



Savoca Coins

Black | 188th Black Auction

17 December 2023

All prices are starting prices (EUR)
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1 Eastern Europe. Imitation of Seleukos I 300-200 BC. Imitating an issue of Babylon. Struck in the name of Alexander III of Macedon Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 16,90 g Head of Herakles right, wearing lion's skin / Zeus Aëtrophoros seated left; in left field, monogram, star and X; wreath beneath throne. good very fine For prototype, cf. SC 82. Celtic imitation coins are replicas or adaptations of ancient coins that were produced by Celtic tribes during the late Iron Age and early Roman era. These imitations were crafted by various Celtic groups inhabiting regions of Europe, such as Gaul, Britain, and parts of Central Europe, from around the 2nd century BC to the 1st century BC. Celtic imitations often mimicked the design elements of Greek and Roman coins, utilizing similar imagery, symbols, and inscriptions. However, due to the Celtic artisans' distinct artistic style, these imitations often displayed a unique and stylized interpretation of the original motifs. The reasons for producing these imitations varied and could include economic transactions, trade, or cultural influences.



2 Central Europe. Vindelici 200-100 BC. Regenbogenschüsselchen Type II C Denarius AR 18 mm, 7,51 g Bird's head to left; beak between two pellets within wreath open to right / Six pellets within torque. nearly extremely fine LT 9427; Kellner 2327 Type II D; Castelin 1068-70; Dembski 446-8; Flesche Coll. 303-4. In colloquial language, "Regenbogenschüsselchen" refers to a unique type of Celtic gold and silver coin that was in circulation in a region stretching from what is now Hungary through Austria to southern Germany between roughly 200 BC and the turn of the era. These coins are known for their characteristic bowl-like shape and typically lack any inscriptions. Instead, they feature abstract, symbolic patterns or tangible motifs from Celtic iconography. The name "Regenbogenschüsselchen," which translates to "rainbow bowls," derives from a superstition that these gold pieces fell from the sky as if from a rainbow and landed on the earth. The unique curvature of these coins made them stand out when discovered, especially when the sun was at the observer's back, as their shape allowed them to reflect sunlight back in the direction it came from. This sometimes led people to believe that the coin had fallen from the heavens and was gleaming under a rainbow. These mysterious coins were often uncovered during plowing and were believed to bring luck, possessing even healing properties. This finding context likely inspired the Grimm fairy tale "The Star Money." The Bohemian numismatist Nikolaus Adaukt Voigt used the Podmokl coin hoard discovery in 1771 to characterize these coins as early indigenous pieces, dispelling theories about their foreign origin.



3 Sicily. Syracuse. Agathokles 317-289 BC. Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 17,47 g Head of Arethusa left, wreathed with grain, wearing triple-pendant earring and necklace; three dolphins around, NI below neck truncation / ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ, charioteer driving racing quadriga left, reins in left hand, kentron in right; triskeles counterclockwise above, AN monogram in exergue. good very fine, some corrosion in the field Ierardi 36; SNG ANS 635; SNG München vergl. 1209. Agathocles, born in 361 BC in Thermae Himeraeae (modern Termini Imerese), Sicily, was a Greek tyrant of Syracuse from 317 to 289 BC and the self-styled king of Sicily from 304 to 289 BC. Initially, he learned his father's trade as a potter but later joined the army with his brother Antander. He faced exile twice for attempting to overthrow the oligarchical party in Syracuse. In 317 BC, Agathocles returned with mercenaries, overthrew the oligarchs, and established himself as the ruler of Syracuse. He built a formidable army and fleet, extending his rule over much of Sicily. War with Carthage ensued, marked by defeats and victories. Agathocles landed in Africa, defeated Carthaginians, and attempted to isolate Carthage by forming alliances and capturing coastal towns. In 306 BC, after making peace with Carthage, Agathocles proclaimed himself king of Sicily. Despite turbulence in his later years, plagued by ill-health and family disputes, he maintained control over the Greek cities in Sicily. His death in 289 BC marked the end of his reign. Agathocles married three times, had several children, and left a complex legacy as a skilled military leader and ruler, known for both cruelty and mild governance. He even restored the Syracusan democracy on his deathbed, opposing a hereditary monarchy.



4 Macedon. Chalkidian League, Olynthos circa 432-348 BC. Aristonos, magistrate Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 14,35 g Laureate head of Apollo to right / ΧΑΛΚΙΔΕΩΝ around lyre with seven strings; ΕΠΙ ΑΡΙΣΤΩΝΟΣ below. . Robinson & Clement Group V, 127 (A79/P109); SNG ANS 496; HGC 3.1, 500. NGC graded Ch AU Strike 5/5 Surface 3/5 The deep connection between the kithara and Apollo, the Greek god of the arts, is a profound aspect of ancient Greek culture and mythology. Apollo's multifaceted portfolio included music, poetry, prophecy, and more, but it's his role as the god of music that brings the kithara into focus. The kithara, a stringed musical instrument reminiscent of a lyre or harp, symbolized much more than music in ancient Greece. It embodied harmony, balance, and the pinnacle of cultural achievement. Apollo, often depicted with his kithara, was the ultimate musician. His divine melodies were believed to have the power to soothe the gods and uplift mortals, healing both body and spirit. In Greek mythology, Apollo's kithara wasn't merely an instrument; it was a source of inspiration, a means of calming divine tensions, and a symbol of cultural excellence. It was through the kithara that Apollo led the Muses, guiding humanity toward the arts and creativity. From the Matteo Savoca collection

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5 Macedon. Chalkidian League, Olynthos circa 432-348 BC. Tetradrachm AR 24 mm, 14,47 g Laureate head of Apollo to right / ΧΑΛΚΙΔΕΩΝ, Kithara with seven strings, base inscribed ΔΕ. . Robinson & Clement 56 (A39/P51); SNG ANS -; HGC 3.1, 497. NGC graded Ch XF Strike 5/5 Surface 3/5 From the Matteo Savoca collection

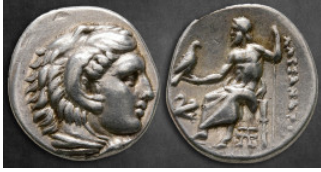
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6 Kings of Macedon. Pella. Philip II of Macedon 359-336 BC. Tetradrachm AR 22 mm, 14,36 g Laureate head of Zeus to left / Nude rider on horseback to right, holding long palm branch in his right hand, ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ above, bee to right below horse's foreleg. . Le Rider 435; SNG ABC 275 var.; SNG ANS 429. NGC graded AU Strike 4/5 Surface 4/5 The left-facing Zeus head tetradrachms struck in the name of Philip II are very rare, particularly so in good condition. They were struck from just two obverse dies, only at Pella, and belong to the beginning of the late group III. The head of Zeus on both dies is of wonderful and striking style. It has been suggested that they were intended to be part a larger series for Philip III, which would be thus differentiated from the coins of his father Philip II by the left-facing Zeus portrait. From the Matteo Savoca collection



7 Kings of Macedon. Pella. Philip II of Macedon 359-336 BC. struck under Philip II or Alexander III, circa 340-328 1/4 Stater AV 11 mm, 2,15 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress / ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ, bow above club to left; below, trident head to left. extremely fine Le Rider 81; HGC 3.1, 851. Philip II was the King of Macedonia from 359 to 336 BC and the father of Alexander the Great. Through decades of military campaigns against Illyrians, Thracians, and Greek city-states, he transformed Macedonia into a dominant power in Greece. His victory over Athenians and Thebans at the Battle of Chaeronea in 338 BC led to the unification of the Greek states in the Corinthian League, where he became the Hegemon. The military achievements of his son, Alexander the Great, were largely based on Philip's military reforms. Before Philip's reign, Macedonia faced internal issues and external threats, particularly from Illyrians. Philip's strategic and diplomatic skills helped him gain control over the Macedonian nobility, strengthen the monarchy, and address the military deficiencies. His innovative military reforms, such as the introduction of the sarissa (a long lance) and improved coordination between infantry and cavalry, created a formidable army. Philip expanded Macedonia's influence by stabilizing the kingdom, defeating Illyrians and Paionians, and engaging in diplomatic maneuvers. He conquered cities like Amphipolis, Pydna, and Potidaea, strategically playing Athens and the Chalcidian League against each other. Philip also secured vital resources, such as timber and pitch, and implemented economic measures to support his military endeavors. The Battle of Chaeronea marked a turning point, solidifying Macedonian dominance in Greece. Philip established the Corinthian League, becoming its Hegemon and strategos. He pursued a pan-Hellenic campaign against the Persian Empire, leveraging the desire for revenge after Xerxes' invasion. Philip's reign laid the foundation for Alexander's conquests, shaping the course of ancient history.



8 Kings of Macedon. Abydos. Alexander III "the Great" 336-323 BC. struck under Kalas or Demarchos, circa 325-323 BC Drachm AR 17 mm, 4,29 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress / AΛEΞANΔPOY, Zeus seated left on low throne, holding long scepter in his left hand and eagle standing right with closed wings in his right; to left, forepart of Pegasos to left; below throne, monogram of ZΩ. good very fine Price 1505. Alexander the Great was a renowned ancient Macedonian king and military conqueror. Born in Pella, Macedonia, he was the son of King Philip II and Queen Olympias. He inherited a strong military tradition and education from his father and the philosopher Aristotle. After Philip's assassination in 336 BC, Alexander ascended to the throne at the age of 20. Alexander's most famous achievement was his vast conquest, which created one of the largest empires in history. He led his armies across Asia, through Persia, Egypt, and into India, defeating powerful empires along the way. He employed a mix of military genius, strategy, and diplomacy to unite his diverse empire. His speed and ability to adapt in battle earned him the title "Alexander the Great." He is best known for the Battle of Issus in 333 BC, where he decisively defeated the Persian King Darius III, and the Siege of Tyre in 332 BC, which showcased his innovative siege tactics. In 331 BC, he founded the city of Alexandria in Egypt, which became a prominent center of learning and culture. Despite his military prowess, Alexander aimed to blend Greek and Persian cultures, facilitating a cultural exchange known as Hellenization. His death at the age of 32 in Babylon in 323 BC marked the end of his conquests. His empire was divided among his generals, eventually leading to the rise of the Hellenistic kingdoms. Alexander's legacy has left an enduring impact on history, culture, and military strategy. His leadership, achievements, and vision continue to be studied and celebrated across the world.



9 Kings of Macedon. Kolophon. Alexander III "the Great" 336-323 BC. Drachm AR 17 mm, 4,29 g Head of young Herakles facing right, wearing a lion's skin / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus enthroned left, holding an eagle and a sceptre, a corn-grain below throne, a spear-head on right. good very fine Price 1751; Müller 314. Herakles, renowned in Roman mythology as Hercules, stands as an iconic figure embodying unparalleled strength, valor, and resourcefulness in ancient Greek lore. Born to Alcmena and Zeus in Thebes, his narrative pivots around the infamous Twelve Labors, a penance imposed by the gods for a fit of madness that led him to slay his family. These labors, ranging from defeating the Nemean Lion to cleansing the Augean stables, showcased Herakles' exceptional abilities. Despite facing tragic elements, such as the madness-induced tragedy and subsequent suffering, divine favor accompanied him. Revered for his physical prowess and strategic brilliance, Herakles emerged as the archetype of classical heroism.



