

REPUBLIC, minted 211 BC

Anonymous

gold 60 asses, 3.38 grams

Obverse: Helmeted head of bearded Mars facing right, "↓X" (60) below

Reverse: Eagle facing right grasping thunderbolt, ROMA below



The 60 asses was part of the first gold issue minted in Rome. Minted to finance the Second Punic War (218-201 BC), it was the only gold coinage minted in significant quantity until the final years of the Republic (44-27 BC). Smaller forty and twenty asses coins were also minted.

The Second Punic War was the second of three major wars between Carthage and the Roman Republic. The second war was marked by Hannibal's overland journey, his costly crossing of the Alps and crushing victory over Roman armies in the battle of the Trebia. Despite setbacks, the Roman forces recaptured all the major cities that had joined the enemy. Finally, in 202 BC, in a battle in Africa, Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal and Carthage became a Roman client-state.

Sear 3, Crawford 44/2, Frajola R7

REPUBLIC, minted 207 BC

Anonymous

10 asses (denarius), 4.14 grams

Obverse: Helmeted head of Roma right, mark of value "X" behind

Reverse: Dioscuri (Castor and Pollux) galloping right, crescent symbol above, ROMA in linear frame below



The 10 asses (one denarius) coin was part of the large silver issue minted in Rome during the Second Punic War. The denomination is shown with an "X" behind head of Roma. These exist with a wide variety of symbols on the reverse that were usually placed below the horse. An additional smaller denomination was also struck. Seven decades later the denarius was re-tariffed at 16 asses and the mark of value changed, or omitted.

This issue was minted during the Second Punic War (218-201 BC) between Carthage and the Roman Republic. It was part of the first major production of silver coinage having an obverse image of Roma and a depiction of the Dioscuri on reverse. This general type continued with minor changes for over 50 years.

Sear 39, Crawford 57/2, Frajola R26

REPUBLIC, minted 148 BC

Q. Marcus Libo

10 asses (denarius), 3.90 grams

Obverse: Helmeted head of Roma right, mark of value "X" below chin, *LIBO* behind

Reverse: Dioscuri (Castor and Pollux) galloping right, *Q MARC* (*MA* in monogram) below, *ROMA* in linear frame below



This issue marks the first fundamental change in the obverse design of the denarius, the mark of value being moved in front of Roma and replaced by the moneyer's cognomen (final surname). In 148 BC Q. Marcus Libo was one of three moneyer's responsible for the superintendence of the mint. Similar coins were also minted in the names of the other two (M. Atilius Sarranus M.f. and L. Sempronius Pitio). A remarkable proliferation of reverse types started at this time and moneyer's names began to appear in fuller form following this issue.

This change occurred during the Third Punic War (149 - 146 BC). The end of the war came with the destruction of Carthage.

Sear 90, Crawford 215/1, Frajola R1

REPUBLIC, minted 136 BC

C. Servilius M.f.

denarius, 4.05 grams

Obverse: Head of Roma right wearing winged helmet surmounted by eagle's beak; wreath behind head, ROMA below

Reverse: Dioscuri riding in opposite directions carrying spears; star and crescent above; SERVEILIM F in exergue



This design marks the first use of ROMA inscription on the obverse of silver denarii. In addition, it is a unique treatment of the Dioscuri motif with horses facing opposite directions.

Little is known about the moneyer, C. Servilius M.f. (the "M.f." is an abbreviation for *Marci filius*, meaning the son of Marcus).

This coin was minted during the Second Spanish War two years before P. Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus blockaded the stronghold of Numantia.

Sear 116, Crawford 239/1, Frajola R21

REPUBLIC, minted 118 BC at Narbo

C. Malleolus C.f.

denarius serratus, 3.94 grams

Obverse: Roma facing right, wearing Attic helmet, mark of value "X" behind, encircled by moneyer's name C. MALLE CF

Reverse: Gallic warrior, perhaps Bituitus, in biga right, holding shield and carnyx (trumpet) and hurling spear; LLICNDOM in exergue



The earliest appearance of denarii serratus. This issue, distinguished by flans with serrated edges, was first minted at the newly founded city of Narbo (now Narbonne, France), the first Roman colony in Gaul. The two principal magistrates (Licinius Crassus and Domitius Ahenobarbus) produced their coins in association with five junior colleagues.

The Romans gained control of the Rhone River valley after 120 BC following the defeat of King Bituitus of the Averni, who was taken captive and sent to Rome. The Romans constructed a road from the river Rhone to the Pyrenees, along the course of which Roman veterans settled a new colony called Narbo Martius and in 118 BC the southern province became known as Gallia Narbonensis.

