

V.S. Lectures, No. 76.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF VIRGIL ON ROMAN COINS AND
MEDALLIONS.

A Presidential Address delivered to the Society

19th February 1966

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Because of technical difficulties adequate photographic reproduction of Dr. Grant's slides was impossible. We therefore with great regret publish only a summary of his address since understanding of the full text would naturally depend upon illustrations:-

Dr. Grant showed a series of slides of coins and medallions, mostly very rare, with types echoing themes found in Virgil, and particularly in the Aeneid. These fall roughly into three categories (1) Augustan coins (and a quasi-medallion) contemporary with Virgil, which show designs analogous to those found in Virgil, Livy and Dionysius of Halicarnassus, (2) coins and medallions unmistakably echoing Virgil, (3) coins and medallions displaying Virgilian themes which may, however, be prompted instead by other writers of similar antiquarian tendencies or by sources common to some or all of them, including paintings, sculptures etc. now lost, or extant in copies and later versions. It is not always easy to distinguish (2) from (3).

The slides shown in this connection included the following:-

(1) Augustus, with head of Numa, (2) Sidus Julium, (3) Apollo and Sibylline books, (4) Hadrian, Silvanus, (5) Hut, walls and tower of Lavinium, sow with young, Aeneas, Anchises and Ascanius, (6) Antoninus Pius - with whom such themes reached a climax, - the same (these subjects also appearing singly on separate pieces), (9) Aeneas and Ascanius disembarking, (10) Tiber, (11) Hercules and Cacus, (12) Vulcan's shield, (13) Minerva and Neptune, (14) Dream of Rhea (Ilia), (15) Horatius Cocles, (16) Faustina the elder, rape of the Sabine women (repeated under Constantius II), (17) Carausius, EXPECTATE VENI, (18) Constantine the Great, DEBELLATORI GENTIVM BARBARARVM.