

ON THE RIBE HOARD.

BY L. A. LAWRENCE, F.S.A.



HAVE much pleasure in referring to a new find of short-cross coins recovered in Ribe in Denmark in 1911. Although nine years have elapsed since then, no references to this find were known to me until Mr. Brooke sent me a manuscript catalogue of the coins made by Dr. G. Galster of the National Museum in Copenhagen. The coins were then arranged on the old plan of five classes, and the manuscript reached me after my paper was in print, and before the publication of the last volume of the *Journal*. I at once wrote to Dr. Galster, and sent him a spare set of plates I had by me, and also indicated the lines of the new classification, and suggested his arranging the coins on this plan. He was good enough to fall in with my wishes, and the results of his labours are now published in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, 4th Series, vol. xvi, the current volume, from which I extract the following particulars:—

There were 1257 coins and some fragments of spoons and lumps of silver found. 1201 short-cross coins of the English series formed the bulk of the hoard; 21 Irish pennies of John; 11 of William the Lion; 2 of Alexander II of Scotland; and the remainder Continental coins: Frederick II, Emperor, 1218–50; Adolf I of Marck, 1197–1249; Conrad I, Bishop of Osnabruck, 1227–38; Charles I of Anjou, 1246–85; 2 Bracteates and 2 Continental imitations of English short-cross coins.

The most important coin for dating purposes is the coin of Anjou, whose sovereign came to his own in 1246.

The English part of the hoard is of great interest. There were a few early coins of Classes I, II, III, and IV. Ic, 3 coins; II and III, 14; IV, 9; Class Va with the cross pommée was represented by 7 coins; Class Vb, 104; and Vc, 78. Class VI was represented by 101, and among the coins were several with

ornamental letters. The bulk of the hoard was composed of Class VII, 904, and there were 48 of Class VIII. It may be remembered that, in referring to the then known short-cross finds, I noted that there were very few coins of the last class. In this find there are more than in all the other finds put together. The varieties of lettering and the shapes of the **x**'s and initial crosses all agree with those lately described. There was also one coin of Rhuddlan. There were no long-cross coins. It will not be forgotten that this Class VIII was dated between 1240 and 1247, the end of the short-cross period. The dating was arrived at from documentary evidence, such as it was, and from suggestions held out by the deaths of moneyers. Here, however, we have ample proof of the lateness of this type, because they were found with a coin the date of which could not be before 1246. As there were no English coins of 1247, though every conceivable variety just before it, we shall be safe in concluding that 1246 was the date of the burial of the hoard. There were only three mints not represented in the hoard: Worcester, Shrewsbury, and Lichfield. All these three were active during the earlier years of the issue, and there were very few coins of these times in the hoard. They are, moreover, scarce mints, and Lichfield still remains represented by the single specimen in the National Collection. London, Canterbury, St. Edmundsbury, and Durham, but chiefly the two former, were found in the largest numbers. As these mints manufactured the bulk of the coin of the country, this is only to be expected, and all finds have told the same tale. It may be noted that in some few places Dr. Galster has listed coins to different classes from those in which I placed them; thus he has given the Rhuddlan coin to Class *Vb*, and a Carlisle coin to Class VI. I wrote pointing out these differences, and have since heard from him that he adheres to the plan advocated in the *Journal*, of which he now has a copy. The editors of the *Numismatic Chronicle* felt compelled to print the article as it was written, as the difficulties introduced by the war precluded them from communicating with Dr. Galster in time for corrections of this sort to be made.



SILVER COUNTERS SHOWING LONDON CRIES.

TEMP. CHARLES I.

PLATE I.



SILVER COUNTERS SHOWING LONDON CRIES.

TEMP. CHARLES I.

PLATE II.