FIVE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY COIN HOARDS FROM ULSTER

By W. A. SEABY

During much of the hundred years from 1590 to 1690 Ireland was in a turbulent state. Not only was there a long war near the beginning of this period between the English troops and the forces of Hugh O'Neil, Earl of Tyrone, but two bitter rebellions broke out, one in 1641 and the other in 1688, lasting eight and two and a half years respectively. In the intervening periods the plantation of Ulster by English and Scottish settlers was not without incident while the Cromwellian settlement in Ireland was as harsh and bitter as any during Tudor times.

In anticipation of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, 1685, many protestants fled from Flanders and northern France and settled in Ireland to promote and develop the linen industry, although all non-conforming bodies had been 'officially' subjected to the English Act of Settlement, the Act of Uniformity, and other forms of religious intolerance since the Restoration.

It is not surprising, therefore, that many coin hoards which can be dated between the start of the Nine Years' War in 1593 and the late Stuart period should have been unearthed in the northern province. Those which specifically relate to the Great Rebellion (i.e. the period of the English Civil War) or to the reformation of the coinage in 1662-3 have been recently dealt with. The particular hoards described in detail here are unusual in that each is composed of a mixture of coins including those of English, Scottish, Irish, west European, and Spanish-American origin. The earliest and first to be described, from Co. Antrim, is almost certainly a purseful of change, the copper all emanating from Scotland; the second, a somewhat amorphous group of copper pieces mostly French, could well have been intended for use as local tokens by overstriking; the two silver hoards and the mixed silver and copper hoard, dating from the last quarter of the seventeenth century, reflect all too clearly the serious drain on English currency which had taken place in Ireland since the end of the Great Rebellion, and illustrate the building up of foreign currency at the hands of Portuguese, Spanish, French, and Netherlandish traders, of Huguenot refugees, and perhaps even of Dutch troops arriving with William III.

A number of other records which may be cited show that seventeenth- and even eighteenth-century hoards discovered in Ireland have not infrequently produced coins of mixed origin; most of the finds made in the nineteenth century are given on the authority of James Carruthers: (1) a hoard, said to

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1 Several hoards dating from Elizabethan times have been discovered in the North of Ireland, see Lindsay, Coinage of Ireland (1839), 136; Ulster Journ. Archaeol. i (1853), 164-7; Journ. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland, iii (1854-5), 61; B.N.J. viii (1912), 361. Not all of these hoards necessarily include late pieces, but a typical deposit from the beginning of our period is that found at Castletown, Portglenone, Co. Antrim, in 1937. It consisted of one shilling, mm. bell, and 180 sixpences, the latest of which was dated 1592, see B.N.J., xxiii (1938-40), 285-6.


have weighed 2 lb. 10 oz., containing about 300 or more coins ranging from Henry VIII to Charles II (shillings or merks dated 1669), and including twenty-dollar pieces of Philip IV of Spain, discovered by a farmer while removing part of an old ditch (i.e. bank) in the townland of Ballyvesey, Carnmoney, Co. Antrim, March 1816;¹ (2) a tea-cup filled with French and Spanish gold coins in the thatch of an old house near Newtownards, Co. Down in 1820; (3) over 60 ounces of silver and copper coins struck in Holland during the years 1609–60, also a base shilling of Charles II, found at Sandymount, Richhill, Co. Armagh, 1851 (or 1853); (4) a number of large silver coins of Louis XIII and XIV, together with a quantity of Elizabeth's Irish copper pennies and halfpennies, which turned up near Armagh in 1850; (5) 500 silver coins, including French, Austrian, Spanish, and Dutch dollars and one of Louis XIV dated 1670, found in the new Shambles (Market) in King Street, Limerick, 1853; (6) a large parcel of old Spanish dollars found in Co. Cork, 1852; (7) four hoards of the Commonwealth period dug out of a bracken-covered sandhill at Portarlington, Co. Leix, between 1946 and 1948, altogether comprising 75 English gold and 5 silver coins, 1 Scottish and 6 Irish gold pieces, 2 French, 1 Italian (Savoy), and 14 Spanish gold coins.²

In addition to hoards a number of isolated finds of foreign coins have been recovered here. A very typical example known to the writer is that made by a Newtownards schoolboy, J. Cardwell, in March 1961.³ In a bank at the end of his garden in Mill Street, Comber, he unearthed an eighth écu of Henry III of France (1575–89), minted at Nantes. About 250 yards to the north is Castle Farm, which marks the site of the former Mount-Alexander Castle, a residence built about 1620.⁴

