

Gateway to the Gods

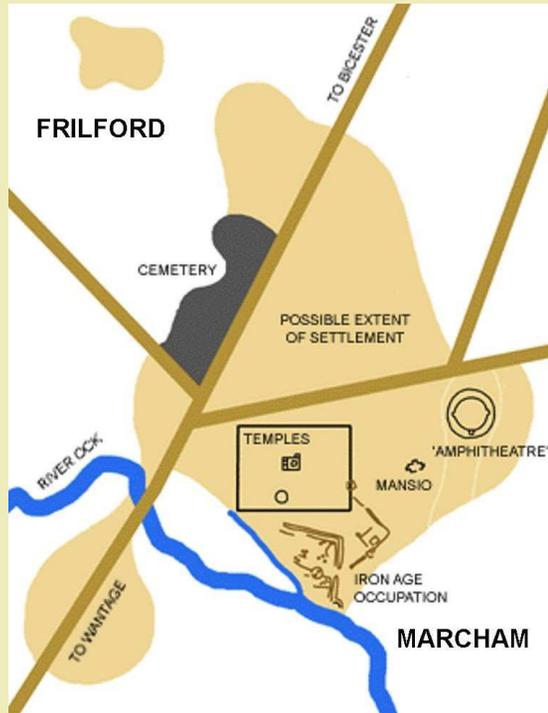
an ancient temple site at Marcham



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Photos by
Simon Blackmore

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Coins from 4th century AD
found during the Trendles excavations
on Manor Farm, Marcham

Photographs by Simon Blackmore

The Fourth Century Empire

At the end of the Third Century, the new government set up by the emperor Diocletian was a tetrarchy, or 'rule by four'. Under the tetrarchy, the government of the empire was divided between the two senior emperors, the 'augusti', and their juniors and designated successors, the 'caesares'. This new system of government marked the end of the Crisis of the Third Century and the recovery of the Roman Empire.

Initially in 285 AD Diocletian chose Maximian as his 'caesar', raising him to co-augustus the following year; Maximian was to govern the western provinces and Diocletian would administer the eastern ones. Galerius and Constantius were appointed caesares in March 293 AD.

Diocletian and Maximian retired in May 305 AD, raising both Galerius and Constantius to the rank of 'augustus'. The orderly system of two senior and two junior emperors endured until Constantius died in July 306 AD, and his son, Constantine, was unilaterally acclaimed augustus and caesar by his father's army in Britain.

Constantine's victory over Maxentius at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312 AD left him in control of the western part of the empire, while Licinius was still left in control of the east. Constantine and Licinius jointly recognized their sons – Crispus, Constantine II, and Licinius II – as caesares in March 317 AD.

Ultimately the tetrarchic system lasted until about 324 AD, when mutually destructive civil wars eliminated most of the claimants to power, leaving Constantine in control of the entire empire.

The emperors of the Constantinian dynasty retained some aspects of collegiate rule; Constantine appointed his son, Constantius II, as another caesar in 324 AD, followed by Constans in 333 AD and his nephew Dalmatius in 335 AD, and the three surviving sons of Constantine in 337 AD were declared joint 'augusti' together, and the concept of the division of the empire under multiple joint emperors endured in principle until the Fall of the Western Roman Empire. In the Eastern Roman empire, augusti and caesares continued to be appointed sporadically.

The Reform of the Coinage

As well as setting up the Tetrarchy, Diocletian reformed the coinage. The type of coins issued changed, the heavily debased antoninianus (double denarius) was replaced with a variety of new denominations, and a new range of imagery was introduced that attempted to convey different ideas.

Diocletian characterizes the emperor as a figure of interchangeable authority by depicting him with a generalized image. He tries to emphasize unity across the Empire by featuring the invincible spirit of the Romans.

The new imagery includes a large, stern portrait that is representative of the emperor. This image was not meant to show the actual portrait of a particular emperor, but it was instead a character that embodied the power that the emperor possessed.

The reverse type was equally universal, featuring the spirit (or genius) of the Romans. The introduction of a new type of government and a new system of coinage represents an attempt by Diocletian to return peace and security to Rome, after the previous century of chaos, constant warfare and political uncertainty.

Diocletian
(284 - 305 AD)*



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Reading the abbreviations on the coins



Diocletian
(284 - 305 AD)*

GENIO
POPVLI
ROMANI

IMP: IMPERATOR - Emperor.

AVG: AUGUSTUS - The name of the first emperor bestowed upon him by the Senate in 27 BC. During the later empire, senior emperors were called the "Augustus" while junior emperors were the "Caesar." Joint emperors were often marked on coinage by 'AVGG' or even 'AVGGG'

CAES: CAESAR - The family name of the first imperial dynasty, it became a title used by later emperors. Often abbreviated to CAE or just C

DN: DOMINUS NOSTER - Our Lord.

DD NN: Dominorum Nostrorum, the plural of Dominus Noster.

DV, DIV, DIVO: Divus (divine) was applied to consecrated deceased rulers

FIL: FILIUS - Son of...

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GENIO POPVLI ROMANI: The Spirit of the Roman People

IVN: JUNIOR - The younger.

MAX: Maximus (greatest) was used by Constantine I who is now known as 'the Great'. During his life no one would have questioned his right to the superlative.

NOB: NOBILISSIMUS - Noble.

OPT: OPTIMO PRINCIPI - The greatest ruler.

PIVS: Dutiful

PF: PIUS FELIX - Dutiful and fortunate - patriotic.

PP: PATER PATRIAE - Father of his country

PT: PATER (father) is used with AVGG ('Father of the Augusti')

VOT: Vota (vows) followed by a numeral refers to pledges made by the emperor for faithful service for periods of years. Sometimes the vows of an earlier period were renewed for a longer period resulting in VOT X ET XX or VOT X MVLT XX.

VNMR: Venerabilis memoria (revered memory) was used on the consecration coins of Constantine the Great.

VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN:

Victoriae DD (=dominorum) Augg (=augustorum) Que NN(=nostrorum)

Translation: "The victories of our dear Lords and Augusts".

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Since Aurelian's reign we find letters on coins which indicate the mint and also the 'office' (factory). These are practically always in the lower part of the reverse ('exergue'). This information is complemented with symbols or letters in the field indicating the series or the period of minting.

With the reforms of Diocletian (286-295 AD), this custom was in general use until the end of the Empire and it allows the origin and date to be better known. Sometimes if the mint marks are not clear in the exergue, they can be worked out by the name of the emperor and either obverse or reverse design which varied significantly between the mints.

The Mints and their marks

A mint mark was usually formed of **three** elements:

- a) One to five letters representing the location of the mint
- b) A single letter in Latin or Greek indicating the 'officina' or factory.
- c) Other letters such as P (Pecunia), M (Moneta), SM (Sacra Moneta)

Coins from the following 12 mints were found at Trendles. Those mints that are geographically closer are represented more frequently and some mints were only used by certain emperors.

