

Studies

ANCIENT HISTORY

THE FORDYCE MITCHEL COLLECTION AT THE YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY – PART II

Abstract: In 2018, the Numismatics department at the Yale University Art Gallery received a donated collection of 223 bronze and silver coins, broadly from the Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman periods. The collection was assembled in the 1950s and 1960s by Professor Fordyce W. Mitchel, a Yale alumnus, and was donated by his three children, Fordyce, Henry, and Magdalen. Prof. Mitchel received numismatic tutelage from the renowned numismatist Alfred R. Bellinger, who at the time served as de-facto curator for the Yale numismatic collection. This article serves to document and highlight the body of material in order to make its existence known to the wider academic community. A catalogue of the coins is included and images of the coins are freely available online on the Yale University Art Gallery website.

Keywords: *Yale University Art Gallery, Numismatics, Professor Fordyce W. Mitchel, Yale Classics, Ancient Coins.*

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INTRODUCTION

In the winter of 2017, Magdalen (“Mauni”) Mitchel contacted the curator of Numismatics at the Yale University Art Gallery to inform of her intent, together with her two siblings (Henry and Fordyce), to donate their father’s collection of ancient coins. By April 2018, the collection had been physically transferred to Yale and the final paperwork was completed by November.

The collection was assembled by Professor Fordyce W. Mitchel between the 1950s and 1960s and consists of 223 bronze and silver coins, broadly from the Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman period.¹ Within the collection several groupings can be identified (e.g. Macedonia, Thessaly, and Athens), while the overall collection appears to have been tailored for pedagogical purposes.

Prof. F. W. Mitchel obtained all three of his degrees at Yale, completing his Ph.D. in 1954.² Although his Ph.D. dissertation focused on Greek history (*An investigation of the Chronological Systems used by Herodotus*), he received numismatic support from Prof. Alfred R. Bellinger, who is the outstanding figure in the history of the Yale numismatic collection and served as de-facto curator for the Yale numismatic collection. Prof. Mitchel, while a graduate student, was also able to refine his numismatic training, July through September 1944, at the American Numismatic Society where he became the first Edward T. Newell Summer Scholar in Numismatics.³

¹ Pers. comm. Magdalen Mitchel, 20 November 2017.

² A.B., A.M. Yale, 1944; Ph.D., 1954.

³ This program had been proposed by Bellinger, who was also a member of the Newell Committee:

Over the course of his career much of his work revolved around fourth-century topics although he was known to contribute to wider discussions in Greek history, such as the Athenian navy, and above all for his dedication to teaching. He is well known to have pushed all those around him to higher standards, never afraid to criticize the work of others. He was, however, equally unselfish, always ready to offer his assistance with a breadth of knowledge that stretched from legal and constitutional history to politics, society, trade and military history and now, as has previously been unrecognized, his ability to integrate numismatics into the lives of those around him.

Shortly after his untimely passing, in 1986, his widow Marguerite established an endowment at the University of Missouri to invite a leading scholar to give an annual lecture on an aspect of Greek history in honour of her husband, which metamorphosed in 2000 into the biennial Fordyce Mitchel Memorial Lecture Series. Since its inception, numerous world-renowned scholars, such as Prof. Christopher Pelling, have had the distinction of giving a series of “Mitchel” lectures, which have subsequently been published by the University of Missouri Press or the University of Texas Press.

The donated collection bears the credit line, Gift from Mitchel family in honor of Professor F. W. Mitchel, A.B., A.M. Yale, 1944; Ph.D., 1954, and it testifies to the generosity of the Mitchel family. Long after the death of Prof. Mitchel, his family continues to preserve his legacy and commitment to the education of the ancient world. This catalogue cannot do full justice to the carefully formed body of coins that provides

material for artistic, historical, and numismatic study and education as well as public exhibition. Its inclusion here can only serve to attest to the breadth of the material while giving insight into the collector himself, who first became acquainted with ancient coinage at Yale, where the collection now resides in the hope that it too may help instruct a new generation of Classicists.

THE COINS

The focus of this paper is to present the catalogue of the Roman coinages that form part of the Mitchel collection. Overall, the Roman portion of the collection has a nice run of Republican and Imperial silver coins as well as some very nice large bronze sestertii. There are a number of sestertii from the mid-third century that are especially pleasing for their condition. Similarly, the group of late fourth century siliqua are an excellent addition to the Yale numismatic collection. The readers are encouraged to use the online catalogue to view the coins and make their own observations. All the material may be freely used and reproduced (see the Yale University Art Gallery website for terms and conditions).

CATALOGUE

The Greek and Hellenistic coins of this collection have been addressed in a previous article together with the Roman provincial coins (Greek Imperials).⁴ Images of all the coins are online and freely available (<https://artgallery.yale.edu/>) so only a few high-resolution images are included with this catalogue.

