



DESCRIPTION OF A HOARD OF FORTY-THREE
ROMAN DENARII OF THE IMPERIAL SERIES
FOUND AT ECCLESTON, NEAR CHESTER,
AND BELONGING TO THE LATE MR. W. F.
AYRTON.¹

BY W. T. READY.

THIS hoard consists of coins of the following emperors
and empresses :—

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Vespasian - - - - - | 1 |
| Domitian - - - - - | 2 |
| Nerva - - - - - | 1 |
| Trajan - - - - - | 15 |
| Hadrian - - - - - | 6 |
| Sabina - - - - - | 1 |
| Antoninus Pius - - - - - | 7 |
| Faustina Senior - - - - - | 3 |
| Marcus Aurelius - - - - - | 5 |
| Faustina Junior - - - - - | 2 |

The earlier coins show, as might be expected, the most
signs of wear ; the earliest, that of Vespasian, being so

¹ These coins were found in a hoard, but whether in a vase or not there is no information, at the beginning of this century, in or near Eccleston, not far from Chester. They were acquired by the late Mr. George Cuit, the well-known Chester artist, and remained in his possession till his death, which occurred in Yorkshire. His kinsman, the late Mr. W. F. Ayrton, the first honorary secretary of this Society, made a special journey to Yorkshire to secure them as having been found near Chester, and they are now in the possession of his widow, Mrs. Ayrton, Abbots Rock, Chester.

much worn as to be illegible. The later coins are remarkably well preserved, some bearing no traces of circulation whatever and retaining the bloom of the die. From these conditions of preservation it may be safely assumed that the coins were placed in the position where they were found very soon after the later pieces were issued from the mint; and, as the most recent can be assigned with certainty to the year A.D. 168, it must have been very shortly after that date that they were lost or hidden.

LIST OF FORTY-THREE ROMAN IMPERIAL
DENARII.

The arrangement is in chronological sequence and order of tribunitial office.
The references are to Cohen's *Medailles Impérialles*, 2^{me} edit.

- ¹1. Vespasian. *Obv.* IMP. VESPASIAN [. . .], laureate head to right. *Rev.* female figure seated to left.
2. Domitian. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. DOMIT. AVG. GERM. P. M. TR. P. XIII., laureate head of the emperor to right. *Rev.* IMP. XXII. COS. XVI. CENS. P. P. P., Minerva standing to left holding a long spear. (*Cohen*, 282.)
3. Domitian. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. DOMIT. AVG. GERM. P. M. TR. P. XVI. (Imperator Caesar. Domitianus. Augustus. Germanicus. Pontifex Maximus. Tribunitia Potestate. Decimum sextum.), laureate head of the emperor to right. *Rev.* IMP. XXII. COS. XVII. CENS. P. P. P. (Imperator xvij. Consul xxij. Censor perpetuus. Pater Patriae); Pallas pugnans to right, at her feet an owl. (*Cohen*, 288.)
4. Nerva. *Obv.* IMP. NERVA. CAES. AVG. P. M. TR. P. COS. P. P., laureate head to right. *Rev.* CONCORDIA EXERCITVVM; two clasped hands, symbolical of the concord of the emperor and the army. (*Cohen*, 20.)

¹This denarius is much worn. The reverse legend is illegible.

5. Trajan. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. NERVA. TRAIAN. AVG. GERM., laureate head to right. *Rev.* P. M. TR. P. COS. II. P. P., Fortuna (?) standing to left. (Cohen, 211.)
6. Trajan. *Obv.* (as preceding). *Rev.* P. M. TR. P. COS. III. P. P., Hercules facing, holding club and lion's skin. (Cohen, 234.)
7. Trajan. *Obv.* (as No. 5). *Rev.* P. M. TR. P. COS. III. P. P. Victory to right, standing on prow of vessel terminating with a snake, and holding palm branch and wreath. (Cohen, 241.)
8. Trajan. *Obv.* (as No. 5). *Rev.* P. M. TR. P. COS. III. P. P., Victory to left, holding palm branch and leaf. (Cohen, 242.)
9. Trajan. *Obv.* IMP. TRAIANO. AVG. GER. DAC.(icus) P. M. TR. P. COS. V. P. P., laureate draped head to right. *Rev.* S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO. PRINCIPI. (Senatus Populusque Romanus. Optimo Principi), captive Dacian seated at foot of trophy. (Cohen, 537.)
10. Trajan. *Obv.* (as preceding, but shoulders not draped). *Rev.* legend as No. 9 . . . female figure, symbolical of felicity or peace, to left, holding caduceus and cornucopia (Cohen, 403.)
11. Trajan. *Obv.* IMP. TRAIANO. AVG. GER. DAC. P. M. TR. P., laureate head to right. *Rev.* COS. V. P. P. S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO. PRINC., Arabia, represented by a female figure standing to left, holding reed and laurel branch, at her feet a diminutive figure of a camel. (Cohen, 89.)
12. Trajan. *Obv.* (as No. 11). *Rev.* Legend as No. 11, Mars Victor, to left, holding spear and figure of Victory. (Cohen, 63.)
13. Trajan. *Obv.* (as No. 11). *Rev.* (legend as No. 11), female figure, Equity, standing to left, holding cornucopia and balance. (Cohen, 85.)

