

Chapter 16. The Coins and Tokens

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Eighteen copper alloy Roman and modern coins or tokens were recovered from the excavations at Newnham. The coin catalogue is presented in Table 16.1.

The coins survive in reasonable condition and, after some careful conservation, most could be identified with confidence to a ruler's reign or numismatic period-of-issue. The Roman period accounts for fourteen of the coins, while the remaining four date from the 17th to the 20th centuries. The earliest coin from Newnham is a *sestertius* of Faustina II (AD 161-180; RA 28), while the rest were all struck during the 4th century, including six Constantinian issues from the 320s to 360s, four Valentinianic coins of the 360s and 370s, and a single Theodosian VICTORIA AVGGG from the very end of the 4th century. As a small assemblage the Roman coins cannot tell us a great deal about the settlement at Newnham, except to confirm occupation during the 4th century. The five coins from securely stratified deposits were all from Phases 4 and 5, and were all 4th-century in date (RAs 59, 3, 29, 50 and 9).

The four modern coins include a Charles I 'rose' farthing (RA 260) and another farthing of George V (RA19). Interestingly, the Newnham Marina assemblage contains two exotic coins that are relatively rare finds in Britain. The first (RA 73) is a most unusual coin or token with a profile bust on the obverse and what appears to be a quatrefoil design within a legend on the reverse. Unfortunately the coin is very worn and it was not possible to provide a precise identification, but it is most similar to coins issued by the Church in the Low Countries in the 18th century. Two holes pierce the coin, both close together and towards the bottom of the obverse bust, indicating that it had been used as a decorative element on clothing or jewellery (though whether this occurred before or after its arrival in Britain is unknown). The second exotic coin (RA 21) is a large module Ottoman 40 para piece struck in Cairo for Sultan Abd al-Aziz in 1870-1. Many Ottoman coins were brought back by soldiers who fought in Turkey, Palestine and Egypt in the First and Second World Wars, though other explanations for the appearance of this coin at Newnham are also possible.

RA no.	Excavation area	Context	Museum accession no.	Denomination	Date	Obverse	Reverse	Mint-mark	Mint	Reference
28	u/s	-	1975.70.15	Sestertius	161–80	FAUSTINA II	[IVNONI REGINAE] SC		Rome	RIC: 1651
9	Tr II	25	1975.70.7	AE2	323–24	Constantine II Caesar	CAESARVM NOSTRORVM - VOT / X	//STR	Trier	RIC: 433
29	Tr 2b	5	1975.70.16	AE3	330–35	Constantius II Caesar	GLORIA EXERCITVS - 2 stds	//[.....]		
174	Tr 5a/b	+	1975.70.34	AE3	330–35	Constantine II Caesar	GLORIA EXERCITVS - 2 stds	//[.....]		
3	Tr 1	18	1975.70.3	AE3	330–40	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	Victory on prow	//TR●P	Trier	HK: 66
31	Tr 4a	36	1975.70.18	AE2	350–52	Magentius	VICT DD NN AVG ET CAES - VOT/V/MVLT/X	//RP	Rome	CK: 650
46	Tr IVD	+	1975.70.23	AE4 copy	350–64	as House of Constantine	as Fel Temp Reparatio - falling horseman	//[.....]		
8	Tr II	+	1975.70.6	AE3	364–67	Valens	GLORIA ROMANORVM - emperor and captive	-/A//[SMAQP]	Aquileia	CK: 965
34	Tr 4f	+	1975.70.20	AE3	364–78	House of Valentinian	GLORIA ROMANORVM - emperor and captive	//[.....]		
50	Tr 5b	5	1975.70.27	AE3	367–75	Valens	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	//SMleafRP	Rome	CK: 725
59	Tr 5b	11	1975.70.29	AE3	375–78	Valens	GLORIA ROMANORVM - emperor and captive	●/*//SMAQ	Aquileia	CK: 1043
204	Tr 5a	+	1975.70.37	AE4	388–402	House of Theodosius	VICTORIA AVGGG	//[.....]		
22	Tr II	u/s	1975.70.12	AE2	3rd–4th c.	illegible	illegible			
173*	Tr 5a/b	+	1975.70.33	AE2/3	mid 3rd–4th c.	illegible	illegible	-		
260	-	-	1975.70.42	Farthing	1625–49	Charles I	Rose farthing			Type 1d
21	Tr V	u/s	1975.70.11	Ottoman 40 para	1870–1	Abd Al-Aziz (AH 1277-93)	Ottoman design and regnal year (10)		Cairo	
73	Tr 1	+	1975.70.32	AE2	18th c.?	bust right	quatrefoil design (?) within legend. Low countries			
19	Tr II	u/s	1975.70.10	Farthing	1910–36	George V				

Table 16.1 Coins and tokens (* broken fragment)