

		<i>Lawrence Class</i>					
		Vb	Vc	VI	VII	<i>Total</i>	
		<i>brought forward</i>					46
ENGLAND ( <i>cont.</i> )							
BURY ST.							
EDMUNDS	Norman	—	—	—	3*	3	
	Willelm	—	—	—	1	1	
						—	4
DURHAM	Pieres	—	1	—	—	1	
LINCOLN	Hue	1	—	—	—	1	
NORTHAMP-							
TON							
	Adam	1	—	—	—	1	
WINCHESTER	Miles	1	—	—	—	1	
YORK	Davi	1	—	—	—	1	
		—	—	—	—	—	
		11	4	13	27		55
		—	—	—	—	—	
IRELAND							
DUBLIN							
	Roberd						3
							—
							58
							—

\*Two of these coins are from the same dies, one of them being very double-struck.

J. D. BRAND.

#### TWO SMALL LATE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY HOARDS FROM CO. TYRONE.

In checking through a small collection of coins in the possession of Capt. J. B. Butler, now living with his son-in-law and daughter, Major and Mrs. G. A. N. Boyne, Kinnaird House, Caledon, Co. Armagh, the writer came across a halferown of William III 1696 OCTAVO, in fairly good condition. It was in a folded-up letter reading as follows :

"The Bank Buildings  
Belfast 11 April, 1888.

Mr. Milligan begs to enclose a Wm. 3rd 2/6 to Miss Bernard. This with five others was found recently in a leather purse in a Bog near Castledorg, Co. Tyrone, and were all in good order.

Mr. Milligan arranged with Dr. Bernard to send you the coin'.

Mr. Milligan was Seaton Forrest Milligan, J.P., M.R.I.A., ultimately a director of Robertson, Ledlie and Ferguson. He was local secretary and Vice-President for several years of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland and contributed a number of interesting papers to the *Journal*; he also produced a small guide to Tyrone and Fermanagh.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Walter Bernard, of Buncrana, Co. Donegal, practised in Londonderry and was the uncle of Miss Mary Emily Bernard. It was he who was largely responsible for the restoration between 1874 and 1878 of the great stone fort of Grianan of Aileach, the royal seat of the northern O'Neills, Kings of Ulster. His niece, the aunt of Capt. Butler, lived in Dublin.

Another small cache terminating at approximately the same date, but lower in value, was found at Stewartstown, in the eastern part of County Tyrone, in 1956. This came to the notice of the Ministry of Finance when workmen were digging a sewer trench at Castle Farm in the second week of March.

The coins were as follows: William III, shilling and sixpence, both dated 1696; Scotland, Charles II, bawbee, 1678; Ireland, halfpennies (22). The Irish pieces consisted of Charles II, 1681 (2), 1682 (1), 1683 (3), date uncertain (3); James II, 1686 (1); William and Mary, 1692 (2), 1693 (2), 1694 (3), date uncertain and holed (3); William III, 1696 (1), date uncertain (1).

The extremely worn condition of one William III halfpenny makes it unlikely that this small collection of coins was lost or buried much before the end of the seventeenth century. As there was no re-issue of Irish copper coinage until Wood's halfpence in the reign of George I (1722), the deposit may well have taken place in the early eighteenth century.

The coins were obtained by the Ministry and later handed over to the Ulster Museum.

W. A. SEABY

#### A 1918 SILVER HOARD FROM LURGAN, CO. ARMAGH.

On Friday 4 September 1964 Mr. Patriek McGeown, a builder's labourer, employed by Messrs. Lavery, building contractors, was breaking up rubble (taken from a row of cottages in Lake Street, Lurgan, which were being demolished and dumped by lorry at a new housing site on the Portadown Road) when his

pick struck a small linen bag amongst the débris and he heard a tinkling of money. On picking up the bag he found inside the remains of a paper packet with the name and address of a former local grocery store which was in existence c. 1900-48 (M. O'Neill, Family Grocers, Tea and Coffee Dealers, Wine and

<sup>1</sup> Mr. R. H. M. Dolley reminds me that it was Milligan's letter to Dr. Frazer which was the principal evidence for his reconstructing the summary form

of the hoard of Hiberno-Norse and Anglo-Saxon pennies found near Ballycastle in 1890. See *Ulster Journ. Archaeol.* xxiv & xxv (1961/2) pp. 88-90.

