

**ABC**  
makes them  
easy to identify

# ANCIENT BRITISH COINS



*An easy catalogue of the iron age coins of Britain  
– the coins of the Pritani (c.150 BC-c.AD 45) – compiled by  
Elizabeth Cottam, Philip de Jersey, Chris Rudd and John Sills  
from the 45,000 Pritanic coins recorded by the Celtic Coin Index  
at the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford*

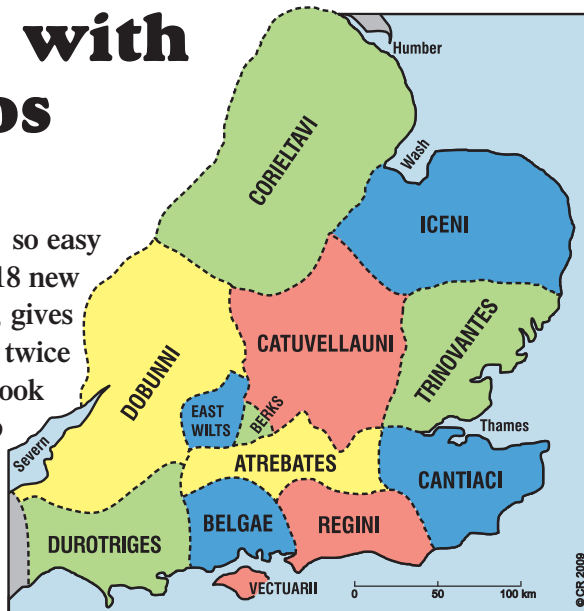
**Chris Rudd**



# A big new Celtic catalogue with 2000 twice-size coin photos

*"A great book" says Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe*

Never before have so many ancient British coins been so easy to identify, so easy to study, so easy to enjoy. *ABC* catalogues 999 iron age coins, including 418 new types not shown by Van Arsdell in 1989. *ABC* describes and dates them, gives up to six references for each, estimates their rarity and shows every coin twice actual size, so that its distinctive differences can be seen at a glance. *ABC* took ten years to produce, has 256 fact-packed pages and contains 4000 superb coin photos, plus 500 other illustrations, diagrams, tables and maps.



*ABC reviews and revises tribal groups that issued coins, introduces new groups, identifies main centres and suggests mint sites.*



ABC 2012

*Every coin in ABC has its own name and is shown twice size, like this Cotswold Cock silver unit of the Dobunni. "Superb illustrations" says Robert Van Arsdell.*

*ABC is a picture book, not a lecture book. "ABC is a remarkable achievement" says Prof. Miranda Aldhouse-Green. "It manages to combine scholarship and accessible information in a volume whose every page is interesting and whose writing style makes it fun to use." ABC is a large hardback book (30 x 20 cm), light in style, heavy in weight (1.5 kgs) - "an indispensable aid to anyone wanting to identify British iron age coins" says Prof. Colin Haselgrove - worth every penny of its £75 plus postage. Buy ABC direct from Chris Rudd. For more information visit:*



*Silver unit of Esuprasto, husband of Boudica?*



*ABC reveals intriguing insights into 70 rulers, some previously unknown. Gold stater of Tasciovanos 'killer of badgers' seen here in chain-mail armour.*



**www.celticcoins.com**

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**To: ELIZABETH COTTAM, CHRIS RUDD, PO BOX 222, AYLSHAM, NORFOLK NR11 6TY.**  
*Tel 01263 735 007 Fax 01263 731 777 Email liz@celticcoins.com*

**Yes please, Liz!** Send me your new, easy-to-use, fully-illustrated catalogue *Ancient British Coins* which has 2000 twice-size coin photos, which includes 418 new types never seen in a single book before and which will cost me £75 + £10 post and packing, UK only  £15 Europe  £25 rest of world, airmail  PLEASE TICK BOX

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**Chris Rudd**



# ANCIENT BRITISH COINS

*(ABC for short)*

Elizabeth Cottam

Philip de Jersey

Chris Rudd

John Sills



2. Sir John Evans said this head "cannot be paralleled in the whole British series."  
It may be of Cunobelinus himself or it may be of the sun-god Belenus 'the shining one'.  
Reconstruction of rare bronze unit [ABC 2912] by Jane Bottomley.