Accession Number	Geography	Date	Numismatic Reference	Metal	Measurements
2018.177.103	Rome (Republic)	189-180 BC	RRC 139/1	AR Denarius	3.30 g, 17.63 mm, 5:00
2018.177.81	Rome (Republic)	189-180 BC	RRC 146/1	AR Denarius	3.05 g, 17.95 mm, 6:00
2018.177.71	Rome (Republic)	145 BC	RRC 220	AR Denarius	3.72 g, 18.48 mm, 3:00
2018.177.99	Rome (Republic)	143 BC	RRC 222/1	AR Denarius	3.64 g, 18.48 mm, 12:00
2018.177.78	Rome (Republic)	142 BC	RRC 223/1	AR Denarius	3.80 g, 18.35 mm, 5:00
2018.177.62	Rome (Republic)	128 BC	RRC 261	AR Denarius	3.70 g, 18.24 mm, 3:00
2018.177.68	Narbo (Republic)	118 BC	RRC 282/3	AR Denarius Serratus	3.78 g, 19.83 mm, 10:00
2018.177.98	Rome (Republic)	116/115 BC	RRC 286/1	AR Denarius	3.78 g, 20.63 mm, 7:00
2018.177.64	Rome (Republic)	115 BC	RRC 289/1	AR Denarius	3.74 g, 16.71 mm, 7:00
2018.177.101	Rome (Republic)	109/108 BC	RRC 302/1	AR Denarius	3.84 g, 19.70 mm, 8:00
2018.177.69	Rome (Republic)	89 BC	RRC 344/2b	AR Denarius	3.65 g, 19.70 mm, 8:00
2018.177.100	Rome (Republic)	82 BC	RRC 363/1d	AR Denarius	3.41 g, 17.59 mm, 6:00
2018.177.85	Rome (Republic)	81 BC	RRC 372/2	AR Denarius Serratus	3.56 g, 18.65 mm, 11:00
2018.177.91	Rome (Republic)	80 BC	RRC 379/2	AR Denarius Serratus	3.86 g, 19.99 mm, 6:00
2018.177.96	Spain? (Republic)	76-75 BC	RRC 393/1a	AR Denarius	3.90 g, 19.26 mm, 6:00
2018.177.86	Spain? (Republic)	76-75 BC	RRC 393/1a	AR Denarius	3.34 g, 19.49 mm, 6:00
2018.177.88	Rome (Republic)	67 BC	RRC 408	AR Denarius	3.19 g, 18.37 mm, 2:00
2018.177.89	Rome (Republic)	67 BC	RRC 409/1	AR Denarius	3.58 g, 19.05 mm, 6:00
2018.177.22	Rome (Republic)	65 BC	RRC 411/1b	AR Denarius	3.56 g, 18.30 mm, 5:00
2018.177.92	Rome (Republic)	63 BC	RRC 414/1	AR Denarius	3.88 g, 19.02 mm, 6:00
2018.177.109	Rome (Republic)	63 BC	RRC 414/1	AR Denarius	3.68 g, 19.29 mm, 7:00

Minutes, Council meeting, 4/15/1944, p. 3.

⁴ HELTINGS 2019.

