ALL who work with post-Roman British coin hoards and finds should be familiar with Thompson’s Inventory1 and Brown and Dolley’s Coin Hoards.2 The material is presented quite differently in these compilations and although both are extremely valuable resources, the first was published almost forty years ago, the second more than twenty. Quite naturally many additions and corrections can be made to each in light of new or newly-uncovered reports.

Thompson’s pioneering work often has been criticized for its many shortcomings.3 The work omits and/or misinterprets much easily-obtainable data and contains a number of careless errors which a good editor should have corrected. Nevertheless he performed a valuable service in drawing together material from many sources and it remains a useful starting point for further research. Thompson himself provided a ‘recension’ after criticism of the archaeological content4-5 and listed two pairs of hoards that had come to his attention since publication – to which I have taken the liberty of assigning numbers:

*35a. BATH, Abbey/Priory House, 1755 (A)

*35b. BATH, Abbey/Priory House, 1755 (B)

*361a. TREDINGTON, Warks, 1. c. 1914-30? Deposit: After 1471. About 40 silver coins of Edward I-IV ... apparently survivors of a much larger hoard, discovered at intervals over a number of years. ...

*361b. TREDINGTON, 2. About 1900? Deposit: Probably late fifteenth century. Content: Unidentified gold coins ... possibly identical with Thompson’s Unknown Sites 5-7 [Nos 369-371].

No modern student of numismatics can be aware of all sources in such a broad area as coin hoards. Thompson certainly knew of The Gentleman’s Magazine because he cites that publication when it was referred to by others and his failure to consult it in depth is curious.6 Whether or not he was aware of The Scots Magazine as a possible similar source, he does not cite it.

3 D.M. Metcalf, ‘Towards an Archive of British coin Finds’, NCirc 65 (Feb. 1957), col. 61-9; a review extended by a thoughtful essay on the importance of recording coin finds and hoards. See also S. Rigold, Review of Inventory: ... Arch. Jour. 113 (1956), 169-70.
6 Metcalf, 62: ‘(It) is clear that the Gentleman’s Magazine, which is listed in the bibliography, has not been consulted systematically for the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.’
Thompson’s alphabetical listing and cross-references, although occasionally aberrant, ease the search when one is looking for a named hoard. Brown and Dolley’s numbering system, while useful in grouping all known hoards within specific periods, is more difficult – in spite of a comprehensive name index. To take just one example, SO numbers are assigned to hoards deposited in Scotland between 1567 and 1625. The first number in the series list is SO26 (Ayr, 1547), the second SO1 (Stornoway, 1572), followed by SO2 (Braeside, 1573), SO3 (Beith, 1574), SO24 (Leith?, 1583), etc., with SO35 the highest number (there is no SO21). After re-ordering the hoards chronologically by date of deposit (where deduced), it would have been helpful to re-number each series.

Brown also published an addendum to the British portion of their joint work but Dolley did not draw his many corrections and additions to Irish and English hoards into a single listing before his untimely death in 1983. Some of these will be examined in a future note.

The following entries have been extracted and, where appropriate, augmented from entries in The Gentleman’s Magazine (GM), 1731-1845, and The Scots Magazine (SM), 1739-1826. Identifications of several anonymous authors in GM have been provided from The Nichols File of ‘The Gentleman’s Magazine’, by James M. Kuist (The University of Wisconsin Press, 1982). Several plates or portions of plates from GM have been re-published recently and the locations of these are noted.

The frequently-encountered difficulty of dating hoards, especially pinpointing deposit date and sometimes even discovery date, often leads to a ‘best estimate’. The place of discovery in these reports also may be unclear, either through deliberate concealment or vagueness by the finders (not unknown today, particularly after metal-detector finds) – and one must be especially wary of details in any account published in the popular press.

Coin hoards are defined by Brown and Dolley as ‘two or more coins which can be presumed to have been deposited or lost on one and the same occasion, and we have included in our listing all bibliographical references, insofar as they are known to us’. Metcalf has remarked on the usefulness of recording single finds and the few Anglo-Saxon single-coin site finds recorded in the two periodicals that can be identified and/or are illustrated have been included here. Not every single-coin find noted in the two publications is listed below. All pre-600 and post-medieval stray finds have been omitted. The former may safely be left to Professor Anne Robertson; the latter have little or no site relevance.

Thompson included all the specifics he could discover on a hoard; Brown and Dolley gave only a line of location, dates, general makeup (where known), and bibliographical citations. To reconcile these different approaches, relevant details to hoards published in GM and SM are here given in their entirety, with added material in brackets or notes. Thompson’s alphabetical approach suggests the use of a and b numbers; Brown and Dolley’s groupings by presumed deposit dates and only sporadic alphabetic listings call for following-on numbers. Both sets of additions, as well as single finds, are distinguished by an asterisk before the new number. The eighteenth and early nineteenth century penchant for frequent italicizing of names, places, and datelines has here been reduced to conform to current practice.

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8 See especially Ency. ii, 1.
9 Brown & Dolley, 7.
10 Metcalf, 62.
1. ABERDEEN No. 1, St Nicholas Street, 7 November 1807. Add references.

On the 7th of Nov. the workmen employed in cleaning out the foundations for some new building in the line of the intended opening into Union Street, Aberdeen, discovered a large wooden vessel, at a depth of about ten feet under the level of the street, filled with an immense number of silver coins, mostly of the coinage of Edward I. of England, and Alexander III. of Scotland. No person acquainted with their value being at hand, they were scattered about among the labourers, and have since been mostly sold to the silversmiths in town. The only conjecture that can be formed in regard to this treasure, is, that it had been secreted during the troublesome wars of Edward III. in this kingdom, and afterwards entirely buried in the ruins of the town, at the time of its being burned by the troops of that prince.

- SM 69 (Dec. 1807), 955.

Note: The same account was abbreviated in GM 77 (Nov. 1807), 1071; also see PSAS 119 (1989), 327.

14. ASHBY WOLDS, Leics, October 1788 – ‘Details not recorded’. Add references.

The coin, fig. 10 . . . was found, with more than 300 other silver coins, in 1789, in digging to repair a millpoolhead in Ashby Wolds, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in Leicestershire. They were chiefly of the reign of Stephen, or the early Henrys; and they almost all (were) preserved for Lord Moira, the lord of the manor, who now possesses them.

- GM 66 (Oct. 1796), 843, pl. 2, fig. 10 (reproduced in Enyc. ii, 1, 112).

In October 1788, about 450 antient coins were found in the parish of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, upon a large common called the Wouls, and in a place thereon known by the name of the Millstone Gutter. They were inclosed in a small leaden box, of an oblong form, which, from the length of time it had lain in the ground, was reduced to a perfect calx, and, on being moved, directly mouldered to pieces. The coins are of various dies; but almost all of them the pennies of King Stephen, except a few of Henry I. Henry II. and Henry III. Upwards of sixty of them were cut into halves, as may be supposed, for half-pennies. About a dozen are in quarters, all clearly divided, for the convenience of paying quarter-pennies, or farthings, . . . The reason, perhaps, of their being mostly of the reign of King Stephen is, that he granted to Walter Bishop of Coventry, and his successors, a mint at Lichfield, which is not above 14 miles from the place where they were found.

It is remarkable, and a farther confirmation of that great rarity of the Stephen’s penny with the martlets on the reverse . . . that, out of more than 400 of those coins of that King’s reign, only three and one half are of that particular die. (Stebbing Shaw, jun.)

- GM 66 (Dec. 1796), 983.

W. Woolston, Adderbury, submits coins of Alfred the Great, Burgred of Mercia, Edward the Confessor, and ‘a penny of Stephen, found with many others on Ashby Wolds (see GM vol. LXVI. p. 983) circumscribed STIEFN, reverse, GODRIC. The name of the place of mintage is obliterated.’

- GM 68 (March 1798), 189, pl. 1 (facing 189), figs. 1–4 (pl. 10, 1, 2)

37. BEAUWORTH, near Cheriton, Hants, 30 June 1833. Add references.

As some boys were lately playing in a meadow at Beawworth, near Cheriton, Hants, one of them discovered just under the surface of the earth, a leaden box, which proved on examination to contain about fifteen thousand silver penceies of William the Conqueror and William Rufus, in a most excellent state of preservation. The field in which they were discovered, is the property of John Dunn, Esq. of Alresford, and was formerly, it is believed, used as a burial ground. Mr. Dunn has secured about seven thousand of the coins, a considerable number having been taken away by the boys who found them.

- GM 103/2, 27 (1833 ii, Aug.), 163.

Account of old Coins purchased for the British Museum, between Christmas 1832 and Christmas 1833, includes: –

4. Six hundred and fifty-nine pennies of William the Conqueror, found at Beawworth, near [New] Alresford; cost 50 l.
- GM 3, 1 (1834 i, April), 423–4.

*38a. BECKENHAM?, Kent, autumn 1772 (Saxon? or possibly Celtic or Roman?).

Monday, 30 November. A stone coffin of a vast size was lately dug up in a barn belonging to William Hickmott, at Beckenfield, in Kent, in which were several coins, impressed with the antient British characters. – We shall endeavour to procure a more satisfactory account of this discovery.

- GM 42 (Nov. 1772), 542.

Note: Possibly Beckenham, a town in Bromley borough, formerly Kent, now London (TQ 3769). No further account noted.
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THOMPSON'S INVENTORY AND BROWN AND DOLLEY'S COIN HOARDS

*41a. BENACRE, Suffolk (TM 5184), autumn 1767.

Tuesday, 3 November. Some labourers in sinking a well at Benacre in Suffolk, found an earthen jar, containing near 400 pieces of silver coin, the chief part of K. Edward I. and II. and struck at London, York, and Dublin. The workmen honestly carried them to Sir Thomas Gooch, lord of the manor, who rewarded them handsomely for their trouble.

- GM 37 (Nov. 1767), 558 bis.

*42a. BETHAM CHURCH, Westmorland, summer/early autumn? 1834.

In digging a grave near one of the pillars in the nave of the church of Betham, county of Westmorland, upwards of 100 silver coins, of very high antiquity but in a fine state of preservation, have been discovered. They are chiefly of the reigns of the Norman Conqueror and his son Rufus, with a few of Edward the Confessor and Canute the Dane.

- GM 3, 2 (1834 ii, Sept.), 300.

*42b. BIGGLESWADE, Beds (TL 1844), June? 1770.

Monday, 11 June. A plowman near Biggleswade, in Bedfordshire, threw up a pot of gold coins, supposed of Edward VI. [presumably Edward IV] one of them measured exactly one inch, one quarter, and one eighth in diameter; the representation on one side is a man in armour, in a ship, holding a sword in his right hand, and on his left arm a shield, with four compartments of three lions and three fleur-de-lis. On the other side a large cross equally divided, the legend hardly to be made out. They are of pure gold, of seventeen shillings value.

