

Ceramic vessels associated with late 13th- to early 18th-century coin hoards

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ABSTRACT

An overview of a group of ceramic vessels which had contained coin hoards and which were found in Scotland since the late 18th century. The association with a tightly dated collection of coins is of value to ceramicists in that it can provide a date for the vessel itself.

INTRODUCTION

This paper describes research on 29 ceramic vessels which have been associated with coin hoards discovered in various parts of Scotland over a period of some 200 years (illus 1). It has been assumed that the vessels are of Scottish manufacture, but for some an origin outwith the country cannot be discounted. Most of them are held by National Museums Scotland (NMS). Some are held by other museums and have previously been published. Others were found in antiquity and no longer survive; in a few cases, a drawing or a brief description is all that is available as a result of inadequate recording.

Although metal pots were also used to contain hoards, they are not included in this paper. The coin hoards themselves have been fully dealt with elsewhere; a comprehensive bibliography is given at the end of this report.

The finding of ceramic vessels which can be closely dated by their association with coin hoards is of particular importance to the study of medieval pottery. The deposition of a hoard can usually be tightly dated – sometimes almost to the exact year – by numismatists. It has been found that coin hoards very rarely contained coins from issues which were no longer legal

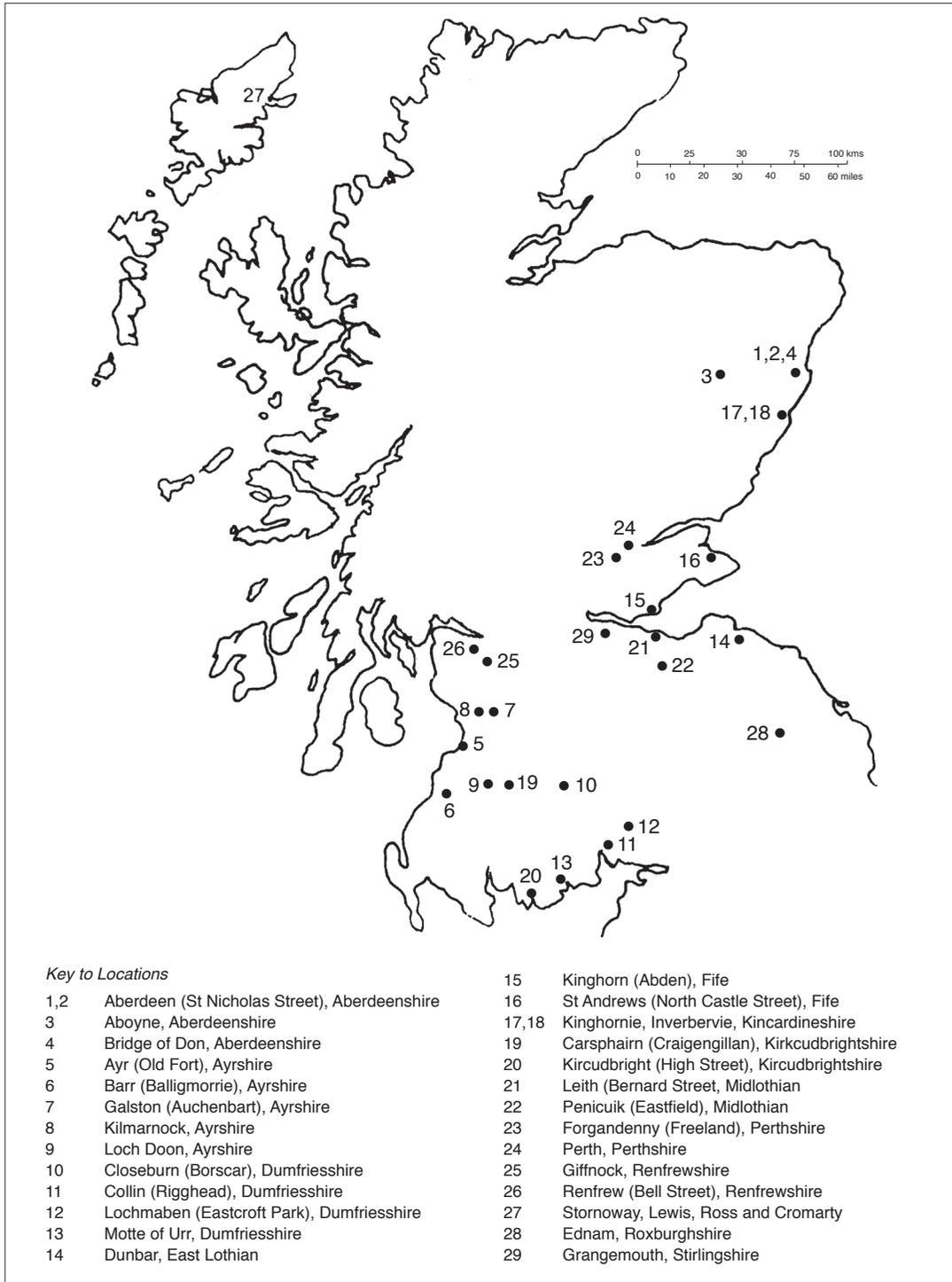
tender at the time of their deposition (Holmes 2004, 242).

The vessels and hoards span the medieval to late post-medieval periods. Their deposition dates, as established by the coin content, range from the late 13th or very early 14th century to the beginning of the 18th century (Table 1).

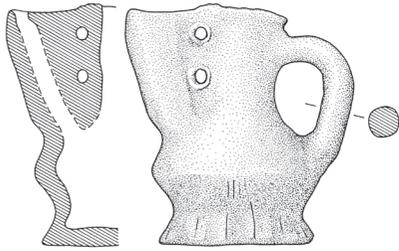
In the medieval period, people would need to find a secure place in which to keep their savings. Even a few pennies would buy a considerable amount of goods. Mid-15th century Aberdeen burgh records show that an 18oz loaf cost one penny and a gallon of ale could be purchased for six to eight pence (Holmes 1998, 83).

Burying valuables in pots was normal for the time, whether by a family concealing a few precious belongings close to their dwelling or by a trader with a large sum of money caching it for safe-keeping near his route into market or town. However, if the money had been in transit it would have been more convenient to carry it in a leather or fabric container than in a pot. In fact, there must have been vast amounts of money and other items, such as jewellery or even damaged items to be melted down, hidden all over the country – and for a variety of reasons, such as war, plague or death, many were never recovered.

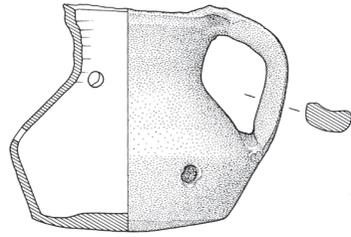
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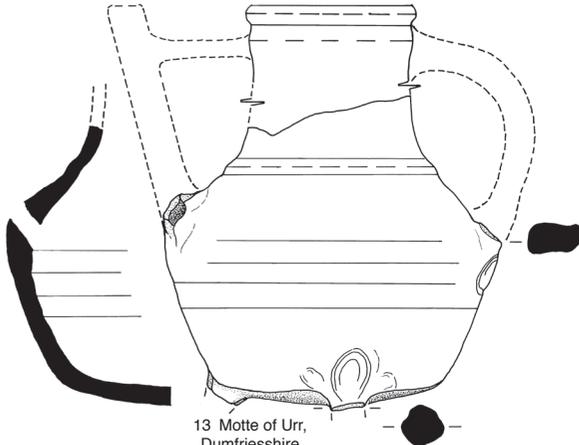
ILLUS 1



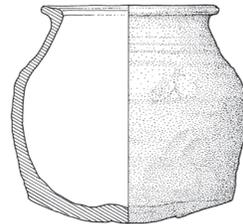
7 Galston (Auchenbart),
Ayrshire
1296 x c1302



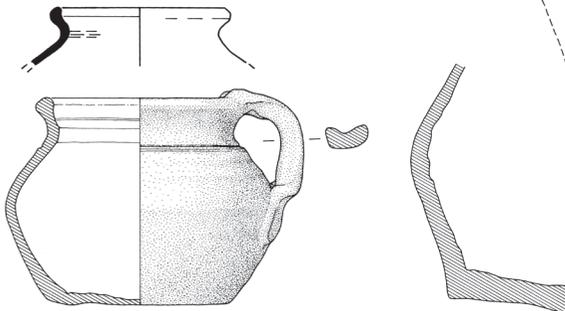
22 Penicuik (Eastfield),
Midlothian
1280 x 1360



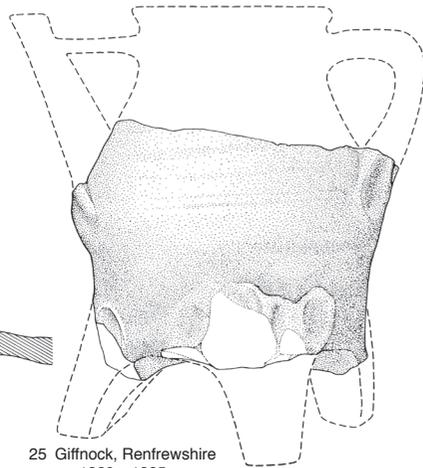
13 Motte of Urr,
Dumfriesshire
1280 x 1360



