Abstract. We continue to present and describe some ancient Roman coins with astronomical symbols like the Moon, the Zodiac signs, the stars, etc. The coins presented in this Paper correspond to the Roman Empire covering the interval (193 - 235) AD, which corresponds mainly to the Severan dynasty.

Key words: Astronomy in culture – Ancient Roman coins – Roman emperors – Stellar symbols.

1. PROLOGUE

In a series of papers ancient Greek and Roman coins with astronomical symbols were shown, (Rovithis-Livaniou and Rovithis, 2011–2012 and 2014–2015,a&b). Especially the last two of them, hereafter referred as Paper I & II corresponded to the Roman Empire and covered the intervals 27 BD to 95 AD and 96 to 192 AD, respectively. Thus, the Roman numismatic system, and its coins has been examined in detail. For this reason, we do not repeat it here, where we continue with coins of the same subject covering the period (193–235) AD that corresponds mainly to the Severan dynasty.

What it is worthwhile to be mentioned is that during this time interval, and when there was some numismatic crisis, the silver contain of the denary was reduced. For example during Caracalla’s\(^1\) epoch a specific silver plated coin with less silver than denary was issued the so-called antonianus or the radiative. This latter name came because on it Caracalla’s head was represented crown or radiated as that of god-Helios.

Emperor Heliogabalus\(^2\), (218–222) AD, reduced further the silver of the denary from 58% to 46.5%, while he retracted antonianus in Rome. Later, antonianus was replaced by another coin, the aurelian that contained only 5% of silver.
2. THE YEAR OF THE FIVE EMPERORS

In Roman history the year 193 AD is referred as the *year of the five Emperors* as 5 Emperors were ruined: Pertinax, Didius Julianus, Prescennius Niger, Clodius Albinus and Septimius Severus. The first 4 ruined for a very short interval, while with the latter the Severan dynasty started that lasted till 235 AD.

As regards the first four, Pertinax and Niger issued coins with astronomical symbols (Fig. 1). Besides, in one of Albinus a man with a crown shine head is shown, who is not god-*Helios* but the *Saeculum Frugiferum*[^3][^3], as its legend writes. For this reason, this and other similar coins will not be presented here.

Fig. 1 – Left: Coin of Pertinax, Middle & Right: Coins of Niger; Left, obverse: Head of Pertinax, legend with his name and axiom, reverse: A female figure, legend, star in the left upper field; Obverse middle & right: Head of Niger, legend; Reverse middle: Crescent moon with 7 stars inside; Reverse right: Two Capricorns back to back, bearing globe with 7 stars, legend.

3. THE SEVERAN DYNASTY (193–235) AD

The Severan dynasty starts with Emperor Septimius Severus[^4][^4], as was already referred, and ends with Alexander Severus[^5][^5]. Between these two, there were 5 other emperors: Caracalla, Geta[^6][^6], Macrinus[^7][^7], Diadumenian[^8][^8] and Heliogabalus. Except Septimus Severus, all others of this dynasty were murdered, while two of them, Macrinus and Diadumenian, were executed in favour of their successor Heliogabalus.

Our presentation begins with some coins of Septimius Severous, the first Emperor of the Severan dynasty, (193–211) AD, from Nikopolis ad Istrum[^9][^9], Moesia, Thrace.

Many similar to the foregoing coins from the same place were issued either by Septimius Severus, or his wife Julia Domna[^10][^10], or even by his sons and successors.
Fig. 2 – Coins of Septimius Severus from Nikopolis ad Istrum, Moesia, Obverses: Head of Septimius Severus & legend; Reverse left: 8-rays star with pellets at the tips & Greek legend ΝΙΚΟΠΟΙΛΙΤΙΩΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΙΣΤΡΟ; Reverse middle: Crescent Moon, 1 big star and 6 smaller, Greek legend ΝΙΚΟΠΟΙΛΙΤΙΩΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΙΣΤΡΟ; Reverse right: Star inside crescent Moon, legend ΝΙΚΟΠΟΙΛΙΤΙΩΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΙΣΤΡΟ in Greek, where all legends denote the coin’s origin.

