

A FIND OF LATE ROMAN AES (COPPER COINS) AT HAMBLEDON, NEAR PORTSMOUTH.

THE coins were found by Mr. Booth, a little to the south of the lane which leads from the eastern end of the village to Glidden, just after the lane enters the hanger.¹

They have, on the suggestion of the British Museum, been submitted for examination to Mr. J. W. E. Pearce, F.S.A., of the Royal Numismatic Society.

Mr. Pearce reports that the earliest coin is a "Constantinopolis" of Constantine the Great, dating about A.D. 330. The latest commemorates the Emperor Gratian's quinquennial vota and was probably struck in A.D. 382.

A number of coins found together is described as a "hoard," and it is thought that they were probably buried in times of danger. Thus it may be that these coins were part of the savings of an early Hambledonian who, soon after A.D. 383, buried them in fear of a raid by Saxon pirates. The Roman garrison of Britain had then been largely withdrawn for service in Gaul (France).

The coins are described in detail, thus :—

Constantine I, one, Obverse (head) CONSTANTINOPOLIS, helmeted and cuirassed bust of Constantine, carrying sceptre over left shoulder. Reverse (tail) Victory standing left on prow of a ship; holding a sceptre in his right hand and resting his left on a shield. Mint marks PLG (Lyons mint).

Constantius II, one, obv. D.N. CONSTANTIUS P.F. AUG., Bust pearl diademed and cuirassed r. Rev., FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO, Soldier spearing fallen horseman l. Mint marks RQ (Rome mint).

Constans, one, obv. CONSTANS P.F. AUG. Bust with diadem of squared stones, draped and cuirassed r. Rev. VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q. NN. Two Victories, facing each other, each holding wreath and palm branch.

✠
PLG (Lyons mint).

Magnentius, one, Barbarous, Obv. . . . TIUS P.F. AUG. Bust, bareheaded, draped and cuirassed r. A behind bust. Rev. Blundered imitation of VICTORIAE DD. NN. AUG. ET CAES. Two Victories together holding up shield inscribed VOT. V. MULT. X.

Valentinian I, ten. These have on obverse D.N. VALENTINI-ANUS P.F. AUG. Bust pearl diademed draped and cuirassed r. The reverses are of two types, in one the inscription is GLORIA ROMANORUM and an emperor is shown holding a labarum or standard and dragging a captive r. The captive is usually represented kneeling, but in two cases from the Arles mint he is walking. These have mint marks of Arles and Aquileia—PCON, CON SMAQS. The other type of reverse (six) reads SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE and shows Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch. The mint marks are

SCON N | OF | II (Arles mint); • SMAQS * | SMAQS (Aquileia mint);

R | F
R | F
r SISCs. (Siscia mint).

1. There are some remains of a late Roman building near Bury Lodge, about a mile from where the coins were found.

Valens, nine. Obv. D.N. VALENS. P.F. AUG. Bust as for Valentinian.

One reverse is the "Glory of the Romans" as above with illegible mint marks, the others "Safety of the Republic," three from the Lyons mint, five from Arles.

$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{OF} & \text{I} \\ \hline \text{S} & \text{R} \end{array}$
 $\begin{array}{c|c} \text{OF} & \text{I} \\ \hline & \end{array}$
 $\begin{array}{c|c} \text{OF} & \text{I} \\ \hline & \text{C} \end{array}$
 (Lyons mint); $\overline{\text{PCON}}$ (2), $\overline{\text{TCON}}$,

$\begin{array}{c} \cdot \\ \hline \text{SCON} \end{array}$
 $\begin{array}{c|c} \text{OF} & \text{II} \\ \hline & \text{CON} \end{array}$
 (Arles mint);

Gratian, ten. Obverse, GRATIANUS P.F. AUG. Bust as for Valentinian I.
Reverse, GLORIA ROMANORUM, as above. Mint marks

$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{F} & \text{R} \\ \hline & \text{R} \end{array}$
 $\begin{array}{c|c} \text{F} & \text{R} \\ \hline & \text{A} \end{array}$
 (Siscia mint);

$\overline{\Delta \text{SISCE}}$, $\overline{\Delta \text{SISCP}}$

Obv. DN GRATIANUS AUGG. AUG. Similar bust. Rev. GLORIA NOVI SAECULI. Emperor standing facing, head turned l., holding labarum in r. hand, l. hand resting on shield. Mint marks T CON (5). OFI CON. OF III. CON.

Obv. D.N. GRATIA NUS P.F. AUG. Similar bust.

Rev. VOT/XV/MULT/XX in wreath. Mint marks

$\overline{\text{LVG P}}$ (Lyons mint.)

Mints :—

Arles	-	-	-	-	-	18
Aquileia (N. Italy)	-	-	-	-	-	3
Lyons	-	-	-	-	-	6
Rome	-	-	-	-	-	1
Siscia (in Pannonia, now Austria or Hungary)	-	-	-	-	-	3
Doubtful	-	-	-	-	-	2

In the mint marks OF I means office or workshop No. 1. Sometimes it may be P for primus or first, or the Greek letters may be used as numerals, thus one of these has Γ (gamma) for 3, another Δ (delta) for 4.

C. BETTON ROBERTS.