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## A NEW TYPE FOR EADWIG

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A coin offered as lot 1836 in a Künker auction on 29 June 2021 provides, unexpectedly, a new type for Eadwig (955–959) (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup>

The coin may be described as follows :

*Obv.* **HEADVIG REX**, surrounding a central cross within a linear inner circle.

*Rev.* **HEREFIG** across centre of reverse, between two parallel lines, a pellet at the top of the blank outer field above and another pellet at the bottom of the blank outer field below.

Weight: 1.67 g. Peckmarks on obverse. No provenance given.



Fig. 1. Eadwig penny, moneyer Herewig (Fritz Rudolf Künker GmbH & Co. KG)

Non-portrait types in the coinage of mid-tenth-century England are conventionally classified by the arrangement of the elements in the reverse design. The principles behind this classification are well explained by Blunt, Stewart and Lyon in their definitive monograph, *Coinage in Tenth-Century England (CTCE)*,<sup>2</sup> and their Table 4, on p. 15, sets out the varieties of reverse design then known to them. It will be seen from this table that the only design variety of the same general nature as that on the reverse of the coin offered in the Künker auction is the type designated in *CTCE* as HR5, with a moneyer's name in a single line across the centre of the reverse and a rosette of pellets above and below.

The present coin, struck by a moneyer Herewig, is the first coin to be recorded of a related but different design variety which, on the principles underlying Table 4 in *CTCE*, can be named HP5, with single pellets replacing the rosettes of pellets above and below which define the HR5 type.

As it happens, Herewig is already well recorded for Eadwig's reign for coins of HT3 type, of a design which sets out the reverse inscription in three lines, of which the top and bottom lines

<sup>1</sup> Fritz Rudolf Künker GmbH & Co. KG, Auction 350, 29 June 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Blunt, Stewart and Lyon 1989.

present the moneyer's name, and the central line provides an abbreviated form of the name of the minting place where the moneyer was operating. In Herewig's case, the minting place named on HT3 pennies is Bedford, spelled **BEDA** on his coins, and it is therefore plausible to attribute this new coin to Bedford also. The spelling of the king's name as **EADVVIG**, and the rendering of his title as **REX** in full, also accord with the present coin having been the product of a Bedford moneyer.<sup>3</sup>

What is a little puzzling is that the die-engraver should have used the single pellet motif as an element in the coin's reverse design, for no other coins so far recorded either for Eadwig or for Eadwig's immediate predecessor Eadred (946–955) are of types utilising this motif, and although single pellets are found as a type element in the coinages of Aethelstan (924–939) and Eadmund (939–946), coins of the types for these rulers which are designated HP1 and HP2 seem to have been struck more or less exclusively by moneyers operating in Kent and Sussex.<sup>4</sup>

A small issue of coins of HP1 type was nonetheless made by a group of moneyers operating at York some way into the reign of Eadgar,<sup>5</sup> and it clearly was not the case that in the middle years of the tenth century die-engravers were hidebound as regards their selection of particular type design elements either by official directives or by previous design conventions.

It is unlikely to have been a complete coincidence that a striking of a coin of this previously unrecorded type by a Bedford-based moneyer should have been made more or less contemporaneously with the scarce issue of coins of the similarly arranged HR5 type which is likewise recorded for the reign of Eadwig only. The authors of *CTCE* were aware of just ten coins of the HR5 type, struck by the following eight moneyers: Birver, Cnape(es), Copman, Eferulf/Iferulf, Grim, Lanfer, Manin and Ucelberd.<sup>6</sup> Since the coins show a considerable amount of stylistic uniformity, it is probable that the moneyers concerned must have been operating within a relatively restricted geographical area. The authors of *CTCE* did not attempt to localise the area concerned, but they recorded, at the reference given, that 'the use of rosettes provides a definite Mercian flavour', and they go on to note that two of the moneyers concerned, Copman and Cnape(es), share names with moneyers who struck coins of NE V type for Eadgar. It is relevant here that moneyers of NE V type for Eadgar seem predominantly to have been associated with the north-east Midlands, and, more specifically, with Lincoln or with Stamford.

Copman and Cnape(es) are however outsiders in this group of moneyers, for the majority of the moneyers concerned – Eferulf/Iferulf, Grim,<sup>7</sup> Lanfer, Manin and Ucelberd – are not known for coins of NE V type, but are known instead for coins of various other types struck during the reigns of Eadred, Eadwig and Eadgar at one or more places in the Midlands which have yet to be identified, but which are not likely to have been minting places where the NE V type was struck.

