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A CIVIL WAR COIN HOARD, POSSIBLY FROM BUXTED (EAST SUSSEX), FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE 3RD EARL OF LIVERPOOL (1784–1851)

MURRAY ANDREWS

On 23 April 2024 the family collection of Charles Cecil Cope Jenkinson, 3rd Earl of Liverpool (1784–1851) and his relatives was sold by Chorley's Auctioneers of Prinknash Abbey, Gloucestershire.¹ Like many sales of country house collections, most of the lots offered at auction consisted of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century furniture, paintings, porcelain, and silverware, but a notable exception was provided by a small canvas bag described as containing fourteen 'Elizabethan and later coins, generally worn, including Elizabeth I shilling, King James I shilling, Elizabeth I sixpence 1571 (castle mint mark), four other Elizabethan sixpences, a Louis XV sol etc'.²

Further inspection of the coins by the present author confirmed that the contents of the bag can be divided into two separate parcels. The smaller parcel consists of five worn eighteenth-century coins and tokens, including a copper sol, half sol, and liard of Louis XV of France (1715–74), a silver grosso of Pope Clemente XIII (1758–69), and a silvered 'Spade Guinea' gaming token of George III (1760–1820). The larger parcel, meanwhile, consists of nine worn sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English silver coins, including a groat of Mary I (cat. no. 1), a shilling and five sixpences of Elizabeth I (cat. nos 2–7), a shilling of James I (cat. no. 8), and a shilling of Charles I (cat. no. 9). While the small parcel has the flavour of 'holiday change', the larger parcel is clearly of a quite different character, and its overall composition and condition is entirely suggestive of an otherwise unknown Civil War-era coin hoard.³ If the group represents the entirety of the hoard, its closing date can be placed in or after 1640–1, and its minimum face value can be set at 5s. 10d.. This would position it among the earliest, and certainly among the smallest, Civil War-era hoards known from England and Wales,⁴ with a face value roughly equivalent to a week's wages for a London building labourer in the early 1640s.⁵

If this parcel of nine coins is accepted as all or part of a Civil War-era coin hoard, where is it likely to have come from? As previously noted, the coins have a firm early provenance in the family collection of the 3rd Earl of Liverpool, and it seems *prima facie* likely that they entered the collection by virtue of having been found by builders or farm labourers working on the Earl's

¹ I am grateful to Chorley's for kindly allowing me to document, photograph, and publish the material described in this article.

² Chorley's, 23 April 2024, lot 339.

³ Close parallels include the hoards from Godsfield Row, Alresford (Hampshire; 17 AR, *tpq* 1640–1) and Great Horkesley (Essex; 5 AR, *tpq* 1641), which both consisted of shillings, sixpences, groats, and half-groats of the reigns of Mary I, Elizabeth I, James I, and Charles I: Dolley 1952–4; Andrews and Ghey 2020, 253, no. 195.

⁴ Besly and Briggs 2013, 175–7.

⁵ Boulton 1996, 288.

property – a common practice for Treasure Trove unearthed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.⁶ One might suspect, therefore, that the coins were found on land belonging to either of the Earl's two main seats of Pitchford Hall in Shropshire or Buxted Park in East Sussex. While the sixteenth-century Pitchford Hall would certainly be a romantic setting for a Civil War hoard – its former owner, Francis Ottley (1601–49), was a prominent Royalist, and held various posts as High Sheriff of Shropshire and Governor of Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth during the 1640s⁷ – it is nonetheless the least likely of the two candidates, as most of its historic contents were sold by Christie's more than three decades ago.⁸ Since many of the other lots sold by Chorley's, including the rich collection of oil paintings and watercolours, have documented early provenances at Buxted Park,⁹ a Sussex findspot seems rather more credible. Given what is known of the history of Buxted in the early nineteenth century, one possibility is that the coins were unearthed during the expansion of the park grounds in the 1830s, a process that entailed the deliberate relocation of Buxted village – whose former site is marked by the earthworks of housing platforms beside the now-isolated medieval church of St Margaret the Queen¹⁰ – to a new location 1.5 km east near Potter's Green.¹¹ Though by no means certain, this proposal would not only explain how the coins came into the Earl's hands,¹² but would also neatly situate the hoard within the broader pattern of Civil War hoard finds from England and Wales, roughly one-third of which have been discovered during the repair or demolition of historic buildings.¹³ Moreover, a link with one of Buxted's lost cottages could explain the hoard's relatively small size and low value: a reflection, perhaps, of a small hoard assembled by a tenant or poor husbandman of modest means. While speculation of this kind is seductive, it is far from conclusive, and in lieu of firm archival evidence there is much about this hoard that must remain unknown.

