



Savoca Coins

Silver | 229th Monthly Silver Auction

25 August 2024

All prices are starting prices (EUR)
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1 Calabria. Tarentum circa 240-228 BC. Olympis, magistrate Nomos AR 20 mm, 6,60 g Warrior on horseback to right, brandishing spear and holding reins; wreath behind, ΟΛΥΜΠΙΣ below / Taras astride dolphin to left, holding kantharos and cornucopiae; tripod to right, ΤΑΡΑΣ below. Extremely Fine Vlasto 942; HN Italy 1055; SNG ANS 1249; SNG Copenhagen 942; HGC 1, 901. Coins, minted in the city of Tarentum - now known as Taranto in southern Italy - are some of the most celebrated and sought-after coins from the ancient world. Tarentum was a wealthy and influential city in Magna Graecia, the southern coastal regions of Italy colonized by the Greeks. The coinage produced here reflects the city's prosperity, its powerful navy, and its deep ties to the wider Greek cultural sphere. The coins from Tarentum are particularly famous for their artistic beauty and detailed engravings. Among these, the silver didrachms are especially well-known. These coins typically feature a youth on horseback on one side, which symbolizes the city's strong cavalry forces. The image is often dynamic, showing the rider in motion. On the other side of these coins, you often find a depiction of Taras, the mythical founder of the city, riding a dolphin. According to legend, Taras was saved by a dolphin sent by the god Poseidon, and this story became a central symbol of the city's identity. The dolphin imagery, along with other sea creatures that sometimes appear on the coins, emphasizes Tarentum's strong connection to the sea and its maritime prowess. These coins often bear the inscription "ΤΑΡΑΣ," which is the Greek name for the city. The high quality of the artistry in these coins is a testament to the skill of Tarentum's engravers and reflects the city's considerable wealth and influence. They were minted over several centuries, from the late 6th century BC to the 3rd century BC, covering a long period of the city's history.



2 Sicily. Syracuse. Hieron II 275-215 BC. Bronze Æ 28 mm, 18,04 g Diademed head of Hieron to left / Armoured cavalryman on horseback to right, holding spear; A below, IEPΩNNOΣ in exergue. Extremely Fine HGC 2, 1548. Hieron II was a prominent figure in ancient Sicily, particularly known for his long and stable reign as the king of Syracuse from approximately 275 BC until his death in 215 BC. His rule is often noted for its relative peace, prosperity, and the strategic political maneuvers that allowed Syracuse to remain independent during a tumultuous period of Mediterranean history. Hieron II initially rose to power through his military prowess, particularly during the wars against the Mamertines, a group of mercenaries who had seized control of the city of Messana. After successfully defeating them and securing Syracuse, Hieron was elected as the city's general, and later, around 270 BC, he was proclaimed king. One of Hieron's most significant achievements was his alliance with Rome during the First Punic War (264-241 BC). Recognizing the growing power of Rome and the potential threat from Carthage, Hieron wisely aligned Syracuse with Rome, ensuring his kingdom's security. This alliance proved beneficial, as it allowed Syracuse to maintain its autonomy while gaining the protection of the burgeoning Roman Republic. Hieron II was also known for his contributions to the infrastructure and culture of Syracuse. He invested in building projects, including fortifications and temples, and supported the arts and sciences. The mathematician and engineer Archimedes, who is famous for his work on geometry, physics, and military engineering, was said to be in the service of Hieron II, providing further testament to the intellectual environment of Syracuse during Hieron's reign. His long rule, characterized by careful diplomacy and a focus on internal stability, ended with his death in 215 BC. Unfortunately, after his passing, Syracuse struggled to maintain the same level of stability and eventually fell to Rome in the Second Punic War.



3 Sicily. Syracuse. Philistis, wife of Hieron II 275-215 BC. 16 Litrai or Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 13,09 g Diademed and veiled bust of Philistis to left; behind, grain ear / ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑΣ ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΔΟΣ, Nike driving slow quadriga to right, holding reins in both hands; above, Φ. Very Fine Caltabiano 165 (D10/R20); HGC 2, 1556. Ex Gorny & Mosch Auction 134, Lot 1129. Philistis, the wife of Hieron II, was an important figure in ancient Syracuse, known primarily through her connection to her husband and the coins that bear her image. Despite the scarcity of detailed historical records about her life, Philistis' significance is underscored by her presence on these coins, which were minted during Hieron II's reign. Philistis is believed to have been a noblewoman, possibly of Greek or Sicilian origin. Marrying Hieron II, she became queen of Syracuse, playing a role in the city's political and cultural life. The coins featuring Philistis typically depict her with a serene and regal profile, a common style in Hellenistic portraiture, which aimed to emphasize the dignity and stature of the royal family. These coins are particularly notable because they represent one of the few instances in ancient history where a queen's likeness was prominently featured on currency, indicating her high status and the respect she commanded in Syracuse. Philistis' legacy, while not as well-documented as that of her husband, is preserved through these numismatic artifacts, which offer a glimpse into her role and the esteem in which she was held during Hieron II's reign. Her depiction on the coins also suggests that she may have had a significant public presence or at least played an important ceremonial role in the court of Syracuse.



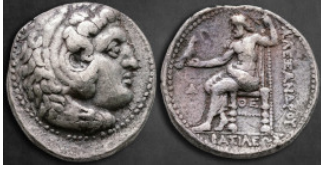
4 Macedon. Akanthos circa 430-390 BC. Tetradrachm AR 16 mm, 1,90 g Forepart of bull left, head reverted, ΠΕ above / Quadripartite incuse square with granulated recesses. Nearly Very Fine HGC 3.1, 392. The ancient coins of Akanthos, a city located in the region of Macedon in northern Greece, are well-known for their distinctive and powerful imagery, particularly the depiction of a bull. These coins, which date back to the 5th century BCE, are among the most iconic of the ancient Greek coinage and are highly prized by collectors and historians alike. The most famous type of Akanthos coin is the silver tetradrachm. On the obverse (front) of these coins, there is typically an impressive image of a bull in a dynamic pose, usually depicted kneeling or butting. The depiction is vivid and realistic, capturing the animal in motion and emphasizing its strength and vitality. This image is often interpreted as symbolizing power, fertility, or perhaps a local religious or cultural significance associated with the bull. The reverse (back) side of these coins usually features a quadripartite incuse square, a common design element in early Greek coinage. The square is divided into smaller sections, which sometimes contain various patterns or symbols, though in many cases, it is left plain. Akanthos coins are also notable for their high artistic quality and the detailed craftsmanship of the engravers. The bull motif on these coins reflects the influence of naturalistic art that was becoming prominent in Greek culture during this period.



5 Kings of Macedon. Babylon. Alexander III "the Great" 336-323 BC. struck under Peithon, circa 315-311 BC Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 17,16 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus seated left on low throne, holding long sceptre in his left hand and eagle standing right with closed wings in his right; to left, monogram within wreath; below throne, monogram of AX. Very Fine Price 3725. Alexander the Great, born in 356 BC in Pella, Macedonia, was one of history's most renowned military leaders. He became king of Macedonia at the age of 20 after the assassination of his father, King Philip II, in 336 BC. Alexander's military genius is evident in his undefeated record in battle, which allowed him to build one of the largest empires of the ancient world by the time of his death in 323 BC. Alexander's conquests began with the invasion of the Persian Empire, which he defeated at the battles of Issus in 333 BC and Gaugamela in 331 BC, effectively ending Persian rule and securing his control over much of Asia Minor, Egypt, and Persia. His military campaign extended as far as India, where he fought the Battle of the Hydaspes in 326 BC, although his troops, weary and far from home, refused to continue deeper into India. Beyond his military achievements, Alexander sought to blend Greek and Eastern cultures, founding cities like Alexandria in Egypt, which became centers of learning and culture. His policies of cultural integration, such as encouraging marriages between his soldiers and local women, left a lasting legacy on the regions he conquered, contributing to the Hellenistic period where Greek culture spread across the known world. Alexander's death in 323 BC in Babylon, possibly due to fever, poison, or other causes, marked the end of his rapid expansion. His empire, lacking a strong successor, was divided among his generals, leading to the formation of the Hellenistic kingdoms. Despite the eventual fragmentation of his empire, Alexander's influence persisted through the spread of Greek culture and ideas, profoundly shaping the course of history in the centuries that followed.



6 Kings of Macedon. Lampsakos. Alexander III "the Great" 336-323 BC. Drachm AR 18 mm, 4,38 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ; Zeus seated left on low throne, right leg drawn back, holding long scepter in his left hand and, in his right, eagle standing right with closed wings; forepart of Pegasus left in left field, Artemis with torch, advancing left below throne. Extremely Fine Price 215. Herakles, also known by his Roman name Hercules, is one of the most famous heroes in Greek mythology. He was the son of Zeus, the king of the gods, and Alcmene, a mortal woman. Due to Zeus's infidelity, Herakles was despised by Hera, Zeus's wife, who made it her life's mission to torment him. Despite this, Herakles grew into a man of incredible strength and bravery, known for his courage and endurance. Herakles is most famous for the Twelve Labors, a series of seemingly impossible tasks he was forced to undertake as a form of penance for killing his wife, Megara, and their children in a fit of madness sent by Hera. These labors included slaying the Nemean Lion, capturing the Golden Hind of Artemis, obtaining the girdle of Hippolyta, the queen of the Amazons, and bringing back the golden apples of the Hesperides. Each labor required Herakles to face extraordinary challenges, often involving dangerous beasts, powerful enemies, or gods and goddesses who sought to impede his progress. Throughout these tasks, Herakles demonstrated not only his physical strength but also his intelligence and cunning. His completion of the Twelve Labors earned him immortality, and after his death, he was granted a place among the gods on Mount Olympus. Herakles became a symbol of strength, perseverance, and resilience, embodying the ideals of heroism in Greek culture. He was worshipped as a god and served as a model for later heroes, with his legends enduring through the centuries in both literature and art.



7 Kings of Macedon. Uncertain mint in Asia Minor or the Levant. Alexander III "the Great" 336-323 BC. possibly struck under Seleukos I Nikator (but SC doubts that), Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 17,11 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion's skin headdress / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus seated left on low throne, holding long scepter in his left hand and, in his right, eagle standing right with closed wings; to left, monogram of ΔΑ; below throne, but above strut, ΘΕ. Very Fine HGC 10h; Price 3786; SC 295. Herakles is closely associated with the lion skin, which he famously wore after slaying the Nemean Lion, one of the challenges in his Twelve Labors. The Nemean Lion was a monstrous beast with an impenetrable hide that made it invulnerable to weapons. The lion terrorized the region around Nemea, and as his first labor, Herakles was tasked with killing it. Realizing that his weapons were ineffective against the lion's tough hide, Herakles used his immense strength to wrestle the creature, ultimately killing it by strangling it with his bare hands. After the lion was dead, Herakles skinned it using its own claws, as no other tool could pierce its hide. He then wore the lion's pelt as a cloak, with the lion's head serving as a helmet. This lion skin became one of Herakles' most iconic symbols, representing his strength, bravery, and triumph over seemingly insurmountable odds. The lion skin not only provided Herakles with protection in his subsequent adventures but also became a symbol of his heroic identity. In art and sculpture, Herakles is often depicted wearing this distinctive lion skin, making him easily recognizable and reinforcing his status as a legendary figure in Greek mythology.



8 Kings of Macedon. Babylon. Philip III Arrhidaeus 323-317 BC. Stater AV 17 mm, 8,47 g Head of Athena to right, wearing pendant earring, necklace and crested Corinthian helmet adorned with serpent coiled to right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ, Nike standing left, holding wreath in her right hand and stylis with her left; below her left wing, ΛΥ; to right, Μ. Nearly Mint State, light scratches Price P 178; HGC 3, 970 b. Ex Emporium Hamburg Auction 79, Lot 83. Philip III Arrhidaeus was the half-brother of Alexander the Great and the son of King Philip II of Macedonia and a woman named Philinna of Larissa. Born around 359 BC, Philip III was of royal blood, but he was mentally disabled, likely due to an illness or congenital condition, which led to his limited involvement in political and military affairs during his life. Despite his disabilities, Philip III Arrhidaeus became king after the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC. His ascension to the throne was primarily a political move by the Macedonian generals, who needed a figurehead to legitimize their control over the empire following Alexander's unexpected death. Philip III was declared king by the Macedonian army, but his authority was nominal; real power was held by the regents and generals who ruled in his name, such as Perdiccas, Antipater, and later, Cassander. During his reign, Philip III was largely a pawn in the power struggles among Alexander's former generals, known as the Diadochi. He was used to lend legitimacy to their various claims and ambitions as they divided Alexander's vast empire. His reign was marked by instability and conflict, as these generals vied for control. In 317 BC, Philip III and his wife, Eurydice, were captured by Olympias, the mother of Alexander the Great, who saw him as a threat to the succession of her grandson, Alexander IV, Alexander the Great's son. Olympias had Philip III executed, ending his troubled life and reign. His death further intensified the fragmentation of Alexander's empire, as the Diadochi continued their struggle for power. Philip III Arrhidaeus is often remembered as a tragic figure, caught in the tumultuous events that followed his brother's death, with little control over his own destiny.

2'500



9 Kings of Macedon. Babylon. Philip III Arrhidaeus 323-317 BC. Struck under Archon, Dokimos or Seleukos I, circa 323-318/7 BC Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 17,18 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion's skin headdress / ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, Zeus seated left on throne, holding eagle and sceptre; M in left field; B below throne, above strut. Good Very Fine Price P182; HGC 3.1, 973f.

200



10 Kings of Macedon. Side. Philip III Arrhidaeus 323-317 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III. Struck under Philoxenos, circa 320-318/7 BC Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 16,98 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, in left field ΑΙ monogram, beneath throne ΒΣ above strut. Very Fine Price 2952.

200



11 Kings of Macedon. Tyre. Antigonos I Monophthalmos 320-301 BC. Struck as Strategos of Asia, in the name and types of Alexander III. dated RY 38 of 'Ozmilk = 312/1 BC Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 16,69 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress / Zeus Aëtrophoros seated to left, holding sceptre; ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ to right, Phoenician 'K (for Azemilkos) and Phoenician date in left field. Very Fine Price 3295 (Ake) corr. (date in two lines); Newell, Dated 44, obv. die XXXVIII (Ake). Antigonos I Monophthalmos, meaning "the One-Eyed," was one of the most prominent of Alexander the Great's generals and a key figure in the Wars of the Diadochi, the conflicts that erupted after Alexander's death in 323 BC. Born around 382 BC in central Macedonia, Antigonos served with distinction under Philip II and later under Alexander during his campaigns in Asia. After Alexander's death, Antigonos was appointed as the governor of Phrygia, Lycia, and Pamphylia in Asia Minor. He quickly became one of the most powerful of the Diadochi, the successors who vied for control of Alexander's empire. Known for his military skill, ambition, and strategic acumen, Antigonos sought to establish his dominance over the fragmented territories. In the years following Alexander's death, Antigonos played a central role in the power struggles that engulfed the empire. He initially supported the regent Perdiccas but later turned against him. By 316 BC, Antigonos had emerged as the most powerful of the Diadochi after defeating and killing his rival Eumenes of Cardia. He controlled much of Asia Minor and the eastern provinces and began to assert his influence over Greece and Macedonia. Antigonos's growing power alarmed the other Diadochi, leading to a series of coalitions against him. In 301 BC, the conflict culminated in the Battle of Ipsus, where Antigonos faced a coalition of forces led by Lysimachus and Seleucus, two other powerful successors of Alexander. Despite his age - he was nearly 80 - Antigonos fought bravely but was ultimately killed in the battle. His death marked the end of his ambitions to reunite Alexander's empire under his rule. After his death, his son Demetrios I Poliorcetes continued to fight for their dynasty, eventually establishing the Antigonid dynasty in Macedonia. Although Antigonos did not succeed in reuniting Alexander's empire, his legacy lived on through his descendants, who ruled Macedonia until its conquest by Rome in 168 BC.



12 Kings of Macedon. Pella. Demetrios I Poliorketes 306-283 BC. Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 16,93 g Diademed and horned head of young Demetrios right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ, poseidon standing left resting foot on rock, monograms at either side. Very Fine Newell 90, obv. die LXXXI; HGC 3, 1014a. Ex CNG E-Auction 484, Lot 164. Demetrios I Poliorcetes, also known as "The Besieger of Cities," was one of the most dynamic and colorful figures of the Hellenistic period. Born around 337 BC, he was the son of Antigonos I Monophthalmos, one of Alexander the Great's most powerful generals. Demetrios grew up during the turbulent years following Alexander's death, a time when the empire was torn apart by the Wars of the Diadochi as Alexander's successors vied for power. Demetrios earned his epithet "Poliorcetes" due to his exceptional skills in siege warfare, most notably demonstrated during the Siege of Rhodes in 305-304 BC. Tasked by his father with capturing the strategically important island city of Rhodes, Demetrios employed massive siege engines, including the famous Helepolis, a gigantic siege tower. Although he ultimately failed to take the city, his engineering feats were so impressive that the Rhodians erected the Colossus of Rhodes in honor of their victory and as a symbol of their resilience. In 306 BC, following the defeat of Ptolemy I at the naval Battle of Salamis (not to be confused with the earlier and more famous Battle of Salamis during the Greco-Persian Wars), Demetrios and his father Antigonos declared themselves kings. This bold move marked the beginning of the Antigonid dynasty. Demetrios ruled as king of Macedonia from 294 BC to 288 BC, during which he sought to consolidate his power in Greece and expand his influence across the Hellenistic world. However, Demetrios's reign was marked by fluctuating fortunes. He was ambitious and energetic but also faced significant challenges, including opposition from other Diadochi such as Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy. In 288 BC, he was driven out of Macedonia by a coalition of rivals and forced into a series of military campaigns and political maneuvers to regain his lost territories. Demetrios eventually fell into captivity in 285 BC under Seleucus I, where he lived out his final years in relative comfort until his death in 283 BC. Despite his mixed success, Demetrios left a lasting legacy, particularly in the field of military engineering and as a symbol of the volatile and adventurous spirit of the Hellenistic age. His son, Antigonos II Gonatas, later succeeded in reestablishing the Antigonid dynasty in Macedonia, which would endure until the Roman conquest in 168 BC.



13 Kings of Macedon. Pella. Demetrios I Poliorketes 306-283 BC. Tetradrachm AR 29 mm, 16,70 g Diademed and horned head right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ, Poseidon Pelagaios seated left on rock, holding a phyllosoma and trident; monogram on rock and to outer right. Nearly Very Fine Newell 75.

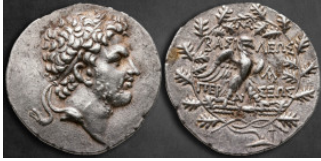
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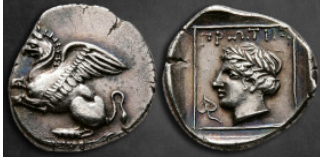
14 Kings of Macedon. Amphipolis. Kassander 306-297 BC. As regent, 317-305 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III. Struck circa 316-311 BC Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 16,67 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress, paws tied beneath chin / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus seated left on low-backed throne, holding long scepter in his left hand and, in his right, eagle standing right with closed wings, dolphin in left field, pellet-in-Π beneath throne. Very Fine Price 133; Troxell, Studies, Issue L7. Kassander, also known as Cassander, was one of the most powerful figures in the turbulent period following the death of Alexander the Great. Born around 355 BC, he was the son of Antipater, a trusted general and regent of Macedonia under both Philip II and Alexander. Kassander played a crucial role in the Wars of the Diadochi, the conflicts among Alexander's successors as they struggled to control the vast empire left in the wake of his death in 323 BC. Kassander's rise to power was marked by both political cunning and ruthless ambition. After the death of his father Antipater in 319 BC, Kassander found himself in a power struggle with Polyperchon, whom Antipater had appointed as his successor. Refusing to accept Polyperchon's authority, Kassander allied himself with other influential figures, including Ptolemy and Antigonos I Monophthalmos, to strengthen his position. One of Kassander's most notorious actions was his involvement in the murder of Alexander the Great's family. To eliminate potential rivals and secure his hold on Macedonia, Kassander ordered the execution of Alexander's widow, Roxana, and their young son, Alexander IV, around 310 BC. He also had Alexander's mother, Olympias, killed, further consolidating his power. These actions made Kassander one of the most controversial figures of the era, as he was seen as directly responsible for the extinction of Alexander's bloodline. In 305 BC, Kassander declared himself king of Macedonia, formally establishing his rule. During his reign, he focused on consolidating his power in Greece and Macedonia. He founded or rebuilt several cities, the most famous of which is Thessalonica, named after his wife Thessalonike, who was Alexander the Great's half-sister. Kassander's rule was marked by his efforts to maintain stability in Macedonia and Greece amidst the ongoing power struggles among the Diadochi. He was a shrewd and pragmatic ruler, though his legacy is often overshadowed by his brutal actions against Alexander's family and his role in the wider conflicts of the period. Kassander died in 297 BC, and his death led to renewed instability in Macedonia, as his successors were unable to maintain the kingdom's unity. His



15 Kings of Macedon. Amphipolis. Kassander 306-297 BC. As regent, 317-305 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III. Struck circa 316-311 BC Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 16,76 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress, paws tied beneath chin / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus seated left on low-backed throne, legs parallel, holding long scepter in his left hand and, in his right, eagle standing right with closed wings, grain ear in left field, pellet-in-Π below throne. Very Fine Price 130; Troxell, Studies , Issue L4.



16 Kings of Macedon. Amphipolis. Perseus 179-168 BC. Struck circa 171-168 BC Tetradrachm AR 3 mm, 15,21 g Diademed head right / Eagle standing right on thunderbolt; MAP above, AY monogram to right, AN monogram between legs; all within oak wreath; below, plow left. good very fine De Luca, Tetradrachms 218 (O46/R200); Mamroth, Perseus 38; HGC 3, 1094; BM inv. 1968,1207.15. Perseus was the last king of the Antigonid dynasty of Macedonia, ruling from 179 BC until his defeat by the Romans in 168 BC. Born around 212 BC, he was the son of King Philip V of Macedonia, and his reign marked the final chapter of Macedonian independence before its absorption into the Roman Republic. Perseus ascended to the throne following the death of his father, Philip V, and initially worked to strengthen Macedonia's position in the Greek world. He sought to rebuild the Macedonian economy, secure alliances with Greek city-states, and reassert Macedonian influence in the region, which had been waning due to the growing power of Rome. Perseus's policies and his efforts to unite the Greeks against Roman influence made him a significant threat to Roman interests in the eastern Mediterranean. His attempts to form alliances with other Hellenistic powers, such as the Seleucid Empire and the Kingdom of Epirus, were particularly concerning to Rome, which was wary of any resurgence of Macedonian power. Tensions between Macedonia and Rome eventually led to the Third Macedonian War (171-168 BC). Despite initial successes, including a victory at the Battle of Callinicus in 171 BC, Perseus was ultimately defeated by the Roman general Lucius Aemilius Paullus at the decisive Battle of Pydna in 168 BC. This battle marked the end of Macedonian resistance to Rome and effectively sealed the fate of the Macedonian kingdom. After his defeat, Perseus was captured and taken to Rome, where he was paraded in a triumph before being imprisoned. He spent the remainder of his life in captivity, dying around 166 BC. His defeat marked the end of the Antigonid dynasty and the independence of Macedonia, which was divided into four client republics under Roman control. Eventually, in 146 BC, Macedonia was fully annexed as a Roman province.



17 Thrace. Abdera. ΠΡΩΤΗΣ (Protes), magistrate 395-360 BC. 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). Abdera, an ancient city located on the Thracian coast of northeastern Greece, has a rich blend of mythological and historical significance. According to Greek mythology, the city was named after Abderus, a beloved companion of the hero Heracles. Abderus met a tragic end when, after helping Heracles capture the flesh-eating mares of Diomedes, he was overpowered and devoured by the savage creatures. In mourning, Heracles founded the city at the site of Abderus's death, immortalizing his friend in the city's name. Historically, Abdera was first settled in 654 BC by colonists from Clazomenae, an Ionian city. This early settlement attempt failed, likely due to conflicts with the warlike Thracian tribes in the area. However, the site was revisited in 544 BC by settlers from another Ionian city, Teos. These new colonists, fleeing their homeland under the threat of Persian rule, abandoned Teos under the cover of night and established a new city at Abdera. This second effort proved successful, and Abdera quickly grew into a prosperous and influential city-state. The city's wealth was largely derived from its strategic location along important trade routes and its access to valuable natural resources. Abdera was known for its silver mines, and it also produced and traded commodities like fish, wine, and grain. This economic prosperity allowed Abdera to mint high-quality coins, which were widely circulated throughout the Greek world. The coins of Abdera are particularly notable for their depiction of the griffin, a mythological creature with the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle. This symbol was chosen as a connection to the settlers' Ionian origins, specifically to Teos, where the griffin was also a prominent symbol on coinage. Interestingly, the griffin on Abdera's coins typically faces left, while on Teos's coins, it faces right—perhaps a symbolic gesture distinguishing the new city's identity while honoring its mother-city. Abdera was not only an economic power but also a cultural center. It was the birthplace of several important philosophers, including Democritus, who is credited with formulating an early atomic theory of the universe, and Protagoras, a leading sophist known for his assertion that "Man is the measure of all things." These intellectual figures contributed to Abdera's reputation as a center of learning and



18 Thrace. Ainos circa 472-471 BC. Tetradrachm AR 24 mm, 15,81 g Head of Hermes to right, wearing petasos with a beaded border and a button top, his hair falling in curls from under his petasos / ΑΙΝΙ, Goat standing to right. Very Fine HGC 3.2, 1266. The ancient city of Ainos (or Aenus), located near the mouth of the Hebros River in Thrace, was a significant commercial and cultural center in antiquity. Its strategic position on the northeastern coast of the Aegean Sea made it an important hub for trade between the Aegean, the interior of Thrace, and regions further afield. The city's coinage is particularly noteworthy for its high artistic quality and the distinct symbols that reflect Ainos's identity and prosperity. One of the most iconic features of Ainos's coinage is the depiction of a head or figure of Hermes, the god of trade, travelers, and communication. Hermes was an appropriate choice for Ainos, given the city's reliance on trade and its status as a bustling commercial port. On many coins, Hermes is shown with his characteristic attributes: the caduceus (a staff entwined with two serpents), his petasos (a winged hat), and sometimes his winged sandals. These symbols underline his role as the protector of merchants and travelers, directly linking the city's economic activities to divine favor. Another prominent design on the coins of Ainos is the depiction of a goat or ram, often accompanied by the head of Hermes. The goat was a significant symbol for Ainos and was possibly linked to a local cult or a representation of the region's pastoral wealth. The city's name, ΑΙΝΙΟΝ (AINION), typically appears on the reverse side of the coins, sometimes accompanied by other symbols such as grain ears or other agricultural motifs, reflecting the city's economic base. The coins of Ainos were mainly minted in silver and bronze, with some issues being particularly well-crafted and artistically sophisticated, making them highly valued by numismatists today. The silver tetradrachms, for example, are among the most famous, featuring a detailed head of Hermes on the obverse and a goat on the reverse, often standing in a naturalistic pose.

2'000



19 Thrace. Ainos circa 435-405 BC. Diobol AR 12 mm, 1,22 g
Head of Hermes to right, wearing petasos / Goat standing to right; AIN above, club before. Very Fine HGC 3.2, 1274.

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20 Thrace. Ainos circa 427-424 BC. Diobol AR 10 mm, 1,26 g
Head of Hermes to right, wearing petasos / Goat standing to right; AIN above, tendril before. Very Fine HGC 3.2, 1274.

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21 Thrace. Ainos circa 427-424 BC. Diobol AR 12 mm, 1,22 g
Head of Hermes right, wearing petasos / AINI, goat standing right, pawing at ground, below raised foreleg, crab, all within incuse square. Very Fine HGC 3.2, 1274.

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22 Thrace. Ainos circa 427 BC-AD 424. Diobol AR 10 mm, 1,08 g
Head of Hermes to right, wearing petasos / Goat standing to right; AIN above, tendril to right. Good Very Fine May, Ainos 184; HGC 3.2, 1274.

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23 Thrace. Ainos circa 421-419 BC. Diobol AR 12 mm, 1,24 g
Head of Hermes left wearing petasos / AINI, goat standing left, scratching its head with its hind foot. Very Fine HGC 3.2, 1276.

