

8. A HOARD OF COINS FROM FISHERROW.

On 1st December 1951 a mechanical excavator, under contract to Musselburgh Town Council, was clearing a site on the north side of what used to be the village of Fisherrow, and is now called North High Street, Musselburgh. The old houses on the site had been demolished a good number of years ago, but their foundations had not been removed. In the course of its operations the excavator struck and broke a metal pot containing a hoard of silver coins. The pot had apparently been buried near the surface of the undisturbed sand beside the foundations. The find-spot was just 200 yards from the foot-bridge over the Esk, and 50 yards back from the street frontage on the N. side of the street.

The coins were not noticed until after part of the hoard had been carted off in a load to the distant tip. The Burgh Surveyor, Mr W. Y. Dryburgh, was then informed by the workmen, A. Hamilton, W. Irving and H. Fleming, and he at once notified the Keeper of the National Museum of Antiquities. Almost half

¹ *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*, pt. iii, fig. 227A, opp. p. 210.

² *Ibid.*, fig. 314A, opp. p. 301.

³ *Ibid.*, figs. 327A and B, p. 133.

⁴ *Ibid.*, fig. 307, opp. p. 290.

⁵ *Ibid.*, fig. 4, p. 7.

⁶ W. S. Collingwood, *Northumbrian Crosses*, figs. 107, 116, No. 6, 121b.

the pot and 130 coins were then collected on the find-spot, but later Fleming recovered from the tip more of the pot, including the one handle now surviving, and 163 further coins. Scattered coins, totalling 25, found by individuals have also been brought in, in response to a press appeal, so that probably the bulk of the hoard has been recovered.

It was possible, after the coins had been cleaned, to classify them as follows:

	<i>English.</i>	
Philip and Mary.	Shillings	2
Elizabeth.	Shillings	41
	Sixpences	84
James I.	Shillings	26
	Sixpences	15
Charles I.	Half-Crowns	22
	Shillings	102
	Sixpences	10
	<i>Scottish.</i>	
Charles I.	Twelve-shilling Piece	1
	Half-Merk	1
	Turners	2
	<i>Spanish.</i>	
	17th-century Dollars	4
	17th-century Quarter-Dollar	1
	<i>Spanish Netherlands.</i>	
Albert	Dollar	1
and Isabella.	Half-Dollar	1
Philip IV.	Dollars	3
	Quarter-Dollar	1
	<i>Netherlands.</i>	
Gueldres.	Dollar, 1623	1
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Of these coins, 23 have been retained for the National Museum's Collection, including 6 to which there adhere remains of cloth—linen and woollen twill.

The coin of latest date in the hoard is an Oxford half-crown of 1646. It is probable that the hoard was concealed shortly after that date, during the unsettled conditions arising from the Civil War.

The preponderance of English coins over Scottish, and the presence of foreign coins, in hoards of this period, are not unusual. Compare, for instance, the Irvine Hoard (*P.S.A.S.*, LIX (1924-25), 122), the Grangemouth Hoard (*ibid.*, XXXIV (1899-1900), 16), and the Snizort Hoard (*ibid.*, XVIII (1883-84), 379).

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