint moving with Marcus Antonius 41, AR 3.54 g. ANT – AVG-IMP – III·VI·R·P·C Head of M. Antony r. Rev. Fortuna standing l., holding rudder in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; at feet, stork; below, PIETAS·[COS]. Babelon Antonia 44. C 77. Sydenham 1174. Sear Imperators 241. Mazzini 77 (this coin). RBW 1795. Crawford 516/2.

Rare. Old cabinet tone, small banker's mark on neck, otherwise very fine 750

Ex Lanz 16, 1979, 291 and Busso Peus 304, 1982, 286 sales. From the Mazzini collection.



- 33 **Marcus Antonius and C. Caesar Octavianus with M. Barbatius.** Aureus, mint moving with M. Antonius 41, 8.02 g. M-ANT-IMP-AVG-III·VIR-R·P·C-M-BARBAT-Q·P Bare head of M. Antonius r. Rev. CAESAR-IMP-PONT-III·VIR-R·P·C Bare head of Octavian r. Babelon Antonia 50. Bahrfeldt 77. Sydenham 1180. Sear Imperators 242. Calicó 109. RBW 1797. Crawford 517/1a.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Perfectly struck and centred on a full flan, an almost invisible mark on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 30'000

Ex M&M sale 43, 1970, 249.



- 34 **C. Caesar Octavianus with L. Cornelius Balbus.** Denarius, mint moving with Octavian 41, AR 3.92 g. C·CAESAR·III·VIR·R·P·C Head of Octavian r. Rev. BALBVS / PRO·PR Club. Babelon Julia 91 and Cornelia 78. C 417. Sydenham 1325a. Sear Imperators 298. RBW 1801. Crawford 518/1.

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

2'500

Ex Künker sale 133, 2007, 8488.



- 35 **Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus.** Denarius, mint moving with Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus 41-40, AR 3.64 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. RBW 1803. Crawford 519/2.

Rare. Light iridescent tone and good very fine

1'500

Ex M&M sale 81, 1995, 250.



- 36 **Q. Voconius Vitulus.** Denarius 40 (?) or later, AR 3.43 g. Laureate head of Julius Caesar r. Rev. Q·VOCONIVS / S – C Calf walking l.; in exergue, VITVLVS·Q· / DESIGN. Babelon Voconia 1 and Julia 121. C 48. Sydenham 1133. Sear Imperators 331. RBW 1813. Crawford 526/4.

Very rare. A superb portrait perfectly centred on a full
flan and a lovely iridescent tone. Extremely fine

10'000

Ex NAC sale 21, 2001, 319.

In 40 B.C., the conflict between Octavian and Marc Antony reached a new peak and found an uneasy resolution in the Pact of Brundisium. Octavian had returned from the Battle of Philippi with the hard task of settling some 40,000 veterans on their promised lands. As Octavian acquired land in Italy by force, his popularity was threatened. While Antony was away in the East, his wife Fulvia and brother Lucius Antonius preyed upon Octavian's misfortune by harassing him with political attacks that stirred the veterans of Antony against those of Octavian. Lucius gathered his brother's veterans and gained permission to wage war on Octavian, who was able to intercept Lucius' northward trek and force him to take refuge in Perusia. The Perusine War (41-40 B.C.), which had all of the potential to become a new civil war, was reduced to a brief event when the threat of starvation caused Lucius to surrender in February of 40 B.C. Though Octavian took revenge upon the Perusians, he took no direct action against Lucius or Fulvia. Indeed, he pardoned Lucius and soon assigned him to a promagistracy in Spain, where he died soon thereafter. Fulvia also died in the aftermath of the war. The siege in Perusia, the deaths of his brother and wife, and perhaps more importantly, Octavian's assumption of power in Gaul upon the death of Antony's governor there, alarmed Antony who sailed West in October of that year. Upon arriving at the port of Brundisium in the spring of 40 B.C., Antony was refused entry to the harbor by Octavian's commander. Antony responded by besieging Brundisium and strengthening his ties with Sextus Pompey, Octavian's nemesis in the West. Hoping for damage control, Octavian hastily divorced his wife Claudia, married Sextus Pompey's sister-in-law, and led an army to the southern port. Fortunately for Rome, cool heads prevailed, and the triumvirs ironed out their differences. The resulting pact confirmed Antony's control of the East and Octavian's control of the West, and bound the men through the ultimately incendiary marriage of Antony and Octavian's sister, Octavia. The two men were now able to focus on their regional goals: Antony received legions from Octavian for his planned invasion of Parthia, and Octavian received war vessels from Antony to use against Sextus Pompey.

This rare denarius of the moneyer Q. Voconius Vitulus was struck in the midst of these alarming events. The reverse type of a standing calf is strictly personal, being a punning allusion to the cognomen Vitulus, which means calf.



- 37 **Marcus Antonius.** Cistophoric tetradrachm, Ephesus (?) 39, AR 12.15 g. M·ANTONIVS·IMP·COS·DESIG·ITER·ET·TERT Ivy-wreathed head r.; below, *lituus*. All within ivy-wreath. Rev. III·VIR – R·P·C· Head of Octavia r. on *cista mistica* between two interlaced snakes with heads erect. Babelon Antonia 60. C 2. Sydenham 1197. RPC 2201.

Scarce and in exceptional condition for the issue. Two superb portraits struck on a very broad flan and a lovely old cabinet tone, extremely fine

5'000



- 38 **Marcus Antonius.** Denarius, mint moving with M. Antonius in 38, AR 3.85 g. M·ANTONIVS·M·F – [M·N·AVG]VR·IMP·TER· M. Antonius, veiled and togate, standing r., holding *lituus* in r. hand. Rev. III·VIR·R·P·C· COS·DESIG·ITER·ET·TERT Radiate head of Sol r. Babelon Antonia 80. C 13. Sydenham 1199. Sear Imperators 267. RBW 1820. Crawford 533/2.

Of lovely style and with a superb old cabinet tone. Slightly off-centre, otherwise about extremely fine / good very fine

500

Ex Rauch sale 86, 2010, 543.



- 39 **C. Caesar Octavianus.** Bronze, Italy 38, Æ 18.24 g. CAESAR – DIVI·F Bare head of Octavian r. Rev. DIVOS – IVLIVS Laureate head of Julius Caesar r. Babelon Julia 98. C 3. Sydenham 1336. RPC 620. Sear Imperators 308. RBW 1822. Crawford 535/1.

Two magnificent portraits of fine style and a pleasant dark tone.

Several metal flaws, otherwise about extremely fine

1'500

Ex Künker sale 71, 2002, 658.



40



40

- 40 **C. Caesar Octavianus and M. Agrippa.** Denarius, mint moving with Octavian 38, AR 3.75 g. IMP CAESA[R] – DIVI·IVLI·F Bearded head of Octavian r. Rev. M·AGRIPPA·COS / DESIG. Babelon 131 and Vipsania 3. C 545. Sydenham 1331. Sear Imperators 307. RBW –, Crawford 534/3.
Rare. Light iridescent tone, surface somewhat porous and several light marks, otherwise good very fine 750



41



- 41 **C. Caesar Octavianus.** Denarius, mint moving with Octavian 37, AR 3.79 g. IMP·CAESAR·DIVI·F·III·VIR·ITER·R·P·C Bearded head of Octavian r. Rev. COS·ITER·ET·TER·DESIG *Simpulum, aspergillum, jug and lituus.* Babelon Julia 140. C 91. Sydenham 1334. Sear Imperators 312. RBW 1826. Crawford 538/1.
Rare. Old cabinet tone and good very fine 600

Ex Astarte 5, 1999, 703 and Busso Peus 386, 2006, 663 sales.



42



- 42 **C. Caesar Octavianus.** Denarius, mint moving with Octavian 36, AR 3.96 g. IMP·CAESAR·DIVI·F·III·VIR·ITER·R·P·C Head of Octavian r., slightly bearded. Rev. COS·ITER·[ET]·TER·DESIG Tetrastyle temple within which veiled figure stands facing and holding *lituus*; on architrave, DIVO·IVL and within pediment, star. Babelon 139. C 90. Sydenham 1338. Sear Imperators 315. RBW 1829. Crawford 540/2.
Very rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. Old cabinet tone, unobtrusive areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine 2'500

Ex LHS sale 103, 2009, 216.



43

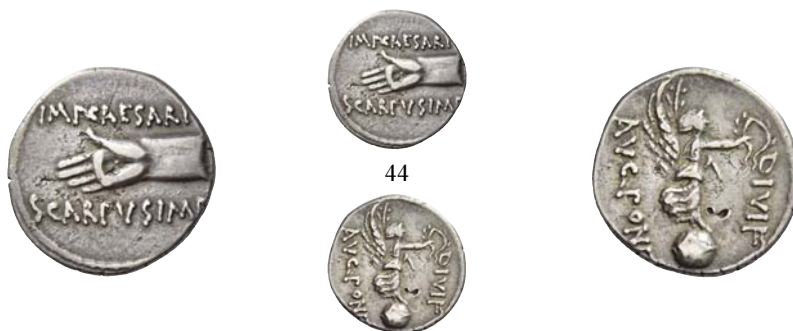
- 43 **Cleopatra with Marcus Antonius.** Denarius, mint moving with M. Antony 32, AR 3.81 g. CLEOPATRAE · REGI[NAE · REGVM · FILIORVM · REGVM] Draped and diademed bust of Cleopatra r. Rev. ANTONI · ARMENIA · DEVICTA Head of M. Antony r.; behind, Armenian tiara. Babelon Antonia 95. C 1. Sydenham 1210. Sear Imperators 345. RBW 1832. Crawford 543/1.

Very rare. Two lovely portraits and a light iridescent tone, obverse slightly off-centre, otherwise about extremely fine

12'500

Ex Künker sale 77, 2002, 341.

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 denarius offered here. Little more indication is necessary to recognise that Cleopatra had effectively dominated her husband, the Roman warlord Antony.



44

- 44 **C. Caesar Octavianus with M. Pinarius Scarpus.** Denarius, Cyrenaica 31, AR 3.67 g. IMP · CAESARI / SCARPVS IMP Open r. hand. Rev. DIVI F / AVG · PONT Victory standing on globe r., holding wreath tied with fillet and palm branch over l. shoulder. Babelon Pinaria 12 and Julia 142. Sydenham 1282. C 500. Sear Imperators 413. CBN 894. RBW 1855. Crawford 546/6.

Extremely rare. Old cabinet tone, a banker's mark on reverse, otherwise very fine

3'000

The Roman Empire

The mint is Roma unless otherwise stated

Octavian, 32 – 27 BC



- 45 Denarius, Brundisium and Roma (?) circa 32-29 BC, AR 4.02 g. Bare head of Octavian r. Rev. CAESAR – DIVI F Draped Pax standing l., holding olive branch and cornucopiae. C 69. BMC 605. RIC 252. Sear Imperators 399. CBN 26. Rare. A magnificent portrait of fine style, light iridescent tone and about extremely fine / extremely fine 4'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 82, 1997, 242.



- 46 Denarius, Brundisium and Roma (?) 32-29 BC, AR 3.75 g. Diademed bust of Victory r. Rev. CAESAR – DIVI F Neptune, naked but cloak over shoulders, standing l. with r. foot on globe, holding sceptre and aplustre. C 60. BMC 615. RIC 256. Sear Imperators 409. CBN 12. In an exceptional state of preservation. Struck on a very broad flan, lovely iridescent tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 3'500

Ex Glendining's sale 19 July 1950, Platt Hall, 803.



- 47 Denarius, Brundisium and Roma (?) circa 32-29 BC, AR 4.02 g. Diademed bust of Venus r., wearing necklace. Rev. CAESAR – DIVI F Octavian, in military attire, advancing l. with cloak flying behind, extending r. arm and holding transverse sceptre in l. hand. C 70. BMC 609. RIC 251. Sear Imperators 397. CBN 1. Wonderful light iridescent tone and extremely fine 2'000

Ex NAC sale 21, 2001, 332.



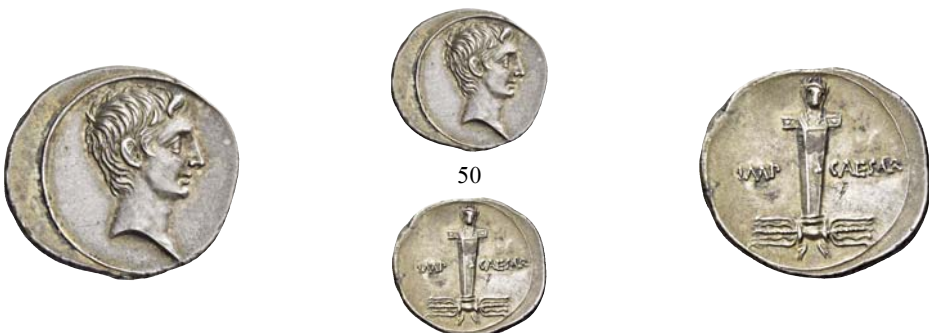
- 48 Aureus, Brundisium and Roma (?) 29-27 BC, AV 8.09 g. Bare head r. Rev. IMP – CAESAR Victory standing facing on globe, head l. and wings spread, holding wreath and *vexillum*. Bahrfeldt 109. C 113. BMC 623=BMCR 435R (this obverse die). RIC 268. Sear Imperators 417. CBN 85. Calicó 205 (these dies).
Rare. A bold portrait struck on a very broad flan, extremely fine 20'000

Ex Santamaria 1952, Signorelli, 873 and Sotheby's New York 21-22 June 1990, Hunt II, 665 sales.



- 49 Denarius, Brundisium and Roma (?) circa 29-27, AR 3.72 g. CAESAR – COS·VI Bare head r.; behind, *lituus*. Rev. AEGVPTO / CAPTA Crocodile advancing r. C 2. BMC 650. RIC 275a. Sear Imperators 430. CBN 905 (Ephesus).
Rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. Struck on an exceptionally large flan, surface slightly porous, otherwise extremely fine 6'000

Ex Leu 48, 1989, 308 and Busso Peus 366, 2000, 1268 sales.



- 50 Denarius, Brundisium and Roma (?) 29-27 BC, AR 3.67 g. Bare head r. Rev. IMP – CAESAR Laureate terminal figure set facing on winged thunderbolt. C 114. BMC 628. RIC 269a. Sear Imperators 425. CBN 49.
Rare and among the finest specimens known. Struck on a large flan and with a superb old cabinet tone. Extremely fine 5'000

Ex Leu 2, 1972, 349 and NAC 21, 2001, 340 sales.



- 51 Denarius, Brundisium and Roma (?) 29-27 BC, AR 3.99 g. Laureate head of Octavian as Apollo r. Rev. IMP – CAESA[R] Cloaked figure (Octavian ?) holding spear and *parazonium*, set on rostral column. C 124. BMC 633. RIC 271. Sear Imperators 423. CBN 68.

An unusual and interesting portrait struck on a narrow flan,
light iridescent tone and about extremely fine

Ex Lanz sale 132, 2006, 13.

750

- 52 Denarius, Brundisium and Roma (?) circa 29-27 BC, AR 3.87 g. Bare head r. Rev. IMP CAES[AR] on architrave of temple with colonnaded base; Victory on globe and apex on pediment and warriors at the corners. C 122. BMC 631. RIC 266. Sear Imperators 521. CBN 52.

Light iridescent tone, areas of weakness, otherwise about extremely fine

600



- 53 Denarius, Brundisium and Roma (?) 29-27 BC, AR 3.58 g. Bare head r. Rev. IMP – CAESAR Trophy set on prow; at base, prow and anchor in saltire. C 119. BMC 625. RIC 265a. Sear Imperators 419. CBN 57.

Light iridescent tone and good very fine

500

Ex Frühwald sale 100, 2012, 212.



- 54 Cistophoric tetradrachm, Ephesus circa 28 BC, AR 11.99 g. IMP CAESAR DIVI F COS VI LIBERTATIS P R VINDEX Laureate head r. Rev. PAX Pax standing l. on *parazonium* (?), holding caduceus in r. hand; in r. field, cista mystica. All within olive wreath. C 218. BMC 691. Sutherland Group I. RIC 476. Sear Imperators 433. CBN 908. RPC 2203.

Dark tone, minor encrustations on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine

1'500

Ex Künker sale 111, 2006, 6548.

Octavian as Augustus, 27 BC – 14 AD



- 55 Cistophoric tetradrachm, Pergamum circa 27-26, AR 11.47 g. IMP CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. AVGUSTVS Sphinx seated r. C 31. BMC –, cf. 702 (obverse legend reads upwards). Sutherland Group IV, 116. RIC 492. CBN –, cf. 949 (*lituus* on obverse). RPC 2210.
Very rare. Delightful old cabinet tone and about extremely fine 6'000

Privately purchased in March 1997.

Several theories have been put forth to explain the sphinx on Augustan cistophori; it has been seen as an allusion to Venus, to the conquest of Egypt, to the recovery of lost military standards from Parthia, or simply as a symbol of power. The correct explanation, however, seems to be the simplest: it is the device of Augustus' signet-ring. Considering the capricorn, Augustus' birth sign, is another type used on Augustan cistophori, it comes as no surprise that he would choose a personal design.

Augustus struck cistophori in Asia for about a decade beginning in 28 BC. The sphinx reverse was used in three varieties belonging to successive phases of the coinage of circa 27-26 BC.



- 56 Cistophoric tetradrachm, Pergamum circa 27-26, AR 11.84 g. IMP CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. AVGV – STVS Six bunched corn ears. C 32. BMC 697. Sutherland Group VI. RIC 481. CBN 919. RPC 2214.
Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine 1'500

Ex Auctiones 15, 1985, 575 and Gorny & Mosch 125, 2003, 304 sales.



- 57 Denarius, Samos circa 21-20 BC, AR 2.94 g. CAESAR Bare head r. Rev. AVGVSTVS Bull standing r. C 28. BMC 663. RIC 475. Sutherland, "L'attribution des deniers augustéens aux types du temple, de la couronne et du jeune taureau" in RN 1974, 61f. CBN 941.
Struck on a broad flan and with a wonderful iridescent tone. Extremely fine / good extremely fine 2'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 114, 2002, 209.



- 58 **P. Petronius Turpilianus.** Denarius circa 19 BC, AR 3.82 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Bare head r. Rev. TVRPILIANVS – III·VIR Tarpeia standing facing, half buried by pile of shields. C 494. BMC 29. RIC 299. CBN 157. Wonderful iridescent tone, minor areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine / good extremely fine 2'000
Ex Peus 343, 1995, 346 and 366, 2000, 1274 sales.



- 59 **M. Durmius.** Denarius circa 19 BC, AR 3.95 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Bare head r. Rev. M DVRMIV[S] Boar standing r., wounded by spear; in exergue, III VIR. C 430. BMC 61. RIC 317. CBN 207. Light iridescent tone, an almost invisible banker's mark on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine 1'250
Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 112, 2001, 4256.



- 60 **Q. Rustius.** Denarius circa 19 BC, AR 3.73 g. Q·RVSTIVS – FORTVNAE Jugate busts r. of Fortuna Victrix and Fortuna Felix; below, ANTIAT. Rev. CAESARI AVGVSTO Ornamented altar; below, EX S C. C 513. BMC 4. RIC 322. CBN 221. Rare. Wonderful old cabinet tone and about extremely fine 1'000
Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 125, 2003, 379.
- 61 **L. Aquilius Florus.** Denarius circa 19 BC, AR 3.91 g. L·AQVILLIVS·FLO[RVS – III V]IR Draped bust of Virtus r. wearing feathered helmet. Rev. AVGVSTVS Augustus in elephant biga l. holding laurel sceptre. C 354. BMC 36. RIC 301. CBN 179. Very rare. Light iridescent tone and good very fine 1'000
Privately purchased in July 1997.
- 62 **L. Aquilius Florus.** Denarius 19 BC, AR 3.58 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Bare head r. Rev. L AQVILLIVS FLORVS III VIR Open flower of six petals. C 364. BMC 46. RIC 309. CBN 183. Very rare. Old cabinet tone and good very fine 1'250

Ex Cahn 17 March 1913, Albert Oertel, 972; Glendining's January 1953, Rashleigh, 464; Leu 86, 2003, 748 and Busso Peus 380, 2004, 705 sales. From the de Guermentes collection.



- 63 **M. Durmius.** Denarius circa 19 BC, AR 4.05 g. M DVRMIVS III VIR HONORI Head of Honos r. Rev. CAESAR AVGVSTVS Slow quadriga r. with modius-shaped car, containing three corn-ears (?); in exergue, S C. C 429. BMC 55. RIC 313. CBN 196.

Very rare. A lovely old cabinet tone, minor areas of weakness, otherwise good very fine 1'250

- 64 Denarius, Colonia Patricia (?) circa 19 BC, AR 3.80 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Bare head r. Rev. Oak wreath with two ties at centre; above, OB CIVIS and below, SERVATOS. C 210. BMC 376. RIC 75a. CBN 1168.

Light iridescent tone, minor areas of weakness, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine 750



- 65 **P. Petronius Turpilianus.** Plated denarius circa 19 BC, AR 2.58 g. TVRPILIANVS [III VIR] Diademed and draped bust of Feronia r.; below, [FER...] Rev. CAESAR AVGVSTVS SIGN REC Parthian warrior kneeling r., holding out standard with *vexillum*. C 484. BMC 14. RIC 288. CBN 130.

