



# Chris Rudd

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## Amminus's tribute to his father?

*The dies for this beautiful silver unit were cut by one of Amminus' most accomplished engravers. Its accurate modelling conveys perspective, with four diaphanous fins along a mighty hippocamp's slippery, muscular tail. This was a Classical denizen of deep seas and dangerous waters: Amminus would like us to understand that he, too, ruled the waves. His coins inform us (DK 102, ABC 459, and this issue) that his father, who had ruled in Kent c. AD 5–15, was Sego- son of Tasciovanos (ABC 441–453), but here, this engraver has cleverly made the large initial S, high above the hippocamp, double as an abstract symbol for the rotating skies and celestial double-headed serpent that so often appears as a power of the night on British coin designs. It may have suited Amminus' ambitions to put it about that his father had been taken there – like Romulus in Roman legend – on*

*a divine chariot after his death (see reverse of ABC 459). What is more, on this particular die, the hippocamp that prances in the style of the horse on a triumphant young Cunobelinus' gold coinage from 30 years earlier (ABC 2774: note ladder mane, replicated on other Amminus dies, including ABC 462), is given the beaded mane of a similarly young Dubnovellaunos' horse, from when he ruled in Kent at an even earlier date (ABC 300–315). Young Amminus himself coined a lot of silver in pursuit of political ambitions that apparently provoked his ageing uncle and overlord Cunobelinus into banishing him. For what happened next, and why scurrilous Roman tradition later promoted him to illusory sonship of Cunobelinus, see John Sills, *Divided Kingdoms* pp.785–6. We can, and must, trust the primary evidence of Amminus' own coinage to tell us the truth. See Lot 3.*

## Auction 193 • 17 March 2024

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# Auction 193 ends 17 March 2024



This catalogue goes live online at the-saleroom.com from 9am Monday 4 March. Bidding ends from 5pm (GMT) Sunday 17 March 2024. 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.



Berkshire Coat of Arms

*Lots 6, 13, 25, 27, 30, 32, 33 and 34 are from The Royal Berkshire collection.*



John Follows

*Lot 20 is from the John Follows collection.*



*Lot 17 is from the Ken Toyne collection.*

## Gallic coins **IMPORTED** into Britain

**One of the finest we've had**



**1. Gallo-Belgic Broad Flan. Left Type.** Sills G-B Ab2, class 5cW2, dies 25a/27. Scheers class VII. Bellovaci. c.115-100 BC. Gold quarter stater. 14mm. 1.82g. Elaborate wreathed head left, three large curls for hair./ Horse left, stylised charioteer and pellets above, rosette below. ABC 31, LT 7892, VA 20, Sills 314, fig.34m, S 7. *Good VF, golden gold, fabulous face with phallic nose, full horse with bold pellet rosette. Found Duxford, Kent. **UNIQUE** die pair.* **Est. £2000 ~~£1600~~**

This is probably one of the finest Broad Flan gold quarter staters we've had. It shows the whole of the well defined face, often off the flan. And it has a well struck reverse with charioteer appearing to have turned into an octopus. See John Sills *Gaulish and early British gold coinage* (Spink 2003), p.142, fig. 34m, no.314.



**2. Gallic War Uniface. Wavy Anemone Type.** Ambiani. Sills class 4b. c.56-55 BC. Gold stater. 17mm. 6.09g. Plain obverse./ M-shaped horse right, crescent and pellet below, exergual corded line with wavy line below and frond at end. ABC 16, LT 8710, VA 54, DK 13, S 11. *Stunning EF, smooth surfaces of golden gold, well centred horse, clear exergue decoration and frond. A beautiful example. Found near Newbury, Berks., February 2022.* **Est. £1000 ~~£800~~**



## Coins of the CANTIACI of Kent

### Unique beaded mane type



**3. Amminus Hippocamp. Beaded Mane Type.** c.AD30-40. Silver unit. 12mm. 1.03g. A inside circle within acorn wreath, beaded border./ Hippocamp right with beaded mane, tail raised, three acorns at end, AM below, S above, with pellet in front and behind, beaded border. ABC–, VA–, BMC–, DK 104 var., S–. *Good EF, sparkling silver, perfectly centred wreath, sharp hippocamp, every letter bold and brilliant. A superlative specimen. Ex Robert Page collection.* **EXTREMELY RARE type, UNIQUE? with beaded mane.** **Est. £1250 £1000**

This design may tell us even more about Amminus (see p.1). With his classically-trained die engravers, cutting the same designs as Cunobelinus silver units ABC 2876, 2906, it matters very much that we do *not* see the bay leaves of a conventional victory wreath, or indeed the leaves of any other sort of plant, in the wreath that encircles his name's initial A. Instead, we see the typical acorns with long stalks that often hang in pairs on one of the two species of oak tree that grow in the British Isles. They also feature on Amminus' bronze unit ABC 468 and even arranged as a spray on silver unit ABC 456, where they answer in silver to Cunobelinus' barley ear and Verica's vine leaf on gold. Meanwhile, an equally typical cluster of the close-set acorns of the other sort of oak tree replace the large flukes that would normally be seen on a Classical hippocamp's tail: here, a propitious three, but sometimes there are more, exactly as they grow in nature. Amminus' initial is displayed as if on a protective shield; the hippocamp waves its tail upright almost like a staff of office. Is he telling us perhaps that he held a hereditary priesthood? At very least, he has invoked a Druid's blessing.



