

SHORT ARTICLES AND NOTES

THE 1986 SELSEY TREASURE TROVE

ANNE BONE AND ANDREW BURNETT

ON 8 February 1986 a group of seventeen gold and silver late Iron Age coins was found on the coast of Selsey, West Sussex (SZ 843933). The finder had been using a metal detector and discovered the coins in a piece of earth which had apparently fallen from the low cliff in this area. There was no trace of any container.

The coins were declared Treasure Trove at an Inquest on 18 April 1986, and have subsequently been acquired by the Chichester District Museum.

North of Selsey and Chichester a series of ditches, commonly called the 'Chichester Entrenchments',¹ have been interpreted as the delimitation of an *oppidum*, as at Camulodonum (Colchester). The archaeology of the area has recently been reviewed, together with a re-examination of local coin finds.² Considerable numbers, nearly 300, of Iron Age coins have been collected from the coastline in the Selsey area over the last century or so. The area has suffered from very considerable coastal erosion,³ and many of the coins have been from the cliff or the beach. Information about their exact provenance has, unfortunately, often been poor, but it is clear that the 1986 hoard does not come from the area of the main concentration of these earlier finds.

The internal composition of the 1986 hoard is also different. Almost half of the earlier finds (147 out of 271 coins) were Gallo-Belgic and British uninscribed types. Even among the later series of inscribed, dynastic, pieces, issues of Tincommius predominated (at least 95), with rather fewer of Verica (34). The 1986 hoard is rather different, and its composition suggests a later date range. It contains the same two groups of issues. First are the anonymous coins, one gold quarter-stater and four silver pieces. Both are of Celtic style and both have been attributed to the early

days of coinage in Britain, in the middle of the first century BC. The remaining three gold and nine silver (including one so-called 'minim') coins are dynastic issues, produced from dies whose style and legends reveal considerable Roman influence. This is a much greater proportion of later coins; even the inscribed pieces show a later bias. The coins from the Hayling Island temple site,⁴ with the exception of the relatively large proportion of issues of Epatiacus and Caratacus, provide a closer parallel, but, in terms of the denominations and issues represented, the hoard resembles most closely the much larger hoards found at Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire⁵ and Wanborough, Surrey.⁶ The few Roman coins in those hoards suggest a deposition date in the period of the Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43, and, by analogy, the Selsey hoard should probably be dated to the same time.

The hoard contained a surprisingly large number of rare and unpublished coins, notably the two silver coins of Verica (9–10), the two coins of Caratacus (16–17), and the spectacular new 'minim' of Verica with a boar's head on a pole (11).

CATALOGUE⁷

Anonymous issues

1. Gold quarter-stater. Weight: 1.18 g
Obv.: A (with dropped bar)
Rev.: Horse, to left
M. 83, Allen Xc2.

The type was regarded as continental by Allen, although he recognised that these quarter-staters, unlike the related Gallo-Belgic E class VI staters, predominate in Britain.

¹ O. Bedwin, 'Excavations at the Devil's Ditch, Boxgrove, W. Sussex, 1981,' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 120 (1982), 38–41.

² F. Aldsworth, 'Prehistoric and Roman Selsey,' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 125 (1987) (forthcoming).

³ E. Heron-Allen, *Selsey Bill: Historic and Prehistoric* (London, 1911), pp. 291–99.

⁴ Unpublished; information from D. E. M. Nash.

⁵ Unpublished (in the British Museum); see C. Hasel-

grove, 'Celtic coins found in Britain, 1977–82,' *Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology* 20 (1984), 113.

⁶ Unpublished.

⁷ M. = R. P. Mack, *The Coinage of Ancient Britain*, 3rd edn (London, 1975); Allen = D. F. Allen, 'The origins of coinage in Britain: a reappraisal', *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain*, edited by S. S. Frere (Institute of Archaeology, Occasional Paper 11, 1960), pp. 97–308.

PLATE



Selsey Treasure Trove, 1986 (× 2)

particularly along the Sussex coast near Selsey.⁸ Other finds were listed by Allen from Berkshire and Hertfordshire,⁹ and specimens have more recently been found in the Waltham St Lawrence and Wanborough hoards. The British distribution of these quarter-staters has led Kent¹⁰ to regard them as British; he has also dated them to about 50 BC. Allen suggested that the letter on the obverse was an A, rather than (the other way up) a V-monogram for 'Verica'. An attribution to Verica seems anyway unlikely, in view of the early date. Kent has suggested that the A may stand for Atrebatas, and that the coins should be associated with Commius.¹¹

2-5. Silver units. Weight: 0.93, 1.07, 1.08 and 0.96g

Obv. Head, to left

Rev. Horse, to left; above, E (with sloping tip to the end of the middle bar), sometimes on its side¹²

M. 446B, Allen Lz8.

The type is well known south of the Thames. Allen¹³ recorded finds from Winchester, Richborough and Farley Heath, Surrey; to these can be added the unpublished finds from Waltham St Lawrence and Wanborough. Van Arsdell¹⁴ has recently suggested that the issue should be regarded as a silver issue of Commius.

