

ZODIAC CIRCLE ON ANCIENT COINS

The English word *zodiac* derives from *zōdiacus*, the Latinized form of the Ancient Greek *zōidiakòs kýklos* (ζωδιακός κύκλος), meaning "cycle or circle of little animals".



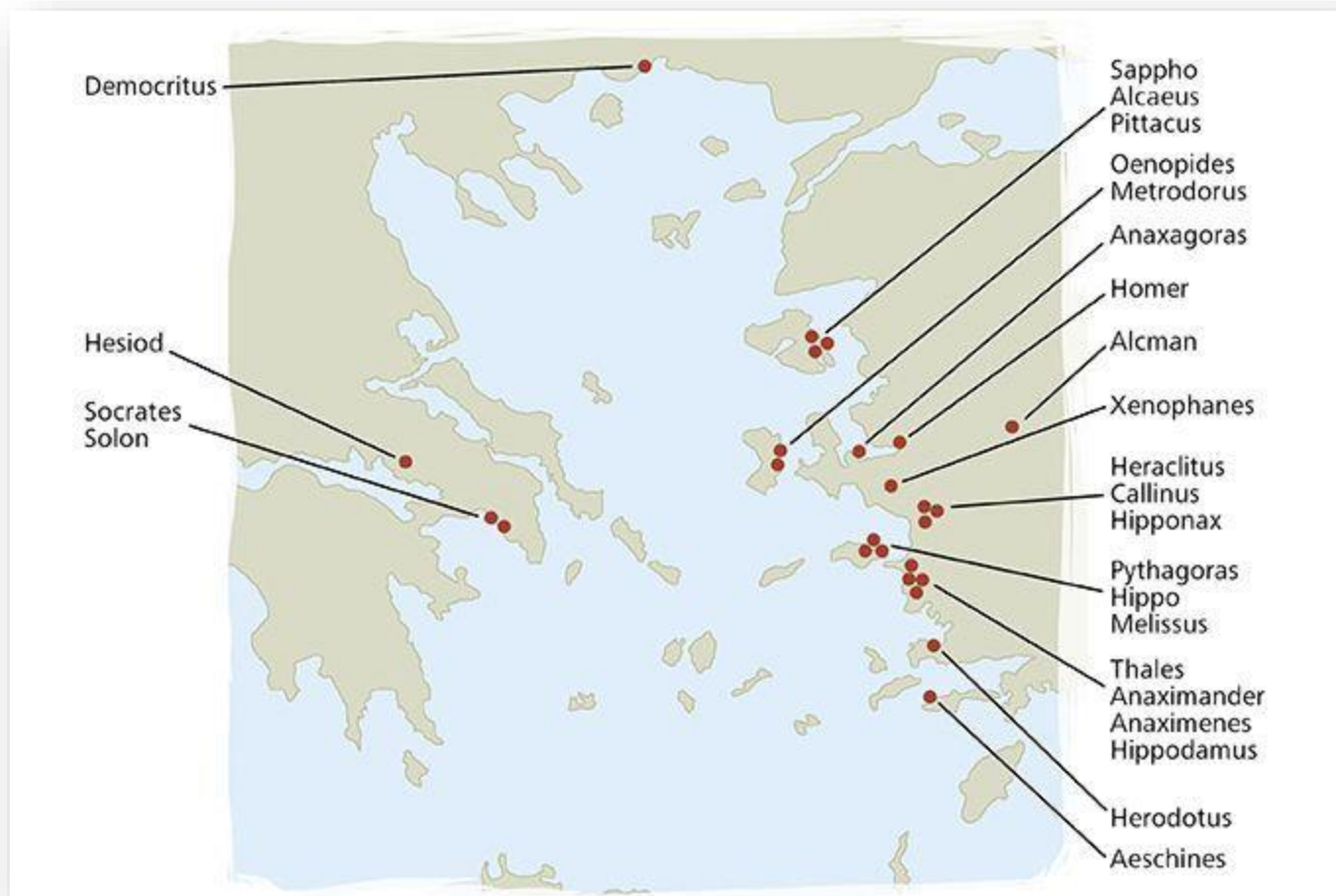
The word *astrology* comes from the early Latin word *astrologia*, which derives from the Greek ἀστρολογία—from ἄστρον *astron* ("star") and -λογία *-logia*, ("study of"—"account of the stars"). *Astrologia* later passed into meaning 'star-divination' with *astronomia* used for the scientific term.

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21 March 2021

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Like cats, humans are curious, and their curiosity has to be fed by knowledge. People's interest in things and their focus varied depending on geographical location and general living conditions. Sometimes, people had to observe nature to find a solution to an immediate challenge and other times, they developed an interest in things they didn't know.



Caius Plinius Secundus, aka The Elder (AD 23-79)

Natural History in 37 Books

A Translation on the basis of that By Dr. Philemon Holland, ED. 1601

(Edited by **Wernerian Club 1847-48**)

Book II-IV: *Why the World is called Mundus.*

... For, the World, which the Greeks, by the name of Ornament, called **Κοσμος**, we, for the perfect nearness and absolute Elegance thereof, have termed **Mundus**. And we have named the Sky **Cælum**, because it is engraven, according as *M. Varro* interpreteth it. And the Order of Things therein contributes to this, and especially the defined Circle called **Signifier**, or the **Zodiac**, divided by the Forms of Twelve living Creatures, through which is the Sun's Track; preserving the same Course for so many Ages.

Book II-III: *The Motion of the World.*

THAT the World thus framed, in a continued Circuit, with unspeakable Swiftmess turneth round in the Space of four-and-twenty Hours, the ordinary Rising and Setting of the Sun leaves no Room to doubt.

Eclipse of Thales -28 May 585 BC. According to the Histories of Herodotus, Thales of Miletos accurately predicted this eclipse, which is the earliest recorded as being known in advance of its occurrence.

The Alexandrian astronomer and geographer, Eratosthenes of Cyrene (275-194 BC), was the first ancient scientist to mathematically prove the world was a sphere and he calculated the circumference at the equator to be 27,976 miles. It is in fact 24,902 miles and Eratosthenes' error was slightly more than 12%, an amazing feat for the 3rd century BC.

Pythagoras
Plato
Aristotle
Archimedes
Eratosthenes
Seleucus of Seleucia
Posidonius
Strabo
Claudius Ptolemy

J. CAESAR. 42 BC. AR 3.91 g. L.
Mussidius Longus, moneyer. Rudder,
cornucopia set upon globus,
winged caduceus and apex.

Sundial with the Zodiac Circle
Early Roman Imperial Period



After Sulla (82-79 BC)
The Roman Republic
established itself as a world
power!



Roman Republic. Cn. Lentulus, 76-75
BC. AR 3.46 g. Head of the Genius of
the Roman People with sceptre / Globe
between wreathed sceptre and rudder.



Non-relevant early types



Karia, Mylasa EL 1/48 Stater. Mid 6th century BC. Lydo-Milesian standard. Figural type. Facing lion's head / Scorpion.



Karia, Kos 6th Century BC, EL Hekte, 2.58 g. Crab. / Four-part incuse square.



Egypt, Alexandria. Hadrian. 117-138. Æ Drachm 28.56 g. 36 mm. / Ram, wearing crown composed of two uraei and disk, standing before altar; above, draped bust of Sarapis wearing kalathos; L K (year 20=135/136).



MACEDON, Akanthos. Circa 500-480 BC. AR 16.41 g. 27 mm. Lion attacking a crouching bull; floral ornament in exergue / Quadripartite incuse square.