Wood of both species equally important  
L. Acorns on long stalks, often in pairs,  
on the pedunculate or English oak (*Quercus robur*)  
R. Acorns in tight clusters on the sessile or  
Cornish oak (*Quercus petraea*)

## Coins of the SOUTHERN REGION early uninscribed



**4. Selsey Two Faced. Two Bars Type.** British Qa, Sills class 2a. c.55-45 BC. Gold stater. 17mm. 6.06g. Wreath design, two bars between wreath and crescent./ Triple-tailed horse right, charioteer's arms above, 'coffee bean' behind, eight-spoked wheel and small crescent below. ABC–, VA–, BMC–, DK 153, S 38. *VF/EF, lustrous yellow gold, full wheel, terrific triple tails.* **SCARCE** **Est. £950 £750**

The key difference between this British Qa Two Bar Type and its later, lighter and commoner derivative, British Qd, Class 1, Plain Type (ABC 485, VA 212-4, BMC 450-452, 454, 458), is that the latter has between six and nine leaves in the right-hand side of the wreath below the hairbar, whereas this type shows only three.

NOTE: Estimates shown in **BLACK**, Starting Prices in **RED**

**For advice or help with bidding phone Liz 01263 735 007**



**5. Bognor Cogwheel. Annulets.** Sills British Qc, Workshop 1, Cog Type, class 2b, Annulets, dies 31/41. c.55-45 BC. Gold quarter stater. 15mm. 1.38g. Wreath design with hidden face./ Triple-tailed horse right, ringed-pellet protruding from chest, floral sun and annulets above, cogwheel below. ABC–, VA–, BMC 506 (**these dies**), DK 164, S–. *Gd VF, rich golden gold, cute hidden face, full floral sun and cogwheel.* *Ex Neil Bundle collection.* **EXCESSIVELY RARE** only one other this pair of die. **Est. £1000 £800**

This coin gives an unusually full view of the Sun-god's watchful face. In the Cogwheel authority's large and tightly controlled coinage, small but telling differences distinguished one issue from another and insured against fraud. Here, their emblematic three-tailed mare, doubling as mythic bearer of the Sun's disk through the sky, is in harness with a girth (she isn't always). As a series marker she also has no mane, while the usual sunburst overhead is given exactly 12 rays (12 lunar months) and (though not all visible on this example), four surrounding pellet-in-rings (4 seasons). And the message? "Just as the Sun-horse makes the year go round, so a just ruler steers a people's fortunes". Not in Van Arsdell, BMC nor Spink.

## Coins of the **REGINI** of West Sussex

**Ex Royal Berkshire, Rich and Perry collections**



**6. Ashdown Forest Helmet.** c.50-40 BC. Silver unit. 11mm. 1.26g. Helmeted head right, lentoid eye./ Annulate horse right, pellet on chest and rump, spoked wheel below, hidden face above. ABC 662, VA 264, BMC 583-92, S 54. CCI 97.1063 (**this coin**). *Good VF, toned, great helmeted head, full horse.* *Ex The Royal Berkshire collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2012), ex Matthew Rich collection, bt. Davissons 12, 18 November 1999, lot 599, ex John T Perry collection, bt. Chris Rudd (1997). Found Westhampnett, nr Chichester, West Sussex, 4 April 1997.* **VERY RARE** **Est. £1000 £800**

This is one of the finest we've had. Points to note: The helmet is horned, like the bronze helmet found in the Thames by Waterloo Bridge. The little hidden face above the horse has a ring at the end of its nose, like the bull's head between the facing heads on ABC 216 (see *Chris Rudd List* 122, no.10). The spokes of the wheel are all curved, creating the effect of a wheel in motion. There's a loop around the rim of the wheel.

## Coins of the **BELGAE** of Hampshire



**7. Petersfield Wreath Face.** Sills dies 1/2. c.50-40 BC. Gold quarter stater. 10mm. 0.78g. Wreath motif forming hidden face./ Horse right, ladder mane and moon-shaped rump, wheel above and below, pellets around. ABC 773, VA–, BMC 568-70, DK 238, S–. PAS: SUR-6DC026 (**this coin**). *Good VF, rose gold, neat round flan, great horse, bold wheels.* *Ex Hayling Island hoard, Hampshire, T922 2022.* **RARE** **Est. £850 £700**

This bold design combines key features of two separate stater coinages: a dominant cogwheel motif from ABC 497 and



the ladder-mane horse from ABC 764 (*Divided Kingdoms*, p.197). Its alloy is also telling and unusual, with gold, silver, and copper in seemingly equal measures, which would have limited Petersfield quarters to use within fixed administrative boundaries. Might they have been a lavish special issue to announce - indeed to celebrate – an act of union amongst the principal district authorities as the southern kingdom coalesced under Commios' leadership? This coin was part of a large group of coins associated with the Romano British temple site on Hayling Island, Hampshire. See *BNJ* 93, 2023 p.276. No.19.

## Coins of the SOUTHERN REGION later dynastic



**8. Tincomarus Alfriston.** Sills class 2. c.25BC-AD10. Gold stater. 16mm. 5.41g. Wreath motif with hidden faces./ Disjointed triple-tailed horse right, trefoil under chin, TIN above, large wheel below. ABC 1049, VA 363, BMC 761-64, DK 328, S 72. *Good VF, neat flan of gorgeous yellow gold, well centred horse. Found near Chichester, West Sussex, October 1988.*

**RARE** most in museums.

Est. £1800 £1500

With no fewer than 16 coming from the 1996 'Alton' (actually East Meon) hoard, Hampshire – all tucked away in the British Museum – this is a more elusive type than you might imagine. The knob of the 'lightning rod' (so-called 'hairbar') forms the nose of a delightful smiling face. The three tails of the horse denote the triple potency of the androgynous deity depicted on the obverse.



