

## V.

## AN UNPUBLISHED SCOTTISH GOLD COIN.

BY E. RICHMOND PATON, F.S.A.Scot.

It is an unusual event nowadays to be able to bring to notice an unpublished Scottish coin. The coin in question is an écu or abbey crown of James V. which came into my cabinet from a London sale this year. It was identified in the Sale Catalogue with Burns, Fig. 742, No. 4 *a*, but the reproduction of the obverse given in the plate made it immediately clear that it was unlike any of the écus already noticed by numismatists; it was unknown to Burns. The crown was small; the points between the legend were neater than those on any published of this reign; similarity to the first issued gold of the reign of Mary was at once noticeable.



Fig. 1. Écu or Abbey Crown of James V.

It will be seen from the illustration (fig. 1) that the coin is exactly like the écu of Mary in design and finish. The high-arched small crown is the same; the points between the legend are the same size, though double instead of single; and there is the same small mint-mark of a six-pointed star.

It is now known that James Achesoun was Master of the Mint from 1525 to 1546, and was, therefore, responsible for the écus of both father and daughter. As this unpublished abbey crown of James V. is neater and in every way better finished than the earlier types of the same reign, it seems that, chronologically, it should be placed after the écus with the PER LIGNUM CRUCIS legend. These latter were crudely executed, and their great rarity—only six or seven are known to the writer—suggests that they were in all probability not a success, the legend being too crowded. It is quite possible that Achesoun coined this particular écu as a pattern late in the lifetime of James V. and used it with slight alteration as his model for the first gold issued in Mary's reign.

MONDAY, 11th January 1937.

SIR GEORGE MACDONALD, K.C.B., President, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following were elected Fellows:—

Colonel CHICHESTER DE WINDT CROOKSHANK, D.L., J.P., F.S.A., Johnstounburn, Humber, East Lothian.

STEWART H. CRUDEN, 93 Baronscourt Terrace, Edinburgh, 8.

STUART M. K. HENDERSON, B.Sc., Ph.D., Curator of Archæology and History Department, Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow, C.3.

J. M. MURRAY, Assistant Commissioner, Forestry Commission, 76 Hillview Terrace, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, 12.

JAMES ANDERSON RUSSELL, M.A., Ph.D., "Alderwood," Bearsden, Dunbartonshire.

ROBERT THOMSON, Ph.D., B.Sc., Assistant Lecturer, Edinburgh University, Crossford, by Dunfermline.

NINIAN WALKER, Solicitor, Commercial Bank Buildings, Dunfermline.

ERNEST MACLAGAN WEDDERBURN, Deputy Keeper of the Signet, 6 Succoth Gardens, Edinburgh, 12.

There were exhibited a Bronze Figurine of a Horse, the off fore-leg broken (fig. 1), measuring  $2\frac{9}{32}$  inches in height and  $2\frac{9}{16}$  inches in

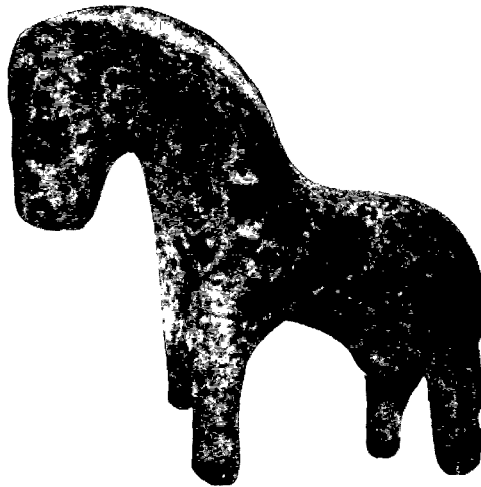


Fig. 1. Bronze Figurine of a Horse from Shetland. (†.)

length, found at Crosskirk, Eshaness, Northmavine, Shetland; another Figurine, Mercury (fig. 2), measuring  $1\frac{31}{32}$  inch in height, belonging to

