

Gordian III

Augustus 238-244

When the revolt of Gordian I & II in Northern Africa failed the Senate appointed Pupienus and Balbinus as joint emperors. However, this choice proved to be so unpopular that the Senate sought and found the grandson of Gordian I and named him Caesar so as to give an air of a dynastic lineage. Balbinus and Pupienus were murdered soon after leaving the teenage Gordian III as sole emperor. Gordian III then spent the next several years in relative obscurity participating in various wars. He was

killed by agents of his Praetorian Prefect, Philip, who had ambitions to become emperor himself.

Busts:

- 1) Bare-headed, draped bust right
- 2) Laureate, cuirassed bust left, holding spear over shoulder and shield
- 3) Laureate, cuirassed bust right, holding spear over left shoulder
- 4) Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust left, holding Victory and scepter
- 5) Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust left
- 6) Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right
- 7) Radiate, cuirassed bust right
- 8) Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust right

Obverses:

- 1) IMP C M ANT GORDIANVS AVG
- 2) IMP CAES GORDIANVS PIVS AVG
- 3) IMP CAES M ANT GORDIANVS AVG
- 4) IMP CAES M ANT GORDIANVS PIVS AVG
- 5) IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG
- 6) IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FELIX AVG
- 7) M ANT GORDIANVS CAES

Reverses:

- 1) ABVNDANTIA AVG
- 2) ADLOCVTIO AVGVSTI
- 3) ADVENTVS AVG
- 4) AEQVITAS AVG
- 5) AEQVITAS AVGG
- 6) AEQVITAS AVGVSTI
- 7) AETERNITAS AVGVSTI
- 8) AETERNITATI AVG
- 9) ANNONA AVGG
- 10) APOL CONSERVAT
- 11) CONCORDIA AVG
- 12) CONCORDIA AVGG
- 13) CONCORDIA MILIT
- 14) DIANA LVCIFFERA
- 15) FELICIT TEMP
- 16) FELICIT TEMPOR
- 17) FELICITAS PVBLICA
- 18) FELICITAS TEMPORVM
- 19) FIDES EXERCITVS
- 20) FIDES MILIT AG
- 21) FIDES MILITVM
- 22) FORT REDVX
- 23) FORTVNA AVG
- 24) FORTVNA REDVX
- 25) IOVI CONSERVATORI
- 26) IOVI STATORI
- 27) IOVIS STATOR
- 28) LAETIT FVNDAT
- 29) LAETITIA AVG N
- 30) LIBERALITAS AVG
- 31) LIBERALITAS AVG II
- 32) LIBERALITAS AVG III
- 33) LIBERALITAS AVG IIII
- 34) LIBERALITAS AVGG III
- 35) LIBERALITAS AVGVSTI II
- 36) LIBERALITAS AVGVSTI III
- 37) LIBERALITAS AVGVSTORVM
- 38) LIBERTAS AVGG
- 39) MARS PROPVG
- 40) MARS PROPVGNAT
- 41) MARTEM POPVGNATOREM
- 42) MARTI PACIFERO
- 43) MVNIFICENTIA GORDIANI AVG
- 44) ORIENS AVG
- 45) PAX AETERNA
- 46) PAX AVGSTI
- 47) PAX AVGVS
- 48) PAX AVGVSTI
- 49) PIETAS AVGG
- 50) PIETAS AVGVSTI
- 51) PM TR I P CON PP
- 52) PM TR P II COS
- 53) PM TR P II COS PP
- 54) PM TR P III COS II PP
- 55) PM TR P III COS PP
- 56) PM TR P IIII COS II PP
- 57) PM TR P IIII COS PP
- 58) PM TR P V COS II PP
- 59) PM TR P V N COS III PP
- 60) PM TR P VI COS II PP
- 61) PM TR P VII COS II PP
- 62) POMAE AETERNAE
- 63) PONTIFEX MAX TR P III
- 64) PONTIFEX MAX TR P IIII
- 65) PRINCIPI IVVENT
- 66) PROVID AVG
- 67) PROVIDENT AVG
- 68) PROVIDENTI AVG
- 69) PROVIDENTIA AVG
- 70) PVDICITIA AVG
- 71) RESTITVTOR ORBIS
- 72) ROMAE AETERNAE
- 73) SAECVLARES AVGG
- 74) SAECVLI FELICITAS
- 75) SALVS AVG
- 76) SALVS AVGVSTI
- 77) SECVRIT PERP
- 78) SECVRIT PERPET
- 79) SECVRIT PERPETVA
- 80) SECVRITAS AVG
- 81) SECVRITAS PERPETVA
- 82) SECVRITAS PVBLICA
- 83) SPES PVPLICA
- 84) TRAIECTVS AVG
- 85) VENVS VICTRIX
- 86) VICTOR AETER
- 87) VICTORIA AETER
- 88) VICTORIA AETERNA
- 89) VICTORIA AVG
- 90) VICTORIA AVGVSTI
- 91) VICTORIA GORDIANI AVG
- 92) VIRTVS AVG
- 93) VIRTVS AVGVSTI
- 94) VIRTVTI AVGVSTI

