THE ANGLO-SAXON ELEMENT IN THE 1967 BURGE HOARD FROM LUMMELUNDA PARISH, GOTLAND

By MICHAEL DOLLEY with C. E. BLUNT and MISS G. VAN DER MEER

On 19 August 1967 a farmer was working in one of his fields at a spot called Burge in the Gotland parish of Lummelunda when the share of his plough threw up a number of silver objects. They were carefully collected and the Museum at Visby promptly notified, with the result that during the next few days there were recovered some twenty-five pounds avoirdupois weight of silver ornaments, silver ingots and silver coins. Noticeably absent, it would seem, was Hacksilber as such, and this may be thought yet another indication of the late date of concealment of the treasure. It is indeed not only the largest but also the latest Viking-Age silver hoard to be found upon the island of Gotland, and it could even be argued that it should be considered an early mediaeval hoard rather than one from the Swedish Viking Age proper. It had been contained apparently in a copper or bronze vessel, this last now largely disintegrated, and there is reason to think that the coins lay at the bottom beneath the ingots with the ornaments on top. There is some reason to think, too, that the find-spot lay beneath or adjacent to a mediaeval structure, and again the circumstance is atypical where Viking-Age hoards are concerned. The provisional count of the whole coins alone gives a figure in the region of 2,750, and as well there are several hundred fragments, a number of which will doubtless be pieced together.

The whole hoard was brought to the Museum at Visby (Gotlands Fornsal), and we wish now to put on record an act of quite extraordinary generosity on the part of our Swedish colleagues. It was known that the authors of this note would be arriving in Stockholm on the evening of 3 September. On the morning of 4 September we came into the Royal Coin Cabinet at the Statens Historiska Museum to find that there had arrived from Gotland a large registered parcel containing the coins from the Lummelunda hoard. The seals were still unbroken, and we were invited to open it and to take out and sort and count the contents. This was only two-and-a-half weeks after the initial discovery, and it must be remembered that from the local press-reports alone our Swedish friends well knew that this must be very possibly the most significant coin-hoard of their careers. It was, then, with the liveliest sentiments of gratitude and of recognition of the trust reposed in us that we broke the seals, opened the box and took out packet after packet of coins. Assisted now by some of our Swedish colleagues, and in particular by Fil. lic. fru Ulla S. Linder Welin, and under the general supervision of the prime author of our good fortune Fil. dr. förste antikvarie N. L. Rasmusson, we roughly sorted the coins, many still with the soil of Gotland adhering to them, and began the preliminary count. Of English coins there were 126, 115 whole coins, 6 cut halfpence and 5 fragments. The Hiberno-Norse coins numbered only 3, but these included a penny from the last decade of the eleventh century which must be one of the latest Hiberno-Norse coins ever to be found outside Ireland.1 Of Danish coins there were fewer than a score, and at least at a first inspection no Swedish or Norwegian pieces were distinguished. It should be borne in mind that the time at our disposal was strictly limited—effectively no more

1 It is hoped to publish very soon a note on the Irish coins in JRSAI.
than 3½ days—and that our prime task had to be the separation from the mass of the hoard of its English and Irish elements. We can report, though, that there were fewer than a score of Kufic coins, some fragmentary, and that only one Byzantine coin was observed. The weight of the hoard in fact comprised the German coins, and it is obvious that the publication of these will be no light labour of love for our German colleagues. Among perhaps 2,250 pence there appeared to be a curious predominance of one Goslar type with the heads of SS. Peter and Paul on the obverse, and the facade of a church on the reverse. The sensation of the hoard, however, was its inclusion of close on 300 German bracteates of the second half of the twelfth century along with numerous fragments thereof. Such bracteates are not normally found in Sweden, and this is thought to be the first time that they have been found in any quantity on Gotland, let alone in combination with Viking-Age coins as such.