5 Ayr (Old Fort),
Ayrshire
1292 x 1360



18 Kinghornie No 2, Inverbervie,
Kincardineshire
1292 x 1360



25 Giffnock, Renfrewshire
1320 x 1335

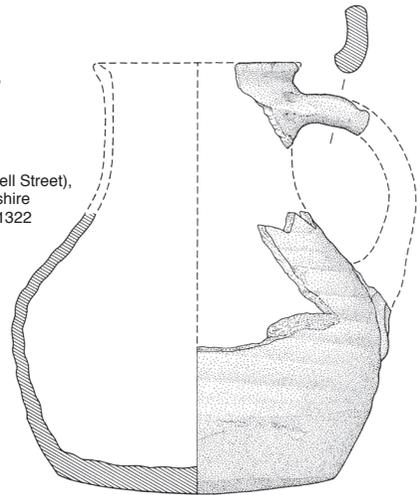


TABLE 1
Chronological table of coin hoards

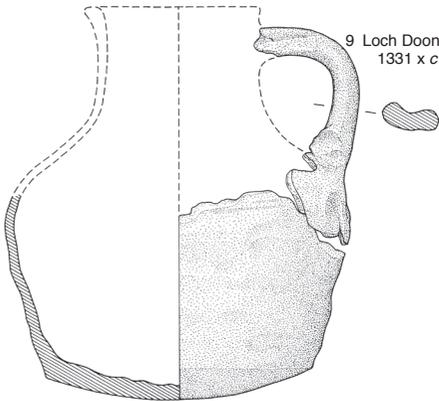
<i>No</i>	<i>Find location</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Deposited</i>	<i>Date found</i>	<i>Coin count</i>
13	Motte of Urr	Dumfries	1280 × 1360	c 1950/51	1
22	Penicuik (Eastfield)	Midlothian	1280 × 1360	1792	'filled'
5	Ayr (Old Fort)	Ayr	1292 × 1360	1892	150
18	Kinghornie No 2, Inverbervie	Kincardine	1292 × 1360	1902	494
7	Galston (Auchenbart)	Ayr	1296 × c1302	1922	228 (240–250 found)
26	Renfrew (Bell Street)	Renfrew	1320 × 1322	1963	674
25	Giffnock	Renfrew	1320 × 1335	1879	466
17	Kinghornie No 1, Inverbervie	Kincardine	c1320 × 1336	1893	437
28	Ednam	Roxburgh	c1322	1995	1,472
19	Carsphairn (Craigengillan)	Kirkcudbright	1324 × c1335	1913	2,222
12	Lochmaben (Eastcroft Park)	Dumfries	1329 × c1335	1904	448 (476 found)
9	Loch Doon	Ayr	1331 × c1335	1966	1,887
10	Closeburn (Borscar)	Dumfries	1331 × c1335	1900	1,376
15	Kinghorn (Abden)	Fife	c1355	1864	more than 1,000
1	Aberdeen (St Nicholas Street No 1)	Aberdeen	after 1346	1983	4,493
2	Aberdeen (St Nicholas Street No 2)	Aberdeen	after 1346	1984	2,538
23	Forgandenny (Freeland)	Perth	after 1437	1876	37 ('large number' found)
21	Leith (Bernard Street)	Midlothian	1470 × 1475	1980	358
4	Bridge of Don	Aberdeen	after c1468	1937	197
16	St Andrews (North Castle Street)	Fife	after 1490	1792	158
24	Perth	Perth	after 1513	1896	25
6	Barr (Balligmorrie)	Ayr	c1515 × 1520	1955	578
11	Collin (Rigghead)	Dumfries	after 1553	1963	197
20	Kirkcudbright (High Street)	Kirkcudbright	after 1558	1912	130
3	Aboyne	Aberdeen	c1601	1986	223
29	Grangemouth	Stirling	1625 × 1675	c1899	1,094
27	Stornoway, Lewis	Ross & Cromarty	c1670	1954	120
8	Kilmarnock	Ayr	c1671	1920	20
14	Dunbar	East Lothian	c1708	1891	?



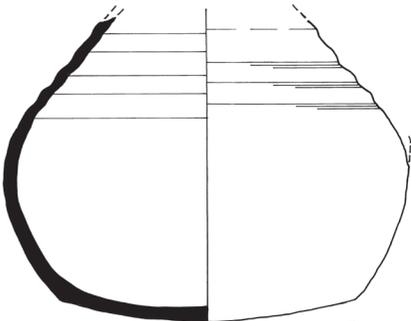
19 Carsphairn (Craigengillan),
Kirkcudbrightshire
1324 x c1335



26 Renfrew (Bell Street),
Renfrewshire
1320 x c1322



9 Loch Doon, Ayrshire
1331 x c1335



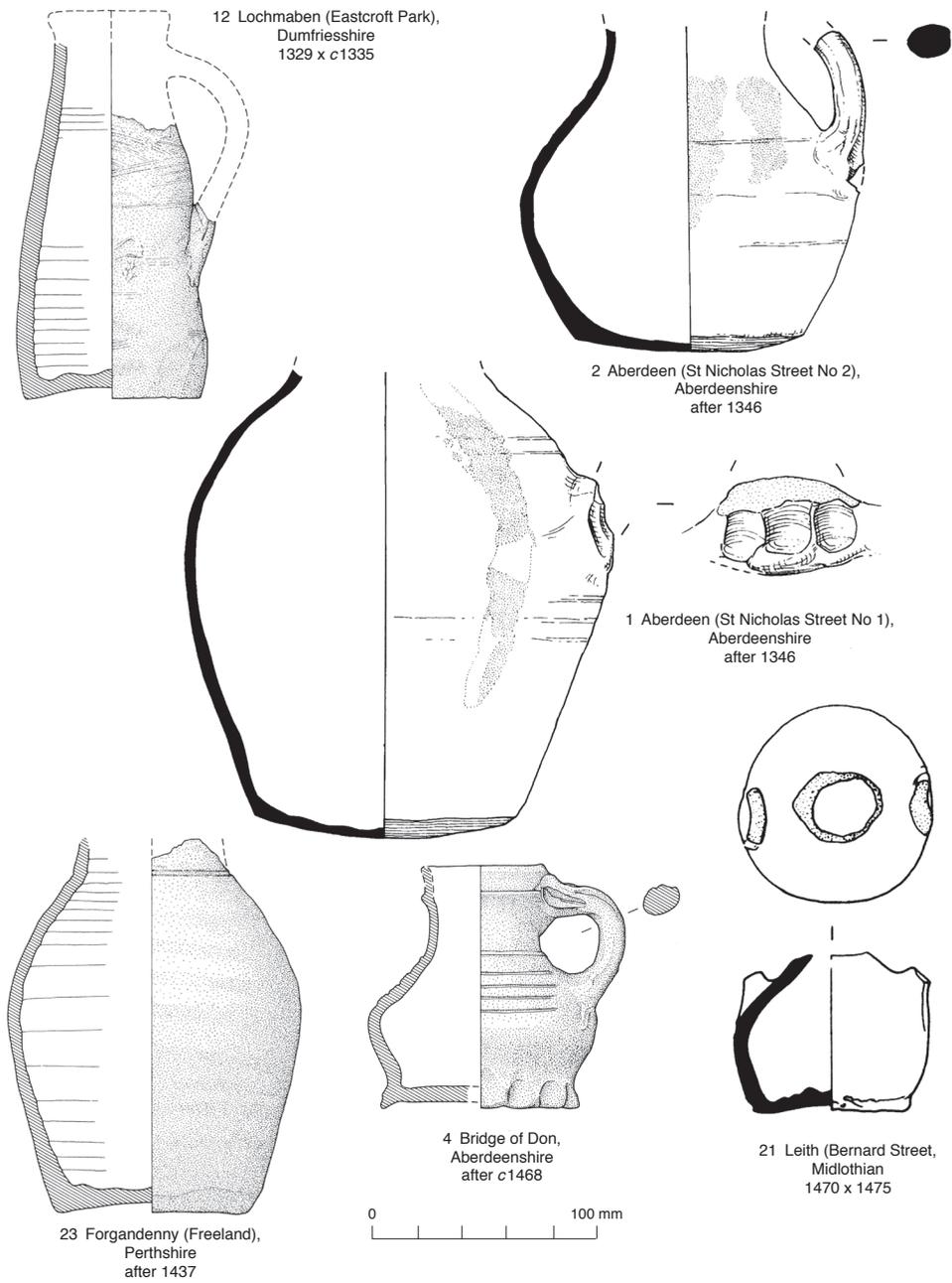
28 Ednam (Roxburghshire)
c1322



15 Kinghorn (Abden),
Fife
c1355



ILLUS 3



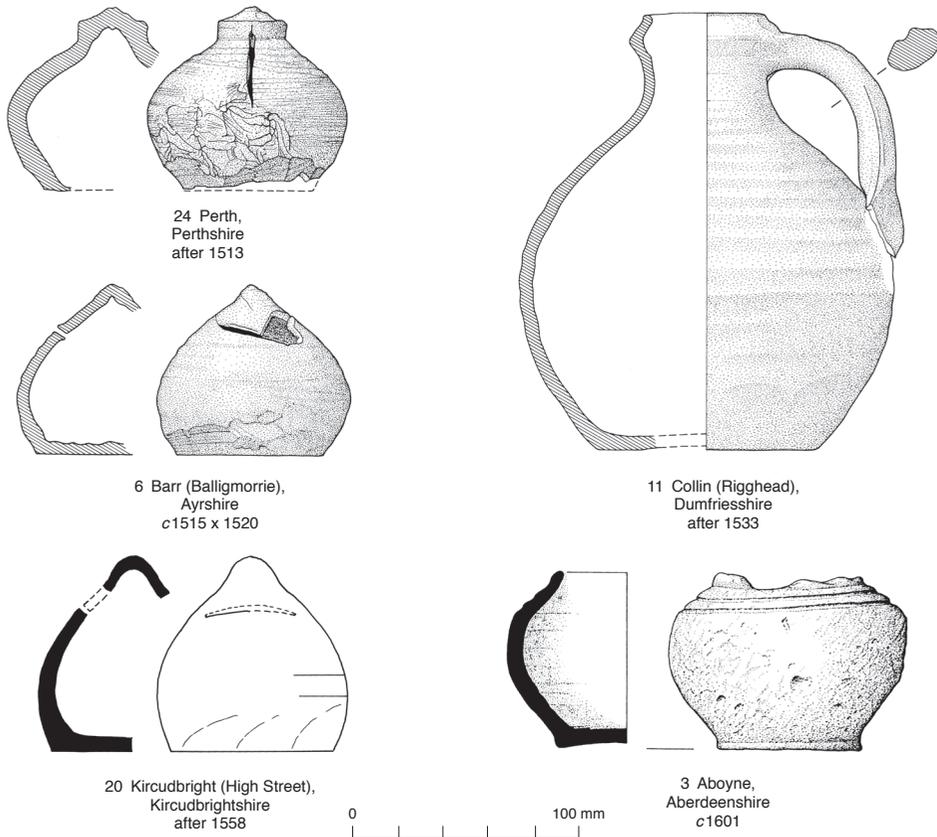
ILLUS 4

Reports of the pots' discoveries include such comments as 'found in fragments', 'broken by the plough', 'by a workman's pick' or 'broken open on discovery'. Six of the pots were found by ploughing, between 1792 and 1955, before the widespread use of tractors meant that the ploughman no longer walked behind his plough with the opportunity to see what, quite literally, was being turned up (Barr, Closeburn, Galston, Kinghornie Nos 1 & 2 and Penicuik). Thirteen pots were found during building work or trench digging (Aberdeen Nos 1 & 2, Bridge of Don, Carsphairn, Ednam, Forgardenny, Grangemouth, Kilmarnock, Kinghorn, Leith, Lochmaben, Perth, Renfrew), two by soil erosion (Motte of Urr, Stornoway), one in a garden (St Andrews),

one under a clay floor (Kirkcudbright) and another by a drop in water level (Loch Doon). No information is available on the circumstances of five of the discoveries (Aboyne, Ayr, Dunbar, Giffnock, Collin).

