

# Saints & Sinners Cross Checking Cleopatra



Ptolemaic Kingdom - Cleopatra VII - 51-30 BC - AE 40 drachms - Alexandria  
Diademed Cleopatra VII - Eagle on thunderbolt - Dotted border - Wikimedia: Otto Nickl

14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

One of the crazier ideas floated by *Court Historians* is the **Carthage closed currency** concept whereby visitors were obliged to exchange their precious gold and silver coins for base bronze coins because it's claimed **Carthage only minted bronze coins** after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War.



Roman Republic - AV Half Stater equal to 60 asses - c211-208 BC - 3.37 gm  
Bearded Mars right with Corinthian helmet; behind mark of value LX (= 60)  
Eagle right on thunderbolt, wings open, ROMA below,  
Wild Winds - Crawford 44/2 Eahrheit 4a Sydenham 226

Wild Winds - Sear Roman Coins Number 3  
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/sear/5/0003.html>

Following ... the Second Punic War, the **Carthaginians** minted purely in bronze.

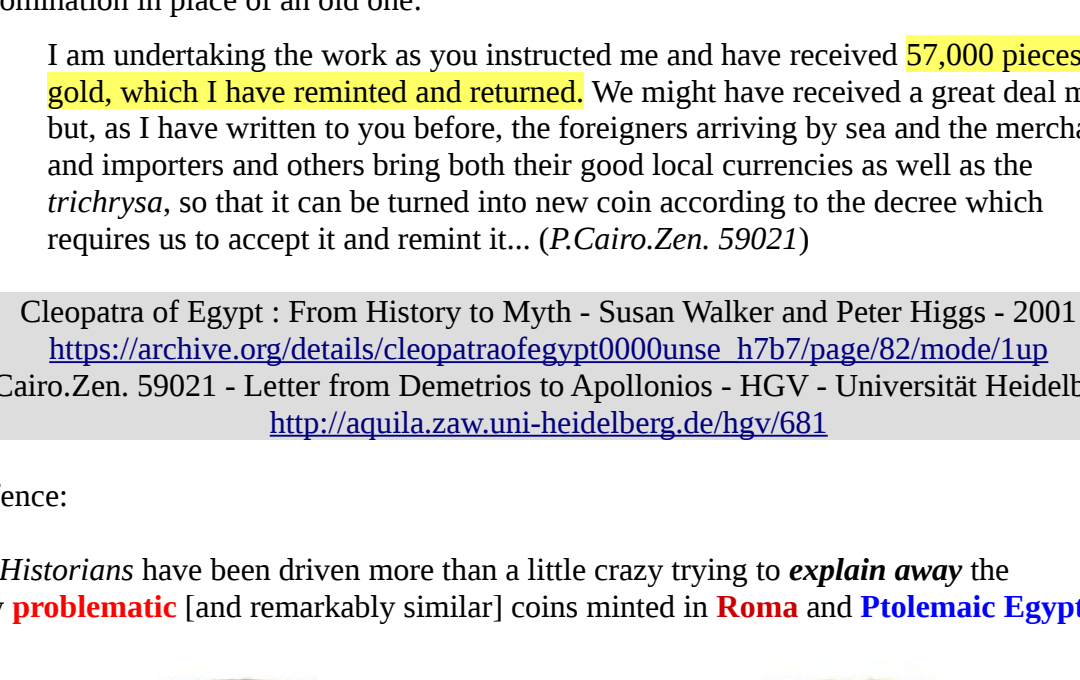
Wild Winds - Sear Roman Coins Number 3  
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/sear/5/0003.html>

Wikipedia - Carthaginian Coinage  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthaginian\\_coinage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthaginian_coinage)

**Carthage appears** to have operated a **closed currency system**, in which people bringing gold and silver coinage into the city had to ... **exchange** for local bronze coinage.

Wikipedia - Carthaginian Coinage  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthaginian\\_coinage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthaginian_coinage)

The *Court Historians* claim their crazy **Carthaginian closed currency** concept is "similar" to the **closed currency** system operated in **Ptolemaic Egypt**.



Ptolemy II Philadelphos - 285-246 BC - AV Pentadrachm  
17.81 gm 12h - Alexandria mint - Obverse die signed by the artist D  
Diademed bust of Ptolemy I right, wearing aegis; small D behind ear  
BASILISVS PTOLEMAIOY, eagle standing left on thunderbolt  
Svoronos 367 - Classical Numismatic Group - www.cngcoins.com

Wild Winds - Ancient Coinage of Egypt - Ptolemy II  
[https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/greece/egypt/ptolemy\\_IIa.html](https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/greece/egypt/ptolemy_IIa.html)

Ptolemaic Egypt operated a similar system in this period.

Wikipedia - Carthaginian Coinage  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthaginian\\_coinage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthaginian_coinage)

Unsurprisingly, the *Court Historians* clean forgot to mention the **closed currency** system in **Ptolemaic Egypt didn't** require gold and silver to be exchanged for base metal.



Ptolemaic Egypt - 200 BC - Wikimedia: Thomas Lessman

The **Ptolemaic Kingdom** or **Ptolemaic Empire** was an Ancient Greek state based in Egypt during the Hellenistic period. It was founded in 305 BC by **Ptolemy I Soter** ... and ruled by the Ptolemaic dynasty until the death of **Cleopatra VII** in **30 BC**.

Wikipedia - Ptolemaic Kingdom  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic_Egypt)

The **Ptolemaic closed currency system** ... imposed the use of Ptolemaic currency, and only Ptolemaic currency, within the borders of the kingdom. Traders from outside were forced to exchange their foreign coins for Ptolemaic issues. By setting the weight of their silver coinage 17 percent lower than that of the most common standard outside Egypt, the Ptolemies were thus able to reap a considerable benefit from the system.

A famous papyrus now in Cairo preserves a letter from a mint official called Demetrius to his superior. Dated 258 BC, it describes the difficulties he is having keeping up with the need to exchange foreign coins at the same time as having to introduce a new gold denomination in place of an old one:

I am undertaking the work as you instructed me and have received **57,000 pieces of gold, which I have reminted and returned**. We might have received a great deal more, but, as I have written to you before, the foreigners arriving by sea and the merchants and importers and others bring but their good local currencies as well as the *trichryso*, so that it can be turned into new coin according to the decree which requires us to accept it and remit it ... (P.Cairo.Zen. 59021)

Cleopatra of Egypt : From History to Myth - Susan Walker and Peter Higgs - 2001  
<https://archive.org/details/cleopatraofegypt000unuse/h7b7/page/82/mode/1up>  
P.Cairo.Zen. 59021 - Letter from Demetrius to Apollonios - HGV - Universität Heidelberg  
<http://aquila.zaw.uni-heidelberg.de/hv/681>

In their defence:

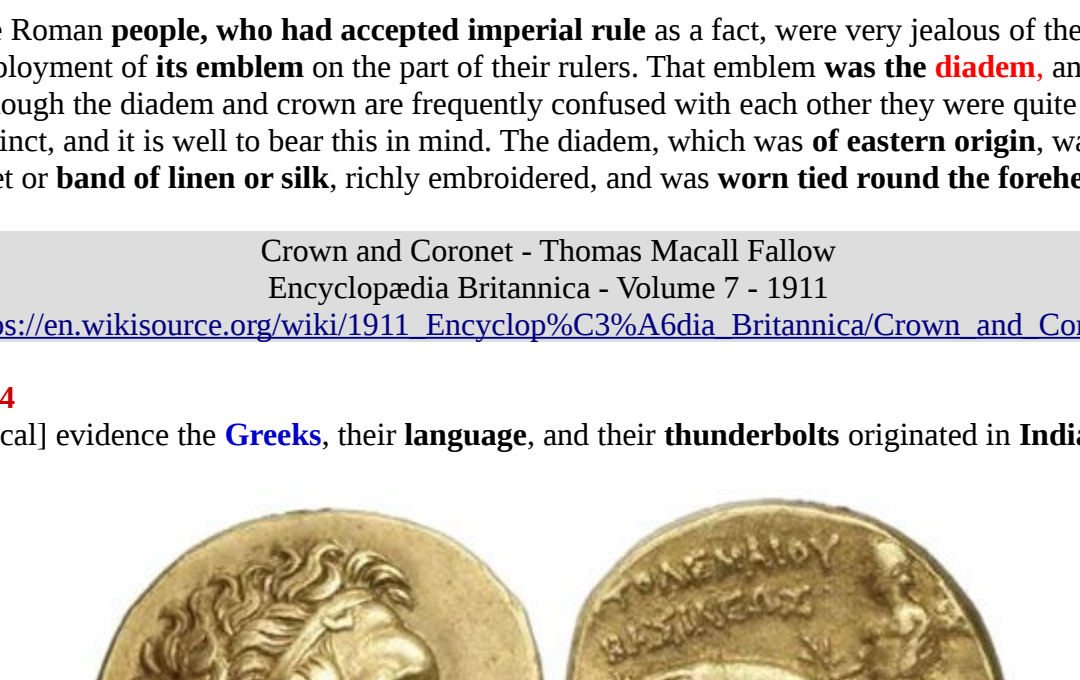
The *Court Historians* have been driven more than a little crazy trying to **explain away** the remarkably **problematic** [and remarkably similar] coins minted in **Roma** and **Ptolemaic Egypt**.



Eagle on Thunderbolt Roman Republic - c211-208 BC Wild Winds  
Eagle on Thunderbolt Ptolemy II - 285-246 BC Classical Numismatic Group

Wild Winds - Ancient Coinage of Egypt - Ptolemy II  
[https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/greece/egypt/ptolemy\\_IIa.html](https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/greece/egypt/ptolemy_IIa.html)  
Wild Winds - Sear Roman Coins Number 3  
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/sear/5/0003.html>

**Problem #1**  
The appearance of the Eagle **Phoenix** on coins in **Roma** and **Egypt**.



Phoenix Friedrich Justin Bertuch - 1805 Wikimedia  
Eagle on Thunderbolt Roman Republic - c211-208 BC Wild Winds - Sydenham 226

The **phoenix** is an immortal bird associated with Greek mythology (with analogs in many cultures such as Egyptian and Persian) that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again. Associated with the sun, a phoenix obtains new life by rising from the ashes of its predecessor. Some legends say it dies [every 500 years] in a show of flames and combustion, others that it simply dies and decomposes before being born again.

