

## **Lead in Roman History**

Lead was one of the earliest metals discovered by the human race and was in use by 3000 B.C. The ancient Romans used lead for making water pipes and lining baths, and the plumber who joins and mends pipes takes his name from the Latin word *plumbum*, meaning lead. *Plumbum* is also the origin of the terms 'plumb bob' and 'plumb line,' used in surveying and also the chemical symbol for lead, Pb. In medieval times, lead came to be used for roofing, coffins, cisterns, tanks, and gutters, and for statues and ornaments. Another early use of lead was for the strips joining the pieces of colored glass in church windows.

The dull gray color of lead pipes and cables is caused by the oxygen of the air combining with the metal so as to form a very thin film or skin composed of an oxide of lead. Lead is not at all easily corroded, or eaten away. Unlike iron and steel, it does not need protection by painting. Underneath the film, lead is a bright, shiny bluish-white metal. When you scrape it you notice how soft lead is. It is this softness that makes it easy to squeeze or roll lead into different shapes.

For winemakers in the Roman Empire, nothing but lead would do. When boiling crushed grapes, Roman vintners insisted on using lead pots or lead-lined copper kettles. "For, in the boiling," wrote Roman winemaker Columella, "brazen vessels throw off copper rust which has a disagreeable flavor." Lead's sweet overtones, by contrast, were thought to add complementary flavors to wine and to food as well. The metal enhanced one-fifth of the 450 recipes in the Roman *Apician Cookbook*, a collection of first through fifth century recipes attributed to gastronomes associated with Apicius, the famous Roman gourmet. From the Middle Ages on, people put lead acetate or "sugar of lead" into wine and other foods to make them sweeter. Lead touched many areas of Roman life. It made up pipes and dishes, cosmetics and coins, and paints. Eventually, as a host of mysterious maladies became more common, some Romans began to suspect a connection between the metal and these illnesses. But the culture's habits never changed, and some historians believe that many among the Roman aristocracy suffered from lead poisoning.

Julius Caesar, for example, managed to father only one child, even though he enjoyed women as much as he enjoyed wine. His successor, Caesar Augustus, was reported to be completely sterile. Some scholars suggest that lead could have been the culprit for the condition of both men and a contributing factor to the fall of the Roman Empire. A form of lead intoxication known as saturnine gout takes its name from ancient Rome. Saturn was a demonic god, a gloomy and sluggish figure who ate his own children. The Romans noticed similarities between symptoms of this disorder and the irritable god, and named the disease after him. Scientists have since learned that while there are similarities between saturnine gout and primary gout, such as elevated blood uric acid levels, these are in fact two distinct diseases that could not have been cured.

Lead was also used widely for fashioning decorative objects. The oldest known lead-containing object made by human hands is a small statue found in Turkey, from 6,500 B.C. Egyptian Pharaohs between 3,000 and 4,000 B.C. used lead to glaze pottery. Lead was useful as well in construction. The Babylonians and the Assyrians used soldered lead sheets to fasten bolts and construct buildings. The Chinese used lead to make coins 4,000 years ago, as did the ancient Greeks and Romans. Early warriors made bullets out of it, and gladiators covered their fists with leaden knuckles.

Lead found new uses in the one of the fifteenth century's greatest advancements, the printing press, where it was used to produce moveable type. During the same period, stained glass windows held together by lead frames decorated medieval churches, and architects used lead to seal spaces between stone blocks and to frame roof installations.

## **Roman/Medieval: Pot Mends**

This type of pot mend was created when a vessel developed a hole and molten lead would be poured onto it to form a plug. A channel is created around the edges of the mend by the sides of the vessel. Sometimes the clay of the vessel will remain within the channel and can help to date the pot mend. Without the clay remaining in the channel, however, these mends are difficult to date, as this method of mending pottery was in use from the Roman period until the Post-medieval period.



# Roman: Hair Pin

In Roman times, elaborate hairstyles could take hours and makeup could be poisonous. Hairdressing was restricted to the wealthy classes and complex hairstyles were the norm for wealthy patrician women as they had the means and the time for lengthy hair sessions. It was standard for household slaves to know how to create fantastic hairstyles and some impressive designs required a team of servants. Even with the most outlandish hairstyles, most of the Roman hairstyles used the wearer's natural hair. However, without modern hairspray, hairstyles were kept in place by hairpins and, surprisingly, sewing the hair in place. Many of these impressive hairstyles cannot be replicated today.



