

REPORT ON A LARGE HOARD OF ANGLO-SAXON PENNIES, IN SILVER,
FOUND IN THE ISLAND OF ISLAY; BY W. H. SCOTT, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

“ A large hoard of Anglo-Saxon pennies was found, in 1850, on the farm of Mackrie, in the parish of Kildalton, island of Islay, of which only a small part was recovered from the finders by the Scottish Exchequer. By the kindness of the gentlemen of the Exchequer, and of my lamented friend, the late Alexander Macdonald, Esq., so long one of the curators of our Museum, I had an opportunity of cataloguing the coins thus acquired.¹

“ The coins recovered by the Exchequer comprised ninety entire pennies, a number of fragments, a fragment apparently of St Peter's penny, and a fragment of a Cufic dirhem, in addition to which the Society afterwards acquired

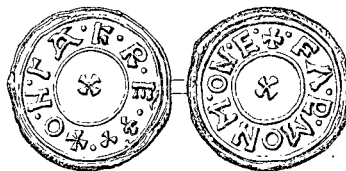
¹ The duplicate coins were distributed to the British Museum, the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and various Scottish local Museums.

two by purchase. Four lumps of silver, apparently intended for circulation, also accompanied the coins, and from what I have since learned, there is reason to believe that many more such were found. The pennies, with five exceptions, belong to the reigns of Æthelstan, Eadmund, Eadred, Eadwig, and Eadgar. Those of Eadgar are, however, by far the most numerous. The exceptions are, a penny of Anlaf, or Onlaf, of Northumbria, and four uncertain, which will be afterwards mentioned. I have incorporated in the catalogue such of the fragments as were sufficiently legible; and the legends of the whole are given, as nearly as possible, in the proper characters."

ONLAF, or ANLAF, *King of Northumbria.*

1. * O·N·T·A·F·R·E·✠ Small cross.
 R. FARMONMONE. Small cross.

Mr Lindsay gives the moneyer FARMAN, but says it more resembles FARHAN on most coins. The M is certain on this coin.



Sole Monarchs.

ÆTHELSTAN.

1. ÆDELST *retrograde*. Crowned bust. R. XΓB (ERLEENO) EO *retrograde*. Small cross. Broken. LBERTEE ON EO. I have supplied the missing letters from Ruding.

2. AN·RE·TO . . Rosette. R. O·N·L·E·L·D·
 Square formed of nine pellets. Broken.

3. TANRE ✠ TOBR. Small cross. R. Σ·MO·
 LELLE. Small cross. Broken.

4. REX·TO·BR. Small cross. R. RELN
 Small cross. Broken.

The Museum contains a coin which gives the complete legend REGNALD·
 MO·EFORWIC, though different in type.

5. ÆDELXTAN REX. Small cross. R. PITIT·MONE in two lines,
 between which three small crosses. Ruding gives the moneyer PITIL. Pro-
 bably in his coin the final T had been reversed, as so often happens on Saxon
 coins.

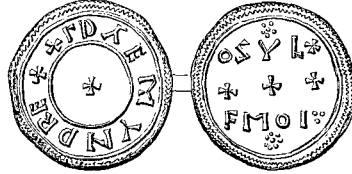
EADMUND.

1. EADMVND RE. Small cross. R. ÆLFVINEM in two lines, between which three crosses.

Lindsay gives the same name, but with the Saxon P for V.

2. FDAEMVND RE✠. Small cross.
R. OXVL FMOI in two lines, between which three crosses.

3. EADM Crowned head.
R. TI · MON. Cross potency. A quarter.



The type is of considerable rarity, but this fragment is of no importance from the state of the legend.

EADRED.

1. EADRED REX. Diademed head to right. R. MANIA MONETV ✠
Small cross.

2. Same legend. Small cross. R. OLEN VNRI in two lines, between which three crosses. The legend is retrograde. Beginning below, this reads VNRI OLEN.

3. Same obverse. R. PVLFLAREX MOT. Same type. This coin was acquired by purchase for the Museum.

4. EADRE Same type. R. HV · RE · (HVNRED) in two lines, as above. Broken.

5. Same obverse. R. BOL E (BOGAES · MONE) as above. Half coin.

EADWIG.

1. EADWIG REX. Small cross. R. ÆXEVLF · MO in two lines, between which three crosses.

2. EADWIG REXI. Same type. R. HERIGERMO. Same type.

EADGAR.

Types. A. Diademed bust to right. R. Cross, between four small crosses.

B. Bust. R. Small cross.

C. Small cross on both sides.

D. Small cross. R. Name in two lines, between which, 1. OL ✠ EO

2. OT ✠ EO 3. O ✠ O 4. ✠ ✠ ✠

Type. E. Rosette on both sides. F. Rosette. R. Name in two lines, between which three rosettes.

Obverse legends.—EADLAR *a* RE *b* REA *c* REI *d* REX *e* REXI
f REXĪ *g* REXĪ *h* REXANLLOR *i* REXÐ *k* RE✠ *l* RE✠I
m RE✠TI *n* RX *o* VADEARRE.

