

ROMAN DENARII

2013:1

Hoard and Stray Finds in Sweden



Hoard
Gotland, Fröjel par., Mulde

Lennart Lind

ROMAN DENARII

Editorial note

Roman Denarii, Hoards and Stray Finds in Sweden is published by Stockholm Numismatic Institute (Gunnar Ekström chair in numismatics and monetary history) at Stockholm University. Hoards are defined as two or more coins or one coin found together with other objects.

Each issue will cover one or more finds. In the PDF-version the photos can be magnified *c.* ten times.

The series is edited by Kenneth Jonsson and the layout is made by Ylva Holmberg Jansson.

It is only distributed in PDF-format on the Internet which enables everybody to print it themselves.

After downloading the file it can be printed using Adobe Reader which is available for free at: www.adobe.com

Old numbers in the series can be downloaded at the website: www.archaeology.su.se/english/stockholm-numismatic-institute/publications-nfg.

The rate of publication depends on when a new manuscript is ready.

© Stockholm Numismatic Institute & the author.

ISSN 2001-6743

Table of Contents

Hoards and Stray Finds in Sweden	1
Synopsis	2
Gotland, Fröjel par., Mulde	3
List of coins	3
Barbarous imitation, die-links outside Sweden	5
Plates	6
Fig. 1. Mints in the Roman Empire represented on denarii in the Swedish finds	9
Roman Emperors and Empresses represented in Denarii	10
Fig. 2. Swedish provinces	11
Fig. 3. Parishes on Gotland	12
Fig. 4. Finds with Roman denarii in Sweden.	14
Fig. 5. Finds with Roman denarii on Gotland.	15
Literature	16
Abbreviations	16

Text: Lennart Lind

Photos: Kenneth Jonsson

Maps: Ylva Holmberg Jansson &
Kenneth Jonsson

Roman Denarii

Hoard and Stray Finds in Sweden

Background

Roman Imperial denarii of the first two or three centuries of our era may be regarded as the first coins in Sweden. On the territory of present-day Sweden some 8,000 pieces have been unearthed in modern times, most of them, *c.* 7,000, on Gotland, the island in the Baltic. Apart from one or two stray finds with Republican coins, the earliest coins belong to the reign of Nero (54-68). Denarii later than AD 200 are rare, and no such coin later than Severus Alexander (222-235) or, perhaps, Gordian III (238-244) can be connected with other denarii, *i.e.* of an earlier date. With the exception of late Roman and early Byzantine solidi of the fifth and sixth centuries, ancient coins of other origins or denominations are rare or non-existent.

Find context

Denarii have sometimes been found in the course of archaeological excavations of pre-historic settlements and graves, and, more recently, with the help of metal detectors. In contrast to what is the case in some other countries, however, the metal detector revolution has not dramatically increased the number of known coins in Sweden. The bulk of the coins known and extant has been brought to light casually, most often in the course of agricultural activities. Most of the coins available for study today came to light before 1940.

Degree of wear

Denarii are rarely found with contemporary coins of other denominations but sometimes with late Roman and early Byzantine solidi.

All denarii found in Sweden are worn, those on Gotland, however, to a larger degree than those from the rest of the country, sometimes making the attribution difficult or impossible. This is as true of extant coins found in the nineteenth century as of those found more recently.

The differences in the degree of wear between the denarii found on Gotland and those from the rest of Sweden have long been known to and discussed by scholars. Sture Bolin in 1926 suggested that the coins on Gotland had been worn through circulation on the island (Bolin 1926, pp. 274-278), but the composition of the large hoards, of which Bolin had insufficient knowledge, makes such a hypothesis unlikely (see Lind 1988 pp. 65-85 and 1993). Most probably the Gotlandic denarii were heavily worn already when they arrived at the island. The difference may be chronological, *i.e.* the coins which ended up on Gotland may have done so at a later date than those ending up in the rest of Sweden, and/or geographical, *i.e.* the coins found on Gotland may have had another origin on the European continent than those from the rest of the country.

To the genuine coins can be added a number of barbarous imitations, usually found together with official denarii. They almost exclusively belong to Gotland, and constitute about one per cent of the total number of coins found there. The largest hoard of Roman denarii found in Sweden (and Scandinavia), Sindarve on Gotland, originally 1,500 coins (1,488 extant), has four or five barbarous imitations. Die-links between barbarous imitations found in Sweden and on the European continent have been demonstrated.

Collections

Most of the denarii available for study are today kept in the collections of the Kungliga Myntkabinettet in Stockholm and the Gotlands Museum in Visby on Gotland. The large number of coins still extant from early finds is due to conditions special to Sweden. On the one hand the country has been spared from wars for a very long time, since 1815, in fact; on the other hand there has been a strict enforcement from an early date of laws concerning finds in the earth. The earliest hoard of denarii from which coins are still extant was found in 1834, and denarius hoards unearthed in the 1860s and 1870s are completely or almost completely preserved.