Superb old cabinet tone, obverse slightly off-centre, otherwise extremely fine 750

Ex Schulman 249, 1965, 1680; Rauch 41, 1988, 534; Giessener Münzhandlung 42 1988, 576 and Busso Peus 371, 2002, 335 sales.

- 66 Denarius, Colonia Patricia (?) circa 19 BC, AR 3.89 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Bare head r. Rev. SIGNIS / RECEPTIS Aquila on l. and standard on r. flanking, S – P / Q – R arranged around shield inscribed CL V. C 19. BMC 417. RIC 86a. CBN 1132.

Light iridescent tone, minor areas of weakness, otherwise about extremely fine 500

Ex Baranowsky fixed price list 1932, 332.



- 67 Aureus, Caesaraugusta (?) circa 19-18 BC, AV 7.89 g. CAESAR / AVGVSTVS Two laurel branches. Rev. OB / CIVIS / SERVATOS within oak-wreath. C 206. Bahrfeldt 123. BMC 317. RIC –, RIC I edition 249. CBN 1280. Calicó 249.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, possibly the finest specimen known. Struck on a very broad flan and complete, good extremely fine 25'000

Previously purchased in July 1996.



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

Very rare and an important and fascinating issue. Traces of mounting, otherwise very fine 10'000

Ex Hess-Leu 2, 1955, 69; Astarte XII, 2003, 279 and NAC 34, 2006, 125 sales. From the Jameson and Biaggi collections.



- 69 Cistophoric tetradrachm, Pergamum circa 19-18 BC, AR 11.20 g. IMP·IX·TR – PO·V Bare head r. Rev. MART – VLTO *Vexillum* within domed circular temple. C 202. BMC 704. Sutherland Group VII, 532b (this obverse die). RIC 507. CBN 989. RPC 2220. Old cabinet tone and good very fine 1'000

Ex Künker sale 133, 2007, 8545.



- 70 Aureus, Colonia Patricia (?) circa 18 BC, AV 7.83 g. CAESARI – AVGVSTO Laureate head r. Rev. MAR – VLT Hexastyle domed temple; within, *aquila* between two standards. Bahrfeldt 158. C 189. BMC 372. RIC 104. CBN 1201. Calicó 246.

Very rare. Struck on a very broad flan and exceptionally complete, about extremely fine 15'000

Privately purchased in September 1994.



- 71 Denarius, Colonia Patricia (?) circa 18 BC, AR 3.78 g. S·P·Q·R· PARENT *Toga picta* over *tunica palmata* between aquila, on l., and wreath, on r., below, CONS SVO. Rev. Slow quadriga r. with ornamented panels surmounted by four miniature galloping horses; in exergue, CAESARI AVG[VSTO]. C 80. BMC 401. RIC 100. CBN 1197. Extremely fine 1'500

Ex Vecchi sale 4, 1996, 28.



- 72 Denarius, Colonia Patricia (?) circa 18 BC, AR 3.79 g. CAESARI – AVGVSTO Laureate head l. Rev. MAR – VLT Aquila between two standards within domed round hexastyle temple. C 192. BMC 375. RIC 105b. CBN 1205.

Rare. A lovely portrait, a wonderful iridescent tone and about extremely fine 1'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 175, 2009, 214.



- 73 Aureus, Colonia Patricia (?) circa 18-17/16 BC, AV 7.84 g. Bare head r. Rev. Capricorn r., holding globe over rudder; above, cornucopiae. Below, AVGVSTVS. C 20. Bahrfeldt 114. BMC 62 note *. RIC 125. CBN 1264. Calicó 164 (this coin). Faces of Power p. 198, 7.

Very rare. A bold portrait struck on a very broad flan and a lovely light reddish tone, about extremely fine / extremely fine 20'000

Ex Canessa sale 28 June 1923, Caruso, 149; Christie's 9 October 1984, Property of a Lady, 2 and Sotheby's 7 March 1996, 148 sales. From the Victor Adda collection.

The brilliantly executed portrait used for this aureus was created by a master engraver not long after Gaius Octavian - the adopted son of Julius Caesar and victor over Antony and Cleopatra - assumed the title of Augustus and became the first Roman Emperor. This idealized and classicizing portrait type was Augustus' preferred personal image for coins and statuary in the early years of his reign and influenced such iconic representations as the Prima Porta Augustus. The title DIVVS FILIVS ("son of the god [i.e. Julius Caesar]") had loomed large during Octavian's propaganda war against Caesar's assassins and later against Antony, but it disappeared from coin inscriptions after he became Augustus. Nevertheless, while the words may have vanished, the idealized beauty of the portrait still managed to convey the Emperor's transcendence and his quality as something greater than a mere man.

The reverse type is the personal seal of Augustus, representing the zodiacal sign with which he was closely associated. It is often described as the sign of his birth on the morning of September 23, 63 B.C., but there remains some scholarly controversy over whether it actually represents his rising or moon sign, since his sun sign was actually Libra. According to Suetonius, the sign of Capricorn became important to the future Augustus already in 44 B.C., just after the murder of Caesar. At this time, he and his close lieutenant, Marcus Agrippa, had their horoscopes cast by a Greek astrologer. Agrippa went first and had amazing things predicted of him. Octavian feared that his future could not possibly be as impressive as Agrippa's and initially resisted having his horoscope cast, but when he relented the astrologer bowed and recognized him as the future master of the Mediterranean world. This recognition is indicated by the globe and rudder associated with Capricorn here as a sign that Augustus' star-sanctioned power extended over both land and sea.

In addition to Suetonius' anecdote regarding Capricorn as the herald of Octavian's destiny to become Augustus, the first Roman Emperor, it has been suggested that Augustus had further propagandistic reasons for advertising this zodiacal sign. Capricorn had some association with stern moral authority, which tied into Octavian's attempts to contrast himself with Antony - usually characterised as debauched and corrupted by eastern luxury - and to his desire, as Augustus, to reform and cure the perceived moral ills of Roman society. Capricorn was also associated with the planet and god Saturn. According to Roman mythology, Saturn lived in Italy for a time after he was driven from heaven by Jupiter. His reign on earth, later celebrated in the revelries of the Saturnalia at the winter solstice, was considered a golden age of happiness for mankind. The reign of Augustus was cast in a similar golden Saturnian light by no less a figure than the poet Virgil.



- 74 Denarius, Colonia Patricia circa 18-17/16 BC, AR 3.74 g. S P Q R CAESARI -AVGVSTO Bare head r. Rev. VOT P SVSC PRO [SAL] ET RED I O M SACR Mars helmeted and cloaked standing l., holding *vexillum* and *parazonium*. C 325. BMC 438. RIC 150a. CBN 1242.

Very rare. Superb old cabinet tone and extremely fine / about extremely fine

2'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 117, 2002, 452.



- 75 Denarius, Colonia Patricia (?) circa 18-17/16, AR 3.77 g. Bare head r. Rev. AVGVSTVS Capricorn r., holding globe attached to rudder; above its back, cornucopiae. C 21. BMC 346. RIC 126. CBN 1266.

Lovely iridescent tone and about extremely fine

750

Privately purchased from Gorny & Mosch in June 2006.

- 76 Denarius, uncertain mint circa 17 BC, AR 3.68 g. CAESAR Bare youthful head r.; all within oak wreath. Rev. AVG – VST Candelabrum ornamented with ram's heads and surmounted by crescent within wreath and entwined with *bucrania* and *paterae*. C 2. BMC 684. RIC 540. CBN 1013.

Rare. A delightful iridescent tone, almost invisible marks, otherwise extremely fine

2'000

Ex Künker sale 71, 2001, 671.



- 77 **M. Sanquinius.** Denarius circa 17 BC, AR 3.94 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI F Bare head of Augustus r. Rev. M SANQVI – NIVS III VIR Laureate, youthful head of deified Julius Caesar r.; above, comet with tail. C 1. BMC 71. RIC 338. CBN 278.

Very rare. Two lovely portraits perfectly centred on a full flan, very fine

1'500



78

- 78 **M. Sanquinius.** Contorniate dupondius circa 17 BC, Æ 16.34 g. AVGVSTVS / TRIBVNIC / POTEST within oak wreath. Rev. M SANQVINIVS Q F III VIR AAAFF around SC. C 521. BMC 193. RIC 342. CBN 287. E

Extremely rare. Brown-green patina somewhat smoothed,

otherwise good very fine

4'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 117, 2002, 454.

The oak wreath depicted on the obverse of this dupondius is the corona civica—the traditional Roman Republican reward for a soldier who saved the life of a fellow citizen in battle. This particular corona civica, however, was bestowed upon Augustus by the Senate in 27 B.C. in recognition of his role in ending the cycle of civil wars that fractured the Republic over the course of the first century B.C. Somewhat ironically, he had provided this signal service to Rome by destroying his former colleague, Mark Antony, and by establishing himself with the powers of a king while pretending that the Republic still lived. Still, the political settlement of 27 B.C. that created Augustus as the head of the Roman state and granted him the corona civica did do much to bring peace to the Roman world. Thanks to Augustus and his cautious vision for Rome and the Empire, the Roman people were spared another round of civil wars until the Julio-Claudian dynasty came to an end with the suicide of Nero in A.D. 68, precipitating the tumultuous "Year of the Four Emperors" (A.D. 69).

Part of Augustus' ability to lead the state came from the tribunician power (tribunicia potestas) granted to him by the Senate in 27 B.C. and which is indicated here by the legend within the corona civica. Tribunician power gave Augustus the full rights of a tribune of the plebs, which permitted him to directly propose or veto legislation and elections and, importantly, made his person inviolable. The tribunician power combined with his proconsular authority in the provinces gave Augustus almost total control of the state.

The entirely inscriptional reverse reflects Augustus' desire to maintain the illusion that his power did not make Republican institutions meaningless. The central SC legend meaning senatus consulto ("by order of the Senate") was meant to illustrate the traditional authority of the Senate over the money of the state. The legend around the outside names M. Sanquinius as one of the tresviri aere argento auro flando feriundo ("three men for casting [and] striking bronze, silver [and] gold") often simply described as the tresviri monetales ("three men for coining"), the junior magistrates responsible for producing coinage in the Roman Republic. This magistracy was traditionally the first post of the Republican cursus honorum leading to the ultimate goal—a consulship. The institution of the tresviri monetales was initially retained by Augustus, but their influence on types and ability to sign coinage quickly died out. Little is known about Sanquinius beyond his senatorial rank, but he is thought to have been the father of Q. Sanquinius Maximus who served as a consul under Tiberius in A.D. 39 and as legate in Germania Inferior.

The exceptionally large flan used for this dupondius gives the piece a special gravitas, an almost medallion quality lacking in other examples of this rare type. There are other very large and carefully crafted bronze issues from this era, equally rare, that although of normal types suggest a specific ceremonial or commemorative nature, and can be seen in hindsight as precursors to Roman Imperial medallions proper.



79

79

- 79 **C. Antestius Vetus.** Denarius 16 BC, AR 3.81 g. IMP CAESAR AVGVS – TR POT IIX Bare head r. Rev. C ANTISTI – VETI III VIR Apollo, laureate and in long robe, standing l. on platform decorated with three foruli between two anchors, holding lyre and sacrificing with patera over altar; in field, [A]PO – LLINI and in exergue, [ACTIO]. C 343. BMC 95. RIC 366. CBN 364.

Very rare and a very interesting type. Several banker's marks and surface

somewhat porous, otherwise good very fine

4'000

Ex Sotheby's 1895, Bunbury, 78; Hirsch XXIV, 1909, Consul Weber II, 859; Hess Frankfurt, 20 May 1912, 286; Naville-Ars Classica 17, 1934, Evans, 1188; Glendining's, 1950, Platt Hall I, 703 and M&M 7 December 1968, Voirol, 318 sales.



- 80 **L. Mescinius Rufus.** Denarius circa 16 BC, AR 3.03 g. I O M / S P Q R V S / PR S IMP CAE / QVOD PER EV / R P IN AMP / AT Q TRAV / S E within oak-wreath. Rev. L MESCINIVS – RVFVS III VIR Cippus inscribed IMP / CAES / AVGV / COMM / CONS (IMPeratori CAESari AUGUsto COMMuni CONSensu: [Dedicated to] Imperator Caesar Augustus by Common Consent). At sides, S – C. C 462. BMC 91. RIC 358. CBN 345.

Extremely rare. Old cabinet tone, minor marks, otherwise good very fine 2'500

Ex Feuardent, 1919, Ready 714; Glendining's 1950, Platt Hall Part I, 732 and M&M-Leu, 21-22 October 1966, Niggeler part II, 1045 sales.

- 81 **L. Vinicius.** Denarius circa 16 BC, AR 3.99 g. Bare head r. Rev. Augustus in quadriga on triumphal arch, the pedestal of which inscribed S P Q R / IMP CAES. On either side, two porticos surmounted by archer on l. and by slinger on r. In exergue, [L] VINICIVS. C 544. BMC 77. RIC 359. CBN 348.

Very rare. Old cabinet tone, two banker's marks on obverse, otherwise good very fine 500



- 82 **L. Marius C.f. Tromentina.** Denarius 13 BC, AR 3.62 g. AVGVSTVS Bare head of Augustus r.; behind, *lituus*. Rev. C MARIVS TRO – III VIR Diademed and draped bust of Julia as Diana r., quiver on far shoulder. C 1. BMC 104. RIC 403. CBN 522.

Very rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. Two lovely portraits and a light old cabinet tone, extremely fine 15'000

Ex Sternberg XII, 1982, 527 and New York V, 2003, 257 sales.

Augustus, a man with few peers in terms of political success, suffered numerous setbacks in his family life: at least four of his chosen heirs – Marcellus, Agrippa, Gaius Caesar and Lucius Caesar – predeceased him, and for breaches of conduct he banished his daughter Julia and his last grandson, Agrippa Postumus.

Initially, Julia seemed an ideal Roman heiress. She was married, in sequence, to three of Augustus' chosen heirs (Marcellus, Agrippa and Tiberius), and this denarius of 13 B.C. represents a peak moment of stability and success for the emperor's family. The whole of the royal family converged in Rome to celebrate recent victories in Rhaetia, the consecration of the Ara Pacis, the first consulship of Tiberius, and the senate's renewal of the tribunician power for Augustus and Agrippa. This latter honour was of great importance, for it confirmed the arrangement by which Augustus and Agrippa were virtual equals in power.

This dynastic declaration found form on the imperial coinage. The relevant issues portrayed Agrippa and Julia (on this issue in the guise of Diana) and their two sons, Gaius Caesar and Lucius Caesar and, of course, Augustus. Also of dynastic value were issues of the previous year that showed Augustus' stepsons Tiberius and Nero Claudius Drusus handing branches to Augustus, who sits atop a podium.

Soon after the great occasion for which this denarius was issued, however, the Augustan family luck faltered; Agrippa died unexpectedly in the following year, causing the widow Julia to enter into a tragically unhappy marriage with Tiberius. Already having lost two husbands, and clearly incompatible with Tiberius, Julia's behaviour became more extreme until it came to the notice of her father.



- 83 **C. Sulpicius Platorinus.** Denarius 13 BC, AR 3.87 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Bare head of Augustus r. Rev. M AGR[IPPA] PLATORINVS III VIR Bare head of M. Agrippa r. C Agrippa and Augustus 3. BMC 112. RIC 408. CBN 533.

Very rare. Lovely light iridescent tone, struck on a narrow flan, otherwise good very fine 3'000

Ex Glendining's 27 May 1941, Rev. W. L. Gantz, 709 and M&M 81, 2003, 164 sales.

Marcus Agrippa was the architect of Augustus' military success for more than three decades, and otherwise was his greatest supporter in all realms of public life. Agrippa was wise to attach himself to Augustus rather than to Mark Antony, and wiser still in subsequent years to control his ego and to accept a position second to Augustus, for it he was awarded with a lifetime of rewards and eternal fame. Though there can be no doubt Augustus was the genius behind the transformation of Rome from a republic to an empire, Agrippa's influence and importance in the process should not be underestimated.

On this coin Agrippa is honoured with an imperial portrait, which not only marked him as the heir-apparent to Augustus, but which identified his position within the dynasty. The occasion was the joint-renewal of tribunician powers of Augustus and Agrippa in 13 B.C. The ceremony and its related celebrations were held in Rome, to which both men had recently returned – Augustus from Gaul and Agrippa from the East. It was a moment of peak glory for Agrippa, though it would not long endure, for he died the following year. On this coin Agrippa is shown bareheaded, in the same fashion as Augustus. Two other denarii – one from this moneyer of 13 B.C. and another from the moneyer Lentulus in 12 B.C. – show Agrippa wearing a crown of city walls and ship's rams that represent his numerous military achievements on land and at sea.



- 84 Denarius, Lugdunum 11 -10 BC, AR 3.87 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI-F Bare head r. Rev. IMP – X Apollo Citharoedus standing l., holding plectrum and lyre; in exergue, ACT. C 144. BMC 461. RIC 171a. CBN 1397.

Light iridescent tone, minor traces of double-striking on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

1'000

Ex Lanz sale 144, 2008, 375.



- 85 **C. Marius C. F. Tromentinus.** Denarius 13 BC, AR 3.74 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI F Bare head of Augustus r., within oak-wreath. Rev. C MARIVS – C F – TRO Augustus, laureate and Agrippa wearing mural and rostral crown both togate and standing facing holding scroll. Each with *capsa* at their feet; in exergue III VIR. C 458. BMC 107. RIC 400. CBN 528.

Extremely rare. Area of porosity on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

2'500

Ex Hess Cahn 17 July 1933, Haeblerlin, 3276 and M&M-Leu 21-22 October 1966, Niggeler part II, 1050 sales.



86

- 86 **C. Sulpicius Platorinus.** Denarius 13 BC, AR 3.73 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Bare head of Augustus r. Rev. C SVLPICIVS – PLATORIN Augustus and Agrippa, both togate, seated half l. on *bisellium* set on platform ornamented with rostra. On l., upright staff. C 529. BMC 115. RIC 407. CBN 539.

Rare. A banker's mark on obverse and surface somewhat porous, otherwise very fine

750

Ex K. Kress sale 122, 1962, 831.



87

- 87 **Cossus Cornelius Lentulus.** Denarius 12 BC, AR 3.65 g. AVGVSTVS – COS XI Oak-wreathed head of Augustus r. Rev. M AGRIPPA – COS TER / COSSVS LENTVLVS Head of Agrippa r., wearing combined mural and rostral crown. C Agrippa and Augustus 1. BMC 121. RIC 414. CBN 550.

Extremely rare. Two superb portraits struck on a very broad flan, several banker's marks, otherwise very fine / good very fine

7'500



88

88

- 88 Aureus, Lugdunum 11-10 BC, AV 7.90 g. AVGVSTVS – DIVI·F Laureate head r. Rev. IMP – ·XII Apollo *Citharoedus* in long drapery, standing r., holding *plectrum* in extended r. hand and lyre in l.; in exergue, ACT. C 162. Bahrfeldt 215. BMC 481. RIC 192a. CBN 1443 (this reverse die). Calicó 229 (this reverse die). Very rare. Good very fine

7'000



89

- 89 Denarius, Lugdunum circa 8 BC, AR 3.83 g. AVGVSTV[S] – DIVI·F Laureate head of Augustus r. Rev. C·CAES Caius Caesar on horse r, holding reins, sword and shield; behind, eagle between two standards. In exergue, AVGVVS F. C 40. BMC 502. RIC 199. CBN 1461.

Light iridescent tone and about extremely fine

1'000

Ex UBS sale 64, 2006, 157.



90

- 90 As, Nemausus circa 10-14 AD, Æ 13.64 g. IMP / DIVI F Heads of Agrippa and Augustus back to back. Rev. COL – NEM Crocodile r., chained to palm tree with long, vertical fronds; at the top of the tree, wreath with long ties. C 7. RIC 155. SNG Copenhagen 698. RPC 523.

Brown tone and extremely fine

750

Ex Sternberg & Freeman & Sear sale XXVIII, 1995, 3.



91

- 91 Denarius, Lugdunum circa 13-14 AD, AR 3.55 g. CAESAR AVGVSTVS – DIVI [F PATER PATRIAE] Laureate head of Augustus r. Rev. TI·CAESAR·AVG· – F·TR·POT·XV· Bare head of Tiberius r. C 2. BMC 507. RIC 226. CBN 1682.

Extremely rare. Struck on very fresh metal and with a light iridescent tone. About extremely fine

4'000

Ex Künker sale 115, 2006, 394.



92

92

- 92 **Divus Augustus.** Dupondius circa 22-23, Æ 16.14 g. DIVVS·AVGVSTVS·PATER Radiate head of Augustus l. Rev. S – C Hexastyle temple with sharply domed roof surmounted by standing figure and flanked by columns bearing calf on l. and lamb on r. C 251. BMC Tiberius 142. RIC Tiberius 74. CBN Tiberius 146.

Very rare and an issue of great interest and fascination. Dark green patina somewhat smoothed, otherwise extremely fine / about extremely fine

6'000

Ex Lanz sale 109, 2002, 287.