There are numerous varieties of these legends, with crescents, pellets, &c., which it would be difficult and useless to detail exactly. In the case of the types D, 1 and 2, I repeat the letters LE and TE, as will be seen below.

Where the commencing cross, which I have omitted, is used also to complete the word REX, I have given the legend RE simply.

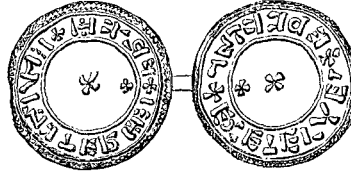
Type. Legend.

1. D 4 *k* · ADELAVER MO · Several specimens.
2. D 4 *d* ADLV · N HIO ·
- 2.* B *k* ÆLFNĪL · MONETA · BE
3. D 1 . ÆLFNĪL · M · LE
4. D 3 *a* ÆLFNĪL · MO
5. D 3 *a* ÆLFNĪL · MON
6. D 1 . ÆLFNTAN · M · LE
7. A *k* ÆÐERED · MO · LOND · EIFITA ·
8. C *c* ASFERD · MON ·
9. D 4 *k* BIORIT · · · ·
10. D 4 *k* BOILA · N · MOT. The same as BOGAES · Eadred, No. 4, and BOLA · MONE · LE in Mr Sainthill's *Olla Podrida*, p. 106.
11. D 4 *k* BRLL · · · Ruding has BRITFER. Lindsay gives BRTLER, which corresponds to this coin.
12. D 4 *k* LAPELI · MO. The coin is slightly oxidised at the commencement of the legend, and I cannot be certain whether the first letter is L, E, or G. I think it is L. The other letters are quite clear.
13. D 4 *k* EOPMAN · M. Lindsay gives a coin with LOWMAN, which is probably a blunder of the engraver for EOPMAN as here, and in Ruding. There is a dash after the P here, which would seem to make the name CORMAN?
14. D 1 *a* DEORVLAF · M · LE
15. D 2 *a* DEORVLF · MO · TE
16. D 1 *o* DREDLAF · M · LE *retrograde*.
17. C *m* DVDEMVNŌETHI · (DVDE MONETA ·)

		Type. Legend.	
18.	C	<i>k</i>	DVRAND MONE
19.	C	<i>d</i>	DVRAND MONE. In field three pellets, besides the usual cross.
20.	D 4	.	DVRAND M ·
21.	D 1	<i>a</i>	DVRMOD · LE
22.	D 4	<i>k</i>	EANVLF · MO
23.	E	<i>k</i>	EOFERARD MOT
24.	D 2	<i>a</i>	EOFRLE · MO · TE
25.	D 1	<i>a</i>	EOLOÐ · M · LE
26.	D 1	<i>a</i>	EOROD · M · LE
27.	D 4	<i>a</i>	FARMA · MO
28.	C	<i>k</i>	FAXTOLF ✠ MON. Several specimens, mostly broken.
29.	C	<i>k</i>	FAXTOLF MOI. One whole, one broken.
30.	C	<i>i</i>	FAXTOL · · · · Broken.
31.	D 1	<i>a</i>	FROÐRIE · M · LE
32.	E	<i>k</i>	GILYX · MONET
33.	D 4	<i>k</i>	GRID · MONE. Five specimens.
34.	C	<i>h</i>	GRIM · MONETA · BEDAFO. This has an additional small cross in field.
35.	D 1	<i>a</i>	GYLLIX · LE
36.	D 4	<i>k · f</i>	HERILER · MO. Four specimens.
37.	C	<i>e</i>	HEROLFMONET ·
38.	C	<i>l</i>	HEROLF ✠ EXMOT
39.	D 4	<i>k</i>	INLOLF MO
40.	D 4	<i>k</i>	INLOLF MV
41.	D 4	<i>d</i>	INLOL ✠ FIR?
42.	D 4	<i>k</i>	IVE · MONET. Two specimens.
43.	C	<i>d</i>	LEOFI · · · · MON. Broken. Lindsay gives LEO-FINCES.
44.	D 2	<i>a</i>	LEOFVVIN · TE
45.	D 4	<i>k</i>	LEVLL · MOT
46.	D 4	<i>a</i>	MALVS · MOT
47.	D 1	<i>b</i>	MAN · MON · LE
48.	D 4	<i>n</i>	MAN · MON. Broken.
49.	D 4	<i>a · d · k</i>	MANAN · MO. Four specimens.
49.*	F	<i>a</i>	MANIN · MO. This coin, belonging to the same hoard, was acquired by purchase for the Museum.
50.	D 4	<i>e</i>	MANOLET · M

Type. Legend.