As it happens, all five of these individuals not known to have struck coins of NE V type share names with moneyers who are recorded in these reigns for the HR1 type,<sup>8</sup> a type predominantly struck at this period at Derby or at locations where the style of die-engraving was

<sup>3</sup> Eadwig's name and title are given on his coins in various different spellings and forms, but the king's name is spelled **EADVVIG**, rather than as **EADVVI**, **EADPI** or **EADPIG**, on all the quite numerous surviving coins of HT3 type struck in his reign by Bedford moneyers.

<sup>4</sup> The present writer will demonstrate this in a future paper on coins of Two-line type struck in Southern and Midland England in the reign of Eadmund.

<sup>5</sup> Blunt, Stewart and Lyon 1989, 162.

<sup>6</sup> Blunt, Stewart and Lyon 1989, 151–2.

<sup>7</sup> For Grim see further below. His single known coin of HR5 type, Ryan (1952) 782, with a provenance back to Devonshire (1848) 316, is of a type variant, technically R/HR5 in the *CTCE* classification, on which the central feature of the obverse design is not a cross, as on the other coins of the type, but a rosette of pellets.

<sup>8</sup> The two extant specimens of HR5 type by a moneyer Manin are indeed struck from the same Eadwig obverse die as a coin of the same moneyer of HR1 type, *SCBI* 6, 340, ex Iona hoard.

significantly Derby-influenced.<sup>9</sup> Since none of the five are obviously associable with Derby itself, the strong probability is that they were operating at one or more minting places which were Derby-influenced in the style chosen by the local die-engraver, but which were far enough from Derby that a meaningful divergence in type might have occurred. It may thus be suggested, taking account additionally of the fact that Copman and Cnape(es) are likely to have been operating in the Lincoln-Stamford area, that the issue of the HR5 type should be localised to an area some way to the south and east of Derby.<sup>10</sup>

A complicating factor here is that one of the moneyers concerned, Grim, shares a name with a moneyer recorded for a coin of Eadwig's HT3 type struck at Bedford.<sup>11</sup> He would however be the only Bedford moneyer also to be recorded as having struck coins of HR1 type in any of the reigns concerned, and the present writer's provisional conclusion is that we have to do here with two separate individuals.<sup>12</sup>

The paucity of the evidence for post-946 coin issues from minting places in Southern England and in the more southerly parts of Midland England has already been recognised,<sup>13</sup> and it remains to be seen how substantial these issues of coins of HP5 type from Bedford, and of coins of HR5 type from an area somewhat further to the north, actually were.

Finally, it should be noted that the weight of the coin as given in the Künker auction catalogue, 1.67 g, is on the high side for coins of this period. This might perhaps be due to the fact that the coin was one of a small number struck as specimen examples of a new type variety which was not in the event struck in meaningful quantities, although this is a phenomenon more customarily associable with the period from the 970s onwards.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Differentiating Derby-style coins of HR1 type from coins of the same type which are of Derby-influenced style is a task that has not yet been undertaken, but a starting point is provided by coins of this type for Eadred by the moneyers Æthered, Manin, Osferth, Oslac and Ucelberd. All of these are also known for one or other of such scarce related types struck in the reigns of Eadred and Eadgar as R/HC4 and R/HR1 which do not seem to have been struck by moneyers likely to have been based at Derby itself, and their coins of HR1 type share, in addition, some minor features of design and lettering.

<sup>10</sup> The suggestion made by Naismith 2017, 207, that the HR5 type 'should probably be linked with the West Midlands' is wide of the mark, for the HR1 type, for which most of the moneyers of the HR5 type are also recorded, had ceased to be struck in the West Midlands after an early point in the reign of Eadwig's predecessor Eadred. See for this Blunt, Stewart and Lyon 1989, 135, where they state that 'early in the reign [of Eadred] HR2 took the place of HR1 at Chester and the latter was then confined to Derby and other mints that drew their dies from it.'

<sup>11</sup> SCBI 34, 800. Coins of Grim with a Bedford mint-signature are also known for Eadgar's *Circumscription Cross* type, SCBI 6, 513, and for Eadgar's *Bust Crowned* type, MEC 8 (Naismith 2017), 1752. It seems rational also to attribute to this Bedford-based moneyer the known coins of Eadwig's HT1 type by a moneyer Grim.

<sup>12</sup> Coins of HR1 type of a moneyer Grim(es) of Derby style, or of a Derby-related style, are recorded in some quantity for the reign of Eadred, and it is plausible to suggest that it was this Grim, rather than a Bedford-based contemporary, who struck the HR5 type.

<sup>13</sup> See Pagan 2008, 195, for this in particular relation to the coin issues made during the first fifteen years of the reign of Eadgar.

<sup>14</sup> Thanks are due to Dr Rory Naismith, both for the *caveat* that the phenomenon is one more familiar from a later date in the Anglo-Saxon series and for other helpful comments on an earlier draft of the present note.