

WARWICKSHIRE NUMISMATICS; THE ANCIENT MINTS,
AND THE "KINETON MEDAL."

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THE notices of mints established in Warwickshire, as early as Saxon times, at Warwick, Coventry, and Tamworth, are exceedingly meagre; with the exception of the few existing coins which have been attributed, in some instances on somewhat uncertain evidence, to those towns, few facts have been adduced, and no documentary records have been found to throw light upon the subject. The researches of the great historian of the county apparently failed to bring to light any evidence bearing upon the enquiry; we seek in vain for even the mention of the ancient mints in question in Dugdale's History of Warwickshire, and in his otherwise ample notices of the three towns where, as has been observed, mints existed even in pre-Norman times. The indefatigable investigations of an antiquary of note in our own days, Mr. Thomas Sharp, seem to have been equally unavailing; and very little can be stated in addition to the comparatively slight amount of information which has been gleaned by Ruding, and the evidence supplied by coins preserved in the British Museum.

The mint at Warwick does not appear upon any coin before the reign of Cnut (*c.* A.D. 1015—1035), nor is any evidence of its existence to be found upon the money of any of the succeeding monarchs except Harold I., Harthacnut, Harold II., and William I. It is remarkable that Dugdale does not appear to have been aware of any local tradition in regard to the situation of the mint at Warwick. John Rous, the Warwick historian, born there about 1411, and for forty years resident at Guy's Cliff as one of the chap-

¹ This Memoir was read at the Annual Meeting of the Institute at Warwick, July, 1864.

lains of a chantry founded by Richard Beauchamp, has preserved the only record of the site of the mint ; he states, in his History of the Kings of England, which he dedicated to Henry VII., that the mint was in early times in the eastern parts of the town,² as he discovered in certain writings in the chancel of the collegiate church of St. Mary, in which he had frequently read the names of Baldred, Everard,³ and other moneyers in the reigns of Richard I. and other preceding monarchs ; he states that the accustomed dwelling of those moneyers was in a place which at the time when he wrote, about 1480, was occupied by the vicars of the college. It is now the Free School, and it is still called the College. John Rous, to whom we owe these particulars, was author of several treatises on the antiquities of his native town and the history of its earls, writings known to us as having been perused by Leland. It is believed that Rous formed a library over the south porch of St. Mary's Church, at Warwick, and on his death, in 1491, he was buried in that collegiate church. He doubtless had favorable opportunities for collecting and verifying local evidence or traditions. His Chronicle, before mentioned, has been printed, but somewhat inaccurately, by Hearne, from a transcript of the text preserved in one of the Cottonian MSS., collated with another copy supposed to have been transcribed for Matthew Parker, and now amongst his MSS. in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.⁴ It is desirable to invite notice to the interesting passage, often heretofore cited, containing the sole record of the Warwick mint and certain ancient moneyers, since, through errors in the printed text, in which "*cunagium*" has been twice given as "*omagium*," it had been rendered scarcely intelligible. In the narrative of the reign of Richard I., writing of the king's return from Palestine and the appointment of the Archbishop of Rouen as guardian of the realm during his absence, Rous gives incidentally the following notice of the mint at Warwick :—

"Rex Ricardus non permisit dominos Angliæ solito modo in dominiis suis cunagium facere, Warwicensium prioribus

² Ruding. vol. ii. p. 224.

³ Numism. Chron. vol. xii. p. 160.

⁴ Nasmith, Catal. libr. MSS. Coll. Corp. Christi, No. cx. p. 116. Joh. Rossi His-

toria Regum Angliæ. This copy is described as on paper, written in the sixteenth century.

temporibus cunagium erat ad orientem, ut reperi in scriptis Cancellæ ecclesiæ collegiatæ Sanctæ Mariæ matris Christi, ubi, ut diebus meis novi, erat venella modo obturata et ad austrum cemiterii translata. Monetariorum etiam nomina ibidem licite tunc et ante occupantia (*sic*) in scriptis sæpius legi, ut Baldredus, Everardus, et ceteri hujusmodi monetarii. Horum solita mansio fuit in loco ubi vicarii nunc collegii manent pro certo erat.”⁵