Sear 158, Crawford 282/3, Frajola R27

REPUBLIC, minted 115 BC

M. Cippius M.f.

10 asses (denarius), 4.02 grams

Obverse: Helmeted head of Roma right, mark of value "X" behind, M CIP I MF before

Reverse: Victory in biga riding right, holding palm-branch, rudder below, ROMA in exergue



This coin was minted during the Jugurthine War which followed the death of the king of Numidia in 118 BC. A Roman senatorial commission was despatched to Numidia in North Africa to mediate the succession. Rome was outraged after Jugurtha appeared to bribe the commission's leader who returned to Rome a richer man, after awarding the greater and wealthier part of Numidia to Jugurtha.

Troops were sent to Numidia to deal with the usurper. But the campaign was ineffective. Jugurtha was summoned to Rome but the legal proceedings were stopped by a Tribune of the People who sought to avoid a political scandal.

Sear 166, Crawford 289/1, Frajola R25

REPUBLIC, minted 106 BC

L. Cornelius Scipio Asiagenus

denarius serratus, 4.02 grams

Obverse: Laureate head of Jupiter facing left, short beard and hair with long locks falling on neck

Reverse: Jupiter driving quadriga right, preparing to cast thunderbolt with right hand, scepter and reins in left, L. SCIP. ASIAG in exergue; control letter •G above



This coin, represents the first issue with notched, or serrated, edges (denarius serratus) minted in Rome. They had previously been struck in Narbo, Gaul twelve years earlier.

In 106 BC King Jugurtha was betrayed by his brother-in-law and captured by the quaestor Marius, L. Cornelius Sulla effectively ending the Jugurthine War.

In 100 BC this moneyer took up arms with other senators against Saturninus. He belonged to the Marian party in the civil wars and was appointed consul in 83 BC. He was defeated by Sulla.

Sear 188, Crawford 311/1d, Frajola R20

REPUBLIC, minted 103 BC

Q. Minucius M.f. Thermus

denarius, 3.84 grams

Obverse: Head of young Mars facing left, with crested helmet

Reverse: Roman soldier advancing right, fighting with uplifted sword a barbarian soldier before him and protecting a fallen comrade at his feet, Q THERM MF (MF in monogram) in exergue



With this issue the moneyer commemorates his ancestor Q. Minucius Thermus, consul in 193 BC who fell in the war against the Traciens in 188 BC ending with the Peace of Apamea. Previously, Thermus had been responsible for legislation confirming peace with Carthage after the Second Punic War. From 197, he served on the three-man commission in charge of establishing colonies. As praetor in 196, he was assigned to Hispania Citerior. He was possibly acting as proconsul when his military success at Turda in Spain gained him the honor of a triumph.

When this coin was issued Rome was dealing with the Second Sicilian slave revolt (104-100 BC) while Consul Marius trained his army in Gaul and distributed land allotments to his veterans.

Sear 197, Crawford 319/1, Frajola R12

REPUBLIC, minted 90 BC

L. Calpurnius Piso Frugi L.f.

denarius, 4.15 grams

Obverse: Laureated head of Apollo right, vine leaf control mark behind

Reverse: Horseman galloping right holding palm branch and reins. L PISO FRVGI and control CIII below



The image of the horseman alludes to the *Ludi Apollinares*, established in 212 BC. The annual celebration of these games was originally proposed by L. Calpurnius Piso, an ancestor of the moneyer. It was minted during the conflict with the Marsic Confederation.

Between 91 and 82 BC the Roman Republic was engulfed in The Social, or Marsic War, against several of the non-Latin (Italian) cities which had been Roman allies for centuries. It began when the Italian allies revolted following the assassination of Marcus Livius Drusus when most of his reforms were declared invalid. The rebellious allies showed their intentions of forming an independent nation, called Italia. The war ended in 88 BC after laws were passed which allowed an easier path to Roman citizenship.

Sear 235, Crawford 340/1, Frajola R23

REPUBLIC, minted 90 BC

C. Vibius C.f. Pansa

denarius, 3.81 grams

Obverse: Laureated head of Apollo right, PANSA behind, symbol below

Reverse: Minerva in quadriga right, holding trophy and spear, C VIBIVS CF in exergue



This coin was minted in 90 BC when L. Julius Caesar and P. Rutilius Lupus were consuls in the midst of the Social War (91-82 BC). In the same year, L. Julius Caesar passed a law, the *lex Julia de civitate Latinus et sociis danda*, which gave citizenship to those Italians who had not taken up arms against Rome. This was done in an effort to consolidate the support of those Italian states that had remained loyal and discourage those that had joined the Marsic Confederation. Also, the legate Gn. Pompeius Strabo created a blockade around the Sabine city of Asculum (now Ascoli Piceno, Italy).

The three moneyers this year were C. Vibius C.f. Pansa, L. Q. Titius, Capurnius, and L.f. L.n. Piso Frugi.

