



Volume 28

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Front cover: Obverse die and medallion of West Australian Newspaper Award (see article "Royal Australian Institute of Architects - WA Chapter award medals")

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President's Report

Our seventh biennial international numismatic conference NAAC2017, which was held in Melbourne in October, was a great success. National Organiser Walter Bloom and the local Organizing Committee chaired by Darren Burgess put together an interesting program, one of the consequences of which was the marvellous selection of papers for this volume of the Journal.

This last year has seen the publication of Peter Lane's *The Coin Cabinet*, and the winning of the Paul Simon Memorial Award by Barrie Newman. Both Peter and Barrie are great contributors to the Association.

Our Vice-President, Darren Burgess, has advised that he won't be renominating at our coming AGM due to the pressure of work and the need to progress some NAV activities. I am grateful to Darren for all the work he puts into the NAA, in particular last year's biennial conference and the Facebook page, not to mention the steady stream of news items. In fact Darren is not completely off the hook as he has become the Victorian State Representative to the Association.

Stewart Wright of Status International has kindly offered us use of a room for the Association's AGM on Monday 16 April (commencing 1pm) at his new premises at 64 Parramatta Rd, Forest Lodge, close to the University of Sydney.

The NAA continues to enjoy sponsorship at a sustainable level, with Noble Numismatics (Gold), Coinworks, Downies (Silver), Drake Sterling, Sterling & Currency and Vintage Coins & Banknotes (Bronze) all contributing to ensure the Association's continued success. However expenses are rising and receipts are falling, even with the steady level of membership. On the positive side, many are taking out ten-year memberships.

I am appreciative of the support of Council and other NAA members throughout the year, and particularly our Secretary, Jonathan Cohen, and Treasurer, Lyn Bloom, who are pivotal in the running of the Association, and our Managing Editor, Gil Davis, for his work in producing this Volume 28 of JNAA.

Walter R Bloom

President, NAA

www.numismatics.org.au

March 2017

Editor's Note

The 28th volume of the journal is a bumper issue and my eighth as Managing Editor. There are eleven articles reflecting a remarkable range of numismatic interests. I am particularly pleased to see the balance of modern Australian and historical numismatic interests, and the excellent scholarship throughout. Many of the articles derive from presentations given at the wonderful NAA conference held in Melbourne from 21-22 October, 2017. I thank the presenters for being willing to quickly turn their talks into articles, despite the hard work this entailed, as well as the dedication of the other contributors.

This journal is the annual publication of the peak numismatic body in the country. As noted in the last volume, I have been working with the President and the Editorial Committee to ensure the standard of all articles we publish compares favourably with the best international numismatic journals. This includes a rigorous double-blind peer-review process. I thank the members of the Editorial Committee (listed below) and the two anonymous reviewers assigned to each article for their prompt and constructive help.

I also wish to express my thanks to the two key people who work quietly and efficiently behind the scenes to help me get this journal out: John O'Connor (Nobles) who proof-reads the articles, and Barrie Newman (Adelaide Mint) who carefully looks after the production process.

In this volume we have six articles on modern Australian topics. The articles by Paul Holland and Walter bloom are numismatic studies respectively of George V pennies and award medals struck by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, WA chapter. Their treatments are exemplary demonstrations of the 'arcane art' of numismatic studies combining detailed knowledge with keen observation. These are foundational studies for others to follow. Vincent Verheyen uses his expertise in chemistry to analyse surface marks on predecimal proof coins made at the Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint. He successfully demonstrates that some of the marks result from production rather than careless handling, a finding that will have implications for collectors of proofs generally. Jeremy McEachern, Barrie Newman and David Rampling show another side of numismatics – how it can be used to inform our understanding of the past. Their entertaining articles range from illuminating the story of one of Australia's earliest dealers (Rampling on Isidore Kozminsky), to the sporting achievements of one of the country's celebrated early athletes (McEachern on Richmond 'Dick' Eve and the collection of his memorabilia in the National Sports Museum), and even the sorry tale of an 'official' fraudster who nonetheless got away with his misdeeds (Newman on a Ugandan High Commissioner).

