

# Carl Friedrich Evers and the Essay He Wrote for Posterity

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*'Including a new English translation of  
his 1785 essay REPORT ON SOME COINS  
FOUND IN A WENDISH BURIAL MOUND'*

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and the Essay on Wendish Coins  
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Including a new English translation  
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Report on Some Coins Found in a Wendish Burial Mound

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## Introduction

In 2000, Christoph Kilger made an insightful observation about a genus of enigmatic, anonymous early medieval coin types known as Wendenpfennige, Sachsenpfennige, Randpfennige, Hochrandpfennige, and cross denarii (Polish: *denary krzyżowe*). Kilger, writing of these coins, which have been found in innumerable hoards in Poland, Germany, and Scandinavia, and which constitute a large group containing hundreds of varieties, noted that "[t]he various names that have been used and continue to be used for this group of coins only hint at their ambiguous position within medieval numismatics."<sup>1</sup>

Although some of the fundamentals about these coins have been resolved,<sup>2</sup> these anepigraphic coins have largely remained shrouded in ambiguity, despite nearly two hundred forty years of scholarly engagement and investigation. The mysteries enduring around these coins are precisely why I find them and their historiography<sup>3</sup> so fascinating and, ultimately, instructive to numismatists.

Amongst the earliest pioneers who delved into the study of these coins was Carl Friedrich Evers, who published an essay on a small hoard of the coins in 1785. Evers, a very able scholar, could at that time perhaps, at best, only be considered a dilettante as a numismatist; however, that essay achieved for him and itself an immortality of sorts for it is oft cited by numismatic scholars even to this day, if for no other reason than it was one of the first scholarly publications to treat the coins in a more than cursory manner and to include images of the pieces.<sup>4</sup>

As time went on, Evers underwent a remarkable transformation, evolving into an accomplished numismatic researcher and scholar. He returned to the subject of the coins at issue in subsequent years, though his later work on the topic received little attention then or now, when he published a comprehensive two-volume opus chronicling the history of the coinage in Mecklenburg in 1798-1799.

All the preceding discussion serves to lay the groundwork for the current monograph, which I humbly present for your consideration. This monograph focuses on Evers, his essay, the circumstance of its publication, and the release of an English translation of that very essay.

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<sup>1</sup> Kilger, C. (2000). *Pfennigmärkte und Währungslandschaften, Monetarisierungen im sächsisch-slawischen Grenzland ca. 965 – 1120*. (p. 18). Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International.

<sup>2</sup> The oldest coins are believed to have originally been struck in Saxon mints, while some of the youngest are acknowledged to be the products of Polish workshops.

<sup>3</sup> Historiography entails the exploration of historical writings and the ways in which history has been and continues to be documented by historians. It involves a comprehensive examination of the sources, methodologies, theories, and interpretations employed in historical works focused on specific subjects. In the realm of medieval numismatics, this field encompasses the investigation of how numismatists utilize information derived from coin finds and hoards, metrological studies, documents such as mint or market privilege grants, die-linkages, trade patterns, currency zones, and their interactions with theories and evidence from disciplines as varied as history, archaeology, diplomatics, epigraphy, sphragistics, paleography, anthropology, and economics.

<sup>4</sup> See Kilger (2000), p. 15; Gumowski, M. (1938). *Corpus nummorum Poloniae: zeszyt I. Monety X i XI w.* (p. 112, footnote 1). Krakow: Skł. gł. w księg. Gebethnera i Wolffa.

## Evers Life and Career

Carl Friedrich Evers was born on June 10, 1729, in Schwerin, to Johann Wilhelm Evers and Margarethe Elisabeth Siemerling. After completing his studies, he initially practiced law; however, in 1754, he accepted a position in the ducal court of the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin as a secretary in the *Geheime und Haupt-Archiv* (Secret and Main Archive). In 1758, Evers was appointed Archivist; in 1767, he was promoted to Chief Archivist and Court Councilor; and in 1786, he became Chief Secret Archivist. Additionally, he maintained the coin cabinet at the ducal court and engaged in scholarly pursuits, authoring publications on topics ranging from legal matters to numismatics. Evers was pioneering in addressing the origins of the coins discussed in this work. He passed away in Schwerin on April 14, 1803.<sup>5</sup>

## Correspondence with Bernoulli

In an October 31, 1785, letter to the renowned Swiss astronomer and mathematician Johann Bernoulli (1744-1807), Evers elucidated his commitment to scholarship and motivation for publishing, writing:

