

Roman coins, by Murray Andrews

Ten Roman coins were found during the excavations and are described in the catalogue to be found in the online supplement (see *Endnote*).

Three coins from the site are ‘single finds’ deposited individually at different dates, probably as a result of accidental loss, and consist exclusively of low-value denominations struck in copper alloy. All these coins are residual in post-Roman contexts. The earliest, a heavily worn *as* of the mid-1st to mid-3rd centuries (SF 48), is unstratified; the other two both derive from medieval ditch fills, and comprise an indeterminate *antoninianus* dated to AD 260–96 (SF 39) and a contemporary copy of a *nummus* of the House of Constantine dated to AD 346–50 (SF 20). These coins are all typical examples of petty coinage known to have circulated extensively in southern Britain during the Roman period, and have numerous parallels in the large coin assemblages from London Bridge (Rhodes 1991, 185–7) and Tabard Square (Gerrard 2015, 140–1).

Seven late Roman copper-alloy *nummi* found in the horticultural soil [721] constitute a small hoard closing in AD 367–78 and were presumably deposited at this date or shortly thereafter. These coins were too corroded to be identified to the issue level, although all could be broadly dated on the basis of reverse types. The earliest coins in this hoard were struck in the period AD 330–41 under the House of Constantine, and belong to the common *Gloria Exercitus* series, the reverses of which depict two soldiers variously flanking one (SF 38) or two (SF 30) military standard(s). Later Constantinian issues are represented by a single *nummus* of the *Fel Temp Reparatio* falling horseman series, struck for Constantius II in AD 353–60 (SF 25). The four remaining coins, however, are all issues of the House of Valentinian dating to the period AD 364–78: three are of the *Gloria Romanorum* series (SFs 26–27, 31) and depict an Emperor carrying the labarum and dragging a captive slave, while the fourth (SF 34) is of the *Securitas Reipublicae* series, and depicts a winged Victory advancing with a wreath and palm. The near-equal ratio of Constantinian to Valentinianic *nummi* is unusual for a hoard buried in the late AD 360s or 370s (Bland 2018, 107), but may reflect random variation within a small sample; in any case, the date span of the coins parallels certain other Valentinianic bronze hoards from Britain, such as the finds from Amersham, Buckinghamshire (*c.* 1500 coins, dating from AD 330–78; Bland 1997), Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (1550 coins, dating from AD 260–378; Chameroy 1999) and Newton Abbot, Devon (243 coins, dating from AD 330–78; Moorhead 2008).

The Science Gallery find is the first Valentinianic bronze hoard to have been discovered in London and Southwark, and indeed only two other contemporary hoards – a find of two gold *solidi* from Croydon (Bland 2018, 283, no 2643) and another of nine *nummi* from Hammersmith Broadway (PAS LON-B759E6) – are known from Greater London as a whole. These finds are outliers to the core distribution of Valentinianic hoards in Britain, which are otherwise disproportionately frequent in the West Country and noticeably scarce in London and the South East (Bland 2018, 386); moreover, the two London bronze hoards are significantly smaller than their West Country counterparts, several of which contain upwards of 300 coins (Moorhead 2001, 92–3). This pattern of provincial variation is mirrored in the single find evidence. Valentinianic coins accounted for just 5.75% of single finds from Plantation Place (Bowsher 2015), 5.88% from the Vintry (Kelleher & Leins 2008, 170), 6.16% from Parnell Road and Appian Road, Old Ford (Sheldon 1972) and 8.85% from Tabard Square (Gerrard 2015, 141), and are therefore distinctly underrepresented in London, Southwark, and their hinterlands when compared with the British mean of 11.8% (Reece 1995, 183). Conversely, single finds from Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire are often considerably overrepresented in the Valentinianic period when compared with the British mean (Moorhead 2001, 92). As a small and scarce find of the AD 360s or 370s from Southwark, the Science Gallery hoard therefore fits within a growing body of evidence for a shift in the pattern of provincial coin supply in the Valentinianic period away from London and the South East and towards western Britain, a phenomenon that correlates with broader

shifts in the administrative and economic geography of 4th century Britain (Moorhead 2001, 94–5). However, its presence at the site nonetheless provides corroboratory evidence of a persistent demand for low-value currency in Southwark, if only on a diminished scale, at a period of stereotyped 'urban decline' (Gerrard 2011).