- GM 40 (June 1770), 276 bis.

52. BRAMHAM MOOR, Yorks (SE 4242), early July 1753. Add reference and refine date from 'before 1756'.

About the beginning of July, some workmen, digging on Bramham moor, Yorkshire, in the lordship of Sir Edward Gascoign, found a hoard of silver coin, to the number of 245 pieces, besides three rings and two buckles. The coins are all of K. Henry I.'s money, and were a very great treasure in those days.


Note: See Metcalf, NC 6, 18 (1958), 79-80, placed at SE4341.

55. BRECHIN, No. 1, Angus/no Tayside, 30 March 1785. Add references and details, including Irish coins and suggested deposit date.

As a grave-digger was making a grave in the church-yard at Brechin on March 30, near the principal entry thereto, and where graves till of late have been seldom dug; after cutting off the sod or saurid, in moving the earth immediately underneath, and within nine inches of the surface, he turned up a vast number of silver pieces, they say, as many as would have filled the crown of a large hat, and amongst these, six silver spoons, with circular mouths, of about two inches diameter.

- All or most of the pieces are about the size of a sixpence, and seem to be the coinage of Edward, as bearing his name, and to have been coined at different places; some of them with a head within a triangle, and on the reverse, a cross with three points in each angle, with CIVITAS DUBLINIE around it.

- At what period that money and these spoons had been deposited or left there, is uncertain. Perhaps it may have been at the time the English under Edward I. laid siege to and took the castle of Brechin, then commanded by Sir Thomas Maule [in 1303]: What leads to this conjecture is, That the church-yard is within less than 300 yards of Brechin Castle, to the north thereof, and divided therefrom by a very hollow and deep den; and the English had been posted in and about the church-yard, and had left the money there.

- The silver pieces are rather more than a drop weight each; all of them have a cross on one side; and ... have been coined at different places, some at London, others at Durham, &c."

- SM 47 (March 1785), 153.

Note: An abbreviated version of this report was published in GM 55 (April 1785), 314.

*57a. BRINKBURN PRIORY, Nthmb (NZ 1198), late 1834.

Some workmen, forming a new road near Brinkhorn Priory, near Newcastle, lately discovered a small brass pot, containing several gold coins, rose nobles of the first and second coinage of Edward III., and some half and quarter nobles of the same reign, all in perfect state of preservation. The pot and coins are now in the possession of Major Hodgson Cadogan, of Brinkburn.

- GM 3, 2 (1834 ii, Dec.), 636.

60. BROWNLEE, Carluke parish, Lanarks., March 1770. Add reference.

Edinburgh, March 16. A few days ago a servant belonging to Mr Hervie of Brownlie, in the parish of Carluke, digging in a field adjoining to his master's house, discovered an earthen pot, with a cover of the same, about a foot from the surface of the ground, containing a considerable quantity of old Scottish and English silver coins, of the reigns of David, Robert, and Edward. They are mostly well preserved, and very legible. The inscriptions on many of them are, Civitas London. Civitas Cant. Civitas Aberdon. What is remarkable, there has been an old tradition
current among the country-people there, that a considerable treasure in pots lies concealed in that neighbourhood; and a former discovery in the same parish seems to justify the conjecture.
— SM 32 (March 1770), 166.

*60a. BURN HALL, near Durham (NZ 3826), 10 February 1756.
We hear from Durham, that on the 10th of February a pot was found, with 142 pieces of Scots silver coin, about 300 years old, in the ground belonging to Mr Smith of Burnhall.

*65a. CAERGWRELE, Flintshire/now Clwyd (SJ 3057), 21 February 1757.
Caergwrle (sic), Feb. 24. On Monday last, as one John Masters was digging, in order to drive a large post in, to build a booth for the fair, his pick-ax struck against something which sounded like iron. Having cleared away the dirt, he found a trap-door. He immediately called two men who were at work near him; and having lifted up the door, two of them went down by a ladder, and took a lantern with them. When they came up, their account of it was, that there was a room near sixty feet in length, and about twenty in breadth; that they found nothing but a chest, which was so heavy, that they could not bring it up. Upon this several people went down, and breaking open the chest, it proved to be full of old gold and silver coins. They found a door too, which they opened, and in a closet found a few books, printed in Saxon characters, and some manuscripts in the same. Some men are employed by the lord of the manor to search this place narrowly, and it is expected we shall soon have some more discoveries made in it.
— SM 19 (May 1757), 258.
Note: No further accounts noted.

66. CALDALE, near Kirkwall, Orkney, summer? 1774. Add contemporary references.
From a gentleman in Orkney to his friend in Edinburgh, July 23. In digging lately for peats in a moss near my house at Caldale, there were found, about two feet below the surface of the ground, two cow's horns, containing a number of small silver coins, of which you have six enclosed. On the mouths of the horns, and lying near them, were several pieces of fine silver, in the form of crescents of different dimensions, nearly meeting at the ends; some of them flat made, others angled and cornered, and some round; one piece, like the staple of a door for receiving the bolt of the lock, and another much like those hooks usually fastened to partitions for hanging cloaths upon. In the bottom of one of the horns were several bits of the same metal, but coarser, which seem to have been cut with an instrument; and appear to have been parts of such crescents as have been mentioned. The horns were found in a sloping position, are much decayed, and about the size of Orkney cattle's horns. We can make nothing of the inscriptions round the coins, although, on the generality of them, the bust, sceptre, crosses, and characters, seem to be but very little defaced, and are wonderfully lively. The ground where they were found lies dry, and has been pastured upon by great numbers of cattle for many ages past. The peats taken out of it are uncommonly solid, heavy, and lasty in the fire. The peats above them, and on each side, were full as firm and solid as those at a distance. For these reasons, and because none here have ever before seen any such coin, or can make any thing of the language of the inscriptions, it is inferred that they may be very ancient, and engage the attention of the curious, and perhaps throw some light upon the history of these islands, and the condition of the inhabitants or sojourners in them in some remote period.
— SM 36 (Sept. 1774), 501.
Saturday 30 July. Some time ago, as some men were digging in a moss for turf, near Kirkwall, there were found two cow's horns, containing a good quantity of silver of different shapes, and some silver coins, about the size of a four-penny piece. The coins are thought to be as old as 1170, and are quite plain; having on one side a man in complete armour, with a scepter in his hand, and on the other side a circle with a cross through the middle. Some of the pieces of silver resemble handles of coffins, and are of different sizes. The horns were about two feet below ground.
— GM 44 (July 1774), 332.
(One of the many coins of Canute found in Orkney, as described in the Catalogue of that King's coins, (1)777; but, not coming to hand sooner, could not have a place therein. The legend is LEÖFRIC ON CICC. And probably the place of coinage was Chichester.
— GM 54 (Feb. 1784), 84, pl. facing 81 (pl. 10, 3).

*68a. CAMBRIDGE (City), Dolphin Inn, Sept. 1817.
Sept. 23. As some workmen were digging for the foundation of a building, in the cellar of the old Dolphin Inn, Cambridge, about four feet from the surface they found the mouldered remains of a leather hag, out of which fell a parcel of gold rings, containing precious stones, in a very ancient setting; also some old silver coins, and other articles of value, the whole of which will perhaps not be known. The workmen beginning to quarrel about the booty, news of the discovery reached the owner of the estate, who has recovered a part of the property. It consists of the following curious relics, which have remained buried 550 years, about seventeen years before the foundation of the university ...
9. A collection of silver pennies of Henry the Third, struck in his fifty-first year; about which time they seem to have been buried.
   - GM 87 (Nov. 1817), 463.

69. CAMPSEY ASH, near Eye, Suffolk, Feb. 1832. Add reference with additional details.
   In the beginning of the present year a large discovery of Saxon coins was made near Eye in Suffolk, by some labourers on the estate of Mrs. Sheppard of Campsey Ash. They were felling an old pollard oak, where they discovered two parcels of coins, inclosed in thin lead cases; one of them quite embedded in the solid part of the root. Many of them are divided into halves and quarters, which evidently shows that at that remote period these divided parts were circulated as halfpence and farthings. A Correspondent has seen about 200 coins, and is informed that about 600 are in the possession of Mr. Page of Woodbridge; perhaps 100 more may have been variously distributed. It would be very desirable to ascertain the exact number of pieces discovered, also a correct list of the types, towns, and moneys, many of which were probably new.
   - GM 102 (April 1832), 355.

Note: Thompson's figure of about 600 coins should be increased to 900 and the disposition altered to reflect some 600 acquired by Page and 100 dispersed generally. The hope, expressed above, for a full inventory apparently was in vain.

   In pulling down part of an old farm-house, the property of Mr. Beaks, at Brinzey, in the parish of Congresbury, Somerset, the labourers lately found a small screw box, containing 115 silver and 23 gold coins. The silver ones are groats of Henry V. two of them struck at Calais, and the others at London. One of the gold coins is the noble of Henry VI. The other is the recoinage of the noble, by Edward IV. called the rial. The coins are in a state of high preservation.
   - GM 98 (May 1828), 462.

Note: According to this original report, the hoard name might better be BRINZEY but, if not renamed, at least should be corrected to CONGRESBURY PARISH. Thompson reported that the number of London groats was unspecified but they are clearly stated here to have been 113, with two of Calais and 23 gold pieces.

105. CRIEFF, Old Church, Perth/now Tayside, 26 July 1787. Add reference and details.
   Perth. The workmen in lately digging the foundation of the old church of Crieff, discovered a number of gold coins, equal in weight to a modern quarter guinea, but more free from alloy. The device on one side is a St Andrew stretched out on a cross; the legend, ROBERTUS DEI GRATIA REX SCOTIE. On the reverse a Lion Rampant within a Gothic Arch, the motto LIBERAT. by which it seems the coins are those of Robert I. who might with propriety be styled LIBERATOR PATRIÆ, as having delivered his country from English oppression. These coins bore no dates, and I believe our ancient Scottish bore none.
   - SM 49 (July 1787), 360.

Note: An edited version of this account appeared in GM 57 (Aug. 1787), 372.

   In May last a large collection of valuable and interesting Anglo-Saxon coins, and other relics of olden time, were discovered close to the river Ribble, at Cuerdale Hall, near Preston. After a general scramble... it was forthwith collected together, and deposited in the bank of Messrs. Pedder, Fleetwood, and Co. on the following day. On the 25th of August an inquest was held at the Bull inn, in Preston. The treasure, on a hasty examination, was found to be nearly as follows: About 6800 coins, weighing about 304 ounces troy; 16 ingots of silver... (etc., etc.): Total, 1265 ounces. The coins are in the most perfect state of preservation, and consist principally of those of St. Edmund, Alfred, and Edward the Elder; very few of Athelstan... (but) a considerable quantity of French coins... and a large proportion bearing on the obverse CVN • HET • TI, which is not at present well understood.
   - GM N.S. 14 (1840 ii, Sept.), 295.