Evans (1864) 1.12,  
BMC 761,  
ex Alfriston hoard,  
c.1840.

**An exceptional example of exquisite beauty  
with a magnificent magical thyrsus**



**9. Verica Cornucopiae Victory.** c.AD10-40. Silver unit. 12mm. 1.31g. Thyrsus between two cornucopiae, two-handled wine cup below, COM MIF around, beaded border./ Long-robed figure seated right, with left hand raised, VE[RI]CA around. ABC 1241, VA 531, BMC 1393-419, S 134. *Good EF, as minted, neat flan of good quality silver, bold strike. An exceptional example of exquisite beauty: sharp, shapely and shimmering. Ex Neil Bundle collection, ex Gloucestershire collection, ex Henry Francois.*

**SCARCE**

Est. £1000 £800

This superb silver coin of Verica is all about the 'son of Commios' bringing victory and prosperity to his people – about winning and having a good time, especially with the help of a big two-handled cup of fine Italian wine. A word or two about the pine-cone wand (a *thyrsus*) standing up in the cup: "The thyrsi (Greek *thyrsōi*), or wands, carried by mythological bacchantes during the celebration of their ecstatic rites in honour of Dionysos are similarly wondrous objects, for like Poseidon's trident or Hermes's caduceus they are magical conduits. If a celebrant strikes the ground with her *thyrsus*, milk or wine or honey pours forth, and if she strikes a man with it, he is wounded as though by a weapon. Honey flows from them (Euripides *Bacchae* 704-713, 762-764). The magical properties of the *thyrsi* do not inhere in the objects themselves, but rather the *thyrsi* become temporarily magical channelers because of the presence of the god, whose power flows through them. As a physical object the *thyrsus* is a different thing at different times. In the classical period it is a stalk of fennel with ivy leaves attached at the top, but stylized representations of *thyrsi* by vase painters make them appear to be pine cones, which in later times they are thought by some authors to be." (William Hansen, *Classical Mythology*, Oxford 2005, 328) The reverse of this coin was copied from a denarius of Mark Antony, 40 BC (Sear RCV 1471, Crawford 520/1).



**10. Verica Cornucopiae Eagle.** c.AD10-40. Silver minim. 8mm. 0.20g. Wand between two cornucopiae, beaded border./ Eagle left. ABC 1322, VA 555, BMC 1543-58, S 154. CCI 18.0170 (**this coin**). VF, neat flan, bold eagle. Ex Gloucestershire collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2020). **SCARCE** Est. £300 £240

Sir John Evans (1864) correctly states that the cornucopiae motif can “be traced beyond all doubt to the reverse of a denarius of Mark Antony,” possibly struck on the island of Corfu (Greek *Kerkyra*) in the summer of 40 BC, says David R Sear (RCV 1471, RRC 520/1). Evans’ friend, Charles Roach Smith, founder of the Museum of London Antiquities, observes: “The device, an emblem of abundance and prosperity, is purely Roman, as is the workmanship of all the coins of the British princes at this period.” Evans adds: “The presence of this Roman type on this coin of Verica, taken in conjunction with the style of art, affords strong evidence of intercourse with Rome” (*Coins of the ancient Britons*, p.182).



RCV 1471

## Coins of the ICENI of northern East Anglia



**11. Freckenham Crescents. No Step Type.** Talbot BHB, die group I, dies L/12. c.5BC-AD5. Gold stater. 15mm. 5.36g. Back-to-back crescents, pellet triad above and below, row of pellets projecting each side with V-shapes./ Bent-legged horse right, beaded ring above containing pellet triad, star below, pellets around. ABC 1447, VA–, BMC 3388, COI 52e, S–. VF/Good VF, neat flan of rose-gold, sharp horse. Ex Neil Bundle collection. Found Diss, Norfolk. **VERY RARE** only 29 this pair of dies recorded, inc. 22 in museums. Est. £1500 £1200

In *Made for Trade* (2017) Dr John Talbot says that the back-to-back crescent motif “became widespread on Icenian coinage. Motifs such as this could result from political imposition or be a sign of political allegiance.” The ‘step’ is the ledge normally seen below the crescents on the obverse. The rarity is slightly misleading because 22 of the 29 recorded examples are from the Dallinghoo hoard and are safely tucked away in Ipswich Museum and will never appear on the open market.

**Excessively rare die pair  
only one other recorded**



**12. Irstead Smiler. Three-Part Box.** Talbot dies G/9. c.20-10 BC. Gold quarter stater. 11mm. 1.07g. Latticed box divided into three, ‘tree of life’ sprouting from top./ Horse right, beaded mane, crescent and pellets above, pellet under tail, ringed-pellet below. ABC–, VA–, BMC–, COI 43b, S–. Good VF/EF, resplendent rose gold, magnificent horse, full ‘Cheshire-cat’ smile. Ex Neil Bundle collection. Found Toftrees, Norfolk. **EXCESSIVELY RARE** this pair of dies, only one other recorded. Est. £750 £600

Box and Tree of Life emerging from it both derived from Armorican gold stater, LT 6920, see *Coins of the Iceni* (Chris Rudd 2022), figs 60 and 61, p.21. The crescent moons symbolise Icena, tribal goddess of the Iceni. Not in ABC, VA, BMC nor Spink.



