

*An Account of some Saxon Coyns found in Suffolk; Communicated by Sir P. S. R. S. Soc.*

**I**N May 1687, at *Honedon nigh Clare in Suffolk*, the Sexton, as he was digging a Grave in the Church-yard, met with a Skull; and near it his Spade broke a *Yellow Earthen Pot*, wherein were many Silver pieces of Saxon Mony, some of which I have seen, and endeavoured to read the Inscriptions, which are so various, that there are scarce two alike, tho' they are generally of the same bigness, *viz.* of a Groat, and about the same weight. I ghes this variety of Inscriptions ariseth from the many Masters of the Mint who were appointed to coyn Mony in several Places, and who might each of them have a different Stamp: and I find this Conjecture of mine countenanced by a Passage in K. *Æthelstan's Laws*, Printed by *Lambard*.

*Cantuarie Monetarii VII Sunt, quorum quidem IV Regis, II Præfuli ac unus Canobiarchæ deservito. In Civitate Roffensi tres sint, Regii duo, tertius Episcopi. Londini VIII. Vintonie VI. In vico Lewisio II. In vico Hastingso I. Cicestrie I. Hamtonæ II. Excestrie II. Werham II. Schaftsburie II. Ad aliud quodque oppidum Monetarius unus esto.*

To confirm my Opinion, That the several Masters of the Mint made different Reverses, I have observed great variety in *Henry III. Coyn*, *viz.*

NICOLE O LVND.

WILEM O LVND.

WILEM O CINT. *Canterbury quær.*

RICHARD O GLOV.

These Names being probably the Masters of the Mint's, the Laws as to the Mints being not altered. *1 Hen. VI. Cap. 1.* The King's Council might assign Mony to be Coyned in as many Places as they will. (a)

But now in *France*, tho' there be Mints in several Cities, yet there is no difference in the Inscriptions, only a Letter of the

the Alphabet, to signifie where the Mony is stamp'd; as *A* for *Paris*, &c.

These *Saxon* Monies were *Denarii*, or *Pennies*; for *Greaves*, of the *Denarius*, p. 117. says, In *Ethelred's* time it was the 20th part of the silver Ounce *Troy*, and bigger than three of our present Pennies; and our Goldsmiths weigh by this Penny-weight or 24 Grains. Five of the *Saxon* Pennies made a Shilling, and (as *Lambard's* Glossary says) therefore 48 of those Shillings made a Pound, and 240 Pennies made a Pound, which is the present Proportion of our Penny and Pound, tho' the intrinsic value be about three to one different.

I cannot yet meet with any satisfactory Reason, why this Mony should be thus buried; tho' very probably it was upon a superstitious Account: I shall only offer a bare Conjecture of mine; There were, they say, between 200 and 300 pieces found in the Grave; and if 240, *i.e.* 1 *l.* then the Deceased might order so many to be buried with him, as a kind of Expiation for having privately killed a *Dane* of servile Condition; for in *Ethelred's* Law there is this Penalty, *Servilis conditionis Dacum si Anglus morte affecerit, integram solvito Libram.* If more or less was found, it might answer another Mulct enjoined by the *Saxon* Laws for killing or maiming some Person of another Quality. Or the *æstimatio capitis* might be laid in the Grave with the Person that was killed.

Those who believe they were *Peter-Pence*, *Rome-Scot*, *Rome Feob*, or *Hearth-Penny*, I think are under a Mistake; for that Mony was collected every Year, and carry'd out of the Nation. Nor it cannot be the *Soul Scot* mentioned in *Canute's* Laws, (but first required by the Council or Parliament at *Eanham* in *Ethelred's* time) to be paid at the opening of the Grave, (whence *Sir Henry Spelman*, *De Sepulturâ*, thinks the Fee demanded for the Office of Burial is derived) for it is not likely that Fee or *Soul-Scot* paid to the Priest did amount to the Sum found in this Grave; and it is more unlikely that the Priest should so easily part with his Mony, by burying it.

