

## On Coins issued from Somersetshire Mints,

BY THE REV. T. F. DYMOCK.

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THE money in common use in this country in former ages was not issued from one central mint as it is now, but was the production of many moneyers located in different parts of the island. In the times of the Saxon and early English kings there were several places in Somerset in which money was coined, and in each place one or more moneyers. It is intended in the present paper to point out these places, and to give as complete a list as possible of all the inscriptions which occur upon coins struck by royal authority within the borders of the county. Before we do this, it may be as well to state briefly the different kinds of money made use of by the different races which have occupied this island.

The British coinage in gold, silver and copper, was apparently formed upon a Grecian model, but that model not closely adhered to, as it furnishes

us with many obvious imitations of Roman types. Its circulation was probably in the southern parts of England chiefly, and lasted for a short period, being soon displaced by the coinage of the Romans.

The Roman money must have had a very extensive circulation amongst us for many ages from their first occupation of this country till some time after the arrival of the Saxons; for there is no evidence to show that the latter people brought money with them, or adopted the practice of striking it till some time after the settlement of the kingdoms of the Heptarchy.

The Saxon coinage appears to have been introduced gradually, at first in Northumbria in the seventh century; afterwards in Mercia, East Anglia, Kent and Wessex; and subsequently by the Sole-Monarchs in all parts of England; and here we find the first undoubted specimens of Somersetshire coins.

It is indeed probable that long before this, during the period in which Roman or British coins were the medium of traffic, many of them were struck within the borders of our county; but we cannot confidently point them out. We cannot say which of the many Roman coins, fresh from the die, which have been discovered in Burtle-turf-moor, or on the Mendip Hills, belong to this county or to any other: they bear no marks by which we can with certainty appropriate them; the initial letters in what is

called the *exergue* seem to indicate the place of mintage, but the interpretation of these initial letters has never been satisfactorily determined. Again, with respect to British coins, some of them may belong to Somersetshire, but we cannot say which; there are only a few which bear inscriptions, and Verulamium and Camulodunum are the only places which seem to be clearly indicated. Any appropriation of the majority of those pieces must rest upon very slender grounds. The late Mr. Skinner did indeed claim Camulodunum for this county; and if he did so upon just grounds, some of the best productions of British numismatic art would be ours; but as this claim has never been generally admitted, it would at least be premature to cite the numerous coins of Cunobeline as the undoubted productions of the West.

It has been stated that the earliest Saxon coins are probably of Northumbria; they are of small size and called *sceattæ*, resembling in form and type the French coins of the Merovingian race. The first *pennies* appear to have been struck in Mercia at the close of the eighth century; and this denomination of money (the silver penny) became the prevailing one both before and after the Conquest; nor were any pieces of larger size or value issued, with perhaps one exception,\* till the reign of Edward III.

\* The Groat of Edw. I. generally considered a pattern.

No place of mintage is indicated on the earliest pennies: the King's name and title, and the moneyer's name and designation, are all that they present to us. The first town inscribed is Canterbury, on the pennies of Baldred king of Kent, Ceolwulf king of Mercia, and Wulfred archbishop, in the beginning of the ninth century. In the following century, upon the coins of Alfred, appear for the first time the names of one or two places in the west, Winchester, Exeter and Gloucester; and a few years later, in the reign of his son and successor Edward the Elder, we have the earliest specimen yet discovered of a coin struck in this county: it is very rude and simple, having on one side the inscription EADVVEARD REX SAXONVM, in four lines, on the other, the word BAÐ, with two small crosses.\*

Athelstane's power was more extensive than that of his predecessors. In addition to the title "Rex Saxonum" or "Rex Occidentalium Saxoniorum" used by them, he adopted that of "Rex Totius Britanniae" contracted on his coins to "Rex To. Brit." Of these we have many specimens struck in most of the principal towns of England, from Exeter in the south west, to York in the north east; and amongst them three belonging to this county, one of Bath, and two of Langport (the only coins of the latter town which have yet been discovered): these have

\* See plate I, fig. 1.