Augustus advertised his birth sign as Capricorn, a half terrestrial, half marine being, that played a prominent role in Augustan propaganda. Here the capricorn with globe seems to signify Augustus' power over land and sea and his role in bringing peace and good fortune to the Empire after the devastating civil wars of the 40s and 30s BC.



Augustus 27 BC-AD 14. AR 3.87 g.
Uncertain mint in the East, ca. 27 BC
or a little later. Laureate head /
Capricorn, holding rudder and globe;
on its back, cornucopiae; AVGVSTVS.



Augustus. 27 BC-AD 14. Pergamum, 19 BC.
AV 7.81 g. Bare head; AVGVSTVS /
Capricorn; SIGNIS RECEPTIS. *(appears on
many different types for other emperors)*



Cyprus, Roman Administration.
Time of Augustus(?), 27 BC - 14 AD.
Æ 2.37 g. 16 mm . Capricorn; star
above / Scorpion; star above.

Capricorn = Augustus
Scorpion = Tiberius

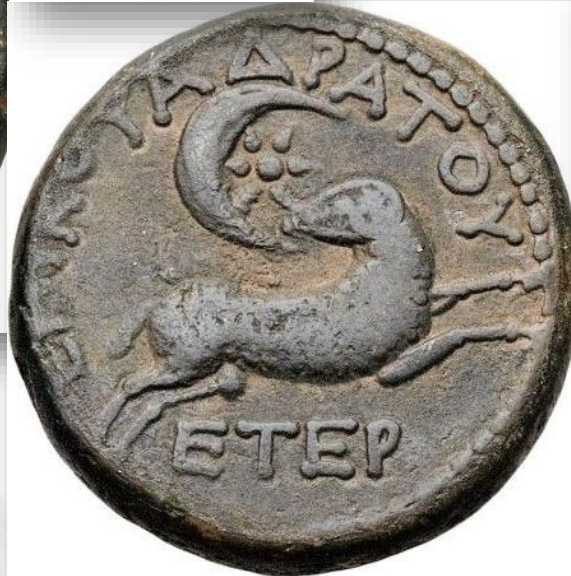
Ram and star or crescent with star are significant for Antioch



Syria, Antioch. Augustus. 27 BC-AD 14. Æ 7.67 g. 20 mm. Issue of Q. Caecilius Metellus Creticus Silanus, legatus propraetore, AD 12-17. Laureate head of Zeus right / Ram, with head left, springing right; star above back; BM (year 42 of the Actian Era = AD 11/12).



Syria, Antioch. Philip II (247-249). AE 19.61 g. 33 mm.



Syria, Antioch. Nero 54-68. AE 5.89 g. 17 mm. Turreted bust of the city goddess; ANTIOXEΩN. / Ram, running r., looking back; above, star; ΕΠΙ ΚΟΥΑΔΡΑΤΟΥ, ΕΤ ΕΡ (Casarean year 105=56/57).



Syria, Antioch Æ. / ΕΤΟ ΖC (Caesarean year 207 = 158/9).

Reference to the Christmas Star over Bethlehem (?)

<https://www.cointalk.com/threads/numismatics-and-the-christmas-star.352228/>



The Great Bear (Ursa Major)



The Alexandrian astronomer and geographer, Eratosthenes of Cyrene, 275-194 BC, was the first ancient scientist to mathematically prove the world was a sphere and he calculated the circumference at the equator to be 27,976 miles. It is in fact 24,902 miles and Eratosthenes' error was slightly more than 12%, an amazing feat for the 3rd century BC. Eratosthenes made his calculations by assuming the earth was a perfect sphere (it is not), and measuring the distance from a well in Alexandria to a fixed point in Aswan, a city a short distance away. He then measured the angle of the sun at both places at high noon using a shadow stick and determined that the angle the sun made to a vertical line was one-fiftieth of a 360 circle. Then he multiplied the distance from Alexandria to Aswan, being a segment of this circle, and multiplied it by 50 to get the circumference of the earth(3). Eratosthenes also devised the lines of latitude and longitude that divided the world into sectors. He based this on a co-ordinate axis system of intersecting lines(4). These axis lines were placed over the earth with their origin in the city of Rhodes, the center of map making and navigational science at that time. This concept was passed onto the Romans by the geographers Strabo, died AD 21, and Claudius Ptolemy, died AD 151. It is these lines or meridians that seem to appear on the globe on the coins of Domitia and Domitian proving that, to the Romans, it represented the planet earth.

Domitia, wife of Domitian. Ca. 81-84. AR 3.39 g. 21 mm. Bust with hair in long tail; DOMITIA AVGVSTA IMP DOMITI. / Infant as young Jupiter seated on globe, raising both hands; around him, seven stars representing the constellation of **the Great Bear (Ursa Major)**; DIVVS CAESAR IMP DOMITIANI F.

Providentia is a divine personification of the ability to foresee and make provision.



Trajan. 98-117. AR 3.08 g. Struck 116 AD. Laureate bust. / Providentia standing, leaning on draped column, holding sceptre and wand over globe.

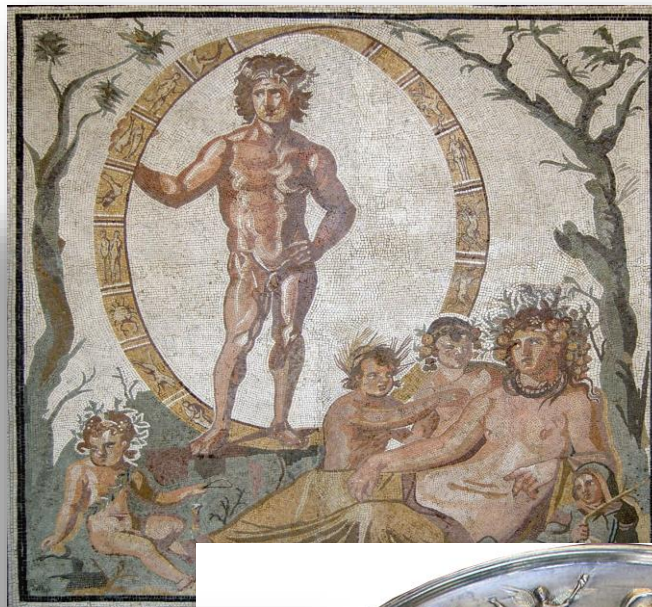
Trajan. 98-117. Æ Sestertius 24.07 g. 33 mm. Rome mint. Struck AD 114-116. Laureate bust / across field, Providentia standing, holding long sceptre and leaning elbow on column, pointing at a large globe with Zodiacal belt on the ground; PRO(videntia) AVG.



Central part of a large floor mosaic. Ca. AD 200–250.
Roman villa in Sentinum, Italy.



Hadrian, 117-138. AV 7.34 g. Laureate bust; IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG. / Aion (Hadrian?), as the spirit of the Golden Age, holding phoenix on globe, standing inside an oval frame decorated with the zodiac signs; P M T R P – COS III; in exergue, SAEC AVR (**Saeculum Aureum = Golden Age**).



Aion or Aeon: God of Time, Eternity and Zodiac, Member of the Primordial Gods. Aion, god of the ages, in a celestial sphere decorated with zodiacal signs, between a green and a dismantled tree (summer and winter). Before him is the mother-earth Tellus (Roman Gaia) with four children, the four seasons personified.



The **Parabiago patera**.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parabiago_Plate



Spring holding a basket

Summer holding a sickle

Autumn holding a bunch of grapes

Winter, hooded and carrying a reed over her shoulder.