The purpose of this present note, however, is simply to give a preliminary account of the circumstances of the discovery, and to list briefly the Anglo-Saxon coins, which total 87, in order to render fully intelligible to the English numismatist publication in another place of the 39 Anglo-Norman coins, 32 pennies, 6 cut halfpence and 1 fragment. Four days before the initial discovery of the hoard, one of the authors of the present report had put the finishing touches to a *Sylloge* fascicle devoted to the 250 Anglo-Norman pence in the Royal Coin Cabinet at Stockholm. Granted that this fascicle is to appear in 1968 as a joint publication of the British Academy and of its Swedish counterpart, it was still a magnificently disinterested gesture of the Swedish authorities to suggest that the 39 additional pieces should appear in that fascicle as a supplement. Here it is only necessary to observe that they run down as far as *BMC* Type XIII of Henry I, later that is than any other hoard known to us from Sweden, and that they are divided between the three reigns as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>King</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>William I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William II</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry I</td>
<td>23</td>
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What is even more astonishing is that no fewer than 15 of the coins of Henry I are of *BMC* Type VII, a type not previously known from a Swedish hoard, and one of which no more than 13 specimens, 3 of them last-minute acquisitions, were in the British Museum when Brooke published the *British Museum Catalogue* of the series.

The following, then, is a highly abbreviated preliminary listing of just the Anglo-Saxon portion of the 1967 Burge find from the Gotland parish of Lummelunda. To be stressed is the fact that the provisional references to B. E. Hildebrand’s *Anglosachsiska mynt* (1881 edn.) do not denote die-identity, although in many cases this doubtless exists. All that is intended to be conveyed is the general reading of the legends, and it may even be that another coin recorded by the great Swedish numismatist will be found to be from the same dies. Again we would remind our readers that the time at our disposal was very strictly limited, and had to embrace not just the listing of the English coins but the sorting of the entire hoard of well over three thousand coins and fragments. It did seem to us, however, that a report published within a year or so of a discovery of this kind, however elementary and incomplete the listing, has a certain value, whereas if there is no publication it is only too easy for major hoards to lie unpublished for year after year with each fresh discovery furnishing a new excuse for non-publication of its predecessors. Those who know from long experience the kindness and scholarship of the Royal Coin Cabinet at Stockholm will appreciate that this
interpretation of academic responsibility is one with which they entirely concur—cf. Fil. dr. fru Brita Malmer's commendably prompt initial publication in *Nordisk Numismatisk Unions Medlemsblad* for February 1967 of the Swedish element in the substantial Viking-Age hoard found at Karls in the Gotland parish of Tingstäde on 6 October 1966—but we would like again to put on record our appreciation of the unprecedented generosity of the Swedish authorities, and of Dr. Rasmusson in particular.

The list runs as follows:

**ÆTHELRAED II**

**FIRST HAND ISSUE**

Huntingdon, Ælfri, cf. BEH 1357.

**SECOND HAND ISSUE**


**CRUX ISSUE**

Ilchester, God, cf. BEH 1024; Southwark, Byrhtaf, cf. BEH 3588; Thetford, Spyrlinc, cf. BEH 3812; Wareham, Ælfgar, cf. BEH 3944.

**SMALL CRUX VARIETY**

London, Leofric, BEH ——

**LONG CROSS ISSUE**

Cambridge, Ælfri, cf. BEH 1142; Canterbury, Leofric, cf. BEH 207; Leofstan BEH 228 var.; Huntingdon, Ælfri, cf. BEH 1371; Lincoln, Æsemæn, cf. BEH 1039; Æðelnoth, (3) cf. BEH 1685 & 1688; Colgrim, cf. BEH 1713/4; Osmund, cf. BEH 1844; London, Æthelwærd, cf. BEH 2169/70; Eadwold, cf. BEH 2428; Leofstan, cf. BEH 2421/2; Lyelcf, Guda, cf. BEH 3055; Norwich, Ælfri, BEH 3098/9 var; Southwark, Eadwine, cf. BEH 3654; Stamford, Godelef, cf. BEH 3500; Warwick, Æðestæn, cf. BEH 3868.