Spirit Stores, 2 Church Place, Lurgan) and £20 in silver coins, £16 being in halferowns and £4 in florins. Examination of the linen bag revealed faintly the words: WALKERS/PARKER CO.'S/(Limited)/PATENT SHOT/CHESTER/6 surmounted by the Royal Arms. From the style of the printing, this bag appeared to be of nineteenth century date.

The bags and the coins were shortly afterwards handed in at the R.U.C. (police) station where Sergeant A. J. Kennedy took a statement from McGeown. Later it was learned that the old single-storeyed houses in Lake Street had been in the possession of the Soye family since 1882 and that the present owner was Mr. Richard William Soye, Home Farm, North Street, Lurgan. The tenements were numbered 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15. With the exception of No. 7 which had been vacant for some years all were occupied until July 1964 when the various occupiers were moved out as the result of slum clearance; there had been many changes of tenants down through the years. Mr. Soye, on being questioned, disclaimed any knowledge of money being hidden in any of the premises. Although the police were able to interview all the last occupiers of the houses none could give any information regarding the coins or make any claim on them. Notification was given to each of the intention to hold an inquest.

On instructions from the Head Constable, in consultation with the Coroner for the district, the coins with Sergeant Kennedy's report and list were sent to the Ulster Museum for fuller examination. This was carried out by the writer who also notified Mr. Patrick Shea, Assistant Secretary of the Works Directorate and Secretary to the Ancient Monuments Advisory Council, Ministry of Finance. The coins were found to range from 1846 to 1918 and were made up of 128 halferowns and 40 florins. The hoard was passed over to the Ministry for safe keeping and the Coroner duly informed.

At an inquest held at Lurgan Courthouse on 29 October 1964 before Mr. H. M. Thompson, (Solicitor, 1 Church Street, Portadown) the principal witnesses testified to the discovery and to the silver content of the coins, and the Coroner after hearing all the evidence declared that the coins constituted treasure trove and as such belonged to the Crown<sup>1</sup>. From the nature of this find it was suggested that the hoard had been well hidden in the masonry of one of the

old houses in Lake Street, most probably in a small hole at the top of a front or back wall directly under the roof. The dates on the coins, which included 39 pieces of 1918, made it patently clear that the deposit was put down in that year or very early in 1919, certainly before the general issue of any coins bearing the latter date.

The condition of the coins ruled out any idea of the hoard having been amassed over a long period. The very considerable wear on the earlier pieces, with the exception of one or two coins which can be readily explained (see below), and the comparative freshness of the latest coins strongly suggested that the money had been drawn on a bank, probably against payment of Treasury or bank notes. One other possibility might be the conversion of a gold hoard, laid down in or prior to 1914, delay of which had been caused by the intervention of the Great War, with the owner realising that by leaving his 'nest-egg' hidden for too long he might experience difficulty in cashing his gold without questioning.

Lake Street is in a Roman Catholic area and the inhabitants, particularly the older folk up to the period of Partition, would be those most likely to employ the traditional Irish method of conserving their money.<sup>2</sup> Bank saving deposits might be as much mistrusted as government paper money, which if stored in walls is subject to loss by decay or fire, and to attacks by rodents; also it has the disadvantage of being called in when new notes are issued. Once gold had been demonetised there would be no option but to use silver currency. At least one old couple, known to have lived and died in the terrace at the material date, are said to have been of a miserly disposition(!)

The hoard is of interest since it must be almost the latest which could have been concealed before the first debasement of the coinage in 1920; but that the lowering of the silver standard had no bearing on it is evidenced by the total absence of 1919 issues. It may also be considered as one of the last deposits to come within the scope of Treasure Trove as the law in England and Northern Ireland stands at present, for it is doubtful if, without a Treasury or Ministry of Finance ruling capable of being sustained in the courts, the second silver issue of George V which contained 50% alloy could be accepted by any coroner as 'treasure' within the meaning of the Act; *prima facie* the cupro-nickel coinage of 1947 would seem certainly not to fall within this classification.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A full report on the inquest was given in the *Lurgan Mail*, 6.11.1964. News reports giving brief details of the find were published in the *Lurgan Mail*, 11.9.1964 and in the *Irish News*, 14.9.1964 and *Belfast Telegraph*, 30.10.1964.

<sup>2</sup> See Seaby 'Two Gold Hoards from Northern Ireland' in *BNJ* xxx (1962), p. 244.

<sup>3</sup> I am indebted to Mr. R. H. M. Dolley for commenting on these points and for passing on other information contained in the paper.

