SCOTTISH COIN HOARDS, 1996–97

N.M. McQ. HOLMES

WITH A CONTRIBUTION BY P.T. WILTHEW

This article comprises reports on six finds of mediaeval and early post-mediaeval coins, all recovered by metal-detectorists during an unusually prolific two-year period. The fact that all these hoards were submitted by the finders for processing through the Treasure Trove system and eventual acquisition by appropriate local museums is an indication that some success has been achieved in building bridges between detectorists and museums in Scotland, and credit for this must go to a number of local curators as well as to the detectorists themselves.

Of the six finds recorded here, two are additional parcels from hoards recovered previously—one as long ago as 1844, and the other in 1991—and the remainder are new discoveries. Four belong to the ever-increasing number of Scottish hoards from the Edwardian period, but the other two date from the early fifteenth century and the late sixteenth century, the latter apparently representing the products of a counterfeiter’s workshop, lost or disposed of before they could be put into circulation.

Horsleyhill, Roxburghshire (1997)

A further twenty-seven English and Scottish pennies and continental sterlings were recovered from the same field in which fifty-six were found in 1991,¹ again by Mr Scott Sibbald with the aid of a metal-detector. The discovery of these coins in an area which had previously been considered to have given up all its secrets provides further support for the theory that a hoard had been disturbed and spread. Further ploughing may yield more coins, therefore. The second group was declared to be Treasure Trove and allocated to Scottish Borders Museums, which include the former Roxburgh District Museum service, recipient of the earlier finds.

In recording the 1991 group, the writer suggested that the hoard may have been deposited during the last decade of the thirteenth century, since all but five of the English pennies belonged to classes 2–7. The five class 10 pennies might then have been stray losses in the same field. Alternatively it was suggested that the hoard could have comprised a late thirteenth-century accumulation, with a few later coins added before deposition around 1310. This second batch does nothing to dispel this impression, with all but one of the eighteen English pennies belonging to classes 1–4, and the other to class 10. The two groups together contain sixty-nine English pennies, of which sixty-three were minted before c. 1296 and six between c. 1301 and 1310. The absence of any pennies of the common class 9 is still striking.

Four Scottish pennies of Alexander III formed part of the second batch, bringing the total to seven out of a total of eighty-three coins (8.43 per cent). Four continental sterlings join the two found previously, thus making up 7.23 per cent of the total. This is a relatively high proportion and supports the theory that most of the coins in the hoard were removed from circulation before 1300.

One Scottish penny (catalogue no. 23; Pl. 9) bears an unusual bust, apparently with a broken hair-punch, and an initial cross which appears potent and thus atypical for class E.

Summary

A summary of the hoard in the Inventory format might be as follows:

HORSLEYHILL, Roxburghshire (supplementary), 1997.
27 AR English, Irish, Scottish and Continental: Deposit c. 1292 – c. 1310.

ENGLAND (18 pennies):
Edward I: Bristol (1) – 3c, 1: Canterbury (3) – 3c–d, 1: 4a, 2: Durham (2) – 2b, 1; 10ab, 1: London (9) – 1c, 1; 2b, 3; 3c, 1; 3g, 1; 4a, 1; 4b, 1, 4e/4d, 1: Newcastle (1) – 3e, 1: uncertain mint (2) – 2b, 1 fragment; 2–3?, 1 fragment.

IRELAND (1 penny):
Edward I: Waterford (1) – Dolley 2, 2 fragments of the same coin

SCOTLAND (4 pennies):
Alexander III. second coinage: B/M, 1; Ma, 1; Me2/D, 1; ?E1/D, 1.

CONTINENTAL (4 sterlings):

Discovery and deposition:
Found spread in ploughsoil in the same area as the 1991 find, and from the same hoard. Declared to be Treasure Trove and allocated to Scottish Borders Museums (formerly Roxburgh District Museum Service).

LIST OF COINS

An asterisk indicates an illustrated coin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Weight in grammes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLAND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward I pennies (SCBI North 1989 classification)²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3c; h2, S1, R1; face 2a; slightly chipped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3c–d; uncertain lettering; face 3; slightly buckled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4a2 (SCBIN 207); slightly bent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4a2; bent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2b, fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10ab3a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1c: VIII; crown 2 (SCBIN 32); slightly buckled; slightly chipped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–10</td>
<td>2b (SCBIN 60); 8 buckled; 9 chipped; 10 slightly buckled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3c; h2, S2?, R?; face 1; slightly bent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3g2; S3/S?; stops 1: slightly buckled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4a4; unbarred A; oval face (SCBIN 205); double struck on obverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4e/4d; early crown and hair (SCBIN 255); slightly buckled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>3e; two fragments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncertain mint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>2b; fragment; buckled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>2–3 ?, fragment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IRELAND
Edward I penny (Dolley classification) 3
Waterford
2; two fragments
0.87

SCOTLAND
Alexander III pennies, second coinage (Stewart and North classification) 4
20 B/M; GRA; hair c; slightly bent; slight edge damage
1.33
21 Ma; chipped; slightly buckled
1.06
22 Mc2/D; 26 points; slightly buckled at edge
1.27
23* ?E1/D; 25 points; unusual bust with broken hair-punch, giving strand of hair curving upwards; barred As; initial cross appears potent; other obverse lettering as class E; badly chipped
1.21

CONTINENTAL
Sterlings (Mayhew 1983 classification) 5
24 Jean d’Avesnes, Valenciennes (M 24); badly chipped
1.11
25 John I of Brabant (M 43); buckled; slightly chipped
1.18
26 John I of Brabant (M 44–47); fragment
0.44
27 Arnold V of Looz, ? Hasselt (M 62)
1.19

Sheriffflatts, Thankerton, Lanarkshire (1996)
Thirty-seven English pennies of Edward I were recovered by Mr John McLaren when metal-detecting in a field at Sheriffflatts Farm. No evidence of a container was located. The coins were declared to be Treasure Trove and allocated to Biggar Museum.

The find-spot was in a field under grass, surrounded on three sides by a burn. There are no visible structural features in the immediate area today, but the following late eighteenth-century description may be significant:

On a round hill at the foot of Tinto is a circle, surrounded with large stones, erected on one end, close to one another. At a distance of ten yards, there is another wall nearly resembling the former. In this place a large mound of earth is erected. This was probably a Sheriffs Court, where, on a certain day, the adjacent country attended to have justice done.

The name of the adjacent farm seems to favour this tradition, for it is called ‘Sheriff Flats’. According to immemorial tradition, a bullock’s skin full of gold lies buried in this place. 6

The farmer on whose land the coins were found has stated that the hill or mound of earth was removed some twenty years ago. Five acres of the field were quarried and the stones removed for road-building, the topsoil then being spread over the level field. The original source of the topsoil is unknown, however, and there is now no way of telling whether the coins were originally buried in this area or brought in from elsewhere with topsoil. Burial of a hoard in a spot which could easily be relocated through its proximity to a large and visible monument would have been no more than sensible, however.