10 Kings of Macedon. Sardeis. Alexander III "the Great" 336-323 BC. Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 17,17 g Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin headdress / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟ[Υ], Zeus seated left on throne, holding sceptre and eagle; to left, star; below throne, monogram. good very fine, scuff on reverse Price 2667. The mythological tale of Herakles and the Nemean Lion is one of the most renowned episodes in ancient Greek mythology. The Nemean Lion, a ferocious beast with an impervious hide, terrorized the region of Nemea, causing havoc and striking fear into the hearts of the people. Herakles, as one of his Twelve Labors assigned by King Eurystheus, undertook the formidable task of slaying the Nemean Lion. The hero's sheer strength proved vital in overcoming the lion's invulnerable hide. Struggling against the beast, Herakles eventually strangled it to death, showcasing his exceptional might and resourcefulness. The triumphant moment of Herakles standing victorious over the slain Nemean Lion became an iconic image, symbolizing the hero's unparalleled strength and marking the commencement of his legendary feats. This episode is a testament to Herakles' bravery and establishes him as a symbol of overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges through sheer determination and power.



11 Kings of Macedon. Magnesia ad Maeandrum. Philip III Arrhidaeus 323-317 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III. Struck under Menander or Kleitos, circa 323-319 BC Drachm AR 17 mm, 4 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress, paws tied beneath chin / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus seated left on low-backed throne, right leg drawn back, his feet resting on a low foot rest, holding long scepter in his left hand and, in his right, eagle standing right with closed wings, filleted thyrsos in left field. good very fine Price 1945; Müller 662. Philipp III Arrhidaios became King of Macedonia from 323 to 317 BC after the death of Alexander the Great. Believed to be mentally unwell, his reign was mostly symbolic, controlled by powerful generals. Despite being considered a possible rival, there is questionable evidence that he was poisoned by Alexander's mother, Olympias. He was used as a political pawn, with Alexander safeguarding him during campaigns to prevent him from being used against the throne. After Alexander's death, Arrhidaios was chosen as king in a succession dispute, while Alexander's infant son was also crowned. He married Eurydike, a union manipulated by political forces. During the Diadochi Wars, various regents held power over him. In 317 BC, he was captured and later executed, marking the end of his reign.

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12 Kings of Macedon. Sardeis. Philip III Arrhidaeus 323-317 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III. Struck under Menander or Kleitos, circa 322-319/8 BC Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 17,03 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress, paws tied beneath chin / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟ[Υ], Zeus seated left on low-backed throne, right leg drawn back, holding long scepter in his left hand and, in his right, eagle standing right with closed wings, in left field, torch, TI below throne. . Price 2622. NGC graded Ch VF Strike 5/5 Surface 4/5 From the Matteo Savoca collection

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13 Kings of Macedon. Sardeis. Philip III Arrhidaeus 323-317 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III. Struck under Menander or Kleitos, circa 322-319/8 BC Drachm AR 17 mm, 4,29 g Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus Aëtophoros seated left, in left field, bee above TI. good very fine Price 2626; ADM I Series XIV.

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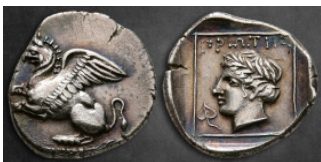
14 Kings of Macedon. Sardeis. Antigonos I Monophthalmos 320-301 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III Drachm AR 17 mm, 4,22 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress / Zeus Aëtophoros seated to left, holding sceptre; ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ to right, monograms in left field and below throne. extremely fine Price 2682. Antigonos I Monophthalmos, born around 382 BC, emerged as a formidable Macedonian general and a key Diadoch, following Alexander the Great's death. Serving under Philip II, Antigonos displayed military prowess during Alexander's conquests, later asserting his claim to the entire empire's kingship. This marked the inception of the Antigonid dynasty, the last ruling house of Macedonia. Antigonos faced numerous challenges, instigating conflicts like the first Diadoch War. Despite successes in battles, such as Gaza, setbacks came against Ptolemy in Egypt and Seleucus in Babylon. His ambition to monopolize Alexander's empire led to a coalition formed by Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus, and Seleucus against him. The Battle of Ipsus in 301 BC proved pivotal and fatal for Antigonos. Despite his strategic acumen, he suffered defeat due to tactical errors by his son Demetrius, ultimately leading to Antigonos' death in battle. The aftermath saw the division of his Asian territories among the coalition's victors. Antigonos' legacy embodies the ambition to reunify Alexander's empire, marking the end of the dream for a unified successor state. The Antigonid dynasty persisted, influencing the Hellenistic period, particularly in Macedonia. His son Demetrius continued the struggle, but the reunification of the Macedonian heartland remained elusive. From the Matteo Savoca collection

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15 Kings of Macedon. Amphipolis. Perseus 179-168 BC. Tetradrachm AR 33 mm, 15,21 g Diademed head to right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΠΕΡ-ΣΕΩΣ, eagle, with wings spread, standing to right on thunderbolt, monogram above, AY (mintmaster's) monogram to right, AI monogram between legs; all within oak wreath, plough to left in exergue. good very fine Mammoth, Perseus 25; HGC 3, 1094. Ex coll. Dr. Kurt Conzen (1925-1997). Perseus, the last king of ancient Macedonia from the Antigonid dynasty, rose to power in 179 BC, after the death of his father, King Philip V. His reign marked the culmination of the Diadochi Wars, resulting in Macedonia's subjugation to the Roman Republic following the pivotal Battle of Pydna in 168 BC. Despite renewing the treaty with Rome initially, Perseus's subsequent actions, including interventions in neighboring states, a military presence in Delphi, and alleged disregard for Roman envoys, aroused Roman suspicions. The Roman Senate, fearing a resurgence of Macedonian power, initiated the Third Macedonian-Roman War in 172 BC. After feigned negotiations, Perseus recognized the inevitable conflict as Roman forces proved superior. The Battle of Pydna in 168 BC ended in defeat for Perseus, leading to his surrender to Roman commander Lucius Aemilius Paullus Macedonicus. Perseus was paraded in a Roman triumph, and he likely faced imprisonment in Alba Fucens, symbolizing the dissolution of the Antigonid kingdom. After the beginning of the war against Rome, Perseus had the weight of the tetradrachms reduced by around 1/12 in order to gain money. This explains the weight of this piece.

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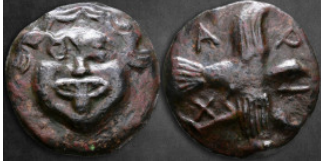


16 Thrace. Abdera circa 372-371 BC. Protes, magistrate Tetrobol AR 16 mm, 2,76 g Griffin springing left / Laureate head of Apollo left; ΠΡΩΤΗΣ above, ivy leaf below chin; all in linear square within incuse square. extremely fine HGC 3.2, 1217; May, Abdera, Period VI, 330. Ex Gerhard Hirsch Nachfolger Auction 240, Lot 71 (2005).

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17 Thraco-Macedonian Tribes. Derrones after circa 480 BC. Dodekadrachm AR 33 mm, 37,19 g Male driver, wearing petasos and robes, seated to left on a throne-like chair, mounted on a two-wheeled ox-cart moving slowly to left, holding the reins in his left hand and a curious goad in his raised right; above the oxen, crested Corinthian helmet to left / Triskeles to right, almost totally effaced by die wear, on plain field. nearly very fine, broken and glued AMNG 7; SNG ANS -; Svoronos Pl. II, 4; Sear 1315; cf. HGC 3, 280 and 287. Ex Emporium Hamburg Auction 79, Lot 87. "It seems to me that the production of these massive coins must have satisfied some internal need of the Derroneans and that any benefit derived through trade was most likely a byproduct. True, the coins of the Derrones are also found in Egypt and southern Turkey, but there is no real way of determining any direct contact. Once the coin left their territory, it could have ended up anywhere. Which brings us back to our original question. It seems odd that a society made up of essentially small farmers and ranchers would feel the need to produce these massive coins. It seems more likely that the coinage was ceremonial, perhaps some form of gifting event. During such an event the king or some other leader would give valuable gifts to his most important supporters at some form of ceremony. In this case, the weight may not have been the most important thing compared to perhaps the number and size of the coins. This might explain why the overall weight standard appears to drop over time and the individual issues seem to form rather tight weight groups." - quote: Terence Cheesman From the Matteo Savoca collection



18 Scythia. Olbia circa 437-410 BC. Cast coinage Æ 68 mm, 121,08 g Facing gorgoneion / Sea eagle flying right, wings spread, holding in its talons a dolphin right, A-P-I-X around. very fine Anokhin 168; Frolova & Abramzon 156-8; SNG BM Black Sea 383; HGC 3, 1881. The cast bronzes of Olbia not only served as a medium of exchange but also reflected the unique economic and cultural interactions in the region. Olbia's prosperity was intricately tied to its role as a trading hub, facilitating exchanges between the Scythian nomads and Greek settlers. The artistic elements on the coins, such as the gorgon's head and sea eagle, conveyed a fusion of Greek mythological symbolism with local Scythian influences. These Olbian coins, particularly the larger ones, were distinctive for their sheer size and weight, indicating a reliance on intrinsic metal value for trade. The economic system of Olbia, reminiscent of early Roman practices, emphasized the tangible value of the metal itself. This stands in contrast to later coinage systems where the face value of coins became more symbolic than their actual metal content. The dolphin-shaped smaller denominations and the elaborate imagery on the larger coins suggest a sophisticated approach to coin design. The Olbians not only engaged in practical trade but also expressed cultural and artistic elements through their coinage, showcasing a dynamic blend of Greek and Scythian influences in this remote region of the Black Sea.



19 Epeiros. Koinon of Epeiros circa 232-168 BC. Drachm AR 20 mm, 4,92 g Head of Zeus Dodonaeus to right, wearing oak wreath; monogram behind / Eagle with closed wings standing to right on thunderbolt; ΑΠΕΙ-ΡΩΤΑΝ around; all within oak wreath. extremely fine BMC 24; SNG Copenhagen 114; HGC 3.1, 171; Franke, Epeiros (V35/R51). Ex Auction Alde, Paris 10/2017, Lot 176. Zeus Dodonaeus refers to Zeus in the specific cultic context of Dodona, one of the oldest and most revered religious sites in ancient Greece. Dodona was located in Epirus, in the northwestern part of Greece, and it was renowned for its oracle dedicated to Zeus. At Dodona, Zeus was worshipped as Zeus Naios or Zeus Naos, and the oracle was famous for its prophetic priestesses, known as the "Doves of Dodona" or "Pelasgian Doves." The primary method of divination at Dodona involved listening to the sounds and rustling of the sacred oak trees, as well as the cooing of doves. The priestesses, believed to have the gift of prophecy, would interpret these natural sounds and provide oracular guidance to those who sought it. The cult of Zeus Dodonaeus at Dodona was distinct from other Zeus cults in Greece, and the sanctuary held a special place in the religious and cultural landscape of the ancient Greek world. Pilgrims and supplicants from various regions would travel to Dodona to seek the wisdom and guidance of Zeus through the oracle. The sanctuary continued to be significant throughout antiquity, reflecting the enduring reverence for Zeus Dodonaeus in ancient Greek religious practices.



