

# LAURIE ASHER LAWRENCE AND HIS FIRST COLLECTION

## PART II: THE MANUSCRIPT CATALOGUE

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Lawrence's manuscript catalogue was written by him in ink in an 186-page notebook of octavo dimensions, sold to him as an account book by the firm of Chipperfield & Messent, 8 Newgate Street, printers and stationers, whose printed ticket is pasted to the inside front cover. It is evident from brief notes on pp. 183-4 made by Lawrence of some of his purchases at coin sales that he had acquired the notebook by the autumn of 1885 and was still using it in 1892.

The period of time during which he employed it as a catalogue of his collection is somewhat uncertain, for only a small minority of the coins listed by him have their provenances noted, and the majority of the provenances given are from sales held in the late 1880s and early 1890s. He was however still making catalogue entries in this notebook in the aftermath of the sales of Hyman Montagu's collection in 1895-6, and it seems likely that he continued to do so until not long before the decision that he took in 1903 to dispose of the collection, which, as noted in the first part of this note, he did partly by a private treaty transaction with Lord Grantley and partly by a Sotheby sale<sup>1</sup>.

The catalogue entries commence with just one Ancient British coin, a silver coin of Eppaticus, and end with coins of Queen Victoria (three gold, eighteen of the larger silver denominations from crown down to sixpence, and an uncertain but bigger number of the smaller silver denominations). If Lawrence at that time possessed coins of Scotland and Ireland, Greek and Roman coins, coins of medieval and modern Europe, tokens, medals, and so on, they are not listed in the present notebook.

The general character of the entries can be glimpsed from the attached image of p.33 of the notebook, listing all of Lawrence's coins of Henry I (**see illustration**). As will be seen, Lawrence's handwriting is small and sometimes very difficult to read, and the format of the notebook limits the space available for the description of individual coins.

The reader should not however be deterred from careful investigation of what the entries have to tell us, and here, as a guide to the sort of information that can be extracted from the notebook, are verbatim transcripts of the entries for coins of two selected groupings in the Anglo-Saxon series, followed by present-day identifications of the coins concerned. The first transcript is of the entries on p.4 of the notebook for the six coins Lawrence then owned of Offa of Mercia. In this, and in the further transcript that follows below, abbreviations have been expanded where necessary to make sense of the particular entry concerned.

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<sup>1</sup> A loosely inserted note in Christopher Blunt's handwriting notes that "not all the coins listed appear in the [Sotheby] catalogue", and Blunt goes on to suggest that "it [the catalogue] may have been maintained after the dispersal". A careful examination of the catalogue does not support this latter suggestion, and the explanation for the absence from the Sotheby catalogue of various coins listed in the notebook lies in part in the fact that a good proportion of the collection was sold to Lord Grantley before the sale, and in part in the likelihood that Lawrence was left with a residue of coins in inferior or fragmentary condition that Lord Grantley did not wish to purchase and which were not appropriate to be offered in the Sotheby sale.



*r. Floral ornament EDILVALD round edge divided by ornaments MB Cat [i.e. British Museum Catalogue] P[late] V.12*  
*o. OFFA, above M and triangles below REX each enclosed in semicircles*  
*as Burgred* *mended otherwise fine*  
*r. [with accompanying sketch] and dots all over field EDELNOD*  
*unpublished*  
*o Bust.* *fine*  
*r Ahlmund & serpents MB Cat [i.e. British Museum Catalogue] 1<sup>3</sup>*  
*extremely rare*

Fortunately, and this is why the present writer has chosen to transcribe these particular entries, we have for the reign of Offa an extensive corpus compiled by Derek Chick<sup>4</sup>, and this permits both meaningful identifications of each coin and information on the known or probable provenance history of the actual specimens that Lawrence once owned. As will be seen, all can reasonably be identified with specimens later owned by Lord Grantley, confirming the supposition that Lord Grantley had first pick of what he wanted from Lawrence's collection before Lawrence consigned the bulk of the collection to Sotheby's.

