

FURTHER COINS FROM THE MINT OF HUNTINGDON

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The New Coins

My study of 'The Mint of Huntingdon' catalogues 710 coins bearing the mint signature known to me at the beginning of the year 2000.¹ As at January 2003, three years later, a further 36 coins have come to light, an increase of 5%. This level of increase may at first sight appear surprising, especially as the original total was the result of over twenty years assiduous searching. However, the majority of the new coins derive either from the extensive and unrecorded 'Cnut' hoard (18 coins),² or unpublished coins from Scandinavian hoards (6 coins), with the remaining 12 emanating from various other sources. This is likely to remain the future pattern unless further significant hoards come to light outside Scandinavia containing Huntingdon coins.

As would be expected, a preponderance (25 coins) are from known die combinations and these are listed in Appendix I. The remainder comprise the following:

New combinations of known dies	1
New obverse dies	1
New reverse dies	1
New dies (obverse and reverse)	3
New monotypes ³	5
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These are recorded, in the original catalogue format, in Appendix II and illustrated in Plate 3. The significance of the five coins yielding new monotypes is discussed in the next section.

The weights of the new coins spring no surprises, although the Cnut mule is marginally lighter than any Huntingdon coin so far recorded in the Pointed Helmet type.

The New Monotypes

1. Cnut. Quatrefoil type. Harthacnut.
Obv. +CNVT REX ANGLORVI
Rev. +HD/NVT/MOH/VNT
Gouged in the second quarter.
180° 0.94 g

This coin, from the 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993) and Conte collection, contributes a new moneyer to Huntingdon. It is hard to interpret his name as other than an abbreviation for Harthacnut. As such, it is a rare example of an Old Norse name at the mint. Elsewhere, the name has so far only been identified with Lincoln mint in the last type (BMC xvi) of Cnut (see Hild. 3889) and under Harold I (see Hild. 1050).⁴

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¹ Robin J. Eaglen, 'The Mint of Huntingdon', *BNJ* 69 (1999), 47–145, Plates 1–14.

² See Eaglen, 'The Mint of Huntingdon', pp. 63–4.

³ A monotype is a coin type as represented by a named moneyer.

⁴ Kenneth Jonsson and Gay van der Meer, 'Mints and Moneyers, c.973–1066', *Studies in Late Anglo-Saxon Coinage*, Numismatiska Meddelanden XXXV (Stockholm, 1990), pp. 47–136, at pp. 82 and 130.

The gouged reverse increases the number of moneyers using such dies at Huntingdon in the Quatrefoil issue from four to five out of thirteen, and the number of known gouged reverses to nine.⁵ Three of the four users hitherto known appear to have been plucked out of obscurity, or not otherwise involved in the minting process, and Harthacnut seems to be of their mould.⁶

2. Cnut. Short Cross variant/Pointed Helmet mule. Leofric.

Obv. +CNVT R/ECX AN

Radiate bust with an inner circle.

Rev. +LIOFRIC ON HVN:

270° 0.73 g

The radiate bust of this coin is partially surrounded by a circle, otherwise typical of the Pointed Helmet type but not of the obverses of the Short Cross type. It may thus be the result of a die sinker's inattentiveness at the outset of the latter type. The extremely light weight (0.73 g) would also place this coin at the end of the Pointed Helmet issue and the very moment when the Short Cross issue was being introduced. The auction catalogue entry for this coin speculates that, since no other coins of Leofric were known to the cataloguer, 'perhaps after this mistake he was fired', thereby visiting the sins (if any) of the die sinker upon the moneyer.⁷

Mules at Huntingdon are very rare. Apart from this example, they are only known to occur towards the end of the Confessor's reign and in the early years of William I.

This coin, although dark-toned, is probably from the 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Another similar mule was offered in the Classical Numismatic Group (Triton VI) auction of 14–15 January 2003, 1384, of the London moneyer, Leofwig, where it is described as possibly unique. The obverse legend of this coin begins, unusually, at seven o/c.

