

occasionally they were struck entirely in lead—further evidence of the great scarcity of copper.

A practical result of this modification of my former opinion is that the probable burial dates of late hoards (*c.* 470, *c.* 500, and *c.* 550) in the lists of hoards appended to my various papers should be put back some years (say, to *c.* 450, *c.* 470, and *c.* 500 respectively). These remarks do not apply to the Richborough Radiate hoard (“Richborough IV”) and must be modified in the case of the Bermondsey hoard, which should be put back from *c.* 500 to *c.* 450.

PHILIP V. HILL

#### A NEW TYPE FOR ARCHBISHOP WULFRED



WULFRED was Archbishop of Canterbury from 805 to 832 and as was the custom in those days he had an issue of coins struck at the Canterbury mint in his name.

This particular coin of his (Fig. above) is of a hitherto unpublished type and until recently was thought to be the only one in existence, but there was another in the Ryan sale (lot 595, bought by the British Museum) differing slightly in minor details (Pl. A, 1).

Both coins are unfortunately chipped. The type was unknown to Ruding and Hawkins.

The obverse bears a facing tonsured bust of the archbishop within an inner circle with the legend WLFREDI [AR]CHIEPI S[COPI].

This is a similar obverse to that which Brooke classifies in *English Coins* as Group 3, no. 4, presumed to have been issued from 825 to 832; in other words towards the end of Wulfred's term of office. This is probably correct as the reverse of the Brooke Group 3, no. 4 coin, a cross-crosslet, is similar to the reverse of coins of Beornwulf of Mercia and his successor, struck perhaps at Canterbury after 824.

The reverse of this coin, however, has the alpha and omega monogram instead of the cross-crosslet within an inner circle, the legend being DOROVER[NI]AE CIFITATIS. There is no moneyer's name, but it is probably the work of either Saeberht or Swefheard, both of whom struck for Archbishop Wulfred at Canterbury during his later years.

The interesting point about this coin is, of course, the alpha-omega monogram and what it stands for. It is obviously of religious significance. One has only to read the Revelations, where “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” is referred to more than once. One can therefore more or less understand the device being used by an archbishop. But why so good a reverse

type was not used by other archbishops when it was used by various kings both before and after Wulfred's time one cannot say.

As far as is known at present the alpha-omega monogram first appears on a coin of Beorhtric, King of Wessex from 786 to 802, before Wulfred's time and before the conquest of Kent by Wessex. This coin is therefore from a mint outside Kent, presumably Winchester. It also appears on coins of Ecgberht, Beorhtric's successor and contemporary of Wulfred, this time from the Canterbury mint. In Mercia it appears on coins of Ceolwulf I, also a contemporary of Wulfred, and later on coins of Berhtwulf, who reigned from 839 to 852.

There is then a gap of about 140 years before it reappears for the last time on coins of Æthelred II when the alpha and omega is placed on either side of a hand. Whereas in previous reigns the alpha-omega coins have been mainly confined to the Canterbury mint, in Æthelred's reign they are struck from nearly all of the very many mints that were operating during this reign.

It is interesting to note that the letter A alone forms the reverse type of coins of Coenwulf of Mercia and Æthelwulf of Wessex. The letter A also occurs on coins of the Kings of East Anglia, supposedly for *Anglorum*, but sometimes it is used in conjunction with an omega reverse, in which case it is possible the inference may be alpha-omega. The A is also used on the memorial coinage of St. Edmund.

Finally, the main difference between this coin and the Ryan specimen is in the spelling of CIVITATIS. His is spelt with a V and this coin with F. Also the Ryan coin has no pellets on either side of the alpha-omega monogram.

This coin came from Lord Grantley's sale in 1944. He purchased it from Messrs. Spink and Son in 1902, but there is no record of where it was before.

R. P. MACK

#### A NORMAN PENNY FROM COLCHESTER CASTLE

IN the excavations in the summer of 1950 at the back of the Norman keep of Colchester Castle there was found a silver penny (Pl. A, 8) of Henry I of the rare type X. The obverse shows the crowned bust of the king, facing, with the inscription [+ hENRI]CVS [REX AN]. The legend on the reverse is, unfortunately, only partly decipherable, but it would appear to be new. The certain letters of the legend are +A . . . . NE ON . AR . . Mr. C. E. Blunt, who also examined the coin, has suggested that the mint name might be read as SAFTE (Shaftesbury) and the moneyer's name as ALDPINE who is known as a moneyer in the later type XIII. The mint name, however, does seem to be PARPE (Warwick). No moneyer at Warwick with a name such as Alfwine or Aldwine necessary to complete the indecipherable legend is, it is true, known at Warwick in the Norman period. A positive attribution must await the discovery of another example.