

Gratian

Augustus 367-383

An early supporter of Christianity, Gratian vigorously and systematically rooted out paganism wherever he could and went so far as to refuse the title of Pontifex Maximus, the highest religious position, feeling that this title belonged to a true religious leader. His early career was marked by his competent dealing with the troublesome barbarians north of Italy while later in his career he withdrew somewhat from his duties to pursue personal

ambitions. He died at the hands of his own soldiers in hopes of appeasing the presumed superior forces of Magnus Maximus who were approaching to a deciding battle.

Busts:

- 1) Diademed (pearls), draped and cuirassed bust left
- 2) Diademed (pearls), draped and cuirassed bust right
- 3) Diademed (rosettes), cuirassed bust right
- 4) Diademed (rosettes), draped and cuirassed bust left
- 5) Diademed (rosettes), draped and cuirassed bust right
- 6) Helmeted, cuirassed bust left, holding mappa and scepter
- 7) Helmeted, diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right, holding spear and shield

Obverse:

- 1) DN GRATIANVS PF AVG

Reverses:

- 1) CONCORDIA AVGG
- 2) CONCORDIA AVGGG
- 3) FELICITAS REIPVBLICAE
- 4) FELICITAS ROMANORVM
- 5) FELIX ADVENTVS AVG N
- 6) GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI
- 7) GLORIA REIPVB
- 8) GLORIA ROMANORVM
- 9) MONETA AVGG
- 10) PERPETVETAS
- 11) PRINCIPIVM IVVENTVTIS
- 12) REPARATIO REIPVB
- 13) RESTITVTOR REIPVBLICAE
- 14) SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE
- 15) SPES RP
- 16) VICTORIA DN AVG
- 17) VICTORIA AVGG
- 18) VICTORIA AVGGG
- 19) VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM
- 20) VIRTVS EXERCITVS
- 21) VIRTVS ROMANORVM
- 22) VOTA PVBLICA
- 23) VRBS ROMA
- 24) No legend

Types:

- 1) City gate with (2) turrets; S above.
- 2) Constantinopolis seated, facing, holding scepter and cornucopia.
- 3) Constantinopolis seated, facing, holding spear.
- 4) Constantinopolis seated, facing, stepping on galley prow, holding scepter and globe.
- 5) Constantinopolis seated, facing, stepping on galley prow, holding globe and spear.
- 6) Gratian advancing right, dragging captive and holding labarum.
- 7) Gratian and Theodosius I (or Valentinian II) seated, facing, each holding mappa and scepter.
- 8) Gratian and Theodosius I (or Valentinian II) seated, facing, each holding mappa and globe.
- 9) Gratian and Theodosius I (or Valentinian II) seated, facing, each holding a globe and scepter; genius between them holding shield reading VOT / V / MVL / X
- 10) Gratian and Theodosius I (or Valentinian II) seated, facing, together holding globe over palm and each a mappa; Victory above them both.
- 11) Gratian riding horse left, raising hand
- 12) Gratian standing left on galley, raising hand; Victory seated to right, steering galley.
- 13) Gratian standing right, holding spear and globe.
- 14) Gratian standing, facing, holding hand of kneeling woman with cornucopia to left and labarum.
- 15) Gratian standing, facing, holding hand of kneeling woman with cornucopia to left and Victory on globe.
- 16) Gratian standing, facing, holding labarum and resting hand on shield.
- 17) Gratian standing, facing, holding labarum and Victory on globe; eagle with wreath in beak to lower right.
- 18) Gratian standing, facing, holding Victory on globe and labarum with Victory atop.
- 19) Monetae (3) standing, facing, holding scale and cornucopiae.
- 20) Phoenix on globe
- 21) Roma seated left, holding globe and spear.
- 22) Roma seated left, holding Victory on globe and scepter.
- 23) Roma seated, facing, holding globe and scepter.
- 24) Roma seated, facing, holding scepter and globe.
- 25) Roma, holding Victory on globe and scepter and Constantinopolis, holding Victory on globe and cornucopia, stepping on galley prow; both seated, facing.
- 26) Victory advancing left, holding wreath and palm.
- 27) Victory seated right, holding shield reading VOT / V / MVLT / X

As far as bronzes go, Gratian's coins are only slightly harder to find than those of the contemporary brother duo of Valentinian I and Valens.

