



# Chris Rudd

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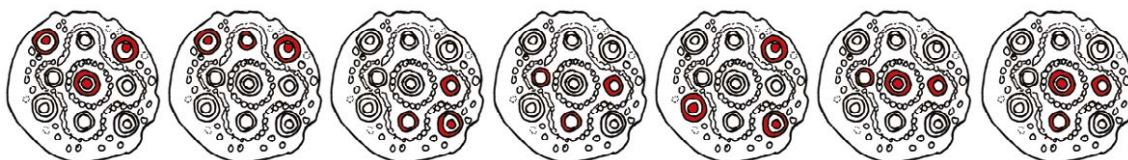
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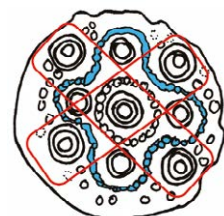
## Divine protection by the Druids?

*This is a remarkable design by a master die-engraver. At a purely mundane level, the dragon-like horse's scissor-nose serves as a 'signature' of authorship, also seen on other uninscribed silver series ascribed to the Hampshire Belgae. We may never know exactly who struck them, but their often rather localized distributions suggest that their most likely recipients were someone's personal followers or a community's militia, to whom their designs were intended to appeal, and both sides of this elegant half unit are rich in telling details. To start with, its abstract obverse design is far more than merely a decorative pattern. Instead, it resembles - indeed in its special way it really is - a tiny, protective, military shield. It hints at its author's pride in ruling a people: from a still centre point he claims command in all four cardinal directions and their subdivisions, relying on a well-worked symbol in druidic thinking that has a divinely sanctioned ruler's earthly world mirror a notional map of the heavens (see Proinsias MacCana in The Cult of the Sacred Centre 2011). And there is more. The design contains multiple, shifting triplet patterns of rings and dots around that central*

*point, like stars around the motionless Polaris. You can see at least twenty-six wide-eyed hidden faces as you turn the image this way and that: maybe you can find more. This leader wants his folk to know that the heavens watch over them. And what of the chains that link so much of it together and relate it also to the reverse: here we get closer to the heart of things. In dangerous times, we know that a druid could invoke divine protection against earthly and magical enemies by binding to a leader the power of Three - the worlds of Heaven, Earth, and Sea - also the power of Sun, Moon, lightning, and the (four) winds. So effective was this charm that it survived, lightly updated, into the Christian era. The text of the well-known 8th century Irish version, attributed to St Patrick (see 'St Patrick's Breastplate' in Wikipedia, still sung as a hymn in English) might have this obverse as a fitting illustration. Its theme continues onto the reverse whose design offers reassurance about safe return from peril (or combat), like the Sun returns in the morning. This half unit was more than just a fractional silver coin; it was a lucky charm (see Lot 11).*



How many hidden faces can you see? We've found 26.



The four directions and four winds

## Auction 174 • 17 January 2021

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# Auction 174 ends 17 January 2021



This catalogue goes live online at the-saleroom.com from 9am Monday 4 January. Bidding ends from 5pm (GMT) Sunday 17 January 2021. You may bid online or by email. Or by phone or by post using the enclosed bid sheet. Estimates shown in **BLACK**, Starting Prices in **RED**. A 20% Buyers Premium (24% inc. VAT if applicable) is payable and will be added to the hammer price of all successful bids. See full Terms & Conditions at back of catalogue. If you have any queries or want some advice, ask Liz. I'm here to help.

## Gallic coins **IMPORTED** into Britain

Only seven others recorded by Sills  
including three in museums  
Ex John Follows collection

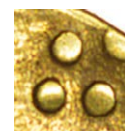


**1. Broad Flan Left. Big Nose Type with Triangle and Triad.** Sills G-B Ab1, class 3b, dies 28r/32. Bellovaci. c.175-120 BC. Gold stater. 25mm. 7.47g. Draped bust of Apollo left, with large nose, triad of dots above forehead, ornate cloak and elaborate hairstyle./ Stylised horse left, with no mane, charioteer's arms above, rosette below, arrow before, [triangle above, pellet-triad below], pellet-triad behind. ABC 4, VA-, LT-, DT 64-65 var., Sills (2003) fig.33e, S-. CCI 01.1448 (**this coin**). *Good VF, huge flan of golden gold, beautiful old toning, fabulous virile profile with large nose and jut-jaw. A superior specimen in well above-average condition. Ex John Follows collection, ex Nigel Robinson collection (Chris Rudd List 60, 2001, no.11), ex Great Dunmow hoard, Essex, 2000. EXTREMELY RARE only seven others recorded by Sills, including three in museums. Re-cut obverse die possibly UNIQUE?* **Est. £5000 £4000**

This extremely rare Big Nose Broad Flan (the only one from this re-cut obverse die we've seen) fully displays a magnificently manly face that's normally only partially glimpsed or completely invisible because it's usually off-flan. Now, probably for the first time, you can see not only Apollo's big nose, but also the dot triad above his forehead. Published in *Gaulish and early British gold coinage* (Spink, 2003), pp.155, 362, 447 (**this coin**) and *Coin Hoards in Iron Age Britain* (Spink, 2014), pp.130, 132 (**this coin**). Illustrated in *Coin News*, March 2020 (**this coin**), but not in VA, LT nor Spink.