In the present case, however, the Ministry of Finance waived its claim to the money, realising that numismatic interests had been served by the inquiry. Since it was recognised that the coins were worth more than their face value as collectors' specimens, it was agreed to hand back the entire hoard to Mr. McGeown, as finder. The Ulster

Museum subsequently bought fifty of the coins for its cabinet, Armagh County Museum acquired by purchase a small representation, as also did Mr. Soye, the landowner. The remainder of the coins have been disposed of to Ulster collectors and the coin market, and all monies therefrom paid over to the finder.

*Content and Summary List.*

Generally speaking the silver showed a very consistent wear over the whole period of seventy or more years which it covered. Exceptions were no. 129, the Gothic florin of 1856, which had an exceptionally well raised rim on the obverse preventing undue rubbing of the legend on that side; also no. 137, the Jubilee florin of 1887. In the latter case the relatively good condition was almost certainly due to its being one of the souvenir pieces which were put aside by many persons during that year; probably it only got back into circulation after the old Queen's death or on the death of the original owner. It is not a specimen from one of the proof sets but a normal issue. Several of the Edwardian half-crowns had well-raised rims which had also to some extent prevented their reduction by wear.

Of the nine Gothic florins, all were in so poor a condition that only the last two or three figures of the dates could be distinguished; however, enough remained of the details generally to assign dates to all of them. More difficult was the dating of several Edward VII two shilling pieces, the last figure being in a position to receive most wear and in one case at least was completely obliterated. The average weight of eight of the earliest halfcrowns (1846-87) was 205.75 grains as against eight of the best halfcrowns of 1918 which on average gave full weight at 218.00 grains; the average weight of ten florins (1856-87) was 166.10 grains as against ten of George V (1915-18) which averaged out at 174.10 grains. This showed a metal loss of approximately 12.25 and 8.25 grains respectively in the older pieces as against nil and .25 of a grain in the later series. Four halfcrowns and five florins of Edward VII showed an overall loss per coin of 3 grains.

*Halfcrowns*<sup>1</sup>

1-26. Victoria:

(Y.H.) 1846 (S. 680) 1; 1878 (S. 701) 1; 1881 (S. 707) 2; 1884 (S. 712) 2; 1885 (S. 713) 1; 1886 (S. 715) 4; (J.H.) 1887 (S. 719) 1; 1889 (S. 722) 4; 1891 (S. 724) 1; (O.H.) 1893 (S. 727) 1; 1895

(S. 729) 1; 1896 (S. 730) 3; 1898 (S. 732) 2; 1899 (S. 733) 1; 1900 (S. 734) 1.

£3. 5. 0d.

27-37. Edward VII:

1902, raised rims (S. 746) 2; 1906 (S. 751) 2; 1907 (S. 752) 3; 1908 (S. 753) 1; 1909 (S. 754), one with raised rim, 2; 1910 (S. 755) 1.

£1. 7. 6d.

38-128. George V:

(A) 1911 (S. 757) 3; 1912 (S. 759) 4; 1914 (S. 761) 13; 1915 (S. 762) 12; 1916 (S. 763) 13; 1917 (S. 764) 15; 1918 (S. 765) 31.

£11. 7. 6d.

*Florins*

129-142. Victoria:

Gothic (B1) 1856 (S. 813) 1; (B3) 1872 Die 9 (S. 840), Die 46 (S. 840) 2; 1874 Die 10 (S. 843) 1; (B5) 1878 Die 2 (S. 849) 1; (B8) 1883 (S. 859) 1; 1884 (S. 860) 2; 1886 (S. 863) 1; (J.H.) 1887 (S. 868) 1; 1890 (S. 872) 1; 1892 (S. 874) 1; (O.H.) 1900 (S. 884) 2.

£1. 8. 0d.

143-149. Edward VII:

1903 (S. 921) 1; 1905 (S. 923) 1; 1906 (S. 924), two doubtful, 3; 190-(S. ?) 1; 1909 (S. 927) 1.

14s. 0d.

150-168. George V:

(A) 1911 (S. 929), one with raised rim, 2; 1912 (S. 931) 1; 1914 (S. 933) 1; 1915 (S. 934) 5; 1916 (S. 935) 1; 1917 (S. 936) 1; 1918 (S. 937) 8.

£1. 18. 0d.

Face value total £20. 0. 0d.

W. A. SEABY

<sup>1</sup> Reference: H. A. Seaby: *English Silver Coinage from 1649* (second edition, 1957).