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A Gold Stater from Kingswood, Glos

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Notes

A GOLD STATER FROM KINGSWOOD GLOUCESTERSHIRE

In April 1964, Master Stephen J. Woods found the coin described in this note while digging in the garden of his home, 2 Ozleworth, Kingswood, near Bristol, on the eastern slope of Warmley Hill towards Warmley Brook (ST 663738). Shortly afterwards he submitted it to the Bristol City Museum where it was identified by the writer. The Coroner for South Gloucestershire was informed, and he ruled that the coin, being most likely an accidental loss in antiquity, was not treasure-trove. The Kingswood U.D.C. as landowners having graciously waived their rights, the coin was purchased from the finder by the Bristol City Museum for the full market value.

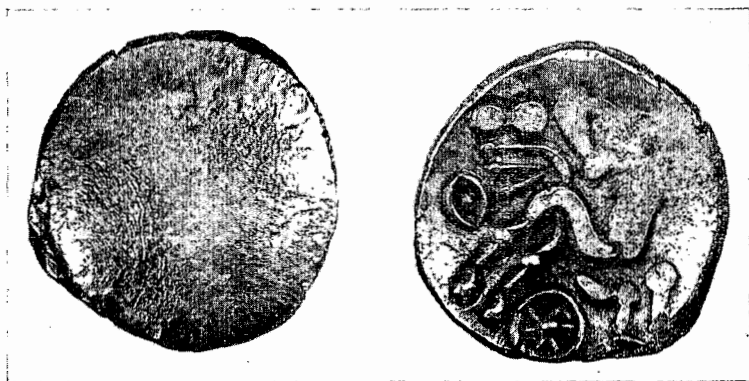


Fig. 1

(Enlarged; original 19 mm. diameter)

The coin is a so-called 'British Remic' gold stater, of the type of *Evans* B 10, *Mack* 59, and *Allen* QB (plain obverse; disjointed triple-tailed horse facing right on reverse). The coin is unevenly struck, so that while the hind- and under-parts of the horse are in bold relief, the head is almost entirely missing. In the field are the usual six-spoked wheel ornament beneath the horse, a pointed oval device enclosing a pellet (a relic of the original chariot wheel) beneath the tail, and three large pellets above the tail. Above the body is a forked object, the

vestige of a charioteer. Above and below the horse are certain minute dots which, together with other features of the coin, bring it very near indeed to the unscripted gold staters of the Dobunni; but it does not appear to be from the same reverse die as any known specimen of them. The weight is 86.5 grains: rather lighter than the average (90 grains) for this type of 'British Remic' coin, but quite near to the weight (85 grains) of the average unscripted Dobunnic stater. The material is yellow gold as distinct from the reddish gold of many of the coins of the Dobunni.

The nearest previously recorded find-spots to the Bristol area for coins of the 'British Remic' type with plain obverse are Beverston Castle near Tetbury¹ and Kingsholm, Gloucester.² As Mr Derek F. Allen has recently shown, they are at home in the Upper and Middle Thames regions.³ These coins are considered by him to represent the latest of the Iron Age tribal invasions, *c.* 40–20 B.C. Their special interest for Cotswold archaeology is that they are ancestral to the staters of the Dobunni, which differ (excepting those of Bodvoc) from them in bearing the 'branched ornament' on the obverse.⁴

The writer is grateful to Mr D. F. Allen for his valuable assistance in drafting this note.

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¹ J. Evans, *Coins of the Ancient Britons*, Supplement (1890), p. 436.

² In Gloucester City Museum (71/1962), acquired in 1962, found before 1930.

³ S. S. Frere (ed.), *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain* (1961), p. 117.

⁴ D. F. Allen, in E. M. Clifford, *Bagendon: A Belgic Oppidum* (1961), pp. 76–7.