This rare dupondius advertises the legitimacy of Tiberius (and indirectly that of his son Drusus) and the continuity of the Julio-Claudian dynasty by appealing to the memory of Tiberius' stepfather, the divine Augustus. Here the divinity of Augustus is visually underlined by the use of a radiate crown on his portrait rather than the laurel wreath that he commonly wore during his lifetime. The crown also serves as a denomination marker to distinguish the brass dupondius from the similarly-sized copper as in the reformed Roman aes system introduced in 23 B.C. The coin illustrates the descent of Tiberius' right to rule from his deified stepfather and to Drusus, with whom Tiberius shared his tribunician power (tribunicia potestas) in A.D. 22, as well as the emperor's expected pietas towards Augustus (identified as father – PATER – in the legend). Unfortunately, the pattern of continuity from (step)father to son was tragically broken shortly after this coin was issued when Drusus mysteriously died – probably the victim of a poisoning plot by Tiberius' ambitious praetorian prefect, Sejanus. The identity of the unlabeled temple on the reverse of the coin is somewhat controversial. Its round form has led some commentators to declare the type a depiction of a temple of Vesta – either the famous temple in the Forum or the small shrine erected by Augustus next to his house on the Palatine Hill. The latter possibility may be supported by the presence of the Palladium on the roof. On the other hand, considering the obverse type and the calf and lamb flanking the temple, it has also been argued that the temple must honour the divine Augustus. A calf and a lamb were standard sacrificial animals during ceremonies worshiping a deified emperor.



- 93 **Divus Augustus.** As circa 34-37 AD, Æ 10.73g. DIVVS AVGVSTVS PATER Radiate head of Augustus I. Rev. S – C Eagle, head r., perched facing on globe. C 247. BMC Tiberius 155. RIC Tiberius 82. CBN 136. Brown tone and extremely fine 1'500

Privately purchased from Leu Numismatics in August 2005.



- 94 **Divus Augustus.** Dupondius circa 37-41, Æ 15.63 g. DIVVS AVGVSTVS Radiate head of Augustus I.; in field, S – C. Rev. CONSENSV SENAT ET EQ ORDIN P Q R C 87. BMC Gaius 90. RIC Gaius 56. CBN Gaius 134. A bold portrait and a superb green patina gently smoothed on reverse, otherwise extremely fine 2'500



95

- 95 **Divus Augustus.** Dupondius after 42 AD, Æ 17.34 g. DIVVS AVGVTVS Radiate head l.; in field, S – C . Rev. DIVA – AVGVSTA Livia seated l. on throne, holding corn ears and sceptre. C 93. BMC Claudius 224. RIC Claudius 101. CBN 258. A very attractive brown tone and extremely fine 1'500

Ex Rauch sale 70, 2002, 414.



96

- 96 **Divus Augustus.** Sestertertius circa 98, Æ 25.87g. DIVVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head of Augustus r. Rev. IMP NERVA CAES AVGVSTVS REST around S C. C Augustus 570. BMC Nerva 149. RIC Nerva 136. CBN Nerva 141. Scarce. A spectacular portrait of fine style and a pleasant brown-green patina gently smoothed, otherwise extremely fine 3'500



97

97

- 97 **Divus Augustus.** As circa 98, Æ 11.51 g. DIVVS AVGVSTVS Bare head of Augustus r. Rev. IMP NERVA CAES AVGVSTVS REST / S C Winged thunderbolt. C Augustus 567. BMC Nerva 161. RIC Nerva 130. CBN Nerva 151. Scarce. Lovely green patina somewhat smoothed, otherwise extremely fine 500

Ex UBS sale 55, 2002, 1917.

In the name of Livia (?) wife of Augustus



- 98 Dupondius circa 21-22, Æ 14.10 g. IVSTITIA Diademed and draped bust of Livia as Iustitia r. Rev. TI CAESAR DIVI AVG F AVG PM TR POT XXIII around S C. C 4. BMC Tiberius 79. RIC Tiberius 46. CBN Tiberius 57.

A very elegant portrait struck in high relief and a lovely dark green patina with some minor encrustations on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

4'000

Tiberius, 14 – 37 AD



- 99 Aureus, Lugdunum 14-16, AV 7.78 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – [AVG F AVGVST]TVS Laureate head of Tiberius r. Rev. DIVOS AVGVST – DIVI F Laureate head of Augustus r., six-pointed star above. C 3. BMC 29. RIC 24. CBN 1. Calicó 311.

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

20'000

Ex NAC sale 41, 2007, 39.

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



- 100 Aureus, 15-16, AV 7.64 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. TR POT – XVII Tiberius standing in slow quadriga r., holding laurel branch and eagle-tipped sceptre. In exergue, IMP VII. C 47. BMC 2. RIC 3. CBN 4. Calicó 308.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Unusually complete for the issue, extremely fine / about extremely fine

12'500



- 101 Uniface plaquette, AV 0.88 g. Laureate head r. Rev. Blank.

A delicate portrait of enchanting style struck in high relief. Good extremely fine

7'500

Ex Sternberg sale XXXIV, 1998, 744.



- 102 Denarius, Lugdunum 15-16, AR 3.74 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. TR POT XVII Tiberius in triumphal quadriga r., holding laurel branch and eagle-tipped sceptre; in exergue, IMP VII. C 48 var. BMC 8 var. RIC 4 var. CBN –, cf. 9 (aureus).

An extremely rare variety with the horses looking backwards.

Light iridescent tone and extremely fine

1'500

Ex NAC sale 72, 2013, 586.



- 103 As circa 15-16, Æ 10.91 g. [TI CAESAR] DIVI AVG F AVGVSTVS IMP VII Bare head r. Rev. PONTIF MAXIM TRIBVN POTEST XVII Draped female seated r. with feet on stool, holding patera and long sceptre. In field, S – C. C 17. BMC 66. RIC 35. CBN 39.

Rare. Dark green patina, a light scratch on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

1'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung 96, 1999, 457 and Meister & Sonntag 2, 2004, 1141 sales.

In the name of Nero Claudius Drusus, father of Claudius



104



104

- 104 Denarius circa 41-45, AR 3.81 g. NERO CLAVDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP Laureate head l. Rev. Triumphal arch surmounted by equestrian statue between two trophies, DE GERMANIS on architrave. C 4. BMC Claudius 102. RIC Claudius 72. CBN Claudius 6.

Rare. Light iridescent tone, a test-cut on edge at ten o'clock on obverse, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine

2'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 114, 2002, 219.

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



105



- 105 Denarius 41-45, AR 3.85 g. ANTONIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., wearing barley-wreath. Rev. CONSTANTIAE – AVGVSTI Antonia as Constantia standing facing, holding long torch and cornucopiae. C 2. BMC Claudius 111. RIC Claudius 66. CBN Claudius 14.

Rare and in good condition for the issue. Wonderful old cabinet tone and about extremely fine

7'500

Ex NAC 18, 2000, 426 and NAC 41, 2007, 43 sales.

In the name of Germanicus, father of Gaius



106



- 106 Dupondius 37-41, Æ 15.41 g. GERMANICVS / CAESAR Germanicus, bare-headed and cloaked, standing in ornated slow quadriga r., holding eagle-tipped sceptre. Rev. SIGNIS – RECEP / DEVICTIS – GERM / S – C Germanicus, bare-headed and cuirassed, standing l., holding eagle-tipped sceptre in l. hand and raising r. C 7. BMC Gaius 93. RIC Gaius 57. CBN Gaius 140.

Brown-green patina gently smoothed, otherwise about extremely fine

1'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 117, 2002, 468.

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



- 107 Dupondius 40-41, Æ 15.59 g. NERO ET DRVSVS CAESARES Nero and Drusus riding r., with cloaks flying. Rev. C CAESAR DIVI AVG PRON AVG P M TR P IIII P P around S C. C 2. BMC Gaius 70. RIC Gaius 49. CBN Gaius 120. Rare. A lovely reddish-brown patina and extremely fine 2'000

Ex Künker sale 83, 2003, 752.

In the name of Agrippina Senior, mother of Gaius



- 108 Sestertius circa 37-41, Æ 28.90 g. AGRIPPINA M F MAT C CAESARIS AVGVSTI Draped bust r., hair falling in long plait at the back. Rev. S P Q R / MEMORIAE / AGRIPPINAE Carpentum drawn l. by two mules; the cover supported by standing figures at the corners with ornamented side. C 1. BMC Gaius 81. RIC Gaius 55. CBN 128.

Very rare. Dark tone, a very attractive portrait and a finely detailed reverse composition.
Minor area of weakness on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

4'000

Gaius, 37-41



- 109 Denarius, Lugdunum 37-38, AR 3.75 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR POT COS Bare head of Gaius r. Rev. Radiate head of Augustus or Tiberius r. between two stars. C 11. BMC 3. RIC 2. CBN 3.

Rare. Two finely engraved portraits and a lovely old cabinet tone,
almost invisible marks, otherwise about extremely fine

4'000

Ex Sternberg & Apparuti sale 19, 1987, 536.



110



110

- 110 Denarius, Lugdunum circa 37-38, AR 3.67 g. C CAESAR AVG GERM [P M TR P]OT Bare head of Gaius r. Rev. AGRIPPINA MAT C CAES AVG GERM Draped bust of Agrippina r., hair falling in plait down neck. C Gaius and Agrippina 4. BMC 8. RIC 8. CBN 12.

Very rare. Wonderful iridescent tone and about extremely fine

4'000

Privately purchased in December 1982.



111



111

- 111 Sestertius circa 37-38, Æ 27.12 g. C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT Laureate bust l. Rev. AGRIPPINA – DRVSILLA – IVLIA The sisters of Gaius standing facing: Agrippina, as Securitas, holds cornucopiae in r. hand resting on column, with l. hand on shoulder of Drusilla, as Concordia, who holds patera and cornucopiae; Julia, as Fortuna, holds rudder and cornucopiae. In exergue, S-C. C 4. BMC 37. RIC 33. CBN 49.

Very rare and in unusually good condition for this difficult and intriguing issue. A superb portrait and a finely detailed reverse composition, a lovely brown-green patina and about extremely fine

15'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 125, 2003, 394.

Many aspects of Caligula's reign have captured the imagination of historians, but the sexual relationships he is said to have pursued with his sisters is perhaps most shocking of all. It is on par with the exploits of Elagabalus or the alleged seduction of young Nero by his deranged mother Agrippina Jr., who, by no mere coincidence, was one of Caligula's sisters.

Caligula's incestuous relationships with his sisters are alleged by the relatively contemporary historians Suetonius and Josephus. Much later, in the fourth and fifth centuries, these original claims were echoed by various writers, including Eutropius, Aurelius Victor, St. Jerome, Orosius and the anonymous compiler of the *Epitome de caesaribus*. The truth of the claims, of course, is impossible to confirm, and there is a healthy dose of scepticism among modern scholars.

Whatever personal or sexual affection Caligula may have felt toward his sisters, this coinage is purely political and dynastic in flavour. His sisters are each named and are shown in the guise of personifications: the eldest, Agrippina Junior, as Securitas, the middle-sister, Drusilla, as Concordia, and the youngest, Julia Livilla, as Fortuna.

This remarkable type was produced on two occasions, his initial coinage of 37-38, and again in 39-40. The example offered here belongs to the first coinage, which was issued when all three of the imperial women were alive. Drusilla, Caligula's favourite sister (and the one with whom he is said to have had an enduring incestuous relationship), died tragically on June 10, 38, nearly three months after the last coins of the initial issue were struck.

By the time the last issue was produced (beginning March 18, 39), Drusilla had been accorded the status of a goddess, providing the curious circumstance of a goddess being portrayed in the guise of a personification. Life in the palace worsened after Drusilla's death and Caligula's affection for his remaining two sisters declined.

The circumstances reported by the ancient sources are nothing short of bizarre: Drusilla had been married to Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, who had also been Caligula's lover. At least after Drusilla died, Lepidus extended his sexual liaisons to include Agrippina and Julia Livilla, his former sisters-in-law. By late in 39 this web of relationships seems to have evolved into a failed plot by Lepidus against Caligula, who executed Lepidus and sent his two sisters into exile out of their suspected complicity.

All of this palace intrigue occurred in the midst of the second issue of 'three sisters' sestertii, the production of which Caligula probably halted immediately since of the three sisters shown, one was dead and two were in exile for having plotted against his life.



112



112



- 112 Sestertius circa 37-38, Æ 27.24 g. C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT Laureate head l. Rev. ADLOCVT Gaius, bareheaded and togate, standing l. on platform, r. hand extended to five soldiers with shields and *parazonia*; the rearmost pair carrying an *aquila*. In exergue, COH. C 1. BMC 33. RIC 32. CBN 45.

Very rare. A lovely light green patina somewhat smoothed, otherwise about extremely fine

5'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 121, 2003, 386.



113



113



- 113 Sestertius 37-38, Æ 28.68 g. C-CAESAR-AVG-GERMANICVS P-M-TR-POT Pietas, veiled and draped, seated l., holding patera and resting l. arm on small facing figure; in exergue, PIETAS. Rev. DIVO – AVG / S – C Gaius, veiled and togate, sacrificing over garlanded altar; in the background hexastyle temple. C 9. BMC 41. RIC 36. CBN 51.

Perfectly centred on a full flan and with finely detailed dies. A lovely brown-green patina gently smoothed under the exergual line on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

6'000

Ex Triton IX, 2006, 1391 and Hess-Divo 308, 2007, 148 sales.



114



- 114 Sestertius circa 37-38, Æ 27.41 g. C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT Laureate bust l. Rev. S P Q R / P P / OB CIVES / SERVATOS within wreath. C 24. BMC 38. RIC 37. CBN 50.

Brown-green patina somewhat tooled, otherwise extremely fine

2'500

Ex Lanz sale 106, 2001, 252.



- 115 As 37-38, Æ 10.48 g. C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT Bare head l. Rev. VESTA / S – C Vesta, diademed and veiled, seated l. on ornamental throne, holding patera and long transverse sceptre. C 27. BMC 47. RIC 38. CBN 55.

A bold portrait and a lovely brown-green patina. Extremely fine

2'000



- 116 Aureus 40, AV 7.88 g. C CAESAR AVG PON M TR POT III COS III Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. GERMANICVS CAES P C CAES AVG GERM Bare head of Germanicus r. C 6. BMC 26. RIC 25. CBN –. Calicó 324.

Very rare. Two lovely portraits perfectly centred on a full flan, minor marks on Gaius's cheek and on edge, otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine

40'000

Ex Lanz 94, 1999, Benz, 181 and Lanz 102, 2001, 471 sales. Purchased from Bank Leu in August 1988.

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

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

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

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



- 117 Aureus 40, AV 7.83 g. C·CAESAR·AVG·PON·M·TR·POT·III·COS·III Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. AGRIPPINA·MAT·C·CAES·AVG·GERM Draped bust of Agrippina r. C 5. BMC 22. RIC 21. CBN —. Calicó 327a (this coin).

Very rare. Several minor edge marks, possibly traces of mounting, and a graffito below Agrippina's bust, otherwise extremely fine / about extremely fine 25'000

Ex Santamaria 14-15 October 1949, Magnaguti II, 507; Hess-Leu 23, 1961, E.S.R. 61; Lanz 94, 1999, 186 and Lanz 102, 2001, 473 sales.

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

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

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



- 118 Denarius 40, AR 3.69 g. C CAESAR AVG PON M TR POT III COS III Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. GERMANICVS CAES P C CAES AVG GERM Bare head of Germanicus r. C 5. BMC 28. RIC 26. CBN 34 (Lugdunum). Very rare. Two magnificent portraits in the finest style of the period struck on exceptionally fresh metal. Lovely iridescent tone, unobtrusive marks,

otherwise good extremely fine 12'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung Dieter Gorny 96, 1999, 446 and Gorny & Mosch 107, 2001, 353 sales.

Claudius, 41 – 54



119

- 119 Aureus 41-42, AV 7.74 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM PM TR P Laureate head r. Rev. E X S C / OB CIVES / SERVATOS within oak wreath. C 34. BMC 16. RIC 15. CBN 31. Calicò 356 (these dies).
Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A bold portrait of magnificent style struck in high relief. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 35'000

Ex UBS sale 63, 2005, 282.

By the time the emperor Claudius came to the throne after the murder of his depraved nephew Caligula, he been properly schooled in how terribly people can treat one another. Indeed, it was his enduring, impotent position in the eye of the Julio-Claudian storm that made him the central character in Robert Graves' classic work of historical fiction, *I, Claudius*. As a child he could not benefit from his father, who died before he reached his first year, and he apparently suffered a lack of love from his mother, the otherwise admirable Antonia, who, according to Suetonius (Claudius 3) described him as "a monster: a man whom nature had not finished but had merely begun". In the bigger picture, Claudius' physical disabilities served him well, for he survived the treacherous reigns of Tiberius and Caligula (though not unscathed, for he suffered through the aftermath of many deplorable acts). His 13-year reign was entirely unexpected. In one of Tacitus' most memorable and personal passages, he states about Claudius: "The more I think about history, ancient or modern, the more ironical all human affairs seem. In public opinion, expectation, and esteem no one appeared a less likely candidate for the throne than the man for whom destiny was secretly reserving it." For most Romans, Claudius' reign was a pleasant departure from the more oppressive reigns of Tiberius and Caligula, both of whom were generally disliked. Claudius seems to have been popular with the people and often with the army, but he usually was at odds with the senate, from whom he demanded hard work and dedication.



120



121



- 120 Aureus 41-42, 7.69 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P Laureate head r. Rev. PRAETOR – [RE]CEPT Claudius, bare-headed and togate, standing r., clasping hands with soldier, in military attire, standing l., holding aquila in l. hand. C 77. BMC 8. RIC 11. CBN 24. Calicó 374a.

Rare. Good very fine 5'000

Ex Rollin & Feuarent 26 May 1909, Evans 35; Canessa 28 June 1923, Caruso 196; Naville-Ars Classica 17, 1934, 704 and Leu-M&M Basel 2-3 November 1967, Niggeler, 1102 sales.

- 121 Denarius circa 41-42, AR 3.73 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR P Laureate head r. Rev. EX S C / OB CIVES / SERVATOS within wreath. C 35. BMC 18. RIC 16. CBN 33.

Very rare. A fine portrait and a light iridescent tone, an almost invisible banker's mark on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

3'500

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 96, 1999, 454.



122



122

- 122 Cistophoric tetradrachm, Pergamum (?) circa 41-54, AR 11.53 g. TI CLAVD – CAES AVG Bare head l. Rev. COM – ASI Distyle temple within which Claudius stands facing, on l., holding spear and globe, being crowned by female figure standing facing on r., holding cornucopiae in l. hand. Architrave inscribed ROM ET AVG. C 3. BMC 228. RIC 120. CBN 304. RPC 2221.

Rare. A spectacular portrait struck on fresh metal and an enchanting iridescent tone. Extremely fine

5'000

Ex M&M fixed price list 151, 1955, 47; M&M 85, 1997, 189 and Tkalec October 2003, 221 sales.



123



- 123 Sestertius 41-54, Æ 25.72 g. TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP Laureate head r. Rev. SPES – AVGUSTA Spes, draped, advancing l., holding flower in upraised r. hand and raising skirt with l.; in exergue, S C. C 85. BMC 124. RIC 99. CBN 165.

Dark green patina and about extremely fine / extremely fine

2'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 129, 2004, 288.



124

- 124 Aureus 46-47, AV 7.75 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P VII IMP XI Laureate head r. Rev. IMPER RECEPT inscribed on praetorian camp, at the door of which stands a soldier with a standard. C 45. BMC 37. RIC 36. CBN 52. Calicó 362a (this obverse die).

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

12'000

The Praetorian Guard originated during Republican times as a small troop of specially selected guards for Roman generals while encamped; by the reign of Augustus, the troops were drawn from the elite of Rome's legions throughout the empire and it had become the personal domain of the emperor, serving to protect his person as well as that of the imperial family. In A.D. 22/3 the praetorian prefect, Sejanus, convinced Tiberius to construct a camp for the troops, the Castra Praetoria, the walls of which are depicted on the reverse of this coin. The camp was erected just outside the north-eastern boundary of Rome, between the Viminalis and Colline Gates beyond the Servian Wall. The location both allayed concerns from the populace about having armed troops within the city itself, but also by its very proximity served as a healthy reminder which discouraged any sort of civil disorder.

Being physically disabled and suffering a severe speech impediment, Claudius was a longshot for the imperial purple. His elevation came about immediately after the assassination of his nephew, the former emperor Gaius Caligula, who had treated him cruelly by making him the butt of jokes due to his physical ailments. When the praetorians stormed the palace in the aftermath of their assassination of Caligula, Claudius was discovered hiding amongst the curtains. His fears that he would also be killed, however, proved unfounded; the guardsmen immediately hailed him emperor and took him to the Castra Praetoria, where Claudius then pronounced he would pay each praetorian a bonus of 15,000 sesterii (150 aurei). Thus dramatically secured in his accession, Claudius recognized the support of the Praetorian Guard with two issues of coinage, this type showing a guardsman (or more likely Fides Praetorianorum – see RIC I p. 149, 6) standing behind the battlemented walls of the camp with the legend IMPER(atore) RECEP(t)o, and a second type showing him greeting a soldier and with the legend PRAETOR(ianus) RECEP(t)us (RIC 11ff). Both types were employed on aurei and denarii during the first three years of Claudius' reign, although this reverse alone saw continued use until A.D. 47.

During the later third century, three of the Praetorian camp's four walls were incorporated into construction of the Walls of Aurelian. The camp continued to serve as the base of the praetorians until A.D. 312, when Constantine the Great defeated Maxentius at the Battle of Milvian Bridge. Constantine disbanded the Praetorian Guard and had the camp destroyed. The only existing remains of the camp today are the camp's walls that were incorporated within the Walls of Aurelian.