*116a. DEAN, near Keswick, Cumbria (NY 0725), mid-1790?
   In passing through Keswick... I met with some coins, in the possession of Mr. Crosthwaite, who exhibits an interesting little museum there. He informed me, that they had been deposited in a leaden vessel, and were discovered in the village of Dean, about twelve miles West of Keswick, by a cow's treading upon the spot where it lay concealed. Mr. Crosthwaite procured eleven, bearing the mark of a cross, and twenty of different sizes and various impressions, but similar in coinage to that in Plate III. No. 9... 
   - GM 60 (Aug. 1790), 708, pl. 3, figs. 1–9 (reproduced in Ency. ii, 1, 67).

Thomas Ford Hill identifies a coin found in Cumberland in a 'Keswic (sic) collection', as apparently of the Abbasid Caliphs... (possibly) struck at Bagdat (sic) in the eighth century [see pl. 3, fig. 9 above].

About 1500 Saxon Coins have been ploughed up in a field on Winterfield's farm, in the parish of Dorking, most of them in a state of high preservation: they are of various monarchs and archbishops, most of them at the time of the Heptarchy.

– GM 87 (Supp. i 1817), 620.

*142a DUNFERMLINE, No. 2, Fife (NT 0987), June/July? 1766.

Several curiosities have lately been discovered at Dunfermline. – Some months ago, an iron chest was dug up containing a number of very ancient Danish silver coins, esteemed a great curiosity.

– SM 28 (July 1766), 388.

*151a. EATON COPPICE, near Leominster, Heref/now Hereford & Worcester, late October 1757.

About the end of October, as some labourers were digging up the roots of a parcel of large trees which had been felled in Eaton coppice, near Leominster, Herefordshire, one of the men discovered a small earthen pot, covered on the top with a plate of lead, in which were about 160 pieces of gold and silver coin, some of them King John’s.


Note: Eaton Hill (SO 5059) is located east of Leominster, across the River Lugg.

*153a. EDINBURGH, No. 2, South Bridge, late June 1787.

Saturday, June 23. (T)he workmen employed in digging the foundation of one of the houses on the east side of the South Bridge, Edinburgh, found deposited in a cavity, which appeared to have been made for the purpose, a vast quantity of silver coin, all of a size less than our present sixpences. They are evidently the coin of Edward I. commonly called Longshanks, who was in this country in the years 1295-6, when he defeated the Scots at Dunbar.

... On the one side of this coin is the following inscription: EDWAR. ANGL. DNS. HYB. On the reverse, CIVITAS LONDON. The letters, &c. are quite entire, and a number of the pieces have been sold by the workmen for fourpence a-piece.

– SM 49 (July 1787), 358.

Note: This account, slightly edited, also appeared in GM 57 (July, Aug. 1787), 632, 659.

*157a. FARINGDON (near), Berks/now Oxon (SU 2895), spring 1816.

A short time since, an earthen vessel was dug up near Faringdon, Berks, containing 100 silver two-pences of Edward III., having on the obverse side, in Saxon characters, ‘EDW. R. ANGL. DNS. HYB.’ Most of them had, on the reverse, ‘Civitas London,’ some ‘Civitas Canton,’ and a few ‘Civitas Eboracia,’ and ‘Civitas Bristollia.’ The whole are well preserved. Ninety-four of them are in the hands of Mr. Taylor, Corn-market, Oxford. (Oxford Herald.)

– GM 86 (April 1816), 367.

159. FENWICK, near Stamfordham, Nthmb, summer (June?) 1775. Add reference.

Saturday, 30 September. Some weeks ago, a mason, and his labourer, having been employed in pulling down Fenwick-tower, near Stamfordham, in Northumberland, found, between the floor and the arch, a considerable number of gold pieces, of the coin of Edw. II. and III. but quarrelling over their cups, about dividing the booty, it came to the ears of Sir Walter Blacket, who, as lawful owner, demanded the same, and received from one 80, and from the other 35. They are about the size of a thirty-six shilling piece, and as fresh as if just come out of the mint.

– GM 45 (Sept. 1775), 453.

162. FLAXTON, Bossall parish, Yorks, 14 September 1807. Add reference, with corrected date.

I have sent for the use of your Engraver ... two other pieces of the York mint, but engraved by an ignorant workman. ....

On the 14th of Sept. 1807, a leaden box, containing about 270 Silver Coins, and some pieces of Silver, the latter weighing about two pounds, was turned up by the plough, in the parish of Bossall, in the county of York, at a farm occupied by Benjamin Wright, and belonging to Henry Cholmley, esq. near the Lobster-house, and eight-mile stone on the road from York to Malton. Most of the Coins appear to have been struck at the Mint of St. Peter at York. From several Coins of Alfred, Edward the Elder, and Athelstan, having been found with the St. Peter’s penny, it is conjectured they were struck in the reigns of those Monarchs; deposited in the treasury of the Cathedral of York, in King Athelstan’s time, and taken from thence previous to the battle between Harold and the King of Norway in 1066. They have the name of the Master of the Mint, or of the City of York, on the reverse; and are in perfect preservation, seeming almost fresh from the Mint, and at all events cannot have been in much circulation, if any. From the contiguity of the spot where they were found to Stamford-bridge (about three miles), and from the above and following circumstances, as connected with History, it is almost manifest that this treasure was hidden.
soon after the memorable battle fought at Stamford-bridge on the 23d of September, 1066... [additional details on hack silver]. (‘Amicus’)

176. GRAVESEND, Kent, autumn 1838. Add reference.

About three months since, some labourers digging gravel in the vicinity of Gravesend, discovered a large hoard of Saxon pennies, amounting to upwards of 600. They are of Edmund, Ethelbert, Burgred, Harold, &c. The British Museum has purchased a number of these coins, but the bulk has been bought by a private individual [H.P. Borrell], who was so fortunate as to secure them for a mere trifle. With the coins was found deposited a massive cross of silver.

- GM 77 (Dec. 1807), 1105-7, pl. 2, figs. 4-5 (pl. 11, 4).

179a HALLYCLARE, between Connor and Carrickfergus Castle, Co. Antrim, June? 1827.

In lately digging a field near Hallyclare (says the Northern Whig) there was found an earthen vessel, containing upwards of 1000 silver pennies of King Edward I. and II., the greater part of which had been coined in London, York, and Canterbury. Among them were a number stamped in the following places: - Newcastle, Durham, Lincoln, Bristol, St. Edmundsbury, Hadley, Exeter, Chester, and Oxford. There were also a few Irish pennies, with the triangle, coined in Dublin and Waterford. From the time that we may fairly infer these coins were in circulation, and the tract of the country in which they were found - lying between the ancient city of Connor and the venerable fortress of Carrickfergus - it is highly probable that they had been hidden during the invasion of Lord Edward Bruce in 1315, and perhaps buried during the retreat of the English army from the former place, where they had been defeated on the 10th of September. ... The hypothesis is the more likely, as at different times, within memory, small parcels of the like coins have been also found in caves in the same direction [toward Carrickfergus], with some silver coins of the Alexanders kings of Scotland.

- GM 97 (July 1827), 69-70.

185a. HATTON MILL, Kinnell parish, Forfar/now Tayside (NO 6150), early 1806.

There were lately found near Hatton-Mill, in the parish of Kinnell, and County of Angus, about 700 Ancient Coins contained in an earthen jar. I have seen about 60, and picked out 5 different Coins. They are all about the size of a sixpence.

ALEXANDER DEI GRA REX SCOTORUM
EDW R ANGL DNS HYB LONDON CIVITAS .; similar but EDWARD at full; similar but EBORACUM CIVITAS .; similar but WATERFORD CIVITAS.

- SM 68 (Feb. 1806), 84-5.

185b. HENSTRIDGE, near Sherborne, Somerset (ST 7219), summer 1808.

In the course of the last summer in digging the foundation of a house at Hensridge, near Sherborne, where some old runious cottages had formerly stood, the workmen accidently struck upon a large flat stone, which appeared to have been the foundation of an antient building. Under the stone, neatly folded in a sheet of milled lead, were discovered fifteen or sixteen Nobles of the different coinages of Edward the Third. Most of the coins are in a very high state of preservation; three or four appear to have been injured by the pressure of the stone, but they are in general as fresh and perfect as when delivered from the mint. Those which have come into my hands are of a much more delicate execution than the Noble engraved in Pinkerton; but are exactly of the same size, though somewhat different in the impression. I am told that the impression is not the same upon any two of the coins discovered. ... [Further description follows.] (S.T.R.)

- GM 78 (Jan. 1808), 40.

188. HEXHAM, Nthmb, ‘1832’ – actually 15 October 1832. Add references.

On the 15th of October the sexton was making a grave of more than usual size, in a part of Hexham churchyard called the Camp-hill, which is on the site of the nave, or part of the conventual church there, which was burnt down by the Scots in their devastating expedition into England in 1296, and never afterwards rebuilt. After digging eight feet downwards he came to a metallic box, or safe, of considerable dimensions, the hinges of which were of copper, and moved quite easily. When the lid was opened, there was exposed to the grave-digger’s astonished view a collection of Saxon coins, which weighed at least fifty-six pounds. The box was found in a sort of ruined stone coffin. Many of the coins are said to be of gold and silver; but the greater part are of copper, or a composition of lead, or tin, and copper. Those of gold, I apprehend, are of the kind called Gallies, but I have seen none either of these or of those of silver, but out of twenty-three of a whitish sort of mixture, containing a considerable proportion of copper, which have been shown to me, seven are stycas, of the reign of Eanfrid, fourteen of Ethelred, one of Redulf, and one of ‘Figmund’ Archbishop of York. So far as I have examined, all of them, excepting that of Redulf, are from different dies than any of those drawn by Ruding. Eanred began to reign in 810, Ethelred in 836, Redulf 840, and ‘Figmund,’ who, on the coin, is called ‘Vigmund,’[4] and by Le Neve, Wimund, was Archbishop of York in 831.
jar, about the size of a quart, which, to evade the claims of the Lord of the Manor and the Exchequer, were

without bursting, or being much bilged. . . .

The greatest part of the coins . . . fell into the hands of the Rev. Wm. Airey, who, as incumbent of Hexham, has the only legal claim to them, and who, after they are properly examined and arranged, is intending to present a complete set of them, and the vessel in which they were found, to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle. Mr. Adamson has also drawn up an account of this interesting discovery, to be read before the Society of Antiquaries in London.

