

## ROMAN COINS STRUCK IN BRITAIN.<sup>1</sup>

No attempt has yet been made to class separately the Roman coins struck in Britain. Had this been done, it would have been perceived at once that the coins of Constantine I. and other members of his family with the mint-mark PLON, are the continuation of those marked PLN, and that there is another class of unmarked coins which connects the coinage of Allectus with the latter, and completes an unbroken series from Carausius to Constantine I.

Each of these classes begins exactly where the preceding ends, and the *connecting links* are of similar style and fabric. Had the unmarked London coins of Diocletian, Maximian, and their successors, been of the same size as the copper of Carausius and Allectus, this similarity might perhaps have been detected, but such a result was most effectually prevented by the laws of numismatic orthodoxy, according to which they are classed separately, under the names of second and third brass.

The mint-mark L, which appears on many coins of Carausius and Allectus, was dropped for a time at the restoration, no doubt because it was then used, as we shall see, by the mint of Lyons. The marks of the two mints of London and Lyons afterwards became, respectively, LN or LON, and LG or LVG.

A brief sketch of the Roman series will enable the reader to form an idea of the relative importance of the two British mints, London and Camulodunum, considered as a part of the general system.

The Roman coinage is divided by an event which took place in 260, the defeat and captivity of Valerian, into two very distinct classes. The first is to a great extent *local*, the second strictly *imperial*.

The disaster of Valerian brought to a crisis the bank-

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ruptcy which had long been impending. From the time of Septimius Severus, and even earlier, the silver currency had been gradually debased, though still issued at the rate of 25 denarii to an aureus, while the taxes and government dues had to be paid in pure gold. The early billon coins of Gallienus, which are matched by analogous coins of his father, contain a small proportion of silver, but the later ones, which are not accompanied by any of Valerian, and strongly resemble those of Claudius II., are made of copper, washed with tin.

In consequence of this bankruptcy, the bronze and copper fractions of the now worthless billon denarii naturally ceased to be issued, both at Rome and in the towns and dependent states which still availed themselves of their right of coining these metals. The whole coinage thus became imperial, and remained so through every successive change.

We find in the early period of the Roman coinage—

1. A series struck at Rome, complete as to silver, but with gaps in the gold and copper, which were not issued at all times.

2. Gold, silver, and copper coins, struck in other parts of Italy and in the provinces, by Roman magistrates, generals, and emperors. These coins are easily recognised by their peculiar fabric, and are generally traceable to events which account for their issue. In the republican period, we find many struck during the Punic and civil wars, the former in Italy only, the latter in every part of the Roman dominions. During the triumvirate and empire, they were chiefly issued at Lyons, Ephesus, and Antioch. There is a numerous class, struck at Lyons during the triumvirate and the Cantabrian and German wars under Augustus; this includes, amongst other coins, all those with the reverses IMP. X-XIII., which refer to the pacification of Spain and to the campaigns of Agrippa, Tiberius, and Drusus in Pannonia and Germany, from 740 to 746. The coins of Clodius Albinus with the title of Augustus were also no doubt struck there, while those of Pescennius Niger are of Antioch fabric, as well as many issued during the Parthian and Persian wars of Septimius Severus and his successors. The Jewish war accounts for numerous coins of the reign of Vespasian struck both at Ephesus and Antioch.

3. Silver and copper coins issued by Roman colonies,

*municipia*, cities, and dependent states which possessed, or had received or been allowed to retain, the right of coining. Rome reserved for herself the right of issuing gold, and with very few exceptions, also silver, but allowed a local system of copper coinage in the towns and states entitled to mints of their own.

No coins of this description were ever struck in Britain, and comparatively few in the other Western provinces. Britain, Gaul, Spain, and the greater part of Africa were in a semi-barbarous state at the time they were conquered, and their national currency disappeared. It was replaced by that of Rome, which soon took almost exclusive possession of the vacant ground. The development of the local coinage was checked very early ; it ceased in Italy and Sicily soon after the death of Augustus, and in the other provinces before the accession of Vespasian.

