Ancient Coin Reference Guide

Part One

Compiled by Ron Rutkowsky
When I first began collecting ancient coins I started to put together a guide which would help me to identify them and to learn more about their history. Over the years this has developed into several notebooks filled with what I felt would be useful information. My plan now is to make all this information available to other collectors of ancient coinage. I cannot claim any credit for this information; it has all come from many sources including the internet. Throughout this reference I use the old era terms of BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domni, year of our Lord) rather than the more politically correct BCE (Before the Christian era) and CE (Christian era).

**Rome**

With most collections, there must be a starting point. Mine was with Roman coinage. The history of Rome is a subject that we all learned about in school. From Julius Caesar, Marc Anthony, to Constantine the Great and the fall of the empire in the late 5th century AD.

Rome first came into being around the year 753 BC, when it was ruled under noble families that descended from the Etruscans. During those early days, it was ruled by kings. Later the Republic ruled by a Senate headed by a Consul whose term of office was one year replaced the kingdom. The Senate lasted until Julius Caesar took over as a dictator in 47 BC and was murdered on March 15, 44 BC. I will skip over the years until 27 BC when Octavian (Augustus) ended the Republic and the Roman Empire was formed making him the first emperor.

Coinage in Rome first appeared before circa 290 BC using lumps of refined bronze called Aes Rude. From around 290 BC cast bronze Aes Signatum appeared. Now, a form of Roman coinage first appeared in the form of Aes Grave. Aes Grave were produced in seven different dominations. There were large bronze pieces weighting into several hundred grams. Also about this time gold, silver, and bronze coinage appeared.
Markings on Early Roman Coinage

1. As --- Indicated by the letter I. The obverse had the head of Janus and the reverse the prow of a vessel.
2. Semis --- Letter S. The obverse has the head of Jupiter laureate.
3. Quincunx --- Letter V, indicated by five large dots on the coin.
4. Trines --- Head of Minerva. Indicated by four dots on the coin.
5. Quadrans --- Head of Hercules. Indicated by three dots on the coin.
7. Uncia --- Head of Roma of a Spearhead. Indicated by one dot on the coin.
Roman Moneyers

The office of moneyer was an annual appointment. Three men were responsible for the casting of gold, silver and bronze coinage. Their title was Tresviri auro aere flando feriundo and their names appeared on the coins. The two links below will give a list of these moneyers.

https://www.britishmuseum.org/research/publications/online_research_catalogues/rrc/roman_republican_coins/roman_republican_moneyers.aspx

https://www.forumancientcoins.com/historia/coins/r1/r01110.htm

http://davy.potdevin.free.fr/Site/crawford1.html
The Romans loved to use abbreviations in their legends. Here is a list of the most common forename abbreviations.

A: Aulus
AEL: Aelius
AUR: Aurelius
D: Decimus
C: Caius or Gaius
CN: Cnaeus
FL: Flavius
L: Lucius
M: Marcus
N: Numerius
P: Publius
Q: Quintus
SER: Sergius
SEX: Sextus
SP: Spurius
TI: Tiberius
T: Titus
AP: Apius
V: Vibius

**Abbreviations Used in Titles**

AVG: -- Augustus, titled bestowed on an emperor

ARM: -- Armeniacus, conqueror of Armenia

CAES: -- Caesar, heir to Augustus

CENS: -- Censor, magistrate

COS: ---- Consul, one of the two chief magistrates

DAC: ---- Conqueror of Dacia

DES: ----- Designatus, designated

DIVI: ----- Divine

DN: ------ Dominus Noster, Our Lord

FIL: ------ Filius/Filia, son or daughter of emperor

GERM: ---- Germanicus, conqueror of Germany

IMP: ------ Imperator, title given to victorious leaders.

NOB: ----- Nobissimus, noble

OPTIMO: - Optimo Principi, the best prince
PART: --- Parthicus, Conqueror of Parthia
PERP: -- Perpetuatae, for life
PF: ------ Pius Felix, pius, happy
PM: ----- Pontifex Maximus, high priest
PP: ----- Pater Patriae, father of the country
SC: ------ Senatus Consultus, with permission of the Senate
TR P: --- Tribunicia Potestate, has Tribunician powers

Roman Coin Denominations

Aureus = 25 Denarii, gold, 7.85g, 20mm - @200 BC – 305 AD
Bino = 2 Aurei, gold, 5.5 – 6g, 251 – 310 AD
Quinarius = 12.5 Denarii, gold, 4g, 15mm - @200 – 305 AD
Solidus = 24 Siliquae, gold, 4.4g, 310 – 963 AD
Semissis = ½ Solidus, gold, 2.25g, 310 – 867 AD
Tremissis = 1/3 Solidus, gold, 1.5g, 380 – 867 AD
1 ½ Scripulum = 9 Siliquae, gold, 1.7g 310 – 380 AD
Denarius = 16 Asses, silver, 3.8g, 19mm – 211 BC – 244 AD
Cistophonic Tetradrachm = 3 Denarii, 10 – 12g – 27 BC – 138 AD
Antoninanus = 2 Denarii, silver, 3 – 5g – 215 – 285 AD
Argenteus = 2 ½ Denarii, silver, 3 – 4g – 290 – 310 AD
Quinarius = 8 Asses, silver, 2g, 15mm
Double Sestertius = 2 Sestertius, bronze, 25 – 40g – 251 -274 AD
Sestertius = 4 Asses, brass, 25-30g, 25-35mm

Dupondis = 2 Asses, brass, 12g, 28mm

As Basic unit, copper, 11g, 24-28mm

Semis = ½ As, brass, 3-4g, 18mm

Quadrans = ¼ As, copper, 3g, 15mm

The Antoninianus, which was a double Denarii = to 32 Asses, was first introduced by Caracalla circa 214 AD. At first its silver content was 60% but as time passed the silver content was reduced.

Under the emperor, Diocletian’s monetary reform, he introduced a new gold coin called a Solidus, along with a silver Argenteus and some base metal coinage under Diocletian’s monetary reform.

The Aureus was reduced to gold billon.

The value of the Argentus, was about 1/24 of the Aureus.

The Follis contained 5% silver and was equal to 1/5 of an Argenteus or 10 Radiates. The bronze radiates were equal to an Antoninianus.

Under Constantine I there were further monetary reforms.

The solidus, gold, = to 1/72 pound of gold, 4.5g, = 24 Silquae

Semiss, gold, = to ½ Solidus or 12 Siliquae

1.5 Scripulum, gold, = to 3/8 Solidus or 9 Siliquae

Miliarense, silver, = to 1/72 pound of silver or 1/33 Siliquae
Siliqua, silver, = to 1/96 pound of silver or 1/24 Solidus

Late Roman Bronze coins were not assigned a value that we know of. Thus, they have been labeled by size.

AE1   25mm and up
AE2   21-25mm
AE3   17-21mm
AE4   Less than 17mm

1 gram = 15.4323584 grains
1 grain = 0.06479891 of a gram or 64.79891 milligrams

The Handbook of Roman Imperial Coins by David Van Meter has assigned the following code value to coins.

VB1   $1.00-$100
VB2   $101-$300
VB3   $301-$1,000
VB4   $1,001-$3,000
VB5   $3,001-$10,000
VB6   $10,000 and up.

The Emperors, dates ruled, and how they died
(Does not include Caesar’s or Empresses)
As of the Emperor Caligula
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

The Twelve Caesar’s

1. Octavian (Augustus) ------ 27 BC-14 AD------ By old age.
2. Tiberius ------ 14 – 37 AD ----- By old age at 78 years old.
3. Caligula (Gaius) ------ 37 – 41 AD ----- Assassinated at 28 years old.
4. Claudius ---- 41 – 54 AD ------ By poisoned mushrooms feed to him by his wife.
5. Nero --------- 54 – 68 AD ----- Suicide, by cutting his throat on June 9th 68 AD.
7. Otho ---------- 69 AD ---------- Suicide on April 16, 69 AD.
8. Vitellius ---- 69 AD -- Murdered by citizens and soldiers, his body ripped to shreds.
9. Vespasian -- 69 - 79 AD --Natural causes on June 23, 79 AD.
10. Titus ---------- 80 - 81 AD -- While on a trip.

These were the first twelve emperors. However, most sets of the Twelve Caesars include Julius Caesar and not Nerva.

Denarius of Marcus Aurelius (Author’s collection, not actual size)


16. Marcus Aurelius —— 161 – 180 AD ——— By illness on March 17th, 180 AD.

17. Lucius Verus —— 161 – 169 AD ——— From a stroke.


19. Pertinax ———— 193 AD ———— Killed by his own troops.

20. Didius Julianus ——— 193 AD ———— Executed on June 1st, 193 AD.


27. Diadumenian —— 218 AD ——— Executed.

28. Elagabalus ——— 218-222 AD ——— Murdered on March 11th, 222 AD.


31. Gordian I ———— 238 AD ———— Suicide.

32. Gordian II ———— 238 AD ———— Died in battle.

33. Baldinus ———— 238 AD ———— Murdered.

34. Pupienus ———— 238 AD ———— Murdered.
35. Gordian III --- 238 - 244 AD --- Murdered on Feb 11th, 244 AD (only 19 years old).
36. Philip I ------- 244 – 249 AD --- In battle?
40. Trajan Decius – 249 – 251 AD --- Died in battle.
41. Herennius Etruscus ------ 251 AD ------- Murdered.
42. Hostilian ------------- 250 -251 AD -------- From the Plague.
43. Trebonianus Gallus - 251 -253 AD – Murdered.
44. Valusian -------------- 253 AD -------------- Murdered.
45. Aemilian -------------- 253 AD -------------- Murdered.
46. Silbannacus --------- 253 AD -------------- Unknown.
47. Uranus Antoninus ------ 253 AD ---------- Unknown.
49. Gallienus ---- 268 – 268 AD --- Murdered by his own men.
50. Saloninus ---------260 AD --------- Unknown.
51. Regalianus -------- 260 AD --------- In Battle.
52. Postumus --------- 260 - 269 AD ------- Murdered in a revolt.
53. Laelianus --------- 269 AD --------- Unknown.
54. Marius ------------ 269 AD --------- Murdered.
55. Victorinus -------- 269 – 271 AD ---- Murdered by a staff member.
56. Domitian II ------ 271 AD --------- Murdered.
57. Tetricus I ------- 271 – 274 AD ---- Old age.
58. Tetricus II ------ 273 – 274 AD ---- Old age.
59. Quietus --------- 261 AD ------------ Executed.
60. Macrianus --------- 261 AD ------------ Executed.
61. Claudius II ------ 268 -274 AD ------ From the Plague
62. Quintillus --------- 270 AD ------------ Suicide.
63. Aurelian --------- 270 – 275 AD ------ Murdered by guards.
64. Vabalathus -------- 271 -272 AD --------- Unknown.
65. Tacitus ------------ 275 – 276 AD ------- Old age.
66. Florian ------------ 276 AD ------------ Died in battle.
67. Probus ------------ 276-282 AD ------- Murdered.
68. Saturninus -------- 280 AD ---------- Natural causes?
69. Carus --------------- 282 – 283 AD ------ Struck by lightning?
70. Carinus ------------ 283 – 285 AD ------ Killed by one of his own men.
71. Numerian ------------ 283 – 284 AD ------- Suspicious conditions.
73. Diocletian ------------ 284 – 305 AD ------- Old age.
75. Carausius ------------ 286 – 293 AD ------- Murdered.
76. Allectus -------------- 293 – 296 AD ------- Died in battle.
77. Domitius Domitianus ---- 296 – 297 AD --- Executed.
78. Constantius I ------ 305 – 306 AD -------- Natural causes.
79. Galerius ------------ 305 – 311 AD ---------- Natural causes.
81. Maximinus II ------- 306 – 313 AD ------ Uncertain.
82. Alexander --------- 308 – 311 AD ------- Murdered.
83. Licinius I ------- 308 – 324 AD ------- Executed.
84. Maxentius --------- 306 – 312 AD ---- In battle with Constantine I at the Milvian Bridge.
85. Valerius Valens ----- 316 AD ---------- Executed.
86. Martinian ------------ 324 AD ----------- Executed.
87. Severus II -------- 337 – 340 AD ---- Died in battle.
88. Constantine II ------ 337 – 350 AD ---- Murdered by own troops.
91. Constantius II ------- 336 – 361 AD ---- Died reroute to battle.
92. Magentius -------------- 350 -353 AD ------ Suicide.
93. Nepotian --------------- 350 AD --------- Executed.
94. Vetranio --------------- 350 AD --------- Natural causes.
95. Julian II --------------- 360 – 363 AD ---- From a Javelin wound.
97. Valentinian I ------------ 364 – 375 AD ---- From a stroke.
98. Valens ----------------- 364 – 378 AD ---- In battle.
100. Gratian ---------------- 367 -383 AD ------ Murdered by his troops.

AE4 of Theodosius I
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

101. Valentinian II ------- 375 – 392 AD ------- Murdered or suicide.
102. Theodosius I ------- 375 – 395 AD ------- Natural causes.
103. Magnus Maximus --- 383 – 388 AD ------- Executed.
105. Eugenius ---------------- 392 – 394 AD ------- Died in battle.
106. Honorius ------------- 394 – 423 AD ------- Uncertain.
108. Constans II ----------- 409 -411 AD ------- Uncertain.
111. Jovinus -------------- 411 – 413 AD ------- Beheaded.
112. Sebastianus ----------- 412 – 413 AD ------- Beheaded.
113. Constantius III ------- 421 AD --------------- From Illness.
116. Petronius Maximus ---- b- 455 AD ---------- Stoned to death.
117. Avitus --------------- 455 – 456 AD ---------- Suicide.
118. Majorian --------------- 457 – 461 AD ---------- From Illness.
119. Libius Severus -------- 461 – 465 AD ---------- Natural causes.
120. Anthemius --------------- 467 – 472 AD ---------- Executed.
121. Anicius Olybrius ------ 472 AD ---------- Uncertain.
123. Julius Nepos -------- 474 – 475 AD ---------- Murdered.

End of the Roman Empire in the West.

Emperors That Are Part of The Byzantine Period

125. Arcadius --------------- 383 – 408 AD ---------- Uncertain.
126. Theodosius II -------- 402 – 450 AD ---------- Hunting accident.
128. Leo I --------------- 457 – 474 AD ---------- Old age.
129. Leo II ------------------ 474 AD ---------- From Illness.
130. Zeno --------------- 474 – 491 AD ---------- Uncertain.
131. Basiliscus --------------- 465 - 476 AD ---------- Executed.
132. Leontius I --------------- 484 – 488 AD ---------- Executed.
The Caesars And Others

2. Nero Claudius Drusus -- 38 – 9 BC -------------- Fell from a horse.
4. Drusus --------------------- 23 – 23 AD -------------- Poisoned.
5. Britannicus ----------------- 41 – 55 AD -------------- Suddenly at a party.
7. Aelius ----------------------- 136 – 137 AD -------- Natural causes.
9. Valerian II ------------------- 253-257 AD -------- Natural causes.
10. Nigrinian Unknown -------------- Uncertain.
11. Romulus -------------------- 309 AD --------------- Uncertain.
13. Licinius II ------------------- 317 – 324 AD -------- Sold into slavery.
14. Delmatius ------------------- 335 – 337 AD -------- By order of Constantius II.
15. Hanniballianus -335 -337 AD ---- Rex Regum -- By order of Constantius II.
17. Constantius Gallus ------ 351 – 354 AD -------- By order of Constantius II.

The Women of The Roman Empire, Empresses and Other Notable Women

1. Livia --------- b 58 BC – d 29 AD ------ Wife of Augustus
3. Antonia ----- b 36 BC – d 37 AD ------ Starved to death.
4. Agrippina II – b 6 – d 59 AD --------- Wife of Claudius, mother of Nero ordered killed by son, when soldiers approached her she cut her stomach opened and died.
5. Domitilla I ------- b 20 – d 69 AD ------ Wife of Vespasian.
8. Julia Titi ——— b 65 – d 91 AD ——— Mistress of Domitian —— From a botched abortion.
9. Plotina ———— b 70 – d 121 AD ——— Wife of Trajan ———— Natural causes.
10. Marciana ———— 50 – 114 AD ——— Sister of Trajan ———— Natural causes.
13. Faustina I ———— 100 – 141 AD ——— Wife of Antoninus Pius — Natural causes.
22. Julia Soaemias ——— 222 AD ——— Mother of Elagabalus —— Head cut off, body dragged through the streets and tossed into a river.
30. Otacilia Severa ----------------------- Wife of Philip I
31. Herennia Etruscilla ------------------ Wife of Trajan Decius.
32. Cornelia Supera ---------------------- Wife of Aemilian.
33. Mariniana --------------------------- Wife of Valerian.
34. Salonina ---- d 268 AD ---------------- Murdered with husband.
35. Dryantilla ---- 261 AD ---------------- Wife of Regalianus.
36. Zenobia ----------------------------- Ties to the emperor Aurelian.
37. Severina ----------------------------- Wife of Aurelian.
38. Magnia Urbica ------------------------ One of the 9 wives of Carinus.
39. Theodora ------ b 270 AD --------------- 2nd wife of Constantius I.
41. Helena -------- 250 – 329 AD ---------- Mother of Constantine I --Christian Saint ---- From old age.
42. Fausta -------- b 290 – d 326 AD ------ Wife of Constantine I ------ Killed in a bath house by order of Constantine.
43. Constantia ---- b 290 – d 330 AD ------ Wife of Licinius I
44. Aelia Flaccilla --- d 386 AD ---------- Wife of Theodosius I.
45. Galla Placidia ---- b 388 – d 450 AD.
46. Licinia Eudoxia --- 493 ------------------ Wife of Valentinian III
47. Honoria --------b 417 AD.