The finding of the Perth hoard is particularly interesting. The report states that:

It was found ... by a little girl aged 5 years, who was playing on a heap of rubbish which had been carted from the excavation for the foundations of the new Post Office ... After playing with it for a time, she rolled it against a stone and broke it, scattering the contents. What was recovered of them consisted of ... 25 gold coins ('Donations to the Museum', *PSAS* (1896-7), 31, 237).



ILLUS 5

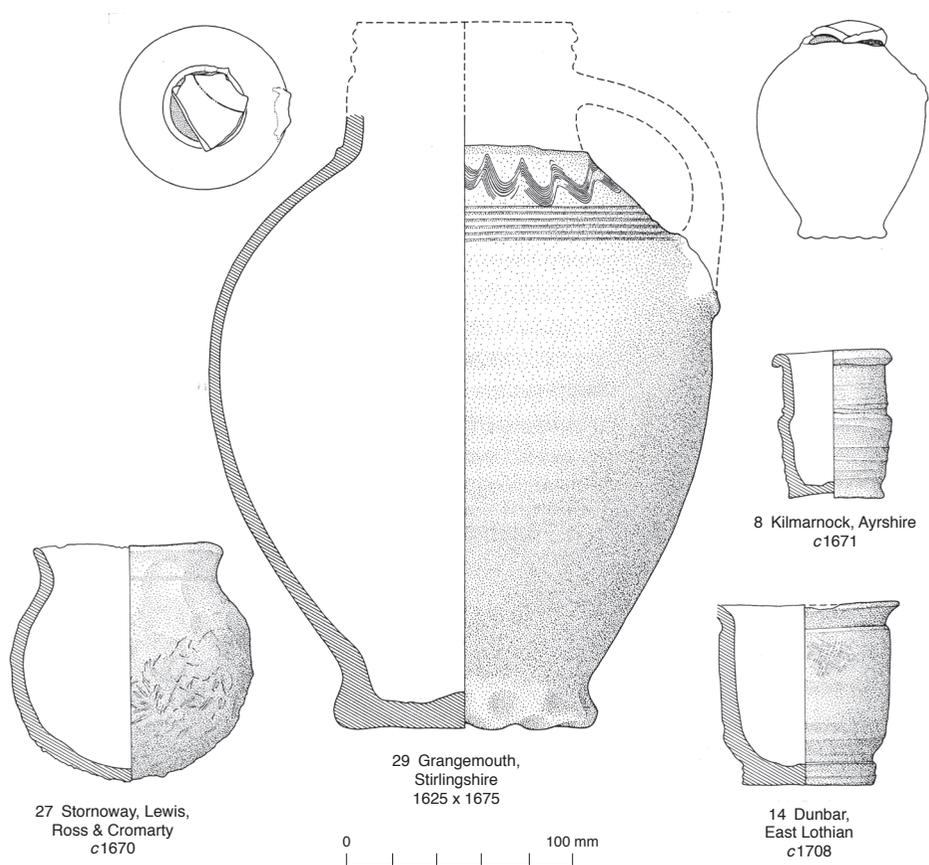
Two of the pots were quite tiny and could not have held a great number of coins, although the little Galston vessel contained about 170 and the Kilmarnock one only 20. Several of the larger jugs contained over 1000 coins, and the larger Aberdeen jug contained 4493 coins. In some cases a report states that ‘only ... coins were recovered’, implying that the finders had made sure of their share. Two hoards originated on the same farm at Kinghornie, Kincardine, and, as their contents’ dates are very similar, they may be considered to be part of the same hoard (Nicholas Holmes, pers comm), which could suggest that this was an ‘overflow’ situation.

Sixteen of the hoards had been concealed during the 14th century, at a time when the

country was under threat from England. Apart from five – Aberdeen (Nos 1 & 2), Kinghorn and Kinghornie (Nos 1 & 2) – these earlier hoards were all found at locations in the southern part of Scotland. Four hoards had been concealed in the 15th century, four in the early to mid-16th century, four in the early to mid-17th century and one in the early 18th century.

METHODOLOGY

Fabric descriptions are based on the method outlined by Orton, Tyers and Vince (1993). Without thin-sectioning and geological analysis, detailed identification of inclusions was not



ILLUS 6

practicable. Differentiation between natural inclusions in the clay matrix and added temper has not been made. Colour descriptions and classifications are taken from the *Munsell Soil Color Charts*. Vessel forms are described in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group's *Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*.

CATALOGUE

Unless otherwise stated, the deposition dates are those given by Metcalf (1977). Where the dates are shown as 0000 × 0000, these are the dates of the last coin in the hoard × the start of the next common currency which could have been expected to be included. At the end of each description, a selective bibliography is given for that hoard. The vessels are wheelmade, unless otherwise noted. They are listed alphabetically by their county and find spot.

As far as possible, the drawings in illus 2–6 are grouped by date in order to allow comparisons between vessel forms, but they are numbered in accordance with the catalogue. Where illustrations have been copied from published reports, the drawings have been adjusted to the scale shown; this has only been done where the original vessel was unavailable.

NO 1 ABERDEEN (ST NICHOLAS STREET NO 1),
ABERDEENSHIRE

Hoard No 1 : AAG&M : ABDMS 028341

Illus 4

NO 2 ABERDEEN (ST NICHOLAS STREET NO 2),
ABERDEENSHIRE

Hoard No 2 : AAG&M : ABDMS 028343

Illus 4

These two pots were deposited after 1346 (Murray 1988, 48) and were found in 1983 (No

1) and 1984 (No 2) during construction of the St Nicholas Centre. They contained 4,493 and 2,538 coins respectively; almost all of these were pennies.

The jugs are held by Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum (AAG&M) and have previously been published (*ibid*, 48, fig 1) as follows:

The 1983 hoard of 4493 coins was contained in a medium-sized jug (210mm × 190mm) broken at the junction between shoulder and neck. It is a buff-orange medium coarse sandy fabric, slightly micaceous with quartz grits; this has formerly been described as Local Fabric No 3 (Murray 1982, 118). A yellow-green glaze had been applied externally to the upper portion of the jug with dark vertical strips of iron enriched glaze. The handle scar on the body shows it to have been of strap type. Vessels of similar form have been discovered elsewhere in medieval Aberdeen (Murray 1982, ill 88 no 485; ill 92 no 657).

The 1984 hoard of 2538 coins was contained in a smaller jug (150mm × 140mm), also broken off at the lower neck. The fabric is buff-orange, smooth, fine and slightly micaceous with a strip of brown/green glaze applied externally. This most closely resembles Aberdeen Local Fabric 8 (Murray 1982, 118), and has been identified on previous excavations (Murray 1982, see in particular ill 71 no 41 for a similar body profile and ill 90 no 580 for a similar handle).

Murray 1982; Mayhew 1988, 40–68; Murray 1988, 48; Holmes 2004, 248.

NO 3 ABOYNE, ABERDEENSHIRE

TT 48/03

Illus 5

This hoard was found in an earthenware jug during a house clearance in 1986 and contained 223 silver and billon coins, all Scottish bar one; the date given for cessation of the accumulation of the hoard is c 1601 (Hall & Holmes 2002, 176–80, fig 1).

The vessel has been published in the same report as follows:

The vessel may originally have been a small jug, with a short narrow neck and a handle, although the degraded state of the exterior surface renders this less than certain. There is a slightly eccentric circular pedestal base, and the body itself is of somewhat irregular profile. The fabric is red, with traces of a green glaze surviving, and there are three concentric incised grooves around the body, just below the neck.

The opportunity was taken to examine the vessel while it was held by Treasure Trove and a further description is given below. It is now in the possession of Aberdeenshire Heritage.

The medium-hard, oxidised fabric, 4–8 mm thick, has a fine texture and powdery feel and the rough break has been worn smooth. The outer surface is reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6), in places stained dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2), and the core is reddish-yellow (5YR 7/6). The 5–10% inclusions are moderate amounts of fairly-sorted, fine to medium, sub-angular, translucent quartz; sparse, poorly-sorted, medium to very coarse, rounded haematite; and very sparse mica. The very abraded external glaze varies from light olive-brown (2.5Y 5/4) to light yellowish-brown (2.5Y 6/4) and pale yellow (2.5Y 7/4).

Hall & Holmes 2002, 176–80.

NO 4 BRIDGE OF DON, ABERDEENSHIRE

NMS : H.MEA 377

Illus 4

This vessel has previously been published by Evans and Thain (1989, 327–44, illus 4).

The pot was deposited after *c* 1468 and was found in 1937, below cobbled paving on a housing construction site on the north side of the River Don, near Bridge of Don, and was damaged when struck by a workman's pick. It contained 197 silver coins, mostly English and Scottish groats.

A small, squat, bi-conical jug with a flat, thumbled base and a grooved, rod handle; there are five horizontal grooves around the shoulder. Half of the neck is missing, as is part of the base,

and the remainder of the body has been largely restored. It is possible that it had a pulled spout.

It is a fairly hard, oxidised fabric, 3–5mm thick, with a fine texture, smooth feel and a slightly rough fracture. The surfaces are light brown (7.5YR 6/4) and the core is pinkish-grey to light brown (7.5YR 6/2–6/4). The 25% well-sorted inclusions comprise abundant, fine and occasionally medium, sub-round, translucent quartz; moderate, fine and occasionally medium, rounded haematite; and a moderate amount of mica. There are occasional coarse grains of both quartz and haematite, and voids where some have fallen out; there is also a number of 'pinholes' in the fabric. There is some patchy, pimply and shiny, olive-yellow (2.5Y 6/6) glaze on the exterior and base.

