

# A SMALL PARCEL OF PENNIES OF THE CONFESSOR FROM THE SEDLESCOMBE FIND

By R. H. M. DOLLEY

IN the course of a recent visit to the Co. Limerick, I was shown by a private collector a little group of silver pennies of Edward the Confessor. They are believed all to have been purchased from Dublin and/or London dealers at the end of the nineteenth century, and, as we shall see, there can be little doubt that the Sedlescombe hoard from Sussex (*Inventory 327*) is the source of almost all the coins in question. This great treasure, almost certainly part of the bullion reserve of the Hastings mint at the time of the Norman invasion, was widely dispersed at the time of finding, and has never been the subject of satisfactory publication. Accordingly there would seem to be room for a brief note listing the new parcel before its own dispersal. All the coins are illustrated with the same numbering on Plate VII.

## POINTED HELMET ISSUE

Brooke Type 6 = *B.M.C.* type VII = Hawkins 227  
(*Michaelmas 1053–Michaelmas 1056?*)

### MINT OF CANTERBURY

Moneyer Leofstan

1. *Obv.* +EDFE•RDRE+ *Rev.* +LEOFSTANONENT  
Die-axis 0° Weight 16.9 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 72 but sceptre terminating in cross.

### MINT OF HASTINGS

Moneyer Dunning

2. *Obv.* +EDFR•DRE• *Rev.* +DVINNCONH/EOTIE  
Die-axis 90° Weight 20.9 grains  
Cf. King<sup>1</sup> 108.
3. *Obv.* +EDPER•DREX *Rev.* +DVINNCONH/EOTIE  
Die-axis 0° Weight 20.5 grains  
Cf. King 110.

## SOVEREIGN/EAGLES ISSUE

Brooke Type 7 = *B.M.C.* type IX = Hawkins 228  
(*Michaelmas 1056–Michaelmas 1059?*)

### MINT OF HASTINGS

Moneyer Brid

4. *Obv.* EADFARDREX//// *Rev.* +BRIDOH/E:SDII:  
Die-axis 180° Weight 20.6 grains  
Cf. King 116.

<sup>1</sup> H. H. King, 'The Coins of the Sussex Mints', *B.N.J.* xxviii (1955–7), pp. 60–74, 249–63, and 518–36.

## HAMMER CROSS ISSUE

Brooke Type 8 = *B.M.C.* Type XI = Hawkins 222*(Michaelmas 1059–Michaelmas 1062?)*

## MINT OF CANTERBURY

Moneyer Liofstan

5. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +LIOF<sup>o</sup>TANONE/ENT:  
Die-axis 270° Weight 17.7 grains (cracked)  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 89.

## MINT OF CHICHESTER

Moneyer Godwine

6. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +GODƿINEOHICEIT  
Die-axis 0° Weight 19.9 grains  
Cf. King 122.

## MINT OF COLCHESTER

Moneyer Wulfwine

7. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +ƿVLƿINEONCOLEC••  
Die-axis 270° Weight 15.4 grains  
Turner<sup>1</sup> —. Vertical strokes in band of crown.

## MINT OF CRICKLADE

Moneyer Liofred

8. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +LIOFREDONCRECEL  
Die-axis 90° Weight 21.2 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 156.

## MINT OF DOVER

Moneyer Cilwi

9. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +CILƿI:•ONDOƿERE  
Die-axis 0° Weight 20.8 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 186.

## MINT OF GLOUCESTER

Moneyer Ælfsi

10. *Obv.* +EADƿARD RDRE *Rev.* +ÆLF<sup>o</sup>I:•ONGLEƿEECT:  
Die-axis 270° Weight 20.3 grains  
*B.M.C.* —.

## MINT OF HASTINGS

Moneyer Brid

11. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +BRID:•ONH/E<sup>o</sup>TI  
Die-axis 270° Weight 19.3 grains  
Cf. King 121.

Moneyer Dunning

12. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +DVNINCONH/E<sup>o</sup>T  
Die-axis 180° Weight 20.7 grains  
Cf. King 126. Sceptre ends in trefoil.

<sup>1</sup> T. M. Turner, 'Pennies of the Colchester Mint', *B.N.J.* xxiv (1941–4), pp. 8–21.

Moneyer Wulfric

13. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +ƿVLFRICONH/EƿTI  
Die-axis 180° Weight 20.5 grains  
Cf. King 129.

MINT OF LEWES

Moneyer Godwine

14. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +ƿODPINEONL/EPE..•  
Die-axis 270° Weight 21.1 grains  
Cf. King 258.

Moneyer Oswold

15. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +OƿPOLD:ONL/EPE..•  
Die-axis 270° Weight 20.2 grains  
Cf. King 262.

MINT OF LONDON

Moneyer Wulfgar

16. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +ƿVLƿGARONLVND  
Die-axis 90° Weight 16.1 grains (cracked)  
*B.M.C.* 1045 var. Vertical strokes in band of crown.
17. *Obv.* +EADƿARD RDRE *Rev.* +ƿVLƿGARONLVNDE  
Die-axis 108° Weight 19.9 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1046. Vertical strokes in band of crown and trefoil sceptre.