Two other single finds, both of late-seventeenth-century date, may be noted. One was a four-mark piece or daler of Christian V of Denmark, dated 1692, found by Mr. Lyons, a workman of the Highway Department, during excavations in the Dublin Road, Belfast; it was given to the museum by Mr. J. H. C. Fox in 1957. The other was a ducaton of Charles II of Spain struck for the province of Brabant in 1684. It was brought to the museum for identification in November 1959 by a workman who said it belonged to a colleague, Mr. John Carrol of Sydenham, Belfast. Although no details of place or date of discovery were revealed, the coin is likely to have been a local find.⁵

The reason for these unusual deposits and chance losses is not far to seek. That astute scholar and Fellow of the Royal Society, James Simon, merchant of Dublin, published in 1749 what he modestly called 'An Essay towards an Historical Account of Irish Coins and of the Currency of Foreign Monies in Ireland with an Appendix containing several statutes, proclamations, patents, acts of State and Letters relating to same';⁶ and this work, republished in

¹ Newry Magazine, ii (1816), 168.
² B.N.J. xxix (1959), 411, no. 22, where a total of 104 coins in the series of hoards is implied.
³ I am indebted to Mr. E. M. Griffith, master at Regent House School, Newtownards, for submitting this coin to the Belfast Museum (which has recently become the Ulster Museum); also for supplying notes on the find-spot and the Montgomery family.
⁴ The Montgomery Manuscripts (edit. Hill, 1869), 93.
⁵ Cf. the contents of hoards III and IV listed below.
⁶ Published with the approbation of the Physico-Historical Society at a general meeting held in Dublin, 4 Jan. 1747.
1810 with two supplements, is still the firm basis for any study of Irish numismatics, at least from the period of Henry II. Not only did Simon transcribe all the documents he was able to locate having reference to the employment of coinage in Ireland in his 104-page Appendix, but he set out in a number of tables the weight-values of foreign currency in England and Ireland at different periods and commented on the significance of the various statutes in the text of his book. The following notes are freely taken from the second edition; also from Dudley Westropp's important paper on Irish money weights and foreign coins current in Ireland. 1

On more than one occasion in the seventeenth century efforts were made by the Lord Deputy and Council to get a mint re-established in Dublin owing to the extreme shortage of currency in the country; but although royal consent was obtained, unsettled conditions and lack of financial backing prevented any real start being made with the project. 2 Nevertheless in 1642 and 1643 a great deal of plate was called in for coining into 'money of necessity' to pay troops brought over to suppress the Rebellion, and it is estimated that at least £120,000 was so stamped and used. During the war the rebels struck their own coinage, and certain of the southern towns (Cork, Youghal, and Kinsale) issued tokens. 3

In 1651 several persons in London sent over great quantities of counterfeit and clipped English money and 'base Peru-pieces' which their agents imposed on the merchants in Dublin. A proclamation the following year ordered that clipped money should not be given or taken in payment except by weight, at the rate of five shillings per ounce, the Spanish-American coins for their intrinsic worth only. 4 In 1660 Charles II raised the value of gold and silver in Ireland and later the same year declared current and ascertained the value of certain foreign coins. The silver included the 'Mexico or Sevil piece-of-eight' the 'Rix-dollar or cross dollar', the 'Portugal Royal', the 'Ducaat', 'old Peru-piece' and 'French-Lewis' together with their respective divisions. A certain allowance was made for each grain deficient in weight both of the gold and silver coins. 5

The Restoration was, therefore, the occasion when it was officially recognized that Irish trade and indeed every-day commercial life could not continue without general employment of foreign currency in addition to the stamped silver from South America which had long been in use. Two years later another proclamation was issued ordering that the new 'pillar pieces' of Mexico, which were not specifically mentioned in 1660, should pass for 4s. 9d.

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2 Apart from letters patent granted to various persons to issue copper tokens, see Simon, 45, 47, 49, 112–13, 119–20.
3 Simon, 46–48. But the author is wrong in thinking that the St. Patrick's halfpennies and farthings were issued by the general assembly at Kilkenny; they date from the reign of Charles II, about 1678–9. See Nelson, The Coinage of Ireland in Copper, Tin and Pewter (Leamington, 1905), 16–18.
4 Council Office Book, A.90, 360; A.30, 148; Simon, 49, 119–20. 'Yet we find that unless power be given to coin the clip money here (which is wanting in our instructions) this evil will again grow upon us (the good English money being carried back into England) and in a short time no currant money will be left here but forrein money, and very much of that either light or course Peru.'
In July 1673 we find stern measures, passed by the Lord Lieutenant and Council, expressly forbidding anyone to export without licence ‘coins of this realm’ or ‘any plate, bullion, gold or silver wrought or unwrought except only so much as shall be necessary for his reasonable expences’. Searches of his Majesty’s ports in the realm and others specially appointed were strictly charged to be careful and vigilant in the execution of all the laws and statutes then in force regarding the export of bullion. A further proclamation on similar lines appeared in 1675.

