

Paper #d: Church and the Money Circulation ~~Economy~~ in High Medieval Norway

IMC 2019 Leeds Session 1652:

The Monetary System and Currency in Eurasia in the Pre-
Modern Era, ii: Money and its Circulation in the British Isles
and Scandinavia

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Summary of the Paper:

1. Medieval Norwegian Kingdom (ca. 1070-1319): introduced (late) Anglo-Saxon style royal control over the coinage system, 'Renovatio Monetae'.
2. The minting activity of the Archbishop of Trondheim/ Nidaros as an possible exception
3. The crozier motif single-face bracteate: issued by the archbishop, acknowledged and circulated relatively widely across the sometimes politically divided Norwegian provinces during the Civil War Norway in the 12th century.

From A Viking to the first king who issued the coin in Norway: Olaf Tryggvason (r. 995-999/1000)

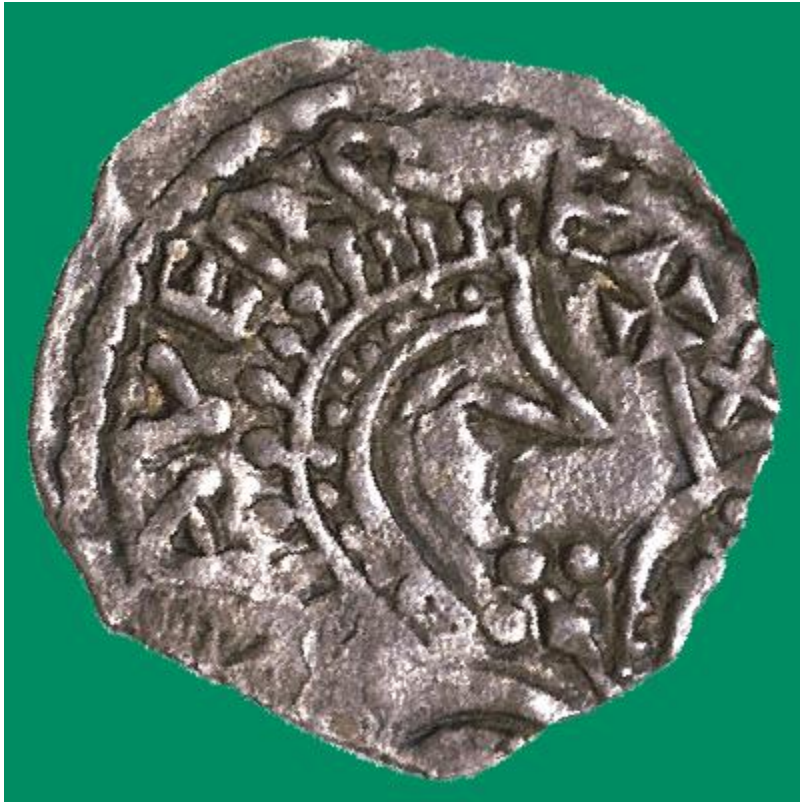


The Oldest (two-faces) silver coins in Norway (c. 995) issued under the reign of Olaf Tryggvason



ONLAF R**NOR*+

King Olav Kyrre of Norway (r. 1067-93) & His 'Renovatio Monetae'

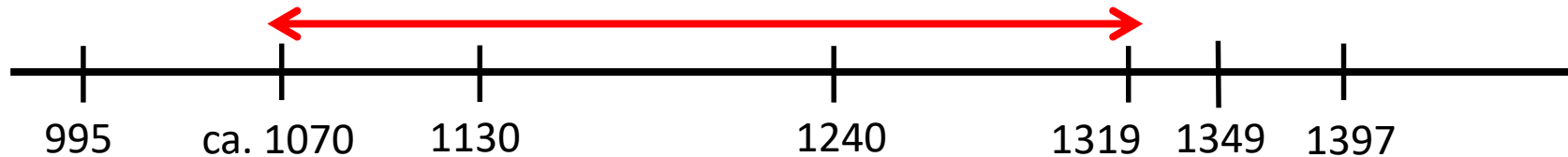


The Composition of the Coins found in Gresli Hoard (Tydal, Trøndelag, Norway: buried in ca. 1080)

Provenance of the Coins	Date	Numbers
Germany	983/1002-1068/1090	38
Anglo-Saxon Imitations	ca. 997/1003-1023/29	2
Denmark	1035/42-1047/76	2
Norway	ca. 1055?/65-1080/95	2,209 (of 2,209, 8 are before 1066)
Cannot be identified		2
Total		2,253

