

NOTICES  
OF  
REMARKABLE MEDIEVAL COINS,  
MOSTLY UNPUBLISHED,  
WITH  
ENGRAVINGS.

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MDCCCXIX.



NOTICES  
OF  
REMARKABLE MEDIEVAL COINS.

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Several remarkable Medieval Coins of which I have never met with engravings or in many instances even notices in the works of other writers, having at different times come into my possession or fallen under my observation, I thought the publication of them would be interesting to those who have made the coins of the middle ages their study, and might possibly illustrate many doubtful points in that branch of Numismatics. Some of the coins I have noticed may indeed be known to the Continental Numismatists, but the greater part of them are probably unknown or unappropriated.

No. 1, is in lead, Nos. 46 and 47 in fine billon, No. 50 in base billon, No. 51 in copper, and the remainder in silver.

Nos. 52 to 66 inclusive, are Bracteates.

Nos. 12, 56, 58, 59, 60, 64, are in the collection of Mr. Sainthill.

Nos. 22 and 24, in that of the Royal Irish Academy.

No. 42, in that of the late Dean of St. Patrick's, (Dawson.)

No. 48, was in the possession of an officer of the Board of Works.

All the rest are in my own collection.

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No. 1. This curious coin which was presented to me by the late Dean of St. Patrick's, bears on the obverse a rude head so similar to that on the latest coins of the Visigoths, that it evidently appears to have been struck soon after, and the legend ALPHO REX. would assign it to Alphonso I., king of Oviedo and Leon, who reigned from 737 to 757.

Pinkerton says that these early Spanish kings were too poor to coin money until the 10th century, and this was probably in a great degree the fact, this coin is however in lead, which was then perhaps the metal used by these princes in their coinage.

Nos. 2—10. These rude and very curious coins, resemble in their types many of the early German coins, but their appropriation appears a matter of much difficulty; I am not aware that any exactly similar have been published, except in the 18th Vol. of the *Archæologia*, Pl. XVII., Nos. 4 and 5, and the coins there published were part of a hoard found at Halton Moor near Lancaster, consisting of 860 pennies and 6 pieces of gold.

Of these 400 of the silver pennies were sent to London, and consisted of 379 of the pennies of Cnut, and 21 similar to those now under consideration, and two of which are engraved in the work just mentioned, and by Mr. Taylor Combe, supposed to be Danish.

The coins I have here engraved, Nos. 8 and 9, of which are exactly similar to No. 4 of the *Archæologia*, and No. 7 to No. 5 of that work, are evidently of the same country and period as those found at Halton Moor; some of them were purchased at the sale of the late Dr. Jamieson's coins, and the remainder from the late Mr. Young, who mentioned that they were found in some part of England with a parcel of the Confessors; this circumstance and their being found also with the coins of Cnut at Halton Moor, would induce us to suppose they were not much earlier than the time of that prince, I strongly suspect, however, that they are of far earlier date.

On some of these coins the legend seems to commence with the letters MAL or MAG, and at one time I had an idea that they might belong to Malcolm III. of Scotland, who was a contemporary with both Cnut and the Confessor, but I am now more inclined to assign them to Mayence, or some of the other German cities, and the appearance on one of them (No. 10,) of the letters KARL, induces me to assign them to one of the German emperors of that name, probably Charlemagne, to the letters on whose coins, some of the very remarkable ones on these coins bear a strong resemblance, and the great number and extensive circulation of the coins of that great monarch, would render it likely that they should be found at times and in countries remote from those of Charlemagne and his extensive empire.

11.—This coin seems of the same class, but of a later period.

12.—This coin which bears on the obverse a cross and pellets with the legend KAROLVS . IMP., and on the reverse the front of a church with the legend KRISTIANA . RELIGIO . belongs probably to Charlemagne, but is larger than and somewhat different from any I have seen published of that prince.

