

News and Views

Celtic King Renamed

A rare gold coin recently found in the Mansfield area of Nottinghamshire has revealed the full name of a late Iron Age ruler of the Corieltavi tribe in Lincolnshire. Chris Rudd, the Celtic coin specialist, comments, "For over a hundred and fifty years this king has been known to us as Vep. That's the first part of his name. The rare

coin from near Mansfield, the first I've seen, is important because it provides the second part of his name which seems to be -c[u]navos. I say 'seems' because the inscription is hard to read. If I've got it right, and I'm reasonably certain I have, the king's full name is Vepocunavos.

"Renaming Vep with his new long name is important

because it also prompts us to review and rethink the significance of other names on the coins of the Corieltavi." Elizabeth Cottam, director of Chris Rudd Ltd, says, "This gold stater of Vepocunavos was probably minted in Lincolnshire, the heartland of the Corieltavi tribe, sometime around AD 30-40. It's excessively rare and appears to be

unpublished. It's the first coin we've had which is inscribed with the full name of this ruler and, as far as I'm aware, is the first of its kind to be offered for public sale."

The coin will be sold by auction in Aylsham, Norfolk, on 17 May, together with the second part of the John Follows Collection.

Liz Cottam, Chris Rudd



Vepocunavos
Celtic full
stater.