

# A U C T I O N

105

## THE GEORGE W. LA BORDE COLLECTION OF ROMAN AUREI - PART III

sold in association with Stack's Bowers Galleries

9 May 2018

NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA NAC AG  
ZÜRICH - LONDON

# AUCTION 105

9 May 2018

## **The George W. La Borde Collection of Roman Aurei – part III**

*Sold in association with Stack's Bowers Galleries*

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*Durch die Teilnahme an der Auktion werden die folgenden Bedingungen anerkannt:*

1. Die Versteigerung erfolgt in Schweizerfranken. Der Zuschlag erfolgt nach dreimaligem Aufruf an den Höchstbietenden, dessen Gebot vom Auktionator anerkannt wurde, und verpflichtet zur Annahme. Der Ausruf erfolgt in der Regel bei 80%, sofern nicht höhere Angebote vorliegen. Schriftliche Gebote haben Vorrang. Jeder Ersteigerer verpflichtet sich persönlich für die durch ihn getätigten Käufe. Er kann nicht geltend machen, für Rechnung Dritter gehandelt zu haben.
2. Telefonische oder schriftliche Bietaufträge (auch auf elektronischem Weg) von nichtanwesenden Interessenten werden bis 24 Stunden vor Auktionsbeginn entgegengenommen. Telefonische Bieter sind damit einverstanden, dass das Gespräch aufgezeichnet werden kann. Das Auktionshaus übernimmt keinerlei Haftung für schriftliche, elektronische und telefonische Bietaufträge.
3. Bieter werden gebeten, sich vor der Auktion zu legitimieren und anschliessend registrieren zu lassen. Das Auktionshaus kann eine Bankreferenz und/oder Sicherheiten verlangen. Es steht im Ermessen des Auktionshauses, eine Person nicht an der Auktion teilnehmen zu lassen.
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5. Auf dem Zuschlagspreis ist ein Aufgeld von 20.0% zu entrichten - Telefonbieter und Internet Live Bieter entrichten ein zusätzliches Aufgeld von 1.5% auf den Zuschlagspreis. Die schweizerische Mehrwertsteuer von 7,7% wird auf den Endpreis (Zuschlagspreis plus Aufgeld und auf allen andern vom Auktionshaus dem Käufer in Rechnung gestellten Beträgen) erhoben. **Goldmünzen (AV) sind von der MWST befreit.**  
Bei Ausfuhr des ersteigerten Objekts ins Ausland wird dem Käufer die MwSt zurückerstattet, wenn er eine rechtsgültige Ausfuhrdeklaration des schweizerischen Zolls beibringt.
6. Der Gesamtpreis wird mit dem erfolgtem Zuschlag zur Zahlung fällig und ist bei der Aushändigung des Objekts zu bezahlen, ausser es sei vor der Auktion eine andere Abmachung getroffen worden. Für verspätete Zahlungen wird ein Verzugszins von 1% pro Monat in Rechnung gestellt. Das Eigentum geht erst mit der vollständigen Bezahlung auf den Käufer über. In der Regel liefert NAC das ersteigerte Objekt nicht vor der Bezahlung an den Käufer aus. Eine allfällige frühere Auslieferung bewirkt keinen Eigentumsübergang und ändert nichts an der Zahlungsverpflichtung des Käufers. Hat der Käufer nicht sofort und auch nicht innert fünf Tagen ab Erhalt einer eingeschriebenen schriftlichen Mahnung bezahlt, so ist NAC ohne weiteres und ohne weitere Anzeige berechtigt, vom Verkauf zurückzutreten.
7. Versand- und Versicherungskosten erfolgen auf Kosten und Risiko des Empfängers. Im Ausland verrechnete Gebühren und Steuern gehen zulasten des Käufers (Ersteigerers). Diesem obliegt es, sich über ausländische Zoll- und Devisenvorschriften zu informieren. Das Auktionshaus übernimmt keine Haftung für allfällige Zuwiderhandlungen gegen solche Vorschriften.
8. **Das Auktionshaus garantiert vorbehaltlos und zeitlich unbeschränkt für die Echtheit der Münzen.** Alle Angaben im Katalog sind nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen zusammengestellt.
9. Die zur Versteigerung gelangenden Objekte werden für Rechnung Dritter versteigert oder sind Eigentum des Auktionshauses. Der Käufer (Ersteigerer) hat keinen Anspruch auf Bekanntgabe des Einlieferers und ist damit einverstanden, dass das Auktionshaus auch von diesem eine Provision erhält.
10. Die vorstehenden Bedingungen sind Bestandteil eines jeden einzelnen an der Auktion geschlossenen Kaufvertrags. Abänderungen sind nur schriftlich gültig. Sofern Teile dieser Auktionsbedingungen der geltenden Rechtslage nicht mehr oder nicht vollständig entsprechen sollten, bleiben die übrigen Teile in ihrem Inhalt und ihrer Gültigkeit unberührt. Massgebend ist die deutsche Fassung dieser Auktionsbedingungen.
11. Das Vertragsverhältnis zwischen den Parteien untersteht in allen Teilen dem schweizerischen Recht. Erfüllungsort ist am Sitz des Auktionshauses in 8001 Zürich, und ausschliesslicher Gerichtsstand ist Zürich.

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## Conditions of Sale

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

1. Auction bidding is conducted in Swiss Francs. The highest bidder who has been acknowledged by the auctioneer when the hammer falls after the third call has legally bought the lot. Bidding usually begins at 80% of the estimate, provided no higher offers have been submitted. Written bids have priority. The successful bidder has committed himself personally to the purchases made. He cannot claim to have acted on behalf of a third party.
2. Absentee bidders can bid up to 24 hours before the start of the auction by writing, telephone or electronically. Telephone bidders must agree that calls may be recorded. The auction house does not accept liability for bidding mandates made by telephone, electronically or in writing.
3. Bidders must show proof of identification before the auction, and subsequently be registered. The Auction House may require a bank reference and/or guarantee. The Auction House reserves the right to deny a person from participating in the auction.
4. The auctioneer may raise or reject a bid without giving a reason, and furthermore reserves the right to combine or split up catalogue lots, or to offer them out of sequence or omit or withdraw them from the auction.
5. A commission of 20.0% will be levied on the hammer price - phone bidders and bidders using our Live Internet facilities pay an additional charge of 1,5%. The Swiss value added tax (VAT) of 7,7% is payable on the final price (hammer price, plus buyer's commission and any other amounts chargeable by the Auction House to the buyer). **Gold coins (AV) are exempt from VAT.**

If the purchases are exported, then the VAT will be refunded on production of a legally valid original export declaration issued by the Swiss Customs.

6. Payment is in Swiss Francs and is immediately due upon adjudication of the lot and has to be paid with the release of the object to the Buyer, unless otherwise agreed before the sale. Late payments will incur a monthly default interest of 1%. Title in a lot will not pass to the Buyer until NAC has received full payment on his account. NAC will generally not release a lot to a Buyer before payment. Earlier release of the lot does not affect its title nor the Buyer's obligation to pay. If the Buyer has failed to make immediate payment and within 5 days after receipt of a registered, written reminder by NAC to the buyer, NAC may in its sole discretion cancel the sale of the lot.
7. Shipping and insurance are at the buyer's cost and risk. Any fees and charges payable abroad are borne by the buyer (successful bidder) who is responsible for acquiring the necessary information about any applicable customs and foreign exchange regulations. The Auction House accepts no liability for any contraventions of such regulations.
8. **The Auction House offers an unconditional and unlimited guarantee for the authenticity of coins.** All identifications and descriptions of the items sold in this catalogue are statements of opinion and were made in good faith.
9. The objects which come under the hammer are auctioned on behalf of a third party or are the property of the Auction House. The buyer (successful bidder) has no entitlement to have the identity of the consignor disclosed to them and acknowledges that the Auction House might receive a commission from the consignor for the sale.
10. The above conditions are a component of each individual contract of sale concluded at the auction. Alterations must be made in writing in order to be valid. If any parts of these Terms and Conditions should be no longer or not fully in conformity with the valid legal situation, this shall not affect the content and validity of the remaining parts. The above-mentioned conditions are written in German, French, Italian and English; the only valid text is the German one.
11. The contractual relationship between parties is subject in all facets to Swiss law. Place of performance is the registered office of the Auction House in 8001 Zurich, and the exclusive court of jurisdiction is Zurich.

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## Conditions de la vente aux enchères

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

1. Les enchères sont effectuées en Francs Suisses. L'adjudication est réalisée après trois appels consécutifs du plus offrant dont l'offre a été acceptée par le commissaire priseur et qui constitue une obligation. La mise à prix est effectuée en règle générale à 80 %, dans la mesure où il n'y a pas d'offres disponibles et plus élevées. Les offres formulées par écrit sont prioritaires. Chaque enchérisseur s'engage personnellement en ce qui concerne les acquisitions réalisées par ses soins. Il ne peut pas faire valoir le fait d'avoir agi pour le compte d'une tierce personne.
2. Les demandes d'enchères par téléphone ou par écrit (également par moyen électronique) pour les personnes intéressées et non présentes sont réceptionnées jusqu'à 24 heures avant le début de la vente aux enchères. Les enchérisseurs par téléphone acceptent que la communication téléphonique puisse être enregistrée. La salle des ventes n'assume aucune responsabilité quant aux enchères effectuées par téléphone, électronique ou par écrit.
3. Les enchérisseurs sont priés de se légitimer avant la vente aux enchères et de se faire enregistrer à l'issue de la vente. La salle des ventes peut exiger une référence bancaire et/ou une garantie. La salle des ventes a le droit de ne pas laisser une personne participer à la vente aux enchères.
4. L'enchérisseur peut, à sa guise, surenchérir une offre ou bien la décliner sans indication de motifs. L'enchérisseur se réserve en outre le droit d'associer des lots, de les séparer, de faire des offres en dehors de l'ordre prévu ou de les laisser de côté, voire de se retirer de la vente aux enchères.
5. Une commission de 20.0% est perçue sur le prix d'adjudication. Les acquéreurs qui souhaitent participer aux enchères par téléphone ou en ligne avec nos facilités Live Internet paieront un frais supplémentaire de 1,5%. La taxe à la valeur ajoutée suisse d'un montant de 7,7 % sera perçue sur le prix définitif (prix d'adjudication plus supplément et sur tous les autres montants facturés à l'acquéreur par la salle des ventes). **Les pièces de monnaie en or (AV) sont dispensées de la TVA.**

En cas d'exportation de l'objet adjugé vers l'étranger, l'acquéreur se voit restituer la TVA lorsqu'il est en mesure de présenter une déclaration d'exportation réglementaire, en bonne et due forme, des autorités douanières suisses.

6. Le prix total en francs suisses est exigible immédiatement après adjudication et doit être acquitté lors de la remise de l'objet adjugé. Pour les paiements effectués ultérieurement un intérêt moratoire de 1% par mois sera facturé. La transmission de la propriété à l'acquéreur a lieu seulement à paiement intégral. En général, NAC ne remet l'objet adjugé à l'acquéreur pas avant paiement. Une éventuelle remise de l'objet n'a cependant pas de l'influence ni sur la propriété du vendeur ni sur l'obligation de l'acquéreur de payer.

En cas que l'acquéreur n'a pas payé simultanément et non plus entre les cinq jours après réception d'un avertissement sous pli recommandé, NAC est en droit de se départir du contrat sans autre formalité et sans avis ultérieur.

7. Les frais d'envoi et d'assurance sont à charge et au risque de l'acheteur. Les taxes ou les impôts facturés à l'étranger sont à la charge de l'acquéreur (enchérisseur). Il lui incombe de s'informer au sujet des directives étrangères en matière de douane et de devises. La salle des ventes décline toute responsabilité pour les éventuelles infractions à l'encontre de ces directives.
8. **La salle des ventes garantit l'authenticité des monnaies sans réserve et sans limitation dans le temps.** Toutes les indications mentionnées dans le catalogue sont rassemblées en toute conscience et en toute bonne foi.
9. Les objets mis aux enchères le sont pour le compte de tierces personnes ou bien sont la propriété de la salle des ventes. L'acquéreur (enchérisseur) n'a aucun droit d'obtenir communication du nom de la personne qui met en vente et se déclare en accord avec le fait que la salle des ventes perçoive une provision de cette dernière.
10. Les présentes conditions font partie intégrante de tout contrat de vente conclu dans le cadre de la vente aux enchères. Les modifications ne sont valables que par écrit. Le fait que des parties des présentes conditions de vente aux enchères venaient à ne plus correspondre, ou du moins plus intégralement, à la situation juridique en vigueur, n'affecte en rien les autres parties, ni dans leur contenu, ni dans leur validité. La version en langue allemande constitue la référence des présentes conditions de vente aux enchères.
11. La relation contractuelle entre les parties en cause est soumise, dans toutes ses composantes, au droit Suisse. La compétence juridique est fixée au siège de la salle des ventes à 8001 Zurich, et le for juridique exclusif est Zurich.



## Condizioni di vendita

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

1. La valuta in cui viene condotta l'asta è il Franco Svizzero. L'aggiudicazione al miglior offerente, individuato dal banditore, avviene dopo la terza chiamata e comporta per l'aggiudicatario l'acquisto con tutti i relativi obblighi di legge. Le offerte partono generalmente dall'80% del prezzo di stima a meno che una o più offerte d'importo maggiore siano state presentate. Le offerte scritte hanno la precedenza. Il partecipante all'asta è personalmente responsabile per l'acquisto effettuato e non può pretendere di avere agito per conto di terzi.
2. I partecipanti all'asta non presenti in sala possono presentare offerte telefonicamente, in forma scritta, o per via elettronica fino a 24 ore prima dell'inizio dell'asta. Chi trasmette la propria offerta telefonicamente presta il proprio consenso all'eventuale registrazione della telefonata. La casa d'asta non assume alcun tipo di responsabilità per le offerte trasmesse in forma scritta, elettronica o telefonica.
3. I partecipanti, per concorrere all'asta, dovranno esibire un documento d'identità e registrarsi. La casa d'asta si riserva il diritto di richiedere referenze bancarie o un deposito cauzionale per permettere la partecipazione all'asta. La casa d'asta si riserva inoltre il diritto di non permettere a un soggetto la partecipazione all'asta.
4. Il banditore d'asta ha facoltà di aumentare o rifiutare un'offerta secondo la propria discrezionalità e senza necessità di fornire una motivazione. Il banditore si riserva inoltre il diritto di unire, separare, cambiare la sequenza prevista o di eliminare e/o ritirare dall'asta determinati lotti.
5. Al prezzo d'aggiudicazione va aggiunta una commissione del 20.0%. Gli offerenti che parteciperanno all'asta per telefono o 'live' attraverso internet pagheranno un costo supplementare dell'1,5%. L'imposta svizzera sul valore aggiunto, pari attualmente al 7,7%, viene applicata sul prezzo finale (prezzo d'aggiudicazione più commissione ed ogni altro importo imputabile al compratore dalla casa d'aste). **Le monete in oro (AV) sono esonerate dal pagamento dell'IVA.**  
In caso d'esportazione dell'oggetto acquistato all'asta verso un paese estero, il compratore ha diritto al rimborso dell'IVA dietro consegna di una valida dichiarazione d'esportazione dell'ufficio doganale della Confederazione Elvetica.
6. Il pagamento è da effettuarsi in Franchi Svizzeri immediatamente all'aggiudicazione del lotto, a meno che concordato diversamente prima dell'asta. In caso di ritardato pagamento il tasso d'interesse moratorio applicabile è pari all'1% mensile. La proprietà del lotto non passerà al compratore fino a che la NAC non riceverà il pagamento a saldo dell'acquisto. Generalmente la NAC non rilascia un lotto al compratore prima di ricevere il pagamento di tale. La consegna anticipata di un lotto non incide sulla proprietà di tale né sull'obbligo di pagamento da parte del compratore. Se il compratore non paga subito e nel caso in cui egli non effettui il pagamento entro 5 giorni dalla ricezione di una raccomandata, scritta da NAC come avviso di mancato pagamento, la NAC si riserverà la facoltà di cancellare la vendita di tale lotto.
7. I costi ed il rischio della spedizione sono a carico del destinatario. Qualunque imposta e contributo legalmente dovuto nel paese d'esportazione è a carico dell'acquirente (compratore in sede d'asta) su cui ricade la responsabilità per la conoscenza delle norme vigenti in materia doganale e di valuta. La casa d'aste non assume alcuna responsabilità per l'eventuale violazione di tali prescrizioni.
8. **La casa d'asta offre una garanzia incondizionata e senza riserva di tempo sull'autenticità delle monete.** Le indicazioni e descrizioni contenute nel catalogo sono opinioni soggettive e sono espresse in buona fede.
9. Gli oggetti offerti vengono messi all'asta per conto di terzi o sono di proprietà della casa d'asta. L'acquirente (compratore in sede d'asta) non ha il diritto di conoscere l'identità del consegnatario dell'oggetto e prende atto che alla casa d'asta potrebbe venir corrisposta dal consegnatario una commissione per la vendita.
10. Le condizioni sopra menzionate costituiscono parte integrante di ciascun contratto individuale di vendita concluso nell'asta. Eventuali modifiche saranno ritenute valide solo se fatte in forma scritta. Nel caso in cui una parte delle presenti Condizioni di Vendita dovesse essere non più totalmente conforme alla vigenti disposizioni di legge, cioè non avrà effetto sulla validità delle parti restanti. L'unica versione di testo delle Condizioni di Vendita che ha valore legale è quella in lingua tedesca.
11. Il rapporto contrattuale fra le parti è regolato in tutti i suoi aspetti dal diritto della Confederazione Elvetica. Il luogo d'adempimento è la sede della casa d'aste a Zurigo (8001). Il foro competente è esclusivamente quello di Zurigo.

## Note on US Import Restrictions

In accordance with US Customs and Border Protection regulations (19 CFR Part 12), we attest that all ancient Greek coins, from mints that are now within the modern boundaries of Italy, either have an export licence issued by the Republic of Italy or were outside of Italy prior to 19 January 2011. We also attest that all ancient Greek coins, from mints that are now within the modern boundaries of Greece, were outside of Greece before 17 July 2011. In addition, all coins from mints that are not within the modern boundaries of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Syria and Iraq, were, in the case of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt and Iran, outside of those countries before 30 May 2005, in the case of Iraq before 2 August 1990 and in the case of Syria before 15 March 2011. Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG will provide appropriate documentation to assist with the importation of any purchased lots into the USA. All other coins were in the possession of Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG or its consignors prior to these dates.

**TIME TABLE   ZEITTADEL   ORDRE DE VENTE   ORDINE DI VENDITA**

**Wednesday, 9 May 2018   11:15 – 12:15   1 – 118**

**EXHIBITIONS   AUSSTELLUNG   EXPOSITION   ESPOSIZIONI**

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**London – At our premises**

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5 April – 25 April 2018

Monday to Friday 9:30 – 17:30  
Saturday & Sunday by appointment only

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**Zurich**

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At the Zurich premises (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor):   Monday, 7 May 2018   09:30 – 17:30

At the Hotel Baur au Lac, Talstrasse 1, 8001 Zurich:   Tuesday, 8 May 2018   10:30 – 18:00

**Please visit our auction online at [www.arsclassicacoins.com](http://www.arsclassicacoins.com)**

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

<b>Gradi di conservazione</b>	<b>Grades of preservation</b>	<b>Erhaltungsgrad</b>	<b>Degrés de conservation</b>	<b>Grados de Conservación</b>
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

This auction catalogue concludes the series of catalogues dedicated to the George W. La Borde Collection of Romani aurei.

It has been a great pleasure to work on the dispersal of this collection with George and Hadrien Rambach. Like all astute collectors, George completely trusted us and gave us full freedom to not only divide the collection and decide on the optimal timings for the auctions, but also to estimate the coins as we deemed appropriate. We have not abused the trust George placed in us and we have estimated the coins in the most appropriate way, rightly allowing the market to freely determine the value of the coins. Indeed, we feel that the division of the collection has played a significant part in the success of the sales thus far. All too often we see catalogues where auction houses show little respect for the vendor and offer too many coins from the same period or too many coins of the same type showing no respect for the buyers either. After all, the best way to maximise profits for the auction house is to reduce costs by selling the collection in one single sale though this often works against the vendor's best interests.

Hadrien Rambach, who, together with George, is the creator of this wonderful collection, has worked tirelessly to research the coins to the highest level. He not only managed to track down some unknown provenances which have certainly added value to the coins, but he has also enriched the catalogues with his wonderfully detailed and interesting notes on the collectors and coin dealers of the past.

In the afterword of this catalogue, Hadrien refers to a friend who advised him to be careful with gossip. The friend was obviously myself and I feel that it is important to explain this comment.

The history of coin collecting is a fascinating field and the stories and episodes associated with it add flavour and colour to this world. Unfortunately, however, it is extremely difficult to establish where to draw the line between the truth and the gossip or, worse still, the allegations, especially when the source is second hand information or even worse, the internet.

There is a famous Latin proverb “*verba volant scripta manent*” that means spoken words fly away, written words remain. I was born into the art world and my father learnt from a great numismatist of the past who in turn was mentored by another great coin dealer. This has led to me being told hundreds of different numismatic anecdotes, some very amusing, covering more than one hundred years of collecting, but not all can be published in a catalogue since I feel the central characters have a right to privacy, even if they are no longer alive.

Unfortunately on today's internet events can be reported falsely or exaggerated without any control or respect for the people involved; not to speak of slander which unfortunately is a problem that reaches much further than numismatics and affects every professional industry. I believe that without appropriate verification, which is often impossible, this information should be completely ignored.

The same applies to revealing the identity of some collectors of the past who decided to remain anonymous at the time their coins were sold. Furthermore, I have always maintained that coins speak for their collectors and not the other way around. There have been great heads of industry and some exceptional personalities who, despite their immense wealth, have built completely anonymous collections and, at the same time, there are normal people, gifted with great taste, who instead put together quite extraordinary collections.

Let's now move on to what we are really interested in: the coins!

This last part of George's collection is by no means inferior to parts I and II and highlights not only his great taste, but also his ability to appreciate coins that, while perhaps not perfectly conserved, are of great rarity or historical interest.

The Roman Republican part is enriched with some exceedingly rare coins with illustrious provenances such as the aureus of Vibius Varus (lot 5) which is not only in an excellent state of preservation but also offers an unusually fine portrait of Apollo for the issue. This is followed by two extremely rare and fascinating aurei: the first issued by Brutus (lot 6) and the second issued for Marc Antony (lot 7) by one of his most loyal and skilled generals, Ahenobarbus.

The first century features a beautiful series of coins, most of which boast prestigious provenances such as the aureus of Claudius (lot 13) and one of the best-preserved aurei of Domitian in existence from the famous Boscoreale hoard (lot 23).

The second century opens with three exceedingly rare and historically significant coins of Hadrian: the first representing Hadrian and Trajan (lot 28) and in an exceptional state of preservation; the second depicts Hadrian with a youthful portrait (lot 29) and, although not perfect, in unusually good condition for this type of coin; the third (lot 30), represents Hadrian on its obverse and Plotina and Trajan on its reverse. Despite its state of preservation, the latter is, in our opinion, the rarest and most interesting of the three. Continuing through the second century, it is also worth noting two exceptional aurei of Faustina II (lots 42 and 43) and an extraordinary series of aurei of Commodus (lots 48-53).

Perhaps the most impressive part of the auction is the series of aurei of the Severans; all of the coins belonging to this series are exceptionally well-preserved. Highlights include: the first two aurei of Septimius Severus (lots 56 and 57), both in a perfect state of conservation; the three dynastic aurei (lots 58, 59 and 61), which are not only beautifully conserved, but the first two of which also have very old and prestigious provenances. In the same series, the two aurei of Caracalla and the one of Geta marry extremely interesting reverses with wonderful portraits. The aurei of Macrinus and Diadumenian (lots 65 and 66) are among the finest known for these rulers and both boast very prestigious provenances.

The end of the third century is also admirably well-represented with a series of superb aurei including: a magnificent aureus of Salonina (lot 82), perhaps the best specimen known for this empress; a spectacular aureus of Aurelian (lot 83); a wonderful aureus of Florian (lot 87); two aurei of Probus with attractive helmeted portraits of exceptional style (lots 88 and 89) and a very rare aureus of Carinus (lot 94) where the emperor is depicted with a half bust.

The fourth century is by no less impressive with a wonderful series of aurei of the tetrarchy featuring four exceptional aurei of Maximianus Herculus (lots 105-109).

The auction closes with two superb front-facing aurei of Licinius I and Licinus II (lots 116 and 117), which are among the best specimens known and boast exceptional preservation and portraits of masterly style.

This sale marks the end of the series of auctions dedicated to the George W. La Borde Collection. We are sure that this collection will long be remembered as one of the best collections formed between the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century and that it will in the future rival the great collections of the past that George found so fascinating.

Enjoy!





## The George W. La Borde Collection of Roman Aurei - Part III



- 1 60 Asses circa 211-207, AV 3.27 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.

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

6'000

### Provenance

Privately sold by Robert Kokotailo – Calgary Coin Gallery in June 2005.



- 2 **C. Julius Caesar and A. Hirtius.** Aureus 46, AV 7.30 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 Imperatores 56. Calicó 37c. Crawford 466/1.

In exceptional condition for the issue. Struck on a very broad flan and good extremely fine

8'000

### Provenance

Sold by Kunst und Münzen AG, auction 15, Lugano, 8-10 December 1975, lot 491.

Privately sold by Robert Kokotailo – Calgary Coin Gallery in January 2003.

Julius Caesar's defeat of his opponents from 60 to late 47 BC was celebrated by a quadruple triumph in Rome. His battle-hardened legions had first spent eleven years in the conquest of Gaul. This was followed by a march on Rome to declare the senate mandate that Caesar step down as invalid and unacceptable. After a short time the legions marched overland to Spain to defeat the Pompeian legions stationed there – made famous by the first part of the famous quote "fighting an army without a general". After victory in Spain the troops marched back through Rome to Brundisium where they then travelled across the sea to face the "general without an army" as they defeated Pompey at Pharsalus. They chased Pompey to Egypt only to find that he had already been assassinated. While there, Caesar dealt with the family troubles between Cleopatra VII and Ptolemy XIII, placing Cleopatra firmly on the throne. On his way back to Rome, with legions in tow, Caesar travelled through Pontus to put down a rebellion by Pharnaces (The battle with the famous quote "Vini, Vidi, Vici" – I came, I saw I conquered). After a short stint back at Rome, the legions were again moved to battle in North Africa to face down Cato and Scipio. It was after the African campaign that Caesar finally returned to Rome to get what he felt was due him for years – a triumph!

The triumph had four days of parades: first the day for the conquest of Gaul; followed by the defeat of Ptolemy XIII; then the defeat of Pharnaces; and lastly the defeat of Juba. It must be noted that the Romans did not celebrate defeating other Romans so the contrived intentions of the Egypt and Africa campaigns are of interest.

As part of this grand celebration there were many other commitments to also settle. Caesar had promised his troops a great deal and now that his victory seemed secure he was required to pay up. His promise was for 5,000 denarii to each legionary and 10,000 denarii to each centurion. The financial needs were enormous. It is clear from the number of specimens known of the above aureus type that a large mintage in gold (one aureus equaled 25 denarii at the time) was used to supplement the payout. The highly variable nature of the obverse female head is a testament to how hastily the mint produced these coins. There may not be another gold issue from the Roman Empire that has ever been this casually engraved and produced.



- 3 **C. Julius Caesar with L. Munatius Plancus.** Quinarius circa 45 BC, AV 4.04 g. C·CAES – DIC·TER Draped bust of Victory r. Rev. L·PLANC – PRAEF·VRB Jug. Babelon Julia 20 and Munatia 3. C 32. Bahrfeldt 22.9 (this coin). Sydenham 1020. Treasure of Ancient Coinage, December 1996, ANS / New York International Numismatic Convention Exhibit Catalogue, p. 77, 71 (this coin). Sear Imperators 61 (this coin illustrated). King 68. Woytek Arma et Nummi p. 588. RBW 1666 (this coin). Crawford 475/2.

Extremely rare, among the finest of very few specimens known. Struck on a very broad flan and with a lovely light reddish tone. Good very fine 20'000

**This coin published:**

Roberto Russo and Alberto De Falco, The RBW collection of Roman Republican coins, Zurich 2013, pp. 350-351, 1666.

**Provenance**

Fedor Ivanovich Prowe (1872-1932) Collection, sold by Adolph Hess, Frankfurt, auction 137, 20 May 1912 sqq., lot 1101, to Hess.

Sold by Münzen & Medaillen, Basel, auction XVII, 2-4 December 1957, lot 307, to Mario Ratto (1906-1990).

Sold by Hess-Leu, Lucerne, auction 22, 4 April 1963, lot 136, to Bank Leu.

Horst-Ulbo Bauer Collection, sold by Münzen & Medaillen, Basel, auction 52, 19-20 June 1975, lot 463, to Bernth Ahlström – Galerie des Monnaies.

Richard B. Witschonke (1945-2015) Collection, sold by Classical Numismatic Group, New York, auction Triton III, 30 November-1 December 1999, lot 823.

"European Nobleman" Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica Zürich auction 24, 5 December 2002, lot 2.

Randy Haviland (1949-2012) Collection, sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction X, 13 January 2013, lot 257.



- 4 **L. Cestius and C. Norbanus.** Aureus circa 43 BC, AV 8.04 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 and Norbana 3. Sydenham 1153. Bahrfeldt 24. Sear Imperators 195. RBW 1716. Crawford 491/1a. Calicó 3.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Unusually well struck and extremely fine / good extremely fine 8'000

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Robert Kokotailo – Calgary Coin Gallery.



5

- 5 **C. Vibius Varus.** Aureus 42, AV 7.61 g. Laureate head of Apollo r. Rev. C·VIBIVS – VARVS Venus standing l., looking at herself in mirror held in l. hand; behind her, column. Babelon Vibia 27. Bahrfeldt 37. Sydenham 1137. Sear Imperators 190 (this coin illustrated). RBW 1738. Crawford 494/34. Calicó 33a.  
Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A portrait of unusually fine style struck on a very broad flan and with a lovely light reddish tone. About extremely fine 25'000

#### Provenance

Sir Edward Herbert Bunbury (1811-1895) Collection, sold by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, London, auction 10-14 June 1895, lot 16.  
H. Osborne O'Hagan, Esq. (1853-1930) Collection, sold by Sotheby's, Wilkinson & Hodge, London, 13-22 June 1908, lot 15.  
Mrs Valette Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuardent, Paris, 16-17 June 1924, lot 75.  
Raymundo Ottoni de Castro Maya (1894-1968) Collection, sold by Emile Bourgey, Paris, auction 18 November 1957, lot 253 to Bank Leu.  
Sold by P. & P. Santamaria, Rome, Fixed Price List 7 October 1959, lot 87.  
Offered by Münzen & Medaillen, Basel, auction XXVIII, 19-20 June 1964, lot 247.  
Athos D. Moretti (1907-1993) Collection, sold by Numismatic Fine Arts, Beverly Hills, auction XXII, 1 June 1989, lot 14, to N.F.A.  
Sold by Sotheby's, New York, auction 9 December 1993, lot 529.  
Chatsworth Collection, sold by Freeman & Sear, Los Angeles, mail-bid sale I, 10 March 1995, lot 307.  
Leo Benz (1906-1996) Collection, sold by Numismatik Lanz, Munich, auction 88, 23 November 1998, lot 726.  
Sold by Fritz Rudolf Künker, Osnabrück, auction 97, 7 March 2005, lot 1149.  
Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 52, 7 October 2009, lot 289.  
Randy Haviland (1949-2012) Collection, sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction X, 13 January 2013, lot 318.





6

- 6 **M. Junius Brutus with Cornelius Lentulus Spinther.** Aureus, mint moving with Brutus 43-42, AV 8.01 g. Axe, *culullus* and knife; below, BRVTVS. Rev. Jug and *lituus*; below, LENTVLVS / SPINT. Babelon Junia 40 and Cornelia 70. C —. Bahrfeldt 61.3 and pl. VII, 11 (this coin illustrated). Sydenham 1309. Sear Imperators 197. Calicó 59a (this coin). Biaggi 36 (this coin). RBW 1765 (this coin). Crawford 500/6.

Of the highest rarity, only six specimens known of which only two are in private hands. Several light scratches and marks on fields and on edge, otherwise good very fine / very fine 75'000

#### Provenance

Apostolo Zeno (1668-1750) Collection, later in the collection of the Abbey of St. Florian in Austria, sold by Dorotheum, Vienna, auction, 8-9 June 1956, lot 2935.

Privately sold by Herbert Adolf Cahn – Münzen und Medaillen AG in July 1956 for CHF 3600.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, sold to Bank Leu and Marco Ratto in 1978.

Nelson Bunker Hunt (1926-2014) Collection, sold by Sotheby's, Zürich, auction (part III), 19-20 June 1991, lot 670.

Richard B. Witschonke (1945-2015) Collection, sold by Classical Numismatic Group with Freeman & Sear with Numismatica Ars Classica, New York, auction Triton III, 30 November 1999, lot 841.

Barry Feirstein Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 45, 2 April 2008, lot 34.

"A Student and his Mentor" Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 70, 16 May 2013, lot 181.

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

In all likelihood this aureus belongs to 42 B.C., a year of turmoil in the Roman world. Though an issue of Brutus, this piece was produced by P. Cornelius Lentulus Spinther, a legate of Cassius. The designs are emblematic of both issuers: the axe, *culullus* and knife represent the pontificate of Brutus, and the jug and *lituus* recall the augurate which Spinther assumed in 57 B.C. (the same year in which the man presumed to be his father, L.C. Lentulus Spinther, was ordinary consul).

Spinther was quaestor in 44, and in 43 he stood for proquaestor pro praetore in Asia before becoming a legatus for Cassius. Essentially nothing is known of Spinther's personality, but the coinage suggests that he squandered no opportunity for self-promotion, as he also used his personal reverse type on a substantial issue of denarii that he struck for Cassius.



- 7 **Marcus Antonius with Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus.** Aureus, mint moving with M. Antonius (Corcyra ?) Summer 40, AV 7.88 g. ANT·IMP· – III·VIR·R·P·C Bare head of M. Antony r.; behind, *lituus*. Rev. CN·DOMIT·AHENOBARBUS·IMP· Prow r.; above twelve-pointed star. Babelon Antonia 55 and Domitia 22. C 9. Bahrfeldt 86. Sydenham 1178. Sear Imperators 257. Mazzini 9 (this coin). Biaggi 49 (this coin). RBW 1804. Crawford 521/1. Calicó 82 (this coin).

Of the highest rarity, only four specimens known of which only two are in private hands.

A very interesting portrait struck on a full flan, good very fine

50'000

#### Provenance

Giuseppe Mazzini (1883-1961) Collection, bought by Mario Ratto.

Privately sold by Mario Ratto (1906-1990) in 1958 for 700 000 Lire.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, sold to Bank Leu and Ratto in 1978.

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 45, 26 May 1988, lot 301.

"A Student and his Mentor" Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 70, 16 May 2013, lot 190.

Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus ("bronze beard") was one of the most prominent naval commanders of the Imperial age. His first coinage was an independent issue of 41 B.C. as Imperator that consisted of aurei and denarii bearing personal types. His next was struck in 40 B.C. for Marc Antony, whose political movement he had joined. Though the obverse of this aureus is dedicated to Antony, the reverse is unashamedly personal, bearing Ahenobarbus' name and title and the prow of a war galley, a clear reference to his role as naval commander. Ahenobarbus had a most adventurous career, much of which was spent in the service of Antony. Though he had opposed Julius Caesar at Pharsalus, he was pardoned, only to then be named in Octavian's proscriptions of 43 B.C. and thus joined the cause of Brutus and Cassius. He patrolled the Adriatic for the Republicans and, together with Murcus, the naval commander for Cassius, defeated the Caesarean admiral Calvinus at sea. It was for this victory early in 42 B.C. that Ahenobarbus was hailed Imperator, for it prevented additional supplies and men from reaching the main forces of Antony and Octavian in Illyria. After Brutus and Cassius were defeated at Philippi in October, 42 B.C., Ahenobarbus had to resort to piracy in the Adriatic to maintain his fleet. He did so until 40 B.C., when he allied himself with Marc Antony at a moment when war with Octavian appeared imminent; this aureus appears to have been struck at this critical moment. However, war was avoided when Antony and Octavian came to terms with the Treaty of Brundisium, and Ahenobarbus was then appointed governor of Bithynia. He served Antony for nearly a decade until, finally, he defected to his old enemy Octavian just prior to the battle of Actium. Though on the winning side, Ahenobarbus did not long survive that great contest, dying of natural causes late in 31, or early in 30 B.C.



