

Emperor Claudius ruled the Roman Empire from 41-54 CE, immediately after Caligula, and before Nero. Time has not been terribly kind to Claudius, though it has been far kinder to him than it has been to either Caligula or Nero. Still, he did not come to power at a great time for Rome, as it was definitely sliding away from the dominance and glory of the age of Augustus. Still, Claudius was an overall capable ruler who did not do too badly for himself, especially given the circumstances in which he came to power.

The obverse of St Olaf's Claudius coin features his face, facing left, with the letters "*TI CLAUDIUS CAESAR AUG P M TR P IMP PP.*" These letters indicate his name, Tiberius Claudius, as well as many titles including Caesar Augustus, Pontifex Maximus, with a Tribunitians power, Imperator, and Pater Patriae (father of the fatherland). These titles are included on the coins in order to demonstrate the greatness of the emperor, as the titles are all suggestive of his different successes, or the importance of his lineage. Roman coins can be complicated to translate, as there are many abbreviations. Fortunately, these abbreviations are very systematic, and so, with help from a good book, they are quite possible to decipher.

The reverse of this coin features a woman standing with her arms wide open, holding the *pileum*, or cap of liberty, in her right hand. It also features two words, *LIBERTAS AUGUSTA*, as well as the letters SC, which signify that the senate ordered the creation of these coins¹. The two words are in fact a name, and identify the person on this side of the coin. It is a personification of the goddess Liberty, in this case a more

¹ Dr. Sutton's Roman Coin Legend Translation, on cointranslator.com.

specific version of her, Augustan Liberty². This demonstrates that even the heavens are in support of Roman rule.

² Breglia, L, *Roman Imperial Coins: Their Art and Technique*. Frederick A. Praeger, inc, New York, New York, 1968. 56.