The Roman Denarii in Europe

Roman denarii in Sweden are found in the most northerly region of Europe, but they are not, as is well known, the only such coins discovered to the north of the Roman Imperial frontiers. Denarii have been found outside the old Roman Limes in a broad, west-to-east belt, from the North Sea and the Rhine to the Donets Basin (and occasionally even further to the east and north-east). In what is today Poland, for instance, a compass of land never part of the Roman Empire, the number of denarii found may amount to 100,000 or more. Any explanation as to the presence of denarii in Sweden must take those found on the European continent into consideration.

Lennart Lind

Synopsis

EMPEROR	YEARS	GF INV.	LIND	RIC
Nero	A.D. 54-68	1	1	1
Trajan	A. D. 98-117	4	4	4
Hadrian	A. D. 117-138	9	8	9
Aelius Caesar	A. D. 136-138	—	1	—
Antoninus Pius	A. D. 138-161	12	4	13
Faustina I (wife)		—	6	—
Marcus Aurelius	A. D. 161-180	14	9	14
Faustina II (wife)		—	5	—
Lucius Verus	A. D. 161-169	2	1	—
Lucilla (wife)		—	1	—
Commodus	A. D. 177-192	8	9	8
Barbarous imitation		—	1	1
Total		50	50	50

Latest coin: A.D. 191-2

Gotland, Fröjel par., Mulde

GF C 8729

Year: 1935–6.

Category of find: hoard.

Other objects: none.

Weight: 137.84 g.

Find circumstances: The coins were found, on different occasions but within the same rather restricted area, in the poultry-yard of the farm. The coins lay loose in the surface of the soil, isolated or grouped together. All coins were handed over to the SHM in 1936, by Mrs. Ada Block, Visby, the farm-owner's daughter.

Whereabouts: The coins are kept in the Gotlands Museum (GF), Visby.

Sources: ATA, GF Inv.

Literature: Lind 1981, no. 39; Östergren 1981, no. 43

List of Coins

NO.	MINT	DATE	LITERATURE	WEIGHT	REVERSE
NERO					
1	Rome	64–68	RIC ?	2.74 g	Effaced
TRAJAN					
2	Rome	103–111	RIC 128	2.90 g	Victory
3	—	—	RIC 159f.	2.70 g	Mars; captive
4	—	114–117	RIC 361ff.	2.72 g	Providentia
5	—	103–114	RIC ?	2.67 g	Stg woman
HADRIAN					
6	Rome	118–122	RIC 46, 51 or 139	2.76 g	Salus
7	—	119–122	RIC 110	2.78 g	Emperor
8	—	—	RIC 129	2.53 g	Emperor, platform
9	—	125–128	RIC 197	2.67 g	Modius
10	—	134–138	RIC 234	2.77 g	Felicitas
11	—	—	RIC 274	2.96 g	Spes

12	—	—	RIC 276	2.79 g	Tellus
13	—	125–128	RIC ?	2.88 g	Std woman?

AELIUS CAESAR (UNDER HADRIAN)

14	Rome	137	RIC 439	2.97 g	Pietas
----	------	-----	---------	--------	--------

ANTONINUS PIUS

15	Rome	140–143	RIC 61	2.96 g	Aequitas
16	—	—	RIC 102	2.97 g	Virtus
17	—	145–161	RIC 155f.	2.85 g	Liberalitas
18	—	150–156	RIC 195 Type	2.23 g	Fortuna

FAUSTINA I (DIVA)

19	Rome	141–161	RIC 360	2.70 g	Ceres
20	—	—	RIC 362	2.50 g	Ceres
21	—	—	RIC 373?	2.80 g	Pietas?
22	—	—	RIC 373?	2.97 g	Pietas?
23	—	—	RIC 392?	2.73 g	Pietas?
24	—	—	RIC ?	2.98 g	Stg woman

MARCUS AURELIUS (UNDER ANTONINUS PIUS)

25	Rome	140–144	RIC 424	2.80 g	Priestly emblems
26	—	148–152	RIC 448(b) or 456(a)	2.50 g	Clementia

MARCUS AURELIUS

27	Rome	163–165	RIC 81 or 122	2.97 g	Armenia
28	—	163–173	RIC 91 Type	2.60 g	Mars
29	—	166	RIC 159 <i>recte</i> ¹	2.65 g	Pax
30	—	171–172	RIC 252? or 267?	2.86 g	Aequitas or Liberalitas
31	—	175–177	RIC 332 Type or 359 Type	3.07 g	Felicitas or Aequitas
32	—	177–178	RIC 390?	2.66 g	Annona?
33	—	162–180	RIC ?	2.91 g	Stg woman

FAUSTINA II (UNDER ANTONINUS PIUS)

34	Rome	145–161	RIC 500	2.82 g	Concordia
----	------	---------	---------	--------	-----------

FAUSTINA II (UNDER MARCUS AURELIUS)

35	Rome	161–176	RIC 698	2.67 g	Juno
36	—	—	RIC 714	2.80 g	Salus
37	—	—	RIC ?	2.93 g	Stg woman

FAUSTINA II (DIVA)

