

A Local Collection of Coins from Tackley, Oxon.

By J. G. MILNE and C. H. V. SUTHERLAND

FOR a great many years the late Mr. William Evetts, J.P., of Tackley Park, Oxon., was a keen collector of all local antiquities found strictly within the parish boundaries of Tackley. In this way, he came to amass a large collection of coins, over 800 in number, the local provenance of which may be regarded as practically certain : it is understood that they were as a rule acquired direct from the finders, and none of them look as if they had been through the hands of dealers. Many of these were submitted from time to time to Messrs. A. H. Baldwin and Sons, the numismatists, for identification. After Mr. Evetts' recent death the coins passed into the possession of his son, Mr. Edgar Evetts, who readily consented to allow the Ashmolean Museum the opportunity of supplementing its previous range of Tackley coins—hitherto confined to a mere handful of issues of the time of Constantius II. The historical interest of this new acquisition, and the surprisingly wide range of the series, are indicated in the subjoined lists and in the notes which accompany them : it is only necessary to add here that the Evetts Collection will be kept together, under that name, as an integral unit among the Ashmolean local collections, and that selections from it are at the present moment on exhibition in the Ashmolean.

I. GREEK, ETC. (6 coins)

Sicily :	Mamertini	Æ.	Brit. Mus. Cat., <i>Sicily</i> , p. 112, nos. 32 ff.
	Syracuse	Æ.	Brit. Mus. Cat., <i>Sicily</i> , p. 218, nos. 598 ff.
	Syracuse	Æ.	Brit. Mus. Cat., <i>Sicily</i> , p. 219, no. 614.
	Syracuse	Æ.	Brit. Mus. Cat., <i>Sicily</i> , p. 227, no. 691.
Africa :	Carthage	Æ.	Müller, <i>Numismatique de l'ancienne Afrique</i> , II, 95, nos. 168 ff.
[Uncertain Greek]		Æ.	

II. BRITISH (1 coin)

Uninscribed class : probably of the British Atrebatine type (Brooke, *Numismatic Chronicle*⁵ XIII (1933), 21 ff., and pl. xi thereto). Exact identification is difficult, as the coin is a base copper core, in poor relief, of an ancient forgery ; traces of the original gilding adhere to both sides.

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III. ROMAN (138 coins)¹

1	CLAUDIUS I	MS. 69 E.
2	HADRIAN	MS. 579 (a), 970 (b).
3	ANTONINUS PIUS	MS. 1002; two illegible $\text{Æ}1$.
1	FAUSTINA II	Illegible $\text{Æ}1$.
2	Uncertain	$\text{Æ}2$ of the 1st or 2nd century: illegible.
1	SEVERUS ALEXANDER	C. 163.
2	GALLIENUS	MS. 164; one illegible $\text{Æ}3$.
1	VALERIAN II	MS. 8.
3	CLAUDIUS II	MS. 104, 266 (2).
2	TETRICUS I	One <i>Hilaritas</i> or <i>Pietas Augg</i> ; one illegible.
3	TETRICUS II	MS. 270 (2); one <i>Pietas Augustor</i> .
1	TETRICUS I OR II	<i>Spes</i> .
6	'Radiates'	Types uncertain or illegible.
8	'Radiate' copies	Including 1 <i>Virtus</i> , 1 <i>Pietas Augustor</i> , 1 <i>Sol Invictus</i> .
1	TACITUS	MS. 163 (C), $\overline{\text{U}}$.
1	CARINUS	MS. 220 (C), mm. uncertain.
5	CARAUSIUS	MS. 98 ff., as 791 (2), as 982 ff., and one illegible.
2	ALLECTUS	MS. 128 (F), both QC.
4	MAXIMIAN HERCULEUS (post-reform)	C. 179 (AV vice AVG); two <i>Genio Pop. Rom.</i> , one $\frac{\text{T} \mid \text{F}}{\text{PTR}}$, one with mm. uncertain; one uncertain Æ .
7	CONSTANTINE I	One <i>Genio Populi Romani</i> ; C. 123, $\overline{\text{TSFVI}}$; 525 (2), $\frac{\text{T} \mid \text{F}}{\text{STR}}, \frac{\text{T} \mid \text{F}}{\text{PTR}}$; C. 530, $\frac{\text{S} \mid \text{F}}{\text{PLN}}$; as C. 634; C. 697.
2	CRISPUS	C. 28, $\overline{\text{PLON}}$; C. 44.
3	'Urbs Roma'	C. 17, $\overline{\text{TRS}}$, and two with mm. uncertain.
2	'Constantinopolis'	C. 21, $\frac{\text{S} \mid \text{R}}{\text{SMALI}}$, and one with mm. uncertain.
5	CONSTANTINE II (CAESAR)	C. 4; 25, $\overline{\text{PLON}}$; 39, $\overline{\text{PTR}}$; 114, $\overline{\text{SMKE}}$; 119, with mm. uncertain.
4	(Time of Constantine I)	<i>Beata Tranquillitas</i> (3); ? Crispus, ? <i>Caesarum Nostrorum</i> (1).
1	CONSTANTIUS II (AUGUSTUS)	C. 53.
2	[ditto]	Imitated from <i>Fel. Temp. Reparatio</i> (fallen horseman); one is cut down to minim size.
16	House of Constantine I	<i>Gloria Exercitus</i> : 2 standards (7), 1 standard (2); <i>Two Victories</i> (5); <i>Fel. Temp. Reparatio</i> (Phoenix) (1); uncertain (1).
4	MAGNENTIUS	<i>Victoriae Dd. Nn. Augg. et Caess.</i> (3); uncertain (1).

