

# Early Anglo-Saxon Coins - Keeping the Corpus Current

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Nearly all numismatic books are notoriously slow to sell. One approaches publication with trepidation, as breakeven slips below the horizon. It can rarely be seen as commercially viable but is a labour of love.

Most fields of numismatic research proceed with dignified grace, but attempting to keep abreast of new revelations of early Anglo-Saxon coinage has been a headlong rush. I had thought the pace had slackened since the third edition of *Sceatta List* (SLIII) in 2021 but was disabused of such a complacent attitude when I recently overcame my enormous innate resistance to Facebook and joined, for the admittedly mercenary reason of promoting *Gold Coins of Anglo-Saxon England* (GCASE).

While that aim was largely unfulfilled, I was struck by the quantity of early Anglo-Saxon material on various Facebook groups – such as:

- [Saxon Coins Sceats And Thrymsas](#)
- [English Hammered and Early Milled Coin Collectors](#)
- [Hammered Coinage Identification Group](#)
- [British Hammered & Milled Coins - Buy, Sell & Auction](#)
- [Discussion of Modern Sceat Replicas](#)

[My own website](#) already had pages covering:

- additions to the corpus of [gold](#), [silver](#) and [Northumbrian base stycas](#), both new varieties and variants (i.e. sub-varieties), and
- images of specimens superior to those in *GCASE*, *SLIII* and *Stycas Simplified*, or otherwise noteworthy.

Encouraged by the quality of material on these Facebook sites, with the appropriate image use permissions and credits, and Ron Bude's help in removing image backgrounds, I now added a [Gallery of Choice Sceats](#).

One must constantly bear in mind Stuart Rigold's dictum 'The most imponderable lines are those between the passably orthodox, the tolerated imitation, and the downright fraudulent',<sup>1</sup> and guard against allowing variants to proliferate unnecessarily – these catalogues are not die studies - even though over time it becomes increasingly difficult to apply the same consistent frame of reference.

This is particularly true for the enormous Series E of the Low Countries. Had I applied the same rules to this coinage as to the English emissions, *Sceatta List* would have been twice as

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<sup>1</sup> Rigold, S. E., 1960, 'The Two Primary Series of Sceattas', *BNJ*, 30, p. 22.

long, but Wybrand Op den Velde and Michael Metcalf had already, unsurpassably accomplished the task.<sup>2</sup>

In conclusion, to keep abreast of additions to the corpus since my publications, and enjoy viewing choice specimens, please check:

- [Gold Coins – Additions](#)
- [Sceatta List - Additions](#)
- [Gallery of Choice Sceats](#), and
- [Stycas Simplified - Additions](#)

Should anything new appear on EMC, PAS, in online fora, in your dealers' trays, at auction, in private trading or elsewhere, please let me know!



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<sup>2</sup> Op den Velde, W., and Metcalf, D.M., 2009-10, 'The Monetary Economy of the Netherlands, c. 690 - c. 760 and the Trade with England: A Study of the 'Porcupine' Sceattas of Series E', *Jaarboek voor Munt- en Penningkunde* 96-7, 2009-10.