13—17. These coins bear on the obverse the word HLVDOVICVS, in monogram, with the legend on Nos. 13—14, of GRATIA DEI or DNI REX, and on the reverse the name of the place of mintage, Quentovic. Nos. 15—17 bear on the obverse the name of the same place, and on the reverse a legend which I cannot interpret ; these coins most of which I purchased at the sale of the late Dr. Jamieson, differ from any I have seen published in Le Blanc or any other work, but from their resemblance to some of those assigned to Charles Le Chauve, I am inclined so assign them to his successor Louis Le Begue, who commenced his reign in 877.

18.—This coin is Hiberno-Danish, and certainly belongs to Ifarz II., King of Dublin, 992 ; it bears the usual types of the rude head and long double cross, and on the obverse the legend IIMRZ . REX ., the remaining letters intended for DIFNLIN ., and on the reverse a legend which seems intended for FAEREIN . MO . DINL . retrograde ; the coin is neatly executed, and one of the very few whose appropriation to this king is beyond question.

19.—This coin also belongs without doubt to Ifarz II., its types are similar to those of the last, and its legend NFFIRN . RIEX . DN . reverse FÆREIEN . MO . DIIEI ., the name of the moneyer being the same as that on the last coin.

20. This rude but singular coin seems also Irish ; a part of the legend is retrograde and terminates in the letters LOF . which induces me to assign it to Anlaf V. or VI. of Dublin ; on its neck appears that singular ornament, a kind of cross formed of circles, which we find on many of the rude ancient Scandinavian coins, and which perhaps represents a Relic case.

21. This singular coin which at first sight appears of the Hiberno-Danish class, bears on the obverse a rude helmed head, and the legend NIEVEN . MIONT ., possibly intended to express the words "*New Money* ;" the reverse bears the long double cross so common on the Hiberno-Danish coins, and the legend THEODRED . ON . GO ., the last letters probably intended for Gothland, which island in the 12th century when the coin was probably struck, was in the possession of the Danes.

22. This interesting coin which was discovered since the publication of my work on the Irish Coinage, was presented by Dr. Smith to the late Dean of St. Patrick's; its type is exactly similar to that of the coins of Sihtric III, and Donald of Irish type; the legend on the obverse is  $\div$  ENRED . REX . MN ., and on the reverse, HERVE . INIO . DIR . which appears intended for HERVE . MO . DIR . No prince of this name occurs in the Irish Annals, but when we consider the extraordinary resemblance it bears to the coins just noticed, and the letters MN . which would seem to assign it to the same kingdom as the coins bearing the legend DYMNROEX . MN ., I think we must consider it as a contemporary coin with those of Sihtric III, and to have immediately preceded or more probably followed those of Donald, and I think we may with a strong degree of probability assign it to Anrud, one of the princes of the Northmen who fought at Clontarf, and was killed in that battle. Over what petty kingdom he ruled it is not easy with certainty to discover, but perhaps the name of the place of mintage DIR . which appears on the coin, may lead to the discovery.

23. This coin is evidently of the Danish class, but whether minted in England or Denmark is very uncertain; its types particularly that of the reverse, are those of Harthacnut, struck at Wiburgh; the legend of the obverse seems an attempt at the name of Harold, whilst that of the reverse seems to exhibit a moneyers name, and the letters OXNAF. ; it is possible this coin may belong to Harold I., and might have been struck at Oxford by some rude moneyer who copied his types from the contemporary Danish coins of Harthacnut, but it is more probably a Danish imitation, and the legends and types copied from the coins of both monarchs.

24. This coin is evidently of the Danish class, and is remarkable for the figures of fibulæ or ring money in the angles of the cross; its reverse is similar to that exhibited by the class of coins, one of which is engraved in Snelling's Supplement to Simon, Pl. I., No. 12, and also to those of the four following coins, and which I am unable to appropriate; it was in the collection of the late Dean of St. Patrick's.