'Donations to the Museum', *PSAS* 72 (1937–8), 178; Kerr 1939, 51–2; Allen 1941, 282–5; Thompson, 1956, no 5, pl Ia; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 15; Mayhew 1975, 33–50; Metcalf 1977, no 179; Evans & Thain 1989, 327–44; Holmes 2004, 257.

NO 5 AYR (OLD FORT), AYRSHIRE

NMS : H.KO 21

Illus 2

This pot was deposited 1292 × 1360 and was found in 1892 in the area of the Cromwellian citadel erected around the 13th-century church of St John. It contained 150 silver coins and two silver brooches.

This is a small, wheelmade, rounded jar with an everted rim and a convex base which is irregular, lumpy and pitted. There is a little knife-trimming just above the base. The body of the vessel is intact, but some 60% of the rim and neck is missing; the remainder of the rim has been re-attached. It is a common form for the period.

The hard, partially-reduced fabric is 3–7mm thick, with a fine texture and slightly rough feel and fracture. The outer surface is reddish-brown to pink (5YR 5/3–7/4), the interior

is reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6) and the core is grey (2.5YR 5/0). The 20% inclusions are all well sorted and comprise abundant, fine and occasionally medium, rounded, translucent and occasionally white quartz; moderate, medium, rounded haematite; moderate, fine to medium, rounded, black and grey rock; and sparse mica. There are some voids left by burnt-out grass tempering. The exterior, olive (5Y 4/3) glaze extends from below the rim to the shoulder, with occasional splashes on the lower body and base.

'Donations to the Museum', *PSAS* 26 (1891–2), 60; Callander 1924, 160–84; Thompson 1956, no 18, pl Ib; CBA 1964, no 69; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 2; Metcalf 1977, no 108.

NO 6 BARR (BALLIGMORRIE), AYRSHIRE

NMS : H.KO 34

Illus 5

This pot was deposited *c* 1515 × 1520 and was found in 1955 when pasture to the south-east of Balligmore Farm was ploughed for the first time. The pot had rolled to the foot of a slope and its top had been broken, probably by the plough, but it had been kept sealed by a plug of soil. It contained 578 coins, comprising Scottish billon placks and pennies.

A pirlie pig or mammiform money box, with a flat base and a diagonal slot just over 1mm wide. It is wheelmade, with a little knife-trimming near the base. Apart from the broken top, it is largely intact.

The hard, partially-reduced fabric is 4–6mm thick; it is laminated with many tiny rounded and linear voids, perhaps evidence of grass tempering. It has a smooth feel and a slightly rough fracture. The outer surface is pink (7.5YR 7/4), the interior is pale brown (10YR 6/3) and the core is grey (7.5YR 6/0). The 30% inclusions are fairly-sorted and comprise abundant, fine to medium, sub-angular, translucent quartz; moderate, fine to medium, rounded haematite; and occasional, very fine mica. The light olive-

brown (2.5Y 5/4) glaze is patchy, with occasional splashes on the base, and is dulled in places.

'Donations to the Museum', *PSAS* 89 (1955–6), 460, fig 6; Kerr 1955a, 245–7; Kerr & Stevenson, 1956, 107–9; Brown & Dolley 1971, SM1; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 16; Metcalf 1977 no 201; Holmes 2004, 258.

NO 7 GALSTON (AUCHENBART), AYRSHIRE

NMS : H.MEA 355

Illus 2

This pot was deposited 1296 × *c* 1302 and was found in 1922 in a field during drainage operations. The farmer noticed some coins, and further soil clearance revealed the broken jug, still containing some 170 coins; the total recovered amounted to 228 coins, the majority of which were continental sterlings (pennies).

This is a small, handmade, bi-conical jug with a splayed, flat base and a round, rod handle. The tubular spout is attached to the neck by a solid bridge, which has been pierced before firing by two round holes, their diameters tapering from 8mm to 6mm; the spout is at 150 degrees to the handle. The tip of the spout and parts of the rim and body had been broken prior to discovery, but the jug has since been restored. It may have been used as a feeding vessel for infants or invalids.

It is in a medium-hard, white gritty fabric, 7–8mm thick, with an irregular texture, fairly smooth (perhaps abraded) feel and a rough fracture. The outer surface is pale brown (10YR 6/3) and the core is very dark grey (2.5Y 3/0); the inner surface has been obscured by the restoration of the vessel. The 25% poorly-sorted inclusions comprise abundant, medium to coarse, sub-round, translucent quartz; sparse, medium, rounded, black and white rock; sparse, medium and occasionally coarse, rounded haematite; and very sparse mica. It is very pock-marked where inclusions have fallen out and it also shows grass impressions. There are very faint traces of what may be a dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) glaze

on the spout and base and on the lower exterior. There appears to be a pale brown (10YR 6/3) slip on the exterior, although this may have been caused during restoration. The surface has been badly affected by the considerable amount of restoration; it has been smeared by various substances which are not easily differentiated from the degraded glaze.

Macdonald 1923a, 120–2; Macdonald 1923b, 60–74, fig 1; Cruden 1955, 161–74; Thompson 1956, no 168, pl IIe; CBA 1964, no 73; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 1; Metcalf 1977, no 27; Jackson 1986, 9 no 4; Holmes 2004, 248.

NO 8 KILMARNOCK, AYRSHIRE

NMS : H.MEA 350

Illus 6

This pot was deposited *c* 1671 (Stevenson *c* 1972/73) and was found in 1920 when broken by a workman's pick on a building site at The Strand, Kilmarnock. It contained 20 silver coins.

A narrow, cylindrical, slightly waisted, drug jar, ointment pot or inkwell with an upright, clubbed rim and concave base. It is crudely wheelmade and has external throwing rings. The upper half is lopsided, with a drooping rim. The pot has been broken and the two pieces have been re-joined; one-quarter of the rim is missing, along with part of the neck. For such a small vessel, it is surprisingly heavy.

The very hard, reduced fabric is 4–5mm thick, with an irregular texture, rough feel and fracture; it is so highly fired that it is virtually a stoneware. The outer surface is very dark greyish-brown (10YR 3/2) with a dark grey (10YR 4/1) core. The 30% inclusions are abundant, fairly-sorted, fine to medium and occasionally coarse, sub-angular, translucent quartz; and very occasional mica. The abraded, shiny glaze is olive (5Y 4/3) and covers the interior, with splashes on the exterior.

'Donations to the Museum', *PSAS* 55 (1920–1), 108–9, fig 1); Brown & Dolley 1971, SQ2; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 22.

NO 9 LOCH DOON, AYRSHIRE

NMS : H.KO 37a-b

Illus 3

This pot was deposited 1331 × *c* 1335 and was found in 1966 by anglers at the water's edge on the east shore of the loch, below Muckle Eriff hill, when the water level was low. The area had been under water since the 1930s when the loch was dammed, and about two feet of soil had subsequently been washed away. Only the lower half of the pot and most of its handle remained, the upper body presumably having been progressively eroded as the water level fell. The coins recovered totalled 1887, mostly English sterling.

A medium, rounded jug with a convex base and a strap handle. The entire upper body is missing, and some 12 sherds have been joined to reconstruct the lower body. It is very thin-walled and appears to have been coil-built; the interior shows many finger indentations. The lower terminal of the handle has been pinched in, prior to attaching to the vessel.

The medium-hard, oxidised fabric is 2–10mm thick, with a laminated texture, powdery feel and rough fracture. Both surfaces are very pock-marked. The exterior varies from reddish-yellow (7.5YR 6/6) to brownish-yellow (10YR 6/6), the interior varies from light yellowish-brown to very pale brown (10YR 6/4–7/4), and the core is grey to light yellowish-brown (10YR 5/1–6/4). The interior is stained a lilac-grey colour by the coins, whose imprints can be seen on the walls. The 20% inclusions are abundant, moderately to poorly sorted, fine to medium and occasionally coarse, sub-angular, translucent quartz; moderate, fairly-sorted, medium, rounded haematite; sparse, fairly-sorted, medium, sub-angular, black rock; and sparse mica. There are very occasional, external splashes of light olive-brown (2.5Y 5/4) glaze. The exterior is sooted.

Woodhead, Stewart & Tatler 1969, 31–49; 'Donations to the Museum', *PSAS* 102 (1969–70), 296; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 10; Mayhew 1975, 33–50; Metcalf 1977, no 56.

NO 10 CLOSEBURN (BORSCAR),
DUMFRIESSHIRE

NMS : H.MEA 277

Not illustrated

This pot was deposited 1331 × *c* 1335 and was found during ploughing in 1900, by a farm employee at Berscar Farm. The 1376 silver coins, mostly English, had been in a cloth-covered pot, which evidently had been broken by previous ploughing; only two body sherds remain.

The abraded sherds are of medium-hard, partially-reduced fabric. They are wheelmade, 3–5mm thick, with a fine, slightly laminated, texture, slightly rough feel and rough fracture. There are burnt-out grass voids. The outer surface is dark grey (5YR 4/1), the inner surface is light reddish-brown (5YR 6/4) and the core is reddish-brown (5YR 5/4). The 20% well-sorted inclusions are abundant, medium, sub-angular, translucent quartz; moderate, medium, rounded haematite; and moderate mica. The external glaze is yellowish-brown (10YR 5/4) and there are occasional, interior splashes. It is very abraded.

'Purchases for the Museum', *PSAS* 35 (1900–01), 277; Richardson 1901, 639–59; Thompson 1956, no 47; Dunning, Hodges & Jope 1958, 130; Mayhew 1975, 33–50; Metcalf 1977, no 55; Stewart, 1977, 92–101.

NO 11 COLLIN (RIGGHEAD), DUMFRIESSHIRE

NMS : H.KO 35

Illus 5

This pot was deposited after 1553 and was found in 1963; a selection of the coins recovered — 5 gold, 29 silver and 163 billon — was donated to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. No information is available on the circumstances of find.