I shall, as well as I can, give you the Inscriptions on those I saw; *viz.*

	<i>Reverse</i>	
I ÆDELSTAN RE+ +	{	P. ÑE + + + b F. EHO
II ÆDELSTAN RE+ +	{	L. ÄND + + + c W. EHO
3 w <sup>t</sup> 23 grains ÆDELSTAN RE+ +	{	ST. EF + + + AN. VΣ
4 24 gr. ÆDELSTAN RE+ +	{	A. R. EM + + + d ON. ETΛ
5 21 gr. EADMVND RE+ +	{	B. EN. E + + + DI. CTVS
6 16 gr. EADMVND RE+ +	{	M. Ä. N. + + + Λ. NO
7 19 gr. EADHVND RE+ +	{	A. L. B. + + + f ER. IHG
8 EADMVND RE+ +	{	I. V. E. H + + + NE. TA g
9 EADMVN RE+ +	{	HT. IL + + + h MA. H
10 24 gr. EADMVND RE+ +	{	M. R. A. + + + AT. NE. O
11 EADMVN RE+ +	{	L. I. T. I. L. + + + WA. N
12 EADMVND RE+ +	{	M. Ä. N. + + + MA. NO

On some of these Monies there are very odd *Saxon* Characters, which are not drawn here very exactly. It would be a useful piece of Learning to have an Alphabet of the several Characters or Shapes of Letters observed in antient MSS. Coyns, and Monuments of Stone, &c. and there might be added an Explanation of Words abbreviated, as in these Monies **W** **Π**, **U** for M; &c.

Some Pieces are diminished in their Weight, by lying long under ground, and several of them coloured Green. (e)

*Spanhemius*, in his *Dissertations de Numismatis*, tells us of the way of Writing Letters backwards, In *Antiquissimis aliquot Græcorum Numismatis*, in quibus ΖΑΛΛΙ pro ΓΕΛΑΣ; ΝΟΙΑΤΖΕΙΖ pro ΣΕΓΕ-ΣΤΑΙΩΝ, &c. *aliaq; id genus Phœnicum more sinistrorsum non semel scripta leguntur. Eandem quoque scripturæ rationem in Antiquis aliquot Gothorum Saxis adnotavit Antiquitatis patriæ restaurator Olaus Wormius.* This

13. EADMVND RE+  
 24: EADHVND REPT+  
*Edmundi facies*  
 REIHGRHZIOH  
 +

15 EADMVND RE+ { E·R·H  
 O+O  
 H·O  
 +

16 24. gr. EADPVND REX· { INGEL  
 + + +  
 G·A·R·H  
 +

17 25. gr. EADHYND RE+ { G·O·T·A·E  
 + + +  
 H·O·L·I·E  
 +

18 +EADRED RE+ 21. gr.  
*Edredi facies*  
 FREDRED MONETA+

19 +EADRED RE+  
*Edredi facies*  
 MANEEH INNO+

20 + EADRED +  
*Edredi facies*  
 ZPERLINL UONE

21 +EADRED REX 24. gr.  
*Edredi facies*  
 I·I·X·H·E·C·H·I·N·O·N·E·M  
 +

The same Reverse with the last.

This Reverse is written round the +, whereas most of the Reverses are not so; but there are two Lines of Letters with three Crosses between 'em.

The little o in some of these Monies is periodical.

These following Reverses are written round the +

The H is a very clear Character, and stands for a Letter that is not defaced.

*Sterling, &c. P. & T. passim confundi Docti observant, πύρρον pro πύρρον, σολὴν pro σολὴν &c. Russina pro Rostina, &c. Bochart. Geogr. pag. 450. 706. Denarium & Sterlingum eundem esse Nummum, (Matth. Paris. in Hen. III. tredecim solidis & 4 sterlingis pro Marca*

*qualibet computatis) Vox ipsa, Sterling, utrum formatur à signo quod imprimebatur isti Nummo, & Sterlingus sit quasi Stellatus, an potius Easterlingus denominatus à Populis, qui Easterlings dicuntur, ambigunt faciunt Scriptores. Gronovius de Sifertius, pag. 346. (l)*

But I find *Gronovius* may be corrected in what he writes in the *Addenda* to the same Treatise by this Reverse; *Dubium non est* (says he) *si Saxonibus Anglis deberetur ea Vox, Sterling, in monumentis illorum repertam iri. — constat inter omnes ante Normannorum ingressum in Angliam, non reperiri mentionem hujus Vocabuli; cum ipso Gulielmo primùm legi, Sterlingos, &c. appellatos, ergò his deberetur ea Vox in Anglia.* Yet I believe what he writes just before, *Denariis autem nomen etiam Sterlinges fuisse, in Continente quâ Normanni imperabant, ostendunt duo rescripta Pontificum Romanorum in Decreto Gregorii; and he might well have added, That the Normans borrowed of the Franks that Word Sterling, as well as descriptionem Libræ per solidos denariosque.* But it may be, when *Gronovius* writ, no Coyn or Monument of Antiquity was then discovered in *England* that mentioned *Sterling* before *William I.* whose Name brings to my mind, that on his Coyn *P* is put for *W.* (n)