The coins attributed to the Warwick mint which exist in the collection at the British Museum have been enumerated as follows, by the kindness of Mr. Vaux. Of Ethelred II. there is one bearing the moneyer's name—ÆTHELRIC ON WER—and another with the name ELFSIGE; but it is doubtful whether WER may not, in this instance, be Wareham. Of Cnut there occur LEOF . . . ON WERIN,—LEOFWIN ON WAERINC (possibly Worcester), and LIFINC ON WERINC. Of Harold I. one with the name GODD ON WAERINCW, and of Harold II. two, LUFFINC ON WEARW, and SWEMAN ON WERA. On monies of the Conqueror are found IEGLRIC, or IEGELRIC ON VERHE, and—ON VERHEI, with some other slight variations of the name; IELRIC ON VERVIC, also LIFRIC ON VERVI, and—ON VERVIC; LUFIC ON VERVIC, LUFINC ON VERI, and—ON VERIC; SIDELOC ON VERE, and VERHE,⁶ THRCIL ON VERVIC, &c. In the remarkable collection of coins of William the Conqueror, about 6500 in number, found in 1833 at Beaworth, in Hampshire, twenty-six occurred assigned to the mint of Warwick; the moneyers' names on these are LVFINC, IELRIC, LIFRIC, THRCIL, and THVRCIL, the name of the place being varied, as follows: PERI, PERIC, PERPIE (possibly Derby), PFRPI, PERPIE, PERPIC, and PERPI.⁷ Of the reign of Henry I. Mr. Vaux mentions a coin in the British Museum, bearing the moneyer's name—WULFSI, which is possibly of the Warwick mint, and of Henry II. one marked OSBER ON WIRIC. The name of the town is written in the Saxon Chronicle, *Wæringawic*, or *Wæringwic*, from Wering, a bulwark, *agger*, in allusion probably to the stronghold reared there at an

⁵ Cott. MS. Vespas. A. xii. f. 120. Compare Hearne's text, *Hist. Regum Angl.*, second edit., p. 194. The inaccuracies occurring in the latter, as above noticed, betray some want of editorial care; the word twice printed “omagium,” having been thus written by a careless

scribe, had been corrected; a circumstance apparently overlooked by Jennings, who made the transcript used by Hearne.

⁶ The two last letters, H and E, are conjoined.

⁷ *Archæologia*, vol. xxvi. p. 15.

early period ; although Rous and other writers would trace the name to King Warremund, progenitor of the kings of Mercia. To those who may seek to investigate the earliest form of the name of Warwick, the evidence of these coins may not be devoid of interest, independently of their numismatic value.

In the large deposit of pennies of Henry I. and Stephen (1094 in number), found in 1818 in a rude jar in the neighbourhood of Watford, Herts, and described by Mr. Rashleigh in the Numismatic Chronicle, two coins occurred, which have been attributed to Henry Newburgh, Earl of Warwick in the reign of Henry I., or to his son Roger, the second earl and partisan of the Empress Maud.⁸ They bear on the obverse a regal head in profile, with the legend + PERERIC, the Saxon character resembling a P being probably used instead of a W, as commonly found on our earlier coinage ; reverse, + GODRICVS : ON LV. If Mr. Rashleigh's supposition be accepted, it is difficult to determine whether these coins were struck during the reign of Henry I. or of Stephen. The type resembles that of coins of the latter monarch found with them, and it has been conjectured that they may have been struck in defiance of the king by the second earl, who was constantly opposed to him. It has been stated by Ruding and other writers, that many of the barons of that time coined money, which was often either light, or debased.⁹ The obvious difficulty, however, remains unexplained, that we should find, on coins struck under such conditions, the name of a royal mint and that of the well-known moneyer *Godricus*, which occurs repeatedly on coins of Stephen minted at London.

In 1850 another coin, reading PERERIC (*Weric*) was brought before the Numismatic Society by Mr. Webster, resembling in all respects that described by Mr. Rashleigh, and the legend on the obverse is the same ; the reverse, however, reads RAMVN . . NICOL.¹ There does not appear to be any known moneyer of the name connected with Lincoln.

⁸ Numism. Chron., vol. xii. p. 165 ; one of these coins is figured *ibid.* p. 133, the other in the plate of coins there given, fig. 13. Of these coins one has been presented by Mr. Rashleigh to the British Museum.