Eppillus

6. Gold quarter-stater. Weight: 1.15g. Minted at Calleva (Silchester).

Obv. CALIJEV; above and below, a star

Rev. EPPI above panther(?), to right

M. 107 corr. ('horse').

7. Gold quarter-stater. Weight: 1.20g

Obv. EPPIL COM F (in two lines)

Rev. Pegasus, to right; below, circle with dot

M. 302.

Verica

8. Gold quarter-stater. Weight: 1.16g

Obv. COM F on tablet

Rev. Horse prancing to right; above, VI

M. 112; dies¹⁵ Aa.

9-10. Silver units. Weight: 1.08, 1.07g

Obv. Bull butting to right; above, VERICA; below, REX

Rev. COM-MI F half-draped figure holding palm-branch and pole surmounted by head

M.-.

A number of other specimens occurred in the Waltham St Lawrence and Wanborough hoards.

11. Silver quarter-unit. Weight: 0.30g

Obv. CF; boar's head on pole

Rev. Eagle; V-E

M.-.

Further specimens are represented in the Wanborough hoard.

Epaticcus

12-13. Silver units. Weight: 1.17, 1.25g

Obv. Victory seated r.; TA-SCIO-V

Rev. EPAT; boar to right; above, branch

M. 263A.

14-15. Silver units. Weight: 1.17, 1.19g

Obv. EPATI; bust right

Rev. Eagle holding snake in claws

M. 263.

Caratacus

16-17. Silver units. Weight: 1.16, 1.12g

Obv. CARA bust right

Rev. Eagle holding snake in claws.

M. 265.

⁸ Allen, p. 113; for further Sussex finds, see C. Haselgrove, *Supplementary Gazetteer of Find-spots of Celtic Coins in Britain* (Institute of Archaeology, Occasional Paper 11a, 1978), p. 15 and Haselgrove (1984), p. 113.

⁹ Allen, p. 171.

¹⁰ J. P. C. Kent, 'The origin and development of Celtic gold coinage in Britain,' *Centenaire de l'Abbé Cochet - 1975. Actes du Colloque International d'Archéologie* (Rouen, 1978), pp. 313-24.

¹¹ J. P. C. Kent, 'The origins of coinage in Britain,' *Coinage and Society in Britain and Gaul* (CBA Research Report 38, 1981), p. 41.

¹² For this distinction, see R. D. Van Arsdell, 'The silver

coins of Commius - A new variety,' *NCirc* 95 (1987), 42. Selsey 2 has an upright E, Selsey 4-5 have the sideways E; Selsey 3 has an E somewhere in between. Of the five coins mentioned by Van Arsdell in the British Museum from Farley Heath, four have the sideways E and one the upright E. The BM has a further specimen (registration number EH p. 25 N. 38, no provenance) which has a wheel ornament instead of an E above the horse.

¹³ Allen, p. 194.

¹⁴ R. D., Van Arsdell, 'The silver coinage of Commius,' *NCirc* 94 (1986), 330.

¹⁵ D. F. Allen and C. Haselgrove, 'The gold coinage of Verica,' *Britannia* 10 (1979), 1-17

A CELTIC SILVER COIN
OF PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED TYPE
FROM ST NICHOLAS AT WADE, THANET: THE PROTOTYPE
FOR ANGLO-SAXON SCEATTAS OF *BMC* TYPE 37?

LYN SELLWOOD and D. M. METCALF

THROUGH the kind cooperation of the finder, Mr G. Marsh, we are permitted to publish a hitherto unknown Celtic silver coin. It was found recently at the north-eastern corner of the Isle of Thanet, north of the A28, where the level of the ground begins to fall away northwards towards the hamlet of Shuart (Grid Ref. 61/273 674 approx.), that is to say, not far from the St Nicholas at Wade roundabout. The coin was submitted for identification to the Ashmolean Museum, where a heavy clay incrustation was removed. It may be described as follows:

Obverse. A symmetrical design comprising two similar facing heads. These have spiky brushed-back hair, corded diadems and trailing locks shown as beaded lines below the diadem. In between the heads are two devices comprising three annulets and a corded line. The complete device – viewed with coin inverted – may represent a bucranium.

Reverse. Spirited, Celticized horse left, with bearded mane, single strand tail and feathered feet. The ornaments surrounding the horse, particularly those underneath it, may represent a dismembered animal. The cleaned weight is 1.10g, and the die-axis ↓. In fabric the coin is slightly dished. It appears to be of reasonably good silver.

No published parallel can be found for the facing heads on this coin although Janus heads – looking in opposite directions – are quite common on coins of the continental Belgic tribes. A number of early British types do, however, have a symmetrical arrangement of facing beasts which may be relevant. A silver piece from the Le Câtillon, Jersey Hoard I (found in 1957), has two facing animals on the obverse. The obverse of a new type of silver unit¹ from Maidstone, Kent has two facing birds, separated by a beaded line which may relate to the corded part of the bucranium (?) on the coin in question. The

heads are Celtic and more particularly British in style although no close parallels can be cited.

The horse on the reverse can be located more precisely in terms of style. It is Kentish in feel – the feathered feet are a particular regional characteristic. It is similar to the horses on the reverse of the coins of Mack 279 and 286 type, both from this area.

The coin is unique, is most likely British rather than continental, and was perhaps minted in Kent during the last two decades B.C.