The latest coins in the hoard are two pennies of class 10cf2b, dating from c. 1307, and no less than twenty-one of the thirty-seven coins belong to 10cf1–2. Since pennies of some of the later sub-categories of class 10cf are by no means uncommon, it may be suggested that the hoard was concealed in or soon after 1307. This must have been a time of uncertainty for the

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6 Statistical Account of Scotland 1791–1799, vol. VIII: Parish of Covington, p. 201. The writer is grateful to the finder, Mr McLaren, for this extract and for passing on further information from the farmer.
inhabitants of Lanarkshire. Although Edward II's army reached no further north than Cumnock, in Ayrshire, in August 1307, Bruce's army then marched northwards through Lanarkshire on its way to counter the Comyns in the Highlands. In December 1308 the castle at Rutherglen was besieged by Edward Bruce and recaptured, and that at Dumbarton may have been surrendered to Bruce in 1309. In 1310 Edward II's second expedition sent armies through Biggar, Lanark and Glasgow.7

The mint distribution within the hoard follows the expected pattern for groups of coins of this period taken from circulation in Scotland, with products of the three northern English mints (Durham, Newcastle and Berwick) dominating along with those of London (thirteen and fourteen coins respectively), and the minor southern mints poorly represented. Statistically the presence of one or two Scottish pennies of Alexander III might have been expected in a hoard of this size and date, however.

Summary
A summary of the hoard in the Inventory format might be as follows:

SHERIFFLATTES, Thankerton, Lanarkshire, 1996
37 AR English. Deposit c. 1307+

Edward I: Berwick (2) – Blunt 1, 2: Bristol (1) – 2b, 1: Bury St Edmunds (2) – 10ab, 1; 10cf, 1: Canterbury (7) – 9b, 1; 10ab, 1; 10cf, 5; Durham (9) – 9b, 1; 10ab, 1; 10cf, 7: London (14) – 3c, 1: 4a, 1; 9b, 3; 10ab, 1; 10cf, 8: Newcastle (2) – 9b, 1; 10x, 1.

Discovery and Deposition: Found by metal-detector in a field at Sherifflatts Farm. Declared to be Treasure Trove and allocated to Biggar Museum.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLAND Edward I pennies (SCBI North 1989 classification)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berwick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1; wide face; crescent stops; VILL/AE[RE]VVICI</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 1; wide face; crescent stops; VILL/[A]BE[RE[V][VI]CI</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 2b (SCBIN 63–4)</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bury St Edmunds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 10ab5: ‘broken’ S (appears unbroken on obverse); chipped</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 10cf2a; A1; E1; h1; N1; DNhYB // DNVIND; as SCBIN 620</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 9b1; ?unbarred 1 / pot-hook Ns; star</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 10nb5; late lettering with R1 on reverse</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 10cf1 (SCBIN 588 etc)</td>
<td>1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 10cf1; some poor striking</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10* 10cf2a; A2; E2?, h2; N1; reversed N in DNS</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 10cf2a; A2; E2, h2, N2; slightly chipped</td>
<td>1.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 i10cf2b; A2; D2; E2, h3, N2</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Durham

13* 9b(27); plain cross; pot-hook Ns; no star; local reverse die; some poor and double striking 1.42
14 10ab5; angular/uncertain S 1.45
15 10cf1; cross moline (SCBIN 594–6) 1.47
16 10cf1; cross moline; obverse double-struck; poorly struck overall; slightly chipped 1.40
17 10cf1; uncertain initial mark; about half of coin 0.76
18 10cf2a; cross moline; A2, E?, h1, N1 1.31
19 10cf2a; cross moline; A2, E?, h1, N2 / E2 1.38
20 10cf2a; uncertain initial mark; A2, E?, h?, N2; uneven striking 1.26
21 10cf2a; very poorly struck 1.17

London

22 3c; face 1; h2, R2, S1 1.43
23 4a3 (SCBIN 202); chipped 1.23
24 9b1; pot-hook Ns; no star (SCBIN 374) 1.38
25–26 9b2; pot-hook Ns; star (SCBIN 429) 1.37, 1.36
27 10ab5; late lettering; uncertain R 1.35
28 10cf1; round G; thick lettering, with uncertain S on reverse (? late 10ab5); some poor striking 1.40
29 10cf1; angular S on reverse 1.40
30* 10cf1; S on reverse has thin waist and serifs 1.37
31–32 10cf1 (SCBIN 578 etc); both slightly chipped 1.40, 1.33
33 10cf2a; A1, E1, h?, N1 1.33
34 10cf2a; A2, E2, h2, N2 1.47
35 10cf2b; A2, D1, E2, h3, N2; flawed hair 1.38

Newcastle

36 9b1; pot-hook Ns; star; VILL' (SCBIN 410); chipped 1.38
37 10x (9b1/10ab3); VILL/NOVI 1.37

Wandel, Crawford, Lanarkshire (1997)

Thirty-seven English pennies of Edward I–II and one Scottish penny of Alexander III were found by Mr Tom Hislop while metal-detecting in a grass field near to where the Wandel Burn flows into the River Clyde. The coins were found in a fairly discrete scatter of about ten metres in diameter, in the upper ploughsoil and turf. No trace of any container was located, and the coins recovered may represent those disturbed and scattered from a deeper deposition site. The number of incomplete, chipped or buckled coins in the group tends to support this theory. A single continental sterling was subsequently found in the same area by Mr N. Clark. The hoard was declared to be Treasure Trove and allocated to Biggar Museum.

The latest coins were two class 15b pennies, of Bury St Edmunds and Durham, giving a terminus post quern for deposition of c. 1321–2. With such a small sample, however, the absence of 15c and 15d pennies is not significant, and any date up to around the mid 1340s is equally probable on purely numismatic grounds. There is no obvious military context for the burial of this hoard. Although the death of Robert Bruce led to attempts by Edward Baliol and by Edward III to conquer Scotland in the early 1330s, events in this period largely occurred far away from Lanarkshire. The money may simply have been buried for safekeeping.

Only one coin is individually of note, this being a Berwick mint penny of class 4b, apparently without a pellet on the breast (catalogue no. 1, Pl. 9). The coin is sufficiently well struck to suggest that the pellet was omitted from the die.

Summary

A summary of the hoard in the Inventory format could be as follows:

WANDEL, Crawford, Lanarkshire, 1997
39 AR English, Scottish and Continental. Deposit c. 1321–45
ENGLAND (37 pennies):
Edward I-II: Berwick (3) - 4b, 1; 4c, 2; Bristol (1) - 3c, 1; Bury St Edmunds (2) - 10cf, 1; 15b, 1; Canterbury (6) - 9b, 2; 10ab, 1; 10cf, 3; Durham (7) - 3g, 1; 9b, 1; 10cf, 3; 11a, 1; 15b, 1; London (18) - 2b, 2; 3(g?), 1; 10ab, 4; 10cf, 10; 11a, 1.