125



125



- 125 Aureus circa 50-54, AV 7.61 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TRIB POT P P Laureate head of Claudius r. Rev. NERO CLAVD CAES DRVSVS GERM PRINC IVVENT Bare-headed and draped bust of Nero l. C 4. BMC 79. RIC 82. CBN 85. Calicó 391.

Very rare. Several marks in field and edge marks, possibly traces of mounting, otherwise about extremely fine

5'000

Ex Ratto sale IV, 1950, 115.



126



- 126 Dupondius circa 50-54, Æ 11.59 g. TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP P P Bare head l. Rev. CERES – AVGVSTA Ceres, veiled and draped, seated l. holding corn ear and long torch; in exergue, S C. C 1. BMC 197. RIC 110. CBN 222.

Lovely enamel-like light green patina and about extremely fine / extremely fine

1'000

Nero caesar, 50 – 54



127

- 127 Aureus 50-54, AV 7.71 g. NERO CLAVD CAES DRVSVS GERM PRINC IVVENT Bare-headed and draped bust l. Rev. SACERD COOPT IN OMN CONL SVpra NVME X SC Simpulum on r. and *lituus* on l., above respectively tripod and patera. C 311 (misdescribed). BMC Claudius 84. RIC Claudius 76. CBN Claudius 91. Calicó 441.

Rare and in superb condition for this difficult issue. Unusually well-centred on a full flan and with a lovely reddish tone. Extremely fine

15'000

Ex Hirsch 20, 1907, Horskier, 537; Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge 20 July 1914, L. G. Schlessinger Y. Guzman, 139; NFA fixed price list 35, 1988, 112 and NAC & Spink Taisei 16 November 1994, Gilbert Steinberg, 232 sales. Possibly from the Boscoreale hoard of 1895.



128

- 128 Dupondius, Thracian mint circa 50-54, Æ 16.34 g. NERO CLAVD CAES DRVSVS GERM PRINC IVVENT Bare-headed and draped bust l. Rev. SACERD COOPT IN OMN CONL SVpra NVME X SC Sacrificial implements. BMC Claudius p. 397, 242 bis. RIC Claudius 107 (this obverse die). Von Kaenel, SNR 63, 6 and pl. 26, 40 (these dies). CBN Claudius –.

Extremely rare. Brown-reddish tone somewhat tooled, otherwise good very fine

2'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 147, 2006, 1994.



129

129

- 129 Cistophorus, Ephesus circa 51, AR 11.34 g. NERONI CLAVD CAES DRVSO GERM Bare-headed and draped bust l. Rev. COS DES / PRINC / IVVENT inscribed on round shield within laurel-wreath. C 82. BMC Claudius 236. RIC Claudius 121 (Pergamum). Mazzini 82 (this coin). CBN Claudius 307. RPC 2225.

Very rare. A gentle portrait and a wonderful old cabinet tone, minor marks, otherwise good very fine

4'500

Ex Santamaria 1 January 1949, Magnaguti, 517 and M&M 66, 1984, 550 sales.



130

- 130 Aureus October-December 54, AV 7.58 g. AGRIPP AVG DIVI CLAVD NERONIS CAES MATER Confronted busts of Nero, bare-headed r., and Agrippina Minor, draped l. Rev. NERONI CLAVD DIVI F CAES AVG GERM IMP TR P around oak wreath, enclosing EX S C. C 6. BMC 6. RIC 1. CBN 5. Calicó 399. Very rare. Two very appealing portraits struck in high relief, about extremely fine 30'000

Ex NAC 18, 2000, 447 and NAC 24, 2002, 33 sales.

Since early in his tenure, Nero paid heed to the input of his mother, his praetorian prefect Burrus and his famous tutor the younger Seneca, making his regime a breath of fresh air. Indeed, the first three months of his reign must have seemed a great relief from the oppressions the senatorial class suffered under Claudius. Nero's first coinage was mindful of his direct family: the deified Claudius is honoured, as is his mother Agrippina Junior, who initially had regency over him. Indeed, on his first mother-son coinage, Nero's inscription is not only relegated to the reverse, but it is presented in the dedicatory dative because it applied to the wreath which comprises the design. This would seem an unfavourable comparison to his mother's inscription, which not only is on the obverse, but is in the usual nominative case, indicating that it actually was an issue of hers. However, with the succeeding jugate-bust issue of 55 (see the following lot), Nero is clearly staking his independence as the inscriptions are reversed (Nero's is on the obverse, this time in the usual nominative, and his mother's is on the reverse). It may seem a minor change, but it would not have been overlooked by the Roman nobility. Inscriptions aside, the reason for the abrupt bust change from confronted to jugate may never be known. Since Nero holds the position of honor in both arrangements, there is no significance on that level. However, one might speculate that since mother and son appear ready to kiss on the confronted busts coins (rumours were rampant of Agrippina's seductive hold over her teenage son), the change might have occurred to prevent jokes at their expense.

Nero augustus, 54 – 68



131

- 131 Aureus 55, AV 7.59 g. NERO CLAVD DIVI F CAES AVG GERM IMP TR P COS Conjoined bust of Nero, bare-headed, and Agrippina Minor, draped, r. Rev. AGRIPP AVG DIVI CLAVD NERONIS CAES MATER Quadriga of elephants l., bearing two chairs holding Divus Claudius, radiate r., eagle-tipped sceptre in hand and Divus Augustus, radiate r., holding patera and sceptre; in l. field, EX S C. C 3. BMC 7 (this reverse die). RIC 6. CBN 10. Calicó 397.

Very rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. Two interesting portraits perfectly centred on a full flan, about extremely fine

15'000

Ex Lanz sale 145, 2009, 68.



132



132

- 132 Denarius 55, AR 3.66 g. NERO CLAVD DIVI F CAES AVG GERM IMP TR P COS Jugate busts r. of Nero, bare-headed and with drapery at back of neck, and of Agrippina II, bare-headed and draped. Rev. AGRIPP AVG DIVI CLAVD NERONIS CAES MATER Quadriga of elephants l., bearing two chairs holding Divus Claudius, radiate r., eagle-tipped sceptre in hand and Divus Augustus, radiate r., holding patera and sceptre; in field l., EX S C. C 4. BMC 8. RIC 7. CBN 13.

Very rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. Two delicate portraits
and a light iridescent tone, an unobtrusive area of porosity on reverse,
otherwise extremely fine

3'500

Ex Tkalec & Rauch 25 April 1989, 265; Leu 57, 1993, 246 and NAC & Spink Taisei 16 November 1994, Gilbert Steinberg, 237 sales. From the Bob Levy collection.

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



133



133

- 133 Sestertius circa 63, Æ 27.88 g. NERO CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG GERM PM TR P IMP PP Laureate bust l. Rev. DECVR SIO Emperor on horse prancing r., holding spear, preceded by foot soldier holding vexillum and followed by a second foot soldier running behind the horse. C 95. BMC 155. RIC 108. CBN 258.

Very rare. Struck on an exceedingly broad flan, green patina somewhat tooled
and with some minor corrosion, otherwise good very fine

2'500

Ex Astarte sale 2, 1999, 204; M&M fixed price list 606, 2001, 95 and NAC sale 51, 2009, 869.



134

- 134 Aureus circa 64–65, AV 7.41 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IANVM CLVSIT PACE P R TERRA MARIQ PARTA Temple of Janus with closed doors. C 114. BMC 64. RIC 50. CBN 212. Calicó 409.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Unusually well-centred for the issue, an unobtrusive mark on the eyebrow, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

20'000

Ex NAC sale 11, 1998, 383.

The Temple of Janus – the god of beginnings and endings – was one of Rome's most ancient. It was believed that Romulus built it after he made peace with the Sabines, and that king Numa decreed its doors should be opened during war and shut during times of peace. Its doors had been shut perhaps five or six times in all Roman history prior to the reign of Nero – once under king Numa (who originated the tradition), once at the end of the Second Punic War, three times under Augustus, and, according to Ovid, once under Tiberius. Thus, when in 65 peace had been generally established on all the empire's fronts, Nero did not hesitate to close the temple's doors. He marked the event with great celebrations and struck a large and impressive series of coins. The inscription on this issue is one of the most instructive on all Roman coins, for it announces "the doors of Janus have been closed after peace has been procured for the Roman People on the land and on the sea". Despite Nero's contentment with affairs on the empire's borders, the year 65 was not a happy one on the home front: much of Rome was still in ashes from the great fire of the previous year, Nero had narrowly escaped murder in the Pisonian conspiracy, and not long afterward he had kicked to death his pregnant wife Poppaea.



135

- 135 Aureus 64-65, AV 7.23 g. NERO – CAESAR Laureate head r. Rev. AVGVSTVS GERMANICVS Nero, radiate, standing facing, holding branch and Victory on globe. C 44. BMC 56. RIC 46. CBN 202. Biaggi 221 (this coin). Calicó 402. Rare. A wonderful portrait and a finely detailed reverse die.

Light reddish tone and extremely fine

15'000

Ex Leu sale 91, 2004, 512. From the Biaggi collection. Previously purchased from Baranowsky in May 1950.



136



136

- 136 Aureus circa 64-65, AV 7.30 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 42. BMC 52. RIC 44. CBN 200. Calicò 401 (these dies).
Very rare. Wonderful reddish tone and good very fine / about extremely fine 5'000

Ex UBS sale 53, 2002, 136. Possibly from the Boscoreale hoard of 1895.



137



- 137 Denarius circa 64-65, AR 3.34 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 exceptional condition for the issue. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine 4'000

Ex Tkalec sale February 2012, 160.



138



- 138 Denarius circa 64-65, AR 3.45 g. NERO – CAESAR Laureate head r. Rev. AVGVSTVS – GERMANICVS Nero, radiate and togate, standing facing holding branch and Victory on globe. C 45. RIC 47. BMC 60. CBN 206.
Rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. A lovely portrait and a light tone. Good extremely fine 3'500

Ex Leu sale 61, 1995, 243.



139



139

- 139 Denarius circa 64-65, AR 3.55 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IVPPITER – CVSTOS Jupiter seated l., holding thunderbolt and sceptre. C 119. BMC 74. RIC 53. CBN 220.
Lovely light iridescent tone and about extremely fine 1'750

Ex Triton sale VII, 2004, 870.



140



- 140 Sestertius Lugdunum circa 65, Æ 28.43 g. NERO CLAVD CAESAR AVG GER P M TR IMP P P Laureate bust l. with globe at point of bust. Rev. S – C Triumphal arch decorated with friezes of battle scenes surmounted by statue of emperor in quadriga accompanied by Pax and Victory and flanked by two soldiers; inside niche of arch, a nude statue of helmeted Mars. C 306. BMC 330. RIC 433. CBN 69.

A wonderful untouched enamel-like green patina and an incredibly detailed reverse composition. Extremely fine / good extremely fine 15'000

Coins sometimes are the only evidence that survives to illustrate lost Roman monuments, such as the Arcus Neronis, a monument that probably did not long survive Nero's downfall. Details of the date and the location of the arch are sketchy, but the coinage provides an excellent understanding of its form, and, with some variety, we can appreciate the relief's decorative elements and statues that adorned it.

It is generally accepted that the arch celebrates the victories of the general Corbulo over the Parthians, and that it was built on the Capitoline Hill sometime between 58 and 62. Its precise location has not been determined from ancient sources or from archaeological investigation, though proximity to the Temple of Vejovis or the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus have both been suggested.

This coin was struck during one of the rare moments of peace within the Empire. Suetonius (Nero 15) describes the visit to Rome of Tiridates, Rome's candidate for the throne of the buffer-state Armenia after Corbulo's victories over the Parthians. Tiridates made a ceremonial supplication to Nero, was crowned king of his native land, after which, Suetonius reports, "The people then hailed Nero as Imperator and, after dedicating a laurel-wreath in the Capitol, he closed the double doors of the Temple of Janus, as a sign that all war was at an end."



141

- 141 Sestertius, Lugdunum circa 65, Æ 25.27 g. NERO CLAVD CAESAR AVG GER P M TR P IMP P P Laureate head r., with globe at point of bust. Rev. S – C Nero, bare-headed and in military attire, prancing r. on horseback, holding spear with r. hand; behind him, mounted soldier prancing r. with vexillum held over r. shoulder. In exergue, DECVRSIO. C 86. BMC 312. RIC 436. CBN 72.

Struck on a very broad flan with a pleasant enamel-like
light green patina. Extremely fine

8'000

Ex Lanz sale 114, 2003, 285.



142



142

- 142 Sestertius, Lugdunum circa 65, Æ 30.01 g. NERO CLAVD CAESAR AVG GER P M TR P IMP P P Laureate head r., with globe at point of neck. Rev. ANNONA – AVGVSTI – CERES Ceres, veiled and draped, seated l., holding corn ears and torch, her feet on stool, facing Annona standing r., r. hand resting on hip and l. holding cornucopiae; between them, modius on garlanded altar. In the background, ship's stern. In exergue, S C. C 14. BMC 305. RIC 430. CBN 70.

Lovely light green patina, minor traces of double striking on
reverse, otherwise about extremely fine

3'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 155, 2007, 295.



143



143



- 143 As circa 65, Æ 13.46 g. NERO CAESAR AVG – GERM IMP Laureate head r. Rev. S – C Victory flying l., holding in both hands shield inscribed S P Q R. C 288. BMC 241. RIC 312. CBN 399.

A finely engraved reverse composition, work of a skilled engraver,
and a pleasant brown tone. Extremely fine

1'500

Ex M&M fixed price list 392, 1977, 36 and Künker sale 83, 2003, 777.



144



144



- 144 Dupondius, Lugdunum circa 65, Æ 13.63 g. NERO CLAUD CAESAR AVG GER P M TR P IMP P Laureate head r. with globe at point of bust. Rev. MAC – AVG Frontal view of the Macellus Magnus flanked by two-storeyed wings with porticoes; above the step in the centre, male statue standing facing, holding long-sceptre. C 128 var. BMC –. RIC 399. CBN 86.

Very rare. A lovely brown tone and a very detailed reverse
composition. About extremely fine

2'000

Ex M&M fixed price list 583, 1995, 25; NAC & Spink Taisei 16 November 1994, Gilbert Steinberg, 249 and Triton VIII, 2005, 1099 sales.



145



- 145 Aureus circa 65-66, AV 7.38 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. Salus seated l. on throne, holding patera in l. hand; in exergue, SALVS. C 313. BMC 87. RIC 59. CBN 225. Calicó 443.

Good very fine / about extremely fine

3'500

Ex Rauch sale 71, 2003, 527.



- 146 Denarius 65-66, AR 3.56 g. CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. Salus seated on throne l., holding patera in r. hand; in exergue, SALVS. C 314. BMC 90. RIC 60. CBN 228.
Wonderful iridescent tone and extremely fine / good extremely fine 2'000



- 147 Denarius 65-66, AR 3.45 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. VESTA Domed hexastyle temple; within which, statue of Vesta seated facing, holding patera and long sceptre. C 335. BMC 104. RIC 62. CBN 230. Rare. Light iridescent tone and about extremely fine 1'000

Ex Lanz sale 123, 2005, 468.



- 148 Dupondius, Lugdunum circa 66, Æ 12.14 g. IMP NERO CAESAR AVG P MAX TR P P P Laureate head l. with globe at point of bust. Rev. SECVRITAS – AVGVSTI Securitas seated r. on throne, resting head against her hand and holding short sceptre; in front of her, garlanded and lighted altar against which leans lighted torch. In field, S – C. C 325. BMC 347. RIC 519. CBN 195.

Lovely green patina, an insignificant edge nick at three o'clock on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

1'000

Ex Lanz sale 109, 2002, 317.



- 149 Dupondius, Lugdunum 66, Æ 13.52 g. IMP NERO CAESAR AVG PONT MAX TR POT P P Laureate head r. with globe at point of bust. Rev. SECVRITAS – AVGVSTI Securitas seated r. on throne, resting head against her hand and holding short sceptre; in front of her, garlanded and lighted altar against which leans lighted torch. In field, S – C. C –. BMC –. RIC 520 var. (PMAX). CBN –.

Wonderful enamel-like dark green patina, hairline flan-crack at six o'clock on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

1'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 207, 2012, 592.



150

- 150 Denarius circa 66-67, AR 3.56 g. IMP NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head with beard r. Rev. Salus seated l. on throne; in exergue, SALVS. C 318. BMC 96. RIC 67. CBN 237.

Light iridescent tone, minor area of weakness on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine

1'000

Ex Rauch sale 71, 2003, 540.

The Civil Wars, 68 – 69



151

152

- 151 Denarius, Spain 68-69, AR 3.55 g. LIBERTAS – RESTITVTA Draped bust of Libertas r., wearing necklace. Rev. S P Q R on shield within oak wreath. C Galba 431. BMC Galba 12. Martin 91. RIC 27. CBN 10. Rare. Struck on unusually fresh metal and with a light tone, good very fine

1'500

Ex Santamaria 29, 1920, Cantoni 411; Glendining's 16-21 November, 1950, Platt Hall 1109; Leu-M&M Basel, 2-3 November 1967, Niggeler part III 131; M&M Basel 66, 1984, 561 and Lanz 94, 1999, Benz 274 sales.

- 152 Denarius, Gaul March-May 68 AD, AR 3.31 g. Helmeted and draped bust of Mars r. Rev. Aquila between two standards, altar to r.; in field, P – R and in exergue, SIGNA. C Galba 407. BMC Galba 42. Martin 61. RIC 39. CBN 12. Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Old cabinet

tone, minor marks, otherwise extremely fine

2'500

Ex Busso Peus sale 372, 2002, 1166.



- 153 Denarius, Gaul 68/69, AR 3.29 g. G P R Diademed bust of Genius of the Populi Romani with sceptre on far shoulder. Rev. MARS – VLTOR Mars, naked but for helmet, advancing r., brandishing javelin and holding shield. C 378. BMC 295. RIC 48. Martin 25. CBN –.

Extremely rare and a very interesting issue. Surface somewhat
crystalized, otherwise good very fine

4'500

Ex NAC sale 72, 2013, 616.

- 154 Denarius, Gaul 68/69, AR 3.01 g. MARS – VLTOR Helmeted and draped bust of Mars r. Rev. Aquila between two standards, altar to r.; in field, [P] – [R] and in exergue, SIGNA. C Galba 406. BMC Galba 39. Martin 60. RIC 51. CBN 18.

Very rare. Light iridescent tone and about very fine

1'500



- 155 Denarius, Gaul 68/69, AR 3.39 g. SALVS GENERIS – HVMANI Victory standing l. on globe holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l. Rev. S P Q R in oak wreath. C 420. BMC 34. Martin 77. RIC 72. CBN 37.

Rare. Minor areas of weakness, otherwise about extremely fine

1'250

Ex Münzen Auktion Essen 91, 2005, 214 and Meister Sonntag 4, 2006, 75 sales.

- 156 Denarius, Gaul 68-69, AR 2.92 g. VIRT Helmeted bust of Virtus r. Rev. S – P – Q – R between crossed spears lying beneath shield. C –. BMC –. Martin obverse 19 and reverse 89. RIC 78A var. (VIRTVS). CBN –.

An apparently unrecorded variety of an exceedingly rare type. A very interesting
portrait, surface somewhat crystalized, otherwise about extremely fine

2'000

Ex Lanz sale 109, 2002, 328.



- 157 Denarius, Spain and Gaul (?) 68/69, AR 3.34 g. AVGVSTVS – CAESAR Laureate head of Augustus r. Rev. DIVVS IVLIVS Comet of eight rays with tail upward. C 98 (Augustus). BMC p. 301, 49-50. Martin A10. RIC 92. CBN –. Very rare. Lovely old cabinet tone, minor marks, otherwise good very fine

2'000

Ex Triton sale VI, 2003, 827.

- 158 Denarius, Southern Gaul (?) circa 69, AR 3.27 g. FIDES / EXERCITVVM Clasp hands. Rev. FIDES / PRAETORIANORVM Clasp hands. C Galba 363. BMC 65. Martin 7. RIC 121. CBN 75.

Very rare. Lovely old cabinet tone, surface somewhat porous,
otherwise about extremely fine

3'000

Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 396.



- 159 Denarius, Southern Gaul (?) 69, AR 3.55 g. I.O.M. CAPITOLINVS Diademed and draped bust of Jupiter l., with small palm branch in front. Rev. VESTA P R QVIRITIVM Vesta, veiled, seated l. on throne, holding patera and long torch. C Galba 432. BMC 72. Martin 95 (these dies). RIC 125a. CBN 79 (these dies).
Very rare. A wonderful portrait of fine style and a lovely old cabinet tone. Good very fine / very fine 2'000

Ex Sotheby's 21/22 June 90, Hunt, 690; Leu 52, 1991, 174 and Lanz 94, 1996, Benz, 275 sales.

- 160 Denarius, Southern Gaul 69, AR 3.33 g. VESTA P R – Q. VIRTIVM Bust of Vesta r. wearing veil and stephane; in front, lighted torch. Rev. [I O] MAX – CAPITOLI Jupiter seated l. in distyle temple holding sceptre in l. hand and thunderbolt in r.; in pediment, wreath. C Galba 368. BMC Galba 70. Martin 13. RIC 128. CBN 82.
Very rare. Light iridescent tone, flan crack at two o'clock on obverse, otherwise good very fine 1'200

Ex Rollin & Feuardent sale 2 April 1914, Marquis De Traynel, 210.

