

MISCELLANEA

MORE FINDS OF CORITANI COINS IN LINCOLNSHIRE

In January of 1970 Mr. Harrison of Winterton had the good fortune to find at Dragonby, two Coritani coins within the one week.

The first and most important was a Stater inscribed ESUP ASU; this is the sixth coin of this type I have recorded and may be described as follows:

Obv.: A crude wreath crossed by a line with crescent-shaped ends, enclosing beaded circles with pellets in the centre.

Rev.: Horse to the left with a star beneath the tail, parts of IISVP and a pellet above, and below ASV

Mack reference: 456B

Weight: 78 grains

Specific gravity: 9.7 (Pl. X, 8).

The second coin is a silver half denomination with the horse to the right; I have recorded some nine other coins in this general type, the horse having an open mouth and no pellets below, but on this coin the traces of the boar on the obverse are more pronounced. It may be described thus:

Obv.: Faint traces of a boar.

Rev.: Maned horse to the right with open mouth, circle of seven pellets above, and a pellet below tail. Die duplicate of a coin found at South Feriby, *BNJ* iii, plate Ancient British Coins, no. 19.

Weight: 8.5 grains.

Mack reference: 454A (Pl. X, 9).

In March of this year, I found on the Owmbly Cliff site a full silver denomination of the inscribed coin V P CORF; this is the third coin I have recorded for this rare type, all of which are from different dies; it varies from the Lockett coin illustrated by Commander Mack as number 464, having a star beneath the tail. It may be described as follows:

Obv.: Portions of a wreath design.

Rev.: Horse to the right with V P above, CO-F below, the F being formed from the front legs of the horse, a star below tail and a pellet under the neck.

Mack reference: 464 variation.

Weight: 17 grains (Pl. X, 10).

In September 1969 the Owmbly Cliff site was deep dragged for the purposes of stubble cleaning. This produced a crop of Roman coins and also a most interesting silver half denomination from the Coritani Tribe, of a type hitherto unrecorded. This coin may be described as follows:

Obv.: Boar to left.

Rev.: Maned horse to right, with open mouth.

A circle of seven joined pellets above, and also above the tail part of a plain ringed ornament. A pellet below the tail.

Weight: 6 grains (Pl. X, 11).

This coin, I feel, should be placed early within the issues of silver coins with the horse to the right and an open mouth.

Mr. Derek Allen has brought to my notice a coin recorded by Stukeley, plate 7, no. 10 in his twenty-three plates of Ancient British Kings. This also shows a boar to the left on the obverse. However, I feel that this coin, if it be Coritanian, may fit into an earlier issue than the one found at Owmbly, but it does serve to remind us that there may be more types of coins to be discovered from the Coritani Tribe.

During the spring workings in 1970 on the fields at Owmbly Cliff, one gold and three silver coins have been found, all from different parts of the site over a period of two months. I was fortunate to find the first three to be described.

No. 1.

An inscribed stater ESUP ASU

Obv.: Traces of a wreath design.

Rev.: Horse to the left, above parts of ESUP showing, below ASU.

Weight: 81.5 grains. (Pl. X, 12).

Specific gravity: 11.3.

Mack reference: 456B.

This is the second coin of this rare type to be found in Lincolnshire this year and is of good quality gold.

No. 2.

May be described as follows:

Obv.: A boar to the right, above a rosette and other ring ornaments, below and behind other ring ornaments.

Rev.: A solid-headed maned horse to the left, above a rosette and ring ornament, and below another ring ornament.

Weight: 16 grains (Pl. X, 13).

This is a full denomination of the silver coin described by Derek Allen in his *Sylloge* of the Coins of the Coritani as belonging to type F; I feel, however, that this coin and four other known coins of this type can now be placed in a separate class.

No. 3.

Is as follows:

Obv.: Slight traces of a wreath design.

Rev.: A solid-headed horse to the right with *VE* above, and below three pellets, and a pellet below tail.

Weight: 7 grains (Pl. X, 14).

This is a silver half denomination of the coin *VEP*, and is very similar to one found in the excavations at Dragonby.

In the 1968 issues of this *Journal* (p. 190) I described a broken full silver denomination as a possible *VEP* coin; this latest find makes it virtually certain that I was wrong, and so the large fragment must at present remain as an unidentified inscribed coin until another similar is found.

It is also interesting to note that this *VEP* issue can now be fully recognized as separate from those coins inscribed *VEP CORF*.

No. 4.

This last coin may be described as follows:

Obv.: A boar probably to the left, above a wheel with eight spokes and another ring-type ornament, below an annulet enclosing a small pellet and traces of a plain exergual line.

Rev.: A solid-headed maned horse to the left, and above a circle of joined pellets enclosing a pellet.

Weight: 7.7 grains (Pl. X, 15).

This is a most interesting half silver denomination as it shows for the first time a recognizable obverse design to the issue of coins described by Commander R. P. Mack as number 456.

H. R. MOSSOP

A SCEATTA FROM PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET

IN the late summer of 1969 the son of Mr. W. J. Purkiss found in the garden of their house at 57 Wetlands Lane, Portishead (ST 46257540), the sceatta illustrated on p. 164. It has since been acquired by the City Museum, Bristol.

The findspot is about seventy feet above Ordnance Datum and therefore well above the level of the marine transgression of the Late Roman period which probably continued well into the Dark Ages.¹ It is in the immediate vicinity of a sub-Roman or Dark Age cemetery of at least twenty-six graves, excavated during 1969,² and of a Roman site in the grounds of the Gordano Comprehensive School immediately to the east. The house is part of a recently developed housing estate and there is no evidence whatever to

suggest that the coin might have been a collector's stray. It should, however, be noted that about ten feet away was a surface find of a half-groat of James I of England. The sceatta was found about nine inches beneath the surface. The developer's agent confirms that to the best of his knowledge no soil from elsewhere has been brought to the site. It has been thought proper to scrutinize and record the circumstances of finding in this detail as the findspot is on the south-western fringe of the known distribution of coins of this type.³

The sceatta, which is struck in fairly good silver, is of *BMC, Anglo-Saxon Coins*, i (1887), type 16 (cf. plate II, 20), and thus belongs to P. V. Hill's 'London-derived' group.⁴ Not all of this group were necessarily struck in London, but this

¹ B. W. Cunliffe, 'The Somerset Levels in the Roman Period', in *Rural Settlement in Roman Britain*, ed. Charles Thomas (1966).

² *Medieval Archaeology*, forthcoming.

³ Cf. P. V. Hill, 'Saxon Sceattas and their Problems',

BNJ xxvi (1951), p. 130 and Map 1, p. 144. This map needs much addition and revision, but the pattern of distribution is unaltered.

⁴ P. V. Hill, 'The "Standard" and "London" series of Anglo-Saxon Sceattas', *BNJ* xxvi (1952), p. 265.