

THE BITTERLEY HOARD – PART THREE – THE COINS

June 29, 2012 Peter Reavill Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2012, Periods, Post Medieval Barrie Cook, Bristol, Britain, British Museum, British shilling coin, Coins, Coins of the pound sterling, Coins of the United Kingdom, Crown, Currency, Department of Coins and Medals, Edward VI, Finds Liaison Officer, Half crown, Henry Flynn, king, Numismatics, Penny, Peter Reavill, Portable Antiquities Scheme, Prince, Rupert, Scottish coinage, Shilling



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The coins in the Bitterley Hoard were analysed by Dr Barrie Cook and Henry Flynn of the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum.

The summary of their report can be seen below.



The hoard comprised:



Edward VI, silver: 1 shilling



Elizabeth I, silver: 46 shillings



James I, gold: 1 Britain crown;



James I, silver: 4 half-crowns and 20 shillings



Charles I, Tower mint, silver: 31 half-crowns and 33 shillings

Charles I, provincial mints, silver: 1 half-crown

Charles I, Scottish coinage, silver: 1 30-shillings and 1 12-shillings



In total there are 1 gold and 137 silver coins. The gold was of the crown gold standard, 22 carat fine, and the silver of the traditional sterling standard over 90% fine metal. The face value of the silver coins was £9 6s., including the Scottish coins in English value terms; the single gold coin was originally worth 5s. but was later re-valued to 5s.6d., giving a total for the hoard of £9 11s.6d.



The latest coin is the Bristol half-crown dated 1643, produced between July 1643, when Bristol fell to Prince Rupert for the king, and March 1644. This places this group among the large number of hoards that were deposited in the early years of the English Civil War, never to be recovered until modern times.



The range of coins present is entirely consistent with such a date, with the appropriate representation of Tudor and early Stuart material. Apart from the gold coin, there are only two denominations present, the half-crown and shilling, making this a batch of quite highly selected material, without even sixpences, usually the third denomination present in large numbers in mid-17th century coin hoards.

The full Catalogue can be found here:

<http://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/430201>

Further Reading:

Anyone interested in coin hoards from this period should have a look at the excellent study by Edward Besly.

E. Besly, 1988 *English Civil War Coin Hoards* British Museum Occasional Paper: 51 British Museum, London.

Peter Reavill

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