

An Outline of the Coinage of Britain, with Special References to Derby Mintages, to A.D. 1066.

By J. O. MANTON.

THIS paper is intended as an initial contribution to the pages of the *Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society's* journal, on the science of numismatics—the study of coins—in the hope that it will result in a wider interest in the subject than that indicated by its paucity in the Society's journals hitherto; also, that the record of coins of Derby mintage may be added to from time to time until there is a complete catalogue of the coins of the county. Much of the information has been garnered from the *British Numismatic Journals*, from Mr. W. J. Andrews' papers,¹ and from various coin sale catalogues and circulars. Short historical notes are introduced to indicate the personalities of the kings, the "settings" of the periods and circumstances leading to mint establishments.

It has been suggested that a paper on coins should commence with a definition of "a coin." A coin is a manufactured piece of metal and serves as a standard measure of the value of other things or services, its essence being an equivalent in exchange or payment.

Separate chapters might be written (but they would be beyond the limits of this paper) on the selection of metals to represent equivalent values in exchange transactions; the currency of the metals, first in crude forms and by

¹ Awarded The Triennial Gold "Salters" medal, 1914, for the most valuable numismatic papers contributed.

weight ; then the authoritative regulation of values ; the preference of gold and silver because of the density and solidity of these metals ; the evolution in the manufacture of metals as coins ; standards of purity and debasements ; inscriptions ; confusion and uncertainty of dates (as, for instance, in the chronology of The West Saxon Kings) ; constitution of the mints ; the moneyers and their dies, etc.

A phrase "Derbyshire currency in lead" was used in a recent antiquarian note, but lead in bulk exchanged, would be "barter" and not "money," which "runs about," and so is current—"currency" !

Coins frequently convey facts otherwise unknown, they indicate the progressive and barren periods of nations, fluctuations of power and wealth, forms of language and art and civilization generally—they are the silent witnesses of truth—and there is as much enjoyment and knowledge to be gained in their study as there is in any other pursuit, they also provide an almost illimitable realm for research. Numismatic facts linked with history as far as it is known, often elucidate apparent discrepant statements arising frequently from differences in chronological methods of computation, as for example, the obit of Alfred the Great, assigned to October 26th, 899 ; October 25th, 900 ; and October 26th, 901. Ultimately, it will be found that the Numismatist is the true Historian.

Our first native coinage was that of the Ancient Britons, and there is evidence that it circulated in Derbyshire. The metals used were gold, silver, and an alloy of copper and tin—all indigenous to the country. The coinage commenced, probably, somewhere about 150 B.C., and ceased after the invasion of Britain by Claudius A.D. 43. Its unite was a gold stater, often described as a reproduction of a degraded copy of the Greek stater of Philip II of Macedon (360—336 B.C.), but which more

probably had its prototype in the coinage of Carthage, Iberia and Gaul, a contemporary currency in trade between Britain and the Carthagenians and other Phœnician colonies.

Many of the early coins of the Britons were without inscriptions, and some concave in shape, with a plain obverse. Inscribed coins include issues by Commius, King of the Atribates, who flourished at the time of Cæsar's second invasion of Britain 54 B.C., also issues by his sons Tincommius, Verica, and Eppillus, the latter a prince or chieftain of the Cantii, also issues by Tasciovanus, the Cymbeline of Shakespeare, and father of Cunobelinus, King of the Catyeuchlani, and the Trinobantes whose capital was Camulodunum (Colchester) at which place there were many mintages of the Ancient Britons. Verulamium, the ancient city of Verulum, near St. Albans, the capital of the Catyeuchlani, was also a considerable place of mintage, and first appears upon the coins of Tasciovanus.

One of the most valuable metals to the Ancients was tin. It was the tin mines of Cornwall and Devon which attracted the Carthaginians and their Phœnician kindred, whose ships were followed by the Romans, when the latter began to compete with Carthage for trade and power, to ascertain the source of the supplies of tin, and this brought Julius Cæsar in touch with the British Isles in 55 B.C. Tin was the amalgam with copper for the Roman bronze coinage—nine-sixteenths copper, one-sixteenth tin, or, for a lower grade of bronze, 75 per cent. of copper with 15 per cent. of tin and 10 per cent. of lead or zinc.

