

REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

AT ITS FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

MAY 7, 1883,

WITH AN ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY,
1882—1883.

ALSO

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WITH APPENDIX.



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XV. ON A HOARD OF ROMAN COINS FOUND AT WILLINGHAM. Communicated by FRANCIS JENKINSON, M.A., Trinity College.

[February 19, 1883.]

THE village of Willingham lies about two miles south of the river Ouse, and three miles S.S.W. of Earith, where Roman relics of some importance have from time to time been discovered. Between Willingham and the river lies Middle Fen, now drained and cultivated. It was in this fen, at a point rather less than a mile north-by-east of Willingham Church, that the coins were found. On the 25th of February, 1881, a man named Charles Smith was ploughing this field, when, at a depth of seven inches, the plough, which is described as having "sunk in the ground," struck and broke in pieces an earthen vessel¹ containing upwards of 500 coins cemented by rust into a solid mass.

Rather more than half of the vessel came into my possession. The diameter at the base was $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches: at 3 inches from the base it was just under 5 inches: the height must have been about $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches or rather less. The substance is yellowish-ochreous, redder on one side; very bibulous and powdery, rubbing away without difficulty; and was perhaps once protected by some glaze which has perished. There was probably a narrow neck, and a single short handle. This kind of bottle

¹ On March 10, 1881, a similar vessel was found about 4 ft. from the same spot, and numerous fragments occurred in black earth about twelve yards off.

is very common, the present specimen being rather less globular than some others I have met with.

I have been thus particular in describing so commonplace a vessel, because we can assign it to a certain date. The latest coins that occurred in the find are two of Diocletian; for I cannot take into account a vague rumour that one of Carausius was among them. Diocletian began to reign in 284 A.D.; and that year or the next may be regarded as the probable date of the deposit: since no coins occur of any of Diocletian's colleagues, the earliest of whom, Maximianus Herculeus, was raised to the dignity of Augustus in the year 286.

Now although this vase is of so ordinary a type that it may seem to belong to no period in particular, yet it is quite possible that a comparison of a large number even of such vases as this, each of which could be assigned to an approximate date, would enable a practised eye to detect in each slight peculiarities of material or of outline: and the knowledge so gained might be applied to similar pottery found under other circumstances. But among the many discoveries of this kind that are continually being made, sometimes at least the receptacle would be composed of a more characteristic ware, with perhaps a very limited range.

One instance is recorded from Norfolk, in which the coins were put away in a Samian cup stamped with the name of a potter *Sosianus*, who must accordingly have been making Samian ware just before A.D. 176, the date of the latest coin contained in the cup which he had made. Now if we could find a hoard deposited in a cup made by Albucius or Borillus or some other of the potters whose productions occur in pits at Chesterford or in graves at Girton, we should have at least a presumptive clue to the date of those pits and graves. And the evidence would be nearly as satisfactory, if, instead of a particular name, we could appeal to some marked peculiarity in the fabric or the pattern.

These speculations however are at present of the nature of castles in the air. Much evidence must be collected before any conclusions can be drawn; and from the nature of the case evidence is forthcoming only now and then. But the first thing necessary is that no opportunities should be lost of recording such items as offer themselves to our notice.

It only remains for me to enumerate the varieties which are known to have occurred among the coins which the vase contained. I have examined 243¹, or nearly half the whole number found, according to statements made at the time: of these I have written a minute account which will speak for itself.

The number of pieces belonging to each reign is shewn in the following summary:

Gallienus	31	}	37
Salonina	5		
Saloninus	1		
Postumus			12
Victorinus			101
Laelianus			1
Marius			1
Tetricus	41	}	52
Tetricus caesar	11		
Claudius			19
Aurelianus	2	}	3
Severina	1		
Tacitus			6
Probus			9
Diocletianus			2
			<u>243</u>

¹ That I have been able to describe so many is due to the kindness of several persons, to whom I wish to express my thanks; and especially of Miss Peckover, of Wisbeach, into whose possession 60 of them came.

LIST OF REVERSES.

Gallienus (A.D. 253-268).