3. Harthacnut. Arm and Sceptre type. Wulfstan.

Obv. +HAR/CNVT

Rev. +PVLSTAN ON HVN

0° 1.08 g

This coin increases the number of known specimens of the Arm and Sceptre type to eight. Its importance, however, lies in that it suggests Wulfstan may have been in office from the Short Cross issue of Cnut through to the Radiate–Short Cross issue of the Confessor. It also lends force to the Huntingdon attribution of Wulfstan's coin ((249) (1), Aa, Copenhagen 1291) in Harthacnut's Arm and Sceptre type in the name of Cnut with a partly offstruck legend. In consequence, the complement of moneyers at Huntingdon in Harthacnut's reign may confidently be increased from three to four:

TABLE I. Huntingdon moneyers under Harold I and Harthacnut⁸

<i>Moneyer</i>	<i>Cnut</i>	<i>Harold I</i>		<i>Harthacnut</i>		<i>Edward the Confessor</i>		
	<i>xvi</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>v,vi</i>	<i>ii</i>	<i>xvii</i>	<i>iv</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>iii</i>
Wulfwine	6	6	6	4	–	2	3	
Wulfwig			8	1	–	6	3	
Ælfwine				2	1	–	1 ⁹	12
Wulfstan	10	–	–	1	1	–	2	
Complement of moneyers		2		3		4		(4)

⁵ Robin J. Eaglen and Robert Grayburn, 'Gouged Reverse Dies in the Quatrefoil Issue of Cnut', *BNJ* 70 (2000), 12–37, at p. 17, Table 2.

⁶ Eaglen and Grayburn, 'Gouged Dies', p. 19.

⁷ Classical Numismatic Group auction, 19 September 2001, 1816.

⁸ For earlier status, see Eaglen, 'The Mint of Huntingdon', at p. 75, Table 21.

⁹ See next coin discussed below.

4. Edward the Confessor. Radiate–Short Cross type. Ælfwine.

Obv. +EDPER/D REX:

Rev. +ÆL'FPINE ON NVTE

Pellet on inner circle at 12.30 o'clock.

270° 1.17 g

This coin was offered in Patrick Finn's Memorial List (2001). It partly fulfils my prediction that 'it would not be surprising if coins struck by him (ie. Ælfwine) come to light from the PACX or Radiate-Small Cross issues'.¹⁰ Its appearance and the coin of Harthacnut discussed immediately above have the effect of increasing the complement of moneysers operating at Huntingdon in the early years of Edward the Confessor's reign from '2+' to four, as Table 1 above demonstrates. It also neatly illustrates my observation that 'one or two coins can have a disproportionate impact'.¹¹ The occurrence of four moneysers together may appear at variance with the Domesday Book reference to three moneysers 'TRE'.¹² However, that record – if indeed correct – could well refer merely to the position at the end of the Confessor's reign when, on present evidence, no more than three moneysers appear to have been concurrently active. It still remains curious that Ælfwine is the only moneyser so far known from Huntingdon in the Trefoil Quadrilateral type (BMC iii).

5. Henry I. PAX type (BMC iii). Siwate.

Obv. +HENRI REX II

Rev. +SIPITOE ON [HVN]

180° 1.42 g

This coin is now in the Fitzwilliam Museum, following their acquisition of part of the Conte collection in 2001, with substantial contributions from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Art Galleries Fund.¹³ It was unbeknown to me when compiling the catalogue for 'The Mint of Huntingdon'. The rarity of coins from Henry I's reign make each addition an intriguing prospect. This coin suggests that Siwate, who is known for the penultimate type of William II, may have been active through to the third type of Henry I. If Blackburn is correct, following a line of writers from Andrew in 1901, that the opening sequence of types is truly BMC i, ii, and iii, then the new coin points to at least Siwate and Godric being active together in BMC ii at Huntingdon.¹⁴ The doubtful status of the third moneyser in the type (Sefwine) remains.¹⁵ If, however, Conte and Archibald are correct that BMC iii preceded BMC ii, the argument for two concurrent moneysers cannot be confidently claimed. On the BMC sequence of issues, three consecutive types are not represented by the name Siwate, as Table 2 shows, but the name is uncommon and likely to represent the same person.¹⁶ More coins, of course, are needed to flesh out the current skeletal picture.

TABLE 2. Huntingdon moneysers early in the reign of Henry I¹⁷

Moneyser	William II		Henry I		
	<i>iv</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>ii</i>	<i>iii</i>
Siwate	2	–	–	–	1
Godric			1?	1	
(Sefwine)				1?	
Elfwine					1
Complement of moneysers				2+	

¹⁰ Eaglen 'The Mint of Huntingdon', p. 77.

¹¹ *Ibid.* p. 79.

¹² Domesday Book, fol. 203b.

¹³ Three parcels of Anglo-Saxon coins from the Conte collection were also offered by the Classical Numismatic Group at their auctions on 19 September 2001, 1729–1909, 22 May 2002, 2159–2293, and 14–15 January 2003, 1319–1479.

¹⁴ Mark Blackburn, 'Coinage and Currency under Henry I: A Review'. *Anglo-Norman Studies XIII* (Woodbridge, 1990), pp. 49–81 at p. 58.