During the same year the Earl of Essex again invoked the royal authority by raising the value of the Portuguese crusadoes from 3s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.; and in 1677 the Lord Lieutenant proclaimed that no officer of the Crown, ‘nor any person of what quality or condition soever’ was required or enforced to be paid in the ‘new-lyon-dollars’. These leeuwendaalders, dated 1674, 1675, and 1676, quantities of which merchants and others had recently brought from Holland into Ireland and passed for 4s. 9d., were found on assay to be 2 oz. 5 dwt. in the pound worse than the standard of England and were not to be accepted for more than 3s. 4½d. sterling.

Three more proclamations may be cited: one, issued on 6 June 1683, ascertained the employment of foreign coinage in Ireland and set out new rates of exchange for the various gold and silver denominations; another during the reign of James II on 16 January 1687 recited and confirmed the former proclamation; while the last, published immediately after the king had arrived in Dublin on 24 March 1688–9, raised the value of English and foreign gold and silver in an attempt to prevent further money leaving Ireland. Thereafter ‘the presses or coyning mills’ used for striking the official halfpence, then in the hands of Col. Roger Moore, were seized and the issue of the ‘Gun money’ began. It is perhaps noteworthy that the 1683 proclamation makes special reference to the number and shape of the coin weights to be used for testing the foreign money, and it orders that these shall ‘be exactly made by Henry Paris and John Cuthbeard of the City of Dublin’.

Throughout these statutes no mention appears to be made of Scottish money although we know from the numerous discoveries that it must have been circulating, particularly in the north, currently with the English and foreign coinage. It can only be assumed that as the merk passed for a shilling and a penny farthing in England during the seventeenth century the same rate obtained here.

1 C.O.B. A.42, no. 162; Simon, 52, 132; Westropp, 48. An eight-real piece of Nuevo Reino (Santa Fé de Bogota), 1662, of this type but unusual in design (Yriarte, Catalogo, etc. (1955), 63, no. 189), and weighing only 320 gr., was picked up recently near Emlyvale, Co. Monaghan, and is now in the museum at Belfast.

2 C.O.B. A.43, no. 147; Simon, 53, 133.

3 C.O.B. A.43, no. 158; Simon, 137.

4 Earl of Essex’s letters manuscripts; Simon, 53, 134–6; Westropp, 48.

5 C.O.B. A.43, no. 212; Simon, 53, 137; Westropp, 48–49.

6 C.O.B. A.43; Simon, 55, 142–4; Westropp, 50–52.

7 Simon, 56, 146–7; Westropp, 53.

8 C.O.B. A.44, no. 68; Simon, 56–57, 147–8; Westropp, 53–54.

9 Book of Orders J.R., Audit Office, Dublin, 3; Simon, 58, 148.

10 Simon, 143; Westropp, 52. A number of weights of this date are in the Belfast cabinet; most are 20 dwt., 16 gr., the equivalent of the ducaton. One of these weights, presented by Mr. Robert H. Montgomery, was found in Saintfield Road on the outskirts of Belfast in 1955.
Thus two of the most unusual features about hoards of this period found in Ireland—their high foreign content and the scarcity of English pieces, except those which were obsolete at the time of deposit, are easily explained in the light of contemporary documentation and the economic stresses of the times. The absence of a Dublin mint, or of a special currency supplied from Britain, was a great hindrance to trade and an inducement towards fraud, particularly from unscrupulous merchants in England and abroad. Inevitably it became necessary not only to adopt foreign coinage for transactions generally but to test all such currency by weight, a slow and cumbersome business which was itself open to corruption.

Note: Weights throughout are given in grains to the nearest half. During the period under discussion the £ sterling was officially, or unofficially, worth from 1s. to 5s. above its face value in Ireland, hence its propensity to be so readily marketable.


The group of coins described below was found by Mr. Wm. Scott Beggs and his father, Mr. Edwin Beggs, of Brookvale, Kilwaughter, while cutting turf in a bog, the property of W. J. and H. McAllister, in the townland of Capanagh. The find was reported to Queen’s University by Miss P. Beggs. The deposit was uncovered about a foot below the surface and consisted of five silver and forty-two copper coins, ranging in date from 1564 to about 1633.

The silver coins were worn while those of copper had been badly attacked by peat acids. In the turf around the coins was a reddish stain suggesting that the deposit was originally contained in a leather bag or purse. As the find was of no great monetary worth the coroner of the district decided not to hold an inquest, the coins being taken over by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Finance and later identified at the British Museum.

