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The only ancient British coin depicting a bear

Bears seldom appear on ancient coins, and this is the only British issue that definitely shows one (no, it's not a wolf, which would have had hackles, more teeth, and a long bushy tail). OIIIO makes no sense as lettering, and its outer rings belong with several others in the background of the design, but it could well represent an official's insignia. The last, and almost only, time a bear had ever appeared on a coin was on Remic potins during the devastating Cimbric invasions in the late second century BC: DT 155 (ABC 82) and DT 221 (which as it happens is also paired with a facing bull's head). Heroes of those conflicts, who did more or less repel the invaders, were fêted and remembered as a new generation, less than a century later, faced Julius Caesar's even more overwhelming onslaught. Bears will drive wolves off their kills when they are hungry (this one is thin!): the wolves back off and leave it to them. Ravens will pick clean any remaining bones and would flock to the carnage on battlefields. This coin, together with ABC 216, 270, and 285, was one of a set of related Cantian designs probably initiated soon after Caesar's audacious crossings into Kent in 55 and 54 BC and whilst plans were being made in Gaul to repel this latest invader, probably still with some assistance from Kent. See Lot 4.

Auction 198 • 19 January 2025

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Berkshire Coat of Arms

*Lots 6, 11, 32 and 33 are from
The Royal Berkshire collection.*



Winchester Coat
of Arms

*Lots 3, 4, 14, 27 and 31 are
from the Winchester collection.*

Gallic coins **IMPORTED** into Britain



1. Gallo-Belgic Broad Flan. Left. Sills G-B Ab1, class 7 workshop 2, fig 33o, dies 40/50. Bellovaci. c.150-125 BC. Gold stater. 20mm. 7.28g. Draped bust of androgynous deity left, face framed by three crescent moons, with flamboyant flaming hair./ Disarticulated horse galloping left, with curvy body, rosette below. ABC-, LT 7886, DT 67, Sch/GB class VIIIc, VA-, S 2, Sills GGC 301. CCI 22.1130 (**this coin**). *VF, neat flan of rich golden gold, clear face.* **EXTREMELY RARE** only 20 this pair of dies recorded **Est. £1500 £1200**

“The final group has a re-designed obverse but continues the reverse type of the previous class, with a single rosette below the horse. The obverse bust has a smaller face with a vertical, bulging neck and small, neat hair curls”, *Gaulish and early British gold coinage*, p.148



2. Biface. Sills G-B Ca1, class 3, dies 14/16. Ambiani. c.90-80 BC. Gold stater. 16-18mm. 6.47g. Stylised laureate head right./ M-shaped horse right, pellets around, ‘coffee-bean’ behind. ABC 13, LT 8593, 8597, DT 157-61, VA 42-48, DK 1, Sills GGC 409, fig.75g, Scheers class III, S 5. *Good VF, chunky flan of gorgeous golden gold, Apollo’s face clear. Found Cobham, Kent, 2001.* **Est. £850 £700**

“Class 3 obverses are similar to those of class 2 but with a round, bulbous chin, a thinner neck and the nose reduced to a peg-like motif. There is a tendency in class 2 for the pair of laves immediately above the hairbar in the wreath to be engraved slightly smaller than the others, and this is accentuated in class 3a the leaves shrink still further and eventually disappear.” *Gaulish and early British gold coinage*, p.226.

Coins of the CANTIACI of Kent

ABC plate coin, great provenance



3. Treelike Trophy. Sills class 1, Tree, dies -/5. c.45-40 BC. Gold quarter stater. 11mm. 1.31g. Plain obverse, slightly banded./ Tree in centre with six branches and three roots, decorated bars each side, three ringed-pellets above (middle one beaded), thick bent line below with small ringed-pellet at each end. ABC 189 (**this coin**), VA-, BMC-, DK 56, S-, *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles* 1, no.29. CCI 96.3004 (**this coin**). *Good VF, pinkish gold, neat round flan, centrally struck. Unlisted by major catalogues. Ex Winchester collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2002), ex Mark King collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2000), ex Cotswold collection, ex Italo Vecchi auction 2, 12 September 1996, lot 945, ex Gerald Boyle collection. A lovely little Celtic gold coin with a great pedigree. VERY RARE only 26 others this reverse die.* **Est. £850 £700**

It has been suggested that this design was adapted from a silver denarius of Julius Caesar, struck in Spain 46-45 BC, showing a trophy of Gallic arms between seated male and female captives (Crawford 468/1 and 468/2). There is also the possibility of a hidden face, with the lower part of the 'treelike trophy' forming the nose. Plate coin in *Ancient British Coins* p.35 (**this coin**) and published in *Divided Kingdoms* p.86 (**this coin**).



