The Collection of an English Doctor

Sovereign Rarities are very excited to present this new fixed price list of the first part of the Collection of an English Doctor. The whole group has been put together by a very discerning collector and numismatist of many years standing, with this English element formed diligently over the last few years. The aim was to illustrate the history of the English silver Penny, with the criteria being to collect as many mints and moneyers as possible in the time that was allowed. The first part herewith consists of 83 coins that covers the early Anglo-Saxon period from when the Sceattas series ends, with the first transitional piece of Beonna of East Anglia and continues through the various Kings of the Heptarchy, to the Kings of all England with this part concluding at King Aethelred II.

There are 24 different Kings or issuing authorities represented with Kings of Kent, Mercia, East Anglia, Wessex and well as Anglo-Viking issues and some Hiberno-Norse at the end. There are a mixture of early coins from Canterbury, London or East Anglia, a highlight being the unique King Ludica of Mercia London Mint penny which is currently the earliest coin to mention the City of London, rather than the "Wick" surrounding. There is one anonymous archbishop issue of Wulfred with the Latin name for Canterbury prominently on the reverse. There are superb quality pennies of Eadberht Praen of Kent and a lovely Offa with serpent reverse. Another highlight piece is a "Two Emperors" type Penny of Alfred the Great, the only one currently available to purchase of the moneyer Beagstan. Turning to the Anglo-Viking issues there is a superb Southern Danelaw imitation of an Alfred the Great portrait Halfpenny with Londinia monogram and another of an Edward the Elder flower type.

As for the Kings of all England there is a church building type Penny of York for Aethelstan as well two superb pennies of Edward the Martyr, one of Stamford and the other of Tamworth. Finishing with a wonderful assemblage of 44 Aethelred II pennies; we have thirty different mints represented across nine different types, with some rarities of the highest magnitude of Buckingham, Louth, Melton Mowbray and Newark, as well as other rare mints for the reign like Stafford, Lympne and Malmesbury. We have therefore listed the reign of Aethelred II in mint order rather than by chronological types.

We look forward to presenting part two in the near future which will continue the chronology of the silver penny from King Canute right through to the Commonwealth of England.

To order from this list the easiest way is to check the current availability on the website www.sovr.co.uk by searching for the stock number at the start of each entry in the search option. For example, for Eadberht Praen Penny, open search box, type in GM23630 and the site will display that coin as a tile to click into and see if available to purchase.

Otherwise, please call us on 020 3019 1185 during office hours. Monday to Friday 9.30am-5.30pm.

KINGS OF KENT

SUPERB EXAMPLE OF EADBERHT PRAEN PENNY MONEYER DVDA



GM23630

Eadberht Praen (796-798), King of Kent, silver Penny, "Boeotian Shield" type reverse, Canterbury Mint, moneyer Dudda, three line obverse within linear and outer beaded circles, .:EAD. / BEARH / REX, rev. moneyer name in two lines, DV / DA surrounded by pellets on shield like device, cross with pellet in each angle either side of shield in the incurved sides, weight 1.37g (cf.BMC 2-3; Naismith CSE C5.1; N.202/1; S.875). Darkish tone of contrasting colour emphasising the lettering and design, extremely fine and of the highest rarity with only one other example recorded by Naismith, this coin being found since his publication.

Eadberht was a member of priestly orders by 796 and had taken exile in Francia either to avoid execution or upon order of Offa who had tried to extradite him around 795, however Charlemagne sent him with other exiles to Pope Leo in Rome to ensure Leo did not listen to the requests of the then visiting Archbishop Aethelheard of Canterbury who wanted them sent home. Upon Offa's death in 796 Eadberht renounced his priestly vows and with a possible dynastic connection to the male line of the Royal House of Kent he led a rebellion in the county causing Aethelheard to flee rather than consecrate him King of Kent, leading to a rift with the church in which Pope Leo refused to recognise his actions. King Coenwulf of Mercia did obtain the backing of the Pope and invaded Kent in 798 and Eadberht Praen was captured, blinded and had his hands cut off then imprisoned. The succeeding King of Kent Cuthred felt safe enough to release Eadberht by 805 and it is thought he lived out his final days as a monk possibly in the Winchcombe area.

The obverse legend translates as "Eadberht King" and the reverse with moneyer name "Duda"

Provenance:

Found near Maidstone, Kent, August 2016, EMC 2016.0254. Ex Timeline Auction, Essex, 10th December 2016, lot 3000. Ex Spink Coin Auction, 15th September 2020, lot 5.

UNIQUE EXAMPLE OF BALDRED FIVE LIMBED CROSS REVERSE





GM23631

Baldred (823-825), King of Kent, silver Penny, Canterbury Mint, moneyer Waerheard, crosslet within linear circle, legend surrounding, +BEALDRED REX, *rev.* pellet at centre of five spoked device with serifed feet within linear circle, legend surrounding, +PERHEARD, weight 1.28g (cf.BMC 19; Naismith CSE -; N.-; cf.S.880). *One small chip, toned, good very fine to almost extremely fine and the first example of this design recorded, currently unique.* **£7,500**

His ancestry unknown, Baldred was likely a Kentish nobleman through the years of Mercian overlordship by Coenwulf after the death of Cuthred in circa 807. With the death of Coenwulf in 821 and his brother Ceolwulf in 823, Kent had an opportunity to resist Mercian rule and Baldred was duly elected King in 823. With the later rise of Ecgberht of Wessex and having killed Beornwulf of Mercia at the Battle of Ellandun in 825, Ecgberht either expelled or killed Baldred in 827 when Wessex takes control of the county.

The obverse legend translates as "Baldred King" and the reverse with moneyer name "Werheard"

Provenance:

Found Dorset 2020, EMC 2020.0349.

Ex Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 185, 1st December 2020, lot 92.

Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY

ANONYMOUS ISSUE OF WULFRED WITH CANTERBURY MINT NAME





GM23632

Wulfred (805-832), Archbishop of Canterbury, silver Penny, type IV anonymous issue (822-823), moneyer Luning, facing tonsured bust of Archbishop with three pellets each side within linear circle, legend surrounding commencing top right, +LVNING MONETA, rev. five line inscription, .+. / DORO / BERNIA / CIVITRA / .S., weight 1.30g (BMC page 73 note; SCBI 1:442 Fitzwilliam; SCBI 2:397 Hunterian; Naismith C57.2; N.238; S.890). With a slightly uneven tone on a lightly undulating flan, well struck practically extremely fine and very rare.

The first mention of Wulfred in the historical record is in 803 when he attended a church council and he was thought to be a nobleman from Middlesex. He became Archbishop of Canterbury in 805 and reformed the clergy of the cathedral. He later had disputes with King Coenwulf over church lands leading to his expulsion from the See in 816 for six years, though he was allowed back into Kent as long as he did not attempt to take office. He had a disagreement with the subsequent king Ceolwullf over the question of whether laymen or clergy should control monasteries. This dispute was not fully settled until 838, long after Ceolwulf and Wulfred were both dead, the latter dying in 832. Wulfred was the first Archbishop of Canterbury to place his own portrait upon his coinage, which significantly show no reference to the ruling Mercian Kings.

Dorovernia is the Latin name for Canterbury as featured in the reverse monogram, with the legends translating as "Luning Moneyer" on the obverse and "City of Canterbury" on reverse.

Provenance:

Found Petersfield, Hampshire, June 2020 EMC 2020.0204.

Ex Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 182, 16th September 2020, lot 202.

KINGS OF MERCIA

OFFA PENNY WITH AN OBVERSE DIE LINK TO ARCHBISHOP JAENBERHT UNIQUE





GM23633

Offa (757-796), King of Mercia, silver Penny, light coinage (c.780-792), Canterbury Mint, moneyer Ethelnoth, King's name in two lines divided by beaded bar with fleured ends, cross above and below, some pellets around end of each line and lozenge shaped O at start, OFFA / REX, rev. moneyer name in two lines, first T inverted and with long Latin cross above and below, linear bar across centre with fleured ends and pellets, EhE / TNOT, weight 1.17 (cf.BMC 48-50; Chick type 120a this coin; Blunt 54 this coin; N.287; S.904). Toned, good very fine and extremely rare, the only example recorded in Chick.

This obverse is shared with a Penny of Jaenberht the Archbishop of Canterbury, Chick 152c. See British Numismatic Journal, volume XXIX, 1958, pages 8-9, Some New Mercian Coins by Christopher Blunt, plate XV this coin illustrated.

With the second longest reign in Mercian history at 39 years, Offa was arguably the most powerful ruler of the early Anglo-Saxon period dominating Southern England and claiming as much as to be King of the English, and later known as Offa the Great. Surprisingly little is known for such a long reign, but this perhaps suggests times of peace, stability and control over his nobles. If the genealogies are correct, he was cousin of King Aethelbald and descended from Eowa, the brother and coruler of Penda. Offa's Father was Thingfrith who was the son of Eanwulf. Offa seized power on the murderous death of Aethelbald in 757 overthrowing the usurper Beonred. The records remain quiet for the first twenty years of the reign at a time when a new style coinage emerges clearly influenced by the latest models on the continent, and it is thought Offa even brought Italian engravers based on style and artistic form. An art that was lost not long after and such life-like portraits not being seen again until the Renaissance in the Tudor period hundreds of years later.

Some Mercian borders remained vulnerable, and the Welsh recorded a victory at Hereford in 760 which ultimately led to the construction of Offa's dyke from the River Wye to Flintshire. The dyke skilfully using the topography of the land as a physical barrier and as an Anglo-Welsh border was no doubt well patrolled. Offa also effectively dealt with Kent eventually defeating King Sigered in 764 and installing two rulers to counter each other, Heahbert and Ecgbert. Though upon the death of Heahbert in 776, Ecgbert revolted with Offa suffering a rare defeat at Otford, but eventually regaining control on Ecgbert's death circa 784, installing Eahlmund as a client King. Offa also had fraught relations with the Archbishopric of Canterbury and Jaenberht in the 780s leading to Offa setting up for one term only the Archbishopric of Lichfield in Mercia with the blessing of Pope Hadrian and Bishop Hygeboerht installed, Offa managed to block opposition to the Pope from Canterbury. Aethelheard the successor to Jaenberht at Canterbury was on much improved terms with Offa and after the death of Offa the Archbisopric of Lichfield lapsed. The Archbishop of Lichfield had presided over a coronation in 787 for Offa's son Ecgfrith as joint co-ruler of Mercia and unprecedented crowning within a Father's lifetime but also this secured succession.

Offa also had military successes against Cynewulf of Wessex in 779 at Bensington, and after Offa's eventual dominance of Kent around 785, Wessex and Cynewulf's successor Beohrtric became much more dependent on the Mercian King and even married his daughter Eadburh. Offa's other daughter Aelfleda married King Aethelred Moll of Northumbria.

There is also an account if true that in 794 Offa executed the visiting King Aethelberht of East Anglia at Sutton Walls near Hereford apparently upon the wishes of Queen Cynefryth, suppressing the King-ship of the area.

Offa was good at self-promotion upon his coinage and was the most powerful ruler in England and seen as a counterpart to Charlemagne. He introduced a gold mancus in an Arabic dinar style that proudly displayed his name in English and remains as a unique coin in the British Museum. His silver coinage showed innovative layouts and designs and the portrait coins showed very life-like portraits as well as a coinage for his wife Cynefryth who was the first English Queen to be depicted upon a coin.

Offa died on 26th July 796 in his sixties and ironically his co-ruling son Ecgfrith died just months later in the same year at which point the dynasty collapse.

The obverse legend translates as "Offa King" and the reverse with moneyer name "Ethelnoth"

Provenance:

Purchased in Farnham, Surrey by A. L. Phillips 1958 "for a modest sum".

Ex A. L. Phillips Collection, Spink Numismatic Circular, February 1973, item 1189, highlighted as a unique coin recorded by C. E. Blunt as the first die link between Jaenberht and Offa at £1,350.

Ex Mrs E. M. H. Norweb, English Collection part IV, Spink Coin Auction 59, 17th June 1987, lot 1174.

Ex Lawrence R. Stack Collection, Sotheby, 22nd April 1999, lot 277.

Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



GM23634

Offa (757-796), King of Mercia, silver Penny, light coinage (c.780-792), Canterbury Mint, moneyer Tirwald, King's name surrounding central ring of pellets within a serpent wreath, +OFFA REX, rev. four lobed fleur like cross with moneyer name in angles surrounding, initial and terminal letters share same angle, T IR VV AL D, weight 1.20g (BMC -; Chick type 131; Blunt -; N.-; S.904). Unevenly toned, a bold very fine and extremely rare, only one example recorded in Chick, this coin being the second one known.

With the second longest reign in Mercian history at 39 years, Offa was arguably the most powerful ruler of the early Anglo-Saxon period dominating Southern England and claiming as much as to be King of the English, and later known as Offa the Great. Surprisingly little is known for such a long reign, but this perhaps suggests times of peace, stability and control over his nobles. If the genealogies are correct, he was cousin of King Aethelbald and descended from Eowa, the brother and coruler of Penda. Offa's Father was Thingfrith who was the son of Eanwulf. Offa seized power on the murderous death of Aethelbald in 757 overthrowing the usurper Beonred. The records remain quiet for the first twenty years of the reign at a time when a new style coinage emerges clearly influenced by the latest models on the continent, and it is thought Offa even brought Italian engravers based on style and artistic form. An art that was lost not long after and such life-like portraits not being seen again until the Renaissance in the Tudor period hundreds of years later.

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There is also an account if true that in 794 Offa executed the visiting King Aethelberht of East Anglia at Sutton Walls near Hereford apparently upon the wishes of Queen Cynefryth, suppressing the King-ship of the area.

Offa was good at self-promotion upon his coinage and was the most powerful ruler in England and seen as a counterpart to Charlemagne. He introduced a gold mancus in an Arabic dinar style that proudly displayed his name in English and remains as a unique coin in the British Museum. His silver coinage showed innovative layouts and designs and the portrait coins showed very life-like portraits as well as a coinage for his wife Cynefryth who was the first English Queen to be depicted upon a coin.

Offa died on 26th July 796 in his sixties and ironically his co-ruling son Ecgfrith died just months later in the same year at which point the dynasty collapse.

The obverse legend translates as "Offa King" and the reverse with moneyer name "Tirwald"

Provenance:

Found near Newark, 9th November 2009, EMC 2009.0368. Coin Register 2010, number 162.

Ex Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 85, 17th March 2010, lot 237.

Ex St James Auction 33, 20^{th} May 2015, lot 52.

Ex Mark Rasmussen Numismatist, Surrey, list 34, 2020, item 1.

Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

SUPERB EXAMPLE OF OFFA SERPENT TORQUE REVERSE PENNY





GM23635

Offa, King of Mercia (757-796), silver Penny, light coinage, London, moneyer Ealhmund, undraped bare head bust right extending to bottom of coin wearing pendent with chain with horned shoulders, beaded circles and legend surrounding, +.O.F:FA:R:.EX.+., rev. moneyer name in two lines with flourish, serpent torque surrounding, ALH / MuN /.~., weight 1.28g (BMC 7; Chick 37k this coin; Blunt 42; SCBI 21:953 Yorkshire; SCBI 67:559 Lyon; N.318; S.905). Dark tone, well struck in good metal, extremely fine and very rare so well preserved.

With the second longest reign in Mercian history at 39 years, Offa was arguably the most powerful ruler of the early Anglo-Saxon period dominating Southern England and claiming as much as to be King of the English, and later known as Offa the Great. Surprisingly little is known for such a long reign, but this perhaps suggests times of peace, stability and control over his nobles. If the genealogies are correct, he was cousin of King Aethelbald and descended from Eowa, the brother and coruler of Penda. Offa's Father was Thingfrith who was the son of Eanwulf. Offa seized power on the murderous death of Aethelbald in 757 overthrowing the usurper Beonred. The records remain quiet for the first twenty years of the reign at a time when a new style coinage emerges clearly influenced by the latest models on the continent, and it is thought Offa even brought Italian engravers based on style and artistic form. An art that was lost not long after and such life-like portraits not being seen again until the Renaissance in the Tudor period hundreds of years later.

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There is also an account if true that in 794 Offa executed the visiting King Aethelberht of East Anglia at Sutton Walls near Hereford apparently upon the wishes of Queen Cynefryth, suppressing the King-ship of the area.

Offa was good at self-promotion upon his coinage and was the most powerful ruler in England and seen as a counterpart to Charlemagne. He introduced a gold mancus in an Arabic dinar style that proudly displayed his name in English and remains as a unique coin in the British Museum. His silver coinage showed innovative layouts and designs and the portrait coins showed very life-like portraits as well as a coinage for his wife Cynefryth who was the first English Queen to be depicted upon a coin.

Offa died on 26th July 796 in his sixties and ironically his co-ruling son Ecgfrith died just months later in the same year at which point the dynasty collapse.

The obverse legend translates as "Offa King" and the reverse with moneyer name "Ealhmund"

Provenance:

Found at Turnpike Drive, Warden Hills, Luton with inquest on 26th August 1973.

Ex Spink Numismatic Circular, December 1973, item 9873 as sold.

