SHORT ARTICLES AND NOTES

THE SHORT CROSS MONEYERS OF SHREWSBURY

MARTIN ALLEN AND ALAN DAWSON

IN 1964 John Brand successfully elucidated the documentary evidence for the minting and exchanging of Short Cross pennies at Shrewsbury. Brand rightly concluded that minting operations began in 1194, and probably continued after the end of recorded activity at the associated Carregghova silver mine in 1195. However, Brand's interpretation of the evidence of surviving coins was hampered by dependence upon an incomplete and misleading die-study. His basic assumption that Shrewsbury had 'three moneyers in succession' has to be re-examined.

Brand was undoubtedly correct to allocate the pennies reading WILLEM-ON-SALO to an early place in his class IVa, as the earliest known Short Cross issues of Shrewsbury. He recorded only one pair of dies for Willem, but the two British Museum specimens of this moneyer actually come from two very similar obverse dies used with the same reverse die (pl. 22, 1-2).

Brand believed that Reinald/Reinaud succeeded Willem as the sole moneyer of Shrewsbury, combining a class IVa obverse die 'a little later in style' with the first of his two reverse dies, reading REINALD-ONS (pl. 22, 3). However, this supposition is undermined by the existence of a possibly contemporary pair of dies for Ive not recorded by Brand. These new dies are known to the authors from coins in the Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury, and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and from a coin said to have been found in the Grimsby area. The Rowley's House specimen (pl. 22, 4) and the 'Grimsby area' find (pl. 23, 5) are both illustrated to show the dies as fully as possible. The obverse die seems to belong to a relatively late place in class IVa, like Reinald/Reinaud's first obverse die. The reverse reads IVE-ON-SALOPe, providing a version of the mint-signature not previously recorded from the Short Cross coins of Shrewsbury.

Examination of twenty three class IVb coins of Shrewsbury has not added to Brand's tally of die-combinations. He found one pair of dies for Reinald/Reinaud (REINAVD-ONS, pl. 22, 6), and a reverse die of Ive (IVE-ON-SALOPE) used with two obverse dies: Reinald/Reinaud's die (pl. 22, 7) and a 'new' obverse die (pl. 22, 8). However, Brand's assumption that Ive's issues must have followed those of Reinald/Reinaud is invalidated by the class IVa coins of Ive. All of the dies used to produce the class IVb coins of Shrewsbury may be contemporary. The two obverse dies are very similar in style, both of them having the large annulet eyes and crown of clearly separated 'pears' normal in class IVc. The lettering and central designs of the two reverse dies are also similar in style, and comparable with the details of reverses of many class IVc coins.

It is almost certain that Reinald/Reinaud and Ive simultaneously received a pair of dies each on two occasions, relatively late in the production of class IVa and near the end of the production of class IVb. This may have followed a precedent established by the initial supply of dies to Shrewsbury, when the two early class IVa obverse dies could have been intended for Willem and a colleague: Reinald/Reinaud, Ive or another moneyer not yet recorded.

Acknowledgements The authors are indebted to three institutions for permission to illustrate their coins: the British Museum (pl. 22, 1-2), Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery (pl. 22, 3), and the Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury (pl. 22, 4). Mr Christopher Wren has given invaluable help with photography.

2 Canterbury coins seem to show a transition from 'Reinald' to 'Reinaud', as variants of the same name, during the production of class IVa.
3 Brand saw the Fitzwilliam Museum specimen (Short Cross Coins in the Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge, 1963, no. 234), but its obverse is extremely indistinct, and his attribution of the coin to class IVb is understandable.
COOK: SIXTEENTH CENTURY HOARD

BERRY, GAUNT AND THOMPSON: TOKEN ISSUERS
A SMALL SIXTEENTH CENTURY HOARD OF EUROPEAN GOLD COINS

B.J. COOK

This small group of coins, nine in all, was found at Hayleigh Farm, Streat, Sussex, about eight miles northeast of Brighton, in September 1989 by Mr William Cayhill, metal detecting on the site with the permission of the owners. The find was reported to the coroner and went to inquest on 6 December 1989. The coins were declared not to be treasure trove primarily because evidence was given to suggest that the exact site was crossed by two footpaths and was in intermittent use as the archery butts of the village in the mid to later sixteenth century. 1 It was thus presented as unlikely that the area would have been chosen for the deliberate concealment of a coin hoard. The jury accepted this contention and the coins were returned to the finders and landowners.

