Numismatic Oddities in Ipswich: Part Eleven - Dr. W.R. Vezin 20-4-2025



1) Elizabeth I sixpence, sixth issue 1590 bust 6C, S.2578B, 2.69g, 26.5mm, with mintmark hand (1590-2) but this overmarked with a crescent. It is not rare for a later mintmark to overstrike an earlier one in this series, but here the earlier overstrikes the later. An odd crescent – did the die engraver jump the gun on the new issue? Now in the Cross & Cross Collection – from eBay £129.27.



2) Charles I shilling, 1639-40, Tower Mint under the King. S.2797, mintmark triangle, 27.5mm, 5.87g (1) lot 354. Reverse CHRISSTO. £123.40 total, vs. estimate £100 - £120.



3) A grotesque possibly contemporary imitation of an Oxford/Shrewsbury half pound, Charles I, S.2945, +/- 47mm. No weight or SEM assay recorded. (2) lot 406. It makes no sense as either a monetary or numismatic forgery. The vendor stated this as having been bought as a "paymaster's coin" speculated as a possible means of tracing the destination of proceeds of bank thefts or frauds. Attracting bids, sold £135.74 total vs. estimated £80 - £100.



4) Mis-struck Anne fourth bust 1711 shilling, 25mm, 5.56g, S.3618. (3) lot 842. Estimated £80 - £100, sold £333.18 total. Note – lot 843 was a multiple of 22 world error coins selling at £43.19 total. This included an 1841 similarly double-struck shilling somehow missed by all but one.



5) An overcleaned apparently barbarous but approximately correct weight imitation of the scarce Julia Domna (under Caracalla) JULIA PIA FELIX AUG + FELICITAS with caduceus & cornucopiae, Rome mint denarius. 18.5mm, 2.79g. RIC IV, 272, 375 (4). The style of the lettering suggests a Black Sea coastal origin. The coin is larger than the usual official 'LIMES' or borderland token types, e.g. 5b (5) 17mm, 2.38g. Private purchase £32.



6) Two genuine Roman provincial bronzes with counterfeit countermarks: A) Augustus (time of), Colonia Emerita (Merida, Badajoz) As, 10.44g, 25mm. PERMISSU CAESARIS AUGUST / AUGUSTA EMERITA, facing head of Silen/Priest (6) with countermark supposedly a rare military eagle (facing left 10 o'clock – more like an unlikely insectivorous bird); reverse ploughing left. (7) lot 573, and B) Tiberius, 14-37 AD (this c.19-21) Dupondius of Commagene, 27-8mm, rare+, 14.41g. RIC I p.100, and RPC I 3869. The double cornucopiae reverse countermarked with a supposed bust facing right 1 o'clock. (8) lot 163. This vandalism appears to be from the same source, several of the former appearing recently. £49.36, and £100 totals.



7) Jammu – Kashmir late 5c. debased staters. A) 7.63g; B) 6.32g. (2) lots 558 and 559 respectively, the latter being the lightest and most degraded, of an unknown ruler. The obverses a formalised standing, facing king; reverses semi-realistic (?!) portrayal of seated Ardoksho. Cf Mitchiner 3661 but even more degraded. Both estimated £75 - £85; sold £197.44 and £246.80.



8) Colophon; early posthumous Alexander III drachm 310-301 BC, 18.5mm, 4.18g. Reverse Zeus seated left, with control marks: lion's head left above crescent, in left field. The only two specimens in Price (9) have crescent above with the ubiquitous Pi control mark below the throne – absent here, '1812c'.





9) A later imitation of an unpublished Tongzhi period (1861-1875) Yunnan style silver slab ingot, 86.05g (2½ tael) 42x39mm. Digitally drawing over characters and running through AI by C.J. Elmy read out Tongzhi nian fen li shi housheng: Tongzhi period prosperity and health. To be exact: Tongzhi Period sharing out market wealth/prosperity to enrich the wellbeing of people in general (translation the writer plus Lin Yutang, Matthews and McNaughton & Li Ying). Estimated essay by XRF gave percentages by weight Ag 2, Ni 18, Zn 22, Cu 54, Mn 1.4 i.e. a variety of 'German Silver'. Rejected.



10) Sumatra, Palembang Sultanate, anonymous uniface tin pitji, 13mm, 0.40g. One of 78 coins including twelve from Sumatra in a single lot 920 (2). Obverse somewhat blundered 'The Sultan of the Realm of Palembang' plus date 0113 – evidently 1130h = AD 1717 – i.e. of Mohammed Mansyur Jao Ing Lago (1706-1718). Not in Mitchiner, Millies (10) or online, so unique so far. £271.48 total for complete lot, vs. estimate £80 to £120.

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- 9. Price, M.J., 1978: The Coinage in the name of Alexander the Great & Philip Arrhidaeus, Nos. 1812a & b, Zurich/London.
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