

Numismatics

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The survey covers numismatic publications by Swedish and foreign authors who write about Sweden in the period up to *c.* 1520. Later periods have only been included when finds are concerned.

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A general bibliography dealing with numismatics is published twice a year in the international *Numismatic Literature* and reviews are published in two numismatic periodicals, *Nordisk Numismatisk Unions Medlemsblad* and *Svensk Numismatisk Tidskrift*, as well as occasionally in *Fornvännen* and *Historisk Tidskrift*.

In the 1950s a new generation of Swedish numismatists started their careers. One of them, Lars O. Lagerqvist, was celebrated with a "Festschrift" in the period covered here (Ehrensverd *et al.* 1989). The contributions focus on two themes: medieval coins and medals. The international aspect of numismatics is immediately apparent as Swedish authors are in the minority. Individual papers are referred to below.

The publication of coin finds by province, *SML*, aims to provide basic information. Three volumes have been published covering Dalarna, Närke, and Uppland.

A volume presenting the numismatists and coin collectors in Sweden before *c.* 1830 has been published (Nathorst-Böös & Wiséhn 1987). An obituary of Bengt Thordeman, one of the great names in Swedish numismatics and the author of the first modern survey of Swedish medieval coins, was written by Malmer (1990a).

VENDEL PERIOD

In the last few decades finds of sceattas, i.e. coins struck in north-western Europe

(England, Frisia) in the late seventh and the first half of the eighth century, have become more common in Scandinavia, with Ribe as the most prolific site. Metcalf (1985) has previously argued that a major late group, Wodan/Monster, was in fact struck at Ribe from around 725. Jonsson and Malmer have rejected this attribution and favor the earlier accepted attribution to a location in Frisia (Jonsson & Malmer 1986; Malmer 1987; reply in Metcalf 1986 and comment in Bendixen 1986).

VIKING AGE

In the *CNS* series, which aims to publish all the Viking-Age coin finds in Sweden (some 2,300 finds with some 223,000 coins), one volume has been published, covering the last part of Skåne. Based on four Gotland volumes of *CNS* Brahme (1990) made some statistical investigations, the conclusion of which is that the coin stock in circulation on Gotland did not have typical, i.e. common, features.

In a parallel series, *Commentationes*, four volumes have appeared. The first deals with the reformation of the English coinage during Edgar *c.* 973 and includes a list of hoards and stray finds (Jonsson 1987a). The reform is seen here as a part of a major plan to suppress developments towards a feudal state. The second volume describes some 600 Byzantine coins found in Sweden (Hammarberg, Malmer & Zachrisson 1989)

and provides a short survey of the material. With the exception of one hoard with 123 Byzantine coins, their numbers are usually very small in the hoards. This does not suggest active direct contacts with Byzantium, which the written sources would suggest based on information about varangians in the imperial guard. The third volume lists all known coins of Olof Skötkonung struck in the period *c.* 995-1005 (Malmer 1989a). The accompanying text provides an introduction to the subject. The catalogue is a die-study where die-chains are crucial for the attributions. With their help a large number of additional coins can now be attributed to Sigtuna. Thus the number of preserved Sigtuna coins has now approximately doubled to *c.* 1,000, and coins with illegible legends now account for two-thirds of the material. In addition, the coinage can now be shown to continue at least until *c.* 1005 (previously thought to have ended *c.* 1000). The fourth volume covers the papers presented at a conference in Sigtuna in 1989, devoted to Viking-Age coinage (Jonsson & Malmer 1990); individual papers are commented on below.

An updated summary list (first published in 1981) of Swedish and Danish finds with English coins has been published by Jonsson (Jonsson 1987b). On average nearly one hoard from the Viking Age is found every year in Sweden. Jonsson (1986a-d, 1987c-e, 1989a-c, 1990a) alone or together with Hårdh (1986), Klotz (1986) or Östergren (1986, 1988, 1989, 1990) has published accounts of or comments on a number of new and old hoards. Other accounts of finds have been published by Hovén (1986 and 1989), Jensen (1988a), Klotz (1987), Lindberger (1990), Magalotti (1986), Malmer (1986a), Thornström (1987), E. Wiséhn (1990a), I. Wiséhn (1989) or jointly by Brisholm & Rispling (1986).

A number of single-finds with coins have also been published in accounts of archaeological material; here only the first

volume in a series covering Iron Age graves on Öland will be mentioned (ÖJG).