4. Bear and Bull. c.54-30 BC. Bronze unit. 14mm. 2.02g. Bear right, open jaws, raven perched on back, OIIIO behind flanking a short beaded line, rings around, beaded exergual line./ Bull right, head facing, ringed staff above, ringed-pellet in front, small pellets and rings around. ABC 267, VA 154-3, BMC 2484-86, S 176. *Near EF, glossy green patina, bold bull, complete raven. Ex Winchester collection.* **RARE** **Est. £750 £600**

The prancing bull's decorated brow and knob-tipped horns enhance his beauty and value. Were the primary recipients of these small bronze coins young men summoned as infantry soldiers for dangerous foreign campaigns, under solemn oath (that's one meaning of the boar on ABC 270 and 285), and with the promise of rewards after victory – for instance cattle, or a prize bull or a sturdy ox? The staff above the prancing bull – probably a community leader's staff of office – was actually topped with a pair of back-to-back duck's heads – birds of water meadows for that bull. It resembles much the same item, but topped with a bull's horns, on the obverse of the related silver unit, ABC 216, speaking perhaps to wealthier, mounted, militia under separate command in the same coalition.



ABC 216

Extremely Rare – only 14 others recorded



5. Eppillus Carnyx. c.AD1-15. Silver unit. 14mm. 0.81g. Laureate head left, EPPIL in front./ Warrior on horse right holding carnyx, EPPILL below. ABC 399, VA 441, BMC 1132, DK 117, S 111. *Good VF,*

lightly toned silver, magnificent head, full inscription. **EXTREMELY RARE** only fourteen others recorded, including four chipped or damaged. **Est. £1500 £1200**

When Eppillus entered northern Kent, this ambitious Atrebatian warlord from distant *Calleva* in Hampshire, brother of King Tincomarus, was already an official “friendly king” on diplomatic terms with Rome and Augustus: that’s the point of his Latin title *Rex*, displayed on coinages in both territories (ABC 1160, 396). His fine, rather Augustan, portrait introduced their new king to the Cantii in an elaborate diadem crowned with a disc ornament and with twin ribbons descending at the sides and at the back, seen clearly here. This regalia seems specific to his dynasty (cf Sam, ABC 369 and Touto ABC 432, with small individual differences: contrast Dubnovellaunus’ headgear, also in Kent: ABC 315, 339). Eppillus seems to have taken his scribe with him from *Calleva* – perhaps to keep his accounts – note exactly the same letter shapes here as on ABC 1160 at *Calleva* – but the rest of this Cantian design was engraved by an artist with modelling skills of gemstone standard, perhaps engaged from one of his mighty neighbour, Cunobelinus’ workshops: the horse resembles Cunobelinus’ early Class 2 Linear stater (ABC 2774), helping to date this unit, and the design itself, whose athletic horseman holds a carynx aloft at full gallop, echoes Tasciovanos’ warrior stater ABC 2562. Kent was a crowded diplomatic environment. Cunobelinus, also under treaty with Augustus, had his own designs upon the Cantian bank of the Thames estuary, with its ample revenues from ships plying trade with Roman Gaul. Eppillus – a “Little Horse” in name only – lets it be known that he ranked himself equal with any other British king, was a seasoned commander with powerful friends and was well equipped to defend his possessions.

Coins of the **REGINI** of West Sussex

Hard to find bronze



6. Chichester Cock. c.50-30 BC. Bronze unit. 16-18mm. 2.53g. Head right, wearing elaborate helmet./ Small head right, surmounted by cock, wings outstretched. ABC 737, VA–, BMC 657-59, S 61. CCI 92.0686 (**this coin**). *VF, smooth dark brown patina, great head, wonderful cock. Ex The Royal Berkshire collection, ex Spink Num.Circ., December 1992, No.28. Found Abingdon, Oxon, May 1992.*

SCARCE

Est. £450 £360

One of only three bronze coin types struck in the southern region, all very hard to find these days, most in low grade. Don’t miss this one.

Coins of the **BELGAE** of Hampshire

Extremely Rare – only seven others this pair of dies



7. Cheriton Smiler. Sills British Db1, class 2b, Cheriton Axehead, dies 2/5. c.55-45 BC. Gold stater. 18mm. 5.12g. Horizontal wreath motif with outward facing leaves, three parallel cabled lines./ Disjointed horse left with elongated neck, blobs above, multiple small pellets around, crab below. ABC 755, VA 1215, BMC 86-87, DK 314, S 24. CCI 97.2153 (**this coin**). *Good VF, neat flan of cuprous gold,*

beautifully ornamented. Ex Anthony Bate collection, ex CNG Auction 84, 5 May 2010, lot 16, ex A Cooper collection. **EXTREMELY RARE** only seven others this pair of dies. **Est. £1250 £1000**

Compare this superb genuine specimen with the modern fake (ABC fig. 188, p.201) and you should be able to spot the difference. If you can't, don't worry. We can. Dr Philip de Jersey says: "Cheriton staters were struck from a fairly small number of dies, probably about ten each for obverse and reverse. Over time individual dies become easier to recognize, thanks to little flaws and quirks of the design." Published in *Divided Kingdoms* p.318 (**this coin**).

