

Coins found at Diss.

COMMUNICATED BY

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HON. SEC.

IN the early part of the year 1871 some considerable alterations were made to a house situated in Mount Street, Diss, at about a hundred yards to the north of the church, since occupied by B. Button, Esq. The workmen employed by Mr. C. Bishop, builder, were removing the brick flooring of one of the ground-rooms, and excavating the soil beneath in order to insert the joists of a boarded floor, when they discovered the hoard of coins which is the subject of this notice. The house itself is a brick one, of no great antiquity, having probably been rebuilt within about two hundred years; but no doubt it occupies the site of an older one, probably of a timber house of the same date and class as some others yet remaining in the town of Diss,—as Mr. Leathers', corn merchant, St. Nicholas Street, and Mr. Abbot's bookseller, Mere Street, houses of the fifteenth century, some notice of which has already been made in these volumes.* Beneath the bricks they came upon the original hard clay floor, and in the centre of the room, at about eighteen inches from the surface, the remains of an earthen vessel were found, containing coins to the number of more than three hundred. On Mr. Bishop being informed of the discovery he obtained possession of most of them, and has kindly allowed me to catalogue

* Vol. ii. pp. 21, 22.

them. I have seen a few more that passed into the possession of other persons in the town, and on the whole the list is a tolerably complete one. There are no coins earlier than the reign of Henry IV., and possibly none so early, nor any later than that of Edward IV. It was just about at this time that the Church at Diss must have undergone extensive alterations, by the rebuilding of the aisles, side chapels, and chancel, probably by Philippa widow of Robert Fitz Walter, (and secondly of Edward Plantagenet, Duke of York) who held the manor in dower, 1415—1431; and as some substantial houses were also then erected in the town, it must have been a time of some activity in the place. For what reason this money was concealed it is, of course, impossible to say. It was safely stowed away beneath the floor, till those who could have revealed it passed away, and there it has remained while generations have lived and died above its hiding place, all unconscious of its story for four hundred years. It will be seen that, with the exception of two fine gold nobles, all the coins are of silver. None appear to be particularly rare, but the varieties are rather numerous, and having been evidently all deposited at the same time, and belonging to a limited range of years, it has been thought desirable that our Society should preserve a list of them.

The gold coins and the groats are mostly in very good preservation; but the pennies appear to have been much more in circulation, and are all more or less defaced. The description of some of these may, therefore, be incomplete, in consequence of their obliteration.

GOLD.

Coin.	Reign.	Obverse.	Reverse.	No. found.
Noble. (1)	Henry V.	The king standing in a ship, which has two ropes only; no flag at the mast; under the right elbow an annulet; on the bulwarks two lions passant guardant between three fleurs-de-lis. In the quarters of the shield on the king's arm, the arms of France are <i>three fleurs-de-lis</i> only. HENRIC. DI. GRA. REX. ANGL. Z. FRANC. DNS. HYB.	The usual floriated cross within a circle of eight foliations; between the four arms of the cross as many lions passant guardant, each with a crown above it. In the centre of the cross the letter H. IHC'. AVT. TRANSIENS. PER. MEDIVM. ILLORV. IBAT. <i>Mint mark</i> , a fleur-de-lis.	1
Noble. (2)	Henry V.	The same as No. 1, but with a flag at the ship's stern charged with the cross of St. George.	Same as No. 1.	1

SILVER.

I.—ANGLO-GALLIC.

Coin and Mint.	Reign.	Obverse.	Reverse.	No. found.
Groat. Calais. (1)	Henry VI. ?	The king's head, full-faced, crowned with an open crown fleury, within a double tressure of nine arches. An annulet on each side of the neck. <i>Mint mark</i> , a cross pierced (or more properly, four cruciform stops conjoined $\times \times \times$) HENRIC'. DI'. GRA. REX. ANGL'. Y. FRANC.	A Cross extending to the edge, through two circles of inscription; in the quarters of the cross three pellets; an annulet conjoins the three pellets in the 2nd and 3rd quarters. <i>Mint mark</i> as on <i>obv.</i> In outer circle, POSVI. DEVM. ADJVTORÉ'. MEVM. After POSVI, an annulet; after DEVM a double stop. In inner circle, VILLA, CALISIE. After each word a double stop.	72