Big Nose



Dot triad



**2. Crossed Lines with Rider.** Sills Gallo-Belgic Bb2, Workshop 2, class 1c, dies 43A/10. Nervii? c.115-



100 BC. Gold quarter stater. 12mm. 1.77g. Random crossed lines./ Globular horse left, lyre below. ABC 37, LT 8697, DT 94-97, VA 37, Sills 358-62, S 9. *Good VF, golden gold, full bodied horse.*  
**SCARCE** type, **EXTREMELY RARE** obverse die, only three others recorded **Est. £450 £360**  
 'The reverse is struck from a reused stater die,' Dr John Sills (pers.comm. 5.11.20).

### Excessively rare as UK find



**3. Tent Type.** Osismii. c.80-60 BC. Base gold quarter stater. 13mm. 1.31g. Crescentic head right with large rolls of hair, beaded cordon in front of face./ Human-headed horse right, tiny human head holding reins above, 'tent' motif below comprising a cabled pelta with three columns of dashes below. LT 6774, DT 2215, de Jersey Armorica, fig. 41. *Small chip, otherwise Good VF, dark rose gold, tent fully revealed.*  
*A most unusual quarter stater. UK found.* **EXCESSIVELY RARE** as UK find. **Est. £600 £500**

The Osismii produced a large and inventive range of gold and billon coinage from their territory in western Brittany, perhaps in a limited period before the Gallic War, as Dr Philip de Jersey says. Best known from several big hoards, it is seldom found outside home territory, so a quarter stater from Britain is exceptional. Their tribal name, meaning "Last" or "Ultimate", was already known to the Greek navigator, Pytheas, in the 4th century BC, and reflects their position at the farthest end of mainland Gaul. The tent type, so named from the motif draped beneath the typical Armorican human-headed horse, seems to have been the commonest of the four or five main strands of their coinage, and seems concentrated in Côtes du Nord, on the north and west of the St Brieuc – Lannion peninsula (de Jersey *Armorica* map p. 207). The "tent" symbol must, at very least, be the distinguishing mark of whoever issued this strand of Osismian coinage. Maybe it suggests a military tent with ornate drapery, for soldiers on campaign; or did this very elegant engraver also intend us to picture the whole Osismian people – three ranks of citizen (nobles, druids, and warriors), three districts with their fields – held together, like a curtain, in the tribal god's strong arms - by the tribal assembly and protected by the Sun (-horse)?



Military tent?

## Coins of the CANTIACI of Kent

### Extremely fine and extremely rare



**4. Ambivalent Angular Bull.** Holman F4/5-1a. c.60-50 BC. Potin. 17-19mm. 1.98g. Linear head left, with neckline and eye pellet./ Matchstick bull (no direction indicated), legs apart, two symmetrical upturned crescents above, short central exergual line below. ABC–, VA–, BMC–, S 63. CCI 08.9885 (**this coin**). *Nr EF, bold casting, neat sprues, unusual headless tail-less bull. First we've had.* Ex Tony Warner collection. **EXTREMELY RARE** only 11-15 recorded of this variant. **Est. £250 £200**

This is one of the nicest known specimens of the angular 'facing-both-ways' bull.

**Extremely rare**  
**- unlisted by Spink, Van Arsdell and BMC**



**5. Yoke Sunflower.** Sills class 1, Ribbon Rosette. c.50-40 BC. Gold quarter stater. 11-13mm. 1.35g. Blank./ Horse left, yoke motif above, sunflower below, rings and ringed-pellets around. ABC 207, VA-, BMC-, DK 69, S-. *Near EF, golden gold, neat flan, full yoke, well centred. Found Marston, Kent, 2019.*  
**EXTREMELY RARE** *only ten others recorded.* **Est. £1750 £1400**

Unpublished by Spink, Van Arsdell and BMC, this is one of the elusive gold quarters of the Cantiaci, securely provenanced and in superb condition.

**Extremely rare Canterbury Dragon**  
**- only seven others recorded**



**6. Canterbury Dragon.** c.50-30 BC. Silver unit. 12mm. 0.90g. S-shaped coiled dragon with segmented body and three-pronged tail, pellets and ringed-pellets around./ Annulate horse right, V-shape cross-hatched box above, ringed-pellets above and below tail. ABC 243, VA 1644, BMC 2478, S 174. *Near EF, bright silver, bold strike, whole V-shape box. Found Woolage Village, Kent, 2019.* **EXTREMELY RARE** *only seven others recorded, including one chipped and two in museums.* **Est. £1000 £800**

Serpents or dragons are seen on several other uninscribed silver Kentish coins (ABC 213, 234, 237) and are later adapted by Dubnovellaunos and Vosenos (ABC 303, 312, 330, 357, 363). This coin is probably the companion of the Corded Triangle gold quarter stater, ABC 198. For further information on this mythologically magnificent type see *Chris Rudd List 67*, no.14, which was a spectacular specimen.