No small part of its interest is the striking similarity of its obverse to the two facing heads of the sceatta type, *BMC* type 37. We wonder whether a specimen found accidentally in the eighth century may not have provided the inspiration for the design – as seems to have happened in several other cases, including that of a Celtic *Rollier* type from the upper Rhineland, which was the prototype for type 32,² and a coin of Cunobelin, Mack 223, which seems to have been the prototype for type 66.

Professor Morehart has cautioned against the dangers of interpreting the typology of sceattas,³ and she comments at length and critically on earlier students' ideas about the derivation of the reverse (four birds) of type 37.

The fullest discussion of the obverse has been given by Kirsten Bendixen, who adduces Merovingian parallels in gold,⁴ and singles out a coin in the Savonnières hoard, minted at Savonnières and showing the local patron saints SS Gervase and Protase.⁵ Her judgement is that it shows 'an unmistakable relationship' to the English coin, and we are inclined to agree. The only question is to say which came first. Lafaurie accepted a date in the late 730s or even after 741 for the Cimiez hoard, and placed Savonnières even later, at either c. 742–45 or c. 750–51.⁶ Type 37, is of course, already present in Cimiez, which might

¹ The coin is now in the National Museum of Wales, and we are grateful to the Keeper, Mr G. C. Boon, for permission to mention it.

² H. Birkhan, 'Pfennig', *NZ* 86 (1971), 59–65. – 'Above all, the correspondence with the *Rollier* type goes so far into detail (bristly hair on the back, dotted belly, the creature's ears, the tip of the tail curved outward) that one certainly cannot think of coincidence.'

³ Mary Morehart, 'Some dangers of dating sceattas by typological sequences', *BNJ* 39 (1970), 1–5.

⁴ Kirsten Bendixen, 'The first Merovingian coin-treasure from Denmark', *Medieval Scandinavia* 7 (1974), 85–101, at pp. 91f.

⁵ Illustrated in *RN* 1963, pl. VIII, 33 in enlargement.

⁶ J. Lafaurie, 'Trésor de deniers mérovingiens trouvée à Savonnières (Indre-et-Loire)', *RN* 5 (1963), 65–81.



(x 2)

Prototype For Type 37

Type 37

be thought to be a reasonably conclusive argument for its priority, if it were not for the fact that there is some small residual doubt whether individual coins in the Morel-Fatio collection should be assumed to be certainly from Cimiez.⁷ Grierson and Blackburn have now argued for a date no later than c. 720 for Cimiez, allowing room for an earlier date than 740 for Savonnières.⁸ It remains doubtful, nevertheless, whether Savonnières can be as early as the Garton-on-the-Wolds grave-find, in which type 37 again occurs, especially as BIIIa is already present in Aston Rowant.⁹ The date of the introduction of the Gervase and Protase types will, admittedly, be earlier than the deposit of Savonnières, but the possibility of its being

early enough to provide a prototype for type 37 is not great. We are forced back towards the argument that the Savonnières coin type is very scarce and local, whereas type 37 is relatively plentiful and widespread, with continental finds, for example, seven specimens from Domburg, apart from Jutland.

Even though there is no accounting for the choice of prototypes, and scarce coins could as well have been chosen as common ones, if their design caught the fancy of the moment, we think that the obvious interpretation is that the Savonnières type was imitated from the English type 37. That, in its turn, may well have been copied from the Celtic coin of which a specimen has now come to light.

⁷ A. Morel-Fatio, *Deniers mérovingiens des VII^e et VIII^e siècles de la trouvaille de Cimiez*, edited by A. Chabouillet (1890), introduction and note on p. 46.

⁸ M. Blackburn, 'A chronology for the sceattas', in *Sceat-*

tas in England and on the Continent, edited by D. Hill and D. M. Metcalf (BAR vol. 128 Oxford, 1984), pp. 165-74.

⁹ S. E. Rigold and D. M. Metcalf, 'A revised check-list of English finds of sceattas', in *Sceattas in England*, pp. 245-68.

A SOLIDUS FROM YORKSHIRE

IAN STEWART

GRIERSON'S list of ninth-century gold solidi roughly copied from the original of Louis the Pious includes a number of examples found in the British Isles and these led him to suggest that, while the bulk of the series must be attributed to Frisia, some of them might have been struck in England. This possibility deserves to be borne in mind when new finds are recorded. Mr Pagan has kindly shown me his report¹ on a solidus found in 1971 in the Southampton excavations, which is a die-duplicate of the only

specimen recorded by Grierson of his type VII. Mr Pagan has also discovered evidence to show that two coins in the Lelewel collection (the single specimens each of Grierson types XIX and XX) had been found in Scotland in or before 1841 (perhaps with others). There are thus rather more examples of this series from the British Isles than was evident when Grierson wrote of them thirty years ago.²

Mr Richard Falkiner has provided me with information about a most interesting solidus which he

¹ H. E. Pagan, 'The imitative Louis the Pious solidus from Southampton and finds of other related coins in the British Isles', forthcoming.