¹⁵ Eaglen, 'The Mint of Huntingdon', p. 141, (315 (1), Aa).

¹⁶ William J. Conte and Marion M. Archibald, 'Five Round Halfpennies of Henry I: A Further Case for Reappraisal of the Chronology of Types'. *NCirc*, September 1990, 232–6, at p. 234.

¹⁷ For earlier status see Eaglen, 'The Mint of Huntingdon', at p. 88, Table 28.

Amendments to the Catalogue¹⁸

The following amendments should be noted to the Catalogue of 'The Mint of Huntingdon', in addition to those mentioned in Appendix I and II:

160 (1)–(2): *Rev.* reads +EAD/NOÐ/ONF/VNT not H/VNT.

167 (4): *Rev.* reads +GOD/LIOF/ONH/VNTI, not /VNT. Owing to this otherwise unrecorded reverse, the coin should be re-designated as 167 A (1), dies Bd. The coin is accordingly illustrated in Plate 3.

222 (13): Classical Numismatic Group auction, 14–15 January 2003, 1394, gives the weight of this coin as 1.11 g.

(249): Following the appearance of the Arm and Sceptre type of Harthacnut in the name of Wulfstan, as discussed above, Copenhagen 1291 can be reasonably attributed to Huntingdon and the brackets around 249 removed.

263 (2): The cut half penny is ex Wheeler 105b (not 1056 as recorded under 'Other References'). The Wheeler coin bizarrely consisted of two cut half pennies of Huntingdon and another mint joined together. They were separated after acquisition by Baldwin.

Die Links between Mints

The known obverse die links between Huntingdon and other mints in the Long Cross issue of Æthelred II were set out in Table 4 of 'The Mint of Huntingdon'.¹⁹ Since then Bill Lean has alighted upon two further relevant coins.

1. Obverse D, used by Ælfric at Huntingdon (66(1), Dg)²⁰ was used not only by Eadwine of Southwark, but also by Æthelweard of London, as shown by a coin in Reykjavik, Gaulverjaber hoard (1930), 93, –°, 1.52 g.
2. A coin of Godric of London, again from Reykjavik, Gaulverjaber hoard (1930), 250, –°, 1.61 g, is from the same dies as the Compton cut half penny (see comment under 72(1) of Catalogue)²¹ and proves that the moneyer is Godric, not Eadric, and that the mint is London and not Lympne.²² The obverse of this coin was also used by Eadwine at Huntingdon. (72(1), Ba).

These two coins are illustrated in Plate 3 and lend further support for the proposition that a number of moneyers from different mints may have been operating from London in the Long Cross type, sharing pools of obverse dies.²³

The Absence of Coins of Henry I Type BMC xv and Closure of the Mint

On the evidence of surviving coins, Huntingdon is one of over thirty centres striking official issues under Stephen but not involved in the new Tealby issue of Henry II.²⁴ This could have resulted simply from the king's resolve to reduce the number of mints. In setting about doing so, however, it can be imagined that a number of centres would have tried to resist closure.

In his Coronation Charter Henry II had reinstated 'all concessions, gifts, liberties and free customs' granted by his grandfather, Henry I.²⁵ In the context of coinage this would have entitled centres which were operative in Henry I's last type (BMC xv) to claim the right to continue or return to minting. As a corollary, centres not so operative would not have been able to advance such claims, even if they had struck official coins in the intervening reign of Stephen. From

¹⁸ Eaglen, 'The Mint of Huntingdon', pp. 91–145.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* p. 55.

²⁰ *Ibid.* p. 102.

²¹ *Ibid.* p. 103.

²² D.M. Metcalf, 'A Cut Halfpenny of Æthelred II Found at Compton', *NCirc*, September 1979, p. 380.

²³ Eaglen, 'The Mint of Huntingdon', p. 55.

²⁴ Statistics taken from Mark Blackburn, 'Coinage and Currency', *The Anarchy of King Stephen's Reign*, edited by Edmund King (Oxford, 1994), pp. 145–205, Table 5.1.

²⁵ *English Historical Documents, c.500–1042*, edited by D. Whitelock (London, 1955), No. 23, pp. 439–40.

known coins, no less than twenty-seven mints, including Huntingdon, fall into the latter category, affording Henry II a ready-made excuse to eliminate a goodly number of Stephen's mints.²⁶ Thus Huntingdon may not have been involved in the Tealby coinage simply because it had not been active at the end of Henry I's reign.

It is generally accepted that Stephen's last type (BMC vii) was introduced at the end of his reign and continued to be struck in the early years of Henry II.²⁷ It is thus likely that Huntingdon would have had access to dies of BMC vii until the king turned his attention to reforming the coinage.