likewise the moneyer's name and designation ; we read on one BIORIITVLF MON BAT CIVITATI, on the other two BYRIITELM MO LANLPORT, and VVVNSILE MO LONLPORT.\*

There are very few coins with the names of towns inscribed upon them during the reigns of Edmund, Edred and Edwy ; we have not been able to discover a single Somersetshire specimen. In the time of Edgar, Bath appears again†, and Ilchester for the first time ; upon both of these coins the King's title is "Rex Anglorum:" we know that this title had been adopted before by his predecessors as early as the reign of Edward the Elder,‡ but it does not appear till now upon any *coin*. We are told that Edgar in the year 973 was consecrated with great ceremony at Bath, and shortly after went up the Dee to Chester, where he was met by eight of the petty kings of Scotland, Britain, and Wales, who came to do him homage, and rowed his vessel up the river while he sat at the helm ; and that upon that occasion he said that henceforward his successors might boast that they were indeed kings of the Angli. Without supposing these coins to be commemorative either of the coronation, or the triumphal approach to Chester, it is probable that they were subsequent to those events, and that the title "Rex Anglorum," which had been used before,

\* See fig. 2, the Bath coin is engraved in Ruding. Plate XVIII, No. 24.

† See fig. 3.

‡ See Cod. Dipl. Œvi. Sax.

had by this time become established. It is the one always made use of upon the coins of Edgar's successors.

Of Edward the Martyr we do not know of more than one Somersetshire specimen, struck at Bath\* ; but from Ethelred II to Harold II they occur in considerable numbers, bearing the names of what were then the principal towns of the county, Bath, Ilchester, Taunton, Watchet, Crewkerne, Bruton, and Cadbury ; of these by far the greatest number were issued from the mints of Bath and Ilchester. Langport has already been mentioned as presenting two pieces in the reign of Athelstane ; and there is a coin of Ethelred II with the inscription MYLE, which has been given to Milborne Port. The types which are known of these nine places of mintage before the Conquest, do not amount altogether to more than twenty-five ; and the inscriptions, including some minute variations, are about 125. This is the result of a careful examination of the Anglo-Saxon coins in the British Museum, and several other important English collections, as well as of those which are preserved in such great numbers in the Royal Cabinet of Stockholm, and which have been recently described in so complete a manner by M. Hildebrand.† Some idea of the richness of this

\* See fig. 4.

† The author does not mean to say that he has seen the Stockholm collection, but that they have evidently been carefully examined by M. Hildebrand. The reader will observe how much the Somersetshire list has been augmented from his work.

collection of Anglo-Saxon money at one particular period, during the reigns of those monarchs who were of Danish origin, and of those upon whom the Dane-geld was levied, is conveyed in the comparative statement made by M. Hildebrand of the number of coins of Ethelred II, Canute, and Harold I, in the British Museum and in the cabinet of the King of Sweden. Of Ethelred II, (according to M. Hildebrand) the British Museum has 144 pieces, the cabinet of the King of Sweden 2254 ; of Canute, the British Museum has 380, the cabinet of the King of Sweden 1396 ; of Harold I, the British Museum 48, the cabinet of the King of Sweden 237. The relative numbers are very different in the time of the Confessor : of this king the British Museum contains 450 specimens, the Swedish cabinet 273.

This statement may serve as an illustration of the extent to which our forefathers were plundered in the 10th and 11th centuries.

We cannot discover that coins were struck in this county after the conquest at any other towns than Bath, Ilchester, and Taunton. There is indeed a charter of the Empress Maud, quoted by Hearne, in which allusion is made to a mint at Glastonbury, granted with other privileges to Henry, prelate of the church there ;\* but the name of Glastonbury on any coin yet remains to be discovered. Bath and Taunton are mentioned as places of mintage in

\* See Ruding's *Annals of the Coinage*.



Domesday; the moneyers at Bath paid an annual rent of 100s for the use of the mint in that city in the time of William I, and the moneyers at Taunton 50s. This may perhaps give some idea of the relative importance of those places at that time.