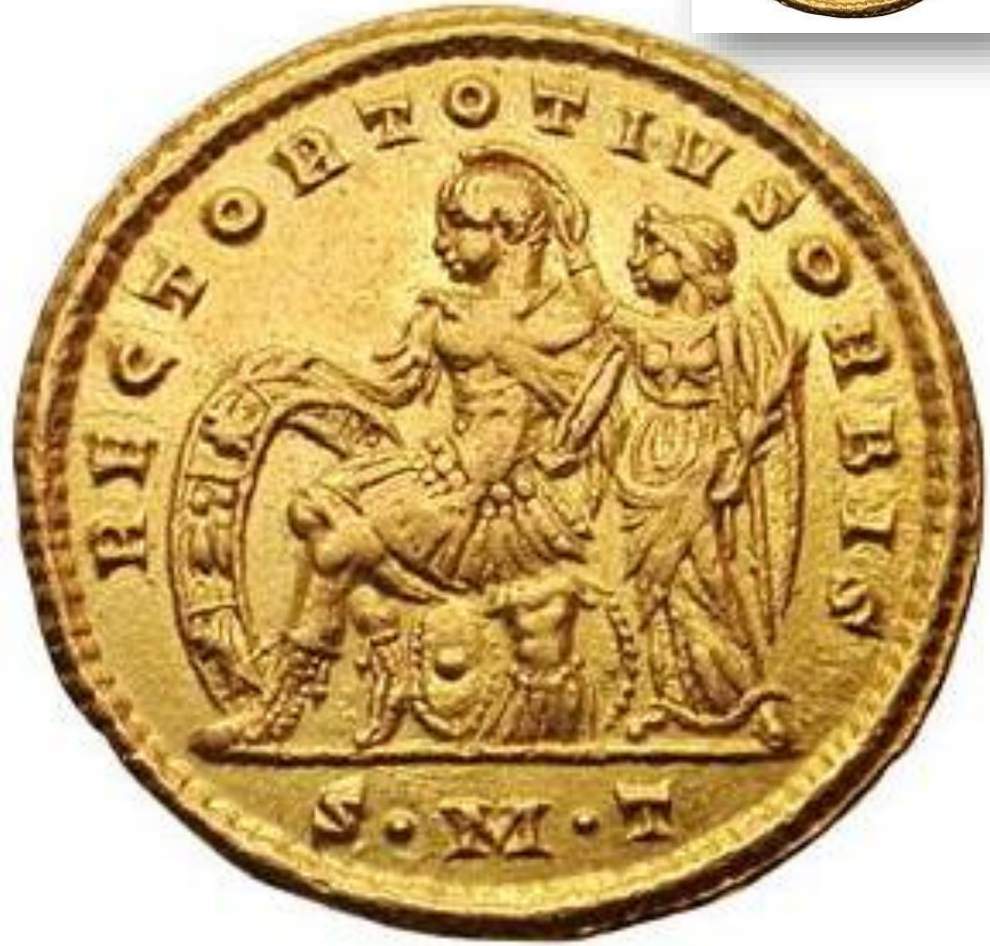


Commodus 177-192. AE medallion 38.15 g. Rome, AD 185. Laureate bust; M COMMODVS ANTONI-NVS AVG PIVS BRIT / Genius Saeculi standing, holding scepter and large zodiac through which the Four Seasons proceed, first Spring holding a basket, second Summer holding a sickle, third Autumn holding a bunch of grapes, and finally Winter, hooded and carrying a reed over her shoulder; on right, a putto with cornucopia on shoulder walks left toward Genius Saeculi and the Seasons. P M TJR P X IMP VII COS IIII P P

Fecunditas and the Four Seasons



Julia Domna 193-217. AR 3.19 g. 19 mm. Draped bust; IVLIA AVGVSTA / Fecunditas (or Tellus=Earth) reclining under tree, resting arm on basket of fruit and placing hand on celestial orb; standing before her are four children representing the Four Seasons; FECVNDITAS.



Constantinus I.-307-337. AV 4.38 g. **Ticinum.** Laureate bust; CONSTANTINVS PF AVG. / Emperor holding the Zodiak circle, crowned by Viktoria; RECTOR TOTIVS ORBIS (ruler of the whole world) S.M.T.

The Zodiac drachms of A. Pius in Alexandria celebrate the Great Sothic Cycle, a calendrical cycle based on the heliacal rising of the star Sirius (Sothis) in July. According to ancient Egyptian mythology, it represents the beginning of a Golden Age that occurred only once every 1460 years when Sirius rise at exactly the same time.

A new Great Sothic Cycle began in the third year of the reign of Antoninus Pius (139/40). To mark this event, the Alexandrian mint designed an extensive series of coinage, each related in some astrological way to the reordering of the heavens during the advent of the new Great Sothic Cycle.



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. AD 138-161. Æ
Drachm 24.04 g. 34.5 mm. Bareheaded bust / Two concentric circles: the outer one being the "Zodiac wheel" counter-clockwise with "Aries" at the top; the inner circle contains conjoined busts of Helios and Selene left; H/L (year 8 = 144/145).
Künker Auction 347 of 22.03.2021 Lot 192



Commemorating the great Sothiac cycle in AD 139.
The two Zodiacs symbolize both the Civic and the Sothiac calendar.
Isis and Sarapis



Antoninus Pius, 138-161. AE Drachm 20.54 g. Laureate head / Two Zodiacs, one within the other, each sign coinciding; in the central medallion, jugate bust l. of Serapis, wearing modius, and Isis, wearing crown; in field, date L-H (= year 8 of reign).



Helios and Selene with **Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Mercury, Venus**



Antoninus I. Pius, 138-161. AE 24.43 g. 34 mm. Laureate head / Zodiac: jugate busts of Helios and Selene, I.; before, crescent; within inner circle of planets (clockwise: **Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Mercury, Venus**) and outer circle of signs of zodiac anticlockwise with Aries at top; L H (year 8= 144/5).

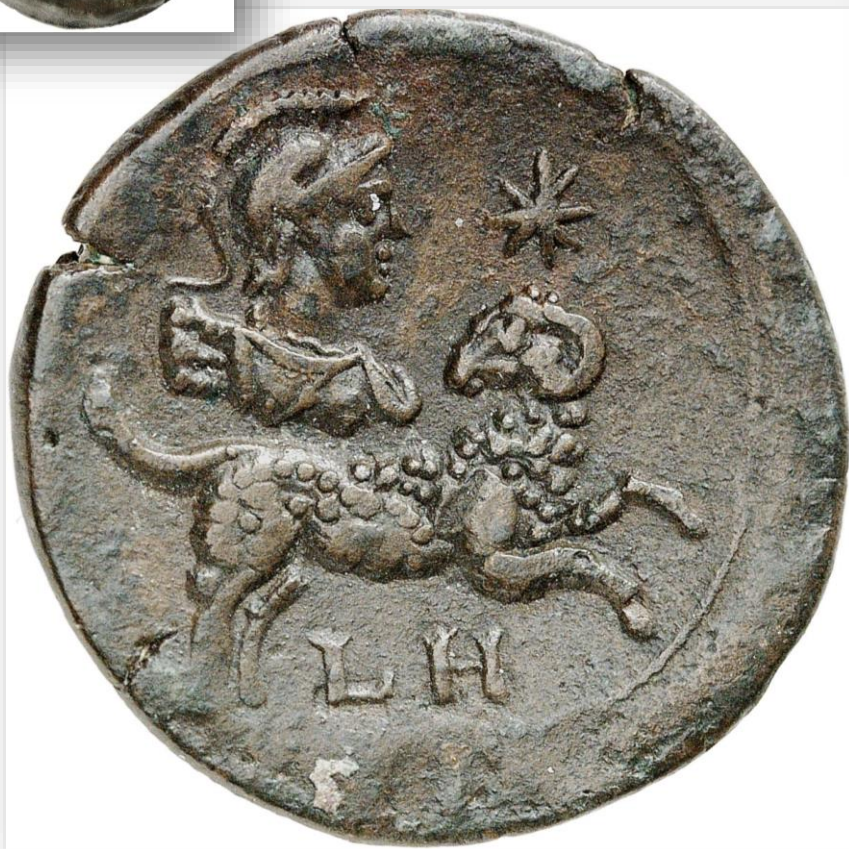
Sarapis with **Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Sun, Moon, Venus, Mercury**



Antoninus I. Pius, 138-161. AE 19.88 g. Zodiac: bust of Sarapis within inner circle of planet-gods (clockwise: **Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Sun, Moon, Venus, Mercury**) and outer circle of signs of zodiac anticlockwise with Aries at top; L H (year 8= 144/5).



