

## **The Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project**

Thousands of coin hoards have been found throughout the geographical area which once constituted the Roman Empire. The information provided by these hoards has the potential to transform our understanding of coin supply, circulation and use, as well as having implications for the study of the Roman Economy as a whole. However, at present there is no comprehensive summary of this data and without this, their potential cannot fully be realised.

Generously funded by the Augustus Foundation and co-directed by Professor Chris Howgego (Ashmolean Museum) and Professor Andrew Wilson (OXREP), *The Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project* intends to fill the major lacuna in the digital coverage of hoards from antiquity. Its aim is to collect information about hoards of all coinages in use in the Roman Empire between 30 BC and AD 400. Imperial Coinage will form the main focus of the project, but Iron Age and Roman Provincial coinages issued within this period will also be included. It is envisaged that the database will provide the foundations for a systematic Empire-wide study of hoarding and will promote the integration of numismatic data into broader studies of the Roman Economy. The database for the project has been designed by Jerome Mairat, who as Research Manager is also responsible for smart data capture.

During the first phase (2014-2018), summary hoard data from as many Roman provinces as possible will be collected by the project's Research Fellow, Dr Philippa Walton and by numerous project partners, both in the UK and abroad. These data will include details of the contents, date and context of each hoard. As of March 2014, the project team has data for 4500 hoards. A selection of hoards will also be inputted at the level of the individual coin with accompanying images, where available. The Arras hoard has already been entered at the level of the coin and object as an example of this approach.

As the project progresses, the database with accompanying analytical and mapping tools will be made available as a web application on the OXREP website. A conference to be held in 2016 will focus on the analysis and discussion of hoard data and its implications for the Roman Economy and a monograph based on this conference will be published by Oxford University Press in the series *Oxford Studies on the Roman Economy*.

The project supplements the initiatives of the American Numismatic Society in creating the Digital Inventory of Greek Coin Hoards (IGCH), <http://nomisma.org/>, and Coin Hoards of the Roman Republic Online, <http://numismatics.org/chrr/>. It has also been designed to be collaborative in nature, with numerous partners contributing relevant data and advice. These currently include: The British Museum, University of Leicester, Yale University, Warwick University, Römisch-Germanische Kommission, Frankfurt, Warsaw University, University College London, The American Numismatic Society, Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, the Romanian Academy Cluj-Napoca.

Two research students at the University of Oxford are also contributing to the project and it is hoped that further PhD collaborations will occur as the project progresses.

If you want to know more about the project, please contact the project Research Fellow, Dr Philippa Walton: [Philippa.walton@ashmus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Philippa.walton@ashmus.ox.ac.uk)

# *Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project*

{ Philippa Walton, Research Fellow  
{ Jerome Mairat, Research Manager

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford



# Scope of project

- ⌘ Began in January 2014 and currently funded for 4 years by the Augustus Foundation, but envisaged as a longer term project
- ⌘ Co-directed by Prof. Chris Howgego (Ashmolean Museum) & Prof. Andrew Wilson (Oxford Roman Economy Project)
- ⌘ The core team at Oxford are Philippa Walton, Research Fellow & Jerome Mairat, Research Manager



Side hoard (© A.T. Tek)

# Aim of project

- ⌘ To collect information about hoards of all coinages in use in the Roman Empire between 30 BC and AD 400
- ⌘ Imperial coinage will form the main focus of the project, but Iron Age and Roman Provincial coinages will also be included
- ⌘ During the first phase of the project (2014-2018) summary hoard data from as many Roman provinces as possible will be collected by Philippa Walton in collaboration with a range of project partners. A small selection of hoards will also be entered at the level of the coin.
- ⌘ The data we collect has the potential to transform our understanding of coin circulation patterns and the wider Roman Economy. This fits in well with the aims of the Oxford Roman Economy Project