In *ABC* you'll find the coins of men who made history. You'll meet Commios who helped Caesar raid Britain in 55 and 54 BC; Dubnovellaunos 'world ruler' who paid homage to Augustus; Amminus who squealed to Caligula; Verica who gave Claudius an excuse to invade Britain; Prasutagus, Boudica's rich husband, who ruled the Iceni on behalf of Nero; and Cunobelinus who became the most powerful tribal ruler in western Europe, immortalised by Suetonius as 'king of the Britons' and by Shakespeare as *Cymbeline*. You'll also meet his son Caratacus 'the beloved' who fought the Romans for eight years until he was betrayed by Cartimandua 'strong pony', queen of the Brigantes.

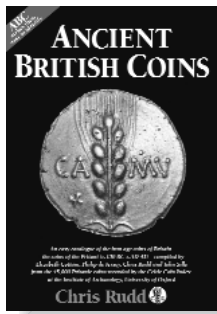
In *ABC* you'll discover elusive rulers such as Sam of Kent and Touto too, Ex of Hants, Crab of Wight, Scavo of Norfolk, Cat of Lincs and Cat of Herts, Inamn of Glos., and Trocc of Essex – all unknown to history and most historians, some unrecorded by previous cataloguers.

In *ABC* you'll see crabs, rats and owls. You'll see sea-horses, human horses and horses that breathe fire. You'll see bounding hounds, butting bulls and rutting stags. You'll see cocks on heads, ducks on helmets and marsh-birds perched on slaving wolves. You'll see dragons, griffins, sphinxes, two-headed snakes and ram-headed serpents. You'll see gods and goddesses galore, druid priests, hidden faces, magic symbols and phallic symbols. You'll see Gold Tit, Willett's Nipple and Thatcher's Sister. Look closer and you may see signs of wine drinking, slave trading, ritual killing and head hunting.

*ABC* is for metal detectorists, collectors, students, dealers and anyone with an interest in the art, archaeology, mythology or history of late iron age Britain and its charismatic coins. Above all, *ABC* has been designed to be convenient to consult – convenient for everyone, not just those with Dr. in front of their name. *ABC* is a picture book, not a lecture book.

Chris Rudd 

PO Box 222 Aylsham Norfolk NR11 6TY



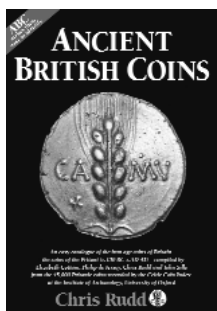
# 'I cannot recommend ABC too highly'

*At long last, here is an authoritative, comprehensive, utterly reliable, and beautifully presented catalogue of all currently known Ancient British coin types that is very easy to use for the swift and accurate identification of coins in the hand, which is its primary stated purpose. The high-resolution twice-size photographs in the catalogue enable details to be seen without a magnifying glass, and the 'fast identifier' - 13 pages on which all the coins are shown at natural size, sorted by metal and denomination - is a welcome innovation that really does make it quick and easy to spot a given coin type. ABC is, however, very much more than just an outstandingly good catalogue. It is a lively and informative read in its own right, and an extremely useful reference book with ample pointers to more detailed information on almost any topic mentioned. Above all it provides a concise and richly illustrated historical introduction to the world of ancient British coinage and its individual tribes and rulers, coin types and series, correcting many established misconceptions en route, putting four major 'new' tribal groupings on the map, and drawing on up-to-date scholarship to make sense of the material at hand. New coins and new types are still constantly being found; finders are encouraged to share their discoveries and are advised how to go about it; and ample space is left in the catalogue's numbering system for additions in the future. I cannot recommend ABC too highly. It's going to be such a relief to have it at my elbow, knowing I can trust its dates and attributions.*

*What a tour de force! And what a felicitous abbreviation for all future citations of coin types. I congratulate all four authors.*

## **DR DAPHNE NASH BRIGGS**

Honorary Research Associate at the Oxford University School of Archaeology, editor of D.F.Allen's *The Coins of the Ancient Celts* (1980) and author of *Settlement and Coinage in Central Gaul c.200-50 BC* (1978) and *Coinage in the Celtic World* (1987, 2004).