**Coins of the REGINI of West Sussex**

**Published in *Treasure Hunting***



**7. Selsey Dahlia. No Mane.** Sills class 2a. Gold quarter stater. 12-14mm. 1.37g. Wreath design with hidden face./ Triple-tailed horse right, ringed-pellets below tail, floral sun and two ringed-pellets above, wheel below. ABC 503, VA 220, BMC 478-81, DK 171, S 48. PAS: SUR-4D653E (**this coin**). *Near EF, golden gold, well centred horse, full dahlia and wheel. Found Denmead, Hants., 2020.* **Est. £750 £600**

There are two types of Selsey Dahlia quarter stater: one with a mane (ABC 500), the other without (ABC 503). They are



the quarters which accompany the full Selsey staters (ABC 485, 488). Despite this coins provenance, both types of Selsey Dahlia quarter are more prolific in West Sussex than north Hampshire, which suggests that they originated with the Regini rather than the Atrebates. Featured in Readers Finds, *Treasure Hunting*, November 2020, p.65 (**this coin**).

**Excessively rare – only two others recorded  
and this is the best**



**8. Crescents Hair.** c.50-30 BC. Silver unit. 13-18mm. 1.22g. Head right with ringed-pellet eye, long pointed nose and stalk lips, beaded hairline, three rows of open crescents for hair./ Triple-tailed horse left, corded mane, octopus/jellyfish motif above (formed by ringed-pellet above joined to three ringed-pellets by short lines and two longer lines between), open crescent above and in front, lyre below, beaded border. ABC 653, VA-, BMC-, S-. *Good VF, huge flan of bright silver, beautifully ornamented, curious octopus motif. Unlisted by most major reference works. Easily the finest known example.* **EXCESSIVELY RARE** only two others recorded, both badly chipped. **Est. £1500 £1200**

One of several early local issues of the Regini, this beautiful silver unit reveals important details that are missing from ABC 653 itself. We see a wide-eyed goddess, perhaps the Moon herself, with a full solar year's worth of crescent moons for hair (you can count all twelve in ABC). It is night, and we are probably at sea. On its reverse, a Sun-horse marked as "ours" with its triple tail faces left towards tomorrow's dawn between another pair of crescent moons: there may have been four in the original design, perhaps to signify the seasons. Plainer disks overhead may then represent full moons. With its wide, unsleeping eye (another celestial disk), the horse is restless – and in transit. We can see from ABC 653 that its feet are loosely fettered, right hind leg to left foreleg, to keep it from straying – or from rocking the boat. Because everyone knew that the sun was said to travel through the seas of night on a magical boat. Here, a large lyre symbol, conjoined with the horse's legs, has morphed into a crescent-moon-boat with two stylized passengers or crew. Someone active then in Hampshire and West Sussex seems often to have 'signed' coinage with a lyre. Lyres were associated with the Sun god, and their many variant forms, including this boat and sometimes a comet, must reference different familiar tales, recited to the lyre. Our ruler may well have had major shipping interests. Very similar devices had appeared on recent Armorican coins, and these were times when prosperity depended as never before on the success of seaborne trade with newly conquered Roman Gaul. Cargo ships are expensive. Large ones to transport livestock, troops, passengers, or slaves, were more expensive still. Safety and success depended on the special skills of ships' captains and navigators: knowing the moons and tides, reading the skies, predicting the weather. So whatever is that in the sky above, now that we can see it on this new coin? Has the emblematic lyre morphed again into something washed in from in the sea at night - an octopus or jellyfish for instance? Or is it perhaps a meteor shower - the weather often turns unsettled with the Perseids in August. Or all of these and something else as well? [The ornament above the horse is similar to that on Petersfield Cernunnos silver unit, ABC 686, also an Excessively Rare type]. Look at the large central sun-disk swept along by the horse's mane. It is triply tied to a plainer disk above, as if by moonbeams, and two outside "arms" descend to other shining disks, as though lifting heavy weights. Might this represent the power of the full moon (face lit by the Sun below) that they knew would always raise very high tides – something his informants "forgot" to mention to Julius Caesar when he launched his fleet for Britain in September, 55 BC (*BG* 4.29)? Oh, how they must have laughed in their sleeves, and thanked the full moon, when so much of his fleet was wrecked!

## Five dates you can rely on

Some metal detectorists spend decades searching for their first gold stater. We try to make it easier for you. Here are five golden dates for your 2021 diary - days on which you can be sure of finding an incomparable selection of Ancient British coins (silver as well as gold) being sold by auction in Aylsham:

**14 March**

**16 May**

**18 July**

**19 September**

**14 November**

Published in *The Searcher* but not in VA, BMC nor Spink



**9. Arundel Moon Man.** c.55-45 BC. Silver unit. 10mm. 1.25g. Head left, with elliptical eye, three-crescent hairband with curved locks of corded hair./ Annulate horse left with beaded mane and two tails, large ringed pellet above, solar anemone below. ABC 671, VA-, BMC-, S-. *Good VF, lightly toned silver, sharp hair, bold horse. Found Hayling Island, Hants., 2020. EXTREMELY RARE only eleven others recorded.*

Est. £1000 ~~£800~~

Like the Amersham Moon Man (ABC 2490), the Arundel Moon Man displays a magnificent head of corded lime-washed hair. The crescents that frame the moon-shaped face are derived from Broad Flan staters and quarters (ABC 1, 4, 28, 31). Not in Van Arsdell, BMC nor Spink. Found by 'Jammy Geoff', *The Searcher*, September 2020, p.70.