¹ References are to Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage* (=MS.), and to Cohen, *Description historique des monnaies frappées sous l'empire romain*, 2nd edition (=C.). The abbreviation 'mm.' signifies 'mint-mark,' and the conventional symbols Æ , $\text{Æ}1$, $\text{Æ}2$, etc., are used to indicate copper or bronze coins, and their size.

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6	VALENTINIAN I	<i>Gloria Romanorum</i> , $\frac{F R}{ESISC-}$, $\frac{F R}{-SISC-}$, and one with mm. uncertain; <i>Securitas Reipublicae</i> (3).
3	VALENS	<i>Securitas Reipublicae</i> (2), one being $\frac{OF II}{CON}$; <i>Urbs Roma</i> (silver siliqua), \overline{TRPS} .
3	GRATIAN	<i>Gloria Novi Saeculi</i> (2); <i>Gloria Romanorum</i> (1).
14	House of Valentinian I	<i>Gloria Romanorum</i> (6); <i>Securitas Reipublicae</i> (8).
1	ARCADIUS	One coin, at least, out of two pairs of coins (each pair stuck together) belongs to Arcadius. The coins are all $\text{\AA}4$, and look as if they are the remnants of a Theodosian hoard.
4	House of Theodosius I	See above, under Arcadius, for three; in addition to these three is one, uncertain.
12	Uncertain	$\text{\AA}2$ (2); $\text{\AA}3$ (10).



FIG. 22A

ANGLO-SAXON SCEATTA FOUND AT TACKLEY, OXON.

(enlarged three diameters)

Evelyn Collection, Ashmolean Museum.

IV. ANGLO-SAXON (1 coin)

Silver *sceatta*, of the type represented by Brit. Mus. Cat., *Anglo-Saxon*, pl. III, 18, but showing, on the reverse, the beast turned to *left* (FIG. 22A).

V. ENGLISH REGAL (372 coins)

1	JOHN	Penny (Canterbury).
1	HENRY III	Penny (St. Edmundsbury).
1	EDWARD I	Penny (London).
2	EDWARD II	Penny (Canterbury); Halfpenny (London).
1	EDWARD III	Penny (York).
1	HENRY VI	Penny (Calais).
3	EDWARD IV	Pennies (York 3).
2	HENRY VIII	Groat (London); Half-groat (York).

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1	PHILIP AND MARY	Groat.
12	ELIZABETH	Shilling (crosslet). Sixpences (1571, 1572, 1573, 1575, 1584). Groats (? (2)). Threepence (1578). Half-Groats (Woolpack) (?). Penny (crosslet).
1	JAMES I	Shilling.
5	CHARLES I	Halfcrowns (triangle in circle) (?). Sixpence (coronet). Half-groat (). Penny (?).
26	CHARLES II	Groat (1679). Farthings (1672 (6); 1673 (3); 1674 (2); 1675; 1676; ? (12)).
1	JAMES II	Farthing.
4	WILLIAM AND MARY	Halfpennies (1690; 1694). Farthings (1694 (2)).
33	WILLIAM III	Halfcrown (1696). Shillings (1699 ? (3)). Sixpences (1696 (3); 1697 (2)). Halfpennies (1697 (2); 1698; 1701; ? (9)). Farthings (1699 (4); 1700; ? (5)).
2	ANNE	Shilling (1708). Threepence (?).
14	GEORGE I	Shilling (1723). Halfpennies (1721 (3); 1723 (2); 1724 (2); (?)). Farthings (1721; 1722 (2); ? (2)).
66	GEORGE II	Sixpence (1758). Halfpennies (1729; 1731; 1733 (2); 1734 (2); 1735; 1736; 1739 (2); 1743 (2); 1745; 1749 (5); 1751; 1752 (2); 1753 (2); ? (25)). Farthings (1730; 1733; 1736; 1737; 1739 (3); 1750; 1754 (7); ? (2)).
169	GEORGE III	Shilling (1820). Sixpences (1787; 1816 (2); 1817 (3); 1819). Twopences (1797 (3)). Pennies (1797 (17); 1806 (3); 1807 (3); 1806-7 (4)). Halfpennies (1770; 1771 (2); 1772 (3); 1773 (9); 1774 (5); 1775 (12); 1776; 1770-6 (24); 1799 (10); 1806 (30); 1807 (14); 1806-7 (12)). Farthings (1774; 1775 (2); 1799 (3); ? (2)).
11	GEORGE IV	Shilling (1825). Pennies (1826; 1827). Halfpenny (1826). Farthings (1821; 1822 (2); 1823; 1825 (2); 1828).
3	WILLIAM IV	Farthings (1834; 1836; ?).
10	VICTORIA	Fourpence (1844). Pennies (1854; 1860; 1865; 1884). Halfpennies (1854; 1872). Farthings (1854; 1891; 1899).
2	EDWARD VII	Penny (1908). Farthing (1903).

