
DAILY COIN RELIEF!

A BLOG FOR ANCIENT COINS ON THE PAS BY ANDREW BROWN

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Augustus, c.27 BC-AD 14



Victory at Actium in September 31 BC¹ gave *Gaius Octavius (Octavian)* undisputed control over the Roman Republic. Octavian was the great-nephew of Julius Caesar through Caesar's sister, Julia, and rose first in the military ranks under Caesar, notably in his Spanish campaigns of 46 BC, before taking the political reins in 43 BC when he was *consul* for the first time. As the Republic unravelled and conflict grew with Antony, Octavian secured his position in part by drawing very obvious familial links to the deified Caesar (as *divi filius*) and in part by pointing out to the senate in particular the obvious, treasonable, actions of Mark Antony and his relationship with Cleopatra. Although Actium brought Octavian power, he was *consul* in Rome every year from 31-23 BC and a total of thirteen times throughout his life, it also resulted in instability with the senate clearly not wanting another dictator.

In January 27 BC Octavian, who received the title 'Augustus'² (sacred or revered), went through the show of giving his powers back to the senate and people of Rome, but the uproar that ensued resulted in him maintaining his *imperium* over the provinces and the legions as well as adopting the title *Princeps* ('first citizen'). This 'First Settlement' essentially established the *Principate*, the first period of the Roman empire with Augustus as its emperor. Further political change came in 23 BC with a Second Settlement when an ill Augustus dropped the power of *consul* and was instead granted *Tribunician* powers for life, which he held 37 times in total until his death in AD 14. This was a period of rebuilding within the new empire and not just politically, extensive building and administrative works were carried out in Rome that also saw the emergence of a cult of Rome and Augustus (see **Fig. 1** and below) that spread beyond the confines of Rome itself.

¹ See **Daily Coin Relief Edition 10** for Mark Antony and the build up to conflict.

² There are many texts on Augustus' life, see for example W. Eck *The Age of Augustus* (2007)



Augustus' military campaigns saw the empire expand its control east as far as Spain and west into the provinces of Africa and Syria and notably against the Parthians. His victories and military honours are well documented, notably on the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* ('The Deeds of the Divine Augustus'), Augustus' own account of his life and achievements written just prior to his death – a version of this text survives on the cella wall of the Temple of Augustus and Rome, the *Monumentum Ancyranum*, in Ankara (Turkey), constructed after the Roman capture of Galatia in c.25 BC (**Fig. 1**). Indeed, he was acclaimed *Imperator* 21 times during his lifetime, albeit with the odd notable defeat along the way, in particular in Teutoburg in AD 9 when the Roman legions were resoundingly defeated by the Germanic forces of Arminius of the Cherusci.

Fig. 1: The *Monumentum Ancyranum* preserving the text of the *Res Gestae*, the minaret of the Ottoman Hacı Bayram Mosque in the background (Photo: A. Brown)

Through his daughter, Julia, and her second husband, Agrippa, Augustus attempted to preserve the Julian line with succession intended to go to his grandsons Gaius (born in 20 BC) and Lucius (born in 17 BC) who he adopted as sons and heirs. However, both died before their grandfather as young men – Lucius after a sudden illness while at Massalia (Marseille) in AD 2 en route to complete his military training and Gaius, who had become *consul* in AD 1, after being wounded on campaign in the east and subsequently retiring from public life in AD 4. Succession now shifted to *Tiberius*, Augustus' stepson through his first marriage to Livia, to continue the Julio-Claudian dynasty³ – there were suggestions in antiquity that Livia may have had a hand in events turning to favour her son.⁴ Tiberius was recalled to Rome to be formally adopted as heir and in his turn adopted his own nephew, *Germanicus*, as his heir thereby assuring the continuation of the dynasty.

Augustus died at Nola on the 19th August AD 14 at the age of 75. His body was returned to Rome with enormous ceremony, where he was cremated and his ashes interred in his vast mausoleum. Tiberius and Drusus delivered funerary orations, Augustus was deified, and his achievements (and useful propaganda!) in his *Res Gestae* inscribed on bronze pillars set in front of the mausoleum.⁵ Perhaps most importantly, he had established the new empire

³ See **Daily Coin Relief Edition 3** for Tiberius.

⁴ See Cassius Dio LV.10a; Tacitus *Annals* I.3

⁵ The bronze inscriptions no-longer survive, the text at the top of this piece is a reconstruction in Rome from the surviving text on the Ankara *Res Gestae*. The text itself appeared in stone at numerous locations around the empire following his death.

with an individual emperor at the head. He had transformed Rome physically and his legacy as Rome's greatest emperor and through the cult of *Divus Augustus* shaped the empire for many centuries to follow. Two versions of his last words are reported, publicly he is reported to have said that he “*found it [Rome] of brick, but left it of marble*”⁶, while in private he is supposed to have said “*Have I played the part well? Then applaud as I exit*”!



Fig. 2: The Blacas Cameo. Three-layered sardonyx cameo engraved with a portrait of Augustus wearing the aegis of Minerva and a sword-belt. BM: 1867,0507.484

Coinage of Augustus

With the emergence of the *principate* from c.27 BC there was also change to the Roman coinage that saw the introduction of the Augustan currency system (**Fig. 3**). The *denarius*, in use since the end of the 3rd century BC, remained the standard silver denomination and was struck at about 3.9g of very pure silver.⁷ Above this, the larger gold *aureus*, a coin of about 8g of pure gold, was valued at 25 *denarii*. The most extensive change, however, came with the reorganisation of the base metal, bronze, coinages whose relative values as fractions of the *denarius* were fixed and remained in place until the mid-3rd century AD. The *sestertius*, originally a small silver coin during the Republican period⁸ but now a large brassy (orichalcum) coin of about 26g, was the largest of the base metal denominations valued at a quarter of a *denarius*. Beneath this was a brassy *dupondius* of c.12.5g valued at half a *sestertius*, with a copper *as* of c.11g at half a *dupondius*. The two smallest denominations, the *semis* and the *quadrans*, at half and quarter of an *as* respectively, we have looked at previously in **Daily Coin Relief Editions 8 and 20**.

Coins of Augustus are not hugely common as PAS finds. There are currently 321 single coins recorded on the PAS database, including 35 IARCW records. The majority of these are *denarii* from various mints in the western empire, with just four *aurei* and fewer than 30 bronze coins. Indeed, bronze coins of Augustus are rare as British site finds and gold is never common – there are examples within hoard groups as well as single finds though, perhaps most notably within the Bregdar Hoard (Kent; see IARCH-75460A) that may have been deposited at the time of the Roman invasion in AD 43.