Zodiak Series: Mars in Aries



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. AE 27.76 g.
Laureate head / Mars in Aries: **Ram** leaping right, head left;
above, helmeted, draped, and cuirassed **bust of Mars** and star;
LH (year 8= 144/5).

Künker Auction 347 Lot 180 - 22.03.2021



Zodiak Series: Venus in Taurus



EGypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. AE 19.61 g.
Laureate head / Venus in Taurus -Diademed **bust of Venus**
above **bull butting**; star in left field; LH (year 8= 144/5).

Sale: Triton VIII, Lot: 806.



Zodiak Series: Mercury (Hermes) in Gemini



Zodiak Series: Moon in Cancer



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. Æ 27.42 g. 33 mm. Laureate head / Mercury (Hermes) in Gemini: to left, **Herakles standing**, holding club set on ground, lion skin over arm; to right, **Apollo standing**, head left, holding lyre set on ground; above, draped bust of Hermes, wearing lotus-bud crown; star of eight rays before; L H (year 8= 144/5).

Künker Auction 347 Lot 182 - 22.03.2021



EGYPT, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. AD 138-161. Æ Drachm (33 mm, 26.33 g. Laureate head / Moon in Cancer – Draped and diademed bust of **Selene (Moon)**; star of eight rays before, crescent moon below, crab beneath all; L–H (year 8= 144/5).

Triton XXI, Lot: 127.

An enormous crab came to the aid of the Lernaean Hydra in its battle with Herakles by nipping Herakles' foot with a claw. In reward for the crab's service, Hera set its image among the twelve signs of the Zodiac.



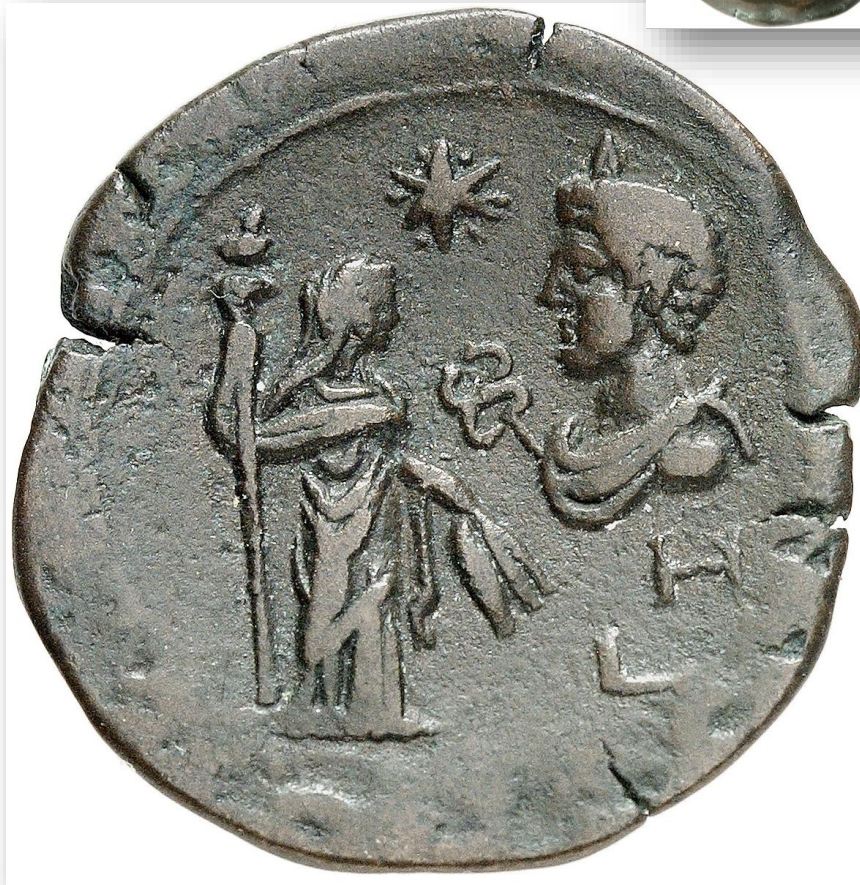
Zodiak Series: Helios in Leo



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. Æ 21.82 g. 33 mm. Laureate bust / Helios in Leo: **lion springing** right; above, star and radiate and draped **bust of Helios**; LH (year 8= 144/5).
CNG 942626



Zodiak Series: Mercury (Hermes) in Virgo



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. Æ 26.08 g. 34 mm. Laureate head / Mercury (Hermes) in Virgo: **Demeter (Virgo)** standing, **holding a long torch and two grain ears**; to right, a star of eight rays; on right, draped **bust left of Hermes**, wearing lotus-bud crown; before, **caduceus**; L H (year 8=144/5).
Künker Auction 347 Lot 185 - 22.03.2021

Zodiak Series: Aphrodite (Venus) in Libra



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. AE 26.22 g. 33 mm. Laureate head right / **Venus** (Aphrodite) in Libra: Diademed and draped **bust of Aphrodite**; before, star of eight rays and **male figure (Libra)** standing, lower half of his body draped, holding scales and fold of drapery; L H (year 8=144/5).



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. AE 27.76 g. Venus in Libra: draped **bust of Aphrodite**, wearing stephane; before, star; below, **Libra flying**, looking back, holding scales; L H (year 8=144/5).
Künker Auction 347 Lot 186 - 22.03.2021



Zodiak Series: Mars in Scorpio



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. Æ 21.87 g.
35 mm. Laureate head / Mars in Scorpio – **Helmeted and
cuiressed bust of Ares** (Mars); before, star of eight rays;
beneath, **scorpion**; L H (year 8= 144/5).

Triton XXI, Lot: 126.



Zodiak Series: Jupiter in Sagittarius



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. Æ 23.89 g.
33 mm. Laureate bust / Jupiter in Sagittarius: **Centaur**
galloping, drawing bow and arrow, star above his head;
above, **bust of Jupiter** (Zeus); LH (year 8= 144/5).
Künker Auction 347 Lot 188 - 22.03.20



Zodiak Series:
Saturn in Capricorn



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. Æ 26.55 g. 34 mm.
Laureate head / Saturn in Capricorn – **Capricorn**; above, veiled and draped **bust of Kronos** (Saturn) with solar disk atop head, falx (sickle) behind shoulder; star of eight rays to right; LH (year 8= 144/5).
Triton XXI, Lot: 128.



Zodiak Series:
Saturn in Aquarius



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius 138-161. Æ 28.73 g. 34 mm.
Laureate head / **Saturn in Aquarius** (day house) – Veiled and draped **bust of Kronos** with solar disk atop head, **falx (sickle)** behind shoulder; star of eight rays to left; below, **youth swimming** left, looking back, wearing chlamys and holding an inverted amphora with both hands; L H (year 8= 144/5).
Triton XXI, Lot: 129.



