

Boudican Treasure hoard from Quidenham

includes three Jesus 'Tribute Penny', two coins of Cleopatra's lover, one of Brutus (an assassin of Caesar) and two stupendous Stepping Horses

In 2014 an important Treasure hoard of 22 Roman silver *denarii* and 25 Icenian silver units was unearthed at Quidenham, Norfolk. Probably related to Boudica's revolt in AD 60-61 (Dr John Talbot pers.comm. 26.3.2018), this hoard contains some fascinating types and is offered exclusively to the clients of Chris Rudd.



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R. Van Arsdell and Dr John Talbot both think Norfolk God coins (Nos.43, 44, 45) were among the last struck by the Iceni, some perhaps as late as c.AD 60.

Nos. 1 and 3 show divine twins Castor and Pollux whose miraculous intervention in the battle of Lake Regillus (484 BC) is commemorated by the Dioscuri temple in the Forum at Rome. On No.6 corn-wreathed Ceres (origin of 'cereal') and yoked oxen recall the founding of the temple of Ceres by Spurius Cassius in 493 BC. On No.7 Diana ('The Bright One') goes hunting in a stag chariot with a giant grasshopper. No.11 features Ancus Marcius, fourth king of Rome (trad. 640-617 BC) and the Marcian aqueduct which inspired King Verica's first stater (ABC 1181). Health deities Salus and Valetudo (No.12) remind us that Rome's

first Greek doctor practised in *compito Acilio* (Pliny, NH 29.12). Brutus (No.13) vanquished the Veneti in 56 BC (BG 3.11.16) - note Gallic war trumpets - and helped kill Caesar in 43 BC. On No.14 a horseman drags a naked warrior. Mark Antony (Nos. 16 and 17), friend of Caesar and fellow lover of Cleopatra, committed suicide after being defeated at Actium in 31 BC. No.18 shows Octavian, adopted son of Caesar, celebrating this victory on the Actian arch. Nos. 19, 20, 21 are said to be the 'Tribute Penny' referred to by Jesus in his famous 'render unto Caesar' speech (St. Matthew 22.17-21). Nos.40, 41 are two one of the finest Stepping Horses ever to step into our trays. And Van Arsdell (1989) said Nos. 43, 44, 45 were struck by Queen Boudica. We doubt it. But Dr Talbot (2017) thinks some were minted until Boudica's revolt in AD 60-61.



PAINTING: VINCENZO CAMUCCINI

D. Junius Brutus Albinus (No.13) was one of Caesar's assassins. In 43 BC he was himself killed by order of Mark Antony (Nos. 16, 17).

Recorded by the PAS, seen by the British Museum and published by *The British Numismatic Journal* 86, 2016, p.250 (these coins) and *Coin News*, June 2018 (these coins), the Quidenham hoard represents a rare opportunity to acquire important, well documented Treasure coins at reasonable prices. First come, first served.