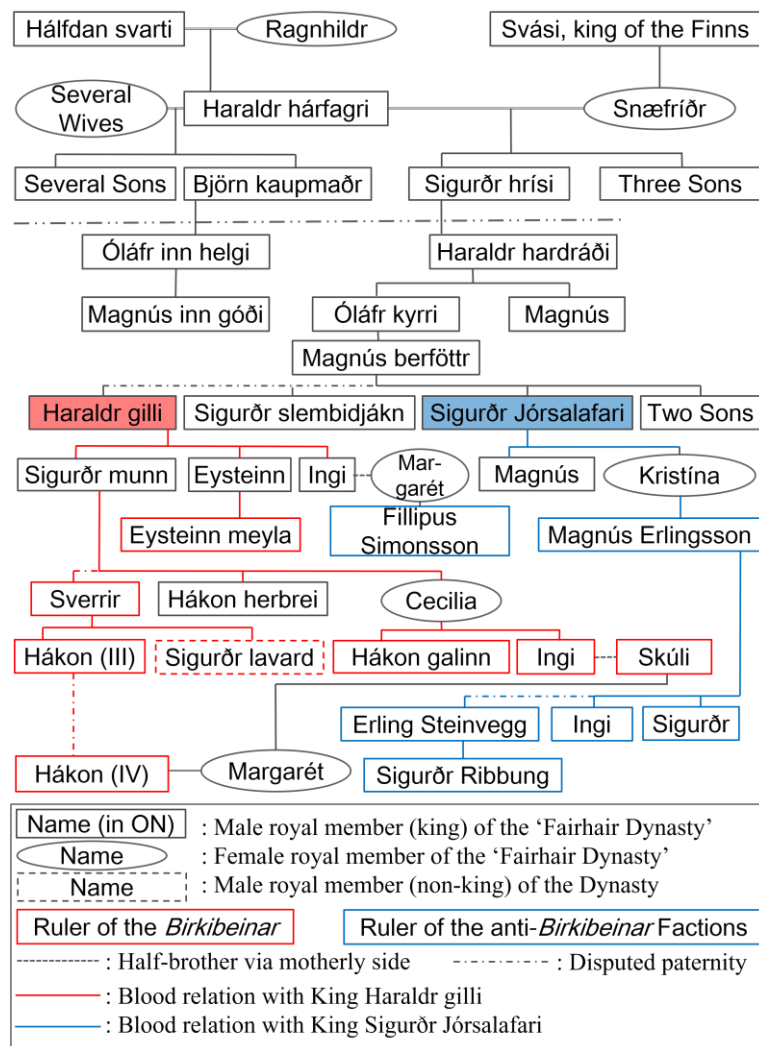
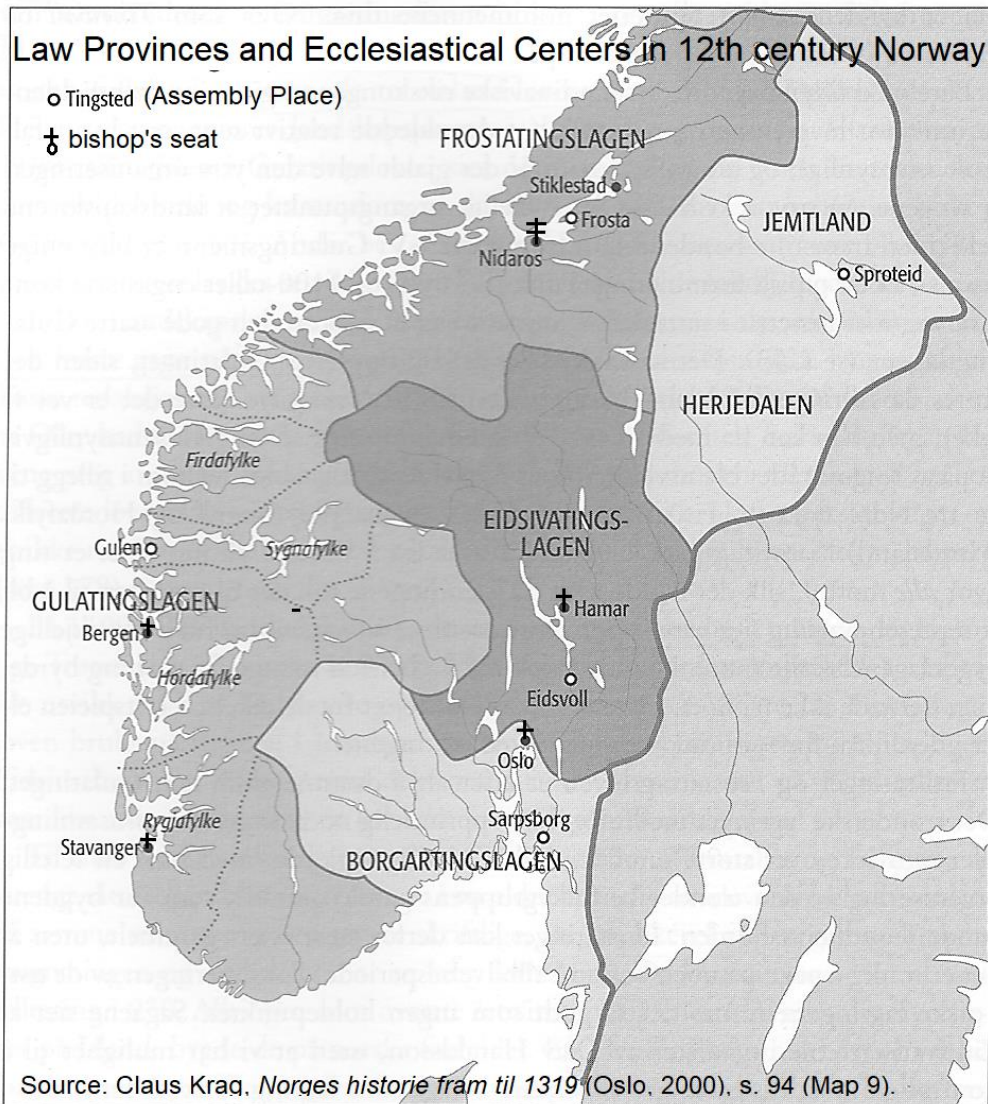
Source: [Bandlien 2011: 86f.]; [Gullbekk 2009: 64f.]

