

NOTICE OF A HOARD OF BROKEN SILVER ORNAMENTS AND ANGLO-SAXON AND ORIENTAL COINS FOUND IN SKYE. BY A. B. RICHARDSON, CURATOR OF COINS.

[On 7th January 1891, Mr Reginald Macleod, the Queen's Remembrancer, sent to the Museum two silver coins which had been found on the shore near the Storr Rock, about eight miles from Portree, in the Isle of Skye, requesting Dr Anderson to inform him what the coins were, and whether they were wanted for the National Museum. Dr Anderson immediately replied, stating that the coins were Cufic, of the Samanide Caliphs, dating about the commencement of the tenth century, and that they were wanted for the National Museum. At the same time he pointed out the important fact that when these Cufic coins are found in this country or in Scandinavia they are usually associated with hoards of the Viking time, consisting of coins, ingots, and personal ornaments of silver, and that in the last instance of their occurrence in Scotland (*Skaill Treasure Trove*, Orkney, 15th April 1858) they were accompanied by 16 lbs. weight of bullion, largely made up of personal ornaments, such as armlets and massive brooches of silver. He therefore suggested that it should be ascertained whether the exact spot in which the two coins were found could be identified, in case there might be other portions of a similar hoard still to be discovered. Accordingly, on the 20th January, the Queen's Remembrancer informed Dr Anderson that the result of a search conducted by the assistant to the Procurator-Fiscal in the spot where the two coins were found had been the discovery of a hoard consisting of 106 coins and 23 pieces of silver. The bullion consists of 1 neck-ring wanting the ends, 1 terminal portion of a penannular brooch with a row of double-punched ornaments along each margin of one side, and four small circular punched ornaments in the field of the same side, 1 terminal portion of a penannular brooch of Celtic form ornamented with interlaced work, 1 portion of a flat penannular bracelet with a double row of marks by a circular punch, 1 portion of a thin flat band (probably a bracelet) ornamented with four rows of punch-marks with four dots in the field,

3 portions of hammered silver, and 15 portions of ingots cut into short lengths. The hoard has been retained for the National Museum.]

In January last the hoard of Anglo-Saxon and Oriental coins found in Skye was handed to me for examination, the number being 90 coins and 2 fragments of the former and 18 coins of the latter series.

THE ANGLO-SAXON COINS.

The Anglo-Saxon coins, all pennies, consist of :—

Eadweard the Elder,	A.D. 901-925,	31 coins, 1 fragment.
Athelstan,	„ 925-941,	56 „ 1 „
Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury,	„ 891-923,	1 „
Sitric of Northumbria,	„ 914-926,	1 „
Similar type, uncertain attribution,		1 „
Total,		<u>90 coins, 2 fragments.</u>

Of the coins of Eadweard the Elder, 28 are similar to Rud. xvi. 7 and xvii. 29, having on the obverse the king's name and title round the margin, with a small cross in the centre. The reverse has the moneyers' names in two lines divided by three small crosses, with pellets or crosses above and below. There are three coins with a similar obverse, but having a building on the reverse, as Rud. xvi. 18, with the moneyers Eadmund and Walter. These three are of considerable rarity. The fragment has on the obverse the king's head to right, the legend being retrograde, and the moneyer's name in two lines on the reverse, as Rud. xvi. 5. The majority of the coins of this reign are in a good state of preservation, the average weight being nearly 24 grains.

Æthelstan.

The coins of this king consist of five different types, namely :—

1. Bust of king, crowned, to right. Reverse, moneyer's name and mint round margin, small cross in centre. Of this type there are 5 coins—1 of Canterbury, 1 of Oxford, and 3 of London.

2. Obverse, king's name and title round margin, small cross in centre.

Reverse, moneyer's name in two lines, divided by three small crosses. There are 21 coins and 1 fragment of this type—Nos. 6–25, 55, and 56 of my list.

3. Similar obverse. Reverse, a building. There are three coins of this type, all varieties with the moneyer name, Paltsig.

