

A CIVIL WAR HOARD FROM GREWELTHORPE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

C.P. BARCLAY

FOLLOWING the mechanical excavation of a drainage ditch at Ellershaw House, Bramley Grange, Grewelthorpe, near Ripon, in November 1991, a quantity of coins were discovered lying scattered amongst the spoil by members of the family of the landowner, Mrs S Kreutzer. A closer examination of the findspot with a metal detector produced more coins and two pieces of pottery but an examination of the area by archaeologists from North Yorkshire County Council and the Harrogate Museums and Art Gallery Service revealed no clues as to the circumstances of the deposit.¹ A total of 201 coins were examined by the author at Ellershaw House on 27 November 1991 prior to being transferred to the Yorkshire Museum for cleaning and cataloguing. A further two pot sherds and 101 coins discovered subsequently were taken directly to the Yorkshire Museum. The coins were the subject of a coroner's inquest held at Harrogate on 21 February 1992 where they were declared to be Treasure Trove. With a single exception, all the coins and the pottery were subsequently acquired by Harrogate Museums and Art Gallery Service.²

The hoard comprised 302 coins, of which 294 were found to be English issues, one being a sixpence of Edward VI's fine coinage, the others being sixpences and shillings of Elizabeth I, James I and Charles I, together with numerous halfcrowns of the latter reign. The bulk of the coins of Charles I were found to be Tower issues. A single Aberystwyth shilling was also found, with Royalist mints of the Civil War being represented by a halfcrown of Oxford dated 1643 and seven halfcrowns and two shillings of York. Five Scottish coins, including a six-shilling piece bearing the hitherto unrecorded date of 1624, were also present as were three counterfeit pieces imitating issues of James I and Charles I.

The pottery sherds, which have been identified as coming from at least two vessels of a utilitarian Ryedale-type ware, were recovered from the same spoil as the coins.³ It is not, however, possible to state with certainty whether the coins were concealed in a single vessel or in more than one container, owing to the scattering of the hoard and the fact that clear impressions of coins were only found in the earth adhering to one of the sherds. A second sherd, from a different vessel, exhibited similar iron-staining to that observed on many of the coins, but this may be merely coincidental.

As has come to be recognised as normal for Yorkshire hoards, many of the coins have suffered at the hands of clippers, 35 per cent of the shillings and 38.5 per cent of the sixpences of James I having been reduced in this way. Of the Tower mint coins of Charles I, 26.7 per cent of halfcrowns, 23.9 per cent of shillings and 37.5 per cent of sixpences were also found to have suffered, as had the Aberystwyth shilling, the Oxford halfcrown, two of the York coins and two of the Scottish thirty-shilling pieces. As is normal with hoards of this period, many of the Tudor coins have also been heavily clipped and nine of the Elizabethan shillings also display incised graffiti on their obverses.

The hoard was found to have a face value of £16-3s-6d, allowing for the fact that the Scottish coins were tarrified in England at the rate of one shilling Scots to the penny

¹ The area was examined by Mary Kershaw of Harrogate Museums and Art Gallery Service and by Neil Campling of North Yorkshire County Council.

² Catalogue number 296.

³ The pottery was identified by Sarah Jennings of York Archaeological Trust.

English. Unlike the Breckenbrough hoard of 1985, the Grewelthorpe hoard ends strongly, with issues bearing the initial marks Triangle-in-circle and P-in-brackets accounting for 23.8 per cent and 15.2 per cent of the Charles I Tower silver by value as opposed to 13.6 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively in the case of the earlier find.⁴

