ON SOME COINS OF THE TENTH CENTURY,
FOUND IN THE ISLE OF MAN, WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO A PENNY OF ANLAF
STRUCK AT DERBY.

By P. W. P. Carlyon-Britton, F.S.A., President.

THE coins hereafter described were recently sent to the writer
by Mr. P. M. C. Kermode, Hon. Secretary of the Manx
Museum and Ancient Monuments Trust, for examination
and classification. A record has been preserved as to the
places in the Isle of Man where certain of them were found, namely,
Andreas and Port St. Mary, but as regards the remainder of the
coins, although no record of their provenance exists, it is conjectured
that some, at least, of these latter specimens formed part of a large
hoard of coins and ornaments discovered at Douglas in the year
1894, which comprised coins from the reign of Eadweard the Elder
to that of Eadgar, both inclusive.

To the unfortunate method of administration of the law affecting
treasure trove is due the destruction of hundreds, perhaps thousands,
of the coins comprised in this find. Some years ago the writer was
told by a gentleman resident in Douglas that the Coroner had
demanded, with dire threats, the delivery of many coins in the
possession of a workman. As a result the bullion was delivered, but
not until it had been reduced by the hammer to an indistinguishable
mass of jumbled fragments.

The Treasury had received its pounds of silver, but what a loss
was thus sustained to history and numismatic science! One wonders
for how long the government of a civilised country will persist in the
antiquated methods of a barbaric age. The loss to archaeology is far
greater than the gain derived by the nation in securing a few cheap lots. A government should be liberal enough to adequately reward the workmen who find treasure, and honest enough to publicly promulgate a knowledge that fair treatment will, in fact, be accorded to the finders of treasure of gold and silver.

The coins to be described consist of two fragments of pennies and one complete penny of Anlaf, Sihtricsson, and a penny of Eric, Kings of Northumbria; a cut halfpenny of Eadweard the Elder; a cut halfpenny and two fragments of pennies of Æthelstan; three pennies, two cut halfpennies and two fragments of pennies of Eadmund; eight pennies, three cut halfpennies and a fragment of a penny of Eadred; ten pennies of Eadwig; three pennies and a cut halfpenny of Eadgar, and a penny of uncertain attribution. The period represented is therefore, approximately, from A.D. 901 to A.D. 960, in the early part of Eadgar's reign.

The following is a detailed list:

**Kings of Northumbria.**

**Anlaf, Sihtricsson,** nicknamed Cuaran.¹

1. *Obverse.* 

   [+ ANF]CVNVE[— —], small cross patee.

   *Reverse.*  

   X [SREGRES MOV] on DEOFR, small cross patee; in field M.  

   Plate I, Fig. 1, and Plate II, Fig. A.

This interesting fragment, approximately half of the entire coin, is by the same moneyer, Sigar, as the specimen described in the British Museum Catalogue, vol. i, No. 1098, p. 235, and illustrated Plate XXIX, 4, and here as Plate II, Fig. B. The legends have, so far as is possible, been restored from that piece, which is of precisely similar workmanship.

The obverse legend of the specimen in the National Collection has the letter 0 after the name and title of the king. This is indicative of York, Eoferwic, and, perhaps, by enlarged inference, of the sovereignty of Northumbria. The reverse has + SIGARES MOT only.

¹ Cuaran is an Irish word meaning a shoe or sock of untanned leather: Kuno Meyer Contributions to Irish Lexicography, i, 545.
The fragment now being described was, without doubt, struck at Derby. The reading DEORE is probably intended for DEOREB, the fourth letter and the last being incompletely punched and representing R and B respectively.

The name of the moneyer, however, removes all reasonable doubt.

Although in the letterpress of the British Museum Catalogue it is written Sicares and is treated as a name in the nominative case, and in the index is queried as the equivalent to Sigared, the illustration shows that what is written upon the coin is Sigares, and our Anglo-Saxon grammar informs us that the addition es indicates the possessive case of the nominative Sigar. Moreover, we find that Sigar was a moneyer of Æthelstan, Eadmund and Eadred, and that on coins of these three kings his name also occurs in the possessive case followed by the word MOT, which is thought to be a contraction of the Latin moneta = money, or perhaps mint.

A penny of Æthelstan in the National Museum at Rome locates Sigar at Derby, the inscription being read + SIGARES MOT DEORABVI. It is probable that the letter read H is really a square B.

