



18A R. VRBS ROMA, Roma seated l. on cuirass hldg. Victory on globe and reversed spear. Lugdunum LVGPS. RIC 46 400 900

ARCADIUS

A.D. 383-408

Flavius Arcadius was the elder son of Theodosius I and Aelia Flaccilla. At the age of six he was proclaimed Augustus in Constantinople and he succeeded to the Eastern throne after Theodosius I's death at Milan in 395. He was never successful in holding effective power in his own hands, rather he was ridiculed for allowing his ministers to lead him 'like an ox'. He was lethargic by nature, halting of speech and totally incapable of leading his armies or directing government. Effective power lay first with the Praetorian Prefect, Rufinus, and later with the Eunuch Eutropius. After Arcadius' marriage to Eudoxia she quickly dominated him, and in consequence manipulated imperial policy as well, but following her death in 404 power passed into the hands of the Praetorian Prefect Anthemius. The feeble emperor expired in his palace in 408, at the age of 31, and was succeeded by his young son Theodosius II.

Obverse legends.

- A. DN ARCADIVS PF AVG.
- B. DN ARCAPIVS PF AVG.

Obverse busts.

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

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

N.B. The RIC coverage of the imperial coinage at present ends at the death of Theodosius I in 395. The tenth volume, which is still in preparation, will include all the subsequent issues, down to the fall of the Western Empire in 476, and the commencement of the Byzantine coinage in the East, under Anastasius I. The absence of RIC references for post-395 issues has been offset as far as possible by the addition of citations, where appropriate, to Count Jean Tolstoi's Monnaies Byzantines (St. Petersburg, 1913–14); Francesco Gnecchi's I Medaglioni Romani (Milan, 1912); and J. Sabatier's Description générale des Monnaies byzantines (Paris, 1862).

		VF	EF
3a	Aa R GLORIA ROMANORVM, emperor stg. facing. head l., raising r. hand, hldg. globe in l. Milan MDPS. RIC 25b light		
	miliarensis	650	1,500
3Ъ	As last. Aquileia AQPS. RIC 56b light miliarensis	650	1,500
3†c	Ab R As last. Constantinople CON. RIC 85b light miliarensis	700	1,650
3A	Aa R As last, emperor stg. facing, head l., hldg. standard with		
	cross on banner in r. hand, and resting l. on shield. Milan	700	1,650