²⁶ R.J. Eaglen, 'Choice of Mints for the Tealby Issue', *NCirc.* February 2003, 5–6. After publication of the article Alan Dawson drew the author's attention to an unpublished Tealby penny in his collection of the moneyer Arfin reading [B?]EDIE, suggesting that Bedford should be deleted from the tally of twenty-seven mints.

²⁷ Blackburn, 'Coinage and Currency', p. 194.

APPENDIX I: Additional Huntingdon coins from known die combinations

<i>Reign/ Type</i>	<i>Moneyer</i>	<i>Catalogue Number</i>	<i>Die Combination</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Die Axis</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
Æthelred II						
First Hand	Ælfric	14	Ab (3)	Grayburn collection	270°	1.6 []
"	"	"	Ab (4)	Classical Numismatic Group auction (Triton VI), 14–15 January 2003, 1322 (illustrated).		
				Ex Conte collection. Minor earthen encrustation	–°	[1.67]
Crux (light)	"	31	Gm (3)	Grayburn collection	90°	1.28
Long Cross	"	40	Aa (7)	KMK 102 449 –. Lilla Klintegårde Västinde. Gotland hoard (1989)	90°	1.70
Last Small Cross	Ælfnoth	111	Aa (10)	B. Ahlström Mynthandel AB, 15–16 April 2000, 76	–°	1.39
"	Æthelweard	118	Aa (3)	RJE (H123) 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Conte collection, Classical Numismatic Group auction, 19 September 2001, 1766 (illustrated)	270°	1.28
Cnut						
Quatrefoil	Ælfnoth	137	Dg (3)	Classical Numismatic Group auction, 22 May 2002, 2194 (illustrated). 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Conte collection	–°	1.09
"	Eadnoth	143	Ab (3)	Classical Numismatic Group auction, 22 May 2002, 2195 (illustrated). 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Conte collection This coin shows that the first quarter contains an annulet (not a pellet within annulet)	–°	1.05
"	"	146	Dg (2)	Classical Numismatic Group auction 22 May 2002, 2196 (illustrated), where moneyer is catalogued as Eathorn. 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Conte collection	–°	1.03
"	"	162	Oz (2)	Fitzwilliam Museum. 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex J. Talbot gift (2001)	270°	0.78
"	Færthen	164	Bc (6)	BM (1999). Found at Huntingdon	90°	0.97
"	"	"	Bc (7)	Stockholm. Stumble hoard (1989)	0°	1.03
"	Godleof	166	A ₂ b (3)	Uppsala (Holm 608)	0°	0.88
"	"	167	Bc (5)	This coin shows last letter of Rev. inscription to be 'T.' Classical Numismatic Group auction (Triton VI), 14–15 January 2003, 1356 (illustrated).		
"	"	"	"	'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Conte collection	–°	0.94
"	Stanmær	177	Aa (5)	<i>NCirc</i> , October 2001, HS 0875 (illustrated). 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993)	–°	1.11
"	"	182	Cg (2)	Classical Numismatic Group auction (Triton VI), 14–15 January 2003, 1357 (illustrated).		
"	"	"	"	'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Conte collection	–°	1.07
Pointed Helmet	Eadnoth	192	Bb (11)	Grayburn collection. 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Griffin (2000)	90°	1.08
"	"	"	Bb (12)	Spink auction 27 March 2002, 307 (illustrated). 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993)	–°	1.06
"	Godleof	203	Ej (3)	RJE (H120) 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Griffin (2000)	180°	1.07

..	..	208	Iq (2)
Short Cross	Ada	222	Aa (15)
..	Wulfstan	227	Ab (3)
Edward the Confessor			
Small Flan	Ælfwine	265	Aa (8)
Sovereign-Eagles	Godric	276	Aa (2)
..	Godwine	277	Aa (2)

Classical Numismatic Group auction (Triton VI), 14–15 January 2003, 1370 (illustrated). 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993)? Ex Conte collection		
This coin shows last letter of Rev. legend is not D but V	–°	0.93
Dolphin. Double Sovereign List 2001, 101. 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993)	–°	[]
Grayburn collection. Obv. Struck from rusty die	–°	0.9[]
<i>BNJ</i> 68 (1998) Coin Register 140 (p. 174). Cut half penny. West Rudham, Norfolk metal detector find (1998)	270°	[0.65]
Classical Numismatic Group auction 25 September 2002, 2551 (not illustrated)	–°	1.31
In catalogue Obv. incorrectly transcribed as +EDPARD X ANGLOV, instead of EADPARD REX ANGLLO. Rev. of this coin shows that the first N (like all the others in the legend) is inverted		
Grayburn collection	270°	1.4[]
Obv. of this coin shows that the legend should read as EX (not RE) and the N is inverted (like all three on Rev.). This consistent idiosyncrasy suggests that the Sovereign-Eagles dies for Godric (276) and Godwine (277) were cut by the same hand.		

