


# A Catalog of New Varieties

## I. GREEK

### 1. Alexander the Great, Babylon Mint

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>AR Tetradrachm, 17.1g, 9h, 29mm.</b>   | <b>c. 308/7 BC</b>   |
|  | <p>Seleukid Kingdom, Seleukos I Nikator, 312-281 BC, AR Tetradrachm - Babylon I ca. 308/7 BC</p> <p>OBV: Head of Herakles right wearing lion skin headdress.</p> <p>REV: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Zeus Aëtophoros seated left, MI in left field, K(?)Λ beneath throne.</p> <p>REF: Price -; SC -. Previously undocumented type best placed immediately following Price 3771 in the Babylon I mint sequence.</p> <p>LWHT Coll.; ex- Naville 21, 20 March 2016, Lot 96.</p> |


The mint controls and style place this coin as an issue of Babylon, struck immediately after the conclusion of the Babylonian War in 308 BC. This event was associated with the removal of a wreathed mint control monogram associated with Antigonos Monophthalmos from coinage also bearing the left field MI control. The MI control was used on Price 3745- 3771 all of which are associated with the victory wreathed control signifying Antigonos supremacy as strategos of Asia. The KA control beneath the throne was previously used on Babylon I issues (Price 3711-3713) struck in the final stage of Seleukos's first satrapy and in the immediate aftermath of his flight to Egypt. Based on the previous association and usage of these mint controls, this coin most probably represents the last of MI mint control issues, the first after the defeat of Antigonos by Seleukos. In Price's sequence, it is best placed immediately following Price 3771; the earliest issue of Babylon I under the control of Seleukos following the Babylonian War.

Note: the poorly engraved K of the KA control is found on some earlier issues bearing the same control.

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## II. ROMAN REPUBLICAN

### 2. A. L. Calpurnius Piso Frugi, moneyer, Rome mint

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>AE As, 11.87 g, 29mm, 4h</b>   | <b>90 BC</b>   |
|  | <p>OBV: Laureate head of bearded Janus; I above. Border of dots</p> <p>REV: Prow of galley right, on which stands Victory; above, L PISO; below, FRVGF</p> <p>REF: Crawford 340/4 var(reverse legend)</p> <p>Ex RBW Collection, CNG e-Auction 375, 1 June 2016, lot 648, purchased from V.C. Vecchi 30 November 1985</p> |


## A CATALOG OF NEW VARIETIES

This coin bears a previously unrecorded reverse legend of FRVGF below the prow instead of the usual FRVGI. Rather than being an artifact of cleaning or corrosion, this appears to be bona fide error in the engraving of the reverse die as evidenced by a reverse die match found in the American Numismatic Society collection (ANS Identifier 1969.83.488). The author wishes to thank Classical Numismatic Group for use of this image.

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### III. ROMAN IMPERIAL


#### 3. Domitian, Rome

| AR Denarius, 3.02 g, 16.88mm, 6h  | 81 AD 13 September-31 December  |
|---|---|
|  | <p>OBV: Legend inscribed anti-clockwise from low right: IMP CEASAR DOMITIANVS AVG, laureate head right</p> <p>REV: Legend clockwise from low left: TR P COS VII, Seat draped; above triangular frame decorated with corn ears, lituus below frame</p> <p>REF: Sear (2000); RIC II Part 1 (2007); Seaby (2004); Suarez <i>ERIC</i>; Suarez <i>Aorta</i>; Suarez <i>Domitian</i>.</p> |

This coin is part of the first group of denarii issued by Domitian as Augustus. Included in this group is RIC 3 which is a continuation of the pulvinar series of denarii issued earlier by Titus. This coin is identical to RIC 3, RSC 554a with one significant difference. This denarius includes a lituus beneath the triangular frame on the reverse. In RIC Volume II Part 1 the coin designated as RIC 3 does not include a lituus beneath the triangular frame. RSC (2004) Domitian 554a describes RIC 3 as “Throne with triangular back”. There is no mention of a Lituus. I could not find this coin in Sear RCV (2000). RIC Volume II Part 1 designates RIC 3 as R (rare). This variation appears to be at least as rare as RIC 3. This variant will be mentioned in the upcoming RIC II Part 1 Addenda and Corrigenda, and will cite an example from the Gueh collection.

