Numismatic Series No. 4

GOLD COINS IN THE LINCOLNSHIRE MUSEUMS

The collections of the museums which now form the Lincolnshire Museums Service contain a surprising number and variety of gold coins. Almost all of the more important types of coins used in Britain over the past two thousand years are included in the collection from the earliest issues of the Celtic tribe of Lincolnshire to the sovereigns of the present century.

ORIGIN OF THE COLLECTIONS
These collections have all been formed from gifts made by generous private benefactors. Lincolnshire has been particularly fortunate in this respect and almost all of the coins in this catalogue have been given to the Museums during the past seventy years.

Although derived from so many different sources the combined collection contains an almost continuous series of coins with very little duplication. The result is that at the Usher Gallery in Lincoln, the Lincolnshire Museums Service has on display to the public, one of the best collections of gold coins available in any provincial museum in the British Isles.

THE COLLECTIONS
City and County Museum, Lincoln
The collection of fifty seven gold coins includes a number of specimens from hoards and chance finds from Lincolnshire as well as unprovenanced collectors coins.

Two major bequests have provided most of the coins. In 1954 Mr. L.W. Pye of Cleethorpes left an important collection of coins including the Scartho Hoard of Celtic coins and a number of local finds from the north east of the county. Sir Francis Hill died in 1980 and left a very choice group of English hammered coins. He had already given a major collection of Anglo-Saxon and Norman silver coins from Lincolnshire mints in 1974. He had acquired this group of gold coins from A.H. Baldwin & Sons of London in 1951 when the collection of Dr. E. Carter was sold. In 1973 Sir Francis also presented a Roman gold coin which had been found in Lincoln.

Two smaller gifts by the Revd. V.O. Massingberd in 1909 and Mr. J.H. Smith in 1950 added attractive groups of mainly eighteenth century coins. Single gifts and purchases added other coins and a Coritaniain coin is on loan from the Somerset County Museum.

A further four hammered gold coins of rulers or types not already represented in the collection were purchased in memory of Sir Francis Hill in 1981.

Usher Gallery, Lincoln
The forty four coins in the Usher Gallery form part of the extensive collection of objects d'art bequeathed by Mr. James Ward Usher in 1921. A local jeweller Mr. Usher also left the substantial sum of money with which the Gallery was built. As well as a single Celtic coin, the collection contained a good range of Roman, English and Scottish coins. Unfortunately Mr. Usher left no records about his coins. Some may have come to him in the normal course of his jewellery business, but there is some evidence from annotated sales catalogues that he bought many of the coins through the London auction rooms.

Grantham Museum, Grantham
The collection at Grantham now contains two gold coins. A Roman solidus possibly found in Yorkshire and a Byzantine coin without provenance.
CATALOGUE

CELTIC COINS

BARGATE HOARD 1954

A small hoard of four staters was found at 82/4 Bargate, Grimsby on 11th November 1954. The coins were declared Treasure Trove at a Coroner's inquest and were bought by the City and County Museum.

1-4

The coins all belong to the same Gallo-Belgic type E (Mack 27). 1 - 6.16/94.9; 2 - 6.14/94.7; 3 - 6.14/94.7; 4 - 6.19/95.4.

Numismatic Chronicle 1955, pp. 142-3; Allen 1959 pp. 164, 287 (hoard no. 7) and 294; SCBI/ Lincolnshire 1600-3. (LCC 12-5.55).

SCARTH HOARD 1851

A hoard of six gold coins was found in 1851 by a labourer digging near the foundations of the Scarth windmill, near Grimsby. The coins had been preserved locally and were eventually acquired by the Cleethorpes collector Mr. L. W. Pye and bequeathed to him by the City and County Museum in 1854. SCBI/ Lincolnshire 1804-9. (LCC 102.54).

5-6

Gallo-Belgic type E (Mack 27) 5 - 6.09/94; 6 - 6.09/94.

7-9

British type L_A (Mack 134) 7 - 5.70/88; 8 - 5.73/88.5; 9 - 5.70/88.

10

British type Q_A (Mack 58) 10 - 5.93/91.5.

CORITANIAN COINS

The coins issued by the local Celtic tribe, the Coritani, are found widely distributed throughout the tribal area which was the equivalent of the modern counties of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

Uninscribed series

British type H (North east Coast type with right facing horse).

11

6.17/95.3 (Mack 50) SCBI/ Lincolnshire 1610. Mr. J. W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-1).

12

6.05/93.4 (Mack 50) SCBI/ West Country 228. On loan from the Somerset County Museum, Taunton; from the Mr. H. Norris gift 1890. (LCC loan).