Coin and Mint.	Reign.	Obverse.	Reverse.	No. found.
Groat. Calais. (2)	Henry VI. ?	Same type, but without annulets by the neck. <i>M. m.</i> , a cross flory. Between each word of the legend a cinquefoil pierced, except after <i>REX</i> , where is a lozenge.	Same type, but without annulets; and before <i>LA</i> a lozenge, after <i>LA</i> a double stop, after <i>POSVI</i> and after <i>CALISIE</i> , a cinquefoil pierced. <i>M. m.</i> as on <i>obv.</i>	19
— — (3)	—	Same as (2) except between each word a leaf.	Same as (2), except after <i>POSVI</i> and <i>CALISIE</i> a leaf.	16
— — (4)	—	Same as (2) except <i>m.</i> , which is the same as (1).	Same as (2), except <i>m.</i> as on <i>obv.</i>	7
— — (5)	—	Same as (3).	Same as (2), nothing after <i>POSVI</i> , before and after <i>LA</i> a double stop, nothing after <i>CALISIE</i> .	2
— — (6)	—	Same as (1), but on each side of neck three pellets, one and two. <i>M. m.</i> illegible.	Same as (5).	1
— — (7)	—	Same as (1).	Same as (1), but after <i>POSVI</i> three pellets, one and two. In the quarters of the cross an annulet conjoins the three pellets in the <i>third</i> quarter only.	1
— — (8)	—	Same as (1), but without the annulets.	Same as (2); after <i>VILLA</i> a double stop, after <i>POSVI</i> and after <i>CALISIE</i> a cinquefoil pierced, as (2).	2
— — (9)	—	Same as (1).	Same as (8).	2
— — (10)	—	Same as (3), with the addition of a single pellet on the dexter side of the neck.	Before <i>LA</i> and before <i>SIE</i> three pellets, one and two; after <i>LA</i> and after <i>SIE</i> a double stop.	1
Half-Groat. Calais. (11)	Henry	Same type as Groat, No. (1). <i>M. m.</i> , a cross.	Same as (1), spelling shortened to <i>CALIS'</i> .	7

Coin and Mint.	Reign.	Obverse.	Reverse.	No. found.
Penny. Calais. (12)	Henry	HENRICVS REX ANGLIE. <i>M. m.</i> a cross flory; after HENRICVS a leaf; after REX a lozenge.	VILLA CALISIE. <i>M. m.</i> a cross. Before LA a lozenge, after it a double stop, after CALISIE a rose or cinquefoil.	1
— (13)	—	Same as (12).	Same as (12), but with- out <i>m. m.</i>	1
— (14)	—	Same as (12), but after HENRICVS a rose, or cinque- foil.	Same as (13).	2

II.—ENGLISH.

Coin and Mint.	Reign.	Obverse.	Reverse.	No. found.
Groat. London. (15)	Henry	HENRIC. DR. GRA. REX. ANGLIE. Z. FRANC. A mullet on the left shoul- der. <i>M. m.</i> a plain cross.	After POSVI a small cross; after CIVITAS and after LONDON a double stop.	10
— (16)	—	Same as (15) without the mullet. <i>M. m.</i> a cross flory.	No marks in inner circle	1
— (17)	—	Same as (16).	Nothing after POSVI; a double stop after SIVI- TAS (so spelt) and after LONDON.	1
— (18)	—	Same as (1) but with- out annulets.	Same as (1) with annu- lets; a double stop after CIVITAS and LONDON.	7
— (19)	—	Same as (18) but <i>m. m.</i> a cross flory; on each side of the crown a pellet; on the king's neck a leaf.	No marks after any words. In the 2nd and 3rd quarters a small fourth pellet.	3
— (20)	—	Same as (19) no leaf on neck?	Same as (19), but the additional pellet is in the 1st and 4th quarters.	2
— (21)	—	Same as (6).	Same as (20) but before TAS and DON a double stop.	1