One of the most obvious inferences to be drawn from an inspection of the whole, is the great imperfection of the art of coining at the time they were made. They are from an incredible number of dies, and very few of them have the impression on each side made fairly on the centre of the blank.

Account of old Coins purchased for the British Museum, between Christmas 1832 and Christmas 1833, includes:

- 2. Two hundred and ninety-six coins, chiefly of Redulf, Ethelred, and Athelred, Kings of Northumbria, and of Vigmund and Eanbald, Archbishops of York, and the ancient vessel in which the coins were found, 20 l., as a remuneration to the sexton and others who discovered the coins.

Note: This report by V.W. (identified as John Hodgson of Red Lion-square in the Nichols File) offers little information on the coins themselves although it gives a specific date and additional details of the circumstances of the find.

[After repeating the basic report immediately above:] Mr. [John] Adamson, secretary to the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, has examined both the coins and vessel, and thinks that the former must have been poured into the latter after it was fixed in the earth; for, from its extreme thinness, it could not have been lifted with the coins in it without bursting, or being much bilged. . . .

All the coins are Saxon, Northumberland, stycas of brass, of which the vessel when found could not have contained less than ten thousand. Quantities of them were soon afloat in the country, and many strange reports, some of which appeared in the newspapers, came out with them. One account said that a great quantity of them were gold, and a still greater quantity of silver; that some of them had dates of the sixth century. . . .

Of the 23 coins which I have seen, eight are of Eanred and only three alike, 14 of Ethelred all different, one of Redulf, and one of 'Figmund'; and I am told, on good authority, that of the large collection now in the possession of Mr. Airey, the greatest number are of Eanred, Ethelred, and Vigmund. . . .

Of the 23 coins which I have seen, eight are of Eanred and only three alike, 14 of Ethelred all different, one of Redulf, and one of 'Figmund'; and I am told, on good authority, that of the large collection now in the possession of Mr. Airey, the greatest number are of Eanred, Ethelred, and Vigmund. . . .

One of the most obvious inferences to be drawn from an inspection of the whole, is the great imperfection of the art of coining at the time they were made. They are from an incredible number of dies, and very few of them have the impression on each side made fairly on the centre of the blank.

Note: This report states that the find was between Horseheath and Wethersfield, evidently in error. Wethersfield is located some 2½ miles east of Horseheath with open country between and joined by a road, whereas Wethersfield is almost 12 miles southeast of Horseheath with several villages between.

*197a. INVERNESS, near Greyfriars' burial-ground, Highland (NH 6645), autumn 1824.

A person digging in the glebe of the Senior Minister of Inverness, near the Greyfriars' burial-ground, lately found at the depth of a foot from the surface of the ground a great number of ancient silver coins in an earthen jar, about the size of a quart, which, to evade the claims of the Lord of the Manor and the Exchequer, were quickly and privately disposed of at 3d. each. They principally consist of English silver pennies of Henry III. and Edward I. and III. coined at London, Lincoln, Canterbury, York, Cambridge, Bristol, Dublin, &c.; there are some of the contemporary Scotch Kings, Alexander III. Robert I. and David II. The coins are in good preservation, and the date of the latest being 1330, they were probably secreted by the Monks of the Franciscan Monastery, which stood there at the period of the invasion of Edward III. who penetrated to Inverness in the year 1336.

- GM 94 (Nov. 1824), 453.

*203a. JERSEY, Channel Is., 13 April 1785.

A valuable discovery was made on the 13th April instant, by some workmen, in clearing a well in the garden of Farmer Le Boutelier, in Jersey, where, on the stonework at the side giving way, they found four pots strongly
cemented, full of antient coins, gold and silver medals, and, what was thought extraordinary, a number of brass rings, with the names EDWARDS round them, were found at the same time.

*207a. KILKENNY (near), No. 2, 1791.
A very considerable quantity (of coins) was found (last year near Kilkenny), and a lump of silver procured from melting (a) great part, before I rescued any of them. Fig. 3, 4, are evidently Canute's: of these there was a great number, with some variety in the form of the sceptre, and inscription, A, AN, or ANG, following REX, upon some. Fig. 3 reads NA, but must be a mistake of the minter. They differ materially from those that appear upon any coins that I have seen of the Danish princes of this kingdom, and may perhaps have been struck by the Irish themselves; whatever may be the case, they are as well executed as any of the Saxon that I have met with. The characters in general are sharp; but the metal was so brittle, that it was difficult to free them from the coat of earth and rust that adhered.

*225a. KNARESBOROUGH, N Yorks (SE 3557), May/June 1805.
June 6. As a labourer was taking down part of an old wall within the precincts of the Priory of Knaresborough, he discovered a large quantity of silver coin, amounting to near 1600 pieces, mostly of the coinage of Edward I. The man carried the pieces to Sir Thomas Slingsby, lord of the manor, who generously gave him the intrinsic value of the silver.

*259a. LONDON, No. 21, Finchley Common, May 1755.
Wednesday, 19 [recte 14?] May. As one Clarridge, a labouring man, was digging on Finchley common, he found six pieces of old gold coin; and telling it to some other people, they went to the place and found to the value of above 20 l. One that we have seen is a fair gold coin of Edward II. or III. weight about 19s. 6d. On one side, the king stands in a ship, with a drawn sword in his right hand, and a shield on his left, charged with the arms of France and England quarterly, ... On the reverse crowns round a cross, ...

*263a. LUMPHANAN, Kincardine/now Grampian (NJ 5703), early 1750.
Letters from Aberdeen bear, that some time ago, as some workmen were digging for a new entry to the churchyard of Lumphanan, they found an earthen pot full of old pieces of silver coin; that many of them were so consumed with rust, that they easily mouldered away; that those on which any of the characters are legible, are coins of the Kings Robert and David of Scotland, whose heads they bear, and appear to have been struck at Edinburgh, Perth, and Aberdeen; and that Mr Downie, Minister of the parish, sells those struck at Edinburgh and Perth, at 5s. and those struck at Aberdeen, at 10s. for the benefit of the poor, whatever is found within the churchyard being their property.

*265a. MEATH (County), Ireland, spring? 1787.
The coin enclosed (plate II. fig. 10.) was, with many others of the same kind, lately found in opening a grave in the county of Meath in Ireland.

270. MILTON STREET, Sussex, autumn 1843. Add reference.
A short time since one of the workmen of Mr. Charles Ade, of Milton Street, near Alfriston, Sussex brought him a small piece of silver, which the former dug up in his garden. It proved to be a penny of Edward the Confessor. It occurred to Mr. Ade that he had two similar coins brought to him some years ago, which were also found very nearly on the same spot. The coincidence induced him to have the site carefully searched, the result of which has been the discovery of a considerable number of Saxon silver pennies, scattered about singly in the soil of the garden. They are of a date just prior to the Norman Conquest, and include specimens of the reigns of Cnut (or Canute), Harold I, Harthacnut, and Edward the Confessor, most of them are in the finest preservation.

*GM 55 (April 1785), 320.

*GM 62 (Feb. 1792), 122. pl. 3 facing 121, figs. 3–4 (pl. 11, 5).
On the coin of Canute, pl. III. fig. 3, I cannot find NA, mentioned p. 122. The legend is RECX CNU. pVLNCD ON hINc for Winchester.

*GM 62 (March 1792), 221.
Note: A similar comment in GM 62 (March 1792), 195–6, gives less detailed identifications.

*GM 75 (June 1805), 574.

*GM 25 (May 1755), 234.

*GM 12 (May 1750), 253.

*GM 57 (April 1787), 314, pl. 2, fig. 10 (pl. 11, 6).

GM N.S. 20 (1843 ii, Dec.), 640.
273. MORAYSHIRE, Dyke parish, c. 1782? – discovery date placed to 1785 in Inventory. Add references.

The Coins, of which the inclosed is an exact copy, were found some time ago in the burial place of the Lairds of Brodie, in the parish of Moray. – It has been affirmed that from the reverse they cannot be of Scottish coinage; the crescent, as far as I have ever seen, was not used on any other of the coins of this kingdom. . . . The legend on many of these coins is very perfect, LE REI WILAM (and varieties). . . . The reverse is a cross. . . . RAV ON RO, Raul de Rocebur. . . . Derisadam on Ro – but they mostly have Raul de Rocebur – thought to be Roxburgh. (G.P.)

– GM 53 (Sept. 1783), 728, folding pl., figs. 1, 2 (pl. 11, 7).

Edinburgh. Reference to 1783 note, 728, adding four additional varieties, including coins of Perth, but correspondent is puzzled by reverse crescents instead of ‘pointed pierced Stars (or, as we call them, Spurr Revels)’.

– GM 54 (April 1784), 258, folding pl. (pl. 11, 8, 9).

*277a. NABURN, near York, N Yorks (SE 5945), April 1753 (mini-hoard).

Thursday, 19 April. Some workmen making a cut in Naburn Ings near York in order to fix a new lock in the River Ouse, at 10 feet deep found the skeleton of a man, entire laid in a bed of stiff clay and near it two small silver Saxon coins of a sort call’d Sticaes, on one of which is Ethilred; the inscription on the other is not yet understood. These were some of the coins of our ancient Northumbrian kings, Ethilred reign’d in 779.

– GM 23 (April 1753), 199.

294. NOTTINGHAM, No. 2, Barker Gate. Add reference.

Fig. 6 is a coin of silver, supposed to be Edward the Confessor’s; about 20 of which, with similar impressions, were found in digging the foundation of a wall in Barker-gate, Nottingham. (R. Dearman.)

– GM 56 (Nov. 1786), 925, folding pl. 2, fig. 6. (pl. 11, 10).

*298a OULTON, near Stone, Staffs (SJ 9135), 1795.

In 1795 was . . . found at Oulton, near Stone, a parcel of near 4000 silver coins, all Saxon, except some of William the Conqueror; 40 of which, of the different sorts, in the highest preservation, are in my possession. (Stebbing Shaw jun. of Hartshorn.)


*301a. OXFORD, No. 3, Oxon, 1751.

Rogers Ruding submits a plate of coins, including: ‘Two silver coins found in digging the foundation for the New Town-Hall at Oxf. 1751’, ‘copied from an unpublished plate engraved at the expense of Mr. Rowe-Mores. In Mr. Gough’s British Topography, vol. 2. p. 96, they are said to be coins of John and Henry; and, in Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica, N° 1. p. xxi, to be now in the possession of Mr. Burrell.’


There were lately found, in the neighbourhood of Paisley, about 515 silver pennies of the three first Edwards, weighing about twenty-two ounces; they have all the full face with the epigraphe, Edw. – Edw. (sic) or Edward, R. Ang. Dux Hyb. and on the reverse the place where coined. Some ounces, which a gentleman in Glasgow has rescued from the furnace, are in a high preservation. Some others, which we take to be a rare coin of Edward II. has on the obverse Dux. Limburgie. and on the reverse Dux Brabantie. There was also among the collection five pennies of Alexander (III.) Dei Gra – Rex Scotorum, and three of John Baliol – Civitas Andree.

