

A FURTHER FIND OF COINS FROM DUNWICH

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MR. Edward R. H. Hancox, writing in the *British Numismatic Journal* in 1908,¹ described a number of English and Scottish hammered coins examined by him and which were found at Dunwich. The majority of the pieces were cut halves and quarters and were issued over a period of some 300 years. Mr. Hancox stated that he had seen other coins said to have been found at Dunwich and that these ranged from Anglo-Saxon to issues of the seventeenth century. The paper contains a brief but entirely sufficient history of the town of Dunwich and there is, therefore, no need to enlarge on this in the present report.

The writer of this paper has had the opportunity, through the kind offices of the Trustees of Dunwich Museum, to examine another parcel of coins of the same period as those reported upon by Mr. Hancox and also comprising almost entirely cut pieces. The two collections are so similar as to suggest that the second lot of coins are, in fact, the hundred or so others referred to by Mr. Hancox, but which he was not able to study in detail. The following table describes briefly the coins in the 1908 report and those now being published:

<i>Type</i>	<i>No. in 1908 report</i>	<i>New listing</i>
William I	2	..
Henry I	3	1
Stephen	3	..
Henry II—'Tealby'	11	1
'Henry'—Short Cross	85	60
Long Cross	79	51
Edward I	16	2
Edward II	2	..
Edward III	3	..
Richard II	1	..
Edward IV (?)	2	..
Scottish—William the Lion	6	5
Alexander	4	2
Uncertain—Henry	2	..
Edward	4	1
Others	..	5
Forgery (Long Cross)	..	1
Totals	<u>223</u>	<u>129</u>

The denominations contained in the two parcels are:

	<i>1908</i>	<i>Present</i>
Pennies	23 (1 broken)	2 (both broken)
Round halfpennies	9 (2 broken)	..
Round farthings	10 (1 broken)	2 (1 broken)
Cut halfpennies	76	67
Cut farthings	105	58
Totals	<u>223</u>	<u>129</u>

¹ *BNJ* v (1908), pp. 123-34+plate.

It can be seen from the tables that the two parcels of coins have many similar features. The 1908 coins include a larger proportion of issues prior to Short Cross, but a number of the earlier coins were added to those from the main source. Those added were obtained from various local people and were stated to have been found in the town. They are one of the William I coins, of type IV and the earliest piece listed, and all coins bearing the names of Henry I and Stephen. The rest of the coins were already together when Mr. Hancox received them. It is interesting to compare this situation with the circumstances surrounding the new parcel. The writer, in fact, received eighty-five coins initially and some time later was given a further forty-four pieces which had come from the same source. The second instalment contained a few Short Cross, but mainly consisted of Long Cross plus three of the Scottish pieces and an Edward cut farthing. Thus the earlier coins were contained in the first group of coins.

The oldest coin listed in 1908 was issued *c.* 1077 and the latest of those positively identified could not have been emitted before 1377. If, in fact, the specimens attributed tentatively to the reign of Edward IV were correctly identified, then the latter date must be advanced to at least 1461. The earliest coin included in the parcel now being published is of Henry I, type II and was issued *c.* 1103, whilst the latest piece may be dated about 1278. So at first sight the 1908 coins span over 300 years and possibly 384 years, whereas the present coins cover approximately half that period, neatly fitting into the middle years of the first parcel.

Mr. Hancox made a point of mentioning that the later coins of those he examined were very worn but that the majority were in reasonable condition. In the present more homogeneous parcel all the pieces are in about the same state, save that one or two are particularly well preserved. The general state is only average and it is likely that the coins were subject to salt water at some time. Although there are no worn pieces in this later parcel, the items in it have a terminal date 100/180 years earlier and it contains no coins of the issues found in this state in the 1908 find.

The question that must now be considered is what caused a large number of fragments to be deposited almost without any whole pieces. The origin might be:

- (a) a money changer's office
- (b) a local tax office
- (c) a private hoard
- (d) a religious institution.

From time to time the existence of a mint at Dunwich has been suggested but the writer can trace no coins which can be assigned to this mint.¹ It would appear that the several references emanate in the main from Hildebrand, who assigned to Dunwich an Æthelred II penny reading EADZI MO DVNII and a Cnut penny reading LEOFRIC M DVM.² These coins have since been transferred to the mints of London and Huntingdon or Buckingham respectively.³ Therefore, the presence of a money changer's office is not likely.

It is difficult to understand why a private individual should store away cut and broken

¹ e.g. H. A. Parsons, 'The Dunwich Mint', *BNJ* ix (1912), pp. 119 *et seq.*

² B. E. Hildebrand, *Anglosachsiska Mynt*, 1881, p. 51, no. 440 and p. 215, no. 361.