4. Same obverse. On all the coins of this and the following type the king is styled, in a more or less abbreviated form, "Rex totius Britanniae," with the exception of a coin of Canterbury (No. 47), on which he is styled "Rex Saxorum." The reverse has the moneyer's name and mint round the margin, small cross in centre. There are 22 coins of this type, of the following mints :—

Canterbury,	2	Wareham,	1
Chester,	1	Winchester,	1
Luner (?),	1	York,	12
Oxford,	1	Uncertain,	1
Shrewsbury,	1		—
Wardborough,	1		22

The most important piece in the above series is that of Wardborough (fig. 1), a hitherto unpublished mint. The discovery of this coin in the hoard is most interesting, as its identification was rendered certain by the occurrence also of coins of Oxford.

Wardborough is situated in Oxfordshire, three and a half miles north of Wallingford (also an important Anglo-Saxon mint), and the exact date of its foundation by Æthelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great, and wife of Æthelbert of Mercia, is known to us from the

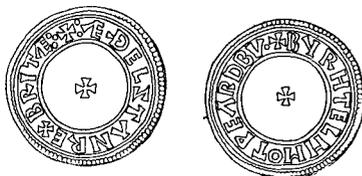


Fig. 1. Penny of Athelstan, Wardborough Mint.

Saxon chronicle. This took place in A.D. 915, and the following is a translation of the account as given in the chronicle :—"A.D. 913. In this year, by the help of God, Æthelfled, Lady of the Mercians, went with all the Mercians to Tamworth and there built the burh early in the summer, and after this, before Lammas, that at Stafford. Then after this, the next year (A.D. 914), that at Eadesbyrig (Eddesbury, Cheshire),

early in the summer ; and afterwards, in the same year, late in harvest, at Warwic. Then after this, in the next year (A.D. 915), after mid-winter, that at Cyric-byrig (Cherbury, Salop), and that at Weard-byrig (Wardborough), and that same year before mid-winter that at Rumcofa (Runcorn).”

5. This type is similar to the preceding, except that there is a rosette of points in the centre on both sides in place of the small cross. One coin, however (No. 57), has the cross on the obverse and the rosette on the reverse. There are five coins of this type, all of the York mint.

The coins of Æthelstan are in a similar state of preservation to those of Eadweard, but are somewhat lighter, their average weight being about 23 grains.

Plegmund.

Plegmund was the last of the archbishops who struck money with their own name and portrait, this privilege having been withdrawn by Æthelstan about 924. The one coin in the present find is as Rud. XIII. 3, on which he is styled “Plegmund Archiep.,” small cross in centre ; reverse, moneyer’s name in two lines divided by crosses.

Sitric of Northumbria.

This is a very rare and, as far as I know, an unpublished variety of this King. The legend on the obverse, divided by a sword pointing to the right, reads I T R R R E. The reverse has the moneyer’s name, a hammer in centre, with a pellet on the handle and head. In his paper on the Northumbrian coins, *N.C.N.S.*, vol. ix., Mr Rashleigh figures on Plate II. (No. 19) a similar obverse to this coin, but both the sword and legend are somewhat different, the sword on this piece having no pellet on the blade, but a line down the centre.

The last coin of this series is of uncertain attribution ; the obverse is of a somewhat similar type to the preceding coin of Sitric, but the legend is unintelligible, and may be possibly a blundered coin of St Peter. The sword which divides the legend is similar to Sitric’s, but points to the left. The reverse has the moneyer ✠ Mana Mot, with a slender hammer filling most of the field.

A E T H E L S T A N .

LIST OF MINTS AND MONEYERS.

