SOME ROMAN BRASS COINS FOUND AT LINCOLN.

By Nathan Heywood.

In pre-Roman times, when the British Coritani established their settlement on the site of the present City of Lincoln, they named it Lind or Lindun-coit, i.e., the woody hill in the waters, a felicitous description of its then appearance.

Following these the Romans, in the first century, placed their fortified camp in the same position, possibly during the campaign of Aulus Plautius in the reign of Claudius A.D. 43. But when it was created one of the nine British Coloniae, probably by Hadrian, it was duly fortified, received the name of Lindum Colonia, and a permanent garrison of veterans, who, as both soldiers and settlers, were allowed to hold lands on condition of rendering military service when called on. Lindum Colonia was only three military stages south of Eboracum, where was stationed the VI or IX Legion, and both were in the Province of Flavia Caesarensis. The enclosing walls extended about 1,300 feet from east to west and 1,200 feet from north to south, and there were at least four gates—that to the north, the Newport gate, being the most important; adjoining this, a little to the east, there existed until comparatively recent date some walls of Roman masonry, traditionally known as "the Mint." There is, however, no evidence of any mint previous to the end of the ninth century, but coins were undoubtedly fabricated here, as contemporary Roman coin moulds have occasionally been discovered.

Bailgate, where the coins now to be described were found, is close to the Newport gate, and in 1878 and subsequent years excavations revealed the remains of an important building of Roman fabric extending 283 feet in length by 236 feet in width, included in which were the
bases of nineteen pillars ranged in a straight line: probably from its magnitude this was the Basilica.

The Roman stratum is generally from 9 to 12 feet below the present street level, and at this point, Bailgate, it is from 8 to 9 feet.

At this depth Roman coins are readily discoverable in considerable numbers whenever the ground is disturbed.

The Saxon Chronicle says, under A.D. 418, “The Romans collected all the treasures that were in Britain, and some they hid and some they carried with them to Gaul.” After their departure and during the miserable years of the early Saxon invasions, the Roman Lindum was destroyed and left desolate; subsequently the Saxon settlement arose on the lower ground nearer the streams; and about the tenth century the Norse or Danish invaders appear to have refounded it as a fenced City and stronghold, as is testified by the frequent use of Gal or gate for street, and other Scandinavian names. At the coming of William I. the city was a Danish municipality, and during the Saxon and Danish times, Lincoln undoubtedly possessed a very active mint.

Recently, by a kindly presentation, I have come into possession of a parcel, or perhaps a small find of Roman coins discovered at Bailgate, Ermine Street, Lincoln, in the year 1878, by workmen engaged in executing some city improvements near the ancient gate on the North Road. The coins were loosely dispersed amongst the remains of buildings and roadway at a depth of about 8 feet below the level of the present surface, and were separately picked up. The series consists of about ninety-four coins in first, second and third brass.

Probably the true reason why the ground is so thickly strewn with coins of Roman mintage may be due to the unnoticed breaking up and scattering by plough or spade of the many small hoards that would naturally exist in the deserted buildings of an enclosed and once populous town.

The range in time of the coins is very extensive, being from Drusus, Senior (struck under Claudius A.D. 41–54) to Valens, A.D. 364–378, or over three centuries. As might be expected, considering the long period of circulation, the coins exhibit signs of wear previous to their deposit, and none of them are in sufficiently good
The Reigns represented.

condition to admit of illustration. The following table shows the distribution of the coins, which are third brass, except where indicated to the contrary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reigns Represented</th>
<th>Coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drusus (1st AE)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vespasian (1st AE)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trajan (2nd AE)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septimius Severus (1st AE)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallienus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postumus</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorinus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetricus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constantine I.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constantine II.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constanst</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnentius</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julianus II.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valentinianus</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valens</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncertain</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>94</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the list which follows I have endeavoured to describe the coins, so far as their condition permits:

**Drusus.** 38 B.C.–9 B.C.

*Obverse.*—NERO CLAVDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP = Bare head of Drusus to left.

*Reverse.*—TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG PM TRP IMP P.P. S.C. = Drusus seated to left holding a palm, at his feet, shields, helmets, cuirass, spear, etc.

**Vespasianus.** A.D. 69–79.

*Obverse.*—IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG PM TR .P. PP COS III. = Laureated head of Vespasian to right.

