

# GOLD OF POWER FROM JULIUS CAESAR TO MARIANNE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
CRYPT OF THE ÎLE  
DE LA CITÉ

EXHIBITION  
FROM  
26 MAY 2016

INFORMATION:  
[WWW.CRYPT.E.PARIS.FR](http://WWW.CRYPT.E.PARIS.FR)

From 26 May 2016 a new exhibition entitled *Gold of Power, from Julius Caesar to Marianne*, will be held in the Archaeological Crypt of the Île de la Cité.

The exhibition will retrace the history of Paris through a magnificent selection of coins and exhibits evoking great figures of power.

Visitors will discover, in ten stages, the people of history who transformed the destiny of the city of their time, related to the archaeological vestiges found in the Crypt. The **Parisii**, founders of the Gallic city, **Julius Caesar**, victorious at the battle of Lutetia, the **Emperor Julian** who took power in the Île de la Cité, **Philippe IV le Bel** and **Charles V** who transformed the medieval city, up to **Napoleon III** who initiated today's capital: each of these powerful people left their effigy and their symbol engraved in metal.

The currencies of the earliest inhabitants of Paris are moving relics of the past and veritable works of art, made remarkable by their stylization and modernity. The production of currency is also of key importance in political and symbolic terms and sheds light on how power was exercised. Julius Caesar received permission from the Senate to stamp coins with his effigy during his lifetime, but Louis XII was the first king of France to put his portrait on a coin. At a time when humanism was extolling the individual, coins slowly became tools for propaganda and legitimisation of royal authority: Louis XIII gave his name to the famous *Louis d'Or*, and Louis XIV used variations of his portrait with great symbolic sophistication. Long after Caesar and Charlemagne, Napoleon III reproduced the imperial emblems: the eagle and the laurel leaf crown. The French Revolution and the Republic followed this tradition, replacing the figure of the Emperor with a system of allegorical motifs including the winged genie, the cockerel symbolizing vigilance, the liberty cap and the figure of Marianne.

**What do these coins represent ? What do they reveal about the history of Paris? How should they be interpreted? The exhibition will provide answers to such questions.**

Through creative exhibits, young visitors and families will be able to touch large-scale copies of the coins, redesign them or create their own new coin bearing their effigy.

#OrPouvoir



A Stater of the Parisii, 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Paris, Carnavalet Museum. © Carole Rabourdin / Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet



Aureus of Antoninus Pius. Gold, between 145 and 161. Paris, Carnavalet Museum. © Carole Rabourdin / Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

## The archaeological Crypt of the Île de la Cité

Situated beneath the forecourt of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, the Archaeological Crypt reveals the remains discovered during excavations carried out between 1965 and 1970 and offers a unique overview of the development of the Île de la Cité, the historic heart of Paris. Visitors will travel through history from Antiquity up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, discovering the quay of the port of the ancient city of Lutetia, the public Gallo-Roman baths, the surrounding wall from the early 4<sup>th</sup> century, the basement of the former Hôtel-Dieu chapel, medieval remains from Rue Neuve Notre-Dame, the foundations of the Hospice des Enfants-Trouvés and schemas of the Haussmann sewers, all of which bring back to life the city's ancient, medieval and classical past. Thanks to interactive 3D experiences created by Dassault Systèmes, visitors can go back in time and discover, among other things, a reconstruction of the thermal baths of the Île de la Cité.

### PETIT JOURNAL

An introductory mini guide to the remains of the crypt: €3

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### TICKETS

Full price: €8  
Reduced price: €6  
Free for 18-year-olds and under

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL CRYPT

7, place Jean Paul II 75004 Paris  
Tél. + 33 (0)1 55 42 50 10  
Open from Tuesdays to Sundays,  
from 10am to 6pm  
Closed on Mondays and national holidays  
Tills close at 5:30pm