38	Rome	176–180	RIC 744?	2.69 g	Peacock
----	------	---------	----------	--------	---------

LUCIUS VERUS					
39	Rome	163–165	RIC 515 or 528	2.77 g	Mars
LUCILLA					
40	Rome	161–180	RIC 757	2.70 g	Concordia
COMMODUS (UNDER MARCUS AURELIUS)					
41	Rome	178	RIC 649	3.39 g	Salus
COMMODUS					
42	Rome	181	RIC 22	2.79 g	Liberalitas
43	—	181–182	RIC 32	2.67 g	Providentia
44	—	186	RIC 117	2.33 g	Jupiter
45	—	—	RIC 129	2.52 g	Felicitas
46	—	192	RIC 233f.	3.30 g	Fides
47	—	191–192	RIC 249	2.48 g	Emperor, Felicitas
48	—	180–192	RIC ?	2.56 g	Stg man?
49	—	—	RIC ?	2.01 g	Stg woman
BARBAROUS IMITATION					
50	Unknown	Imitation of Marcus Aurelius ²		2.86 g	Stg woman

Notes

¹ No 29: RIC 159 *recte* = Pax standing instead of seated

² No 50: Lind 1988, p. 123, B 12.

Barbarous imitation, die-links outside Sweden

The reverse of the barbarous coin from the Mulde hoard, (no. 50), seems to be die-linked with that of a barbarous imitation in a European continental collection of high age, that of St. Paul im Lavanttal, Austria, published in 1983. From Alram et al. 1983, Tafel 19, 1514.

On the Internet site; <http://barbarous-imi->

[tations.narod2.ru/podrazhaniya_iz_serebra/](http://podrazhaniya_iz_serebra/), about imitations in silver of Roman coins found in the Ukraine and Moldova, there are some more coins die-linked to the imitation from the Mulde hoard, i.e., nos. 107, 269, 270, 325:1-2, the two last-mentioned made from the same pair of dies.



I

2

3

4

5



6

7

8

9

10



11

12

13

14

15



16

17

18

19

20





21

22

23

24

25



26

27

28

29

30



31

32

33

34

35



36

37

38

39

40





41

42

43

44

45



46

47

48

49

50

COMMENTATIONES DE NUMMIS SAECULORUM IX - XI IN SUECIA REPERTIS. NOVA SERIES.