Canterbury,	.	.	.	Elfric,	Type 1,	No. 2
"	.	.	.	Megenredei,	" 4,	" 47
"	.	.	.	Torhtelm,	" 4,	" 32
Chester,	.	.	.	Abba,	" 4,	" 35
"	.	.	.	Cenawa,	" 5,	" 57
"	.	.	.	Cnawa,	" 5,	" 49
"	.	.	.	Eadmund,	" 5,	" 50
"	.	.	.	Oslac,	" 5,	" 51
"	.	.	.	Vvlfstan,	" 5,	" 52
London,	.	.	.	Grimwald,	" 1,	" 4
"	.	.	.	Liofhelm,	" 1,	" 3
"	.	.	.	Mann,	" 1,	" 5
"	.	.	.	Pultsig,	" 3,	" 26/28
Luner (?),	.	.	.	Eie,	" 4,	" 46
Oxford,	.	.	.	Regenwald,	" 4,	" 33
"	.	.	.	Vvynelm,	" 1,	" 1
Shrewsbury,	.	.	.	Eofrbmund,	" 4,	" 29
Wardborough,	.	.	.	Burhtelm,	" 4,	" 34
Wareham,	.	.	.	Vvvsige,	" 4,	" 48
Winchester,	.	.	.	Athulf,	" 4,	" 30
York,	.	.	.	Regnald,	" 4,	" 36/45
"	.	.	.	Regnald,	" 5,	" 53/54
Uncertain,	" 4,	" 31

LIST OF MONEYERS' NAMES WITHOUT MINTS.

All Type 2.

Abonel,	.	.	No. 18	Genbreht,	.	.	No. 7
Aethelvlf,	.	.	" 9	Gota,	.	.	" 16
Alfeav,	.	.	" 24	Gunneri,	.	.	" 25
Berngar,	.	.	" 14	Guntere,	.	.	" 55
Biorhtwald,	.	.	" 6	Mannfa,	.	.	" 17
Burhelm,	.	.	" 19	Manna,	.	.	" 22
Cistenar,	.	.	" 12	Pinele,	.	.	" 15
Domences,	.	.	" 13	Vvealdhelm,	.	.	" 20
Eadgild,	.	.	" 21	Vvilluf,	.	.	" 10
Ethelfreth,	.	.	" 23	Vvlfear,	.	.	" 11
Fulrad,	.	.	" 8	Fragment—Iorn	.	.	" 56

With moneyers' names and mints, . . . 35 coins.
 With moneyers' names only, . . . 21 ,, and 1 fragment.

AETHELSTAN, 925-941.

No.	Obverse.	Reverse.	Wt. in Grs.
		<i>Small Cross.</i>	
1	ÆDELSTAN REX <i>Bust to right, crowned.</i>	VVYNELM · M · O · OX · VRBIS Oxford. A pellet opposite each limb of cross near inner circle. Type, Rud. 17, n. 8.	24
2	"	ÆLFRIE M · O · DOR · CIVI Canterbury. Small cross only. Type, Rud. 17, n. 8.	20·2
3	"	LIOFHLELM MO LOND CI London. "	25
4	"	GRIMPALD MO LOND CI " "	24·5
5	"	MAN MO LVND CIVIT " "	24·5
		<i>Moneyer's name in two lines, divided by three Crosses. Rud. 17, n. 13.</i>	
6	ÆDELSTAN REX <i>Small Cross.</i>	BIORHTPÅLD MŌ	24·5
7	"	GENBREHT MO	23·7
8	"	FVLRAD MŌ	22·2
9	"	ÆDEL · VLF MŌ	24·2
10	"	VVILLVFM	24
11	"	VVILFEARNO	25·5
12	Ō	CIZFEMER	23·5
13	Æ	DOMENCESMŌ	24
14	"	BERNGARMŌ	20·2
15	ÆDEL · STAN REX	PINLEMO	24·7
16	"	GOTAMONE	23·5
17	ÆDEL · STAN REX	MANNFAMONET	19·5
18	ÆDELNTAN REX	LABONELMO No pellets above or below moneyer's name.	20