The coins may be identified as follows. They are rearranged in Chick order :

Offa

Light Coinage

London, Ethilwald (i.e. Aethelweald), Bust type (Chick type 10, coin f). This is Stack (1999) 287, with provenance back to Grantley (1944) 824 (second coin in lot) and Lawrence (first collection).

London, Alhmund (i.e. Ealhmund), Bust type (Chick type 37). This specimen not listed as such by Chick, but it may well be the coin of this type now in the National Museum of Wales (Chick type 37, coin i), with provenance back to Grantley (1944) 817.

London, Ibba, presumably Bust type. Regrettably, Lawrence's description of it is hard to read (and has baffled the present writer), but it must in fact be Chick type 55, coin c, recently in the collection of Dr A.J.P. Campbell, with provenance back to Grantley (1944) 824 (first coin in lot). The Grantley catalogue assigns a L.A. Lawrence provenance to the lot, but it has up till now been assumed that the Lawrence provenance only attaches to the second coin in the lot, by the moneyer Ethilwald (listed above).

Canterbury, Eoba, non-portrait type (Chick type 106, coin a). This is Stack (1999) 272, with provenance back to Grantley (1944) 828 and Lawrence (first collection).

Heavy Coinage

Canterbury, Eoba, reverse arranged in three lines (Chick type 223, coin b). This is Lockett (1958) 2647, ex Grantley (1944) 829 and Lawrence (first collection).

Canterbury, Ethelnoth, reverse arranged in three lines (Chick type 233, coin a, the only coin of the type known to Chick). This is clearly Mack (SCBI 20, 571), ex Ryan (1952) 619, and ex Grantley (1944) 830. Chick does not record that this coin derives from Lawrence's first collection, but Lawrence's description of his specimen as being "mended" accounts for a statement made by Chick that the Mack coin was "restored and tooled after the Ryan sale", the original mend clearly not having been sufficient.

In areas of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman coinages for which no reliable published corpus exists, it is obviously a bit more difficult to associate the descriptions given by

<sup>3</sup> The number written here by Lawrence after "MB Cat" is clearly 1, but this is a casual error on his part, since the coin to which he refers in *BMC*, although listed first among the coins of Offa there, is in fact *BMC* 7.

<sup>4</sup> D. Chick, *The Coinage of Offa and his Contemporaries*, London, 201 (BNS Special Publication no. 6).

Lawrence in his manuscript catalogue with coins known today. Here however are the entries on p.24 of the notebook for coins in the names of Harold I and Harthacnut<sup>5</sup> :

#### *Harold I*<sup>6</sup>

<i>H[awkins] Type 2 London mint rev 4 lis. Brungar on Lund retrograde</i>	<i>fair</i>
<i>H[awkins] T[type].1. London .. rev cross of 4 ovals Eodine on Lunden</i>	<i>very fine</i>
<i>York mint rev. 4 pellets. Stricol on Eofer</i>	<i>very fine</i>
<i>Wutheine on Eo</i>	<i>fine</i> <sup>7</sup>
<i>H[awkins] T[type] 1. Lincoln cross of 4 ovals. Wulfric on Lunden [sic] H[awkins] P[age] 157<sup>8</sup></i>	<i>fine</i>
<i>H[awkins] T[type]. 2. Winchester. Elewine on Pinc ..</i>	<i>v.f.</i>
<i>H[awkins] T[type] 1. York. Thurgrim on Eof<sup>9</sup></i>	<i>v.f.</i>
<i>H[awkins] T[type] 1 Bristol. Saewine on Bricc</i>	<i>fine</i>
<i>H[awkins] T[type] 2 H[ildebrand] Ba Bristol Pulpiine on Bric</i>	<i>v.f.</i>
	<i>fair</i> <sup>10</sup>
<i>H[awkins] T[type] 2. Cambridge Aelfwig on Grant</i>	<i>v.f.</i>
<i>H[awkins] Type 2. London. BRVNGAR ON LV (retrograde)</i>	<i>poor</i> <sup>11</sup>

