

V.

NOTE RESPECTING COINS FOUND IN THE WALLS OF AN OLD HOUSE  
 IN THE TOWN OF AYR; AND AT NEWSTEAD, ROXBURGHSHIRE.  
 BY GEORGE SIM, Esq., F. AND CURATOR OF COINS, S.A. SCOT.

Towards the end of October or early in November last, a discovery of coins was made on taking down an old building in the town of Ayr, which had been long known as the "Wheat-Sheaf Inn." The coins were found in one of the walls of the building, and soon passed into the possession of three parties, viz. :—

John Blair, watchmaker, Ayr, who got	81
Alexander Gemmell, innkeeper,	32
William Burns, slater,	15

Total coins found, 128

Her Majesty's Remembrancer having come to the knowledge of the

discovery, instructed the Procurator-fiscal at Ayr to take immediate steps for the recovery and transmission to Exchequer of the Treasure-Trove, which was soon accomplished. The Remembrancer having requested me to examine the coins, with the view of reporting on their value, to enable him to compensate the finders, at the same time kindly agreed to allow me to make a list of the coins for the information of our Society. I found them to consist of—

## SCOTTISH COINS :—

Robert III. Half-Groat, . . . . .	1
James I. Groats of Edinburgh, . . . . .	7
James II. Groats, 2 of Edinburgh, and 1 of Aberdeen, . . . . .	3
James III. 20 Groats of Edinburgh (2 being of the 6th coinage), and 1 of Berwick, . . . . .	21
Half-Groat of Edinburgh, . . . . .	1
Two 4th coinage Pennies of Edinburgh (as in Lindsay's Supplement, but in better preservation), . . . . .	2
James IV. Groats of Aberdeen, 2, and of Edinburgh, 53, with bushy wig, . . . . .	55
Half-Groats of same type, . . . . .	5
James V. Three-quarter-faced Groats, or 1st coinage, . . . . .	6
	— 101

## ENGLISH COINS :—

Edward III. 2 Groats and 8 Half-Groats of London, . . . . .	10
Henry V. 6 Groats and 9 Half-Groats of Calais, . . . . .	15
Henry VI. Groat of London, . . . . .	1
Edward IV. Groat of London, . . . . .	1
	— 27
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Total, . . . . .	128

I have made a selection from these coins, and marked them "Society of Antiquaries," and hope that in due time the Remembrancer will, with his usual goodness, send them down to our Museum.

The deposit of these coins must have taken place in the early part of the reign of James V., none of his later coins being in the hoard, and only 6 of his coins of any kind, while there are 55 of his father's.

This find proves what has often been proved before, that the English money got mixed up and apparently passed current in this country along with the Scottish money. It is curious to notice a solitary half-groat of Robert III. in the lot. Many of the later coins are very well preserved. The English coins are very poor.

Her Majesty's Remembrancer, on the 28th of March, sent to me for inspection and valuation a parcel of coins lately found at Newstead, near Melrose, on removing the foundation of an old house. The coins, on being discovered, were immediately distributed among the workpeople in the neighbourhood; and the Procurator-fiscal has reclaimed most of them on behalf of the Exchequer.

The coins consist entirely of Scottish billon Placks, with three exceptions, and are nearly all in very poor condition.

The coins are as under :—

Roman third brass TETRICUS Senior, reverse " ———TAS AVG," probably "HILARITAS AVG," . . . . .	1
James III. and IV. Placks, . . . . .	21
James V. Placks, . . . . .	4
Francis and Mary. Testoon "VICIT LEO," &c., 1560, . . . . .	1
Do. do. Half-Testoon, "JAM MON SUNT," &c. . . . .	1
NOTE.—These coins of Francis and Mary are the only silver coins in the find.	
Mary. "SERVIO" Placks, . . . . .	12
Do. Edinburgh Placks, . . . . .	59
Total coins found, 99	

There is little worthy of note in this find, except the presence of a Roman coin in the lot. Dr John Alex. Smith informs us, in some of his communications to the Society,\* that Roman coins have frequently been found in that district. Unfortunately, we have no proof that the Roman coin was found with the others, although its appearance would support that supposition. It is just possible, however, that this coin had been at

\* Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot., vol. i. p. 33, &c.

some time discovered by itself, and that when the Procurator-fiscal was in course of reclaiming the Newstead coins, the holder of the Roman coin had then come forward with it, in the hope of sharing in the promised reward. In size and shape the Roman coin is not unlike the placks of Mary, and *may* have circulated with them.