For administrative and historical reasons, mints were also closed (see the dates below).

<i>Ambianum (Amiens, France)</i>	(350-353 AD)
AMB, AMBI	
<i>Antiocha (Antakya, Turkey)</i>	(217 – 611 AD)
AN, ANT, ANTOB, SMAN	
<i>Aquileia (Aquileia, Italy)</i>	(294-430 AD)
AQ, AQVI, AQVIL, AQOB, AQPS, SMAQ	
<i>Arelate, Constantia (Arles, France)</i>	(313 – 475 AD)
A, AR, ARL, CON, CONST, KON, KONSTAN	
<i>Constantinopolis (Istanbul, Turkey)</i>	(326 - 1453 AD)
C, CP, CON, CONS, CONSP, CONOB	
<i>Londinium (London, UK)</i>	(287-388 AD)
AVG, L, LI, LN, LON, ML, MLL, MLN, MSL, PLN, PLON	
<i>Lugdunum (Lyons, France)</i>	(254 – 423 AD)
LD, LG, LVG, LVGD, LVGPS, PLG	
<i>Roma (Rome, Italy)</i>	(? – 476 AD)
R, RM, ROM, ROMA, ROMOB	
<i>Siscia (Sisak, Croatia)</i>	(260 – 390 AD)
S, SIS, SISC, SISCPS	
<i>Thessalonika (Thessaloniki, Greece)</i>	(298 – 460? AD)
SMTS, TH, THS, THES, THSOB, TE, TES, TESOB, TH, TS	
<i>Ticinium (Pavia, Italy)</i>	(274? – 326 AD)
PT, T, TT	
<i>Treveri (Trier, Germany)</i>	(294 – 430 AD)
PTR, SMTR, STR, TR, TRE, TROB, TRS, TRPS	

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The Greatness of Rome and the Emperor

The reverse types of coins of the late Empire emphasized general themes, and discontinued the more specific personifications depicted previously. They featured legends that proclaimed the glory of Rome, the success of the army, victory against the "barbarians", '*Fel Temp Reparatio*' (the restoration of happy times), and hence the greatness of the emperor.



These general types persisted even after the adoption of Christianity as the state religion of the Roman Empire. Muted Christian imagery, such as standards that featured Christograms (the 'chi-rho' monogram for Christ's name in Greek) were introduced, but, with a few rare exceptions, there were no explicitly Christian themes.

From the time of Constantine until the "end" of the Roman Empire, coins featured almost indistinguishable idealized portraits and general proclamations of greatness.

The Debasement of Roman Coinage

Diocletian issued an 'Edict on Prices' in 301 AD, which attempted to establish the legal maximum prices that could be charged for goods and services. The attempt to establish fixed prices was an exercise in futility as this was impossible to enforce. The Edict was calculated in terms of silver denarii, although no such coin had been struck for over 50 years. Like earlier reforms, its principle was eroded and was gradually replaced by an uncertain coinage consisting mostly of gold and bronze.

The exact reason that Roman coinage sustained constant debasement is not known, but the most common theories involve inflation, inadequacies in the state finances and trade for luxury goods, particularly with India, which drained significant quantities of silver from the Mediterranean world.

Another reason for debasement was lack of raw metal with which to produce coins. Italy itself contains no large or reliable mines for precious metals; therefore the precious metals for coinage had to be obtained elsewhere.

The majority of the precious metals that Rome obtained during its period of expansion arrived in the form of war booty from defeated territories, and subsequent tribute and taxes by new-conquered lands. When Rome ceased to expand, the precious metals for coinage then came from newly mined silver, such as from Greece and Spain, and also from melting down older coins.

Without a constant influx of precious metals from an outside source, and with the expense of continual wars defending the frontiers, it would seem reasonable that coins might be debased to increase the amount that the government could spend. By decreasing the amount of silver in its coins, Rome could produce more coins and "stretch" its budget. As time progressed, the trade deficit of the west increased because essential grain, oil and other commodities were imported; this led to a constant drain of currency from Rome.

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4th Century Emperors

Some shared power and were based in the West or the East of the empire
Emperors with coins found at Trendles are printed in **bold**

Diocletian	(east 284–305 AD)
Maximian	(west 286–305 AD)
Constantius I	(west 305–306 AD)
Galerius	(east, 305–311 AD)
Severus	(west, 306–307 AD)
Maxentius	(west, 306–312 AD)
Constantine I	(306–337 AD; reunified the empire)
Galerius Maximinus	(310–313 AD)
Licinius	(308–324 AD)
Constantine II	(337–340 AD)
Constantius II	(337–361 AD)
Constans I	(337–350 AD)
Gallus Caesar	(351–354 AD)
Julian	(361–363 AD)
Jovian	(363–364 AD)
Valentinian I	(west, 364–375 AD)
Valens	(east, 364–378 AD)
Gratian	(west, 367–383 AD; coemperor with Valentinian I)
Valentinian II	(375–392 AD; crowned as child)
Theodosius I	(east, 379–392 AD; east and west, 392–395 AD)
Magnus Maximus	(west, 383–388 AD)
Arcadius	(east, 383–395 AD, coemperor; 395–402 AD, sole emperor)
Honorius	(west, 393–395 AD, co-emperor; 395–423 AD, sole emperor)

Trendles Coins 3



MF01, 9003, SF 597 (obv)
IMP MAXIMIANVS AVG
(Maximian c. 294 AD - Lyon)



MF01, 9003, SF 597 (rev)
IOVI AVGG
Jupiter holding Victory on globe. eagle at feet



MF02, 2000, SF 1065 (obv)
MAXIMIANVS NOB CAES
(Galerius Maximian as Caesar, c. 299 AD)



MF02, 2000, SF 1065 (rev)
GENIO POPVLI ROMANI
Genius holding patera and cornucopiae

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Constantine I (306–337 AD)

Constantine I (Flavius Valerius Constantinus), also known as Constantine the Great, was born on 27th February 272 AD in Naissus, Dacia Mediterranea (now Niš, Serbia), son of Flavius Constantius. His father was a Roman army officer born in Dardania (central Balkans) who became one of the four emperors of the Tetrarchy. His mother, Helena, was Greek and of low birth. Constantius divorced Helena and for political purposes married Theodora.

Constantine served with distinction under emperors Diocletian and Galerius campaigning in the eastern provinces against the Persians, before being recalled west in 305 AD to fight under his father in Britain. After his father's death in 306 AD, Constantine was acclaimed as emperor by the army at Eboracum (York). He emerged victorious in the civil wars against the emperors Maxentius and Licinius to become sole ruler of the Roman Empire by 324 AD.