COMMENTATIONES DE NUMMIS
SAECULORUM IX-XI

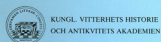
IN SUECIA REPERTIS. NOVA SERIES 6

Sigtuna Papers

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
SIGTUNA SYMPOSIUM
ON VIKING-AGE
COINAGE 1-4 JUNE 1989



edited by
KENNETH JONSSON and BRITA MALMER

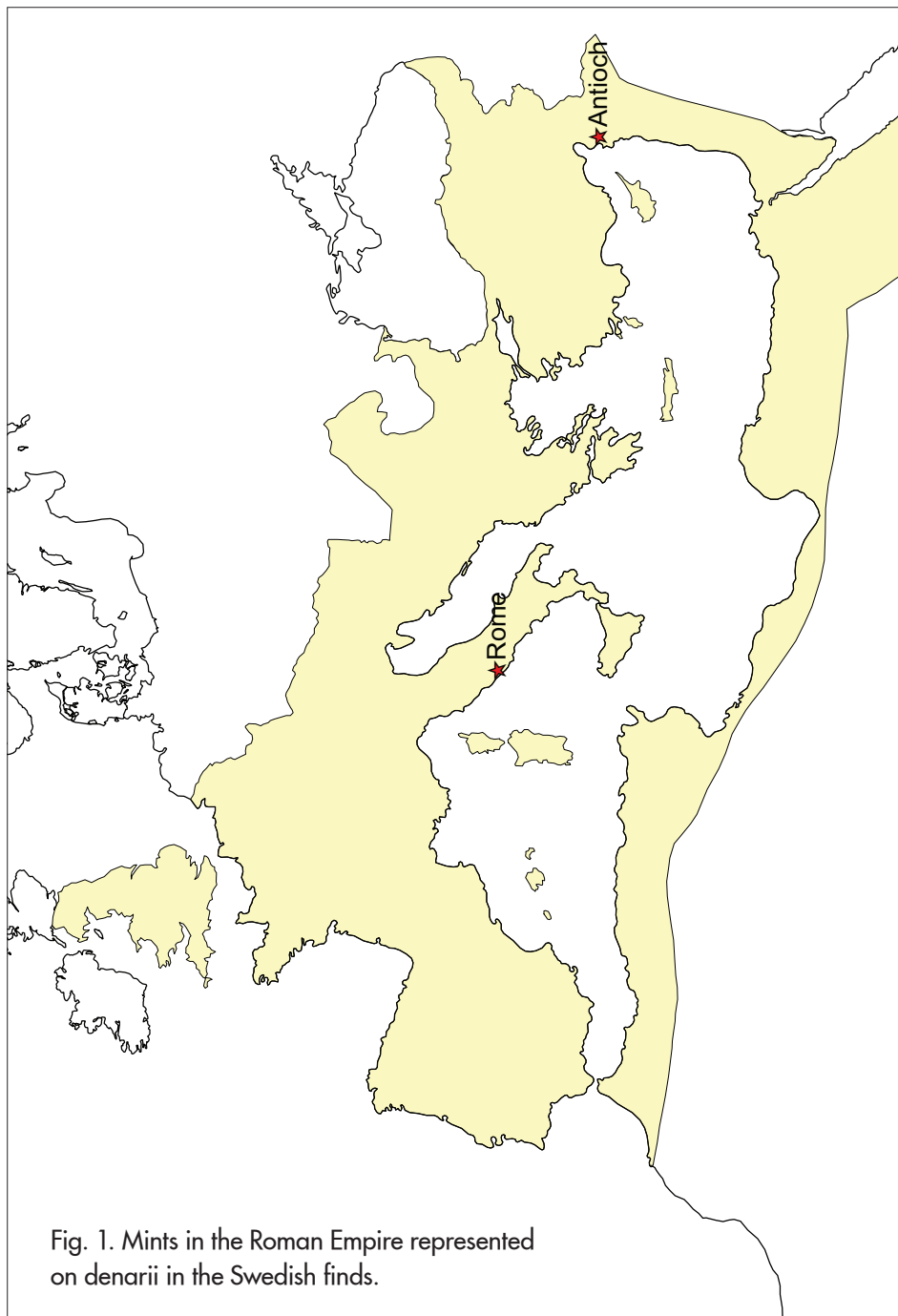


KUNGL. VITTERHETS HISTORIE
OCH ANTIKVIETETS AKADEMIE

SPINK & SON
LTD
LONDON

1. K. Jonsson: The New Era. The Reformation of the Late Anglo-Saxon Coinage. 1987.
2. I. Hammarberg, B. Malmer, T. Zachrisson: Byzantine Coins Found in Sweden. 1989.
3. B. Malmer, The Sigtuna Coinage c. 995-1005. 1989.
4. K. Jonsson, B. Malmer (ed.), Sigtuna Papers. Proceedings of the Sigtuna Symposium on Viking-Age Coinage 1-4 June 1989. 1990.
5. G. Hatz, V. Hatz, U. Zwicker, N. Gale, Z. Gale: Otto-Adelheid-Pfennige. Untersuchungen zu Münzen des 10./11. Jahrhunderts. 1991.
6. B. Malmer: The Anglo-Scandinavian coinage c. 995-1020. 1997.
7. Kilger, Pfennigmärkte und Währungslandschaften. Monetarisierungen im sächsisch-slawischen Grenzland ca. 965-1120. 2000.
8. G. Hatz unter Mitarbeit von V. Hatz, Die deutschen Münzen des Fundes von Burge I, Ksp. Lummelunda, Gotland (tpq 1143). Ein Bericht zur ostfälischen Münzgeschichte. 2001.

Distributed by eddy.se ab; Order: order@bokorder.se



Roman Emperors and Empresses represented in Denarii

Augustus	27 B.C.–A.D. 14
Tiberius	A.D. 14–37
Caligula	A.D. 37–41
Claudius	A.D. 41–54
Nero	A.D. 54–68
Galba	A.D. 68–69
Otho	A.D. 69
Vitellius	A.D. 69
Vespasian	A.D. 69–79
Titus	A.D. 79–81
Domitian	A.D. 81–96
Nerva	A.D. 96–98
Trajan	A.D. 98–117
Hadrian	A.D. 117–138
Sabina	Wife of Hadrian
Aelius Caesar	A.D. 136–138
Antoninus Pius	A.D. 138–161
Faustina Senior	Wife of Antonius Pius
Marcus Aurelius	A.D. 161–180
Faustina Junior	Daughter of Antonius Pius. Wife of Marcus Aurelius
Lucius Verus	A.D. 161–169
Lucilla	Daughter of Marcus Aurelius. Wife of Lucius Verus
Commodus	A.D. 177–192
Crispina	Wife of Commodus
Pertinax	A.D. 193
Didius Julianus	A.D. 193
Pescennius Niger	A.D. 193–194
Clodius Albinus	A.D. 193–197
Septimius Severus	A.D. 193–211
Julia Domna	Wife of Septimius Severus
Caracalla	198–217
Plautilla	Wife of Caracalla.
Geta	A.D. 209–212
Macrinus	A.D. 217–218
Diadumenian	A.D. 218
Elagabalus	A.D. 218–222
Julia Paula	First wife of Elagabalus
Acquilia Severa	Second and fourth wife of Elagabalus
Annia Faustina	Third wife of Elagabalus.
Julia Soaemias	Mother of Elagabalus.
Julia Maesa	Grandmother of Elagabalus and Severus Alexander
Severus Alexander	A.D. 222–235
Orbiana	Wife of Severus Alexander
Julia Mamaea	Mother of Severus Alexander
Maximinus I	A.D. 235–238
Paulina	Wife of Maximinus
Maximus	Caesar, A.D. 235–238
Gordian I	A.D. 238
Gordian II	A.D. 238
Balbinus	A.D. 238
Pupienus	A.D. 238
Gordian III	A.D. 238–244
Tranquillina	Wife of Gordian III
Philip I	A.D. 244–249
Julius Marinus	
Otacia Severa	Wife of Filip I
Philip II	A.D. 247–249

Fig. 2. Swedish provinces.