Using Honors to Help Date Coins
(The number 9 may be written as IX or VIII)

27 BC ---- Augustus: AVG

23 BC ---- Augustus: TR P

20 BC ---- Augustus: IMP IIII

15 BC ---- Augustus: IMP V
13 BC ---- Augustus: COS II
         Tiberius: COS I

12 BC ---- Augustus: IMP II PONT MAX
         Tiberius: IMP

11 BC ---- Augustus: IMP XII

8 BC ----- Augustus: IMP XIII
         Tiberius: IMP II

7 BC ----- Tiberius: COS II

6 BC ----- Tiberius: TR P

5 BC ----- Tiberius: TR P – TR P II

4 BC ----- Tiberius: TR P II – III

3 BC ----- Tiberius: TR P III – IIII

2 BC ----- Augustus: PP
         Tiberius: TR P IIII – V

1 BC ----- Tiberius: TR P V

4 AD ----- Tiberius: TR P VI

5 AD ----- Tiberius: TR P VI – VII, IMP III

6 AD ----- Tiberius: TR P VII – VIII

7 AD ----- Tiberius: TR P VIII – VIII

8 AD ----- Tiberius: TR P VIII – X, IMP V

9 AD ----- Tiberius: TR P X – XI

10 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XI – XII

11 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XII – XIII, IMP VI
12 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XIII – XLI
13 AD ---- Augustus: IMP XX
        Tiberius: TR P XIII – XV
14 AD ---- Augustus: Dies on the 19th
        Tiberius: AVG, PONT MAX, TR P XV – XVI
15 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XVI – XVII
16 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XVII – XVIII

Drawing of a coin of Tiberius with the Legend of TRIBVN POTEST XXIIII PONTIF MAXIM which dates the coin to 23 – 24 AD

17 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XVIII – XVIII
18 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XIXIII – XX, IMP VIII, COS III
19 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XX – XXI
20 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XXI – XXII
21 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XXII – XXIII, COS III
22 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XXIII – XXIII
        Drusus: TR P
23 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XXIII – XXV
24 AD ---- Tiberius: TR P XXV – XXVI
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tiberius</th>
<th>Caligula</th>
<th>Claudius</th>
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<tr>
<td>25 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXVI – XXVII</td>
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<td>26 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXVII – XXVIII</td>
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<td>27 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXVIII – XXVIII</td>
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<td>28 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXVIII – XXX</td>
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<td>29 AD</td>
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<td>30 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXXI – XXXII</td>
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<td>31 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXXII – XXXIII, COS V</td>
<td>AVG, PONT MAX, TR P</td>
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<td>32 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXXIII – XXXIII</td>
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<td>33 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXXIII – XXXV</td>
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<td>34 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXXV – XXXVI</td>
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<td>35 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXXVI – XXXVII</td>
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<td>36 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXXVII – XXXVIII</td>
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<td>37 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXXVIII, dies on Mar 16th</td>
<td>AVG, PONT MAX, TR P</td>
<td>AVG, PONT MAX, TR P, IMP I – III</td>
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<td>38 AD</td>
<td>TR P – II, PP</td>
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<tr>
<td>39 AD</td>
<td>TR P II – III, COS II</td>
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<td>40 AD</td>
<td>TR P III – IIII, COS III</td>
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<tr>
<td>42 AD</td>
<td>TR P – II, COS II, PP</td>
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<td>43 AD</td>
<td>TR P II – III</td>
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<td>44 AD</td>
<td>TR P III – IIII, IMP V – VII</td>
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</table>
45 AD ---- Claudius: TR P IIII – V, IMP VIII
46 AD ---- Claudius: TR P V – VI, BRIT
47 AD ---- Claudius: TR P VI – VII, IMP XII – XIII, COS IIII, CENSOR
48 AD ---- Claudius: TR P VII – VIII, IMP XIIII - XV
49 AD ---- Claudius: TR P VIII – VIIII, IMP XVI

50 AD ---- Claudius: TR P VIII –X, IMP XVII – XX
Nero: CAES

51 AD ---- Claudius: TR P X –XI, IMP XI – XIII, COS V
Vespasian: COS I

52 AD ---- Claudius: TR P XI – XII, IMP XIII – XV

53 AD ---- Claudius: TR P XII – XIII, IMP XVII

54 AD ---- Claudius: TR P XIII – XLIII, Dies Oct 3rd
Nero: AVG, PONT MAX TR P

55 AD ---- Nero: TR P – TR P II, COS, PP

56 AD ---- Nero: TR P II – III
57 AD ---- Nero: TR P III – IIII, IMP III, COS II
58 AD ---- Nero: TR P IIII – V, IMP IIII – V, COS III
59 AD ---- Nero: TR P V – VI, IMP VI
60 AD ---- Nero: TR P VI – VII, IMP VII, COS III
61 AD ---- Nero: TR P VII – VIII, IMP VIII – VIII

57 AD ---- Nero: TR P III – IIII, IMP III, COS II
58 AD ---- Nero: TR P IIII – V, IMP IIII – V, COS III
59 AD ---- Nero: TR P V – VI, IMP VI
60 AD ---- Nero: TR P VI – VII, IMP VII, COS III
61 AD ---- Nero: TR P VII – VIII, IMP VIII – VIII

Denarius of Titus with legend TR POT VIII COS VII
Dates it to 78 – 79 AD

62 AD ---- Nero: TR P VIII – VIII
63 AD ---- Nero: TR P VIII – X
64 AD ---- Nero: TR P X – XI
65 AD ---- Nero: TR P XI – XII
66 AD ---- Nero: TRP XII – XIII, IMP XI
67 AD ---- Nero: TR P XIII – XLI, IMP XII
68 AD ---- Nero: TR P XIII, COS V, Commits suicide on June 9th
Galba: IMP in April
Galba: AVG, CAES, TR P, PONT MAX on June 9

69 AD ---- Galba: TR P, Murdered on January 15th
Otho: AVG, TR P, IMP, Suicide on April 17th
Vitellus: AVG on January 2nd, TR P, IMP, PONT MAX, Killed Dec 20th
Vespasian: AVG, TR P July 1st, IMP – II, PONT MAX
Titus: CAES  
Domitian: CAES

70 AD: ---- Vespasian: TR P – II, IMP III – V, COS II, PP
    Titus: COS

71 AD ---- Vespasian: TR P II – III, IMP VI – VIII, COS III
    Titus: TR P July 1st, IMP – II
    Domitian: COS
    Nerva: COS

72 AD ---- Vespasian: TR P III – IIII, IMP VIII, COS IIII
    Titus: TR P – II, IMP, COS II

73 AD ---- Vespasian: TR P IIII – V, IMP X, CENS
    Titus: TR P II – III. IMP IIII. CENS
    Domitian: COS II

74 AD ---- Vespasian: TR P IIII – VI, IMP XI – XII, COS V
    Titus: TR P III – IIII, IMP XI – XII, COS V
    Domitian: COS III

75 AD ---- Vespasian: TR P VI – VII, IMP XIII – XLIII, COS VI
    Titus: TR P IIII – V, IMP VII – VIII, COS IIII

76 AD ---- Vespasian: TR P VII – VIII, IMP XV – XVIII, COS VII
    Titus: TR P V – VI, IMP VIII – XII, COS V
    Domitian: COS III

77 AD ---- Vespasian: TR P VIII – VIII, COS VIII
    Titus: TR P VI – VII, COS VI
    Domitian: COS V

78 AD ---- Vespasian: TR P VIII – X, IMP XVIII
    Titus: TR P VII – VIII, IMP XIII

79 AD ---- Vespasian: TR P X, IMP XX, COS VIII, Dies on June 24th
    Titus: AVG June 24th, TR P VIII – VIII, PONT MAX, IMP XIII –
XV, COS VII, PP

Domitian:  COS VI

80 AD ---- Titus:  TR P VIII – X, COS VIII

Domitian:  COS VII

81 AD ---- Titus:  TR P X – XI, IMP XVI – XVII, Died September 13th

Domitian:  AVG, TR P September 13th, PONT MAX, IMP, PP

82 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P – II, IMP II, COS VII

83 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P II – III, IMP III – IIII, COS VIII, GERM

84 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P III – IIII, IMP V – VII, COS X

85 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P IIII – V, IMP VIII – XI, COS XI, CENS

86 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P V – VI, IMP XII – XIII, COS XII

87 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P VI – VII, COS XIII

88 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P VII – VIII, IMP XV, COS XIII

89 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P VIII – VIII, IMP XVI – XXI

90 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P VIII – X, COS XV

Nerva:  COS II

91 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P X – XI

Trajan:  COS

92 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P XI – XII, IMP XXII, COS XVI

93 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P XII – XIII

94 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P XIII – XIII

95 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P XIII – XV, COS XVII

96 AD ---- Domitian:  TR P XV – XVI, murdered September 18th

Nerva:  AVG, TR P September 18th, PONT MAX, IMP, PP
97 AD ---- Nerva: TR P – II, IMP II, COS III, GERM
Trajan: TR P, CAES, GERM

Denarius of Trajan with legends of IMP NERVA TRAJANVS GER DACICVS/ COS V PP SPQR OPTIMO PRINC
Dates to 103 AD
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

98 AD ---- Nerva: TR P II, COS III, Died January 25th
Trajan: AVG, TR P – 3, IMP, COS II, PONT MAX PP

99 AD ---- Trajan: TR P III – IIII

100 AD --- Trajan: TR P IIII – V, COS III

101 AD --- Trajan: TR P V – VI, IMP II, COS IIII

102 AD --- Trajan: TR P VI – VII, IMP III – IIII, DACICVS

103 AD --- Trajan: TR P VII – VIII, COS V, OPTIMO PRINCEPS

104 AD --- Trajan: TR P VIII – VIII, IMP V

105 AD --- Trajan: TR P VIII – X

106 AD --- Trajan: TR P X – XI, IMP VI

107 AD --- Trajan: TR P XI – XII

108 AD --- Trajan: TR P XII – XIII

109 AD --- Trajan: TR P XIII – XIII
110 AD --- Trajan: TR P XIII – XV
111 AD --- Trajan: TR P XV – XVI

Denarius of Hadrian with legends of IMP CAESAR TRAIANO HADRIANVS AVG/ PM TR P COS III
Dates the coin to 119 – 120 AD
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

112 AD --- Trajan: TR P XVI – XVII, COS VI
113 AD --- Trajan: TR P XVII – XVIII
114 AD --- Trajan: TR P XVIII – XVIII, IMP VII, OPTIMVS AVGVSTVS
115 AD --- Trajan: TR P XVIII – XX, IMP VIII – XIII, PARTHICVS
116 AD --- Trajan: TR P XX – XXI
117 AD --- Trajan: TR P XXI dies on August 8th
   Hadrian: AVG, TR P Augustus 8th, IMP COS, PONT MAX
118 AD --- Hadrian: TR P – TR P II, COS II
119 AD --- Hadrian: TR P II – III, COS III
120 AD --- Hadrian: TR P III – IIII
   Antoninus Pius: COS
121 AD --- Hadrian: TR P IIII – V
122 AD --- Hadrian: TR P V – VI
123 AD --- Hadrian: TR P VI – VII
124 AD --- Hadrian: TR P VII – VIII
125 AD --- Hadrian: TR P VIII – VIII
126 AD --- Hadrian: TR P VIII – X

Denarius of Antoninus Pius with Legends of ANTONINVS AVG PP IMP II/TR POT XX COS IIII
Dates to 157 AD
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

127 AD --- Hadrian: TR P X – XI
128 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XI – XII, PP
129 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XII – XIII
130 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XIII – XIII
131 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XIII – XV
132 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XV – XVI
133 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XVI – XVII
134 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XVII – XVIII
135 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XVIII – XVIII, IMP II
136 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XVIII – XX
Aelius: CAES, COS II
137 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XX – XXI
Aelius: TR P
138 AD --- Hadrian: TR P XXI, died on July 10th
Antoninus Pius: CAES, TR P February 25th, COS, DES II, AVG July 10th
IMP, PONT MAX, PIVS

139 AD --- Antoninus Pius: TR P – TR P II, COS II, DES III, PP
Marcus Aurelius: CAES, COS, DES

Denarius of Marcus Aurelius with legends M ANTONINVS AVG ARMENIACVS/PM TR P XIX IMP III COS III
Dates to 165 AD
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

140 AD --- Antoninus Pius: TR P II – III, COS III
Marcus Aurelius: COS

141 AD --- Antoninus Pius: TR P III –III

142 AD --- Antoninus Pius: TR P IIII – V

143 AD --- Antoninus Pius: TR P V – VI, IMP II

144 AD --- Antoninus Pius: TR P VI – VII, COS, DES III
Marcus Aurelius: COS, DES II

145 AD --- Antoninus Pius: TR P VII – VIII, COS III
Marcus Aurelius: COS II

146 AD --- Antoninus Pius: TR P VIII – VIII
Marcus Aurelius: TR P
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<th>Marcus Aurelius</th>
<th>Lucius Verus</th>
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<tr>
<td>148 AD</td>
<td>TR P XI – XII</td>
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<td>149 AD</td>
<td>TR P XII – XIII</td>
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<td>150 AD</td>
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<td>151 AD</td>
<td>TR P XIII – XV</td>
<td>TR P V – VI</td>
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<td>152 AD</td>
<td>TR P XV – XVI</td>
<td>TR P VI – VII</td>
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<td>153 AD</td>
<td>TR P XVI - XVII</td>
<td>TR P VII – VIII</td>
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<td>154 AD</td>
<td>TR P XVII – XVIII</td>
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<td>155 AD</td>
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<td>TR P XIX – XX</td>
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<td>158 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXI – XXII</td>
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<td>159 AD</td>
<td>TR P XXII – XXIII</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
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<td>Marcus Aurelius</td>
<td>Lucius Verus</td>
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<td>TR P XLI – XXIII</td>
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<td>AVG, TR P on March 7th, TR P II on December 10th, IMP, COS II</td>
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<td>TR P II – III</td>
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<td>TR P IIII – V, ARMENIACVS</td>
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<td>TR P V – VI, IMP III</td>
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<td>TR P VII – VIII, COS III</td>
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<td>TR P IX, died early that year</td>
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<td>TR P XXV – XXVI, IMP VI</td>
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173 AD --- Marcus Aurelius: TR P XXVII – XXVIII

174 AD --- Marcus Aurelius: TR P XXVIII – XXIX, IMP VII

175 AD --- Marcus Aurelius: TR P XXIX – XXX, IMP VIII, GERM, SARM
Commodus: CAES, GERM, SARM

176 AD --- Marcus Aurelius: TR P XXX – XXXI

177 AD --- Marcus Aurelius: TR P XXXI – XXXII, IMP IX
Commodus: AVG, TR P – III on December 10th, COS IMP I – II, PP

178 AD --- Marcus Aurelius: TR P XXXII – XXXIII
Commodus: TR P III – IIII

179 AD --- Marcus Aurelius: TR P XXXIII – XXXIII, IMP X
Commodus: TR P IIII – V, IMP III, COS III

180 AD --- Marcus Aurelius: TR P XXXIII dies on March 17th
Commodus: TR P V – VI, IMP IIII, PONT MAX

181 AD --- Commodus: TR P VI – VII, COS III

182 AD --- Commodus: TR P VII – VIII, IMP V

183 AD --- Commodus: TR P VIII – IX, IMP VI, COS IIII, PIVS
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<td>Commodus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clodius Albinus</td>
<td>AVG, in the fall, IMP</td>
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<td>Septimius Severus</td>
<td>TR P V, IMP IX – X</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clodius Albinus</td>
<td>Committed suicide on February 19\textsuperscript{th}</td>
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198 AD --- Septimius Severus: TR P VI, IMP XI, PARTHICVS MAXIMVS
Caracalla: AVG, TR P, IMP
Geta: CAES

