Phalerae of Emperor Trajan

From long time ago I willing to create phalerae dedicated to Emperor Trajan.So I chose this artifact which inspired me . Round todo with bust discovered in the 1950s during foundation excavations in Ankara, Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, Ankara.

This bust was previously identified as a portrayal of the emperor Trajan, but recent epigraphic research conducted by Prof. Dr. Stephen Mitchell had made it possible to link one of the portraits mentioned in the second decree of the Artists' association to one of the benefactors of the mystikos agon. Accordingly, Prof. Dr. Stephen Mitchell identify the round tondo bust as a portrait either of Ulpius Aelius Pompeianus, or of an anonymous benefactor of about the same period.

But in my opinion the similarity is very great and gives me an occasion to devoted it to Emperor Trajan.

This of course is not only my opinion, the object is described and likened as Emperor Trajan on many Internet sites.

The mastery of the ancient master was great. The ancient monument is very detailed and has a lot of details on both, on the bust and the wreath.

In this case I recreate the bust of Trajan as an adult man and it is related to the important for the Roman Empire invasion of Armenia 114 A.D.

In the second phase of the war Trajan moved south from Armenia directly into Parthian territory. Militarily, his campaign was met with great success and resistance in the field was ineffective. With the capture of such cities and Babylon and the Parthian capital of Ctesiphon on the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, Mesopotamia and Assyria (essentially comprising modern Iraq) were annexed as Roman provinces and the emperor received the title Parthicus. Trajan continued his march to the southeast, eventually reaching the Persian Gulf in AD 116. Though Dio Cassius reports that Trajan would have preferred to march in the footsteps of Alexander, his advanced age (approximately 63 years) and slowly failing health forced him to abandon any such thoughts. Trajan died in 117, before he could complete the war.

Of course I paid much attention to this topic because of the participation of LEGIO IIII SCYTHICA in this remarkable campaign! But more about it on our site:

http://legio-iiii-scythica.com/index.php/en/history-and-artifacts/history-of-the-legion/trajan-invaded-armenia-114-y.html

I have depicted the Emperor dressed in a toga with a wreath on his head.

The bust is in a wreath wrapped in garlands .I am pleased with the end brass result.

All the details are clearly visible.

Phalerae have a diameter appropriate for the purpose 7 cm. So many details ,so many operations with different materials.let's not forget that upscaling-remodeling is a very difficult process and to imitate the ancient master is almost impossible. But this is my creative re-creation of the great Emperor Traianus in his elderly age.

This is a partially gilded version. As the gilding is the wreath of Trajan's head and the the phalerae periphery wreath.

I think I have achieved a good result on my reconstruction on a topic Phalerae of Emperor Trajan.

In action with Anthony Collet from France

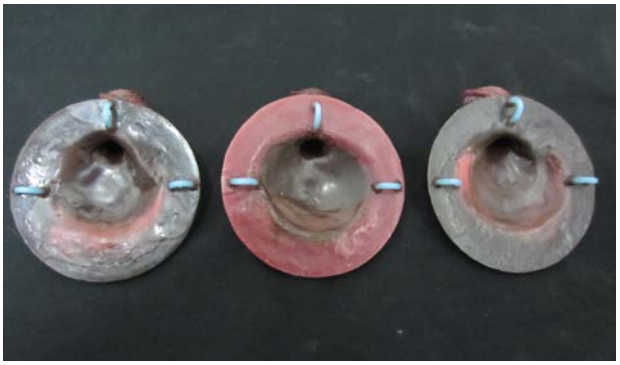
The waxwork work on this model took me over 2 years. This means a lot of cutting, gluing and layering of different waxes with different physical characteristics.

I finished three wax models which are differ from each other (they have some small differences).

I can never make two identical bust. Later on one of them I will choose for master copy.

I tried to keep in the best way the cross section of the disk that depicts a wreath.

I have foreseen the attachment of this phalerae to the harness to be via 3 brackets.

Phalerae has a diameter very appropriate for the purpose 7 cm.

I have made wax models hollow to reduce the weight of brass Phalerae subsequently. This of course complicates the production of wax models.