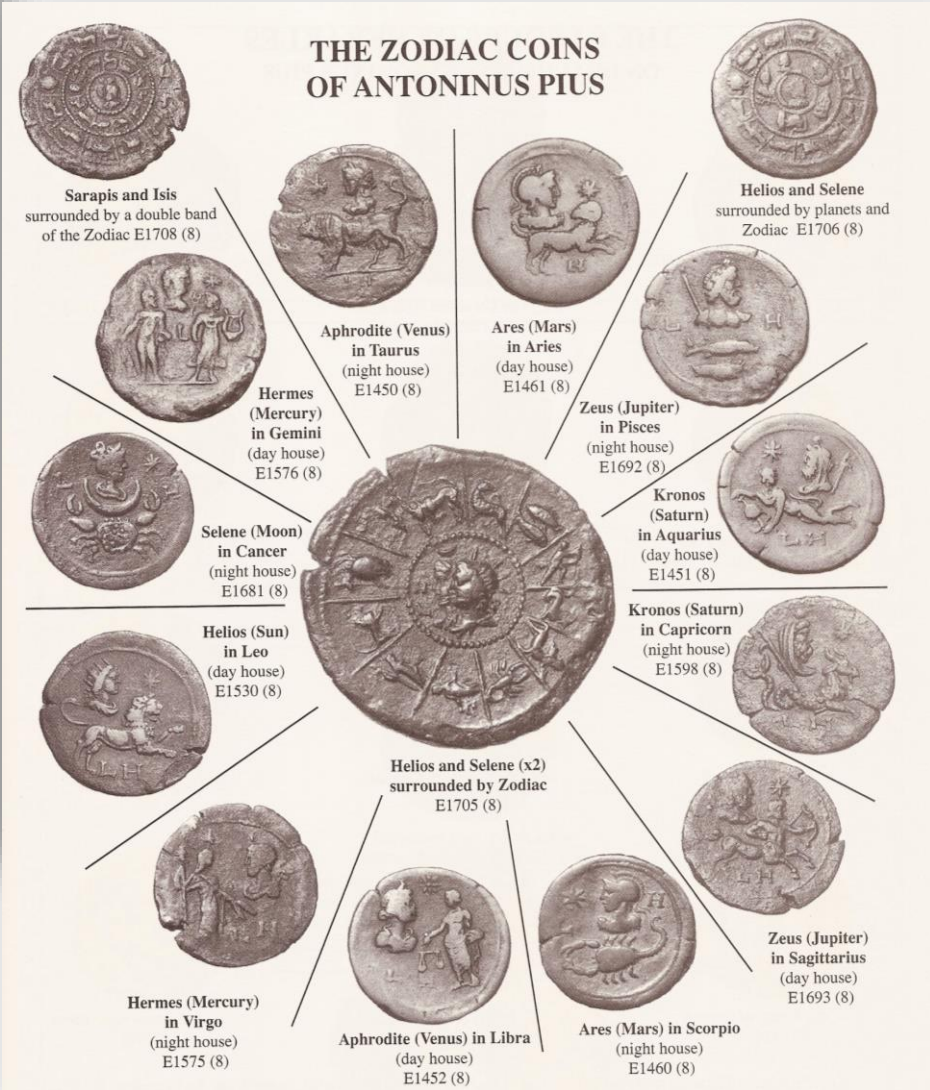
Zodiak Series: Zeus (Jupiter) in Pisces



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. 138-161. Æ 20.69 g. 37 mm.
Laureate head / Zeus (Jupiter) in Pisces: **laureate bust of Zeus**,
draped on left shoulder, scepter across shoulder; star of eight rays
before; **fish right and fish left** below; L H (year 8= 144/5).
Triton XXI, Lot: 125



Egypt, Alexandria. Antoninus Pius. AD 138-161. Æ Diobol
5.80 g. 22 mm. Laureate head / Lion leaping right, head left;
star to upper left; **L IA (year 11= 147/8)**.
CNG 472 Lot: 224.



Phoenicia, Sidon

Astarte, from the Mesopotamian goddess Ishtar, was worshipped in Phoenicia in the form of a **baetyl**, an **aniconic cult stone**, as shown here on its sacred cart in the center of a zodiac. A ring or belt thought to cover the regions of the heavens containing the stars and planets, the Zodiac's twelve divisions each contain a sign.



Elagabalus, head priest of the sun god Heliolagabalus of Emesa, Syria



Phoenicia, Sidon. Elagabalus. 218-222. Æ 13.77 g. 30 mm. Laureate bust / Wheel of the Zodiac, wheeled shrine of Astarte in center.
CNG 67, Lot: 1153.

Phoenicia, Sidon. Elagabalus. 218-222. Æ 14.82 g. 28 mm. Laureate, bust / Cart of Astarte containing baetyl within Zodiacal wheel.

PHOENICIA, SIDON

Fake or repatinated?



Phoenicia, Sidon. Julia Paula. Augusta 219-220. Æ 16.07 g. 30 mm., draped bust with stephane; IVLIA PA-VLA AVG / Cart of Astarte containing baetyl within center of zodiacal wheel; around, CO - [AV-R P-IA ME-TR?] - SI-DO divided by registers. Triton XV, Lot: 1433.



Phoenicia, Sidon. Julia Paula. Augusta, 219-220. Æ 23.40 g. 32 mm. Draped bust with stephane; IVLIA PA-VLA AVG / Cart of Astarte containing baetyl within center of zodiacal wheel; around, COL - AVR ... divided by registers.

Phoenicia, Akko-Ptolemais



Gallienus 253–268,
Æ 15.06 g. Traces
of legend: IMP
CAES LLC GALLI
ENVS AVG.
NAC Auction 64 Lot
1493 - 17.05.2012



Phoenicia, Akko-Ptolemais. Elagabalus. 218-222. Æ
9.15 g. 27 mm. Laureate bust / **Male deity**, holding
scepter, standing facing within distyle shrine with
pronounced architrave; **COL PTOL**; all within zodiac
wheel.
CNG 91, Lot: 664.



Akko Ptolemais. Valerian I, 253-260. AE 13.34 g. 26 mm. Radiate
bust / **Zeus Heliopolites (the Ba'al of Carmel)** in portable shrine,
surrounded by Zodiac wheel; **COL PTOL**.
CNG 105, Lot: 593.

Cilicia, Anazarbus



Cilicia, Anazarbus. Maximinus I, 235-238. AE 17.75 g. 32 mm.
 Laureate bust; AVT K Γ IOY OYH MAEIMEINOC CEB / **Tetrastyle shrine, with arcuated lintel and containing zodiac**; between the columns to left and right, facing female figure holding globe (?) overhead; ANAZAP/BOY .
 Leu Numismatik Auction 2 Lot 198, May 2018



Cilicia, Anazarbus. Maximus. Caesar, 236-238. AE 15.73 g. 32 mm.
 Bare-headed and cuirassed bust right, slight drapery on left shoulder / **Zodiactal wheel, with facing head in center, within ornate distyle shrine** with radiate semicircular roof; lower panel decorated with goddess and bull; Nikai on either side; ANAZ ENA MHTPO ET ANC (year= 254= 235/6).
 CNG 73, Lot: 727

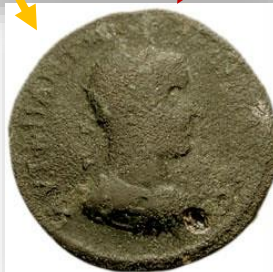
Cilicia, Eirenopolis

different obverse and
reverse dies

Cilicia, Irenopolis-Neronias. Gordian III. 238-244. Æ 25.88 g, 34 mm.
Laureate bust; AVT K M ANTΩNIOC ΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟΣ / **Radiate bust of Helios and bust of Selene, set on crescent**; ΕΙΡΗΝΟΠΟΛΕΙ[Ι]ΤΩΝ
around, ΕΤ ΒΥΡ (year 192=243/4); all within zodiac wheel.