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



- 161 Denarius, Carthage (?), April – October (?) 68, AR 3.45 g. ROMA Helmeted head of Roma r.; at sides, S – C. Rev. L CLODI – MACRI Trophy. C 9 var. BMC p. 287 note var. RIC 31. CBN –. Hewitt, NC 1983, pl. XII, 47 var. An apparently unrecorded variety of an extremely rare type. Well struck on unusually good metal and with a pleasant iridescent tone. Minor nick on cheek, otherwise extremely fine 35'000

Ex Sternberg XXVI, 1992, 290 (illustrated on the cover page); Pegasi II, 1996, 298 and NAC 45, Barry Feirstein Collection IV, April 2008, 95 sales.

Clodius Macer's revolt in North Africa added greatly to the woes of Nero, who had survived the uprising of Vindex in Gaul only to find himself in the midst of Galba's more formidable challenge in Spain. Now at an impasse, Nero had finally come to understand that there were consequences for his callous treatment of provincial governors and administrators.

Though it was clear from the outset of Galba's insurrection that he intended to replace Nero as emperor, the same cannot be said with certainty about Clodius Macer since one of the remarkable aspects of his coinage is his use of the formulaic S.C. (senatus consulto) on his denarii. This abbreviation otherwise had not been used on Roman silver coins since about 40 B.C., and we may take that, along with his decision to avoid portraying himself with a laurel crown, as a message to the senate that his revolt was perhaps aimed exclusively at liberating the senate from Nero.

The obverse of this coin reflects the spirit of what Macer professes is the goal of his revolt – the liberation of Rome from the tyranny of Nero; the head of the goddess Roma is shown in its traditional form, wearing a crested helmet. The warlike tenor carries over to the reverse with a trophy of arms and armor, a design type which had not been in significant use since the civil wars of the 40s B.C. That Macer would reach far back in time for designs comes as no surprise since other of his types are recycled from coinage struck in anticipation of the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C.



- 166 Denarius, African mint, Carthage (?) circa June 68 – October 69, AR 3.61 g. IMP AVG – SER GALBA Laureate bust r. with globe at point of bust. Rev. VICT – ORIA·P·R Victory standing facing on globe, head l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l. In field, S – C. C 331. BMC 269. RIC 520 var. (different reverse legend break). H. Sutherland "Supplementum Galbianum" in QT 1984 –, cf. R. Mowat "Le monnayage de Clodius Macer et les deniers de Galba marqués des lettres SC", 1902, p. 194, 331. CBN –, cf. 270 (different reverse legend break).

An apparently unrecorded variety of a very rare type. Struck on fresh metal and with a lovely iridescent tone. Extremely fine / good extremely fine

5'000

Ex Harlan Berk 76, 1993, 306 and Triton VIII, 2005, 1110 sales .



- 167 Aureus circa July 68 – June 69, AV 7.39 g. IMP SER – GALBA [AVG] Bare head r. Rev. S P Q R / OB C S within wreath. C 286. BMC 29. RIC 164. CBN 73. Calicó 509.

Very rare. A spectacular portrait in the finest style of the period and an enchanting reddish tone. Unobtrusive area of weakness on obverse, otherwise good extremely fine

80'000

Ex Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge 24 February 1904, W. Rome, 189; Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge 13 June 1911, John Glas Sandeman, 442; Hirsch 33, 1913, Baron F. von Schennis, 1169; Sotheby's 28 November 1988, Deceased Nobleman, 26 and Sotheby's 5 July 1995, 104 sales. From the Boscoreale hoard and previously exhibited in the library of the Corporation at the Guildhall, London.

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 closely acquainted with 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.



168



169

- 168 Denarius, circa July 68 - January 69, AR 3.51 g. IMP SER – GALBA AVG Laureate head r. Rev. HISPA – NIA Hispania, draped, advancing l., holding poppy and corn ears with r. hand and round shield and two transverse spears with her l. C 82. BMC 15. RIC 155. CBN–.

Rare. A very pleasant portrait and a lovely old cabinet tone, extremely fine / about extremely fine

2'500

Ex NAC sale 25, 2003, 397.

- 169 Denarius, circa July 68 - January 69, AR 3.36 g. IMP SER – GALBA AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORIA – P R Victory standing l. on globe, holding wreath. C 325. BMC 48. RIC 175. CBN –.

Rare. Light iridescent tone, minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine

1'500

Ex Lanz 106, 2001, 297 and Busso Peus 380, 2004, 730 sales.



170



171

- 170 Denarius July 68 - January 69, AR 3.31 g. IMP SER GALBA – CAESAR AVG Laureate head r. Rev. DIVA – AVGVSTA Livia standing l., holding patera and sceptre. C 55. BMC 8. RIC 186. CBN 84.

Light iridescent tone, flan crack at eleven o'clock on obverse, otherwise good very fine

1'250

- 171 Denarius circa 68 – 69, AR 3.46 g. IMP SER GALBA AVG Bare head r. Rev. S P Q R / OB / CS in oak wreath. C 287. BMC 34 (misdescribed). RIC 167. CBN 76.

Rare. Lovely old cabinet tone and extremely fine / about extremely fine

1'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 107, 2001, 363.



172



172

- 172 Denarius, circa 68 – 69, AR 3.24 g. IMP SER – GALBA AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VIR – TVS Virtus standing facing r., leaning on spear and holding *parazonium* in r. hand. C 341 var. (Galba bareheaded). BMC 50. RIC 179. CBN 80.

Very rare. A minor area of weakness on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

1'500

Ex Lanz sale 146, 2009, 404.



- 173 Sestertius circa 68 – 69, Æ 27.75 g. SER GALBA IMP CAESAR AVG TR P Laureate head r. Rev. LIBERTAS – PVBLICA Libertas, draped, standing l. holding *pileus* in r. hand and rod in l.; in field, S – C. C 112. BMC 69. RIC 388. CBN 194.

A superb portrait of fine style struck in high relief on an exceedingly large
flan. Lovely green patina, minor trace of double-striking on reverse,
otherwise about extremely fine

7'500

Ex M&M Basel 81, 1999, 260 and New York V, 2003, 277 sales. From the Th. Voltz, Basel Collection.



- 174 Quinarius, Lugdunum circa November 68 to 15 January 69, AR 1.70 g. SER GALBA IMP CAESAR AVG P M T P Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORIA – GALBAE AVG Victory draped, standing l. on globe, holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l. C 318. BMC 246. RIC 131 (reverse misdescribed). CBN 62 (these dies). King 2. Very rare. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine

1'500



- 175 Aureus, restitution issue by Trajan circa 112-117, AV 7.26 g. GALBA – IMPERATOR Laureate bust r. Rev. IMP CAESAR TRAIAN AVG GER DAC P P REST Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* and *vindicta*. C Galba 354 var. (different arrangement of obverse legend). BMC Trajan 701 var. (different arrangement of obverse legend). RIC Trajan 824 var. (different arrangement of obverse legend). CBN Trajan 480 var. (different arrangement of obverse legend). Komnick 63.O. Woytek 860.1. Calicò 522.

An extremely rare variety of a very rare type. A bold portrait struck on a full flan,
almost invisible marks on obverse and a minor metal flaw on reverse,
otherwise about extremely fine

25'000

Trajan's restoration aurei are distinct from the denarii of that series not only for their denomination but because they restore coin types of quite different periods that overlap only during the late Republic and the principate of Augustus. While the 50 recorded types of denarii replicate issues from the early Republic through to the reign of Augustus, the 28 known types of aurei restore issues of rulers from Julius Caesar through to Nerva. Due to their different ranges of coverage, the aurei consist mainly of portrait types, whereas the denarii usually bear portraits of deities.

Just one reverse type – Libertas standing – was used for Galba; however, there are two variants of the obverse, with the inscription GALBA IMPERATOR being arranged differently in each case. The style of Galba's laureate bust is extraordinary, in keeping with the exceptionally high standards applied to every issue in the series. This shows that some of the mint's most gifted and experienced engravers were given the task of engraving dies for the series. That alone demonstrates that the series was somewhat of a priority in A.D. 112/3, when these coins are believed to have been struck. Though no evidence survives describing who was responsible for creating this series, it is tempting to believe it was Trajan himself, for it would have been yet another impressive domestic project for him to undertake prior to his departure on the Parthian campaign of 114-116.

Otho, January – April 69



176



176

- 176 Aureus 15th January-mid April 69, AV 7.33 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. SECVRI – TAS P R Securitas standing l., holding wreath and sceptre. C 16. BMC 13. RIC 7. CBN 7. Calicó 531.

Very rare. A very attractive portrait of fine style, several minor marks in field and on edge, possibly traces of mounting, otherwise about extremely fine

20'000

Ex Künker sale 67, 2001, 685.

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 only through bribery and treachery. Indeed, his appointment added to the 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. Otho had two great hopes for his journey: 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 two days later.



177



- 177 Denarius January-April 69, AR 3.46 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. VICTO – RIA – OTHONIS Victory, draped, standing l. on globe, holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l. C –. BMC 25. RIC 17. CBN –. Very rare. A wonderful portrait of fine style and a light iridescent tone, extremely fine / good extremely fine

4'500

Ex Lanz sale 123, 2005, 478.



178



- 178 Denarius 15th January-April 69, AR 3.23 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. PAX ORB – IS – TERRARVM Pax, draped, standing l., holding branch in r. hand and caduceus in l. C 3. BMC 3. RIC 4. CBN 3. A bold portrait and a delightful iridescent tone.

Struck on a narrow flan and with almost invisible marks, otherwise extremely fine

2'000

Vitellius, January – December 69



179

- 179 Aureus, Tarraco (?) 2 January-18 April 69, AV 7.54 g. A VITELLIVS – IMP GERMAN Laureate head l. with globe at point of bust. Rev. LIBERIS IMP GERMANICI Bust of Vitellius' sons: on l., a boy, bare-headed and draped with a globe at point of bust and on r., a girl, bare-headed and draped. C 8 var. (GERMANICVS). BMC 386 note § var. RIC 8 var. (GERMANICVS). CBN –. Calicó 561 var. (GERMANICVS).

An apparently unrecorded variety of an extremely rare type. Three interesting and unusual portraits, obverse slightly off-centre, otherwise very fine

15'000

Ex NAC sale 34, 2006, 140.

In A.D. 68 Nero's turbulent reign fell apart and took the entirety of the Roman world with it. C. Julius Vindex, the governor of Gallia Lugdunensis, had raised a dangerous, but ultimately failed, revolt in an attempt to topple the emperor, which led the way for Servius Sulpicius Galba, the governor of Hispania Tarraconensis, to ascend the throne. In June, when the Praetorian Guard also declared for Galba, the Senate announced Nero as an enemy of the state and forced him to flee the capital. Realizing that there was nowhere to run, the hapless emperor committed suicide, leaving Galba to enter Rome as its liberator from the excesses of the Neronian age.

Love of Galba was fleeting. He cancelled Nero's reforms that had benefited many wealthy and influential individuals in Rome, and either destroyed or imposed crippling fines on towns that did not recognize him immediately. Most dangerous of all, however, was his failure to reward either the Praetorian Guard for their loyalty or to address the concerns of the German legions, who had no love for Galba. The latter, now under the command of Aulus Vitellius, the governor of Germania Inferior, were incensed by accusations that they had stood in Galba's way during the revolt of Vindex when they had, in fact, loyally put down a rebellion against the state. Thus, on 1 January A.D. 69 when the entire Roman army swore the traditional oath of loyalty to the emperor, the German legions refused, hailing Vitellius as rival emperor on the following day. So began the disastrous Year of the Four Emperors.

Attempting to shore up his position in Rome, Galba had adopted Lucius Calpurnius Piso Licinianus—a young and ambitious senator with an illustrious ancestry—as his heir. This carefully considered political move did not quite turn out how Galba expected as it offended many other ambitious and wealthy men in the city, most notably Marcus Salvius Otho, who bribed the Praetorian Guard to provide the military muscle for his own bid for the imperial purple. This coup d'état further unnerved Galba, who took to the streets in a foolish attempt to incite popular support for himself. Little public interest materialized and both Galba and his heir were killed in the Forum by the Praetorian Guard, leaving Otho as the new emperor in Rome.

To his credit, Otho attempted to avoid further bloodshed by offering to marry Vitellius' daughter, thereby establishing an Othonian-Vitellian imperial dynasty, but events were already out of hand. Upon being elevated by his soldiers, Vitellius had sent half of his legions south to take possession of Rome. Otho initially won several small victories against the Vitellian forces, but suffered a severe defeat at the First Battle of Bedriacum on 14 April A.D. 69. Instead of attempting to regroup and resist the advance of the German legions, Otho abandoned hope and committed suicide on 16 April. At this point, Vitellius was the undisputed emperor, but as with his immediate predecessors, his reign would be short.

Once in Rome, Vitellius reportedly drained the imperial coffers with constant banqueting and triumphal processions and then attempted to raise new funds by engineering the deaths of wealthy flatterers who had named him as their heirs. It turned out to be an exceptionally bad time for the state finances to be in such disarray as Vespasian, the commander of the Syrian legions charged with repressing the Great Jewish Revolt, was proclaimed rival emperor in Alexandria on 1 July. Vespasian was soon also supported by Marcus Antonius Primus, commander of the Danubian legions, who began a march on Rome. Vitellius' forces met them in battle at the Second Battle of Bedriacum on 24 October A.D. 69 but were soundly defeated by the hardened Danubian legions. As Otho before him, Vitellius knew that he had little hope of retaining power.

After the defeat at Bedriacum, Vitellius sent an embassy to Primus to negotiate his peaceful abdication in favour of Vespasian. Primus is said to have accepted this arrangement, but the Praetorian Guard intercepted Vitellius on his way to deposit the imperial insignia in the Temple of Concord and forced him to return to the palace instead of surrendering to Primus and recognising Vespasian. When Rome was taken at last by Primus in December of A.D. 69, Vitellius attempted to hide, but was captured. He was taken to the Gemonian Stairs—a traditional site of execution in the city since at least the time of Tiberius—where he was killed. Shocked at this fatal turn of events, before the executioner ended his life Vitellius is reported to have remarked, "Yet I was once your emperor." His body was thrown into the Tiber and his head paraded through the city. Just to be sure that no scions of the house of Vitellius would later arise to oppose the new Flavian dynasty of Vespasian, both the brother and young son of Vitellius were also executed.

This extremely rare aureus attempts to contrast the intended reign of Vitellius with that of Nero and to give reassurance that the chaotic power vacuum that developed after Nero's suicide would be avoided with a new Vitellian dynasty. Whereas Nero had killed himself with no male member of the Julio-Claudian house to take his place as emperor, this coin shows that Vitellius was well-stocked with children who could be used to create a stable imperial house. His son, named Aulus Vitellius Germanicus Novus ("the Younger"), is depicted on the left with his draped bust terminating in a globe just like the bust of his father on the obverse. The shared treatment of the busts visually establishes the son as the intended successor of his father. Vitellius' daughter, Vitellia, appears on the right. Her depiction alludes to political stability as well, as she was used to establish a marriage alliance with Decimus Valerius Asiaticus, the governor of Gallia Belgica. This connection was pleasing not only to the western legions who had declared for Vitellius (Valerius had previously been military legate in Gallia Belgica under Nero) but also to the Senate, which had found itself abused and ignored under Nero (Valerius was of the senatorial class). It even may have been intended to smooth over Gallic discontent with the government in Rome (the father of Valerius was of Allobrogian Gallic origin). After all, Nero's tax policy in Gaul had been the catalyst for the revolt of Vindex that brought about the Year of the Four Emperors in the first place.

Although this aureus is usually tentatively attributed to the Spanish mint of Tarraco, the reverse dynastic type almost certainly refers to events that took place in April of A.D. 69 while Vitellius was in Lugdunum. Cassius Dio (LXV.2a) tells us that when Vitellius learned of Otho's death he placed his six-year-old son on the tribunal at Lugdunum and at that point gave him the titles of imperator and Germanicus—the very titles that appear on the reverse with the portrait of Vitellius' son. It was also at this same time that Vitellia was betrothed to Decimus Valerius Asiaticus. Despite the tentative mint attribution, the coin is a beautifully tragic piece of Roman numismatic history for it answers the desperate hope for a new stable imperial dynasty to rule over Rome and the Empire, but in actual fact this was not to be provided by Vitellius and his family, but rather by his rival, Vespasian whose Flavian dynasty lasted for 37 years.



- 180 Denarius 19 April – 20 December 69, AR 3.14 g. A VITELLIVS GERMAN IMP TR P Laureate head r. Rev. [SAC]R FAC – XV VIR Tripod-lebes with dolphin lying r. on top; below, raven standing r. C 114. BMC 17. RIC 86. CBN 48.

A very attractive portrait and a light iridescent tone. Struck on a broad flan with an insignificant metal flaw on edge at four o'clock on obverse, otherwise extremely fine

2'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 112, 2001, 4273.



- 181 Denarius, Tarraco (?) 69, AR 3.59 g. A VITELLIVS – IMP GERMAN Laureate head l. with globe at point of bust. Rev. VICTORIA – [AVGVSTI] Victory advancing l. holding shield inscribed [S P / Q R]. C 101. BMC 94. RIC 36. CBN 13. Rare. A lovely portrait and a light tone, about extremely fine

1'750

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 107, 2001, 366.

Vespasian, 69 – 79



- 182 Denarius December 69-early 70, AR 3.56 g. CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. Judaea seated r. on ground with hands bound behind her back; to l., palm tree; in exergue, IVDAEA. C 229. BMC 43. RIC 4. CBN –. Hendin 760.

In exceptional condition for this rare variety. Struck on fresh metal and with a light iridescent tone. Extremely fine / good extremely fine

4'000

Ex Lanz sale 123, 2005, 481.



- 183 Denarius December 69 – early 70, AR 3.50 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IVDAEA Judaea seated l. in attitude of mourning; behind, trophy. C 226. BMC 35. RIC 2. CBN 23. Hendin 759.

Light iridescent tone and extremely fine

1'250

Ex NAC sale 78, 2014, 880.



- 184 Denarius, Ephesus 69-70, AR 3.47 g. IMP CAES – VESPAS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PACI ORB – [T]JERR AVG Turreted and draped female bust r. C 291. BMC p. 89 †. RIC 1397. CBN –. RPC 807.

Rare. Light iridescent tone, struck on a narrow flan, otherwise extremely fine

750

Ex Lanz sale 114, 2003, 308.



- 185 Denarius January-June 70, AR 3.67 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CAESAR AVG F COS CAESAR AVG F P R Confronted bare heads of Titus, on r., and of Domitian on l. C 5. BMC 3. RIC 16. CBN 1.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, among the finest specimens known. Three lovely portraits and a lovely iridescent tone, extremely fine / good extremely fine

7'000

Ex Sternberg XXVI, 1992, 303 and Leu 61, 1995, 245 sales.



- 186 Denarius, Ephesus 70, AR 3.63 g. IMP CAESAR VESPAS AVG COS II TR P P P Laureate head r. Rev. LIBERI IMP – [AV]G VESPAS Titus and Domitian both togate and veiled standing facing, each holding *patera*; in exergue, symbol. C 249. BMC –. RIC 1420. CBN –.

Very rare. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine

750



- 187 Sestertius 71, Æ 24.46 g. IMP CAES VESPAS AVG P M TR P P P COS III Laureate head r. Rev. ROMA S – C Roma, standing l. holding Victory and spear. C 418. BMC 564. RIC 244. CBN 528.

An extraordinary portrait of superb style, the work of a talented master-engraver.

A lovely green patina very gently smoothed, otherwise extremely fine

10'000



188



188

- 188 Denarius, Ephesus 71, AR 3.24 g. IMP CAESAR VESPAS AVG COS III TR P P P Laureate head r. Rev. AVG / EPHE within wreath. C 40. BMC 451. RIC 1427. CBN 341. RPC 829.

Light iridescent tone and about extremely fine

750

Ex Lanz sale 114, 2003, 309.



189



- 189 Denarius 72-73, AR 3.19 g. IMP CAES VESP AVG P M COS IIII Laureate head r. Rev. AVGVR / TRIPOT around priestly implements. C 45. BMC 64. RIC 356. CBN 50.

A superb portrait struck in high relief on a very broad flan and with a lovely old cabinet tone. Good extremely fine

2'000

Ex UBS sale 53, 2002, 158.



190



190

- 190 Denarius 73, AR 3.48 g. IMP CAES VESP AVG P M COS IIII CEN Laureate head r. Rev. FIDES - PVBL Clasp hands over caduceus, two poppy heads and two corn ears. C 164. BMC 86. RIC 520. CBN 75.

Light iridescent tone and extremely fine

500



191



- 191 Aureus 75, AV 7.17 g. IMP CAESAR - VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PON MAX - TR P COS VI Victory, holding wreath, standing l. on cista mystica flanked by snakes. C 370. BMC 168. CBN 143. RIC 775. Calicó 665.

A superb portrait and a wonderful reverse type. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

15'000

Ex Vecchi sale IV, 1996, 135.



192

- 192 Quinarius 75 (?), AR 1.59 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORIA – AVGVSTI Victory advancing r. holding wreath and palm branch. C 614 var. (VESPASIAN). BMC 288 var. (head l.). RIC 794. CBN 254. Rare. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine 1'250

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 138, 2005, 2015.



193



193

- 193 Aureus 76, AV 7.38 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head l. Rev. COS – VII Cow (?) standing r. C 116. BMC 178. RIC 842. CBN –. Calicó 621.

