

## RECENT FINDS OF ROMAN COINS IN LANCASHIRE: FOURTH REPORT<sup>1</sup>

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### HOARDS

1. LANCASTER. Lancaster Museum has recently been given sight of a large collection of Roman and other coins, belonging to a deceased private individual. A few had specific local provenances and are listed as casual finds below. Fifty-six of the Roman coins were kept together but with no note of their provenance. It has, however, emerged subsequently from a neighbour of the deceased that the coins had been collected by the deceased's grandfather during construction work on the Royal Lancaster Infirmary in the early 1890s. The group is recorded here in its entirety; although most of it probably belongs to one or possibly two hoards, a few of the coins, of second-century date, may represent casual losses. The coins are:

Hadrian	1	<i>dupondius</i>
Sabina	1	<i>Æ: R.I.C.</i> 1029
Antoninus Pius	1	<i>Æ: R.I.C.</i> 521
Lucilla	1	<i>Æ: R.I.C.</i> (Marcus), 1760
Commodus	1	<i>Æ: R.I.C.</i> 406
Caracalla	1	<i>denarius</i>
Geta	1	<i>Æ: R.I.C.</i> 160
Aquilia Severa	1	<i>Æ: R.I.C.</i> 389
Maximinus	1	<i>sestertius</i>
Mariniana	1	<i>Æ: R.I.C.</i> (Mariniana), 9

<sup>1</sup> My thanks are due to Graham Pearson, Edward Phillips, Sandy Mellor, Andrew White, and Jonathan Williams for their help in connection with the finds listed in this report.

Gallienus	4	inc. <i>R.I.C.</i> 230, 275, 319
Claudius II	1	<i>R.I.C.</i> 53
Victorinus	2	<i>R.I.C.</i> 114 (2)
Tetricus I	7	inc. <i>R.I.C.</i> 62, 87, 110, 148
Tetricus II	3	inc. <i>R.I.C.</i> 224, 248
Claudius Tacitus	1	<i>R.I.C.</i> 93
Constantius I	2	<i>R.I.C.</i> VI (Trier), 213a; (Ticinum), 39
Galerius	1	<i>R.I.C.</i> VI (Ticinum), 48b
Maximin Daia	1	<i>R.I.C.</i> VI (Trier), 844a
Licinius	1	<i>R.I.C.</i> VI (Trier), 844b
Constantine I	7	<i>R.I.C.</i> VII (Trier), 39, 439; (London), 88 (4), 220
Constantinian (A.D. 330–346):		
GLORIA EXERCITVS		
(2 standards)	1	<i>L.R.B.C.</i> I, 1005
GLORIA EXERCITVS		
(1 standard)	4	inc. <i>L.R.B.C.</i> I, 1024
she-wolf and twins	1	<i>L.R.B.C.</i> I, 51
VOT XX MVLTVS	4	as: <i>L.R.B.C.</i> I, 958 (4)
facing Victories	3	inc. <i>L.R.B.C.</i> I, 137
Constantinian (A.D. 346–364):		
FEL TEMP REPARATIO		
(fallen horseman)	2	<i>L.R.B.C.</i> II, 196 (2)
Valentinianic:		
SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	1	

Although it is not possible to reconstruct the hoard material precisely, it is likely that some at least of the nine coins from Hadrian to Maximinus should be considered as separate from the rest; however, the possibility remains that the *aes* coins in this group might represent the whole or part of a hoard terminating in the middle years of the third century. Such hoards were encouraged by the minting from the 240s of the new 'radiate' (or double) *sestertius*.<sup>2</sup>

The remainder of the coins may constitute a single hoard, or more likely two: a small hoard of nineteen radiates and copies, from Mariniana (the wife of the Emperor Valerian) to Claudius Tacitus, and another of twenty-eight fourth-

2 P. J. Casey, 'The interpretation of Romano-British site-finds', in *Coins and the archaeologist*, ed. P. J. Casey and R. Reece (British Archaeological Reports, IV, 1974), pp. 47–8; D. C. A. Shotter, 'Unpublished Roman hoards in the Wisbech and Fenland Museum', *Coin Hoards*, IV (1978), p. 47.

