A FOURTEENTH CENTURY HOARD OF SCOTTISH GROATS FROM BALLENY TOWNLAND CO. DOWN

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The Discovery

In late August, 1962, during the laying of a pipeline along the west side of the lane running from Barronstown to Dromore (part of a new scheme being carried out by the Portadown and Banbridge Regional Waterworks Joint Board), the workmen had occasion to blast away part of the solid rock some thirty yards south of the turning to Balleny House (Grid reference J197528). In clearing away the rubble two or three silver coins fell into the trench. The finder thereupon loosened the rock fragments by hand and a small hoard of coins came to light. The Silurian outcrops at this point to within a few inches of the ground surface, and there seems little doubt that the coin deposit had been hidden in a small hole or crevice, possibly originally in some leather or cloth container which could easily have been withdrawn when necessary.

The coins were handed round amongst the road gang, but within a few days one was brought to the Ulster Museum and another was passed to Mr. John Clarke, Superintendent of the Water Board at Banbridge. Swift action was taken and within a relatively short time thirty coins had been assembled which were then handed over to the local police, the Ministry of Finance being officially informed of the discovery. At a treasure trove inquest held at Banbridge Courthouse on 29 October, 1962, depositions were taken from the foreman, Mr. William Peters, and three of the workmen as well as others concerned in the case. Mr. A. D. Orr, Coroner for South Down, found for the Crown and the coins, consisting of nineteen groats of David II and eleven groats of Robert II, were placed in the hands of Mr. F. J. Falkiner, Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, acting as agent for the British Treasury. Later a reward was paid to the finder, Mr. James Brown, of Rathfriland, and the hoard was handed over to the Ulster Museum, Stranmillis, Belfast.

Significance of the hoard

It is not possible to estimate with any accuracy when the Balleny hoard was deposited. At present there are few fixed points in the numismatic chronology of Robert II's reign, and the classification of the coins is not yet sufficiently detailed to determine how early or late in the series individual varieties were struck. The proportion of Robert to David groats is low enough to suggest an early date, especially since two at least of the Robert groats are of varieties closely akin to late issues of David. The Perth mint had already been coining on a very large scale by 1373. The parcel of groats from Balleny may therefore have been gathered quite early in Robert II's reign, perhaps not later than 1375; though less well struck than the David groats, those of Robert do not exhibit any signs of wear. The date of the deposit and loss of the hoard in Ireland cannot be directly related to the date of the removal of the coins from circulation in Scotland, though it was probably not very long afterwards.

Unfortunately we cannot be certain that every coin was recovered. By the very nature of the discovery some coins may have been overlooked in the debris. Furthermore, in spite of the findings at the inquest, when it was officially held that only thirty coins came to light, one of the writers heard in the first instance that between thirty and forty pieces had been found, so that a few coins may have been dispersed before the police inquiry. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that the groats make up a face value of ten shillings, though if the deposit was made after 1374 the value of the coins in terms of sterling had by then fallen. The short period covered by the hoard, probably less than twenty years, and the build-up from a single denomination of relatively fine silver, although somewhat variable in weight, suggest that these coins represent a payment made in Scotland, possibly for military service as in the case of a mercenary. Mr. Ranald Nicholson of the Department of Scottish History, University of Edinburgh, has kindly pointed out to us that, while there is only slight evidence of magnates paying for the military service of a retinue, ten shillings could represent a daily wage of threepence for forty days, which was the recognised period of service with a Scottish ‘common army’ (i.e. military tenants plus all men between 16 and 60). Threepence a day was undoubtedly the wage of some rank, probably an ordinary footsoldier or unmounted archer, in the English army (and no doubt in Scotland as well) at this period. Record of payment in this amount is found here and there in the Controller’s copy of the Wardrobe book of Richard Ferriby, Keeper of the Wardrobe, between 30 July 1334 and 31 August 1334. The Balleny hoard is comparable to other fourteenth century hoards of Scottish groats found in Ireland (see nos. iv–vii in the Appendix). It is impossible to relate them to specific events or campaigns of the period, though there was plenty of contact between the two countries. There is evidence of a good deal of confused movement between Scotland and Ireland in the 1380’s, which was not apparent in the 1370’s. There were Irish raids on Galloway and Scottish retaliation; and it is recorded that a group of French knights, after service in Scotland, went on a pilgrimage to Ireland. It may also be of significance to report that the Balleny find-spot is less than two furlongs due north of a small earthen fortress marked as ‘Teiges Fort’ on the Ordnance Survey 6-inch sheet; this lies on the top of the hill at a height of 440 feet above sea level. Many other hoards of thirteenth and fourteenth century date have been discovered in the proximity of medieval Irish earthworks; this lends colour to the theory that many of the parcels of coins found here are the result of military campaigns and therefore probably represent soldiers’ pay. It is always possible that private payments, such as dowries, may account for hoards found beyond the natural circulating area of the coins they contain. The number of Scottish hoards from Ireland is, however, greater than would be expected to have survived as a result of individual private payments of such a kind. In the Appendix to this paper are listed for comparison a number of hoards containing early Scottish groats. Unfortunately it is not possible to make a schematic analysis of the hoards there listed, covering the last forty years of the fourteenth century, since in many instances the coins cannot be counted, the weight cannot be accurately recorded, or the context in which they were found is not known.

