

VALENTINIAN III

A.D. 425–455

Placidius Valentinianus was the son of Constantius III and Galla Placidia and the brother of Justa Grata Honoria. After his mother quarrelled with Honorius she took him and his sister with her to Constantinople. Following the death of Honorius in 423 Theodosius II supported his cousin's claim to the throne, and furnished him with an army which overthrew the usurper Johannes and installed Valentinian III on the Western throne, under his mother's regency. The new emperor was betrothed to Theodosius II's daughter Licinia Eudoxia and the marriage took place in 437. After 433 the influence of Placidia over Valentinian yielded to Aetius, his commander-in-chief and the most able general which the Empire possessed. During his reign Valentinian was forced to accept the settlement of the Vandals in Africa, and the treachery of his sister Honoria ultimately resulted in the invasion of Italy by the Huns in 452. In the light of these failures Valentinian was persuaded to assassinate Aetius in 454, but was himself murdered the following year by two of Aetius' bodyguards who wished to avenge him.

Obverse legends.

- A. DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG.
B. DN PLA VALENTINIANVS PF AVG.

Obverse busts.

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

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

	VF	EF
2†Bb R̄ GLORIA ROMANORUM, helmeted soldier stg. l., hldg. long cross. Ravenna <u>RVPS</u>	450	1000
11a Ba R̄ VICTORIA AVGG, Victory advg. l. hldg. wreath and palm. Rome <u>RM</u> . half siliqua	400	900
11b As last. Ravenna <u>RV</u> . half siliqua	400	900
11†c Bb R̄ As last. Rome <u>RM</u> . half siliqua	400	900
32†a Aa R̄ VRTVS ROMANORVM (sic), emperor stg. facing, head l., hldg. standard in r., globe in left. Trier <u>TRPS</u> . half siliqua	450	1,000
32†b Aa R̄ VIRTVS ROMANORVM, as last. Trier <u>TRPS</u> half siliqua	350	1,200
33† Aa R̄ VIRTVS ROMANORVM, Roma seated facing, head l. hldg. globe in r. hand, spear in l. Trier <u>TRPS</u>	550	1,200



34 Aa R̄ VRTVS ROMANORVM (sic), Roma seated l. on throne, hldg. Victory on globe and reversed spear. Trier <u>TRPS</u> . half siliqua	400	900
41A Aa R̄ VOT XX MVLT XXX, in wreath. Constantinople <u>CONS</u> *.	500	1,100