century issues. The absence of coins of Carausius suggests that we should probably postulate a break between the two groups. Such a small hoard of radiates and copies, terminating either with reformed radiates of the 270s or with issues of Carausius, has two parallels from the Lancaster area.<sup>3</sup> A distinctive feature of the fourth-century group is the fact that a number of the coins display the marks of eastern mints; it is thereby paralleled on a much larger scale by the hoard found at Knott Mill (Manchester) in 1852.<sup>4</sup>

2. LITTLEBOROUGH. Reference was made in my third report to a hoard of sixty-five *denarii* which had been recovered in 1994 in the vicinity of Hollingworth Lake.<sup>5</sup> In 1995 a further eleven *denarii* were found in the same spot. However, it is the view of local historians that it remains unclear whether the recorded find-spot is precisely correct. A complete list of the seventy-six coins appeared as *Coin hoards of Roman Britain*, X (1997), pp. 135–42, published by the British Museum. A summary list is:

Nero	1
Vespasian	4
Titus	1
Flavian	1 (fragment)
Nerva	4
Trajan	7
Hadrian	16
Lucius Aelius	1
Antoninus Pius	6
Faustina I	7
Marcus Aurelius	5
Lucius Verus	5
Faustina II	4
Lucilla	2
Commodus (as Caesar)	1
Divus Marcus	1
Commodus	6
Didius Julianus	1

3 D. C. A. Shotter, *Roman coins from north-west England* (Lancaster, 1990), pp. 134–5.

4 *Ibid.* pp. 139–44.

5 David Shotter, 'Recent finds of Roman coins in Lancashire: third report', *T.H.S.L.C.*, CXLV (1995), p. 198.

Three coins were classified as illegible, although one of them appears to be an issue of Faustina II. The coins have all been adjudged treasure trove and have been acquired by the Littleborough Historical Society.

3. PREESELL. A silvered *antoninianus* of Postumus (*R.I.C.* 93) has been recorded as having come from this known hoard.<sup>6</sup>

4. THORNTON (in Fylde). There is an unconfirmed report that a Roman hoard was found in the 1940s during housing development near the windmill.

#### CASUAL FINDS

1. HAMBLETON. A very worn *denarius* of Antoninus Pius has been reported from this area.

2. LANCASTER. Lancaster Museum in 1996 acquired five coins which were found at Marsh Range between 1850 and 1900:

Domitian	1	<i>sestertius</i>
Trajan	2	<i>sestertius</i> : <i>R.I.C.</i> 508; as
Constantinian:		
Victory on prow	1	<i>L.R.B.C.</i> I, 52
VICTORIAE D D AVGG Q N N I	1	<i>L.R.B.C.</i> I, 148

3. LANCASTER. The collection referred to above (hoard no. 1) also contained five coins, individually provenanced, from various parts of the city, which were found in 1854 during sewer construction:

Domitian	1	<i>as</i> [Market Street]
Trajan	1	<i>dupondius</i> [Castle Hill]
Marcus Aurelius	1	<i>sestertius</i> [Springfield Hall]
illegible	1	<i>dupondius</i> / as
unassignable radiate copy	1	[Green Ayre]

Since Springfield Hall stood on the site now occupied by Lancaster Royal Infirmary, it is possible that the *sestertius* of Marcus Aurelius should be seen as part of the group of second- and early third-century coins listed above.

6 Shotter, *Roman coins from north-west England*, pp. 160–1; idem, *Roman coins from north-west England: first supplement* (Lancaster, 1995), p. 52.

4. STAINING. Two coins were found in 1996 about half a mile from the village. They were both too worn to permit precise identification, but one was a *sestertius* of Caracalla, the other an *aes* issue of the early fourth century.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

*L.R.B.C.*: P. V. Hill, R. A. G. Carson, and J. P. C. Kent, *Late Roman bronze coinage* (London, 1960)

*R.I.C.*: *The Roman imperial coinage*, ed. H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, and C. H. V. Sutherland (London, 1923 onwards)