² P. Grierson, 'The Gold Solidus of Louis the Pious and its Imitations', *JMP* XXXVIII (1951), 1-41 (see pp. 11 and 34). The British provenances are: (near) Cambridge, Grier-

son XVI (c); Elgin, I (i) (a); Lewes, XVI (d); Porchester, untraced; Scotland, XIX (a) and XX (a); Southampton, VII (b); Stamford Bridge, *obv.* = I (ii)(c); and Thersfield, near Royston, XVI (b). Grierson I (ii)(c) (*BMS* 81, ex Clarke-Thornhill), XVI (a) (*BMS* 79, pres. A.W. Franks) and VII (a) could also have been British finds.



obtained from Christie's sale of 17 November 1970, lot 46a.³ This coin was sold on behalf of Mr William Lee, a well-known jeweller and silversmith in York until his retirement in the late 1950s. Mr Lee acquired the coin from the wife of a farmer who had dug it up in a field or garden at Stamford Bridge.

The solidus weighs 4.08g but must originally have weighed substantially more. It has a large hole before the face or, in terms of the reverse, at one end of the

cross. This suggests that it was for a time worn as a Christian pendant, although the edge shows signs that it may also have been mounted at some stage. The provenance of this coin confirms the inference from the famous solidus with the name of Archbishop Wigmund of York, that solidi were not unfamiliar in Northumbria at this period; but since both coins are pierced (the Wigmund has a hole each side of the bust) they evidently did not fulfil a monetary function.⁴

The Stamford Bridge solidus is from the same obverse die as the Clarke-Thornhill specimen in the British Museum, Grierson type I (ii), coin (e). It seems to read *DWINVVDOSWIMAVC*. The reverse reads *MVNVS DIVINVM*, retrograde (except S and the second N) as on all the reverses of type I (i) and (ii), but it is from a new die. Type I, to which this coin belongs, was one of the two regarded by Grierson as possibly including coins of English origin (type XVI was the other).

³ J. Stewart, 'Anglo-Saxon Gold Coins', in *Scripta Nummaria Romana*, edited by R. A. G. Carson and C. M. Kraay (London, 1978), pp. 143-72 (at p. 162, n. 101) and J. W. Boersma, 'Een imitatie-solidus van het typ munus divinum', *Groninger Oudheden* 13 (1976-7), 161-82 (at p. 168)

contain references to this piece.

⁴ The coin in the British Museum found at Elgin and described by Grierson as type I (i) (a) also has two holes in it.

RECENT METAL DETECTOR FINDS FROM ESSEX AND LINCOLNSHIRE

J. BISPHAM

THIS short note records the finds of coins made by the members of the Thurrock Artefact Recovery Society. I am most grateful to all concerned for readily furnishing me with information, and also for the loan of several coins to study.

SOUTHMINSTER, Essex

Eight coins found between 1980 and 1985 on pasture land near Southminster.

E1 Merovingian gold tremissis Chalon-sur-Saône, moneyer Wintrio. (Prou, 184-92).¹

Obv. + CALONNOT, bust right.

Rev. + VVINOROMETI, cross in wreath CA in field.

Weight not recorded, chipped.

Wintrio was a prolific moneyer at Chalon-sur-Saône. The style of the bust is cruder than most of his coins, and the legends are severely contracted from the usual *Cabilonno Fit* and *Wintrio monetarios*. This suggests a date in the mid seventh century.

E2 Sceatta. Series B, type 26 (Rigold BX²). Weight not recorded.

Obv. TAVHAIV[]

Rev. + IVAH [] AI +

E3 Sceatta. Series B, type 27b (Rigold B I A?). Weight: 1.02g (15.74gr.)

In the reverse field there are three pellets to the right of the bird and two annulets and two more pellets around the cross.

E4 Sceatta. Series B, type 27b (Rigold B I B). Weight: 0.94g (14.51gr.) chipped. In the reverse

field there are two annulets and two pellets around the cross.

E5 Sceatta. Series C, type 2 'runic' (Rigold RIa). Weight: 1.27g (19.6gr.) Moneyer: F pae (in runes)

E6 Sceatta. Series N, type 41b var. Weight: 1.03g (15.89gr.)

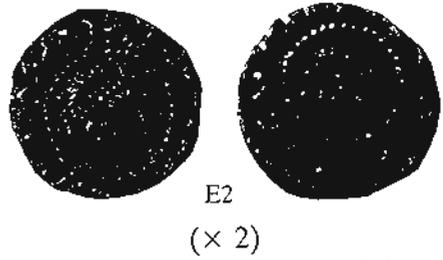
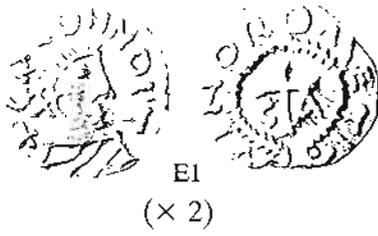
Note the figure on the right appears to be

¹ M. Prou, *Les Monnaies Mérovingiennes* (Paris, 1892).

² S. E. Rigold, 'The two primary series of sceattas', *BNJ*

30 (1960), 6-53.

PLATE



E3



E4



E5



E6



E7



E8



E9



E10



L1



L2



L3



L4
(x 2)



L5



L6



looking to the left, while that on the left is facing the viewer.

E7 Sceatta. Series S, type 47. Weight: 0.78g (12.04gr.)

E8 Penny. Cuthred of Kent (798–807), Portrait/Cross and Wedge type (Blunt, Lyon and Stewart, Cd³). Canterbury, moneyer uncertain.
Obv: [] ÐREDREX
Rev: + [] RONETA Weight: 0.75g (11.57gr.)
Two fragments found in 1984.