⁹ Ruding, vol. i. p. 167. See Mr.

Rashleigh's paper on some Baronial coins of Stephen's reign, Numism. Chron., vol. xiii. p. 181.

¹ Proceedings of the Numism. Soc., vol. xiv. p. 5. This penny is of the type of those of Stephen, Hawkins, No. 270.

Mr. Evans has noticed a third variety for many years in the Museum Collection, but overlooked, as he conjectures, chiefly on account of its having been incorrectly catalogued by Taylor Combe. According to Mr. Evans, this coin reads distinctly PERERIC on the obverse, with the same type as the other varieties; the reverse is also of the same type as the others, but seems to read + PILLEM . . . RP. Mr. Evans observes that little doubt exists in regard to the correct attribution of these coins to one of the earls of Warwick.²

The gold coin of Edward the Confessor found in 1824, during the demolition of St. Clement's church, at Worcester, must not pass unnoticed. The authenticity of this piece has been questioned; it seems to be the only known Saxon coin of gold; the arguments of Dr. Pegge and other writers in regard to a gold coinage in Anglo-Saxon times have been fully discussed by Ruding.³ This gold coin of the Confessor bears on the obverse a regal bust in profile to the left; legend—+ EDPERD REX; reverse—+ LVFINC ON PÆRINC (Wærinc), namely Warwick. The name Lifinc, or Lifing, occurs in the list of moneymen in the reign of Edward the Confessor given by Ruding; it is likewise found amongst those of Harold. Dr. Nash, in his History of Worcestershire, has given a coin of the Confessor bearing the name *Wærinc* as minted at Worcester, but the place of mintage thus designated was doubtless Warwick.⁴ The gold coin in question was in the collection of the late Mr. T. H. Spurrier, of Edgbaston.

Of the Coventry mint all that is known, as Ruding has observed, is that there is a rare groat of Edward IV. bearing the name of the city on its reverse, the legend being CIVITAS COVETRE, or COVETRIE; there are two varieties, one with the letter C, the other with the letter B, on the breast of the king.⁵ The date of this coinage cannot be determined, owing to the fact that Edward IV. made several visits to Coventry; it is probable that the mint was worked at

² Numism. Chron., vol. xiv. p. 153.

³ Annals of the Coinage, vol. i. p. 103.

⁴ See Mr. Akerman's account of this coin, Numism. Journ., 1837, pp. 54, 106; communications by Mr. Reader and others, Gent. Mag. vol. viii., ii. N. S., p. 637; vol. xiv. p. 616; Allies' Antiq. of Worcestershire, second edit., p. 36, where

this gold coin is figured. Some have considered it to be a piece struck in gold from the dies of the silver coinage of the period.

⁵ Ruding, vol. ii. p. 223. Dr. Pegge mentions also the latter in a letter to Dr. W. Hunter, Archæologia, vol. v. p. 410.

some time when he was resident there. Leland is the only author who has been cited as making mention of this mint ; but he only observes, in his Itinerary, that "there was a parliament and a mynt of coynage at Coventrye," without assigning any date either to the one or the other.⁶ There was a parliament held there, 6th Henry IV., called the "Unlearned Parliament" from the exclusion of lawyers, and another, 38th Henry VI., called the "Devilish Parliament" from the numerous attainders, but no record has been found of a parliament at Coventry in the reign of Edward IV. Dugdale has unaccountably omitted to advert to the existence of this or of any other mint in the county. So completely are all traces lost at Coventry, that there is not even a tradition in regard to the place where the mint was situated. It was, however, probably at Cheylsmore, the ancient dwelling of the De Montalts, and in later times a royal domain ; this supposition would account, as Ruding remarks, for the deficiency of any evidence in the corporation records with respect to the mint, as Cheylsmore was not within their jurisdiction. A well-known local antiquary, the late Mr. Thomas Sharp, states, in a letter dated 1806, that he had not discovered a trace of this mint in his extensive researches into the corporation books, nor in any document whatever.⁷ It is, however, certain, as Ruding affirms, that the Coventry mint existed some time prior to 9th Edward IV. (1469). The great rarity of the coins struck there gives reason to suppose that the existence of the mint was of short duration, and this supposition is confirmed by the fact that there are in the Exchequer records mint accounts of the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Edward IV., being those of the warden and the master, whose offices are therein stated to have extended over the whole realm, but the mint of Coventry is not once mentioned.

