Notes

Anglo-Saxon Coins in Taunton Museum

In *Proceedings* xxvi, i, 87, there is a detailed list of a series of Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman coins known as the Marshall collection. The chief interest in these silver pennies, apart from the high degree of rarity of a few examples, lies in the fact that all of them were struck, as we are told, at Somerset mints. But were they? Not all, I think. It sometimes happens that when an uninstructed collector sets out to acquire specific objects, be they coins from a limited area or other things, he is supplied with items which should have been declined. In this case it would appear that a small number of the pennies, although quite genuine, ought not to be assigned to any mint within this county; the purpose of this Note is, therefore, to correct certain attributions to local mint-towns and to indicate the true places of origin, in accordance with the views of competent students of numismatics.

It is significant that the Rev. T. F. Dymock in his review of Somerset coins (*Proc.* i, ii, 12, and plates) does not mention as a native product even one of the five pennies on which I am about to comment. The present amendments and the reasons for them should, I think, be recorded with the same permanency as the original list in vol. xxvi, which might and indeed has misled some enquirers. I may add that the reverses of the coins, bearing the names of the moneyers and the places where they worked, are alone quoted.

The marginal numbers are those in the vol. xxvi list.

2. Eadgar. DEORVLF into (?) GIPE. Ilchester.

This penny should be assigned to Ipswich, which place name reads GIPESWIC, whereas Ilchester reads GIFELCEASTER, of course abbreviated on the coins.

17. Edward the Confessor. ESTMVND—AÐE. Athelney.

One of the two alleged ' hitherto unknown mints '. This attribution seems to be purely fanciful and without any historical warrant. Moreover it disregards the fundamental A–S coinage law that no man should strike money except in a town (*portus*), and we are told by Æthelred II that moneyers who worked in a wood or elsewhere must forfeit their lives. As a matter of fact this penny undoubtedly hails from Thetford in Norfolk where Estmund is well known. The initial A is misplaced, the first letter of the town being the composite Ð for ÐEODFORD. Two coins with apparently identical readings are in the British Museum, and another is in Stockholm Museum. (*Cf.* Hildebrand, 1881.)

21. Edward the Confessor. VLCATEL . ON . B—Bath.

The single letter B denotes Bedford, where the moneyer's name occurs with a less abbreviated form of the place name. On the other hand Ulcatel or a variant is unknown upon any Bath coins of A–S kings.

22. Edward the Confessor. ELFPINE . ON . CONCR—Congresbury.

This attribution represents the second of the ' unknown mints '. It is equally as mythical as No. 17 *ante* and for the same reasons which need not be repeated. The place name is a blundered form of COLNCEASTER or Colchester, and similar abbreviations can be found in two reigns in Hildebrand's catalogue of the Stockholm collection and also in an English cabinet.

28. William II. EDOVF . ON . CRVC—Crewkerne.

This is a misreading of the place name which is in truth CRIC and therefore attributable to Cricklade in Wiltshire. The British Museum catalogue of Norman coins (1916) does not assign any pennies to Crewkerne, but Canute and other Saxon kings issued certain coins which must I think be given to that town.

It remains to be said that during 1927 our Curator has admirably rearranged and relabelled the whole of the Saxon and Norman collection, and has incorporated the alterations here recommended.

HENRY SYMONDS.

Roman Bronze Coins found at Clapton-in-Gordano

This hoard was classified and described in *Numismatic Chronicle* (5th ser., vii, 209) by Mr. F. S. Salisbury, who permits me to make the following abstract as a record for our *Proceedings*, and the Royal Numismatic Society concurs in that permission.

It appears that in the autumn of 1922 twenty-eight Roman coins, A.D. 260–273, were found when a field lying close to Cadbury Camp was under the plough. No further search was made until July 1924 when Mr. R. E. Godwin, who owns the coins, returned to the locality. A few specimens were then found scattered on the surface near to the 1922 site, and subsequent digging by Mr. Godwin revealed the main hoard about one foot below ground level. The coins had presumably been buried in a wooden receptacle bound with iron, fragments of both substances being found on the spot. Pieces of skin (? hide) bore impressions of coins, which was evidence that the money had been wrapped in that material. The whole stood upon two flat pieces of sandstone, and a cover may have been formed by a shallow earthenware dish the fragments of which were also found. Adjoining the site was a rough stone floor, on and around which were bones of animals, two bronze brooches, spindle whorls and pottery shards.

The coins were sent to the British Museum for examination, and afterwards the detailed article was written for the *Numismatic Chronicle*. At a later date the hoard, then classified, was arranged for exhibition in the church room of Pill, a neighbouring village.

