4. A FURTHER NOTE ON THE BIGGAR FIND

In volume xcv of the Proceedings, pp. 309-10, I have listed nine sterlings of Alexander III, Edward I and Edward II which appeared to be the whole or part of a nineteenth-century find from near Biggar. The publication of that note evoked information from Mr W. F. Cormack, LL.B., in Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, regarding a further eleven coins which may have been part of the same hoard. He writes that the Mrs Miller who owned the other parcel (and whose correct name was Margaret Cuthbertson Pairman or Miller) was 'the sister of my grandmother Mrs Agnes Pairman or Cormack. These ladies both came from Biggar and were grand-daughters of Adam Wyld. Now there has been in my family for many years also a small parcel of similar coins, which I had always assumed were part of the Lochmaben hoard (Thompson 239). On questioning my father again the other day, he now states that he thinks our parcel probably came with his mother from Biggar.'

Mr Cormack has been kind enough to send me his parcel of coins for examination and to allow me to publish them here. He says that 'there was a further coin which I now realise to have been a foreign sterling' with 'an uncrowned bust facing and although I could not read the inscription, it appeared to start off "Io"'. This was probably a sterling of Jean II d'Avesnes, Count of Hainault (1280-1304), whose sterlings read *Iohs Comes Hanonie* on the obverse and are the commonest of all continental sterlings in Edwardian hoards.

The new coins may be listed as follows, with numbers in sequence from the earlier note and references as there to the classifications of Burns and Fox:

**English – Edward I and II**

10. (Edward I) B. class A 13 or 14 (?), Fox class III (drapery indistinct), early S. London.
11. —. B. A 16-17 (?), Fox III, late S (?crown of IIIg). London.
12, 13. —. B. A 24 or 26, Fox IVd. London, Canterbury.
14, 15, 16. (Edward I or II) B. A 40, Fox Xc-f, 1st bust. London (2), Canterbury.
18. —. B. A 44, Fox X1a (or b), hYB: London.
19. —. B. A 48, Fox XIV. London.

**Continental**

20. Facing bust sterling, 10 —;? Jean d'Avesnes, Count of Hainault, 1280-1304 (cf. Chautard, Pl. IV, 8).

These coins range in date over the same period, 1280 to c. 1317, as the other parcel, the early coins in Mr Cormack's being English but those in Mrs Meiklejohn's Scottish. There is a similar concentration of coins struck after 1300, 7 out of 9 and 6 out of 10. Both groups of coins have a dark tone and show signs of wear. There is every reason to suppose

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that they derive from the same hoard. Both parcels end with Burns A 48, Fox class XIV, which, though more common than Fox class XV, suggests that the hoard as discovered may not have contained the latter class. On the information now available, the hoard may be summarised:

BIGGAR, Lanarkshire (Culter?), mid-19th century
20 (+?) English, Scottish and Continental. Deposit c. 1320.

England (17), Edward I and II: London, Fox III (2), IVd (1), Xa/IXb (1), X (B. A 40, 3; A 41, 1), XIa or b (1, hYB:), XIV (2, one with broken E and cross of XIII); Canterbury, IVd (1), Xa (1), X (B. A 40, 1), XIII (1); Durham, X (B. A 41, 1); Newcastle, Xa (1).


Disposition to descendants of Mrs Margaret Miller, ob. c. 1893.

IAN STEWART