1 Stewart, The Scottish Coinage (1965), p. 35.
2 Registrum Honoris de Morton Bannatyne Club (Edinburgh 1843), ii, p. 101, no. 129.
3 Acts Parl. Scot., i, p. 147 (c. 1363); Lindsay of Pitscottie, History and Chronicles of Scotland (Scottish Text Society), i, p. 172.
4 Contained in BM Cotton MSS, Nero C. VIII.
7 Two later hoards, both containing light groats of Robert III, one said to have been found at Edinburgh 1836 (Thompson 153) and one in Perthshire 1822 (Lindsay p. 267), are not included here as being chronologically outside the scope of this survey.
cases too few details are known. A few generalisations can be made, however. Apart from
the Fortrose hoard, which strictly speaking is outside the main period under review, all the
larger hoards of 300 coins and upwards, which have some Scottish element, show a
preponderance of English pieces whether the finds come from England, Ireland or Scotland.
Within this date bracket the earlier the hoard, the higher the percentage of English coinage
seems to be, reflecting the enormous numbers of Edwardian sterlings of the pre-groat era
which remained in circulation. An average for five large hoards, where the full content is
known, reveals English 94%, Scottish 4%, Irish and continental making up 2%.  
With the smaller hoards the position is quite different and we must consider most of these
‘parcels’ more as pursefuls of coins and as such they probably represent personal savings,
travellers’ cash, or payments made to individuals for a specific reason, often perhaps for
military service. One or two of these deposits, such as Balleny, South Shields and Craigie
are entirely, or almost entirely, composed of Scottish coins while Beulah Hill and Mareham-
le-Fen have no more than the usual representation of groats from the northern kingdom that
one might expect, in the normal course of events, in southern hoards.

Nearly all the larger hoards have been found in bronze vessels, and the medium-sized
concealments often in earthenware jugs, pitchers or small coffers; others from Scottish and
Irish regions have been in ox horns. Where purses or wrappings were employed for small
savings, the leather or cloth has usually rotted away before discovery. Generally one might
say that where no container has been recorded the find is a comparatively small one, but this
does not preclude the use of wooden vessels which may also have disintegrated prior to
recovery of the coins.

The Scottish and English hoards do not differ in any significant respect from the Irish,
though there are naturally fewer Scottish coins in the English finds. Some of those from
Scotland were composed, like Balleny, wholly or very largely of Scottish coins, but others
had only a very small percentage of Scots groats and half groats. At least six hoards show
a range of coins which probably terminates after 1357 in the reign of David II; others were
buried at some stage in the reign of Robert II; and only one, composed entirely of heavy
groats of Robert III, can be dated with certainty to about the end of the century.

Notes on Individual Balleny Coins

A more than usually high proportion of the individual coins from the Balleny hoard are
of numismatic interest. All are illustrated on plates X and XI.

No. 1 is technically of Group A, variety 5, without ornaments in the angles of the tressure
and with saltire stops. However, it may come very early in the series, perhaps even before
A 1, since it has a seven arc tressure and a Gothic u in David, both of which appear to be
experimental and early features. It is from the same obverse die as Burns fig. 254 and a coin
in Mr. Stewart’s Collection (S. photographs David II, pl. I = Lockett photographs, pl.VI 14,
ex Bearman and Pollexfen Collections).

No. 2, of Aberdeen, is from an obverse die which is recorded with two other Aberdeen reverse
dies (B. fig. 255, Stewart Coll. pl. VI 1 ex Bute lot 222; Lockett pl. VII 11, Stewart Coll. pl.VII 10)
and with an Edinburgh reverse (Lockett pl. VI 77). Two other group A obverses were used

1 Ardquin (no. ix); Montrave (no. xii); Durham
No. 2 (no. xiii); Beaumont (no. xiv); Ballcombe (no.
xxiii).

2 Classification according to Stewart, The Scottish
Coinage and Burns, The Coinage of Scotland (1887).

References to coins in the Lockett collection are to photographs taken at the British Museum before
the coins were dispersed; coins in the Stewart
collection have been privately photographed.
at Aberdeen: one exclusively at that mint (two reverses—B.254A, S. Coll. pl. VI12 ex MacFarlan; Lockett pl. VII10, S. Coll. pl. VII11 ex Hurley); the other at Edinburgh (three reverses—B.262B, S. Coll. pl. III4; S. Coll. pl. III3 = Lockett pl. VII83, ex Bearman ex Antiquaries’ Duplicates lot 196; S. Coll. pl. III4) and at Aberdeen (Lockett pl. VII11). Die-links between the two mints also exist in group B groats, and in halfgroats of groups A and B.

No. 3, with a small D in the second quarter of the reverse, is from an obverse die which is coupled also with a plain reverse (B. 268), and other reverses with D respectively in the first (B. 271) and fourth quarters (Lockett pl. VII4). Several other examples are recorded of individual group B obverse dies combined with reverses having the D in three or four different positions and one (cf. B 280, 282A and 282B) is known with plain reverse, D in the second, third and fourth quarters, a saltire in the third, and a cross in the fourth. So many and varied combinations cast doubt on the theory that the use of the D and other marks in successive positions indicates a chronological division of issues for pyx trial purposes. The reverse of no. 3 is from the same die as another group B groat with a different obverse die (S. Coll. pl. VII11; the obverse die is that of B. figs. 279A and 284). This is apparently the first, and as yet only, reverse die-link noted in the whole series of David II’s groats; the number of reverses sometimes found with a single obverse die (as many as eight in one case, and often four or five), however, suggests either an abnormally high die-ratio or much more probably the interchanging of dies on a considerable scale.

No. 6 is from an obverse die used with five other reverses (Richardson 35; S. Coll. pl. IX6; pl. IX7=Lockett VII48; S. Coll. pl. IX8, Lockett pl. VII50; S. Coll. pl. IX3).

Nos. 7-10 are of a variety with ornamental A which was not noted by Burns, but a considerable number of dies were involved (at least ten obverses are recorded).