199 AD --- Septimius Severus: TR P VII
Caracalla: TR P – TR P II on January 1st, PONT, IMP, DES

200 AD --- Septimius Severus: TR P VIII
Caracalla: TR P III
Geta: PONT
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Geta</th>
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<td>202 AD</td>
<td>TR P X, COS III</td>
<td>TR P V, COS</td>
<td>TR P V, COS</td>
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<td>203 AD</td>
<td>TR P XI</td>
<td>TR P VI</td>
<td>TR P VI</td>
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<td>204 AD</td>
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<td>TR P VIII, COS II</td>
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<td>TR P X</td>
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<td>208 AD</td>
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<td>TR P XI, COS III</td>
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<td>TR P XII, first bearded portraits</td>
<td>TR P XII, first bearded portraits</td>
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<td>TR P XIII, BRIT</td>
<td>TR P XIII, BRIT</td>
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<td>211 AD</td>
<td>TR P XIX dies on February 4th</td>
<td>TR P XLI, PONT MAX on February 4th, PP</td>
<td>TR P XLI, PONT MAX on January 1st, BRIT</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TR P III, PP</td>
<td>TR P III, PP</td>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>Emperor 1</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<td>212 AD</td>
<td>Caracalla: TR P XV, IMP II</td>
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<td>Geta: TR P III, murdered on February 4</td>
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<td>213 AD</td>
<td>Caracalla: TR P XVI, COS IIII, GERM, FELIX</td>
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<td>214 AD</td>
<td>Caracalla: TR P XVII, IMP III</td>
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<td>217 AD</td>
<td>Caracalla: TR P XX, murdered on April 8th</td>
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<td>Macrinus: AVG, April 11th, IMP TR P, COS, PONT MAX PP</td>
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<td>Diadumenian: CAES</td>
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<td>218 AD</td>
<td>Marcrinus: TR P II on January 1st, COS – COS II, executed in June</td>
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<td>Diadumenian: AVG, COS, executed in June</td>
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<td>Elagabalus: AVG, on May 16th, TR P, IMP, COS, PONT MAX PP</td>
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<td>Elagabalus: TR P II on January 1st, COS II</td>
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<td>Elagabalus: TR P III, COS III</td>
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221 AD --- Elagabalus: TR P III
Severus Alexander: CAES

222 AD --- Elagabalus: TR P V, COS III, killed on March 6th
Severus Alexander: AVG on March 6th, TR P, IMP, COS, PONT MAX PP

Denarius of Severus Alexander with legend of
IMP ALEXANDER PIVS AVG/PM TR P XII COS III PP
Dates to 233 AD

223 AD --- Severus Alexander: TR P II on January 1st
224 AD --- Severus Alexander: TR P III
225 AD --- Severus Alexander: TR P IIII
226 AD --- Severus Alexander: TR P V, COS II
227 AD --- Severus Alexander: TR P VI
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232 AD --- Severus Alexander: TR P XI
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235 AD --- Severus Alexander: TR P XIII, murdered in March
   Maximus: AVG in March, TR P, IMP, PONT MAX, PP
   Maximus: CAES in March

236 AD --- Maximinus: TR P II on January 1st, COS, GERM
   Maximus: GERM

237 AD --- Maximinus: TR P III

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238 AD --- Maximinus: Murdered on June 24th
   Gordian I: AVG on March 22nd, CAES, TR P, COS, IMP, PONT MAX, PP, died on April 12th
   Gordian II: AVG on March 22nd, CAES, IMP, died on April 12th
   Balbinus: AVG on April 22nd, CAES, IMP, TR P, COS II, PONT MAX, PP, died on July 29th
   Gordian III: CAES in May, AVG on July 29th, TR P, IMP, PONT MAX PP

239 AD --- Gordian III: TR P – II, renewed on July 29th, COS

240 AD --- Gordian III: TR P II – III, PIVS FELIX

241 AD --- Gordian III: TR P III – III, COS II

242 AD --- Gordian III: TR P IIII – V

243 AD --- Gordian III: TR P V – VI
244 AD --- Gordian III: TR P VI – VI, dies on February 25th
   Philip I: AVG, on February 25th, IMP, PONT MAX, PP
   Philip II: CAES, TR P

245 AD --- Philip I: TR P II on January 1st, COS
   Philip II: TR P II on January 1st

246 AD --- Philip I: TR P III
   Philip II: TR P III

247 AD --- Philip I: TR P IIII, COS II, PIVS FELIX
   Philip II: AVG in May, TR P IIII, COS

248 AD --- Philip I: TR P V, COS III
   Philip II: TR P V, COS II

249 AD --- Philip I: TR P VI, killed in September
   Philip II: TR P VI, killed in September
   Trajan Decius: AVG in September, IMP, CAES

250 AD --- Herennius Etruscus: CAES in September
   Hostilian: CAES in December

251 AD --- Trajan Decius: Killed in June
   Herennius Etruscus: AVG in May, killed in June
   Trebonianus Gallus: AVG in June, PONT MAX PIVS FELIX
   Volusian: CAES in June, AVG in November, IMP, PIVS FELIX
   Hostilian: AVG in July, died in November

252 AD --- Trebonianus Gallus: COS II
   Volusian: COS

253 AD --- Trebonianus Gallus: Killed in May
   Volusian: Killed in May
   Aemilian: AVG in April, IMP, CAES, TR P I, PONT MAX, PIVS FELIX, PP, Killed in July
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254 AD --- Valerian: TR P II, COS II
   Gallienus: TR P II, COS

255 AD --- Valerian: TR P III, COS III
   Gallienus: TR P III, COS II

256 AD --- Valerian: TR P III
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   Valerian II: CAES in September

257 AD --- Valerian: TR P V, COS III
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258 AD --- Valerian: TR P VI
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259 AD --- Valerian: TR P VII
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260 AD --- Valerian: TR P VIII, Captured in June
   Gallienus: TR P VIII
   Macrianus: AVG in September, IMP, CAES, PIVS FELIX
   Quietus: AVG in September, IMP, CAES, TR P, COS, PIVS FELIX
   Postumus: CAES, IMP, TR P, COS, PIVS FELIX

261 AD --- Gallienus: TR P IX, COS III
   Macrianus: Dies in Spring
Quietus: Dies in November
Postumus: TR P II, COS II

262 AD --- Gallienus: TR P X, COS V
Postumus: TR P III, COS III

263 AD --- Gallienus: TR P XI
Postumus: TR P IIII

264 AD --- Gallienus: TR P XII, COS VI
Postumus: TR P V

GALLIENVS AVG/LVNA LVCAIFERA
RIC I Antioch 646
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

GALLIENVS AVG/ MINERVA AVG
RIC I Antioch 617
(Author’s collection, not actual size)
A few miscellaneous Antoninianus of Gallienus

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<td>AVG, CAES, IMP, PIVS FELIX, died during the year</td>
<td>AVG, CAES, IMP, PIVS FELIX, died during the year</td>
<td>AVG, CAES, IMP, TR P, COS II, PIVS FELIX</td>
<td>Died in January</td>
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<td>AVG in January, CAES, IMP, died during the year</td>
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<td>271 AD</td>
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<td>271 AD</td>
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<td>271 AD</td>
<td>Tetricus</td>
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<td>276 AD</td>
<td>Tactius</td>
<td>COS II, murdered in April</td>
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<tr>
<td>276 AD</td>
<td>Florian</td>
<td>AVG in April, CAES, IMP, PIVS FELIX, murdered in June</td>
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<tr>
<td>276 AD</td>
<td>Probus</td>
<td>AVG in April, CAES, IMP, PIVS FELIX</td>
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<td>277 AD</td>
<td>Probus</td>
<td>TR P perpetual, COS, PP</td>
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<tr>
<td>278 AD</td>
<td>Probus</td>
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<td>279 AD</td>
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<td>280 AD</td>
<td>Probus</td>
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<td>281 AD</td>
<td>Probus</td>
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<td>282 AD</td>
<td>Probus</td>
<td>COS V, murdered in September</td>
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<td>282 AD</td>
<td>Carus</td>
<td>AVG in September, CAES, IMP, PIVS FELIX</td>
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</table>
Carinus: CAES in September
Numerian: CAES in September

283 AD --- Carus: Died in August
Carinus: AVG in March, IMP, TR P, COS, PIVS FELIX
Numerian: AVG in March, IMP, TR P, COS, PIVS FELIX

284 AD --- Numerian: Murdered in November
Diocletian: AVG in November, CAES, IMP, PIVS FELIX

285 AD --- Carnius: Murdered in April

Antoninianus of Probus
IMP PROBVS PF AVG/SOLI INVICTO/XXIS
RIC II SISCIA 770
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

Mint Marks on late Roman Coins

AL, ALE, ALEX, SMAL: Alexandria – Egypt, opened in 294 – 421 AD and 457 – 474 AD, closed by Leo I

AMB, AMBI: Amiens - France, opened from 350 – 353 AD

AN, ANT, ANTOB, SMAN: Antioch - Syria, 217 – 611 AD

AQ, AQVI, AQPIL, AQOB, AQPS, KONSTAN: Aquileia - Italy, 294 – 324 AD and 334 – 430 AD
A, AR, SARL, CON, CONST, KON, KONSTAN: Arelatum, Constantina, Arles - France 313 – 475 AD

BA, SMBA: Barcelona - Spain, 409 – 411 AD

C, CL: Camulodunum, Colchester - England, 287 – 296 AD during Carausius and Allectus reigns


CON: Cherson – NW of Odessa Ukraine, 402 AD

C, CP, CON, CONS, CONSP, CONOB: Constantinople, Istanbul - Turkey, 326 AD - 1453

CVZ, CVIC, CYZ, CYZIC, K, KV, KVZ, KY, SMK: Cyzicus, Kapu - Turkey, 260 – 475 AD

H, HER, HERAC, HERACI, HERACL, HT, and SMH: Eregli - Turkey, 291 – 474 AD


MD, MDOB, MDPS, MED: Mediolanum, Milan – Italy, 250 – 275 ADF and 364- 475 AD

MN, N, NIC, NICO, NIK, SMN: Nicomedia, Izmit – Turkey, 294 – 474 AD and into the Byzantine era

MOST, OST: Ostia port of Rome, 308 – 313 AD

R, RM, ROM, ROMA, ROMOB: Rome – Italy 289 – 40 BC and 20 BC – 476 AD

SD, SER, SERD, SMSD: Serdica, Sophia – Bulgaria, 272 – 282 AD, 303 -308 AD and 313 -314 AD

**S, SIS SISC, SISCPS:** Siscia, Sisak – Croatia, 260 – 390 AD

**COM, COMOB, SMTS, TH, THS, THES, THSOB, TE, TES, TESOB, TH, TS, OES:** Thessalonica, Salonika – Greece, 299 – 460 AD and into the Byzantine era.

**T:** Ticinum, Pavia – Italy, 274 – 326 AD

**PTR, SMTR, TR, TRE, TROB, TRPS:** Treveri, Trier – Germany, 270 – 276, 293 – 395, 408 – 413, 430 AD

Within the mint marks and in the field of the coin were placed Officinae the work shop within the mint where the coin was struck. They could be A, B, Γ, Δ, Ἔ, P, S, Θ, etc. In addition, other special marks were used such as monograms, wreaths, and palm branches, etc.

**Dating 4th Century Coins by Size and Theme**

296 – 307 AD --- 28mm --- 10g --- 5% silver --- GENIO POPVLI ROMANI
   SACRA MONETA

307 – 311 AD --- 25mm --- 6.5g --- 3% silver --- IOVI CONSERVATOR
   SOLI INVICTO
   GEN POP ROM

311 – 313 AD --- 23mm --- 4.5g --- 2% silver

313 – 318 AD --- 22mm --- 3.5g --- 1% silver --- GENI AVGVSTI

318 – 320 AD --- 19mm --- 3.0g --- 5% silver --- VICTORIA LAETAE

320 – 324 AD --- 19mm --- 3.0g --- 2% silver --- BEATA TRANQVILTAS
   VOTA

324 – 330 AD --- 19mm --- 3.0g --- 2% silver --- PROVIDENTIAE AVG
   CAESS

330 – 335 AD --- 18mm --- 2.5g --- 2% silver --- GLORIA EXERCITVS, 2 standards
335 – 341 AD --- 16mm --- 1.7g --- 1% silver --- GLORIA EXERCITVS, 1 standard
341 – 348 AD --- 15mm --- 1.5g --- 0% silver --- VICTORIAE, 2 Victories
348 – 354 AD --- 23mm --- 5.5g -- 2.5% silver -- FEL TEMP REPARATIO
354 – 361 AD --- 18mm --- 2.5g --- 0% silver ---- FEL TEMP REPARATIO
357 – 363 AD --- 16mm --- 1.5g --- 0% silver ---- SPES REPUBLICAE
361 – 363 AD --- 29mm --- 8.5g --- 2% silver ---- SECVRITAS REPUBLICA
363 – 364 AD --- 28mm --- 9.0g --- 0% silver ---- VICTORIA ROMANORVM
364 – 379 AD --- 17 – 23mm –2.5 – 5.0g --- 0% silver --- GLORIA ROMANORVM
364 – 388 AD ---17mm ---2.5g --- 0% silver --- SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE
367 – 388 AD --- 15mm --- 1.5g --- 0% silver --- Various VOTA reverses
379 – 384 AD --- 22mm --- 5.3g --- 0% silver --- REPARATIO REIPVBL
GLORIA ROMANORVM
384 – 395 AD --- 22mm --- 5.2g --- 0% silver --- GLORIA ROMANORVM
VIRTVS EXERCTVS
388 – On AD --- 13mm ---- 1.0g --- 0% silver --- SALVS REIPVBLICAE
Roman Provincial Coins

Throughout its history, the Roman Empire acquired many provinces mostly through conquest but others more peacefully. These provinces were pretty much left to govern themselves with the aid of the empire always there to monitor and ensure that they are behaving themselves. As time, progressed, the coinage of the province was replaced with more designs depicting the image of the emperor. While the language of the Romans was Latin, those of the provinces especially those in the East were Greek. So, the Latin legends were replaced by Greek legends.

The provinces were administered by a Roman Consular (Highest elected official), and Imperial Legatus (General in the Army), a Praetorian (High-ranking army officer), a Praefectus (third highest-ranking officer after the Legatus), and a Procurator (Appointed by the emperor to administer money and lands of the empire). These people wheedled vast amounts of power.
The Provinces, Type, Governor Type, Legions, and Date Acquired

Africa: ------------------ Senatorial ------ Consular ---- Legio III Augusta ---- 146 BC
Asia Minor: ------------- Senatorial ------ Consular ------ 129 BC
Achaea: ---------------- Senatorial ----- Praetorian --- 27 BC
Cyprus: ---------------- Senatorial ------ Praetorian
Cyrenaica & Crete: ---- Senatorial ----- Praetorian --- 67 BC
Gallia Narbonensis (Gaul): --- Senatorial --- Praetorian --- 120 BC
Lycia & Pamphylia: ---- Senatorial ----- Praetorian ---- 74 AD
Macedonia & Epirus: -- Senatorial ------ Praetorian ---- 147 BC
Sardinia & Corsica: ----- Senatorial ------ Praetorian ---- 237 BC
Sicila: --------------------- Senatorial ------ Praetorian ---- 241 BC
Aquitania: ------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 27 BC
Arabia: -------------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian --- Legio III Cyrenaica – 106 AD
Baetica (Hispania): ----- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 197 BC
Belgica: ----------------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 27 BC
Britannia: ----------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular --- Legio II Augusta,
                      Legio VI Victrix, Legio XX Valeria Victrix --- 43 AD
Cappadocia: --------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular --- Legio XII Fulminata,
                      Legio XV Appollinaris, Legio XVI Flamia Firma --- 18 AD
Cilicia: --------------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 58 BC
Dacia: --------------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular --- Legio V Macedonia,
                   Legio XIII Gemina ---- 107 AD
Dalmatia (Illyricum): --- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 27 BC
Galatia: --------------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 18 AD
Germania Superior: --- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular ---- Legio VIII Augusta
                   Legio XXI Primigenig ---- 83 AD
Germania Inferior: --- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular ---- Legio I Minervia,
                   Legio XXX Ulpia Victrix ---- 83 AD
Hispania Tarraconensis: ---- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular ---- Legio VII Gemina
                      27 BC
Lugdunensis (Gallia): ---- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 27 BC
Lusitania: --------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 27 BC
Moesia Inferior: -------- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular ---- Legio I Italica,
                   Legio XI Claudia ---- 6 AD
Moesia Superior: -------- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular ---- Legio IV Flavia,
                   Legio VII Claudia ---- 6 AD
Noricum: ------------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular --- Legio II Italica Pia,
                   41 AD
Numidia (Africa): --------- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 46 BC
Palastina/Judaea: ------- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular --- Legio VI Ferrata, Legio X Fretensis ---- 6 AD
Pammonia Inferior: ----- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian --- Legio II Adiutrix, 27 BC
Pontus & Bithynia: ------ Imperial Legatus ---- Consular ---- 63 BC
Raetia: ---------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Consular --- Legio III Italica – 15 BC
Syria: ------------------ Imperial Legatus ---- Consular --- Legio III Gallica, Legio IV Scythica ---- 63 BC
Thracia: ---------------- Imperial Legatus ---- Praetorian ---- 46 BC
Aegyptus (Egypt): ------ Imperial Equestrian ---- Praefectus --- Legio II Traiana Fortis ---- 30 BC
Alpes Cottiae (Gallia): --- Imperial Equestrian ---- Procurator ---- 63 AD
Alpes Penninae: -------- Imperial Equestrian ---- Procurator ---- 47 BC
Alpes Maritimae: ------- Imperial Equestrian ---- Procurator ---- 63 AD
Mauretania Caesarensis (Africa): --- Imperial Equestrian --- Procurator – 42 AD
Mauretania Tingitana: ---------- Imperial Equestrian ---- Procurator --- 42 AD
Commagene: ------- 72 AD
Mesopotamia (Iraq): ----- 116 AD
Assyria: -------116 AD