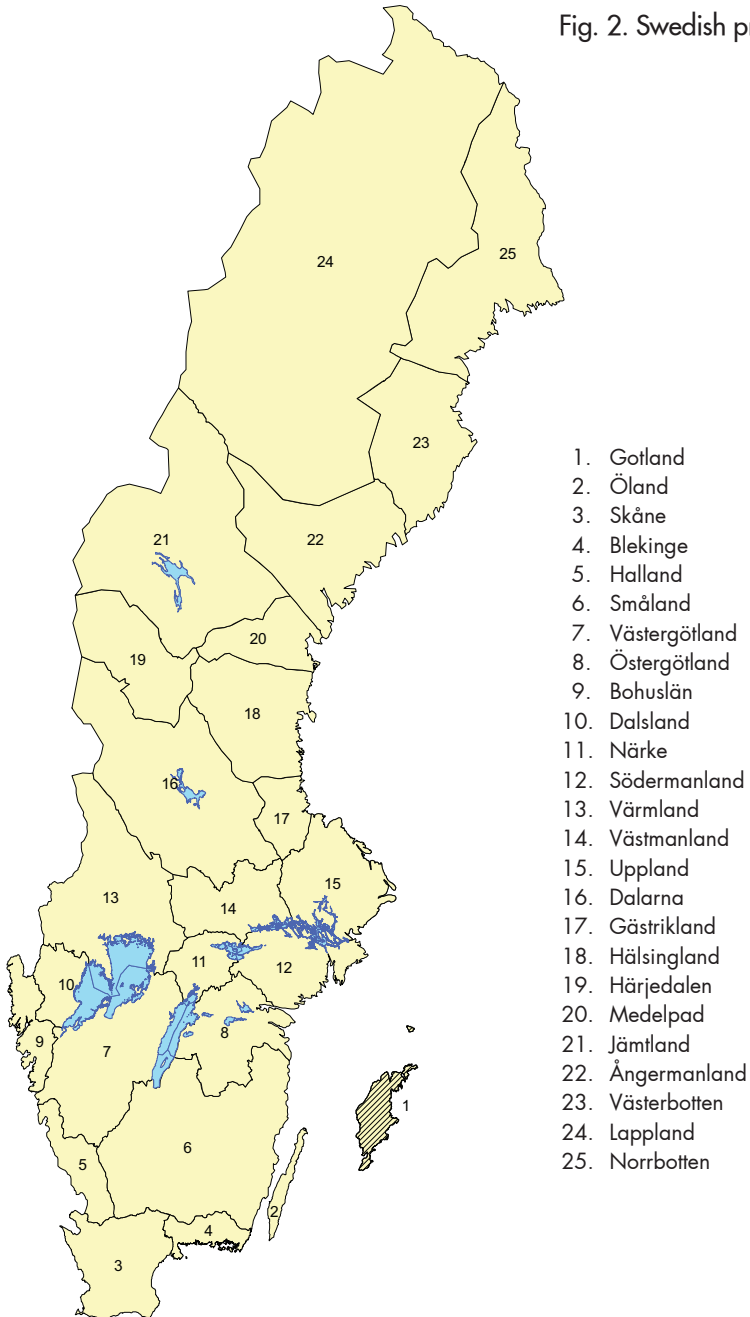
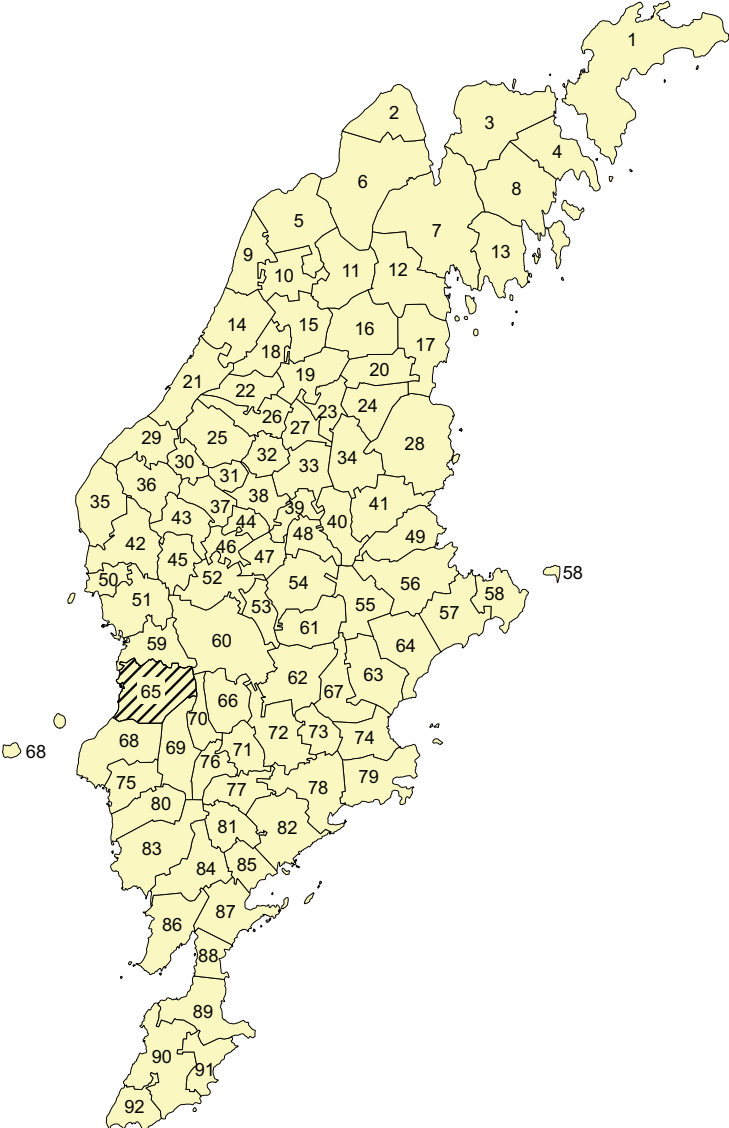
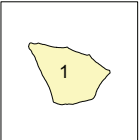