*Sir Henry Spelman*, in his Glossary, speaks of *Sterling* and *Denarius* to be the same; and he directs to the Statute made *An. 1302, 31 Edw. I.* wherein the Penny is called *Sterling*, and the weight of the *Sterling* is 32 Grains of dried Wheat; (and I have weigh'd 32 Grains of Wheat, and they are equal to 24 Grains *Troy-weight*, which is our *Saxon Penny*.) And *Ann. 1496, 12 Hen. VII. Cap. 5,* there is another Statute wherein the *Sterling* is of the same weight.

I am credibly inform'd, some of *Egbert's* and *Ethelbert's* Coyn were found amongst them: Those I saw, were *Æthelstan's*, who began his Reign about the Year 925. *Edmund Etheling's* his Brother, (for I take the *Edmunds* to be his) who began his Reign 940; *Edred*, another Brother, who began his Reign 946.

I hope others more skilful in Antiquities, and that have better advantage by our Records and ancient Histories, will give a clearer Interpretation of the Words, Characters, and other Circumstances relating to these and other *Saxon Monies*.

In the Church-yard at *Foulsham* in *Norfolk*, there is a Tomb-stone with this Inscription, which some of the Learned in these Curiosities may perhaps explain.

On one side	ÆK	COG	LOO
At one end		OOO	
On the other side	EDÆ	DES	WIER
On the other end		BOG	

*Remarks upon the foregoing Observations by W. W.  
Reg. Soc. Soc.*

(a) **T**HIS Law was in force till *Henry VII.* who, first, that I can find, quartered the Arms of *England* and *France* in his common silver Coyns, on their Reverses: This his Successors have since followed; before they writ, *Civit. London; Civitas Cantuarie, Villa Calestæ.* The want of knowing this Custom, has caused some Learned Men to mistake some Coyns of *Edward IV.* with *Civitas Norwic.* on the Reverse, for Medals stamped in memory of *Kett's* Insurrection, by *Edward VI.* Golden Medals, in memory of great Actions, are of ancient use amongst us; witness that golden Coyn of *Edward III.* where a Shield, with the Arms of *England* and *France* over a Ship, is stamped, to shew his Title to the Kingdom of *France*, which he then claimed; yet this can hardly be shewn in silver Coyns which then passed for current Money: that seems to have been peculiar to the *Greeks* and *Romans*, except some Instances in these two last Ages.

The single Exception of *Edward III.* who quarter'd *England* and *France* in his Money, doth not weaken my Assertion, since it was extraordinary, as a more publick Proclamation of the Justice of that Title, which he set on foot against *Philip de Valois.*

(b) This Reverse is to be read *PENE FEHO*; i. e. *Penny-mony*, a Duplication usual amongst the *Saxons*; so afterwards *Sterling*

*Sterling-mony.* *Feoh*, or *Feob*, is a common Word for *Mony*.  
*St. Mark xii. 41.* þa sæt se Dælens ongen þære tollsceamol, ⁊  
 gereah hu þæt folc hypa feoh; *Then set Jesus over against the Trea-*  
*sury, and saw the People put in Mony.*

(c) *LAND WEHO*; This was coyned in Memory of  
 a Land Tax, raised by *Æthelstan*, to support his Wars against  
 the *Danes* and *Scots*; against whom, especially the *Scots*, he  
 was *always* victorious. Our Writers (*Ingulph. Hist. Croyland.*  
 p. 29.) say that he killed *Constantine* King of the *Scots*, with  
 five more Kings at the same time; but the Chronicle of *Mail-*  
*rose*, written by the Abbot of *Dundrainand*, a *Scottish-man*,  
 says only, *Regem Scottorum Constantinum praelio vicit, & fu-*  
*gavit*; (ad *An. 926.* p. 147.) And this is the only *Æthelstan*  
 who was ever King of *England*: There was another *Æthel-*  
*stan* King of *Kent* only, Son to *Egbert*, who beat the *Danes* at  
*Sandwich* in *Ann. 852.*

The variety of Letters in these Reverses is remarkable:  
 The last Word in these two Reverses is manifestly to be read  
 alike, yet the form of the Letters is vastly different. This va-  
 riety arose from the multitude of Mints, which did not all tye  
 themselves up to one Stamp, nor to the same Letters.



