

A NEW TYPE FOR OFFA

THOUGH there is good reason to believe that we still have much to learn about Offa's coinage,¹ the appearance of a new type by a hitherto unrecorded moneyer is something exceptional. It is therefore with a very real sense of gratitude that we acknowledge the courtesy of the Royal Coin Cabinet of The Hague and of the Dutch State Service for Archaeological Excavations in allowing us to record the coin here and we are particularly indebted to the Director of the latter, Dr. W. A.

placed vertically. The whole is contained within a linear circle.

Rev.: A runic inscription which is discussed below. Design generally similar to the obverse, but there are no sides to the centre panel. One bar of the 'D' is continued, top and bottom, to join a linear circle which contains the design.

Weight: 1.17 grammes; 18.1 grains.

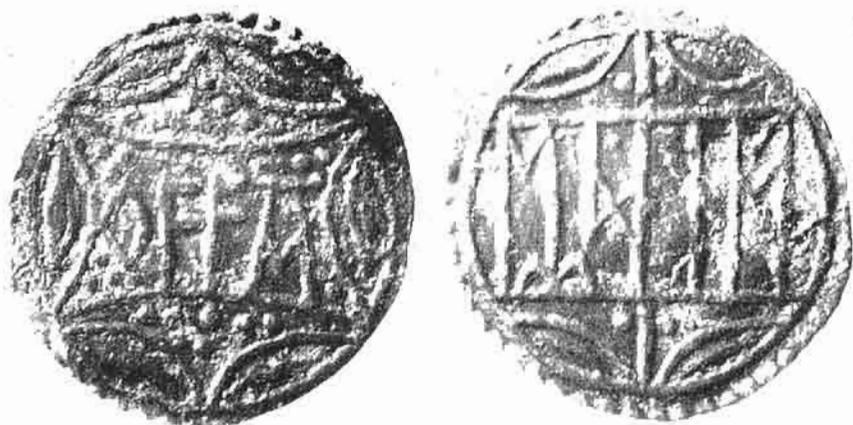


FIG. 1 (enlarged).

Van Es, and to Mr. R. I. Page, of Cambridge, who has carefully studied the runic inscription and given us the benefit of his views on it.

The coin was found on 26 March 1968, in excavations being carried out by the State Service at Wijk bij Duurstede (the ancient Dorestad). It was unearthed in a disturbed layer in level 3 of trench 26, and nothing was found in association with it. It remains at present in the hands of the State Service.

The coin may be described as follows:

Obv.: Legend OFFA, the O lozenge-shaped, the A chevron-barred. The name is set in a concave panel with three pellets in each corner. Above and below are two arches of a similarly curved tressure with pellets inside. Either side of the panel is what appears to be a leaf

The runic inscription is not entirely clear. Mr. Page would be inclined to read it Ednod, but is puzzled by the two seemingly quite deliberate hooks at the foot of the first letter. These are abnormal and their significance is not clear. However, the rune for the diphthong *ea* in Old English is \mathfrak{W} and it is just possible that the first element in the name might be intended to combine *e* (M) with *ea* \mathfrak{W} , the latter inverted. This would produce the name Eadnoð.

The absence of the royal title on the obverse will be noted. This, though exceptional on Offa's coins, is occasionally found.²

The possibility that the coin might be a continental imitation of a coin of Offa's was first considered, but was rejected on two grounds. First there is no known prototype, for obverse

¹ See *Anglo-Saxon Coins* (1961), p. 46.

² e.g. on Nos. 7, 30, 38, 46, and 48 illustrated in *Anglo-Saxon Coins* (1961), Pls. IV and V.

or reverse, from which it could have been copied (not, however, a conclusive argument, because, as already explained, our knowledge of Offa's coinage is manifestly incomplete); the second, that the letter Δ is of a type much more common in England than outside it.

unknown King Eadwald, who may have occupied the East Anglian throne for a short period after Offa's death.²

Only one other moneyer is known to have worked for this king and his name is Eadnoð. Two (or possibly three) of his coins have survived.³



FIG. 2.

If it is English, the runic inscription associates it with the coins which are attributed to East Anglia.¹

Of the five moneyers who, it has been suggested, worked for Offa in an East Anglian mint, the names of two, Lul and Wihtrud, are found also in coins struck in the name of a historically

The new coin from Holland thus fits very neatly into the East Anglian group of Offa's coins and the fact that the obverse is not of the 'three-line' type suggests that it is not of his latest issue, introduced some four years before his death.

C. E. BLUNT and G. VAN DER MEER

THE 1912 WELWYN FIND OF PENCE OF EADGAR AND OF EDWARD THE MARTYR

IN 1961 it was observed that there appears to be no published find from southern England including coins of Eadgar (*A/S Coins*, p. 141 and map opposite p. 142). It was also claimed that Eadgar's *Three-line* type (*BMC* ii = Brooke 1 var. = North 757 = Seaby 652), which is associated with Chester in particular, is one that belongs comparatively late in the reign. Both topics had also been touched upon in a note commemorating the millennium of Eadgar's accession (*SNC* 1959, p. 76), and the late (post-973?) date of the *Three-line* type was further postulated in a paper discussing the Dalkey hoard (*JRSAL* xci (1961), pp. 1-18). Recently, however, a London sale-catalogue (Sotheby, 19 February 1969, English, Scottish, and Foreign—confusingly there had been earlier the same day and in the same rooms

a Roman sale) included in an unusually full description of lot 145 a reference to an unpublished coin in the British Museum to which attached the provenance 'ex Wellwyn [*sic*] Treasure Trove, 1913 [*sic*]'. No hoard of this name is listed in Mr. Thompson's *Inventory* (1956) or is cited in my own review of Viking-age hoard-evidence from these islands on pp. 47-54 of *SCBI* B.M. H/N (1966), but through the courtesy of Mr. R. A. G. Carson, F.S.A., of the British Museum, it is possible for there to be offered here a partial reconstruction of a little find which seems not without significance where students of the tenth-century English coinage are concerned.

The British Museum coin (registration No. 1913-3-10) is a *Three-line* penny of Eadgar from the Chester mint and by the moneyer Aldewine.

Grantley coin, but since the latter has a pedigree going back at least to the Dymock sale of 1858, and is presumably the specimen described by Haigh in his *Numismatic History of the . . . East Angles* (1845), p. 6, as recently discovered, this seems unlikely. If in fact it is a third specimen, its present whereabouts are unknown.

¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 49-50 and 59.

² *Ibid.*, p. 50.

³ *BMC* i, p. 84, 3; Grantley 881; Grueber in *NC* 1894, p. 54 n., in his account of the Middle Temple hoard, writes that he had 'very recently seen a coin of Eadwald, a duplicate of that in the Museum (*B.M. Cat.*, vol. i., Pl. XIV. 3) which I strongly suspect came from the same hoard'. This could, of course, be the