The volume also contains five articles on matters historical. Three of them deal with iconography and make fascinating reading, especially when taken together. Bridget McClean looks at Tarentine civic coinage c. 470–450 BC. Charlotte Mann and Rachel Mansfield both deal with iconography under emperors of the Severan dynasty of Rome in the early third century AD. Charlotte deals with the imperial portraiture of Caracalla, while Rachel examines the civic coinage of the eastern city of Antipatris under Elagabalus. The results of their studies are illuminating about how important coins were for disseminating propaganda, and in turn, understanding what was important to the emperors and cities that commissioned them. Christian Cuello takes us to the world of the Visigoths, best known for sacking Rome, but also producers of coinage, some of which reside in the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies collection at Macquarie University, which he catalogues and discusses. Finally, Frank Robinson provides a careful study of bank notes of the Empire of Brazil which will be of interest to aficionados of paper money.

There is something for everyone in this volume.

Dr Gil Davis

Managing Editor

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Visigothic coins in the Gale collection of the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies

Christian Cuello

Abstract

Recent scholarship into the coinage of the Visigoths has allowed for a better understanding of what was once believed to be a mono-metallic, and mono-denominational currency. It is evident that the Visigoths produced not only gold tremisses, but also silver and copper denominations, while also using past Imperial coinage and currencies from neighbouring Byzantine territories and Western kingdoms. This article provides a brief account of the history of the Visigoths, and considerations of their coinage use, mining on the Iberian Peninsula, and brief reviews of past scholarship. Ten Visigothic tremisses and three copper fractions held in the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies (ACANS), as part of the Gale collection, are catalogued.

Keywords

[Visigothic coinage] [Late Antiquity] [Byzantine] [barbarian imitation] [Iberian Peninsula]

The Visigoths: origins and identity

The Visigoths emerged from the larger body of Gothic people who, throughout the fourth century, inhabited a region north of the Danube River on the Western bank of the Black Sea.¹ The Visigoths are associated with the multiple sieges of Rome by Alaric I, resulting in the eventual sacking of the *urbs aeterna* in 410 AD.² Mutually beneficial arrangements with Rome yielded the Visigothic Kingdom of Toulouse in 418 AD, which was soon lost to the Frankish-Burgundian alliance at the Battle of Vouille in 507 AD.³ The Visigoths then retreated across the Pyrenees, eventually establishing in Toledo the capital of the new Visigothic Kingdom.⁴

The reign of Leovigild (568–586 AD), based at Toledo, saw significant developments: the consolidation of territories across the Iberian peninsula, the capture of Suevic and Byzantine lands, legal reform including lifting the ban on miscegenation between

1 Eremic 2014: 122; Thompson 1966: 1-2; Wolfram 1979: 57 & 130

2 Collins 1991: 55-6; Wolfram 1979: 158-9; For ancient accounts: Zosimus *HN* V.35 – VI.13; Jordanes *History* XXX: 155

3 Collins 1991: 107; Thompson 2014: 24; Wallace-Hadrill 1997: 71; Wolfram 1979: 192-3

4 Wallace-Hadrill 1997: 116-117; Wolfram 1979: 10

Goths and Ibero-Romans,⁵ and the advent of the regal Visigothic monetary system.⁶ His successor, and son, Reccared I, formalised the conversion from Arian Christianity (the religion of the Visigothic elite)⁷ to the Catholicism of the Ibero-Roman populace.⁸ Chindasuinth (642–653AD) began the compilation of what became the *Lex Visigothorum*, a set of laws (later expanded and revised) which would influence Goth and Ibero-Roman descendants for several centuries. It would outlast the incursion of the Umayyad Caliphate in 711AD, who with a meagre force⁹ encountered reportedly little resistance in their conquest. The decisive defeat in 712AD at the Battle of Guadalete brought about the final years of the *regnum Visigothorum*.¹⁰

The legacy of Imperial coinage in barbarian culture

Coin finds from the Danube region show that during the early stages of interaction between the Goths and the Roman world in the 4th century, gold currency was extensively utilised¹¹ either for trade or to recruit Gothic troops into the Roman army in temporary (often fractured) and later more permanent arrangements. The response of Theodosius I to the Eastern defeat at the Battle of Adrianople in 378AD resulted in reinstating a treaty with the Goths – originally brokered under Constantine – in 382 AD to obtain troops in exchange for permission to settle in Thrace, relatively unchecked by Roman authority.¹²