## Coins of the BELGAE of Hampshire



**10. Chute.** Sills class 1b. c.54-53 BC. Gold stater. 17mm 6.22g. Wreath pattern with downward-facing leaves and fish-like hairlocks./ Disjointed triple-tailed horse left, shrimp and large blobs above, 'coffee-bean' behind with beaded V, disjointed crab below. ABC 746, VA 1205, BMC 35-76, DK 302, S 22. *Unobtrusive hairline surface crack on obverse, otherwise Good VF, neat flan of yellow gold, bold shrimp and crazy crab. Found Andover, Hants., 2020.*

Est. £600 ~~£500~~

The coffee bean with beaded V shape looks like a seagull's head though this may not be intentional.

**New type, previously unrecorded and unpublished,  
of the highest rarity and possibly unique**



**11. Danny's Dragon.** c.50-30 BC. Silver half unit. 11mm. 0.45g. Beaded line quatrefoil pattern with beaded ringed-pellet in centre, rings in internal angles, ringed-pellets in external angles, tiny pellets around./ Dragon-like animal with scissor-nose and long dashes for mane, looking back over shoulder and breathing pellet 'fire', three pellets below, rings around, beaded border. ABC-, VA-, BMC-, S-. CCI 20.0514 (**this coin**). *Good VF, beautifully struck in good silver, bold quatrefoil and magnificent dragon. Found Up Marden, Chichester, West Sussex. New type, previously unrecorded and unpublished, of the highest rarity and possibly UNIQUE?*

Est. £2000 ~~£1600~~

For notes on the obverse design see cover illustration. The reverse, to which it links with its binding-chain motifs, is if



anything more dynamic, presenting a graphic parable from celestial mythology that anyone could have understood at the time. On this reading, it offers promise of a safe return from a perilous journey – or a risky military conflict. The dies for silver coins very often play on tales about the night. Here, the Sun's horse, who has been ferried east (to the left) through the night, is sweeping around to the right, head tossed up, snorting, shedding the light of dawn from his mane, ready to race west again through the daylight sky. The chain he seems to breathe into existence suggests that he's also sending the Sun's protection into the binding charm. He is no ordinary horse. The hobble chain that kept him quiet through the night has been released and left behind him (cf. lot 8: could it be used now as manacles for captives from a raid?). Now there is no holding him back – or the army under his protection. The swivel motif between his feet is a clue: this divine creature can turn on a sixpence. Or is it also a splash on a wet Solent beach as he pranced ashore and took off when his night-boat was beached? In such a well composed image, almost every detail can be read at several overlapping levels of valid significance.

## Coins of the **REGINI & ATREBATES** in the South



**12. Tincomarus Native Warrior ComF/Tinc.** Sills class 5b, dies 12/15. c.25BC-AD10. Gold stater. 17mm. 5.35g. COM•F in tablet on plain field./ Warrior on horse right, spear in right hand, star above, TIN below, ring behind, beaded border. ABC 1067, VA 385, BMC 770-74, DK 336, S 76. *Near EF/ Good VF, as struck in beautiful rose gold, bold branding, well centred warrior, virtually full beaded border.*  
**EXTREMELY RARE** only 14 others recorded from this reverse die. **Est. £2000 £1600**

Although the Celtic Coin Index lists over 100 examples of this type, it is much scarcer than you might imagine. The majority of the recorded specimens are in the British Museum and 61 of these come from the Alton hoards, Hampshire, 1996. When we valued the two Alton hoards for the finders (Peter Beasley and Peter Murphy) and the landowner we noted in our report to the Treasure Valuation Committee that the average condition of these 61 coins was 'Near F or F' and that many were weakly struck. Our specimen is one of the nicest we've seen.



**13. Verica Thunderbolt.** Sills class 4. c.AD 10-40. Gold quarter stater. 10mm. 1.30g. Thunderbolt with central ringed-pellet, COM above, FILI below, beaded border./ Horse leaping right, VIR above, ringed-pellet below, beaded border. ABC 1205, VA 468, BMC 1218-22, DK 376, S 126. PAS: SUR-D98E0B (**this coin**). *Good VF, scintillating rose gold, sharply struck. Found Hurstbourne Priors, Hants.* **VERY RARE** **Est. £1000 £800**

Verica claims to be a son of Commios, as we can see here.

## Why Celtic collectors sell through Chris Rudd

We offer sellers a great deal: six **all-Celtic** auctions a year, a unique global database of Celtic buyers, unrivalled expertise in valuing and cataloguing, a 20-year track record of consistently achieving the highest prices for Ancient British coins. **We can also pay cash** if you wish. Other catalogues may be fatter. But do they get the results for Ancient British coins that we do? Check the record. For free advice and a valuation, ask Liz.

## Coins of the **ATREBATES** of north Hampshire

**Exceptionally nice example**



**14. Epaticcus Bull and Eagle.** c.AD20-40. Silver minim. 8mm. 0.28g. Stocky bull standing right, on exergual line, head lowered, tail raised, branch above, beaded border./ Spread-winged eagle left. ABC 1358, VA 512, BMC 2366-70, S 165. *Good EF, as minted, neat flan of bright silver, boldly struck. A masterpiece in miniature. Found West Ilsley, Berks, 2020. **VERY RARE*** **Est. £400 £320**

The butting bull and spread-winged pecking eagle are so lifelike and so boldly struck they could almost spring off the flan and into your hand. The trees and branches on the silver coins of Epaticcus (see also ABC 1349, 1361, 1364) remind us that *Calleva* means 'in the woods'. A most realistic and fantastically well executed depiction of natural life in silver.