In the civilized countries of the East, where the Roman monetary system had grafted itself upon, instead of superseding, the former state of things, the local mints remained in activity till the reign of Gallienus, and there are even a few coins of this category struck during the reigns of Claudius II., Aurelian, and Tacitus. The civic mint of Alexandria did not become imperial till the reign of the usurper Domitius Domitian, of whom there are both Greek and Latin coins.

The absence of mint-initials creates some uncertainty in the classification of the coins of Gallienus and his successors. It is the rule before the monetary reform of Diocletian, which took place about the time of the elevation of Constantius and Galerius to the rank of Cæsars, and the exception after that change. When they are wanting or doubtful, we must be guided by style, fabric, metal, types, and other peculiarities.

We find in the later period of the Roman coinage positive indications of twenty-one, or rather twenty-four, mints:—

1. Camulodunum, established by Carausius, and suppressed after the death of Allectus.

2. London, established by Carausius, and suppressed, as we shall see, about the time of the dedication of Constantinople.

3. Treves, established at the time of the monetary reform of Diocletian.

4. Lyons, established by Gallienus, of whom we find billon coins of the same fabric as those of Postumus.

5. Arles or Constantina, established by Constantine I., after the overthrow of Maxentius and Maximin.

The three mints of Treves, Lyons, and Arles were suppressed after the downfall of Eugenius, and restored for a short time by the usurpers Constantine and Jovinus.

6. Amiens, *Ambianum*, established by Magnentius, and suppressed soon after his death by Constantius II.

7. Tarragona, established by Aurelian, if not earlier, and suppressed at the same time as London. Its mark T was afterwards occasionally used at Thessalonica.

8. Carthage, established at the time of the monetary reform of Diocletian, transferred by Maxentius to Ostia in consequence of the rebellion of Alexander, and suppressed or transferred to Arles soon after the conquest of Italy by Constantine I.

The mark K preceded by P belongs to Carthage; in all other cases to Cyzicus, to which may also be ascribed, on account of their Eastern fabric, the coins of Probus marked CM. or MC. KA, before the monetary reform of Diocletian, is not a mint-mark, but the Greek translation of the Latin numeral XXI, indicating the number of base denarii which, according to the monetary reform of Aurelian, were equal to the silver denarius, or twenty-fifth part of the aureus. In the provinces reclaimed from Tetricus, the proportion of the old to the base denarius seems to have been, till the middle of the reign of Probus, as one to twenty instead of twenty-one. After the monetary reform of Diocletian, PKA and KA mean, respectively, "struck in the first *officina* of the mint of Carthage, or Cyzicus," and we then find also PKB, KB, etc.

9. Rome.

10. Aquileia, established at the time of the monetary reform of Diocletian, probably transferred by Honorius to Ravenna, and restored for a short time by Theodosius II., during the war against the usurper John.

The mark of Aquileia is always AQ; A on billon and copper belongs to Arles; on gold it is always coupled with  $\Xi$ , 60, the number of coins struck out of a pound of metal under Diocletian, Galerius, Maximin, and Licinius, and belongs to Antioch.

11. Milan, *Mediolanum*, established after the defeat of

Magnentius by Constantius II., and suppressed about the beginning of the Ostrogothic period.

12. Sirmium, established at the same time as Milan, suppressed after the death of Valentinian I., and restored for a short time by Theodosius I., probably during the war against Eugenius.

13. Siscia, established by Probus, if not earlier, and probably suppressed or transferred to Sirmium at the death of Valentinian II. The mark *s* belongs to it, and not to Serdica or Sirmium.

14. Thessalonica, established at the time of the monetary reform of Diocletian, and suppressed about the time of Zeno.

15. Serdica, established by Aurelian, if not earlier, and perhaps a continuation of the local mint, the last coins of which are of Gallienus. It was transferred by Constantine I. to Sirmium after the first war against Licinius, and thence to Constantinople after the second.

There is some difficulty in distinguishing the mint-marks of Constantina from those of Constantinople. *CONST.* or *CON.*, preceded by a *Latin* differential letter, or accompanied by *OF. I, II, or III* in the field of the reverse, belong to Constantina, where we also find *KONSTAN* on gold, under Constantius II. and his successors, *KA*, followed by the differential letter *P*, on a few silver coins of Valentinian I. and Gratian, and *KONT* on silver, under the usurpers Constantine and Jovinus. All other *Constantinian* marks, with two exceptions, *COM* and *COMOB*, belong to Constantinople, and the differential, when there is one, is a *Greek* numeral which follows, when placed in the exergue, the indication of the town.