Coins are also comparatively plentiful in silver and gold as well. Nice Siliquae may be found in the low hundreds of dollars while the typical Solidus may run only two or three times as much.

Numismatically more significant, Gratian's reign - in tandem with Valentinian II and Theodosius I - initiates the shift away from AE3's towards the smaller AE4 module.

While small bronze denominations had intermittently been issued for the whole of the imperial period, under Gratian they become for the first time the predominant form of coinage for civilians in general. This last phase would go on for over 100 years more all the meanwhile the coins growing smaller and cruder in design and craftsmanship.

Well into the reign of Anastasius I, a full generation after the fall of Rome, he would finally do away with these wretched little things and begin minting the first hefty bronzes to be seen since the Folles of the late 200's.

These Folles, as they were again to be called, marked the beginning of the Byzantine period, at least as it's understood within the field of numismatics.

- 28) Victory seated right, holding shield reading VOT / V / MVL / X
 29) Victory seated right, holding shield reading VOT / X / MVL / XX
 30) Victory seated right, holding shield reading VOT / V / MVL / X; genius to right also holding shield.
 31) Victory seated right, holding shield reading VOT / X; genius to right also holding shield.
 32) Victory standing right, stepping on globe, holding shield on cippus reading VOT / V / MVL / X
 33) Wreath, VOT / V / MVL / X within
 34) Wreath, VOT / V within
 35) Wreath, VOT / VX / MVL / XX within.
 36) Wreath, VOT / X / MVL / XV within.
 37) Wreath, VOT / X / MVL / XX within.
 38) Wreath, VOT / XV / MVL / XX within.
 39) Wreath, VOT / XX / MVL / XXX within.
 40) Wreath, VOTIS / V / MVL / X within.
 41) Wreath, VOTIS / V within.
 42) Wreath, VOTIS / X / MVL / XX within.
 43) Wreath, VOTIS / XV / MVL / XX within.

Mints:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1) Alexandria | 6) Cyzicus | 11) Roma |
| 2) Antioch | 7) Heraclea | 12) Sirmium |
| 3) Aquileia | 8) Lugdunum | 13) Siscia |
| 4) Arelate | 9) Mediolanum | 14) Thessalonica |
| 5) Constantinopolis | 10) Nicomedia | 15) Treveri |

AU Medallion

- 1) B5, O1, R08, T10, M15 Exe: TROB☐ *Double Solidus*
 2) B5, O1, R08, T25, M02 Exe: ANTOB☐ *Double Solidus*

AU Solidus

- 3) B2, O1, R02, T04, M05 Exe: CONOB
 4) B2, O1, R11, T13, M05 Exe: *CONS☐
 5) B2, O1, R17, T10, M15 Exe: TROB☐
 6) B2, O1, R19, T28, M02 Exe: †/ANOB☐
 7) B5, O1, R02, T04, M05 Exe: CONOB
 8) B5, O1, R17, T10, M15 Exe: TROB☐

Reference(s)

- RIC 43a (IX, Constantinopolis)
 RIC 24 (IX, Constantinopolis)
 RIC 39d (IX, Treveri)
 RIC 21a (IX, Antioch)
 RIC 44a (IX, Constantinopolis)
 RIC 17g (IX, Treveri)

AU Scripulum

- 9) B2, O1, R16, T26, M05 Exe: CONS

AR Miliarensis

- 10) B2, O1, R20, T16, M15 Exe: TRPS

- RIC 53a (IX, Treveri)

AR Siliqua

- 11) B2, O1, R21, T23, M15 Exe: TRPS
 12) B2, O1, R23, T22, M15 Exe: TRPS
 13) B2, O1, R23, T22, M15 Exe: TRPS•
 14) B2, O1, R23, T33, M05 Exe: †C†☐
 15) B2, O1, R23, T37, M02 Exe: ANT*
 16) B2, O1, R24, T36, M13 Exe: SISCPS

- RIC 58a (IX, Treveri), C 54
 RIC 27f (IX, Treveri), C 86
 RIC 45c (IX, Treveri), C 86
 RIC 36e (IX, Constantinopolis)
 RIC 34f (IX, Antiochia)
 RIC 25 (IX, Siscia), C 72

