

The reverse reads $\text{CIVI} / \text{T}\overline{\text{A}}\text{S} / \text{S}\overline{\text{A}}\text{N} / [\text{DR}\overline{\text{C}}]$. There is no evidence of piercing on the symbols, so they are stars not mullets in the first and third angles of the cross, the other angles being blank. The star in the first angle has six points and that in the third has five, but has been double-punched.

REFERENCE

Holmes, N.M.McQ., and Stewartby, Lord, 2010. 'The Coinage of John Baliol', *BNJ* 80, 107–30.

GOLD COINS FROM TWO SIXTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH HOARDS: BISHAM ABBEY AND HOUGHTON-CUM-WYTON

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THIS note records two groups of gold coins that derive from hoards deposited during the reign of Elizabeth I and found in the 1870s. In each case the coins had been mounted in the nineteenth century to be worn as jewellery, and it appears that they may not have been included in the original hoard reports.

Bisham Abbey hoard

In 1878 Charles Francis Keary (1848–1917), who was then a member of the staff of the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum, published a short note on a sixteenth-century hoard of gold coins found at Bisham Abbey.¹ Keary stated that this was 'a hoard of 218 gold coins found at Bisham Abbey, Berkshire, the property of George Vansittart, Esq.', but he provided no further information about the circumstances of the find or the disposal of the coins in it. Keary's summary listing of the find is, however, admirably informative, showing that it contained a Henry VI Annulet issue noble (attributed by Keary to Henry V), six Edward IV ryals, an angel and half-angel of Henry VII, seventy-one coins of Henry VIII, 117 coins of Edward VI, twelve coins of Elizabeth I and nine foreign gold coins (from Spain, Portugal and Venice). The latest English coin was an Elizabeth I half pound with privy mark Rose (1565–65/6), which might suggest that the hoard was deposited in or shortly after 1565/6. Twenty-seven (12.9%) of the 209 English coins listed by Keary had been issued before the beginning of Henry VIII's open debasement of the coinage in 1544. This evidence for the survival of pre-debasement gold coins in circulation in the early years of Elizabeth I is confirmed by the St Albans hoard (*tpq* 1560), which had three such coins in total of twenty-nine.² The presence of nine foreign gold coins in an English hoard of this period need occasion no surprise because there is an increasing amount of hoard and single-find evidence for the circulation of foreign gold coinage in sixteenth-century England, confirming the evidence of royal proclamations regulating its use and literary sources.³

Twelve coins from the Bisham Abbey hoard were presented by George Vansittart to Rev. Thomas Edward Powell (d. 1901), vicar of All Saints' Church, Bisham from 1848 until 1899,

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¹ Keary 1878; Brown and Dolley 1971, 23 (no. EN4); *NCirc* 83 (1975), 161–2 (nos. 3351–70); *Coin Hoards* II (1976), 120 (no. 463); Kent 1985, 405; Woodhead 1996, 106 (no. 127); Kelleher 2007, 222 (no. 4). Brown and Dolley and subsequent authors incorrectly state that the total number of coins is 318, in error for 218.

² Evans 1872; Brown and Dolley 1971, 22 (no. EN1); Woodhead 1996, 105 (no. 122).

³ Challis 1978, 215–18; Kent 2005, 36–8; Kelleher 2007.

and they were made into a necklace, probably as a gift for Rev. Powell's wife, Emma. Mr Vansittart was the patron of the living of All Saints', and the church had been extensively renovated and enlarged during the 1840s and 1850s, funded jointly by him and Rev. Powell. The coins were subsequently dismounted from the necklace, and in the 1980s they were divided up, two each, among six surviving great-grandchildren. Three of these great-grandchildren (Jane Powell, Belinda Powell and Benjamin Powell) deposited their six coins at the Fitzwilliam Museum, while the remaining six are thought to have been sold and no record of them is known.⁴ The coins brought to the Fitzwilliam, which are listed below and illustrated in Figs. 1–3, have four



Fig. 1. Bisham Abbey hoard, nos. 1 and 2.



Fig. 2. Bisham Abbey hoard, no. 3.

