

SOME HOARD EVIDENCE FROM A NINETEENTH-CENTURY COLLECTION

By PETER SPUFFORD

ON 31 March 1891 in a train near Oxford, the Rev. Samuel Savage Lewis, Fellow and Librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, died unexpectedly at the age of fifty-five. He left a widow, Agnes Smith Lewis, who wrote his biography in 1892, but no children, so he bequeathed his collections of coins, gems, seals, vases, and archaeological books to his college. These collections remain in the college to this day, but, despite their richness, have been comparatively little used by succeeding generations of scholars. The gems and rings were catalogued by Professor J. H. Middleton in 1892 and some of the more spectacular Greek vases are well known, but the coins have remained almost untouched until recently—apart from very occasional references, as, for example, by G. C. Brooke when preparing the British Museum *Catalogue of the Coins of the Norman Kings*. The college has, however, now commissioned a number of scholars to catalogue the collection of coins. The Rev. H. St. J. Hart, of Queens' College, is working on the Greek coins, by far the most important part of the collection, which are planned to appear as a fascicule of the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum*, Mr. Michael Lewis, of Corpus Christi College, is working on the Roman coins, and I have catalogued the medieval pieces.¹

S. S. Lewis was an indefatigable traveller and his frequent journeys ranged from Ireland to the Levant. In his travels he never missed an opportunity of acquiring the antiquities which he so much loved and which made of his rooms in Corpus a veritable museum, which was legendary in his lifetime, even if somewhat neglected after his death. He was able to collect most widely whilst a bachelor don, in the years between his election to a Fellowship at Corpus in 1869 and his marriage in 1887. The medieval coins were bought at the auctions of Sotheby and Wilkinson or Rollin and Feuardent, as well as from dealers such as Lincoln or Hoffman, and from private individuals. Among his medieval coins there are a number of English pieces, and these include several finds of single coins from the Cambridge area, as well as portions of three, or possibly four, hoards. There are 2 stycas from the vast Hexham hoard, 10 ninth-century pennies from the Croydon hoard, 3 Edwardian sterlings from the Kilfenora hoard, and 2 pennies of Æthelred II which may be part of a hoard from near Bury St. Edmunds.

HEXHAM, c. 845

J. D. A. Thompson, *Inventory of British Coin Hoards* (Royal Numismatic Society, 1956), records as hoard 188 the discovery of some 8,000 stycas at Hexham in 1833. Among the Lewis collection there are two pieces from this hoard, which Lewis bought in Newcastle on 11 June 1877.

¹ I should like to express my thanks to the Council of Corpus Christi College for permission to publish these pieces here, and to Dr. Richard Vaughan, Librarian of the College, and Mr. Graham Pollard, of the Fitzwilliam Museum Coin Room, for their co-operation.

(i) Styca of Eanred, King of Northumbria 810-41; moneyer Hwaetred; weight 1.236 gm. = 19.0 gr.

Obv. +EANRED REX

Rev. +HVAETRED

(ii) Styca of Æthelred II, King of Northumbria, first reign 841-4; moneyer Brother; weight 1.192 gm. = 18.3 gr.

Obv. EÐFLRED RE+

Rev. +BROÐER

These would appear to be very ordinary and very typical of the styca coinage according to C. S. S. Lyon, 'A Reappraisal of the Sceatta and Styca Coinage of Northumbria', *B.N.J.* xxviii (1955-7), 227-42.

CROYDON, c. 875

C. E. Blunt and R. H. M. Dolley in 'The Hoard Evidence for the Coins of Alfred', *B.N.J.* xxix (1958-9) have devoted a section to the Croydon hoard, pages 222-34, which has supplemented and supplanted the information given in J. D. A. Thompson's *Inventory* where this hoard is listed as 111. The hoard, found in 1862, contained about 250 coins, of which Messrs. Blunt and Dolley were able to list 185, together with a number of fragments of hack-silver. Lewis on 2 July 1872 bought eight pieces from this hoard at Tunbridge Wells, which are numbered 22, 60, 63, 105, 152, 155, 159, and 169 in Messrs. Blunt and Dolley's list, and in addition there are in the collection the fragments of a penny of Burgred and another of Alfred which have no tickets indicating provenance, but probably came from this hoard.

BURGRED, KING OF MERCIA 852-74

22. *B.M.C.* type a; unbroken lunettes; moneyer Diga; weight 0.875 gm. = 13.6 gr.

Obv. BVRGRED REX⁻

Rev. :M°N:

+DICTΛ::

:ETΛ:

→
Plate XXIII, 1.

60. *B.M.C.* type c; lunettes broken at sides; moneyer Diarulf; weight 1.222 gm. = 18.8 gr.

Obv. +BVRCRED REX \

Rev. FMON

DIΛ°RYL

ETΛ°••

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Plate XXIII, 2.

63. *B.M.C.* type c; moneyer Ethelulf; weight 1.212 gm. = 18.7 gr.

Obv. +BVRCRED RE+

Rev. FMON

+EÐELVF

ETΛ

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Plate XXIII, 3.

Fragment. *B.M.C.* type a; weight 0.475 gm. = 7.3 gr.