SCOTLAND (1 penny):
Alexander III, second coinage: Stewart and North E2.

CONTINENTAL (1 sterling):
John the Blind, Luxemburg, Mayhew 257.

Discovery and Deposition: In a field near the confluence of the Wandel Burn and the River Clyde. Found by metal-detector in an area of diameter c. 10 m. Declared to be Treasure Trove and allocated to Biggar Museum.

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Weight in grammes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **ENGLAND** Edward I–II pennies (SCBI North classification)  
Berwick |  
1* 4b; no pellet on breast; slightly bent | 1.36 |
| 2–3 4c; solid eyes (SCBIN 1141–2) Bristol | 1.39, 1.31 |
| 4 3c; h2, S1, R?; face 2b; incomplete Burb St Edmunds | 1.05 |
| 5 10cf2a; A2, E2, h2?, N1?; very slightly bent | 1.12 |
| 6 15b (SCBIN 932); chipped Canterbury | 1.11 |
| 7 9b2; pot-hook Ns; no star; incomplete | 1.02 |
| 8 9b; pot-hook Ns; fragment | 0.44 |
| 9 10ab5; uncertain S / unbroken 'broken' S; chipped | 1.03 |
| 10 10cf2a; A2, E7, h3, N2; chipped; bent | 1.04 |
| 11 10ab3a; hYB’; flat S; incomplete | 1.02 |
| 12 10cf5b | 1.34 |
| Durham  
13 3g2; S/S3; stops 1; chipped; buckled | 1.26 |
| 14 9h1; cross moline; Roman / unbarred 1 Ns; contractive marks; star; slightly chopped | 1.47 |
| 15 10cf2a; cross moline; A2, E2, h?, N2; double-striking on obverse; slightly bent | 1.34 |
| 16 10cf3b1; cross moline; obverse very weakly struck | 1.30 |
| 17 10cf3b2; scriffed N on obverse | 1.22 |
| 18 11a2 (Bek); incomplete | 1.17 |
| 19 15b; lion and lis initial mark, partially illegible; slightly buckled London | 1.45 |
| 20–21 2b (SCBIN 60); 20 incomplete; 21 buckled and slightly chopped | 1.11, 1.09 |
| 22 3(g?); crescent stops; double-struck; blank turned over between strikings; fragment | 0.65 |
| 23 10ab3a/10ab2; hYB’?, with apostrophe overlapping cross arm; uncertain S | 1.32 |
| 24 10ab5; angular S on both sides; incomplete | 1.15 |
| 25 10ab5; late lettering on obverse | 1.13 |
| 26 10ab5; late crown and lettering (SCBIN 547); broken and repaired; slightly chopped; slightly bent | 1.32 |
| 27 10cf1; thick lettering on obverse; clipped; slightly buckled | 1.01 |
| 28–29 10cf1 (SCBIN 578 etc); 25 slightly double-struck on reverse; 26 bent and very slightly buckled | 1.36, 1.33 |
| 30 10cf2a; A2, E1, h1?, N2; slightly bent | 1.39 |
| 31 10cf3a1; face 1 | 1.36 |
SCOTTISH COIN HOARDS

32  10cf3a3 (SCBIN 660–2)  1.35
33  10cf3b2; sinister hair Mayfield; straight-sided Is on reverse  1.26
34  10cf5a1; HYB: (SCBIN 725)  1.31
35  10cf5a1; broken O  1.32
36  10cf5b; L of LON over a C; slightly buckled  1.25
37  11a2; clipped and slightly chipped  1.01

SCOTLAND (1 penny)

38  Alexander III, second coinage, Stewart and North 15, 20 points; bent; about half of legendary circle missing  0.94

CONTINENTAL (1 sterling)

39  John the Blind, Luxemburg, Mayhew 257  1.33

Croal Chapel, Closeburn, Dumfriesshire (1996)

This parcel of 220 coins belongs to the hoard originally located in 1844. Research by Mr Jim Rankine, of Dumfries, led him to the find-spot, which he then searched with a metal-detector. The coins were subsequently claimed as Treasure Trove and allocated to Dumfries Museum.

Old accounts state that over 10,000 coins were found in 1844 during ploughing, and that most of them were carried away by local people and sold or melted down. Three groats and eight pennies, assumed to have come from this hoard, were presented to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1846, but these coins can no longer be identified. Knowledge of the contents of the hoard was confined to a record that it contained pennies of Edward I, II and III and of Alexander III and groats of Edward III and David II. On this basis its date of deposit was given a terminus post quern of 1357.

This dating is supported by the evidence of the 1996 finds, the latest of which was a groat of David II’s second coinage, Stewart type A4, belonging to the earliest part of the 1357–67 issue. The latest English coins were a groat and two pennies of Edward III’s pre-Treaty series G. Of the 220 coins, all but sixteen were English, the remainder comprising three Irish pennies, three Scottish pennies as well as the groat, and nine continental sterlings and ‘Edward’ imitations.

Although this find provides little new evidence, it is extremely useful both to have some confirmation of the range of coins which must have been included in the 1844 find and to have this random selection preserved in a public collection. In addition, a number of the coins are of note insofar as they represent variations from the norm. Many of these display minor differences or die-cutting errors (see catalogue and plates). Of greater interest is an unusual penny of the Berwick mint (catalogue no. 2, Pl. 9), which the writer has been unable to reconcile with any one recorded class. Stylistically it seems more likely to be a genuine Berwick product than an imitation, and the pellet ornaments in the crown are paralleled on a class 2b penny recorded by North (SCBIN 1130), but it has EDWA in the obverse legend and a trifoliate crown. The rarest coin in the parcel is the Irish class 5 penny of the Cork mint (catalogue no. 207, Pl. 10).

Summary

A summary of the find in the Inventory format could be as follows:

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9 J. Lindsay, A View of the Coinage of Scotland, Cork, 1845, p. 269.
CLOSEBURN (CROAL CHAPEL), Dumfriesshire (supplementary), 1996
220 AR English, Irish, Scottish and Continental.

