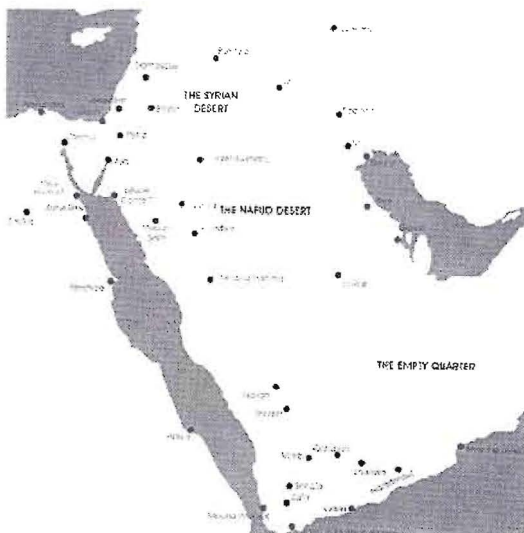
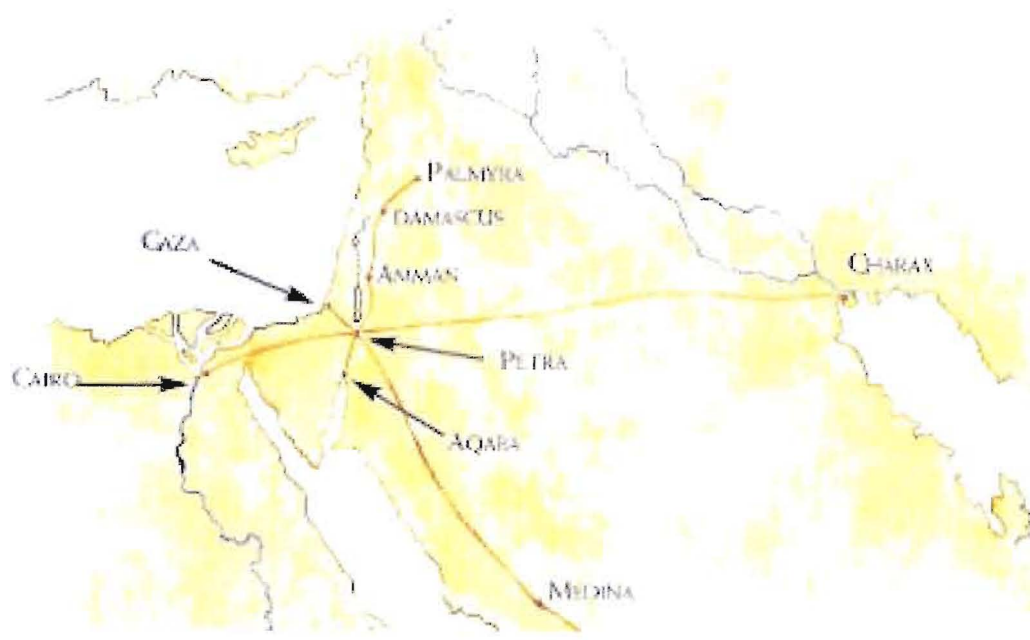
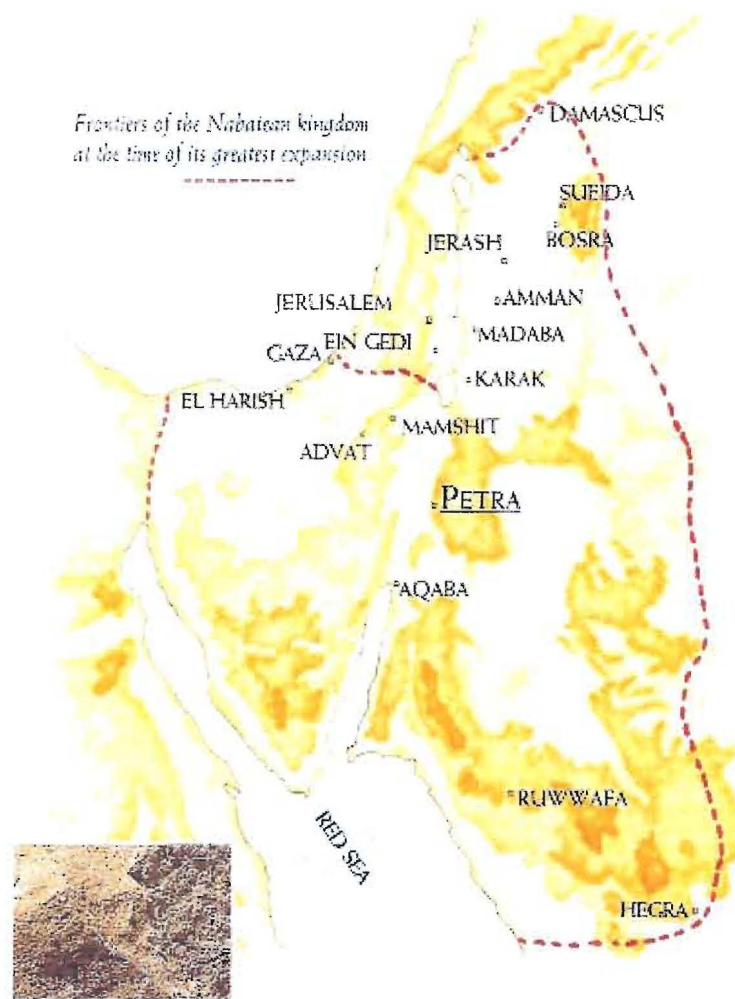


