MISCELLANEA
(TREASURE TROVE)

An Irish Find of Forged Scottish Coins

The National Museum of Ireland contains a hoard of Scottish coins found at Pettigoe, Co. Fermanagh, in April 1852, the majority of which are forgeries. They reached the National Museum from the collection of the Royal Irish Academy, which is on deposit. The hoard is fully published in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. v, 1850-3, pp. 324-30, by Aquilla Smith.

The following is a summary list of the coins:

A. Genuine coins

(i) David II: Edinburgh Groats
   (Burns 301 and 302; weights 47 and 57 gr.)
   2

(ii) Robert II: Perth Half-groats
   (Burns 320 and 330A; weights 30 and 25 gr.)
   2

B. Forgeries

(i) David II: Edinburgh Groat
   (Burns 286; weight 35 gr.)
   1

(ii) Robert II: Edinburgh Groats
   (Burns 309 (5 specimens), weights 33½, 37½, 47½, 32½, 48 gr.; 327 (1 specimen) weight 34 gr.; 328 (1 specimen) weight 37½ gr.; as Burns 309, but with X behind head (2 specimens), weights 31½ and 31 gr.)
   9

Total 14

There were also found at the same time, but not in the hoard, a genuine Robert II groat of Edinburgh weighing 58 gr. and a David II penny of Aberdeen weighing 16 gr.

The object of drawing the attention of this Society to an already published hoard is that the forgeries it contains are of unusual interest. They can be classified in detail because they are all reproduced from actual coins by the cliché method. Aquilla Smith did not realize how they were produced, but knew they were forgeries. Thin sheets of silver pressed over actual coins and reproducing their designs have been joined together with lead to form almost perfect reproductions of original coins. This method of forgery has often been noticed in finds of Long and Short Cross and of Edward pennies, but I have not previously met it with coins so large as groats nor at so late a date. Although the method of manufacture has been fairly obvious, this hoard is the only proof I know that such cliché forgeries were made from actual coins. The five reproductions of Burns 309 have all been made from the same coin, not merely a similar coin but the same actual specimen, and reproduce the particular cuts and scratches of the original. The forger aimed, however, at making these reproductions look a little different one from another by “centring” his thin disk of silver differently each time on the coin being reproduced.
Thus one of the forgeries will only show, say, the top of the legend, another only the bottom. The forger's ingenuity was remarkably successful and the five forgeries do not look as if they were reproduced from a single coin as, for instance, casts inevitably would have done. The same applies to the two specimens of a groat resembling, but not identical with, Burns 309, both of which have been reproduced from the same actual coin.

Scottish coins were in common use in Ireland in the late fourteenth century, at which time, of course, there was no local Irish coinage. It does not follow for certain that these forgeries were made in Ireland, but the finding of so many similar forgeries together makes this a possibility. When we recall that there was a long history of bracteate coinage in Ireland during the eleventh and twelfth centuries, it seems possible that the cliche forgeries are the descendants of the bracteate traditions. It might one day be worth pursuing the possibility that all cliche forgeries of the Middle Ages were made in Ireland. So far as I am aware the method was only used to reproduce British coins.

D. F. Allen

**Henstridge, Somerset, 1936**

*Edward IV–Henry VII*

Found beneath the floor of a farm-house during repairs. One of the angels has been bought by the British Museum, the other, with one of the rose nobles, by the Taunton Museum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coin Type</th>
<th>Coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward IV: Rose nobles; m.m. Crown on rev.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry VII: Angels; m.m. Pheon</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. F. Allen

**Kingsley Treasure Trove**

*Mary–Elizabeth*

Found by Mr. Thomas Brown of Little Broad Oak Farm, Kingsley, Stoke-on-Trent, presumably in July 1941, and forwarded to the British Museum for inspection by the coroner of Cheadle. The coroner relates that the coins were found in the base of a broken jug protruding from a bank on a pasture field at Mr. Brown's farm.

**List of Coins**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coin Type</th>
<th>Coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philip and Mary shilling, 1554. Lys</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip and Mary groat. Rex and Regina</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth shillings, m.m. Cross-Crosslet</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth shillings, martlet</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elizabeth sixpences, Pheon 1561 (1); Pheon 1569 (2); Portcullis 1566 (4); Lions (2), Crowns (5) 1567 (7 in all); Crown 1568 (6); Castle ? 1570 (1); Castle 1571 (3); Ermine 1572 (2); Ermine [i5]73 (1) (15 omitted from date); Leopard, but without date (1) .......... 28
Elizabeth groat, Cross-Crosslet (1); Martlet (1) .......... 2

D. F. ALLEN

WELLINGTON, SHROPSHIRE, 1938

Philip and Mary—Charles I, buried c. 1643

Found on 22 March 1938 in the garden adjoining no. 18 Wellington Road, Donnington, in the parish of Lilleshall. The coins were contained in two earthenware pots, which were not submitted for inspection. A selection was retained by the British Museum.