⁴ We are grateful to Mrs Belinda Powell for arranging for the coins to be temporarily deposited at the Fitzwilliam Museum, and for providing information about the circumstances in which they came into the family.

ring mounts soldered to their edges, and they still have chains attached to them. On two of the coins (nos. 1 and 3, Figs. 1 and 2), two chains are attached to a catch-plate. The coins comprise a crown and a half sovereign of Henry VIII's third coinage and four half sovereigns of Edward VI's second and third period coinages. Coin 5 (Fig. 3, centre) is an exceptionally rare half sovereign of 1549 from the Durham House mint with a half-length crowned bust of Edward VI. Only one other specimen of this type is known, which is from the same pair of dies and was formerly in the A.H.F. Baldwin collection.⁵ Keary did not list any Edward VI half sovereigns with the Bow privy mark of Durham House, which suggests that the twelve coins presented to the Rev. Powell were not among the 218 shown to Keary.



Fig. 3. Bisham Abbey hoard, nos. 4–6.

Gold coins from the Bisham Abbey hoard deposited for study at the Fitzwilliam Museum

(All weights include mounts and attachments.)

- 1 Henry VIII (1509–47), 3rd coinage (1544–47), crown, Bristol, privy mark WS (1546–47), North 1836, 5.79 g. (Fig. 1, left.)
- 2 Henry VIII, 3rd coinage, half sovereign, Tower, privy mark Pellet in Annulet (1544–47), North 1827, 7.16 g. (Fig. 1, right.)
- 3 Edward VI (1547–53), 2nd period (1549–50), half sovereign, Tower, privy mark Arrow (1549), North 1908, 8.23 g. (Fig. 2.)
- 4 Edward VI, 2nd period, half sovereign, Tower, privy mark Swan (1549–50), North 1911, 5.54 g. (Fig. 3, left.)
- 5 Edward VI, 2nd period, half sovereign, Durham House, privy mark Bow (1549), North –, 5.71. (Fig. 3, centre.)
- 6 Edward VI, 3rd period (1550–53), half sovereign, Tower, privy mark Y (1550–51), North 1928, 5.75 g. (Fig. 3, right.)

⁵ Winstanley 1941–44, 117 (no. 23), pl. II, 23; Whitton 1941–44; Stewartby 2009, 506, 524.

Houghton-cum-Wyton hoard

In 1877 Keary published a note on a find containing at least twenty-five gold coins and 288 silver coins (*tpq* 1579) from Houghton-cum-Wyton in Cambridgeshire.⁶ Keary quotes a letter from a Mr J.D. Robertson of St Mary's Passage, Cambridge, which stated that:

It appears that a labouring man named Holmes, living at Houghton, near St. Ives, was digging a hole for an ash-pit in his garden. About fifteen inches below the surface he found a common earthenware jar, the upper part of which was wanting, in which were contained nearly three hundred coins of Henry VIII., Edward VI. and Mary. Mr. Bateman Brown managed to recover all or nearly all of these coins, and communicated the fact of their discovery to the Treasury, to whom he has handed them over.⁷

Keary's summary listing of the hoard is less informative than his publication of the Bisham Abbey hoard, and it omits many coins on the grounds that they were 'utterly defaced'. Only fourteen of the twenty-five gold coins referred to by Keary are listed. Thus it is particularly fortunate that Mrs E.B. Tarring of Weybridge in Surrey bequeathed two items of jewellery containing twenty of the hoard's gold coins to the Fitzwilliam Museum in 1953 (Figs. 4–5).⁸ There is a small gold chain of five coins (clearly intended to be worn as a bracelet) and a larger chain of fifteen coins (a necklace), all contained within a box with the inscription 'WASSELL & HALFORD GOLDSMITHS JEWELLERS AND WATCHSMITHS 43 FENCHURCH ST' inside the lid. This London firm traded until 1879, when the partnership of C.F. Wassell and R.H. Halford was dissolved, and presumably the coins were converted into jewellery by them soon after the hoard's discovery.⁹ In both the bracelet and the necklace the coins are connected by two sets of gold links attached to ring mounts soldered to the edges of the coins, broadly comparable with the mounts and chains attached to the Bisham Abbey coins. A note made at the time of the bequest by Harold Shrubbs, then the Fitzwilliam Museum's Coin Room



Fig. 4. Houghton-cum-Wyton hoard, bracelet.

