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THE MALEW (2011) HOARD AND THE CURRENCY OF THE ISLE OF MAN IN THE 1280s

MARTIN ALLEN

ON 5 February 2011 Mr Johnny Lewis of Peel, Isle of Man, found thirty-nine coins or fragments of coins during a metal-detector search of a field under pasture in Malew parish in the southern part of the island. The finds were about three inches (7–8 cm) below the surface of the pasture. Twenty-four more finds were made over the next few days. The finder reported the finds promptly and they were deposited with the Manx Museum on 18 February 2011. A further three finds were subsequently discovered and handed to Manx National Heritage on 30 November 2011. In total, sixty-six finds were delivered to the Manx Museum, including six fragments of different coins and two fragments of a single coin. Also delivered were a number of copper alloy fragments found in the area that might possibly have come from a container. The coins were declared Treasure Trove at a Coroner's inquest in April 2012, and acquired by the Manx Museum, where they have been conserved by Christopher Weeks and curated by Allison Fox. The find is known as the Malew (2011) hoard to distinguish it from a hoard of nine English and Irish coins of Edward I found in another part of Malew parish in 2008 and 2010.¹ It is the only recorded hoard from anywhere the British Isles containing substantial numbers of coins struck both before and after the recoinages instituted in England, Ireland and Scotland in 1279–80, and consequently it is of exceptional interest.

TABLE 1. Summary of the Malew (2011) hoard

<i>Coinage</i>	<i>Pre-1279/80</i>	<i>Post-1279/80</i>
England: Henry III	31 (4 fragments)	
England: Edward I/II		13 (1 fragment)
Ireland: Henry III	3	
Ireland: Edward I		11 (1 halfpenny)
Scotland: Alexander III	1	
Imitations: England		5
Imitation: Ireland		1
TOTAL	35 (4 fragments)	30 (1 fragment; 1 halfpenny)

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¹ Information from Allison Fox.

The sixty-five coins and fragments summarized in Table 1 and listed at the end of this article constitute two distinct chronological groups, with sixty-two coins that can be dated no later than the 1280s, and three English pennies of Edward I/II class 10 from the first decade of the fourteenth century. It can be suggested that the three class 10 pennies (35, 37 and 43 in the list) are either later additions to the hoard or unrelated single finds. There was one further find, of an Edward III London groat of Pre-Treaty Series F (1355–6 or 1356), which certainly seems to be unrelated to the hoard. The sixty-two coins in the first group seem to indicate that the local currency was predominantly English and Irish in the 1280s, although the Isle of Man was under Scottish rule between 1266 and 1290, and again in the first half of the fourteenth century.² Alexander III of Scotland began a recoinage of the Scottish currency in 1280, but this may not have extended to the Isle of Man, hence the almost equal numbers of pre- and post-recoinage coins in the hoard and the complete absence of Alexander's new coinage.

The forty-four English coins in the hoard consist of thirty-one pennies and fragments of the Long Cross coinage of 1247–78, nine coins from Edward I's English recoinage of 1279–81 (Fox classes 1 to 3), the three class 10 pennies from the early years of the fourteenth century, and one unidentified post-1279 penny. There are three Irish pennies from Henry III's Long Cross coinage of 1251–4 and eleven coins (ten pennies and one halfpenny) from Edward I's Irish recoinage of 1279–84. The one Scottish coin is an Alexander III Long Voided Cross type VIIIA penny of the Berwick moneyer Iohan.



Fig. 1. Continental imitations in the hoard

The most remarkable coins in the hoard are the six contemporary imitations of pennies from the English and Irish recoinages of Edward I (60–5) (Fig. 1). The five English imitations belong to the 'EDWRE' group derived from the coins of the recoinage classes (Fox classes 1–3). George Macdonald dated the 'EDWRE' imitations in the Mellendean and Blackhills hoards to about 1280, and D.F. Allen similarly dated the coins of this type in the Dunblane hoard to *c.*1280–1, followed by J.J. North.³ Nicholas Mayhew at first endorsed the dating of the 'EDWRE' type to the early 1280s, but he subsequently argued that their issue might have begun in the mid-1290s, at the same time as some of the 'enigmatic' groups of crockards and pollards.⁴ The earlier dating is supported by a statute of 1283 that prohibited imitations of English pence only distinguishable from the official issues by weight.⁵ The two imitations of Durham mint pennies in the hoard (60–1) are from the same pair of dies, and two of the three London imitations (62–3) share an obverse die, which may indicate that these coins had not been in circulation for very long before they were consigned to the hoard. There is one imita-

² Bornholdt Collins 2015, 422–3.

³ Macdonald 1913, 65–6; Allen 1940, 280–1; North 1975.

⁴ Mayhew 1976, 86–8; Mayhew 1983, 136–7.