The last of the Warwickshire mints to be named in these brief notices is that of Tamworth.⁸ There is a penny of Eadweard the Martyr, which appears to have been struck there, as it bears the mark—AT TAMWO :⁹—No other coin occurs in any subsequent reign until that of the Confessor, of

⁶ Leland, *Itin.*, vol. iv. p. 119. We do not find in Dugdale any summons to a Parliament at Coventry during the reign of Edward IV.

⁷ Ruding, vol. ii. p. 224, note.

⁸ Ruding, *ut supra*.

⁹ Or TANWO ; *ibid.* vol. i. p. 132.

whom there is a coin marked—AT TAMW :—one of Harold II. inscribed—AT TAN :—may have been struck at Taunton. There are coins of William the Conqueror, of William Rufus, and of Henry I., undoubtedly the produce of the Tamworth mint, and inscribed accordingly.¹

At a much later period may be noticed certain half-crowns struck during the troublous times of Charles I., which have on the obverse the initial W marked upon them under the horse. These pieces have been regarded by some collectors as struck at Warwick, but on no sufficient authority; and from their workmanship it is more probable, as Ruding has suggested, that they were struck in the more westward parts of England.²

In the foregoing notice of Warwickshire numismatics, it has been endeavoured to gather together the scattered facts, familiar doubtless to those who are versed in the annals of the English coinage, but which some archæologists assembled in the county on occasion of the meeting of the Institute may, it is hoped, regard as an acceptable contribution to the series of local matters of investigation. It is obviously very desirable to comprise within the range of such an annual gathering every subject auxiliary to historical or topographical enquiries in the district visited.

These notices would be incomplete without a description of the medal struck on an interesting occasion, and immediately connected with historical events in the county. I allude to the rare piece known as the "Kineton Medal," of which the best example is doubtless that which has enriched the extensive Warwickshire collection now in possession of John Staunton, Esq., of Longbridge House near Warwick, the result of his father's judicious and indefatigable researches.

The medal in question commemorates the meeting of Charles I. and Henrietta Maria at Kineton, a few miles south-east of Warwick, on July 13, 1643. On the obverse are seen Charles I. and his queen, crowned, seated upon chairs, their

¹ In Ruding's list of the Conqueror's mints, vol. i. p. 150, TAMW and TANV are given as indicating Tamworth. In the large collection of coins of that king found in 1838 at Bedworth, Hants, upwards of 6500 in number, there were five of the Tamworth mint. Of these, three are inscribed TAMW (Tamw.) with the

moneyer's name BRVNIC; on two is read TAMPRD, with the name COLIC. Archæologia, vol. xxxi. p. 14. The coins of Rufus struck at Tamworth are inscribed TANV and TAMW; those of Henry I. bear TAMEWV. Ruding, vol. i. pp. 162, 166.

² See Ruding, vol. ii. p. 376, and Supplement, plate v. fig. 27.

right hands united ; they are represented trampling upon a dragon ; the king is in armour ; above his head is the sun, above hers the moon and the Pleiades. Legend, CERTIUS PYTHONEM IUNCTI (when united they will more certainly destroy the dragon.) On the reverse is the following inscription :—

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XIII. IVL.

CAROL. ET. MARIAE.

M.B. F. ET. H.

R. R.

IN. VALLE. KEINTON.

AVSPICAT. OCCURRENT.

ET.

FVGATO. IN. OCCIDENT.

REBELLIVM.

VICT. ET. PAC. OMEN.

OXON.

M.DC.XL.II.