Caracalla and Geta. For this reason, we do not present them here preferring to show similar coins coming from other places, (Figs. 3, 4 and 6):

Fig. 3 – Coins from Philippololis, Kremna in Pisidia and Amphipolis in Macedonia, respectively; Obverses left & middle: Head of Septimius Severus, legends; Reverse left: Crescent moon and 4 stars, Greek legend ΦΙΛΟΠΟΙΛΙΤΙΩΝ; Reverse middle: Απόλλων Προπυλαιός, Apollo Propylaeus, holding drawn bow, star inside crescent moon; Obverse right: Head of Julia Domna, legend with her name; Reverse: The city goddess holding patera & cornucopia, star under her seat.

Moreover, Septimius Severus and his wife Julia Domna appeared on a coin as Sun and Selene, (Fig. 4 left), i.e. as some other Emperors had previously done, (see Paper I, Figs 2d & 13right). In Fig. 4, three more coins with Julia Domna are shown, too.
Fig. 4 – Coins of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna; a: From Laodikeia ad Mare, b: From Emessa\[^{[12]}\], c&d: From Pisidia’s region; Obverse a: Heads of Septimius & Julia Domna as Sun & Selene, Reverse a: Zeus seated and holding \textit{Nikē}, Nike; Obverses b, c, d: Head of Julia Domna, legends either in Latin or in Greek; Reverse b: Crescent moon & 7 stars, legend \textit{SAECVL FELICIT}; Reverse c: Tetra-style temple with large pediment and arcade, star in the middle, legend in Greek with citizens’ name; Reverse d: Di-style temple with statue of \textit{Artemis of Pergamo}, crescent moon to left, star to right.

Two aureus, issued by Septimius Severus have astronomical symbols and are presented in Fig. 5. One was in honour of the legion that proclaimed him Emperor, Fig. 5 left, and the other was with god-\textit{Helios} head, Fig. 5 right.

Fig. 5 – Aureus of Septimius Severus; Left: 193 AD, Right: 206/207 AD; Observe: Head of Septimius Severus, legend IMP.CAE.L.SEP.SE PERT.AVG & SEVERVS IVS AVG, respectively; Reverse left: Legionary eagle between 2 standards, forepart of Capricorn, legend LEG X IIII GEM.M.V & TRPCOS below; Reverse right: Head of god-\textit{Helios}, legend PACATOR ORBIS.

We continue with coins of Emperor Caracalla from various places of the Roman Empire.

Similar coins issued by Emperor Geta too, (Fig. 7). This is expected and natural, as he and Caracalla were co-emperors for about two years.

Regarding Emperors Macrinus and Diadumenian they issued coins with the same subject, a sample of which is shown in Fig. 8.
Fig. 6 – Coins of Caracalla from various places; a: From Nikopolis, Moesia; b: from Pautalia\textsuperscript{[13]}, Thrace; c: From Carrhae\textsuperscript{[14]}, Mesopotamia; d: From Trajanopolis\textsuperscript{[15]}, Thrace; Obverses: Head of Caracalla, legends; Reverse a: Crescent Moon \& 3 stars, Greek legend denoting the coin’s origin, ΝΙΚΟΠΟΛΗΩΝ; Reverse b: Crescent Moon \& 3 stars; Reverse c: Crescent moon upwards with star inside, serpent below; Reverse d: Crescent moon downwards with star inside; Legends on b,c,d reverses are in Greek denoting the citizens name, as this of coin a.

Fig. 7 – Coins of GETA, (209-211) AD, from Thrace; Left \& Middle from Pautalia, Right from Anchialos\textsuperscript{[16]}; Obverses: Head of Geta, legends; Reverse left: Crescent moon \& star, legend; Reverse middle: Crescent moon \& 7 stars, legend; Reverse right: crescent moon \& 3 stars, legend. All legends on reverses are in Greek giving the citizens’ name.

Emperor Heliogabalus issued a huge number of coins with astronomical symbols, and as he was priest of the god Helios, there are many coins with him and this god, as those of Fig. 9. Notice that in Fig. 9 right Emperor’s head appears crown as that of the god.

One can find many other coins with astronomical symbols issued during Heliogabalus epoch, on the obverses of which either he, his mother, or one of his wives
Fig. 8 – Coins of 217/218 AD; Left: Silver tetra-drachma of Macrinus from Emessa, Syria, Obverse: Head of Macrinus, legend; Reverse: Eagle with open wings, head of god-Helios; Middle & Right: Coins of Diadumenian from Antioch, Syria & from Markianopolis, Thrace; Obverse: Head of Diadumenian, legends; Reverse middle: Huge letters S & C within wreath, star up; Reverse right: stars inside crescent moon, legend in Greek with the citizens’ name.