A large number of papers deal with various topics connected with coins from the different countries represented in the finds. Lead impressions from test strikes *c.* 1000/1005 found at the site of the mint in Sigtuna have been discussed by Lagerqvist (1990a). The finds confirm the attribution to Sigtuna of series with blundered legends. Swedish coins from Olof Skötkonung and Anund Jakob, in two cases based on finds outside of Sweden, are listed and discussed by Kluge (1986), Malmer (1989b), and Molvögin (1989). In two papers Gamby (1990a and 1990b) makes suggestions concerning some historical events with implications for the coinage of Olof Skötkonung, etc.

Papers dealing with Danish coins struck at Lund have focused on the early coinage of Cnut (Blackburn 1990 and Malmer 1986b and 1989c), the dating of which is suggested to be as early as 1015 or somewhat later. A new mint ("NORPI") in Skåne for Knud den Hellige (1080-1086) is proposed by Jensen (1986). Talvio (1986) has studied the Roman prototype for a type struck at Lund *c.* 1040. The size of the coinage is discussed by Hansen (1990), while Becker deals with various aspects of coins as a historical source material (1988). Malmer has published three die-studies concerning Scandinavian coins (1988a, 1988b and 1990b). Pininski (1990) has studied the distribution of Danish and other Scandinavian coins in West Slavic hoards.

Islamic coins are totally dominant in the early Viking Age, and Noonan discusses the decline in import during the late tenth century (1989). French coins found in Sweden have been listed and discussed by V. Hatz (1989). Rispling (1989) has discussed the names of die engravers and presented some results from a major investigation of the Volga-Bulgarian coinage (1990). Brisholm (1986) has studied the Islamic gold coinage, and he lists the 29 specimens found in

Scandinavia.

German coins constitute the largest element in the hoards. Jonsson (1990b) discusses the beginning of the import and also suggests that English coins were mainly imported via Germany, while Brahme (1986) has carried out a die-study of the coins found in Sweden of a Lüneburg type. Based on hoards from the Nordic countries, Ilisch (1990) has revised the chronology for the coinage of Köln in the late tenth century.

Bohemian and Moravian coins in Scandinavian finds have been treated by Gert Hatz (1986). The early Hungarian coinage has been much debated in the last few decades; Jonsson (1988) discusses the material based on the hoards and two important coins from a new hoard from Skåne, while Gedai (1989) suggests an alternative interpretation.

A list of the known mints, types and moneyers for the English coinage in the period *c.* 973-1066, which to a large extent is based on coins found in Sweden, was published by Jonsson and van der Meer (1990). Jonsson (1987f) published a penny found on Gotland, struck *c.* 980, which he attributes to the new mint of Grantham. Talvio (1990) discusses an English type in the context of coins and jewelry.

In a major study based on investigations at the sites of coin hoards on Gotland, Östergren (1989), among others, can establish that the hoards were usually hidden inside the house of a settlement, and that single-finds with coins are also common at the settlements. She has also published in full the investigation at a site on Gotland (Östergren 1986).

The structure of the finds and the regional and chronological differences are discussed by Hårdh (1989). Herschend (1989a-b) has studied coin circulation on Gotland based on heavy and light coins.

Trading and raiding have been the two contradicting reasons for the import of coins, and the discussion has been very

active. An analysis by Rausing (1987) favors trade. Based on the German coins, Gert Hatz (1987) discusses the trade between northern and western Europe. In addition to studies on this subject based on coin evidence, a large number of papers have been devoted to discussions concerning trade.

Archibald (1990) has surveyed the British material with respect to pecking and bending, a feature which in Scandinavia begins around 990. From Archibald's paper it is evident that Vikings in England began to peck coins as early as *c.* 900; that is, this practice began in the west and not until much later was it introduced in Scandinavia. Svensson (1986a) has studied pecking on coins based on three hoards found on Gotland.

MIDDLE AGES

In numismatic terms the Middle Ages start *c.* 1140, when local coinages gradually start on a continuous basis on Gotland and on the Swedish mainland. This means that for most of the period foreign coins were either totally absent or constituted a small part of the currency.

Much activity has centered on the finds, which provide a very rich material. A very rough estimate would probably set the figure at some 150,000 coins. The single-finds and hoards found on Gotska Sandön have been published by Eva Wiséhn (1989). Papers also discuss large hoards from Dalsland (E. Wiséhn 1990b) and Skåne (Jensen 1988b and Kluge 1987) mainly consisting of late twelfth-century German bracteates. A hoard with late medieval gold coins has been reconstructed by Westermarck (1987) based on contemporaneous documents. Gold coins are usually scarce in the finds, but in some periods they are mentioned often in written sources. It is thus evident that gold coins are under-represented in the finds.