Ex Spink Numismatic Circular, March 1975, item 2002 for £3,500.

Ex G. W. Trow Collection, Classical Numismatic Group, Triton XXIII, 14th January 2020, lot 1272.

Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.





GM23636

Coenwulf (796-821), King of Mercia, silver Penny, portrait type, Canterbury, group III (c.810-820), moneyer Swefheard, diademed portrait right extending to bottom of coin, linear circle surrounds head, legend and toothed border surrounding, +COENVVLF REX m, rev. cross fourchée with pellet in each angle, legend and toothed border surrounding, +SVVEFHERD MONETA, weight 1.29g (BMC 80; Naismith C43c; SCBI 16:96 Norweb this coin; B.L.S. 62d; N.353; S.916). Toned, a little unevenly on obverse, extremely fine and rare.

Blunt Lyon and Stewart (B.L.S.) writing in the British Numismatic Journal volume 32, 1963, pages 1-74, The Coinage of Southern England 796-840 list this coin as 62d for Coenwulf. The coin was written up by R. C. Lockett in the Numismatic Chronicle of 1915 in "Hoard of Anglo-Saxon Pennies found in Dorsetshire where this coin is listed on page 337, number 2 and illustrated on plate XVII.

Coenwulf became King of Mercia on the unexpected death of Ecgfrith the son of Offa in December 796, allegedly the son of Cuthbert descendent of Penda, and he soon earned a reputation as being unprincipled and ruthless. Early on Eadberht Praen had rebelled in Kent causing Archbishop Aethelheard to flee and Coenwulf therefore petitioned Pope Leo III to move the Archbishopric to London which was refused. Coenwulf invaded Kent in 798 and removed Eadberht and Aethelheard was restored as Archbishop of Canterbury, and the See remained under control for the next three decades, with Coenwulf's brother Cuthred as the King of Kent. Coenwulf entered a Treaty with Beorhtric of Wessex in 799 the latter clearly as the junior partner and Coenwulf removed or enforced vassalage of East Anglia around 800. He was soon styling himself as "Emperor" like Charlemagne on the continent, the first use of such a title by a British King. Other military clashes were quelled with Northumbria in 801 and the Welsh borders in 798 and later resumed in 820. Coenwulf also abandoned the Mercian See at Lichfield that Offa had set up with its one and now only Bishop, and instead attempted to set up a new Bishop for London but was refused by Rome. When Coenwulf took full control of Kent in 807 on the death of Cuthred he fell into dispute with Archbishop Wulfred over the church lands, who went to Rome to win Papal backing for the claims returning in 815 to take those lands, however Coenwulf expelled Wulfred by taking control of Canterbury and there was no Archbishop in situ for some six years, though Coenwulf did allow Wulfred back on the demand of Pope Paschal as long as he did not assert any authority.

It was whilst preparing for a second raid of Wales in 821 that Coenwulf died, his son Coenhelm having been recently murdered in the Clent Hills in some sort of family feud. Coenwulf was the last great King of Mercia as his overlord-ship of southern England subsequently collapsed within two years of his passing.

The obverse legend translates as "Coenwulf King of Mercia" and the reverse with moneyer name "Swefherd Moneyer"

Provenance:

Found as part of the Dorset Hoard, Blandford Forum area, before 1915, inventory number 125.

Ex Richard Cyril Lockett, English part I, 6th June 1955, lot 373, sold for £44.

Ex Commander R. P. Mack, collection sold privately to Spink 1956.

Ex Mrs E. M. H. Norweb, English Collection part I, Spink Coin Auction 45, 13th June 1985, lot 24.

Ex Spink Australia, Auction 27, 2nd March 1989, lot 1240

Ex Allan Williams Collection, part I, Spink Coin Auction, 27^{th} March 2018, lot 28.





Coenwulf (796-821), King of Mercia, silver Penny, portrait type, Canterbury group IIIA (c.810-815), moneyer Deormod, diademed portrait right extending to bottom of coin, linear circle surrounds head, legend and toothed border surrounding, +COENVVLF REX M, rev. struck en medaille, pellet at centre of pincer cross, wedges in each outer angle, legend and toothed border surrounding, +DIOMOD MONETA, weight 1.29g (cf.BMC 68-69; Naismith C39.1; B.L.S. 37; SCBI 2:337 Hunterian; N.347; S.916). Toned, a little uneven in shape, some light nicks and scuffs otherwise a bold to good very fine. £3,750

Blunt Lyon and Stewart (B.L.S.) writing in the British Numismatic Journal volume 32, 1963, pages 1-74, The Coinage of Southern England 796-840 list this coin as type 37 in group IIIA for Coenwulf.

Coenwulf became King of Mercia on the unexpected death of Ecgfrith the son of Offa in December 796, allegedly the son of Cuthbert descendent of Penda, and he soon earned a reputation as being unprincipled and ruthless. Early on Eadberht Praen had rebelled in Kent causing Archbishop Aethelheard to flee and Coenwulf therefore petitioned Pope Leo III to move the Archbishopric to London which was refused. Coenwulf invaded Kent in 798 and removed Eadberht and Aethelheard was restored as Archbishop of Canterbury, and the See remained under control for the next three decades, with Coenwulf's brother Cuthred as the King of Kent. Coenwulf entered a Treaty with Beorhtric of Wessex in 799 the latter clearly as the junior partner and Coenwulf removed or enforced vassalage of East Anglia around 800. He was soon styling himself as "Emperor" like Charlemagne on the continent, the first use of such a title by a British King. Other military clashes were quelled with Northumbria in 801 and the Welsh borders in 798 and later resumed in 820. Coenwulf also abandoned the Mercian See at Lichfield that Offa had set up with its one and now only Bishop, and instead attempted to set up a new Bishop for London but was refused by Rome. When Coenwulf took full control of Kent in 807 on the death of Cuthred he fell into dispute with Archbishop Wulfred over the church lands, who went to Rome to win Papal backing for the claims returning in 815 to take those lands, however Coenwulf expelled Wulfred by taking control of Canterbury and there was no Archbishop in situ for some six years, though Coenwulf did allow Wulfred back on the demand of Pope Paschal as long as he did not assert any authority.

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The obverse legend translates as "Coenwulf King of Mercia" and the reverse with moneyer name "Deormod Moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Spink Coin Auction 13th December 2011, lot 14. Ex A.H. Baldwin, Fixed Price List, Summer 2012, item AS003. Ex Roma Numismatics, Auction XX, 29th October 2020, lot 779. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

THE UNIQUE LUDICA CITY OF LONDON PENNY



GM23638

Ludica (825-827), King of Mercia, silver portrait Penny, City of London Mint, diademed bust right to bottom of coin, legend and beaded border surrounding, LVDICA REX MER, *rev.* three-line inscription between beaded lines with outer beaded border, +LVN / DONIA / CIVIT, the O angular with serifed apexes, weight 1.23g (BMC -; Naismith -; N.-; S.932A plate coin) Dark tone, with light bend to one part of rim, some light porosity, otherwise good very fine to almost extremely fine, unique of the highest rarity and the only existing piece of historical evidence for the occupation of London by Ludica of Mercia, of the utmost historical importance with an artistic portrait. **£75,000**

This coin was fully written up by Dr Rory Naismith in the British Numismatic Journal 2019 pages 204-207. There are only ten coins known for Ludica's entire reign at present by three different moneyers, the other nine pieces have always been attributed to the East Anglia area around Ipswich. This tenth piece, the latest find of the monarch in 2016, was the first piece of evidence to show Ludica was also influential in London as the historical record remains silent, and in a similar style of artistic merit to the portrait coins of his predecessors Coenwulf and Offa. This coin would appear to be the very first silver Penny with the mint town name of London issued though the City had been certainly minting silver pennies since the time of Offa. The next coin to mention London as place of mintage and with a very similar reverse is a unique coin of Ludica's contemporary Ecgberht dating from 830 Naismith L30a, S.1036 which came from the Middle Temple Hoard.

Ludica was an ealdorman who on the death of Beornwulf of East Anglia in 826 assumed Kingship of Mercia, trying to restore military power, but was perhaps thwarted due to falling manpower and morale. Ludica died on a second invasion of East Anglia in 827/828 and was succeeded by Wiglaf.

The obverse legend translates as "Ludica King of Mercia" and the reverse as "City of London."

Provenance:

Found Coombe Bissett, Wiltshire, January 2016, EMC 2016.0014. Ex Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 171, 10th March 2020, lot 138. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Burgred, King of Mercia (852-874), silver Penny, Phase III (868-874), Moneyer Cenred, diademed bust right to bottom of coin, linear inner circle and legend around, toothed border around rim both sides, legend commences lower left, BVRGRED REX, *rev.* type D, three-line inscription with linear crooked division lines, no lunettes, reading across middle first followed by top and bottom, +CENRED / MON / ETA, weight 1.17g (BMC type d, 183; Mackay H11.15 O6/R6 *this coin*; cf.SCBI 20:630 Mack; cf.SCBI 48:704 Rotunda; N.426; S.942B). *Toned with some uneven black deposit, good very fine.* **£1,850**

Turning to the "The Coinage of Burgred of Mercia 852-874" in the British Numismatic Journal volume 85 of 2015, William Mackay in this monumental corpus shows only 23% of the total sample has a type D reverse, equating to 196 coins out of 847 Burgred pennies sampled. The exact variety is phase III, obverse type H11 pellet eye with crescent below, late horizontal C, moneyer Cenred H11.15 O6/R6, obverse I1 with bars and reverse D. This coin is one of only nine coins classified as H11 of Cenred and he in turn is one of 26 moneyers working in this type, of which 149 coins in total are H11.

Burgred was probably a senior Ealdorman when he succeeded to the Kingship of Mercia from Beorhtwulf in 852. Preferring alliances rather than hostility he first married Ethelswith daughter of Aethelwulf of Wessex at Easter 853, possibly surrendering Berkshire in return. The two Kings allied against Powys in 853 causing King Cyngen ap Cadell to flee to Rome. His nephew Rhodri Mawr took over what was left but Burgred continued against Gwynedd and advanced as far as Anglesey along the northern coast but had to turn back after the Vikings landed a great army in England that Autumn.

The large Viking force wintered in East Anglia then marched across Mercia to attack Northumbria in 866, but Burgred did not make a move and perhaps missed an opportunity to unite with the Northumbrians against the Vikings. By the Autumn of 867 the Vikings had moved south to Nottingham whereupon Burgred called for aid from Wessex, and King Aethelred and his brother Alfred joined the cause, both taking Mercian wives as an alliance. However, the Vikings stayed within the city walls of Nottingham happily living off supplies brought in by their boats up the River Trent, whilst the English camped outside living off the land, whilst a long stand-off progressed due to Burgred's caution. Eventually the Vikings agreed to go by 869 presumably in exchange for money and further supplies and left for either York or East Anglia, the latter in which they settled in 870. Burgred did not aid Wessex in 871 as the Vikings continued their marauding and had to come to terms that Winter with the Vikings when they threatened London. The Vikings moved on to Torksey in 872 and then the Midlands wintering in 873 at Repton. Then in 874 the invaders moved to formally take over Mercia, and Burgred fled into exile with his wife and journeyed to Rome where he later died at an unknown date.

The obverse legend translates as "Burgred King" and the reverse with moneyer name "Cenred Moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Adrian Lyons, sold at Spink Coin Auction 219, 24th September 2013, lot 80. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

KINGS OF EAST ANGLIA

VERY RARE BEONNA PENNY BY EFE



GM23640

Beonna (749-787), King of East Anglia, silver Penny, moneyer Efe, pellet at centre of ring of eight pellets, runic style legend and beaded border surrounding, initial mark trefoil like cross, +BEONNA REX, rev. cross with pellet ends and centre in saltire at centre of pelleted box over a saltire cross with pelleted arms, legend and beaded border surrounding, initial mark pelleted long cross, :+: :.E:. :.F:: :.E:., weight 0.95g (BMC 1; Archibald dies O4/R-; C.M.E. 80; SCBI 63:818 British Museum; N.430; S.945). Dark tone, one weak portion otherwise a bold to good very fine and very rare. **£6,500**

For further reading see "The Coinage of Beonna in the Light of the Middle Harling Hoard" by Marion Archibald in the British Numismatic Journal volume 55, 1985, pages 10-54. The hoard contained 37 Pennies by moneyer Efe of which the coin offered die links with 14 examples from the hoard with obverse 4. The reverse die of this piece is slightly different from the five reverses depicted in the plates of this article. The article shows 51 coins of Efe recorded in total with a large proportion of these housed in museum collections. The article theorises that the coinage of Beonna must only date to a time when East Anglia was independent between c.757 and 760 a very short period of independent issue.

Beonna possibly of East Mercian origin was the successor of Alfwald around 749 and appointed with two co-rulers Hun and Alberht probably as a resolution against rival claims. Beonna soon emerged as the only ruler and with the increased silver content seen in his coinage taking them toward the size of the silver penny suggests stability in agriculture and mercantile prosperity. The coins are thought to have been issued at the trading centre of Ipswich which was independent of Mercia at the start of Offa's reign. Beonna survives into the 760s and possibly longer but a lack of later coinage makes dating hard as the historic records remain silent.

The obverse legend translates as "Beonna King" and the reverse with moneyer name "Efe"

Provenance:

Ex St James Auction 20, 18th November 2011, lot 4. Ex A. H. Baldwin, Fixed Price List, Winter 2012, item AS005. Ex Richard Jourdan Collection, Triton XXIII, Classical Numismatic Group, 15th January 2020, lot 1226. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

SUPERB AETHELSTAN I OF EAST ANGLIA PENNY



GM23641

Aethelstan I (825-845), King of East Anglia, silver Penny, moneyer Monna, head right within linear circle, legend and outer border surrounding, I+EPELZtAN REX, *rev.* moneyer name in three lines with pellet decoration surrounding, +MON / MONE / T A, weight 1.30g (BMC 5; Naismith E31.1; N.437; S.949). *Dark tone with one small rim chip on reverse, practically extremely fine with a pleasing facial portrait, extremely rare.* **£15,000**

Coins such as this penny would likely have been struck at the beginning of Aethelstan's rein in a show of Kingly power and probably at Ipswich where Monna likely operated as moneyer. There are similar style portrait coins of Beornwulf also signed by Monna so he likely worked for both the Mercian King (Naismith E24, North 397) and the East Anglian in quick succession. Naismith records three examples of the portrait Penny to which this coin and four others can be added that have been found since his 2011 publication (EMC 2013.0012; 2013.0093; 2018.0106, Spink Coin Auction 263 24th September 2019 lot 163).

The historic record of East Anglia remains mostly silent at this time, but it is known that Aethelstan was King by 825, the previous overlordship by Coenwulf and Ceolwulf from 796-823 meant that no King was really in power without Mercian permission there also being an absence of coinage, meaning Mercian types were the choice for circulation. Aethelstan is likely the unnamed King who turned to Wessex for help in 825 to throw off Mercian control taking advantage of the defeat of Ecgberht at Ellandun. The death of Beornwulf of Mercia followed in a botched invasion of East Anglia and later of Ludica in 827, and East Anglia survived with an overlordship by Wessex till 829. Aethelstan continues in power until 837 when he disappears from the record in favour of Aethelweard.

The obverse legend translates as "Aethelstan King" and the reverse "Monna Moneyer"

Provenance:

Found West Norfolk, June 2020, EMC 2020.0244.

Ex Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 182, 16th September 2020, lot 205.



Eadmund (855-870), King of East Anglia, silver Penny, moneyer Eadberht, large A at centre within linear circle, legend and outer beaded border surrounding, +EADMVND REX, *rev.* cross with pellet in each angle at centre within linear circle, legend and outer beaded border surrounding, ::EADBERHT MO., weight 1.15g (BMC 53; Naismith E64; N.456; S.954). *Well struck, fully round, some light toning, good very fine and an additional example to the eight listed by Naismith.* £1,950

We note this appears to be a new reverse die different from the others recorded by Naismith most obviously by virtue of the smaller tri-pellets squeezed in at the start of the legend.

Little is known of Edmund's actual reign and he was coronated on Christmas day of 854 aged about 16 and probably the son of his predecessor Beorhtric. His reign is assumed to have been peaceful apart from some Viking raids and occupation around 865-866 when the three sons of Ragnar Lothbrok wintered in the Fens. Eadmund let them camp unmolested and gave supplies in the hope they would pass through as the main target would appear to be York. The Viking raiders overthrew Northumbria and brought the Mercians to a standstill at Nottingham and in the autumn of 869 they camped confidently in the heart of East Anglia at Thetford well away from their ships, when legend takes over the story of St Eadmund. As a Christian hero Eadmund was prepared to sacrifice himself in lieu of his people and had dismissed his main army but may have rejected a demand to hand over at least part of his kingdom. One account then goes on to say he did battle with the Vikings at Hellesdon/Hoxne in November 869 and was defeated and killed. Stories emerged how he was captured alive and tortured and tied to a tree for target practice. Apparently beheaded, his remains were later recovered and buried by his followers whilst East Anglia was settled by the Vikings with possible installation of a puppet king. A cult of Saint Edmund later grew encouraged by the christianised warlord Guthrum and by 915 his relics were transferred to Bedricsworth - todays Bury St Edmunds. By the 14th Century St Edmund was one of the patron saints of England.

