

Royal Coin for Maynard and Liadain, AE46  
German 14<sup>th</sup> century

The Carolingian Empire dominated Europe from 751 AD to 888 AD. There was strong central rule (exemplified by Emperor Charlemagne), and as such, coins were carefully controlled and minted under the auspices of the Emperor.



Emperor Charlemagne

After the Treaty of Verdun and the partition of the Empire, the minting rights of the Holy Roman Emperors were lost in favor of local barons and bishops. Because there was no unified issue of coins in the post-Carolingian Holy Roman Empire, coin-making technology lagged behind that of other European countries throughout the high middle ages. 14<sup>th</sup> century German coins were sometimes just counterfeited French coins, as the French denominations were more familiar than local German coins to the German populace.



Gros Tournois, France 1320



Groschen, Bohemia 1300



Groschen, Bohemia 1330

In nearby Flanders, amazingly complex designs could be found on the royal coinage, but German coins regressed to pre-medieval complexity.



Flanders 1350

The lack of respect for Royal authority became so bad in 14<sup>th</sup>-century Germany that coins often failed to depict the current Emperor, instead depicting the ruler who originally granted minting rights to the local Guild or Baron. Thus, the Moneyers Guild of Æthelmarc has decided to have images of Gareth and Juliana, who signed our original Guild charter... just kidding.

Meinhard II, Duke of Carinthia, ruled 1271-1295. He was famous for a particular coin that was issued during his reign: the Kreuzer. This coin was so popular that Meinhard's successors continued to issue variants of the coin for hundreds of years. Interestingly, Meinhard's name was kept on the coin well into the 14<sup>th</sup> century, long past his reign. The overall appearance of kreuzers doesn't change much throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> century:



Later in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, coins emerged with dates included on the coin, and motifs that included a trefoil shield that might work well for future SCA coins, if the monarchs' arms were combined with the Escarbuncle:



For the Royal Coin of Maynard and Liadain, Their Majesties asked to closely reproduce the 1335 version of Meinhard's kreuzer. The coincidental similarity between "Maynard" and "Meinhard" was too good to pass up, and the long minting life of Meinhard's kreuzer allowed several versions to choose from. Their Majesties chose the 1335 version shown above.



On the original coin from 1335, the cross is likely the obverse (heads) because it has a poorly-Latinized form of Meinhard's name. The reverse (tails) has the eagle, which is the emblem of the Holy Roman Empire, and the inscription "Count of Tyrol", which was one of Meinhard's titles.

For Maynard and Liadain's coin, we were tempted to convert the 8-way cross motif to an escarbuncle, but since the cross appears on Maynard's personal arms, we prioritized staying true to the original. We adjusted the inscriptions to reflect the SCA context, so that the obverse reads "Rex Æthel". The inscriptions on medieval coins are often interrupted by the image on the coin, even in the middle of words. In keeping with the original, the inscriptions on this coin are similarly interrupted.

#### Bibliography

1. Grierson P. *Coins of Medieval Europe*. 1991. BA Seaby, Ltd.
2. Levinson RA. *The Early Dated Coins of Europe 1234-1500*. 2007. The Coin and Currency Institute.
3. Porteus J. *Coins*. 1973. Octopus Books.
4. Porteus J. *Coins in History*. 1969. Putnam's Sons.