No. 13 reads Dns S\[ector\] (instead of P\[ector\]) on the reverse, an unpublished variant, probably due to accidental repetition of the previous letter.

No. 14 is an unpublished variety with two saltires after Sco\[torum\]. Two other examples from the same obverse die, but from different reverses, are recorded (S. Coll. pl. XIV1 ex Bute lot 222; pl. XIV2).

No. 15 is of the scarce late group with two stars after Dns, but of a variant previously unrecorded with two stars also on the obverse as stops after David and Sco\[torum\]. The inscriptions are more legible on another coin from the same pair of dies (S. Coll. pl. XV7, ex Dakers, Bearman and Walters Colls.).

The reading Sco\[toru\] without the final m. on no. 16, does not appear to be otherwise recorded on the late groats of David II.

Nos. 20 and 21, apparently the earliest groats of Robert II in the hoard, are unpublished and of considerable interest, in that they have respectively two stars and two crosses on the reverse after Dns. The normal mark in this position is a cross over a crescent, of which the latter is really a contraction mark indicating that P stands for Pro [P(ro)\[ector\]]. Late groats of David II (e.g. Balleny nos. 16-19) have two stars in this position, and two coins are recorded

\[1\] J. Davidson, ‘Distinguishing Marks on the Later Issues of David II’, BNJ xxvi (1950), p. 159. A feature which has been revealed by die-analysis of the series is that, in all but a single instance as so far observed, individual obverse dies are either combined with reverses having the forward D in the first part of one of the quarters, or with reverses with the reversed n in the last part of one of the quarters, but not with a mixture of forward and reversed n’s.

\[2\] A coin of this variety in the possession of Mrs. J. R. Percival Maxwell, Finnebrogue House, Downpatrick, may well have been found on the estate.
with double saltires instead (S. Coll. pl. XV \(^8\) ex R. Carlyon-Britton Coll., with double saltire stops on obv.; and S. Coll. pl. XV \(^9\) ex Bute lot 222, with single saltire stops on obv.). No. 20 could be a mule with an obverse of Robert II and a reverse of David II, but the reverse has a smaller and plainer \(T\) than usual in the earlier reign and one which is generally found on coins of Robert II. It is therefore safer to regard the coin as a very early variety of the new reign. The same can be said of no. 21; the two crosses after \(Dns\) do not appear to be found otherwise on coins of either David or Robert.

### Catalogue of Coins from Balleny

All are groats, and of the Edinburgh mint, unless otherwise stated. Gothic lettering is used throughout. On obverse the stops are between all words, unless otherwise indicated. References to Burns’ figures do not imply die-identity. Weight in grammes followed by wt. in grains. Arrow indicates axis of reverse die in relation to upright obverse.

#### DAVID II

**Heavy Coinage, 1357–67.**

**Stewart Group A (Burns 'Small Head')**

1. Gp. A5 — plain tressure, saltire stops. Obv. (double struck) = B. 254 (same die). Rev. as B. 254 but \(Dns\), crescent only (i.e. contractive mark for \(Prn\)) before \(P\)/\(tector\), and \(Vill\)/\(a\) saltire \(Ed\)/(cf. B. 252). \(\approx 4.3833\) grammes (67.6 gr.).

2. Gp. A6 — plain tressure, cross stop. Aberdeen mint. B 255 (same obv. die). Rev. has \(M\) (for \(M\)) \(z\) Lib. \(\approx 4.3952\) g. (67.8 gr.).

**Stewart Group B (Burns 'First Intermediate Head')**

3. Gp. B3b — small \(D\) in 2nd quarter of reverse, below \(A\) of \(Vill\)/\(a\). Ornamental \(A\) both sides. Cross stops, two crosses and lis after \(Scotorum\). Same obv. die as B. 268 and 271. \(\approx 4.3687\) g. (67.4 gr.).

**Stewart Group C (Burns 'Second and Third Intermediate Head')**

4. Gp. C1 — reverse quarters plain. Double cross stops on obverse and after \(Scotorum\). Ornamental \(A\)'s but plain \(A\) in \(Vill\)/\(a\). Cf. B. 256. \(\approx 4.298\) g. (66.3 gr.).

**Stewart Group D (Burns 'Robert II Head')**

5. Gp. D1 — no marks on reverse. Double cross stops on obv. and perhaps after \(Scotorum\) (cf. Richardson 70). \(A\)'s ornamental but plain in \(Vill\)/\(a\). Double-struck and buckled. \(\approx 4.2455\) g. (65.5 gr.).

**Light Coinage, 1367–71.**

6. S. class 1 — star behind neck and after \(n\) of \(Ed\)/\(inbu\)/\(gr\), cf. S. fig. 69. \(\approx 3.9335\) g. (60.6 gr.).

7–10. S. class 2a — star on sceptre-handle, trefoils in spandrels, curved line below bust, cross-over-crescent after \(Dns\). Double cross stops on obv. Ornamental \(A\) both sides (not in B. with this \(A\), but cf. Richardson 70–9). \(\approx 4.0455\) g. (62.4 gr.); \(\approx 3.928\) g. (61.5 gr.); \(\approx 3.9536\) g. (61.0 gr.); \(\approx 3.8630\) g. (59.5 gr.).

11. Similar, but plain \(A\). Rev. die cracked. B. 301. \(\approx 3.9388\) g. (60.7 gr.).

12. Similar, rev. die intact (attacked by soil acids and shows margin and parts of both faces blackened). \(\approx 3.7851\) g. (53.4 gr.).