- (i) AEQVITAS AVG. In right area vi.
- (ii) AETERNITAS AVG. In area Γ (another without any letter in area).
- (iii) APOLLINI CONS AVG. Some animal to left. In exergue M (?)
- (iv) DIANAÆ CONS. Stag to left. In exergue XII.
- (v) DIANAÆ CONS . . . Antelope to left. In exergue II.
- (vi) DIANAÆ CONS AVG. Goat (?) to left. In exergue ε.
- (vii) FELICIT AVG. In left area P.
- (viii) FIDES MILITVM.
- (ix) FORTVNA REDVX. In right area s. Two similar.
- (x) IOVI VLTORI. In left area s. Two similar.
- (xi) LAETITIA AVG. Four, not quite alike.
- (xii) LEG IXX VI . . . Capricorn to right.
- (xiii) PAX AVG. In left area v. Two similar.
- (xiv) PAX AVG. In area s—I.
- (xv) PM TR P VII COS. Figure at an altar. In exergue MD.
- (xvi) PROVI AVG. In right area II. Two similar.
- (xvii) SECVRIT ORBIS. Seated figure. In exergue T.
- (xviii) SECVRIT PERPET. Standing figure. In right area II.
- (xix) SECVR TEMPO. Standing figure. (exergue off the coin.)
- (xx) SOLI CONS AVG. A flying horse.
- (xxi) VBERITAS AVG. Figure with bag and cornucopiae. In area c or ε. Two similar.
- (xxii) VICTORIA AET. A Victory to left. In left area z.

Salonina (wife of Gallienus).

- (i) FECVNDITAS AVG. One with u in area, one without.
- (ii) VENVS GENETRIX.
- (iii) VESTA. Seated figure with patera.
- (iv) VESTA FELIX. Standing figure with patera and wand.

Cornelius Saloninus.

DIVO CAESARI VALERIANO. *Rev.* CONSECRATIO. An altar.

Postumus.

- (i) COS III. Winged figure with right hand raised, while the left hand grasps the middle of a tall palm branch, which rests on the ground. Two similar. (*silvered*)
- (ii) FELICITAS AVG. Female figure with long caduceus in right hand, cornucopiae in left. *weight 63 grs. (fine billon)*
- (iii) HERC PACIFERO.
- (iv) IMP X COS V. Figure as in (i).

- (v) MONETA AVG. (white billon)
 (vi) PAX AVG. In left area P. Three similar; one, thicker than usual, weighs $74\frac{1}{2}$ grs.; (all show traces of silvering).
 (vii) PM TR P X COS V PP. Figure with branch in right hand, wand in left. (traces of silvering)
 (viii) SÆCVLI FELICITAS. Figure to right, left hand bearing a globe, while the right holds a spear sloped forward.
 (ix) VIRTVS EQVIT. Armed figure with spear and shield, advancing to right. *Obv.* IMP P AVG. (billon silvered)

Victorinus.

- (i) AEQVITAS AVG. Figure with scales and cornucopiae. Three similar.
 (ii) S MILITAS. (No doubt blundered for FIDES MILITVM.) Figure with two standards. *Obv.* IMP C PIAV VICTORINVS P F AVG.
 (iii) INVICTVS. Figure with radiated crown moving rapidly to left: right arm extended, in left hand a whip. In left area *. Twenty-one similar: one weighs 83 grs.
 (iv) PAX AVG. In area v—*. Thirty similar: the obverse of one reads IMP C PIAV VICTORINVS P F AVG.
 (v) PIETAS AVG. Figure offering at an altar. Thirteen similar.
 (vi) PROVIDENTIA AVG. Figure with wand and cornucopiae. Seven similar.
 (vii) SALVS AVG. Figure with dress thrown up over her left arm. Fifteen similar.
 (viii) SALVS AVG. Figure feeding a serpent. Four similar.
 (ix) VIRTVS AVG. Helmeted figure with long spear upright in right hand, left resting on shield. Five similar.
 (x) VIRTVS AVG. Figure as in (iii).
 (xi) Reverse illegible.

Laelianus.

IMP C LAELIANVS P F AVG. *Rev.* VICTORIA AVG. Victory marching to right, with wreath and long palm.

Marius.

IMP C M AVR MARIVS AVG. *Rev.* VICTORIA AVG. Victory standing to left, with wreath and long palm.

