

## THE COINS FROM THE KIRKKOMÄKI EXCAVATIONS IN 1973 AND 1984

From the point of view of Finnish archaeology and history, the six coins found at Kaarina in 1973 and 1984 are interesting mainly because of their dating: five of them belong either to the late eleventh or the twelfth century. They have, however, also a numismatic interest of their own as representatives of little-known coin types.

Finds of twelfth-century coins are few in Finland, and rare even elsewhere in the North, but recently there have been several publications of such finds. The present issue of *Fennoscandia archaeologica* contains an article on the Arkhangelsk hoard and other coin finds from the White Sea region (Nosov *et al.*). One of the hoards mentioned in the article, found at Kuolajärvi, had already been discussed in this journal a few years ago.<sup>2</sup> Several Estonian finds from the twelfth century have also been presented in literature during the last few years,<sup>3</sup> and in Sweden a special volume is being prepared on the large hoard found in 1967 at Lummelunda in Burge, Gotland.

Twelfth-century coins are mainly found in graves in Finland. There are no hoards, except for the Kuolajärvi (Salla) hoard which comes from former Finnish territory and is associated with Lapland and Karelia rather than (Southern) Finland.

In 1968 Pekka Sarvas published the material which was known by then: two English pennies of Stephen (1135–54) and one of Henry II (1154–89), and a German coin of Adolf von der Mark (1199–1249) from Iserlohn.<sup>4</sup> A Münster coin of Bishop Hermann (1173–90)<sup>5</sup> was published by him in 1971 in an article which also discussed the earliest Finnish finds of Swedish coins.<sup>6</sup>

The material from the whole of Finland being so small, the coins from Kaarina are not unimportant. One of them, a late twelfth-century German coin, was met as a stray find during the 1973 excavation, and the five other coins were found in four graves which were investigated in

1984. Further finds have been made during the 1991 excavations, which are to be continued in 1992. The coins found in 1991 generally belong to the eleventh century, but they also include a Gotlandic coin from the period c. 1140 – c. 1270. It is to be hoped that these finds can also be published in due course.

### THE COINS

For the locations of the coins in the graves, see p. 77, 81 above. The references to numismatic works are listed below. The illustrations are to a scale of 1:1.

I wish to thank Professor Gert Hatz, Hamburg, Dr Peter Ilisch, Münster, Dr Bernd Kluge, Berlin, and Dr Gert Rispling, Stockholm, for their help in identifying and dating the coins, and Professor Kenneth Jonsson, Stockholm, for information on the Swedish finds mentioned below.

#### *The Caliphate*

1. Dirham from the second century AH, probably from the 170s (AD 786–), according to G. Rispling possibly struck in North Africa. Worn almost smooth and pierced twice; a graffito in the form of an X on the rev. 2.43 g, 45°. Grave F.

#### *England*

2. Stephen (1135–54), *BMC* type II ('Cross Voided and Mullets'). Norwich, moneyer Raul (-AVL:ON:NOR---). Cited in *BMC* (p. ccxxix) from the 1892 Kennard sale. 1.40 g, 0°. Grave F.

#### *Germany*

3. Deventer, Bishop Conrad (1076–99). *Dbg* 575a. The rev. legend begins with AIRTN - -, as



in Dbg. 0.49 g (a small piece is missing), 45°. Grave D.

4. An episcopal coin of the Cologne type, now attributed by P. Ilisch to Merseburg and Bishop Albuin (1097–1112). From the same obv. die as Hävernicks 394 (= Salmo 35:523, found at Kuolajärvi). The legend begins with ALBV-- (cf. Salmo: ALBVI--); Hävernicks's reading AEDVI is clearly incorrect. The first letter of the rev. is M, as in Salmo. 0.80 g, 0°. Grave E.

5. Goslar or neighbourhood, dated by B. Kluge to c. 1100. Cf. Dbg 1584 (The head in the centre of the obv. is in profile, not facing; on the rev. a cross above the heads of the saints), Cappe, T. V, 44 (Anlage). 0.72 g, 45°. Grave D.