Fig. 9 – Coins of Heliogabalus; Obverses: Head of Emperor, legends; Reverse left: The transportation of El Gabal[2] from Emessa to Rome, star above, legend CONSERVATOR AVG; Reverse middle: God-Helios, star in left field; Reverse right: Head of god-Helios.

is shown. A small sample of such coins is given in Figs. (10–13), because is not possible to show all of them here. It is noticed that on the reverses of some coins in these figures, various divine personifications are shown ie Felicitas, Libertas, Victory etc. as previous Emperors had done, but also some others as Concordia[17], Providentia[18], etc.

The last Emperor of the dynasty, Alexander, issued coins similar to some of those shown in Figs. 9-13; a chosen sample of them is given in Fig. 14, as it is
Fig. 10 – Left: Coin from Edessa\(^{19}\), Mesopotamia, Right: From Decapolis\(^{20}\), Philadelphia; Obverses: Head of Heliogabalus & legends; Reverse left: Huge δ & star in wreath and circle of points; Reverse middle: Heliogabalus standing left sacrificing over lighter altar, star in left field, legend; Reverse right: Providentia standing & holding cornucopia, star in right field.

Fig. 11 – Coins of Heliogabalus, Left & middle: Silver denarius, Right: Dupondius; Obverse left & right: Head of Emperor, legend IMP ANTONINVS DIVS AVG; Observe middle: Bust of Annia Faustina\(^{21}\), legend ANNIA FAUSTINA AVG; Reverse left: Man standing, star to right, legend SACERODEI SOLISH; Reverse middle: Elagabalus & Annia Faustina shaking hands, star below, legend CONCORDIA; Reverse right: Liberta holding scepere and pileus, star in left field.

Impossible to show all of them here.

One more coin of Alexander Severus is given in Fig. 15, where the Zodiac is shown on reverse.

The various parts of the Roman Empire had the right to keep some themes of their previous coinage, as has been referred elsewhere. Thus, except the coins presented so far, we find many others where the local influence and elements are
Fig. 12 – Coins during Heliogabalus era; Obverse left: Head of Heliogabalus, legend, Reverse: Victory, shields in her legs, star in right field, legend PM TRT III COS III PP & VICTORIA AVG; Obverse middle: Head of Julia Soaemias, legend IVLIA SOAEMIAS AVG; Reverse middle: Venus holding apple or sphere & sceptre, large S & C, star in left field, legend VENVS CAELESTIS; Obverse right: Head of Julia Maesa, Reverse right: Star inside crescent moon.

Fig. 13 – Coins of Heliogabalus epoch; Obverse left: Head of Julia Paula, legend IVLIA PAVLA AVG, Reverse: Concordia seated holding patera, star in left field, legend; Obverse middle & right: Head of Aquilia Severa, legend with her name and title; Reverse middle: Heliogabalus & Aquilia Severa clapping hands, star in left field, legend; Reverse right: Concordia standing sacrificing from patera over lighted altar & holding double cornucopia, legend.

particularly obvious. For example on coins from Cappadokia the mount Argaeus with a star above is shown on reverses. These coins are similar to those issued by previous Emperors and shown in Papers I & II. For this reason, here we limited only to two of them, (Fig. 16 left & middle), although almost all members of the Severan dynasty issued such coins. Besides, we present a coin on which god-Helios is seated on the mount, (Fig. 16 right).

Similarly, on coins from Edessa issued by Alexander Severus either goddess
Fig. 14 – Coins of Alexander Severus time; Obverses a & b: Head of Severus Alexander, various legends; Reverse a: Victory holding wreath & palm, star in right field, legend VICTOR I A AVG; Reverse b: Aequitas\(^2\), holding scales & cornucopia, star in the left field; Obverse c: Head of Julia Mamaea\(^2\), legend Reverse c: Felicitas offers libation from patera & holds caduceus, star in the left field; Obverse d: Head of Julia Maesa; Reverse d: Felicitas sacrificing over altar & holding long caduceus, big S & C, star to right, legend SAECVLI FELICITAS.

Fig. 15 – Coin of Severus Alexander from Perinthos\(^2\), Thrace. Observe: Head of Severus Alexander, legend AVK MAVP CEV ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟC; Reverse: Zodiac, Zeus with patera & sceptre, god-Helios & goddess-Selene in their chariots, legend in Greek denoting the citizens’ name.