Of all the ancient Roman coins, the silver Antoniniani of Gordian III are the cheapest and easiest to find. In fact, they are so cheap that even the collector on a limited budget need not settle for lower grade specimens. Several different types may be found in a condition similar to what they looked like shortly after being minted nearly 1,800 years ago for \$20 or \$30 and often less than that on the Internet.

Gordian III was also the last emperor who struck the Denarius which had been until then one of the longest lived fixtures in the then-known world economies. The cheaper to make but twice as nominally valuable Antoninianus spelled doom for the venerable Denarius. It also started the quick downfall of the economy of the Roman empire. Within another 20 years silver practically vanished from circulation to be replaced with intrinsically worthless money.

Happily, the last of the Denarii (a handful were made by later emperors on special occasions) are also inexpensive even in pristine condition.

Ironically, the large bronze coins of the previous century become increasingly scarce and would be largely eliminated within the next decade or so.

Types:

- 1) Abundantia standing right, pouring out cornucopia
- 2) Aequitas standing left, holding scale and cornucopia.
- 3) Annona standing left, holding grain ears over modius and cornucopia.
- 4) Apollo seated left, holding branch and resting hand on lyre.
- 5) Colosseum with bull and elephant wrestling inside; Colossus of Nero and Meta Sudans on either side.
- 6) Concordia seated left, holding patera and cornucopia.
- 7) Concordia seated left, holding patera and two cornucopiae.
- 8) Concordia standing left, holding globe and scepter.
- 9) Concordia standing left, holding patera and cornucopia.
- 10) Concordia standing left, sacrificing over altar and holding cornucopia.
- 11) Diana standing right, holding torch with both hands.
- 12) Felicitas standing left, holding caduceus and cornucopia
- 13) Felicitas standing left, leaning on column, holding caduceus
- 14) Fides seated left, holding standard and cornucopia
- 15) Fides standing left, holding standard
- 16) Fides standing left, holding standard and cornucopia
- 17) Fides standing left, holding standard and scepter
- 18) Fides standing, facing, holding standard in each hand
- 19) Fortuna seated left, holding rudder and cornucopia
- 20) Fortuna seated left, holding rudder and cornucopia; wheel under chair.
- 21) Galley sailing right
- 22) Gordian III and Tranquillina seated left, raising hands.
- 23) Gordian III riding horse left, raising hand
- 24) Gordian III riding horse left, raising hand and holding scepter; Victory to left, holding wreath and palm.
- 25) Gordian III riding horse left, raising hand and holding scepter
- 26) Gordian III riding horse right, raising hand
- 27) Gordian III riding horse right, raising hand and holding scepter
- 28) Gordian III riding horse right, spearing enemy.
- 29) Gordian III riding horse right.
- 30) Gordian III riding oncoming quadriga; two soldiers in front, on left and right, leading the horses by bridle.
- 31) Gordian III riding quadriga left, holding branch and scepter, being crowned by Victory; two soldiers leading the horses.
- 32) Gordian III riding quadriga left, holding patera.
- 33) Gordian III riding quadriga right, holding scepter with eagle atop.
- 34) Gordian III seated left on platform, accompanied by two victors; citizen on steps to lower left.
- 35) Gordian III seated left, being crowned by Victory to right, facing Pax to left, holding branch
- 36) Gordian III seated left, being crowned by Victory to right, facing Pax to left, holding branch; two standards in background