*COM* and *COMOB* belong to Rome, when not accompanied in the field of the reverse by the initials *TR, LD, AR, MD, AQ, RV* or *SM*. Both are also found with *RM*, and *COB*, the contraction of the latter, with *RV*. These marks, used in the mints of the Western empire, evidently mean "struck according to the standard of the mint of Constantinople." With regard to the interpretation of *OB*, on which so much has been written, I beg to refer the reader to an article published by the late M. de Pétigny in the *Revue Numismatique* of 1857, p. 115, in which he gives most convincing arguments for reading *obryza*, pure gold, instead of seventy-two, the number of *solidi* coined out of a pound of metal.

These remarks do not apply to the Byzantine gold coinage

of Italy, Sicily, and Africa, after the recovery of these provinces by Justinian I., CONOB being then used throughout the empire. In the barbarous imitations struck in Gaul, Spain, and Africa, we find both COMOB and CONOB, according to the prototype copied, and these marks are frequently blundered, as well as the legends.

16. Heraclea of Thrace, formerly Perinthus, established before the monetary reform of Diocletian, and suppressed about the time of Leo. I.

17. Cyzicus, probably a continuation of the local mint, of which there are coins of Claudius II., suppressed about the same time as Heraclea.

18. Nicomedia, established at the time of the monetary reform of Diocletian, and suppressed about the same time as Heraclea and Cyzicus.

19. Tarsus, probably a continuation of the local mint, of which there are coins of the reign of Gallienus, suppressed or transferred to Heraclea in the early part of the reign of Diocletian. It was closed before the opening of Treves, which adopted its mint-mark TR.

20. Antioch, continuation of the local mint, the last coins of which bear the name of Valerian, suppressed, as well as Alexandria, about the time of Theodosius II.

21. Alexandria, continuation of the local mint, which became imperial under the usurper Domitius Domitian, better known by the name of Achilleus.

The mint of Carthage was restored by the Vandal kings, and Byzantine coins were struck there, at Rome and Ravenna, and in Sicily, till the Western provinces were lost to the emperors of Constantinople. Thessalonica, Cyzicus, Nicomedia, Antioch, and Alexandria also reappear under Anastasius and his two successors, but they issued nothing except copper, and their mint-marks are not found after the reign of Heraclius.

The catalogue which follows is one of the results of the new classification of the Lower Empire series lately adopted at the British Museum. The coins of this period are no longer classed by *emperors* and *alphabetically* according to their reverses, but by *mints* and *monetary periods*. This arrangement shows the chronological order of the coins issued by each mint, and illustrates history far better than the system generally followed.

COINS OF CARAUSIUS AND ALLECTUS.

- 287-290 ? Coins of Carausius without mint-marks and mostly of inferior workmanship.
- 290 ?-293 Gold and copper coins of Carausius with the mint-mark of London, and copper only with that of Camulodunum. His silver coins with the exergual mark R S R probably belong to this period and to the mint of London. Also gold and copper coins of Maximian with the mint-mark of London, and copper of Diocletian with those of London and Camulodunum, all struck by Carausius. No gold coins of Diocletian struck in London, nor copper of Maximian struck at Camulodunum have yet been found, but there can be little doubt of their existence.
- 293-296 Gold and copper coins of Allectus with the mint-mark of London, and copper only with that of Camulodunum. He does not seem to have issued any silver. The large copper coin called *follis* was introduced in the continental provinces about this time, and was issued at the restoration instead of the copper denarius of the two usurpers. The mint-mark of Camulodunum, C or CL, which may also be read Colonia, disappears after the reign of Allectus, and nothing but copper and billon seems to have been coined in London during the reigns of Maximian, Constantius, and Constantine.

COPPER COINS WITHOUT MINT-MARKS.

PLATE I.