Cybele or Tyche is shown on reverses; while, on coins from Silandos the head of Tyche appears even on obverse. Besides, many other similar coins were found where his head or that of his mother, or even with both heads facing each other, are shown on obverses and goddess Tyche between two or four stars on reverses. A sample of such coins is presented in Fig. 17.

On the other hand, as is obvious from the coins from Bosporus, the local king is presented on their obverses and the corresponding Roman Emperor on their reverses, where there is always a star shown too, (Figs. 18 & 19).
Fig. 16 – Coins of the Severian dynasty from Cappadocia; Obverse left: Head of Septimius Severus, legend; Obverse middle: Head of Alexander Severus; Reverses left & middle: Mt. Argaeus with star above; Obverse right: Head of Julia Domna, legend; Reverse right: God-Helios seated on mount Argaeus, Greek legend denoting the citizens’ name.

Fig. 17 – Coins of Severus Alexander (222-235) AD from Edessa, Mesopotamia Obverse left: Head of Severus Alexander, Obverse middle: Head of Julia Mamaea, Reverses: Goddess Tyche seated, river-god Orontes swimming, 2 stars (one in left & one in right field); Obverse right: Heads of Severus Alexander & Julia Mamaea, Reverse: Goddess Tyche seated, river-god Orontes swimming, 4 stars (two in left & two in right field).
Fig. 18 – Coins, staters, from the Bosporus’s kingdom, during regime of Sauromates II, 174-210 AD; Observes: Head of the king, legend with king’s name and axiom in Greek, all within cycle of dots; Reverse left: Head of Septimius Severus, star, monogram, all within cycle of dots; Reverse right: Head of Caracalla, star, monogram, all within cycle of dots.

Fig. 19 – Coins, staters, from the Bosporus’s kingdom, during regime of Phescuporis III, 210-227 AD; Observes: Head of the king, legend with king’s name and axiom in Greek, all within cycle of dots; Reverse left, middle & right: Head of Caracalla, Heliogabalus & Severus Alexander, respectively; star, monogram, all within cycle of dots.
4. DISCUSSION

Continuing the presentation of coins of the Roman Empire with astronomical symbols, we examine those issued between 193 and 235 AD. During the first year of this period, which is also referred as the year of the five Emperors, two such coins issued, (Fig. 1). Their reverses remind coins issued by previous Emperors. (For details see Paper I & Paper II, where a possible meaning of the symbols used, i.e. crescent moon or globe with 7 stars, Capricorns, etc, is given, too; see also Rovithis-Livaniou & Rovithis 2014).

On the other hand, the Emperors of Severan dynasty issued many coins with astronomical symbols. And although one could say that they follow tradition, as many previous Emperors had done the same, in their case this is very probably because this dynasty was particularly obsessed by astrology. Besides, they were extremely superstitious and believed very much in the strength of talismans. There are, for example, coins on which the bust of the Emperor is presented with gorgoneion, as are some coins of Caracalla, Macrinus, Elagabalus, and Alexander Severus. Besides, Elagabalus had a gorgoneion in his shield, too; but, as there is not any astronomical symbol on these coins, they were not presented here. For the same reason there were not included these where the hero Perseus is shown to cut Medusa’s head, (Rovithis-Livaniou & Rovithis, 2015c).

Following tradition, Severan dynasty issued coins in which Emperor and his wife were presented as god-Helios, Sun and goddess Selene, Moon, respectively, (Fig. 4 left). Besides, it is worthwhile to mention that in some coins of Caracalla not presented here these two gods appeared on reverses. The god is shown shined riding his chariot and the goddess on biga of bulls with crescent moon above her head.

As mentioned in Paper I and elsewhere Romans allowed to their various Provinces to keep themes from their older coinage. Thus, as been referred elsewhere a star inside a crescent moon was the symbol of the kingdom of Pontus. What is not known is the meaning of this symbol. It is not known for instance if it was firstly used after an occultation of the moon and a bright star, or if it denotes something else. Besides, as this symbol is found on many coins from various Roman Provinces and not only from areas of the former Pontus kingdom, it was either somehow spreader or it has another meaning. It may agrees with what is believed about some Roman coins, ie that they represent some astronomical events, (Zimmermann 1995, McIvor 2006, Marshall 2007).

Similarly, it will be difficult to come to a clear conclusion for what represents the motive of crescent moon accompanied by 3 or more stars. It will not be known for sure if it represents a solar eclipse during which some of the planets could be seen during the day even for short time.

