

A HOARD OF ENGLISH COINS FOUND
IN SWITZERLAND.

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WHILE spending this summer vacation at Brunnen, on Lake Lucerne, I heard by chance that my landlord, Mr. Fridolin Fassbind, of the Waldstaetterhof Hotel, had some old English coins which had been found in the neighbourhood.

It appears that about thirty years ago a hoard of upwards of one hundred reputed English coins was found in a field near the main road passing through Morschach, a charmingly situated hamlet some 675 feet above the lake of Lucerne, close to Brunnen. As far as I could ascertain, only five of the coins have escaped destruction, nearly the whole hoard having been melted down for the sake of the metal. Mr. Fassbind possesses three specimens, which he kindly lent me to exhibit this evening, and the proprietor of the Roessli Hotel at Brunnen has the other two specimens, which I inspected. Mr. Fassbind's coins are :—

- (1) A groat of Edward III., of the London mint, with annulets.
- (2) A half-groat of Edward III., also of the London mint, with annulets ; and
- (3) A penny of Richard II., of the York mint, with lis on the king's neck. The coins are in a fairly good state of preservation. The other two specimens I examined at the Roessli Hotel are a London groat of Edward III. (now mounted, unfortunately, as a brooch) and a York penny of Richard II.

The question arises, how did these early English coins come to be hidden near a small village above the lake of Lucerne. The most

probable explanation is that they belonged to some English soldiers who were in the pay of the Dauphin of France when he invaded Switzerland in the year 1444. The celebrated battle of St. Jacob on the Birs was fought near Bâle on August 26th of that year. The Dauphin had 40,000 troops, which included many English mercenaries: they were attacked by 1,600 Swiss, who fought very heroically, leaving 1,300 of their own men dead on the field of battle. The French commander was so disgusted that he forthwith returned to France. The anniversary of this battle is still celebrated annually in Switzerland with great fêtes. I cannot find any reference to this Swiss hoard of English coins in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, or elsewhere.



1	Idus martias	Idus quinq;	v
ii	Idus februi	Idib; assim	i
iii	Idus martias	Idone mensis	vi
iiii	Idena martias	Ides binis	ii
v	Ides februi	Idus quinos	v
vi	Ides martias	Ides tribus	iiii
vii	Ides martias	Ides kl de sex	vi
viii	Ides martias	Ides quaterinos	iiii
ix	Ides kalende	Ides septem	vii
x	Ides februi	Ides constans	iii
xi	Ides martias	Ides inassim	i
xii	Ides martias	Ides inquadris	iiii
xiii	Ides martias	Ides septem	vii
xiiii	Ides martias	Ides quinos	v
xv	Ides martias	Ides inimo	i
xvi	Ides februi	Ides quaterinos	iiii
xvii	Ides kalende	Ides duobus	ii
xviii	Ides martias	Ides quinis	v
xix	Ides nonas	Ides inoctris	iiii



1	Idus aprilis	Idus quinos	v
ii	Ides kalende	Ides deprimune	i
iii	Ides aprilis	Ides sexis	vi
iiii	Ides quartane	Ides quinq;	ii
v	Ides undene	Ides diptindio	ii
vi	Ides idus	Ides quinos	v
vii	Ides klende	Ides ternos	iiii
viii	Ides dene	Ides senos	vi
ix	Ides idus	Ides inquadris	iiii
x	Ides kalende	Ides eliquit	vii
xi	Ides septene	Ides ternos	iiii
xii	Ides septene	Ides assim	i
xiii	Ides nonarum	Ides quaterinos	iiii
xiiii	Ides notane	Ides septenis	vii
xv	Ides idus	Ides quinos	v
xvi	Ides aprilis	Ides exprimis	i
xvii	Ides namq;	Ides quaterinos	iiii
xviii	Ides quincun	Ides duobus	ii
xix	Ides klende	Ides conuene	v
xx	Ides constans	Ides adeptas	iiii