COINS-Xian-Bosporus-Aphrodite Apatura (Urania)-Reskuporis II-211-228 CE

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| https://www.trustedcoins.com/images/i38520o.jpghttps://www.trustedcoins.com/images/i38520r.jpg  Authentic Ancient Coin of: |
| **Kingdom of Bosporus  Reskuporis II  - King: 211-228 A.D.** Bronze 23mm (7.87 grams) Struck circa 211-228 A.D. Reference: Sear GIC 5488; B.M.C.13.71,15 BACIΛЄWC PHCKOVΠΟΡΙΔΟC, His diademed and draped bust right. Aphrodite Apatura (Urania) enthroned left, holding patera; star in field to left.  The chief deity of the whole Bosporan kingdom was no doubt Aphrodite Urania: the centre of her worship was on the east side of the strait where she had a temple in Phanagoria and one called the Apatourou on the south side of Lake Corocondamitis: after this sanctuary she is described in inscriptions as Αpatourias or more often Apatorou Medousa [Minns 1913 p. 618].  You are bidding on the exact item pictured, provided with a Certificate of Authenticity and Lifetime Guarantee of Authenticity.  **Aphrodite Urania** (Ancient Greek: Οὐρανία) was an epithet of the Greek goddess Aphrodite , signifying "heavenly" or "spiritual", to distinguish her from her more earthly aspect of Aphrodite Pandemos , "Aphrodite for all the people". The two were used (mostly in literature) to differentiate the more "celestial" love of body and soul from purely physical lust. Plato represented her as a daughter of the Greek god Uranus , conceived and born without a mother. According to Hesiod , she was born from the severed genitals of Uranus and emerged from the sea foam. Wine was not used in the libations offered to her. According to Herodotus , the Arabs called this aspect of the goddess "Alitta" or "Alilat" (Ἀλίττα or Ἀλιλάτ).  Aphrodite Urania was represented in Greek art with a swan, a tortoise or a globe .  https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/ab/Griepenkerl,_Venus_Urania.jpg/250px-Griepenkerl,_Venus_Urania.jpg  Venus Urania (Christian Griepenkerl, 1878)  The **Temple of Aphrodite Urania** (Greek:"Αφροδίτη Ουρανία") is a temple located north-west of the Ancient Agora of Athens and dedicated to the Greek goddess Aphrodite under her epithet Urania .  According to Pausanias , the sanctuary had a marble statue of the deity sculpted by the ancient Greek sculptor Phidias . Today, there are a few number of saved stones on the slope of the hill beside the train tracks and near the temple of her husband Hephaestus .  **Aphrodite** is the Greek goddess of love, beauty , and sexuality . Her Roman equivalent is the goddess **Venus** . Historically, her cult in Greece was imported from, or influenced by, the NAMA Aphrodite Syracuse.jpgcult of Astarte in Phoenicia .  According to Hesiod 's *Theogony* , she was born when Cronus cut off Uranus ' genitals and threw them into the sea, and from the sea foam (*aphros*) arose Aphrodite.  Because of her beauty other gods feared that jealousy would interrupt the peace among them and lead to war, and so Zeus married her to Hephaestus , who was not viewed as a threat. Aphrodite had many lovers, both gods like Ares, and men like Anchises . Aphrodite also became instrumental in the Eros and Psyche legend, and later was both Adonis ' lover and his surrogate mother. Many lesser beings were said to be children of Aphrodite.  Aphrodite is also known as **Cytherea** (*Lady of Cythera*) and **Cypris** (*Lady of Cyprus*) after the two cult-sites, Cythera and Cyprus , which claimed her birth. Myrtles , doves , sparrows , horses , and swans are sacred to her. The Greeks further identified the Ancient Egyptian goddess Hathor with Aphrodite.[4] Aphrodite also has many other local names, such as Acidalia, Cytherea and Cerigo, used in specific areas of Greece. Each goddess demanded a slightly different cult but Greeks recognized in their overall similarities the one Aphrodite. Attic philosophers of the fourth century separated a celestial Aphrodite (Aprodite Urania) of transcendent principles with the common Aphrodite of the people (Aphrodite Pandemos).  The **Bosporan Kingdom** (also known as the *Kingdom of the Cimmerian Bosporus*) was an ancient state located in eastern Crimea and the Taman Peninsula , on the shores of the Cimmerian Bosporus (now known as the Strait of Kerch ). It was named after the Bosphorus , also known as Istanbul Strait , a different strait that divides Asia from Europe.  