Delightful dragon, ex Cottam collection



8. Danebury Dragon. c.50-40 BC. Silver unit. 12mm. 0.97g. S-shaped dragon facing left looking back, beaded body and dewlap, ringed-pellet and double row of crescents below, pellet in each cusp./ Horse left, floral sun above, ringed-pellet in front, cogwheel and two pellets below, exergual oblong tablet with central wavy line. ABC 896, VA 286, BMC 631-33, S 58. CCI 16.0106 (**this coin**). *Good VF, lightly toned silver, delightful dragon, bold horse, full cogwheel, clear tablet.* Ex Luke Daniel collection, ex Geoff Cottam collection, Spink 2 December 2015, lot 102, bt. Alan Cherry 26 January 1996. **EXTREMELY RARE** only 16 others recorded, inc. four in museums. **Est. £1000 £800**

Many ancient cultures pictured a shape-shifting horse-like denizen of dangerous waters – as kelpies they still exist in Scottish folklore. They lurked in deep lakes and in boundary streams, and could kick up a storm at sea, like the storms at high tide just a few years earlier that had famously wrecked two of Julius Caesar's fleets in successive Septembers in Kent. This one is doing just that, rising with a twist of its sinuous body, like trout catching flies in a Hampshire chalk stream, to dance with its horse-leg tail upon spume-flecked banks of wind-driven waves that we still call "white horses". This coin gives a fine view of the action in the lower part of this spectacular design. We are also meant to know that the sun-drenched horse on its reverse is one and the same fairy creature: they have identical heads, ears, hind legs, and distinctive hooves. Continuous beaded chains give this sea-horse broad, diaphanous, fins along both belly and back that are repeated in the land-horse's dotted mane and an extra, boldly dotted, upper doubling of its ordinary tail: it hasn't altogether lost its other-worldly fins. Even friends had to be careful with dangerous creatures that were said to devour or drown anyone or anything invading their space, and on land would patrol boundary streams and territorial waters. The tablet with wavy central line upon which this one prances may well represent specific lands either side of the river Test, and together with the cogwheel insignia of high authority, flanked by twin dots, is watching you, like a solemn hidden face. Both dies carry several standard emblems and markers of political identity and group affiliation, including the horse-heads' scissor-handle muzzles: cf quarter-stater ABC 590, surely also from the same mint. The message to anyone who might challenge this leader's control is to beware. His land and its waters are mightily protected.

Coins of the SOUTHERN REGION later dynastic



9. Commios A-Type. Sills class 1. c.50-25 BC. Gold quarter stater. 9mm. 1.05g. Letter A with dropped bar on plain field./ Horse left, ladder mane, solar motif above, ring and double-ring below. ABC 1031, VA 353-5, BMC-, DK 325, S 67. *Good VF, neat flan of scintillating rose gold, bold A, well centred horse.* **SCARCE** **Est. £850 £700**

Caesar made Commios king of the Atrebatas (BG 4.21) and always called him Atrebatia (BG 4.27, 35; 5.22; 6.6; 8.6, 7, 21, 47), a prestigious and profitable identity on both sides of the Channel. So the A on this lovely quarter stater stands for Atrebatas.

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

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10. Eppillus Calleva Daisy. Sills class 3b, Calleva Plain, dies 10/9. c.20 BC-AD 1. Gold quarter stater. 10mm. 1.20g. CALLE[V], star above and below, beaded border./ Dog running right, EPPI above, pellet daisy below. ABC 1148, VA 407, BMC 986-1001, DK 357, S 96. *Good VF, neat round flan of rich rose gold, sharp lettering, bold bouncy dog.* Ex Spink 26 March 2008, Lot 725. **VERY RARE** only 28 others this pair of dies recorded. **Est. £850 £700**

Calleva means 'in the woods'. Did Eppillus, king of *Calleva*, go deer-hunting in its woods? Maybe that's why there's a running dog on this rare gold coin. Published in *Divided Kingdoms*, p.374 ([this coin](#)).

Handsome head



11. Eppillus Lion. c.20 BC-AD 1. Silver unit. 11-13mm. 1.11g. Bearded head right, beaded border./ Lion stepping right on exergual line, curly tail raised, EPPI above, COM below, F in front, beaded border. ABC 1166, VA 417, BMC 1088-1115, S 101. *Good VF, lightly toned silver, handsome head, sharp lion, bold inscription.* Ex *The Royal Berkshire collection*, bt. Spink Num.Circ., June 1994. **RARE** Est. **£750 £600**
22 of the 23 examples in the British Museum came from the Wanborough excavations, Surrey, 1985-86.