– SM 53 (April 1791), 201.

*308a. PENNINGHAME FOREST, Wigtown/now Dumfries & Galloway (NX 3568), autumn? 1835.

Whilst a party of reapers were lately cutting down a field of grain in the parish of Penningham, Wigtounshire, they unexpectedly discovered between twelve and fifteen hundred pieces of silver coin – the majority of them being about the size of a sixpence, some larger. Most of these (says a correspondent of the Dumfries Courier) proved to be English Coins of Edward, but which of the Edwards cannot be discovered, because there is no date on many of them, and the head on the obverse is very similar on all. There were also a few Scottish coins of Alexander and Robert. On the obverse of the coins of Edward is a crowned head, surrounded with the legend ‘Edw. R. Angl. D’n’s. Hib.’ On the reverse, a cross between twelve pellets surrounded with the legend of the place where the coin was struck – thus, ‘civitas London.’ or ‘villa Bristollie.’
The writer has specimens of these coins, struck at the following places, and bearing the respective names: viz. London, Canterbury, York, Durham, Chester, Lincoln, Dublin, all of which are called 'civitas;' and also Berwick, Newcastle, Bristol, St. Edmundsbury, which places bear the humbler title of 'villa.' The obverse side of the Dublin coin is different from that of others, having the crowned head enclosed in a triangle, on the exterior sides of which is the same legend as on the others—viz., Edw. R (1st side); Angl. Dns, (2d side); Hib. (3d side).

The writer has also specimens of the following, which were among the treasure—viz. one bearing on the obverse a crowned head, surrounded by a legend, which appears to be 'Dux Limbergii I.' and on the reverse a cross between twelve pellets, surrounded by the legend, very distinct, 'Dux Brabantie;' on one of which the obverse and the reverse are the same with the Edwards. The poor people who found the coins estimated them so lightly, that one man who happened to be near bought 20 scores of them for 20s. They afterwards sold at prices varying from 3s. 9d. to 4s. 4d. 5s. and 6s. per ounce, and by retail at 4d. and 4'Ad. each.

—GM 3, 4 (1835 ii, Nov.), 540.

Note: The writer is unidentified in the Nichols File.

*309a. PERTH, No. 2, Kinclaven Castle, Tayside, 1803.

I send you an exact representation of two Silver Coins, found in the ruins of Kinclavan Castle by Robt. Brodie, at the boat of Kinclaven, in whose possession they now are...

The coin of Alexander I. has no date, but he was crowned A.D. 1107. This coin is quite distinct.

The coin of William Rufus is distinct, except the initials of Domini Nostri...

[The illustration of the second coin should read EDW R' ANGL DNS HYB +, which the good reverend reads as G.D.W.RU. (i.e. Gratia Dei William Rufus) ANG.R.D.N.S.MVB [interpreted asMXCIV], explaining such a remarkably early date: 'I understand the VB, on the English coin to signify 6 and that the curves completing the B are flourishes, to signify that the 6 are to be subtracted from another hundred.' (The Rev. James Playfair, of Bendothy, with editorial note.)]

—SM 66 (Jan. 1804), 4-5, facing pl., figs. 1-2 (reproduced in Ency. ii, 1, 160).

Note: Reactions to this extraordinary interpretation may be found at SM 66 (Feb. 1804), 108, 160; 67 (Sept. 1805), 651; 68 (Jan. 1806), 85.

*309b. PERTH, No. 3, Parliament House, Tayside, mid-June 1812.

June 21. A quantity of silver coins were found last week by some workmen while digging on the site of the old Parliament-house at Perth. They were 18 inches below the surface of the street, in a state of oxydation, and many of them adhering together in a lump. The whole weighed 51b. 14oz. They seem to be chiefly English and Scotch pennis of the 13th century.

—GM 82 (June 1812), 584.

*313a. RAMSHAW MOOR, Nthmb (NY 7060), late December 1762.

Thursday, 30 December. In the end of December a large quantity of silver money, shillings and smaller coin of Edwards I. and II. was accidentally discovered in a cavity among the rocks in Ramshaw moor in Northumberland.

—SM 25 (Jan. 1763), 57.

Note: A short version of this brief report appeared in GM 33 (Jan. 1763), 42; also see Metcalf, NC 6, 18 (1958), 85.

*320a. ST ANDREWS, Castle Wynd, Fifeshire (NO 5016), early February 1792.

St Andrew's, March 12. There was discovered, the beginning of February last, in a garden on the east side of the Castle Wynd, St Andrew's, about three feet below the surface, an earthen pot, containing a number of English, Scotch, and French, coins.

Eight of them are gold pieces, in excellent preservation, most of them about the size of half a crown, but thin and light. There are above 200 of silver, mostly about the size of a shilling, many of them covered with rust, and much defaced.

The silver ones have on one side a St George's cross, in the angles of which is written, on an inner circle, upon some, Villa Calisie; upon others, Civitas London; on others Civitas Eboraci; and on others, Villa Edinburgi. In the outer circle of the three first kinds are the words, Posui Deum Adjutorem meum; on the outer circle of the Scots kind, Dominus Protector meus et Liberator meus; on the reverse of the first kinds is a human head with a crown, round which is generally the inscription Henric. Dei Grat. Rex Anglorum et Francorum.

The reverse of the Scotch coins exhibits also a crowned head, circumscribed with the words, in some, Robertus, in others, Jacobus Dei Grat. Rex Scotorum.

—SM 54 (March 1792), 151.

Note: It seems surprising that a coin hoard of eight gold, 200+ silver English and Scottish, together with some French, discovered as late as 1792, apparently was not noticed in nineteenth century numismatic literature.
THOMPSON'S INVENTORY AND BROWN AND DOLLEY'S COIN HOARDS

*320b. ST KILDA, Outer Hebrides/now Western Isles (NF 0999), April/early May? 1767.

Edinburgh, May 11. We hear from Glasgow, that some fishermen lately dug up on the island of St Kilda, two antique urns, containing a quantity of Danish silver coin, which by the inscription appears to have lain there upwards of 1800 years [recte 800?].

- SM 29 (June 1767), 326.

*323a. SCONE PALACE (near), Perthshire/now Tayside (NO 1126), October/November, 1785.

In digging near where the ancient palace of Scone stands, the workmen lately discovered upwards of twenty stone coffins, near eight feet below the surface, in which were deposited entire skeletons. Near the above spot, and not far from the foundation of the old monastery, were also found, in digging, upwards of twenty silver, copper, and brass Scots coins.

- SM 47 (Nov. 1785), 567.

Note: Also reported in GM 55 (Supp. 1785), 1035: ‘at present in the possession of Mr Teal, at Scoon (sic), for the inspection of the curious.’

*330a. SKETTY, near Swansea, W Glamorgan (SS 6292), fall 1803.

Lately, at Sketty, near Swansea, the seat of R.M. Phillips, esq. as some labourers were employed in digging a pond, within a hundred yards of Sketty-house, they discovered three earthen pots, containing a great number of gold and silver coins of Edward III. Many of them were in a high state of preservation; not a single coin was found amongst them either prior or subsequent to that reign.

- GM 73 (Nov. 1803), 1075.


A short time ago, between 2 and 300 pieces of antient silver coin were discovered in a tan-yard in Stafford, about a yard from the surface of the ground. They were contained in a small jug, and are in an excellent state of preservation. It is supposed they have lain there about 700 years, as they appear to have been coined during the reigns of Etheldred (sic), Canute, and Hardicanute, which last monarch died at Lambeth, in 1044.

- GM 70 (Supp. 1800), 1276.

*342a. STERLINGSHIRE (County), early 1758?

A report on Antiquities discovered in Stirlingshire includes ‘three triangular pieces of copper money, about the size of a halfpenny [checks of some sort?] . . . (T)hese (did not) escape the destructive curiosity of the country-people, who broke them to pieces, to see what metal they were of.’

- SM 20 (Feb. 1758), 77.


There was lately found in an earthen pot, in a field in the Island of Tyrie, one of the Hebrides, a few ounces of the silver pennies of Henry III. of England. . . . The coins here taken notice of, seventy of which are in a gentleman’s possession in Glasgow, are in general in fine preservation; all of them have on the obverse his full face and head crowned, in his right hand a sceptre pointed with pearls crosswise, in the legend Henricus Rex. The reverse bears a cross moline voided, which only extends to the edge of the inner circle (and denotes his first coinage, or before his thirty-second year) between a cross of four pellets in each quarter, with the moneyer’s name, and place where coined: such as Adam on Norh. Fulre on Oxen. Miles on Wine. Pieres on Lie. Nicole on Eve. R– on Nicol (Lincoln[)], and Roger of Ronce, for Norwich. Oxford. Winchester. Leicester. and Evesham; what the two last import we do not affirm. Twenty-six of them have either Abel, Iger, Rauf, Raullf, Ricard, T. Walter or Willelm. with the abbreviations of on Lu. Lun. Lund. or Lunde. for London. Eighteen have the epigraphs of Joan, Henri, Henry, Samuel, Simon or Simun, with the contraction of on Can. Cant. Cante. for Canterbury. Others are so imperfectly struck, and some so obliterated by the corroding hand of time, as to put it out of our power to speak of them with any certainty; although the names of Arnaud and Thomas, with other partial inscriptions, are legible upon many of them.

- SM 50 (Dec. 1788), 617.

Note: A shorter version of this account was printed in GM 58, Dec. 1788, 1112–3. Footnotes in the Inventory correct some of the attributions: e.g. probably CIC instead of LIC and FOLCE for Fulpe – although the SM text has Fulre. Also see *371a below.

363. TUTBURY, Staffs, June 1831. Add reference.

June 9. For several days past a curious scene has presented itself at Tutbury. A new cut or water-course has lately been made, which has affected the height of the water in the regular course of the river (the Dove). On this account it has been deemed necessary to lower the bed of the river immediately below the bridge. In doing this, the labourers discovered, amongst the stones and gravel, a quantity of small pieces of coin, which proved to be silver, and of the reign of Edward the First. On more minute investigation, it appeared as though from one of the
buttresses of the bridge, in a direct line for 40 or 50 yards, the whole bed of the river was one entire mass of coin. On Wednesday there were hundreds of labourers and others, up to their middle in water, with shovels and riddles, at work the whole day exhuming this long concealed treasure. It is not the slightest exaggeration to state that upwards of 200 pieces of silver coin have been brought up at one time in the shovel. On the most moderate possible calculation, more than 20,000 pieces were found on Wednesday. Single parties found upwards of 1,500. The coins, which are evidently of the reign of Edward the First, appear to have been originally of the value of 4d. There are at least five distinct coinages of the same reign. . . .

