

## AN INTERMEDIATE ISSUE OF WILLIAM THE LION OF SCOTLAND

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STERLINGS or pennies of William I, the Lion, struck during the period between William's accession in 1165 and the introduction of the Crescent and Pellet coinage in around 1174 are all still exceedingly rare, despite the discovery of new specimens by metal-detectorists in recent years. Until the 1990s the only issues ascribable to this period were those classified by Stewart (now Lord Stewartby) as First Coinage and Intermediate Issue.<sup>1</sup>

The First Coinage bears on the obverse a crowned bust with sceptre, facing to the right, and on the reverse a cross potent with a lis in each angle. Stewart's Intermediate Issue has the bust to the left, whilst the reverse features a cross potent superimposed on a lozenge, with a cross of five pellets in each angle. Stewart knew of only one specimen of this Intermediate Issue, which had been published by Burns,<sup>2</sup> and the collections of the National Museum of Scotland can only add to that a single cut halfpenny, acquired in 2011.<sup>3</sup>

In 1995 Nicholas Mayhew published a coin of a new type, recently acquired by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.<sup>4</sup> Five further specimens of this type have subsequently come to light from widely scattered locations. Three, found in England, have already been published in the Coin Register section of this *Journal*, whilst two, from Scotland and Ireland, are published here for the first time. In addition, a further specimen was noted by Mayhew in Lord Stewartby's collection, but it was most unfortunately lost in a robbery in 2005.

The new type has a crowned bust with sceptre to right on the obverse, as on Stewart's First Coinage, combined with a reverse similar to his Intermediate Issue, but having a cross pommée in each angle of the cross instead of a cross of five pellets. This might possibly indicate that the new type may fall chronologically between the other two. The variety under discussion can be named Intermediate Issue A, to distinguish it from the variety known to Burns and Stewart, which is now Intermediate Issue B. The recent discovery of the first coin of Intermediate Issue A to be found in Scotland has provided the impetus for this paper, which illustrates six of the seven specimens currently known to exist. Readings of the legends of the coins, all of which are poorly struck and/or poorly preserved, are as follows:

- 1 Obv.: +W[ ] [MVS]REX (same obv. die as 2)  
Rev.: [ ] :GO:D:[R?][ ]  
1.41 g.  
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Found near Wallingford,  
Oxfordshire (Mayhew 1995).
- 2 Obv.: +[W][ ] [MVS][REX] (same obv. die as 1)  
Rev.: +R[ ] [N[:?]]A[O?][ ] TVS  
1.41 g.  
Inis Cealtra hoard, County Clare, Ireland, August 1977.  
Allen and Woods 2017, 230, no. 21.
- 3 Obv.: [ ] W[IE?][ ]  
Rev.: +[R?][ ]  
Cut halfpenny (chipped); weight not recorded.  
Found near Blyth, Nottinghamshire, 12 March 2012  
(Coin Register 2013, no. 114; EMC 2012.0105).



<sup>1</sup> Stewart 1967, 133.

<sup>2</sup> Burns 1887, I, 48, no. 1; III, Pl. III, no. 26.

<sup>3</sup> Metal detector find from Prestonpans, East Lothian. Registration no. K.2011.2.

<sup>4</sup> Mayhew 1995.

- 4 Obv.: [ ]IL[IE?][ ]  
 Rev.: [ ]A:V:IO[ ]  
 0.87 g (chipped).  
 Found at Roundham, Norfolk, October 2012  
 (Coin Register 2013, no. 113; EMC 2012.0298).
- 5 Obv.: [ ]E?LM.MVS  
 Rev.: [ ]G.B.L[ ]  
 1.04 g (clipped?).  
 Found in the Carlisle area, Cumbria, 24 November 2013  
 (Coin Register 2014, no. 110; EMC 2013.0409).
- 6 Obv.: +W[ ]LMER:X·  
 Rev.: +W[ ]M:G:  
 0.73 g (fragment).  
 Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright. Found at  
 Kirkcudbright, 2016 (TT 114/16; EMC 2016.0156).
- 7 Obv. ?  
 Rev. '+hV( )ROCAS'  
 Weight not recorded.  
 Lord Stewartby collection. Mayhew 1995, 219.