13. Similar, but \(S\)/\(tector\) (unpublished reading). \(\approx 3.7294\) g. (57.5 gr.).

14. As 12 but no curved line below bust. B. 392. \(\approx 3.7428\) g. (57.7 gr.).

15. Similar, but two saltires after \(Scotorum\) (unpublished variety). \(\approx 3.761\) g. (55.1 gr.).

16. S. class 2b — two stars after \(Dns\), reads \(Scotoru\). Curved line below bust, star on sceptre-handle, trefoils in spandrels, plain \(A\). Stops on obv. double crosses (?) Overstruck, obv. on rev. of an earlier great (mullet visible before chin). B. 305. \(\approx 3.9920\) g. (61.5 gr.).

17. S. class 2b — similar but \(Scotorum\) and obv. stops double saltires (margin of coin blackened and attacked by soil acids). B. 396. \(\approx 3.7700\) g. (58.2 gr.).

18. Similar, but no curved line obvious below bust (this coin has been the most heavily attacked by soil acids). \(\approx 3.6840\) g. (55.8 gr.).

19. Similar, but star-over-saltire after \(Dei\) (another coin from the same dies in Stewart collection completes the legend, showing two stars after \(Scotorum\), and has the same double sceptre head due to double punching in the die). \(\approx 3.8720\) g. (59.7 gr.).
Robert II (1371–90).


22–27. Normal variety as B. 309 (3) with six arcs, Scottorum, double cross stops on obv., cross-over-crescent after Dns. Slightly different varieties of head. 

28, 29. Similar but single cross stops on obv. (B. 310) 


Summary

Balleny Townland, Co. Down, late August 1962.

30 (+ ?) AR Scottish. Deposit c. 1375.

APPENDIX

Hoard containing early Scottish Groats

Hoard like Balleny, containing groats of David II and Robert II, have been discovered in some numbers on both sides of St. George's Channel. The lists which follow assemble information scattered in many publications not always readily available to numismatists. Consequently a number of them do not appear in Mr. Thompson's Inventory of British Coin Hoards A.D. 600–1500 (1956). The entries have not been fully systematized, and no claim is made that the present lists are in any way complete. References to late eighteenth and early nineteenth century finds continually come to light.

Unfortunately, coin descriptions are almost wholly absent from the early records; also localities are generally so arbitrarily given that entries of a single find in different publications may suggest two or more discoveries, and this can happen as easily to-day as formerly.

In the older accounts the difficulty of distinguishing the period of those hoards which contain Scottish coins is increased by a tendency to attribute all pieces bearing the name Robert to 'the Bruce'. Where groats are mentioned by name or where the Dominus Protector reverse inscription is quoted the hoard must have had at least an element from the late fourteenth century and was certainly put together after 1357.

For example Cardonnel (1786) knew that only the penny, halfpenny and farthing were struck during the early fourteenth century yet mistakenly attributed a Perth penny of Robert II to Robert I. But the temptation to attribute coins to the illustrious Bruce was a strong one and numismatic references to him from various sources up to 1850 are often in error for Robert II. The inscription on the reverse of the groat was misread and often wildly interpreted. "Jo: Mulenii." (1870) has for instance: Robertus Rex Scottorum/Dominus Dator
Mali Fatorum; while an unidentified press cutting about 1800, or a little later, referring to a groat or half groat, which must be of the same king, reads: 'DNS PTECTOR MEISIBATVRMS—Dominus Protector, meis ibat turmis . . . [the words] unequivocally allude to providential deliverance from imminent danger; and they show that the deliverance was effected by an army crowned by Providence with victory . . . demonstrably applicable to Robert Bruce alone . . . ' The writer goes on to describe the piece as, 'probably one of a number of medals struck to commemorate the battle of Bannockburn'. Even as late as 1842 groats and half-groats of Robert II were being sold under the title of Bruce, although here one suspects that the auctioneers were copying the entries from the owner's labels or coin tickets.

In an unpublished work (copy at Queen's University library) entitled A History of Rathlin (1851) by Mrs. (Catherine) Gage, written by hand and illustrated with her own pen drawings, is described Robert Bruce's forced stay on Rathlin Island, off the north-east coast of Ulster, and his decisive victory over the English at Bannockburn. On page 62 are shown both faces of two groats, the upper being of Robert II, minted at Edinburgh, the lower David II, also Edinburgh (both SCOTORUM). The caption below reads 'Silver Coins of Robert Bruce and his son David II found near Bruce's Castle.'

A. Ireland.

(i) Castlewellan near Newcastle, Co. Down, Aug. 1855, (Thompson—)
Large quantity of AR English, Scottish and foreign. Deposit c. 1355 (?).
Carruthers saw 200 of the coins which were sold in Belfast. The English portion consisted of pennies of Edward I and II with groats and half-groats of Edward III, the pence of the last-named were from regal and episcopal mints of Durham (one reading VILA DUNOLMIE = Bishop Hatfield, 1344–51), York and London, also 'some pence' of David II and Robert II, and some counterfeit sterlings, minted by the various princes of Europe to imitate the Edwards'. Scottish groats are not mentioned (as having been seen), but it is possible that at least a few might have been present if there were groats and half-groats of Edward III. However, if the hoard had been concealed before 1357, the Scottish element would have been sterlings of Robert Bruce and David II.

(ii) Near Tullamore, King's County (Offaly), before 1849. (Thompson—).
AR English and Scottish. Deposit after 1357.
Unknown quantity of Edward III groats of London and York with Edinburgh groat of David II.

AR Scottish and English. Deposit c. 1365 +.
The find has recently been reassessed by Dolley. The English coins run from Edward I to III. The one Scottish coin was an Edinburgh groat of David II, second coinage, Stewart cl. A5 (c. 1359).