https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b2/Bosporan_Kingdom_growth_map-fr.svg/250px-Bosporan_Kingdom_growth_map-fr.svg.png  Map showing the early growth of the Bosporan Kingdom, before its annexation by Mithridates VI of Pontus .  The Bosporan Kingdom was the longest surviving Roman client kingdom . It was a Roman province from 63 to 68, under Emperor Nero. The 1st and 2nd centuries BCE saw a period of renewed golden age of the Bosporan state. At the end of the 2nd century, King Sauromates II inflicted a critical defeat on the Scythians and included all the territories of the Crimea in the structure of his state.  The prosperity of the Bosporan Kingdom was based on the export of wheat, fish and slaves . The profit of the trade supported a class whose conspicuous wealth is still visible from newly discovered archaeological finds, excavated, often illegally, from numerous burial barrows known as *kurgans* . The once-thriving cities of the Bosporus left extensive architectural and sculptural remains, while the kurgans continue to yield spectacular Greco-Sarmatian objects, the best examples of which are now preserved in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg . These include gold work, vases imported from Athens , coarse terracottas, textile fragments and specimens of carpentry and marquetry .  **Early Greek colonies**  https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/15/Ancient_Greek_Colonies_of_N_Black_Sea.png/220px-Ancient_Greek_Colonies_of_N_Black_Sea.png  Panticapaeum and other ancient Greek colonies along the north coast of the Black Sea  The whole area was dotted with Greek cities: in the west, Panticapaeum (Kerch)—the most significant city in the region, Nymphaeum and Myrmekion ; on the east Phanagoria (the second city of the region), Kepoi , Germonassa , Portus Sindicus and Gorgippia.  These Greek colonies were originally settled by Milesians in the 7th and 6th centuries BCE. Phanagoria (c. 540 BCE) was a colony of Teos, and the foundation of Nymphaeum may have had a connection with Athens ; at least it appears to have been a member of the Delian League in the 5th century.  **Geography of the Bosporan Kingdom**  See also: Roman Crimea  The Bosporan Kingdom was centred around the strait between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov .  **Kings of Cimmerian Bosporan**  *See Also: List of kings of Cimmerian Bosporus*  **Archaeanactidae dynasty**  According to Roman historian Diodorus Siculus (xii. 31) the region was governed between 480 and 438 BCE by a line of kings called the *Archaeanactidae*, probably a ruling family, usurped by a tyrant called Spartocus (438 – 431 BCE), who was a Thracian .  **Spartocid dynasty**  Spartocus founded a dynasty which seems to have endured until c. 110 BCE, known as the *Spartocids* . The Spartocids left many inscriptions, indicating that the earliest members of the house ruled under the titles of archons of the Greek cities and kings of various minor native tribes, notably the Sindi (from central Crimea) and other branches of the Maeotae . Surviving material (texts, inscriptions and coins) do not supply enough information to reconstruct a complete chronology of kings of the region.  https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f1/Phiale_de_Tmutarakan.jpg/220px-Phiale_de_Tmutarakan.jpg  Bosporan Phiale (top view), 4th century BCE  Satyrus (431 – 387 BCE), successor to Spartocus, established his rule over the whole region, adding Nymphaeum to his kingdom and besieging Theodosia , which was wealthy because, unlike other cities in the region, it had a port which was free of ice throughout the year, allowing it to trade grain with the rest of the Greek world, even in winter. Satyrus' son Leucon (387 – 347 BCE) would eventually take the city. He was succeeded jointly by his two sons, Spartocus II, and Paerisades; Spartocus died in 342, allowing Paerisades to reign alone until 310. After Paerisades' death, a civil war between his sons Satyrus and Eumelus was fought. Satyrus defeated his younger brother Eumelus at the Battle of the River Thatis in 310 BCE but was then killed in battle, giving Eumelus the throne.