- 296-305 Diocletian augustus  
 Maximian augustus, No. 2. } GENIO POPVLI RO-  
 Constantius cæsar, No. 1. } MANI  
 Galerius cæsar }

Although mint-marks are wanting, the attribution of these coins to Britain may be considered as certain. The earlier are similar in style to the coinage of Carausius and Allectus, and unlike that of the continental mints of the same period. The later, as well as those that follow, are imi-

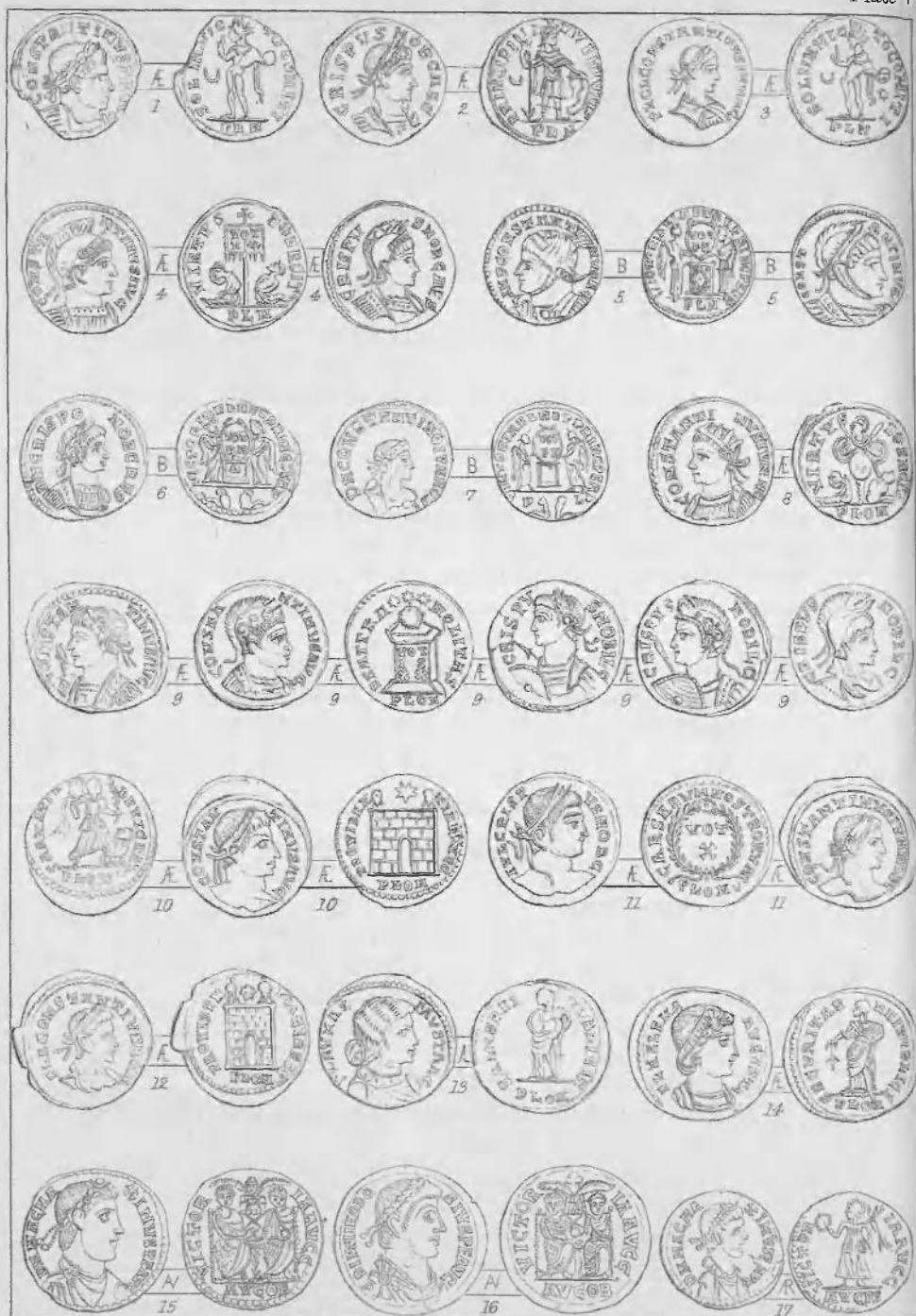
tated from the better designed coins issued by the mints of Gaul.