The site of the find, Church Field, was part of the demesne lands of the manor of Streat, property of the Fiennes family, though in the hands of the crown from 1541 to 1558, following the attainder of Thomas Fiennes, 9th Lord Dacre. The coins were found over an area of about 26 x 6 feet, more or less in a straight line. They are all gold and of continental origin. The core of the group are five crowns ('imperial' or 'Burgundian' crowns) of the Emperor Charles V from the Netherlands, one issued by him as duke of Gelderland and four as duke of Brabant, the latter all from the Antwerp mint. They are dated 1543, 1545 (two coins) and 1554 (two coins). There are two other coins of Charles V: a ducat of Lucca, dated 1552, and an escudo of Spain in the names of Charles and his mother Joanna, dating to 1537-55. There is one another Spanish coin, a double excelente of Ferdinand and Isabella, of 1497-1504, struck at Seville. The remaining piece is a rather battered ecu (later ducat) of Louis XI of France (1461-83).

The presence of foreign gold in mid-sixteenth century England is well attested, as the return to fine standards of coinage under Edward VI and Mary made the circulation of foreign gold more feasible than it had been during the previous period of debasement. 2 The coins found at Streat fit in well with the types of coin given valuations in a proclamation of Mary Tudor in 1554, issued in advance of the arrival of Philip of Spain in England for his marriage to the queen. 'All manner French crowns of the sun . . . and all manner of crowns of the Emperor's coin' were valued at 6s. 8d., 'double ducats' (double excelente) of Spain at 13s. 4d. and single ducats at 6s. 4d. 3 (The Lucca ducat is a novelty as an English find, but would presumably have been treated as other ducato-equivalent pieces.) The Streat find would thus have had a value in English terms in the 1550s of £3 5s. 10d (rating the coins as in the proclamation of 1554, with the escudo, as a pistolet, valued at 6s. 2d.). 4

The Spanish double excelente is worthy of note. It has an additional strip of gold inserted into it, threaded though two slits cut into the coin and then hammered flat, an alteration very neatly done, but also very obvious. It was presumably intended to improve the coin's weight, now 6.91 grams (the eleven British Museum specimens range from 6.83g to 7.04g with an average of 6.95g). The coin is clipped and it seems likely that the new gold was intended to compensate for this. Adding extra gold to improve the weight of a coin is a feature noted by Françoise Dumas on some French pieces of this period, specifically ecus of Louis XII and Francis I. Mine Dumas quoted a French royal ordinance from Blois of 1541:

"Autre figures cy faites des especes . . . que par la dicte ordonnance doivent avoir cours . . . pourquoy elles ne sovent apertement et visibly rongnee ny wouldle . . .," indicating this practice to be relatively familiar by that date. 5 Despite this prohibition, altered French coins clearly remained in circulation, and there is now a similar Spanish piece to further demonstrate this phenomenon. The obviousness of the repair on this piece may if anything have encouraged its acceptance.

The latest coin is datable to 1554 and one can suggest a deposit date between that year and perhaps around 1560-1, when Elizabeth I began a drive against the circulation of foreign coin. English hoards of any sort from the period 1544 to 1561 are scarce enough, and Brown and Dolley record no gold hoards at all. 6 Mayhew's list of sixteenth century finds of foreign gold includes a few single finds which may date to this period (crowns of Charles V of 1544 and 1549, a Genoese scudo issued between 1528 and 1541, and ecus of Louis XII and Francis I, which could have been deposited at any time up to the 1590s). 7 The Streat find thus provides a rare demonstration of the accuracy of references to the use of foreign gold in documentary sources of the mid sixteenth century.