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#### 4. Elagabalus, Rome

| AR Denarius, 2.87g, 19mm, 5h  | 220 AD   |
|---|--|
|  | <p>OBV: IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG; laureate, draped (and cuirassed?) bust right.</p> <p>REV: P M TR P III COS III P P; Sol advancing left, raising right hand, holding whip in left, star in field right.</p> <p>REF: BMCRE 179–80 (star left or right not specified), RIC 28 (same), RSC 154 (same), Thirion 162 var (star left) (same; ex DNW 140, 15–16 March 2017, lot 1157 (eighth of ten coins; unattributed)).</p> |


A very rare variant of the type with TR P III (not TR P IIII) for denarii of Elagabalus with star right rather than left, unlisted as such in the major references (BMCRE, Cohen, RIC, RSC, Thirion, and Van Meter), nor does it occur in the collections consulted (Arnold, Beasley [3 examples with star left], Kelly, Knobloch, Mazzini, Puchala, British Museum collection online). BMCRE, RIC, and RSC describe the type as including “star in field” but don’t specify whether left or right. However, the type is invariably illustrated with star to the left. The right-hand star seems to be unrecognized, with the “field” assumed to be the larger area to the left of the figure of Sol. Thirion specifies the type with star left but does not list a variant with star right. Consultation of

## A CATALOG OF NEW VARIETIES

online databases acsearch, CNG, and WildWinds, CoinProject as well as The British Museum collection online, uncovered only one other example with star right, a worn specimen offered by Höhn (e-live 2, 3 May 2015, lot 340, and again in e-live 3, 2 August 2015, lot 337). The Höhn example is a reverse die link to the present coin, but unacknowledged as a variant with star right.

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### 5. Elagabalus, Eastern (usually attributed to Antioch)

| AR Denarius, 2.87g, 19mm, 5h  | 218–9 AD  |
|---|---|
|  | <p>OBV: IMP ANTONINVS AVG; laureate, draped, and cuirassed bust right.<br/> REV: CON-COR-DIA / MILIT in exergue; two signa flanked by aquilia.<br/> REF: BMCRE 275 var (different obverse legend), RIC 187 var (same), RSC 15 var (same), Thirion 344 var (same); ex Naumann 58, 1 October 2017, lot 826<br/> <i>Second of five denarii; unacknowledged obverse legend variant.</i></p> |

This type with IMP ANTONINVS AVG rather than ANTONINVS PIVS FEL AVG in the obverse legend is an unrecognized variety, and unattributed by the seller (Naumann). It is not in the collections consulted (Arnold, Beasley, Kelly, Knobloch, Mazzini, Puchala, British Museum online) and is unlisted in BMCRE, RIC, RSC, Thirion, and Van Meter. Not found in acsearch, CNG, WildWinds, or CoinProject.

Michael Kodysz

### 6. Caracalla, Rome


| AR Denarius, 2.57g, 19mm, 6h  | 206–10 AD  |
|---|--|
|  | <p>OBV: ANTONINVS – PIVS AVG; youth's laureate bust, draped, right.<br/> REV: INVICTA – VIRTVS; Caracalla on horse galloping right, brandishing javelin at prostrate foe.<br/> REF: cf. BMCRE S506 (laureate head right), cf. Hill 902 (same; R4), cf. RIC 155 (same), cf. RSC 105 (same); ex Nomos, Obolos 4, 21 February 2016, lot 665.<br/> <i>Unacknowledged portrait variant, with bust rather than head.</i></p> |

This coin is an unrecognized obverse portrait variant, with bust rather than head only, for this reverse type. It is not in the collections consulted (Arnold, Beasley, Kelly, Knobloch, Mazzini, Murphy, British Museum online) and is unlisted in BMCRE, Hill, RIC, RSC, and Van Meter and on CNG, WildWinds, and CoinProject. Only the present example on acsearch, but unrecognized as a variant as explained above under REF. Although the Nomos listing correctly describes the portrait as bust rather than head, it is not acknowledged as a variant, and is misdescribed as corresponding to the reference numbers for head only. Nomos also incorrectly describes the bust as cuirassed, although this portrait does not include shoulder flaps.