20 Boeotia. Thebes circa 395-338 BC. ΘΕΟΠ- (Theop-), magistrate Stater AR 23 mm, 12,10 g Boeotian shield / ΘΕ-ΟΠ, volute krater with a decorated upper half, all within incuse concave circle. good very fine, lovely toned BCD (Triton IX, 2006, Lot 557); HGC 4, 1334. The Boeotian shield, also known as the aspis or hoplon, holds a distinctive place in ancient Greek military history, particularly during the classical period. Named after the region of Boeotia in central Greece, this shield was a fundamental piece of equipment for hoplites, the heavily armed infantry of ancient Greece. What sets the Boeotian shield apart is its unique convex shape. Unlike the more common round shields, the Boeotian shield featured a pronounced, almost hemispherical curvature. This design provided increased protection for the warrior, covering a larger portion of the body compared to flatter shields. The convex surface also made it more challenging for opponents to deliver a direct, penetrating blow. Crafted from wood, often reinforced with bronze or leather, the Boeotian shield exemplified the hoplite's commitment to both defense and offense. It typically bore the distinctive lambda (Λ) symbol, representing Lacedaemon, the region of Sparta, and showcasing the city-state's influence on Boeotian military tactics. During the Battle of Delium in 424 BCE, Boeotian hoplites equipped with their characteristic shields played a crucial role. The shields' design, coupled with the disciplined tactics of the Boeotian forces, contributed to the success of their phalanx formation.



21 Attica. Athens circa 454-404 BC. Tetradrachm AR 23 mm, 17,18 g Helmeted head of Athena right, with frontal eye / AΘE, Owl standing right, head facing; olive spray and crescent to left; all within incuse square. extremely fine, perfectly centered Kroll 8; HGC 4, 1597. Athena, in Greek mythology, is one of the twelve Olympian deities and the daughter of Zeus, the king of the gods. She is often referred to as the goddess of wisdom, courage, warfare, strategy, and crafts. Athena is typically depicted wearing armor and a helmet, and she is often shown carrying a shield and a spear. She is known for her strategic and intellectual abilities, and she represents the more rational and disciplined aspects of human nature. Athena was considered the protector of heroes and played a significant role in the epic tales of ancient Greece. Athena is often associated with the city of Athens, which was named in her honor. The city considered her its patron goddess and built the Parthenon, a magnificent temple, as a tribute to her. The Parthenon became one of the most iconic examples of ancient Greek architecture. Athena's birth is also noteworthy in Greek mythology. According to one myth, she sprang fully grown and armored from the head of her father, Zeus, after he swallowed her mother, Metis, in fear of a prophecy that their child would be more powerful than him. In addition to her role in warfare and wisdom, Athena was also considered the goddess of crafts and the arts, especially weaving. She was often associated with the concept of a civilized society and the pursuit of knowledge. Athena was a revered figure in the pantheon of Greek gods and goddesses, and her influence extended beyond Greece, as she became the inspiration for various aspects of Western culture and philosophy.



22 Attica. Athens circa 165-42 BC. ΘΕΜΙΣΤΟΚΛΗΣ (Themistokles), ΘΕΟΠΟΜΠΟΣ (Theopompos), ΜΕΝΟΙ (Meni-), magistrates Tetradrachm AR. New Style Coinage 28 mm, 16,72 g Head of Athena Parthenos to right, wearing triple-crested Attic helmet adorned with Pegasos and long tendril on the bowl, and with the foreparts of four horses above the visor / A-ΘΕ / ΘΕΜ-ΙΣΤΟ / ΘΕΟ/ΠΟΜ/ΠΟΣ / ΜΕ/ΝΟΙ, Owl standing facing on amphora; to right, trophy set on prow right; on amphora, E; below, ΣΦ; all within laurel wreath. extremely fine cf. SNG Copenhagen 149; HGC 4, 1602. The chief magistrate of this coin has claimed to be a descendant of the great Athenian hero, Themistokles. Not only does he bear the same name, but also uses as symbol a trophy on a galley prow, a direct reference to the great naval victory at Salamis. Themistocles, an Athenian statesman born around 524 BC, played a pivotal role in shaping Athens' destiny during the Greco-Persian Wars. Recognizing the Persian threat, he advocated for Athens to prioritize naval power, leading to the construction of a formidable fleet. Themistocles' strategic acumen was evident in the Battle of Salamis (480 BC), a naval engagement where Greek forces, under his leadership, decisively defeated the Persians. Despite success, political rivalries forced his ostracism in 471 BC.



23 Corinthia. Corinth circa 405-345 BC. Stater AR 22 mm, 8,55 g Pegasus flying right; Q below / Head of Athena to right, wearing Corinthian helmet; behind neck guard, trident. . BCD Corinth -; Calciati 224; Ravel 522; HGC 4, 1827. NGC graded AU Strike 5/5 Surface 2/5 Pegasus, the mythical winged horse, is a symbol woven into the cultural identity of the city of Corinth. Strategically located on the narrow isthmus that connects the Peloponnese to the Greek mainland, Corinth was not only an economic center, but also a city deeply rooted in mythology and revered traditions. Pegasus, who was born from the neck of the Gorgon Medusa, found a deep connection to Corinth and adorned the city's coins as a powerful emblem. This mythical creature was not only a fantastic adornment, but also a symbol of Corinth's commitment to artistic excellence and a rich mythological heritage. The choice of Pegasus on Corinthian coins could be linked to the heroic tale of Bellerophon, a Corinthian hero and son of Poseidon, who coveted the wild Pegasus. Through a vision received from the goddess Athena, he was able to tame and ride the winged horse, thus defeating the dreaded chimera. This myth not only celebrated Corinth's connection to the god of the sea Poseidon and the goddess Athena, but also positioned the city as a bastion of courage and heroism. From the Matteo Savoca collection

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24 Corinthia. Corinth circa 405-345 BC. Stater AR 23 mm, 8,47 g Pegasus flying left; Q below / Head of Athena to left, wearing Corinthian helmet; to right, torch. good very fine, lovely toned BCD Corinth -; Calciati 323; Ravel 834; HGC 4, 1832. Ex Sam 'Duck' Reed Collection, privately acquired from Davissons on 29 April 1989.

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25 Paphlagonia. Sinope circa 330-250 BC. Hemidrachm AR 15 mm, 3,05 g Head of Nymph Sinope left / ΣΙΝΩ, sea eagle standing facing left; wings spread, head turned left; monogram to right. extremely fine HGC 7, 394. In Greek mythology, Sinope was a nymph who was associated with the region of Paphlagonia, located on the southern coast of the Black Sea (modern-day Turkey). Sinope is believed to have been the daughter of Asopus, a river god, and Metope. The mythological story of Sinope varies, but a common version involves her being pursued by the god Apollo. In order to escape his advances, she fled to the sea and prayed to the gods to be transformed into a seal. Her plea was granted, and she became a seal, finding refuge in the Black Sea. The city of Sinope, also located in Paphlagonia, was said to be founded by Autolycus, the son of Hermes, and it was named after the nymph Sinope. This city grew to become a significant Greek colony known for its trade, culture, and history.

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26 Lesbos. Mytilene circa 377-326 BC. Sixth Stater or Hekte EL 10 mm, 2,55 g Laureate head of Apollo right / Head of female right, hair in sakkos, within linear square frame extremely fine Bodenstedt 100B; SNG Von Aulock 1715; SNG Copenhagen 317; HGC 6, 1026.

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27 Ionia. Ephesos circa 380-370 BC. ΜΕΝΕΚΡΑΤΗΣ (Menekrates), magistrate Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 14,99 g Bee with straight wings; Ε-Φ flanking / ΜΕΝΕΚΡΑΤΗΣ, forepart of stag right, head left; palm tree to left. . Pixodarus class C, obv. die 18; SNG Kayhan -; SNG Copenhagen 231. NGC graded Ch VF Strike 4/5 Surface 3/5 Ephesus, a distinguished ancient Greek city on the western coast of Turkey, bore emblems like the bee, stag, and palm, all of which held profound significance. Central to these symbols was Ephesus' role as a crucial center for the worship of the Greek goddess Artemis, a connection prominently highlighted on its coinage. The bee, stag, and palm were emblematic of Ephesus. Originally, the bee was associated with an early Anatolian goddess, later identified by the Greeks as Artemis. The symbolic connection was so intimate that the priestesses of this goddess were referred to as "honey bees." The palm tree, featured on Ephesian coins, harks back to the myth of Artemis' birth beneath a palm tree on the island of Delos. This imagery evokes the goddess's divine origins and reinforces her connection to nature. The stag, another prominent motif, held dual significance. Sacred to Artemis, it symbolized her role as the protector of wild animals. Additionally, it might allude to the sculptures flanking her cult statue in the temple at Ephesus, further emphasizing the city's devotion to the goddess and the intricate details of her worship. These images on Ephesian coinage served as a visual narrative of the city's profound ties to Artemis, encapsulating not only religious devotion but also the rich mythological tapestry that defined Ephesus as a prominent cultural and religious center in the ancient Greek world. From the Matteo Savoca collection

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28 Ionia. Phokaia circa 625-522 BC. 1/48 Stater EL 6 mm, 0,31 g Head of a seal to left / Incuse square punch. extremely fine Bodenstedt 2.2; SNG Copenhagen -; SNG von Aulock 7781.

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29 Ionia. Uncertain mint circa 625-600 BC. Sixth Stater or Hekte EL 10 mm, 2,51 g Raised clockwise swastika pattern / Quadripartite incuse square. very fine Rosen 314; *Traité I* 117-8; SNG von Aulock 1777; Boston MFA 1781.

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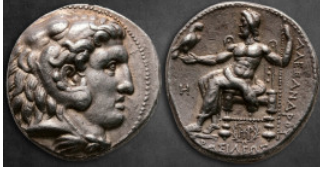
30 Caria. Kaunos circa 450-390 BC. Stater AR 27 mm, 11,62 g Winged female figure (Iris) in kneeling-running stance left, head to right, holding kerykeion in her right hand and wreath in her left / Triangular baetyl, inverted Δ and Γ across upper fields; all within incuse square. . HNO 220 (temporary); SNG von Aulock 2349. NGC graded AU Strike 5/5 Surface 2/5 The female figure on the front side of the coin was identified as Nike due to the wreath in her hand. However, Konuk (1998) names her Iris because she holds a kerykeion in the other hand, which is not an attribute of Nike but is associated with Eirene or Iris. Iris is typically depicted with a wreath and kerykeion as the messenger of the gods, and Konuk sees a connection between the divine messenger, the personification of the rainbow, and the cult stone depicted on the reverse side. Meteorites were often revered as sacred stones because it was believed they were sent directly by the gods. From the Matteo Savoca collection

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31 Pamphylia. Aspendos circa 380-325 BC. Stater AR 26 mm, 10,69 g Two wrestlers grappling; KI between / ΕΣΤΦΕΔΙΙΥΣ, Slinger in throwing stance right. Control: In right field, triskeles. good very fine SNG Copenhagen 226.