It would appear as though a trench had originally been made and filled with these pieces. When a large quantity has been dug up at a time, it was discovered that they lay in a marly substance, and not in the gravel which forms the outer bed of the river. The pieces were sold at the onset at from 10s. to 12s. per hundred, afterwards at 7s. 6d. per hundred. The silversmiths in Burton have given 4s. per ounce.

- GM 101 (June 1831), 546.

*371a. Unknown site, No. 8 (in Ireland?), before 1792. Perhaps identical to 358 above.

Some time ago a number of pieces of both coinages of Henry III or at least what Snelling places to the account of that monarch, fell into my hands; and it is remarkable, as it shews what a great intercourse prevailed formerly between England and Ireland, that the coins marked on the reverse Joan Churn Ca and Roger of Ronce, were amongst them, with three others not taken notice of in Snelling’s work; the first Norman on San, or Sant, as it is expressed on another penny, and Terri on . . . (perhaps) Lunde, give two coiners and one place not noticed by him. I have also Raul on Lunda and Wille I. on Cant, which I do not find in Snelling. . . . I should think a good hint might be taken from a circumstance that occurs in many of these old coins, with respect to our current money: the border or rim rises so much, that it affords great protection to the impression on the field, which in our silver very soon is effaced; the field might also be concave, which would be a further security.

(Correspondent from Ireland.)

- GM 62 (Feb. 1792), 122.

382. WYKE, Yorks, February 1836. Add reference.

Society of Antiquaries. May 31 (1838). Francis Sharp, esq. of Leeds, communicated an account of the discovery of a very extensive hoard of coins made in February 1836 at Wyke, in the parish of Harewood, Yorkshire. This hoard so closely resembled that found at Tutbury in 1831, and described by Mr [Edward] Hawkins in the 24th volume of the Archaeologia, that a description of the coins was in great measure anticipated. . . . From the period of the coins, and particularly some foreign sterlings, the date of the deposit is ascertained to have been early in the reign of Edward the Third.

- GM 3, 10 (1838 ii, Jan.), 80.

Coin Hoards of Great Britain and Ireland 1500–1967

EL7. KIRTLING, Cambs, 1842. Add reference.

From the An Abridged Catalogue of the Saffron Walden Museum (Royal 8vo., np, nd):

In Numismatics there are a few Greek, a good series of Roman, many of which were found at Saffron Walden and Withersfield, and some British, Saxon, and English, including a great variety of the coinage of Henry VIII. being a hoard found at Kirtling.

- GM N.S. 23 (1845 ii), Sept. 1845, 275–6.

*EM11. CORNWALL (County), May/June 1820.

A quantity of curious old coin was lately found in Cornwall, and brought a few days ago to Exeter for sale, consisting chiefly of the current monies of King Edward I. and IV. Henry VII. and VIII.; a great part of which are in the highest state of preservation, among them are the full and side face silver of Henry VII. and a remarkably brilliant groat of the latter coinage; also some fine specimens of groats, half-groats, and pennies of Henry VIII. struck in the mints of London, Canterbury, York, and Durham, with the initials of Cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Cranmer, Archbishop Warham, Edward Lee, Archbishop of York, Cuthbertus Dunelmensis (Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of Durham). There is likewise, in a very fair and perfect state, the celebrated groat with T.W. and the Cardinal’s hat, which occasioned one of the forty-four articles of impeachment for treason, exhibited against Cardinal Wolsey in 1529. . . .

These coins were undoubtedly collected and hoarded during the period of Henry VIII. as more than fifty of the groats that were coined previous to his 16th or 18th year, with the fleur-de-lis, pheon, and rose mint marks, are nearly in as prime condition as when issued from the mint, and none are later than 1545, the 36th of that King’s reign. The collection has been purchased by Mr. Shirley Woolmer, of this city. The groats are about the size of the present shillings, but not so thick.

- GM 90 (June 1820), 541.
THOMPSON’S INVENTORY AND BROWN AND DOLLEY’S COIN HOARDS


(On) the 18th ... some workmen digging for a foundation to build new houses near the Angel and Crown tavern in Whitechapel, found a large quantity of Q. Mary’s gold coin, to the amount of upwards of 1000 l.

– SM 14 (June 1752), 315.

*EN36. LONDON BRIDGE, February 1757.

Tuesday, 22 February. Three pots of money, silver and gold, of the coin of Q. Elizabeth, were found by the workmen in pulling down the houses on London bridge.

– GM 27 (Feb. 1757), 91.

*EO17. BRAEMAR, Aberdeen/now Grampian (NO 1591), autumn 1752.

A farmer’s servant lately casting turf in Braemar, Aberdeenshire, about a mile from the house of Invercauld, found a parcel of old silver coins, in value about 7 or 8 l. Sterling. A good many of them are Q. Elizabeth’s and K. James I.’s; the rest are so much defaced, that it cannot be known how old they are. The Laird of Invercauld has purchased them.

– SM 14 (Nov. 1752), 557.

*EO18. WINCHESTER, Hants (SU 4829), May? 1843.

Several English silver coins were found, a few weeks ago, on digging up a piece of ground lately enclosed near the railway station at Winchester, but really within the parish of Weeke. They were lying together, rather deep in the ground, without any bag or covering, and consist of groats of Mary, and Philip and Mary; sixpences of Edward the Sixth, Elizabeth, and James, and pence of the two fast-named sovereigns. Those of James are of his first mintage, 1603, and in fair preservation, which suggests the probability that the deposit was made early in the seventeenth century.

– GM N.S. 19 (1843 i, June), 636.

*EP144. BOSSALL, N Yorks (SE 7160), 6 June 1779.

(An) exact copy of the memorandum made by (Mr. Belt, of Bossall House) upon the spot at the period of (Sir Robert Belt’s treasures, hidden during the civil wars) discovery.

1779, June 6th, some of my father’s servants in going round the moat at Bossall, found 29 pieces of gold coin of the reigns of King James I. and Charles I.; twenty-two pieces of silver, chiefly of Queen Elizabeth; also a large silver medal, supposed to be struck on the accession of James I. but no date on it. They were found in the side of the bank (the West side towards the North corner), nearly opposite the centre of the back Kitchen.

– GM 93 (Oct. 1823), 305–6, pl. 2, fig. 1 (reproduced at Ency. ii, i, 256).

*EP145. CHIPPENHAM, Wilts (ST 9173), January/February 1762.

Monday, 8 February. Some men grubbing up the roots of an old oak near Chippenham in Wilts, they dug up an iron pot, in which were a great number of jacobusses, and other pieces of money in gold and silver coin.

– GM 32 (Feb. 1762), 90.

*EP146. HARTLEY, Hants, late March 1733.

Sunday, April 1. A Few Days ago, Sir Simon Stuart, of Hartley in Hampshire, looking over some old Writings, found on the Back of one of them a Memorandum noting that 1500 Broad Pieces were buried in a certain Spot in an adjoining Field. Whereupon he took a Servant, and after digging a little in the Place, found the Treasure in a Pot, hid there in the Time of the late Civil Wars, by his Grandfather, Sir Nicholas Stuart.

– GM 3 (April 1733), 211.

Note: There are three Hartleys in Hampshire: H. Mauditt (SU 7436), H. Wespall (SU 6958), and H. Wintney (SU 7656). Local records might place the Stuart family holdings.

*EQ7. DALSTON, near Carlisle, Cumbria (NY 3650), September? 1786.

Sept. 20. At Dalston near Carlisle, a person ploughing up potatoes near the Vicarage-house, followed by several people gathering after him, they observed a broad thick flag stone, which they had the curiosity to remove; when to their great joy they found a leather bag closed up with silver buttons, containing a quantity of broad-pieces of gold, of the old coin of England. When the stone was removed, the hole in which the bag was found was four feet deep, shrined round with stones. This money is supposed to have been hidden about the time when Charles II. took refuge at Dalston-hall, after the battle of Dunbar [September 1650].

– GM 56 (Nov. 1786), 989.

*EQ8. PITMINSTER, near Bath, Somerset (ST 2219), early June 1815.

June 13. An old trunk has been found secreted in a wall at Farmer Poole’s, at Pitminster, near Bath, and said to contain a great quantity of gold, Louis d’ors, &c. It is supposed to have been concealed there at the time of the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth [June/July 1685].

– GM 85 (Supp. i 1815), 639.
**ES16.** LONDON, Dyot Street, St. Giles, August 1773.
Saturday, 21 August. Two journeymen carpenters at work in an old house in Dyot street, St. Giles's, on taking up an old floor, found a small iron box, containing 44 King Charles's guineas.
- *GM 43 (Aug. 1773), 409.*

**ES17.** WARDOUR (CASTLE?), Wilts (ST 9226), spring? 1785.
A poor boy in a barn, at Wardour, in Wilts, catching rats, happened to tread upon a hollow place, which he was induced to examine, and there found a stone trough, in which was a quantity of gold and silver coin, to the amount of 100 l. and a gold ring. The major part was of the coinage of Charles II. in guineas, and crown-pieces, 110 of which are very fair, as were likewise the other money.
- *GM 56 (June 1786), 520.*

**EZ17.** LONDON, Broad Street, September 1758. *Add reference to 1st Addendum.*
Thursday, 7 September. Two bricklayers labourers in digging at the back of Mr Pearson’s house in Broad-street discovered two vessels with ancient coins to a considerable value.
- *GM 28 (Sept. 1758), 447.*

**EZ18.** LONDON, Charing Cross neighbourhood (found in a family bible), November 1764.
London, Nov. 10. There were lately brought to the bank for payment, two bank-notes, for 100 l. each, dated in 1696, two years after the bank was established. They were found in an old family-bible, where it is supposed they have lain ever since. They are as large as an India bond, and the figure of Britannia is on the top of them. They contain above six times the writing that our present notes do. There is a reference to, and quotation from the charter of the company, and bear to be paid by 10 l. a time, and to have a penny a-day interest for one year. They were presented for payment by a banker at Charing cross, and, upon examining the books, allowed to be valid. Since payment, they have been shown as a curiosity.
- *SM 26 (Nov. 1764), 629.*

**GA10.** CIRENCESTER, Glos (SP 0202), December? 1803.
Deaths announced: At Cirencester, Mr John Johnsons, late of Oaksey, Wilts, yeoman. Amongst his property were found 144 crown-pieces of the reign of Queen Anne, which appeared to have been but little circulated, 20 half-crowns, 6 dollars, and a number of bank notes and guineas, besides several large and curious gold pieces of considerable value.
- *SM 66 (Jan. 1804), 80.
Note: Evidently a miser’s hoard, even if not actually buried.*