During the autumn and winter of 1642, the king's party in Cornwall and the West of England had gradually gained ground, and on 16th May, 1643, defeated their opponents under the Earl of Stamford in a sharp encounter at Stratton. To support the royal cause in these parts the Marquis of Hertford and Prince Maurice were sent with a regular force, and having joined the local partisans they proceeded to the subjection of Somersetshire. To check this party Sir William Waller was entrusted with a complete army. After several skirmishes, a serious encounter took place upon Lansdowne Hill near Bath, without any very decisive issue, but with considerable loss to both parties. The royalists determined now to proceed to join their force to the king's at Oxford, but Waller so hung upon their rear and so accumulated his army as he advanced, that his great superiority put them to great risk, and induced them to halt at Devizes and send to the king for a reinforcement which might enable them to proceed on their route. The king had anticipated their difficulties and despatched Lord Wilmot with a considerable body of cavalry. Waller determined to prevent these forces from joining the army in Devizes, and drew up his men on Roundway Down, on which the cavalry must necessarily advance. Finding himself superior in numbers, and

elated with the confidence of success, he incautiously moved from the advantageous ground on which he had placed himself, and advanced to the attack ; his forces were received with a degree of firmness which surprised them, and after a sharp conflict were obliged to give ground, and finally bear back upon the other lines. Lord Wilmot vigorously pressed forward, and so entirely routed them that scarcely a horseman was to be seen. Waller's infantry still stood firm, but Lord Wilmot having by a desperate charge seized their cannon and turned them against themselves, they also fled, and the whole army was dispersed in confusion. Waller himself with a small train with great difficulty escaped to Bristol. This important success gave great spirits to the royalists. It occurred upon the 13th July, 1643, about the very hour when the king and queen happened to meet upon the field at Kineton, near Edgehill, where, in the preceding October, the celebrated battle had been fought. When they met, the queen was advancing with a well-appointed reinforcement of 2000 foot and 100 horse, with cannon, mortars, and ammunition ; this timely supply of troops, occurring at the same time with Waller's defeat, had an important effect on Charles's party for the time, and compelled Essex to abandon his project of attack, and indeed to withdraw his army discontented and dispirited to Uxbridge. This coincidence of prosperous contingencies was happily seized by the medallists, and gave occasion to the piece here described. The sun and moon over the heads of the king and queen symbolise Apollo and Diana, the children of Latona. The dragon is the Python which was sent to destroy her, but killed by Apollo immediately after his birth ; it here represents the rebellious parliament. The allegory is not very complete ; the parliament was only injured, not destroyed, and Diana does not appear to have been at all instrumental in the destruction of Python.

This medal is of silver, struck at Oxford, and extremely rare. It was first described by Evelyn in his treatise upon Medals, having been accidentally found in a field belonging to him. It afterwards came into the possession of Mr. Bartlett, at whose sale in 1787 it was purchased by Mr. Hodson for £25 10s. ; it then became the property of Mr. Tyssen, and at his sale was purchased for £6 by the late Mr. Staunton. It is now, as before mentioned, in possession of his

son, John Staunton, Esq., of Longbridge House near Warwick. The medal weighs 184 grains; diameter, $1\frac{5}{2}$ inch; the workmanship is very rude, the relief low, and the metal appears to have been cut out of a piece of plate. The only other specimen known to me, formerly in the possession of Mr. W. D. Haggard, was purchased for the collection at the Bank of England.³ In the British Museum there is a cast in silver.

The allusion to Charles and his queen under the symbols of the sun and moon was not limited to this medal. Poets also adopted the same allegory. Thus, Sir John Beaumont writes :—

“ Our Charles and Mary, now their course prepare,
 Like those two greater lights,
 Which God in midst of heaven exalted to our sights,
 To guide our footsteps with perpetual care,
 Times happy changes to declare.
 The one affords us healthful daies, the other quiet nights.”⁴

³ The Kineton medal is figured by Pinkerton, *Medallic History of England*, plate xvi. fig. 9, p. 47. The late Mr. Nightingale asserted, in the *Numism. Chron.* vol. xiii. p. 130, that the Kineton medal was executed by Thomas Rawlins, a devoted royalist, associated with Briot in the royal mint. The medal, Mr. Nightingale suggests, “was probably, from the rudeness of the workmanship, done on the spot where the battle was fought, the hurried work of a few hours.”

⁴ *Bosworth Field, with other Poems*, by Sir John Beaumont, Bart. See also Cowley's lines on the Royal Meeting on Kineton Field, *Works*, vol. i., 340; Cartwright's Verses in praise of Henrietta Maria, &c. The late Mr. Hamper printed “Two Copies of Verses on the Meeting of King Charles I. and his Queen, in the Valley of Kineton, below Edge Hill;” 4to, Birmingham, 1822. 25 copies only printed.