The obverse legend translates as "Eadmund King" and the reverse "Eadberht Moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1009. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

KINGS OF WESSEX

LOVELY EXAMPLE OF AN AETHELWULF PORTRAIT PENNY





GM23650

Kings of Wessex, Aethelwulf (839-858), silver Penny, phase IV, Canterbury mint, moneyer Hunbeorht, bust with wavy hair right with shoulders to bottom of coin, head within inner beaded circle, legend and outer beaded circle surrounding, legend commences lower left, +ΛEDELVVLF REX., rev. name of moneyer arranged on and around beaded cross, +HVNBBEA/RHT/MO/N/E/T/Λ, the HT ligatured, weight 1.26g (BMC 70; Naismith C144; SCBI 9:236 Oxford; N.618; S.1051). Attractively toned with some underlying brightness, one small rim chip, otherwise extremely fine with a pleasing portrait. **£4,250**

He succeeded his Father around July 839 as King of Wessex and passed the Kentish sub-rule to his relative Aethelstan who might have been his son or brother, he had either four or five sons. Aethelwulf instilled some stability to the kingdom as he preferred alliance to conquest annexing Berkshire in the 840s and later marrying his daughter Aethelswyth to Burgred of Mercia at Easter 853. A joint expedition with Burgred against Powys led to their King Cyngen fleeing to Rome. Aethelwulf's reign was the first to suffer Viking raids along the south coastal area from 840 at Southampton a Wessex victory, to the largest raid so far in 851 culminating in the Battle of Aclea (thought to be Ockley in Surrey) where there was "great slaughter" of the Scandanavians.

Aethelwulf had sent his son Alfred to study in Rome in 853 and followed on himself in 855 dedicating a tenth of his lands to God. He appointed his son Aethelbald to rule the western areas and son Aethelberht to rule Kent whilst he spent a year in Rome as a guest of Pope Benedict, and visited Francia on the journey back marrying Judith the young daughter of Charles the Bald as his new Queen, a title unused for the King's consort since 800. This Royal title was a threat to his own sons from his earlier marriage and Aethelbald backed by the Bishop of Sherbourne refused to let his Father visit his Kingdom. Aethelwulf failed to muster enough support to be King as he had been previously, and was only accepted back by his son Aethelberht in Kent who let him co-rule the kingdom for the rest of his days dying on 13th January 858 probably at Steyning in West Sussex. His personal property was inherited by his sons as a unit to eventually be left to the final survivor who turned out to be Alfred, who later had his Father's body interred at Winchester. Aethelwulf's son Aethelbald subsequently married his stepmother Judith.

The obverse legend translates as "Aethelwulf King" and the reverse "Hunbeorht moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1011. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

THE ONLY EXAMPLE AVAILABLE OF THE ALFRED THE GREAT TWO EMPERORS PENNY



GM23651

Alfred the Great (871-899), King of Wessex, silver Penny, second coinage (c.875-c.880), two Emperors type, London, moneyer Beagstan, diademed portrait facing right, shoulders to bottom of coin, head within inner beaded circle, legend and outer beaded circle at rim surrounding, legend commences at left, + ÆLFRED REX ANGLOX, rev. two facing Emperors with orb between them within square beaded panel, angel with spread wings rising to top of coin, moneyer name surrounding panel along three sides, BEAGZ / MON / ETA, weight 1.16g (BMC type IV; N.632; S.1059). Bent flan with two tiny chips, with a dark soil patina, otherwise about very fine with some clear pictorial details, the only example currently available to collectors, of highest rarity.

Reminiscent of the Two Emperors type gold Thrymsas of the earliest Anglo-Saxon period issued from c.600-700 which in turn was based on Fourth Century Roman prototypes, the winged head upon those coins is thought to be Victory which could well be the angel figure on these enigmatic Pennies of Alfred the Great of Wessex. There is a similar Two Emperor coin also known of Ceolwulf II of Mercia and until 2015 the only example of each were those housed in the British Museum. Two significant finds in 2015 have added greatly to the number known, the first being the Watlington Hoard in Oxfordshire which added ten Alfred and three Ceolwulf II pennies which are also in the British Museum. The second hoard found in Herefordshire was undeclared and the subject of legal action against the finders and contained at least five more pieces, two of which are certainly Alfred, though only 10% of the hoard has been recovered and the four culprits involved now serving jail terms. The coin offered herewith for sale is a more recent single find as per the early medieval corpus entry from 2019.

Such coins are historically very important as they were clearly issued jointly for Mercia and Wessex continuing a trend that started with Ceolwulf II's predecessor Burgred. The coinages also shared the same die cutters and moneyers, Beagstan also issuing coins for Burgred some years before. This joint coinage was mirrored by a joint military campaign against the Vikings in 868 and on into the 870s until Ceolwulf II disappears from the historic record c.879. It is interesting to note that Alfred is titled as King of the English a bold claim which may have contributed towards phasing out the Mercian King Ceolwulf II by 879, as Ceolwulf is titled Ceolwulf Rex on his version of the coinage (North 428). All in all these coinages have helped rewrite the historic record and shows that Ceolwulf II was more of a prominent figure than the historic record maintains.

Alfred the Great was the key monarchal figure in the survival of the Kingdom of Wessex at the time of the Viking invasions and for that reason is seen by some as the first King of Anglo Saxon England. Born circa 848 he was perhaps 23 by the time he ascended the throne of Wessex in April 871, after Viking invasions were responsible for the death of Aethelred I. Various skirmishes and battles with the Vikings followed across Wessex in succeeding years where the legend stems from of Alfred burning the poor cottager's cakes and accepting her subsequent scolding whilst he was travelling incognito. Victories followed and by 878 after a division of the country with Guthrum the Dane, Alfred was set up the fortified town "burgh" system across Wessex. By 886 he had finally taken and fortified the Capital City of London. Alfred also commissioned the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and is portrayed as one of the most significant rulers of the time. He died on the 26th October 899 aged circa 52.

The obverse legend translates as "Alfred King of the English" and the reverse "Beagstan moneyer"

Provenance

Found at Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire, 29 September 2019. Recorded with the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, EMC 2019.0279 and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, PAS ST-06FF49.

Ex Baldwin of St James, Auction 54, 4th December 2020, lot 2017.



Edward the Elder (899-924), silver Penny, portrait type, Moneyer Igere, crude draped diademed bust left, Latin legend with inner linear and outer beaded circles surrounding, legend commences upper left in retrograde +EADVVEARD REX, rev. three cross pattées across centre, three pellet triangle at top and bottom of centre, Moneyer name in two lines, ICEREII / NONETA, the second letter inverted, weight 1.65g (CTCE 29; SCBI 20:752 Mack this coin; BMC type VII, 6; N.651; S.1084). Toned and well centred, the hair a little weak in strike, otherwise good very fine with an excellent provenance, and rare.

The Coinage of Tenth Century England by Blunt, Stewart and Lyon gives this coin as draped bust type II the late London style as number 29.

For further reference see article "The Vatican Hoard of Anglo-Saxon Pennies" by M. A. O'Donavan, British Numismatic Journal 1964, pages 7-29, this coin listed in running order as 441, catalogue number B47. It is interesting to note this hoard contained only three Edward the Elder pennies of the moneyer Igere, and this coin was the only one with this reading. The hoard was found some time in 1928 purportedly on the Vatican Wireless site then under construction, and consisted of 517 Anglo-Saxon pennies in total, of which 437 were of King Edward the Elder and the majority went for auction in two parts through Glendining in London through 1929 and 1930.

The obverse Latin legend translates as "Edward King" and the reverse as "Igere Moneyer."

Edward the Elder born circa 871 was the elder of the sons of Alfred the Great and was already in charge of part of the army by the age of 21, and probably acted as his Father's deputy in continued skirmishes as late as 896 and was the natural choice to succeed him in 899 as full Ruler of Wessex and Mercia. From 917 a further annexation program commenced as Edward started to take over the "Five Boroughs" of the Danelaw and East Anglia. He then remained unchallenged of an enlarged England until his death on 17th July 924 aged around 53, leaving a large family of at least ten daughters and five sons by three

The obverse legend translates as "Edward King" and the reverse "Igere moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Vatican Hoard found c.1928 sold as "Some Rare Anglo-Saxon Pennies", second portion, Glendining, 13th November 1930, lot 47 sold for £8.

Ex Richard Cyril Lockett, English part IV, Glendining, 26^{th} April 1960, lot 3654 sold for £42.

Ex M. R. Roberts, Sydney, Australia.

Ex Alan Williams Collection, part I, Spink Coin Auction 252, 27th March 2018, lot 61.



Edward the Elder (899-924), silver Penny, two-line type, Moneyer Ealhstan, small cross pattee, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, +EADVVEARD REX, *rev.* three cross pattees across centre, triangle of pellets at top and bottom, Moneyer name in two lines, EAHLS / TAN MO, weight 1.57g (BMC II, 39; CTCE 177; SCBI 26:138 East Anglia; SCBI 30:322 American; N.649; S.1087). *Attractive steel grey tone, a bold very fine.* £1,750

The Coinage of Tenth Century England by Blunt, Stewart and Lyon gives this coin as Horizontal type I the late Wessex style perhaps Winchester and is one of three entries for Eahlstan as number 177.

Edward the Elder born circa 871 was the elder of the sons of Alfred the Great and was already in charge of part of the army by the age of 21, and probably acted as his Father's deputy in continued skirmishes as late as 896 and was the natural choice to succeed him in 899 as full Ruler of Wessex and Mercia. From 917 a further annexation program commenced as Edward started to take over the "Five Boroughs" of the Danelaw and East Anglia. He then remained unchallenged of an enlarged England until his death on 17th July 924 aged around 53, leaving a large family of at least ten daughters and five sons by three wives.

The obverse legend translates as "Edward King" and the reverse "Eahlstan moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Colonial Rare Coins, Australia, 23rd November 1994, lot 129. Ex Alan Williams Collection, part I, Spink Coin Auction 252, 27th March 2018, lot 59. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Edward the Elder (899-924), silver Penny, two-line type, Moneyer Willaf, small cross pattée, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, +EADVVEARD REX, *rev.* three cross pattées across centre, pellet before right cross, triangle of pellets at top and bottom, Moneyer name in two lines, VVIL / LVF M, weight 1.60g (cf.BMC II, 60-65; CTCE 293; N.649; S.1087). *Toned and boldly struck with robust engraving, slight die clash evident by inner circle on obverse, good very fine.* **£1,250**

The Coinage of Tenth Century England by Blunt, Stewart and Lyon gives this coin as Horizontal type I from the Mercian North-East perhaps Stamford and lists Willaf as number 293.

Edward the Elder born circa 871 was the elder of the sons of Alfred the Great and was already in charge of part of the army by the age of 21, and probably acted as his Father's deputy in continued skirmishes as late as 896 and was the natural choice to succeed him in 899 as full Ruler of Wessex and Mercia. From 917 a further annexation program commenced as Edward started to take over the "Five Boroughs" of the Danelaw and East Anglia. He then remained unchallenged of an enlarged England until his death on 17th July 924 aged around 53, leaving a large family of at least ten daughters and five sons by three wives.

The obverse legend translates as "Edward King" and the reverse "Willaf moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 140, 15^{th} March 2017, lot 242.

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1014.

ANGLO-VIKING COINAGES



GM23643

Anglo-Viking, Danish East Anglia (c.885-915), St Edmund, Memorial Coinage, silver Penny, moneyer Aethelberht, large A at centre, tiny pellet either side, within linear circle, legend and outer linear circle surrounding, +SC EADMVNIE, the S supine, rev. cross at centre within linear circle, legend and outer linear circle surrounding, +AOALBERTNIE, weight 1.34g (BMC 132/131; N.483; S.961). One hairline flan crack into legend, attractively toned, one flat spot in legend at corresponding points both sides, otherwise good very fine.

Following the Treaty of Wedmore in 880 the Viking invaders were granted lands to the east of Watling Street with coinage for circulation following soon after at first imitating the Wessex types of Alfred. Independent coinages followed for East Anglia like this piece, the East Midlands and Northumbria. The St Edmund coinage could have been issued or encouraged by the Christianised warlord Guthrum who took control from circa 880 and was a follower of the cult of Saint Edmund based upon the earlier heroic sacrifice of King Eadmund of East Anglia (855-870).

The obverse legend translates as "Saint Edmund" and the reverse "Aethelberht"

Provenance:

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1011. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

SUPERB PORTRAIT ALFRED THE GREAT SOUTHERN IMITATION HALFPENNY LONDINIA MONOGRAM





GM23644

Anglo-Viking, Southern Danelaw (c.880-910), in imitation of Alfred the Great (871-899), silver Halfpenny, portrait type, Londinia monogram, crude diademed portrait in hatched tunic facing right, legend and outer beaded circle at rim surrounding, blundered reading of Alfred partially retrograde, EFR ED, rev. Londinia Monogram within outer beaded circle surrounding, weight 0.44g (BMC type IX, cf.117; Mackay 134 this coin; N.466; S.969). Toned, well struck, with a great portrait, extremely fine, extremely rare and highly desirable. £17,500

The portrait silver Penny with the monogram of Londinia on the reverse has always been the most desirable type coin of Alfred for any collector to attain in their collection even in the imitative Southern Danelaw types. This Halfpenny though a little crude has an exceptional portrait coupled with the London monogram reverse. For further reference see "The London Monogram Coinage of Alfred the Great and the Danelaw" by William A. Mackay, British Numismatic Journal, volume 89, 2019, pages 19-107 where this coin is listed as 134.

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Provenance:

Found Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridgeshire, March 2014, EMC 2014.0101. Ex Classical Numismatic Group, online webshop, 3rd March 2020. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



GM23645

Anglo-Viking Coinage, Southern Danelaw (c.880-910), silver Penny, in imitation of Alfred the Great Oxford type, moneyer Bernwald, three-line inscription, ÆLFRED across centre, ORSNA above, EORDA below, outer beaded rim surrounding both sides, rev. three crosses in line at centre, BERNV above, ALD MO below, weight 1.36g (BMC type XVIII, 130; N.472; S.971). A few light nicks and marks, dark tone, good very fine for this rare issue.

In his Presidential address of 1970 reproduced in the British Numismatic Journal volume 39 of 1970 pages 196-7, Stewart Lyon spoke of the historical problems of Anglo-Saxon coinage and specifically of the number of imitative Osnaforda pieces all with the Bernwald moneyer name. Other academics at that time once associated the coins with a proposed attribution to Horsforth near Leeds, but to Stewart Lyon they were clearly associated with a Southern prototype (North 646/1) and of a similar southern style to a Bernwald moneyer piece of Edward the Elder and therefore concluded these coins are based on the Oxford mint pieces.

The obverse legend translates as "Oxford" and the reverse "Bernwald moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Spink Numismatic Circular, March 1992, item 861. Ex St Marys College, Oscott, Morton and Eden, 28th November 2019, lot 385. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.





Vikings of Northumbria, Kingdom of York (c.895-920), Cnut, silver Penny, Cunetti type, cross pattee, letters in turn of CNVT at each cross terminal, REX.: alternating between, beaded outer border both sides, rev. cross pattee with two opposing pellets, Latin legend and beaded circles surrounding, +CVN.:.NET.:.TI, weight 1.30g (cf.BMC 919-924; N.499; S.990). Toned with "Cuerdale" colour, almost extremely fine.

The majority of the surviving coins of the Cunetti types emanated from the largest hoard of Viking coins ever found in the British Isles, the Cuerdale Hoard, found on the banks of the River Ribble, near Preston Lancashire on 15th May 1840. Some workmen digging foundation for a new railway line stumbled across the vast hoard of some 7,000 coins and ingots of Viking hack silver. The hoard was declared treasure trove on 15th August 1840 and passed to Queen Victoria under the Duchy of Lancaster, whereupon they were examined at the British Museum. The majority of the hoard is still with the museum today but some 170 people were gifted coins at the time.

The exact reasons for deposit of the hoard circa 902, will never be known but the location of the find suggests deposit on the overland route to York from the west coast for travellers from Dublin. Though perhaps this was deposited after York had been sacked and the Vikings expelled from Dublin. It has been suggested by numismatic academics Stewart and Lyon that the reading CVNETTI is actually a Latinised rendering of Hunedeus a Viking leader who was powerful in York in seemingly a joint coinage with another of the name of CNVT.

