THE STEYNING MINT

By HORACE H. KING

Steyning is to-day a large village or small town in the Hundred of Steyning and the Rape of Bramber, in the Administrative County of West Sussex. It lies in the valley of the Adur, under the downs close beneath Chanctonbury Ring and about six miles from the sea at Shoreham.

St. Cuthman built the first wooden church about the beginning of the eighth century. By Alfred's time it was in the hands of the king, but Edward the Confessor granted it to the Abbey of Fécamp in Normandy. The monks were expelled at the instance of Earl Godwin in 1052, and Harold held it till the Conquest, as is shown by the entry in Domesday Book, "Heraldus tenuit in fine regis E.", for Domesday never refers to Harold as king or to his reign. The Conqueror re-granted it to the Church of Fécamp.

Domesday says: "The Abbot (of Fécamp) himself holds Staninges. In the borough there were 118 masures: they returned £4 and 2s. There are now 123 masures and they return 100s. and 100d." A masura was a house belonging to or going with some land in a borough. It does not say how many burgesses there were or mention burgesses, but we learn that it was a borough and would therefore have the right to a mint with one moneyer under Athelstan's laws passed at the Synod of Grateley about 928. Steyning was evidently a place of much greater importance in those days than now, for the borough returned £4. 2s. in the time of King Edward when Lewes returned £6. 4s. 1½d., and at the time of the survey £5. 8s. 4d. when Lewes returned £8. 2s. 1½d. Indeed, it is said that the town was then one of the largest in England.

There is no mention in Domesday of the mint, and we therefore know that it was not at that time (1086) in the king's hands but in the hands of the abbot, for if it had been in the king's hands there would have been a record of what it produced for the Royal Exchequer.

In Norman times Steyning was a port and ships could anchor there, and no doubt the abbot and monks found it very convenient for crossing to their mother church of Fécamp. But in the middle of the fourteenth century the harbour began to silt up and soon Steyning's importance as a seaport vanished; no doubt this led to the decay of the town.

Steyning sent two representatives to Parliament till the Reform Act of 1832, when as a "rotten borough" it was disfranchised.

To turn to the numismatic history of the town. Ruding did not know of its existence as a mint, no coins of it having turned up in his time, apparently. In the third edition of his Annals of the Coinage, published in 1840, in the account contributed by Hawkins of the
The Steyning Mint

Beaworth hoard of 1833, the Steyning coins are assigned to Stepney as well as those of Launceston, though apparently with some misgiving; which can be well understood when \textit{STNIG} and \textit{STFAN} on the coins have to represent Stibenhede, Stebenhythe, or Stebunhetheta, the ancient name of Stepney.

It was not till the second edition of Hawkins's \textit{Silver Coins of England}, published in 1876, that Steyning was recognized as a mint, though even then the Launceston coins were transferred from Stepney to Steyning as well, despite the almost equal difficulty of reconciling with \textit{STANINGES}, as with Stebenhythe, the \textit{STFAN} and \textit{STEFNI} of the coins. It was not till Major Carlyon-Britton pointed out in 1907, in vol. iii of our \textit{Journal}, the existence of the Launceston mint that they were correctly attributed.

\textbf{Cnut}

The first coin of Steyning we know of is of Cnut, BMC xiv, Hild. G, and is in the Swedish Royal Cabinet. The moneyer is \textit{PVIDIA} or \textit{PIDIA}. It appears to be unique, but that is a dangerous word to use, for no sooner has one stated that a coin is unique than another one turns up.

Of Cnut, BMC xvi, Hild. H, we have seven coins, three by Widia, three by Frithiwine (\textit{Pl., No. 1}), and one by Ecrie. I am doubtful about the one by Ecrie, which is in the British Museum and Stockholm, as it reads \textit{STEC} or \textit{STAEC}, a form of the mint-name never used elsewhere in the series, and suggests that there were two moneyers working together, unless Ecrie followed Widia and was followed very shortly indeed by Frithiwine. There may, however, have been two moneyers, though Athelstan's laws would only have allowed one, for on one occasion later, and possibly two, as we shall see, there appear to be two at work at once.

There are no coins that I know of of BMC xvii, Hild. I.

\textbf{Harold I}

Of Harold I we have only two coins, both in the Stockholm Museum and both of BMC v, var. c, Hild. B. They are both by Frithiwine and differ only in the reading of \textit{REX} on the obverse. There appear to be none of BMC i, Hild. A, known.