#### *Harthacnut*

<i>H[awkins] type 2, (216)<sup>12</sup> Hild[ebrand] type Aa.</i>	
<i>Bath. HARDCNVT RE PAEDEL ON BADA V[ery] R[are]</i>	<i>fine</i>
<i>H[awkins] Type 3 (217) Hild[ebrand] type B.</i>	
<i>Exeter. EDMAER ON EXCESR. Hardacnut Re</i>	<i>v.fine</i>

In the absence of a published corpus for the coins of these reigns it is not simple to trace the subsequent fate of these particular coins, and all the present writer has done in that respect is to note if they are identifiable in the 1944 Grantley auction catalogue. It is nonetheless possible, with assistance from Dr Tuuka Talvio's excellent catalogue of the coins of these two reigns in the Royal Coin Cabinet at Stockholm<sup>13</sup>, to provide comprehensible identifications of the coins concerned, and the same should be possible for most of the several hundred coins of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods catalogued in the notebook, as indeed for obvious rarities in other series. Closer analysis of these and other catalogue entries should also enable the researcher in many instances to identify specific specimens known today as those that were once in Lawrence's possession.

The coins of Harold I and Harthacnut in Lawrence's first collection, rearranged by type, and within each type in alphabetical order by mint and moneyer, were the following :

<sup>5</sup> Lawrence did not at this date possess any of the coins struck for Harthacnut on which the king's name on the coin is CNVT.

<sup>6</sup> The ruler's names in Lawrence's notebook are given in pencil, while the entries for the coins themselves are generally given in ink.

<sup>7</sup> Lawrence notes in pencil against this entry "Sold" and "1.10" (presumably the price of £1 10s for which he sold the coin).

<sup>8</sup> The reference is to p.157 of the third edition, 1887, of Edward Hawkins's *The Silver Coins of England*, revised by his grandson Robert Lloyd Kenyon.

<sup>9</sup> An uncertain word follows.

<sup>10</sup> The ditto marks indicate that this was a second coin of the same type and moneyer. Lawrence has added in ink "each large bust".

<sup>11</sup> This entry, for whatever reason, is separated from the entries above by a ruled ink line across the page.

<sup>12</sup> The numbers 216 and 217 in these entries for coins of Harthacnut relate to the overall numbering by Edward Hawkins of coin types in the Anglo-Saxon, Norman and later English periods.

<sup>13</sup> T.Talvio, *Royal Coin Cabinet Stockholm, Part IV, Anglo-Saxon Coins Harold I and Harthacnut 1035-1042*, Oxford, 1991 (SCBI vol.40).

Harold I

*Jewel Cross type (Hawkins type 1)*

Bristol, Saewine. Grantley (1944) 1161 (illustrated), the Lawrence provenance not noted. Cf. SCBI 40, 128.

Lincoln, Wulfric. Grantley (1944) 1163 (part), the Lawrence provenance not noted. Cf. SCBI 40, 349-352, all reading LINCOL. The Grantley catalogue gives the mint signature as LINCO, which, whether a correct reading or not, confirms that Lawrence's transcription of the mint signature as 'Lunden' was a casual error on his part.

London, Godwine. Grantley (1944) 1163 (part), the Lawrence provenance not noted. Cf. SCBI 40, 428, reading GODINE ON LVNDEN. The moneyer's name on the same coin was read by Hildebrand, his no.609, as EODINE, just as Lawrence did (the Grantley cataloguer gave the name as EOPINE).

York, Thorgrimr. Not listed in Grantley catalogue. Cf. SCBI 40, 674-6. Lot 1174 in the Grantley catalogue included a coin of Harold I of *Fleur-de-Lis* type by a moneyer DVRGRIN ON EO, but identifying this as the ex Lawrence coin would necessitate errors by him both in identifying the coin's type and in transcribing its mint signature.

*Fleur-de-lis type (Hawkins type 2)*

Bristol, Wulfwine. Grantley (1944) 1166, with the Lawrence provenance noted. Cf. SCBI 40, 725-6.

Bristol, Wulfwine. Not listed in Grantley catalogue. Cf. SCBI 40, 725-6. This was a specimen in "fair" condition only, which Grantley obviously rejected.