**GA11.** LEEDS CASTLE, Kent (TQ 8253), April/May 1794.
A few days since, as three carpenters were removing an old escrutoire in Leeds-Castle, Kent, they found concealed there, in guineas, half guineas, and other coins, to nearly the amount of five hundred pounds, which they restored to Dr. Fairfax, the present proprietor of that ancient mansion who rewarded them with ten guineas each for their honesty. The guineas and half guineas were all coined in Queen Anne’s reign and are supposed to have been there since the beginning of this century.
- *GM 64 (May 1794), 476.*

**GA12.** LONDON, 'Broker's Chair hoard', February 1767.
Wednesday, 25 February. A woman bought an old chair at a broker’s, and upon ripping the top off, to have it new covered, found concealed in one corner, 21 guineas, all Q. Anne’s coin, and a bank note, value 200 l. both tied up in a canvas bag; she gave for the chair 18d.
- *GM 37 (Feb. 1767), 94.*

**GA13.** LONDON, Drury Lane, January? 1768.
Tuesday, Feb. 2. The wife of a soldier in the guards, having purchased a bed of a broker in Drury lane, in carrying it home upon her head, thought she felt something hard in it. Upon opening the seam to see what it was, found 42 guineas and two queen Anne’s crown pieces.
- *GM 38 (Feb. 1768), 91.*

**GA14.** NORWICH, Norfolk (TG 2208), late summer 1768 (mini-hoard).
Tuesday, 6 September. In pulling down an old house at Norwich, the workmen found two dies; one for coining guineas, the other pistoles. It is recollected, that in the year 1710, one Samuel Self, a bookseller, dwelt in that house, who being charged with forging stamps, was apprehended, tried, and convicted of that offence; and it is supposed that he also counterfeited the gold coin, and that the dies were hidden by him.
- *GM 38 (Sept. 1768), 443.
Note: Although no coins, false or otherwise, were reported found with the dies, this is a coiner’s mini-hoard.*
THOMPSON’S INVENTORY AN

*GC13. SWATON, Lincs (TF 1337), April? 1785.
   Monday 11 April. Some labourers, in digging a slope on the edge of a pond, near the Paper Mill, at Swarton (sic), the property of Mr. Vowell, in casting up the earth, they cast up, in Portugal and other gold, money to the amount of 800 l. besides a rough diamond of considerable value.

*GD42. TOPCLIFFE, Yorks, May? 1782.
   May 24. Mr. Jackson, and three of his workmen, digging in his grounds adjoining to Topcliffe (sic) Mill in Yorkshire, under a bushy crab, found guineas and half guineas to the amount of £57 4s. 6d.; which, answering to the sum stolen from the compting-house belonging to the mill some years before, was honestly returned.
   – GM 52 (June 1782), 305.
   Note: There are two Topcliffes in Yorkshire: N Yorks (SE 4076) and W Yorks (SE 2727).

   The following strange discovery has caused no small degree of sensation in the village of Stanmore. It appears that a labouring man was hedging in a field at the rear of the parsonage-house, occupied by the Rev. A.R. Chauval, when he found about 400 gold coins, consisting of Louis d’Ors, Napoleons, and Portuguese pieces, called Johannes. The circumstances being made known, at an early hour on the following morning, thirty-one more labourers, in the hope of similarly enriching themselves, repaired with pickaxes, shovels, &c. to the spot, and after very little labour, possessed themselves of a further supply of the like coins (which were inclosed in a square tin box), 320 in number. The money is supposed to have been deposited a few years ago by an eccentric foreign gentleman, who dwelt near the parsonage for a short period, and then went abroad.
   – GM 3, 5 (1836 i, March), 302.

   In pulling down an old house in the Castle Gable, Perth, there was found secreted in the wall, a bag containing a great quantity of Scottish silver and copper coins, chiefly of James III. and IV.
   – SM 65 (July 1803), 506.

*SM10. MUCKLE GEDDES Farm, Calder/Cawder parish, Nairn/now Highland, c. 1739.
   The Gold Coin herewith sent (Fig. 5) was found in a small earthen jar, with a number of others, under the ruins of an old barn accidentally burnt down, on a farm called Muckle Geddes, in the parish of Calder, in the county of Nairn. It was a present from an old aunt of mine, who had it in her possession 70 years. The female part of my grandfather’s family (who rented the farm of Mr. Campbell, the present Lord Cawdor’s father) made some of them into rings. When the proprietor heard of the treasure, he demanded and got what remained.
   – GM 79 (Oct. 1809), 914, pl. 2, fig. 5 (Scottish unicorn: reproduced in Ency. ii, 1, 127).
   Note: Probably the farm spelled Meikle Geddes (NH 8652) on modern maps.

SN13. AYR (near), July 1793. Add reference with additional details.
   Edinburgh, July 27. Some days ago, there were found, about three miles from the town of Ayr, in an old midden stead, a great many ounces (probably from 20 to 30) of the Silver coinage of Mary Queen of Scots, consisting of the testoons and the half-testoons of Mary, Francis, and Mary, including the years 1555 and 1562[,] and a great many of the Billon pieces, Jam non sunt dvo sed vno caro, the years 1558, 1559. They were all contained in an earthen pot, which a cow accidentally broke with her foot as she was passing over. Among some ounces, which a gentleman of Glasgow has got, there is the rare and beautiful testoon, with Mary’s head, 1562. They are all in the highest preservation, and must have been early deposited, as none of them bear the thistle stamp. . . . Some other of the coins have the following mottoes: - Con humile delice Dni. - Vicit leo de tribu juda. - Jam non sunt dvo sed una Caro. - Saluum fac Populum tuum Dominie.
   – GM 63 (Aug. 1793), 761.

   Aberdeen, May 12. A few days ago, on digging out the foundation of an old house at Earlston belonging to Capt. Pringle, two horns were found, containing above 200 gold, silver, and copper coins of James I., II., II., IV., and V. Kings of Scotland, and some of Queen Mary.
   – GM 57 (June 1787), 540.

SN17. GLASGOW, No. 3, Taylor’s Street, 9 January 1795. Add reference.
   On the forenoon of the 9th, as some workmen were levelling the ground in the south end of Taylor’s-street, Glasgow, north-side of the Rottenrow, where an old ruinous house formerly stood, they dug up, with a pick-ax,
an earthen pot, supposed to contain nearly a Scotch pint, full of gold coins of different sizes, the number uncertain, as the workmen and by-standers had a precious scramble; but, by all accounts, 800 or 900, or probably more. A gentleman who had access to see a few of them, has favoured us with the following brief account:

- Of the Scotch coins, he found of James III. and IV. those gold pieces known by the name of the Unicorn, and its half; the Ryder of James IV. with his title. - Coins of James V. and also of Queen Mary. These were the only varieties that appeared of the Scotch coins.

- Of the English coins there were several, mostly the pieces called Angels, of Henry VI. the coinage of his 49th year; and one of Henry VIII. There appear to be several foreign coins; such as French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Imperial, and Popish among them.

- As none of the coins yet examined appear to be later than those of Queen Mary of Scotland, it is probable that they had been deposited during the troubles in her reign.

SM 57 (Jan. 1795), 66-7.

*SN35. (if not SZ8 - see below). ELGIN, Elgin/now Grampian (NJ 2162). October? 1772.

Saturday, 31 October. Some Scots gold coin has lately been dug out of the ruins of an old religious house at Elgin. Some of the pieces are fair, and appear to have been struck in the reign of Queen Mary on her marriage with Lord Darnley.

-GM 42 (Oct. 1772), 494.

SO14. ELGIN (near), 2 July 1759. Add references.

On the 21st of July, several pieces of gold coin were found in the ruins of an old religious house, called, My Lady's high house, near Elgin; mostly Scotch, of James V. of Q. Mary during her marriage with Lord Darnley, and of James VI.; some of them French, and some Spanish.

-SM 21 (June 1759), 442.

Tuesday, 7 July. Some Scots gold coin have lately been found among the ruins of an old religious house near Elgin. Some of the pieces appear to have been struck in the reign of Mary during her marriage with Ld Darnley; there are several other coins all very fair.

-GM 29 (July 1759), 389.

Note: In 1759, July 7th was a Saturday, the 17th and 24th Tuesdays. However, the SM June issue evidently was published some months later because another entry cites an event occurring in August. A discovery date of July 21st does not agree with the reported date in GM.


Kelso, June 12. A few days ago, in taking down an old house in this town, three gold coins of James VI. were found, all in good preservation, of which a description follows:

1st, On one side, a Ship with two flags, one of them inscribed with the letter I. the other with the figure 6. a small Rose on one side of the ship, and below, a Thistle; in the middle, the Escutcheon and a Crown of Scotland: motto, IACOBVS. 6. DEI. GRATIA. REX. SCOTORVM. On the reverse, two Sceptres transversed in the form of a St Andrew's Cross, the ends of both ornamented with a Crown, a large Rose surrounding the whole, with a Thistle between each leaf, in the inside of the Rose, four Lions crowned: - motto, FLORENT. SCEPT. PIIS. REGNA. HIS. IOVA. DAT. NVMERATQ.

2d, On one side, the Head of the King, covered with an oblong cap; behind, a Thistle: motto, IACOBVS. 6. D.G.R. SCOTORVM. On the reverse, a Lion sitting erect, crowned, holding up a Sceptre in one of his Paws to the Name of God, inscribed in Hebrew characters: motto, TE. SOLVM. VERFOR. 1593.

3d, The King mounted upon a horse, in full armour; beneath, 1593: motto, IACOBVS. 6. D.G.R. SCOTORVM. On the reverse, the Escutcheon and Crown of Scotland: motto, SPERO. MELIORA.

- The 1st is bigger than a half-crown piece, and the 2d and 3d larger than a shilling, but thinner; the three together are nearly the weight of two heavy guineas.'

-SM 51 (June 1789), 299-300.

SO16. LINLITHGOW, West Lothian, 6 June 1789. Add references.

June 6. This day was discovered, to the owner of an ancient building here, several pieces of gold and silver coin of King Robert Bruce, James I. II. III. IV. V. and VI. The proprietor of this ancient building, Mr William Kenmore, cabinet-maker here, and only made a purchase of the house lately, . . . (W)orkmen . . . in digging four feet below the surface of the sand [under the house], found several pieces, and, upon digging a little deeper, found an earthen vessel with a large quantity. The proprietor being absent when the above happened, the workmen (eight in number) enjoined each other to secrecy. While they were dividing the spoil, the maid-servant called, inquiring for her master; but was soon bribed to secrecy. The affair was discovered by the servant-maid endeavouring to procure change for one of the pieces, which she called a shilling. Upon inquiry being made, the proprietor has only
recovered upwards of 300 pieces of silver coin, and about 20 of gold. The workmen have refused to deliver up the rest upon various pretences.