Service as soldiers in the Roman army – as mercenaries and later as *foederati* – indicates direct, unequivocal pecuniary exchanges between Goths and Romans. The term *foederati* denoted troops raised from barbarian settlements either within or outside the Roman borders.¹³ This was not an unusual practice, or exclusive to the Goths.¹⁴ It is understood that the Visigoth *foederati* were recipients of subsidies which, by the age of Justinian (527–565AD), were paid annually in cash as opposed to earlier payments-in-kind of food rations.¹⁵ Additional benefits included *hospitalitas*, which has traditionally hinged upon the idea of material property exchange and allocation from a finite, shared pool of material assets relinquished from Roman to Visigothic possession in thirds. It is also possible to arrive at a different interpretation of the nature of these assets. Goffart argues

5 King 2006: 13

6 Grierson & Blackburn 2006: 49-50

7 Where the term Visigoth is used it typically applies to the elite as issuers of coinage, and not the diverse Iberian population in Late Antiquity as a whole. See Wallace-Hadrill 2009: 116, Hillgarth 2009: 36-37; Ripoll Lopez 1998: 160-1.

8 Collins 1991: 145; Wallace-Hadrill 1997: 122-3

9 Collins 2005: 141

10 Hillgarth 2009: 112-3; Collins 1991: 150-1

11 Eremic 2004: 122-3

12 Southern & Dixon 1996: 46; Sivan 1987: 762

13 Southern & Dixon 1996: 72-3

14 Sivan 1987: 759; Naismith 2014: 284-5

15 Southern & Dixon 1996: 49 & 78; Haarer 2006: 186

these payments were provided from taxation revenues, drawn from the fisc: a more sustainable source for Constantius, at least in the 570s, to fund Gothic re-settlement in Roman territories.¹⁶ This consideration provides a context within which to consider the payment of service – or simply good behaviour – in gold.

As the exchange of wealth and property maintained agreements and service, coin production became a preoccupation for the Visigoths who progressively found themselves, amongst the other barbarian kingdoms, as stewards of the diminishing Roman power in the West.¹⁷ The persistence of Roman economic institutions well into the Visigothic reign, such as the aforementioned fisc,¹⁸ and a multi-denominational currency, which frequently accommodated foreign coins,¹⁹ serves to demonstrate some level of sophistication and adaptation, if not continuity.

Minting and mining practices on the Iberian Peninsula

The gold coinage of the Visigoths can be divided according to the following scheme:

1. a period of pseudo-Imperial coinage from Gaul (c.418-c.507AD),
2. a period of pseudo-Imperial coinage from Spain (c.509-c.580AD), and
3. the fully-fledged gold *tremisses*, and alongside it the copper issues, of the Visigothic monarchs (c.584-714AD).²⁰

The ten gold *tremisses* and three copper fractions in the ACANS collection span several hundred years of cultural, political and economic transformation. They provide a narrative of a people in transition from life on the fringes of the Roman Empire to an independent kingdom of their own.

The Visigothic monetary system after the reforms of Leovigild is considered a unique example for its time; he is among the first of the successors of Roman authority to mint in his own name.²¹ However, ongoing influence from the Byzantine Empire²² is apparent in the imitative coinage produced by the Visigoths (Cat. No. 1-4) and neighbouring kingdoms. An example from the ACANS collection of the subtleties of the relationship between East and West, is a *solidus* in the name of Zeno (Fig. 1). The reverse inscription, terminating in θ is likely the mark of Theoderic the Great (originally a Gothic hostage

16 Goffart 2006: 135-138; Naismith 2014: 284-5

17 Naismith 2014: 278-9

18 Jarret 2010: 6

19 Crusafont I Sabater 1994: 98-101; Crusafont, Benages & Noguera 2016: 245; Naismith 2014: 279; Mora Serrano 2016: 144-7

20 Grierson & Blackburn 2006: 44-54; Pliego 2009: 75

21 The first known autonomous issue of barbaric coinage is attributed to the Suevic king of Galicia, Rechiar (448-56), close to a century earlier. See Berndt 2015: 90.

