

## THE COINS - D.C.A. Shotter

### The Coin List

The lists of coins from both the 1980, and 1989-90 excavations is given in chronological order on the basis of the issuing authority.

Reference is made throughout to the standard concordances:

RIC Mattingly, H., Sydenham, E.A., and Sutherland, C.H.V., et al (Eds)  
1923-84 *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, London

Crawford Crawford, M.H., 1974 *Roman Republican Coinage*, Cambridge

Hill (A) Hill, P.V., 1970 *The Dating and arrangement of the undated coins of Rome, A.D. 98-148*, London

HILL(B) Hill, P.V., 1977 *The Coinage of Septimius Severus and his family of the mint of Rome*, London

LRBC Hill, P.V., Carson, R.A.G., and Kent, J.P.C., 1960 *Late Roman Bronze Coinage*, London

Wear exhibited by individual coins will be indicated by:

LW - Little worn, MW - Moderately worn, VW - Very Worn

**Table 1. Coins from the 1989-90 Excavations**

					<b>Wear</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Republican</b>	4 coins	8263/371	AR Denarius	Crawford 290,1	MW	114-113B.C.
		1694/728	AR Denarius	Crawford 316,1	VW	105B.C.
		1789/3999	AR Denarius	Crawford 416,1a	VW	62B.C.
		6649/54	AR Denarius	Crawford 544	VW	32-31B.C.
<b>Augustus</b>	1 coin	9259/124	AR Denarius	RIC <sup>2</sup> (Aug)207	MW	2B.C.
<b>Tiberius</b>	1 coin	1808/436	AR Denarius	RIC <sup>2</sup> (Tib)26	MW	A.D.14-37
<b>Nero</b>	1 coin	9383/565	Æ As	RIC <sup>2</sup> (Nero)468	MW	A.D.64-66
<b>Vespasian</b>	25 coins	1863/3999	Æ As		MW	A.D.71
		2360/358	Æ As		MW	A.D.71
		5223/02	Æ Dupondius	RIC(Vesp)487	VW	A.D.71
		6930/3999	Æ As		MW	A.D.71
		7276/3999	Æ Dupondius	RIC(Vesp)473	LW	A.D.71
		9669/684	Æ As	RIC(Vesp)489	LW	A.D.71
		9720i/163	Æ As	RIC(Vesp)494	MW	A.D.71
		9720ii/163	Æ As		MW	A.D.71
		3284/357	AR Denarius	RIC(Vesp)94	LW	A.D.75
		6614/78	AR Denarius	RIC(Vesp)124	MW	A.D.75-79
		9827/670	Æ As	RIC(Vesp)786	LW	A.D.77-78
		1631/3999	Æ As		VW	A.D.69-79
		1864/3999	Æ Sestertius		VW	A.D.69-79