- 37) Gordian III seated left, being crowned by Victory to right, facing Virtus to left, holding shield and branch with two standards in background
- 38) Gordian III standing left on right, receiving globe from Sol to left and being crowned by Virtus to right; two standards in center background, two captives seated below and soldier on left, holding spear and vexillum.
- 39) Gordian III standing left on right, sacrificing over altar, Nike standing behind crowning him; Sol riding oncoming quadriga in center with Tigris and Euphrates laying to center left.
- 40) Gordian III standing left, holding globe and scepter.
- 41) Gordian III standing left, holding hand of kneeling woman.
- 42) Gordian III standing left, sacrificing over altar and holding scepter.
- 43) Gordian III standing right on platform, facing three soldiers; horse and standards in background.
- 44) Gordian III standing right, holding spear and globe.
- 45) Hercules standing right, holding club and bow.
- 46) Hercules standing right, resting hand on hip and holding club with lion skin.
- 47) Jupiter seated left, holding globe; eagle to left.
- 48) Jupiter standing left, holding thunderbolt and scepter.
- 49) Jupiter standing left, holding thunderbolt and scepter; eagle to left.
- 50) Jupiter standing left, holding thunderbolt and scepter; Gordian III to lower left.
- 51) Jupiter standing, facing, holding scepter and thunderbolt.
- 52) Laetitia standing left, holding wreath and anchor
- 53) Liberalitas standing left, holding coin counter and cornucopia.
- 54) Liberalitas standing left, holding coin counter and two cornucopiae.
- 55) Libertas standing left, holding pileus and scepter.
- 56) Lion advancing right
- 57) Mars advancing left, holding branch and spear with shield.
- 58) Mars advancing right, holding spear and shield.
- 59) Mars standing, facing, holding spear and shield
- 60) Monetae (3) standing left, each holding a scale and cornucopia; coin piles by feet.
- 61) Pax advancing left, holding branch and scepter.
- 62) Pax standing left, holding branch and cornucopia.
- 63) Pax standing left, holding branch and scepter
- 64) Pietas standing, facing, raising hands.
- 65) Providentia standing left, holding globe and scepter.
- 66) Providentia standing left, holding grain ears over modius and cornucopia.
- 67) Providentia standing left, holding rudder and cornucopia.
- 68) Providentia standing left, holding wand over globe and scepter.
- 69) Providentia standing left, raising hand over globe and holding scepter
- 70) Pudicitia seated left, pulling veil and holding scepter
- 71) Roma seated left, holding Victory and scepter
- 72) Sacrificial implements: simpulum, cruet, lituus, etc. (variously arranged)
- 73) Salus standing right, holding and feeding snake.
- 74) Securitas seated left, holding scepter and resting head on hand.
- 75) Securitas seated left, holding scepter and resting head on hand; altar to left.
- 76) Securitas standing left, leaning on column and with legs crossed, holding scepter.
- 77) Serapis standing left, raising hand and holding scepter
- 78) Sol standing left, holding globe and whip.
- 79) Sol standing left, raising hand and holding globe.
- 80) Spes advancing left, holding flower and raising skirt.
- 81) Venus standing left, holding helmet and cradling scepter; shield to right.
- 82) Victory advancing left, holding wreath and palm.
- 83) Victory advancing right, holding wreath and palm.
- 84) Victory standing left, resting hand on shield on captive and holding palm

- 85) Virtus standing left, holding branch and spear; shield to left.
 86) Virtus standing left, resting hand on shield and holding spear.
 87) Wreath, VOTIS DECENNALIBVS within

Mints:

- 1) Antioch
 2) Roma

AU Aureus

- 1) B6 O3 R03 T25
 2) B6 O3 R30 T53
 3) B6 O3 R72 T71
 4) B6 O5 R08 T79
 5) B6 O5 R14 T11
 6) B6 O5 R94 T46

AR Antoninianus

- 7) B7 O5 R21 T18
 8) B7 O5 R24 T19
 9) B7 O5 R42 T57
 10) B7 O5 R44 T79
 11) B7 O5 R48 T61
 12) B7 O5 R58 T45
 13) B7 O5 R74 T44
 14) B8 O2 R04 T02
 15) B8 O2 R11 T07
 16) B8 O2 R31 T54
 17) B8 O2 R53 T42
 18) B8 O2 R72 T71
 19) B8 O2 R92 T85
 20) B8 O3 R04 T02
 21) B8 O3 R11 T06
 22) B8 O3 R11 T07
 23) B8 O3 R11 T10
 24) B8 O3 R20 T17
 25) B8 O3 R21 T16
 26) B8 O3 R21 T17
 27) B8 O3 R25 T50
 28) B8 O3 R30 T55
 29) B8 O3 R31 T54
 30) B8 O3 R48 T63
 31) B8 O3 R51 T42
 32) B8 O3 R51 T77
 33) B8 O3 R52 T33
 34) B8 O3 R53 T17
 35) B8 O3 R53 T32
 36) B8 O3 R53 T42
 37) B8 O3 R53 T47
 38) B8 O3 R53 T50
 39) B8 O3 R53 T63
 40) B8 O3 R53 T65
 41) B8 O3 R53 T70
 42) B8 O3 R53 T82
 43) B8 O3 R53 T86
 44) B8 O3 R61 T58
 45) B8 O3 R69 T65
 46) B8 O3 R72 T71
 47) B8 O3 R89 T82
 48) B8 O3 R92 T85
 49) B8 O3 R92 T86
 50) B8 O5 R04 T02
 51) B8 O5 R08 T79
 52) B8 O5 R11 T07
 53) B8 O5 R13 T07
 54) B8 O5 R15 T12
 55) B8 O5 R16 T12
 56) B8 O5 R18 T12
 57) B8 O5 R22 T19
 58) B8 O5 R24 T20
 59) B8 O5 R26 T51
 60) B8 O5 R27 T51
 61) B8 O5 R29 T52
 62) B8 O5 R32 T53
 63) B8 O5 R39 T58
 64) B8 O5 R40 T58
 65) B8 O5 R40 T59
 66) B8 O5 R47 T62
 67) B8 O5 R53 T42
 68) B8 O5 R54 T04
 69) B8 O5 R54 T44
 70) B8 O5 R56 T04
 71) B8 O5 R58 T04
 72) B8 O5 R58 T44

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- 73) B8 O5 R60 T04
- 74) B8 O5 R60 T44
- 75) B8 O5 R65 T68
- 76) B8 O5 R67 T68
- 77) B8 O5 R69 T68
- 78) B8 O5 R72 T71
- 79) B8 O5 R77 T76
- 80) B8 O5 R78 T76
- 81) B8 O5 R81 T76
- 82) B8 O5 R86 T84
- 83) B8 O5 R87 T84
- 84) B8 O5 R88 T84
- 85) B8 O5 R92 T85
- 86) B8 O5 R94 T46

AR Denarius

- 87) B1 O7 R49 T72
- 88) B6 O5 R08 T79
- 89) B6 O5 R14 T11
- 90) B6 O5 R27 T51
- 91) B6 O5 R29 T52
- 92) B6 O5 R50 T64
- 93) B6 O5 R54 T04
- 94) B6 O5 R54 T44
- 95) B6 O5 R55 T27
- 96) B6 O5 R76 T73
- 97) B6 O5 R82 T74
- 98) B6 O5 R85 T81
- 99) B6 O5 R94 T46

AR Quinarius

- 100) B6 O5 R13 T07

AE Medallion

- 101) B2 O6 R45 T39
- 102) B2 O6 R93 T38
- 103) B3 O6 R64 T30
- 104) B4 O6 R43 T05

AE Sestertius

- 105) B6 O3 R21 T17
- 106) B6 O3 R31 T54
- 107) B6 O3 R89 T82
- 108) B6 O5 R04 T02
- 109) B6 O5 R08 T79
- 110) B6 O5 R24 T20
- 111) B6 O5 R26 T51
- 112) B6 O5 R29 T52
- 113) B6 O5 R41 T58
- 114) B6 O5 R53 T42
- 115) B6 O5 R54 T44
- 116) B6 O5 R58 T04
- 117) B6 O5 R58 T44
- 118) B6 O5 R78 T76
- 119) B6 O5 R80 T74
- 120) B6 O5 R87 T84
- 121) B6 O5 R88 T84
- 122) B6 O5 R90 T25 Exe: SC
- 123) B6 O6 R08 T79
- 124) B6 O7 R49 T72 Exe: SC

AE As

- 125) B6 O3 R04 T02
- 126) B6 O3 R53 T71 Exe: SC
- 127) B6 O5 R64 T31
- 128) B6 O5 R93 T36
- 129) B6 O6 R78 T76

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