AVELEY, Essex

Two coins found on farm land in 1985.

E9 Edgar. Reform Small Cross, cut half-penny. Lymne, moneyer Athelstan.
Obv: + EADGAR | | X
Rev: + | | | OLIME
Weight: 0.59g (9.1gr.) Die-duplicate BM coll.ex Montagu 716.

E10 Henry I. Penny. BMC X. Full Face/Cross Fleury. c. 1124–25. Leicester, moneyer Chitel.
Rev: [] TEL:ON:LEICI
Weight: 1.0g (15.4gr.)
A small piece has broken from the edge of this coin as a result of a fracture from the official snick to the edge; this accounts for its low weight. The full mint reading enables us to remove the question mark placed against this type at Leicester by earlier scholars.⁴

ALFORD, Lincs.

The following coins were all found during the past six years on farm land near Alford. The most productive area of the field is an area 100 yds x 100 yds, and in addition to the coins has yielded various small artefacts such as Saxon pins. Although the farm land has been ploughed for the past twenty-five years, before that time it appears to have been permanent pasture.

L1 Sceatta. Series H, type 48. Weight: 0.75g (11.57gr.), worn.

L2 Sceatta. Series J, type 27b (Rigold B iii B). Weight: 0.99g (15.28gr) Struck from the same dies as a coin in the Ashmolean Museum, illustrated by Rigold. B iii B I/i

L3 Sceatta. Series –, type 51. Weight: 1.0g (15.4gr.). Struck from the same dies as BMC no. 197.

L4 Penny. Offa.

Obv: OFFA REX. a floral bar dividing OFFA/REX

Rev: EALRED in the angles of a cross crosslet with an annulet centre containing a rosette.

Weight: 1.18g (18.21gr.)

Only one other non-portrait coin of this moneyer is known (*SCBI Mack* 549; Blunt 9).⁵ The new coin combines the same reverse design, though from a different die, with an obverse similar to that used by Archbishop Jaenbert (Blunt 131). Although not from the same obverse die as that illustrated by Blunt, there are similarities, small letter O and F of the king's name under a cross on its side, the second letter F in Offa is much taller, with a bar to the top of the final letter A, which intrudes into the letter F. Also as can be seen on both coins, there is a pellet in the centre of the first letter of the king's name. Both appear to be the work of the same die cutter. The moneyer Ealred is known from several portrait coins and has been attributed to Canterbury because of his stylistic similarities with the portrait coins of the moneyers Eoba and Ibba. This coin helps to confirm the attribution to Canterbury.⁶

L5 Penny. Offa, Portrait type.

Obv: +OFFA REX +

Rev: D U D flowers to inner circle of reverse, Blunt 31 (group ii) North 310 (bust Ea). Lot no. 87. Sotheby Sale 26 March 1987.

Weight: 1.08g (15.5gr.)

L6 Penny. Ceonwulf, Substantive type, without portrait (796–c. 805)

(Blunt, Lyon and Stewart, Cn, 5–22)

Obv: +COENWULF REX

Rev: V V / G H / A R D. double tribach, pellet in each angle.

Weight: 1.32g (20gr.)

Only one other coin of this type of the moneyer is recorded, BMC 21, from a very old find illustrated by Fountain in 1705, purchased by the British Museum at the Devonshire sale in 1844, wt. 19.7gr. This new coin is from the same reverse die as the British Museum coin but the obverse, although similar, is not from the same die.

L7 Penny. William I. BMC type xiii.

Obv: + PILLEM REX

Rev: + BRVNMAN ON CICE

Moneyer: Brunman. Mint: Chichester. Weight: unrecorded.

³ C. E. Blunt, C. S. S. Lyon, B. H. I. H. Stewart, 'The Coinage of Southern England, 796–840', *BNJ* 32 (1963), 1–74.

⁴ G. C. Brooke, *Norman Kings*, I, ccxvii; J. J. North, *English Hammered Coinage*, I, 2nd edn (1980), 160.

⁵ C. E. Blunt, 'The coinage of Offa', *Anglo-Saxon Coins*, edited by R. H. M. Dolley (1961), pp. 39–62.

⁶ I. Stewart, 'The London mint and the coinage of Offa', *Anglo-Saxon Monetary History*, edited by M. A. S. Blackburn (1986), pp. 27–43.

THE RE-PROVENANCING OF A VIKING-AGE HOARD TO THE THAMES, NEAR DEPTFORD (S.E. LONDON)

JAMES GRAHAM-CAMPBELL

IN the Ashmolean Museum register, under 1909.552, there is entered a 'silver bracelet of thick silver wire tapering to double sliding knot fastening behind' (fig. 1). Its source is given as the Londesborough collection, by way of that formed by Sir John Evans, together 'with coins of Eadweard & Æthelstan'. In the 'Remarks' column there is entered in brackets '(?is Cat. of Londesborough Colln. of Arms and Armour p. 74 877 No. ?)', with added in another hand ('Found in Ireland').

