



## ANCIENTS

### 138-161 AD ANTONIUS PIUS AV AUREUS NGC CHOICE AU 5/5 - 5/5, FINE STYLE



Antoninus Pius was Roman emperor from 138 to 161. He was one of the Five Good Emperors from the Nerva–Antonine dynasty. His reign is notable for the peaceful state of the Empire, with no major revolts or military incursions during this time, and for his governing without ever leaving Italy. A successful military campaign in southern Scotland early in his reign resulted in the construction of the Antonine Wall. Antoninus built temples, theaters, and mausoleums, promoted the arts and sciences, and bestowed honours and financial rewards upon the teachers of rhetoric and philosophy. He died of illness in 161 and was succeeded by his adopted sons Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus as co-emperors.

A still more resonant aspect of his legacy was the uniform rewriting of Roman law, the Corpus Juris Civilis, which is still the basis of civil law in many modern states. His reign also marked a blossoming of Byzantine culture, and his building program yielded works such as the Hagia Sophia. He is called "Saint Justinian the Emperor" in the Eastern Orthodox Church. Because of his restoration activities, Justinian has sometimes been known as the "Last Roman" in mid-20th century historiography.

(21mm, 7.45 gm, 5h) Rome, AD 138.

Obverse: IMP T AEL CAES HAD-RI ANTONINVS, bare head of Antoninus Pius right

Reverse: AVG PIVS P M TR-P COS DES II, Pietas standing facing, veiled head right, acerrum in left hand, sprinkling incense with right over lighted and garlanded altar to right.

RIC III 13a. Calicó 1469a. Strongly struck from very attractive dies, with radiant flow lines in beautiful lustrous fields on the obverse.