⁶ Suetonius *Divus Augustus* 29; see also Cassius Dio LVI.30: “*I found Rome of clay; I leave it to you of marble*”

⁷ Butcher and Ponting’s (2005) analysis of Augustan *denarii* from Spain and Lugdunum suggest almost pure silver.

⁸ Originally valued at two and a half *asses*, its name derived from *semis* (half) and *tertius* (third) and meaning half of the third (*as*).

The Augustan Currency System



Fig. 3: The Augustan currency system

Coins of Augustus were struck at a number of mints in both the eastern and western empire, particularly in the early years of his reign following the Battle of Actium. These can usually be distinguished from one another based on the coin types and denominations attributed to each mint, although in some instances the differences can be slight so some care needs to be taken in assigning worn coins in particular to one or other mint. In this piece I follow the outline of Augustus' coinage given in **RIC I (2nd ed.)**, although much has been written on the subject and this may require some adjustment to the records on the PAS database in the future.

- **Spain:** Three mints striking coin between **c.25-16 BC**
 - **Emerita** – **c.25-23 BC**: *denarii*, *quinarii*, and smaller bronzes (*dupondii* and *asses*) carrying the name of P. Carisius
 - **Uncertain Mint 1 (Colonia Caesaraugusta?)** – **c.19-18 BC**: *aurei* and *denarii*
 - **Uncertain Mint 2 (Colonia Patricia?)** – **c.20-17/16 BC**: *aurei* and *denarii*
- **Gaul:** Three(?) mints striking between **c.20 BC-AD 14**
 - **Nemausus** – **c.20 BC-AD 14**: *dupondii* and *asses* only
 - **Lugdunum** – **c.15 BC-AD 14**: *aurei*, *denarii* and *aes*
 - **Treveri?** – **c.15 BC onwards**: *quadrantes?*
- **Italy:** Several(?) mints striking between **c.32 BC-AD 12**
 - **Uncertain Italian Mints (Brundisium and Rome?)** – **c.32-27 BC**: *aurei* and *denarii*
 - **Rome** – **c.19 BC-AD 12**: *aurei*, *denarii*, and *aes* to c.4BC, *asses* c.10-12 AD

- **Eastern Mints:** Multiple mints striking between **c.31-15 BC**
 - North Peloponnese – **c.21 BC**: *denarii* and *quinarii*
 - Samos(?) – **c.21-20 BC**: *denarii*
 - Ephesos – **c.28-20 BC**: *cistophoroi*
 - Ephesos(?) – **c.25 BC** onwards: *sestertii* and *asses*
 - Pergamon – **c.28-15 BC**: *cistophoroi*, *aurei*, *denarii* and *aes*
 - Antioch – **c.23 BC**: *aes*
 - Cyrenaica – **c.28-17 BC**: *aurei*, *denarii*, *quinarii*
- **Uncertain Mints** – *aurei*, *denarii*, and *aes* struck between **c.28-17 BC**

Within the PAS dataset we are largely dealing with coins from mints in Spain, Italy, and especially Gaul, which is understandably the best represented given its proximity to Britain. Excluding the 35 IARCW coins, there are 289 coins attributed to Augustus on the PAS database, of which 265 can be ascribed to a mint (**Fig. 4**). Of these more than half of the total – 150 coins or 56% – are coins from the mint of Lugdunum.

Mint	Total	%
Emerita	6	2.2
Spanish Mint 1	14	5.2
Spanish Mint 2	42	15.8
Nemausus	3	1.1
Lugdunum	150	56.6
Treveri?	0	0
Uncertain Italian Mints	12	4.5
Rome	32	12.0
Eastern Mints	2	0.7
Uncertain Mints	4	1.5
<i>Total</i>	265	99.6

Fig. 4: Coins of Augustus recorded through the PAS by mint (excluding IARCW coins)

Emerita (Merida, Spain) (Figs. 5-6)

Coins with reverse types that carry the moneyer's name P. Carisius and dating to c.25-23 BC. P. Carisius was the *legatus pro praetore* of the province of Lusitania who aided in the foundation of the colony of *Emerita Augusta* in the far west of Spain. His name appears on the coinage of this mint alongside the bust of Augustus to whom he was subordinate. Coinage from the mint continued throughout P. Carisius' rule in Emerita, but silver appears to cease in 23 BC when his tenure finished.

These are not common as PAS finds, there are so far only 4 *denarii* in addition to one possible bronze coin within the IARCW dataset. All of the PAS *denarii* are of the same type, **RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 41, no. 7a**, and there are possibly two very rare *quinarii* (half *denarii*) belonging to this series including one recorded from Shropshire (**Fig. 5**). The type for the *denarius* is distinctive and has clear military overtones, with shield, dagger, and bipennis on the reverse.



Fig. 5

Denarius of Augustus, c.25-23 BC
 Obv.: IMP CAESAR AVGVST, Bare head right
 Rev.: P CARISIVS LEG PRO P R,
 Shield between dagger and bipennis
 Emerita
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 41, no. 7a
 HAMP-49EB77

Fig. 6

Quinarius of Augustus, c.25-23 BC
 Obv.: AVGVST, Bare head right
 Rev.: [P CARIS] I LEG, Victory standing right
 crowning trophy; dagger and curved sword at base
 Emerita
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 41, no. 1a
 HESH-9BE877



Uncertain Spanish Mint 1 (Colonia Caesaraugusta?) (Figs. 7-12)

The first of two uncertain Spanish mints is given a possible attribution in **RIC I** to Caesaraugusta (Zaragoza, Spain). *Aurei* and *denarii* from this mint can be distinguished from those of the second Spanish mint (see below) for the most part through the reverse types represented amongst the coinage. These reference Augustus' significance to Rome and his victories in the east in Armenia and against Parthia in c.19-18 BC. Some types appear in both mints, but can be separated by the use of an oak-wreath rather than laureate on the bust type in Mint 1.

This mint was less productive than the second Spanish mint and there are correspondingly fewer PAS examples – just 14 coins. These represent just five coin types, the majority (9 coins) belonging to a single type with DIVVS IVLIVS reverse reinforcing Augustus' association to the divine Julius Caesar (**Figs. 9, 10**).