The Catalogue referred to is that of the Londesborough sale held by Christie's on 4-6 and 9-11 July 1888.¹ Lot 877 (on p. 74) consisted of the following:

Pair of Silver Armilla, formed of plain wire, simply cut off at the ends - *found in Ireland*; silver armilla, plain round wire, flattened out at the extremities - *found in Ireland*; and Celtic bronze armilla, with broadish end, probably intended for an animal's head and clasps.

The significance of the question mark in the Ashmolean register after the suggestion that 'no. 2' in lot 877 represents the Ashmolean ring is clear from the fact that the tapered and twisted terminals of this ring cannot readily be described as 'flattened out'; there is also no mention of the associated coins. Nevertheless, this suggestion is what must have formed the basis for the Irish identification of the find and it was published as such in my 1976 survey of the Viking-age silver hoards of Ireland.² Further research has made clear, however, that there is no longer any basis for accepting an Irish provenance for this hoard.

Lot 877 at the Londesborough sale was purchased by the dealer Ready and then acquired by the

National Museum of Ireland where the three silver rings are registered as 1888:9 and 10 for the 'pair', which may now be considered as forming an unprovenanced hoard, and as 1888:8 for 'no. 2'.³ In the certain knowledge that these rings belong to another collection, there is only one possibility left for identifying the Evans (Ashmolean) ring in the Londesborough sale and that is with part of lot 885 (p. 76):

Saxon silver bracelet, plain, with twisted ends fastened together, and two Saxon coins - *found in the Thames, near Deptford*.

There can be no doubt that this description fits that of the Ashmolean ring and the 'two Saxon coins' would explain the Register's 'coins of Eadweard & Æthelstan'. This is regrettably all the information so far known concerning these three items.⁴ However, it seems reasonable to accept that they represent an associated find (even if, perhaps, only the remains of a larger hoard), given that there is nothing improbable about their having been deposited together and that chance finds of similar material are not recorded from Deptford. The coins have not been traced, but they suggest a nominal date for the loss or deposition of this hoard of c. 935(?).⁵

Lot 885 was sold to Whelan, the London representative of the Paris firm of Rollin and Feuarent, one amongst many purchased by him (878-81 and 883-7) in this, the 'Celtic Ornaments', section of the sale (lots 877-87). The British Museum in this way acquired lots 878-81 and 883-4, but *not* lots 885-7. Although the transaction is not documented, there can be little doubt therefore that Evans's Londesborough ring formed part of lot 885 at the Lon-

Acknowledgements. I am grateful for the help received in compiling and checking this note from Marion Archibald, Mark Blackburn, Christopher Blunt, Arthur MacGregor, Michael Metcalf, Hugh Pagan, Michael Ryan and Leslie Webster.

¹ *Catalogue of the Valuable and Extensive Collection of Armour and Arms, Carvings in Ivory, Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Antiquities, &c., of the Right Hon. the Earl of Londesborough* (that is the collection formed by Albert Denison Conyngham, 1st Baron Londesborough, who died in 1860).

The Londesborough sale also included his substantial collection of Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and later English coins and medals (lots 801-76), including ninety-one Anglo-Saxon coins of the eighth to eleventh centuries. Unfortunately many of the lots were large, and the catalogue entries are often cursory.

² J. A. Graham-Campbell, 'The Viking-age silver hoards

from Ireland', in *Proceedings of the Seventh Viking Congress, Dublin*, edited by B. Almqvist and D. Greene (Dublin and London, 1976), pp. 39-74, at pp. 49, 64, 65 and pl. 1.

³ J. Bøe, 'Norse antiquities in Ireland', in *Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland*, edited by H. Shetelig (Oslo, 1940), Part III, pp. 119, 127.

⁴ There is no reference to them either in T. Crofton Croker, *Catalogue of a Collection of Ancient & Medieval Rings and Personal Ornaments formed for Lady Londesborough* (London, 1853), or in F. W. Fairholt and T. Wright, *Miscellanea Graphica: Representations of Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Remains in the Possession of Lord Londesborough* (London, 1857).

⁵ M. Blackburn and H. Pagan, 'A revised check-list of coin hoards from the British Isles, c. 500-1100', in *Anglo-Saxon Monetary History*, edited by M. A. S. Blackburn (Leicester, 1986), pp. 291-313, at p. 295 (no. 120), where Deptford is erroneously described as in Kent, whereas it is in fact in the London borough of Lewisham.



FIG. 1. Silver arm-ring from the Thames, near Deptford, deposited with coins of Edward and Athelstan (Ashmolean Museum). Diam: 6.5 cm; Wt: 19.36g.

desborough sale, after which it was purchased by him from Whelan. The fate of the two coins remains unknown for they cannot be recognised in either the Ashmolean or the British Museum collections.

