

II.

NOTE ON A HOARD OF COINS FOUND AT AUCHENBART, IN THE PARISH OF GALSTON, AYRSHIRE. BY GEORGE MACDONALD, C.B., F.B.A., D.LITT., LL.D., F.S.A.ScOT.

As a rule, all Scottish coin-finds dating from the troublous days of the Wars of Independence contain an appreciable admixture of sterlings from the Low Countries. The proportion varies, but rarely rises as high as 10 per cent. More than seventy years ago, however, Edward Hawkins described to the Numismatic Society of London a hoard which had come to light near Kirkcudbright and which was almost entirely composed of "counterfeit sterlings." There were 92 of these, as against 1 penny of Alexander III. and 5 of Edward I., the last including a barbarous imitation of the Edwardian pennies minted in Ireland.¹ This curious hoard has hitherto stood alone. I am now able to record another of precisely similar character and of more than double the size.



Fig. 1. Earthenware Jug from Auchenbart, Ayrshire.

On 6th September last, John Cochrane, son of Matthew Cochrane, farmer at Auchenbart, in the parish of Galston, was engaged repairing drains in a field on the farm. While digging in a mossy part of the ground, he noticed what looked like silver coins in the soil which he was turning over. A closer examination of some of the objects that had attracted his attention confirmed his opinion, and on clearing a little more of the earth away he discovered a small jug of ordinary ware (fig. 1). Lifting it out, he found that it was broken, but that it still contained about 170 coins. A further search enabled him to pick up 70 or 80 more which were lying loose. These round figures are taken from the Procurator Fiscal's report, but they may be too large. While they indicate a total of 240 or 250, the number which the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer forwarded to the National Museum for examination and selection was 216, and I previously had an opportunity of seeing 12 others which had passed into private hands before the Crown authorities had

¹ *Numismatic Chronicle*, xiii. (1851) pp. 86-94.

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time to lodge their claim. The jug and 45 sterlings were retained for the Society's collection. The remainder were, as usual, returned to the finder along with suitable compensation.

Not a single one of the 228 specimens which I saw was Scottish; 7 were pennies of Edward I. of England; the balance of 221 consisted of foreign sterlings. The following is a summary:—

PENNIES OF EDWARD I.

Class III. (c. 1280-1).

Mint of London	2
Mint of Canterbury	2
Mint of Durham	1

Class IV. (c. 1282-90).

Mint of Canterbury	1
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Contemporary Forgery. 1

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7
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FOREIGN STERLINGS.

Gui de Dampierre, Count of Flanders (1280-1305).

Mint of Namur	33
Mint of Douai	1
Mint of Alost	3
Uncertain Mint	14
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	51
	—

Jean d'Avesnes, Count of Hainaut (1280-1304).

Mint of Valenciennes	22
Mint of Mons	24
Mint of Maubeuge	15
	—
	61
	—

Gui de Dampierre, Count of Namur (1263-97).

Mint of Namur	5
	—

Hainaut and Namur.

'Enigmatic' Sterlings	4
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Jean I., Duke of Brabant (1261-94).

Uncertain Mint	40
Mint of Maestricht	1
Mint of Brussels	1
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	42
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Hugues de Châlon, Bishop of Liège (1296-1301).

Mint of Statte	1
Mint of Fosses	1
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	2
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Jean I. of Louvain, Signor of Herstal (1285-1309).

Mint of Herstal	10
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Arnould VIII., Count of Loos (1280-1328).

Mint of Loos	24
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Henry IV., Count of Luxemburg (1288-1309).

As Marquis d'Arlon	1
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Bishopric of Cambrai.

Guillaume de Hainaut (1292-96)	11
Gui de Collemède (1296-1306)	9
Capitular Issues	2
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	22
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A brief survey of the foregoing list enables the date of burial of the hoard to be fixed within comparatively narrow limits. The *terminus post quem* is obviously 1296. On the other hand, the absence of sterlings of Gaucher de Châtillon (1303-29) and of Robert de Béthune (1305-22) is significant, just as is the fact that the latest of the Edward pennies was minted before 1291. We cannot go far wrong if we conclude that the jug was originally concealed in or about 1300. Some of the sterlings were of great rarity, and that of Henry IV., Count of Luxemburg—afterwards better known as the Emperor Henry VII.—was unique.