A medium, rounded jug with an inturned, rounded rim without a spout, a slightly concave base, and a strap handle. The body has been

considerably (*c* 30%) restored and there is a little knife-trimming on the lower part. It is competently wheelmade with traces of throwing rings on the exterior. It had a horn lid.

The hard, partially-reduced fabric is 4–7mm thick, with irregular texture, fairly smooth feel and rough fracture. The outer surface is light reddish-brown (5YR 6/3) and the interior and core are reddish-yellow (5YR 7/6). The fairly-sorted 20% inclusions are abundant, medium, sub-angular, translucent and occasionally white quartz; moderate, medium, sub-angular haematite; sparse, medium to coarse, sub-angular black and occasionally white rock, and abundant mica. There is a fairly even, external glaze over the body and handle, but sparse coverage over the neck and rim. The glaze varies from olive-brown to light olive-brown (2.5Y 4/4–5/4) and is shiny but abraded.

'Donations to the Museum', *PSAS* 98 (1964–5 & 1965–6), 329; Brown & Dolley 1971, SN1; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 18; Metcalf 1977, no 210; Holmes 2004, 260.

NO 12 LOCHMABEN (EASTCROFT PARK),
DUMFRIESSHIRE

NMS : H.MEA 360

Illus 4

This pot was deposited 1329 × *c* 1335 and was found in 1904 during the backfilling of a drainage trench. The upper part and the handle may have been broken off prior to discovery. It reportedly contained 476 sterlings, of which 448 remained.

A small, slender, conical jug with a concave base and the stump of a narrow strap handle; the rim and upper neck are missing. Although the basal footprint is completely circular, the body had been squashed into an oval. Throwing rings are visible on the inner surface, there is a little knife-trimming on the lower body and there are traces of possible wire-marks on the base.

The hard, oxidised fabric is 5–8mm thick, with an irregular texture and occasional voids,

smooth feel and rough fracture. The outer surface is weak red to red (2.5YR 4/2–5/6), the interior is reddish-brown (2.5YR 5/4) and the core is dark grey to reddish-brown (2.5YR N4/–5/4). The matrix has streaks of lighter coloured clay. The 10% inclusions are moderate, fairly-sorted, medium and occasionally very coarse, rounded, translucent quartz; moderate, very poorly-sorted, medium to very coarse, rounded, black or white rock; and very sparse mica. There are external splashes of a very shiny glaze, largely on one side of the body, and the base is 80% covered. It is a light olive-brown (2.5Y 5/4) with occasional dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/4) areas.

Evans 1889, 312–21; Macdonald 1905a, 403–5, fig 1; Macdonald 1905b, 63–82; Thompson 1956, no 239 pl IIIe; CBA 1964, no 70; Stewart 1964, 251–2; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 7; Mayhew 1975, 33–5; Metcalf 1977, no 54.

NO 13 MOTTE OF URR, DUMFRIESSHIRE

DGMS : DUMFM 1951.40 (Vessel)

DGMS : DUMFM 1951.38 (Rim sherd)

Illus 2

This vessel was found *c* 1950/51 in a rabbit scrape near the Motte of Urr, associated with an Irish penny of Edward I which may have been part of a hoard dating from 1280 to 1360.

This vessel is held by Dumfries & Galloway Museums Service (DGMS) and has previously been published (Truckell & Williams, 1967, 161–2, fig 11 14b). The opportunity was taken to examine the above items and to make further drawings.

It is the remains of a medium-sized, tripod, tubular-spouted jug or pitcher; the neck, rim, strap handle, spout and feet have all been broken off. The neck has been chipped all round the perimeter, the spout and handle have been broken off at their bases and the feet have been truncated. These attachments had all been neatly smoothed on to the vessel body, with thumb impressions

visible on the handle and feet stumps. The hole for the spout had been pierced from the exterior; there is light finger-rilling visible on the exterior and this is more pronounced internally. A detached rim sherd in a very similar fabric has been associated with the vessel, but may, in fact, not be part of it.

The medium-hard, reduced fabric is 5–8mm thick, with a smooth texture, fairly smooth feel and rough fracture. The outer surface varies from grey to light grey (2.5Y 6/0–7/0) and is reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6) where unglazed, the core is grey (2.6Y 6/0) and the inner surface is light grey (7.5YR 7/0) with a very dark grey (2.5Y 3/0) skin.

The 10% inclusions are moderate, well-sorted, fine, sub-angular, translucent quartz; very occasional, well-sorted, very fine, rounded haematite; and very sparse mica. The fabric surface is finely pitted all over where grit has fallen out, and there are some burnt-out grass impressions. The external, all-over, once-glossy glaze is very abraded and had been unevenly fired. It varies from light olive-brown to light yellow-brown (2.5Y 5/4–6/4).

Truckell & Williams 1967, 161–2; Laing 1974, 236–9; Metcalf 1977, no 106.

NO 14 DUNBAR, EAST LoTHIAN

NMS : H.KO 38

Illus 6

This pot was deposited *c* 1708 (Stevenson *c* 1972/73) and was said to have been ‘found full of dollars from Mary 1565 to Anne 1708 at Dunbar 1891’ (NMS records). No information is available on the circumstances of the find, and the number of coins recovered is unknown.

A wheelmade, straight-sided, medium, drug jar or ointment pot with an everted, tapered rim, grooved at its base, and a stepped-in, flat base. It is covered with adhesions, is very battered and chipped, but is otherwise intact.

The medium-hard, oxidised fabric is 7–9mm thick, with a fine texture, rough feel and rough

fracture. The outer surface is dark to strong brown (7.5YR 4/2–4/6) and the core is reddish-yellow (5YR 7/5), with streaks of lighter clay. The 5% inclusions are sparse, fairly-sorted, fine and occasionally medium, sub-round, translucent quartz; moderate, fairly-sorted, fine to medium, rounded haematite; sparse, poorly-sorted, fine to coarse, sub-round, black rock; and abundant mica. A strong brown (7.5YR 4/6–5/8) glaze covers the interior, with splashes under the rim and on the base; it was originally shiny, but has been badly chipped and stained.

Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 23.

NO 15 KINGHORN (ABDEN), FIFE

Illus 3

This vessel was deposited *c* 1355 and was found in 1864 while ground was being levelled near Abden, perhaps the site of a hunting-seat of the early Scottish kings. It was mistaken for a stone and smashed when struck with a pick. The jug had been almost entirely filled with ‘many thousands’ of silver pennies, mostly English.

The sherds appear to have been lost, but the vessel form was sketched at the time of discovery. The dimensions were given as:

at least twelve inches (300mm) in height, and nine or ten inches (*c* 250mm) in diameter at its widest part. It was very gibbous in form, and, on the whole, not unlike the old ‘greybeards.’ It was slightly marked with transverse ridges, composed of a livid grey clay, covered with a yellow glaze, and was in excellent preservation (Sim 1865, 237–8).

It was described by AO Curle (*c* 1912–17) as being ‘part of a jar of reddish clay’ with ‘bold leaf depressions at the base of the handle, and ... vertical impressions on the zonal ridges’.

Sim 1865, 237–8; Curle *c* 1912–17; Thompson 1956, no 217, pl VIb; Dolley 1960, 419–21; Metcalf 1977, no 144.

NO 16 ST ANDREWS (NORTH CASTLE STREET), FIFE

Not illustrated

This vessel was deposited after 1490 and was found in a garden in 1792. Although the pot did not survive, it was assumed by Fleming (1912, 351–2) to have been an earthenware pirlie pig: ‘a small pot was turned up, which seemed to be full of earth, but, being immediately dashed in pieces, there dropped out 8 gold coins and about 150 silver ones’.

Stat Acct 13 (1794), 215–6; Fleming 1912, 351–2; Thompson 1956, no 320a (handwritten amendment by R B K Stevenson); Metcalf 1977, no 188.

NO 17 KINGHORNIE, INVERBERVIE, KINCARDINESHIRE

Hoard No 1 : NMS : H.MEA 284

Not illustrated

This hoard was deposited *c* 1320 × 1336 and was found in 1893 when a plough hit a pot filled with coins, scattering them in all directions; 437 English sterlings were recovered. It was lying over the site of a chapel erected in 1342. The broken pot does not appear to have been retained.

Richardson 1894, 277; Thompson 1956, no 218; Mayhew 1975, 33–50; Metcalf 1977, no 46.

NO 18 KINGHORNIE, INVERBERVIE, KINCARDINESHIRE

Hoard No 2 : NMS : H.MEA 283

Illus 2

This vessel was deposited 1292 × 1360 and was found in 1902 when the plough turned up a fragmented pot on the same farm as Hoard 1. It contained 494 sterlings, mostly English.

These may both be part of one hoard, since the coin dates are similar (Nicholas Holmes, pers comm).

A small, finely wheelmade, single-handled rounded jar or cooking pot, with a slightly inturned, clubbed rim, an unevenly flat base and a narrow strap handle. There is some knife-trimming on the lower body and the base is scored, perhaps when being removed from the wheel. It has been heavily restored and the side opposite the handle is missing, leaving no evidence for a spout. It is heavily sooted, both inside and out.

The hard, oxidised fabric is 4–5mm thick, with an irregular texture and slightly rough feel and fracture. It is light brown (7.5YR 6/4) throughout and there are some burnt-out grass voids. The 20% fairly-sorted inclusions are abundant, fine to medium and occasionally coarse, rounded, translucent quartz; moderate, fine to medium, sub-angular, black rock; and moderate mica.

Another rimsherd is associated with the Hoard 2 and, at first glance, appears to be from this vessel; however, it has a different profile and is of a different fabric.

This very hard, reduced fabric is 2–3mm thick, of irregular texture, has a slightly rough feel and a clean break. Its outer surface is brown (7.5YR 5/4), the interior is dark grey (10YR 4/1) and it has a dark grey (7.5YR 4/0) core. The 10% inclusions are poorly-sorted and comprise abundant, fine to medium and occasionally very coarse, sub-angular, white and occasionally translucent quartz; sparse, fine to very coarse, sub-rounded black and white rock; and moderate mica.

Both rims show traces of blistered, blackened glaze, suggesting their use for cooking.