ENGLAND (4 groats, 200 pennies):
Edward I–II (185 pennies): Berwick (5) – Blunt 1, 1; 2b var., 1; 4a, 2; 4b, 1: Bristol (8) – 3c–d, 1; 3d, 2; 3g, 1; 9b, 3:
Bury St Edmunds (7) – 10ab, 1; 10cf, 4; 11b. 2: Canterbury (53) – 2b, 1; 3b, 1; 3c–d, 1; 3g, 3; 4a, 2; 4c, 1; 4d, 1; 4e,
1; 7a, 1; 9b, 1; 10ab, 6; 10cf, 25; 11a, 1; 11b, 3; 12a, 1; 14, 1; 15b, 3: Durham (13) – 2b, 1; 9b, 1; 10cf, 5; 11a, 2; 11b,
2; 14, 1; 15c, 1: Lincoln (2) – 3d, 1; 3g, 1: London (87) – 1c, 2; 1d, 1; 2a, 3; 2b, 6; 3a, 1; 3c, 1; 3d, 2; 3g, 7; 4a, 1; 4b,
3; 4d/4e, 1; 4d, 3; 3e, 1; 5b/5a, 1; 1a, 3; 9b, 1; 9b, 1; 10ab, 4; 10cf, 19; 11a, 5; 11b, 2; 13, 1; 14, 2;
15a, 1; 15b, 1; 15c, 3: uncertain class, 1: Newcastle (3) – 9b, 1; 10x, 1; 10ab, 1: York (Royal) (3) – 3b, 1; 9b, 2.
Edward III (4 groats, 15 pennies): 3rd coinage pennies: London (6) – 1a or 2, 1; 2, 2; 3, 1; 4, 2: York
(Archiepiscopal) (1) – 1–4, 1: 4th coinage, pre-Treaty series groats: London (3) – C, 1; E, 1; G(a), 1: York (1) – E, 1:
pre-Treaty series pennies: London (2) – C, 1; C/E?, 1: Durham (6) – C?, 1; D or E, 1; F, 1; G(a), 2; C–G, 1.
Uncertain reign (4 pennies/fragments): London – 1 + 1 fragment; uncertain mint – 2 fragments.

IRELAND (3 pennies):

SCOTLAND (1 groat, 3 pennies):
Alexander III, second series penny: Stewart and North E2/D, 26 points.
David II first coinage pennies: Group I (large lettering), 1; Group II (small lettering), 1: second coinage groat,
Stewart A4.

CONTINENTAL (9 sterlings):
Robert de Bethune, Alost – Mayhew 209 var., 1; M 214, 1: Gaucher de Châtillon, Yves – M 239, 1: John the Blind,

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<tr>
<td><strong>ENGLAND</strong> Edward I–II pennies (SCBI North 1989 classification)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1; wide face; hYD; VILL/ABE/REV/VICI; slightly buckled 1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2*</td>
<td>Uncertain class (2b var.), or possibly an imitation; [4ED]WARANGLDN[ShYB]; pellet jewels in trifoliate crown; VILL/ABE[/] VICI; both sides off-centre 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4a (SCBIN 1137–8); partially clipped 0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4a; cracked; uneven striking 1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4b (SCBIN 1139); double-struck 1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3c–d; h2, S2, R2 / S1, R1; clipped and corroded 1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3d; h2, S2, R2; thick neck; partially clipped 1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3d; h2, S2; R2? / S1, R2?; thick neck; slightly buckled 1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3g1; S2 / S1; stops l 1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9b1; unbarred 1 Ns; contractive mark after hYB, and possibly elsewhere; star; double-struck 1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9b1; unbarred 1 Ns; contractive marks; no star; slightly bent 1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–13</td>
<td>9b1; pot-hook Ns; star; 13 partially clipped 1.12, 1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bury St Edmunds</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>10ab5 (definitive); clipped 0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>10cf2a; A1, E2, h1, N1 (SCBIN 621) 1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>10cf2a; A2, E2, h3, N2 (SCBIN 622) 1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17–18</td>
<td>10cf6, 17 unevenly struck with reverse off-centre 1.39, 1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–20</td>
<td>11b2 1.37, 1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canterbury</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>2b 1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>3b; crescent marks 1.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCOTTISH COIN HOARDS

23  3c-d; h2, S1, R? / S?, R1; uneven striking  1.11
24  3g1; S2; stops 3; ? slightly clipped  1.06
25*  3g1; S2 / S?; stops 1; O of TOR over an A  1.33
26  3g5; S3; stops 1 (SCBIN 194); clipped  1.05
27  4a1 (SCBIN 206); ? partially clipped  1.18
28  4a3 (SCBIN 209); clipped  1.05
29  4e; straight-sided letters  1.16
30  4d; incomplete and in five fragments  1.12
31  4e; slight double-striking, giving appearance of only two pellets on breast; slightly clipped  1.17
32  7a; composite / non-composite S; incurred letters (SCBIN 310); clipped  1.01
33  9b1; pot-hook Ns; star (SCBIN 382); slightly bent  1.36
34  10ab5a; ANGL' hY'B'; top-tilted S; reverse of 10ab2 (SCBIN 520); ? slightly clipped  1.27
35  10ab5 (definitive)  1.24
36–37  10ab5; late As; 36 slightly clipped; 37 chipped  1.10, 1.09
38  10ab5; late lettering  1.26
39  10ab5 (late); R1; hY-B (the pellet possibly just a die flaw)  1.12
40  10cf1 (early); EDWARANGDNshYB; thick lettering; reverse of late 10ab5 (SCBIN 572–3); ? slightly clipped  1.04
41–44  10cf1 (SCBIN 588 etc); 44 double-struck and slightly buckled at edge  1.40, 1.34, 1.28, 1.24
45*  10cf1; CIVITAS/CANITAS; bent  1.22
46–47  10cf2a; A2, E2, h?, N2; 47 partially clipped  1.26, 1.09
48  10cf2a; A2, E?, h2, N2  1.22
49  10cf3a1; face 2  1.30
50  10cf3a1; uncertain face type; obverse abraded  1.21
51  10cf3a3 (SCBIN 665)  1.32
52–54  10cf3b1 (SCBIN 685–7); 52 slightly buckled; 53 slightly clipped  1.27, 1.20, 1.12
55  10cf3b1; ? unbarred N on reverse  1.31
56*  10cf3b1; broken chin; broken O; T of TOR struck over another letter (?)C)  1.18
57  10cf3b1(?); bent; much surface corrosion  0.97
58–59  10cf3b2; 59 double-struck  1.36, 1.16
60  10cf3b2; hyB'; serrated A on obverse; flawed sinister hair-punch; broken O  1.35
61  10cf3b2; straight-sided lettering and open E on obverse, with double-barred N in DNS; flawed sinister hair-punch; broken O (as SCBIN 712); partially clipped; slightly corroded  1.06
62  10cf5b; late As on obverse  1.36
63  10cf5b; late As  1.33
64*  10cf5b; malformed N on reverse  1.03
65  11a1(?); clipped  0.97
66  11b2; B punched over another letter; slightly buckled  1.19
67  11b2; EDWARR (SCBIN 828); slightly buckled; partially clipped  1.12
68  11b3; R1; slightly clipped  1.12
69  12a; ornaments pellet / trefoil; thick initial cross  1.29
70  14; new E; very slightly clipped  1.25
71–73  15b (SCBIN 926–7); obverse of 71 slightly double-struck  1.41, 1.39, 1.13