## Coins of the **ICENI** of northern East Anglia

**Ex John Follows collection**



**15. Norfolk Wolf Right. Hooked Fibula Type.** Talbot die group 4, dies N/19. c.55-50 BC. Gold stater. 17mm. 6.12g. Wreath motif with upward-facing leaves and hooked fibula./ Wolf standing right, large pellets and crescent above, hidden pellet-face and crescent below. ABC 1393, VA 610-1, BMC 213, S 30. CCI 09.4724 (**this coin**). *Near EF, neat round flan of golden gold, heavy and chunky, bold wolf, full jaws and teeth. Ex Matt Fidler collection, ex John Follows collection. Found near Wetheringsett, Suffolk. **EXTREMELY RARE** die pair, only ten others recorded.* **Est. £2000 £1600**

Right-facing Norfolk Wolf staters have three kinds of cloak brooches: handled, fancy and hooked. Follows' stater shows one of the boldest hooked brooches we've seen. Moreover you can clearly see Apollo's pursed lips and every bristly hackle on the wolf's back.



**16. Norfolk Ring Boar.** Talbot Boar Horse B, dies E/4. c.AD 1-5. Silver half unit. 9mm. 0.46g. Bristly boar right, pellet on shoulder, rings and ringed-pellets around./ Annulate horse right, corded mane, pellet 'daisy' above, pellet triad below. ABC 1621, VA-, BMC 3513-16, S 437. *Good VF/EF, neat flan of good quality silver, bold boar and horse. **EXTREMELY RARE** die pair, only 11 others recorded.* **Est. £220 £180**





**17. Antedios D-Bar.** Talbot die group 3, dies N/31. c.AD 35-40. Silver unit. 14mm. 1.05g. Double moon emblem on vertical wreath./ Horse right, corn-ear mane, pellet daisy above, pellet under tail, pellet triad and ANTÐ monogram below. ABC 1645, VA 711, 715, BMC 3800-55, S 441. *Good VF, bright silver, well ornamented, crisp lettering.* **EXTREMELY RARE** die pair, only 10 others recorded. **Est. £250 £200**

Note the stylised corn ear on the horse. The corn ear was the personal heraldic symbol of King Cunobelinus and his regal capital at *Camulodunon*.



**18. Ecen Six.** Talbot die group 2, dies F/16. c.AD 35-40. Silver unit. 13mm. 1.15g. Double moon emblem./ Horse right, head facing, six pellets on shoulder, pellet 'daisy' above, ECE below. ABC 1663, VA 762, BMC 4445-513, S 445. *Good VF, scyphate flan of lightly toned silver, sharply struck, well ornamented.* Ex B Lawrence collection. **SCARCE** **Est. £200 £160**

## Coins of the **CORIELTAUVI** of the East Midlands



**19. North East Coast. Right Type with Sun.** Sills Mint A, class 4. c.60-50 BC. Gold stater. 19mm. 5.95g. Wreath motif with leaves facing inwards, snake below, small pellets in field./ Lunate horse right, four-armed spiral below head, charioteer's arms and pellets above, pelletal sun below, exergual line with crescents below. ABC 1719, VA 800-11, BMC 184-91, S 28. *Good EF, large flan of golden gold, key features showing; serpent, sun and spiral. Found West Deeping, Lincs., 2019.* **SCARCE** type, **EXCESSIVELY RARE** reverse die, only one other recorded. **Est. £1500 £1200**

This large flan, heavyweight Sun Type gold stater reveals a sad little hidden face above the horse; the charioteer's hands supply the eyes.



Hidden face



**Extremely rare – only nine others recorded**



**20. Sun and Moon Proto Boar.** Rich Type 6a. c.55-45 BC. Silver unit. 13mm. 0.90g. Boar right, large pellet eye, pierced by elliptical 'spear', beaded ring above, tiny s-shape and pellet below, boar tusks before, beaded border./ Horse left, beaded ringed-pellet above, pellet and crescent below, s-shape border. ABC 1779 var., VA 855-3, BMC 3197 (same die), S 396. CCI 18.1931 (**this coin**). *Good VF, neat flan of lightly toned silver, super boar, well ornamented. Found Peakirk, Cambs.* **EXTREMELY RARE** only nine others recorded, including one in the British Museum. **Est. £450 £360**

This extremely rare Sun and Moon type, characterised by the 'sun and moon' (pellet and crescent) above the horse's rump and below the horse's belly, is noticeably different – on both sides – from commoner Proto Boar types. We think the 'spear' is actually a sun-sceptre.