Obv.

Rev. ..MOH

..⊕..S

→
Plate XXIII, 4.

(ST.) EADMUND, KING OF EAST ANGLIA 855-70

105. Type as *B.M.C.* vol. i, p. 91, no. 51; moneyer Beornheah; weight 1.297 gm. = 20.0 gr.*Obv.* +EADMVND REX*Rev.* +BEORHHÆH•←
Plate XXIII, 5.

ÆLFRED, KING OF WESSEX 871-901

152. *B.M.C.* type i; moneyer Dudinc; weight 1.030 gm. = 15.9 gr.*Obv.* +ÆELBRED / RE+*Rev.* .MON.

+DVDIN

.ETΛ:•

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Plate XXIII, 6.155. *B.M.C.* type i; moneyer Ealhere; weight 1.037 gm. = 16.0 gr.; broken.*Obv.* +ÆELB(RE)D / REX*Rev.* .EMON.

+EΛLh•E()

.ETΛ:•

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Plate XXIII, 7.159. *B.M.C.* type i; moneyer Ethered (known as a Canterbury moneyer); weight 1.317 gm. = 20.3 gr.*Obv.* +ÆELBRED / RE+*Rev.* .MON.

EDERED

ETΛ

→
Plate XXIII, 8.169. *B.M.C.* type i; moneyer Luhinc; weight 0.885 gm. = 13.7 gr.; broken.*Obv.* +ÆELBRED / (R)E+*Rev.* MON

LVhIN

•:ETΛ:•

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Plate XXIII, 9.Fragments. *B.M.C.* type i; weight 0.363 gm. = 5.5 gr.*Obv.* (+A)ELBR(E)D:• / (REX)*Rev.* (M)ON

()L

(E)TΛ

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Plate XXIII, 10.

BURY, c. 991-7

In the collection there are two pennies of Æthelred II, which Lewis bought from Keeble¹ on 10 December 1873, and which he labelled as found near Bury St. Edmunds. These may be the whole of a minor find of strays, or part of a larger hoard which does not appear in Thompson's *Inventory*. Both coins are Crux-type pennies and can therefore be dated to the period Michaelmas 991 to Michaelmas 997. If there was a hoard, the publication of any further Crux-type pennies found near Bury before 1873 might render it possible to reconstruct it.

¹ 'Keeble' was probably G. J. Keeble of Christie and Keeble, silversmiths and pawnbrokers, of 1 Abbeigate Street, Bury St. Edmunds.

ÆTHELRED II, 979–1016

(i) *B.M.C.* type *iiia*; moneyer Wulfgar of London; weight 1.596 gm. = 24.6 gr.; *cf.* Hildebrand type C, no. 2961.

PVLFĒAR MƆO LVND

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Plate XXIII, 11.

(ii) *B.M.C.* type *iiia*; moneyer Byrnsige of Winchester; weight 1.638 gm. = 25.3 gr.; *cf.* Hildebrand type C, no. 4145.

+BYRHΣIGE MƆO PINT

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Plate XXIII, 12.

KILFENORA, *post* 1344

In his *Inventory* J. D. A. Thompson records as hoard 206, a find of some 500 English silver pennies in the summer of 1872 at Kilfenora, County Clare. Thompson used as his evidence a letter from Robert Day of Cork to Sir John Evans, dated 22 October 1872, from which he deduced that the hoard consisted of pennies of the Canterbury, London, and York mints of Edward I, deposited *c.* 1280–1307, of which 80–100 were in 1872 in the possession of Mr. Thomas Ware of Cork.

In the Lewis collection there are three pennies from this hoard, one of Canterbury, one of London, and one of York, together with a covering letter from Dr. Nicholas Caulfield from whom Lewis obtained the pieces.

Royal Institution
Cork April 18 1873.

My dear Mr. Lewis,

I hope this will be the first to greet you on your arrival. The three silver pennies that I promised you on Wednesday Ev. They with about 500 similar ones were found last autumn under one of the upright stones of a Druidical Circle in the vicinity of the sum Cathedral of Kilfenora, Co. Clare, my friend Mr. Thomas Ware of Cork, Solicitor, was on his summer trip and took in the romantic part of the Co. Clare. during his sojourn the discovery was made, he had a bag full of them and gave me my choice of any I may wish to take, and as many. So I selected a few of each of mints of London, York and Cantâr which were the only ones represented and you now have a specimen of each, and I trust they may prove acceptable, So with kindest wishes that they may see you safe and sound having escaped the perils of the deep

Believe me
most sincerely yours
Nich Caulfield

The penny of the Canterbury mint was of Edward I, a mule of Fox's classes III and IV, in rather poor condition, weighing 15.3 grains. The penny of the London mint was also of Edward I, of Fox's class *Xb*, in rather better condition weighing 21.4 grains. The penny of the York mint was, however, of Edward III, of the so-called Florin type, issued between 1344 and 1351. The weight, 17.7 grains, does not give any indication of the point during these years at which it may have been struck. This last coin does, however, enable one to bring the hoard forward from the reign of Edward I and redate its deposit to '*post* 1344', although nothing more exact can be said until further coins from this hoard can be located.