

This Newsletter is to let you know what we have been up to since September 2020. Just to recap with some background on the Malmesbury Coin Hoard Project.

- A Roman coin hoard of 1266 copper-alloy coins was found in an earthenware pot by a metal detectorist in 2012 in Milbourne near Malmesbury.
- The Athelstan Museum, with amazing support of local donations and grants from the V&A Purchase Grant and the Headley Trust, was able to acquire this treasure in 2015. Through a generous grant (around £47K) from the Heritage Lottery Foundation, grants from the Art Fund, the Malmesbury Area Board and continuing local donations we were able to start the programme to conserve and display the hoard in the museum.
- The coins are rare for this area and are unusual in that they are late Roman and were minted during a very short period when there were multiple Emperors. Most of the coins are a standard base metal denomination known as a nummus (pl. nummi) dating to the period 307-317. This time was dominated by two personalities: Constantine the Great (306-37), the first Christian emperor, and his pagan rival Licinius (308-24). The coins were from around the Roman Empire, with the majority coming from just three mints - London, Trier and Lyon.

Progress since September 2020

- During the lockdown period March 2020 to now the volunteers met, via Zoom, and discussed all things Roman – including identifying coins (by photo) and light hearted quizzes. Mimzy has kept us up to date with his new finds.
- There are two working groups producing guidebooks for the coin hoard. One will be a short guide aimed at children and the other a more comprehensive guide with details of the coins and photographs.
- The Wiltshire Conservation Services in Chippenham reopened to the public at the end of August. Since then we have received the last batch of conserved coins from them.
- In September a Risk Assessment, including Covid19 restrictions, for volunteers to work



with the coins was drawn up. The volunteers started to work on the coins during September in the Town Hall. Unfortunately this was short lived and work stopped in December. After restrictions were lifted in May this year the volunteers met in June to catalogue and photograph the conserved coins and have now completed around 900.

Socially distanced working in the Town Hall.

- Once the coins have been catalogued they will be displayed in a specially designed cabinet in the museum, along with the restored pot. Coins showing the different emperors and gods will be highlighted. We are aiming for an October launch.
- It is hoped to start school visits from September 2021.

We will continue to keep you updated of the renewed progress over the coming months.

You can keep up to date on www.malmesburycoinhoard.uk or follow us on [Facebook](#)/[Twitter](#).