*Left: Plotina, wife of Emperor Trajan*

*Right: Sabina, wife of Emperor Hadrian*

When it came to hair, the Romans preferred to be as natural as possible (colour-wise, if not style-wise), viewing long thick hair as the most valuable and beautiful. The ability to pull off complex hairstyles using natural hair was the most impressive. When a woman's hair was not strong enough or long enough for this, women resorted to waxes, dyes and wigs to complete elaborate Roman hairstyles. However, Roman society looked down on wigs and dyes as they were seen as a means of covering up a disfigurement, such as hair loss in the elderly

To the Romans, colour does not seem to be much of a sought-after commodity, as they did not seek ways to change their natural hair colour. When wigs were created (and became more popular later in history), the Roman Empire's large territorial span made a trade of all hair colours possible, from thick black Indian hair to the blond hair of the German tribes, the so-called "captured hair" resulting from spoils of war.



# Roman: Steelyard Weight



*Roman Steel yard Balance*

A steelyard balance is a straight-beam balance with arms of unequal length. It incorporates a counterweight which slides along the longer arm to counterbalance the load and indicate its weight. A steelyard is also known as a Roman balance.

Steelyards of different sizes have been used to weigh loads ranging from ounces to tons. A small steelyard could be a foot or less in length and thus conveniently used as a portable device that merchants and traders could use to weigh small ounce-sized items of merchandise. In other cases a steelyard could be several feet long and used to weigh sacks of flour and other commodities. Even larger steelyards were three stories tall and used to weigh fully laden horse-drawn carts.



# **Roman: Lead Astragalus - 'Knuckle Bone'**



In the modern world the astragalus is better known as the knuckle bone. They were particularly used in Greek and Roman times for fortune telling and as game pieces.

Knuckle bones from different animal species can be used, but sheep and goat and pig generally prevail. These bones are small and can easily be handled together. The knucklebones could also be made of different materials such as bronze, lead, and glass to serve as weights.

# Roman/Medieval: Loom Weights



The warp-weighted loom is a simple and ancient form of loom in which the warp yarns hang freely from a bar supported by upright poles which can be placed at a convenient slant against a wall. Bundles of warp threads are tied to hanging weights called loom weights which keep the threads taut

The warp-weighted loom is used in a near-vertical position, and the fabric is woven from the top of the loom toward the ground. This allows the weaver to walk back-and-forth while working, so that wider cloth can be woven than is practical on a ground loom.

Additionally, extra warp thread can be wound around the weights. When a weaver has reached the bottom of the available warp, the completed section can be rolled around the top beam, and additional lengths of warp threads can be unwound from the weights to continue.



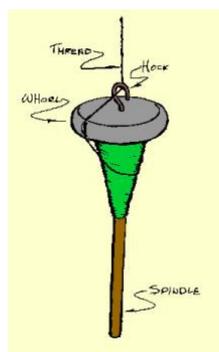
# Roman/Medieval: Spindle Whorl



Before the use of spinning wheels, spinning was carried out with a spindle and a whorl. The spindle, or rod, usually had a swelling on which the whorl was fitted. A wisp of prepared wool was twisted around the spindle, which was then spun and allowed to drop. The whorl, acting like a flywheel adds momentum to the spindle. By doing this the fibres were extended and twisted into a yarn.

Domed lead spindle whorls are generally Roman but go through to the post medieval period.

The majority of whorls were made from stone or recycled pot but some, are cast lead.





**Roman Spoon  
Handle**



**Roman  
Bead**



# Roman Belt Mounts



# Roman Brooches



# Roman Scribe



# Roman Lead Tokens & Coin Weights



# Tetricus II

## Galic Roman Emperor 273-274



*Example of similar coin to one found*

**Full Name:** Caius Pius Esuvius Tetricus

**Roman Emperor:** 273 - 274

**Details of coin:**

**Denomination** - Antoninianus

**Obverse** - Radiate crown, draped bust facing right

**Reverse** - Spes walking left, flower in right hand, raising skirt with left

*Spes is the goddess of Hope (and possibly of Expectation). She has a pleasant image of an adolescent girl walking to the left, holding out a flower, and with her other hand holding up the hem of her skirt. But the image originated centuries earlier, from Greek statues called korai. These showed young girls of 14 or so, wearing adult dress for the first time, hitching the skirt to keep it from dragging, and holding a flower or a bird to emphasise the fresh hope of spring and new growth.*

*The image turns up very frequently, at the start of an Augustus's reign or when a Caesar is appointed. Clearly, it symbolised the new hope and expectation of good things for the rulers and their people.*

Tetricus II's father succeeded to the throne of the Gallic empire after the death of Victorinus. He made him Caesar in 273 and Augustus in spring 274 A.D. In the autumn of 274, Aurelian invaded. Tetricus I abdicated rather than fight the vastly superior forces of Aurelian. Tetricus II and his father were both honored by Aurelian and they lived quite comfortably in Rome.