I would consider it a special honor to present your excellency with a copy of my recently completed essay, which was recently advanced to printing by the gracious approval and arrangement of copperplate engraving through His Serene Highness [Friedrich Franz I (1756-1837)]. This monograph, in quarto size, pertains to a very old coin minted in Rostock, based on the privileges for minting granted to this city by the ruling authorities and authenticated seals, along with a report on some discovered Wendish coins. However, since such local antiquities might not interest you significantly, if at all, and considering that this small piece might hardly be worth the postage, I refrain from sending it at this time and would rather await a more convenient opportunity.

If I had not been motivated by any other than the former sentiment expressed by the learned Mr. O.C.R. Büsching about archivists who either lack the time or inclination to write for posterity, or who write things that are trivial – the fate of writers in this regard is often quite problematic - my fate as an author would have remained quite uncertain in this regard. Surely, I would have languished within the ranks of inept archival assistants for a long time. However, even this treatise, and perhaps even my collaboration in the comprehensive handbook of Mecklenburg history by the Court Councilor Rudloff, are too insignificant to enhance my reputation with the esteemed reviewers.<sup>6</sup>

## Publication of the Essay on the Coins

The essay on Wendish coins which Evers referred to in his letter to Bernoulli is the tract which scholars invariably begin their discussion of the enigmatic coins that are the subject of this work. Evers' essay is entitled, *Anzeige von einigen in einem Wendischen Grabhügel gefundenen Münzen*

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<sup>5</sup> Stieda, W. (1925). *Archivrat Carl Friedrich Evers in Schwerin im Verkehr mit Johann Bernoulli (III) in Berlin. Jahrbücher des Vereins für Mecklenburgische Geschichte und Altertumskunde*, 89, 329-330.

<sup>6</sup> Stieda (1925), p. 353.

*[Report on Some Coins Found in a Wendish Burial Mound]* and was included in his monograph with the unwieldy title *Betrachtung über eine in Rostock geprägte alte Münze in Grundlage der dieser Stadt erteilten Landesherrlichen Münz-Begnadigungsbriefe und urkundlichen Siegel nebst Anzeige einiger gefundenen Wendischen Münzen* [*Reflection on a Very Old Coin Minted in Rostock Based on the Landesherrlichen Münz-Begnadigungsbriefe (Charter of Sovereign Coin Pardon) Granted to this City and Documentary Seals, Along with a Report of Some Discovered Wendish Coins*].<sup>7</sup>

In the relevant essay, Evers recounts the discovery of a small hoard of six small coins in June 1784. The coins were unearthed in a Wendish burial mound in the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin in a field approximately half a mile from the town of Grabow. Upon careful examination of these anepigraphic coins, Evers reasoned that they were attributable to the Wends, who were the ancient inhabitants of the Duchy.

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*“The complete absence of artistry and the location where they were found already testify to their advanced age and the nation that minted them.”*

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Although some of Evers’ reasoning was rather unsophisticated (e.g., “The complete lack of any art and the place where they were found already confirm their great antiquity and by which nation they were struck ....”<sup>8</sup>), Evers did attempt to engage more fully with the available evidence by discussing the only other hoard evidence with which he was familiar that contained similar coins (a hoard discovered in 1687 in Oedeskirchen), as well as historical evidence regarding the Wends recorded by Helmond (c.1120-1177) in his chronicle of the Slavs. Evers wrote:

*The Wends of this region, before their examination and acceptance of the Christian religion, were not only a warlike but also a trading nation. This fact would already be evident, even if history did not mention it, due to their excellent location on the Baltic Sea and the great cities of Julin, Rerich, Mecklenburg, and others.*

*Although commerce can be maintained through trade, as with the distant indigenous peoples in Africa and America, it is always insignificant and associated with insurmountable difficulties, especially when it remains limited to the exchange of goods and lacks a common measure of value in the form of coined money. Therefore, this surrogate currency must have become known to the Wends as well.*

*Initially, they contented themselves with raw gold or silver, or even foreign coins, until they eventually started minting small coins under their own stamp. This art was still in its infancy among them.*

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<sup>7</sup> Evers, C. F. (1785). *Anzeige von einigen in einem Wendischen Grabhügel gefundenen Münzen* (pp. 45-52, with examples of the coins on an engraved copper plate). [in] *Betrachtung über eine in Rostock geprägte alte Münze in Grundlage der dieser Stadt erteilten Landesherrlichen Münz-Begnadigungsbriefe und urkundlichen Siegel nebst Anzeige einiger gefundenen Wendischen Münzen*. Boderschen Buchhandlung, Schwerin, Wismar, Bützow.

