

Basic Detail Report



Roman Denarius, M. Aemilius Scaurus

Date

58 B.C.E

Primary Maker

Unknown artist, Roman (Ancient)

Medium

Silver

Description

This silver denarius of Marcus Aemilius Scaurus, a Roman consul, depicts a male figure kneeling to the right before a camel on its obverse. In his right hand, the man holds a palm branch, and in the left he holds the reins of the camel. On the reverse of this denarius is the sky-god Jupiter in a quadriga, or four-horse chariot, and a scorpion. This coin commemorates Scaurus' involvement in ending a seige on Judea in 64 B.C.E. The scorpion on the reverse

of this coin, representative of the belief that men born under Scorpio were the "sackers of cities," is being trampled by the quadriga, symbolizing Scaurus' success. This coin is a part of the Paine Coin Collection. This teaching collection of 32 Greek and Roman coins was formed by John Alsop Paine (1840 – 1912), Class of 1859, who was an archaeologist with the Palestine Exploration Society and a Curator in the Department of Casts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1889 until 1906. The collection came to the college through John Alsop Paine's grandson, Nathaniel Emmons Paine (1853 – 1948), Class of 1874.

Dimensions

Diameter: 11/16 in. (1.8 cm)