		5575/05	Æ As(frags)		?	A.D.69-79
		5577/03	Æ As(frags)		VW	A.D.69-79
		5654/19	Æ As(frags)		MW	A.D.69-79
		6146/03	Æ As(frags)		VW	A.D.69-79
		6490/31	Æ As		VW	A.D.69-79
		7078/112	Æ As(frags)		MW	A.D.69-79
		7800/285	Æ As		VW	A.D.69-79
		7818/90	Æ As		MW	A.D.69-79
		8388/3999	Æ As		MW	A.D.69-79
		8873/3999	Æ As(frags)		VW	A.D.69-79
		9738/3999	Æ As		MW	A.D.69-79
		9766/163	Æ As		MW	A.D.69-79
<b>Titus (as Caesar)</b>	1 coin	1876/430	Æ As	RIC(Vesp)783	LW	A.D.77-78
<b>Domitian (as Caesar)</b>	2 coins	1861/3999	Æ As	RIC(Vesp)696b	LW	A.D.72
		2840/358	AR Denarius		LW	A.D.80
<b>Domitian</b>	10 coins	3281/357	Æ Dupondius	RIC(Dom)325	LW	A.D.86
		7268/3999	Æ As	RIC(Dom)333	LW	A.D.86
		8382/422	Æ As	RIC(Dom)340	LW	A.D.86
		9366/560	Æ As	RIC(Dom)335	MW	A.D.86
		6912/55	AR Denarius	RIC(Dom)177	LW	A.D.93-94
		9835/678	Æ Dupondius		LW	A.D.85-96
		2084/701	Æ As		LW	A.D.86-96
		7117/175	Æ As		LW	A.D.86-96
		6329/13	AR Denarius (frags)		MW	A.D.81-96
		8791/3999	Æ Dupondius		VW	A.D.81-96
<b>Trajan</b>	7 coins	7036/3999	Æ Dupondius	Hill(A)88	LW	A.D.100
		5218/05	AR Denarius	RIC(Trajan)52	MW	A.D.101-102
		5751/19	Æ Sestertius	Hill(A)735	MW	A.D.116
		6760/93	AR Denarius	Hill(A)761	LW	A.D.117
		5065/3999	Æ Sestertius		VW	A.D.103-117
		6298/13	Æ Dupondius		VW	A.D.103-117
		6713/50	Æ As		MW	A.D.98-117
<b>Hadrian</b>	10 coins	7260/3999	Æ As		MW	A.D.119-122
		6761/3999	AR Denarius (frags)	Hill(A)494	MW	A.D.129
		6776/3999	AR Denarius	Hill(A)546	LW	A.D.134
		6224/03	Æ Sestertius	Hill(A)597	LW	A.D.136
		6927/115	Æ Dupondius	RIC(Hadrian)813	MW	A.D.134-138
		6085/03	Æ Sestertius		MW	A.D.122-138
		1862/3999	Æ Sestertius		MW	A.D.117-138
		6286/13	Æ Sestertius		VW	A.D.117-138
		6568/02	Æ As		VW	A.D.117-138
		9121/505	Æ As(frags)		MW	A.D.117-138
<b>Antoninus Pius</b>	2 coins	8709/3999	AR Denarius	RIC(Antoninus)84	LW	A.D.140-143
		6777/3999	Æ Dupondius	RIC(Antoninus)920	LW	A.D.153-154
<b>Marcus Caesar</b>	1 coin	6114/03	Æ Sestertius	RIC(Antoninus) 1232	LW	A.D.140-144

<b>Faustina II</b>	1 coin	1865/3999	Æ Sestertius	RIC(Antoninus) 1369	MW	A.D.145-161
<b>Marcus Aurelius</b>	3 coins	5214/06	Æ Sestertius	RIC(Marcus)1227	MW	A.D.177-178
		5050/02	Æ Sestertius		VW	A.D.161-180
		5110/10	Æ Sestertius		VW	A.D.161-180
<b>Commodus</b>	1 coin	6843/102	Æ Sestertius	RIC(Commodus) 324	MW	A.D.181-182
<b>Geta</b>	1 coin	5150/04	AR Denarius	Hill(B)423	LW	A.D.200
<b>Claudius II</b>	1 coin	5009/02	Æ Copy(frag)	RIC(Claudius)76	LW	A.D.268-270
<b>Victorinus</b>	1 coin	5005/02	Æ Copy(frag)		VW	A.D.269-271

There were in addition, five illegible or fragmentary coins (5126/12 Æ, 5375/05 Æ probably a degraded As, 7022/102 Æ, 7289/3999 Æ, 8515/3999 Æ), two *aes* 'discs' (1866/3999 and 7629/261) which were probably forgers' blanks, perhaps for radiate copies or votive *denarii*, and one non-Roman coin, a penny piece of Queen Victoria's reign 5838/3999).

**Table 2. Coins From the 1980 Excavations**

					<b>Wear</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Nero</b>	1 coin	46/054	AR Denarius	RICI <sup>2</sup> (Nero) 60	LW	A.D.65-66
<b>Vespasian</b>	4 coins	35/028	Æ Dupondius (frags)		MW	A.D.69-79
		45/028	Æ As		VW	A.D.69-79
		59/085	Æ As		LW	A.D.69-79
		60/085	Æ As		LW	A.D.69-79
<b>Flavian</b>	1 coin	08/006	Æ Dupondius		VW	A.D.69-96
<b>Antoninus Pius</b>	2 coins	01/004	Æ Sestertius		MW	A.D.158-159
		22/004	Æ Dupondius		LW	A.D.138-161
<b>Marcus Aurelius</b>	1 coin	06/004	AR Denarius		MW	A.D.161-180
<b>Plautilla</b>	1 coin	05/004	AR Denarius	Hill (B) 649	LW	A.D.204

### Discussion of Chronological Distribution

The discussion of the chronological implications of the coin sample from the present work at Ribchester has been incorporated into the body of the text, therefore only a brief summary of the information is included here.