14. Trajan. *Obv.* IMP. NER. TRAIANO. OPTIMO. AVG. GER. DAC., laureate draped head of the emperor to right. *Rev.* P. M. TR. P. COS. VI. P. P. S. P. Q. R., youthful male figure, Vertumnus (?), holding patera and two ears of corn. (Cohen, 276.)
15. Trajan. *Obv.* (as preceding). *Rev.* (legend as preceding), youthful male figure, Valour, holding spear and parazonium; his left foot resting upon a helmet. (Cohen, 274.)
16. Trajan. *Obv.* (as No. 14). *Rev.* (legend as No. 14) female figure, Felicity, to left, holding cornucopia and caduceus. (Cohen, 278.)
17. Trajan. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. NER. TRAIAN. OPTIM. AVG. GER. DAC. PARTHICO., laureate draped head to right. *Rev.* (legend as No. 14) across the field PROVID(entia), female figure, Providence, holding long sceptre; at her feet a globe. (Cohen, 315.)
18. Trajan. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. NER. TRAIAN. OPTIM. AVG. GERM. DAC., laureate draped head to right. *Rev.* PARTHICO. P. M. TR. P. COS. VI. P. P. S. P. Q. R., across the field PROVID.(entia), device as of preceding piece. (Cohen, 314.)
19. Trajan. *Obv.* IMP. TRAIANO. AVG. GER. DAC. P. M. TR. P. COS. VI. P. P., laureate head to right. *Rev.* S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO. PRINCIPI., Mars Victor, to right, carrying trophy and small figure of Victory. (Cohen, 372.)
20. Hadrian. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. TRAIAN. HADRIANO. AVG. DIVI. TRA., laureate head to right. *Rev.* PARTH. F. DIVI. NER. NEP. P. M. TR. P. COS.; in exergue, IVSTITIA; Justice seated to left, holding sceptre and patera. (Cohen, 874.)
21. Hadrian. *Obv.* IMP. CAESAR. TRAIAN. HADRIANVS. AVG., laureate head to right. *Rev.* P. M. TR. P. COS. III., Mars Victor walking to right. (Cohen, 1,072.)

22. Hadrian. *Obv.* and *Rev.* (as preceding).
23. Hadrian. *Obv.* (as No. 21). *Rev.* (legend as preceding)
Roma seated to left, holding spear and figure of
Victory. (Cohen, I,102.)
24. Hadrian. *Obv.* HADRIANVS. AVG. COS. III., laureate
head to right. *Rev.* VICTORIA. AVG., Nemesis walk-
ing to right, pulling her robe from the neck, and
carrying laurel branch. (Cohen, I,455.)
25. Hadrian. *Obv.* as preceding, but head bare, and
shoulders draped. *Rev.* AFRICA., the province of
Africa, seated to left, holding cornucopia and scor-
pion; at her feet a basket of fruits. (Cohen, 141.)
26. Sabina. *Obv.* SABINA. AVGVSTA., draped bust of the
empress to right. *Rev.* CONCORDIA. AVG., the god-
dess of Concord seated to left, holding sceptre and
patera. (Cohen, 24.)
27. Antoninus Pius. *Obv.* IMP. T. AEL. CAES. HADR.
ANTONINVS., bare head to right. *Rev.* AVG. PIVS.
P. M. TR. P. COS. DES. II., Roma standing to left,
holding a figure of Victory, her left hand resting on
a shield. (Cohen, 67.)
28. Antoninus Pius. *Obv.* ANTONINVS. AVG. PIVS. P. P.
TR. P. XI., laureate head to right. *Rev.* COS. III. (?),
Tranquilitas (?) standing to left, holding rudder (?)
and corn ears, at her feet the modius. (Cohen . . .)
29. Antoninus Pius. *Obv.* as preceding. *Rev.* COS. III.,
Abundantia standing to left, holding corn ears and
anchor, at her feet the modius. (Cohen, 283.)
30. Antoninus Pius. *Obv.* ANTONINVS. AVG. PIVS. P. P.,
laureate head to right. *Rev.* TR. POT. COS. III. in
exergue LIB. III. (Liberalitas iiiii.), Liberalitas stand-
ing to left, holding tessera and cornucopia.
(Cohen, 490.)
31. Antoninus Pius. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. T. AEL. H. ANTO-