Concerning solar eclipses, looking at NASA’s computational results, (Espenak
2016) one can notice that from the solar eclipses occurred during the examined pe-
period, this taken place on October the seventh of 218 AD, might be seen on some of
the coins presented here. Its duration was $5\text{min}$ and $51\text{sec}$ and it was visible from
parts of Thrace, Asia Minor, and Syria. This could possibly give an explanation for
the coins from cities in these regions where a meniscus and 3, or 4 stars are pre-
sented, assuming that they present this eclipse and some of the planets visible during
it. As regards the crescent moon with 7 stars, we have already referred to what it may
denote.

Moreover, the standard Caesareum type coins, (Butcher & Ponting 2009), ie
these with mount $\text{Argaeus}$ on their reverses, were also issued by Emperors of the
Severan dynasty. In these coins legends not only on reverses, but even on obverse
side with the Emperor’s name are sometimes in Greek; and as was referred not all of
such coins of this dynasty were shown here.

Similarly, it is mentioned that there are coins of Diadumenian from Antioch
not presented here, which are similar to the Fig. 8middle, but with big Greek letters
$\Delta$ & $E$.

Besides, on coins from some Roman Provinces the local coinage was kept
even on obverses. There are for example coins from Macedonia, when it was hemi-
autonomous during Alexander Severus time, where $\text{Alexander the Great}$ is presented
on obverse and his horse with a star below on reverse, or a two-column temple
with stars above. And although one or more stars exist in these coins, we did not
present them here, because similar have been given when examined the ancient Greek
coinage.

Similarly, we did not present all coins of Septemius Severus from Philippololis,
as are these with one star inside crescent moon and two more stars at the edge of
meniscus; or, those of Caracalla from Tripoli, Phoenicia where on reverse the temple
of goddess $\text{Selene or Astarte}$ is shown with a star above; or these of GETA where
the meniscus of crescent moon is downwards. Besides, it is worthwhile to mention that
concerning Julia Domna, except these presented here, there are others in which she,
or the figure(s) on reverses, appear with crescent on shoulders.

APPENDIX

[1] $\text{Caracalla}$: Roman Emperor, 211-217 AD. Born at Lundunum, (Lyon to-
day) in 188, when his father was provincial governor at the service of Emperor Com-
modus, he was the oldest son of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna. His full name
was Lucius Septimius Bassianus that was changed to Marcus Aurelius Antoninus
Severus. The cognomen Caracalla was given to him because he introduced to Rome
the old dress with this name, wear mainly by Galates, and oblige the militaries to
wear it. He was murdered in 217 AD by a soldier.

[2] Heliogabalus, Elagabalus: Cognomen of the Emperor Sextus Varius Avitus Bassianus, (218-222) AD, whom the army called Marcus Aurelius Antoninus. He was defeated Augustus, at the age of 13/14y, by the Syrian Legion of Emesa, where he was priest of the god-Helios, Baal, (see more for god-Helios in Appendix of Paper I, n. [4]). His cognomen devotes this axiom. At Syria god-Helios was worship as a black stone, known as El Gabal. When the Syrian legion revolted, Emperor Macrinus came to confront it, but he was defeated and killed. So, Elagabalus became Emperor. Then, he moved El Gabal from Syria to Palatine Hill and defeated it as the highest god of Rome. In his epoch as Emperor the debauchery and superstition dominated, although he said that he wanted to be like that of Augustus and Marcus Aurelius. He adopted his cousin Alexander Severus, and made him his successor. He was killed by the Praetorians.

[3] Saeculum Frugiferum: A male deity, personification of the Fertility of Age. He was an African god, known as Αἰων Καρποφόρος, Aion Karpophoros, by the Greeks, meaning long-term fruitfulness.

[4] Septimius Severus: His full name was Lucius Septimius Severus, and he was Roman Emperor from 193 to 211 AD. Born at Great Leptis, Leptis Magna, Africa, in 145/6, from a horseman family, he studied Greek and Latin and later in Rome the laws. Passing through various axioms, he was finally proclaimed Emperor by the legions of Pannonia. In 195 he occupied Syria and in 196, after named himself son of Marcus Aurelius according to typical of the law of the adults adoption, he became member of the famous Antoninus family and of their huge property. He worked in the development of some particular parts of the Roman Empire. For example in his epoch Berates obtained a School of Law, and was restored the colossus of Memnon in Alexandria, Egypt. He is the only one of the dynasty who died by physical causes.

