

## NOTES.

## 1. A HOARD OF COINS FROM STORNOWAY.

On 25th May 1954 a small earthenware craggan containing coins was found in the grounds of Stornoway Castle by one of the pupils of the recently opened Lews Castle College. John Angus Graham, a boy of fifteen from Borve, unearthed it accidentally with his foot while climbing the steep bank of the Shoe Burn, which runs past the College. The site was about 20 yds. NW. of the bridge crossing the burn and 20 ft. up from the level of the stream. He reported the find to Mr Smith, the Principal of the College, to whom and to the Procurator Fiscal we are indebted for the opportunity of having the whole hoard carefully examined.

The find-spot is only about 100 yds. from the site of the old Seaforth Lodge, which figured in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1719.

The contents of the hoard are as follows:

	<i>English.</i>			
Elizabeth.	Shillings	.	.	17
	Sixpences	.	.	24
James I.	Half-Crown	.	.	1
	Shillings	.	.	14
	Sixpences	.	.	5
Charles I.	Half-Crowns	.	.	10
	Shillings	.	.	27
	Sixpences	.	.	3
	<i>Scottish.</i>			
*James VI.	Thirty-shilling Piece	.	.	1
*Charles II.	Merks	.	.	3
	<i>Irish.</i>			
James I.	Sixpence	.	.	1
	<i>Spanish Netherlands.</i>			
Albert	Dollar	.	.	1
and Isabella.	Half-Dollar	.	.	1
*	Quarter-Dollars	.	.	2
Philip IV.	Dollar	.	.	1
	<i>Netherlands (United Provinces).</i>			
*17th Century.	Dollars	.	.	6
*	Half-Dollars	.	.	2
	<i>Sweden.</i>			
*Christina.	Dollar	.	.	1

Of these coins, eleven (starred in the list) have been retained for the National Museum by the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. These include the four Scottish specimens, all of which show die varieties not already represented in the collection. The James VI thirty-shilling piece though of the second issue has contraction signs on the obverse (MAG'. BRIT'. . . .), noted by Burns for the first issue only of this piece. Seven of the continental coins have been selected for addition to the series which is now being formed to illustrate the extent to which foreign coins once circulated in Scotland.

The three Charles II merks, and a dollar of West Friesland, all bear the date 1669, the latest date in the hoard. As all these coins show a certain amount of wear resulting from circulation, it seems probable that the hoard was buried a few years after 1669.

In the large proportion of English coins which it contains, and in the presence in it of a number of continental coins, the hoard shows similarities to the Fisherrow hoard discovered in 1951 and recorded in the Society's *Proceedings*, LXXXV (1950-1), 177-8.

The craggan concerned has also been claimed by the Crown for retention in the Museum, and the Keeper describes it as follows: "A crude globular pot, brown and reddish in patches, and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  ins. at most in diameter, it has finger hollows all over. The surface was smoothed roughly at the concave neck and slightly out-turned rim, and over the inside. Part of the lower surface has scaled away, exposing the dark interior with a good deal of quartz grit. It is evident that the grass marks that cover the surface are not due to a 'temper' mixed with the clay, but that the pot was wrapped or laid in grass while still wet. Hebridean craggans were occasionally made down to the end of the 19th century and obviously have a long history, but one with hardly any fixed points.<sup>1</sup> This specimen securely dated to the late 17th century is therefore of unusual interest."

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