For the detailed list of Charles I second issue turners I am indebted to Mr. Robert Stevenson of Edinburgh, whose recent study of the subject has established a sequence of crowns and mint-marks on these tiny Scottish pieces. Since the coins stop in the middle of the crown III issue he is reasonably certain that the collection was formed not later than 1632. This might suggest that whoever had the coins in his possession left Scotland about that date, although, of course, it does not imply that they were immediately concealed. It is noteworthy that they include no current English or Irish issues such as would have been ‘legal tender’ in Ulster at that period. Probably the bag or purse was brought over to this area by one of the numerous Lowland settlers and then accidentally dropped in the bogland on the Antrim hills and not recovered.

1 This is not true of hoards dating from the period of the Great Rebellion, for then quantities of English currency were used for paying troops, &c., B.N.J., xxix (1959), 405.
2 Westropp, 55-56.
3 First reported in the Northern Whig, 21 May 1954, after a preliminary examination of the site and hoard had been made by Mr. Bruce Proudfoot and Mr. Ronald Buchanan of the Geography Department, Queen’s University.
ENGLAND

Elizabeth I (1558–1603)

1, 2 Threepences, mm. pheon, 1564; mm. lion or portcullis (?) 1566. Both very worn (16 gr.; 12½ gr.)

FRANCE

Henry III (1574–89)

3 Quart d’écu, 1585; mm. T and rose (?), Nantes mint. Obv. channelled cross fleury, quatrefoil in centre, pellet in field. Rev. crowned arms dividing II, pellet in field. Some wear (147½ gr.)

Louis XIII (1610–43)

4 Quart d’écu, 1629; mm. L, anchor (?) and V B monogram, Bayonne mint. Type as no. 3 (143 gr.)

SCOTLAND

James VI (1567–1625)

5 Quarter thistle merk, 8th coinage, 1610–4. Badly decayed and in three fragments (7 gr.)

COPPER

6–8 Turners, 2nd issue, 1623–5. All decayed around edge (23 gr.; 25 gr.; 19½ gr.)

James VI or Charles I (1625–49)

9, 10 Turners, issues 1623–32. Both much decayed (10 gr.; 21½ gr.)

Charles I (1625–49)

11–13 Turners, 1st issue, 1629–32. Somewhat decayed (22½ gr.; 23½ gr.; 21 gr.)

14–47 Turners, 2nd issue, 1632 period. Many decayed and very fragile (total weight 270 gr.). Detailed report by R. B. K. Stevenson:

(i) English crown I; dots (or lozenges) beside “C II R”
   (a) Mms. obv. lozenge; rev. rosette
      Obv. only, flower as 1631 pattern, leaves second variety, inner ring not continuous over flower (1); crown distinguishable but one or both mms. not legible (10); “C II R” but crown not distinguishable, mms. as foregoing (4); probably crown I to judge by the thistle, mm. illegible (1)
      (b) Mm. lozenge on both sides; lozenges for dots beside “C II R”
         Two with rev. mm. visible, of these one has indistinct crown which may be crown II (2); one with obv. only and mm. lost, but letter C marks this type (1)
   (c) Mm. obv. lozenge; rev. rose
      Obv. mm. and crown indistinguishable, lozenges for dots beside “C II R”
   (d) Unique coin; obv. mm. lozenge, overstruck by anemone (?); rev. mm. anemone (?)

(ii) Scottish crown II, no dots or lozenges beside C II R
   (a) Crown and rev. mm. unfortunately uncertain.
      Large C on obv. and in one case, at any rate, thistle like I (b), but no dots beside C II R
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(b) Mm. obv. (probably lozenge); rev. rose
Large II on obv. 1

(c) Mm. obv. (probably lozenge); rev. lozenge
Large II on obv. 1

(d) Mm. obv. (probably lozenge); rev. anemone (unique mule)
Large II on obv. 1

(iii) Scottish crown III, wide plain arches and no jewels on band
(Briot's coinage)

(a) Mm. obv. anemone (probably with dot below); rev. anemone
Obv. mm. illegible; rev. clear (1); both mms. very uncertain (1) 2

(b) Mm. obv. lozenge; rev. anemone (??)
Rev. mm. might be lozenge, but not so far known with this obv. crown 1

(c) Mm. obv. anemone with or without dot below it; rev. rose
Anemone clear; rev. mm. illegible, but rose probable on account of the shape of M (2 kinds) (2); obv. mm. illegible; rev. distinguishable (2) 4

(d) Mms. indecipherable; rev. M suggests mm. anemone 1

Total 47

II. HIGH STREET, BELFAST, 1860–1

In the Canon Grainger collection at the Belfast Museum are two seventeenth-century copper coins (nos. 1 and 8 listed below), on the envelopes of which is the note: ‘Found in old bed of river in High Street, Belfast, 1860 with three others.’ In June 1961 Dr. J. A. Wallace of Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, sent to the museum six French coins of the same period (nos. 2 to 7) wrapped up in a piece of paper which stated: ‘six coins found in deepening main sewer, High Street, Belfast 1860–1.’