An abrasion at three o'clock on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine

5'000

Ex NAC L, 2001, 1739 and Busso Peus 371, 2002, 360 sales.



194



194

- 194 Aureus 77-78, AV 7.32 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head l. Rev. Vespasianus standing l., in military attire, holding sceptre and *parazonium*, crowned with wreath by Victory standing behind him and holding palm branch in l. hand; in exergue, COS VIII. C 131. BMC 205. CBN 183. RIC 936. Calicó 625. Struck on a broad flan and complete. About extremely fine / extremely fine 6'000



195



196



- 195 Denarius 79, AR 3.37 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. TR POT X – COS VIII Victory standing l. placing shield on trophy; below, captive seated l. C 552. BMC 246. RIC 1068. CBN 214. Old cabinet tone and good very fine 300

Ex Lanz sale 141, 2008, 354.

- 196 **Divus Vespasianus.** Denarius 80-81, AR 3.36 g. DIVVS AVGVSTVS VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. EX – S C Victory alighting l. placing shield on trophy; below, Judaea seated l. C 144. BMC Titus 112. RIC Titus 364. CBN Titus 90. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine 1'000



197



198



199



- 197 **Divus Vespasianus.** Denarius 80-81, AR 3.41 g. DIVVS AVGVSTVS VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. Quadriga with richly ornamented car at pace I.; in exergue, EX S C. C 146. BMC Titus 119. RIC Titus 361. CBN Titus 94. Rare. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine / about extremely fine 600

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 147, 2006, 2047.

- 198 **Divus Vespasianus.** Denarius 80-81, AR 3.13 g. DIVVS AVGVSTVS VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. Two capricorns back to back, supporting shield inscribed S C set on globe. C 497. BMC Titus 129. RIC Titus 357. CBN Titus 101. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine / good extremely fine 350

Ex Rauch sale 91, 2012, 314.

- 199 **Divus Vespasianus.** Denarius 80-81, AR 3.34 g. DIVVS AVGVSTVS VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. Two capricorns back to back, supporting shield inscribed S C set on globe. C 497. BMC Titus 129. RIC Titus 357. CBN Titus 101. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine 300

Titus caesar, 69 – 79



200



- 200 Sestertius 72, Æ 26.82 g. T CAESAR VESPASIAN IMP PONT TR POT COS II Laureate head with slight beard r. Rev. S – C Mars advancing r. holding sceptre in r. hand and trophy in l. C 200. BMC Vespasian 825b. RIC Vespasian 460. CBN Vespasian 626 var. (CAES VESPAS).

A superb portrait of fine style, attractive brown-green patina and about extremely fine

3'000



201



- 201 Denarius 72-73, AR 3.19 g. T CAES IMP VESP PON TR POT Laureate head with slight beard r. Rev. NEP – RED Neptune standing l. with r. foot on globe, holding *acrostolium* in r. hand and sceptre in l. C 121. BMC Vespasian 80. RIC Vespasian 366. CBN Vespasian 68. Good extremely fine 750

Ex UBS sale 53, 2002, 162.



- 202 Aureus 73, AV 7.39 g. VESP CENS – T CAES IMP Laureate head with slight beard r. Rev. PONTIF – TRI POT Titus seated r. on curule chair holding sceptre and branch. C 168. BMC Vespasian 114. RIC Vespasian 555. CBN Vespasian 95. Calicó 753.

A bold portrait of fine style struck on a very broad flan.

Extremely fine / about extremely fine

7'500

Ex Naville sale VIII, 1924, Bement, 749.



- 203 Denarius 73, AR 3.38 g. T CAES IMP VESP PON TR POT CENS Laureate head with slight beard r. Rev. Titus in quadriga advancing r. holding branch in r. hand and sceptre in l. C 395 var. (laureate and draped bust and different obverse legend). BMC Vespasian 94. RIC Vespasian 531. CBN –.

Very rare. Light iridescent tone, minor area of weakness on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine

1'000

Privately purchased from Frühwald.

- 204 Denarius, Ephesus 74, AR 3.49 g. [IM]P T CAESAR– COS III Laureate head r. with light beard. Rev. PACI – AVGVSTAE Victory advancing r. holding wreath and palm branch; at her feet, star. C 123. BMC Vespasian 479. RIC Vespasian 1461. CBN Vespasian 370. RPC 857.

Rare. Lovely iridescent tone, struck on a narrow flan, otherwise good extremely fine

750

Ex Tkalec sale 17 May 2010, 180.



- 205 Dupondius 74, Æ 13.55 g. T CAESAR IMP COS III CENS Radiate head with slight beard r. Rev. FELICITA – S – PVBLICA Felicitas standing l. holding caduceus in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; in field, S – C. C 81. BMC Vespasian 707. RIC Vespasian 742. CBN Vespasian 729.

A bold portrait and a lovely green patina. Extremely fine

2'000

Ex Rauch sale 71, 2003, 594.



- 206 Aureus 75, AV 7.22 g. T CAESAR IMP VESPASIAN Laureate head r. Rev. Bull butting r.; in exergue, COS IIII. C 48. BMC Vespasian 171. RIC Vespasian 780. CBN Vespasian 146 (this reverse die). Calicó 731a (these dies).
A wonderful portrait struck on a very broad flan. Traces of edge filing, otherwise extremely fine 10'000
- Ex Gemini sale IX, 2012, 306. From the Harry N. Sneh collection.

Titus augustus, 79 – 81



- 207 Denarius 79 after 1st July, AR 3.64 g. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M Laureate head with slight beard r. Rev. TR P VIII IMP XV – COS VII P P Trophy; below, captive kneeling r. C 295. BMC 31. RIC 49. CBN 28.
Rare. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine 1'000
- Ex UBS sale 52, 2001, 215.



- 208 Denarius 79 after 1st July, AR 3.53 g. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M Laureate head with slight beard r. Rev. TR P VIII IMP XV COS VII P P Venus standing r. leaning on column, holding helmet in r. hand and spear in l. C 284. BMC 26. RIC 53. CBN 20.
Struck on a very broad flan and good extremely fine 750



- 209 Denarius after 1st July 79, AR 3.62 g. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M Laureate head r. Rev. TR P VIII IMP XV COS VII P P Capricorn l.; below, globe. C 294. BMC 35. RIC 37. CBN 32.
Rare. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine 800
- Ex Lanz sale 114, 2003, 327.



210

- 210 Denarius 80, AR 3.47 g. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M Laureate head with slight beard r. Rev. TR P IX IMP XV COS VIII P P Elephant walking l. C 303. BMC 43. RIC 115. CBN 37.
Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine 1'500

Ex Hauck & Aufhäuser sale 16, 2001, 291.



211

- 211 Denarius 80, AR 3.35 g. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M Laureate head r. Rev. TR P IX IMP XV COS VIII P P Wreath on two curule chairs. C 318. BMC 66. RIC 108. CBN 53.
Wonderful iridescent tone, virtually as struck and Fdc 1'500

Ex UBS sale 53, 2002, 165.



212

213

- 212 Denarius 80, AR 3.52 g. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M Laureate head with slight beard r. Rev. TR P IX IMP XV – COS VIII P P Tripod with fillets; above, two ravens l. and r. and wreath under dolphin. C 321 var. (omits ravens and wreath). BMC 82. RIC 131. CBN 66.
Light iridescent tone and extremely fine 500

Ex Rauch sale 86, 2010, 688.

- 213 Denarius 80, AR 3.38 g. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M Laureate head with slight beard r. Rev. TR P IX IMP XV – COS VIII P P Tripod with fillets; above, dolphin. C 321. BMC 78. RIC 128. CBN 67.
About extremely fine / extremely fine 300

Ex Rauch sale 92, 2013, 1269.

Julia Titi, daughter of Titus



214

214

- 214 Denarius 80-81, AR 3.40 g. IVLIA AVGVSTA T AVG F Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. VENVS – AVG Venus, naked, standing r., l. elbow leaning on *cippus*, holding helmet and spear. C 12. BMC Titus 140. RIC Titus 387. CBN Titus 104.

Rare. A lovely portrait and a light iridescent tone. Extremely fine 3'000

Ex Künker sale 67, 2001, 712.



215

- 215 Denarius 80-81, AR 3.54 g. IVLIA IMP T AVG F – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. Vesta seated l., holding Palladium and sceptre; in exergue, VESTA. C 16. BMC Titus 144 note. RIC Titus 389. CBN Titus 108.
Very rare and in exceptional condition for this difficult issue. A gentle portrait and a lovely light iridescent tone, extremely fine 7'500

Ex NAC sale 51, 2009, 235.

Domitian caesar, 69 - 81



216

- 216 Aureus circa 73, AV 7.38 g. CAES AVG F – DOMIT COS II Laureate head r. Rev. VES – TA Round temple of Vesta with four columns; statue of Vesta standing l. within the temple. In l. and r. field, two statues. C 614 var. (DOMITIAN). BMC Vespasian 412. RIC Vespasian 559. CBN –. Calicó 940 (this coin).
Very rare. A very attractive portrait and an interesting reverse.
Superb reddish tone and extremely fine 15'000

Ex Astarte 1, 1998, 235; Triton II, 1998, 866 and NAC 24, 2002, 56 sales.

Among the most elegant of all Roman architectural types is this issue depicting the Temple of Vesta. It is worth noting that it is one of the few Flavian reverse types that is wholly original, without a numismatic predecessor. This particular aureus, struck in the name of Domitian, theoretically should only have been struck for Vespasian or Titus. During the first three years of Vespasian's precious metal coinage (69/70, 70/71, 71/72), he struck only in his name. In the fourth full year, 72/3, he shared four of his eleven types with Titus, and introduced the Temple of Vesta type, which he assigned only to Titus. In the subsequent issue, 73, Vespasian shared it with Titus, and in its final year of production, 74, the type reverted to Titus only, just as it had begun. As an issue in the name of Domitian, there seems to be no rational explanation: 73 was the first year of issue for any precious metal coins in the name of Domitian, and though in this year he did share with his brother and father the generic 'Victory' quinarius, he was accorded one aureus type depicting him on horseback, a type which at the time was unique to him. Thus, in this coin we have a most unusual item, which not only is from the first year of Domitian's production, but, as T.V. Buttrey pointed out in his 1972 Numismatic Chronicle article "Vespasian as Moneyer", it also represents the only significant exception to the rigid pattern of Vespasian's coinage.



217

- 217 Aureus 73-early 75, AV 7.24 g. DOMIT COS II – CAES AVG F Laureate and bearded head r. Rev. Domitian on horse rearing l., raising r. hand and holding sceptre in l. C 633. BMC Vespasian 124. RIC Vespasian 679. CBN Vespasian 100. Calicó 812a (this coin).
Rare. A lovely portrait struck on an exceedingly large flan.
Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 15'000

Ex Ars Classica XI, 1925, H.C. Levis, 481 and Lanz 135, 2007, 602 sales.



- 218 Denarius Ephesus (?) 76, AR 2.73 g. CAES AVG F – DOMIT COS III Laureate and bearded head r. Rev. PON MAX – TR P COS VI Victory standing l. on prow, holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l. C –. BMC Vespasian –, cf. 53 (Titus). RIC Vespasian 1490 (this coin illustrated). CBN –, cf. 142 (Vespasian). RPC –, cf. 1454 (Vespasian).

Apparently unique. Wonderful iridescent tone and extremely fine

1'500

Ex Rauch sale 79, 2006, 2336.



- 219 Aureus 77-78, AV 7.25 g. CAESAR AVG F – DOMITIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. Captive kneeling r., offering standard with *vexillum*; in exergue, COS V. C 48. BMC Vespasian 231. RIC Vespasian 959. CBN Vespasian 205. Calicó 819.

A superb portrait and a finely engraved reverse die perfectly struck and centred on a full flan.

An almost invisible mark on obverse, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

30'000

Ex Ars Classica XI, 1925, H.C. Levis, 468 and Lanz 135, 2007, 604 sales.

The reverse of this remarkably fine aureus depicts a barbarian kneeling in submission presenting a Roman standard. While the long trousers and cloak clearly identify the figure as a Parthian, the bowl-shaped curly hair style and long beard are a far cry from the portraits found on any contemporary Parthian drachms. These features do, however, quite strongly favour the middle-aged portrait of Mithradates the Great, the Parthian monarch who reigned from 121-91 B.C. We might wonder if the model for this interesting reverse had been an old Parthian tetradrachm or drachm of Sellwood type 24 showing the king with a mid-length beard. Regardless of whether a Parthian coin served as inspiration for the engraver, what is most interesting about this reverse is the complex story behind it. The type mirrors the famous kneeling Parthian reverse of Augustus by the moneyers Turpilianus, Florus, and Durmius c. 19/8 B.C. which commemorated the return of the few surviving captives as well as the Roman military standards from the Roman defeats suffered by Cassius at Carrhae in 53 B.C., by L. Decidius Saxa in Syria in 40 B.C., and by Mark Antony in 36 B.C. Mattingly saw in the type a reference to the Parthian embassy which arrived at Vespasian's court seeking aid against the nomadic Alani, who at the time were pressing upon the northern borders of the Parthian Empire and proving a nuisance. His argument was that Domitian sought to lead an eastern campaign in support of the Parthians against the Alani, but that Vespasian refused to sanction the expedition. This would simply be another instance of Domitian being sidelined by his father and his elder brother.

However, Mattingly's argument does not hold up under closer scrutiny. Curtis Clay questioned why Vespasian would even commemorate his refusal of offering aid to the Parthians, and if he had, would it not have more properly belonged on the coinage of Vespasian himself and not that of his second, younger son? With Mattingly's argument refuted, the question then arises: if there is no event to commemorate, what is the purpose of the reverse? Again, Clay astutely observed that Vespasian was simply reusing older types from circulation so that they would not be lost. In this view, it must first be understood that Vespasian was profiting from Nero's debasement of the coinage in A.D. 64 by actively withdrawing and reissuing pre-64 gold and silver from circulation. In fact, several other reverse types struck the same year as this coin clearly copy earlier reverse types from precious metal issues.



- 220 Aureus 77-78, AV 7.35 g. CAESAR AVG F – DOMITIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. COS V She-wolf l., with twins; in exergue, boat. C 50. BMC Vespasian 237. RIC Vespasian 960. CBN Vespasian 210. Calicó 820a.

A gentle portrait and an interesting reverse composition perfectly struck
and centred on a very broad flan. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 30'000

Ex Leu 13, 1975, 427; Giessener Münzhandlung 67, 1994, 456 and Giessener Münzhandlung 82, 1997, 264 sales.

The 'wolf and twins' – the she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome – is perhaps the most enduring of all Roman emblems. As such it is somewhat surprising that they appear on coinage only infrequently, especially as a main type. Indeed, up until the reign of Vespasian it had been absent from coinage as a main type for nearly three centuries (previously it had occurred only on a Republican silver didrachm, c. 275–270 B.C., struck after Rome's defeat of Pyrrhus, and on a Republican copper sextans struck c. 217–215 B.C.). Under the Flavians the type is known on silver denarii of Vespasian and Titus, but principally it was struck in the form of aurei and denarii for Domitian in this issue of 77/78.



- 221 Denarius 79, AR 3.54 g. CAESAR AVG F DOMITIANVS COS VI Laureate and bearded head r. Rev. PRINCEPS – IVVENTVTIS Salus standing r., resting on column and feeding snake out of patera. C 384. BMC Vespasian 265. RIC Vespasian 1084. CBN Vespasian 237.

Struck on a very broad flan and with a lovely light iridescent tone. Extremely fine 1'250

Ex NAC sale 54, 2010, 384.



- 222 Aureus 80-81, AV 7.37 g. CAESAR DIVI F DOMITIANVS COS VII Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCEPS IVVENTVTIS Garlanded and lighted altar. C –, cf. 396 (AVG F). BMC Titus 91. CBN Titus 74. RIC Titus 265. Calicó 918a (these dies).

A wonderful portrait struck in high relief, good extremely fine / extremely fine 15'000

Ex Bourgey 1 February 1995, 16 and Rauch 86, 2010, 692 sales.



- 223 Denarius 80-81, AR 3.53 g. CAESAR DIVI F DOMITIANVS COS VII Laureate and bearded head r. Rev. PRINCEPS – IVVENTVTIS Garlanded and lighted altar. C 215. BMC Titus 92. RIC Titus 266. CBN Titus 76. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine 750



- 224 Denarius 80-81, AR 3.41 g. CAESAR DIVI F DOMITIANVS COS VII Laureate and bearded head r. Rev. PRINCEPS – IVVENTVTIS Garlanded and lighted altar. C 397. BMC Titus 92. RIC Titus 266. CBN Titus 76. Struck on a very broad flan and extremely fine 500



- 225 Denarius 80-81, AR 3.50 g. CAESAR DIVI F DOMITIANVS COS VII Laureate and bearded head r. Rev. PRINCEPS – IVVENTVTIS Goat standing l. within laurel wreath. C 390. BMC Titus 88. RIC Titus 267. CBN Titus 73. Struck on a very broad flan and with a light iridescent tone. Extremely fine 400

Domitian augustus, 81 – 96



- 226 Aureus 82, AV 7.71 g. IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG P M Laureate head r. Rev. COS VIII DES VIII P P TR POT IMP II Helmeted bust of Minerva with aegis l. C 608. BMC 33 note. RIC 139. CBN 37. Calicó 937a (this coin). Rare. Two appealing portraits, minor marks on edge and in fields, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine 7'500

Ex Lanz 40, 1987, 633 and Rauch 68, 2001, 304 sales.



227

- 227 Aureus 82–83, AV 7.74 g. IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG P M Laureate head of Domitian r. Rev. DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DOMIT Draped bust of Domitia r. C Domitian and Domitia 3. BMC 58. RIC 210. CBN 58. Calicó 943b.

Very rare and in unusually fine condition for this difficult issue. Two superb portraits of fine style perfectly centred on a large flan. Minor area of weakness on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

35'000

Ex Busso Peus sale 351, 1997, 697.

Like the aurei depicting Divus Vespasian and Domitilla, this piece was issued by Domitian early in his reign to honour a royal lady of the Flavian dynasty. However, the two issues have a completely different flavour: the one of Vespasian and Domitilla honours the dead, and this one celebrates the living. In this case the portraits are Domitian himself and his wife Domitia, who at the time was alive and held the title of Augusta. That title had also been awarded to two other Flavian women, Domitian's deceased sister Domitilla and his niece Julia Titi, who in the future would succumb, tragically, to a romance with her uncle, only to consequently die of what seems to have been a botched abortion. Uncle and niece were already engaged in their love affair when this coin was struck, though their attachment remained hidden from the public until after Domitian divorced and banished his wife in about 83. Hence, this aureus was hardly a reflection of a blissful marriage, but rather an insincere representation of a royal marriage that was, at the moment of this coin's striking, on the brink of collapse.



228

- 228 Denarius 82-83, AR 3.59 g. IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG P M Laureate head r. Rev. IVPPITER CONSERVATOR Eagle standing facing, with open wings, head l., grasping thunderbolt in its talons. C 320. BMC 52. RIC 144. CBN 53.

Light iridescent tone and extremely fine

600

Ex Lanz sale 102, 2001, 522.

- 229 No lot.



- 230 Aureus 86, AV 7.48 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG – GERM P M TR P VI Laureate head r. Rev. IMP XIII COS XIII CENS P P P Germania seated r. on ground, in attitude of mourning; below, broken spear. C –. BMC –. RIC 516. CBN –. Calicó 882.
Very rare. A lovely portrait and an interesting reverse composition.
About extremely fine / extremely fine 18'000
Ex Busso Peus sale 366, 2000, 1339.



- 231 Quinarius 86, AR 1.06 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P V Laureate head r. Rev. IMP XI COS XII – CENS P P P Victory advancing r. holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l. C 197. BMC 92. RIC 433. CBN 94. King 2.
Dark tone and about extremely fine 600



- 232 Sestertius 86, Æ 26.30 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM – COS XII CENS PER P P Laureate head r., with aegis. Rev. S C Domitian standing l. holding spear; before him, German captive on one knee, holding shield; in exergue, broken spear. C 490. BMC 379. RIC 469. CBN 402.
Rare. A bold portrait and a brown-green patina somewhat smoothed on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine 5'000



- 233 Denarius 14 September - 31 December 88, AR 3.52 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM PM TR P VIII Laureate head r. Rev. Incense burner between column inscribed CO[S] / XIII / LVD / SAEC / FEC and Herald standing l. holding wand and shield. C 73. BMC 135. RIC 601. CBN 124.
Rare. Light iridescent tone and about extremely fine 750
Ex Helios sale 4, 2009, 334.



- 234 Denarius 14 September - 31 December 88, AR 3.42 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG [GE]RM PM TR P VIII Laureate head r. Rev. COS – XIII Column inscribed LVD / SAEC / FEC; all within laurel wreath. C 70. BMC 137. RIC 604. CBN 126. Rare. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine 1'500

Ex UBS sale 53, 2002, 171.



- 235 Semis 90-91, Æ 5.17 g. IMP DOMIT AVG GERM COS XV Draped bust of Apollo; before, branch. Rev. S C Raven standing r. on laurel branch. C 527. BMC 453. RIC 710. CBN 486 (these dies). A gentle portrait and a lovely brown-green patina. Extremely fine 1'500

Ex Bankhaus H. Aufhäuser 17, 2003, 262 and Triton VII, 2004, 905 sales.



