



Are we looking at an ancient coin?

The obverse and reverse of the coin in filigree surround, displayed in the cabinet, appear to match the coin and description below. Is this a coin dating back to 527-565 minted in Constantinople, or was it issued by a different empire/kingdom? It is an old coin, but how old? To be resolved by referral to an expert.

**Notes From the Metropolitan Museum of Art:
Solidus of Justinian I (r. 527–565), 538–565
Byzantine; Minted in Constantinople,
Gold; Diam. 3/4 in. (1.9 cm)**



Bequest of Joseph H. Durkee, 1898 (99.35.7406)

Coins connected an emperor to his subjects. Through inscriptions and images, they conveyed imperial ideals and commemorated auspicious events. The emperor paid the army and received taxes in coins, and he was responsible for maintaining their weight and purity. This coin was minted under Justinian, whose preference for a completely frontal portrait—rather than the traditional profile—would set a standard for the rest of Byzantine history.