The word first entered the English language by way of a borrowing of Latin **phoenix** ... The Latin word comes from Greek **phoinix** ... That word is probably a borrowing from a **West Semitic word for madder**, a red dye made from Rubia tinctorum.

The word **Phoenician appears to be from the same root**, meaning "those who work with red dyes". So phoenix may mean "the Phoenician bird" or "the purple-red bird".

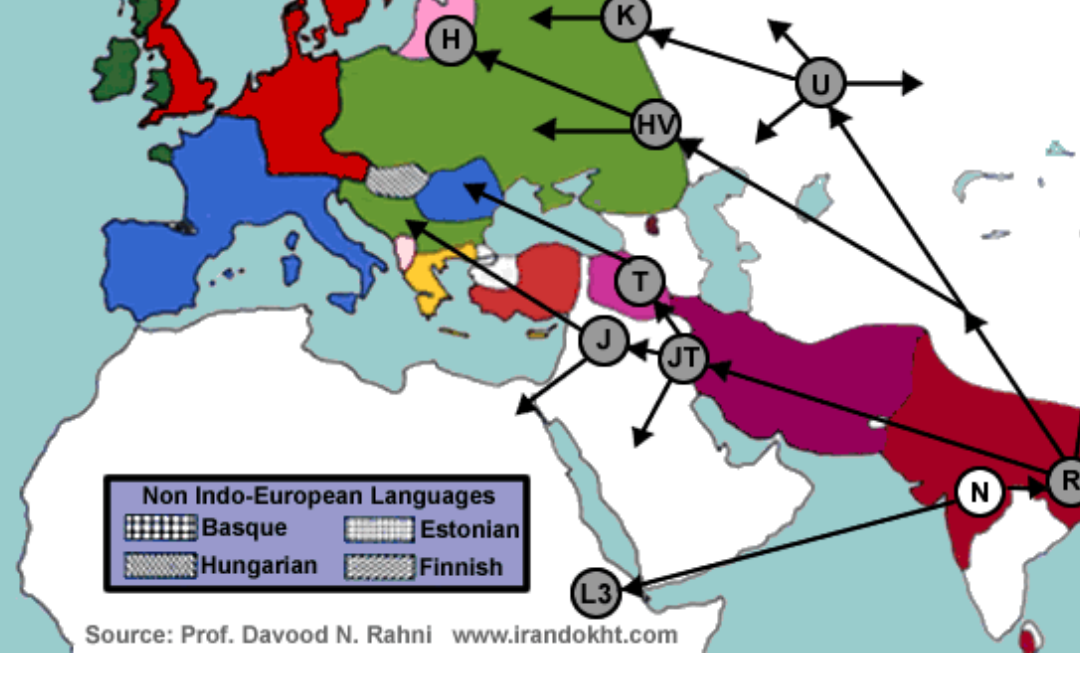
Wikipedia - Phoenix (mythology)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoenix\\_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoenix_(mythology))

**Problem #2**  
The triumphant **Phoenix** trampling underfoot the **Greek thunderbolt** in **Roma** and **Egypt**.



Phoenix Friedrich Justin Bertuch 1805 Wikimedia  
Eagle standing left on Thunderbolt Ptolemy II Philadelphos - 285-246 BC AV Pentadrachm - Alexandria mint Classical Numismatic Group cngcoins.com

In Indo-European mythology, the **thunderbolt** was identified with the 'Sky Father'; this association is also found in later **Hellenic representations of Zeus** and **Vedic** descriptions of the **vajra** wielded by the god **Indra**.



Thunderbolt of Zeus Agathobolus of Syracuse 317-289 BC British Museum 1841, B.339  
Eagle standing left on Thunderbolt Ptolemy II Philadelphos - 285-246 BC AV Pentadrachm - Alexandria mint Classical Numismatic Group cngcoins.com

It may have been a symbol of cosmic might, as expressed in the fragment from Heraclitus describing "the Thunderbolt that steers the course of all things".

Wikipedia - Thunderbolt  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderbolt>

**Problem #3**  
The very distinct **diadem** suggesting **Ptolemaic Egypt** became a satrapy sometime around 300 BC.



Ptolemy I Soter AV Stater - Alexandria Struck ca 298-294 BC Diademed head Wild Winds - Svoronos 111  
Ptolemy II Philadelphos 285-246 BC AV Pentadrachm Diademed Ptolemy I Classical Numismatic Group www.cngcoins.com

By c. 310 BC **Ptolemy I** had stopped striking coins with Alexander types and had abandoned the Attic weight standard. Before the end of the century his **portrait** began to appear on the royal coinage.

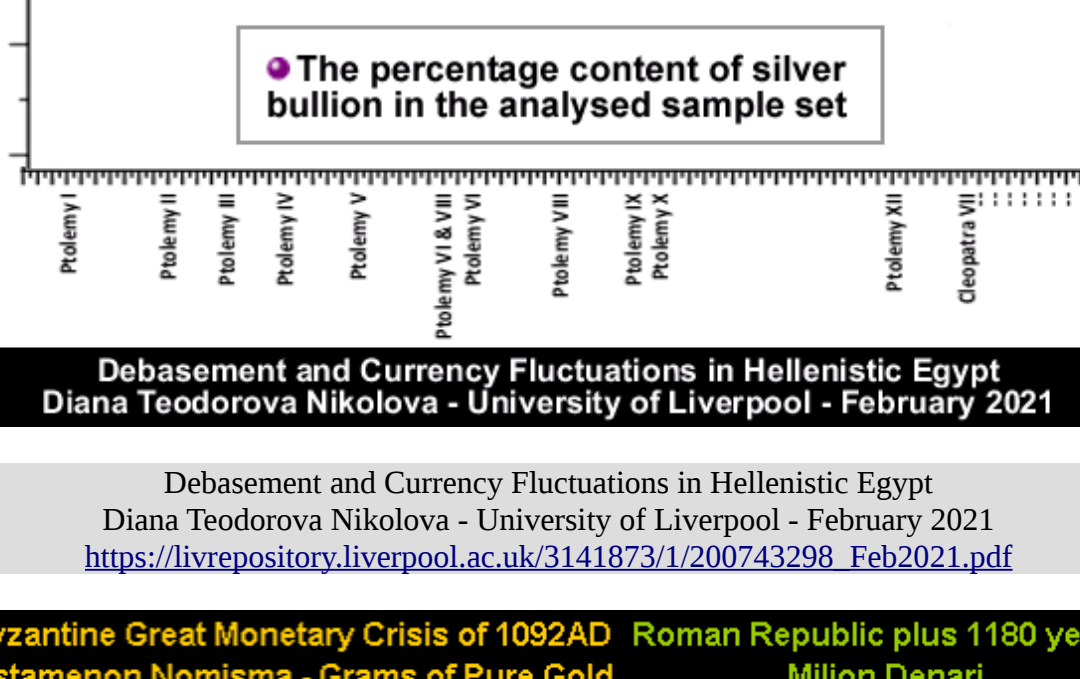
By c. 290 BC, after a series of reductions, the weight of the Ptolemaic tetradrachm was established at 14.3g (the Attic standard was 17.2g). The **new tetradrachms** had the portrait of **Ptolemy wearing a diadem** on one side, and the **dynamic badge of an eagle on a thunderbolt** on the other.

Ancient History From Coins - Christopher Howgego - 1995  
<https://archive.org/details/AncientHistoryFromCoins/page/n65/mode/1up>

The **Roman people, who had accepted imperial rule** as that fact, were very jealous of the employment of its emblem on the part of their rulers. That emblem was the **diadem**, and although the diadem and crown are frequently confused with each other they were quite distinct, and it is well to bear this in mind. The diadem, which was of eastern origin, was a fillet or band of linen or silk, richly embroidered, and was worn tied round the forehead.

Crown and Coronet - Thomas Macall Falow  
Encyclopedia Britannica - Volume 7 - 1911  
[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911\\_Encyclop%C3%A6dia\\_Britannica/Crown\\_and\\_Coronet](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Crown_and_Coronet)

**Problem #4**  
The [heretical] evidence the **Greeks**, their **language**, and their **thunderbolts** originated in **India**.



Ptolemy I Soter - AV Stater - Alexandria - Struck ca 298-294 BC Diademed head right, with aegis PTOLEMAIOY BASILEWS above charioteer holding thunderbolt and reins driving a quadriga of elephants XA monogram below - Wild Winds - Svoronos 111

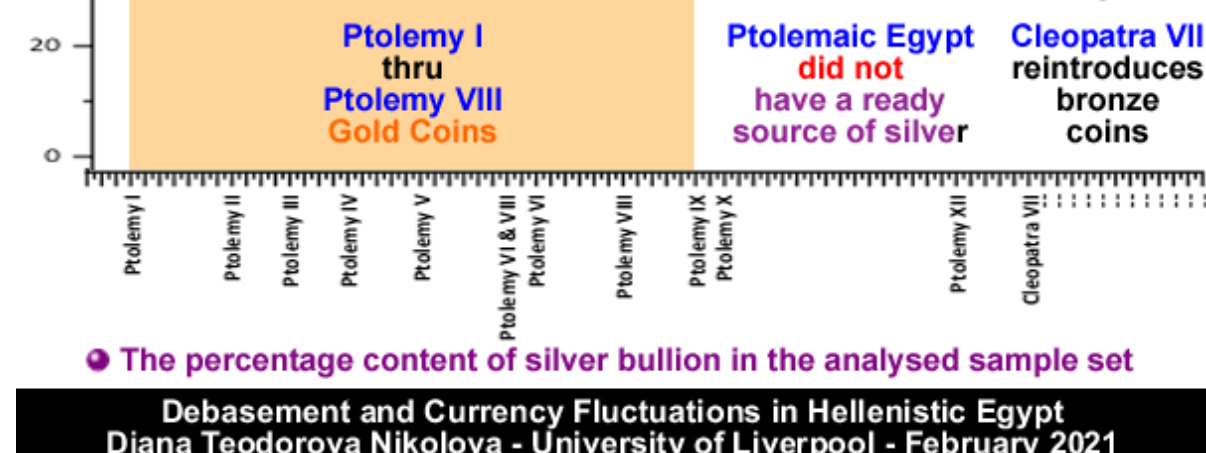
Wild Winds - Ancient Coinage of Egypt - Ptolemy I  
[https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/greece/egypt/ptolemy\\_1a.html](https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/greece/egypt/ptolemy_1a.html)

**Ptolemy I ... Reign 304/304-282 BC**

Wikipedia - Ptolemy I Soter  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy\\_I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy_I)

Indian elephants have smaller ears ... than African elephants.