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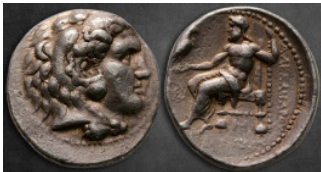


32 Seleukid Kingdom. Babylon. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III of Macedon Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 17,10 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress, paws tied beneath chin / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus seated left on high-backed throne, right leg drawn back, his feet resting on a low foot rest, holding long scepter in his left hand and, in his right, eagle standing right with closed wings, H in left field, monogram in wreath beneath throne. . Price 3708. NGC graded Ch XF Strike 5/5 Surface 4/5 Seleucus I Nicator (358 BC - 281 BC) was one of the generals of Alexander the Great and one of the Diadochi, the group of military leaders who competed for control of Alexander's empire after his death in 323 BC. Seleucus became the founder of the Seleucid Empire, which encompassed much of the territory conquered by Alexander in the eastern part of his empire. After Alexander's death, Seleucus initially served under Perdiccas, one of the other Diadochi, but he eventually broke away and established his own rule. He managed to carve out a vast empire that stretched from Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) to the Indian subcontinent. His rule extended over areas including Persia, Mesopotamia, and parts of Central Asia. Seleucus is known for his strategic and administrative abilities. He engaged in wars and diplomatic maneuvers to consolidate and expand his empire, facing challenges from other Diadochi and local rulers. He also established many new cities, several of which were named after him, such as Seleucia. Seleucus's reign was marked by a fusion of Greek and indigenous cultures, often referred to as Hellenistic culture. He encouraged the integration of Greek settlers and soldiers with the local populations, which led to the spread of Greek language, architecture, and customs throughout his empire. Seleucus I Nikator's dynasty, the Seleucid dynasty, ruled for several generations, but over time, the empire faced internal strife and external pressures from neighboring powers like the Parthians and the Romans. The Seleucid Empire gradually declined and eventually fell, with its remnants being absorbed by other empires. From the Matteo Savoca collection



33 Seleukid Kingdom. Babylon I mint. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III of Macedon. Struck circa 311-300 BC Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 17,07 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus Aëtophoros seated to left, holding eagle and sceptre; ME monogram above club in left field, ΗΔ monogram below throne. . Price 3772; Seleucus I Hoard, 1349-1350 (one of these coins); SC Ad57F; cf. HGC 9, 10f. NGC graded VF Strike 4/5 Surface 4/5 Zeus Aëtophoros, often referred to as "Zeus the Aëtophoros" or "Zeus with the Aegis," was a particular aspect or representation of the ancient Greek god Zeus. The term "Aëtophoros" is derived from the Greek word "aetos," meaning "eagle," and "phoros," meaning "bearer" or "carrier." In this specific representation, Zeus is depicted as carrying or holding an eagle. The eagle was a sacred bird associated with Zeus and was considered a symbol of strength, power, and divine authority. This aspect of Zeus, with the eagle at his side, emphasized his role as a powerful and majestic deity, often associated with the sky and the heavens. In Greek mythology, the eagle was also associated with the god's role as a divine messenger, and it was sometimes considered a companion of Zeus, accompanying him in his travels. From the Matteo Savoca collection

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34 Seleukid Kingdom. Babylon I mint. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III of Macedon. Struck circa 311-300 BC Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 17,08 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress, paws tied beneath chin / [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ] ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus seated left on high-backed throne, right leg drawn back, his feet resting on a low foot rest, holding long scepter in his left hand and, in his right, eagle standing right with closed wings, monogram in wreath in left field, H below throne. . SC 82.6; Price 3704; HGC 9, 10f. NGC graded VF Strike 4/5 Surface 4/5 From the Matteo Savoca collection

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35 Seleukid Kingdom. Babylon I mint. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III of Macedon. Struck circa 311-300 BC Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 16,83 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress, paws tied beneath chin / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus seated left on high-backed throne, right leg drawn back, his feet resting on a low foot rest, holding long scepter in his left hand and, in his right, eagle standing right with closed wings, monogram in wreath in left field, H below throne. . SC 82.6; Price 3704; HGC 9, 10f. NGC graded Ch XF Strike 4/5 Surface 2/5 From the Matteo Savoca collection

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36 Seleukid Kingdom. Babylon I mint. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. In the name and types Alexander III 'the Great' of Macedon Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 17,10 g Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ [ΒΑ]ΣΙΛΕΩΣ, Zeus seated left on throne, holding eagle and sceptre: in left field, monogram within wreath; MI below throne. . SC 82.5a; Price 3746; HGC 9, 10f. NGC graded Ch VF Strike 4/5 Surface 4/5 From the Matteo Savoca collection

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37 Seleukid Kingdom. Babylon I mint. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. In the name and types Alexander III 'the Great' of Macedon Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 17,12 g Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, Zeus seated left on throne, holding eagle and sceptre: in left field, monogram within wreath; MI below throne. . SC 82.5a; Price 3746; HGC 9, 10f. NGC graded Ch VF Strike 5/5 Surface 4/5 From the Matteo Savoca collection

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38 Seleukid Kingdom. Babylon I mint. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III of Macedon Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 17,13 g Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin / [BAΣIΛEΩΣ] AΛEΞANΔPO[Y], Zeus seated left on throne, holding eagle and sceptre: in left field, MI above crescent; monogram within wreath below throne. extremely fine SC 82.2d; Price 3756; HGC 9, 10f.

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39 Seleukid Kingdom. Babylon I mint. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. In the name and types Alexander III 'the Great' of Macedon Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 17,12 g Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin / AΛEΞANΔPOY BAΣIΛEΩΣ, Zeus seated left on throne, holding eagle and sceptre: in left field, monogram within wreath; MI below throne. extremely fine SC 82.5a; Price 3746; HGC 9, 10f.

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40 Seleukid Kingdom. Myrina. Antiochos II Theos 261-246 BC. Tetradrachm AR 29 mm, 16,84 g Diademed head of Antiochos I to right / Herakles seated to left on rock, lion skin draped over rock, holding club set on ground; ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ to right, ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ to left, monogram below royal title to lower right, amphora (civic symbol) to outer left. extremely fine SC 505.1a; WSM 1525; HGC 9, 241b. Antiochos II Theos, reigning from 261 to 246 BC in the Hellenistic Seleucid Empire, ascended to power unexpectedly after his father's execution of his elder brother. Persistent tensions with Ptolemaic Egypt led him to initiate the Second Syrian War, achieving some gains in Asia Minor. However, the conflict did not significantly alter the power dynamics in the Eastern Mediterranean. In 253 BC, facing rebellions, Antiochos II made peace with Ptolemy II, divorcing his first wife Laodice and marrying Ptolemy II's daughter Berenice, with an agreement that their offspring would inherit the Seleucid throne. Despite the settlement, Laodice, although divorced, remained influential and continued political intrigues. In 246 BC, Antiochos II left Berenice and their son in Antioch to reunite with Laodice in Asia Minor, where he suddenly died. His death triggered a succession struggle, known as the Third Syrian War, resulting in disastrous consequences for the Seleucid empire. Antiochos II's limited involvement in the eastern Upper Satrapies allowed the emergence of independent realms like the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom and the Parthian Empire. The decline in his coinage in Bactria has been seen as a potential factor contributing to the gradual weakening of ties with the central government during his reign.

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41 Seleukid Kingdom. Antioch on the Orontes. Demetrios II Nikator, 2nd reign 129-125 BC. Tetradrachm AR 32 mm, 15,46 g Diademed, bearded head of Demetrios II to right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΝΙΚΑΤΟΡΟΣ, Zeus seated left, holding Nike in his right hand and long sceptre with his left, to outer left, Ξ above Δ. very fine SC 2165; HGC 9, 1116b.

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42 Seleukid Kingdom. Ake-Ptolemaïs. Cleopatra Thea and Antiochos VIII 125-121 BC. Tetradrachm AR 29 mm, 15,77 g Jugate busts of Kleopatra, wearing diadem, veil, and stephane, and Antiochos VIII, wearing diadem, to right / [BA]ΣΙΛΙΣΣ[ΗΣ] [ΚΛΕ]ΟΠΑΤΡΑΣ ΘΕΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ [Α]ΝΤΙΟΧΟ[Υ], Zeus Nikephoros seated to left, holding sceptre; [monogram in outer left field]. very fine SC 2271.1; HGC 9, 1182g.

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43 Seleukid Kingdom. Antioch on the Orontes. Philip I Philadelphos 95-75 BC. Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 15,66 g Diademed head right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ, Zeus Nikephoros seated left; to outer left; monogram below throne; all within wreath. good very fine SC 2463. Philip I Philadelphos ruled jointly with his twin brother Antiochus XI Epiphanes as co-regents over the Seleukid Empire. Philip I Philadelphos and Antiochus XI Epiphanes were sons of the Seleucid king Antiochus VIII Grypos and his wife Tryphaena. After the death of their father, they assumed joint rule over the empire. Their co-regency is believed to have occurred around 94 BC. The co-rule of Philip I Philadelphos and Antiochus XI Epiphanes took place during a time of internal strife and fragmentation within the Seleucid Empire. Various factions and contenders for power emerged, leading to instability and conflicts.

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44 Judaea. Jerusalem. Herodians. Herod I (the Great) 40-4 BC. Dated RY 3 = 38/7 BCE Eight Prutot Æ 22 mm, 6,31 g Military helmet, front view, wreath featuring acanthus leaf around, with cheek pieces and straps, star above flanked by palm branches / ΗΡΩΔΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, tripod with ceremonial bowl (lebes) above, flanked by ΛΓ (date) to left, and monogram to right. very fine Meshorer 44; Hendin 1169; HGC 10, 651; DCA 804. Herod the Great, a Roman-appointed Jewish king is known for transformative building projects in Judea, notably the reconstruction of the Second Temple. Born in Idumea, he rose to power through Roman connections, becoming Galilee's governor around 47 BC and later appointed King of the Jews by the Roman Senate in 40 BC. Herod's rule ended Hasmonean autonomy, but faced internal challenges, including conflicts with the Hasmoneans and navigating Roman power struggles. Herod's reign marked a shift in Judea's history, featuring grand construction like the Temple Mount expansion and fortresses such as Masada. Despite these achievements, discontent grew due to heavy taxation and clashes with Jewish traditions. Accusations of insensitivity, like placing a golden eagle at the Temple entrance, led to opposition from religious sects. Herod's legacy includes controversies, such as executing family members, including his wife Mariamne I. The Massacre of the Innocents, narrated in the Gospel of Matthew, adds a religious dimension, although its historicity is debated. Despite architectural accomplishments, Herod's death in 4 BC, marked by a painful illness, brought internal strife, reflecting the delicate balance between Roman influence, Herod's governance, and the aspirations of Judea's populace. From the Matteo Savoca collection