CATALOGUE

Wear and corrosion ratings follow the system established by the Swiss Inventory of Coin Finds, and are respectively graded for the obverse and reverse using a sliding scale from 1 (unworn/barely worn, no/very slight corrosion) to 5 (very heavy wear/corrosion).¹⁴

Mary I (1553–58)

1. Groat, 1553–4; Sole Reign, i.m. pomegranate (North 1960); obv.: MAR[IA D G ANG FRA Z HIB R]EGI, crowned bust l.; rev.: VERIT[A] S TEM [PO]RIS [F]ILIA, long cross over royal shield; Tower mint; die axis 150°; wt. 1.34 g; diam. 25 mm; wear 4/3; corrosion 1/1.

Elizabeth I (1558–1603)

2. Shilling, 1583–5; Sixth Coinage, i.m. A (North 2014); obv.: ·ELIZAB· D· G· ANG· FR· ET· HIB· REGI·, crowned bust l.; rev.: POSVI DEV· AD IVTORE M· MEV·, long cross over royal shield; Tower mint; die axis 150°; wt. 5.87 g; diam. 31 mm; wear 3/2; corrosion 1/1.

3. Sixpence, 1566; Third Coinage, i.m. portcullis (North 1997); obv.: ELIZABETH· D· G· ANG· FR· ET· HI· REGINA, crowned bust l. with rose to r.; rev.: POSVI DEV· AD IVTORE M· MEV· / 1566, long cross over royal shield; Tower mint; die axis 300°; wt. 2.91 g; diam. 26 mm; wear 2/2; corrosion 1/1.

4. Sixpence, 1568; Third Coinage, i.m. coronet (North 1997); obv.: ELIZABETH· D· G· ANG· FR· [E]T· HI· REGINA, crowned bust l. with rose to r.; rev.: POSVI DEV· AD [I]VTORE M· MEV· / 1568, long cross over royal shield; Tower mint; die axis 90°; wt. 2.84 g; diam. 25 mm; wear 2/2; corrosion 1/1.

5. Sixpence, 1569; Third Coinage, i.m. coronet (North 1997); obv.: ELIZABETH· D· G· ANG· FR· ET· HI· REGINA, crowned bust l. with rose to r.; rev.: [POSVI D]EV· AD IVTORE M· MEV· / 1569, long cross over royal shield; Tower mint; die axis 180°; wt. 2.91 g; diam. 26 mm; wear 3/2; corrosion 1/1.

⁶ Dawson 2023, 61–8.

⁷ Williams 2021, 512–13.

⁸ Christie's, 30 September 1992, lots 1–1047.

⁹ Jenkinson 1904.

¹⁰ Tebbutt 1972, 31–4.

¹¹ Cherry 1979, 276; Spence 1999, 287.

¹² The 3rd Earl seems to have had a particularly 'hands-on' approach to the northward expansion of the Buxted Park, and personally offered to resettle the displaced villagers in newly built houses located in other parts of the parish. When these proposals were rejected, he responded by refusing to repair the old cottages, which eventually went derelict and were abandoned by their residents: Spence 1999, 287.

