

Dear Thania,

If I had to choose one coin from the Synton Hoard, I would choose one with a strongly green surface. This would give you the chance to explain that the Roman 'silver' coins of this period were actually about 40% copper.

Another story. In the 1940s, Keith Allison, a young man from nearby Newton, St Boswells, was walking near the site of the Roman fort at Newstead when he found a pottery disc with impressions on both sides. He picked it up and kept it as a 'lucky charm' which got him safely through the War. Post-War, he emigrated to Australia, still with his charm.

On reading about The Trimontium Trust in 1998, he wrote to me asking if we would like it from the Trust - Yes please. It was quickly identified as a Roman coin mould and dated to c 270 AD. At this period, the Roman army had departed the region and genuine Roman coins were not available. So this was likely to be local initiative responding to a local need but still continuing currency economy trading which would last until the early 5th century..

Another of these was handed in fairly recently but you will have to ask Fraser Hunter about that.

Meanwhile see P.S.A.S. 131 2001 pages 167 - 176 and pic below

Best wishes,
Walter.

Email received on 11 April 2021. Communication from Walter Elliot to Thania M. Flores.