- 8 **Marcus Antonius and C. Caesar Octavianus with M. Barbatius.** Aureus, mint moving with M. Antonius 41, AV 8.01 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 and Barbatia 1. C 7. Bahrfeldt 77. Sydenham 1180. Sear Imperators 242. RBW 1797. Crawford 517/1a. Calicó 109.

Rare. Two wonderful portraits of superb style struck on a full flan. Extremely fine

35'000

#### Provenance

Sir Arthur John Evans (1851-1941) Collection, sold by Ars Classica, Lucerne, auction XVII, 3 October 1934 sqq., lot 682.

Sold by Karl Kress – Otto Helbing Nachf., Munich, auction 129, 28 April 1964, lot 427.

Sold by Gorny & Mosch, Munich, auction 211, 4 March 2013, lot 540.



9

- 9 **Q. Voconius Vitulus.** Aureus 40 (?) or later, AV 7.99 g. DIVI·F. Head of Octavian r., slightly bearded; before, *lituus*. Rev. Q·VOCONIVS / S – C Calf walking l.; in exergue, VITVLVS·Q· / DESIG. Babelon Voconia 4 and Julia 124. C 547. Bahrfeldt 101.4 (this coin). Sydenham 1131. Sear Imperators 330. Biaggi 75 (this coin). RBW 1812. Crawford 526/3. Calicó 155 (this coin).

Exceedingly rare, only the seventh specimen known of this interesting issue, of which only three are in private hands. Struck on a very broad flan and with a lovely light reddish tone. Very fine

25'000

#### Provenance

Auguste de Belfort (1824-1907) Collection, sold by Henri Hoffmann, Paris, 20-25 February 1888, lot 372.

Hyman Montagu (1844-1895) Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuardent, Paris, auction 20-28 April 1896, lot 68, to Henri Hoffmann (1823-1897).

Consul Eduard Friedrich Weber (1830-1907) Collection, sold by J. Hirsch, Munich, auction XXIV, 10 May 1909 sqq., lot 934, to Jacob Hirsch (1874-1955).

Fedor Ivanovich Prowe (1872-1932) Collection, sold by Adolph Hess, Frankfurt, auction 137, 20 May 1912 sqq., lot 1537.

Privately sold by Herbert Cahn – Münzen und Medaillen AG in 1954 for CHF 3500.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, sold to Bank Leu and Marco Ratto in 1978.

Soldy by H. D. Rauch, Vienna, auction 32, 16 January 1984, lot 552.

JD Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 72, 16 May 2013, lot 515.

In 40 B.C., when this aureus is believed to have been struck, Octavian had returned from the Battle of Philippi and began the thankless task of settling some 40,000 veterans on their promised lands. As Octavian acquired land in Italy by force, his popularity suffered, and Marc Antony's wife Fulvia and brother Lucius Antonius preyed upon his misfortune with political attacks that stirred the veterans of Antony against those of Octavian. In 41 B.C. Lucius led his brother's veterans against Octavian, who quickly got the upper hand and forced Lucius to take refuge in Perusia. Thus began the Perusine War (41-40 B.C.). It had the potential to spark a new civil war, but was neutralized when the threat of starvation caused Lucius to surrender in February of 40 B.C. However, Antony was concerned by this event, and became even more alarmed when his wife and brother died soon afterward and Octavian seized power in Gaul upon the death of Antony's governor. Antony sailed to Brundisium to settle matters with Octavian in October of that year. The prospect for reconciliation was greatly reduced when Antony was refused entry to the harbour by Octavian's commander, to which Antony responded with a siege of Brundisium. Fortunately, the triumvirs settled their differences. The resulting pact confirmed Antony's control of the East and Octavian's control of the West, and theoretically bound the men through the marriage of Antony to Octavian's sister, Octavia. This rare aureus of the moneyer Q. Voconius Vitulus was struck in the midst of these events. His coins bear on their obverse the portrait of Octavian or the deified Julius Caesar, making it clear where his allegiance lay. Though the inscriptions inform us that Vitulus held the status of quaestor designate, nothing else is known of his life. Some of his issues – including the aureus offered here – show a *lituus* beside the portrait, an indication that both Caesar and Octavian had held the augurship. The reverse type of a standing calf is strictly personal, being a punning allusion to the cognomen Vitulus, which means calf.

## The Roman Empire

The mint is Roma unless otherwise stated

Tiberius, 14 – 37



10

- 10 Aureus, Lugdunum 14-37, AV 7.83 g. TI CAESAR DIVI – AVG F AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF – MAXIM Pax-Livia figure seated r., holding inverted spear and branch. C 15. BMC 39 var. RIC 27 var. CBN 22. Calicó 305a (this coin).

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

10'000

### This coin published:

Sabine Bourgey & Georges Depeyrot, *L'Empire romain*, vol. I, Paris 1994, p. 59, no. 173.

### Provenance

Jean Faure (1862-1942) Collection, sold by Etienne Bourgey, Paris, 10-11 December 1923, lot 65.

"Distinguished American Collection", sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 52, 15 May 1991, lot 158.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 52, 7 October 2009, lot 319.

The aurei and denarii of Tiberius with the 'Pax seated' reverse are among the most familiar coins of antiquity, at the very least because the denarius is usually described as the 'Tribute Penny' of the Bible. The type was one of three used by Augustus in the final year of his life, 13–14, and was adopted by Tiberius, who struck it as the principal type of his reign. The figure on the reverse – a seated female holding a sceptre and branch – certainly must be Pax if it is meant to represent a deity or personification, as her attributes meet that requirement perfectly. More importantly: does 'Pax' represent Livia? For the answer we might look at later coinage that might have been designed with an eye to the past. Galba provides ideal evidence, as he honoured his old friend and patroness Livia (then diva) to help legitimise his own principate. The fact that Galba struck aurei and denarii with the deified Livia standing and the accompanying inscription DIVA AVGVSTA is enough to establish the connection. However, to learn more about the seated 'Pax' type of Augustus and Tiberius, we must look to Galba's sestertii. There we find a type with an identical seated 'Pax' with the inscription AVGVSTA in the exergue. Kraay (*Aes Coinage of Galba*, NNM 133, p. 58) rightly showed no hesitation in identifying the seated figure as Livia – not even as Pax-Livia. The combination of Galba's explicitly labelled aurei and denarii, and his remarkable sestertius, must lead us to conclude that the 'Pax' on the coins of Augustus and Tiberius represented Livia, as these coins still would have been current – even common – during Galba's reign, and he no doubt chose to depict Livia in the 'seated Pax' format because it would have been instantly understood by the public.



## Gaius, 37 – 41



11

- 11 Aureus 37-38, AV 7.69 g. C CAESAR·AVG·GERM·P·M·TR·POT Laureate head of Gaius r. Rev. DIVVS·AVG – PATER·PATRIAE Radiate head of Augustus r. C 1. BMC 16. RIC 15. CBN 19. Calicó 332. Very rare. Two attractive portraits struck on a full flan, minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine 40'000

From the Devonshire family Collection, likely acquired by William Cavendish 2nd Duke of Devonshire (1672-1729), sold to Christie's, London, 18-24 March 1844, lot 359 or lot 360 (identical descriptions). Fortunately, the 1895 Bunbury sale-catalogue recorded that this specimen is from the 1844 Devonshire auction. Unfortunately, this prestigious collection contained two examples, described similarly and both dispersed in the trade, which cannot nowadays be distinguished. Lot 359 sold for £6/12/- (no buyer's premium) to William Till the younger (d. 8 April 1844), and it was sold again by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, London, 6-11 January 1845, lot 116, for £1/10/- (no buyer's premium), to the London jewellery and coin-dealer Jakob Wolf / Henry Charles Dantziger. Dantziger was listed in a 1839 directory as a "curiosity dealer" at 29 Wardour Street, Soho – London, which obviously reminds one of Charles Dicken's novel "The Old Curiosity Shop" (1840). This coin did not reappear in the 1850 auction of the collection of Dantziger's most notable client, the 2nd Earl Amherst. Lot 360 sold for £5/2/6 (no buyer's premium) to Harry Osborn Cureton (c.1785-1858). This coin does not appear in either of the two auctions by Sotheby of this dealer's inventory, on 17-25 February 1851 and on 10-11 January 1859, so this coin was likely sold privately. Either example could have later entered the Bunbury collection.

### Provenance

Sir Edward Herbert Bunbury (1811-1895) Collection, sold by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, London, auction 10-14 June 1895, lot 560 and pl. III, 4, to Hankin.

Arthur William Hankin (c.1837-1899) Collection, sold Sotheby, London, 29-31 March 1900, lot 75, to Till.

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67 2012, lot 117. Ex HSA 30059.

## Claudius, 41 – 54



12

- 12 Aureus 41-42, AV 7.72 g. TI·CLAVD·CAESAR·AVG·GERM·P·M·TR·P Laureate head r. Rev. EX·S·C / OB CIVES / SERVATOS within oak wreath. C 34. BMC 17. Von Kaenel 113. RIC 15. CBN 32 (Lugdunum). Calicó 356. A bold portrait struck on a full flan, several minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine 12'000

### Provenance

Privately sold by Françoise Vinchon on 20 September 2006.



- 13 Aureus circa 46-47, AV 7.69 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P VI IMP XI Laureate head r. Rev. PACI – AVGVSTAE Pax-Nemesis advancing r., holding in l. hand caduceus pointing at snake and raising with r. hand fold of drapery below chin. C 57. BMC 39. Von Kaenel 623. RIC 38. CBN 49. Calicó 367.  
Rare and in exceptional state of preservation. A magnificent portrait well struck in high relief and a lovely reddish tone. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 30'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Nummorum Auctiones, London, auction 10, 24-25 March 1998, lot 766.

Sold by Classical Numismatic Group, Lancaster, the Classical Numismatic Review 23, September 1998, lot 65.

William H. Williams Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 31, 26 October 2005, lot 22.

By the time the emperor Claudius came to the throne after the murder of his depraved nephew Caligula, he had 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.



- 14 Aureus 45, AV 7.77 g. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M T R P IIII Laureate head r. Rev. IMPER RECEPT inscribed on praetorian camp, at the door of which stands a soldier with a standard. C 43. BMC 23. Von Kaenel 516 (this coin illustrated). RIC 25. CBN 43. Calicó 361.  
Very rare. Struck on a full flan and complete, minor edge marks, otherwise about extremely fine 12'500

#### Provenance

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 119. Ex HSA 22215.

The accession of Claudius might best be described as an unplanned coup, for he was swept into office by a praetorian guard that believed he was an ideal replacement for Caligula. Just as it had insulated him from harm for the previous five decades, his physical disabilities and reputation for mental ineptness worked in his favour under these dire circumstances. For Claudius this must have been an alarming moment, for he just as easily could have been executed on account of his blood relation and close association with Caligula. Instead, he was hailed emperor by the praetorian guardsmen, who made certain the senate supported their decision. As a result, Claudius dedicated some of his early coinages to the praetorian guardsmen to whom he owed his principate. Previously, Caligula had acted similarly by striking a brass sestertius depicting himself addressing the praetorians. This particular aureus depicts Claudius standing safely within the praetorian camp, the walls of which are inscribed IMPER RECEPT. A companion issue in gold shows Claudius clasping hands with a praetorian (presumably the praetorian prefect).

**Nero Augustus, 54 – 68**



15

- 15 Aureus 60-61, AV 7.69 g. NERO CAESAR·AVG IMP Bare head r. Rev. PONTIF MAX TR – P VII COS IIII P·P Virtus, helmeted and in military attire, standing l, holding *parazonium* and sceptre; r. foot on pile of arms; at his sides, EX – SC. C 219. BMC 27. RIC 25. CBN 36. Calicó 429.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Struck in high relief with a light reddish tone, almost invisible marks, otherwise extremely fine 12'500

**Provenance**

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 123. Ex HSA 22209.



16

- 16 Aureus 64-65, AV 7.28 g. NERO CAESAR – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IVPPITER – CVSTOS Jupiter seated l. on throne, holding thunderbolt and long sceptre. C 118. BMC 67. RIC 52. CBN 214. Calicó 412b.

A superb portrait of fine style struck in high relief. Wonderful reddish tone and extremely fine / good extremely fine 20'000

**Provenance**

Possibly from the Boscoreale hoard of 1895.

Sold by Münzen & Medaillen, Basel, auction 17, 2 December 1957, lot 390.

Ladislav von Hoffmann (1927-2014) Collection, sold by Sotheby's, Zürich, auction 5 July 1995, lot 103.

Sold by Spink & Son, London, auction 1012, 2 December 2010, lot 1306.

**Otho, 15th January – April 69.**



- 17 Aureus 15 January-Mid April 69, AV 7.26 g. IMP M OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P Bare head r. Rev. SECV – RI – TAS P R Securitas standing l., holding wreath and sceptre. C 16. BMC 13. RIC 7. CBN 7. Calicó 531a. Very rare. A very attractive portrait of fine style, two minor scuffs, otherwise good very fine 12'500

**Provenance**

Michael L. J. Winckless Collection, privately sold through Spink & Son in October 2006.

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

**Vespasian, 69 – 79**



- 18 Aureus circa 69-70, AV 7.32 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. COS ITER – TR POT Pax seated l., holding branch and caduceus. C –. BMC 23. CBN 17. RIC 28. Calicó 607. An unusual portrait of fine struck in high relief, extremely fine / about extremely fine 10'000

**Provenance**

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 130. Ex HSA 22297.





- 19 Aureus, Tarraco (?) 70, AV 7.35 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. CAESAR AVG F COS CAESAR AVG F PR Confronted bare heads of Titus facing l. and Domitian facing r. C 4. BMC 351A note. RIC 1301. CBN –. Calicó 715a (Rome).

Extremely rare. Three unusual and interesting "Spanish" portraits, minor edge marks, otherwise good very fine

12'500

**This coin published:**

Sabine Bourgey & Georges Depeyrot, *L'Empire romain*, vol. I, Paris 1994, p. 126, no. 422.

**Provenance**

Chabenat Collection, sold by Etienne Bourgey, Paris, 14-15 December 1911, lot 371.

Sir Arthur John Evans (1851-1941) Collection, sold by Ars Classica, Lucerne, auction XVII, 3 October 1934 sqq., lot 737, to Spink & Son.

Paul Tinchant (« Richard J. Graham » 1893-1981) Collection, sold by Jacques Schulman, Amsterdam, auction 243, 8-10 June 1966, lot 1664.

Sold by Fritz Rudolf Künker, Osnabrück, auction 204, 12 May 2012, lot 580.



- 20 Aureus, Lugdunum circa 70, AV 7.33 g. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG TR P Laureate head r. Rev. COS ITER – TR POT Neptune standing l., r. foot on prow, holding dolphin in extended r. hand and trident in l. C 92. BMC 374. RIC 1108. CBN 290. Calicó 611.

Struck on a broad flan and about extremely fine

10'000

**Provenance**

Trivulzio family Collection, acquired between 1745 and 1769 by Don Carlo Trivulzio (1715-1789, his manuscript catalogue no. XXVI-3), sold en-bloc in 1935 to Pietro Accorsi (1891-1982), by whom supposedly resold en-bloc to Pietro Antonio Gariazzo (1866-1943), sold by Santamaria, auction [33], Milan, 24 January 1938, lot 369, to Cahn.

Sold by Numismatik Lanz München, Munich, auction 58, 21 November 1991, lot 516.

Sold by Numismatics Fine Arts, Beverly Hills, auction 30, 8 December 1992, lot 230.

Sold by Classical Numismatic Group with Freeman & Sear with Numismatica Ars Classica, auction Triton I, New York, 2-3 December 1997, lot 1357.

"European Nobleman" Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 24, 5 December 2002, lot 46.

Both historians and citizens openly criticised Vespasian - the son of a man who made a fortune as a tax collector in Asia, and later as a Swiss banker - for his stinginess, but this proved to be an essential quality for an emperor in his troubled times. Suetonius (Vesp 16.3) reports that Vespasian claimed he needed 400 million aurei (10 billion denarii) to "...put the country back on its feet again". As a result of his close attention to finance, Vespasian struck aurei in large quantities, and unlike most of his predecessors, he employed a wide variety of reverse types. For generations researchers have recognised that many of Vespasian's reverse types recall types from earlier reigns, most especially those from the age of Augustus. Attempts have been made to connect his 'Augustan' types with the centenaries of the Battle of Actium (ending in 70) and the 'foundation' of the empire (ending in 74), but all seem to have failed, as the relevant types are strewn throughout Vespasian's ten-year reign. It is perhaps better to view his recycling of types as a political strategy favoured by Vespasian and Titus, but subsequently abandoned by Domitian. In this case we have a depiction of the sea-god Neptune that certainly is derived from Octavian's pre-Imperial coinage struck in commemoration of Actium.



- 21 Aureus, Lugdunum 71, AV 7.22 g. IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M TR P COS III Laureate head r. Rev. PACI – AVGUSTI Pax-Nemensis advancing r., raising skirt and pointing caduceus to serpent at her feet. C 283. BMC 400. RIC 1130. CBN 303. Giard Lyon 20. Calicó 655.  
A wonderful portrait and a superb reddish tone, extremely fine / good extremely fine 15'000

#### Provenance

Possibly from the Boscoreale hoard of 1895.

Sold by Frank Sternberg and Giorgio Apparuti, Zürich, auction X, 25-26 November 1980, lot 310.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 78, 26 May 2014, lot 881.

#### Titus caesar, 69 – 79



- 22 Aureus 77-78, AV 7.31 g. T CAESAR VESPASIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. ANNONA – AVG Annona seated l., holding cornucopiae. C 16. BMC Vespasian 316. RIC Vespasian 971. CBN Vespasian 278 (these dies). Calicó 726. A bold portrait of fine style struck on a very broad flan and a lovely light reddish tone. Good extremely fine 18'000

#### Provenance

Possibly from the Boscoreale hoard of 1895.

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 7, 9 May 1973, lot 358.

Margaretha Ley (1933-1992) Collection, sold by Numismatik Lanz, Munich, auction 70, 21 November 1994, lot 167.

Michael L. J. Winckless Collection, privately sold through Spink & Son in 2006.

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

## Domitian caesar, 69 – 81



- 23 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 820. Biaggi 398 (this coin).

A magnificent and incredibly detailed portrait of superb style and an enchanting reddish tone. Virtually as struck and Fdc 50'000

### Provenance

From the Boscoreale hoard of 1895.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Mario Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 78, 26 May 2014, lot 903.

The Italian peninsula had been occupied long before the hills of Rome were home to a large population during the Iron Age. Numerous people had lived in the region throughout the Bronze Age, as perhaps best defined by the 'Apennine culture' that flourished from around 1800 to 1200 B.C. It is now believed that by 900 B.C. distinct cultural identities had been established throughout Italy, and that the first large settlements in Latium had arisen sometime in the 9th century B.C. Extensive urbanization followed in the 7th and 6th Centuries.

Though modern scholars have expressed an interest in both factual and mythological explanations of Rome's origins, the ancient Romans indulged only in the latter. Archaeology was a science not yet born, and in Roman eyes the history of their state began with the mythological circumstances of its foundation in 753 B.C.

Even so, the Romans recognised that the hills of Rome had been settled long before 753 B.C., starting with a certain Evander, an Arcadian who had established a city on the Palatine Hill prior even to the Trojan War. Most mythological traditions suggest there was a gap between that earliest settlement and what would become the city of Rome. The founder of the city, Romulus, belonged to a royal family that traced its origins to the Trojan War hero Aeneas and had long ruled the mythical city of Alba Longa in the Alban Hills.

Though Romulus and his twin brother Remus were of noble blood, their birth was no cause for celebration as their mother, Rhea Silvia, was a Vestal Virgin. Much was at stake with their birth since Rhea Silvia's father, King Numitor, earlier had been deposed by his brother Amilius, and the new-born twins raised the spectre of political rivalry. Amilius ordered the twins drowned, but they survived and washed ashore on the bank of the Tiber at the Palatine Hill. Upon landing they were suckled by a she-wolf and taken into the care of shepherds.

Only by the time they were young men and had taken up a life of brigandry did the twins learn of their noble heritage. After this revelation they led an assault on Alba Longa in which they deposed Amilius and restored their grandfather Numitor to the throne. The brothers then led a group of colonists to the site of their landing as infants, at the Palatine Hill, and with much toil founded a city that one day would be home to more than a million people.

Their achievement, however, was marked with tragedy when Romulus killed Remus, leaving Romulus as the eponymous founder of the city and its first king. When building the city Remus wanted to name it Remuria and Romulus preferred Roma, which led to a quarrel. In one version of the tale they left the decision to the tutelary gods of the countryside. The signs of the augury were interpreted differently by supporters of each brother and a combat ensued in which Remus was killed. An alternative tradition suggests the murder was an act of vengeance after Remus mocked Romulus by leaping over the half-built walls of their new settlement.



- 24 Aureus 77-78, AV 7.49 g. CAESAR AVG F – DOMITIANVS Laureate head r. Rev. CE – RES AVGVST Ceres standing l., holding corn ears in r. hand and sceptre in l. C 29. BMC Vespasian 322. RIC Vespasian 975. CBN 283. Faces of Power 70 (this coin). Calicó 815a (this coin).

A very attractive portrait struck in high relief on a very broad flan. Minor edge marks, otherwise good extremely fine 18'000

#### Provenance

Enrico Caruso (1873-1921) Collection, sold by Cesare & Ercole Canessa, Naples, 28 June 1923, lot 265.

Victor Adda (1885-1965) Collection, sold by Christie, Manson & Woods Ltd., London, 9 October 1984, lot 28.

Sold by Numismatics Fine Arts, Beverly Hills, auction 22, 1 June 1989, lot 47.

Sold by Numismatics Fine Arts, Beverly Hills, auction 30, 8 December 1992, lot 246.

Sold by Anton Tkalec AG, Zurich, auction 28 October 1994, lot 195.

Sold by H. D. Rauch, Vienna, auction 56, 5 February 1996, lot 303.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 52, 7 October 2009, lot 390.

Sold by Maison Palombo, Marseille, auction 10, 27 November 2011, lot 2.

#### Domitian augustus, 81 – 96



- 25 Aureus 90-91, AV 7.44 g. DOMITIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. GERMANICVS COS XV Minerva, helmeted and draped, standing l., holding thunderbolt and spear; at her l. side, shield. C 151. BMC 171. RIC 697. CBN 161. Calicó 841 (this coin). Biaggi 409 (this coin).

Rare. A very attractive portrait of fine style perfectly struck and centred on a full flan. Good extremely fine 20'000

#### Provenance

Henry Platt Hall (1863-1949) Collection, sold by Glendining's & Co, London, 16-21 November 1950, lot 1244.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 30, 28 April 1982, lot 341.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 7, 1 March 1994, lot 720.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 51, 5 May 2009, lot 247.

Sold by Maison Palombo, Marseille, auction 10, 27 November 2011, lot 23.



## Trajan, 98 – 117



- 26 Aureus 112-113, AV 7.34 g. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI P P Laureate and draped bust of Trajan r. Rev. DIVVS PATER – TRAIANVS Bare-headed and togate bust of Trajan's father r. C 3. BMC 506 note. RIC 764. CBN 693 (these dies). Woytek 402v (this coin illustrated). Biaggi 461 (this coin). Calicó 1136 (this coin).

Extremely rare and in unusually good condition for this very difficult and interesting issue.

Two attractive portraits well-centred on a full flan and a very pleasant good very fine 25'000

### Provenance

Sir Arthur John Evans (1851-1941) Collection, sold by Naville & Cie, auction III, 16 June 1922, lot 52, to Baldwin.

Colonel Reginald Keble Morcom (1877-1961) Collection, sold by Rodolfo Ratto, Lugano, auction 14, 8-14 February 1928, lot 2668.

Sold by Münzhandlung Basel, Basel 3, 4-5 March 1935, lot 353, to Santamaria.

Alessandro Magnaguti (1887-1966) Collection, sold by Pietro & Pio Santamaria, Rome, 26-28 June 1950, lot 1.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 72, 16 May 2013, lot 636.



- 27 Aureus 117-118, AV 7.08 g. DIVO TRAIANO PARTH·AVG PATRI Laureate and draped bust of Trajan r. Rev. PLOTIN – AE·AVG Draped and diademed but of Plotina r. C Plotina and Trajan 1. BMC 50. RIC Hadrian 29 var (DIVI). Calicó 1141.

Extremely rare. Pierced and skillfully repaired at twelve o'clock on obverse and a light scratch on cheek on obverse, otherwise good very fine

5'000

### Provenance

Viscount Elzéar de Quelen (1852-1887) Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuarent, Paris, 14-26 May 1888, lot 1044.

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 315. Ex HSA 22177.



## Hadrian, 117 – 134



28

- 28 Aureus 117, AV 7.32 g. IMP CAES TRAIAN HADRIANO OPT AVG G D PART Laureate and cuirassed bust of Hadrian r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. DIVO TRAIANO – PATRI AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Trajan r. C 2. BMC 44. RIC 24a (misdescribed). Calicó 1412 (these dies).  
Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, undoubtedly among the finest specimens known. Two magnificent portraits of fine style perfectly struck and centred in high relief and with a delightful reddish tone. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 70'000

This coin is illustrated on the back cover of David R. Sear's, *Roman Coins and Their Value: Vol. II* (London 2002).

### Provenance

Privately sold by Spink & Son in October 2006.

This extraordinary coin fits in the controversial and fascinating theme of Hadrian's adoption by Trajan.; a deed greatly wanted and backed by Plotina and repeatedly postponed by the Emperor, who will consent to the adoption, to the detriment of other claimants to the throne only on his deathbed. On this event two versions have come down to us: the first pretends that the decision of the adoption be ascribed to an actual conviction, albeit belated, of Trajan; the second, instead, suggests a real plot, engineered by Plotina, who would have delayed the spreading of the news of her husband's death, with the intent of arranging documentary evidence substantiating Trajan's free will in adopting Hadrian. Various inferences have been made on the nature of the relationship between Hadrian and Plotina, in fact some have even conjectured that the Empress was in love with her husband's protégé, whom she assisted throughout his reign. Surely she played an instrumental role in the unhappy marriage between Sabina, Trajan's nephew, and Hadrian.

In our opinion this issue must be considered the only one struck by Hadrian as Caesar; in fact, notwithstanding the obverse legend suggesting Trajan to be still alive and hence the issuing authority, in reality we believe the coin to have been struck after the demise of the old Emperor and therefore a ruse devised by Plotina and Hadrian to prove the occurrence of the adoption of the latter by Trajan.



29

- 29 Aureus 132-134, AV 7.15 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Bare youthful head r., *aegis* on l. shoulder. Rev. COS – III P P Hadrian standing l., raising r. hand and holding spear; two standards on l. and one on r. C 485. BMC 530 (these dies). RIC 204b (these dies). Calicó 1239 (these dies).

Very rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue, among the finest specimens known.

An unusual and pleasant juvenile portrait of fine style. About extremely fine

18'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Numismatics Fine art, Beverly Hills, auction 14, 29 November 1984, lot 396.

Bruce Hausman Collection, sold in 1992 through Arnold Saslow – Rare coins & classical arts, Ltd.

Robert O. Ebert (1927-2008) Collection, sold by Stack's Bowers and Poterio, New York, auction 174, 11 January 2013, lot 5029.

When Hadrian became emperor he exhibited a shocking new feature for an emperor: a beard. This was a novelty among the noblemen of Rome, who had been clean-shaven for centuries; beards were for Romans of low status, or for Greeks – especially philosophers and poets. Despite having to overcome centuries of tradition, Hadrian's Greek bearing took hold immediately, and beards remained the fashion for emperors through the fall of the Tetrarchy. Virtually all of Hadrian's portraits show a middle-aged man with a full, closely cropped beard. However, on this aureus we observe a separate category of portrait: a youthful Hadrian with a partial beard that culminates into two tufts of hair at his jaw line which was described by Mattingly and Sydenham as a portrait of "exceptional beauty and distinction". This type has long puzzled scholars, and there has been no general acknowledgment of when or why it was employed. This may be explained by the methods used to date and arrange the coins of Hadrian: there are very few chronological guideposts in his coin inscriptions, so scholars have had to rely on the evolution of inscription formats and the styles of the portraits. This approach has yielded useful conclusions, though seemingly at the expense of a clear understanding of this portrait style. In recent decades this type has been recognized as a distinct category of Hadrianic portraiture. Comparison with sculptures in the round has identified it as Hadrian in the guise of Diomedes, the Trojan War hero who stole the Palladium from Troy, and thus assured a Greek victory in the epic siege. The Palladium reportedly was taken to Italy, either by the Trojan prince Aeneas or by Diomedes, who by one tradition returned it to Aeneas in Italy. The episode had numerous versions by Hadrian's time, but it was a core of the Roman foundation myth and thus was a perfect marriage of this emperor's infatuation with Greece and his dedication to Rome. Hill was probably correct when he described this aureus as having been struck by Antoninus Pius in 138, shortly after Hadrian's death. Most scholars, however, have seen it as a lifetime issue struck c. 132-135. The main problem is that this portrait type is utilized principally (or exclusively) with three different obverse inscriptions and four reverse types (and some of these reverse types are also paired with normal busts). Thus, conventional wisdom would disperse these few coins with the Diomedes portrait into different phases of Hadrian's coinage. But their great rarity and unique character argues for a separate treatment. We must also take into account that the other three reverse types used with this bust comprise a retrospective coinage that focuses on the divine parentage of Hadrian and of Rome. They are: ROMVLO CONDITORI ('Romulus the founder'), Romulus striding r.; VENERI GENETRICI ('Venus who brings forth') Venus standing; and DIVIS PARENTIBVS ('to his parent deities'), busts of Trajan and Plotina. All considered, it seems that the Diomedes-portrait aurei probably were all struck contemporarily, perhaps soon after Hadrian's death as a special issue that, for reasons that remain a mystery, employed different inscriptions and reverse types. The other option is to categorize the Diomedes-portrait aurei by other dating criteria, which would seemingly eliminate any special occasion for the use of this distinctive portrait type.



30

- 30 Aureus 136-138, AV 7.12 g. HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS Bare bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. DIVIS – PARENTIBVS Jugate and draped busts r. of Trajan and Plotina; above star and in r. field, another star. C 1 var. (HADRIANVS AVGVSTVS COS III P P). BMC p. 297 note. RIC 232a var. (HADRIANVS AVGVSTVS COS III P P). Strack 356 (these dies). Biaggi 568 (this coin). Calicó 1416 (this coin).

Exceedingly rare, only the third specimen known of this variety and one of very few of this intriguing and historically important issue. Three wonderful portraits of fine style and a light reddish tone. Very fine

40'000

#### Provenance

Sold Münzen & Medaillen A.G., auction XXI (« cent monnaies romaines en or »), Basel, 19 March 1960, lot 45.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 72, 16 May 2013, lot 651.

These aurei are exceptional in several ways. Not only do they portray Hadrian in a youthful and idealized fashion, but they have reverse types that honour the emperor's adoptive parents Trajan and Plotina. Hill has shown convincingly that they belong to a series which must have been struck early in the reign of Hadrian's successor, Antoninus Pius. The context for this unorthodox series was the new emperor's stubborn efforts to persuade the senate to vote divine honours for Hadrian, by which Antoninus earned his epithet "Pius."

This bust type is distinctive and belongs to a separate category of Hadrianic portraiture: the emperor is fictitiously youthful and wears only a partial beard that culminates in two tufts at his jaw line. Understandably, Mattingly and Sydenham describe this portrait style as being of "exceptional beauty and distinction."

Comparison with sculptures in the round marks this style of portrait as Hadrian in the guise of Diomedes, the Trojan War hero who stole the Palladium from Troy, assuring a Greek victory in the epic siege. The Palladium reportedly was taken to Italy, either by the Trojan prince Aeneas or by Diomedes, who by one tradition returned it to Aeneas in Italy. By Hadrian's time the episode had numerous versions and was a core element of the Roman foundation mythology, making it a perfect marriage of this emperor's infatuation with Greece and his dedication to Rome.

These reverses, inscribed DIVIS PARENTIBVS ('to his parent deities'), show the jugate and confronted busts of Trajan and Plotina adorned with stars. A related aureus (Calico 1143) that must belong to this series portrays the divine parents, each accompanied by a star, on opposite sides of the coin. Two other reverse types paired with Hadrian as Diomedes recall the divine origins of Rome: ROMVLO CONDITORI ('Romulus the founder'), Romulus striding r.; and VENERI GENETRICI ('Venus who brings forth'), Venus standing. The remaining three reverse types in the series honour Jupiter, a god with imperial associations, and present Hadrian in a military context, presumably to showcase his military successes and to curry support with the army.

**Aelius caesar, 136 – 138**



31

- 31 Aureus 137, AV 7.25 g. L AELIVS – CAESAR Bareheaded and draped bust r. Rev. TRIB POT – COS II Concordia seated l., holding out patera and resting l. elbow on cornucopiae; in exergue, CONCORD. C 9. BMC Hadrian 998. RIC Hadrian 443b. Kent-Hirmer pl. 86, 301 (this coin). Mazzini 9 (this coin). Calicó 1443 (this obverse die).

Very rare. A magnificent portrait of great elegance struck in high relief.

Almost invisible marks, otherwise good extremely fine

40'000

**Provenance**

Giuseppe Mazzini (1883-1961) Collection, sold to Mario Ratto.

Athos D. Moretti (1907-1993) Collection, sold by Numismatica Fine Arts, Beverly Hills CA, auction 22 (An important collection of Roman gold coinage), 1 June 1989, lot 61.

A "Distinguished American Collection", sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 52, 15 May 1991, lot 201.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 59, 4-5 April 2011, lot 1005.

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



**Antoninus Pius augustus, 138 – 161**



- 32 Aureus 145-161, AV 7.33 g. ANTONINVS – AVG PIVS P P Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR PO – T – COS III Roma seated l., holding *palladium* and sceptre; behind, shield. C 934 var. (not cuirassed). BMC 560 var. (laureate, draped and cuirassed). RIC 147d. (draped and cuirassed). Calicó 1658 (these dies).  
Light reddish tone and extremely fine 6'000

**Provenance**

Sold Schweizerischer Bankverein, auction 33, Zurich, 20-22 September 1993, lot 728.  
Offered by Fritz Rudolf Künker, auction 27, Osnabrück, 27 September 1994, lot 544.  
Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction IV, 8 January 2008, lot 426.  
Sold Numismatica Ars Classica, Zurich, auction 59, 4-5 April 2011, lot 1014.  
Sold by Classical Numismatic Group, Lancaster, auction 91, 19 September 2012, lot 906.



- 33 Aureus 147-148, AV 7.25 g. ANTONINVS – AVG PIVS P P TR P XI Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. C – O – S – II – II Liberalitas standing l., holding *abacus* and cornucopiae; at sides, LIB – V. C 505. BMC 628 note. RIC 169b. Calicó 1579 (these dies).  
A pleasant portrait struck on a full flan, a small edge nick at three o'clock on obverse, otherwise extremely fine 6'000

**This coin published:**

Francesco Gnechi, « Alcuni aurei romani inediti nella collezione Trivulzio a Milano », in *Bullettino di numismatica e sfragistica per la storia d'Italia* compilato da una società di professori ed amatori, Camerino, vol. III (1887), pp. 9-29 and pl. I-II: here, cat. no. 16.

**Provenance**

Trivulzio family Collection, acquired between 1745 and 1769 by Don Carlo Trivulzio (1715-1789, his manuscript catalogue no. XL-10), sold en-bloc in 1935 to Pietro Accorsi (1891-1982), by whom supposedly resold en-bloc to Pietro Antonio Gariazzo (1866-1943), sold Santamaria, auction [33], Milan, 24 January 1938, lot 550, to Santamaria.  
Sold by Münzen und Medaillen AG, Basel, auction 64, 29 January 1984, lot 253.  
Pierre Arnaud (1922-1996) Collection, sold by Hess-Divo AG with Acama, Zürich, auction 307, 7 June 2007, lot 1614.  
Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 78, 26 May 2014, lot 974.





34

- 34 Aureus 150-151, AV 7.22 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P XIII Laureate head r. Rev. LAETITIA COS IIII Ceres standing r., holding corn ears and beside her, Proserpina standing facing, head l., holding pomegranate. C 476. BMC 725. RIC 199c. Calicó 1556.

Rare and undoubtedly the finest specimen known. A magnificent portrait and a very interesting reverse type. A perfect Fdc

15'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Sotheby's with Roland Michel, Geneva, 17 November 1989, lot 37.

Sold by Spink Taisei, Zurich, auction 41, 30 April 1992, lot 61.

Privately sold by Freeman & Sear in August 2008.

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



35

- 35 Aureus 155-156, AV 7.29 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P IMP II Laureate head r. Rev. TR POT XIX – COS IIII Antoninus, togate, standing l., holding globe in r. hand. C 995. BMC 864. RIC 256a. Calicó 1673. Lovely light reddish tone and extremely fine 5'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction E, 4 April 1995, lot 2963.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction F, 17 April 1996, lot 1631.