As emperor, Constantine enacted administrative, financial, social and military reforms to strengthen the empire. He restructured the government, separating civil and military authorities. To combat inflation he introduced the solidus, a new gold coin that became the standard for Byzantine and European currencies for more than a thousand years.

The Roman army was reorganised to consist of mobile units (*comitatenses*), and garrison troops (*limitanei*) capable of countering internal threats and barbarian invasions. Constantine pursued successful campaigns against the tribes on the Roman frontiers—the Franks, the Alamanni, the Goths and the Sarmatians—even resettling territories abandoned by his predecessors during the Crisis of the Third Century.

The age of Constantine marked a distinct epoch in Roman history. He built a new imperial residence at Byzantium and renamed the city Constantinople after himself (the laudatory epithet of "New Rome" emerged in his time, but was never an official title). It subsequently became the capital of the Empire for more than a thousand years, the later Eastern Roman Empire being referred to as the Byzantine Empire by modern historians.

His more immediate political legacy was that he replaced Diocletian's Tetrarchy with the principle of dynastic succession, leaving the empire to his sons and other members of the Constantinian dynasty. He died on 22nd May 337 AD.

Trendles Coins 3



MF06, 30000, SF 4364 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS PF AVG
(307-310 AD)



MF06, 30000, SF 4364 (rev)
COMITI AVGG NN
(PLN - London mint)



MF01, 12000, SF 556 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS PF AVG
(310-311 AD)



MF01, 12000, SF 556 (rev)
SOLI INVICTO
(PTR - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF10, 3041, SF 140 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS AVG
(313-315 AD)



MF10, 3041, SF 140 (rev)
SOLI INVICTO COMITI S-C
(PLN - London mint)



MF07, 33000, SF 5030 (obv)
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG
(318 AD)



MF07, 33000, SF 5030 (rev)
VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP
(delta SIS * - Siscia mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF03, 18070, SF 2396 (obv)
CRISPVS NOB CAES
(Crispus, son of Constantine, Caesar 317 AD)



MF03, 18070, SF 2396 (rev)
SOLI INVICTO COMITI S-P
(PLN - London mint)



MF01, 2069, SF 705 (obv)
CRISPVS NOB CAES
(Crispus, son of Constantine, Caesar 321 AD)



MF01, 2069, SF 705 (rev)
BEATA TRANQVILLITAS C-R
VOTIS XX (PLG - Lyons mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF05, 24001, SF 3232 (obv)
IMP LICINIVS AVG
(Licinius I, co-emperor, 318-319 AD)



MF05, 24001, SF 3232 (rev)
DN LICINI AVGVSTI - VOT XX
(BSIS - Siscia mint)



MF06, 30000, SF 4327 (obv)
LICINIVS IVN NOB CAES
(Licinius II, son of Licinus, Caesar 320 AD)



MF06, 30000, SF 4327 (rev)
VIRTVS EXERCIT VOT XX S-F
(dot TS - Thessalonica mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF03, 18084, SF 2327 (obv)
IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG
(318-319 AD)



MF03, 18084, SF 2327 (rev)
VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP
VOT PR on the altar (TT - Ticinium mint)



MF07, 29002, SF 5516 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS AVG
(322 AD)



MF07, 29002, SF 5516 (rev)
BEATA TRANQVILLITAS - VOTIS XX
(STR - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF06, 26000, SF 4305 (obv)
CRISPVS NOB CAES
(Crispus, son of Constantine, Caesar 321 AD)



MF06, 26000, SF 4305 (rev)
VIRTVS EXERCIT VOT XX
(PLN - London mint)



MF06, 24024, SF 4298 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS IVN N C
(Constantine II, Caesar, 322-323 AD)



MF06, 24024, SF 4298 (rev)
BEATA TRANQLITAS VOT XX F-B
(PLON - London mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF07, 29002, SF 5509 (obv)

CRISPVS NOBIL C

(Crispus, son of Constantine, Caesar 324 AD)



MF07, 29002, SF 5509 (rev)

BEATA TRANQLITAS VOTIS XX

(PLON - London mint)

On 1st March 317 AD, the two co-reigning Augusti, Constantine I and Licinius I jointly proclaimed three new caesares: Crispus, alongside his younger half-brother Constantine II, and his first cousin Licinius Iunior (see SF 4327 on page 16).

Constantine II was the son of Fausta but was probably about a month old at the time of his proclamation. (One of his coins is opposite. Others are in the following pages. Crispus' coins are on page 15, page 18 opposite and page 19 above) Only Crispus assumed actual duties. Constantine appointed him as Commander of Gaul based in modern Trier, regional capital of Germania. Crispus was the most likely choice for an heir to the throne at the time. His siblings Constantine II, Constantius II and Constans were far too young and knew very little about the tasks of an emperor. However, Crispus never assumed the throne.

In 326 AD, his life came to a sudden end. On his father's orders, he was tried, condemned to death and executed. Soon afterwards, Constantine had his own wife, Fausta, killed; she was drowned in an over-heated bath. The reason for these drastic acts are speculative. The popular version is that Fausta was in love with Crispus but when he repulsed her, she accused him of adultery and so Crispus was executed. Her own death followed the discovery of her fraud by Constantine's mother, Helena who told the emperor of his dreadful mistake.

Trendles Coins 3



MFNA09, 7000, SF 622 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS AVG
(322-323 AD)



MFNA09, 7000, SF 622 (rev)
BEATA TRANQVILLITAS - VOTIS XX
(STR - Trier mint)



MFo2, 2145, SF 1749 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS AVG
(323-324 AD)



MFo2, 2145, SF 1749 (rev)
SARMATIA DEVICTA
(PTR crescent - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF03, 14179, SF 2341 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS AVG
(324-325 AD)



MF03, 14179, SF 2341 (rev)
PROVIDENTIAE AVGG
(STR - Trier mint)

The coin on the lefthand page, SF 1749, refers to Constantine's major victory over the Sarmatians in 322 A.D which is described by the Greek historian Zosimus:-

“When Constantine learned that the Sarmatians, who live near Lake Maeotis, had sailed across the Danube and were pillaging his territory, he led his army against them... he killed many, took more prisoners and put the rest to flight.” Zosimus 2:21

This was one reason for the following civil war, since the territory he had fought in against the Sarmatians was officially under the control of his co-emperor Licinius. In 324 AD Constantine defeated Licinius at Adrianople and again at Chrysopolis. Licinius surrendered, was exiled to Thessalonica but was executed the next year for rebellion.

The coin above, SF 2341, still has the AVGG which implies there are two emperors. After the death of Licinius and by the date of the two coins SF 3456 and SF 3552 on the next page, Constantine is named as MAX to show that he is sole emperor with his sons Crispus, Constantine II and Constantius as his 'Caesars'. Constans also later becomes his Caesar in 333 AD.

