

A FIND OF ANGLO-SAXON STYCAS AT LANCASTER

BY NATHAN HEYWOOD.

THROUGH the kindness and courtesy of the Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Lancaster, the Rev. J. U. Bardsley, I have had the pleasure of examining a parcel of stycas. All the specimens belong to the reign of Æthelred II., who ruled over Northumbria from A.D. 840 to 848.

The coins numbered fourteen, of which thirteen were copper and one silver although below sterling fineness. The incident of the latter is a common occurrence in coins of this class and period, and it again leaves unanswered the old vexed question to what extent the fact is due to accident.

The stycas were found in January, 1914, by the Vicar's gardener in a corner of the kitchen garden adjoining the Vicarage, about 4 feet below the surface. Of the fourteen coins, eleven were too much corroded to admit of detailed description with any measure of accuracy. That of the remaining three is as follows:—

1. *Obverse.*—+ EDILRED REX In the centre, a small cross.
Reverse.—+ EARDVVLF In the centre, a small cross.
2. *Obverse.*—+ EDILRED REX In the centre, a pellet within an annulet.
Reverse.—+ EARDVLF In the centre, five pellets, arranged two, one, two. Silver.
3. *Obverse.*—+ EDILRED REX In the centre, a small cross.
Reverse.—+ EANRED In the centre, a pellet within an annulet.

Many inaccuracies have been placed on record by attempts having been made to read inscriptions on stycas which are not clearly decipherable, and this accounts for descriptions creeping into the text-books which cannot be proved by the coins in any known collections.

Appended is a list of moneys' names assigned to stycas which appear in published lists with the authorities, when known, responsible for them. I have never been able to discover any of these alleged stycas, and shall be glad to receive information of them with a view to verification and recognition.

All the coins of Archbishop Eanbald of the moneyer MONNE which I have examined are, in my opinion, false.

TABLE OF QUESTIONED MONEYS OF NORTHUMBRIAN STYCAS.

EANRED.

CVDHARD Creeke.
EDELWEARD Creeke.
ERWINNE Keary.
HVNLAFF Keary.
LEOFDEGN Keary.
WENDELBERHT Keary.

ÆTHELRED II.

EDELVVLFF
HVNLAFF Creeke.
ALDATES Keary.
EDELRED Keary.
EDELWEARD Keary.
GADVTELS Hawkins.
HIØHERE Lindsay.

OSBERCHT.

CVDBERHT Keary.
ERVVINNE Keary.

VIGMUND.

EARDVVLFF Creeke.
ERPINE Creeke.