Privately sold by Robert Kokotailo – Calgary Coin Gallery on 25 March 2004.



36

- 36 Aureus 155-156, AV 7.41 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P IMP II Bare head r. Rev. TR POT XIX – COS IIII Antoninus standing l., holding globe in outstretched r. hand. C 996. BMC 863. RIC 256b. Calicó 1674. Extremely fine 6'000

**Provenance**

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 154. Ex HSA 30005.



37

- 37 Aureus 157-158, AV 7.24 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P IMP II Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. TR POT XXI – COS IIII Salus standing r., feeding snake, held in her arms, out of patera. C 1044. BMC 906 note. RIC 279. Calicó 1685 (this coin). Biaggi 777 (this coin).  
Wonderful reddish tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 12'500

#### Provenance

Found in 1897 near Miniyeh (Lebanon).

Sir John Evans (1823-1908) Collection, sold Rollin & Feuadent, auction, Paris, 26-27 May 1909, lot 123.

Jacob Hirsch (1874-1955) Collection, sold by Hess-Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 2, 5 April 1955, lot 98.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

"BdB" Collection sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 49, 21 October 2008, lot 253.



38

- 38 Aureus 160, AV 7.26 g. ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XXIII Laureate head r. Rev. PIETATI – AVG COS IIII Pietas standing l. between two children, holding globe and child. C 622. BMC 984. RIC 302a. Calicó 1602.  
Struck on a very broad flan and extremely fine 5'000

#### Provenance

Privately sold by Robert Kokotailo – Calgary Coin Gallery on 25 April 2005.

#### Faustina I, wife of Antoninus Pius



39

- 39 Diva Faustina. Aureus after 141, AV 7.31 g. DIVA – FAVSTINA Draped bust r. Rev. AETER – NITAS Fortuna standing l., holding patera in r. hand and rudder in l. C 2. BMC A. Pius 368. RIC A. Pius 349a. Calicó 1743.  
Struck on a very broad flan, lovely reddish tone and good extremely fine 7'500

#### Provenance

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 156. Ex HSA 22119.

## Marcus Aurelius augustus, 161 – 171



- 40 Aureus 161, AV 7.26 g. IMP CAES M AVREL ANTONINVS AVG Bare-headed and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONCORDIAE AVGVSTOR TR P XV M. Aurelius and L. Verus standing facing each other with clasped hands; the one on the l. holds roll; in exergue, COS III. C 71. BMC 7 note. RIC 9. Calicó 1823 (this obverse die).

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, among the finest specimens known. Perfectly struck and centred in high relief on a full flan.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

20'000

### Provenance

Dukes of Saxony-Gotha Collection, probably acquired by Duke Frederick II (1676-1732), sold by Hess, auction [240], Lucerne, 9 May 1951, lot 164.

Sold by Dr. Busso Peus Nachf., Frankfurt, auction 353, 29 October 1997, lot 474.

Sold by Classical Numismatic Group, Lancaster, the classical numismatic review 23, September 1998, lot 74.

Privately sold by Glenn W. Woods in April 2008.

Many coins in the Gotha collection had been acquired en-bloc for 90 000 Thalers by Duke Frederick II (1676-1732), from the collection of Count Anton Günther II of Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen-Arnstadt (1653-1716), a collection built with the help of the Swiss numismatists Andrea Morell (1646-1705) from 1693 onwards. "While there is still a magnificent collection of coins in Gotha, a considerable part of the collection was taken west by the ducal family just prior to the end of World War II. Many of the more valuable pieces were then sold during the 1950s, including a large portion of Roman gold that appeared in the 1951 Hess sale" (Alan Walker in Nomos 2015). In addition to this auction (Hess, Lucerne, auction [240], 9 May 1951), other coins were apparently also sold in Hess, auction 252, 24 May 1982. And Hess appears to have sold even more coins privately, such as a Lokris Opuntii stater, Nomos A.G., auction 14, 17 May 2017, lot 111, privately acquired by Dr. W.F. Stöcklin (1888-1975) from Dr. Rosenberg at Hess A.G. in the 1950s.



- 41 Aureus December 163-164, AV 7.28 g. ANTONINVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TRP XVIII·IMP II COS III Victory, half-draped, standing r., placing a shield inscribed VIC / AVG set on a palm tree. C 466 (misdescribed). BMC 270 note. RIC 90 var. (with drapery). Calicó 1888 (this obverse die). Extremely fine 9'000

### Provenance

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 27 October 2012, lot 161. Ex HSA 22112.



**Faustina II, wife of Marcus Aurelius**



42

- 42 Aureus 145-161, AV 7.31 g. FAVSTINA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. MATRI – MAGNAE Cybele seated r. on throne, holding drum; on either side, a lion. C 168. BMC M. Aurelius 133. RIC M. Aurelius 704. Calicó 2071. A coin of extraordinary quality. Virtually as struck and Fdc 15'000

**Provenance**

George Joseph Bauer (1870-1961) Collection, bought en-bloc by « R. P. » and then bought en-bloc by Münzen und Medaillen A.G.

Offered by Münzen und Medaillen, auction XII, Basel, 11-13 June 1953, lot 824.

Sold by J. Schulman, Amsterdam, auction 224, 18-19 January 1954, lot 679.

Sold by Adolph Hess with Michel Dürr, Lucerne, auction 257, 12 November 1986, lot 348.

"A Connoisseur of Portraiture" Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 38, 21 May 2007, lot 78.



43

- 43 Aureus circa 145-161, AV 7.13 g. FAVSTINA F AVG – PII AVG FIL Draped bust r. Rev. VENERI GE – NETRICI Venus standing l., holding sceptre in l. hand and extending r. C –. BMC A. Pius 1057 note. RIC –. Calicó 2079 (this reverse die).

A coin in an exceptional state of preservation. A delicate portrait, work of a very skilled master engraver. A perfect Fdc

15'000

**Provenance**

William H. Williams Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 31, 26 October 2005, lot 56.

Privately sold by Classical Numismatic Group in April 2007.





44

- 44 Aureus circa 145-161, AV 7.16 g. FAVSTINAE – AVG PII AVG FIL Draped bust r., hair caught up behind. Rev. VE – NVS Venus standing l., holding apple and rudder. C 260. BMC –, cf. A. Pius 1063 (rudder on dolphin). RIC A. Pius 515b. Calicó 2095 (these dies).

Light reddish tone and about extremely fine / extremely fine 6'000

**Provenance**

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 164. Ex HSA 22246.



45

- 45 Aureus 147-152, AV 7.14 g. FAVSTINAE AVG – PII AVG FIL Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. LAETITIAE – PVBLICAE Laetitia standing l., holding wreath and sceptre. C 156. BMC A. Pius 1047. RIC A. Pius 506c. Calicó 2069. A lovely portrait struck in high relief and extremely fine 7'000

**This coin published:**

Sabine Bourgey & Jean-Luc Desnier, *L'Empire romain*, vol. II, Paris 1994, p. 120, no. 448.

[D. Arturo Pedrals y Moline (ed.)], *Catálogo de la colección de monedas y medallas de Manuel Vidal Quadras Y Ramón de Barcelona*, Barcelona 1892, reprinted in 1975, vol. I, p. 268 no. 3538.

**Provenance**

Don Manuel Vidal Quadras Y Ramón (1818-1894) Collection, inherited by his brother and then by his nephews, bought by Etienne Bourgey in July 1913. Sold by Etienne Bourgey, Paris, 16-18 December 1913, lot 314.

Vogel Collection, sold by Adolph Hess Nachf., Frankfurt, auction 25 March 1929, lot 849.

Sold by Sotheby's, London, auction 10 April 1992, lot 246.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction II, 11 January 2006, lot 478.

**Lucius Verus, 161 - 169**



46

- 46 Aureus December 163-164, AV 7.31 g. ·L·VERVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Bare head r. Rev. TR P IIII – IMP II COS II Victory, half-draped, standing r., placing a shield inscribed VIC / AVG on a palm tree. C 248. BMC 294. RIC M. Aurelius 522. Calicó 2174 (this coin).

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 15'000

**Provenance**

John Pierpont Morgan (1837-1913) Collection, bequeathed to the Morgan Library, by whom loaned 1917-1949 to The American Numismatic Society, until sold to Wayte Raymond (1886-1956). Sold Wayte Raymond, Fixed Price List, New York, 1953.

Sold by Classical Numismatic Group, Lancaster, the Cassical Numismatic Review 22, September 1997, lot 89.

Privately sold by Robert Kokotailo – Calgary Coin Gallery.



47

- 47 Aureus December 163-164, AV 7.29 g. L VERVS AVG – ARMENIACVS Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. TR P IIII IMP II COS II Victory, half-draped, standing r., placing a shield inscribed VIC / AVG set on a palm tree. C 247 var. (no drapery). BMC M. Aurelius 296 note. RIC M. Aurelius 525. Calicó 2177 (these dies). Biaggi 960 (this coin).

A spectacular portrait and a coin of extraordinary quality, a perfect Fdc 20'000

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Mario Ratto in April 1950 for 85 000 Lire.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 78, 26 May 2014, lot 1006.

**Commodus, 177 – 193**



- 48 Aureus 180, AV 7.31 g. L AVREL COM – MODVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. TR P V IMP III C – OS II P P Victory seated l., holding patera in r. hand and branch in l. C 788. BMC M. Aurelius 814 and p. 691. RIC 8b. Calicó 2343 (this obverse die).  
Very rare. An almost invisible mark in reverse field, otherwise extremely fine 20'000

**Provenance**

Jacob Hirsch (1874-1955) Collection, sold by Münzen und Medaillen, Basel, auction X, 22-23 June 1951, lot 65, to Münzhandlung Jacques Dreifuss.

Sold by Adolph Hess with Michel Dürr, Lucerne, 257 auction 1986, lot 365.

"A Connoisseur of Portraiture" Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 38, 21 May 2007, lot 87.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction VII, 9 January 2011, lot 785.



- 49 Aureus 186-187, AV 7.29 g. M COMM ANT – P FEL AVG BRIT Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. HILAR AVG P M TR P XII IMP VIII COS V P P Hilaritas standing l., holding branch and long palm. C –. BMC 210 note var. (also cuirassed). RIC 150 var. (also cuirassed). Calicó 2263a (these dies).  
An extremely rare variety of a rare type. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 25'000

**This coin published:**

Sabine Bourgey & Jean-Luc Desnier, *L'Empire romain*, vol. II, Paris 1994, p. 157, no. 601.

**Provenance**

Sold by Emile Bourgey, Paris, auction 9-10 November 1976, lot 244.

Pierre Arnaud (1922-1996) Collection, sold by Hess-Divo AG with Acama, Zürich, auction 307, 7 June 2007, lot 1638.

Sold by UBS, Basel, auction 75, 22 January 2008, lot 1066.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 59, 4-5 April 2011, lot 1030.





- 50 Aureus 186-187, AV 7.17 g. M COMM ANT P – FEL AVG BRIT Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. NOBILIT AVG P M TR P XII IMP VIII COS V P P Nobilitas standing r., holding sceptre and statuette of Minerva (?). C 384 var. (laureate only). BMC 216. RIC 155a. Calicó 2291 (these dies).  
Very rare. Struck on a very broad flan and perfectly centred.  
Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 25'000

**This coin published:**

Silvia Mani Hurter, *Kaiser Roms im Münzporträt. 55 Aurei der Sammlung Götz Grabert*, Stuttgart 2003, 20.

**Provenance**

Offered by Anton Tkalec AG, Zürich, auction 23 October 1992, lot 284.

Götz Grabert (1924-2000) Collection, sold by LHS Numismatik, Zürich, auction 97, 10 May 2006, lot 37.



- 51 Aureus 187-188, AV 7.29 g. M COMM ANT P – FEL AVG BRIT Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR XIII IMP VIII – COS V P P Fortuna seated l. on throne, holding rudder and cornucopiae; in exergue, FOR RED. C –. BMC –. RIC –. Calicó 2252 (this coin). Biaggi 1005 (this coin). Cf. NFA sale 29, 1984, 452 (this reverse die).

Of the highest rarity, apparently only four specimens known.

Extremely fine / good extremely fine

15'000

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Bank Leu Zürich in 1965.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 49, 21 October 2008, lot 298.



52

- 52 Aureus 189, AV 7.18 g. M COMM ANT P – FEL AVG BRIT Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. FORTVNAE DVCI Fortuna standing l., holding in r. hand rudder on globe and cornucopiae in l. C –. BMC –. RIC –. Calicó 2253 (these dies).

Extremely rare, apparently only five specimens known. A bold portrait of fine style. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

30'000

#### Provenance

Claude Vaudecrane (1915-2002) Collection, privately purchased in April 1973, sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 93 ("a perfectionist"), 10 May 2005, lot 45.



53

- 53 Aureus 192, AV 7.36 g. L AEL AVREL CO – MM AVG P FEL Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. LIB AVG VIII P M TR P XVII COS VII P P Liberalitas standing l., holding *abacus* and cornucopiae. C 324. BMC 311 note. RIC 239a. Calicó 2281 (these dies). Good extremely fine 18'000

#### Provenance

Sir John Evans (1823-1908) Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuardent, Paris, auction, 26-27 May 1909, lot 164, to Spink & Son.

Arthur Bally (1849-1912) Collection, sold by Münzen und Medaillen AG, Basel, auction 93, 16 December 2003, lot 197.

Privately sold by Freeman & Sear in December 2004.



## Crispina, wife of Commodus



54

- 54 Aureus 180-182, AV 7.28 g. CRISPINA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., hair in coil at back. Rev. VENVS·FELIX Venus seated l., holding Victory and sceptre; below seat, dove standing l. C 39. BMC 48. RIC Commodus 287. Calicó 2377c. (this reverse die)

Rare. A very elegant portrait, work of a skilled master engraver,  
virtually as struck and almost Fdc

40'000

### Provenance

Sold by Frank Sternberg & Giorgio Apparuti, Zürich, auction XIX, 18 November 1987, lot 679.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 78, 26 May 2014, lot 1015.

Few Romans of high station in the government and the army could have felt secure during the reign of Commodus, a man whose cruel autocracy gave rise to plots against him, and whose suspicious mind is said to have invented plots when actual threats were absent. One of the most famous victims of Commodus was his own wife Crispina, the daughter of one of his father's comrades-in-arms. She was said to have been exceptionally beautiful, and was married to Commodus when he was fifteen, and as yet only Caesar. We are told that with the passage of time both husband and wife partook in extramarital affairs – Commodus more openly and extravagantly than Crispina. We need not consider ourselves too judgmental when we describe their marriage as an unmitigated failure. Indeed, it came to an end in 182 when Crispina was banished to the island of Capri and was there strangled to death, presumably on Commodus' orders. The official explanation for Crispina's severe treatment was her adultery, but historians are rightly suspicious that it was her real or imagined complicity with her sister-in-law Lucilla in a failed plot to assassinate Commodus.

**Pertinax, 1 January – 28 March 193**



55

- 55 Aureus 1 January – 28 March 193, AV 7.17 g. IMP CAES P HELV – PERTIN AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. PROVID – DEOR COS II Providentia standing l., holding up both hands to large star in upper l. field. C 41. BMC 12. RIC 11b. Woodward NC 1957, pl. 10, 12 (this reverse die). Calicó 2390a.  
Rare. An elegant portrait work of a very skilled master engraver struck on a very large flan and well-centred. Extremely fine 35'000

**Provenance**

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 178. Ex HSA 22243.

A self-made man who rose to prominence through dedication and talent, Pertinax's career was illustrious. His father was a former slave and merchant whose wealth bought Pertinax a good education. Pertinax began his adult life as a teacher, but afterwards he embarked on a military career. He rose through the ranks serving in Parthia, Britain and Noricum, and he subsequently served as governor of several provinces. In 189 the emperor Commodus appointed him prefect of Rome, and he was still serving in that capacity when Commodus was assassinated on New Year's Eve, 192. Though Pertinax has often been portrayed as an unimpeachable moralist, he was more likely an opportunist who was intimately involved in the plot against Commodus. After his accession, Pertinax may have viewed himself as a benevolent dictator, but the praetorians nonetheless murdered him after a reign of just eighty-six days.

**Septimius Severus, 193 – 211**



- 56 Aureus 196-197, AV 7.40 g. L SEPT SEV PERT – AVG IMP VIII Laureate head r. Rev. P M TR P – IIII – COS II – P P Victory advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and trophy in l. C 422 (misdescribed). BMC 145, pl. 9, 5 (these dies). RIC 86b. Calicó 2498 (this obverse die).  
Very rare and in exceptional condition. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 25'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Ars Classica, auction XVI, Lucerne, 3 July 1933, lot 1940, to Baldwin.

Sold by Adolph Hess, Lucerne, 7 March 1935, lot 75, to Hans Nussbaum (1902-1939).

August Voirol (1884-1967) Collection, sold by Münzen und Medaillen AG, Basel, auction 38, 7 December 1968, lot 481, to Spink & Son.

Sold by Leu Numismatik, Zürich, auction 91, 10-11 May 2004, lot 592.



- 57 Aureus 202-210, AV 6.95 g. SEVERVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICT – PART – MAX Victory advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l. C 743. BMC 365 note. RIC 295. Calicó 2566.  
A very attractive portrait of fine style and a finely-detailed reverse die. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 20'000

**Provenance**

L. Vierordt Collection, sold by Jacques Schulman, Amsterdam, auction 139, 5 March 1923 sqq., lot 1842, to Schulman.

Jacob Hirsch (1874-1955) Collection, sold by Hess-Leu, Lucerne, auction 3, 27 March 1956, lot 397, to Bank Leu.

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 10, 29 May 1974, lot 225, to Ratto.

Sold by Spink & Son, London, auction 7023, 27 September 2007, lot 154.



- 58 Aureus 202-210, AV 6.97 g. IMPP INVICTI PII AVGG Conjoined laureate, draped and cuirassed busts of S. Severus and Caracalla r. Rev. VICTORIA – PARTHICA MAXIMA Victory advancing l., holding palm in l. hand and wreath in r. C 8. BMC 266. RIC 311. Biaggi 1127 (this coin). Calicó 2597 (this coin).  
Very rare. Two superb portraits of fine style struck in high relief, an almost invisible mark below the chin on the obverse, otherwise good extremely fine 45'000

#### Provenance

Trivulzio family Collection, acquired between 1745 and 1769 by Don Carlo Trivulzio (1715-1789, his manuscript catalogue no. LIV-3), sold en-bloc in 1935 to Pietro Accorsi (1891-1982), by whom supposedly resold en-bloc to Pietro Antonio Gariazzo (1866-1943), sold Santamaria, auction [33], Milan, 24 January 1938, lot 670, to Spink & Son.

Privately sold by Mario Ratto in May 1950 for 280 000 Lire.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 72, 16 May 2013, lot 680.

At first glance, the jugate busts on this aureus suggest it belongs to the dynastic series initiated by the Severans in 201, but the overriding theme of the coin is the defeat of Parthia in 198. This is shown not only by the explicit reverse type, but also by the obverse inscription, which describes the two emperors as invictii – unconquered and invincible. Because Severus and Caracalla are also described as pii (dutiful and god-fearing), the coin must date to 201 or later, for only in that year did they adopt the title Pius, seemingly to reflect the membership they claimed to the dynasty founded long ago by Antoninus Pius. Thus, the issue may have been produced for the anticipated return of the royal family to Rome early in 202, following a nearly five-year absence in the East, during which they conquered the Parthians and oversaw affairs in the provinces. Severus' return was no ordinary event: not only had the royal family been gone for five years, but the yearlong celebration of Severus decennalia, his tenth year of power, had begun and the royal wedding of Caracalla was planned. The imperial adventus was celebrated with games, spectacles and donativa to the people and to the praetorian guards, who Dio Cassius tells us each received ten aurei – perhaps including examples of this freshly minted type.

#### Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus



- 59 Aureus 196-211, AV 7.31 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. IVNO – REGINA Juno, veiled, standing l., holding patera and sceptre; at her feet, peacock l. C 96. BMC S. Severus 42 note. RIC S. Severus 560. Calicó 2618.  
Struck on a very broad flan, extremely fine / good extremely fine 9'000

#### Provenance

Ernst Moritz Herzfelder (1865-1923) Collection, sold by J. Hirsch, Munich, auction XXIX, 9 November 1910 sqq., lot 1153, to Spink & Son.

Sold by Hess-Leu, Lucerne, auction 45, 12-13 May 1970, lot 584, to Spink & Son.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction III, 9 January 2007, lot 422.





60

- 60 Aureus 201, AV 7.20 g. IVLIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r. Rev. AETERNIT IMPERI Confronted busts of Caracalla laureate, draped and cuirassed facing r. and Geta, bare headed, draped and cuirassed facing l. C 1. BMC S. Severus 3 var. (Caracalla bare headed). RIC S. Severus 540. Biaggi 1133 (this coin). Calicó 2653a. Very rare and among the finest specimens known. Three portraits of superb style perfectly-centred on a full flan, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 100'000

#### Provenance

Alessandro Magnaguti (1887-1966) Collection, Pietro & Pio Santamaria, Rome, auction 23-24 October 1951, lot 171, to Herbert Adolf Cahn (1915-2002).

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 72, 16 May 2013, lot 682.

An impressive series of dynastic coins was issued for the Severans throughout 201 and into the early part of 202, presumably marking the fifth anniversary of the dynasty that Septimius Severus had formed by early 196. After so many years of civil war, Severus must have thought it appropriate to publicise his dynasty, and to advertise the stability that it represented to the Roman people. The variety of types is considerable, with the portraits of family members being shown in many combinations.

This aureus was struck in the name of Julia Domna, and on the reverse portrays her two sons, Caracalla and Geta. It is tailor-made as a dynastic type since the inscription AETERNIT IMPERI ('the eternity of the empire') equates the continuity of the empire with the continuity of the dynasty. The positioning of the boys' portraits is exactly as would be expected: the elder, Caracalla, is in the honorary position on the left wearing a laurel wreath to indicate his senior status as Augustus, and the younger, Geta, is shown bare-headed on the right to denote his lesser status as Caesar.



**Caracalla, 198 – 217**



61

- 61 Aureus 201, AV 7.28 g. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG – PON TR P IIII Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Caracalla r. Rev. CONCORDIAE AETERNAE Jugate busts r. of Septimius Severus, radiate and draped, and Julia Domna, diademed and draped, on crescent. C 1. BMC 260. RIC 52 var. (S. Severus also cuirassed). Calicó 2849.

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, undoubtedly among the finest specimens known. Three portraits of superb style perfectly struck in high relief.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

75'000

**Provenance**

Claude Vaudecrane (1915-2002) Collection, purchased privately in November 1967, sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 93, 10 May 2005, lot 66.

The Severans, not unlike previous emperors, often associated themselves with certain deities. In general terms Septimius Severus likened himself to Serapis, Caracalla to Hercules, and Geta to Bacchus. On this dynastic aureus we find entirely different associations: Septimius wears a radiate crown, equating himself with the sun-god Sol, and Domna's bust rests upon a crescent moon, equating her with the moon-goddess Luna, the celestial consort of Sol. Such imagery reinforces the long-held idea that the very nature of men and women is polar: night and day. This form of expression for that distinction extends through much of Roman coinage, especially later in the empire when double-denominations are indicated, in which case if it is a coin depicting a male, he typically wears a radiate crown, and if the coin bears the portrait of a female, her bust usually rests upon a crescent.



62

- 62 Aureus 201-206, AV 7.25 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. INDVLGENTIA AVGG / IN CARTH Dea Caelestis, wearing elaborate headdress and holding drum in r. hand and sceptre in l., seated facing on lion leaping r. over a stream of water flowing from rocks l. C 96. BMC 279. RIC 131b. Calicó 2679 (this obverse die).

Very rare. A superb portrait of masterly style struck in high relief and a very interesting reverse composition. Good extremely fine

35'000

#### Provenance

Jacob Hirsch (1874-1955) Collection, sold by Hess-Leu, Lucerne, auction 3, 27 March 1956, lot 400, to Jean Vinchon (1918-2003).

Sold by Leu Numismatik, Zürich, auction 91, 10-11 May 2004, lot 605.

Sold Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 201.

This interesting type, INDVLGENTIA AVGG IN CARTH ('the indulgence of the Augusti towards Carthage'), suggests Septimius Severus and Caracalla made improvements to Carthage, the North African capital to the west of the imperial family's native Tripolitana. The evidence is slim, but it seems the imperial family and its entourage crossed to Africa in 202, a few months after they had returned to Rome from a five-year absence in the East. The family apparently wintered in Lepcis Magna, Severus' home town (which he may not have visited for about thirty years) and they returned to Rome in the following year. In addition to touring the region and overseeing building projects, the Severan entourage was in North Africa to deal with military matters, including a campaign against the tribes who raided Roman provinces from the deserts to the south and east. The reverse depicts a towered goddess sitting upon a lion that springs from a rocky outcrop from which water flows. This latter feature has led to the suggestion that aqueducts or waterworks of some kind in Carthage were constructed or repaired at state expense. A similar scene appears on imperial coins struck by Commodus in 191/2, and earlier still on rare imperial bronzes of Faustina Senior, though in both cases without the rocks and flowing water. The goddess riding the lion is Cybele (Mater Deum; 'mother of the Gods') or Dea Caelestis ('celestial goddess'), essentially the Roman identification of Tanit (the patron goddess of Carthage), who may be more precisely understood as a moon-goddess, who the Romans equated with Juno Caelestis or Cybele. On this aureus she holds a scepter and a thunderbolt, though on some other coins from the series she holds a scepter and a musical instrument that is a tympanum (a small drum or tambourine) or a crotalum (castanets or cymbals). Curiously, more than a decade later Elagabalus chose to marry his Emesan sun-god Heliogabalus to the Carthaginian moon-goddess Dea Caelestis, thus uniting sun and moon deities and symbolically linking the Syrian and North African ancestries of the Severan dynasty.



- 63 Aureus 208, AV 7.43 g. ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. PONTIF TR P XI COS III Septimius Severus, togate, standing facing, between the seated figures of Caracalla, togate and laureate, on his r., and Geta, togate, on his l. C 455. BMC p. 271, §. RIC 106. Calicó 2786 (these dies).

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition, undoubtedly among the finest specimens known. A superb portrait of fine style and a fascinating reverse type.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

35'000

**This coin published:**

J. de Foville, RN 1903, pl. 17, 10.

**Provenance**

From the Karnak Hoard of 1901, and immediately acquired for the collection of the Cabinet des Médailles et Antiques de la Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, inv. FG 1163. This and other aurei were deaccessioned between December 1960 and April 1962, and acquired by Herbert Cahn (against 400 Lagid silver coins from the collection of Giovanni Dattari).

Sold by Münzen und Medaillen, Basel, auction XXV, 17 November 1962, lot 624, to Bank Leu.

Claude Vaudecrane (1915-2002) Collection, sold by Bank Leu Zürich auction 87 ("A Perfectionist Collection"), 6 May 2003, lot 62.

Sold by Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 202.

This stunning aureus was struck to celebrate the third consulship of Caracalla, which he assumed in A.D. 208 with his brother Geta as his colleague. Upon taking up this position, they departed for campaigns in Britannia together with their father, Septimius Severus, the senior Augustus. The coin was almost certainly distributed as a donative to the army at the Roman New Year festival, when consuls normally inaugurated their magistracies.

The obverse features a beautifully executed portrait of Caracalla as junior Augustus, a position he had held under his father since A.D. 198. The legend gives his proper name, Antoninus Pius, which his father gave him to further emphasize the supposed connection between the Severan dynasty and the early Antonine dynasty of "good emperors." Severus himself falsely claimed to be a son of Marcus Aurelius. Caracalla, the name commonly used by modern historians to refer to the emperor, was actually a nickname given to him in antiquity and refers to a form of hooded Gallic cloak that he was accustomed to wear.

The wonderful reverse depicts Septimius Severus seated between his two sons upon a dais. The extended open hands of Caracalla and Geta may perhaps suggest that they are in the act of making a distribution of largesse. If this is the correct reading of the gesture then it seems possible that they are actually giving out the donative for which the aureus was produced. On the other hand it may only serve to identify them as the consuls of 208. The level of detail visible on the three figures is absolutely exquisite and a sign that a great engraver of the Severan age worked on the die. The distinctive legs of curule chairs — a form of seat traditionally used by Roman magistrates with the power of imperium and emperors as a sign of their authority — are clearly visible and each figure is easily identifiable by details of iconography. While one might guess that the senior Augustus, Septimius Severus, would sit in the middle, there is no question of identity here. The trademark "Serapis curls" of his beard are unmistakable. The figure seated at Severus' right side is unquestionably Caracalla, since he wears a laurel wreath as a sign of his status as junior Augustus. The right side was also the traditional position for favored individuals in Roman custom. The detail here is remarkable — even the bow and tie ends of the wreath are visible, mimicking the form of the same features on the obverse portrait. Geta sits on Severus' left and can be distinguished by his lack of imperial insignia (he was still only named as Caesar at the time this coin was struck) as well as by his hairstyle, which matches that found on his portrait coins.

While celebrating the consulship, the figure of Severus in the middle also serves to connect the coin to the dynastic propaganda of Septimius Severus, which tried to project the image of a happy family that would lead to a smooth succession. It was always a great fear that civil war would resume when the emperor died, but here it is made clear that there were two sons willing and able to take up the mantle of power after Severus. Indeed, Caracalla and Geta both look at each other on the reverse as if to indicate their oneness of mind with each other, and with the father between them. Unfortunately, the favor of Caracalla and the hierarchy of authority indicated by the details of the reverse undermined this image. Geta and Caracalla were deeply divided by jealousy in life, and once Severus died in A.D. 211 it was not long before this jealousy broke out into violence. Before the end of the year Caracalla had Geta murdered and ordered his damnatio memoriae. The collegial consuls and the united family implied by the reverse of this aureus was a lie.

**Geta caesar, 198 – 209**



64

- 64 Aureus 203 – 208, AV 7.23 g. P SEPTIMIVS – GETA CAES Bare headed, draped and cuirassed bust l. Rev. PRINC IVENT / COS Septimius Severus, Caracalla and Geta galloping r. C –. BMC 451 note. RIC 37d. Calicó 2913.

Of the highest rarity, apparently only the second specimen known and the only one in private hands. An elegant and unusual left portrait of fine style struck on a very broad flan. An interesting and symbolic reverse composition.

Good extremely fine

60'000

**Provenance**

From the Karnak Hoard of 1901.

Sold by Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 205.

This rare aureus may have been struck to celebrate the first consulship of Geta alongside his brother Caracalla in A.D. 205 since the reverse exergue legend explicitly refers to this consulship. However, it could have been produced any time between A.D. 205 and Geta's assumption of his second consulship (COS II) at the beginning of A.D. 208. The obverse carries an attractive left facing portrait of Geta as Caesar under his father, Septimius Severus. He had held this position since A.D. 198, when Caracalla had received the superior position of junior Augustus. This disparity in powers created a deep rift of jealousy and hatred between the brothers that required the mediation of their mother while Severus lived. After he died in A.D. 211, less than a year elapsed before Geta was murdered at the instigation of Caracalla.

The reverse type refers to one of the perks that came with Geta's lesser title of Caesar. It identifies him as a designated heir and princeps iuventutis ("prince of the youth"), a traditional courtesy title given to imperial heirs since the time of Augustus (27 B.C.-A.D. 14). As princeps iuventutis, Geta will have led the *travectio*, an annual parade of the *iuvvenes* (members of the equestrian order under 35 and members of senatorial families under 25) on horseback through the city of Rome. Although this reverse type featuring three riders is normally described as Septimius Severus with Caracalla and Geta, it might in fact depict Geta leading two *iuvvenes* (perhaps members of the board of *seviri* – "six men" – who normally commanded the squadrons of *iuvvenes* in the *travectio*). There is no sign of Severus' distinctive bearded visage or Caracalla's laurel crown on any of the riders. Instead all are bareheaded, which befits depictions of both Geta and members of the *iuvvenes* outside of the imperial house. The leading figure on the right is distinguished by a nimbus as a sign of his special status and must therefore represent Geta as princeps iuventutis. Although the nimbus is most commonly associated with saints in the Christian tradition, it can be found in numismatic depictions of emperors going back to the time of Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138-161). This iconographic feature is thought to have originated with the Kushan rulers of Central Asia, before it was adopted in Rome.





- 65 Aureus 217-218, AV 7.00 g. IMP C M OPEL SEV MACRINVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICT PART P M TR P II COS II P P Victory flying l., holding diadem in both hands; on each side, a shield on base. C 138 var. (no cuirassed). BMC p. 504 note † (this coin described). RIC 50d. (this coin described). Calicó 2979 (this coin).

Of the highest rarity, apparently only three specimens known and one of the finest aurei of Macrinus in existence. A spectacular portrait in the finest style of the period and a magnificent and finely-detailed reverse composition.

Virtually as struck and Fdc 125'000

#### Provenance

E. Collection, sold by J. Hirsch, Munich, auction XXXIV, 5 May 1914, lot 1310, to Virgil Michael Brand (1861/62-1926).

Hall Park McCullough (1872-1966) Collection, sold by Stack's, New York, 20-22 November 1967, lot 917, to Bank Leu.

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 50, 25 April 1990, lot 340.

John Whitney Walter (1934-2018) Collection, sold by Stack's & H.J. Berk, New York, 29 November 1990, lot 73.

Privately sold by Harlan J. Berk in January 2007.

Macrinus, who was of Berber origin, was Rome's first emperor of equestrian background and was Rome's only emperor to hail from Mauretania. He was a prominent jurist and bureaucrat, such that when Caracalla ascended the throne upon the death of Septimius Severus he made Macrinus his praetorian prefect. As commander of the imperial bodyguard, Macrinus was with the emperor in the East during Caracalla's preparations for his planned invasion of Parthia, and it was at Macrinus' instigation that Caracalla was assassinated by one of his own soldiers, Justin Martialis.

After Caracalla's murder, Macrinus proclaimed himself emperor, assuming the titles and powers that came with the position of supreme leadership without awaiting confirmation from the Senate in Rome. This along with his less than noble origins (all previous emperors had hailed from the senatorial class) did not especially endear him to the Roman Senate. Furthermore, unlike his predecessor, Macrinus was more circumspect with the imperial finances. Where Caracalla had increased the soldiers' yearly pay from 2000 to 3000 sesterii, Macrinus decreed that any newly recruited soldiers would receive the salary that had existed before the increase. This is understandable given the dire situation of the State's finances, and was an absolute necessity given that Caracalla's expensive military campaigns had all but depleted the state's coffers. The veteran soldiers, however, saw this as the precursor to their own eventual reduction in pay and privileges, and when the opportunity presented they revolted.

That opportunity came because Macrinus had made the mistake of freeing the extended family of Caracalla, allowing them to return to their hometown of Emesa. Still based at Antioch – Macrinus never had the opportunity to visit Rome after becoming emperor – his safety became jeopardized when the scheming aunt of Caracalla, Julia Maesa, used her vast wealth to secure the allegiance of the soldiers or the legio III Gallica, who were stationed at nearby Raphanea. They proclaimed Maesa's 14 year-old grandson, Elagabal, emperor, and the boy's tutor led the troops to engage Macrinus who fled the field of battle and was soon captured and executed.

This splendid aureus of Macrinus, which once belonged to the famous historian of early Christian art, Raffaele Garrucci, sports a handsome portrait of the emperor and a finely detailed figure of Victory. It was struck at the very end of Macrinus' short year-long reign, probably sometime between April and early June of A.D. 218. The representation of Victory holding an open diadem as opposed to a tied wreath had a long history in Roman numismatics, and can even be found on earlier Greek issues such as the tetradrachms of Syracuse where she is sometimes depicted holding an open diadem above either the horses of the quadriga or the charioteer. Although the legend declares a victory over the Parthians, it was only a victory of diplomacy as Macrinus had concluded Caracalla's war with Parthia by the expedient means of buying peace through a large indemnity paid to the Parthian king, Artabanos V.



**Diadumenian caesar, 217 – 218**



66

- 66 Aureus late 217, AV 7.36 g. M OPEL ANT DIADV MENIAN CAES Bare-headed and draped bust r. Rev. PRINC IVVENTVTIS Diadumenian standing facing, head r., holding in r. hand standard and in l. sceptre; behind, two standards. C 2. BMC p. 509 note †. RIC Macrinus 101 var. (draped and cuirassed). Faces of Power 445 (this coin). Calicó 2982.

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, undoubtedly among the finest specimens known. A superb portrait of masterly style struck in high relief on a full flan. A perfect Fdc

150'000

**Provenance**

Enrico Caruso (1873-1921) Collection, sold by Cesare and Ercole Canessa, auction III, Naples, 28 June 1923 and following days, lot 463, to Adda.

Victor Adda (1885-1965) Collection.

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 38, 13 May 1986, lot 318.