Trendles Coins 3



MF05, 1277, SF 3456 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG
(330-335 AD)



MF05, 1277, SF 3456 (rev)
GLORIA EXERCITVS
(TR dot P - Trier mint)



MF05, 25002, SF 3552 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG
(335-337 AD)



MF05, 25002, SF 3552 (rev)
GLORIA EXERCITVS
(dot TRS dot - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF05, 18000, SF 3206 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C
(Constantine II as Caesar 327-328 AD)



MF05, 18000, SF 3206 (rev)
PROVIDENTIA CAESS
(STRE - Trier mint)



MFP11, 6083, SF 471 (obv)
FL IVL CONSTANTINVS NOB C
(Constantine II as Caesar 332 AD)



MFP11, 6083, SF 471 (rev)
GLORIA EXERCITVS
(TRP * - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF03, 2234, SF 2298 (obv)
CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C
(Constantine II as Caesar 330-335 AD)



MF03, 2234, SF 2298 (rev)
GLORIA EXERCITVS
(Dot in crescent PLG - Lyons mint)



MF05, 15981, SF 3328 (obv)
VRBS ROMA
(Commemorative coin struck 330-335 AD)



MF05, 15981, SF 3328 (rev)
Romulus and Remus with the she-wolf
(gamma SIS - Siscia mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF01, 9008, SF 361 (obv)
CONSTANTINOPOLIS
(Commemorative coin struck 330-335 AD)



MF01, 9008, SF 361 (rev)
Victory on the prow of a ship
(TRS - Trier mint)



MF05, 25002, SF 3554 (obv)
CONSTANTINOPOLIS
(Commemorative coin struck 330-335 AD)



MF05, 25002, SF 3554 (rev)
Victory on the prow of a ship
(BSIS - Siscia mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF05, 25000, SF 3316 (obv)
CONSTANTINOPOLIS
(Commemorative coin struck 330-335 AD)



MF05, 25000, SF 3316 (rev)
Victory on the prow of a ship
(TRP - Trier mint)

Commemorative Coins

Constantine and his sons issued a few different types of commemoratives from 330-346 AD. These were issued to mark the foundation of Constantinople and to also re-affirm Rome as the traditional centre of the Empire.

The two most common are the CONSTANTINOPOLIS (Victory on a prow) and VRBS ROMA (wolf and twins) types. The female figure on the obverse is the personification of Constantinople or Rome. The wolf and twins type depict Romulus and Remus (the founders of Rome) being suckled by the she-wolf. The two stars on the reverse represent the *dioscuri* (the twins Castor and Pollux).

After Constantine's death in 337 AD coins were struck in memory of him. In SF 527 (on the opposite page) he is shown as veiled on the obverse and on the reverse he is riding a quadriga into the heavens where he is received by the hand of God. His mother Helena and stepmother Theodora also had coins struck in their honour at this time.

Trendles Coins 3



MF01, 12009, SF 527 (obv)
DV CONSTANTINVS PT AVGG
(Constantine I with veiled head)



MF01, 12009, SF 527 (rev)
Emperor in a quadriga with the hand of God
(Posthumous coin struck 337-340 AD)



MF04, 18254, SF 3095 (obv)
FL IVL HELENA AVG
(Wife of Constantius I, mother of Constantine)



MF04, 18254, SF 3095 (rev)
PAX PVBLICA
(Posthumous coin struck 337-340 AD)

Trendles Coins 3



MF05, 25002, SF 3867 (obv)

FL IVL HELENAE AVG

(Wife of Constantius I, mother of Constantine)



MF05, 25002, SF 3867 (rev)

PAX PVBLICA

(Commemorative coin struck 330-335 AD)



MF06, 29000, SF 4896 (obv)

FL MAX THEODORA AVG

(Second wife of Constantius I)



MF06, 29000, SF 4896 (rev)

PIETAS ROMANA

(Memorial coin struck 337-340 AD)

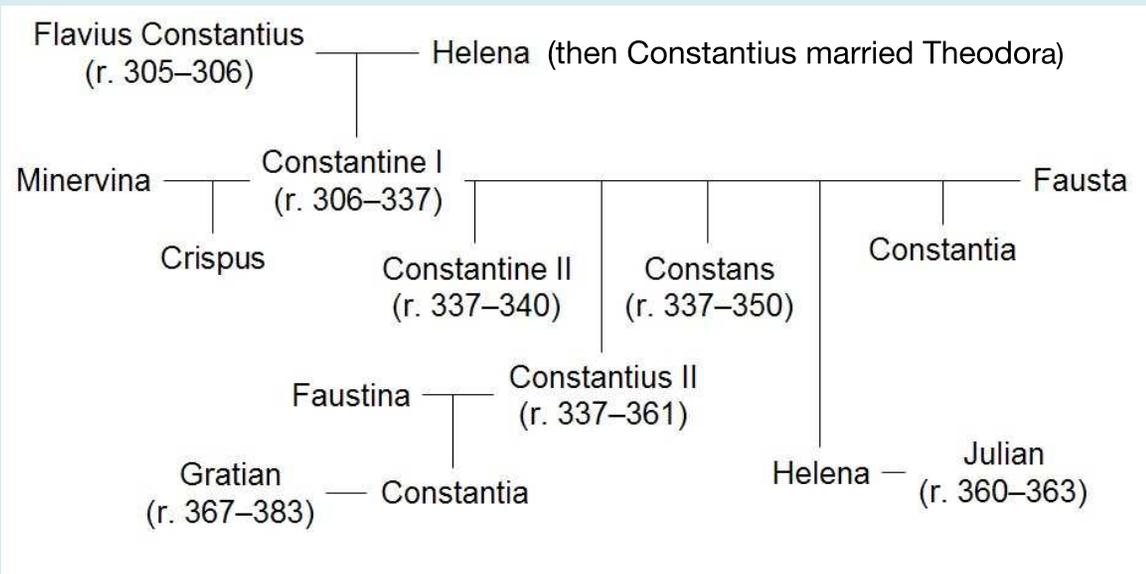
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The Constantinian Dynasty

Although Constantine created his apparent heirs "Caesars", following a pattern established by Diocletian, he gave them a hereditary character, alien to the tetrarchic system. Constantine's Caesars were to be kept in the hope of ascending to Emperor, but were entirely subordinated to their father, as long as he was alive.

An alternative explanation for the execution of Crispus was, perhaps, Constantine's desire to keep a firm grip on his prospective heirs. This and Fausta's desire for having her own sons inheriting instead of their half-brother were both reasons for killing Crispus. The subsequent execution of Fausta, however, was probably meant as a reminder to her children that Constantine would not hesitate in "killing his own relatives when he felt this was necessary".