APPENDIX II: New dies / combinations

<i>Catalogue Number</i>	<i>Die Combination</i>		<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
ÆTHELRED II (978–1016)				
Crux type (<i>BMC</i> iiii; <i>Hild.</i> C)				
<i>Ælfric</i>				
30A	Xx (new dies)	O. R. (1)	+EÐE[]GLOIX +ÆLF[]JNT Stockholm Sälle hoard (1987). Fragment. 0°	[0.77]
34A	Ku Light issue (new dies)	O. R. (1)]RÆD REX A[+ÆL[]JVNT Lund. Igelösa hoard (1924). Fragment. 180°	[0.52]
CNUT (1016–1035)				
Quatrefoil type (<i>BMC</i> viii, x; <i>Hild.</i> E)				
<i>Godleof</i>				
165A	A1x (new R. die)	O. R. (1)	+CNVT REX ANGLØ 7%. London Cl. +GOD/LIOF/ON H/VNT Grayburn collection. 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Slight corrosion on R. 0°	[1.0 ()]
170A	Db (new die combination)	O. R. (1)	+CNVT REX ANGL' O: 8%. London Cl. Sceptre behind bust +GOD/LIOF/ON H:/VNT Gouged in fourth quarter. Classical Numismatic Group, 19 September 2001, 1789 (illustrated and enlarged). 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Conte collection. -° This coin, which is not illustrated in Plate 3, shows that the last letter of the R. (die b) is a 'T'.	0.93
<i>Harthacnut</i>				
172A	Aa (new monotype)	O. R. (1)	+CNVT REX ANGLORVI 6.30%. Stamford Al. +HD/NVT/MOH/VNT Gouged in second quarter. RJE (H125). 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Classical Numismatic Group auction (Triton VI), 14–15 January 2003, 1358 (illustrated). Ex Conte collection. 180°	0.94
<i>Thurcetel</i>				
186A	Da (new O. die)	O. R. (1)	+CNVT REX ANGLØI 7.30%. London Cl. Pellet behind bust. +ÐVR/CETL'/ONH/VNT Pellet beneath first N. For same R. die, gouged in the third quarter, erasing the pellet beneath the N, see 183 (Aa) Grayburn collection. 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Conte collection, Classical Numismatic Group auction, 19 September 2001, 1790 (illustrated). 180°	0.98
Short Cross transitional / Pointed Helmet mule (<i>BMC</i> –; <i>Hild.</i> – / <i>BMC</i> xiv; <i>Hild.</i> G)				
<i>Leofric</i>				
221A	Aa (new monotype)	O. R.	+CNVT R/ECX AN Radiate bust within partial circle. +LIOFRIC ON HVN: Pellet in first quarter.	

(Continued)

- (1) RJE (H124). 'Cnut' hoard (c.1993). Ex Dolphin, Conte collection. Classical Numismatic Group auction, 19 September 2001, 1816 (illustrated and enlarged). 270° 0.73

HARTHACNUT (joint king 1035–37, sole king 1040–42)
Arm and Sceptre type (BMC ii; Hild. B)

Wulfstan

- 245A Aa O. +HAR/CNVT
 (new monotype) R. +PVLSTAN ON HVN
 (1) RJE (H122). Ex Baldwin (2001). Cracked and scratched. 0° 1.08

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR (1042–66)
Radiate – Small Cross type (BMC i; Hild. A)

Ælfwine

- 255A Aa O. +ED PER /D REX :
 (new monotype) R. +ÆLFINE ON NVTE
 Pellet on inner circle at 12.30%.
 (1) RJE (H121). Ex Finn Memorial list 19, 14 May 2001. 70 (illustrated). 270° 1.17

HENRY I (1100–1135)
PAX type (BMC iii)

Siwate

- 316A Aa O. +HENRI REX II
 (new monotype) R. +SIPITOE ON [HIIN]
 (1) Fitzwilliam Museum. Ex Conte (2001). 180° 1.42

Full Face-Cross Fleury type (BMC x)

Ælfwine (Ielfwine)

- 317A Bc O. +HENRICVS RE[]
 (new dies) R. +ALPINE : ON : HVN
 (1) Fitzwilliam Museum. Mansfield Woodhouse hoard (1991). Ex Conte (2001). 180° 0.92