Excellent website:

http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Roman_province
### The Greek Alphabet

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<th>Roman</th>
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### Roman Provincial Mints

- **Aegeae, Cilicia:** ⎯⎯⎯⎯ **ΑΙΓΕΑΙΩΝ** ⎯⎯ 47 BC
- **Amasia, Pontus:** ⎯⎯⎯⎯ **AMACIAC** ⎯⎯ 2 BC
- **Anazarbus, Cilicia:** ⎯⎯⎯⎯ **ANAZAPBEΩΝ** ⎯⎯ 19 BC
- **Bostra, Arabia:** ⎯⎯⎯⎯ **BOCTPA** ⎯⎯ 105 AD
- **Cibyra, Phrygia:** ⎯⎯⎯⎯ **KIBYPATΩΝ** ⎯⎯ 84 BC
- **Damascus, Colele Syria:** ⎯⎯⎯⎯ **ΔΑΜΑΚΧΗΝωΝ** ⎯⎯ 312 BC
- **Emisa, Syria:** ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯ **ΕΜΙΧΗΝΩΝ** ⎯⎯ 312 BC
Flaviopolis, Cilicia: Flavia Polis ---- ΦΛΑΝΙΩΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ ---- 73 AD
Londiceia, ad Mare, Syria: Λαοδικεία ---- ΛΑΟΔΙΚΕΩΝ ---- 48 BC
Neapolis, Samana: Neapolis Samana ---- ΝΕΑΠΟΛ ΣΑΜΑΡΕ ---- 72 AD
Samosata, Commagene: Samosata --- ΣΑΜΟΣΑΤΕΩΝ ---- 71 AD
Seleucia Piera, Syria: - Seleucia Piera ---- ΣΕΛΕΥΚΕΩΝ ΠΙΕΡΙΑΣ ---- 109 BC
Sidon, Phoenicia: Sidon ---- ΣΙΩΝ ---- 111 BC
Soli Popeopolis, Cilicia: Soli Popeopolis ---- ΠΟΜΠΗΙΟΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ ---- 66 BC
Tiberias, Galilaea: Tiberias --- ΤΙΒΕΡΙΩΝ ---- 20 AD
Tyre, Phoenicia: Tyre ---- ΤΥΡΟΥΙΕΡΑΣ ΚΑΙΣΥΛΟΥ ---- 126 BC
Viminacium, Moesia Superior: Viminacium ---- ΠΜΣ ΚΟΛ ΒΙΜ ---- 239 AD

Roman Imperial Title with Greek Translations

Augustus = Sebastos ------- CEB, ΣΕΒ
Consul = Ypatos ---------- ΥΠΑΤΟC
Council = Koinon ---------- KO, KOI, KOINON
DIVO = Theos (Deus) ------ ΘΕΟΣ, ΘΕΟC
Felix = Eutyces ---------- ΕΥΤΥ
First = Protes ---------- ΠΡΟΤΕ
Illustrious = Endoxos ---- ΕΝΔΟΞΟΣ
Imperator = Autocrator ---- AVT, AVTK
Inviolable = Asylia ------- ΑΣΥΛΟΥ
Pius = Eusebes ---------- ΕΥC
Proconsul = Anthepatos ---- ΑΝΘΥΠΑΤΟΣ
Here are just two provincial coins from the author’s collection

The Byzantines

Billon Trachy of the Emperor Manuel I Comnenus 1143 – 1180 AD
(Author’s collection, not actual size)
The term Byzantine Empire is a misnomer there was no Byzantine Empire. The term was invented by collectors long after the empire collapsed. They called and considered themselves Romans. A better term would be Romanoon or Eastern Roman Empire.

When Constantine The Great became the sole ruler of Rome after the Battle of the Milivian Bridge in 312 AD the Roman Empire was vast and he found it difficult to rule it from Rome. In 330 he founded the City of Constantinople at the junction of Europe and Asia at the mouth of the Bosphorus in Turkey.

Constantine died in 337 AD and the empire was split up between his sons. With his son Constans, Augustus 337 – 350 ruling in the West, and Constantius II, Augustus 337 – 361 AD ruling in the East at Constantinople. There were several members of Constantine’s family that threatened Constantius II rule so he held a
purge and had most killed off. Thus, leaving him the sole ruler of the empire until 361 AD. From than one there were two emperors one in the West and the other in the East. In 476 AD under the short rule of Romulus Augustus the Western Roman Empire fell to Odoacer. Thus, leaving only the Eastern Roman Empire remaining.

Now the question remains. When did the Byzantine/Roman empire begin? Was it when Constantine The Great created Constantinople, or was it when the Emperor Anastasius I reformed the coinage in 491 AD into what we know as Byzantine coins? I choose to go with Anastasius I reform.

When Anastasius I became emperor, the Latin language was still spoken in the empire which is evident on the legends of the coinage, though he adopted the Greek numbering system to determine the coin’s value. Over time the emperors moved away for the old Latin language and adopted the Greek language, customs, and dress. This is what I believe confuses people to believe that this was not the Roman Empire any longer. But as I said earlier the people considered and called themselves Romans. The Eastern Roman Empire lasted from 491 – 1453 when the Ottoman Turks conquered the city of Constantinople.

The Emperors and their Coin Legends

Anastasius I: ---------------------- 491 – 518 AD
DN ANASTASIVS PP AVG

Justin I: -------------------------- 518 – 527 AD
DN IVSTINVS PP AVG

Justinian I: ----------------------- 527 – 565 AD
DN IVSTINVS PP AVG

Justin II: ------------------------- 565 – 578 AD
DN IVSTINVS PP AVG
Tiberius II Constantine: 578 – 582 AD
\(\delta mTIb\) CONSTANT PP AVI

Maurice Tiberius: 582 – 602 AD
\(dN\) mAVRIC TlbeR PP AVC

Theodosius: 590 – 602 AD
\(DN\) TεODOLSIVS PP A

Phocas: 602 – 610 AD
\(\delta N\) FOCAS PeRP AVG

Heraclius & Son: 608 – 610
\(DN\) εRACΔΙΟ CONSVΛΙ

Heraclius: 610 -641 AD
\(dN\) hεRACLI PeRP AVG

Heraclius Constantine & Heraclonas: 641, ruled for only 100 days
\(\delta N\) CONStANtΙΝΨS PP AV
\(dN\) hεRACLI PeRP AVG

Constans II: 641 – 668 AD
\(\delta n\) CONStANtΙΝΨS PP AV

Mezezius: 668 – 669 AD
\(\delta n\) mεZEΖΙΨS AVΨ

Constantine IV, Pogonatus: 668 – 685 AD
\(\delta n\) CONStANtΨS PP AΨg

Justinian II, Rhinometes: 685 – 695 AD
ΙΨStΙΝΙΑΝΨS Pe AV

Leontius: 695 – 698 AD
D Leon Pe AV
Tiberius III Apsimar: ----------------- 698 – 705 AD
D tIbεRIϠS Pe AV

Philippicus Bardanes: -------------- 711 – 713 AD
δN FILEPICϠS МЛТϠS AN

Anastasius II Artemius: ----------- 713 – 715 AD
DN ANASTASIϠS МЛТϠS AN

Theodosius III: ------------------ 715 – 717 AD
δn τεΟδΟSIϠS МЛ

Leo III the Isaurian: ----------------- 717 – 741 AD
δNO LeON P A МЛ

Artavasdes & Nicephorus: --------- 742 – 743 AD
G AΡtAϠASDOS МЛΤ
G NΙChFORϠS МЛТϠ A

Constantine V Coronymus: ------- 741 – 775 AD
GN CONSTANTINϠS

Leo IV the Khazar: ---------------- 751 – 780 AD
LeONVS ЕςςON CONSτANτINOS O nεOS

Constantine & Irene: ------------ 780 – 797 AD
CONSτANτINOS CA б’ Δ’

Irene: -------------------------- 797 – 802 AD
εΙRInH bАSΔILISSH

Nicephorus I (Logothete) & Stauracius: ------ 802 – 811 AD
nICIFOROS bАSIлε’
StAVRACIS δεSPο’X

Michael I (Rhanagabe) & Theophylactus: ---- 811 – 813 AD
MIXAHΛ S ΘεOF’
Leo V & Constantine: 813 – 820 AD
LεOn bASIΛες’
CONSTANτ’ δεSPX

Michael II the Amorian: 820 – 829 AD
MIXAHL bASIΛε’

Theophilos & Constantine: 829 – 842 AD
ΘεOFΙLOS bASILE’

Michael III the drunkard: 856 – 866 AD
MIXAHL BASILE’

Basil I the Macedonian: 867 – 886 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΙΟΣ ΑΨις’ b’

Leo VI the wise: 886 – 912 AD
ΛΕΟΝ bASIΛεVS ROM

Alexander: 912 – 913 AD
ΑΛΕΧΑΝΔΡΟΣ ΑΨις’ Rom

Constantine VII Porphy Rogenitus: 908 – 959 AD
+ΟnStAnt bASIL Rom

Romanus I Lecapenus: 920 – 944 AD
+ΡωμΑν bASIΛε Rωm

Romanus II: 945 – 959 AD
RomAn AVτOCRAτ’ Rom

Nicephorus II Phocas: 963 – 969 AD
+nICIFR bASIL Rom

John I Tzimisces: 969 – 976
ΘεΟTOC bΟΗΘ’ Ιω δεSP
Basil II Bulgaroctonos: 976 – 1025 AD
+βΑΣΙΛ’ C ΚΟΝΣΤΑΝΤ’ b R

Constantine VIII: 1025 – 1028 AD
+CωνΣΤΑΝΤΙΝ bΑΣΙΛεΨ Rοm

Romanus III Argyrus: 1028 – 1034 AD
Θcε bΟΗΘ’ RωμAn ω

Michael IV the Paphlogonian: 1034 – 1041 AD
+μΙΧΑΗΛ bΑΣΙΛεΨ Rm

Zoe: 1041 AD
ΖωΗ ΑΥΓΟΒΧΤΗ

Michael V Kalaphates: 1041 – 1042 AD
+μΙΧΑΗΛ ΔεςΠΟΤ

Constantine IX Monomachus: 1042 – 1055 AD
CωνΣΤΑΝΤΙΝ bΑΣΙΛεΨ Rm

Theodora: 1055 – 1056 AD
+ΘεΟΔΩΡΑ AVΓΟCΡΑΤ

Michael VI Stratiopticus: 1056 – 1057 AD
+μΙΧΑΗΛ ΑΠΤΟCΡΑΤ’

Isaac I Commenus: 1057 – 1059 AD
+ΙΟcΑΑΚΙΟC BΑCΙΛεVC

Constantine X Ducas: 1059 – 1067 AD
+ΚωΝ BΑC ΛΟ ΔΟVKΑC

Eudocia, Michael VIII & Constantine: 1067 AD
+ ΜΙΛ εVΑK S ΚωNS

Romanus IV Diogenes: 1068 – 1071 AD
+ΡωMAN εVΔΟΚΙΑ
Michael VII Ducas: ----------------------------- 1071 – 1078 AD
+ΜΙΧΑΗΑ ΒΑΣΙΑ Ο Δ

Nicephoros III Botaniates: ---------------------- 1078 – 1081 AD
+ΝΙΚΗΦ ΔεΣ Τω ΒΟΤΑΝΙΑΤ

Nicephorus Basilacius: ----------------------- 1078 AD
C Ν Β Β

Nicephorus Melissenus: ---------------------- 1080 – 1081 AD
ΝΙΚΦΟ Ρω ΔεΣΠΟΤΗ Τω ΜεΛΙΧΝω

Alexius I Comnenus: ------------------------ 1081 – 1118 AD
+ΑΛεΙω ΔεΣΠΟΤ Τω Κομ

John II Comnenus: ------------------------ 1118 – 1143 AD
Ιω ΔεΣ ΠΟΤ Τω Π

Manuel I Comnenus: ------------------------ 1143 – 1180 AD
ΜΑΝΔΗΑ ΔεΣΠΟΤΗ

Andronicus I Comnenus: ------------------ 1183 – 1185 AD
ΑΝΔΡΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΔεΣΠΟΤΗΣ

Isaac Comnenus (Cyprus): -------------- 1183 – 1191 AD
ΙΚΚΑΚΙΟΣ ΔεΣ

Isaac II Angelus: ------------------------ 1185 – 1204 AD
ΙΚΑΚΙΟΣ ΔεΣ

Theodore Mankaphas (Philadelphia): 1188 – 1189 & 1204 – 1205 AD
+ΘΔΡΒ

Alexius III Angelus Comnenus: ------- 1195 – 1203 AD
ΑΛεΞΙΟΣ ΔεΣΠΙ

Theodore I Comnenus Lascaris (Nicaea): 1208 – 1222 AD
ΘΕΟΔΟΡΟΣ ΔεΣΠΟΤΣ ΚΟΜΝΗΝΟΣ Ο ΛΑΣΚΑΡΗΣ
John III Ducas Vatatzes (Nicaea): 1222 – 1254 AD
Iω ΔεΣΠΟΤΣ ΟΔΗΚΑΣ

Theodore II Ducas Lascaris (Nicaea): 1254 – 1258 AD
ΘεΟΔΟΡΟΣ ΔεΣΠΟΤΗΣ ΔΗΚΑΣ Ο ΛΑΣΚΑΡΙΣ

Theodore Comnenus Ducas (Thessalonica/Epirus): 1224 – 1230 AD
ΘεΟΔΟΡΟΣ ΔεΣΠΟΤΗΣ

Manuel Comnenus Ducas (Thessalonica/Epirus): 1230 – 1237 AD
ΜΑΝΔΗΛ ΔεΣΠΟΤΗΣ

John Comnenus Ducas (Thessalonica): 1237 – 1244 AD
ΙωΑΝΝΙΣ ΔεΣΡΟΤΙΣ

Michael VIII Palaeologus: 1261 – 1282 AD
ΧΜ ΔεΣΠΟΤ Ο ΠΑΛΕΟΛΟΓ

Andronicus II & Michael IX: 1295 – 1320 AD
ΑΝΔΡΟΝΙΚΟΣ εΝ Χω ΔεΣΠΟΤΙΣ Ο ΠΑΛ

Andronicus III Palaeologus: 1328 – 1341 AD
ΑΝΔΡΟΝΙΚΟΣ Ο ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡ

John VI Cantacuzenus: 1347 – 1354 AD
ΚΤΚΖΝ ΓΟΔ ΔΜΤΡ

John V Palaeologus: 1341 – 1391 AD
Ιω ΔεΣΠΟΤΙΣ Ο ΠΑΛΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ

Andronicus IV Palaeologus: 1376 – 1379 AD
ΑΝΔΡΟΝΙΚΟΥ ΔεΣΠΟΤΗΣ

Manuel II Palaeologus: 1391 – 1423 AD
ΜΑΝΟΥΗΑ ΔεΣΠΟΤΙΣ

John VII Palaeologus: 1390, Regent 1399 -1402 AD
ΙωΑΝΙΚ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥ Ο ΠΑΛΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ
John VIII Palaeologus: ------------------ 1423 – 1448 AD
ΙωΑΝΙΗ ΔεΣΠΟΤΙΣ Ο ΠΑΛΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ

Constantine XI Palaeologus: ---------- 1448 – 1453 AD
ΚΛΩΝΤ ΠΑΛ

The last Byzantine emperor, Constantinople now under Ottoman rule.