Referring to the emperor
and his wife?

Gordian III Æ 19.63 g, 32 mm.
ΕΙΡΗΝΟΠΟΛΕΙ[Ι]ΤΩΝ ΕΤ ΒΥΡ (year
192=243/4).



Cilicia, Eirenopolis

Gordian, Eirenopolis- Fake?

AE 32 mm (no weight)



CILICIA. Irenopolis-Neronias. Gordian III, 238-244. AE 17.97 g. 32 mm. Radiate bust; AY K M AN[TωN]IOC Γ[ΟΡΔΙΑΝΟC]. / Tyche seated on rock, holding grain ears and poppy; below, river-god swimming left (?); ΕΙΡΗΝΟΠΟΛΕΙΤΩΝ ΒΥΡ (year 192 = 242/3); all within wheel of the twelve signs of the Zodiac. Leu Numismatik Web Auction 6 [Lot 635](#) 09-Dec-18



Cilicia, Aigeai

Herennia Etruscilla (wife of Traian Decius)

ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΟΥ ΠΟΛΕ ΑΙΓΕΑΙΩ = Asklepios' City Aigeai



Same type should
be expected for T.
Decius?



Cilicia, Aigeai, Etruscilla (Wife of T. Decius). AE 26 mm, 11.97 g. Draped and diademed bust of Etruscilla; ΕΡ ΚΥΠΡΕ ΕΘΡΟΥΣΚΙΛΛΑ ΣΕ / Goat, reclining l., head r.; within the circle of Zodiac; ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΟΥ ΠΟΛΕ ΑΙΓΕΑΙΩ, ΣΥΧ (year 296 = 249/50).
RPC Online **Volume IX, № 1452**

Cilicia, Aigeai



The blood from Gorgon's right side was believed to bring a dead person back to life!



Cilicia, Aigeai, Valerianus I 253-260. AE 32 mm.
Laureate bust, before, serpent-entwined scepter; AY
KAI POY LIK OYALERIANOC CEB. / **Cart of Astarte**
(?) within center of zodiacal wheel; N-E-Δ-II-Θ-N(sic)-I-
Γ-E-W-N.



Valerian, AE32 of Aigeai, Cilicia, AD 253-260. 18.62 g.
Laureate bust, before, serpent-entwined scepter / **Head of Gorgoneion** in the centre of a double circle, one for legend and other for the signs of the Zodiac; **ΑΙΤΕΩΝ ΝΕ ΝΑ**.
Athena Numismatics- Vcoins

Cilicia, Adana



E-bay: acscoinsshop



Cilicia. Adana. Gordian III. 238-244. Æ 14.89 g. 34 mm.
Laureate bust; AVT KAIC M ANT ΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟC CЄB /
Turreted and draped bust of Tyche; the twelve signs of
the Zodiac around; ΑΔΡΙΑΝΩΝ ΑΔΑΝCΩΝ.
Numismatik Naumann Auction 75 Lot 549



Cilicia. Adana. Gordian III. 238-244. Æ 12.42 g. 30 mm. Laureate
bust / Turreted and draped bust of Tyche, within circle of the twelve
signs of the Zodiac.
CNG 134 Lot 144

Cilician cities with individual zodiacal signs

Crab (Canser) = (among others), **home** and creativity (= Mopsuestia = Hearth of Mopsos).



Cilicia, Mopsuestia. Pseudo-autonomous issue.
Time of M. Aurelius, 161-180. Æ 4.16 g. 16.5 mm.
 Crab with star (Zodiac sign of Cancer); ΕΤ • ΛΟ (year 230=162/3) / Lighted altar; ΑΔΡΙΑ ΜΟΨΕΑΤΩΝ.



Anazarbus. Commodus 180-193. Æ. 3.11 g. 15 mm.
 Laureate bust / ANAZAPBE / Capricorn ΘΡ(retrograde)P.



Civic era starts in 19 BC when Augustus re-allowed civic coinage at Anazarbus; making reference to Augustus' symbol.



Anazarbus. Valerian I. 253-260. Æ 7.10 g. 21 mm. Radiate bust / Capricorn on globe; ΕΤ • ΒΟC (year 272 =253/4).

Lydia, Sardis

In *Treasures of Ancient Coinage: From the Private Collections of American Numismatic Society Members*, Catharine C. Lorber catalogued a coin of **Maximinus I Thrax from Anchialus in Thrace** with a very similar reverse type to the present coin (see pg. 121, no. 110).

The entire design reflects the common belief of third-century Romans that their lives were shaped by higher powers.



Lydia, Sardes. Mid-3rd century AD. Æ 25.50 g. 41 mm. Aurelius Rufinus, first archon for the second time. Turreted, veiled and draped bust of Tyche; ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΑΡΔΙΣ ΑΣΙΑΣ ΛΥΔΙΑΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ Α. / Zeus Lydius seated, holding Nike and sceptre, surrounded by zodiacal wheel border; ΕΠΙ ΑΥΡ ΡΟΝΦΕΙΝΟΝ ΑΡΧ Α Τ Β ΣΑΡΔΙΑΝΩΝ Β ΝΕΩΚΟΡΩΝ.
CNG 161101.

CM indicates that this is a coin for circulation but not a novelty medallion struck for a specific occasion.



holding poppy flower



Paphlagonia, Amastris. Julia Maesa. Augusta, 218-224/5. Æ 13.51 g.
30 mm. Draped bust with stephane, holding poppy flower / **Hera and Zeus** standing, looking at each other, both holding scepters; AMACT PIANQN; H in exergue; all within a wheel of the twelve signs of the Zodiac.



31 mm 13.86 g.

Bithynia, Tium (Tios)



Similar type at Kyzikos and Perinthus



Bithynia, Tium. Elagabalus 218-222. 14.26 g. 32 mm. Laureate bust, holding spear and shield decorated with Nike driving a biga; M AYPH ANTΩNINOC AYΓOY. / **Zeus seated** facing, holding patera and long sceptre; at his feet, **eagle**; above, **Helios in quadriga**, r., surmounted by crescent, and **Selene in biga drawn by bulls**, l., surmounted by star; below, **Gaia reclining**, r., holding cornucopia, and **Thalassa reclining**, l., with **crab claws on the head**, holding **rudder** and prow at her feet; all around, the signs of the Zodiac delimited by a dotted circle; TIANΩN.

RPC Online Volume VI, № 3570 (temporary)



Bithynia, Tios. Julia Mamaea, (Mother of Severus Alexander)
Geoffrey Cope on Academia.edu
https://www.academia.edu/18899778/AMAZING_coin_of_Julia_Mamaea

Mysia, Kyzikos

Emulated from Tium?



Mysia, Kyzikos, Severus Alexander 222-235. AE 44.91 g. 44 mm. Laureate bust, holding sceptre and saluting; M AYP CEYH AΛEZANΔPOC AYΓ. / Zeus seated on throne, facing, holding globe and long sceptre; at his feet, l., eagle; below right, Gaia reclining, holding cornucopia, and to left, Thalassa reclining, with crab claws on head, holding rudder and prow at her feet; above, Helios and Selene, each driving a quadriga; all within circle of Zodiac signs; KYZIKHNΩN ΔIC NEΩKOPΩN.

Thrace, Perinthus

The placement of Pisces (20 February-20 March) at the top of the wheel may relate to the date of Alexander's accession on 13 March 222.