(iv) Castle Enigan, near Newry, Co. Down, 1814. (Thompson 77).
About 200 AR Scottish and English. Deposit after 1371.
There are at least three nearly contemporary records of this find giving somewhat different accounts. Names mentioned are: Edward I, Robert Bruce and David (Robert's great-grandfather). Lindsay summarising the find writes: '1814—A labourer at work in a wood at Castleangen, within five miles of Newry, dug up a cow's horn filled with about 200 silver coins of Robert Bruce and David II. Carruthers somewhat later says '1814 — near Belfast (!) a cow's horn full of coins of David and Robert of Scotland'. But James Stuart, who had a number of the pieces in his possession and who thought the hoard should be dated to the exploits of Edward Bruce in Ireland

made it quite clear from his transcription of the legends that some of the coins were, in fact, Edinburgh groats of David II (scotorvm) and Robert II (scotorvm). From this it is inferred that certain coins in the hoard bearing the name of Edward may well have been groats of Edward III. Fitzgerald and McGregor, *History of Limerick* ii (1826/7), p. 68; *Newry Magazine* i (1815), p. 119; Lindsay (S), p. 270; Carruthers, *Ulster Journal Archaeol.* i (1853), p. 165; Stuart, *Historical Memoirs of the City of Armagh*, etc. (Newry 1819), pp. 181-2. (We are indebted to Mr. Dolley for this reference).

(v) Pettigo, Co. Fermanagh, April 1852. (Thompson 310).
14 AR Scottish (including 10 forgeries). Deposit after 1371.
David II, Edinburgh groats (2). Robert II, Perth half-groats (2). Contemporary Irish forgeries: David II, Edinburgh groat (1). Robert II, Edinburgh groats (9). Fully published by Aquilla Smith soon after discovery; D. F. Allen has recently added notes on the forging process. Smith records that there were also found at the same time, but apparently not in the hoard, an Aberdeen penny of David II and an Edinburgh groat of Robert II, both genuine.

(vi) Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, 1855. (Thompson—).
AR Scottish. Deposit after 1371.
A small parcel of groats of David II and Robert II.

(vii) Province of Connaught, site and county unknown, Aug. 1819. (Thompson 98).
About 50 AR Scottish. Deposit after 1371.
Groats and half-groats of David II and Robert II with one penny of Robert II. The coins were brought to Cork for sale.
Lindsay (S), p. 271. Two of the coins would seem to be of Stewart, pl. IV, no. 52.

(viii) Mullynauro Abbey, Co. Armagh, (Thompson—).
AR and billon English, Irish, Scottish and foreign (?). Deposit after 1371.
T. G. F. Paterson mentions (letter to W. A. S., 14.12.56) English and Irish pence and halfpence of Edward I coined in London, Lincoln, Dublin and Waterford, and a few specimens of *moneta nigra* (lusshebournes). The latest coins in this early nineteenth century record were of David II and Robert II of Scotland. It is suggested that at least two groups or parcels of coins may be inferred on the basis of the Grey Abbey finds (see Seaby, 'A bronze weight box from Grey Abbey, Co. Down' in *Ulster Journal Archaeol.* iii (1958), pp. 97-100).

(ix) Abbey of Ines or Ardquin, Great Ards, Co. Down, April 1845. (Thompson 5).
400-500 (?) AR English, Irish and Scottish. Deposit after 1377.
England: Edward I to Richard II, pennies, groats and half-groats; also Edward IV, one heavy issue London groat and one of Coventry (1465). Ireland: Edward I, penny of Cork and halfpenny of Dublin. Scotland (40 or 50): David II, groats (10 + ?), half-groats ( ?) and pennies (2 + ?); Robert II, groats (10 + ?), half-groats ( ?), pennies (2 + ?). The hoard was discovered in a small box near the surface by some workmen digging potatoes in the reclaimed fishpond of the Abbey; the chief part of the hoard came into the possession of James Carruthers. Thompson (p. 4) suggests that the absence of Henry VI coins means that only a part of the hoard was preserved. Two versions given by Carruthers do not agree in all details and, from his descriptions, only some 340 pieces are accounted for. Nevertheless the fact that Carruthers nowhere mentioned Henry groats, leaving a gap of more than sixty years in the series, possibly means that the two pieces of Edward IV may have been intruders but were probably found in the ground at the same time as the box. Thus the *terminus post quem* for the main deposit may be said to be within the fourteenth century.

(x) Knockagh, Monkstown, Co. Antrim, May 1903. (Thompson 73).
135 AR English, Irish, Scottish and foreign. Deposit after 1390.
A revision (NC ii (1955), pp. 161-2, 167-70) of the contents of this hoard, originally given under Troopers Lane, Carrickfergus, is based on the 124 coins now housed in the Ulster Museum and on the original, partly erroneous, description. There were 135 English pennies, half-groats and groats.
ranging from Edward I to Richard II, one Dublin penny of Edward I, two sterlings of Count Gaucher of Porcien (Yves mint). The Scottish portion consisted of 15 coins: David II, Edinburgh groats, second issue (1), third issue (1); half-groats, second issue (2), third issue (1). Robert II, Edinburgh groats, early type with saltire behind head (Burns 324 A) (1), late type (2); half-groats, late type (2). Perth groats, early type (2); half-groat, late type (1). Robert III, Edinburgh groat, first or heavy issue (1). This last coin, one of the first of the facing type issues, is in good state of preservation; it is almost certainly the latest piece in the hoard, placing the deposit not earlier than 1390. Like the Castle Enigan hoard the coins were found in a cow's horn which crumbled to pieces upon exposure.

B. England and Scotland.

(xi) Closeburn, Dumfriesshire, 22 March 1844 (and 1846). (Thompson 92 and 93).