13

3.86/59.5 (Mack 51A). A copper core which has been covered with a thin sheet of gold. Bought Sotheby 6 May 1981) lot 319; said by the vendor to have been 'found near Northampton'. (LCC 48.81).

British type K (South Ferryby)

14

5.44/84 (Mack 448) Numismatic Chronicle 1947, p. 66, no. 7; Allen 1959 p. 183; SCBI/ Coritani 242; SCBI/ Lincolnshire 1612. Mr. L. W. Pye bequest 1954; ex Mr. J. Elder 1937; found in Taylor's Avenue, Cleethorpes 1937. (LCC 103.54).

Inscribed series

15

4.97/76.7 (Mack 460) Inscribed ΕΕ P CORF on the reverse. The dies are very similar to those of SCBI/ Coritani 100 from the hoard found at Lightcliffe, Yorkshire in 1829. The coin was acquired in two separate fragments from different sources. The larger was bought at auction (Glendining, 12 March 1980 lot 3). The smaller was purchased from Mr. Henry Mossop through Messrs. A.H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd. and is said to have been found on the beach at North Ferriby, Humberside. The fragments were skilfully joined by Mr. K.A. Howes at the British Museum. (LCC 84.80).

ROMAN

OCTAVIAN (40 BC)


AUGUSTUS (27 BC — AD 14)

Aureus, Lugdunum mint. 7.89/121.7 1 Obv, Laureate bust r. AVGVSSTVS-DIVI. F Rev. Horsemen r. C.CAES - AVGVST (RIC 348). Mr. J. W. Usher bequest 1921; ex F.W.V. Peterson sale (Sotheby, 20/1 December 1920) lot 228. (LUG 1590-112).

TIBERIUS (AD 14 — 37)

Aureus, Lugdunum mint. 7.80/120.3 1 Obv. TI CAESAR DIVI - AVG AVGVSSTVS Rev. Figure seated l. PONTIF MAXIM (RIC 3). Mr. J. W. Usher bequest 1921; ex Anonymous sale (Sotheby, 27 July 1917) lot 123. (LUG 1590-113).

CALIGULA (AD 37 — 41)

Aureus, Rome mint. 7.67/118.3 1 Obv. C. CAESAR AVG. PON. M. TR. POT III COS III Rev. Wreath SPQR - PP - OB C. S. (RIC 5). Mr. J. W. Usher bequest 1921; ex Alexander Mann sale (Sotheby, 29/31 October 1917) lot 67; ex J.G. Sandeman sale (Sotheby, 13/20 June 1911) lot 469. (LUG 1590-114).

CLAUDIUS (AD 41 — 54)

Aureus, Rome mint. 7.16/110.5 1 Obv. TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG P M TR P VII IMP XI Rev. Triumphant arch inscribed DE BRITANN (RIC 9). Mr. J. W. Usher bequest 1921; ex Alexander Mann sale (Sotheby, 29/31 October 1917) lot 68; ex C. Cove Jones sale (Sotheby, 6 February 1911) lot 252; ex Brummel sale (Sotheby, untraced) lot 1043. (LUG 1590-115).

NERO (AD 54 – 68)

22 Aureus, Rome mint. 7.65/118.1  Obv. Bust r. NERO CAESAR AVG. IMP Rev. Victory standing I. PONTIF MAX TR P VII COS III PP in field EX SC (RIC 27). Sir Francis Hill gift 1973; found in the garden of 437 Newark Road, Lincoln in June 1932. (LCC 43.73).

30 Aureus, Rome mint. 7.34/113.2  Obv. T. CAESAR IMP VESPASIANVS Rev. Rome seated COS VI (RIC Vespasian 194). Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921; ex Alexander Mann sale (Sotheby, 29/31 October 1917) lot 74; ex J.G. Sandeman sale (Sotheby, 13/20 June 1911) lot 469. (LUG 1590-120).

DOMITIAN (AD 81 – 96)

31 Aureus, Rome mint. 7.27/112.2  Obv. CAESAR AVG F DOMITIANVS Rev. Captive kneeling r. with standard COS V (RIC Vespasian 240). Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921; ex Alexander Mann sale (Sotheby, 29/31 October 1917) lot 75; ex C. Cove Jones sale (Sotheby, 6 February 1911) lot 257; ex C. Roach Smith cabinet. (LUG 1590-121).

GALBA (AD 68)

24 Aureus, Rome mint. 7.10/109.5  Obv. Bust r. IMP SER GALBA AVG Rev. Wreath SPQR — OB C S (RIC 19). Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921; ex F. W. V. Peterson sale (Sotheby, 20/1 December 1920) lot 236.

