

Trustees of the British Museum,"¹ and therefore ought to be aware that even the British Museum "as collectors, are 'not' allowed to defy the law of treasure-trove with impunity." It is entirely due to the unsatisfactory and unpopular provisions of this law that hoards of coins are secretly dispersed, and the finders are rarely competent to draw the legal distinction between silver and gold which do, and copper which fortunately does not come within the Act. The fact that there is never any mystery or difficulty in connection with discoveries of prehistoric implements, Roman masonry, pottery or later iron relics, does not support Mr. Hill's lament.

Although of local interest, the find is of the usual order, and adds nothing to our general knowledge; but it is carefully described and useful for reference. Incidentally Mr. Hill refers to a previous discovery at Croydon, in 1852, of 600 or 700 "small" and a few "middle brass" ranging between the times of Magnentius and Decentius. They were contained in a leather purse, protected by a pot, and found in a stone sarcophagus at Rheinzabern.

Edward the Confessor and his Coins, by P. Carlyon-Britton, F.S.A.

A propos of treasure-trove, the editors seem to have unearthed this paper from the sarcophagus of their pigeon-holes, for it was read to the Society as long ago as May, 1903, and put aside pending less important matter. Until it was written, the types of the Confessor were not only in chaos, but, to quote Mr. Carlyon-Britton's words, "if reference be made to vol. ii of the *Catalogue of English Coins in the British Museum*, it will be seen that the compilers of that volume in the preliminary 'Description of Types' assign no less than seventeen types (in addition to varieties) to this monarch's reign of approximately twenty-three years and seven months (8th June, 1042, to 5th January, 1066)." When, therefore, Mr. Carlyon-Britton is able by the exclusion of *mules* or combination coins, to reduce the total to eleven, although in that number he includes type III, variety C,² of Hildebrand and the Museum Catalogue, and to place them in their true

¹ *British Numismatic Journal*, i, p. 333 *et seq.*

² *Sic*, but no doubt Mr. Carlyon-Britton means type C, varieties C and D of Hildebrand, and type III, variety C, of the Museum Catalogue.

chronological order, the treatise must rank amongst the most important contributions ever made to the *Numismatic Chronicle*. The evidence he offers to prove the order of their issue is as remarkable as it is convincing, for, by the recognised rule of the sequence of types which appear in combination on the *mule* coins, he is able to connect either with its immediate predecessor or successor, and in most instances with both, every type of the reign; therefore, there can be no question that he has finally solved the mystery of the chronological order of the coinages of Edward the Confessor.

Commencing with the before-mentioned variety, type C, varieties C and D of Hildebrand, he draws attention to the fact that instead of being a mere variety of Hawkins type 220, which has a similar obverse, it was, in fact, the type current at the time of Eadward's accession, namely, Hawkins type 217 of Harthacnut, which the new king continued with the mere correction of his own name. The following table prepared from Mr. Carlyon-Britton's paper will epitomise the subject:—

Order of type.	References.			Approximate period of issue.	Mules connecting.	
	Hawkins.	Brit. Mus. Catalogue.	Hildebrand.		Obverse.	Reverse.
I	IV variety	III var. C.	C var. D ¹	June, 1042, to Sept. 29th, 1042	—	Harthacnut.
II	226	I	A	Sept., 1042-1045	I	II
III	220	III	C	„ 1045-1048	II	III
IV	229	II	B	„ 1048-1051	III	IV
V	221	IV	D	„ 1051-1053	—	—
VI	219	V	E	„ 1053-1055	V	VI
VII	227	VII	F	„ 1055-1057	VI	VII
VIII	228	IX	H	„ 1057-1059	VII	VIII
IX	222	XI	G	„ 1059-1061	VIII	IX
X	225	XIII	A var. C	„ 1061-1063	IX	X
XI	IX	XV	I var. B	„ 1063-1065	X	XI
XI with reverse similar to that of Harold II. }	XI	XVII	L	{ Sept. 29th, 1065-Christmas, 1065	XI XI	Harold, William I., Hawkins, 234.

¹ See previous note.