Fig. 7

Denarius of Augustus, c.19-18 BC
 Obv.: Oak-wreathed bust right
 Rev.: CAESAR/AVGVSTVS, Two palm
 branches
 Spain Mint 1
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 43, no. 33a
 BUC-89B156

Fig. 8

Denarius of Augustus, c.19-18 BC
Obv.: Oak-wreathed bust left
Rev.: CAESAR/AVGVSTVS, Two palm branches
Spain Mint 1
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 43, no. 33b
PUBLIC-5350D0



Fig. 9

Denarius of Augustus, c.19-18 BC
Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Oak-wreathed head right
Rev.: DIVVS IVLIVS, Eight-rayed comet with tail upward
Spain Mint 1
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 44, no. 37a
WAW-F70692



Fig. 10

Denarius of Augustus, c.19-18 BC
Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Oak-wreathed head right
Rev.: DIVVS IVLIVS, Eight-rayed comet with tail upward
Spain Mint 1
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 44, no. 37b
SF-C89194



This type with the *sidus iulium* – Caesar’s Comet – provided a clear link for Augustus to the divine Caesar, in part legitimising his familial ties and therefore position within Rome. It is the most common coin of the Caesaraugusta mint that appears through the PAS.

Fig. 11

Denarius of Augustus, c.19-18 BC
Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Bare head left
Rev.: OB CIVIS SERVATOS an oak wreath
Spain Mint 1
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 44, no. 40b
DENO-08A402



Fig. 12

Denarius of Augustus, c.19-18 BC
Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Bare head right
Rev.: [SPQR] in fields. Victory flying right, holding wreath above shield inscribed [CL V]
Spain Mint 1
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 44, no. 45
DENO-AC453D



Uncertain Spanish Mint 2 (Colonia Patricia?) (Figs. 13-22)

The second Spanish mint was attributed to Colonia Patricia (Cordoba, Spain) in **RIC I**. It produced a much more extensive range of coin types than Mint 1, with dated issues and references to the saecular games indicating production continued until c.17 BC. Again, reverse types reference Augustus' victories in the east as well as reinforcing his pre-eminence in Rome itself.

Coins of this mint are much more common as PAS finds with a total of 42 examples probably attributed to this mint. It is interesting that despite the variation in types present within **RIC** the range of material represented within the PAS data is comparatively limited. Indeed, aside from single or double examples of some types, the bulk of the assemblage is formed from about half a dozen types (with minor variations to obverse and reverse).

Fig. 13

Denarius of Augustus, c.19 BC
Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Bare head right
Rev.: IOV-TON, Jupiter standing left holding thunderbolt in right hand and sceptre in left hand in hexastyle temple
Spain Mint 2
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 46, no. 64var
WILT-EB42AC



Note – This type with head right is not represented in RIC but appears in the BM collection, **BMC I, p. 64, no. 363**

Fig. 14

Denarius of Augustus, c.19 BC

Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Bare head right

Rev.: MAR-VLT, Tetrastyle round domed temple, Mars, helmeted and cloaked, standing inside left, holding aquila in right hand and parazonium in left

Spanish Mint 2

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 47, no. 69a

LVPL2418



This reverse type depicts the temple of Mars Ultor (**Fig. 15**) – ‘Mars the Avenger’ – to whom Augustus promised to construct a temple in Rome in return for victory against Crassus and Brutus at the Battle of Philippi in 42 BC. In this instance avenging his adopted father, Caesar.



Fig. 15: The remains of the Temple of Mars Ultor, Rome (Photo: A.Brown).



Fig. 16

Denarius of Augustus, c.19 BC

Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Bare head right

Rev.: OB/CIVIS/SERVATOS within an oak wreath

Spain Mint 2

RIC I (2nd ed.), p.47, no. 77a

IOW-B55813

Note – This coin belongs to a series of types that reference Augustus as the saviour of the Roman people (*ob civis servatos*, the oak wreath, the *corona civica*, was awarded to Augustus in 27 BC), for which there are six PAS examples with minor variations on the same type.

Fig. 17

Denarius of Augustus, c.19 BC
 Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Bare head right
 Rev.: SIGNIS RECEPTIS, an aquila on left and standard on right, flanking S P Q R arranged around shield inscribed CL V
 Spain Mint 2
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 47, no. 86a
 LEIC-1368C1



Like the last coin, this type has multiple varieties of which there are six PAS examples. In this instance the reverse type celebrates the return of standards lost in battle against the Parthians, the ‘shield of valour’ (*clipeus virtutis*) one of the honours accorded to Augustus by the senate.



Fig. 18

Denarius of Augustus, c.18 BC
 Obv.: S P Q R PARENS CONS SVO, Toga picta over tunica palmata between an aquila and a wreath
 Rev.: CAESARI AVGVSTO, Triumphal quadriga right, surmounted by four miniature galloping horses
 Spain mint 2
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 48, no. 99
 LIN-830F43

Note – There are seven examples with minor variations to obverse and reverse of this type on the PAS database. The *toga picta* was a ceremonial robe worn by consuls and by generals celebrating victory, the combination with the *tunica palmata* beneath in celebration of a victorious general.

Fig. 19

Denarius of Augustus, c.18 BC
 Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Laureate head left
 Rev.: MAR VLT, Domed temple with six columns; within, aquila between two standards
 Spain Mint 2
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 48, no. 105b
 SOM-FD56E2



There are just three PAS examples of this type, again referencing Mars the avenger.



Fig. 20

Denarius of Augustus, c.18 BC
 Obv.: CAESARI AVGVSTO,
 Laureate head right
 Rev.: S P Q R, Triumphal quadriga
 right containing aquila and
 surmounted by four miniature
 galloping horses
 Spain Mint 2
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 48, no. 108a
 LEIC-069867

Fig. 20

Denarius of Augustus, c.18 BC
 Obv.: CAESARI AVGVSTO, Laureate
 head right
 Rev.: S P Q R below Domed tetrastyle
 temple, in which triumphal currus stands
 right, shaft up, containing aquila and four
 miniature galloping horses
 Spain Mint 2
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 49, no. 115
 WAW-96B5A1



Fig. 21

Denarius of Augustus, c.18-16 BC
 Obv.: Bare head right
 Rev.: AVGVSTVS, A Capricorn right
 holding globe attached to rudder,
 cornucopiae above
 Spain Mint 2
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 50, no. 126
 SUR-06D917



Note – The Capricorn was Augustus' supposed birth sign. There are at least five examples of this type on the PAS with a sixth (IOW-0D5931) likely also related to these.

