



- 231** Judaea, Bar Kokhba Revolt. Æ Small Bronze (4.87 g), 132-135 CE. Undated, attributed to year 3 (134/5 CE). 'Simon' (Paleo-Hebrew), seven-branched palm tree with two bunches of dates. Rev. 'For the freedom of Jerusalem' (Paleo-Hebrew), bunch of grapes with branch and small leaf. Cf. (Mildenberg 158 (O4/R-; rev. die not recorded); TJC 302b; Hendin 1440. Very bold with a pleasing green patina. Extremely fine. \$ 400

Purchased privately, January 1988.

#### JUDEA CAPTA COINS OF ROME

#### *Marvelous Vespasian Judaea Capta Gold Aureus - Ex Hunt Collection*



- 232** Vespasian. Gold Aureus (7.26 g), AD 69-79. Judaea Capta type. Rome, AD 69/70. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG, laureate head of Vespasian right. Rev. IVDAEA in exergue, Jewess seated right, head resting on hand in attitude of mourning; behind, trophy. (RIC 1; Hendin 1464; BN 20-2; BMC 31-4; Calicó 643). Boldly struck and perfectly centered. Extremely fine. \$ 60,000

ex Nelson Bunker Hunt Collection (Sotheby's, 21-22 June 1990), lot 699.

First coin of the standard 'Judaea Capta' series. In the 'Judaea Capta' coinage, the seated personified Judaea evokes the iconographic language of the defeated and degraded prisoner. The conquered province type has its own set of gestures expressing a mournful or abject context, which are derived from Roman funerary iconography. They include an attitude formed by the resting of the chin in the hand, a pose that evokes pensiveness, uncertainty, and grief with overtones of repentance or lamentation. Additionally, the mourner is shown with hunched shoulders, and a bowed and covered head. The depiction of the personified province recollects the Biblical description of the besieged Jerusalem by the prophet Isaiah (ca. 700 BCE): "For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen... Thy men shall fall by the sword and thy mighty in the war. And her gates shall lament and mourn, and she, being desolate, shall sit upon the ground" (Isaiah 3:8-9; 25-26). The imposing military trophy standing to the left of the picture looms over the back of the vanquished Judaea, taunting the humiliated figure, re-enforcing the fact that the weapons used to resist Rome are now spoils to the victors; they no longer hold power.



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*Vespasian Victory Type Gold Aureus struck AD 72/3*



- 233 Vespasian. Gold Aureus (7.17 g), AD 69-79. Judaea Capta type. Rome, AD 72/3. IMP CAES VESP A-VG P M COS IIII, laureate head of Vespasian right. Rev. VIC AVG across field, Victory standing right on globe, holding wreath and palm branch. (RIC 361; Hendin -; BN 57; BMC 72; Calicó 699). Light reddish toning. Very fine.

\$ 3,000

ex Dr. Jonathan A. Herbst Collection (Superior, 8-9 December 1995), lot 1342.

*Rare Vespasian Victory Type Gold Aureus*



- 234 Vespasian. Gold Aureus (7.02 g), AD 69-79. Judaea Capta type. Rome, AD 77/8. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG, laureate head of Vespasian left. Rev. COS VIII in exergue, emperor in military attire standing left, holding long scepter and parazonium; behind, Victory standing left, crowning emperor with wreath and holding palm branch. (RIC 936; Hendin -; BN 183; BMC 205; Calicó 625). *Rare*. Choice very fine.

\$ 7,500

ex Dr. Jonathan A. Herbst Collection (Superior, 8-9 December 1995), lot 1343.

Although it does not carry a IVDAEA CAPTA legend, this aureus, struck in the next to last year of Vespasian's reign, is still typologically and ideologically connected to that most famous series of Flavian coins. A virtually identical figure of the emperor in military garb appears on earlier sestertii and denarii with explicit IVDAEA CAPTA legends and which also feature a palm tree and weeping personification of Judaea. The continued use of types referring to the defeat of the First Jewish Revolt (AD 66-73) towards the end of Vespasian's reign serves to illustrate just how critical this victory was for the public image of the Flavian dynasty.