Sear 242, Crawford 342/5, Frajola R29

REPUBLIC, minted 89 BC

L. Titurius L.f. Sabinus

denarius, 4.06 grams

Obverse: Bare head of bearded King Tatius, *SABIN* behind, TA in monogram before

Reverse: Two Roman soldiers running, each bearing a Sabine woman in his arms (the rape of the Sabine women), L. *TITVRI* in exergue



Minted during the Social War, the moneyer employed imagery that related both to his surname and the current efforts to unify the Italians and Latins. The earliest recorded history of Rome relates the story of the rape of the Sabine women (ca. 750 BC). Seeking wives in order to found families, the Romans negotiated unsuccessfully with the Sabines who populated the area. Fearing the emergence of a rival society, the Sabines refused to allow their women to marry the Romans; consequently, the Romans planned to abduct Sabine women. The Roman forces, led by Romulus, attacked the Sabines, led by King Tatius who was in possession of the Capitoline hill. The Sabine women intervened in the battle to reconcile the warring parties following which the Sabines agreed to unite with Rome to form one nation.

Sear 249, Crawford 344/1a, Frajola R30

REPUBLIC, minted 82 BC

C. Mamilius Limetanus

denarius serratus, 3.81 grams

Obverse: Draped bust of Mercury right, wearing winged petasus, caduceus over shoulder control letter "E" behind

Reverse: Ulysses walking right, holding staff and extending hand to his dog Argos to right, C MAMIL on left, LIMETAN (TA in monogram) on right



The obverse and reverse of this coin refer to the lineage of the gens Mamilia, who claimed their descent from Mamilia, the daughter of Telegonus, the son of Ulysses and Circe, and a descendant of Mercury. The reverse scene depicts the moment when Ulysses, returning home from the Trojan Wars in the guise of a beggar so as to surprise and kill the many suitors of his wife Penelope, is recognized by his dog Argos.

This coin was minted during Sulla's second civil war which was the final phase of the Marsic War. Sulla had landed in Italy at the port city of Brundisium, and waged a civil war against the remaining Marian forces. He was victorious at the battle of the Colline Gate at Rome, defeating the Marian forces as well as contingent of Samnites who had joined them to march on Rome.

Sear 282, Crawford 362/1, Frajola R24

REPUBLIC, minted 79 BC

C. Naevius Balbus

denarius serratus, 3.84 grams

Obverse: Diademed head of Venus right wearing earring and pearl necklace, SC (Sensus Consulto) behind

Reverse: Victory driving galloping triga right, IXXXX above, CNAEBALB in exergue



This issue represents coinage from a large output specially authorized by decree of the Senate which was necessitated by the extensive military operations during the dictatorship of Sulla. The three-horse chariot (triga) is rarely depicted on Republican coinage (one other minted in 111 BC).

The year 79 BC saw the final battles of the Marsic War when the fanatical rebel city of Volaterrae was finally captured after its citizens were starved to death. In the same year L. Cornelius Sulla resigned the dictatorship.

Sear 309, Crawford 382/1b, Frajola R11

REPUBLIC, minted 79 BC

Ti. Claudius Ti. F. Ap. n. Nero

denarius, 3.62 grams

Obverse: Head of Diana right, draped bow and quiver over shoulder, SC before

Reverse: Victory with palm branch, reins and wreath driving biga right, APN (AP in monogram), TI CLAVD TIF in exergue



The obverse type alludes to the origin of the Claudia gens which descended from the Sabine chieftan Atta Clausus who settled with his followers in Rome. Clausus, who afterwards took the name Appius Claudius, was admitted into the order of Patricians and became a Senator and Consul. The patrician Claudian family were later to form the first dynasty of Imperial Rome.

This issue represents coinage from a large output specially authorized by decree of the Senate which was necessitated by the extensive military operations during the dictatorship of Sulla.

Sear 310, Crawford 383/1, Frajola R32

REPUBLIC, minted 79 BC

L. Papius

denarius serratus, 3.94 grams

Obverse: Head of Juno Sospita right, clad in goat's skin, minter's tongs symbol behind

Reverse: Gryphon leaping right, hammer symbol below, L. PAPI in exergue



This and the previous two coins also minted in 79 BC illustrate the "set" of issues of the *triumvir monetalis* for the year. These three mint magistrates was appointed yearly and served only a single year.

Juno was a Roman Goddess, the protector and special counselor of the state. As healer of the sick, she was known as Juno Sospita (Juno the Savior).

The head of Juno Sospita reveals the moneyer's Lanuvine origin. The snake played a key role in her worship. In a colossal statue from Lanuvium, preserved in the Vatican, Juno Sospita is represented as a warlike goddess, armed with spear and shield, wearing a goat's skin over her head.

Sear 311, Crawford 384/1, Frajola R36

REPUBLIC, minted 78 BC

M. Volteius Mf.

denarius, 3.60 grams

Obverse: 78 BC. Laureate bust of Jupiter right

Reverse: Tetrastyle temple of Jupiter Capitolinus with closed doors; thunderbolt on pediment, M VOLTEI MF below



The various types issued by M. Volteius probably relate to the five principal agonistic (competitive) festivals which were celebrated annually in Rome. Jupiter and his temple, here displayed, refer to the *ludi Romani*, celebrated every September. The actual *ludi Romani* consisted of a solemn procession, then a chariot race in which each chariot in Homeric fashion carried a driver and a warrior. At the end of the race the warrior leapt out and ran on foot.