Grewelthorpe – Charles I, Tower Mint

	<i>Halfcrown</i>	<i>Shilling</i>	<i>Sixpence</i>	<i>Value (shillings)</i>	
Lys	–	–	1	0.5	(0.3%)
Cross calvary	1	–	–	2.5	(1.4%)
Plume	2	1	–	6.0	(3.3%)
Harp	–	2	–	2.0	(1.1%)
Portcullis	2	1	2	7.0	(3.9%)
Bell	–	6	–	6.0	(3.3%)
Crown	4	3	1	13.5	(7.5%)
Tun	3	14	2	22.5	(12.5%)
Anchor	2	6	3	12.5	(7.0%)
Triangle	3	6	4	15.5	(8.6%)
Star	5	8	3	22.0	(12.2%)
Triangle-in-circle	10	17	–	43.0	(23.8%)
P-in-brackets	9	5	–	27.5	(15.2%)
				180.5	

Breckenbrough – Charles I, Tower Mint (silver)

	<i>Halfcrown</i>	<i>Shilling</i>	<i>Sixpence</i>	<i>Value (shillings)</i>	
Lys	1	5	2	8.5	(1.4%)
Cross calvary	–	5	–	5.0	(0.8%)
Castle	–	1	–	1.0	(0.2%)
Heart	–	1	–	1.0	(0.2%)
Plume	1	11	–	13.5	(2.2%)
Rose	–	6	2	7.0	(1.1%)
Harp	2	8	2	14.0	(2.2%)
Portcullis	1	16	3	20.0	(3.2%)
Bell	9	16	5	41.0	(6.6%)
Crown	9	43	10	70.5	(11.3%)
Tun	17	62	17	113.0	(18.0%)
Anchor	9	31	4	55.5	(8.9%)
Triangle	11	54	8	85.5	(13.6%)
Star	15	59	11	102.0	(16.3%)
Triangle-in-circle	17	42	1	85.0	(13.6%)
P-in-brackets	–	4	–	4.0	(0.6%)
				626.5	

This difference may suggest that a slightly later date of deposition should be proposed for the Grewelthorpe hoard than that of the spring 1644 which has been assigned to the find from Breckenbrough. Both hoards nevertheless close with coins which had ceased to be issued by July 1644 and, given the relative paucity of late coins in other Yorkshire hoards known to have been buried well after this date, it may be equally valid to attribute the strong ending of the Breckenbrough hoard to peculiar local conditions.⁵ Circumstantial

⁴ E. Besly, *English Civil War Coin Hoards* (London, 1987), pp. 6–16, E. Besly, 'A Civil War Coin Hoard from Grewelthorpe, North Yorkshire', *Yorkshire Numismatist* 1 (1986–87), 45–55.

⁵ A good example of this is provided by the material from the Wyke, Bradford hoard of 1982: E. Besly, *English Civil War Coin Hoards*, pp. 33–42.

evidence to support this may be drawn from the fact that the Breckenbrough receipts, signed by the deputy provider-general of York's Royalist garrison must surely have been hidden from the advancing Parliamentarians and, as such, are associated with examples of the type of coinage circulating in a Royalist area. By mid-April 1644, however, Grewelthorpe was beyond the control of the Royalists, the Fairfaxes having met only some eleven miles away at Boroughbridge. It is certain that the Parliamentarians, converging on York, would have carried with them monies coined at their own Tower Mint. It may well be, therefore, that the differences between the compositions of the Grewelthorpe and Breckenbrough hoards are explainable in terms of military and political rather than chronological variables.

Normally it is impossible even to speculate as to the identity of the depositor of a hoard. In this case, however, there exists a very strong candidate. As stated above, the hoard was found within yards of Ellershaw House, an ancient property located at Bramley Grange. There survives in the County Record Office of North Yorkshire County Council a deed relating to this property, being an assignment of the remainder of a term of 1050 years by George Maultus, a spurrier of Hewicke upon the Bridge, and Ursula, his wife, to the yeoman Richard Bayne of Bramley Grange. By this document he was assigned 'all that messuage, tenement or dwellinge house scituate standing and beinge in Allershaw within Bramley grainge aforesaid in the said county of Yorke'.⁶ The deed, dated 1 September 1642, contains the only reference to Richard Bayne which has been traced. Likewise, no other documents relating to Ellershaw House during this period appear to have survived and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, Richard Bayne must stand as the most likely depositor of the hoard.