22 Crusafont I Sabater 1994: 83, 91-3; Grierson & Blackburn 2006: 8-12

in Constantinople who was made consul and dispatched by Zeno to Italy in 488 AD²³), as seen in later imitations under Anastasius prior to 497 AD.²⁴ The utilisation of Byzantine types and weight standards²⁵ in producing the fractional *tremisses*, and in the continuous reference to *solidi* as a standard in legislative accounts as late as the seventh century²⁶ attest to further synchronicities in the Eastern and Western economies.



Fig. 1 07GE156. Rome, Reign of Zeno (474-5AD; 480-491AD)

Obv. DNZENO PERPAVG; frontal bust with head turned $\frac{3}{4}$, helmeted, holding spear and shield with cavalry motif
Rev. VICTORI-A AVGGGΘ, CONO[B] in exergue; Victoria with long jewelled cross standing l., star in r. field
Solidus. 4.36g, 19.6mm, ↓ Ref.: RIC10.930

Pliny attests to the richness of mineral deposits in the Iberian Peninsula,²⁷ and there is archaeological evidence of extensive mining during Roman times; in regards to gold, some 231 mining sites have been identified in the North West regions – Asturia, Gallaecia, and Lusitania.²⁸ Large-scale exploitation of mineral wealth of the region, however, may have only occurred in the first and second centuries BC,²⁹ with a limited revival of mining in later centuries.³⁰

Iberian mines were incorporated into Roman organisational structures (fiscal, territorial & administrative)³¹ and while the scale and form of the exploitation of mineral deposits in the region underwent changes in Late Antiquity, there remains a case for territorial units albeit administered by Church parishes and local aristocracies.³² As such, smaller mints could be founded to take advantage of local mines.³³ Our understanding of Late

23 Metlich 2004: 5

24 *Ibid.*: 16-18. Metlich states there are no known examples of Theoderic issuing *solidi* in the name of Zeno. Following his argument for the attribution of Theoderic issues under Anastasius, this coin and others like it appear to be evidence to the contrary.

25 While the denominations generally correspond, standards eventually gave way to a slightly lighter 'Germanic' weight of 20 grains (1.3g) rather than 8 siliquae (1.5g). See Crusafont I Sabater 1994: 83; Grierson & Blackburn 2006: 50.

26 King 2006: 193-4. Some exceptions are noted in Naismith 2014: 282.

27 *Nat.* 33.21

28 Edmondson 1989: 87-8

29 Orejas & Sánchez-Palencia 2002: 581, 589

30 Edmondson 1989: 89

31 Orejas & Sánchez-Palencia 2002: 590-1

32 Sánchez-Pardo 2014: 1009-14; Orejas & Sánchez-Palencia 2002: 592-4

33 Grierson & Blackburn 2006: 52-3; Sánchez-Pardo 2014: 1009-14

Antiquity mining in Iberia is incomplete; open cut mines (which most certainly existed) and alluvial sources, for example, elude rigorous study. Of the known Visigothic mints from the issues of Leovigild onward the highest concentration were located in the north-western province of Gallaecia – 44 of the 96 Visigothic known mints are also found in this region.³⁴ These mines were by no means the sole source of gold for this purpose. It is also no longer acceptable to assume the traditional view that the Visigoths minted only in gold: the evidence for Visigothic copper³⁵ and now limited, silver issues³⁶ has overturned this assumption.

Recent archaeological research into the Iberian Peninsula during Late Antiquity has resulted in the number of known seventh and eighth century *tremisses* almost doubling,³⁷ the identification of Visigothic copper coins and silver fractions, and a better understanding of the urban landscape. Coin finds have also increased. While it has previously been assumed that gold quality steadily declined,³⁸ it is now apparent that a restoration of base purity took place during the reign of Reccesvinth.³⁹ However, the consistent evidence for debasement points to ongoing problems with gold supply which can now be better understood.⁴⁰

Numismatic research

Here I will provide a brief overview of the key publications consulted for the catalogue. In its time, Miles' *The coinage of the Visigoths of Spain* (1952) was the most comprehensive survey of Visigothic regal issues, consolidating the significant works of Heiss (1872), Mateu y Llopis (1936), and others. Miles brought together some 3,500 coins from a range of collections. The main problem was the lack of literary sources, along with relative weakness in the metrological observations.⁴¹