Provenance:

Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



GM23647

Vikings of Northumbria, Kingdom of York (c.895-920), Cnut, silver Penny, Cunetti type, Patriarchal cross, letters in turn of CNVT at each cross terminal, R.E.X.:, alternating between, beaded outer border both sides, *rev.* cross pattee with two opposing pellets, Latin legend and beaded circles surrounding, +CVN.:.NET.:.TI, weight 1.25g (BMC 930; N.501; S.993). *Attractively toned with "curedale" colour, small raised die flaw on reverse rim by second T, otherwise extremely fine.* £1,250

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Provenance:

EXTREMELY RARE ANGLO-VIKING IMITATION OF EDWARD THE ELDER FLOWER TYPE





GM23652

Anglo-Viking Coinage, Southern Danelaw (c.880-910), silver Penny, in imitation of Edward the Elder (899-924), Flower type, moneyer name Heremod retrograde, small cross at centre, linear inner and outer circles with outer beaded circle and legend surrounding, +EADVVEARD REX, rev. flower with spray of leaves in upper half sprouting from horizontal ground line, rosette of pellets at each end of ground and another centrally at bottom, retrograde moneyer name in lower half, HEREMOD in reverse, weight 1.34g (cf.SCBI 9:314 Oxford; cf.CTCE 341; BMC type IX, cf.102, cf.N.658; cf.S.1078). Toned, with a hairline surface crack on reverse, some blundered letters in legend and retrograde moneyer name on reverse otherwise good very fine with a great pictorial flower, extremely rare.

The flower type in rarely encountered as a true coin of Edward Elder nevertheless as a Danelaw imitative type, making this piece rarer and perhaps even more desirable, being so charming in having a retrograde moneyer name. Additionally, the roughness of the engraving and cruder style points to a moneyer copying a known design and most tellingly the 12% lower weight compared to the regular Edward the Elder issue which also tallies with the southern Danelaw weights as issued for their coinage. For further reading see Mark Blackburn's "The Earliest Anglo-Viking Coinage of the Southern Danelaw (late 9th Century)." Page 343, published 1989, within the "Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Numismatics. London September 1986.

As of the 2009 auction appearance only two other imitations of the flower type were known both with retrograde moneyer names but struck from different dies.

The obverse legend translates as "Edward King" and the reverse "Heremod"

Provenance:

Ex Spink Coin Auction 201 26th November 2009, lot 151, appears on front cover.

Ex Triton XVI, Classical Numismatic Group, 9th January 2013, lot 1547.

KINGS OF ALL ENGLAND





GM23656

Aethelstan (924-939), silver Penny, two-line type, North Eastern style I, large lettering, moneyer Inga, small cross pattée, circles and legend surrounding, + ÆĐEL.STAN REX, rev. three crosses pattée across centre, triangle of pellets at top and bottom, moneyer name in two lines, INGA/MONE, weight 1.56g (BMC I, p.102; Blunt 392 pl.XVII; SCBI 4:712 Edinburgh; N.668b; S.1089). Attractively toned, some die clash evident, good very fine. **£975**

For further reading see the special volume XLII of the British Numismatic Journal (1974) celebrating the 70th birthday of Christopher Evelyn Blunt with his monumental work on Aethelstan filling the whole tome. Inga is listed as number 392 under the large letter north eastern style I.

The eldest son of King Edward the Elder by his first wife, Aethelstan was born circa 894 though later the prestige of his mother's marriage was called into question as it seems he was not at first destined for the throne, as it was younger half-brother Elfweard was elected by the council of Wessex, whereas the Mercian magnates preferred Aethelstan. The issue was resolved as Elfweard died on the way to Kingston on the 1st August 924 leaving Aethelstan to unite the throne and he was eventually crowned at Kingston on the 4th September 925. His 25 year reign kept the Kingdom united as he quelled revolts in the West country and along the Welsh border and even carried out the first West Saxon invasion of Scotland in 934. Aethelstan as the first King of all England, died unexpectedly in Gloucester aged around 45 on the 27th October 939, unmarried, though with an adult heir in his half-brother Eadmund the elder son of Edward the Elder's third marriage.

The obverse legend translates as "Aethelstan King" and the reverse "Inga moneyer"

Provenance

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1016. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Aethelstan (924-939), silver Penny, circumscription cross type, City of London Mint, moneyer Liofhelm, small cross rosette at centre both sides, circles and legend surrounding, + ÆĐELSTAN REX TOT BRIT, rev. legend LIOFHELM MO LVND CIVITT, weight 1.62g, (BMC V p.102; Blunt 190, pl.VIII; SCBI 34:86 British Museum; N.672; S.1093). Dark perhaps artificial tone, good very fine with a nice full reading both sides.

£4,750.

North lists twelve moneyers working in the reign of Aethelstan including Liofhelm at London, which is one of 28 mints in operation.

Aethelstan was the first King to use the title King of all Britain – Rex Totius Britanniae and he also decreed that each borough should have a moneyer to issue coin and that the more important boroughs could have more than one moneyer.

For further reading see the special volume XLII of the British Numismatic Journal (1974) celebrating the 70th birthday of Christopher Evelyn Blunt with his monumental work on Aethelstan filling the whole tome. Liofhelm is listed as a London moneyer for this type with ten others, as number 190. There is also a Liofhelm working in BMC types I and VIII for London.

The eldest son of King Edward the Elder by his first wife, Aethelstan was born circa 894 though later the prestige of his mother's marriage was called into question as it seems he was not at first destined for the throne, as it was younger half-brother Elfweard was elected by the council of Wessex, whereas the Mercian magnates preferred Aethelstan. The issue was resolved as Elfweard died on the way to Kingston on the 1st August 924 leaving Aethelstan to unite the throne and he was eventually crowned at Kingston on the 4th September 925. His 25 year reign kept the Kingdom united as he quelled revolts in the West country and along the Welsh border and even carried out the first West Saxon invasion of Scotland in 934. Aethelstan as the first King of all England, died unexpectedly in Gloucester aged around 45 on the 27th October 939, unmarried, though with an adult heir in his half-brother Eadmund the elder son of Edward the Elder's third marriage.

Capital City London upon the River Thames following Roman occupation, minted some of the earliest Saxon coins with gold Thrymsas and silver denarii with a "Londuniu" signature. Mercian Kings beginning with Offa minted coins there, but the first coin to actually say City of London upon it is the unique Ludica portrait Penny that was found in 2016, followed by subsequent coins of Ecgberht. In 871 the Danes wintered in London for the first time but was King Alfred of Wessex who settled and fortified the capital circa 880 to resist further invasions. Edward the Elder incorporated the City in Wessex in 911 and it resisted a major attack in the reign of Aethelred II in 1009. However London submitted to the Danish Swein in 1013, but three years later the citizens accepted Eadmund Ironside as King and resisted a siege by Canute.

Later unsettled times occurred in the anarchy period of the reign of King Stephen, remaining loyal to the King except for a few months in 1141 when Empress Matilda was admitted but within a short time expelled.

In the reign of King John, the city was captured by the insurgent barons and visited by their leader Prince Louis of France.

The obverse legend translates as "Aethelstan King of all Britain" and the reverse as "Liofhelm Moneyer of the City of London."

Provenance:

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Ex}}\xspace$ J. Kite Collection, purchased by Michael Trenerry of Truro.



Aethelstan (924-939), silver Penny, portrait type, City of London Mint, moneyer Liofhelm, crowned and draped bust right to bottom of coin, circles and legend surrounding, commences lower left, + ÆĐELSTAN REX, rev. legend LIOFHELM MO LOND CI, weight 1.55g, (BMC VIII; Blunt 276, pl.VIII; SCBI 6:186; N.675; S.1093). Dark perhaps artificial tone, weak in the hair otherwise good very fine.

£6,750

North lists twelve moneyers working in the reign of Aethelstan including Liofhelm at London, which is one of 28 mints in operation.

Aethelstan was the first King to use the title King of all Britain – Rex Totius Britanniae and he also decreed that each borough should have a moneyer to issue coin and that the more important boroughs could have more than one moneyer.

For further reading see the special volume XLII of the British Numismatic Journal (1974) celebrating the 70th birthday of Christopher Evelyn Blunt with his monumental work on Aethelstan filling the whole tome. Liofhelm is listed as a London moneyer for this type with ten others, as number 276. There is also a Liofhelm working in BMC types I and V for London.

The eldest son of King Edward the Elder by his first wife, Aethelstan was born circa 894 though later the prestige of his mother's marriage was called into question as it seems he was not at first destined for the throne, as it was younger half-brother Elfweard was elected by the council of Wessex, whereas the Mercian magnates preferred Aethelstan. The issue was resolved as Elfweard died on the way to Kingston on the 1st August 924 leaving Aethelstan to unite the throne and he was eventually crowned at Kingston on the 4th September 925. His 25 year reign kept the Kingdom united as he quelled revolts in the West country and along the Welsh border and even carried out the first West Saxon invasion of Scotland in 934. Aethelstan as the first King of all England, died unexpectedly in Gloucester aged around 45 on the 27th October 939, unmarried, though with an adult heir in his half-brother Eadmund the elder son of Edward the Elder's third marriage.

Capital City London upon the River Thames following Roman occupation, minted some of the earliest Saxon coins with gold Thrymsas and silver denarii with a "Londuniu" signature. Mercian Kings beginning with Offa minted coins there, but the first coin to actually say City of London upon it is the unique Ludica portrait Penny that was found in 2016, followed by subsequent coins of Ecgberht. In 871 the Danes wintered in London for the first time but was King Alfred of Wessex who settled and fortified the capital circa 880 to resist further invasions. Edward the Elder incorporated the City in Wessex in 911 and it resisted a major attack in the reign of Aethelred II in 1009. However London submitted to the Danish Swein in 1013, but three years later the citizens accepted Eadmund Ironside as King and resisted a siege by Canute.

Later unsettled times occurred in the anarchy period of the reign of King Stephen, remaining loyal to the King except for a few months in 1141 when Empress Matilda was admitted but within a short time expelled.

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The obverse legend translates as "Aethelstan King" and the reverse as "Liofhelm Moneyer of the City of London."

Provenance:

Ex J. Kite Collection, purchased by Michael Trenerry of Truro.

VERY RARE CHURCH BUILDING TYPE PENNY OF AETHELSTAN FROM YORK





GM23659

Aethelstan (924-939), silver Penny, Church type, York Mint, moneyer Regnald, with depiction of church, BMC type IV (928-933), cross pattée at centre, linear inner circle with legend and outer beaded border surrounding, + AEĐELSTAN RX .:, trio of three wedges at end of legend, *rev*. decorated church building in upper half, EB over AC to left of roof, OR over AC to right for EBORAC Latin mint name, upon ground line as a dividing line across coin, legend in two lines below, REGNALD / .:MON:., weight 1.52g (BMC IV p.102; Blunt 438 pl.XIX; CTCE pl.7, 24; SCBI 34:237 British Museum; N.684; S.1101). With old tone with traces of deposit, double struck, did have NGC Photo Certificate graded AU 55, very rare.

NGC Certification 4930811-005 – photo certification only.

Regnald was one of two moneyers recorded by North working at York in the reign of Aethelstan who had 28 mints in operation during his reign.

Aethelstan was the first King to use the title King of all Britain – Rex Totius Britanniae and he also decreed that each borough should have a moneyer to issue coin and that the more important boroughs could have more than one moneyer.

For further reading see the special volume XLII of the British Numismatic Journal (1974) celebrating the 70th birthday of Christopher Evelyn Blunt with his monumental work on Aethelstan filling the whole tome. Regnald is listed as a York moneyer for this type as number 438. Regnald is also recorded working in BMC types V and IX for York.

The eldest son of King Edward the Elder by his first wife, Aethelstan was born circa 894 though later the prestige of his mother's marriage was called into question as it seems he was not at first destined for the throne, as it was younger half-brother Elfweard was elected by the council of Wessex, whereas the Mercian magnates preferred Aethelstan. The issue was resolved as Elfweard died on the way to Kingston on the 1st August 924 leaving Aethelstan to unite the throne and he was eventually crowned at Kingston on the 4th September 925. His 25 year reign kept the Kingdom united as he quelled revolts in the West country and along the Welsh border and even carried out the first West Saxon invasion of Scotland in 934. Aethelstan as the first King of all England, died unexpectedly in Gloucester aged around 45 on the 27th October 939, unmarried, though with an adult heir in his half-brother Eadmund the elder son of Edward the Elder's third marriage.

The City of York at the junction of the River Foss and River Ouse, about 190 miles north west of London has been an archbishopric since 753 with some gold Thrymsa coins being produced. It was the early minting place of coins of the Kings of Northumbria in both copper and silver as well as the Archbishops of York. The mint name first appears on some of the occupational Viking coinages making the city their capital from 867. In 919 the city passed to the Hiberno-Norse Kings of Dublin and back to the English in 927 when taken from Guthfrith. Between 939 and 943 the Vikings were back in town and again from 947-954 but otherwise remained under English rule with the Norman castle even holding out to a Saxon/Danish occupation in 1069 being relieved by William I who built a second castle on the right bank of the Ouse, the City having been burnt. As soon as William departed the Vikings returned but upon William's return they fled back to their ships and the Normans harried Yorkshire.

The legends translate on obverse as "Aethelstan King" and reverse "Regnald Moneyer of York".

Provenance

The William Oldknow Collection, Goldberg coin auction 120, 2nd February 2021, lot 1463. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Eadmund (939-946), silver Penny, two-line type, North-Eastern style I, large lettering, moneyer Pitit, small cross pattée, circles and legend surrounding, + EADMVND REX, *rev.* three crosses pattée across centre, triangle of pellets at top and bottom, moneyer name in two lines, PITIT/MONE, weight weight 1.62g (BMC I, 121; CTCE 162; SCBI 34:400 British Museum; N.688; S.1105). *Toned a bold to good very fine.* **£1,350**

The Coinage of Tenth Century England by Blunt, Stewart and Lyon gives this coin as Horizontal type I for North-Eastern moneyer Pitit as number 162.

Eadmund was the eldest son of King Edward the Elder's third marriage with Edgiva born circa 920. It seems the dynastic succession problems for the unmarried Aethelstan had left Eadmund named as heir in 939 when Eadmund was 18. At this time the Scandanavians of York, having been annexed since 927, invited the King of Dublin Olaf Gufrithsson to take over the city and invade the "Five Boroughs" from which a struggle of power ensued. It was not until 942 that Edmund recovered the boroughs, Olaf having died the year before, but his cousin Olaf Sihtricsson remained in control at York, shortly replaced by Ragnall, who reached terms with Eadmund. However, in 944 Eadmund took York back killing Ragnall, and the full Kingdom was restored as per the days of Aethelstan and he embarked on extension as far as the Solway Firth. Eadmund was known as "The Magnificent" for his display of Kingship from this time, however he was killed in a brawl on the 28th May 946, after recognizing a known thief illegally attending a celebration in Pucklechurch near Bath. Eadmund was still under 25 years old and his two sons Eadwig and Eadgar were mere children, so his younger brother Eadred succeeded him to the throne.

The legends translate on obverse as "Eadmund King" and reverse "Pitit Moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1019. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

NORWICH MINT EADMUND PORTRAIT PENNY



GM23661

Eadmund (939-946), silver Penny, portrait type, East Anglian style, Norwich Mint, Moneyer Manen, crowned and draped bust right extending to bottom of coin, legend with linear inner circle surrounding, toothed border around rim, legend commences at left, +EADMVND REX, rev. small cross pattée, legend with linear inner circle surrounding, +MANEN MO NORDE, the Ms and NS quite H like, weight 1.45g (cf.BMC VI, 4; CTCE 255; SCBI 26:1117 East Anglia; N.698; S.1107). Toned with an attractive portrait, outer rim just a little chipped, good very fine and very rare with this moneyer and Mint reading.

£5,750

Though there are many moneyers operating in the reign of Eadmund across a number of different coinages in this seven year reign, according to North there is only one proven mint in operation at Norwich for the portrait coinage. Manen was one of six moneyers at this East Anglian town for these portrait coins. The only other suggested mint named pieces with a portrait are from three different moneyers whose Pennies give a B mint signature, which might be Bedford. There are some non-portrait coins issued with Chester, Wallingford and perhaps Derby mint signatures.

The obverse Latin legend translates as "Eadmund King" and the reverse as "Manen Moneyer of Norwich."

Eadmund was the eldest son of King Edward the Elder's third marriage with Edgiva born circa 920. It seems the dynastic succession problems for the unmarried Aethelstan had left Eadmund named as heir in 939 when Eadmund was 18. At this time the Scandanavians of York, having been annexed since 927, invited the King of Dublin Olaf Gufrithsson to take over the city and invade the "Five Boroughs" from which a struggle of power ensued. It was not until 942 that Edmund recovered the boroughs, Olaf having died the year before, but his cousin Olaf Sihtricsson remained in control at York, shortly replaced by Ragnall, who reached terms with Eadmund. However, in 944 Eadmund took York back killing Ragnall, and the full Kingdom was restored as per the days of Aethelstan and he embarked on extension as far as the Solway Firth. Eadmund was known as "The Magnificent" for his display of Kingship from this time, however he was killed in a brawl on the 28th May 946, after recognizing a known thief illegally attending a celebration in Pucklechurch near Bath. Eadmund was still under 25 years old and his two sons Eadwig and Eadgar were mere children, so his younger brother Eadred succeeded him to the throne.