Fig. 3. Parishes on Gotland.



1. Färö (incl. Gotska sandön)	47. Viklau	Akebäck	31	Hemse	77
2. Hall	48. Sjonhem	Ala	55	Hogrän	43
3. Fleringe	49. Anga	Alskog	63	Hörsne & Bara	34
4. Bunge	50. Västergarn	Alva	81	Klinte	59
5. Stenkyrka	51. Sanda	Anga	49	Kräklingbo	56
6. Hangvar	52. Väte	Ardre	64	Källunge	23
7. Lärbo	53. Guldrupe	Atlingbo	46	Lau	74
8. Rute	54. Vänge	Barlingbo	32	Levide	69
9. Lummelunda	55. Ala	Björke	44	Linde	71
10. Martebo	56. Kräklingbo	Boge	17	Lojsta	66
11. Tingstäde	57. Gammelgarn	Bro	18	Lokrume	15
12. Othem	58. Östergarn	Bunge	4	Lummelunda	9
13. Hellvi	59. Klinte	Burs	78	Lye	73
14. Väskinde	60. Hejde	Buttle	61	Lärbo	7
15. Lokrume	61. Buttle	Bäl	20	Martebo	10
16. Hejnum	62. Etelhem	Dalhem	33	Mästerby	45
17. Boge	63. Alskog	Eke	85	Norrlanda	41
18. Bro	64. Ardre	Ekeby	27	När	79
19. Fole	65. Fröjel	Eksta	68	Näs	86
20. Bäl	66. Lojsta	Endre	26	Othem	12
21. Visby	67. Garde	Eskelhem	42	Roma	38
22. Hejdeby	68. Eksta	Etelhem	62	Rone	82
23. Källunge	69. Levide	Fardhem	76	Rute	8
24. Vallstena	70. Gerum	Fide	88	Sanda	51
25. Follingbo	71. Linde	Fleringe	3	Silte	80
26. Endre	72. Stånga	Fole	19	Sjonhem	48
27. Ekeby	73. Lye	Follingbo	25	Sproge	75
28. Gotham	74. Lau	Fröjel	65	Stenkumla	36
29. Västerhejde	75. Sproge	Färö (incl. Gotska sandön)	1	Stenkyrka	5
30. Träkumla	76. Fardhem	Gammelgarn	57	Stånga	72
31. Akebäck	77. Hemse	Ganthem	40	Sundre	92
32. Barlingbo	78. Burs	Garde	67	Tingstäde	11
33. Dalhem	79. När	Gerum	70	Tofta	35
34. Hörsne & Bara	80. Silte	Gothem	28	Träkumla	30
35. Tofta	81. Alva	Grötlingbo	87	Vall	37
36. Stenkumla	82. Rone	Guldrupe	53	Vallstena	24
37. Vall	83. Hablingbo	Hablingbo	83	Vamlingbo	90
38. Roma	84. Havdhem	Hall	2	Viklau	47
39. Halla	85. Eke	Halla	39	Visby	21
40. Ganthem	86. Näs	Hamra	91	Vänge	54
41. Norrlanda	87. Grötlingbo	Hangvar	6	Väskinde	14
42. Eskelhem	88. Fide	Havdhem	84	Västergarn	50
43. Hogrän	89. Öja	Hejde	60	Västerhejde	29
44. Björke	90. Vamlingbo	Hejdeby	22	Väte	52
45. Mästerby	91. Hamra	Hejnum	16	Öja	89
46. Atlingbo	92. Sundre	Hellvi	13	Östergarn	58

Fig. 4. Finds with Roman denarii in Sweden.