# COINAGE OF THE NABATAEANS: KINGS OF THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

Stephen J. Antonello

The Nabataeans or caravan traders of pre-Islamic northern Arabia maintained an independent, nearly hidden kingdom, for over two hundred years. The kingdom gradually consolidated during the Hellenistic period. The first known coins are believed to have been minted in c. 110 BC. The naturally fortified city of Petrae was chosen as the Nabataean capital. The kingdom existed both at the crossroads of the Mediterranean and the crossroads of history. It became a Roman province in CE 106. This presentation will trace the rise and fall of the Nabataean kingdom through the coinage of its kings, a coinage that reflects ancient Arabic, Greek and Roman influences.







Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas II, AE 18 mm, 3.85 gm, c. 110-96 BC, Damascus Mint



Macedonian Kingdom, Alexander III (The Great), AU Stater, 8.54 gm, 312-281 BC, This Coin struck c. 311-294/3 BC under Seleukos I, Babylon I Mint [the *Imperial* workshop]



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas III, AE 19 mm, 7.93 gm, 84-71 BC (Kovacs, SNG ANS & Meshorer 84-71 BC; Sear & BMC 87-62 BC), Damascus



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Obodas II, AE 19 mm, 5.27 gm, 62-60 BC (Meshorer)





Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Malichus I, AE ¼ Unit, 16 mm, 3.92 gm, 12h, 50-30 BC [CNG lists as 60-30 BC but others list as 50-30 BC], this coin dated RY 27 (34/3 BC), Petra Mint



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Obodas III, 23 x 25 mm, 9.00 gm, 12h, 30-9 BC (this coin Regnal Year 7, 24/3 BC), Petra Mint



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Syllaeus, Advisor to King Obodas III, AE 12 mm, 2.88 gm, 9 BC, city of Petra



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Syllaeus, Advisor to King Obodas III, AE 14 mm, 2.85 gm, 9 BC, Petra



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas IV, with Syllaeus on reverse, AE 10 mm, .91 gm, 9BC to AD 40



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas IV, with Syllaes on reverse, AE 10 mm, 1.01 gm, 9BC to AD 40



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas IV, Phasael, son of Aretas IV, AE 12 mm x 13 mm, 2.07 gm, 9 BC - 40 AD (this coin Year 5, 5/4 BC)



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas IV, eagle for friendship with Herod, AE 11 mm, 1.32 gm, 9 BC to 40 AD (this coin 5-6 AD)



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas IV, eagle for friendship with Herod, AE 11 mm x 12 mm, 1.37 gm, 9 BC to 40 AD (this coin c. 5/6 AD)



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas IV and Shaquilath, AE 19 mm, 4.10 gm, 9 BC - 40 AD (this coin 39-40 AD), Petra Mint



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas IV and Shaquilath, AE 17 mm, 3.5 gm, 9 BC - 40 AD (this coin 39-40 AD), Petra Mint



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas IV, AE 14 mm x 15 mm, 1.52 gm, 9 BC to 40 AD (this coin 39-40 AD)



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Aretas IV, AE 15 mm x 18 mm, 2.63 gm, 9 BC – 40 AD (this coin c. 18-19 AD), Petra Mint



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Malichus II (this coin Malichus II and Shaquilath II, sister-wife), AE 16 mm, 2.90 gm, 40-70 AD (this coin 64-65 AD), Petra Mint



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Rabbel II (this coin Rabbel II and his sister-wife, Gamilat), AE 19 mm, 3.24 gm, c. 70-106 AD (this coin 101-102 AD)





Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Rabbel II (this coin Rabbel II and his sister-wife, Gamilat), AE 10 mm x 12 mm, 3.64 gm, c. 70-106 AD (this coin 101-102 AD)



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Rabbel II (this coin Rabbel II and Hagurah/Hagru, his second wife), AE 9 mm x 10 mm, 3.31 gm, c. AD 71-106 (this coin 101-102 AD)



