MISCELLANEAE

COINS AT NOSTELL PRIORY, YORKSHIRE

Lord St. Oswald at Nostell Priory in Yorkshire is the fortunate possessor of a remarkably fine coin-cabinet made by Chippendale for which there still exists the original bill. The cabinet contains a miscellaneous collection of coins such as a country gentleman of the eighteenth century would have got together, and, as might be expected, there are one or two pieces in the Anglo-Saxon series which are of outstanding interest. Here it is proposed to put on record an eighth-century penny of cardinal importance for the chronology of Offa's coinage, and a little group of early tenth-century coins from York which are of the finest preservation and which seem clearly to derive from a hoard.

The penny of Irenberht, Archbishop of Canterbury from 765 until 792, is similar to one in the British Museum (ex Lockett 2632) which at the time that Anglo-Saxon Coins was published in 1961 was the only recorded specimen. The Nostell coin (Pl. XXIII, 13) proves to be from different dies. The die-axis is 90° and the weight 16.1 grains. It is thus 2.7 grains lighter than the British Museum coin, but the condition is less good. The two coins corroborate each other, and their significance for the student of Offa's coinage is that the side with the archbishop's name has the legend disposed in three lines. The 'three-line' type is a feature of Offa's last coinage, and the occurrence on rare coins of a prelate who died in August 792 must suggest that Offa's last coinage was beginning to be put in issue some four years before the end of his reign. It should be added that the authenticity of the Nostell specimen is self-evident, a matter of some importance because the cabinet does contain the usual proportion of early forgeries, notably a penny of Ceolwulf I (821–3) weighing 24.1 grains which is a cast of one in the British Museum (B.M.C. 108) as well as fabrications of coins of Coenwulf (796–821) and of Archbishop Ceolnoth (833–70).

The tenth-century York pennies belong to the so-called 'St. Peter' coinages of which the date has long been the subject of quite unnecessary controversy. As demonstrated in the 1957 Numismatic Chronicle, the hoard-evidence is decisive that all the 'St. Peter' coins belong to the first quarter of the tenth century, and it is also clear that the coins with a sword added to the type are later than those without. The Nostell coins belong to both groupings. Three (Pl. XXIII, 14–16) are 'early' and weigh respectively 20.4, 13.1, and 17.6 grains, the last being very slightly chipped. Two (Pl. XXIII, 17 and 18) are 'late', and weigh respectively 17.8 and 19.5 grains. In view of the fact that at a later date irregularity of die-axis was to be quite a feature of York coinage it is perhaps worth recording that only in the case of the first of the 'early' coins is the die-relationship other than regular, and in the case of this coin the divergency (350°) from the norm is so slight as to be explicable by the play of two square-headed dies in a loose collar. The second of the 'early' coins and both the 'late' ones have a vertical die-axis (0°), while that of the third 'early' coin is inverted (180°). Attention should also be drawn to the fact that the two 'late' coins exhibit the two principal varieties of Thor's hammer—the so-called 'pall' of earlier descriptions—with the shaft rendered in the one case by a single line and in the other by two.

As argued in the 1957 Numismatic Chronicle, it is most unusual for a hoard to contain both the 'early' (Danish) and 'late' (Hiberno-Norse) varieties of the 'St. Peter' coinage, and in any case recorded hoards of either variety are not all that common where the soil of England is concerned. There is, however, one Yorkshire
hoard, the 1807 find from between Bossall and Flaxton, which is on record as containing both ‘early’ and ‘late’ coins in considerable quantity (Inventory 162 and see British Numismatic Journal, XXVIII. i (1955), pp. 11-17), which was very largely dispersed, and which came to light at a date sufficiently early for a parcel to have found its way to the Nostell cabinet. Although, then, certainty is impossible, the presumption must be that the Bossall/Flaxton hoard is the provenance of the five ‘St. Peter’ coins in such fine condition.

In conclusion we would wish to express our indebtedness to Lord St. Oswald who has been good enough to bring the coins to London for our inspection, and to give us permission to record these very interesting pieces in the pages of the British Numismatic Journal.

C. E. Blunt
R. H. M. Dolley

AN OBVERSE DIE-LINK OF CANUTE BETWEEN NORWICH AND THETFORD

In his important paper ‘The Relevance of Obverse Die-links to some Problems of the later Anglo-Saxon Coinage’ R. H. M. Dolley has for the first time given a comprehensive treatment of the different kinds of obverse die-links that exist. He discusses obverse die-links between coins of one moneyer struck at the same mint, between coins of different moneyers working at the same mint, between coins of the same moneyer struck in two different mints, and between those of different moneyers in different mints.