The coin catalogue can be found in the online supplement (see *Endnote*).

The post-Roman pottery, by Berni Sudds (tables 4 and 5: see *Endnote*)

A medium-sized assemblage of post-Roman pottery was recovered from the site, amounting to 1452 sherds, representing some 779 vessels and weighing 44,555g. The pottery dates from the 11th through to the 19th century, although the earliest securely stratified post-Roman assemblages date from the late 13th to mid-14th century. Indeed, the assemblage is reflective of small-scale early and high medieval activity, with more intensive activity suggested from the late 14th century onwards, with late medieval pottery accounting for 20% of the assemblage by sherd count and early post-medieval pottery comprising 77% (table 4). In this respect, the current assemblage is closer to those to the north, west and south at London Bridge Station, Guy's Hospital, Hunt's House and Newcomen Street, than to further east at the Wolfson Wing site and 127–143 Borough High Street, where more significant earlier assemblages were identified, no doubt given their closer proximity to the ribbon development along the High Street (Dawson 1979; Taylor-Wilson 2002; Jarrett 2002; 2014; 2016c; 2017).

More detailed reports on the pottery recovered from each phase of investigation form part of the archive, but a summary of the assemblage by period is presented below, with a focus on a few key groups of interest (Jarrett 2016a; 2016b; Sudds 2018). The majority is in good condition, with little evidence for abrasion and was probably deposited fairly rapidly after breakage. The composition of the pottery is in keeping with the ceramic profile for the London area and more pertinently for Southwark and the immediate locality (see table 5; Jarrett 2002; 2016c; 2017; 2020; Sudds & Jarrett 2009; Seddon 2017).

MEDIEVAL (PERIODS 4 AND 5)

A total of 237 sherds were recovered from deposits attributed to Periods 4 and 5, representing some 177 vessels and weighing over 5kg. This material accounts for 16% of the site total (by sherd count). The presence of a small quantity of early medieval pottery attests to low-level background activity in the earlier medieval period. This is comprised of nine sherds of coarse London-type ware, most of which are residual in later deposits.

The remaining Period 4 pottery was recovered from a recut of the channel (ditch [761]). The earliest well-dated assemblages from the lower fills of this feature date from the late 13th to mid-14th centuries, although pottery of this date was still fairly minimal, suggesting the site is likely to have been peripheral to occupation during this period. These groups include London-type ware, Earlswood-type ware, Harlow sandy ware, Mill Green ware and Coarse Surrey-Hampshire Border ware, the latter group including a highly decorated jug. The later fills of the ditch and of features cut into it also produced some earlier pottery, including London-type ware, Mill Green ware and Kingston-type ware, but are dominated by Coarse Surrey-Hampshire Border ware and Cheam whiteware, with smaller amounts of Late London-type ware, Tudor Green ware and Dutch and Rhenish imports. Pottery of this date occurs in greater quantity, attesting to more intense exploitation in the immediate vicinity, with material probably being disposed of from nearby settlement.

In general, the assemblages from the ditch produced a fairly limited range of forms, being restricted to jugs and jars or cooking pots typical of the period, but nearly two-thirds of the pottery was retrieved from three consecutive fills ([577]; [620]; [819]), among which are a higher portion of drinking-related forms. The earliest fill produced a small group of Coarse Surrey-Hampshire Border ware, but included a large rounded jug dating from

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Coin catalogue

CONTEXT [0]: UNSTRATIFIED; POT DATE N/A

SF 48: Copper-alloy Roman *as*, AD 43–260; obverse: illegible, indeterminate; reverse: illegible, indeterminate; die axis uncertain; weight 8.9g; heavy wear; heavy corrosion.

CONTEXT [721]: PERIOD 3.2, SILTY CLAY LAYER, POSSIBLE HORTICULTURAL SOIL; POT DATE AD 350–400

SF 25: Copper-alloy *nummus* of Constantius II, AD 353–360; as LRBC II 455–459; obverse: [DN CONS]TA[N TIVS PF AVG], pearl-diademed and draped bust right; reverse: [FEL TEMP REPARATIO], soldier spearing falling horseman; indeterminate mintmark; die axis 180°; weight 1.9g; moderate wear; moderate corrosion.