Virtually as minted



12. Verica Vine Leaf. Leaping Horse Type with Triple Stranded Tail. Sills class 5c, dies 19/35. c.AD10-40. Gold stater. 17mm. 5.30g. Centrally positioned vine leaf on plain field, VI to left, RI to right./ Cavalryman mounted on a right-facing horse with beaded mane, bridle rein and triple-stranded tail, COF around. ABC-, VA 520-5, BMC 1168-74, DK 367, S-. *Good VF, virtually as minted, lustrous rose gold with satin-like surfaces, complete vine leaf centrally situated, magnificent parade-style horseman, crisply cut inscription.* Found near Holybourne, Hampshire, 1 June 2021. **RARE** type with triple stranded tail, only 44 others recorded including 15 in museums. **Est. £3000 £2400**

You can clearly see the plinth below the horse's rear legs on this magnificent specimen. The plinths were placed there for a purpose. In 2002 we said: "The statuesque setting for the horseman is undoubtedly deliberate, placing him literally on a pedestal; which leads me to believe that he may be intended to be viewed as Verica himself, or his revered ancestor, Commios. An alternative reading of the image might be that the cavalryman is jumping over a chasm or – even more fanciful – that Verica bridges the time-gap between Commios and himself." Dr John Sills says the Leaping Horse Type "is so named from the unusual attitude of the horse, which is shown leaping from one square embankment to another. It may represent the king straddling the northern and southern halves of his territory, portray a particular event in his reign, or simply be a die-cutter's whim" (*DK*, 2017, p.379). Today we feel the most plausible interpretation of the two plinths is that Verica has united the two halves of the southern kingdom (Atrebatian and Regnan), previously split between Tincomarus and Eppillus.



13. Verica Sleeping Dog. c.AD10-40. Silver minim. 7mm. 0.26g. Sphinx right, [CF] below./ Dog curled up, VERI above. ABC 1328, VA 557, BMC 1564-68, S 156. *VF, lightly toned, bold Pegasus, clear dog.* Ex Gloucestershire collection. **VERY RARE** only 25 others recorded inc. 5 in the British Museum. Est. £300 £240

British hunting dogs were highly prized and exported along with slaves. Five of the recorded examples of this elusive minim came from the infamous Wanborough hoard. We sold our last example in March 2014... will you wait another 10 years for another?

Coins of the ICENI of northern East Anglia



14. Norfolk Wolf Right. Plain Fibula with Smiley Face. Talbot Die-Group 4, dies M/14. c.55-50 BC. Gold stater. 16-18mm. 6.10g. Wreath motif with upward-facing leaves, tiny pellets in field./ Wolf standing right, open jaws with crescent shaped tongue lolling out, bird on rump, large pellets and crescent above, below: traces of two tiny pellets, large pellet and crescent forming smiling face. ABC 1393, VA 610-1, BMC 213-216, COI 1f, S 30. CCI 98.2384 (**this coin**). *Good VF, large flan of yellow gold, wonderful wolf, full jaws and terrific tongue.* Ex Winchester collection, bt. CNG 18 March 1998, lot 2743. **RARE** die pair. Est. £1500 £1200

Excessively Rare – only two others this pair of dies recorded



15. Bury Diadem. Main Type. Talbot Bury A, dies D/3a. c.55-50 BC. Silver unit. 12-14mm. 1.30g. Female head left, with long pointed nose, heart-shaped ear and wearing lunar crown, snake in front./ Horse left, tiny s-shapes for mane, solar 'anemone' above with ringed-pellets either side, ringed-pellet below. ABC 1495, VA–, BMC 3527, COI 5a, S–. *EF, neat flan of sparkling silver, delightful diademed head, handsome horse.* Ex David Burd collection. **EXCESSIVELY RARE** only two others this pair of dies recorded. Est. £1000 £800

Dr Anne Ross thinks the goddess may be Andraste 'the invincible', revered by Boudica (see Cassius Dio *History* 62 and A.Ross, *The Bury Diadem*, *Chris Rudd List* 41, 1997, p.3). We think she may also be Sirona 'the star', the Celto-Roman healer-goddess (see *War Coins of the Coriosolites*, p.10-11).



16. Irstead Smiler. Three Part Box. Talbot dies G/12. c. 20-10 BC. Gold quarter stater. 11mm. 1.08g. Latticed box divided into three, 'tree of life' sprouting from top./ Horse right, open head with pellet below, beaded mane, crescent above, ringed-pellet below. ABC-, VA-, BMC-, COI 43b, S-. *Good VF, rose gold, sharply struck horse with full head. Found Holme next the Sea, Norfolk. EXTREMELY RARE this pair of dies, only 15 others recorded.* **Est. £475 £380**

The 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.