19	✠ EÐELSTĀN REX	.	.	BVEHELM MOTE	Three pellets above, none below moneyer's name,	23-2
20	"	"	"	VVEĀLDHELM MO	Three pellets above and one below, as Rud. 17, n. 16,	21 25
21	"	"	"	EĀDGILD MŌ	Cross above and 3 pellets below,	20
22	"	"	"	ΛHĀMĀTIIHOM	Three pellets above and 3 in wedges below,	22-7
23	"	"	"	EÐELFREÐ MŌ	Cross above, O below,	18-5
24	"	"	"	ALFEAVMON	"	25-5
25	✠ IERNĀTZJEÐ	✠	"The star Reix,"	GYNNERL	Three pellets above and below,	
<i>Small Cross.</i>						
26	✠ ĀEDLSTĀN REX	∴	3 pellets in field,	PVLTSIG		24
27	"	"	2 pellets and crescent in field,	OL	Var. Rud. 30, n. 22,	
28	"	"	no ornaments in field,	PVLTSIG L O	" " " " " "	22-5 21
<i>Small Cross.</i>						
29	EÐISTĀNREX TOT BRIT	.	.	✠ ECFREMYND SCOB	Shrewsbury,	20
30	✠ EÐELSTĀN REX TOT · BRI	.	.	✠ AÐVLEMOVVIN · CIVITATIS	Small cross in field. Winchester,	25-2
31	✠ EÐEL · STĀN REOÞL	.	.	✠ VTSIHOEVV + OVE	" " " " " "	...
32	✠ EÐELSTĀN REX TO BRIT	.	.	✠ TORETELMMŌ · DOR · CIVIT	Canterbury. Type, Rud. 18, n. 23,	20
33	✠ E " "	.	.	✠ REGENPALD MO OX VRBIS	Oxford, " "	18 22

AETHELSTAN, 925-941—continued.

No.	Obverse.	Reverse.	Wt. in Grs.
34	✠ : EDELSTAN REX BRITE.	✠ BVRHTELM MOT PEARDBV. Wardborough, Type, Rud. 18, n. 23,	25
35	EDELSTAN RETO BRLE	✠ ÁBBÁ MOINLEGEĪF; Chester,	25.5
36	✠ E · DELSTAN REX TSBRIT	✠ RECN · Á · J · D · Mō · EFORPIC York,	20
37	✠ EDELSTAN REX TO BRIT	✠ RELNĀ · J · D · Mō · EFORPI · C York,	24.5
38	" "	✠ RECNĀ — J · D · Mō · EFORPK York,	23
39	" "	✠ RECNĀ · J · D · Mō · EFORPIC; York,	24.2
40	" 3 pellets in field, BRIT Bar in field,	✠ RELNĀ · J · D · Mō · EFORPIC Bar in field. York, Type, Rud. 18, n. 23,	23.5
41	BRIT	✠ RECNĀ · J · D · Mō · EFORPIC York, Type, Rud. 18, n. 28,	23.6
42	Ornament of crescent and stars in field,	✠ RECNĀ · J · D · Mō · EFORPIC York,	23.3
43	" "	✠ RECNĀ · J · D · Mō · EFORPIC York,	24.5
44	" "	✠ RECNĀ · J · D · Mō · EFORPIC York,	22.2
45	" "	✠ RECNĀ · J · D · Mō · EFORPIC York,	24.2
46	EÐIS · I · TĀNT ✠ TOTBRIT No ornaments in field,	✠ EIE MONETA LVNER. A pellet in the field. Type, Rud. 18, n. 23,	23