PHILIP AND MARY

Shilling: no date, Spanish titles (1) ................. 1

ELIZABETH

Shillings: Lis (4), Crosslet (19), Martlet (27), Bell (8), X (13), Escallop (6), Crescent (4), Tun (13), Woolpack (11), Key (7), Anchor (1), 1: (3), 2 (6) .......... 122
Sixpences: Pheon 1561 (6), 1562 (4), 1563 (2), 1564 (5), 1565 (1); Uncertain (4); Rose 1565 (3); Portcullis 1566 (7); Lion 1566 (1), 1567 (3); Coronet 1567 (2), 1568 (10), 1569 (7), 1570 (2); Castle 1570 (2), 1571 (7); Ermine 1572 (12), 1573 (5); Acorn 1573 (7), 1574 (2); Egantline 1574 (10), 1575 (5); Cross 1578 (5), 1579 (3), 1580 (6), 1581 (2); Sword 1582 (4); Bell 1582 (2), 1583 (2), X 1583 (3); Escallop 1584 (1), 1585 (6), 1586 (1); Crescent 1587 (5), 1589 (2); Hand 1590 (2), 1591 (1); Ton 1592 (8), 1593 (4), 1594 (4), 1597 (1); Anchor 1599 (1), 1: 1601 (5), 2 1602 (1) ................. 176
Groat: Crosslet (1) .......... .......... .......... .......... 1

JAMES I

Shillings: Ang.-Sco., &c., Thistle, early bust (3), later bust (20), Lis (17); Mag. Brit., &c., Lis (11), Rose, early bust (10), later bust (17), Escallop (10), Grapes (3), Coronet early bust (4), later bust (4), Key (2), Bell (1), Trefoil (1), Cinquefoil (1), Ton (1); Laurel issue, Thistle (2), Lis (2), Trefoil without plumes (6), with plumes (1) .......... 127
Sixpences: Ang.-Sco., &c., Lis 1604 (2); Mag. Brit., &c., Lis 1604 (2), 1605 (2), Rose 1605 (4), Escallop 1606 (1), Grapes 1607 (1), Coronet 1609 (1); Laurel issue, Lis 1623 (2) ................. 15

CHARLES I

Shillings: Lis (6), Cross on steps (1), Castle with plumes (1), Heart with plumes (2), Harp (7), Portcullis (7), Bell (3), Coronet without plumes (9), with plumes (1), Tun, early bust (7), later bust and type (4), Anchor (4), Triangle, early bust (2), later bust (3), Star (6), Triangle in circle, early bust (15), later bust (2) .......... 80

Note. The majority of the shillings of Elizabeth have lines, symbols, or initials scratched on the field of the obverse. A few coins of James I have been similarly treated. The hoard contains one coin of James I and four of Charles I with plumes on the reverse.

D. F. ALLEN
Edward VI–Charles I, buried c. 1642

Found at Thorpe Hall, Thorpe Willoughby, Selby, Yorks., on 10 May 1939 by a farm labourer. The coins were found in a vessel, which was acquired by Hull Museum. Ninety coins were purchased by the British Museum. Other sets of coins from the hoard were acquired by the York, Hull, Keighley, Wakefield, and Doncaster Museums. The balance was returned to the finder.

Edward VI

| Shillings: m.m. Tun (8) | 8 |
| Sixpences: m.m. Y (1), Tun (3) | 4 |

Philip and Mary

| Shillings: n.d., Span. titles (4); 1554, Span. (2), Eng. (1); 1555, Eng. (2) | 9 |
| Sixpences: 1554, Span. (1); 1555, Eng. (2); 1557, Eng. (4); Uncertain Span. (3) | 10 |

Elizabeth

| Shillings: m.m. Lis (14), Cross-Crosslet (70), Martlet (61), Bell (20), Λ (26), Escallop (22), Crescent (16), Hand (12), Tun (34), Woolpack (40), Key (18), Anchor (4), Φ (2), I (16), Τ (14), Uncertain (4) | 373 |
| Sixpences: m.m. Pheon 1561 (71), 1562 (20), 1563 (3), 1564 (19), 1565 (13); Rose 1565 (21); Portcullis 1566 (44); Lion 1566 (9), 1567 (8); Coronet 1567 (41), 1568 (52), 1569 (67), 1570 (4); Castle 1569 (1), 1570 (6), 1571 (33); Errone 1572 (74), 1573 (29); Acorn 1573 (14), 1574 (5); Eglantine 1573 (4), 1574 (29), 1575 (52), 1576 (9), 1577 (3); Cross 1578 (49), 1579 (23), 1580 (50), 1581 (21); Sword 1582 (35); Bell 1582 (12), 1583 (14); Λ 1583 (6), 1584 (17); Escallop 1584 (10), 1585 (18), 1586 (5); Crescent 1587 (11), 1588 (1), 1589 (8); Hand 1590 (10), 1591 (11), 1592 (3); Tun 1592 (18), 1593 (30), 1594 (2); Woolpack 1594 (17), 1595 (16); Key 1595 (7), 1596 (9), 1598 (1); Anchor 1598 (1), 1600 (1); O 1600 (2); 1 1601 (10), 1602 (2); 2 1602 (16); Uncertain (22) | 1091 |

