

1887M	1	A	small, close J.E.B.	1.
1889S	1	n/r	not recorded	1.
1889S	2	n/r	not recorded	1.
1890M	1	n/r	not recorded	1.
1891S	1	n/r	not recorded	1.
1891S	2	A	not recorded	3.

There is a PROOF 1893S. Obverse 1 re. B. and possibly other years. It is believed that undated proof obverse dies were used for many years to avoid unnecessary work.

PLATED DENarii OF THE FLAVIAN PERIOD

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The remnants of a hoard of plated denarii of the Flavian period has for many years been circulating in trade¹. The coins, of Vespasian (AD 69-79), the deified Vespasian, and Domitian (AD 81-96), form a very interesting group. The total number of coins

seen together was over 200 in the late 1960's, and 150 of these were still together in the late 1970's. A total of eight combinations of obverse and reverse types has, to my knowledge, been observed. I have seen a total of 29 pieces, either the coins themselves, or illustrations of examples in trade². These 29 pieces were struck from only six obverse and seven reverse dies, in the following combinations³ (as illustrated):-

1. *obv.* die A: IMP CAES VESPASIANVS AVG: head laureate, r.
rev. die a: PON MAX TR P COS VI: Pax seated l.
as *BMC* Vespasian 161 ff (AD 75), but Pax not holding branch.
2. *obv.* die A
rev. die b: AVGVR TRI POT: simulum, sprinkler, jug and lituus.
as *BMC* Vespasian 326 f (plated hybrids), but different dies.
3. *ob.* die B: DIVVS AVGVSTVS VESPASIANVS: head laureate, r.
rev. die b
not in *BMC*. Hybrid: *obv.* Titus (AD 80-81, for the deified Vespasian)/*rev.* Vespasian.
4. *obv.* die C: IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG P M: head laureate, r.
rev. die c: TR P IX IMP XV COS VIII P P
BMC p.349, no. 13. Hybrid: *obv.* Domitian, AD 81-83 / *rev.* Titus, AD 80.
5. *obv.* die D: IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG GERMANIC: head laureate, draped, l.
rev. die d: P M TR POT III IMP V COS X P P: Minerva standing l., holding thunderbolt and spear.
as *BMC* Domitian 48 (AD 84), but *obv.* type as above.
6. *obv.* die D
rev. die e: IMP XII COS XII CENS P P P: Minerva standing l., holding spear.
as *BMC* p. 319 (AD 86), but *obv.* type and legend as above (= *BMC* Addenda p. 434).
7. *obv.* die E: IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG GERMANIC: head laureate, r., with aegis.
rev. die f: P M TR POT III IMP V COS X P P: Minerva advancing r., holding spear and shield.
as *BMC* p.307 (AD 84), but *obv.* type and legend as above.
8. *obv.* die F: IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P VI: head laureate, r.
rev. die g: IMP XIII COS XIII CENS P P P: Minerva advancing r., holding spear and shield.
BMC Domitian 101 (AD 87).

It is likely that all the coins in the hoard were produced from a very small number of dies; the 150 coins seen recently in trade were apparently struck from only five obverse and six reverse dies. This suggests that the coins would have comprised a "forger's hoard". Many of the pieces have a fine, if unusual style and their average weight (3.1 grammes) is good for Flavian denarii, but the prevalence of hybrid combinations of types, low specific gravity readings and visible signs on some specimens of a copper core beneath the surface, clearly indicate that all the coins are plated forgeries. The hoard is believed to have originated in southern Spain. Although it has only relatively recently been noted in trade in London it may not be such a recent discovery. Plated coins struck from these dies, which may have come from the same hoard, or from another parcel of coins produced by the same forger, have been appearing over the years. Four examples were acquired by the British Museum in 1932 (dies De) and 1950 (dies Cc, Dd, Fg). Of particular interest are the coins with the left-facing obverse bust. This draped portrait of Domitian is usually confined to some rare aurei of AD 84 (*BMC* p.307, *n.; p.308, 49n.) and is to be found on only one genuine denarius (*BMC* p.308, 50n. = *Cohen* Domitian 359, in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris). Because of the unusual style and strange choice and combination of types involved in the whole series, a metallographic examination of one of the British Museum pieces with a left-facing bust of Domitian was undertaken by the British Museum Research Laboratory. The results of the investigations will be published in