The re-provenancing of the Ashmolean ring to 'near Deptford' gives it particular interest as a non-numismatic element in a tenth-century coin-hoard, unique in the London area for the period. Indeed, the find can only be paralleled in the south-east of England by the Croydon (1862) hoard, deposited sixty years earlier in *c.* 872 and associated with the Danish 'great army',⁶ for the ring is not a 'Saxon' ring, but is of a well-known Scandinavian Viking-age type. Such rings have, for instance, been found in the north of England in the Cuerdale (Lancs.) hoard, deposited

c. 905.⁷ The Deptford ring was circulating as bullion when lost, for it has a single deep (and sharp) nick, of characteristic Viking-age type, on the inside of the hoop opposite the terminal knot. Such a ring might easily have been acquired by a member of Athelstan's army during his 927 campaign in the north against Guthfrith, or following his victorious battle at *Brunanburh*, a decade later in 937. The reason for its loss or deposition 'in the Thames, near Deptford' must, however, remain a mystery, although it brings to mind a 'purse' of six coins from the Thames (?London), recently acquired by C. E. Blunt who suggests that it was lost *c.* 910, probably by 'a traveller or seaman who had come down by ship from Northumbria'.⁸

⁶ N. P. Brooks and J. A. Graham-Campbell, 'Reflections on the Viking-age silver hoard from Croydon, Surrey', in *Anglo-Saxon Monetary History*, edited by M. A. S. Blackburn (Leicester, 1986), pp. 91-110.

⁷ A. Bjørn and H. Shetelig, 'Viking antiquities in Eng-

land', in *Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland*, edited by H. Shetelig (Oslo, 1940), Part IV, fig. 9.

⁸ I am greatly indebted to Christopher Blunt for information concerning this find in advance of his own publication.

A NEW MONEYSER FOR HENRY I TYPE XI¹

D. SYMONS

THE coin published here was found at the start of September 1986 by a metal-detector user while searching a ploughed field near the village of Shenstone, Staffordshire. The finder subsequently took the coin to a Birmingham dealer¹ who immediately notified the writer at the City Museum. With the full cooperation of the finder the coin was examined, weighed and photographed at the Museum. It was then returned to the finder who, as advised, reported the discovery to the police. They in turn notified the coroner for Mid-Staffordshire who decided that the coin did not constitute a *prima facie* case of treasure trove and directed that it should be returned to the finder.

Unfortunately, the coin was slightly buckled when found and, during an unsuccessful attempt to straighten it, the finder snapped it into two approximately equal pieces. Furthermore, a small chip of metal has been lost (probably subsequent to discovery) from the edge of the coin beside the snick that occurs on most of the surviving specimens of Henry's pennies of types VII to XII. Both features can be clearly seen in the accompanying photograph (enlarged x2).²

The coin is a type XI (Double Inscription) penny of Henry I.³ Its diameter is 20 mm and it weighs 1.34g. Allowing for the loss of the small chip from the edge, this weight places the coin towards the higher end of the weight range for type XI. Of thirteen specimens published in easily available sources⁴ eleven fall within the range 1.27g to 1.41g, with an average

weight of 1.338g. (The others are a chipped coin from Llantrithyd which weighs 1.22g and an aberrant specimen, also from Llantrithyd, which weighs a mere 1.12g.) These figures should be compared to the probable theoretically official weight for the penny sterling of 1.46g (22.5 gr.).

The obverse design, showing a bust of the king facing left and holding a sceptre, is quite clear but only the letters hE at the start of the inscription survive. The reverse design consists of a central cross surrounded by a double inscription between three beaded circles. The outer inscription is divided into four by four circles each containing a quatrefoil. Although the reverse is poorly struck, in common with many pennies of Henry's reign, it is clear that the reverse inscription reads +D-E(?) -RI-CO+/NLVNDE. The gap after the E in the outer inscription contains a curve which must represent the right-hand side of either an O or, less probably, a D. This lies in the centre of the available space and has some marks to the right of it. These marks may represent a third letter squashed into the available space. Given the reading DEO-RIC for the moneyer's name such a third letter must surely be a D to complete the spelling of the name Theodric. If the marks are spurious and no third letter exists we are still left with a moneyer's name which must be read as either DEORIC or DEDRIC, either clearly a variant of the name Theodric.

The only moneyers previously attested for Henry I type XI at the London mint are /Elfwine/Alwine, Blacaman, Ealdgar, Edwine, Sperlig and Wulfwine.⁵



I am grateful to Miss M. M. Archibald and Mr P. D. Mitchell for examining photographs of the coin and confirming my readings of the inscriptions. Miss Archibald also made several suggestions which proved very helpful in the preparation of this note.

¹ Mr G. Charman of Format Coins. I am grateful to Mr Charman for his assistance in this matter.

² This photograph is the work of my colleague in Birmingham City Museum, Mr D. Bailey.

³ J. J. North, *English Hammered Coinage*, I, 2nd edn.

(London, 1980), no. 867.

⁴ Seven coins from Llantrithyd (R. H. M. Dolley, 'The 1962 Llantrithyd Treasure Trove and Some Thoughts on the First Norman Coinage of Wales', *BNJ* XXXI (1962), 74-79, and 'Two Further Coins of Henry I from Llantrithyd', *BNJ* XXXIII (1964), 169-71), three coins (*SCBI* 11, nos 283-5); three coins (*SCBI* 20, nos 1531-2, 1534).

⁵ E. J. Harris, 'The Moneyers of the Norman Kings and the Types They are Known to Have Struck', *SCMB* (1985), nos 803 (280-82) and 806 (409-12).