Fig. 22

Denarius of Augustus, c.18-16 BC
 Obv.: S P Q R CAESARI
 AVGVSTO, Bare head right
 Rev.: VOT P SVSC PRO SAL ET
 RED I O M SACR, Mars standing
 left with head turned right, holding a
 vexillum in right hand and a
 parazonium in left hand.
 Spain Mint 2
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 51, no. 150a
 GLO-C4ADC7



Nemausus (Nimes, France) (Figs. 23-25)

As a Roman colony, Nemausus struck extensive *aes* coinage from c.20 BC onward.⁹ Although there is some internal development to the coinage, the basic type remained the same throughout the period of issue. The obverse carries the distinctive double heads of Agrippa and Augustus and the crocodile with palm branch appears as its civic device on the reverse with the legend COL(*onia*) NEM(*ausus*). These are not common coins in Britain and there are just three examples on the PAS. The obverse type in particular makes them identifiable amongst other early worn bronze coinage and it is worth noting that some *dupondii* were deliberately cut in half to produce *asses* (e.g. Fig. 25).¹⁰



Fig. 23
Dupondius/As of Augustus, c.AD 10-14
 Obv.: IMP DIVI F, P P, Heads of Agrippa (left) and Augustus (right) back to back
 Rev.: COL NEM, A crocodile right, behind a palm branch
 Nemausus
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 52, nos. 159-161
 ESS-55F4F2

Fig. 24
Dupondius of Augustus, c.AD 10-14
 Obv.: IMP DIVI F, P P, Heads of Agrippa (left) and Augustus (right) back to back
 Rev.: COL NEM, A crocodile right, behind a palm branch
 Nemausus
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 52, no. 159
 BM: 1901,0503.137



Fig. 25
 Cut *as* of Augustus, c.20 BC-AD 10
 Obv.: IMP DIVI F, Heads of Agrippa (left) and Augustus (right) back to back
 Rev.: COL NEM, A crocodile right, behind a palm branch
 Nemausus
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 51, no. 154ff
 IOW-00DA32



⁹ More recent analysis of these types suggests they continued to be produced throughout Augustus' reign, see for example: P-A Besombes and J-N Barrandon 'Les dupondii de Nimes : datation, diffusion et nature du métal utilisé' *RN* 157, 2001: 305-328

¹⁰ There are multiple examples of these cut coins found in votive deposits in Gaul

Lugdunum (Lyon, France) (Figs. 26-45)

The mint at Lugdunum began striking coins under Augustus in c.15 BC, replacing the coin production of the Spanish mints in the western empire. From c.12 BC the mint at Rome stopped minting precious metal coinage, only striking bronze from this point onward, with production of *aurei* and *denarii* shifting to Lugdunum. Importantly, Augustus himself controlled the provinces so could issue coinage here without any influence from the authorities in Rome, while the city itself was close to both key silver reserves in Spain and the armies on the Rhine that required payment.¹¹ The city became an important centre of imperial cult. From c.12 BC, Drusus brought together the tribes of the three imperial Gallic provinces (the *Tres Galliae*) with Lugdunum becoming the focal point of the *concilium galliarum* at an altar to Rome and Augustus personally dedicated by Augustus on his visit to the city with annual celebrations on the 1st of August.¹²

Coins of Lugdunum are the most commonly seen on the PAS, with almost two-thirds of all examples belonging to the mint. Of these, 99 coins (66%, or a third of the total number of coins of Augustus on the PAS) are of one type with reverse depicting the two imperial heirs Gaius and Lucius (see below **Figs. 34-36**). The majority are *aurei* and *denarii*, with just 12 base metal coins recorded to date.

IMP X, c.15-13 BC

The first issues from Lugdunum carry Augustus' title of **IMP X**, Augustus is depicted bare headed and as the divine son of Caesar (*divi filius*). There are 23 coins from this group on the PAS.

Fig. 26

Denarius of Augustus, c.15-13 BC

Obv.: AVGVSTVS DIVI F, bare head right

Rev.: IMP X, Two soldiers (Tiberius and Drusus?) standing right giving branches to Augustus, seated left on platform

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 52, no. 165a

NCL-1FC9A6



Fig. 27

Denarius of Augustus, c.15-13 BC

Obv.: AVGVSTVS DIVI F, Bare head right

Rev.: IMP X, Bull butting right
Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 52, no. 167a

SUSS-B2C6E3



¹¹ See for example B. Wolters 'The Julio-Claudians' in *The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Coinage* (2012), p. 339

¹² Augustus likely dedicated the altar on 1st August 10 BC, the same day future emperor Claudius was born at Lugdunum!

Fig. 28

Denarius of Augustus, c.15-13 BC

Obv.: AVGVSTVS DIVI F, Bare head right

Rev.: IMP X, Bull butting left

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 52, no. 169

WILT-CEB2C2



Fig. 29

Denarius of Augustus, c.15-13 BC

Obv.: AVGVSTVS DIVI F, Bare head right

Rev.: IMP X, ACT (in ex.), Apollo Citharoedus standing left holding plectrum and lyre

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 52, no. 171a

YORYM-40C2E2



Fig. 30

Denarius of Augustus, c.15-13 BC

Obv.: AVGVSTVS DIVI F, Bare left

Rev.: IMP X, SICIL (in ex.), Diana standing left leaning on spear, holding bow, dog at feet left

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 53, no. 173b

HESH-0333D4



IMP XII, c.11-10 BC

This group, for Augustus when he was *imperator* for the 12th time has types similar to the previous group but now with laureate heads. There are just three PAS examples.



Fig. 31

Denarius of Augustus, c.11-10 BC

Obv.: AVGVSTVS DIVI F, Bare head right

Rev.: IMP XII, Bull butting right

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 54, no. 187a

NMGW-F2303D

Fig. 32

Denarius of Augustus, c.11-10 BC
Obv.: AVGVSTVS DIVI F, Bare left
Rev.: IMP X, SICIL (in ex.), Diana
standing left leaning on spear,
holding bow, dog at feet left
Lugdunum
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 54, no. 195var
SUR-268A91



TR POT XVI and IMP XIII, c.8-7 BC

Only three coins from this issue are recorded through the PAS, all of the same type (**RIC I no. 199**).



Fig. 33

Denarius of Augustus, c.8-7 BC
Ibv.: AVGVSTVS DIVI F, Laureate
head right
Rev.: C CAES, AVGVS F (in ex.), C.
Caesar galloping right, holding reins,
sword, and shield, behind aquila
between standards
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 54, no. 199
LEIC-998ABF

TR POT XXIII-XXVII, c.2 BC and later

The most significant group of coins from the Lugdunum mint is the issue of coins from c.2 BC onward with distinctive reverse types depicting Augustus' grandsons, the caesars Gaius and Lucius. Woytek and Blet-Lemarquand (2017: p. 185)¹³ describe this issue as “*the iconic coins of the Augustan age par excellence*” and it was struck in huge volume. This is the only issue on the PAS represented by *aurei* as single finds (3 coins) with 96 *denarii*. Augustus is depicted laureate, still as *divi filius*, but now also *Pater Patriae* (‘father of his country’) – a title afforded to him in 2 BC. The reverse type refers to Gaius and Lucius as *consules designati* (COS DESIG), which indicates that the issue of this coinage must have begun in c.2-1 BC after Augustus became *pater patriae* and before Gaius became *consul* in AD 1.