<sup>8</sup> Evers (1785), p. 51.

*Even if they had wanted to continue their trade without minted coins or currency, their own laws, followed by the exactions of the Saxons, and finally the greed of the Roman clergy, made them indispensable. According to those laws, almost all crimes were punished with fines in the form of money. The Saxons demanded money taxes from them under the name Woiewotinza and the bishops of Oldenburg required from each plow twelve pfennige of fine silver.<sup>9</sup>*

Evers also provided information about the weight and size of the coins which were found. This was a welcome and rather advanced supplement to the engraved copper plate image of two of the coins which were included in the monograph.

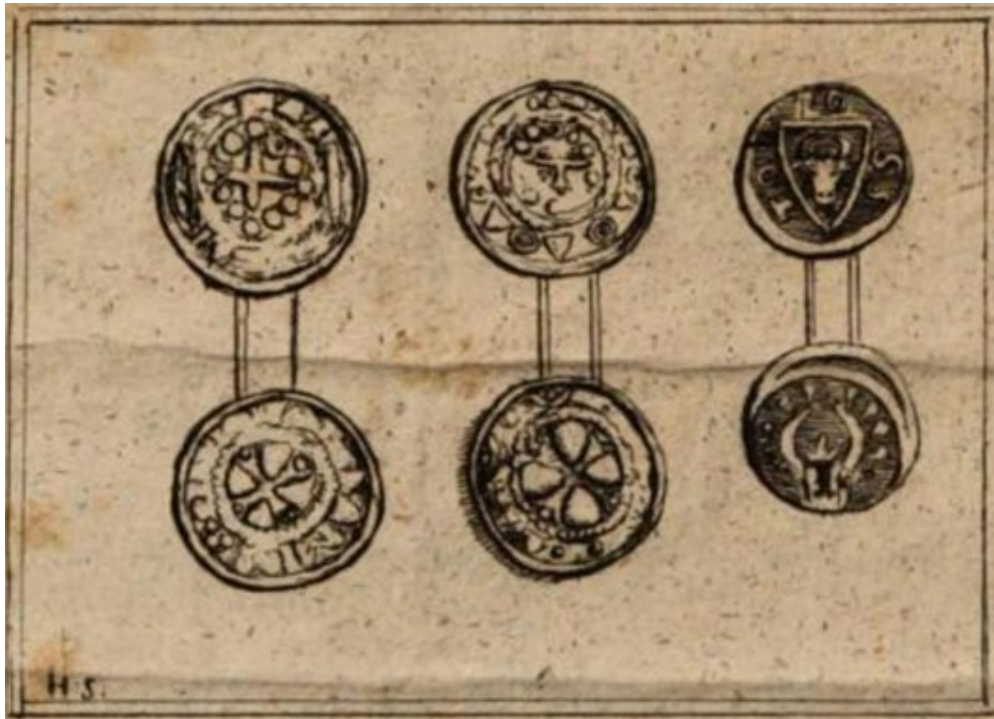


Figure 1 – Detail of the copper engraved plate of some of the Wendish coins found near Grabow in Mecklenburg in Evers 1785 monograph.

### Praise from Bernoulli for the Monograph

Evers made certain that Bernoulli was provided with a copy of his work, and in response, he received a favorable review from Bernoulli. In a letter dated March 2, 1786, Evers conveyed his astonishment at both Bernoulli's engagement with his work and the positive review, displaying perhaps a touch of modesty in his reaction:

While I might consider your esteemed approval of my small numismatic essay to be nothing more than a result of your unwarranted kindness towards me, it is nonetheless greatly treasured by me. I am well aware that both diplomatics and numismatics, especially

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<sup>9</sup> Evers (1785), pp. 45-46.

when limited to smaller territories, find only a few enthusiasts. I might not have even contemplated its publication if it were not for the gracious action of His Serene Highness, under whose advancing grace I was recently appointed Chief Secret Archivist, in having the copperplate prepared and delivered for it.<sup>10</sup>