A significantly older work, Tomasini's *The Barbaric Tremisses* (1964) demonstrated an attempt to apply a stylistic and chronological framework to the study of imitative coinage, focusing on the Victory type (designated VPW by Tomasini, and seen in several examples from the ACANS collection) as a peculiarity of imitative coinage of the Western barbarian kingdoms. Where Miles touched on the uniqueness of the designs, falling short of any further appraisal, Tomasini reveals a boldness in the deviation

34 Pliego 2009: 101

35 See Crusafont I Sabater 1994; Pliego 2009: 188-90

36 Crusafont, Benages & Noguera 2016: 244-7

37 Priego 2016: 27

38 Grierson & Blackburn 2006: 49

39 Priego 2016: 33

40 Crusafont, Benages & Noguera 2016: 245; one might consider the impact of the 200,000 *solidi* paid to Merovingian mercenaries by Sisenand I in the 630s (Fredegar, IV: 73) which could account for the steep decline in Au content in Visigothic coinage (Priego 2016: 28) and the corresponding improvement in Merovingian coinage (Wood 1994: 174).

41 As noted by Grierson 1953: 184

towards abstraction finally realised in the monarchic type.⁴² Attempting to correct some of these issues, *Medieval European Coinage Vol. 1* (1986) contains a broad survey of coins minted after the Western Roman Empire and is an ideal point of reference for initial inquiry into the coinage of Late Antiquity. Any faults with this volume stem from the limitation of consulting only the Fitzwilliam collection, the lack of critical inquiry into assumptions carried over from outdated studies, and the adoption of the traditional “narrative of decline” carried over from scholarship of the last several centuries which has been called into question in more recent times.

Crusafont’s *Cobre y Oro* (1994) provides insight into the workings of the Visigothic economy as a multi-denominational system, and is perhaps the first scholar to do so based on the study of copper issues (with later contributions to the study of silver issues). While this work is not without its critics,⁴³ it remains a valid source as a basis of study for the copper issues, as questions of attribution and chronology are still contested. In its own right, this volume has been utilised to identify the three copper coins in the ACANS collection, and is the only reference to providing a suitable taxonomy, attesting to the tendency to overlook the coppers due to previously poor archaeological practice and misattribution. Finally, Ruth Pliego’s *La Moneda Visigoda* (2009) is the most recent, authoritative work on the monarchical issues of the Visigoths, declared by M. Blackburn to be the most comprehensive work on the subject in the last 50 years.⁴⁴ Building on the work of Miles, with the data extrapolated in the two volumes from 7,461 coins (including analysis of new hoards), it proposes the discovery of 16 new mints, and previously unknown emissions.

Catalogue of Visigothic coins in the Gale collection of the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies.

No.	CAT. REF.	MATERIAL	WEIGHT	DIAM.	AXIS	WT. VARIANCE⁴⁵
1	07GV01	Au	1.46g	13.5mm	12	-0.04
2	07GV02	Au	1.43g	13.5mm	6	-0.07
3	07GV03	Au	1.39g	18.8mm	6	-0.11
4	07GV04	Au	1.40g	17.7mm	6	-0.10
5	07GV05	Au	1.39g	18.8mm	6	-0.11

⁴² Tomasini 1964: 180

⁴³ For key critiques of Crusafont’s attribution and chronology see Marot 1997 and Metcalf 1999. These criticisms have been responded to in Pliego 2016 and Mora Serrano 2016, as well as Crusafont, Benages & Noguera 2016.

⁴⁴ Pliego 2009: x

⁴⁵ The purpose of this value is to compare the actual weight of the coins with the weight of the Imperial standard denomination. No. 1-5 compared to the standard 1.5g tremisses. In the case of No. 6-10 the comparison to the tremisses continues, with the secondary value being a comparison to the average weight of Visigothic coin finds to date. See Priego 2016: 28.