MINT OF NORTHAMPTON

Moneyer Sæwine

18. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +ƿ/EPINEONHAMTV  
Die-axis 270° Weight 19.5 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 529.

MINT OF NORWICH

Moneyer Ælfwine

19. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +/ELƿPINEONNORÐ  
Die-axis 180° Weight 17.9 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1102.

MINT OF OXFORD

Moneyer Brihtred

20. *Obv.* +EADƿARD RDRE *Rev.* +BRIHTREDONOXENEX  
Die-axis 180° Weight 20.0 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1128.

MINT OF ROMNEY

Moneyer Wulfmær

21. *Obv.* +EADƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +ƿVLM/ERONRVMED  
Die-axis 0° Weight 17.6 grains (chipped)  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1149. Pellet in second quarter.

MINT OF SHAFTESBURY

Moneyer Ælfwerd

22. *Obv.* +E•DƿAR RDRE *Rev.* +/ELƿP/ERDONƿC/ET•  
Die-axis 0° Weight 17.0 grains (chipped)  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1121.

## MINT OF THETFORD

## Moneyer Blacere

23. *Obv.* +EDPARD RE: *Rev.* +BLACRAONDET  
Die-axis 270° Weight 16.0 grains (cracked)  
Cf. Carson<sup>1</sup> 96.

## MINT OF WALLINGFORD

## Moneyer Brand

24. *Obv.* +EADPAR RDRE *Rev.* +BRAD:ONPALINGE  
Die-axis 0° Weight 19.5 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1288.

## MINT OF WILTON

## Moneyer Ælfwold

25. *Obv.* +EADPA RDRE *Rev.* +ÆLFPOIDONPILTV  
Die-axis 0° Weight 19.5 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1350.

## MINT OF WINCHESTER

## Moneyer Anderboda

26. *Obv.* +EADPAR RDRE *Rev.* +ANDERBODEONFINE  
Die-axis 0° Weight 20.0 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1466.

## Moneyer Godwine

27. *Obv.* +EADPAR RDRE *Rev.* +GODPINE:ONPINE  
Die-axis 0° Weight 19.0 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1470.

## Moneyer Liofwold

28. *Obv.* +EADPAR RDRE *Rev.* +LIOFPOLDONPINCE<sup>o</sup>  
Die-axis 270° Weight 19.9 grains  
Cf. *B.M.C.* 1477.

## FACING SMALL CROSS ISSUE

Brooke Type 9 = *B.M.C.* type XIII = Hawkins 225

(*Michaelmas 1062–Michaelmas 1065?*)

## MINT OF HASTINGS

## Moneyer Colswegen

29. *Obv.* EADFARDRE+ANGL *Rev.* +COLSPEIENONHIES  
Die-axis 0° Weight 16.2 grains  
Cf. King 132 but *wedges* not pellets on inner circle on reverse.

## Moneyer Dunninc

30. *Obv.* •EADFARDRE• *Rev.* +DVNNINCONHEST  
Die-axis 270° Weight 13.8 grains (chipped)  
Cf. King 136.

<sup>1</sup> R. A. G. Carson, 'The Mint of Thetford', *N.C.* 1949, pp. 189–236.

## MINT OF NORWICH

Moneyer Godwine

31. *Obv.* •EADPARDREX• *Rev.* +GODPINEONOR  
 Die-axis 270° Weight 13.1 grains  
 Cf. *B.M.C.* 1108.

## MINT OF ROMNEY

Moneyer Wulfmær

32. *Obv.* •EADPARDREX•N *Rev.* +FVLMÆ•ONRVME  
 Die-axis 270° Fragmented

With these thirty-two pennies of uniform patination were two further Saxon coins which are of quite dissimilar appearance. One of these is a penny of Edward the Confessor of *B.M.C.* type III (Brooke 1 = Hawkins 220) by the Winchester moneyer 'Æstan' (Æthelstan). It appears to correspond exactly to a coin from the Dunbrody hoard (*Inventory* 141) which has before the bust a lance with cross-bar instead of the normal sceptre (Lindsay, *Heptarchy*, pl. 5, no. 134), but seems not to be the identical specimen. The probability must be that it is a die-duplicate from the same hoard. The second coin is a penny of Edward the Confessor of *B.M.C.* type XIII by the Lincoln moneyer Othgrim. It represents a trifling variety of *B.M.C.* 736 (normal crown, EADPARDRE+AN and LINC), and has been pierced twice by drilling, apparently to make a button. Also with these coins was a third intruder, a late thirteenth-century sterling of Namur struck for Guy of Flanders (Chautard, p. 5, no. 1).

