

A NEW MONEYSER FOR HENRY I TYPE XI<sup>1</sup>

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THE coin published here was found at the start of September 1986 by a metal-detector user while searching a ploughed field near the village of Shenstone, Staffordshire. The finder subsequently took the coin to a Birmingham dealer<sup>1</sup> who immediately notified the writer at the City Museum. With the full cooperation of the finder the coin was examined, weighed and photographed at the Museum. It was then returned to the finder who, as advised, reported the discovery to the police. They in turn notified the coroner for Mid-Staffordshire who decided that the coin did not constitute a *prima facie* case of treasure trove and directed that it should be returned to the finder.

Unfortunately, the coin was slightly buckled when found and, during an unsuccessful attempt to straighten it, the finder snapped it into two approximately equal pieces. Furthermore, a small chip of metal has been lost (probably subsequent to discovery) from the edge of the coin beside the nick that occurs on most of the surviving specimens of Henry's pennies of types VII to XII. Both features can be clearly seen in the accompanying photograph (enlarged x2).<sup>2</sup>

The coin is a type XI (Double Inscription) penny of Henry I.<sup>3</sup> Its diameter is 20 mm and it weighs 1.34g. Allowing for the loss of the small chip from the edge, this weight places the coin towards the higher end of the weight range for type XI. Of thirteen specimens published in easily available sources<sup>4</sup> eleven fall within the range 1.27g to 1.41g, with an average

weight of 1.338g. (The others are a chipped coin from Llantrithyd which weighs 1.22g and an aberrant specimen, also from Llantrithyd, which weighs a mere 1.12g.) These figures should be compared to the probable theoretically official weight for the penny sterling of 1.46g (22.5 gr.).

The obverse design, showing a bust of the king facing left and holding a sceptre, is quite clear but only the letters hE at the start of the inscription survive. The reverse design consists of a central cross surrounded by a double inscription between three beaded circles. The outer inscription is divided into four by four circles each containing a quatrefoil. Although the reverse is poorly struck, in common with many pennies of Henry's reign, it is clear that the reverse inscription reads +D-E(?) -RI-CO+/NLVNDE. The gap after the E in the outer inscription contains a curve which must represent the right-hand side of either an O or, less probably, a D. This lies in the centre of the available space and has some marks to the right of it. These marks may represent a third letter squashed into the available space. Given the reading DEO-RIC for the moneyer's name such a third letter must surely be a D to complete the spelling of the name Theodric. If the marks are spurious and no third letter exists we are still left with a moneyer's name which must be read as either DEORIC or DEDRIC, either clearly a variant of the name Theodric.

The only moneyers previously attested for Henry I type XI at the London mint are /Elfwine/Alwine, Blacaman, Ealdgar, Edwine, Sperlig and Wulfwine.<sup>5</sup>



I am grateful to Miss M. M. Archibald and Mr P. D. Mitchell for examining photographs of the coin and confirming my readings of the inscriptions. Miss Archibald also made several suggestions which proved very helpful in the preparation of this note.

<sup>1</sup> Mr G. Charman of Format Coins. I am grateful to Mr Charman for his assistance in this matter.

<sup>2</sup> This photograph is the work of my colleague in Birmingham City Museum, Mr D. Bailey.

<sup>3</sup> J. J. North, *English Hammered Coinage*, I, 2nd edn.

(London, 1980), no. 867.

<sup>4</sup> Seven coins from Llantrithyd (R. H. M. Dolley, 'The 1962 Llantrithyd Treasure Trove and Some Thoughts on the First Norman Coinage of Wales', *BNJ* XXXI (1962), 74-79, and 'Two Further Coins of Henry I from Llantrithyd', *BNJ* XXXIII (1964), 169-71), three coins (*SCBI* 11, nos 283-5); three coins (*SCBI* 20, nos 1531-2, 1534).

<sup>5</sup> E. J. Harris, 'The Moneyers of the Norman Kings and the Types They are Known to Have Struck', *SCMB* (1985), nos 803 (280-82) and 806 (409-12).