1 Information about the site and its history was provided at the inquest by Mrs Heather Warne, an experienced archivist and local historian, who was retained on behalf of the landowner and finder. The details given here have been taken from her report to the coroner.
4 For the valuation of pistolets before 1560, see Hughes and Larkin, no. 472.
5 F. Dumas, 'Monnaies d’or du XVle siecle reparees', Bulletin de la Societe Francaise de Numismatique (May, 1967), 151-2. I am grateful to Marion Archibald for referring me to this note.
7 Nicholas Mayhew, 'An eighteenth century record of an Elizabethan hoard', SCMB no. 782 (October 1983), 261-3. I am grateful to Edward Besly for bringing this list to my attention.
SHORT ARTICLES AND NOTES

NOTES ON TWO COINS OF CHARLES I

MICHAEL SHARP

Halfcrown of Tower type 4 m.m. (P)

In the second of "Three Seventeenth Century Notes" I remarked that I had not seen a halfcrown of this type and mintmark: I now have (pl. 22, 1). Since type 4 is described as having a foreshortened horse, a description perhaps better suited to the common type 3a, its illustration should serve to prevent any future confusion.

1 BNJ 60 (1990), 138.
A New Fine Work Tower Shilling

Mr Alan Morris has kindly drawn my attention to a B5/2 shilling m.m. anchor and of fine work (pl. 22, 2). In addition to its being a very early example in the series of carefully struck pieces, it is of significance because B5/2 coins have hitherto only been recorded with m.m.s. heart and plumes.

I take this opportunity also to record a C2/5 coin of fine work with m.m. plumes.

HARRIS, ALCHORNE AND AN ESSAY

MARVIN LESSEN

An interesting copy of the book An Essay upon Money and Coins was sold from the B.A. Seaby library by Classical Numismatic Auctions in London, 5 October 1991, lot 2288. In 1757 Joseph Harris anonymously published An Essay upon Money and Coins, Part I, 'The Theories of Commerce, Money, and Exchanges', and in 1758 he published Part II, 'That the Established Standard of Money should not be violated or altered, under any pretence whatsoever'. Joseph Harris (1702-64) was king's assay master from 1749 until his death, having advanced from master's assay master when he was deputy to Hopton Haynes. 1

The copy of the book now under discussion contains a third part, this in manuscript authored by Stanesby Alchorne (died 1800). There is a front cover page in manuscript, adding reference to Part III; the additional Part III itself has a manuscript cover page entitled, An Essay upon Money and Coins Part III Humbly Proposing some regulations for remedying the present bad state of our Coin, and for obviating all cause of complaint about our Money for the future. London MDCCLXIV; a preface of four pages in manuscript; a contents listing of four pages in manuscript; and 134 pages of text in manuscript. All are fully paginated and in a size and format compatible with the printed Parts I and II, with which it was obviously designed to fit.

In 1757 Alchorne became a formally paid deputy to Harris, then master's assay master in 1764, the date of this Part III, and king's assay master in 1789. 2

No pedigree for this book has been found. It was not where expected, in the 12 November 1851 Puttick & Simpson sale catalogue of the Alchorne library and manuscripts on Mint affairs, nor apparently in the 11 May 1848 Sotheby sale of Alchorne's numismatic holdings. 3 The book retains its original sewing, boards and spine label, but it has now been rebacked to replace a disintegrated spine.

The question arose as to whose hand wrote the manuscript. Mr G.P. Dyer of the Royal Mint was of the opinion that it was the same hand that wrote the Stanesby Alchorne manuscript in the Royal Mint Library, entitled 'Observations on the Coin and Coinage of France and Flanders collected from the Mints of Paris, Rouen, Lille & Bruxelles 1777', a report prepared by Alchorne after his assigned tour for that purpose. 4 Dr Michael Halls, a manuscript expert, archivist and Reference Librarian at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library is positive that the same hand wrote both manuscripts thirteen years apart. Further, he did not feel that the hand was that of a professional clerk or secretary, such as might have been employed to do the writing, but rather that of an 'educated professional' of the time. Alchorne's signature is at the end of his preface to Part III, and this matches perfectly with many Alchorne signatures in a volume relating to the Birmingham and Sheffield assay offices. 5 This does not prove that the text and the signature are by the same person, but in this writer's opinion the manuscript of An Essay as well as the manuscript of the Observations were both hand-written by Alchorne. The authorship by Alchorne is not of course in question.