Wikipedia - Indian Elephant  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_elephant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_elephant)



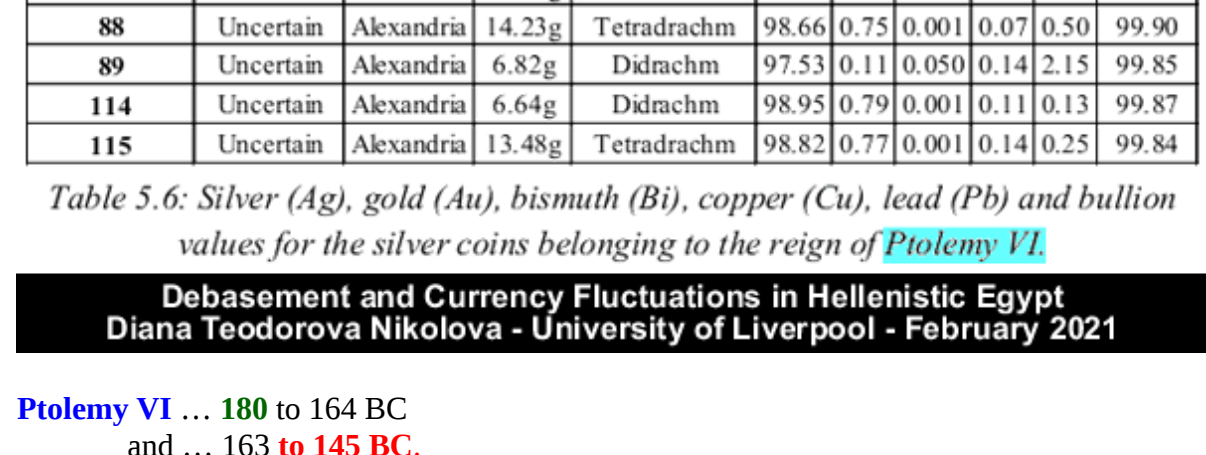
Indra on his elephant mount Airavata - The British Museum

Although memories have melted during the last millennium the imagery and iconography of **India still bears testimony to an age of transformation and thunderbolts**.

Malaga Bay - Indian Impacts: Thunderbolts of the Gods  
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2017/05/08/indian-impacts-thunderbolts-of-the-gods/>

Among Indo-European languages, **Lithuanian** is distinctive in some aspects of its grammar and phonology, retaining **archaic features** otherwise **found only in ancient languages** such as **Sanskrit** (particularly its early form, Vedic Sanskrit) or **Ancient Greek**.

Wikipedia - Lithuanian Language  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuanian\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuanian_language)



Source: Prof. Davood N. Rahni www.irandokht.com

The "budding" **Lithuanians** are experiencing a few problems explaining away the "archaic features" found in **Lithuanian**, **Ancient Greek** and **Sanskrit**.

This is hardly surprising because European mitochondrial DNA tracks back to India.

Malaga Bay - Catastrophic English: Mother Tongue and mtDNA  
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2016/07/29/catastrophic-english-mother-tongue-and-mtDNA/>

**Problem #5**  
The evidence suggesting **Sardinia** supplied gold and silver to **Ptolemaic Egypt**.



Ptolemaic Egypt - 200 BC - Wikimedia: Thomas Lessman



The gold and silver Croeseids minted by King Croesus of Lydia The first bimetallic monetary system - circa 550 BC CNG Coins - Classical Numismatic Group - www.cngcoins.com

Wikipedia - Sardinia  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sardinia>



Pactolus River The river rises from Mount Tmolus, flows through the ruins of the ancient city of Sardinia, and empties into the Geviz River, the ancient Hermus. The Pactolus once contained electrum which is the naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver. Source: Wikipedia Wikimedia: Spiridon Ion Cepleanu

Gold in our part of the world ... is obtained in three ways:

in the **detritus** of rivers, for instance in the Tagus in Spain, the Po in Italy, the Hebrus in Thrace, the **Pactolus** in **Asia Minor** and the **Ganges** in **India**; and there is no gold that is in a more pure state, as it is thoroughly polished by the mere friction of the current.

Another method is by sinking shafts; or it is sought for in the fallen debris of mountains.

Pliny - Natural History - Book 33 - Sections 66 Translated by H. Rackham (1952) with some minor alterations  
[http://www.attalus.org/translate/pliny\\_hn33a.html](http://www.attalus.org/translate/pliny_hn33a.html)

More specifically:

The evidence **Sardinia** supplied silver to **Ptolemaic Egypt** begins with a [very familiar looking] graph that displays silver debasement data in some sort of **coin sample sequence** by monarch.



Debasement and Currency Fluctuations in Hellenistic Egypt Diana Teodorova Nikolova - University of Liverpool - February 2021

Debasement and Currency Fluctuations in Hellenistic Egypt Diana Teodorova Nikolova - University of Liverpool - February 2021  
[https://liverpository.liverpool.ac.uk/3141873/1/200743298\\_Feb2021.pdf](https://liverpository.liverpool.ac.uk/3141873/1/200743298_Feb2021.pdf)



Malaga Bay - Synchrotron  
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2023/06/23/synchrotron/>

And very coincidentally:

**Ptolemaic Egypt** stopped minting gold coins as the debasement of their silver coinage began and the reintroduction of bronze coins by **Cleopatra VII** suggests she suffered a severe silver shortage.



Debasement and Currency Fluctuations in Hellenistic Egypt Diana Teodorova Nikolova - University of Liverpool - February 2021

Production of **gold coinage** began under **Ptolemy I**, and continued probably until the reign of **Ptolemy VIII** Euergetes II (145-116 BC) ... no gold coins were produced by Cleopatra.

Cleopatra of Egypt : From History to Myth - Susan Walker and Peter Higgs - 2001  
<https://archive.org/details/cleopatraofegypt000unuse/h7b7/page/83/mode/1up>

Egypt's position as one of the principal grain-producing areas of the ancient Greek world brought its rulers phenomenal wealth.

Crucially, the sale of grain abroad provided a much needed influx of precious metal into Egypt, which **did not** otherwise have a ready source of silver.

Cleopatra of Egypt : From History to Myth - Susan Walker and Peter Higgs - 2001  
<https://archive.org/details/cleopatraofegypt000unuse/h7b7/page/82/mode/1up>

Ptolemaic gold coinage had ceased to be minted some years before **Cleopatra** came to power. ... the production of **bronze coins** was **reintroduced** at the royal mint in Alexandria.

Cleopatra And Egypt - Sally Ann Ashton - 2008 - Page 54  
Amazon US: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1405113901>  
Amazon UK: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1405113901>

However, the silver debasement data displays a few **curious** features.

► The coin samples for **Ptolemy VI** are undated.

Cat. Number	Date (BCE)	Mint	Weight	Denomination	Ag	Au	Bi	Cu	Pb	Bullion
87	Uncertain	Alexandria	14.21g	Tetradrachm	98.75	0.82	0.007	0.04	0.35	99.92
2	Uncertain	Alexandria	12.77g	Tetradrachm	98.92	0.78	0.001	0.17	0.10	99.80
88	Uncertain	Alexandria	14.23g	Tetradrachm	98.66	0.75	0.001	0.07	0.50	99.90
89	Uncertain	Alexandria	6.82g	Didrachm	97.53	0.11	0.050	0.14	2.13	99.85
114	Uncertain	Alexandria	6.64g	Didrachm	98.95	0.79	0.001	0.11	0.13	99.87
115	Uncertain	Alexandria	13.48g	Tetradrachm	98.82	0.77	0.001	0.14	0.25	99.84

Table 5.6: Silver (Ag), gold (Au), bismuth (Bi), copper (Cu), lead (Pb) and bullion values for the silver coins belonging to the reign of Ptolemy VI

Debasement and Currency Fluctuations in Hellenistic Egypt Diana Teodorova Nikolova - University of Liverpool - February 2021

**Ptolemy VI** ... 180 to 164 BC and ... 163 to 145 BC.

Wikipedia - Ptolemy VI Philometor  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy\\_VI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy_VI)

► There is no data for **Ptolemy VII**.

**Ptolemy VII** Neos Philopator (possibly never reigned)

Wikipedia - Ptolemaic Dynasty  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Ptolemaic\\_rulers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Ptolemaic_rulers)

► **Ptolemy VIII** coins begin a series of samples [somehow or other] dated to two year periods.

Cat. Number	Date (BCE)	Mint	Weight	Denomination	Ag	Au	Bi	Cu	Pb	Bullion
92	143-142	Cition	14.14g	Tetradrachm	89.98	0.19	0.31	2.31	1.63	97.66
110	132-131	Alexandria	14.42g	Tetradrachm	89.98	0.48	0.04	7.11	2.31	92.80
111	122-121	Alexandria	14.15g	Tetradrachm	93.76	0.46	0.16	4.05	1.54	95.92
112	120-119	Alexandria	13.40g	Tetradrachm	92.22	0.46	0.09	4.73	2.25	95.02
113	133-132	Alexandria	14.38g	Tetradrachm	95.55	0.17	0.31	3.26	0.67	96.70

Table 5.7: Silver (Ag), gold (Au), bismuth (Bi), copper (Cu), lead (Pb) and bullion values for the silver coins belonging to the reign of Ptolemy VIII