Othon (AD 68)


OTHO (AD 68)

26 ‘Aureus’ — cast copy. 7.29/112.5  Obv. Bust r. A. VETELLVS GERM. IMP. AVG. TR. P. Rev. Vesta seated r. PONT. MAXIM. (RIC 19). Mr. Robert Carson considers that this coin is a cast copy. Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921; ex F. W. V. Peterson sale (Sotheby, 20/1 December 1920) lot 237. (LUG 1590-127).

VITELLIIUS (AD 68)

34 Aureus, Rome mint. 7.00/108.1  Obv. Bust r. A. VETELLIVS. GERM. IMP. AVG. TR. P. Rev. Victory r. VIC — AVG (RIC 51). Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921; ex F. W. V. Peterson sale (Sotheby, 20/1 December 1920) lot 238. (LUG 1590-119).

VESLIANUS (AD 69 – 79)

27 Aureus, Rome mint. 7.00/108.1  Obv. IMP CAES VESP AVG PM COS III Rev. Victory r. VIC — AVG (RIC 51). Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921; ex F. W. V. Peterson sale (Sotheby, 20/1 December 1920) lot 238. (LUG 1590-119).

35 Aureus, Rome mint. 7.00/108.1  Obv. IMP CAES VESP AVG PM COS III Rev. Temple VES — TA (RIC 69). Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921; ex F. W. V. Peterson sale (Sotheby, 20/1 December 1920) lot 238. (LUG 1590-118).

BYZANTINE

36 Aureus, Rome mint. 6.93/107  Obv. Bust r. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG Rev. Victory standing on an altar PON MAX TR P COS VI. (RIC 92). Mr. J.C.P. Langton gift 1973; ex Canon E.H.R. Tatham coll.; said to have been found at Hogsthorpe, Lincs. before 1918 (Lincs. Notes and Queries xv, no. 118, 1918, pp. 46-7). (LCC 111.73).

ENGLAND

37 Noble. Fourth coinage. Pre-Treaty, series G. London mint. Obv. EDWARD D DEI GRA REX ANGL FRANC D HYB Rev. InC AYTEM TRANCENI S P MEDI CVIM ILLORVM IBAT (But Jesus, passing through the midst of them, went His way — Luke iv.30) A lis near the lion in the second quarter and an annulet by the top liss. 7.70/118.8  Sir
Francis Hill bequest 1980; bought Baldwin 1951; ex Dr. E. Carter coll. 1951. (LCC 106. 80-2000).

37  

HENRY IV (1399 — 1413)

45  

EDWARD VI (1547 — 1553)

50  
Half Sovereign. Second type. Obv. Crowned bust facing right. EDWARD VI DEI GRA REX ANGL FRA DNS HIB EX RE CVCE TVA SALVA NOS XPE RE (By Thy cross, save us, O Christ, our Redeemer). mm. anchor (= 1532-42) 3.60/55.5 S Sir Francis Hill bequest 1980; bought Baldwin 1951; ex Dr. E. Carter coll. 1951. (LCC 106.80-2004).
garnished shield SCVTVM FIDEI PROTEGET EVM (The shield of faith shall protect him) mm. arrow (= 1547-9) 5.37/82.8 Sir Francis Hill bequeath 1980; bought Baldwin 1951; ex Dr. E. Carter coll. 1951. (LCC 106.80-2005).

MARY (1563 – 4)

Angel. Obv. St. Michael slaying the dragon MARIA D G ANG FRA Z HIB REGI Rev. A DNO FACTVM EST ISTVD Z EST MIRAB. (This is the Lord’s doing and it is marvellous in our eyes) – Psalm lxviii.23 M and rose beside mast. 5.2/80.2 mm. pomegranate. Bought in memory of Sir Francis Hill from Baldwin 1981 with a grant from the Victoria and Albert Museum Fund. (LCC 104.81).

ELIZABETH I (1569 – 1602)


Pound. Similar to last. mm. 2 (= 1602) 11.27/173.9 Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-20).

Half pound. Obv. Crowned bust facing left with long hair richly decorated dress, ELIZABETH D G ANG FR ET HI REGINA Rev. Crowned square shield E R at sides SCVTVM FIDEI PROTEGET EAM mm. lion (= 1586/7-87) 5.74/88.6 Sir Francis Hill bequeath 1980; bought Baldwin 1951; ex Dr. E. Carter coll. 1951. (LCC 106.80-2007).