It is not surprising that Bernoulli would be interested in the topic, as Bernoulli himself, polymath that he was, had written on the Wendish Kashubians of Pomerania in his recently well-received travelogues.<sup>11</sup> What Evers could not have anticipated would be that his modest monograph would still be being cited by scholars well over two hundred years later in numismatic publications. He had successfully written for “posterity.”<sup>12</sup>

### Evers Revisits the Coins in His History of the Coinage of Mecklenburg

Surprisingly, however, I have not noted any scholars, contemporary to Evers or modern, who have bothered to cite his magisterial two-volume opus on the coinage of Mecklenburg, published in 1798-1799,<sup>13</sup> in which he further developed his thoughts and refined his attribution regarding the six coins unearthed near Grabow in 1785.

In the first volume,<sup>14</sup> addressing the history of the coinage, in the first section, entitled “Wendish Coinage System,” he made the following observations:

§1 Even though the Wends in this region were more inclined towards war than industry, their location on the Baltic Sea, particularly the presence of cities such as Julin, Rerich, Mecklenburg, and others, indicates that they had ample opportunity for extensive trade, especially maritime trade, which they certainly did not neglect.

§2 Their commerce, like that of other Germanic peoples, initially relied largely on the exchange of local products or metals acquired through war, such as coins, goods, and captured prisoners, in return for other necessities. It should be noted that, at least in this region, there were no mines, which is why coins minted by them are extremely rare. Helmold confirms this regarding the Rügen people at the beginning of the 12th century when he writes: *Apud Raños non habetur moneta, nec est in comparandis rebus consuetudo numorum, sed quicquid in foro mercari volueris, panno lineo comparabis* [Among the Rani, there is no money, nor is it customary to use coins in transactions; whatever you want to buy in the market, you will acquire with linen cloth].

§3 However, it seems unlikely, not to mention unreliable, to assert that this lack of knowledge about coined money applied universally to all Wendish peoples and tribes. Their extensive maritime trade necessitated a common standard of measurement.

§4 From ancient times and in almost all nations, either marked money made of a valuable material or minted coins made of metal, especially gold, silver, and copper, have been used.

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<sup>10</sup> Steida (1925), pp. 355-356.

<sup>11</sup> Bernoulli, J. (1779). *Reisen durch Brandenburg, Pommern, Preussen, Curland, Russland und Pohlen, in den Jahren 1777 und 1778*. Vol. I. See pp. 135ff. Leipzig: C. Fritsch.

<sup>12</sup> See fn. 3.

<sup>13</sup> Evers, C. F. (1798-1799). *Mecklenburgische Münzverfassung [Mecklenburg coin constitution]* (Vols. 1-2). Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Schwerin: Bärensprung.

<sup>14</sup> Evers, C. F. (1798). *Mecklenburgische münz-verfassung besonders die geschichte derselben. Erster Theil*. Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Schwerin.



Should we believe that the Wends remained completely unaware and unused to such substitutes in their dealings?

§ 5 The fact that they possessed metals and had knowledge of smelting and shaping is evidenced by their cast household idols. Granted, they had to rely mostly on foreign coins, but it does not necessarily follow that they did not mint their own traded or acquired metals. Moreover, given their laws, under which almost all crimes had to be compensated with money, and considering the taxes and dues payable to the nobles and clergy, such minting became essential.

They had to pay the so-called *Woiewotinz* and the twelve pfennige of fine silver per plow. Now, the question is: Did they indeed exercise this coinage right, and do such coins still exist today?

§ 6 If one were to believe the esteemed Privy Councilor Jacob Paul, Baron von Gundling, he claims to have discovered coins from the Obodrite kings, namely: 1) Wizo or Witzan (780-795) with human heads and inscriptions, 2) Bilug (960-985), possibly also his son Mstislav (985-1018) with a buffalo head, crown, moons, and stars, 3) Mistewoy (1018-1025) with the same crowned buffalo head, 4) Gottschalk (1042-1066) with the buffalo head and a cross on it instead of a crown, and finally 5) Pribislav (1131-1156) with a wolf and two stars. These coins are also described in *Acta Eruditorum* and *Miscellanea Berolinensia*, along with their illustrations in copper. However, he has already acknowledged his error regarding the alleged coin of Wizo, so the authenticity of the others remains equally questionable. At the very least, he owes the proof for these claims, and I leave it to the closer examination of knowledgeable experts.