- 236 Aureus 92-94, AV 7.45 g. DOMITIANVS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. GERMANICVS COS XVI Minerva standing l., holding spear in r. hand. C 157. BMC 210. RIC 746. Calicó 847.

Rare. A bold portrait struck in high relief, almost invisible marks on reverse field, otherwise good extremely fine

12'500

Ex Hess-Leu 16 April 1957, Andenken and Dr. Jacob Hirsch, 354; Hirsch 193, 1997, 44 and Tkalec April 2007, 208 sales.



- 237 Cistophoric tetradrachm, Asia or Rome (?) 95, AR 10.70 g. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P XIII IMP XXII Laureate head r. Rev. COS XVII – CENS – P P P Legionary eagle between two standards. C 94. BMC 253. RIC 223 (Ephesus). CBN –. RPC 873.

In exceptional condition for the issue. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine

2'500

Ex Tkalec February 2001, 272 and Tkalec October 2003, 249 sales.

Domitia, wife of Domitian



- 238 Denarius 82-83, AR 3.59 g. DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DOMIT Draped bust r. Rev. PIE – TAS – AVGVST Pietas seated l., holding sceptre in l. hand and extending r. to child at her side. C 12. BMC Domitian 65. RIC Domitian 156. CBN Domitian 72.

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A superb portrait struck on fresh metal and with a wonderful old cabinet tone. Good extremely fine

15'000

Ex Tkalec & Rauch sale 14 April 1986, 304.

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

Diva Domitilla the younger, daughter of Vespasian and sister of Domitian



- 239 Denarius 82-83, AR 3.41 g. DIVA DOMITILLA AVGVSTA Draped bust r., hair in long plait at back. Rev. FORTVNA – AVGVST Fortuna standing l., holding rudder and cornucopiae. C 3. BMC Titus 137. RIC Domitian 157. CBN Titus 102.

Very rare. A gentle portrait and a lovely old cabinet tone, about extremely fine 7'000

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

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

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

Nerva, 96 – 98



- 240 Denarius 96, AR 3.20 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG – P M TR P COS II P P Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDIA – EXERCITVM Clasp hands over *aquila* set on prow. C 25. BMC 8. RIC 3. CBN 6.

Light iridescent tone and about extremely fine 500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 117, 2002, 540.



- 241 Denarius 97, AR 3.40 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG – P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. LIBERTAS – PVBLICA Libertas standing l., holding *pileus* in r. hand and sceptre in l. C 113. BMC 46. RIC 19. CBN 32.

Light iridescent tone and extremely fine 500

Ex Rauch sale 67, 2001, 417.



- 242 Sestertius 97, Æ 30.31 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG – P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. FORTVNA – AVGVST Fortuna standing l., holding rudder in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; in field, S – C. C 67. BMC 108. RIC 83. CBN 98.

Rare. A bold portrait and an attractive light green patina gently smoothed. Light traces of double striking on reverse, otherwise good extremely fine

8'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 114, 2002, 277.



- 243 Sestertius 97, Æ 28.97 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG – P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. CONCORDIA – EXERCITVVM Clasped hands, holding legionary eagle set on prow; in field, S – C. C 30. BMC 102. RIC 80. CBN 95.

Rare and in unusually fine condition for this difficult issue. An attractive green patina and a bold portrait, good very fine / about extremely fine

3'500

Ex Triton VI, 2003, 855; CNG 64, 2003, 1034 and NAC 87, 2015, 201 sales.



- 244 Sestertius 97, Æ 27.21 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG – P M TR P COS III P P Laureate head r. Rev. ROMA – RENASCENS Roma seated l. holding Victory in r. hand and spear with l.; in exergue, S C. C 131. BMC 118. RIC 91. CBN 106.

Very rare. An unusual portrait struck on a very broad flan, brown-reddish patina somewhat smoothed, otherwise about extremely fine

3'000

Ex Sotheby's Zürich 7 May 1975, Frederick J. Woodbridge, 195 and New York sale V, 2003, 291 sales.



- 245 Cistophoric tetradrachm, Asia Minor 98, AR 10.56 g. IMP NERVA CAES AVG – GERM P M TR POT P P Laureate head r. Rev. COS – IIII Six corn ears tied together. C 53. BMC 85. RIC 125. CBN –.
Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Wonderful iridescent tone, insignificant
flan crack at eleven o'clock on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 2'000

Ex Busso Peus 380, 2004, 751 and NAC 87, 2015, 204 sales.

Trajan 98 – 117



- 246 Semis circa 99-102, Æ 2.83 g. IMP CAES NERVA TRA – IAN AVG GERM Laureate head r. Rev. DARDANICI Woman standing l. holding corn ears in r. hand. C 13. BMC 1106. RIC 703. CBN –, cf. 972 (with drapery). Woytek et al. NZ 111/112, 2004, p. 36, 1. Woytek 608a.

Very rare. Green patina somewhat smoothed, otherwise
good very fine / about extremely fine

400

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 141, 2005, 372

- 247 Denarius circa 103-107, AR 3.24 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P Laureate head r. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Pax standing l., holding olive branch in r. hand and cornucopiae in l., resting r. foot on Dacian. C 400 var. (with aegis). BMC 212. RIC 190a var. (with aegis). CBN 395 var. (bust draped and cuirassed). Woytek 194aA. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine 350



- 248 Dupondius circa 104/105-107, Æ 14.59 g. IMP CAES NERVAE TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P Radiate bust r., slight drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Pax standing l., holding branch and cornucopiae, resting foot on Dacian; in field, S – C. C 410. BMC 891. RIC 505. CBN 584. Woytek 206bD (this coin cited). Brown-green patina and about extremely fine 500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 107, 2001, 407.



249

- 249 Sestertius 106-107, Æ 27.71 g. IMP CAES NERVAE TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P Laureate head r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Dacia seated l. on shield in attitude of mourning; before, trophy. In exergue, S C. C 534 var. (without drapery). BMC 786. RIC 564 var. (without drapery). CBN 528. Woytek 326b.

A bold portrait struck on a broad flan and a pleasant olive green patina
gently smoothed on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

2'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 125, 2003, 475.



250

- 250 Aureus circa 107-108, AV 7.34 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC Eagle, with open wings, standing facing on thunderbolt, head to l. C 96 var. (not cuirassed). BMC 351. RIC 144 var. (not cuirassed). CBN 251. Calicó 1009. Woytek 261f (this coin cited).

Very rare. A bold portrait and an interesting reverse type.

About extremely fine / extremely fine

7'500

Ex Hirsch XIV, 1905, F. Merckens, 1047; Hess-Leu 41, 1969, V. Brand, 176; Leu 54, 1992, 243 and Leu 83, 2002, 756 sales.



251

- 251 Denarius circa 107-108, AR 3.43 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC Trophy of three oval shields behind which javelins. C —. BMC 355. RIC 147b. CBN 295. Woytek 269b-2 (these dies).

Very rare. Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine

1'000

Ex Rauch sale 94, 2014, 850.



252

- 252 Sestertius 107-110, AE 26.78 g. IMP CAES NERVAE TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P Laureate head r., drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. [S P] Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI Bridge over the river Danube; in exergue, S C. C 542. BMC 847. RIC 569. CBN 316. Woytek 314bD.

Very rare. Brown-green patina somewhat smoothed, otherwise
about extremely fine / good very fine

1'500

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 134, 2004, 2755.



253

- 253 Aureus after 20 February – circa Autumn 116, AV 7.37 g. IMP CAES NER TRAIAN OPTIM AVG GER DAC PARTHICO Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P COS VI P P S P Q R / PARTHIA CAPTA Trophy between two Parthians seated. C 184. BMC 603. RIC 324. CBN 863. Calicó 1035 var. (trophy slightly different). Woytek 560 f. (this coin cited).

Very rare. A superb portrait and an interesting reverse composition. A lovely
reddish tone, unobtrusive metal flaw at six o'clock on reverse edge,
otherwise good extremely fine

25'000

Ex Hess-Leu 24, 1964, 296 and Lanz 97, 2000, 563 sales. From Prof. Dr. H. Wintz collection.

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

This aureus was struck at the height of Trajan's success, and is dated by Woytek to 116. The reverse type is of an ancient and familiar composition, with two dejected captives seated at the base of a trophy composed of arms and armour. In this case the captives are in Parthian attire with bows-in-cases upright at their feet. Beneath is the explicit and unapologetic inscription PARTHIA CAPTA.



- 254 Sestertius circa 114-116, Æ 27.84 g. IMP CAES NER TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI PP Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. Trajan, in military dress, seated on platform, haranguing soldiers; by his side two officers and in front of him on the ground another officer with four soldiers. In the background, three standards. In exergue, IMPERATOR VIII / S C. C 178. BMC 1020. RIC 658. CBN 844. Woytek 549 v. Rare. A finely executed reverse composition struck on a full flan. Wonderful brown-green patina somewhat smoothed, otherwise extremely fine 12'500

Ex NAC sale 23, 2002, 1544.



- 255 Sestertius 112 -114, Æ 25.53 g. IMP CAES NER TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI P P Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. PORTVM TRAIANI View of the Portum Traiani: the basin of the harbour surrounded by warehouses; ships at anchor in the centre. Below, S C. C 306 var. (NERVAE). BMC p. 205 *. RIC 632 var. (NERVAE). CBN 773 var. (NERVAE). Woytek 470v var. Extremely rare and in exceptionally good condition for this fascinating and difficult issue. Brown-green patina somewhat tooled on reverse, otherwise good very fine 15'000

Ex NAC sale 51, 2009, 264.

It is difficult to imagine the quantities of goods that were imported to Rome, a city of more than a million people at its peak. Much of it came overland along the empire's highways, but more still arrived by ship to port-cities, principally Ostia, Rome's main harbour at the mouth of the Tiber.

The original harbour was improved significantly in a construction project begun by Claudius and completed by his successor, Nero. New docks were excavated to the north along the Tiber, which were linked to the harbour by two canals. However, they silted up easily, so the problem of the old harbour's limitations remained. Thus, Trajan created a second port, further inland, which could be accessed directly from the old Claudian port.

Though not much remains of the Claudian port, the docks from Trajan's hexagonal port are still well preserved on the Torlonia estate. Also discernible is the large canal that linked Trajan's port with the Tiber, allowing goods to be unloaded from seafaring ships onto smaller vessels, including barges, which would bring them up the Tiber to Rome. A wide road seems to have traced the route of the canal, and it is clear that Trajan wanted not only to construct a practical harbour for consistent grain deliveries, but also to impress merchants from throughout the world with a grand entry to the capital of the empire.



- 256 As struck for the East, 20 February – 9 December 116, Æ 9.38 g. IMP CAES NER TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG GERM Radiate bust r., with strap on chest and aegis. Rev. DAC PARTHICO P M TR POT XX COS VI P P around wreath within which S C. C 122. BMC 1090 var. (no strap). RIC 644. CBN 956 var. (no strap). Woytek 937t+1 (this coin illustrated).

Rare. A bold and interesting portrait, brown patina and extremely fine 1'500

Ex Sternberg IX, 1979, 82; Leu 50, 1990, 302; Leu 65, 1996, 363; Elsen 60, 1999, 507; Freeman & Sear fixed price list 6, 2001, 107; NAC 23, 2002, 1543 and NAC 87, 2015, 229 sales.



- 257 **Restored issue of P. Claudius.** Denarius circa 112-113, AR 3.38 g. Head of Apollo r.; behind, lyre. Rev. IMP CAES TRAIAN AVG GER DAC P P REST Diana Lucifera standing facing, holding long torch in either hand; around, P CLODIVS / M F. C –. BMC 691. RIC 814. CBN –. Komnick 44.0. Woytek 843 .

Exceedingly rare, apparently only the fourth specimen known and the second in private hands. Very fine 2'000

Ex Rauch sale 94, 2014, 862.

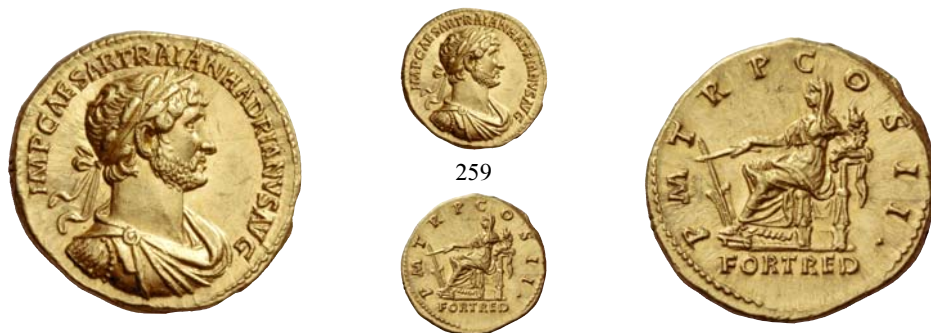
Hadrian, 117 – 134



- 258 Aureus 117, AV 7.32 g. IMP CAES TRAIAN HADRIANO AVG DIVI TRA PARTH F Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. DIVI NER NEP·P M TR·P·COS Radiate bust of Sol r.; below, ORIENS. C 1003. BMC 35. RIC 16. Calicó 1293.

Rare. Struck on a broad flan, minor marks, otherwise good very fine 7'500

Ex Rollin & Feuardent April 1896, Montagu, 277 and NAC 67, 2012, Huntington, 316 sales. Ex HSA 30097.



- 259 Aureus 118, AV 7.28 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P C – OS II Fortuna seated l., holding rudder and cornucopiae; in exergue, FORT RED. C 746. BMC 72. RIC 41 var. (rudder on globe). Calicó 1259.

In an exceptional state of preservation. A wonderful portrait struck in high relief on a full flan. Virtually Fdc

25'000

Ex Giessener Münzhandlung sale 67, 1994, 498.



- 260 Sestertius 119-121, Æ 23.53 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIANVS HAD – RIANVS AVG P M TR P COS III Laureate bust r. with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. RELIQA VETERA HS NOVIES MILL ABOLITA Lictor standing l. holding fasces setting fire to a heap of papers. In field, S – C. C 1210 var. (without drapery). BMC 1206. RIC 590b.

Very rare. An interesting and historically important reverse type. A very attractive portrait and a pleasant brown green patina somewhat tooled on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine / good very fine

3'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 133, 2004, 471.

Upon the death of Trajan in 117, power was formally transferred to his alleged heir Hadrian, who was then governing Syria. In his new capacity Hadrian wintered in Asia Minor, and early in 118 marched westward to settle affairs along the Danube. He eventually arrived in Rome in July – nearly a year after he had been hailed emperor. Upon entering the Eternal City he bolstered his popularity by making a donative to the people, making grants to the poor children of Italy and by holding a triumph in honor of Trajan. He also canceled debts and burned promissory notes in a general amnesty for tax arrears. This last act is celebrated on this rare and historical sestertius. The reverse shows Hadrian, or a lictor applying a torch to a heap of papers symbolic of the debts being cancelled. This rather elaborate version of this coin type shows three citizens with their arms outstretched in joy and gratitude. These documents (syngrafi) were burned in Trajan's Forum, where Hadrian erected a monument that bore the inscription "the first of all principes and the only one who, by remitting nine hundred million sesterces owed to the fiscus, provided security not merely for his present citizens but also for their descendants by this generosity".

The reverse inscription on this sestertius, RELIQA VETERA HS NOVIES MILL ABOLITA, is of exceptional interest. It quite literally translates to "nine times a hundred thousand sestertii of outstanding debts cancelled". HS is a standard abbreviation for sestertii in Roman inscriptions, and, depending upon how it is referenced, it can refer to a single sestertius, a unit of one thousand sestertii, or a unit of one hundred thousand sestertii. In this case novies is an adverb meaning 'nine times', and thus it applies to the sestertius as a unit of one thousand sestertii. Some have logically suggested that in the context of this inscription the HS would have been an adjective with the thousand, or mille, being understood in terms of empire-wide taxes. If so, it would increase the named figure to 'nine times a hundred thousand units of one thousand sestertii', thus equating it to the figure of 900 million sestertii that is named on the monument inscription.

In any case, this is a remarkable instance of the denomination of the sestertius being named on a Roman coin – especially since the coin is of that very denomination. The 19th Century historian S. W. Smith artfully describes this important coin type as "...one of the most remarkable monuments of imperial munificence that can be found within the recording province of numismatic art."



261

- 261 Sestertius 119-121, Æ 28.41 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIANVS HADRIANVS AVG P M TR P COS III Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. PROVIDE – NTIA DEORVM Hadrian standing facing, head l., holding scroll in l. hand and raising r. towards eagle flying r. in upper l. field and bearing a sceptre in its claws. In field, S – C. C 1207 var. (laureate only). BMC 1204. RIC 589b.

A bold portrait struck on a very broad flan, brown-green patina
and extremely fine / about extremely fine

2'000

Privately purchased from Gorny & Mosch in July 2007.



262

- 262 Denarius 119-122, AR 3.40 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIAN H – ADRIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. P – M TR P – COS – III Providentia standing l., pointing at globe at her feet and holding sceptre; at sides in field, PRO – AVG. C 1198 var. (bust r.). BMC 303. RIC 133.

Light iridescent tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

1'500



263

- 263 Denarius 119-122, AR 3.02 g. IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P COS – III Galley l. C 1174 var. (bust r.). BMC 245 var. (drapery on l. shoulder). RIC 113.

Rare. A magnificent portrait and a wonderful iridescent tone,
virtually as struck and almost Fdc

1'500



264

264

- 264 Aureus 132-134, AV 7.20 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r., slight drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. COS – III Column surmounted by helmet; against which rests *parazonium*, spear, shield, cuirass and helmet. C 424 var. (without drapery). BMC 451. RIC 194d. Calicó 1237 (this coin).

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

6'000

Ex Stack's Bowers and Ponterio sale 174, 2013, Ebert, 5028.



- 265 Aureus 134-138, AV 7.31 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bareheaded bust l., with drapery on r. shoulder. Rev. AFRICA Africa with elephant-skin headdress, reclining l., resting r. hand on lion and l. arm on basket; behind basket, corn ears. C 151 var. (draped). BMC 809. RIC 298g. Calicó 1193 (these dies).
Very rare. A bold portrait and an interesting reverse type, minor edge marks,
otherwise about extremely fine / extremely fine 12'500

Ex UBS sale 52, 2001, 223.



- 266 Aureus 134-138, AV 7.34 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare head l. Rev. LIBERALITAS – AVG VII Libertas standing l., holding tesserae in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. C 944. BMC 672, pl. 60, 6 (these dies). RIC 254g. Calicó 1289 (this coin).
Very rare. Good very fine 6'000

Ex Santamaria 33, 1938, 498; Coin Galleries mail bid 13 July 1954, 532 and Stack's Bowers and Ponterio 174, 2013, Ebert, 5039 sales.

- 267 Aureus 134-138, AV 7.15 g. HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P Bare head l. Rev. AD – VEN – TVS AVG Roma seated r., on shields, holding spear in l. hand and clasping hands with emperor standing l. C 79 var. (head r.). BMC 580 note. RIC 224a var. (head r.). Calicó 1181 (these dies).
Very rare. About very fine 2'500

Ex Stack's Bowers and Ponterio sale 174, 2013, Ebert, 5031.

Sabina, wife of Hadrian



- 268 Hybrid denarius with Hadrian reverse circa 134-138, AR 2.90 g. SABINA – AVGVSTA Diademed and draped bust l. Rev. COS III Star over crescent. C –. BMC p. 361, b. Strack hybrid B13. RIC –.
Extremely rare. A very interesting and unusual portrait, good very fine / about extremely fine 2'000

Ex NAC sale 87, 2015, 253.

Antoninus Pius, 138 – 161



269



269

- 269 Aureus 145-161, AV 7.31 g. ANTONINVS – AVG PIVS P P Bare head r. Rev. TR PO – T – COS IIII Roma seated l., holding Palladium and spear; at side, shield. C 935. BMC 554. RIC 147. Calicó 1653.
About extremely fine 3'000



270



- 270 Aureus 150-151, AV 7.43 g ANTONINVS AVG PI – VS P P TR P XIII Bare head r. Rev. LAETITIA – COS IIII Ceres standing r., holding corn ears in r. hand and beside her, Proserpina standing facing, head l., holding pomegranate in l. hand. C 476. BMC 724 note. RIC 199a. Calicó 1556b (this coin).
Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A bold portrait of fine style struck in high relief, almost invisible marks, otherwise good extremely fine 8'000

Ex Triton IV, 2000, 555 and Triton IX, 2006, 1475 sales.



271



- 271 Aureus 151-152, AV 7.36 g. IMP CAES T AEL HADR AN – TONINVS AVG PIVS P P Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P – OT XV – C – OS IIII Pax standing l., holding branch in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in exergue, PAX. C 584 var. (laureate only). BMC 747 var. (drapery on l. shoulder). RIC 216 var. (drapery on l. shoulder). Calicó 1594a (these dies).

An elegant portrait struck on a broad flan, minor edge marks, otherwise extremely fine

6'000

Ex Leu sale 86, 2003, 849.



- 272 Aureus 158-159, AV 7.28 g. ANTONINVS – AVG PIVS P P Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VOTA SOL – DECENN II Antoninus veiled, standing l., holding in r. hand *patera* over tripod by which, recumbent bull. In exergue, COS IIII. C 1109. BMC 579 note. RIC 292d. Calicó 1706 (these dies).
An unusual portrait, an almost invisible scratch on reverse ethnic below the exergual line, otherwise good extremely fine 6'000
Ex Leu sale 91, 2004, 557.

