

trappings of a saddled horse on parade at this time, as seen for instance a little later on several Roman tombstones of auxiliary horsemen found in Britain (e.g. at Colchester and Cirencester). However, the decoration of the haunches and shoulders of animals had by this time a respectable history of several centuries in the annals of Celtic art.

This fine new specimen is a good example of the partly romanized art of south-east Britain very early in the first century A.D. Neither obverse nor reverse could possibly be considered a Roman work, and yet neither could have been devised by a Celtic artist unless he were more than superficially familiar with the classical tradition. The ram-headed serpent of the obverse is a purely Celtic theme, while the wingless griffon of the reverse belongs to a fairly large class of more-or-less correctly borrowed fabulous classical beasts; indeed they are amongst the commonest subjects on Ancient British coins. Small, but beautifully preserved, this coin is as fine an illustration as has survived of the artistic and mythological concepts of the age when the country first began to emerge from the mists of prehistory.

D. F. ALLEN

#### A SURFACE FIND OF THREE SILVER COINS OF THE DOBUNI

By the courtesy of Mr. H. Morrison of Colerne, Wilts., I am able to illustrate three silver coins found lying on the surface of a field at Northwood Farm near Chippenham. The three coins were not found together, but there would seem little doubt but that they are the "scatter" from a hoard disturbed by the plough either recently or in the past, and other coins may well come to light. The first of the three coins (Pl. XXV, 1) is of the inscribed type, and corresponds to Mack 387 (Evans I. 8), and, although chipped, weighs 16.5 grains. The other two coins both approximate to Mack 382 (Evans F. 8), although they are very different in style. The slightly heavier (13.5 grains) (Pl. XXV, 2) illustrates admirably the triple-tailed horse that is so characteristic of coins of this area, while the lighter (13.2 grains) (Pl. XXV, 3) is notable for the straight treatment of the neck which is held almost vertical. Both the uninscribed coins have an uneven but by no means unattractive greenish patina, and would appear to have a certain copper content in addition to a fairly high proportion of silver. Neither, however, would appear to be a plated forgery as that term is usually understood by the student of the Dobunic series.

In putting on record a new find-spot for two classes of Ancient British coin, I would like to put in a plea for the making of a comparable record of the find-spots of Anglo-Saxon pence, and especially the so-called "common" *two-line* type of the tenth century. The plotting of single finds of these may throw considerable light on the problem of which prolific moneymen of Edward the Elder are to be associated with which major mints.

R. H. M. D.

## A CONTEMPORARY FORGERY OF A DOBUNI COIN FROM WILTSHIRE

MR. F. K. ANNABLE, of the Wiltshire Archaeological Society Museum at Devizes, has kindly supplied particulars of a plated forgery of a silver coin of the Dobuni found in July 1956 by a Mr. Reeves on Clarke's Hill, approximately one mile north-east of Sandy Lane, in the parish of Colne Without (N.G. Swindon, Sheet 157, 974693). The coin has been presented to the Devizes Museum. Mr. Derek Allen has also seen the coin and has helped in identifying it.

The type is Evans I. 9 = Mack 389 = Allen (*Arch.* 1944), Pl. IV. 12. It is virtually identical with a forgery found in the Bagendon excavations in 1955 and could even be from the same reverse die. The core is of iron and copper, largely iron, and the plating is of base silver, which combine to give the coin a red interior and a greenish exterior. It can be dated *c.* A.D. 30-40.

## SOME UNPUBLISHED SAXON AND NORMAN COINS

## 1. Sceatta (Pl. XXV, 5).

*Obv.* Small standing facing figure of Victory with wings expanded.

*Rev.* A form of cross with circle of dots enclosing pellet in the angles, a pellet in centre, somewhat similar to *B.M.C.* iii. 25.

Parson sale, lot 102.

## 2. Sceatta (Pl. XXV, 6).

*Obv.* Very crude facing head, perhaps derived from *B.M.C.* Type 31.

*Rev.* Dragon-like animal to the left with head turned to right, very similar to *B.M.C.* Type 40. Many pellets in the field.

## 3. Offa penny (Pl. XXV, 7).

*Obv.* Bust to right, hair in Saxon-style curls very similar to *B.M.C.* Pl. v, 9, and Lockett Pl. VII, II OFFA.

*Rev.* Cross with trefoils between links, four ovals dividing the legend. Similar to *B.M.C.* Pl. v, 12 and Lockett Pl. VII, 3. † ð VD.

An unpublished combination of types. From Drabble sale, 1939, lot 319.

## 4. William I Type I of Norwich. Variety without sceptre.

*Obv.* + PILLEMV REX I

*Rev.* + MAN ON NORÐPI

A new moneyer for Norwich for this reign. From Ryan sale, lot 872.

## 5. William I mule types 1-2 of Stafford.

*Obv.* + PILLEMVS REX

*Rev.* + GODPINNE ON SIÆI

Appears to be from the same obverse die as a coin of type I