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## AN IRISH HOARD OF THE 1170s FROM INIS CEALTRA, COUNTY CLARE

MARTIN ALLEN and ANDREW WOODS

INIS Cealtra or Inishcaltra (Holy Island) is a small island in Lough Derg, County Clare, with extensive remains of a medieval monastic settlement. Dr Liam de Paor carried out a series of excavations on the island in ten seasons of work between 1970 and 1980,<sup>1</sup> and the hoard that is the subject of this note was found in August 1977 during an excavation that was unfortunately left unpublished on Dr de Paor's death in 1998. The coins were found in Area V of site 9 of the excavation, an area that can be connected to the standing church of St Caiman on the site.<sup>2</sup> They were found within a large circular building, 10 metres in diameter, close to the building's hearth.

The twenty-one coins in the hoard are listed below and illustrated on **Pl. 3**. There are twenty English pennies and one Scottish penny or sterling of William the Lion (1165–1214). The earliest English coin is from a local coinage of Lincoln probably issued in the mid to late 1140s.<sup>3</sup> The other nineteen English coins (seventeen pennies and two cut halfpennies) all belong to Henry II's Cross and Crosslets (or Tealby) coinage of 1158–80, ending with two coins from the last phase of that coinage, class F. Timothy Crafter has dated the introduction of class F to about 1174, on the assumption that English hoards ending in classes E and F can be associated with the rebellion against Henry II in 1173–4 and its aftermath.<sup>4</sup> The Scottish coin is a sterling of William the Lion's Intermediate Issue A, which was probably issued towards the end of the period of his First Coinage (1165–c. 1174).<sup>5</sup> The hoard should probably be dated between the mid-1170s and the beginning of the English Short Cross coinage in 1180.

*Acknowledgments* The authors would like to thank Alan Dawson for his advice on the identification of the Henry II *Cross-and-Crosslets* coins in the hoard. The images on **Pl. 3** are copyright of the Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles and the National Museum of Ireland.

<sup>1</sup> de Paor and Glenn 1995, 87.

<sup>2</sup> Kerr *et al.* 2009, 89–93.

<sup>3</sup> Mack 1966, 67, no. 169. Blackburn 1994, 180–1, discusses the local coinages of Lincoln in the reign of Stephen.

<sup>4</sup> Crafter 1998, 52–4.

<sup>5</sup> Allen and Holmes 2017.

TABLE 1. English hoards ending in Cross and Crosslets class F

<i>Hoard</i>	<i>Henry II Cross-and- Crosslets</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Continental</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ampthill, Bedfordshire, 1836	146			146
Gayton, Northamptonshire, 1998–9	315			315
Lark Hill, Worcestershire, c. 1853	208	3	18	229
Leicester, 1927	238			238
Mile Ditches, Cambridgeshire, 1978	8			8
Norton Subcourse, Norfolk, 1987–90	41			41

A comparison of the Inis Cealtra hoard with contemporary finds from England suggests that it was probably not directly derived from one sum of money imported from England in the 1170s. There are six adequately recorded English hoards ending in *Cross-and-Crosslets* class F, which are summarized in Table 1.<sup>6</sup> Five of the hoards entirely consist of the *Cross-and-Crosslets* coinage, while the Lark Hill hoard was exceptional in its inclusion of three Scottish coins (two of David I and one of Malcolm I) and eighteen continental *deniers*. None of the six hoards had any English coins of the reign of Stephen (1135–54), unlike the Inis Cealtra find, which may have been derived from a stock of money that included older coins no longer current in England. We may speculate that this money was probably connected with the monastic settlement on the island.

The Inis Cealtra hoard is the only one recorded from Ireland between the ending of the Hiberno-Scandinavian coinage of Dublin no later than 1170 and the resumption of Irish coinage in the 1180s, when Henry II's son John (the future King John) issued a coinage as Lord of Ireland and John de Courcy had a coinage in Ulster.<sup>7</sup> One of the authors of this note (Andrew Woods) has shown, from the evidence of finds, that the Hiberno-Scandinavian coinage did not circulate in the west of Ireland in the twelfth century,<sup>8</sup> and consequently it can be assumed that the money available in a County Clare monastery in the 1170s would have been restricted to English and Scottish coinage, and possibly other non-Irish coins not represented in the Inis Cealtra hoard.