AE1

- 17) B2, O1, R23, T21, M11 Exe: R☐

- RIC 42a (IX, Roma), C 88

AE2

- 18) B2, O1, R12, T15, M08 Exe: LVG☐
 19) B2, O1, R12, T15, M08 Exe: S/LVG☐
 20) B2, O1, R12, T15, M11 Exe: R☐
 21) B2, O1, R12, T15, M11 Exe: SMR☐
 22) B2, O1, R12, T15, M13 Exe: *☐SISC
 23) B2, O1, R12, T15, M13 Exe: *☐SISC•
 24) B2, O1, R12, T15, M13 Exe: ☐SISC
 25) B2, O1, R12, T15, M13 Exe: ☐SISC•
 26) B2, O1, R12, T15, M14 Exe: ☐/SMTES
 27) B2, O1, R14, T26, M11 Exe: SM☐R☐
 28) B7, O1, R08, T12, M02 Exe: †/ANT☐
 29) B7, O1, R08, T12, M05 Exe: †/CON☐
 30) B7, O1, R08, T12, M06 Exe: †/SMK☐
 31) B7, O1, R08, T12, M07 Exe: SMH☐

- RIC 28a (IX, Lugdunum)
 RIC 28a (IX, Lugdunum)
 RIC 43a (IX, Roma)
 RIC 43a (IX, Roma)
 RIC 26a (IX, Siscia)
 RIC 26a (IX, Siscia)
 RIC 26a (IX, Siscia)
 RIC 26a (IX, Siscia)
 RIC 37a (IX, Thessalonica)
 RIC 28a (IX, Roma)
 RIC 40a (IX, Antiochia)
 RIC 52a (IX, Constantinopolis)
 RIC 14a (IX, Cyzicus)
 RIC 11a (IX, Heraclea)

AE3

- 32) B2, O1, R02, T23, M05 Exe: CONS□
- 33) B2, O1, R02, T23, M06 Exe: †/SMK□
- 34) B2, O1, R02, T23, M13 Exe: □SISC
- 35) B2, O1, R02, T24, M07 Exe: *SMH□
- 36) B2, O1, R02, T24, M07 Exe: †/SMH□
- 37) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: • over M/* over P/□SISC
- 38) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: • over M/* over R over O/□SISC
- 39) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: D/*□SISC
- 40) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: F/D over P/□SISCE
- 41) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: F/R over A/□SISCE
- 42) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: M/* over F/□SISC
- 43) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: M/* over P/□SISC
- 44) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: Q/* over K/□SISCE
- 45) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: Q/* over K/□SISCR
- 46) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: Q/* over R over O/□SISCR
- 47) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: Q/A over h/□SISCE
- 48) B2, O1, R08, T06, M13 Exe: Q/h over K/□SISCE
- 49) B2, O1, R08, T06, M14 Exe: V/* over □/TES
- 50) B2, O1, R14, T26, M04 Exe: □CON
- 51) B2, O1, R14, T26, M11 Exe: R•□ *Officina is spelled out in Latin; PRIMA, SECVNDA, TERTIA or QVARTA*
- 52) B2, O1, R14, T26, M11 Exe: SMΔR□
- 53) B2, O1, R14, T26, M13 Exe: D/*□SISC
- 54) B2, O1, R21, T23, M02 Exe: ANT□

Reference(s)

- RIC 56a (IX, Constantinopolis)
- RIC 17a (IX, Cyzicus)
- RIC 27a (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 15a (IX, Heraclea)
- RIC 14a (IX, Heraclea)
- RIC 14c.18 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.20 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.11 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.44a (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.35 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.16 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.17 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.27 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.27 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.30 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 14c.32 (IX, Siscia)
- RIC 31c (IX, Thessalonica)
- RIC 19b (IX, Arelate)
- RIC 23c (IX, Roma), L 720
- RIC 28c (IX, Roma)
- RIC 15c (IX, Siscia), L 1310
- RIC 50a (IX, Antiochia)

AE4

- 55) B2, O1, R24, T38, M04 Exe: □CON
- 56) B2, O1, R24, T38, M13 Exe: □SISC
- 57) B2, O1, R24, T39, M02 Exe: ANT□
- 58) B2, O1, R24, T39, M07 Exe: SMH□

- RIC 24 (IX, Arelate), L 552
- RIC 31a (IX, Siscia), L 1539
- RIC 58a (IX, Antiochia)
- RIC 20a (IX, Heraclea)

Gratian Busts



Gratian Types