*Reverse.*—SALVS AVGVSTA = Salus seated to left.

*Exergue.*—S. C.
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Trajanus. A.D. 98–117.

Obverse.—Inscription undecipherable = Head of Trajan to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable.

Septimius Severus. A.D. 193–211.

Obverse.—Inscription undecipherable. Head of Septimius Severus to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable. A trophy between two captives.


Obverse.—GALLIENVS = Head of Gallienus to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = A military figure standing.


Obverse.—IMP. POSTVMVS AVG = Head of Postumus to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = A military figure standing.


Obverse.—IMP VICTORINVS AVG = Head of Victorinus to right.
Reverse.—SALVS AVG = A female figure standing.


Obverse.—IMP TETRICVS = Head of Tetricus to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable.


Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS PF AVG = Head of Constantine to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = Two winged figures standing on either side of an altar, holding a shield.
Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS PF AVG = Head of Constantine to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = An altar surmounted by an orb.
Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS PF AVG = Head of Constantine to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = Two soldiers holding a banner inscribed X.
Description of the Coins.

Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS PF AVG = Head of Constantine to right.

Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = Two figures holding a banner inscribed

Exergue.—P. CON.

Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS PF AVG = Head of Constantine to right.

Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = The wolf and twins.

Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS PF AVG = Head of Constantine to right.

Reverse.—GENIO AVGVSTI = A female figure standing.

Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS PF AVG = Head of Constantine to right.

Reverse.—VICTORIAE AVGVSTORVM = Two Victories, each holding a wreath.

Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS PF AVG = Head of Constantine to right.

Reverse.—GLORIA EXERCITVS = Two soldiers holding a banner inscribed

Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS PF AVG = Head of Constantine to right.

Reverse.—SECVRITAS = Victory holding a wreath.

Obverse.—CONSTANTINOPOLIS = Head of Constantine helmeted.

Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = Victory holding a shield.


Obverse.—CONSTANTINVS IVN. N. C = Head of Constantine the Younger to right.

Reverse.—GLORIA EXERCITVS = Two soldiers standing on either side of a trophy.

Obverse.—CONSTANTINVS IVN. N. C = Head of Constantine the Younger to right.

Reverse.—GLORIA EXERCITVS = Two soldiers standing, each holding a standard.

Obverse.—CONSTANTINVS IVN. N. C = Head of Constantine the Younger to right.

Reverse.—GLORIA EXERCITVS = Two soldiers standing supporting a banner inscribed.


Obverse.—DN CONSTANTINVS = Head of Constans to right.

Reverse.—VICTORIAE = Two figures standing.
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Obverse.—CONSTANS PF AVG = Head of Constans to right.
Reverse.—VICTORIAE = Two figures standing.
Obverse.—DN CONSTANS PF AVG = Head of Constans to right.
Reverse.—GLORIA EXERCITVS = Two soldiers standing, supporting a banner inscribed ☼
Obverse.—CONSTANS PF AVG = Head of Constans to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = Two figures standing.
Exergue.—PLC.

Obverse.—DN MAGNENTIVS PF AVG = Head of Magnentius to right.
Reverse.—Inscription undecipherable = XΩ

Julianus II. A.D. 360–363.
Obverse.—DN IVLIANVS PF AVG = Head of Julianus II. to right.
Reverse.—PAX AVGVSTI = Peace standing holding a branch.

Valentinianus I. A.D. 364–375.
Obverse.—DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG = Head of Valentinianus to right.
Reverse.—SECVRITAS REIPVBLICA = Security standing.
Obverse.—DN VALENTINIANVS = Head of Valentinianus to right.
Reverse.—GLORIA ROMANORVM = A soldier standing.
Exergue.—P. CON.

Obverse.—DN VALENS PF AVG = Head of Valens to right.
Reverse.—SECVRITAS PVBLICA = Security standing.
Obverse.—DN VALENS PF AVG = Head of Valens to right.
Reverse.—GLORIA ROMANORVM = A soldier holding a captive.

The absence of coins of Hadrian and the Antonines is noteworthy, and somewhat remarkable.

My acknowledgments are due to Mr. R. D. Darbishire, F.S.A., for his assistance in deciphering many of the specimens.