The full preface to Part III follows:

In the years 1757, and 1758, two anonymous Tracts appeared, which were sold by Mr Hawkins at the middle Temple-gate in Fleetstreet; entitled, An Essay upon Money and Coins, Part I. & II.

The Author of these Pieces, was JOSEPH HARRIS ESQr, at that time His Majesty's Assay-master of the Mint, in the Tower of London; whose Judgment upon those subjects was pretty generally known and esteemed. Why therefore Mr Harris chose to send this work into the world without a Name, is to me a secret, and appears the more extraordinary, as he

Acknowledgements The writer wishes to thank Graham P. Dyer for ideas, comments, photocopies, and review, Michael Halls for his examination and assessment of the manuscripts, and Francis Campbell for his search through the sale catalogues.

1 John Craig, The Mint (1953), p. 231. Craig also says that Harris became master's assay master in 1737, but G.P. Dyer says this is not certain (personal correspondence to the writer).

2 Craig, p. 231, where he says that Harris hired Alchorne as a personal assistant sometime around 1749, but G.P. Dyer thinks that their association began in 1757, and the following preface tends to support that. He also points out that Craig's date of 1799 for Alchorne's promotion to king's assay master was wrong (personal correspondence to the writer).

3 Information from Francis Campbell, Librarian of the American Numismatic Society.

4 Craig, p. 248.

5 Royal Mint Library, 'Birmingham & Sheffield Diet 1773-1817'.
presented it himself to most of his acquaintance, and the Bookseller always readily declared who was the writer of it, so that I believe it was never attributed to any but the real Author.

The great and good man, for whose use we are told (in Preface to Part I) this Work was first undertaken, was The Right Honourable Henry Pelham Esqr then first Lord of His Majesty's Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer. But the whole was at that time comprised in a small compass; consisting of little more than general heads, which the Author explained occasionally to that able Minister in Person. It contained however, not only The Theory of Commerce, and Objections against altering the Standard of Money, but likewise proposals for divers new regulations with respect to our Coin. Though no part of it then was ever intended for the press.

From the death of Mr Pelham, the Treatise lay dormant 'till a new war raised the price of Bullion, and drained away our Silver Money. This proving a necessity for some alteration, induced Mr Harris to think of publishing his thoughts on the subject. He therefore much enlarged his Plan, Printed a compleat Theory of Money, & and intended compiling another containing a scheme for settleing our Coins upon such a subject. He therefore much enlarged his Plan, Printed a second part of his Essay, 'with a view to the quiet of those in power, from the projects being daily proposed for debasing the money time impracticable. Mr Harris therefore only printed his necessities of the War rendered any regulation of Coin at that importunities of wrong headed Politicians.'

The scarcity of Silver Coin increaseng, and many empty projects being daily proposed for debasing the money Standard, our Author was prevailed on by The Right Honourable Henry Hibson Legge, to publish a second part of his Essay, 'with a view to the quiet of those in power, from the importunities of wrong headed Politicians.'

The high price of Gold and Silver having increaseng with the necessities of the War rendered any regulation of Coin at that time impracticable. Mr Harris therefore only printed his reasons against 'violating the established Standard on Money upon any pretence whatever', and reserved his plan for establishing the Monies of this kingdom on a solid and lasting foundation, 'till a time should present, more likely for its being carried into execution. But unfortunately, Mr Harris dyed before any such opportunity offered.'

The Author's death having prevented his finishing this important subject, it has been my endeavour to supply the defect. I cannot however presume that the following part of this Essay is any way equal to what it would have appeared from that Gentleman's own pen. But having had frequent opportunities during seven years close intimacy with Mr Harris, of perusing the original manuscript, and hearing the several parts repeatedly explained and enlarged upon, I commonly made memorandums of the particulars, for private satisfaction; and after his decease I had the liberty of examining the few loose papers and notes of our Author on this subject, and comparing them with my own.

By these means, I trust that no material part of the original design is lost, though it may not be so well illustrated as it deserves. I have endeavoured throughout the following pages, to preserve the Author's own words, where I had them to assist me, and to digest the whole in his Style and Manner, as much as possibly I could.

Whatever defect may appear in the execution, I must take it entirely upon myself; and desire that all the Merit may be ascribed to its true Author; the so often mentioned Mr Harris; having little more to boast of, on my own part, in this performance, than the trouble of transcribing the Materials, and rescuing the whole from oblivion.

