

EDWARD THE ELDER—PENNIES WITH FAÇADE OF A BUILDING.

BY G. D. LUMB, F.S.A.

THE silver pennies of the above English king, who reigned from 901 to 925, which can positively be attributed to York are apparently few in number. In the Rashleigh Sale, 1909, Lot 240, was a coin, on the reverse of which is the façade of a building which was that of York Minster, and it was minted at York. It bears the inscription $\begin{array}{c} \text{ƿ} \times \\ \text{ER} \end{array} \uparrow \begin{array}{c} \text{LT} \\ \text{EO} \end{array}$ divided by a church-like tower, ƿ being the Saxon w and EO a contraction of Eofric, for Eoferwic (York). It therefore reads ƿ×|LT|ER EO[FRIC] which definitely connects the building with York and its Minster. Walter was the moneyer.

The Rashleigh coin was sold at the Bliss Sale in 1916, Lot 90, and came into my possession shortly afterwards. There was not an illustration of it in either the Rashleigh or the Bliss catalogues. This penny was previously in the Devonshire Sale, 1844, Lot 175, and in the Huxtable Sale, 1859, Lot 600.

I have two silver pennies of Edward with plain reverses, one with the inscription ƿALTER EO and the other EOFRMVNÐ, which were therefore minted at York, Walter and Eadmund being the moneyers. All the obverses are inscribed Eadweard Rex. A penny of Edward was inscribed "Eofmund" on a coin, Lot 97, Parsons Sale, 1929, but no building appeared on it.

Edward's son Athelstan had pennies minted at York, a reverse of one reading REGNALD MO EFORPIC, that is, *monetarius* Eoferwic. His half-brother Eadmund also had pennies minted there, the obverse

of one having Eadmund Rex Ebro and the reverse, Ingelgar mo. Ingelgar was also moneyer at York for his brother Eadred. Examples are in my possession.

On the following silver pennies Eo or Eoferwic is not mentioned, but they have a narrow façade similar to the one described on the Bliss coin, and among the names of the moneyers Walter does not occur. They have a small erection on the roof, which was probably used for a lantern to guide travellers through the Forest of Galtres.

Montagu, 1895, Lots 594, 595, 596. Moneyer, Eadmund.

Carlyon-Britton, 1913, Lot 372. Moneyer, Eadmund.

Watters, May, 1917, Lot 54. Moneyer, Eadmund (Montagu, Sale 595).

Mann, 1917, Lot 156. Moneyer, Vulfsige.

Owner abroad, 1929, Lot 44. Moneyer, Cudberht.

Pennies having a broader building with no erection on roof were included in the Montagu Sale, 1895, Lots 598, 599, 600. Moneyers Vulfsige, IRFARΛ, Cudberht. The buildings were all described as burghs or forts erected by Edward for protection against the Danes.

In Ruding's *Annals of the Coinage of Great Britain*, 1840, the pennies in Plate 16, No. 17, Vulfsige, moneyer; No. 18, Eadumnd, moneyer; and No. 20, Eadvvald, moneyer, have the narrow front and the erection on the roof. Numbers 19 and 21, moneyers Irfara and Cudberht, have broad fronts with no erection and may be those of Edward's burghs or forts. In Hawkins' *The Silver Coins of England*, 1876, Plate XIV, No. 181, the front is a broad one without the erection. Moneyer, Irfara.

In the British Museum's *Catalogue of Anglo-Saxon Coins*, 1893, vol. ii, Plate VIII, No. 13, is the narrow type and No. 14 is the broad type. Moneyers, Eadmund and Irfara.

In Grueber's *Coins of Great Britain and Ireland*, 1899, Plate V, No. 154, moneyer, Eadmund, the front is the narrow one, and has the erection on the roof. Grueber states that the only mint of

Edward named on his coins was that of Bath, and that the building on the reverse of No. 154 may refer to the erection of burghs of which so many were founded in Edward's reign.

I hope that the references and examples here given will establish the identification of the design on the pennies of Edward the Elder, having the narrow façade, with the Minster of York and with the York Mint.