§ 7 Perhaps the coins found in 1687 in a burial urn in Oedeskirchen, and also the six small silver solidi mentioned in my coin catalog as Wendish coins, which were discovered in June 1784 in a burial mound on the Kremmin field near Grabow, might deserve more attention. It is likely that these are the aforementioned denarii or pfennige made of fine silver that the Wends had to pay to the bishops from each plow.

Until a better explanation, which was desired but not obtained in that treatise, I consider them, perhaps with greater likelihood than Gundling's claims, to belong to the class of rare coins minted by the ***Obodrite Wends*** [emphasis added]. As for which king or prince they were made under, and at what time, I dare not make a judgment due to the lack of inscriptions and dates on them.

§ 8 If this widespread and powerful nation in this region had truly exercised the right to coinage, there is little doubt that the defeated but reinstated Prince Pribislav (1166) and his successors would have utilized the sovereign rights of the land. This is confirmed by King Charles IV of the Holy Roman Empire, who, in the feudal charters granted to Dukes Albrecht and Johann of Mecklenburg in 1348, confirmed all the regalia and rights. Thus, we enter the era of the Middle Ages until the end of the 15th century.<sup>15</sup>

Thus, we see that Evers not only avers that the coins were likely struck by the Obodrite Wends, but that he argued that the coins earlier claimed for the Wends by the scholarly but ever-hapless

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<sup>15</sup> Evers (1798), pp. 13-17.

Prussian counselor Gundling should be disregarded as Wendish coins until further proof was offered.

Although in this work Evers took greater care to build his case for his attribution of these coins as being struck by the Wends, and specifically the Obodrites, his argument for such an attribution was transparently weak – at its core he had only six coins in one grave site as the sum total of his substantive argument, with the remainder of his argument being supposition and speculation based on reference to a historical chronicle that does not reference the granting of coinage rights or the striking of coins by the Obodrites and only incidental references to fines in pfennige or denarii. The other hoard he references is so poorly documented as to be useless to the analysis.

## Why was Evers so quick to attribute the coins to the Wendish Obodrites?

What might have driven Evers, an evidently astute individual endowed with formidable intellect, to formulate an argument attributing these coins to the Wendish Obodrites on such a precarious foundation as six anepigraphic coins in one Wendish burial mound?

To unravel this question, we can turn our attention to the dedication page of the *Mecklenburgische münz-verfassung besonders die geschichte derselben* where a likely answer to the inquiry emerges. The dedication reads: "To the Most Serene Hereditary Prince and Lord, Lord Friedrich Ludewig, Duke of Mecklenburg, Prince of Wenden (or the Wends), Schwerin, and Razeburg, Count of Schwerin, Lord of the Rostock and Stargard Lands, etc. etc. My Most Gracious Prince and Lord."<sup>16</sup>

The inclusion of "Prince of Wenden" in the titles of the Dukes of Mecklenburg was not without significance. Their lineage traces back to the Wendish Obodrite prince Niklot (†1160), through his son Pribislav (†1178). While Niklot met his demise on the battlefield while resisting the Saxon conquest, Pribislav keenly sensed the inevitable currents of history. He wisely opted to retain his rank and rule by submitting to Henry the Lion, embracing Christianity, and sealing the pact through his daughter's marriage to Henry's son. As a reward for his sagacious acquiescence and embrace of Christianity, Emperor Frederick I elevated Pribislav to the status of a prince within the empire in 1170.

So, perhaps, by attributing to the Obodrites the six *solidi* found in a Wendish burial mound, Evers was subtly engaging in a numismatic and scholarly form of the oldest of courtier traditions, a numismatic panegyric in praise of the Mecklenburg dynasty; that is, he was praising the Obodrite dynasty's ancient exercise of its "sovereign rights of the land" (i.e., the regalian right to strike coins) to further the interests of the "widespread and powerful nation" (i.e., the Wendish Obodrites) in both war and commerce. As his letter to Bernoulli specifically mentioned that the duke was particularly interested in, and encouraging of, the publication of the 1785 essay, it is rather easy to deduce the ducal court was readily disposed to such a reading of the hoard, no matter how slim the evidence supporting it, and believed such a reading to add luster to the dynasty's prestige.