The four other issues, namely Hercules and the boar, Liber and Ceres, Cybele, and Apollo and a tripod, refer to the *ludi Plebeii*, *ludi Cereales*, *ludi Megalenses*, and *ludi Apollinares* respectively.

Sear 312, Crawford 385/1, Frajola R35

REPUBLIC, minted 77 BC

P. Satrienus

denarius, 3.9 grams

Obverse: Helmeted head of Mars right with control numeral XI behind

Reverse: She-wolf prowling left, ROMA above; PSATRIENVS in two lines in exergue



This reverse type refers to the foundation of Rome, and to the canonical story of Romulus and Remus being fathered by Mars and suckled and cared for by a she-wolf.

Following the death of L. Cornelius Sulla the previous year, a revolt was led by the anti-Sullan consul M. Aemilius Lepidus. He is eventually brought to battle by the other consul, Q. Lutatius Catulus, and routed in a battle near the Quirinal hill at Rome. The remnants of the defeated rebel army joined the forces of Q. Sertorius in Spain (Sertorian War). Reinforcements for the governor of Spain, Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius, were sent by Rome under an equal ranking commander, Gn. Pompeius (later Magnus).

Sear 319, Crawford 388/1b, Frajola R4

REPUBLIC, minted 76 BC

L. Lucretius Trio

denarius, 3.97 grams

Obverse: Laureate head of Jupiter right, trident over shoulder, control numeral XX above

Reverse: L LVCRETI TRIO in two lines, infant Genius (deified Palaemon?) riding dolphin right



The imagery on this coin probably refers to an ancestor of the moneyer, C. Lucretius Gallus, who in 181 BC was created *duumvir navalis*, and later commanded the fleet against Perseus of Macedon.

The Lucretia gens was one of the most ancient in Rome, and it featured prominently in the early history of Rome. The wife of Numa Pompilius, second King of Rome, was named Lucretia. Spurius Lucretius Tricipitinus became one of the first two consuls in 509 BC, the first year of the Republic.

Sear 322, Crawford 390/2, Frajola R33

REPUBLIC, minted 76 BC in Spain

Cn. Lentulus Marcellinus

denarius, 3.93 grams

Obverse: Bust of the Genius of the Roman People right, *G.P.R.* above, scepter over right shoulder

Reverse: Globe between wreathed scepter and rudder, *EX - SC* (*Sentus Consulto*, "by Decree of the Senate") in field, *CN LEN. Q.* below



Cn. Lentulus here strikes in Spain in his capacity as quaestor to the proconsul Pompey who had been sent to the peninsula to assist Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius in the protracted war against Sertorius (Sertorian War).

Sertorius, contemptuously speaking of Pompey as Sulla's pupil, proved himself more than a match for his adversaries. He razed Lauron, a city allied to Rome, after a battle in which Pompey's forces were ambushed and defeated. He nearly captured Pompey at the battle of Sucro when Pompey decided to fight Sertorius without waiting for Metellus Pius. He utterly defeated the united forces of Metellus and Pompey on one occasion after which Pompey wrote to Rome for reinforcements, without which, he said, he and Metellus Pius would be driven out of Hispania.

Sear 323, Crawford 393/1a, Frajola R9

REPUBLIC, minted 75 BC

L. Farsuleius Mensor

denarius, 3.88 grams

Obverse: Diademed and draped bust of Libertas, SC below chin, MENSOR before, pileus (cap) and control TXXIII behind

Reverse: Warrior in biga holding spear helping togate figure into chariot, scorpion below, L FARSVLEI in exergue



This coin was minted under the authority of the Senate (SC) and the reverse may be an allusion to the *lex Julia* of 90 BC, whereby the right of citizenship was granted to all Italian allies.

During the continuing Sertorian War in Spain, in 75 BC the Roman general Gn. Pompeius Magnus was defeated in a battle with Q. Sertorius near the River Sucro and later entered into an indecisive battle near the town of Saguntum.

After L. Cornelius Sulla had made the tribunes of the plebs impotent, he also made it so that an ex-tribune could not hold higher magistracies. The consul G. Aurelius Cotta repealed this measure in this year.

Sear 328 (this the plate coin), Crawford 392/1a, Frajola R22

REPUBLIC, minted 70 BC

Q. Fufius Calenus and P. Mucius Scaevola Cordus

denarius serratus, 4.16 grams

Obverse: Conjoined heads of Honos and Virtus, former laureated, later helmeted, *HO* behind, *VIRT* (*RT* in monogram) before, *KALENI* below

Reverse: Italia standing right holding cornucopiae, clasping hands with Roma standing left holding spear, foot on globe, caduceus above *ITAL* (*TAL* in monogram) on left, *RO* on right, *CORDI* in exergue



Two moneyers were involved with this issue. One, Muscius Scaevola, taking to himself the final surname Cordus.

