

NOTES ON SOME DISCOVERIES OF COINS  
IN IRELAND.

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FIND OF GUN-MONEY OF JAMES II. NEAR DUNDRUM,  
COUNTY DUBLIN, IN 1893.

**B**Y the courtesy of the owner, Mr. James Sheill, R.N., Kingston, Dundrum, County Dublin, the Society has had an opportunity of seeing the earthenware vessel which was discovered on his lands when excavating for building purposes in 1893, close to an old wall.

The workman unfortunately drove his pick into the vessel upon its discovery ; the top of the pot being covered only by a piece of slate. Upon inspection it was found to contain specimens of the gun-money coinage of James II., comprising half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences.

The late Dr. William Fraser read a paper before the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in 1893, in which he stated :—

So far as could be calculated there were 650 separate pieces, two-thirds of them being shillings. There were also half-crowns, dated May, 1690, of the smaller size. . . . These coins, which were struck from hard, yellow bronze, had suffered least from corrosion, whilst those composed of baser metal were rusted by the continued effects of air and moisture. . . . The earthen pot that contained them was broken into small pieces. It was made of old tortoise-shell ware, a material in common use for domestic purposes about the end of the seventeenth century ; fragments of it often turning up during excavations in Old Dublin.

At present this particular ware is by no means so common as the statement would seem to infer, there being only one example of it in the National Museum at Dublin.

It appears that about the year 1885 some 200 half-crowns had been found near the same place. A vague tradition states that "after the Battle of the Boyne," some of King James's troopers made a deposit of his money near the Dublin Mountains, but the finds are too trifling to be regarded as more than "private investments."

It is unfortunate that no detailed record exists of the readings and varieties of the dies of the coins, but of those pieces which the writer has been able to examine, the following readings are not included in Dr. Nelson's paper published in vol. i. of the Society's *Journal*, and therefore it may be well to place them on record.

*Varieties contained in the Hoard.*

Shillings, 1689.—*Aug*: <sup>t</sup>*Sept* OCT<sup>R</sup>

*Nov.* No stops in the obverse legend.

*Nov*: No stops after JACOBVS and DEI.

Shilling, 1689.—*May* Ordinary stops in the obverse legend.

Sixpences, 1689.—*Jan* (4); *June* (2); *July*

*July*. (7); *July* (11); *Aug* (7).

*Note*.—The figures in parentheses refer to the number of the variety of the die.

FIND OF COINS AT KILLEADEN, COUNTY MAYO,  
IN 1881.

Miss McManus, of Killeaden House, County Mayo, has kindly enabled me to give the following particulars of a find of coins which was made in the spring of 1881, during the construction of "a new road across the Killeaden Estate, Parish of Killeaden, Barony of Gallen."

After such a lapse of time, neither the number nor condition of the coins can be stated, but, judging from the specimen I saw of

Edward II., namely, a penny of London, they were most probably in good preservation.

Men were digging under an old thorn tree when a great number of silver coins rolled out in all directions.

They got many, but the discovery being reported to my father, the late Mr. McManus, a quantity of them was secured by him for his family.

Sent later to the British Museum, the coins, or at least those which were sent, were declared to be silver pennies of Edward I. and Edward II., and one of Alexander of Scotland.

The depth below the surface at which the hoard was buried is not known, nor if anything else was found with the coins; but it would appear as if the thorn tree had marked the site of the deposit. It was probably in a bag or box that had crumbled away.

The ancient family of D'Exelord Jordan had won a large portion of the Barony, and the ruins of their castles are still in the neighbourhood. Perhaps some retainer of theirs buried the treasure at the period when we may suppose it was buried. The immediate neighbourhood of the spot being bog and forest, it was probably put in the higher ground, where the land rises; in fact, joining the spot is an ancient road, part of which is still in use. It runs above what was the forest and bog.

We have always been told that there was money buried in Killeaden, but, according to the story, it was buried about 110 years ago or so, say, about A.D. 1800. Can this be a memory of long hidden treasure?

#### FINDS OF COINS IN COUNTIES ANTRIM AND ARMAGH.

On March 21st, 1877, Mr. Gray exhibited to the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, a collection of coins then recently found in the peat near Dervock, County Antrim. They consisted of base silver coins of Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. Of the last named there were examples of no fewer than twenty-three mintages from 1561 to 1594. The greater portion of the coins were sixpences.

It is unfortunate that no record is preserved as to whether the pieces were Irish.

Early in March, 1911, some boys, who were hunting rabbits in the

neighbourhood of Crumlin, County Antrim, discovered a collection of ninety-five English coins at the side of a burrow. No trace of any receptacle could be seen—in fact, the pieces were scattered about.

Only silver coins were found, namely, half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I. Beyond this it has been impossible to obtain any information.

A few years ago a somewhat similar discovery to the last was made in County Armagh, the coins which were inspected being of the reigns and denominations mentioned above. The condition indicated that they had been in circulation.