The Gallic Empire under Tetricus I by 271 (in green), with the Roman Empire (in red) and the Palmyrene Empire (in yellow).

# Marcus Aurelius

## Roman Emperor 161-180



*Example of similar coin to one found*

**Full Name:** Marcus Aurelius Antonius Augustus

**Roman Emperor:** 161-168

**Details of coin:**

**Obverse** - Laureate head facing right

**Reverse** - Jupiter seated facing left, holding Victory & sceptre.

After Antoninus Pius died in 161, Marcus became the sole ruler of the Empire. Marcus, with his preference for the philosophic life, found the imperial office unappealing. His training as a Stoic, (philosophy about self-restraint, duty, and respect for others), however, had made the choice clear to him that it was his duty.

"Alone of the emperors," wrote the historian Herodian, "he gave proof of his learning not by mere words or knowledge of philosophical doctrines but by his blameless character and temperate way of life.

While on campaign between 170 and 180, Marcus wrote his *Meditations* in Greek as a source for his own guidance and self-improvement. He had a logical mind and his notes were representative of Stoic philosophy and spirituality. *Meditations* is still revered as a literary monument to a government of service and duty. It has been considered by many commentators to be one of the greatest works of philosophy.

Marcus died at the age of 58 in 180 due to natural causes in the city of Vindobona (modern Vienna). He was the last of the rulers known as 'the five good emperors'.

**Constantine the Great  
Caesar 293-306 & Augustus 306-337**





*Example of same coin issued 332-333*

**Full Name:** Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus Augustus

**Roman Emperor:** Caesar 293-306 & Augustus 306-337

**Details of coin:**

**Obverse** - VRBS ROMA (The City of Rome). Bust facing left, wearing helmet with plume, wearing imperial cloak.

**Reverse** - Wolf to left suckling the twins Romulus and Remus. Two stars above.

**Mintmark** – TRS Trier, Germany

The "wolf and twins" motif appeared on many Roman coins, from the Republic onwards. Rome, it was said, was founded by the twins Romulus and Remus. This was the city's "foundation myth." In this account, Romulus and Remus were the children of the god Mars and a vestal, Rhea Silvia, a descendant of Aeneas. As babies, they were exposed in the wild, and were suckled by a wolf. Later, when they decided to found a city, they argued about which hill was better, and in the quarrel, Remus was killed.

Constantine was acclaimed as emperor by the army at Eboracum (modern-day York) after his father's death in 306 AD. He emerged victorious in a series of civil wars against Emperors Maxentius and Licinius to become sole ruler of both west and east by 324 AD.

Constantine was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity. Although he lived much of his life as a pagan, and later as a catechumen, he joined the Christian faith on his deathbed.

Constantine was the first emperor to stop the persecution of Christians and to legalize Christianity, along with all other religions/cults in the Roman Empire. In February 313, he met with Licinius in Milan and developed the Edict of Milan, which stated that Christians should be allowed to follow their faith without oppression. The edict protected all religions from persecution, not only Christianity, allowing anyone to worship any deity that they chose.

Constantine gained his honorific of "The Great" from Christian historians long after he had died, but he could have claimed the title on his military achievements and victories alone.

# Magnentius

## Usurping Roman Emperor 350-353



*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name:** Flavius Magnus Magnentius Augustus

**Usurping Roman Emperor:** 350-353

**Details of Coin:**

**Obverse** – Bare-headed, draped, cuirassed bust right, A behind head

**Reverse** - Two Victories standing facing each other, holding wreath inscribed VOT-V-MVLT-X on column

VOT-V-MVLT-X : Latin abbreviation meaning vows (prayers) on the fifth anniversary [of the emperors rule], more for his [hoped for] tenth anniversary

His career forms one episode in the struggles for imperial power that occurred after the death of Constantine the Great.

Magnentius was a pagan of German descent who had achieved distinction as a soldier before having himself proclaimed emperor in, 350. Immediately he engineered the murder of Constans (sole ruler in the West from 340 to 350) and assumed control of the western half of the empire.

In 353, aged 50, to avoid being captured after being defeated in battle, he committed suicide by falling on his sword.

