

Latton Lands (LALA 01 and LALA 04) Roman coins

Eighteen Roman coins were examined. These ranged in date from an issue of Hadrian (AD 119-121) and a possible 1st-mid 3rd century piece - not certainly a Roman coin - to a probable issue of the House of Theodosius (AD 388-402), but all the remaining coins were of late 3rd to mid 4th century date. The coins were in variable condition, ranging from (occasionally) good to poor and in some cases very corroded. A majority were quite poor and even after cleaning several were effectively illegible. Some of the identifications are tentative as a result. They are given in full in Table *1. Conventions for the most part follow the recommendations of Brickstock (2004).

Table 1: List of coins in approximate chronological order of issue

SF	Context	Date	Denomination/ size	Obverse	Reverse	Mint	Die axis	Wear	Reference/comment
201	1619	119-121	dupondius 27mm	IMP CAESAR TRAIANU]S HA[DRIANU]S AUG P[M TR P COS III	MO[NET]A AUGUSTI SC	Rome	6	W/W	RIC 2, 600(c) locally damaged, condition otherwise good
200	1482	??1-mid 3C	? 28mm	-	-	-	-	C/C	surfaces completely lost after cleaning, appears rather thin and is possibly not Roman
205	2101	259-268	antoninianus 20mm	? ..POS]TUMUS[	] AUG standing figure	-	8?	W(C)?V W(C)	
181	2109	268-270	antoninianus 21x19mm	?? VI]CTORINUS PF AUG	PIETAS [AUG	-	12	W/VW	?RIC 5ii, 57 (poss 59 or 60)
196	2124	?radiate copy	antoninianus 16mm	Poss radiate head r	Victory l	-	?12	VW/VW (C)	
197	2101	radiate copy	antoninianus 16x13mm	radiate head r, botched legend	Salus l, botched legend	-	1	SW/SW	
203	2101	radiate copy	'antoninianus' 10mm	radiate head r	-	-	?	VW/C	
204	2101	radiate copy	'antoninianus' 13mm	?radiate crown	?	-	?	VW/VW	extremely 'barbarous'
312	US	321	AE2 21mm	CONSTANTINUS AUG	BEATA TRANQUILLITAS	C R over PLG Lyons	7	SW/SW	RIC 7 Lyons, 129
180	2108	330-331	AE3 17mm	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	Victory on prow	TRS-Trier	6	W/VW	RIC 7 Trier, 523
334	US	332	AE3 16mm	head r, legend illegible	GLORIA EXERCITUS 2 standards	?symbolPLG Lyons	12	W (C)/W	RIC 7 Lyons, 253-5
336	US	332-335	AE3 18mm	CONSTANTI NUSMAXAUG	GLORIA EXERCITUS 2 standards	symbol over PCONST Arles	11	W(C)/W	RIC 7 Arles, 358, 364 or 387 (symbol partly lost)
194	2122	337-341	AE3 14mm	FLIULHE] LENAEEA]UG	PAX PU BLICA	TRSSymbol Trier	5	W/W	As LRBCI, 128
193	2121	?335-341	AE3 14mm	?head r	?Gloria exercitus, 1 standard	-	?6	VW/VW (C)	uncertain
202	1622	'335-341'	AE3 14mm	]CONSTANTIUS NOBC	Gloria Exercitus 1 standard	-	6	W/W	irregular
174	2102	330-364	AE3 14mm	CONSTAN [	-	-	?	W/C	uncertain
335	US	?388-402	AE4 11mm	?head r	?victory l (Victoria Auggg?)	-	6?	EW/EW	uncertain
189	2117	3-4C	16mm	-	-	-	-	C/C	surfaces mostly lost

Discussion

The assemblage is too small for detailed analysis, but the coins are fairly typical of lower status rural settlement of the Upper Thames Valley. There is only one certain early Roman coin (SF201) while a further piece (SF200) may be of this period. Six coins belonged to the second half of the 3rd century AD, of which at least four were probable or certain radiate copies, characteristic of the period from c AD 260/70-296. One of these (SF204) was extremely debased. This, plus two of the other radiate copies and a coin of Postumus came from the same (unstratified) location. The second quarter of the 4th century, always a period of high coin loss in this region, is well-represented. Of the eight coins assigned to the House of Constantine all can probably be dated to the period AD 320-341, with all but SF312 dated AD 330 and later. Only SF174 might have been later, but thus is quite uncertain. The module of the corroded and unidentifiable coin SF189 is also consistent with a date in the second quarter of the 4th century, though earlier or later dates are of course possible. There were no identified coins of the House of Valentinian - which is unusual for the region - and only one coin (SF335) which was probably later. Although its condition precluded certain identification the reverse

type of the latter was almost certainly a figure of Victory, of a type particularly characteristic of the Victoria Auggg issues of the late 4th century (388-402). The presence of such a coin would be a little unusual given the absence of issues of the 360s and 370s, but the overall size of the assemblage is such that arguments from negative evidence cannot be conclusive.

Five of the 4th century coins can be assigned to mints: two are from Trier, two from Lyons and one from Arles - a typical pattern.

The size and chronological profile of the coin assemblage are broadly consistent with their derivation from a lower status rural settlement. In such assemblages, earlier Roman coins are scarce and often absent altogether. It is notable that the dupondius of Hadrian, although technically 'worn' (cf Brickstock 2004, 7), was in reasonable condition when lost and had clearly not been in circulation over an extended period, as is often the case with early Roman coins on sites of this type. The proportion of later 3rd century coins in relation to 4th century issues may also seem quite high for a low status group, but the overall numbers are too small for this to be a reliable assessment, and the fact that four of these coins were found together may have skewed the list.

References

Brickstock, R J, 2004 *The production, analysis and standardisation of Romano-British coin reports*, English Heritage

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RIC 2 = Mattingly, H, and Sydenham, E A, 1926, *The Roman Imperial Coinage Volume II*, Spink, London

RIC 5ii = Webb, P H, 1933, *The Roman Imperial Coinage Volume V part ii*, Spink, London

RIC 7 = Bruun, P M, 1966, *The Roman Imperial Coinage Volume VII, Constantine and Licinius*, Spink, London

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