The coins relate chiefly to the reigns of Gallienus and Claudius II (Gothicus) and the contemporary Gallic usurpers who assumed the purple when opportunity offered. The summary is annexed, from which it will be seen that the aggregate number exceeds 3,400.

Claudius I (barbarous copy)	1	Brought forward	3,291
Gallienus . . .	541	Aurelian . . .	28
Salonina . . .	37	Severina . . .	3
Saloninus . . .	2	Tacitus . . .	17
Postumus . . .	47	Probus . . .	38
Laelianus . . .	1	Carus . . .	1
Victorinus . . .	706	Numerian . . .	1
Marius . . .	7	Carinus . . .	1
Tetricus, sen. . .	1010	Diocletian . . .	3
,, sen. and jun. .	1	Maximian . . .	1
,, jun. . .	408	Gallic (Victorinus or Tetricus) . .	38
Claudius II . .	492	Mainly Gallic . .	16
Quintillus . . .	38		
Forward	3,291	Total	3,438

The description of the types, some not published in Cohen's text-book, is too long for inclusion in this Note ; I must therefore refer those who are interested to the original article.

Ignoring, as we may quite properly, the spurious coin of Claudius I, Mr. Salisbury comments on the fact that the hoard begins in bulk with Gallienus (*d.* 268) and draws the inference that the abrupt boundary in date is referable to the debasement of the antoniniani by that emperor ; and that although the type of the new coinage was unchanged its real value was so inferior that it was probably rated on a lower basis by the people, but not officially, and consequently kept separate from the older coins. Similarly but not so distinctly the monetary reform introduced by Aurelian (*d.* 275) roughly marks the end of the hoard, as the coins of later date are less than three per cent. of the whole.

For my own part I have little to add beyond inviting attention to the solitary example from the mint of Laelianus (*Coh.* 4), which was not found, as I am told by Mr. Godwin, in the main hoard but during the excavation of an adjacent building. The coins of this usurper are undoubtedly the rarest of the Gallo-Roman series, indeed there are only three previously recorded occasions when they have been found in Britain. Even the great hoard of nearly 30,000 at Blackmoor, Hampshire, which covered the period now under review, included only eight

specimens. That being so, it is very remarkable that another coin of Laelian, of the same type, was found in 1927 in a small hoard at Wedmore which will be presently chronicled.

HENRY SYMONDS

ROMAN REMAINS IN RODNEY STOKE MOOR

Two fields behind the new pumping-station on the right-hand side of the Wedmore to Rodney Stoke road, the surface of the moorland is rough and bumpy. On 20th May last the farmer-owner, with a view to improving the drinking place in the rhine for his cattle, probed some of these mounds and roughnesses and found they contained just the stone he wanted. On removing the turf, he found remains of a paved roadway and of what appeared to be a 'pitched' courtyard. Buried some 18 inches deep just outside the upright edging-stones of the road his further search disclosed two urns, wheel-turned, of the usual late Romano-British size and shape. The first was broken unfortunately during excavation. The second is complete. Its mouth was closed by a large rough pebble. It contained a hoard of forty-three small coins of late emperors. Close to it, lying wedged between stones with a larger flat covering, was a small handful of dried grass enclosing a further small store of ten, of about the same period. Associated finds include portions of a quern, an annular brooch and the back of a fibula, both these latter of bronze. The field, which apparently has no name, was until recently a part of the Rodney Stoke glebe.

It is interesting to find traces of occupation in the midst of these moors, but nothing short of a systematic examination of the subsoil of the whole field can give an idea of the purpose of such occupation just there, not far from the old course of the Axe, on a line connecting the Tor at Glastonbury and Nyland, and, as described by the owner, 'just above drownding line'.

The following is a list of the coins as described by Mr. Henry Symonds, F.S.A.

SESTERTII

Antoninus Pius. *Rev.* illegible	1
Illegible. Perhaps an empress	1

THIRD BRASS

Gallienus ? Salus. MS.	1
,, Illegible. *Rev.* ? horse	1
Salonina. Fecunditas	1
Laelianus. Victoria	1
Victorinus. Victoria 1, Vesta 1, Providentia 2, illegible 2	6
Tetricus the elder. Salus 2, Spes 1, Hilaritas ? 1, illegible 3	7
,, the younger. Spes 1, Publica 2	3
Probus. Providentia (Siscia)	1
Carausius. Leg. IIII, lion	1
,, Pax varieties 8, illegible 5	13
Allectus. Illegible	1
Not identified wholly or in part	11

DENARII

Caracalla. P.M. TR. P IIII. Cos, 1, illegible 1	2
Not identifiable without further cleaning	3
	54

An interesting type in this little hoard is the legionary coin of Carausius, commemorating the Fourth Legion.