[3]  Eumelus' successor was Spartocus III (303 – 283 BCE) and after him Paerisades II. Succeeding princes repeated the family names, so it is impossible to assign them a definite order. The last of them, however, Paerisades V, unable to make headway against increasingly violent attacks from nomadic tribes in the area, called in the help of Diophantus , general of King Mithridates VI of Pontus , leaving him his kingdom. Paerisades was killed by a Scythian named Saumacus who led a rebellion against him.  The house of Spartocus was well known as a line of enlightened and wise princes; although Greek opinion could not deny that they were, strictly speaking, tyrants , they are always described as dynasts. They maintained close relations with Athens , their best customer for the Bosporan grain exports: Leucon I of Bosporus created privileges for Athenian ships at Bosporan ports. The Attic orators make numerous references to this. In return the Athenians granted Leucon Athenian citizenship and made decrees in honour of him and his sons.  **Mithridates VI**  https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/bc/PonticKingdom.png/220px-PonticKingdom.png  The northern Black sea shores of the Pontic Kingdom (actual Crimea and Kerch peninsula) shown as part of the empire of Mithridates VI of Pontus .  After his defeat by Roman General Pompey in 63 BCE, King Mithridates VI of Pontus fled with a small army from Colchis (modern Georgia) over the Caucasus Mountains to Crimea and made plans to raise yet another army to take on the Romans. His eldest living son, Machares , regent of Cimmerian Bosporus, was unwilling to aid his father, so Mithridates had Machares killed, acquiring the throne for himself. Mithridates then ordered the conscriptions and preparations for war. In 63 BCE, Pharnaces , the youngest son of Mithridates, led a rebellion against his father, joined by Roman exiles in the core of Mithridates's Pontic army. Mithridates VI withdrew to the citadel in Panticapaeum , where he committed suicide. Pompey buried Mithridates VI in the rock-cut tombs of his ancestors in Amasia , the capital of the Kingdom of Pontus .  **Roman client kingdom**  https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/24/Roman_carving.JPG/180px-Roman_carving.JPG  The stele of Staphhilos from the Panticapaeum , depicting a soldier with the traditional Bosporan long hair and beard.  After the death of Mithridates VI (63 BCE), Pharnaces II (63  – 47 BCE) supplicated to Pompey, and then tried to regain his dominion during Julius Caesar's Civil War , but was defeated by Caesar at Zela and was later killed by his former governor and son-in-law Asander .  Before the death of Pharnaces II, Asander had married Pharnaces II’s daughter Dynamis . Asander and Dynamis were the ruling monarchs until Caesar commanded a paternal uncle of Dynamis, Mithridates II to declare war on the Bosporan Kingdom and claimed the kingship for himself. Asander and Dynamis were defeated by Caesar’s ally and went into political exile. However, after Caesar’s death in 44 BCE, the Bosporan Kingdom was restored to Asander and Dynamis by Caesar’s great nephew and heir Octavian . Asander ruled as an archon and later as king until his death in 17 BCE. After the death of Asander, Dynamis was compelled to marry a Roman usurper called Scribonius, but the Romans under Agrippa intervened and established Polemon I of Pontus (16 – 8 BCE) in his place. Polemon married Dynamis in 16 BCE and she died in 14 BCE. Polemon ruled as king until his death in 8 BCE. After the death of Polemon, Aspurgus , the son of Dynamis and Asander, succeeded Polemon.  The Bosporan Kingdom of Aspurgus was a client state of the Roman Empire , protected by Roman garrisons. Aspurgus (8 BCE – 38 CE) founded a dynasty of kings which endured with a couple of interruptions until 341 CE. Aspurgus adopted the Imperial Roman names "Tiberius Julius" when he received Roman citizenship and enjoyed the patronage of the first two Roman Emperors , Augustus and Tiberius . All of the following kings adopted these two Roman names followed by a third name, of Thracian (Kotys, Rhescuporis or Rhoemetalces) or local origin (such as Sauromates, Eupator, Ininthimeus, Pharsanzes, Synges, Terianes, Theothorses or Rhadamsades).  