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24 Thrace. Ainos circa 417-415 BC. Tetrobol AR 14 mm, 2,69 g
Head of Hermes right, wearing petasos / AINI, goat standing right, pawing at ground, below raised foreleg, crab, all within incuse square. Very Fine HGC 3.2, 1272.

150



25 Thrace. Apollonia Pontica circa 480-450 BC. Drachm AR 13 mm, 3,31 g Upright anchor; A to left, crayfish to right / Facing gorgoneion. Very Fine SNG BMC Black Sea 157; HGC 3.2, 1323. Apollonia Pontica, known today as Sozopol, holds a special place in the annals of history as an ancient Greek colony and later, a Roman city. Its location along the western coast of the Black Sea, in what is now modern Bulgaria, played a crucial role in its development and significance. Founded in the 7th century BC by Greek settlers from Miletus, Apollonia Pontica was dedicated to the Greek god Apollo, from whom it derived its name. "Pontica" signified its coastal position, and this strategic location made it a bustling trading and commercial hub. Apollonia Pontica was particularly well-known for its exports, including grain, fish, and wine. But the city's allure extended beyond its economic prowess. It became a cradle of culture and learning, nurturing the talents of renowned philosophers and artists. Its school of philosophy wielded influence in the Hellenistic world, leaving an indelible mark on the intellectual landscape. With the rise of the Roman Empire, Apollonia Pontica fell under Roman dominion, embracing Roman culture and architecture. Throughout this period, the city continued to flourish and evolve. Christianity also took root in Apollonia Pontica, and the city played a pivotal role in the early spread of the Christian faith. Numerous churches and Christian communities emerged, leaving behind traces of this religious heritage. Today, Apollonia Pontica, or Sozopol, is a treasure trove for archaeologists and history enthusiasts. Its archaeological site features remarkably well-preserved remnants of ancient fortifications, public buildings, houses, and early Christian basilicas, offering a captivating window into the past. Moreover, Apollonia Pontica's legacy is celebrated through modern cultural events like the Apollonia Arts Festival, a testament to its enduring influence on the arts and culture. It remains a destination where ancient history and contemporary festivities harmoniously coexist, drawing visitors from all corners of the world.



26 Islands off Thrace. Thasos circa 175 BC. Hemidrachm AR 13 mm, 1,55 g Head of bearded Dionysos to right, wearing ivy wreath / ΘΑΣΙΩΝ, club and legend within laurel wreath. Nearly Very Fine Le Rider, Thasiennes 48; SNG Copenhagen 1036; SNG Lockett 1232.

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27 Islands off Thrace. Thasos circa 146 BC. Tetradrachm AR 32 mm, 16,68 g Head of young Dionysos right, wreathed with ivy / ΗΡΑΚΛΕΟΥΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΘΑΣΙΩΝ, Herakles standing left, resting right hand on club, lion skin draped over left arm, M monogram in inner left field. Very Fine, bend flan HGC 6, 359. Thasos, an island in the northern Aegean Sea off the coast of Thrace, was renowned in antiquity for its wealth, particularly its rich natural resources such as gold and silver mines, as well as its prosperous wine production. The island's strategic location and economic resources made it an important and influential city-state in the ancient Greek world. Thasos is also well-known for its distinctive and varied coinage, which reflects both its economic power and its religious and cultural identity. One of the most iconic types of coins from Thasos is the silver tetradrachm, which typically features the image of the god Dionysus, the god of wine, fertility, and festivity, who was particularly revered on the island. On these coins, Dionysus is often depicted as a youthful, bearded figure, adorned with an ivy wreath or a laurel wreath, symbolic of his divine status and connection to nature. This representation reflects the importance of wine production to the Thasians, as Dionysus was the patron god of viticulture and winemaking. The reverse side of these coins commonly features a depiction of Herakles (Hercules) or a variety of other symbols. Herakles is often shown standing, holding a club and a lion's skin, which are his traditional attributes. This imagery ties Thasos to broader Greek heroic and divine traditions and emphasizes the island's cultural integration within the Greek world.

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28 Thessaly. Thessalian League circa 150-100 BC. Simios and Pole-, magistrates Stater AR 22 mm, 6,01 g Head of Zeus right, wearing laurel wreath, ΣΙΜΙΟΥ to left / ΘΕΣΣΑΛΩΝ, Athena Itonia advancing right, holding shield and preparing to hurl spear, [above, star to left and right], Π-Ο Λ-Ε across field. Very Fine BCD Thessaly I -; BCD Thessaly II 822; HGC 4, 208. The Thessalian League was a powerful federated state in ancient Greece, comprising various cities in the region of Thessaly. It played a significant role in Greek politics, particularly during the Classical and Hellenistic periods. The League issued its own coinage, which is of great interest to numismatists due to its historical significance and the insight it provides into the political and cultural identity of the region. The coins of the Thessalian League are most commonly associated with the Hellenistic period, particularly after the League was reconstituted under Philip II of Macedon in the 4th century BC. These coins typically feature high-quality designs and are often struck in silver. One of the most common types of Thessalian League coins features the head of Zeus on the obverse. Zeus was a central deity in Thessaly, particularly revered at the sanctuary of Zeus at Dodona. He is usually depicted with a laurel wreath, emphasizing his status as the king of the gods. The reverse side of these coins typically features a horse, which is a symbol closely associated with Thessaly, often referred to as the "land of horses" due to its fertile plains ideal for breeding and raising horses. The horse is depicted in various poses, such as standing or in full gallop, often with a rider or alone. The inscription ΘΕΣΣΑΛΩΝ (THESSALON), meaning "of the Thessalians," usually accompanies the image, indicating the coin's origin. In some variations, the reverse side may also feature other symbols or deities connected to the region, such as Athena Itonia, another important goddess in Thessalian worship, sometimes shown holding a shield or spear. The coinage of the Thessalian League is a reflection of the region's collective identity and its prominence in the political landscape of ancient Greece. The use of Zeus and the horse as principal images underscores both the religious devotion and the equestrian culture that were central to Thessalian society. These coins were widely circulated in the region and beyond, serving not only as currency but also as symbols of the League's unity and power.



29 Illyria. Dyrrhachion circa 200-37 BC. Alkaios and Arniskos, magistrates Drachm AR 18 mm, 3,34 g ΑΛΚΑΙΟΣ Cow standing to right, looking back and suckling calf standing to left beneath her; in exergue, trident right / ΔΥΡΡΗΧΙΩΝ ΑΠΟΛΛΟΝΙΑΣ, divided double square containing two stellate designs. Good Very Fine Ceka 31. HGC 3.1, 40. The ancient region of Illyria, situated along the western Balkans on the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea, produced a fascinating range of coinage that reflects the region's interactions with neighboring Greek, Roman, and other cultures. Beginning in the 4th century BC, as Greek influence spread and local economies developed, the Illyrians began issuing their own coins, which played a significant role in both regional and international trade. Two of the most prominent cities in Illyria, Dyrrhachium (modern Durrës in Albania) and Apollonia (near modern Fier in Albania), were originally Greek colonies that became key centers of coin production. The coins from these cities, particularly the silver drachms, are among the most well-known Illyrian coinage. The obverse of these coins typically features a depiction of a cow or a cow suckling a calf, a motif that symbolized agricultural fertility and prosperity, central to the economies of these cities. The reverse side usually displays a distinctive double stellate pattern, often within a square or circular border, with inscriptions naming the issuing city. These coins were widely circulated, indicating the significant role these cities played in trade across the Adriatic and into the broader Mediterranean world.



30 Akarnania. Argos Amphiloichicon circa 350-250 BC. Stater AR 24 mm, 8,06 g Pegasos flying left with straight wings, A below / Head of Athena to left, wearing pearl necklace and Corinthian helmet, with leather neck guard, to right, behind head, ΔI and shield with strap. Good Very Fine Pegasi 16-18; SNG Copenhagen 311-312 var. (obverse monogram). Pegasus, the winged horse of Greek mythology, was born from the blood of the Gorgon Medusa when she was beheaded by the hero Perseus. This divine creature symbolizes both beauty and power. Pegasus's most famous tale involves the hero Bellerophon, who sought to tame him to defeat the monstrous Chimera. With the help of the goddess Athena, who gifted Bellerophon a golden bridle, Pegasus was tamed and became his loyal steed. Together, they flew above the Chimera, allowing Bellerophon to defeat the beast from the air. However, when Bellerophon attempted to ride Pegasus to Mount Olympus, Zeus intervened, sending a gadfly to sting Pegasus, causing Bellerophon to fall to his demise. Pegasus, however, reached Olympus and was honored by Zeus, who placed him among the stars as a constellation, symbolizing the union of heroic endeavor and divine favor.

200



31 Akarnania. Thyrrheion circa 360-330 BC. Stater AR 22 mm, 8,29 g Pegasos flying left; Θ below / Θ - Y, helmeted head of Athena left; tripod behind. Very Fine Pegasi 10.

200



32 Euboea. Hestiaia circa 171-168 BC. Tetradrachm AR 15 mm, 1,66 g Wreathed head of the Nymph Hestiaia right / HISTIAIEQN, Nymph seated right on stern of galley; wing on prow. Extremely Fine HGC 4, 1525. The ancient city of Hestiaia, located on the northern coast of the island of Euboea in Greece, is well-known for its distinctive and beautiful coinage, particularly from the Classical period. These coins, especially the silver tetradrachms, are highly regarded for their artistic quality and the unique imagery they feature. One of the most iconic designs on the coins of Hestiaia is the depiction of a female figure, usually identified as the nymph Hestiaia, the city's namesake and a personification of the city itself. On the obverse of these coins, Hestiaia is often shown with a calm, serene expression, wearing a wreath of vines or ivy, symbolizing fertility and the agricultural richness of the region. Her portrayal is finely detailed, emphasizing her beauty and connection to nature. The reverse side of the coins typically features a depiction of a stern or prow of a ship, reflecting Hestiaia's maritime importance and its active role in trade and naval affairs. The ship's prow is often accompanied by the inscription "HISTIAIEQN" (Hestiaieon), indicating the city of Hestiaia as the issuer of the coin.

150



33 Attica. Athens circa 475-470 BC. Tetradrachm AR 22 mm, 17,49 g Head of Athena to right, wearing crested Attic helmet / Owl standing to right, head facing, olive sprig and crescent behind, AΘE before; all within incuse square. Very Fine HGC 4, 1592.

500



34 Attica. Athens circa 454-404 BC. Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 17,19 g Head of Athena to right, wearing crested Attic helmet ornamented with three olive leaves above visor and spiral palmette on bowl, round earring with central boss, and pearl necklace / Owl standing to right with head facing, olive sprig and crescent behind, ΑΘΕ before; all within incuse square. Struck on a generous planchet, Near Mint State Kroll 8; Dewing 1591-8; SNG Copenhagen 31; HGC 4, 1597. Ex Roma Numismatics Auction XXX, lot 99. 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.



35 Attica. Athens circa 454-404 BC. Tetradrachm AR 23 mm, 17,24 g Head of Athena to right, wearing crested Attic helmet ornamented with three olive leaves above visor and spiral palmette on bowl, round earring with central boss, and pearl necklace / Owl standing to right with head facing, olive sprig and crescent behind, AΘE before; all within incuse square. Nearly Mint State Kroll 8; Dewing 1591-8; SNG Copenhagen 31; HGC 4, 1597. Ex Roma Numismatics Auction XXX, lot 103. Athena, the ancient Greek goddess of wisdom, warfare, and craftsmanship, is closely associated with the owl, a symbol that represents wisdom and watchfulness. This connection is prominently featured on the coinage of Athens, one of the most powerful city-states of ancient Greece, where Athena was revered as the city's patron deity. The most famous depiction of Athena and the owl appears on the Athenian "owl" tetradrachms, silver coins that were widely used throughout the ancient Mediterranean world. On the obverse of these coins, Athena is typically shown wearing a helmet, symbolizing her role as a warrior goddess. Her helmet is often adorned with olive leaves, another symbol associated with her, as she was also the goddess of peace and prosperity. The reverse side of the coin features the iconic owl, often perched to the right, with an olive branch and the inscription "AΘE" (an abbreviation for "Athens" in Greek). The owl, known for its keen vision and nocturnal habits, perfectly symbolizes Athena's wisdom and her role as a protector who sees all, even in darkness. The olive branch next to the owl reinforces Athena's association with peace and prosperity, as the olive tree was sacred to her. These coins, known as "owls," were not only a key part of Athenian economy but also a symbol of the city's power, cultural influence, and the protection offered by Athena. They were so widely recognized and trusted for their consistent silver content and quality that they became a standard currency throughout much of the ancient world. The image of Athena and the owl on these coins remains one of the most enduring symbols of ancient Greece, representing the blend of wisdom, strength, and cultural achievement that characterized Athens at the height of its power.



36 Attica. Athens circa 454-404 BC. Tetradrachm AR 24 mm, 17,19 g Head of Athena to right, wearing crested Attic helmet ornamented with three olive leaves above visor and spiral palmette on bowl, round earring with central boss, and pearl necklace / Owl standing to right with head facing, olive sprig and crescent behind, AΘE before; all within incuse square. Good Extremely Fine Kroll 8; Dewing 1591-8; SNG Copenhagen 31; HGC 4, 1597. Ex Leu Auction 2, Lot 94.

500



37 Attica. Athens circa 454-404 BC. Drachm AR 15 mm, 4,17 g Head of Athena right, wearing crested Attic helmet decorated with three olive leaves over visor and a spiral palmette on the bowl / AΘE, owl standing right, head facing; olive sprig behind; all within shallow incuse square. Very Fine Dewing 1601; BMC Attica pg. 9, 74; SNG Copenhagen 42; SNG München 60.

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38 Attica. Athens circa 350-294 BC. Tetradrachm AR 25 mm, 16,94 g Head of Athena to right, with profile eye, wearing crested Attic helmet with palmette and three olive leaves / AΘE, owl standing right, head facing; behind, olive spray and crescent moon. Very Fine HGC 4, 1598; Kroll 15; SNG Copenhagen 63.

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39 Corinthia. Corinth circa 405-345 BC. Stater AR 21 mm, 8,48 g Pegasos flying to left; Q below / Head of Athena to right, wearing Corinthian helmet; ivy leaf behind. lustrous, with a sharply struck reverse, Extremely Fine BCD Corinth 51; Pegasi 118; Ravel 374; HGC 4, 1833. Very Rare. Ex Leu Numismatik AG, Web Auction 20, 16 July 2022, lot 825 (hammer: CHF 1,200).

800



40 Corinthia. Corinth circa 405-345 BC. Stater AR 22 mm, 8,55 g Pegasos flying right; Q below / Head of Athena to right, wearing Corinthian helmet; behind neck guard, trident. NGC graded AU Strike 5/5 Surface 2/5 BCD Corinth -; Calciati 224; Ravel 522; HGC 4, 1827. 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.



41 Cimmerian Bosphoros. Pantikapaion circa 325-310 BC. Bronze Æ 20 mm, 7,21 g Bearded head of satyr right / Π - A - N, forepart of griffin left; below, sturgeon left. Extremely Fine SNG Stancomb 542; MacDonald 69; SNG BM Black Sea 869-71; HGC 7, 113. Satyrs are mythological creatures from Greek mythology, known for their wild, lustful, and carefree nature. They are often depicted as half-human, half-goat beings, with the upper body of a man and the lower body of a goat, including goat-like legs, hooves, and a tail. Satyrs typically have other animalistic features as well, such as pointed ears, a snub nose, and sometimes horns on their heads. They are closely associated with the god Dionysus, the god of wine, fertility, and revelry. In Greek mythology, satyrs inhabit the forests and mountains, where they spend their days engaging in various forms of mischief and pleasure. They are known for their love of wine, music, dancing, and the pursuit of nymphs, the beautiful female spirits of nature. Satyrs are often seen playing musical instruments, such as the panpipes (syrinx) or the lyre, and they are frequently depicted in the company of Dionysus during his revels. One of the most famous satyrs in mythology is Silenus, a companion and tutor of Dionysus. Silenus is often depicted as older and wiser than the typical satyr, though he shares their love of wine and merrymaking. According to some myths, Silenus possessed the gift of prophecy and great knowledge, particularly when inebriated. Satyrs also play a role in several myths. In one well-known story, the satyr Marsyas challenges the god Apollo to a musical contest, boasting of his skills on the aulos, a double-reed instrument. Marsyas loses the contest and, as punishment for his hubris, is flayed alive by Apollo. This myth highlights the dangers of pride and the importance of respecting the gods. Satyrs embody the uninhibited, primal aspects of human nature, representing a connection to the natural world and the pleasures of the senses. In art and literature, they are often used to explore themes of indulgence, the boundary between civilization and wilderness, and the balance between reason and instinct. Despite their rowdy behavior, satyrs are generally seen as playful rather than malevolent, making them enduring symbols of the joys and excesses of life.



42 Cimmerian Bosphoros. Pantikapaion circa 310-303 BC. Bronze Æ 21 mm, 6,05 g Bearded head of satyr with animal ear to right / Π-A-N, forepart of griffin left; below, sturgeon swimming to left. Nearly Extremely Fine HGC 7, 113; MacDonald 69. Griffins are legendary creatures in mythology, known for their majestic and powerful appearance, combining the physical traits of a lion and an eagle. With the body, tail, and back legs of a lion and the head, wings, and front talons of an eagle, griffins embody the qualities of both the king of beasts and the king of birds. This duality made them symbols of strength, courage, and protection, and they were revered across various ancient cultures. The origins of the griffin myth can be traced back to ancient civilizations, particularly in the Middle East, Egypt, and Greece. In ancient Greek mythology, griffins were believed to guard treasures and precious objects, particularly gold. They were often depicted as fierce and vigilant creatures, fiercely loyal to whatever they were tasked to protect. The association with guarding treasures might stem from tales told by travelers and traders who, passing through regions like Central Asia, encountered the fossilized remains of dinosaurs like Protoceratops, which may have inspired the image of the griffin. Griffins were also connected with divine and noble qualities. They were believed to be the loyal companions of gods, and in various stories, they were portrayed as guardians of divine secrets and sacred places. For instance, in the mythology of the Scythians, an ancient nomadic people, griffins were said to guard the gold in the mountains of Central Asia. The Greek historian Herodotus mentions this myth, describing how the Scythians believed that the griffins protected vast hoards of gold. In medieval Christian symbolism, griffins came to represent the duality of Christ—both divine and human—because of their combination of lion (a symbol of earthly power) and eagle (a symbol of heavenly power). They were often depicted in heraldry and were seen as protectors against evil, embodying a sense of vigilance and honor.



43 Mysia. Kyzikos circa 550-500 BC. Sixth Stater or Hekte EL 11 mm, 2,65 g Forepart of lion left, devouring prey; to right, tunny upward / Quadripartite incuse square. Very Fine Cf. von Fritze I, 41 (stater); SNG BnF 181; Greenwell 109; Rosen 436; Boston MFA 1416 (stater) = Warren 1534 (same); Jameson 2163 (same). The hekte was a small denomination of coin, specifically a sixth of a stater, and was commonly used in ancient Mysia, a region in northwestern Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). The coinage of Mysia, particularly from the cities of Kyzikos, Mytilene, and Phokaia, is notable for its artistry and the diverse range of designs, reflecting the region's economic importance and cultural influences.

250



44 Mysia. Kyzikos circa 550-450 BC. Sixth Stater or Hekte EL 11 mm, 2,66 g Triton reclining to left, holding wreath in raised left hand, leaning on left elbow; tunny fish to left below / Quadripartite incuse square. Very Fine Von Fritze 126. The hekte coins from Mysia were typically made of electrum, an alloy of gold and silver, which was a characteristic material for coinage in this region during the Archaic and Classical periods. These coins were widely circulated and played a crucial role in trade across the Aegean Sea and beyond, reflecting the wealth and influence of Mysian cities. Kyzikos, one of the most prominent cities in Mysia, produced a vast array of hekte coins, each featuring different designs on the obverse (front) side, while the reverse generally displayed a simple quadripartite incuse square. The obverse designs are particularly varied and include mythological creatures like griffins, lions, and boars, as well as depictions of gods, goddesses, and symbols of trade and prosperity, such as tunny fish, which were abundant in the waters near Kyzikos. One of the most famous and distinctive types of hekte from Kyzikos features a boar on the obverse, often with other elements such as a lion's head or a star, reflecting the city's wealth derived from its natural resources and trade. The reverse typically has a simple geometric pattern, such as an incuse square, which was common in early Greek coinage.

500



45 Mysia. Kyzikos circa 500-450 BC. Stater EL 20 mm, 15,99 g Griffin seated to left, raising his right forepaw; below, tunny swimming to left / Quadripartite incuse square. Good Very Fine. BMFA 1455; Greenwell 143; SNG Paris 239-240; *Traité* II, 2, 2729 and pl. CLXXVI, 10; Von Fritze 99. Rare! A creature of ancient myth, the griffin has been depicted in Egyptian and Persian art as early as the fourth millennium BC. By the middle Bronze Age (circa 1950-1550 BC), griffins began to appear in regions such as Syria, the Levant, and Anatolia, and they are notably featured in 15th-century BC frescoes within the throne room of the Bronze Age palace at Knossos. Traditionally associated with guarding valuable treasures, the griffin became a symbol of divine power, often depicted as a protector of sacred objects. With the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle, the griffin embodies the strength and majesty of both creatures. Over time, it also became linked to the vast quantities of gold that traveled southward from the northern wildernesses into Greek and Persian territories. The seemingly endless flow of gold inspired much speculation among the Greeks regarding its origins. These musings eventually crystallized into the myth of a land called Hyperborea, meaning 'beyond the north wind.' This legendary place is referenced by Homer, Pindar, Hesiod, and Strabo, with Herodotus writing: "But in the north of Europe there is by far the most gold. In this matter again I cannot say with assurance how the gold is produced, but it is said that one-eyed men called Arimaspians steal it from griffins. But I do not believe this, that there are one-eyed men who have a nature otherwise the same as other men. The most outlying lands, though, as they enclose and wholly surround all the rest of the world, are likely to have those things which we think the finest and the rarest" (*The Histories*, 3.116). Although Hyperborea is widely accepted as a mythological construct, pieced together from various truths and imaginative tales, one potential source for the northern gold might be the Altai Mountains of Skythia (modern-day Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China, and Russia). The name 'Altai' itself means 'Gold Mountain' in Mongolian. Some scholars (Mayor, 1991) suggest that this region, rich in gold deposits and home to numerous Protoceratops fossils, could be the origin of the Greek legend of griffins guarding gold. The constant erosion of sandstone rock formations in this area reveals bleached white, fully articulated skeletons of these prominently beaked quadruped dinosaurs, which would have been conspicuous against the red sediment and likely noticed by early inhabitants and travelers. Indeed, 5th-



46 Mysia. Kyzikos circa 450-330 BC. Sixth Stater or Hekte EL 10 mm, 2,67 g Orestes kneeling left on tunny left, holding sword in his lowered right hand, left hand resting on omphalos to right / Quadripartite incuse square. Extremely Fine Von Fritze I 165; Boston MFA 1533. Orestes, a central figure in Greek mythology, is best known for avenging the murder of his father, King Agamemnon of Mycenae. After Agamemnon was killed by his wife, Clytemnestra, and her lover, Aegisthus, in revenge for Agamemnon's sacrifice of their daughter Iphigenia, Orestes was sent into exile for his safety. As he grew, Orestes felt compelled to avenge his father's death, a duty reinforced by the god Apollo. With the help of his sister Electra, Orestes returned to Mycenae and killed Clytemnestra and Aegisthus. However, this act of matricide brought upon him the wrath of the Furies (Erinyes), ancient deities who pursued him relentlessly for his crime. In Aeschylus's Oresteia, Orestes seeks purification and is eventually tried in Athens, where the goddess Athena intervenes. In a groundbreaking decision, she establishes a legal system to replace the cycle of blood vengeance, acquitting Orestes and ending his torment.

500



47 Mysia. Kyzikos circa 300-200 BC. Overstruck on an earlier issue from Kyzikos (SNG Paris 436) Bronze Æ 28 mm, 15,15 g Prow to right / Bucranium; K-Y/Z-I across fields; all within oak wreath. Very Fine Von Fritze III, 11; SNG BnF 438; SNG von Aulock 1231.

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48 Mysia. Pergamon circa 166-67 BC. Cistophoric Tetradrachm AR 28 mm, 12,55 g Cista mystica with serpent; all within ivy wreath / Bowcase between two serpents; monogram to left, club in right field. Good Very Fine Kleiner & Noe series 5; SNG BN 1703. The **cista mystica** is an important symbol associated with the mystery cult of Dionysus (Bacchus in Roman mythology), the god of wine, ecstasy, and fertility. The term "cista" refers to a basket or box, and "mystica" indicates its association with the mysteries—secret religious rites practiced in the worship of Dionysus. In the context of the Dionysian mysteries, the **cista mystica** was a sacred container, often depicted in ancient art, that held ritual objects, including possibly a live serpent, which symbolized rebirth and immortality. The exact contents and rituals associated with the **cista mystica** were kept secret, known only to initiates of the cult. This secrecy was central to the religious experience, reflecting the mystical and transformative nature of the Dionysian rites. On ancient coins, particularly those from the Hellenistic period and the Roman Empire, the **cista mystica** is sometimes depicted alongside symbols related to Dionysus, such as ivy wreaths, thyrsi (staves tipped with pine cones), or representations of the god himself. These coins were likely issued in regions where the Dionysian cult was particularly strong, serving both as currency and as a reminder of the spiritual power and significance of the Dionysian mysteries.

50



49 Lesbos. Mytilene circa 521-478 BC. Sixth Stater or Hekte EL 10 mm, 2,55 g Lion's head right / Bull's head right within incuse square. Good Very Fine Bodenstedt 13.

800



50 Ionia. Ephesos circa 140-139 BC. Dated CY 20 Cistophoric Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 12,67 g Basket (cista mystica) from which snake coils, around, ivy wreath with fruits / Two snakes coiled around a bow case, K (date) above left, bust of Artemis right, to left, EΦE. Very Fine Kleiner-Noe Series 33; SNG von Aulock 7833.

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51 Ionia. Ephesos circa 133-67 BC. Cistophoric Tetradrachm AR 32 mm, 12,76 g Cista mystica with serpent; all within ivy wreath / Bowcase between two serpents; Γ (date) to left, below ΕΦΕ; torch to right. Good Very Fine SNG Copenhagen 317; Kleiner-Noe Series 42b.

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52 Ionia. Miletos circa 190-165 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III of Macedon Tetradrachm AR 33 mm, 15,65 g Head of Herakles right, wearing lion's skin headdress / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Zeus seated left on high-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, star above lion standing left, head right, monogram of Miletos in lower left field and two monograms to inner right. Nearly Very Fine Price 2206.

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53 Caria. Kindya circa 510-490 BC. Tetrobol AR 12 mm, 2,20 g Head of ketos to right / Geometric pattern within incuse square. Very Fine SNG Kayhan 813-4. In ancient Greek mythology, a "ketos" (plural: ketoi) refers to a sea monster, often depicted as a giant sea serpent or a creature with a combination of fish and serpent features. The concept of the ketos was prevalent in Greek mythology and art, and it had a significant presence in various stories and legends. One of the most famous tales involving a ketos is the story of Andromeda. According to the myth, Andromeda, the daughter of King Cepheus and Queen Cassiopeia of Ethiopia, was chained to a rock as a sacrifice to a ketos. The sea monster was sent by the god Poseidon in response to Cassiopeia's boasting that her daughter was more beautiful than the Nereids (sea nymphs). Andromeda was later rescued by the hero Perseus, who slew the ketos and saved her from her fate. Ketoi were often associated with the perils of the sea and represented the dangers that sailors and travelers faced while navigating treacherous waters. They were also symbolic of chaos and the untamed forces of nature.

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54 Lydia. Tralleis circa 155-145 BC. Cistophoric Tetradrachm AR 33 mm, 12,71 g Cista mystica with serpent; all within ivy wreath / Bowcase between two serpents; TPA to left; filleted tripod to right. Very Fine Kleiner-Noe Series 23; SNG Copenhagen -.