With Constantine's own death in 337 AD, Constans and his two brothers, Constantine II and Constantius II, divided the Roman world among themselves and disposed of virtually all relatives who could possibly have a claim to the throne. However it was not long before they were also at war with each other. Constantius II survived the longest in power, until 361 AD.



Trendles Coins 3



MF07, 29002, SF 5495 (obv)
CONSTANTIVS AVG
(Constantius II, 337-340 AD)



MF07, 29002, SF 5495 (rev)
GLORIA EXERCITVS
(PLG - Lyons mint)



MF09, 39006, SF 5973 (obv)
FL IVL CONSTANTIVS AVG
(Constantius II, 337-340 AD)



MF09, 39006, SF 5973 (rev)
GLORIA EXERCITVS
(TRS - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MFNAo8, 3000, SF 1 (obv)
DN CONSTANTIVS PF AVG
(Constantius II, 348-350 AD)



MFNAo8, 3000, SF 1 (rev)
FEL TEMP REPARATIO
Phoenix on a rocky mound (TRP - Trier mint)



MFo7, 14292, SF 5378 (obv)
CONSTANS PF AVG
(Constans, 346-348 AD)



MFo7, 14292, SF 5378 (rev)
GLORIA EXERCITVS
(TRS - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MFo8, 36067, SF 5711 (obv)
CONSTANS PF AVG
(Constans, 346-348 AD)



MFo8, 36067, SF 5711 (rev)
GLORIA EXERCITVS
A pierced coin? (TRS - Trier mint)



MFNAo8, 2036, SF 63 (obv)
CONSTANS PF AVG
(Constans, 347-348 AD)



MFNAo8, 2036, SF 63 (rev)
VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN
(Epsilon TRP - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MFo2, 2145, SF 1621 (obv)
CONSTANS PF AVG
(Constans, 347-348 AD)



MFo2, 2145, SF 1621 (rev)
VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN
Ivy leaf in centre (TRS - Trier mint)



MFo1, 2000, SF 112 (obv)
DN CONSTANS PF AVG
(Constans, 348-350 AD)



MFo1, 2000, SF 112 (rev)
FEL . TEMP . REPARATIO
Phoenix on globe (TRP - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF06, 31000, SF 4398 (obv)
DN CONSTANS PF AVG
(Constans, 348-350 AD)



MF06, 31000, SF 4398 (rev)
FEL TEMP REPARATIO
(R * T - Rome mint)

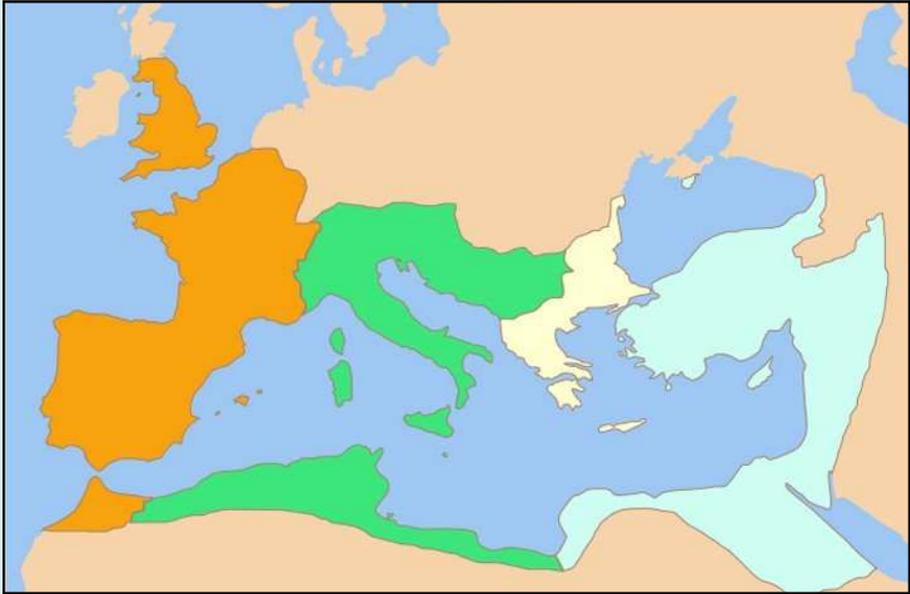


MF07, 14292, SF 5257 (obv)
DN CONSTANS PF AVG
(Constans, 348-350 AD)



MF07, 14292, SF 5257 (rev)
FEL . TEMP . REPARATIO
Phoenix on a rocky mound (TRP - Trier mint)

The division of the Empire on the death of Constantine I



West to east, these are the territories of Constantine II (orange), Constans I (green), Dalmatius (white) and Constantius II (light blue). This was the formal division of the Empire, until Dalmatius was killed in late 337 AD and his territory divided between Constans and Constantius.

Annoyed that Constans had received Thrace and Macedonia after the death of Dalmatius, Constantine II, accustomed to dominating his younger brother, demanded that Constans hand over the African provinces. Soon they began quarrelling over the division of the territory.

In 340 AD Constantine II marched into Italy at the head of his troops. Constans, at that time in Dacia, sent a select and disciplined body of his Illyrian troops, stating that he would follow them in person with the remainder of his forces. Constantine was engaged in military operations and was killed in an ambush outside Aquileia. Constans then took control of his deceased brother's realm, commanding the whole of the western empire.

Trendles Coins 3

Magnentius 'Usurper' 350 - 353 AD

Born in Samarobriva (Amiens) in Gaul, Magnentius was the commander of the Imperial guard units. When the army grew dissatisfied with Emperor Constans, it chose Magnentius as emperor at Autun on 18th January 350 AD. Constans was hunting near the Pyrenees away from his forces, when Magnentius' forces cornered and killed him at Helene (near Perpignan).

Magnentius quickly attracted the loyalty of the provinces in Britannia, Gaul, and Hispania, in part because he proved to be far more tolerant toward both Christians and Pagans. His control of Italia and Africa was secured through the election of his own men to the most important offices.

Magnentius then tried to strengthen his grasp on the territories previously controlled by Constans, moving towards the Danube. On hearing this, Constantius II broke off his war with Persia and marched west from Syria.

He elected Magnus Decentius, probably his brother, as Caesar (see SF 113 on page 39). After gathering as many troops as possible, Magnentius advanced his armies to meet those of Constantius in the Battle of Mursa Major in 351 AD.

Magnentius led his troops into battle, while Constantius spent the day of battle praying in a nearby church. Despite Magnentius' heroism, his troops were defeated and forced to retreat back to Gaul. As a result of Magnentius' defeat, Italy ejected his garrisons and rejoined the loyalist cause.

Magnentius made a final stand in 353 AD at the Battle of Mons Seleucus, after which he fled to a place called Lugduna and there committed suicide by falling on his sword.

Some sources claim that Magnentius' father was a Briton and his mother a Frank. It is known however that his wife, Justina, later married Valentinian I.