https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d7/Panticapaeum.Prytaneion-1.jpg/220px-Panticapaeum.Prytaneion-1.jpg  Ruins of Panticapaeum , modern Kerch , the capital of the Bosporan Kingdom.  The Roman client kings of the dynasty had descended from King Mithridates VI of Pontus and his first wife, his sister Laodice , through Aspurgus. The kings adopted a new calendar (the "Pontic Era") introduced by Mithridates VI, starting with 297 BCE to date their coins. Bosporan kings struck coinage throughout its period as a client state, which included gold staters bearing portraits of both the Roman emperor and Bosporan king. Like the Roman, Bosporan coinage became increasingly debased during the 3rd century. The coinage makes their lineages fairly clear to historians, though scarcely any events from their reigns are recorded.  The Bosporan Kingdom covered the eastern half of Crimea and the Taman peninsula, and extended along the east coast of the Maeotian marshes to Tanais at the mouth of the Don in the north-east, a great market for trade with the interior. Throughout the period there was perpetual war with the native tribes of Scythians and Sarmatians , and in this the Bosporan Kingdom was supported by its Roman suzerains, who lent the assistance of garrisons and fleets.  In 62 CE for reasons unknown, Roman emperor Nero deposed the Bosporan king Cotys I .[4] It is possible that Nero wanted to minimise the power of local client rulers and wanted the Bosporans to be subsumed into the Roman empire. The Bosporan Kingdom was incorporated as part of the Roman province of Moesia Inferior from 63 to 68. In 68, the new Roman emperor Galba restored the Bosporan Kingdom to Rhescuporis I , the son of Cotys I.  The balance of power amongst local tribes was severely disturbed by westward migration in the 3rd–4th centuries. In the 250s CE, the Goths and Borani were able to seize Bosporan shipping and even raid the shores of Anatolia .[5]  With the coins of the last king Rhescuporis VI in 341, constructing a chronology becomes very difficult. The kingdom was probably finally overrun by the Huns , who defeated the nearby Alans in 375/376 and moved rapidly westwards towards the Roman empire.  **Byzantine period**  A few centuries after the Hunnic invasion, the Bosporan cities enjoyed a revival, under Byzantine and Bulgarian protection. Phanagoria was the capital of Old Great Bulgaria. From time to time Byzantine officers built fortresses and exercised authority at Bosporus, which constituted an archbishopric .  They also held Ta Matarcha on the eastern side of the strait, a town which in the 10th and 11th centuries became the seat of the Kievan Rus principality of Tmutarakan , which in turn gave way to Tatar domination.  Following the Diaspora , and aided by the Khazars , Judaism emerged in the region, and Jewish communities developed in some of the cities of the region (especially Tanais ). The Jewish or Thracian influence on the region may have inspired the foundation of a cult to the "Most High God," a distinct regional cult which emerged in the 1st century CE, which professed monotheism without being distinctively Jewish or Christian.  **Coinage of the Bosporan Kingdom**  https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/dc/Odessa_numismatic_museum_photo_04.jpg/220px-Odessa_numismatic_museum_photo_04.jpg  Bronze coin of Sauromates II , c. 172–211 CE  Although considered somewhat exotic prior to the demise of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, Bosporan coins are now well known on the international coin markets, hinting at the quantities produced. Several large series were produced by Bosporan cities from the 5th century BCE, particularly in Panticapaeum . Gold staters of Panticapaeum bearing Pan 's head and a griffin are especially remarkable for their weight and fine workmanship.  There are coins with the names of the later Spartocids and a complete series of dated solidi issued by the later or Achaemenian dynasty. In them may be noticed the swift degeneration of the gold solidus through silver and potin to bronze.  **See also**   * Cimmerian Bosporus * Kingdom of Pontus * Roman Crimea |