The basic type for these issues is as follows:

Obverse: **CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F PATER PATRIAE**, Laureate head right

Reverse: **C L CAESARES (in exergue), AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVENT**¹⁴,
Gaius and Lucius Caesars standing, each togate, resting hand on shield and spear, above
simpulum, right, and lituus, left

¹³ B. Woytek and M. Blet-Lemarquand ‘The C. L. CAESARES denarii RIC I² Augustus 208. A pseudo-Augustan unsigned restoration issue. Corpus, die study, metallurgical analyses’ *RN* 174, 2017: 183-248

¹⁴ *Gaius and Lucius Caesars, sons of Augustus, consules designate, princes of the youth*

Fig. 34

Aureus of Augustus, c.2 BC-AD 4
Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F
PATER PATRIAE, Laureate
head right

Rev.: C L CAESARES (in
exergue), AVGVSTI F COS
DESIG PRINC IVVENT, Gaius
and Lucius Caesars standing,
each togate, resting hand on
shield and spear, above
simpulum, left, and lituus,
right

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 55, no. 206

LEIC-35CCA5



Fig. 35

Aureus of Augustus, c.2 BC-AD 4

Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F
PATER PATRIAE, Laureate head right

Rev.: C L CAESARES (in
exergue), AVGVSTI F COS
DESIG PRINC IVVENT, Gaius
and Lucius Caesars standing,
each togate, resting hand on
shield and spear, above
simpulum, left, and lituus,
right

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 55, no. 206

NMGW-981BC4



The *denarii* of this issue fall into four main types in **RIC, nos. 207, 210, 211, and 212**. A fifth variety, **RIC no. 208** appears to be a restitution issue struck after Augustus' death.¹⁵ All four of these types are essentially identical, the difference being the arrangement of the *lituus* and *simpulum* on the reverse between the spears. **RIC 207** is by far the most common, with 83 of the PAS examples likely attributable to this type:

Fig. 36

Denarius of Augustus, c.2 BC-AD 4
Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F
PATER PATRIAE, Laureate head right

Rev.: C L CAESARES (in
exergue), AVGVSTI F COS
DESIG PRINC IVVENT, Gaius
and Lucius Caesars standing,
each togate, resting hand on
shield and spear, above
simpulum, left, and lituus,
right

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 55, no. 207

IOW-2A1571



¹⁵ See Woytek and Blet-Lemarquand, 2017

In this type, the simpulum is on the left facing right, while the lituus is on the right facing left. This changes in the other issues, as follows:



RIC 207
(83 PAS examples)

Simpulum left facing right, lituus right facing left



RIC 210
(7 PAS examples)

Lituus left facing right, simpulum right facing left



RIC 211
(1 PAS example)

Simpulum left facing right, lituus right facing left, X beneath



RIC 212
(5 PAS examples)

Lituus left facing right, simpulum right facing left, X beneath

The placement of the simpulum and lituus are potentially significant chronologically and an excellent summary, followed here, is found in the analysis of this type by Woytek and Blet-Lemarquand (2017). In **RIC 207**, the most common type, the simpulum as a symbol of the *pontifex* is on the left, indicating Gaius who became *pontifex* in 7 BC is standing to the left of the reverse type. The lituus, on the other hand, was the symbol of the *augur* and therefore of Lucius who stands to the right. These swap around in **RIC 210** and so the caesars also swap places. Gaius' seniority is also represented by his shield always being in front of that of Lucius – the shields and spears symbolise the brothers' coming of age. Coins bearing an X beneath the simpulum and lituus have been interpreted as a commemorative issue struck after the deaths of Gaius (AD 4) and Lucius (AD 2), perhaps connected to the *lex Valeria Cornelia* in AD 5 that ordered senators and *equites* into ten centuries, five named for Gaius and five for Lucius, when voting for candidates for *consul* and *praetor*.

RIC 208 so far does not seem to be represented on the PAS. This rare issue was identified by Woytek and Blet-Lemarquand as a sub-type not struck by Augustus but instead a restoration issue from Rome. The silver content and metallurgy points to a Trajanic or Hadrianic date, possibly even c.AD 129-133 (see **RIC II.3, p. 39**). The key difference visually is the reverse type, where the simpulum and lituus are turned outwards rather than inwards on the Augustan types.

Fig. 37

Denarius, restoration issue of Augustus
Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F PATER PATRIAE, Laureate head right
Rev.: C L CAESARES (in exergue), AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT, Gaius and Lucius Caesars standing, each togate, resting hand on shield and spear, above simpulum, left, and lituus, right
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 56, no. 208
BM: 1920,0614.2



Aurei and denarii, c.AD 13-14

An important last issue to note is the appearance just prior to Augustus' death of coins that reference the new heir, Tiberius, and which carry on into the latter's reign, replacing the Gaius and Lucius coinages from c.13 AD. There are only five PAS coins from this period, but it is important to note the distinctive PONTIF MAXIM reverse type that is prolific under Tiberius (see **Daily Coin Relief Edition 3**) but rare for Augustus (**Fig. 38**)



Fig. 38

Denarius of Augustus, c.AD 13-14

Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F PATER PATRIAE, Laureate head right
Rev.: PONTIF MAXIM, Seated female figure right holding branch and sceptre
Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 56, no. 220

LIN-AE1D8E

Note – The majority of the *denarii* with this reverse type on the PAS are for the much more common Tiberius type. The Augustus coins are a rare forerunner to this and can be separated from the later coins based on obverse type and legend for Augustus rather than Tiberius.

Fig. 39

Denarius of Augustus, c.AD 13-14

Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F PATER PATRIAE, Laureate head right
Rev.: TI CAESAR AVG F TR POT XV, Bare head of Tiberius right

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 56, no. 226

IOW-BDC677



Aes coinage, c.15 BC-AD 14

Base metal coinage from the Lugdunum mint is much rarer on the PAS than the silver. This might be expected, since the coinage is being struck prior to the Claudian invasion and at a time when Britain was not integrated into the empire. Silver and gold were intrinsically valuable and so could have travelled across the channel both prior to AD 43 but most likely following the invasion to pay the incoming legions within the new province. Bronze in contrast wouldn't have functioned or circulated in the same way prior to the invasion.