Of the thirty-two pennies with which this note is more particularly concerned, no fewer than eight are from the mint of Hastings, and sixteen from mints in Sussex and Kent. The Steyning mint, however, is not represented, and this with the absence of *B.M.C.* type XV (Brooke 10 = Hawkins 223) must be decisive that the parcel is not from the great Chancton hoard of 1866 (*Inventory*, 81 and 345). The range of types is exactly that of the Sedlescombe find where Hastings coins were also present in quite disproportionate number, and the type most strongly represented in the parcel (*B.M.C.* type XI—24 coins) was totally absent from the find from Milton Street (*Inventory* 270). In the same way, the absence of coins of Harold II strongly militates against any connexion with the finds from Offham (*Inventory*, 297), Oving (*Inventory* —, but cf. *Num. Chron.* 1957, p. 198) and Denge Marsh (*Inventory* —, but cf. *Num. Chron.* 1957, p. 186) in which Sussex and Kent coins could be expected to be present in substantial quantity.

It is, too, a remarkable fact that every one of the thirty-two coins listed above finds a place in the *Inventory* listing of the Sedlescombe hoard—that is if we make the obvious correction 'Neiwine' > Godwine in the case of the second of the *B.M.C.* type XI coins of Winchester. The correction seems more plausible than Mr. Thompson's suggestion of Sæwine (op. cit., p. 122) if only because the spelling 'Seiwine' is unattested, while there is the further point that Sæwine is now firmly associated with Northampton, the newly published hoard from Harewood having furnished virtually irrefragable proof that the Southampton mint was closed throughout the reign of Edward the Confessor.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R. H. M. Dolley, 'The Unpublished 1895 Find of Coins of Edward the Confessor from Harewood', *Yearbook of the British Association of Numismatic Societies*, 1961, pp. 17–26.

If, moreover, one examines closely the illustration of the coin in question (Pl. VII, 27), one can very well understand how Raper and Willett came to misread the still, at this period, quite exceptional cursive 'G' as 'N', while the following 'O' and 'D' are distorted by double-striking. No less remarkable is the circumstance that no fewer than ten of the coins in the parcel from the Co. Limerick correspond to coins represented in the Sedlescombe listing by single specimens (nos. 5, 7, 9, 10, 18, 19, 23, 25, 27, and 31), and the probability must be that we are dealing not simply with a parcel from the Sedlescombe find but with a parcel that had passed through the hands of Raper and Willett. In these circumstances the evidential value of the thirty-two coins illustrated is considerable, and it is hoped that the accompanying collotypes based on direct photographs will convey something of the superb condition of the majority of the Sedlescombe coins. It is clear that before concealment many of the coins had changed hands no more than once or twice, and where the pristine brightness of the individual pennies is at all marred it is by the most delicate of reddish stains, the product apparently of the decomposition of the iron-bound coffer in which the hoard would seem to have been buried.

This is apparently the first time that as many as twenty-four *B.M.C.* type XI coins from one hoard have been illustrated together on a single plate, and it is perhaps worth remarking some trifling varieties that do not appear to have been distinguished before. Of some potential importance because presumptively early are the coins where the band of the crown is broken up into compartments by a series of vertical strokes (e.g. nos. 7, 16, and 17). The *Fitzwilliam Sylloge* contains only three such coins (mints Cambridge, Hastings, and Hereford), and the *Hunter Sylloge* only two (mints London and Wilton). Such pieces should of course be distinguished from the even rarer coins where the band of the crown is 'jewelled' with pellets (cf. *B.M.C.* A/S ii, pl. xxv, no. 4). No example of this variety would appear to be in Cambridge or in Glasgow.<sup>1</sup> A third variety represented in the Sedlescombe parcel by two coins (nos. 12 and 17) substitutes a trefoil for the more normal quatrefoil at the head of the sceptre, a feature found in the case of two coins in the *Hunter Sylloge* (mints Exeter and Lincoln) and of die-duplicates in the *Fitzwilliam Sylloge* (mint Hastings—same die as no. 12). Not represented in the new parcel from Sedlescombe is the more obvious variety in the *Hunter Sylloge* (mint Canterbury) where the sceptre is of entirely different form being constituted of three pellets and two crescents on the model of coins of Harold I. In this paragraph, however, no attempt is made to draw up a systematic analysis of extant coins of the 'Hammer Cross' issue as such, and the purpose of these observations is simply to suggest points of departure for the serious student of the future.

<sup>1</sup> The present (January 1961) tally of coins of these two varieties in the British Museum is as follows:

(A) 'Compartmented band'

*Bath*, Osman, 1; *Canterbury*, Ælfred, 1; *Exeter*, Wicing, 1; *Hastings*, Brid, 1; *Hereford*, Ælric, 1, Leofenoth, 1; *Hertford*, Godwine, 1; *Wilgripr*, 1; *Ipswich*, Brunman, 1; *London*, Ælfward, 1, Ælfwine, 3, Godric, 1, Leofhinc, 1, Osmund, 1, Wulfgar, 3; *Thetford*, Blacera, 1; *Wilton*, Saewine, 1; *Winchester*, Leofwold, 2.

(B) 'Jewelled band'

*Canterbury*, Manna, 1; *Dover*, Godwine, 1; *Guildford*, Ælfric 2; *Hereford*, Ælfwi, 1; *London*, Dyrinc, 2; *Wilton*, Alfwoold, 1, Hærrad, 1; *Winchester*, Leofwold, 3.