

17. SPECIALIST STUDIES, 3: LOOSE ARTEFACTS

Coins, jettons and tokens

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The numismatic assemblage from St Peter's church numbers 64 items, comprising 52 coins, three tokens and nine jettons. The material covers a wide chronological range, from the late third century to the twentieth century, and provides a representative cross-section of the range of numismatic items that has been used throughout English history.

Contents of the assemblage

The numismatic items have been divided into eight categories, covering Roman, Saxon, English medieval, post-medieval and milled coins, jettons and tokens; coins of foreign origin have been catalogued separately.

The earliest coin present is Roman: this isolated bronze *antoninianus* is a common type of the late third century. It presumably derives from one of the disturbed Roman features. No coins of the early and middle Saxon periods have been recovered, and there is no further coin evidence until the late Saxon period, by which time the cemetery and church had been established. The earliest item is a mid-eleventh-century silver halfpenny of Edward the Confessor. This was formed by cutting a penny into two parts, so that not all of the original engraving is present. However, there is enough information to show that this was struck at the mint of Stamford (Lincs.), between the years 1042–44.

One other very early silver coin has also been recovered, a *dirham*, which dates from the ninth-tenth century (see p. 1005). *Dirhams* are rare finds in England.

No coins of the twelfth century are present, but there is strong and steady coverage from the reign of Henry III onwards, starting with another cut halfpenny of the

years 1247–50. There are seventeen coins of the medieval period, running down to the end of the fifteenth century. All of these are silver types and a variety of low denominations are represented: nine pennies, five halfpennies (one cut) and three farthings. It is noted that the larger denominations, namely groats and half-groats, are absent. London is by far the commonest mint represented, with five coins present. Other mints represented are Durham, York and Calais.

One other foreign coin is a French billon *double tournois* of Philippe IV. This was struck between 1295 and 1303, and is an unusual find because England was largely a closed circulation zone during the medieval period. Although English silver coin was popular on the continent, foreign coin rarely entered circulation in this country (small numbers of coins from France and the Low Countries were used and are occasionally found on sites).

There are two coins of the early post-medieval period. Both are half-groats and were minted under Elizabeth I and James I, respectively. However, the much larger collection of jettons, or counters, provides fuller coverage for those years. There is a total of nine jettons, of which the earliest two are French and the remainder German. The two latest examples are well preserved and are attractive pictorial types. Six of the jettons date from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Two of the jettons exhibit the same unusual features. One French example and one Nuremberg type have both been pierced with two holes. The reason for this is unclear but it may represent reuse: these could be thread holes to enable the jettons to be fastened to clothing, perhaps as decorative items. Three mid-seventeenth-century tokens are present. Two are halfpenny trade tokens, neither of which is fully legible, and the third is a Royal farthing token, struck under Charles I.

Milled coins are the single most prolific

¹ Report written in 2002 and checked in 2010.

category within the complete assemblage. There are twenty-nine examples, which cover the period from 1672 to 1928, and are all low denominations. There are two sixpences: one was struck under Queen Victoria and the other (earlier) is illegible but bent into the characteristic shape of a 'love token'. The remaining coins comprise eight pennies, thirteen halfpennies and six farthings, one of which is Irish.

Roman coin

1. F3548
Gallienus. Base *antoninianus*, A.D. 260–68
Obv: Illegible
Rev: Illegible. Panther walking to left
Weight: 1.91 gm

Late Saxon coin

2. F7205
Edward the Confessor. Cut halfpenny, A.D. 1042–44
PACX type
Obv: --AR--
Rev: --C ON STA--
Mint: Stamford
BMC iv; North 813
Weight: 0.47 gm

English medieval coins

3. F5347
Henry III. Cut halfpenny, A.D. 1247–50
Obv: --CVS--. Without sceptre
Rev: NICO--
Moneyer: Nicole
Weight: 0.50 gm

4. F5281
Edward I. Penny, A.D. 1279–1301
Obv: EDWR ANGL DNS HYB
Rev: CIVITAS LONDON
Mint: London
Weight: 1.10 gm

5. u/s
Edward I. Penny, A.D. 1301–10
Obv: EDWAR ANGL DNS HYB
Rev: CIVITAS LONDON
Mint: London
Weight: 1.39 gm

6. F3643
Edward I. Penny, A.D. 1301–10
Obv: EDWAR ANGL DNS HYB

Rev: CIVITAS LONDON
Mint: London; Class 10ab
Weight: 1.37 gm

7. u/s
Edward I. Penny, A.D. 1301–10
Obv: EDWARR ANGL DNS HYB
Rev: CIVITAS DVREME
Mint: Durham; Class 10ab
Weight: 1.33 gm

8. u/s
Edward I. Penny, A.D. 1301–10
Obv: EDWAR ANGL DNS HYB
Rev: CIVITAS LONDON
Mint: London; Class 10cf3
Weight: 1.28 gm