*SM 51 (June 1789), p. 299.

Note: An abbreviated version of this account also appeared in *GM 59* (June 1789), 560.

*SP47. BIRDSTONE*, Campsie parish, Stirling/now Strathclyde (NS 6575), spring 1789.

John Muir, jun., in ditching through a piece of bog, at Birdstone, (parish of Campsie,) about 20 inches below the surface, alighted upon 200 pieces of ancient silver coin, which in all weigh about 6 lb. troy weight. The largest are about the size of crowns, and the least not so small as our sixpence. There is one above eleven hundred years since it was coined, and others much older. There are coins of many nations among them, as Roman, Danish, English, Scots, and other northern nations; and the latest that can be observed are some of the Charles's. It is the tradition at that place, that much money was thrown in there about the time that Oliver Cromwell went past that place.

*SM 52 (May 1790), 255-6.

*SP48. HAMILTON*, Netherton Wynd, Lanark/now Strathclyde (NS 7255), July/August 1814.

A few days ago the workmen employed in clearing out the foundations of some old houses in Netherton Wynd, of Hamilton, found of quantity of half-crowns, shillings, and sixpence coins, of the reigns of Elizabeth, James, and Charles – which had probably been hid about the time of the battle of Bothwell Bridge [June 1679], betwixt the Covenanters and the King’s troops.

*SM 76 (Aug. 1814), 633.

SZ8 (if not the same as *SN35 above). ELGIN, spring 1772. Add reference.

Wednesday, 6 May. The ruins of an old house fell down at Elgin, in Scotland, when a considerable quantity of gold coin, of different dates, value, and impressions, were discovered. About ten years ago, some antique pieces of the same sort of coin were found near the same spot.

*GM 42 (May 1772), 242.

*NT5. BLANCO ISLAND*, West Indies, summer 1765.

A considerable treasure has lately been discovered in the island of Blanco, in the West-Indies, said to have been buried there by the famous pyrate Blackbeard [i.e. c. 1713–18].

*GM 35 (Aug. 1765), 390.

Note: Although it is not certain that this hoard contained "one or more coins of Great Britain or Ireland", a chest of West Indian mixed pirate loot probably would have.

*IU20. DUBLIN*, Mary’s Abbey, late summer 1771.

Thursday, 19 September. An iron chest was found concealed in the foundation of an old wall in Mary’s Abbey, Dublin, containing 3000 of the late King James’s halfcrowns [gun-/brass-money].

*GM 41 (Sept. 1771), 423.

*IU21. DUBLIN*, before 1775.

An unsigned letter reprints an article on Irish gun-/brass-money from ‘the 5th Vol. of Philosophical Transactions, abridged by Mr. Jones’, and remarks of the pewter crowns that ‘[There was] very little of it coined, for our Government could meet with none of it; until one Day, rummaging their Treasure, that they had left behind them in Dublin when they were routed, by Accident I met with one Bag of 150 of those Pieces.’

*GM 44 (Dec. 1774), 558–9.

Note: Although it is not certain that this hoard contained "one or more coins of Great Britain or Ireland", a chest of West Indian mixed pirate loot probably would have.

Hoards of unknown composition

*U1. BURSTALL ABBEY, Holderness, E Yorks/now Humberside, early 1791?
  Mr. Cooper has sent us some sketches of coins in the possession of Mr Walter, of Hull, found lately at Burstall Abbey in Holderness . . . they are not rare [but also unfortunately not illustrated].
  – GM 61 (April 1791), 362.

*U2. CONDOVER HALL?, near Shrewsbury, Salop (SJ 4905), June 1767 (possibly Roman?).
  Tuesday, 9 June. As some workmen were employed in pulling down part of Cundover Hall (sic), near Shrewsbury, they found in removing some stones in the vault, an iron box of about 20 inches long, and 14 broad, in which was contained several very curious ancient medals, together with a brass statue, about 16 inches high, which is supposed to be the statue of some heathen god.
  – GM 37 (June 1767), 328.

*U3. LONDON, Black Lion Court, Houndsditch, April 1765 (18c? foreign gold).
  Tuesday, 16 April. Two carpenters, in pulling down an old house in Black-lion court, Houndsditch, found as much foreign gold coin as they sold for 34 l.
  – GM 35 (April 1765), 196.

*U4. SELBY, N Yorks (SE 6132), July 1775 (gold – possibly Roman?).
  26 July. A stone coffin was dug up in the garden of Mr. Lister of Selby, in Yorkshire, in which was a human body. . . . Four gold pieces are said to have been found in the coffin, intrinsically worth 20 l.

*U5. UPPINGHAM?, Rutland/now Leics (SP 8699), June 1764 (English silver?).
  Friday, 22 June. Near 200 pieces of antient silver coin being discovered at the house of Cornelius Nutt at Uppington [recte Uppingham?] in Rutlandshire, a report was spread that the man’s daughter had been informed of the place where they were hid in a dream. Be that as it may, some of these coins are said to be very valuable.
  – GM 34 (June 1764), 301.

*U6. WAKEFIELD, Norgate, W Yorks (SE 3320), c. 1780 (‘ancient’ gold).
  Dec. 30. (A) quantity of ancient gold coin (was) found several years ago in taking down a house in Norgate, Wakefield. (F.R. Scarisbing.)

Single finds

*F1. CANTERBURY (near), 1747 or earlier (Anglo-Saxon sceat).
  Fig. IV. A silver coin of that size, dug up in a hop ground near Canterbury.
  – GM 17 (July 1747), plate facing 322; reproduced in BNJ 44 (1974), pl. II, H.

*F2. HULL, 1747 or earlier (Anglo-Saxon thrymsa).
  Fig. 2. is a gold coin supposed to be Saxon . . . weighing 19 grains troy [appears to be a Merovingian thrymsa with elaborate reverse monogram]
  – GM 17 (Nov. 1747), 526, facing plate (reproduced in Ency. ii, 1, 27).

*F3. RICHMOND (near), Yorks, 1832 or earlier (Archbishop of York styca/penny).
  I send you a correct drawing of a Coin lately discovered in the ancient Hospital of St. Nicholas in the vicinity of this town. . . . I believe it to be a Styca of Egbert, the seventh Archbishop of York; he held that See from the year 735 to the year 767; and was subsequently canonized. I read the inscription 'EGBERHT . ARchiepiscopus'. . . . The reverse is very imperfect . . . This coin is in the possession of Christopher Clarkson, esq. the worthy and able historian of Richmond. (William Wright, of Richmond, Yorks.)
  – GM 102/N.S. 25 (1832 i, April), 304, text fig. (pl. 11, 11); also see ii, 601–2, text fig. (pl. 11 12); 1835 ii, 471.

  A gold coin [of Edward the Confessor] is now in the possession of Thomas Henry Spurrier, esq. of Edgbaston, near Birmingham, which was found in 1824, on pulling down the old church of St. Clement's, Worcester. It is in high preservation, and weighs 54½ grains.
  Note: See Allen, BNJ 3, 5 (1945–8), 259-76, pl., and specifically 265 which refers to this brief report.
THOMPSON'S INVENTORY AND BROWN AND DOLLEY'S COIN HOARDS

*F5. YORKSHIRE? (County), 1757 or earlier (Norman gold penny).
Curious account of a gold penny of one of the Williams, supposed to be a unic, formerly the property of Mr. Bolton of Newcastle, now in the possession of James Farrer of Bamborough Grange, Yorks. Wt – something more than 21 grains. (Samuel Pegge.)

– GM 27 (Nov. 1757), 499–500. facing page, figs. 9–10 (reproduced in another context in BNJ 59 (1989), 203; Ency. ii, 1, 38).

*F6. Unknown Location (Warwickshire?), 1836 or earlier (Anglo-Saxon penny).
Letter on an unpublished penny of Eadred: EADRED REX around head / ALBERT ON AEMI or LEMI, ‘most probably for LEMINTINGTVNE, or Leamington, as it is now spelt . . . . This coin has been sold . . . . to the British Museum for £3., a sum certainly not above its value. (Charles Roach Smith, Lothbury.)

– GM 3, 6 (1836 ii, Sept.), 266, text fig. (reproduced in Ency. ii, 1, 154).

*F7. Unknown Location (Yorkshire?), 1756 or earlier (Northumbrian styca/penny).
Here is a 7th coin found to belong to Archbp Wigmund [of York; given to him by George Fleming]. (Samuel Pegge.)

– GM 26 (Feb. 1756), 64–5, plate facing 64, fig. 5 (reproduced in Ency. ii, 1, 27).

*F8. Mixed Finds, 1796 or earlier.
Coins in the bottom half of the plate include:
3. a counterfeit sterling;
4. one of William the Conqueror (Southgate collection);
5. Richard III (Southgate collection), which, differs greatly from the penny engraved by Withy and Ryall (copied by Snelling, and in the plates to Folkes), which is, I believe, generally allowed to be a counterfeit. It is now in Dr. Hunter’s cabinet.
6. A Saxon halfpenny of Edward the elder, in the Bodleian Library . . . . It is supposed to be unique.
7. a piece of [Saxon] gold found in St. Giles’s parish in Oxford . . . . first noticed in [Robert] Plot’s Oxfordshire, in 1677. (Rev. Rogers Ruding.)

– GM 66 (Aug. 1796), 639–40, pl. 2 facing 640 (reproduced in Ency. ii, 1, 82).
Index of Coin Hoards/Finds

Numbers without letter prefixes refer to Thompson’s Inventory; two-letter prefixes to Brown and Dolley’s Coin Hoards. A star prefix indicates hoards/finds added to these lists. ‘*F’ = single find; ‘*U’ = unknown composition.

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**Abbreviations**

Arch. Jour. | Archaeological Journal
---|---
BNJ | British Numismatic Journal
GM | The Gentleman’s Magazine
Med. Arch. | Medieval Archaeology
NC | Numismatic Chronicle
Nichols File | James M. Kuist, The Nichols File of ’The Gentleman’s Magazine’ (The University of Wisconsin Press, 1982)
NCirc | Spink’s Numismatic Circular
Phil. Trans. | The Royal Society’s Philosophical Transactions
PSAS | Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
RNS | Royal Numismatic Society
SM | The Scots Magazine
I send you a correct drawing of a coin lately discovered in the ancient hospital of St. Nicholas, in the vicinity of this town.

The sketch enclosed shows Mr. Gordon's idea of the reverse of the coin, ADEALWIN, probably the name of the moneyer by whom it was struck.

Obverse. EGBERHT AR. Reverse. ATHEAL... (BIN, or WIN).