45 Kings of Parthia. Seleukia. Gotarzes II AD 48-49. SE 360 = 48/9 Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 14,23 g Diademed and draped bust of Gotarzes II to left / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΩΝ - ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ - ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ - ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ / ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ, Gotarzes seated right on throne, receiving wreath from Tyche standing left, holding cornucopiae; above, ΞΤ; in exergue. . Sellwood 65.20-24; Shore 361. NGC graded Strike 4/5 Surface 2/5 Gotarzes II, reigning over the Parthian Empire from AD 40 to 51, emerged as a pivotal figure in Persian history. Adopted by Artabanus II, he ascended to the throne in AD 40, sidelining his brother Vardanes I. Gotarzes II's reign was marked by internal strife, with accusations of fratricide, and external pressures from Rome and Armenia. His origin story reveals adoption by Artabanus II during his father Gev's exile, adding complexity to his identity. The coinage of his era emphasized his lineage, presenting him as the son of Artabanos. Conflict with Vardanes I led to Gotarzes II's retreat to Hyrcania, while political turbulence in Armenia and Roman threats influenced the Parthian power dynamics. An accord between Gotarzes II and Vardanes I was short-lived, leading to renewed conflict. Vardanes I's assassination in AD 46 shifted the course of Parthian politics. Gotarzes II's rule continued until his death in AD 51, succeeded briefly by Vonones II and then Vologases I. The circumstances of Gotarzes II's demise remain uncertain, echoing the complexity and intrigue that characterized the Parthian Empire during this period. From the Matteo Savoca collection



46 Kings of Armenia. Tigranocerta. Tigranes II "the Great" 95-56 BC. Struck circa 80-68 BC Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 15,72 g Diademed and draped bust right, wearing Armenian tiara with five peaks and emblazoned with star between two eagles; within filleted border / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ, Tyche of Artaxata seated to right on rock pile, holding palm branch, river god Araxes swimming to right below; Θ to inner right, ΔΗ monogram to lower left, all within wreath. very fine Kovacs 74.2; SCADA Group 1; CAA 19; ACV 31. Tigranes II, also known as Tigranes the Great, reigned as the king of Armenia from 95 BC to 55 BC. A member of the Artaxiad dynasty, he led Armenia to unprecedented expansion. Leveraging the decline of the Parthian and Seleucid Empires, Tigranes rapidly grew his kingdom, forming an alliance with Mithridates VI of Pontus by marrying his daughter. His empire extended from the Pontic Alps to Mesopotamia, with Tigranocerta as his new capital. Tigranes valued Greek culture, attracting scholars to his court. Tensions with Rome escalated as Mithridates sought refuge, resulting in defeats in 69 BC and 68 BC by Roman forces led by Lucullus and Pompey respectively. Tigranes surrendered in 66 BC, keeping Armenia's core while losing conquered lands. His rule continued as a Roman ally until his death around 55 BC. Tigranes the Great's legacy lies in Armenia's territorial peak, cultural exchange, and his role in regional power dynamics.



47 Kings of Armenia. Tigranocerta. Tigranes II "the Great" 95-56 BC. Tetradrachm AR 28 mm, 15,56 g Draped bust of Tigranes II to right, wearing five-pointed tiara decorated with comet star between two eagles / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ - ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ, the Tyche of Tigranocerta, turreted and veiled, seated right on rock, holding long palm frond in her right hand; below, river-god Araxes swimming right; on rock, monogram; all within wreath. very fine Kovacs 75.3; SCADA Group 7; CAA 21; ACV 33. Tigranokerta was a city founded by the Armenian King Tigranes the Great in the 1st century BC. The city's name is a combination of "Tigranes" and "kerta," meaning "city" in Armenian. The city was strategically located and served as an important center in the region. The Tyche of Tigranokerta coin features the image of the goddess Tyche. Tyche is often depicted as a crowned woman, representing the city's fortune and destiny. She is shown seated on a rock, holding a cornucopia or palm and a sometimes a rudder, symbolizing abundance and control over fate. The river-god Araxes frequently appeared on coins of various ancient cities located along the course of the river Araxes, known today as the Aras River. These depictions served to emphasize the significance of the river to the local culture and economy. The presence of the river-god on coins also demonstrated the connection between the natural world, divine forces, and the prosperity of the city or region.



48 Pontos. Amaseia. Septimius Severus AD 193-211. Dated CY 208=AD 205/6 Bronze Æ 31 mm, 18,50 g AV K Λ CEΠ CEOYHPOC ΠEP ΣEB, laureate, draped, and cuirassed bust right / AΔP CE ANT AMACIAC MHT NE ΠP ΠP/ ET CH, Altar of Zeus Strateus; on top, eagle standing facing, wings spread, head right, holding wreath in beak; tree to left. . RG 55. NGC graded Ch XF Strike 5/5 Surface 4/5 The term "Zeus Stratios" refers to a specific cult or epithet of the Greek god Zeus in the context of the Kingdom of Pontus. The Kingdom of Pontus was an ancient Hellenistic state founded by Mithridates I in the northeastern part of Anatolia (modern-day Turkey). It emerged as a powerful political and cultural center during the Hellenistic period. "Zeus Stratios" likely refers to a manifestation of Zeus as a god of war or a protector in a military context. The term "Stratios" is derived from the Greek word "stratos," meaning army or military. In this context, it signifies Zeus in his role as a deity associated with the protection and well-being of the army. Cults and epithets of gods with specific attributes were common in ancient Greek religion, and various regions and kingdoms might have had their unique ways of venerating and addressing specific gods.

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49 Pontos. Amaseia. Septimius Severus AD 193-211. Dated CY 208=AD 205/6 Bronze Æ 31 mm, 19,82 g AY KAI Λ CEΠT CEOYHPOC CEB, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / AΔP CEOY ANT AMACIAC MHT NE ΠP, Tyche standing left, holding rudder and cornucopia; Ε-Τ-Σ-Η (date) across fields. . cf. SNG von Aulock 29; Dalaison 208; SNG Leypold 14. NGC graded AU Strike 4/5 Surface 3/5

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50 Pontos. Amaseia. Caracalla AD 198-217. Dated CY 208=AD 205/6 Bronze Æ 32 mm, 17,22 g AV KAI M AVPH ANTΩNINOC, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / AΔP CEV ANT AMACIAC MHT NΕΠΡ ΠΟ, altar surmounted by smaller lighted altar; tree to left, ET CH (date) in exergue. . cf. RG 79. NGC graded Ch XF* Strike 5/5 Surface 4/5 Even in the time of Mithradtes, ritual fires were held in honor of Zeus Stratiotes, where animals such as bulls and other foodstuffs such as milk and honey were sacrificed. These were then piled on logs and ignited to form a large fire. Following this tradition, altars were erected to Zeus Stratiotes to honor him with bonfires and offerings. Coins minted in Amaseia during the Roman Empire often show the altar of Zeus paired with an eagle or one or two bonfires. Next to it is a small life tree, a symbol of royal power and good fortune. These coins are reminiscent of the cult and worship of Zeus Stratiotes and are intended to reproduce the sacrifice to him. (the Religion and Cults of the Pontic kingdom, by Sergey Ju. Saprykin)

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51 Pontos. Amaseia. Caracalla AD 198-217. Dated CY 208=AD 205/6 Bronze Æ 32 mm, 16,38 g AY KAI M AYP ANTΩNINOC, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / AΔP CE ANT (NT ligate) AMACIAC MH (ligate) NE (ligate) Π Π, E-T and C-H across fields, Tyche standing facing, head left, holding cornucopia in left hand and rudder in right. . Lindgren III 16; cf. Waddington RG p. 44, 65 (reverse legend); cf. BMC 27 (same). NGC graded Ch XF Strike 5/5 Surface 4/5

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52 Pontos. Amaseia. Geta, as Caesar AD 198-209. Dated CY 208=AD 205/6 Bronze Æ 32 mm, 22,58 g ΠΟ CΕΠΤΙΜΙ ΓΕΤΑC CEB, bareheaded, draped and cuirassed bust right / AΔP CEV ANT AMACIAC MHT NΕ Π Ο/ ET CH, Altar on fire, tree to left. . cf. RG. 86. NGC graded AU* Strike 5/5 Surface 4/5

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53 Seleucis and Pieria. Antioch. Augustus 27 BC-AD 14. Tetradrachm AR 28 mm, 14,91 g ΚΑΙΣΑΡΟΣ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΥ; laureate head of Augustus right / ΕΤΟΥΣ ΖΚ ΝΙΚΗΣ; Tyche of Antioch seated right on rock, holding palm branch with her right hand, river Orontes swimming right at her feet, ΥΠΑ monogram and IB (= COS XII) in right field above ANT monogram. good very fine RPC I 4151; Prieur 50. Octavian, also known as Augustus, was a prominent Roman statesman and military leader who played a pivotal role in transforming the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. Born in 63 BC in Rome, he was the great-nephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar. Octavian's political journey began when he was named Caesar's heir in his will after Caesar's assassination in 44 BC. Aligning himself with Mark Antony and Lepidus, he formed the powerful Second Triumvirate, seeking vengeance for Caesar's death by defeating his assassins. As conflicts arose within the Triumvirate, Octavian emerged as the dominant figure. The alliance between Octavian and Antony collapsed into a bitter civil war, culminating in the decisive Battle of Actium in 31 BC, where Octavian emerged victorious. In 27 BC, Octavian relinquished his extraordinary powers and accepted the title "Augustus" from the Senate, marking the inception of the Roman Empire. Though he held the title of princeps (first citizen), Augustus effectively became the first Roman Emperor. Under Augustus' rule, the Roman Empire experienced an era of relative peace known as the Pax Romana. He introduced various reforms to strengthen the state and initiated extensive building projects across the empire, leaving a lasting architectural legacy. Augustus' reign, which lasted for 41 years until his death in AD 14, marked the end of the Julio-Claudian dynasty and the beginning of the Roman Empire. His ability to consolidate power, navigate complex political waters, and maintain stability earned him admiration and secured his position as one of Rome's most influential leaders.