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55 Kings of Lydia. Sardeis. Kroisos 560-546 BC. Siglos or Half Stater AR 15 mm, 5,25 g Confronted foreparts of a lion and a bull / Two incuse squares, one larger than the other. Very Fine Berk 23; Rosen 663-5; SNG Kayhan 1024-6. Kroisos, the last king of Lydia, held sway over a prosperous kingdom in western Anatolia from around 595 BC to 546 BC. His reign was marked by notable achievements, with Lydia becoming renowned for its wealth. The phrase "as rich as Croesus" reflects the opulence associated with his name. Under Kroisos, Lydia expanded its influence, conquering Ionian Greek cities along the western coast of Anatolia. Notable among these conquests were cities like Ephesus and Miletus, which fell under Lydia's dominion. Kroisos also engaged in diplomatic relations with various Greek city-states, and his interactions with the Oracle of Delphi are particularly noteworthy. The Oracle's response, perceived as a prediction of victory over the Persians, played a pivotal role in Kroisos's decision to wage war against Cyrus the Great, the formidable leader of the Persian Empire. However, the Battle of Thymbra in 546 BC marked a turning point. Kroisos suffered defeat, and Lydia succumbed to Persian rule. The tale of Kroisos is intricately linked with the famous incident involving the Oracle of Delphi. Seeking guidance before the war, Kroisos received an ambiguous prophecy that a great empire would be destroyed. The unforeseen consequence was the downfall of his own kingdom. Following his defeat, Kroisos became a captive of Cyrus, and the details of his fate vary among historical accounts. Some suggest he narrowly escaped execution through his actions or divine intervention. The rise and fall of Kroisos and Lydia serve as a poignant chapter in the ancient Near East's historical narrative, illustrating the uncertainties of fate and the consequences of relying on oracles. The legacy of Kroisos endures as a cautionary tale, emphasizing the unpredictable nature of power and fortune in the annals of ancient history.



56 Lycia. Phaselis circa 500-440 BC. Tetrobol AR 13 mm, 3,49 g Prow of galley to right; uncertain control below / Stern of galley to right; ΦΑΣ above. Nearly Very Fine SNG von Aulock 4395; Cf. Heipp-Tamer 58.

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57 Dynasts of Lycia. Teththiveibi 450-420 BC. Stater AR 18 mm, 8,45 g Forepart of boar on round shield / Tetraskeles, T↑XXEF↑EBE around, within dotted border within incuse square. Very Fine *Traité* II, 322; *Müseler* V, 41. A tetraskeles is an ancient symbol that features four bent or curved arms radiating from a central point, creating a shape that resembles a swastika or a pinwheel. The term "tetraskeles" comes from the Greek words "tetra," meaning four, and "skelos," meaning leg, reflecting the symbol's four "legs" or arms. The tetraskeles was used in various ancient cultures, including Greek, Roman, and other Mediterranean societies, often as a decorative motif or symbol of good fortune, movement, or the sun. It appears in different orientations and variations but always maintains the characteristic four-armed design. In ancient Greek coinage, the tetraskeles was sometimes used as a decorative element, particularly on coins from regions in Asia Minor. It could be associated with themes of prosperity, vitality, and the cyclical nature of life, symbolizing the ongoing and dynamic forces in the universe. The tetraskeles is closely related to the more commonly recognized swastika, which has similar origins and meanings in various cultures. In its ancient context, the tetraskeles was a positive symbol, often linked to divine favor and protection, long before it was appropriated for negative connotations in the 20th century.

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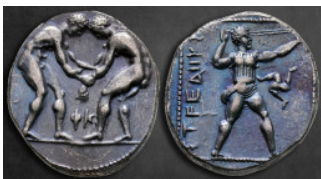


58 Dynasts of Lycia. Limyra. Perikles 380-360 BC. Tetrobol AR 15 mm, 2,71 g Facing scalp of lion / Triskeles within incuse circle. Very Fine Müseler VIII.47-51; SNG von Aulock 4254-5. Perikles, a towering figure in ancient Athens during its Golden Age, left an indelible mark on the city's coinage and history. As a statesman, orator, and general, his leadership guided Athens through a period of unprecedented prosperity, cultural achievement, and democratic governance. Numismatically, Perikles' era saw significant developments. He oversaw the introduction of the iconic Athenian Owl tetradrachm, featuring Athena on one side and an owl on the other. These coins, minted from the silver mines of Laurion, became symbols of Athens' economic prowess and cultural influence throughout the Mediterranean. Perikles' ambitious building projects, including the construction of the Parthenon atop the Acropolis, showcased Athens' wealth and cultural sophistication. The expenses for such endeavors were partially funded by revenues from Athens' imperial ventures and its control over key trade routes. Moreover, Perikles' advocacy for democratic governance expanded the role of citizens in Athenian politics, shaping the city's identity as a beacon of democracy and civic pride.



59 Pamphylia. Aspendos circa 380-325 BC. Stater AR 22 mm, 10,76 g Two wrestlers grappling; KI between / ΕΣΤΦΕΔΙΙΥΣ, Slinger in throwing stance right. Control: In right field, triskeles. Very Fine SNG Copenhagen 226. The ancient city of Aspendos, located in the region of Pamphylia in modern-day Turkey, is well-known for its coinage, particularly during the 5th and 4th centuries BC. One of the most iconic and distinctive designs found on the coins from Aspendos is the depiction of two nude male figures locked in a wrestling match, representing the Greek sport of wrestling (pale), which was a popular and respected athletic contest in ancient Greece. The depiction is detailed and dynamic, capturing the intensity and physicality of the sport, with the wrestlers often shown gripping each other in various holds or stances. The reverse side of these coins usually features a slinger in action, winding up to throw a stone. This imagery might symbolize the martial training and the athletic prowess of the citizens of Aspendos, reflecting the city's emphasis on physical fitness and preparation for war. The reverse often includes an inscription of the city's name in Greek, "ΕΣΤΦΕΔΙΙΥΣ" (ESTFEDIYUS), a local dialect variation of Aspendos. These coins highlight the cultural significance of athletic contests like wrestling in Aspendos, as well as the city's pride in its martial and athletic traditions. The wrestlers on the coins represent not just sport, but the broader ideals of strength, skill, and competitive spirit that were highly valued in ancient Greek society.

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60 Pamphylia. Aspendos circa 380-330 BC. Stater AR 23 mm, 10,82 g Two wrestlers grappling; ΦK between them / ΕΣΤΦΕΔΙΙΥΣ, slinger in throwing stance right; triskeles to right; all within pelleted square border. Good Very Fine SNG BN 94; SNG von Aulock 4562.

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61 Pamphylia. Side circa 205-100 BC. Tetradrachm AR 30 mm, 16,94 g Head of Athena right, wearing crested Corinthian helmet / Nike advancing left, holding wreath; pomegranate above ΔΕ in left field. Extremely Fine Seyrig, Side, 12; SNG Paris 670-1.

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62 Cilicia. Uncertain mint. Balakros, Satrap of Cilicia 333-323 BC. Obol AR 11 mm, 0,63 g Youthful male head to left, wreathed with grain ears, within dotted circle border / Eagle standing left, wings spread, on back of lion reclining left, in left field, club and bow, all within dotted square border. Very Fine Göktürk -; SNG Levante -. SNG Paris -; Savoca Blue Auction 6, 471. Balakros was a key figure in the late 4th century BC, serving as the satrap of Cilicia under Alexander the Great. Appointed after Alexander's decisive victory at the Battle of Issus in 333 BC, Balakros governed this strategically vital region in southeastern Asia Minor. As one of Alexander's trusted Companions, he was responsible for maintaining order, managing resources, and ensuring Cilicia's loyalty to Alexander's expanding empire. Balakros's administration involved overseeing the region's defenses, integrating local populations, and contributing to Alexander's military campaigns. His role was crucial in securing the eastern Mediterranean, which was essential for Alexander's supply lines and broader strategic goals. Coins minted during his tenure often feature a blend of Greek and local imagery, reflecting the cultural integration in the region under his rule. Balakros's leadership exemplifies the trusted roles Alexander's generals played in consolidating and administering the vast territories of his empire.

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63 Kings of Cappadocia. Mint A (Eusebeia under Mt.Argaios). Ariobarzanes I Philoromaios 96-63 BC. Dated RY 13 = 83/2 B Drachm AR 17 mm, 3,88 g Diademed head to right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΙΟΒΑΡΖΑΝΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΡΩΜΑΙΟΥ, Athena, wearing helmet and chiton, standing to left, holding Nike in outstretched right hand and spear and shield in left; monogram in left field, Θ in right field, ΙΓ (date) in exergue. Good Very Fine Simonetta 10; HGC 7, 846.

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64 Kings of Cappadocia. Eusebeia-Mazaka. Archelaos 36 BC-AD 17. Dated year 20 = 17/16 BC Drachm AR 19 mm, 3,44 g Diademed bust right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΧΕΛΑΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΡΙΔΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΤΙΣΤΗΟΥ, club; Κ (date) in right field. Good Very Fine Simonetta, Coins 1.

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65 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 / [BAΣIΛEQΣ] 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. Seleukos I Nikator was one of the most prominent figures in the aftermath of Alexander the Great's empire, founding the Seleucid Empire, which became one of the largest and most influential Hellenistic states. Born around 358 BC in the region of Macedonia, Seleukos was a trusted general and companion of Alexander the Great. After Alexander's death in 323 BC, his empire fragmented, leading to the Wars of the Diadochi, where Alexander's generals fought for control over different parts of the empire. Seleukos initially received the satrapy of Babylon, but his ambitions extended far beyond that. Through a series of military campaigns and strategic alliances, he expanded his control, eventually ruling vast territories that included much of the Near East, from Anatolia and Syria to Mesopotamia, Persia, and parts of India. Seleukos is particularly known for founding numerous cities, most famously Antioch in Syria, which became the capital of the Seleucid Empire. Seleukos also played a crucial role in the spread of Hellenistic culture across these regions, blending Greek and Eastern traditions in a way that shaped the cultural landscape of the ancient world. His reign, which lasted from 305 BC until his assassination in 281 BC, marked the beginning of the Seleucid dynasty, which would continue to influence the region for nearly two centuries.

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66 Seleukid Kingdom. Babylon I mint. Seleukos I Nikator 312-281 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III of Macedon. Babylon I, circa 311-300 BC Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 16,36 g Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin headdress / Zeus Aëtophoros seated left; MI in left field, monogram in wreath below throne; AΛEΞANΔPOY to right, BAΣIΛEQΣ below. Very Fine SC 82.4a; Price 3751; HGC 9, 10f.

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67 Seleucid Kingdom. Uncertain mint 28, in Syria or Mesopotamia. Antiochos II Theos 261-246 BC. Tetradrachm AR 30 mm, 17,05 g Diademed head of Antiochos II to right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ, Apollo seated left on omphalos, holding arrow in his right hand and resting his left on grounded bow; to outer right, Φ. Good Very Fine SC 577.1. Antiochos II Theos, the third ruler of the Seleucid Empire, reigned from 261 BC until his death in 246 BC. He inherited the throne from his father, Antiochos I Soter, and his epithet "Theos," meaning "God," was likely given to him by the people of Miletus after he freed them from the tyranny of a local ruler, reflecting the Hellenistic tendency to deify rulers. Antiochos II's reign was marked by ongoing conflict with the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, led by Ptolemy II Philadelphus. This period of hostilities, known as the Second Syrian War (260-253 BC), was part of the larger series of wars fought between the Seleucid and Ptolemaic empires over control of the territories in the eastern Mediterranean, particularly Coele-Syria. To strengthen political ties and secure peace with Egypt, Antiochos II married Ptolemy II's daughter, Berenice Syra, in 253 BC, after divorcing his first wife, Laodice I. However, after the death of Ptolemy II in 246 BC, Antiochos II returned to Laodice. This decision triggered a deadly conflict known as the "Laodicean War." Shortly after reconciling with Laodice, Antiochos II died under mysterious circumstances, widely believed to have been poisoned by Laodice. Following his death, a violent power struggle ensued between the supporters of his two wives, leading to significant instability in the Seleucid Empire. Antiochos II was succeeded by his son with Laodice, Seleukos II Kallinikos, but the ensuing conflict weakened the empire and allowed Ptolemaic forces to reclaim territories. His reign, while marked by some military successes, ultimately contributed to the internal discord that plagued the Seleucid dynasty in the following years.



68 Seleucid Kingdom. Lampsakos. Antiochos Hierax 242-227 BC. Tetradrachm AR 30 mm, 16,98 g Diademed head right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ, Apollo Delphios, testing arrow and placing hand on grounded bow, seated left on omphalos; long torch to inner left; in exergue, forepart of Pegasos left and monogram. Good Very Fine SC 849.2; HGC 9, 403c. Antiochos Hierax was a notable figure in the history of the Seleucid Empire, known for his role in the internal strife that weakened the empire during the 3rd century BC. He was the younger son of Antiochos II Theos and Laodice I, and the younger brother of Seleukos II Kallinikos, who became the ruler of the Seleucid Empire after their father's death in 246 BC. The name "Hierax," meaning "hawk," reflects his aggressive and ambitious nature. Antiochos Hierax is best known for his rebellion against his brother Seleukos II. Around 241 BC, during the Third Syrian War between the Seleucid Empire and the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, Antiochos Hierax took advantage of the conflict and declared himself independent, seizing control of Anatolia, the western part of the Seleucid Empire. His actions led to a prolonged civil war, which significantly weakened the empire. Antiochos Hierax formed alliances with the Galatians, a Celtic people who had settled in central Anatolia, and with other local powers to challenge his brother's authority. Despite initial successes, including defeating Seleukos II at the Battle of Ancyra in 239 BC, Antiochos Hierax's rule was unstable, and his alliances were fragile. Eventually, the tide turned against Hierax. His former allies, including the Galatians, turned against him, and he was forced to flee. His attempts to find refuge and regain power ultimately failed. Antiochos Hierax was captured and either killed or died in exile around 226 BC while trying to escape from his captors. His rebellion and the subsequent civil war significantly weakened the Seleucid Empire, contributing to the loss of territories and the erosion of central authority. Antiochos Hierax's actions are seen as a critical factor in the decline of Seleucid power in the years following his death.



69 Seleukid Kingdom. Antioch on the Orontes. Philip I Philadelphos 95-75 BC. Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 15,49 g Diademed head right; filleted border around / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ, Zeus seated to left, holding Nike in his right hand and scepter in his left; in inner left field, Δ; below throne, monogram; all within laurel wreath. Very Fine HGC 9, 1319; SC 2463.2c. 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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70 Seleukid Kingdom. Antioch on the Orontes. Philip I Philadelphos 95-75 BC. Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 15,22 g Diademed head right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ, Zeus Nikephoros seated left, monogram below throne, N in exergue, all within wreath. Good Very Fine SC 2463.3g; HGC 9, 1319.

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71 Seleucis and Pieria. Laodikeia ad Mare circa 78-16 BC. Dated CY 6=76/5 BC Tetradrachm AR 28 mm, 15,14 g Veiled, draped, and turreted bust of Tyche right / ΛΑΟΔΙΚΕΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΥ, Zeus Nikephoros seated left on throne, to inner left, ς (date), monogram beneath throne, ΘΕ in exergue, all within laurel wreath. Very Fine HGC 9, 1398.

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72 Phoenicia. Tyre circa 393-311 BC. Obol AR 8 mm, 0,58 g Dolphin to right / Owl standing to right, head facing, with crook and flail in background. Very Fine Cf. HGC 10, 329.

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73 Arabia. Southern. Himyar circa AD 100-120. Amdān Bayān Yahaqbiḍ Unit AR 15 mm, 1,44 g Bare head to right, within plain border terminated by arrowhead / Small head to right; YNF monogram in left field; South Arabian legend: 'MDN BYN (king's name) above, RYDN (mint) below, 'sceptre' symbol to right. Nearly Extremely Fine Huth 430-1 corr. (obv. border interrupted); SNG ANS 1582-94. The Himyarite Kingdom, located in ancient Arabia, was one of the most powerful and enduring states in the region, flourishing from around the 2nd century BC until its eventual decline in the 6th century AD. Situated in what is now Yemen, the Himyarite Kingdom played a crucial role in the trade networks that connected the Arabian Peninsula with the Mediterranean, Africa, and India. The kingdom controlled important trade routes, particularly those involved in the lucrative incense trade, which included frankincense and myrrh, highly valued in the ancient world. The Himyarites are known for their rich cultural heritage, including their distinctive coinage, which reflects a blend of local traditions and external influences. Himyarite coins were typically struck in silver and bronze and often featured inscriptions in the South Arabian script, a script that was unique to the region. One notable aspect of Himyarite coinage is its gradual shift from traditional South Arabian themes to incorporating elements from the wider Mediterranean and Persian worlds, reflecting the kingdom's extensive trade connections and interactions with other cultures. For example, some later Himyarite coins show clear influences from Roman and Sassanian coinage, with depictions of rulers and divine symbols that echo those found in these larger empires. The Himyarite Kingdom also played a significant role in the religious history of the Arabian Peninsula. Initially polytheistic, the Himyarites later converted to Judaism in the 4th century AD, a unique aspect of their history that distinguishes them from their neighbors. This conversion influenced their coinage, with some coins bearing inscriptions and symbols associated with Jewish beliefs. The kingdom's strategic location and control over key trade routes allowed it to accumulate wealth and power, but it also made it a target for conquest. The Himyarite Kingdom eventually fell to the Ethiopian Aksumite Empire in the early 6th century AD, and later, the region came under the influence of the expanding Islamic Caliphate.



74 Arabia. Southern. Himyar circa AD 100-120. Amdān Bayān Yahaqbiḍ Unit AR 15 mm, 1,20 g Bare head to right, within plain border terminated by arrowhead / Small head to right; YNF monogram in left field; South Arabian legend: 'MDN BYN (king's name) above, RYDN (mint) below, 'sceptre' symbol to right. Very Fine Huth 430-1 corr. (obv. border interrupted); SNG ANS 1582-94.

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75 Arabia. Southern. Himyar circa AD 200-300. Bucranium Series Unit AR 18 mm, 2,79 g Diademed male head to left; curved symbol of Almaqah to left, symbol of Athtar to right; disc-crescent of Dhat-Hamim above / Head of antelope facing; monogram to left, curved symbol of Almaqah to right; disc-crescent of Dhat-Hamim above. Very Fine Huth 302-3; SNG ANS 1503-13.

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76 Arabia. Southern. Himyar circa AD 200-300. Bucranium Series Unit AR 19 mm, 2,51 g Diademed male head to left; curved symbol of Almaqah to left, symbol of Athtar to right; disc-crescent of Dhat-Hamim above / Head of antelope facing; monogram to left, curved symbol of Almaqah to right; disc-crescent of Dhat-Hamim above. Very Fine Huth 302-3; SNG ANS 1503-13.

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77 Kings of Parthia. Rhagae. Mithradates II 123-88 BC. Drachm AR 22 mm, 4,21 g Diademed bust left / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ, archer (Arsakes I) seated right on throne, holding bow. Beautiful tone, Extremely Fine Sellwood 27.1; Shore 85; Sunrise 293. Mithradates II, also known as Mithradates the Great, was one of the most significant and powerful kings of the Parthian Empire, ruling from approximately 123 BC to 88 BC. His reign marked a high point in Parthian power and influence, as he successfully expanded the empire, stabilized its internal structure, and strengthened its position as a major force in the ancient Near East. Mithradates II came to power during a period of internal strife and external threats. He quickly proved to be a capable and ambitious ruler, securing the eastern borders of the empire by defeating the Scythians and other nomadic tribes, thereby safeguarding the Silk Road trade routes that were crucial to Parthian prosperity. His military successes extended to the west as well, where he regained control of Mesopotamia from the Seleucid Empire and expanded Parthian influence into Armenia and the Caucasus region. One of Mithradates II's most notable achievements was his diplomatic relations with the Roman Republic. He established the first formal contacts between the Parthians and Romans, setting the stage for centuries of interaction, both hostile and cooperative, between the two great powers. The meeting between Mithradates' envoy and the Roman general Lucius Cornelius Sulla in 96 BC marked the beginning of this complex relationship. Mithradates II is also known for his administrative reforms, which helped to solidify the Parthian state. He introduced a more centralized system of governance, which allowed the Parthians to better manage their vast and diverse empire. His coinage, which often featured his portrait with the characteristic Parthian tiara and an inscription of his titles, symbolized his authority and the stability he brought to the empire. Under Mithradates II, the Parthian Empire became a dominant force in the region, rivaling the power of Rome and other contemporary states. His reign is remembered as a golden age for Parthia, and he is often regarded as one of the greatest Parthian kings. After his death around 88 BC, the empire eventually faced challenges from both internal divisions and external threats, but the legacy of Mithradates II's rule endured, shaping the course of Parthian history for generations.



78 Kings of Parthia. Rhagae. Mithradates II 123-88 BC. Drachm AR 23 mm, 4,01 g Diademed bust left / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ, archer (Arsakes I) seated right on throne, holding bow. Attractively toned, Extremely Fine Sellwood 27.1; Shore 85; Sunrise 293.

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79 Kings of Parthia. Rhagae. Sinatrukes 93-69 BC. Drachm AR 21 mm, 3,87 g Diademed and draped bust of Sinatrukes to left, wearing tiara decorated with horn and stags / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΘΕΟΠΑΤΡΟΥ ΝΙΚΑΤΟΡΟΣ, archer (Arsakes I) seated right, holding bow. Very Fine Sellwood 33.4 ('Gotarzes I'); Shore 114 ('Gotarzes I'); Sunrise 302. Sinatrukes (also spelled Sinatruces or Sanatruces) was a king of the Parthian Empire who reigned from approximately 93 BC to 69 BC. His reign is notable for the difficult circumstances under which he came to power and the efforts he made to stabilize the empire during a period of internal strife and external threats. Sinatrukes was of royal Parthian blood, belonging to the Arsacid dynasty, but he spent much of his early life in exile. During this time, the Parthian Empire was beset by civil wars and conflicts over succession, as well as pressures from neighboring powers like the Scythians and the Romans. These internal divisions weakened the empire significantly. In the chaos following the death of King Mithradates II, the Parthian Empire became fragmented, with various contenders for the throne. Sinatrukes, who was in his late 80s at the time, was brought back from exile with the support of the Scythian tribes. Despite his advanced age, he was chosen as a unifying figure and installed as king around 93 BC, likely because of his noble lineage and his ability to command respect from various factions within the empire. Sinatrukes' reign was primarily focused on restoring order and stability to the Parthian Empire. He managed to reassert control over much of the empire, though his rule was constantly challenged by both internal rivals and external enemies. His efforts laid the groundwork for future consolidation under his successors. Despite the challenges he faced, Sinatrukes is remembered as a resilient and determined ruler who helped to hold the Parthian Empire together during a tumultuous period. He was succeeded by his son, Phraates III, who continued the work of stabilizing and strengthening the empire. Sinatrukes' reign, though not as illustrious as that of earlier Parthian kings like Mithradates II, was crucial in ensuring the continuity of the Arsacid dynasty and the survival of the Parthian state during a time of crisis.



80 Bactria. Greco-Baktrian Kingdom. Menander I Soter 155-130 BC. Drachm AR 19 mm, 2,51 g ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΜΕΝΑΝΔΡΟΥ, diademed heroic bust of Menander I to left, seen from behind, wearing aegis over shoulder and brandishing spear / 'Maharajasa tratarasa Menamdrasa' (in Karoshti), Athena advancing left, holding shield on left arm and brandishing thunderbolt with her right, to right, monogram. Good Very Fine Bopearachchi 7B; HGC 12, 187. Menander I Soter was one of the most prominent and successful rulers of the Indo-Greek Kingdom, reigning in the 2nd century BC (approximately 155-130 BC). He is one of the few Indo-Greek kings whose legacy extended beyond his military and political achievements, leaving a lasting cultural and religious impact on the regions he governed. Menander I, often referred to as Menander Soter, meaning "Menander the Savior," was a Greek king who ruled over a large territory that included parts of present-day Afghanistan, Pakistan, and northwestern India. He succeeded in expanding the Indo-Greek Kingdom to its greatest extent, establishing control over a vast and culturally diverse region. His conquests and rule are notable for the fusion of Greek and Indian cultures, which is reflected in the art, architecture, and coinage from his reign. Menander's rule is also significant for his association with Buddhism. According to ancient texts, particularly the "Milinda Panha" (The Questions of King Milinda), Menander is portrayed as a wise and inquisitive ruler who engaged in a philosophical dialogue with the Buddhist sage Nagasena. In these discussions, Menander asks profound questions about the nature of reality, life, and the self, demonstrating a deep interest in Buddhist teachings. According to some traditions, Menander even converted to Buddhism and became a patron of the religion, which helped spread Buddhism across his kingdom. Menander I issued a large number of coins, which are among the best-preserved artifacts of his reign. These coins often depict him wearing a diadem, symbolizing his royal status, and feature inscriptions in both Greek and Kharosthi, reflecting the bilingual and bicultural nature of his realm. The reverse sides of the coins typically show Greek deities like Athena, Nike, or Zeus, emphasizing the Hellenistic influence on his rule, while others depict Buddhist symbols such as the dharma wheel, highlighting his connection to Buddhism. Menander's death marked the beginning of the decline of the Indo-Greek Kingdom, but his legacy endured, particularly in the regions where Buddhism continued to flourish. He is remembered not only as a great conqueror but also as a ruler who embraced



81 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Byblos. Ptolemy I Soter (As satrap) 323-305 BC. In the name and types of Alexander III of Macedon Tetradrachm AR 27 mm, 16,74 g Head of Herakles to right, wearing lion skin headdress / Zeus Aëtophoros seated to left, holding sceptre; ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ to right, [OI] under throne, [B] in left field. Very Fine Price 3420 (Berytos); HGC 10, 103 (Berytos). Ptolemy I Soter, a key figure in the Hellenistic world, was one of Alexander the Great's most trusted generals and later became the founder of the Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt. Born around 367 BC, Ptolemy was a Macedonian nobleman and a close companion of Alexander, participating in his campaigns across the Persian Empire. After Alexander's death in 323 BC, his vast empire was divided among his generals, known as the Diadochi. Ptolemy seized control of Egypt, where he established himself as satrap and later declared himself king in 305 BC, founding the Ptolemaic dynasty that would rule Egypt for nearly three centuries. Ptolemy I proved to be a shrewd and effective ruler, consolidating his power in Egypt and expanding his influence across the eastern Mediterranean. He established Alexandria as the new capital, which quickly became a major cultural and intellectual center of the Hellenistic world. Ptolemy was also responsible for founding the famous Library of Alexandria, which became the greatest repository of knowledge in the ancient world. In addition to his administrative and cultural achievements, Ptolemy was a capable military leader, successfully defending Egypt against rival Diadochi and securing his kingdom's borders. He also promoted the cult of Alexander, presenting himself as the rightful heir to Alexander's legacy, which helped legitimize his rule. Ptolemy's reign marked the beginning of a stable and prosperous period for Egypt, during which it became one of the most powerful and wealthy states of the Hellenistic world. He ruled until his death in 282 BC, after which he was succeeded by his son, Ptolemy II Philadelphus. Ptolemy I was deified after his death, earning the title "Soter," meaning "Savior," reflecting his role in establishing the Ptolemaic dynasty and securing Egypt's position as a leading power in the ancient world.



82 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Alexandria. Ptolemy III Euergetes 246-221 BC. Bronze Æ 38 mm, 42,93 g Diademed head of Zeus Ammon to right, with ram's horn in his hair and over the diadem / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ, Eagle with closed wings standing left on thunderbolt, head right, filleted cornucopia over his shoulder; between eagle's legs, E. Very Fine SNG Copenhagen 220;. Svoronos 1166. Ptolemy III Euergetes, who ruled Egypt from 246 BC to 221 BC, was the third king of the Ptolemaic dynasty and one of its most successful and powerful rulers. His reign marked the height of Ptolemaic power and influence in the Hellenistic world. Ptolemy III, whose epithet "Euergetes" means "Benefactor," came to the throne after the death of his father, Ptolemy II Philadelphus. Early in his reign, he launched the Third Syrian War (also known as the Laodicean War) against the Seleucid Empire to avenge the murder of his sister Berenice Syra and her child, who had been killed in a dynastic struggle. Ptolemy III's campaign was highly successful; he managed to capture territories as far as Babylon and even reached the eastern borders of the Seleucid Empire. However, he eventually withdrew his forces, likely due to domestic issues or logistical challenges, but his gains solidified Egypt's status as a dominant power in the eastern Mediterranean. Ptolemy III is also noted for his contributions to the cultural and religious life of Egypt. He continued the patronage of the arts and sciences that his predecessors had established, further enhancing the Library of Alexandria and the associated Museum. His reign saw the continuation of the blending of Greek and Egyptian cultures, which had become a hallmark of Ptolemaic rule. One of Ptolemy III's most famous acts was the return of Egyptian religious artifacts that had been taken by the Persian king Cambyses during his conquest of Egypt nearly 300 years earlier. This act earned him immense popularity among his Egyptian subjects, and he was venerated for restoring the religious heritage of Egypt. Ptolemy III also made significant advances in domestic policy, focusing on improving the infrastructure of his kingdom, including enhancing the irrigation systems that were crucial for agriculture in Egypt. His reign was marked by economic prosperity, largely due to the expansion of trade networks and the stability he maintained in the region. Ptolemy III Euergetes was succeeded by his son, Ptolemy IV Philopator, after his death in 222 BC. His reign is often viewed as a golden age for the Ptolemaic Kingdom, characterized by military success, cultural achievements, and a strong, prosperous state.



