

2. COIN HOARD, CASTLE MAOL, SKYE.

While Mrs H. M. Cadell of the Grange, Linlithgow, and her family were picnicing in the end of April 1951 at Castle Maol, Kyleakin, Skye (R.C.A.M., No. 648), they discovered a hoard of coins in a chink of the ruined masonry on the exterior of the western side. It appeared from the way they were stacked as if the coins had been rolled in a stocking or other container, though no actual traces remained of such. Our thanks are due to Mrs Cadell for reporting the find.

After cleaning in the Museum the following list could be made—many are damaged or even fragmentary.

		<i>English.</i>	
Mary.	Groat	.	1
Elizabeth.	Sixpence 1579	.	1
			<u>2</u>
	<i>Scottish. (References to Burns, Coinage of Scotland.)</i>		
James V.	Billon Plack. B., 3rd variety	.	1
Mary.	Billon Bawbee (1542-58). Similar to B., fig. 854	.	1
	Silver-washed copper Placks, 1557, two certainly counter-marked. B., figs. 870 and 871	.	3
James VI.	Half-Merk 1572. B., p. 355.2	.	1
	*Half-Merk 1574. Variety with five pellets on fillet of crown	.	1
	Half-Merk 1577. B., p. 356.10. (<i>N.B.</i> —These coins have no pellets)	.	1
	*Quarter-Merk 1573. Variety with no stops in obv. legend	.	1
	*Quarter-Merk 15[. . ?] POPVEVM	.	1
	Balance Half-Merk 1591. B., p. 373	.	1
	*Ten-shilling Piece 1593. Die variety	.	1
	*(1) do. 1594. Die varieties	.	2
	* do. 1595. Die variety	.	1
	*Thistle Merk 1601. Die variety. (No pellets on rev. crown and very curious thistle leaf)	.	1
	*Billon Eightpenny Piece or Plack. B., p. 403. 1 var.	.	1
	.6. DG. R SCOTOR	.	1
	*(1) do. B., fig. 961	.	15
	*(3) do. B., fig. 962	.	19
	Silver-washed copper Half-Plack. B., p. 405	.	1
	do. Twopenny Pieces or Hardheads. B., fig. 967 (1588 onwards)	.	18
			<u>70</u>

The coins marked * have been obtained for the National Collection through the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. The remainder were returned to the finder.

The half-merks in the National Collection, including the Coats of Ferguslie Cabinet (CF), have been re-examined. The results are shown in the table below, which indicates by italics the Castle Maol coins and some other additions and corrections to the information given by Burns's great catalogue. One wonders whether the tiny variations here recorded are mint controls.

Date.	Burns' No.	Pellets on fillet of crown on obverse.	Crowns or thistle heads in 1st and 3rd quarters.	Source, refs., etc.
1572	1	None	C	CF
1572	2	5	C	CF
1572	3	4	C	CF. Contemporary forgery?
1572	..	6	C	Don. 1950
1573	4	5	C	CF
1573	5	5?	T	CF
1573	..	6	C	Don. 1950
1574	6	None	T	CF
1574	..	5	T	Castle Maol
1575	8	5	T	CF
1575	9	None	C	CF
1575	..	7	T	Richardson 24
1576	Note only	7	C	ex Lingford and Pollexfen
1577	10	<i>None</i>	T	CF [and Castle Maol]
1577	..	<i>None</i>	C	Richardson 27
1577	11	<i>None</i>	C	CF and Rich. 26: no pellets on finials of arches of crown
1577	..	6	T	Richardson 25
1578	Not represented
1579	Not represented
1580	12	5	C	CF. Peculiar crown
1580	13	6	T	CF. Peculiar crown