After the conquest of Britain by the Romans, A.D. 43, the Romans introduced considerable quantities of money of their own from Rome, which superseded the barbarous coins of the Ancient Britons, and supplemented by coins struck at Roman mints in Colchester and London, circulated in the kingdom for centuries. The

Colchester and London Roman mints were established in the reign of Diocletian, either by Diocletian, or Carausius who ruled in Britain A.D. 287—293. The London mint was continued until the reign of Magnus Maximus, A.D. 383—388—the last of the Roman Emperors to strike coins in Britain. The dies for the various coinages of the Romans were made at Rome.

The Romano-British series of coins includes one struck by Hadrian, about 121 A.D., upon which the figure of Britannia, “Queen of the Ocean” is depicted, a prototype of the figure of Britannia which first appeared on our copper coins in the reign of Charles II, and is a supposed portrait of the beautiful Frances Stewart afterwards Duchess of Richmond. The series also includes coins bearing the effigy of Carausius, A.D. 287—293, and a reverse design of the wolf suckling Romulus and Remus ; of Allectus, A.D. 293—296, the friend and Prime Minister of Carausius, whom he basely assassinated ; of Constantine the Great, A.D. 311—337 ; and of Magnus Maximus. The so-called “Britannia” on the coin issued by Hadrian, actually depicts the goddess “Roma” seated on a rock, and symbolizes a subjected province. This is the basis of the symbolic “Britannia” on our coins of to-day !

There is no record of any native coinage after the Romans left Britain A.D. 410 (the date Rome was sacked by Alaris the Goth), until about two centuries later. The Roman money continued to be the main currency, because there was no opportunity for attention to be paid by the Britons to a manufacture of coins—they split themselves up into little tribal states, and within 40 years their want of cohesion, accentuated by jealousies and local fueds, left the country open to incursions by Norsemen, Danes, and others from Northern Europe, seeking plunder and fresh settlements. It was not until the Jute and the Angle settlers, whose language and

manners were kindred to those of the Saxons, had become more or less absorbed by the Britons—thenceforth to be known as Anglo-Saxons—that there was again a native coinage.

The Anglo-Saxon coinage commenced about the beginning of the seventh century. The denominations issued were the *sceat* in gold and in silver, the *styca* in base silver and in copper, and the *penny* in silver. Only one of these denominations was struck at a time for the district to which it belonged. There was a gold *solidus* of an earlier date, similar to the Roman *solidus*, but there were so few of these that it is questionable whether they were included in the actual currency.

¹ The gold *sceat* (standard weight 20 grains), was a *triens* or *tremissis*—a third of a *solidus*. (*Sceat*,—*sc* as *sh* ...*shcet*, corrupted into *shot*, hence, “paying your shot,” a phrase not unknown in Derbyshire).

² The silver *sceat* (12-20 grains) varied according to the district in which it was current (*Sceat* signifies treasure, or portion).

The *styca*, or piece, was allied to the *sceat*, but of lower value being of inferior metal. It represented one-eighth of a Saxon penny.

The penny, signifying a pledge or value, weighed about 17 grains at first, afterwards the standard was $22\frac{1}{2}$ grains, and 240 were equivalent to the Saxon pound of silver.

Other denominations mentioned in Anglo-Saxon laws and literature were items of account and not coins, viz. :—

The pound equivalent to 240 pennies or 250 *sceats*.

The mark half the pound.

The marcus one-eighth of the pound or 30 pennies.

¹ The small gold *sceat* was an issue that apparently was not maintained.

² Hawkins *Silver Coins of England*, p. 24, says, “In the laws of Æthelstan, about 930, it is stated 30,000 *sceatta* were equal to 120 pounds, in other places the *sceatta* was the 20th part of a shilling, and a penny one-twelfth part.

The thrymsa, or *thrisma* one-third of the solidus, also equal to the gold sceat.