47	✠ EDEISTÄHRESÄXORVH	✠ MELENREDEI MOON DEORI Canterbury, Type, Rud. 18, n. 21,	24
48	Blundered legend— ✠ TIVIEREYVOMSVVEI	✠ VVZILE MOVVERET Nysige on Wareham, " 18, n. 23,	22·2
	<i>Rosette of Points.</i>	<i>Rosette of Points.</i>	
49	EÐELSTÄN REX TO BRI	ENÄPÄ M-ONJELE Chester. Type, Rud. 18, n. 26,	25
50	✠ EÐELSTÄN REX TO BR	✠ EADMVND MON LELEL Chester, . . . "	25·5
51	✠ EÐELSTÄN REX TO BR	✠ OZLÄL MON LELEL Chester, . . . "	24
52	" "	✠ VVLF8 TÄNMÖLELLE Chester, . . . "	23·5
	<i>Small Cross with a pellet in each angle.</i>	<i>Small Cross.</i>	
53	✠ EÐELSTÄN REX TO BRIT Small cross.	✠ RELNÄ . . . LDMÖFORPIC York., Cross with a pellet in each angle. 27,	24
54	✠ EÐELSTÄN REX TO BRIT Small cross.	✠ RELNÄLD MÖ EFORPIC York., Moneyer's name in two lines. "	24
55	✠ EÐELSTÄN REX (in three pieces),	LVNTERE MÖ Rud. 17, n. 13,	18·3
56	✠ E ÄN REX (fragment),	IORN ✠✠ Mö "	
	<i>Cross in centre.</i>	<i>Rosette of Points.</i>	
57	✠ EÐELSTÄN REX TO BR	✠ LENÄPÄ MON LELELF Chester Type, Rud. 18, n. 25,	24·5

PLEGMUND ABP., 891-923.

No.	Obverse.	Reverse.	Wt. in G.s.
1	<p>✠ PLEGMVND ARLEIP</p> <p>UNCERTAIN.</p> <p>° EDI I A</p> <p>IMED</p> <p>✠ ITR RDL.</p>	<p>EILMY. ✠✠✠ NDMO.</p> <p>Obv. Rud. 133 Rev. " 132</p> <p>✠ MANAMO.T. T in centre,</p>	26.5
SITRIC OF NORTHUMBRIA, 914-926.		<p>✠ IIEVICRIMOT ↑ in centre</p>	16.5
			21.7

THE ORIENTAL COINS.

I am indebted to Mr Grueber, of the British Museum, for the following information.

These coins all belong, with one exception, to the Sámánee series, and bear upon them the usual inscriptions, giving the name of the ruler, the place of mintage with the date of issue, and the formulæ from the Koran :—

ISMAEEL IBN AHMAD, A.H. 279–295 ; A.D. 892–907.

1. Samarkand, A.H. 282.
2. " " 286.
3. " " 286.
4. Esh-Shash, " 286.
5. " " 292.

AHMAD IBN ISMAEEL, A.H. 295–301 = A.D. 907–913.

6. Esh-Shash, " 297.
7. " " 298.
8. Samarkand, " 300.
9. Esh-Shash, date illegible.

NASR II. IBN AHMAD, A.H. 301–331 = A.D. 913–942.

10. Esh-Shash, A.H. 309.
11. Samarkand, " 310.
12. Esh-Shash, " 318.
13. " " 319.
14. Samarkand, " 319.
15. Esh-Shash, " 320.
16. " " date broken off.
17. Name, mint, and date illegible.
18. Abbásee, name, &c., illegible.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COINS.

ISMAEEL IBN AHMAD,

A.H. 279-295 = A.D. 892-907.

No. 1.

Samarkand, A.H. 282.

Obverse area.

لا اله الا الله
 الله وحده
 لا شريك له

There is no God but
 God: he is alone:
 he has no companion.

Margin (inner).

بسم الله ضرب هذا الدرهم بسمرقند
 سنة اثنين وثمانين ومائتين

In the name of God, this dirhem was struck at Samarkand in the year two hundred and eighty-two.

Margin (outer).

لله الامر من قبل و من بعد ويومئذ
 يفرح المؤمنون بنصر الله

To God is the power in the past and in the future, and in that day the believers rejoice in the help of God.

Reverse area.

الله To God

محمد Mohammad

رسول is the messenger

الله of God.

المعتضد بالله El-Moatedid Billah

اسماعيل Ismaeel.

محمد رسول الله ارسله بالهدى و دين الحق ليظهره
 على الدين كله و لو كره المشركون

Mohammad is the messenger of God: He hath sent him with the direction and true religion; that he may cause it to triumph over all other (religions): although the idolators be averse.

No. 2. Samarkand, A.H. 286.

Obverse as No. 1.