⁶ Keary 1877; Brown and Dolley 1971, 23 (no. EN10); Woodhead 1996, 107 (no. 136).

⁷ Keary 1877, 163.

⁸ Fitzwilliam Museum, CM.451–1953 to CM.470–1953. The Fitzwilliam Museum has a manuscript list of the coins on the two chains signed 'H.S.F.' (who has not been identified) and dated 27 May 1961.

⁹ Culme 1987, I, p. 203.



Fig. 5. Houghton-cum-Wyton hoard, necklace.

Assistant, lists eleven silver coins from the hoard that were examined at the Museum in 1947 but not included in the bequest.¹⁰

A comparison between the fourteen gold coins from the Houghton-cum-Wyton hoard listed by Keary and the twenty coins acquired by the Fitzwilliam Museum (see Table 1) shows that three coins in Keary's list cannot be matched in the bracelet or the necklace, and that nine of the Fitzwilliam Museum's coins are not listed by Keary. This is a total discrepancy of twelve coins, but it is worth noting that Keary refers to a total of twenty-five gold coins in the hoard, which is eleven more than he lists. Thus it is possible that at least some of the Fitzwilliam Museum's coins were in the unlisted part of the parcel of 313 gold and silver coins surrendered to the Treasury by Bateman Brown, who was presumably the owner of the property on which the hoard was found. It is also possible that none of the coins in the Fitzwilliam Museum's acquisition was in the parcel surrendered to the authorities.

¹⁰ This list, which has been preserved in the box containing the chains, states that the hoard was found 'in the garden of a cottage at the entrance of School Lane', which is information not recorded in Keary's publication in 1877.

TABLE 1. Gold coins from the Houghton-cum-Wyton hoard

<i>Reign</i>	<i>Coinage</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Privy mark</i>	<i>Keary</i>	<i>Fitzwilliam Museum</i>
Edward IV	2nd reign	angel	Cinquefoil	1	1
Henry VII		angel	Crosslet	1	–
			Pheon	1	1
Henry VIII	1st coinage	angel	Castle	–	1
			Portcullis	2	2
	2nd coinage	angel	Sunburst	1	–
		crown	Rose	5	4
			Arrow	–	4
			Pheon	–	1
	3rd coinage	half sovereign	Pellet in Annulet	1	1
Edward VI	Henry VIII posthumous	half sovereign	Arrow	1	1
			E (Southwark)	–	1
	2nd period	sovereign	Y ¹²	1	1
Elizabeth I	1st issue	half pound	Cross Crosslet	–	1
Louis XII of France		<i>écu d'or au soleil</i>		–	1
Total				14	20

Investigation through online searches of Census returns and birth, marriage and death records has revealed a direct relationship between Mrs Elizabeth Blake Tarring, who bequeathed the coins to the Fitzwilliam, and Bateman Brown.¹¹ Mrs Tarring's husband, Bateman Brown Tarring (1873–1953), was the son of Eliza Tarring (née Brown, b. 1850), and a grandson of Bateman Brown (b. 1824). Although by the time of the 1881 Census Bateman Brown, JP, was living at 'The Hall', Hemmingford Abbots, Cambridgeshire, the family had had close connections with Houghton, for he, his daughter Eliza and his grandson Bateman Brown Tarring were all born in Houghton, and no doubt he retained family property there. It is reasonable to assume that this rather splendid gold coin necklace and bracelet were commissioned by Bateman Brown, either for his wife Susanna or for his daughter Eliza, and that they were passed down through the family to Mrs E.B. Tarring. It was appropriate that on her death they should return to Cambridgeshire and to the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Coins from the Houghton-cum-Wyton hoard

Gold coins acquired by the Fitzwilliam Museum in 1953

(Coins are listed in the order of their appearance on the bracelet and necklace.)