The employment of French copper coins as small change in Ireland would seem to be by no means unusual during the first seventy years of the Stuart period. In the Belfast cabinet double tournois of Henry IV and Louis XIII, &c. and liards of Louis XIV are much commoner than the Harrington, Lennox, Richmond, and Maltravers farthings of James I and Charles I, the Armstrong Irish farthings of Charles II, or the Scottish turners of the same general period. As almost all the museum coins may be said to have been acquired from local sources, it follows that the French pieces were circulating in Ireland at the same time and in the same way as Stuart copper coinage.

That foreign coppers were used for a secondary purpose is also apparent since certain types of Irish tokens are found to be counterstruck over them. Indeed, the rather crude pennies of John Bush of Belfast are invariably on double tournois pieces3 while most of those struck by the unknown issuers, W. R. and D. M. of Lisnagarvy (Lisburn), show traces of French legends

1 For instance, one might have expected some of the different varieties of copper farthings (issued under patent) which were certainly in use here, if sparingly.
2 Either out of the Belfast Nat. Hist. and Phil. Society, which would include finds brought into the Old Museum, College Square, by members or others before 1911, or coins presented by, or purchased from, finders and collectors, mostly Ulster persons, during the last fifty years.
3 Catalogue of Irish Tokens, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, Belfast Museum Publication no. 36 (1913), 12, no. 27.
under the design and inscription. We know also that some of the coinage struck by James II in Ireland was made from French silver pieces.

Coins said to have been recovered in Belfast are as follows:

**Copper**

**England (or Ireland)**

Charles I (1625–49)

1. ‘Richmond’ oval farthing, mm. rose (obv. only) (6 gr.)

**France**

Louis XIII (1610–43)

2. Double Tournois, 1633, Lyons mint. *Obv.* LOVIS.XIII R.D....NAVA., mm. D; laureate bust r. within linear circle. *Rev.* DOVBLE TOVRNOIS and date, mm. cross potent; three fleurs-de-lis within linear circle (30 gr.)

3. Double Tournois, 1636 (?), (?) mint. *Obv.* LO.............DE......FRAN ......AR; all traces of bust gone. *Rev.* ..........B......L0...... and date; three fleurs-de-lis. In very battered condition (21½ gr.)

4. Double Tournois, 1638, Tours or Angers mint. *Obv.* similar legend to no. 2 but mm. E or F below; large laureate bust, draped and cuirassed r., which cuts beaded circle. *Rev.* as no. 2 but for date (26 gr.)

5. Double Tournois, 1643, La Rochelle mint. *Obv.* LVD’XIII’D:G”FR’ET NAV REX; laur. head l., no inner circle. *Rev.* as no. 2 but no inner circle and mm. H (32½ gr.). (The above coins in reasonably good condition except no. 3)

(Provincial Issues)

Chateau-Renaud

6. Double Tournois, of François de Bourbon-Condé (c. 1613–14), undated. *Obv.* F. DE. BOVRBON’P’DE’CONT1; traces of bust r. *Rev.* usual type without date, mm. cross pattée. Small countermark (flowerhead?) on this side. Only fair condition (22½ gr.)

Dombes

7. Denier Tournois, of Gaston duc d’Orléans, 1650. *Obv.* GASTON. *V’F’P’D;* bare head r., no inner circle. *Rev.* DENIER TOVNOIS 1650; two fleurs-de-lis and large A within linear circle. One very poor (Wallace), the other in reasonably good condition (Grainger) (12½ and 21½ gr.)

Total 8

III. Churchquarter Townland, Dundonald, Co. Down, 1928

On 23 August thirty-two silver coins were found by Joseph and Robert Dickson in an old black sock which crumbled away on being touched, during

1. *Ibid.*, 19, no. 83, where, however, the fact of these tokens being overstruck on double tournois pieces is not recorded.

2. *Sale of Lockett Collection*, part v (18/19 June 1957), Irish and Scottish coins, 82, lots 663 and 664. These are silver halfpennies of James II, dated 1690, overstruck on Louis XIV five sols, 1643. Lot 664 was acquired by Belfast Museum.

