

EALDNOD, A NEW MONEYER FOR OFFA

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A new portrait penny of Offa provides the name of a previously unrecorded moneyer, as well as a new combination of types. The coin may be described as follows:

Obv. Roman-style bust right, with diademed head enclosed within a beaded border. Inscription +OFFA+/+ REX (the R inverted), broken by the bust.

Rev. +EAL/dNod (lozenge O) in two lines, separated by a bar with floral ends; a pellet in each quarter of the initial cross, and other scattered pellets.

Wt. 19.6 gr.; die-axis 090°.



The nearest parallels to the obverse type are coins of Ciolhard (B.23) and Ealmund (B.44).¹ These also have a diademed head with the drapery (or cuirass) shown in a similar way, but their inscriptions begin above the dexter shoulder instead of at the top of the coin, and without the crosses between OFFA and REX. Other comparable portrait types, but less finely wrought, are by Pehtwald (B.75) and Winoth (B.82), while Pendred (B.76–8; cf. SCBI Mack 566) has a related bust type, but with the inscription divided at the top by small entwined serpents.

The Ealdnod reverse type is one that was used, although not with a portrait obverse, by several other

moneyers – Dud (B.25), Alhmund (B.40), Ethelnod (B.53–4) and Ethelwald (B.55). Dud's and one of Ethelnod's (B.54) have the same design on their obverses.

Ciolhard's coins are attributed, with reasonable confidence, to London.² Less certainly, but still I think probably, Alhmund-Ealmund, Pendred and Winoth may be regarded as Mercian moneyers. Although Chick suggests that Pehtwald (whose related portrait coin is of coarser style) may have been a Canterbury moneyer, he accepts that the attribution is uncertain as between London or Canterbury.³ On the basis of the obverse type and style, therefore, the associations of the coin of Ealdnod, which is of fine work, seem to lie primarily with coins of probable Mercian moneyers.

The reverse type is less indicative. Dud, Alhmund and Ethelwald are probably Mercian, but Ethelnod must be Kentish on the evidence of his coin of Eadberht Praen. Also, the same type was used on the Offa side of most of the coins of Archbishop Jaenberht (B. 125–31). The use of pellets in the angles of the initial cross, however, may be seen as a connecting link between the coins of Ealdnod and Dud, which would support the case for Ealdnod being a London moneyer.

No other coin of this period (or, I believe, of any later one) is known with the name Ealdnod, although there was a productive East Anglian moneyer named Eadnoth in Offa's reign. The protothemes Ead – and Eald – are distinct, the former being much the commoner. No Ealdnod (or Ealdnoth) features in Searle's *Onomasticon*, and Dr. Veronica Smart has kindly confirmed to me that this appears to be the first recorded occurrence of the name.

A MISSING COIN OF ÆLFRED REDISCOVERED

HUGH PAGAN

In their authoritative republication of the celebrated Trehiddle hoard of ninth-century coins and metalwork, Sir David Wilson and the late Christopher Blunt drew attention to the fact that of the two coins of Aelfred of Wessex associated with the hoard by earlier writers, one, a coin of Aelfred's Two-Line type by a moneyer Franbald, was of rather later date than any other coin supposed to derive from the hoard.¹

At the time Wilson and Blunt were writing, both the

numismatic content of the Trehiddle hoard and the chronology of Aelfred's coinage were somewhat uncertain, and not all the assumptions guiding their discussion of the hoard's date of deposit are correct, but they were right to recognise that this coin of Two-Line type was likely to have been struck no earlier than the mid 880s, making it a very definite outsider in a hoard in which no other coin can have been struck later than the early 870s. Although the coin had been illustrated on plate 28 of

¹ B. refers to C.E. Blunt, 'The Coinage of Offa', in R.H.M. Dolley (ed.), *Anglo-Saxon Coins* (1961), pp. 39–62.

² I. Stewart, 'The London Mint and the Coinage of Offa', in M. Blackburn (ed.), *Anglo-Saxon Monetary History* (Leicester, 1986), pp. 27–43.

³ D. Chick, 'Towards a Chronology for Offa's Coinage: An Interim Study', *Yorkshire Numismatist* 3 (1997), pp. 47–64. I am indebted to Mr Chick for helpful comments.

¹ D.M. Wilson and C.E. Blunt, 'The Trehiddle hoard', *Archaeologia* xcvi (1961), 75–122 and plates XXII–XXXI. The coin of Franbald is discussed on p. 113 and its illustration in Ruding is reproduced on plate XXXI.