## LIST OF COINS

*England*

1. Stephen, Eastern Area variant, Lincoln, Ailricus

*Obv.* Crowned bust r.,  $\text{+STEPH}\bar{\text{A}}[\text{NVS}]\text{R}[\text{E}]\text{X}$

*Rev.* Cross pattée with a fleur in each angle and a pellet at the end of each limb,  $\bar{\text{A}}\text{ILR}[\text{--}][\text{V}\bar{\text{S}}\text{+}]\text{ONLIN}$

Same dies as Mack 1966, 67, nos 169a–b.

Weight 1.33 g.

2. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Canterbury?, Ricart?, class C1

*Obv.*  $\text{+hE}[\text{ ]X}$

*Rev.*  $[\text{ ]}\bar{\text{A}}\text{RT}[\text{ ]}$

Weight 1.23 g.

3. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Canterbury?, Ricard?, class E

*Obv.*  $[\text{ ]}\text{hE}[\text{ ]X}$

*Rev.*  $\text{+}[R]\text{IC}[\text{?}]\bar{\text{A}}[\text{ ]}:\text{ON}:[\text{ ]}$

Weight 0.96 g (broken into three pieces).

4. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Canterbury, Ricard or Ricard Mr, uncertain class

*Obv.*  $[\text{ ]}\text{EX}$

*Rev.*  $\text{+RIC}[\text{ ]}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{A}}\text{NT}:$

Weight 1.26 g.

<sup>6</sup> Pownall 1862; Lawrence 1919; Lawrence 1920; Lawrence 1927; Allen 1951, lii–lvi, lix–lx; Archibald and Cook 2001, 10–15; Crafter 2008, 103–44, 283–328.

<sup>7</sup> O'Sullivan 1966, v–vi, 1–13, 20–86.

<sup>8</sup> Woods 2014, 309–12.

5. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Canterbury, Rogier, class C2  
*Obv.* †h[ ]  
*Rev.* †[RO]GIER:ON[ ]  
 From the same rev. die as *BMC* 166a.  
 Weight 1.32 g.
6. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Canterbury, Rogier, class E  
*Obv.* †h[ ]IREX  
*Rev.* †[R?][ ]IER:[ ]N  
 Weight 1.39 g.
7. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Canterbury, uncertain moneyer, class C1 or C2  
*Obv.* †h[ ]  
*Rev.* †[ ]:ON:EA:  
 Weight 1.40 g.
8. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Canterbury, uncertain moneyer, class D1  
*Obv.* [ ]RE:  
*Rev.* [ ]:EAANT[ ]  
 Weight 1.31 g.
9. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Canterbury, uncertain moneyer, class F  
*Obv.* †hE[-]R[ ]X  
*Rev.* [ ]EAN[ ]  
 Weight 0.75 g (clipped and chipped).
10. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Canterbury, uncertain moneyer and class  
*Obv.* illegible.  
*Rev.* †[R?][ ]TE:  
 Weight 1.41 g.
11. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Ipswich, Turstain, class C2  
*Obv.* †[hENR][ ]  
*Rev.* †TVR[STAI[ ][N:G]I  
 From the same dies as *BMC* 351–2.  
 Weight 1.21 g.
12. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, London, Hunfrei, class C2  
*Obv.* [ ]:R:AG  
*Rev.* [ ]MFFREI:[ ]  
 Weight 1.43 g.
13. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, London, uncertain moneyer, uncertain class  
*Obv.* [ ]RI[ ]  
*Rev.* [ ]N[ ]LVN[ ]  
 Weight 0.60 g (cut halfpenny).
14. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Newcastle?, Willem?, uncertain class  
*Obv.* †[--]NR[ ]  
*Rev.* [ ]M:[ ]E[ ]  
 Weight 0.72 g (cut halfpenny).
15. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Norwich, Nicol, class A/B or B  
*Obv.* †hENRIREX[ ]  
*Rev.* †NICOL:ON:[ ]  
 Weight 1.18 g.
16. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, Winchester, Herebert, class C1  
*Obv.* †hE[NR]R:Æ  
*Rev.* †hE[R]E[BER]T:ON:PIN  
 From the same dies as *BMC* 764–5.  
 Weight 1.36 g.
17. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, uncertain mint and moneyer, class C–E  
*Obv.* †[ ]  
*Rev.* [ ][E?]:O[ ]  
 Weight 1.40 g.

18. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, uncertain mint and moneyer, class F

*Obv.* illegible.

*Rev.* illegible.

Weight 1.41 g.

19. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, uncertain mint, moneyer and class

*Obv.* †hE[N?][ ]

*Rev.* †[---][E?][R[ ]A[ ]

Weight 1.42 g.