The last two kinds of die-link especially have played an important role in solving problems of attribution and locating unknown mint-sites. When Dolley wrote his paper (1956) only one case of the same obverse die having been used in different mints by different moneyers was known to him, but in the Appendix (written 1958) as many as six other instances were recorded, most of them still unpublished. As Dolley points out, ‘normally such die-links can be found only by the systematic collation of all the coins of adjacent mints, and until now it cannot be claimed that so formidable a task has been undertaken even in the case of controversial problems of attribution . . .’. The discovery of those instances that are known today was due to a striking similarity of style that was noted between coins of different mints (usually of a style that occurred only at a few mints or of a slightly anomalous style) or to the finding of an unusual irregularity in an obverse legend. In the last case a quick check through the coded recordings of obverse legends in Hildebrand’s Anglosachsiska Mynt resulted in several cases in the finding of the same irregularity on another coin which on close examination proved to be from the same obverse die.

The latest instance of such a die-link was found during the present author’s recent stay in Stockholm where a Quatrefoil coin of Canute of the Norwich mint was noted to read on the obverse:

\[+\text{CNVT} \text{ REX ANLOIX}\]

which is in Hildebrand’s code ‘a ir. 203’. The reverse legend reads:

\[+\text{DV/RFE/RDM/NOR}\]

weight 1·24 gm.; die-axis 270°.

2 SHM Inv. 16009 (a hoard from Fardume on Gotland).
Hild. 2993 has the same reverse reading (misread as $\$V\$RF\$E\$), and also with the obverse legend Hildebrand made one of his rare mistakes. It is not 'a 10', but 'a ir. 203' and the coin in the Systematic Collection is in fact a die-duplicate of the hoard coin (weight 1.20 gm., die-axis 270°).

The only other obverse die in *Anglosachsiska Mynt* with the same irregularity in the legend is that of a Thetford coin (Hild. 3525) and, as the enlarged photographs¹ will show, the dies are identical. The reverse legend of this coin is as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
SV/MRL/DMO/\$E\$O
\end{align*}
\]

weight 1.30 gm., die-axis 270°.

The moneyer Thurferth strikes at Norwich as well as at Thetford in both the Quatrefoil² and the Pointed Helmet types of Canute (his name is spelled $\$V\$RF\$E\$).

¹ The photographs and indication of the weights have been kindly supplied by the authorities of the Royal Coin Cabinet in Stockholm.

² At Thetford he is only recorded for the Pointed Helmet type by Hildebrand, but in the Berlin collection I noted a coin of Quatrefoil type reading $DVFRT\ ON\ \$E\$O$. 

At Norwich he is known in the Quatrefoil type for nine different obverses with four different styles, and nine different reverse dies, in the Pointed Helmet type for one obverse and one reverse die. At Thetford he is known to have used one obverse and one reverse in the Quatrefoil type, and two dies each for obverse and reverse in the Pointed Helmet type. He may therefore have started to strike in Quatrefoil at Thetford, moved to Norwich bringing with him an obverse die which had also been used by the workmen of Sumerleth at Thetford (cf. Hild. 3525), and continued to strike in Quatrefoil and Pointed Helmet at Norwich, afterwards returning to Thetford and striking some more Pointed Helmet coins there. Alternatively he may have started at Norwich, moved to Thetford, bringing an obverse die with him (cf. Hild. 2993), which was then shared by Sumerleth, and returned to Norwich. As Dolley has shown, obverse dies were quite often shared by moneyers working at the same mint.

Another possibility is that Sumerleth (spelled SYMERLDA, SYMERLEB, SYMRLD, and SYMRLEB), who is known only in the Quatrefoil type at both Norwich and Thetford, started to strike at Thetford (with four different obverses showing two different styles and four different reverses) and moved to Norwich, bringing with him the obverse die of Hild. 3525 which was then shared by Thurberth, or vice versa, started at Norwich and moved to Thetford. It is impossible to see whether the die was newer when it was used to strike the Thetford coin or when it was used at Norwich.

In the Appendix to his paper Dolley refers to ‘impossible’ die-links, namely die-links between mints that are geographically far apart. In all those cases which have been found so far it has been possible to show that the dies had been manufactured outside England. There are also instances of obverse die-links between mints in the same area where the dies proved to be Scandinavian or Irish. In the case of the Norwich–Thetford die-link, however, both the style and the lettering are perfectly normal, and there is no reason to suspect a non-English origin. The discovery of this die-link does not bring us any nearer to the solution of any of the problems connected with the organization of the mints in late Anglo-Saxon times, but it is hoped that it may one day be used as a building stone in a more ambitious structure.

