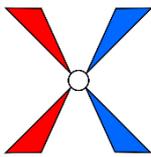


1633 DA

bncdoc.id	HXX
bncdoc.author	Lawson, M K
bncdoc.year	1993
bncdoc.title	Cnut: the Danes in England in the early eleventh century.
bncdoc.info	Cnut. Sample containing about 46337 words from a book (domain: world affairs)
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<p><1633/c></p>  <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p>	<p>and Harald of Norway in 1066, and was betrayed and killed by the Northumbrians when Æthelred's forces appeared on the scene. They may then have been required to give hostages as a guarantee of future good behaviour. Another reflection of this could be the twelfth-century belief in the abbey of Ely, where Brihtnoth was buried, that he had been earl of Northumbria. Conceivably connected too is the possibility that Æthelred took as a consort the daughter of a Northumbrian earl, Thored, maybe to mollify such of the northerners as had supported him. Finally, there is the primarily southern distribution of his Second Hand coin type of c.985-c.991. Only one penny of this issue has survived from the York mint, and none from Lincoln, suggesting that very few of the dies used to strike it ever reached the north; the reason could have been some sort of political crisis. This body of evidence is not strong, for Adam was capable of error and there may have been other reasons why the Maldon army had a Northumbrian hostage (even assuming that the poem is reliable) and Æthelred a Northumbrian wife, quite unconnected with the absence of Second Hand dies from northern mints. But that English sources are silent about Hiring and trouble in the north in the 980s is not particularly significant: there is much silence in the early history of Northumbria. Danish interest in conquering England, if indulged by Harald at all, must have lapsed during the fatal quarrel with his son Swegen. This may have been quickly followed by the capture and ransom of the latter, by Northmen if we believe Thietmar of Merseburg, by Slavs according to Adam. Once free of these troubles he wasted little time in turning his attention to England. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle first refers to his presence under 994, but this may not have been his first visit. Æthelred's confirmation of the will of Æthelric of Bocking, which is from no later than 999, says that there was a plan to receive Swegen in Essex when he first came there with a fleet, and that Æthelred was told of Æthelric's involvement in it many years before he died. Although conceivably not before 994, this was probably earlier, for the greatest possible length of time that could have elapsed between 994 and Æthelric's death is five years - assuming that he died in the last year that the will could have been confirmed - and whether even this justifies the description "many years" seems questionable. Also, the way we are told that the plan was connected with Swegen's first visit to Essex suggests that he had been there again since this occasion and the drawing up of the confirmation.</p> <p>His harrying of Essex in 994</p> <p>could well have been this second occasion, and if so the first may have been the Maldon campaign in 991. Whatever the truth of this, in 994 he and Olaf Tryggvason, possibly also his ally in 991, made an unsuccessful attack on London, and then ravaged Essex, Kent, Sussex and Hampshire before taking winter quarters in Southampton and receiving a payment of £16,000. It therefore looks as though Swegen wintered in England, and in the following spring perhaps went plundering in the Irish Sea, for one of the versions of the Welsh chronicle known as the <i>Annales Cambriæ</i> records the harrying of the Isle of Man by a Swegen son of Harald in a year which is likely to be 995. His history in the next few years is obscure.</p>
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	<p>According to Adam, he was at some time expelled from Denmark by King Eric of Sweden, unsuccessfully sought help in Norway and England, and was eventually welcomed by a rex Scothorum, with whom he lived in exile for fourteen years until Eric's death. He then returned to marry Eric's widow, but was again expelled by his stepson, the new Swedish king Olaf, who later, for his mother's sake, restored him to his kingdom. Adam later added that Eric was allied with Boleslav of Poland, having married his sister or daughter, and that the Danes were attacked by Slavs and Swedes. This tale about Swegen's Slavonic wife may fit with Thietmar's statement that he had Cnut and his brother Harald by a sister of Boleslav whom he later abandoned, which may in turn tie in with the Encomiast's story that after their father's death Cnut and Harald brought their mother back from among the Slavs. It therefore seems fairly certain that Swegen did have a Slavonic consort, probably for political reasons. Whether he was expelled by Eric of Sweden is another matter. Lauritz Weibull suggested that Adam drew inspiration from the biblical story of the capture of Manasseh, pagan king of Judah, by the Assyrians, and thought it a distortion of Swegen's expeditions to the British Isles. Even so, a verse attributed to the contemporary poet Stefnir Thorgilsson, which refers to a man with a crooked nose who betrayed Swegen out of his land, indicates that there may be something in the exile story after all. This is the kind of matter upon which historians will forever disagree, but it may be that Swegen did have his position in Denmark threatened by Swedes and Slavs at some time in the 990s. His union with Boleslav's sister may have both removed any danger from the Poles and secured their assistance against other tribes, and he subsequently turned his attention,</p>
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