83 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Alexandria. Ptolemy IV Philopator 222-205 BC. Drachm Æ 33 mm, 32,80 g Diademed head of Zeus-Ammon right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ, eagle with closed wings standing left on thunderbolt; filleted cornucopia to left, ΛΙ between legs. Very Fine Svoronos 1126; SNG Copenhagen 199-200. Ptolemy IV Philopator, who ruled Egypt from 221 BC to 205 BC, was the fourth king of the Ptolemaic dynasty. His reign marked the beginning of the decline of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, despite an initial military success that temporarily secured his position. Ptolemy IV inherited the throne from his father, Ptolemy III Euergetes, at a time when the Ptolemaic Kingdom was still a powerful state in the eastern Mediterranean. However, unlike his predecessors, Ptolemy IV was known more for his indulgent and decadent lifestyle than for strong leadership. His epithet "Philopator," meaning "Lover of his Father," was intended to emphasize his loyalty to his father's legacy, but his reign was marked by internal strife and weakening central authority. The most notable event of Ptolemy IV's reign was the Fourth Syrian War against the Seleucid Empire, led by Antiochos III the Great. Despite his personal disinterest in military affairs, Ptolemy IV's forces achieved a significant victory at the Battle of Raphia in 217 BC. This battle, one of the largest of the Hellenistic period, took place near modern-day Gaza and secured Egypt's control over Coele-Syria for a time. Ptolemy IV's army, which included a large contingent of native Egyptian soldiers, managed to defeat the Seleucid forces, reaffirming Ptolemaic dominance in the region. However, the reliance on native Egyptian troops during the Battle of Raphia had unforeseen consequences. Their increased military involvement and exposure to Greek military practices fostered a growing sense of Egyptian nationalism, which eventually contributed to internal unrest and rebellion against Ptolemaic rule. Ptolemy IV's reign was also marked by corruption and the growing influence of court favorites and powerful officials, such as his wife and sister Arsinoe III and the minister Sosibius. These figures effectively controlled the administration, leading to the weakening of royal authority and the neglect of crucial state affairs. Following Ptolemy IV's death in 204 BC, possibly under mysterious circumstances, his son Ptolemy V Epiphanes, who was only a child at the time, ascended to the throne. The power vacuum and instability that followed Ptolemy IV's death further contributed to the decline of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, as internal factions vied for control and external powers began to exploit the kingdom's weakened state. Overall, Ptolemy IV Philopator's reign



84 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Alexandria. Ptolemy IV Philopator 222-205 BC. Drachm Æ 33 mm, 33,06 g Diademed head of Zeus-Ammon right / $\text{ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ}$, eagle with closed wings standing left on thunderbolt; filleted cornucopia to left, ΛI between legs. Very Fine Svoronos 1126; SNG Copenhagen 199-200.

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85 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Alexandria. Ptolemy IV Philopator 222-205 BC. Drachm Æ 33 mm, 33,44 g Diademed head of Zeus-Ammon right / $\text{ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ}$, eagle with closed wings standing left on thunderbolt; filleted cornucopia to left, ΛI between legs. Very Fine Svoronos 1126; SNG Copenhagen 199-200.

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86 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Alexandria. Ptolemy IV Philopator 222-205 BC. Drachm Æ 33 mm, 30,27 g Diademed head of Zeus-Ammon right / $\text{ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ}$, eagle with closed wings standing left on thunderbolt; filleted cornucopia to left, ΛI between legs. Very Fine Svoronos 1126; SNG Copenhagen 199-200.

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87 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Alexandria. Ptolemy IV Philopator 222-205 BC. Drachm Æ 33 mm, 33,09 g Diademed head of Zeus-Ammon right / $\text{ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ}$, eagle with closed wings standing left on thunderbolt; filleted cornucopia to left, ΛI between legs. Very Fine Svoronos 1126; SNG Copenhagen 199-200.

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88 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Alexandria. Ptolemy IX to Ptolemy XII 116-51 BC. Bronze Æ 21 mm, 9,07 g Diademed head of Zeus-Ammon right / $\text{ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ}$, two eagles standing left on thunderbolt; cornucopia to left. Very Fine Svoronos 1426 (Joint reign of Ptolemy VI and VIII); SNG Copenhagen 311-4 (same).

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89 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Alexandria. Ptolemy IX to Ptolemy XII 116-51 BC. Bronze Æ 21 mm, 8,20 g Diademed head of Zeus-Ammon right / ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, two eagles standing left on thunderbolt; cornucopia to left. Good Very Fine Svoronos 1426 (Joint reign of Ptolemy VI and VIII); SNG Copenhagen 311-4 (same).

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90 Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. Alexandria. Ptolemy IX to Ptolemy XII 116-51 BC. Bronze Æ 20 mm, 8,10 g Diademed head of Zeus-Ammon right / ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, two eagles standing left on thunderbolt; cornucopia to left. Good Very Fine Svoronos 1426 (Joint reign of Ptolemy VI and VIII); SNG Copenhagen 311-4 (same).

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91 Thrace. Deultum. Maximus, Caesar AD 236-238. Bronze Æ 25 mm, 7,91 g C IVL VER MAXIMVS CES (sic), bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust right / COL FL PAC DEVL[T], Nemesis standing facing, head left, holding scales and rod; to left at her feet, wheel. Very Fine RPC VI, 831 (temporary); Jurukova, Deultum 211; Draganov, Deultum 815-7a. Gaius Julius Verus Maximus, commonly known simply as Maximus, was born around AD 217 and was the son of Maximinus Thrax, the first emperor to rise from the ranks of the military without a prior senatorial career. Maximus was elevated to the rank of Caesar by his father shortly after Maximinus became emperor in AD 235, making him the heir to the throne. As Caesar, Maximus was given certain responsibilities and was expected to assist in governing the empire, although his father held the ultimate authority as Augustus. However, Maximus's role was largely symbolic, as he was still quite young when he was given the title. Maximus's life was cut short in AD 238 during the year of upheaval known as the "Year of the Six Emperors." After a series of revolts against Maximinus Thrax's harsh rule, the Senate declared Maximinus and his son Maximus public enemies. In the ensuing chaos, Maximinus and Maximus were both assassinated by their own soldiers at Aquileia during a siege. This marked the end of their brief and tumultuous rule.



92 Thrace. Deultum. Philip II, as Caesar AD 244-246. Bronze Æ 18 mm, 2,76 g M IVL PHILIPPVS CAES, laureate head right / C F P D, beehive on base. Very Fine Jurukova 505B. Philip II, also known as Philip the Younger, was the son and heir of the Roman Emperor Philip the Arab and Marcia Otacilia Severa. When his father ascended to the throne in AD 244, Philip II was merely seven years old and was appointed as caesar, a title signifying his role as the designated successor to the emperor. In AD 247, at the age of ten, Philip II became consul, an esteemed position in the Roman government. Later, his father elevated him to the rank of augustus, making him a co-ruler alongside Philip the Arab. During their joint reign, a significant event occurred—the celebration of the thousandth anniversary of the founding of Rome. To mark this milestone, grand games and spectacles were organized for the festivities. However, the reign of Philip II and his father faced challenges. According to ancient historians, both Philip the Arab and Philip II were killed in battle by Decius in AD 249. Modern historians, however, provide a different account, suggesting that when news of Philip the Arab's death reached Rome, Philip II was murdered by the Praetorian Guard at the tender age of twelve.



93 Thrace. Hadrianopolis. Caracalla AD 198-217. Bronze Æ 29 mm, 14,35 g AVT K M AVP CEV ANTONINOC, laureate head right / ΑΔΡΙΑΝΟΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ, Sol advancing left, holding whip with left hand and raising right arm. Very Fine Not in the standard references. Apparently unpublished. 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.



94 Thrace. Hadrianopolis. Gordian III AD 238-244. Bronze Æ 27 mm, 10,35 g ΑΥΤ Κ Μ ΑΝΤ ΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟC ΑΥ, laureate and draped bust right / ΑΔΡΙΑΝ-Ο-Π-ΟΛΕΙ-ΤΩΝ, tetrastyle temple with peaked roof and four steps up to statue of Tyche standing within, holding rudder in right and cornucopiae in left hand. Very Fine Mionnet 789; SNG Cop. 590; BMC 41. Gordian III was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 238 to 244. He was born in AD 225 and became emperor at a young age after the death of his grandfather, Gordian I, and his father, Gordian II, during a revolt against the emperor Maximinus Thrax. As emperor, Gordian III was initially under the influence of his mother and advisors, but he eventually gained more independence as he matured. He was known for his handsome and youthful appearance, which earned him popularity among the Roman people. During his reign, Gordian III faced military conflicts, including campaigns against the Persians and Germanic tribes. His military commander, Timesitheus, played a crucial role in managing these campaigns and preserving the stability of the empire. However, in AD 244, Gordian III's reign came to an abrupt end when he died under suspicious circumstances while on a campaign in the East. His death marked the rise of Philip the Arab as the next Roman emperor.

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95 Thrace. Pautalia. Caracalla AD 198-217. Bronze Æ 29 mm, 14,63 g ΑΥΤ Κ Μ ΑΥΡΗ ΑΝΤΩΝΕΙΝΟC, laureate head of Caracalla to right / ΟΥΛΠΙΑC ΠΑΥΤΑΛΙΑC, coiled serpent (Glykon) with nimbed and bearded head to right on low base. Very Fine Varbanov 5206.

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96 Thrace. Philippopolis. Hadrian AD 117-138. Bronze Æ 20 mm, 4,89 g A[Δ]PIANOC CEBACTOC, bare head right / ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ, Ares standing left, holding patera and spear; shield to right. Very Fine RPC III 750. Hadrian was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 117 to 138. He's often regarded as one of the "Five Good Emperors" of Rome due to his effective rule and significant contributions. During his reign, Hadrian focused on strengthening the Roman Empire. He improved its stability and security by reinforcing its borders and implementing legal reforms. His leadership brought about a period of consolidation and growth. Hadrian was also a notable patron of architecture. He is famous for overseeing the construction of Hadrian's Wall in northern Britannia, a massive defensive structure that marked the empire's northern limit. Another architectural marvel he's associated with is the Pantheon in Rome, a remarkable building that showcases his commitment to artistic excellence. One of his most impressive achievements was Hadrian's Villa, an expansive complex near Rome that showcased his architectural vision. This villa was a blend of stunning palaces, lush gardens, and diverse architectural styles that reflected the empire's multicultural influence. Hadrian had a curious and explorative nature. He embarked on extensive travels across the empire, not only for administrative purposes but also to learn about different cultures. This openness to diverse influences enriched Roman society. His relationship with Antinous, a young Greek man, was another intriguing aspect of his life. After Antinous's untimely death, Hadrian immortalized him through monuments and statues, showcasing his emotional depth. In addition to his architectural and cultural interests, Hadrian introduced legal reforms to ensure fairness and uniformity in the empire's legal practices. His progressive policies aimed to create a just society. Hadrian's legacy lived on through his adoption of Antoninus Pius as his successor, ensuring a seamless transition of power and the continuation of his policies. His reign left an indelible mark on Roman history, symbolizing a period of stability, artistic achievement, and a thirst for understanding the world.



97 Thrace. Philippopolis. Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Bronze Æ 20 mm, 5,89 g AVT AI AΔPIA ANTΩNEINOC, laureate head right / ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ, Concordia standing left with patera and cornucopiae. Very Fine Mousmov 5112. Antoninus Pius, also known as Titus Aurelius Fulvus Boionius Arrius Antoninus, was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 138 to 161. He was known for his peaceful and benevolent reign, earning him the title of "Pius," which means "dutiful" or "faithful." Antoninus Pius focused on administrative efficiency and maintaining the stability of the Roman Empire. He was praised for his generosity and philanthropy, as he provided financial assistance to orphaned children and alleviated the suffering of those affected by natural disasters. His reign is often regarded as a time of prosperity and tranquility in the Roman Empire.

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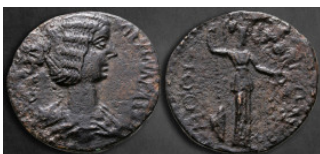
98 Thrace. Philippopolis. Caracalla as Caesar AD 196-198. Bronze Æ 20 mm, 4,17 g M AV KAI ANTΩNEIN, bareheaded, draped and cuirassed bust right / ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ, crescent and four stars. Very Fine Varbanov 1545 var. (rev. legend).

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99 Thrace. Trajanopolis. Caracalla AD 198-217. Bronze Æ 16 mm, 3,63 g AYT K M AYP CE ANTΩNEINOC, laureate head right / ΤΡΑΙΑΝΟΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ, bust of Serapis right, wearing kalathos. Very Fine Varbanov 2791.

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100 Messenia. Mothone. Julia Domna. Augusta AD 193-217. Bronze Æ 22 mm, 4,51 g Draped bust right / Athena standing right, holding spear and patera; shield at side. Very Fine BMC 2; BCD Peloponnesos -; SNG Copenhagen 539.

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101 Mysia. Lampsakos. Geta AD 198-211. Bronze Æ 15 mm, 2,51 g AV [KA ΠΟ ΣΕΠΤΙ] ΓΕΤΑC, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / ΛΑΜ[ΨΑΚΗΝ]ΩΝ, Ithyphallic Priapus standing left. Nearly Very Fine SNG BN -; SNG Copenhagen -; SNG von Aulock -; BMC -; SNG Leypold -; Weber -. In former Numismatik Naumann auction 138, lot 313. Publius Septimius Geta, commonly known as Geta, was a Roman Emperor who experienced a brief and tumultuous reign during the 2nd century AD. Born in AD 189, he was the younger son of Emperor Septimius Severus and Julia Domna. In AD 198 CE, Geta was raised to Caesar and he received the title of Augustus in 209. However, Geta's time as co-emperor was marred by fierce animosity and rivalry with his brother and also co-emperor Caracalla. Their father, Septimius Severus, tried to mediate between the two, but their mutual dislike persisted. After their fathers death, the situation escalated to a tragic climax in AD 211. During an intense argument, Caracalla ordered the assassination of his younger brother in the very presence of their mother, Julia Domna. Geta was ruthlessly killed, and his body was denied the customary funeral rites and honors. In the aftermath of Geta's death, Caracalla launched a campaign to erase his brother's memory and any reminders of his brief reign. He ordered a damnatio memoriae, which sought to obliterate Geta's name and image from public records and monuments. Many of Geta's supporters were also targeted and killed. As a result of Caracalla's ruthless actions, much of what is known about Geta comes from inscriptions and sources that managed to survive the attempt to erase his memory. Geta's tragic fate stands as a stark example of the power struggles and political intrigues that defined the Roman Empire during this era.



102 Aiolis. Aigai. Messalina, Augusta AD 41-48. Bronze Æ 17 mm, 3,57 g MECA[ΛE]INA CEBACTH, draped bust right / [A]IΓAEΩ[N], Zeus standing facing, head left, holding eagle and sceptre. Very Fine RPC 2430; SNG Cop 23. Messalina Augusta was a Roman empress, the third wife of Emperor Claudius. She was born Valeria Messalina around AD 25 and was known for her controversial and scandalous behavior, which made her a prominent figure in Roman history. Messalina married Claudius around AD 38, and together they had two children, a son named Britannicus and a daughter named Octavia. Her marriage to Claudius was marked by a series of political intrigues and manipulations, as she sought to consolidate her power and influence within the Roman court. One of the most infamous aspects of Messalina's life was her reputation for debauchery and her involvement in numerous scandals. Ancient historians, particularly Tacitus and Suetonius, depict her as engaging in extramarital affairs, conspiring against political rivals, and generally indulging in a lifestyle that was considered scandalous by contemporary standards. In 48 AD, Messalina's downfall came when she was accused of conspiring to overthrow Claudius and replace him with a new emperor. Claudius was persuaded by his advisors to have her executed, and she was killed in the same year. After her death, her memory was condemned, and her name was often used to symbolize female moral depravity and political scheming in Roman historical writings.

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103 Ionia. Ephesos. Claudius circa AD 41-54. Struck circa 50-51 Cistophoric Tetradrachm AR 26 mm, 10,19 g TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P X IMP XIIX, laureate head of Claudius right / AGRIPPINA AVGVSTA CAESARIS AVG, draped bust of Agrippina Junior right. Very Fine C 2; BMC 234; RIC 117; CBN 295; RPC I 2223. Rare. This issue is from the small mintage of eastern coinage of a dynastic nature including both Agrippina and Nero.

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104 Ionia. Ephesos. Hadrian circa AD 117-138. Cistophoric Tetradrachm AR 28 mm, 10,91 g HADRIANVS AVGVSTVS P P, bare head of Hadrian to right. / COS III, Aesculapius standing front, head to left, leaning right on serpent-entwined staff. Near Extremely Fine. Metcalf 20; RPC III online 1348.15. Aesculapius, known as Asclepius in Greek mythology, was the god of medicine and healing in both ancient Roman and Greek cultures. He was the son of Apollo and the mortal Coronis. According to myth, Apollo saved him from his mother's womb after she died, which highlighted his divine connection to healing. Aesculapius was celebrated for his exceptional healing abilities, and his worship involved a unique blend of spiritual and medical practices. Temples dedicated to him, called Asclepiia, functioned as ancient hospitals where people sought cures for their ailments. These temples were staffed by priests and physicians who used both traditional remedies and rituals. He is often depicted with a staff around which a single serpent is coiled. This staff, known as the Rod of Asclepius, remains a symbol of medicine today. Although it's sometimes confused with the caduceus, which features two serpents and is associated with Hermes, the Rod of Asclepius is specifically linked to medical practice. The legacy of Aesculapius reflects the ancient belief in the combination of divine and practical approaches to health. His influence underscores the historical integration of spiritual beliefs with the early practice of medicine.

1'000



105 Lydia. Sardeis. Pseudo-autonomous issue. Time of Vespasian AD 69-79. Markellos, proconsul for the second time and Ti. Kl. Phileinos, strategos Bronze Æ 19 mm, 4,32 g Ε[ΠΙ] Τ[Ι] ΚΛ[Α] ΦΙΛΕΙΝΟΥ C[ΤΡΑ], helmeted and draped bust of Athena left, wearing aegis / ΕΠΙ ΜΑΡ[ΚΕΛΛΟΥ] ΚΑΡΔΙΑΝΩΝ, tetrastyle temple; TO - B across fields. Good Very Fine RPC II 1306; GRPC 277; SNG Copenhagen 505.

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106 Lydia. Tripolis. Pseudo-autonomous issue AD 100-300. Bronze Æ 24 mm, 9,04 g ΘΕΑ ΡΩΜΗ, draped bust of Roma right / ΤΡΙΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ, Dionysos, naked, standing left, drapery over both arms, holding kantharos and thyrsos. Nearly Extremely Fine BMC 8; SNG Aulock 3303; SNG Cop 715.

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107 Pisidia. Antioch. Trajan Decius AD 249-251. Bronze Æ 25 mm, 8,68 g IMP CAES C MESS Q DECIO TRAI AV, radiate and cuirassed bust right / ANTIOCHI COL CA, vexillum surmounted by eagle, between two standards; S R in exergue. Very Fine RPC IX, 1260; Krzyżanowska I/1.

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108 Pisidia. Antioch. Volusian AD 251-253. Bronze Æ 21 mm, 4,48 g IMP CAE RASLLOVNAHI R, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right / ANTIOCHI O CL SR, vexillum surmounted by eagle between two standards. Very Fine SNG France 1294-96. Volusianus, whose full name was Gaius Vibius Volusianus, was a Roman emperor who co-ruled with his father, Trebonianus Gallus, during the "Crisis of the Third Century." He was born in AD 207. In AD 251, Trebonianus Gallus became emperor after the death of Decius. He appointed his son Volusianus as co-emperor to solidify his rule and secure succession. Volusianus' reign was marked by economic challenges and military conflicts, including invasions by the Goths and the rebellion of the usurper Aemilianus. In AD 253, Aemilianus was proclaimed emperor by the Roman army in Moesia, and Trebonianus Gallus and Volusianus were killed by their own troops. Volusianus' short reign left a limited impact on the Roman Empire, but his co-rule with his father is a notable aspect of the turbulent "Crisis of the Third Century" period. His untimely death further contributed to the instability of the Roman Empire during that era.

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109 Cappadocia. Caesarea - Eusebeia. Nero, with Statilia Messalina AD 54-68. Didrachm AR 21 mm, 7,28 g NER[O CLAVD] DIVI [CLAVD F CAESAR] AVG GERMANI, laureate head of Nero to right / [AGRI]PPINA AVGVSTA MATER A[VGVSTI]TI, draped bust of Agrippina to right. Nearly Very Fine RPC I 3632; RIC I 607. Statilia Messalina was a Roman noblewoman who lived during the 1st century AD. She became the third wife of the Roman Emperor Nero, marrying him around AD 66 after the death of his second wife, Poppaea Sabina. Statilia Messalina was of noble birth, belonging to the gens Statilia, a prominent Roman family. Her first marriage was to Marcus Julius Vestinus Atticus, a consul who was forced to commit suicide by Nero, likely to clear the way for her marriage to the emperor. Messalina is often remembered for her beauty and poise, and unlike Nero's previous wives, she managed to survive the turbulent political environment of his reign. After Nero's death in AD 68, during the chaotic period known as the Year of the Four Emperors, she was spared by his successors, possibly due to her discretion and lack of involvement in the conspiracies and plots that characterized Nero's later years. Little is recorded about her life after Nero's death, and it is believed that she lived out her remaining years in relative obscurity.

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110 Commagene. Samosata. Hadrian AD 117-138. Bronze Æ 16 mm, 3,54 g AΔPIANOC CEBACTOC, laureate head right / C - A, E - T, Θ - N, winged caduceus. Very Fine RPC III 3415.

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111 Anonymous 225-214 BC. Rome Didrachm AR 23 mm, 6,53 g Laureate head of Janus / Jupiter standing in galloping quadriga driven by Victory to right, holding sceptre and reins, brandishing thunderbolt overhead; ROMA incuse on tablet below. Pleasant tone, Near Extremely Fine Crawford 28/3; BMCRR Romano-Campanian 78-99; RSC 23. In the annals of Roman numismatics, long before the establishment of the denarius as the standard silver coinage, the Romans had occasionally issued silver didrachms, beginning around 326/5 B.C. These early silver coins were not part of a continuous series but rather appeared sporadically, their designs reflecting the episodic circumstances under which they were minted. The culmination of these didrachm issues is best exemplified by the quadrigatus, a coinage that stands out as the most substantial and intricate among the early Roman silver series. Unlike the relatively modest outputs of earlier didrachms, the quadrigatus represented Rome's first significant foray into large-scale silver production. It was minted in vast quantities across several mints over a span of approximately thirteen years, commencing around 225 B.C. Initially, the quadrigati may have been struck in limited numbers, adhering to the precedent set by preceding didrachm issues. However, the scope of production expanded dramatically following Rome's declaration of war against Carthage in the spring of 218 B.C. Although the precise chronology of Roman coinage during the Second Punic War remains uncertain, it is generally accepted that between c.214 and 212 B.C., the denarius replaced the quadrigatus. This transition marked a pivotal shift in Roman monetary policy with far-reaching consequences. The designs featured on the quadrigatus coinage are particularly noteworthy. The obverse of the coin depicts a Janiform male head, crowned with a laurel wreath. While this dual-faced image is often identified as the god Janus, the youthful, clean-shaven depiction has led many scholars to suggest that it may instead represent the Dioscuri, Castor and Pollux, presented in an unorthodox manner. Nevertheless, a youthful Janus cannot be entirely ruled out, as earlier Roman didrachms portray other deities, such as Mars, in both mature, bearded forms (Cr. 13/1) and as clean-shaven youths (Cr. 25/1 and 27/1). This diversity in portrayal is paralleled by the varied representations of Heracles on Greek coinage. On the reverse, the coin bears the inscription ROMA, positioned beneath a dynamic quadriga scene, which gives the quadrigatus its distinctive name. *quadrigati nummi*, as referenced by Livy in his



112 Anonymous circa 225-217 BC. Rome Grave Sextans Æ 32 mm, 37,87 g Head of Mercury to left, wearing winged petasus; two pellets (mark of value) below / Prow of galley to right; two pellets (mark of value) below. Nearly Very Fine ICC 82; Crawford 35/5; Haeblerlin pl. 18, 10-21; HN Italy 341

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113 circa 214-208 BC. Sicilian mint Sextans Æ 24 mm, 7,91 g Head of Mercury to right, wearing winged petasos; two pellets (mark of value) above / ROMA, prow of galley to right; stalk of grain above, two pellets (mark of value) below. Very Fine Crawford 42/3; Sydenham -; BMCRR -; RBW 143.

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114 Anonymous 214-213 BC. Rome Quinarius AR 15 mm, 1,93 g Helmeted head of Roma to right; V (mark of value) behind / The Dioscuri, each holding spear, riding to right; ROMA in linear frame below. Very Fine Crawford 44/6.

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115 211-208 BC. Sicilian mint Sextans Æ 20 mm, 4,92 g Head of Mercury to right, wearing winged petasos; two pellets (mark of value) above / Prow of galley to right; stalk of grain above, K[A] (ligate) to right, ROMA below. Good Very Fine Crawford 69/6a; Sydenham 310d; RBW 293.

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116 Anonymous after 211 BC. Rome Quadrans Æ 22 mm, 7,47 g Head of Hercules to right, wearing lion skin headdress; three pellets (mark of value) to left / Prow of galley to right; three pellets (mark of value) below, ROMA above. Very Fine Crawford 56/5; Sydenham 143c; BMCRR Rome 255; RBW 209.

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117 Star series 206-195 BC. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,61 g Helmeted head of Roma right; X (mark of value) behind / The Dioscuri, each holding spear, on horseback right; two stars above, larger star below; ROMA in exergue. Very Fine Crawford 113/1; RSC 20gg.

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118 C. Maianus 153 BC. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,62 g
Helmeted head of Roma right; mark of value to left / C MAIANI,
Victory driving biga right, holding whip and reins; ROMA in
exergue. Good Very Fine Crawford 203/1a.

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119 C. Renius 138 BC. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,89 g
Helmeted head of Roma right; X (mark of value) behind / Juno
Caprotina driving biga of goats right, holding whip, reins and
sceptre; C RENI below, ROMA in exergue. Very Fine Crawford
231/1; RSC Renia 1.

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120 C. Servilius M.f 136 BC. Rome Denarius AR 20 mm, 3,77 g
Helmeted head of Roma to right; wreath and mark of value
behind, ROMA below / The Dioscuri galloping in opposite
directions, heads reverted, holding spears; two stars above,
C•SERVEILI• M•F in exergue. Good Very Fine Crawford 239/1;
BMCRR Italy 540; RSC Servilia 1.

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121 M. Marcius Mn. F circa 134 BC. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm,
3,92 g Helmeted head of Roma to right; modius behind, mark of
value beneath chin / Victory driving biga to right, holding whip
and reins; M MARC ROMA (partially ligate) in two lines divided by
two stalks of grain below. Attractive light cabinet tone, Near Mint
State Crawford 245/1; BMCRR Rome 1008; Sydenham 500; RSC
Marcia 8. Ex Roma Numismatics Ltd, E-Sale 105, 19 January 2023,
lot 697.

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122 M. Porcius Laeca 125 BC. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,88 g
LAECA, helmeted head of Roma to right; mark of value before /
Libertas, holding pileus, driving quadriga to right, crowned by
Victory flying to left above; M•PORC below, ROMA in exergue.
Very Fine Crawford 270/1; BMCRR Rome 1023; RSC Porcia 3.