Gerald Hoberman (1943-2013) Collection, sold by Dix Noonan Webb, London, auction 29 September 2008, lot 6044.

For the majority of his father Macrinus' brief reign, young Diadumenian held the title Caesar, but near the bitter end he was raised to the rank of Augustus. When the tide finally turned against their regime, loyal supporters of his father attempted to smuggle Diadumentian to Parthia for safe keeping, but he was captured en route at Zeugma and executed shortly thereafter. Although we can determine Diadumenian's appearance from coin portraits such as this, there is an unusually personal literary account in the *Historia Augusta*, wherein he is described as: "...beautiful beyond all others, somewhat tall of stature, with golden hair, black eyes and an aquiline nose; his chin was wholly lovely in its modeling, his mouth designed for a kiss, and he was by nature strong and by training graceful."



67

- 67 Aureus 230, AV 5.86 g. IMP SEV ALE – XAND AVG Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. P M TR P VIII – CO – S – III P P Romulus walking r., carrying spear and trophy. C –. BMC 620. RIC 103. Calicó 3121 (these dies). Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 7'500

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Classical Numismatic Group in November 2006.



68

- 68 Aureus 230, AV 6.19 g. IMP SEV ALE – XAND AVG Laureate bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. P M TR P VIII – CO – S – III P P Romulus walking r., carrying spear and trophy. C –. BMC 620. RIC 103. Calicó 3121 (these dies). Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 7'500

**Provenance**

Sold Classical Numismatic Group, mail-bid auction 64, Lancaster, 24 September 2003, lot 1162.



69

- 69 Aureus 231-235, AV 6.97 g. IMP ALEXAN – DER PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERA – LI – TAS AVG V Liberalitas standing l., holding *abacus* in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. C 141. BMC 945. RIC 242d. Calicó 3070. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 8'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 2, 25 April 1972, lot 431, to Spink & Son.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction II, 11 January 2006, lot 501.

**Pupienus, 22 April – 29 July 238**



70

- 70 Binio, possibly struck in India 238, AV 7.25 g. IMP CAES M CLOD PVPIINVS AVG Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CARITAS MVTVA AVGG Two hands clasped. C 20. BMC –, cf. 81 note. RIC –, cf. 10b (Antoninanus). Calicó –, cf. 3178.

A very interesting contemporary Indian imitation. Several edge marks, possibly traces of mounting, otherwise very fine

3'000

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Harlan J. Berk in June 2006.

**Gordian III, 238 – 244**



71

- 71 Aureus circa 240, AV 5.07 g. IMP CAES M ANT GORDIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERALITAS AVG Liberalitas standing facing, head l., holding *abacus* in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. C 129 var. (only laureate). RIC 42. Calicó 3205. Virtually as struck and Fdc 6'000

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Robert Kokotailo – Calgary Coin Gallery.

### Trajan Decius, 249 – 251



- 72 Aureus 249-251, AV 4.95 g. IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – RIA AVG Victory advancing l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l. C 107. RIC 29a var. (bust also draped). Calicó 3300. Good extremely fine 12'500

#### Provenance

Sold by Numismatik Lanz, Munich, auction 102, 28 May 2001, lot 914.

Sold by Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 220.

### Herennia Etruscilla, wife of Trajan Decius



- 73 Aureus circa 249-251, AV 5.24 g. HER ETRVSCILLA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. PVDICITIA AVG Pudicitia, veiled, seated l., holding sceptre in l. hand and drawing veil with r. C 18 var. (omits drapery). RIC T. Decius 59a. Calicó 3308.

An almost invisible mark on obverse field, otherwise extremely fine / good extremely fine 10'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 222.

Yet another of the 'blank pages' of Roman history, Herennia Etruscilla may have enjoyed the privileged upbringing of an Etruscan noblewoman, but the end of her days were anything but pleasant. Even though she held the title Augusta and resided in Rome, she was largely powerless because before he left the capital her husband installed Publius Licinius Valerianus (the future emperor Valerian) in a newly created position that gave him almost unlimited authority in the city of Rome. When the news arrived that her husband and eldest son had been killed in a Gothic ambush, Etruscilla and her youngest son, Hostilian might have expected the worst. However, they not only survived, but were honoured by the new emperor Trebonianus Gallus, who did not hail his own wife Augusta, but rather allowed Etruscilla to retain the title. Numismatic evidence shows that Etruscilla probably retained the title into Gallus' reign, for the output for her and Hostilian is higher at Antioch than that of her slain husband and son.



**Trebonianus Gallus, 251 – 253**



74

- 74 Binio 253, AV 5.85 g. IMP CAEC C VIB TREB Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P III COS II Emperor standing l., holding patera in r. hand and sceptre in l., sacrificing over altar. C –. RIC –, cf. 3 (Antoninianus). Calicó 3343 (this coin). Biaggi 1410 (this coin).

Exceedingly rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Unusually well struck on both the obverse and reverse. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

30'000

**This coin published:**

Silvia Mani Hurter, *Kaiser Roms im Münzporträt. 55 Aurei der Sammlung Götz Grabert*, Stuttgart 2003, 32.

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Bank Leu in July 1962 for CHF 8000.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 22, 8-9 May 1979, lot 336, to Grabert.

Götz Grabert (1924-2000) Collection, sold by LHS Numismatik, Zürich, auction 97, 10 May 2006, lot 62.

For most of the first 250 years of the Roman Empire, its gold aureus was relatively consistent in weight and purity. It was affected only by adjustments in weight – usually downward, but occasionally upward. The first major decline in later history occurred under Caracalla, and subsequently under Severus Alexander. Beginning with the reign of Trebonianus Gallus, however, gold coinage became increasingly variable in weight and denomination, and medallions intended as bonuses or bribes also came to be struck with regularity. Something that certainly can be attributed to Gallus is the mainstream introduction of the 'binio', a gold homologue to the silver double-denarius. In some if not all cases, the binio was struck with double-denarius dies, at a heavier weight than the aureus. With the typical aureus of Gallus weighing about 3.60 grams, his average 'binio' weighed about 5.75 grams. The binio weighed roughly 1° times as much as the aureus, and if we examine the weight relationship between Caracalla's silver double-denarius and denarius, we find an identical weight ratio. Furthermore, they are identically different in terms of iconography, thus giving us a perfect parallel. Indeed, had the denarius not been scrapped as a mainstream issue under Gordian III, the same comparison would probably be possible with Gallus' denarii and double-denarii. Predecessors to the binios of this era were struck by Caracalla. However, only a handful of these have survived, and Caracalla's truly are double-aurei medallions because their weight is double that of his contemporary aurei.

### Volusian augustus, 251 – 253



- 75 Aureus 251-253, AV 3.50 g. IMP CAE C VIB VOLVSIANO AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. PIETAS AVGG Pietas, veiled, standing l., with open arms. C 83 var. (not draped and cuirassed). RIC 158. Calicó 3366. Very rare and in unusually good condition for this issue. Extremely fine 15'000

#### Provenance

Offered by Münzen und Medaillen AG, Basel, auction 77, 18 September 1992, lot 157.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 52, 7 October 2009, lot 553.

### Valerian I, 253 – 260



- 76 Aureus 253-254, AV 2.21 g. IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P M TR P II – COS P P Soldier standing l., holding spear in l. hand and leaning on shield. C 158 var. (only laureate). RIC 27 var. (not cuirassed). Göbl 1a (this coin). Calicó 3435 (this coin). Biaggi 1443 (this coin). Apparently unique. A magnificent portrait of fine style and a lovely reddish tone. Almost invisible marks and flan slightly wavy, otherwise extremely fine 12'000

#### This coin published:

Gustave Ponton d'Amécourt, "Monnaies romaines et mérovingiennes exposées au Trocadéro en 1878", in *Annuaire de la Société Française de Numismatique et d'Archéologie*, Paris 1880, pl. III no. 6.

Karl Menadier, "Die Münzen und das Münzwesen bei den Scriptores Historia Augustae, Exkurs, Die Goldprägung der valerianisch-gallienischen Zeit", in *Zeitschrift für Numismatik*, vol. 31 (1914), pp. 60-144, no. 28.

Exhibited at the Paris World's Fair, 1 May – 10 November 1878.

#### Provenance

Viscount Gustave Ponton d'Amécourt (1825-1888) Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuardent, Paris, 25-30 April 1887, lot 508.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Nelson Bunker Hunt (1926-2014) Collection, sold by Sotheby's, Zürich, 20 June 1991, lot 874.

Prof. Dr. Wolfhart Pannenber (1928-2014) Collection, sold by G. Hirsch Nachf., Munich, auction 279-280 ("Die Generationensammlung"), 8 February 2012, lot 2679.



- 77 Aureus 255-256, AV 2.60 g. IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERALITAS AVGG Liberalitas standing l., holding tessera and cornucopiae. C 104 var. (different obverse legend, no drapery on cuirass). RIC 43. Göbl 66a. Calicó 3425 (this coin). Biaggi 1439 (this coin).  
Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, among the finest aurei of Valerian in existence. A superb portrait perfectly struck, good extremely fine 25'000

#### Provenance

Privately sold by Santamaria in July 1969 for CHF 2500.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

"An Important Collector", sold by Numismatica Ars Classica Zürich, auction 34, 24 November 2006, lot 58.

Steve C. Markoff (b. 1943) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 62, 6 October 2011, lot 2068.

#### Gallienus sole reign, 260 – 268



- 78 Aureus 260-261, AV 3.60 g. GALLIENVS AVG Radiate head l. Rev. VIRTVS AVG Mars standing l., holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l., in r. field, D. C 1220. Göbl 407d var. (P in reverse field). RIC 90 var. (P in reverse field). Calicó 3642 (this coin).  
Rare. A magnificent portrait of superb style perfectly struck on a very broad flan. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 15'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Numismatica Fine Arts, Beverly Hills CA, auction XVIII 1987, lot 545, to Bank Leu.

Ladislav von Hoffmann (1927-2014) Collection, sold by Sotheby's Zürich auction 8 July 1996, lot 154, to Bank Leu.

Claude Vaudecrane, 1915-2002) Collection, sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 93 ("a perfectionist"), 10 May 2005, lot 93.

Privately sold by Jonathan K. Kern in October 2006.



- 79 Reduced aureus 265-266, AV 2.05 g. GALLIENVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. INDVLGENT AVG Indulgentia seated l., holding branch in r. hand and sceptre in l. C 324. RIC 106 var. (INDVLG). Göbl 540. Calicó —. Rare. Extremely fine 5'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Numismatik Lanz, Munich, auction 147, 2 November 2009, lot 461.



- 80 Reduced aureus 265-266, AV 1.17 g. GALLIENVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. [FORT]VNA REDVX Fortuna standing l., holding rudder in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. C 275. RIC 105. Göbl 666b<sup>1</sup> (this coin). Calicó 3506 var. (no draped and cuirassed). Extremely fine 3'500

**Provenance**

Hyman Montagu (1844-1895) Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuardent, Paris, April 20-28 April 1896, lot 628, to Leopold (or Leo) Hamburger.

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 369. Ex HSA 22228.



- 81 Reduced aureus 265-266, AV 1.28 g. GALLIENVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VICTORIA AET Victory standing l., holding wreath and palm. C — cf. 1069 (GALLIENVS AVG). RIC cf. 123 (GALLIENVS AVG). Göbl 669i (this coin). Calicó 3605 var. (head l.). Extremely fine 4'500

**Provenance**

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 370. Ex HSA 30123.



## Salonina, wife of Gallienus



82

- 82 Aureus 253/4-259, AV 2.26 g. SALONINA AVG Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. PIETAS AVGG Pietas seated l., holding sceptre in l. hand and extending r. to two children standing r. at her side. C —. Göbl 229a. RIC 11. Calicó 3677 (this coin). Biaggi 1506 (this coin).

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, undoubtedly among the finest specimens known. Unusually well struck on a full flan and good extremely fine

30'000

### Provenance

Privately sold by Bank Leu in August 1959 for CHF 4300.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 46, 2 April 2008, lot 660.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 52, 7 October 2009, lot 560.

If we believe the ancient sources, Salonina was the equal of Agrippina Senior or Faustina Junior for her intrepid spirit and her support of the army; indeed, she was hailed *Mater Castrorum* ('mother of the camp') early in the reign of her husband Gallienus. Many other virtues are attributed to her, generally in an attempt to contrast her dutiful qualities with those of her husband. However, we must remember that Gallienus was unfairly maligned by hostile literary sources from the senatorial class, for whom Gallienus had no sympathy in these troubled times. Both Salonina and Gallienus were patrons of the arts, and were great supporters of Plotinus, the Neoplatonist philosopher of the mid-3rd Century. We have no reason to doubt that she indulged in the flamboyant lifestyle of her husband, for on certain provincial coins, notably from Ionia and Lydia, she is accorded the unusual title *Crysogone*, meaning "Golden Born" or "Begotten of Gold". Salonina married Gallienus in about 240, and by him had three children, all of whom are represented on the reverse of this aureus. Because the main figure, representing Salonina, is not veiled, we should presume that the piety she expresses is to her family, not the gods. Two of these children, Valerian II and Saloninus, held imperial rank under their father, but both died tragically before their parents – the former while on campaign with his father in Illyricum, and the latter by execution in Gaul during the rebellion of Postumus. Contradictory information survives about the third child on the reverse, who may have been a three-year-old boy named Licinius Egnatius Marinianus or a daughter named Licinia Galliena. This child perished in September, 268 or shortly thereafter, in the purge of Gallienus' partisans; dying with this child were Gallienus's brother and his youngest child Marinianus, who was consul in 268.

## Aurelian, 270 – 275



- 83 Aureus, Antioch early 273, AV 5.29 g. AVRELIA – NVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r.; with lion's skin (?) over l. shoulder. Rev. RESTITV – TOR ORIENTIS Aurelianus on prancing horse r., attacking with spear two fallen enemies, of which the one on the l. is already run through by a spear while the one on the r. covers his head in protection. C –. RIC –. Göbl pl. 138, 365 (pierced, these dies) = Estiot pl. 85, 260 (pierced, these dies, Cyzicus). Calicó 4031 (this coin). Biaggi 1563 (this coin)

Of the highest rarity, only the second and by far the finest specimen known.

A lovely portrait and a very interesting reverse type. Almost invisible scuff on reverse, otherwise extremely fine

30'000

### This coin published:

Sylviane Estiot, "L'or romain entre crise et restitution", in *Journal des Savants*, 1999, pp. 51-148, no. 159b.

### Provenance

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 33, 6 April 2006, lot 572.

Sold by Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 238.

Aurelian, arguably the greatest of Rome's so-called military emperors of the third century, hailed from Sirmium in Pannonia Inferior, and was either of very humble origins or possibly of equestrian stock. He joined the legions when he was around twenty years of age, ca. A.D. 235, rising rapidly through the ranks to become, first, a cavalry commander during Gallienus' reign, and subsequently to the position of Magister equitum – cavalry commander and, effectively, the overall commander of the Roman army after the emperor – under Claudius II as well as a member of that emperor's inner circle of advisors. While still a cavalry commander under Gallienus, Aurelian led a contingent in the Battle of Naissus (A.D. 268), which saw the Goths defeated, and participated in the siege of Mediolanum against the usurper Aureolus, during which Gallienus was assassinated and Claudius II was proclaimed the new emperor. Under Claudius II, Aurelian successfully led the cavalry in many engagements against various invading tribes along Rome's borders in Rhaetia and in the Balkans – principle among them the Alemanni and, again, the Goths – and when Claudius succumbed to the plague in A.D. 270 while himself campaigning against these Germanic tribes the soldiers elevated Aurelian to the purple.

Aurelian's first task as emperor was to secure his power by defeating Quintillus, the brother of Claudius II who had been elevated to the throne by the Roman Senate. He made short shrift of the Senate's choice, and the august body had no choice but to immediately confirm his position. With this accomplished, Aurelian set about the task of restoring the res publica, as the previous two decades had seen Rome suffer greatly from incursions of barbarian tribes, widespread instability, devastating plagues, a number of usurpers, and ultimate financial collapse, all of which eventually led to the splintering of the Empire itself. In the west the general Postumus and his successors had created a breakaway Gallic Empire consisting of the Roman provinces of Britannia, Gaul and Spain, while in the east the city of Palmyra under Queen Zenobia and her son took control of much of Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt. By the time Aurelian had secured his position as emperor, the Gallic Empire was on its last legs, and Aurelian decided to wait to deal with it. Thus, in A.D. 272 he focused his attention on the Palmyrene Empire, which had recently cut off shipments of Egyptian grain to Rome, the Eternal City's principal source of food.

Marching through Asia Minor, all but two cities – Byzantium and Tyana – opened their gates to Aurelian's troops. At Tyana, the city authorities had refused to submit, but after capturing the city the emperor magnanimously spared its inhabitants. When other cities in the east heard of the emperor's benevolence towards Tyana, they readily opened their gates to the emperor. Thus within six months Aurelian was before the gates of Palmyra itself, which quickly surrendered after its queen fled the city. Aurelian's conquest over the Palmyrene Empire permitted the reinstitution of the Egyptian grain supply to the Empire's capital, thus freeing the city of Rome from imminent starvation. The emperor was hailed Parthicus Maximus and Restitutor Orientis ("restorer of the East").

The reverse of this exceptionally rare aureus – one of only two known – celebrates Aurelian's victory over the East. Here Aurelian is depicted as the cavalry commander, riding astride his horse and bearing down on two enemy combatants, which he spears with his lance. The ethnicity of the enemy is made clear by the Phrygian helmets they wear – they are easterners. The legend, RESTITVTOR ORIENTIS, proclaims Aurelian as the restorer of the East, and indicates that the coin was struck shortly after the conquest of Palmyra and commemorates Rome's victory.



84

- 84 Binio, Antioch end 273, AV 5.99 g. IMP C AVRELIANVS AVG Radiate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. RESTITVTOR ORIENTIS Sol standing l., raising r. hand and holding whip in l.; at each side, bound captive seated. C –. RIC –. Göbl 372a = Estiot 165 (these dies). Hunter 40 (this coin). CBN –. Calicó –.

Of the highest rarity, only three specimens known. A wonderful portrait struck on a very large flan, light reddish tone and good extremely fine

25'000

#### Provenance

Götz Grabert (1924-2000) Collection, sold by LHS Numismatik, Zürich, auction 97, 10 May 2006, lot 72.

#### Tacitus, 275 – 276



85

- 85 Aureus, Siscia 275-276, AV 4.63 g. IMP C M CL TACITVS P AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE – AETE – RNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory in r. hand and sceptre in l.; below seat, shield. C 112. RIC 74 (Roma). CBN 1718. Calicó 4088.

Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

20'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Anton Tkalec AG, Zurich, 24 October 2003, lot 391.

Sold by Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 239.



86

- 86 Aureus, Serdica 276, AV 4.55 g. IMP C M CL TACITVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ROMAE – AET – ERNAE Roma seated l., holding Victory in r. hand and sceptre in l.; beside seat, shield. In exergue, S C. C 116. RIC 209. Estiot 100a. CBN pl. 96, 459. Calicó 4096 (this coin). Biaggi 1601 (this coin). Lovely reddish tone, about extremely fine / extremely fine 8'000

**This coin published:**

Sylviane Estiot, 'L'Or romain entre crise et restitution (270-276 apr. J.-C.). II. Tacite et Florian', in *Journal des Savants* 2 (1999), pp. 335-427, no. 104c.

**Provenance**

Sir John Evans (1823-1908) Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuardent, Paris, 26-27 May 1909, lot 267.

Henry Platt Hall (1863-1949) Collection, sold by Glendining's & Co, London, 16-21 November 1950, lot 1957, to Santamaria.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

"BdB" collection sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 49, 21 October 2008, lot 395.

The origins and career of the Roman emperor Tacitus are uncertain owing to the disputed accounts of several ancient authors, notably the author(s) of the *Historia Augusta* as well as the historians Eutropius and Aurelius Victor, both of whom left works detailing the reign of Tacitus. While it was claimed that Tacitus came from a wealthy family from Interamna in Italy and was a descendant of the great second century A.D. author, Publius (or Gaius) Cornelius Tacitus, this is probably nothing more than an invented tale caused by a simple confusion of names and an inference of a noble lineage. The likely truth of the matter is that he was probably just another in the long succession of Danubian soldier-emperors that led Rome during the latter half of the 3rd century. Even Tacitus' reported venerable age is disputed; he was probably only in his 50s when he ascended the throne, not in his mid-70s as was claimed in the histories. In any case, after his assumption of power, he named his half-brother Florianus as his Praetorian Prefect, paid some deference to the Senate, had Aurelian deified and his murderers persecuted, then set off for the East with his half-brother to confront the serious threat posed by the Herulian and Gothic tribes who at the time were invading Asia Minor from the Caucasus. In Asia, Tacitus inflicted a resounding defeat on the raiding Goths. Afterwards he took the title Gothicus Maximus and also celebrated the victory on his coinage. While he intended to return to the West in order to repulse barbarian incursions along the Rhine, he was never able to do so as he died at Tyana in Cappadocia soon thereafter. The circumstances surrounding his death are uncertain, and once again reports vary. One mentions that the emperor had fallen ill and died a natural death, and if true it is surprising for no other reason that it was uncommon amongst third century emperors, most having been assassinated. The other possibility is that he was killed by mutinying troops from Syria. In any case, his half-brother, Florianus, declared himself emperor without awaiting the proclamation of the troops or confirmation by the Senate, but he too was killed shortly thereafter while engaging the forces of the general Probus who had been hailed emperor by legions of Syria and Egypt. In general, Tacitus' continued the monetary policies of his predecessor, Aurelian. His coins typically offer an optimistic message of a patriotic nature, and the type of "Eternal Rome" (ROMAE AETERNAE) is especially prevalent. His aurei come in two series: heavy examples weighing about 6.5 grams and averaging around 50 to the pound, and light examples weighing about 4.6 grams and averaging either 70 or 72 to the pound. The portraits of the emperor on the lighter issues are always laureate, but those of the heavier issues come both laureate and radiate, perhaps indicating that they functioned as biniones or "doubles."



**Florian, June – August 276**



87

- 87 Heavy aureus, Cyzicus 276, AV 6.42 g. IMP C M ANNIVS FLORIANVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. CONSERVATOR AVG Sol in quadriga l., holding reins in r. hand and whip in l. C 16. RIC 17 (Roma). Estiot 12a. CBN pl.100, 554. Calicó 4125 (this reverse die).

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, among the finest aurei of Florian in existence. A bold portrait perfectly struck and centred on a full flan. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

100'000

**Provenance**

Ferruccio Bolla (1911-1984) Collection, sold by Anton Tkalec AG and Astarte SA, Zürich, 28 February 2007, lot 85.

In 275 the once-crumbling Roman Empire had made great strides toward recovery under the stewardship of Aurelian. In the previous year Aurelian had celebrated a spectacular triumph in Rome for his recovery of the Western provinces from Tetricus and the Eastern provinces from the rulers of Palmyra. Having achieved so much, Aurelian was not content to rest on his laurels, and had he not been murdered late in 275 he would have waged war against the Persians. Tacitus, perhaps a leading senator at the time, stepped in to replace Aurelian as emperor. He made his half-brother, Florian, his praetorian prefect and the two immediately set out for the East to confront the Heruli and Goths, who had swept into Asia Minor amidst the confusion. Indeed, the barbarians had only gathered in such force to join Aurelian as mercenaries on his Persian campaign, and in the meantime they found themselves with little option but to engage in piracy.

If we accept the testimony of coinage and the sketchy historical record, Tacitus and Florianus found some success against the invaders, notably in Cilicia. But not long afterward Tacitus died from disease or murder, after which Florian laid claim to his brother's title. He would not reign long, however, as Probus, the most successful of Aurelian's generals and the commander of the Roman armies in the East, opposed Florian. Probus emerged victorious and became one of Rome's most successful emperors.

Florian was most likely killed by his own soldiers, who had been struck by a pestilence. Notwithstanding the information we have from sources that depict him bald, Florian is represented on the coin with short hair, evenly spread on the skullcap, a similarly short beard, and an expression exuding strength and determination.

**Probus, 276 – 282**



- 88 Aureus, Serdica 276–282, AV 6.40 g. IMP C M AVR PROBUS P – AVG Helmeted and cuirassed bust l., holding spear in r. hand and shield over l. shoulder. Rev. VICTORIAE Victory in slow quadriga l., holding wreath in r. hand and palm in l.; in exergue, AVG. C 784. RIC 833. Calicó 4229 (this coin). Biaggi 1630 (this coin).

Very rare. A magnificent portrait perfectly struck in high relief, an almost invisible scuff on the horses and a nick on edge, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc 60'000

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Mario Ratto in 1954 for 432 000 Lire.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 72, 16 May 2013, lot 738.

Probus' predecessor, Aurelian, paid close attention to coinage, and at great risk and expense succeeded in reforming his empire's ailing coinage by increasing purities, weights, and by re-introducing old denominations. Though Probus did not attempt any such reform of the core denominations, he more or less abandoned Aurelian's re-introduced denominations. Probus' coinage reform did not involve purity or weight, but rather design and tenor: Probus introduced the militant bust on a scale that never before had been seen on Roman coinage. Prior to his reign it was unusual to see an armoured bust with spear and shield (for an example, see the Gordian III medallion in this sale), and especially to see the emperor wearing a helmet. Here we have the terrifying bust of an emperor ever-prepared to attack or defend on behalf of his empire. The helmet is elaborately decorated and crowned with a laurel wreath; the spear is in the prone position, and the shield is raised in defence.

The impact of this war regalia is amplified by the 'heroic bust' composition, which harkens back to earlier numismatic prototypes. Probus' intention, no doubt, was to demonstrate the strength of his regime and to show the possessor of this beautiful aureus that Rome's future was secured by the strength of his command.

If the obverse was meant to communicate Probus' unquestioned military supremacy, the elegant, noble reverse suggests the same level of confidence in the emperor's legislative authority.



- 89 Aureus, Siscia 279, AV 6.04 g. VIRTU – S PROBI AVG Helmeted and cuirassed bust r. Rev. P – M TR I – P Emperor, laureate and togate standing in slow quadriga r., holding eagle-tipped sceptre in l. hand; in exergue, COS III. C 453 var. (bust l.). RIC 579 var. (bust l.). Calicó 4177 var. (bust l.).

Apparently unique and unpublished. An absolutely spectacular portrait of masterly style perfectly struck and centred on a full flan and a finely detailed reverse composition.

Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

60'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Harlan J. Berk with Freeman & Sear, auction Gemini II, New York, 10 January 2006, lot 507.

'Heroic bust' composition, which harkens back to earlier numismatic prototypes. Probus' intention, no doubt, was to demonstrate the strength of his regime and to show the possessor of this beautiful aureus that Rome's future was secured by the strength of his command. If the obverse was meant to communicate Probus' unquestioned military supremacy, the elegant, noble reverse suggests the same level of confidence in the emperor's legislative authority. Probus is shown in his chariot, holding an eagle-tipped sceptre (scipio) and guiding the reins of four horses who move forward in perfect synchronicity – the foremost with its head held high. Here Probus celebrates an unspecified tribunician power, and his third renewal of the consulship. We must presume this coin refers to the third or fourth renewal of his tribunician power, even though it is not designated, as his sequence of honors would accommodate that. Tribunician power designations on the coins of Probus, though unorthodox, is consistent: TR P is paired with COS; TRI P is paired with COS II and COS III; TR P V is paired with COS III; and TR P VI is paired with COS V.

#### Carus, 282 – 283



- 90 Aureus, Siscia 282-283, AV 4.66 g. IMP C M AVR CARVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. MARS V – LTOR Mars advancing r., holding spear in r. hand and shield in l. C 39. RIC 92D. Calicó 4267. Very rare. Lovely reddish tone and extremely fine 12'000

#### Provenance

Privately sold by Harlan J. Berk in December 2005.



91

- 91 **Divo Caro.** Aureus, Siscia after 283, AV 4.62 g. DIVO CARO PARTHICO Laureate head r. Rev. CONSECRATIO AVG Eagle, with open wings, standing r. and looking backwards. C —. RIC —. Calicó 4262a (this coin) Of the highest rarity, apparently only the third specimen known. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 30'000

**Provenance**

Offered by Anton Tkalec AG, Zürich, 18 February 2002, lot 235.

Sold by Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 245.

**Carinus caesar, 282 – 283**



92

- 92 Aureus, Siscia 282, AV 4.55 g. M AVR CARINVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VICTO – RIA AVG Victory standing l. on globe, holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l. C 139 var. (not draped). RIC 190d. Calicó 4373 (these dies). A lovely portrait and an elegant reverse die. Lovely light reddish tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc 15'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Freeman & Sear, Los Angeles, Fixed Price List 10, Spring 2005, lot 124.





- 93 Aureus, Antiochia 283, AV 4.59 g. IMP C M AVR CARINVS NOB C Laureate and cuirassed bust r., wearing consular mantel. Rev. VICTOR – IAE – AVGG Victory advancing r., holding wreath in r. hand and palm branch in l.; in exergue, SMA. C –. RIC –, cf. Carus 122 and Numerian 374 (this reverse die). Calicó 4393b (these dies). cf. NAC & Spink-Taisei, The Gilbert Steinberg Collection, 733.

Exceedingly rare, apparently only the third specimen known. An unusual and interesting portrait struck on a very large flan. A few edge marks, otherwise extremely fine

17'500

#### Provenance

Sold by Numismatik Lanz, Munich, auction 44, 16 May 1988, lot 805.

Sold by Gerhard Hirsch Nachf., Munich, auction 214, 15-17 February 2001, lot 1805.

Sold by Numismatica Genevensis S.A., Geneva, auction IV, 11-12 December 2006, lot 247.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 52, 7 October 2009, lot 576.

This important discovery almost completes the 283 Antiochene gold coinage of Carus augustus and Carinus and Numerian Caesares and Augusti, only Carus Augustus waiting to be found with this reverse. Carinus Caesar is shown with ornamenta consularia as he was COS I with his father this year, indicating that it was not until a little while after the capture of Ctesiphon, the event the coin clearly celebrates, that he and his brother were raised by Carus to the Augustate, perhaps simultaneously.

#### Carinus augustus, 283-285



- 94 Aureus, Siscia 284, AV 5.64 g. IMP C M AVR CARINVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust l. Rev. LIBERA – LITAS AVG Liberalitas standing l., holding tessera in r. hand and cornucopiae in l.; in r. field, star. C 48 var. (also draped). RIC 309 var. (also draped). Calicó 4347 (these dies).

Very rare. A very attractive and unusual portrait perfectly struck in high relief. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

40'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 33, 6 April 2006, lot 579.

Details of the short-lived dynasty of Carus and his two sons, Carinus and Numerian, are scanty and imprecise, and in many respects unreliable due to a tradition of hostility amongst later writers. We do know that both Carinus and his younger brother were grown adults when their father was elevated to the purple, and that both were made Caesars at the same time late in A.D. 282. However, Carinus held the senior position and early in A.D. 283 was elevated to the rank of Augustus, sharing the ordinary consulship with his father. He was then left to guard the western half of the Empire while his father and brother left for the East in order to engage the Parthians.

After successfully campaigning in Parthia, Carus died suddenly of illness. Numerian was immediately acclaimed Augustus by his troops and concluded his father's Parthian campaign by turning the army around and heading back west. On the return journey he died under suspicious circumstances, and the commander of his personal bodyguard, Valerius Diocles, was acclaimed emperor.

Meanwhile in the West, Carinus was settling a disturbance that had developed in Roman Britain when news of Numerian's death and Diocles' subsequent elevation spread and revolt broke out. The insurrection was led by an official from northern Italy, the corrector Julian of Pannonia who had taken the title of Augustus, and Carinus marched south to confront the usurper. Early in A.D. 285 he quashed the revolt in battle either near Verona or in Illyria, and then proceeded to Moesia where he engaged the forces of Diocletian at the Battle of the Margus River. It is not known whether Carinus was defeated and slain in battle, which appears likely, or whether he was murdered by a jealous officer whose wife he had seduced, but he was killed at about this time leaving the Empire open to Diocletian.

#### Numerianus augustus, 283 – 284



95

- 95 Aureus, Siscia 283-284, AV 4.57 g. IMP C NVMERIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. ABVNDANTIA AVGG Abundantia standing l., emptying cornucopiae. C 2 var. (not draped). RIC 451 var. (not draped). Calicó 4298 var. (not draped).

Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A lovely portrait of fine style,  
Two insignificant edge marks, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

35'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 54, 24 May 2010, lot 596.

When Numerian's father Carus died under mysterious circumstances near the river Tigris, the great offensive father and son had been leading against the Sasanians ground to a halt. Ancient sources tell us Carus died from a lightning strike, but modern historians are sceptical: most believe he was murdered by his prefect Aper. Until that point the campaign had been a great success, as father and son had not only defeated the Quadi and Sarmatians on their eastward trek, but in 283 they had sacked Ctesiphon. The 30-year-old Numerian might have been competent, but he was now in an awkward position, surrounded by ambitious subordinates and an army paralyzed by superstition. Whether he was startled by his father's mysterious death, uncomfortable with supreme authority, or if he wisely reacted to a change in military circumstances, Numerian made a quick and unfavorable peace with the Persian king Varhan II and led the bulk of his army on a westward retreat. On that arduous journey to meet his brother, Carinus, who was ruling in the West, Numerian died – again under mysterious circumstances. This is a familiar tale of the late third century, and it is only of historical interest because one of his commanders Diocles, better known as Diocletian, was elected emperor in his place. As a consequence the Roman world was to be completely reordered and stabilized, ushering in the foundations of the social and political institutions of the Dark Ages and the Medieval world.



- 96 Aureus 284, AV 5.50 g. IMP NVMERIANVS AVG Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. VENE – RI VICTRICI Venus standing l., holding Victory in r. hand and apple in l. C 94. RIC 406. Calicó 4318 (these dies).  
Very rare. A wonderful portrait of exceptional style. Minor flan crack at two o'clock, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc 15'000

**Provenance**

William H. Williams Collection, sold by Classical Numismatic Group, New York, auction Triton VI, 14-15 January 2003, lot 1070.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 59, 4-5 April 2011, lot 1143.

**Julian of Pannonia, 284 – 285**



- 97 Aureus, Siscia circa 284, AV 5.22 g. IMP C IVLIANVS P F AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. LIBERTAS PVBLICA Libertas standing l., holding pileus in r. hand and cornucopiae in l. C 4. RIC 1. Calicó 4416 (these dies).  
Extremely rare. Pierced and skillfully repaired at twelve o'clock on obverse, otherwise very fine 15'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Adolph Hess A.G. with Bank Leu, Lucerne, auction 19, 12-13 April 1962, lot 499, to Gerhard Hirsch (1903-1982).

Sold by Bankhaus H. Aufhäuser, München, auction 17, 18 April 2003, lot 595.

Privately sold by Robert Kokotailo – Calgary Coin Gallery in 2003.

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

**Diocletian, 284 – 305**



- 98 Aureus, Cyzicus 290, AV 5.40 g. DIOCLETIANVS – AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. CONSVL IIII – P P PRO COS Emperor togate, standing l., holding globe in r. hand and sceptre in l. C 46 var. (without sceptre and letter on reverse). Lukanc 1. RIC 285. Depeyrot 11/2. Calicó 4434 var. (without sceptre).  
Virtually as struck and almost Fdc 10'000

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Françoise Vinchon on 20 September 2006.



- 99 Aureus, Treveri 293-294, AV 5.00 g. DIOCLET – IANVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CON – SERVAT Jupiter seated facing, holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in l. field, eagle standing l. with head r. In exergue, P T. C 186. Lukanc 5. RIC 16. Bastien, Donativa p. 65, c. Depeyrot 1B/4. Calicó 4455.  
Rare. A lovely portrait and a very interesting reverse type. Good extremely fine 12'000

**Provenance**

Sold by J. Elsen & Fils SA, Brussels, auction 116, 13 March 2013, lot 519.



- 100 Aureus, Treveri circa 293-294, AV 5.36 g. DIOCLETI – ANVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI FVL – GERATORI Jupiter advancing r., holding thunderbolt and striking down Titan; in exergue, P T. C 285 var. (PR in exergue). Lukanc 8 (this coin cited). RIC 20. Depeyrot 1a/5. Calicó 4526 (these dies).  
Very rare. An almost invisible graffito on neck, otherwise extremely fine 12'500

**Provenance**

Sold by Adolph Hess & Bank Leu, Lucerne, auction 45, 12 May 1970, lot 634.

Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955) Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 67, 17 October 2012, lot 212. Ex HSA 22152.





101

- 101 Aureus, Alexandria 294-296, AV 5.50 g. DIOCL – ETIANVS AVG Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CO – N – SER AVSS Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in l. field, eagle standing l. with head and tail r., holding wreath in beak. In r. field, \* and in exergue, ALE. C 177. Lukanc 2. RIC 4 var. (arrangement obverse legend). Depeyrot 6/1. Calicó –.  
Very rare. A bold portrait of fine style struck in high relief. Extremely fine 15'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Harlan J. Berk, Chicago, buy-or-bid auction 106, 20 January 1999, lot 15.