Durham
74  2b (SCBIN 71–2)
75  9b2; plain cross; pot-hook Ns; star (SCBIN 443–4); slightly irregular flan  1.21
76  10cf1(?); crossed mole  1.07
77  10cf2a; cross mole; A2, E2?, h2, N1  1.22
78  10cf2 (uncertain sub-class); plain cross; A2, E?, h3, N2 / E2; uneven striking  1.23
79  10cf3a3; cross mole over plain cross; uneven striking  1.29
80  10cf3b1; cross mole  1.27
81  11a2 (Bek); cross mole  1.34
82  11a2 (Bek); initial mark off flan; uneven striking; very slightly bent  1.20
83  11b1; very slightly buckled  1.18
84*  11b3; EDWARR'NL'; small wedge stop; R3  1.40
85  14; new E / broken E; one lis before and one behind lion  1.20
86  15c; one lis before lion; uneven striking; slightly buckled  1.24

Lincoln
87  3d(?); h2, S2, R1 / S?, thick neck; crescent marks, resembling solid half-circles on obverse, which is poorly struck and / or very worn  1.13
88  3g2 or 3g3; S3 / S?; stops 1 / 1  1.31
86 SCOTTISH COIN HOARDS

London

89 1c: N / N; crown 2
90* 1c: VI / II; crown 2, but no sinister ornament; this crown variant, and unbarred N, not recorded by North

91 1d: IV / N; face 1; variety crown (SCBIN 44)
92 2a; VI / N; face 2 (SCBIN 47); buckled
93 2a; VI / N; face 2 (SCBIN 50); partially clipped
94 2a; VI / uncertain face

95* 2b; central fleur of crown retains scrolls; dexter hair has three strands and an inner curl
96 2b; central fleur of crown retains scrolls (SCBIN 59); double-struck in reverse legend

97–100 2b (SCBIN 60); 97 and 98 partially clipped; 99 clipped; 100 full flan but very light weight

101 3a (SCBIN 76); partially clipped
102 3b; 4; 5; 6; face 1; slightly clipped
103–104 3d; h2, S?, R2; thick neck; blocked crescent marks resembling solid half-circles; 103 partially clipped; 104 slightly clipped

105 3g1; S2; stops 2(?)
106 3g1; S? / S2; uncertain stops; partially clipped
107 3g1(?); S? / S2; stops 1(?), the second small and resembling a solid half-circle

108–109 3g2; S3 / S1; stops 1

110 3g2; S3 / S2; uncertain stops
111 3g2; S3; stops 4(?)
112 4a1; uneven striking; double-struck on both sides
113 4b (SCBIN 224)

114–115 4b; broken hair

116 4d/4e; barred As on obverse; bent

117 4d (SCBIN 247)

118 4d; pellet on obverse unclear, but probably present

119 4d; pellet on reverse not visible, but coin clipped in this area; cracked

120 4e (SCBIN 257); slightly buckled

121 5b/5a (SCBIN 272-3); slightly clipped (?)

122* 8a; crown of 6–7a; face 2; EDWR'ANGL'; incurved / straight lettering; T of TAS punched over a C

123 8b; face 2; straight / incurved lettering; double-barred N in DNS; slightly buckled

124 8b–8e; incurved lettering; obverse corroded

125 9a2; straight letters; unbarred As and Ns; star (SCBIN 352); slightly clipped

126 9b1; unbarred 1 Ns; star (SCBIN 370)

127 9b1; unbarred 1 Ns; ? star

128 9b1; pot-hook / unbarred 1 Ns; no star (SCBIN 371); clipped

129–130 9b1; pot-hook Ns; star (SCBIN 372); 129 very slightly buckled

131 9b1; pot-hook Ns; ? no star; clipped

132 9b(1?); pot-hook Ns, that in ANGL apparently double-barred (probably unintentional); star; slightly clipped

133–135 9b2; pot-hook Ns; star (SCBIN 429); 134 slightly clipped (?); 135 partially clipped

136* 9b2; pot-hook Ns; star: EDWRIOLDSNOLHYBY

137 10ab2; reverse of 9a with incurved lettering and unbarred Ns

138 10ab3a; HYB (?) ; ? flat S; reverse of 9b with pot-hook Ns; obverse off-centre with legend double-struck

139 10ab3b; apparently unbroken 'broken' S on each side (? = flat S of 10ab3a ?); two small pellets in angle of L of LON; uneven striking

140 10ab5; angular S on both sides

141 10cf1 (SCBIN 578 etc); partially clipped

142 10cf1; pellet after R (cf SCBIN 585); slightly clipped

143–144 10cf1; 143 double-struck in both legends and slightly clipped; 144 clipped

145 10cf2a; A1, E1, h, N1 (SCBIN 602); slightly clipped

146 10cf2a; A1, E1, h, N1 / A2; very slightly clipped

147 10cf2a; A1, E2?, h, N1; both sides slightly off-centre; dexter jewel present, but obscured by 'ghost' of reverse cross

148 10cf2a; A1, E?, h, N1; slightly buckled

149 10cf2a; A2, E2?, h2, N2

150 10cf3a3 (SCBIN 660–2)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>10cf3a3; hYB'</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152-154</td>
<td>10cf3b1 (SCBIN 676-7); 154 partially clipped</td>
<td>1.35, 1.28, 1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>10cf3b1; broken chin; unbarred Ns on reverse; very slightly buckled; slightly clipped</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>10cf3b2(?); straight-sided I and N and serifed A on reverse; broken O in DON; surfaces corroded</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>157</td>
<td>10cf5a1</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>158*</td>
<td>10cf5a1–2 transitional (?); bust much flattened, but appears to have dexter hair from wire-line C punch and sinister from Mayfield; broken As of 10cf5a1 on obverse; reverse has A and ? of 10cf5a2; S of uncertain form on both sides</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>159</td>
<td>10cf5b; uneven striking; clipped</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>11a1/11a2; tilted S on obverse; hYB'; slightly buckled</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161-164</td>
<td>11a2; 163 partially clipped; 164 slightly clipped and slightly bent</td>
<td>1.33, 1.27, 1.12, 1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
<td>11b1 (SCBIN 807–8); ? slightly clipped</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166*</td>
<td>11b2; EDWAR; broken jewel apparently repaired with pellet; partially clipped</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>167</td>
<td>13; R2; broken E (SCBN 881)</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>168</td>
<td>14; new E (SCBIN 899); slightly bent</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>169*</td>
<td>14; new E; L of LON punched over a C</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170</td>
<td>15a (SCBIN 919–20); cracked; has been folded in half</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>171</td>
<td>15b (SCBIN 925); clipped</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>172-174</td>
<td>15c (SCBIN 934–5); 173 partially clipped; 174 clipped</td>
<td>1.35, 1.13, 1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Uncertain class; bent, clipped and corroded</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>176</td>
<td>9b1; pot-hook Ns; ? no star; slightly bent</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177</td>
<td>10x (9b1/10ab3); VILL/NOVI (SCBIN 478–9); partially clipped</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>178</td>
<td>10ab2; ANGL'HYB' // VILL' // NOVI</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179</td>
<td>3b; crescent and comma marks (SCBIN 90); slightly buckled</td>
<td>1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>9b1; pot-hook Ns; no star (SCBIN 418–9); obverse off-centre</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>181</td>
<td>9b1(?); pot-hook / uncertain Ns; star; both sides off-centre</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Edward III; pennies, third (‘florin’) coinage (SCBN North 1989 classification)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>182</td>
<td>1a or 2; reverse 1; flattening and double-striking in legends</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>183-184</td>
<td>2; round face; reverse 1 (SCBIN 1078)</td>
<td>1.23, 1.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185</td>
<td>3; reverse 2</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>186-187</td>
<td>4; reverse 1 (SCBIN 1084); 186 bent; 187 clipped</td>
<td>1.17, 1.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