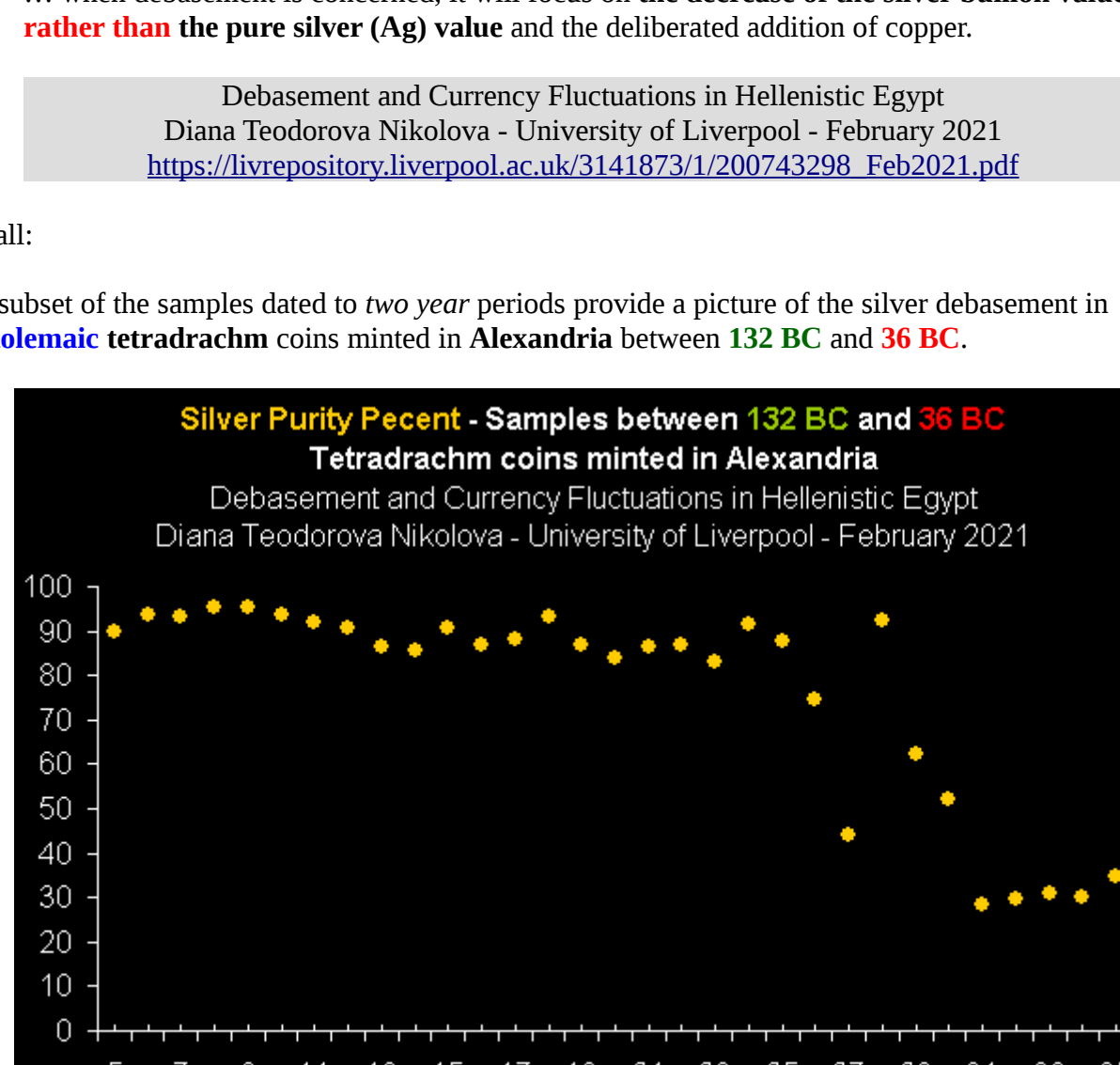
**Debasement and Currency Fluctuations in Hellenistic Egypt**  
Diana Teodorova Nikolova - University of Liverpool - February 2021

**Ptolemy VIII** ... 170 - 164 BC with Ptolemy VI and Cleopatra I  
145 - 132/1 BC with Cleopatra II and Cleopatra II  
127/6 - 116 BC with Cleopatra III and (from 124 BC) with Cleopatra II

Wikipedia - Ptolemy VIII Physicon  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy\\_VIII\\_Physicon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy_VIII_Physicon)

Plus

► There's a preference for "silver bullion value" analysis i.e. **not** silver purity, **not** silver content.

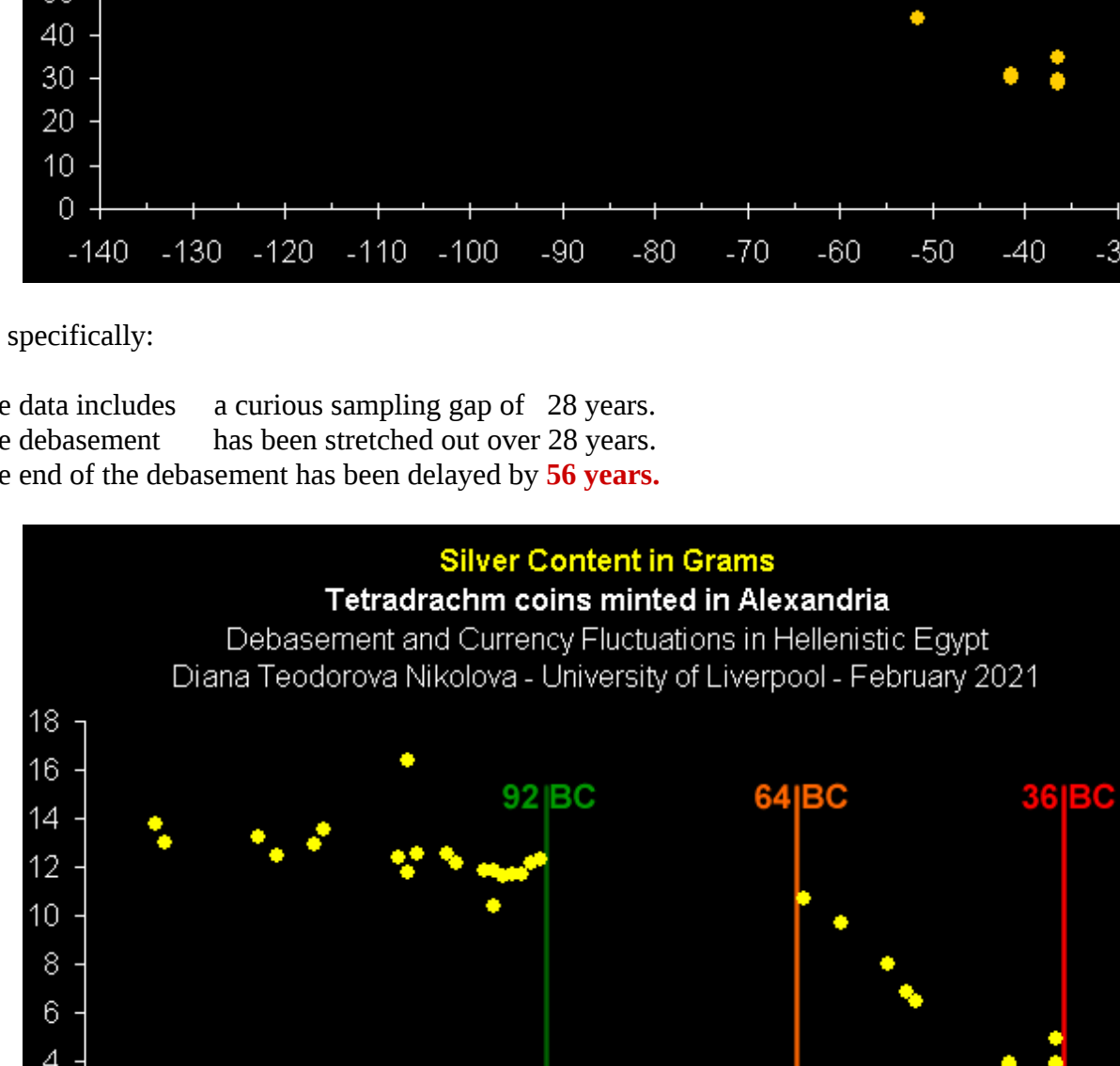


... when debasement is concerned, it will focus on the decrease of the silver bullion value rather than the pure silver (Ag) value and the deliberate addition of copper.

Debasement and Currency Fluctuations in Hellenistic Egypt  
Diana Teodorova Nikolova - University of Liverpool - February 2021  
[https://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/3141873/1/200743298\\_Feb2021.pdf](https://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/3141873/1/200743298_Feb2021.pdf)

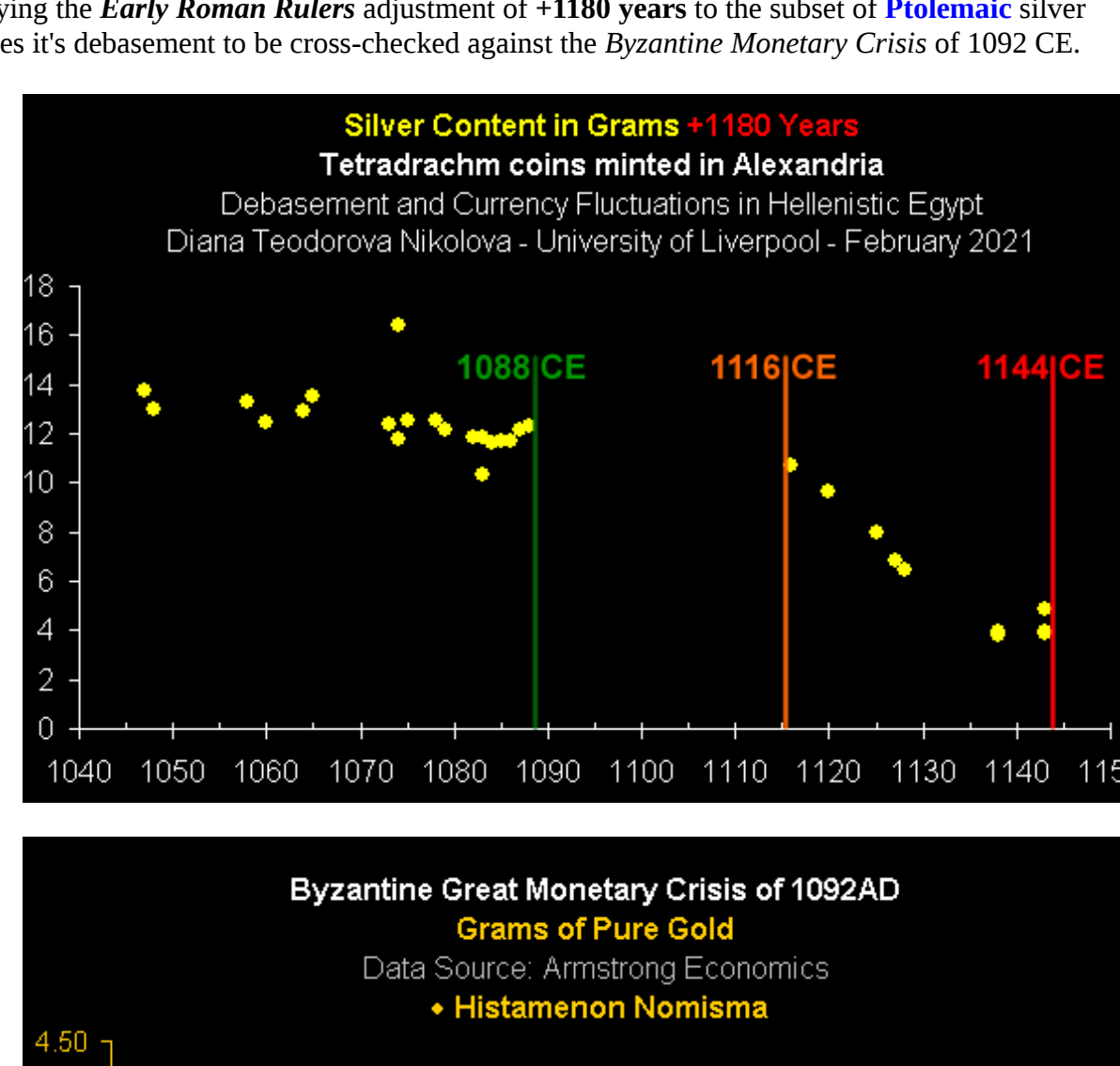
Overall:

► A subset of the samples dated to two year periods provide a picture of the silver debasement in Ptolemaic tetradrachm coins minted in Alexandria between 132 BC and 36 BC.



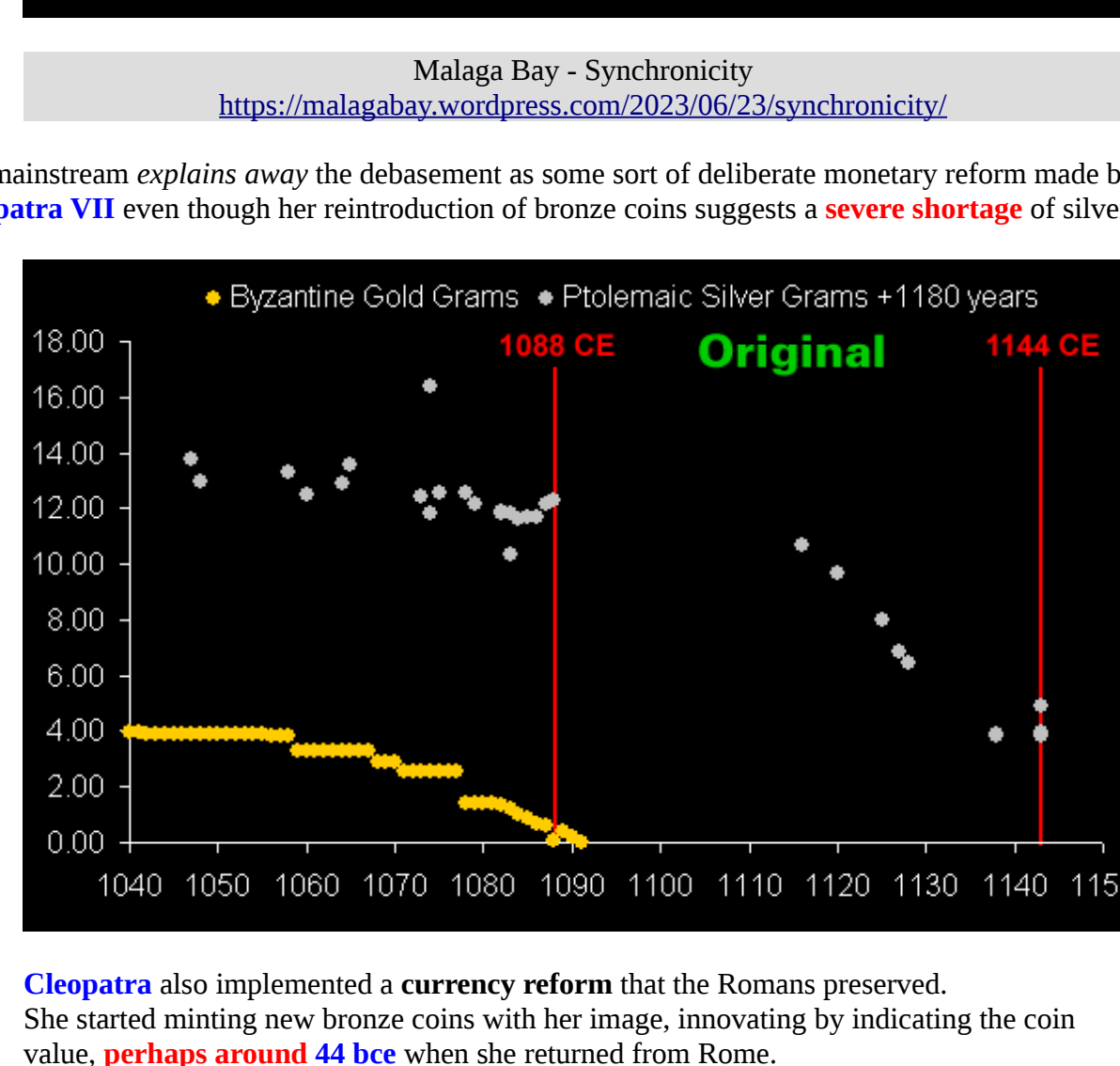
However:

► The subset data is far more revealing when it's graphed in date sequence.

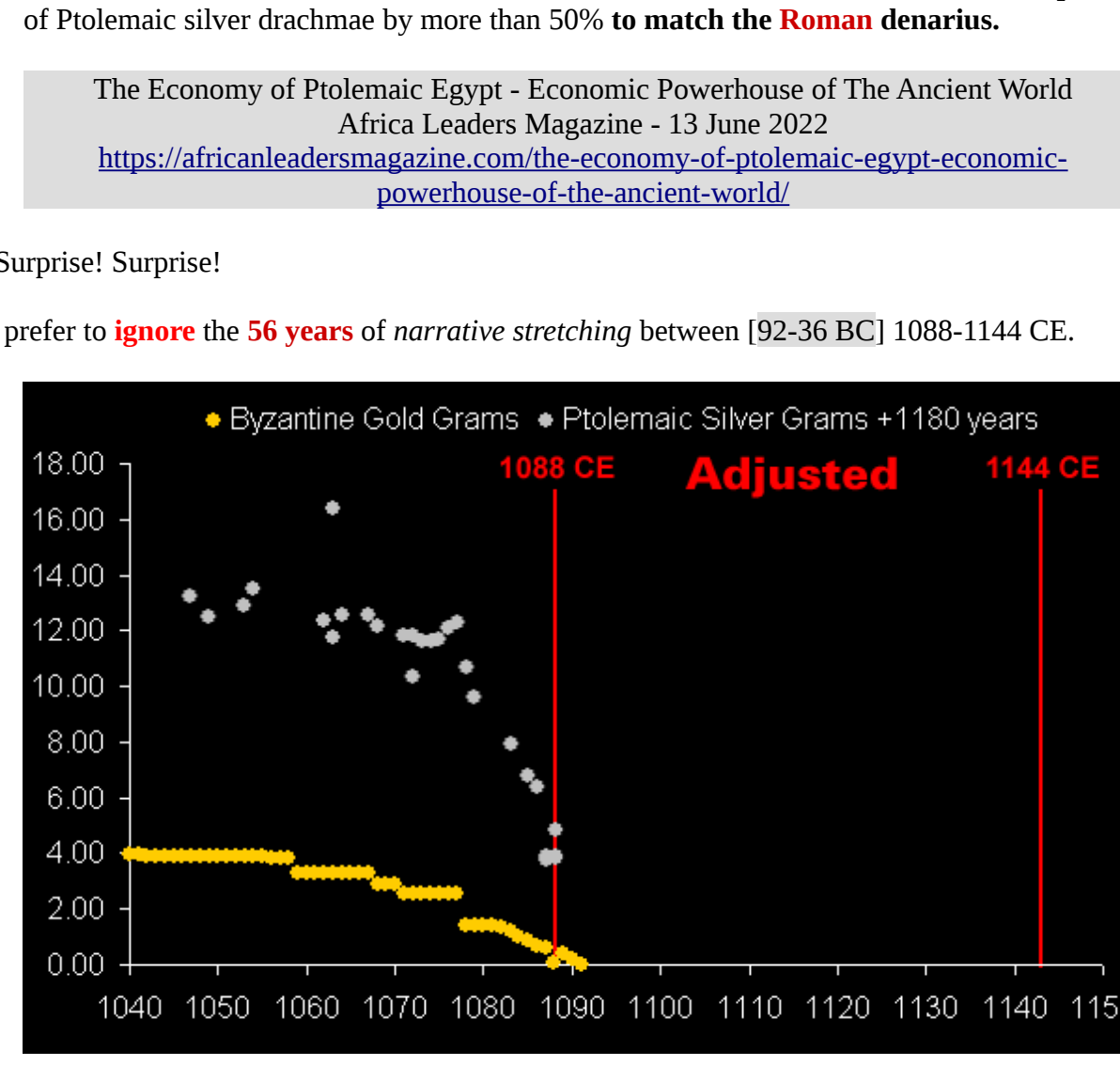


More specifically:

- The data includes a curious sampling gap of 28 years.
- The debasement has been stretched out over 28 years.
- The end of the debasement has been delayed by 56 years.