Good Extremely Fine, Unique reverse die



17. Crescent Corn Ears. Talbot Early Pattern Horse (B) Unit, die group 2, dies L/-. c.AD 10-20. Silver unit. 11-13mm. 0.99g. Back-to-back crescents, ring above and below in centre of corn ear wreath motif, pellet triads in angles./ Curvy horse left, ring of pellets on chest, pellet triad under tail, six-spoke wheel above, ringed-pellet below. ABC 1591, VA 675, BMC 3767-74, COI 76, S 435. *Good EF, bright silver, beautifully ornamented, an exceptionally pretty example. Ex David Burd collection. Found Stanton, Suffolk. UNIQUE? reverse die.* **Est. £600 £480**

This is the silver unit that accompanies the gold stater ABC 1453, the quarter stater ABC 1486 and the silver half unit ABC 1606. Dr John Talbot, author of *Made for Trade: A New View of Icenian Coinage*, says: "It is a new reverse die that is paired with obverse L from die-group 2. The breast is similar to die 20 also in the same die-group."



18. Ece Stepping Horse. Lazy-S Type. Talbot Ece A Unit, dies A/3. c.AD 20-25. Silver unit. 11mm. 1.26g. Double crescent emblem on vertical wreath./ Horse stepping right. solid head facing, horizontal S-shape below head, pellet daisy above, ECE below. ABC 1660 var., VA 760 var., BMC 4348-359, COI 80e, S 445 var. CCI 19.1558 (**this coin**). *Good VF, lightly toned silver, super sharp crescents, bold horse. Ex Neil Bundle collection, ex P Court collection. VERY RARE this pair of dies, 24 others recorded.* **Est. £400 £320**

The grain harvest was always important to the Iceni, celebrated both as bounty in itself, and as an export, and as fodder for their own horses and the ones they exported: how else did they get all that silver to coin?

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



19. North East Coast. Three Line Type. Sills Mint A. fig.7. c.60-50 BC. Gold stater. 18mm. 6.06g. Wreath motif with leaves facing inwards, tiny pellets in field, hair bar with two crescents at end, serpent below./ Disjointed horse left, large triangular head, single line neck with spiral below head, pellets and crescents above, sun in front, pelletal sun below, exergual corded lines. ABC 1734, VA 805-11, BMC 204-10, S 29. CCI 12.0809 (**this coin**), *Good VF, large flan of yellow gold, sharp strike, great wreath. Found Panton, Lincolnshire, mid 2012.* **Est. £1000 £800**

In 1999 John Sills wrote: "Around 80 reverse dies are known for Mint A and nearly 50 for Mint B; this is a very large number (although still very much an underestimate, especially in the case of Mint B), and over a million North East Coast staters may have been struck (Early Corieltauvian Gold, *Chris Rudd List 43*, 1999, pp.2-4).



20. Wishbone Proto Boar. Rich Type 3b. c.55-45 BC. Silver unit. 14mm. 1.23g. Speared boar right, pelletal sun above, ringed-pellet behind./ Horse left with beaded mane and braided tail, solar rosette and two ringed-pellets above, ringed-pellet below and in front. ABC-, VA 855-8, BMC-, S-. *Good VF, lightly toned with golden hue, both animals well centred. Found Market Rasen, Lincs., 23 August 2022.* **EXCESSIVELY RARE** only 5 others recorded. **Est. £500 £400**

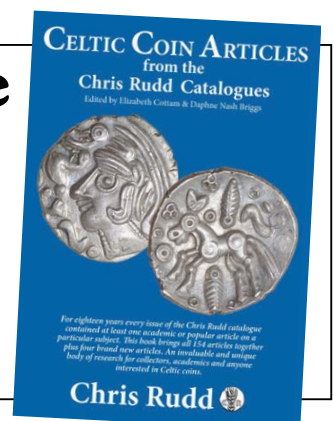
The obverse is based on a Roman prototype but is distinctly British in style. The horse is also probably derived from a Greek or Roman prototype.

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Coins of the **DOBUNNI** of the West Midlands

Good VF, scarce type



21. Cotswold Eagle. Head Type D. c.10 BC-AD 0. Silver unit. 12mm. 1.08g. Stylised head right with two-pin lips, X on chin, beaded hairline, crescents and pellets in front, ringed-pellet below./ Annulate triple-tailed horse left, pellet and inverted eagle's head above, pellets in front, three-petalled flower below. ABC 2021, VA 1049, BMC 2968-75, S 377. *Good VF, lightly toned, well centred, sharp head, great eagle's head. Ex 'Bristol' collection.* **SCARCE**

Est. £375 **£300**

Dobunnic silver coins such as this show how the symbols on Celtic coins often evolve into something else. The so-called 'flower' below the horse was originally a cock's head (ABC 2012) and ended up as a cross (ABC 2036).