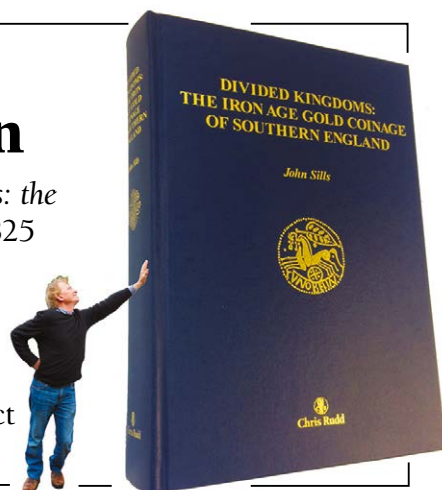


**21. Vepo Triadic.** c.AD 15-40. Gold stater. 18mm. 5.11g. Wreath crossed by bar with crescent at each end, ring of pellets in each crescent./ Lunate horse left, pellet under chin, VEP above (VE conjoined), CORF below. ABC 1854, VA 960, BMC 3302-03, S 410. *Good VF/Near EF, rose gold, sharp strike, full CORF. Found Swinehope, Lincs., 2020.* **RARE** **Est. £1250 £1000**

The extent and complexity of Vepo's coinages suggest he was a rich, powerful, and rather long-lived head of state. His Triadic stater series introduced new designs that were very much his own. From the obverse a large hidden face watches you with widely spaced sun-disc eyes, whilst the tribal horse with its moon-made body gallops confidently left through the night. This freshly struck coin was found within his home territory. Vepo- "Voice, word" can now be expanded from the inscription on another, late, issue as *Vepocunavos*, "Vepo's puppy grandson" (*Chris Rudd List* 170, no. 26), telling us that his grandfather was also a Vepo-. Thus, with his father's name, Cor- (perhaps *Corionos*, "army commander"), we have three generations of his lineage: Vepo-, Cor-, and Vepo[cunavos]. Like many of his distinguished British contemporaries, Vepo- had his engraver use Latin (F for *Filius*) to signify his sonship. Corieltauvi were the "Great silent host" (Prof. T L Markey; *Cori-* is also in the tribal name).

## John's great gift to us, to you and to the gold coins in your collection

We're constantly quoting Dr John Sills and his monumental *Divided Kingdoms: the Iron Age gold coinage of southern England*. It's a huge hardback – 30 x 21cm, 825 pages, 599 twice-size coin photos – and hugely helpful because it catalogues over 10,000 gold coins in great detail. Are any of yours in John's big book? If you don't look, you'll never know. And if you weren't lucky enough to receive a copy in your stocking this Christmas, you'd better get yourself a copy. But don't wait too long or they'll all be gone. Only 350 printed. £95 + p&p direct from Chris Rudd. A coin in here could be worth more than one that isn't.





First we've offered for sale



**22. Vepo Hawkeyes.** c.AD 15-40. Silver minim. 10mm. 0.27g. Back-to-back teardrop motifs, pellet in each, ringed-pellet above and below./ Horse right, belted neck and belly, conjoined VE above, C below. ABC 1914, VA-, BMC-, S-. *Chipped, otherwise Good VF, bright silver, bold hawkeyes.* Found Ruskington, 2018. **EXTREMELY RARE** only 14 others recorded **Est. £450 £360**

The Celts were masters at hiding hidden faces within their coin designs, this 'shouting face' is quite obvious and doesn't need much imagination to spot it. Unlisted by Van Arsdell, British Museum and Spink



Shouting face

## Coins of the DOBUNNI of the West Midlands

Ex John Follows collection



**23. Anted Tree. ANTED RIGV Type.** c.AD20-43? Gold stater. 17mm. 5.35g. Tree symbol on plain field./ Triple-tailed horse right, ANTED [RI]GV around, pellets, crescent and x above forming hidden face, wheel below, small x's around. ABC 2066, VA 1066, 1069, BMC 3023-27, S 379. CCI 09.4734 (**this coin**). *Good VF/EF, rose-gold, sharp inscription.* Ex John Follows collection. Found Caldicot, Gwent, 5 December 2008. **VERY RARE** **Est. £2500 £2000**

RIG and RIGON are ancient British for 'king', cognate with the English word 'regal'. So the [R]IGV we see on this lovely gold stater probably means 'king' as well. The fact that John Follows' boldly inscribed stater was found at Caldicot in South Wales is a well documented reminder that the kingdom of the Dobunni apparently extended to the west banks of the River Severn which two thousand years ago was called *Sabrina*.

## Coins of the EAST WILTSHIRE tribal group



**24. Upavon Moon Head.** c.30-1 BC. Silver unit. 12mm. 0.89g. Moon head right with prominent pellet-nose, stalk lips, three solid crescents for hair./ Curvilinear horse left, ring above and under tail, two rings in front, wheel and ring below. ABC 2128, VA-, BMC 3013-17, S-. CCI 02.0622 (**this coin**). *Near VF, slightly porous silver, amazing head, well centred.* Ex Keith Knabe collection, ex Cotswold collection. **SCARCE** **Est. £300 £250**

Derek Allen identified this series of coins as 'Dobunnic irregular'. Van Arsdell says: 'Possibly the series represents a 'Sub-Dobunnic' coinage, that of a separate tribal group centred on Wiltshire.'

