



1700th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY

Roman Bronze 6 Coin Collection

Commemorating Emperor Constantine's Victory At
The Milvian Bridge and The Rise of Christianity



This collection commemorates the famed Battle of the Milvian Bridge, when the outnumbered forces of Constantine defeated the army of his rival emperor Maxentius. As legend has it, it was a vision of the cross the night before the battle that convinced Constantine to convert to Christianity. These six Roman bronzes represent six different styles of coins featuring the portrait of Constantine the Great.

The Story:

The epic **Battle of the Milvian Bridge** occurred on October 28, 312 AD, marking one of the most important milestones in world history. The rival armies of Roman Emperors Constantine I and Maxentius met for their final, climactic clash at the famous Milvian Bridge which spanned the Tiber River, located just north of the city of Rome. The battle would see Constantine's army victorious and Maxentius drowned in the Tiber. That victory began a series of events that led to the end of the Roman Tetrarchy form of government, the seating of Constantine as sole ruler of the Roman Empire and the entrenchment of his dynasty for the next half century. Most importantly, however, the battle was the critical turning point in Constantine's thinking, leading him to successfully convert the Roman Empire to Christianity--the meteoric rise and influence which dominates Western civilization to this day.

The battle culminated the five year power struggle for control of the Roman Empire. Constantine claimed the victory was won by Divine inspiration. According to legendary Christian historical accounts, on Oct. 27, the day before the two armies would do battle, Constantine is reported to have beheld a vision of a cross in the sky, superimposed on the sun, with the words "*In This Sign, Conquer*", ("*In hoc signo vinces*"). That night, in a dream, he was instructed to fight in the name of Christ--to place on his soldiers' shields the Christogram--the symbol of Christ's name in the form of Greek letters chi (X) and rho (P). These omens were seen as having guided Constantine and his army to their victory in the battle. Christianity was later proclaimed the official religion of the Roman Empire, ending 900 years of pagan worship.

Over the course of his 30 year rule, the varieties of coin types minted by Constantine numbered well into the thousands. During this period, Rome's persistent financial problems and long history of monetary decline saw an acceleration of the progressive diminution of the size and quality of Imperial bronze coins. Portrait style, headgear and reverse types also evolved rapidly. Perhaps as a result of the rapid changes, Constantine's coin designs feature a variety of portraiture which was unsurpassed by any Roman emperor either before or after. Radical changes to the coins' designs over time are clearly illustrated in this unique collection of bronze coins minted by Emperor Constantine over a period of nearly three decades. The coins were chosen to illustrate the remarkable variety of Constantine's lifetime portraits. This collection of 6 coins also includes a posthumous issue, where Constantine's veiled portrait appears on a commemorative coin that was minted by his surviving sons during the years immediately following their father's death in 337 AD.

Data:

Obverse: Different busts of Constantine I, "The Great"

Reverse: Various types

Diameter: 15-23mm

Weight: 1.5-3.5g

Box measures: 7.25" x 5.5"

Order code: 6MILVIANBOX

All coins in each set are protected in an archival capsule and beautifully displayed in a mahogany-like box.

The box set is accompanied with a story card, certificate of authenticity, and a black embossed gift box.

Coin type and grade may vary somewhat from image