However, Theodric is well-known as a member of a family of moneyers which has been studied in some detail.⁶ Prior to the discovery of this coin he was known to have been active at the London mint for types II, III, IV and V of William II (c. 1089–1100) and for types V, VII and X of Henry I (c. 1108–10, 1113–16, 1124–25).⁷ The same Theodric is probably also to be equated with a moneyer with the same unusual name who was active at Hertford for types VIII of William I and I, II and III of William II (c. 1083–95).⁸

Professor Dolley has argued convincingly that Henry's type XI actually preceded his type X and dated the issue of type XI to c. 1122–24. Although some doubts have recently been expressed on the traditional dating of Henry I's issues,⁹ this new find certainly may be regarded as filling an existing blank in Theodric's career.¹⁰ That a new coin should appear is not surprising since it was only in 1972 that the Lincoln (Melandry) hoard produced the first specimen of a penny of Theodric for type X.¹¹

⁶ P. Nightingale, 'Some London Moneyers and Reflections on the Organization of English Mints in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries', *NC* 142 (1982), 34–50.

⁷ Harris, p. 410.

⁸ Harris, *SCMB* (1984), no. 796 (315); Nightingale, p. 42.

⁹ *English Romanesque Art, 1066–1200*, edited by G.

Zarnecki, J. Holt and T. Holland (1984), 332–33, and D. Walker, 'A possible monetary crisis in the early 1130s', *SCMB* (1984), 284–6.

¹⁰ R. H. M. Dolley, *The Norman Conquest and the English Coinage* (London, 1966), pp. 23–5.

¹¹ Miss M. M. Archibald, personal communication.

TREFOIL-MARKED PORTCULLIS GROATS OF HENRY VIII

IAN STEWART

IN 1922 and 1955 Raymond Carlyon-Britton published two portcullis groats of the first coinage of Henry VIII with slipped trefoils in the forks of the reverse cross.¹ A third trefoil-marked groat has since been discovered (fig. no. 1),² but such coins seem to be of extreme rarity and at the time of writing there is no example in the British Museum.

Carlyon-Britton's first trefoil groat reads FR, and the obverse die is recognizable by a small mark in the field behind the band of the crown. He noted that other specimens from this die, but without trefoils on the reverse, were (c. 1922) in the collections of J. Shirley-Fox and H. A. Parsons (1929 sale, lot 414); and he later had one himself. The Shirley-Fox specimen, which did not pass to Mr Blunt with the bulk of that collection, cannot now be identified. But it could have been the one later acquired by Carlyon-Britton,³ or perhaps another, which is rather buckled, that belonged to L. A. Lawrence and is now in the British Museum (1952, 11–6, 23). The Parsons, Carlyon-Britton and Lawrence examples are all from different reverse dies.

The new trefoil groat is from the same obverse die, reading FRA, as Carlyon-Britton's second example, but the two reverse dies differ from each other and from the reverse of the FR coin. A reverse die

without trefoils is combined with the FRA obverse on a coin (fig. no. 2) in the British Museum from the Clarke-Thornhill collection (1935, 4–1, 1051). Both the FRA and the FR dies involved with trefoil-marked reverses have the regnal numeral viij, with j for i at the end, as on groats of the early marks (pheon and castle), which Whitton notes as occurring only 'on a few early dies' with the portcullis mark.⁴

With regard to his first trefoil groat Carlyon-Britton made the important observation that the crowned portcullis mint-mark on the obverse had evidently been punched in the die over a crowned Gothic T. Carlyon-Britton described his second trefoil groat as a mule between the ordinary portcullis type and what he called the 'pattern' type with trefoils; but careful examination of coins from the FRA die combined with trefoil-marked reverses suggests that the portcullis may in this case also have been punched over a T. It may be that other obverse dies with portcullis over T remain to be identified. There is, for example, another groat with the rare reading FRA in the British Museum (ex Lawrence, 1952, 11–6, 22), which may have something under the portcullis. But since it has taken more than fifty years to find three examples of the portcullis groat with trefoils on the reverse, a variety that is relatively easy to identify, the batch to

¹ R. Carlyon-Britton, 'An unpublished variety of groat of the first coinage of Henry VIII', *BNJ* 16 (1921–22), 119–21; and 'An unpublished "mule" of the "pattern" Tournai groat of Henry VIII', *BNJ* 28 (1955–57), 203.

² This coin was acquired from Coins and Antiquities Ltd, no. E 481 in the list of Jan. 1974.

³ Mr Blunt tells me that in the last years of his life Shirley-Fox (*d.* 1939) sold a certain number of coins each year and some of these went to R. Carlyon-Britton.

⁴ *BNJ* 26 (1949–51), 189–90. Whitton illustrates Carlyon-Britton's first trefoil groat (pl. XIII, 5) and remarks 'it may justly be called a trial piece.'



which these dies belonged is unlikely to have been large.

Carlyon-Britton suggested that the dies of his first trefoil groat were originally designed to be paired together, the combination of crowned T and crowned portcullis indicating an issue designed for Tournai but actually struck at the Tower; but that in the event the dies were discarded for this purpose in favour of the more explicit *Civitas Tornacen* type, the obverse of which differs from the English type in having the

French title first. The obverses of the trefoil-marked type would then have been adapted for use as part of the stock of dies for the regular English coinage by punching a portcullis over the T. The discovery of a second obverse die with portcullis over T, also combined with both trefoil-marked and plain reverses, adds some support to this theory.

I am grateful to Miss Archibald and Mr Blunt for their helpful comments on this subject.