9. F5342
Edward I/II. Farthing, A.D. 1279–1327
Weight: 0.32 gm

10. F7231
Edward III. Penny, A.D. 1327–77
Obv: Illegible
Rev: --EBO--; quatrefoil in centre
Mint: York
Weight: 0.85 gm

11. F455
Edward III. Penny, A.D. 1327–77
Obv: Illegible
Rev: CIVI--
Weight: 1.19 gm

12. F5342
Edward III. Halfpenny, A.D. 1327–77
Obv: Illegible
Rev: CIVITAS LONDON
Mint: London
Weight: 0.58 gm

13. F125
Edward I-III. Halfpenny, A.D. 1279–1377
Illegible
Weight: 0.54 gm

14. F409
Edward I-III. Farthing, A.D. 1279–1377
Illegible
Weight: 0.25 gm

15. F7023
Edward I-III. Farthing, A.D. 1279–1377
Illegible
Weight: 0.23 gm

16. F5143

Henry VI (first reign). Halfpenny, A.D. 1427–30
Rosette Mascle issue
Obv: HENRIC REX ANGL
Rev: VILLA CALIS
Mint: Calais
North 1454
Weight: 0.59 gm

17. F235
Illegible. Penny, late 13th–15th century
Weight: 1.03 gm

18. F225
Illegible. Penny, 14th–15th century
Weight: 0.65 gm

19. F3626
Illegible. Halfpenny, A.D. 1279–1485
Weight: 0.54 gm. Incomplete

Foreign coins

20. F3683
France: Philippe IV. *Double tournois* (billon), A.D. 1295–1303
Obv: + PHILIPPVS REX
Rev: + MON DVPLEX REGAL
Duplessy 229
Weight: 1.02 gm

21. F5210 Dirham, 9th–10th century
Weight: 2.53 gm.
See p. 1005 for discussion

Early post-medieval coins

22. F234
Elizabeth I. Half-groat, A.D. 1558–1603
Illegible
Weight: 0.58 gm

23. F7120
James I. Half-groat, A.D. 1603–25
Illegible
Weight: 0.67 gm

Jettons

24. F5210
France. A.D. 1385–c.1422
Shield of France, modern
Obv: AVE MARIA GRACIA PL. Shield with 3
lis
Rev: Triple-stranded cross fleuretty
As Mitchiner 448
Weight: 1.10 gm
25. F5342

France. Struck under Charles VII, A.D. 1422–61
Paschal Lamb of Bourges type
As Mitchiner 543
Weight: 1.99 gm. Double-pierced

26. F5175
Nuremberg. c. A.D. 1500–50
'Rose/orb' type
Obv: 3 crowns alternate with 3 lis
Rev: Imperial orb with cross
Weight: 1.52 gm

27. F5174
Nuremberg. Hans Krauwinkel II. A.D. 1586–
1635
'Rose/orb' type
Obv: GOTES SEGEN MACHT REICH. 3 crowns
alternate with 3 lis
Rev: HANNNS KRAVWINCKEL IN NV. Imperial
orb with cross
Weight: 1.34 gm

28. F5175
Nuremberg. A.D. 1600–30
'Rose/orb', small size, anonymous type
Obv: 3 crowns alternate with 3 lis
Rev: Imperial orb with cross. Border of dashes
As Mitchiner 1463
Weight: 1.14 gm. Double-pierced

29. F1
Nuremberg. A.D. 1500–1620
'Rose/orb' type
Obv: Illegible. 3 crowns alternate with 3 lis
Rev: Illegible. Imperial orb with cross
Weight: 1.34 gm

30. F338
Nuremberg. c. A.D. 1500–1650
'Rose/orb' type
Obv: Illegible
Rev: Imperial orb with cross
Weight: 1.93 gm

31. u/s
Nuremberg. Wolf Lauffer II. A.D. 1612–51
Allegorical type
Obv: WOLF LAVF: AVT CAESAR AVT NIHIL
Rev: W LAV MATER PACIS CONCORDIA
Mitchiner 1742
Weight: 3.25 gm

32. F5174
Germany. 18th century
Obv: C CAESAR DIVI AVGVSTVS IMPE
Rev: INSIGNIA CIVITATIS ROM; SPQR
Mitchiner 2227
Weight: 5.18 gm

English tokens

33. F917
Seventeenth-century halfpenny token, A.D. 1666
Obv: Illegible
Rev: Illegible border; HIS/HALF/PENNY/1666
in centre
Weight: 1.86 gm

34. u/s
Seventeenth-century halfpenny token. A.D.
1648–72
Obv: Illegible
Rev: Illegible border; -I-/HALF/-- in centre
Weight: 1.64 gm

35. F7509
Charles I. Royal farthing token, A.D. 1625–34
'Richmond round'
Obv: CARO D G MAG BRIT
Rev: FRA ET HIB REX
Weight: 0.60 gm

Milled Coins

36. F1
Charles II. Farthing, A.D. 1679
Obv: CAROLVS A CAROLO
Rev: BRITANNIA 1679
Weight: 6.14 gm

37. u/s
Illegible and smooth. Sixpence, bent as a 'love
token'. A.D. 1688–1760
Weight: 1.56 gm