The chronological spread of the coin sample from Ribchester is striking by comparison with other military sites in north-west England, but has features in common with other samples from Ribchester (Shotter, 1990, 30ff). The most arresting

features in the present group of coins are the dominance of the Flavian material and the near absence of issues later than the second century A.D.

As is argued elsewhere (p. \*\*), certain features of the pre-Flavian and Flavian assemblages offer a contrast to the pattern of loss normally associated with sites of Agricolan foundation. The strength of Vespasian's coins within the Flavian group (72%), and the fact that a substantial number of them are issues of A.D. 71-72. In addition, it is worth noting that Ribchester, along with Carlisle, has a greater number of Neronian *aes* issues than other sites in north-west England.

At a later date in the sample, the comparatively low showing of Trajanic coins is noticeable, and probably points to fluctuations of activity in the Hadrianic period, presumably in connection with frontier activity.

Finally, with the exception of two radiate copies, a group which normally occupies approximately 25% of north-western site samples, the series terminates with two Severan issues, indicating yet again an apparent lack of activity on a Ribchester site subsequent to A.D. 200.

**Table 3. The chronological distribution of coins from the Graveyard Excavations 1980, 1989-90**

		AV	AR	Æ	Total	%
<b>I</b>	(-A.D.41)		6		6	7.23
<b>II</b>	(41-54)					
<b>III</b>	(54-68)		1	1	2	2.41
<b>IV</b>	(68-96)		5	38	43	51.81
<b>V</b>	(96-117)		3	4	7	8.43
<b>VI</b>	(117-138)		2	8	10	12.05
<b>VII</b>	(138-161)		1	5	6	7.23
<b>VIII</b>	(161-180)			4	4	4.82
<b>IX</b>	(180-192)			1	1	1.20
<b>X</b>	(192-222)		2		2	2.41
<b>XI</b>	(222-235)					
<b>XII</b>	(235-259)					
<b>XIII</b>	(259-275)			2	2	2.41
<b>XIV</b>	(275-294)					
<b>XV</b>	(294-324)					
<b>XVI</b>	(324-330)					
<b>XVII</b>	(330-346)					
<b>XVIII</b>	(346-364)					
<b>XIX</b>	(364-378)					
<b>XX</b>	(378-388)					
<b>XXI</b>	(388-)					
<b>Total</b>			20	63	83	

### Discussion of Denominational Distribution

The distribution of denominations is of course affected progressively by the effects of inflation upon the coins in use. Whereas in the first century A.D. all denominations appear, during the second century, less use is gradually made of the smaller *aes* denominations, so that the *denarius* and *sestertius* become the basic coins in general circulation.

Whilst Tables \*\* and \*\*, clearly show the effects of inflation, they fail to give decisive indication of garrison type. It is of course known that Ribchester was garrisoned by auxiliary cavalry; however, such a unit because of its higher rate of pay might be expected to give clear signs of this by strength in the higher denominations. However, we should also notice the six *denarii* from period I; as noted above, early imperial coins of the kind represented here are relatively uncommon occurrences on sites in north-west England. Further, Trajan's recall of old silver (Dio 68.15.3) effectively demonetised such pre-Neronian *denarii* (Reece, 1974). It is therefore a not unreasonable assumption that most, if not all, of these early *denarii* were losses of period IV. Were we to place them as period IV losses, then the value of *denarii* and *sestertii* lost in period IV as a proportion of all the coins of that period would increase from 69.42% to 80.73%. Such a proportion would certainly be consistent with the presence at the site of a unit enjoying a higher level of pay-legionary troops (whose presence in a building capacity is epigraphically attested), or auxiliary cavalry, for which much evidence exists already.

