

A 'MULE' STERLING OF DAVID I OF SCOTLAND FROM THE CARLISLE MINT

N.M.McQ. HOLMES

THE purpose of this note is to place on permanent record in the pages of this *Journal* a remarkable coin belonging to the earliest issues for a Scottish king. It has been recorded in the EMC with the number 2016.0133, has recently been offered for sale at auction,¹ and has previously been recorded in a publication aimed at the metal-detecting fraternity,² but this note is placed here as an appendix to the recently published paper on the early coins from the Carlisle mint by Mattinson and Cherry.³ A full description of the coin is as follows:

David I (1124–53), silver sterling/penny by the moneyer Erebald at Carlisle

Obv.: †DAVIDR[]X (legend commences at 9 o'clock); crowned bust three-quarters right, with sceptre on left.

Rev.: †EREBALD[] (legend commences at 1 o'clock); short cross moline with lis in each angle.

20.0 mm diameter; 1.49 g; die axis 210°.



Fig. 1. 'Mule' sterling of David I

The obverse belongs to the class categorised by Mattinson and Cherry as 'Scottish group a, quadrilateral on cross fleury',⁴ similar to English issues of Henry I, type 15, but the reverse is as 'group b', which comprises coins of David I copying those of Stephen, *BMC* type 1. This would tend to suggest that the two types were issued, if not contemporaneously, then at least without much time elapsing between them.

This coin is one of several important early Scottish coins which have come to light in recent years and which are gradually helping to shed light on the numismatic history of the period.⁵

¹ Dix Noonan Webb auction 137, 22 Sept. 2016, lot 1492.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Holmes, N.M.McQ., 2017. 'A sterling of David I by the moneyer William at Carlisle', *BNJ* 87, 221–2.

Mattinson, J. and Cherry, P., 2013. 'The Carlisle mint coinages of Henry I, Stephen, David I and Earl Henry' *BNJ* 83, 101–11.

Spencer, P.D., 2016. 'Three finds of great rarity', *The Searcher* 372 (Aug. 2016), 56–9.