

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 Eadnoth) 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

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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.