KINGSDOWN CAMP, SOMERSET, 1927

THIS small camp is situated in a grass field in the N.W. corner of the parish of Mells, and just to the S. of Ammerdown Park ; its altitude is about 600 feet above sea-level (*Vict. Co. Hist. Som.* ii, 524). It is an irregular pentagonal earthwork, only about 40 yards across and the stone-built bank or vallum en-

closes an area of little more than three-eighths of an acre (1 rood 22 poles). A plan of the site has been made by the writer showing contours of 6 inches vertical height.

Owing to the financial help kindly given by Lord Hylton, preliminary excavations were made last summer between the 15th and 27th August, but unfortunately the greater part of the time was wet, and rain considerably impeded both the surveying and the excavations.

Two men were employed for this work, including W. E. Young, who has worked for the Society on other sites in the county. The work was supervised by the writer (at such times as he was able to be present), and by Dr. A. Bulleid and Father Horne. Lord Hylton was frequently on the ground watching the progress of the excavations. He has promised further help for the continuance of the examination of the site in 1928.

In the parts excavated there is a clearly defined outer ditch,—depth after re-excavation about 4 feet. The rampart consists of dry stone walling, the upper courses of which have fallen abroad. In most places the natural rock is reached very near the surface. Two cuttings have been made through the rampart and ditch on the N. side. A trial excavation across the causeway or entrance-way on the N.E. has already revealed two post-holes about 4 feet deep below the present surface. Measured on the surface the entrance appears to be about 26 feet across.

A long narrow cutting has also been made across the middle of the interior space, where rock was revealed at an average depth of 9 inches. Part of the nose of a bronze fibula, with a perforation, was found here. One of the trays of pottery from this cutting contains fragments which appear to be pre-Roman in *type*, but in all the other cuttings nothing apparently earlier than the Roman period has been discovered, and a piece of imitation Samian was found in the lowest part of the outer ditch.

Shards of pottery were collected in good quantity from the ditch of Cutting I ; also in the interior just inside the rampart at Cutting II, where a trench was found cut into the rock and two post-holes. In this position two broken bone ' gouges ' were found, and a perforated bone implement similar to those

described and figured in *Glastonbury Lake Village*, vol. ii, p. 419. A contracted skeleton of an infant was uncovered against the wall ; also a pottery roundel, and part of the straight bow and catch-plate of a bronze fibula—of a first-century type found rather commonly on Ham Hill (Stoke-under-Ham) and in the Rushmore villages excavated by the late General Pitt-Rivers.

H. St. George Gray

Kilmersdon Road Quarry, Radstock

In Vol. xlv (1899), p. 118, of the Society's *Proceedings* the late Mr. James McMurtrie described some Romano-British remains discovered in Kilmersdon Road Quarry, near Radstock. The finds consisted chiefly of pottery obtained from the surface soil, and a circular pit about 6 ft. in diameter. Since that time the quarry has been much enlarged, and from the locality of the pit two trenches made their appearance and have been traced step by step in the N. face of the quarry during its extension. The trenches were of unequal size, placed side by side 21 ft. apart from centre to centre, and were cut in the superficial beds of lias. No depression of the surface was apparent over the trenches, and the filling consisted of soil and rubble stone, the former being distinctly darker in colour than the undisturbed surface soil in the vicinity. The trenches yielded from time to time quantities of pottery shards of the Romano-British period, three large bronze fibulæ of the same date, and a human skeleton (the fibulæ and the skull are in the Society's museum).

In November 1927 permission was obtained from Mr. Swanton, the owner of the land, to examine the trenches, and these were cleared for about 10 ft. from the face of the quarry. Nothing of importance was found except a few animal bones and some small fragments of pottery, and the excavations were discontinued. The trenches were of triangular shape in cross-

section, placed parallel in N. and S. direction, and had the following dimensions :

Trench A. The larger and situated to the E.
Width across top (12 in. below surface), 6 ft. to 6 ft. 6 in.
Width of floor, 12 in. to 2 ft.

Trench B. Width across top (12 in. below surface), 4 ft. 9 in. to 5 ft. 6 in.
Width of floor, 12 in. to 15 in.
Depth, 4 ft. 2 in.

The sides of the trenches were irregular, but the floors were fairly flat, having been cut down to a solid and level bed of rock.

ARTHUR BULLEID