

SOME COINS OF CARAUSIUS FROM RICHBOROUGH

By N. SHIEL

THE site at Richborough has produced a great number of coins, most of which have been published in the various excavation reports.<sup>1</sup> Lack of time and space, especially in the case of the earlier reports, has meant, however, that there is still a great deal of work to be done on these coins. This has been undertaken by Mr. Richard Reece, of the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, who intends to comprehensively publish all the Richborough material; almost sixty thousand coins. I have been allowed to help, in a small way, by working on the coins of Carausius and Allectus, a small, but important group. New varieties were noted in all the reports, but many were missed and not all those published were accurately described. This is made particularly clear by the case of the two BRI coins which were discovered, neither of which had been recognized in the original published accounts. These are by far the most important 'new' discoveries but I have taken this opportunity to describe some other coins which exhibit some variety from those given in *RIC*.<sup>2</sup>

1. (O) IMP CAR[AVSIVS . . .] a or c<sup>3</sup> 1922

(R) CONCO[ ]  $\frac{1}{\text{||||}}$  Figure seated left (*Concordia*), right  
21.5 mm. ↗ hand extended and vertical sceptre  
in left hand.

2. (O) [ ] CARAVSIVS PAV a or c 1922/3

(R) [. . . MI]LITVM  $\frac{1}{\text{↙}}$  Emperor and *Concordia* clasping  
20 mm. ↙ hands.

3. (O) IMP C CARAVSIVS P[FI] AVG a or c

(R) [FIDES MILI]TVM  $\frac{1}{\text{SPC}}$  Four ensigns, cf. *RIC*, V, pt. 2, pl. xvii,  
21 mm. ↙ no. 11.

<sup>1</sup> 'Excavations at the Site of the Roman Fort at Richborough, Kent', I-V.

<sup>2</sup> Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage*, V, pt. 2.

<sup>3</sup> These abbreviations are taken from *RIC*.

a = bust right, radiate, draped

c = bust right, radiate draped and cuirassed

f = bust right, radiate, cuirassed.

It is often impossible to distinguish these on worn coins or those not struck centrally on the flan.

4. (O) IMP CM CARAUSIUS AUG a 1931  
 (R) FIDES  $\frac{\text{AVG}}{\text{MILITVM}} \frac{1}{\quad}$  *Fides* seated l. with two standards  
 24 × 22 mm. ↙ overstruck.
5. (O) IMP CARAUSIVS PF AVG a  
 (R) [1]N[VI]C[TVSAVG]  $\frac{*1}{\text{RS(R)}}$  *Sol* walking l.: right hand raised  
 21 × 20 mm. ↙ globe in left hand. Coarse work-  
 manship, cf. *RIC*, 807.
6. (O) IMP CARAUSIVS PAGVI c  
 (R) LI[T]I [AVG]  $\frac{1}{\quad}$  *Pax*? std. l. with olive branch and  
 19 mm. vertical sceptre.  
 This piece, while certainly irregular,  
 is in no way barbarous.
7. (O) Illegible.  
 (R) MONE[TA]AVG  $\frac{1}{\text{////}}$  *Pax* std. l. with<sup>4</sup> vertical sceptre.  
 21 mm. ↓
8. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS PAVG c  
 (R) PA[X AV]GVS  $\frac{1}{\text{x}}$  *Pax* std. l. with vertical sceptre.  
 22 mm. ↓
9. (O) IMP CC[ARAVSIV]S AVG a or c  
 (R) PAX A[VG]  $\frac{1}{\text{////}}$  *Pax* std. l. with transverse sceptre.  
 20 × 18 mm. ↓
10. (O) IMP C CARAV[ ] c  
 (R) PAX[AVG]  $\frac{1}{\quad}$  *Pax* std. l. with vertical sceptre.  
 20 × 19 mm. ↓
11. (O) IMP C CARAVSIVS AVG a or c.  
 (R) PAX AUG  $\frac{1}{\quad}$  *Pax* std. l. with vertical sceptre.  
 24 × 23 mm. ↓

These last two pieces and possibly no. 9 are exceptions to the chronology proposed for Carausius' coins by R. A. G. Carson.<sup>5</sup> It will

<sup>4</sup> On subsequent coins *Pax* always has an olive branch in her right hand unless otherwise stated.

<sup>5</sup> R. A. G. Carson, 'The Sequence-marks on the Coinage of Carausius and Allectus', in (Ed.) R. A. G. Carson, *Mints, Dies and Currency*.

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take a much more formidable body of evidence, however, to challenge that chronology.

12. (O) IMP[ ]SIVS P I AV c 1931  
 (R) PAX AV[G]  $\frac{1}{23 \text{ mm.}}$   $\swarrow$  Pax std. l. with transverse sceptre.
13. (O) [ ]AVSIVS PI AV  
 (R) PAX AV[G]  $\frac{1}{22 \times 20 \text{ mm.}}$   $\downarrow$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.
14. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS P I AVG c  
 (R) illegible  $\frac{1}{22 \text{ mm.}}$   $\nearrow$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.
15. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS PFI AVG c  
 (R) PAX AVG  $\frac{SIP}{ML}$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.  
 23 mm.  $\downarrow$
16. (O) [ ] AVSIVS PFI AVG  
 (R) [PAX A]VG  $\frac{[S] P}{C}$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.  
 25  $\times$  23 mm.  $\swarrow$
17. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS PF AV a 1924  
 (R) PAX AVG  $\frac{1}{22 \times 21 \text{ mm.}}$   $\swarrow$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.
18. (O) IMP CARAUSIVS PF AV c  
 (R) PAX AUG  $\frac{1}{21 \times 18 \text{ mm.}}$   $\swarrow$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.
19. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS PF AV f  
 (R) PAX AVG  $\frac{1}{23 \times 22 \text{ mm.}}$   $\uparrow$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.
20. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS A a  
 (R) PAX AVG  $\frac{1}{22 \times 21 \text{ mm.}}$   $\swarrow$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.
21. (O) [ ]CAR[AVSIVS . . .] 1922/3.  
 (R) [PA]X AV [G]  $\frac{1}{20 \text{ mm.}}$   $\searrow$  Pax std. l., baton in right hand, transverse sceptre in left hand.