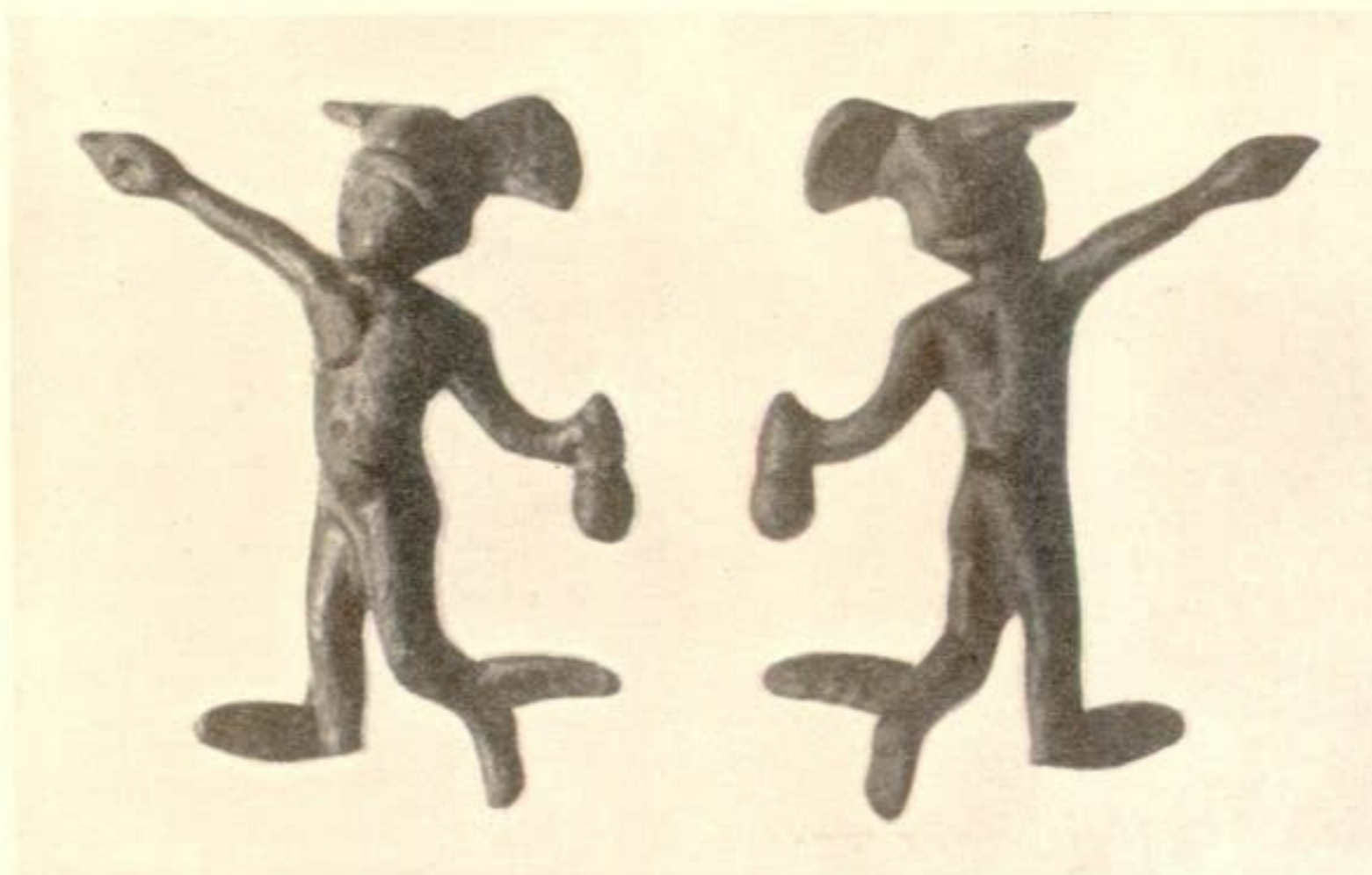


Fig. 2. Bronze Figurine of Mercury found in Perth. (†.)



Fig. 3. Bronze Figurine of Eros found in Edinburgh. (†.)

the Perth Museum and Gallery, found in made-up ground 18 inches under the surface in a garden at Orchardbank, Barnhill, Perth; and a photograph of a third Figurine, Eros (fig. 3), measuring 3 inches in height, found 2 feet below the surface, on undisturbed gravel, in the garden at 12 Craiglockhart Crescent, Edinburgh.

The following Donations to the Museum were intimated, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1) By WALTER G. GRANT, F.S.A.Scot.

