

## An Acci triens of King Ervig (680-7)

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The Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge has recently been fortunate enough to acquire what appears to be an unpublished triens of Erwig. It can be described as follows, the "Miles" references being the monograph of George C. Miles, *The Coinage of the Visigoths of Spain. Leovigild to Achila II* (New York, 1952).



Obv. +•IDNM•ERVIGIVSR Bust r. (Miles type 2q).

Rev. +ACCI (flower) VICTOR Cross above three steps.

20 mm. 1.56 g. Base gold, specific gravity (ascertained by Mr. Steven Doolan) 13.87= c. 52% Au. Bought in London from the Grierson Fund, with no ascertainable provenance.

The mint of Acci, now Guadix el Viejo in southern Spain 40 km east of Granada, had been mainly active between the late 610s and 630s, under Sisebut (616-21), Swinthila (621-31), Sisenand (631-6) and Chintila (636-9). The only subsequent coins known to Miles were of the early years of Egica (687-707), before his association with Wittiza in 695, but the coin shows that the mint had already reopened under Egica's predecessor Erwig.

The coin has two features of particular interest. One is type of bust, which is identical with that found at *Tucci* (modern Martos, prov. Jaen), not far away to the north-west, and much superior to that used at Acci under Egica (Miles type 2s),

though this clearly derives from it. The coins of both mints under Erwig, in fact, seem to have shared the services of the same die-cutter, with a local and much inferior successor taking over at Acci in the next reign.

The other interesting feature of the coin is the revival on it of the epithet *victor*, used much earlier by Chindaswinth at Mérida and recurring under Egica at Toledo, at two mints of Bracara and Tude in Gallaecia, and at Acci and Tucci. Miles, knowing its later manifestation only on the coins of Egica, suggested (pp. 92-3) that it referred to the king's suppression of the revolt of the metropolitan of Toledo in the fifth year of his reign, or to some smaller uprising, but since it went back to Erwig this cannot be the case. Presumably under Erwig it referred to some local military success, and was subsequently taken over at Toledo after the archbishop's revolt, for there are earlier Toledo coins of Erwig on which the epithet is absent.