Trendles Coins 3



MFNA09, 7016, SF 426 (obv)
DN MAGNENTIVS PF AVG
(Magnentius, 350-353 AD)



MFNA09, 7016, SF 426 (rev)
GLORIA ROMANORVM
(SAR - Arles mint)



MF03, 2195, SF 1930 (obv)
DN MAGNENTIVS PF AVG
(Magnentius, 350-353 AD)



MF03, 2195, SF 1930 (rev)
VICTORIAE DD NN AVG ET CAE
VOT V MVLX (AMB* - Amiens mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF05, 26000, SF 4197 (obv)
IM CAE MAGNENTIVS PF AVG
(Magnentius, 350-353 AD)



MF05, 26000, SF 4197 (rev)
FELICITAS REIPVBLICE A
(TRS - Trier mint)



MF03, 2224, SF 1990 (obv)
DN MAGNENTIVS PF AVG
(Magnentius, Jan-Aug 353 AD)



MF03, 2224, SF 1990 (rev)
SALVS DD NN AVG ET CAES XP A-W
(TRS - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF01, 2000, SF 113 (obv)
DN DECENTIVS NOB CAES
(Decentius as Caesar 351-353 AD)



MF01, 2000, SF 113 (rev)
VICTORIAE DD NN AVG ET CAE
(RSLG - Lyons mint)

XP on coins

The Fourth Century AD saw Christianity established as the state religion. On coins, evidence of this change was rather minor. A small Chi-Rho on a standard held by soldiers was a common reverse type (see SF 4197 opposite). The Chi-Rho monogram combined X and P, the first two letters in the name of Christ. Only once was there an issue of coins with a prominent use of the Christian symbol (see SF 1990 opposite).

In 353 AD, near the end of his losing battle with Constantius II, the usurper Magnentius issued bronze coins showing the Chi-Rho between the letters Alpha and Omega. Magnentius used the symbol of Christ to solicit support from Christians in the Western Empire in his struggle with the Eastern Emperor Constantius II. Constantius supported the teachings of the Alexandrian heretic Arius who had been excommunicated at the Council of Nicaea. While popular in the East, the Arian heresy was opposed in the West where the teachings of the Bishop of Rome prevailed.

Use of such a strong Christian symbol would remind people of the danger a heretic Emperor could be to their beliefs and their souls. Magnentius' interest in this symbol was political and strategic rather than philosophical. Magnentius himself was actually a pagan.

Trendles Coins 3



MF11, 40004, SF 6653 (obv)
DN FL CL IVLIANVS PF AVG
(Julian, 361-363 AD)



MF11, 40004, SF 6653 (rev)
VOT X MVLT XX
(SLVG - Lyons mint)



MF02, 2198, SF 1482 (obv)
DN IOVANVS PF AVG
(Jovian, 363-364 AD)



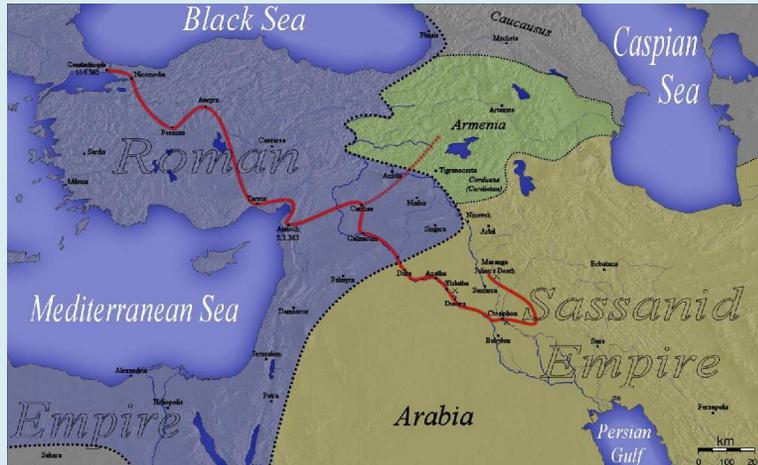
MF02, 2198, SF 1482 (rev)
VOT V MVLT X
(SCONST - Arles mint)

JULIAN (361-363 AD) and JOVIAN (363-364 AD)

Julian (Flavius Claudius Julianus) was emperor from 361 to 363 AD, as well as a notable philosopher and author in Greek. His rejection of Christianity caused him to be remembered as 'Julian the Apostate'. Julian became Caesar over the western provinces by order of his brother-in-law Constantius II in 355 AD, and in this role he campaigned successfully against the Alamanni and Franks. Most notable was his crushing victory over the Alamanni at the Battle of Argentoratum (Strasbourg) in 357 AD, leading his men against an army three times larger.

In 360 AD, Julian was proclaimed Augustus by his soldiers at Lutetia (Paris), sparking a civil war with Constantius. However, Constantius died before the two could face each other in battle, and named Julian as his successor. In 363 AD, Julian embarked on an ambitious campaign against the Sasanian Empire. During the Battle of Samarra, Julian was mortally wounded under mysterious circumstances.

JULIAN'S CAMPAIGN in 363 AD



He was succeeded by **Jovian** (Flavius Jovianus), a senior officer in the imperial guard, from June 363 to February 364 AD. He had accompanied Emperor Julian on his campaign against the Sasanian Empire and following the latter's death, Jovian was hastily declared Emperor by his soldiers. With the army exhausted, provisions running low, and unable to cross the Tigris, he sought peace with the Sasanian Empire on humiliating terms.

After his arrival home at Edessa, Jovian was petitioned by bishops over doctrinal issues concerning Christianity and, by September 363 AD, he had re-established Christianity as the state religion. Jovian reigned only 8 months.

Trendles Coins 3

The Valentinian Dynasty (364-455 AD)

Valentinian I was a soldier in Julian's Persian expedition of 363 AD. He was promoted by Julian's successor, Jovian, who died soon afterward. Nine days later the commanders of the army proclaimed Valentinian as emperor. He appointed his younger brother, Valens, as co-ruler and assigned him to govern the East, while Valentinian himself retained the West.

Valentinian set about fortifying the borders in Gaul. In January 365 AD his generals were defeated by the Germanic Alemanni but by October Valentinian had set up residence in Paris, from which he directed operations fighting against the invaders.

In 367 AD, he moved to Ambiani (Amiens) to be in closer communication with his general Theodosius (father of the later emperor Theodosius I), who was defending Britain from Saxon, Pictish, and Scottish invaders. In order to strengthen the line of succession, Valentinian proclaimed his eight-year-old son, Gratian, as co-emperor. Two months later Valentinian took up residence at Trier. He remained there for seven years, devoting his attention to the construction of an elaborate system of fortifications on the Rhine.

