

NUMISMATIC ODDITIES IN IPSWICH II

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High resolution photographs of the following, except 011, by Messrs. Elmy & Sinclair, as well as all specimens offered for sale whether illustrated or not, multiple or single lots – obverse and reverse, are available in Lockdales' archive online.



01. Henry VI Groat, London (1) lot 2193; obverse leaf/pellet issue 1445 – 54 (Spink 1917 var.) reverse 'unmarked' unmarked, i.e. no stops, no marks and no small pellets among the large pellet triplets in the quartered central boss (c.f. Spink 1931 – 2 but unlisted). Not in Buck (2) Spink or North (3) and assumed very rare; the weight not noted c. 3.8g. 27 – 8mm.



02. Edward III Noble, London, fourth coinage: a strange mule, Obv. series B Schneider 1, 11 (4) EDWAD, same die: Rev. series B/A, Schneider (ibid) 9, (5), a probably unique reverse die with three peculiarities: no single saltires each side of each terminal lis: a small crown below and to the right of the second quarter large crown, and an open, rather than closed, central E. Metrology was not available, but it appears full flan and weight, more or less as struck, but crumpled.



03. "Cappadocia; Ariarathes III c. 250 – 220 B.C. Tetradrachm" 33mm c. 17g.; a wild surmise, fantasy or forgery of the single authentic specimen (in the Bibliotheque Nationale), Simonetta (6). Fabricated early 19c. by one who felt unequal to the obverse art of the original, though the reverse is feasible. Advertised as such, it failed to sell at £30: (7) lot 2108.



04. Tarentum: Diobol? 10-11mm., 0.72g. Obv. Athena left (scarce), Rev. Heracles and Lion. Weights were controlled at 0.9 – 1.1g but 'fliers' of about 0.7g exist; (8), Ravel 1407 (Athena right) c.f. ibid. 1413 – 4 (left) and may represent accidental strikes on old litra blanks or old forgeries. Note mark (test?) on the upper edge, 9 o'clock obverse. (9) lot 1346, sold for £57.



05. Trajanopolis, Thrace: AE 21mm., 6.1g. 2 – unit denomination: Obv. Caracalla radiate, right; Rev. Zeus seated left, is new and unpublished, (7) lot 2136, (10)(11). This is verified by the obverse die having been used with six other different distinct reverse types; Asklepios, Hera, Nemesis, Three Graces, Hygieia, and Artemis. There were no mules in the Roman Provinces. A single reverse die could also be associated with several obverses. A unique coin from a very small mint output for £57.



06. Marcianopolis, Moesia Inferior: AE 27mm., 12.9g. Obv. Gordian III & Sarapis, (7) lot 2283/2. The reverse depicting the Peaceable Athena holding a small bird was previously only known of this mint, with different dies, with Caracalla & Domna, Macrinus & Diadumenian, Elagabalus & Maesa, and Gordian III & Tranquillina, (12). This particular obverse die is known with reverses Asklepios, and tetrastyle temple/Tyche.



07. “Marcianopolis, AE 27mm, 5 Assaria” a most unlikely and unprecedented obverse of Elagabalus & Maesa with a Soemias portrait, with reverse Hygieia & Snake all of very crude unknown style. Note indistinct reverse epigraphy and ersatz enamel toning. Nearly always a newly discovered type or die is verified by counter-die linkage, absent here. This (1) lot 2162 failed to sell at £40. A group of 127 provincial coins, all genuine consigned (7) yields five new dies in addition to those described above (three Marcianopolis and one each of Serdica and Anchialus).



08. Flavius Victor: AE 15mm, 2.14g. Double Centenionalis, nominally Sear 20674 and RIC IX 69 No. 29b (13). The fabric and poor lettering suggests an attempt to invent a non-existent large module Spes Romanorum and Camp Gate type (ibid. 69, No. 28). It is still 30% too heavy – bought by the Author for £57 (!?). Lot 1414 (9).



09. Vitellius: Aureus, (7) lot 1495. Sear 2236, Rev. Lucius Vitellius seated left. A curious but genuine piece, covered with test marks on surfaces and edge, probably by suspicious bankers. An obverse die inscription error appears to have led to about a seventy degree arc centered at about 12 o'clock being ground or reamed out to the depth of the lettering, and the correction cut in on the lowered level, resulting in GERM IMP appearing on a raised platform subsequently disproportionately worn. Sold for £956.



10. Nigrinian: A probably unique, in fine style, barbarous imitation 15 – 17mm, 2.6g vs 20mm., 3.8g for the prototype, of the rare Divus Nigrinianus, Consecratio, eagle head left, (this coin right) radiate, lot 1408 (7) (14). Sold for £203 – a record for a contemporary imitation, it was much less than the deceased estate paid as an original.



11. A group of five Junagadh State Mughal India, Bahadur Khan / Mohammad Akbar II 'gold' Kori pieces c. 14mm., 4.6g. – actually gold plated silvers or imitations (15) (16) based on an estimated 50% gold content derived via a hand-held Niton XRF device. A specific gravity gave a density of 10.6 +/- 0.1, not 13.6 implying about two percent Au, or a surface layer of about 10 – 15 micrometres, probably approaching the maximum penetration of the primary X-rays. It may be that therefore about thirty percent of the secondary quanta detected would have come from the plating, exaggerating the Au/Ag ratio by a factor of twenty or so.

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