

## THE MILFORD HAVEN HOARD OF HENRY I

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Two hoards from the time of Henry I (1100–35) have been recorded from Wales, one very well known, the other ‘mysterious’ and ‘one of the many secrets of Treasure Trove’.<sup>1</sup> The first is the Llantrithyd hoard, discovered during archaeological excavations in the Vale of Glamorgan in 1962.<sup>2</sup> At the time this accounted for around one-third of all known specimens of type XI, the Double Inscription issue. The second, mysterious hoard was found at Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, before 1900. It was said to comprise around fifty pennies of Henry I, types XIII and XIV (almost entirely the latter), though an incorrect reference to types V and IX in the *Inventory* (no. 268) has served to muddy the waters.<sup>3</sup> To the present writer, the hoard long appeared to be quasi-mythical.

However, the sale in 2005 of the W.C. Boyd collection, mothballed since its creator’s death in 1906, brought to light a penny of Henry I ‘found at the Benedictine Priory, Milford Haven’.<sup>4</sup> This and two other coins from the same sale, which may with confidence be attributed to the Milford Haven find, have been acquired by the National Museum of Wales.<sup>5</sup> These coins enable us to pinpoint the hoard’s location and date of discovery with reasonable precision. The three coins and two further examples (whereabouts now unknown) attributable to ‘Milford Haven’ are all to be found in W.J. Andrew’s paper on Henry I in the *Numismatic Chronicle* for 1901. All five coins are of type BMC XIV, Pellets in Quatrefoil, as follows (see Fig. 1, 1–4).

## a. From the W.C. Boyd sale:

## 1. London, moneyer Godwine:

Obv. [ ]HNR[ ]VS R.

Rev. +GODPINE : O[N : ]L[V]ND

1.29 g (19.9 gr); 240°.

Lot 888, ‘found at the Benedictine Priory, Milford Haven’. Andrew 1901, 300: ‘W.C. Boyd, 20grs. from the Milford Haven find. Mr Boyd supplies most of the information of this hoard.’

## 2. London, moneyer Rawulf:

Obv. +HNR[ ]S R :

Rev. +RAPVLF : O[ ]VN DEN :

1.28 g (19.7 gr); 140°

Lot 889, no provenance given, but Boyd’s ticket ‘from Milford Haven’. Andrew 1901, 306: ‘T. Bliss. Pl. VII No. 5 . . . Milford Haven’. The attribution to Bliss must be an error – Bliss’s specimen of this type (lot 173 in his 1916 sale) was apparently acquired from the 1903 Murdoch sale, after Andrew’s work was published. The coin illustrated by Andrew is this Boyd example, acquired by him in 1898.

## 3. Winchester, uncertain moneyer:

Obv. [ ]S : (?)

Rev. [ ] : ON : P INC[ ]

1.38 g (21.2 gr); 330°?

Lot 890, no provenance given, but Boyd’s ticket ‘from Milford Haven’. Andrew 1901, 471: ‘W.C. Boyd. From the Milford Haven find’ describes a Winchester coin with an identical partially legible reverse legend.

## b. Other coins noted by Andrew:

## 4. Southwark, moneyer Algar:

Obv. +HENRICVS R[ ]

Rev. +ALGAR : ON : SVDPE :

Andrew 1901, 293: ‘W.J. Andrew. Pl. VII No. 4. From the Milford Haven find’ and two others. This coin was also noted by Boon.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Boon 1986, 105 n.2; Andrew 1901.

<sup>2</sup> Dolley 1962 and 1964; Boon 1986, 103–5.

<sup>3</sup> Thompson 1956, 103.

<sup>4</sup> Baldwin Auction no. 42, 26 September 2005.

<sup>5</sup> Accession number 2005.67H/1–3.

<sup>6</sup> Fig. 1, 4, reproduced from *NC* 1901, pl. VII by courtesy of the Royal Numismatic Society; Boon 1986, 105 n.2.

5. Southwark, moneyer Alfwine:

Rev. +ALFPINE : ON : SVDPER

Andrew 1901, 290, notes 'Milford Haven find' as one of four specimens recorded. (No image available.)



Fig. 1.