54 Seleucis and Pieria. Antioch. Nero AD 54-68. RY 10, CE 112 = 63-64 AD Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 15,16 g NEPΩN KAIΣAP ΣEBAΣTOΣ, laureate head of Nero to right, wearing aegis / ETOYΣ - BIP•I, Eagle with spread wings standing right on thunderbolt; to right, palm frond. . McAlee 265b; Prieur 89; RPC I (2 Specimens). NGC graded Ch XF Strike 5/5 Surface 2/5 Born in AD 37, Nero was the son of Agrippina the Younger, sister of Emperor Caligula, who strategically ensured Nero's prominence in the line of succession by marrying Emperor Claudius. Adopted by Claudius, Nero, originally named Lucius, ascended to the throne at the age of 16 following Claudius' assassination. Nero received a solid education, including instruction from the philosopher Seneca. Known for his love of art and theater, Nero married Octavia, Claudius' daughter and his stepsister, at the age of 16. Despite initially positive and peaceful years, Nero's extravagant lifestyle and squandering of resources led to discontent. He faced mockery for participating in singing competitions and the Olympic Games, often securing victories through bribery. Nero divorced Octavia, banished, and eventually murdered her, with his mother pulling the strings behind the scenes. Nero resisted his mother's influence and had her murdered in AD 59. He was implicated in the poisoning of Britannicus in 55 AD, and his rule witnessed numerous conspiracies and executions. During his reign, Nero's forces defeated the Parthians in Armenia and quelled a rebellion in Britain. The Great Fire of Rome in AD 64 prompted rumors that Nero orchestrated it to rebuild the city and create space for the Golden Palace (Domus Aurea). To deflect blame, Nero scapegoated Christians, initiating brutal persecution and executions. The fire was likely accidental, given Rome's frequent occurrences of smaller blazes. Facing declining popularity, Nero lost support from the Senate, former Praetorian Guard allies, and provincial governors. Nero attempted to flee but was abandoned by his guards. He took his own life with a dagger. Galba, the governor of Hispania Tarraconensis, was proclaimed the new emperor, marking the start of the Year of the Four Emperors in AD 69. From the Matteo Savoca collection



55 Seleucia and Pieria. Antioch. Nero AD 54-68. Dated RY 10/ CY112=AD 63/4 Tetradrachm AR 24 mm, 15,03 g ΝΕΡΩΝ ΚΑΙΣΑΡ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ, laureate bust right, wearing aegis / ΕΤΟΥΣ ΒΙΡ Ι, eagle standing right on thunderbolt; pellet and palm branch to right. . RPC I 4190; Prieur 90; McAlee 264. NGC graded Strike 5/5 Surface 3/5 Nero, the Roman Emperor from AD 54 to 68, has earned a historical reputation as a monstrous figure, primarily due to a series of actions that defined his tumultuous reign. Among the most infamous acts attributed to Nero was the persecution of Christians following the Great Fire of Rome in AD 64. Nero, often accused of scapegoating Christians for the devastating blaze, subjected them to brutal executions, including crucifixions and burnings. The emperor's familial relations were marred by violence, as Nero orchestrated the murders of close family members, including his mother Agrippina the Younger and step-brother Britannicus. These acts of brutality against kin contributed to his negative historical image. Nero's extravagant lifestyle, characterized by lavish banquets, artistic pursuits, and grand construction projects like the opulent Domus Aurea, added to the perception of excess and a disregard for the welfare of the empire. Nero's rule was marked by what some historians deem arbitrary and tyrannical decisions, including the execution of political rivals. His personal behavior, such as performing on stage as an actor and musician, further deviated from traditional Roman expectations for an emperor. While historical accounts are subject to bias, Nero's legacy is one of a complex and often criticized ruler whose actions and extravagances fueled the enduring perception of him as a monstrous figure in Roman history. From the Matteo Savoca collection



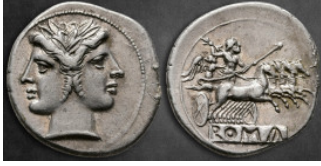
56 Seleucis and Pieria. Antioch. Otho AD 69-69. Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 15,51 g [AYTOKPAT]WP MAPKOC OΘWN KAIC[A]P CEBACTOC, laureate head right / ETOYC A, eagle with wreath in beak on wreath, l.; to l., palm branch. . RPC I 4200; Prieur 102; McAlee 315. NGC graded Ch XF Strike 4/5 Surface 2/5 Marcus Salvius Otho, commonly known as Otho, was a Roman Emperor who had a brief and eventful reign in the year AD 69, a tumultuous time in Roman history. Born in AD 32, Otho hailed from an influential Roman family and received a comprehensive education that prepared him for a future in politics. Otho's political career included serving as a governor of the Lusitania province and holding the prestigious position of consul. He was noted for his charismatic personality and skill in forming political alliances. His ascension to the imperial throne occurred in the midst of the Year of the Four Emperors, following the suicide of Emperor Nero in AD 68. Otho seized the opportunity, with the support of the Praetorian Guard, and was declared Emperor in January AD 69. However, Otho's reign was fraught with challenges. He faced fierce competition from Vitellius, another contender for the throne, and was embroiled in political turmoil. This tumultuous period culminated in the First Battle of Bedriacum, where Otho suffered defeat. In a bid to prevent further bloodshed, he made the ultimate sacrifice by taking his own life in April AD 69. From the Matteo Savoca collection



57 Seleucis and Pieria. Antioch. Vespasian AD 69-79. Dated 'New Holy Year' 2=AD 69-70 Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 15,03 g ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΩΡ ΚΑΙΣΑΡ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ ΟΥΕΣΠΑΣΙΑΝΟΣ, laureate head right / ΕΤΟΥΣ ΝΕΟΥ ΙΕΡΟΥ Β, eagle standing left on club, with wings spread, holding wreath in beak, palm frond to left. . RPC II 1971; McAlee 357; Prieur 135. NGC graded Ch VF Strike 5/5 Surface 4/5 Vespasian was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 69 to 79. He was born in AD 9 into a family of equestrian rank in the town of Falacrinae, near Rome. Vespasian had a successful military and political career before eventually becoming emperor. In AD 69, a year known as the "Year of the Four Emperors" due to civil wars and political instability, Vespasian emerged victorious as a contender for the imperial throne. He founded the Flavian dynasty, which ruled Rome for the next 27 years. Vespasian is best remembered for his efforts in restoring stability to the Roman Empire after a period of chaos. His reign saw the completion of important public works projects, such as the construction of the Flavian Amphitheatre, popularly known as the Colosseum, which became an iconic symbol of Roman engineering and entertainment. He was also known for his financial reforms and rebuilding Rome after a devastating fire in AD 70. Vespasian's practical approach to governing and emphasis on public welfare earned him popularity among the Roman people. Vespasian died in AD 79 and was succeeded by his son, Titus. He was regarded as a competent and pragmatic ruler who restored order and prosperity to Rome after a turbulent period in its history. From the Matteo Savoca collection



58 Judaea. Neapolis. Macrinus AD 217-218. Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 12,92 g AY K M O[Π CE MAK]PINOC CE, laureate head right / ΔΗΜΑΡΧ ΕΞ ΥΠΑΤΟΣ Π Π, Temple complex atop Mt. Gerizim; all within beaded border supported by eagle standing facing, head and tail left, with wings spread. very fine Prieur 1711. Marcus Opellius Macrinus was a Roman emperor who ruled from April 217 to June 218, jointly with his son Diadumenianus. Notably, he was the first emperor of non-senatorial equestrian class origin and the first to never visit Rome during his rule. He had previously served under Emperor Caracalla as a praetorian prefect, and after conspiring against Caracalla and orchestrating his murder, Macrinus became emperor. Macrinus faced challenges upon assuming power, including financial strain from Caracalla's excessive spending and conflicts with Parthia, Armenia, and Dacia. He attempted economic and diplomatic reforms for stability. Although his diplomatic efforts achieved peace, the military unrest grew due to fiscal changes. Julia Maesa, Caracalla's aunt, spurred a rebellion, leading to Macrinus' defeat at the Battle of Antioch AD 218. Elagabalus was declared emperor with the support of rebelling Roman legions. Macrinus fled but was captured and executed, while his son was also captured and killed. Macrinus' reign, based primarily in Antioch, saw attempts to restore stability through financial and diplomatic measures. However, his background, rise to power, and inability to gain Roman favor marked his relatively short and tumultuous rule.



59 Anonymous 225-215 BC. Uncertain mint Didrachm - Quadrigatus AR 24 mm, 6,71 g Laureate head of Janus, two annulets atop head / Jupiter, hurling thunderbolt with right hand and holding scepter in left, in quadriga right driven by Victory; ROMA incuse on raised tablet in exergue. extremely fine, attractively toned Crawford 29/3; Sydenham 64; Kestner 90, 94; BMCRR Romano-Campanian 78-88; RSC 23. A quadriga is a remarkable chariot or carriage drawn by a team of four horses, often harnessed abreast. This iconic form of conveyance held profound significance in the ancient cultures of Rome and Greece. In ancient Rome, the quadriga wasn't just a mode of transportation; it carried immense symbolic and ceremonial weight. It featured prominently in triumphal processions, chariot races held in the grand Circus Maximus, and various other grand events. For the Romans, it became a symbol of victory, a representation of both the physical triumph of the charioteer and the authority and power of the individual riding it. Emperors, victorious generals, and even deities were often depicted in artworks and sculptures, mounted on these impressive four-horse carriages to underscore their achievements. The quadriga symbolized much more than just winning races. It embodied the concept of triumph itself, both in military conquests and sporting events. It was a symbol of glory and prestige.



60 C. Hosidius C. f. Geta 68 BC. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,85 g GETA III VIR, diademed bust of Artemis right, wearing ear-pendant and necklace with long pendants, bow and quiver at back / [C] HOSIDI C F, boar right pierced by a spear and attacked by a dog. . Crawford 407/2; Sydenham 903; Kestner 3317-8; BMCRR Rome 3389-91; Hosidia 1. Ex NAC, Auction 84, Lot 803. NGC graded AU* Strike 5/5 Surface 5/5 According to Havercamp, the reverse type refers to the great hunting parties with which the birthday of Augustus was celebrated so magnificently in 20 BC. Diana (Artemis) on the obverse and the wild boar on the reverse could be a reference to a Greek myth. The story of Diana and the Caledonian boar revolves around the Caledonian boar hunt, a significant event that was triggered by King Oeneus ignoring the goddess Diana (Artemis) when making an offering. In retaliation, Diana sent a monstrous boar, the Calydonian boar, to ravage the land of Calydon. To combat this threat, Oeneus' son Meleager gathered a group of famous heroes, including the experienced huntress Atalanta. The mighty boar posed a great challenge during the hunt, allowing the heroes to put their courage and skill to the test. Meleager, motivated by his affection for Atalanta, finally dealt the wild creature a fatal blow. However, conflicts arose over the boar's coveted hide, which led to a tragic twist. Meleager killed his uncles in the ensuing quarrel, incurring Diana's wrath. Out of grief for the Calydonian boar, Diana transformed Meleager into a wild boar, illustrating the unpredictable consequences of mortal interaction with the divine. From the Matteo Savoca collection



61 Q. Servilius Caepio (M. Junius) Brutus 54 BC. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,49 g BRVTVS downwards behind, bare-headed and bearded head of L. Junius Brutus right / AHALA downwards behind, bare-headed and bearded head of Caius Servilius Ahala right. extremely fine, bankers mark Crawford 433/2; Sydenham 907; Kestner 3489; BMCRR Rome 3864. M. Junius Brutus, born in 85 BCE, underwent a noteworthy transformation when he was adopted by Q. Servilius Caepio around 59 BCE, assuming the name Q. Servilius Caepio Brutus. This intriguing denarius showcases not the usual depiction of a deity but the portraits of his two ancestors: L. Junius Brutus, who in 509 BC overthrew the last king, and C. Servilius Ahala, renowned for slaying Spurius Maelius in 439 BC, thwarting his ambitions for tyranny. This denarius serves as a distinctive departure from the typical representation of gods, instead symbolizing the looming threat to freedom posed by the potential autocracy of Pompeius. M. Junius Brutus later played a pivotal role in history, leading the conspiracy to assassinate Julius Caesar in 44 BC, driven by concerns over the preservation of the Roman Republic. This denarius not only encapsulates familial heritage but also foreshadows the broader political tensions and the eventual shift from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire.



