

## Roman love affair

As demonstrated below, two rival British kings – Verica, king of the Regni and Atrebates (c.AD 10-40), and Cunobelinus, king of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes (c.AD 8-41) – imported Roman wine and copied Roman coins.



This excessively rare Verica silver unit, ABC 1259, seems to be saying: “My warships rule the waves from Chichester, bringing prosperity to my people, including wine from Italy.” The only two recorded specimens were both found in Kent, suggesting that Verica, like his rival Cunobelinus, had a strong interest in cross-Channel trade with Gallic merchants and their Roman suppliers. Roman river-boat on the Moselle, carrying casks of fine wine for export. Stone carving from Neumagen, Germany. Photo © Landesmuseum, Trier.



Many later North Thames coins were Roman inspired. This Augustus denarius (*Lugdunum* 15-13 BC) was copied by Tasciovanos (ABC 2643) and his son Cunobelinus (ABC 2948, 2966).