
ROMAN COIN SURPRISE FOR MRS SHIP

Reported by Owen Butcher, Media Correspondent, Glastonbury

It was last year when Sally Ship, a 46-year-old secondary school art teacher from Somerset, decided to have an extension built on her home.

'We'd outgrown our house but couldn't find another one as nice,' she explained. 'Instead of moving, we decided to extend.' The builders began work in March 2014 and a few days later, Sally made a truly incredible find. 'I remember watching the builders dig up my lawn. As I was giving out their cups of coffee, I noticed something in the hole they were digging; I had a feeling it was something special.'

'Sally asked me to stop working because I was about to disturb whatever she'd seen. I hadn't even spotted them,' commented builder Karl Webb. 'Finding treasure is a first for me!' Mrs Ship told reporters how Karl had helped her climb into the hole to have a closer look. 'I noticed another one and then another one,' she added. 'I was shaking. I knew this was something important so I immediately reported the find and told the builders they could go home until I'd found out what it was. I slept in the garden all night, guarding what I believed to be something very precious. My daughter thought I was crazy!'

'I have to be honest, I thought they were some old, worthless bits of metal. When Mum said she was camping outside to guard her find, I thought she was going mad!' commented 18-year-old Jenny Ship. 'Mum and I love watching archaeology programmes. To think we had a little piece of history in our garden, well, it's unbelievable really.' Sally and Jenny have recently discovered that the nine coins are Roman and a mixture of bronze and silver. 'Mum and I were excited to find out that the coins were really old. It gets you thinking about why they were there. Had they been dropped by accident? What had they bought?'



The treasure was discovered in a garden in Somerset.

Mrs Ship explained that since her fantastic find, she has joined a local metal detecting group. 'It's great fun! After all, you never know what you're going to find.'

Further excavations took place in Mrs Ship's garden but no other finds were made. It is yet to be decided where the coins will be put on public display.

Comprehension Questions

Answer questions in full sentences.

1. When did the building work start on Mrs Ship's property?

2. What had Mrs Ship been doing when she spotted the treasure?

3. What did Mrs Ship do after finding the treasure?

4. Why did Mrs Ship sleep outside that night?

5. What sort of television programmes do Mrs Ship and her daughter like to watch?
What does this tell us about their interests?

6. What has this inspired Sally to do?

7. Can you use two adjectives to describe how Sally would have felt?

8. What will happen to the treasures?

9. How do you think the coins ended up in Mrs Ship's garden?

10. Have you ever made an exciting discovery?

Roman Coin Surprise For Mrs Ship **Answers**

1. When did the building work start on Mrs Ship's property?

The building work on Mrs Ship's house began in March 2014.

2. What had Mrs Ship been doing when she spotted the treasure?

Mrs Ship had been watching the builders dig up her lawn and was handing them cups of coffee when she noticed something in the hole they were digging.

3. What did Mrs Ship do after finding the treasure?

Mrs Ship reported the find and sent the builders home.

4. Why did Mrs Ship sleep outside that night?

Mrs Ship slept outside because she wanted to guard the precious find.

5. What sort of television programmes do Mrs Ship and her daughter like to watch? What does this tell us about their interests?

Mrs Ship and her daughter liked to watch archaeology television programmes on television. This tells us that they were interested in history and archaeology.

6. What has this inspired Sally to do?

Sally has been inspired by this experience and she has joined her local metal detectors group.

7. Can you use two adjectives to describe how Sally would have felt?

I think Sally would have felt excited and curious.

8. What will happen to the treasures?

The coins will go on display to the public but it is yet to be decided where.

9. How do you think the coins ended up in Mrs Ship's garden?

I think that because there were quite a few coins, someone hid them in a safe place and then forgot where they had put them.

10. Have you ever made an exciting discovery?

Yes. Once, a few years ago, I was digging in the back garden when I found an old glass bottle. My dad and I did some research and it turns out it was a Victorian drinks bottle that had been throw away.