62 Mark Antony with Cleopatra VII of Egypt 51-30 BC. struck autumn 34 BC. Alexandria Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,79 g CLEOPATRAE [REGINAE•REGVM•FILIORVM•REG]VM, diademed and draped bust of Cleopatra to right; below, prow to right / ANTONI•ARMEN[I]A•DEVICTA, bare head of Mark Antony to right; behind, Armenian tiara. very fine Crawford 543/1; CRI 345; RBW 1832; Sydenham 1210. Cleopatra VII Philopator, born in 69 BC, was the final ruler of the Ptolemaic Empire, governing Egypt from 51 BCE until her demise in 30 BC. Descending from Ptolemy XII Auletes, she strategically formed alliances, notably becoming the ally and lover of Julius Caesar in 48 BC until his assassination in 44 BC. In the ensuing Roman power struggle, Cleopatra aligned with Mark Antony, summoned to Tarsus in 41 BC. Their meeting, marked by Cleopatra's spectacular entrance, initiated a political and romantic alliance. In Alexandria, they formed a society dedicated to the god Dionysus and had twins in 40 BC. Political complexities arose as Antony returned to Rome and married Octavia, leading to strained relations with Cleopatra. In 34 BC, despite military setbacks, they celebrated a provocative mock Roman Triumph in Alexandria, distributing lands in the controversial 'Donations of Alexandria.' This heightened tensions, and in 32 BC, Octavian declared war against Cleopatra, alleging Antony's betrayal. The Battle of Actium in 31 BC concluded with Cleopatra and Antony's defeat. Facing capture, they died in a tragic end in 30 BC, marking the end of the Ptolemaic rule and the annexation of Egypt as a Roman province. The 'Donations of Alexandria' played a pivotal role in Cleopatra's downfall, contributing to her lasting legacy as a symbol of ancient Egyptian allure and tragedy.



63 Claudius AD 41-54. Rome As Æ 29 mm, 12,23 g TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP P P, bare head left / CONSTANTIAE AVGVSTI, Constantia standing left leaning on sceptre, S-C across fields. nearly extremely fine RIC 111; Cohen 14; BMC 199; BN 226. Claudius was a Roman emperor from AD 41 to 54. Despite facing physical disabilities and underestimation, he surprised many with effective leadership. Claudius focused on administrative reforms, infrastructure projects, and expanding the Roman Empire. He wrote various historical works and showed interest in law. He married four times, including Messalina, whose scandalous behavior led to her execution. In AD 54, Claudius died, and speculation surrounds the possibility of poisoning by his fourth wife, Agrippina the Younger, who sought to secure the throne for her son Nero. Claudius' reign is remembered for stability and achievements, leaving a significant impact on Roman history.

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64 Nero AD 54-68. Lugdunum (Lyon) Sestertius Æ 36 mm, 27,58 g NERO CLAVD CAESAR AVG GER P M TR P IMP P P, laureate head right / Roma helmeted and in military dress, seated left on cuirass, holding Victory, left resting on parazonium, around, shields and arms, in field, S - C, in exergue ROMA. nearly extremely fine, beautiful emerald green patina RIC 398; Cohen 261; CBN 76; WCN 409. Ex Numismatik Lanz Auction 117, Lot 576 (24.11.2003).

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65 Septimius Severus AD 193-211. Rome Aureus AV 18 mm, 7,20 g IMP CAE L SEP SE V PERT AVG, laureate head right / VIRT AVG TR P COS, Virtus standing left, holding Victory in outstretched right hand and reversed spear in left. . RIC IV 24; Calicó 2570; BMCRE 32; Biaggi 1114. NGC graded AU Strike 5/5 Surface 2/5 Septimius Severus, born as Lucius Septimius Severus in AD 145, was a Roman Emperor whose remarkable rise to power and eventful reign left a lasting impact on the Roman Empire. Hailing from Leptis Magna, a prosperous city in modern-day Libya, Severus belonged to a distinguished family. In AD 193, the Roman Empire was engulfed in chaos after the assassination of Emperor Pertinax. Amid the power vacuum, Severus, then governor of Upper Pannonia, seized the opportunity and declared himself emperor. With a formidable army at his disposal, he marched on Rome, defeating his rivals and ascending to the imperial throne. Severus proved to be a capable military leader. His reign was characterized by ambitious military campaigns to strengthen and expand the Roman Empire's frontiers. He notably ventured into Britain, strengthening Hadrian's Wall and reoccupying the Antonine Wall. In the East, he secured victories against the Parthian Empire, adding to his growing reputation as a skillful commander. As emperor, Severus implemented a series of significant reforms. He increased the pay of Roman soldiers, ensuring their loyalty and support. Granting Roman citizenship to the soldiers further solidified their allegiance to the empire. His reign marked a period of centralized power, as he expanded the emperor's authority over the provinces, contributing to greater imperial control. Family played a crucial role in Severus' reign. His wife, Julia Domna, a highly educated and politically astute woman, exerted considerable influence on his decisions. Together, they had two sons, Caracalla and Geta. However, the once-close siblings became embroiled in a bitter rivalry for power. After Severus' death in AD 211, Caracalla orchestrated Geta's assassination, leaving him as the sole ruler. From the Matteo Savoca collection



66 Caracalla AD 198-217. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,41 g ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM, laureate head right / P M TR P XVII COS IIII P P, Genius of the Senate, togate, standing left, holding branch and baton. extremely fine RIC 246; BMCRE 99; RSC 247. Caracalla, also known as Marcus Aurelius Severus Antoninus Augustus, was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 198 to 217. He became co-emperor with his brother, Geta, in AD 198, but their relationship soured, leading Caracalla to have Geta assassinated in AD 211. As emperor, Caracalla was known for his brutality and lavish spending. In AD 212, he issued the Antonine Constitution, granting Roman citizenship to all free inhabitants of the empire, but his rule was marked by oppressive taxation. Caracalla was a military-focused emperor, leading campaigns in various frontier regions. Although he achieved some military successes, his reign was marred by ongoing conflicts. In AD 217, Caracalla was assassinated during a campaign in the eastern provinces. He left a legacy of tyranny and violence, earning him a notorious reputation in Roman history. From the Matteo Savoca collection

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67 Caracalla AD 198-217. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,53 g ANTONINVS PIVS AVG BRIT, laureate head right / LIBERALITAS AVG VI, Liberalitas standing left, holding abacus and cornucopia. extremely fine RIC 216. From the Matteo Savoca collection

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68 Caracalla AD 198-217. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,31 g ANTONINVS PIVS AVG BRIT, laureate head right / P M TR P XVI COS IIII P P, Libertas standing left, holding pileus and sceptre. extremely fine RIC IV 209a; BMCRE 53; RSC 224. From the Matteo Savoca collection

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69 Valerian I AD 253-260. Samosata Aureus AV 19 mm, 3,44 g IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS AVG, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / ROMAE AETERNAE, Roma seated left on throne, holding Victory in her right hand and spear in her left; at her side, shield. mint state, slightly double struck on avers RIC 275 var. (bust draped only, 'Antioch'); Cohen 191; MIR 1678c; Calicó 3442. The multifaceted challenges faced by emperors, particularly the dilemma of allocating limited resources to numerous fronts, claimed Trebonianus Gallus's life. The refusal of the army guarding the northeast to divert troops for the Eastern war led to rebellion, culminating in Aemilian's proclamation as a counter-emperor and Trebonianus Gallus's assassination by his own officers. In 253, the Senate saw promise in the experienced military and administrative figure Valerian to address the crisis. He became emperor and implemented a groundbreaking strategy, dividing the empire into West and East. Valerian entrusted his son Gallienus with protecting the West while personally managing the more precarious eastern border. This foresight ensured a smoother troop exchange and anticipated Diocletian's later administrative reforms. When Valerian dedicated an aureus to eternal Rome (Roma Aeterna), there was a momentary sense of hope for the empire. The citizens, enjoying a brief respite from war, placed trust in Valerian's Sasanian strategy. Establishing a strategic headquarters in Samosata, he created a new mint to produce currency for legionaries. However, in 260, the Sasanians, led by Shapur, breached the border once more. Carrhae fell, Edessa was besieged, and Valerian's attempt to repel Shapur resulted in conflicting accounts—Shapur claimed capture in battle, while Roman sources suggested betrayal. This event not only devastated the East but also undermined Gallienus's credibility in the West. The gods seemingly abandoning Valerian cast doubt on Gallienus's fate, prompting reliance on local heroes over an emperor who shared his father's fate. (text excerpt and summary of "Der Höhepunkt der römischen Reichskrise" on muenzen-online.com)



70 Theodosius II AD 402-450. Constantinople Solidus AV 21 mm, 4,44 g D N THEODOSIVS•P•F•AVG, pearl-diademed, helmeted and cuirassed bust facing slightly to right, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman motif / IMP•XXXXII•COS•XVII•P•P•, Constantinopolis seated to left, holding globus cruciger and sceptre, foot on prow, shield by throne; star in left field, COMOB in exergue. very fine RIC X 300; Depeyrot 84/1. Theodosius II, known as Flavius Theodosius, was a prominent Roman Emperor who reigned over the Eastern Roman Empire, which would later become the Byzantine Empire, from AD 408 to 450. His ascent to the throne was unique, as he took on the mantle of leadership at the young age of 7 following the death of his father, Emperor Arcadius. Due to his youth, Theodosius II was placed under the guardianship of various regents during the early years of his reign. What sets Theodosius II apart in history is the remarkable length of his rule, spanning over four decades. Throughout his reign, he heavily relied on the counsel and guidance of advisors and regents, especially during his formative years as a ruler. One of his most enduring contributions was the construction of the famous Theodosian Walls that fortified the city of Constantinople, the Byzantine capital. These formidable defenses played a pivotal role in safeguarding the city from numerous external threats, including barbarian invasions. Theodosius II was a devout Christian, and he actively supported the Nicene Creed, an important doctrine of Christian orthodoxy. He also played a significant role in ecclesiastical matters, such as the convocation of the Council of Ephesus in 431, aimed at addressing theological controversies of the time. His reign also saw the initiation of efforts to compile and organize Roman laws, resulting in the creation of the Theodosian Code. This legal code became a vital source of Roman law for both the Eastern and Western Roman Empires, as well as for medieval Europe. In terms of relations with the Western Roman Empire, Theodosius II had a complex connection with his counterpart, Emperor Honorius. The Western Empire was grappling with internal strife and external threats, notably the Visigothic and Vandal invasions. Theodosius II provided limited assistance to Honorius, reflecting the challenges faced by both empires during this period. Theodosius II's reign came to an unfortunate end in 450 AD due to a riding accident. He was succeeded by Marcian, who was married to Theodosius II's sister Pulcheria. Theodosius II's long and relatively stable rule played a crucial role in preserving the Eastern Roman Empire during a



71 Theodosius II AD 402-450. Constantinople Solidus AV 21 mm, 4,39 g D N THEO-DOSIVS P F AVG, helmeted, diademed and cuirassed bust of Theodosius facing, holding spear over his right shoulder and with shield, ornamented with a horseman spearing a fallen foe, over his left / CONCORDIA AVGG Θ/ CONOB, Constantinopolis seated facing on throne, her head turned to right, wearing helmet, holding a spear in her right hand, Victory on a globus in her left, and with her right foot on a prow; in field to left, star. very fine Depeyrot 73/2; RIC 202.