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<sup>16</sup> Evers (1798), dedication page unnumbered. In the original German, the dedication reads: „DEM DURCHLAUCHTIGSTEN ERBPRINZEN UND HERRN, HERRN FRIEDRICH LUDEWIG, HERZOG ZU MECKLENBURG, FÜRSTEN ZU WENDEN, SCHWERIN UND RAZEBURG, AUCH GRAFEN ZU SCHWERIN, DER LANDE ROSTOCK UND STARGARD HERRN &c. &c. MEINEM GNÄDIGSTEN FÜRSTEN UND HERRN.“



## Carl Friedrich Evers Report on some coins found in a Wendish burial mound\*

The fact that the Wends of this region were not only a warlike but also a trading nation long before their subjugation and adoption of the Christian religion is evident. Even if history did not mention it, their excellent position by the Baltic Sea and the major cities of Julin, Rerich, Mecklenburg, and others would make this highly probable.

Indeed, commerce can be sustained through barter, as seen with distant tribes in Africa and America, but it is always limited and entwined with insurmountable difficulties as long as it remains a mere exchange of goods for goods, lacking the universally accepted measure: money coined from precious metals. So, it is likely that even this surrogate form of value became known to the Wends.

Initially, they were content with raw gold, silver, or foreign coins until they finally began minting small coins under their own stamp. This craft was still in its infancy among them.

Even if they had wished or been able to rely on their trade without minted coins for a longer time, their own laws, followed by the extortions of the Saxons, and ultimately the avarice of the Roman clergy made them entirely indispensable. According to these, nearly all offenses were atoned for with money. The Saxons demanded money taxes from them under the name *Woiewotinza*, and the Bishops of Oldenburg exacted twelve pfennige of fine silver from each plow.<sup>17</sup>

For a long time, people have wished to see such Wendish coins, but so far, in vain, and I do not believe that anyone can present such. Indeed, Johann Gröning writes in *Historia numismaticocritica* p. 251:

"In the year 1687, in the Principality of Mecklenburg, in a village called Oedeskirchen (located a mile from Wismar and passed down to my father), a man found a considerable quantity of old silver coins deep underground in an urn. The characters found on them are to be considered Wendish, or rather, Runic. Judging from the crosses present on them, it is presumed that these coins were minted at a time when the knowledge of Christ was spreading further into this region. However, the presence of the cross in such antiquities is not always a definite sign of Christianity. On the reverse side, there are stars, dots, and circles. The conjectures of others as well as my own, along with the depiction of these coins, will be communicated at another time."

However, I am not aware if he fulfilled this promise or where these Wendish coins might have gone. Perhaps, like many other similar rarities, they have been destroyed by the crucible. It will

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\* Originally published as: Evers, C. F. (1785). *Anzeige von einigen in einem Wendischen Grabhügel gefundenen Münzen* (pp. 45-52, with a examples of the coins on an engraved copper plate). [in] *Betrachtung über eine in Rostock geprägte alte Münze in Grundlage der dieser Stadt ertheilten Landesherrlichen Münz-Begnadigungsbriefe und urkundlichen Siegel nebst Anzeige einiger gefundenen Wendischen Münzen*. Boderschen Buchhandlung. Schwerin, Wismar, Bützow. Translated by Donald S. Yarab at Cleveland, Ohio in August 2023.

<sup>17</sup> *Helmoldi Chron. Slavor*. Edit. 1702. p. 202. Franck, Lib. 1. p. 139., Lib. II. p. 87. Lib. IV. p. 160.

likely be appreciated by antiquity researchers and coin enthusiasts if I acquaint them, in conclusion, with some of these coins, which Franck in the aforementioned work calls Denarii and values higher than a current Schilling.

Our ancestors, the Wends, shared the practice with the Romans and other peoples of burning their deceased, collecting the ashes in clay urns, placing them between large stones, and then covering them with an earthen mound. They did not stop at that; various objects used by the departed, especially their weapons, were placed inside and near the pots,<sup>18</sup> war and trade provided them, as previously mentioned, with all types of metal. Hence, swords, spears, and similar items were made from mixed metal, rings were made from gold and bronze, and occasionally, although rarely, their minted coins have been found in those burial mounds.

Many such unmistakable antiquities were excavated in the past by the late chief physician and councilor Hornhard throughout Mecklenburg. His urn cabinet, bequeathed to the ducal house, is undoubtedly one of the most comprehensive in Germany. However, he did not come across any Wendish coins in those burial mounds. Only our most illustrious reigning Duke Friedrich Franz was fortunate enough to make this rare discovery. His Highness has already commissioned the excavation of several mounds in the vicinity of Ludwigslust, and these inquiries have been rewarded multiple times with valuable items, including golden rings and other heathen relics of considerable worth.