York (Archiepiscopal)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>188*</td>
<td>4 (SCBIN 1090–1)</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Edward III, fourth coinage, pre-Treaty series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>189*</td>
<td>Groat, C; D'.G'.</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190*</td>
<td>Groat, E; lis on breast</td>
<td>4.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>191*</td>
<td>Groat, G(a); annulet below bust and in first reverse quarter</td>
<td>4.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>192</td>
<td>Penny, C; reverse off-centre</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>193*</td>
<td>Penny, C/E (?); obverse initial mark cross I punched over an E (?); no stops; unbarred Ns on reverse; nothing between pellets</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

York

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>194*</td>
<td>Groat, E; normal R</td>
<td>4.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Durham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>195</td>
<td>Penny, C (?); wedge-tailed R and reversed N on obverse; CIVI / TAS / DI [ ] [1 E]; severe edge damage in upper part of obverse</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196*</td>
<td>Penny, D or E; [1 RDVRSRCSXHGIL (?)] // CIVI / TA[S] / DV[16] / L[16]; crozier head before legend</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>197</td>
<td>Penny, F</td>
<td>1.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pennies, G(a); no annulet on reverse; 199 partially clipped

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>198-199*</td>
<td>Penny, C-G; uneven striking; clipped</td>
<td>1.11, 1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Penny, C-G; uneven striking; clipped</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uncertain king

Penny of London, perhaps a forgery; obverse mutilated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>201</td>
<td>Penny of London, perhaps a forgery; obverse mutilated</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IRELAND
Edward I pennies (Dolley classification)

Dublin
205 6: clipped and worn

Waterford
206 2: EDW R' / ANGL'D / NSHBY' // CIVI / TAS / WATE / RFOR'

Cork
207* 5: obverse from same die as SCBI Ulster Museum 531; reverse die not represented there

SCOTLAND
Alexander III
208 Penny, second coinage, Stewart and North E2/D, 26 points

David II
209* Penny, first coinage, second issue, Group I (large lettering); obverse as Richardson 2 and Add. 107; reverse as Richardson 1 and 211
210* Penny, first coinage, second issue, Group II (small lettering)
211* Groat, second coinage, Stewart A4 (pellets in spandrels; saltire stops), Edinburgh; some corrosion and pitting

CONTINENTAL
Sterlings (Mayhew 1983 classification)
212* Robert de Bethune, Alost; M 209 var. (AIO / S'T6n); closed e s; flan cracked
213 Robert de Bethune, Alost; M 214
214 Gaucher de Châtillon, Yves; M 239
215 John the Blind, Luxemburg; M 265
216 John the Blind, Mérinade; M 277 var. (NON / [ETA]/ ....); broken in two and chipped
217 ‘Edward’ type, EDWRE series; M 374j (? same obverse die); CIVI / TAS / IOH / DOJ, with S reversed
218* ‘Edward’ type; 6DWRA[NGL]DNSHBYB[?] // CIVI / TA[S]/ LON / DON; bifoliate crown; stub-tailed R; comma stop; both sides off-centre; slightly bent
220* ‘Edward’ type; 6DWRANGLDNSHBYB // CIVI / TAS / DV[ ]/ [ ] r; crude style; much flattening

Culdoich Farm, near Inverness, 1996

Fifteen groats and one half-groat of Robert III (1390–1406) were found with the aid of metal-detectors by Mr L. Pentecost-Ingram and Mr A. Snell. The find-spot was in a grass field, and most of the coins were in a tight group. A number of lead fragments, which may or may not have formed part of a container, were found in association with the coins. The hoard was claimed as Treasure Trove and allocated to Inverness Museum.

All the coins belonged to the first and second issues of the first – heavy – coinage, issued up to about 1400+. Coins of the second – light – coinage are rare, however, and the absence of any from such a small hoard is of no significance for dating purposes. The fact that there were no examples of the relatively common first ‘fleur-de-lys’ issue groats of James I, minting of which commenced after the king’s release from captivity in England in 1424, indicates that the hoard may have been deposited by c. 1425. The worn condition of many of the coins suggests

that they may have circulated for some considerable while, and an estimated date of deposition might thus be c. 1420–25.

Coin hoards of this period from Scotland are not common, and only that found at Fortrose, Cromarty, in 1880 – comprising c. 1100 groats – has been described with any care at all. Groats from Fortrose were used by Edward Burns in classifying the issues of Robert III.12 No hoard concluding with coins of Robert III was recorded between 1880 and 1996.

Summary
A summary of the hoard in the Inventory format could be as follows:

CULDOICH FARM, near Inverness, 1997
16 AR Scottish. Deposit c. 1420–25 (?)
Robert III, heavy coinage, first issue groats – Edinburgh, 7; second issue groats – Perth, 4; Edinburgh, 3; Aberdeen, 1; second issue half-groat – Edinburgh, 1.

Discovery and deposition: Found by metal-detector, closely grouped in a grass field. Declared to be Treasure Trove and allocated to Inverness Museum.

LIST OF COINS

An asterisk indicates an illustrated coin.

Number

SCOTLAND
Robert III, heavy coinage, first issue, groats (Edinburgh mint only)
1 Type and legends as Burns 2, Fig. 340.13 2.66 g.; die axis 2.5; slightly clipped; slight accretion on obverse; fairly worn.
2 Type and legends as Burns 2, Fig. 340. 2.61 g.; die axis 6.0; reverse slightly off-centre; crack at 11.0 (obverse); slightly bent; much surface accretion; fairly worn.
3 Type and legends as Burns 5, Fig. 348. 2.61 g.; die axis 5.0; some clipping and surface accretion; fairly worn.
4 Type and legends as Burns 6 (not illustrated), and from the same dies. 2.56 g.; die axis 3.0; slightly bent; some surface corrosion and accretion; moderate wear.
5 Type and legends as Burns 7c, Fig. 349D, and from the same dies. 2.31 g.; die axis 12.0; partially clipped; slight surface accretion; fairly worn.
6 Type and legends as Burns 10, Fig. 353. 2.46 g.; die axis 4.0; some flattening; fairly worn.
7* Type and legends as Burns 13, Fig. 355 (nine-arc tressure), but with SCOTORvm; as Richardson no. 79, and from same obverse die.14 2.46 g.; die axis 3.5; broken in two; fairly worn.