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72 Theodosius II AD 402-450. Constantinople Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,34 g D N THEODOSIVS P F AVG, pearl-diademed, helmeted and cuirassed bust facing slightly to right, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman motif / IMP XXXII COS XVII P P, Constantinopolis seated to left, holding globus cruciger and sceptre, foot on prow, shield by throne; star in left field, COMOB in exergue. very fine RIC X 300; Depeyrot 84/1.

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73 Marcian AD 450-457. Constantinople Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,44 g D N MARCIANVS P F AVG, pearl-diademed, helmeted and cuirassed bust facing slightly to right, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman motif / VICTORIA AVGGG Θ, Victory standing facing, head to left, supporting long jewelled cross; star in right field, CONOB in exergue. very fine Depeyrot 87/1; RIC 510. Flavius Marcianus, commonly known as Marcian, assumed the throne of the Eastern Roman Empire in 450, reigning until his death in 457. Born around 390 in Thrace, his ascent from a soldier's son to emperor showcased his military prowess and strategic alliances. Marcian's rule was marked by financial reforms, relieving tax burdens and ensuring stability in the empire. Notably, the Council of Chalcedon in 451 saw Marcian championing orthodox Christianity, condemning Monophysitism, and promoting theological unity between East and West. In foreign policy, Marcian successfully resisted annual tributes to the Huns under Attila, bolstering the empire's prestige. After Attila's death, he skillfully navigated diplomatic relations, resettling tribes and fostering positive ties with the Persian Sassanid Empire. Despite initial tensions with the Western Roman Empire, particularly Valentinian III, Marcian's leadership eventually gained recognition. Marcian's unexpected death in 457 left a legacy of financial stability and diplomatic success. His successor, Leo I, inherited a surplus and continued many of Marcian's policies. Over the years, Marcian's reign became emblematic of a golden era, with his governance praised by contemporaries and future historians alike.



74 Leo I AD 457-474. Constantinople Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,34 g D N LEO PERPET AVG, pearl-diademed, helmeted and cuirassed bust facing slightly to right, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman motif / VICTORIA AVGGG A, Victory standing to left, holding long jewelled cross; star in right field, CONOB in exergue. very fine RIC X 605; Depeyrot 93/1. Leo I, Byzantine Emperor from 457 to 474, rose from humble origins, commanding military forces before ascending to the throne at the prompting of the influential Aspar. His rule departed from the Theodosian-Valentinian dynasty, emphasizing a proactive approach to the challenges facing both the Eastern and Western Roman Empires. To stabilize the West, Leo dispatched Anthemius in 467, providing substantial military and financial support, but the planned reconquest of Africa in 468 ended in failure, straining finances. Leo strategically countered Aspar's dominance by establishing the excubitores, a guard loyal to him, and fostering the rise of Zeno through marriage to his daughter. The power struggle culminated in 471, as Leo, supported by the excubitores, eliminated Aspar and Ardaburius, earning him the epithet "the Butcher." Leo adeptly navigated foreign relations, rejecting Hunnic overtures, resolving Gothic conflicts, and appointing Western emperors Olybrius and Julius Nepos, though stability remained elusive. His policies contributed to peace with the Sassanids, alleviating Eastern military pressures. Leo's death in 474 led to his grandson Leo II briefly succeeding him, followed by Zeno. His legacy included a vanished forum in Constantinople, built in 471, and indications of Eastern Roman efforts to forge closer ties with China during his reign.

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75 Leo I AD 457-474. Constantinople Solidus AV 19 mm, 4,24 g D N LEO PERPET AVG, pearl-diademed, helmeted and cuirassed bust facing slightly to right, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman motif / VICTORIA AVGGG Γ, Victory standing to left, holding long jewelled cross; star in right field, CONOB in exergue. very fine RIC X 605; Depeyrot 93/1.

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76 Zeno AD 474-491. Constantinople Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,36 g D N ZENO PERP AVG, pearl-diademed, helmeted and cuirassed bust facing slightly to right, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman motif / VICTORIA AVGGG B, Victory standing facing, head to left, holding long jewelled cross; star in right field, CONOB in exergue. very fine RIC X 910 and 929; Depeyrot 108/1. Zeno, the Byzantine Emperor from 474 to his death in 491, faced tumultuous challenges during his rule. Initially known as Tarasicodissa, an Isaurian, he gained prominence by exposing treason within the Roman military. After Emperor Leo I's death in 474, Zenon faced opposition and a brief exile. Returning to power in 476, he successfully navigated through revolts, political maneuvers, and power struggles. Zenon's reign saw intricate foreign policies, maintaining peace with the Sassanids and overseeing the end of the Western Roman Empire in 476 or 480, consolidating his position as the sole ruler of the Eastern Roman Empire. His pragmatic approach to the West involved recognizing Julius Nepos until 480 and establishing diplomatic relations with Geiserich, securing peace in North Africa for over fifty years. However, challenges persisted, including strained relations with the Sassanids, religious conflicts, and attempts to reconcile with Monophysites that led to the Acacian Schism. Zenon's death in 491 marked the end of his era. His wife Ariadne married Flavius Anastasius, who succeeded him as emperor. Despite contemporary portrayals of Zenon as a somewhat weak ruler, his reign stabilized the Eastern Roman Empire, laying the groundwork for Anastasius to consolidate imperial authority and address ongoing challenges.



77 Zeno AD 474-491. Theoderic. Pseudo-Imperial issue. Uncertain mint Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,43 g D N ZENO PERP AVG, pearl-diademed, helmeted and cuirassed bust facing slightly to right, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman motif / VICTORIA AVGGG I, Victory standing facing, head to left, holding long jewelled cross; star in right field, CONOB in exergue. very fine cf. RIC X 911 and 930, Depeyrot 108/1. Theoderic the Great, born between 451 and 456 in Pannonia, was a prominent king of the Ostrogothic Kingdom during the late antique period. His rule began after defeating Odoacer, establishing his dominance in Italy and, intermittently, over the West Gothic Kingdom. Controversy surrounds the nature of his authority, whether as a representative of the Eastern Roman Emperor or the independent ruler of the Ostrogoths. In 493, Theoderic founded the Ostrogothic Kingdom of Italy and became a historical archetype in Germanic medieval heroic poetry. His early years were spent at the Eastern Roman court, providing him with insights into Roman administration. Returning to Italy in 476, he was appointed by the Eastern Roman Emperor Zeno in 488 to campaign against Odoacer. Theoderic's reign fostered relative peace and cultural prosperity in Italy. He implemented a policy of religious tolerance, supporting both Arian and Catholic Christians. His death in 526 marked the end of Ostrogothic rule over Italy, with subsequent succession disputes. Theoderic's distinctive tomb in Ravenna, a remarkable structure of late antiquity, stands empty today.

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78 Zeno AD 474-491. Theoderic. Pseudo-Imperial issue. Uncertain mint Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,39 g D N ZENO PERP AVG, pearl-diademed, helmeted and cuirassed bust facing slightly to right, holding spear and shield decorated with horseman motif / VICTORIA AVGGG B, Victory standing facing, head to left, holding long jewelled cross; star in right field, CONOB in exergue. very fine cf. RIC X 911 and 930, Depeyrot 108/1.

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79 Circular Commercial Weight AD 500-600. 1 Libra Æ 61 mm, 325,64 g Λ A, cross below, cruciform monogram above, all engraved in outline and inlaid in silver; two birds flanking monogram; hole in centre and raised rim / Blank with hole in centre and raised rim. extremely fine Bendall -; Pondera -.

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80 Isaac I Comnenus AD 1057-1059. Constantinople Histamenon Nomisma AV 25 mm, 4,34 g Ⲡ IⲎI XIC RCX REGNANTIⲎm, Christ Pantokrator enthroned facing on backless throne / Ⲡ ICⲠKIOC RACIAⲎVC PⲠM', Isaac standing facing, wearing crown, scale cuirass, corselet with pteryges, and military cloak, holding sword upright and resting other hand on sheath. nearly extremely fine Sear 1843. Isaac I Comnenos, Byzantine Emperor from 1057 to 1059, significantly influenced the empire's fate during a challenging era. Born circa 1005, he was the son of Manuel Komnenos Erotikos, an officer under Emperor Basil II. Raised in the Studion Monastery, Isaac emerged as a key political figure through strategic alliances and military trust. In 1057, Isaac joined forces with the Constantinopolitan aristocracy against Emperor Michael VI, leading to Michael's removal and Isaac's coronation. His priorities as emperor included rewarding his noble backers and revitalizing the empire's finances. Isaac revoked pensions and secured a portion of monastic incomes, navigating accusations of sacrilege. Isaac's lone military campaign in 1059 addressed threats from the Hungarians and Pechenegs along the northern borders. Following a successful campaign, he fell seriously ill, believing it to be fatal. Consequently, he appointed Constantine Ducas as his successor, bypassing his brother John and John's wife Anna Dalassene. Although Isaac recovered, he opted not to reclaim the throne, retiring to the Studion Monastery for his remaining two years. Despite facing opposition for his reforms from the aristocracy and clergy, and a lack of understanding from the populace, Isaac's measures played a role in temporarily stalling the Byzantine Empire's decline.

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81 Andronikus I. Gidon AD 1222-1235. Trebizond Aspron Trachy AR 24 mm, 2,93 g The Virgin standing facing, orans, wearing tunic and maphorion; MHP - ΘV across fields, star to left / Christ Chalkites standing facing, nimbate, wearing tunic and kolobion, right hand on chest, holding book of the Gospels in left; IC - XC O XAA-KHTHC across fields. extremely fine Bendall, Trebizond 2; Retowski -; DOC IV p. 537, 1 (Uncertain Nicaean; electrum); Sear 2148 (Uncertain Nicaea). Andronikos I Gidos, also known as Andronicus I Gidon, was Emperor of Trebizond from 1222 to 1235. Unlike his predecessors, he was not a blood relative of Trebizond's founder, Alexios I Megas Komnenos. The Gidos family, to which Andronikos belonged, emerged in Byzantine history in the 12th/13th century. The origin of the family name is uncertain, with speculations ranging from a Greek word for "goat" to a Latinized form of the Italian name Guido. During his reign, Andronikos faced and successfully withstood a siege of Trebizond by the Seljuk Turks. He also supported the Khwarazmshah in their battle against the Seljuks. Andronikos married a daughter of Alexios I of Trebizond and Theodora Axuchina. His reign marked the end of Trebizond's independence, as an alliance with the Khwarizmshah led to Trebizond becoming a vassal to the Sultan of Iconium. In 1230, the Mongols occupied a significant portion of the territories that were once part of Trebizond. Iberia and Lazica, formerly under Trebizond, formed an independent kingdom of Imereti. Andronikos is known for being the earliest Emperor of Trebizond whose coins have survived, featuring images of the Virgin Mary and Christ Child on one side and the emperor with Christ on the other.