



01) Silandos, Lydia. Commodus, about 177-180 AD. AE 30mm. 16.4g (1).

Obv. (AVTOK) AIA AVPH (KOM) - OΔOC below.

Rev. (ΕΠΙΣΤΡΑΤΑΤ) IA (NOV)

-CΙΑ (ΝΔΕ) - ΩΝ below.

Helios, non-radiate(?) in quadriga, r.

This reverse unknown and not in the recent Kurth résumé, derived from many sources (2).

The obverse die is recorded (3,4) with a well-known single reverse die depicting either a Maenad or Dionysos (?) (sic) mounted on a panther respectively. Unique so far, so with no choice of grades – about fair - £25.



02) Valens. Consigned from the Spencer Hughes Collection: AE 23-4mm. weight unrecorded AE2, advertised as a Romano-British copy of an AE1, old Sear 4114 var. (5). The obverse has D. N. VALENS ----- PER. F. AUG, the reverse showing standing emperor with labarum and Victory, has RESTITUTOR ----- REPUBLICAE. Both inscriptions are found only on early gold solidi of Antioch, the crossed rho in the left field only on AE4. Previously unsold in sale 121, lot 1226 at estimated £90-£110. Compare carefully the portrait style and fabric with online AE1-4's etc. £99.60 total vs. estimate £85-£95.



03) From a collection of 35 Carausius rarities: two AE radiates both with obverses IMP CARAVSIVS AV (6) lots 1611 & 1614:

A) 21mm 3.15g. Reverse Britannia & Carausius clasping hands, EXPECTATE VE, this abbreviation unlisted, with RSR in exergue. £243 total.

B) 20-23mm. 3.28g. Reverse Centaur, left citing Legio IIII, MSC in exergue, unknown with this reverse which as C.J. Elmy notes via the Ken Elks website shows the wrong insignia for Legio IIII, also unlisted. It may be that early coin production by private licensed individuals regarded now as counterfeits, but appearing worn in hoards, thus appear to have been negotiable. Also £243 total.



- 04) Denarius, Roman Republic AR 18mm 3.69g. (7) lot 722, showing signs of removal of ancient deposit. Anonymous issue 86 BC., RSC 1 p8, 226. Sear 266. An apparent State forgery or debasement of probably the largest and most common (and least expensive) Republican silver issue, also possibly the strangest. Nominally associated with the much smaller issues of Gargonius, Ogulnius & Vergilius (Sear 263-5) why the anonymity plus obsolete concept? Transverse fissures on the edge indicate work hardening and loss of malleability of alloying. Such incidences of official debasements appear most frequently around this time. The writer told the vendor this during the sale, but still bought it. £182.40 total.



- 05) Elagabalus: Denarius 17.5-18.5mm. AR 3.31g (6) lot 1695. An apparently plated state counterfeit cross reign mule. Obverse RIC p.28 portrait and inscription 3, with reverse Macrinus RSC 47-47A, Annona. Uncatalogued and unique so far with almost complete silvering, but showing external signs of ancient core oxidation. Unsold at £40.



- 06) Is there evidence of locally produced East Anglian imitative tremisses? 'Merovingian gold tremissis c.500-675 AD' 12mm 1.3g (7) lot 1597, found Barham 2014. Unknown in catalogues it has since been assigned EMC 2014 0144, the Fitzwilliam declaring it an unknown Merovingian piece. The style and lettering do not appear Merovingian however; the inscription's interactions with the reverse pelleted inner circle suggest casting. Unsold at £1000.



- 07) A Swaffham tremissis: 12mm. 1.3g (8). Obverse crude diademed head r. ASNACOVIT (?), reverse contorted anchor cross POLEVPONC (?), brought in person by a detectorist enquirer. It appeared an oddly contemporary and genuine local Merovingian imitation. Several attempts to secure better illustrations proved unsuccessful – unique but not consigned.



- 08) Charles I; a curious Oxford half pound, 1643 mm plume. Spink 2945A, 56.82g. vs. nominal 60.2 (9) – also previously (10) unexplained. Seemingly a weak strike on an original flan with reconditioned die, as occasionally occurred, rather than double struck as catalogued, the fields lowered and flattened, retoned and crudely re-engraved probably in the 19c. Unique. £325 total (£285 in 2015). Unillustrated in sales catalogues.



- 09) George III halfpenny 1775, 28mm. (9) lot 1745. An extraordinary contemporary concoction double struck as is often the case when off-centre, with unrealistic portrait. It is remarkable that the market for these specimens is sufficiently developed as to permit accurate pre-sale estimates. Unique £255 total, vs. £200-£220.



- 10) Philip II 359-336 BC Pella, Macedon AV 7-7.5mm. 1.08g 1/8th stater weight, 19c fantasy piece. Obverse head of Apollo r, reverse thunderbolt with club below. Submitted via advice to contact Lockdales for authentication from Dr. N.P. George FRNS, Lord of Olney (consultant for B&G Coins) who did not handle the piece and could only probably tentatively identify it from an Email photo quoting (11), plus SNG ANS 209-215 and SNG Copenhagen 542. These are all genuine 1/12 units c. 0.7g with reverse thunderbolt & lion's head facing below, exhibiting extremely fine work only possible with the use of about X10 magnifiers – of which more later. 1/8 staters show Heracles/Trident. The specimen offered totally lacks detail and style. Rejected.



- 11) Almoravids of Spain and North Africa: AV dinar 26mm. 4.00g. 499H (6) lot 1515. 'Possibly a Christian imitation' as described by the writer – as with similar coins occasionally appearing – citing Yusuf bin Tashufin 480-500 and his heir Emir Ali (bin Yusuf). Described as Almeria mint blundered, but as occasionally catalogued as above with these coins, being difficult to differentiate from originals, this being double pierced for jewellery as is often the case. Reverse with four line field with two letters below Dal/Zal + Kaf (?), uncatalogued, ditto margin translates reading from the inside anticlockwise from 7 o'clock "Year nine and ninety and (four hundred blundered) in the name of God was struck this the Dinar" followed by three ambiguous letters plus terminal ornament that reminds one of the last syllable of "Qurtubah" – a mint neither producing coins in 499 nor ever citing heir Ali. Not in the Hazard corpus (12). Unique so far; £608 total vs estimated £140-£160.

References

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