JAMES I (1603 – 25)

Sovereign. First coinage. Obv. Crowned bust right holding orb and sceptre, IACOVBS D G ANG SCO FRAN ET HIB REX Rev. Crowned square shield with garniture, I R at sides, EXVRGAT DEVVS DISSIPENTVR INIMICI (Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered - Psalm lxviii.1) mm. thistle (= 1603-4) 11.07/170.8 Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-21).

Rose ryal. Second coinage. Obv. King enthroned holding orb and sceptre with a portcullis at his feet IACOVBS D G MAG BRIT FRAN ET HIBER REX Rev. Square shield within a Tudor rose A DNO FACTVM EST ISTVD ET EST MIRAB IN OCVLSIS NBIS. 13.44/207.4 mm. muller (= 1611-2) 11.07/170.8 Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-21).

Bought in memory of Sir Francis Hill from Baldwin 1981 with a grant from the Victoria and Albert Museum Fund. (LCC 106.81).

Laurel. Third coinage, second bust. Obv. Bust laureate facing left, with XX behind, IACOBVS D G MAG BRI FRA ET HIBER REX Rev. Crowned square shield with a long cross fleury over FACIAM EOS IN GENTEM VNAM (reversed N’s) (I will make them one nation - Ezek. xxxvii.22) mm. spurs rowel (= 1619-20) 9.05/139.6 Sir Francis Hill bequeath 1980; bought Baldwin 1951; ex Dr. E. Carter coll. 1951. (LCC 106.80-2010).

Double crown. Second coinage, fifth bust. Obv. Crowned bust right IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX Rev. Crowned square shield with I R at sides, HENRICVS ROSAS REGNA IACOBVS (Henry united) the roses, James the kingdom, mm. mullet (= 1611-2) 5.01/77.3 Sir Francis Hill bequeath 1980; bought Baldwin 1951; ex Dr. E. Carter coll. 1951. (LCC 106.80-2009).

Double crown. Second coinage, fifth bust. Similar to last. mm. trefoil (= 1613) 4.85/74.8 Bought from Mr. C.J. Murden; from the Harlaxton, Lincs., Treasure Trove 1968 (BNJ xxxviii, 1969, pp. 165-6). (LCC 9.69).

Half crown. Second coinage, fifth bust. Obv. Crowned bust right I D G ROSA SINE SPINA Rev. Crowned square shield TVEATVR VNITA DEVVS (May God guard these kingdoms united), mm. key (= 1609-10) 1.31/20.2 Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-22).

Half crown. Second coinage, fifth bust. Similar to last. mm. crescent (= 1617-8) 1.21/18.6 Mr. L. W. Pye bequest 1954; bought from Mr. E. Campin, Cleethorpes, 1948; found by Mr. Moses Campin at Swaby, Lincs., 1930. (LCC 117.54).

CHARLES I (1625-49)

Unite. Tower mint. Group B. Obv. Crowned bust left XX behind, CAROLVS D G MA BR FRA ET HIB REX Rev. Crowned square shield FLORENT CONCORDIA REGNA (United kingdoms flourish), mm. heart over anchor/heart (= 1629-30) 9.05/139.6 Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-23).

Unite. Tower mint. Group D. Similar to last coin except for the crowned oval shield on the reverse. mm. crown (= 1635-6) 9.08/140.1 Sir Francis Hill bequeath 1980; bought Baldwin 1951; ex Dr. E. Carter coll. 1951. (LCC 106.80-2011).

Double crown. Tower mint. Group B. Obv. Crowned bust left, X behind, CAROLVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX Rev. Crowned square shield CVLTORES SVI DEVVS PROTEGIT (God protects His worshippers), mm. cross calvary (= 1625-6) 70/4.53
Bought from Mr. and Mrs. Fisk 1980; found at Reepham, Lincs., 1980. (LCC 139.80).

68 Triple unite. Oxford mint. 1643 Obv. Half length figure of the King facing left and holding sword, plume behind, CAROLVS D G MAG BRIT FRAN ET HI REX Rev. At the centre the ‘Declaration’ on a continuous scroll in three lines RELIG PROT / LEG ANG / LIBER PAR (The religion of the Protestants, the laws of England, the liberty of Parliament) with three plumes and III above and 1643 below. Around the legend EXVRGAT DEVVS DISSIPENTVR INIMICI (Let God arise (and) let His enemies be scattered - Psalm lxviii.1).  35.81/386.2 Beresford Jones (BNJ 1955, pp. 334-44), II/12. The obverse of this coin has been extensively tooled. The bust has been improved and drapery added in the space between the arm and the inner circle. The sword blade and the hilt have been redesigned. Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1950-24).