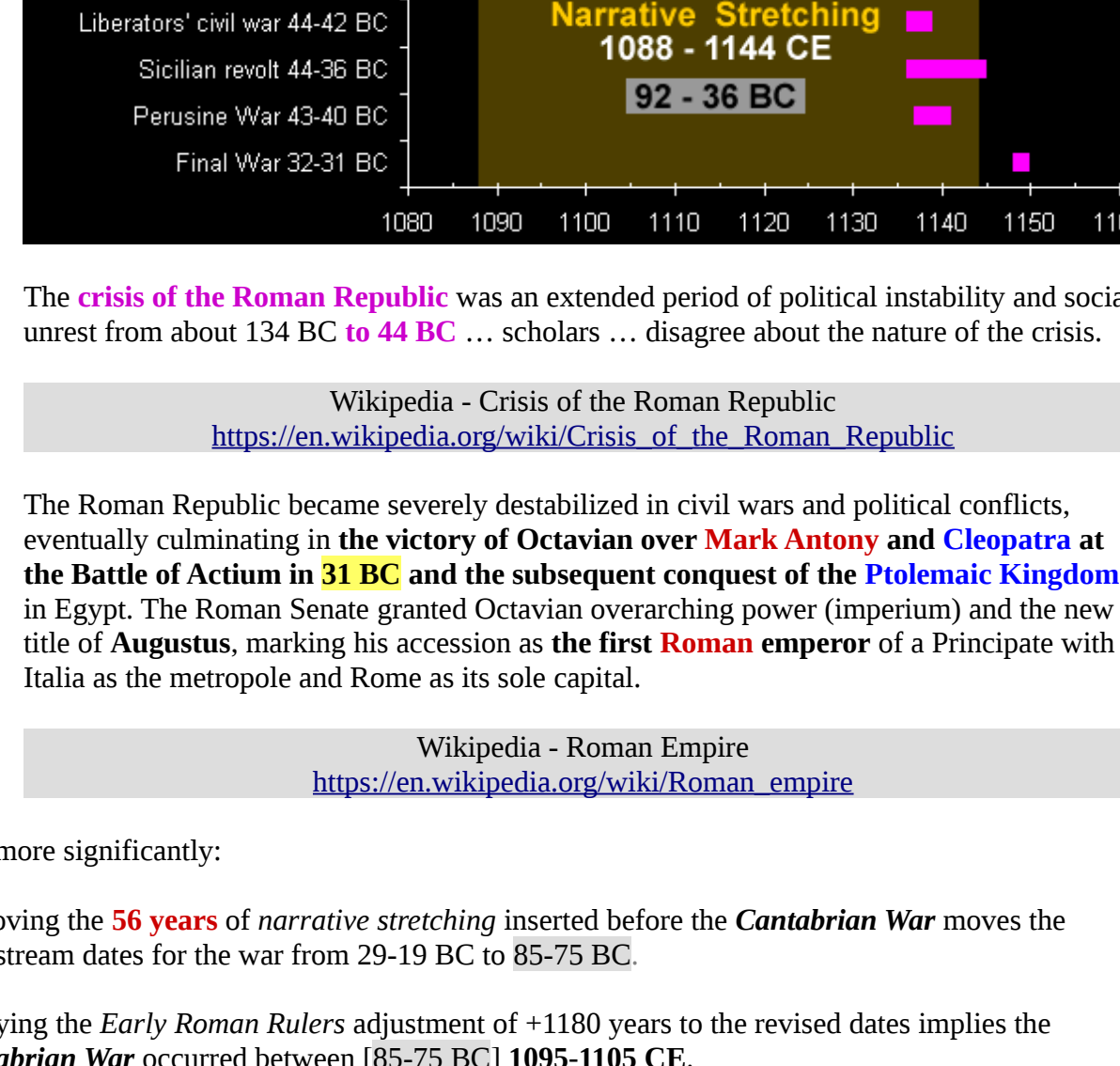


Applying the **Early Roman Rulers** adjustment of +1180 years to the subset of Ptolemaic silver enables its debasement to be cross-checked against the Byzantine Monetary Crisis of 1092 CE.



Malaga Bay - Synchronicity  
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2023/06/23/synchronicity/>

The mainstream explains away the debasement as some sort of deliberate monetary reform made by Cleopatra VII even though her reintroduction of bronze coins suggests a **severe shortage** of silver.



Cleopatra also implemented a **currency reform** that the Romans preserved. She started minting new bronze coins with her image, innovating by indicating the coin value, **perhaps around 44 bce** when she returned from Rome.

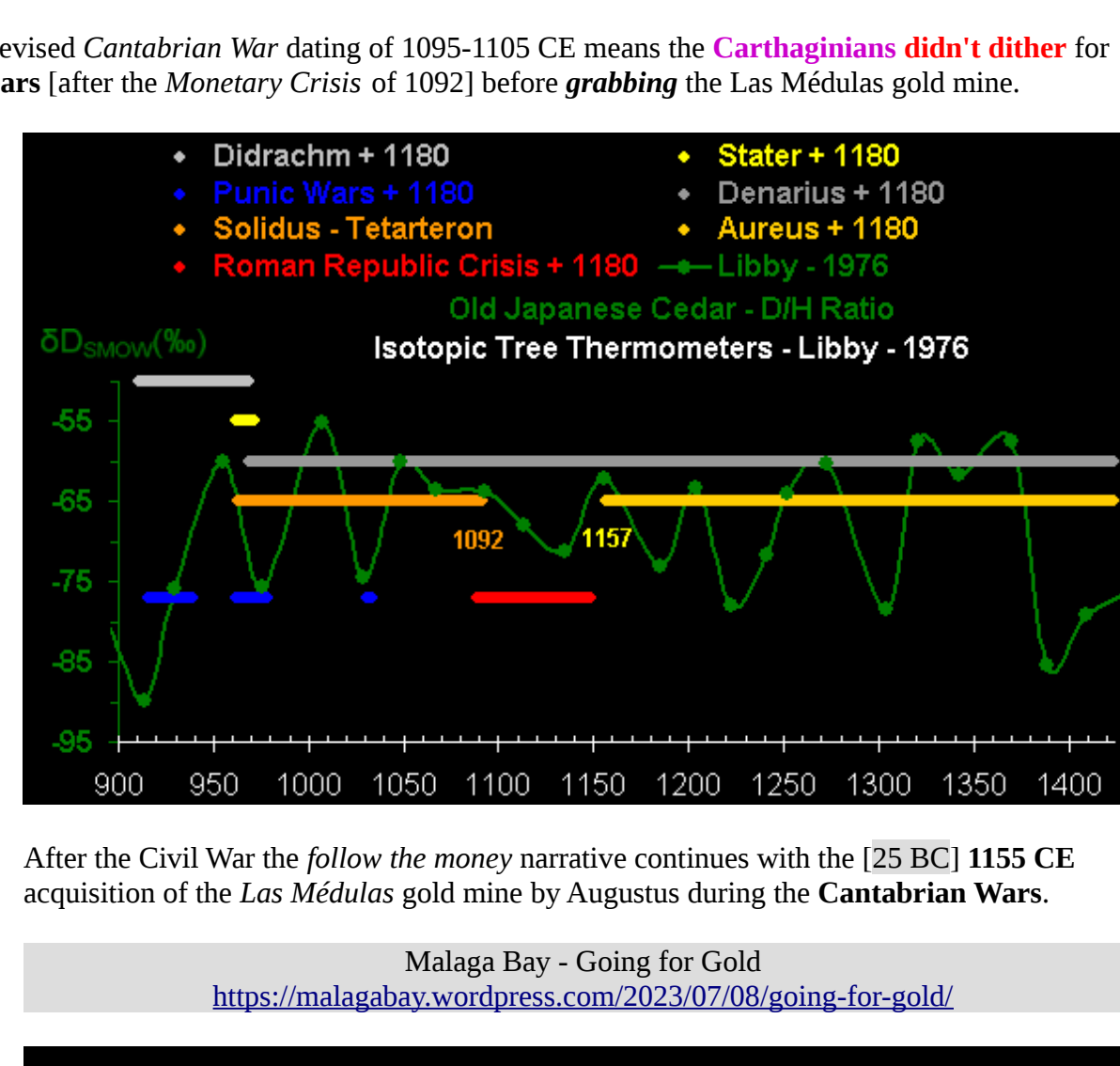
Cleopatra VII - Christelle Fischer-Bovet - 2015 - Oxford Classical Dictionary  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/978019381135.013.1672>

Cleopatra VII (55 BCE – 30 BCE) reformed the monetary system in 51 BCE. Her reforms included the introduction of new bronze denominations and the reduced purity of Ptolemaic silver drachmae by more than 50% to match the Roman denarius.

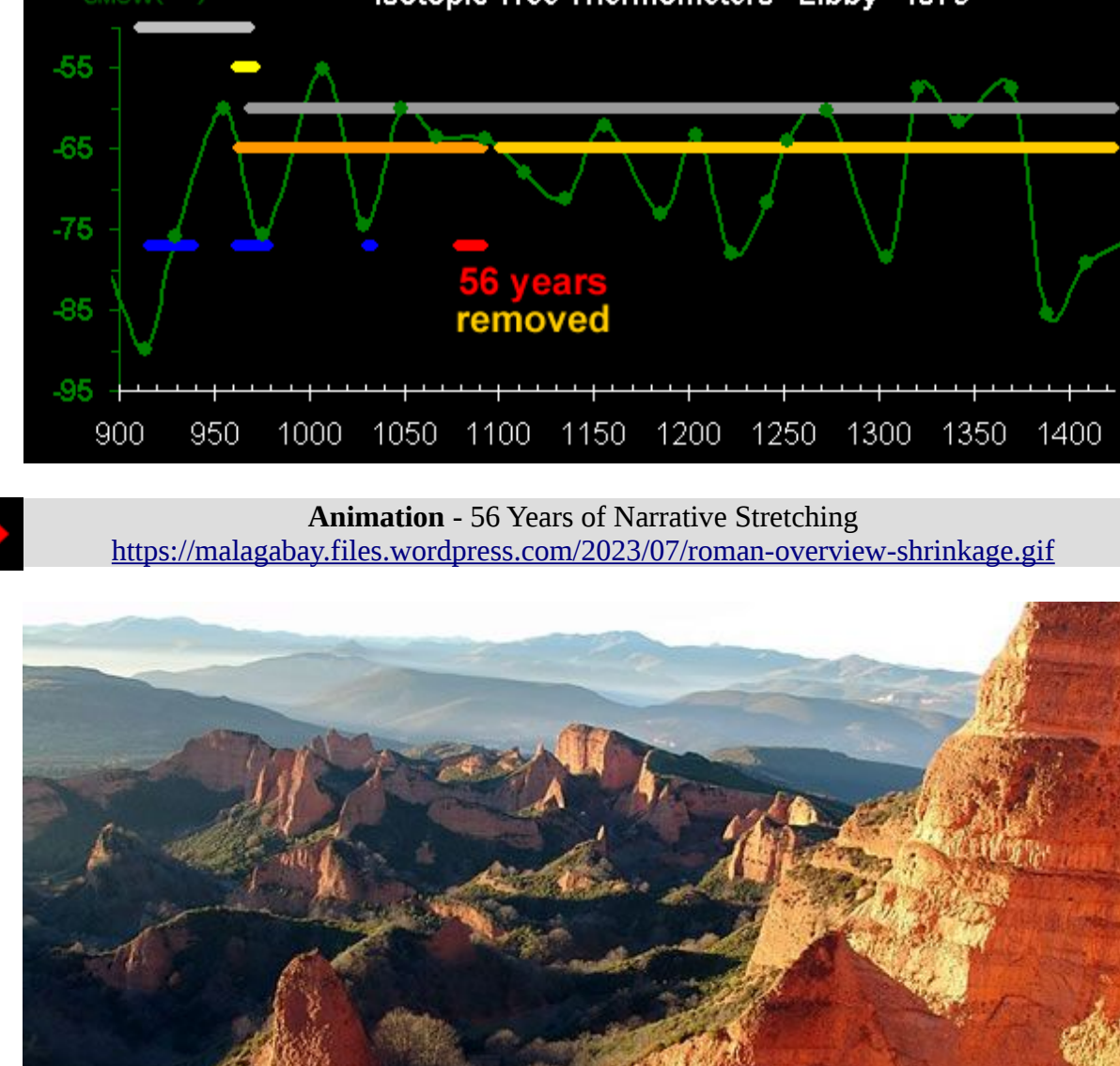
The Economy of Ptolemaic Egypt - Economic Powerhouse of The Ancient World  
Africa Leaders Magazine - 13 June 2022  
<https://africanleadersmagazine.com/the-economy-of-ptolemaic-egypt-economic-powerhouse-of-the-ancient-world/>