Heavy coinage, second issue, groats
Perth
8 Obverse as Burns 23 (not illustrated), and from same die; reverse as Burns 22, Fig. 365, and from same die. 2.57 g.; die axis 3.0; some flattening in legends; slight accretion; fairly worn.
9* Variant of Burns 25, Fig. 374 (+ROB4RTVS+[DST+VCT]) [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT] [DST+VCT]; obverse from same die as Richardson nos. 135–139 2.56 g.; die axis 9.5; some double-striking; chipped; fairly worn.

14 A.B. Richardson, as in n. 11, p. 69.
90 SCOTTISH COIN HOARDS

10 Type and legends as Burns 26, Fig. 389, and probably from the same obverse die. 2.55 g.; die axis 7.0; broken into three pieces, with a fourth piece missing; obverse weakly struck; fairly worn.

11 Type and legends as Burns 32c, Fig. 398F, and from the same dies. 2.58 g.; die axis 11.0; much flattening; slight accretion; worn. 

12 Type and legends as Burns 33, Fig. 379, and probably from the same obverse die. 2.41 g.; die axis 4.5; much weak striking / flattening; slight accretion; worn.

13 Type and legends as Burns 40, Fig. 391, but condition too poor for die-linking. 2.46 g.; die axis 10.5; double-struck; obverse very weak; chipped and cracked; worn.

14* Variant of Burns 40, Fig. 391 (obverse legend the same, except SCOTTORRV[mi]; reverse reads +DnSSPS/ TCTOR / mSf LD / AT / AID / mBV / RGl / VILL); obverse from same die as Richardson nos. 219–221. 2.58 g.; die axis 11.0; reverse slightly off-centre; edge nick at 3.0 (obverse); some flattening; fairly worn.

15* Type and legends as Burns 49b, Fig. 402B, and from same dies. 3.30 g.; die axis 11.0; reverse slightly off-centre; a little weakness in places; moderate wear.

Heavy coinage, second issue, half-groat

16* Obverse as Burns 14, Fig. 386, and from same die; reverse reads +DnSSPS/ [TCTOR / msL / ATORMS // VILL / [A]ED / mBV / RGl. 1.21 g.; die axis 4.0; double and uneven striking; slight accretion; moderate wear.

Culross, Fife, 1996

This 'hoard' comprised 121 counterfeit billon placks of James VI of the period 1583–90. The circumstances of their discovery are a matter of dispute, with three different metal-detectorists involved, and although the weight of evidence seems to point towards one particular area as the source of all the coins, there is no actual proof, and for this reason the names of those involved will not be published here.

The first batch of thirty-three coins were claimed by the finder to have come from three different locations on Bordie Moor, several miles to the north-west of Culross. This information was accepted, and the coins were claimed as Treasure Trove and allocated to Dunfermline Museum. Some time later a further eighty-one coins were submitted by a second finder, who reported that they had been found in a field on the north-western outskirts of Culross itself, and a third group of seven coins by another finder, who claimed that the first finder had been with him on the Culross site when the first group of coins was found. The second and third groups were also claimed as Treasure Trove and allocated to Dunfermline Museum.

Study of all three groups of coins has confirmed that they are undoubtedly all products of the same counterfeiting workshop, and since no other coins were found with them, it is reasonable to assume that they were lost or discarded before they could be introduced into circulation. Although it is theoretically possible that parcels of counterfeits could have been concealed in different places, therefore, the probability is much higher that all the coins were found in a small area close to Culross, where the counterfeiter is likely to have operated. The eighty-eight coins reported by the finders to have come from the field at Culross had been spread across an area now divided into two by a field boundary, presumably as a result of ploughing over a substantial period.

The date of manufacture of the counterfeit placks can be tied fairly closely to that of the minting of the originals on which they were based – 1583–90. An Act of Parliament of 6 August 1591 called for the return to the mint of all base metal coins then in circulation, except for the hardheads and half-hardheads issued in 1588, and specifically mentioning the placks
and half-placks (*aucht* and *four penny pecis*), the minting of which had ceased only the previous year.\(^{15}\) Although it is clear that vast numbers of the placks were not, in fact, surrendered, an edict of this type is likely to have discouraged further counterfeiting, and it may be surmised that the items from Culross were probably buried or discarded in or before 1591.

Counterfeits of placks of this issue are relatively common as individual finds and, although there are no surviving contemporary documents referring to these, it is probable that they were made in substantial numbers. In the light of the drastic anti-counterfeiting measures taken earlier in James VI's reign, when the billon coins of Mary, Queen of Scots, were first devalued and then demonetised, it would not have been surprising if the recall of the placks so soon after they had been issued was prompted by concern about large-scale forgery. Since the originals contained enough silver to give them a generally silvery appearance, it is also possible that people were finding it profitable to melt them down for their metal content.

Analysis carried out by Paul Wilthew, of the Department of Conservation and Analytical Research of the National Museums of Scotland, has provided information on both the metal content of the forgeries and their probable method of manufacture (see Appendix, below). This process seems to have comprised the casting of individual blanks in a copper-zinc alloy, the striking of coins on cold or at most slightly heated blanks, and finally the application of a thin layer of tin to create the effect of a silvery billon. The workshop is likely to have been of a fairly primitive nature, therefore, without the wherewithal to roll out sheet metal and cut out individual blanks.

The Culross counterfeits are based on placks belonging to type 3, i.e. those having an inner circle between the legend and central design on each side. Three obverse dies and two reverse dies are represented among the 121 coins, with obverses A and B being paired with reverse 1 and obverse C with reverse 2 on all coins where this can be established. (Examples of coins from all five dies are illustrated on Pl. 10). The corroded condition of most of the coins has rendered exact reading of the dies fairly difficult, even with so many coins available, but the following readings and descriptions represent a fairly reliable composite picture of each:

- **Obverse A**: IACOBQ- DGR-3CO; thin shield with single inner and outer borders
- **Obverse B**: IACOB-Q B Q D GR Z C O; thin shield with double inner and single outer borders
- **Obverse C**: IACO B [ ] DGR S C O; wider shield with double inner and single outer borders
- **Reverse 1**: O P P D E VI B; five spikes in thistle flower-head; lowest leaf on right branch touches inner circle
- **Reverse 2**: O P P D E VI B; ? nine spikes in thistle flower-head; lowest leaf on right branch is c. 0.7 mm from inner circle

The number of coins with each combination of dies is as follows. The range of weights within each group is appended, but the poor condition of the coins renders individual weights meaningless. Die axes are remarkably consistent, and these are given for the coins in each group.