¹³ Besly and Briggs 2013, 169.

¹⁴ Dubuis *et al.* 1995, 14–16, 19; <https://www.coinfinds.ch/services/supplement/introduction.html>.

6. Sixpence, 1571; Third Coinage, i.m. castle (North 1997); obv.: ·ELIZABETH· D'· G'· ANG'· FR'· ET· HI'· REGINA·, crowned bust l. with rose to r.; rev.: POSVI DEV'· AD IVTORE M· MEV'· / 1571, long cross over royal shield; Tower mint; die axis 60°; wt. 2.85 g; diam. 25 mm; wear 2/2; corrosion 1/1.

7. Sixpence, 1597; Sixth Coinage, i.m. key (North 2015); obv.: EL[I]ZAB'· D'· G'· ANG'· FR'· ET'· H[IB'· R]EGI', crowned bust l. with rose to r.; rev.: P[OSVI D]EV'· AD IVOTRE M· MEV'· / 1597, long cross over royal shield; Tower mint; die axis 0°; wt. 2.76 g; diam. 26 mm; wear 3/2; corrosion 1/1.

James I (1603–25)

8. Shilling, 1603–4; First Coinage, Second Bust, i.m. thistle (North 2073); obv.: ·IACOBVS· D'· D'· ANG'· SCO'· FRA'· ET· HIB'· REX·, crowned bust r. with XII to l.; rev.: ·EXVRGAT· DEVS· DISSIPENTVR· INIMICI·, royal shield; Tower mint; die axis 210°; wt. 6.08 g; diam. 31 mm; wear 2/2; corrosion 1/1.

Charles I (1625–49)

9. Shilling, 1640–1; Sixth Bust, Group G, i.m. star (North 2231); obv.: CAROLVS· D'· G'· MAG'· B[RI'· FRA'· ET] HI· RE[X], crowned bust l. with XII to r.; rev.: CHRISTO· AVSPICE· REGNO, long cross moline over royal shield; Tower mint; die axis 60°; wt. 5.55 g; diam. 31 mm; wear 3/3; corrosion 1/1.



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SINGLE COIN FINDS FROM SCOTLAND 2023

CARL SAVAGE

This is a summary of single coin finds that have been reported and recorded on the Scottish Treasure Trove Units Case Management System (CMS) (<<https://treasuretrovescotland.co.uk/search/>>) in 2023. The treasure law in Scotland is different to England in that all artefacts that cannot be traced to an owner are classed as 'bona vacantia' or ownerless goods. As such, under Scottish common law, they are claimed by the crown and must be reported to the crown through the Treasure Trove Unit for assessment. The artefact is assessed by the Treasure Trove Unit staff and those artefacts that are considered to make a valuable contribution to Scottish archaeology and history are claimed. The artefact is then, in most cases, allocated to a museum with the museum paying the finder the *ex gratia* award. If an artefact does not meet the criteria of making a valuable contribution to Scottish archaeology and history, it is disclaimed by the Treasure Trove Unit staff and returned to the finder with a certificate. All coin hoards are claimed, while the majority of single coin finds are disclaimed.

The Treasure Trove system has been in operation in Scotland since medieval times. The overall running of the Treasure Trove system is the responsibility of the Kings and Lord Treasurers Remembrancer (KLTR). The recommendations on the archaeological and monetary value is determined by the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP), which is a non-statutory specialist panel advising the KLTR. The day-to-day operations are overseen by the Treasure Trove Unit who submit claimed items to SAFAP and assess whether artefacts should be claimed or disclaimed by the crown.

TABLE 1. Roman single coin finds recorded from Scotland in 2023

Reece period		No. of coins
1	Pre-41 AD	1
2	41–54	0
3	54–69	1
4	69–96	0
5	96–117	3
6	117–38	3
7	138–61	5
8	161–80	1
9	180–93	0
10	193–222	0
11	222–38	0
12	238–60	1
13	260–75	2