In the month of June in the previous year 1784, His Highness caused another burial mound to be excavated in Kremmin Field, situated half a mile from the town of Grabow. Apart from a metal sword, six small coins were found there in the bare earth, and perhaps other coins could have remained unnoticed in the excavated soil. I will attempt to describe them in a way that makes them recognizable to the reader.

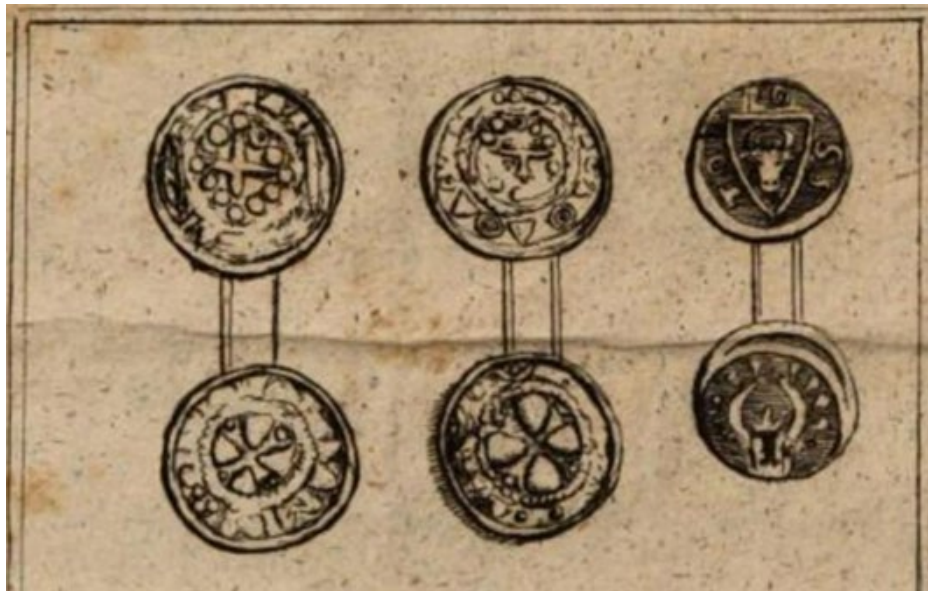


Figure 2 – Copperplate Engraving from Evers’ Monograph showing two of the “Wendish” coins discovered in the field near Grabow in 1785.

<sup>18</sup> Rhode, C. *Cimbrisch-Holsteinische Antiquitäten – Remarques*. Majors, D. *Bevölkerte Cimrien*, Cap. XXVII. to L.

In size, they are similar to a heavy Mecklenburg Sechsling but much thicker. In terms of their minting, they are quite similar to each other, although differing in minor details and bearing distinct stamps on both sides. This results in a noticeable raised edge. Each of these coins weighs a quarter of a quentchen, ranging between 2 and 5 Aß less.

On one side, considering the concepts of obverse and reverse might not be applicable, there is a cross with twelve balls, some arranged in a square and others in a circular pattern, all enclosed within a circle. Between this and the outer border, instead of the usual inscription found on younger coins, some have small filled-triangles, some a figure similar to a sheep shears while others have balls or rings. Everything is in relief. On the other side, in the center, there is again a cross, but not in relief; rather, it is impressed, with raised points or dots at each end, also in a circular arrangement. Between this and the border, as previously noted, there are imprinted triangles, the figure of the sheep shear, balls, and other symbols, some of which are no longer recognizable, alternating with each other. This results in both sides having nearly identical patterns, with the exception that the balls surrounding the cross are missing on one side.

The complete absence of artistry and the location where they were found already testify to their advanced age and the nation that minted them. However, determining the actual significance of the symbols on the coins, whether they are meant to convey meaning or were arbitrarily chosen, poses a challenge. These symbols cannot represent Runes, as they bear no resemblance to them. Additionally, the question of when they were minted remains unanswered.

These whimsical explanations, based solely on imagination, are indeed facile but equally inconsequential. I willingly defer, if it is otherwise possible, to a more experienced antiquity researcher. At present, I content myself with solely presenting and describing these extremely rare remnants of the Wends, a once widely spread and powerful people by the Baltic Sea, especially in Mecklenburg.