Bracelet

- 1 Henry VIII, 2nd coinage, crown, privy mark Pheon (1541–42), North 1792.
- 2 Henry VIII, 2nd coinage, crown, privy mark Arrow, North 1790 (Henry and Jane Seymour), 1536–37.
- 3 Henry VIII, 2nd coinage, crown, privy mark Arrow, North 1788 (Henry and Katherine of Aragon), 1532–33.
- 4–5 Henry VIII, 2nd coinage, crown, privy mark Rose (1526–29), North 1788 (Henry and Katherine of Aragon).

Necklace

- 1–2 Henry VIII, 2nd coinage, crown, privy mark Rose (1526–29), North 1788 (Henry and Katherine of Aragon).
- 3 Henry VIII, 1st coinage (1509–26), angel, privy mark Castle, North 1760.
- 4 Henry VIII, 1st coinage, angel, privy mark Portcullis, North 1760.
- 5 Edward IV, 2nd reign (1471–83), angel, Blunt and Whitton type XXI, privy mark Cinquefoil (c. 1475–1482),¹³ North 1626.
- 6 Elizabeth I (1558–1603), 1st issue (1558–61), half pound, privy mark Cross Crosslet (1560–61), North 1982.

¹¹ www.ancestry.co.uk (accessed 31 Oct. 2010).

¹² Keary does not indicate the privy mark of the Edward VI sovereign he lists.

¹³ Stewartby 2009, 350–1.

- 7 Edward VI, coinage in the name of Henry VIII (1547–51), half sovereign, Tower, privy mark Arrow (1547–49), North 1865.
- 8 Edward VI, 2nd period, sovereign, Tower, privy mark Y (1550), North 1906.
- 9 Edward VI, coinage in the name of Henry VIII, half sovereign, Southwark, privy mark E (1547–49) on reverse only, North 1806.
- 10 Henry VIII, 3rd coinage, half sovereign, Tower, privy mark Pellet in Annulet (1544–47), North 1827).
- 11 Henry VIII, 1st coinage, angel, privy mark Portcullis (1509–26), North 1760.
- 12 Henry VII, angel, type V, privy mark Pheon on both sides (1507–09), North 1692/2.
- 13 France, Louis XII (1498–1515), *écu d'or au soleil*, Tours, privy marks stop under 6th letter and Tower followed by triple colon (1498–1509), Lafaurie 592.
- 14–15 Henry VIII, 2nd coinage, crown, privy mark Arrow, North 1790 (Henry and Jane Seymour), 1536–37.

Silver coins listed but not acquired by the Fitzwilliam Museum

- 1 Henry VIII, 2nd coinage, groat, privy mark Arrow (1532–42), North 1792.
- 2–5 Henry VIII, 2nd or 3rd coinage, groat, privy mark Lis (1529–32, 1538–41, 1544–47).
- 6 Edward VI, fine coinage, shilling, privy mark Tun (1551–53), North 1937.
- 7 Mary (1553–54), groat, privy mark Pomegranate, North 1960.
- 8 Philip and Mary (1554–58), groat, privy mark Lis, North 1973.
- 9 Elizabeth I, 2nd issue, sixpence, 1569, privy mark Coronet, North 1997.
- 10 Elizabeth I, 2nd issue, threepence, 1575, privy mark Eglantine, North 1998.
- 11 Elizabeth I, 2nd issue, penny, privy mark Coronet (1567–70), North 2001.

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THE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY TOKEN OF WILLIAM MASON OF ROTHWELL: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE OR YORKSHIRE?

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THE token illustrated in Fig. 1 was first published and attributed in a paper published in *BNJ* in 1951,¹ referring to a number of seventeenth-century tokens not listed in Williamson's catalogue of traders' tokens,² or in the later book by W.C. Wells on *Seventeenth-Century Tokens of Northamptonshire*,³ but held in the Browne-Willis cabinet at the Ashmolean Museum in

¹ Milne 1951.

² Williamson 1889–91. This is a revised edition of Boyne 1858.

³ Wells 1914.