

## MISCELLANEA

### AN INSCRIBED GOLD STATER OF THE DOBUNNI FROM KING'S WESTON, BRISTOL

ON Friday, 2 December 1955, Mr. Jack Jones unearthed the coin described in this note while digging in the back garden of his house at 23 Haig Close, Westbury Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol. The site is immediately south-east of the large quarry near the south-west end of King's Weston Hill, at National Grid Ref. ST 54807738. The locality bears other evidences of Early Iron Age occupation. The coin was submitted for identification to the City Museum, Bristol, by whom it has now been acquired. (Pl. XIV, 9).

The obverse bears the usual motif resembling a fern, pine-tree, or a stylized ear of corn, or even a fish-bone, the identity of which is still uncertain.

The reverse bears a fine disjointed horse and wheel, and the legend ANTEDRIG(OV). The letters ANTED occur above the horse. The A has the top missing but there are no indications of crossbar. The letters NTED are normal, the D being plain and clearly formed. The letter R is beneath the horse's head, I is between the forelegs, and G (in the form of a reversed 2) is between the inner foreleg and the wheel. The letter O, if it ever existed, is outside the field. There is a V behind the horse's outer hindleg, but it is uncertain whether this V is part of the legend or (perhaps less likely) an ornamental device. The horse is of the usual triple-tailed type with the forelegs and the inner hindleg separated from the body. In the field above the horse is a crescent between two pellets with a cross beneath. There are two crosses under the neck and one under the belly, and there is a pellet between the forelegs and the body. Between the forelegs and hindlegs is a fine six-spoked wheel.

The type resembles *Evans*, i. 7, and *Mack*, 386. Mr. Derek Allen informs me, however, that the coin is from the same dies as one in the British Museum (Evans collection) from the Nunney Hoard in a later state (at present numbered 1074). The die-relationship is shown in the illustration.

The coin has a slightly coppery colour, weighs  $82\frac{1}{2}$  gr., and has a specific gravity of 11.83. Were it composed exclusively of gold and copper this would indicate about 28 per cent. gold and 72 per cent. copper. Its maximum diameter is just over 18 mm.

The writer is grateful to Mr. Derek Allen for much assistance in preparing this note; to Mr. Jack Jones for showing him the find-spot; to Mr. A. J. Banister of Bristol for determining the specific gravity, and to the Director, the City Museum, Bristol, for permission to publish the discovery.

L. V. GRINSELL

## TWO TREMISSSES OF THE MEROVINGIAN MINT OF QUENTOVIC

IN his standard work *Anglo-Saxon Gold Coinage in the Light of the Crondall Hoard*, Dr. C. H. V. Sutherland claimed that "the mint of Wiccus in Pontio (Quentovic, in the Pas de Calais) was a mint which supplied more coinage to Britain than any other".<sup>1</sup> This was a bold and imaginative claim, and the more so because in the very next sentence he conceded that "it is true that no other specimens of Quentovic have been found in Britain except in the Crondall hoard, and that these seven Crondall specimens show a closely knit die-linkage". New evidence, however, has come to light, and on the whole it may be said amply to vindicate the emphasis which Dr. Sutherland has laid upon the importance of Quentovic for the student of early Anglo-Saxon gold coinage.

In the Derby Museum and Art Gallery there is an electrotype of a triens of Quentovic, and the records show that the original was found, together with gold ornaments set with garnets, in a grave, allegedly of a woman, destroyed in the course of constructing a railway more than eighty years ago. Unfortunately we are not told where the find was made, but both the men who figure in the case were connected at the time with the Midland Railway. There can be little doubt but that the find was made in the Midlands and, very probably, in the Derby area. It may be objected that Mercia is not the most likely of provenances for a Merovingian tremissis, but the little we know about the other grave-goods is consistent with finds from the same area, for example, those from Brassington Moor and Cowlow.<sup>2</sup> The ornaments and garnets passed to the senior of the two men, and were in due course broken up, the gold and stones being made into brooches and rings for each of his seven daughters. The coin, however, passed to his assistant, and was later sold by him to the British Museum in 1883. This fact may seem to bear out the essential accuracy of the statement of the last surviving daughter of the elder man who believes that the discovery of the grave was made before her birth in 1872.

