

# The Interregnum years

The sample examined, regarding the issues of AD 68-69, preserved in the Capitoline Coin Cabinet and coming from the *Urbs* (Rome), consists of 42 coins, distributed according to their indications of provenance as follows:

**Table 47 – The Interregnum years: specimens of the Capitoline Museums**

Provenance	No. of items
SSU 2	16
C. A.	16
Excavation	7
C.A. or Excavation	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>

Coins are distributed according to the mint authority as follows: Galba, 36 coins (86%); Vitellius, 6 coins (14%). Emperor Otho's seldom found silver coins are here totally lacking.

Galba's issues, more abundant if compared to those of Vitellius, are subdivided according to their denominations, all in base metal, in 8 sestertii (22%), 5 dupondii (14%) and 23 asses (64%).

Vitellius' issues consist of just 6 coins: 3 denarii, one as and 2 sestertii; 5 coins only add up to the data regarding the finds from Rome: these are 4 denarii and 1 sestertius of Galba.

The scarcity of the finds regarding the AD 68-69 biennium issues is experienced in other sites as well:

- Ostia:<sup>222</sup> 15 coins (Galba: 2 dupondii, 3 asses; Otho: 2 denarii; Vitellius: 8 denarii)

<sup>222</sup> SPAGNOLI 2007, 288-289 and 343-344 nos 326-340: Galba, RIC I<sup>2</sup> 295 (2); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 376 (1); RIC

- Minturnae:<sup>223</sup> 8 coins (Galba: 3 sestertii, 5 asses)
- Paestum:<sup>224</sup> 6 coins (Galba: 1 denarius, 2 sestertii, 1 dupondius, 2 asses).

Only Pompeii moves away from this trend: 97 coins are reported among the finds of the *Regio* I, VI and IX and 11 coins among those recorded in the catalogue of the exhibition “*Storie da un’eruzione*”.

The find-pattern of the three Emperors period (AD 69), and namely the coins of Galba (61 specimens), from Pompeii should not be considered as unusual when compared to Rome, as it follows the Vespasianic bronze evidence, which is clearly the most abundant currency circulating right before the destruction of the Vesuvian cities. In fact, the bulk of coins of Galba, Otho, and Vitellius comes from AD 79 layers and just a very small part of them comes from earlier contexts.<sup>225</sup>

**Table 48 – The Interregnum years, finds from Rome**

	D	S	Dp	As	RIC I <sup>2</sup>
Galba	4	9	5	23	<b>D:</b> 35 (1R), 60 (2R), 64 (1R); <b>S:</b> 247 (1Z), 259 (1), 309 (1), 312 (1), 359 (1), 380 or 382 (1), pp. 244-255 (1), pp. 244-256 (1), pp. 248-250 (1) <b>Dp:</b> 283 (1), 323 (1), 370 (1), 370 var. (1), pp. 244-255 (1) <b>As:</b> BM reg. n. 1935, 0708.8 (1), BMCRE I 148 (1), 291 (1), 304 (1), 324 (1), 326 (2), 372 or 373 (1), 373 (2), 374 var. (1), 377 (1), 378 (1), 420 (1), 421 (1), 423 (2), 423-427 (1), 500 (1), pp. 246-253 (4)
Vitellius	3	1	-	1	<b>D:</b> 107 (1), 109 (2); <b>S:</b> 117 (1); <b>As:</b> 152 (1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>

(legenda: without any letter = Capitoline Collection; R= REECE 1982, Z= ZAHLE 2008)

I<sup>2</sup> 507 (1); 1 illegible as; Otho, RIC I<sup>2</sup> 8 (2); Vitellius, RIC I<sup>2</sup> 73 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 81 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 86 (3); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 90 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 105 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 107 (1).

<sup>223</sup> FRIER-PARKER 1970, 97: see RIC I<sup>2</sup> 359 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 497 (1); 1 illegible sestertius; METCALF 1974, 46: RIC I<sup>2</sup> 306 (1); GIOVE 1998, 182: RIC I<sup>2</sup> 241 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 328 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 373 (1); 1 illegible as.

<sup>224</sup> CANTILENA *et alii* 2003, 42: RIC I<sup>2</sup> 238 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 366 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 427 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 426 or 427 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 479 (1); RIC I<sup>2</sup> 151 (1).

<sup>225</sup> DUNCAN-JONES 2003, 171-172; VITALE 2007, 148.

Table 49 – The Interregnum years, finds from Pompeii

	Au	D	S	Dp	As	RIC I <sup>2</sup>
Galba	-	9	21	14	27	<p><b>D:</b> 167 (2G), 167 var. (4G), 205 (1C), 207 (1SE), 224 (1G);</p> <p><b>S:</b> 253 (1G), 263 or 265 (1C), 271 (1SE), 309 (1SE), 339 (1G), 343 (1G), 347 ff. (2G), 354 (1G), 387 (1G), 388 (2TM), 316 or 392 (1TM), 392 (1C), 397 (1SE+1G=2), 407 (1G), 438 (2G), 442 (1G), 456 (1G)</p> <p><b>Dp:</b> 276 (1SE), 318 (1G), 322 (2TM), 323 (1G), 366 (1TM), 411 (1TM+1G = 2), 413 (1G), 412-413 (1G), 419 (1TM+1G = 2), illegible (2G)</p> <p><b>As:</b> 68 (1G), 68 ff. (1G),<sup>1</sup> 238 (1G), 257 (1G), 294 (1TM), 294 or 295 (1TM), 324 (1G), 326 (2G), 328 (1G), 328 var. (1G), 329 (1C), 349 (1SE), 370 (1SE), 374 (1SE+1G=2), 375 (1G), 376 (1G), 375 or 376 (1TM), 395 var. (1G), 423 (1G), 425 (1C), 493 (1G), 493-495 (1G), 496 ff. (1G), BMCRE 144 (1SE), illegible (1G)</p>
Otho	3	8	-	-	-	<p><b>Au:</b> 7 (1C), without RIC I<sup>2</sup> no. (2C);</p> <p><b>D:</b> 4 or 6 (1C), 8 (2C+1G = 3), 8 or 10 or 11 (1C), 16 (2G), illegible (1G)</p>
Vitellius	6	9	-	-	-	<p><b>Au:</b> 1 or 2 or 11 or 17 or 33 (1C), 80 (1C), 82 (1C), 85 (1C), 94 (1C), without RIC I<sup>2</sup> no. (1C)</p> <p><b>D:</b> 66 (1SE), 70 (1C+1TM+1G = 3), 73 (1G), 86 (1TM), 90 (1G), 105 (1SE), 109 (1TM);</p>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>97</b>
I Both coins were struck in a Spanish mint ( <i>Tarraco?</i> ).						

(legenda: SE = STORIE DA UN'ERUZIONE; TM = TALIERCIO MENSITIERI 2005; C = CANTILENA 2008; G = GIOVE 2013)