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123 P. Porcius Laeca 110-109 BC. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,96 g Helmeted head of Roma right; [ROMA] above; P LAECA behind; X (mark of value) below chin / Roman warrior standing left, placing his hand above the head of a citizen to left; to right, lictor standing left; [PROVOCO] in exergue. Very Fine Crawford 301/1; Sydenham 571; Porcia 4; RBW -.

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124 C. P. Malleolus, A. Postumius Sp. f. Albinus and L. Caecilius L. f. Q. n. Metellus 96 BC. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,93 g Laureate head of Apollo right / [C]•MALL Roma seated l. on shields, holding sceptre, crowned by Victory standing behind her; in exergue, ROMA in exergue. Very Fine Babelon Poblizia 4; Sydenham 614; Crawford 335/2; RBW 1202.

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125 L. Calpurnius Piso Frugi 90 BC. Rome Denarius AR 20 mm, 4,05 g Laureate head of Apollo to right; XXXVIII behind / Horseman galloping to right, holding palm branch and reins; XCVI (control numeral) above, L•PISO•FRVGI and monogram in two lines below. Nearly Extremely Fine Crawford 340/1; cf. BMCRR Rome 1923 (different control numerals); RSC Calpurnia 11.

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126 L. Titurius L.f. Sabinus 89 BC. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,95 g Bearded head of the Sabine king Tatius right; SABINVS downwards behind, palm branch below chin, A•PV before / Tarpeia buried to waist in shields, with raised hands as she tries to thrust off two soldiers who are about to cast their shields at her; [star in crescent above], L•TITVRI in exergue. Very Fine Crawford 344/2c; BMCRR Rome 2326; RSC Tituria 5.

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127 M. Porcius Cato 89 BC. Rome Quinarius AR 14 mm, 2,18 g Head of Liber to right, wearing ivy-wreath; M•CATO (ligate) behind, control letter E below / Victory seated to right, holding patera and palm-branch over left shoulder; VICTRIX (ligate) in exergue. Good Very Fine Crawford 343/2b; RSC Porcia 7a; King 46. Ex Naville Numismatics Ltd., Auction 75, 31 July 2022, lot 393.

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128 Q. Antonius Balbus 83-82 BC. Rome Serrate Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,80 g S • C, laureate head of Jupiter right; B• below chin / [Q] ANTO BALB [PR], Victory, holding wreath, palm frond, and reins, driving galloping quadriga right. Good Very Fine Crawford 364/1c; Sydenham 742a; Antonia 1b; RBW -.

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129 C. Marius C.f. Capito 81 BC. Rome Serrate Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,87 g C • MARI • C • F • CAPIT • XXXI, draped bust of Ceres / Ploughman with yoke of oxen to left; XXXI above, S•C above butterfly in exergue. Good Very Fine Babelon Maria 8; Sydenham 744a; RBW-; Crawford 378/1b. Ex Astarte sale XX, 2009, 105.

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130 Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius 81 BC. Uncertain mint in northern Italy Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,48 g Diademed head of Pietas right; to right, stork standing right / Q C M PI, elephant walking left. Good Very Fine Crawford 374/1; Sydenham 750; Caecilia 43; RBW 1396.

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131 Julius Caesar 49-48 BC. Military mint travelling with Caesar in North Africa. Fourreè Denarius 18 mm, 1,63 g Elephant advancing right, trampling on serpent; CAESAR in exergue / Emblems of the pontificate: simpulum, aspergillum, securis (surmounted by wolf's head), and apex. Nearly Very Fine Crawford 443/1; RSC 49. Julius Caesar, born Gaius Julius Caesar in 100 BC, was one of Rome's most famous and influential leaders. He was a military general, statesman, and key figure in the events that led to the downfall of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire. Caesar's early career saw him climb the political ladder, holding various offices such as quaestor, aedile, and praetor, and he became widely known for his military conquests, particularly in Gaul (modern-day France and Belgium), which he fully subjugated during his campaigns from 58 to 50 BC. Caesar's growing power and influence sparked fear and jealousy among many in the Roman Senate, especially figures like Pompey the Great, once his ally, who became his rival. This tension led to the outbreak of a civil war in 49 BC when Caesar famously crossed the Rubicon River with his army, a direct challenge to the Senate's authority, signaling the start of the conflict. After emerging victorious in the civil war, Caesar assumed control as a dictator, eventually being named "dictator for life" in 44 BC. During his rule, Caesar enacted a series of significant reforms, including the Julian calendar's introduction, which more closely aligned the calendar year with the solar year. However, his concentration of power and the perception that he aimed to establish a monarchy led to his assassination on the Ides of March (March 15), 44 BC. A group of senators, including his close friend Brutus, conspired and stabbed him to death in the Senate, an event that sent shockwaves through Rome. Caesar's assassination led to another series of civil wars, ultimately resulting in the rise of his adopted heir, Octavian (later known as Augustus), and the transition of Rome from Republic to Empire. Julius Caesar's legacy is profound, with his life and death profoundly shaping Roman history and leaving an indelible mark on the Western world. His name, "Caesar," became synonymous with rulership, giving rise to titles like "Kaiser" in Germany and "Tsar" in Russia.



132 C. Antius C. f. Restio 47 BC. Rome Denarius AR 20 mm, 4,01 g [R]EST[IO], bare head right / C•ANTIVS•C•F•, Hercules advancing right, holding club and trophy. Extremely Fine Crawford 455/1a; CRI 34.

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133 T. Carisius 46 BC. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,87 g Head of Sibyl Herophile right / T•CARISIVS, Sphinx crouching right; III•VIR in exergue Very Fine Crawford 464/1; CRI 69; Sydenham 983a; Carisia 11.

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134 Marc Antony 32-31 BC. Military mint moving with M. Antony Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,56 g ANT AVG III VIR RPC, praetorian galley to right / LEG VI, Aquila between two standards. Extremely Fine, Toned RSC 33; Crawford 544/19; Sydenham 1223.

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135 Augustus 27 BC-AD 14. Lugdunum (Lyon) Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,58 g CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F PATER PATRIAE, laureate head of Augustus to right / AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT / C L CAESARES, Caius and Lucius standing facing, each togate and resting hand on shield; behind each shield a spear; between them, simpulum and lituus. Good Very Fine RIC 207. Augustus, born Gaius Octavius Thurinus in 63 BC, was the first Roman emperor and one of the most significant figures in Roman history. He was the grand-nephew and adopted heir of Julius Caesar, who posthumously named him his successor in his will. After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Octavian, as he was then known, quickly positioned himself as a central figure in Roman politics. Following Caesar's death, Augustus formed the Second Triumvirate in 43 BC with Mark Antony and Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, a powerful alliance that sought to defeat Caesar's assassins and take control of Rome. This period was marked by proscriptions and political purges, as the triumvirs eliminated their rivals. The triumvirate eventually dissolved due to internal conflicts, leading to a power struggle between Octavian and Mark Antony. This struggle culminated in the Battle of Actium in 31 BC, where Octavian's forces decisively defeated Antony and Cleopatra, the queen of Egypt. Following their defeat, both Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide, leaving Octavian as the unchallenged ruler of Rome. In 27 BC, Octavian was granted the title "Augustus" by the Senate, marking the beginning of the Roman Empire and the end of the Roman Republic. As the first emperor, Augustus established a new political order that maintained the outward appearance of the Republic while concentrating power in his hands. He implemented extensive reforms, reorganizing the military, the administration, and the tax system, and initiated an era of relative peace and stability known as the Pax Romana, which lasted for over two centuries. Augustus also undertook significant building projects in Rome, famously claiming to have found the city made of brick and left it made of marble. His reign saw the flourishing of Roman literature and culture, with figures like Virgil, Horace, and Livy producing some of their greatest works under his patronage. Augustus ruled for over four decades until his death in AD 14 at the age of 75. His legacy as Rome's first emperor and the architect of the Roman Empire remained profound, setting a standard for his successors and establishing a dynastic line that included emperors like Tiberius, Caligula, and Nero. Augustus was deified after his death, worshipped as a god by subsequent generations, and his reign marked a pivotal



136 Augustus 27 BC-AD 14. Lugdunum (Lyon) Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,70 g AVGVSTVS DIVI F, laureate head right / IMP XII/ ACT, Apollo Citharoedus of Actium standing right, holding lyre with his left hand and plectrum in his right. Very Fine RIC 193a; Cohen 163. The Apollo Citharoedus of Actium refers to a statue or representation of the god Apollo depicted as a citharoedus, a term used to describe a musician who plays the cithara, an ancient Greek stringed instrument similar to a lyre. This particular depiction of Apollo is significant because of its association with the Battle of Actium, a decisive naval battle fought in 31 BC between the forces of Octavian (later Augustus) and the combined forces of Mark Antony and Cleopatra. The Battle of Actium, which took place off the coast of western Greece near the promontory of Actium, was a turning point in Roman history, leading to Octavian's victory and the subsequent establishment of the Roman Empire under his rule as Augustus. Before the battle, Octavian is said to have received a favorable omen from Apollo, whom he revered as his patron deity. The association with Apollo was politically significant, as Octavian sought to align himself with the god's attributes of harmony, order, and victory, contrasting himself with Mark Antony, who was more closely associated with the Egyptian goddess Isis through his alliance with Cleopatra. In the aftermath of the victory, Augustus celebrated Apollo's role in his triumph by commissioning a temple dedicated to Apollo on the site of Actium. This temple housed a statue of Apollo Citharoedus, emphasizing the god's role as a cultural and civilizing force. The statue depicted Apollo in a serene and majestic manner, holding a cithara, symbolizing not only his connection to music and the arts but also the harmony and order that Augustus claimed to have restored to the Roman state.



137 Agrippa 12 BC. Struck under Caligula 37-41 AD. Rome As Æ 28 mm, 10,24 g M AGRIPPA L F COS III, head left, wearing rostral crown / Neptune standing left, holding small dolphin and trident; S - C across fields. Good Very Fine RIC² 58 (Caligula). Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa, born around 64 or 63 BC, was a Roman statesman and military leader closely associated with Augustus, the first Roman emperor. Rising from relatively humble origins, Agrippa distinguished himself through his military prowess and unwavering loyalty to Augustus. He played a crucial role in Octavian's ascent to power, contributing significantly to victories in key battles and campaigns, including the defeat of Sextus Pompey and the decisive Battle of Actium against Marcus Antonius and Cleopatra. Agrippa's influence extended beyond the battlefield; he was also an adept administrator and urban planner. He spearheaded ambitious construction projects throughout the Roman Empire, including the development of infrastructure in Gaul and significant architectural endeavors in Rome, such as the iconic Pantheon. Despite his immense contributions, Agrippa never ascended to the throne himself, but his descendants, including the emperors Caligula and Nero, continued his legacy. His sudden death in 12 BC marked the end of an era, leaving behind a lasting impact on Roman history through his military victories, political alliances, and architectural achievements.



138 Caligula AD 37-41. Rome As Æ 28 mm, 10,56 g C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT, bare head left / VESTA, Vesta seated left on throne, holding patera and sceptre; S - C across fields. Very Fine RIC 38; Cohen 27; BMC 46. Caligula, whose full name was Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 37 to 41. He was born in AD 12 in Antium and was the third emperor of the Julio-Claudian dynasty. Caligula initially ascended to the throne with widespread support and high hopes, as he was the son of the popular and respected general Germanicus. However, his early reign was marked by benevolent policies, including freeing political prisoners and ending some unpopular taxes. Unfortunately, Caligula's mental state deteriorated rapidly, leading to increasingly erratic and tyrannical behavior. He displayed signs of megalomania, claiming to be a god and demanding excessive worship. He engaged in extravagant spending, leading to financial strain on the empire. His rule was characterized by cruelty and persecution, with executions and banishments of perceived enemies. He had a tumultuous relationship with the Roman Senate and the ruling class. Caligula's behavior became increasingly unpredictable, and in AD 41, he was assassinated by a group of conspirators, including members of the Praetorian Guard and the Senate. His death brought an end to his tumultuous and controversial reign. Caligula's reign remains infamous in history, known for his excesses, cruelty, and abuse of power. His short and turbulent rule serves as a cautionary tale of the dangers of unchecked authority and the potential consequences of an unstable leader in a position of great power.



139 Germanicus AD 37-41. Struck under Gaius (Caligula), 37-41 AD. Rome Dupondius Æ 29 mm, 15,06 g GERMANICVS CAESAR, Germanicus standing in ornamented slow quadriga right, holding sceptre / SIGNIS RECEPT DEVICTIS GERM in two lines, S-C across fields, Germanicus, bare-headed and cuirassed with tunic, standing left, right arm raised and holding aquila. Very Fine BMC 93; Cohen 7; RIC 57. The inscription "SIGNIS RECEPTIS DEVICTIS GERM" found on Roman coins refers to a significant event in Roman history and serves as a proud declaration of military achievement. The full phrase typically reads: "SIGNIS RECEPTIS DEVICTIS GERMANIS," which translates to "Standards Recovered, Germans Defeated." This inscription is most famously associated with the coins minted under Emperor Augustus, commemorating the recovery of the Roman military standards (signa) that had been lost to Germanic tribes during a disastrous Roman defeat. The event in question is the recovery of the standards taken by the Germanic leader Arminius after his victory over the Roman general Publius Quinctilius Varus in the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest in AD 9. This battle was one of the worst defeats in Roman history, where three Roman legions were ambushed and annihilated. Years later, under the leadership of the Roman general and stepson of Augustus, Germanicus, the Romans launched a series of campaigns into Germania between AD 14 and AD 16. These campaigns aimed to avenge the defeat and recover the lost standards, which held great symbolic and military significance for Rome. Although Germanicus achieved some military success and recovered some of the lost standards, the region was ultimately abandoned by the Romans as too difficult to control.



140 Claudius AD 41-54. Rome As Æ 30 mm, 9,61 g TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP P P, bare head left / LIBERTAS AVGVSTA S - C, Libertas, draped, standing front, head right, holding pileus in right hand and extending left. Very Fine RIC I 113; BMC 202; BNC II 30; Cohen 47. Claudius, full name Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, was the fourth Roman Emperor, reigning from 41 to 54 AD. Born in 10 BC, he belonged to the Julio-Claudian dynasty, being the nephew of Emperor Tiberius and the grandson of Mark Antony and Octavia, sister of Augustus. Claudius faced physical disabilities, and his family often underestimated him. However, he proved himself as a capable administrator, historian, and builder during his rule. Despite being a respected figure, he was largely excluded from public office by his family until his unexpected accession. In 41 AD, after the assassination of his nephew Caligula, the Praetorian Guard proclaimed Claudius emperor. Despite doubts about his capabilities, Claudius proved to be an effective and efficient ruler. He expanded the empire by annexing Mauretania, Thrace, Lycia, and Judaea. He also initiated important public works projects, such as the construction of the Aqua Claudia aqueduct and the expansion of the port at Ostia. Claudius had a particular interest in legal reforms, including the extension of Roman citizenship to various provinces. He also focused on the imperial bureaucracy and freedmen, influencing the governance of the Roman Empire. His personal life was marked by marital troubles, with three marriages, including his infamous marriage to Agrippina the Younger. His death in 54 AD, widely suspected to be the result of poisoning orchestrated by Agrippina, paved the way for Nero's ascension to the throne. Despite the controversies surrounding his family life, Claudius left a lasting impact on the Roman Empire through his administrative reforms and infrastructure projects.



141 Vespasian AD 69-79. Lugdunum (Lyon) Dupondius Æ 27 mm, 10,53 g IMP CAESAR VESPASIAN AVG COS IIII, radiate head left / PAX AVG, Pax standing front, head to left, sacrificing out of patera over lighted and garlanded altar with her right hand and holding caduceus and olive branch in her left; S - C across fields. Nearly Extremely Fine BMC -; CBN -; Cohen -; RIC -. Apparently unpublished. From the former Brett Telford Collection, Nomos 21, 21 November 2020, 306 and ex Sternberg XVII, 9 May 1986, 567. 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.

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142 Vespasian AD 69-79. Struck AD 70. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,04 g IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG, laureate head right / COS ITER FORT RED, Fortuna standing left, resting right hand on prow and holding cornucopiae in left. Very Fine RIC 19.

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143 Vespasian AD 69-79. Rome Dupondius Æ 25 mm, 12,77 g
IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG COS III, radiate head right / FELICITAS
[P]VBLICA, Felicitas standing left, holding winged caduceus and
cornucopia; S-C across fields. Very Fine RIC 392.

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144 Titus, as Caesar AD 76-78. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,32 g IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M, laureate head left / TR P IX IMP XV COS VIII P P, dolphin set on tripod with fillets. Very Fine RIC 129. Titus Flavius Caesar Vespasianus Augustus, better known as Titus, was a Roman Emperor whose brief reign from AD 79 to 81 left a lasting impression on the history of Rome. Born in AD 39 in Rome, Titus was the eldest son of Emperor Vespasian, who founded the Flavian dynasty. Titus had a distinguished military upbringing, accompanying his father on various military campaigns. His skills as a military leader were evident when he served in the Roman legions and gained a reputation for his bravery and strategic acumen. One of the defining moments of Titus' reign was the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, which buried the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum under layers of volcanic ash. Despite the scale of the disaster, Titus displayed empathy and took charge of relief efforts, providing aid to the survivors. During his reign, Titus inaugurated the magnificent Flavian Amphitheater, now famously known as the Colosseum, in AD 80. The grand opening was marked by a lavish 100-day spectacle of gladiatorial contests, wild animal hunts, and various other entertainments. The celebrations showcased Titus' generosity and popularity among the Roman populace. Titus also played a significant role in the First Jewish-Roman War during his father's reign. After Vespasian's victory, Titus led the siege of Jerusalem in AD 70. The conquest resulted in the destruction of the Second Temple, a significant event in Jewish history, and the subsequent dispersal of Jewish communities. Tragically, Titus' reign came to an untimely end when he succumbed to a fever in AD 81, at the age of 41. His sudden death marked the beginning of a more contentious period in Roman history, as his younger brother, Domitian, ascended to the throne. Titus' legacy endures as one of Rome's "good emperors," celebrated for his capable leadership, compassion, and ability to maintain relative stability during his short but impactful rule. The Colosseum, a testament to his grandeur, remains an enduring symbol of his reign and a beloved icon of ancient Roman architecture.



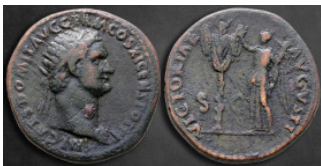
145 Titus, as Caesar AD 76-78. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,41 g IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M, laureate head left / TR P IX IMP XV COS VIII P P, dolphin set on tripod with fillets. Very Fine RIC 129.

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146 Domitian AD 81-96. Struck AD 89. Rome Denarius AR 20 mm, 3,27 g IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P VIII, laureate head right / IMP XXI COS XIII CENS P P P, Minerva standing left with thunderbolt, spear, shield at feet. Very Fine RIC 676.

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147 Domitian AD 81-96. Rome Dupondius Æ 27 mm, 12,24 g IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM COS XI CENS POT P P, radiate bust right, with aegis at far shoulder / VICTORIAE AVGVSTI, Victory standing to left, inscribing shield set on trophy to left and holding palm; S-C across base of trophy. Very Fine RIC II 373; BMCRE 352A*.

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148 Domitian AD 81-96. Rome As Æ 26 mm, 10,75 g IMP CAES DOMITIAN AVG GERM COS X, laureate head right, wearing aegis on left shoulder / [SAL]VTI AVGVSTI, rectangular altar with two steps and closed doors; SC in exergue. Very Fine BMC 291; Cohen 413; RIC 224.

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149 Nerva AD 96-98. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,34 g IMP NERVA CAES AVG P M TR P COS II P P, laureate head right / AEQVITAS AVGVST, Aequitas standing facing, head to left, holding scales and cornucopia. Very Fine RIC II 1; BMCRE 1; RSC 3. Nerva, born Marcus Cocceius Nerva in AD 30, was a Roman Emperor who held the throne from AD 96 to 98. His rise to power came after the assassination of the previous emperor, Domitian, whose oppressive rule had made him deeply unpopular. The Senate selected Nerva as a compromise candidate, recognizing his reputation for moderation and diplomatic skills. During his relatively short reign, Nerva implemented several important reforms aimed at improving the well-being of the Roman Empire. He showed clemency by pardoning political exiles and taking measures to improve the treatment of slaves. Nerva also sought to address the needs of the urban poor, offering some relief to the marginalized members of society. One of the most significant acts during Nerva's rule was his adoption of Trajan as his successor in AD 97. Since Nerva lacked a biological heir, adopting Trajan was a strategic move to secure a smooth and stable transfer of power after his own death. Trajan, a highly capable and respected general, proved to be an exceptional ruler, and his reign would become one of the most prosperous and successful in Roman history. Nerva passed away from natural causes in AD 98, at the age of 68. While his reign was relatively brief, it marked a crucial turning point in Roman history. The "Five Good Emperors" era, which began with Nerva, brought stability and benevolent governance to the empire. These rulers prioritized the welfare of their subjects and focused on efficient administration, contributing to a period of prosperity and relative peace within the Roman Empire.

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150 Trajan AD 98-117. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,31 g IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P, laureate head right, with slight drapery on his left shoulder / COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC, dacian trophy of arms, at base of which are shields, spears and sword. Very Fine BMC 358; Cohen 98; RIC 147; Woytek 268bC-2.

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151 Trajan AD 98-117. Rome Denarius AR 20 mm, 3,15 g IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P, laureate bust right, slight drapery on far shoulder / COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC, Victory standing facing, head to left, holding wreath and palm branch. Very Fine RIC 128; BMCRE 328; RSC 74.

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152 Trajan AD 98-117. Rome Sestertius Æ 33 mm, 28,81 g IMP CAES NERVAE TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V [P P], laureate head right / SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI, Annona standing to left, holding branch and cornucopia modius on left, prow of ship on right, S-C across fields. Very Fine Woytek 323a; RIC 492 var. (bust type).

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153 Trajan AD 98-117. Rome As Æ 26 mm, 11,03 g IMP CAES NERVA TRAIAN AVG GERM P M, laureate head right / TR PO[T CO]S IIII P P, Victory advancing left, holding hem of skirt and shield inscribed SPQR in two lines; S-C across fields. Very Fine Woytek 113a; RIC 434.

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154 Hadrian AD 117-138. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 2,71 g IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG, laureate bust right, slight drapery on far shoulder / P M TR P COS III, Aeternitas standing left, holding heads of Sol and Luna. Nearly Very Fine RIC 81.

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155 Hadrian AD 117-138. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,26 g HADRIANVS AVG COS III P P, laureate and draped bust to right / RESTITVTORI GALLIAE, emperor standing to right, holding scroll and raising up kneeling Gallia. Very Fine RIC II.3 1577; BMCRE 890; RSC 1247b.

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156 Hadrian AD 117-138. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,21 g HADRIANVS AVG COS III P P, laureate head of Hadrian right / ROMVLO CONDITORI, Romulus advancing right holding spear and trophy. Very Fine RIC 266.

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157 Hadrian AD 117-138. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,10 g IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG, laureate bust to right, slight drapery on far shoulder / P M TR P COS III, Victory flying to right, holding trophy in both hands. Very Fine RIC II.3 396; BMCRE 215-6; RSC 1132.

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158 Hadrian AD 117-138. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 2,89 g HADRIANVS AVG COS III P P, bare head right / SALVS AVG, Salus standing left, holding sceptre and sacrificing with patera over lighted altar to left. Very Fine RIC 268a.

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159 Hadrian AD 117-138. "Travel series" issue. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,39 g HADRIANVS AVG COS III P P, laureate head right / AEGYPTOS, Egypt reclining left, holding sistrum and resting arm upon basket; to left, ibis standing right. Very Fine RIC² 1481. Hadrian's "travel series" coins are a unique set of Roman coinage that commemorate the emperor's extensive travels throughout the Roman Empire. Hadrian was known for personally visiting nearly every province during his reign, a practice that set him apart from many other emperors. These travels were part of his broader strategy to strengthen the unity of the empire, address local issues, and connect with the diverse populations under Roman rule. The coins typically feature Hadrian's portrait on the obverse, with inscriptions identifying him as the emperor. The reverse side of these coins is what makes them particularly interesting, as they depict personifications, symbols, or monuments related to the various provinces that Hadrian visited. For example, the province of Africa might be represented by an image of an elephant or a female figure holding a scorpion, while Britannia could be symbolized by a seated female figure, sometimes holding a military standard. Each coin often includes the name of the province it represents, serving as both a celebration of Hadrian's travels and a form of imperial propaganda. These coins were widely circulated across the empire, reinforcing Hadrian's image as a hands-on ruler who was actively involved in the governance and welfare of his empire. The travel series coins also emphasized the vastness and diversity of the Roman Empire, highlighting Hadrian's efforts to unify and protect it. Today, these coins are highly valued by collectors and historians, offering a glimpse into Hadrian's reign and the ways in which he sought to strengthen his authority and legacy across the Roman world.



160 Sabina. Augusta AD 128-137. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,15 g SABINA AVGVSTA, diademed and draped bust right, wearing stephane / CONCORDIA AVG, Concordia seated to left, holding patera and sceptre. Very Fine RIC II.3 2548; BMCRE 932; RSC 24. Sabina Augusta, born Vibia Sabina around AD 83, was the wife of the Roman Emperor Hadrian and held the title of Augusta, which signified her status as empress. She was the daughter of Salonina Matidia, the niece of Emperor Trajan, making her a member of a highly influential family within the Roman imperial hierarchy. Sabina married Hadrian around AD 100, before he became emperor, and she played a significant role during his reign. Although their marriage was politically advantageous, it was reportedly not a happy one. Ancient sources suggest that the relationship between Hadrian and Sabina was distant and strained, possibly due to Hadrian's reputed infidelities and his intense focus on his imperial duties. Despite this, Sabina remained a prominent figure in Hadrian's court and was one of the first Roman empresses to be consistently featured on coinage alongside her husband. Coins minted during Hadrian's reign frequently depict Sabina with the inscription "SABINA AVGVSTA" on the obverse, often with her portrait laureate or draped in a manner that emphasizes her dignity and status. The reverse of these coins might feature various personifications, such as Concordia (harmony), symbolizing the ideal of marital unity and imperial stability, or Venus, the goddess of love, which could allude to her role as the ideal Roman wife. Sabina was deified after her death in AD 136 or 137, receiving divine honors as "Diva Sabina." This deification further solidified her importance within the imperial family and the Roman religious system. Her legacy is seen through the numerous statues and coins that commemorate her, reflecting her lasting influence as a symbol of imperial femininity and virtue in Roman society.



161 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Aureus AV 18 mm, 7,14 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P IMP II, laureate, draped bust right / TR POT XXI COS IIII, Salus standing right, feeding from patera snake coiled round altar and holding sceptre. Very Fine RIC 279; Cohen 1044; Calicó 1684a. Ex Jean Elsen Auction 143, Lot 428. The aureus featuring the inscription "TR POT XXI COS IIII" was minted during the reign of Emperor Antoninus Pius, around AD 157. On the reverse of the coin, the inscription signifies that Antoninus Pius held tribunician power for the 21st time and was consul for the 4th time. The reverse design depicts the goddess Salus, who embodies health and well-being. She is shown standing to the right, feeding a snake that is coiled around an altar from a patera, a small dish used in religious rituals. Salus holds a scepter in her left hand. The image of Salus feeding a snake is a common motif in Roman coinage, symbolizing the emperor's role in maintaining the health and prosperity of the empire.

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162 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,59 g IMP T AEL CAES ANTONINVS, bare head right / TRIB POT COS, Pietas standing left, raising hand over garlanded altar to left. Very Fine RIC² 2731 (Hadrian).

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163 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 2,91 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XII, laureate head to right / COS IIII, emperor togate standing left, holding patera over tripod altar. Very Fine RIC 183.

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164 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,09 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XXII, laureate head right / FORTVNA OPSEQVENS / COS IIII, Fortuna standing left, holding patera over rudder set on prow in right hand and cornucopia in left. Very Fine RIC 286a.

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165 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,32 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XIII, laureate head right / COS III, Fortuna standing holding rudder and cornucopia. Very Fine RIC 194.

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166 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,70 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P IMP II, laureate head to right / TR POT XIX COS III, Pax standing facing, head to left, holding branch and cornucopia. Very Fine RIC III 252.