The M in the field of the reverse of the two coins of Anlaf is indicative of Mercia, and from other evidence we know that this mark is particularly associated with coins struck at the Mercian mint of Derby, and possibly at Chester also, during the reigns of Æthelstan and of his successors to and including Eadgar.

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the specimen in the British Museum was also struck at Derby, and that the inscription on the obverse, EVNVE 0, signifies King of York, or of Northumbria, and not that the coin was struck at York.

But in arriving at a conclusion as to when these coins of Anlaf were struck at Derby, a coin of Æthelstan now belonging to the writer, from the Rashleigh collection, Lot 253, has to be taken into consideration. This is illustrated, Plate II, Fig. C.

This penny reads on the obverse + EDELSAN RE. and on the reverse + SIGARES MOT : in the field M, between the initial and central crosses pattées. The fabric, style and lettering of this piece exactly correspond with the two Derby coins of Anlaf, for there can be little
hesitation in now assigning the Museum specimen to that mint; so much so that, without reading the actual lettering, it could not be distinguished from the coin of Anlaf illustrated in the *British Museum Catalogue*, vol. i, Plate XXIX, Fig. 4. The two coins are placed side by side for comparison as C and B in Plate II hereof. The coinage to which this coin of Æthelstan belongs, is that indicated as Type V in the arrangement adopted in vol. ii of the *British Museum Catalogue*. Whilst not prepared to concur with this numerical order, the writer is of opinion that Type V is to be assigned to the period immediately preceding and following the enactments of the synod held at Greatley in A.D. 928. One of these enactments provided that no one should coin money except in a town, and this appears to have led to the placing of the names of mints upon the coins. Type V comprises coins without the name of the mint, but the greater number of this type disclose mint names. The writer's coin of Æthelstan and the Museum specimen of Anlaf are without the mint name, the fragment of Anlaf of the same type and by the same moneyer as both, has the mint name, and all three have the distinguishing mark M in the field of the reverse.

It would seem, therefore, that Type V of Æthelstan, according to the British Museum order, was current in the year 928, and a little before and after that date. Historians have not recognised that Anlaf had any permanent foothold in Northumbria, and still less so in Mercia at so early a date as 928, and it is therefore desirable, in view of the important historical inferences for the first time disclosed by a chronological study of these coins, to review anew the known facts so far as the meagre chronicles of the period may record them. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, under annal 926, informs us that Sihtric then died, and King Æthelstan assumed the kingdom of the Northumbrians. The same authority states, under the following year, that King Æthelstan expelled King Guthfrith. From other sources we presume that Guthfrith, otherwise Godfrid, was brother of the deceased Sihtric, King of Northumbria.

The chronicles, however, are silent as to Anlaf, son of Sihtric, but the coins seem to show that on the death of his father in 926, Anlaf
must have succeeded to the Northumbrian kingdom. He was doubtless the son of Sihtric by a former wife, as it was only in January, 925 or 926, that King Æthelstan gave to Sihtric his sister in marriage. Annals 928 to 932 of the Saxon Chronicle are almost bare of record, but under 933 we learn that King Æthelstan went into Scotland, with both a land-force and a ship-force, and ravaged a great part of it, that is, of course, of the southern half. This is significant when we consider the fact that Anlaf was son-in-law of Constantine, king of the Scots. Afterwards, in A.D. 937, was fought the celebrated battle of Brunanburh where Anlaf and Constantine were hopelessly defeated by Æthelstan and his brother Eadmund. It would seem, therefore, that the coins of Æthelstan and Anlaf struck at Derby belong to the period of disturbance which prevailed between the death of Sihtric in 926 and the raid undertaken by Æthelstan against the king of the Scots in 933.

The enactments of the Synod of Greatley narrow the possible period of issue to a date very close to A.D. 928.

Derby seems then to have been debateable ground, held alternately by Æthelstan and Anlaf.

In a former paper the writer has alluded to Mr. Andrew's belief that the battle of Brunanburh took place in Derbyshire, and it is hoped that the facts above set out may tend to strengthen that view of the case.

2. Obverse.—[+] A • N • L • A • F C[VNVNC], small cross pattée, with E to right of it.
   Reverse.—+ FAR [MAN] [MIN] ETR, small cross pattée. A fragment approximately half a penny. Unpublished.

3. Obverse.—+ ONLAF • REX • 0 •, small cross pattée.
   Reverse.—+ INEL • G • AR • 0 •, small cross pattée. Plate I, Fig. 2.