In 1097, William Rufus gave to God and the church of St. Peter of Bath, and to John the Bishop, and to his successors, all the city of Bath, for the augmentation of the revenue of the see, for the good of the soul of his father King William I, and the souls of his mother, of himself, and of his ancestors and successors, *together with the mint, &c.\** and this grant was confirmed in 1100. We have coins of William I or II and Henry I, from the mint at Bath, but nothing of a later date.

Specimens from the mint at Taunton of the time of Stephen are extant, but we have no evidence of its having been worked afterwards. Coins were struck at Ilchester in the reigns of Henry II and Henry III: in the 33rd year of Henry III a writ issued for the choice of officers in this mint. These appear to have been the last coins struck in this county by royal authority; it was probably found sufficient to give the privilege of coinage to the larger towns, and this part of England was supplied from the mints of Bristol and Exeter. The Exeter mint was disused after the reign of Edward I, but from the mint at Bristol issued both

\* See Rud. vol. ii. 210.

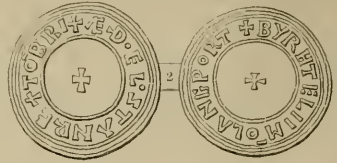
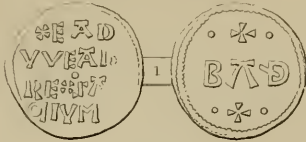


gold and silver coins, nobles, angels, and groats, during the reigns of our Edwards and Henrys, till the time of Queen Mary, when the custom of coining in country mints ceased. During the troubles of the civil war it was found convenient to revive the practice, and accordingly among the pieces of necessity of that time we have some which were struck at Exeter and Bristol from 1642 to 1645, when those places held out for the king, but no such pieces are known to have issued from any town in this county.

We now proceed to give the list of inscriptions, illustrated by two plates. All the engravings in them are from Somersetshire coins. Where it was not possible to obtain a drawing of a Somersetshire specimen, it has been thought sufficient to refer to the plates in Ruding's *Annals of the Coinage*, where the type appears exemplified by a coin of some other county.

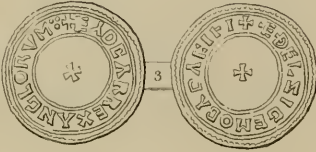
EDWARD THE ELDER.

ATHELSTAN.

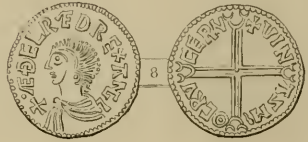
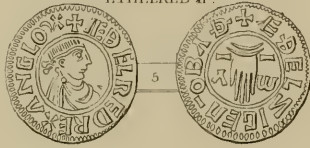


EDGAR.

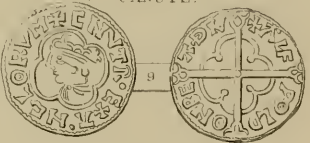
EDWARD THE MARTYR.



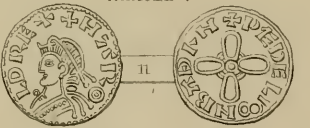
ETHELRED II.



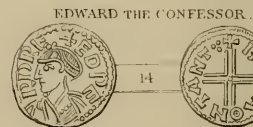
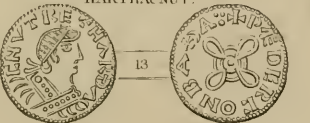
CANUTE.



HAROLD I.



HARTHACNUT.



LIST OF COINS ISSUED FROM SOMERSETSHIRE MINTS.

