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## The goddess Maia on *denarii* of Domitian

T. V. Buttrey



AR *denarius* 14 Sept. A.D. 95 – 13 Sept. 96

Obverse: Head of Domitian r., laureate. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P XV

Reverse: "Femme marchant à gauche tenant un oiseau et un caducée." IMP XXII COS XVII CENS P P P

H. Cohen, *Médailles impériales* vol. 1 (2nd edn., Paris 1880) Domitian 295.

Reverse "Woman advancing l., holding bird and caduceus".

H. Mattingly, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum [BMCRE]* vol. 2 (London 1930 [1966]), p.344 \*, now no. 237A; cf. H. Mattingly and E. A. Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage [RIC]* vol. 2 (London 1926) p. 176 no. 196.

a) American Numismatic Society, New York (*AJN* 2nd ser. 12 [2000] 265 pl.32.17), ex-T. V. Buttrey;

b) British Museum, London 237A, ex-Paul Tichant 1937;

c) coll. C. Clay = *Münzen & Medaillen* auction 38, 6-XII-1968, 403 (Voirol) = *Münzen & Medaillen* auction 6 6-XII-1946, 804 = H. Cahn, "Flaviana inedita," *NC* 1946 p. 22 no. 50, pl. 2.4;

\*d) coll. Alexandru Marian, Bucharest [= ill. above];

e) Classical Numismatic Group auction 35, 20-IX-1995, 770;

f) Münz Zentrum auction 66, 26-IV-1989, 1094.

AR *denarius* 14 Sept. A.D. 96 – 18 Sept. 96

Obverse: as above, but TR P XVI

Reverse: "Figura femminile gradiente a s., con un uccello nella d. ed il caduceo a s."

ANS --; BM --; *BMCRE* --; BN --; Cohen --; *RIC* --.

a) G. Mazzini, *Monete imperiali romane* vol. 1 (Milan 1957) no. d.297. Otherwise unknown.

The reverse type description should be corrected throughout to add that the figure's head is winged.

This is one of the rarest types of Domitian's coinage, struck somewhere between September 95 and September 96, as shown by the dating of the tribunician power. The issue of TR P XV was known to Cohen only from a piece in trade (Rollin), and to Mattingly in *BMCRE* only from Cohen. Since the publication of *BMCRE* vol. 2, an example has been acquired by the British Museum and a few others have appeared on the market. To this day there is no example of it in the extensive collection of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.<sup>1</sup> As to TR P XVI, no-one knew that the type had been struck up to that date until an example surfaced in the Mazzini collection, the only one ever to have been seen.

<sup>1</sup> J.-B. Giard, *Monnaies de l'Empire romain* vol. 3 (Paris 1998).