VI. IRISH REGAL (28 coins)

1	CHARLES II	Halfpenny (1683).
1	JAMES II	Shilling (Gunmoney, 1689).
3	GEORGE I	Halfpennies (1723 (2)). Farthing (1720).
1	GEORGE II	Halfpenny (?).
18	GEORGE III	Penny (1805). Halfpennies (1769 (3); 1776; ? (4); 1805 (9)).
4	GEORGE IV	Penny (1822). Halfpennies (1822; 1823 (2)).

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VII. TOKENS (ENGLISH) (53 coins)

8	'Patent' farthings	Lennox i a. Richmond ii (4). Rose ii (3).
25	Seventeenth century	<i>Oxford</i> . Mayor (2), Humphrey Bodicott, John Bowell, Richard Ely, Edward Hunt, Lawrence King, Joseph Knibb, Arthur Madel, Ann Peirson, Thomas Williams, Robert Wilson. <i>Bicester</i> . John Borrow. <i>Deddington</i> . Thomas Nutt. <i>Finstock</i> . Edward Gardner. <i>Hook Norton</i> . Richard Parcks. <i>Witney</i> . Paul Smith, Andrew White. <i>Bromyard</i> (Heref.). John Bayham. <i>Cheshunt</i> (Herts.) John Wright. <i>Thames St.</i> (London). Sarah Wood. Illegible (4).
17	Eighteenth century	Emsworth, Deptford, Liverpool, Rochdale, Middlesex, Norwich (2), Leek, Birmingham, Willey, Leeds, Anglesey, Glasgow. Imitations (4).
3	Nineteenth century	Walthamstow (2), Birmingham.

VIII. IMPERIAL (11 coins)

1	Jersey	$\frac{1}{2}$ shilling (1911).
1	Guernsey	8 doubles (1868).
6	India	2 annas (1862). $\frac{1}{4}$ anna (1795; 1835; 1862; 1901). $\frac{1}{2}$ anna (1885).
2	Ceylon	$\frac{1}{2}$ farthing (1844 (2)).
1	Newfoundland	Cent (1865).

IX. FOREIGN (37 coins)

10	France	Franc (1847). Half-franc (1898). Decime (1796). 10 centimes (1854; 1856 (2)). 5 centimes (1855; 1856; ?; 1902)).
1	Monaco	5 centimes (1837).
1	Portugal	5 reis (1757).
1	Spain	Peseta (1893).
3	Italy	10 centesimi (1866). 5 centesimi (1861; ?).
2	Germany	10 pf. (1876). 1 pf. (1890).
2	Cleves	$\frac{1}{2}$ stuber (1758 (2)).
4	Holland	<i>Overyssel</i> . 6 stiver (1691). <i>West Friesland</i> . Stiver (1756). <i>Zeeland</i> . Stiver (1788). Regal. Cent (1827).
5	Belgium	20 centimes (1858). 10 centimes (1874). 5 centimes (1862; 1863). 2 centimes (1863).
1	Denmark	Skilling (1771).
1	Russia	2 kopeks (1811).
1	Turkey	Piastre (1891).
1	Dutch East Indies	$\frac{1}{2}$ stiver (1818).
3	United States	10 cents (1899). 3 cents (186-). 1 cent (1886).
1	Argentina	2 centavos (1898).