S. Alchorne
Tower of London
December, 1764.

AN UNPUBLISHED SCOTTISH TRADESMAN'S COUNTERMARK

H.E. MANVILLE

In a previous note,1 attention was drawn to a published but mis-identified Scottish tradesman’s countermark, known from a single recorded specimen. Examples of other unidentified or previously unpublished Scottish countermarks on Spanish dollars of eight-reales continue to make unexpected appearances,2 which causes some uneasiness as to their authenticity until they can be plausibly identified with an issuer and fitted into a plausible time frame.

On 28 March 1951, D.G. Liddell exhibited at a meeting of the British Numismatic Society a ‘new’ Scottish countermark on a 1780 dollar of the Lima mint.3

J. & J.W. HURLET 5/, with a triangle of 3 dots outside the countermark (pl. 24, A).

Four additional specimens of this countermark on coins of the Mexico City mint, with dates nicely bunched at 1796–9, appeared over approximately the next twenty years. A sixth specimen is on an unusual host coin, a U.S.A. dollar dated 1800, but is from the same punches, and these countermarks all stand or fall together as original early nineteenth century strikings or as recent concoctions.

In about 1963, another specimen of the Hurlet countermark surfaced in Glasgow, but from a different punch, lacking the stop after the second J, and without the triangle of dots:

J. & J. W. HURLET 5/. (pl. 24, B).

Three more dollars from this puncheon, which may be designated Type II, came to light in 1968–71, and perhaps one or two others are said to exist but have not been publicly sold or otherwise made available for inspection. This mark is slightly more suspicious than Type I. First, for no apparent reason except carelessness

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3 BNJ 26 (1949–51), 357.
or in copying a photograph of a poorly-struck specimen, it lacks the stop after the second J. Second, the spread of original coins (1777–1802 on three specimens and then jumping to 1818 on the fourth) is unusual and, if we assume that the mark must have been employed no earlier than in or immediately after 1818 the forty-year old 1777 coin is relatively unworn. Third, the punch on at least the 1777 coin appears to have been struck with a rocker motion, leaving a slight ridge across the centre. The countermark on the 1818 coin is cancelled with a large grille, a common enough practice when dollars were presented for redemption in a falling market and the issuer intended to sell the coin as bullion but did not wish to have it re-sold and then presented to him for redemption a second time. The lettering and the reverse artifacts of this second type match well enough to other early nineteenth century countermarks and, except for the missing stop, which might have been omitted through hurried and careless engraving of a second punch to replace a worn-out or damaged one, there is no apparent reason to reject either type of this countermark on stylistic grounds.

Considering possible issuers, from at least 1814 the Hurlet & Campsie Company had an alum, copperas, and Prussian blue works, listed at No. 56 Queen Street, Glasgow.4 This firm had been established by Nicholson & Lightbody of Liverpool in 1753,5 and by the end of 1819, now known as the Hurlet Copperas Company, it was bankrupt—a statement that their estates had been sequestered appearing in The Scots Magazine for December 1819 and three years later that dividends (i.e. disbursements to creditors) would be paid by an accountant in Glasgow.6

Records of late eighteenth/early nineteenth century land dealings in Renfrewshire provide further information on changes in the Hurlet Copperas Company:7

Jan. 13, 1820. The Trustee on the Seized Estates of the HURLET COPPERAS COMPANY, Seised, Jan. 1, 1820.—in 2 Acres of ground in the HURLET with the houses and buildings thereon, in the Old Parish of PAISLEY;—on Disp. by Mary Ewing, relift of Adam Lightbody, Manager of the Hurlet Copperas Co., and John Lightbody, residing at Hurlet Park, Feb. 6, 1818.8

Jan. 15, 1823. The Trustee (same as above),—and John Wilson of Thornly, purchaser, get Ren Jan. 10, 1823, by Alexander and James Dunlop, residing in Glasgow, sons of Alexander Dunlop, Bookseller, Glasgow, with consent of the Carators of the said James Dunlop,—of 2 Acres of ground with the Houses thereon in the HURLET, Old par. Paisley;—and of £1200, in Bond and Disp. by Mary Ewing, relift of Adam Lightbody, Manager of the Hurlet Copperas Co., and John Lightbody, residing at Hurlet Park, Feb. 6, 1818.9