Accession Number	Geography	Date	Numismatic Reference	Metal	Measurements
2018.177.65	Rome (Republic)	54 BC	RRC 433/1	AR Denarius	3.86 g, 20.70 mm, 5:00
2018.177.111	Moving Mint (Republic)	49 BC	RRC 447/1a	AR Denarius	3.72 g, 17.67 mm, 7:00
2018.177.77	Rome (Republic)	46 BC	RRC 464/2	AR Denarius	3.89 g, 19.95 mm, 5:00
2018.177.84	Uncertain Mint (Republic)	44 BC	RRC 482/22	AR Denarius	3.85 g, 19.23 mm, 8:00
2018.177.110	Rome (Republic)	43 BC	RRC 487/2b	AR Denarius	3.52 g, 17.91 mm, 3:00
2018.177.95	Rome (Republic)	42 BC	RRC 494/36	AR Denarius	3.34 g, 18.80 mm, 9:00
2018.177.93	Rome (Republic)	42 BC	RRC 494/39a	AR Denarius	3.93 g, 18.33 mm, 7:00
2018.177.4	Rome (Republic)	41 BC	RRC 512/2	AR Denarius	3.93 g, 18.33 mm, 7:00
2018.177.75	Moving Mint (Republic)	41 BC	RRC 519/2	AR Denarius	3.67 g, 20.58 mm, 2:00
2018.177.66	Moving Mint (Republic)	33 BC	RRC 542/1	AR Denarius	3.57 g, 18.10 mm, 3:00
2018.177.80	Rome (Republic)	32-31 BC	RRC 544/30	AR Denarius	3.48 g, 18.25 mm, 6:00
2018.177.128	Rome (Mid-Republic)	n.d.	Unidentifiable	AE Semis	16.21 g, 29/12 mm, 10:00
2018.177.21	Augustus, Emerita	25-23 BC	RIC I ² , 9B	AR Denarius	3.49 g, 17.79 mm, 3:00
2018.177.5	Augustus, Caesar Augusta	19 BC	RIC I ² , 40B	AR Denarius	3.22 g, 19.30 mm, 6:00
2018.177.11	Augustus, Rome	29-27 BC	RIC I ² , 271	AR Denarius	3.59 g, 19.09 mm, 10:00
2018.177.7	Augustus, Rome	29-26 BC	RIC I ² , 276	AR Quinarius	1.71 g, 13.77 mm, 3:00
2018.177.116	Tiberius, Julia Augusta Livia, Rome	AD 22-23	RIC I ² , 51	AE Sestertius	27.11 g, 37.40 mm, 9:00
2018.177.125	Tiberius, Augustus, Rome	AD 34-37	RIC I ² , 82	AE As	10.76 g, 27.12 mm, 12:00
2018.177.127	Caligula, M. Agrippa, Rome	AD 37-41	RIC I ² , 58	AE As	10.78 g, 28.32 mm, 6:00
2018.177.118	Claudius, Rome	AD 41-50	RIC I ² , 96	AE Sestertius	23.04 g, 35.30 mm, 6:00
2018.177.87	Nero, Rome	AD 64-5	RIC I ² , 53	AR Denarius	3.00 g, 17.97 mm, 6:00
2018.177.70	Galba, Rome	AD 68-9	RIC I ² , 167	AR Denarius	3.36 g, 18.17 mm, 4:00
2018.177.72	Vespasian, Rome	AD 74	RIC II ² , 702	AR Denarius	2.82 g, 19.30 mm, 6:00
2018.177.10	Vespasian, Domitian, Rome	AD 77-78	RIC II ² , 957	AR Denarius	3.18 g, 18.29 mm, 6:00
2018.177.107	Vespasian, Domitian, Rome	AD 77-78	RIC II ² , 957	AR Denarius	3.17 g, 18.63 mm, 1:00
2018.177.144	Domitian, Rome	AD 84	RIC II ² , 221	AE As	11.28 g, 26.69 mm, 7:00
2018.177.54	Domitian, Rome	AD 88	RIC II ² , 623	AE As	10.80 g, 28.20 mm, 7:00
2018.177.138	Domitian, Rome	AD 90-91	RIC II ² , 709	AE As	10.26 g, 28.49 mm, 6:00
2018.177.200	Trajan, Rome	AD 103-111	RIC II, 147	AR Denarius	2.77 g, 18.80 mm, 6:00
2018.177.122	Trajan, Rome	AD 103-111	RIC II, 500; MIR 329b	AE Sestertius	28.33 g, 34.13 mm, 7:00
2018.177.120	Hadrian, Rome	AD 118	RIC II, 547	AE Sestertius	27.13 g, 34.06 mm, 6:00
2018.177.41	Hadrian, Rome	AD 118	RIC II, 557	AE Dupondius	11.65 g, 28.20 mm, 7:00
2018.177.83	Marcus Aurelius, Rome	AD 170-1	RIC III, 245	AR Denarius	3.16 g, 18.32 mm, 12:00
2018.177.97	Commodus, Rome	AD 185	RIC III, 130d	AR Denarius	2.53 g, 18.08 mm, 12:00
2018.177.119	Commodus, Rome	AD 192	RIC III, 640	AE Sestertius	25.08 g, 31.44 mm, 6:00
2018.177.6	Septimius Severus, Geta, Rome	AD 200-2	RIC IV, 20B	AR Denarius	3.22 g, 19.12 mm, 6:00
2018.177.102	Septimius Severus, Geta, Rome	AD 200-2	RIC IV, 20B	AR Denarius	3.29 g, 18.47 mm, 6:00
2018.177.106	Septimius Severus, Laodicea ad Mare	AD 198-202	RIC IV, 511A	AR Denarius	3.06 g, 19.38 mm, 6:00
2018.177.185	Septimius Severus, Julia Domna, Rome	AD 196 - AD 211	RIC IV, 577	AR Denarius	2.55 g, 18.66 mm, 12:00