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167 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,26 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P IMP II, laureate head right / TR POT XIX COS III, Fortuna standing right, holding rudder on globe and cornucopia. Very Fine RIC 251; BMCRE 854; RSC 987.

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168 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,43 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XVI, laureate head right / COS III, Vesta standing left, holding simpulum in right hand and palladium in left. Very Fine RIC III 219; BMC 782; Cohen 197.

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169 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,48 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P COS III, bare head right / GENIO SENATVS, Genius of the Senate standing left, holding branch and sceptre. Very Fine RIC 69.

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170 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,39 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P, laureate bust right, slight drapery on far shoulder / COS III, thunderbolt set on draped throne. Very Fine RIC 137.

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171 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,40 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P COS III, laureate head of Antoninus Pius right / PAX AVG, Pax, draped, standing facing, head left, holding branch with right and cornucopia with left hand. Very Fine RIC III, 35, 78b.

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172 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,58 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP TR P COS III, laureate head right / AEQVITAS AVG, Aequitas standing left, holding scales and sceptre. Very Fine RIC 61; RSC 14; BMC 173.

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173 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,56 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P, laureate head right / TR POT COS IIII / LIB IIII, Liberalitas standing left with abacus and cornucopia. Very Fine RIC 155.

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174 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,49 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XVI, laureate head right / COS IIII, Vesta standing left, holding simpulum in right hand and palladium in left. Very Fine RIC III 219; BMC 782; Cohen 197.

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175 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,32 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P IMP II, laureate head right / TR POT XIX COS IIII, Annona standing left holding grain ears, resting left hand on modius set on prow. Very Fine RIC III 249.

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176 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 2,81 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XVII, laureate head to right / COS IIII, Annona standing to left, holding grain ears in the right hand and resting left hand on modius set on prow to right. Very Fine RIC 231; Cohen 291; PL. II. 42.

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177 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 16 mm, 3,48 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P IMP II, laureate head right / TR POT XXI COS IIII, Annona standing right, left foot on prow, holding rudder with right hand and modius on left knee. Very Fine RIC 275.

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178 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,64 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P COS III, laureate head right / ANNONA AVG, modius with four grain ears and a poppy. Very Fine RIC III 62a.

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179 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,36 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XVI, laureate head right / COS IIII, Vesta standing left, holding simpulum in right hand and palladium in left. Very Fine RIC III 219; BMC 782; Cohen 197.

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180 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,26 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P, laureate head right / COS IIII, Concordia standing left holding patera and sceptre. Very Fine RIC 129.

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181 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,16 g IMP T AEL CAES HADRI ANTONINVS, bare head right / AVG PIVS P M TR P COS DES II, Minerva standing left, holding Victory and resting hand on shield, spear against arm. Very Fine RIC 9; BMCRE 10-11; RSC 67.

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182 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 16 mm, 3,40 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P IMP II, laureate head of Antoninus Pius right / TR POT XXI COS IIII, Annona standing facing, head left, holding corn ears over modius with right hand, rudder set upon prow in right field. Very Fine RIC 274.

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183 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 2,54 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XII, laureate head right, with slight drapery on far shoulder / COS IIII, Bonus Eventus standing front, head to left, holding patera in his right hand and grain-ears in his left. Nearly Very Fine BMC 663; RIC 180.

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184 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,22 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XXIII, laureate head right / SALVS AVG COS IIII, Salus standing left, feeding snake coiled around altar and holding sceptre. Very Fine RIC 304.

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185 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,82 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P COS III, laureate head right / CLEMENTIA AVG, Clementia standing left, holding patera and sceptre. Good Very Fine RIC 64.

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186 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Struck AD 159. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,25 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XXII, laureate head right / COS IIII, distyle temple with semi-circular arch, with male figure, standing left on low base within, holding branch and standard. Very Fine RIC III 285; BMCRE 926; RSC 331.

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187 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,48 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XVI, laureate head right / COS IIII, Vesta standing left, holding simpulum in right hand and palladium in left. Good Very Fine RIC III 219; BMC 782; Cohen 197.

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188 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Rome Sestertius Æ 32 mm, 25,88 g ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P T[R P], laureate head right / COS [III], Antoninus Pius seated left in curule chair on raised dais; before, statue of Liberalitas left, with abacus and cornucopia; behind, officer standing left, holding sceptre; below to left, figure standing right, extending hands; S-C across fields; LIBERALITA[S] / AVG [IIII] in exergue within two lines. Very Fine RIC 774; Cohen 498; BMC 1688.

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189 Antoninus Pius AD 138-161. Reverse legend uncertain, TR POT [XX or XIX] COS IIII. Rome As Æ 25 mm, 11,00 g [ANTONI]NVS AVG [PIVS P] P IMP II, laureate head right / TR P[OT] XX CO[S] IIII, Fides Exercitus standing facing, head left, holding standard in each hand; S-C across fields. Very Fine RIC 943 or RIC 965 both var. (Sestertius).

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190 Marcus Aurelius, as Caesar AD 139-161. Rome Aureus AV 17 mm, 5,96 g AVRELIVS CAESAR AVG PII F, bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust to right / COS II, Minerva standing to right, holding spear and resting left hand on shield at her side. Nearly Extremely Fine, edge filed RIC III 427b (Pius); BMCRE 592 (Pius); Calicó 1836. Marcus Aurelius Antoninus was a Roman emperor and Stoic philosopher, was a pivotal figure of the Nerva-Antonine dynasty, renowned as the Five Good Emperors. His reign, from AD 161 to 180, marked the pinnacle of the Pax Romana, an era of relative stability for the Roman Empire. Co-ruling with Lucius Verus, he confronted challenges like conflicts with the Parthian Empire and Germanic tribes. Born into privilege, Marcus was educated by prominent tutors and married Faustina. His reign witnessed the devastating Antonine Plague, impacting the empire's population. His "Meditations," a collection of philosophical writings, remains influential and illuminates his commitment to Stoic ideals. Unlike his predecessors, Marcus refrained from adopting an heir. His descendants included Lucilla, who married Lucius, and Commodus, whose controversial succession sparked debates. The Column and Equestrian Statue of Marcus Aurelius, both located in Rome, commemorate his military triumphs. Beyond his imperial role, Marcus's legacy as a philosopher-king endures. His insights into Stoicism continue to inspire modern thinkers, admired by writers, philosophers, and leaders over the centuries. In navigating the complexities of governance, philosophy, and legacy, Marcus Aurelius left an indelible mark on Roman history and the broader understanding of leadership and ethical principles.

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191 Marcus Aurelius, as Caesar AD 139-161. Rome Sestertius Æ 31 mm, 21,71 g AVRELIVS CAESAR AVG PII F COS, head to right / IVENTAS / SC, Iuventas standing left, holding patera; hymiaterion to her left. Very Fine RIC 1232b (Pius).

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192 Marcus Aurelius, as Caesar AD 139-161. Rome Sestertius Æ 32 mm, 23,45 g AVRELIVS CAES ANTON AVG PII F, bare head right, with slight drapery on far shoulder / TR POT X COS II, Minerva standing left, holding owl and spear, shield to right; S-C across fields. Good Very Fine RIC III 1325a.

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193 Diva Faustina I AD 140-141. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,56 g DIVA FAVSTINA, draped bust to right / AETERNITAS, Juno(?) standing to left, raising hand and holding sceptre. Very Fine RIC III 344 (Pius); BMCRE 345 (Pius); RSC 26.

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194 Diva Faustina I AD 140-141. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,54 g DIVA FAVSTINA, draped bust right / AETERNITAS, Aeternitas or Providentia standing left, holding globe and billowing veil. Extremely Fine RIC 351 (Pius).

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195 Diva Faustina I AD 140-141. Rome Sestertius Æ 32 mm, 22,81 g DIVA AVGVSTA FAVSTINA, diademed and draped bust right / [PIE]TAS A[VG], veiled Pietas standing facing, head to left, dropping incense onto altar to left and holding box; S-C across fields. Very Fine RIC III 1146a; C. 240; BMCRE 1446.

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196 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 2,98 g FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, diademed and draped bust right / SAECVLI FELICIT, pulvinar, upon which are Commodus and Antoninus. Good Very Fine RIC 712 (Aurelius); RSC 191; BMCRE 139 Annia Galeria Faustina, known as Faustina the Younger was the wife of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Born to Emperor Antoninus Pius, she was initially engaged to Lucius Verus but later married Marcus Aurelius in AD 145. The couple had numerous children, although most did not survive. Faustina's fertility was celebrated on coins. During the Marcomannic Wars, she accompanied Marcus Aurelius and lived in Carnuntum, where rumors of her affairs circulated. She played a role in the trial against Herodes Atticus. Honored with the title "mater castrorum" in AD 174, she was reportedly involved in plans for her husband's succession. Faustina passed away during a journey to Cappadocia in AD 176 and was posthumously deified by the Senate. Marcus Aurelius' writings reflect his genuine grief over her death.

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197 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,39 g FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, draped bust to right / DIANA LVCIF, Diana standing to left, holding lighted torch with both hands. Good Very Fine RIC III 674 (Aurelius).

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198 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,14 g FAVSTINAE AVG PII AVG FIL, draped bust to right / VENVS, Venus standing facing, head to left, holding apple and dolphin-entwined rudder. Very Fine RIC III 517a (Pius); BMCRE 1067 (Pius); RSC 266a.

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199 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,93 g FAVSTINA AVG PII AVG FIL, draped bust right / CONCORDIA, Concordia seated to left, holding flower, resting elbow on cornucopia, globe under chair. Very Fine RIC III 502a (Pius); BMCRE 1086 (Pius); RSC 54.

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200 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,19 g FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / AVGVSTI PII FIL, Concordia standing left, holding patera and cornucopia. Very Fine RIC III 496 (Pius); RSC 21.

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201 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,28 g FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / FECVND AVGVSTAE, Fecunditas standing left, holding two infants in her arms, between two young girls. Very Fine RIC III 676 (Aurelius); RSC 95.

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202 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,37 g FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / IVNONI REGINAE, Juno standing left, holding patera and sceptre; to left, peacock standing left, head right. Bold portrait, Extremely Fine RIC 696 (Aurelius); BMCRE 118 (Aurelius and Verus); RSC 139a.

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203 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 2,99 g FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right. / VENVS FELIX, Venus seated left, holding Victory and sceptre. Very Fine RIC 731; RSC 274.

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204 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,22 g FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / MATRI MAGNAE, Cybele seated left, lion at her feet. Very Fine RIC 706; Sear 5259; RSC 172.

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205 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,10 g FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right, wearing single circlet of pearls / IVNO, Juno standing left, holding patera and sceptre; to left, peacock standing left, head right. Very Fine RIC (Aurelius) 688; MIR 18, 17-4b; RSC 120. The depiction of "IVNO" or Juno on ancient Roman coins offers a glimpse into the revered goddess of marriage, family, and sovereignty. Juno is portrayed standing with a patera, a ritual dish, and a sceptre, a symbol of her authority as queen of the gods. The presence of the peacock, a bird sacred to Juno, on the left adds a layer of symbolism. The peacock's ornate beauty reflects Juno's role as a goddess of elegance and maternal care. As a guardian of marriage, she watches over unions and the family unit.

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206 Faustina II AD 147-175. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,37 g FAVSTINAEAVG PII AVG FIL, draped bust right / LAETITIAE PVBLICAE, Laetitia standing left holding wreath and sceptre. Good Very Fine RIC 506.

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207 Divus Antoninus Pius AD 161. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,19 g DIVVS ANTONINVS, bare head to right / DIVO PIO, square altar. Very Fine RIC 441 (Aurelius); BMC 71.

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208 Divus Antoninus Pius AD 161. Consecration issue struck under Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,13 g DIVVS ANTONINVS, bare head right / CONSECRATIO, funeral pyre of four tiers surmounted by facing quadriga. Very Fine RIC 436; RSC 164. After the death of Antoninus Pius in AD 161, Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, who succeeded him as co-emperors, issued a series of coins in Rome to commemorate his deification. These coins were part of a consecration issue, a traditional practice to honor a respected emperor after his passing by elevating him to divine status. The obverse of these coins typically featured a portrait of Antoninus Pius, now referred to as "Divus Antoninus," indicating his status as a god. The reverse of the coins often depicted symbolic imagery associated with his deification. One common design shows Antoninus Pius being carried to the heavens by an eagle, a symbol of his apotheosis, or seated on a ceremonial chair. Other designs might include representations of a funeral pyre, or the personification of Eternity holding a globe, symbolizing the emperor's eternal presence. These coins served to reinforce the divine status of Antoninus Pius and to legitimize the rule of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus by emphasizing their connection to a deified predecessor. The consecration coins circulated throughout the empire, reminding the Roman people of the continuity and stability provided by the imperial family.



209 Lucius Verus AD 161-169. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,31 g L VERVS AVG ARM PARTH MAX, laureate head right / TR P VI IMP III COS II, Pax standing left, holding olive branch and cornucopiae; PAX in exergue. Good Very Fine RIC 561(Aurelius); BMCRE 426 (Aurelius and Verus); RSC 126. Lucius Verus, born Lucius Ceionius Commodus in AD 130, was a Roman emperor who co-ruled with his adoptive brother Marcus Aurelius from AD 161 until his death in AD 169. He was the first emperor to share power equally with another, marking a significant moment in Roman history. Lucius Verus came from a noble family and was adopted by Emperor Antoninus Pius as part of a succession plan devised by Emperor Hadrian. This plan included the adoption of both Lucius Verus and Marcus Aurelius, who were intended to jointly inherit the throne. When Antoninus Pius died in AD 161, the succession proceeded smoothly, and both Lucius Verus and Marcus Aurelius were proclaimed emperors. Despite their shared rule, Marcus Aurelius was the more dominant figure, with Lucius Verus often seen as the junior partner. However, Lucius Verus played an important role in military affairs. Shortly after they ascended to power, the Roman Empire faced a significant threat from the Parthian Empire in the East. Lucius Verus was sent to oversee the military campaign, which successfully repelled the Parthians and brought glory to Rome. Although he was not personally a military leader, he took credit for the victories achieved by his generals. Lucius Verus was known for his luxurious lifestyle, which contrasted with Marcus Aurelius's more austere and philosophical nature. He enjoyed the pleasures of court life, including lavish banquets and the theater, and was criticized by some contemporaries for his indulgences. Nevertheless, his reign, alongside Marcus Aurelius, was marked by relative peace and prosperity in the Roman Empire. In AD 169, Lucius Verus died suddenly, possibly from an outbreak of plague that had spread throughout the empire after the return of troops from the Eastern campaigns. His death left Marcus Aurelius as the sole ruler, and Lucius Verus was deified, honored with divine status as "Divus Verus." Despite his relatively short reign, Lucius Verus is remembered as part of a unique period in Roman history when two emperors ruled together in a cooperative manner, an arrangement that helped maintain stability during their joint rule.



210 Lucius Verus AD 161-169. Struck March-December AD 161. Rome Sestertius Æ 32 mm, 22,16 g IMP CAES L AVREL VERVS AVG, laureate head right / CONCORD AVGVSTOR TR P II, Marcus Aurelius standing facing, head to left and holding scroll, clasping hands with Lucius Verus; S-C across fields, COS II in exergue. Nearly Very Fine RIC 1284; C. 161; BMC 1023.

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211 Marcus Aurelius AD 161-180. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,21 g M ANTONINVS AVG ARM PARTH MAX, laureate head right / TR P XXII IMP V COS III, Aequitas seated left, holding scales and cornucopia. Very Fine BMC 467; RIC 191; RSC 899. The portrayal of "Aequitas" on ancient Roman coins encapsulates the Roman ideals of justice and balance. Aequitas, personifying equity and fairness, is depicted in a seated posture, holding a pair of scales and a cornucopia. The scales symbolize the careful weighing of evidence and the impartiality inherent in just judgments. They underscore the importance of balance and equitable treatment under Roman law. The presence of the cornucopia, representing abundance and prosperity, highlights the notion that justice leads to harmonious outcomes and societal well-being. Aequitas' seated stance signifies her unchanging and steadfast nature in upholding righteousness. This coin imagery serves as a visual reminder of the core Roman values of law and justice. It reinforces the idea that a just society is one where equitable treatment and balance prevail. Aequitas' representation showcases the Romans' commitment to fairness and their understanding that the scales of justice should remain untarnished in upholding the harmony and order of their empire.

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212 Marcus Aurelius AD 161-180. Struck AD 163-164. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,02 g M ANTONINVS AVG IMP II, laureate head right / TR P XVIII COS III, Felicitas seated to right, holding long caduceus and cornucopia. Very Fine RIC III 112; BMCRE 257; RSC 852c.

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213 Marcus Aurelius AD 161-180. Struck AD 178-179. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,36 g M AVREL ANTONINVS AVG, laureate and cuirassed bust right / TR P XXXIII IMP VIII COS III P P, Salus seated to left, holding corn-ears; snake coiled around altar to left. Good Very Fine RIC 409.

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214 Marcus Aurelius AD 161-180. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,37 g M ANTONINVS AVG, laureate head right / COS III P P, Roma seated left on cuirass, holding Victory and parazonium. Very Fine RIC 421; RSC 149.

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215 Lucilla AD 164-169. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,70 g LVCILLAE AVG ANTONINI AVG F, draped bust right / VENVS, Venus standing left, holding apple and sceptre. Very Fine RIC 784. Lucilla, also known as Annia Aurelia Galeria Lucilla, was a prominent figure in Roman history. She was the daughter of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius and his wife Faustina the Younger. Lucilla was born in AD 148 and belonged to the influential Antonine dynasty. In AD 164, Lucilla married Lucius Verus, who was co-emperor with her father Marcus Aurelius. However, her marriage to Verus was not a happy one, although they had three children. After the death of her father Marcus Aurelius in AD 180 AD, her brother Commodus became the sole emperor. However, Lucilla and Commodus had a strained relationship, and she was eventually involved in a plot to assassinate him. The conspiracy was discovered, and Lucilla was exiled to the island of Capri, where she was executed in AD 182.

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216 Lucilla AD 164-169. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 2,97 g LVCILLA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / CONCORDIA, Concordia seated left, holding patera and cornucopia. Very Fine RIC 759.

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217 Lucilla AD 164-169. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 2,65 g LVCILLA AVGVSTA, draped bust to right / PVDICITIA, Pudicitia seated to left, with left hand held to breast. Good Very Fine RIC III 781 (Aurelius); BMCRE 350; RSC 62.

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218 Lucilla AD 164-169. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 2,92 g LVCILLA AVGVSTA, draped bust to right / VENVS VICTRIX, Venus standing facing, head to left, holding Victory and supporting shield. Very Fine RIC III 786 (Aurelius); BMCRE 356 (Aurelius and Verus); RSC 89.

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219 Diva Faustina II AD 175-176. Struck under Marcus Aurelius, AD 176-180. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,00 g DIVA FAVSTINA PIA, draped bust right / CONSECRATIO, peacock facing, with tail spread. Very Fine RIC 743; C. 70.

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220 Diva Faustina II AD 175-176. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,22 g DIVA AVG FAVSTINA, veiled and draped bust of Diva Faustina Junior to right / CONSECRATIO, decorated pyre of four tiers, surmounted by quadriga. Very Fine BMC 698; Cohen 77; RIC 747.

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221 Commodus AD 177-192. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 2,13 g M COMM ANT P FEL AVG BRIT, laureate head to right / IOV EXSVP P M TR P XII IMP VIII, Jupiter seated to left, holding branch and sceptre; COS V P P in exergue. Very Fine RIC III 152; BMCRE 213; RSC 242.

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222 Commodus AD 177-192. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,96 g L AEL AVREL COMM AVG P FEL, laureate head of Commodus to right / P M TR P XVII IMP VIII COS VII P P, Fortuna standing front, head to left, placing her right foot on prow, holding patera in her right hand and cornucopia in her left. Good Very Fine BMC 322; Cohen 578; RIC 235.

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223 Commodus AD 177-192. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 2,71 g
M COMMODVS ANTONINVS AVG, laureate head right / TR P V IMP
III COS II P P, trophy between captives. Very Fine RIC 9a.

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224 Commodus AD 177-192. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,49 g
COMMODO CAES AVG FIL GERM SARM, bareheaded and draped
bust right / HILARITAS, Hilaritas standing left, holding cornucopia
and palm frond. Very Fine RIC 611 (Aurelius).

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225 Commodus AD 177-192. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,46 g
L AVREL COM-MODVS AVG, laureate head right / TR P IIII IMP III
COS II P P, Fortuna seated left, holding rudder with right hand and
cornucopia with left, wheel below chair. Good Very Fine RIC 662
(Marcus Aurelius); BMCRE 796; RSC 771.

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226 Commodus AD 177-192. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,30 g
IMP L AVREL COOMODVS AVG GERM SARM, laureate and
cuirassed bust of Commodus to right / TR P II COS P P, Victory
advancing left, holding wreath in her right hand and palm from
over her left shoulder. Very Fine Cohen 745; RIC 642.

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227 Commodus AD 177-192. Rome Denarius AR 20 mm, 3,38 g
COMMODO CAES AVG FIL GERM SARM, bare head right / PRINC
IVVENT, Commodus standing left, holding branch and sceptre; to
right, trophy with arms at foot. Very Fine RIC 617.

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228 Crispina. Augusta AD 178-182. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 3,50 g CRISPINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / HILARITAS, Hilaritas standing left with palm branch and cornucopiae. Very Fine RIC. 282; C. 82. Crispina, born Bruttia Crispina around AD 164, was a Roman empress and the wife of Emperor Commodus. She came from a distinguished senatorial family, with her father, Gaius Bruttius Praesens, serving as a consul. Her marriage to Commodus in AD 178 was likely arranged for political reasons, intended to strengthen the ties between Commodus's family and the Roman aristocracy. As empress, Crispina held the title of Augusta and was depicted on coins and other imperial iconography. These coins often featured her portrait on the obverse, emphasizing her role as the consort of the emperor and a symbol of the continuity and stability of the imperial family. Despite her elevated position, little is recorded about Crispina's influence or activities as empress, and there is no evidence that she played a significant role in political affairs. Crispina's marriage to Commodus, however, was troubled. Commodus's behavior grew increasingly erratic during his reign, and he was known for his infidelities. Crispina herself was eventually implicated in a scandal or conspiracy against the emperor, though the details remain unclear. In AD 182, she was accused of adultery, a serious charge that, if true, could have been used to justify her removal. Following these accusations, Crispina was exiled to the island of Capri. Exile was a common punishment for members of the imperial family who fell out of favor, particularly for women accused of adultery or other misconduct. While in exile, Crispina was eventually executed, likely by orders from Commodus or his associates. Crispina's fall from grace and eventual death highlight the dangers faced by those close to power in ancient Rome, particularly under rulers like Commodus, whose reign was marked by paranoia and cruelty. After her death, her memory was largely erased, and she was subjected to damnatio memoriae, a practice aimed at obliterating the legacy of disgraced individuals from public records and monuments.



229 Crispina. Augusta AD 178-182. Struck AD 180. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,47 g CRISPINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / DIS GENITALIBVS, garlanded and lighted altar, square in shape. Very Fine RIC 281; C. 15, 16.

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230 Crispina. Augusta AD 178-182. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,26 g CRISPINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / DIS GENI TALI BVS, lighted altar. Very Fine RIC 281b (Commodus); MIR 18, 9-4a; RSC 16.

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231 Clodius Albinus AD 193-197. Rome Denarius AR 16 mm, 3,53 g D CL SEPT ALBIN CAES, bare head right / PROVID AVG COS, Providentia standing left, holding wand over globe with right hand and sceptre with left. Very Fine RIC 1c. Clodius Albinus, born Decimus Clodius Septimius Albinus around AD 150 in Hadrumetum (modern-day Sousse, Tunisia), was a Roman general and usurper who played a significant role in the turbulent period known as the Year of the Five Emperors (AD 193). His life and career were closely tied to the political and military upheavals that marked the late 2nd century. Albinus came from a prominent North African family and rose through the ranks of the Roman military, earning a reputation as a capable and ambitious commander. By AD 192, he had achieved the rank of governor of Britannia, where he commanded the legions stationed in the province. His leadership in Britain and his popularity among the troops made him a powerful figure in the empire. After the assassination of Emperor Commodus on December 31, AD 192, the empire was thrown into chaos. Pertinax, who briefly succeeded Commodus, was himself assassinated, leading to a power struggle among several contenders for the throne. One of these was Septimius Severus, who initially sought to secure his position by allying with Clodius Albinus. Severus promised Albinus the title of Caesar, effectively naming him his heir, to secure his support. However, this alliance was short-lived. After Severus secured his position as emperor and defeated his rival Pescennius Niger, he no longer needed Albinus's support. In AD 195, Severus declared his own sons as his heirs, effectively breaking his promise to Albinus. Feeling betrayed, Albinus declared himself emperor and marched his forces from Britain to Gaul, preparing to challenge Severus for the throne. The conflict between Albinus and Severus culminated in the Battle of Lugdunum (modern Lyon, France) in February AD 197. It was one of the largest and bloodiest battles of the Roman civil wars. Despite initial successes, Albinus was ultimately defeated by Severus's forces. Following the battle, Albinus either committed suicide or was captured and executed. Severus had his body desecrated and paraded through the streets as a warning to others. Clodius Albinus's bid for power and his subsequent downfall highlight the intense rivalries and violent power struggles that characterized the late Roman Empire. His defeat solidified Septimius Severus's control over the empire, paving the way for the Severan dynasty, which would rule Rome for the next several decades. Albinus's life, like that of many usurpers, ended in tragedy, his ambitions



232 Clodius Albinus AD 193-197. Struck AD 194-195. Rome Sestertius AE 30 mm, 25,20 g D CLOD SEPT ALBIN CAES, bare head of Clodius Albinus right / MINERVA PACIF COS II, Minerva standing left, holding olive branch, spear and shield; S-C across fields. Nearly Very Fine RIC 54; BMCRE 535.



233 Pertinax AD 193-193. Rome Denarius AR 17 mm, 1,66 g IMP CAES P HELV PERTIN AVG, laureate head right / OPI DIVIN TR P COS II, Ops seated left on throne, holding grain ears. Fine RIC 8a. Pertinax, born Publius Helvius Pertinax on August 1, AD 126, in Alba Pompeia (modern-day Alba, Italy), was a Roman emperor who ruled for a brief but significant period in AD 193. His reign came during a time of extreme instability and is most remembered for his attempts to restore discipline and order to the Roman Empire after the chaotic and decadent rule of Emperor Commodus. Pertinax came from a humble background, the son of a freedman, which was relatively uncommon for someone who would eventually become emperor. Despite his modest origins, Pertinax pursued a military career and steadily rose through the ranks due to his competence and dedication. He served in various provinces across the Roman Empire, earning respect as a capable soldier and administrator. His career included important posts such as governor of several key provinces and a consulship, which was a mark of high prestige. When Commodus was assassinated on December 31, AD 192, Pertinax was chosen by the conspirators to succeed him, largely because of his reputation for integrity and his experience in governance. He was proclaimed emperor on January 1, AD 193. Pertinax immediately set about trying to reverse the excesses of Commodus's reign. He initiated reforms to restore discipline in the Roman military, reduce the excessive spending that had drained the imperial treasury, and bring stability to the empire. However, these efforts were met with resistance, particularly from the Praetorian Guard, the elite soldiers responsible for the emperor's protection. The Guard, which had become accustomed to the lax discipline and financial indulgences under Commodus, resented Pertinax's strict measures and attempts to curb their power. Additionally, Pertinax's refusal to pay them the large sums of money they had expected as a reward for his elevation to emperor only increased their hostility. On March 28, AD 193, just 86 days into his reign, members of the Praetorian Guard stormed the imperial palace. Despite attempts to negotiate with them, Pertinax was assassinated. His death plunged the empire into further chaos, leading to what is known as the Year of the Five Emperors, a period marked by civil war and rapid changes in leadership. Pertinax's brief reign is often seen as a tragic attempt to restore moral and fiscal discipline to an empire that had been deeply corrupted. His death demonstrated the overwhelming power of the Praetorian Guard, which could make or break



234 Pertinax AD 193-193. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,63 g IMP CAES P HELV PERTIN AVG, laureate head right / PROVID DEOR COS II, Providentia standing facing, head left, holding right hand up to star in top left field, with left hand on breast. Very Fine RIC 11a; BMC 13; Cohen 42.