**HARTRACWUT**

**HELMET ISSUE**


**LAST SMALL CROSS ISSUE**

Gloucester, Leofsga, cf. BEH 1116; Lincoln, Osferth, cf. BEH 1812; Stamford, Godelef, BEH 3493 var.; Thetford, Leofthægan, BEH 3754 var.; Winchester, Brihtnoth, cf. BEH 4124; York, Ulfcelc, BEH 962 var.

**JEWEL CROSS ISSUE (r. facing bust)**

Oxford, Ælwini, BEH ——.
THE ANGLO-SAXON ELEMENT IN THE 1967 BURGE HOARD

HAROLD I

JEWEL CROSS ISSUE
Wareham, Blacaman, BEH ——: Winchester, Ladmaer, cf. BEH 1022.

FLEUR-DE-LYS ISSUE
London, Goltsig, BEH 646 var.

HARTHACNUT (REST.)

ARM-AND-SCYPHE ISSUE (in the name of Cnut)
London, Brungar, cf. BEH Cnut 2096.

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

PACX ISSUE
Colchester, Brunhyse, cf. BEH 61: Lincoln, Lefwine, BEH 351 var.

RADIATE SMALL CROSS ISSUE
York, Æthelwine, BEH 104 var.; Othin, BEH 138 var.

TREFOIL QUADRILATERAL ISSUE
Leicester, (Wu)lnoth, BEH —— (fragment).

RADIATE SMALL CROSS/TREFOIL QUADRILATERAL MULE
Winchester, Leofwine, BEH ——.

SMALL FLAN ISSUE
London, Leofnoei, BEH ——.

EXPANDING CROSS ISSUE (early)
Stamford, Wulfwine, BEH 705 var.: Winchester, Lifwine, BEH ——.

EXPANDING CROSS ISSUE (late)
Hastings, Brid, BEH ——.

HAMMER CROSS ISSUE
York, Othgrim, BEH ——.

FACING SMALL CROSS ISSUE
Wilton, Leofwine, BEH ——.

To be noted is the proportion of later coins of Edward the Confessor which is entirely consistent with the presence of Anglo-Norman pence in substantial quantity, though once again there should be remarked the absence of all coins of Harold II. Of the individual coins the most noteworthy are the two mules, one of Æthelræd II and the other of Edward the Confessor. The former was not entirely unknown, as it happens there is a second specimen, from another reverse die, in the 1966 Karls hoard from Tingstäde parish on Gotland to which reference has already been made, while a third example, at the time of writing not available for comparison, is in the cabinet of Mr. F. Elmore Jones. The Edward the Confessor mule is one that merits illustration here:—
When Mr. Peter Seaby contributed his definitive paper on the sequence of the early coin-types of Edward the Confessor to the 1955 *British Numismatic Journal*, he was able to cite no more than four mules to link the two issues, the mints being 'Hamtun' (now identified with some confidence as Northampton), Worcester and York (2). The new coin from Gotland is not just a particularly fine specimen, but it is satisfying as well as remarkable that the mint should be Winchester, a major mint under the immediate scrutiny of the officials of the royal treasury. Increasingly it is clear that muling in certain circumstances at least could be perfectly legal, and it is interesting that no true coin of Leofwine at Winchester was known to Mr. Seaby in the *Trefoil Quadrilateral* type as such, though thereafter he is a well-attested moneyer at the mint. Concerning the other coins unrecorded in Hildebrand, it may only be observed that they present no surprises, and that with comparatively little trouble they could be matched with coins in other public collections, or in some cases with unpublished coins in the Royal Swedish Coin cabinet itself.

In conclusion, a word may not be out of place concerning the probable date of concealment of the hoard which has the provisional *inventarium* number G(otlands) F(ornsal) 5112/67 although its more likely eventual destination is the Statens Historiska Museum at Stockholm where the Royal Coin Cabinet is at present housed. As we have seen, the latest English coins are of Henry I Type XIII, and so were probably struck in the early 1130s. On the evidence of the German coins, though, already it would seem that the hoard itself was buried perhaps as much as half a century later, in other words that the oldest English coin was already close on two hundred years old when the treasure was abandoned.