

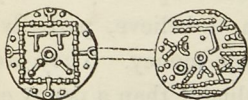
## NOTICE OF

## A Sceatta found at Burgh Castle.

COMMUNICATED BY

SIR JOHN P. BOILEAU, BART., F.R.S., F.S.A.,

President.



THE small Silver Coin which I submit to the inspection of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, was sent to me by Mr. Draper, of Yarmouth, my tenant at Burgh Castle, in a letter dated 11th November, 1857, in which he states that it was found in the Castle yard.

It appeared to be a Sceatta; but to assure myself of this, and also for further information, I applied to my learned friend Mr. Edward Hawkins, of the British Museum, who favored me with his opinion in the following words.

“Your coin is a Sceatta, and not a very uncommon type. The characters in *front of the face* are Runic, the meaning of which has not yet been satisfactorily made out. They vary upon different coins. You will find some of the coins engraved in Ruding, plate 2. The exact locality where such coins have been found has been very rarely recorded, and consequently less is known of their history and origin than there ought to be. Pray attach to your coin a piece of card or paper stating where it was found.”



In Ruding's plates I do not find any coin exactly similar to this Sceatta. Mr. Hawkins, in his own work on English Coins, plate 3, (of Sceattæ) gives one, No. 37, with a *reverse* nearly identical; but the *obverse* has a head with *Roman* letters in front of the face,—not Runic characters, though those *behind* the head may be so. There is not any thing in the text of Mr. Hawkins's work referring to this coin (No. 37), nor does he give the locality where any have been found, or the exact date of any of them. In Mr. Henry Noel Humphreys' book on "The Gold, Silver, and Copper Coins of England," pl. 3, are several representations of Sceattæ, but not one with much resemblance to the one I exhibit.

The Sceattæ, as is well known, were the coins used by the Saxons when they first overran this country, previously to the establishment of the kingdoms of the Heptarchy. They remained in use for some time, though, I believe, partially, as the different kings struck their own money. They are stated to have been 1-25th part less valuable than a penny of that time; and the penny was 1-240th of a Tower pound, which was three-quarters of an ounce less than our present Troy weight, which, at 5s. an ounce, would give its value now as about  $3\frac{1}{4}d$ . It is very difficult to adjust accurately the comparison of its value at the period of its currency; but I must refer for more details on these subjects to the valuable works I have already named, and others which treat of the subject, and pass on to the point to which I desire to draw your attention, viz., the proof which this little coin affords of the value of Archæology, and its services in corroborating history by the material remains it discovers of bygone times.

The geographers and historians of early days have informed us that the site of Burgh Castle was occupied by the Romans; and we have manifest archæological corroboration of their correctness in the massive walls of our "Camp," and in the Roman coins found within it. But we are also told by the Venerable Bede, H. 3, 19, (as mentioned in Ives's

*Garianonum*, page 42) that this situation, in the reign of Sigebert, fifth king of the East Angles, (636) was occupied by the Saxons, who established a monastery here under Fursius. So far, however, as I am informed, there have not hitherto been found at Burgh either Saxon ruins or Saxon coins. This little Sceatta belongs to that people; and though I do not pretend that it is of the coinage of Sigebert, nor that it was left on the spot by Fursius or his monks, I think, as Mr. Hawkins (page 18) informs us, that these coins were issued some time between the commencement of the sixth and close of the seventh century, we may fairly affirm that here is a positive and material archæological proof afforded to the historical statement we derive from Bede, of the Saxon occupation of Burgh Castle.

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