305-306	Diocletian after abdication	}	PROVIDENTIA DEORVM QVIES AVGG.
	Maximian after abdication, No. 3.		
306	Constantius augustus, No. 4.	}	GENIO POPVLI RO- MANI
	Galerius augustus		
	Severus cæsar, No. 5.		
	Maximin cæsar		
	Severus augustus, No. 6.		
	Constantine cæsar		

Besides these coins, in which the bust is always paludated, robed, or cuirassed, there is an extremely rare set of Diocletian and Maximian as augusti, and Constantius and Galerius as cæsars, with the mint-mark LON, the bust bare, and the usual reverse GENIO POPVLI ROMANI. There are three sets of the same tetrarchy, with the same reverse, which from their fabric evidently belong to the mint of Lyons, and not to that of London. In the two first, the bust is always bare, in the third either bare or ornamented. The mint-mark is wanting in the first ; it is, in the second, L A or L B, and in the third, L P or P L with A or B.

#### COPPER COINS WITH OR WITHOUT PLN.

306-307	Diocletian after abdication, No. 7.		QVIES AVGG. GENIO POP. ROM.
	Galerius augustus, No. 8.		
	Maximin cæsar		GENIO PP. ROM.
	Constantine cæsar		GENIO POP. ROM.
			MARTI PACIF.
			MARS VICTOR
306-310	Maximian after abdication, No. 9.		ROMAE AETER.
			GENIO POP. ROM.
			HERCVLI CONSERVA- TORI
			MARS VICTOR
			MARTI PATRI PROPVG- NATORI
			ROMAE AETER.



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306-312	Constantius after death	MEMORIA FELIX
307-312	Constantine augustus	GENIO POP. ROM.
	No. 10.	MARTI PATRI PROPVG. PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS

These coins are smaller than those of the preceding class, and there is a further gradual reduction in the two next.

COPPER COINS WITH PLN AND A STAR IN THE FIELD.

312-317?	Constantine augustus	ADVENTVS AVG. ADVENTVS AVG. N. ADVENTVS AVGG. NN. COMITI AAVGG. COMITI AVGG. NN. CONCORD. MILIT. FELICITAS AVGG. NN. MARTI CONSERVATORI PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS ROMAE RESTITVTAE SECVRITAS AVGG.
	No. 11.	SOLI INVICTO COMITI SPES REIPVBL.
	Licinius augustus	COMITI AAVGG.
	No. 12.	GENIO POP. ROM. SECVRITAS AVGG.
312-313	Maximin augustus	COMITI AAVGG.
	No. 13.	GENIO POP. ROM.

COPPER COINS WITH MLL, MSL, MLN OR PLN AND F, SF, SP, TF, A CRESCENT OR A CRESCENT AND STAR IN THE FIELD.

317?-321?	Constantine augustus	ADVENTVS AVG. N. GENIO POP. ROM. MARTI CONSERVATORI
	No. 14.	PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS
	No. 15 and Pl. II.	No. 1. SOLI INVICTO COMITI
PLATE II.	Licinius augustus	GENIO POP. ROM.
	No. 2.	SOLI INVICTO COMITI
317-321?	Crispus cæsar	No. 3. PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS SOLI INVICTO COMITI
	Constantine jun. cæsar	PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS
	No. 4.	SOLI INVICTO COMITI
	Licinius jun. cæsar	no coins yet found.

## COPPER COINS WITH P L N.

321?-323	Constantine augustus	} VIRTVS EXERCIT.
	Crispus cæsar No. 5.	
	Constantine jun. cæsar	

## BILLON COINS WITH P L N, OR TWO CAPTIVES WITH OR WITHOUT P L.

312-323	Constantine augustus	} VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC. PERP.
317-323	Crispus cæsar No. 6.	
	Constantine jun. cæsar	