51. D 3 *d* MARGER MO
 52. D 1 *k* MARTIN · LE
 53. D 1 *a* MELSVÐA · M · LE. Ruding reads MELSVTHAN, but
 MELSVTHA · M is, I think, preferable.
 54. D 2 *a* MONNA · M · TE
 55. D 4 *k* MORLNR · M. Ruding reads MORLNP. There is a stroke
 after the P, which seems to make it R.
 56. D 4 *k* MVNDEI · MO
 57. C *g* OXVVALD · MONH
 58. D 1 *a* TEODIE · MO · LE
 59. D 1 *a* ÐVRMOD · LE
 60. D 3 · 4 *a* ÐVRMOD. Two specimens.
 61. D 4 *k* VNBEI? MO. Ruding gives VNBEIN, a specimen of
 which was previously in the Museum. This I think dif-
 ferent.
 62. D 4 *k* PINEMR · MO. Ruding reads WINENR, and either reading
 will do, from the indeterminate forms of the N, M, or H,
 on the Saxon coins.
 63. D 4 *a* VVLF · · · · Broken.
 64. B *a* · · · · ETAMI · · ·
 (· · · MONETA ·
 MI). Broken.



“ There were numerous fragments of no importance, from the small number of letters remaining. The names Heriger, Fastolf, Thurmod? and Adelaver, are traceable upon some. One had SVII and a cross, in each quarter of which a large pellet. R. indistinct, but apparently of the sword type. This, I believe, is a fragment of a St Peter’s penny. There was also a fragment of a Cufic coin in very bad preservation. Among the uncertain there were four pennies, two of which are large and thin, with the usual types, a small cross on both sides, and unintelligible legends, which do not admit of being expressed without engravings ;¹ the third much resembles in style the coins of Eadgar, but reads EFLANLEAMT. R. BERNART. Type D 4 of Eadgar. Lelewel has already described a very similar coin from the plates of Sir Andrew Fountaine, but which reads EFLANLERHT. In pursuance of Lelewel’s principle of enigmatic legends, he finds in this the words ‘ Atelstan Rex Angl.’ This,

¹ The engraving above gives a faithful representation of the best preserved of these coins. It appears to begin ETHETELA EX, and may possibly be of Ethelstan.

I think, hardly needs refutation, but it is sufficient to draw attention to the more correct reading furnished by the present coin.¹ The fourth is very rude; it is of Eadgar's type *c*, but without inner circle on obverse, and reads apparently EX ✠ TYMO . . . R. AN · TĒFO so far as it can be read. The Cufic fragment was in very bad preservation. I could decipher upon it only the word lillah! "(praise be) to God," or (power and glory 'are) to God; a word which occupies the upper line of the reverse on most Cufic coins, particularly the provincial, after the third century of the Hegira. From the rude form and appearance of the characters, it is not improbable that the coin was one of the Samani princes. Marsden (*Numismata Orientalia*, vol. i., p. 80) mentions the discovery of Samanide coins in England, in company with Anglo-Saxon pennies, St Peter's pence, and various ornaments and masses of silver. Several Cufic dirhems, not, however, provincial, so far as I remember, were found in the famous Cuerdale hoard. It is not known whether any ornaments of silver were found in the present hoard, as probably only a small part of it has been recovered; but there were received, along with this part, four masses of silver, two of irregular form, weighing 5 and 2½ dwts., and two small square bars, which had apparently formed part of a longer one, weighing respectively 4 and 3 dwts. These, along with many of the coins described in the catalogue, have, by the liberality of the Officers of the Exchequer, been placed in the Museum of the Scottish Antiquaries.

The mints on these coins are but few, and offer little worthy of remark.

Athelstan, No. 1.—EO is of York, 2 and 3 of Chester, I suppose.

Eadred.—It is possible that No. 1 may belong to Exeter, as Mr Sainthill has given coins, certainly of Exeter, on which the name is represented by + only. I do not, however, think it probable.

No. 2. LEN. Mr Lindsay (*Coins of the Heptarchy*, Pl. 4, 112) reads LENCOIA, with the Greek Λ, on a coin, which he classes to Lincoln. If this reading be correct, this coin might also belong to Lincoln. Hildebrand (*Svenska mynt*) gives a coin of Cnut, reading LENA, but he thinks it a mere imitation of the coins of Chester. It is not impossible that this coin may read LEH, but it is not among those in the Scottish Museum, and I cannot decide.

Eadgar.—LE and TE are, I suppose, Chester, or Leicester, and Thetford. BE and BEDAFO are the same, Bedford.

The only remaining mint is that of Eadgar, No. 7. LOND · EIFITA
Ruding has engraved a coin with LOND · EIF ·

¹ A high authority on the Anglo-Saxon coinage has suggested that this legend may be an attempt at ESTANGLIA. I think, however, the second letter is L, reversed in the same way as the third, T.

“Among the moneys several will be seen to be new, and a few, to correct misreadings in Ruding, &c. No. 57 is curious, as it might be supposed to furnish another example of the use of Greek letters on Anglo-Saxon coins. Mr Lindsay has engraved a coin, already referred to, where the Greek Λ appears used for λ , and in this coin η appears used for ϵ .

“I have drawn up this catalogue with as much care as possible, but errors may still remain, for which I must beg indulgence, as I have had few opportunities hitherto for practical experience of the Anglo-Saxon coinage.”