Michael Kodysz

## A CATALOG OF NEW VARIETIES


### 7. Severus Alexander, Eastern (usually attributed to Antioch)

| AR Denarius, 3.56g, 18mm, 1h  | 222–8 AD  |
|---|---|
|  | <p>OBV: IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG; laureate, draped, and cuirassed bust right.<br/> REV: SALVS PVBLICA; Salus seated left on throne, feeding serpent rising from altar to left.<br/> REF: BMCRE 1037* var. (citing the Vatican; no cuirass), cf. RIC 298 (different obverse legend [IMP SEV ALEXAND AVG] and no cuirass, star on reverse), RSC 535c var (no cuirass); ex G&amp;N, Pecunem 36, 4 October 2015, lot 717.<br/> <i>Only acknowledges no star.</i></p> |

A minor variety with this particular combination of obverse legend, cuirassed bust, and without star in reverse field. It is from the same die pair as G&N 6, 4 August 2013, lot 490. For another example from different dies, see Rauch 82, 23 April 2008, lot 432. This variety is not in the collections consulted (Arnold, Beasley, Kelly, Knobloch, Mazzini, British Museum online) is unlisted in BMCRE, RIC, RSC, and Van Meter, and also unacknowledged as such by the sellers of this and the other two examples mentioned here. This is a scarce type for the Eastern mint (seventeen specimens of this type, but of unknown variety, in Reka Devnia). This variety is not listed in acsearch (aside from those mentioned, but unacknowledged), CNG, WildWinds, or CoinProject.

Michael Kodysz

### 8. Severus Alexander, Eastern (usually attributed to Antioch)

| AR Denarius, 3.43g, 19.5mm, 7h  | 222–8 AD   |
|---|--|
|  | <p>OBV: IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG; laureate, draped, and cuirassed bust right.<br/> REV: SALVS PVPLICA [<i>sic</i>]; Salus seated left on throne, feeding serpent rising from altar to left.<br/> REF: cf. BMCRE 1037* var. (citing the Vatican; no cuirass), cf. RIC 298 (different legend [IMP SEV ALEXAND AVG] and no cuirass on obverse, star on reverse), cf. RSC 535c var (no cuirass); ex Pegasi XXXIV, 24 May 2016, lot 572<br/> <i>Misidentified as Rome mint, RIC 178; unacknowledged legend error on reverse.</i></p> |


A reverse legend error of a minor variety with cuirass of 535c (same as previous submission above, but this with misspelled reverse legend), of a scarce type for the Eastern mint; seventeen specimens of unknown variety in Reka Devnia. It is not in the collections consulted (Arnold, Beasley, Kelly, Knobloch, Mazzini, British Museum online) and is unlisted in BMCRE, RIC, RSC, and Van Meter. This is a scarce type for the Eastern mint (seventeen specimens of this type, but of unknown variety, in Reka Devnia). This variety is not listed in acsearch, CNG, WildWinds, or CoinProject.

Michael Kodysz



## A CATALOG OF NEW VARIETIES


### 9. Severus Alexander, Eastern (usually attributed to Antioch)

| AR Denarius, 1.98g, 18mm, 5h  | 222–8 AD  |
|---|---|
|  | <p>OBV: IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG; laureate and draped bust right.<br/> REV: LIBERLITAS [sic] AVG; Liberalitas standing front (or half-left), head left, holding coin counter and cornucopia.<br/> REF: cf. BMCRE 1043–7 var., cf. RIC 281 var. (with cuirass), cf. RSC 108b var (same); ex André Cichos, eBay, 27 April 2017.<br/> <i>Unacknowledged reverse legend error.</i></p> |

Apparently unpublished with reverse legend error LIBERLITAS rather than LIBERALITAS, unrecognized and/or unacknowledged by the seller. Underweight because worn, broken, and somewhat porous. It is not in the collections consulted (Arnold, Beasley, Kelly, Knobloch, Mazzini, British Museum online) and is unlisted in BMCRE, RIC, RSC, and Van Meter. This variety is not listed in acsearch, CNG, WildWinds, or CoinProject.

Michael Kodysz

### 10. Marcus Aurelius, Rome

| AR Denarius, 2.35g, 18mm, 6h   | Dec. 164 – Aug. 165 AD  |
|--|---|
|  | <p>OBV: ANTONINVS AVG ARMENIACVS; head laureate right.<br/> REV: P M TR P XIX IMP II COS III; Victory standing right, placing on palm tree a shield inscribed VIC AVG.<br/> REF: BMCRE —, RIC —, RSC — (same type as aureus, RIC III 127, C 475); ex DNW 140 (London), 15-16 Mar 2017, lot 1157.<br/> <i>Fourth of ten coins; unattributed.</i></p> |

This coin's reverse type seems to be previously unknown (or unrecognized) on denarii for this issue of Marcus Aurelius. It is not in BMCRE, RIC, RSC, and Van Meter. It is not found in the collections consulted (Arnold, Beasley, Kelly, Knobloch, British Museum online). This variety is not listed in acsearch, CNG, WildWinds, or CoinProject.