3. The date must be 1636 although it looks like 1656; the words DOVBLE TOVRNOIS are impossible to determine.

4. The original list was published by G. C. Brooke in *N.C.* 5th ser., viii (1928), 337. There are slight discrepancies between that list and the one which follows here.
the unloading of sand removed from a sandpit on a hill at Churchquarter, close to the Comber Road and about a quarter-mile from the old Dundonald tram terminus. The coins appear to have been in a bank which fell in during quarrying. With the coins was an English, or Scottish, gold posy ring of mid- or late-seventeenth century date.¹ At a subsequent inquest the coins were proved treasure trove and taken into the custody of the Ministry of Finance. The finders were rewarded the sum of £7 between them, this value having been placed on the hoard after consultation with the British Museum where the pieces were first examined.

All the coins now available have recently been re-examined and certain small additions and corrections made to the original list. It will be noted that the earliest coins are those of England, ranging from 1569 to 1636, those of the Low Countries and Spain run from 1634 to 1668, or perhaps 1670, and those of Scotland from 1670 to 1676. All the coins are in reasonably good condition except those of Spanish origin.

**SILVER**

**ENGLAND**

*Elizabeth I (1558–1603)*

1–3 Sixpences, 1569 (1); 1580 (1); 1582 (1) (all stolen while at Carrickfergus Castle and not now available for examination)

*James I (1603–25)*

4–6 Shillings, 1st coinage, 2nd bust, mm. thistle, 1603–4 (85 gr.) (1); mm. lis, 1604 (90 gr.) (1); 2nd coinage, 3rd bust, mm. rose, 1605 (91 gr.) (1)

*Charles I (1625–49)*

7, 8 Shillings, 4th bust, oval shield, mm. crown, 1635–6, type 3a (84 and 92 gr.)

9 Sixpence, 1st bust; square shield, mm. lis, 1625; type 1 (40½ gr.)

**SCOTLAND**

*Charles II (1660–85)*

10–14 Merks, 1st coinage, thistle below bust; in centre of reverse, 1670

(96½ gr.) (1); 1671 (96 gr.) (1); 1673 (95 gr. and 93 gr.) (3)

15 Quarter dollar, 2nd coinage; interlinked C's in centre of reverse, 1676

(94 gr.)

**LOW COUNTRIES (under Spain)**

*Brabant, Philip IV (1621–65)*

16, 17 Ducaton (60 stuivers), 1634, Antwerp mint. *Obv.* bust wearing cuirass and ruff; mm. hand. *Rev.* ARCHID•AVST•DVX•BURG•BRAB.Æ royal arms supported by lions holding crown, Golden Fleece suspended below² (496 gr.); another, 1655, Antwerp mint; older bust wearing cuirass and lace collar³ (499 gr.)

18 Half ducaton (30 stuivers), 1658, Antwerp mint. Type as No. 17; mm. hand⁴ (249 gr.)

¹ *Newtownards Chronicle*, 1 Sept. 1928; *Belfast Telegraph*, 1 Sept. 1928, with photograph illustrating all the coins.
19, 20 Patagon (50 stuivers), 1634, Brussels mint. Obv. crossed sceptres dividing date, crown above, Golden Fleece below; mm. head. Rev. crowned shield of royal arms surrounded by collar of the Golden Fleece¹ (418½ gr.); another, 1653, Antwerp mint² (431 gr.)

**Flanders, Charles II (1665–1700)**

21 Ducaton, 1668, Bruges mint. Obv. bust wearing collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece. Rev. ARCHID•AVST•DVX BURG•CO•FLAN•+7 [sic]; as no. 16³ (510 gr.)

**UNITED PROVINCES**

**Holland**

22 Daalder (50 stuivers), 1661. Obv. MO:NO:ARG.PRO:CON.FOE:BELG: CO.HOL.; armed warrior with sword on ornamented cartouche, figure 5 of date upside down.⁵ Coin cut octagonally with inscriptions missing; rather crude work (411 gr.)

23 Daalder, 1659. Obv. as no. 22 but inscription ends BELG:TRAN: and the arms are those of the province of Oberyssel (Overijssel). Rev. as no. 22 but mm. sun⁶ (424 gr.)

**SPAIN AND SPANISH AMERICA**

**Philip IV (1621–65) or Charles II (1665–1700)**

24 Eight reals, 1651, either Segovia or Seville mint. Obv. crowned royal arms of Spain with two inescutcheons, VIII downward to r., but mintmark or letters to left cut off. Rev. arms of Castile and Leon in ornamental cartouche, figure 5 of date upside down.⁸ Coin cut octagonally with inscriptions missing; rather crude work (411 gr.)