No.	CAT. REF.	MATERIAL	WEIGHT	DIAM.	AXIS	WT. VARIANCE ⁴⁵
6	07GV06	Au	1.48g	17.6mm	6	-0.02/+0.01
7	07GV07	Au	1.52g	19mm	6	+0.02/+0.06
8	07GV08	Au	1.47g	20.7mm	6	-0.03/+0.02
9	07GV09	Au	1.34g	20mm	7	-0.16/-0.07
10	07GV10	Au	1.23g	20.9mm	11	-0.27/-0.09
11	07GV11	Cu	0.46g	8.3mm	6	-
12	07GV12	Cu	1.15g	11.7mm	5	-
13	07GV13	Cu	1.30g	12.8mm	12	-

Notes on the coinage

The earliest example of a *tremis* attributed to the Visigoths in the ACANS collection (fig. 1) closely imitates a Valentinian III issue from the Milan mint,⁴⁶ and is reminiscent of similar Rome and Ravenna issues. It provides some insight into the span of circulation of coin types in the Late Roman West. It typifies barbaric imitative coinage in its crudeness, was possibly issued posthumously,⁴⁷ yet demonstrates some discipline in minting practice with a straight axis and closely adheres to the standard weight of the Imperial *tremisses*.

The small size of this ACANS collection prohibits any broad observations on the stylistic evolution of Visigothic *tremisses*. There exists some basis for comparison with the abstraction of the ‘running’ Victory coins (fig. 3-6), a type that had not seen Imperial usage since 400AD, possibly influenced by Ostrogothic examples bearing the front-facing Victory motif.⁴⁸ The progressive increase of flan size is also observable (Cat. No. 3-5). The depiction of the pectoral cross on the Imperial portrait identifies such coins as Visigothic and minted after 500AD.⁴⁹ Inscriptions on the imitative coins are typically botched, as in the examples provided.

With the advent of the monarchical coinage of Leovigild (Cat. Nos. 6-10) the name of the ruler – titled *rex* (king) as issuing authority becomes standard. The VPW type is no longer produced, and is replaced with the front-facing bust seen in use until the reforms of Chindasuinth in 653AD.⁵⁰ Gold remains the standard for this denomination, however the last example in the catalogue (Cat. No. 11) demonstrates a discolouration likely the result of low gold content found in coinage from this period.⁵¹

46 RIC10.2030

47 Kent 1994: 225

48 Burnett 1977: 9; Grierson & Blackburn 2006: 48

49 *Ibid.*

50 Pliego 2009: 156

51 Priego 2016: 28; *tremisses* minted during the joint reign of Egica and Wittiza (698-702AD) demonstrate a gold content of 44.82%.

From a technical perspective, particular attention should be paid to the guiding marks appearing as small triangular protrusions from the tops of some letters (Fig. 2). Traces of circular guiding lines can also be seen as rings in the spaces between some inscriptions (Fig. 3). Both methods were combined in cutting the iron or steel dies.⁵²



Fig. 2 – detail of Recarred I tremis



Fig. 3 – detail of Witteric tremis

This collection yields a particularly interesting example from the emissions of Sisebut (Fig. 4). While it is a rather fine example in itself, it bears evidence of over-striking, with the characteristic triangle punch-marks appearing as imprints on the struck surface on both the obverse and reverse. It seems unlikely that this is an intentional attempt to re-strike the coin. Further analysis of the secondary strike will be required to reveal its origins.



Fig. 4 – detail of Sisebut tremis

The three copper coins contribute to a growing area of study in Visigothic coinage. Recent evidence and acceptance that the Visigoths (periodically) utilised multi-denominational coinage is contrary to many years of Visigothic numismatic scholarship.

⁵² *Ibid.*: 193-5

Catalogue

Imperial Imitations: Gaul c. 417–507AD



No. 1

07GV01. Toulouse? Reign of Valentinian III (423–455AD)

Obv. [D]NPLA VALENTINIANVS PF [AVC]; diademed, draped bust of Emperor r.

Rev. CONO[B] in exergue; Cross in wreath, all in dotted circle.

Tremis. 1.46g, 13.5mm, ↑

Ref. MEC1.171 (slight variation); Imitation of RIC10.2030

Imperial Imitations: Spain c. 509–c.580AD



No. 2

07GV02. Narbonne? Reign of Anastasius (491–518AD)

Obv. ΘIANASTAVIS PP AVC; diademed, draped bust of Emperor with pectoral cross r.