Milled: 1 Star 1562 (3); Lis 1568 (1) | 4 |

Groat: m.m. Cross-Crosslet (1) | 1 |

James I

| Unite (Laurel): 3rd Coinage, m.m. Trefoil (1) | 1 |
| Halfcrowns: 2nd Coinage, m.m. Rose (1), 3rd Coinage, m.m. Thistle (1), ditto with plumes (1), Trefoil (1) | 4 |

Shillings: 1st Coinage, m.m. Thistle (43), Lis (32); 2nd Coinage, m.m. Lis (23), Rose (47), Escallop (28), Grapes (12), Coronet (30), Key (3), Bell (4), Mullet (3), Trefoil (2), Tun (1); 3rd Coinage, Rose (1), Thistle (7), Lis (10), Trefoil (12), ditto with plumes (1), Uncertain (8) | 267 |

Sixpences: 1st Coinage, m.m. Thistle 1603 (30), 1604 (9); Lis 1604 (22); 2nd Coinage, Lys 1604 (12), 1605 (6); Rose 1605 (23), 1606 (4), Escallop 1606 (13), 1607 (2); Grapes 1607 (8); Coronet 1607 (5), 1608 (4); Key 1609 (3), 1610 (1), Bell 1610 (3), 1611 (1); Mullet 1611 (1); Cinquefoil 1613 (1); 3rd Coinage, Rose 1621 (5); Thistle 1621 (3), 1622 (1), 1623 (2); Lis 1623 (5), 1624 (4); Trefoil 1624 (6) | 174 |

Scottish:

| Halfcrowns: 1st Issue (1); 2nd Issue (2) | 3 |
| Shillings: 2nd Issue (4) | 4 |

1 All these coins appear to have been mutilated by hammering in order to make them look like hammered coins, and thus avoid the discount attached to milled coins.

2 A new mint-mark for this denomination.
Charles I

Halfcrowns: Lis (1), Cross on steps (2), Anchor with plumes (1), Feathers (2), Rose (4), Harp (4), Portcullis (4), Bell (8), Coronet (13), ditto with plumes (3), Tun (19), Anchor (10), Triangle (21), Star (5).

Shillings: Lis (9), Cross on steps (2), ditto with plumes, early bust (1), Castle (1), Feathers (7), Rose (5), ditto with plumes (1), Harp (19), Portcullis (27), Bell (43), ditto with plumes (1), Coronet (74), ditto with plumes (2), Tun, early type (87), ditto with plumes (1), late type (31), Anchor (45), Triangle (68), Star (38), Triangle in circle (2), Uncertain (2).

Forgery of m.m. Triangle (1).

Aberystwyth (no beaded circles) (1).

Sixpences: Lis 1625 (2); Cross on steps, 1st bust, 1625 (1), 2nd bust 1626 (2); Negro’s head 1626 (1); Castle 1627 (1); Plumes n.d. (1); Rose (2); Harp (5); Portcullis (12); Bell (12); Crown (21); Tun, early type (20), late type (15); Anchor (21); Triangle (24); Star (3); Uncertain (3).

Scottish:

Halfcrowns: Thistle (large) (2), (small) (1).

Shillings: Thistle (4), Briot’s issue (Burns 1007) (2).

Sixpence: Thistle 1631 (1).

Total.

Ancient British tin coin from Canterbury

Mr. L. R. A. Grove, B.A., F.R.E.S., of the Museum and Art Gallery, Maidstone, has forwarded the following note:

“An ancient British tin coin of Evans’s type H 8 (examined and confirmed by the Department of Coins and Medals of the British Museum) was turned up on the site of No. 1 Watling Street, Canterbury, during excavations there in the summer of 1948. It was found incorporated in the clay bank behind the Roman Town Wall, a few yards north-east of the Riding Gate, and was thus brought from elsewhere, probably from the ditch. It was associated with an uninscribed coin probably of Eppillus, and a denarius of Trajan. The British Museum state that it is the first they have seen from this area, and that previously they have turned up at Mildenhall, Braughing, and Great Chesterford. The obverse bears a crude representation of the head of Apollo, and on the reverse there is an equally highly-stylized figure of a bull. The designs are evidently derived from the coins of Massilia and were probably minted in Britain c. 85–75 B.C. They were probably cast in wooden moulds in strips, and separated by means of a chisel, hence the roughly cast edge. The Canterbury coin is at present in possession of the excavator, Mr. Frank Jenkins, of 24 Tudor Road, Canterbury, but will eventually go to the Canterbury Museum.”

Since the above was written a hoard of some one hundred and thirty of these coins has been found (in 1948) at Snettisham, Norfolk (vide Num. Chron. 1948, p. 233).