With the death of Valentinian I, in 375 AD, Valens became the senior Augustus and the 16 year old Gratian was Augustus in the western empire. Three years later Valens was defeated at the Battle of Adrianople, leaving Gratian now in charge at 19 with his half brother Valentinian II only 7 years old. Gratian needed a competent co-ruler and so he established Theodosius I as co-Emperor in the East. In 383 AD he moved to Gaul to counter invasions across the Rhine. During this time a rebellion broke out in Britain under Magnus Maximus and Maximus successfully invaded Gaul. Gratian's legions deserted him and he was captured and executed. Under a truce with Theodosius and Valentinian II, Maximus kept the western portion of the Empire including Britain, Spain and Gaul, while Valentinian ruled over Italy, Africa and Illyricum, allowing Theodosius to concentrate on threats in the East.

The peace with Magnus Maximus was quickly broken when he invaded Italy from the west but he was defeated by Theodosius in 388 AD and Valentinian II was restored to the throne in Italy. The next year, Theodosius arrived in Rome to display his second son, the five year old Honorius. Theodosius then decided to stay in Milan, making sure that Valentinian II was under his influence. Theodosius, a skilled soldier and diplomat, made it clear that in reality he was now the sole emperor of the West and the East.

Trendles Coins 3



MF05, 25002, SF 3553 (obv)
DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG
(Valentinian I, 364-367 AD)



MF05, 25002, SF 3553 (rev)
GLORIA ROMANORVM
(TRS - Trier mint)



MF05, 25007, SF 3975 (obv)
DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG
(Valentinian I, 364-367 AD)



MF05, 25007, SF 3975 (rev)
GLORIA ROMANORVM
(SMAQP- Aquileia mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF07, 36031, SF 5181 (obv)
DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG
(Valentinian I, 367-375 AD)



MF07, 36031, SF 5181 (rev)
GLORIA ROMANORVM F-E A
(BSISCS - Siscia mint)



MFP10, 2290, SF 129 (obv)
DN VALENS PF AVG
(Valens, 367-375 AD)



MFP10, 2290, SF 129 (rev)
GLORIA ROMANORVM
(TRP - Trier mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF02, 2198, SF 1536 (obv)
DN VALENS PF AVG
(Valens, 375-378 AD)



MF02, 2198, SF 1536 (rev)
SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE
OF II (CON - Arles mint)



MF05, 15081, SF 3388 (obv)
DN VALENS PF AVG
(Valens, 375-378 AD)



MF05, 15081, SF 3388 (rev)
SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE
OF I (CON - Arles mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF01, 2000, SF 44 (obv)
DN GRATIANVS PF AVG
(Gratianus, 367-375 AD)



MF01, 2000, SF 44 (rev)
SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE
(LVGP - Lyons mint)



MF07, 36054, SF 5424 (obv)
DN GRATIANVS PF AVG
(Gratianus, 367-375 AD)



MF07, 36054, SF 5424 (rev)
GLORIA ROMANORVM F-R A
(ASISC - Siscia mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF07, 34002, SF 5391 (obv)
DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG
(Valentinian II, 388-392 AD)



MF07, 34002, SF 5391 (rev)
VICTORIA AVGGG
(LVG - Lyons mint)



MF07, 29002, SF 5511 (obv)
DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG
(Valentinian II, 388-392 AD)



MF07, 29002, SF 5511 (rev)
XP SALVS REIPVBLICAE
(CONSA - Constantinople mint)

Trendles Coins 3



MF05, 25002, SF 3432 (obv)
DN THEODOSIVS PF AVG
(Theodosius, 383-388 AD)



MF05, 25002, SF 3432 (rev)
VOT X MVLT XX
(ANT - Antioch mint)



MF06, 15002, SF 4857 (obv)
DN THEODOSIVS PF AVG
(Theodosius, 383-392 AD)



MF06, 15002, SF 4857 (rev)
XP SALVS REIPVBLICAE
(AQS - Aquileia mint)

**MF07, 29002,
SF 5266**



**DN THEODOSIVS
PF AVG**

Theodosius I

Theodosius I also called Theodosius the Great, was emperor from 379 to 395 AD. He is best known for making Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire and great architecture projects in Constantinople.

After a military career and then a governorship under his father, Theodosius the Elder, a *comes rei militaris*, he became *magister equitum* and was then elevated to the imperial rank of Augustus by the emperor Gratian. He replaced the Gratian's uncle and senior Augustus, Valens who had been killed at the Battle of Adrianople. He was the first emperor of the Theodosian dynasty (379–457 AD), and married into the ruling Valentinian dynasty (364–455 AD).

On accepting his elevation, he campaigned with limited success against Goths and other barbarians who had invaded the Empire. He was not able to destroy them or drive them out, as had been Roman policy for centuries in dealing with invaders. The Goths were eventually established as autonomous allies, within the Empire's borders, south of the Danube. They were given lands and allowed to remain under their own leaders, not assimilated as had been normal Roman practice.

Trendles Coins 3



MF07, 14297, SF 5245 (obv)
DN MAG MAXIMVS PF AVG
(Magnus Maximus, 383-388 AD)



MF07, 14297, SF 5245 (rev)
SPES ROMANORVM
(LVG - Lyons mint)

Magnus Maximus

Magnus Maximus was emperor in the western portion of the Empire from 383 to 388 AD. He usurped the throne from emperor Gratian in 383 AD. Through negotiation with emperor Theodosius I he was made emperor in Britannia and Gaul the next year while Gratian's brother Valentinian II retained Italy, Pannonia, Hispania, and Africa.

In 387 AD, Maximus's ambitions led him to invade Italy, resulting in his defeat by Theodosius I at the Battle of Poetovio in 388 AD. In the view of some historians, his death marked the end of direct imperial presence in Northern Gaul and Britain. No further coins were struck by the London mint.

Trendles Coins 3



MF01, 9012, SF 678 (obv)
DN ARCADIVS PF AVG
(Arcadius, 388-392)