THE POTTERY Sarah Jennings

Two body sherds and a base sherd of green glazed pottery were found in association with a number of coins comprising a hoard. It is possible that these sherds represent all that survives of the original container(s) of the hoard as they were obviously broken in antiquity, and as is mentioned above, the hoard was spread over an area rather than being confined in one place.

Although the three sherds are very similar in appearance and are undoubtedly the same type or ware, examination under a 20× microscope suggests that in fact they represent two different vessels. There are small but distinct differences in the way the vessels have been fired and in the degree of reduction, which is particularly evident on the inner margins and surface of the base sherd.

All three sherds are reasonably featureless but are large enough for it to be clear that they are from 'hollow wares' or enclosed containers such as jars.

The first sherd is from the shoulder of a hollow ware, while the second appears to be from lower down the vessel wall and has more pronounced throwing lines on the inside surface. It has the appearance of being slightly sooted on the inner surface, but this could have resulted from the contents. Certainly in one area there is a line of grey staining from where the edge of a coin has rested against the wall of the vessel. The third fragment is from the base of a vessel; sufficient of the basal angle and vessel wall survive to give an approximate diameter of 11 cms. It is this sherd that looks different from the other two. All three are glazed on the exterior only with a slightly pitted iron green glaze. The glaze only

⁶ North Yorkshire County Council, County Record Office, Deed Z.759. The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of M.Y. Ashcroft, the County Archivist.

extends down the vessel wall to the trimmed basal edge and not underneath the base of the sherd. The fabric of the two body sherds is light to medium grey with lighter margins, while the base sherd is more heavily reduced.

Although it is not possible to identify the precise place of manufacture of this pottery, it is of a kind made in a number of places in the northern part of Yorkshire in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, one type of which has the name Ryedale ware. Mostly the products of the rural kilns of this period were utilitarian, or kitchen wares, functional pots for every day use. Certainly the appearance of these three fragments would put them in this category and the end date of the hoard of 1644 would fit well within their date range.

CATALOGUE

References cited below:

- (N) J.J. North, *English Hammered Coinage*, Vol. 2 (London 1960).
 (Morr.) H.W. Morrieson, 'The Coinage of Aberystwyth, 1637-42', *BNJ* 10 (1913), 181-97; 'The Coinage of Oxford, 1643-45', *BNJ* 16 (1921-2), 129-88.
 (Besly) E. Besly, 'The York Mint of Charles I', *BNJ* 54 (1984), 210-41.

ENGLAND (294)

Edward VI (1547-53)

1 Sixpence	Fine coinage Tun (1)	1
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		1

Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

2-24 Shillings	Lys(1); Crosslets(4); Martlet (4); Scallop(2); Crescent(1); Hand(1); Tun(3); Woolpack(4); Key(2); 2(1)	23
25-110 Sixpences	Pheon 1561(5), 1564(3), 1565(2), 1566(4); Portcullis 1566(5), 1567(1); Coronet 1567(3), 1568(5), 1569(1), 1570(1); Castle 1570(2), 1571(4); Ermine 1572(3); Acorn 1574(1); Eglantine 1574(5), 1575(3), 1576(1); uncertain 1575(1); Cross 1578(3); Long cross 1580(6), 1581(1); Sword 1582(5), 1583(1); Bell 1583(1); A 1583(1); Scallop 1584 (2), 1585(4); Crescent 1588(1); Hand 1591(3); Tun 1592(1), 1594(1); uncertain 1593(1); Woolpack 1594(3), 1595(1); 0(1)	86
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		109

James I (1603-25)