25, 26 Eight reals, about 1655–70, Seville mint. Obv. as no. 24 but traces of mint letters S above R to left. Rev. as last but no date visible² (412 gr.); another, 1664, probably Seville mint⁸ (419 gr.). Both much hammered

27–29 Eight reals, 1659, Mexico mint. Obv. royal arms with only one inescutcheon, mint letter M with P below to left⁹ (419½ gr.); another, about 1665–70, Mexico mint, mint letters M with S (?) below to left¹⁰ (409 gr.); another, pre-1652, Potosi mint, with mint letter P to left¹¹ (408 gr.). All much hammered and worn

30 Eight reals, 1660, Potosi mint. Obv. type with crowned pillars of Hercules on sea and PLV SVL TRA across centre, the other six compartments have P/8*/E/E/60/PP; 60 also seen below waves. Rev. Arms in cartouche divided by cross pattée, crown above and E–E either side. Countermarked: 600, in compartment¹² (414 gr.)

¹ Ibid., 329, type 3. ² Ibid., 329, type 1. ³ Ibid., 348.
⁴ P. Verkade, Muntboek Namen en Afbeeldingen von Munten (Schiedam, 1848), pl. 47, no. 2.
⁵ Ibid., pl. 159, no. 1.
⁶ José de Yriarte, Catálogo de los Reales de a ocho Españoles (Madrid, 1955), 56, no. 131–2.
⁷ Ibid., 59, no. 151 and 72, no. 236.
⁸ Ibid. ⁹ Ibid., 62, no. 184. ¹⁰ Ibid., 74, no. 254. ¹¹ Ibid., 63, no. 186.
¹² Ibid., 65–66, nos. 213–4. The average weight of the seven pieces listed here is 413½ gr. As the dollar passed for 4s. 9d. (1660–83) at 17 dwt., these coins are up to standard in spite of their poor stamping and general condition.
FIVE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY COIN HOARDS FROM ULSTER

31, 32 Two eight-real pieces (stolen while at Carrickfergus Castle and not available for examination)  

Gold  
33 Posy Ring having plain hoop, of crescentic section, bearing small bezel (set square to plane of hoop) which originally contained a precious stone, probably a quadrangular diamond. Inside hoop is inscribed in sloping script: I die or I schaing. The word ‘schaing’ is Scottish for ‘change’ while the word ‘or’ presumably means ‘ere’ or ‘before’.

IV. BALLYVARLEY TOWNLAND, near Banbridge, Co. Down, 1931

On 25 February 1931 John Rice, a farmer, while digging earth from an old bank to fill in a well, discovered twenty silver coins. They were in a wooden container which lay at a depth of 5 or 6 inches from the surface and which crumbled on exposure. An inquest on the coins was held at Banbridge on 6 June 1931 when a verdict of treasure trove was returned. Nineteen coins, still available, were taken possession of by the Ministry of Finance, the finder being rewarded the sum of thirty shillings, approximately their bullion value.

Subsequently the small collection was placed on exhibition at Jordan’s Castle, Ardglass, which is in the Ministry’s charge and which has been opened periodically as a museum chiefly for the display of relics left by Francis J. Bigger, the Ulster antiquarian. Unfortunately, during the war period, 1940–5, the case in which they lay was broken into and the coins stolen; thus they are no longer available for scrutiny. The list which follows is that which was supplied by Dr. G. C. Brooke, then Acting Deputy Keeper at the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, where the hoard was originally examined in 1931.

Silver

England

Philip and Mary (1554–8)
1 Groat, 1554–8 1

Elizabeth I (1558–1603)
2 Sixpence, mm. eglantine, 1575 1

1 Joan Evans, English Posies and Posy Rings (1931), 50. In a letter, dated 20 March 1960, Dr. Evans tentatively dates this ring to the period 1650–75. Robert Day, the Cork antiquarian, made a collection of such rings and had no fewer than 170 which he listed in Journ. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland, xvi (1884), 61; xvii (1888), 406; and xxii (1892), 63. He says he picked them up in Scotland, the south of England, and the greater part of Ireland.

2 Original list was published by G. C. Brooke in N.C. 5th ser., xii (1932), 70–71.

3 I am grateful to Mr. F. J. Falkiner, Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Northern Ireland, for allowing me access to the various files in the Ancient Monuments branch, giving details of this and hoards I and III. The first report of this find appeared in the Banbridge Chronicle, 28 Feb. 1931.
### 342 FIVE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY COIN HOARDS FROM ULSTER

**Charles I (1625–49)**
- 3 Shilling, mm. sun, 1645–6: 1
- 4 Sixpence, mm. tun, 1637–8: 1

**SCOTLAND**

*James VI (1567–1625)*
- 5 Quarter thistle merk, 1602: 1

*Charles II (1660–85)*
- 6–10 Merks, 1664 (1); 1670 (1); 1671 (3): 5

**FLANDERS**

*Philip IV of Spain (1621–65)*
- 11 Quadruple Ducaton, 1654: 1

**SPAIN AND SPANISH AMERICA**

*Philip IV (1621–65)*
- 12, 13 Eight reals, 163(–); 1662, Potosi mint: 2
- 14 Two reals, 1656, Potosi mint: 1