There are just 12 possible bronze coins of Augustus from Lugdunum recorded on the database to date, nine *asses* and three *semisses*, all with the same reverse type that depicts the altar of Augustus and Rome at Lugdunum with the reverse legend ROM ET AVG. This reverse type appears in c.15 BC and soon replaces the Nemausus *aes* as the predominant bronze coinage in the western empire. One thing to note with the bronze of both the Nemausus and Lugdunum mints is that they do *not* carry the S C on the reverse type as these are essentially issued from regional/provincial mints and so not directly under the auspices of the senate at Rome. The bronze issues with altar/ROM ET AVG reverse type are separated into two basic groups:

'Altar I' Series (*sestertii*, *asses*, and *quadrantes*¹⁶) – c.15-10 BC

Obverse: **CAESAR PONT MAX**, laureate head of Augustus right

Reverse: **ROM ET AVG** (in ex.), Front elevation of the Altar of Lyon, decorated with *corona civica* between laurels, flanked by nude male figures, Victories on columns with wreath and palm to either side



Fig. 40

Sestertius of Augustus, c.15-10 BC

Obv.: **CAESAR PONT MAX**, Laureate head right

Rev.: **ROM ET AVG**, Altar of Lugdunum Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 57, no. 229

BM: 1908,1002.1

Fig. 41

As of Augustus, c.15-10 BC

Obv.: **CAESAR PONT MAX**, Laureate head right

Rev.: **ROM ET AVG**, Altar of Lugdunum

Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 57, no. 230

WAW-0C6133



'Altar II' Series (*sestertii*, *dupondii*, *asses*, and *semisses*) – c.AD 9-14

The reverse type for this issue is as the Altar I series, but the obverse changes to include not only legend and bust types for Augustus but also the imperial heir, Tiberius, as caesar.

For **Augustus** – bare or laureate head of Augustus left or right:

CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F PATER PATRIAE



Fig. 42

Sestertius of Augustus, c.AD 9-14

Obv.: **CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F PATER PATRIAE**, Laureate head right

Rev.: **ROM ET AVG**, Altar of Lugdunum Lugdunum

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 57, no. 231a

BM: R.6277

¹⁶ The *quadrantes* of this issue have obverse **IMP CAESAR** with reverse either an eagle with spread wings (**RIC 227**) or butting bull (**RIC 228**) and laureate or bare head. There are no PAS examples recorded to date.

For **Tiberius** – bare or laureate head of Tiberius left or right:
TI CAESAR AVGVST F IMPERAT V (AD 8-10)
TI CAESAR AVGVSTI F IMPERATOR V (AD 8-10)
TI CAESAR AVGVST F IMPERAT VI (AD 11)
TI CAESAR AVGVST F IMPERAT VII (AD 12-14)
TI CAESAR AVGVST F IMPERATOR VII (AD 12-14)

Fig. 43

As of Tiberius under Augustus,
 c.AD 9-14, contemporary copy
 Obv.: TI CAESAR AVGVST [...],
 Laureate head right
 Rev.: ROM ET AVG, Altar of
 Lugdunum
 Lugdunum
**RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 58, cf. no.
 238aff**
 SF-D03781



Fig. 44

Semis of Tiberius under Augustus, c.AD 9-14
 Obv.: [...], Bare head left
 Rev.: ROM ET AVG, Altar of Lugdunum
 Lugdunum
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 58, cf. no. 243ff
 HESH-E68E74



These bronze issues are relatively rare on the PAS and when they do appear are often very worn, suggesting they may have been in circulation for a substantial period of time – indeed, one example (**Fig. 45**) has a countermark indicating it was revalued (and therefore still in circulation) during the reign of Claudius I or perhaps even as late as Titus. Of the PAS examples, only two can be securely attributed to the Altar I series, four to the Altar II series, the remaining six do not preserve enough detail of the legends to be able to say which group they belong to.

Fig. 45

As of Augustus, c.15 BC-AD 14
 Obv.: [...], Unclear bust right
 Rev.: [ROM ET AVG], Altar of
 Lugdunum
 Lugdunum
RIC I (2nd ed.), cf. p. 57 no. 230ff
 IOW-F52A23

Note – this coin is overstruck with TI•C•A, this countermark is recorded in BMC I (p. xxxv) and on coins of Caligula (6 examples in the Pangerl Collection, all from Germania Superior). TI. C. A. probably means *Tiberius Claudius Augustus* (Claudius), but might stand for *Titus Caesar Augustus* (Titus).



Uncertain Italian mints (Brundisium and Rome?) (Figs. 46-52)

Prior to and just after the Battle of Actium, Octavian/Augustus struck large volumes of silver and gold coinage initially to pay his own forces but subsequently the combined Roman legions remaining in the empire.¹⁷ A significant group of coins was struck at mints in Italy, their precise locations unclear but possibly Brundisium (Brindisi) or Rome. These can be divided into two main groups. The first comprises coins that style Octavian as *caesar divi f* on reverse legends (the obverse carrying no legend), again highlighting his association with the divine Caesar, and struck between c.32-29 BC. Reverse types highlight Octavian's descent through the Julian line with reference to Venus and his victory in battle (Figs. 46-48). A second group (Figs. 49-52), struck between c.29-27 and much larger in volume than the first group, with reverse legends reading IMP CAESAR. These reference the events after Actium, including the capture of Antony's ships and the honours bestowed on Octavian (now Augustus) in 27 BC.

Coins of this mint or group of mints are not all that common as PAS finds. There are a total of 12 coins identified to date, all *denarii* – four of these belong to group I, with eight from group II. It is possible there may be other examples from these two issues amongst the Republican *denarii* recorded through the PAS.



Fig. 46

Denarius of Octavian/Augustus, c.32-29 BC

Obv.: Bare head right

Rev.: CAESAR DIVI F, Venus right, leaning against column, holding transverse spear in left and helmet in right; shield depicting eight-rayed star leans against column

Uncertain Italian Mint

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 59, no. 250a

KENT-A63EC4

Fig. 47

Denarius of Octavian/Augustus, c.32-29 BC

Obv.: Bare head left

Rev.: CAESAR DIVI F, Victory standing left, on globe, holding wreath and palm

Uncertain Italian Mint

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 59, no. 254b

IOW-025DA1



¹⁷ In RIC it is noted that the combined numbers of the legions were halved to about 30 following the battle and so Octavian not only had to pay the remaining legions but also re-settle the demobilised soldiers.



Fig. 48

Denarius of Octavian/Augustus, c.32-29 BC

Obv.: Bare head left

Rev.: CAESAR DIVI F, Victory standing right on a globe

Uncertain Italian Mint

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 59, no. 255

IOW-9CE208

Fig. 49

Denarius (plated copy) of Octavian/Augustus, c.29-27 BC

Obv.: Victory on prow right holding wreath and palm

Rev.: IMP CAESAR, Octavian in slow quadriga right holding reins and branch

Uncertain Italian Mint

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 60, no. 264

NMGW-54F4C3



Fig. 50

Denarius of Octavian/Augustus, c.29-27 BC

Obv.: Bare head right

Rev.: IMP CAESAR on architrave surmounted by facing quadriga bearing Octavian

Uncertain Italian Mint

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 60, no. 267

HAMP-FDD7C6



Fig. 51

Denarius of Octavian/Augustus, c.29-27 BC

Obv.: Laureate head right

Rev.: IMP CAESAR, Rostral column surmounted by figure of Octavian holding spear and parazonium

Uncertain Italian Mint

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 60, no. 271

SUR-D4C8E5



Note – This is the most common of the coins from the Uncertain Italian Mints with four PAS examples recorded to date.