## COPPER COINS WITH PLON AND HEAD TO RIGHT OR LEFT.

323	Constantine augustus	} BEATA TRANQVILLITAS VIRTVS EXERCIT.
	Crispus cæsar No. 7.	
	Constantine jun. cæsar	

## COPPER COINS WITH PLON AND HEAD TO RIGHT.

323-330?	Constantine augustus	PROVIDENTIAE AVGG.
	No. 8.	SARMATIA DEVICTA
323-326	Crispus cæsar	PROVIDENTIAE CAESS.
	No. 9.	VOTA X CAESARVM NOS- TRORVM
323-330?	Constantine jun. cæsar	PROVIDENTIAE CAESS.
	No. 10.	VOTA X CAESARVM NOS- TRORVM
	Constantius jun. cæsar,	
	No. 11.	PROVIDENTIAE CAESS.
323-326	Fausta augusta, No. 12.	SALVS REIPVBLICAE
323-328?	Helena augusta, No. 13.	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICE

## COPPER COINS OF THE REIGN OF CONSTANTINE NOT FOUND WITH THE MINTMARK OF LONDON.

330?-337	Constantine augustus	} GLORIA EXERCITVS
	Constantine jun. cæsar	
	Constantius jun. cæsar	
333-337	Constans cæsar	} SECVRITAS PVBLICA
335-337	Delmatius cæsar	
	Hanniballian king	
330?-337	Helena after death	PAX PVBLICA
	Theodora after death	PIETAS ROMANA
	Rome	URBS ROMA
	Constantinople	CONSTANTINOPOLIS

These types must have been introduced about the time of the dedication of Constantinople in 330, and there can be little doubt that the London mint, which was not very important, was suppressed in the general reorganization of the empire which then took place. The London series is less complete than those of some of the continental mints. It is therefore necessary, in order to determine even approximately the date of a class of coins of the London mint, to compare it with the corresponding class of other mints, particularly of that of Treves.

REVIVAL OF THE LONDON MINT BY MAGNUS MAXIMUS  
IN 383.

There are very rare gold solidi of Magnus Maximus with the legend VICTORIA AVGG. and the mint-mark AVGOB, No. 14, which are generally supposed to have been struck at Treves, but as we have similar coins of this usurper with both SMTR and TROB, it is far more likely that AVGOB belongs to Londinium Augusta than to Augusta Trevirorum, better known under the later empire by the name of Treviri (Smith's Geographical Dictionary, LONDINIVM and AVGVSTA TREVIRORVM).

That Magnus Maximus should have revived the mint of London is not to be wondered at. He rebelled in Britain, and some time elapsed before he got possession of Gaul and of the mints of Treves, Lyons, and Arles. A mint was indispensable to a Roman emperor, and particularly so to one who owed the purple to his army. Had he failed to overthrow Gratian, these Augusta coins would have been the only numismatic record of his usurpation.

It is very likely that this mint was again suppressed when Magnus Maximus had established himself in Gaul. At all events, it does not seem to have been kept up after his death, as we have no London coins of his successors, Valentinian II and Eugenius. After the defeat of the latter by Theodosius in 394, the three Gallic mints were closed till revived under Honorius by the usurpers Constantine and Jovinus (407-413).

There is at the British Museum a solidus of Theodosius I with the mint-mark AVGOB, and the same reverse as those of

Magnus Maximus, No. 15. It is of inferior pale gold and of bad workmanship, and probably belongs, not to the imperial mint of London, but to a numerous series of barbarous imitations which, together with the coins of the usurpers Constantine and Jovinus, fills up the interval between the last Gallic coins of Eugenius and the several classes, of still more barbarous workmanship, traceable to the Visigothic, Burgundian, and other early mediæval monarchies.

Since this paper was read Mr. John Evans has met with, and has most kindly offered to the national collection a specimen, unpublished and hitherto unique, of the silver struck in London by Magnus Maximus. This coin is not very well preserved, and weighs 27.5 grains. The legend of the reverse is, like that of the solidus, VICTORIA AVGG., and the exergual mint-mark AVGPS instead of AVGOB. No. 16.

A second specimen of the London silver coinage of Magnus Maximus, in very bad condition, has just been deciphered and most generously presented by Mr. John Evans to the British Museum. It is of the same size as the former, and the reverse is VOT. V MVLT. X in a wreath, with the exergual mark AVG. Both these hitherto unique coins are from the same find, concerning which I have not been able to obtain any information.

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