‘Purchases for the Museum’, *PSAS* 36 (1901–2), 633; Macdonald 1902, 668–70; Odd 1902, 140; Thompson 1956, no 218a, pl IIIb (handwritten amendment by R B K Stevenson); Metcalf 1962, 95; CBA 1964, no 74; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 4; Mayhew 1975, 33–50; Metcalf 1977, no 110.

NO 19 CARSPHAIRN (CRAIGENGILLAN), KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Illus 3

This vessel was deposited 1324 × *c* 1335 and was found in 1913 during drainage work on Craigengillan farm; it was broken before it was noticed. It had contained 2222 pennies, mostly English, with some Scottish ones, and some foreign sterling.

A sufficient number of sherds of the earthenware jug were recovered, but apparently not preserved (Stevenson *c* 1972/73), to enable a sketch to be made by A O Curle (Macdonald 1914, 399, fig 2). Comments by Curle (*c* 1912–17) note that ‘The base is convex and the thumbing at its edge has been very partial. Height 7 inches’ (175mm).

No further information was given about the jug’s fabric or appearance.

Brooke 1914, 382–3; Curle *c* 1912–17; Macdonald 1914, 398–401; Thompson 1956, no 76; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 5; Mayhew 1975, 33–50; Metcalf 1977, no 52.

NO 20 KIRKCUDBRIGHT (HIGH STREET), KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

DGMS : DUMFM 1961.10.133

Illus 5

This vessel was deposited after 1558 and was found shortly before April 1912 ‘under an old clay floor of a house’. The coins recovered, mostly billon, totalled 130 (Fleming, 1912, 352).

This vessel is held by Dumfries & Galloway Museums Service and has previously been published (Truckell & Williams, 1967, 161–3, fig 11 no 16). The opportunity was taken to examine it and to make further drawings.

It is a mammiform pirlie pig, with a flat base and a horizontal coin slot which is arched slightly upwards. The top is chipped and has been holed and a portion of the vessel side and coin slot is missing. There is knife-trimming on the lower body and it has been reconstructed from four sherds.

The hard, partially-reduced fabric is 4–9mm thick, with a fine texture, very slightly rough feel and a clean but very slightly rough break. The outer surface varies from reddish-brown (5YR 5/4) to reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6) where unglazed and to grey (7.5YR 6/0) where the glaze has been abraded. The 15% inclusions are abundant, well-sorted, fine and occasionally medium, sub-angular, translucent quartz; sparse, well-sorted, fine and occasionally medium, rounded haematite; occasional, fairly-sorted, medium, sub-rounded white rock; and occasional mica. The external glaze runs from yellow-brown (10YR 5/6) to light olive-brown (2.5Y 5/4); it is shiny, patchy and flaking. The base is mostly unglazed.

Fleming 1912, 351–2, fig 3; Truckell & Williams 1967, 161–3; Brown & Dolley 1971, SN4; Metcalf 1977, no 217.

NO 21 LEITH (BERNARD STREET),
MIDLOTHIAN

CEMG : AR 551/359/85

Illus 4

This pot was found in unstratified material from an excavation in 1980. It contained 358 coins, mostly Scottish, and its deposition was dated to between 1470 and 1475 (Holmes 1983, 78). It is held in the archaeology collection of The City of Edinburgh Council.

The vessel, possibly a small jug, has previously been published (*ibid*, 78; MacAskill 1985, illus 15: no 53; fiche E7). It is in fabric group 2, which may be a finer type of White Gritty Ware; it had an external green glaze.

Holmes 1983, 78–107, fig 1; Holmes 1985, 401–28; MacAskill 1985, 413–18; Holmes 2004, 257–8.

NO 22 PENICUIK (EASTFIELD), MIDLOTHIAN

NMS : H.MEA 272

Illus 2

This pot was deposited 1280 × 1360 and was found in 1792 on the farm of Eastfield. It was apparently ‘filled’ with coins of Alexander III and Edward I and II.

A small, wheelmade, squat, biconical jug with an everted, bevelled rim, a slightly convex base, and narrow strap handle; there is no spout. Five holes, each 6–7mm in diameter, had been pierced through the body at various points before firing; there is slight chipping around the edges of the holes as if something had been pulled through. It is intact, although very pitted and chipped, and is quite heavily sooted on the side opposite the handle. It may have been used as a small lantern or as a fuming pot.

The medium-hard, white gritty fabric is 3–8mm thick, with an irregular texture and rough feel and fracture. The surfaces are pink (7.5YR 7/4–8/4) and the core is pinkish-white (7.5YR 8/2). The 10% very poorly sorted inclusions are moderate amounts of fine to very coarse, sub-angular, translucent quartz; fine to very coarse, rounded haematite; medium to coarse, sub-angular, black rock; and sparse mica. The inclusions have a ‘colourful’ appearance, rather like some Colstoun fabrics. There is a patch of brownish-yellow (10YR 6/6) glaze on one side of the shoulder and neck, and a little on the handle; it is blackened and chipped.

‘Purchases for the Museum’, *PSAS* 28 (1893–4), 239; Thompson 1956, no 308a, pl IVb (handwritten amendment by R B K Stevenson); CBA 1964, no 72; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 6; Metcalf 1977, no 98.

NO 23 FORGANDENNY (FREELAND),
PERTHSHIRE

NMS : H.MEA 243

Illus 4

This pot was deposited after 1437 and was found in 1876 during building work on Freeland estate when ‘a jar, which on being broken to pieces’ yielded a ‘large number’ of silver coins (Sim

1876a, 547). Only 21 English and 16 Scottish coins remain.

A medium, shouldered jug with a slightly concave base; it has two scored lines around the remaining part of the base of the neck. The rim, neck and handle are missing, and the vessel has been largely restored. It is wheelmade, with visible throwing marks on the interior. The base is rough, with wire-cutting marks.

The hard, partially-reduced fabric, 5–10mm thick, has a fine texture, smooth feel and a clean break. The outer surface is dark reddish-grey (5YR 4/2), the inner surface is light reddish-brown (5YR 6/3) and the core is reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6). The 5% well sorted inclusions are sparse, fine, rounded, translucent quartz and haematite and a moderate amount of mica. Part of the interior is stained a greenish-white colour by the coins, whose imprints can be seen on the walls. A brownish-yellow (10YR 6/6) to light olive-brown (2.5Y 5/4) glaze covers most of the body. It is glossy, and slightly abraded.

‘Donations to the Museum’, *PSAS* 12 (1876–8), 120; Sim 1876a, 547; Sim 1876b, 76–7; Thompson 1956, no 163, pl IIc; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 14; Metcalf 1977, no 174; Holmes 2004, 257.

NO 24 PERTH, PERTHSHIRE

NMS : H.MEA 276

Illus 5

This pot was deposited after 1513 and was found in 1896 by a five-year-old girl on a heap of rubbish from building work for the new post office in High Street. She broke it when playing with it; 25 French, Spanish and Portuguese gold coins were recovered.

A knobbed money box or pirlie pig with a vertical slot. The base has been almost completely broken off, but appears to have been flat. It is wheelmade, but with considerable knife-trimming on the lower body. It had been handled when the surface was wet, leaving ‘sticky fingers’ marks.

The hard, oxidised fabric, 7–10mm thick, has a fine texture, smooth feel and slightly rough fracture. The firing has been uneven, in that the outer surface is light reddish-brown to reddish-yellow (5 YR 6/4–6/6), the interior is red (2.5YR 5/6) to reddish-brown (5YR 5/3), and the core is light red (2.5 YR 6/8) to reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6). The 1–5% inclusions are sparse, fairly sorted, fine, sub-angular, translucent quartz, rounded haematite and sub-angular, black and white rock; there is a moderate amount of mica. There is a patch of a thin, dull, strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) glaze on one side.

‘Donations to the Museum’, *PSAS* 31 (1896–7), 237–8, fig 7; Fleming 1912, 352; Brown & Dolley 1971, SM2; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 17; Metcalf 1977, no 204.

NO 25 GIFFNOCK, RENFREWSHIRE

NMS : H.MEA 242

Illus 2

This pot was deposited 1320 × 1335 and was found in 1879. Most of the coins and brooches it contained ‘through mismanagement and concealment, got distributed and sold’ (Sim 1881, 464); 466, mostly English, sterling and four pieces of the pot survived.

The battered remains are of a medium, tripod jug or pitcher which has been reconstructed from four sherds. The neck had been broken off and the rough edges smoothed. Stumps of thumb pads and a crudely made hole in the pot’s side are all that remain of a spout, probably tubular and bridged. Thumb pads and the stump of a strap handle remain, not quite opposite the spout. Three roughly equidistant feet had been thumbed on to the side and base and the edges of the joins smoothed over. On the inside are fingertip impressions left when the feet were applied. The feet seem to have been deliberately knocked off at a later date, to just below the base level, allowing the vessel to sit firmly.

The hard, partially-reduced fabric, 4–10mm thick, has a fine texture, smooth feel and clean

break. The exterior varies from grey through light reddish-brown to reddish-yellow (5YR 5/1–6/4–6/6), the interior is light reddish-brown (5YR 6/4) and the core is dark grey (5YR 4/1). The 1–5% inclusions are sparse, well-sorted, fine and occasionally coarse, rounded haematite and a moderate amount of mica. Quartz does not appear to have been added as a temper, being extremely fine, and may be present in the clay itself. The external glaze is dull and abraded, and is olive-brown (2.5Y 4/4) to olive-grey (5Y 4/2). Below it, the outer surface is covered with medium to coarse grit and is pock-marked. These grits, seemingly quartz and haematite, are not apparent in the fabric itself.

Sim 1881, 464; 'Donations to the Museum', *PSAS* 16 (1881–2), 144; Thompson 1956, no 170; CBA 1964, no 71; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 3; Laing 1974, 236–9; Metcalf 1977, no 45.

The Giffnock vessel was, for a number of years, confused with two hoards found at Dumfries. This matter is clarified in the discussion below.

References for the Dumfries hoards (see Discussion).

'Donations to the Museum', *PSAS* 16 (1881–2), 144; Callander 1924, 160–84; Thompson 1956, no 139, pl XIIIb; Brown & Dolley 1971, SN15; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 3; Laing 1974, 236–9; Mayhew 1975, 33–50; Metcalf 1977, nos 43; Holmes 1994, 41–69; Holmes 1996b, 125.