Jan. 15, 1823. The Trustee of the Sequ. Estate of the HURLET COPPERAS CO.,—and John Wilson of Thornly, purchaser, get Ren, Dec. 23, 1822, by Dr. Joseph Campbell of Lower Hardwick, near Chepstow, Co. Monmouth, of the half pro indiviso of 2 Acres of ground in HURLET, and others, Old par. Paisley;—and of £1521.5s.2d, in Bond and Disp. by Adam Lightbody residing at Hurlet, to John Lightbody, Merchant. Liverpool, Jan. 4, 1806.10

Jan. 29, 1823. JOHN WILSON & SONS, iat Hurlet, Sequed Jan. 25, 1823,—in 2 Acres of ground in the HURLET with Buildings, Vaults and Apparatus thereon, Old par. Paisley,—on Disp. by the Trustee on the Sequ Estate of the Hurlet Copperas Co., with consent of the Commissioners on said Estate, and of James Robb, Drysalter, Glasgow, to John Wilson of Thornly, Dec. 17, 1822;—and Disp. and Assig. by him, Jan. 24, 1828.11

John Wilson & Sons had a coal wharf, lime burners, and copperas works at ‘Port Eglington, near this city’, by about 1814.12 By 1820, the firm is listed as copperas and alum manufacturers at the Nitshill Works, and coal merchants at Hurlet.13 By 1823, John Wilson & Sons, alum &c. merchants, are listed at No. 56 Queen Street.14 We have seen that address given earlier for the Hurlet & Campsie Co., which suggests that the Wilson firm acquired their offices in central Glasgow as well as the Hurlet works. In 1825–7, John Wilson & Sons are listed both as ‘Chemists (Manufacturing), soda, alum (stic), and copperas’, and as ‘Coal Merchants & Brokers, coal masters’ at Hurlet and Queen Street, Glasgow.15 From 1825, they also have a Glasgow address in Morrison’s Court;16 and in 1828 they are listed as at Hurlet and Dalmarnock, No. 108 Argyle Street.17

These records suggest that a John Wilson first was located at Port Eglington then, early in 1820, bought the assets of the bankrupt Hurlet Copperas Co. Still, none of this appears to relate directly to a J. & J.W. The

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4 Holden's Annual Directory—Glasgow. 1st edition, for 1814–5. 128 (Class Fifth: Calico, Cotton, Silk, Woollen). Alum and copperas are astringent salts; the first used in clarifying water and in baking powders, the second in making inks and pigments.


6 The Scots Magazine, vol. 84, n.s. 5 (1819 ii), 580; vol. 91, n.s. 12 (1823 i), 250.

7 Abridgments of the Registers of Seisins &c.—Renfrewshire, 1781–1820; 1821–1830. SRO.

8 Seisins, 1781–1820, entry 15.064; P.R. 281.85.

9 Seisins, 1821–1830, 1254; P.R. 340.277.

10 op. cit., 1255; P.R. 339.272.

11 op. cit., 1309; P.R. 343.99.

12 Holden's Directory, 1814–5, 133.
MANVILLE: SCOTTISH COUNTERMARK
Wilson firm name specifies ‘& Sons’, but land records do not mention a John junior or a John and, say, a James Wilson. A partial solution is suggested by the recent discovery of a previously-unrecorded countermark on a Mexico City eight-reales of 1804: J. WILSON & SONS HURLET 5/ (pi. 24, C)

The name and location fit with the records cited and the John Wilson & Sons we already have met must have been the issuers of this token. However, unless John Wilson also had a firm in Hurlet some years before acquiring the Hurlet Copperas Co. (i.e. before 1811 or during 1816–9), it is difficult to guess when he might have issued the J. & J.W. tokens. (Between 1811 and 1815, with brief exceptions, the bullion price of Spanish dollars on the London market remained above five shillings per coin and it would not have been practical to issue that denomination in countermarked tokens between those dates.)