- 235 Vespasian. Silver Denarius (3.52 g), AD 69-79. Judaea Capta type. Rome, AD 69/70. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG, laureate head of Vespasian right. Rev. IVDAEA in exergue, Jewess seated right, head resting on hand in attitude of mourning; behind, trophy. (RIC 2; Hendin 1479; BN 23-5; BMC 36-7; RSC 226). Boldly struck from artistic dies and attractively toned. Extremely fine. \$ 1,500

ex Jascha Heifetz Collection, part 2 (Superior, 9-10 December 1989), lot 3191  
ex NFA IX (10 December 1980), lot 436.

*Breathtaking Vespasian Judaea Capta Sestertius*



- 236 Vespasian. Æ Sestertius (19.66 g), AD 69-79. Judaea Capta type. Rome, AD 71. IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M TR P P P COS III, laureate head of Vespasian right. Rev. IVDAEA CAPTA, S C in exergue, emperor standing right, foot on helmet, holding spear and parazonium; before him, palm tree beneath which Jewess in attitude of mourning seated right on cuirass. (RIC 167; Hendin 1504; BN 497-8; BMC 543-4). A marvelous specimen. Bold, artistic portrait with an even green patina. Problem-free and outstanding! *Among the most beautiful Judaea Capta Sestertii in existence.* Extremely fine. \$ 20,000

ex Abraham Bromberg Collection, part II (10 December 1992), lot 611.

It is likely that the sestertii bearing this obverse legend were issued shortly after the triumph celebrated by Vespasian and Titus.



- 237 Vespasian. Æ Sestertius (24.29 g), AD 69-79. Judaea Capta type. Rome, AD 71. IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVGVSTI TR P P P COS III, laureate head of Vespasian right. Rev. VI-C-TORIA AVGVSTI, S C in exergue, Victory standing right, foot on helmet, inscribing shield set on palm tree; to right of tree, Jewess seated right in attitude of mourning. (RIC 221; Hendin 1508 variety). Dark green patina. Evidence of some faint tooling. Very fine. \$ 2,500

Purchased privately from A. Saslow, January 1985.

An unusual variant with Victory inscribing on a blank shield.

*Extremely Rare 1/4 Shekel of Tyre*



- 238** Phoenicia, Tyre. Silver 1/4 Shekel (3.28 g), ca. 126/5 BC-AD 65/6. Year 2 (125/4 BC). Laureate bust of Melkart right. Rev. TYPOY IEP[ΑΣ Κ]ΑΙ ΑΣΥΛΟY, eagle standing left on prow, palm on far wing; in left field, date (L B) and club; in right field, M monogram; lacking Phoenician letter between eagle's legs. (DCA 923; DCA Suppl. 6.1 (this coin).) *An extremely rare denomination for the series.* Toned. Choice very fine. \$ 2,500

ex Freeman & Sear (March 10, 1991), lot 226  
ex Superior (May 31, 1988), lot 1559.

In the introduction to his extensive catalogue of Tyre's final silver coinage, the famous Melkart/Eagle series, Cohen states "[this] first photographic supplement to DCA is by no means complete. It encompasses 589 different varieties of these coins, defined by their varying dates, monograms, Phoenician letters and four denominations in silver. These include photographs for 365 shekels, 104 half shekels, 3 quarter shekels and 2 eighth shekels" (p. 9). These numbers serve to illustrate more than just the varieties of the coins; they indicate the extreme rarity of the smaller fractional issues as a type, with Tyrian 1/4 shekels being only 0.82% as common as shekels, and the even rarer 1/8 shekels being on 0.55% as common. Also of interest is that all Melkart/Eagle series issues have a Phoenician letter between the eagle's legs, either *aleph* or *bet* with the single exception of this 1/4 shekel, which is lacking any letter in that position.

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