[5] Alexander Severus: Roman Emperor, 222–235 AD, the last of the Severan dynasty. He was son of Julia Mammaea and Gessius Markianus, or even of Caracalla, born at Phoenicia. Adopted by his cousin Emperor Heliogabalus, he became Caesar and changed his name from Alexianus Vassianus to Alexander Marcus Aurelius at the age of 13 in 221 AD. When Heliogabalus was muredred in 222, Alexander proclaimed Emperor under his mother and his grand-mother supervision, (Dion Cassius LXXX). During his regime there was justice and philanthropy in the Roman Empire. He marched against the second Persian monarchy and then against the Germans where he was murdered by Maximinus the Thracian, in 235 AD at the age of 27y.

[6] Geta: Roman Emperor, co-Emperor with his brother Caracalla, 209-211 AD. Born at Rome in 189, he was the youngest son of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna, when his father was provincial governor at the service of Emperor Commodus. He was murdered on Caracalla’s orders.
[7] Macrinus, Marcus, Opellius: Roman Emperor (217-218) AD, African in origin from Caesarea of Mauritania. He had a good knowledge of the law, but he was not good in the war. He managed to convince the centurion Julius Martialius to kill Emperor Caracalla in 217. Then, the army and the praetorians to whom he was leader, they made him Emperor. As Emperor he got the name Severus, to become member of the family, while he gave to his 8 years old son Diadumetianus, the title of Caesar. Although his negotiations with the Parthians were rather degrading for the Romans, he presented them in the Senate as great victories. Thus, he not only got the cognomen Parthicus, but he issued a coin with the legend Victoria Parthica.

[8] Diadumenian or Diadumenianus: Son of the Emperor Macrinus, who gave him the titles of Caesar and augustus, (for the meaning of the latter see [1] in Appendix of Paper I). He lost these titles when his father was defeated by the Syrian legions at Antioch in 218 AD. His original name was Marcus Opellius Diadumenianus, in which he added the Antoninus, as Caracalla had done, to be thought that he had a connection with the famous Roman family.

[9] Nicopolis ad Istrum: The word Nikopolis means in general the city of Victory, since it comes from the Greek words ἰκή=Victory and πόλις=city. So, there were some ancient cities built in memory of a victory. Nikopolis ad Istrum in particular was founded by Emperor Trajan in Thrace, (South Moisia, Moesia), to remind his victory against the Dacians. The second part of the city’s name was added to distinguish it from other cities with the same name and comes from the near by river Istrus. Some ruins of the ancient city have been survived till our days. (Istrus is a very old name of river Dune, used since the 8th century BC. It was particularly used by the Romans and concerned mainly its last part between Romania and Bulgaria).

[10] Julia Domna: Roman Empress, second wife of Emperor Sevirus Severus. She was the youngest daughter of Gaius Julius Bassianus, who was priest of god Helios at Emesa, Syria. She was mother of Emperors Caracalla and Geta, and when the former was away he controlled political things. She was a very remarkable woman and in Rome collected around her a big number of philosophers and other intelligent. After Caracalla’s murder she was died from fasting, either voluntarily or following the orders of the new Emperor Macrinus.

[11] Philipopolis: An ancient Thracian city, composed by a few settles with separate names. As the time passed, the name Εὐμολπιάς, Eumolpias, dominate. King Phillip B of Macedonia conquered the city in 341 BC. Then, he fortified and embellished it, while sent there 2.000 criminals. For this reason the city was named Πονηρόπολη, coming from the Greek words πονηρός=cunning and πόλις=city. The name Philipopolis=Phillip’s city was given later in honour of Philip B, who erected it. The city was also named Flavia, Oulpia, Trimontium etc during the Roman Empire, (today Plovdiv, Bulgaria).

[12] Emesa: An ancient city in hollow concave Syria, in the mouth of the river
Orantes, where there was a well known temple of the god-Helios, (today Homs).


[14] Carraχae: Ancient city in upper Mesopotamia, known from the Bible as Xaran, (Gen. IA 31-32). The city is also known from a battle carried out in the near by area between the Roman Republic and the Parthians in 53 BC.