'High Medieval' (?) Norway and its money system

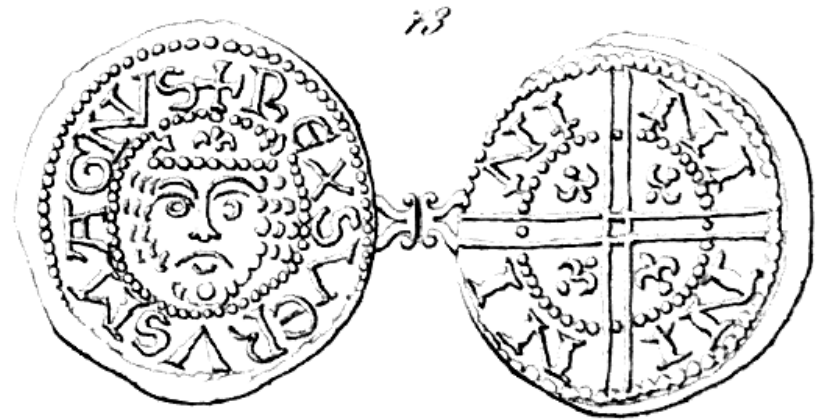


- 995 : The oldest silver coin issued in Norway
- (1066 : Battle of Stamford Bridge)
- ca. 1070: Introduction of the strict monetary control by the monarchy (; the establishment of 3 fixed dioceses)
- 1130-1240: 'Civil War' Period
- 1319 : Monarchical Union with Sweden
- 1397 : Establishment of Kalmar Union

'Civil War' – Political chaos in the 12th century Norway (1130-1240)



King Sverre Sigurdsson (r. 1177/85-1202) & His Silver Coin (Sverre 1)



Head Decoration Figure of the Cathedral of Nidaros (Christ Church), allegedly modelled King Sverre Sigurdsson (the end of the 12th century)

Example of 12th century Norwegian bracteate: single-face, very light- weight silver coin



Image Cited from: <<http://sciencenordic.com/pope-said-no-thanks-norwegian-coins>> Jan. 02, 2018 [Last Accessed: 26 June, 2019]

Ramberg's Motif Grouping and New Dating on the silver coins in 12th century Norway

Issued by the archbishop?