Who then were J. & J.W.? A possible solution is that these initials do not refer to John Wilson at all. This also would do away with some of the difficulty of fitting together the issues in sequence.

Considering the evidence of dates on undercoins, bullion prices of Spanish dollars, and available land records, the likely issue dates for the three types would be c. 1802–10 or post–1815 for J. & J.W. Type I; post–1815 and perhaps in the early 1820s, that is, at the very end of the countermarking period when such tokens already were illegal18 for John Wilson (with a much less likely period of c. 1805–10); and post–1818 for J. & J.W. type II – providing the 1818 specimen is accepted and if both J. & J.W. types are not someday proved to be modern concoctions.19

Pending discovery of other specimens or additional information on the firm, the Wilson countermark may be recorded as:

Hurlet (Glasgow), Strathclyde
J. WILSON & SONS HURLET (John Wilson, Hurlet Copperas Company, 56 Queen Street and Nitshill district, Glasgow) around 5/- (shillings). Countermarked on a Spanish-American 8 reales and probably issued between 1816 and 1823. The only recorded specimen is on a Mexico City coin dated 1804.

18 The latest known existing undercoin of any Scottish countermarked dollar is dated 1823.

19 See H.E. Manville and W.A. Seaby, ‘Castlecomer Tokens: Supplementary Notes’ BMJ 53 (1983), 183-86: where a false countermark die is illustrated.

THE BENTLEY (SUFFOLK) HOARD OF 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY GOLD COINS

PHILIP ATTWOOD

ON 15 September 1990, while clearing out the property, Mr Ernest John Goddard found a package containing thirty-seven sovereigns and eleven half-sovereigns in an outbuilding of Bentley Priory on Dodnash Fruit Farm, Bentley (map ref. 3600.1114). The coins were in a cloth bag placed under bundles of accounts in a metal trunk. The trunk was situated in a cupboard underneath a stairway leading to an attic. In the bag along with the coins was a piece of paper inscribed in pencil ‘4th August 1914’, the day of Britain’s entry into the First World War. The coins were declared Treasure Trove at an inquest held in Ipswich on 27 March 1991 and submitted to the British Museum for inspection. They were subsequently returned to the finder.

The latest coin was dated 1912. The presence of the piece of paper indicates that the hoard was in all probability concealed at the outbreak of war in 1914. All the coins showed signs of wear, with the earlier ones in a generally poorer condition. This suggests that this is not a hoard built up over the years, but that the coins were assembled at some point between 1912, the date of the latest coin, and August 1914, the probable date of deposition; and the likelihood is that they were put together towards the end of that period, when war was becoming increasingly imminent. The absence of coins of 1913–14 may be accounted for by the habitual time lapse between the minting of gold coins and their penetration into rural areas.1

The high proportion of sovereigns of the London mint for the years 1910–12 (18, i.e. 64% of the London sovereigns) reflects the increased output of the mint in those years. Nine (i.e. almost 25%) of the sovereigns were struck at Australian mints.

1 I am grateful to Mr Graham Dyer for this suggestion. Other First World War hoards from rural areas with a similar time lapse include the Mullinabrone hoard (1958) in which the latest coin was of 1911 (BMJ 30 (1962), 346-7), the Benenden hoard (1964) 1912 (BMJ 34 (1965), 175-6), and the Haselbury Plucknett hoard (1951) 1913 (NC, 6th series 11 (1951), 134-5).
Victoria
Sovereigns (10)
Melbourne mint. Young head, 1881 (1). Jubilee head, 1889 (1), 1893 (1). Old head, 1899 (2).
Perth mint. Old head, 1901 (1).
Half-sovereigns (4)
London mint. Old head, 1894 (1), 1895 (1), 1896 (1), 1900 (1).

Edward VII
Sovereigns (18)

London mint. 1905 (1), 1907 (2), 1908 (1), 1909 (2), 1910 (9).
Melbourne mint. 1903 (1), 1909 (1).
Perth mint. 1908 (1).
Half-sovereigns (6)
London mint. 1903 (1), 1905 (1), 1906 (1), 1908 (1), 1909 (2).

George V
Sovereigns (9)
London mint. 1911 (5), 1912 (4).
Half-sovereign (1)
London mint. 1912 (1).