

MONEY AND MONEY EQUIVALENTS IN SEVENTH AND
EIGHTH CENTURY ENGLAND –
THE TRANSITION FROM A PRE-COINAGE AGE TO A
MANAGED POLITICAL ECONOMY

by

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Abstract

This thesis examines the economic conditions in seventh and eighth century England using money, in its various usages, as a means of viewing the major political and social changes that occurred during that period. By using a combination of textual and physical evidence I intend to plot the progress of the English economy by tracking the change from a pre-coinage society to one where the currency was issued in the name of a king and maintained to a weight standard. I shall be asking if there is evidence for any non-coinage items being used as a monetary standard before the introduction of coins. The pre-coinage age is presumed to have been a feasting culture, and I shall examine the evidence to consider if this is truly the case. The theories concerning trade and towns will be reviewed using evidence from inland and temporary markets as well as from excavation reports from the major trading ports.

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