	Inscription.	Town.	Type.	Collection.
EDWARD ELDER	BAÐ	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. i.	B. M.
ATHELSTAN	BIORHTVLF MON BAT CIVITATI.	„	Fig. ii.	„
	BYRHTELM M <sup>o</sup> LANLPORT	<i>Langport</i>	„	CUFF
	VVVNSILE — LONLPORT	„	„	B. M.
EDGAR	ÆÐELSILE MO BAÐA CIVI	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. iii.	„
	ÆÐELFERÐ — LIFLE	<i>Ilchester</i>	Fig. iv.	HILD.
EDWARD MARTYR	BRINFERÐ — BAÐA	<i>Bath</i>	„	CUFF
ETHELRED ii.	ÆÐESAN ON BAÐ	„	„	HILD.
	ÆÐESTAN — —	„	„	„
	ALFOLD — —	„	„	„
	————— — BAÐA	„	„	„
	LOD — CADANBYRIM	<i>Cadbury</i>	„	„
	LODEFRVD — CADEN	„	„	„
	LEOFSILE M <sup>o</sup> LIFEL	<i>Ilchester</i>	„	„
	EADRIC ON TANTVNEM	<i>Taunton</i>	„	„

	Inscription.	Town.	Type.	Collection.
ETHELRED ii.	ÆDELSILE M <sup>o</sup> BAÐ	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. v.	T. M.
(continued)	ÆLFSILE — LIFLE	<i>Ilchester</i>	"	HILD.
	LOD — LIFLECES	"	"	"
	SILERIC — ꝥEDED	<i>Watchet</i>	"	"
	ÆDELRIC — BAÐAN	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. vi.	T. M.
	ÆLFELM — LIFELC	<i>Ilchester</i>	"	HILD.
	LOD — ———	"	"	"
	ꝥVLFELM — LIFEL	"	"	"
	SILERIC — ꝥEDED	<i>Watchet</i>	"	T. M.
	ÆDELRIC — BAÐ and BAÐA	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. vii.	HILD.
	EDSTAN — ———	"	"	"
	HILDSILE — ———	"	"	"
	ꝥVNSTAN — ———	"	"	"
	ꝥYNSTAN — ———	"	"	"
	ÆDELRIC — LIFEL	<i>Ilchester</i>	"	"
	LOD — LIFELC	"	"	"
	—— — ———S	"	"	"
	—— — ———ES	"	"	"
	LEOFRIC — LIEL	"	"	"
	—— — LIFEL	"	"	"

LEOFSILE	—	LIFE	”	”	”
ƳVLFELM	—	—	”	”	”
—	—	LIEEL	”	”	”
SILERIC	—	ƳELED	<i>Watchet</i>	”	DYMOCK
ÆLFRIC	M <sup>o</sup> O	BAÐ	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. viii.	HILD.
ÆÐELRIC	—	—	”	”	”
EDSTAN	—	—	”	”	”
—	M <sup>o</sup> O	—	”	”	”
EDSTN	M <sup>o</sup> O	—	”	”	B. M.
HILDESILE	OM	—	”	”	HILD.
HILDSILE	M <sup>o</sup> O	—	”	”	”
ƳYNSTAN	—	—	”	”	”
—	M <sup>o</sup> O	—	”	”	”
VINAS	—	ERVCERN	<i>Crewkerne</i>	”	”
LOD	M <sup>o</sup> O	LIFELE	<i>Ilchester</i>	”	B. M.
LEOFNV	M <sup>o</sup> O	LIFNC	”	”	HILD.
LEOFSILE	—	LIFEL	”	”	”
ÆÐ * *	*	MYLE	<i>Milborne?</i>	”	”
LEOFƳINE	M.O	TANT	<i>Taunton</i>	”	”
HVNEPINE	M <sup>o</sup> O	ƳELED	<i>Watchet</i>	”	”
ÆLFRIC	M <sup>o</sup> O	BAÐ	<i>Bath</i>	Rud. fig. i.	”