The earliest Muscius, doubtless legendary, was the would-be assassin of Porcinna, on who the cognomen Cordus was added as the legend developed. The story revolves around the themes of *honus* (honor) and *virtus* (virtue, primarily in the military sense) and it is reasonable to assume that a later Mucius would wish to claim decent from this legendary hero.

The reverse type seems to allude to the reconciliation between Rome and Italy following the Social War, upon which the seal was set by the census of 70 BC.

REPUBLIC, minted 69 BC

Titus Vettius Sabinus

denarius serratus, 3.79 grams

Obverse: Bare head of bearded king Tadius facing right, TA in monogram below chin, SABINVS behind, SC before

Reverse: Magistrate in slow biga holding staff, ear of corn behind, IVDEX above, T. VETTIVS in exergue



The obverse type shows the head of Tadius, king of the Sabines, refers to the claim of the moneyer's family to Sabine origin. The TA monogram identifies Tadius and the SC is an abbreviation of *Senatus Consulto* (issued by authority of the Senate).

On the reverse the word *IVDEX* (judge or juror) probably refers to the passage of *lex Aurelia iudiciaria* in 70 BC which provided that juries should be chosen from senators, equites and *tribuni aerarii*. The imagery may be a portrayal of a magistrate engaged in judicial activity, perhaps the distribution of corn.

REPUBLIC, minted 66 BC

Q. Pomponius Musa

denarius, 4.08 grams

Obverse: Diademed head of Apollo facing right, hair in ringlets, Q. POMONI behind and MVSA at right

Reverse: Hercules in lion's skin playing lyre, club at feet, HERCVLES at left MVSARVM at right



The moneyer's gens, Pomponia, claimed descent from Pompo, the originator of the sacred rites of sacrifice to Apollo, who is featured on the obverse. The reverse is a play on Musa's name. The other coins in this series depict the nine muses over which Apollo presided.

The representation of Hercules Musagetes is probably a representation in detail of the statues in the temple in the Circus Flaminius built in their honour by M. Fulvius Nobilitor. Hercules, as leader of the choir, is represented playing on his lyre and other statues of the Muses are shown with their various attributes on the other coins in the series. A temple to Hercules Musarum was located near Campus Martius in Rome.

Sear 351, Crawford 410/1, Frajola R131

REPUBLIC, minted 64 BC

L. Roscius Fabatus

denarius serratus, 3.90 grams

Obverse: Head of Juno Sospita facing right, clad in goat's skin, control symbol of shield behind, *L ROSCI* below

Reverse: Maiden standing right, feeding snake before her, control symbol behind, *FABATI* in exergue



Juno was a Roman Goddess, the protector and special counselor of the state. As healer of the sick, she was known as Juno Sospita (Juno the Savior).

The head of Juno Sospita reveals the moneyer's Lanuvine origin. The snake played a key role in her worship. An early Latin or Etruscan form of Juno, she worshiped specifically at Lanuvium (current day Lanuvio, 70 miles southeast of Rome), where a large temple and grove were dedicated to her; in the latter was preserved a sacred snake. In a colossal statue from Lanuvium, preserved in the Vatican, Juno Sospita is represented as a warlike goddess, armed with spear and shield, wearing a goat's skin over her head.

Sear 363, Crawford 412/1, Frajola R6

REPUBLIC, minted 62 BC

L. Aemilius Lepidus Paullus

denarius, 3.93 grams

Obverse: Veiled and diademed head of Concordia right, PAVLLVS LEPIDVS CONCORDIA around

Reverse: Togate figure of L. Aemilius Paullus standing at right touching trophy beside which stand King Perseus of Macedon and his two sons as captives, TER above, PAVLLVS in exergue



The reverse refers to the victory of the moneyer's ancestor, Lucius Aemilius Paullus Macedonicus, during the Third Macedonian War. After Paullus had been elected consul in 168 BC he was appointed to deal with the war which had been going badly for Rome. Shortly after, on June 22nd, he won the decisive battle of Pydna and captured the Macedonian King Perseus. After a stop in Epirus on his return to Rome, Paullus celebrated a glorious triumph which featured the captured king and was granted by the Senate the use of the surname Macedonius.

This moneyer was the elder brother of the later triumvir M. Aemilius Lepidus.

Sear 366, Crawford 415/1, Frajola R34

REPUBLIC, minted 63 BC

L. Cassius Longinus

denarius, 3.90 grams

Obverse: Veiled and draped bust of a Vestal virgin left, C before, behind, a shallow vessel with two upright handles, identified as a *culullus*

Reverse: Togate voter standing left depositing ballot inscribed V into voting box, LONGIN III V (Triumvir, one of three men as annual mint magistrates) behind



The obverse design headress and the *culullus* link the image with the only permanent female priesthood in Republican Rome. The reverse inscription refers to the cognomen and title of the man responsible for the coin, Lucius Cassius Longinus. This type shows a vote being cast in the legislative courts. The V stands for *Vti Rogas*, or “as you ask,” signifying a positive vote; the opposite vote was initialed with an A for *Antiquo*, meaning “too reject any change.” These letters were scratched into a wax layer on a wooden tablet and deposited into the *cista*, or wicker basket, then counted.