Fig. 52

Denarius of Octavian/Augustus, c.29-27 BC

Obv.: Laureate head right

Rev.: IMP CAESAR, Octavian veiled and laureate, ploughing with yoke of oxen right

Uncertain Italian Mint

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 60, no. 272

WILT-E5BA8D

Rome (Figs. 53-68)

Coins were issued from Rome from c.19-4 BC in gold, silver and bronze prior to Lugdunum replacing Rome as the centre of precious metal coin production in c.12 BC. There are 32 coins recorded through the PAS associated with the Rome mint, nine are *aes* coinages while 23 are *denarii*. Coins were struck in relatively large volume at Rome during this period and can be identified by the appearance of the names of one of the three moneyers, the *tresviri monetales*, elected as junior magistrates each year and responsible for the production of coinage at the mint. Fortunately, this also gives a useful chronology for the coinage of the Rome mint, often allowing relatively close dating of individual coins even for very worn examples. Bronze coinage from Rome notably carries the letters S C – appearing prominently and large on the reverse types – to indicate that these were issued under the direction or control of the senate. The division between control over Rome's bronze coinage by the senate and the precious metal coinage under Augustus is evident.

19 BC (6 PAS coins) – moneyers P. Petronius Turpilianus, L. Aquillius Florus, M. Durmius, and Q. Rustius

Fig. 53

Denarius of Augustus, 19 BC

Obv.: [TVR]PILIANVS III

VIR[FERO(N)], draped bust right

Rev.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS SIGN

RECE, Parthian kneeling right

holding standard

Rome

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 62, no. 288

PUBLIC-02B87C



Fig. 54

Denarius of Augustus, 19 BC

Obv.: L AQVILLIVS FLORVS IIIVIR,

Helmeted bust of Virtus right

Rev.: AVGVSTVS CAESAR, Augustus left in biga of elephants holding branch and sceptre

Rome

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 63, no. 301

LEIC-FE4354



Fig. 55

Denarius of Augustus, 19 BC
Obv.: M DVRMIVS-IIIIVIR HONORI, head
of Honos right
Rev.: AVGVSTVS CAESAR, Augustus left
in biga of elephants holding branch and
sceptre
Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 64, no. 311
BERK-B493BC



17 BC (5 PAS coins) – Moneyers M. Sanquinius, P. Licinius Stolo and Ti. Sempronius Graccus



Fig. 56

Denarius of Augustus, 17 BC
Obv.: AVGVST DIVI F LVDOS
SAE, Herald in robe with feathered
helmet holding winged caduceus
and shield with *sidus Iulium*
Rev.: M SANQVINIVS IIIIVIR,
Laureate head of Julius Caesar
right, above *sidus Iulium*
Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 66, no. 340
HAMP-9CA5F5

Note – This type with bust of Caesar (or possibly a personification of the ‘New Age’) commemorates the revival of the *Ludi Saeculares*, Saecular Games celebrated in 17 BC by Augustus. The games marked the commencement of a ‘New Age’ inaugurated by the divine Caesar and finally realised by Augustus, the *sidus Iulium* above his Caesar’s head the comet that appeared in the sky following his assassination.

Fig. 57

Dupondius/as of
Augustus, 17 BC
Obv.: AVGVSTVS/
TRIBUNIC/ POTEST,
Legend within a wreath
Rev.: M SANQVINIVS Q
F III VIR AAAFF around
a large S C
Rome
**RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 66, no.
342**
SOMDOR-C6ED32





Fig. 58
Sestertius of Augustus, 17 BC
 Obv.: OB [CIVIS SER]VATOS,
 Oak wreath between two
 branches
 Rev.: P LICINIVS STOLO
 IIIIVIR AAAFF around large S C
 Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 67, no. 345
 BERK-B0C026

16 BC (7 PAS coins) – Moneyers L. Mescinius Rufus, L. Vinicius, and C. Antistius Vetus

Fig. 59
Denarius of Augustus, 16 BC
 Obv.: Laureate head right
 Rev.: L MESCENIVS RVFVS, Mars
 holding spear and parazonium standing
 left on pedestal inscribed S P Q R V PR
 RE CAES
 Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 68, no. 351
 PUBLIC-0580D4



Fig. 60
Denarius of Augustus, 16 BC
 Obv.: L MESCIN[IVS RV]FVS III
 VIR, Cippus (square pillar) inscribed
 over five lines IMP / CAES / AVGC
 / COMM / CONS between S C
 Rev.: Oak wreath with inscription
 over seven lines IOM / S P Q R VS /
 PR S IMP CAE / QVOD PER EV /
 R P IN AMP / AT Q TRA / SE
 Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 68, no. 358
 HESH-8BF88C



Fig. 61
Denarius of Augustus, 16 BC
 Obv.: Equestrian statue on pedestal
 inscribed SPQR/IMP/CAES
 Rev.: L VINICIUS-L F III VIR,
 Cippus inscribed SPQR/IMP
 CAE/QVOD V/M S EX/EA P Q
 IS/AD A DE
 Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 68, no. 362
 SF-0423B7



Note – This type relates to Augustus’ personal investment to finance the improvement of public roads, work on the *via Flamini* undertaken at his own expense.



