

RECENT FINDS OF ROMAN COINS IN LANCASHIRE: THIRD REPORT

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Since the publication of my last note in these *Transactions* (Shotter 1994), the Centre for North-West Regional Studies at Lancaster University has published a *First supplement* (1995) to my *Roman coins from north-west England* (1990); this included all coin-finds from the county that had been notified up to October 1994. The present note, therefore, takes up from that point to include finds that have been reported since then, together with fresh information on finds already recorded.

HOARDS

1. BORWICK (MANOR FARM). More details have come to light regarding a hoard which was found in 1993, but of which little information was initially available (Shotter 1995, p. 52). It is now known that the hoard consisted of approximately fifty coins, which have been distributed amongst various parties. Sixteen of these have been presented for examination, most of which have been poorly preserved and are very worn, not surprising in view of the fact that the latest coin was an issue of Julia Domna. The sixteen coins are:

Vespasian	1	(<i>as</i>)
Domitian	1	(<i>sestertius</i>)
Hadrian	6	(4 <i>sestertii</i> , inc. <i>R.I.C.</i> 586, 596; <i>dupondius</i> ; <i>as</i>)
Antoninus Pius	1	(<i>as</i>)

Faustina I	3	(2 <i>sestertii</i> , inc. <i>R.I.C.</i> (Antoninus) 1139; <i>dupondius</i>)
Marcus Aurelius	1	(<i>sestertius</i>)
Faustina II	1	(<i>sestertius</i>)
Septimus Severus	1	(<i>dupondius</i>)
Julia Domna	1	(<i>sestertius</i> , <i>R.I.C.</i> 859)

Contrary to the earlier report, a *denarius* (an issue of Antoninus Pius) did not belong to the hoard (see below, casual find 2). The find-spot of the hoard is a little to the north of the Bronze Age burial excavated by A. C. H. Olivier in 1982 (*Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, LIII (1987), pp. 129–86); a *sestertius* of Trajan was recovered during this excavation (Shotter 1990, p. 222).

2. LANCASTER AREA. It appears that in the early 1990s a hoard of *aes*-issues of the first and second centuries A.D. was found on agricultural land immediately east of the M6 motorway; no details have been made available.

3. LITTLEBOROUGH. A hoard of sixty-three *denarii* was found in 1994 near Hollingworth Lake; the coins, which ranged in date from the reign of Nero to that of Didius Julianus, were listed in my *First Supplement* (1995, p. 53), and will be fully published by Dr Jonathan Williams (of the British Museum) in a forthcoming issue of *Coin hoards of Roman Britain*. It is understood that recently (late 1995) further coins have been reported from this find-site, though details are so far lacking.

4. WORSTON. Although details of coin-finds from this area were given in my *First Supplement* (1995, p. 56), the potential importance of the area makes it desirable to provide the information here. In 1992 and 1993 a considerable number of Roman coins were recovered from locations near the village of Worston; Roman material was found with coins of Edward III and Elizabeth I and other Roman and medieval objects. In view of the fact that finds were made over a wide area, the status of the coins is not altogether easy to determine. It seems likely, however, that the finds include two small hoards.

a) *Worston I*: Eight *denarii* with a date-range A.D. 69–176, which is a common hoarding-period in Britain (Robertson 1974, pp. 30–1; Shotter 1990, p. 209). Although no container was found, the coins' state of wear left little doubt that they constituted a hoard, for which a local parallel is to be found in

the small group of *denarii* excavated at Ribchester in 1978 (Shotter 1990, p. 144). The coins are:

Vespasian	2	(<i>R.I.C.</i> 65 and 86)
Domitian	1	(<i>R.I.C.</i> 109)
Trajan	1	(<i>R.I.C.</i> 315)
Hadrian	2	(<i>R.I.C.</i> 44 and 267)
Marcus Aurelius (as Caesar)	1	(<i>R.I.C.</i> (Antoninus) 424)
Faustina II	1	(<i>R.I.C.</i> (Marcus) 728)

It is worth bearing in mind that in 1778 a large hoard of *denarii* (estimated as in excess of 1,000 coins) was found 'between Chatburn and Worston' (Shotter 1990, p. 151), at a spot which is now identified as Middlewood.

b) *Worston II*: Twenty-six *aes* issues, dating from the third and fourth centuries; this consists of twenty generally poor radiate copies, four Constantinian and two Valentinianic issues. Such wide chronological spread in hoards terminating in the later fourth century can be paralleled, for example, in the Fens (Shotter 1978, p. 47). The coins are:

Gallienus	2	(including <i>R.I.C.</i> 256)
Claudius II	2	(including <i>R.I.C.</i> 104)
Postumus	1	
Tetricus I	2	
Tetricus II	2	(including <i>R.I.C.</i> 254)
Unassignable radiate copies	10	
Constantine I	3	(<i>R.I.C.</i> VII (London), 5; <i>L.R.B.C.</i> , I, 12 and 51)
Constantius or Constans	1	
Valentinianic	2	(including <i>L.R.B.C.</i> , II, 283)

c) A further nineteen coins have been recovered from a scatter of locations, thus lacking an obvious direct connection with the first two groups. These coins consist of seven *denarii* and twelve *aes*-issues; the *denarii* are:

Marcus Antonius	1	(Crawford 544)
Nero	1	(<i>R.I.C.</i> I ² 72)
Domitian	2	(<i>R.I.C.</i> 107, 190)
Antoninus Pius	1	(<i>R.I.C.</i> 415)
Marcus Aurelius	1	(<i>R.I.C.</i> 1)
Caracalla	1	(<i>Hill</i> 1042)

the *aes* issues are:

Nero(?)	1	(<i>as</i>)
Trajan	2	(<i>sestertius</i> and <i>dupondius</i>)

