
DOI: 10.9750/issn.2056-7421.2017.74

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Deposited on: 19 February 2018
Excavations and Interventions in and around Cramond Roman Fort and Annexe, 1976 to 1990

How to cite:
Cook, M, Lawson, J A & McLaren, D 2017 ‘Excavations and Interventions in and around Cramond Roman Fort and Annexe, 1976 to 1990’ Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports 74
https://doi.org/10.9750/issn.2056-7421.2017.74

Visit http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/sair to see the journal homepage

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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)

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

RIC 66
Undersized flan; surface corroded and pitted; slight wear.

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 IIII; 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.
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: [ ]A AVG; 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.