**Table 4. The denominational distribution of coins from the Ribchester Excavations 1980, 1989-90**

	AR	As Value	Sestertius	Dupondius	As	As Value	Total in Asses
I	6	96					96
II							
III	1	16			1	1	17
IV	5	80	1	7	30	48	128
V	2	32	2	2	1	13	45
VI	2	32	4	1	3	21	53
VII	1	16	3	2		16	32
VIII	1	16	3			12	28
IX			1			4	4
X	2	32					32

**Table 6. Denarii and Sestertii as a proportion of total as-value**

	%
I	100
II	
III	94.12
IV	65.64
V	88.89
VI	90.57
VII	87.50
VIII	100
IX	100
X	100

### Discussion of Distribution by Phase

A breakdown of coins lost in each phase helps to provide a picture of money in circulation during particular periods, although it has to be born in mind that, in the course of the sequence of demolition, clearance and reconstruction, some coins will inevitably be residual.

Coins were recovered from all phases, although not many were recovered from Phases 1 and 2. All phases, other than Phase 4 contained some early coinage, *denarii* or republican and pre-Neronian date, which was less resilient in circulation than Neronian and later issues. In *c* A.D. 107, Trajan recalled such early *denarii* for melting down and re-use, and it has been shown (Reece, 1974) that in Britain such coins probably did not remain in circulation beyond the early years of Hadrian's reign. The notable exception to this is provided by the legionary *denarii* of Marcus Antonius (32-1B.C.), which, because of erroneous contemporary views concerning the purity of their silver content, were not affected by Trajan's recall, and continued to circulate, often worn smooth, into the third century A.D.

The distribution of early *denarii* would suggest that Phases 1, 2, and 3 should not be seen as running beyond the mid-Hadrianic period, a point confirmed by the fact that the only post-Flavian coin to appear in these phases is a little-worn Trajanic *denarius* of A.D. 117 (in Phase 3). The relative strength of early *denarii*, together with the presence of Neronian and little-worn early Flavian coinage, leaves as early Flavian beginning at Ribchester in little doubt.

The strength of Flavians coinage through all phases is notable, much of it little worn in Phases 3 and 4, although much more worn in Phase 5. It is worth noting that Phase 1 ends with a little-worn *as* of A.D.86, recalling a phenomenon frequently found on Scottish sites (Hobley, 1989 and Jones 1990) and indicative there of the major changes of policy and therefore, troop deployment experienced in the north in the post-Agricolan years. It is evident that the coinage of Trajan and Hadrian was relatively slow to make an impact, but, as the profile of Phase 5 shows, eventually formed the bulk of circulating coinage in the second half of the second century, and the early years of the third. It is likely that the slowness of this impact was to some extent at least caused by occupational factors during the Hadrianic period.

**Table 7. The denominational distribution of coins by phase from the Ribchester Excavations 1980, 1989-90**

		<b>Wear</b>	<b>SF Number</b>	<b>Context</b>
<b>Phase 1</b>				
Tiberius	Denarius - A.D.14-37	MW	1808	436
Titus Caesar	As - A.D.77-78	LW	1876	430
Domitian	As - A.D.86	LW	8382	422
<b>Phase 2</b>				
Augustus	Denarius - 2B.C.	MW	9259	124
<b>Phase 3</b>				
Republican	Denarius - 105B.C	VW	1694	728
Nero	As - A.D.64-66	MW	9383	565
Vespasian	As - A.D.71	MW	2360	358
Vespasian	As - A.D.71	LW	9669	684
Vespasian	As - A.D.71	MW	9720i	163
Vespasian	As - A.D.71	MW	9720ii	163
Vespasian	Denarius - A.D.75	LW	3284	357
Vespasian	As - A.D.77-78	LW	9827	670
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	VW	7800	285
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	LW	59	85 (1980)

Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	LW	60	85 (1980)
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	MW	9766	163
Domitian Caesar	Denarius - A.D.80	LW	2840	358
Domitian	Dupondius - A.D.86	LW	3281	357
Domitian	As - A.D.86	MW	9366	560
Domitian	Dupondius - A.D.85-96	LW	9835	678
Trajan	Denarius - A.D.117	LW	6760	93

#### Phase 4

Vespasian	Denarius - A.D.75-79	MW	6614	78
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	MW	7818	90
Domitian	Denarius - A.D.93-94	LW	6912	55
Domitian	As - A.D.86-96	LW	2084	701
Hadrian	As - A.D.117-138	MW	9121	505