22. (O) IMPCARAUSIVS P A V a or c IV<sup>6</sup> 24709  
 (R) PAX AVG  $\frac{FO}{c}$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.  
 22 × 20 mm. ↓ Cf. *RIC*, V; II, p. 490, no. 305 and  
 note 2, presumably referring to this  
 coin inaccurately described.
23. (O) IMP CARAUSIVS PF AUGG.  
 (R) PAX AVG  $\frac{[F] O}{////}$  Pax std. l. with vertical sceptre.  
 22 × 20 mm.
24. (O) IMP[C]CARAUSIVS PF AVG f. 1924  
 (R) PAX AVGGG  $\frac{S|P}{}$  Pax std. l. with transverse sceptre.  
 23 × 21 mm. ↓
25. (O) IMP CARAUSIVS P AVG a 1931  
 (R) SALVS AVG  $\frac{1}{}$  *Salus* std. l. with two ensigns.  
 21 × 20 mm. ✓
26. (O) VIRTVS CARAVSI AVG. radiate bust l. with spear and shield.  
 (R) SALV[S]AUG  $\frac{1}{}$  *Salus* std. l. feeding snake rising from  
 20 mm. ↑ altar, vertical sceptre in left hand.
27. (O) IMP CARAUSIVS PF AVG a  
 (R)  $\frac{TV}{\_}$  TEL]A AVG  $\frac{1}{}$  *Tutela?* std. l. holding *patera* over  
 20 × 19 mm. ✓ altar, in left hand *cornucopiae*.

That this is a *Tutela* reverse is not certain but the type, spacing and traces of the first two letters combine to suggest as much. *RIC* only lists coins from the 'Rouen'<sup>7</sup> mint with this reverse and this coin is certainly not at all in the 'Rouen' style or fabric.

28. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG c. 1931  
 (R) VICTORIA AUGVS[TI]  $\frac{1}{\otimes}$  Victory r., wreath in l. hand,  
 22 × 21 mm. ✓ palm in right hand.
29. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS AVG a or c  
 (R) VIR[TVSAVG]  $\frac{1}{}$  Mars std. l. with spear and shield.  
 23 × 21 mm. ✓

<sup>6</sup> *Richborough IV*, coin no. 24709.

<sup>7</sup> *RIC*, nos. 682-90.

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30. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS PF AUG a  
 (R) VIR[T]VS AUG  $\frac{1}{C}$  Mars seated l. with wreath and spear,  
 22 mm. ✓ cuirass below seat.
31. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS PF I c  
 (R) No legend  $\frac{1}{\Delta}$  *Salus* std. l., cornucopiae in l. hand,  
 24 × 20 mm. ✓ feeding serpent rising from the ground.

This is well preserved so had there ever been a reverse legend it would have been clearly visible. The reverse type is similar to that on one of the enigmatic base-metal laureate pieces of Carausius.<sup>8</sup>

32. (O) IMP[ ]AVSIVS AVG c IV 24676  
 (R) [ ]S AVG  $\frac{1}{\nearrow}$  Emperor galloping r., riding down an  
 21 mm. ✓ opponent.

This is probably an Adventus type but could be a Virtus Aug, cf. *RIC.*, 1036.

33. (O) IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG a or c. obverse Brockage 1931  
 (R) 23 × 21 mm. ✓

Brockages are rare and this is not a well preserved example showing marked signs of wear and corrosion, unlike the very well preserved brockage of Allectus from South Shields.<sup>9</sup>

34. (O) IMP C DIOCLETIAN VS PF AUG 1931  
 (R) CO[NCORD MI]LITVM  $\frac{[S] | P}{MLXXI}$  *Concordia* std. between two  
 23 × 21 mm. ✓ standards.

35. (O)<sup>10</sup> IMP CARAUSIVS PF AVG. c  
 (R) [SALVS AVG]  $\frac{1}{BRI}$  *Salus* std. l., altar before, vertical  
 23 × 19 mm. ↓ 3.3 gm. sceptre behind. (Corroded reverse.)

36. (O) IMP CARAUSIVS PF AVG 1931  
 (R) [SALV]S AUG  $\frac{1}{BRI}$  *Salus* std. l. feeding serpent rising  
 23 × 22 mm. ✓ 4.27 gm. from altar, vertical sceptre in left  
 hand.

<sup>8</sup> See my forthcoming note on these pieces.

<sup>9</sup> *AA*<sup>2</sup>, n.s., x (1884), 301.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. my note in *Coin and Medal Bulletin*, no. 643 (1972, no. 3), 101-2.

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The first of these was discovered in a box labelled 'miscellaneous salus types'. The second, found on the surface in 1931, was incorrectly described on its packet as having the  $\frac{1}{ML}$  mint mark. These coins were the fourth and fifth specimens of this BRI coinage to come to light and as they both share an obverse die with the Corbridge specimen they add greatly to our knowledge of this minority group of Carausian coins.

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