The shilling "a division," 48 to the pound in Wessex, and 60 to the pound in Mercia (4d. each).

The ora one-sixteenth of a pound, or in Wessex three to the shilling, in Mercia $3\frac{3}{4}$.

The silver sceattæ were, practically, the sole currency in the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms south of the Humber, viz. :—Mercia, East Anglia, Kent and Wessex, until the middle of the eighth century, or possibly in East Anglia until the reign of Æthelberht who was murdered in 794. The sceattæ currency overlapped by some few years the issue of the silver penny.

Early sceattæ are uninscribed—there are rude designs upon them of heads, birds, animals (including the wolf suckling Romulus and Remus), crosses, ornaments, etc. Inscribed sceattæ have blundered Roman lettering and designs copied from Roman coins, and some have Runic characters upon them of Merovingean types. Apparently it was an adaptable currency for purchases of quantities "more or less." A sceat of 10 grains would, of course, only have half the purchasing power of a sceat of 20 grains. The average weight of the coins was 17 to 18 grains, and seemingly they were the forerunners of the silver penny. Usually, in transactions, they passed by weight rather than by numbers.

The styca was minted between 670 and 867 by the Kings of Northumbria, and by ecclesiastical dignitaries who ruled over their various dioceses in Northumbria with a pomp and power almost equal to that of their monarch. The metal of the styca was a mixture of silver copper and zinc, called billon, and the coinage was practically confined to Northumbria. The people were so far away from the trade routes that their needs for currency were met by a local coinage of a low denomination, and a continued use of small Roman coins which remained.

The metal of the large Roman coins was probably used for the production of the local or native coinage.

Re the silver penny. Mr. W. G. Andrew in his *Numismatic History of the Reign of Stephen* (already laid under contribution!) rejects the usual theory that the British silver penny was of Frankish origin; he propounds the theory that it was "merely evolved from the Anglo-Saxon sceattæ to meet the requirements of a more progressive age," that the sceattæ, weight 17 or 18 grains, was spread out into a thinner coin of large diameter and so "merged into the penny," a thin penny which could be cut into halfpennies and so provide a smaller denomination than the penny,¹ thus supplanting the light and heavy sceattæ. Later the weight was increased from 17 grains to 22½ grains. The advantage sought by coining a well-spread silver penny in place of a small thick sceat was protection against dishonest coining. After the experimental stage, it was ascertained that 24 grains of standard silver (11.1 silver alloyed with 0.9 copper) spread into a disc seventeen-twentieths of an inch thick, was a serviceable token of commerce, neither too brittle, nor too pliable, whilst a similar disc of inferior standard would be readily apparent. This is admirably set forth in much detail by Mr. Andrew.

OFFA, "*The Mighty*," (757—796), is usually credited with the issue of the first Saxon silver penny, and his widow Cynethryth, A.D. 796, is credited with the first English penny on which a woman's bust is shown.

The series of silver pennies continued without any other denomination, excepting a few halfpence struck by King Alfred (891—901), until the reign of Edward III, and,

¹ Mr. Andrew says documentary evidence indicates that the thin silver penny was adopted as early at least as the first quarter of the 8th century. Also he believes the round halfpenny was invented in Alfred's reign for its similar severance into farthings, and that the cut quarter of a penny was not introduced until a century later.

excepting the cutting of pennies into *half*-pennies, and half-pennies into *fourth*-things (farthings).

A remarkable gold coin, 66 grains in weight ($=\frac{1}{8}$ of a £, or 30 silver pence) of Offa's reign, is described as a surviving specimen of 365 gold mancuses (*manchush*, a coin), that Offa agreed to pay, per annum, to Pope Adrian I, as alms for the poor ("Peter's pence,"). The translations of the legends, inscribed in Arabic upon the coins, are as follows:—

Obverse, in field—"There is no other God but the one God. He has no equal."

in margin—"Mahommed is the Apostle of God who sent him with the doctrine and true faith to prevail over every religion."

Reverse, in field—"Mahommed is the Apostle of God."

