

V.

NOTE ON A HOARD OF SILVER COINS FOUND AT LOCHMABEN. BY
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On October 11th, 1904, while a labourer named Matthew Green was filling in a sewage drain in Eastcroft Park, Lochmaben, he came upon a jar containing a number of silver coins. The jar (fig. 1) which has been purchased for the Museum, is an interesting specimen of fourteenth century domestic pottery. The upper part and the handle are broken



Fig. 1. Jar found with coins at Lochmaben. ($\frac{1}{3}$.)

away. The portion that remains is about $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, with a diameter at the bottom of $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. It is almost bottle-shaped, and the red ware of which it is formed has originally been covered by a yellowish green glaze, small patches of which are still visible. It should be compared with a very similar jar which was found—also full of coins—in the spring of 1889 at Neville's Cross, Durham, and which has been described by Sir John Evans in the *Numismatic Chronicle*.¹

¹ 3rd Series, vol. ix., pp. 312 f.

The Neville's Cross hoard contained a fair proportion of coins struck by Robert II. It must, therefore, have been deposited some time after his accession in 1371. Internal evidence indicates that the Lochmaben jar was buried or lost about half a century earlier. The finder believes that, when he counted the coins, there were 476 in all. Only 448 reached the hands of the King's Remembrancer. Examination showed that they fell to be distributed as follows:—

Alexander III.	
Long Cross Pennies	9
Edward I.	
Pennies with EDW R	
London	87
Bristol	9
Canterbury	29
Chester	1
Durham	15
Newcastle	5
York	8
Dublin	5
Pennies with EDW REX	
London	3
Edward II.	
Pennies with EDWA R	
London	90
Berwick	7
Bury St. Edmunds	11
Canterbury	51
Durham	16
Pennies with EDWAR R	
London	31
Bury St. Edmunds	14
Canterbury	29
Durham	9
Pennies with EDWARD R	
London	6
Foreign Sterlings	12
	448

The Scottish coins were all common. There was present no variety not already represented in the Museum. The Edward pennies were of considerable interest, not because of the rarity of individual specimens, but because of the opportunity for careful analysis which so large and homogeneous a find presented. The results of such an analysis, however, concern English rather than Scottish numismatics, and they have accordingly been set forth elsewhere.¹ The large representation of the pennies of Edward II., combined with the absence of any pieces that can with reasonable probability be attributed to Edward III., renders it practically certain that the date of deposit must be placed at the end of the reign of Edward II., or at the very commencement of the reign of his successor. This view is fully borne out by the evidence of the twelve foreign sterlings. The following kings, princes and bishops accounted for eleven of these—John of Hainault (1280–1304), Robert of Béthune (1305–1322), John III. of Brabant (1312–1355), John the Blind (1309–1346), Guy de Collemède, Bishop of Cambray (1296–1306), Valéran II. of Ligny (1316–1354), Gaucher of Porcien (1303–1329). The twelfth represented a variety whose exact attribution is doubtful.²

It remains to draw attention to the comparatively small proportion of Scottish coins which the hoard supplied. Unless it was “creamed” before the Exchequer authorities received it, only about two per cent. of the total were minted in Scotland. The usual average is one in thirty. Here the native product was actually outnumbered by the foreign counterfeits.

¹ *Num. Chron.*, 1905, pp. 63 ff.

² Chautard, *Monnaies au type esterlin*, p. 130, No. 197.