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A WILLIAM THE LION PURSE HOARD FROM ROXBURGHSHIRE

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THIS little hoard was recovered in 2015 by metal-detecting at Old Caverton, about a mile NW of the village of Morebattle and some five miles SE of Kelso and the medieval mint town of Roxburgh. It comprised six silver sterlings of William the Lion's third (Short Cross and Stars) coinage, minted between 1195 and *c.*1230 (see Fig. 1).¹ An Edward I penny found at the same location clearly did not form part of the hoard, and must represent a much later stray loss.



Fig. 1. The Old Caverton hoard

Two of the coins, one severely damaged, are Stewart phase a issues of the moneyer Raul at Roxburgh.² They may be a die-linked pair, but the condition of the broken coin renders it impossible to be entirely certain about this. The other four coins, however, which are of Stewart phase b and bear the names of the moneyers Hue and Walter without mint name, were definitely struck from the same die pairing. This strongly suggests that the coins were lost fairly soon after leaving the mint, as does the absence of wear, and the proximity of the find-spot to Roxburgh might indicate a source at that mint. None of the dies represented on the six coins was known to Burns and none is represented in the collections of the National Museum of Scotland. Most of the coins bearing the names of Hue and Walter together are without mint name, but one reverse die does read *on Ro* at the end.³ It seems reasonable to assume, therefore, that at least some of the coins without mint name were also struck at Roxburgh.

¹ Exact details of the find-spot are recorded and retained by the Scottish Treasure Trove Unit.

² Stewart 1971, 203–4.

³ Stewart 1971, 204 and n.2.

Few hoards deposited during the Short Cross period are known from Scotland. Eight in all have been recorded, and most of these were discovered many years ago and were not adequately published. Most of the coins contained in them seem to have been English rather than Scottish. The hoard found at Dun Lagaidh, Lochbroom, Ross and Cromarty, in 1968 comprised sixteen English pennies and eight cut halfpennies along with just one of each of William the Lion.⁴ The hoard found at Coldhome Farm, Keith, in 1881 was mostly dispersed without examination, but of the coins that were recovered thirty were English and only two Scottish.⁵ This pattern seems to have been repeated in several other hoards, with only that found at Baddingsgill, Peeblesshire, in 1834 breaking the trend. This seems to have comprised nine pennies of William the Lion and only one English equivalent.⁶ The scattered hoard found at Bush Moor, Dumfriesshire, between 2002 and 2004 is likely to have been a slightly later deposit, as it contained one coin of Alexander II, but the other eight were all English issues.⁷ This hoard from Old Caverton, though small, is thus of some note as comprising entirely Scottish issues.

The coins have been claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 181/15) and are awaiting allocation at the time of writing. The Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, has submitted a bid to acquire them.

LIST OF COINS

		<i>Wt. (g)</i>
1	Obv.: †WILĒLMV·SR/X. Rev.: RÆVL·ONROCC, 4 × 6-pointed stars.	1.32
2	Obv.: ...ĒLM..... Rev.: †RÆ[]ONR[]. Possibly from same dies as 1. Incomplete, damaged and corroded.	1.01
3–6	Obv.: †LGRĒIWILÆO, head type 1 / Rev.: †hVEWÆLTER·ON, 4 × 6-pointed stars. All from same pair of dies. All slightly bent/buckled.	1.39, 1.38, 1.38, 1.36

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MEDIEVAL COIN HOARDS FROM CUMBRIA

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THIS article discusses eight unpublished medieval hoards from Cumbria. It also revises the identification records of three previously published hoards. The coin hoards discussed in this paper range from the Short Cross period (1180–1247) to the later years of Edward III's reign (1327–77).

⁴ Barlow and Robertson 1974; Bateson 1989, 172.

⁵ Gordon 1881–82.

⁶ Thompson 1956, 114, hoard 304.

⁷ Holmes 2004 and 2009.

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