Arabia, Kingdom of Nabataea, Rabbel II (this coin Rabbel II and Hagurah/Hagru, his second wife), AE 10 mm x 10 mm, 2.78 gm, c. AD 71-106 (this coin 101-102 AD)



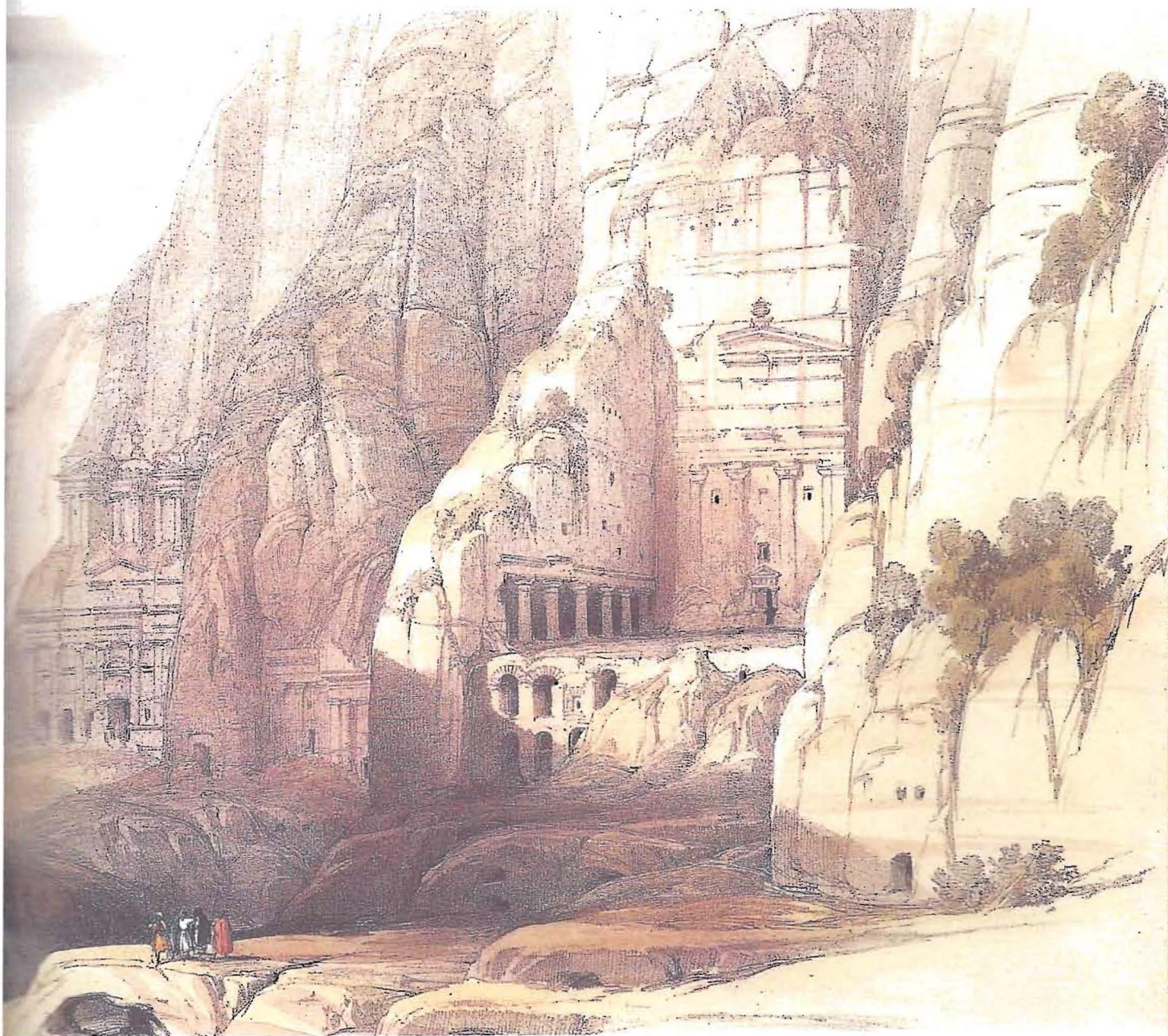
Arabia under Roman Rule, "The Fall of Petraea", AE 14, 1.85 gm, c. 106-117 BC



30-31 Roberts was much impressed by the Royal Tombs, which he portrayed from several angles. That shown to the right,

known as the Urn Tomb, is certainly one of the most interesting because of the way the façade is set back from the outline of the cliff in

a clear attempt to create a scenographic effect. The result is made all the more effective by the perspective line of the two lateral colonnades.



While in  
Roberts  
dispute  
Bedouins  
ref to  
the scene.  
the men had  
word of theft

and the authoritative  
opinion of three of the  
tribe's sheikhs was  
sought to settle the  
matter. The rock  
building seen behind  
the group is the Urn  
Tomb.