The mint mark on obverse at left is a C. The known mint marks (L,C,A,S, reversed S, and I) on other coins by Longinus use the letters of the praenomen and nomen (first and second names) of the moneyer.

REPUBLIC, minted 58 BC

M. Aemilius Scaurus and P. Plautius Hypsaeus

denarius, 3.78 grams

Obverse: King Aretas kneeling beside camel holding olive branch, M SCAVR above, (refers to the defeat of the Nabathean Arabs), EX - SC in field, AED CVR in exergue

Reverse: Jupiter in quadriga with thunderbolt, CHVPSAEVS AED CVR above, CHVPSAE COS, CAPTYM at right, PREIVER in exergue



M. Aemilius Scaurus strikes here as curule aedile (AED CVR). This remarkable obverse type commemorates the surrender in 62 BC of Aretas III, king of the Nabataean Arabs, to Scaurus himself. The first instance of a moneyer publicizing an event from his own career on the coinage.

After Aemilius Scaurus had marched his army through a dry and desert land, his expedition was called off when it was reported that Mithradites VI, the king of Armenia, had been murdered by his son. The Nabataeans seized the opportunity and offered Pompey and the Romans 300 talents of silver if they would leave. Pompey accepted and in doing so set a precedent for later Roman generals who wished to improve their personal finances.

Sear 378, Crawford 422/1b, Frajola R2

REPUBLIC, minted 55 BC

A. Plautius

denarius, 3.81 grams

Obverse: Turreted head of Cybele facing right, A PLAVTIVS before, AED CVR SC behind

Reverse: Bacchus the Jew in attitude of supplication, kneeling right, offering palm branch, camel behind, IVDAEVS before, BACCHIVS below in exergue



Aulus Plautius strikes as curule aedile (AED CVR). The kneeling figure on reverse as been identified as Aristobulus, the Jewish high priest, then held captive in Rome.

Pompey had planned in 64 BC to move against the Nabataeans when the continuing feud among the Jewish rulers deflected his attention away. In 63 BC Pompey personally took control of Jerusalem and sent Aristobulus, the Jewish high piest, and his family to Rome in chains. Hyranus was then confirmed as high priest and ethnarch, but denied the title of king.

Sear 395, Crawford 431/1, Frajola R3

REPUBLIC, minted 54 BC

Q. Caepio Brutus

denarius, 3.73 grams

Obverse: Head of Liberty facing right, *LIBERTAS* behind

Reverse: Consul L. Junius Brutus (consul 509 BC) walking left between two lictors and preceded by an accensus, *BRUTVS* in exergue



The most famous of Caesar's assassins in 44 BC, Junius Brutus was adopted by his uncle Q. Servilius Caepio, and changed his name to Q. Caepio Brutus. Coin type, struck while serving as a moneyer, refers to his illustrious ancestry and his patriotic devotion to the freedom of the Republic. The lictors shown on reverse were minor officials who carried the fasces and cleared the way for the chief magistrates. The accensus served as a replacement for a lictor if required.

During his governorship of Cyprus Brutus enriched himself by lending money at high rates of interest. He returned to Rome a rich man. From his first appearance in the Senate, Brutus aligned himself with the conservative faction against the First Triumvirate that had formed in 60 BC.

Sear 397, Crawford 433/1, Frajola R8

KOSON (Skythia), minted ca. 50 BC in Dacia

Q. Caepio Brutus

gold stater, 8.42 grams

Obverse: Roman consul accompanied by two lictors, monogram to left, ΚΟΣΩΝ in exergue

Reverse: Eagle standing left on scepter, holding wreath



The name Koson on this obverse design can be reconciled with Coson, a local Geto-Dacian king. These gold staters, and associated silver coins, are the only known coinage. It is this king to whom Octavian had sought to arrange an alliance-by-marriage with his daughter Julia marrying Koson's son, and himself, Koson's daughter. This negotiation angered Mark Antony, to whose son Julia had originally been promised, and exacerbated the rift between Octavian and himself. The local use of Roman coin types in the region demonstrates the economic ties between Dacia and Rome and reveals the local king's power and prestige in his striking of his own coins.

Obverse imitates denarii of M. Brutus (54 BC) and was probably produced in Dacia in the area Transylvania (now Romania).

Sear 397, RPC 701, Frajola P1

REPUBLIC, minted 49 BC

L. Cornelius Lentulus and C. Claudius Marcellus

denarius, 3.9 grams

Obverse: Head of Apollo right, close fitting band obscured by fullness of hair, L• LENT• C• MARC (NT and MA ligatured) before, COS (Consul) behind

Reverse: Nude Jupiter standing right, holding thunderbolt in right hand and in left palm eagle standing half-right with head reverted, garlanded altar before, star over Q in left field



Eight different moneyers served in the tumultuous year 49 BC. The consuls, L. Cornelius Lentulus and C. Claudius Marcellus, here strike in support of Pompey. Caesar had crossed the Rubicon in the Spring forcing Pompey and his supporters to take flight to Sicily. Jupiter, chief deity of the Roman pantheon appears on all of the coins minted by these moneyers.