Marcus Aurelius caesar, 139 – 161



- 273 Aureus 140-144, AV 6.74 g. AVRELIVS CAE – SAR P II F COS Bare head r. Rev. PIETAS AVG Knife, sprinkler, jug, *lituus* and *simpulum*. C 450. BMC A. Pius 276. RIC A. Pius 424, pl. IV, 75 (this obverse die). Calicó 1883.
Good very fine / about extremely fine 5'000
Ex Spink's sale 125, 1998, 145.

Marcus Aurelius, 161-180



- 274 Aureus December 164-August 165, AV 7.33 g. ANTONINVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P XIX·IMP II COS III Victory standing r. placing on palm tree, a shield inscribed VIC / AVG. C –. BMC 364 var. (also draped). RIC 128. Calicó 1890 (this coin).
A superb portrait of fine style. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 12'500

Ex NFA 22, 1989, 67; NAC 2, 1990, 674; Hirsch 200, 1998, 674 and LHS 95, 2005, 819 sales.

Lucius Verus, 161 – 169



- 275 Aureus 163, AV 7.30 g. L VERVS AVG ARMENIACVS Draped, cuirassed and bare-headed bust r. Rev. TR P III IMP II COS II Armenia seated l., l. hand resting on bow and quiver; behind, trophy; in exergue, ARMEN. C 5 var. (also laureate). BMC M. Aurelius 236. RIC M. Aurelius 499. Calicó 2103.
Rare. Light reddish tone and extremely fine 7'500



- 276 Aureus 166-167, AV 7.29 g. L VERVS AVG – ARM PARTH MAX Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P VII IMP III COS III Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch. C 294. BMC M. Aurelius 449 note. RIC M. Aurelius 573. Calicó 2198 (this obverse die).
Perfectly struck and centred on a full flan. Good extremely fine 15'000

Ex Künker sale 124, 2007, 7645.

Commodus, 177 – 192



- 277 Aureus 180, AV 7.25 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. TR P V IMP – III COS II P P Victory seated l., holding *patera* in r. hand and branch in l. C 788. BMC M. Aurelius 814. RIC 8b. Calicó 2343 (this obverse die).
An unusual portrait perfectly struck and centred on a large flan. Good extremely fine 15'000



- 278 Aureus 188, AV 7.44 g. M COMM·ANT·P – FEL·AVG BRIT Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P XIII IMP VIII – COS V P P Fortuna seated l., holding rudder in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; in exergue, FOR RED. C –. BMC –. RIC –. Calicó 2251 (these dies).

Extremely rare and in an exceptional state of preservation. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

25'000

Ex Künker sale 100, 2005, 68.

Pertinax, 193



- 279 Sestertius 193, Æ 28.97 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTINAX AVG Laureate head r. Rev. LAETITIA TEMP – ORVM COS II Laetitia standing l., holding wreath in r. hand and sceptre in l. In field, S – C. C 21. BMC 27. Woodward, The Coinage of Pertinax, NC 1957, pl. XI, 3. RIC 17.

Very rare. A very appealing portrait of fine style, dark tone and good very fine

7'500

Didia Clara, daughter of Didius Julianus



- 280 Denarius 193, AR 2.94 g. DIDIA CL – ARA AVG Draped bust r. Rev. HILA – R – TEMPOR Hilaritas standing l., holding long palm in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. C 3. BMC 14. RIC D. Julianus 10.

Rare. About extremely fine

2'000

Ex Lanz sale 155, 2012, 586.

Pescennius Niger, 193 – 194



- 281 Denarius, Antiochia 193-194, AR 2.54 g. IMP CAES C PESC – [NIGER] IVST AV Laureate head r. Rev. FIDEI – EXER – CITI Three standards with *vexilla*: the central one is inscribed VIC AVG. C 20 var. (laureate, draped and cuirassed). BMC –. RIC 19 var. (Laureate, draped and cuirassed).

Rare. Very fine 1'250

Ex Rauch sale 92, 2013, 1349.

Septimius Severus, 193 – 211



- 282 Aureus 194, AV 7.34 g. L·SEPT·SEV PE – RT AVG IMP II Laureate head r. Rev. DIS·AVSPI – CIB·T – R – P II Hercules on l., standing l., holding club in r. hand and lion's skin in l., and Bacchus on r., standing l., holding *oinochoe* in r. hand over panther and *thyrsus* in l.; in exergue, COS II P P. C 113. BMC 58. RIC 25. Calicó 2445a.

Rare. A lovely portrait and a very interesting reverse composition.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 20'000

Ex Sotheby's 19 February 1969, M. Aubery, 33; Leu 91, 2004, 590 and Künker 94, 2004, 1974 sales.

Struck in A.D. 194 shortly before Septimius Severus left to confront the pretender Pescennius Niger in the East, the reverse of this lovely gold aureus depicts the demi-gods Hercules and Liber (Bacchus), the patron deities of the emperor's hometown of Leptis Magna, a seaside city with a beautiful view of the Mediterranean. The legend calls on the divine heralds (Dis Auspicius) to usher in a new age of peace and prosperity for the Roman world of the Severan dynasty. Septimius favored his hometown, spending magnificent sums on a lavish revitalization program. He built a new forum, docks, a basilica, and a monumental triumphal arch amongst other structures, and the city prospered greatly due to his attention. This prosperity did not last long, however; within just a few decades after his reign the city had been partially abandoned. Fortunately for the visitor today, the ruins have survived the ravages of time remarkably well: the site today presents us with one of the most spectacular and unspoiled Roman ruins throughout the Mediterranean world.



- 283 Aureus 200-201, AV 7.35 g. SEVERVS AVG – PART MAX Laureate head r. Rev. AETERNIT·IMPERI Confronted busts of Caracalla, laureate, draped and cuirassed, on l. and Geta, bareheaded, draped and cuirassed on r. C 1 var. (PARTH on obverse and IMPER on reverse). BMC 184. RIC 155c. Calicó 2598a.
Very rare. Three finely engraved portraits struck on a very broad flan, good very fine 12'500

Ex Rauch 67, 2001, 515

Masterfully suited to the purposes of a dynastic coinage, this aureus is inscribed AETERNIT IMPERI, "the eternity of the empire," which equates the continuity of the empire with the continuity of the Severan dynasty. The positioning of the portraits is just as would be expected: the father and senior emperor Septimius Severus occupies the position of honor on the obverse and his two sons occupy the reverse, with the elder, Caracalla, on the left wearing a laurel wreath to indicate his status as junior Augustus, and the younger, Geta, bare-headed on the right to denote his lesser status as Caesar. Although the brothers were relatively close in age, Caracalla had been hailed Augustus in 198 and Geta remained Caesar until 209. The explanation for this gap may never be known, but we may be sure it aggravated the rivalry that already existed between the siblings. As time passed each brother attracted his own faction of supporters in Rome and throughout the empire, and after Caracalla murdered Geta he wasted no time in tracking down and murdering a great many people who had been loyal to Geta.



- 284 Aureus 201, AV 7.37 g. SEVERVS AVG – PART MAX Laureate head r. Rev. FVNDATA – T – OR·PACIS Septimius Severus veiled, standing l., holding in r. hand branch and roll in l. C 202. BMC 189. RIC 160. Calicó 2459 (this obverse die).

Rare. An exquisite portrait in the finest style of the period and an interesting reverse composition. Light reddish tone and good extremely fine

15'000

Ex Leu sale 91, 2004, 594.

Macrinus, 217 – 218



- 285 Denarius 217, AR 2.75 g. IMP C M OPEL SEV – MACRINVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P – II COS P P Macrinus seated l. on curule chair, holding globe and short sceptre. C 51 var. (laureate, draped and cuirassed). BMC 49. RIC 27.

Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine

400

Consecration coins of Trajan Decius, 249 – 251

During the middle of the third century AD, the Roman Empire underwent a turbulent time. Excluding Severus Alexander (222-235), no emperor held power for very long, resulting in a dizzying array of portraits and themes on this period's coinage. During this time, one of the most interesting series of coins was issued between 250-251 by Trajan Decius (249-251). The coins are all Antoniniani and have two reverse types, altar and eagle, but only one reverse legend, CONSECRATIO. The principal aspect is present on the obverse, which bears the heads of the different divi: Augustus, Vespasian, Titus, Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Commodus, Septimius Severus and Severus Alexander. In the past, scholars had doubts as to whom to attribute this series to, issued by an Emperor of the mid-third century, according to the style. Cohen attributed the series to Gallienus and others have claimed Philip I but, with reason, Akerman guessed that the coins belonged to Trajan Decius. His hypothesis became certainty when in the Plevna Hoard consecration coins were found with no later emperor than Trajan Decius. Also in the great Dorchester Hoard, the weight of the coins of the divi was intermediate between the weights of the coins of Trajan Decius and Trebonianus Gallus. Analyzing these antoniniani, we notice that they are often struck on very light flans and overstruck on earlier denarii like the coins of Decius and his family. Few hybrids of this series occur with reverses of Decius and Gallus, but they are probably irregular issues and therefore have no serious value for dating. Thus, if we accept that the consecration series was inaugurated under Decius and continued for a time by Gallus, they must have begun late in the reign of Decius, between 250-251 AD. If the Emperor is certain, there are still some doubts about the mint because some scholars are inclined to assign them to the mint of Rome, others to Milan or Viminacium.

An important observation is that the series bears some resemblance to the restored coins of Trajan. In general, we have to say that Trajan's restoration series differs from Decius' consecration series in two aspects. First of all, Decius' consecration coins are not restoration coins. Secondly, whereas Decius' series includes only consecration coins, Trajan's series includes, next to consecration coins, also other coins. Nevertheless, Decius' consecration series might refer to the consecration types within Trajan's restoration series. We have also to consider that Trajan and Decius were the only emperors to issue coin types referring to a considerable number of deified rulers and so, probably, Decius used this link with the optimus princeps as a means of legitimizing his power. Decius aligns himself to Trajan for propaganda reasons: adopting Trajan's name and his typology for the coins.

Even though the idea of using the image of deified rulers was adopted by a previous emperor, the practice of putting these eleven divi in one series of consecration coins was exceptional and innovative.



286



286

- 286 **Consecration issue of Augustus.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.30 g. DIVO AVGVSTO Radiate head of Divus Augustus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C Augustus 577. RIC 77. Good very fine / about extremely fine 300

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 134, 2004, 2561.



287



288



- 287 **Consecration issue of Augustus.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.21 g. DIVO AVGVSTO Radiate head of Divus Augustus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Altar. C Augustus 578. RIC 78.

Old cabinet tone and good very fine 300

- 288 **Consecration issue of Vespasian.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.15 g. DIVO VESPASIANO Radiate head of Divus Vespasianus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C Vespasian 651. RIC 79. Good very fine 200

Ex Lanz sale 109, 2002, 768.



289



290



291



- 289 **Consecration issue of Vespasian.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.01 g. DIVO VESPASIANO Radiate head of Divus Vespasianus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Altar. C Vespasian 652. RIC 80.
Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine 250

- 290 **Consecration issue of Titus.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 5.58 g. DIVO – TITO Radiate head of Divus Titus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C Titus 404. RIC 81a.
Rare. Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine / good very fine 350
Ex Busso Peus sale 374, 2003, 976.

- 291 **Consecration issue of Titus.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.87 g. DIVO TITO Radiate head of Divus Titus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Altar. C Titus 405. RIC 82b.
Rare. Old cabinet tone and good very fine 300



292



- 292 **Consecration issue of Nerva.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.11 g. DIVO – NERVE Radiate head of Divus Nerva r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Altar. C Nerva –. RIC 84a.
Very rare. Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine / extremely fine 500
Ex Lanz sale 121, 2004, 563.



293



- 293 **Consecration issue of Nerva.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.61 g. DIVO NERVAE Radiate head of Divus Nerva r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Altar. C Nerva 153. RIC 84b.
Very rare. Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine 450
Ex NAC sale 9, 1996, 853.



- 294 **Consecration issue of Nerva.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.83 g. DIVO – NERVE Radiate head of Divus Nerva r. Rev. CONSECratio Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C Nerva –. RIC 83b.
Very rare. Iridescent tone and good very fine 300
Ex Lanz sale 117, 2003, 1121.



- 295 **Consecration issue of Trajan.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.17 g. DIVO TRAIANO Radiate head of Divus Traianus r. Rev. CONSECratio Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C Trajan 666. RIC 85a.
Rare. Weakly struck on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine 200
Ex Rauch sale 87, 2010, 443.



- 296 **Consecration issue of Trajan.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.92 g. DIVO TRAIANO Radiate head of Divus Traianus r., drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. CONSECratio Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C Trajan –. RIC 85b.
Scarce. Extremely fine 600
Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 121, 2003, 440.



- 297 **Consecration issue of Trajan.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.53 g. DIVO TRAIANO Radiate head of Divus Traianus r., drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. CONSECratio Altar. C Trajan 664. RIC 86a.
Scarce. Extremely fine 750
Ex Lanz sale 121, 2004, 564.



298



298

- 298 **Consecration issue of Trajan.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.80 g. DIVO TRAIANO Radiate head of Divus Traianus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Altar. C Trajan —. RIC 86b.
Old cabinet tone, minor flan crack at eight o'clock on obverse,
otherwise about extremely fine 250



299



- 299 **Consecration issue of Hadrian.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.01 g. DIVO HADRIANO Radiate head of Divus Hadrianus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Altar. C Hadrian 1510. RIC 88.
Very rare. Extremely fine 1'000
Ex NAC sale 29, 2005, 544.



300



300

- 300 **Consecration issue of Hadrian.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.11 g. DIVO HADRIANO Radiate head of Divus Hadrianus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C Hadrian 1509. RIC 87.
Very rare. Good very fine 500
Ex UBS sale 53, 2002, 234.



301



301

- 301 **Consecration issue of Antoninus Pius.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.86 g. DIVO — PIO Radiate head of Divus Antoninus Pius r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C A. Pius 1188. RIC 89.
About extremely fine 400
Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 117, 2002, 588.



302



302

- 302 **Consecration issue of Antoninus Pius.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.73 g. DIVO – PIO Radiate head of Divus Antoninus Pius r. Rev. CONSECratio ALTAR. C A. Pius 1189. RIC 90.
Iridescent tone and good very fine 250
Ex New York sale V, 2003, 373.



303



- 303 **Consecration issue of Marcus Aurelius.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.01 g. DIVO MARCO Radiate head of Divus Marcus Aurelius r. Rev. CONSECratio Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C M. Aurelius 1056. RIC 91a.
Very rare. Good very fine 750
Ex Lanz sale 121, 2004, 565.



304



- 304 **Consecration issue of Marcus Aurelius.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.23 g. DIVO MARCO ANTONINO Radiate head of Divus Marcus Aurelius r. Rev. CONSECratio Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C M. Aurelius 1057. RIC 91b.
Very rare. Extremely fine 1'000
Ex Helios sale 3, 2009, 213.



305



- 305 **Consecration issue of Marcus Aurelius.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.53 g. DIVO MARCO Radiate head of Divus Marcus Aurelius r. Rev. CONSECratio ALTAR. C M. Aurelius 1059. RIC 92b.
Very rare. Good very fine 450
Ex Rauch sale 83, 2008, 371.



- 306 **Consecration issue of Commodus.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 2.91 g. DIVO COMMODO Radiate head of Divus Commodus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Altar. C Commodus 1010. RIC 94.
Scarce. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine 1'000

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 117, 2002, 609.



- 307 **Consecratio issue of Commodus.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.54 g. DIVO COMMODO Radiate head of Divus Commodus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C Commodus 1009. RIC 93.
Scarce. Old cabinet tone and about very fine 200

Ex Lanz sale 54, 1990, 677.



- 308 **Consecration issue of Septimius Severus.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.83 g. DIVO SEVERO Radiate head of Divus Septimius Severus r. Rev. CONSECRATIO Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C S. Severus 799. RIC 95.
Very rare. Extremely fine 750

Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 126, 2003, 2576.



- 309 **Consecration issue of Septimius Severus.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.05 g. DIVO SEVERO Radiate head of Divus Septimius Severus r. Rev. CONSECratio Altar. C S. Severus 800. RIC 96.
Very rare. About extremely fine 750

Ex Lanz sale 106, 2001, 667.



- 310 **Consecration issue of Severus Alexander.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 3.68 g. DIVO ALEXANDRO Radiate head of Divus Severus Alexander r., drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. CONSECratio Eagle standing r. with open wings and head l. C S. Alexander 599. RIC 97.
Rare. Iridescent tone and extremely fine 500

Ex Lanz sale 117, 2003, 1125.



- 311 **Consecration issue of Severus Alexander.** Antoninianus 250-251, AR 4.00 g. DIVO ALEXANDRO Radiate head of Divus Severus Alexander r., drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. CONSECratio Altar. C S. Alexander 598. RIC 98.
Rare. Old cabinet tone and good very fine 250

Following the tremendous success of parts I and II, Numismatica Ars Classica is honoured to present the third and final part of the Ernst Ploil Collection of Roman Coins.

Ernst Ploil is an Austrian lawyer and his law firm, Ploil Krepp Boesch Rechtsanwälte GmbH, specialises in advising international businesses on commercial law, copyright law, completion law and art law and is one of the leading legal practices in Austria in this field. Ploil had already begun collecting ancient coins when he was a schoolboy and he was further inspired at high school where he learnt Latin and Greek. He went on to study law, anthropology, ancient history, archaeology, ancient numismatics and sociology at the University of Vienna. Currently, away from his activities as a lawyer, Ploil acts as an expert in Art Nouveau objects for the Austrian auction house Kinsky of which he is one of the CEOs. Aside from coins, he actively collects Viennese Art Nouveau objects as well as old and contemporary paintings, mainly from central Europe and the United States.

This third and final part of the collection features the full Roman Republican and Twelve Caesars components along with yet another selection of coins from the second and third centuries AD.

Similar to parts I and II, this catalogue allows the reader to appreciate the great expertise, passion and sensitivity that Ploil demonstrated in building his collection.

Although small in terms of lots offered, the Roman Republican part is very interesting and is highlighted by a series of wonderful coins from the imperial period boasting some exceptionally accomplished portraits including: two extraordinary denarii of Julius Caesar (lots 22 and 36); a magnificent aureus of Barbatia (lot 33), and a lovely denarius of Mark Antony and Cleopatra (lot 43).

As one would expect from a collector of Ploil's calibre, the series for Augustus was put together with the utmost care and attention and it boasts a great number of gold, silver and bronze coins whose overall state of conservation is excellent. The series of denarii is particularly exceptional, both for the quality of the coins and the presence of some extremely rare issues such as the denarius with Julia on the reverse (lot 82) and another denarius featuring a portrait of Agrippa wearing the rostral crown (lot 87).

The series for Gaius is extremely interesting and its completeness in all metals is very impressive indeed. The offering for Claudius is less complete, however it is embellished by an aureus of exceptional quality bearing a wonderfully executed portrait, the work of a highly skilled engraver (lot 119).

Nero is represented by a truly spectacular series which features a selection of wonderful aurei including two issues struck at the beginning of his reign celebrating his mother Agrippina (lots 130 and 131) and another depicting the temple of Janus on its reverse (lot 134). Another noteworthy coin for Nero is a magnificently detailed triumphal arch sestertius with a beautiful enamel-like green patina (lot 140).

The Civil Wars series is particularly rich and it presents some exceedingly rare pieces including an exceptionally well-preserved denarius of Clodius Macer (lot 161).

The coinage of Galba is represented by a series of very interesting aurei, denarii and sestertii; highlights include a fantastic aureus with an incredible pedigree (lot 167) and an extremely rare "restoration" aureus struck under Trajan (lot 175).

The offering for the Flavians does not disappoint with a series of coins in an excellent state of conservation. Particularly worthy of mention are two stupendous aurei of Domitian both boasting highly prestigious pedigrees (lots 219 and 220) and another aureus of the same emperor bearing a portrait of Domitia on its reverse (lot 227). Equally outstanding is the series of denarii whose overall quality is very high, particular highlights include a denarius of Vespasian and his sons (lot 185) and a wonderful denarius of Domitia (238).

The first part of the second century includes some fantastic coins such as a beautiful and rare aureus of Trajan (lot 253) and an exceptionally well-preserved aureus of Hadrian (lot 259).

Moving on to the Antonines and the Severans, the series of aurei is truly wonderful, featuring two beautiful aurei of Commodus (lots 277 and 278) and two magnificent aurei of Septimius Severus (lots 282 and 284).

The sale concludes with a virtually complete run of consecration antoniniani issued under Trajan Decius: an achievement Ploil was quite rightly rather proud of.

We would like to end this preface on a personal note. As I have written before, numismatics has granted me the opportunity of meeting some extraordinary people and Ernst Ploil is certainly one of them. My brother and I are fascinated by his deep and wide-reaching cultural knowledge which allows him to effortlessly navigate so many different fields of art. We are equally impressed by his ability to manage a career as a successful lawyer alongside that of directing a successful auction house. However, what amazes us most is his skill at understanding people. The trust that he bestowed upon us, after a brief meeting, humbled us and we were particularly gratified by his words of praise, being affirmations of an incredibly intelligent and sensitive individual. With the dispersal of this collection numismatics loses a collector of rare culture and sensitivity and we hope that at least some of his coins will be purchased by collectors who share his passion for art and history.

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