Accession Number	Geography	Date	Numismatic Reference	Metal	Measurements
2018.177.94	Caracalla, Rome	AD 213-7	RIC IV, 312D	AR Denarius	2.72 g, 18.94 mm, 6:00
2018.177.121	Macrinus, Diadumenian, Rome	AD 217-218	RIC IV, 211	AE Sestertius	27.47 g, 32.81 mm, 6:00
2018.177.76	Elagabalus, Iulia Maesa, Rome	AD 218-222	RIC IV 271	AR Denarius	2.52 g, 19.65 mm, 2:00
2018.177.3	Elagabalus, Aquilia Severa, Rome	AD 220-222	RIC IV, 227	AR Denarius	2.44 g, 19.68 mm, 7:00
2018.177.108	Elagabalus, Iulia Soaemias, Rome	AD 218-222	RIC IV, 237	AR Denarius	3.24 g, 18.86 mm, 12:00
2018.177.2	Severus Alexander, Rome	AD 222-228	RIC IV, 133	AR Denarius	2.98 g, 19.46 mm, 12:00
2018.177.1	Severus Alexander, Rome	AD 228-231	RIC IV, 225	AR Denarius	3.02 g, 19.70 mm, 12:00
2018.177.61	Severus Alexander, Rome	AD 231-235	RIC IV, 254c	AR Denarius	3.74 g, 20.47 mm, 6:00
2018.177.124	Maximinus I Thrax, Rome	AD 235-6	RIC IV, 61	AE Sestertius	20.68 g, 30.48 mm, 12:00
2018.177.126	Pupienus, Rome	AD 238	RIC IV, 22A	AE Sestertius	23.73 g, 29.14 mm, 12:00
2018.177.79	Gordian III, Rome	AD 241-243	RIC IV, 84	AR Radiate	4.32 g, 23.41 mm, 12:00
2018.177.9	Gordian III, Rome	AD 241-243	RIC IV, 92	AR Radiate	3.40 g, 23.57 mm, 12:00
2018.177.8	Trajan Decius, Herennia Etruscilla, Rome	AD 249-251	RIC IV, 58b	AR Radiate	4.08 g, 22.80 mm, 6:00
2018.177.137	Trajan Decius, Hostilian	AD 251	RIC IV, 225	AE Sestertius	13.08 g, 27.49 mm, 11:00
2018.177.63	Trebonianus Gallus, Mediolanum	AD 251-253	RIC IV, 70	AR Radiate	3.10 g, 22.05 mm, 6:00
2018.177.67	Diocletian, Antioch	AD 285	RIC V, 323	AR Radiate	3.89 g, 21.19 mm, 11:00
2018.177.133	Diocletian, Heraclea	AD 298	RIC VI, 23a	AE Follis	9.16 g, 29.63 mm, 12:00
2018.177.136	Maximian, Ticinum	AD 298-9	RIC VI, 33b	AE Follis	8.41 g, 27.10 mm, 6:00
2018.177.211	Maximinus Daia, Licinius, Alexandria	AD 312-3	RIC VI, 160a	AE Follis	5.56 g, 22.72 mm, 6:00
2018.177.202	Maximinus Daia, Alexandria	AD 312-3	RIC VI, 160b	AE Follis	4.03 g, 22.11 mm, 12:00
2018.177.205	Maximinus Daia, Alexandria	AD 312-3	RIC VI, 160b	AE Follis	5.16 g, 21.53 mm, 6:00
2018.177.206	Constantine I, Thessalonica	AD 320-1	RIC VII, 117	AE Follis	3.30 g, 18.87 mm, 11:00
2018.177.196	Constantine I, Crispus, Thessalonica	AD 320-1	RIC VII, 121	AE Follis	3.03 g, 18.13 mm, 10:00
2018.177.204	Constantine I, Crispus, Siscia	AD 320-1	RIC VII, 161	AE Follis	4.11 g, 20.17 mm, 1:00
2018.177.194	Constantine I, Constantine II, Siscia	AD 320-1	RIC VII, 163	AE Follis	3.46 g, 19.89 mm, 6:00
2018.177.184	Constantine I, Constantine II, Thessalonica	AD 336-7	RIC VII, 223	AE Follis	1.87 g, 15.72 mm, 12:00
2018.177.197	Constantine I, Rome	AD 326	RIC VII, 287	AE Follis	3.04 g, 20.68 mm, 12:00
2018.177.59	Julian, Constantius II, Lugdunum	AD 360-363	RIC VIII, 216	AR Siliqua	1.96 g, 17.20 mm, 6:00
2018.177.82	Jovian, Nicomedia	AD 363-364	RIC VIII, 127	AR Siliqua	1.51 g, 18.31 mm, 6:00
2018.177.161	Theodosius I, Aelia Placilla, Constantinople	AD 378-383	RIC IX, 55	AE Follis	4.44 g, 21.70 mm, 6:00
2018.177.73	Magnus Maximus, Trier	AD 383-388	RIC IX, 84b	AR Siliqua	1.74 g, 17.36 mm, 11:00
2018.177.117	Anastasius I, Constantinople	AD 498-518	DOC I, 23a	AE Follis	20.35 g, 36.33 mm, 7:00

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