SF 26: Copper-alloy *nummus* of the House of Valentinian, AD 364–378; as LRBC II 479–541; obverse: illegible, pearl-diademed and draped bust right; reverse: GLORIA R[OMANORVM], Emperor advancing right holding labarum and captive slave; mintmark OF/II/[...]; die axis 180°; weight 1.7g; moderate wear; moderate corrosion.

SF 27: Copper-alloy *nummus* of the House of Valentinian, AD 364–378; as LRBC II 479–541; obverse: illegible, pearl-diademed and draped bust right; reverse: [GLORIA RO]MAN[ORVM], Emperor advancing right holding labarum and captive slave; indeterminate mintmark; die axis 0°; weight 1.2g; moderate wear; moderate corrosion.

SF 30: Copper-alloy *nummus* of the House of Constantine, AD 330–335; as LRBC I 48–50; obverse: illegible, bust right; reverse: [GLOR IA EXERC ITVS], two soldiers holding two

standards; indeterminate mintmark; die axis 180°; weight 1.2g; moderate wear; heavy corrosion.

SF 31: Copper-alloy *nummus* of the House of Valentinian, AD 367–378; as LRBC II 525–531; obverse: illegible, pearl-diademed and draped bust right; reverse: [GLORIA ROMANORVM], Emperor advancing right holding labarum and captive slave; mintmark TCON; mint of Arles; die axis 180°; weight 1.4g; moderate wear; moderate corrosion.

SF 34: Copper-alloy *nummus* of the House of Valentinian, AD 364–378; as LRBC II 276–368; obverse: illegible, pearl-diademed and draped bust right; reverse: [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE], Victory advancing left holding wreath and palm; indeterminate mintmark; die axis 0°; weight 1.1g; moderate wear; moderate corrosion.

SF 38: Contemporary copy of a copper-alloy *nummus* of the House of Constantine, AD 335–341; copy as LRBC I 87–253; obverse: illegible, indeterminate; reverse: [GLORIA EXERCITVS], Two soldiers holding one standard; die axis uncertain; weight 0.4g; heavy wear; moderate corrosion.

CONTEXT [741]: PERIOD 4, FILL OF DITCH [761]; POT DATE 1350–1500

SF 20: Contemporary copy of a copper-alloy *nummus* of the House of Constantine, AD 346–350; copy as LRBC II 30–30a; obverse: illegible, pearl-diademed and draped bust right; reverse: [FEL TEMP REPARATIO], Virtus holding spear and leading barbarian to right from hut beneath tree; die axis 330°; weight 0.9g; heavy wear; heavy corrosion.

CONTEXT [854]: PERIOD 4, FILL OF DITCH [854]; POT DATE 1270–1350

SF 39: Copper-alloy *antoninianus* of an indeterminate Roman issuer, AD 260–296; obverse: illegible, indeterminate; reverse: illegible, indeterminate; die axis uncertain; weight 1.0g; uncertain wear; heavy corrosion.

The post-Roman pottery, by Berni Sudds

Table 4 The assemblage by pot period. SC = Sherd count. ENV = Estimated number of vessels. Weight in grams. P = present.

Period	SC	%	ENV	%	Weight	%
Early medieval	9	1	7	1	181	P
High medieval	33	2	25	3	768	2
Late medieval	292	20	210	27	6155	14
Post-medieval	1118	77	537	69	37451	84

Table 5 Quantification of the assemblage by ware type. SC = Sherd count. ENV = Estimated number of vessels. Weight in grams.

Fabric	Expansion	Date range	SC	ENV	Weight
LCOAR	Coarse London-type ware	1080–1200	9	7	181
LOND	London-type ware	1080–1350	18	10	466
LIMP	Limpsfield-type ware	1150–1300	2	2	82
LOND ROU	London-type ware with Rouen-style decoration	1180–1270	1	1	6
EARL	Earlwood-type ware	1200–1400	2	2	12
HARM	Harlow sandy ware	1200–1500	1	1	33