25—28. These singular coins have been engraved in the King of Denmark's Plates, Nos. 264, 5, 6, and in Snelling's Sup. to Simon, Pl. I., No. 12—but I am not aware that any certain appropriation has yet been given them; their legends seem to commence with words intended for IN . DOMINI . NOMINE ., but to what princes they belong is by no means

certain, No. 265 of the Danish work, however, bears on the reverse MVNIEI ON . VIDEI ., and if this mint was Viburg as seems probable, these coins must be considered as Danish ; they bear in the angles of the cross those ancient ornaments called fibulæ, and seem to have been struck about the middle of the 11th century.

29—31. These coins evidently copied from those of the Greek emperors, have as far as I can understand been hitherto unnoticed, I cannot however appropriate them with the least approach to probability ; that they are Northern coins belonging to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, or possibly Scotland, there can be but little doubt ; they are found in the North of Europe, and their types resemble some of those of Scandinavia and Northumberland ; in their legends if we can call them such, some portion of the name *Constantine* is visible, but whether intended for one of the Scottish princes of that name, or copied from one of the Byzantine Constantines is very uncertain.

32—38. These curious imitations of the Byzantine coins have not as far as I can learn, been noticed by any writer ; their resemblance to the coins of Magnus I. of Norway, and the occurrence of the name SVEND . on No. 38, leaves no doubt of their belonging to the Norwegian princes ; the type of Nos. 32, 33 is particularly like that of the coins of Magnus ; they bear no obverse legend, and probably belonged to one of the predecessors of that prince, perhaps to St. Olaf from the figure presented on its obverse ; 3 of the coins present on the reverse the letter E, 6 or 4 times repeated, and may belong to Eric Jarl, who with his brother Svend governed Norway from 1000 to 1015, and Nos. 37, 38, may belong to Svend just named, or possibly to Svend the son of Cnut, but I think the former the more probable ; in type they bear a considerable resemblance to Nos. 29—31, which perhaps belong to the same kingdom.

39. This coin which bears on the obverse the legend ADALBERO . PRESVL ., and on the reverse that of METTIS, belongs probably to Adalberon II. of Metz, 984—1004, or possibly to Adalberon III., 1046, it weighs 14 grains ; a coin attributed to the former prelate, is noticed by Lelewel, Part 3, p. 200, as communicated by M. de Saulcy, but the coin there described differs from that here given, in having on the reverse SANCTA METTIS ., and the weight 18 grains.

40. This coin which differs from any given in Lelewel or any other work I have seen, appears from its similitude in type to the coins of Harold II., to

have been struck about the middle of the 11th century, and may therefore be assigned to Henry VII. or VIII. of Bavaria, probably the latter who reigned from 1054 to 1056.

41. Concerning this coin I can offer no conjecture, except that from the Canopy type it would seem to be contemporary with or struck soon after the coins of the Conqueror, whilst from the legend which seems on both sides to be VLDM., it may possibly belong to Waldemar I., 1157.

42. This coin seems Baronial of either France or Germany; the name is perhaps intended for *Bernardus*, but I can offer no conjecture as to its appropriation.

43. This singular coin which I purchased at a late sale, as a coin of Stephen, on a close inspection seems to be a Baronial coin of that period; the type is one of Stephen, but the legend although difficult to make out, is evidently not of that prince, the two first letters (commencing after the cross) seem to be RA.; the next letters two in number, are indistinct and uncertain and are followed by a point or stop; the next two letters are CM. (probably for *Comes*); the next are indistinct, but may be intended for OF., and are followed by another stop, and the legend terminates with CE., perhaps the initials of *Cestrie*, and although the obverse legend is not a very satisfactory one, and the reverse altogether unintelligible, I strongly suspect that this coin was struck by Randolph de Meschines created Earl of Chester, in 1120, by Henry I.; the type is neat, but the legend very rude; it is of fine silver, and weighs  $14\frac{1}{2}$  grains.

44. This coin which is unfortunately greatly clipped, bears the type of Henry II. of England, but differs from his coins in having two crosses potent at the left side of the head, and I should have scarcely thought of assigning it to any other prince, but for the appearance of the letter D, which does not occur in Henry's obverse legends, and induces a suspicion that it may belong to Richard I.; indeed although such appropriation must for the present be only matter of conjecture, it is the only coin I have met with which with any probability could be considered as an English coin of that prince.