Coin and Mint.	Reign.	Obverse.	Reverse.	No. found.
Groat. London. (22)	Henry	Same as (1) without the annulets. <i>M. m.</i> a cross flory.	<i>M. m.</i> a cross. Before LON a leaf, after DON three pellets.	2
— — (23)	—	Same as (2).	Similar to (3); <i>m. m.</i> a cross, after POSVI a leaf, before LON a lozenge, after DON a leaf.	3
— — (24)	—	Same as (19), leaf on neck doubtful.	No marks.	3
— York. (25)	doubtful.	Defaced.	CIVITAS EBORAC. The D in ADVITOREM is an A. No marks.	1
— London. (26)	Edw. IV.	Defaced; coarse lettering; annulets between words; Roman N.	<i>M. m.</i> a cross; an annulet before DEVM.	4
— — (27)	—	<i>M. m.</i> a cross. On each side of the crown a pellet; on the king's neck a fleur-de-lis. <i>Rare.</i>	<i>M. m.</i> a cross. In the 2nd and 3rd quarters a small fourth pellet.	2
— — (28)	—	<i>M. m.</i> a rose, or cinquefoil, pierced; on each side of the king's neck four pellets. One has after FRANC. a double stop, and an annulet above. <i>Rare.</i>	<i>M. m.</i> as on <i>obv.</i> , after CIVITAS a lozenge.	2
Half-Groat. London. (29)	Henry	HENRIC' DI. GRA. REX. ANGLE. <i>M. m.</i> illegible; after REX three pellets.	POSVI, &c. <i>M. m.</i> a cross. CIVITAS LONDON. No other marks.	1
— — (30)	—?	Defaced.	After CIVITAS a cross stop.	1
— — (31)	—?	In a tressure of eleven arches. <i>M. m.</i> a cross; on each side of the crown an annulet.	No marks visible.	1
— — (32)	Edw. IV.	Similar to (26) Roman N.	Annulets between each word of outer circle.	3

Coin and Mint.	Reign.	Obverse.	Reverse.	No. found.
Half-Groat. London. (33)	Edw. IV.	<i>M. m.</i> a cross pattée; a double annulet between each word.	<i>M. m.</i> as on <i>obv.</i> After POSVI and after ADJUTORE' a double stop.	4
— (34)	—	Similar to (26).	Similar to (26). No annulet.	3
— (35)	—	Defaced.	Reads CIVITOR instead of —TAS.	1
— Canterbury. (36)	Hen.?	Defaced.	CIVITAS CANTOR. No marks.	1
Penny. York. (37)	Henry VI.?	Defaced.	An open quatrefoil in the centre of the cross. CIVITAS EBORACI.	10
— (38)	—	+ HENRICUS REX ANGLIE. A star or cinquefoil on each side of the crown; after REX a lozenge.	As (37).	4
— (39)	—	As (38).	As (38), but with an annulet after TAS.	1
— (40)	—	Same, but with a star on the dexter side of the crown, and an annulet on the sinister side.	Same as (37).	1
— (41)	—	After HENRICUS a double stop.	In the centre of the quatrefoil a pellet; after TAS a double stop.	21
— (42)	—	Same? Defaced.	After TAS an annulet, and another conjoining pellets.	1
— (43)	—	Apparently similar.	Nothing after TAS. Confused by double striking.	1
— (44)	—	A pellet on each side of the crown.	A pellet in the quatrefoil.	1
(45)	—	Like (41), but the general type is different.	3

Coin and Mint.	Reign.	Obverse.	Reverse.	No. found.
Penny. York. (46)	Henry VI.?	† HENRICUS REX ANGLI'. A pellet on each side of the crown, and a cross or square flower by each shoulder; a cross stop before REX and after ANGLI.	Quatrefoil in centre as before, but with a flower in it, a fourth pellet in the 2nd and 3rd quarters.	12
— Durham? (47)	—	A pellet on each side of the crown.	A knot in the centre of the cross, like an Arabic figure of 8. CIVI IVR	4
— — (48)	—	No pellets.	No knot.	1
— London. (49)	—	Before and after REX a star; a crescent on the neck.	After DON a star.	1
— — (50)	—	Before REX a lozenge (?) after it a double stop.	Annulets conjoining pellets in 2nd and 3rd quarters. After TAS a double stop.	1
— Durham. (51)	Edw. IV.	Defaced. One has an annulet after EDWARDUS. DVRV	14
— — (52)	—	Defaced.	An annulet conjoining pellets.	2
— York. (53)	—	<i>M. m.</i> a cross pattée; after ANGLIE a cross stop.	A quatrefoil in the centre.	7
— London. (54)	—	Defaced.	Annulets conjoining pellets in the 2nd and 3rd quarters.	3
— York. (55)	doubtful.	Defaced.	Quatrefoil in centre. Annulet conjoining pellets in the 2nd quarter only.	1
— St. Edmund's-bury. (56)	Edw. IV.	<i>M. m.</i> a cross pattée, ED	VILLA EDMVNDI.	1