	Inscription.		Town.	Type.	Collection.
ETHELRED ii. (continued.)	ÆDELRIC	M <sup>o</sup> O	BAÐ	<i>Bath</i>	Rud. fig. i. HILD.
	ÆÐESTAN	—	—	"	" "
	ALFÞOLD	—	—	"	" "
	LEOFPINE	M.O	BAÐI	"	" "
	ÞINAS	M <sup>o</sup> O	LIFELC	<i>Ilchester</i>	" "
CANUTE.	ÆLFRIC	ON	BAÐAN	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. ix. B. M.
	—	—	BEAÐN	"	" "
	ÆDELRIC	—	BAÐA	"	" "
	ÆÐESTAN	—	BAÐ	"	" "
	ALFÞALD	—	—	"	" "
	ALFÞOLD	—	BEAÐN	"	" "
	ÆLFELM	—	BRIV	<i>Bruton</i>	" "
	ÆLFPINE	—	—	"	" HILD.
	ÆLFEL	—	CAD	<i>Cadbury</i>	" B. M.
	ÞINAS	O	CRVCY	<i>Crewkerne</i>	" HILD.
	—	ON	CRVC	"	" "
	ÆLFSILE	—	LIF	<i>Ilchester</i>	" "
	—	—	LIFEL	"	" "
	ÆLFPINE	—	LIEL	"	" "
	—	O	LIFEL	"	" "

—	ON	LIFL	"	"	"
ÆDELPI	—	LIF	"	"	"
ÆÐLMÆR	—	LIFL	"	"	"
LOD	—	LIFELEST	"	"	"
—	—	LIFLCES	"	"	"
LODÞINE	—	LIFL	"	"	"
LEOÞINE	—	LIF	"	"	"
OSPI	O	LIFELE	"	"	B. M.
—	ON	LIFLE	"	"	HILD.
OSÞIE	—	LIFE	"	"	"
ÞVLFELM	O	LIF	"	"	"
—	ON	LIFL	"	"	"
ÆLFSIL	—	TANTV	<i>Taunton</i>	"	"
EDRIL	—	TANT	"	"	"
—	O	TANTV	"	"	"
EDÞNE	—	TANTV	"	"	"
LODEIL	—	ÞECE	<i>Watchet</i>	"	MARTIN
ÆELFRIC	ON	BAÐ	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. x.	HILD.
ÆÐLSTAN	—	BAÐA	"	"	HUNTER
ÆSTAN	—	BAÐANN	"	"	HILD.



	Inscription.			Town.	Type.	Collection.
CANUTE (continued)	ALFÞOLD	ON	BAÐ	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. x.	HILD.
	LEFOS.LE	—	BAÐA	"	"	"
	ÆLFFELM	—	BRIVT	<i>Bruton</i>	"	"
	ÆFLÞINE	—	EIFE (E for L)	<i>Ilchester</i>	"	"
	LEOFÞINE	—	BRV	<i>Bruton</i>	Rud. fig. iv.	HUNTER
	ÆLELÞIC	—	LIFEL	<i>Ilchester</i>	"	HILD.
	LÆFEL	—	LIFE	"	"	"
	ÆLELMÆR	ONN	BAÐA	<i>Bath</i>	Rud. fig. xxiii.	"
HAROLD i.	ÆLFÞIL	ON	BAÐA	"	Fig. xi.	"
	ÞEDEL	—	BAÐAN	"	"	CUFF
	BRIHTRIC	—	CRV	<i>Crewkerne</i>	"	HILD.
	ÞÆDELL	—	BAÐ	<i>Bath</i>	Rud. fig. iv.	"
	LEOFÞINE	—	BEO	<i>Bruton?</i>	"	"
	—	—	BRÆ	"	"	"
	ÆLMÆR	—	BAÐA	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. xii.	HILD.
HARDICANUTE	ÞÆÐERC	—	—	"	Fig. xiii.	PENROSE
	ÞÆDEL	ONN	—	"	{ Fig. xiii. but head to right }	HILD.
EDW. CONFESSOR	ÆLFÞINE	ON	BRV	<i>Bruton</i>	Rud. fig. xxxi.	HUNTER
	ÆLLÞINE	—	LIFEL	<i>Ilchester</i>	"	DURRANT