This coin is similar to that illustrated in British Museum Catalogue, vol. i, Plate XXIX, Fig. 7. Its workmanship is like that of coins of Eadwig and Eadgar. Ingelgar struck money at York for Anlaf and Eric as kings of Northumbria, and also for Eadmund and Eadred as kings of All England.

1 British Numismatic Journal, iv, p. 74.

4. Obverse. — + E • A • RIC • REX •, small cross pattée.
   Reverse. —
   INGEL
   ++
   GAR MO
   Plate I, Fig. 3.

The spelling of the king's name as upon this coin, Eāric, is otherwise unknown. It appears to have been struck from an altered die of Eadred, the first two letters of that king's name having been retained. The piece is therefore assignable to A.D. 952, the commencement of Eric's second reign in Northumbria.

Kings of All England.

Eadweard the Elder, A.D. 901–925.

5. Obverse. — [+ EADV][EARD RE[X], small cross pattée.
   Reverse. —
   VVLF[HE]
   ++
   A[RD MO]
   Moneyer Wulfheard. A cut halfpenny.
   Plate I, Fig. 4.

Æthelstan, A.D. 925–939.

6. Obverse. — [+ E][DLST • AN RE[X TO BRIT], small cross pattée.

   Reverse. —
   VV]LFZ
   ++
   TAN]MO
   A fragment.
   *Reverse.* — + BO — — — ELF, rosette. Struck at Chester.

**Eadmund,** A.D. 939-946.

   *Reverse.* —
     -
     ELFRI
     ++
     C MON
     ••

Plate I, Fig. 5.

Elfric, or ÆElfric, was a moneyer at Canterbury under Æthelstan.

    *Reverse.* —
      -
      STFE
      ++
      NE MO
      ••

Plate I, Fig. 6.

    *Reverse.* —
      -
      HGE
      ++
      ARN N
      ••

Plate I, Fig. 7.

    *Reverse.* —
      -
      EARD
      ++

Moneyer Eardulf, a cut halfpenny, broken into two pieces.

    *Reverse.* —
      -
      OSFE
      ++

Plate I, Fig. 8.

Moneyer Osferth, a cut halfpenny.
   Reverse.—
   EΔE
   + + +
   OD MO
   A fragment, moneyer Heremod.

15. Obverse.—[+ EΛ]DMV[ND RE], small cross pattée.
   Reverse.—
   MA
   +
   A small fragment, moneyer Manna.

Eadred, A.D. 946–955.

   Reverse.—+ GYNERE[S MO]N, cross pattée.

Guner is an unpublished moneyer for this reign, but the name occurs at Derby as that of a moneyer of Æthelræd II.

17. Obverse.—+ EADRED REX, crowned bust, to right.
   Reverse.—+ SARVVRD MONE.
   Plate I, Fig. 9.

18. Obverse.—EADRED REX, small cross pattée.
   Reverse.—
   GRIM
   + + +
   ES MOT
   ... ...

19. Obverse.—+ EADRED REX O, small cross pattée.
   Reverse.—
   HVNR
   + + +
   ED MO
   ... ...

Struck at York. Plate I, Fig. 10.

Hunred struck money at York for Eric also.

20. Obverse.—+ E • ADR • REX ;, small cross pattée.
   Reverse.—
   HVNR
   + + +
   EDMOî
   ... ...

Struck at York.
COINS FOUND IN THE ISLE OF MAN, FIGURES 22—27, AND DERBY COINS OF ANLAF AND ÆTHELSTAN.

Pl. II.

*Reverse.*—

HN
+++
ZAFF

Struck at York. Plate I, Fig. 11.

22. *Obverse.*— + EADRED RE, small cross pattée.

*Reverse.*—

REGDE
+++
RES MOT

Plate I, Fig. 12.


*Reverse.*—

SI
0+
RØ

A fragment; moneyer, Siferth.

24. *Obverse.*— + EADRED RE, a rosette.

*Reverse.*—

VREEL
++
BERD

Plate I, Fig. 13.

This coin is a variety of British Museum Type iv which is represented by only one example. The moneyer is new to any reign.

25. A cut halfpenny, moneyer Hunred. Struck at York. Plate I, Fig. 14.

26. A cut halfpenny, similar. Plate I, Fig. 15.

27. A cut halfpenny, moneyer Osbern, unpublished. Plate I, Fig. 16.

**Eadwig, A.D. 955–959.**

28. *Obverse.*— + EADVVG REX ⚫, small cross pattée.