NO 26 RENFREW (BELL STREET),
RENFREWSHIRE

NMS : H.KO 36a–b

Illus 3

This pot was deposited 1320 × 1322 and was found in 1963 in a cable trench, only a few inches from the surface. The weathered edges of old fractures suggest that the jug was badly damaged in antiquity, presumably without the hoard itself being disturbed. It had contained more than the 674 sterling, including a high

proportion of halfpennies and farthings, which were declared as Treasure Trove.

A medium, rounded jug with an everted rim, a slightly convex base and a strap handle. Most of the rim, neck and shoulder are missing, as is part of the handle, the stump of which remains on the jug body. There are throwing rings visible, both inside and out, and there is a small area of burning on the basal angle. The vessel has been restored from *c* 16 sherds.

The medium-hard, partially-reduced fabric, 4–11mm thick, has a fine texture, slightly rough feel and a rough fracture. It is wheelmade. The exterior varies from reddish-brown to reddish-yellow (5YR 5/3–6/6), the interior is reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6) and the core is grey (2.5YR 5/0) to reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6). The 20% poorly-sorted inclusions are abundant, translucent and white, medium, sub-angular quartz; moderate, medium to coarse, rounded haematite; sparse, fine to coarse, angular, black rock; and a moderate amount of mica. The external glaze is thin, sparse, patchy and dull. It is light olive-brown (2.5Y 5/4) with occasional areas of yellowish-brown (10YR 5/6). There is an internal skin of greyish-brown (2.5Y 5/2) corrosion left by the coins.

CBA 1964, no 68; Woodhead & Stewart 1966, 128–47; Robertson 1969, 72–74; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 5; Metcalf 1977, no 40.

NO 27 STORNOWAY, LEWIS, ROSS &
CROMARTY

NMS : H.MEK 86

Illus 6

This pot was deposited *c* 1670 (Stevenson *c* 1972/73) and was found in 1954 when accidentally unearthed by a boy climbing a steep bank in the grounds of Stornoway Castle, about 100 yards from the site of old Seaforth Lodge, which figured in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1719. It contained 120 silver coins.

A small, globular crogan with an everted, simple rim and a rounded base; it is handmade,

probably pinched. The vessel is intact, but with a badly-chipped rim. It has a knobbly, finger- and grass-marked surface, much of which has flaked off the base and parts of the sides. Grits of all sizes protrude through the smoothed surface. The interior is largely blackened, as are irregular areas on the exterior, especially at the neck and rim; this might have occurred during firing or when used for cooking purposes.

The medium-hard, partially-reduced, sandy fabric, 5–6mm thick, has an irregular texture, rough feel and very rough fracture. The exterior varies from very dark grey (5YR 3/1) to dark brown and brown (7.5YR 4/2–5/2), the interior varies from very dark grey (5YR 3/1) to pale brown (10YR 6/3) and the core is also very dark brown (7.5YR 3/0).

The 30% inclusions are abundant, very poorly-sorted, fine to coarse, sub-angular, translucent quartz and rock, some grains being as large as 7mm across; sparse, fairly-sorted, medium, rounded haematite; and sparse mica. It is grass-tempered, resulting in occasional voids in the fabric. It is unglazed.

Kerr 1955b, 249–50; Kerr 1956, 240; Brown & Dolley 1971, SQ1; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 21; Turner & Dunbar 1973, 155–87; Caldwell & Ewart (forthcoming); Cheape 1993, 109–28, fig 8.

NO 28 EDNAM, ROXBURGHSHIRE

NMS : K1997–406

Illus 3

This pot was deposited *c* 1322 (Holmes, 1996a) and was found in 1995, in excavations for foundations of a new house. There was some old, possibly plough, damage and more recent breakage by the mechanical excavator. The coins had been scattered on both occasions, but 1,472 sterling were recovered. This vessel has previously been published (Dean, 1996, 43, fig 1).

A squat, globular jug with a slightly convex base; the rim, neck and handle are missing.

There are wheelmarks at shoulder level, both inside and out, and a pronounced ridge runs around the base of the neck. Traces of the coins' impressions are visible in the base. It has been reconstructed from some 80 sherds.

The hard, partially-reduced fabric, 4–7mm thick, has an irregular texture and rough feel and fracture. The outer surface is light reddish-brown (5YR 6/4), the interior varies from light reddish-brown (5YR 6/4) through pinkish-grey (7.5 YR 6/2) to greyish-brown (10YR 5/2), and the core is dark grey (7.5YR 4/0). The 15% inclusions are abundant, poorly-sorted, very fine, sub-angular, translucent, and occasionally coarse white, quartz; a moderate amount of fairly-sorted, coarse, sub-round haematite; and sparse mica. The light olive-brown (2.5Y 5/4) external glaze covers only the upper half of the body, although there are splashes on the lower body and base.

Dean 1996, 43; Holmes 1996a, 33–59; Holmes 2004, 249.

NO 29 GRANGEMOUTH, STIRLINGSHIRE

NMS : H.MEA 280

Illus 6

This pot was deposited 1625 × 1675 (Nicholas Holmes, pers comm) and was found in fragments in 1899 during excavations for the Caledonian Railway, near Grangemouth docks. There may have been second vessel, since another, different, basal sherd was recovered at the same time. There was a large hoard of silver coins, of which 1,094 were recovered.

A wheelmade, medium, shouldered jug with a narrow, thumb base. It has been reconstructed from a number of sherds, with a little restoration; it is missing its rim and neck, and only a trace remains of the handle. At the ridged base of the neck there is an incomplete band of wavy decoration, made by a ten-toothed comb, above a horizontal, multi-grooved band. There is a little knife-trimming on the lower body.

The hard, reduced fabric, 5–10mm thick, has a fine texture, smooth feel and clean break. The outer surface varies from weak red (10R 4/2) through reddish-brown (5YR 5/4) to grey (2.5Y 5/0), and the interior and core are grey (2.5Y 5/0). The 1–5% inclusions are moderate, well-sorted, fine, rounded haematite and abundant mica. Quartz does not appear to have been added as a temper, being extremely fine, and may be present in the clay itself. The all-over, external glaze is streaky and uneven, and can be shiny or dull. It also covers the base, apart from a 80mm diameter stacking mark. It varies from dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) to light olive-brown (2.5Y 5/4).

A large sherd found with the jug may have served as a lid. It is part of the lightly knife-trimmed lower body and flat base of what appears to be a large jug. The fabric inclusions are identical to those of the jug, although the outer surface is reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6), the interior grey (10YR 5/1) and the core grey (2.5Y 6/0). The glaze is olive yellow (2.5Y 6/4).

‘Purchases for the Museum’, *PSAS* 34 (1899–1900), 15–16; Stevenson *c* 1972/73, no 19.

DISCUSSION

This group of hoard pots is particularly useful in that the date of deposition can help to provide a ‘hard’ date for the individual vessel, which can confirm that particular vessel forms and fabric types were in circulation by the time of their concealment. This, in turn, will be of significance in the interpretation of archaeological excavations where considerable reliance is placed on the pottery finds from stratified deposits. The coins themselves have been examined by numismatists who, by assessing the dates of minting and the amount of wear on the coins, can pinpoint a hoard’s date of deposition with a fair degree of accuracy. For instance, it has been suggested that the Renfrew find was a ‘double’ hoard, comprising a savings hoard at the very end of

the 13th century, with further coins added some 20 years later (Metcalfe 1977, no 40).

In Scotland there is a lack of known medieval kiln sites, so very little is known about where and when pottery was being made. Only four production centres have so far been identified: Colstoun, near Haddington, East Lothian (Brooks 1981, 364–403); Rattray, Aberdeenshire (Murray & Murray 1993, 148–69); Stenhouse, Stirlingshire (Hall & Hunter 2001, 97–168); and Throsk, Stirlingshire (Caldwell & Dean 1992, 1–46).

Considerable progress is being made on the chemical sourcing of both red and white wares by the application of inductively-coupled mass spectroscopy (ICPMS) (Hall et al 2000, 49–55). It is hoped that eventually this will lead to the location of missing Scottish production sites.

White Gritty Wares were widespread throughout Scotland during a period spanning the 12th to the 15th centuries and are the earliest professionally-made ceramics for domestic use (Caldwell 2006, 17). At Kelso, it was found in a pit pre-dating the construction of the infirmary in the latter half of the 12th century (Haggarty 1984, 397). The pottery has been found at such sites as Aberdeen (Murray et al 1982, 116–76), Ayr (Franklin & Hall, forthcoming), Finlaggan on Islay (Dean, forthcoming), The Hirsell at Coldstream (Dean, forthcoming)

A study has been carried out on sourcing Scottish White Gritty Wares and this indicates that production has been carried out in several areas of Scotland, from the Scottish Borders to the Moray Firth (Jones et al 2002/3, 45–84). Colstoun, near Haddington, East Lothian, is the only White Gritty Ware production site so far excavated (Brooks 1981, 364–403; Hall 2007, 35–73). However, recent discoveries at Ceres and Coaltown of Wemyss in Fife have suggested the presence of pottery production on or in the vicinity of these sites (Derek Hall, pers comm).

This fabric can vary from white to light buff and grey and, as its name suggests, contains considerable amounts of quartz and other grit. These inclusions would have been added as a

temper to enable better heat distribution when being fired. As a common vessel form was a cooking pot, this feature would have been essential. The vessels can have some glaze coverage, externally and internally, and this can vary from a pale yellow-green to a darker olive-green or even shades of brown.

The jugs from Galston and Penicuik are made from a White Gritty fabric. The vessel from Leith is a finer-textured variant (McAskil 1985, 416, no 53).

Redwares seem to have appeared a little later, in the mid-13th century, and are most commonly found along the east coast of Scotland (Hall 1998, 170–8). Kilns at Rattray, Aberdeenshire, produced Redwares from the 13th to the early 15th centuries (Murray & Murray 1993, 148–69). This orange-brown fabric initially contained quantities of quartz but, as firing methods improved and metal was being increasingly used for cooking pots, the gritting became less important. An olive-green glaze was often used. Stenhouse kilns, near Falkirk, were making jugs and storage vessels in a fine red fabric from the late 15th century into the 16th century (Hall & Hunter 2001, 97–168).