Cock's head to cross

Coins of the **EAST WILTSHIRE** tribal group

Extremely Rare – only 14 others recorded



22. Savernake Wreaths. c.50-20 BC. Gold stater. 16mm. 5.23g. Crossed wreath with solid back-to-back crescents in centre./ Globular horse right with beaded mane, ringed-pellet and solar spiral above, spoked wheel below, ringed-pellets around and under tail. ABC 2089, VA 1522, BMC 358-60, S-. CCI 00.1111 (**this coin**). *Good VF/EF, cabinet toned gold, fabulous full-bodied horse, clear spiral and wheel. Found near Swindon, Wilts., c.1999.* **EXTREMELY RARE** only fourteen others recorded, including two plated and three in the British Museum.

Est. £2500 **£2000**

The Savernake Wreath is altogether a curious coinage: clearly localized in east Wiltshire, and yet stylistically most closely related, through the obverse, to some of the Whaddon Chase staters from the North Thames region. It's possible that a small batch of those same staters provided the raw material for the Wiltshire coinage. They certainly did not produce much gold, still less of it in good quality but unlike most examples this coin is a lovely cabinet toned gold and has a much better struck obverse than most examples.

Wonderful wings



23. Wiltshire Wings. c.30-1 BC. Silver unit. 11mm. 0.83g. Moon-head right, large crescents for hair, 'cogwheel' on chin, wing motif in front./ Annulated horse left with double tail, wing motif in front, spoked wheel and ring above and below. ABC 2119, VA-, BMC-, S-. *Good VF, neat flan of solid silvery silver, super sharp horse, clear wings. Found Tidworth, Wiltshire. VERY RARE only 18 others recorded. Est. £600 £480*
This lovely example clearly reveals the wing ornament on both sides.

Coins of the DUROTRIGES of Wessex

Ex Blandford Forum hoard



24. Cranborne Chase. c.58-40 BC. Silver stater, probably with a little gold. 19mm. 6.01g. Wreath motif./ Triple-tailed horse left, twelve large pellet and one small pellet above, 'coffee bean' behind, large pellet below. ABC 2157, VA 1235-1, BMC 2525-636, S 366. CCI 04.0249 (**this coin**). *Good VF, heavyweight chunky flan of good silver, well centred horse, amazing tails. Ex John D Watkins collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2004), ex Blandford Forum hoard, Dorset, 1997. Est. £600 £480*

Previously known as 'Abstract Type' or 'Mack 317', we re-named this series 'Cranborne Chase' after the N Dorset/S Wilts estates of Lt. General Augustus Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers (1827-1900), the father of British archaeology. The heavy weight and high calibre silver of this stater both suggest that it contains a small amount of gold, cf. metal analyses of comparable Cranborne Chase staters from the Corfe Common hoard, Dorset, 1980, in the British Museum, BMC 2527-2537 (Richard Hobbs, *British Iron Age coins in the British Museum*, 1996, p.153). In 1999 we bought 50 silver staters from the finder of the Blandford Forum hoard.



25. Duro Boat Bird. DQS Geometric class 4, die-group 7, dies O13/R38. c.50-30 BC. Silver quarter stater. 13mm. 0.89g. Stylised 'three men in a boat' motif./ Central thunderbolt, Y-shape to left, uncertain object (stylised bird?) and ellipse to right. ABC 2208, VA 1242, BMC 2734-47, S 368. CCI 23.1415 (**this coin**). *Good VF, toned silver, great boat. Ex Anthony Bate collection. Found north of Bournemouth, Dorset. SCARCE Est. £350 £280*

The Y-shapes may have been taken from the crescentic hairbar on Durotrigan staters. See Lot 23. The ellipse at the bottom right was originally a ringed-pellet. Published in Dr David Robinson's recently published book *Durotrigan Quarter Staters*, p.162 (**this coin**). The book contains die identifications, rarities and findspots (where known) of this large series, plus maps and tables.

Coins of the TRINOVANTES of Essex



26. Clacton Curved Exergue. Sills British G1, class 2a. c.60-50 BC. Gold stater. 18-20mm. 6.27g. Wreath motif with upward-pointing leaves./ Long-legged short-bodied horse galloping right, charioteer's arms above, 'coffee-bean' in front, large pellet below, zigzag curved exergual decoration. ABC-, VA-, BMC 168, 172, DK 405, S-. *VF, heavyweight, big flan of pale gold, well centred horse.* Ex Joseph Fay collection. Found near Chelmsford, Essex, May 2024. **SCARCE** Est. £1200 ~~£1000~~
Not in ABC, Van Arsdell or Spink.