Objects found in the excavations of Burial Mounds at Quandale, Rousay, Orkney, in the stalled cairn at Blackhammer, Rousay, and in the horned cairn, the Knowe of Lairò, Rousay. (See previous communication by Walter G. Grant and subsequent communications by Dr Graham Callander and Walter G. Grant.)

Indeterminate discoidal object of Stone, measuring  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inch by  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inch by  $\frac{9}{16}$  inch, with a perforation in the centre and another near the edge, ornamented by radial lines on both faces, found on the top of Midhowe stalled cairn, Rousay.

(2) By Dr J. J. GALBRAITH, F.S.A.Scot.

Pitch-pipe of Mahogany, consisting of a long stopped diapason pipe, fitted with a movable graduated stopper or piston, that has a strip of lead, on which the chromatic scale covering one and one-half octaves is engraved, let into the top; the length of the pipe is  $11\frac{1}{8}$  inches. It was used in a Parish Kirk in Caithness.

Beaker of Brown Ware, slightly restored, measuring  $7\frac{1}{8}$  inches in height, 6 inches in diameter across the mouth,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the neck, 6 inches at the bulge, and  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches across the base, decorated by a broad band of ornamentation under the lip and a narrower one above the widest part, all incised. The upper band consists of oblique lines running down from right to left, below which is a band of vertical lines with a zig-zag of three parts under it, bordered below by a single marginal line. The lower band shows five transverse lines with a lattice pattern below, and part of Base of another Beaker, found beside the above cist. Found in a short cist at Findon, Urquhart, Ross-shire. (See subsequent communication by Dr Galbraith.)

(3) By GEORGE ROMANES, Moat Farm.

Axe of Felstone, small and finely made, measuring  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches by  $1\frac{13}{16}$  inch by  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch, found on Moat Farm, Rosslyn, Midlothian.

The following Donations to the Library were intimated, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1) By H.M. GOVERNMENT.

Calendar of State Papers. Scotland and Mary Queen of Scots. Vol. x., A.D. 1589–1593. Edinburgh, 1936.

(2) By ROBERT C. NESBITT, F.S.A.Scot., the Author.

Montrose. The Cotswold Lecture Society. Second Impression.

(3) By HENRY J. CRAWFORD, B.A., F.S.A.Scot., the Author.

Stirling Castle in Art. A Catalogue of Paintings, Drawings, Etchings, Old Maps, and Plans of Stirling Castle, with Notes. Stirling, 1935.

(4) By A. D. LACAILLE, F.S.A.Scot., the Author.

The Palæolithic Sequence at Iver, Bucks. Reprinted from *The Antiquaries Journal*, October 1936.

(5) By THE DIRECTOR, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery Museum.

Bulletin. Vol. xv., No. 4.

(6) By WALTER G. GRANT, F.S.A.Scot.

Orkney for Holidays. The Official Publication of Kirkwall Chamber of Commerce. Glasgow, n.d.

(7) By THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF DUNBLANE CATHEDRAL.

The Society of Friends of Dunblane Cathedral. Vol. ii., part 3, 1936.

(8) By HERBERT MARYON, the Author.

Soldering and Welding in the Bronze and Early Iron Ages. Reprinted from *Technical Studies*, vol. v., No. 2, October 1936.

(9) By WILLIAM LYLE, F.S.A.Scot., the Author.

"De Insula" or The Lyles of Renfrewshire. Printed for private circulation. Glasgow, 1936.

(10) By MARY A. JOHNSTONE, B.Sc., R.L.S., the Author.

The Etruscan Collection in the Free Public Museums of Liverpool. From *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology*, vol. xix.

- (11) By THE COUNCIL OF THE EAST LOTHIAN ANTIQUARIAN AND FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY.

Bibliography of East Lothian. Compiled by James H. Jamieson, F.S.A.Scot., assisted by Eleanor Hawkins. Edinburgh, 1936.

- (12) By G. T. CLINDENING, Adelaide, the Author.

The House of Glendonwyn. Part 8—Clindening; and part 9—Drumrash.

- (13) By F. G. SIMPSON, M.A., Hon. F.S.A.Scot., IAN A. RICHMOND, M.A., F.S.A.Scot., Miss K. S. HODGSON, and KENNETH ST JOSEPH, B.A., the Authors.

Report of the Cumberland Excavation Committee for 1935. Reprinted from *Transactions*, vol. xxxvi., New Series.

The following Communications were read:—