**Latin Rule of Constantinople**

In 1204 AD leaders of the 4th Crusade captured Constantinople and installed their own Latin rulers. This rule lasted until 1261 when the empire was restored to the Byzantines under Michael VIII Palaeologus.
The Latin Rulers

1204 – 1205: -------- Balwin I of Flanders
1206 – 1216: -------- Henry of Flanders
1217: ------------------ Peter of Courtenary
1217 – 1219: -------- Yolande (Regent)
1221 – 1228: -------- Robert of Courtenary
1228 – 1237: -------- John de Brienne (Regent)
1237 – 1261: -------- Baldwin II

Some Inscriptions found on Byzantine Coins

DεϺS ADΙϽτA ROMANIS
May God help the Romans

εN ΤΧTONIKA
By this sign may you conquer

ANANεOS
Renewal

IHS CRISTOS ReX ReJNANJΙЮM
Jesus Christ King of Kings

DIϽτINIANΙϽ SεRЮ ChRιStΙ
The Lord Justinian, the Servant of Christ

D N ΙΨτINIANΙΨ MΨLTΨS AN
Our Lord Justinian (may ne have live) for many years

ΙhSΨS XRΙStS nΙCA
May Jesus Christ Conquer
Constantien & Leo the Younger

Leo Son & Grandson, Constantine the younger

Leo Grandfather, Constantine Father

May the Lord God Help your Servant

Leo & Constantine, by the Grace of God Kings

Leo & Constantine ny the Grace of Gof King of the Romans

Theophilus & Constantine, Servants of Christ Faithful Believers, Kings of the Romans

Theophilus Servant of Christ and Faithful believer, Sole King of the Romans

Theophilus by the Grace of God Faithful Believer King of the Romans

Theophilus Augustus may you Conquer

Michael Faithful Believer, Great King of the Romans

Basil by the Grace of God King of the Romans
M ΘV
Mother of God

Κε ΒΟΗΘεΙ ΡομAnω ΔεΣPOτΗ
The Lord God, the Despot Romanus

ΘεΟΤΟC β ΗΘ nicHF ΔεςP
The mother of God, the despot Nicephorus

εmmANoVHA
God is with us

ΙhsЫS XRISRЫS βADSІΛεΨ bАSIΛε
Jesus Christ King of Kings

IC XC
Jesus Christ

IC XC NIKA
May Jesus Christ Conquer

Marks of Value on Byzantine Coins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Μ</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΛΓ</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Λ</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Κ</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΙΣ</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΙΒ</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Н</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ε or Ψ = 5
Δ = 4
Γ = 3
В = 2
Α = 1
XXXXX = 40
XXX = 30
XX = 20
X = 10
Monograms on Late Roman and Byzantine coins

Monograms were used to identify Emperors on late Roman Period coins. Here is an excellent link that will help identify these monograms:

https://www.forumancientcoins.com/numiswiki/view.asp?key=monogram

The Coins

The coins were struck in gold, silver, and bronze. The sizes and weights change between type throughout the era. The coins were struck in the following denominations:

In Gold

½ Tremissis
Tremissis
Semissis
Solidus
Tetarteron
Histameron Nomisma
Electrum Aspron Trachy
Hyperpyron

In Silver

120 Nummi
250 Nummi
½ Siliqua
Siliqua
2/3 Miliaresion (400 Nummi)
Miliaresion
Trachy
Hexagram
Basilikon
Billon Tornese
1/8 Stavraton
½ Stavraton
Stavraton

In Bronze

Nummis
2 Nummis
3 Nummis
4 Nummis
5 Nummi, Pentanummium
6 Nummi
8 Nummi
10 Nummi, Decanummium
12 Nummi
16 Nummi
4 Pentanummia, 20 Nummi
20 Nummi, ½ Follis
30 Nummi, ¾ Follis
33 Nummi
8 Pentanummia, 40 Nummi
40 Nummi
Tetarteron
5 Nummi:  V
10 Nummi:  X
20 Nummi:  XX
30 Nummi:  XXX
40 Nummi:  XXX

The link below can explain the different denominations better than I can:


Byzantine Mints

ΛΛΕΞΑΝΔΑ:  Alexandretta (Iskenderun, Turkey)
ΛΛΕΞ, ΛΛΕΙ:  Alexandria
ΑΝ, ΑΝΤΧ, ΑΝΤΙΧ:  Antioch
ΚΑΡ, ΚΡΤ, ΚΤ, ΚΑΡ, ΚΑΡΤ, ΚΡΤ:  Carthage
ΚΑΤ:  Catania
The dating of Byzantine coins isn’t as straightforward as one might think.

The dating on bronze Byzantine bronze was introduced by the Emperor Justinian I in the 12th year of his reign (Regnal year) 538/39 AD. He ordered that a date be placed on the reverse of the coin on the right side and on the left side the word ANNO (year). Seems easy enough to follow, but here is where it gets confusing.
The 12th year of Justinian’s reign was 538/539 AD, but the date indicated on the coin was the number 2.

Justinian I ruled from August 1st 527 – November 14th 565 AD, so his first regnal year was 527/28 AD. He ruled for 39 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Regnal Year</th>
<th>Indication on Coin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>538/39 AD</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>539/40 AD</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>540/41 AD</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>551/52 AD</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>552/53 AD</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>564/64 AD</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The indication number will increase until 15, when the cycle starts again.

To complicate the issue even more, if the emperor ruled after 566 the cycle would have started again, making it all the more difficult to pin down an exact date.

This system continued with Justin II, Tiberius II Constantine, Phocas, Heraclius, Constans II, Constantine IV, Justinian II, Tiberius III, and Leontius. The only emperor that regnal years and indicated years were the same was, Maurice Tiberius. A word of caution, before assigning a date to your coin check reference material.
Above is a Follis of the emperor Justinian I with the legend: DN IVSTINIANVS PP AVC. The large M indicates that it’s a Follis, the letter A indicates that it is from work shop A at the Nikomedia mint (mint mark NIKO). On the left is the word ANNO (year) and on the right are the letters X and U which is 10 + 5 or year 15. Knowing that Justinian first dated his coins in year 12 of his regin by placing the number 2 on them. The number 15 would than be the 25th year of his regin and the date would be 551/552 AD for this coin. Hope that makes sense.

The Anonymous Follis

These coins were so named because they bare no name of a ruler or inscription to one. These coins were struck from 969 – 1092 AD and depicted soley religious images and inscriptions. The first of this type were struck during the regin of John I Trizmisces and the last under Alexius. They were identified by class from Class A, with three subclasses A1, A2, and A3, through to Class M. They appeared in large and small flans with various designs and legends.

https://www.forumancientcoins.com/numiswiki/view.asp?key=anonymous%20follis
Volumes can and have been written about Byzantine coinage and it is not within the scope of this general reference work to go into more detail on this subject. I recommend you seek out these works and access the many website on this subject. You will find that the history and coinage of the Eastern Roman Empire is just as rich as the Western Empire was.
While I have enjoyed the beautiful coinage from the Ancient Greek world I have not been able to acquire much for my collection. The price of these beautiful works of art have always been beyond my price range. So I have to admit that my knowledge about them is very limited.

Ancient Greece was made of about 1,500 separate city states each with it’s own ruler, laws and customs. These city states didn’t always get along so there was
constant fighting amount them. The history of Greece is well beyond the scope of this work, so I will not go into much detail.

The first coins appeared in the West in Lydia present day Turkey around 600 BC. They were struck in a metal known as electrum, a natural occurring metal of gold, silver, and trace metals found in the river beds.

Excellent article on this subject:

http://oldestcoins.reidgold.com/article.html

There were three periods in Greek History:

1. The Archaic Period from 650 – 479 BC
2. The Classical Period from 479 – 336 BC
3. The Hellenistic Period from 336 – 30 BC

In each period the art of coin making improved until the coins became miniture works of art in metal.
# Greek Coin Weight Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Coin Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achaean</td>
<td>Stater (3 Drachm)</td>
<td>8.9g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aeginetan</td>
<td>Stater (Didrachm)</td>
<td>12.2g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asiatic</td>
<td>Tetradrachm</td>
<td>13.3g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attic</td>
<td>Tetradrachm</td>
<td>17.2g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campanian</td>
<td>Stater (Didrachm)</td>
<td>7.5g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chian</td>
<td>Tetradrachm</td>
<td>15.6g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cistaphoric</td>
<td>Tetradrachm</td>
<td>12.6g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corcyrean</td>
<td>Stater (Didrachm)</td>
<td>11.6g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corinthian</td>
<td>Stater (3 drachm)</td>
<td>8.6g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euboeic</td>
<td>Stater (Didrachm)</td>
<td>17.2g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lycian</td>
<td>Stater (Didrachm)</td>
<td>8.6 to 10.0g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milesian</td>
<td>Electrum Stater</td>
<td>14.1g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian</td>
<td>Gold Daric</td>
<td>8.35g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian</td>
<td>Siglos</td>
<td>8.35 to 8.55g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phocaic</td>
<td>Electrum Stater</td>
<td>16.1g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pheonician</td>
<td>Shekel (Didrachm)</td>
<td>7.0g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodian</td>
<td>Tetradrachm</td>
<td>13.2 to 15.2g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samian</td>
<td>Tetradrachm</td>
<td>13.1g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sicilian</td>
<td>Litra</td>
<td>0.86g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thraco – Macedonian –</td>
<td>Various weights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greek Coin Denominations

Weights will vary based on where coin was struck.

Dekadrachm: ------------ 10 drachm -------------- @43g
Tetradrachm: ---------- 4 drachm -------------- 11.16 – 17.30g
Drachm: -------------- 4 obols -------------- 3.72 – 4.33g
Tetrobol: ------------ drachm -------------- 2.85 – 2.58g
Triobol/hemidrachm: --- 3 obol -------------- 2.15 – 1.72g
Diobol: -------------- 2 obol -------------- 1.43g
Trihemiobol: -------- ¼ drachm -------------- 0.93 – 1.07g
Obol: ---------------- 1/6 drachm -------------- 0.72 – 0.86g
Some Celators that Signed their Coins

ANAN: -------------- Messana in Sicily
AP: --------------- Appears in Leontina & Stracuse circa 479 BC
AMI: -------------- Worked at Metapontum, last half 4th century BC
APΩΛ: -------------- Metapontum in Italy
API, APIΣΤΟΞΕΝΟΣ: --- Heraklea, Metapontum
ATPI: --------------- Massalia in Gaul
ΔΑ: --------------- Diadalos of Sicyon circa 420 BC
Ε, ΕΥ, ΕΥΑ, ΕΥΑΙΝΕΤΟΣ: ---- Euainetos, Syracuse & Katana late 5th cent BC
Euarchidas worked at Syracuse
Eukleidas
Eumenes, Syracuse end of 5th century BC
Euthymos, Syracuse end of 5th century BC
Exakestidas
On coins of Velia
On coins of Thourio
Kimon
Worked at Taras & Herakleia
Thermae in Sicily
Veila, Italy, 1st half 4th century BC
At Rhegion
From Thourioi
At Kamarina

Designs on Greek Coins that can help to Identify where they are from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aigina</td>
<td>Turtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akragos</td>
<td>Crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>Eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphipolis</td>
<td>Tripod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antioch</td>
<td>Tyche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>Owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boeotia</td>
<td>Shield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corinth</td>
<td>Pegasos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carthage</td>
<td>Horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chios</td>
<td>Sphinx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crete</td>
<td>Labyrinth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesos</td>
<td>Bee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaea</td>
<td>Palm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kyrene
Kyzikos
Leontini
Messana
Metaponton
Phoenicia
Rhodos
Sicyon
Sidon
Seleukeia
Tarentum
Thorion

Silphium
Tunny Fish
Lion
Rabbit
Wheat
Galley
Rose
Dove
Europa
Anchor
Dolphin
Bull

**Greek Titles**

Soter: ------------------------- Saviour
Theos: ------------------------ God
Philopator: ------------------- Father – Loving
Neos Dionysos: -------------- New Dionysos
Philadelphos: --------------- Brother – Loving
Asiatikos: -------------------- From Asia
Epiphanes (Male): ------------ God manifest, illustrious
Epiphabeis (Female): ------- Same as above
Philometor: ----------------- Mother – Loving
Euergetes (Male): ----------- The Benefactor
Euergetis (Female): -------- Same as above
Eupator: -------------------- Good father
Dikaios: (Male): ------------- The just or equitable
Dikaiosyne (Female): ------- Same as above
Nikator: ------------------- The victor
Sidetes: ------------------- From Sidetes
Kallinokos: ---------------- Beautiful victor
Eusebes Philadelphos: ------ Pius brother
Eusebes: ---------------------- Pius
Aetolikos: --------------- Of Aetolia
Anketor or Anicetus: ------ The invincible
Auletes: ------------------ The Flautist
Balas: -------------------- Lord
Barypos: ----------------- Heavy foot
Cholos or Cholus: ------- The Lame
Caesarion: ----------------- Little Caesar
Doson: ----------------- He who will give
Epimanes: ---------------- The mad man
Etesias: ----------------- Short lived like the winds of Etesia
Eukaeros or Eucaerus: ------ Knock – knees
Grypor or Grypus: ------- Hooknose
Keraunos or Ceraunos: ---- Thunder
Kokke: ----------------- Red
Ktistes or Ctistes: -------- The founder
Kubiosaktes: ------------ Cutter of Tuna Fish
Kynegos or Cynegus: ------ The hunter
Kyzikenos or Cyzicenus: ---- From Cyzicenus
Lathyros: ---------------- Chick Pea
Megas: ------------------ The Great
Monopthalmos or Monophthalmus: ---- The one eyed
Neos: ----------------- The young
Nothos: ----------------- The bastard
Philoromaeos: ------------ Lover of Rome
Physkon: ---------------- Sausage, Potbelly or bladder
Polioketes or Poliorcets: ---- The beseiger
Pythodorus: ------------ Gift of the Pythia
Thea: ----------------- Goddess
Theos Philadelphos: ------- God beloved of his brother
Theos Philopator: ------- God beloved of his father
Theotropa: ------------ Like a goddess
Tryphon (Male): ------------ The magnificent
Tryhaena (Female): --------- Same as above

Some City States

NAXION: ------------ Naxos, Sicily
CEΛA: --------------- Gela, Sicily
ΚΛΤΛΛΑΙΩΝ: ------- Katana, Sicily
ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΟΝ: ------- Messana, Sicily

Northern Greece/Thrace
ΜΕΝΔΑΟΝ: -------- Macedonia

Western/ Central Greece
A in field = Ambracia
Λ in field = Leukas
ΔΕΛ: --------------- Delphi
ΛΑΡΙ: --------------- Larissa
ΘΕ: --------------- Thebes, Boeotia
ΑΘΕ: --------------- Athens
ΑΙ: --------------- Aigina
ΣΙΝΩ: --------------- Sinope
ΕΦ: --------------- Ephesos
ΚΛΕ: --------------- Side
Alexander III (The Great)

ἈΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ
ἈΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ

No discussion about Greek coinage would be complete without a section on Alexander the Great. A man in a few short years who conquered the Greek world, Northern Africa and Asia reaching into India.

Alexander was born on July 20th 356 BC in the city of Pella the capital city of the Macedonian Kingdom. His father was Philip II king of Macedonia and his mother was Olympias Princess of Epirus. At the age of 13 Philip hired the philosopher Aristotle to be Alexanders tutor. He receive the best teaching that was available in the ancient world.

Because of an insult that Alexander received from a family member he had a falling out with his father which resulted in him and his mother moving to Epirus. Though returning sometime later.
In 336 BC Philip II was assassinated by a young Macedonian noble named Pausanias for a reason that was never known. Alexander being the heir became the king of Macedonia.

In 334 BC Alexander launched his campaign against the Persians in revenge of the Persians defeating the Greeks and burning Athens a 150 years earlier. During this time Persia was the largest empire in the world but was experiencing internal struggles. Darius III was the Persian king and on November of 333 BC they met in battle at Issus. Though out numbered by Persian forces Alexander was able to rout them causing Darius to flee the battle field. There is a famous mosaic depicting this battle.

A short PDF on his coins:
https://berlinarchaeology.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/thompson-1982.pdf
Mosaic from Pompeii in the house of Faun, depicting Alexander riding his horse Bucephalus facing Darius III in his chariot at the Battle of Issus in 333 BC.

A succession of battles occurred with more defeats to the Persians, finally in 331 BC. Alexander defeated the Persians and was now ruler of the Persian empire.
The coins of Alexander

Alexander struck coins in three types of metal, gold, silver, and bronze. He used the Attic standard for his coin weight with one exception, coins struck for use in Macedon. The Tetradrachms were stuck a little lighter at about 14 grams. The normal weight being about 17.2 grams for Tetradrachms, 4.3 grams for Drachms, and about 8.6 grams for gold Staters.