White Mountain Collection, sold by Classical Numismatic Group, auction Triton XVI, New York, 2013, lot 1139.



102

- 102 Aureus, Aquileia 294-303, AV 5.49 g. DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. VOT / XX / AVGG within wreath closed at base with an eagle. C 540. Lukanc 2. RIC 7a. Depeyrot 2/1. Paolucci-Zub 2. Beaurains 37 (this coin). Baldwin-Brett, NC 1933, 62.3 (this coin). Calicó 4585.  
A wonderful reddish tone and a bold portrait. An interesting graffito on obverse (M), otherwise extremely fine 8'000

#### Provenance

Found in a field in « Pouvoir Dhée », near Beaurains lès Arras, on 21 September 1922.

Pompeo Bonazzi Collection, sold by Rodolfo Ratto, Lugano, 7 June 1926 and following days, lot 2307.

Sold by Rodolfo Ratto fixed price list April 1933, lot 391.

“The property of a foreign collector”, sold by Glendining’s & Co, London, 27-28 May 1936, lot 224.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 78, 26 May 2014, lot 1120.



103

- 103 Aureus, Aquileia 303-305, AV 5.35 g. DIOCLETI – ANVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. XX / DIOCL / ETIAN / I AVG / S M AQ within wreath. C –. RIC 10. Lukanc 3. Depeyrot 4/1. Paolucci-Zub 3. Calicò 4592 (these dies). Very rare. Struck on a very broad flan and extremely fine 15'000

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Françoise Vinchon on 20 September 2006.

**Maximianus Herculus, 286 – 308**



104

- 104 Aureus, Antioch circa 286, AV 6.10 g. IMP C M AVR VAL MAXIMIANVS P F AVG Laureate bust l., wearing imperial mantle and holding eagle-tipped sceptre. Rev. IOVI CONSERVATO – RI AVGG Emperor standing r., holding sceptre and receiving Victory on globe from Jupiter standing l. and holding sceptre; between them, N. In exergue, SMA. C –. RIC –. Depeyrot –. Bastien, Donativa p. 62, a. Calicò –. For this type, cf. Lukanc, Diocletian, p. 162, 5 (this reverse die).

Apparently unique and unrecorded. A very interesting and unusual portrait struck on a very broad flan. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

25'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 27, 12 May 2004, lot 500.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction I, 11 January 2005, lot 451.

Sold by Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 251.



- 105 Aureus circa 286-287, AV 5.17 g. IMP C M AVR VAL MAXIMIANVS AVG Draped bust r., wearing lion's skin headdress. Rev. IOVI CO – NSER – VAT AVGG Jupiter standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand and sceptre in l. C –. RIC 494 = Glendining sale 1929, Nordheim collection, 535 (these dies). Depeyrot 2D/5. Calicó 4698 (this coin).

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A very appealing and unusual portrait of great beauty struck on a very broad flan. Good extremely fine

30'000

#### Provenance

Ladislav von Hoffmann (1927-2014) Collection, sold by Sotheby's, Zürich, auction 5 July 1995, lot 174.

"A European Nobleman" Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 24, 5 December 2002, lot 241.

Galerius Valerius Maximianus made his military career under Aurelianus and Probus: he was proclaimed Augustus by Diocletianus, perhaps on the 1st of April 286, and was entrusted with the government and the defence of the Danubian provinces and the Balkan peninsula.

The unsuccessful attempt to reconquer Britain against the usurpation of Carausius obliged Diocletianus to form the tetrarchic system, assigning to Maximianus, Constantius Chlorus as Caesar. Thus Maximianus went to Africa to fight the Mauretanian rebel tribes, which he defied between 297-298.

The portrait of Maximianus in the aureus seems to have undergone a process of idealisation: the head of Augustus is wearing a lion-skin, the face is framed by a ring of beard and the chin appears strong.

The motive of the *pellis leonina* (that of the Nemean lion, strangled by Heracles in one of his twelve labours), proclaims the figure of Hercules Comes, standing with his typical attributes (the bow and the club) of the reverse. Maximianus credited the special divine protection under which his power continued to the hero of the Roman-Italic tradition, from whom he had taken the name of "Herculean".



106

- 106 Aureus circa 287, AV 5.54 g. MAXIMIA – NVS PF AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. HERCVLI – VICTORI Hercules seated facing on rock, head r., with lion's skin on lap; on l., club and on r., bow and quiver. In exergue, P R. C 306 var. (misdescribed). RIC –. Depeyrot 5B/6. Calicó 4681.  
A coin of extraordinary quality. A bold portrait of superb style and a finely-detailed reverse die. A perfect Fdc 25'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Giessener Münzhandlung, Munich, auction 62, 20 April 1993, lot 610.

"A Distinguished American" Collection, sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 52, 15 May 1991, lot 265.

Claude Vaudecrane (1915-2002) Collection, sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 93 ("a perfectionist"), 10 May 2005, lot 119.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction II, 11 January 2006, lot 512.

The invocation on this coin "to Hercules, the Victor" was appropriate in 287 as Maximian was just starting to overcome the anarchy that had reigned in the West for the previous two years. Not only was Hercules the emperor's patron, but he was renowned for his ability to take on a proverbial 'Herculean task' and emerge victorious. Maximian faced threats so numerous and daunting that people might well have presumed that if he triumphed, it was with the benefit of divine assistance.

Hercules is shown as an older, bearded man seated facing upon a rock, looking right, with the skin of the Nemean lion draped over his lap. With his left hand he holds his club, and his bow and arrow-filled quiver are prominently displayed in the right field. The standing figure of Hercules was a universal image and was used on coins from numerous mints over a long period, whereas this powerful image was used only for aurei of Rome in c.287 and aurei of Trier in c.294, when that mint re-opened in anticipation of a new effort to reclaim Britain.



107

- 107 Aureus, Treveri 295-305, AV 4.93 g. MAXIMI – ANVS P AVG Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI CON – SERVATORI Head of Hercules r., wearing lion-skin headdress; below, T – R. C –. NC 1930, 43, pl. XVIII, 10 (this coin illustrated). Baldwin Brett NC 1933, 89 (this coin illustrated). RIC 47 (this coin cited). Beaurains 257 (this coin). Depeyrot 7A/2 (this coin illustrated). Calicó 4655.  
Very rare. Two superb portraits of superb style and a wonderful reddish tone. Extremely fine 25'000

#### Provenance

Found in a field in « Pouvoir Dhée », near Beaurains lès Arras, on 21 September 1922.

Sir Arthur John Evans (1851-1941) Collection, sold by Ars Classica, Lucerne, auction XVII, 3 October 1934, lot 1829.

Sold by Leu Numismatik, Zürich, auction 91, 10-11 May 2004, lot 672.

Sold by H. D. Rauch, Vienna, auction 90, 4 June 2012, lot 884.





108

- 108 Aureus circa 293-294, AV 5.28 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI D – EBELLAT Hercules standing l., fighting Hydra with club in r. hand; in exergue, P R. C 255 var. (in exergue PROM). RIC –, for the type cf. Treviri, 9). Depeyrot 6/13. Calicó 4659a (this coin).

Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A superb portrait of fine style and a very interesting reverse type. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

25'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 65, 21-22 May 1996, lot 480.

Sold by Anton Tkalec AG, Zürich, auction 25 October 1996, lot 264.

Claude Vaudecrane (1915-2002) Collection, sold by Leu Numismatik, auction 93 ("a perfectionist"), Zurich, 10 May 2005, lot 121.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction III, 9 January 2007, lot 450.

Around the time the Tetrarchy was formed in 293 minting in the empire began to increase, partly because the size of the imperial bureaucracy had perhaps doubled, and the needs of the army were not lessened. Furthermore, there were donatives for Diocletian's decennalia and the courts and bodyguards of the new Caesars Constantius I and Galerius had to be established. All of these expenses carried into 294, when this aureus was struck at the Rome mint, about the time Diocletian implemented his monetary reform. In the West the increase in expenses was piqued in 293 with the mounting of a fresh offensive against Carausius, the naval commander-turned-rebel who since 286 (or possibly early 287) had ruled Britain and controlled much of the north-western coast of Gaul. All this meant that the mint at Trier resumed production (in 293/4) after a 20-year hiatus, and that in 293 a temporary mint was established at Iantium (Meaux). If recent events were any guide, the success of this new venture was far from guaranteed. Maximian already had failed twice to defeat Carausius: in the spring of 289 he suffered a great naval disaster when moving against the rebel, and two years later a second attempt seems to have been thwarted, though no details of it survive. This was a source of great embarrassment to Maximian, who ultimately had to answer to Diocletian, the senior emperor in the East. It also took a great toll on the resources of the Western provinces, and threatened to inspire other would-be rebels. Thus, when the new campaign was mounted in 293, success was essential. Maximian was relying on Constantius, his former praetorian prefect and new Caesar, who had proven his skills as a commander in the previous years. He'd registered impressive (if somewhat brutal) victories against Carausius' Frankish allies in the estuaries of the Rhine, trekking as far as the shores of the North Sea. Now, without the luxury of a fleet, he had to focus on defeating the rebel's allies in Gaul. The campaign was fraught with hardship and uncertainty, but Constantius emerged victorious after he forced the surrender of Bononia (Boulogne), Carausius' major stronghold in Gaul. Constantius blocked the entrance to this port-city by a feat of engineering that seems to have given way to the rising tide only hours after the city had capitulated. It is not known if Carausius was in the city and escaped, or if he had been in Britain throughout the siege, but the loss of Bologne and the consequent surrender of the rest of the Continental allies caused his murder, seemingly by his successor Allectus. Several coin types refer to this campaign, including the reverse of this aureus, which is dedicated "to Hercules the vanquisher" who is shown in the midst of his second labor, the defeat of the Lernaean Hydra. The message is clear, for Hercules was the patron deity of the ruling house of Maximian and Constantius, and the allusion of this coin type to this fresh and inspiring victory cannot be missed.



109

- 109 Aureus circa 294, AV 5.24 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI – DEBELLAT Hercules standing r., fighting Hydra with club in r. hand; in exergue, PROM. C 255 var. (Hercules I.). RIC – (type unknown for this mint). Depeyrot 9/7. Calicó 4662 (this reverse die).

Very rare. Struck in high relief on a very broad flan, minor marks,  
otherwise extremely fine / good extremely fine

15'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Schweizerischer Bankverein, Zürich, auction 38, 12-14 September 1995, lot 375.

Prof. Dr. Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928-2014) Collection, sold by G. Hirsch Nachf., Munich, auction 279-280 ("Die Generationensammlung"), 8 February 2012, lot 2758.

Sold by Gorny & Mosch, Munich, auction 211, 4 March 2013, lot 669.



110

- 110 Aureus, Nicomedia circa 294, AV 5.36 g. MAXIMIA – NVS P F AVG Laureate head r. Rev. HERCVLI – VICTORI Hercules standing facing, head r., holding apples and lion's skin in l. hand and leaning on club; in exergue, SMN. C 294 var. (SMSD or SMNVI in exergue). RIC 3. Depeyrot 2/2. Calicó 4667a var. (Hercules does not hold apple).

Extremely rare. A very attractive portrait. Minor edge mark,  
otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

12'500

#### Provenance

Sold by Münzen und Medaillen AG, Basel, auction 43, 13 November 1970, lot 442.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction II, 11 January 2006, lot 513.

**Constantius I Chlorus caesar, 293 – 305**



111

- 111 Aurus, Cyzicus (?) circa 293, AV 6.55 g. CONSTANTIVS – NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. VIRTVTI HERCVLIS Naked Hercules standing r., leaning on club, covered with lion-skin, set on rock. C –. RIC –. Depeyrot –. Calicó –.

Apparently unique and unrecorded. A very elegant portrait of fine style and an interesting reverse type. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc

20'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Harlan J. Berk, Chicago, Buy or Bid sale 109, 20 July 1999, lot 15a.

William H. Williams Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 31, 26 October 2005, lot 132.

Remembered as 'Chlorus', meaning pale or of poor health, by Byzantine writers, Constantius I was the senior of the two Caesars of the First Tetrarchy, and subsequently the senior Augustus from A.D. 305 until his untimely death in 306. The division of the Roman Empire into a tetrarchy – i.e., the rule by four – was instituted by Diocletian in 293 in order to combat the many threats facing the regime. Having already elevated Maximianus to rule alongside him jointly in 286, Diocletian saw the need to expand their diarchy and therefore appointed each a Caesar to serve as deputy: Galerius, who became the junior Caesar, was adopted by Diocletian and assisted him in ruling the eastern provinces, while Constantius was made the senior Caesar under Maximianus with responsibilities for the western provinces. Along with these adoptions each also chose a patron deity to lend legitimacy to their rule. In the case of Diocletian and Galerius, the god was Jove, and they adopted the name Jovius. Maximianus and Constantius took the name Herculius as their patron was Hercules. Both gods received special recognition on the coinage of their respective tetrarchs, such as on this aureus of Constantius where the reverse depicts Hercules in order to celebrate Constantius' membership in the Herculan house.

Constantius' reign as Caesar saw the return to Roman hands of the break-away Romano-British Empire of Carausius and Allectus, and later the defeat of a horde of marauding Alemanni from across the Rhine. He established his capital at Trier, and secured his territories from further unrest. After the abdication of Diocletian and Maximianus in A.D. 305 and his and Galerius' elevations, Constantius inflicted a resounding defeat on the Picts of northern Britain. However, while he was involved in this campaign he fell gravely ill, and subsequently died at Eboracum in A.D. 306.



- 112 Aureus circa 298-299, AV 5.20 g. CONSTAN – TIVS CAES Laureate head r. Rev. PROVIDE – NTIA AVGG Camp gate with three forward turrets; behind, two small turrets between two towers; in exergue, P R. C 239. RIC 6a. Depeyrot 12A/3. Calicó 4869.

Extremely rare and possibly the finest specimen known. Perfectly struck in high relief, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

20'000

#### Provenance

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 46, 2 April 2008, lot 692.

#### Galerius Maximianus caesar, 293 – 305.



- 113 Half light aureus circa 298-299, AV 2.87 g. MAXIMIANVS NOB CAES Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRTV – S AVGGG Hercules standing facing, head r., leaning on club and holding bow and lion's skin in l. hand. In exergue, P R. C –. RIC 9 (this coin). King 60. Depeyrot 10/1 (this coin).

Of the highest rarity less than five specimens known. Struck on a very broad flan, several edge marks, traces of mounting, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine

15'000

#### This coin published:

Pink, p. 21 (this coin)

#### Provenance

Viscount Gustave Ponton d'Amécourt (1825-1888) Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuardent, Paris, 25-30 April 1887, lot 520.

Hyman Montagu (1844-1895) Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuardent, Paris, 20-28 April 1896, lot 743, to Brüder Egger.

Trau family Collection, acquired by Franz Trau (1842-1905) or his son Franz Trau Junior (1881-1931). Offered by Adolph Hess with Gilhofer und Ranschburg, Vienna, 22 May 1935 sqq., lot 3596. Sold Adolph Hess, Lucerne, 28 April 1936, lot 2716.

Offered by Münzhandlung Basel, auction 10, 15-16 March 1938, lot 761.

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 2, 25 April 1972, lot 446.

Offered by G. Hirsch Nachf., Munich, auction 193, 19 February 1997, lot 126.

Offered by G. Hirsch Nachf., Munich, auction 199, 6 May 1998, lot 651.

Sold by G. Hirsch Nachf., Munich, auction 206, 24 November 1999, lot 569.

Prof. Dr. Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928-2014) Collection, sold by G. Hirsch Nachf., Munich, auction 279-280 ("Die Generationensammlung"), 8 February 2012, lot 2771.



**Maximinus II Daia caesar, 305 – 309**



114

- 114 Aureus late spring-summer 307, AV 5.32 g. MAXIMINVS – S NOB CAES Laureate head r. Rev. PRINCI – P – I IVVENTVT Prince, in military attire, standing l., holding sceptre and raising r. hand; in r. field, ensign. In exergue, P R. C 140. RIC 149 (misdescribed). Alföldi 319. Depeyrot 14/10. Calicó 5023.

A lovely portrait, minor marks, otherwise extremely fine

9'000

**Provenance**

Offered by Leu Numismatik, auction 91, Zurich, 10-11 May 2004, lot 680.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction II, 11 January 2006, lot 514.

**Maxentius caesar, 306 – 307**



115

- 115 Aureus late 306 to early spring 307, AV 4.91 g. MAXENTIVS – PRINC INVICT Hercvli COMITI – AVGG ET CAESS NN Hercules standing facing, head l., leaning r. hand on club and holding bow in l.; lion's skin over l. arm. In inner l. field, E and in exergue, P R. C 80 var. (without E on reverse). RIC 138. Alföldi 194. Depeyrot 15/5. Biaggi 1915 (this coin). Calicó 5064 (this coin).

Very rare. Scuff on obverse, otherwise good very fine / about extremely fine

7'500

**Provenance**

Privately sold by Münzen und Medaillen A.G. in August 1963 for CHF 12 000.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 49, 21 October 2008, lot 451.



116

- 116 Aureus, Nicomedia March 321-322, AV 5.30 g. LICINIVS AVG OB D V FILII SVI Bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust facing. Rev. IOVI CONS – LICINI AVG Jupiter seated facing enthroned on platform, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field l., eagle with wreath in beak. The platform is inscribed SIC X / SIC XX. In exergue, SMND. C 128. RIC 41 (this coin cited). Alföldi 262. Depeyrot 31/1. Calicó 5094 (this coin). Biaggi 1940 (this coin).

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

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

45'000

#### Provenance

Found in Bulgaria in 1891.

Sir John Evans (1823-1908) Collection, inherited by Sir Arthur John Evans (1851-1941), sold by Lucien Naville, Lucerne, auction III, 16 June 1922, lot 177, to Spink & Son.

Mr. X Collection, sold by Jules Florange & Louis Ciani, Paris, 16 October 1923, lot 107.

A Portuguese Collection, sold by Münzen und Medaillen AG, Basel, auction XV, 1-2 July 1955, lot 861, to Bank Leu.

Erich von Schulthess-Rechberg (1914-1986) Collection, sold by Hess-Leu, Lucerne, auction 17, 23 March 1961, lot 408.

Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu and Marco Ratto.

Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 22, 8-9 May 1979, lot 379.

"A Connoisseur of Portraiture" Collection, sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 38, 21 May 2007, lot 227.

The facing portrait on Roman coins was an extremely rare occurrence until the reign of Constantius II, who eventually adopted the form as his standard obverse type at eastern mints. However, the form he used was simplistic in comparison to earlier attempts: the face of the emperor was small and inarticulate, with the true impact of the design being derived from the form and the ornamentation of the armoured, helmeted bust, which could be easily replicated on a large scale. By contrast, this aureus of Licinius represents an impressive attempt to capture the spirit of the emperor as an individual, not merely as a universal being. Four important issues of gold with facing busts were produced from c. 310 to c. 321. The first was by Maxentius on aurei of c. 310-312, and the second by Constantine on solidi of 316; the former was shown bare-headed and bearded, in the guise of a model Tetrarch, the latter was shown nimbate and clean-shaven, as a reflection of his unique brand of monotheism, which embraced solar worship and the Christian faith. Similarities in the style of the two issues make it possible that both were the work of the same artist, who initially worked for Maxentius, and who remained in Italy after Constantine's takeover and produced a facing-head for his new master. Following these two coinages are the solidi of c. 321 struck for Licinius I and Licinius II, and we should not doubt that they were inspired by one or both of the predecessor issues. The Licinian solidi mark a special event, the taking of imperial vows. The statue of Jupiter rests upon a monumental base inscribed SIC X SIC XX, a substitute for the usual votum, in which Licinius gives thanks for ten years of rulership and demonstrates a desire to reign for twenty. Based on this alone, the issue might be attributed to 317, when those vows were taken on the occasion of Licinius' decennalia, but a formula cleverly integrated into the obverse inscription, OB D V (ob diem quinquennialium), alludes to the quinquennalia (fifth anniversary) of his son Licinius II, for whom a companion issue of facing-head solidi was struck. Thus, we must date this aureus to c. 320/321. Equally worthy of comment is the reverse type, on which Jupiter makes one of his last appearances on Roman coinage. This can be seen as evidence of the simmering hostilities between Constantine and Licinius, who not only were co-emperors, but were brothers-in-law. Their rivalry increasingly took on a religious tone, with Constantine now favouring Christianity and Licinius embracing the supreme pagan god – partly because of his own beliefs, partly in opposition to Constantine. Licinius had initially adopted religious ambiguity in 313 as a token of good faith toward Constantine, who early in that year had issued the 'Edict of Milan' in both of their names. Here that position is rejected: the inscription describes Jupiter as the protector of Licinius, and the god is represented by an especially powerful and ancient image, seemingly derived from Phidias' famous gold and ivory statue in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia.

**Licinius II caesar, 317 – 324**



- 117 Solidus, Nicomedia March circa 321–322, AV 5.27 g. D N VAL LICIN LICINIVS NOB C Draped and cuirassed bust facing. Rev. IOVI CONSER – VATORI CAES Jupiter seated facing enthroned on platform, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in field l., eagle with wreath in beak. The platform inscribed SIC·V· / SIC·X·. In exergue, SMNΔ. C 28 (omits cuirass). RIC 42. Alföldi 254. Depeyrot 31/2. Calicó 5150.

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

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

45'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 5, 25 February 1992, lot 588.

Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zürich, auction 46, 2 April 2008, lot 704.

Sold by Gemini LLC, New York, auction VI, 10 January 2010, lot 577.

**Constantine I, 307 – 337**



- 118 Aureus, Thessalonica circa 311–313, AV 5.07 g. CONSTANTIN – VS AVGVSTVS Laureate head r. Rev. IOVI CONSERV – ATORI AVGG Jupiter standing facing, head l., naked but for chlamys over l. shoulder, holding thunderbolt and sceptre; at his feet, eagle with spread wings holding wreath in its beak. In r. field, retrograde Σ and in exergue, •SM•TS•. C 305. RIC 44c. Depeyrot 5/4. Alföldi 236. Calicó 5172a.

Very rare. A wonderful portrait of fine style, slightly double struck on obverse and with some almost invisible marks, otherwise extremely fine

8'000

**Provenance**

Sold by Münzen und Medaillen AG, Basel, auction 73, 17 october 1988, lot 271.

Sold by Classical Numismatic Group with Freeman & Sear with Numismatica Ars Classica, New York, auction Triton II, 1 December 1998, lot 1058.

Privately sold by G.M.R. Hay on 4 April 2008.

## Postface to the George La Borde catalogue of Roman gold coins

by Hadrien Rambach

Working on the George La Borde collection catalogue has been a pleasure – numismatists are rarely given the chance to handle such high-quality ancient coins. It is true that “*investigating the ownership history of an artwork, a discipline known as provenance research, is a painstaking and time-consuming task*” (C. Hickley, *The Munich Art Hoard. Hitler’s dealer and his secret legacy*, second ed., London 2016, p. 158), but it was well worth it. What is “provenance research”, by the way? A dear friend advised me to beware of gossip, but “*Gossip is when you hear something you like about someone you don’t*” (Earl Wilson). Nothing like this here: I have no feelings for these long dead collectors, except often an admiration for their collecting achievements. The number of anonymous auctions, and of undocumented private sales, often render it impossible to track a coin’s pedigree: we cannot identify, for example, the coins that come from important collections of the past such as those of Prof. Viktor von Renner (1846-1943) and Henri Jacques Scharp (1874-1957), which were evoked in Max von Barhfeldt’s 1923 book on Roman Republican gold coins. As a rule, whoever knows the answer to questions such as why did a sale take place, who was the vendor, what was the price, etc., is either dead or unwilling / not allowed to tell. But research should not be prevented by the – legitimate – fear of factual mistakes: scholarship is not all black and white, and the impossibility of knowing-it-all should not stop us from collecting as much information as possible.

I am very grateful to Arturo and Giuliano Russo for giving me this opportunity to study and publish those biographies, and of course to George La Borde for his trust and his friendship. I am also grateful to Professor *emeritus* of numismatics Giovanni Gorini, who reviewed this work (in *Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology*, vol. 4-1, 2017, p. 79) and expressed the wish that all future catalogues would imitate the La Borde sales. The biographies of numismatists are an integral part to numismatic research, and an example is the fact that the first book by the French scholar Michel Amandry – in 1980 – was devoted to the life and works of Henry Cohen. The celebrated German archaeologist Adolf Furtwängler gave a lecture in March 1899 on the subject of ancient and modern art collections (published: *Über Kunstsammlungen in alter und neuer Zeit*, Munich 1899), which proves – if it was required – the importance of the subject amongst the field of art history. Giving personal background on the ownership history of collectables has always made them more precious, be it because the previous possessor makes one dream (for example the Duchess of Windsor and her Cartier jewels), or because the previous possessor was an expert in his collecting field (for example Henri Seyrig who had been able to acquire the best *aurei* of Uranius Antoninus in the Homs hoard c.1925). Personally, I wanted to help George achieve the highest possible results: pedigreed coins have an added-value since many museums and cautious collectors restrict their acquisitions to items with a known history.

Because an estimate was low and they had no advisor to encourage them to bid higher, how often have collectors complained “*Oh I wish I had bought it when it was for sale*”? Because they had no advisor to warn them that an estimate was above-market for a fairly common item, how often have collectors complained “*Why did I pay so much? Another one sold for half in the next auction!*”? There is always more for sale than a collector can afford to buy (the art-market as a whole has been valued at about \$65 billion *per annum*), and a choice must be done when several specimens of a specific artwork exist (e.g., which example of an EID MAR denarius should one buy?), therefore advice on what to select among the material for sale is precious. Buyers in the first 2 parts of this sale were from Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, and the success of those auctions is a public acknowledgement of the collector’s judicious choices. The three La Borde catalogues by N.A.C., auctions 91-96-105 (2016-2018), celebrate George’s choices, his ability at acquiring the most desirable coins within his means, and I am glad to have helped him select them and achieve such a memorable collection.



### On some important coin collectors

by Hadrien Rambach

February 2018

#### **ADDA (1885-1965), VICTOR A.**

Born in Alexandria, from a banking family installed in Cairo since before Napoleon's expedition of 1798, living first under the protection of the Austro-Hungarian Consulate (and of the Greek Consulate after the outbreak of WWI), Victor Adda took over the family business which had been renamed EASTERN EXPORT COMPANY. Born to an Italian-speaking household, educated in a French-speaking boarding-school in Geneva, trained in the cotton-plantations of the Greek-speaking Nile Delta region, Adda mastered Italian, French and English, but also Arabic and some Greek, which allowed him to develop many international relationships. Despite his company being confiscated after the war of 1948, he remained in Egypt until he had to escape to Europe, following the expulsion of Jews from Egypt in 1956-57, and he died in Rome.

Alexandria was a center of archaeological collecting amongst the Italian and Greek communities, a famous example being Antonis Benakis – the cotton merchant to whom we owe the Benaki museum in Athens. Adda became vice-president of the Société d'Archéologie, which supervised the Greco-Roman museum which the Italians had created in 1892. He himself formed an important collection of coins and antiquities – a passion which he developed in his teens. He was well-known, both in the Egyptian Jewish bourgeoisie and the European art world, and visits to his home inspired other collectors such as Jean Claude Gandur. In one of his daughter's words: *"the collection was so well known and admired by experts that the king of Italy himself, Victor Emmanuel III, a great coin collector, expressed the desire to see it during his exile in Alexandria and was received by my father at our home"*.

Around 1960, Adda wrote a meticulous catalogue of his coins. The catalogue, in French, contained the weight of each coin, and its description with a reference to Henry Cohen's catalogue (the price in pencil being later estimates, by Leo Mildenberg and Silvia Hurter of Bank Leu, prior to the Christie's auction). Alas, he never indicated their provenance – a most regrettable fact, typical of his time, which illustrates the difficulties faced when trying to trace back antiquities – luckily, many provenances have since been identified. He had acquired his first coin in his teens, and continued to buy coins until his death (a Nectanebo II stater was bought from Leo Mildenberg in 1964), from local Egyptian finds (saving the coins from a likely melt), from international dealers (he was a friend of Mario de Ciccio, but also to Cahn, Hirsch, Vinchon, Nahman and the Santamarias, and he even bought Bosphorus coins from an impoverished collector from Russia), and from auctions which he attended or where he was represented (notably Caruso in 1923, Bement in 1924, Trau in 1935, and Sartiges in 1938).

His large collection, amounting to 1011 pieces, contained an exceptional group of Ptolemaic gold and silver coins – of which many third-century issues from the Benha hoard of 1936. In addition to 106 Egyptian coins, Adda owed coins from the Delta hoard, 28 Greek coins, 65 Bosphorus staters, 38 Byzantine gold coins, and 761 Roman gold coins. Of these, some 510 Roman and Byzantine gold coins, were auctioned anonymously as "The Property of a Lady" by Christie's in London, on 9 October 1984 and 8 October 1985. Some Late Roman coins were offered in Bank Leu, auction 77, 11 May 2000. A group of 75 aurei, which were still in the collection of one of the collector's daughters, Mrs. Giovanna 'Jackie' Adda Coen, were offered in 2015 to the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. As written by Arturo Russo, the Adda *"collection [is] one of the best for Roman imperial aurei ever to have been assembled by a private individual"*.

Biblio.: Haim Gitler and Gil Gambach (eds), *Faces of Power. Roman Gold Coins from the Victor A. Adda Collection*, Formigine (MO) 2017.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 18 and NAC 105, 2018, 24, 66

#### **ARNAUD (1922-1996), PIERRE.**

A French collector born in Marseille, Pierre Arnaud first made money dealing in boats, and then earned a fortune with the company FOTOLABO. After falling in love with the plateau of Crans-Montana, he moved to Crans-sur-Sierre in the Swiss Valais. After his death, his daughter Sylvie Salzmann created a foundation in his memory to organise art-exhibitions. In order to raise money for the foundation, she sold his coin collection through Acama and Hess-Divo (auction 307 - 2007). Despite a financial setback, having been the victim of an "investment-company" in the 1970s, Arnaud had indeed built a refined collection of coins with the help of Hans Voegtli and the firm of **Münzen und Medaillen**, disposing of his earlier purchases (Byzantine and French gold coins) and keeping only Greek and Roman coins in high grade.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 33,49

#### **BALLY (1849-1912), ARTHUR.**

Arthur Bally, who married Julie Herzog in 1874, was born near Solothurn into the famous Swiss industrial family: the elastics brand BALLY remains active today and is well-known for its luxury shoes. The great-grandson of the firm's founder, he started first by training in a Geneva bank and then in Paris, before establishing subsidiary companies in Uruguay (1871) and Argentina (1874). His father gave him and his brother Eduard the company in 1892, and Arthur Bally devoted his life to running the large family firm. Nevertheless, he still found the time to get involved in various social charities – and notably in the fight against tuberculosis, initiating and underwriting the sanatorium

Allerheiligenberg: he even bequeathed the enormous amount of one million francs to charity as well as toward the health insurance of his company.

It remains unclear when and how he became interested in coins, but by 1883 he was a member of the Swiss Numismatic Society, making sure he attended most yearly meetings. His main passion was for Swiss coins (4,041 coins and medals, including 424 in gold), but he nevertheless displayed a real interest in Roman coins: his manuscript inventory counted some 1,448 Roman coins (250 in gold), most of them acquired after 1902, at auction and from major dealers (notably Spink in London and Merzbacher in Munich). Contrary to most collectors listed here, Bally clearly showed an interest in coins in general – not limiting himself to the best preserved examples or the most precious rarities.

Possibly inspired by his cousin Otto Bally (1839-1908) who offered many rare German coins to the coin-cabinet in Karlsruhe, Arthur Bally pledged in his will his entire coin collection to the Schweizerisches Landesmuseum in Zurich. But the museum at the time only accepted Roman coins found within the Swiss territory, so Bally decided that the Roman and foreign coins should be sold, the proceeds going to the museums in Zurich, Solothurn, Aarau and Olten. Bally's three surviving children acquired those coins back for 70,000 Francs *en-bloc*. They were then offered at auction by Münzen & Medaillen A.G. in their auction 93 (Basel December 2003) and Münzen & Medaillen GmbH in their auction 14 (Weil am Rhein April 2004).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 3 and NAC 105, 2018, 53

#### **BAUER (1870-1961), GEORGE JOSEPH.**

Born in Rochester NY to an Alsatian immigrant butcher, George Bauer worked in the automobile business from 1904 to 1940, having founded the GENESEE MOTOR VEHICLE COMPANY, and indulged his passion for numismatics which had started at age 12. In his twenties, he had published a price-list of copper and colonial coins. In 1914, he was elected President of the Rochester Numismatic Club. He then became a professional numismatist, conducting some thirty auctions between 1940 and 1951. He was the 17th President of the American Numismatic Association (1930-1932), and was elected to the ANA Numismatic Hall of Fame in 1969. Greek and Roman coins of his were acquired in 1934 by the dealer B. Max Mehl, but additional silver and bronze coins were sold by Glendining's in December 1962 and January 1963, and his US colonial coins were auctioned by Lester Merkin in November 1968.

*"Most collectors are content to gather their coins via the dealer and auction route. Not so with George J. Bauer of Rochester. He prefers to pick them up first hand in their native land",* and indeed he made several trips to the Middle East and Europe with his wife. Despite John Lupia's comment in his remarkable biography that Bauer *"is especially noted as being one of the foremost authorities on ancient Greek and Roman coins and for owning one of the best collections in the world"*, Bauer remains little known in Europe.

Biblio.: *The Numismatist*, February 1925; John N. Lupia, *The Encyclopedic Dictionary of Numismatic Biographies: From the 7th Century BC to 1940*, <https://sites.google.com/site/numismaticmallcom/>; Pete Smith, "American Numismatic Biographies", Jan-2017 online document, p. 23.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 61 and NAC 105, 2018, 42

#### **BELFORT (1824-1907), AUGUSTE DE.**

Born in the Castle of Sery (near Crépy-en-Valois), first becoming a railway inspector, Auguste de Belfort entered the administration of the Third Empire, becoming vice-prefect in Mauriac and then in Châteaudun, before retiring early to manage his private affairs – at which time he moved to Paris.

He joined the French numismatic society in 1869, became its treasurer, and then became the editor of its *Annuaire de la Société de Numismatique* in 1875 – which he edited for twenty years. From 1882 until 1891 he published a series of *addenda* to Henry Cohen's catalogue of Roman coins, and succeeded in forming in a rich collection of Roman coins in a limited period of time, especially strong in the period of Augustus due to the purchase of most of the collection of Captain Sandes of Dublin (the remainder being bought for 110,000 francs by Lucien de Hirsch from Hoffmann). His collection was sold by Henri Hoffmann in Paris on 20-25 February 1888, for a total of 71,306 francs (including 157 *aurei* and *solidi*).

It remains unknown why Belfort decided to sell, but the preface to the auction catalogue states that *"Les collections d'aujourd'hui ont la vie courte. On n'a ni le temps ni la patience d'aller jusqu'au bout, on ne conduit plus rien à sa maturité: même pour les choses de la science, il y a le téléphone et le train rapide"*. It may in fact have been due to a change in numismatic interests: from 1892 until 1895, he worked on the notes left by **Ponton d'Amécourt** on Merovingian coins, which he then published in 5 volumes; and Gnecci signaled in 1903 his collection of Roman *tesserae*.

Biblio.: Francesco and Ercole Gnecci, *Guide numismatica universale*, 4th edition, Milan 1903, p. 110; *Revue Numismatique*, vol. IV-11 (1907), pp. 422-424.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 9

#### **BENZ (1906-1996), LEO.**

Leo Benz was a Swiss citizen who inherited the Electronic company ALOIS ZETTLER. He studied electronics in Munich, before doing an internship in Rome, and then took over the direction of the family company in Zurich – a large firm that exists to this day. A very religious man, he received several honorary orders from the Vatican and

Bavaria. This attachment to Rome partly explained his interest in coins, as well as his interest in the ability to show the style and the iconography of the times. His collection was sold by Hubert Lanz in Munich, in his auctions 88 (23 November 1998), 94 (22 November 1999) and 100 (20 November 2000).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 5

#### **BIAGGI DE BLASYS (1906-1979), LEO.**

Leo Biaggi was an industrialist, whose company processed beet sugar. Although a Swiss citizen with a French mother, he lived most of his life in Liguria (Italy) but died in Spain. A delegate to the International Red Cross during WWII he received the *Grande Ufficiale Ordine al Merito* from the Italian government in 1961, and in 1974 the silver medal of the Red Cross.