Gay van der Meer

‘EDWARDVS REX XIM’—A FURTHER POSTSCRIPT

In my paper in the preceding volume of the Journal I gave my reasons for saying that recognition of the two die-links mentioned on page 328 is the key to solution of the problem of de Bury or Hatfield and that a terminus post quem for the whole of the Florin type coinage of Durham is the Sede Vacante of April–June 1345.

In the postscript on page 333 reference is made to Mr. Fred Baldwin’s ‘new’ coin (No. 5A on the plate) which has, I submit, virtually clinched the matter.

2 Hild. 3523 gives SYMERLED, but the l at the end is ligulated with the arm of the long cross dividing the legend, so that the reverse legend should be read as SYMERLED MO DEO.
3 It has not been possible to compare the dies of the three coins of Sumerleth now in the British Museum (recorded by Carson in N.C. 1949, p. 218) with those in Stockholm, but it seems probable that they were struck from the same dies as Hild. 3526 and 3523.
5 B.N.J. xxix, 1959, pp. 326–33 and Plate XXVII. For convenience referred to here as ‘my 1959 paper’.
6 It is ‘new’ in that it would seem to have been unknown both to Fox and Lawrence. It is an
However, to recapitulate, the background is that all the episcopal coins of the type either belong to the EDWAR Group or else to the very rare EDWARDVS REX AVN coinage and the evidence for giving them all a date after de Bury's death in 1345 may be restated as follows:

(a) An EDWAR Group obverse die is muled with a Sede Vacante (1345) die (B.N.J., xxix, pl. XXVII, no. 3).

(b) Another EDWAR Group obverse die is muled with a reverse die which is used with an EDWARDUS REX AVN obverse die (ibid., no. 5a).

(c) That same obverse die is muled with a reverse die of the 1351 coinage (ibid., no. 10).

From this it is clear that these three coins plus no. 2 on the plate (which is the 'true' coin of the Sede Vacante reverse die of no. 3) are key coins from the point of view of the dating of the series.

Until recently no. 2 on the plate (in the British Museum ex the Derby Find of 1927) was considered to be unique or, at any rate, no other specimen was known either to Fox or to Lawrence both of whom publish the coin in consecutive articles in the same volume of Num. Chron. but with differing versions of the obverse reading. Lawrence records it as being +EDWAR R ANGL DWS VB and Fox as being +EDW RANGL DWS VB. That the former reading is correct is confirmed by a second specimen of the coin which has recently come to light and which is illustrated here (Pl. XXIII, 22).

In my 1959 paper I gave the reading as being the Fox version (although I should certainly have checked its accuracy for myself) and it is the purpose of this note to draw attention to this mistake.

The 'new' specimen is from the same obverse die as the Derby find coin but is from a different (although similar) reverse die on which only —1/TXS/DVN/O— is legible.

It is unfortunate that the two final letters are not visible but all the odds must be in favour of their being the UOM of the 'Derby' coin and of this die also being devoid of episcopal marks. That being so it becomes a second Sede Vacante reverse die with the DVNOUOM spelling and is in fact the earliest instance of it. Hitherto and throughout the 'Edwardian' coinage down to this point, first DVRGMO and subsequently (in Fox type XI) DVNGUM have always been the basic forms.

It is fortunate that the 'new' coin does show that part of the obverse reading which is very indistinct on the 'Derby' specimen with the result that the two coins combined give the full reading exactly as Lawrence recorded it. This was no mean feat considering that the coin was 'new' to Lawrence and that much of the obverse is so weakly struck that Fox's version of the reading may well have been intended as a correction of Lawrence's.

It is now definite that the coin belongs to the EDWAR Group (the ANGL for ANG and VB for HVB simply being variants of the usual reading on this one die—in all probability the earliest of the group) so that there are, for all practical

exceptionally fine example of an EDWAR Group coin but it is not a new variety. It is only the die combination which is new but it is this particular combination which gives the coin its special significance.