AV Stater, Lifetime strike 8.61g, struck at Abydos in Asia Minor 328 – 323 BC. Price# 1497
(Not actual size)

The coins that are encountered by collectors such as myself that can’t afford the gold staters are the AR Drachms and Tetradrachm, for the most part they are the same style coin except the the Drachm is smaller than the Tetradrachm. These coins were struck during Alexanders lifetime and long after his death in 323 BC. It is fairly easy to tell the difference between a lifetime and a posthumus strikes. On the lifetime strikes the legs of Zues on the reverse of the coin are spread apart, and on the posthumus strikes one leg is placed behind the other.
Lifetime strike, notice how the legs of Zeus are spread apart
(Not actual size)

Posthumus strike, notice how one leg is placed behind the other
(Not actual size)

By far the silver issues are more prevalent than the gold or bronze.
When Alexander died in 323 BC he left a vast empire that covered Greece, parts of North Africa, most of Asia Minor and parts of India. He had no heir, so there was no line of rule to continue. After some internal struggles it was decided to divide this vast empire amongst his generals.

After the defeat of the Persian in 331 BC, Egypt which was part of the Persian empire now belonged to Alexander. After Alexander’s death this land was sought after because of its great riches and because it produced most of the grain in the ancient world.

So after the struggles were settled it was determined that Ptolemy would rule over Egypt. Thus starting the Ptolemaic Dynasty.
The Ptolmey’s were Greeks from Macedonia so they spoke Greek and brought Greek customs into Egypt with them. Over time however they adapted Egyptian dress and customs, styling themselves as the new Pharoahs.

Ptolemy, Soter: --------------- Founder of the dynasty ----------- 305 – 283 BC  
Married to Berenice I

Ptolemy II, Philadelphos: ------------------------------ 285 – 246 BC  
Married to Arsinoe I than to Arnsinoe II Philadelphus

Ptolemy III, Euergetes: ---------------------------------- 246 – 222 BC  
Married to Bereice II

Ptolemy IV, Philopator: ---------------------------------- 222 – 205 BC  
Married to Arsinoe III

Ptolemy V, Epiphanes: ---------------------------------- 205 – 180 BC  
Married to Cleopatra I

Ptolemy VI, Philometer: ---------------------------------- 180 – 164 BC,  
and again from 163 – 145 BC. Briefly ruled with Ptolemy Eupator in 152 BC  
Married to Cleopatra II
Ptolemy VII, Neos Philopator: joint rule with Ptolemy VI ---- 145 BC

Ptolemy VIII, Euergetes II (Physcon): ------------------------------- 170 – 163 BC, again from 145 – 116 BC, was married to Cleopatra II and than Cleopatra III. Expelled from Alexandria by Cleopatra II circa 131 – 127 BC. Reinstated in 124 BC

Cleopatra II Philometora Soteira: ------------------------------------ 131 – 127 BC
in opposition to Ptolemy VIII

Cleopatra III Philometer Soteira Dikaiosyne Nikephores (Kokke): 116 – 101 BC

Ptolemy IX, Soter II (Lathyros): ------------------------------------- 116 – 106 BC, and 88 -81 BC. Married Cleopatra IV than Cleopatra Selene, ruled jointly with Cleopatra III during first regin

Ptolemy X, Alexander I: --------------------------------------------- 107 – 88 BC, married Cleopatra Selene then Berenice III, ruled with Cleopatra III until 101 BC

Ptolemy XI, Alexander II: -------------------------------------------- 80 BC
Married and ruled with Berenice III before murdering her ruled alone for 19 days

Ptolemy XII, Neos Dionysos (Auletes): ------------------------------- 80 – 58 BC
    Second regin --------------------------------------------- 55 – 51 BC
    Married to Cleopatra V Tryphaena

Cleopatra V Tryphaena: ----------------------------------------------- 58 – 57 BC
Ruled jointly with Berenice Epiphaniea from 58 – 55 BC
She was the last of the Ptolemaic dynasty before Egypt became a Roman Province.

Arsione IV: ruled briefly in opposition of Cleopatra VII from 48 – 47 BC

Ptolemaic coins were struck in three metals, Gold, Silver, and Bronze, with the bronze type the most struck. The coins were beautiful pieces of art.

AV Octodrachm of Ptolemy V Epiphanes 205 – 180 BC
(Not actual size)

AR Tetradrachm Ptolemy XII Neos Dionysos year 17, (62 BC) 24.2mm x 13.77g Paphos, Cyprus mint. Svoronos 1867
(Author’s collection, not actual size)
The coins of this series are very interesting, they are among the largest size ancient bronze coins encountered wish I like. This Is a fantastic site for these coins: [http://ptolemybronze.com/](http://ptolemybronze.com/)
Monograms

Monograms on coins were used throughout the ancient world. If we were to look at any Greek coin we would find a monogram of some type. These monograms had many uses some still not fully understood, but for the most part they were a means to identify a mint or city where the coin was struck. They can also help in determining the difference of two rulers with the same name. Here is an image of some of these monograms that will be encountered.
The Seleucid Dynasty

Another general of Alexander The Great, Seleukos was given administration over the Eastern Empire in 312 BC. This was a vast amount of land covering modern day Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, parts of Turkey, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajistan. The Capitol of the empire was in two locations the main capitol was in Antioch Syria and the other was in Seleucia in Mesopotamia.

This became known as the Seleucid Empire and existed from 312 – 63 BC. The first ruler was Seleukos I. Once Seleukos was in power he attempted to expand on his empire and made advances into India. In 305 BC Seleukos attempted to invade the Punjab region but was stopped by Chandragupta Maurya the king of the Mauryan Empire. Seleukos handed Chandragupta, the Hindu Kush, Afghanistan and Bulochistan province in Pakistan. He also gave his daughter in married to him to secure and alliance.

Dating the Coins

Seleucid coins are dated from the beginning of Seleukos rule in 312 BC, so it’s fairly easy to determine the correct date in our terms. For example if the coin has a date of SE 226 just subtract that number from 312 and the date will be 86 BC.
AV Stater of Seleukos I Nikator
(Not actual size)

AR Tetradrachm Seleukos I Nikator
(Not actual size)
The Rulers

Seleukos I Nikator: ----------------------------------- 312 – 280 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ

Antiochos I Soter: ----------------------------------- 280 – 261 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ, joint rule with Seleukos I
ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, sole rule

Antiochos II Theos: ----------------------------------- 261 – 246 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ

Seleukos II Kallinikos: ----------------------------------- 246 – 226 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ

Antiochos Hierax: --------------------------------------- 246 – 227 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ

Seleukos III Keraunos: ---------------------------------- 226 – 223 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΡΧΟΥ

Molon: ----------------------------------------------- 222 – 220 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΟΛΩΝΟΣ

Achaios: ------------ Governor in Asia Minor -------- 220 – 214 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΧΑΙΟΥ

Seleikos IV Philopator: ---------------------------------- 187 – 175 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ
Antiochos: ---------------------------------------- 175 – 170 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ

Antiochos IV Epiphanes: --------------------------- 175 – 164 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΝΙΚΗΘΟΡΟΥ

Antiochos V Eupator: ----------------------------- 164 – 162 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΕΥΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ

Demetrios I Soter: ------------------------------- 162 – 150 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ

Alexander I Balas: -------------------------------- 150 – 145 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΘΕΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ

Demetrios II Nikator: ------ 1st regin ---------- 145 – 140 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ ΝΙΚΑΤΟΡΟΣ

Antioches VI Dionysos: --------------------------- 145 – 142 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ

Tryphon: ---------------------------------------- 142 – 138 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΤΡΥΦΩΝΟΣ ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡΟΣ

Antiochos VII Euergetes (Sidetes): ----------------- 138 – 129 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ

Demetrios II Nikator: -------2nd regin --------- 129 – 125 BC

Signed the same as 1st regin

Alexander II (Zebina): -------------------------- 128 – 123 BC

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΦΕΟΥΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΝΙΚΗΘΟΡΟΥ

Seleukos V: ------------------------------------- 125 BC

No coins struck
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>King</th>
<th>Reign</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
<th>Greek Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cleopatra</td>
<td>125 BC</td>
<td>Cleopatra</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΚΛΕΟΠΑΤΡΑΣ ΘΕΑΣ ΕΥΣΤΗΡΙΑΣ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleopatra &amp; Antiochos VIII</td>
<td>125 – 121 BC</td>
<td>Cleopatra &amp; Antiochos VIII</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΣΣΗΣ ΚΛΕΟΠΑΤΡΑΣ ΘΕΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiochos VIII (Grypos)</td>
<td>121 – 96 BC</td>
<td>Antiochos VIII (Grypos)</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiochos IX (Kyzikenos)</td>
<td>113 – 95 BC</td>
<td>Antiochos IX (Kyzikenos)</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΦΙΛΙΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seleukos VI Epiphanes Nikator</td>
<td>95 – 94 BC</td>
<td>Seleukos VI Epiphanes Nikator</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΝΙΚΑΤΟΡΟΣ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiochos Eusebes Philopator</td>
<td>94 – 83 BC</td>
<td>Antiochos Eusebes Philopator</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΕΥΣΕΒΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiochos XI Epiphanes Philadelphos</td>
<td>93 BC</td>
<td>Antiochos XI Epiphanes Philadelphos</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demetrios III Philopator</td>
<td>95 – 88 BC</td>
<td>Demetrios III Philopator</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Philadelephos</td>
<td>93 – 83 BC</td>
<td>Philip Philadelephos</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiochos XIII Dionysos</td>
<td>88 – 84 BC</td>
<td>Antiochos XIII Dionysos</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΚΑΛΛΙΝΙΚΟΥ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigranes II of Armenia (Usuper)</td>
<td>83 – 69 BC</td>
<td>Tigranes II of Armenia (Usuper)</td>
<td>ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiochos XIII (Asiatikos)</td>
<td>69 – 64 BC</td>
<td>Antiochos XIII (Asiatikos)</td>
<td>Last of the Seleukid kings in Syria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After 64 BC Syria became a Roman province, the last king being deposed by Pompey the Great. For the next 30 years tetradrachms in the name of Philip Philadelphos the last legitimate king before Tigranes usurpation. They can be identified by the monograms XAB & XAT.

There were many kings with the name Seleukos and Antiochos which can be identified by their portraits and by some of the monograms used.

AR Tetradrachm of Philip 93 – 83 BC
Antioch, Syria mint. Sear# 7214ff
(Author’s collection, not actual size)
We can not overlook this empire. I most admit I know very little about it. This is by choice rather than not. While I know it played a great deal in shaping the ancient world, learning more about it didn’t appeal to me. In my collection I only have one well worn Siglos, just to say I have a coin from the empire. My personal feelings aside I will provide some information on this ancient empire.

The Achaemenid Empire was it’s actual name. The Greeks called it the Persian Empire. It was founded circa 550 BC by Cyrus II The Great. At it’s height it possessed all of Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Palestine,
Lebanon,, Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya, Thrace-Macedonia, The Black Sea Coastal regions of Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, and Russia. All of Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and much of Central Asia. It was the largest empire in the world. It’s capital city was Babylon.

**The Rulers**

- **Cyrus the Great:** Founder of the Empire 560 – 530 BC
- **Cambyses II:** King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt 530 – 522 BC
- **Bardiya:** 522 BC
- **Darius I:** King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt 522 – 486 BC
- **Xerxes I (The Great):** King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt 486 – 465 BC

Xerxes I famous for the Battle of Thermopylae were in 480 BC 300 Spartans defended a narrow strip of land known as the Hot Gates against thousands of Persian troops. They were defeated and killed to the last man. Xerxes than moved against Athens and burnt it to the ground.
Artaxerxes I: -------------- King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt ----------- 465 – 424 BC
Xerxes II: -------------- King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt ----------- 424 BC
       Ruled for 45 days
Sogdianus: -------------- King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt ----------- 424 – 423 BC
Darius II: -------------- King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt ----------- 423 – 405 BC
Artaxexes II: -------------- King of Persia --------------------------- 405 – 358 BC
Atraxeses III: ------------ King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt ----------- 358 – 338 BC
       Regained Egypt after 50 years
Artaxexes IV: ------------ King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt ----------- 338 – 336 BC
Darius III: -------------- King of Persia, Pharaoh of Egypt ----------- 336 – 330 BC
Last of the Persian kings, Alexander III conquered the empire.

The Coins

The coins were struck in two types of metal the gold Daric and the silver Siglos.

A Daric was = 20 Siglos and 25 Attic Drachm weighing in at 8.10 – 8.50 grams.
A Siglos was = 7.5 Attic Obols weighting in at 5.4 – 5.6 grams.

Here is an excellent link to Siglos coins:
https://www.forumancientcoins.com/numiswiki/view.asp?key=siglos
I have just started to become interested in the coins of this empire so my knowledge is fairly limited on the subject. But I will attempt to provide some useful information. I would like to thank Roberts Langnas for his expert help and for the use of information from his writings.

The Parthian empire came into being on 247 BC when it defeated the Selucids in the Northeast of Iran. The Empire also known as the Aracid empire from the name of it’s founder Arsaces I (ἈΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡΟΣ) 247 – 211 BC. At it’s height the empire stretched from Central Turkey to Eastern Iran. It’s location on the Silk Road made it a major trade route between the Roman empire, the Mediterranean Basin, and the Han empire in China. While the people were of Iranian stock they
adopted the customs and language of the Greek’s. Making Greek the official language at court. Persian, and Aramaic were also spoken. The empire made it’s capital in Ctesiphon with regional capitals in Ecbatana and other locations.

The rulers titled themselves as King of Kings and claimed be decendant from the Achaemenid empire.

They had conflicts with the Seleucids who they broke away from, with the Roman empire, the Scythians in the East, and the Armenia Kingdom who they wanted to bring under there control.

The kings are all named Arsaces in the legend on their coins, no matter what their real name was.

Some words that are encountered in the Legends

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ -------------- King of Kings
ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ------------------------ Arsaces
ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ------------------------ Just
ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ---------------------- God manifest
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ --------------------- Friend of the Greeks
ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ---------------------- Benefactor

The Kings and Legends Encountered

Arsaces: ---------------------Founder of the empire ------------------ 247 – 211 BC
ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡΟΣ

Arsaces II: ----------------------------------------------- 211 – 185 BC
ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

Phriapatius: ----------------------------------------------- 191 – 176 BC
Phraates I: 176 – 171 BC

Mithridates I: 171 – 138 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

Phraates II: 138 – 127 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

Bacasis: 126 BC

Artabanus I: 127 – 124 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΘΕΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ

Mithradates II: 123 – 88 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Gotarzes I: 95 – 90 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΘΕΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΝΙΚΑΤΟΡΟΣ

Orodes I: 90 – 80 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ
Mithridates I 171 – 138 BC, and Gotarzes I 95 – 90 BC

Sinatruces I: ---------------------------------------------------------- 77 – 70 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Darius of Media Atropatene: ------------------------------------------ 70 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΘΕΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Phraates III: -------------------------------------------------------- 70- 57 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Mithradates III: ------------------------------------------------------ 57 – 54 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΘΕΟΥ, also used
ΕΥΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Orodes II: ------------------------------------------------------------- 57 – 38 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΣ

Pacorus I: ------------------------------------------------------------- 39 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΣ

Phraates IV: ---------------------------------------------------------- 38 – 2 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ
ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Tiridates I: ----------------------------------------------------------- 29 – 26 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ
Phraataces: 2 BC – 4 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Musa: 2 BC – 4 AD
Queen with Phraataces

Orodes III: 6 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΟΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Vonones I: 8 – 12 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΟΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΟΝΩΝΗΣ

Artabanus II: 10 – 38 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΚΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Vardanes I: 40 – 47 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Gotarzes II: 40 – 51 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Vonones II: 51 AD
Drachm’s of Vologases I, 51 – 78 AD and Osroes I, 109 – 129 AD
(Image not actual size)

Vologases I: --------------------------------------------------------------- 51 – 78 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ
ΟΛΙΓΟΟΥΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ

Vardanes II: --------------------------------------------------------------- 55 – 58 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Vologases II: --------------------------------------------------------------- 77 – 80 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΟΛΑΓΑΣΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ
ΟΛΙΓΑΟΥ

Pacorus II: --------------------------------------------------------------- 78 – 105 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΠΑΚΟΡΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Artabanus III: --------------------------------------------------------------- 80 – 90 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Vologases III: --------------------------------------------------------------- 105 – 147 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΟΛΑΓΑΣΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Osroes I: --------------------------------------------------------------- 109 – 129 AD

Parthamaspates: --------------------------------------------------------------- 116 AD

Mithridates IV: --------------------------------------------------------------- 129 – 140 AD
Vologases IV: --------------------------------------------------------------- 147 – 191 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΟΛΟΓΑΣΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Osroes II: --------------------------------------------------------------- 190 – 195 AD

Vologases V: --------------------------------------------------------------- 191 – 208 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΟΛΟΓΑΣΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Vologases VI: ------------------------------------------------------------- 208 – 228 AD

Artabanus V: ------------------------------------------------------------- 216 – 224 AD

Tiridates III: ------------------------------------------------------------- 224 – 228 AD

Tiridates III was the last of the Parthian rulers.