He formed an exceptional collection of ancient coins – notably over 2,000 Roman gold coins – which was purchased en-bloc in 1978 for 27 million Swiss francs by Marco Ratto in partnership with Bank Leu. Biaggi's heirs subsequently created the Bogliasco Foundation, to honour their grandmother and father's passion for the visual arts, music and literature. A fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society (London) since January 1951, Biaggi resigned in April 1975 – perhaps suggesting a diminished interest in numismatics, reflected by the sale of his coins a year previous to his death.

The Biaggi collection of Roman gold coins was never published, but it is accessible thanks to photo-plates by Silvia Hurter of the gold coins, and to casts, which document the contents of this exceptional collection. A manuscript inventory also exists, which meticulously documents the purchase dates and costs. The coins from Biaggi's collection were sold privately and in auctions over the years. The first group was auctioned by Bank Leu in their auction 22 (1979), and a large group reappeared in NAC auction 49 (2008).

Records of Biaggi's collection of Greek coins, on the other hand, are unfortunately not available, which is most regrettable considering that this was a “*superb collection*”, and that “*while much smaller than Gillet's, the quality was the same if not better*” (A. Walker).

Biblio.: Alan Walker, “Silvia Hurter: some memories and a new coin from Aetolia”, in *Schweizerische numismatische Rundschau*, vol. 88 (2009), pp. 15-22, here: p. 17.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 6, 11, 14, 31, 34, 36, 37, 58, 63, 68 and NAC 99, 2017, 2, 23, 31, 33, 45, 46, 47, 48 and NAC 105, 2018, 6, 7, 9, 23, 25, 26, 30, 37, 47, 51, 58, 60, 74, 76, 77, 82, 83, 86, 88, 115, 116

#### **BOLLA (1911-1984), FERRUCCIO.**

Ferruccio Bolla came from Ticino (Switzerland), where he studied at his father's law firm. He edited the *Repertorio di giurisprudenza patria* from 1937 onwards, and became a member of the Ticino Appeal Tribunal 1939-1947. In addition to his legal career, he had a passion for classical art, and created, together with Ernesto Bernareggi, the important periodical *Numismatica e Antichità Classiche – Quaderni Ticinesi*. His collection of 114 *aurei* and *solidi* was auctioned by Anton Tkalec AG and Astarte SA (Massimo Rossi) in February 2007.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 57 and NAC 99, 2017, 10, 16, 25 and NAC 105, 2018, 87

#### **BONAZZI, POMPEO.**

Pompeo Bonazzi, who wrote several erudite articles on Roman Republican coins, consigned his collection to Rodolfo Ratto, who sold them anonymously (“Riche collection”) in 1924 and 1926. Ratto wrote in his introduction to the first catalogue that it contained a “*magnificent suite of coins of the Roman Republic, formerly the collection of a savant numismatist. In my long career, I have never met a collection so important and complete from the historic and scientific point of view. All the families are here represented, even those of the greatest rarity*”.

Bonazzi had started to collect around 1910, and he distinguished himself from his contemporaries by researching Roman bronze coins with their original surface – not tooled, not retoned. It must be noted that the “Riche collection” has sometimes been – erroneously – believed to be that of Giuseppe ‘Joseph’ Martini (1870-1944).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 102

#### **BUNBURY (1811-1895), EDWARD HERBERT.**

A barrister, Sir Edward Bunbury, Bart., Member of Parliament, had an active role at the Numismatic Society of London: he joined in 1853, was part of its council 1876-1879, 1880-1881 and 1882-1884, and was its vice-president 1881-1882. He gave several lectures on Greek coins (in 1865, 1868, 1869, 1881 and 1883). During his lifetime, Bunbury sold some Ancient coins as “a collector” on 22–23 March 1850, and as “a well-known collector” on 27 March 1854. After his death on 5 March 1895, his coins were sold by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, on 10–14 June 1895, on 15-23 June 1896 and on 7-12 December 1896.

To quote Sotheby's preface: “*It is pre-eminently the collection of a scholar, and the useful purpose which it served is clearly illustrated by the late owner's numerous literary works. In fact it may be said to have formed the basis of his scholarly 'History of ancient geography' published in 1879, his numerous articles in 'Smith's dictionary of Greek and Roman biography and mythology', and the corresponding volumes of 'Geography', and his many contributions to the pages of the 'Numismatic Chronicle'*”. Indeed, he was scholarly enough to

dare to contest the existing classification of Seleucid coins, changing the attribution of some coins from Antiochus Hierax to Antiochus III.

As an anecdote, it must be noted that his great-grandfather, the sixth Baronet, “*accompanied the Earl of Derby at the first running of a new horse-race on Epsom Downs in 1779, and he and the Earl, resolving that the race should become an annual event, tossed a coin to decide its name. If the coin had fallen differently the race, continuously run at Epsom racecourse on the first Saturday of June would now be called the Bunbury and not the Derby*”..

Biblio.: Harrington Manville, *Biographical dictionary of British and Irish numismatics*, London 2009, p. 45; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, p. 297.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 99, 2017, 6 and NAC 105, 2018, 5, 11

#### **CARUSO (1873-1921), ENRICO.**

The Neapolitan operatic tenor Enrico Caruso sang in Milan and in London, but was especially known in New York as the leading male singer at the Metropolitan Opera for 17 years. One of the world's greatest artists, according to Arturo Toscanini, he was also a pioneer of recorded music – the first artist to sell a million gramophone records with an aria from *Pagliacci* in 1902.

Caruso bought coins voraciously, both from dealers and from auctions (such as **Montagu's** and **Gnecchi's**), but it remained a private passion – not displayed, that was little known during his lifetime. With over 250 recordings, in addition to his live performances, Caruso earned a fortune which allowed him to collect whatever he liked: according to Ambrogio **Canessa**, Caruso's reply when asked what he was looking for, was “*the rarest and most beautiful*”. His love for coins had started when the baritone Antonio Scotti had brought him to meet Amedeo Canessa: “*it was Mr. Canessa who started Caruso off on the long and happy adventure of coin collecting. One day he showed Caruso a tiny gold coin engraved with the head of Queen Arsinoe II. 'That little thing costs five hundred francs' said Mr. Canessa. Caruso examined it carefully, turning it over and over in his hand. 'It is beautiful' he said. 'I like it. But what is the use of only one coin? I don't want one coin'. 'There is only this one', Mr. Canessa explained, it is a very rare specimen'. 'Very well, then', said Caruso, 'it is mine'. And that was how the collection began which grew to more than 2000 coins from all over the world and from every century beginning with the fifth century BC. After that, Caruso began haunting old shops and street barrows, he spent many hours at auctions and in the great museums of the world, always studying, always finding out more about his coins and other objects d'art. The historical significance of each treasure charmed the tenor. He learned through these beautiful objects what most people learn through books*”.

According to F. Canessa, a descendant of the dealer's, a selection of coins from the collections of king Vittorio Emanuele III and of Enrico Caruso were exhibited at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, which took place in 1915 in San Francisco. A catalogue would be precious, to document a *terminus ante quem* of the acquisition of some of Caruso's coins. Alas, although there is a 59-page leaflet entitled *Catalogue Canessa's collection*, it contains no coins, and I wasn't able to find the confirmation of this numismatic exhibition and of its content. It could be that these were the non-ancient coins that were to be sold amongst other antiquities and works-of-art in New York in February-March 1923.

In a will written in 1913, Caruso had decided to leave his gold coins to the Naples museum, but he changed his mind and in 1919 he removed this clause from his will. Amedeo Canessa was later charged by the government to act as tutor to Gloria Caruso for the division of the inheritance (which totalled 32 million Lire / 1,280,000 Dollars), and his coin collection was sold in Naples 28 June – 3 July 1923 in 1,471 lots (of which 3 were missing and 20 went to the Naples museum), for a total of 880,000 Lire. The auction remains so important that the catalogue was reprinted in 1970.

A contemporary witness reported: “*5 août 1921. Le ténor Caruso est mort. On n'a pas connu de mémoire d'homme une si belle voix. Ses cachets étaient fabuleux. Le phonographe seul lui rapportait cent cinquante mille dollars par an. C'était un gros italien paysan du Danube. Il faisait des gestes d'un comique de bas tréteau. Quand il voulait être tragique, c'était à rire, et quand il voulait être comique, c'était à pleurer*”. He then added some years later: “*Février 1928. La vente Caruso. Le superbe ténor avait épousé une Américaine qui était folle de lui. Elle avait de l'argent, et il lui en a laissé en quantité. Cette civilisée vend toutes les collections, tous les costumes de théâtre. Toute la détroque est à l'encan, les souvenirs, la trousse de théâtre et celle du voyage de noces*”.

Biblio.: Bruno Zirato, “Caruso as I knew him (part 9)”, in *New Castle Tribune*, 13 January 1950, p. 2; René Gimpel (1881-1945), *Journal d'un collectionneur marchand de tableaux*, Paris 1963, p. 191 and p. 227; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, p. 35; Francesco Canessa, *Ridi pagliaccio! Vita, morte e miracoli di Enrico Caruso*, Capri 2015; Luca D'Orazi, “I Canessa, una famiglia di antiquari”, in *Gazzettino di Quelli del Cordusio*, forthcoming.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 99, 2017, 25 and NAC 105, 2018, 24, 66

#### **CASDEN (B. 1945), ALAN IRVIN.**

The coin collection of Alan Casden, known as “a distinguished American collection”, was sold anonymously by Bank Leu, auction 52, May 1991. He then built a major collection of Jewish coins, partly illustrated in a book entitled *The numismatic legacy of the Jews: as depicted by a distinguished American collection* (New York 2000). A Beverly Hills real-estate magnate, whose company is one of the largest developers of residential property in the US, Casden is a major donor of the University of Southern California where he created the Casden Institute for the Jewish Role in American Life.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 10, 31, 106

#### **CASTRO MAYA (1894-1968), RAYMUNDO OTTONI DE.**



The Brazilian Raymundo de Castro Maya was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, where he owned the firm CIA CARIOCA INDUSTRIAL. His numerous collections, of over 22,000 items, comprised paintings, books, historical documents, and coins. The art collection was started with his father, at first with works by the likes of Courbet, Douanier Rousseau, Troyon and Rosa Bonheur, and in the 1940s he acquired more modern works: Seurat, Degas, Monet, Matisse, Picasso, Dalí, Miró, etc. He also purchased numerous works of Brazilian art from indigenous items to modernist ones. An active supporter of writers and graphic artists, he created the *Sociedade os Cem Bibliófilos do Brasil*, through which he published 23 illustrated books. In 1948 he became the first chairman of the *Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro*, in 1952 he founded the society *Os Amigos da Gravura*, and he coordinated the organising committee of the 4<sup>th</sup> centenary of the city of Rio de Janeiro.

He bought most of his coin collection during the “Belle Epoque”, before 1936, with the assistance of **Feuardent**, and it was dispersed by **Émile Bourgey**, in an auction held in Paris in November 1957.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 5 and NAC 105, 2018, 5

#### DEVONSHIRE.

Most of the Devonshire family coin collection was acquired by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke, the Whig politician William Cavendish (1672-1729), Lord President of the Privy Council 1716-1717 and 1725-1729, who notably bought Greek coins from Edmund Sherard and the bulk of the collection of Sir Andrew Fountaine. Many Devonshire coins were used by Nicola Haym for his *Tesoro Britannico*, London 1719-1720.

The 6th Duke, William George Spencer Cavendish (1790-1858), Lord Chamberlain 1827-1828 and 1830-1834, decided to sell the coins he had inherited, and consigned them to Christie who sold them in two auctions in March 1844, “*reportedly at a loss of almost £40,000*” which sounds enormous considering that the total proceeds of the auctions were an already-high £7,057/1/6.

Biblio.: Ian Stewart, “Scottish coin collectors”, in *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. 66 (1996), pp. 87-112, p. 92; Harrington Manville, *Biographical dictionary of British and Irish numismatics*, London 2009, pp. 75-76.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 11

#### EBERT (1927-2008), ROBERT OLIVER.

Robert Ebert, born in Ohio, had been sent to Staunton Military School in order to recover from the effects of polio. He then pursued an engineering degree at Purdue, graduated in 1950, and enlisted in the Air Force where he was quickly recruited for secret military projects requiring top-level security clearance. Later, he joined the company that his father had founded, RUBBERMAID, a kitchen products company which he helped develop. In addition, in 1967, he had developed a blow moulding business, which was soon successful with factories in North Carolina, California and Mexico. And, as an investor, he developed Lakeside Park in Mooresville, NC. A keen hunter and fisherman, enthusiast about gardens and aquariums, he was a man of wide interests who built first-rate collections of art, firearms and coins.

With the assistance of New Jersey dealer Arnold Saslow, who supplied most of his coins – he bought privately and at auctions and privately – such as the **Hausman** collection which he bought en bloc, Ebert built a collection specializing in Hadrianic coins which was auctioned by Stack’s in January 2013, while his Greek coins were sold in Gemini V (January 2009).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 18 and NAC 105, 2018, 29

#### EVANS (1823-1908), JOHN.

Sir John Evans was a paper-manufacturer of Nash Mills (Hertfordshire) who was a passionate numismatist. A very active member of the Numismatic Society of London (later Royal Numismatic Society) from 1849 onwards, he was its President from 1874 until his death. He was also President of the Society of Antiquaries, and a Trustee of the British Museum. He possessed numerous collections, reflecting his interests as archaeologist: prehistoric items, medieval jewels, and coins – Roman, ancient British, Anglo-Saxon and English. He published more than a hundred articles – notably on Celtic coins – and three books on *The Coins of the Ancient Britons* (1864 and Supplement in 1890), *The Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain* (1872) and *The Ancient Bronze Implements of Great Britain* (1881).

His son Arthur J. Evans (1851-1941) inherited his coin collection, keeping some but selling a number of Roman *aurei* in the 363-lot auction of the “collection J. E.” in Paris in May 1909 that realized 113,301 francs. Most of the Anglo-Saxon and English hammered coins were bought en-bloc by Spink and J. P. **Morgan** (and later by the British Museum and Richard Cyril Lockett). Sir John’s interest in medieval jewellery was shared by his daughter Dame Joan Evans (1893-1977), who was an important art-historian but who remains in the shadow of her half-brother, 42 years her elder.

Biblio.: Arthur MacGregor (ed.), *Sir John Evans: antiquity, commerce and natural science in the age of Darwin*, Oxford 2008; Leonard Forrer, “Numismatic reminiscences of the last sixty years”, in *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. 73 (2003), pp. 191-196; p. 193; Harrington Manville, *Biographical dictionary of British and Irish numismatics*, London 2009, pp. 90-91; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 228-229.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 8, 47 and NAC 105, 2018, 37, 53, 86, 116

#### EVANS (1851-1941), ARTHUR JOHN.

When Sir John Evans died, his obituary in the Aethenaeum read that he was survived by “*his distinguished son Dr. Arthur Evans, keeper of the Ashmolean Museum and first discoverer of Mycenaean remains in Crete*”. Also a numismatist – President of the Royal Numismatic Society from 1914 to 1919 – Sir Arthur Evans is especially remembered as an archaeologist – Extraordinary Professor at Oxford University. Evans coined the term ‘Minoan’ in 1896, and in 1900 started to excavate the site of Knossos (Crete), discovering much about this formerly unknown civilization.

After a youthful interest in coins – making drawings when he was as young as seven, he graduated and then travelled to the Balkans, where he got involved in the local politics leading to him being banished from Bosnia by the Austrians, having nevertheless paid close attention to the local archaeology there. In 1884 he was appointed Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, where he succeeded in having it moved from Broad St. to Beaumont St., and opened the Heberden Coin Room to get the museum’s coin and medal collection returned from the Bodleian Library.

Leonard Forrer, in his preface to Naville catalogue III, noted that “*The Evans collection contains many pieces originating from the collection of Sir John Evans*”, though most coins were bought by Sir Arthur – notably an important group from the Arras hoard. As early as 1889 (135 lots sold £303 15s.) and 1898 (146 lots sold £1828 2s.), Evans had anonymously sold a number of Greek coins at Sotheby’s, coins that had been “*collected principally in Sicily and south Italy*”. Evans gave and bequeathed many of his coins to the Heberden Coin Room of the Ashmolean Museum, but an important group was sold privately to Jameson, a few coins were sold by Glendining and Cahn, with a large part of his collection sold by Naville in his auctions III-IV (June 1922), XII (October 1926) and XVII (October 1934), and by Jacob Hirsch in his auction XXX (May 1911). Naville’s third auction contained 342 lots of Roman and Byzantine gold coins. The tracing of Evans’s collection is complex: according to Alan Walker, “*over his lifetime he must have owned many thousands of Greek and Roman coins, but he seems to have been constantly selling off duplicates (often to raise money for his excavations or to settle debts) and buying new and better pieces*”.

Biblio.: Christopher Blunt, “Personal reminiscences of some distinguished numismatists of a previous generation”, in *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. 46 (1976), pp. 64-74, p. 71; Leonard Forrer, “Numismatic reminiscences of the last sixty years”, in *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. 73 (2003), pp. 191-196; pp. 193-194; Harrington Manville, *Biographical dictionary of British and Irish numismatics*, London 2009, pp. 89-90; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 176-177; Alan Walker, “Catalogues and their collectors”, in *American Journal of Numismatics*, vol. 20 (2008), pp. 597-615; pp. 600-602 and 611-613.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 15 and NAC 105, 2018, 8, 19, 26, 107, 116

#### FAURE (1862-1942), JEAN.

Dr. Faure was an art-collector who bequeathed his collections to the city of Aix-les-Bains (France), where the Musée Faure was created in 1949 – with an exceptionally good collection of Impressionist paintings and sculptures by Auguste Rodin.

Biblio.: Francesco and Ercole Gnecchi, *Guide numismatica universale*, 4th edition, Milan 1903, p. 365 (listed in Turin – at the Military hospital).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 10

#### FEIRSTEIN (B. 1952), BARRY R.

Barry Feirstein is a Harvard graduate who started a Wall Street career as a technology analyst and became the manager of his own hedge-fund company, FEIRSTEIN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT (1993-2010). He donated \$5 million in 2011 to create a Graduate School of Cinema, and commented in *The Wall Street Journal*: “*I’ve been an investor all my life in things like Apple and Microsoft and have seen the creation of businesses and industries. To me, this investment is the same thing: we are going to create something that will have major impact on the film industry, Brooklyn College and New York City*”.

A teenage collector of American coins, Feirstein started to collect again in 1994 after attending an ancient coin auction. When Numismatica Ars Classica sold his coins in three auctions, no.s 39 (2007), 42 (2007) and 45 (2008), it was suggested that this might be a first collection – formed in less than 10 years – and that he might not have relinquished the pursuit forever.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 104 and NAC 105, 2018, 6

#### GRABERT (1924-2000), GÖTZ.

The collection built by Götz Grabert and his wife Ingrid Thoma was a relatively small group of attractive coins, carefully chosen by this “*European Scholar lately deceased*” – as he was called when LHS Numismatik sold his collection in May 2006 (auction 97). Grabert was born in Stuttgart, the son of a notary and tax-advisor. He did his military service in Holland and Norway before starting his studies in 1953, and before taking over his father’s business in 1955. That year, he met the art, art-history and philosophy student whom he would marry in 1963. Grabert had felt an attraction for Roman history since his schooldays, and with his wife he dedicated his adult life to their library and their collection.

With limited means but dedication, they befriended dealers such as Hans Hellmuth Kricheldorf (1909-1980), Jacques Schulman (1906-1991), Herbert Adolf Cahn (1915-2002) and Pierre Strauss (1922-1995) at **Münzen und Medaillen**, and notably Leo Mildenberg (1913-2001) – first at Schweizer Kreditanstalt and later at **Bank Leu**.

Two years after her husband's death, Mrs Grabert found a coin with the middle-aged portrait of Nero for which they had been searching over thirty years, and she was able to finally complete their collecting goals. She asked Silvia Hurter to write a book on some highlights in the collection, and then sold it in order to finance the foundation Stiftung SOL, which she had created in order to support various cultural projects (to date in Germany, India and Afghanistan).

Biblio.: Silvia Mani Hurter, *Kaiser Roms im Münzporträt. 55 Aurei der Sammlung Götz Grabert*, Stuttgart 2003; [www.stiftung-sol.de](http://www.stiftung-sol.de)

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 4, 12, 40, 47, 49 and NAC 99, 2017, 11, 15, 22, 40 and NAC 105, 2018, 50, 74, 84.

#### **HALL (1863-1949), HENRY PLATT.**

Henry Platt Hall worked at PLATT BROS. & CO. LTD, textile machinery makers, in Oldham (Lancashire). Starting as an apprentice in the company, he had obtained some sales experience before commercializing the company's products abroad, including Russia, and worked his way up – becoming chairman in 1920. He was an expert metal worker (molding, fitting, planning, slotting, boring etc.), and a council-member of the Management Committee of the Engineering and Allied Employers Federation. He retired in 1924, and moved to Montgomeryshire where he became High Sheriff (1923-1929) and Justice of the Peace (1928-1945).

Once in retirement, he had more time for coins: he had joined the Numismatic Society of London as early as 1899, and became a council-member of both the Royal Numismatic Society and the British Numismatic Society. His Greek, Roman and Byzantine coins were auctioned by Glendining's in two auctions in 1950, with an impressive 2,328 lots (including some 400 gold coins), while a final sale of British coins was cancelled and purchased en-bloc by Spink.

His first coin purchases were made as a schoolboy from Manchester Grammar School, and then in 1895 he started to keep a register of all his acquisitions (with receipts) – which he kept until his death. Unfortunately, this information was not recorded in the Glendining catalogues, and we must hope that this precious document will someday reappear. When Leonard **Forrer** wrote the introductory preface to the first sale catalogue, he indicated that Hall was “*a collector, esteemed and beloved*”, whom he had known over half a century. Along with numismatics, Forrer wrote that Hall's favourite activity was hunting pheasants and ducks, which he pursued until his last few weeks.

Biblio.: Harrington Manville, *Biographical dictionary of British and Irish numismatics*, London 2009, p. 120.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 99, 2017, 45 and NAC 105 2018, 25, 86

#### **HANKIN (C.1837-1899), ARTHUR WILLIAM.**

Arthur Hankin was a little known collector, who joined the Numismatic Society of London only in 1893 (and resigned the year of his death). He was a draper of Hatfield (Hertfordshire), and his general coin collection was auctioned by Sotheby on 29-31 March 1900: 551 lots for a total of £1,769 – the most valuable lots being English coins.

Biblio.: Harrington Manville, *Biographical dictionary of British and Irish numismatics*, London 2009, p. 123.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 11

#### **HAUSMAN, BRUCE.**

Bruce Hausman, a lawyer from New York City, was an early client of Arnold R. Saslow (Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe – South Orange NJ). He collected Roman coins, which were notably acquired in London auctions in the 1990s.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 18 and NAC 105, 2018, 29

#### **HAVILAND (1949-2012), RANDY.**

Haviland, after enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era, was employed in the family business HAVILAND CORPORATION in Linn, Missouri, which specialized in cleaning products (floor and window squeegees). A Scout Master for a local troop, with the rank of Eagle Scout, he notably enjoyed scuba diving, fishing, and cave diving.

Haviland came from a family of collectors, with a philatelist father, and his paternal grandmother gave him his first coins. Randy's collecting spanned U.S. Coins, U.S. Paper Currency, Ancients, and finally settled on Roman Imperial Coins.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 3 and NAC 105, 2018, 3, 5

#### **HERZFELDER (1865-1923), ERNST MORITZ.**

Ernst Herzfelder was the director – with his uncle Robert – of the Viennese brewery ROBERT & ERNST HERZFELDER & CO. A wealthy collector, his Roman coins were sold anonymously by Jacob Hirsch (auction XXIX – November 1910) and Brüder Egger (auction XLIII – April 1913). He was the uncle of the scholarly marchand-amateur Hubert Herzfelder (1911-1964), who had trained as a banker.

Biblio.: *Schweizer Münzblätter*, vol. 13/14.56 (1964), pp. 166-167.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 54 and NAC 99, 2017, 15, 40 and NAC 105, 2018, 59

#### **HOBERMAN (1943-2013), GERALD.**

Gerald Hoberman was an award-winning photographer born in Cape Town. After opening his own photography studio in London's Carnaby Street in the 1970s, he moved back to South Africa where for twenty years he was managing director of COALCOR – a bulk coal distribution company. He retired in 1996, to establish an international publishing company with his son Marc.

He had formed his coin collection in the 1980s with the help of John Pett of Spink & Son, and disposed of it in the 2010s during several auctions by DNW (London). Several pieces from his own collection had been illustrated in his book on *The Art of Coins and their photography* (London 1981).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 35 and NAC 105, 2018, 66

#### **HUNT (1926-2014), NELSON BUNKER.**

Bunker Hunt, and his brother William Herbert Hunt (b. 1929), were the sons of a magnate who had founded the firm PLACID OIL. Bunker had entered the family business, developing oil fields in Libya, but later lost them when Colonel Gaddafi took power.

The two brothers started to speculate from the 1970s onwards on the silver market attempting to corner the market, resulting in estimated holdings of a hundred million troy ounces by 1979. The price of silver crashed in March 1980, and the brothers's sustained huge losses when the silver market backfired in the so-called "Silver Thursday" scandal, which saw them unable to meet their obligations as a consequence of COMEX's decision to change the leverage rules on the purchase of commodities on margin. Though momentarily saved by a consortium of banks brought in to rescue the situation, the brothers lost over a billion dollars in the affair. The final blow came in 1988, when they were forced to pay 134 million dollars in compensation to a Peruvian mining company, and N.B. Hunt filed for bankruptcy in September 1988: he settled in 1989 for a ten million dollar fine with the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, in addition to other sanctions. Despite the bankruptcy, each brother was able to keep oil companies that were protected from their creditors through a trust-system and which were valued at over \$150 million each. In 2013, W.H. Hunt was once again in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index – with a fortune estimated at \$4.2 billion thanks to the sale of PETRO-HUNT LLC to Houston-based Halcon Resources Corp.

Bunker Hunt started to buy coins in 1979, after meeting Bruce McNall, the founder of Numismatic Fine Arts, through horse-breeding. McNall soon convinced him to buy for 16 million dollars (half in cash and half in racehorses) the coin collection of Sy Weintraub (1923-2000), a film producer who quadrupled his investment. Bunker's own ambition with the silver market was reflected in William's wish to buy every Byzantine gold coin in the world. The Hunt brothers were peculiar collectors, in that they entrusted their advisors at NFA with the creation of their collection almost entirely. Following their various fines, and then the bankruptcy, Sotheby's New York organised two auctions of ancient coins in June 1990, two more in December 1990, and two final ones in June 1991: suffice to say that clients who met them at the gala dinner preceding the first auction were surprised at their superficial knowledge of their own coins. For them, race horse breeding was a bigger business than coins: when facing creditors, Bunker Hunt sold his stable for \$47 million in September 1987. A third brother, Lamar Hunt (1932-2006), also speculated on the silver market but did not get involved with coins.

McNall wrote that Hunt's desire to buy coins came from a distrust of 'paper money', caused by the fear of "*a communist takeover of the United States aided by a Jewish conspiracy inside the government*". Something to take into account, when judging the evolution of coin prices, is the world's economy at the time. For example, the surprisingly great success of an auction such as the Gilet 'Kunstfreund' sale may be explained by an inflation of 11% *per annum*, which led investors to search for hard assets. At the height of Hunt's silver-buying frenzy, inflation had almost reached 20% yearly.

Biblio.: Bruce McNall, *Fun while it lasted*, New York 2003, pp. 53 sqq.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 11, 14, 33, 35 and NAC 99, 2017, 2, 45, 48 and NAC 105, 2018, 6, 76

#### **HUNTINGTON (1870-1955), ARCHER MILTON.**

Archer Huntington, the giant (6' 5") stepson of railroad magnate Collis P. Huntington, developed early an interest in Hispanic culture – probably inspired by a journey to Mexico in his teenage years. In 1892, with a Yale professor, he went to Spain for the first time – the first of many such trips, notably to the Northern territories, the land in which *El Cid* is set, a poem which he annotated, translated and later published along with some of his own writings. Huntington also participated in archaeological digs, including the excavations of the ruins of Roman *Italica* near Seville in 1898. The railroad heir turned down the offer of a job in management, to pursue his passion rather than a business career.

Ardently setting out to assemble a collection from every period and every land where Spanish influence was felt, however remotely, Huntington travelled tirelessly all over the globe collecting coins, books, paintings, sculptures, glass, pottery and a whole host of other artifacts. The aim of this huge undertaking was to create a visual, encyclopedic and exciting testament to every period and aspect of Hispanic culture. This led him to establish New York's Hispanic Society of America, a free museum and research library for the study of the arts and cultures of Spain, Portugal and Latin America. The numismatic component of his collections contained a staggering number of coins, spanning two and a half millennia from the pre-Roman Spanish indigenous period, the Roman imperial era, the Visigothic takeover, Umayyad Islamic Spain (for which he learned Arabic), the medieval ages, up to the empire of Ferdinand and Isabella and their royal successors. As a collector, he adhered strictly to the guidelines for purchasing coins outside Spain,



having no interest in removing treasures from the country. Collis's nephew, Henry E. Huntington and his wife (from 1913) spent over \$21m (about £4m) in art from Duveen between 1908 and 1917. By comparison, the funds spent by Archer in coins was pocket-money.

Huntington donated land and subsidies for the construction of The American Numismatic Society's first building, completed in 1908 on Audubon Terrace (off Broadway between 155<sup>th</sup> and 156<sup>th</sup> Streets), and financed the publication of its *Numismatic Notes*. In the process of assembling his collection, Huntington made many new acquaintances and crossed paths with many distinguished dealers and collectors: some invaluable documents on his purchase habits have been published by Sabine Bourgey, whose grandfather had been a major supplier of coins to Huntington. Though Huntington died in late 1955, he had already written in April 1907 that he was going to stop buying – a decision which he reaffirmed in November 1908 though his last purchase from Bourgey was in January 1913. From 1910 until his death, Huntington was Honorary President of The American Numismatic Society, and in 1946 he loaned the collection to the ANS. He then transferred its ownership to The Hispanic Society of America in 1949, but the coins remained stored at the ANS. After Huntington's death, some 6,390 additional coins were discovered in his vault, which were added to the rest of the collection.

Despite having been preserved in a museum for over fifty years, because of restrictions imposed by The Hispanic Society of America, the Huntington collection has been little studied (and especially not its formation), with very few scholars being allowed to work on the coins. And despite Huntington's wish that the coins remain together at the museum, the HSA decided to deaccession these 37,895 coins on 23 January 2008, and the group was sold *en-bloc* in a single-lot sealed-bid auction by Sotheby's in March 2012, to a group of investors. The Roman gold coins were then re-offered at auction by Numismatica Ars Classica in their auctions 67 (October 2012) and 71 (May 2013).

Biblio.: Meryle Secrest, *Duveen. A life in art*, New York 2004, p. 120; M. Bendala, J. Maier, C. del Alamo, S. Celestino and L. Prados, "Archer M. Huntington y la arqueología Española", in *Arqueología, coleccionismo y antigüedad. España e Italia en el Siglo XIX*, Sevilla 2006, pp. 65-81; Robert Hoge, Andrew Meadows and Ute Wartenberg Kagan, "Truth and Plain Dealing: the fate of the Archer Huntington collection of Spanish coinage", in *ANS Magazine* (Winter 2008), pp. 22-30; Sabine Bourgey, *Sous le signe du métal. Histoire d'une famille du marché de l'art*, Paris 2011, pp. 116-125.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 45 and NAC 99, 2017, 9, 12 and NAC 105, 2018, 11, 14, 15, 18, 27, 36, 39, 41, 44, 55, 80, 81, 100

#### LEY (1933-1992), MARGARETHA.

Swedish top model Margaretha Ley had first worked for a German sportswear manufacturer before founding, with her second husband Wolfgang Ley, the fashion brand ESCADA, named after a racehorse. When she died, her obituary in *The New York Times* reported sales over \$800 million, with 140 boutiques worldwide. The firm also produced clothes for other brands, including the women's collection of Cerruti 1881, as well as accessories and a perfume.

She had built a remarkable collection of German and ancient coins, which was sold as "*the most important collection of ancient coins ever offered in Germany*" by Numismatik Lanz, auctions 69-70 (1994).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 22

#### MAGNAGUTI (1887-1966), ALESSANDRO.

Count Magnaguti was born in Mantova, at the Castello di Cerlongo di Goito. He graduated from the University of Naples in jurisprudence, but then devoted himself to the management of his own extensive lands.

His major collection of Mantovan coins has been preserved intact, and was acquired in 1993 by the Banca Agricola Mantovana from the family, but his ancient coins had been auctioned by Santamaria in Rome beginning in 1949. He wrote that he had started to collect coins in 1905, and that his coins of Hadrian and the Gonzagas had been found all over the world (especially in Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, England, France and America) but that by 1928 he couldn't find anything to purchase anymore that he didn't already have. He had a special interest in the coins of Alexander the Great, possibly because of their shared name, and published research on the mint of Mantova in his twenties.

His passion was so extreme that he did not hesitate to go to great lengths to obtain a coin that he desired: he once restored the entire convent of Castiglione delle Stiviere in order to get a gold coin found there. But the strain of the war, and his relative impoverishment after WWII, probably explain why he stopped collecting and sold his coins – with the exception of the Gonzaga collection.

Biblio.: Franco Bompieri, "Un collezionista mantovano Conte Alessandro Magnaguti", in *Il Collezionismo numismatico italiano*, Milan 2014, pp. 194-196; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 255-256.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 26, 60

#### MARKOFF (B. 1943), STEVE C.

Markoff, who had started collecting coins at age 11, created the firm A-MARK COIN COMPANY (later A-MARK FINANCIAL CORPORATION) in 1965, at first dealing in the precious metals market and then acting as a financial services company in Santa Monica, California. He is also involved in various projects, from databases on social issues and history, to a charity promoting critical thinking (ProCon.org), film production (forming A-MARK ENTERTAINMENT in 2004 with former coin-dealer Bruce McNall, Nick Cassavettes and Robert Geringer), and holds

an interest in the historic Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, along with the soda-company ORIGINAL NEW YORK SELTZER.

In January 1976, his firm had acquired the LaVere Redfield hoard of 600,000 silver dollars. Markoff wanted to form a collection in which there would be a coin for every significant male figure in Roman history. Formed with the help of Rob Freeman (of Freeman & Sear), his collection was sold by Numismatica Ars Classica's auction 62 in October 2011.

Biblio.: Pete Smith, "American Numismatic Biographies", Jan-2017 online document, pp. 200-201.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 99, 2017, 15 and NAC 105, 2018, 77

#### **MAZZINI (1883-1961), GIUSEPPE.**

Giuseppe Mazzini was an Italian politician, born in Livorno but settled in Turin, who was elected a Deputy (Member of Parliament) in 1921. Expelled from the Italian Liberal Party in 1925, he then ran under the aegis of the National Fascist Party, and was elected Senator in 1943. He acted as advisor to numerous companies, including FIAT, and was president of the newspaper LA STAMPA. A passionate fencer, he became president of the *Confederazione Italiana di Scherma* in 1925, and in 1953 President of the *Fédération Internationale d'Escrime*.

His extensive collection of *Monete imperiali romane*, some 8,051 coins of which 1,261 in gold, was published in five major volumes in 1957-1958, prior to its dispersal. The Milanese dealer Mario **Ratto** acquired most of them *en-bloc*, before selling them privately – notably to Leo **Biaggi**, but Mazzini had previously offered some 2,737 coins to the Turin museum (including some gold medallions and very rare *aurei*).

Biblio.: Anna Serena Fava, Luigi Sachero and Vittorio Viale, *Il medagliere delle raccolte numismatiche torinesi*, Turin 1964, p. 9; Giovanni Gorini, "Aspetti del collezionismo numismatico italiano nel '900", in *Bollettino di Numismatica*, vol. 54 (2010), pp. 83-107

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 37, 49, 52, 58, 67 and NAC 99, 2017, 25 and NAC 105, 2018, 7, 31

#### **MCCULLOUGH (1872-1966), HALL PARK.**

A prominent lawyer with offices on Wall Street, the son of a Governor, Hall Park McCullough collected both US and Roman coins. His collection, which included 101 *aurei*, was auctioned by Stack's in November 1967. The catalogue declared that his "Roman coins must come very close to being the finest collection of the kind ever to be offered for sale in the United States".

The collector's unusual first names were the surnames of his maternal grandfather Trenor William Park (1823-1882) and great-grandfather Governor Hiland Hall. He had inherited the celebrated family residence in North Bennington, Vermont, one of the finest Victorian mansions in New England, which explains why he formed the most important collection of Vermontiana: books, documents, ephemera, maps, diaries, manuscripts and autographs, now dispersed but with many preserved at the University of Vermont and in the Bennington Museum. Along with his wife, he created Bennington College, a pioneering institution for women.

