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Excavations and Interventions in and around Cramond Roman Fort and Annexe, 1976 to 1990

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12. THE ROMAN COINS

Nicholas Holmes

▶ Twelve Roman coins, from four separate periods of excavation, formed part of the finds assemblage from this relatively small area (see list below). Some are in very poor condition, precluding

precise identification. The six denarii from Site 2 were recovered from waterlogged soil deposits, which accounts for their oxidised and corroded condition.

None of those attributable to a specific reign would be out of place in the context of the Antonine and Severan occupation phases previously demonstrated at Cramond, but the three denarii of Lucilla and Commodus, minted in AD 164–9 and 183–4 respectively, might be indicative of late Antonine, rather than Severan, losses. All exhibit very little evidence of wear in circulation.

At least another nine coins of Roman date are recorded on the original finds register (Table 7) but are no longer traceable.

12.1 Catalogue of extant coins

12.1.1 Site 2: Cramond Road I

► LUCILLA, denarius: 2.21g, die axis 210°: AD 164–9

Obv: LVCILLA AVGVSTA: bust draped right.

Rev: [IV]NO REGIN[A]: Juno standing left, holding [patera and] sceptre; [peacock at feet].

Table 7 Inventory of coins (now lost) recorded in Charlie Hoy's excavation finds register (those marked in italics may be present but correlation is not certain)

Site	Portrait	Coin	Find no.	Area	Context
Site 2	Lucilla	Sestertius	CR/82/172	Transverse section	Loose soil east of East Kerb
Site 2	Sabina	Denarius	CR/82/309	Transverse section, Feature VII	From soil overlying boulder fill
<i>Site 2</i>	<i>Severus</i>	<i>Denarius</i>	<i>CR/82/389</i>	<i>Transverse section, Feature VII</i>	<i>From soil overlying boulder fill</i>
<i>Site 2</i>	<i>Julia Domna</i>	<i>Not specified</i>	<i>CR/83/215</i>	<i>Extn W I, Feature XII</i>	<i>From soil overlying stony spread</i>
Site 2	Hadrian	Sestertius	CR/83/957	Extn W II	Level below plough soil
Site 2	Commodus	Not specified	CR/83/1052	Extn W II	Below plough soil immediately north of VIII
Site 2	Trajan	Sestertius	CR/83/1148	Extn W II	1st level below plough soil
Site 2	Lucilla	Not specified	CR/83/1474	Bulk extn W I & II	Lower levels
Site 2	Vespasian	Not specified	CR/84/1	Extn W I & II	Unknown
<i>Site 2</i>	<i>Antoninus Pius</i>	<i>Sestertius</i>	<i>CR/85/213</i>	<i>Extn W I & II, Feature IX</i>	<i>Below stone of Feature VIII</i>
Site 2	Faustina	Denarius	CR/85/292	Extn W I & II	Cleaning over Features VIII & IX
Site 2	Julia Domna	Denarius	CR/P1/85/51	Extn W	Upper level
<i>Site 2</i>	<i>Caracalla</i>	<i>Denarius</i>	<i>CR/P1/85/52</i>	<i>Extn W</i>	<i>Upper level</i>
Site 3	Coin, possibly of Roman date	Not specified	CR/2/88/443	Extn NE	Soil and cobble mix

► **RIC (Marcus Aurelius) 772**

Surfaces much corroded and pitted; slight wear.

► **COMMODUS, denarius: 2.50g, die axis 345°: AD 183**

Obv: [M CO]MMODVS [ANTON] AVG [PIVS]: head laureate right.

Rev: [TR P] VIII IMP VI COS III P P: Salus standing left, feeding snake coiled round altar, and holding sceptre.

► **RIC 66**

Undersized flan; surface corroded and pitted; slight wear.

Extn W II, 24 July 1983.

► **SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS, denarius: 2.13g, die axis 195°: AD 203**

Obv: SEVERVS PIVS AVG: head laureate right.

Rev: P M TR P XI COS III P P: Fortuna seated left, holding rudder and cornucopiae; wheel under seat.

► **RIC 189(b)**

No evidence of wear.

► **JULIA DOMNA, denarius: 1.90g, die axis 180°: AD 205**

Obv: IVLIA AVGVSTA: bust draped right.

Rev: PVDICITIA: Pudicitia seated left, right hand on breast.

► **RIC (Septimius Severus) 576; Hill 701**

No evidence of wear.

► **ANTONINUS PIUS, denarius: 1.80g, die axis 30°: AD 156–7**

Obv: [ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P IMP II]; head laureate right.

Rev: [TR POT XX] COS III; Annona standing right, left foot on prow, holding rudder and modius.

► **RIC 260**

Chipped, corroded; moderate wear.

Site 2, lower level; 14/7/85.

► **COMMODUS, denarius: 2.06g: die axis 0°: AD 183–4**

Obv: M COMMODVS [ANT]ON AVG PIVS; head laureate right

Rev: [P] M [TR] P VIII [IMP VI] COS III P P;

Felicitas standing left, holding [caduceus and] cornucopiae; modius at feet.

Much surface pitting; moderate wear.

[Site 2], Pit 1, lower level; 14/7/85.

► **CARACALLA, denarius: 0.87g: uncertain die axis**

Obv: ANTONINVS []; head laureate right (young portrait).

Rev: no details survive.

Chipped; highly corroded.

Site 2, Pit 1, lower level; 14/7/85 (?CR/P1/85/52).

► **Unknown emperor/empress, denarius: 1.40g; uncertain die axis**

Obv: no details survive.

Rev: []A AVG; figure standing left, holding patera and sceptre.

Completely oxidised; moderate wear.

Site 2, Pit 1, lower level; 14/7/85.

► **Unknown emperor/empress, denarius fragment: 0.35g: uncertain die axis**

Obv: no details survive.

Rev: figure standing left, right arm extended.

Highly corroded.

Site 2, Pit 1, lower level; 14/7/85.

► **Unknown emperor/empress, denarius: 0.66g: uncertain die axis**

No details survive on either side.

Badly chipped; highly corroded.

Site 2, Pit 1, lower level; 14/7/85.

► **HADRIAN, sestertius: 7.43g: uncertain die axis**

Obv: legend illegible; bust laureate right.

Rev: no details survive.

Highly corroded.

CR/86, Context 020, at bottom of Context 023.

12.1.2 Site 3: Cramond Road II

► **ANTONINUS PIUS, denarius: 3.11g: die axis 45°: AD 140–3**

Obv: ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P: head laureate right.

Rev: [T]R POT COS III; [I]TALIA in exergue; Italia seated left on globe, holding cornucopiae and sceptre.

RIC 98 (c)

Moderate wear.

Site 3; 24/1/89. CR/2/89/24.