Although this denarius has traditionally been assigned to a Sicilian mint, the circumstances of the hurried Pompeian withdrawal from Brundisium to Greece makes this most unlikely. The obverse type should be regarded as a reference to the family history of the consul Marcellus whose ancestor, M. Claudius Marcellus, captured Syracuse in 211 BC during the second Punic War.

Sear 415, Crawford 445/2, Frajola R18

REPUBLIC, minted 49/48 BC

Gaius Julius Caesar

denarius, 3.8 grams

Obverse: Elephant walking right and trampling on serpent, CAESAR below

Reverse: Simpulum, sprinkler, axe and priest's hat



In 50 BC, the Senate, led by Pompey, ordered Julius Caesar to disband his army and return to Rome. Caesar thought he would be prosecuted if he entered Rome without immunity or without his army. On 10 January 49 BC Caesar crossed the Rubicon river (the frontier boundary of Italy) with only one legion and ignited civil war.

The Optimates (conservatives), including Metellus Scipio and Pompey, fled to the south to Brundisium. Caesar, leaving Marcus Aemilius Lepidus as prefect of Rome, and the rest of Italy under Mark Antony as tribune, rejoined two of his Gallic legions in Hispania. He then returned east, to challenge Pompey in Greece. He decisively defeated Pompey at Pharsalus in 48 BC. In Rome, Caesar was appointed dictator, with Mark Antony as his Master of the Horse.

Sear 1399, Crawford 443/1, Frajola B1

REPUBLIC, minted 47 BC

L. Plautius Plancus

denarius, 3.8 grams

Obverse: Head of Medusa facing with dishevelled hair, L·PLAVTIVS below

Reverse: Aurora facing, holding palm branch in left hand and conducting the four horses of the sun, inscribed PLANCY below



This moneyer was the brother of L. Munatius but was adopted into the Plautia gens. During the censorship of C. Plautius and Ap. Claudius Caecus in 312 BC, the latter quarrelled with the Tibicenes, who retired to Tibur. Plautius put his people in wagons and conveyed them back to Rome, and in order that they should not be recognised their faces were covered with masks. The chariot of Aurora is an allusion to their early morning arrival. In commemoration of this event the *Quinquatrus Minusculae* were celebrated yearly at Rome on the 13th June, and those who took part wore masks.

In 47 BC at the Battle of Zela in Turkey, Caesar and his army defeated a son of Mithridates and his army. Caesar's famous quote after the battle was "veni, vidi, vici" (I came, I saw, I conquered).

Sear 429, Crawford 453/1, Frajola R16

REPUBLIC, minted 42 BC

L. Mussidius Longus

denarius, 3.96 grams

Obverse: Veiled head of Concordia facing right, *CONCORDIA* behind

Reverse: *L MVSSIDIVS LONGVS*, shrine of Venus Cloacina consisting of circular platform surmounted by two statues of goddess, inscribed *CLOACIN* below



In Roman religion, Concordia (harmony) was the goddess of agreement, understanding, and marital harmony.

Cloacina was also worshipped by the Romans as the goddess of the *Cloaca Maxima* (the main sewage drain) and of the entire sewer system. Pliny reports that when the Romans and the Sabines decided to make peace, both laid down their weapons at the location of the shrine and purified themselves.

The name *Cloacina Maxima* literally means greatest sewer. It was constructed in order to drain local marshes and to carry effluent to the River Tiber. According to tradition it may have been initially constructed around 600 BC under the orders of the king of Rome, Tarquinius Priscus

Sear 494, Crawford 494/42a, Frajola R5

REPUBLIC, minted 42 BC at Smyrna

Marcus Junius Brutus

denarius, 3.8 grams

Obverse: Axe, simpulum and sacrificial knife, *BRVTVS* below

Reverse: Jug and lituus, *LENTVLVS SPINT* below



Struck by P. Cornelius Lentulus Spinther, moneyer, in Asia Minor in early 42 BC. The pontifical implements shown are axe (*securis*), ladle (*simpulum*), knife (*secespita*), pitcher (*sitella*), and wand (*lituus*).

In 42 BC Octavian and Antony joined their forces against Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus. They sides clashed in two engagements known as the Battle of Philippi. The first was fought on October 3, in which Brutus defeated Octavian's forces, although Cassius was defeated by Antonius' forces. The second engagement was fought on October 23 and ended in Brutus' defeat. After the defeat, he fled into the nearby hills with only about four legions. Knowing his army had been defeated and that he would be captured, Brutus committed suicide.