Fig. 62

As of Augustus, 16 BC
Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS
TRIBVNIC POTEST, bare
head right

Rev.: C ASINIVS GALLVS
IIIIVIR AAAFF, large S C
Rome

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 69, no. 373
LVPL-99A704

15 BC (3 PAS coins) – Moneyers Cn. Piso Cn. F., L. Naevius Surdinius, C. Plotius Rufus

Fig. 63

As of Augustus, 15 BC
Obv.: CA[ESAR AVGVSTVS
TRIBVN]IC POTEST, bare head
right

Rev.: C PLOTIVS [RVFVS IIIIVIR
AA]AFF, Large S C
Rome

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 71, no. 389
HAMP-5127B8



13 BC (6 PAS coins) – Moneyers C. Marius C F Tro, C. Sulpicius Platorinus, C. Antistius Reginus

Fig. 64

Denarius of Augustus, 13 BC

Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Bare head right

Rev.: C SVLPICIVS PL[ATORIN], Augustus and
Agrippa seated left on platform, sceptre to left
Rome

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 73, no. 407
BERK-AB5E43



Fig. 65

Denarius of Augustus, 13 BC

Obv.: CAESAR AVGVSTVS, Bare head right

Rev.: [C AN]TISTIVS REG[INVS] III VIR,
Simpulum and lituus above tripod and patera

Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 73, no. 410
LIN-AE67A9



12 BC (2 PAS coins) – Moneyers Cossus Cornelius Lentulus, L. Lentulus, and L. Caninus Gallus



Fig. 66

Denarius of Augustus, 12 BC

Obv.: AVGVSTVS, Bare head right

Rev.: COSSVS-CN F LENTVLVS,
Equestrian statue of Agrippa right

Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 73, no. 412
SF-A7DF81

9 BC (1 PAS coin) – Moneyers Lamia, Siliua, and Annius

Fig. 67

Quadrans of Augustus, 9 BC

Obv.: [LAMI]A SILIVS AN[NIVS],

Simpulum on left and lituus on right

Rev.: [IIIVIR AAAFF] around large SC

Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 74, no. 421
KENT-308A3C



7 BC (2 PAS coins) – Moneyers P. Lurius Agrippa, M. Maecilius Tullus, and M. Salvius Otho



Fig. 68

As of Augustus, 7 BC

Obv.: CAESAR AVGVS PONT
MAX TRIBVNIC POT, Bare
head right

Rev.: M MA[AECILVS]
TVLLVS IIIVIR AAAFF
around large S C

Rome
RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 76, no. 435
ESS-6F1B75

Eastern Mints (Fig. 69)

Coins struck in mints east of Rome are very rare as British finds and on the PAS there are so far only two possible examples, one is unclear, but the second is from a mint in the Peloponnese.

Fig. 69

Denarius of Augustus, c.21 BC

Obv.: AVGVSTVS, Bare head right

Rev.: IOVI OLV, Hexastyle temple with round shield in pediment and palmettes on top

North Peloponnesian Mint?

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 79, no. 472

WMID-B334F5



Uncertain Mints (Fig. 70)

A number of coins were issued from mints whose origins are unclear. There are four examples on the PAS, all of the same type – **RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 85, no. 543** – that date to before 27 BC.



Fig. 70

Denarius of Augustus, c.27 BC or earlier

Obv.: Bare head right

Rev.: IMP CAESAR DIVI F, Round shield with three concentric rows of studs and central boss

Uncertain Mint

RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 85, no. 543a

SUSS-BBE331

Contemporary Copies (Figs. 71-72)

Contemporary copies, particularly plated examples, are relatively common for the coinage of Augustus on the PAS database. Plated *denarii* in particular are seen regularly, with at least c.40 examples recorded to date. Many of these are relatively easy to identify as the copper-alloy cores are generally visible through the silver surface of the coin – do look out for them when recording coins of Augustus.

Fig. 71

Plated *Denarius* of Augustus, c.2 BC-AD 14

Copy of **RIC I (2nd ed.), p. 55, no. 207**

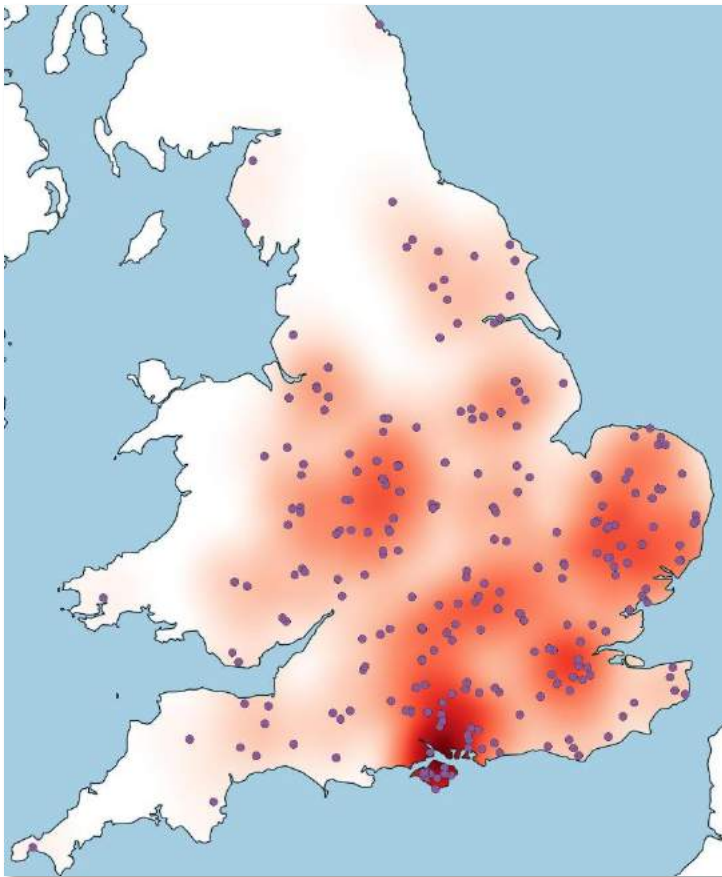
WILT-B91097





Fig. 72
Plated *Denarius* of Augustus, c.2 BC-AD 14
Copy of **RIC I (2nd ed.)**, p. 55, no. 207
SWYOR-6F29B0

Distribution of coins of Augustus (Figs. 73-74)



Coins of Augustus demonstrate relatively widespread distribution within the province. Many of these coins, especially the silver, likely reflect the circulation of coinage in use after the Claudian invasion in AD 43 – certainly the silver would have served as intrinsically valuable currency for soldier's pay, for example. That said, some could have crossed the Channel at an earlier date. It is notable that the greatest concentration of Augustan coins is focussed on the south coast in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight, spreading toward London and with other groups in East Anglia and the Midlands. There is a much more restricted circulation in the north generally and in Devon and Cornwall.

Fig. 73: Distribution of the coins of Augustus recorded through the PAS (excluding IARCW coins).

Although the *denarii* have widespread distribution, there seems to be little difference between the coins of the individual mints within the circulation pool, with no clear concentrations that might indicate specific movement of coins or bullion. Interestingly, if we consider the much rarer bronze denominations separately from the silver (**Fig. 74**) a different pattern emerges. Although there are fewer than 30 base metal coins there is a clear distribution that focuses on the south east and London in particular. A small band of coins runs south towards the Isle of Wight and there are single outliers within the general distribution of Augustus' coinage, but it is notable that the south east is a clear focal point.

Fig. 74: Distribution of *aes* coinage of Augustus recorded through the PAS (excluding IARCW records).