Archaeological excavations continue to

provide new and extremely valuable information, especially concerning lead or leather impressions connected with the striking of coins. They were made possible by the use of uniface coins, the so-called bracteates, which dominate the period up to 1290 and continued to do so for the smallest denomination (penning) to the end of the period. In the last few decades this additional information has meant no less than a revolution to the concept of coinage in the early Middle Ages.

Finds from excavations in Lödöse reveal that coinage there began at least as early as c. 1150, which is some three decades earlier than previously believed. The finds and their implications are discussed by Ekre (1988). Ekre has also given an account of all finds of impressions from Lödöse (1988 and 1990). Another sensational find, made during excavations in Sigtuna, means that part or all of the coinage in Svealand in the late twelfth century was struck at Sigtuna and not at Uppsala as previously believed. The find, consisting of a lead impression, was published by Lagerqvist (1990b).

The coinage in the late twelfth century is seen from a political perspective by Svensson (1986b). She also suggests the minting was ambulatory in the early Middle Ages (Svensson 1987).

A special problem for the medieval Swedish coins is that they are often anonymous and only provide one or a few letters to help answer questions like by whom and where the coins were struck. The interpretations of legends on early medieval bracteates from Uppsala are discussed by Sjöberg (1986a-b and 1989). Bracteates with the letter B, believed to have been struck by the earl Birger (1248-1266), are discussed and listed by Jonsson (1987g). Huggert (1989) suggests Västerås as the mint for bracteates with the letter W, struck after 1354.

Stefke (1989) argues that the earliest Swedish örtugs were in fact wittens. Holmberg (1989) comments on the mint attribution of

some örtugs struck by Albrekt (1364-89). Huggert (1990) discusses seals and coins from Västerås in the fourteenth-fifteenth centuries. The Gotlandic coinage is surveyed and discussed by Hyötyniemi (1987 and 1988) and Jonsson (1990c).

Coins from the Teutonic Order were among the foreign coins circulating in Scandinavia in the late Middle Ages, and they are discussed by Mikolajczyk (1989). French gros tournois constitute another group of foreign coins, the Swedish finds of which have been listed by Golabiewski Lannby (1986a).

Jensen (1988c) has surveyed the mint-masters known in Scandinavia in the Middle Ages, and he discusses the written sources.

FINDS IN CHURCHES, ETC.

Increasing attention has been given to cumulative finds, i.e. finds from churches, monasteries, castles etc. where coins have been lost or deposited one by one over a very long period of time. In connection with a major work by Klackenbergh concerning the entire material from rural churches within the medieval Swedish borders (including Finland but excluding Gotland), some advance results have been published (Klackenbergh 1989a-b). Redin (1989) discusses why so few coins have been found in town excavations. Finds from specific churches, etc. have been published by Karin Jonsson (1987a), Rundquist (1987), and Ian Wiséhn (1986), while Moesgaard (1987) has investigated all the finds from Gotland.

FINDS OF LATER COINS

The so-called Lübeck fleet was shipwrecked off Visby in 1566, and Berghaus (1989) has published a hoard with talers from one of the ships. Another hoard from a ship, consisting of gold coins and found in the late seventeenth-century warship Kronan, has been published (Golabiewski-Lannby 1986b). Karin Jonsson (1987b) has published a hoard from the late sixteenth century,

found in Blekinge. Golabiewski Lannby (1989) has written about an accumulated find from Nyköping that includes a gold coin of Karl IX, and she lists all other finds with gold coins from his reign. Based on the composition of a hoard, Jensen (1989) discusses the shift from a Danish to a Swedish currency in Skåne after 1658 when Skåne became part of Sweden. Golabiewski Lannby and Wiséhn (1989) have published a hoard deposited in 1741. Hoards with plate money have been noted or published by Lagerqvist (1987a), Lutz (1988), and Tingström (1987). Ian Wiséhn (1986) has presented finds from three offering springs in Västergötland.

TRENDS IN NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
Some may regard numismatics as a subject devoted to the study of coins as objects.

However, some efforts were made already a long time ago to use a wider perspective, and in the last decades it has become obvious that a new trend is developing where more attention is given to political, economic, administrative, etc. aspects. For example, finds from churches are being used to provide new information on a number of aspects. This trend is likely to continue, and there is a growing awareness of what needs to be done. The potential value of coins as a source material will then hopefully also become evident to scholars in neighbouring disciplines such as archaeology, history, etc. This is not to say that for example more hoard reports are not needed. On the contrary, they are necessary for a proper interpretation of the material.

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