## Ex Forncett hoard, Norfolk, 1997

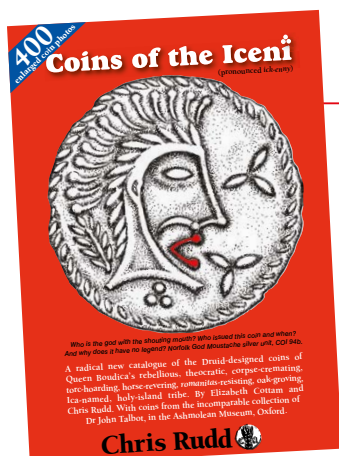


**13. Phallic Boar. Inverted Triad Type.** Talbot dies Y/50 (**this coin**\*) c.AD10-20. Silver unit. 12-15mm. 1.07g. Boar right with large eye, long bristles and p-shaped spear piercing ears, solar 'daisy' above./ Spritely horse right with eye-like head and crescentic ears, four-spoked solar wheel and two pellet-triads above, nose of inverted phallic face below, two pellets under tail. ABC 1582, VA 659, BMC 3473-3511, COI 64b, S 431. CCI 00.1052 (**this coin**). *Good VF, bright silver, shaggy boar and shapely horse, well ornamented. Ex The Royal Berkshire collection. Ex Forncett hoard, Norfolk, 1997.*  
**EXCESSIVELY RARE** this pair of dies, only two others recorded. **Est. £400 £320**

\* John Talbot used composite illustrations in *Made for Trade*. This coin was used to make up the photographs for dies Y/50. Published in *Coin Hoards in Iron Age Britain*, p.291, No.80 (**this coin**).



**14. Ece Dishy.** Talbot Ece B die-group 3, dies H/18. c.AD20-25. Silver unit. 12mm. 1.18g. Back-to-back moon emblem./ Horse right, dashes for mane, pellets on chest, pellet daisy above, EC[E] below. ABC—, VA—, BMC—, COI 80b, S—. CCI 94.0539 (**this coin**). *EF, fabulous moons, crisp and clear, full pellet daisy. Ex Chris Rudd collection. Found near Sandringham, Norfolk, early 1990s. RARE* **Est. £350 £280**  
 A distinct type because of the dish-shaped flan.



*Coins of the Iceni* is the most convenient, most comprehensive catalogue of the Celtic coins of Norfolk c.55BC-AD47. It names, describes, illustrates, dates and 'rarefies' 250 Icenian coin types, sub-types and variants; more than twice as many as ABC.

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



**15. Domino.** Sills Mint A, class 6, Biface Domino Type. c.60-50 BC. Gold stater. 17mm. 5.38g. Virtually blank./ Disjointed horse left, triangle head, pellet and four pellets in box above, swastika below, tip of 'V' shape in front. ABC 1758, VA 829-1, BMC 3185-86, S 393. *EF, delightful example struck in lustrous rose gold, full horse, super swastika. Found Sleaford, Lincs., December 2019.* **RARE** **Est. £1500 £1200**

In ancient symbolism *four* or a *four-sided* sign refers to the element of earth or land. In ancient Egypt earth is symbolised by a *row of dots in a horizontal cartouche*, not unlike the above 'domino box'.



**16. S-Triad Proto Boar.** Rich Type 5d. c.55-45 BC. Silver unit. 14mm. 1.40g. Boar right, S-triad above tail, large pelletal sun above, 'bat' symbol in front, S below, beaded border./ Horse left, beaded mane, beaded ringed-pellet above, ringed-pellet below and in front, beaded exergual line with short dashes below. ABC-, VA-, BMC-, S-. *Nr EF, large flan of lightly toned silver, perfect pelletal sun, bold animals. Ex Neil Bundle collection. Found Spalding, Lincolnshire.* **EXTREMELY RARE** *only 6 others recorded.* **Est. £750 £600**

A stunning example of an extremely rare type. The little w-shape above the boar's head is also seen below the boar on the Rich Types 1, 2, 3 and 6 and is probably a spread-winged bat. See *Boar Horse* (Chris Rudd 2014).

### **Ex Hotham hoard, East Yorkshire, 2013**



**17. Volisios Dumnocoveros.** c.AD35-40. Silver unit. 14-16mm. 1.11g. VOLI SIOS in two panels, two pellets to left./ Horse right, DVM above, [N] below head, OC[O] below. ABC 1983, VA 980, BMC 3339, S 417. CCI 17.1647 (**this coin**), PAS: YORYM-E88584 (**this coin**). *Good VF, cabinet toned silver, well struck with bold branding. Ex Ken Toyne collection. Ex Hotham hoard, East Yorkshire, T935, 2013.* **VERY RARE** *only 20 others recorded, including seven badly chipped.* **Est. £1200 £1000**

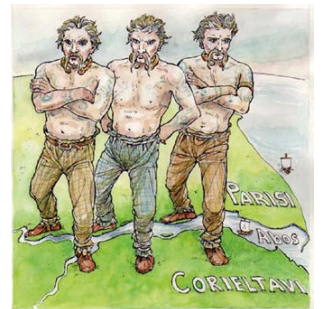
In 2012-13 two seasoned Yorkshire metdets, Chris Hannard (67) and Roy Doughty (73), unearthed a hoard of twelve Ancient British silver coins, all minted shortly before the mid 1st century AD. Three are of Dumnocoveros Tigirseno, nine of Volisios Dumnocoveros – some of the last independent rulers of the northern Corieltavi ('army of the broad land') who lived in north Lincolnshire. It was found near Hotham, East Yorkshire, just north of the Humber Estuary, in the land of the Parisi ('cauldron people') whose Gallic ancestors gave their name to Paris. The British Museum acquired one coin, we bought the other eleven. For more information see *The Hotham hoard: A Corieltavi war-hoard from the land of the Parisi*, *Coin News*, May 2015, pp.37-40.