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235 Septimius Severus AD 193-211. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,40 g SEVERVS PIVS AVG, laureate head right / INDVLGENTIA AVGG, Dea Caelestis, holding thunderbolt and sceptre, on lion rearing right; below, water gushing right from rocks; IN CARTH in exergue. Very Fine RIC 266. Septimius Severus, born Lucius Septimius Severus on April 11, AD 145, in Leptis Magna (modern-day Libya), was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 193 until his death in AD 211. He was the founder of the Severan dynasty, which would rule the Roman Empire for over four decades. Severus is remembered for his military prowess, his efforts to strengthen the central authority of the emperor, and his role in restoring stability to the empire after a period of civil war. Severus came from a wealthy and prominent family in Leptis Magna, a city in the Roman province of Africa. He embarked on a career in law and public service, quickly rising through the ranks of the Roman bureaucracy. By the time of Emperor Commodus's assassination in AD 192, Severus had become a respected and powerful general, commanding legions in the province of Pannonia (modern-day Hungary and Austria). Following the chaotic Year of the Five Emperors in AD 193, during which several claimants to the throne vied for power, Severus was proclaimed emperor by his troops in Pannonia. At the time, Rome was under the control of Didius Julianus, who had effectively purchased the emperorship from the Praetorian Guard after the assassination of Pertinax. Severus quickly marched on Rome, where he deposed and executed Julianus, consolidating his position as the new emperor. Severus's reign was marked by significant military campaigns aimed at securing and expanding the borders of the Roman Empire. One of his first actions as emperor was to defeat his rivals, Pescennius Niger and Clodius Albinus, who had also declared themselves emperors. Severus defeated Niger in the East and Albinus in the West, solidifying his control over the empire by AD 197. Severus then turned his attention to foreign threats. He launched successful campaigns against the Parthian Empire in the East, sacking the Parthian capital of Ctesiphon in AD 197 and expanding Roman influence in Mesopotamia. In Britain, he led a military campaign to strengthen Roman control over the province, even venturing into Scotland, although the harsh conditions and constant warfare took a toll on his army and himself. Severus was known for his authoritarian rule and efforts to strengthen the central power of the emperor. He increased the size of the Roman army, raised soldiers' pay, and granted greater privileges to the military, ensuring their loyalty. He also reformed



236 Septimius Severus AD 193-211. Rome Denarius AR 20 mm, 2,65 g SEVERVS PIVS AVG, laureate and draped bust right / RESTITVTOR VRBIS, Roma seated left on shield, holding palladium and spear. Very Fine RIC 288.

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237 Septimius Severus AD 193-211. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,10 g SEVERVS PIVS AVG, laureate head right / ADVENT AVGG, Septimius Severus on horseback left, raising hand and holding spear, preceded by soldier. Very Fine RIC 248.

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238 Caracalla AD 198-217. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 2,81 g ANTONINVS PIVS AVG BRIT, laureate head right / MONETA AVG, Moneta standing left, holding scales and cornucopia. Nearly Extremely Fine RIC 224. Caracalla, born Lucius Septimius Bassianus on April 4, AD 188, was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 198 to 217. He was the son of Emperor Septimius Severus and became one of Rome's most infamous rulers, known for his brutal methods and the significant but controversial reforms he enacted during his reign. Caracalla was given the name Marcus Aurelius Antoninus at a young age as part of his father's effort to connect the Severan dynasty with the respected Antonine emperors. His nickname "Caracalla" came from a type of Gallic cloak that he popularized. In AD 198, at the age of 10, Caracalla was made co-emperor with his father, Septimius Severus, who intended for Caracalla and his younger brother, Geta, to rule together after his death. However, the relationship between the two brothers was strained, marked by rivalry and mutual hatred. After the death of Severus in AD 211, Caracalla and Geta briefly ruled as co-emperors, but this arrangement quickly collapsed. In December AD 211, Caracalla had Geta assassinated, allegedly in their mother's arms, and then ordered the execution of Geta's supporters. He also issued a **damnatio memoriae** against Geta, attempting to erase his brother from public memory by destroying his images and removing his name from inscriptions. Caracalla's rule was characterized by military campaigns and ruthless governance. He spent much of his reign on military campaigns along the empire's frontiers, particularly against the Germanic tribes in the West and the Parthians in the East. Caracalla was popular among the soldiers due to his efforts to raise their pay and improve their conditions, which secured their loyalty but strained the empire's finances. One of Caracalla's most notable acts was the issuance of the *Constitutio Antoniniana*, or the Edict of Caracalla, in AD 212. This edict granted Roman citizenship to all free inhabitants of the empire. While this decree was framed as a generous act, it was likely motivated by a desire to increase tax revenues, as Roman citizens were subject to certain taxes from which non-citizens were exempt. Caracalla's reign was also marked by monumental building projects, including the construction of the Baths of Caracalla in Rome, one of the largest and most impressive public bath complexes in the Roman world. Despite these achievements, Caracalla's rule was also marred by cruelty and paranoia. His reign was marked by numerous executions and



239 Caracalla AD 198-217. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,19 g ANTONINVS AVGVSTVS, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / PONTIF TR P III, Sol standing left, holding globe and spear. Good Very Fine RIC IV 30; BMC 179; Cohen 413.

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240 Caracalla AD 198-217. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,23 g ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM, laureate head right / P M TR P XVII COS IIII P P, Jupiter standing left, holding thunderbolt and sceptre; to left, eagle standing left, head right. Good Very Fine RIC 240. The Baths of Caracalla, completed in AD 216 during the reign of Emperor Caracalla, were one of ancient Rome's largest and most impressive public bath complexes. Built on a vast scale, the baths could accommodate thousands of visitors and served as a center for socializing, exercising, and relaxation. The complex featured various facilities, including hot baths (caldarium), warm baths (tepidarium), cold baths (frigidarium), exercise areas (palaestrae), and an open-air swimming pool (natatio). The baths were also adorned with elaborate decorations, including intricate mosaics, frescoes, and grand statues. The Baths of Caracalla were supplied by a specially constructed aqueduct and heated by an advanced hypocaust system, showcasing the engineering prowess of the Romans. The baths were not just a place for hygiene but also a hub of social life, where Romans from all walks of life would gather. They reflected the wealth and power of the empire and the emperor's generosity. Although the baths fell into disuse after the fall of the Western Roman Empire, their ruins remain one of Rome's most famous archaeological sites, offering a glimpse into the grandeur and sophistication of Roman public life and architecture.

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241 Geta, as Caesar AD 198-209. Struck AD 200-202. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 3,30 g P SEPT GETA CAES PONT, bare-headed and draped bust right / SECVRIT IMPERII, Securitas seated left, holding globe, left arm on chair. Very Fine RIC 20a. Geta, born Publius Septimius Geta on March 7, AD 189, was a Roman emperor who ruled jointly with his father, Septimius Severus, and his older brother, Caracalla. Geta's life and reign were deeply intertwined with the intense and often violent rivalries within the Severan dynasty. Geta was the younger son of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna, making him part of a prominent and powerful family. When Septimius Severus became emperor in AD 193, Geta and his brother Caracalla were elevated to prominent positions within the imperial court. To secure the succession, Severus made both sons co-emperors, with Caracalla receiving this title in AD 198 and Geta following in AD 209. The intention was for the brothers to rule the empire jointly after their father's death. Despite this arrangement, Geta and Caracalla had a deeply antagonistic relationship, marked by intense jealousy and competition. After the death of Septimius Severus in AD 211, the empire was divided between the two brothers, who each controlled different parts of the imperial palace and administration. Their rivalry grew to the point where they were essentially living in a state of civil war within Rome, unable to cooperate. The situation came to a tragic end in December AD 211, when Caracalla orchestrated Geta's assassination. Geta was murdered in his mother Julia Domna's arms during a meeting arranged under the pretense of reconciliation. After his death, Caracalla ordered a **damnatio memoriae** against Geta, which meant that Geta's name was erased from public records, his images were destroyed, and his memory was officially condemned. Geta's brief and troubled reign, overshadowed by his brother's ambitions and cruelty, is often seen as a tragic example of the brutal power struggles that could occur within the Roman imperial family. His death left Caracalla as the sole ruler of the Roman Empire, marking a dark chapter in the Severan dynasty.



242 Plautilla. Augusta AD 202-205. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,70 g PLAVTILLA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / PIETAS AVGG, Pietas standing right, holding sceptre and child. Good Very Fine RIC 367; RSC 16. Plautilla, born Publia Fulvia Plautilla around AD 185, was a Roman empress and the wife of Emperor Caracalla. Her life was marked by her unfortunate marriage to Caracalla, which was characterized by political maneuvering, personal animosity, and ultimately, tragedy. Plautilla was the daughter of Gaius Fulvius Plautianus, a powerful and influential figure who served as the Praetorian Prefect under Emperor Septimius Severus, Caracalla's father. Plautianus was one of the most trusted advisors of Severus, and in AD 202, he arranged the marriage between his daughter Plautilla and Caracalla, hoping to strengthen his own position and tie his family even closer to the imperial line. The marriage, however, was deeply unhappy. Caracalla despised Plautilla, reportedly treating her with disdain and cruelty. He was said to have married her only out of obligation and resented both her and her father. The union produced no children, and Caracalla's hostility toward Plautilla was well-known. The situation worsened when Plautianus fell from favor. In AD 205, Plautianus was accused of plotting against the emperor and was executed on Caracalla's orders. Following her father's death, Plautilla's position became increasingly precarious. Caracalla, now free of any political restraints imposed by Plautianus, banished Plautilla to the island of Lipari off the coast of Italy. Plautilla lived in exile for several years. After Caracalla became sole emperor following the assassination of his brother Geta in AD 211, he ordered Plautilla's execution, likely viewing her as a lingering threat or simply acting out of spite. Plautilla's life is a stark example of the dangers faced by those caught in the web of imperial politics in ancient Rome. Despite her status as empress, she was powerless against the enmity of her husband and the ruthless nature of Roman political life. Her tragic story, like many women of her time, reflects the volatility and brutality of the Roman imperial court.



243 Plautilla. Augusta AD 202-205. Struck AD 202. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 2,82 g PLAVTILLA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / CONCORDIA AVGG, Concordia standing facing, head to left, holding patera in right hand and long sceptre in left. Very Fine RIC IV 363a (Caracalla); RSC 1.

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244 Plautilla. Augusta AD 202-205. Rome Denarius AR 20 mm, 3,13 g PLAVTILLA AVGVSTA, draped bust to right / VENVS VICTRIX, Venus standing to left, holding apple and palm, leaning on shield, with Cupid at her feet. Very Fine RIC IV 369 (Caracalla); BMCRE 429; RSC 25.

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245 Severus Alexander AD 222-235. Rome Denarius AR 22 mm, 2,30 g IMP ALEXANDER PIVS AVG, laureate head right, slight drapery on far shoulder / PROVIDENTIA AVGG, Providentia standing facing, head left, holding grain ears over modius and cornucopiae. Good Very Fine RIC 250.

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246 Severus Alexander AD 222-235. Rome Sestertius Æ 32 mm, 23,37 g IMP CAES M AVR SEV ALEXANDER AVG, laureate and draped bust right / P M TR P VI COS II P P, Alexander, togate, standing left, holding patera and sacrificing over altar; S-C across fields. Very Fine RIC 468; Cohen 326.

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247 Orbiana AD 225. Rome Denarius AR 18 mm, 3,08 g [SALL] BARBIA ORBIANA AVG, diademed and draped bust right / CONCORDIA AVGG, Concordia seated left on throne, holding patera & double cornucopiae. Nearly Very Fine RIC 319; RSC 1. Orbiana, born Seia Herennia Sallustia Barbia Orbiana, was briefly a Roman empress, married to Emperor Severus Alexander around AD 225. She was granted the title of Augusta, symbolizing her elevated status as the emperor's wife. However, her time as empress was marred by tension, primarily due to the influence of Severus Alexander's mother, Julia Mamaea, who dominated the imperial court and resented any challenge to her authority. The situation worsened when Orbiana's father, Seius Sallustius, was accused of plotting against Severus Alexander in an attempt to gain power for himself. This alleged conspiracy led to Sallustius's execution, and Orbiana was stripped of her title and exiled to North Africa, far from the center of Roman power. Her downfall was swift, reflecting the brutal nature of Roman politics, where imperial family members often fell victim to power struggles.



248 Maximinus I Thrax AD 235-238. Rome Denarius AR 20 mm, 3,36 g MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG GERM, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / PAX AVGVSTI, Pax standing left, holding branch and sceptre. Pleasantly Toned, Extremely Fine RIC IV 19; BMCRE 144; RSC 37. Maximinus I Thrax, also known as Maximinus Thrax, was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 235 to 238. He was born in Thrace, which is in the modern-day Balkans region. Maximinus came from a humble background and had a military career, rising through the ranks to become a prominent general in the Roman army. In AD 235, he was declared emperor by his troops after they assassinated Emperor Alexander Severus during a military rebellion. As emperor, Maximinus faced several challenges, including dealing with internal dissent and external invasions. His rule was marked by strict discipline and harsh policies, which made him unpopular with the senatorial class and the urban population. Maximinus also faced military conflicts with the Sassanian Empire in the east and the Germanic tribes in the Rhine and Danube regions. Despite his military background, his campaigns did not yield significant successes. In AD 238, a series of revolts broke out across the Roman Empire due to dissatisfaction with Maximinus' rule. He was eventually assassinated by his own troops during one of these revolts in Aquileia. Maximinus Thrax is often remembered as one of the "Barracks Emperors," a term used for the military generals who rose to power during the turbulent period known as the Crisis of the Third Century.

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249 Maximinus I Thrax AD 235-238. Rome Denarius AR 19 mm, 2,90 g IMP MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / P M TR P II COS P P, Emperor in military dress, standing left between two standards, raising hand and holding sceptre. Very Fine RIC 3; RSC 55.

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250 Maximinus I Thrax AD 235-238. Rome Denarius AR 22 mm, 3,14 g MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG GERM, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / VICTORIA GERM, Victoria standing to left, holding wreath and palm; captive seated to left at feet. Very Fine RIC IV 23; BMCRE 186; RSC 107.

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251 Gordian III AD 238-244. Antioch Antoninianus AR 23 mm, 3,99 g IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG, radiate and cuirassed bust right / ORIENS AVG, Sol standing to left, raising hand and holding globe. Extremely Fine RIC IV 213; RSC 167. Gordian III, born Marcus Antonius Gordianus on January 20, AD 225, was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 238 to 244. He became emperor at the remarkably young age of 13, making him one of the youngest emperors in Roman history. His reign came during a period of significant instability in the Roman Empire, known as the Crisis of the Third Century. Gordian III was the grandson of Gordian I and the nephew of Gordian II, both of whom had briefly ruled as emperors during the tumultuous Year of the Six Emperors in AD 238. After the deaths of his grandfather and uncle, the Senate, seeking to stabilize the empire and gain favor with the Roman people, proclaimed the young Gordian as emperor. His youth meant that his rule was largely guided by powerful advisors, including the influential Praetorian Prefect, Gaius Furius Sabinus Aquila Timesitheus, who effectively managed the empire's affairs. During Gordian III's reign, the empire faced several significant challenges, including threats from external enemies such as the Sassanid Empire in the East. In AD 242, Gordian led a military campaign against the Sassanids, which initially saw some success. However, during this campaign, his trusted advisor Timesitheus died, leaving Gordian vulnerable to court intrigues. Gordian III's downfall came in AD 244, under murky circumstances. The details of his death are not entirely clear, but it is widely believed that he was killed by his own troops or assassinated on the orders of Philip the Arab, who succeeded him as emperor. Gordian III's death marked the continuation of the instability that plagued the Roman Empire during this era. Despite his brief and largely nominal reign, Gordian III was remembered fondly by later generations, in part due to the respect for his noble lineage and the fact that his rule offered a temporary respite during a time of crisis. His coinage, which is abundant, often depicts him as a youthful figure, symbolizing the hope that the Roman people placed in him during a difficult period in their history.



252 Gordian III AD 238-244. Rome Antoninianus AR 23 mm, 4,60 g IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG, radiate draped bust right / IOVI STATORI, Jupiter standing right with sceptre and thunderbolt. Good Very Fine RIC 84; RSC 109.

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253 Otacilia Severa AD 244-249. Struck AD 247. Rome Antoninianus AR 23 mm, 4,01 g M OTACILIA SEVERA VG, draped bust right, wearing stephane, set on crescent / CONCORDIA AVGG, Concordia seated left, holding patera and cornucopia; altar to left. Extremely Fine RIC 129; RSC 16. Octacilia Severa, born Marcia Otacilia Severa, was a Roman empress and the wife of Emperor Philip the Arab, who ruled from AD 244 to 249. She became Augusta, or empress, upon her husband's ascension to the throne and played a significant role as the first lady of the empire during a particularly turbulent time in Roman history. Octacilia Severa's marriage to Philip, whose full name was Marcus Julius Philippus, was likely arranged for political purposes. Philip was of Arab descent and came from a background that was not traditionally Roman aristocratic, making Octacilia Severa's role as empress crucial in lending legitimacy to his rule. Together, they had at least one son, Marcus Julius Philippus Severus, known as Philip II, who was named Caesar and co-emperor during his father's reign. As empress, Octacilia Severa was depicted on numerous coins, which were widely circulated throughout the empire. These coins often featured her portrait on the obverse, with inscriptions such as "M OTACIL SEVERA AVG," identifying her as the empress. The reverse of these coins frequently depicted traditional Roman virtues and deities, emphasizing her role as a stabilizing and supportive figure alongside her husband. Octacilia Severa is sometimes noted for her possible influence in the early Christian community. Some sources suggest that she may have been sympathetic to Christianity, as her husband's reign is marked by a notable lack of persecution against Christians compared to previous and subsequent emperors. However, the evidence for her direct involvement in religious matters is speculative. In AD 249, Philip the Arab was overthrown and killed by his successor, Decius, during a period of intense military and political instability. The fate of Octacilia Severa following her husband's death is uncertain, as there are no reliable records detailing her life after this event. Her legacy, like that of many Roman empresses, is largely tied to her role as the wife of the emperor and mother of the heir, reflected in the coinage and inscriptions that survive from her time as empress.



254 Philip I Arab AD 244-249. Rome Antoninianus AR 23 mm, 4,65 g IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right / AEQVITAS AVGG, Aequitas standing left holding scales and cornucopia. Nearly Extremely Fine RIC 27b; RSC 9; Cohen 9. Philip the Arab, born Marcus Julius Philippus around AD 204 in the Roman province of Arabia Petraea (modern-day Jordan), was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 244 to 249. He is one of the more intriguing figures of the late Roman Empire, known for both his origins and his reign during a time of increasing instability. Philip's rise to power was rapid and somewhat unusual. He began his career in the Roman bureaucracy and military, eventually becoming Praetorian Prefect under Emperor Gordian III. In this powerful position, Philip was involved in military campaigns against the Sassanid Empire in the East. During one of these campaigns, Gordian III died under mysterious circumstances, possibly as a result of a mutiny or assassination, though some sources imply Philip's involvement. With Gordian's death, Philip was proclaimed emperor by the troops in AD 244. As emperor, Philip sought to consolidate his power and secure the frontiers of the empire. He negotiated a peace with the Sassanid ruler Shapur I, ending the costly conflict in the East, and paid a large tribute to ensure the stability of the eastern provinces. This move was pragmatic but also controversial, as it was seen by some as a humiliating concession. One of the most significant events of Philip's reign was the celebration of Rome's millennium in AD 248, marking the 1,000th anniversary of the founding of the city. Philip organized grand games and festivities across the empire to commemorate the event, which were intended to bolster his legitimacy and connect his rule with Rome's glorious past. Philip's reign, however, was troubled by internal dissent and external threats. He faced several usurpations and rebellions, the most significant being the challenge from Decius, a prominent general. In AD 249, Decius was proclaimed emperor by his troops and marched against Philip. The two armies met in battle near Verona, where Philip was defeated and killed. His son, Philip II, who had been co-emperor, was also murdered shortly afterward in Rome. Philip the Arab's legacy is mixed. On one hand, he was an able administrator who sought to stabilize an empire in turmoil, and his reign was marked by relative peace and prosperity. On the other hand, his rise to power and subsequent rule were marred by suspicions of treachery and weakness, particularly in his dealings with the Sassanids. His downfall at the hands of Decius marked the continuation of the Crisis of the Third



255 Philip I Arab AD 244-249. Rome Antoninianus AR 23 mm, 3,83 g IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right / P M TR P II COS P P, emperor seated to left on curule chair, holding globe and short sceptre. Extremely Fine RIC IV 2b; RSC 120.

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256 Trajan Decius AD 249-251. Rome Antoninianus AR 23 mm, 4,07 g IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right / PANNONIAE, the two Pannoniae, veiled and robed, standing facing, turning right and left away from one another and each holding a standard. Good Very Fine RIC IV 21b; RSC 86. Trajan Decius, born around AD 201 in Pannonia, became Roman emperor from AD 249 to 251. His rise to power came when his troops proclaimed him emperor in response to dissatisfaction with Philip the Arab's rule. Decius marched against Philip, defeated him in battle near Verona, and took control of the empire. Decius's reign was marked by significant challenges, including invasions by Germanic tribes along the Danube frontier. He launched military campaigns to defend the empire's borders and sought to restore traditional Roman values and strengthen the authority of the emperor, which had been eroding during the preceding decades. One of the most notorious aspects of Decius's reign was the persecution of Christians. In AD 250, he issued an edict requiring all Roman citizens to perform sacrifices to the Roman gods as a demonstration of loyalty. This led to the first empire-wide persecution of Christians, resulting in the martyrdom of many, including Pope Fabian. Decius aimed to unify the empire under traditional Roman religion, but his actions intensified tensions between the state and the growing Christian community. Decius's reign ended in AD 251 when he and his son, Herennius Etruscus, were killed in the Battle of Abritus against the Goths. His death marked a significant blow to Roman stability.

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257 Hostilian, as Caesar AD 250-251. Rome Antoninianus AR 22 mm, 3,70 g C VALENS HOSTIL MES QVINTVS N C, radiate and draped bust to right / MARTI PROPVGNATORI, Mars advancing to right, holding spear and shield. Very Fine RIC IV 177b (Decius); RSC 15. Hostilian, born Gaius Valens Hostilianus Messius Quintus, was a Roman emperor who briefly ruled in AD 251. He was the younger son of Emperor Decius and his wife, Herennia Etruscilla. Hostilian's rise to prominence occurred during a period of great instability and crisis in the Roman Empire, known as the Crisis of the Third Century. After Decius became emperor in AD 249, Hostilian was given the title of Caesar, which marked him as a junior co-emperor and heir. His older brother, Herennius Etruscus, was elevated to the rank of Augustus alongside their father, effectively making him a co-emperor. In AD 251, both Decius and Herennius were killed in the Battle of Abritus while fighting the Goths. Following their deaths, Hostilian was elevated to the rank of Augustus, making him co-emperor with Trebonianus Gallus, who had been proclaimed emperor by the Roman legions in the aftermath of the battle. However, Hostilian's reign was extremely short-lived. Shortly after being declared emperor, he fell victim to a plague that was sweeping through the Roman Empire at the time, likely the Cyprian Plague, which caused widespread devastation. Hostilian's death in the same year meant that he was one of the few Roman emperors who died of natural causes during this turbulent period, rather than by assassination or in battle. Following Hostilian's death, Trebonianus Gallus became the sole emperor, further contributing to the ongoing instability of the Roman Empire during the 3rd century. Hostilian's brief and tragic life highlights the precarious nature of imperial succession and the broader challenges facing the Roman Empire during a time of constant warfare and internal strife.



258 Trebonianus Gallus AD 251-253. Rome Antoninianus AR 23 mm, 3,44 g IMP CAE C VIB TREB GALLVS AVG, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right / ANNONA AVGG, Annona standing facing, head to right, with foot on prow, holding rudder and grain ears. Extremely Fine RIC IV 31; RSC 17. Trebonianus Gallus, born around AD 206 in Perusia, Italy, was a Roman emperor from AD 251 to 253. His rise to power occurred after the deaths of Emperor Decius and his son Herennius Etruscus in the Battle of Abritus against the Goths. Following this defeat, Gallus, then the governor of Moesia, was proclaimed emperor by the legions. To secure his position, he adopted Decius's surviving son, Hostilian, as co-emperor, though Hostilian soon died of plague. Gallus faced significant challenges during his brief reign, including ongoing invasions by the Goths and other Germanic tribes. Rather than continuing Decius's aggressive policies, Gallus chose to negotiate peace, allowing the Goths to retreat with their spoils and agreeing to pay them an annual tribute. This decision was widely seen as a sign of weakness and failed to bring lasting stability. His reign was further plagued by a devastating outbreak, likely the Cyprian Plague, which caused widespread death and economic disruption across the empire. In AD 253, Gallus's rule came to an end when Aemilian, a rival general, rebelled. Gallus was betrayed and murdered by his own troops, highlighting the deep instability and the precarious nature of leadership during the Crisis of the Third Century.

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259 Trebonianus Gallus AD 251-253. Rome Antoninianus AR 24 mm, 3,56 g IMP C C VIB TREB GALLVS AVG, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right / PAX AETERNA, Pax standing left, holding sceptre and branch. Nearly Extremely Fine RIC 71.

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260 Volusian AD 251-253. Rome Antoninianus AR 23 mm, 4,43 g IMP C C VIB VOLVSIANVS AVG, radiate, draped, cuirassed bust right, seen from behind / VIRTVS AVGG, Virtus standing right, left hand resting on shield, spear in right. Very Fine RIC 206. Volusian, born Gaius Vibius Volusianus around AD 230, was a Roman emperor who ruled briefly from AD 251 to 253 alongside his father, Trebonianus Gallus. His rise to power occurred during the turbulent period of the Crisis of the Third Century, a time marked by political instability, military challenges, and internal strife. Volusian was the son of Trebonianus Gallus and was elevated to the rank of Caesar shortly after his father became emperor following the deaths of Decius and Herennius Etruscus in AD 251. When Hostilian, the adopted co-emperor and son of Decius, died of plague later that year, Volusian was promoted to Augustus, effectively making him co-emperor with his father. During their joint reign, the empire faced significant challenges, including continued pressure from external enemies like the Goths and a devastating plague that ravaged the population. Gallus and Volusian's attempts to negotiate peace with the Goths, including paying them an annual tribute, were seen as weak and ultimately failed to secure lasting stability. In AD 253, their rule was further undermined when Aemilian, the governor of Pannonia and Moesia, rebelled and declared himself emperor after achieving a victory against the Goths. As Aemilian marched towards Italy, Gallus and Volusian attempted to muster support but were betrayed by their own troops. Both Gallus and Volusian were murdered near Interamna (modern Terni, Italy) before they could confront Aemilian in battle. Volusian's brief and troubled reign, marked by crises and his untimely death, reflects the severe instability of the Roman Empire during the mid-3rd century, a time when emperors were often short-lived and the empire was on the brink of collapse.



261 Aemilian AD 253-253. Rome Antoninianus AR 21 mm, 2,87 g IMP AEMILIANVS PIVS FEL AVG, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right / APOL CONSERVAT, Apollo standing left, holding branch and leaning on lyre. Very Fine RIC 1; RSC 2. Aemilian, born Marcus Aemilius Aemilianus around AD 207 in Mauretania (modern-day Algeria and Morocco), briefly served as Roman emperor in AD 253 during the tumultuous Crisis of the Third Century. Aemilian rose to prominence as the governor of Pannonia and Moesia, where he achieved a significant military victory against the invading Goths. This success boosted his popularity among the legions, who proclaimed him emperor in defiance of the reigning emperor, Trebonianus Gallus. Aemilian quickly marched towards Italy to confront Gallus. Before the two forces could meet in battle, Gallus and his son Volusian were betrayed and murdered by their own troops, leaving Aemilian as the uncontested ruler. However, Aemilian's reign was extremely brief, lasting only a few months. His position was immediately challenged by another rival, Valerian, who was a senior military commander in the Roman Empire. As Valerian advanced towards Italy with his own forces, Aemilian's support began to wane. In a pattern typical of the era's instability, Aemilian was betrayed by his troops near Spoleto, Italy, and assassinated. His short-lived reign, characterized by internal strife and betrayal, underscored the deepening chaos of the Roman Empire during the 3rd century, where power was often seized through violence and rapidly lost.