- **Obverse A / Reverse 1**: 36 coins; 1.13 - 3.14 g; die axis 12.5 (34), 6.5 (2)
- **Obverse A / Reverse 1**: 2 coins; 1.78, 1.91 g; die axis 12.5 (2)
- **Obverse B / Reverse 1**: 47 coins; 1.13 - 2.59 g; die axis 12.5 (47)

Obverse B / ? Reverse 1: 5 coins; 1.45 – 2.55 g; die axis 12.5 (5)

? Obverse B / Reverse 1: 1 coin; 1.86 g; die axis 12.5

? Obverse B / ? Reverse 1: 2 coins; 1.81, 2.27 g; die axis 12.5 (2)

Obverse ? / Reverse 1: 2 coins; 1.54, 2.20 g; die axis 12.5 (2)

Obverse C / Reverse 2: 22 coins; 1.39 – 3.04 g; die axis 6.0 (21), ?6.0 (1)

Obverse C / Reverse ?: 1 coin; 1.53 g; die axis 6.0

? Obverse C / Reverse ?: 1 coin; 1.84 g; die axis 12.0 (double-struck; blank turned over between strikings)

Obverse ? / Reverse 2: 1 coin; 1.56 g; die axis 6.0

The discrete pairing of dies C and 2, and the consistent difference in die axis between this group and the other coins, suggest that there may have been two counterfeiters operating in parallel within the same workshop.

**Summary**

A summary of the hoard in the *Inventory* format could be as follows:

**CULROSS, Fife, 1996.**

121 tinned copper alloy counterfeits of Scottish billon placks of James VI. Deposit c. 1583–91.

*Discovery and deposition:* Found by three metal-detectorists. Find-spot disputed, but probably in a field on the outskirts of Culross. Claimed as Treasure Trove and allocated to Dunfermline Museum. One coin, which was already broken when found, was subjected to partially destructive analysis and has been retained by the Department of Conservation and Analytical Research of the National Museums of Scotland.

**APPENDIX: ANALYSIS AND METALLOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF COINS FROM THE CULROSS HOARD**

P.T. WILTHEW

**Introduction**

Non-destructive surface analysis of ten coins from the hoard was carried out to establish the composition of the plating and whether the base metal was a similar alloy in each case. A sample was subsequently taken from one broken coin and a metallographic section prepared with the aim of investigating the probable method of manufacture of the coin, and to allow quantitative analysis of the base metal and plating.

**Analysis**

Surface analysis was carried out using an Oxford Instruments ED2000 energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence system (XRF). The areas analysed were not abraded back to clean metal and the results will have been affected by the presence of unrepresentative surface material.

The metallographic section was prepared by mounting the sample in polyester resin and polishing the section using diamond pastes to a ½ micron finish. The section was examined using both optical and in a scanning electron microscopy. The section was examined unetched and after etching in ferric chloride solution. Analyses were
carried out using a Link Systems AN10000 energy dispersive analysis system (EDX) in a scanning electron microscope with the sample unetched.

Although the XRF analysis did not provide reliable quantitative results for the original base metal composition it did confirm that the base metal of all the coins analysed was a copper-zinc alloy containing minor amounts of lead and tin. Three analyses of the base metal of the sectioned coin were carried out using EDX. Areas free of corrosion were selected and the average of the three results was:

Copper 79% Zinc 17.6% Tin 2.1% Lead 1.3%

The relative precision of the above result is about 3% for copper, 5% for zinc and 10%-20% for tin and lead.

Analysis of plated areas confirmed that the plating was tin rich. Semi-quantitative surface analysis of four plated areas on two coins using EDX indicated a copper:tin atomic ratio of between 1.1 and 1.3 to 1. This suggested that the plating comprised κ phase (Cu₆Sn₅) intermetallic crystals, an identification which was confirmed by EDX analysis of the plating in section.

**Metallographic examination**

Metallographic examination of the section showed that the coin had a single phase dendritic microstructure with small globules of lead in the interdendritic areas. Some porosity was present as were sulphide inclusions. The coin was heavily corroded, including extensive penetration of cuprite corrosion into the coin from both faces resulting from preferential corrosion of the dendrites, but a core of corrosion free base metal remained. Small areas of tinning were present, but there was little evidence for diffusion of tin to any depth into the base metal. Areas of essentially pure copper were also present on the surface indicating redeposition of copper during burial which explains the 'coppery' appearance of patches on the surface of the coin.

Although corroded the original surface of the edge of the coin appeared to be rounded in section and there was no indication from the microstructural evidence preserved in the corrosion products of distortion which might have been expected had the blank been cut from a larger sheet. There was no evidence of significant working of the metal prior to striking but parallel slip (or strain) lines were clearly visible, particularly near the surface of the coin. Incipient recrystallisation was present, particularly in the interdendritic regions which suggests that the coin had been reheated after casting, although it had not been fully cold worked and annealed or heavily hot worked.

**Discussion**

Although the coin has a largely dendritic microstructure the presence of slip (or strain) lines particularly near the surface of the coin indicates cold working and is therefore consistent with striking, but not at a sufficiently high temperature to allow annealing. The coin was therefore either struck cold or at most heated to a fairly low temperature. The incipient recrystallisation may be due to the coin having been heated for striking, but the heating involved in the tinning process may have been at least partially responsible.

The blank from which the coin was struck could have been cast as an individual blank or cut from a sheet. The cast dendritic microstructure with little evidence of working prior to striking suggests that the plack was struck from an individual cast blank.

Brass containing only minor amounts of tin and lead is capable of being either cold or hot worked. The metal used for the plack, brass containing about 17.5% zinc and a small amount of lead and tin, was therefore an appropriate choice for the purpose and alloys of this type were widely available in the late 16th century.

Both tinning and silvering of a copper alloy core are techniques commonly used to produce coin forgeries. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the placks from the Culross Hoard are tin-plated brass. The presence of κ compound as the predominant intermetallic remaining in a tinned layer is consistent with wipe or hot dip tinning and suggests that any subsequent heating was to temperatures no higher than about 200°C - 250°C. Also, there was no evidence of distortion of the tinned layer as might be expected if the coin had been cold struck after tinning. It is probable, therefore, that tinning was the final process carried out, after the coin had been struck.

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Conclusions

Although the metallographic evidence was not entirely conclusive, a probable method of manufacture of the coin can be proposed. An individual blank was cast using brass containing about 17.5% zinc, and minor amounts of tin and lead. After limited working, at most, the blank was struck either cold or at a fairly low temperature. Finally a tin plating was applied.

Although only one coin was examined metallographically the similarity in the base metal composition and appearance of the other coins analysed suggests that all the coins were probably produced in a similar manner.

Such a method of manufacture is relatively straightforward, avoiding the need to produce sheet metal from which to cut the blanks or silver plating, which is a more complex process than tinning. It does not suggest that the counterfeit placks were produced in a particularly sophisticated workshop.
PLATE 10

CROAL CHAPEL

CULDOICH

CULROSS

HOLMES: SCOTTISH HOARDS (2)