

## **The hoard of Iron Age Class II potin coins from New Addington, Surrey: an addendum**

### **Introduction**

An assessment of the late Iron Age potin coins found at Castle Hill Ruffs, New Addington, Croydon in 1978-9 proposed that the coins derived from a hoard, the significance of which lay in the hoard being composed of Class II potin coins. Previously it had been suggested that as Class I coins were hoarded but the later Class II appeared not to be, the two classes had different purposes. The discovery of the New Addington hoard along with that of a second hoard of Class II coins at Stansted, Essex, suggested that there was little, if any, difference between the two classes. Instead, both series were argued to be special purpose coins circulating in parallel with gold coinage (Fitzpatrick 1990). Two categories of further information – numismatic and ceramic – concerning the New Addington finds have recently become available and are noted here.

### **Numismatic**

Unfortunately the New Addington coins were stolen from a private collection before they could be studied fully. However, a partial photographic and graphic record had been made and this was used to document the composition of the hoard. With the exception of three coins which had been drawn (Fitzpatrick 1990, fig 1) the photographic record was of either obverse or reverse. Since that publication was prepared, further photographs (again not of publishable quality) of the obverses and reverses of four coins have become available. In view of the hoard context, it is worth placing this further information on record. Copies of the new prints have again been deposited with the Index of Celtic Coins held at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford University.

Using the same numbering employed previously, drawings of the obverse and reverse of one of the four coins existed previously (no 2; Oxford Index number 89/34). Further details visible on the photograph suggests that an attribution to Allen's (1971) Type P may be more appropriate than Type M. The identification of all of the three other coins (4, 10 and 16: Oxford Index 89/36, 89/42, 89/48) to Type P is confirmed.

The additional photographs allow the close similarities within the group of coins to be emphasised. As the designs of the coins were individually prepared, this adds support to the proposal that the coins derived from a hoard, as does the minor revision upwards of the proportion of Type P in the group from 44% to 50% (8/16 identifiable coins of 20+).

### **Ceramic**

The two small rim sherds of pottery found at the same time as the coins have also been made available. The sherds are held by the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society (CNHSS); both are too small to merit illustration but comparatively local parallels are readily available. One sherd (CNHSS no 222) has a seated or internally bevelled rim which would not be inappropriate in a mid-later Iron Age context (eg Hanworth & Tomalin 1977, fig 15, 44). The other sherd (CNHSS no 223) has a bead rim and is presumably from a jar of later 1st century BC (eg Thompson 1979, 260, fig 7, 13) or earlier 1st century AD date. As suggested

previously, these vessels may have contained all or part of the hoard (Fitzpatrick 1990, 147).

In this context it is worth noting that the Sunbury, Middlesex, hoard of Class I potin coins was contained in three pots. Although it has been thought that little more could be said about the pottery other than to reiterate W F Grimes's comments in the original publication that it was of 'Iron Age character' (Haselgrove 1987, 281), one of the Sunbury pots does survive. The vessel has a bead rim and is apparently wheel thrown (Tyers 1981, 287).

## Conclusion

The further photographic information about the coins and the homogeneity of the group is valuable. It is not certain that the New Addington hoard was contained in a pot, let alone either of those from which sherds were recovered, but in view of the parallel with the earlier Sunbury hoard, the possibility may now be thought to be rather greater.

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A P FITZPATRICK