\textbf{Harthacnut}

The British Museum has the only specimen of Harthacnut that I know of. It is by Frithiwine and is of BMC i a, Hild. Aa (\textit{Pl., No. 2}). According to Mr. Parsons's arrangement of the coins of this reign, this was minted in the first half of Harthacnut's reign over all England.

\textbf{Edward the Confessor}

The coins of Steyning of Edward the Confessor begin with one of Frithiwine of BMC iii, type III in the late Major Carlyon-Britton's
arrangement of the types of this reign, but given by the late Dr. Brooke as the first and now, I think, generally admitted to be such. This coin was in Mr. Raymond Carlyon-Britton’s collection and is now in mine, and reads EDPERD REX and FRIDEINE ON STEN (Pl., No. 3). Of BMC i, C-B II, we have no specimen, but from now on to the Conquest we have a continuous series of coins in all types.

Hitherto, in reliance on Major Carlyon-Britton and Dr. Brooke, it has been accepted that the order of the following types was BMC ii, iv, v; but in the course of preparing this paper I have come across evidence which proves conclusively, I think, that it was iv, ii, v. Mr. D. F. Allen called my attention to a coin in Hildebrand of BMC iv, given under Stamford (which explains my overlooking it), which reads FRIDEINE ON ST. This must be of Steyning, for no Frithiwine coined at Stamford or anywhere else except at Steyning. Then there is a coin of BMC iv in the Copenhagen Museum of Wulfric reading PVLFRIC ON ST (Pl., No. 4). I have a coin of Wulfric of BMC ii reading PVLFRIC ON ST (Pl., No. 5), and we have a continuous series of Wulfric from this point up to BMC xi. In other words we have a continuous series of Frithiwine from Cnut to Edward the Confessor iii and iv (excluding i, of which we have no coins), and then a continuous series of Wulfric from iv to xi, including ii. And Steyning was, at any rate at this time, a one-moneyer mint. It is in the mints which have only one moneyer and of which we have a specimen of every or nearly every type that we have one of the best and easiest means of determining the order of the types.

Wulfric continued to coin through v, vii, ix, and xi, but here we have a difficulty. We also have a moneyer Wulfget coining in type v, but only in that type, as well as Wulfric. We must assume, therefore, that there were two moneyers working at Steyning in type v. This is at first sight unlikely, as there was apparently only one moneyer during far the greater part of the history of the mint, but it may be there were two, for Steyning was taken again into the king’s hands and the monks of Fécamp expelled in 1052, and it would be much more likely for the king to appoint a second moneyer in defiance of the laws of Athelstan than the abbot. In fact the abbot could not do so without licence from the king as he would not be able to get his dies.

From now on till the Conquest we get a fair number of coins, while the mint was in the hands of the king. Wulfget provides us with two coins of BMC v, in the British Museum and elsewhere. Hildebrand gives one with a slightly different reading, but I suspect it of being the same as the second one in the British Museum. Unfortunately I have never been long enough in Stockholm to verify this and other conjectures.

Wulfric, who started work in BMC iv and continued in ii, is represented in type v by a coin in my collection (Pl., No. 6). He continued to work through BMC vii, ix, and xi. We have three coins of his in BMC vii (Pl., No. 7) and two in BMC ix (Pl., No. 8). A coin of this moneyer of type xi is in the Duke of Argyll’s collection, and
there is also a specimen in the Hastings Museum. It has apparently not been published before, except in Spink’s *Numismatic Circular*. Wulfric then disappears and his place is taken by Diorman or Dermon, who continued to coin till type vi of William I. He begins in BMC xi of the Confessor with one of the commonest coins of the Anglo-Saxon series (Pl., No. 9). This is no doubt due to the large number of these coins in the Chancton find of 1866. Here his name is spelt DIORMAN as it is on one of the two coins of BMC xiii (Pl., No. 10). On the other, however, in the British and the Brighton Museums, it is spelt DERMON and continues to be so spelt down to William I, type ii, after which it is spelt DRMAN.