20. Henry II, Cross and Crosslets, uncertain mint, moneyer and class

*Obv.* †hE[ ]

*Rev.* †R[ ]R:[ ]

Weight 1.37 g.

#### Scotland

21. William the Lion, Intermediate Issue A, uncertain mint and moneyer

*Obv.* Crowned bust r., †[ ]MVS[ ]

*Rev.* Cross potent over lozenge with cross pommée in each angle, †R[----]N[?]A[O?][ ]TVS

Allen and Holmes 2017, no. 2.

Weight 1.41 g.

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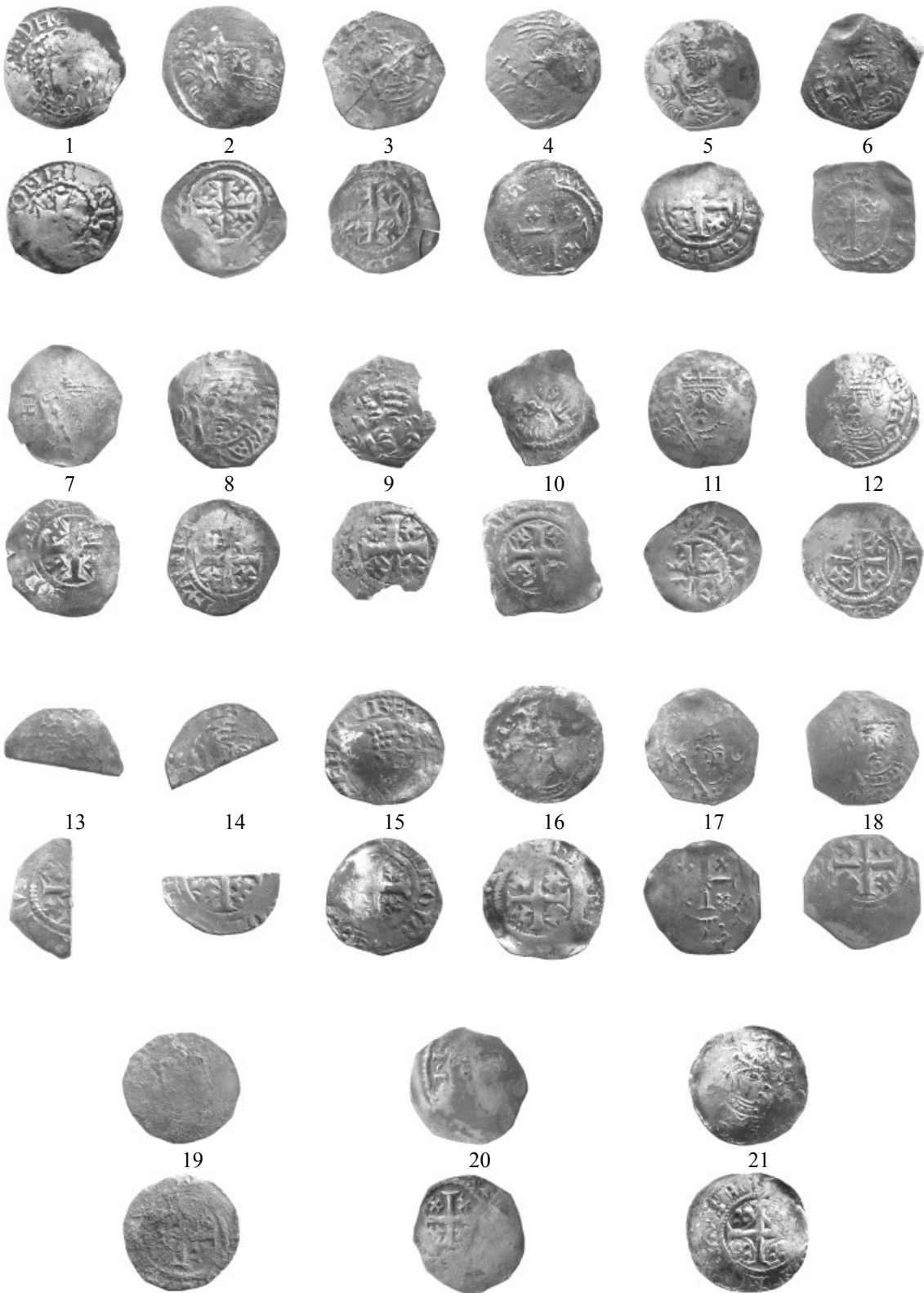
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