THRACE, Perinthus. Severus Alexander. 222-235 AD. Æ 29.53 g. 41 mm. Laureate bust, wearing cuirass ornamented with gorgoneion and aegis / A zodiac wheel starting with Pisces at the top and continuing clockwise with Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, and Aquarius; in the center of the wheel is **Zeus enthroned** facing, holding a patera and sceptre, eagle at his feet, above to the left and right is **Helios in a quadriga and Selene in a biga of bulls** (each with the symbol of the other), below are the **reclining figures of Gaia (Earth) and Thalassa (Sea)**; ΠΕΡΙΝ-ΘΙΩΝ / Β ΝΕ-ΩΚΟ/ΡΩΝ - ΙΩΝ-ΙΩΝ.

Thrace, Perinthus



Thrace, Perinthus. Gordian III. 238-244 AD. Æ 31.05 g. 39 mm.
Laureate bust / Zeus enthroned, holding thunderbolt and sceptre, eagle
at his feet; all within the symbols of the Zodiac.
CNG 99, Lot: 66.



Thrace, Perinthus. Gallienus 253- 268. AE 15.55 g.
Laureate bust; ΑΥΤ ΓΑΛΛΗΝΟΣ ΣΕΒ. / Zeus enthroned
within Zodiac circle; ΠΕΡΙΝΘΙΩΝ ΔΙΣ ΝΕΩΚΟΡΩΝ.
Gorny & Mosch Auction 160 Lot:1834

Mysia, Hadrianeia

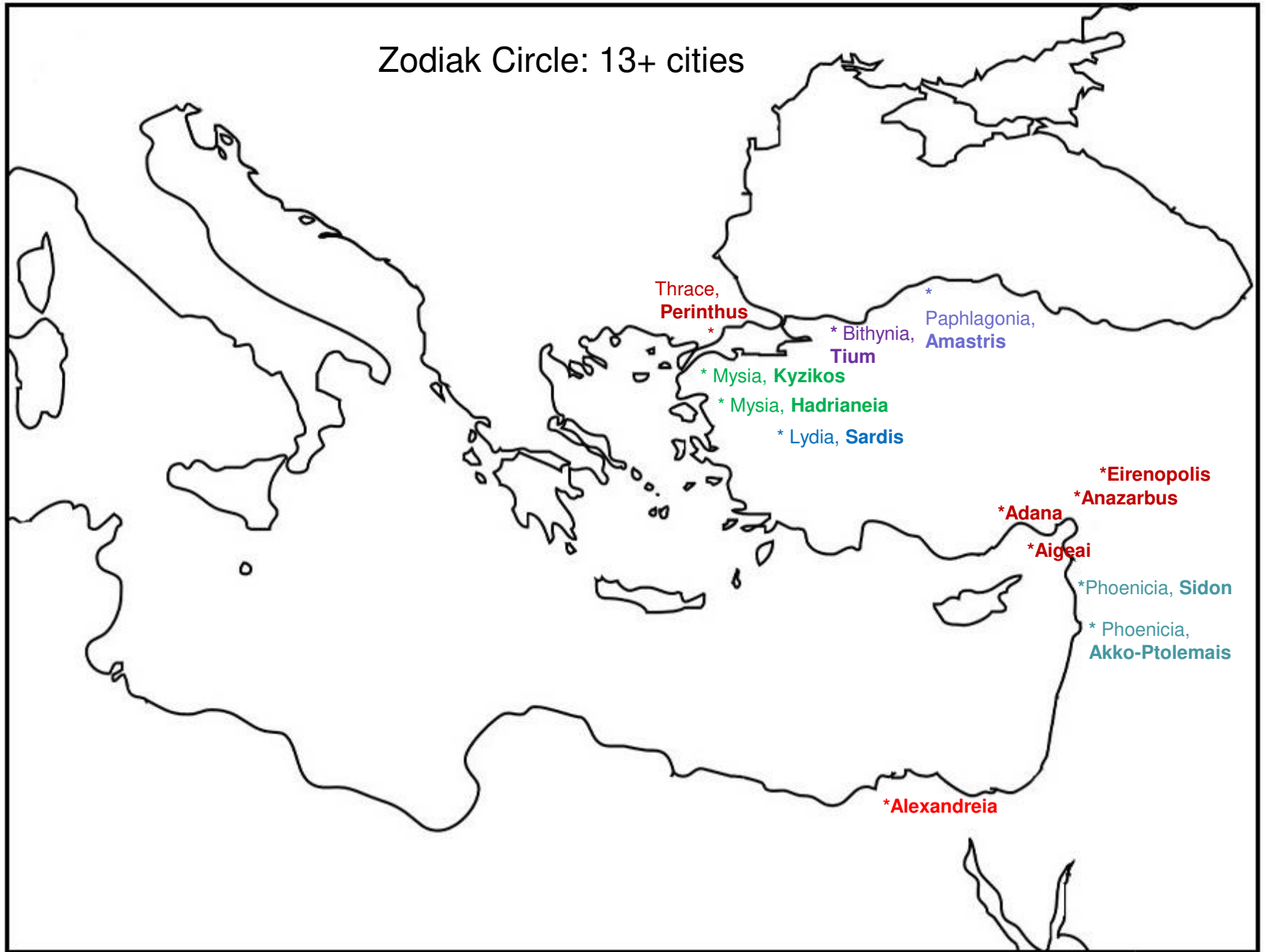


Asia Minor. Uncertain. Philip I the Arab (244-249). Ae 32.67 g. 44 mm. Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust / Zeus seated, holding patera and sceptre; signs of the Zodiac around.
Numismatik Naumann Auction 57 Lot 388 - 03.09.2017



Mysia, Hadrianeia. Philip I 244-249. Ae 32.57 g. 44 mm. Olpius Maximus, epimeletes. Laureate bust; AVT K M IOVA ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΣ AVG / Zeus enthroned left, holding eagle and sceptre(?); signs of the zodiac around; ΕΠΙ Μ ΟΥΛΠ ΜΑΖΙΜΟ ΑΔ[ΡΙΑΝΩΝ(?)](sic).
Unpublished in the standard references; for magistrate and similar obverse type cf. von Fritze 492 and 493; SNG von Aulock 1140; Kraft p. 105, 75a., 6h.
Roma Numismatics E-Sale 52 Lot 599 - 10.01.2019

Zodiak Circle: 13+ cities





Julianus II. Apostata, 360-363. Constantinopolis, AE 8.54 g. Pearl-diademed bust; D N FL CL IVLIANVS P F AVG / Bull standing, head facing, two stars above; **SECVRITAS REI PVB** (= "the safety of the state."); CONSPA.

The Mughal Empire on the Indian subcontinent, mainly ruled a large area corresponding to the modern countries of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Solar months are conventionally represented by the twelve zodiac signs, which Jahangir used on a series of coins.

In the thirteenth year, Jahangir recorded his thoughts about zodiac coins in his diary on 20 March 1619 AD. "Prior to this, it has been the rule that one side of gold coins my name has been engraved, and on the other side the name of the minting place, the month, and the regnal year. Around this time it occurred to me that instead of the month a figure of constellation representing the month should be depicted. For example, for the month of (The Ilahi year) Farwardin a figure of Aries could be made, and the month of Ardibihisht the figure of Taurus, and so on for every month in which a coin was minted one side would bear a picture of the constellation in which the sun rose. This method is peculiarly my own and has never been used before." Ref: The Jahangirnama, translated, edited and annotated by Wheeler M. Thackston, Oxford Press, 1999.



Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, England.



Silver Zodiac coins were minted initially from Ahmadabad in AH 1027 for five months, hence we see five genuine silver zodiacs , Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer and Leo.