"OFFA REX."

in margin—"In the name of God was coined this Dinar in the year one hundred and fifty-seven."

The Mahommadan date 157 on the coin corresponds with the date A.D. 774.

BALDRED, (*King of Kent* 806 or 7—825), issued a penny which has DR-VR CITS in the centre of the reverse—(*Dorovenia Civitas—Canterbury*). This is the first occurrence of the place of mintage being shown upon a Saxon penny, and the coin is the earliest known from the Canterbury mint.

Canterbury was the capital of the Saxon kingdom of Kent, and the Metropolitan See of all England (Saxon, *Cant-wara-byrig*).

The period covered by the Kings and Overlords of the Kingdoms of the so-called Heptarchy, and by the Saxon Kings of all England, upwards of two centuries and a half, broken only by the Danish rule of 26 years (1016—1042), affords many items of numismatic history, which cannot adequately be dealt with in a rapid sketch of the sequence of our coinage, therefore the continuation of this paper is

confined primarily to "Derbyshire" and to "initial" items such as the ones just now given. The rise and decline of the various monarchs may be followed by the numismatic student throughout the coinage, and this is aptly expressed by Mr. W. J. Andrew, "Coins are the illustrations of Times history." Such illustrations are found in coins of Derby mintage, and this leads us at once to the reign of

ALFRED THE GREAT (891—901), and
EADWEARD THE ELDER (901—924).

Alfred (as King of the West Saxons) took Southern and Western Mercia from the Danes¹ and set up a separate government for this Midland kingdom under Ethelred, an Earldorman, or Alderman,² whose loyalty he ensured by giving him his daughter in marriage—Æthelflæda (b. A.D. 869, m. 886). Contiguous to this Midland kingdom were the *Five Danish Boroughs* in the Eastern district of Mercia, viz.:—Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, Stamford and Leicester. Alfred's aim was to free England entirely from the obnoxious rule of the Danes, and his son Eadweard the Elder continued his father's efforts towards this end, assisted by his brother-in-law, Ethelred, and after the latter's death (A.D. 912) by his sister Æthelflæda, who was continued in the government of Southern and Western Mercia with the title of "Lady of the Mercians."

Derby at this period was called *Deoraby*, a name continued by the Anglo-Saxons in later times. The name indicates the "by"³ of the Deoras or Deras—descendants of a man named Der, and their allies. The town was captured from the Danes, A.D. 917, by Æthelflæda, who died at the zenith of her success against the Danes, A.D. 919. After her death Eadweard took the government of

¹ Alfred and Guthrum Peace 886.

² The Aldermen, or "Elder-men" were originally the chief nobles.

³ "*bui*"—Scandinavian for "a dwelling place."

the whole of Mercia into his own hands, and it is surmised that he then established a mint at Derby, and that it continued in succeeding reigns. The Danes again established themselves in Derby and were again dispossessed by Eadweard in the course of his victorious advance through the remainder of *The Danelaw*, A.D. 924, "when he visited Nottingham and went thence into Peakland and commanded a burgh to be built in the neighbourhood of Bakewall." Still this was not the end of the struggle with the Danes.

Eadweard died A.D. 924, as "King of All the Angles and the Saxons," and his was the commencement of the monarchy of All England.

The identification of Eadweard's coins is through the names of the moneyers who were located at Derby, as it was rarely that the name of subsidiary mints was shown upon the coins until the reign of Æthelstan.

The fact that the Danes returned to Derby after their defeat by Æthelflæda, and after her death, is disclosed by the identification of coins of Derby mintage of Anlaf, King of Northumbria, and son-in-law of Constantine, King of the Scots, who were defeated by Æthelstan and Eadmund at the battle of Brunanburg, A.D. 937.

It is stated that¹ Anlaf Sihtricsson, son of Sihtric, succeeded to the Kingdom of Northumbria on the death of his father, A.D. 926, and Æthelstan assumed the kingdom after the defeat of Anlaf, A.D. 937. The half of an Anlaf penny² struck at Derby is inscribed:—

Obverse, [+ANF]AF CVNVNC[- -], small cross pattée

Reverse, +SI[- - - - MO]T ON DEORER, small cross pattée.