Vessels from Aboyne, Kinghornie No 2, Loch Doon, Bridge of Don and the pirlie pig from Perth, are in differing hues and grades of Redware. The drug jar from Dunbar is made in a finer fabric and its form is associated with the post-medieval period; this is confirmed by the early 18th century date of its deposition.

A reduced gritty ware also appeared in the 13th century. This is a reduced variant of the white gritty fabric. It is mostly grey in colour, often with a darker grey core, having been fired in a reducing atmosphere. Sometimes it has oxidised pale brown surfaces, indicative of variable firing conditions. In the case of jugs, marks on bases indicate that these were often stacked in the kiln and that air would have been excluded from the lower vessels, effecting a reduced interior surface. Reduced gritty wares occur widely in Scotland over a long period of time, and have been found at Fast Castle in Berwickshire in

deposits which could possibly be dated as late as the middle of the 17th century (Dean et al 2001, 61). However, no kiln sites have been identified as producing these vessels. This fabric, too, gradually became much finer in texture and, from the 17th to early 18th centuries, kilns at Throsk, near Stirling, were producing large jugs in a smooth, reduced, grey fabric as well as more open vessels in a slightly gritty, oxidised fabric (Caldwell & Dean 1992, 1–46). Glazes tend to be thicker and more even in coverage; they range from olive-green to a rich brown. The clays used by both Stenhouse and Throsk would both have come from the carse lands of the River Forth, thus resulting in similarly fine fabrics.

The vessels from Ayr, Closeburn, Ednam, Giffnock, Kirkcudbright, Lochmaben, Motte of Urr, Renfrew, Collin and a sherd associated with Kinghornie No 2 are of a partially or wholly reduced gritty fabric. The jugs from Forgandenny and Grangemouth are in the later, finer fabric, as is the pirlie pig from Barr.

The vessel from Grangemouth was almost certainly a product of the nearby Throsk kilns. With its combed decoration around the shoulder and a thumbled foot ring, it is a late example of a much earlier style. The fact that this has been combined with a jug in the typical Throsk shape of the 17th to 18th centuries is evidence for the vessel being produced relatively early in the Throsk sequence.

The inkwell or drug jar from Kilmarnock is made from a coarse, proto-stoneware which is not incompatible with its deposition date c 1671.

Aberdeen jug No 1 is made of Local Fabric No 3, sherds of which had appeared in late 13th to mid-14th century levels in previous excavations in Aberdeen; this thin-walled vessel was quite abraded, suggesting a considerable time lapse before its deposition sometime after 1346. Jug No 2 is of Local Fabric No 8, which had been found in mid to late 14th-century levels.

It is unlikely that the vessels used to contain the hoards would be sound, recently made pots. They would be old, damaged or otherwise

useless for their original function. Only three of the vessels have survived undamaged apart from some minor chipping and abrasion (Dunbar, Penicuik, Stornoway). The rest have all suffered breakages at some time or another, but it seems likely that ploughing or the act of discovery caused the damage in many cases.

Jugs from Aboyne, Bridge of Don, Ednam, Forgandenny, Giffnock, Grangemouth, Leith, Lochmaben, Motte of Urr and both vessels from Aberdeen showed damage to their necks or handles which would have prevented them from being used for their original purpose. On the other hand, the tops may have been deliberately removed in antiquity to allow easy access to the contents or for easier concealment.

The shape of some vessels would have made them vulnerable to damage, such as the tubular spouts of the vessels from Giffnock, Motte of Urr and Galston. Although the actual spouts are missing, their tops would have to have been almost level with the rim of the jug, as shown in the reconstruction drawings.

Ceramic spouted tripod pitchers seem to have originated in the Oxford/Bristol/Gloucester area in the second quarter of the 12th century (Jope & Hodges 1956, 81), although these were globular in form with short, stubby, tubular spouts. The taller, slender jug with the longer, bridged spout appears towards the end of the 13th century in northern England and Scotland (Laing 1974, 237). These longer spouts have been found at Bothwell and Kirkcudbright Castles, Glenluce and Melrose Abbeys (Cruden 1954, 151–2) and at Carlisle (Brooks 2000, 10 no 27, 14 no 58).

However, it is rare to find this form combined with tripod feet. It was not possible to ascertain the length of the feet, although they were unlikely to have been snapped off if they had been mere stubs. This is an unusual ceramic form for Scotland and is a copy of bronze spouted pitchers of 14th-century date (Laing 1974, 237), agreeing with the deposition dates of 1320–35 for the Giffnock pot and 1280–1360 for the Motte of Urr pot.

The small Galston jug's tubular spout has been incorporated into the vessel by a solid bridge, perforated by two small holes, perhaps for some form of suspension or to enable safer firing. A bridge, pierced by a single hole, occurs on a large jug from Melrose Abbey, of 13th- or 14th-century date (Cruden 1955, fig 2). Another, pierced by six holes, is on a 13th- to 14th-century jug from Spynie Palace (Crowley 2002, illus 93, no 9) and there is a further example, pierced by three holes, on a Medieval Redware jug from excavations at Elgin High Street (Derek Hall, pers comm).

Two vessels are of unusual form, and were perhaps of limited use. The above jug from Galston might have served as a feeding vessel for a child or an invalid. The jug from Penicuik, with its perforated sides, could be a small lantern or even a fuming pot for the burning of aromatic herbs to rid rooms of foul smells. The Lochmaben jug, too, is an uncommon form. A similar jug, also containing a hoard, was found 15 years previously at Neville's Cross, Durham; this hoard's deposition date was given as *c* 1380 (Evans 1889, 312–21).

The squat little jug from Bridge of Don is also of an unusual shape and is considered by Evans and Thain (1989, 335) to be a copy of a Northern European Stoneware drinking mug. They suggest that its deposition date of *c* 1467 implies an earlier date than previously thought for the fully developed Raeren drinking mug form and, interestingly, for its entering Scotland in large enough numbers for the making of local copies to be worthwhile. Certainly, imitations were being made in southern England in the later part of the 15th century, when the mugs were arriving in quantity from *c* 1485 to 1550 (Gaimster 1997, 97, 225).

The pirlie pigs or money boxes from Barr, Kirkcudbright and Perth are the only pots purpose-built for the accumulation of coins. Early forms are domed or bun-shaped and appear in 13th-century contexts. By the 14th century, forms become mammiform or onion-shaped. The coin slots are usually horizontal; vertical

slots appear to be more of an English form and rarely appear on Scottish vessels. Tapering and knobbed tops gradually develop and are present in assemblages from the Stenhouse and Throsk. It is curious that no pirlie pigs were identified in the Colstoun assemblage of White Gritty Ware.

The pot from Stornoway is interesting. It is a crogan or craggan – handmade without the use of a potter’s wheel and fired in the domestic hearth. The earliest literary description of the vessels’ manufacture and use occurs in the late 17th century (Cheape 1993, 112), although oral tradition puts it into the 15th and 16th centuries. The date of deposition of this pot takes its origin back to 1670. Recently, an assemblage from a site at Robert’s Haven in Caithness has produced crogan fabric in association with sherds from straight-sided Scottish White Gritty Ware cooking pots in a deposit that was radiocarbon dated to the late 12th or early 13th centuries (Derek Hall, pers comm). Crogan pottery was present in 13th- to 17th-century contexts in excavations at Finlaggan, Islay (Caldwell & Ewart, forthcoming), and was found during excavations at Breachacha Castle, Coll, in deposits which could be dated back to the 15th century (Turner & Dunbar 1973, 182). It is a continuation of a very early, possibly prehistoric, tradition and crogans were being made in the Hebrides as recently as the first half of the 20th century (Cheape 1993, 119) and it is interesting that this tradition has survived, possibly unbroken, in Argyll, the Western Isles, Caithness and Orkney. Perhaps this was because of the local economy and the lack of other resources, whereas those parts of mainland Scotland to the east and south may have turned to the use of other materials, such as wood, leather or iron, for their vessels.

It should be pointed out that there has been confusion between two hoards found at Dumfries. The first was found on 31 May 1878 during building work at the Travellers’ Rest Public House, but the second hoard, referred to in a letter of 26 June of that year, is unprovenanced; this matter has been clarified by Nicholas Holmes (1994, 41–69; 1996b, 125).

The first reference to a pottery vessel appears in a letter of 31 December 1878, and recent research by Holmes has concluded that this refers to the later hoard (Holmes 1996b, 125).

Further confusion has been caused by the association of what is here identified as the 1879 Giffnock hoard pot (MEA 242) with the Dumfries hoards. For many years it had been accepted that this was the pot which had contained the Dumfries coins. Examination of the reports of the time showed that all three hoards had been simultaneously acquired by the Museum; there was no reference to a pot being acquired along with the Dumfries hoards, but ‘pieces of the jar’ accompanied the Giffnock coins (‘Donations to the Museum’, *PSAS* 16 (1881–2), 144). A letter of 1 July 1879, written by Stair Agnew, Queen’s and Lord Treasurer’s Remembrancer, refers to four pieces of jar; the vessel MEA 242 comprises four joined sherds. The late R B K Stevenson had also observed the anomaly and his notes for an exhibition of coin containers show the first ‘Dumfries’ exhibit crossed out and ‘Giffnock’ inserted. Against the second ‘Dumfries’ exhibit are the words ‘pot destroyed’ (Stevenson *c* 1972/73), although evidence for his conclusion has not, so far, come to light. The exhibition display label for MEA 242 reads: ‘Truncated three-legged pot found at Giffnock with 466 coins of Edward I–III, and brooches etc (melted down when found) probably like those from Dumfries.’

It is interesting that more than half of the coin hoards date to the first half of the 14th century, with a gap until the middle of the 15th century. This is reflected in the overall picture of coin hoards in Scotland with the greatest number of finds being dated to the earlier half of the 14th century, which, in part, is due to the threat of invasion from England. The gap may be accounted for by the return of more peaceful times, together with a drop in the output of coinage by both Scotland and England. The Edwardian penny series, which had been a common currency in Scotland, came to an end about 1333 (Holmes 2004, 249).

By and large, the generally accepted periods of use of vessels with forms similar to those discussed here fit comfortably with the deposition dates.

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[Note: Where the information given varies from the printed source, this is due to amendments made by N M McQ Holmes and R B K Stevenson]