What, if anything, can be deduced about this issue from the currently available evidence? First, despite the still relatively small number of recorded specimens, it seems probable that this was not a particularly small issue. Apart from the sharing of the same obverse die by the first two coins in the list, it has not been possible to identify die-links between the recorded coins, and although this may in part be due to the illegibility of much of the inscriptions, it can still be stated definitely that several obverse and reverse dies were used.

Mayhew suggested that the legible parts of the reverse inscriptions on the Ashmolean specimen and Lord Stewartby's coin were consistent with an attribution to the Roxburgh moneyer Hugo, who was known to have been active in the reigns of David I, Malcolm IV and William the Lion.<sup>5</sup> Of the other known types of early sterling minted for William the Lion, those of the First Issue bear the signature of Folpold at Roxburgh, whereas those of Intermediate Issue B bear the name of Willame – presumably the moneyer working at Berwick during the striking of the Crescent and Pellet coinage. Only the Kirkcudbright find (no. 6) among those of Intermediate Issue A has Willame's name in the reverse inscription, and on none of the coins can the name of Folpold be discerned. Indeed, insofar as the reverse legends on the other four coins can be read at all, they give the impression of being blundered sequences of letters and stops. It is to be hoped that further finds will assist in providing more information.

It is noteworthy that four of six coins of Intermediate Issue B with known findspots were found in England. This contrasts with the absence of William the Lion's succeeding Crescent and Pellet coinage (*c.* 1170–1195) as English finds, which Timothy Crafter has associated with the differences in weight and fineness between that coinage and the contemporary English Cross and Crosslets coinage. The Crescent and Pellet coinage seems to have been significantly heavier than the Cross and Crosslets coinage, with an average weight of 1.48 g in Crafter's corpus of the coinage, compared with a figure of about 1.42 g for the Cross and Crosslets issue.<sup>6</sup> Two of the three undamaged coins of Intermediate Issue B with known weights (1 and 2) are 1.41 g, which compares well with the Cross and Crosslets coinage, while the third coin (5) is much lower, at 1.04 g, but it may have been clipped.

<sup>5</sup> Mayhew 1995, 219.

<sup>6</sup> Crafter 2008, 184–91, 206–7, 229–34, 252.

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## A WILLIAM THE LION PURSE HOARD FROM ROXBURGHSHIRE

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THIS little hoard was recovered in 2015 by metal-detecting at Old Caverton, about a mile NW of the village of Morebattle and some five miles SE of Kelso and the medieval mint town of Roxburgh. It comprised six silver sterlings of William the Lion's third (Short Cross and Stars) coinage, minted between 1195 and *c.*1230 (see Fig. 1).<sup>1</sup> An Edward I penny found at the same location clearly did not form part of the hoard, and must represent a much later stray loss.



Fig. 1. The Old Caverton hoard

Two of the coins, one severely damaged, are Stewart phase a issues of the moneyer Raul at Roxburgh.<sup>2</sup> They may be a die-linked pair, but the condition of the broken coin renders it impossible to be entirely certain about this. The other four coins, however, which are of Stewart phase b and bear the names of the moneyers Hue and Walter without mint name, were definitely struck from the same die pairing. This strongly suggests that the coins were lost fairly soon after leaving the mint, as does the absence of wear, and the proximity of the find-spot to Roxburgh might indicate a source at that mint. None of the dies represented on the six coins was known to Burns and none is represented in the collections of the National Museum of Scotland. Most of the coins bearing the names of Hue and Walter together are without mint name, but one reverse die does read *on Ro* at the end.<sup>3</sup> It seems reasonable to assume, therefore, that at least some of the coins without mint name were also struck at Roxburgh.

<sup>1</sup> Exact details of the find-spot are recorded and retained by the Scottish Treasure Trove Unit.

<sup>2</sup> Stewart 1971, 203–4.

<sup>3</sup> Stewart 1971, 204 and n.2.