Sigar was a moneyer of Æthelstan, Eadmund, and Eadred, and a penny of Æthelstan in the National Museum at Rome locates Sigar at Derby,

¹ Nicknamed "Curan"—*Ir.* a shoe, or sock of untanned leather.

² Illustrated in Br. N. Jnl., V, p. 80.

+SIHARES MOT DEORABVI (read G for H ; the M is inverted). An M in the field of the coin indicates the Mercian mint (Derby, *circa* A.D. 928.)

Another Anlaf penny ascribed to the Derby mint is lettered :—

Obverse, +ANLAF CVNVNC O.

Reverse, +SIGARES MOT M *in field*

CVNVNC O signifies King of York (Eoferwic) or of Northumbria, not that the coin was struck at York.

ÆTHELSTAN (925—940 or 941) succeeded his father, Eadweard the Elder, and, as already stated, assumed the Kingdom of Northumbria, 937. He was the first Anglo-Saxon king to ordain that all money in the realm should be uniform in value, and should only be minted in specified places—"there shall be (only) one kind of money in all the empire and no one shall coin money outside a borough."—also, that the ecclesiastical coinages should be of the regal type only.

An Æthelstan silver-penny of the Derby mint reads :—

Obverse,¹ +ÆTHELSTAN REX TO BRI

Reverse, +SIGFOLDES MOT ON DEOJET

and is identified as from the same reverse die as the half of the Anlaf penny quoted above. There is an historic importance in the use of the same die at Derby for money bearing on the obverse the names of Anlaf and Æthelstan, the opposing Kings at the battle of Brumanburgh, the site of which battle may yet be proved to be in Derbyshire !

Æthelstan, after his overthrow, of the Danish princes (who had ruled in Deira (Yorkshire) and the neighbour-

¹ The inscriptions upon the coins are in Saxon characters ; these are not reproduced because of typographical difficulties.

I or II at the termination of a King's name = A (*Anglese*), not numerals ; II, often varied in the form of angles, also = v ; v = u ; d with a serif attached to, or through, the centre of the downward stroke = th ; p or p and vv = w ; om = of ; mo or mon = Monetarius (moneyer).

hood) and adding that district to his kingdom, was called "*Glorious Æthelstan.*" The following are particulars of his "Derby" pennies.

Obverse, +EDELSTAN RE SAXORVM, also

+EDELSTAN REX TO BRIT cross pattée

(¹"*Rex Totius Britanniae*").

Reverse, +BEORNARD ON DEOR.ABY cross pattée.

Obverse, +ETHELSTAN RE small cross pattée

Reverse, +SIGARES MOT M in field and a cross pattée.

Obverse, +ETHELSTAN RE.SXVOM cross pattée

Reverse, +BIDAHOTCT (CT for Civitas) DEORAIVI cross pattée and M in field.

Obverse, +THEL.STAN RE.BT also B.L.G (*sic*) cross pattée and a pellet in the field

Reverse, +CEEL.MNEM.DEB (or DEE.) large cross pattée.

Obverse, +ETHELITAN REX SAXOR:V: cross pattée

Reverse, +MERRA MOT IN DERABI cross pattée and M in field.

Obverse, +ETHELZTAN RED (*sic*)

Reverse, +OSWARTH (in two lines).

²*Obverse*, +ÆTHELS.TAN REX TO BRIT cross pattée

Reverse, +MARTINVS MET DEORAEV cross pattée.

In the collection of coins formed by Mr. W. Bateman and Mr. T. Bateman, of Lomberdale House, Youlgreave, sold May 4-6, 1893, there was an Æthelstan penny of Derby mintage described as

Obverse, +ETHELSTAN REX TO BRI

Reverse, +DAD - - - ES MOI IN DEORABII

¹ Although Æthelstan assumed the title "*Rex Totius Bratanniæ*" he never actually possessed the whole of the kingdom.

² Found in the Isle of Man.

and others with moneyers' names BEORNARD, MEDA and MENCIA.