*Charles II (1665–1700)*
- 15 Four reals, date uncertain, Potosi mint: 1
- 16–18 Cut pieces of seventeenth-century date: 3

**FRANCE**

*Louis XIV (1643–1715)*
- 19 Four Sols, 1677: 1

**UNKNOWN**
- 20 A ‘very small’ coin, lost by finder: 1

**Total**: 20

It should be noted that the latest dated coin is the French piece of 1677, and that the composition of this hoard runs fairly close to that from Dun-donald although there is no such clear-cut division in the dating of the English, Scottish, and continental coins. Both find-spots are in the area where Flemish and French weavers settled in Co. Down during this period. Coins of France, Spanish Empire and United Provinces, &c., are those which French Huguenots might most easily have acquired in the sale of their possessions and on their passage to Ulster by way of Flanders, Holland, and Scotland.¹

¹ Professor Sir Douglas Savory in a letter to the writer, dated 19 Aug. 1961, says: ‘The earliest date that we have of a settlement of Huguenots in Ireland is that of the Glass manufactory set up in 1623 at Birr, in King’s County, but it was not till 1661 that, on the death of Mazarin, Louis XIV began his persecutions of the Huguenots, which of course culminated in the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. The first large influx of Huguenots was due to the Act passed in 1662 under the influence of the Duke of Ormonde who was Viceroy of Ireland and got a law passed to encourage the settlement of the Huguenots in Ireland. The first Huguenot Church established in Dublin was in 1666. Most of the Huguenots arrived direct in Ireland from France, though several came from Holland. Most of them must have brought a considerable amount of money with them, because they almost immediately set up industries such as the manufacture of poplin in Dublin. My own ancestors came direct from Montpellier . . . .’
A collection of coins was purchased by the Belfast Museum from Brigadier J. Y. Calwell, Helen's Bay, Co. Down, in October 1955. These were originally collected by his father and they contained a number of pieces said to have been found 'on taking down an old farm house at Cappanagh'. The Calwells had property at Ballyboley nearby which had come into the possession of the family through the Brigadier's great-grandfather, Alexander Macdonald of Annadale Hall. It is quite probable, therefore, that the coins were handed to Robert, John or William Calwell by an estate tenant in 1894.

The deposit is a curious one; it suggests that the coins were hidden about the time of the Civil War in Ireland (1688–90) judging by the almost unworn condition of the Portuguese piece. This coin contrasts markedly with the somewhat worn and much corroded copper Irish halfpennies of Charles II. The shilling of this king, included in the brief list given on the envelope containing most of the coins, has not been traced. This hoard is perhaps more truly a result of the extreme measures taken by James II in issuing 'gun-money' token coinage to pay for the Irish campaign; note for instance the complete absence of any contemporary coins of the Catholic monarch, either English, Irish, or Scottish.

**Silver**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>King</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Coin Details</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Elizabeth I (1558–1603)</td>
<td>1 Sixpence, mm. coronet, 1569</td>
<td>40 gr.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles II (1660–85)</td>
<td>2 Shilling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Peter II (1683–1706)</td>
<td>3 Four-hundred reis or crusadoe, 1687. Obv. crowned royal arms. Rev. voided Maltese cross; beaded and cable edge (260½ gr.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Copper**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>King</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Coin Details</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Charles II</td>
<td>4–9 Halfpennies; large letters, 16 strings to harp, 1680 (104 gr.) (1); large letters, 15 strings to harp, 1680 (104 gr.) (1); large letters, 12 strings (?), 1681 (103 gr.) (1); small letters, 12 strings (?), 1682 (180 gr.) (1); small letters, 14 strings, 1683 (115 gr.) (1); small letters, 12 strings, 1683 (?) (89 gr.) (1)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 9

1 Notes kindly supplied by Brigadier Calwell.
2 This is presumed to be the one mentioned as it is now the only Elizabethan sixpence in the Calwell collection. It was not, however, grouped with the other coins in the envelope.
3 Not traced amongst the coins in the Calwell collection; it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the coin intended was really a Scottish merk or quarter-dollar as in other hoards.
4 A halfpenny, small letters, 11 strings (?), 1683 (?) weighing 74 gr. and showing considerable wear, was also in the Calwell collection but it did not happen to be in the envelope with other pieces from Capanagh, so it has been omitted from the list.