#### Phase 5

Republican	Denarius - 114-113B.C.	MW	8263	371
Republican	Denarius - 32-31B.C.	VW	6649	54
Nero	Denarius - A.D.65-66	LW	46	54(1980)
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	?	5575	05
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	VW	5577	03
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	VW	6146	03
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	MW	5654	19
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	VW	6490	31
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	MW	7078	112
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	MW	35	28(1980)
Vespasian	As - A.D.69-79	VW	45	28(1980)
Flavian	As - A.D.69-96	VW	08	06(1980)
Domitian	Denarius - A.D.81-96	MW	6329	13
Domitian	As - A.D.86-96	LW	7117	175
Trajan	As - A.D.98-117	MW	6713	50
Trajan	Denarius - A.D.101-102	MW	5218	05
Trajan	Sestertius - A.D.116	MW	5751	19
Trajan	Dupondius - A.D.103-117	VW	6298	13
Hadrian	Sestertius - A.D.136	LW	6224	03
Hadrian	Dupondius - A.D.134-138	MW	6927	115
Hadrian	Sestertius - A.D.122-138	MW	6085	03
Hadrian	Sestertius - A.D.117-138	VW	6286	13
Marcus Caesar	Sestertius - A.D.140-144	LW	6114	03
Marcus Aurelius	Sestertius - A.D.177-178	MW	5214	06
Marcus Aurelius	Sestertius - A.D.161-180	VW	5110	10
Commodus	Sestertius - A.D.182-182	MW	6843	102
Geta	Denarius - A.D.200	LW	5150	04

#### Modern/Unstratified

Republican	Denarius	1789
Vespasian	As	1863
Vespasian	Dupondius	5223
Vespasian	As	6930
Vespasian	Dupondius	7276
Vespasian	As	1631
Vespasian	Sestertius	1864
Vespasian	As	8388
Vespasian	As	8873
Vespasian	As	9738
Domitian Caesar	As	1861
Domitian	As	7268
Domitian	Dupondius	8791
Trajan	Dupondius	7036

Trajan	Sestertius	5065
Hadrian	As	7260
Hadrian	Denarius	6761
Hadrian	Denarius	67776
Hadrian	Sestertius	1862
Hadrian	As	6568
Antoninus Pius	Denarius	8709
Antoninus Pius	Dupondius	6777
Antoninus Pius	Sestertius	01(1980)
Antoninus Pius	Dupondius	22(1980)
Faustina II	Sestertius	1865
Marcus Aurelius	Sestertius	5050
Marcus Aurelius	Denarius	06(1980)
Plautilla	Denarius	05(1980)
Claudius II	Radiate	5009
Victorinus	Radiate	5005

**Table 8. The percentage distribution of coin per phase from the Ribchester Excavations 1980, 1989-90**

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Mod/US
<b>Republican</b>			5.88% (1)		7.40% (2)	3.33% (1)
<b>Augustus</b>		100% (1)				
<b>Tiberius</b>	33.33% (1)					
<b>Nero</b>			5.88% (1)		3.70% (1)	
<b>Vespasian</b>			58.80% (10)	40% (2)	29.62% (8)	29.97% (9)
<b>Flavian</b>					3.70% (1)	
<b>Titus Caesar</b>	33.33% (1)					
<b>Domitian Caesar</b>			5.88% (1)			3.33% (1)
<b>Domitian</b>	33.33% (1)		17.64% (3)	40% (2)	7.40% (2)	6.66% (2)
<b>Trajan</b>			5.88% (1)	20% (1)	14.81% (4)	6.66% (2)
<b>Hadrian</b>					14.81% (4)	16.66% (5)
<b>Antoninus Pius</b>						13.33% (4)
<b>Faustina II</b>						3.33% (1)
<b>Marcus Caesar</b>					3.70%(1)	
<b>Marcus Aurelius</b>					7.40% (2)	6.66% (2)
<b>Commodus</b>					3.70% (1)	
<b>Geta</b>					3.70% (1)	
<b>Plautilla</b>						3.33% (1)
<b>Claudius II</b>						3.33% (1)
<b>Victorinus</b>						3.33% (1)