Boyd acquired all three of his Milford coins from T.P. Angell, the first in 1891, the others in 1898. His ticket for no. 1 gives further information, not included in the Boyd sale catalogue: 'from find at Benedictine Priory, Milford Haven, *when making railway*' and this enables us to date and locate the find. The priory itself is a slight red herring: Pill Priory was a Tironian house, founded in 1170, to the north of Milford Haven at the head of Hubberston Pill [creek] and therefore has no direct relationship to the hoard. Its site, however, is cut by the line of the Milford Junction Railway, which opened on 7 September 1863,<sup>7</sup> a three-miles-long line built to link the town of Milford to the South Wales Railway. The Milford Haven hoard was therefore found no later than 1863 – probably between 1858 and 1860, when the bulk of the work was carried out – in the area of the later priory (NGR: SM 9007).<sup>8</sup> The hoard itself, based on Blackburn's suggested chronology of types, was buried or lost around 1123–25 or a little later.

The five coins identified as coming from the hoard are too few for meaningful comment on its overall composition. This was a period of active Norman-Fleming settlement in the area, with a mint already established at Pembroke; however, it is extremely unlikely that any of its products were in the hoard. Only three specimens of *BMC XIV* are recorded for the Pembroke mint:

- i. British Museum: ex Elmore Jones 1082 and Carlyon-Britton 1393;
- ii. Fitzwilliam Museum: ex Doubleday 797;
- iii. National Museum of Wales: ex Lockett 1081.

All three may in fact be traced to the Carlyon-Britton collection through their illustration as pl. XLV, 12–14 ('P.C.B.') of *BMC Norman Kings* and thence to the 1901 'Canterbury' hoard.<sup>9</sup>

#### REFERENCES

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*BMC Norman Kings*. See Brooke 1916.  
 Boon, G.C., 1986. *Welsh Hoards* (Cardiff).  
 Brooke, G.C., 1916. *Catalogue of English Coins in the British Museum. Norman Kings* (London).

<sup>7</sup> D. Jenkins, pers. comm.

<sup>8</sup> Agreement on the link to the main line was delayed until 1863, by which time the Great Western Railway had taken over the S.W.R.; G.W.R. provided the trains for the new line. For further details, see [www.pembrokeshirevirtualmuseum.co.uk](http://www.pembrokeshirevirtualmuseum.co.uk).

<sup>9</sup> Carlyon-Britton 1927–8.

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## TWO NOTES ON STEPHEN *BMC* TYPE 7

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ONE of the authors of these notes (MA) has published a study of Stephen *BMC* type 7 (the 'Awbridge' type of 1153/4–58) in the last volume of this *Journal*.<sup>1</sup> The other author (TGWW) has discovered three type 7 pennies not included in the study, which add a new mint (Durham) and a new Warwick moneyer to the corpus for the type.

### 1. Durham, a new mint for type 7

In March 1995 a penny of Stephen type 7, found shortly before at Embleton, north of Alnwick in Northumberland, was shown at the British Museum, where it was identified as a coin of Huntingdon, moneyer Derling, reading '†DELING:ON:hVN'. As such it has been tentatively published by Robin Eaglen in his survey of the Huntingdon mint, with the coda 'the whereabouts of this coin is unknown'.<sup>2</sup> This important coin has now become available for study. It tells an interesting story, removing moneyers from the canon of type 7 at Huntingdon and Pevensey, and adding Durham to the list of mints in the type.

The coin (weight 1.40 g) is quite well struck, although slightly off-centre, and it might be read as †RELI[-]ON:hV[-]JEM (Fig. 1). The keys to the identification are the first letter of the moneyer's name and the first letter of the mint signature, but unfortunately neither letter is entirely clear. The former is a large letter, clearly open at the bottom, possibly an R. Only the lower half of the latter letter is visible. It has a vertical upright and a curved limb, and could equally well be a D or h. Further examination of the first letter of the moneyer's name, however, raises another possibility, that it might be an elaborate F, with a vertical bar connecting the two horizontal strokes on the right. This would greatly reduce the number of possible readings, for only one Norman moneyer with a name beginning with 'FEL...' is known: Felipe, recorded in exactly this type at the mint of Pevensey. The coin attributed to Pevensey, now in the British Museum, was first published by H.H. King in his review of the Sussex mints, where the reading is given as †ELIPE:ON:P-EN', and this attribution was accepted by F. Elmore Jones in his paper on Stephen type 7 in the same volume of the *Journal*.<sup>3</sup> Examination of the illustration provided by Elmore Jones reveals that the 'Pevensey' coin and the 'Huntingdon' piece are struck from the same pair of dies. Very fortunately the two surviving legends are largely complementary. The only uncertain letters remaining are the first and



Fig. 1.

<sup>1</sup> Allen 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Eaglen 1999, 144; Allen 2006, 272 (no. 86).

<sup>3</sup> King 1955–7, 74 (no. 12); Elmore Jones 1955–7, 537, 550, Pl. XXXI, 17; Allen 2006, 280 (no. 216).