Norwich is situated 100 miles north north east of London in East Anglia on the River Tud near the junction with the River Yare. In 1004 it was sacked and burnt by the Danish Swein, but resisted a much later attack in 1069. The Norman knight Roger Bigod Earl of East Anglia 28eized the castle in 1087 and later in 1136 during the anarchy the castle was again seized by his descendent Hugh Bigod. The holy See of the Bishop of East Anglia was transferred there from Thetford in 1094/5 he having minting rights with one moneyer at Norwich.

The legends translate on obverse as "Eadmund King" and reverse "Manen Moneyer of Norwich"

Provenance:

Ex Sotheby, 8th October 2001, lot 949.

Ex Davissons, Cold Spring Minnesota, List 86, November 2001 item 11.

Ex The Lucien M. La Riviere Collection of Saxon Coins, Spink Coin Auction 160, 10th October 2002, lot 1002.

Ex Neil Smith Collection of British Silver Coins, New York Sale XLIX, 15th January 2020, lot 1221.

 $\hbox{Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022}.$

The La Riviere catalogue states that the only other coin of this type recorded of Manen at Norwich is that in the Norwich Castle Museum Collection, as listed in Tenth Century Coinage of England by Blunt Stewart and Lyon, page 197, number 255, only location known, SCBI East Anglia 1117, but struck from different dies to this piece offered herewith.



Eadred (946-953), silver Penny, moneyer Leofric, two-line type, small cross pattée, circles and legend surrounding, + EADRED REX, *rev.* three cross pattées across centre, moneyer name in two lines, trio of pellets above and below, LEOF +/RIC MO, weight 1.56g (BMC I, 64; CTCE 46; SCBI 34:531 British Museum; N.706; S.1113). *Toned, rim a perforated in places, otherwise good very fine, unusual with the extra cross in the Moneyer name on reverse.* **£1,650**

The Coinage of Tenth Century England by Blunt, Stewart and Lyon gives this coin as Horizontal type I for Midlands and South, moneyer Leofric as number 46.

Born around 922, Eadred succeeded his murdered elder brother in May 946 aged around 22, he was afflicted by a chronic stomach condition giving him great difficulty in swallowing food. Despite this affliction he was a competent warrior and his first action was to march north and quell Archbishop Wulfstan of York and other magnates into submission. This did not last long and King of Dublin Olaf Sihtricsson was again invited back to take York, later coming to terms with Eadred as long as he kept Eric Bloodaxe away. However, Archbishop Wulfstan supported Eric Bloodaxe arriving in 952, and Eadred was compelled to march north, culminating in the death of Eric in 954 at the Battle of Stainmore, thus permanently reuniting the Kingdom of England. Eadred died on the 23rd November 955 in Frome Somerset aged around 33 and was succeeded by his nephew Eadwig.

The legends translate on obverse as "Eadred King" and reverse "Leofric moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex A H Baldwin, Fixed Price List Winter 2013, item AS017. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Eadwig (955-959), silver Penny, non-portrait three-line type, Horizontal type with rosettes, North Western style, moneyer Freotheric, small cross pattée, legend with inner and outer linear circles surrounding, outer beaded border around rim both sides, legend commences upper right, +EADVVIGE R, rev. central cross pattée, rosette of pellets above and below moneyer name in three lines, FROĐ / OE + NO / RICH, linear outer and beaded circle surrounding, weight 1.43g (cf.BMC type I, 24; CTCE 131; SCBI 34:840 British Museum; N.730; S.1123). Evenly toned, good very fine and extremely rare.

The Coinage of Tenth Century England by Blunt, Stewart and Lyon gives this coin as Horizontal type 3 with rosettes of pellets, North-Western style from Chester, moneyer Freotheric as number 131.

The elder of the two sons of Eadmund and nephew of Eadred, Eadwig was still a boy of 14 years of age when he ascended the throne in November of 955 and barely a man by the time of his death aged around 18 in 959. Not much is known of his reign as the north remained quiet as Eric Bloodaxe was dead and the Dublin Kings were otherwise occupied. However, political struggles dominated the Royal court as the young Eadwig fell out with Bishop Dunstan from the time of his Coronation banquet, and his young wife convinced Eadwig to exile Dunstan. Later in 957 the leading men of Mercia and Northumbria revolted favoring Eadwig's young brother Eadgar for the succession. Dunstan joined with Eadgar and Eadwig's rule was reduced to Wessex only. This induced him to have his marriage annulled and to take a more aristocratic wife in 958, however all was in vain, as he passed away on the 1st October 959 leaving the Kingdom to Eadgar.

The legends translate on obverse as "Eadwig King" and reverse "Freotheric Moneyer "

Provenance:

Ex L. V. Larsen, of Coshocton Ohio USA, Glendining, 1st November 1972, lot 22 sold for £190. Purchased from A. H. Baldwin, May 2005.

Ex A Collection of Tenth Century Pennies, the Property of a Gentleman, Spink Coin Auction 26th September 2012, lot 530. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Eadgar (959-973), silver Penny, two-line type, North-Eastern horizontal type V, moneyer Albutc, small cross pattée, circles and legend surrounding, + EADG.A.R RE, crescent at end of legend, *rev.* three cross pattées across centre, moneyer name in two lines, triangle of pellets above and below, ALBY /TC MO, contraction mark over M, weight 1.27g (BMC I, 71; CTCE 24; SCBI 2:680 Hunterian; N.741; S.1129). *Toned, good very fine.*

The Coinage of Tenth Century England by Blunt, Stewart and Lyon gives this coin as Horizontal type 5 North-Eastern style, moneyer Albutc as number 24.

Probably born in 943, Eadgar was only around 16 when he inherited the Kingdom from older brother Eadwig, having already ruled Mercia since the age of 14. Eadgar was known as "The Peaceable" on account of his 16 years reign being relatively free of any conflict or revolt, perhaps reflecting his military prowess and naval power from his capital at Winchester. He enjoyed a second Coronation in 973 in the Roman ruins of Bath, having already had his first at Kingston after his accession, in order to associate himself with past glories and with Charlemagne who had had his Coronation in Rome in 800. Eadgar was married three times, having a son Edward with his first wife, a daughter Edith with the second, and two sons with the third, Edmund and Aethelred. Eadgar died unexpectedly at Winchester aged around 32 on the 8th July 975.

The legends translate on obverse as "Eadgar King" and reverse "Albutc Moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Tetney Hoard, north-east Lincolnshire, found May 1945. Purchased from A. H. Baldwin 2019. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Eadgar (959-973), silver Penny, two-line type, York horizontal type I, moneyer Heriger, small cross pattée, circles and legend surrounding, + EADG-A-R REX, *rev.* three cross pattées across centre, moneyer name in two lines, triangle of pellets above and below, HERIG /ER MO, contraction mark over M, weight 1.44g (BMC I, 107; CTCE 79; SCBI 34:995 British Museum; N.741; S.1129). *Toned, a bold very fine.*

The Coinage of Tenth Century England by Blunt, Stewart and Lyon gives this coin as Horizontal type I York, moneyer Heriger as number 79.

Probably born in 943, Eadgar was only around 16 when he inherited the Kingdom from older brother Eadwig, having already ruled Mercia since the age of 14. Eadgar was known as "The Peaceable" on account of his 16 years reign being relatively free of any conflict or revolt, perhaps reflecting his military prowess and naval power from his capital at Winchester. He enjoyed a second Coronation in 973 in the Roman ruins of Bath, having had already his first at Kingston after his accession, in order to associate himself with past glories and with Charlemagne who had had his Coronation in Rome in 800. Eadgar was married three times, having a son Edward with his first wife, a daughter Edith with the second, and two sons with the third, Edmund and Aethelred. Eadgar died unexpectedly at Winchester aged around 32 on the 8th July 975.

The City of York at the junction of the River Foss and River Ouse, about 190 miles north west of London has been an archbishopric since 753 with some gold Thrymsa coins being produced. It was the early minting place of coins of the Kings of Northumbria in both copper and silver as well as the Archbishops of York. The mint name first appears on some of the occupational Viking coinages making the city their capital from 867. In 919 the city passed to the Hiberno-Norse Kings of Dublin and back to the English in 927 when taken from Guthfrith. Between 939 and 943 the Vikings were back in town and again from 947-954 but otherwise remained under English rule with the Norman castle even holding out to a Saxon/Danish occupation in 1069 being relieved by William I who built a second castle on the right bank of the Ouse, the City having been burnt. As soon as William departed the Vikings returned but upon William's return they fled back to their ships and the Normans harried Yorkshire.

The legends translate on obverse as "Eadgar King" and reverse "Heriger Moneyer"

Provenance:

Ex Tetney Hoard, north-east Lincolnshire, found May 1945.

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1021.

SUPERB STAMFORD MINT EDWARD THE MARTYR PENNY



GM23666

Edward the Martyr (975-978), silver portrait Penny, Stamford Mint, Moneyer Ogea, diademed and raped portrait left, linear circle and legend with outer beaded circle surrounding both sides, +EADPARD REX ANGLO, *rev.* small cross pattee, +OGEA M-O STANFORD, weight 1.29g (BMC type I, 30; SCBI 27:1094 Lincolnshire; N.763; S.1142). *Attractively toned, some raised die flaws or rust spots in obverse field, well struck with a nice bold artistic portrait, with a nice full mint reading, reverse a touch off-centre, practically extremely fine and rare.* **£13,500**

According to the statistics in North, Stamford was the second most prolific mint town after York (15 moneyers) in England during the reign of Edward the Martyr with 14 moneyers working, which outnumbered Lincoln with 10 and London with only 7, with 35 mint towns in operation in total.

Edward born circa 961, the eldest son of Eadgar was only 14 when he ascended the throne, his mother having died when he was a youngster. He was crowned on the 18th July 975, however famine and pestilence shortly broke out in the Kingdom, as well as pillaging of monasteries blighting the new reign. Edward's Stepmother Aethelfryth the third wife of Eadgar also favored her youngest surviving son Aethelred for the throne as being "born in the purple" of Eadgar's reign. An unfortunate accident at a Royal council meeting at Calne in Wiltshire in early 978 where an upper storey of a building collapsed killing many important people did not help matters, Dunstan narrowly surviving as he was standing on a beam that withstood the collapse. On the 18th March 978 Edward was murdered near Corfe Castle in Dorset, the legend being that upon visiting his Stepmother, one of her attendants (or even herself) stabbed him as he leant down from his horse to grasp a drink. The horse bolted and he either died from his wound or from falling from the horse aged around 18. Buried in haste at nearby Wareham it was not long before miracles began to occur in connection to his body and he was later reinterred at Shaftesbury and sanctified as Edward the Martyr.

Stamford on the River Welland in Lincolnshire some 17 miles from Peterborough where the Viking garrison surrendered to Edward the Elder in 918. The Abbot of Medeshamstede (modern Peterborough) was granted one moneyer at Stamford in reign of Eadgar and some extremely rare Edward the Martyr and Aethelred II first small cross coins with an annulet may be associated with this issue. Later one die of Henry I with an annulet on the shoulder may also be associated with this minting right. A Norman castle was built prior to 1086 and later the town fell into the hands of Empress Matilda. In an 1153 siege the town surrendered to Henry of Anjou.

The legends translate on obverse as "Edward King of the English" and reverse "Ogea Moneyer of Stamford"

Provenance:

 ${\it Ex Spink Numismatic Circular, September 1958, item 6128}.$

Ex Spink Numismatic Circular, July 1959, item 14944.

Ex H. R. Mossop Collection, purchased by B. A. Seaby, March 1966.

Ex Marvin Lessen, North York Moors Collection, part 2, $3^{\rm rd}$ July 2019, lot 292.

EXTREMELY RARE TAMWORTH MINT PENNY OF EDWARD THE MARTYR



GM23667

Edward the Martyr (975-978), silver Penny, Tamworth Mint, Moneyer Deorulf, draped portrait left, linear circle and legend with outer beaded circle surrounding both sides, +EADPEARD REX ANGL-, terminal contraction mark, *rev.* small cross pattee, +DEORVCE M-O TAMP.O, weight 1.21g (BMC I p.191; cf.Hild 9; SCBI 2:763 Hunterian; N.763; S.1142). *Toned, extremely fine, of the highest rarity and with a great provenance.* **£18,500**

Deorulf was one of only two moneyers listed by North working at Tamworth, one of 35 mint towns named for Edward the Martyr, most of the mints being one moneyer only.

Edward born circa 961, the eldest son of Eadgar was only 14 when he ascended the throne, his mother having died when he was a youngster. He was crowned on the 18th July 975, however famine and pestilence shortly broke out in the Kingdom, as well as pillaging of monasteries blighting the new reign. Edward's Stepmother Aethelfryth the third wife of Eadgar also favored her youngest surviving son Aethelred for the throne as being "born in the purple" of Eadgar's reign. An unfortunate accident at a Royal council meeting at Calne in Wiltshire in early 978 where an upper storey of a building collapsed killing many important people did not help matters, Dunstan narrowly surviving as he was standing on a beam that withstood the collapse. On the 18th March 978 Edward was murdered near Corfe Castle in Dorset, the legend being that upon visiting his Stepmother, one of her attendants (or even herself) stabbed him as he leant down from his horse to grasp a drink. The horse bolted and he either died from his wound or from falling from the horse aged around 18. Buried in haste at nearby Wareham it was not long before miracles began to occur in connection to his body and he was later reinterred at Shaftesbury and sanctified as Edward the Martyr.

Tamworth on the River Tame in Staffordshire was the capital of Mercia and fortified by Queen Aethelflaed in 913 to repel the Danes and upon her death in 918 the town was seized by Edward the Elder. In 926 Aethelstan gave his sister in marriage to Sihtric here and the town was later stormed by the King of Dublin Anlaf Guthfrithson in 940.

The legends translate on obverse as "Edward King of the English" and reverse "Deorulf Moneyer of Tamworth"

Provenance:

Ex Duke of Argyll Collection (d.1949), purchased by Spink 1952.

Ex B. W. Hunt Collection, purchased by Spink 1954.

Ex Ernest Danson Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 68, 12th December 2005, lot 166.

AETHELRED II ASSEMBLAGE OF PENNIES IN MINT ORDER

BARNSTAPLE MINT





GM23668

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Barnstaple Mint, Moneyer Byrhsige, draped bust left, legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO, *rev.* long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +BYR HSIG E M.O BARD, weight 1.45g (BMC IV, 3 as Bardney; BEH 15; SCBI 11:79 Stockholm; N.774; S.1151). *Toned, one small rim chip, a couple of peck marks on reverse, otherwise good very fine and rare, with a great provenance.* **£3,250**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. Barnstaple operates with seven moneyers in all types except first small cross at the start.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Barnstaple is a seaport nearly 40 miles north west of Exeter on the River Taw estuary and is mentioned in the Burghal Hidage. Aethelstan is said to have driven the Danes over the Taw and lived in a palace at Barnstaple. The castle there was probably built by Joel of Totnes in the reign of William I, who also founded a Cluniac monastery dedicated to St Mary Magdalene.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Byrhsige of Barnstaple."

Provenance:

 $\hbox{Ex Richard Cyril Lockett, English part I, Glendining, 6-9th June~1955, lot~699}.$

Ex F. Elmore-Jones, Glendining, 12-13th ay 1971, lot 65.

Ex Spink Numismatic Circular July 1980, item 6269.

BATH MINT



GM23669

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Bath Mint, Moneyer Aelfric, draped bust left, legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO'I, *rev.* long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +ÆL FRIC MΩO BAÐ, weight 1.87g (BMC IV, 7; BEH 20; SCBI 7:14 Copenhagen; N.774; S.1151). *Toned, a couple of peck marks on reverse, otherwise almost extremely fine and rare.* **£975**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. Bath operates with eight moneyers in all types except first small cross at the start and last small cross at the end.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The old Roman City of Bath some 12 miles from Bristol was rebuilt by Alfred the Great after expulsion of the Danes and was part of the Burghal Hidage. King Eadgar was coronated there in 973 and in 1013 the Danish Swein went to Bath to receive submission from the western thegns. Bath was destroyed in 1088 in a rising orchestrated by Robert de Mowbray. It later became an episcopal seat in place of Wells in 1090 and William II granted the mint to the Bishop.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Aelfric moneyer of Bath."