# Coins of the **DUROTRIGES** of Wessex

**Extremely Fine coins from Luke Daniel collection**



**25. Duro Boat Gold.** c.50-30 BC. Gold quarter stater. 10mm. 1.38g. Stylised 'men-in-a-boat' motif./ Central thunderbolt, Y-shape to right, uncertain object and stylised bird? to left. ABC 2205, VA 1225, BMC 414-18, S 368. *Good EF, rich golden gold, great bird. Ex Luke Daniel collection. Found Winchester, Hants., 2002. **SCARCE***

**Est. £500 £400**

Dr Daphne Nash Briggs, author of the classic *Coinage in the Celtic World* (first published in 1987) has an intriguing interpretation of this and other boat quarters. See The sun-boat and its passengers, *Chris Rudd List* 104, 2009, p.2-4.



Bird

**Ex Luke Daniel collection**



**26. Spread Tail.** c.58-45 BC. Silver stater. 19mm. 5.02g. Durotrigan wreath pattern with upward-facing leaves./ Disjointed horse left, with three diverging lines for tail, large pellets above, large pellet below, 'coffee bean' behind. ABC 2160, VA 1238, BMC 2662, S-. *EF, bold wreath, pronounced pellets, full 'coffee bean', ex spread tail clearly shown. Ex Luke Daniel collection.*

**Est. £300 £240**

The Spread Tail type is much scarcer than Cranborne Chase staters. This is one of the finest we've had and we've probably sold more than anyone else, including some superb Spread Tail staters from the Brighstone hoard, Isle of Wight, 2005.

**Ex Luke Daniel collection**



**27. Badbury Rings.** c.58-45 BC. Silver stater. 19mm. 5.34g. Durotrigan wreath motif with upward-facing leaves, and two distinctive dots under lower crescent./ Disjointed horse left, with downward-facing tail, pellets between, large pellets with ringed-pellets above, 'coffee bean' behind. ABC 2163, VA 1246, BMC 2647, 2661, 2727-31, S-. *EF, sharply struck in lightly toned silver, clear rings. Ex Luke Daniel collection. **SCARCE***

**Est. £425 £340**

Badbury Rings silver staters, named after Badbury Rings hillfort in Dorset, are also considerably scarcer than Cranborne Chase staters and usually in better condition. Luke Daniels lovely specimen is notable because, unusually, it shows some of the pellets above the horse are connected by short lines.



## Coins of the **TRINOVANTES** of Essex

**Excessively rare – only four others recorded**



**28. Sun and Moons.** Sills British Ld1, class 1, Alresford Type. c.55-45 BC. Gold stater. 15mm. 5.74g. Crossed wreaths, back to back crescents in centre./ Naturalistic horse right, crescent above, beaded sun-ring in front and below. ABC 2347, VA 1485, BMC 337, DK 432, S 32. *Good VF, dumpy flan of golden gold, well centred horse.* **EXCESSIVELY RARE** only four others recorded, including one in the British Museum. **Est. £1500 £1200**

We've only had two of these Sun and Moons staters before; the first in 2012, *Chris Rudd List* 93, no.42 and the second in 2016 *Chris Rudd List* 147, no.36. Looks like you may have to wait until 2024 for the next one.

## Coins of the **CATUVELLAUNI** of Hertfordshire



**29. Braybrooke's Hare.** c.55-45 BC. Silver half unit. 10mm. 0.50g. Long-eared hare bounding right with open mouth, ringed-pellet above, in front: double row of pellets and solid crescents, ringed-pellet below./ Horse left with corded mane, solar whorl of clockwise crescents above, ringed-pellet below. ABC 2496, VA 1626, BMC 391, S 52. *Good VF, neat flan of lightly toned silver, hare boldly displayed. Found Cambs., 2019.* **EXTREMELY RARE** only seven recorded, including one in the British Museum. **Est. £500 £400**

John Evans' specimen (now BMC 391) came from the collection of Lord Braybrooke and was found at Great Chesterford, Essex. Braybrooke's Hare is similar in style to Puckeridge Bird Hare (ABC 2499) which appears to have a snake or worm in its beak. The three-pronged V-sign above Braybrooke's Hare is similar to the Dubnovellaunos V-Sign, (ABC 2398) which was probably a Druidic symbol for the creative voice of God. Julius Caesar says the hare was sacred to the Britons. Dio Cassius says Queen Boudica released a ritual hare before fighting the Romans in AD 60.



**30. Tasciovanos Cavalryman.** c.25BC-AD10. Silver unit. 13mm. 1.21g. TASC in central panel, beaded border./ Horseman left, holding large shield, exergual line, beaded border. ABC 2640, VA-, BMC 1679, S 238. *Good VF, lightly toned silver, crisp well centred TASC.* **VERY RARE** **Est. £250 £200**

A clear picture of what a British cavalryman may have looked like at the close of the first century BC.

**Excessively rare – only one other recorded**



**31. Tasciovanos Vero Cam.** c.25BC-AD10. Bronze core of gold plated quarter stater. 10mm. 0.96g. Crossed wreaths, one curved, back-to-back crescents at centre, blundered inscription in angles./ Short-legged, full-bodied horse left on exergual line, ?VI or retrograde N above. Contemporary forgery, ABC-, VA-, BMC-, S-. CCI 17.1898 (**this coin**). *Good VF, glossy dark green patina, sharp wreath.*  
**EXCESSIVELY RARE** only one other recorded **Est. £450 £360**