Hadrian	1	(<i>sestertius</i>)
Marcus Aurelius	1	(<i>sestertius</i>)
Faustina II	2	(<i>R.I.C.</i> (Marcus) 1691 (<i>sestertius</i>); <i>R.I.C.</i> (Marcus) 1672 (<i>as</i>))
Geta (?)	1	(<i>Hill</i> 1054 (<i>as</i>))
Gallienus	1	
Constantius I	1	(<i>R.I.C.</i> , VI (Trier), 642)
Constantine I	2	(including <i>R.I.C.</i> , VII (Trier), 433)
Constans	1	(as <i>L.R.B.C.</i> , I, 138)

It is a strong possibility that such a group, with its wide chronological range, indicates that these coins should be treated as casual losses deriving from occupation of a Roman site. The fact that the find-spots are not far from a Roman road suggests that such a site might be a watchtower. It has been agreed locally that the hoard of *denarii* found in the eighteenth century will be referred to as the 'Chatburn hoard'; of the recent finds, the hoard of *denarii* is to be referred to as 'Worston I', and the *aes*-hoard of the third and fourth centuries as 'Worston II'.

CASUAL FINDS

1. ACCRINGTON. It appears that some Roman coins were found in the 1970s during work on the chimney-base at Highams Mill. The coins have been dispersed. Information from Mr Eric Higham.
2. BORWICK (MANOR FARM). A *denarius* of Antoninus Pius, previously thought to have been associated with a hoard of *aes*-issues, is now known to have been a separate casual loss in the same area.
3. BORWICK. From another location near Borwick it was reported that five *denarii* and 'some' early *aes*-issues were found in 1993. They did not apparently cohere in a hoard.
4. BROGDEN. A very corroded *sestertius* of Vespasian was found in 1995. Information concerning the find-spot is lodged with Blackburn Museum, though it is close to the line of the Roman road from Ribchester to Ilkley.
5. HALSALL. It is reported that *c.* 1990 a number of coins were found, including a *dupondius* of Antoninus Pius, and seven or eight issues of the third or fourth century.

6. LANCASTER. A number of coins have been reported from different locations in and around the city:

i) A very worn *denarius* of Domitian (A.D. 81–96) was found in 1994 ‘near to the river Lune’.

ii) A *dupondius* of Antoninus Pius (*R.I.C.* 933 of A.D. 154–5) was found in 1994 in the area of the ‘courtyard-house’ on the northern Vicarage Field (Shotter and White 1990, pp. 37–8).

iii) An *aes*-issue of Crispus (*L.R.B.C.*, I, 15, of A.D. 324–30) was found in 1995 on a building-site adjacent to Parliament Street.

iv) A *denarius* of Hadrian has been reported from Abraham Heights (west of the Roman fort-site); it appears that approximately a dozen Roman coins were found in the area, although no further details are available.

v) A considerable number of coins have been found in recent years around an evident earthwork, known as Burrow Heights, which lies about three miles south of the Roman fort-site and is adjacent to the line of the Roman road from Walton-le-Dale to Lancaster; a possible interpretation of the site was proposed some years ago by B. J. N. Edwards (in *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, LXXI (1971), pp. 27–32). One of the coins is an Alexandrian *tetradrachm* of Hadrian (Milne 968, of A.D. 121–2). The other coins are Roman imperial issues:

Vespasian	1	(<i>sestertius</i>)
Trajan	1	(<i>dupondius</i> , possibly <i>R.I.C.</i> 538)
Hadrian	1	(<i>dupondius</i>)
Antoninus Pius	1	(<i>as</i>)
Faustina I	2	(<i>sestertius</i> ; <i>as</i>)
Commodus	1	(<i>sestertius</i>)
Claudius II	1	(radiate copy)
Unassignable radiate copy	1	

Although the sample is small, its make-up is suggestive of a military source; if so, the site may have been a watchtower, situated by the side of the road.

7. WORSTON. Two coins were reported in 1995, a *dupondius* of Vespasian and a radiate copy, probably of Tetricus I; both were very worn and badly corroded.

8. YEALAND CONYERS. A radiate copy of Victorinus (A.D. 269–71) was found in 1993; its quality and condition were very poor.

ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES

- Crawford: M. H. Crawford, *Roman republican coinage* (Cambridge, 1974)
- Edwards 1971: B. J. N. Edwards, 'Roman finds from Contrebris', *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, LXXI (1971), pp. 17-34
- L.R.B.C.: P. V. Hill, R. A. G. Carson, and J. P. C. Kent, *Late Roman bronze coinage* (London, 1960)
- Milne: J. G. Milne, *A catalogue of Alexandrian coins* (London, 1971)
- R.I.C.: *The Roman imperial coinage*, ed. H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, and C. H. V. Sutherland (London, 1923 onwards)
- Robertson 1974: A. S. Robertson, 'Romano-British coin hoards', in *Coins and the archaeologist*, ed. P. J. Casey and R. Reece (Oxford, 1974), pp. 12-36
- Shotter 1978: D. C. A. Shotter, 'Unpublished Roman hoards in the Wisbech and Fenland Museum', *Coin Hoards*, IV (1978), pp. 47-50
- Shotter 1990: D. C. A. Shotter, *Roman coins from north-west England* (Lancaster, 1990)
- Shotter 1994: D. C. A. Shotter, 'Recent finds of Roman coins in Lancashire: second report', *T.H.S.L.C.* CXLIII (1994), pp. 221-5
- Shotter 1995: D. C. A. Shotter, *Roman coins from north-west England: first supplement* (Lancaster, 1995)
- Shotter and White 1990: D. C. A. Shotter and A. J. White, *The Roman fort and town of Lancaster* (Lancaster, 1990)