The "Derbyshire" triens corresponds exactly to none of the pieces recorded in Belfort, though obviously belonging to the group 4977-9 (Pl. XIV, 10). The bust is most reminiscent of that on 4977, but the legends have more of an affinity with those on 4978. The moneyer is of course the celebrated "Anglus", and consequently the coin is even more welcome than if it had proved to be an eighth coin of "Dutta". The weight of 1.17 grammes (18.1 gr.) is just a little on the light side, but the die-relationship is the normal one ↑↑, and there can be no doubt but that the coin is a genuine issue of the Merovingian mint of

<sup>1</sup> Oxford, 1948, p. 27.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. E. T. Leeds, *Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology*, Oxford, 1936, p. 108. It is indeed tempting to associate the coin with the pagan Saxon urn-field found at Kings Newton in September 1866 while making a railway cutting (cf. *Reliquary*, 1869) and hushed up at the time. Kings Newton is only eight miles south of Derby, and the date of discovery is just about right. On the other hand the few published details of the urn-field suggest the sixth rather than the seventh century.

Quentovic, and not a contemporary English imitation. Incidentally the dating of the grave suggested by the presence of this coin, i.e. after rather than before the middle of the seventh century, accords well with the usually accepted dating of the Brassington Moor and Cowlow finds.

In 1946 the British Museum was fortunate enough to purchase a second triens of Quentovic with an English find-spot and by a third moneyer. It corresponds exactly to Belfort 6508, Prou 1122, and appears to be from the same dies. It is, however, struck on a wider flan, and in particular we may note the dentellated outer circle which is substantially complete on both sides (Pl. XIV, 11). The weight is unusually high, 1.42 grammes (21.9 gr.), but the die-axis is the normal ↑↑, that is if we regard the initial cross of the reverse legend as the criterion, in which case the obverse legend begins at 2 o'clock and the reverse type, a degenerated cross-on-steps resembling nothing as much as a branch, slants diagonally across the field. On the other hand, on another coin of the moneyer Dagulfus (Belfort 4981 = Prou 1120) the reverse type is patently the usual cross-on-steps, and it is the type and not the initial cross of the legend that gives the normal die-relationship. Not only is this particular tremissis welcome for the exceptionally complete form of the mint name VVIC IN PONTIO, but the exact find-spot is known, Birchington in Kent. Consequently the total number of trientes of Quentovic with English find-spots now stands at nine, and Dr. Sutherland's case for the importance of what was geographically the nearest Merovingian mint to England may appear substantially endorsed.<sup>1</sup>

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#### SAXON AND ARABIC COINS FOUND AT DEAN, CUMBERLAND

In the issue of the *Gentleman's Magazine* for August 1790 "A lover of Antiquities" writes to the editor as follows:

Newtown Stewart  
July 14.

Mr Urban,

In passing through Kefwick, in order to visit its celebrated lake, I met with some coins, in the possession of Mr. Crosthwaite, who exhibits an interesting little museum there. He informed me, that they had been deposited in a leaden vessel, and were discovered in the village of Dean, about twelve miles West of Kefwick, by a cow's treading upon the spot where it lay concealed. Mr Crosthwaite procured eleven, bearing the mark of a cross, and twenty of different sizes and various impressions, but similar in coinage to that in Plate III. No 9, which I have endeavoured to give a representation of. I have taken the exact size of the coins described; and all of those (excepting No. 3), having Saxon characters, were in excellent preservation; some of the other clafs had suffered. The inscription upon No. 1, appeared to me to be LAMBERTVS IMPE; reverse, CHRISTIANA RELIGIO; No. 2, BORACE the reverse

<sup>1</sup> A tenth tremissis, almost certainly an English find, is clearly identifiable among the descriptions in the eighteenth-century manuscript catalogue of the Cotton collection (*B.N.J.* 1954, pp. 302-12). Unfortunately this coin, by the moneyer "Anglus", cannot now be traced, but the composition of the collection as a whole suggests a provenance north rather than south of the Thames.