

## Prince Titus Memorial Coin

Upon the death of Constantine the Great in 337AD, a coin was commissioned to commemorate his life. The obverse of the coin depicted the head of the late Emperor enshrouded, while the reverse depicted Constantine on a chariot, with the hand of God reaching down to invite him into heaven. This hand is the first known depiction of the monotheistic God on coinage, and thus these coins are called "Manus Dei Coins". It is considered fitting that the Emperor who made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire should be so memorialized.

On Titus's coin, the inscription around his head reads: "TITVSSCGOPTVCTRP". This is a concatenated series of abbreviations that can be expanded as follows:

TITVS = TITUS (in Roman script, "U" is depicted as "V")

SC = SCIPIO

G = GERMANICUS (a common honorific with several acceptable abbreviations)

OPT = OPTIMO PRINCIPI (greatest Prince)

VC = VIR CLARISSIMUS (most illustrious)

TRP = TRIBUNICIA POTESTATE (Tribune of the People)

On the reverse, where the mint mark appears on the Manus Dei coins, Titus's coin has the inscription "AETERNAE MEMORIAE" (always remembered).

All of the abbreviations and the inscription are taken from period Roman coins.

We hope that you keep this coin in your SCA belongings, and are reminded of Titus whenever you see it in your hand.