Provenance:

Ex Dr Erik Miller Collection, part II, Spink Coin Auction, 27th March 2019, lot 53. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

BUCKINGHAM MINT

EXTREMELY RARE BUCKINGHAM MINT PENNY





GM23670

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Buckingham Mint, Moneyer Aelfwi, draped bust left, legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO'I, *rev.* long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +ÆL FPI M ΩO B VCCI, weight 1.74g (BMC IV, p.197; BEH 69; SCBI 7:36 Copenhagen; N.774; S.1151). *Toned, peck marks both sides with more on reverse, otherwise good very fine and extremely rare.* **£6,500**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. Buckingham operates with just three moneyers in only the CRVX and long cross types.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Buckingham situated on the River Ouse in 17 miles north of Aylesbury and mentioned in the Burghal Hidage. Edward the Elder marched there in 914 and built forts on either side of the river. The Danes later reached the town in 1010 and ravaged it.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Aelfwi moneyer of Buckingham"

Provenance:

Ex Richard Cyril Lockett, English part I, Glendining, 6th June 1955, lot 700 sold for £30. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

CAMBRIDGE MINT



GM23671

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), with trident sceptre and two extra pellets on reverse, Cambridge Mint, Moneyer Eadmund, draped bust left with trident style sceptre which penetrates drapery, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLOX *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, extra pellet next before C and after X, +EADMVND M-O GRAT, weight 1.05g (BMC III, p.199; BEH 606; cf.SCBI 1:641 Fitzwilliam; N.770; S.1149). *Toned and free of any pecks, slight bend in flan, almost extremely fine and an extremely rare variant.* **£3,250**

This coin is highly unusual to have pellets added before and after CRVX as well as an obverse with this "trident" headed sceptre. North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Cambridge operates with 19 moneyers in all types except first small cross, second and Benediction hand.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Cambridge was built beside a ford on the River Cam which was formerly known as the River Grante a tributary of the Ouse. On the coins of the Anglo-Saxon period the mint name is Grantebrycge. The Danes wintered here in 875 and burnt the town in 1010. King William I built the castle here in 1068 as a base against Hereward the Wake. In 1143 during the anarchy, the town was burnt by Geoffrey de Mandeville.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Edmund of Cambridge" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross"

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 8. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Cambridge Mint, Moneyer Leofwine, draped bust left with sceptre, extra long ties to diadem, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGOX, last two pairs of letters ligatured, rev. voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, LEOFPINE M-O GRAT, weight 1.13g (BMC III; BEH -; SCBI -; N.770; S.1149). Toned and free of any pecks, extremely fine, extremely rare, the moneyer not known at Cambridge and an unusual obverse die variety. £3,500

Leofwine has not been recorded before at Cambridge but is attested at the mints of Lincoln and Stamford for last small cross (1009-17) and at Stamford for long cross (997-1003). The style of this obverse is reminiscent of intermediate small cross type with its long diadem ties and it could be one of those dies with a sceptre added as it was contemporary with the end of the CRVX issue c.997. This appears to be the only example known and is in excellent condition being part of the recent Millennium Hoard found in Suffolk. North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Cambridge operates with 19 moneyers in all types except first small cross, second and Benediction hand.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

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The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Leofwine of Cambridge" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross"

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 10. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

CANTERBURY MINT



GM23673

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Canterbury Mint, Moneyer Eadweald, draped bust left, legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO, *rev.* long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +EA DPOL D M .O CÆNT, weight 1.63g (BMC IV, 26; BEH 89; SCBI 25:172-3; N.774; S.1151). *Toned, slight bend in flan, well struck, extremely fine.* **£1,350**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Canterbury operates with 17 moneyers in all types.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The City of Canterbury is 16 miles north west of Dover with gold Thrymsas known bearing its name as one of the most important mints in southern England during the 8th and 9th centuries. In 809 the Danes were bought off for £3,000 but the town was taken by them in 839 and 851, again circa 981 and finally in 1011. There were two moneyers who worked for the Archbishop and in 1189 this increased to three. The Abbot of St Augustine had the privilege of one die in eight until 1161 at Canterbury though the coins do not seem to bear any ecclesiastical marks, though pennies of Henry I type XIV can have an annulet on the shoulder for moneyers Algar and Willem. We also know for Henry II that the Abbot's moneyer was Alferg. There are die links with Hythe and Lewes in the reign of Aethelred II and with Hythe for William I.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Eadweald of Canterbury" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 62. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

CHESTER MINT



GM23674

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Chester Mint, Moneyer Aelfnoth, draped bust left, legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO, rev. long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +ÆLF NOĐ MΩO LEIG, weight 1.71g (cf.BMC IV, 135; BEH 774; SCBI 5:126-7 Chester; N.774; S.1151). Toned, weak in periphery of rim with one slight undulation, otherwise good very fine.

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North, Chester operates with 26 moneyers in all types.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The City of Chester lies some 16 miles south of Liverpool near the border with Wales which is why it became a fortified town at the time of the Mercian Kingdom and was later restored by Aethelflaed in 907 after occupation by the Danes in 892. The city later rebelled against William the Conqueror and was ravaged by him in 1070 whereupon he built a castle there. It became a base for William to campaign in Wales and in 1075 the See of Lichfield was moved there, later transferring to Coventry in 1102. The Saxon name an abbreviation of which appears on the coins was LEGACEASTER meaning camp of the Legions and does not start to change to an abbreviation of Chester until the last type of coinage for William I.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Aelfnoth of Chester."

Provenance:

Purchased from Spink and Son Ltd in 1985.

GLOUCESTER MINT





GM23675

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Gloucester Mint, Moneyer Wihtsige, draped bust left Latin legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +Æ \pm DELRÆD REX ANGLORX, last three letters ligatured, rev. long voided cross with tricrescent ends, +PIN TSIG E M Ω O GLEA, weight 1.76g (BMC IV, p.201; BEH 597; SCBI 24:526 West Country; N.774; S.1151). *Toned with a slight undulation, extremely fine.* **£1,375**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Gloucester operates with 5 moneyers in all types except first small cross.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The City of Gloucester on the River Severn is 37 miles north north east of Bristol and in 877 the army of Guthrum moved there and the town was ravaged several times through the 10th century. Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians (died 918) is buried here and King Aethelstan dies here at his palace in 940. The present cathedral was founded in 1089 and later the city was destroyed by fire in 1101 in the reign of Henry I. In King Stephen's reign Gloucester became an Angevin stronghold for Earl Robert and interestingly Stephen's cousin Matilda, received him at Gloucester as her prisoner before sending him on to Bristol in 1141.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Wihtsige of Gloucester."

Provenance:

Ex A. H. Baldwin, 21st May 1965 purchased for £20 Ex Dr Erik Miller Collection, part II, Spink Coin Auction, 27th March 2019, lot 61. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

HUNTINGDON MINT



GM23676

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Huntingdon Mint, Moneyer Aelfric, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLOX, the NG ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +ELFRIC M-O HVNT, weight 1.28g (BMC III, 118; BEH 713; SCBI 1:658 Fitzwilliam; N.770; S.1149). *Toned and free of any pecks, almost extremely fine.* **£1,850**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Huntingdon operates with 12 moneyers in all types except first small cross and benediction hand.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Huntingdon is situated on the River Ouse nearly 60 miles north of London. The Danes occupied and left some time in 917 and Edward the Elder rebuilt the castle, it was ravaged by the Danes again in 1010. The Norman castle was built by William I in 1086 and the earldom of Huntingdon was inherited by King David I of Scotland and granted to his son Henry in 1135.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Aelfric of Huntingdon" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 12. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

LEICESTER MINT



GM23677

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, helmet type (c.1003-1009), Leicester Mint, Moneyer Thurulf, armoured bust in helmet left, legend commences lower left with toothed border surrounding, +EĐELRED REX A, *rev.* pellet at centre of long voided cross with tri-crescent terminals, angles with tripellet topped piles, +DV: RVL. F MO LEH, weight 1.56g (BMC V; BEH -; SCBI 27;1729 Lincolnshire; N.775; S.1152). *Toned with a bold engraving, extremely fine and very rare type for the mint.* **£1,250**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Leicester operates with nine moneyers in all types except first small cross and benediction hand.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Leicester is situated on the River Soar a tributary of the Trent some 30 miles north west of Northampton. In 737 a holy See was established and a Viking army later occupied the town circa 877 and became one of the Five Boroughs. In 918 Aethelflaed Lady of the Mercians negotiated possession without fighting with most of the local army submitting to her. In 940 the army of Anlaf Guthfrithson me the army of Eadmund here and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York arranged a treaty giving territory including Leicester to Anlaf. Later in history the body of King Richard III having been discovered under a modern car park was interred at Leicester Cathedral on the 26th March 2015.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Thurulf of Leicester" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Purchased from Classical Numismatic Group, 3rd March 2020. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

LEWES MINT





GM23678

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, large CRVX type (c.991-997), Lewes Mint, Moneyer Leofnoth, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLORX, the NG ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +LEOFNOĐ M-O LÆP, weight 1.66g (BMC III, 129; BEH 744; SCBI 25:43 Helsinki; N.770; S.1148). *Toned and free of any pecks, good very fine.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Lewes operates with 19 moneyers in all types.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Lewes in East Sussex 43 miles south of London is mentioned in the Burghal Hidage with its castle guarding the pass through the South Downs, with a priory was established there in the reign of William I. Some late coins of Aethelred II have die links to Scandanavia and one links to Canterbury.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Leofnoth of Lewes" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex A. H. Baldwin, purchased March 1993.

Ex Mark Rasmussen, Numismatist, Surrey, list 34, item 6.

LINCOLN MINT





GM23686

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, last small cross type (c.1009-17), Lincoln Mint, Moneyer Sunegod, diademed and draped bust left within linear circle, Latin legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGL, *rev.* small cross pattée at centre, linear circle with legend surrounding, +SVNEGOD M-.O LINC, weight 1.08g (BMC I, p.201; BEH 988; SCBI 27:297-8 Lincolnshire; N.777; S.1154).*Toned and free of peck marks good very fine.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Lincoln operates with 64 moneyers in all types with one additional uncertain name.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The City of Lincoln situated on the north bank of the River Witham some 33 miles north east of Nottingham was occupied by the Danes in 918 but the army there submitted to Edward the Elder and in 942 was one of the Five Boroughs. William I built a castle here in 1067 and the minster of St Mary was taken by Remigius of Dorchester as his cathedral in 1072. Later Rannulf the Earl of Chester and William de Roumare Earl of Loncoln, seized the castle to hold against King Stephen in 1140. The King besieged the castle and was captured in defeat at the Battle of Lincoln with the town sacked and burnt. The castle was later surrendered to Stephen by Rannulf who three years later granted it back to him.

In the middle of the reign of Henry I the signature of the Lincoln Mint changes to NICOLE until the end of Stephen's first type and in some later short cross coinage, this being a French name for the city seen in some mediaeval documents, with Lincolnia being the name in Latin.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Sunegod of Lincoln" on the reverse.

Provenance

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1035. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Lincoln Mint, Moneyer Colgrim, draped bust left Latin legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX AIGO, *rev.* long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +COL RIM MΩO LINC, last two letters ligatured, weight 1.75g (BMC IV, 163; BEH 883; Mossop 3; SCBI 27:108-117 Lincolnshire; N.774; S.1151). *Toned, with pecks on reverse, a bold very fine.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Lincoln operates with 64 moneyers in all types with one additional uncertain name.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

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In the middle of the reign of Henry I the signature of the Lincoln Mint changes to NICOLE until the end of Stephen's first type and in some later short cross coinage, this being a French name for the city seen in some mediaeval documents, with Lincolnia being the name in Latin.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Colgrim of Lincoln."

Provenance:

Purchased from A. H. Baldwin 2019.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, last small cross type (c.1009-17), Lincoln Mint, Moneyer Osferth, diademed and draped bust left within linear circle, Latin legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLOR:, rev. small cross pattee at centre, linear circle with legend surrounding, +OSFERÐ N M-O LINCO, weight 1.28g (BMC I, p.201; BEH 934; SCBI 7:564 Copenhagen II; N.777; S.1154). *Toned with peck marks mostly on reverse, otherwise a bold very fine.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Lincoln operates with 64 moneyers in all types with one additional uncertain name.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

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In the middle of the reign of Henry I the signature of the Lincoln Mint changes to NICOLE until the end of Stephen's first type and in some later short cross coinage, this being a French name for the city seen in some mediaeval documents, with Lincolnia being the name in Latin.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Osferth of Lincoln."

Provenance:

Purchased from A. H. Baldwin 2019.

LONDON MINT





GM23679

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, first hand type (c.979-985), London Mint, Moneyer Aelfgar, diademed bust right, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, +ÆĐELRÆD RE+ ANLOX, the NL ligatured, *rev.* hand of Providence from straight clouds, A and hyphen to left, w and hyphen to right, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, + ELFGAR MO LVND., weight 1.52g (BMC I, p.197; BEH 1043; SCBI 26:1138 East Anglia; N.767; S.1144). *Toned good very fine.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North London operates with 99 moneyers in all types with an additional three other uncertain names.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Capital City London upon the River Thames following Roman occupation, minted some of the earliest Saxon coins with gold Thrymsas and silver denarii with a "Londuniu" signature. Mercian Kings beginning with Offa minted coins there, but the first coin to actually say City of London upon it is the unique Ludica portrait Penny that was found in 2016, followed by subsequent coins of Ecgberht. In 871 the Danes wintered in London for the first time but was King Alfred of Wessex who settled and fortified the capital circa 880 to resist further invasions. Edward the Elder incorporated the City in Wessex in 911 and it resisted a major attack in the reign of Aethelred II in 1009. However London submitted to the Danish Swein in 1013, but three years later the citizens accepted Eadmund Ironside as King and resisted a siege by Canute.

Later unsettled times occurred in the anarchy period of the reign of King Stephen, remaining loyal to the King except for a few months in 1141 when Empress Matilda was admitted but within a short time expelled.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Aelfgar of London" on the reverse.

Provenance

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1024. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, large CRVX type (c.991-997), London Mint, Moneyer God, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLORX, the OR ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +G.O.D M-O LVNDO, weight 1.62g (BMC III, p.199; BEH 1309; SCBI 25:72 Helsinki; N.770; S.1148). *Toned, just a few light pecks, otherwise good very fine.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North London operates with 99 moneyers in all types with an additional three other uncertain names.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Capital City London upon the River Thames following Roman occupation, minted some of the earliest Saxon coins with gold Thrymsas and silver denarii with a "Londuniu" signature. Mercian Kings beginning with Offa minted coins there, but the first coin to actually say City of London upon it is the unique Ludica portrait Penny that was found in 2016, followed by subsequent coins of Ecgberht. In 871 the Danes wintered in London for the first time but was King Alfred of Wessex who settled and fortified the capital circa 880 to resist further invasions. Edward the Elder incorporated the City in Wessex in 911 and it resisted a major attack in the reign of Aethelred II in 1009. However London submitted to the Danish Swein in 1013, but three years later the citizens accepted Eadmund Ironside as King and resisted a siege by Canute.

Later unsettled times occurred in the anarchy period of the reign of King Stephen, remaining loyal to the King except for a few months in 1141 when Empress Matilda was admitted but within a short time expelled.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "God of London" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Purchased from B. J. Castenholz 1970.

Ex Marvin Lessen, North York Moors Collection, part 2, 3rd July 2019, lot 298.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, large CRVX type (c.991-997), London Mint, Moneyer Lifinc, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLORX, the OR ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +LIFINC M-O LVND, weight 1.71g (BMC III, 226; BEH 1434; SCBI 36:281 Berlin; N.770; S.1148). *Dark tone, otherwise a bold very fine.* **£450**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North London operates with 99 moneyers in all types with an additional three other uncertain names.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Capital City London upon the River Thames following Roman occupation, minted some of the earliest Saxon coins with gold Thrymsas and silver denarii with a "Londuniu" signature. Mercian Kings beginning with Offa minted coins there, but the first coin to actually say City of London upon it is the unique Ludica portrait Penny that was found in 2016, followed by subsequent coins of Ecgberht. In 871 the Danes wintered in London for the first time but was King Alfred of Wessex who settled and fortified the capital circa 880 to resist further invasions. Edward the Elder incorporated the City in Wessex in 911 and it resisted a major attack in the reign of Aethelred II in 1009. However London submitted to the Danish Swein in 1013, but three years later the citizens accepted Eadmund Ironside as King and resisted a siege by Canute.

Later unsettled times occurred in the anarchy period of the reign of King Stephen, remaining loyal to the King except for a few months in 1141 when Empress Matilda was admitted but within a short time expelled.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Lifinc of London" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1030. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), variety with two extra pellets on reverse, London Mint, Moneyer Eadsige, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLOX, the NG ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, extra pellet next before C and after X, +EDSIGE M-O LVND, weight 1.35g (BMC III, p.199; cf.BEH 1235; SCBI 20:907 Mack; N.770; S.1149). *Toned with one light crease, one tiny chip at top of obverse, good very fine and a very rare variety with extra pellets.* **£750**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North London operates with 99 moneyers in all types with an additional three other uncertain names.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Capital City London upon the River Thames following Roman occupation, minted some of the earliest Saxon coins with gold Thrymsas and silver denarii with a "Londuniu" signature. Mercian Kings beginning with Offa minted coins there, but the first coin to actually say City of London upon it is the unique Ludica portrait Penny that was found in 2016, followed by subsequent coins of Ecgberht. In 871 the Danes wintered in London for the first time but was King Alfred of Wessex who settled and fortified the capital circa 880 to resist further invasions. Edward the Elder incorporated the City in Wessex in 911 and it resisted a major attack in the reign of Aethelred II in 1009. However London submitted to the Danish Swein in 1013, but three years later the citizens accepted Eadmund Ironside as King and resisted a siege by Canute.

