

VALENTINIAN I

A.D. 364–375

Flavius Valentinianus was born in 321 into a military family of some distinction, as his father had risen through the ranks to become a general. Valentinian joined the army and became a cavalry officer but was later dismissed on a false charge by Julian and did not serve actively during the years 355 to 363. Jovian recalled him and put him in charge of a Guards regiment, and he was proclaimed emperor in February 364 following his benefactor's death. Shortly thereafter he appointed his younger brother Valens co-emperor and then divided the empire, taking responsibility for the Western portion himself. He concentrated on defending the frontiers and successfully defeated the Alamanni who had invaded Gaul. He also reconstructed frontier fortifications along the Rhine. In 375 Valentinian left Gaul for Pannonia where he planned to retaliate against invaders, but while there he suffered an apoplectic fit and died. He was a conscientious administrator and tried to curb bureaucratic abuses and excessive taxation, but with limited success.

Obverse legends.

A. DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG.

Obverse busts.

- a. pearl diadem, draped, cuirassed, right.
- b. pearl diadem, draped, cuirassed, left.
- c. pearl diadem, cuirassed, right.
- d. rosette diadem, draped, cuirassed, right.
- e. rosette diadem, draped, cuirassed, left.
- f. rosette diadem, cuirassed, right.

All coins are siliquae (= reduced siliquae) unless otherwise stated. For a discussion of fourth-century silver denominations and their names, see the Introduction.

		VF	EF
9†	Aa R GLORIA ROMANORVM, emperor stg. facing <u>under</u> arch, head r., hldg. transverse spear and globe. Antioch ANT. RIC 4a light miliarensis	£650	£1,500



10†a	Aa R As last, two emperors stg. facing, heads turned <u>towards</u> one another, hldg. labarum in r. hand, globe in l. Siscia SIS*. RIC 3a light miliarensis	650	1,500
10†b	Aa R As last, two emperors stg. facing, heads turned <u>towards</u> one another, hldg. labarum in l. hand, globe in r. Siscia SIS*. RIC 4 light miliarensis	650	1,500
10Aa	Aa R As last, two emperors stg. facing <u>under</u> arch, heads turned towards one another, emperor on l. hldg. globe in l. hand, sceptre in r., emperor on r. hldg. globe in r. hand, sceptre in l. Constantinople CONSA. RIC 9 light miliarensis	700	1,600
10Ab	Ad R As last, two emperors stg. facing <u>under</u> arch, heads turned towards one another, emperor on l. hldg. globe in r. hand, sceptre in l., emperor on r. hldg. sceptre in r. hand, globe in l. Antioch ANT. RIC 5, 30(2) light miliarensis	650	1,500
10Ac	As last. Antioch ANT*. RIC 30(1) light miliarensis	650	1,500