This large treasure, consisting of coins ranging from Edward I and Alexander III to Edward III and said to include groats of the last as well as of David II, was found during ploughing by Thomas Whitman at Croal Chapel, near Closeburn limekilns, in a small field, part of Barnmoor Wood, belonging to Sir Charles Granville Stuart Menteath, Bt. The hoard was said to have been concealed in a large tripod cooking pot, and the coins were carried away in large quantities by local persons and never properly examined. A very small parcel, probably belonging to the main cache, and including a groat of David II, was presented to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1846. Thompson rightly gives this parcel separately under no. 93. Five further coins, four of Edward I and II of different mints, and a groat of Robert II, given by Mr. Menteath Jr. of Closeburn to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland about 1829 cannot have been part of the great hoard.

Lindsay (S), pp. 269-70; the pot is not mentioned by Lindsay, or in Gent's. Mag. (1844), p. 637. The statement here is based on Inventory, p. 33; Metcalf, B.N.J xxx (1960), p. 92, no. 7.

(xii) Montrave, Fifeshire, 1877. (Thompson 372).

This is a similar large hoard, found in a bronze tripod cauldron, and approximately of the same date as that from Closeburn. Its content is, however, much better attested since exact numbers of the various denominations and reigns have been recorded. An interesting aspect was the comparatively small number of Scottish pieces. They consisted of: William the Lion to David II, first coinage, sterlings (280); David II, second coinage, Edinburgh groats (124), half-groats (7), sterlings (14); Aberdeen groats (3), half-groats (1), sterlings (3). This total of 431 pieces represents less than 5% of the whole hoard which, if slightly above the average for large hoards of fourteenth century date in Britain generally, is below the average for Scottish coins in hoards and parcels of the same period found in the north-east of Ireland (see Seaby, NC (1955), p. 167).

Mr. Robert Kerr and Mr. R. B. K. Stevenson have been investigating the problem of whether any of the coins in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland throw any light on the terminal date of the Montrave hoard. Mr. Stevenson writes (letter to B.H.I.H.S., 25.11.64) that 'almost all our Edward III coins, whether or not they come from Montrave, are pre-Treaty . . . There is one half-groat which is not, but from its very worn condition can certainly be said to be non-Montrave. There are also three Treaty B pennies, two of which are in good or very good condition and could be Montrave. One, the best of these, has a whitish deposit on it which is noticeable on quite a number of the other coins we presume to be of Montrave and, in particular, is on a number of the David II groats which can be identified with fair certainty from the descriptions and weights given by Burns. The conclusion must be, I think, that there was a small, probably very small, Treaty B element in the hoard.' The Montrave hoard is one of the few chronological indicators for the early Scottish groat series; its latest Scottish coins are groats of S. class B, Burns Intermediate Head, second variety (B. 279).

(xiii) Durham No. 2 (Beach Crest), 10 May 1930. (Thompson 149).

547 AR English, Scottish and foreign. Deposit c. 1360 +.

The hoard is well detailed by Lawrence and consisted mostly of English pence, with a few foreign sterlings, from Edward I to Edward III pre-Treaty type Gg; also about one-fifth
of the total was made up of London groats and half-groats of Edward III (A—G) with a few of York (D—E). The Scottish portion was three sterlings of Alexander III, six 'max scorornum' sterlings of David II and a single Edinburgh half-groat of David II, early head.

L. A. Lawrence, *NC* xi (1931), pp. 201-228.

(xiv) Beaumont, Cumberland, 1884. (Thompson 38).

About 2,400 an English, Irish, Scottish, Anglo-Gallic and foreign (2,000 listed). Deposit c. 1365 ±.

If a good deal smaller than Closeburn and Montrave, the hoard follows much the same pattern. Here the composition of 1073 recorded English, Irish and Anglo-Gallic pennies, with 23 foreign sterlings, ranged from Henry III (1) to Edward III; there were also 125 groats and 92 half-groats of Edward III up to type G (London and York). The Scottish coins consisted of 41 sterlings, Alexander III to David II, first coinage. From 1357 onwards there were 27 groats and three fragments, ten half-groats and five pennies, all Edinburgh mint; also one groat of the Aberdeen mint. Ferguson and Keary, who reported the find, make it clear that a number of the Scottish groats of David have the 'Robert II head' which argues for a deposit between 1364 and 1370 but the English element might suggest a date for deposit similar to that for Closeburn, Montrave and Durham No. 2. (Dolley, *Marmham-le-Fen hoard, BNJ* xxxiii p. 83). The hoard seems originally to have been contained in a bag or box, judging by the discolouration of the soil around the mass of coins when discovered.

NC3 v (1885), pp. 199-208. Thompson's totals cannot be reconciled with those originally given by Ferguson and Keary, whose summary covered 2,000 coins.

(xv) Belford, Northumberland, c. 1860. (Thompson–).

Three coins of David II of different types were probably specimens selected from a hoard. Metcalf, *BNJ* xxx, p. 91, no. 3. While it is doubtful if this should really be included, it is here given for the sake of completeness.

(xvi) London No. 2 (Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood, Surrey), April 1953. (Thompson 211).

14 AV and 124 AB English and Scottish. Deposit c. 1365 ±.

One of the very few hoards of this period with an admixture of gold and silver coins, the former being on the whole later in type than the latter. The hoard must have been laid down well in the Treaty period, no fewer than one half-noble, six quarter-nobles, and two half-groats being assigned to the period 1363-9. The single Scottish groat in this hoard does not determine the t.p.q. since it is one of the earliest Edinburgh issues of David II and may date from 1357/8. It is to be compared with Burns 250, and is also a die duplicate of one of the groats from the Montrave hoard, now in the British Museum. No container was noted.