In *Hawkins Silver Coins of England* p. 137, the mint name of Derby is given as DEORABVI, and other moneyers' names BOIGA and EDELNOT

Ruding publishes in plate 18 (No. 21), BOIGA MOTCT DEORABVI

EADMUND (940—946) succeeded his brother Æthelstan, and immediately the Danes again attempted to regain power, but Eadmund crushed their revolt, and confirmed his rule in both the Five Danish Boroughs and Danish Yorkshire; he also took Cumbria (Cumberland) from the Welsh and gave it to Malcolm, King of Scots, for assistance if required by land and sea. He gained the name of "*The Magnificent*" or "*The Deed-doer*."

Amongst the coins of "a nobleman," dispersed by auction in London. June 29th, 1903, there was a silver-penny as follows:—

Obverse, +EADF^mQAND REX (Retrograde)

Reverse, +AFRA II DER in three lines

This is the only coin hitherto noted of Eadmund's reign bearing the name Derby as its place of mintage. It is now in the possession of the writer hereof.

The Derby mint is not represented in the next two reigns—Eadred 946—955, and Eadwig 955—959.

In Eadwig's reign the Kingdom became divided, his portion being Wessex. His brother Eadgar was King between the Thames and the Firth of Forth.

EADGAR, "*The Peaceful*"

(Northumbria and Mercia 957, and after Eadwig's death in 959, all England to 975).

He, alone, of the great West Saxon king's ruled without having to fight for his throne. He was the greatest of

36 AN OUTLINE OF THE COINAGE OF BRITAIN.

English kings before the Norman conquest and styled himself *Emperor Augustus*, and *Basilius of Britain*—Emperor, King and Ceasar of Britain. He issued coins of Derby mintage as follows :—

Obverse, +EADGAR REX ANGLOR with bust

Reverse, +OSVLF M-O DEORBY cross pattée in centre

Obverse, +EADGAR RE cross pattée

Reverse, +BOIA MMO OD-†-ED in three lines, rosette of pellets above and below inscription.

Obverse, (as preceeding coin).

Reverse, +GRI MMO OD-†-ED in three lines and with rosettes. (Query GRIM MO DEO—a new moneyer for Derby. See Eadweard II.)

Obverse, +EADGAR REX TO (Totius Britanniae)

Reverse, +FRETHIL IN DEORB rosette of pellets in centre on each side.

Obverse, +EADGAR REX

Reverse, +MAN IN DEORBVI a cluster of pellets in centre on each side.

Obverse, +E.A.DGAR REX cross pattée in centre

Reverse, +FALSTOLF ···· MOI cross pattée in centre

Obverse, +EADGAR REX cross pattée M in field

Reverse, +FRETHICES MOT in two lines, divided by three crosses, a rosette of pellets above and below the inscription.

EADWEARD II, “*The Martyr*” (975—979).

Eadweard was the eldest son of Eadgar, and was 13 years of age when he became King. He was murdered at

the instigation of his step-mother to secure the throne for her son Eathelred, half-brother to Eadweard. There are only two coins of Eadweard II of Derby mintage,

Obverse, +EADPARD REX NGLOR (*sic*) diademed bust to right.

Reverse, +GRIM M.O DEORBY small cross pattée in centre. The second specimen is in the British Museum, but with another moneyer's name (*see B. M. C.* II, *p.* 193, *No.* 5).

ÆTHELRED II, (979, dep. 1013, rest'd. 1014-1016).

Æthelred II was 10 years old when he succeeded his murdered half-brother, so the nobles were practically the rulers of the kingdom. As he grew up he became jealous of the power of the nobles, but yet was too weak a character to rule by himself. He was called "*The Unready*"—that is *The Redeless*—the man without *rede* or good counsel. His jealousy led to dissensions and the Danes took advantage of this to renew their incursions into the kingdom for plunder and possible re-settlements. Æthelred was almost powerless against them and only gained respite from their inroads by money payments to them, for which he imposed a tax upon the people called the *Danegeld*. These payments he was compelled to increase year by year, and one result was the creation of numerous places of mintage, and many varied coins of the reign. To put an end to his difficulties with the Danes, whose maurauding hordes and their demands had become intolerable, he rashly caused a massacre of all the Danes in the kingdom on the Mass-day of St. Brice, November 13th, 1002. This infuriated the Danes in Denmark, and their King Swegen, or Svend, in 1003 commenced to ravage the kingdom, and in 1013 compelled Æthelred to fly to France. Swegen then became the actual ruler, but he is not represented in the coinage of Britain.