262 Gallienus AD 253-268. Lugdunum Antoninianus Æ silvered 22 mm, 2,92 g IMP GALLIENVS P F AVG, radiate and cuirassed bust right / GERMANICVS MAX V, two German captives bound and seated at the foot of a trophy. Nearly Very Fine RIC 18; RSC 308. Gallienus, whose full name was Publius Licinius Egnatius Gallienus, was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 253 to 268. He was the son of Emperor Valerian and the co-emperor alongside his father during the early years of his reign. Gallienus faced a tumultuous and challenging period in Roman history known as the Crisis of the Third Century. During his reign, the Roman Empire was threatened by external invasions from various barbarian tribes, internal revolts, economic troubles, and the breakaway of various regions seeking independence. As co-emperor with his father, Gallienus was tasked with the defense of the western provinces of the Roman Empire while his father Valerian focused on the eastern front against the Sassanian Empire (ancient Persia). However, in AD 260, Emperor Valerian was defeated and captured by the Sassanian king, Shapur I, resulting in a significant blow to the Roman Empire. Gallienus then ruled as the sole emperor, facing multiple challenges from both external and internal enemies. He pursued a policy of co-opting some of the invading tribes into the Roman military and granting some regions greater autonomy to stabilize the empire. Despite his efforts, Gallienus faced opposition from within the Roman military. In 268 AD, he was assassinated in a conspiracy led by his own officers, and Claudius II Gothicus was proclaimed as the new Roman emperor.

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263 Gallienus AD 253-268. Viminacium Billon Antoninianus 23 mm, 3,29 g IMP GALLIENVS P AVG, radiate and cuirassed bust right / PROVID AVGG, Providentia standing facing, head to left, holding wand over globe in her right hand and cornucopiae in her left. Good Very Fine Cohen 870; MIR 818p (no example recorded); RIC 395 corr. ('Mediolanum').

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264 Valerian I AD 253-260. Struck AD 258. Mediolanum Antoninianus Æ silvered 22 mm, 4,09 g IMP VALERIANVS PIVS AVG, radiate and draped bust right / SECVRIT PERPET, Securitas standing left, leaning on column and holding spear. Nearly Very Fine RIC 256 var. Valerian, whose full name was Publius Licinius Valerianus, was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 253 to 260. He came from an aristocratic family and held various important positions in the Roman government before ascending to the throne. Valerian's reign was marked by both successes and challenges. In the early years of his rule, he shared power with his son Gallienus, who was appointed as co-emperor. Together, they attempted to address the various crises facing the Roman Empire, including external invasions, economic difficulties, and internal rebellions. One of the notable events during Valerian's reign was his campaign against the Sassanian Empire (ancient Persia). In AD 260, Valerian led a military expedition into Persia but was defeated and captured by the Sassanian king Shapur I. This marked a humiliating moment in Roman history as Valerian became the first Roman emperor to be captured alive by a foreign enemy. Valerian's captivity had a profound impact on the Roman Empire, causing political instability and further exacerbating the challenges faced by the government. During his captivity, Valerian was subjected to various humiliations and was used as a footstool by the Sassanian king, highlighting the humiliation suffered by the Roman Empire. Valerian's exact fate during captivity remains uncertain, and it is believed that he died in captivity around AD 260, after possibly being skinned as a memorial.

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265 Postumus, Usurper in Gaul AD 260-269. Struck AD 268. Mediolanum Billon Antoninianus 20 mm, 2,78 g IMP POSTVMVS AVG, radiate, draped and [cuirassed] bust to right / [CONCORD E]QVIT, Fortuna standing to left, holding patera and rudder, foot on prow. Good Very Fine RIC V.2 373; Mairat, 2014, 499-503; RSC 19b.

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266 Postumus, Usurper in Gaul AD 260-269. Treveri Antoninianus AR 24 mm, 2,94 g IMP C POSTVMVS P F AVG, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right / SALVS PROV[INCI]ARVM, river god Rhinus reclining left, resting right arm on forepart of boat left in background, cradling reed in left arm, which rests against urn to right. Nearly Very Fine RIC 87; C. 352; Elmer 123.; RSC 355.

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267 Victorinus AD 269-271. Colonia Agrippinensis (Cologne) Billon Antoninianus 22 mm, 4,94 g IMP C VICTORINVS P F AVG, radiate and cuirassed bust to right / VICTORIA AVG, Victory walking to left, holding wreath and palm. Very Fine RIC V.2 75 (Southern Gallic Mint); Mairat, 2014 (unpublished PhD thesis), 659.

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268 Victorinus AD 269-271. Colonia Agrippinensis (Cologne) Billon Antoninianus 20 mm, 2,92 g IMP C VICTORINVS P F AVG, radiate and cuirassed bust right / PIETAS AVG, Pietas standing facing, head to left, sacrificing at altar to left and holding box of perfumes. Good Very Fine RIC V.2 57 (Southern Mint); Mairat, 2014 (unpublished PhD thesis), 657.

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269 Victorinus AD 269-271. Treveri Billon Antoninianus 20 mm, 2,91 g IMP C PIAV VICTORINVS P F AVG, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right / FIDES MILITVM, Fides standing to left, holding two standards. Nearly Extremely Fine RIC V.2 109 (Colonia Agrippinensis); Mairat, 2014 (PhD thesis).

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270 Severina AD 270-275. Rome Denarius Æ 18 mm, 2,78 g SEVERINA AVG, draped bust right, wearing stephane / VENVS FELIX, Venus standing left, holding uncertain object (perfume box or apple?) and sceptre; ç in exergue. Very Fine RIC V online 1862. Ulpia Severina, also known as Severina the Younger, was a Roman Empress and the wife of the Roman Emperor Aurelian. She is mentioned in historical sources, but like many figures from the Roman Empire, her life and role are not extensively documented. Severina married Aurelian probably before he became emperor. During his reign from AD 270 to 275, she held the title of Augusta, which was a honorific given to the wives of emperors. Unfortunately, not much is known about her actions or influence during Aurelian's rule.



271 Tacitus AD 275-276. Struck AD 275. Rome Antoninianus Æ silvered 21 mm, 4,07 g IMP C M C L TACITVS AVG, radiate, draped and cuirassed bust to right / LAETITIA FVND, Laetitia standing to left, holding wreath and anchor; XXIB in exergue. Good Very Fine RIC 3485 (temporary). Marcus Claudius Tacitus, commonly known as Tacitus, was a Roman emperor who ruled from AD 275 to 276. He was born in the late 2nd century AD, and little is known about his early life and career before becoming emperor. Tacitus was a respected senator and military officer during the tumultuous period known as the Crisis of the Third Century. During this time, the Roman Empire faced numerous challenges, including political instability, economic difficulties, and invasions from external threats. In AD 275, the Roman Empire was facing a serious crisis, and the current emperor, Aurelian, was assassinated. In the vacuum of power, Tacitus was proclaimed emperor by the Roman Senate. He was in his 70s when he became emperor, making him one of the oldest individuals to hold the title. As emperor, he attempted to stabilize the empire and improve its financial situation. His reign was brief, and not much detailed information is available about his policies and actions. Tacitus either died of natural causes in AD 276 or he was murdered, and he was then succeeded by his half-brother Florianus, who ruled for only a few months before being overthrown by Probus.

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272 Maurice Tiberius AD 582-602. Constantinople Solidus AV 22 mm, 4,44 g ∂ N mAVRC TIB P P AVC, draped and cuirassed bust facing, wearing plumed helmet with diadem and pendillia, holding globus cruciger in his right hand / VICTORIA AVGG Γ, Angel standing facing, holding globus cruciger in his left hand and long staff surmounted by staurogram in his right; CONOB in exergue. Very Fine Sear 478.

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273 Maurice Tiberius AD 582-602. Constantinople Solidus AV 22 mm, 4,30 g ð N MAVRC TIB P P AVC, draped and cuirassed bust facing, wearing plumed helmet with diadem and pendillia, holding globus cruciger in his right hand / VICTORIA AVGG Γ, Angel standing facing, holding globus cruciger in his left hand and long staff surmounted by staurogram in his right; CONOB in exergue. Very Fine Sear 478.

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274 Phocas AD 602-610. Constantinople Solidus AV 21 mm, 4,45 g ð N FOCAS PERP AVC, draped and cuirassed bust facing, wearing crown without pendilia, holding globus cruciger / VICTORIA AVÇY S, angel standing facing, holding staff surmounted by staurogram and globus cruciger; CONOB in exergue. Very Fine Sear 620.

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275 Heraclius with Heraclius Constantine AD 610-641. Constantinople Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,51 g dd NN HERACLIYS ET hERA CONST P P AV Crowned, draped and short-bearded bust of Heraclius facing, on the left; crowned and draped bust of Heraclius Constantine facing, beardless, on the right; above, cross / VICTORIA AVGY Γ / CONOB Cross potent on base and three steps. Extremely Fine Sear 738.

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276 Heraclius with Heraclius Constantine AD 610-641. Constantinople Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,42 g dd NN HERACLIYS ET hERA CONST P P AV, crowned, draped and short-bearded bust of Heraclius facing, on the left; crowned and draped bust of Heraclius Constantine facing, beardless, on the right; above, cross / VICTORIA AVGY I / CONOB Cross potent on base and three steps. Extremely Fine Sear 738.

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277 Heraclius, with Heraclius Constantine and Heraclonas AD 610-641. Constantinople Solidus AV 19 mm, 4,27 g Crowned figures of Heraclonas, Heraclius, and Heraclius Constantine standing facing, each holding globus cruciger / VICTORIA AVG χ E, cross potent on three steps, monogram to left, IB monogram to right, CONOB below. Very Fine Sear 767.

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278 Constans II AD 641-668. Constantinople Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,45 g ϑ N CONSTANTINVS P P AV, half-length bust facing, wearing crown and chlamys, and holding globus cruciger / VICTORIA AV ζ χ E, cross potent on three steps; Z (date) in right field, CONOB in exergue. Good Very Fine Sear 949. Constans II, known as "the Bearded," was the Byzantine Emperor from 641 to 668. Born in 630, he became co-emperor with his father in 654 and later assumed sole rule in September 668 after his father's assassination. Constans faced challenges, including suppressing a military revolt in Sicily and navigating conflicts with the Muslim Caliphate. His religious policy attempted to find a middle ground between Orthodoxy and Monothelism, culminating in the Type of Constans decree in 648. During his reign, the Muslim Caliphate, under Umar, Uthman, and Mu'awiya I, launched invasions, leading to Arab raids and territorial losses for the Byzantines. Constans was the first emperor to visit Rome since the Western Roman Empire's fall in 476. In 663, he embarked on campaigns in Italy, attacking the Lombard Duchy of Benevento and visiting Rome for twelve days. Despite friendly relations with Pope Vitalian, Constans stripped buildings of their ornaments and bronze. His rule saw developments such as the creation of themes, military-administrative districts. However, Constans faced internal challenges, including opposition to Monothelism and suspicions regarding his younger brother Theodosius, whom he later had killed in 660. Constans II was assassinated in 668, leading to the succession of his son Constantine IV. His legacy includes diplomatic contacts with China, recorded in the Chinese dynastic histories of the Old and New Book of Tang, showcasing the Byzantine Empire's interactions with distant cultures.

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279 Constantine IV Pogonatus AD 668-685. Constantinople Solidus AV 18 mm, 4,42 g Helmeted, and cuirassed bust facing, with short beard, holding spear over right shoulder and shield with horseman motif / Cross potent on three steps between Heraclius and Tiberius standing facing, both crowned, wearing chlamys, and holding cross on globe, mintmark CONOB in exergue. Good Very Fine Sear 1154.

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280 Theophilus, with Constantine and Michael II AD 829-842. Struck 830-840 AD. Constantinople Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,30 g * ΘΕΟΦΙΛΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ, crowned facing bust of Theophilus, wearing chlamys, holding patriarchal cross and akakia / +MIXAHL S COHSTAHTIH', crowned facing busts of Michael and Constantine, each wearing chlamys; cross above. Very Fine DOC 3d; Füeg 3.H.2.y; Sear 1653. Theophilus was Byzantine Emperor from 829 to 842, known for his opposition to icon worship. Issuing a strict ban on icon veneration in 832, reports of harsh measures against dissenters are considered possibly exaggerated. Theophilus faced conflicts with Saracens in Sicily but turned attention to a war against the Caliph of Baghdad, triggered by offering asylum to Persian refugees. Initial successes were followed by defeats, including the fall of Amorion in 838. A campaign against the Bulgarians disrupted the Via Militaris. Diplomatically, Theophilus engaged with the Emirate of Córdoba. Internally, Theophilus fought corruption, implemented impartial justice, and maintained sound finances despite expenditures. Educated in grammar, he valued music and art, fortifying Constantinople's walls and establishing a lasting hospital. Married to Theodora II, his death left their young son, Michael III, as heir. Theodora II, along with their daughter Thekla and the eunuch Theoktistos, took up regency. Theophilus' eldest son, Constantine, had died, and his youngest daughter, Maria, was married to the general Alexios Musele.

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281 Theophilus, with Constantine and Michael II AD 829-842. Struck 830-840 AD. Constantinople Solidus AV 19 mm, 4,42 g * ΘΕΟΦΙΛΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕ Θ, crowned facing bust of Theophilus, wearing chlamys, holding patriarchal cross and akakia / +ΜΙΧΑΗΛ Σ ΚΟΗΣΤΑΗΤΗ', crowned facing busts of Michael and Constantine, each wearing chlamys; cross above. Good Very Fine DOC 3d; Füeg 3.H.2.y; Sear 1653.

250



282 Theophilus, with Constantine and Michael II AD 829-842. Struck 830-840 AD. Constantinople Solidus AV 20 mm, 4,36 g * ΘΕΟΦΙΛΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕ Θ, crowned facing bust of Theophilus, wearing chlamys, holding patriarchal cross and akakia / +ΜΙΧΑΗΛ Σ ΚΟΗΣΤΑΗΤΗ', crowned facing busts of Michael and Constantine, each wearing chlamys; cross above. Good Very Fine DOC 3d; Füeg 3.H.2.y; Sear 1653.

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283 Leo VI the Wise AD 886-912. Constantinople Follis or 40 Nummi Æ 27 mm, 7,45 g + ΛΕΩ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΡΟΜ', crowned bust facing, wearing chlamys and holding akakia in his right hand / + ΛΕΩ / ΕΗ ΘΕΟ ΒΑ/ΣΙΛΕΥΣ Ρ/ΟΜΕΩΗ in four lines, all within round dotted border. Good Very Fine DOC 8; SB 1729.

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284 Isaac I Comnenus AD 1057-1059. Constantinople Histamenon Nomisma AV 26 mm, 4,47 g +ΙΗΣ ΧΙΣ ΡΕΧ ΡΕÇΝΑΝΤΙΗμ, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising his right hand in benediction and holding book of gospels in his left / + ΙCΑΚΙΟC ΡΑCΙΑΕVC ΠΜ, Isaac I Comnenus, bearded, standing facing in military attire, wearing crown with pendilia, holding labarum in his right hand and placing his left on sheathed sword. Very Fine Sear 1844.

500



285 Constantine X Ducas AD 1059-1067. Constantinople Histamenon Nomisma AV 27 mm, 4,39 g + IHS XIS REX REGNANTINM, Christ, nimbate, seated facing on straight-backed throne, raising hand in benediction, holding Gospels / + KWN RACΛ O ΔOVKAC, Constantine standing facing, wearing crown and loros, holding labarum, and globus cruciger. Very Fine, holed Sear 1847.

200



286 Michael VII Ducas AD 1071-1078. Constantinople Histamenon Nomisma EL 26 mm, 3,58 g Facing bust of Christ Pantokrator / +MIXAHΛ RACIΛ O Δ, crowned facing bust of Michael, wearing loros, holding labarum and globus cruciger. Very Fine Sear 1868.

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287 Andronicus II Palaeologus, with Michael IX AD 1282-1328. Constantinople Basilikon AR 21 mm, 2,05 g KVPI BOHΘEI, Christ, nimbate, seated facing on throne, wearing tunic and pallium, raising His right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in His left / AVTOKPATO-PEC PMIAIΩN (sic), Andronicus II, on the left, standing facing, wearing crown with pendilia and loros and Michael IX, on the right, standing facing, wearing crown with pendilia and loros, holding between them labarum on shaft Very Fine DOC 513; Sear 2402.

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288 Andronicus II with Michael IX AD 1295-1320. Constantinople Basilikon AR 20 mm, 1,80 g KVPI BOHΘEI, Christ, nimbate, seated facing on throne, wearing tunic and pallium, raising His right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in His left / AVTOKPATO-PEC PMIAIΩN (sic), Andronicus II, on the left, standing facing, wearing crown with pendilia and loros and Michael IX, on the right, standing facing, wearing crown with pendilia and loros, holding between them labarum on shaft Very Fine DOC 513; Sear 2402.

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289 Andronicus II with Michael IX AD 1295-1320. Constantinople Basilikon AR 21 mm, 2,11 g KVPI BOHΘEI, Christ, nimbate, seated facing on throne, wearing tunic and pallium, raising His right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in His left / AVTOKPATO-PEC PMIAIΩN (sic), Andronicus II, on the left, standing facing, wearing crown with pendilia and loros and Michael IX, on the right, standing facing, wearing crown with pendilia and loros, holding between them labarum on shaft Good Very Fine DOC 513; Sear 2402.

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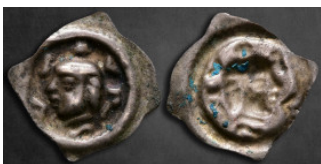
290 Andronicus II with Michael IX AD 1295-1320. Constantinople Basilikon AR 22 mm, 2,15 g KVPI BOHΘEI, Christ, nimbate, seated facing on throne, wearing tunic and pallium, raising His right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in His left / AVTOKPATO-PEC PMIAIΩN (sic), Andronicus II, on the left, standing facing, wearing crown with pendilia and loros and Michael IX, on the right, standing facing, wearing crown with pendilia and loros, holding between them labarum on shaft Very Fine DOC 513; Sear 2402.

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291 Switzerland. St. Gallen. Ulrich IV AD 1167-1199. Brakteat AR 23 mm, 0,48 g +MONETA SANCTI GALLI, bust of Saint Gallus / Incuse of obverse. Good Very Fine Berger 2568; Klein/Ulmer (CC) 63.1.

150



292 Switzerland. Solothurn AD 1270-1300. Vierzipfliger Pfennig 18 mm, 0,28 g Head of St. Ursus left Very Fine HMZ 1-445

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293 Hungary. Bela II AD 1131-1141. Denar AR 12 mm, 0,45 g REX bELA, crowned head / Cross within two circles. Extremely Fine Huszar 50.

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294 Italy. Firenze. Repubblica AD 1189-1532. Fiorino di stella da 12 denari AR 19 mm, 1,78 g ✠ S IOHANNE B, bust of St. John, nimbate, facing, raising his right hand in benediction and holding cross in his left / ✠ FLORENTIA, fleur de lis. Extremely Fine Biaggi 783; MIR 38.

150



295 Italy. Verona AD 1218-1250. Nomine Federico II. Holy Roman Emperor Grosso da 20 Denari AR 20 mm, 1,61 g Short cross pattée over large annulet / Short cross pattée over large annulet. Extremely Fine Biaggi 2971.

150



296 France. Melle mint. Charles le Chauve (the Bald), as Charles II, king of West Francia AD 840-877. Denier AR 20 mm, 1,54 g ✠CARLVS REX FR, cross / ✠METVLLO, karolus monogram. Good Very Fine Depeyrot 606. MEC 1, 923.

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297 France. Paris. Charles le Chauve (the Bald), as Charles II, king of West Francia AD 840-877. Denier AR 21 mm, 1,79 g ✠GRATIA D-I REX, Karolus monogram / ✠PARISII CIVITAS, cross. Extremely Fine M&G 832. MEC 1, 885.

150



298 . Sabta mint AH 558-668. CHRISTIAN SPAIN. Anonymous, Imitation issue minted by Christians of Spain with same legend as anonymous Almohad saquare dirhams AR Millares 23 mm, 1,24 g La ilaha illa Allah / al-Amr kulluhu lillah / la quwwat illa billah / Sabta (There is no deity but Allah . The entire affair belongs to Allah. There is no strength except with Allah, in Arabic) Allah rabbuna / Muhammad rasuluna / al-Mahdi imamuna (Allah is our lord. Muhammad is our messenger. Al-Mahdi is our leader, in Arabic) Good Very Fine Album 498

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299 . Sabta mint AH 558-668. CHRISTIAN SPAIN. Anonymous, Imitation issue minted by Christians of Spain with same legend as anonymous Almohad saquare dirhams AR Millares 23 mm, 1,32 g La ilaha illa Allah / al-Amr kulluhu lillah / la quwwat illa billah / Sabta (There is no deity but Allah . The entire affair belongs to Allah . There is no strength except with Allah, in Arabic) Allah rabbuna / Muhammad rasuluna / al-Mahdi imamuna (Allah is our lord. Muhammad is our messenger. Al-Mahdi is our leader , in Arabic) Good Very Fine Album 498

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300 . Sabta mint AH 558-668. CHRISTIAN SPAIN. Anonymous, Imitation issue minted by Christians of Spain with same legend as anonymous Almohad saquare dirhams AR Millares 24 mm, 1,36 g La ilaha illa Allah / al-Amr kulluhu lillah / la quwwat illa billah / sabta (There is no deity but Allah . The entire affair belongs to Allah . There is no strength except with Allah, in Arabic) Allah rabbuna / Muhammad rasuluna / al-Mahdi imamuna (Allah is our lord. Muhammad is our messenger. Al-Mahdi is our leader , in Arabic) Good Very Fine Album 498

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301 . Tunis mint AH 558-668. CHRISTIAN SPAIN. Anonymous, Imitation issue minted by Christians of Spain with same legend as anonymous Almohad saquare dirhams AR Millares 24 mm, 1,35 g La ilaha illa Allah / al-Amr kulluhu lillah / la quwwat illa billah / Tunis (There is no deity but Allah . The entire affair belongs to Allah . There is no strength except with Allah, in Arabic) Allah rabbuna / Muhammad rasuluna / al-Mahdi imamuna (Allah is our lord. Muhammad is our messenger. Al-Mahdi is our leader , in Arabic) Good Very Fine Album 498

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302 . Tunis mint AH 558-668. CHRISTIAN SPAIN. Anonymous, Imitation issue minted by Christians of Spain with same legend as anonymous Almohad saquare dirhams AR Millares 22 mm, 1,24 g La ilaha illa Allah / al-Amr kulluhu lillah / la quwwat illa billah / Tunis (There is no deity but Allah . The entire affair belongs to Allah . There is no strength except with Allah, in Arabic) Allah rabbuna / Muhammad rasuluna / al-Mahdi imamuna (Allah is our lord. Muhammad is our messenger. Al-Mahdi is our leader , in Arabic) Good Very Fine Album 498

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303 . Tunis mint AH 558-668. CHRISTIAN SPAIN. Anonymous, Imitation issue minted by Christians of Spain with same legend as anonymous Almohad saquare dirhams AR Millares 23 mm, 1,27 g La ilaha illa Allah / al-Amr kulluhu lillah / la quwwat illa billah / Tunis (There is no deity but Allah . The entire affair belongs to Allah . There is no strength except with Allah, in Arabic) Allah rabbuna / Muhammad rasuluna / al-Mahdi imamuna (Allah is our lord. Muhammad is our messenger. Al-Mahdi is our leader , in Arabic) Good Very Fine Album 498

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304 . Urdu mint AH 771-782. Juchid (khans of the Golden Horde), Ghiyas al-Din Muhammad , Struck AH 773 AR dang 17 mm, 1,35 g Kufid legend / Kufid legend. Good Very Fine Album 2046

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305 Abbasid Caliphate. Muhammadiyah (Ray) AH 170-193. Al-Rashid. Dated 190 AH Dirham AR 23 mm, 2,90 g Kufic legend / Kufic legend. Extremely Fine Album 219.9.

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306 . United Nations. AD 1945-1970. Medal mm, g Minted for the United Nation by Franklin mint. Mint State

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307 Austria. County of Tirol. Meinhard I AD 1253-1258. Eagle Groschen AR (Adlergroschen) 20 mm, 1,56 g COMES TIROL, eagle / MARANO, cross. Very Fine Moser-Tursky 7.

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308 Finland. Nicholas II AD 1894-1917. 1 Penni 1894 15 mm, 1,27 g Crowned monogram / ! PENNI 1894. Mint State KM 13.

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309 France. Lothringen. Francois I AD 1515-1547. Teston 28 mm, 9,07 g + FRANCISCVS+ D+ G+ LOTHOR+ B+ Z+ GLD+ D, crowned bust left / MONETA+NANCEII+CVSA, crowned arms of Lorraine; 1545 in exergue. Good Very Fine Flon 2

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310 Germany. Meissen. . Porcelain medal 63 mm, 33,87 g View of the city / INDUSTRIE MESSEN VVB FEUERFEST. Extremely Fine

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311 Germany. Teutonic Order. Michael Kuchmeister AD 1414-1422. Schilling AR 20 mm, 1,67 g MONETA DNORVM PRV, coat of arms / MAGST MICHAEL PRI, coat of arms. Very Fine Vossberg 741.

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312 Germany. Meissen. circa AD 1970-1980. Porcelain medal 64 mm, 40,50 g SIGILVM CIVIVM DEMIS, standing knight / ÄLTESTES SIEGEL DER STADT MEISSEN UM 1285. Extremely Fine

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313 Greece. Paris mint. Georgios I AD 1863-1913. 20 Lepta 1874 16 mm, 1,04 g ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ, head left / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ, 20 ΛΕΠΤΑ 1874 A, crown. Mint State KM 44.

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314 Italy. Papal State Vatikan. Ancona mint. Pius V AD 1566-1572. Testone AR 31 mm, 8,89 g Crossed keys surmounted by papal tiara over coat-of-arms / St. Peter enthroned facing, holding keys and raising hand in benediction. Very Fine MIR 1097/2; Muntoni 32; Berman 1105.

150



315 Italy. Papal State Vatikan. Rome mint. Paolo V AD 1605-1621. Testone AR 29 mm, 9,50 g Crossed keys surmounted by papal tiara over coat-of-arms / St. Paul standing left, holding sword and bible. Very Fine Berman 1553; MIR 1539/3.

150



316 Italy. Papal State Vatikan. Rome mint. Gregor XVI AD 1831-1846. 50 Baiocchi AR 1834 32 mm, 13,23 g GREGORIVS XVI PONT MAX A IV 1834, bust right / S ROMALDVS AB CAMAL/ BAJ R 50, St. Romaldus kneeling right. Extremely Fine Pagani 217; Toffanin 3094/4.

150



317 Italy. Papal State Vatikan. Rome mint. Pius XII AD 1939-1958. 5 Lire 1941 23 mm, 5,02 g PIVS XII PONTIFEX MAXIMVS ANNO III, bust to left / STATO DELLA CITTA' DEL VATICANO, St. Peter on boat. Extremely Fine KM 28.

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318 Russia. Ivan Andreyevich AD 1432-1454. Denga AR 13 mm, 0,44 g Two men standing, facing each other / St. George on horseback, slaying the dragon, with his dog below. Very Fine HP 1378B.

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319 Russia. Feodor III AD 1661-1682. Wire Money 13 mm, 0,41 g ST. Georg slaying dragon Lettering Very Fine KG 1471

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320 Russia. Ekatherinenburg. Katharina I AD 1684-1727. Griwna 65x65 mm, 128,30 g Moulds, coin dies Very Fine Bitkin H345.

100



321 Russia. Ekatherinenburg. Katharina I AD 1684-1727. Griwna 72x67 mm, 127,44 g Moulds, coin dies Very Fine Bitkin H345.

100



322 Russia. St. Petersburg. Catherine II AD 1762-1796. Rouble AR 37 mm, 21,99 g Bust right / Crowned imperial eagle. Fine Bitkin 187.

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323 Russia. St. Petersburg. Nikolai II AD 1894-1917. Rouble AR 1896 33 mm, 19,80 g Head left / Crowned imperial eagle. Very Fine Bitkin 43.

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324 Spain. Philipp V AD 1700-1746. 8 Reales AR 37 mm, 26,91 g Cowned royal coat-of-arms of Spain, to right VIII / coat-of-arms within polylobe. Very Fine /.

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