- NINVS. AVG. PIVS. P. P., laureate head to right. *Rev.* TR. POT. XV. COS. IIII. in exergue PIETAS., Piety standing to right, holding patera with offerings, and a goat; at her feet an altar.
32. Antoninus Pius. *Obv.* DIVVS. ANTONINVS, bare head to right. *Rev.* DIVO. PIO, an altar.
33. Antoninus Pius. *Obv.* (as preceding). *Rev.* CONSECRATIO, eagle about to rise from an altar. [This and the preceding coin, No. 32, was struck after the death of the emperor.]
34. Faustina Senior. *Obv.* DIVA. FAVSTINA, draped bust to right, the hair elaborately dressed. *Rev.* AVGVSTA., the empress as Ceres holding torch and two ears of corn. (Cohen, 84.)
35. Faustina Senior. (As preceding coin, but from different die.)
36. Faustina Senior. *Obv.* (as No. 34). *Rev.* AETERNITAS., the empress, as Æternitas (or Juno), lifting her right hand and holding long sceptre. (Cohen, 26.)
37. Marcus Aurelius. *Obv.* AVRELIVS. CAES. AVG. PII. F., head to right. *Rev.* TR. POT. XIIJ. COS. II., Minerva pugnans to right. (Cohen, . . .)
38. Marcus Aurelius. *Obv.* IMP. M. AVREL. ANTONINVS. AVG., head to right. *Rev.* CONCORD. AVG. TR. P. XVI. COS. IJ., Concordia seated to left, holding a patera; by the seat a cornucopia. (Cohen, 35.)
39. Marcus Aurelius. *Obv.* and *Rev.*, types as preceding, but different die.
40. Marcus Aurelius. *Obv.* IMP. M. AVREL. ANTONINVS. AVG., head to right. *Rev.* PROV. DEOR. TR. P. XVI. COS. III. (Providentia deorum; Tribunitia potestate xvi, Consul iij.), Providentia to left, holding orb and cornucopia. (Cohen, 519.)
41. Marcus Aurelius. *Obv.* M. ANTONINVS. AVG. ARM.

- PARTH. MAX (Marcus Antoninus Augustus, Armeniacus, Parthicus, Maximus), laureate head to right. *Rev.* TR. P. XXII. IMP. IIIJ. COS. IIJ., Equitas standing to left, holding cornucopia and balance. (*Cohen*, 892.)
42. Faustina Junior. *Obv.* FAVSTINA AVG. PII. AVG. FIL. (Faustina Augusta pii Augusti filia), bust of the empress to right. *Rev.* CONCORDIA, Concord seated to left, holding flower, by the seat a cornucopia. (*Cohen*, 53.)
43. Faustina Junior. *Obv.* FAVSTINA. AVGVSTA, bust of the empress to right. *Rev.* FECVNDITAS, Fecunditas standing to right, holding a sceptre and an infant. (*Cohen*, 99.)

From an examination of the above list it will be seen that only a few of the coins have types commemorative of historical events. The most interesting in this respect are the denarii of Trajan,—Nos. 9 and 11. The former records the successful termination of this emperor's expedition against Decebalus, king of the Dacians, in A.D. 103; and the latter the conquest of Arabia in A.D. 105.

The denarius numbered 25 refers to the journey of Hadrian to Africa; and that numbered 30, which was struck A.D. 145, commemorates the fourth public distribution of largesses by Antoninus Pius.