	ÆLELMÆR	—	BA	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. xiv.	HILD.
	ESTMVI	BAÐE		"	"	CUFF
	LEOFƿIN	ON	LI	<i>Ilchester</i>	"	"
	BOLA	—	TANT	<i>Taunton</i>	"	"
	ÆLELMAER	—	BAÐ	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. xv.	HUNTER
	ƿVLFƿERND	—	LIFE	<i>Ilchester</i>	"	HILD.
	BOIA	—	TANTVNE	<i>Taunton</i>	"	B. M.
	DVRBERD	—	LIFE	<i>Ilchester</i>	Rud. fig. xiv.	HILD.
	BRIHTRIC	—	TANTVNE	<i>Taunton</i>	Fig. xvi.	B. M.
	ÆLFƿINE	—	LIFE	<i>Ilchester</i>	Rud. fig. xxvi.	HUNTER
HAROLD ii.	BRIHTRIC	—	TAN	<i>Taunton</i>	Fig. xvii.	DYMOCK
	ÆLLƿINE	—	LIFL	<i>Ilchester</i>	Rud. fig. ii.	BRUMELL

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 AFTER THE CONQUEST.

WILLIAM i.	ƿÆLELƿINE	ON	GIF	<i>Ilchester</i>	Fig. xviii.	B. M.
	BRIHTRIC	—	TANT	<i>Taunton</i>	"	"
WILLIAM i. or ii.	IEGELƿINE	—	GIFI	<i>Ilchester</i>	Fig. xix.	"
	IEGLƿINE	—	GIFLI	"	"	CUFF
	IEGLƿNE	—	GIFELC	"	"	B. M.

	Inscription.	Town.	Type.	Collection.
WILLIAM i. or ii. (continued.)	IELFÞINE ON TANV	<i>Taunton</i>	Fig. xix.	{ B. M. AND BLUETT.
	EHLFÞARD — GIFE	<i>Ilchester</i>	Fig. xx.	CUFF
	IELÞORD — GIFL	"	"	DYMOCK
	ÞICHXSLI — GIFLI	"	"	SHEPHERD
	————— — GFLDS	"	"	B. M.
	IELFÞINE — TANV	<i>Taunton</i>	"	"
	————— — TAN	"	Fig. xxi.	"
	IEGLMIE — BAÐN	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. xxii.	"
	OSMIER — ———	"	"	"
	————— — BAÐNI	"	"	"
	IELÞORD — GIFL	<i>Ilchester</i>	"	"
	ÞELÞÞORD — GIFLI	"	"	"
	IELFÞINE — TAN	<i>Taunton</i>	"	"
HENRY i.	ÞINTERLEDE — BAÐA	<i>Bath</i>	Fig. xxiii.	"
	OSBERN — BAD :	"	Fig. xxiv.	RASHLEIGH
STEPHEN	ALFRED — TAN	<i>Taunton</i>	Fig. xxv.	"
	* ED — TANT	"	"	"
	* * * * * TANTV	"	"	"



15



16



HAROLD II.



17



WILLIAM I.

WILLIAM I or II.



18



19



20



21



HENRY I.



22



23



STEPHEN.



24



25



HENRY II.

HENRY III.



26



27



	SAPINE	—	TANT	”	”	B. M.
HENRY ii.	R * *	*	IVE-EE	<i>Ilchester</i>	Fig. xxvi.	”
	ROC *	ON	IVE-C	”	”	”
	* *	—	IVEL	”	”	”
	ADAM	—	—	”	”	”
HENRY iii.	HVGE	—	IVELCE	”	Fig. xxvii.	SAINTHILL
	RANDVLF (or PH)	ON	IVE	”	”	T. M.
	STEPHE	ON	IVEL	”	”	SAINTHILL
	STEFNE	—	—	”	”	”
	TERVEI	—	IVE	”	”	”

The Coins in the foregoing list with the letters HILD. are in the cabinet of the King of Sweden ; those with B. M. in the British Museum ; those with HUNTER in the Glasgow Museum ; those with T. M. in the Taunton Museum, and those marked SAINTHILL and PENROSE, are given upon the authority of R. Sainthill, Esq. The rest are in private cabinets, the owners of which have kindly favored me with impressions or inscriptions of their coins. Fig. 24, in the second plate, has by mistake been drawn more perfect than the original really is.

T. F. D.