Ruding's *Annals of the Coinage of Great Britain* [Fig. 1], and had featured as part of lot 230 in the E.W. Rashleigh sale (Sotheby, 21 June 1909 following), Wilson and Blunt were unable to discover what had happened to it since 1909, and they had thus to leave its association with the hoard more of an open question than they would have wished; for, as they were aware, coins that are in reality part of the Trewiddle hoard share a distinctive coppery patination, occasioned by the fact that the hoard was discovered in a disused mine working, and a sight of the coin would have shown whether it possessed that patina or not.

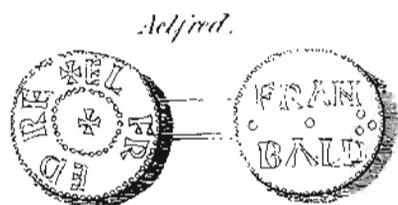


Fig. 1

Since no other example of a coin of this moneyer and type has ever been recorded, it is reasonable to suppose that the coin which featured as lot 423 in the 1999 sale by Sothebys of the L.R. Stack collection is the missing Rashleigh specimen. A comparison between the illustration in Ruding and a photograph of the Stack specimen [Fig. 2] is certainly sufficient to suggest that the coin is the same, making due allowance for the fact that the engraver of the illustration in Ruding would have been working from a drawing of the coin rather than from the coin itself. Additionally, the weight of the Stack specimen, 1.36 g. (= 21.0 grains), is the same as the recorded weight of the Rashleigh specimen, 21 grains, and this remains a striking coincidence, even if, as was the case, the weights printed in the Rashleigh sale catalogue were only given to the nearest grain or half-grain.

It was thus satisfactory for the present writer to discover on viewing the Stack coin prior to the sale that although it was a toned coin, possessing a patina, the patina was not coppery and there was no sign that the coin had ever had the familiar Trewiddle discolouration.

It can therefore now be asserted with confidence that although this coin of Aelfred formed part of the Rashleigh



Fig. 2

family collection, initially created by Philip Rashleigh (1729–1811), the Cornish landowner and Member of Parliament into whose possession the majority of the coins from the Trewiddle hoard passed shortly after their discovery, the coin itself, like various other Anglo-Saxon coins owned by Philip Rashleigh, had reached him from a different source.²

This indeed is strongly supported by the fact that the very earliest surviving lists of coins from Trewiddle, preserved among Rashleigh papers now in the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, omit not merely this coin of Aelfred but also the remaining coin of Aelfred subsequently associated with the hoard, a coin of Lunette type by the moneyer Sigestef. This coin also could not be traced by Wilson and Blunt after its appearance in the E.W. Rashleigh sale, in which it was part of lot 225, so its patination remains uncertain, but if neither coin in reality belonged to the hoard, the hoard's remaining numismatic content requires a date of deposit no later than c.868 and this is the date to which current scholarly opinion inclines.³

It is proper to note that this rediscovered coin of Franbald is now in the writer's possession and that it belongs to a category of coins of Two-Line type associated by Blackburn with moneyers working in the Danelaw. Franbald's name should therefore be added to the tabular listing of such moneyers, or apparent moneyers, given by Blackburn at p. 346 of his article on 'The Earliest Anglo-Viking Coinage of the Southern Danelaw (late 9th century)', printed in the *Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Numismatics, London, September 1986* (1990), pp. 341–8.

One slightly unusual feature of the present coin is the fact that the inner circle on its obverse is beaded, and this may in time enable Franbald's production to be linked with the production of other contemporary Danelaw moneyers whose coins also display this feature.

² It features as coin no. 62 in a list of coins belonging to Philip Rashleigh compiled by Taylor Combe of the British Museum in July 1802 (Wilson and Blunt, *op cit.*, p. 111), but the Combe list includes several coins certainly not from the Trewiddle hoard and is evidence only for the fact that the coin was by then in Rashleigh's possession.

³ H.E. Pagan, 'Coinage in Southern England, 796–874', in *Anglo-Saxon Monetary History*, edited by M.A.S. Blackburn (1986), pp. 61–2 and note 31; cf. M. Blackburn and H. Pagan, 'A revised check-list of coin hoards from the British Isles, c.500–1100', in Blackburn, *op cit.*, hoard 59 on p. 294. The Sigestef coin is no. 61 in the Taylor Combe list previously cited.