



...they brought him a denarius, and he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?"

—Matthew 22: 19b-20

Denarius, circa 18 BC, silver, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter.

Minted from about 4 grams of silver, the denarius was the accepted daily wage for a laborer in the ancient world. The obverse side of this coin bears the legend Augustus Caesar, along with his image. The reverse side bears the inscription DIVVS IVLIVS, engravers script for *deus iuliu*, which means the son of God. The inscription is incorporated into a stylized image of Sol Invictus, (note the rays and flame) which means *the unconquerable sun*. Augustus reigned from 27 BC to 14 AD, so coins bearing his image were minted for over 40 years, and remained in common use well into the first century AD. This image is in the public domain.