The Coins

The coins were struck in two metals only, silver and bronze. Gold coins that have appeared on the marked recently these are all modern fakes. No gold coins where ever struck by the Parthians.

The Parthian used the Attic weight standard on there coins, where a drachm was about 4 g.

Silver coins struck were the obol at .6 g, the diobol about 1.4 g, hemidrachm about 2 g, drachm about 4 g, and the tetradrachm between 14 – 16.5 g. The drachm and tetradrachm being the more common, while the others are more difficult to find.

The bronze denomination is the chalkous approximate weight of 1.25 g, 8 chalkos = 1 obol, 48 Choki = 1 drachm. There motif depicts Greek Gods, fortresses, cornucopia, horses, rams, elephants, eagles, bulls, and camels. They are usually poorly struck.
Dates rarely appear on drachms, but when they do they are indicated by using the Arsacid era starting date of 247 BC.

Dates often appear on tetradrachms they however use the Seleucid date system starting in 312 BC.

**The Mints**

The Parthians struck coins in twenty cities, with the tetradrachms minted exclusively minted in Seleucia. Out the the twenty cities there were seven major city mints. The mint marks appeared as monograms on the coin. Mint marks on early drachm appeared under the seat on the reverse, while later drachm had the marks below the bow.

1. Ekbatana
2. Rhagae
3. Mithiadatkart
4. Traxiane
5. Susa
6. Margiane
7. Nisa
The Kingdom Of Elymais
(Elam)

The Kingdom of Elymais (Elam) was a semi independent vassal state under Parthian control from the 2nd century BC to the 3rd century AD. The kingdom was located at the head of the Persian Gulf in what is now Iran. It’s capital city was Susa.

Elam has been mentioned in the Bible (Ezra 4:9). They claim to be descendants of Shem one of the sons of Noah (Genesis 10:22) and may be one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Bob L has written and outstanding paper on the coins of Elymais and has explained them better than I ever could. So I refer you all to his paper which is located here:

The Greco-Bactrian and Indo-Greek Kingdoms

The Greco-Bactrian Kingdom was the easternmost part of the Greek Hellenistic world from 250 BC – 125 BC. It controlled lands in Bactria and Sogdiana in Central Asia. In 180 BC King Demetrios expanded the kingdom east into present day eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan establishing the Indo-Greek Kingdom which lasted until 10 AD.

The Greco-Bactrian kingdom came into being when Diodotos the Satrap of the province of Baktria – Sogdiana broke away from the Seleucid kingdom in 256 BC during the reign of Antiochos II. Establishing capital cities in Bactria and Alexandria on the Oxus.
In 180 BC King Demetrios extended the kingdom into India and the Mauryan empire forming the Indo – Greek kingdom.

The Kings Of The Greco - Bactrian And Indo – Greek Kingdoms

AV Stater of Diodotus I
(Not actual size)

Diodotus I: ------------------ Founder of the Kingdom -------------- 256 – 239 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΙΟΔΟΤΟΥ

Diodotus II: ------------------ Joint Rule with Diodotus I ------------- 256 – 230 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΙΟΔΟΤΟΥ

Euthydemos I: ---------------------------------------------------------- 190 – 171 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΕΥΘΥΔΕΜΟΥ

Demetrios: -------------------Expanded kingdom into India ------- 205 – 171 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

Antimachos: ----------------------------------------------- 171 – 160 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΘΕΟΥ ΑΝΤΙΜΑΧΟΥ

Agathokles: ----------------------------------------------- 171 – 160 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΓΑΘΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ
Pantaleon: ------------------------------------------------------------- 171 – 160 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΑΝΤΑΛΕΟΝΤΟΣ

Eukratides: ------------------------------------------------------------- 171 – 135 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΕΥΚΡΑΤΙΔΟΥ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΕΥΚΡΑΤΙΔΟΥ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΣ ΕΥΚΡΑΤΙΔΗΣ

Plato: -------------------------------------------------------------- Circa 150 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΠΛΑΤΩΝΟΣ

Apollodotus I: ------------ First king to rule from India -------------- 160 – 150 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΠΟΛΛΟΔΟΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ

Menander: ------------------------------------------------------------- 160 – 143 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΜΕΝΑΝΔΡΟΥ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΜΕΝΑΝΔΡΟΥ

Zoilos I: ------------------------------------------------------------- 150 – 145 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΙΩΙΛΟΥ

Lysias: --------------------------------------------------------------- 145 – 135 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΙΚΗΤΟΥ ΑΥΣΙΟΥ

Antiakidas: ------------------------------------------------------------- 145 – 135 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟΥ ΑΝΤΙΑΛΚΙΔΟΥ
Bronze hemi-obol of Apollodotus I with Greek legend on the obverse and Kharoshthi legend on the reverse.
(Not actual size)

Heliokles: --------------------------------------------------------------- 135 – 110 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΗΛΙΟΚΑΕΟΥΣ

Polyxenos: ---------------------------------------------------------------135 – 130 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΠΟΛΥΞΕΝΟΥ

Epander: ----------------------------------------------------------------- 135 – 130 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟΥ ΕΠΑΝΔΡΟΥ

Strato I: ----------------- Regency of Agathokleia ----------------------- 130 – 110 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΣΤΡΑΤΩΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΘΟΚΛΕΙΑΣ
ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΘΣ ΘΕΟΤΡΟΠΟΥ ΑΤΑΘΟΚΛΕΙΑΣ
Strato alone: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΣΤΡΑΤΩΝΟΣ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΕΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΕΤΡΑΤΩΝΟΣ

Philoxenos: --------------------------------------------------------------- 110 – 80 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΙΚΗΤΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΟΥ

Diomedes: --------------------------------------------------------------- 110 – 80 BC

Apollodotos II: ---------------------------------------------------------- 110 – 80 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΑΠΟΛΛΔΟΤΟΥ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΑΠΟΛΛΔΟΤΟΥ

Archebios: --------------------------------------------------------------- 80 – 60 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟΥ ΑΡΧΕΒΙΟΥ
Silver Drachm of Menander with Greek obverse legend
and Khraoshthi reverse legend
(Author’s Collection, not actual size)

Peukolaus: 80 – 60 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΠΕΥΚΟΛΑΟΥ

Theophilos: 80 – 60 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡΟΣ

Nikias: 80 – 60 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΝΙΚΙΟΥ

Hippostratos: 80 – 60 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΙΠΠΟΣΤΡΑΤΟΥ

Telephos: 80 – 75 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΘΛΕΦΟΥ

Dionysios: 80 – 75 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΥ

Zoilos: 75 – 50 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΙΩΙΛΟΥ

Amarynas: 60 – 40 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΝΙΚΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΑΜΥΝΤΟΥ

Artemidoros: 60 – 40 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΙΚΗΤΟΥ ΑΡΤΕΜΙΔΟΡΟΥ
Silver Drachm of Apollodotus II, Greek obverse legend
Kharoshthi reverse legend.
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

Apollophanes: --------------------------------- 50 – 40 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΑΠΟΛΛΟΦΑΝΟΥ

Strato II: --------------------------------- 40 – 15 BC

Strato III: --------------------------------- 40 – 15 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΣΤΡΑΤΩΝΟΣ

Hermaios:  Last Indo – Greek king  40 – 1 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΕΡΜΑΙΟΥ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΕΡΜΑΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΛΛΙΟΠΗΣ

Silver Tetradrachm of Hermaios
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

While not the first time more than one language was used on coins. From the time of Apollodotus I the use of Kharoshthi script was used along with Greek as part of the legend on Indo – Greek coins.
Kharoshthi

Kharoshthi was an ancient script used from the 3rd century BC until it died out in the 3rd century AD. It was used in Gandhara (present day Afghanistan and Pakistan), in Central Asia, in Bactria, by the Kushan empire, and along the Silk Road.

Map of Greco – Bactrian and Indo – Greek Kingdoms
The Coins

The coins of the Greco – Bactrian and Indo – Greek kingdoms were struck in gold, silver, and bronze.

Denominations

1. Gold staters at 8.3g
2. Rare gold oktadrachm at 32.73g
3. Silver hemi-obol at .3g
4. Silver obol at .65g
5. Silver hemi-drachm at 2g
6. Silver drachm at 4g
7. Silver tetradrachm at 16.65g
8. Bronze hemi-chalkous at 1.75g
9. Bronze chalkous at 3.25g
10. Bronze di-chalkon at 5.75g
11. Bronze tri-chalkon at 11.8g
12. Bronze hexa-chalkon at 20.81g

During the reign of Apollodotus I he adopted the Indian weight standard. Which slightly reduced the weight of the coins.

Monograms

At the risk of repeating the subject of monograms, these again appear on both Greco - Bactrian and Indo – Greek coinage as a mint mark which also appear on coins of specific kings.
Monograms found on Greco – Bactrian and Indo – Greek coins.

I have yet to find a complete listing for monograms for each ruler.

An excellent source from these coins can be found at Coin India: [http://coinindia.com/galleries-greek-diodotos.html](http://coinindia.com/galleries-greek-diodotos.html)
The Indo-Scythians (Sakas), a people that migrated from regions in Iran into parts of Central & Northern South Asia (Sogdiana, Arachisia, Grandhara Sindh, Kashmir, The Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat). From the 2nd century BC to the 4th century AD.

The kingdom was located in present day Pakistan from Abira to Surastrene from circa 110 – 80 BC. Moving further north into Indo-Greek territory in about 80 BC when King Maues conquered the region. He established his capital in Sirkap and minted coins in Taxila. The region reverted back to the Indo-Greeks after Mauces died.
Taxila

Throughout this text I have mentioned the city of Taxila. Taxila which is located in present day Pakistan along the Grand Trunk Road and ancient trade route that linked South and Central Asia for more than two millennia. It was under the rule of many empires and kingdoms from the 6th century BC to the 10th century AD.

Achaemenids: ------------- 600 – 400 BC
Greeks: ----------------------- 326 – 324 BC
Mauryans: ------------------ 324 – 185 BC
Scythians: --------------------- 2nd to 1st century BC
Parthians: ---------------------- 1st century BC – 1st century AD
Kushans: ------------------------ 1st – 5th century AD
White Huns: ---------------------- 5th century AD
Hindu Shahi: ------------------- 9th – 10th century AD

Taxila was an important coin mint city throughout these periods.

The Rulers.

Depending on which source used the dates will vary. So in the case of these rulers close is good enough until more accurate information can be obtained.
Bronze Hemi-obol of King Mauces 85 – 60 BC
Coin is an copy of the coin issued by Indo – Greek King Demetrios
120 years earlier except for the legend and monogram.
(Not actual size)

Khyber – Pakhtunhwaw & Eastern Pakistan Region

Mauces: ----------------------------------------------- 85 – 60 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΜΑΥΟΥ

Vonones with Spalahores:-------------------------------- 75 – 65 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΟΝΩΝΟΥ

Spalirises with Azes I: ------------------------------- 60 – 57 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΡΠΑΛΡΙΚΟΥ

Azes I: ----------------------------------------------- 57 – 30 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΖΟΥ

Azilises: ----------------------------------------------- 57 – 35 BC
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΖΙΛΙΚΟΥ

Azes II: ----------------------------------------------- 35 BC – 5 AD
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ

It is now believed by most collectors that Azes I and Azes II are the same person.

Rajuvula: ----------------------------------------------- 10 – 25 AD

The reverse legends on these coins are in Kharoshthi. A translated example from a tetradrachm of Azes II: maharajasa rajarajasa mahatasa ayasa.
According to a reference by Senior these additional rulers are included in that main line of kings.

Zeionises:  
Kharahostes: 
Hajatria:  date unknown

For lack a better word there were sub-kingdoms and Satraps within the Indo – Scythain rule.

**Kshaharatas (Punjab, Pakistan And Beyond)**

Kiaka Kusuluka: Satrap of Chuska
Kusulaka Patika: Satrap of Chuska
Bhumaka
Nahapana: Founder of the Western Satraps
The only one I know that had issued coins was Nahapana who we will cover shortly.

**Apraces (Bajaur, Khyber – Pakunkhwa, Pakistan)**

AR tetradrachm of Vijayamitra 12 BC – 15 AD struck in the name of Azes II

Vijayamitra: 12 BC – 15 AD
Indravasu: circa 20 AD
Vispavarman: unknown
Indravarman: unknown
Aspavarma: 15 – 45 AD
Sasan: unknown
AE tetradrachm of Aspavarma, 15 – 45 AD struck in the name of Azes II

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΖΟΥ

Kharoshthi: indravarma putrasa aspavarma strategase jayatasa
(Son of Indravarma Aspavarma victorious strategos)

(Author’s collection, not actual size)

**Nandipada Symbol**

On the last two coin there is a symbol struck in the left field.

![Nandipada Symbol](image)

This is an ancient Buddhist symbol called The Footprint of Buddha.

**Paratas (Balochistan, Pakistan)**

Yolamira: --------------------------------- circa 125 – 150 AD
Bagamira: --------------------------------- circa 150 AD
Aruna: --------------------------------- circa 150 – 160 AD
Hvaramira: --------------------------------- circa 160 – 175 AD
Mirahvara: --------------------------------- circa 175 – 185 AD
Miratakha: --------------------------------- circa 185 – 200 AD
Kozana: --------------------------------- circa 200 – 220 AD
Bhimarjuna: --------------------------------- circa 220 – 235 AD
Koziya: --------------------------------- circa 235 – 265 AD
Datarvhrarna: --------------------------------- circa 265 – 285 AD
Datayola II: --------------------------------- circa 280 – 300 AD

Have not seen any coins from these rulers.
Indo-Scythian Coin Denominations

Weights were under the Indian Standard.

Maues:
AR drachm: ----------------------------- @ 2.25g
AR tetradrachm: ------------------------ @ 9.25g
AE hemiobol: -------------------------- @ 9.7g
AE chalkous: --------------------------- @ 1.93g
AE hemiobol square: ------------------- @ 8.90g
AE hemiobol light: --------------------- @ 8.38g

Vonones & Spalahores:
AR tetradrachm: ---------------------- 9.45 – 9.93g
AE hemiobols: ----------------------- 7.88 – 8.45g

Spalirise with Azes I:
AR drachm: --------------------------- 2.16g

Azes I:
AR drachm: -------------------------- 2.14 – 2.37g
AR tetradrachm: -------------------- 7.91g
AE hexachalkon: ------------------- 12.9g
AE chalkous or ¼ unit: ----------- 2.76g
AE pentachalkon: ------------------ 10g

Azilises:
AR tetradrachm: --------------------- @ 9.46g
AE unit: -------------------------- @ 8.37g
AE ½ unit: ------------------------ @5.3g
AE ¼ unit: ----------------------- @1.93g
AE 1/8 unit: ----------------------- @.98g
Azes II:
AR drachm: -------------------- @ 1.86g
AR tetradrachm: ---------------@ 9.47g
AE pentachalkon: ---------------@ 10.89g
AE hexachalkon: ---------------@ 14.14g
AE trichalkon: ------------------- @ 5.28g

Rajuvula:
Billon drachm: ------------------- 1.85 – 2.4g
Lead triple unit: ------------------ 7.35g
Lead double unit: ----------------- @ 4g

**The Northern Satraps**

Hagamasha: --------------------1\textsuperscript{st} century BC
Hagana: --------------------1\textsuperscript{st} century BC
Rajuvula: ------ Great Satrap ------ 10 – 25 AD
Sodasa: ------ Son of Rajuvula ---- @ 25 AD
Kharapallana: -- Great Satrap ------ @ 130 AD
Vanaspara: ------------------------ @ 130 AD

Billon drachm of Rajuvula 10 – 25 AD
(Author’s collection, not actual size)
The Western Satraps were Indo–Scythian (Saka) rulers of the western and central part of India from circa 35 to 405 AD. Their rule was contemporary with that of the Kushans, which will be covered in a later section.

The word Satrap is derived from ancient Persian and means viceroy or governor of a province.

The coins are fairly plentiful and inexpensive, it would not be difficult to complete a full set without breaking the bank. While there are some coins in Potin and copper for the most part the coins are silver drachm which are usually under 4 grams.