38. F4514
George II. Farthing, A.D. 1727–60
Obv: Illegible
Rev: --ITAN--
Weight: 2.84 gm. Incomplete

39. F5102
George III. Penny. A.D. 1760–1820
Illegible
Weight: 17.48 gm

40. F463
George III. Cartwheel penny. A.D. 1797
Illegible
Weight: 15.11 gm

41. F365
George III. Cartwheel penny, A.D. 1797
Illegible
Weight: 28.21 gm

42. F365
George III. Cartwheel penny, A.D. 1797
Illegible
Weight: 21.28 gm

43. F3650
George III. Cartwheel penny, A.D. 1797
Illegible
Weight: 27.33 gm

44. F3650
George III. Cartwheel penny, A.D. 1797
Illegible
Weight: 26.97 gm

45. F3034
George III. Halfpenny, A.D. 1806
Obv: GEORGIVS -- 1806
Rev: Illegible
Weight: 9.36 gm

46. F3034
George III. Halfpenny, A.D. 1806
Obv: GEORGIVS III D G REX
Rev: BRITANNIA 1806
Weight: 9.38 gm

47. F3707
George III. Halfpenny, A.D. 1806
Obv: GEORGIVS [III D G REX]
Rev: BRITANNIA 1806
Weight: 8.61 gm

48. F4520
George III. Halfpenny, A.D. 1806
Obv: GEORGIVS III D G REX 1806
Rev: BRITANNIA
Weight: 8.55 gm

49. u/s
George III. Halfpenny, A.D. 1799
Illegible
Weight: 8.11 gm

50. F3022
George III. Halfpenny, A.D. 1760–1820
Illegible
Weight: 12.25 gm

51. u/s
George III. Irish farthing, A.D. 1806
Obv: Illegible
Rev: HIBERNIA
Weight: 3.50 gm

52. F5192
William IV. Farthing, A.D. 1830–37

- Illegible
Weight: 4.69 gm
53. u/s
Victoria. Sixpence, A.D. 1845
Weight: 2.73 gm
54. u/s
Victoria. Halfpenny: 'bun head' issue. A.D. 1860-95
Weight: 5.70 gm
55. u/s
Edward VII. Penny, A.D. 1909
Weight: 9.21 gm
56. u/s
George V. Halfpenny, A.D. 1928
Weight: 5.63 gm
57. F3034
Illegible and smooth. Penny, post-1670
Weight: 12.64 gm
58. F3723
Illegible. Halfpenny, A.D. 1672-1820
Weight: 7.84 gm
59. F4646
Illegible. Halfpenny, A.D. 1672-1820
Weight: 8.75 gm
60. F3723
Illegible. Halfpenny, A.D. 1672-1820
Weight: 11.04 gm
61. F3723
Illegible. Halfpenny, A.D. 1820-1901
Weight: 8.50 gm
62. F3742
Illegible. Halfpenny, A.D. 1714-1970
Weight: 5.09 gm
63. F973
Illegible. Farthing, A.D. 1760-1901
Weight: 2.59 gm
64. u/s
Illegible. Farthing or trade token, 19th-20th century
Weight: 3.73 gm

The Silver Dirham

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(See fig. 236 for illustration)

This is a silver dirham of the Abbasid caliph, al-Mu'tazz billah b. al-Mutawakkil (251-55 A.H. / A.D. 866-69) (Fig. 236). The coin was minted in 252 A.H. / A.D. 866-67, but the mint name is damaged and no longer entirely legible. Possible readings include Arminiyah and Madinat-al-salam.³ The coin weighs 2.53 gm, and is somewhat worn and corroded, with what appears to be a test-nick on the edge to the left of the central inscription on the obverse.

Test-nicking of this type is typical of coins from Viking contexts in both Britain and Scandinavia, and Viking activity probably accounts for the importation of a large majority of the recorded Abbasid coins in both areas, although some importation appears to predate the Viking Age, and even some stray finds of the ninth century show no obvious associations. However, dirhams from this period are normally found in areas of major Viking activity and settlement in northern and eastern England, as hoards, site-finds and single finds (Naismith 2005, 194-6). Given the combination of the test-mark, the date and the importance of the Humber as a gateway to the navigable rivers of Yorkshire and the Midlands, there is no reason to doubt the Viking associations of the coin. Dirhams seem to have been imported to northern Europe on a large scale from c. 860, from where they were transported on a rather smaller scale to Britain and Ireland. Where dirhams are found in English hoards, there is typically a gap of less than ten years between the minting of the latest coin and the deposition of the hoard in the late ninth century, but this extends to more like ten-to-fifteen years in the early tenth century (Naismith 2001, 350; Blackburn 2007, 50. Williams, 2008, 230). However, such hoards often contain much earlier coins as well, and Abbasid coins seem to have continued to circulate in Viking hands at

² Report written in 2010.

³ I am grateful to Mark Blackburn and Paramdip Khara for their comments on the identification of the coin.

least until the unification of England under Athelstan in 927.

With no firm dating suggested by the excavation context, deposition anywhere from the early 870s to the mid-920s would be possible.