³ G. van der Meer, 'Some corrections to and Com-

ments on B. E. Hildebrand's Catalogue of the Anglo-Saxon Coins in the Swedish Royal Cabinet', in *Anglo-Saxon Coins*, ed. Dolley, 1961, pp. 169-87. The Cnut coin is most probably of the Buckingham mint, cf. *BNJ* xxxiv (1965), p. 50.

coins with dates varying over hundreds of years. It is also not easy to envisage a local tax office accepting such items, certainly after the first few, if it became obvious that the money could not be passed on. Even if this were the case, presumably a government office would be in a position to have the coins melted down so that at least the intrinsic value could be obtained.

In the absence of a better suggestion, we are left with the possibility that the Dunwich coins are from a religious house. This view was expressed by Mr. Hancox in his 1908 paper and, despite considerable thought given to the matter, the present writer is unable to suggest a more easily acceptable solution. The view of Mr. Hancox was that these little pieces were placed in the offering box of one of the local monasteries and he names Grey Friars as being a likely place. If this assumption is correct then, in the absence of similar finds from other areas, it seems that the people of Dunwich were singularly mean towards the local religious orders and placed coins in the offering box which were not legal tender. The only full pennies in the find are Scottish and presumably they would not be readily accepted by the local business community. Alternatively, perhaps, the pennies were too light. The weights of the 1908 coins are not given in the report but the two pennies in the present parcel are both broken.

But if that is, in fact, the real cause of the gathering together of such an unusual collection of pennies and fractions, and we are unlikely ever to be certain, there remains the question why the religious house did not dispose of the coins in order to obtain the metallic value. The total face value of the coins in the two parcels is over twelve shillings, a not inconsiderable sum, and one would expect an institution such as Grey Friars to have had the connections for selling the silver.

Looking at the contents of the later parcel it would be reasonable to accept this as a hoard of Short Cross/Long Cross fractions, to which have been added a small number of other cut pieces. The explanation for the different composition of the parcel listed by Mr. Hancox is doubtless to be found in the fact that the Norman coins which he obtained from local inhabitants and added to the list were not in fact from the same find; there is no reason to exclude the possibility that the later pieces in the 1908 list were also additions from another source—their differing condition suggests this—thus making both parcels basically parts of one Short Cross/Long Cross hoard. The curious aspect is that the additions, with issue dates ranging over several hundred years, are, like the main content, all cut or broken. It is fortunate that this most interesting accumulation has been preserved and it may well be that other similar collections will be unearthed in future.

The following is a complete list of the coins handed to me:¹

LIST OF COINS

<i>Denomination/type</i>	<i>Obverse</i>	ENGLAND		<i>Weight/gr.</i>
		<i>Reverse</i>		
HENRY I				
Class II Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	EN	ON (L?)		3.2 [Pl. II, 12]

¹ I wish to place on record my thanks for the help I have received from Mrs. Clarke of Colchester, who brought the coins to my notice. Also to the Depart-