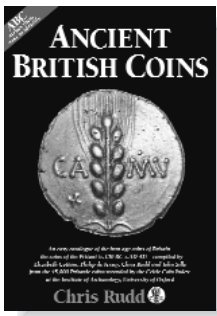


# 'Superb illustrations'

*ABC should be a welcome addition to collectors' book shelves. The superb illustrations will make it easy for them to identify coins.*

## **ROBERT VAN ARSDELL**

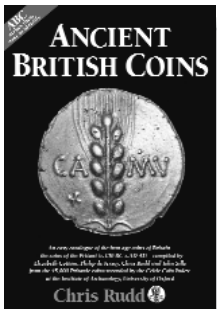
Numismatist, archaeologist and author of *Celtic Coinage of Britain* (1989), *The Coinage of the Dobunni* (1994) and numerous influential articles, including 'The Semiotics of Celtic Coinage' (2007-10).



## ‘Every page is interesting’

*ABC is a remarkable achievement. Coins can be dull, abstruse things but this new volume manages to combine scholarship and accessible information in a volume whose every page is interesting, and whose writing style makes it fun to use. Britain’s first coinage is a fascinating subject that can tell us so much about our remote ancestors: from their politics to their religion. The catalogue in ABC is admirably clear, with good illustrations, and this makes it a valuable resource for anyone attempting to identify coins they find, excavate or purchase. I particularly like the snapshot biographies of those luminaries that have been instrumental in collecting and studying such a fascinating body of data as Iron Age coins. The extensive bibliography is of great benefit to researchers on the British Iron Age and its coins. ABC achieves what most academic books don’t: it is useable by everyone interested in the subject, without compromising on scholarly detail.*

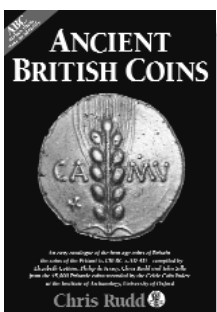
**MIRANDA ALDHOUSE-GREEN** Professor of Archaeology, Cardiff University, and author of *The Celtic World* (1995), *Exploring the World of the Druids* (1997), *Dying for the Gods* (2001), *Boudica Britannia* (2006) and *Caesar’s Druids* (2010).



## ‘An indispensable aid’

*With its clear descriptions, excellent photographs and a host of other new features, this easy to use introduction will be an indispensable aid to anyone wanting to identify British Iron Age coins and find out more about when and where they were made and used.*

**COLIN HASELGROVE** Professor of Archaeology, Leicester University, author of *Iron Age Coinage in South-East England* (1987), ‘The development of British Iron-Age Coinage’ (1993) and co-editor of *Iron Age coinage and ritual practices* (2005).

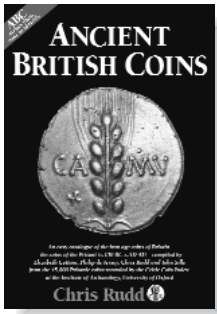


## ‘A vitally important reference’

*There has never before been a British Celtic catalogue displaying a pictorial record of such uniformly high photographic and artistic quality as this and it is likely to remain the benchmark for years to come. ABC is a vitally important reference tool for the professional and amateur alike.*

**RAINER KRETZ** Specialist in North Thames coinage and author of many seminal papers such as ‘The early gold staters of Tasciovanos’ (1998), ‘On the track of the Norfolk Wolf’ (1999), ‘The problem of Andoco’ (2002), ‘The silver coinage of Tasciovanos’ (2006) and ‘The coinage of Rues’ (2007).

# ‘Very useful and very beautiful’



*ABC is both a very useful and very beautiful book, full of crisp photographs of the best examples of British Iron Age coins. The photographs not only facilitate the fast identification of coins, they also illustrate – as no other catalogue does – the hundreds of new types discovered over the past two decades, including a surprising number struck by previously unknown rulers. Celtic coins, as well as being works of art and collectors’ pieces, are also potential historical documents; as such they lose half their intellectual value if they lose the record of their findspots, for only by distribution maps can the location of principalities be suggested. The authors of ABC are more aware of this than most. ABC exemplifies the crucial and continuing importance of the Celtic Coin Index in recording individual findspots and in providing an unrivalled database for scholars. Indeed, without the CCI there would be no ABC. This book marks a great advance in our knowledge of ancient British coins. I salute its authors.*



**SHEPPARD FRERE** Professor Emeritus of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire, Oxford University, excavator of *Verulamium*, co-founder of the Celtic Coin Index, editor of *The Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain* (1961) and author of *Britannia* (1967).