**18. Volisios Dumnovellaunos.** c.AD43-47. Gold stater. 19mm. 5.30g. VO[LI] SI[OS] in two lines, crossed by vertical wreath of brick-like leaves facing inwards, three-armed spiral in circle to left./ Lunate horse left, with pellet-triad under head, DVM NO VE LLAV[NOS] around. ABC 1995, VA 988, BMC 3342-43, S 419. CCI 23.1084 (**this coin**). *Good VF, rose gold, great inscription, sharp pellet triad. Found Great Broughton, North Yorkshire, 28 February 2023. RARE only 33 others recorded. Est. £1800 £1500*

Dumnovellaunos ('Commander of the World') was possibly one of three sons of Volisios ('The Blood') who was probably a king of the Brigantes ('The High Ones') of Yorkshire, north of the Humber, then known as *Abos* ('The River'), from which the river-name Avon is derived. The other two (possible) brothers also had grandiose names – Dumnocoveros ('Giant of the World') and Cartivellaunos ('Strong Ruler'). Dr John Sills says: "Dumnovellaunos staters are heavily concentrated north of the Humber and are found as far north as Middlesborough. They may have been struck at the recently discovered Scotch Corner mint, which would make them a coinage of the Brigantes and Dumnovellaunos a likely relative of Cartimandua." (pers.comm. 10.12.2023). Purchased direct from the finder and published in *Readers Finds, Treasure Hunting*, November 2023, p.28 (**this coin**). It is one of the most northerly Celtic coin finds from Europe. It's been over five years since we offered one in our catalogue.



Three princes  
from Brigantia

## Coins of the DOBUNNI of the West Midlands



**19. Sunburst Little Horse.** c.20BC-AD5? Gold quarter stater. 12-14mm. 1.24g. Traces of wreath motif./ Horse right, pelletal sun ring and two pellets above, ringed-pellet and crescent under head, s-shape (small animal) below. ABC 2009, VA 1010, BMC 2942-46, S 375. *Good VF, as struck in rich golden gold, bonny horse, clear crescent. Found Childswickham, Worcs., October 2022. VERY RARE Est. £800 £650*



**20. Boduoc Young Head.** c.25-5 BC? Silver unit. 12mm. 1.09g. Head left, BODV[OC] in front, beaded border./ Horse right, ringed-pellet above. ABC 2042, VA 1057, BMC 3143-45, S 389. CCI 13.0528 (**this coin**). *Cut on horse, otherwise VF, bright silver, good head, monogram visible, bold horse. Found Devizes, Wiltshire, 2.4.2011. Ex John Follows collection. VERY RARE only 33 others recorded. Est. £500 £400*

This is a Tasciovanos lookalike. The head comes from a Tasciovanos bronze (ABC 2676); the horse, rosette and ringed-pellet from a Tasciovanos gold stater (perhaps ABC 2574). The 'sacrificial' cut on the horse suggests that this coin was ritually 'killed' prior to votive deposition.



## Coins of the **EAST WILTSHIRE** tribal group



**21. Savernake Forest.** c.50-30 BC. Gold stater. 14-16mm. 4.54g. Plain obverse./ Curvilinear horse right, beaded mane, high arched tail with pellets below, spiral above. ABC 2091, VA 1526, BMC 361-64, S 37. PAS: WILT-3E3165 (**this coin**). *Good VF, brassy-coloured gold, super spinning spiral. Found near Upavon, Wiltshire, September 2011. RARE* **Est. £850 £700**

Robert Van Arsdell catalogues Savernake Forest gold staters as 'Trinovantian/Catuvellaunian'. In *Ancient British Coins* we catalogue them as 'East Wiltshire' and we feel that their distribution justifies this more westerly attribution. In 1961 Derek Allen hinted that there may have been a 'minor cantonal grouping' in east Wiltshire. In 1977 archaeologist Dr Paul Robinson gave the idea numismatic credibility. Subsequent coin finds seem to confirm that a small tribe or sub-tribe was centred on the Vale of Pewsey, bounded by the rivers Thames (*Tamesa* 'slow flowing' or 'dark') and Kennet, which was named after *Cunetio* (Mildenhall, Wilts.) They evidently struck gold and silver coins of distinctive types for about 15 years, c.50-35 BC, before being absorbed by a larger tribe, presumed to be the Dobunni. We don't know the name of these Vale-of-Pewsey people, but the Roman town of *Durocornovium* 'fort of the Cornovii' (Wanborough, Wilts.) might provide us with a clue. There were people called *Cornovii* in Cornwall, Shropshire and Scotland. Maybe there were *Cornovii* in East Wiltshire too.