Rev. VICTORIA AVCVSTOR•T•; COHOB in exergue; Victory walking r. with palm and laurel wreath.

Tremis. 1.43g, 13.5mm, ↓

Ref.: Tomasini 68 Group A3; MEC1.184 (variant inscription)



No. 3

07GV03, Narbonne or Barcelona? Reign of Justinian I (527–565AD)

Obv. ΘNIVSTIANVS [P]P [AVC]; diadem, draped bust with cross on chest r.

Rev. VICTORI[A] [A]CVTOHAVI; COHOB in exergue; Victory walking r. with palm and laurel wreath.

Tremis. 1.39g, 18.8mm, ↓

Ref.: Tomasini Group Jan 3



No. 4

07GV04. Narbonne or Barcelona? Reign of Justin II (527–565AD)

Obv. diadem, draped bust with cross on chest r.

Rev. Victory walking r. with palm and laurel wreath.

Tremis. 1.40g, 17.7mm, ↓

Ref.: Tomasini Group JII 2



No. 5

07GV05. Merida? Reign of Justin II (527–565AD)

Obv. VICTUI RIA*PIE; diadem, draped bust with pectoral cross r.

Rev. VICTUR I A*PIE; CONO in exergue; Victory walking r. with palm and laurel wreath.

Tremis. 1.39g, 18.8mm, ↓

Ref.: Tomasini 478 Group JII 4 (this coin)

Visigothic Royal Issues: Spain c. 580–714AD



No. 6

07GV06. Toletó (Toledo), Reccared I (586–601AD)

Obv. +RECCAREDUS REX, facing bust

Rev. +TOLETO PIUS, facing bust

Tremis. 1.48g, 17.6mm, ↓

Ref.: MEC1.223; Pliego 98b.1 obv, Type 3c.



No. 7

07GV07. Toletó (Toledo), Witteric (603–610AD)

Obv. +VVITTIRICUS REX, facing bust

Rev. +TOLETO PIUS, facing bust

Tremis. 1.52g, 19mm, ↓

Ref.: MEC1.229; Pliego 186b.



No. 8

07GV08. Ispali (Seville), Sisebut (612–621AD)

Obv. +•SISEB•U•T•US RE•, facing bust

Rev. +•ISPA•L•I• PIUS•, facing bust

Tremis. 1.47g, 20.7mm, ↓

Ref.: MEC1.232; Pliego 275g.



No. 9

07GV09. Barbi (Malaga), Swinthila (621–631AD)

Obv. +SUINTHILA RE, facing bust

Rev. +PIUS BARBI, facing bust

Tremis. 1.34g, 20mm, /

Ref.: MEC1.235; Pliego 366f



No. 10

07GV10. Cordoba, Egica & Wittiza (joint-reign, 695-702AD)

Obv. +INDINNU EGICA Rx; cross-sceptre between confronting busts, three pellets (•••) in lower field

Rev. +I...ME VVITTIZA R; Monogram (Cordoba) on arms of cross in field

Tremis. 1.23g, 20.9mm, \

Ref.: Pliego 732d

Copper Issues c. 575–714AD



No. 11

07GV11. Ispali (Seville)

Obv. SP in field, semi-continuous barbed border

Rev. Equilateral cross upon two steps of increasing width, semi-continuous barbed border

0.46g, 8.3mm, ↓

Ref.: Crusafont Group A, Type 2



No. 12

07GV12. Ispali (Seville)

Obv. Cross flanked by letters S and P

Rev. Inscription around draped bust facing r.

1.15g, 11.7mm, \

Ref.: Crusafont Group B



No. 13

07GV13. Emerita (Merida)

Obv. ...VO; Bust facing r.

Rev. Monogram with dotted border

1.3g, 12.8mm, ↑

Ref.: Crusafont Group C

Author biography

Christian Cuello is currently undertaking the Master of Research program at Macquarie University with a focus on numismatic and literary evidence of the Western barbarian kingdoms and our understanding of this period of transition in Western Europe. He is a previous Junior Research Fellow recipient, and currently a Special Projects Officer, at the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies at Macquarie University.

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