COMMONWEALTH (1649 — 80)


71 Unite. 1651 Similar type to last, mm. sun (= 1649-57)  9.07/139.9 Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-31).

CHARLES II (1660-85)

72 Touch piece. Obv. Ship in full sail CAR II D G M B FR ET HI REX Rev. St. Michael and dragon SOLI DEO GLORIA (To God alone the glory). Given when the King performed the ceremony of ‘touching’ those who suffered from scrofulous complaints. The angel coin was originally used but when ceased to be coined these medalets were made for the purpose. A. W. Franks and H. A. Grueber Medallic Illustrations vol. I, p. 477, no. 86.  3.54/54.4 pierced. Presented by Mr. H. Ruth 1945. (LCC 44.46).


74 Guinea. 1683? third bust type. Same type as last (MCE 88). Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-33).


ANNE (1702-14)


79 Guinea. 1761, first bust type. Obv. GEORGIVS III DEI GRATIA Rev. elaborate crowned shield (MCE 367). No recorded provenance. (LCC no no.).


83 Guinea. 1789 Similar to last. (MCE 393) Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-52).

84 Guinea. 1794 Similar to last. (MCE 398) Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-53).

85 Guinea. 1795 Similar to last. (MCE 399) Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-54).

86 Guinea. 1798 Similar to last. (MCE 402) Mr. J.H. Smith gift 1950. (LCC 31.50).

Half guinea. 1813, seventh bust type. (MCE 448) Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-61).


Third guinea. 1804, second bust type. (MCE 456) Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-69).

Third guinea. 1810 Similar to last. (MCE 460) Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-60).

Quarter guinea. 1762 Rev. Crowned shield (MCE 463) Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-45).

Quarter guinea. 1762 Similar to last. Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-46).

Quarter guinea. 1762 Similar to last. Revd. V.O. Massingberd gift 1909. (LCC 853.09).

Half sovereign. 1817 Obv. Laureate bust right, date below Rev. Crowned shield (MCE 467) Mr. J. H. Smith gift 1950. (LCC 33.50).

VICTORIA (1837 – 1901)

96-9 Five pounds, two pounds, sovereign and half sovereign. From the 1887 proof set.

The coins share a common design with a left facing bust wearing a small crown and on the reverse St. George and the dragon. (Not illustrated). Mr. J. W. Usher bequest 1921. (LUG 1590-91-4).

EDWARD VII (1901-10)

Sovereign. 1902 (MCE 621) No recorded provenance. (LCC no no.).

Half sovereign. 1902 (MCE 630) No recorded provenance. (LCC no no.).

GEORGE V (1910 – 35)

Half sovereign. 1911 (MCE 639) Miss F.E.T. Maddison gift 1950. (LCC 85.50).

SCOTLAND

JAMES V (1513 – 42)

Bonnet piece. 1540 Obv. Bearded bust of King right wearing bonnet IACOBVS 5 DEI GRA R SCOTOR Rev. HONOR REGIS IVDICIVM DILIGIT (The King's power loveth judgement - Psalm xcv.4). ← 5.63/86.9 Mr. J.W. Usher bequest 1921; ex Alexander Mann sale (Sotheby, 29/31 October 1917) lot 437. (LUG 1590-107).

DISPLAY

All the coin collections in the Lincolnshire Museums Service have now been concentrated in the Usher Gallery, Lincoln. A special gallery was open in 1976 and most of the coins included in this catalogue are on display there.

ARRANGEMENTS

The coins are arranged in chronological order. All except the most recent issues are illustrated. Each entry contains a basic description of the coin together with details of the weight in grains and grammes, the die axis, identification according to a standard reference work, details of previous publication, the names of previous owners and any find spot. The museum accession number is given at the end of each entry. A translation of the Latin legend is given.

Abbreviations

GM Lincolnshire Museums: Grantham Museum, Grantham.
LCC Lincolnshire Museums: City and County Museum, Lincoln.
LUG Lincolnshire Museums: Usher Gallery, Lincoln.
Obv. Obverse.
mm Mintmark or initial mark.
Rev. Reverse.
Bibliography

BNJ  British Numismatic Journal
NC  Numismatic Chronicle.

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Written by Antony Gunstone.


LINCOLNSHIRE MUSEUMS INFORMATION SHEETS

Numismatic Series

No.5 The Lincoln and Stamford Mints in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries by Christopher Blunt (1981) 8pp.

These can be obtained from the Keeper, Lincolnshire Museums: City and County Museum, Broadgate, Lincoln.