In BMC xv we have only one coin of Steyning, again by Dermon, of which a specimen is in the British Museum (Pl., No. 11), unless the coin by Godwine reading GODPINE ON STÆ is of this mint. I agree, however, with the late Dr. Brooke that this coin should be given to Stafford; firstly, because there is otherwise no Godwine at Steyning whereas there is a Godwine who coined at Stafford in the first two types of William I, and we may presume a continuity of moneyer at this mint of which, I believe, no other coin is known of Edward, type xv; secondly, because it would necessitate two moneyers at the same time at Steyning, though that argument is largely vitiated by the fact that there were two at once in type v; and lastly, because in the large number of coins in the Chancton hoard found only four miles from Steyning and covering exactly this period, and in which many coins of Steyning appeared, not one specimen of this fairly common coin was found.

**Harold II**

Harold II hastened to strike money on his accession to the throne, for it was a very much disputed one. In consequence, for his short reign we have a relatively large number of coins. These include one of Steyning by the moneyer Dermon which, incidentally, shows the curious mis-spelling OM for ON which appears on all the specimens I have seen (Pl., No. 12).

**William I**

After the Conquest we get far fewer coins of Steyning, no doubt owing to the restoration by the Conqueror of the borough and consequently its mint to the Abbey of Fécamp. There is one in the British Museum of type ii (Pl., No. 13), one in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, of type v, and one, recently in the Morrisson collection and now in my collection, of type vi (Pl., No. 14), all of the moneyer Dermon. The coin of type v in the Ashmolean Museum reads DRMIINONONS and is given with a query in Brooke’s *Norman Kings*. But as there is no other Dermon coining at this time except at Colchester, we may safely allot this coin to Steyning.

Of type viii, thanks to the Beaworth hoard, we have a number of coins (Pl., No. 15). I have noted six varieties, all of Hks. 241, and all by the new moneyer Thurbern, who now continued till the mint
was closed. This was presumably at the beginning of the reign of Henry I as no coins later than William II, type 5, have so far been discovered.

I have been unable to discover specimens of the coin, of which two are quoted in Hawkins's Beaworth hoard in the third edition of Ruding, reading DVBRIBEN ON STEFL. It is no doubt a misreading of the mint-name, probably for STENG.

WILLIAM II

We have no coins of type 1 of William II, but of type 2 there is a specimen in the British Museum, and a duplicate in my collection (Pl., No. 16), by Thurbern. Of type 3 there are in the British Museum two coins by the moneyers Lifsi and Thurbern (Pl., No. 17). This raises a difficulty, for Thurbern coined in type 5 also, as will be seen presently. How comes Lifsi to be coining then, in a one-moneyer mint? The reading given is definite enough, ON STEN, but I have not been able to see the coin owing to the war. It may be a misreading, but that is not likely,¹ for there is no other mint with a Lifsi coining at this time. We can only conjecture that for some reason Thurbern ceased to coin and resumed later; or it may be that there are two Thurberns, perhaps father and son, that Thurbern I died, and that Thurbern II was too young to succeed to his place, which Lifsi filled till Thurbern II was old enough. Major Carlyon-Britton apparently attributed this coin of Lifsi to Stamford at the time of writing chap. VI of his Numismatic History of the Reigns of William I and II in 1906, as he gives in the list of moneyers Lifsi at Stamford in this type, but in the portion on the Stamford mint published in 1912 he does not mention it; so he presumably had come to the conclusion that it could not be attributed to Stamford.

Be the reason what it may, Thurbern turns up again in type 5, though we have no coins of type 4. There is a coin of his minting in my collection, lately in the Morrieson collection, which I am tempted to describe by that dangerous word "unique". However, unique or not, it is very rare (Pl., No. 18).

This ends the series, and the Steyning mint after a life of some seventy-five years vanishes from our records.

COINS OF THE STEYNING MINT

Abbreviations: B.M., British Museum; Cphgn., Copenhagen Museum; Stkhm., Stockholm, Royal Cabinet; Ashm., Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Hstgs., Hastings Museum; H.H.K., the author's collection; Arg., Duke of Argyll's collection. Coins are shown as being elsewhere only when they are not in the British Museum.

Cnut

BMC xiv; Hild. G.

1. +CNVT REEX A +PYDIA ON STENIE Stkhm.

BMC xvi; Hild. H.

2. +CNVT REEX +EERIE ONN 2TEC B.M.