Motif Group	Tentative Dating (.ca)
Double Cross	-1110
Animal	1103-30
Cross over Cross	1103-50
Breast Shot	1103-50
Crozier	1146-70
Patriarch Cross	1146-90
A Point with Circle	1146-90
Head in the Profile	1150, 1200
Cross	1140-1202
Initial (Alphabet Letter)	1157-1202

Sources: Adapted from Linn E. Ramberg, *Mynt er hva mynt gjør: En analyse av norske mynter fra 1100-tallet* (Ph. D. Thesis, Stockholm Univ., 2017), ss. 53 (for images), 71 (Fig. 5:6).

	Numbers	Average Weight (g)	Median Weight (g)	The heaviest (g)	The lowest (g)	Dev.
Crozier 5	2	0,12	-	0,13	0,11	1,18
Crozier 2p	6	0,10	0,10	0,13	0,09	1,44
Crozier 6	12	0,08	0,07	0,13	0,04	3,25
Crozier 7	11	0,06	0,05	0,12	0,04	3,00
Crozier 4	10	0,06	0,05	0,10	0,03	3,33
Crozier 3	10	0,05	0,05	0,06	0,04	1,50
Crozier 2S	80	0,05	0,05	0,09	0,03	3,00

Tab. 5:21 Gjennomsnittsvekt for typer og varianter med «bispestav» sortert fra tyngst mot lettest (for ytterligere forklaring se fotnote 20)

Table 5:21 Average weight for types or variants with a 'crozier' arranged in descending order (for further explanation see footnote 21).

Adapted from: Ramberg, *Mynt er hva mynt gjør*, s.82. (Tab. 5.21).

Main Motif Groups found (only) in the firmly dated Hoards



Fig. 5:3 Motivenes relative andel i depotfunn med datering i form av tpe eller kontekstuell datering, sortert kronologisk. For funn som inneholder tosidige mynter er beregningsgrunnlaget antall motiver, ikke antall mynter. Antall motiver som ligger til grunn for beregningene oppgis i kolonnen til høyre. Motiv med få eksemplarer er ikke inkludert, ei heller mynter som ikke kan bestemmes.

Fig. 5:3 The relative proportion of each motive in hoards with a tpe or contextual dating, arranged chronologically. For hoards containing biface coins, the calculation is based on the number of motives, not the number of coins. The number of motives is listed in the column to the right. Coins that cannot be identified, and motives that appear on only a small number of preserved coins, are not included. **Source: [Ramberg 2017: 54]**

Adapted from: Ramberg, *Mynt er hva mynt gjør*, s.54. (Tab. 5.3).

[Added]: Crozier and Its Iconography in Old Norse World (Cf. IMC 2019, Paper 1149-a by Haraldur Hreinsson)



Wooden Carving on the pillar on SW nave of Urnes Stave Church (Luster, Norway) (1130s)
<http://leidenmedievalistsblog.nl/images/uploads/4._DSC_1758.JPG> [Last Access: July 04, 2019]



Crozier found in the coffin of Icelandic Bishop, Páll Jónsson (d. 1211)
<<http://www.sarpur.is/Adfang.aspx?AdfangID=467336>>

Proposed Parallel with the later Example of the similar motifs, issued by the Archbishop of Uppsala, Sweden

Valdemar I (1154 - 1157. Enekinge 1157 - 1182)

Ribe



Hauberg, Peter, *Danmarks Myntvæsen i Tidsrumet 1146-1241* (København, 1906), X-53, 54, 56. Uploaded at: <https://www.danskmoent.dk/hbg2d.htm> [Access: 30/06/2019]



Single-face bracteate, allegedly issued by Archbishop Petrus of Uppsala (r. 1187-97) <http://www.humanistportalen.se/artiklar/numismatik/mynt-oppnar-ett-fonster-mot-medeltiden/?pageNo=2> [Access: 30/06/2019]

The oldest documentary evidence of archbishops' minting: *rettarbót* of King Håkon Håkonsson (ca. 1222/23)

“.....we allow, on our behalf as well as those who will be legitimately chosen till the ruler of the land after us, Archbishop Guttorm and those who will be elected to the title of the archbishop after him and will be friends of the monarch in accordance with both the God's and mankind's law, to have a moneyer [lit. trans. silver-struck man] who know [his job] well together with one servant those who the archbishop consider as equally skillful as our mint and servants [of the king's moneyer], in the archbishop's own estate, in order to hammer the mint for the utility of St. Olav's seat of bishop [Trondheim/Nidaros] as the same fineness and the weight as we and other kings wish [to keep] in Nidaros.....we suppose and convince that the struck silver [coins] in our kingdom, as we wish, will become much more stable and fineness as long as the God's friend [archbishop] collaborate with us.” (DN III-1)

