

A DIE-LINK BETWEEN THE MINTS OF DOVER AND
LONDON AT THE END OF THE REIGN OF
ÆTHELRÆD II

RECENTLY a small parcel of Viking Age coins was submitted for examination and report to the Royal Swedish Coin Cabinet at Stockholm. Fifteen of the coins proved to be English, and one of them may be described as follows:

ÆTHELRÆD II

Issue of c. 1003-9

(Helmet type = Hild. E = Brooke 4 = *B.M.C.* viii = Hawkins 203)

Obv. +ÆDEL R/EDR•E+ANGL•

Rev. +BYO | ΓΛ; | ΩOLV | NDEN•

Die-axis 90°

Wt. 19.3 grains (1.25 g.)

The mint is clearly London, and the curious spelling of the moneyer's name must surely be for Bo(i)ga who is known for the mint and type from Hild. 2232. There is, however, no die-link. This particular personal name is not of frequent occurrence in the last years of Æthelræd II, and it was impossible to overlook the coincidence that there is recorded in Hildebrand a coin of the same Helmet type and with the same remarkable spelling BYOGA but of the Dover mint (Hild. 387). Both coins are here illustrated by enlarged direct photographs which have been supplied by the authorities of the Royal Swedish Coin Cabinet:



It will be noticed that both coins are from the same obverse die, and there can be little doubt but that B(y)oga was a moneyer both of Dover and of London in the same type.

Obverse die-links between late Saxon mints, a phenomenon not recorded even seven years ago, are now almost a commonplace, but we would draw attention to the fact that this is the first time that Dover has been die-linked with another mint, and only the second time that a die-link has been published from the Helmet issue

of Æthelræd II.¹ London and Dover are some seventy-five miles apart, but the style of both coins is such that we are confident that they are from official dies and that the die-link in this case is not indicative of imitation at some Scandinavian centre.²

In the same parcel of coins were three other Helmet coins of Æthelræd II which may be considered new in that the moneyers are not recorded for the type in Hildebrand. They may be listed as follows:

CANTERBURY

Obv. +ÆDELRE/EDREXANGLǾ
Die-axis 270°

Rev. †/EL | FRYD | MΩΘ | C/ENT
Wt. 23.2 grains (1.50 g.)

(Moneyer Ælfryd: cf. Hild. 123–7, &c.)

IPSWICH

Obv. +ÆDELRE/EDREXANGL:
Die-axis 0°

Rev. +LEΘ | //N: | EMΘ | GIPES
Wt. 16.5 grains (1.07 g.)

(Moneyer Leofwine: not previously recorded for the mint.)

STAFFORD

Obv. +ÆDELRE/EDREXANGLΘ
Die-axis 180°

Rev. †ALF | POLD | M·ΘΣ | T/ÆF
Wt. 22.5 grains (1.46 g.)

(Moneyer Alfwold: cf. Hild. 3420–3, &c.)

The same parcel, too, is the source of the new *Transitional Crux* obverse discussed elsewhere in these pages.³

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TWO UNPUBLISHED BARNSTAPLE/EXETER DIE-LINKS

LOT 142 in the Sale Catalogue (Glendining 19/7/1954) of the late Mr. W. J. Lawson's fine collection of coins of the reign of William I comprised two Paxis type (*B.M.C.* type 8) pennies of the very rare Barnstaple mint. Both were correctly catalogued—the first coin as *B.M.C.* 498 and the second as 'Another same moneyer but different dies—*obv.* reads +PILLELMREX annulet on left shoulder'.

The former, a die duplicate of *B.M.C.* 498, is therefore an obverse die duplicate of *B.M.C.* 499 of Barnstaple and also of *B.M.C.* 668 of the Exeter moneyer, Saemar.

This Barnstaple/Exeter die-link is but one of several obverse die-links between neighbouring mints which are recorded in *B.M.C.* (*Norman Kings*) and which were first published and analysed by Brooke in *Num. Chron.* 1911, pp. 1–23 and pl. xiv–xvii ('Notes on the reign of William I').⁴

¹ For the Hertford-London die-link in this type cf. *B.N.J.* xxxix, 1 (1958), pp. 54–58.

² For this problem cf. the forthcoming paper by Mr. C. S. S. Lyon entitled 'The Æthelræd Types of Cnut'.

³ *Supra*, pp. 258–64.

⁴ The scope of the contents of this short paper is hardly apparent from its title comprising, as it does, the results of the research work on the reign undertaken by the author in preparation for the compiling of *Norman Kings*.

When it is remembered that Brooke was dealing with no less than 660 of these Paxis type pennies with very few die duplicates and all, within certain limitations, of extraordinarily uniform style and that he was, as it were, starting from scratch, his achievement in the discovery of no less than ten die-links between different pairs of mints can only be regarded as a miracle of concentration and skill. And the results of his analysis of these die-links is only part of his 1911 paper.