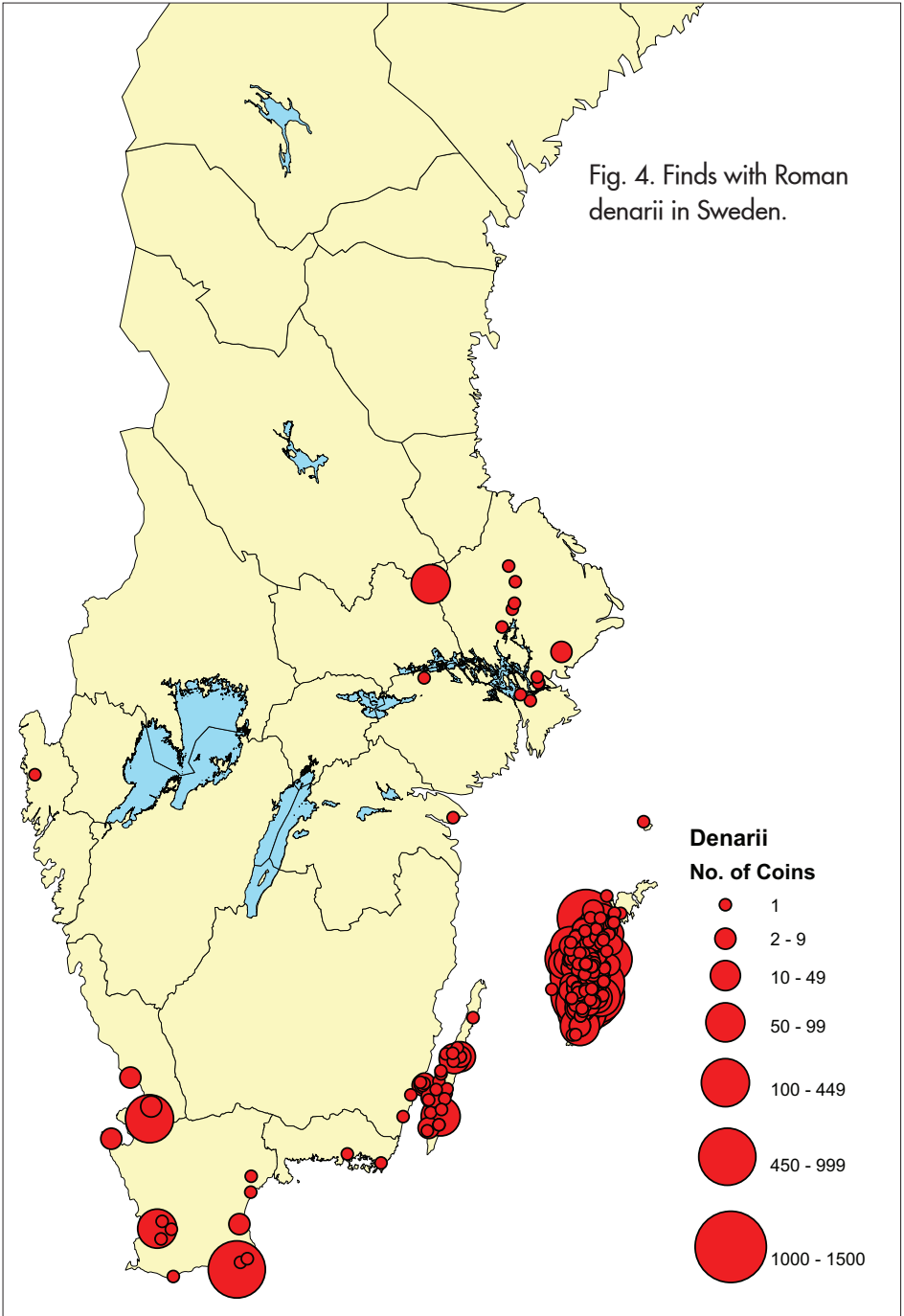
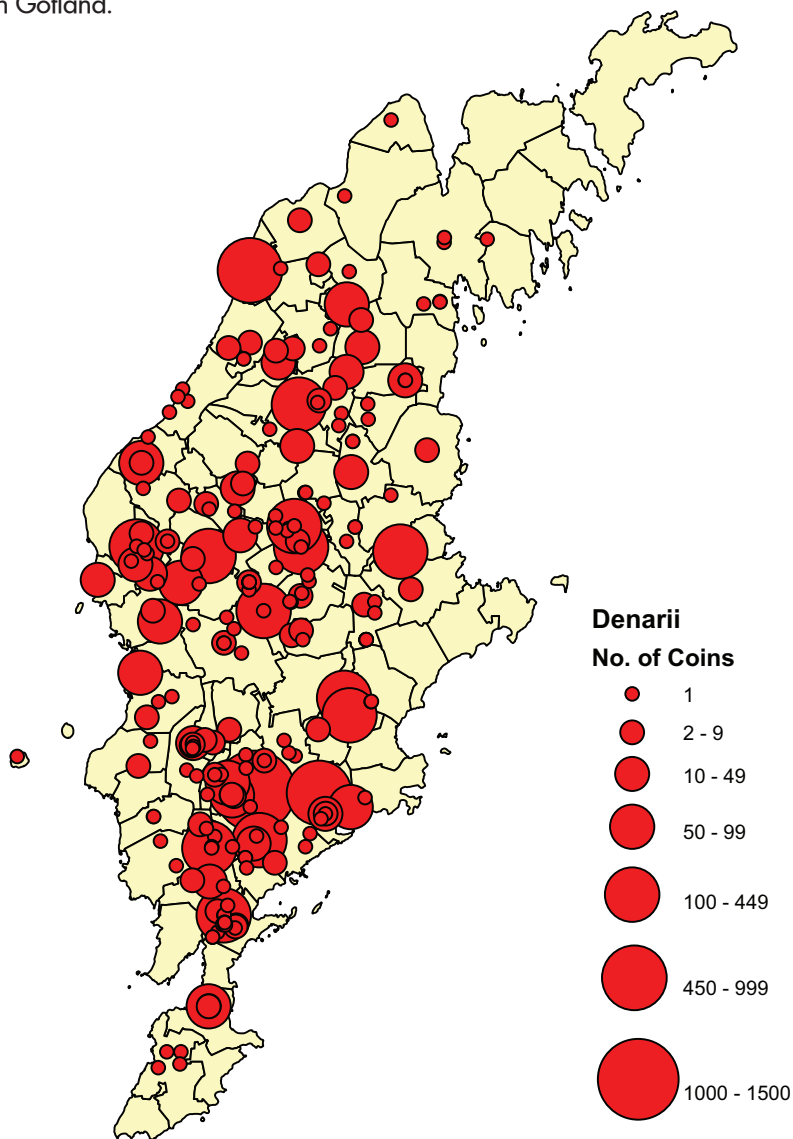