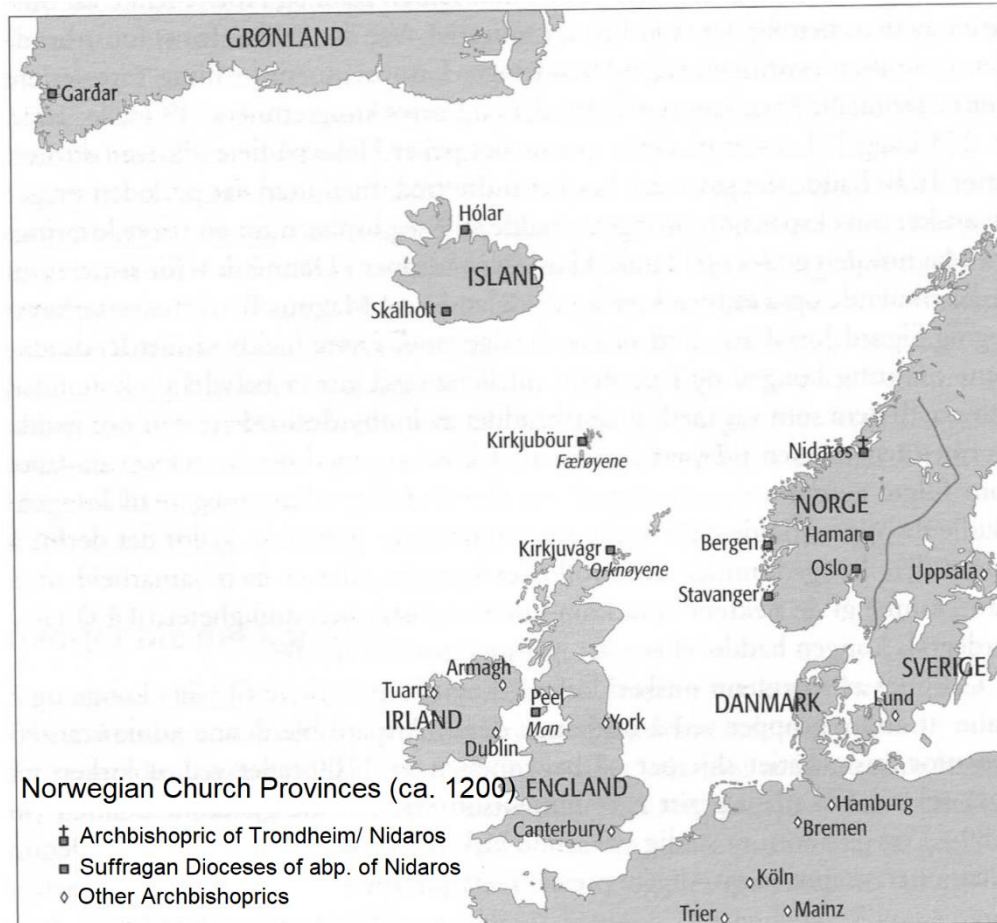
→ New Privilege?

Confirmation of the existing one?

G. A. Blom on the *rettarbót*: The Third Way Interpretation

- The employment of ON word suggests a grant of the new privilege
- The wording does not exclude, however, that the archbishop had in fact exerted a relevant activity (i.e. minting) as an more independent minting authority (*myntherr*)
- Compromise between the king and the archbishop
 - ✓ The Archbishop: gets Approval to the former perhaps not so sanctioned (officially) minting
 - ✓ The King: puts the minting activity of the archbishop now under the more strict control

Candidate for more independent coin issuing authority: Archbishop Eystein (Øystein) Erlendsson (r. 1157/ 61-88)