Cambridge, Aelfwig. Grantley (1944) 1167 (illustrated), the Lawrence provenance not noted. Cf. SCBI 40, 728-730. The mint signature on the Stockholm coins is GRAN, not GRANT as recorded by Lawrence, but the T of GRANT in Lawrence's description of the coin shows signs of having been crossed through, and the illustration in the Grantley catalogue confirms that the coin read GRAN.

London, Brungar (with retrograde reverse inscription and mint signature LVND). Not listed in Grantley catalogue. Cf. SCBI 40, 1046 (the Stockholm coin in question is the only one of this moneyer in the Stockholm collection with the mint signature in the form LVND, but the moneyer's name on the Stockholm coin is spelled BRNGAR and the reverse inscription is not retrograde). Grantley may have rejected this coin because of the retrograde character of its reverse inscription.

London, Brungar (with retrograde reverse inscription and mint signature LV). Not listed in Grantley catalogue. Cf. SCBI 40, 1044-5. This coin was in "poor" condition, so is likely to have been rejected by Grantley for that reason, regardless of its retrograde reverse inscription.

Winchester, Aelfwine. Grantley (1944) 1173, the Lawrence provenance not noted. Cf. SCBI 40, 1448. The moneyer's name on the Stockholm coin is spelled ELFPINE, which was doubtless the correct reading of the name on Lawrence's specimen (the Grantley cataloguer also read the name as ELFPINE).

York, Styrkollr. Probably Grantley (1944) 1174 (part), the Lawrence provenance not noted. The mint signature is given by the Grantley cataloguer as EOF rather than as EOFER as recorded by Lawrence, but none of the comparable coins by this moneyer in the Stockholm collection, SCBI 40, 1536-9, have the mint signature in the form EOFER, and it may be that the reading EOFER was an error on Lawrence's part. Lawrence's description of the reverse type as having 4 "pellets" rather than "lis" reflects the fact that on a fair number of York reverse dies of this type there are groups of pellets in each of the four corners of the central portion of the reverse design rather than fleurs-de-lis as such.

York, Witherine. Not part of the transaction with Lord Grantley, as the coin had been sold by Lawrence at some unspecified earlier date (as recorded by Lawrence in hisnotebook). Cf. SCBI 40, 1557-60.

## Harthacnut

### *Jewel Cross type*

Bath, Waedel. Grantley (1944) 1175 (illustrated), with the Lawrence provenance noted. Cf. SCBI 40, 77. It should be noted that the Hildebrand reference given by Lawrence is to the variety of this type with a right-facing bust, as is confirmed by the illustration of this coin in the Grantley catalogue, whereas the Stockholm coin is of the variety with a left-facing bust.

### *Arm and Sceptre type*

Exeter, Eadmaer. Grantley (1944) 1177 (illustrated), with the Lawrence provenance noted. Cf. SCBI 40, 1608.

Although the main purpose of this part of the present note is to indicate the possibilities that the catalogue offers for future investigation into Lawrence's first collection, it is proper to conclude by drawing attention to the fact that, as evidenced by this catalogue, Lawrence's willingness to acquire Anglo-Saxon and Norman coins that were only in fair or poor condition, or which were fragments, enabled him to acquire examples of some of the very rarest types in these series, including in the Norman series one of only two specimens known to Mack of an issue from the Wareham mint in the name of Earl William of Gloucester and a specimen of the very rare mounted horseman type in the name of Robert de Stuteville<sup>14</sup>. Lawrence's collection was in this respect genuinely a study collection in a way that some other prestigious collections made by his contemporaries were not.



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<sup>14</sup> R.P.Mack, 'Stephen and the Anarchy, 1135-1154', BNJ xxxv, 1966, 38-112 (at p.94, no.265, and at p.84, no.228). Lawrence also possessed, in better condition, a number of other notable rarities belonging to the coinage of Stephen's reign, including a coin of a moneyer William attributable to the Bamburgh mint (Mack p. 100, no.288), which the catalogue entry indicates was purchased by Lawrence at an unidentified Puttick & Simpson sale.