And Surprise! Surprise!

They prefer to **ignore** the 56 years of narrative stretching between [92-36 BC] 1088-1144 CE.



At some point the 56 years of narrative stretching may [or may not] have been introduced to align the **demise** of the Ptolemaic tetradrachm with the **demise** of the Athenian tetradrachm.



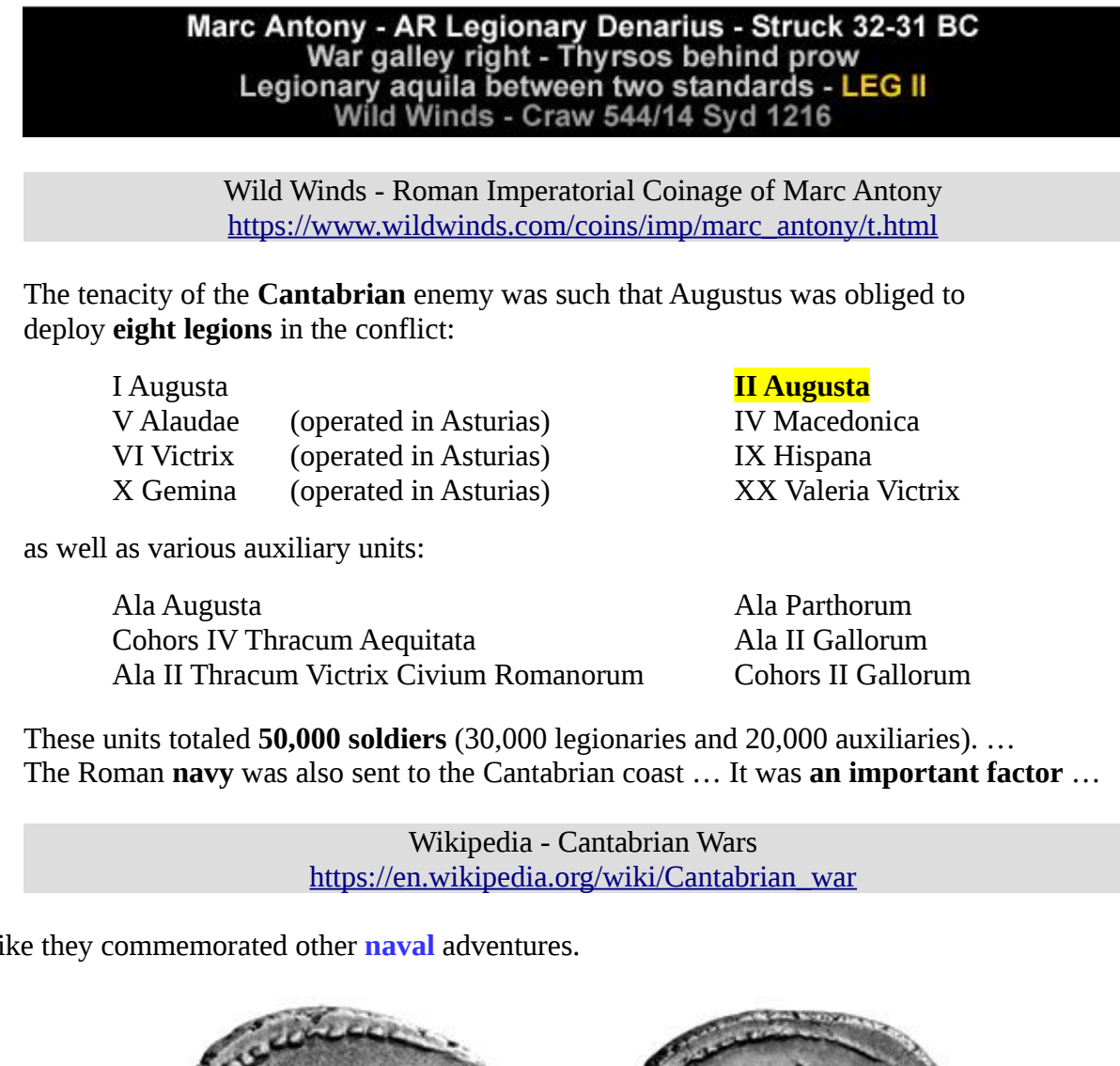
The tetradrachm was an Ancient Greek silver coin equivalent to four drachmae. In Athens ... it was in wide circulation from ca. 510 to ca. 38 BC.

The Athenian tetradrachm was widely used in transactions throughout the ancient Greek world, including in cities politically unfriendly to Athens.

Wikipedia - Tetradrachm - Version: 23:26 - 11 January 2014  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tetradrachm&oldid=590287597>

Either way:

The 56 years of narrative stretching implies a very compressed **Crisis of the Roman Republic** preceded the **Monetary Crisis** of 1092 CE.



The **crisis of the Roman Republic** was an extended period of political instability and social unrest from about 134 BC to 44 BC ... scholars ... disagree about the nature of the crisis.

Wikipedia - Crisis of the Roman Republic  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crisis\\_of\\_the\\_Roman\\_Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crisis_of_the_Roman_Republic)

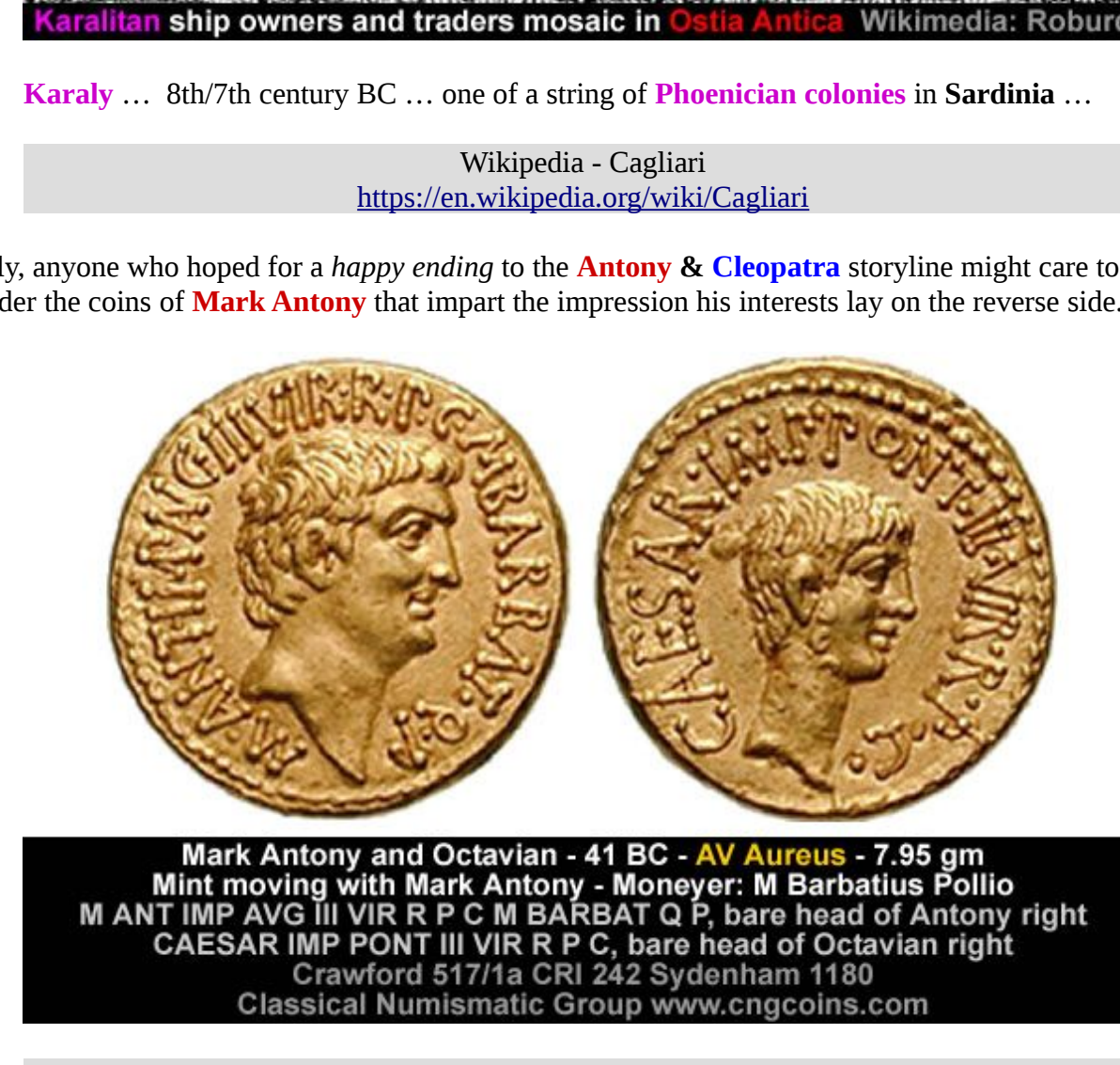
The Roman Republic became the **victory of Octavian over Mark Antony and Cleopatra** at the **Battle of Actium in 31 BC** and the subsequent conquest of the **Ptolemaic Kingdom** in Egypt. The Roman Empire granted Octavian overarching power (Imperator) and the new title of Augustus, marking his accession as the **first Roman emperor** of a Principate with Italia as the metropole and Rome as its sole capital.