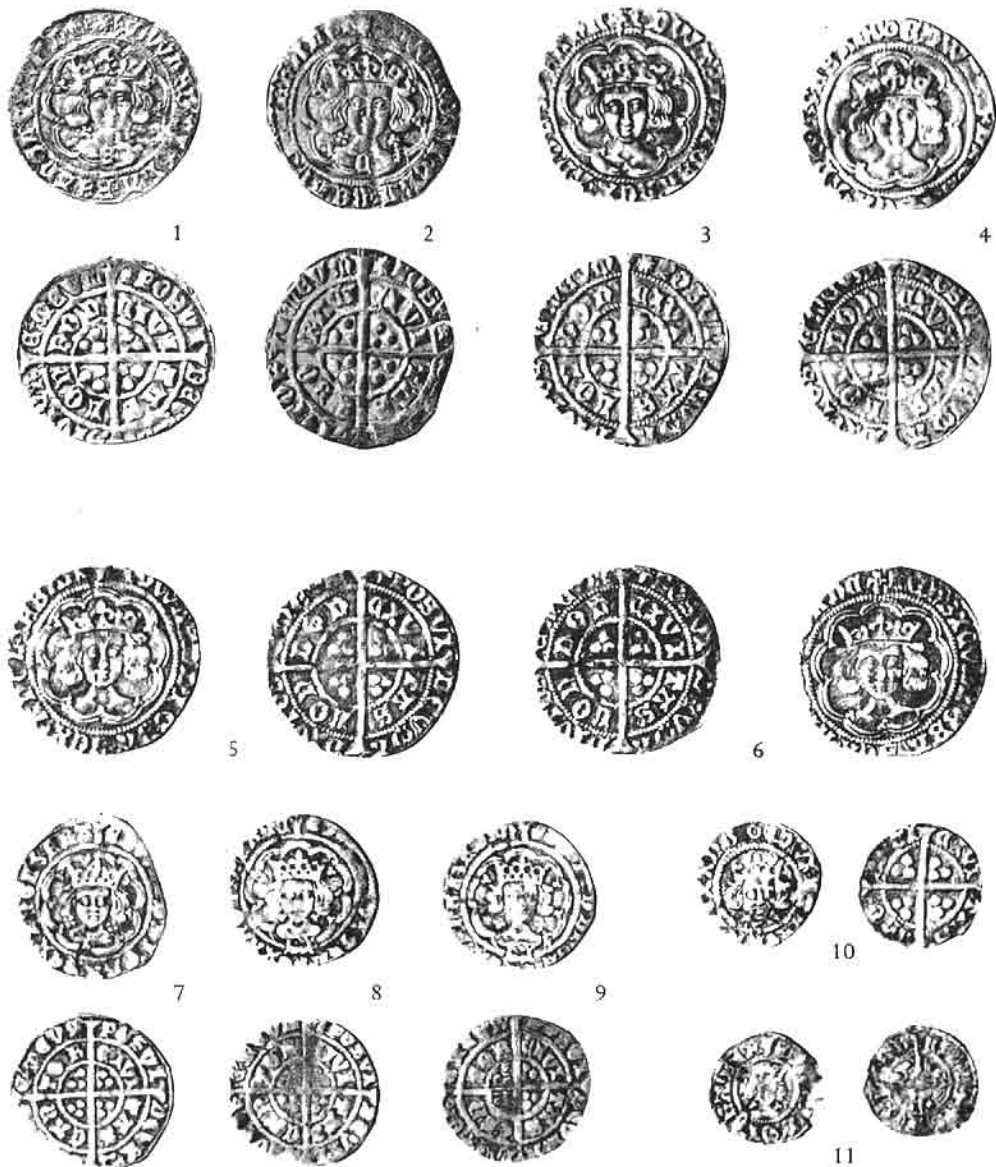
ment of Coins and Medals at the British Museum for making available photographic equipment to enable the whole find to be recorded on film.

<i>Denomination/type</i>	<i>Obverse</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>Weight/gr.</i>
HENRY II, ETC.			
'Tealby' Issue Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	Illegible	Illegible	7.7
Short Cross Class 7 Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	Illegible	ON A	9.2
Unclassified <i>Canterbury</i> Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	Illegible	+ ANTE	9.1 [Pl. II, 13]
	ENRICVS	AN:ON:C	8.8
	Illegible	ANTE	8.3
<i>London</i> Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	he EX	LV ND	11.7
	h REX	ABEL:ON	10.6
	CVS RE	ON:LVN	10.2
	ENRICVS	LVNDEN	9.4 [Pl. II, 14]
	VS REX	+RI ND	9.2
	Illegible	ED (?) ND	7.8
	CVS	:ON:L	7.7
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	Illegible	+ NDE	5.6
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	+h EX	ON:LVND	5.2
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	hENR	LVN	5.2
	+h X	+ VN	5.1
	Illegible	N:LV	4.1
<i>Norwich</i> Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	Illegible	NOR	3.8
<i>Uncertain</i> Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	hEN	Illegible	13.6
	Illegible	do.	11.5
	do.	do.	11.1
	h EX	WALTE	10.8
	ENRICVS	INC	10.1
	hENR EX	RODBER	9.8
	Illegible	Illegible	9.8
	hENRIC	+IO NIC	9.6
	NRICVS	Illegible	9.5
	Illegible	do.	9.4
	RICVS R	EME (?)	9.1
	S RE	RICAR	9.1
	RICVS R	RIC NDV (?)	8.9
	ENRI	LGE (?)	8.8
	S REX	+TV ER	8.5
	EN	DO	8.5
	Illegible	NICOL	8.5
	hEN	RE	8.3
	hEN (?)	ON:NO (?)	7.8
	Illegible	Illegible	7.4
	+h EX	do.	6.1

