

SHORT NOTE

A HOARD OF *DENARII* FROM WADDINGTON NEAR  
CLITHEROE

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In October 1989 a hoard of thirty *denarii* was found in the grounds of Waddow Hall at Waddington; the coins, which ranged in date from Nero's to Hadrian's reigns, were found with a fragmentary and abraded footring of a Samian vessel – possibly a Déchelette 67 – which was presumably the hoard's container. The date and condition of the latest coins, as well as the chronological distribution and condition of the whole hoard, suggest a termination-date late in Hadrian's reign or very soon after – that is c. A.D. 135–140. The find was the subject of a Coroner's Inquest and adjudged to be Treasure Trove.

The present hoard offers a number of similarities with others found in north-west England.<sup>1</sup> In size, whilst many hoards of *denarii* are much larger, this one has close parallels with the slightly earlier collections found at Birdoswald, on Hadrian's Wall;<sup>2</sup> it would represent a moderate accumulation of savings, though its real value would obviously depend on the status of the saver. It is slightly unusual to find a samian vessel used as a hoard-container; coarse pottery vessels, boxes or purses were somewhat more common, although in this feature, the present hoard is paralleled by the later collection from Kirkham, which was also concealed in a Déchelette 67.<sup>3</sup>

The circumstances in which such a hoard was left unretrieved can of course only be the subject of conjecture; they may indeed have been no more dramatic than the natural death of the owner. Concealment of savings in a safe place

was the ancient alternative to banking, and it is not necessary to assume that a military, political or economic disaster led to their burial as a form of panic-concealment. Whilst there is no *known* Roman site in the close vicinity of the find-spot at least one other hoard has been recovered from the Clitheroe area.<sup>4</sup> Hoards were usually concealed in places recognizable to the owner, and not far from home; many in fact were buried in apparent association with roads and rivers – the lines of communication which also provided the focus-lines for settlement. In this case, the owner of the present hoard might have been a soldier who had retired to farming.

Although therefore the circumstances of concealment and non-retrieval of the hoard may be essentially individual and private, it is worth noting that a considerable number of hoards in north-west England, particularly of *denarii*, have their latest coins in the period c. A.D. 120–170.<sup>5</sup> It is sometimes suggested that this is an indication of the continuing disturbed state of Brigantian politics; we should also, however, remember that the period was one of major changes in Roman frontier-policy – the building of Hadrian's Wall in the 120s, of the Antonine Wall in the 140s, and the abandonment of the Antonine Wall in the early 160s.<sup>6</sup> It can readily be appreciated that such policy-changes led to considerable consequential movements of troops in the frontier's hinterland, with unavoidable disruption to the lives of soldiers and dependent civilians alike. Such disturbances could offer an explanation of the failure to retrieve the present hoard.

#### THE COINS

Nero (A.D. 54–68)	1	( <i>RIC</i> 52)
Galba (A.D. 68–69)	1	( <i>RIC</i> 20)
Vitellius (A.D. 69)	1	( <i>RIC</i> 20)
Vespasian (A.D. 69–79)	2	( <i>RIC</i> 10, 39)
Titus (A.D. 79–81)	1	( <i>RIC</i> 24a)
Domitian (Caesar, A.D. 79–81)	1	( <i>RIC</i> (Titus) 50)
Domitian (A.D. 81–96)	1	( <i>RIC</i> 169)
Nerva (A.D. 96–98)	2	( <i>RIC</i> 3, 18)

Trajan (A.D. 98–117)	9	( <i>RIC</i> 11, 16, 22, 38, 40, 49, 96, 119; <i>BMC</i> 281)
Hadrian (A.D. 117–138)	9	( <i>RIC</i> 71, 78(2), 94, 120, 127, 208, 256, 302)
Sabina	2	( <i>RIC</i> (Hadrian) 391, 399a)

## NOTES

*BMC*: H. Mattingly *et al*, eds, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum*, (1923–).

*RIC*: H. Mattingly *et al*, eds, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, (1923–83).

- 1 D.C.A. Shotter, 'Three Early Imperial Hoards from Lancashire', *Coin Hoards*, IV, 1978, pp.44–5; *id.*, *Roman Coins from North-West England* (Lancaster, 1990), pp.212–14.
- 2 I.A. Richmond, 'The Birdoswald Hoard and its composition', *Trans. Cumberland and Westmorland Antiq. and Arch. Soc.*, new series, LIV, 1954, pp.56–60.
- 3 See *Num. Chron.*, 5th series, XVI, 1936, pp.316–20.
- 4 D.C.A. Shotter, 'Six Roman Coin Hoards from Lancashire', *Lancs. Arch. Journ.*, II, 1982, pp.39–45.
- 5 Shotter, *Roman Coins from North-West England*.
- 6 B.R. Hartley, 'The Roman Occupations of Scotland: the evidence of Samian Ware', *Britannia*, III, 1972, pp.1–55; D.C.A. Shotter, 'Coin Evidence and the Northern Frontier in the Second Century A.D.', *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, CVII, 1976, pp.81–91.

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