(xvii) Marmham-le-Fen, Lines, 9 October 1961. (Thompson–).

34 AB English and Scottish. Deposit c. 1365 ± (?).

This hoard contained 27 English groats, all but one (York) of London and six English half-groats, again all but one (York) of London; the range was the pre-Treaty coinage from class B to class Gb (c. 1538). The odd bed-fellow was a groat of David II of Stewart's classification D1/D3 mule with the 'Robert II head' which would place the loss of this hoard probably not earlier than 1365. The Edinburgh groat may have been added to the cache later. Dolley says there was no trace of metal or pottery container.

R. H. M. Dolley, *BNJ* xxxiii, p. 83. We are much indebted to Mr. Dolley for allowing us to see his manuscript before publication.

(xviii) South Shields, Durham No. 1, c. 1880, etc. (Thompson–).

AB English and Scottish (29 listed). Deposit after 1371.

This group of coins, although it includes two English coins, a London groat and half-groat of 1361–61, corresponds fairly closely in content and date to the Balleny hoard. Unfortunately it is impossible to class it as a tight parcel since the coins were picked up at random as beach-finds with others over a period of years on the Herd Sands between South Pier and the Fish Pier. The group as listed by Metcalf includes seven Edinburgh groats of David II and one 'max scorornum' penny; also eleven Edinburgh groats, five Perth groats and two Perth half-groats of Robert II. Metcalf's
descriptions inexplicably replace two crosses by two stars as stops *passim*; the original account correctly printed crosses. Metcalf, *BNJ* xxx, p. 100, no. 48, and pp. 116–7.

(xix) Durham No. 1, Neville’s Cross, spring 1889. (Thompson 148).

256 are English, Scottish and foreign. Deposit c. 1380 ±.

The balance between English and Scottish differs in this case from most of the larger deposits, there being 70 Scottish to 185 English and one continental sterling. The original list by John Evans, who is said to have seen nearly all, is not detailed enough to give the *t.p.q.* of the English group; but the Edward III Durham and York coins constituted almost half the number of pieces found, and mention is made that the York pennies were badly struck. The Durham pennies certainly reached well into the post-Treaty period but, since no Richard coins are listed, the hoard was unlikely to have been formed much later than 1377. The Scottish element was: one Alexander sterling; 24 Edinburgh groats and four half-groats of David II; 30 Edinburgh groats, three half-groats, and eight Perth groats of Robert II. The larger proportion of Robert coins suggests a date well into his reign. The hoard was found in a yellow-green glazed jug.

The *Inventory* summary is not accurate; the original paper by Evans in *NC*3 ix (1889), pp. 312–321, should be consulted.

(xx) Branxholme, Roxburghshire, 1860. (Thompson 53).

AR Scottish of David II and Robert II (?) with AR ornaments. Deposit after 1371.

No details of the coins seem to have been preserved but the ornaments are in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

(xxi) Brownlee, Lanarkshire, March 1770. (Thompson 60).

AR English and Scottish. Deposit after 1371 (?)

Again the date and content of the hoard is by inference only. Lindsay, quoting Ferguson, merely says ‘A servant at Brownlee found an earthen pot containing a number of Scotch and English coins of David, Robert and Edward in fine preservation’. Probably Robert II, rather than the much scarcer Robert I, is to be read here, in the absence of Alexander III and John Balliol.

(xxii) Craigie, Ayrshire, Jan. 1893. (Thompson 104).

80 AR Irish and Scottish. Deposit c. 1385 ±.

The only Irish coin was an Edward I Waterford penny, very much the obsolete piece in this hoard, which otherwise consisted of mid-to-late fourteenth century Scottish coins—including one ‘REX SCOTORUM’ sterling. Since the original account gives references to Burns, the other 78 coins may be summarised as follows: David II, 2 ‘small head’, 1 ‘intermediate head’ and 18 ‘Robert II head’ groats, 1 ‘small head’ and 3 ‘Robert II head’ half-groats of Edinburgh; Robert II, 32 groats, 2 half-groats and 1 penny of Edinburgh, 14 groats and 4 half-groats of Perth. Here the Robert coins, greatly out-numbering those of David, suggest the date of deposit as late in the fourteenth century. One Edinburgh groat has B behind head (Burns 8 var.). The hoard was discovered at a depth of two and a half feet during draining on the farm of Camsican by two sons of Hugh Drennan, Wraes. No container is mentioned.


(xxiii) Balcombe, Sussex, 23 May 1897. (Thompson 22).

12 AV and 742 AR English, Scottish and foreign. Deposit after 1377.

This is another hoard in which gold figured with the silver but in a much lower proportion. It is only included here because there was a tiny Scottish element, although these were sterlings, not groats or half-groats. There were ten altogether: three Alexander III ‘REX SCOTORUM’ sterlings; one ‘Rex scotorum’ and three Edinburgh pennies of David II; one Perth and two Edinburgh pennies of Robert II. The English coins ran from Edward I to Richard II [four groats, two half-groats, ten pennies and three halfpennies, all coins apparently of Purvey types I and II with a local type A], and included twelve Edward III nobles from the pre-Treaty, Treaty and post-Treaty periods. This hoard was wrapped up in a small piece of rough canvas and contained in a bronze tripod drinking jug, one foot of which was missing.

H. A. Grueber and L. A. Lawrence, *NC*3 xviii (1899), pp. 6–72 and pl. I–V.
Drumlanrig, Nithsdale, Dumfriesshire, early 19th century. (Thompson-).

A few Days ago some Labourers were sinking a Well at Drumlanrig, in Scotland, they dug up several antique Silver Coins, struck in the Reign of King Robert Bruce'. Again the inference may be drawn that this is really a hoard of Robert II, but proof is lacking.