Coins of the CATUVELLAUNI of Hertfordshire

Extremely Fine – clear hidden faces



27. Tasciovanos Warrior. High Tail Type. Sills class 5a, Carnyx, High Tail. Kretz Obv. Type B/C1. Rev. Type II, Var C variant. c.25 BC-AD10. Gold stater. 18mm. 5.39g. Crossed-wreath motif with two opposed crescents and four ringed-pellets at centre forming hidden faces./ Warrior on horse right, high tail, pellet under chin, [T]ASC around, ringed-pellet below exergual line. ABC 2565, VA 1732-5, BMC 1613, DK 506, S 217. *EF, stunning rose gold, bold horse of fine natural style.* Ex Winchester collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2000). Found Bourne End, Herts. **RARE** Est. £1200 ~~£1000~~

Unlike other issues of the High Tail Type (DK 502-505) which “shows the horse with a low, downward-sloping body and extended forelegs that make it look as if it had pulled up suddenly,” says John Sills, this horse (DK 506) “has a higher, level body with more angled forelegs.” A superb example of the ever popular Tasciovanos Warrior stater, clearly showing the cleverly concealed hidden faces on the obverse. How many can you spot?



28. Tasciovanos Quatrefoil. Sills class 1. Kretz Type A. c.25BC-AD10. Gold quarter stater. 11mm. 1.37g. Cruciform motif of four ridged leaves, ringed-pellet on tips, teardrops in angles, back-to-back crescents at centre./ Horse right, trefoil motif above, uncertain object below (serpent?), ring and pellets around. ABC 2583, VA-, BMC 1638-39, DK 518, S 220. *Good VF, rose gold, crisp quatrefoil, well centred horse, terrific trefoil.* **RARE** Est. £1000 ~~£800~~

Inspired by the Addedomaros Floral gold quarter stater (ABC 2529), this exquisite Tasciovanos Quatrefoil gold quarter was obviously intended to accompany the Tasciovanos Taxciav (ABC 2550) and Tasciovanos Hidden Faces (ABC 2553) gold staters. The trefoil motif above the horse is a modified version of the three horse muzzles on the Addedomaros Spiral stater (ABC 2517). It comprises a single horse muzzle mounted by three elliptical leaves.

Extremely Fine - one of the best condition



29. Tasciovanos Sea Horse. c.25BC-AD10. Bronze unit. 15mm. 2.42g. Head right with S-shape strands of hair, moustache and flowing beard, VERL in front./ Fish-tailed sea horse left, two trefoils and ringed pellet above, beaded daisy in front, TAS below. ABC 2661, VA 1709, BMC 1722-23, S 244. *EF, neat flan, even dark green patina, imposing head, entire sea horse. One of the best condition bronze coins we've seen for a while. Found near Upper Dean, Beds., 1997.*

VERY RARE only 17 others recorded.

Est. £750 £600

The head may be that of a Celtic water-god, like the one seen on the temple pediment at Temple Sulis Minerva at Bath. Note the wings in his hair, like you see on Whaddon Chase staters, ABC 2433-39.



Pagan god?

Ex Berkhamsted hoard, 1993-94

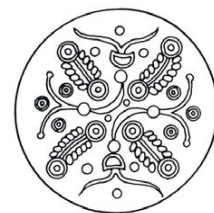


30. Andoco Phallic Bucranium. Sills class 1, dies 1/1. c.20-1 BC. Gold stater. 15-18mm. 5.44g. Crossed wreath motif with back-to-back crescents and four ringed-pellets in centre concealing stylised hidden faces./ Full-bodied horse galloping right, with pin-cushion mane, phallic bucranium and anemone above, O in front, top of AND below. ABC 2715, VA 1860, BMC 2012-14, DK 513, S 262. CCI 94.0731 (**this coin**). *Good VF, large flan of rose gold, beautiful bucranium and anemone. Ex Martin Bridgewater collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2004). Ex Berkhamsted hoard, near Watford, Herts., 1993. EXTREMELY RARE this pair of dies, only 13 others recorded.*

Est. £3500 £2800

Addeddomaros, 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 [Tasciovanos Warrior ABC 2562, DK 509-10]." *DK*, p.559.

Over 20 years ago Rainer Kretz produced this illuminating die reconstruction of Andoco's stater which we reproduce here so that you can see for yourself just how many stylised faces are cleverly concealed in the complex wreath motif, copied from a Tasciovanos stater (see Lot 27). (The Problem of Andoco., *Num. Circ.*, October 2002, p.267-271). Dr John Sills says there is "a flower springing from the face" of the horse (*DK*, p.559). Is this 'flower' related to the two grainlike pellets in front of the horse and the irregular line under AND? If so, it is one long vegetal motif? Or is it a serpent or dragon being trampled by the horse's hooves? Is it the same motif seen on Tasciovanos Quatrefoil quarter stater, ABC 2583, see Lot 29. Published in *Divided Kingdoms*, p.580 and 605 (**this coin**), *Coin Hoards in Iron Age Britain*, p.211, no..99 (**this coin**).