Later unsettled times occurred in the anarchy period of the reign of King Stephen, remaining loyal to the King except for a few months in 1141 when Empress Matilda was admitted but within a short time expelled.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Eadsige of London" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Purchased from A. H. Baldwin 2019.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), London Mint, Moneyer Eadwine, draped bust left Latin legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLOI, *rev.* long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +ED PINE MΩO L VND, the NE ligatured, weight 1.71g (BMC IV, 233; cf.BEH 1252; SCBI 7:766 Copenhagen; N.774; S.1151). *Toned, practically extremely fine.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North London operates with 99 moneyers in all types with an additional three other uncertain names.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Capital City London upon the River Thames following Roman occupation, minted some of the earliest Saxon coins with gold Thrymsas and silver denarii with a "Londuniu" signature. Mercian Kings beginning with Offa minted coins there, but the first coin to actually say City of London upon it is the unique Ludica portrait Penny that was found in 2016, followed by subsequent coins of Ecgberht. In 871 the Danes wintered in London for the first time but was King Alfred of Wessex who settled and fortified the capital circa 880 to resist further invasions. Edward the Elder incorporated the City in Wessex in 911 and it resisted a major attack in the reign of Aethelred II in 1009. However London submitted to the Danish Swein in 1013, but three years later the citizens accepted Eadmund Ironside as King and resisted a siege by Canute.

Later unsettled times occurred in the anarchy period of the reign of King Stephen, remaining loyal to the King except for a few months in 1141 when Empress Matilda was admitted but within a short time expelled.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Eadwine of London."

Provenance:

Purchased from B. A. Seaby 1964.

Ex Marvin Lessen, North York Moors Collection, part 2, 3rd July 2019, lot 304.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), London Mint, Moneyer Wulfstan, draped bust left Latin legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGI., the NG ligatured, rev. long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +PVL FSTA N M.O L VND, weight 1.56g (BMC IV, 263; BEH 1530; SCBI 7:962-5; N.774; S.1151). Toned, slight bend in flan, a bold very fine.

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North London operates with 99 moneyers in all types with an additional three other uncertain names.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Capital City London upon the River Thames following Roman occupation, minted some of the earliest Saxon coins with gold Thrymsas and silver denarii with a "Londuniu" signature. Mercian Kings beginning with Offa minted coins there, but the first coin to actually say City of London upon it is the unique Ludica portrait Penny that was found in 2016, followed by subsequent coins of Ecgberht. In 871 the Danes wintered in London for the first time but was King Alfred of Wessex who settled and fortified the capital circa 880 to resist further invasions. Edward the Elder incorporated the City in Wessex in 911 and it resisted a major attack in the reign of Aethelred II in 1009. However London submitted to the Danish Swein in 1013, but three years later the citizens accepted Eadmund Ironside as King and resisted a siege by Canute.

Later unsettled times occurred in the anarchy period of the reign of King Stephen, remaining loyal to the King except for a few months in 1141 when Empress Matilda was admitted but within a short time expelled.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Wulfstan of London."

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 74. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

LOUTH MINT

OF HIGHEST RARITY - THE MINT OF LOUTH





GM23685

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Louth Mint, Moneyer Drengr, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLOX, the NG ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +DRE.NG M-O LVĐE, weight 1.28g (BMC III; BEH -; N.770; S.1149). *Toned with slight bend, with a nice bold portrait extremely fine and of the highest rarity, only two known of this mint and type, both from this hoard, with none represented in museums.* **£15,000**

The moneyer Dreng is known at Lincoln and is likely to be the same moneyer operating at this mint at Louth seemingly earlier in his career. The only other coins known of the Louth Mint at present are a Penny of Edward the Martyr and one of Aethelred II second-hand type. The Millennium Hoard is so memorable for the first public appearance of the mint pieces of Louth, as well as other great rarities like Melton Mowbray also in the English Doctor Collection.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Louth in Lincolnshire is situated on a junction of an ancient trackway with the River Lud and is named after the fast flowinf river that once had up to 13 watermills upon it. The Danes left their mark with the many Viking style street names and the population was about 600 at the time of the Domesday survey.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Drengr of Louth" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 33. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

LYDFORD MINT



GM23689

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Lydford Mint, Moneyer Goda, draped bust left Latin legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGL, *rev.* long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +GO DA M ΩO LYDA, weight 1.49g (cf.BMC IV, 282; BEH 1561; SCBI 24:544 West Country; N.774; S.1151). *Toned with some green deposit, reverse with some rust marks, otherwise free of pecks, a bold very fine and a rare mint.* **£850**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Lydford operates with six moneyers in all types except first small cross and benediction hand.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Lydford in Devon is a village on the River Lyd about 25 miles west of Exeter and is mentioned in the Burghal Hidage as it was in quite a defensible position with a major earthwork in the tenth century. Lydford was attacked by the Danes circa 994 and later from 1068 a castle was built, the ruins of which still stand today.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Goda of Lydford."

Provenance:

Ex Waszawskie Centrum, Warsaw, Auction 72, 11th May 2019, lot 44. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

LYMPNE MINT



GM23690

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, large CRVX type (c.991-997), Lympne Mint, Moneyer Leofric, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLORX, ORX ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +LEOFRIC M-O LIMNA, weight 1.58g (BMC III, p.200; BEH 839; SCBI 30:420 American; N.770; S.1148). *Dark tone, a couple of peck marks each side, otherwise a bold to good very fine and a rare Mint.* **£1,350**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Lympne operates with seven moneyers in all types except the latter helmet and last small cross types.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The Kentish Mint of Lympne is a village today, three miles to the west of the town of Hythe where minting activity later transferred from the time of Edward the Confessor perhaps as it is situated on the coast. The Lympne Mint is in operation from the reign of Aethelstan until Canute, The Danes arrived there in 893 and there are some die links in the pennies of Aethelred II with the Canterbury Mint.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Leofric of Lympne" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross."

Provenance:

Ex H. W. Taffs, Glendining, 21st November 1956, lot 79, sold for £19.

Ex Spink Coin Auction, 25^{th} September 2018, lot 1581.

MALMESBURY MINT

VERY RARE MALMESBURY MINT PENNY



GM23691

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Malmesbury Mint, Moneyer Eadred, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLO, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +EADRED M-O MAL., large pellet at end of legend, weight 0.99g (BMC III; BEH -; N.770; S.1149). *Toned with slight undulation, with a nice bold portrait extremely fine and very rare.* **£3,750**

The usual moneyer reading for Malmesbury is Ealdred and this coin represents a new reading as well as clearly reading MAL for the mint name with a large rounded object after the L, like a pellet but with an ingress on one side. Though this coin was in a hoard in Suffolk which is not far from Maldon in Essex, Aethelred II coins of Maldon usually have the Æ diphthong in MAL and North only records Eadwold working at Maldon, so it is likely this coin was a geographical outlier in the Suffolk hoard. North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Malmesbury operates with four moneyers in all types except first and benediction hand.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The town of Malmesbury in Wiltshire is situated on a ridge 23 miles north east of Bristol, surrounded on most sides by the River Avon and a tributary is mentioned in the Burghal Hidage. Around 635 a hermitage was constructed which formed a later basis for the later abbey and King Aethelstan is buried here having rebuilt and endowed the monastery.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Eadred of Malmesbury" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 35. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

MELTON MOWBRAY MINT

OF HIGHEST RARITY - MELTON MOWBRAY MINT





GM23692

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Melton Mowbray Mint, Moneyer Cetel, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLOR, rev. voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +CETEL M-O MEĐEL., weight 1.13g (BMC III; BEH -; N.770; S.1149). Toned, with a nice portrait and clear Mint reading, good very fine and extremely rare, this being the better quality example of the two in private hands.

The mint of Melton Mowbray was only positively identified in a year 2000 article in the British Numismatic Journal volume 70 by Dr Mark Blackburn recording a coin found in 1999 at Easton Hampshire, with a full mint reading of MEĐELTV of the moneyer Hilde. This coin was subsequently acquired by the Fitzwilliam Museum and previous to that discovery it had been suggested by Michael Dolley that MEĐEL or similar readings, were from Peterborough and its Abbey which was known as Medeshampstead until late in the Tenth Century. At that time of writing based upon the physical evidence of a fragmentary coin of first-hand type of Aethelred II and coupled with known minting rights that the Abbot at Peterborough had been granted since 972, the subsequent theory was based on this being of the moneyer Hilde, having had links to Stamford. There had been an unknown type coin of Aethelred II reading PIZTAN at MEĐEL recorded in a mid-19th Century hoard from the Shetland Islands since lost, but this was partly dismissed by Dolley on the basis it was a probable misreading. A third coin of MEĐEL was identified in the Berlin Collection of Canute's quatrefoil type, moneyer Leofdaeg of Lincoln style. Therefore, this coin from the more recent Suffolk hoard and one other of this moneyer are likely the fourth and fifth coins known of this mint and the only ones that a collector can possibly own.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Melton Mowbray on the River Eye is situated 19 miles north east of Leicester and there is evidence of early Anglo-Saxon settlement from the eighth century onward.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Cetel of Melton Mowbray" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 36. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

NEWARK MINT

OF HIGHEST RARITY - NEWARK MINT PENNY





GM23693

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, first-hand type (c.979-985), Newark Mint, Moneyer Aethestan, diademed bust right, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLOX, rev. hand of Providence from straight clouds, A and hyphen to left, w and hyphen to right, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, + ÆĐESTAN MO NIPAN., weight 1.54g (BMC II; BEH -; N.766; S.1144). Unevenly toned, perforation at one part of inner circle, some weaknesses, otherwise about very fine and extremely rare.

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Newark operates with one moneyer Leofwine in only the last small cross and this coin is a new addition to the mint since publication.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Newark in Nottinghamshire is some 18 miles from Nottingham on the River Devon near junction with the Trent. A castle was built in 1123 by Bishop Alexander and held for the Earl of Leicester against the Bishop of Lincoln in 1139. Much later the town played a numismatic part in the English Civil War issuing Halfcrowns, Shillings, Ninepences and Sixpences dated 1645-46.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Aethstan of Newark" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Classical Numismatic Group, Webshop purchase 2020.

NORWICH MINT



GM23694

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Norwich Mint, Moneyer Eadmund, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLOX, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +EADMVND M-O NOĐ, weight 1.38g (BMC III, p.199; BEH 1589; SCBI 25:86 Helsinki; N.770; S.1149). *Toned, with a nice bold portrait, extremely fine.* £775

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Norwich operates with 22 moneyers across all types.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Norwich is situated 100 miles north north east of London in East Anglia on the River Tud near the junction with the River Yare. In 1004 it was sacked and burnt by the Danish Swein, but resisted a much later attack in 1069. The Norman knight Roger Bigod Earl of East Anglia siezed the castle in 1087 and later in 1136 during the anarchy the castle was again seized by his descendent Hugh Bigod. The holy See of the Bishop of East Anglia was transferred there from Thetford in 1094/5 he having minting rights with one moneyer at Norwich.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Eadmund of Norwich" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 2. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, last small cross type (c.1009-17), Norwich Mint, Moneyer Leofwine, diademed and draped bust left within linear circle, Latin legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRED REX ANG, the NG ligatured, *rev.* small cross pattee at centre, linear circle with legend surrounding, +LEOFPINE ON NORĐPI, weight 1.33g (BMC I, p.200; BEH 1608; SCBI 26:1216 East Anglia; N.777; S.1154). *Toned with a few peck marks on reverse, a nice full mint reading, good very fine.* **£800**

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The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Leofwine of Norwich."

Provenance:

Ex Spink Numismatic Circular, December 2000, item HS14.

Ex Gordon Andreas Singer, dealer, Greenbelt Maryland, USA, May 2001.

Ex Marshall Faintich Collection.

Ex Mark Rasmussen Numismatist, Surrey, List 24, Spring 2013, item 13.

ROCHESTER MINT





GM23696

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Rochester Mint, Moneyer Edsige, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLORX, rev. voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +EADSIGE M-O ROFE, weight 1.36g (BMC III, cf.302; BEH 1666; SCBI 7:1055-6 Copenhagen; N.770; S.1148). Toned, with some old soil deposit in legend, free of peck marks, good very fine and a scarce mint.

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Rochester operates with 14 moneyers across all types except first small cross.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The cathedral town of Rochester in Kent lies at the lowest bridging point of the River Medway some 30 miles south-east of the centre of the City of London. The first bridging of the Medway at Rochester dates back to late Roman times. The Diocese is the second oldest in Britain after Canterbury with a long line of Bishops dating back to its founding in 604 by St. Augustine, who consecrated St. Justus as the first Bishop. It has been claimed that Witmen type Anglo Saxon gold thrymsa coins may have been struck here. Rochester was one of the main mint towns in the ninth century and the Bishop seems to have been granted the privilege to coin in the reign of Ecgberht. In the laws of Aethelstan the Bishop of Rochester was allowed one moneyer whilst the King had two. The town suffered "great slaughter" by the Danes in 839 and was ravaged by Aethelred II in 986 just five to ten years before these coins depicting him was minted. Later the town was besieged in the rebellion of Bishop Odo in 1088 and was destroyed by fire in 1130. Rochester was besieged and taken by King John in 1215.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Edsige of Rochester" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross."

Provenance:

Purchased from A. H. Baldwin 2019.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Rochester Mint, Moneyer Sidewine, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLOR, the NG ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +SIDPINE M-O ROFEC., weight 1.31g (BMC III, 303, BEH 1687; SCBI 25:94-5 Helsinki; N.770; S.1149). *Toned, quite peck marked more so on obverse obscuring portrait, very fine, bolder on reverse and a scarce mint.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Rochester operates with 14 moneyers across all types except first small cross.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The cathedral town of Rochester in Kent lies at the lowest bridging point of the River Medway some 30 miles south east of the centre of the City of London. The first bridging of the Medway at Rochester dates back to late Roman times. The Diocese is the second oldest in Britain after Canterbury with a long line of Bishops dating back to its founding in 604 by St. Augustine, who consecrated St. Justus as the first Bishop. It has been claimed that Witmen type Anglo Saxon gold thrymsa coins may have been struck here. Rochester was one of the main mint towns in the ninth century and the Bishop seems to have been granted the privilege to coin in the reign of Ecgberht. In the laws of Aethelstan the Bishop of Rochester was allowed one moneyer whilst the King had two. The town suffered great slaughter by the Danes in 839 and was ravaged by Aethelred II in 986 just five to ten years before this coins depicting him was minted. Later the town was besieged in the rebellion of Bishop Odo in 1088 and was destroyed by fire in 1130. Rochester was besieged and taken by King John in 1215.

The Latin legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Edsige of Rochester" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross."

Provenance:

Purchased from A. H. Baldwin 2019.

SOUTHAMPTON MINT





GM23698

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, large CRVX type (c.991-997), Southampton Mint, Moneyer Isegel, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLORV ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +ISCGEL M-O HAIIPI, weight 1.73g (BMC III, p.200; BEH 677 as Harwich; SCBI 7:413 Copenhagen; N.770; S.1148). *Toned, one hairline surface crack on obverse showing partly through on reverse, otherwise a bold to good very fine and a rare mint.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Southampton operates with seven moneyers across all types except first small cross, long cross and helmet.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The port of Southampton lies just over ten miles south of Winchester on a peninsular formed by the Rivers Test and Itchen. It was twice plundered by the Danes in 842 and 980 respectively, and they wintered there in 994 which falls into the window of time when this coin was thought to be struck.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Isegel of Southampton" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross."

Provenance:

SOUTHWARK MINT



GM23699

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.992-997), Southwark Mint, Moneyer Aelfric, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLORX, NG and RX ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +ÆLFRIC M-O SVÐG, weight 1.38g (BMC III, 331; cf.BEH 1858; SCBI 1:672 Fitzwilliam; N.770; S.1148). *Dark tone, a few pecks, good very fine.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Southwark operates with 21 moneyers only in the latter four types from CRVX to last small cross.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Southwark Mint on the south bank of the Thames separate from the City of London is mentioned in the Burghal Hidage and is part of old Surrey. The town was burnt by William the Conqueror in 1066 and later minting activity occurred in the Tudor period.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Aelfric of Southwark" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross"

Provenance:

Purchased from A. H. Baldwin 2019.

STAFFORD MINT





GM23700

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Stafford Mint, Moneyer Aegenulf, draped bust left Latin legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO, the NG ligatured, rev. long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +ÆGE NVLF M.Ω.O STÆÐ, weight 1.75g (BMC IV, p.197; BEH 1740; SCBI 17:251 Midlands; N.774; S.1151). Toned with a few pecks, obverse a little off-centre, a bold very fine and appears to be the only example in private hands of this moneyer and type for the reign, extremely rare. £3,250

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Stafford operates with three moneyers only in the latter four types from CRVX to last small cross.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Stafford on the River Stowe a tributary from the Trent is 28 miles west of Derby and was fortified by Aethelflaed the Lady of the Mercians barring entry into Mercia. Later in 1016 Edmund Ironside marched into the town and later still a castle was built in 1069 by William I.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Aegnulf of Stafford."