*A R E M* (d) This I should read *REgia Moneta*, to di-  
 + + + stinguish it from the *Bishops* or *Abbots*, for it was  
 O N E T A. probably coyned at *Canterbury*; *A*, I take to be a  
 Mint-masters Mark.

(e) Tho' these Coyns, as far as I can judge, are as good  
 Silver as any current with us, if not better; yet since what  
 Alloy is in them is of *Brass*, I am apt to think, that the acid  
 Streams in a long series of Ages arising from the *Humane* Bo-  
 dies, might corrode so far into the Metal, as to raise some lit-  
 tle *Verdigrease* upon the Surface of the Coyns; to which that  
*Greenness* is to be imputed.

(f) Probably this *Albericus* was a Nobleman, and they  
 might have had the *Jus monetæ* as well as *Bishops* and *Abbots*;  
 but I must confess I cannot make that out clearly. *H* be-  
 fore *G* is an usual Transposition; so *HClotbarius*, *HLudovicus*.

This

(g) This I read *IVE MONETA*, or *Ive Money*, that is, *Mony* coyned at *St. Ives* in *Huntingdonshire*. The *H*, as also *Π*, both used for *M*, are remarkable. *Bouteroüe*, in his *Disquisitions* on the old *French Monies*, gives us some *Gallick Epitaphs* from which he draws an *Alphabet* of the old *Gauls*: in that, *H* and *M* are used for *M*; so that possibly the *Britains* might likewise use them: it is manifest they are not *Saxon Letters*; and I see no *Absurdity* to allow the *Saxons* to have borrow'd them from the *Britains*, and to have used them amongst their own *Capitals*. There is a *Coyn* in *Tab. 3. Coyn 14.* of the *Collection* prefixed before *Ælfred's Life*, which has two other of those *Gallick Letters* of which *Bouteroüe* has given us an *Alphabet*. The *Coyn* is,

 ROUN	BERIE-
ÆLFRED	+ + +
 FIRDA	ÆLEDM-

The *∞* and *ℓ* are *S* and *F* in his *Alphabet*; and I am apt to think, that that *Inversion* of *Letters* in these *Saxon Monies*, as *W* for *M*, *Π* for *M*, *ℓ* for *F*, took its rise from them; for in this *Alphabet* we have *Δ* and *∇* for *D*; *∞*, *ℓ*, *Z*, for *S*: however, this will evince, in some measure, the *Practice* of such *Inversions*, which made some *Learned Men* take them for *Runic*, *Gothic*, or indeed for any *Characters* with which they were little acquainted.

(b) This and the *Reverse* of the *II*, are to be read alike, tho' they were coyned at different *Places*, as appears from the variety of the *Letters*.

(i) *Π* which is used here for *M*, is frequently used in that *Collection* of *Saxon Coyns* prefixed to *Ælfred's Life*.

(k) This *Gotæ mone*, or *Gods Mony*, was the *Peter-Pence* which was collected yearly, and sent to *Rome*. *Ina*, one of the *Kings* of the *Mercians*, first gave it: thence it was constantly

Z z

paid



paid afterwards, tho' now and then intermitted in the heat of the *Danish Wars*, I suppose this Coyn came out of an Ecclesiastical Mint.

(*l*) The true Original of *Sterling* is *Starry*. The Common People observing the Crosses upon the Coyns, which looked like so many Stars, called them *Sterlings*, *Starry* pieces. *Ling* is an adjective Termination in the *Saxon* Language; so in time, the Word became Substantive, and was used promiscuously for Penny.

(*m*) The 19 and 21 Reverses are to be read alike, tho' possibly they might be made from different Stamps. The Letters in both (for neither are very clear) will mutually explain each other. I read it **MALHECH HONE**, or *Malmesbury Mony*: The H, which is an entire Letter, seems to have been taken from the square B, or **B**.