45. In that very interesting work of my friend Mr. Sainthill, three little coins are engraved, which are now almost universally admitted to have been struck in England by our King John, during the reign either of his father Henry II., or of his brother Richard I.; this coin unfortunately much mutilated differs as to the legend on its reverse from any of those given in the Olla, and



as that work was only printed for private presentation and is not generally accessible, I thought the publication of my specimen, however imperfect may be of some interest ; only five are I believe known.

46. This Lion of Edward I., in fine billon differs altogether from any published by General Ainslie, or any other writer I have met with.

47. This little coin in fine billon is of James I., King of Arragon and Valencia, 1213—76. His coins struck in Barcelona and Arragon, are rather common, but those of Valencia are I believe very rare ; this coin and another exactly similar were found in 1830, at Youghal, with a large hoard of the coins of Edward I. and II., &c.

48. This fine and rare silver coin was struck by the celebrated Fulcho de Villaret, Grand Master of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and probably minted at Rhodes soon after the taking of that island by him in 1310 ; it bears on the obverse, the legend FR . FVLCHO . D . VILLRTO . DI . GRA . with IRL . behind the figure, and on the reverse, MRO . HOPITALIS . VET . SCI . IO . HI . , and round an inner circle, INCRIL . RODI . The letters IRL stand for Jerusalem ; the reading of the rest of the inscription is obvious, with the exception of the word INCRIL, which I cannot satisfactorily interpret, but it may possibly be intended for the following words : IN . CRISTO . LIBERATOR (RODIORVM,) it was found near Dublin early in 1848.

49. This neatly executed groat which differs from any I have seen published, belongs to Peter IV. of Arragon, and presents on the obverse a full face crowned in a single tressure of eight points, with trefoils in the external angles, and the legend PETRVS : DEI : GRACIA : REX . and on the reverse in a similar tressure, a Cross Calvary with ermines in the quarters, and the legend continued from the obverse ARAGONVM . ET . MAIORICARVM ; it is in fine preservation and weighs 58 grains.

50. This large billon coin is of Henry IV., king of Castile and Leon, 1454—74 ; it is noticed by Lelewel, Part 3, p. 11, as very rare, from having the place of mintage, Jaen, at full length, and I have never met with it engraved.

51. This little copper coin which was purchased from a pedlar, who told me it was found in the County Clare, was struck by John Mocenigo, Doge of Venice, 1477—85, it differs I believe from any published.

## BRACTEATE COINS.

52. This curious and neatly executed bracteate, presents an ecclesiastical bust full faced with crozier and the letters B . R . A . T ., probably the initials of Bruno, Abp. of Treves, 1001—1124.

53. This bracteate exhibits a rude side faced head, and the legend VRSVS., and may belong to Ursien, Bp. of Verdun, 1129, but more probably to some German Bishop or Abbot.

54. This bracteate evidently ecclesiastical, bears a mitred bust full faced, with crozier in right hand, and sword in left, and the legend RODOLPHVS. DEI or DNI., and probably belongs to Rodolph, Bp. of Strasburgh, 1162.

55. This large and curious bracteate exhibits the prince on horseback, and the legend HERMANN . LANDGRAVIVS ., the remainder scarcely legible, but there can be no doubt but it belongs to Herman, Landgrave of Thuringia, on whose death about A.D., 1220, that country descended to the Markgraves of Missnia.

56. This fine bracteate probably belongs also to one of the Landgraves of Thuringia.

57. This curious little bracteate which bears the figure of a horseman in full gallop with a hawk on his left arm, probably belongs to one of the Landgraves of Thuringia.

58. This bracteate which bears the heads of St. Simon and St. Jude, was struck at Goslar.

59. This bracteate with the name of St. Martin, was struck by one of the Archbishops of Mayence.

60. This very small bracteate bears two shields of arms joined, and surmounted by the letters N . S . P . which I am unable to interpret.