Search amongst the Buccleuch estate papers and reference to Mr. A. E. Truckell, Dumfries Museum, have brought no further information to light.

Edinburgh, Samson's Ribs, Holyrood Park, 3rd Feb. 1831. (Thompson—)

50-60 AR Scottish. Deposit late 14th cent. (?)

A cutting, undated (in the same collection as that of no. xxiv), from a Scottish newspaper reads as follows: 'The workmen employed on the Edinburgh railway found, on Tuesday se'nnight, among the debris under Sampson's Ribbs, two large parcels of silver and copper coins the one parcel containing fifty or sixty pieces, all silver, and all ancient of some of them being the coinage of Robert the First.

They were lying among the broken fragments at a considerable depth under the surface, and covered by a large mass of whinstone, which had not been placed upon them by the depositors, but had fallen from the rock above. There is little doubt that this posey, which had been hid here, probably by some cunning person, in troublesome times, has lain in the soil five hundred years. Several of the coins are in good preservation, the figures are well marked, and the letters of the inscription quite legible. The other parcel of coins consisted of several hundred pieces, but a great part of them are copper, and all of much later date. There are one or two medals struck in Queen Mary's reign amongst them'. Here, too, the first hoard may be of the reign of Robert II or III.

Lindsay (S) p. 268 gives a shorter account of this discovery, stating that a selection of the coins 'were sent to the Antiquarian Society and Advocates Library, and the remainder to Mr. Jardine, Civil Engineer, superintending the formation of the Railroad.'

Killichonate, Inverness-shire, c. 1831. (Thompson 211).

30 AR Scottish (only 1 listed). Deposit after 1390.

One groat of Robert III from this hoard, found on the farm of Killichonate by Spean Bridge in the Lochaber district, was given to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland by Capt. Macdonald in 1831.

Arch. Scotica v (1890), Don. p. 11.

Fortrose, Cromarty, 22 Jan. 1880. (Thompson 165).

1,100 AR Scottish. Deposit c. 1400 +.

Robert III groats of the heavy coinage of Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Perth. This large hoard was examined by Geddie and Burns: the latter based his classification of the heavy coinage very largely on the Fortrose find, and it is considered that they ran almost to the end of Robert III's reign. Some of the coins were overstruck on Robert II groats. Like other hoards of the period the coins were contained in a bronze tripod drinking jug, very similar to that from Balcombe.

In addition to references published in numismatic and archaeological works and in newspaper reports, the First and Second Statistical Accounts of Scotland contain a considerable number of reports on coin hoards. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Kerr for sending us his manuscript extracts of all coin finds recorded in the Statistical Accounts. Those which appear to fall within the period under discussion are given here en bloc under one number, a letter being assigned to each entry.

Redgorton parish, Perthshire (Second S.A.S. x, p. 177).

'In 1789 there were found on the farm of Balmblair, at a place called the Dumbie's Know, by the side of a large stone, as many of David's groats and half-groats and Edward's pence as amounted, at the price of bullion, to three pounds. Some of the groats were in beautiful preservation . . . Mint: Edinburgh. One of these is now in the possession of the Antiquarian Society of Perth'. The deposit must have been well after 1357. That there were Edwardian pence but not groats indicates that they were probably sterlings of Edward I and II, which were still circulating widely in Scotland at this date. The value of the coins represents approximately 350 silver pence, which in terms of groats, half-groats and pence might amount to between 100 and 200 coins in all.
(b) Birse parish, Aberdeenshire (Second S.A.S. xii, p. 792).

'A few years ago [before 1842] four silver coins were dug out of a grave in the churchyard. They are much worn but had originally been nearly the size of modern half-crowns. They bear the inscription of 'ROBERTUS SCOTORUM REX' on one side and on the other 'VILLA EDINBUEGH' and 'VILLA PERTH'. Although neither the groat of Robert II nor III reads exactly thus on obverse, the former king is more likely owing to the indication of the size of coin. The date of deposit could be any time after the first year or two of Robert II's reign.

(c) Tynron parish, Dumfriesshire (Second S.A.S. iv, p. 475).

'A few silver coins discovered [before Feb. 1836] concealed beneath some stones at Pingarie Craig, principally of the reign of the Roberts and coined at Edinburgh.' These must have been of Robert II and III, since the coins of Robert Bruce do not bear a mint name. The date of deposit presumably lies somewhere in the last quarter of the fourteenth century or very early in the next.

(d) Rosemarkie parish (Fortrose), Cromarty (First S.A.S. xi, p. 340, also repeated in Second S.A.S. xiv, p. 354).

'About 200 silver coins were found lately [about 1794] in a massy copper jug of an antique form, in digging up the foundation of an old house at Chanonry. They were coined in the reign of Robert, King of Scots, and are nearly of the size of a British Shilling'. This entry almost parallels the other find from Fortrose (xxvii above) except for the dates of discovery, 1794 and 1880, and the sizes of deposit, 200 as against 1,100. Nevertheless, both caches were in metal jugs, under floors of old houses in the cathedral town of Chanonrie, now Fortrose, and possibly the same circumstances caused the concealment of both. That the coins are of late fourteenth or early fifteenth century date is indicated by the description. Shillings of 1787 are both larger and thicker than the light groats of Robert III. Groats of the later heavy coinage are of about the same module as the shilling, but if a little clipped would be smaller. Any half-groats of the reign would be smaller. The pennies of Robert Bruce are much too small. A hoard composed entirely of Robert II half-groats is intrinsically unlikely, even if these coins were not nearer the size of eighteenth century sixpences than shillings. The description thus suggests a hoard of late Robert III groats, buried c. 1400 +.