

### Coins of Beonna from elsewhere

The only study of Beonna's coinage is that published by H.E. Pagan in 1968. The five coins then known to him were as follows:

- 1 Glasgow SCBI 412, acquired *ante* 1793. Provenance unknown.
- 2 Glasgow SCBI 413, acquired *ante* 1793. Provenance unknown.
- 3 British Museum, acquisition 229, found *ante* 1858. Provenance unknown.
- 4 Oxford SCBI 57, found *ante* 1885. From the Rev. John Maynard of Orford.
- 5 BMC 1 found *ante* 1885 "near Ipswich".

Mr Pagan's publication was occasioned by his recognising an engraving of a coin once thought to be Carolingian, as being a new type of King Beonna coin. It was found in 1836 at Wijk-bij-Duurstede (Dorestad) near Utrecht in Holland and may have been one of two such coins, both now lost (hereafter referred to as Pagan 6/7).

Another lost coin of Beonna was found at Debenham some time before 1832. A drawing of it, here published for the first time (Fig. 7), is to be found

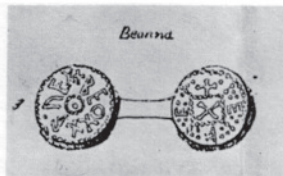


Fig. 7 Lost coin of Beonna from Debenham; reproduced at actual size from a drawing by Samuel Dove in the Ipswich Record Office.

in a manuscript history of Debenham collated by W.S. Fitch from the work of Samuel Dove and others. Fitch wrote: "Beonna, King of the East Angles. This extremely rare coin was found in a field belonging to Crowes Hall and sold for sixpence to the late Charles Batley, Bookseller of this town [Ipswich] who sold it for five pounds to William Till, Coin Dealer, of London. Obv. *Beonna Rex* Rev. *Efe*"<sup>28</sup> This coin would appear to be the one referred to by J.Y. Akerman in his *Numismatic Manual* (1832) where he says (p. 124) "Only two [coins of Beonna] were known a short time since and they were in the Hunterian collection [Pagan 1 and 2]; but I am informed by Mr. Till of Great Russell St. that a very fine one, found at Ipswich, has lately passed through his hands". The Debenham coin which Mr. Till acquired and sold cannot now be equated with Pagan 1 "found near Ipswich" as Pagan had assumed, because the careful drawing shows a pellet in a circle of pellets on the obverse instead of the central cross found on Pagan 1. The Debenham coin is much closer to Pagan 4, acquired from the Rev. John Maynard. This man was rector of Orford and Sudbourne 1842-1877 and retired in Orford when his nephew succeeded him. But he was

not a coin collector and is more likely to have found his coin locally and then sold it rather than to have acquired it from Fitch who was himself a collector. Furthermore, there are significant differences between Pagan 4 and the drawing which allow them to be treated as different coins.

There are only two other Beonna finds to be noted, both from Suffolk. The British Museum has acquired one that was found by chance in 1978 in the area of Pakenham near Ixworth and another that was found by chance in 1980 at Barham on the same site as eleven sceattas and a Merovingian tremissis (*PSIA XXXV*, 73).

### A New Typology for Beonna's coinage

The number of different coins of Beonna now recorded makes it possible to devise a new typology for the coinage and within the types to note the different obverse and reverse dies. The coinage is divided into six types, A to F, based not on chronology but on the obverse design which runs from all Runic to mostly Runic to all Roman lettering, and the reverse design from abstract to all Runic to all Roman, as follows:

#### Type A

Obverse: *·B·M·E·T·E·R·M·E·T·E·T·* for *Beonna Rex* around a central pellet.

Reverse: Interwoven linear design with pellets.

Examples:

- 1 British Museum, from the Pakenham area, 1978, unpublished.
- 2 From Dorestad, Holland, now lost; possibly one of two coins (Pagan 6/7).

Dies: These two coins could just have been struck from the same die, but the drawing of the lost coin makes it difficult to be sure of this.

#### Type B

Obverse: *·T·T·T·T·M·E·T·* radiating from a central pellet.

Reverse: *·T·T·T·T·M·E·T·* around a circle of 14 pellets with central pellet.

Examples:

- 1 Burrow Hill no. 1.
- 2 Burrow Hill no. 2
- 3 British Museum, from Barham 1980 (*PSIA XXXV* 73).

Dies: Examples 1 and 2 appear to have been struck from identical obverse and reverse dies, but 3 differs in both.

#### Type C

Obverse: *·B·E·T·E·R·E·T·* around a circle of 13 pellets with central pellet.

Reverse: Central cross pommée in a square with lines of pellets out from the angles. In the quadrants *·E·F·E·*, each letter followed by three pellets.