

Worksheet #1: Reading & Understanding Images

Coin 35: Silver Denarius of Tiberius

Livia (58 BC-29 CE) was the wife of Augustus, the first emperor of Rome. Imperial women were often associated with goddesses who represented Roman ideals. On this coin, minted by Tiberius (c. 15 CE), Livia is associated with the Pax, the female personification of peace.

1. What does the olive branch represent?
2. What is the significance of the laureate? (Hint: what famous Roman was known to wear a laureate to cover his bald spot?)
3. Why is the Pax Romana being commemorated at this time?
4. What can this coin tell us about public depictions of women in the imperial family?

Worksheet #2: Legends, Titles, and Dating

Coin 35: Silver Denarius

1. Obverse
 - a. What image do you see on the obverse of this coin?

 - b. What does the obverse legend say (as written)?

 - c. What does the legend mean (using abbreviations handout)?

2. Reverse
 - a. What image do you see on the reverse of this coin?

 - b. What does the reverse legend say (as written)?

 - c. What does the legend mean (using abbreviations handout)?

3. Dating
 - a. What sorts of resources would you use to determine the date of this coin?

 - b. What do you think is the date?

4. Titles
 - a. What does the title ARMENIACVS mean?

 - b. So...who is this guy? If you aren't sure what his name is, describe his position, dates, and how he is portrayed (e.g, appearance, associations, etc.).

 - c. What is happening in the Roman Empire at the time this coin was minted?

Worksheet #3: Mint Marks

Coin 64: Commemorative Coin of Crispus

Crispus was the first son of Constantine by the concubine (or first wife) Minervina. He was declared Caesar in 317, along with his brother Constantine II and his first cousin Licinius Iunior.

1. What does the mint mark on this coin say?
2. What does the mint mark mean (i.e., where was the coin minted)?
3. What do you see on the reverse of the coin? How might this be significant in connection with the mint mark?
4. What does VOT PR mean, and what does it have to do with Crispus?
5. How might we be able to date this coin?