61. This small bracteate presents the legend FIG., but I can offer no conjecture as to its appropriation.

62. This bracteate bears a full face between the letters S . O ., probably that of St. Olaus, the Patron Saint of Norway.

63. This curious bracteate I am unable to appropriate.

64. This bracteate belongs to one of the Bishops of Toul, and resembles the obverse of the coin given by M. Robert in his work on the coins of the Bishops of that See, Pl. VI., No. 6.

65. This bracteate belongs to one of the Dukes of Brunswick.

66. This bracteate is uncertain.

PLATE 1

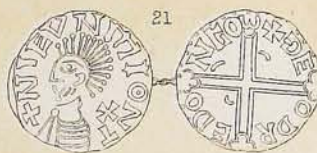
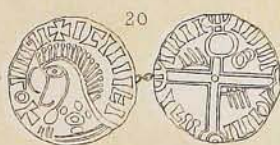
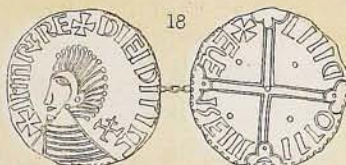
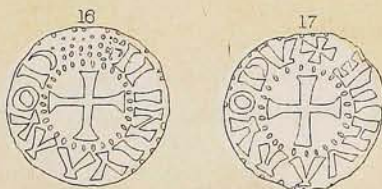
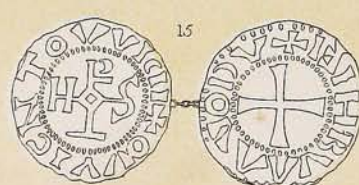
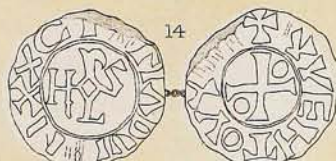
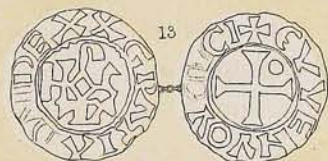
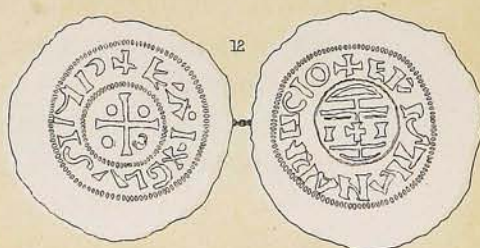
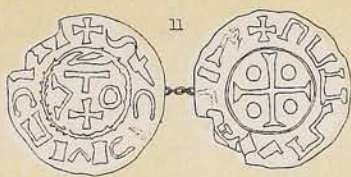
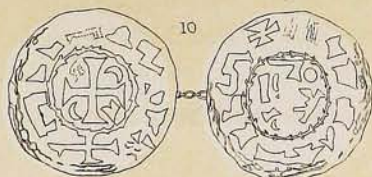
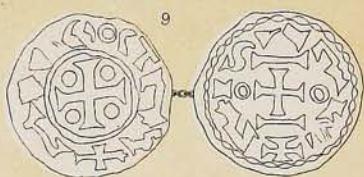