Biblio.: J. Kevin, *Hall Park McCullough: Americana collector*, Burlington VT 1988.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 15, 54 and NAC 105, 2018, 65

#### **MONTAGU (1844-1895), HYMAN.**

Born Hyman Moses, Montagu was a London solicitor who established himself as an expert in bankruptcy. His first collecting interest was in entomology (beetles), but he turned towards coins and medals in 1878. He specialized in English hammered and milled coins, buying the entire collections of Samuel Addington (1883) and William Brice (1887), writing numerous articles and a book on *The Copper, Tin and Bronze Coinage and Patterns for Coins of England* (published in 1885 with a second edition in 1893).

After starting to also collect Roman coins, he bid heavily in **Ponton d'Amécourt's** auction in 1887, and then bought his first Greek coin in 1889. He acquired the entire inventory of the Parisian dealer Hoffmann when he retired in 1893, was in direct contact with most European dealers, and travelled extensively. He himself published a selection of his Greek coins, and then – posthumously – of his Roman coins. His Roman gold coins were auctioned by **Rollin & Feuardent** in April 1896, for a total of 363,004 francs. Interestingly, the copy of the sale catalogue preserved at the Fitzwilliam Museum (from the 1912 Marlay bequest) indicates the selling prices but often precedes them with the words "withdrawn at" which suggests that the sale was not as successful as it seems (for example the lots 4, 7-9, 11-12, 13 etc). His collection of 1291 Roman gold coins remained the largest ever built until that of **Biaggi**, and its quality was on average much higher.

He died in his fiftieth year, and – like **Quelen** and **Durkee** – he too might have continued collecting to unprecedented levels if not for his premature death. His importance can be underscored by the fact that it was on his invitation (!) that William Webster joined Spink in 1892. In fact, Forrer estimated that the sale through Spink of the Greek and English coins had brought over £55,000 (1,400,000 francs). The Roman gold coins were just a fraction of his extensive collection, and the Greek coins, British coins and medals required numerous auctions in London to disperse. "His very large collection seems to have been in a constant flux during his lifetime, during which various sales of duplicates took place, but its final composition is well recorded in the catalogues of eight sales held by Sotheby between 1895 and 1897".

Biblio.: R. J. Eaglen, P. D. Mitchell and H. E. Pagan, "Coin tickets in the British Hammered Series", in *British Numismatic Journal*, 2001, p. 149; Leonard Forrer, "Numismatic reminiscences of the last sixty years", in *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. 73 (2003), pp. 191-196; pp. 193 and 194; Harrington Manville, *Biographical dictionary of British and Irish numismatics*, London 2009, pp. 188-189; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, p. 296; Hyman Montagu, "On some unpublished and rare Greek coins in my collection", in *The Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society*, vol. 3-XII (1892), pp. 22-39; "Rare and Unpublished Roman Gold Coins in my Collection", in *The Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society*, vol. 3-XVII (1897), pp. 35-89.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 47 and NAC 99, 2017, 30 and NAC 105, 2018, 9, 80, 113

#### **MORCOM (1877-1961), REGINALD KEBLE.**

Reginald Morcom, Lieut. Colonel during WWI, was employed by, and then chairman of BELISS AND MORCOM (Birmingham), producers of stationary steam engines, diesel engines, steam turbines, and compressors. Educated at Marlborough College, and then a graduate of Cambridge University, he had married the daughter of Sir Joseph Wilson Swan (inventor of the incandescent light bulb).

He built a collection of Roman and provincial coins that formed part of the 14<sup>th</sup> Lugano auction by Rodolfo Ratto (February 1928), as well as an entire auction by Sotheby (December 1924).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 26

#### **MORETTI (1907-1993), ATHOS**

Dr. Moretti was the general manager of the pharmaceutical company MAESTRETTI. Founded in Milan in the 1920s by Dr. Domenico Maestretti, the firm became ROUSSEL MAESTRETTI, and later merged with other major companies to form SANOFI AVENTIS. Moretti valued discretion, which explains why so little was ever published about him.

Moretti started collecting in about 1940, and it was known at that time that Moretti was a great collector of paintings. In the 1950s, while he was walking with his wife along the Via Manzoni in Milan, she complained that they no longer had any space on their walls, then stopped in front of **Ratto's** window in which a decadrachm of Syracuse was displayed and she exclaimed "*now this would be a perfect collection for you!*". Moretti immediately fell in love with coins, with his main collection placing a heavy emphasis on Magna Graecia and Sicily: at the end of life, it was the largest and most important ever assembled, and a very small selection of his coins was exhibited in the Antikenmuseum Basel for a decade, before being sold in the Numismatica Ars Classica auction 13 (October 1998).

The only auction-catalogues in which his ownership was mentioned were the sales Numismatica Ars Classica O (May 2004) and P (May 2005), that offered the "ADM collection". Moretti's Roman gold coins were bought by Numismatic Fine Arts, and sold anonymously in their auction XXII of 1989. The silver and bronze component of the collection was purchased by a consortium and sold both privately and through auctions (by both NAC and Bank Leu). It has also been said that the auctions NFA XXV (November 1990) and NFA XXVII (December 1991) contained coins from the Moretti collection, but this could not be confirmed.

Moretti was a generous donor to public institutions, and always made his collection of Greek coins available to scholars: his coins are cited in every major reference work. He financed the publication of several numismatic books, including *La monetazione incusa della Magna Grecia* (by Giovanni Gorini), *Uomo e cavallo sulla moneta greca* (by Giorgio Giacosa), *Velia e le sue monete* (by Giuseppe Libero Mangieri) and *Terina* (by R. Ross Holloway and Kenneth Jenkins).

Despite being a Swiss citizen, his love for Milan, where he lived when not in Bellinzona, also led him to form an important collection of coins of the city through the ages, which was sold in its entirety to the Banca Commerciale Italiana, where it was merged with the celebrated eighteenth-century collection of the Verri brothers.

Biblio.: H.A. Cahn, L. Mildenberg, R. Russo and H. Voegtli, *Griechische Münzen aus Grossgriechenland und Sizilien*, Basel 1988; obituary in *Quaderni Ticinesi di Numismatica e Antichità Classiche*, vol. 23 (1994), pp. 9 sqq.; Novella Vismara, *La donazione Athos Moretti di monete dell'Italia Antica, della Magna Grecia e della Sicilia Antica del Gabinetto Numismatico di Locarno*, Milano 1996.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 27, 49, 52 and NAC 99, 2017, 1, 5 and NAC 105, 2018, 5, 31

#### **MORGAN (1837-1913), JOHN PIERPONT**

Pierpont Morgan – not to be confused with his son J.P. Morgan Jnr. (1867-1943) – only started collecting art in a big way in 1890 after his father's death, and even more after he semi-retired in 1901. The coins seem to have come even later: the Stack's 1983 auction-catalogue indicated that his first numismatic acquisition had been a Syracusan tetradrachm in the **Bunbury** sale (1896), acquired on his behalf by O'Hagan, but then he probably didn't buy anything again until a Caulonia stater from the Warren sale (1905), through Spink, and it seems that most of his purchases were then done through the intermediary of both **Canessa** and **Sambon**: in the auctions of Martinetti/Nervegna (1907), **O'Hagan** (1908), Benson (1909), or Hartwig (1910). Amongst Morgan *aurei*, a great number came from the collection of Marquis Carlo Strozzi (1810-1886), inherited by his grandson and auctioned by Giuseppe Sangiorgi in Rome on 15-22 April 1907. Strozzi had been moved to start collecting Roman coins – instead of his previous interests in Etruria and Magna Grecia – by a hoard, "*the richest in fleur de coin that had ever been seen*", found in June 1868 in Pozzuoli (ancient *Cuma*), which contained about 1000 *aurei* in generally superb condition, dating from Augustus to Domitian (AD 88 for the most recent coin); many coins from that hoard had been acquired by the Neapolitan judge Gennaro Riccio (before 1836 – before 1874), and resold privately. The development of his collecting can likely be attributed to

the presence of Canessa in New York, and it is he who sold to Morgan six of the twenty 'Aboukir medallions' for £6,000 / \$30,000 in 1911 (he later acquired two more): had J.P. Morgan died later, his coin collection would likely have been more significant. Morgan's coins were kept until 1917 in his magnificent library on 36<sup>th</sup> Street, when they were loaned to the American Numismatic Library until 1949. The New York dealer Wayte Raymond (1886-1956) then acquired them *en-bloc*, published many in several issues of *The Coin Collector's Journal* (1949-1950) and issued a fixed-price list in 1953 which contained "195 pieces of Greek Gold and Silver, 8 Gold Aboukir Medallions, 20 Aes Signatum and Aes Grave, 183 Roman Gold coins, 2 Roman Gold medallions, a Roman Gold bar, and 24 Silver and 30 Bronze Roman coins and medallions". Of those, 101 pieces were acquired by a private US collector, whose collection was then sold by Stack's on 14 September 1983.

Of wealthy contemporary collectors, *The Times* wrote: "One out of ten has taste; one out of a hundred has genius. Mr. Frick, Mr. Altman, Mr. Widener in America, and the late Rodolphe Kann in Paris, come under the former category; but the man of genius is Mr. Pierpont Morgan". In a little over twenty years, he spent about \$60 million. After numerous gifts, he still valued his collections to be worth some \$50 million in 1912, though his net worth at his death was announced to be under \$100 million (John D. Rockefeller was then reported to have shaken his head and said "And to think he wasn't even a rich man"), which proves how significant art was for him. Morgan went to boarding school in Switzerland, at the Institution Sillig in Vevey, and then studied in Germany, at the University of Göttingen, where he obtained a degree in art-history. Nevertheless, the son of a financier, he was destined to work in business – and excelled at it. After initially speculating on coffee beans in the late 1850s, he joined his father's company in 1861. In 1871, he formed DREXEL, MORGAN & COMPANY in New York, which notably specialized in redeveloping small mismanaged companies. In the 1870s and 80s he financed the research of Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. In 1885, he merged two railroad companies (by 1905 he owned some 5,000 railway miles). In 1900, he bought the shares of Charles Schwab and Andrew Carnegie, and by adding other smaller firms created the U.S. STEEL CORPORATION in 1901. In 1902, he acquired LEYLAND LINE and WHITE STAR LINE and became a major player in the maritime industry. Amongst other firms which he financed are GENERAL ELECTRIC and AT&T.

A distinctive feature of Morgan's collecting habit was his pleasure in acquiring complete collections, such as the prints of Theodore Irwin and of George W. Vanderbilt, the *cartes de bal* of Edward Brandus, the medieval objects and decorative arts of Georges Hoentschel, the enamels of Aaron Zvenigorodsky, the Mesopotamian cylinder seals of William Hayes Ward, the armors of the duc de Dino, the minerals of Clarence Bement, etc. Even for coins, the number of lots he bought in the Carlo Strozzi auction resembles an *en-bloc* purchase, and around 1908 he bought most of the late Sir John Evans' collection of English coinage (since 1915 in the British Museum). By comparison to some other fields amongst his collections, numismatics seems to be a *parent pauvre*: only a few hundred pieces, and not many highly significant pieces. Nevertheless, if one makes abstraction of Morgan's name (and the expectations it creates), the collection remains a very nice one, with some superb pieces such as a stater of Delphi which was auctioned in October 2010 for CHF 200,000, a Diadumenian *aureus* which resold for €180,000 in November 2017, Ponton d'Amécourt / Consul Weber's gold medallions of Constantine I and Constantine II, and Consul Weber's decadrachm of Athens.

Morgan wasn't always successful at getting the coins that he wanted. For example, just a year or two after its purchase for \$2,165 in a 1906 auction, Morgan offered \$35,000 to W. F. Dunham for his 1822 gold \$5, but the new owner refused and kept it for 35 years. He also failed to buy the DeWitt S. Smith collection in 1908 – which Virgil Brand acquired instead. Morgan was well known for his shrewdness – bordering on avarice – and for his ability at discerning quality. In a well-known case, he asked for the price of a lot of 30 miniatures, and then chose the best 6 and gave a fifth of the price that had been requested for the group. But his wealth was exceedingly great, and he was occasionally willing to pay top prices for top quality, such as \$400,000 for a painting by Raphael. He never resisted a 'good deal', and sold some of his acquisitions for a profit – notably Fragonard paintings, and Chinese porcelains – and, in order to reduce death duties, he began to repatriate to New York in 1911 his many acquisitions which he had kept in England. But this doesn't diminish his accomplishment, and his generosity: for example, whilst president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (1904-1913), he acquired and gave the Greek coins from the collection of the Irish collector John Ward (1832-1912).

Biblio.: Gennaro Riccio, "Ripostiglio di Monete Imperiali in Oro – rinvenute in tenimento di Cuma nei dintorni di Napoli", *Periodico di Numismatica e Sfragistica per la Storia d'Italia*, vol. I (1868), pp. 75-87; Francis Henry Taylor, *Pierpont Morgan as collector and patron*, New York 1957; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Bulletin*: J. Pierpont Morgan: *Financier and Collector*, vol. 57.3 (Winter 2000); Meryle Secrest, *Duven. A life in art*, New York 2004, p. 49; conference "Morgan, mind of the collector" held at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art (Hartford, CT), 10-11 November 2017; Luca D'Orazi, "I Canessa, una famiglia di antiquari", in *Gazzettino di Quelli del Cordusio*, forthcoming.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 46

#### O'HAGAN (1853-1930), HENRY OSBORNE.

Henry Osborne O'Hagan, Esq. divided his time between his apartments at The Albany (London) and his villa near Hampton Court (Richmond). Described as "an energetic, domineering, obese, vainglorious man who enjoyed his luxuries and was a hearty trencherman" (*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*), he was a financier and company promoter who had specialised in tramways, collieries and breweries.

A member of the Numismatic Society of London (now Royal Numismatic Society) since 1897, he also immediately became a member of the British Numismatic Society when it was created. The dispersal of his collection of coins and medals required four auctions at Sotheby's (December 1907, April-May 1908 and July 1908), when he "relinquished the pursuit" for undocumented reasons when only in his fifties. Though it was a generalist collection sold in 3,601 lots, the Roman and Byzantine section constituted an entire sale with 975 gold coins (and silver and bronze), including with five FDC *aurei* of Macrinus from the Karnak hoard.

Biblio.: Harrington Manville, *Biographical dictionary of British and Irish numismatics*, London 2009, p. 206.



George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 9 and NAC 99, 2017, 6 and NAC 105, 2018, 5

#### **PANNENBERG (1928-2014), WOLFHART.**

The Munich firm Gerhard Hirsch Nachf. (Dr. Francisca Bernheimer) auctioned in 2011-2012 (auctions 275 and 279) “*die Generationensammlung*”, a German family collection. The collection was sold anonymously by Hirsch, but the collector is now deceased and can be named as Prof. Dr. Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928-2014), whose name had reached the general public when he returned his Order of Merit in 1997, as a gesture against the acceptance by the German Evangelical Church and government of homosexual practices. Pannenberg was a prolific writer on religious issues who, after several visiting professorships in the United States, was appointed Professor of Systematic Theology at the Munich University in 1968.

The first collector in the family, *Hofarzt* Dr. Paul Schütte (1847-1895), was the surgeon and personal physician of Prince Karl von Preussen, brother of the emperor, in Berlin. He had accompanied the prince on several journeys to Italy in the 1870s, which led to his love for antiquities and coins. Unfortunately, most of his gold coins were melted down during World War I, during the “*Gold gab ich für Eisen*” call in order to finance weapons. Neither the collector’s widow, nor his son, added to the collection, but eventually Pannenberg, the husband of the grand-daughter (Hilke Sabine Schütte, b. 1929), enriched the collection greatly, with a focus on great rarity rather than condition.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 24 and NAC 105, 2018, 76, 109, 113

#### **PONTON D’AMÉCOURT (1825-1888), GUSTAVE.**

Viscount Ponton d’Amécourt founded and became president of the Société française de numismatique et d’archéologie in 1865, and his coin collection was exhibited (and widely admired) at the Trocadéro during the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1878. Born in Paris, he became mayor of Trilport (Seine-et-Marne). As an archeologist, he published numerous studies on Merovingian coins. But he was also an inventor, creating the word “hélicoptère” and developing a prototype in the early 1860s, which inspired the novelist Jules Verne. This ancestor of modern helicopters could only ascend 2 or 3 meters, but it became well-known thanks to a photograph by Ponton d’Amécourt’s friend, the famous Félix Nadar, and the French stamp of 2006 that reproduced it.

He must not be confused with his first-cousin, Baron Louis-René de Ponton d’Amécourt (b. 1843), who also collected Roman and French coins.

By 1857 G. Ponton d’Amécourt had acquired a hoard of Carolingian coins, which still forms the core of the collection in the Cabinet des Médailles in Paris, where his 1131 Merovingian coins are preserved – after their purchase in 1889 for 180,000 Francs. Some more of his Merovingian coins were sold at auction in 800 lots by Rollin & Feuardent in June 1890; while a group of 362 lots of Celtic, Merovingian, Carolingian and Capetian coins had already been auctioned by them in June 1886. His collection of Roman and Byzantine gold coins was sold by **Rollin & Feuardent** at auction in April 1887, the expert writing that “*ce sera la vente la plus importante du siècle; une semblable réunion ne se retrouvera probablement jamais*”. It fetched 366,382 francs for 1009 lots. Another auction of Ponton d’Amécourt coins, 320 lesser coins, had taken place in March 1887 with Hoffmann as expert.

The sale of April 1887 also remains memorable for the spirit in which it took place: though it happened nearly two decades after the Franco-Prussian war, a contemporary witness testified that “*Some pearls of the collection were pre-empted by the Bibliothèque nationale, and in those cases the public [...] burst into excited clapping, since the disappointed underbidder was a German, [the coin dealer Leo] Hamburger of Frankfurt*”.

Biblio.: Francesco and Ercole Gnechi, *Guide numismatica universale*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Milan 1903, p. 160; Michèle Bardon, *Un précurseur oublié : Gustave de Ponton d’Amécourt*, Trilport 1983; Claude Brenot, “Aux origines d’une amitié : Ponton d’Amécourt et Belfort”, in *Monnaies et trésors en pays dunois. Journées de la Société Française de Numismatique*, Châteaudun 1986, pp. 93-95; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 218-220.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 2, 47 and NAC 99, 2017, 46 and NAC 105, 2018, 76, 113

#### **PROWE (1872-1932), FEDOR IVANOVICH.**

The Moscovite Fedor Ivanovich Prowe, a.k.a. Theodor Prowe, is an important name for ancient numismatics which often appears in the pedigrees of high quality coins. Indeed, so many auctions contained coins from his collection that he could be suspected of being a *marchand-amateur*. Note the auctions by Brüder Egger, nos 17 (November 1904) and XL (May 1912) and XLVI (May 1914), by Adolph Hess, nos 137 (May 1912) and 141 (November 1912). He himself had published his Roman provincial coins, in three articles.

Biblio.: *Trudy Moskovskogo Numizmaticheskogo Obshchestva*, vol. III (1903), pp. 151-155 and pls III-IV; *Numizmaticheskii Sbornik*, vol. I (1911), pp. 330-334 and pls 16-17; and *Numizmaticheskii Sbornik*, vol. II (1913), pp. 165-177 and pls II-VI.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 2, 45 and NAC 105, 2018, 3, 9

#### **QUELEN (1852-1887), ALPHONSE MARIE LOUIS ELZÉAR DE.**

Viscount de Quelen was an amateur archaeologist who directed excavations in Courbeton (Seine-et-Marne), where he discovered Neolithic items. At the time of his early death after a long illness at age 35 in his château de Surville, his

coin collection was already of great importance and it was auctioned by **Rollin & Feuardent** in May 1888, for a total of 226,620.50 francs. It has been noted that most of the 39 coins which Quelen bought in the **Pontion d'Amécourt** auction only achieved two-thirds of their cost when resold 13 months later.

He left a strong memory to a scholar of the time, who wrote about “*l'étrange vicomte de Quelen, qui possédait la plus admirable collection de monnaies d'or des empereurs romains. Chacune de ces splendides médailles, à fleur de coin, était enveloppée par lui dans plusieurs papiers de soie. Cet original, qui n'hésitait pas à payer plusieurs milliers de francs un son d'or impérial inédit, était en dehors de cela d'une avarice sordide, ne circulant jamais, par économie, que sur l'impériale de l'omnibus. Son chapeau haut de forme, défoncé, était raccommoqué intérieurement, au moyen de bandes de papier de timbres. Ce neveu d'un archevêque de Paris passait sa vie à l'Hôtel des Ventes, tenant à la main un vieux sac de nuit tout usé dans lequel il déposait ses superbes acquisitions*”.

Biblio.: Gustave Schlumberger, *Mes Souvenirs*, Paris 1934, vol. I, pp. 179-180.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 47 and NAC 105, 2018, 27

#### **SCHULTHESS-RECHBERG (1914-1986), ERICH ALEX VON.**

The 17<sup>th</sup> auction by Adolph Hess A.G. and Bank Leu, in Lucerne on 23 March 1961, remains well-known for the quality of the coins that it contained. The collector, “ESR”, can be identified as Erich von Schulthess-Rechberg – a director of **Bank Leu**, passionate collector, and heir of the remainder of the numismatic collection formed by his relative Karl Gustav von Schulthess-Rechberg, published by Julius and Albert Erbstein and sold almost entirely at auction in 1868-1869.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 4, 43 and NAC 105, 2018, 116

#### **TRAU (1842-1905), FRANZ.**

The provenance “ex Trau” refers to the sales in January 1904, May 1935 and April 1936, of the coins collected by three generations of the Trau family: Carl Trau (1811-1887), Franz Trau (1842-1905) and Franz Trau II (1881-1931). Unfortunately, the sale catalogues do not record which family member was responsible for the purchase of each coin, and only very few dates/places of acquisition.

Carl Trau had travelled Europe before running a chemist's shop in Vienna 1843-1850. He then started the first tea-import business in Vienna, first importing tea from London and the Hansa towns, and later directly from China. This led him to collecting Oriental art, and Japanese items, in addition to religious medieval art, prints, miniatures, manuscripts, and an almost complete collection of the coins of Carinthia (his wife's homeland).

Carl was a founding-member of the Austrian Numismatic Society in 1870, and his son Franz was a member of its first committee. Franz Senior continued to develop the family business, and focused his collecting interests on antiquity rather than the Medieval period: his pseudonym in the local coin club was *Carus* though he collected every Roman emperor. The first auction, which took place in Vienna in January 1904, contained only 522 ancient coins (among 2357 lots of coins, medals and numismatic books), and the beautiful coins that can be found in the La Borde collection come from the 1935-1936 sales instead.

His son Franz Junior had military training, but his father died when he was only 23 and he had to take over the business and the collections.

Biblio.: John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 70-71.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 39 and NAC 99, 2017, 28 and NAC 105, 2018, 113

#### **TRIVULZIO (1715-1789), CARLO.**

The Trivulzios were a Milanese aristocratic family, important since the Renaissance, and notably remembered today for the art collections and the library that the museum of the Milan Castle acquired in 1935.

Their coin collection was started by Don Carlo Trivulzio (1715-1789) who acquired hundreds of Roman gold coins between 1745 and 1769 – as attested by his still unpublished acquisition book, but it was then continued by his family until c.1902. Unfortunately, provenances are not recorded in the manuscript, though we know that Trivulzio purchased 100 *aurei* in 1750 from the collection of Marquese Peralta, and that he acquired 168 *aurei* in 1756 from the collection of the late abbot Gian Matteo Pertusati.

As pointed out recently, several *aurei* in the 33<sup>rd</sup> auction by **Santamaria**, which took place in Rome on 24 January 1938, can be identified in an article by Francesco Gnechi on the Trivulzio collection. Therefore, it can be inferred that the majority of the hundreds of Roman gold coins in that sale came from the Trivulzio collection. The auction was listed as that of the collections of the marquis Roberto Venturi Ginori Lisci (1883-1965) and of Pietro Antonio Giarazzo (1866-1943), so it seems most likely that Giarazzo had bought the ancient gold coins in the Trivulzio collection, which had been privately acquired by the Turinese dealer Pietro Accorsi in 1935 from Prince Luigi Alberico Trivulzio (1868-1938).

Biblio.: Francesco Gnechi, “Alcuni aurei romani inediti nella collezione Trivulzio a Milano”, in *Bullettino di numismatica e sfragistica per la storia d'Italia compilato da una società di professori ed amatori*, vol. III (1887), pp. 9-29 and pl. I-II; Hadrien Rambach, “The coin-collection of Don Carlo Trivulzio (1715-1789)”, in Maria Caccamo Caltabiano (ed.), *XV international numismatic congress. Taormina 2015. Proceedings*, Rome and Messina 2017, vol. I, pp. 248-251; Hadrien

Rambach, “Don Carlo Trivulzio, collezionista di monete e gemme”, lecture at the Centro Culturale Numismatico Milanese on 26 September 2017.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 99, 2017, 1 and NAC 105, 2018, 20, 33, 58

#### **VAUDECRANE (1915-2002), CLAUDE.**

Claude Vaudecrane, from Le Mans, began to buy in the early 1950s despite his limited income as a professor of English. He had the possibility to acquire *en-bloc* the collection formed by Jules Chappée (1862-1957), and the sale of several important mediaeval items to French and American museums gave him the funds to collect coins intensely.

There are apparently no records of all the coins which Vaudecrane owned, as he continuously replaced coins in his collection with better examples, which is why the general quality of the coins in his auctions is so ‘perfect’, comparable only to the collection built by **Du Chastel**.

Under the title *Collection of a Perfectionist*, 270 Roman gold coins were offered at auction by Bank Leu (Zurich), in its auctions 87 (May 2003) and 93 (May 2005), and other coins of his collection were sold – without indication of ownership – by Leu, both privately and at auction (for example a Galba aureus that reappeared in Hess-Divo 333, Nov. 2017, lot 152).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 36, 38 and NAC 99, 2017, 36, 45 and NAC 105, 2018, 52, 61, 63, 78, 106, 108

#### **VIDAL QUADRAS Y RAMÓN (1818-1894), MANUEL.**

Don Manuel Vidal Quadras was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela. He moved to Cuba in his twenties, but by 1849 he was back at the family trading and banking house in Barcelona, Spain. He was married, but had no children, and he could devote time and funds to his passion for coins, which he had developed in his youth.

Vidal Quadras, who encouraged the creation of the periodical *Memorial Numismático Español* (1866-1880), was a known and active collector in the Catalan numismatic world. Like **Brand** (an accountant), Vidal Quadras’s banking background is reflected in the carefully tabulated catalogues of his collection. A selection of his coins was exhibited in 1888 at the Museo Martorell for the Barcelona World Fair, and a short catalogue was published on this occasion, with a complete catalogue four years later: it contained 14,415 coins from the Roman Empire, including 500 *aurei* and *solidi*, and also from Spain (from ancient times to the modern period).

The group contained the important collection of Aloïs Hess (1820-1893), the author of the *Description générale des monnaies antiques de l’Espagne* (Paris 1870), which Vidal Quadras had acquired en bloc except for the Visigothic coins which the Museo Arqueológico Nacional had bought in 1871. He had also acquired other entire collections, notably those of Rafael Cervera y Royo (1828-1903), Alejandro J. Fustagueras, Jean Pierre Meynaerts (1786-1856), Juan Prat y Sancho and Jaime de Puiguirguer.

The collection – by far the largest and most valuable collection in Spain – was inherited by his brother and his nephews, and it was moved in 1898 to the vault of the Banque J. Allard in Paris – for fear of political instability in Barcelona. Negotiation for the sale began as early as December 1903, when the collector’s heirs were asking 1,100,000 francs for the entire collection. By August 1904, the price had come down to 800,000 francs – presumably because of the purchase-refusal by **Huntington** who had said that there were too many duplicates with his own collection. The price was reduced again, first to 600,000 francs (September 1905) and then 500,000 francs (January 1909). A deal was finally made on 16 July 1913, when the Parisian dealer Etienne **Bourgey** acquired the coins for “only” 275,000 francs. Bourgey auctioned some of the Roman coins in November-December 1913, and Papal medals in June 1914; the remainder was sold over the years by the family firm.

Biblio.: *Compendio del Catálogo de la colección de monedas y medallas de Manuel Vidal y Quadras y Ramón*, Barcelona 1888; [D. Arturo Pedrals y Moliné (ed.)], *Catálogo de la colección de monedas y medallas de Manuel Vidal Quadras y Ramón de Barcelona*, Barcelona 1892 (reprinted in 1975), four volumes; Lluís Castañeda Peirón and Martín Rodrigo y Alharilla, “Los Vidal Quadras: familia y negocios, 1833-1871”, in *Barcelona Quaderns d’Historia*, vol. 11 (2006), pp. 115-144; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, p. 10; Alberto Velasco González, *Jaume Pasqual, antiquari i col·leccionista a la Catalunya de la Il·lustració*, Lleida 2001, pp. 156-162; Gloria Mora, “Rafael Cervera, médico, político y coleccionista de monedas”, in M.P. García-Bellido and W.W. Metcalf (eds.), *La Colección Cervera. Moneda antigua de Hispania*, Madrid, CSIC & Ediciones Polifemo, 2014, pp. 29-46; Antonio Roma Valdés, *Numismática española e iberoamericana. Su origen como disciplina y sus protagonistas*, s. l. 2016, pp. 107-108 (who mistakenly wrote that additional coins from the collection were auctioned by Aureo & Calicó in 2014: all coins had in fact been acquired by Bourgey); Gloria Mora, “Manuel Vidal Quadras y Ramón (1818-1894)”, in *International Numismatic Council. Compte rendu*, vol. 63 (2016), pp. 32-38

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 45

#### **VOIROL (1884-1967), AUGUST.**

Dr. Voirol had discovered numismatics by chance during the summer of 1933, when he noticed some coins in the front window of the Adlerbank in Basel, and acquired a stater of Alexander the Great and a solidus of Valens. He then met the dealers Hans Nussbaum (Zurich) and Herbert Cahn (Basel), and became passionate about coins: he was naturally and immediately elected President of the *Circulus Numismaticus Basiliensis* when it was created in 1938, and acted 1942-1954 as vice-president of the Swiss Numismatic Society.

A successful career as gynecologist allowed him to build a beautiful house in 1935 with an original sestertius of Faustina Junior mounted on the front door, he nevertheless had limited means and had to carefully choose the coins which he purchased: this might explain why, when his collection was sold by Münzen und Medaillen (auction 38) in December 1968, it “only” contained 915 lots. He was also a shareholder of that firm, and a scholar who wrote lengthy commentaries on almost each of his coins, as well as some published notes.

Biblio.: *Schweizer Münzblätter*, vol. 18 (1968), p. 22; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, p. 170.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 56

#### **VON HOFFMANN (1927-2014), LADISLAUS.**

Described in 2010 as “a secretive Washington-based financier” (in the *Financial Times*), von Hoffmann had worked for the World Bank’s International Finance Corporation from 1960 to 1977, before becoming chief executive and president of HOCHSCHILD MINING and of OMICRON INVESTMENTS.

A Trustee of the Morgan Library & Museum since 1991, and of the National Gallery of Art, he had formed the “Arcana collection” of illuminated manuscripts which was dispersed at Christie’s. He had also collected ancient coins, which were offered anonymously at auction, in two sales by Sotheby’s (London): on 5 July 1995 and on 8 July 1996 (including 81 and 84 *aurei*).

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 99, 2017, 6 and NAC 105, 2018, 16, 78, 105

#### **WALTER (1934-2018), JOHN WHITNEY.**

John Whitney Walter was a New York businessman, the founder of several companies in the fields of electronics: security equipment, telecommunications, and consulting. Educated in Connecticut, Mr. Walter graduated in 1955 from Norwich University in Vermont and in 1960 from Columbia University with an MBA. In between undergrad and graduate school, he had served for 2 years in the army as a second lieutenant and was stationed during non-war time in Heidelberg, Germany. An inventor and holder of patents, John worked for Teleprompter in the 1970’s and then began his own company, National Security Systems, which produced and installed alarm systems using the liquid foil window striping patented by him along with the security panel and system from his design. Throughout the years, while still running National Security Systems, and using his knowledge of systems, John worked with the Trump Organization on a variety of hotels and apartment buildings in New York City, Las Vegas and Atlantic City. A first-cousin of US President Donald Trump, he was the Chief Project Officer responsible for the plans and construction of the Trump Village (a 3,700 unit complex in Brooklyn). He was very involved in the Congregational Church of Manhasset – where he had met his wife in the early 1960s, and they spent much time singing in the choir and chairing the boards of Trustees and Deacons several times, whilst he also helped keep the church running with his systems, electronics, and construction knowledge.

From 2000 to 2005, Mr. Walter was First Vice-President of the American Numismatic Society. He had won four “Personal Choice Exhibit” awards at American Numismatic Association Conventions, and at the last Philadelphia ANA World’s Fair of Money Convention he displayed his extensive collection Numismatic Coinage Errors. He had been pushed towards numismatics at a very young age, with the gift of a 1892 Columbian half dollar and a visit with his father to an exhibit of U.S. currency at the Chase National Bank, both in the 1930s. He started to look through change in the 1940s and then bought many coins from Jack Friedberg at Gimbel’s department store. He went on to form an exceptional series of American coins (which brought him the nickname “Mr. 1796”) which was auctioned by Stack’s in May 1999. And his U.S. banknotes were auctioned by Lyn Knight in October 2004.

Mr. Walter also formed a collection of Roman coins: his superb series of 79 *aurei* “The Men of Rome”, begun in 1984, it was only completed when he obtained the splendid Clodius Albinus in June 1990, which later entered the George La Borde collection (NAC 91, lot 33), and the group was auctioned shortly afterwards by Stack’s and Harlan J. Berk.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 33 and NAC 99, 2017, 1, 20 and NAC 105, 2018, 65

#### **WEBER (1830-1907), EDUARD FRIEDRICH.**

The Consul Weber was born in Hamburg where his father had a successful linen business, trading with South America, and where his elder brother became Senator and Mayor. He had a privileged childhood, going to Italy for two years when he was nine years old, and then having private teachers back home in Germany. He learned business, and went to England in 1849 and to Valparaiso in 1852, where he founded his own firm of import-export in 1856. It would become a major regional firm, but he returned to Hamburg in 1862, where he created another company specialized in the saltpeter trade, and where he married the daughter of a banker whom he replaced in 1877 as consul for the Island of Hawaii. Weber played an important role in developing Germany’s support of Chile, which had to face a lengthy war, reinforcing German trade links at the same time.

A successful businessman, and a father of ten (two of which died young), he also acquired much real estate in Hamburg, and expansive lands in Schlesien. In addition to his coin collection, some 11,500 ancient coins, about 650 in gold, which was sold by Jacob Hirsch in his auctions XXI (November 1908) and XXIV (May 1909), Weber also owned hundreds of Old Masters paintings (including such names as Rembrandt, Rubens, Montegna, Holbein and Cranach) which were sold for over four million Marks in a 1912 auction in Berlin. Nevertheless, coins had been his first passion, as he had bought examples when still a schoolboy, long before being the student of professors such as



Theodor Mommsen and Ernst Curtius. Weber owned three Roman gold bars, a real rarity (**Trau** possessed two, but no other collector listed had any).

Biblio.: Carla Schmincke, *Sammler in Hamburg. Der Kaufmann und Kunstfreund Konsul Eduard Friedrich Weber*, 2003 thesis, Hamburg University; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, p. 292.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 2 and NAC 105, 2018, 9

#### **WILLIAMS, WILLIAM H.**

William Williams is a collector from Medford, Oregon. A part of his collection was sold by Classical Numismatic Group, mail-bid auction 61, Lancaster, 25 September 2002, and another part was sold anonymously ("an American Collector") by Numismatica Ars Classica (Zurich), auction 31, 26 October 2005.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 7, 23, 63, 39 and NAC 99, 2017, 14 and NAC 105, 2018, 13, 43, 96, 111

#### **WINCKLESS, MICHAEL L. J.**

Vice-chairman of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Association, Bangkok, Michael Winckless is a barrister. Still an active collector, he privately sold his coins of the Twelve Caesars in 2006, in order to focus on other themes. He notably acquired the **Biaggi** "Ides of March" aureus of Brutus which he since loaned to the British Museum.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 91, 2016, 10, 14, 15 and NAC 99, 2017, 5 and NAC 105, 2018, 17, 22,

#### **WITSCHONKE (1945-2015), RICHARD BEYER.**

Rick Witschonke, after receiving a BA in English from Bowdoin College, earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1972. He then accepted a position with AMERICAN MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, a technology consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., where he became a vice president and manager of the North American Financial Institutions Practice, with 500 people working under his leadership.