Wikipedia - Roman Empire  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman\\_empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_empire)

And more significantly:

Removing the 56 years of narrative stretching inserted before the **Cantabrian War** moves the mainstream dates for the war from 29-19 BC to 85-75 BC.

Applying the **Early Roman Rulers** adjustment of +1180 years to the revised dates implies the **Cantabrian War** occurred between [85-75 BC] 1095-1105 CE.

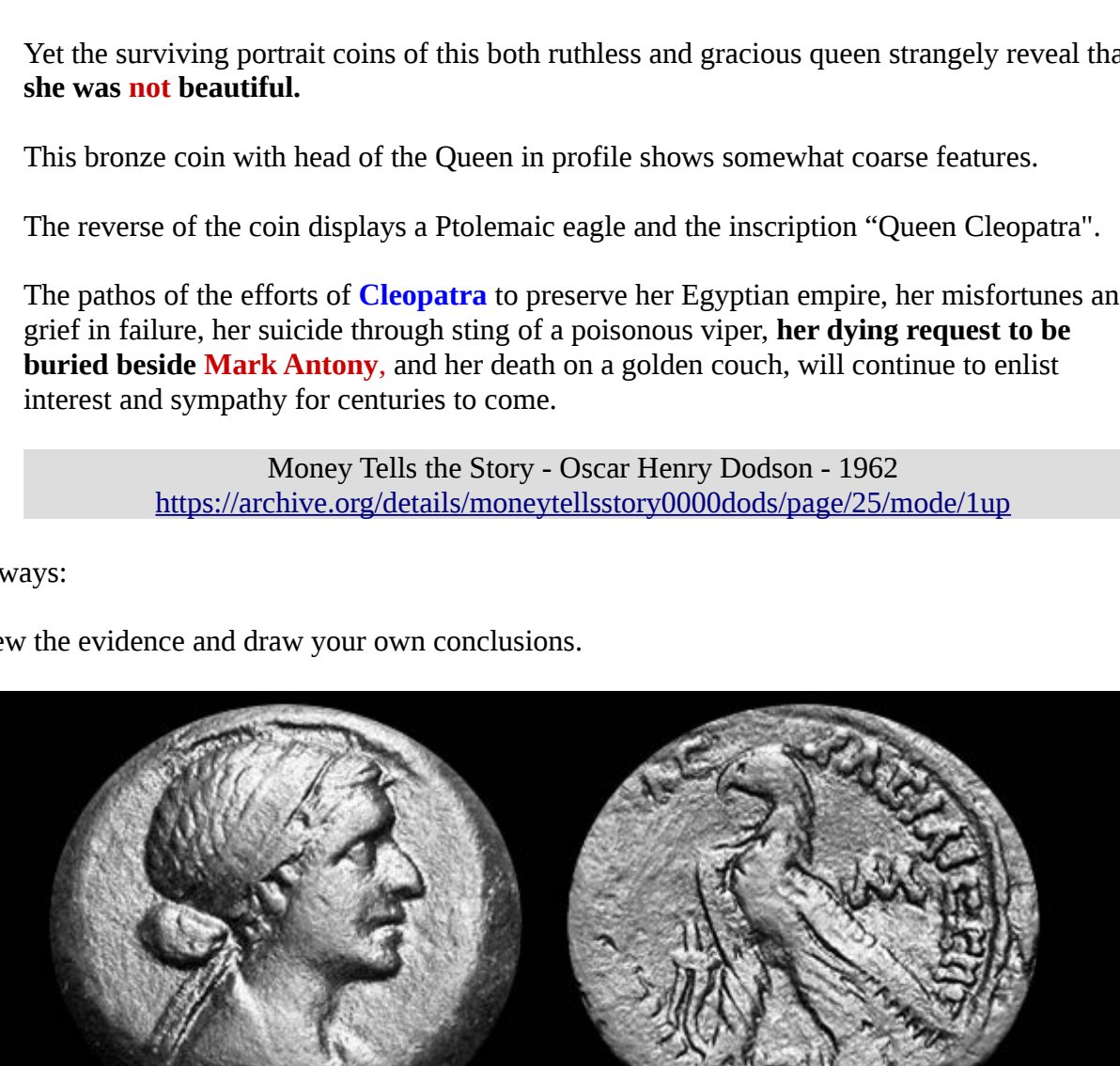


The **Cantabrian Wars (29–19 BC)** ... were the final stage of the two-century long Roman conquest of Hispania, in what today are the provinces of Cantabria, Asturias and León in northwestern Spain.

Such were the disasters and the embarrassments that, although the Roman historians justified the campaigns as retribution for Cantabrian incursions into the Roman-controlled Meseta Central, there must have been a certain lust after Asturian gold ...

Wikipedia - Cantabrian Wars  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantabrian\\_Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantabrian_Wars)

The revised **Cantabrian War** dating of 1095-1105 CE means the **Carthaginians didn't dither** for 59 years after the **Monetary Crisis** of 1092 before **grabbing** the Las Médulas gold mine.



After the Civil War the **follow the money** narrative continues with the [25 BC] 1155 CE acquisition of the **Las Médulas** gold mine by Augustus during the **Cantabrian Wars**.

Malaga Bay - Going for Gold  
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2023/07/08/going-for-gold/>



Las Médulas ... gold mine ... open-pit gold mine in ... Hispania Tarraconensis ...

Wikipedia - Las Médulas  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las\\_Médulas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Médulas)

Furthermore:

It appears the **Carthaginians** commemorated their **naval** successes during the **Cantabrian War**.



Marc Antony - AR Legionary Denarius - Struck 32-31 BC  
War galley right - Thyrsos behind prow  
Legionary aquila between two standards - LEG II  
Wild Winds - Crawford 517ra cRI 242 Sydenham 1180  
Classical Numismatic Group www.cngcoins.com

Wild Winds - Roman Imperial Coinage of Marc Antony  
[https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/imp/marc\\_antony.html](https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/imp/marc_antony.html)

The tenacity of the **Cantabrian** enemy was such that Augustus was obliged to deploy **eight legions** in the conflict:

- |            |                        |                    |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| I Augusta  | (operated in Asturias) | II Augusta         |
| V Alauda   | (operated in Asturias) | IV Macedonica      |
| VI Victrix | (operated in Asturias) | IX Hispana         |
| X Gemina   | (operated in Asturias) | XX Valeria Victrix |

as well as various auxiliary units:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Ala Augusta                             | Ala Parthorum      |
| Cohors IV Thracum Aequitata             | Ala II Gallorum    |
| Ala II Thracum Victrix Civium Romanorum | Cohors II Gallorum |

These units totaled **50,000 soldiers** (30,000 legionaries and 20,000 auxiliaries). ... The Roman **navy** was also sent to the Cantabrian coast ... It was an **important factor** ...

Wikipedia - Cantabrian Wars  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantabrian\\_war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantabrian_war)

Just like they commemorated other **naval** adventures.



Cnaeus Pompeius Magnus with Q. Nasidius  
Denarius - Sicily mint - 42-38 BC - AR 3.8 gm  
NEPTVNI - head Pompeius Magnus - dolphin beneath - trident before  
Q NASIDIUS beneath sea-battle with two ships - star in upper left  
Wild Winds - Nasidia 21 and Pompeia 50 Cohen 21 Syd 1351 Seagr Imp 236

**Quintus Nasidius** ... naval commander who lived during the 1st century BC ...

Wikipedia - Quintus Nasidius  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quintus\\_Nasidius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quintus_Nasidius)



**Karaly** ... 8th/7th century BC ... one of a string of **Phoenician colonies** in Sardinia ...

Wikipedia - Cagliari  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cagliari>

Finally, anyone who hoped for a **happy ending** to the **Antony & Cleopatra** storyline might care to consider the coins of **Mark Antony** that impart the impression his interests lay on the reverse side.



Mark Antony and Octavian - 41 BC - AV Aureus - 7.95 gm  
Mint moving with Mark Antony - Moneys: M Barbatius Pollio  
M ANT IMP AVG III VIR R P C M BARBAT Q P, bare head of Antony right  
CAESAR IMP PONT III VIR R P C, bare head of Octavian right  
Crawford 517ra cRI 242 Sydenham 1180  
Classical Numismatic Group www.cngcoins.com

Wild Winds - Roman Imperial Coinage of Marc Antony  
[https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/imp/marc\\_antony.html](https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/imp/marc_antony.html)

The Greek Problem

This presented the originators with some major public relation and narrative problems. Firstly, **Rome** grew and blossomed from **Etruscan** roots. Secondly, the Etruscan culture was "influenced by Ancient **Greek** culture".

Malaga Bay - P for Pederasty  
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2018/11/26/p-for-pederasty/>



Wikipedia - Cleopatra (1963 film)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleopatra\\_\(1963\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleopatra_(1963_film))

Yet the surviving portrait coins of this both ruthless and gracious queen strangely reveal that she was **not beautiful**.

This bronze coin with head of the Queen in profile shows somewhat coarse features.

The reverse of the coin displays a Ptolemaic eagle and the inscription "Queen Cleopatra".

The paths of the efforts of **Cleopatra** to preserve her Egyptian empire, her misfortunes and grief in failure, her suicide through stinging of a poisonous viper, her **dying request** to be **buried beside Mark Antony**, and her death on a golden couch, will continue to enlist interest and sympathy for centuries to come.

Money Tells the Story - Oscar Henry Dodson - 1962  
<https://archive.org/details/moneytellsstory/0000dods/page/25/mode/1up>

As always:

Review the evidence and draw your own conclusions.



Ptolemaic Kingdom - Cleopatra VII - 51-30 BC - AE 40 drachms - Alexandria  
Diademed Cleopatra VII - Eagle on thunderbolt - Dotted border - Wikimedia: Otto Nickl