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X. MISCELLANEA, not currency (84)

- 32 Counters (English)
- 23 Jettons (Nuremberg)
- 8 Medalets
- 2 Leaden passes
- 9 Forgeries
- 2 Coin-weights
- 8 Ornaments

The occurrence of such numbers of coins of ancient date (sections I-IV above) is doubtless due to the fact that the Akeman Street passed through what is now the parish of Tackley ; and it is plain that, from an early time, the Tackley section of the road saw considerable activity.¹ The Syracusan coins, indeed, were struck *circa* 275-200 B.C., and their presence, together with the two coins of the Mamertini and Carthage, may well cause surprise. It is, however, unnecessary and even mistaken to suppose that these coins were imported into Britain at all quickly after their date of issue. The presence of Greek coins in this country, and the date of their importation, are subjects which have lately received keen re-examination. Sir George Macdonald and the late Professor Haverfield, by expressing grave doubts about the authenticity of the Greek coins discovered in Exeter,² had the indirect effect of creating some sort of prejudice against finds of Greek and early Roman Republican coins in Britain generally. But recent arguments³ have tended to show that such coins did certainly enter the country by the normal means of commerce—an hypothesis supported by their frequency in the southern half of England, and it is likely that their importation began in the first century B.C. and that they even overlapped, in some cases, the appearance of the official Roman coinage in Britain : they were probably welcomed in an age when bronze coinage was distinctly scarce.

It is unfortunate that the very poor condition of the forged British gold stater makes exact identification impossible. If the attribution to Brooke's 'British Atrebatic' class is correct, it is a forgery of one of the earliest of the British series proper, falling somewhere after 75 B.C. : the rarity of this class as a whole may perhaps be reflected in the existence of this forgery.

¹ The evidence that came to light during the excavation of Grim's Dyke in Blenheim Park in 1936 (see p. 91 above) suggested very strongly that Akeman Street itself was on the line of a pre-Roman track. It would, therefore, be all the less surprising to find the pre-Conquest coins nearby.

² *Numismatic Chronicle*⁴ cf. VII (1907), 145 ff.

³ See J. G. Milne and R. G. Goodchild, 'The Greek Coins from Exeter Reconsidered,' in *Numismatic Chronicle*⁵ XVII (1937), 124 ff. ; and also C. H. V. Sutherland, *Numismatic Chronicle*, forthcoming, on Greek and other 'foreign' coins found in Kent, and on the discovery of a rare Italian *dextans*, of the third century B.C., in Somerset.

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The distribution of the Roman series is in general orthodox, and it conforms with the character of Oxfordshire finds. It opens rather slowly (the absence of Flavian coins is surprising) but reaches its first peak with the Antonines. After the inevitable drop between *circa* 200 and 260, the currency-volume leaps up with the Gallic and the British Empires, and is kept at a high level, as usual, by the issues of the time of Constantine I. It is possible that a shortage of coinage may have made itself felt about A.D. 340–60; the Tackley series, at any rate, shows a distinct weakness at that period. This weakness was remedied by the increase in currency under the dynasty of Valentinian I, reflected at Tackley by the remarkable number of 26 coins. The subsequent drop in the numbers of coins of the Theodosian period is not abnormal.

Oxfordshire has not yet produced anything except isolated examples of the minim coinage which was evolved in Britain, necessitously and irregularly, during the two centuries which followed the Roman evacuation. But Tackley has added one more example to the all too short list of Anglo-Saxon *sceattas* found in Oxfordshire. The fifth and sixth centuries had probably seen the Akeman Street falling into increasing disrepair; but this *sceatta* suggests, in the Tackley area at least, some continuation of its activity in the seventh or eighth century.

The scarcity of coins before the sixteenth century is not remarkable in a purely agricultural area: the workers on the land probably handled very little cash, and if they did acquire a silver penny, it would not have much chance of getting lost. The substitution of money-payments for manorial services, and the greater freedom of labour, which developed in the fifteenth century, naturally led to an increase in the circulation of coin: but it was not till bronze was issued, as a token-money of low value, in the seventeenth century that the peasants seem to have scattered their property in the fields. It is likely, indeed, that the coins were not actually lost in the fields, but in or around the farmhouses, and swept into the muck-heap, whence in due course they were carted off to the fields in the manure. If this is the case, the remarkable increase in the number of half-pence and farthings of the eighteenth century may be due to intensification of culture on the Tackley farms.

The seventeenth century tokens show that Oxford was definitely the market-town for Tackley at this period. These tokens, issued for the most part by tradesmen, would only be acceptable within such a distance of the town of issue as would make it possible for the holder of a token to visit the issuer's shop, in case of difficulty in getting it negotiated elsewhere: and, though the list includes three stragglers from other counties, these may be regarded as casuals. It is noticeable that there are no tokens of Banbury or Chipping Norton, though there were fairly large issues at both these places: the absence of Thame tokens

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is more understandable on geographical grounds. The tokens of the eighteenth century were not so closely localised : it was quite common for them to be redeemable in two or three towns, and they travelled more widely than those of the preceding century.

The coins from abroad have not much significance : there is no special predominance of issues of any one country, and most, if not all, of these coins may have been brought back by travellers and thrown away after a time as useless. It will be observed that nearly all these are of nineteenth century date, and that, after 1837, there are more of them than of English regal coins.