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Coins of the CATUVELLAUNI & TRINOVANTES united

Unique die pair



31. Cunobelinus Wild A. Rounded Leg. Sills class 3b, dies 32/57. c.AD 8-41. Gold stater. 15-18mm. 5.50g. Ear of barley without central stalk, CA to left, MV to right./ Wild-type stallion prancing right, short spiky mane, spiky branch above, CVN[O] below on exergual line. ABC 2777, VA 1931-5, BMC 1798-1803, DK 554-55, S 285. CCI 99.1829 (**this coin**). *Good VF/EF, rose gold, bold horse with sharp spiky mane and branch. Ex Winchester collection, bt. CNG 24 September 2003, lot 1609. **UNIQUE die pair.** Est. £1500 £1200*

The key elements of class 3b staters are the rounded leg on the reverse combined with a plain rather than decorated stalk base on the obverse. Obverse 32 is the only one of the group with five rather than six grain pairs. Published in *Divided Kingdoms*, p.676 (**this coin**).



32. Cunobelinus Hunting Dog. No Reverse Legend. c.AD10-41. Silver unit. 11-13mm. 1.39g. CVN in rectangular box, beaded border./ Long-eared dog left, S-shaped tail raised, pellet in beaded ring above. ABC 2846 var., VA 1949 var., BMC 1861, S 301. CCI 02.0480 (**this coin**). *Good VF, lightly toned silver, sharp CVN, beautiful hunting dog deeply engraved and clearly showing claws on back feet. Ex The Royal Berkshire collection, bt. Chris Rudd (2002). Found near Maidstone, Kent, c.mid-August 1999. **VERY RARE** with no reverse legend, only 19 others known. Est. £600 £480*

Evans, Mack and Van Arsdell say the obverse legend is CVNO, whereas CVN is the correct reading. Mack, Van Arsdell, Mossop and the British Museum all describe the animal as a horse. This is no horse – look at the shape of the body, the pointed ears, the wide-open mouth, the claws on its feet and above all its about-to-pounce posture. This is a Celtic hunting dog, the mascot of Cunobelin whose very name means ‘Hound of Belenus’. In his article *Cunobelin’s Silver* (*Chris Rudd List* 63), Philip de Jersey lists this variant with no reverse legend as type C1ii. All articles from the Chris Rudd catalogues have recently been published in *Celtic Coin Articles from the Chris Rudd Catalogues* priced at £85 + p&cp.

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Fabulous bronze, 30 year provenance



33. Cunobelinus Cunobelini. c.AD10-41. Bronze unit. 15mm. 2.42g. CVNOBE LINI in two panels, pellet in ring above and below, beaded border./ Seated Victory left, holding wreath (ringed-pellet), beaded border. ABC 2918, VA 1971, BMC 1921-17, S 324. CCI 06.0071 (**this coin**). Nr EF, dark green patina, lovely inscription. Ex *The Royal Berkshire collection*, bt. Chris Rudd (2012), ex *Chris Hamlyn collection*, bt. Chris Rudd (2006), ex *Brian Bettison collection*, bt. Chris Rudd (1995). **Est. £600 £480**

It's always nice when old friends return to visit us. We originally purchased this lovely Cunobelinus Cunobelini bronze unit from Spink (*Numismatic Circular*, April 1995, No.1652). Thirty years later this bronze is still one of the finest we've seen of its type, which is why we bought it in the first place.



How many hidden faces can you see? See Lot 27.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Catalogue subscription for six copies of Chris Rudd auction catalogues plus six *Liz's List* fixed-price catalogues: £40 a year UK, £45 Europe, £50 Rest of World.


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* 2025 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.

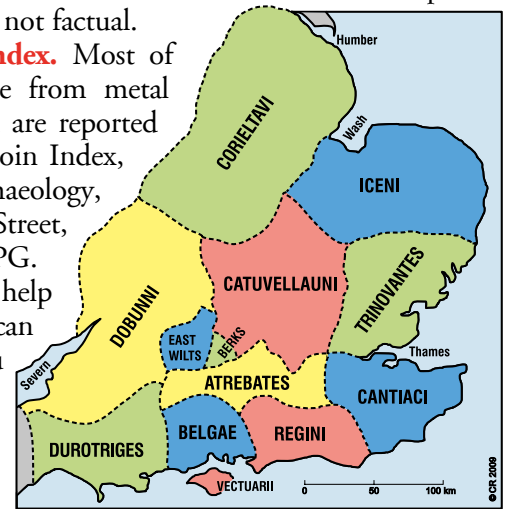
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