At the age of 15, Rick purchased his first Roman Republican denarius, and his interest intensified upon purchasing Sydenham's book on *The Coinage of the Roman Republic*. A collector and a scholar, Rick devoted more and more time to numismatics after retiring from business in 2001, volunteering at the American Numismatic Society from 2003 onwards: in 2006 he became co-director of the ANS Summer Seminar and curatorial assistant.

Part of his collection was sold by Classical Numismatic Group, Freeman & Sear and Numismatica Ars Classica, auction Triton III, New York NY, 30 November 1999, and then additional coins in NAC's auctions 61 (October 2011) and 62 (May 2012).

Biblio.: Robert Russo & Alberto De Falco, *The RBW collection of Roman Republican coins*, Zurich 2013.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 3, 6

#### **ZENO (1668-1750), APOSTOLO.**

Apostolo Zeno, born in an important Venetian family of Cretan Greek origin, was a journalist who co-founded the *Giornale de' letterati d'Italia*. He was also a poet and a librettist, founder of the *Accademia degli Animosi*. Zeno lived in Vienna from 1718 until 1729, where he was poet laureate to the Imperial court, before returning to Venice to study and collect.

When he brought his coin collection back to Austria, it comprised some 10,766 coins – of which 433 were in gold. He offered them in 1747 to the Augustinian monastery of St. Florian in Upper Austria. The collection was sold by Dorotheum in three auctions 1955-1957. Zeno was a great letter writer, and many of his letters survive. Several coins from Zeno's collection were described – and occasionally illustrated – as early as 1767.

Biblio.: Jean Foy Vaillant, *Numismata imp. roman. a J. Caesare ad Postumum et ... Caes. ad Commenos, opera Jos. Khell*, Vienna 1767; Friedrich Kenner, *Die Münzsammlung des Stiftes St-Florian in Ober-Oesterreich in einer Auswahl ihrer wichtigsten Stücke*, Vienna 1871, pp. VII sqq.; François de Callatay's 'Fontes Ineditae Numismatae Antiquae' (FINA) project.

George W. La Borde collection: NAC 105, 2018, 6

### On some important coin-dealers

It seems appropriate to recall here the words of viscount Ponton d'Amécourt in 1866: a coin dealer must be “*rich, so that he can offer the client the guarantee that he needs; rich, to wait for the dormant wealth in his trays to be realised; rich, so that he can offer to bankable clients the payment facilities that often allow deals; rich – finally – to throw at the market at the most unexpected time a sum equivalent to that of the hoard just released by the ground, or at the collection that a collector has just relinquished*”. He then added: “*trust is the most elusive of collectors’ virtues; years are required to build it, but a day is enough to destroy it; foremost amongst all qualities of the medal merchant must then be this one quality: the integrity of his reputation*”.

From Gustave Ponton d'Amécourt, “Le commerce des médailles à Paris”, in *Annuaire de la Société française de numismatique et d'archéologie*, vol. 1 (1866), pp. 330-336: p. 331.

### **BOURGEY.**

This Parisian firm of coin dealers and auction experts, still active today under the direction of Sabine Bourgey, was founded in 1895 by her grandfather Etienne Bourgey (1864-1943). They have been in their current offices, 7 rue Drouot, since 1907. Both Etienne and his son Émile Bourgey (1914-1993) had the opportunity to handle some of the most exciting hoards ever found in France, such as the **Arras hoard** and the *trésor de la rue Mouffetard*. The three generations of Bourgeys have organised innumerable auctions, including some very important ones: while Etienne had been very close to **Huntington**, Émile acted as expert for the sale of King Farouk's collection.

Biblio.: Sabine Bourgey, *Sous le signe du métal. Histoire d'une famille du marché de l'art*, Paris 2011; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, p. 4.

### **CANESSA.**

The antique business of Cesare Canessa (1863-1922) and Ercole Canessa (1868-1929), later continued by Ambrogio Canessa (b. 1900) and Guglielmo Canessa (1905-1975), tended to deal privately – as was the case with the **Boscoreale** treasure. Nevertheless, they organized a few major numismatic auctions, such as that of the collections of Sambon & Giliberti in 1921, Brandis in 1922, Caruso in 1923 (Cesare's daughter had married Caruso's son), and Polèse in 1928. They also held a number of auctions jointly with Arthur **Sambon** (1866-1947) – such as the collections of Dell'Erba in 1900, von Wotoch in 1901, Maddalena in 1903, Guilhou in 1905, De Ciccio in 1907, Borghesi in 1908, and Cajaniello in 1927.

Suppliers to British and Italian royalty, as well as to many millionaires such as B. Altman, A.M. Huntington or H. Walters, they had offices in Naples (on Piazza dei Martiri), in Paris (at 19 rue Lafayette and later on both the Champs-Élysées and Place Vendôme), and in New York City (first on Fifth Avenue then on East 41<sup>st</sup> Street and later on West 50<sup>th</sup> Street before Fifth Avenue again). The estates of the Canessa brothers were auctioned in New York in 1924 and 1930, but they had sold most of their most important belongings while alive – which can nowadays be found in every major museum worldwide.

Though they were antiquaries in general, a sign of the Canessa special involvement with numismatics can be found in their offering some space in their premises to the *Circolo Numismatico Napoletano*. And the similarities between the content of the **Caruso** collection and the Huntington collection suggests that **Huntington** may also have been amply supplied in *aurei* by the Canessa brothers.

Biblio.: Guglielmo Canessa, *Indiscrezioni di un antiquario*, Milan 1966; Francesco Canessa, *Ridi pagliaccio! Vita, morte e miracoli di Enrico Caruso*, Capri 2015; Luca D'Orazi, “I Canessa, una famiglia di antiquari”, in *Gazzettino di Quelli del Cordusio*, forthcoming.

### **FORRER.**

The Swiss Leonard Forrer (1869-1953) was the ancient coins specialist at Spink & Son in London from 1889, and he retired in 1952 after 63 years at the firm. Immediately after he began, he was charged to write the catalogue of a collection of Roman and Byzantine gold coins, shortly before attending the Photiades Pasha auction of Greek coins where he bid on behalf of – notably – **Montagu**. Rather than for his activity as a dealer, he remains more famous for having initiated the *Numismatic Circular*, and for having written the 8-volume *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists, Coin-, Gem-, and Seal-Engravers, Mint-Masters, &c.* and the 7-volume catalogue of the Greek coins of Sir Hermann Weber.

Coincidentally, his son Leonard Steyning Forrer (1895-1968), also started at Spink but specialized in foreign coins, and helped form numerous important collections. He left Spink in 1945, to form his own dealership at 175 Piccadilly, but closed it in 1955 to join Jacques Schulman in Amsterdam – with whose wife he was having an affair: in P. Mitchell's quote, “*Of Swiss extraction, he was multi-lingual, a charmer in any language, hence multi-married*”. He was the first president of the International Association of Professional Numismatists, and its medal of honour is named after him.

Biblio.: Herbert Cahn, obituary in *Schweizer Münzblätter*, vol. 4-6.15 (1953-1956), pp. 71-72; Philip Grierson and Mark Blackburn, *Medieval European Coinage*, vol. I, Cambridge 1986, p. 403; Leonard Forrer, “Numismatic reminiscences of the last sixty years”, in *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. 73 (2003), pp. 191-196; Peter Mitchell, “Some reminiscences of the coin business I joined and of some members past”, in *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. 73 (2003), pp. 197-212: pp. 203-204.

## HESS.

Adolph Hess (1846-1912) had started dealing in coins in 1870 in Giessen, and moved to Frankfurt two years later. In 1893, the business was transferred to Louis Hamburger and James Belmonte (d. 1924), and joined in 1910 by Herman Feith (1876-1940). In 1929, two more numismatists joined: Herman Rosenberg (1896-1970) and Dr. Busso Peus (1902-1983).

A branch of the company was opened in Lucerne (Switzerland) in 1930, following the rise of the Nazi Party, and Rosenberg was put in charge. Rosenberg had started to study archaeology and art history when he was forced to join the army during WWI, and then had joined his father's firm afterwards: he was the son of Sally Rosenberg, a coin dealer in Hanover and Frankfurt. Hess's Frankfurt business was transferred to Peus, and the Swiss company was named Adolph Hess A.G. in 1933. Himself a respected dealer, Leo Mildenberg wrote that Rosenberg "*was perhaps the best-loved coin-dealer of our time. Every enquiry, whether from an established colleague or a beginner, received a courteous answer. Every collector could count on his advice and help. And every commission bidder could be certain that his interests were properly represented*". From 1954 until Rosenberg's death, the company's auctions were held in partnership with Bank Leu.

The Zurich firm is now the property of Hans-Joachim 'Achim' Schramm, who had been the co-founder with Dieter Gorny in 1970 of the firm Gießener Münzhandlung. The firm moved to Munich in 1978, and became known as Gorny & Mosch in 1990 with the arrival of Hans-Christoph von Mosch, but Schramm had separated from the business in 1977 when he moved to Munich – he then relocated to Cologne in 1983, before buying Adolph Hess A.G. in 1990.

Biblio.: John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 114-115 and 128; Hadrien Rambach, "Collecting coins in nineteenth-century Germany: Carl von Schäffer in context" / "A List of coin dealers in nineteenth-century Germany", in Stefan Krmnicek & Henner Hardt (eds), *A Collection in Context. Kommentierte Edition der Briefe und Dokumente Sammlung Dr. Karl von Schäffer (Tübinger Numismatische Studien. Band 1)*, Tübingen University Press 2017, pp. 37-61 and pp. 63-84.

## HIRSCH.

The Hirsch family coin business started with Heinrich Hirsch (d. 1886). Part of his collection formed the opening inventory of his nephew Jacob Hirsch (1874-1955), who opened his own firm in 1897. Jacob had studied in Rome at the German Archaeological Institute, and he soon became a leading dealer in Munich – before moving to Geneva in 1919, where he founded 1922 the firm "Ars Classica". In 1931 he founded a business in New York, where he moved before WWII. Famous for his memory, and his ability to distinguish forgeries, he specialized in antiquities as well as coins, and had the chance to deal with numerous collectors worldwide such as Bestégué, **Brand**, the two **Evans**, **Jameson**, Newell and Consul **Weber**. After his death, several anonymous auctions of his inventory were held by Hess & Leu.

Biblio.: *The Times*, 14 November 1952; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 133-134; Matthias Barth and Efreim Marcel Pegan, "cortese e peritissimo nostro amico". Bayerisch-italienische Lebenswege des Numismatikers Heinrich (Enrico) Hirsch. Ein Beitrag zu den Anfängen des modernen Münzhandels in München", in *Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte*, vol. 65 (2015), pp. 233-315; Hadrien Rambach, "Collecting coins in nineteenth-century Germany: Carl von Schäffer in context" / "A List of coin dealers in nineteenth-century Germany", in Stefan Krmnicek & Henner Hardt (eds), *A Collection in Context. Kommentierte Edition der Briefe und Dokumente Sammlung Dr. Karl von Schäffer (Tübinger Numismatische Studien. Band 1)*, Tübingen University Press 2017, pp. 37-61 and pp. 63-84.

## LEU / LHS.

Bank Leu was founded in 1758 by Johann Jacob Leu, who later became the mayor of Zurich. State-owned at first, the bank was privatized in 1798 after Napoleon's conquest of Switzerland. Despite its glorious past, notably as banker to Empress Maria Theresa, the bank suffered greatly from two insider-trading scandals in the 1980s, and in 1990 it merged with Crédit Suisse, before merging into an even larger Clariden Leu in 2007.

A numismatic department was created in 1949, when the bank hired Leo Mildenberg (1913-2001) at the suggestion of Jacob **Hirsch** and of Erich von **Schulthess-Rechberg**. From the 1950s onwards, Bank Leu had co-organised numismatic auctions with Hess, and it started to hold the sales under its sole name in 1971. In 1992, the department was renamed "Leu Numismatik", and it separated from the bank in 2005 and became "LHS Numismatik". Several important numismatists joined the ranks of Bank Leu over the years, with the most famous being Silvia Hurter (1933-2008) and Alan Walker.

Alan Walker left LHS and joined the newly formed Nomos AG in Zurich (the name was acquired from the family of the late Dr. Roland Maly, who had originally founded the firm in Kriens). The name Leu Numismatik AG, apparently abandoned by Credit Suisse, was bought in 2016 by a new firm, which has no connection with the old one, and is now located in Winterthur.

Biblio.: John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, p. 151.

## M&M BASEL.

Münzen und Medaillen A.G., also known as "MuM", "M&M" and "Monnaies et Médailles", was the successor of the company Münzhandlung Basel – which had been formed in 1934 by the brothers Erich Cahn (1913-1993) and Herbert Cahn (1915-2002), who previously worked in Frankfurt in their father's company. The original business in Basel had started with the acquisition of the collection of Prince Waldeck of Arolsen, financed by Sigmund Morgenroth.

The new firm, formed in January 1942, was a Swiss limited company, with mostly local shareholders-collectors such as Christoph Bernoulli, Paul Dreyfus, Jacob Trott and August **Voirol**. The beginnings were difficult for these two refugees from WWII, but business improved and Pierre Strauss (1922-1995) – a dealer and scholar – joined the company in 1951. The final auction of the Basel company, their 95<sup>th</sup>, took place in 2004, and it was continued by a German branch established in 1997.

Biblio.: John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 162 and 164-165.

#### **RATTO.**

The coin business of the Ratto family started in 1893 in Genoa with Rodolfo Ratto (1866-1949), who later moved to Milan where, with the guidance of the keeper of the Museo Sforzesco, he built relationships with major collectors and museums in Italy and abroad. Ratto had frequently advised the Director of the Biblioteca Ambrosiana on numismatic matters, and was granted one of the first audiences with Cardinal Achille Ratti when he became Pope Pius XI in 1922. Ratto's auction catalogues were issued in Genoa from 1895 until 1909, then in Milan from 1910 until 1919, and then in Lugano from 1923 until 1934. He handled important sales such as the collections of **Bonazzi**, Côte, Fröhner, Sydenham, Viganò, etc., and his 1930 auction-catalogue of Byzantine coins remains a reference-book to this day.

His son Mario Ratto (1906-1990) followed his father's footsteps, and published fixed-price lists from 1928 onwards, and auction catalogues. He started his career by buying out the expert Henri Rolland (1887-1970) in 1928, and then holding auctions in Paris from 1931 to 1936, and in Milan from 1952 to 1974. During WWII, he had to return to Italy, and opened a business in Milan, while his employee Jean **Vinchon** took over operations in Paris. In 1951 he was one of the founding members of the International Association of Professional Numismatists, and in 1952 he appointed an Italian scholar named Antonio Pagani to the task of writing the catalogue of **Mazzini**'s collection. Later in his career, from 1979 to 1988, Mario Ratto acted as president of a Milanese auction-house, MONTENAPOLÉONE ASTE D'ARTE.

In the 1950s, his son Marco Ratto (1933-2016) began to work in the family company, and it was with him that **Biaggi** built a close relationship based on trust and friendship, which over the years led to the formation of Biaggi's incredible collection of *aurei*. The latter was a great lover of hunting and boxing, and Marco would often accompany him. The Ratto family certainly ranks among the most important professional numismatists of the twentieth century.

Biblio.: Philip Grierson and Mark Blackburn, *Medieval European Coinage*, vol. I, Cambridge 1986, p. 410; Carlo Crippa, "Necrologio: Mario Ratto", in *Rivista Italiana di Numismatica*, vol. XCII (1990), pp. 347-348; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 203-204 and 212; Carlo Crippa, "Marco Ratto (1933-2016)", in *Rivista Italiana di Numismatica*, vol. CXVIII (2017), pp. 435-436.

#### **ROLLIN & FEUARDENT.**

Charles Louis Rollin (1777-1853) had started as a money-changer in the Palais-Royal (Paris) in 1800, but soon specialized in collectible coins. By the 1820s, he had become the main reference about a coin's authenticity among collectors, and by 1833-1834 he had given up the change business. With his son Claude Camille Rollin (1813-1883), he moved to 12 rue Vivienne – opposite the Royal Library with which they had a very close relationship: over 100,000 francs of sales in the 1820s-1830s (and 17 swaps from 1838 onward). The business then passed into the hands of the grandson, Charles Rollin (1843-1906), whose sister married Félix-Bienaimé Feuardent (1819-1907), and the company became "Rollin et Feuardent" in 1860.

Feuardent was an excellent numismatist, under whose direction the company moved to the nearby 4 place Louvois, on the other side of the *Bibliothèque*. The business was later inherited by Feuardent's three sons, who re-named the firm as Feuardent Frères in 1911, but the business closed in 1936.

Though Spink & Son in London was founded in the seventeenth century, Rollin & Feuardent could claim to be the oldest firm dedicated to coin-dealing. Indeed, a first sale list had been published in 1808, and they organized a number of auctions from the 1840s onward. The company used to publish a number of books, and the *Revue numismatique* from 1842 to 1936, which gave them prime access to every important collector of the time. The list of collections which they acquired and/or dispersed includes names such as **Du Chastel**, **Evans**, Hoffmann, **Jameson**, **Montagu**, **Ponton d'Amécourt**, **Quelen**, and **Soleirol**.

Biblio.: Charles Lenormant, "Nécrologie: M. Rollin", in *Revue Numismatique*, 1853, p. 162; Anon., "Nécrologie de M. Félix Feuardent", in *Revue numismatique*, vol. IV-11 (1907), pp. 419-422; Gustave Schlumberger, *Mes Souvenirs*, Paris 1934, vol. I/II, pp. 177 sqq.; John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 61 and 216-217; Felicity Bodenstein, *L'histoire du Cabinet des médailles et antiques de la Bibliothèque nationale (1819-1924)*, unpublished PhD-thesis, presented at Université Paris-Sorbonne on 27 June 2015, pp. 251 sqq.

#### **SAMBON.**

Louis Sambon (d. 1873) was a French diplomat in the employ of the prince of Rohan-Chabot, for whom he moved to Naples in the 1820s, where he married an Italian woman, Anna Cesare d'Aquila. He is highly remembered for his work *Recherches sur les monnaies de la presqu'île italique*, published in Naples in 1870.

Their son, Giulio 'Jules' N. Sambon (c.1836-1921), inherited his father's interest for coins. After fighting by the side of Garibaldi in 1860, he opened a numismatic and antiques business in 1878, Via Gennaro Serra 24 in Naples, at first in partnership with Raffaele Dura (until 1884). During his career, he also opened several other offices: Via Condotti 44 in Rome, Corso Vittorio Emanuele 37 in Milan, Via de' Martelli 4 in Florence, in Turin, and 6 Rue de Port-Mahon in



Paris (not far from **Rollin & Feuardent**). *Commendatore* Sambon was a passionate collector, and amongst his achievements was a unique documentation on the theatre, which was sold in 1911 to the Italian State and formed the basis for the Scala museum in Milan. A specialist in Italian coins, his own collection was auctioned in 1897 and his book *Repertorio generale delle monete coniate in Italia e da Italiani all'estero dal secolo V al XX* was published in Paris in 1912. He also organized the sales of other types of art – such as the painting collections of numerous aristocratic families.

He married an Englishwoman, Laura Elizabeth Day; their first child, Luigi 'Louis' Westenra Sambon (1867-1931), who had inherited his father's and grand-father's collection of Aes Grave (sold by Sotheby in 1925 in order to finance medical research), became a celebrated bacteriologist in England – discovering the origin of malaria, before moving to Paris to work in the art world with his younger brother Arthur. President of the *Chambre des Experts d'Art* in Paris (and founder of the *Chambre Internationale des Experts d'Art*), Arthur 'Arturo' Sambon (1866-1947) was the dealer of major collectors such as Calouste Gulbenkian, Gustave Schlumberger and count Tyszkiewicz, occasionally bidding on behalf of clients (notably J. P. **Morgan** in the Strozzi auction of 1907), and a publisher: in partnership with the Canessa brothers, he founded in 1904 the monthly art-journal *Le Musée*, which was published until 1909 and again in 1924-1925. He had prepared the catalogue of his father's own collection (sale in 1897), and he was a specialist of Etruscan coins, who wrote a book entitled *Les Monnaies antiques de l'Italie* (Paris 1903) and numerous articles.

The company closed in 1947, a turning-point year for numismatics with the deaths of Pio Santamaria, Arthur Sambon, and king Vittorio Emanuele III. A rich archival fund on the Sambon family, some 27 boxes representing 4.5 linear metres, was acquired c.1970 by gallerist Louis Carré – and ordered by Ms. Mallisson, and bequeathed in 1978 to the *Archives nationales* in Paris, but has not yet been exploited for its numismatic information (for example coin-related letters received 1898-1912), and one must hope that Arthur's unfinished *Mémoires d'un expert d'art* will someday be published (Alfred also handwrote his *Souvenirs d'un antiquaire*). The auctions by Sambon were often in fact by Sambon and **Canessa**, the latter acting more as dealers, the former as expert. Arthur's name is still frequently encountered, associated to important works of art which he sold, or which he collected (notably Renaissance medals and plaquettes, and paintings by Bassano and Bonington). Like many dealers, Arthur Sambon was a generous donor to museums. He had married the daughter of a great collector, Edouard Warneck (1834-1924), himself the son-in-law of the dealer Alexis Fèbvre (1810-1881), and published a catalogue of the Warneck collection. When it came to being auctioned he gave an enormous donation of 119,280 Francs to the *Réunion des Musées Nationaux* in order to finance acquisitions in the sale. He had an only child, Alfred Sambon, who also dealt in antiquities from his gallery at 5 quai Voltaire in Paris.

Biblio.: Luigi Giliberti, obituary in *Bollettino del Circolo Numismatico*, vol. XXXII-XXXIII (1947-1948), pp. 12-24; Fabrizio Slavazzi, "Giulio Sambon (1836-1921) mercante d'arte, collezionista e studioso", in A. Ceresa Mori, C. Lambrugo and F. Slavazzi, *L'infanzia e il gioco nel mondo antico. Materiali della collezione Sambon di Milano*, Milan 2012, pp. 9-13; Luca D'Orazi, "I Canessa, una famiglia di antiquari", in *Gazzettino di Quelli del Cordusio*, forthcoming.

#### SANTAMARIA.

This firm had been founded in Rome in 1898 by Pietro Santamaria (1863-1930), immediately joined by his cousin Pio Santamaria (1881-1947). The family produced numerous catalogues, from 1908 until 1963: their most famous sale was probably **Magnaguti's**, but they sold many other collections too – such as those of Hartwig, Signorelli, Stiavelli, and **Trivulzio**.

Pietro, educated in London and Brussels, was until then a sales representative for Italian art manufacturers – traveling to America and Australia to attend international exhibitions. Fluent in English, the founder of the first two English language newspapers in Rome, he became Chief of the Inter-Allied Propaganda Commission in Italy during WWI – for which he was made Knight Commander of the Crown of Italy and Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Pio instead had studied art history in Rome, London and the U.S., and was co-founder of the *Associazione Artistica Internazionale*, before becoming an authority on Italian medals as well as Medieval and Modern Italian coins.

Pietro's son, Alberto Santamaria (1900-1984), wrote a thesis on Roman coin production and joined the family business – with his brother Ernesto – in the 1920s.

Biblio.: Luigi Giliberti, in *Bollettino del Circolo Numismatico Napoletano*, vol. XXXII-XXXIII (1947-48); John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 251-252.

#### TILL.

William Till the younger (d. 8 April 1844), who had prepared the Devonshire catalogue with John Doubleday, was an important dealer in London. Till died shortly after the auction, and the company was continued by his nephew William Webster (1821-1885), whose son William John Webster (1848-1919) then joined Spink & Son in 1892, but his large inventory of coins and medals had been sold in over 3100 lots in four auctions by Sotheby's in 1845-46.

Till is now also remembered as the author of books: *An Essay on the Roman Denarius and English Silver Penny* (1837 and 1838), as well as *The Farthings of Queen Anne* (1837) and *Descriptive Particulars of English Coronation Medals* (1838 and 1846).

No specific research seems to have been devoted to him, or to his estate auctions, but the result of the Caligula aureus of the La Borde collection suggests that it was a disaster: a coin that had sold for £6/12/- in the Devonshire sale of 18-24 March 1844, resold for only £1/10/- in the Till sale of 6-11 January 1845.

#### TINCHANT.

Paul Tinchant (1893-1981) was a coin dealer born in Nîmes (France), but based in Brussels (Belgium) – first at 19 avenue des Arts and later 64 rue de la Loi, who acted as expert to the Belgian tribunals. In two separate donations (1934 and 1952), Tinchant offered nearly 1,000 silver and bronze Roman coins to the Cabinet des Médailles de la Bibliothèque royale.

After retiring in 1964, he sold his collection to the Amsterdam dealer Jacques Schulman, who then auctioned it on 8-10 June 1966 under the pseudonym Richard J. Graham (including 228 *aurei* and *solidi*). According to Jean Lafaurie, “*Graham was the name attached by Tinchant to coins which were bought-in during his own auctions, for fiscal reasons. Also for fiscal reasons the firm of Schulman bought Tinchant’s collection outright prior to offering it for sale, which they did giving it the name of Graham*”. And according to John Spring, “*The word Graham may have been used because for many years it was the term applied by Bill French at Glendining to identify any unsold lot*”. Schulman had nevertheless used Tinchant’s name as vendor for his 4-9 April 1965 auction of coins and numismatic literature.

Biblio.: John Spring, *Ancient Coins Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*, London 2009, pp. 274-275; François de Callatay, “Le Cabinet des Médailles de Bruxelles et les fausses monnaies grecques”, in *Schweizerische numismatische Rundschau*, vol. 88 (2009), pp. 289-298: p. 290.

#### VINCHON.

Jean Olivier Auguste Vinchon (1918-2003), born in Burgundy, was the son of a coin-collector. By chance, or rather by luck, when he was called to the army in 1940 as an *officier de réserve*, he was placed under the authority of a curator at the Paris coin-cabinet: Pierre Le Gentilhomme (1909-1947). Captured soon after, he remained prisoner in Germany until 9 March 1942, when he escaped and returned to Paris where he learnt numismatics under Le Gentilhomme’s guidance, and started the same year to work for Mario **Ratto**. As soon as 1951, he co-founded the International Association of Professional Numismatists, before becoming not long after an expert to the French judicial courts. A keen sportsman, active in sports as varied as golf, shooting, swimming and skiing, he was also an experienced airplane pilot.

His first auction was organized in 1955 – in partnership with Pio Ciani, and he became France’s best-known numismatist in his shop of the Rue de Richelieu (near the Stock-Exchange) where he worked until his demise, advising some of the most famous collectors such as Armand Trampisch, Manuel Canovas, Sacha Guïtry, Roger Peyrefitte, Maurice Laffaille, and Dr. Etienne-Paul Nicolas. His professional activity has been continued by his daughters Annette Vinchon, specialized in bullion coins, and Françoise Berthelot, who still organizes auctions.

### On some important coin hoards

#### **ARQUENNES HOARD, c.1985.**

Found in the Bois de Renissart in Arquennes, near Pont-à-Celles, this hoard was found c.1985 and dispersed in 1987 in Charleroi and London. Out of a total of 907 *aurei*, 857 coins have been photographed – mostly those acquired by Spink & Son – and this documentation is preserved at the Royal library in Brussels. They ranged from Nero (127 *aurei*) to Septimius Severus (21 *aurei*), and included notable rarities such as 10 restitutions *aurei* of Trajan, 3 Pertinax *aurei*, 4 Didius Julianus *aurei*, 2 M. Scantilla *aurei* and 2 Didia Clara *aurei*. Datable to AD 207, it is the largest hoard of Roman gold coins ever found in Belgium (the Liberchies hoard containing only 368 *aurei* – from Nero to Marcus Aurelius), and it was legally sold and exported.

Biblio.: Johan van Heesch and Tony Hackens, “Arquennes / Seneffe: trésor monétaire d’aurei romains”, in *Revue belge de numismatique*, vol. CXL (1994), pp. 103-105. Johan van Heesch gave an – unpublished – lecture on this hoard at the Royal Numismatic Society in London on 16 April 1996.

#### **ARRAS HOARD, 1922.**

This treasure was found in a field in “Pouvoir Dhée”, near Beaurains lès Arras, on 21 September 1922. It is estimated that some 700 coins were found, of which 100 were melted down, and of which 473 were identified by Pierre Bastien in 1977, and at least 233 coins from the hoard are now preserved in museums, worldwide. The hoard not only contained a large number of gold coins and medallions, but also jewels and silverware.

In 1927 the Arras museum acquired the coins that belonged to the finder, but many items had been dispersed previously, and the landowner of the field kept her share of the find and sold it for 350,000 Francs to the dealer Etienne **Bourgey** (Paris). A large number of coins were sold privately by the workers and went to the dealer Charles Dupriez (Brussels) – who then sold a number to Bourgey in 1932. Bourgey rented the field for 1927-1930, in the hope of excavating some more, but found nothing.

The person who buried this treasure in Northern France had probably been the recipient of several donatives: one in AD 285 when Diocletian occupied Italy, one in AD 294 when the Caesars celebrated their first consulate, and one in AD 297 when Constantius reconquered Britain. He probably also received imperial gifts: in AD 302, in AD 303 (twice), in AD 305 (twice), in AD 307, and finally in AD 310. Unfortunately, his identity remains a mystery.

Biblio.: Pierre Bastien & Catherine Metzger, *Le Trésor de Beaurains (dit d'Arras)*, Wetterren 1977; *Corpus des Trésors monétaires antiques de la France*, vol. II, Paris 1983, pp. 63-64; and Sabine Bourgey, *Sous le signe du métal. Histoire d'une famille du marché de l'art*, Paris 2011, pp. 158-162.

#### **AVENTINE HOARD, 1893.**

During the construction of the Benedictine monastery of Sant'Anselmo on the Aventine in Rome, a hoard of *aurei* of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus was unearthed in 1893. The total number of coins found remains uncertain, possibly as many as 300-400 *aurei*, many of them fresh as struck. Forty-five coins were acquired by the Medagliere del Vaticano, but the majority of the hoard went to the trade.

Biblio.: Marcel Thirion, “Le trésor d’aurei de l’Aventin (1893)”, in *Bulletin du Cercle d'Etudes Numismatiques*, vol. V-2 (April-June 1968), pp. 21-24.

#### **BOSCOREALE HOARD, 1894.**

The hoard was found in the afternoon of Saturday 6 April 1895 in Boscoreale, an aristocratic residential area north of Pompeii. This was a large discovery, consisting of over 1,350 Roman coins in a leather purse, some gold jewels, and over 100 items of silverware, in which the gold coins have a distinctive red patina. The group was buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79, and discovered during excavations on land owned by Vincenzo De Prisco MP in the *torcularium* of the “Villa della Pisanella”. The **Canessa** brothers (Cesare, Ercole and Amedeo) acquired the hoard and exported most of it to France: most coins were sold through **Rollin & Feuardent** (the Canessa brought some 100 coins from the hoard to New York in 1908, which indicates that they had not sold them all), and the majority of the silver pieces – over 30 kilograms – are now in the Louvre museum, having been purchased for 500,000 francs by Baron Edmond James de Rothschild (1845-1934) and donated in 1896. Two additional finds of 36 *aurei* were dispersed in Rome, and there were also 8 jewels set in gold that were acquired directly by the Louvre from Canessa.

At the time of the discovery, even if there was no law inhibiting the free circulation of antiquities (it would be introduced in 1909), the State would still be able to exercise its right of first refusal (according to pre-unitary laws) if it was aware of a treasure. The director of the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Naples was offered the coins and artifacts, but he deemed the asking price too high, and he declined the purchase. This decision was later criticized, and led to a series of conflicts between the museum's director and the Minister *dei Beni Culturali*. The State rarely had the funds to acquire important finds, and another case was a group of silver vases (*Argenti Cacace*) for which the government offered 20,000 Lire in 1896 and which the Canessa acquired instead for 104,000 Lire.

Many of the most worn coins of Augustus and Tiberius were melted, but a list of 1,082 coins was published by Canessa (and recently studied by Campana), and coins from the Boscoreale hoard can often be identified thanks to their distinctive red patina.

Biblio.: Adrien Blanchet, "Le trésor monétaire de Bosco Reale", in *Revue Numismatique*, Series III vol. 13 (1895), pp. 574-575; Antoine Héron de Villefosse, "Le Trésor de Boscoreale", in *Fondation Eugène Piot, Monuments et Mémoires publiés par l'Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres*, vol. 5 (1899); Cesare Canessa, "Trésor monétaire de Boscoreale", in *Le Musée. Revue d'art mensuelle*, vol. 6 (1909), pp. 259-265; Marvin Tameanko, "Boscoreale; the aurei from the fabulous treasure of 1895", in *The Celator*, vol. VIII-3 (1994), pp. 6-8, 10-12 and 14-16; Sebastian Heath, "Roman Gold from Boscoreale at the ANS", in *American Numismatic Society Magazine*, vol. III-2 (Summer 2004), pp. 44 sqq.; Antonio Cirillo and Angelandrea Casale, 2004, *Il Tesoro di Boscoreale e il suo scopritore*, Pompei 2004; Vincenzina Castiglione Morelli, "Le monete della Villa della Pisanella di Boscoreale. Dalla schedatura virtuale al mercato globale", in *Rivista di Studi Pompeiani*, vol. 22 (2011), pp. 37-48; Carlo Avvisati, *Gli ori di Boscoreale*, Boscoreale 2012; Alberto Campana, "Gli aurei del tesoro di Boscoreale", in *Notiziario del Portale Numismatico dello Stato*, vol. VII (2015), pp. 10-19; Luca D'Orazi, "I Canessa, una famiglia di antiquari", in *Gazzettino di Quelli del Cordusio*, forthcoming.

#### KARNAK HOARD, 1901.

This treasure, not to be confused with the treasure found in September 2007 in the baths of Karnak, consisting of 316 Ptolemaic bronze coins of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, was found in 1901 in Karnak (Egypt). It contained some 1,200 aurei, dating from Hadrian to Elagabalus. Giovanni Dattari wrote to Francesco Gnechi about the discovery of the coins in two terracotta jars: the first one containing about 1,000 pieces, the second one (found eight days later about 10 meters away) containing 180 coins. But there seems to be some confusion, as Robert Mowat – that same year – wrote that the coins were found in January 1902: in fact, the first coins to have appeared from this hoard were already being offered at auction in Paris, on 25 June 1901, and the rest of the hoard was dispersed privately over a number of years.

The 1901 sale was that of the collection of count Józef Tyszkiewicz (1850-1905), but the catalogue containing the coins numbered 113 sqq. was described as a *supplément*, so the question must be asked whether they were Tyszkiewicz's too or whether they were added by the expert – the widow (d. 1919) of Raymond Serrure (1862-1899).

Kurt Regling stated that a consortium in Cairo acquired most of the coins from the finder, which then offered them at very high prices to Bachofen von Echt in Vienna, to London buyers and to the Paris museum (which acquired a Julia Soemias), after which a German dealer dealt with the majority of the coins – selling them to the Berlin and Vienna museums and to count Du Chastel amongst others: indeed, in a letter addressed to the Paris coin-cabinet on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1903, the dealer Jacob Hirsch referred to 4 aurei from the hoard being sold for 5,000 Francs to Baroness Thérèse de Rothschild – who was buying on behalf of the museum. The Cabinet des Médailles later acquired other coins, supposedly from the same source.

Biblio.: Kurt Regling, "Römische goldmünzenfunde aus Ägypten", in *Berliner Münzblätter*, vol. 23 (1902), pp. 137-138; Robert Mowat, "Trésor de Karnak et d'Aboukir", in *Bulletin de la Société nationale des Antiquaires de France*, vol. VII-3 (1902), pp. 281-286 & 308-318; Jean de Foville, "Monnaies trouvées à Karnak (don Rothschild)", in *Revue numismatique*, Series 4 – vol. 7 (1903), pp. 272-280; Andrzej Kunisz, "Gold coins in the monetary circulation in Egypt during the first three centuries AD", in *Wiadomości Numizmatyczne*, vol. 27 (1983), pp. 130-135 and p. 163 (in Polish with an English summary); J. Strzałkowski, *Zbiory polskich monet i medali*, Łódź 1991, p. 127 (kindly translated by Paweł Gołyźniak); Mansour Boraik and Thomas Faucher, "Le trésor des bains de Karnak", in *Cahiers de Karnak*, vol. 13 (2010), pp. 79-100; Adriano Savio and Tomaso Lucchelli and Alessandro Cavagna, *Giovanni Dattari. Un numismatico italiano al Cairo*, Milano 2015, pp. 175-179; Pauline Prevost-Marcilhacy (ed.), *Les Rothschild, une dynastie de mécènes en France*, Paris 2016, 3 vols. Contains: M. Avisseau-Broustet, D. Hollard, J. Olivier, "James Édouard de Rothschild, 1844-1881 et Thérèse de Rothschild, 1847-1931. Monnaies et pierres gravées au Cabinet des médailles de la Bibliothèque nationale, 1903-1904", vol. I, pp. 298-299.



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