However, Theodric is well-known as a member of a family of moneyers which has been studied in some detail.<sup>6</sup> Prior to the discovery of this coin he was known to have been active at the London mint for types II, III, IV and V of William II (c. 1089–1100) and for types V, VII and X of Henry I (c. 1108–10, 1113–16, 1124–25).<sup>7</sup> The same Theodric is probably also to be equated with a moneyer with the same unusual name who was active at Hertford for types VIII of William I and I, II and III of William II (c. 1083–95).<sup>8</sup>

Professor Dolley has argued convincingly that Henry's type XI actually preceded his type X and dated the issue of type XI to c. 1122–24. Although some doubts have recently been expressed on the traditional dating of Henry I's issues,<sup>9</sup> this new find certainly may be regarded as filling an existing blank in Theodric's career.<sup>10</sup> That a new coin should appear is not surprising since it was only in 1972 that the Lincoln (Melandry) hoard produced the first specimen of a penny of Theodric for type X.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> P. Nightingale, 'Some London Moneyers and Reflections on the Organization of English Mints in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries', *NC* 142 (1982), 34–50.

<sup>7</sup> Harris, p. 410.

<sup>8</sup> Harris, *SCMB* (1984), no. 796 (315); Nightingale, p. 42.

<sup>9</sup> *English Romanesque Art, 1066–1200*, edited by G.

Zarnecki, J. Holt and T. Holland (1984), 332–33, and D. Walker, 'A possible monetary crisis in the early 1130s', *SCMB* (1984), 284–6.

<sup>10</sup> R. H. M. Dolley, *The Norman Conquest and the English Coinage* (London, 1966), pp. 23–5.

<sup>11</sup> Miss M. M. Archibald, personal communication.

## TREFOIL-MARKED PORTCULLIS GROATS OF HENRY VIII

IAN STEWART

IN 1922 and 1955 Raymond Carlyon-Britton published two portcullis groats of the first coinage of Henry VIII with slipped trefoils in the forks of the reverse cross.<sup>1</sup> A third trefoil-marked groat has since been discovered (fig. no. 1),<sup>2</sup> but such coins seem to be of extreme rarity and at the time of writing there is no example in the British Museum.

Carlyon-Britton's first trefoil groat reads FR, and the obverse die is recognizable by a small mark in the field behind the band of the crown. He noted that other specimens from this die, but without trefoils on the reverse, were (c. 1922) in the collections of J. Shirley-Fox and H. A. Parsons (1929 sale, lot 414); and he later had one himself. The Shirley-Fox specimen, which did not pass to Mr Blunt with the bulk of that collection, cannot now be identified. But it could have been the one later acquired by Carlyon-Britton,<sup>3</sup> or perhaps another, which is rather buckled, that belonged to L. A. Lawrence and is now in the British Museum (1952, 11–6, 23). The Parsons, Carlyon-Britton and Lawrence examples are all from different reverse dies.

The new trefoil groat is from the same obverse die, reading FRA, as Carlyon-Britton's second example, but the two reverse dies differ from each other and from the reverse of the FR coin. A reverse die

without trefoils is combined with the FRA obverse on a coin (fig. no. 2) in the British Museum from the Clarke-Thornhill collection (1935, 4–1, 1051). Both the FRA and the FR dies involved with trefoil-marked reverses have the regnal numeral viij, with j for i at the end, as on groats of the early marks (pheon and castle), which Whitton notes as occurring only 'on a few early dies' with the portcullis mark.<sup>4</sup>

With regard to his first trefoil groat Carlyon-Britton made the important observation that the crowned portcullis mint-mark on the obverse had evidently been punched in the die over a crowned Gothic T. Carlyon-Britton described his second trefoil groat as a mule between the ordinary portcullis type and what he called the 'pattern' type with trefoils; but careful examination of coins from the FRA die combined with trefoil-marked reverses suggests that the portcullis may in this case also have been punched over a T. It may be that other obverse dies with portcullis over T remain to be identified. There is, for example, another groat with the rare reading FRA in the British Museum (ex Lawrence, 1952, 11–6, 22), which may have something under the portcullis. But since it has taken more than fifty years to find three examples of the portcullis groat with trefoils on the reverse, a variety that is relatively easy to identify, the batch to

<sup>1</sup> R. Carlyon-Britton, 'An unpublished variety of groat of the first coinage of Henry VIII', *BNJ* 16 (1921–22), 119–21; and 'An unpublished "mule" of the "pattern" Tournai groat of Henry VIII', *BNJ* 28 (1955–57), 203.

<sup>2</sup> This coin was acquired from Coins and Antiquities Ltd, no. E 481 in the list of Jan. 1974.

<sup>3</sup> Mr Blunt tells me that in the last years of his life Shirley-Fox (*d.* 1939) sold a certain number of coins each year and some of these went to R. Carlyon-Britton.

<sup>4</sup> *BNJ* 26 (1949–51), 189–90. Whitton illustrates Carlyon-Britton's first trefoil groat (pl. XIII, 5) and remarks 'it may justly be called a trial piece.'