بِسْمِ رَبِّكَ وَسِتِّ وَثَمَانِينَ وَمِائَتَيْنِ

At Samarkand in the year two hundred and eighty-six.

Reverse area.

الله To God

محمد Mohammad

رسول is the messenger.

المعتضد بالله El-Moatedid Billah

اسماعيل بن احمد Ismaeel ben Ahmad.

No. 3. Same as No. 2.

No. 4. Same as No. 2. Esh-Shásh, A.H. 286.

بِأَشَاشِ سِنَةِ سِتِّ وَثَمَانِينَ وَمِائَتَيْنِ

At Esh-Shásh in the year two hundred and eighty-six.

No. 5. Same as No. 2. Esh-Shásh, A.H. 292.

بِأَشَاشِ سِنَةِ ثَمَانِينَ وَتِسْعِينَ وَمِائَتَيْنِ

At Esh-Shásh in the year two hundred and ninety-two.

AHMAD IBN ISMAEEL,

A.H. 295-301 = A.D. 907-913.

No. 6. Esh-Shásh, A.H. 297.

بِأَشَاشِ سِنَةِ سَبْعِ وَتِسْعِينَ وَمِائَتَيْنِ

At Esh-Shásh in the year two hundred and ninety-seven.

Obverse as No. 1.

Reverse area.

الله To God

محمد Mohammad

رسول الله is the messenger of God.

المكتفي بالله El-Muktekfy Billah

احمد بن اسماعيل Ahmad ben Ismaeel.

No. 6*. As No. 6. Esh-Shash, A.H. 295.

بِأَشَاشِ سِنَةِ ثَمَانِ وَتِسْعِينَ وَمِائَتَيْنِ

At Esh-Shash in the year two hundred and ninety-eight.

No. 7. As No. 6. Samarkand, A.H. 300.

بِسْمَرْقَنْدِ سَنَةِ ثَلَاثِ مِائَةٍ

At Samarkand in the year three hundred.

No. 8. As No. 6. Esh-Shásh, date illegible.

بِالشَّاشِ

At Esh-Shásh

NASR. II. IBN AHMAD,

A.H. 301-331 = A.D. 913-942.

No. 9. Esh-Shásh, A.H. 309.

بِالشَّاشِ سَنَةِ تِسْعِ وَثَلَاثِمِائَةٍ

At Esh-Shásh in the year three hundred and nine.

Obverse as No. 1.

Reverse area.

لِلَّهِ To God

مُحَمَّدٍ Mohammad

رَسُولِ اللَّهِ is the messenger of God.

الْمُقْتَدِرِ بِاللَّهِ El-Muktedir Billah

نَصْرِ بْنِ أَحْمَدٍ Nasr ben Ahmad.

No. 10. Same as No. 9. Samarkand, A.H. 310.

بِسْمَرْقَنْدِ سَنَةِ عِشْرَةِ ثَلَاثِمِائَةٍ

At Samarkand in the year three hundred and ten.

No. 11. Same as No. 9. Esh-Shásh, A.H. 318.

بِالشَّاشِ سَنَةِ ثَمَانِ عَشْرَةٍ وَثَلَاثِمِائَةٍ

At Esh-Shásh in the year three hundred and eighteen.

No. 12. Same as No. 9. Esh-Shásh, A.H. 319.

بِالشَّاشِ سَنَةِ تِسْعِ عَشْرَةٍ وَثَلَاثِمِائَةٍ

At Esh-Shásh in the year three hundred and nineteen.

No. 13. Same as No. 9. Samarkand, A.H. 319.

بِسْمَرْقَنْدِ سَنَةِ تِسْعِ عَشْرَةٍ وَثَلَاثِمِائَةٍ

At Samarkand in the year three hundred and nineteen.

No. 14. Same as No. 9. Mint broken off, A.H. 320.

سَنَةِ عِشْرِينَ وَثَلَاثِمِائَةٍ

In the year three hundred and twenty.

No. 15. Same as No. 9. Esh-Shásh. Date broken off.

بِالشَّاشِ

At Esh-Shásh.