*Reverse.*—

BOIGA
+ BE + DA +
MONETA

On Some Coins of the Tenth Century, found in the Isle of Man.

   Reverse. —
     
     HHEM
     +HA+H+
     VN MO

   Broken: Struck at Southampton.

   The moneyer's name appears to be Winemund. An unpublished moneyer.

30. Obverse. — + EADVVI B RE • +, small cross pattée.
   Reverse. —
     
     DVN
     +++
     IC MO

   Dunninc was a moneyer of Huntingdon. Plate I, Fig. 17.

   Reverse. —
     
     RERIG
     +++
     ER MO

   A moneyer of Eadred, Eadwig and Eadgar. Struck at York. Plate I, Fig. 18.

32. Obverse. — + EADPIE REX −, small cross pattée.
   Reverse. —
     
     RERIG
     ER MO

   Struck at York. Plate I, Fig. 19.

33. Obverse. — + EADPIE REX ±, small cross pattée.
   Reverse. —
     
     RERIG
     +++
     ER MO

   Struck at York. Plate I, Fig. 20.
34. *Obverse.— + EADPI5 REX 0, small cross pattée.

*Reverse.—

HERIG
+ + +
ER HO–

Plate I, Fig. 21.

The final letter on the obverse in an O attached by a straight down-stroke to the inner circle. The O in MO on the reverse is laterally attached by a straight stroke to the inner circle. Struck at York.

35. *Obverse.— + EADYYI RE, small cross pattée.

*Reverse.—

† • VN
+ + +
M HO

Plate II, Fig. 22.

An unpublished moneyer, probably equivalent to Juhan and Johan.

36. *Obverse.— + EADYYI RE, small cross pattée.

*Reverse.—

LEVI
+ + +
CH M.

An unpublished moneyer. Plate II, Fig. 23.

37. *Obverse.— + EADVVI REX I, small cross pattée.

*Reverse.—

† • VRC
+ + +
ETEL

Thurcetel is an unpublished moneyer for this reign. Plate II, Fig. 24.

**Eadgar, A.D. 957-975.**

38. *Obverse.— + EADGAR REX, small cross pattée.

*Reverse.—

BENE
+ + +
DIHT

Plate II, Fig. 25.
On Some Coins of the Tenth Century, found in the Isle of Man.

39. **Obverse.** — + EADGAR REX; small cross pattée.
   **Reverse.** —
   
   HERIG
   + ++
   ER MO

   Struck at York.

40. Similar to No. 39. Double struck through turning in the dies. Struck at York.

41. A cut halfpenny, moneyer Heriger. Struck at York. Plate II, Fig. 26.

**Uncertain.**

This is a penny common in type of obverse and reverse to the reigns of Eadmund, Eadred, Eadwig and Eadgar.

**Obverse.** — + ΣOEZV+ZEWl, retrograde, small cross pattée in centre.
   **Reverse.** —
   
   ΖΕΜΗΤΙΟ
   + ++
   ΖΕΝΕΤΙΒ

   Plate II, Fig. 27.

The legends are rendered somewhat indistinct by reason of the coin having moved while being struck. The writer is not, at present, able to suggest any reasonable interpretation of their meaning, but it is hoped that the problem may one day be solved.

The following coins of the Derby mint are illustrated on Plate II for comparison with those previously described.

A. The coin of Anlaf Sihtricsson, already described.
B & C. Already referred to.
D. Penny of Æthelstan.
   **Obverse.** — + EDELSTAN•RE SAXORVM, small cross pattée in centre.
   **Reverse.** — + BEORNARD ON DEOR•ABV, small cross pattée in centre.
E. Penny of Æthelstan.
   **Obverse.** — + EDEL•TAN•RE+ SA+ OR•V:, small cross pattée in centre
   **Reverse.** — + MEK•SA• MOT IN DERABI, small cross pattée in centre.
   M in the field.
F. Penny of Æthelstan.
   **Obverse.** — E + DEL•STAN•RE•BR, small cross pattée in centre, a pellet in the field.
   **Reverse.** — + EEEL•MNEM•DEB, large cross pattée.
G. Penny of Æthelstan.
   **Obverse.** — + ÆEDELS•TAN REX TO BRIT, small cross pattée.
   **Reverse.** — + MARTINVΣ MET DEGRAEY, small cross pattée.