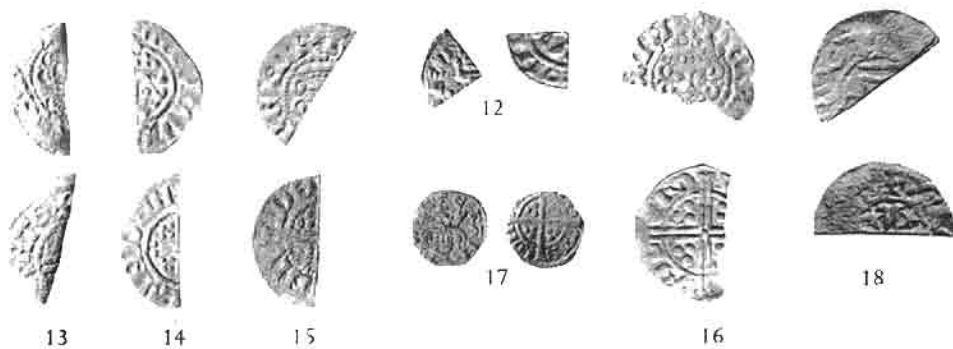
<i>Denomination/type</i>	<i>Obverse</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>Weight/gr.</i>
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	Illegible	Illegible	5.5
	ICV	LE	5.5
	hEN (?)	LE	5.4
	Illegible	ON.W	5.2
	he	X WIL	5.1
	Illegible	Illegible	5.1
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	do.	do.	5.0
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	VS R	HV	4.9
	Illegible	LVN (?)	4.8
	do.	Illegible	4.8
	RIC	CA (?)	4.6
	Illegible	ERE (?)	4.6
	do.	ERI (?)	4.3
	EX	Illegible	4.1
	Illegible	do.	4.1
	do.	do.	4.0
	do.	D	3.8
	do.	EN	3.8
	do.	Illegible	3.8
	do.	do.	3.7
	do.	DE	3.5
	do.	Illegible	2.9
HENRY III			
Long Cross			
Class III			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	Illegible	HENRLO	10.1
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	CVS	ON:L	5.6
	X II	.L	4.6
	EX II	OLE	4.4
Class IIIa			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	VS REX III	he O	9.7
Class IIIb			
London			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	+h REX III	N LVNDE	10.9 [Pl. II, 15]
	+hEN EX III	hEN NDE	10.1
	VS REX	LVN	9.4
Uncertain			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	S REX III	OLE ON L	9.7
	VS REX	NIC	8.7
	hEN	NIC	6.4
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	Illegible	ION	6.2
Class IIIc			
London			
Broken 1d	hENR X III	ON LVNDE	15.4 [Pl. II, 16]
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	HENRIC	hEN NDE	10.6
Uncertain			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	+he III	OLE ON	8.5
	III	Illegible	8.1
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	E	RIC	4.2
	Illegible	OLE	4.0

<i>Denomination/type</i>	<i>Obverse</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>Weight/gr.</i>
<i>Class V</i>			
<i>London</i>			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	VS III	RI ND	10.8
<i>Uncertain</i>			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	ICVS RE	RIC (?)	10.1
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	EN	NC	4.5
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	Illegible	Illegible	4.3
<i>Class Va or Vb</i>			
<i>London</i>			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	hE X III	N LVNDE	11.2
<i>Uncertain</i>			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	III	GILBE	8.1
<i>Class Vg (?)</i>			
<i>Uncertain</i>			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	hENR III	TERI ON	10.9
<i>Unclassified</i>			
<i>Canterbury</i>			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	ENRICVS	OLE ON C	8.2
<i>Uncertain</i>			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	Illegible	O	9.7
	ICVS REX	OLE ON	8.6
	+h III	ON	8.5
	Illegible	Illegible	8.3
	hEN	NICOLE	7.5
	Illegible	Illegible	6.3
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$	EX I	do.	6.3
	CVS R	OLE	6.0
	CVS	ON	5.9
	Illegible	Illegible	5.8
	do.	ON	5.7
	do.	RIC	5.5
	do.	ON	5.4
	do.	Illegible	5.1
	do.	do.	4.4
	do.	do.	4.4
	do.	+T	4.4
	h II	LE	4.3
	S	ON	4.0
	Illegible	D	3.7
	VS	EM	3.6
	REX	NC	3.5
	Illegible	ON	3.5
	do.	Illegible	3.1
	RIC	NC (?)	2.8
<i>Unidentified Long or Short Cross</i>			
Broken <i>1d</i>	} Illegible	} Illegible	} 9.5
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$			
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$			
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$			
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$			

<i>Denomination/type</i>	<i>Obverse</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>Weight/gr.</i>	
Long Cross forgery Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	Illegible	IC	6.6	
		EDWARD I		
<i>London</i> Round $\frac{1}{4}d$	ER ANG	CIVITAS LONDON	5.8	
Round $\frac{1}{4}d$, broken	Illegible	CIVI	5.1	
		UNIDENTIFIED 'EDWARD'		
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$, broken	HYB	CIVI	5.9	
		SCOTLAND		
		WILLIAM THE LION		
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	} Illegible	† (Henri le Rus)	9.1	[Pl. II, 18]
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$		v (Henri le Rus)	8.5	
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$		WAL (Hue Walter)	8.4	
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$		Illegible	4.2	
Cut $\frac{1}{4}$		E W (Hue Walter)	4.1	
		ALEXANDER III		
Cut $\frac{1}{2}$	Illegible do.	Illegible do.	11.1 7.2	



DELMÉ - RADCLIFFE : EDWARD IV



DUNWICH HOARD

