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A Gold Stater from Gloucestershire

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A GOLD STATER FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE

About July 1952, Miss Curtis, of 2 Braemar Crescent, Bristol 7, found a gold stater of the Dobuni lying on the surface of a ploughed field at Southfield Farm, north of Hardwicke Court, in the parish of Hardwicke, Gloucestershire (Nat. Grid Ref. SO/787122; field no. 106 of 25" to the mile sheet GLOS., XXXIII, 13). She brought it into the City Museum, Bristol, for identification a week or so later. It is now in the collection of the landowner, Miss Olive Lloyd-Baker, to whom I am greatly indebted for permission to publish it. Shortly after the discovery, a brief account appeared in the *Western Daily Press*, 1 October, 1952.

The coin, which is in excellent condition, has a diameter of between 18 and 19 millimetres. Its weight is 5.235 grammes (79.25 grains), and it has a specific gravity of 10.47. It has a pronounced coppery colour, and the gold content may not exceed one-third. The *obverse* (convex) is of the type of Brooke, Plate 1, fig. 18, in *Antiquity* for 1933 (plate opp. p. 280), having the fern-like motif believed to represent a stylized ear of corn. The *reverse* (concave) is decorated with a very fine example of the disjointed horse, with a six-spoked wheel beneath the body, and the name EISV inscribed above the body. The coin does, in fact, correspond closely to Evans, *Coins of the Ancient Britons*, *Supp.*, xviii, 3 and 4.

Other gold and silver coins of the Dobuni were described by Mr Derek Allen in 'The Belgic Dynasties of Britain and their Coins,' in *Archaeologia*, xc, 1944, 36-8, and plate IV, 5-18, where he drew attention to gold coins of EISV west of the Severn, and silver coins of EISV to the east and south-east of that river.

I am grateful to Mr O. F. Parsons of Gloucester for determining the weight and specific gravity of the coin and for preparing plaster casts, and to Mr H. de S. Shortt for advice on preparing this account.

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