

GRATIAN

A.D. 367-383

Flavius Gratianus was the elder son of Valentinian I and was elevated to the rank of Augustus in 367, although only seven years of age. He became ruler of the Western Empire following his father's death in 375, and senior emperor three years later on the death of his uncle Valens. Although well educated, he had inherited neither the administrative competence nor the military ability of his father. His devotion to Christianity found expression in the order to remove the statue of Victory from the Roman Senate House, and in the rejection of the title Pontifex Maximus, the first time this had ever been omitted from the imperial titulature. After the death of Valens in 378 he appointed the general Theodosius to be the Eastern emperor, but relations between the two Augusti were always strained. In 383 Gratian was faced with the rebellion of Magnus Maximus in Britain, and when the usurper invaded Gaul, Gratian immediately marched against him. However, the emperor was abandoned by his commander-in-chief, Merobaudes, and realizing the hopelessness of his position he fled to Lugdunum where he was subsequently killed.

Obverse legends.

- A. DN GRATIANVS PF AVG.

Obverse busts.

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

All coins are siliquae unless otherwise specified. For a discussion of fourth-century silver denominations and their names, see the Introduction.

		VF	EF
6†a	Aa R CONCORDIA AVGGG, Constantinopolis seated facing, hldg. sceptre and cornucopiae, r. foot on prow. Trier TRPS. RIC 55b	90	225
6†b	As last. Lugdunum LVGPS. RIC 24a	70	175
18†	Aa R GLORIA ROMANORVM, Roma seated facing on throne, head l., hldg. globe and reversed spear. Sirmium SMSPV. RIC 11 .	125	300
20†	Ac R As last, emperor stg. facing under arch, head r., hldg. transverse spear and globe. Antioch ANT*. RIC 29c light miliarensis	650	1,500
27†	Aa R PERPETVETAS, phoenix stg. l. on globe. Trier TRPS. RIC 56a half argenteus	300	650



36a	Aa R VICTORIA AVGGG, Victory advg. l. hldg. wreath and palm. Aquileia AQPS. RIC 26a	100	250
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36†b	Aa R VICTORIA AVGGG, as last. Rome RP. RIC 36a half siliqua	300	650
45†	Aa R VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM, as last Trier TR. RIC 28 half siliqua	325	700
45A	Aa R As last. Aquileia AQPS. RIC 24 argenteus (= pre-reform siliqua)	250	550