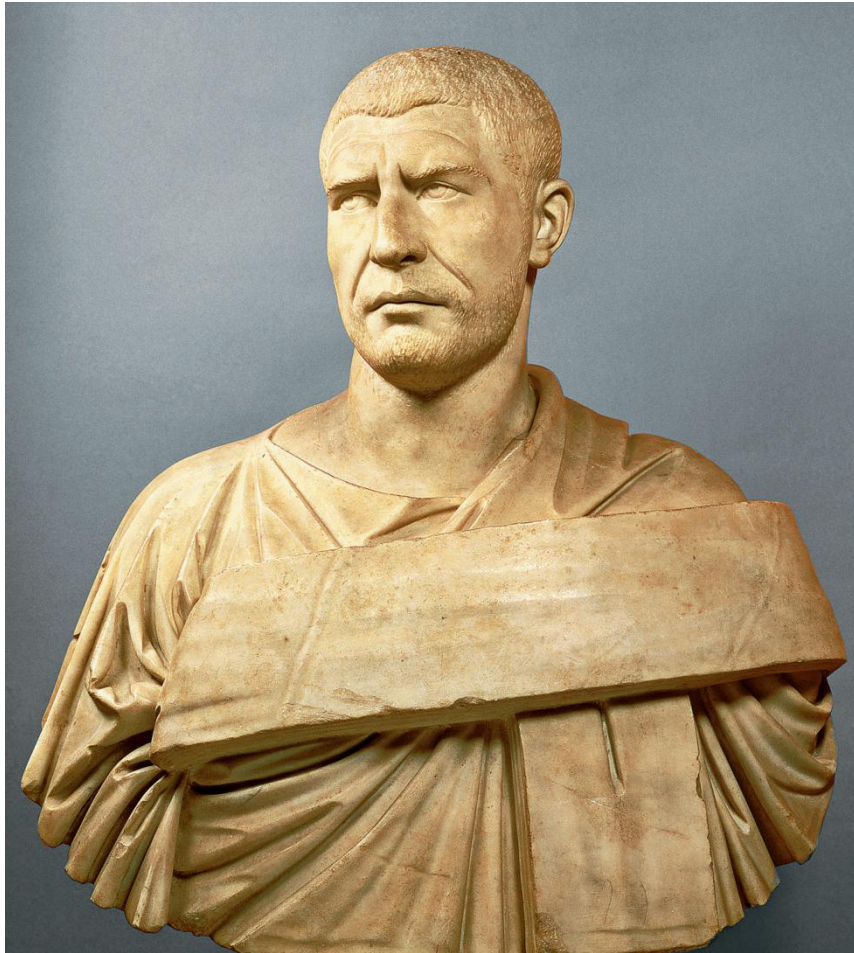


# Bust of Philip the Arabian

---

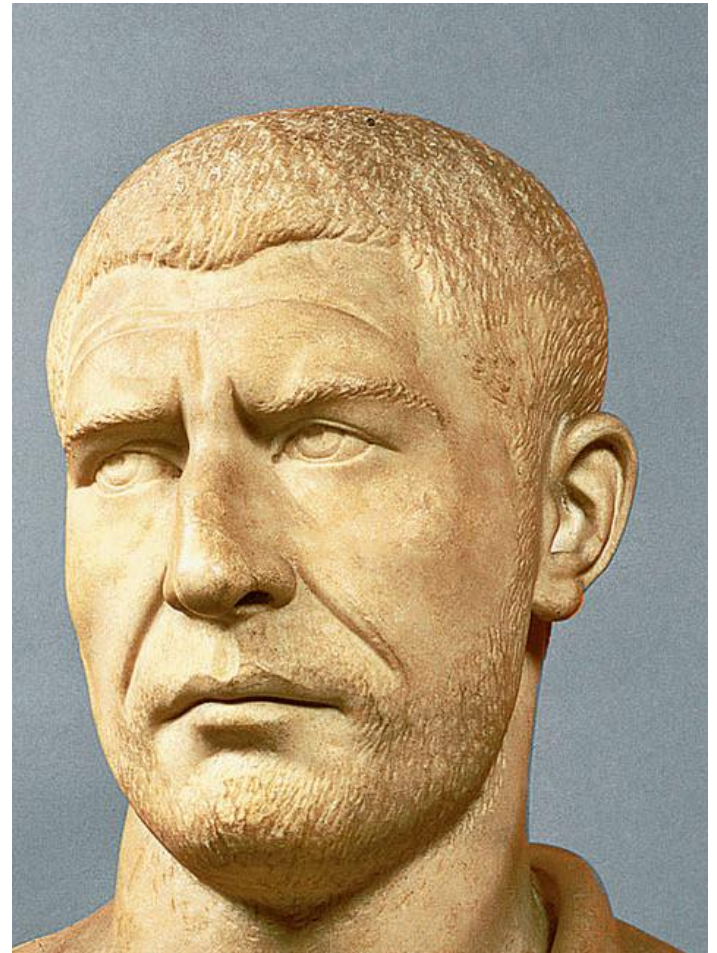
# Philip as Emperor

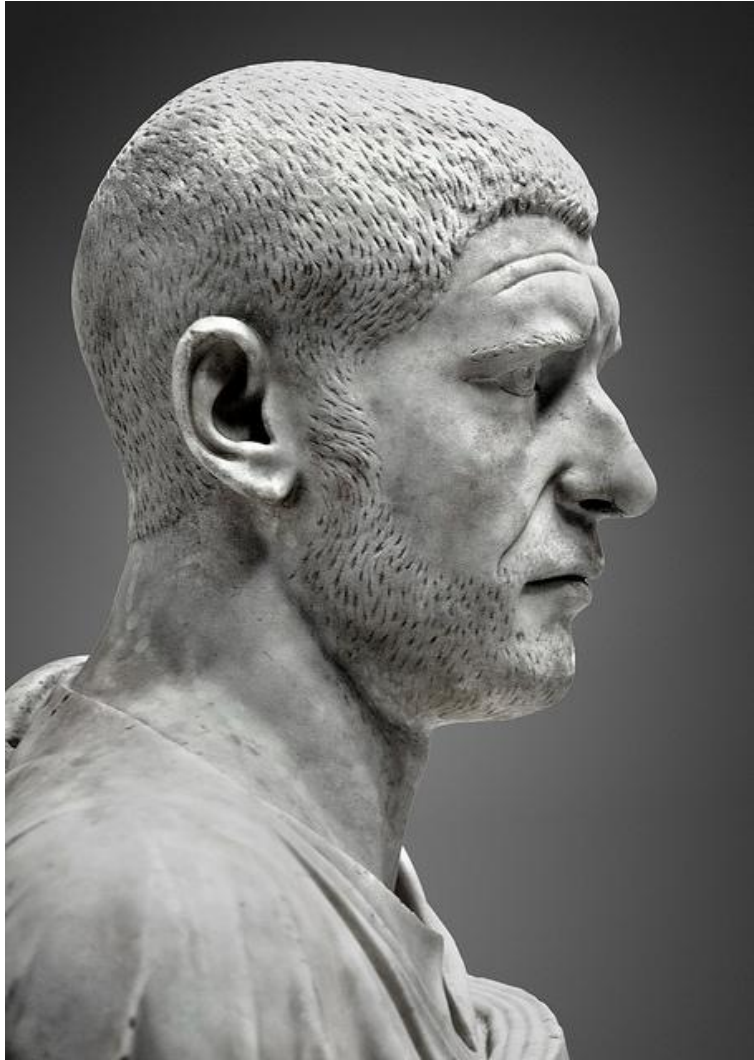
- Appointed as head of Praetorian Guard by Gordian III, took over as Emperor when Gordian was killed in battle in Mesopotamia
  - An earlier belief was that he came to power through a military coup, overthrowing Gordian and seizing the throne
- Ruled for only 5 years, 244-49 AD
  - Was murdered by his own soldiers
- This particular time in Roman history was marked with political upheaval and violence



- Made during Philip's reign, 244-49 AD
- 71 cm (2 feet, 4 inches) tall
- Made of marble
- Done in the veristic, rather than idealistic, style

- Philip was not born in Rome, but in Syria
  - Syrian features are visible here – prominent jaw, large nose and high cheek bones
- Close cropped hair and beard
- Facial expression – what are some emotions or feelings this portrait is trying to convey?





- One of the main functions of Imperial portraiture is to serve as propaganda pieces – taking into consideration the era in which it was made, what message is this bust designed to send? Is it effective?



- Here is another bust of Philip. Compare features of the two. Which do you think is a better portrayal?

