
ROMAN COIN SURPRISE FOR MRS SHIP

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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 totally overreacting,' 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 detectors group. 'It's great fun! After all, you never know what you're going to find.'

Further excavations took place at Mrs Ship's property 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 immediately after finding the treasure? Why did she do this?

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

5. What has this inspired Sally to do?

6. How do you think Sally felt about her experience?

7. What will happen to the treasures?

8. Do you think this is fair?

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 immediately after finding the treasure? Why did she do this?
Mrs Ship told the builders to stop working and with the help of one she climbed into the hole. Realising it was something important she reported the find and sent the builders home. She even decided to sleep in the garden to guard something she had decided was precious.
4. 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.
5. What has this inspired Sally to do?
Sally has been inspired by this experience and she has joined her local metal detectors group.
6. How do you think Sally felt about her experience?
I think Sally was curious to find out more. In the text it says she ended up thinking about why they were there and then she joined her local metal detectors group.
7. What will happen to the treasures?
The coins will go on display to the public but it is yet to be decided where.
8. Do you think this is fair?
I think it is fair that everyone has the chance to see the coins although I do feel some sympathy for Sally as she found the coins!
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.