¹ I have since seen a cast of the coin and the reading is quite definite.
The Steyning Mint

3. +ENVT EX AN +PIDIA ON STENII Stkhm.
4. +ENVT EX A +PIDIIA ON STENII Stkhm.
5. +ENVT EX +PIDIA ON STENII B.M.
6. +ENVT EX +FREDIPINE ON STENII Ashm.
7. +ENVT TREX +FREDIPINE ON STENI H.H.K. (Pl. 1)
8. +ENVT EX +FREDIPINE ON STENI B.M.

Harold I

BMC v, var. c; Hild. B.
9. +HAROLD EX +FRIEBEINE ON STENII Stkhm.
10. +HAROLD EX + + " " Stkhm.

Harthacnut

BMC i, var. a; Hild. Aa.
11. +HAR-DAENVT RE +FRIEBI ON STENIGE : B.M. (Pl. 2)

Edward the Confessor

BMC iii, C-B III
12. +EPER : RD RE : X : +FRIEBEINE ON STEN H.H.K. (Pl. 3)
BMC iv, C-B V
13. +EPERD REEX +FRIEBEINE ON ST Sthkm.
14. +EPARD REX +PVFLFRIC ON ST Cphgn. (Pl. 4)
BMC ii, C-B IV
15. +EDPE RDRE +PVFLFRIC ON ST B.M.
BMC v, C-B VI
16. +EAD · RD REX +PVFLFRIC ON STENN H.H.K. (Pl. 5)
17. +EDPE · RD REX +PVFLGET ON ST'EN B.M.
18. +EDPNER · RD RE +PVFLGET ON .STENI B.M.
BMC viii, C-B VII
19. +EDPA D REX +PVFLRIC ON ST B.M.
20. +EDREID REX +PVFLFRIC ON ST E B.M.
21. +EDPA · DER +PVFLRIC ON STENI B.M. (Pl. 6)
BMC ix, C-B VIII
22. EADPARD REX ANGLO +PVFLRIC ON ST E B.M. (Pl. 7)
23. EADPRD E · X ANGOR +PVFLRIC ON STENI B.M.
BMC xi, C-B IX
24. EADPA · RD RE +PVFLRIC ON ST B.M. (Pl. 8)
25. EADPAR · RD RE A +DIORMAN ON STENI Arg. Hstgs.
BMC xiii, C-B X
26. +EADRARARD RE + A +DIORMAN ON ST B.M. (Pl. 9)
27. EADPARD RE +DERMON ON ST B.M.
BMC xv, C-B XI
28. EADPARD REX A +DERMON ON STENI B.M. (Pl. 10)

Harold II

29. +HAROLD REX ANGLO +DERMON OM STENI B.M. (Pl. 11)
COINS OF THE STEYNING MINT
The Steyning Mint

**William I**

| BMC ii | +PILLEMVS REX AI | +DERMON ON 2TIE | B.M. (Pl., 13) |
| BMC v | +PILLEM REX II | +DRMIIN ON ON S | Ashm. |
| BMC vi | +PILLEM REX I | +DRMIIN ON STENICN | H.H.K. (Pl., 14) |
| BMC viii | +PILLEM REX | +DRMON ON STVENC | B.M. |
| 34. +PILLEM REX | +DIIRBEN ON STE | H.H.K. |
| 35. + " " " | +DIIRBEN ON STEN | B.M. |
| 36. + " " " | +DIIRBEN ON STNI | B.M. |
| 37. +PILLEM REX | +DIIRBEN ON STEN | B.M. |
| 38. + " " " | +DIIRBEN ON STNI| B.M. (Pl., 15) |

**William II**

| BMC 2 | +PILLEM REX | +DIIRBRN ON STEN | B.M. (Pl., 16) |
| BMC 3 | +PILLEM REX | +LIIFSI ON STEN | B.M. |
| 40. +PILLEM REX | +BRBEN ON STEN | B.M. (Pl., 17) |
| 41. +PILLEM REX | +DIIRBRN ON STEN | H.H.K. (Pl., 18) |

**KEY TO THE PLATE**

2. Harthacnut. BMC i. Die No. 11.
5. " " " " " ii. " " 15.
6. " " " " " v. " " 16.
8. " " " " " ix. " " 22.
11. " " " " " xv. " " 28.
14. " " " " vi. " " 32.
15. " " " " viii. " " 38.
18. " " " 5. " 42.