**22. Upavon Moon Head.** c.50-35 BC. Silver unit. 12mm. 0.90g. Moon head right with prominent pellet-nose, stalk lips, three solid crescents for hair, wheel in front./ Curvilinear horse left with feather tail, large ring and two pellet bosses above, rings around, wheel below. ABC 2128, VA-, BMC 3013-17, S-. *Good VF, lovely lightly toned silver, amazing head, full feathery tail. SCARCE* **Est. £650 £500**

## Coins of the **DUROTRIGES** of Wessex



**23. Cranborne Chase.** c.58-40 BC. Silver stater, probably with a little **gold**. 17-19mm. 5.96g. Stylised early Durotrigan head with upward-pointing wreath leaves and distinctive 'Aladdin's lamp' face./ Triple-tailed horse left with 'safety-pin' head, pellets above, 'coffee bean' behind, large pellet below, zigzag exergual decoration. ABC 2157, VA 1235-1, BMC 2525-2546, S 365 'White Gold type'. *Good VF, large flan of silvery silver, terrific horse, clear tails, full coffee bean. Ex Neil Bundle collection. Est. £750 £600*

This coin is an exceptionally clear example showing the horse carrying on its back 12 and 1/3 full moons which is exactly how many you have in a lunar year.

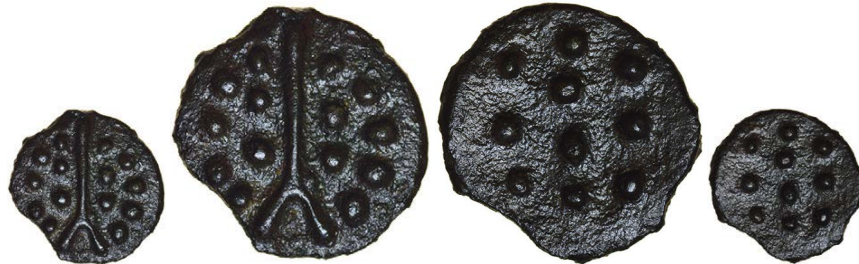


## Good EF, heavyweight



**24. Duro Boat Gold.** c.50-30 BC. Gold quarter stater. 10mm. 1.48g. Stylised 'three-men-in-a-boat' motif./ Central thunderbolt, Y-shape and bird to right, Y-shape to left. ABC 2205, VA 1225, BMC 414-18, DK 299, S 368. *Good EF, heavyweight, rich golden gold, sharp strike, brilliant boat.* Ex Neil Bundle collection. **SCARCE** **Est. £750 £600**

The Y-shape occurs frequently on Durotrigan coins, cf. ABC 2145, 2190-99, 2208-2217. Like ABC 40, 43 and 767 this beautiful Duro Boat Gold quarter is probably associated with Belgic coastal trading in the English Channel. Its heavyweight and deeply golden colour indicate that it's a very early issue. The gold type merges imperceptibly into the silver type. For discussion on boat imagery see Dr Daphne Nash Briggs, *Chris Rudd List* 104, pp.2-4.



**25. Hengistbury Seven Seven Ten.** c.AD40-50. Cast bronze unit. 14-16mm. 2.03g. Seven pellets either side of forked line./ Ten pellets. ABC 2196, VA 1345, BMC 2924, S 372. *EF, glossy dark green patina, pellets standing out like organ stops.* Ex *The Royal Berkshire collection*, bt. *Chris Rudd (2010)*, ex *A Clarke coll.* **Est. £500 £400**

It is curious that the first coins made in Britain (Thurrock types, ABC 120-132) and the last tribal coins made in Britain (Hengistbury types) were both made of cast bronze. The Hengistbury types are much scarcer than the Cranborne Chase (Lot 23).

## Coins of the **EASTERN** North Thames region

### Only one other (plated) known



**26. Five Rings.** c.55-45 BC. Silver minim. 8mm. 0.29g. Cruciform motif of row of four ringed-pellets, corn-ear wreath above and below./ Skinny horse left, beaded mane, ringed-pellet below. ABC-, VA-, BMC-, S-. New type, unpublished and unrecorded. *EF, neat flan of sparkling silver, bold rings.* Found *Freckenham, Suffolk, September 2022*. **EXCESSIVELY RARE** only one other (plated) example known. **Est. £1000 £800**

Both recorded examples of this well preserved early half unit come from the same stretch of the upper Lark valley near Bury St Edmunds, with its rich agricultural land. Struck by what must have been an important local authority in the 40s BC, it reflects the exceptionally difficult times during which treasuries everywhere in Britain seem to have been severely depleted and striking coinage of any sort for local distribution was a sacrificially extravagant gesture. So here we see a tiny silver coin boldly stamped with an obverse die that was fit for a gold quarter stater. Four elegant bands of rich, ripe barleycorns rotate sun-wise around what must be its author's personal signature of four ringed pellets or ceremonial sun-shields (with another as a marker under his own territory's mare). With this he probably assured his followers of richer pay, in gold, when better times returned (with their help, of course) - and such a promise may even account for the fifth ring on the obverse of the only



ABC 2255

other, plated, example, *Liz's List* 108, No.26, found near Bury St Edmunds – struck perhaps as silver reserves continued to dwindle. Why would anyone bother *plating* such a tiny slip of a silver coin, if not as a verifiable I.O.U? Both designs bear more than a passing resemblance to that of an equally enigmatic early quarter-stater from a separate, apparently wealthier, source downstream on the Fen edge around the Wash (ABC 2255, Finney's Thunderbolt), and both were probably active politically in the regional assembly that very soon afterwards designed and upgraded new Icenian federal coinages, recalling and replacing outdated local issues such as these.