Obverse legends are usually off flan and are in pseudo-Greek. The reverse is usually well struck with full legends in Brahmi.
The legend usually start at the 2 oclock position and follow a specific order with key words that once identify make reading the legends fairly easy. Pankaj Tandon an expert in this area has written an excellent guide to reading legends. Here is a link to the guide: [http://people.bu.edu/ptandon/WK-Legends.pdf](http://people.bu.edu/ptandon/WK-Legends.pdf)

Also his section on Coin India is a must read: [http://coinindia.com/galleries-kshaharatas.html](http://coinindia.com/galleries-kshaharatas.html)

### The Satraps

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AR drachm of Nahapana, obverse legend off flan would read in pseudo – Greek
PANNIOΞAHARATAC ΗΑΗΑΠΑΝΑΚ
Reverse in Prakrit (Brahmi) rano kshaharataa hahapanasa
in English, King Kshahatata Nahapana
(Author’s collection, not actual size)

Isvaradatta: ----------------------------------------------- 188 – 191 AD
Rudrasimha I: ----------- Restored ------------------------- 191 – 197 AD
Jivadaman: ---------------Restored ------------------------ 197 – 199 AD
Rudrasena I: ---------------------------------------------- 200 – 222 AD
Samghadaman: --------------------------------------------- 222 – 223 AD
Damasaena: ----------------------------------------------- 223 – 232 AD
Damajadasri II: --------------------------------------------- 232 – 239 AD
Viradaman: ------------------------------------------------ 234 – 238 AD
Yasodaman I: ---------------------------------------------- 239 AD
Vijayasena: ------------------------------------------------ 239 – 250 AD
Damajadasri III: ------------------------------------------- 251 – 255 AD
Rudrasena II: ---------------------------------------------- 255 – 277 AD

Visvasimha: ----------------------------------------------- 277 – 282 AD
Bhratadarman: --------------------------------------------- 282 – 295 AD
Visvasena: ----------------------------------------------- 293 – 304 AD
AR drachm Visvasena
Kharosnhti legend: rajno mahakshatrapasa
bhartramaputrasa rajno kshatrapasa visvasenasa
(Author’s collection, not to size)

Rudrasimha II: ------------------------------- 304 – 348 AD
Yasodaman II: ------------------------------- 317 – 332 AD
Rudradaman II: ------------------------------- 332 – 348 AD
Rudrasena III: ------------------------------- 348 – 380 AD
Simhasena: ----------------------------------- 380 AD
Rudrasena IV: ------------------------------- 382 – 388 AD
Rudrasimha III: ------------------------------- 388 – 395 AD

AR drachm’s of Bhratadarman and Rudrasena III
(Author’s collection, not to size)
The Kushans

The Kushans were a branch of the Yuezhi, a nomadic people from the Chinese province of Gansu around the 2nd century BC.

In the early 1st century AD they were driven westward by the Xiongnu. They fled to the border lands of what is now Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan where they established a kingdom in Bactria. They then conquered the Scythians tribes in the region along with the local Indo-Greek kingdoms that still remained.

The 1st Yuezhi prince was Sapalbizes who ruled circa 20 BC. His coins bare the Greek legend: ΣΑΠΑΛΒΙΖΗΣ ΝΑΝΑΙΑ.

Next about the same time came Arseiles. His coins bare the Greek legend: ΑΡΣΕΙΛΗΣ ΝΑΝΑΙΑ.

The last was Pabes also around the same time. His coins bare the Greek legend: ΠΑΒΗΣ.
Heraios/Hermaeus was the last of the Indo-Baktrian Kings and the self proclaimed 1st king of the Kushans. He rued Baktria circa 95 – 80 BC.

The coins struck in his name as a Yueshi/Kushan ruler bare several Greel legends: 
\textbf{TVPANNOYNOTOC HPAOV ANTEIX KOPPANOY} (Of the tyrant the one who rules by his own power)

The actual start of the Kushan empire began with the reign of Kujula Kadphises.

Kujula Kadphises: ----------------------------------------circa 50 – 90 AD
Greek legend: \textbf{BAΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΤΗΡΟΣΣVN ΕΡΜΑΙΟV KΟΖΟΛΑ ΚΑΛΑΦΕΣ ΧΟΡΑΝΟV}
Kharoshthi legend: kujuta kushana yavugasa dhrahamthidasa khushana kyanasa kuyula kaphasa dhramatidasa mahrajasa rayatirayasa kuyula kara kapasa

Vima Takha (Soter Megas): ------------------------circra 90 – 113 AD
Greek Legend: \textbf{BACΙΛΕVN BACΙΛΕVN CWΤΗΡ ΜΕΓΑC (King of kings the great saviour)}
Kharoshthi legend: maharajaasara rajadirjasa devaputrasa vima takha
Vima Kadphises: ------------------------------- 113 – 127 AD
Greek legends: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥϹ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΣΩΤΗΡ ΜΕΓΑϹ ΟΟΗΜΟ ΚΑΔΦΙϹΗϹ,
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥϹ ΟΟΗ ΜΟ ΚΑΔ
Kharoshthi legend: maharajasa rajadiragasa sarvaloga isvarasa mahisvarasa vima kathphishaa tratara
Kanishka I: ------------------------------------------------------ 127 – 151 AD
Greek legend: BACIΛΕYC BACIΛ KANHΠKOY (King of kings Kanishka Kushan)
Baktrian legend: ΨΑΟΝΑΝΟΠΑΟΚΑ NηΠΚΙ ΚΟΠΑΝΟ

Huvishka: ----------------------------------------- 151 – 190 AD
Baktrian legends: ΨΑΟΝΑΝΟΠΑΟ ΟΟΗΠΚΙ ΚΟΠΑΝΟ, SHAONANOSHOO OOESHKI KOSHANO (King of kings Huvishka Kushan)

Vasudeva I: ----------------------------------------- 190 – 230 AD
Baktrian legends: ΨΑΟΝΑΝΟΠΑΟ ΒΑ ΖΟΔηΟ ΚΟΠΑΝΟ (King of kings Bazodeo Kushan), ΨΟΟΝΟΠΟΟ BO ΖΟΟΔΟΠΟΚΟΠΟΝΟ

Kanishka II: ------------------------------------------------------ 230 – 247 AD
Baktrain legend: ΨΑΟΝΑΝΟΠΑΟ ΚΑ ΝηΠΚΟ ΚΟΠΑΝΟ

Vasishka: ----------------------------------------- 247 – 267 AD
Baktrian legend: ΨΑΟΝΑΝΟΠΑΟΒ ΑΖηΠΚΟ ΚΟΠΑΝΟ

Kanishka III: ----------------------------------------- Circa 268 AD

Vasudeva II: ----------------------------------------- 267 – 300 AD
Baktrian Legend: ΨΑΟΝΑΝΟΠΑΟ ΒΑ ΖΟΔηΟ ΚΟΠΑΝΟ

Shaka: ----------------------------------------- Mid 4th century AD

Magra: ----------------------------------------- Late 4th century AD
Baktrian Legend: ΑΡΔΟΧΠΟ

Mahi: ----------------------------------------- Late 4th century AD

Kipanadha: ----------------------------------------- Late 4th century AD

Hanaka: ----------------------------------------- Late 4th century AD

Please refer to the excellent work on Coin India site for more information on these coins. http://coinindia.com/galleries-sapalbizes.html
Tamgha

Tamgha are a form of family or personnal crest or marking on some kingdoms in central Asia. The Kushan used them which makes it easy to identify most kings.

The Tamgha listed as Kadfiz I and Kadfiz II are Vima Takha and Vima Kadphises.

The Kushans weren’t big on striking coins in Silver though there are a few struck under Soter Megas, but none that I’ve seen. Under Vima Kadphises gold dinar first appeared. This coins were beautifully struck. Here are a few examples.

Av Denar’s of Vima Kadphises and Kanishka I
(images from Coin India, not actual size)
Over time less attention was paid to produce copper coins and they became very poorly struck often off flan. The gold coins were still struck in great detail.

**The Denomintions**

Under Kujula Kadphises: ---- AE tetradrachm from about 4 – 8.25g  
      AE drachm from 1.8 – 2.75g  
      AE dichalkon from 2.85 – 3.26g  
      AE chalkous about 1.6g  
      AE penta-chalkon about 10g  
      AE tri-chalkon from 3.5 – 4.8g  

Under Vima Takha: --------- AE dichalkon about 5g  
                     AE tetradrachm from 8.2 – 12.5g  
                     AE drachm about 2g  

Under Vima Kadphises: ----- AE tetradrachm from 16.2 – 17.1g  
      AE drachm from 4 – 4.6g  
      AE didrachm about 8.5g  
      AV double dinar about 15.9g  
      AV dinar about 7.95g  
      AV ¼ dinar about 2.1g  

Under Kanishka I: --------- AV dinar from 7.87 – 8.1g  
        AV ¼ dinar about 1.99g  
        AE didrachm from 7.6 – 9g
AE tetradrachm from 16.28 – 17.26g
AE drachm from 3.7 – 4.8g

Under Huvishka: -------- AV dinar about 7.93g
                     AV ¼ dinar about 1.98g
                     AE tetradrachm about 12.30g

Under Vasudeva I: ------ AV dinar from 7.84 – 8.6g
                       AV ¼ dinar about 1.76g
                       AE tetradrachm from 8.9 – 11g

Under Kanishka II: ------ AV dinar from 7.1 – 8.0g
                       AV ¼ dinar about 2.0g
                       AV bracteate about .60g
                       AE unit from 5.7 – 6.8g

Under Vasishka: ------- AV dinar from 7.1 – 7.9g
                      AV ¼ dinar about 2.8g
                      AE unit from 4.1 – 6.1g

Under Vasudeva II: ----- AV dinar about 7.8g
                       AV ¼ dinar about 1.99g
                       AE unit from 2.6 – 4.3g

Under Shaka: ---------- AV dinar about 7.8g

Minor rulers: -------- AV dinar from 7.6 – 7.9g

Excellent reference on Kanishka crowns.
http://people.bu.edu/ptandon/KanishkaCrowns.pdf

http://people.bu.edu/ptandon/Mingora.pdf
The Sassanian Empire

The Sassanian empire also known as the Sasanid empire was the last imperial empire in Iran before Islam was established.

The empire started in 224 AD and ended in 651 AD when it was abolished by the Muslim calipate.

It was a vast empire covering Iran, Iraq, Eastern Arabia, the Levant, Armenia, the Caucasus, Egypt, and parts of Turkey, Central Asia, Yemen, and Pakistan. It’s capital cities were Istakhr 224 – 226 AD and Ctesiphon 226 – 637 AD. Founded by Ardashir I after he defeated the Parthian king Artabanus IV. The last Sananian king was Yazdegerd III 632 – 651 AD, the empire was lost to the Islamic Caliphate in 651 AD.
The Sassanians spoke what is known as Middle Persian which developed from Old Persian. The dialect they spoke was known as Parsik. Pahlavi which had its roots in Aramaic was the written language.

**Iranian Script**

Old Persian Cuneiform (Darius I [522 - 486 BCE])

Parthian Script

Avestan Alphabet

Pahlavi Script

**The Kings of the Sassanian Empire**

Ardashir I: ----------------------------------------------- 224 – 241 AD
Shapur I: ----------------------------------------------- 241 – 272 AD
Hormizd I (Ardasir II): ---------------------------------- 272 – 273 AD
Bahram I (Varhran): ------------------------------------ 273 – 276 AD
Bahram II (Varhran II): ---------------------------------- 276 – 293 AD
Bahram III (Varhran III): --------------------------------- 293 AD
Narseh – The Sakan King: --------------------------------- 293 – 303 AD
Hormizd II: --------------------------------- 303 – 309 AD
Shapur II: --------------------------------- 309 – 379 AD
Ardašir III: --------------------------------- 379 – 383 AD
Shapur III: --------------------------------- 383 – 388 AD
Bahram IV: --------------------------------- 388 – 399 AD
Yazdgard I – The Sinner: --------------------------------- 399 – 420 AD
Bahram V: --------------------------------- 420 – 438 AD
Yazdgard II: --------------------------------- 438 – 457 AD
Hormizd III: --------------------------------- 457 – 459 AD
Peroz: --------------------------------- 457 – 484 AD
Valkas: --------------------------------- 484 – 488 AD
Kavad I (1st regin): --------------------------------- 488 – 496 AD
Zamasp: --------------------------------- 496 – 499 AD
Kavad I (2nd regin): --------------------------------- 498 – 530 AD
Khusrau I (Deathless soul): --------------------------------- 531 – 579 AD
Hormizd IV (The Turk): --------------------------------- 579 – 590 AD
Khursrau II (The victorious): --------------------------------- 590 – 628 AD
Bahram VI: --------------------------------- 590 – 591 AD
Bistam: --------------------------------- 591 – 597 AD
Hormizd V: --------------------------------- Circa 593 AD
Kavad II: --------------------------------- 628 AD
Ardašir IV: --------------------------------- 628 – 630 AD
Shahrbaraz: ----------------------------------------- 629 AD
Peroz II: --------------------------------------------------------------- 629 AD
Khusrau III: --------------------------------------------------------------- 629 – 631 AD
Buran (Queen): --------------------------------------------------------------- 629 – 631 AD
Azarmedukht (Queen): --------------------------------------------------------------- 631 AD
Hormizd VI: --------------------------------------------------------------- 631 – 632 AD
Khusrau IV: --------------------------------------------------------------- 631 – 637 AD
Yazdgard III: --------------------------------------------------------------- 632 – 651 AD

Of note: Shapur II 309-379 AD was the only king to be crowned while still in the womb, the crown was placed on his mothers belly.

The Sasanians practiced Zoroastrianism one of the worlds oldest religions, there primary god was Ahura Muzda. The Fire Altar is the symbol associated with the religion and is the design on the reverse of their coins.

**The Denominations**

Starting with Ardashir I, silver drachms of about 3.7 – 4.2g where struck. A billon tetradrachm were struck in Seleucia. In addition smaller bronze coins were introduced. Also small silver hemidrachm and obols were used. A large bronze coin of about 16g called a unit appeared for a brief time.

He also introduced the gold dinar of about 7.2g along with a rare double dinar.

The smaller hemidrachm coins lasted until the rule of Hormizd II, the obol lasted until the rule of Shapur II, and the billon tetradrachm lasted until the rule of Bahram II.
Under Shapur II the gold denar was reduced in weight to 4.2g.

The 1/6 drachm were last struck under Kavad I, with the last large bronze coins were struck under Shapur II.

As collectors we are familiar with the large dinar and drachms, but the smaller bronze coins were also struck throughout the entire time of the empire.

**Identification**

There are a few books on Sasanian coins, Robert Gobl’s “Sasanian Numismatics” is by far the cheapest to buy. This has been the go to book on Sasanian coin identification. You can find copies on Vcoins and on eBay for under $20.

If find four easy ways to identify these coins.

1. The kings crown, every king used a different crown.
2. Reverse rings around the center image.
3. If there is a crescent, crescent with star, or nothing in the outer field
4. The details of the fire altar and the shape of the attendents.

The image of the king is usually facing right, his name and titles surround are along the outer ring.

On the reverse the center image of the fire altar and attendents do not extend to the edge of the coin. On the right side of the attendents appears the mint mark, and on the left side is the regin date of the king.
The mints

This link to FORVM coin board will explain the mints better than I ever could.

Here also is a most excellent site about Sasanian coins by Beast Coins. https://www.beastcoins.com/Sasanian/Sasanian.htm

**Kushano – Sasanian**

Soon after Ardashir I ascended the throne in 230 AD he overthrew the Parthians, he than invaded Bactria and the regions under control of the Kushan empire.

Under Shapur I, the Kushans lost the western part of their empire which than came under the control of Sasanian nobles called Kushanshahs. These Kushanshahs were in effect Sasanian governors of Kushan territory.

**The Kushanshah’s**

Ardashir I Kushanshah: -------------------------- 230 – 250 AD  
Peroz I Kushanshah: ---------------------------- 250 – 265 AD  
Hormazd I Kushanshah: ------------------------ 265 – 295 AD  
Hormazd II Kushanshah: ----------------------- 295 – 300 AD  
Peroz II Kushanshah: ------------------------ 300 -325 AD

In circa 325 AD Shapur II took control of the southern part of the region. In the north the Kushanshah governors kept control until circa 410 AD.

Other than Ardashir I, the rest of the Kushanshah’s are not the same persons as the Sasanian kings.
AE drachm of Ardashir I as Kushanshah.
(Author’s Collection, not actual size)

Here is an excellent link to Kushanshah coins:
http://grifterrec.rasmir.com/kushanshah/kushanshah.html

Another link to the history of the Kushanshah’s:
http://wwwiranicaonlineorg/articles/kushanshahs-01

This concludes part one of this reference guide. I hope that you find this information useful.
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