

V.

NOTE ON A SMALL HOARD OF SILVER COINS FOUND IN EASTFIELD MOSS, FAULDHOUSE. BY GEORGE MACDONALD, LL.D., CURATOR OF COINS.

On 15th May 1913 a small hoard of silver coins, chiefly pennies of Edward I. and II., was discovered in Eastfield Moss, Fauldhouse, Linlithgowshire, by Henry Kirkhop, one of a number of Dutch workmen employed there by the Benhar Moss Litter Company, Ltd. Kirkhop was engaged in cutting a drain when he lighted on the coins, which were lying, apparently loose in the soil, about 10 inches below the surface. They may originally have been in a purse or pouch; but, if so, all traces of the containing material had disappeared. However that may be, the hoard consisted of thirty-seven pieces, all of which were handed over to the Exchequer and forwarded by the King's Remembrancer to the Museum for examination. They proved to be pennies of the following classes:—

SCOTTISH SINGLE-LONG-CROSS.		Durham (Ordinary)	. . .	1
Alexander III.	. . . . .	Bury St. Edmunds.	. . .	1
	1	Cork	. . . . .	1
EDWARD I. AND EDWARD II.		FOREIGN STERLING.		
London	. . . . .	Robert de Béthune	. . .	1
Canterbury	. . . . .			—
Durham (Ecclesiastical)	. . . . .			37

The Cork penny, which was in exceptionally fine condition, was retained for the Museum. None of the others were of sufficient interest to justify purchase. Many of them were much rubbed and worn—a circumstance which, taken along with the small size of the hoard, perhaps suggests that the coins represented some poor man's savings. A detailed scrutiny revealed wide differences of date. The majority of the Edward pennies were later than the great coinage of 1300. But one belonged to the issue of 1280, while there were three that must have been minted in 1281. On the other hand, two of those from the ecclesiastical mint at Durham bore the mark of Bishop Kellow (1311-1316), the remaining three showing the mark of his predecessor Beck (1283-1310). Nor were the Kellow pieces the latest: a penny of London and one of Canterbury were evidently contemporary with the Durham pennies of Bishop Beaumont (1317-1333). The sterling of Robert de Béthune (1305-1322) had been minted at Alost, being No. 14 in Chautard's *Monnaies au type esterlin*. On the whole, the most probable date of burial is *circa* 1320.

I may take this opportunity of referring those interested to vol. xiii. of the *Numismatic Chronicle* (Fourth Series), pp. 57-118, for a detailed analysis of the highly important Blackhills and Mellendean finds, which were recently described very briefly in the *Proceedings*, vol. xlv. p. 569, and vol. xlvi. p. 200.