1 The one in Mr. Fred Baldwin's collection and the other two in Mr. Blunt's.
2 N.C., 1928, pp. 16-46 (Fox—The pennies and halfpennies of 1344-51) and 47-60 (Lawrence—A hoard of English and Foreign Sterlings found at Derby).
3 Lawrence. N.C., 1928, p. 49 (also p. 58); Fox, ibid., p. 33 (also p. 44).
4 N.C., 1928, p. 49 where Lawrence describes the coin as a new variety and remarks upon the unusual features of the obverse legend.
purposes, only three obverse readings and not four as listed on p. 331 of my 1959 paper. Reading ‘B’ is non-existent and should be deleted.

Also it is now apparent that this particular die (and its use with a second reverse die is a significant factor) is a transition between the earlier (the normal Fox class 4) Sede Vacante coinage and the EDWAR Group episcopal coinages which follow it.

In my 1959 paper I do not think I have done sufficient justice to the ‘Derby’ coin as a key coin in the arrangement of this very complex series and although I may have dwelt on the subject quite long enough I should like to conclude this note by listing the details of its transitional features. These are:

(i) The letter ‘N’ on all other EDWAR Group coins (all of which are episcopally ‘marked’) is Lombardic in every instance. The second ‘N’ on this one die is the reversely barred Roman letter which, in combination with the normal Roman letter, occurs on all other Sede Vacante coins.

(ii) These latter all read DV̄N̄GL̄N (or more rarely DV̄RN̄L̄N). The ‘Derby’ coin and its new counterpart are the only instances of the DV̄N̄ŌL̄M̄ reading—a reading which is continued on the ‘pellet in centre’ marked EDWAR Group coins which come next in the series.

(iii) These same two are the only Sede Vacante coins to have Lombardic letters for both the ‘M’ and the ‘N’ on the reverse, a feature which occurs on all other EDWAR Group coins. Hitherto only the ‘N’ (or the first one where the reading is DV̄N̄GL̄N) has been Lombardic.

One could scarcely hope to find better evidence of a transitional stage from one group of coins to another than is apparent here.

F. Elmore Jones

A LATE NOBLE OF HENRY V RECENTLY FOUND IN YORKSHIRE

The purpose of this note is to put on record a very rare noble of Henry V which was submitted recently to the British Museum (Pl. XXIII, 21). The coin was found in October 1961 by a workman who was servicing a water main at a cross-roads near Barmby-on-the-Moor some ten miles east of York. An inquest has since been held, but established that the coin was not treasure trove. As will be seen from the illustration the coin is in an unusually fine state of preservation, and it weighs 107·2 gr. The dies are notably different from those of the British Museum specimen, but there is no doubt that it should be classified as a Brooke (N.C., 1930, pp. 44–87) Class VIIIb/IX mule. Accordingly it must belong very late in the reign, while its condition would suggest that it was lost not very long after it left the London mint.

R. H. M. Dolley

COINS STOLEN FROM SPINK & SON LTD.

As a result of a robbery at the premises of Messrs. Spink & Son Ltd. in January 1962 a number of important coins were stolen, and it is desirable that a record of some of these be made in case they should happen to appear at some time in the future.

A list of some important English gold coins is given below, together with details of a group of twenty-nine silver coins of the York mint of the reign of Charles I. Photographs of the gold coins appear on Plates XXIV to XXVII.
GOLD COINS

1. Henry VII, sovereign. M.m. Dragon on both sides. Brooke Groupe III. (Ex Dr. E. Carter collection.)
2. Henry VIII, sovereign of the base coinage of 1544/7. M.m. Lis on both sides. Whitton dies A/a. (Ex Cuff, Hastings, Moon, Roth & Ryan collections.)
3. Edward VI, sovereign of 20 shillings, third period 1550/3. M.m. Tun. (Ex Dr. E. Carter collection.)
6. Mary Tudor, sovereign of 1554. (Ex Lockett, lot 1924.)
7. Elizabeth I, fine sovereign of 1584/6. M.m. Escallop. (Ex Schulman sale, Amsterdam, 18/19 January 1954, lot 870.)
10. Elizabeth I, mill half-sovereign. Mestrelle’s coinage of 1568/70. M.m. Lis. Last type, small flan, grained edge. (Ex Hilton-Price, lot 149.)
15. Charles I, mill unite. Briot’s coinage of 1631/2. M.m. Anemone+B. Schneider, Variety 1. (Ex Montagu and Dr. E. Carter collections.)
19. Charles II, five guineas, 1668. 1668/73 variety with thinner hair at the neck.
20. James II, five guineas, 1687.
21. William and Mary, five guineas, 1694.
23. Anne, five guineas, 1711. Second bust, broad shields, large letters.
24. George I, two guineas, 1720. Lombardic J for figure 1 in 1720.
25. George II, two guineas, 1738. Young Head type.
27. George II, two guineas, 1748. Old Head type with large letters on both sides.
30. George III, seven shilling piece, 1802. Pingo bust with short tie on obverse. Date below crown on reverse.