[16] Anchialos: Αγχιαλος, an ancient Thracian city at Black Sea coasts, firstly colonized by the people of Apollonia of Pontus (today Σωζοπολις, Sozopolis) in the 5th-4th century BC. Actually, its name denotes that Anchialos was close to the sea, as it comes from the Greek words ογχιαλος=close and ολος=sea. The city became part of Lysimahos’ kingdom (one of Alexander the Great descendants) in the beginning of 4th century BC. Later, it was under Romans and Byzantians.

[17] Concordia: A Roman goddess who embodies agreement in marriage and society. The Greek analogue is Αρμονία=Harmony.

[18] Providentia: A divine personification of the ability to foresee and make provision.

[19] Edessa, Εδεσσα: Ancient city in upper Mesopotamia, constructed rather by Seleucus A in 302 BC, on an earlier site site named Orfa or Urfa. Seleucus A, also known as Νικητης=Winner, Nicator, was the first king of the Seleucids dynasty. The city is known as a famous battle was carried out in the near by area. Edessa was built close to a city with the same name founded by Alexander the Great who had given it the name of the ancient Macedonian city of Εδεσσα, Greece. This name changed to Αντιοχεω επι Καλλιροης=Antioch on the Kallirhoe in the second century AD, because there was a spring named Kallirhoe. On some of the city’s coins this name is referred, which was given by Αντιοχος Δ, Antioch IV, the so-called Επιφανης=Prominent. The city got again its old name after Antioch’s IV death, and became Roman Province in 216 AD by Caracalla. It was destroyed by earthquakes during Ioustian A times and re-built named Ioustinoupolis for his honour.

[20] Decapolis: A group of 10 ancient cities forming what was known as Decapolis where the name comes from the Greek words δεκα-ten and πολυς=city. Except Damascus the rest of the ten cities founded during the Hellenistic period, (especially between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC and the Roman conquest of Coele Syria and Judea in 63 BC). Some of them were established under the Ptolemaic dynasty and others later when the Seleucid dynasty ruled this region.

[21] Annia Faustina: Empress of Rome and third wife of Heliogabalus. Her father was Tiberius Claudius Severus Proculus and her mother Annia Faustina (the
younger).

[22] Julia Soaemias: Empress of Rome, mother of Emperor Heliogabalus. She became de facto ruler of Rome supervising his son when he was proclaimed Emperor very young.

[23] Julia Maesa: Daughter of Gaius Julius Bassianus, higher priest of the god-Helios at Emessa, Syria; older sister of Empress Julia Domna and grandmother of Heliogabalus and Alexander Severus, as mothers of these two Emperors were her daughters Julia Soaemias and Julia Avita Mamaea, respectively. Actually, she managed to make them Emperors as in 217 AD, after Caracalla was murdered, she incited the Syrian legions to proclaimed Emperor Heliogabalus, and later she convinced him to adopt his cousin Alexander. Heliogabalus gave her the title Augusta avia Augusta meaning augusta, grandmother of augustus. She was powerfull during her grandsons regime, especially as she with her daughter Mamaea, had Alexander’s Severus supervision.

[24] Julia Cornelia Paula: A Vestal Virgin and first wife of Emperor Heliogabalus. It is believed that he married her for religion reasons, ie a symbolic marriage of god-Helios with goddess Vesta. She got the title of Augusta. Heliogabalus divorced her in 220 and married Aquilia Severa. After the marriage she got the prename Julia, as all female members of the family.

[25] Aquilia Severa, (Julia): The second wife of Emperor Heliogabalus. After the marriage she got the prenomen Julia. Little is known for her after her divorce.

[26] Aequitas: The Latin goddess of Justice. Her symbols were the balance and cornucopia.

[27] Julia Avita Mamaea: Mother of Emperor Alexander Severus, second daughter of Julia Maesa. She acted as anti-Emperor when his son became Emperor at the age of 13/14 years and had him under her supervision together with a group of 16 members of the Senate. Actually she was the dominant person during hers son’s ruin, a fact for which some ancient authors condemned her. She was followed Alexander everywhere, even in his expeditions, and finally she was murdered together with him in 235 AD.

[28] Perinthos: An ancient Greek city in Thrace, colony of Samos around 600 BC. It has been part of the Persian Empire, of the Delian and the Athenian Coorp and in 404 BC under the control of Spartans. In the 3rd century BC the city had federal with Byzantium, and in 202 it was occupied by king of Macedonia Phillip E, and then by the Romans. In the second century AD it was re-named Herakleia, while it started decline after Constantinople was founded.

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