**27. Broadoak Head.** c.55-45 BC. Silver unit. 14mm. 1.10g. Head left, crescent-shaped ear, large crescents for hair./ Horse right, ladder mane, beaded ring under corkscrew tail, small boar and ornaments above, wheel below. ABC 2264, VA–, BMC–, S–. CCI 01.0747 (**this coin**). *Good VF, toned silver, well ornamented horse, full boar. Ex The Royal Berkshire collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2011).*  
**EXTREMELY RARE** only nine others recorded, including five chipped. **Est. £850 £700**

The Broadoak Head is apparently the first of a remarkable series of three silver coins – ABC 2264, 2267 and 2270 – in which the crescentic hairlocks on this coin later turn into two boars surrounded by other animals. Commenting on the specimen we sold in July 2003 (*Chris Rudd List* 70, No.61) Dr Philip de Jersey says: “Identified by Derek Allen as a North Thames bronze, and listed by Mack accordingly (280b), this silver unit was unjustly deleted by Van Arsdell, and slipped off the scene for a few years. In 1993 an example was found at Hatfield Broadoak, and since then the numbers have slowly increased. Coins with a clear obverse head are still few and far between, and it’s more common to find a nearly unintelligible design concentrating on the locks of hair and losing any semblance of a recognizable face. Among the many idiosyncrasies of the design on the reverse, the horse’s tail is perhaps the most unusual, formed of rings between two plain lines.” Our latest specimen shows significantly more of the extraordinary locks of hair and also has a sharper reverse.

**Only eight others recorded**

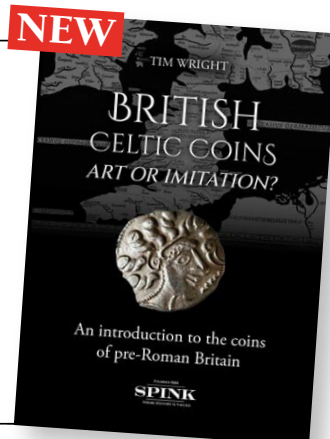


**28. Essex Serpent.** c.50-40 BC. Silver unit. 15mm. 1.31g. Annulated horse right looking back over its shoulder, with open mouth, long curved ears, coiled serpent above, small annulated horse with long ears behind./ Horse left with large elliptical ear, bucranium above, S-shape behind, corn ear below, ringed-pellets around. ABC 2276, VA–, BMC–, S–, *British Numismatic Journal* 1996, no.23. *VF, huge flan of silvery silver, full coiled serpent, whole S-shape and corn ear.* **EXTREMELY RARE** only eight others recorded. **Est. £1500 £1200**

For more information on this fascinating type see *Chris Rudd List* 129, front cover and No. 43.

## A breezy and beautifully illustrated introduction to British Celtic coins which will dazzle and delight you

*British Celtic Coins: Art or Imitation? An introduction to the coins of pre-Roman Britain*, by Dr Tim Wright, presents a persuasive case for collecting and studying Britain’s first coins. We enthusiastically endorse it. £30 + p&p from Chris Rudd.





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



**29. Dubnovellaunos Branch. II Type.** Sills class 2b dies 21/26. Kretz class D3-4, dies P/20. c.25-10 BC. Gold stater. 15-18mm. 5.37g. Banded flan with wreath motif, two outline crescents and two rings in centre, forming two 'sad' hidden faces./ Full-bodied horse prancing left with beaded mane and long high-arched tail, ringed-pellet and [DVBNO]VIILLA above, beaded wavy branch below. ABC 2392, VA 1650/1655, BMC 2436, DK 538, S 207. *Good VF, scintillating rose gold, bold horse with clear inscription. Ex Joseph Fay collection. Found near Tilbury, Essex, 2022. EXTREMELY RARE die pair, only nine others recorded.* **Est. £1500 £1200**

Note the II being used as an informal Roman form of the letter E. The wavy branch is emblematic as a victory branch which is also seen above the horse on most gold staters of Cunobelinus.

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



**30. Tasciovanos Muzzles.** c.25BC-AD10. Silver unit. 13mm. 0.85g. Crossed-wreaths with back-to-back crescents at centre, yonis and horse muzzles in opposite angles./ Horse leaping left, corded mane, [TA]SC[I] below. ABC 2607, VA—, BMC 1656-57, S 229. CCI 09.4445 (**this coin**). *Good VF, lightly toned silver, clear muzzles and yonis, bold horse. Ex The Royal Berkshire collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2009), ex Michael J Grover collection. VERY RARE only 16 others recorded, including two in the British Museum.* **Est. £900 £750**

Snorting snouts say virility, yonis say fertility. Combining them says a lot for Tasciovanos and his kingship. They also occur together on ABC 2529 and 2583. Snouts can also be seen on a Commios gold stater, ABC 1022.