Early in Tasciovanos' reign, perhaps around 15–10 BC, a goldsmith went to a great deal of fiddly trouble to cut home-made dies and make plated quarter-staters that at a casual glance might well have passed muster as genuine. One has to admire the skill (and expense) involved. We clearly see what counted as essential: the royal crossed-wreath insignia and the body of a sturdy horse facing left, with some sort of lettering. There is enough detail, indeed, to suggest that the engraver was mainly copying an important but very short-lived series, maybe scarce in its own time, that Tasciovanos issued in around 15 BC. This was when, as Dr John Sills explains (*DK* p. 752), he seems briefly to have laid claim to *Camulodunum*. The giveaways are the teardrops, not letters, in the four quarters of the obverse, and the letter like a backwards N above the horse that is an honourable stab at replicating the central part of the CAMVL monogram that you see more fully on the official die for DK 512. Otherwise, he had to improvise, because he ran out of space for the horse, so had to alter its stance, shorten its legs, and give it a ground line like the slightly later and much more abundant ABC 2598 (mint-marked *Verlamion*). And our artist couldn't really spell, so consigned a last few letters to the space under the line where they should not be, and with luck would miss the flan and never be noticed. Maybe that had another motive: outright forgery of Tasciovanos' name might have been a capital offence.

## Coins of the CATUVELLAUNI & TRINOVANTES united

**Excessively rare CVN+ Type**



**32. Cunobelinus Linear. CVN+ Type. Sills class 2, dies 11/16.** c.AD 8-41. Gold stater. 15-17mm. 5.51g. Whiskered ear of barley with central stalk, CA to left, MV to right./ Horse right, ladder mane, branch above with pellet above and below, CVN+ below, pellet border. ABC-, VA-, BMC-, DK 550-551 variant, S-. *Good VF, smooth surfaces of rich rose-gold, well whiskered ear of barley, bold horse, privy mark clearly visible.* **EXCESSIVELY RARE** only two others recorded **Est. £1500 £1200**

Cunobelinus' first, Biga, coinage (ABC 2771) was confined to Trinovantian territory, but as Dr John Sills says (*Divided Kingdoms* p. 755), "it is only with Class 2 Linear gold that the distribution of his coinage widens to include the whole north Thames region and much of Kent". Class 2 was issued fairly early in his reign, and the familiar Trinovantian branch motif above the horse may be an archaic emblem specific to the tribal cult at *Camulodunum*, updated as an ear of barley on the obverse. Derek Allen says: "A large group of die-linked obverse dies in the Linear series bears 'privy-marks' of a kind familiar in the mint-operations of many times and places. These consist of crosses and dots added above or below letters of the obverse inscription, CAMV... There are also similar marks after the legend CVN on a few reverses." *Britannia*, 1975, p.3.

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**33. Cunobelinus Linear.** Sills class 2. c.AD 8-41. Gold quarter stater. 10mm. 1.31g. Ear of corn with central stalk between CA to left, M[V] to right./ Horse right, with linear mane, branch above, CVN below. ABC 2810, VA 1927-1, BMC 1837-42, DK 575, S 292. *Good VF, rose gold, full horse, sharp CVN. Found Hoath, Kent, 2018. RARE* Est. £450 £360



**34. Cunobelinus Flower.** c.AD 8-41. Silver unit. 11mm. 1.03g. Central flower, two scrolled leaflets at base of stalk, CA to left, MV to right, beaded border./ Horse stepping right, head turned back, CVNO below, beaded border. ABC 2885, VA 2049, BMC 1867A, S 305. *Tiny chip, otherwise Good VF, bright silver, lovely flower, full bodied horse. EXTREMELY RARE only thirteen others recorded, including one in the British Museum.* Est. £650 £500

The ornate scrolls at the base of the stalk are not unlike those at the base of a Cunobelinus Classic gold stater, ABC 2798; so maybe this floral silver unit belongs to the same late period in the king's long reign.



ABC 2798



ABC 2885



*A stunning example with fabulous virile profile, Lot 1.*

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**Abbreviations:** F fine, VF very fine, EF extremely fine.

**References.** ABC = E Cottam, P de Jersey, C Rudd & J Sills *Ancient British Coins*, 2010, VA = R Van Arsdell *Celtic Coinage of Britain*, 1989, BMC = R Hobbs, *British Iron Age Coins in the British Museum*, 1996, DK = J Sills *Divided Kingdoms* 2017, S = Spink *Coins of England* 2021 ed.

**Grading.** Iron age flans rarely bear the whole die image. For example, an unworn coin graded 'Good VF' may lack part of the design or legend.

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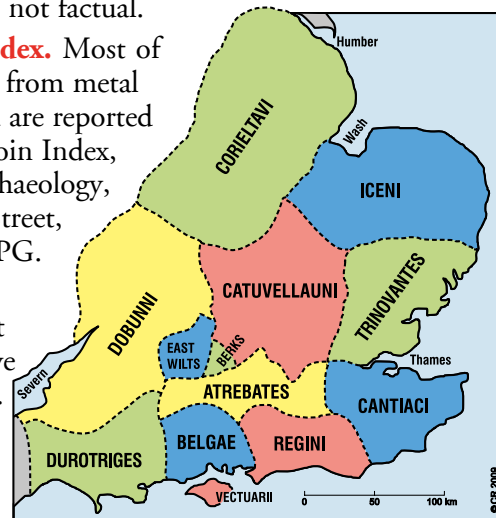
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