

I.

A HOARD OF COINS FOUND IN LINLITHGOWSHIRE. BY GEORGE
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On 17th October 1921, while Thomas Peace, ploughman on Cowhill Farm, Whitburn, was ploughing the field marked No. 1135 on the Ordnance Survey Sheet, he turned up an earthenware vessel containing a number of coins. The vessel was unfortunately shattered by contact with the ploughshare, but it was evident that, before being placed inside of it, the treasure had been packed in a small bag or wrapped in some other covering of a coarse fibrous texture. The vessel was about 12 inches below the surface. The field had been in cultivation for many years, but had never been so deeply ploughed before.

The coins were handed over to the Crown Authorities, and were sent from the Exchequer to the National Museum for examination. They numbered 244 in all, together with 4 fragments. The more interesting specimens were secured for the Society's cabinet. The rest were, as usual, returned to the finder, along with ample compensation for those that had been retained. The following is a summary of the contents of the hoard:—

SCOTTISH GOLD.

James II.

Lion	1
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ENGLISH SILVER.

Edward III.

Groats	10
Half-groats	19

Henry V.

Groats	5
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Henry VI.

Groats	35
Half-groats	2

71

SCOTTISH SILVER.

Robert II.

Half-groat	1
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Robert III.

Groat	1
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James I.

Groats	14
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James II.

Groats	77
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Half-groat	1
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James III.

Groats	28
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Half-groat	1
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James III. or IV.

Groats	38
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Half-groats	2
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James IV.

Groats	4
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	<u>167</u>
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BILLON.

James III.

Placks	5
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In addition, there were 4 fragments, all belonging to billon placks or half-placks.

It is obvious at the first glance that the hoard is of the same general character as the hoard from Perth, which I had the privilege of describing a year ago. It must have been concealed very much about the same time. But there is one important difference. Despite the fact that it was unusually large and representative—there were 1128 coins in all—the Perth find did not contain a single specimen of the familiar three-quarter-face groats, whose precise attribution has long been matter of dispute. On the other hand, it contained 6 undoubted groats of James IV. This seemed to point conclusively to the

three-quarter-face pieces being later than the beginning of his reign. The new evidence from Whitburn is not altogether easy to reconcile with that conclusion. The new find contained 38 groats and 2 half-groats of the three-quarter-face variety, and some of these showed distinct signs of having been in circulation, whereas the 4 undoubted groats of James IV. had little mark of wear, one or two of them being indeed virtually in mint condition. This is not by any means final: owing to their high relief, the three-quarter-face groats would be far more readily disfigured by rubbing than would the others. At the same time it is sufficient to give one pause, and to suggest that the verdict should perhaps remain in suspense until an opportunity for examining other finds of the same period occurs. Meanwhile, in the foregoing summary, I have grouped the three-quarter-face pieces together under the heading of "JAMES III. OR IV." A few other points of interest may be briefly noted.

SCOTTISH GOLD.

The lion of James II. was Burns, ii. p. 97, No. 6. It was in fair condition.

ENGLISH SILVER.

The bulk of the English silver was in poor condition; many pieces had been liberally "clipped." Of the coins of Edward III., 26 were of his First Issue (1351-1360), the mint of London being responsible for 9 groats and 15 half-groats, and the mint of York for 1 groat and 1 half-groat; the remaining 3—all half-groats of the mint of London—were of his Second Issue (1360-1369). The Henry V. pieces were all groats of the mint of London. With a single exception—an excellently preserved groat of the "pine-cone-mascle" series, from the mint of London—all of the 37 coins of Henry VI. had been struck at Calais. The "annulet" series claimed 22 and the "transitional" series 9; the rest showed the "pine-cone-mascle" characteristics.

SCOTTISH SILVER.

The Robert II. half-groat and the Robert III. groat were much rubbed, as might have been expected in the case of such survivals. The latter had been restruck, doubtless on a groat of the preceding reign. The "fleur-de-lis" groats of James I. were in hardly better condition. The name of Edinburgh appeared on 13 of them; the remaining 1 had been minted at Linlithgow. All belonged to Burns's first variety. James II. was represented by a single fleur-de-lis groat, which had been struck at Edinburgh and was of Burns's third variety. Of his "crown"

groats there were 5 of the first variety, all of Edinburgh, and 71 of the second variety. The latter fell into the following classes:—

<i>First Division.</i>	
Edinburgh	30
<i>Transitional.</i>	
Edinburgh	1
<i>Second Division.</i>	
Edinburgh	36
Stirling	3
Perth	1

The solitary half-groat belonged to the second division of the second variety of the "crown" series. It was of the Edinburgh mint.

There were 3 examples of the groats of James III. belonging to the first series of those with mullets of *six* points. They had been issued at Edinburgh, and with them was a corresponding half-groat from the same mint. This last piece is unique. The only half-groat of the series known to Burns (ii. p. 111, No. 1a) was of Berwick. The two obverses are very similar, both having the numeral '3' after the king's name. The second series of groats of this class had 11 representatives, 7 of Edinburgh and 4 of Berwick. Of the class with mullets of *five* points there were 14, all of Edinburgh. The tressure had seven arcs in 12 cases and eight arcs in 2. The three-quarter-face pieces have already been mentioned. The 2 half-groats as well as 36 of the groats were from the Edinburgh mint. The other 2 groats were from Aberdeen. The 4 undoubted groats of James IV. were all of Edinburgh, and all read QRĀ. The 5 billon placks were all of the first variety, and must have been struck by James III. The fragments seemed to be from similar pieces.