CHARLES I SILVER COINS

YORK MINT

The classification used is that given in HAWKINS—English Silver Coins, 1887

Half-crowns

1. Type 2. Struck on a square flan: wt. 292 gr. EF and probably unique. (Ex Howard, Street, Marsham, Montagu, Webb, Lockett, lot 2363 (ill.).)
2. Type 1. (ExDimsdale, Durrant, Brice, Montagu, Webb, Lockett, lot 2364 (ill.).)
3. Type 1a. (Ex Murchison, Neck, Webb, Murdoch, Hamilton-Smith, Lockett, lot 2365 (ill.).)
4. Type 2. (Ex Huth, Rashleigh (1953), lot 235 (ill.).)
5. Type 3. VF. (Ex S. R. Naish.)
6. Type 3 var. (Ex Webb, Murdoch, Lockett, lot 4180 (ill.).)
7. Type 4. (Ex Cumberland-Clarke, Morrieson, Ryan.)
8. Type 5. (Ex Montagu, Webb.)
9. Type 6. Small flan, unusually high relief. Uncrowned head. (Ex Farquhar (1955), lot 134 (ill.).)
10. Type 6.
12. Type 6. EF. (Ex A. J. West.)
13. Type 7.
14. Type 7 var. B to right of crown. (Ex Lockett, lot 2372 (ill.).)
15. Type 7a. Reads HIBA. (Ex Rashleigh (1909), Hamilton-Smith, Lockett, lot 2373 (ill.).)
16. Type 7 var. Reads BRT; EBOR has been carefully erased. (Ex C. A. Oliver.)

Shillings

1. Type 1. Very fine.
2. Type 1.
3. Type 2. EF (Ex S. R. Naish.)
4. Type 2. VF/EF (Ex A. J. West.)
5. Type 2 var. (Ex Lockett, lot 2375 (ill.).)
6. Type 3. VF (Ex S. R. Naish.)
7. Type 4.
8. Type 4. EF (Ex A. J. West.)
9. Type 4. (Ex Lockett, lot 2377 (ill.).)
10. Type 5. VF/EF (Ex A. J. West.)
11. Type 5.

Sixpences

1. Without C and R on reverse. (Ex Lockett, lot 2379 (ill.).)
2. Type 2. FDC/RR. Exceptionally fine. (Ex A. J. West.)
COINS STOLEN FROM SPINK & SON LTD. (2)
COINS STOLEN FROM SPINK & SON LTD. (1)
SOME HOARD EVIDENCE FROM A NINETEENTH CENTURY COLLECTION

COINS AT NOSTELL PRIORY

MISCELLANEA
COINS STOLEN FROM SPINK & SON LTD. (4)
1. Half-crown, undated. Lockett L-12. (Ex Montagu, Morrieson, Lockett, lot 4577 (ill.).)

WEYMOUTH MINT

1. Half-crown. Allen B-11. (Ex Lockett, lot 4581 (ill.).)
2. Half-crown. Allen K-55. (Ex Walters (1932) and Lockett, lot 4587 (ill.).)

PS. As this goes to press (September 1962) some of the coins have been recovered. Among them are, of the York mint Half-crowns No. 1 ex Lockett 2363 and No. 9 ex Farquhar 134, of the Weymouth mint Half-crown No. 2 ex Lockett 4587.

COINS STOLEN FROM B. A. SEABY LTD.

A burglary at B. A. Seaby Ltd. in February 1962 resulted in the loss of a large number of English gold coins from the reign of Edward III onwards, which it is to be feared may have been melted down for their bullion value. Although a number were rare, none, fortunately, was of outstanding importance. The same regrettably cannot be said of the silver coins lost on this occasion. Among these was the only known specimen of the London penny of Richard III. This coin has the boar's head initial-mark on the obverse and is illustrated in the Rashleigh (1909, lot 753) and Grantley (1944, lot 1466) sale catalogues. Another great rarity was an open-crown penny of Henry VII of London with the initial mark Lis-on-half-rose. This reads HENRIC DEI GRA REX AG (sic) and weighs 12.3 gr. Its pedigree is not certainly known, but it is believed to be the specimen illustrated in the Wheeler (1930) sale catalogue as lot 294.