

From Village to Empire: an Introduction to the History of Rome

Workshop 4: Numismatic evidence



Didrachm, late third century BC; Roma, in Phrygian helmet; Victory with wreath and palm



Denarius, 83-82 BC; Q. Antonius Balbus



Denarius, 78 BC; M. Volteius



Denarius, 82 BC; L. Marcius Censorinus; head of Apollo; Marsyas the satyr







Silius Italicus, *The Punic War* 8.502-4: But the Marsi got their name from Marsyas, the settler who fled in fright across the seas from Phrygian Crenai, when the Mygdonian pipe was defeated by Apollo's lyre.

Dionysus = Liber Pater

libertas = freedom/ liberty

Servius, *Commentary on the Aeneid* 3.20:
In free cities there was a statue of Marsyas,
who is under the protection of Liber Pater.

Servius, *Commentary on the Aeneid* 4.58:
'To Father Lyaeus', who as we said above
is appropriately the god of freedom for
cities; whence Marsyas too, his servant, is
placed in the forum in the cities as a symbol
of freedom, with his hand raised to show
the city lacks nothing.





Denarius, 82 BC; L. Marcius Censorinus; head of Apollo; Marsyas the satyr



Denarius, 48 BC; C. Vibius Pansa Caetronianus; bust/ mask of Pan; Jupiter Axur with sceptre and *patera*.



Denarius, 137 BC; S. Pompeius Fostlus; bust of Roma; wolf with twins and Faustulus.



Denarius, 125 BC, C. Caecilius Metellus; bust of Roma; Jupiter in an elephant-drawn chariot

Pliny *Natural History* 7.139-41: Quintus Metellus, in the panegyric that he delivered at the obsequies of his father Lucius Metellus the pontiff, who had been consul twice, dictator, master of the horse, and land-commissioner, and who was **the first person who led a procession of elephants in a triumph**, having captured them in the first Punic war, has left it in writing that his father had achieved the ten greatest and highest objects in the pursuit of which wise men pass their lives: for he had made it his aim to be a first-class warrior, a supreme orator and a very brave commander, to have the direction of operations of the highest importance, to enjoy the greatest honour, to be supremely wise, to be deemed the most eminent member of the senate, to obtain great wealth in an honourable way, to leave many children, and to achieve supreme distinction in the state; and that these things had fallen to his father's lot, and to that of no one else since Rome's foundation.



Denarius, 82 BC; C. Mamilius Limetanus

Paulus (Festus) page 117L: The family of the Mamilii is named after Mamilia, the daughter of Telagonus [a son of Odysseus], whom he had at Tusculum.





Denarius, 63 BC; L. Cassius Longinus



Denarius, 54 BC; M. Iunius Brutus



Denarius, 54 BC; M. Iunius Brutus; busts of L. Iunius Brutus and Servilius Ahala



Denarius, 42 BC; struck at a mint moving with M. Iunius Brutus