Sear 1431, Crawford 500/7, Frajola R14

REPUBLIC, minted 42 BC at Smyrna

Gius Cassius Longinus

denarius, 4.24 grams

Obverse: Tripod surmounted by cauldron, fillet hanging on either side, *C CASSI* on left, *IMP* on right

Reverse: Jug and lituus, *LENTVLVS SPINT* below



Cassius was the moving spirit in the plot against Caesar, winning over the chief assassins to the cause of tyrannicide but Brutus became their leader. After the formation of the triumvirate, Brutus requested his assistance and Cassius quickly joined him in Smyrna, leaving his nephew behind to govern Syria.

The conspirators decided to attack the triumviri's allies in Asia. Cassius set upon and sacked Rhodes, while Brutus did the same to Lycia. They crossed the Hellespont, and encamped near Philippi in Macedon. Octavian and Antony soon arrived. In the Battle of Philippi that ensued, Brutus was successful against Octavian. However, Cassius was defeated and overrun by Marcus Antonius and unaware of Brutus' victory, ordered his freedman Pindarus to kill him.

Sear 1446, Crawford 500/1, Frajola R15

REPUBLIC, minted 41 BC at Ephesus

Marcus Antonius and Octavian

denarius, 3.90 grams

Obverse: M ANT IMP AVG III VIR RPC M
BARBATQP (MP and AV in monogram), bare
head of Mark Antony right

Reverse: CAESAR IMP PONT III VIR R P C,
bare head of Octavian right



In 43 BC Octavian joined forces with Marcus Antonius (Mark Antony) and Marcus Aemilius Lepidus in a military dictatorship known as the Second Triumvirate. As a triumvir, Octavian ruled Rome and many of its provinces. The triumvirate was eventually torn apart under the competing ambitions of its rulers: Lepidus was driven into exile, and Antony committed suicide following his defeat at the Battle of Actium by the fleet of Octavian commanded by Agrippa in 31 BC.

During the years of their long association the two principal triumvirs honoured each other on their coin issues. The issues ceased in 38 BC and they never met again after Antony's departure from Italy in 37 BC.

Sear 1504, Crawford 517/2, Frajola R31

REPUBLIC, minted 32/31 BC at Patrae

Marcus Antonius

denarius, 3.6 grams

Obverse: *ANTAVG III VIR RPC* War galley
right, tyros behind prow

Reverse: *LEG II* Legionary aquilla between
standards



The celebrated "legionary" coinage of Mark Antony was produced at his winter headquarters at Patrae, Greece just prior to the Actian campaign against Octavian. It honored twenty-three legions as well as several auxiliaries.

The obverse illustrates Antony's naval forces since it depicts a galley with a military standard at the prow. Above this is the abbreviated legend *ANTonius AVGu*, which is his name and priestly office. Below reads *III VIR Rei Publicae Constituendae* which refers to Antony as a triumvir of the Roman Republic. The reverse honors the land forces with a legionary eagle between two standards. Below is the abbreviated legend *LEGio II* which refers to Legion II while the eagle, minister of the thunderbolts of the almighty god Jupiter, was the principle standard of Roman legions.

Sear 1479, Crawford 544/14, Frajola H1

REPUBLIC, minted 32/31 BC at Patrae

Marcus Antonius

denarius, 3.3 grams

Obverse: ANTAVG III VIR RPC War galley
right, tyros behind prow

Reverse: LEG X Legionary aquilla between
standards



The legionary coinage of Mark Antony was probably produced at his winter headquarters at Patrae, Greece just prior to the Actian campaign against Octavian. In the 31 BC battle of Actium the tenth legion participated on the side of Antony. After the battle the tenth was merged by Octavian into *LEG X GEMINA*. Most of the legions of Antony were dissolved however.

Although Actium was a battle at sea, the legion was able to board enemy ships that had been hooked close by means of an iron grapnel. Its key participation in this battle is probably the reason that the legion also used a trireme as one of its symbols. Actium marked the end of the civil war and the rise to power of Octavian, who was proclaimed Augustus some years later.

Sear 1479, Crawford 544/18, Frajola RH2

IMPERIAL, minted 19/18 BC in Spain

Augustus

denarius, 3.86 grams

Obverse: Head of Augustus

Reverse: CAESAR AVGVSTVS SPQR
shield inscribed CL V between two laurel
branches



In 27 BC the Roman Senate awarded Gaius Julius Caesar (Octavian) the honorary title of Augustus. He guided the transition from a republic to a monarchy which is considered to have been completed by 23 BC when he became proconsul imperium over all Roman territories and was granted the absolute right of veto.

The reign of Augustus initiated an era of relative peace known as the Pax Romana, or Roman peace. Despite continuous wars on the frontiers, and one year-long civil war over the imperial succession, the Mediterranean world remained at peace for more than two centuries. Augustus enlarged the empire dramatically, annexing Egypt, Dalmatia, Pannonia, and Raetia, expanded possessions in Africa, and completed the conquest of Hispania.

Sear 1602, BMC 354, Frajola 1-1