The following are records of Æthelred II pennies of Derby mintage, the obverse legends of which are ÆTHELRAED (or ÆTHELRED or ETHELRED) REX ANGLORVM, more or less abbreviated.

Obverse, Diademed bust to left, within inner circle.

Reverse, +GVNAR M-O DEORABY small cross pattée in centre, within inner circle.

Obverse, Diademed bust to right, within inner circle.

Reverse, +GVNER M + O DEORAB Hand of Providence issuing from a cloud ; a double-lined semi-circle between A and W.

Obverse, Rude bust to left dividing the legend ; no inner circle.

Reverse, +GODWINE M-O DEOR long cross voided, each limb terminating in three crescents.

Obverse, Bust to left in armour, with radiate helmet.

Reverse, +BLACEMAN M + O DORB long cross voided, with ends terminating in three crescents, super-imposed on a small quadrangle in centre, each angle of which terminates in a trefoil of pellets.

Obverse, +ÆTHELRED REX ANGLORVM Lamb with nimbed head, to right, and with cross. A-W (?Agnus Dei) in dotted compartment behind forelegs.

Reverse, +BLACAMVN :: DYREBY An upright bird, from the top edge of the coin, with wings extended. The tail feathers divide the legend below.

This remarkable coin was sold by auction in November, 1913, for £100. It has been suggested that it was

prompted by some providential circumstance in Æthelred's stormy reign, and the bird has been referred to as the "Dove of Peace." Instead of this, however, it is probable that the bird represents the Danish Raven, the symbol on the banners of the Danes; and the coinage may have been solely for "tribute money" with a design to placate or please the Danes.

Obverse, Diademed bust to right, within inner circle.

Reverse, +OZOLF M-O DEORAB Hand of Providence.
(This coin is in the possession of the writer hereof.)

In the H. W. Thorburn sale catalogue, Nov. 27th, 1918, No. 71, there is another Æthelred II Derby penny,

Reverse, +OSCAR ON DORBY (*B. M. Cat. type 1.*)

Swegen died in 1014 and then Æthelred returned from France to regain his throne, but was confronted by Swegen's son Cnut as successor to his father. The two were in conflict until 1016 when Æthelred died. Cnut subsequently married Æthelred's widow, Emma of Normandy.

Æthelred's son, Edmund, called *Edmund Ironsides*, continued his father's struggles with Cnut until they met by arrangement at Olney, an island in the Severn, when there was an agreement—the treaty of Olney—to divide the kingdom; Edmund Ironsides took Wessex, and Cnut remained in possession of Mercia and Northumbria. Edmund was assassinated in 1017, and the Wessex nobles, tired of fighting, then agreed to Cnut's rule. There are no coins known of Edmund Ironsides (1016—1017).

CNUT (1016—1035).

Cnut was King of Denmark as well as of England, and later, he became also King of Norway, so he was neces-

sarily absent for long periods from England which he made the central seat of his power ; and this led to his appointing great Earls to govern divisions of the country, approximately corresponding to Northumbria, Mercia, East Angliæ, and Wessex, as in earlier days. Probably this explains the prolific Anglo-Danish coinage. His places of mintage were more numerous than those of any other king. The following are records of Derby issues, with obverse inscriptions :—

+CNVT REX (or RECX, varied) AN (or ANGL or a longer form of ANGLORVM)

Obverse, Bust in conical helmet, with sceptre to left

Reverse, SPARTINC ON DEOR short cross voided, limbs joined in centre by small circle enclosing pellets, loops in each angle ; all within an inner circle.