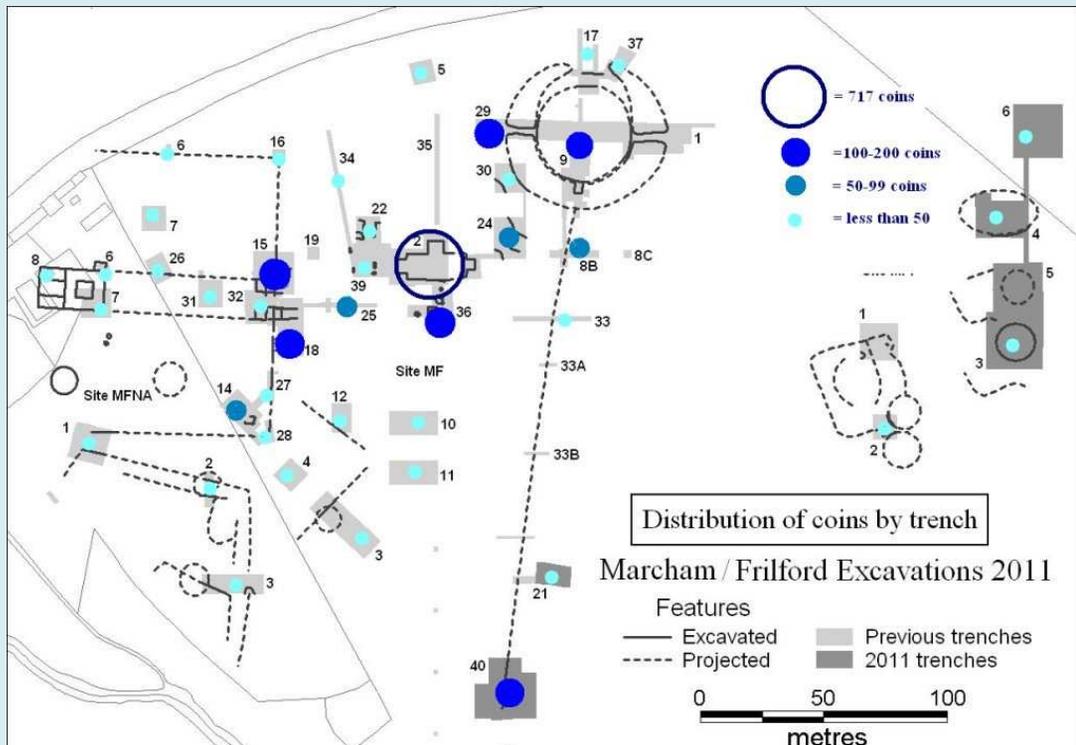
MF01, 9012, SF 678 (rev)
VICTORIA AVGGG
(Arles mint?)

Flavius Arcadius

Flavius Arcadius was Roman emperor from 383 to 408 AD. He was the eldest son of Theodosius I (379–395) and the brother of Honorius (393–423). Arcadius ruled the eastern half of the empire from 395 AD, when their father died, while Honorius ruled in the west.

As emperors, both of Theodosius' sons proved to be inexperienced and capable of being dominated by ambitious subordinates. When Theodosius died in January 395 AD, Arcadius was still aged only 17 and fell under the influence of the praetorian prefect of the East, Rufinus. His brother Honorius, aged 10, was consigned to the guardianship of the magister militum, Stilicho, in Italy.

Trendles Coins 3



The distribution of all Roman coins by location

'MFNA' (left) = Marcham Frilford Noah's Ark 'MF' (middle) = Marcham Frilford
'MFP' (right) = Marcham Frilford Prehistoric

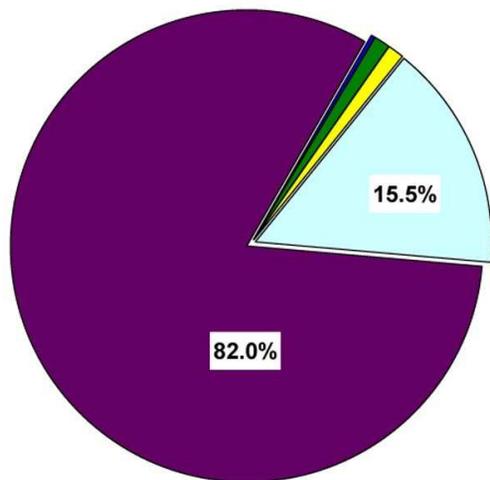
Each coin is recorded by site, year of excavation, context (which includes the trench number) and its small find number: eg **MF03, 2000, SF 1858**

'SF' shows the Small Find number on the Trendles register.

'obv' = obverse (the front of a coin) 'rev' = reverse (the back of the same coin)

* denotes that the photo is a sample and not actually a Trendles coin

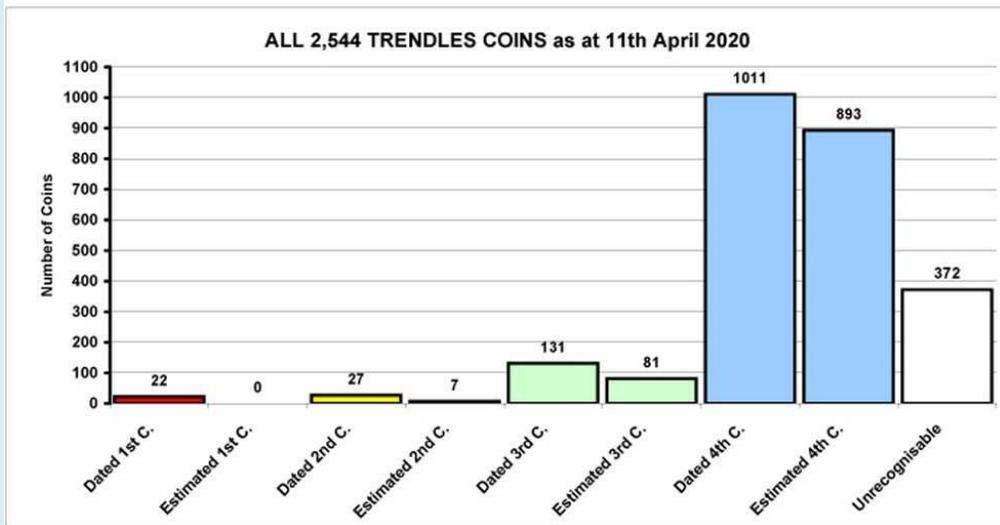
TRENDELES COINS by century

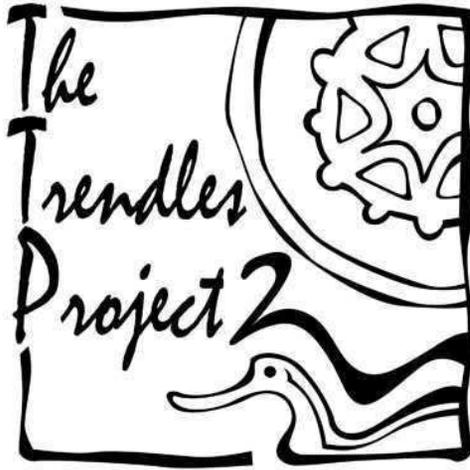


- PRE-ROMAN
- 1st Century
- 2nd Century
- 3rd Century
- 4th Century
- OTHER

Proportion of all Roman coins across the Trendles site by period

Dated 1st C.	Estimated 1st C.	Dated 2nd C.	Estimated 2nd C.	Dated 3rd C.	Estimated 3rd C.	Dated 4th C.	Estimated 4th C.	Unrecognisable	TOTAL
22	0	27	7	131	81	1011	893	372	2544





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