

Roman Coins from Blaise Castle, Bristol

By

GEORGE C. BOON, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.N.S.

The City Museum, Bristol, recently acquired, by the gift of Mr. Cedric Pritchard, a collection of 55 Roman coins which had belonged to his father, the Bristol antiquary J. E. Pritchard, F.S.A. The coins are marked "Blaise Castle", "Blaise Hill" or, in a few cases, "Blaise Hill, June 1819". A few can in fact be identified with specimens in Seyer's list (1821, I, pp. 157-158), particularly the Domitian *sestertius* (No. 3), the Claudius II *antoninianus* (No. 6) and the Postumus *antoniniani* (Nos. 7-8). There is thus no reason to question the provenance, although it is possible that some of the coins (e.g., No. 2—a rare find on any site) may be intrusive. The number of AE2 of the period 346-353 is interesting: most of these coins are in similar condition and may have come from a hoard. Since the archæology of Blaise Castle has been so admirably summed up in Vol. 8 of these *Proceedings* (Rahtz and Brown, 1959), the following list may serve as a footnote.

References are to:

- E. A. Sydenham, 1952, *The Coinage of the Roman Republic*.
 H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, *et al.*, 1923, (I), 1926, (II), 1927, (V, i), 1933, (V, ii),
The Roman Imperial Coinage.
 R. A. G. Carson, P. V. Hill and J. P. C. Kent, 1960, *The Late Roman Bronze Coinage*.
 R. A. G. Carson and J. P. C. Kent, 1956, "Constantinian Hoards & Other Studies",
Num. Chron.
 J. P. C. Kent, "The Pattern of Bronze Coinage under Constantine I", 1958, *Num. Chron.*

Pre-Constantinian:

1. *Denarius*, Syd. 585.
2. Claudius, *quadrans*, RIC 72a.
3. Domitian, *sestertius*, RIC 412.
4. Trajan, *denarius*, RIC 12.
5. — *as*, RIC 522.
6. Claudius II, *antoninianus*, RIC 66/67.
7. Postumus, *antoninianus*, RIC 75.
8. — *antoninianus*, RIC 89.
9. Tetricus I, *antoninianus*, RIC 86/88.
10. — *antoninianus*, RIC 141.
11. Allectus, *antoninianus*, RIC 22.

Earlier Constantinian:

12. Constantine I, NC 1956, No. 151.
13. — NC 1956, No. 597 (NC 1957, No. 292).
14. — NC 1957, No. 181.
15. — NC 1957, No. 81.
16. — LRBC 1, 2.

Constantinian, 330-346:

17. Constantine I, *Gloria Exercitus* (two standards) AE₃ copy.
18. Constantius II, LRBC I, 57.
19. Constantinopolis, LRBC I, 59.
20. Urbs Roma, LRBC I, 76.
21. Constantius II, LRBC I, 132.
22. — LRBC I, 441.
23. Constans, LRBC I, 146/7.
24. — LRBC I, 146/7.

Late Constantinian, 346-353 (mainly AE₂):

25. Magnentius, LRBC II, 3.
26. — LRBC II, 5.
27. — LRBC II, 13.
28. — LRBC II, 55.
29. — LRBC II, 58.
30. — LRBC II, 62.
31. — LRBC II, 211.
32. — LRBC II, 215.
33. — LRBC II, 215.
34. Decentius, LRBC II, 9.
35. Constantius II, LRBC II, 25.
36. — LRBC II, 409 but FELTEMP-REPARATIO.
37. — LRBC II, 410.
- 38-41. AE₂ copies, *Fel. Temp. Reparatio* galley type.

Late Constantinian:

42. Constantius II, LRBC II, 32.
43. — *Fel. Temp. Reparatio* (fallen horseman) AE₃ copy.

House of Valentinian:

44. Valentinian I, LRBC II, 1418-20.
45. — *Gloria Romanorum*, uncertain mint.
46. — LRBC 527.
47. Valens, LRBC II, 483.
48. — LRBC II, 504.
49. — LRBC II, 521.
50. — LRBC II, 524?
51. — LRBC II, 991.
52. — *Securitas Reipublicae*, Arles, uncertain details.
53. — *Securitas Reipublicae*, uncertain mint.

House of Theodosius:

54. Arcadius, *Siliqua* copy, wt. c. 1 gm., MDPS (Milan mint) but *Urbs Roma* cuirass type; barbarous.
55. — LRBC II, 392 (c. 388-392).

REFERENCES

Proc. = *Proceedings, University of Bristol Spelæological Society*

- RAHTZ, P. A., and BROWN, J. CLEVEDON, 1959, "Blaise Castle Hill, Bristol, 1957", *Proc.*, Vol. 8, 147-171.
- SEYER, S., 1821, *Memoirs of Bristol*. Bristol.