

A MONEYER FOR EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CREATED BY A PRINTING ERROR

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Lot 818 in the “English Part I” Lockett sale, Glendining 6 June 1955 following, is a lot of coins of Edward the Confessor’s *Expanding Cross* type, including a coin described in the catalogue as PVLFPINE ON PALI (Wallingford)¹. Wulfwine was in consequence listed as a moneyer for the Wallingford mint in this type both by Dr Anthony Freeman, writing in 1985², and by Kenneth Jonsson and the late Gay Van der Meer in their authoritative listing in 1990 of mints and moneyers for the period between c.973 and 1066³.

Readers of Dr.Freeman’s book will see that he was clearly unhappy about the presence of Wulfwine as a moneyer at Wallingford during the *Expanding Cross* type, for Wulfwine is not otherwise recorded as a moneyer at Wallingford during Edward the Confessor’s reign, and the only evidence for his existence as a moneyer for this type is, as Freeman put it, the “mint signature recorded by the Lockett cataloguer”⁴. Freeman did nonetheless accept the evidence provided by the Lockett catalogue and in this he was followed by Jonsson and Van der Meer.

During the course of a current review of the evidence for the *Expanding Cross* type as a whole, the present writer was similarly bothered by the apparent presence of Wulfwine as a Wallingford moneyer for the type, especially as he could find no evidence that the coin described in lot 818 of the 1955 Lockett sale had found a home in an institutional collection or had reappeared in commerce at any point in the last sixty-four years. A search in Lockett’s manuscript catalogue, preserved in the joint RNS/BNS Library housed in the Warburg Institute, failed to reveal that Lockett had possessed such a coin, and it therefore seemed likely that the cataloguer had misread a coin that had in reality been struck by another Wallingford moneyer with a not dissimilar name. As it happens, there were three Wallingford moneyers operating at this approximate date with names incorporating the -wine element in Wulfwine’s name – Brihtwine, Brunwine, and Burewine – and it seemed a reasonable working hypothesis that the coin should be reattributed to one or other of these individuals.

As older numismatists will remember, a photographic record of Lockett’s Anglo-Saxon coins was made prior to the first of the sales of the English portion of the collection, and recourse to this quickly showed that Lockett’s coin of Wallingford of this type was not by a moneyer Wulfwine but by a moneyer Brihtwine⁵. Although Brihtwine is not

¹ *Catalogue of the celebrated collection of coins formed by the late Richard Cyril Lockett, Esq., English, Part I, ... June 6th, 1955 and three following days*, p.107 (at foot).

² Anthony Freeman, *The Moneyer and the Mint in the reign of Edward the Confessor 1042-1066*, Oxford, 1985 (BAR British Series 145), vol.ii, p.461 and p.464.

³ Kenneth Jonsson and Gay Van der Meer, ‘Mints and Moneyers c.973-1066’, in Kenneth Jonsson, ed., *Studies in Late Anglo-Saxon Coinage*, Stockholm, 1990 (Numismatiska Meddelanden XXXV), pp 47-136 (at p. 109).

⁴ Freeman, op.cit., p.464.

⁵ Dr Stewart Lyon with his customary kindness consulted his own set of these photographs on the writer’s behalf.

recorded as a Wallingford moneyer for this type either by Freeman or by Jonsson and Van der Meer, he is well recorded at Wallingford both for the preceding type, *Short Cross* (or *Small Flan*), and for the succeeding type, *Pointed Helmet*, and he is in fact known for *Expanding Cross* both from the ex-Lockett coin and from another specimen which was offered by the Spink firm in the *Numismatic Circular*, May 1993, no.2615. The Lockett coin appears from its dimensions to have been a specimen of the Light phase of the type, while the coin published in the *Numismatic Circular* was said there to weigh 1.533g. and will thus have belonged to the type's Heavy phase.

We should thus delete Wulfwine and add Brihtwine in any future listings of moneyers operating at Wallingford during this type for Edward the Confessor, and so far, so good. It seemed however distinctly puzzling, on reflection, that the cataloguer of the Lockett sale should have misread a reverse inscription that very clearly gives BRIHTPINE and not PVLFPINE as the coin's moneyer, and the explanation turns out to be a more unexpected one.

The catalogue entry for lot 818 in the Lockett sale reads as follows :

818 Others reading PVL RICE ON SEFTCS (Shaftesbury); ELFEM ON SCREOB (Shrewsbury); PVLFPINE ON PALI (Wallingford). *All very fine or better.* 5

Those with sharp eyes will notice that while only three coins are described, the total of coins in the lot is given as five. A more careful check of the entries in Lockett's manuscript catalogue has now shown that Lockett possessed three coins of the *Expanding Cross* type that do not feature either in the catalogue for the 1955 sale or in the catalogues for the subsequent sales in 1958 and in 1960 which also contained Anglo-Saxon coins. One of these was the Wallingford coin by a moneyer Brihtwine already discussed, which the manuscript catalogue reveals was from the City of London hoard (1872), while the other two were coins of this type of the Stamford moneyer Wulfwine, purchased by Lockett from the dealer Lincoln, and of the Steyning moneyer Wulfgeat, which Lockett had acquired from the Dudman sale (1913) lot 254 (part).

Readers will see that Stamford and Steyning fit exactly into the gap between Shrewsbury and Wallingford in the alphabetical sequence of mints, and the intended catalogue entry for lot 818 must therefore have been:

818. Others reading PVL RICE ON SEFTCS (Shaftesbury); ELFEM ON SCREOB (Shrewsbury); PVLFPINE ON STANFO (Stamford); PVLGET ON STENI (Steyning); BRIHTPINE ON PALI (Wallingford). *All very fine or better.* 5

The lucky possessors today of the three coins for which provenances going back to the 1955 Lockett sale can now be added should be pleased at this outcome, and it is also gratifying to discover that the cataloguer of the sale, presumably the late Fred Baldwin, did not misread the Brihtwine coin but had his best cataloguing efforts thwarted by a mere error in printing.