⁵ Luders *et al.* 1810–28, I, 219; Mayhew 1976, 87.

tion of a Dublin penny from Edward I's recoinage in Ireland. The relatively strong presence of official Irish coins in the hoard might suggest that its imitations are Irish if they are not continental. Mayhew has argued that some sterling imitations may be from Ireland or Scotland, although they are predominantly of continental origin.⁶

LIST OF COINS

England: Henry III, Long Cross coinage

1. Bury St Edmunds, Ion, class 3d2, 1.28 g.
2. Canterbury, Gilebert, class 5c2, 1.35 g.
3. Canterbury, Nicole, class 3b, 1.36 g.
4. Canterbury, Nicole, class 5c2, 1.10 g (cracked).
5. Canterbury, Robert, class 3c, 1.41 g.
6. Canterbury, Robert, class 5g, 1.22 g.
- 7–9. Canterbury, Willem, class 5c2, 1.36 g; 1.15 g; 1.12 g (cracked).
10. Canterbury, Willem, class 5d1, 1.28 g.
- 11–13. Canterbury, Willem, class 5g, 1.42 g; 1.35 g; 1.33 g.
14. Canterbury, Willem, uncertain class, 0.37 g (fragment).
15. London, Davi, class 5d2, 1.26 g.
- 16–17. London, Henri, class 5b2, 1.37 g (cracked); 1.31 g.
18. London, Henri, class 5c2, 1.12 g (chipped).
19. London, Henri, class 5g, 1.34 g.
20. London, Nicole, class 5a2, 1.19 g.
- 21–2. London, Nicole, class 5c2, 1.40 g; 1.28 g (cracked).
23. London, Renaud, class 5g, 1.33 g.
24. London, Ricard, class 5a2, 1.15 g (two detached fragments).
25. London, Ricard, class 5(b2?), 1.34 g.
26. London, Ricard, class 5c2, 1.22 g (chipped).
27. London, uncertain moneyer, class 5, 0.74 g (two fragments).
28. Winchester, Willem, class 3c, 1.31 g (bent and cracked).
29. Uncertain mint, Willem, class 5(d?), 0.55 g (fragment).
30. Uncertain mint, Ricard?, uncertain class, 0.19 g (fragment).
31. Uncertain mint, moneyer and class, 0.71 g (fragment).

England: Edward I and II

- 32–3. Bristol, class 2b, 1.42 g (chipped and cracked); 1.37 g (chipped).
34. Canterbury, class 3, CIVI / []AN / CAS / TOR, 1.33 g (cracked with small detached fragment).
35. Canterbury, class 10ab(5 or 6), 1.36 g.
36. Durham, class 3g(2?), 1.27g (chipped).
37. Durham, class 10cf3(b), 1.25 g.
38. Lincoln, class 3c or 3d, 1.32 g (bent and cracked).
- 39–40. London, class 1c, 1.36 g; 0.95 g (fragment).
41. London, class 2b, 1.33 g (chipped and cracked).
42. London, class 3f, 1.25 g (bent and chipped).
43. London, class 10cf(4?), 1.30 g.
44. Uncertain mint and class, 1.50g.

Ireland: Henry III Long Cross

45. Dublin, Davi, class IIa, 1.42 g.
46. Dublin, Ricard, class IIa, 1.36 g.
47. Dublin, Ricard, class IIa or IIb, 1.27 g.

Ireland: Edward I

(North 1991/1997 classification)

48. Dublin, penny, group A, 1.37 g (cracked).
- 49–54. Dublin, penny, group B, 1.38 g; 1.37 g (chipped and cracked); 1.35 g; 1.32 g (chipped); 1.28 g (chipped); 1.27 g.
55. Dublin, penny, group C, 1.12 g.
- 56–7. Waterford, penny, group B, 1.25 g (chipped); 1.13 g (chipped).

⁶ Mayhew 1983, 136.

58. Dublin, halfpenny group B, 0.67 g (chipped).

Scotland: Alexander III Long Voided Cross coinage

59. Berwick, Iohan, type VIIIa, 1.24 g (chipped).

Sterling imitations

60–1. England, Edward I, Durham, obv. †EDWR[Λ?][·]DNSH·B, rev. CIVI / TAS / DVRI / [-]MϞ (two coins from same dies), 1.60 g; 1.59 g (bent, chipped and cracked).

62. England, Edward I, London, obv. †EDWRÆIGIDIHVB (same obv. die as 63), rev. CIVI / TAS / LOII / DOII, 1.61 g.

63. England, Edward I, London, same obv. die as 62, rev. CIVI / TAS / LOII / DOII (OII ligated), 1.21 g (chipped).

64. England, Edward I, London, obv. †EDWREX[---]DISH[·?]B, rev. CIVI / TAS / LOI / DO[N or I], 1.39 g.

65. Ireland, Edward I, Dublin, obv. EDWR / ΛIGH· / ·H.S.H.B, rev. CIVI / TAS / DVHL / IHIϞ, 1.18 g (chipped).

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THE MID-FOURTEENTH CENTURY ‘DRAYTON’ HOARD

N.J. MAYHEW

A fourteenth-century coin hoard came to light in a car boot sale in Drayton, Oxfordshire in 2003 (Treasure case 2009 T756; PAS: BERK-A67006). It appeared as a solid ball of coins, much corroded and stuck together, contained in a pottery vessel, which was subsequently broken and most of the pottery fragments were lost (see Fig. 1).¹ The circumstances of its original discovery are unknown. Before cleaning the whole hoard weighed 1.066 kg, and 767 pennies and one halfpenny recovered from it are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

As in some sense an Oxfordshire find, the Heberden Coin Room in the Ashmolean Museum expressed an interest, and the British Museum invited Nick Mayhew to prepare a report for the coroner. Separating the coins has been a major conservation task, for which we must thank the staff at the British Museum. The corrosion was such that many coins became damaged when separated from one another. This explains the unusually high proportion of broken coins. In many cases the original identity of the pieces has been retained, and often coins have been glued back together. However, despite such heroic efforts, time constraints meant that many of the coins could only be partially cleaned, and treatment was concentrated on the legends, although many of the finer points of the classification are based on the obverses of the pennies, which often remained obscured. For a more complete classification, many more hours of cleaning would have been required. Unfortunately neither the British Museum nor the Ashmolean Conservation teams were able to devote the necessary time for the complete

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¹ <<https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/281376>>.