Tetricus.

- (i) COMES AVG. Winged figure to left, with wreath and palm. Two similar.
 (ii) FIDES MILITVM. Two similar.
 (iii) HILARITAS AVGG. Eleven similar.

- (iv) LAETITIA AVG N. Four similar.
- (v) LAETITIA AVGG. Three similar.
- (vi) PAX AVG. Three similar.
- (vii) SALVS AVGG. Seven similar.
- (viii) VICTORIA AVG.
- (ix) VIRTVS AVGG. Armed figure holding a spear in his left hand, and leaning his right on a shield. Seven similar.
- (x) Reverse illegible.

Tetricus Caesar.

Obv. C PIVESV TETRICVS CAES.

- (i) PAX AVG.
- (ii) SPES AVGG. Female figure holding up her dress. Eight similar.
- (iii) SPES PVBLICA. Same figure. Two similar.

Claudius Gothicus.

- (i) AEQVITAS AVG. Another, in area s.
- (ii) ANNONA AVG. Figure on prow, with cornucopiae and ears of wheat(?).
- (iii) CONSECRATIO. An attenuated eagle. *Obv.* DIVO CLAUDIO.
- (iv) FELICITAS AVG.
- (v) FIDES EXERCI.
- (vi) FIDES MILIT. In exergue s.
- (vii) FIDES MILITVM. In right area e.
- (viii) FORTVNA REDVX.
- (ix) [GENIUS] AVG. Male figure with patera and cornucopiae. In area P.
- (x) IOVI VICTORI. Jupiter naked with spear and thunderbolt. Three similar, two of them with M in right area.
- (xi) PAX AVG.
- (xii) SPES AVG.
- (xiii) [VBERI]TAS AVG.
- (xiv) VIRTVS AVG. Helmeted figure to right, with trophy on left shoulder, while his right hand points a spear forward. In exergue P(?).
- (xv) VIRTVS AVG. Helmeted figure to left with upright spear, extending in right hand a branch. In right area e. Another with no letter in area, *silvered*.

Aurelianus.

- (i) GENIVS ILLY. Genius with patera and cornucopiae: on the right, a standard. In exergue P.
- (ii) SOLI INVICTO. Winged figure with globe in left hand, right extended: at his feet two captives. In exergue c...XT.
(*silvered*)

Severina.

PROVIDEN DEOR. On the right female figure with two standards, radiated male figure meets her with right hand raised. In exergue AXXT. (silvered)

Tacitus (A.D. 275-276).

- (i) CLEMENTIA TEMP. Female (?) figure with wand, leaning her left arm on a pillar. In exergue . . IZ. (silvered)
- (ii) FIDES MILITVM. In exergue BA. (silvered)
- (iii) PROVID DEOR. (silvered)
- (iv) SALVS AVG. (silvered)
- (v) SPES PVBLICA. (silvered)
- (vi) TEMPORVM FELICITAS. In area A--A. (silvered)

Probus (A.D. 276-282).

- (i) ABVNDANTIA AVG. Figure pouring something from a cornucopiae. In exergue IIII.
- (ii) FELICIT TEMP. Female figure with caduceus in her right hand, a spear or long wand in her left. In exergue II. (silvered)
- (iii) FIDES MILITVM. Figure with two standards. In exergue III. (silvered)
- (iv) PAX AVG. In left area D. (silvered)
- (v) PAX AVG. In exergue CXXI. *Obv.* IMP C PROBVS AVG. (silvered)
- (vi) ROMAE AETERNAE. A seated figure in a temple with six columns. In exergue R--A. *Obv.* Bust to left, with sceptre. (silvered)
- (vii) SALVS AVG. In area B.
- (viii) SOLI INVICTO. Sun in quadriga to left. In exergue .P-B. *Obv.* Bust to left, with sceptre. (silvered)
- (ix) TEMPOR FELICI. Female figure with branch (?) and cornucopiae. (silvered)

Diocletianus (A.D. 284-).

- (i) IOVI CONSER AVGG. Jupiter standing with spear and thunderbolt: at his feet an eagle. In the field B. (billon)
- (ii) IOVI CONSERVAT AVGG. The same figure with right arm raised. (silvered)