**Constans I**  
**Roman Emperor 337-350**





*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name:** Flavius Julius Constans Augustus

**Roman Emperor:** 337 - 350

**Details of Coin:**

**Obverse** - Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right

**Reverse** - Constans standing left on galley, holding Phoenix on globe and labarum tipped with the Chi-Rho (Monogram Of Christ); Victory seated to right, steering

Constans was the third and youngest son of Constantine the Great.

On 25 December 333, Constantine the Great elevated Constans to the rank of *Caesar* at Constantinople. With Constantine's death in 337, Constans and his two brothers, Constantine II and Constantius II, divided the Roman world among themselves and disposed of virtually all relatives who could possibly have a claim to the throne.

He defeated his brother Constantine II in 340, but anger in the army over his personal life (homosexuality) and favouritism towards his barbarian bodyguards led the general Magnentius to rebel, resulting in the assassination of Constans in 350.

In the final years of his reign, Constans developed a reputation for cruelty and misrule. Dominated by favourites and openly preferring his select bodyguard, he lost the support of the legions. In 350, the general Magnentius declared himself emperor with the support of the troops. Constans was enjoying himself nearby when he was notified of the elevation of Magnentius. Lacking any support beyond his immediate household, he was forced to flee for his life. As he was trying to reach Hispania, supporters of Magnentius cornered him in a fortification in *Helen*, southwestern Gaul, where he was killed after seeking sanctuary in a temple. An alleged prophecy at his birth had said Constans would die *in the arms of his grandmother*. His place of death happens to have been named after Helena, mother of Constantine and his own grandmother, thus realizing the prophecy.

# Licinius I

## Roman Co-Emperor 308-324



*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name:** *Gaius Valerius Licinianus Licinius Augustus*

**Roman Co-Emperor:** 308 – 324

Galerius (Eastern Emperor 308–311)

Maximinus II (Eastern Emperor 311–313)

**Details of Coin:**

**Obverse** – laureate, cuirassed bust facing right

**Reverse** - Sol standing facing left, holding globe, raising right hand

**Mintmark** - MSL (Londinium)

Galerius elevated Licinius to the rank of Augustus in the West in 308 .

On the death of Galerius in May 311, Licinius entered into an agreement with Maximinus II to share the eastern provinces between them. By this point, not only was Licinius the official *Augustus* of the west but he also possessed part of the eastern provinces as well, with Licinius taking the European provinces and Maximinus taking the Asian.

For most of his reign he was the colleague and rival of Constantine I, with whom he co-authored the Edict of Milan (AD 313) that granted official toleration to Christians in the Roman Empire.

In 314, a civil war erupted between Licinius and Constantine. He was finally defeated at the Battle of Chrysopolis (AD 324). After his defeat, Licinius attempted to regain power with Gothic support, but his plans were exposed, and he was sentenced to death. While attempting to flee to the Goths, Licinius was apprehended at Thessalonica. Constantine had him hanged, accusing him of conspiring to raise troops among the barbarians.

# Roman Coin: Quadran



Example of similar coin

The Quadran was a low value Roman bronze coin. Unlike other coins during the Roman Empire, the quadrans rarely bore the image of the emperor.

The quadrans was issued from the beginning of cast bronze coins during the Roman Republic with three pellets representing three unciae as a mark of value.

**Obverse** - bust of Hercules

**Reverse** - prow of a galley

# Trajan

## Roman Emperor 98 - 117



*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name:** Imperator Caesar Nerva Traianus Divi Nervae filius Augustus

**Roman Emperor:** 98 - 117

**Details of Coin:**

**Obverse** - Laureate bust right, drapery on far shoulder

**Reverse** – Fortuna (Roman Goddess of Fortune) standing left, right hand on the prow of a galley, a cornucopia in her left, forepart of ship at feet to left

**Reverse Inscription:** *COS V P P SPQR OPTIMO PRINC*

5<sup>th</sup> Consul, Father of the Country, the Senate and the People of Rome, the best of Princes

Officially declared by the Senate *optimus princeps* ("the best ruler"), Trajan is remembered as a successful soldier-emperor who presided over the greatest military expansion in Roman history, leading the empire to attain its maximum territorial extent by the time of his death. He is also known for his philanthropic rule, overseeing extensive public building programs and implementing social welfare policies, which earned him his enduring reputation as the second of the Five Good Emperors who presided over an era of peace and prosperity in the Mediterranean world. In late 117, while sailing back to Rome, Trajan fell ill and died of a stroke.

