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## INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

### REPORTS FROM LOCAL SECRETARIES AND GROUPS

*Maidstone Area Archaeological Group.* Mr A.J. Daniels reports:

During the excavations in Northgate, Rochester, reported in the last volume (*Arch. Cant.*, ciii (1986), 261–2), an interesting silver penny of King Offa of Mercia (757–795) was found. The obverse bears the inscriptions OFFAREX [MER] C and a star of light rays within an inner circle while on the reverse, which has a similar design, only the letters E . D are legible.

We are most grateful to Miss Archibald of the British Museum who identified it as follows: 'The type with a star-like motif in the centre on both sides is only found (as known at present) on pennies of Offa in the name of Archbishop Aethilheard of Canterbury (793–805) during the period 793–6. This type is the earliest of Archbishop Aethilheard with his title PONT [IFEX] rather than the later with AR[HI]EP[ISCOPUS]. Such coins are very rare.'