**Excessively rare only one other this pair of dies**



**31. Andoco Phallic Bucranium.** Sills class 1, dies 1/3. c.20-1 BC. Gold stater. 18mm. 5.41g. Crossed wreath motif with back-to-back crescents and four ringed-pellets in centre concealing stylised hidden faces./ Full-bodied horse galloping right, with pin-cushion mane, phallic bucranium and anemone



above, O in front, AND below. ABC 2715, VA 1860, BMC 2012-14, DK 513 (**same dies**), S 262. *Near EF, yellow gold, well centred horse, full bucranium, bold AND. Found Kings Langley, Herts., 13 September 2017. EXCESSIVELY RARE only one other this pair of dies recorded.* **Est. £4000 £3200**

Addedomaros, perhaps a younger brother of Cassivellaunos, could well have sired both Tasciovanos and Andoco. If this was the case, we guess that Andoco was the junior. The obverse design echoes Tasciovanos and although Andoco's design is in his own name, it clearly acknowledges his brother. "Andoco staters are all struck from a single obverse die, which copies the class 6 Rotated Cross obverse in virtually every detail [ABC 2562, DK 509-10]." *DK*, p.557.



**32. Andoco Pegasus.** c.20-1BC. Silver unit. 14mm. 1.12g. Lifelike male head left with beaded beard and droopy moustache, letter A behind, within interlaced vine border./ Winged horse with bridle rein flying left, [A]NDOC[O] around. ABC 2721, VA 1868, BMC 2018, S 264. CCI 05.0108 (**this coin**). *Almost EF, sharply struck in toned silver, well displayed Pegasus, magnificently detailed head. Ex The Royal Berkshire collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2005). RARE* **Est. £1000 £800**

The Andoco Pegasus silver unit was first published by Evans (*The coins of the ancient Britons*, 1864, pl. V.6), a coin "not improbably found at Evesham" which is now the sole British Museum specimen, BMC 2018. They're quite widely scattered across the west of the North Thames region, but with a concentration in Hertfordshire suggesting that this is where Andoco had his power base. For some reason – perhaps because they are in good quality silver, or because they did not circulate for very long – a significant proportion of the surviving examples are in exceptionally good condition, including this coin.

## Coins of the CATUVELLAUNI & TRINOVANTES united



**33. Cunobelinus CAM CVN/CVN.** Sills class 3b, dies 26/31. c.AD 8-41. Gold quarter stater. 11mm. 1.34g. Ear of corn without central stalk, CAM to left, CV[N] to right./ Horse prancing right, branch above, C[VNO] below. ABC 2819, VA 2017, BMC 1845, DK 578, S 295. CCI 04.0193 (**this coin**). *Good VF, rose gold, clear CAM, bold horse. Ex The Royal Berkshire collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2008). Found Orsett, Essex. VERY RARE only 22 others recorded this pair of dies.* **Est. £550 £440**

It is puzzling why Cunobelin's abbreviated name appears twice on this gold quarter stater. One possibility is that the king, in a moment of Roman imperial grandeur, decided to rename his capital *Camulodunum* *Cunobelinus*. Published in *Divided Kingdoms* p.655, No.19 & p.691 (**this coin**).



## Ex Royal Berkshire, Bettison and Pheatt collections



**34. Cunobelinus Lyre Player.** c.AD 8-41. Silver unit. 13mm. 1.20g. Roman-style female bust right, hair in bun and with upturned crescent above forehead, TASC IOVANNI around, beaded border./ Draped female lyre player seated right, tree behind, CVNOBEL[I] around, beaded border. ABC 2867, VA 2059, BMC 1879, S 314. CCI 92.0006 (**this coin**). *Good VF, toned, great head, virtually complete inscription.* Ex *The Royal Berkshire collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2006), ex Brian Bettison collection, bt Chris Rudd (1995), ex Pheatt collection.* **RARE** **Est. £650 £550**

It's over 13 years since we've offered this type in a Chris Rudd auction catalogue, a testament to the quality of this coin.



**32.** The head is similar in style to Tasciovanos Warrior silver unit, ABC 2610.  
The letter A stands for Andoco.



ABC 2610



ABC 2721

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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, COI = E Cottam, C Rudd *Coins of the Iceni*, 2022, DK = J Sills *Divided Kingdoms*, 2017, S = Spink *Coins of England* 2024 ed.

**Metals.** All Celtic coins are *alloys*, e.g. gold coins are a *variable* mix of gold, silver and copper.

**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.

**Rarity** of British Celtic coins based on Celtic Coin Index: **EXCESSIVELY RARE** 1-5, **EXTREMELY RARE** 6-15, **VERY RARE** 16-30, **RARE** 31-50, **SCARCE** 51-100. Remember, most coin finds are unreported. So these figures are only a *rough guide* to rarity.

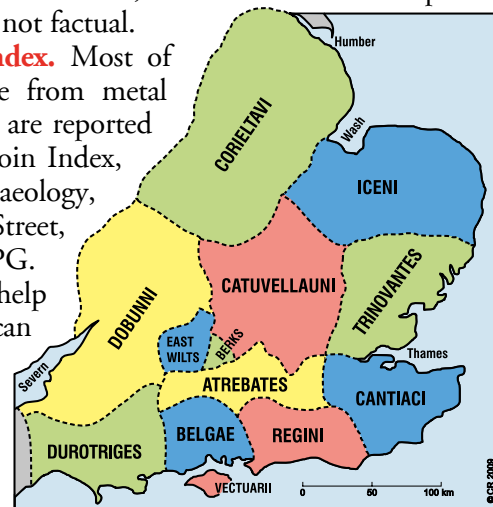
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**Accuracy.** Little is known of iron age rulers, mints and moneyers. So all our dates, attributions and descriptions are *hypothetical*, not factual.

**Celtic Coin Index.** Most of our coins come from metal detectorists and are reported to the Celtic Coin Index, Institute of Archaeology, 36 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PG.

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