# Constantius II

## Roman Emperor 337-361



*Example of same coin*

**Full Name:** Flavius Julius Constantius Augustus

**Roman Emperor:** 324 - 350

324 – 337: Caesar under his father, Constantine I

337 – 350: co-Augustus (ruled Asian provinces & Egypt) with Constantine II and Constans

**Details of Coin:**

**Obverse** - Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right

**Reverse** - The emperor holding a military standard and a phoenix in a galley steered by Victory

*The two holes on the coin were made in the Anglo-Saxon era, when the coin was worn as jewellery*

His reign saw constant warfare on the borders against the Sasanian Empire and Germanic peoples, while internally the Roman Empire went through repeated civil wars and usurpations. His religious policies inflamed domestic conflicts that would continue after his death.

The second son of Constantine I and Fausta, Constantius was made *Caesar* by his father in 324. When Constantine I died Constantius became *Augustus* with his brothers Constantine II and Constans. He promptly oversaw the massacre of eight of his relatives, consolidating his hold on power. The brothers divided the empire among themselves, with Constantius receiving the eastern provinces.

In 340, his brothers Constantine and Constans clashed over the western provinces of the empire. The resulting conflict left Constantine dead and Constans as ruler of the west. Constans was overthrown and assassinated in 350 by the usurper Magnentius.

Unwilling to accept Magnentius as co-ruler, Constantius waged a civil war against the usurper, defeating him at the battles of Mursa Major in 351 and Mons Seleucus in 353. Magnentius committed suicide after the latter battle, leaving Constantius as sole ruler of the empire.

# Gallienus

## Roman Emperor 253-268



*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name:** Publius Licinius Egnatius Gallienus  
**Roman Emperor:** 253-268

**Details of coin:** Gallienus Zoo Collection -  
Antoninianus (Double Denarius)

**Obverse** - Radiate head facing right

**Reverse** - DIANAE CONS AVG, doe walking right, looking back

Gallienus was about 40 when his father Valerian was declared emperor by his troops in 253. Gallienus was made Caesar immediately by his father, but was declared as an emperor (Augustus) within a month, when his father arrived in Rome. He was given responsibility over the western provinces, while Valerian moved east to fight the new Persian Sassanian kingdom. They would not see each other again.

Gallienus ruled as a co-emperor from 253-260, before the treacherous capture of his father by the Sassanian king Shapur I. Gallienus' sons had also been declared as Caesars, but by the end of 260 both had perished. From 260-268 he ruled alone, during one of the most difficult times of the empire. Not only was the empire facing invasions on all sides from various barbarian groups, but he had to face at least 8 rebellions from his own governors and generals! His 15-year reign was the longest since the 19-year rule of Septimius Severus.

One group of coins, issued very near the end of his reign, honor nine Roman deities, asking for their protection against these troubles. The legend on the backs of the coins translates as "To (the named deity) Preserver of Augustus". There are a rich variety of animals on these, some real and some mythical. This series is sometimes called the "Zoo" of Gallienus. The vast majority of Zoo coins were produced at the mint of Rome. The coin with the Doe was issued in honour of the Goddess Diana.

# Helena

## Roman Empress 325 - 330



*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name:** Flavia Julia Helena

**Roman Empress:** 325-330

**Details of coin:**

**Obverse** - Draped and diademed bust facing right

**Reverse** - Pax standing, holding branch and transverse sceptre

**Helena**, or **Saint Helena**, was an Empress of the Roman Empire, and mother of Emperor Constantine the Great. Born outside of the noble classes, a Greek, possibly in the Greek city of

Drepana, Bithynia in Asia Minor, she became the consort of the future Roman Emperor Constantius Chlorus and the mother of the future Emperor Constantine the Great.

Helena ranks as an important figure in the history of Christianity and of the world due to her influence on her son. In her final years, she made a religious tour of Syria Palaestina and Jerusalem, during which ancient tradition claims that she discovered the True Cross.

# Victorinus

## Emperor of the Gallic Empire

269-271



*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name: Marcus Piavonius Victorinus**  
**Emperor of the Gallic Empire: 269 - 271**

**Details of coin:**

**Obverse** - Radiate and cuirassed bust facing right

**Reverse** - Aequitas standing left, holding scales and cornucopiae.

**Marcus Piavonius Victorinus** was emperor in the Gallic provinces from 269 to 271. He was one of the Thirty Tyrants, the third of the usurpers who in succession ruled Gaul during the reign of Gallienus.