111-132 Shillings	1/2 uncertain (1) 2/3 Lys (3) 2/4 Rose (6); Scallop (2); Grapes (2); Coronet (2) 2/5 Tower (1); uncertain (2) 3/6 Trefoil (1); Spur rowel (1); Lys (1)	22
133-146 Sixpences	1/1 Thistle 1603 (2) 1/2 Thistle 1603 (2); uncertain 1604 (2) 2/3 Lys 1605 (1); Rose 1605 (3) 2/4 Rose 1605 (1); uncertain 1606 (1); Coronet 1607 (1) 3/6 Trefoil 1624 (1)	14
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Charles I (1625–49)*Tower Mint*

147–192 Halfcrowns	N2202	Cross calvary (1)	
	N2205	Plume (2)	
	N2207	Portcullis (2)	
	N2209	Crown(4); Tun(3)	
	N2211	Anchor (2); Triangle (1); uncertain (2)	
	N2212	Triangle (2)	
	N2214	Star (5); Triangle-in-circle (10); uncertain (3)	
	N2213	P-in-brackets (9)	46
193–264 Shillings	N2221	Plume (1)	
	N2223	Harp (2); Portcullis (1)	
	N2225	Bell (6); Crown (3); Tun (9)	
	N2228	Tun (2)	
	N2229	Tun (3); Anchor (2)	
	N2230	Anchor (4); Triangle (1) uncertain (1)	
	N2231	Triangle (5); Star (8); Triangle-in-circle(18), uncertain (2)	
	N2232	P-in-brackets (5)	73
265–283 Sixpences	N2235	Lys 1625 (1)	
	N2240	Portcullis (2)	
	N2241	Crown (1); Tun (2); uncertain (1)	
	N2244	Anchor (3); Triangle (2)	
	N2246	Triangle (2); Star (3); uncertain (1)	18
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			137
 <i>Aberystwyth Mint (1638–42)</i>			
284 Shilling	N2329, Morr.	C2 (1), 5.28g (clipped)	1
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			1
 <i>Oxford Mint (1642–46)</i>			
285 Halferown	N2410, Morr.	A3 (1), 10.64g (clipped)	1
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			1
 <i>York Mint (1643–44) (pl.11)</i>			
286–292 Halfcrowns	N2315	Besly 2C(1), 13.12g (clipped); Besly 2G(1), 13.78g; Besly 2I(1), 14.53g; Besly 2J(2), 12.92g, 14.36g; Besly 2L(1), 13.90g	
	N2313	Besly 3A(1), 14.31g	7
293–294 Shillings	N2316	Besly 1A(1), 4.87g (clipped)	
	N2320	Besly 2Dd(1), 5.66g	2
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SCOTLAND (5)

James VI (1567–1603–1625)*After English Accession*

295 Thirty shillings (1)

296 Six shillings, 1624 (1) (pl.11)

1
1
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2

Charles I (1625–49)*First coinage*

297–298 Thirty shillings (2)

Third coinage

299 Thirty shillings, initial marks B/anemone and B/thistle(1)

2
1
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3

FORGERIES OF ENGLISH COINS (3)

300–301 James I Shilling, 2/4, Scallop, cast, 2.26g
Shilling, fragments, 0.91g

2

302 Charles I Halfcrown, cf. N2207, struck, 7.95g

1

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3

Weights summary (Tower issues)

	<i>Sixpences</i>	<i>Shillings</i>	<i>Halfcrowns</i>
Edward VI	2.55 (1)	—	—
Elizabeth I –	—	5.09 (9) 84.6	—
–1561	—	—	—
1561–1582	2.56 (66) 85.0	—	—
1583–1603	2.68 (20) 89.0	5.48 (14) 91.0	—
James I	2.63 (14) 87.4	5.38 (22) 89.4	—
Charles I			
Lys-tun	2.86 (7) 95.0	5.92 (27) 98.3	14.24 (12) 94.7
Anchor-star	2.90 (10) 96.3	5.67 (21) 94.2	14.03 (12) 93.3
Triangle-in-circle	—	5.86 (18) 97.3	14.58 (10) 96.9
(P)	—	5.90 (5) 98.0	15.01 (9) 99.8



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