(*n*) This P was the old *Saxon* þ or *W*; so it was *Willem*, not *Pillem*. The *Saxon* Character, which was full and plain, gave rise to that small beautiful Character which we usually call the *Roman* Letter. The ancient *Romans*, for ought as yet appears to the contrary, wrote all with one uniform Character, sometimes greater and sometimes less, of the same Figure with the great Letters in our Alphabet. This they took from the *Greeks*; and it is usual in all the Alphabets of the Oriental Nations. The three Inscriptions in *Gruter*, (pag. 185. 3. p. 652. 2. p. 882. 7.) only prove that they had our small *t*, *p*, *b*, *b*, for we have no Hints in our MSS. of any others. After them succeeded the *Francick* or *Merovingian* Character, entirely left off in transcribing Books after *Charlemagne*. The Notaries kept it longer; only by making it longer, they brought it to something like the *Italica*, to which it possibly gave rise. The Specimens in *Mabillon's* fourth Book *de re Diplomatica*, will put this past doubt. All this while the *Saxon* Character was used in *England*, whose Alphabet is evidently the same with the small *Roman*, except some Letters which expressed Sounds proper to their Language, as þ, þ, ð: wherefore when *Alicius* (Scholar to *Egbert* Arch-bishop of *York*) went over into  
*France*

France to Charles the Great, and afterwards sent for Books out of Egbert's Library, as may be gathered from *William of Malmesbury*, he introduced that fine way of Writing, which immediately took place with all but the Publick Notaries. *Mabillon* owns the thing in effect, tho' he dissembles the Original: *Primâ stirpe extinctâ, Carolus M. Literas expolire cepit, aut certe jam tantisper expolitum Scripturæ genus à Merovinginco in elegantiore formam commutavit, quæ in eandem formam evasit, quæ hæcenus minuti Romani Characteris nomen retinet.* (Lib. I. Cap. II. num. 10.) And if this Change was not wrought in a moment, because the Transcribers us'd to the old *Merovingian* hand conform'd it to the new, as much as they could, yet that wore off by degrees: so *Mabillon*, quæ [*Carolina Scriptura*] *principio nonnihil Merovingici Characteris habebat intermistum; at subinde politior effecta, in eandem formam, &c.* *Mabillon* acknowledges, that *Alcuin* introduced the modern Punctuation into the *French MSS.* and Records, which he learned from the *Saxons*, particularly [·:] for a full Period, as is manifest to all that shall look into the *Saxon MSS.* or printed Books in imitation of them.

Besides, all our *Latin MSS.* in *England*, 'till some time after the Conquest, were writ in the *Saxon Character*. So Archbishop *Parker* published *Afferius Menevensis*: and there are several *Latin MSS.* in the University-Library of *Cambridge*, written in the *Saxon Character*. And it is no wonder that those Letters which expressed Sounds not used in the *Roman Tongue*, should be left out by the *French Transcribers*, who at the same time might use *Saxon Copies*: so that it is not strange *Vossius* should be mistaken, when he thought  $\Omega$  and  $\Theta$  were from the Greek  $\Omega$  and  $\Theta$ , who did not consider them to be both *Runic Letters*, which were introduced upon a particular occasion, by *Chilperic*, who took them from the *Visigoths* in *Spain*, as *Wormius* (*de Literaturâ Runicâ*) has probably proved from *Gregorius Turonensis* and a Constitution of the same *Chilperic* printed in *Goldastus*: yet I will not deny but *Theodore*, or some other of those *Greeks*, who in that Age had so

great Intercourse with *England*, might introduce some Greek Letters to exprefs those Sounds which they had not in their own Language ; from hence they were carried into *France*, with the rest of the *Saxon* Alphabet, and so into *Italy*; which *Mabillon* also in effect acknowledges when he says, *Hanc tamen Scripturæ formam non Franci à Romanis, qui Langobardicis passim Elementis tunc utebantur, sed à Francis Romani accepisse videntur.* But it would take up too much time here to discourse of the Original of the *Saxon* Character, and whence those Agreements between it and the pure *Merovingian* and *Lombard* Characters might at first arise ; and perhaps the thing it self does not deserve any farther enquiry.

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*An Estimate of the Quantity of Vapour raised out of the Sea by the warmth of the Sun ; derived from an Experiment shown before the Royal Society, at one of their late Meetings : by E. Halley.*

**T**HAT the quantity of aqueous Vapours contained in the *Medium* of the Air, is very considerable, seems most evident from the great Rains and Snows which are sometimes observed to fall, to that degree, that the Water thus discharged out of the Interstices of the Particles of Air, is in weight a very sensible part of the incumbent Atmosphere : but in what proportion these Vapours rise, which are the Sources not only of Rains, but also of Springs or Fountains (as I design to prove) has not, that I know of, been any where well examined, tho it seem to be one of the most necessary Ingredients of a real and Philosophical Meteorology ; and as such, to deserve the consideration of this Honourable Society. I thought it might not be unacceptable, to attempt, by Experiment to determine the quantity of the Evaporations of Water, as far as they arise from Heat ; which, upon Tryal, succeeded as follows.

We