6. Salzwedel, Count Heinrich von Gardelegen (1184–92). Bahrfeldt 109–10. o.48 g, 45°. Strayfind, 1973.

#### REFERENCES

- BMC G. B. Brooke, *A Catalogue of English Coins in the British Museum. The Norman Kings I–II*. London, 1916.
- Cappe H. P. Cappe, *Beschreibung der Münzen von Goslar*, Dresden, 1860.
- Dbg H. Dannenberg, *Die deutschen Münzen der sächsischen und fränkischen Kaiserzeit I–IV*. Berlin, 1876–1905.
- Bahrfeldt E. Bahrfeldt, *Das Münzwesen der Mark Brandenburg von den ältesten Zeiten bis zur Anfänge der Regierung der Hohenzollern*. Berlin, 1889.
- Hävernicks W. Hävernicks, *Die Münzen von Köln*. Köln, 1935.
- Salmo H. Salmo, *Deutsche Münzen in vorgeschichtlichen Funden Finnlands (SMYA XLVII)*. Helsinki, 1948.

#### COMMENTS

The last hoards of Viking-Age character in Scandinavia date from the first half of the twelfth century. The Lummelunda hoard has a *terminus post quem* of 1040, and the Johannishus hoard from Blekinge, which is the latest find of this period from old Danish territory, was concealed after 1120.<sup>7</sup> The Salla hoard has a *t.p.q.* of 1112; the Arkhangelsk hoard belongs to the same time.<sup>8</sup>

Three of the German coins found in Finland belong to the end of the twelfth century or later, and thus fall outside the period of the hoards. German coins of that time are not unknown from Sweden, but they are very few in number.<sup>9</sup> This may be partly due to the lack of grave finds in Sweden. In the light of our present knowledge the best parallels for the Finnish finds can be found in Estonia. The Tamse hoard is especially worth mentioning, for it consisted of 440 coins – 92 German, 5 English, the rest Gotlandic – and had a *t.p.q.* of 1193. Among them were no fewer than 49 Münster coins of the type published by Sarvas in 1971, and the five English coins were all from the reign of Henry II.<sup>10</sup> Ten coins of Henry II (1154–89) are now known from Estonia, one from Finland and one from Bohuslän in Sweden.<sup>11</sup> The distribution of the coins of Stephen (1135–54) is even more remarkable: there are some 80 of them from Estonia and three from Finland but only one from Sweden<sup>12</sup> and none from Russia.<sup>13</sup> It seems very possible that the twelfth-century English coins in Finnish finds have come via Estonia, and the same may be true of the German coins as well.

NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Coin Cabinet, National Board of Antiquities, Box 913, SF-00101 Helsinki.
- <sup>2</sup> T. Talvio, The coins of the Kuolajärvi (Salla) hoard, *Fennoscandia archaeologica* II (1985), 31–35.
- <sup>3</sup> See references in A. Molvögin, Normannische Fundmünzen in Estland und anderen Ostseeländern. *Sigtuna Papers: Proceedings of the Sigtuna Symposium on Viking-Age Coinage 1–4 June 1989* (Commentationes de nummis saeculorum IX–XI, Nova series 6), Stockholm – London, 1990, 241–249.
- <sup>4</sup> P. Sarvas, Fynd av utländska mynt från brytningen mellan den förhistoriska tiden och medeltid i Finland. *Nordisk Numismatisk Årsskrift* 1968, 78–87. See also M. Dolley, Tre engelska mynt från 1100-talet funna i Finland. *Nordisk Numismatisk Unions Medlemsblad* 1974, 221–223.
- <sup>5</sup> For the identification of the coin see also Molvögin, Tamzeskii klad monet nachala 13 veka. *Studia archaeologica in memoriam Harri Moora*, Tallinn, 1970, 128.
- <sup>6</sup> P. Sarvas, Ristiretkiajan ajoituskysymyksiä. *Suomen Museo* 1971, 51–63.
- <sup>7</sup> K. Jonsson, *Viking-Age Hoards and Late Anglo-Saxon Coins*, Stockholm, 1987, 24, 34.
- <sup>8</sup> Nosov et al., p. 18 above; Talvio 1985.
- <sup>9</sup> G. Hatz, *Handel und Verkehr zwischen dem Deutschen Reich und Schweden in der späten Wikingerzeit*, Lund, 1974, 50.
- <sup>10</sup> A. Molvögin, 1970, 126–132.
- <sup>11</sup> Molvögin 1990; K. Jonsson (pers. comm.). There is also information about no less than 10 coins of Henry II having been found in 1882 in Öggestorps church in Småland (*Nordisk Kultur* XXIX, Mynt, 1936, 66, no. 8), but the information cannot be considered reliable.
- <sup>12</sup> Found in the Sigtuna excavations in 1991 (K. Jonsson, pers. comm.).
- <sup>13</sup> Molvögin 1990, 242.