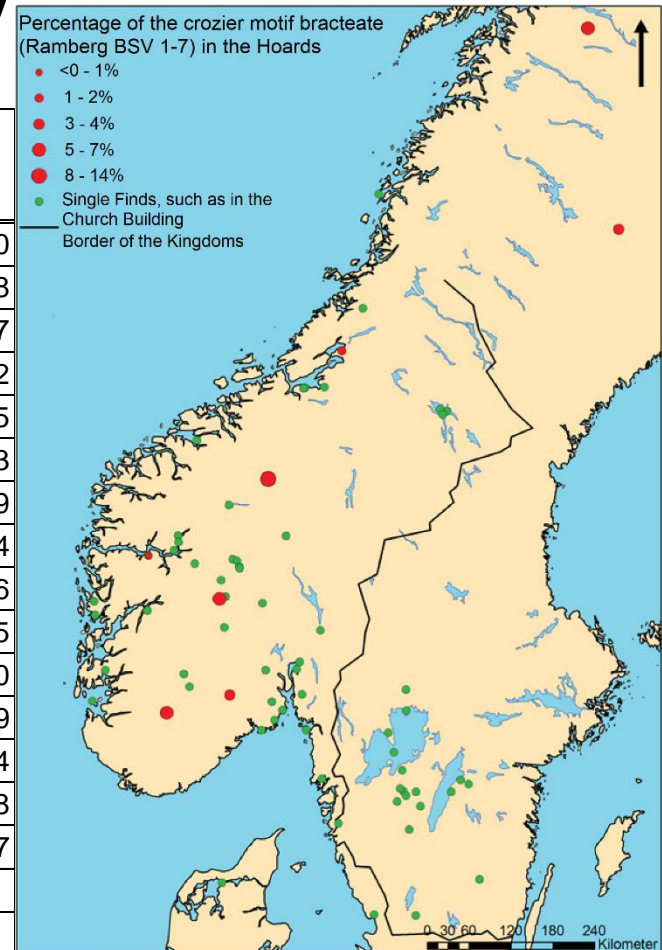


Source : adapted from: Claus Krag, *Norges historie fram til 1319* (Oslo, 2000), s. 108 (Map 11).



The Circulation of the Crozier motif bracteate #01: Not So concentrated geographically and not so much in Quantity

Name of the Hoard	Date	Number of the found Crozier Motif Coins	Total Coins found in the Hoard
Hopperstad Stave Church (II)	1130-1150	1	170
Ferdingrein	1140 (?)	1	128
Bårarp	1146	11	57
Mære Church (II)	1150	1	52
Ål Stave Church	post 1150	1	15
Bø Old Church (II)	post 1150	1	23
Øster Uttrup (I)	1153	1	19
Biersted Hede	1157	1	14
Naverstad Church	1167-1180	1	126
Hylestad Stave Church	1180-1200	3	55
Dæli	ca. 1195	159	ca. 4,500
Brennmoen, Skistad	890-1260	1	9
Rautasjaure	967-1202	11	184
Gråträsk	979-1202	3	78
Vesle Hjerkin	1000-1200	1	7
Cannot Identified		15	
Total		212	



Adapted from: Ramberg, *Mynt er hva mynt gjør*, ss.83, 174. (Tab. 5.23+ Fig 7.30).

Circulations of the Crozier motif bracteate #02: Nation-Wide

Motifs	1	2	3	4	5
Crozier	○	○	○	○	×
Patriarch Cross	○	○	○	○	×
A Point in a Circle	△	○	○	○	×
Head in the Profile	×	△	○	×	○
Initial 'A'	○	○	○	△	×
Initial 'B'	△	○	○	×	×
Initial 'H'	×	×	○	×	×
Initial 'M'	×	△	○	×	×
Initial 'N'	×	×	△	○	×
Initial 'S'	×	○	○	△	△
Initial 'T'	×	○	○	○	×
Initial 'V'	×	○	○	×	×
Triquerta	○	○	○	×	×
Andrew's Cross	×	○	○	○	×
Points Cross	○	○	○	○	×
Trident	×	△	○	×	×
Star	○	○	△	△	○
Sverre 1 & 2	△	×	○	○	×
Sverre 3	×	×	○	○	×
Crowned Head	△	△	○	△	△

Adapted from: Ramberg, *Mynt er hva mynt gjør*, ss.199f. (Fig. 7.30+ Table 7.5).

Hypothetical Concluding Remark: Crozier Motif Coin as a representation of the archbishop's political influence



19th century Illustration by Painter Erik Werenskiold (1899) depicting Archbishop Eystein (Øystein) of Trondheim who attend the Coronation of (young) King Magnus Erlingsson (1163/64)

Sources: Public Domain



Bishop piece of the Lewis Chessmen, made of Walrus Ivory possibly in Trondheim/ Nidaros about at the same time as the crozier motif bracteate. ©Trustees of the British Museum.