Obverse, Diademed bust to left, sceptre in front

Reverse, SPARTINC ONDEOR short cross voided, in centre an annulet enclosing a pellet

HAROLD I, *Harold Harefoot* (1035—1040).

Cnut left two sons, Harold by his first wife Elgiva, and Harthacnut by his second wife Emma of Normandy, widow of Æthelred II. The crown of England belonged to Harthacnut by the conditions of Cnut's marriage with Emma, and his cause was supported by Godwin, Earl of Wessex and the West Saxons, but as he had succeeded his father as King of Denmark, and was an absentee from England, Harold, fiercely supported by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and the North and Midlands, was made Regent of All England on behalf of himself and his absent brother. In 1037, as Harthacnut obstinately remained in Denmark, Harold was chosen as king. He is represented in the Derby mintage by pennies, as follows :—

Obverse, +HAROLD REX Filleted bust to left

Reverse, +BL.A.L.AM ON DEORBI A cross formed of four ovals issuing from a circular centre.

(*Bateman collection, lot 314 sale of heirlooms.*)

Obverse, as above.

Reverse, +GODRIC ON DEO

HARTHACNUT (1040—1042).

Harthacnut succeeded to the English throne on Harold's death. "He did nothing like a king during his whole reign." He was a drunken and cruel despot, and died when raising a cup to his lips at a wedding feast of one of his nobles, and so ended the Anglo-Danish dynasties. His coinage included

Obverse, +HARCNT Bust to left, with sceptre

Reverse, +SPERTINC ON DEOR Cross voided, within inner circle; on it a square with a pellet at each corner.

EDWARD "*The Confessor*" (1042—1066).

Edward was the youngest son of Æthelred II, by his second wife Emma of Normandy, and half-brother of Edmund Ironsides, and so his succession restored the old Saxon line. He was gentle, refined and more like a priest than a King. During his reign the great Earls, Siward of Northumbria, Leofric of Mercia, and Godwin of Wessex, were practically the rulers of the Kingdom. Edward married Edith, daughter of Godwin, but surrounded himself with Norman favourites, dependents and adventurers, and so, ultimately, the domination of the Danes was exchanged for that of the Normans. Some of Edward's coins are much smaller than others; one type is thirteen-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, and another nine-sixteenths of an inch. The obverse inscriptions are:

+EDWARD REX ANGLORVM varied in the spellings and abbreviations.

Coins of Derby mintage, noted, are :—

Obverse, Bust to left, filleted

Reverse, +LIFPINE ON D Cross voided

Obverse, Helmeted bust to left

Reverse, +LEOFPINE ON DIRBI Cross voided, each limb terminating in a crescent at the edge of the coin, an annulet in centre. PACX in the angles.

Another of similar type with reverse inscription
+BLACHANON DE

Obverse, Bust to right, bearded and crowned, with sceptre in front.

Reverse, +FROMA ON DOR. Cross voided with terminating crescents.

Obverse, Bust to left with radiated crown

Reverse, +FROME ON DERBYI Small cross pattée within a circle.

Other Derby moneyers of this type are ENRIC and GODRIC

Obverse, King seated on throne, crowned, holding orb and sceptre, head turned to right.

Reverse, +GODPINE ON DI Short cross voided, a martlet in each angle.

Obverse, Bust facing, arched crown, braided

Reverse, +LEOFWINE ON DEOR Small cross pattée with inner circle.

HAROLD II, 1066.

Harold, son of Earl Godwin of Wessex practically wielded the kingly power many years before the death of

Edward the Confessor. He was crowned king on the day Edward was buried, January 6th, 1066, and was slain at the battle of Hastings, October 14th, 1066. Although he only reigned nine months, he perpetuated his memory by the issue of coins from many mints, including Derby.

Obverse, †HAROLD REX Head bearded, to left, crowned,
and with sceptre

Reverse, ON DEORBY PAX Across the field between parallel lines.

This ends the Saxon coinage, but the same type of coins was continued by the Normans. Derby coins of post-Conquest issue must form the subject of another paper.