Fig. 5. Finds with Roman denarii on Gotland.



Literature

Afram, M., Denk, R., Szaivert, W. & Dick, F., Die Münzsammlungen der Benediktinerstifte Kremsmünster und St.Paul im Lavanttal. *Thesaurus Nummorum Romanorum et Byzantinorum*, 4, Vienna 1983

Bolin, S. 1926: *Fynden av romerska mynt i det fria Germanien*. Studier i romersk och äldre germansk historia. Lund.

Lind, L. 1981: *Roman Denarii Found in Sweden. 2. Catalogue*. Text. Stockholm. Stockholm Studies in Classical Archaeology, 11:2.

--- 1988: *Romerska denarer funna i Sverige*. Stockholm.

--- 1993: "The Monetary Reforms of the Romans and the Finds of Roman Denarii in Eastern and Northern Europe", *Current Swedish Archaeology 1* (1993), pp. 135-144 (also available on the Internet at: www.arkeologiskasamfundet.se/csa/Dokument/Volumes/csa_vol_1_1993/csa_vol_1_1993_s135-144_lind.pdf).

--- 2007: "A group of barbarous Roman denarii represented in Sweden and Hungary (and Germany and Britain?)", in Andersen, M., Horsnaes, H. W. & Moesgaard, Chr. (eds.): *Magister Monetæ. Studies in Honour of Jørgen Steen Jensen*. Copenhagen, pp. 53-58.

Östergren, M. 1981: *Gotländska fynd av solidi och denarer - en undersökning av fyndplatserna*. Stockholm. Arkeologiska skrifter från Riksantikvarieämbetets Gotlandsundersökningar (RAGU), 1.

Abbreviations

ATA - Antikvarisk-topografiska arkivet, Stockholm.

GF - Gotlands Fornsal/Gotlands Museum, Visby.

GF C - Gotlands Fornsal, inventory series C.

Inv. - Inventory.

RIC - H. Mattingly & E.A. Sydenham, *The Roman Imperial Coinage I*-. London 1923-.

SHM - Historiska museet/ The National Historical Museum, Stockholm.

Other publications by Stockholm Numismatic Institute - NFG

On our website you will find various publications. Most of them are available as PDF for downloading. Read more on our website:

www.archaeology.su.se/english/stockholm-numismatic-institute/publications-nfg

CNS - Coins from the Viking-Age found in Sweden is a project under The Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. The acronym of the project is CNS based on the title of the publication. (CORPUS NUMMORUM SAECULORUM IX-XI QUI IN SUECIA REPERTI SUNT, CATALOGUE OF COINS FROM THE VIKING AGE FOUND IN SWEDEN). So far c. 259,000 coins have been found. Nine printed volumes were published 1975-2010. They list finds with more than 57,000 coins. The aim now is to publish all remaining finds on the Internet.

Myntstudier is a numismatic periodical in Swedish published on the Internet since 2003 by NFG.

A total of more than 80 seminar papers have been written. They cover the period c. 800-1800. The files (mainly in Swedish) are available for downloading at:

www.archaeology.su.se/numismatiska-forskningsgruppen/nfg-s-publikationer/uppsatser

On our website you will also find information about our research as well as maps showing mints and coin finds in Sweden.

The collage features three distinct elements:

- Book Cover (Left):** Titled "CORPUS NUMMORUM SAECULORUM IX-XI QUI IN SUECIA REPERTI SUNT" and "Catalogue of Coins from the Viking Age found in Sweden". It features a large image of a silver coin and the author "J. GOTLAND Åkebeck-Aflingbo".
- Journal Page (Middle):** A page from "myntstudier" (2012:2 - december). It includes the text "Knutsson Bondes myntning i Finland. En analys av myntbrytningen i svenska fynd" and "Raktstättens mynt".
- Map (Right):** A map of Sweden showing the distribution of coin finds. A legend titled "MEDELSTO Antal" indicates the number of finds per region with red circles of varying sizes: 2-99, 100-449, 450-999, 1000-2499, 2500-4999, 5000-9999, and 10000-24300.



Stockholm Numismatic Institute
www.archaeology.su.se/numismatiska



Stockholm
University