Provenance:

Ex P. W. P Carlyon-Britton, first portion, Sotheby, 17th November 1913, lot 516 part Ex F. Elmore-Jones, Glendining, 13th May 1971, lot 776 – sold for £115 Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

STAMFORD MINT





GM23701

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Stamford Mint, Moneyer Wulfmaer, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLORX, NG ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +PVLMÆR M-O STAN, weight 1.01g (BMC III; BEH -; N.770; S.1149). *Toned with slight undulation, good very fine and not recorded in the older references.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Stamford operates with 37 moneyers across all types and Wulfmaer is listed as one of the moneyers.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Stamford on the River Welland in Lincolnshire some 17 miles from Peterborough where the Viking garrison surrendered to Edward the Elder in 918. The Abbot of Medeshamstede (modern Peterborough) was granted one moneyer at Stamford in reign of Eadgar and some extremely rare Edward the Martyr and Aethelred II first small cross coins with an annulet may be associated with this issue. Later one die of Henry I with an annulet on the shoulder may also be associated with this minting right. A Norman castle was built prior to 1086 and later the town fell into the hands of Empress Matilda. In an 1153 siege the town surrendered to Henry of Anjou.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Wulfmaer of Stamford" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross"

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 45. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

THETFORD MINT



GM23702

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, small CRVX type (c.991-997), Thetford Mint, Moneyer Leofwine, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLO, NG ligatured, rev. voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +LEOFPINE M-O ĐEOD, weight 1.08g (BMC III p.200; BEH 1922; SCBI 7:1224 Copenhagen; N.770; S.1149). Toned with slight undulation, good very fine.

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Thetford operates with 31 moneyers across all types.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Thetford town on the Little Ouse is 14 miles north of Bury St Edmunds and was the capital of East Anglia and was thought to be the minting place of earlier Mercian issues and independent Kings though it could have been Ipswich. The Danes wintered here in 868/9 moving on to Reading in 870. Swein burnt Thetford in 1003 and again in 1010, the town later became the See of East Anglia circa 1072 but this was transferred to Norwich 1094/5.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Leofwine of Thetford" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross"

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 49. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, last small cross type (c.1009-17), variety with four extra smaller crosses on reverse, Thetford Mint, Moneyer Eadric, diademed and draped bust left within linear circle, Latin legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO, rev. small cross pattee at centre, smaller cross beyond each limb surrounding, all within linear circle with legend surrounding, +EDRIC MON ĐEPRR: weight 1.42g (BMC Ic, p.199; cf.BEH 1902; SCBI 25:554 Helsinki; N.779; cf.S.1154). Toned, almost extremely fine and very rare.

The reverse variety with the extra four crosses only occurs at the East Anglian / Lincolnshire Mints of Colchester, Ipswich, Stamford, Sudbury and Thetford, quite a localised variety and also unexplained. Thetford mints coins from the reign of King Edgar to Henry II, a period of some 200 years. J. J. North gives the variety its own number in English Hammered Coinage volume 1 and is given as very rare.

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Thetford operates with 31 moneyers across all types.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Thetford town on the Little Ouse is 14 miles north of Bury St Edmunds and was the capital of East Anglia and was thought to be the minting place of earlier Mercian issues and independent Kings though it could have been Ipswich. The Danes wintered here in 868/9 moving on to Reading in 870. Swein burnt Thetford in 1003 and again in 1010, the town later became the See of East Anglia circa 1072 but this was transferred to Norwich 1094/5.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Edric, Moneyer of Thetford."

Provenance:

Ex Cambridge Hoard, discovered circa 1992.

WALLINGFORD MINT



GM23704

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Wallingford Mint, Moneyer Manna, draped bust left Latin legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO, the NG ligatured, *rev.* long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +MA NN M Ω O P ELIG, weight 1.69g (BMC IV, p.200; BEH 2018; SCBI 25:339 Helsinki; N.774; S.1151). *Dark tone, almost extremely fine and rare.* **£1,675**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Wallingford operates with 18 moneyers across all types except first small cross.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Wallingford situated on the Rive Thames some 15 miles from Reading is mentioned in the Burghal Hidage and was burnt by the Danes in 1006 and attacked by Swein seven years later. During the anarchy Brian Fitzcount of the Angevin party was isolated in the castle here and may have struck coins here. He was besieged by Stephen three times in 1139, 1146 and 1153 and was eventually relieved by Henry of Anjou. The Empress Matilda escaped to Wallingford from Oxford in 1142.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Manna of Wallingford."

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 79. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

WILTON MINT



GM23705

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver long cross Penny (c.997-1003), Wilton Mint, Moneyer Goldus, draped bust left Latin legend and beaded outer border surrounding both sides, legend commences lower left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO, the NG and LO ligatured, rev. long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, +GOL DVS M Ω O PILT, weight 1.76g (BMC IV, 346; BEH 2054; N.774; S.1151). Dark tone, with slight undulation, good very fine and rare. £2,250

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Wilton operates with ten moneyers across all types except the helmet and last small cross.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Wilton beside the River Nadder and Wylye situated north west of Salisbury is in the Bughal Hidage and Alfred the Great was defeated here in 871. The town was burnt by Swein in 1003 when the mint was moved to Salisbury, with moneyers only returning later from circa 1020. Later the Empress Matilda spent Easter of 1141 here and Stephen suffered a defeat here in 1143.

The legends translate as "Aethelred, King of the English" and "Goldus of Wilton."

Provenance:

Ex Millennium Hoard, Suffolk, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 165, 4th December 2019, lot 79. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, CRVX type (c.991-997), Wilton Mint, Moneyer Saewine, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, commences at top, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLORX, the NG ligatured, rev. voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +SÆPINE M-O PILTV, weight 1.75g (BMC III, 345; BEH 2063; SCBI 24:488 West Country; N.770; S.1148). Toned, flan a little undulating, some pecks on reverse, otherwise good very fine and scarce. £600

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Wilton operates with ten moneyers across all types except the helmet and last small cross.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

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The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Saewine of Wilton" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross."

Provenance:

Purchased from A. H. Baldwin 2019.

WINCHESTER MINT





GM23707

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, Benediction hand type (c.991), Winchester Mint, Moneyer Brihtnoth, diademed bust right with sceptre, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO, *rev.* hand of Benediction with swirling cuff, cross on sleeve, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, + BRVHTNOĐ M-O PI, weight 1.68g (BMC IIf, p.199; BEH 2113; SCBI 36:217 Berlin; N.769; S.1147). A couple of peck marks on reverse, toned, with a nice portrait, a bold very fine and extremely rare.

Only four of five pieces known to exist of this moneyer and mint for the type. Two of the known examples of these dies in Museum collections, one being the R C Lockett example lot 678 now in the National Museum of Wales and the other in Berlin; at least one other in private hands, possibly two.

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Winchester operates with 44 moneyers across all types.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The City of Winchester on the River Itchen in Hampshire was the Capital of the West Saxon Kingdom and seat of their bishop and mentioned in the Burghal Hidage. The Royal Treasury was here with coinage perhaps struck here as early as the reign of Beorhtric, the first time the mint name appears is on a Penny of Alfred the Great. The town was stormed by Danes in 860 and submitted without resisting to Swein in 1013. Henry of Blois was Bishop of Winchester in the reign of Stephen and the town visited by Matilda proclaimed as "Lady and Queen of England" in 1141, though she later had to flee as it was burnt. Later King John was driven from Winchester in 1216.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Brihtnoth of Winchester" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Classical Numismatic Group, Electronic Auction 432, 14th November 2018, lot 532. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, last small cross type (c.1009-17), Winchester Mint, Moneyer Eadwine, diademed and draped bust left within linear circle, Latin legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLI, *rev.* small cross pattée at centre, linear circle with legend surrounding, +EADPINE ON PINCST, weight 1.24g (BMC I, 351; BEH 2172; SCBI 7:1387 Copenhagen; N.777; S.1154). *Toned with peck marks both sides, otherwise very fine.* £550

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Winchester operates with 44 moneyers across all types.

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The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Eadwine of Winchester" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Baldwin Auction 99, 4th May 2016, lot 957.

WORCESTER MINT





GM23709

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, CRVX type (c.991-997), Worcester Mint, Moneyer Sigewine, draped bust left with sceptre, linear circle and legend surrounding, +ÆĐELRED REX ANGLORX, ORX ligatured, *rev.* voided cross within linear circle, CRVX letters in consecutive angles, +SIGEPINE M-O PIHRA, weight 1.79g (BMC III, p.201; BEH 2050; SCBI 20:900 Mack; N.770; S.1148). *Attractively toned, good very fine.* £1,150

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Worcester operates with 12 moneyers across all types except second hand.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

Worcester on the left bank of the River Severn is 22 miles from Hereford and was fortified in the reign of Alfred against the Danes on request of the bishop. Eadgar gave the bishopric in 959 to Dunstan and was later held jointly with the See of York by St Oswald (972-1016) as well as others. The town was burnt in 1041 on the order of Harthacanute as two Danegeld collectors had been killed there. The town endured an earthquake in 1049 and was later destroyed by fire in 1113 and again in 1133. The town was burnt and plundered in 1139 and again in 1150.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Sigewine of Worcester" on the reverse, the letters around the central cross mean "cross."

Provenance:

Ex Classical Numismatic Group, Electronic Auction 425, 25th July 2018, lot 780. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

YORK MINT



GM23710

Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, first small cross type (c.978-979), York Mint, Moneyer Thorsteinn, diademed and draped bust left within linear circle, no back to drapery, three pellets in field before face, legend surrounding commencing upper left, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGL., rev. small cross pattée at centre, linear circle with legend surrounding, +ĐORSTAN M-O EF, weight 1.26g (BMC Ic, cf.72; cf.BEH 490; SCBI 21:58 Yorkshire; N.764; S.1143). Toned and free of pecks, of usual crude style for this earliest type, good very fine and extremely rare. **£4,500**

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Worcester operates with 82 moneyers across all types with one extra partial name possible as an addition.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

The City of York at the junction of the River Foss and River Ouse, about 190 miles north west of London has been an archbishopric since 753 with some gold Thrymsa coins being produced. It was the early minting place of coins of the Kings of Northumbria in both copper and silver as well as the Archbishops of York. The mint name first appears on some of the occupational Viking coinages making the city their capital from 867. In 919 the city passed to the Hiberno-Norse Kings of Dublin and back to the English in 927 when taken from Guthfrith. Between 939 and 943 the Vikings were back in town and again from 947-954 but otherwise remained under English rule with the Norman castle even holding out to a Saxon/Danish occupation in 1069 being relieved by William I who built a second castle on the right bank of the Ouse, the City having been burnt. As soon as William departed the Vikings returned but upon William's return they fled back to their ships and the Normans harried Yorkshire.

The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Thorstein of York" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Spink and Son Ltd. purchased 1991.

Ex Marvin Lessen, North York Moors Collection, part 2, 3rd July 2019, lot 293.



Aethelred II (978-1016), silver Penny, first hand type (c.979-985), York Mint, Moneyer Styrkarr, diademed bust right, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, +ÆĐELRÆD REX ANGLO, the NG ligatured, *rev.* hand of Providence from straight clouds, A and hyphen to left, w and hyphen to right, Latin legend and linear circles surrounding, + ZTYR M-O EOFER, weight 1.43g (BMC IIb, p.201; SCBI 7:298 Copenhagen; BEH -; N.766; S.1144). *Lightly toned, almost extremely fine.*

North lists 73 named mints in operation during the reign of Aethelred II with a further 14 unallocated. According to North Worcester operates with 82 moneyers across all types with one extra partial name possible as an addition.

Though Aethelred enjoyed such a long reign he was known as "The Unready" literally meaning ill-counselled from a history of bad advice and decision making. Born circa 967 Aethelred was supported by his mother and partisans that were led by Earl Aelfhere of Mercia; ascending the throne at no more than 12 years of age after the murder of his Half-Brother Edward at Corfe. The influential Aelfhere having died in 983 meant Aethelred became more vulnerable, and the Vikings began to start their raids once again. Aethelred chose to pay off the raiders rather than resist, becoming known for giving such ransoms payments willingly. This meant many hundreds of thousands of coins ended up being taken to Scandanavia where they were hoarded and why much of the coinage that survives today often exhibits "peck marks" where the Viking bankers have inserted a knife point to make sure the metal quality was good. The harrying continued until Swein Forkebeard held a great swathe of England by 1013, and Aethelred was under threat in London retreating to the Isle of Wight. England submitted to Swein but he died suddenly on the 2nd February 1014 at Gainsborough giving Aethelred the advantage and driving the Vikings out. Canute the second son of Swein, returned to attack in 1015 and by early 1016 was marching on Mercia, Aethelred however passed away on 23rd April 1016 in London at around the age of 52 just as his second son Edmund was moving south to link up with the army. Edmund was elected King, but the army was his priority, and after winning a few battles suffered a defeat at Ashingdon on 18th October 1016. He retreated possibly wounded to West Mercia and negotiated a treaty giving him rule of Wessex. However, Edmund died in Oxford on the 30th November 1016 giving control to Canute.

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The legends translate as "Aethelred King of the English" on obverse and "Styrkarr of York" on the reverse.

Provenance:

Ex Dr John Tooze Collection, Dix Noonan and Webb, Auction 163, 19th September 2019, lot 1026. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.

HIBERNO-NORSE COINAGE



GM23648

Ireland, Hiberno-Norse Kings, Sihtric III Olafsson (c.995-1036), Phase II (1015-35), silver Penny, draped bust left, pellet in field before face, cross pommee behind in field, cruder Sihtric style legend surrounding, rev. long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, pellet at centre, small pellet in each quarter, legend with blundered Dublin mint signature, weight 0.80g (SCBI 32:92 Ulster Museum; D&F 23; S.6125). Toned, well struck, a bold to good very fine and rare.

Sihtric Olafsson, known as "Silkbeard" was the son of Olaf Cuaràn King of York, Northumbria and Dublin, and Gormflaith Ingen Murchada previously the wife of Mael Sechnaill, King of Meath and High King of Ireland. Sihtric's Father Olaf Cuaràn had ruled over Dublin from 952-980.

Sihtric was born in Dublin circa 970 and could have been King as early as 989 for a five year period, but then was either restored or actually began his reign in 995. He was briefly deposed in 1000 but was restored again shortly after, until he was forced to abdicate in 1036 by Echmarcach mac Ragnaill whereupon it is thought he died in exile in 1042. He was married to Slàine the daughter of Brian Boru the High King of Ireland, and they had five children together all of who pre-deceased him, the last dying in the same year Sihtric was thought to have died in 1042.

Achievements in his reign included establishing a Bishopric in Dublin in 1028 and the Christ Church Cathedral as well as taking a pilgrimage to Rome.

Provenance:

From an American Collection of Hiberno Norse, Classical Numismatic Group, auction 117, 19th May 2021, lot 1068. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Ireland, Hiberno-Norse Kings, Sihtric III Olafsson (c.995-1036), Phase II (1015-35), silver Penny, draped bust left, crozier like object behind in field, cruder Sihtric style legend surrounding, rev. long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, pellet at centre, small pellet in each quarter, legend with blundered Dublin mint signature, weight 1.20g (SCBI 22:86; D&F 23; S.6125A). Toned, a bold to good very fine and rare.

Sihtric Olafsson, known as "Silkbeard" was the son of Olaf Cuaràn King of York, Northumbria and Dublin, and Gormflaith Ingen Murchada previously the wife of Mael Sechnaill, King of Meath and High King of Ireland. Sihtric's Father Olaf Cuaràn had ruled over Dublin from 952-980.

Sihtric was born in Dublin circa 970 and could have been King as early as 989 for a five year period, but then was either restored or actually began his reign in 995. He was briefly deposed in 1000 but was restored again shortly after, until he was forced to abdicate in 1036 by Echmarcach mac Ragnaill whereupon it is thought he died in exile in 1042. He was married to Slàine the daughter of Brian Boru the High King of Ireland, and they had five children together all of who pre-deceased him, the last dying in the same year Sihtric was thought to have died in 1042.

Achievements in his reign included establishing a Bishopric in Dublin in 1028 and the Christ Church Cathedral as well as taking a pilgrimage to Rome.

Provenance:

From an American Collection of Hiberno Norse, Classical Numismatic Group, auction 117, 19th May 2021, lot 1071. Ex Collection of an English Doctor, part one, Sovereign Rarities, London, March 2022.



Ireland, Hiberno-Norse Kings, Sihtric III Olafsson (c.995-1036), Phase III (1035-60), silver Penny, draped bust left, pellet in field behind head, blundered legend surrounding, +-NIO III PIO NINN, rev. long voided cross with tri-crescent ends, pellet at centre, small pellet in three individual quarters, crude comb like hand in final quarter, blundered legend surrounding, +III IIIO IIII -OI, weight 0.99g (SCBI 32:297 Ulster; D&F 24; S.6132A). Toned, a little weak in parts, a bold very fine and very rare with single hand.

The phase III coinage was probably issued after Sihtric was forced to abdicate in 1036 as it has much cruder legends than phase II and represents a continual degradation of style into the later phases.

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Provenance:

Ex Virgil M Brand Collection, dispersed post mortem from 1932.

Ex A. H. Baldwin, purchased 2019.