

HEDON NEAR HULL—A NEW NORMAN MINT

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AN interesting addition to the list of English mint towns is made possible by the discovery of a satisfactory identification of the uncertain mint name of "hEDV-" found on a coin of Stephen, type 7, in the Hunterian Collection at Glasgow University.

Dr. Brooke refers to this reading on p. 171 of the Introduction to *Norman Kings* as follows: "...hEDV-" a coin of Stephen's last type which is in the Hunterian Collection reads ✠ GERTR ··· OM : hEDV [E?]. The identification of the mint is quite uncertain but Hythe is possible (cf. Domesday HEDE)."

I have myself always considered Hythe a very improbable attribution on phonetic grounds (even allowing for the fact that Brooke was without knowledge of the last letter of the mint spelling) and have felt pretty sure that we have here the name of an entirely new mint town. I was therefore particularly interested to hear of a second specimen in Mr. Fred Baldwin's collection (from the same obverse die as the Hunterian coin but a different reverse die) and to find that this clearly supplies the two missing letters and gives the full reading as being: ✠ GERTRD : OM : hEDVN.

I have the support of one of our leading authorities on Norman place-names in identifying this reading with the now unimportant town of Hedon, some six miles east of Hull in the East Riding of Yorkshire. I am indebted to this authority for the following note on the Norman history of Hedon which I reproduce verbatim:

"In the reign of Stephen Hedon (Yorkshire East Riding) appears to have been a small but quite important Borough in the Seigniorship of Holderness, a port whose trade was based on the export of wool of the East Riding to Northern Europe and the Baltic in exchange for furs and other articles. Fishing was almost certainly carried out from this centre. The date of its establishment as a Borough I have not yet been able to find but in the Pipe Roll of 1205 the Burgesses paid to the King the considerable sum of £23. 6s. 8d. in confirmation of their long established liberties as a Borough. It would therefore appear that it was almost certainly a Borough during the reign of Stephen. That it was quite an important little town is shown in the Pipe Roll of 1204 when one fifteenth was levied on the property of the merchants in the Ports of England. Hedon then paid £60. 8s. 4d. This compares with Grimsby which paid £91.

"At this time, e.g. 1204, Hedon possessed two hospitals, one was probably established in about 1200 but the earlier was established by William Le Gros, Earl of Aumale (or Albemarle according to some authorities), Lord of Holderness. The date of establishment of this hospital is not known because the Charter has been lost, but it is certainly between 1138 the date of the Battle of the Standard and 1179 when the Earl died.

"William Le Gros was the leader of the King's forces at the Battle of the Standard and was appointed such by Archbishop Thurstan of York, and amongst whose lieutenants, at this battle, were Robert de Stuteville and Walter L'Espece.

"As to the spelling of Hedon at this time the following variations were used:

Hedon(a) 1138-42 in St. Leonard's Cartulary.

Haduna 1138-42 in early Yorks. Charters.

Hedun 1148 in the Registrum Cartarum Hospit. St. Leonard Ebor.

Edune 1150-60 Cartulary of Meaux Abbey.

Heddun(a) or *Heddon*¹(a) 1160-81 in the Magnum Registrum Album of the Dean and Chapter of York.

The derivation from the old English HEAH DUN—high hill—is impossible on topographical grounds. In view of the *Haddon* spellings the first element is probably HAED, i.e. uncultivated land which can result when shortened in HAD or HED.”

The foregoing evidence seems well-nigh conclusive in itself.

It appears, however, that this was not the only place of that name (or one very similar to it) in the twelfth century, but the Yorkshire “Hedun” is the one most frequently mentioned in contemporary documents and the one most likely to have held borough status during Stephen’s reign. Another compelling factor is the incidence of Gerard as a moneyer’s name at York and Lincoln (and at no other mints) in the succeeding “Tealby” and Short-Cross coinages of Henry II. Gerard occurs at York in both the “Tealby”² and early Short-Cross issues. It also occurs at Lincoln in the latter only (spelt **GIRARD**).

Reference to the Pipe Rolls of Henry II (*B.N.J.*, vol. ii, p. 185), which, as I have shown in another paper to the Society (on the Stephen mint of “**BRAN** . . .”), reproduce the names of many moneyers who were coining only in Stephen’s last issue (which overlapped four years into the reign of his successor), discloses two entries relating to a moneyer of this name. One, under 13 Hen. II, p. 93, is to Gerard Fitz Lefwin, who is recorded as having rendered an account for 50 marks for the coinage rights of the mint. This may well be the Gerard of the York “Tealby” coins. The second entry opens up an intriguing field of speculation; it occurs under 3 Hen. II, p. 83, and records that Gerard the moneyer of *Grimsby* renders an account of one mark of gold (£6) which he has paid into the Treasury.

This entry has always been a mystery, Grimsby being unknown as a mint of either Stephen or Henry II (or, for that matter, of any other reign). It is certain that Hedon was a ferry port across the Humber to Grimsby and it is not at all improbable that the Gerard of Grimsby of the Pipe Roll entry and the Gerard on Hedun of the Stephen coins are identical.

In concluding on this interesting note of conjecture, I wish to record my gratitude to the many sources of help I have received in the preparation of these notes, particularly to Mr. Baldwin, the owner of the newly discovered coin, and to Captain W. J. C. Youde who shares my keen interest in the Norman period.

Since the preparation of the foregoing notes on this attribution I have been in correspondence with the East Riding Antiquarian Society on the subject. I am much indebted to Mr. W. Foot Walker, an Hon. Joint Secretary of that Society, for the following information and for the weight it adds to the evidence adduced above:

“The earliest recorded allusion to Hedon as a borough is to be found in the Charter

¹ “Heddon” represents also the modern pronunciation.

² Hitherto an unpublished “Tealby” moneyer, but one definitely established by D. F. Allen and noted by him in the *B.M. Catalogue* (in course of publication), viz. *B.M.C.* 784.

of Henry II (1154-1189) granting free burgage in 'Hedduna' to William, Earl of Albemarle and Lord of Holderness, who may have been William Le Gros, d. 1179, or his successor William de Mandevil, d. 1189. The original is lost and the text is known only from an *Inspeximus Charter Roll*, 2 Henry V, p.m. 19, n. 5.

"It is possible that Gerard the moneyer of Hedun may be identified with the grantee in a Charter of William de Fortibus, Earl of Albemarle and Lord of Holderness (1190-1195) in which Gerard, his chamberlain, received 2 carucates of land and a capital messuage in Barmston in the seignory of Holderness.

"If this is indeed the same Gerard, the grant was probably made in return for more than 30 years' service as Chief Officer of the household of successive Seigniors (Poulson Holderness, vol. i, 1840, p. 207)."