# A collaborative approach

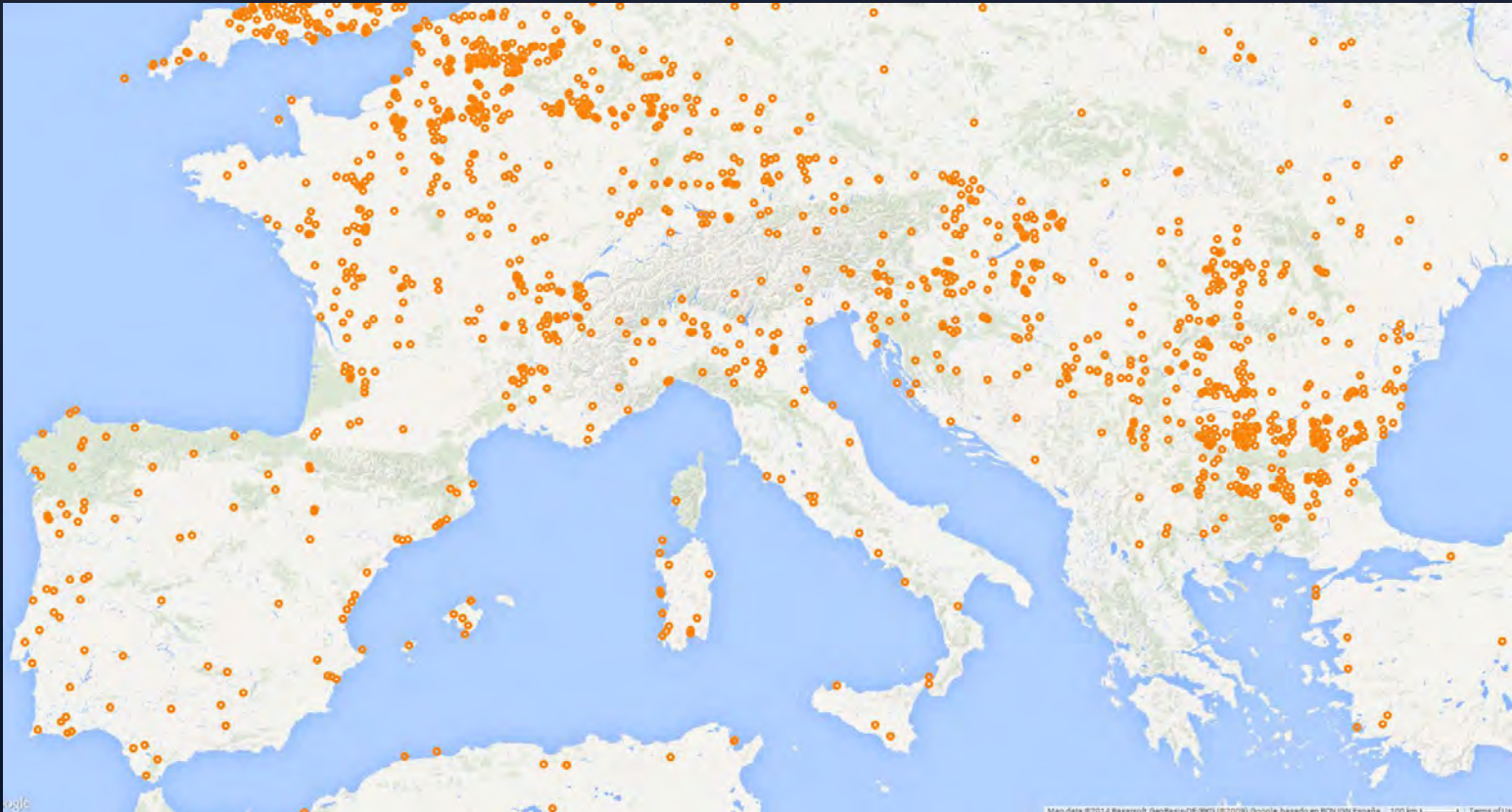


- ✎ The British Museum and University of Leicester *Hoarding in Iron Age and Roman Britain* project
- ✎ Dr. R. Hobbs, British Museum, has provided all data from his *Late Roman Precious Metal Deposits c. AD 200-700*
- ✎ Prof. W. E. Metcalf, Yale University has provided a remarkable unpublished dataset of hoards at the level of the type
- ✎ University of Warwick
- ✎ Institute of Archaeology, University College London
- ✎ Römisch-Germanische Kommission, Frankfurt
- ✎ The American Numismatic Society
- ✎ Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main
- ✎ Institute of Archaeology and Art History, the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca
- ✎ The University of Warsaw





# Data collection: summaries



**4500 hoards!**

Imported: Richard Hobbs' data, Cristian Gazdac's data, summaries of 3<sup>rd</sup> century hoards in Spain

# Progress thus far hoard level data



The Arras hoard: coins and objects

# Danke | Thanks | Merci

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