This type for Marcus Aurelius is known from aurei (RIC III 127, C 475) struck for the same issue. Could this coin be a mule, struck with a reverse die meant for aurei? Sometimes deteriorated dies meant for striking aurei were used to strike denarii (see Fig. 1 below, a muled coin of Geta, ex CNG eAuction 282, 11 July 2012, lot 333; ex Dr. J.S. Vogelaar Collection, CNG eAuction 215, 29 July 2009, lot 473).



**Figure 1.** Coin of Geta with muled aurei reverse, showing mismatched wear from obverse to reverse. The M. Aurelius coin has relatively consistent wear from obverse to reverse, indicating that is not a similar type of mule, but is a previously unknown and/or unidentified type of regular-issue coin.


## A CATALOG OF NEW VARIETIES

However, unlike the coin of Geta in Fig. 1, the Marcus Aurelius coin's obverse and reverse both exhibit similar states of wear. How much of this wear can be attributed to deterioration of the dies after heavy use, and how much to physical wear due to circulation after striking, is impossible to know. But if a relatively fresh obverse die were paired with a very worn reverse die, each surface of the resulting coin would likely exhibit a different level of design detail; this should be true even after circulating. This is the case with the aforementioned muled coin of Geta; although its obverse grades near EF, the level of detail on the reverse is equivalent to F.

Such is not the case with the Marcus Aurelius coin, for which the level of detail is similar on both sides. Also, Marcus's portrait on the obverse is head only, common for denarii of this issue, while those meant for striking aurei show the emperor's bust both draped and cuirassed. This makes it unlikely that the obverse die might also be a worn die originally intended for aurei. Thus, it does appear that reverse of this coin was indeed struck from a die meant for denarii and paired with an obverse die that was also meant for denarii and in similar condition.

Michael Kodysz

### 11. Galerius Maximian, Rome


| AR, 2.9g, 19mm, 12h  | 298 to 299AD  |
|--|---|
|  | <p>OBV: Laureate bust right, MAXIMIA-NVS CAES</p> <p>REV: Campgate, 5 layers, 3 turrets, no star, no doors, R in left field, F in right field, Δ in exergue, VICTORIA-SARMAT</p> <p>REF: After RIC VI Rome 43</p> |

Campgates (also known as citygates or watchtowers) are a common motif in late Roman coins. It is thought to symbolise the idea of strength, stability and protection across the empire. The vast majority were issued in bronze however examples in silver and gold are also known. The example shown here is an exceptionally rare issue that has only been recorded for Constantius (*with Γ and Δ in exergue*, RIC VI Rome 43). This additional example for Galerius Maximian implies that examples for Diocletian and Maximian are to be expected as well.

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## IV. ORIENTAL TYPES

### 12. Elymais, Phraates, Seleucia on the Hedyphon mint?

| AE tetradrachm, 10.55 g, 32 mm, 12 h  | Early-mid 2nd century AD  |
|---|---|
|  | <p>OBV: Bust of Phraates facing left, wearing tiara with pellet-in-crescent, diadem bands below tiara, anchor with two crossbars to right, pellet to each side of anchor, pellet in crescent above</p> <p>REV: Degenerated bust left and legend</p> <p>REF: Ex-Triskeles Auctions. Unpublished and unique. Cf. van't Haaff Type 14.8.1-1.</p> |

While the attribution to Phraates is uncertain, the Parthian-type tiara, with its distinctive pellet-in-crescent and dotted rim, is unique to this ruler. There are two known examples of Van't Haaff type 14.8.1-1 (AE tetradrachms

## A CATALOG OF NEW VARIETIES

of Phraates). Those specimens are typologically similar, but not identical, to this coin. The obverse portrait here sports a longer, pointier beard than the Phraates' busts on those coins. The anchors on the two Van't Haaff 14.8.1-1 coins do have two crossbars, like this coin. However, whereas the anchors on those coins have no accompanying pellets, this anchor sits between two pellets. While some coins of the Elymais Arsacid Dynasty have anchors with a single dot to either the left or right, this may be the only known example with a dot to both sides. The significance of this device is unknown.

Susa and Seleucia on the Hedyphon served as the primary (perhaps exclusive) mints of Elymais. Some scholars believe that two crossbars on the obverse anchor of Elymaean coins, as we have here, is an indicator of minting at Seleucia on the Hedyphon.

Robert Langnas