

A PARCEL FROM A SMALL HOARD OF COINS OF EADMUND OF EAST ANGLIA

HUGH PAGAN

Further to Steve Green's recent note in this blog, I made a note in March 1995 of a group of five coins of Eadmund of East Anglia shown to me, on a visit to the Baldwin firm at that date, by the late Michael Sharp. They had, as Michael told me, come to the Baldwin firm as a group, with no other accompanying coins, and it is reasonable to suppose that they had been found together. As there seems to have been no very obvious influx of coins of this ruler on to the market in the mid 1990s, it can fairly be concluded that the hoard concerned was a small one. The present-day whereabouts of these coins is unknown to me, but they doubtless ended up in the possession of a customer or customers of the Baldwin firm, and maybe the present note will jog the memory of one or more readers of this blog.

Although I did not photograph the coins, or ask for them to be weighed, my note of the coins' types and inscriptions was a full one, and here is a list of them, with references to comparable coins in the corpus of coins of this reign printed as part of Rory Naismith's *The Coinage of Southern England 796-865*, 2011, 2 vols (British Numismatic Society Special Publication No.8) :

EADMUND (855-870)

Moneyer Eadmund

Letter A/Cross and Pellets

+EADMVND REX AN-

+EA.DMVND MONE-

Naismith type E58. Of the specimens of this type illustrated by Naismith, his nos. E58a, E58c and 58d have the same obverse and reverse readings, with contraction marks ending each inscription, but none of these has a visible pellet between A and D on the reverse.

Moneyer Eadwald

Letter A/Cross and Pellets

+EADMVND REX.

+EADVALD MO

Naismith type E66. Although the present writer transcribed the fourth letter in the moneyer's name as a V, it may in reality have been the Anglo-Saxon letter *wen*, shown on most coins of this moneyer as a V with a closed top. The presence of a pellet at the end of the obverse inscription is a feature found only on a small number of this moneyer's obverse dies.

Moneyer Ethelwulf

Cross and Crescents/Cross and Pellets

+EAD:MVND REX AN

+EDELVLF MON (retrograde)

Naismith type E55.2. None of the specimens of this type illustrated by Naismith have a colon of pellets between D and M in the obverse inscription.

Moneyer Sigered

Letter A/Cross and Pellets

+EADMVND REX

+SIGERED MON

Naismith type E67.1. The only coins illustrated by Naismith with this combination of obverse and reverse inscriptions, and, as here, without accompanying pellets in the reverse inscription, are his nos. E67.11 and E.67.1m (die-duplicates).

Moneyer Twicga

Letter Omega surmounted by horizontal bar/Cross and Pellets

+EADMVND REX AN

+TWICGA MON

Naismith type E60.2. The only coins illustrated by Naismith with this combination of obverse and reverse inscriptions, and, as here, without accompanying pellets in the reverse inscription, are his nos. E60.2g and nos. E60.2h-k (these last all die-duplicates).

The presence in this small parcel of a coin of the moneyer Sigered on which the obverse inscription is +EADMVND REX, rather than +EADMVND REX AN, indicates that the component coins in the hoard came together after the point in Eadmund's reign when the obverse inscription on the coins was always given in this shorter form and the flan sizes of the coins had diminished. Although the coin of the moneyer Eadwald in this parcel also has the obverse inscription in the same shorter form, the known production by this moneyer is not so clearly all of later date within Eadmund's reign (H.E.Pagan, 'The Coinage of the East Anglian Kingdom from 825 to 870', BNJ 52, 1982, 41-83, at p.49).