Classical Numismatic Gallery,
Lot no. 119 - 123, Auc 15.

Mughal Emperor Jahangir (1569–1627)

<http://www.thaiprivatehand.com/MUGH-14AE.HTM>



China - Early Imperial

SONG: AE charm (33.66 g), 55 mm, auspicious or religious scene // the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac, rat (zi), ox (chou), tiger (yin), rabbit (mao), dragon (chen), snake (si), horse (wu), sheep (wei), monkey (shen), rooster (you), dog (xu) and pig (hai),

Oil Lamp Ca. 1st/2nd Centuries A.D.



The Zodiac circle within which are a radiate bust (Sol?) and a crescent below.

Bronze appliqué with Zodiac wheel. Roman, AD 1st/3rd Cent.



Central part slightly raised knob around which the signs of the Zodiac. 5.4 cm
CNG 288, Lot: 720.



The Nabataean Zodiac from
Kh. AlTannur



Phanes hatched from the
world egg & circled by the
zodiac, Greco-Roman bas
relief Ca. 2nd Century AD,
Modena Museum

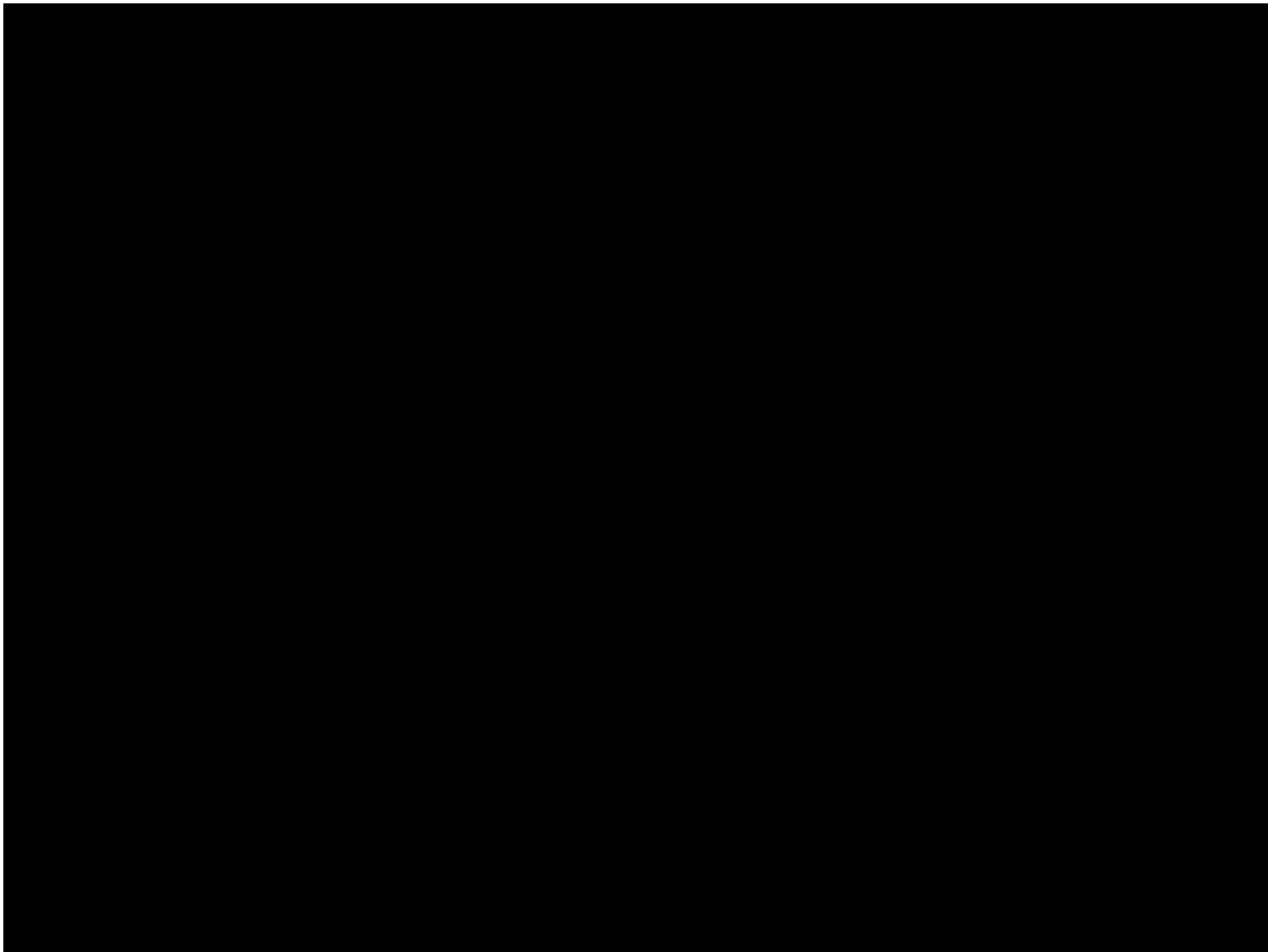


Roman Intaglio Pendants



The tauroctony features figures representing the sun and moon, two wind gods and the signs of the zodiac, all surrounding the central scene of Mithras stabbing the bull. This panel also feature the inscription: 'Ulpius Silvanus, veteran of the second Augustan legion, paid his vow: he was initiated at Orange'. The inscription is squeezed into any available space and was probably added later. **It is thought that Ulpius Silvanus was a major patron of the London mithraeum and that the inscription was added here in London, whilst the sculpture was created on the Continent.** It is unclear as to whether the initiation that the inscription refers to was his initiation into the army or the cult of Mithras at Orange in southern France.

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/recreating-romans>



Credit: NASA Goddard Space Flight- 18 March 2021

Centerhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc8XKveqpPE&ab_channel=VideoFromSpace

FURTHER READING

Caius Plinius Secundus, **Natural History** in 37 Books

A Translation on the basis of that By Dr. Philemon Holland, ED. 1601 (Edited by Wernerian Club 1847-48)

To read online or download in PDF: <https://archive.org/details/plinysnaturalhis00plinrich>

How Do We Even Know When The Battle at Marathon Took Place?

https://www.kuenker.de/en/information/presseinformationen/aktuelle-mitteilungen/348?utm_source=CleverReach&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10-03-2021+M%C3%A4rz_Auktion_NL_5_EN&utm_content=Mailing_7693610

THE EGYPTIAN “ZODIAC COINS” OF ANTONINUS PIUS AND THE SOTHIC CYCLE

Nick Vaneerdewegh

https://www.academia.edu/44445229/The_Egyptian_Zodiac_Coins_of_Antoninus_Pius_and_the_Sothic_Cycle

ASTRONOMICAL SYMBOLS ON COINS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE - PART I: 27 BC TO 96 AD

Eleni Rovithis-Livaniou, Flora Rovithis

<https://studyres.com/doc/2766220/astronomical-symbols-on-coins-of-the-roman-empire>

GRECO-ROMAN ZODIAC SUNDIALS AND THEIR LINKS TO A QUMRAN

Helen R. Jacobus (available in PDF)

The Earliest History of the Constellations in the Near East and the Motif of the Lion-Bull Combat-

Willy Hartner *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 24 [1965], pp. 1-16.

Symbolism of the Sphere by Michael R. Molnar

The Celator-June 1998

A Taurus age zodiac in Genesis 49 by Alberto Peano Cavasola, Bergamo, Italy

https://www.academia.edu/12356978/A_Taurus_age_zodiac_in_Genesis_49?auto=download

Astronomical Symbols on Ancient Coins

<https://tjbuggey.ancients.info/astro.html>