REVIEWS


It is encouraging indeed to find a hoard made the subject of a special monograph in this country and illustrated with eight excellent plates. The credit is due to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, who have sponsored this publication and who promise us more in the future.

The Fyfield hoard consists of over 2,000 coins, mostly in fine condition, the latest of which can be dated to about the year 307. Treveri and Lugdunum are the predominating mints, but there are 463 coins that bear no mark of origin. Mr. Leeds discusses the attribution of these coins and concludes that the greater part of them may have emanated from "travelling" mints in Britain attached to the armed forces. Another interesting theory he puts forward is that the follis mentioned by Eusebius may have been a bag of minted money weighing about 42 lb., in which case this hoard would have represented one follis and the Evenley hoard 1 3/4 follis.

It is to be hoped that this series of monographs will receive the encouragement it deserves. The next of them, on the Cronclall hoard, will be keenly awaited alike by students in this country and on the Continent.

(1) Foreign and Norwegian Coins in Norwegian Hoards deposited before the year 1100. (2) Coins, etc. from the British Isles in Norwegian Hoards deposited after the year 1100. By Hans Holst. Published in the Northern Numismatic Annual, 1943 and 1939.

From the first of Dr. Holst's articles it is possible to form a good idea of the coinage current in Norway before the year 1100. The fact that the coinage of Norway itself only began towards the end of the tenth century results in a high proportion of foreign coins in this period. Only isolated specimens of Roman and Byzantine coins are recorded, but Arabic silver coins seem to have had a fairly wide circulation. No doubt all these came by the Eastern trade-route. From the West we find several specimens of the sou d'or of Louis le Débonnaire and numerous silver coins from Germany. From Russia only one coin of this period can be identified as having been found in Norway, a fact no doubt accounted for by the late date at which coinage was started in Russia. The main interest of English numismatists in this paper will be in the Anglo-Saxon coins recorded (there are records of only two Norman coins found in Norway). These aggregate in the first period covered by Dr. Holst 2,630, compared with 2,500 German and 2,820 Norwegian coins. By far the greater part of the Anglo-Saxon coins date from the reigns of Æthelred II to Edward the Confessor with the coins of the first-named, as one might expect, pre-
dominating. In spite of the late date at which the Norwegian coinage started, the number of local coins compared with those from Germany and England must be a cause of surprise, especially when it is found that no less than 2,205 of them come from a single hoard. Of the earlier Saxon period there are records of isolated specimens of stycas of Ecgberht, Archbishop of York (734–66), and of Eanred of Northumbria (806–41?), two pennies of Offa (moneyers OSMOD and WILHVN) (one published in this Journal, vol. v, p. 51), two of Coenwulf, (TIDBEARHT and LVL), one of Coelwulf I (WODEL), and one of Wulfred, Archbishop of Canterbury (SAEBERHT).

In his second article, which is confined to British coins, Dr. Holst shows that the sterling in the thirteenth and fourteenth and the noble in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries circulated in Norway, as they did elsewhere on the Continent. Besides isolated specimens of the noble, seven of Edward III and Richard II were found together in one hoard and six in another. There is also a record of one coin of Stephen and eight of Henry II found together. The common pennies of Edward I–III are also found, and the mention in several cases of Scottish coins may point to direct commercial relations between the two countries.

Dr. Holst deserves our gratitude for two contributions most useful to English numismatics.

“The English Guinea.” By Carsten Svarstad. Published in the Norwegian Numismatic Union’s Transactions, 1946.