He was murdered by a jealous husband whose wife he tried to seduce

# Vespasian

## Roman Emperor 69-79



*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name:** Titus Flavius Vespasianus

**Roman Emperor:** 69-79

**Details of coin:**

**Obverse** - Laureate head right.

**Reverse** - Fortuna standing left, right hand on the prow of a galley, a cornucopia in her left arm

# Gordian III

## Roman Emperor 238-244



*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name:** Marcus Antonius Gordianus Pius

**Roman Emperor:** 238-244

**Details of Coin:**

**Obverse** - Radiate crown, facing right

**Reverse** - Virtus standing facing in military dress, head left, with shield and spear

*Virtus was the deity of bravery and military strength, the personification of the Roman virtue of virtue. It carries connotations of valor, manliness, excellence, courage, character, and worth, perceived as masculine strengths.*

At the age of 13, he became the youngest sole legal Roman emperor throughout the existence of the united Roman Empire. Gordian was the son of Antonia Gordiana and an unnamed Roman Senator who died before 238. Antonia Gordiana was the daughter of Emperor Gordian I and younger sister of Emperor Gordian II.

Due to Gordian's age, the imperial government was surrendered to the aristocratic families, who controlled the affairs of Rome through the Senate. In 241, Gordian was married to Furia Sabinia Tranquillina, daughter of the newly appointed praetorian prefect, Timesitheus. As chief of the Praetorian Guard and father in law of the Emperor, Timesitheus quickly became the *de facto* ruler of the Roman Empire.

In the 3rd century, the Roman frontiers weakened against the Germanic tribes across the Rhine and Danube, and the Sassanid Empire across the Euphrates increased its own attacks. When the Persians under Shapur I invaded Mesopotamia, the young emperor opened the doors of the Temple of Janus for the last time in Roman history, and sent a large army to the East. The Sassanids were driven back over the Euphrates and defeated in the Battle of Resaena (243). The campaign was a success and Gordian, who had joined the army, was planning an invasion of the enemy's territory, when his father-in-law died in unclear circumstances. Without Timesitheus, the campaign, and the Emperor's security, were at risk.

Gaius Julius Priscus and, later on, his own brother Marcus Julius Philippus, also known as Philip the Arab, stepped in at this moment as the new Praetorian Prefects<sup>[3]</sup> and the campaign proceeded. Around February 244, the Persians fought back fiercely to halt the Roman advance to Ctesiphon.

The eventual fate of Gordian after the battle is unclear but it is generally believed it resulted in a major Roman defeat and the death of Gordian III.

# Titus

## Roman Emperor 79-81



*Example of similar coin*

**Full Name:** Titus Flavius Vespasianus

**Roman Emperor:** 79-81

**Details of Coin:**

**Obverse** - laureate head right.

**Reverse** - Aequitas standing holding scales and staff

*Aequitas was the Goddess of Fairness and Justice*

A member of the Flavian dynasty, Titus succeeded his father Vespasian upon his death, thus becoming the first Roman emperor to come to the throne after his own biological father.

Before becoming emperor, Titus gained renown as a military commander, serving under his father in Judea during the First Jewish–Roman War. The campaign came to a brief halt with the death of emperor Nero in 68, launching Vespasian's bid for the imperial power during the Year of the Four Emperors. When Vespasian was declared Emperor on 1 July 69, Titus was left in charge of ending the Jewish rebellion. In 70, he besieged and captured Jerusalem, and destroyed the city and the Second Temple. For this achievement Titus was awarded a triumph; the Arch of Titus commemorates his victory to this day.

During his father's rule, Titus gained notoriety in Rome serving as prefect of the Praetorian Guard, and for carrying on a controversial relationship with the Jewish queen Berenice. Despite concerns over his character, Titus ruled to great acclaim following the death of Vespasian in 79.

As emperor, Titus is best known for completing the Colosseum and for his generosity in relieving the suffering caused by two disasters, the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 and a fire in Rome in 80. After barely two years in office, Titus died of a fever on 13 September 81. He was deified by the Roman Senate and succeeded by his younger brother Domitian.

# Roman Republic

## Second Triumvirate

### 42 BC



*Example of similar coin*

**Obverse** - Laureate head of Apollo facing right, hair in knot, falling in two locks; lyre behind

**Reverse** - Diana Lucifera, wearing long drapery, standing facing, head right

**Coin Type** -Silver Denarius. Rome mint.

The Second Triumvirate is the name given by historians to the political alliance between three of the Roman Republic's most powerful figures: Octavian (the future emperor Augustus), Mark Antony, and Lepidus.

## Unidentified Roman Coins