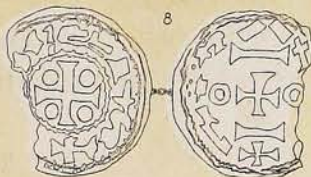
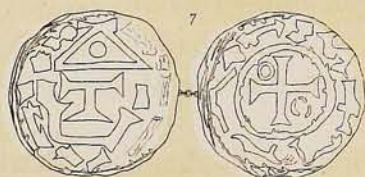
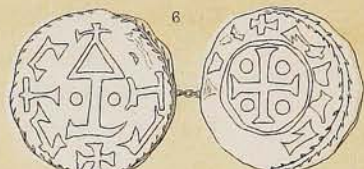
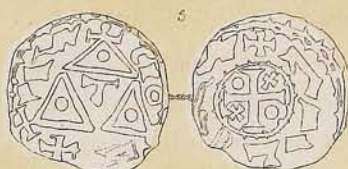
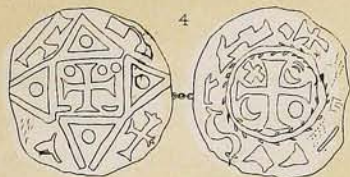
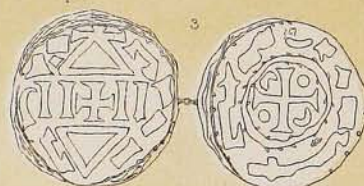
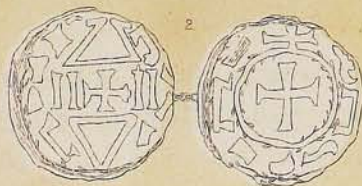
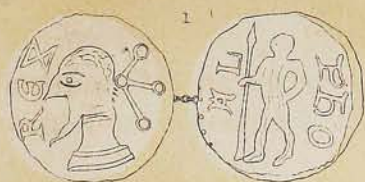
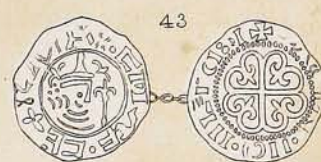
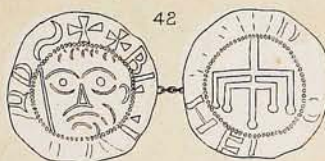
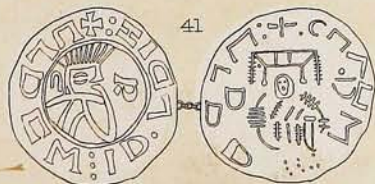
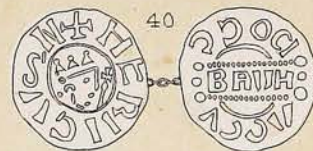
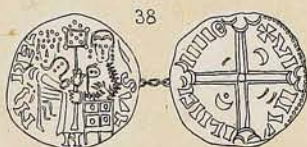
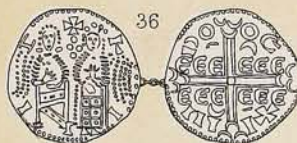
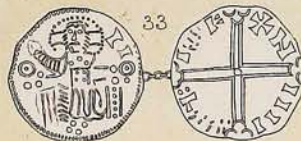
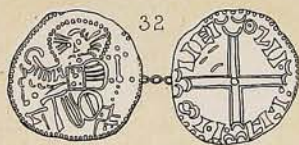
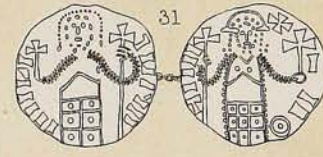
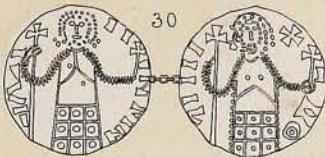
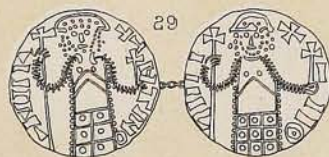
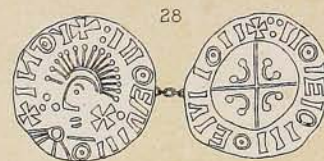
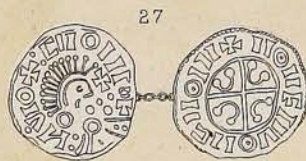
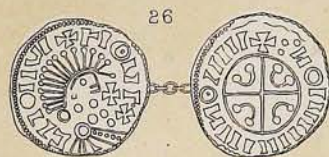
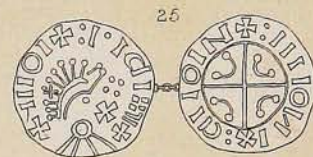
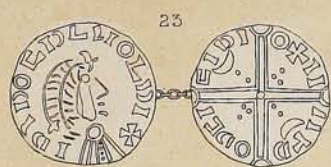






PLATE . 2







PLATE, 3



Bracteate Coins.

