

Discovery of Nine Examples of UK Merchant Countermarked Dollars from an Old Collection Held in the National Archaeological Museum, Naples, Italy.

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During a search of 'Google Books' using "Payable at Lanark Mills", on page 4 of the results was 'books.google.co.uk>books' then 'Catalogo del Museo Nazionale di Napoli – Page 196.¹

This catalogue was prepared by Giuseppe Fiorelli (Fig. 1)² for the medieval and modern coins in their collection and was produced in 1871.



Fig. 1. Giuseppe Fiorelli.

The coins that interested me were the UK merchant countermarked dollars which I found on a more detailed search of the downloaded book, and were listed under 'Spain' as follows:-

Acknowledgements. My thanks are due to the staff at the National Archaeological Museum, Naples but especially to Floriana Miele, Funzionario archeologo conservatore e Responsabile Ufficio Catalogo Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, who has been unstinting in her efforts on my behalf.

¹ Accessed on 23 August 2022.

² Giuseppe Fiorelli, (born June 8, 1823, Naples, Kingdom of Naples [Italy]—died Jan. 28, 1896, Naples), Italian archaeologist whose systematic excavation at Pompeii helped to preserve much of the ancient city as nearly intact as possible and contributed significantly to modern archaeological methods. Fiorelli's initial work at Pompeii was completed in 1848. Then, when he became professor of archaeology at the University of Naples and director of excavations at Pompeii (1860), he pioneered his meticulous method of studying archaeological strata; observation, recording, preservation (including building a museum), and reporting were its fundamental features. In particular he studied the materials and building methods utilized at Pompeii and published *Descrizione di Pompei* (1875; "Description of Pompeii"), among many other works. He was named director of the National Museum, Naples (1863), and director general of Italian antiquities and fine arts (1875–96).

Page 196 number 11836 (Obv) CAROLUS·III·DEI·GRATIA Bust of king laureate and under 1775 In countermark 5/ around which PAYABLE AT LANARK MILLS (Rev) HISPAN·ET IND·REX·Mo·8R·F·M· Shield with the coat of arms surmounted by the crown between two columns wrapped in bands in which PLUS ULTRA silver 38mm. (Manville code 069).³



Fig. 2. Fiorelli 11836, © Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Weight 26.70 grams.

Page 196 number 11845 (Obv) CAROLUS·III·DEI·GRATIA Bust of king laureate and under 1777 In countermark C...K // COTTON // WORKS // 1787 (Rev) HISPAN·ET IND·REX·Mo·8R·F·M· Shield with the coat of arms surmounted by the crown between two columns wrapped in bands in which PLUS ULTRA In countermark FOUR // SHILLING // AND SIX // PENCE silver 39mm. (Manville code 101).⁴



Fig. 3. Fiorelli 11845, © Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Weight 26.40 grams.

Page 197 number 11866 (Obv) CAROLUS·III·DEI·GRATIA Bust of king laureate and under 1784 In countermark 5/ around which PAYABLE AT LANARK MILLS (Rev) HISPAN·ET IND·REX·Mo·8R·F·M· Shield with the coat of arms surmounted by the crown between two columns wrapped in bands in which PLUS ULTRA silver 39mm. (Manville code 069).⁵



Fig. 4. Fiorelli 11866, © Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Weight 26.80 grams.

³ Manville, H.E., 2001. Tokens of the Industrial Revolution – foreign silver coins countermarked for use in Great Britain, c.1787–1828, BNS Special Publication 3 (London), pages 138-150. (Manville.)

⁴ Manville, pages 201-2.

⁵ Manville, pages 138-150.

Page 198 number 11897 (Obv) CAROLUS·IV·DEI·GRATIA Bust of king laureate and under 1790 In a small countermark SD with a larger S·D·&·COLEVERN·MILL· (Rev) HISPAN·ET IND·REX·TPS·(Potosi)·8R·P·R· Shield with the coat of arms surmounted by the crown between two columns wrapped in bands in which PLUS ULTRA silver 41mm. (Manville code 008).⁶



Fig. 5. Fiorelli 11897, © Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Weight 26.55 grams.

Page 198 number 11909 (Obv) CAROLUS·III·DEI·GRATIA Bust of king laureate and under (1792) In countermark 4/6 around which McFLE LINDSAY & COY GREENOCK (Rev) HISPAN·ET IND·REX·Mo·8R·F·M· Shield with the coat of arms surmounted by the crown between two columns wrapped in bands in which PLUS ULTRA silver 39mm. (Manville code 057).⁷



Fig. 6. Fiorelli 11909, © Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Weight 16.80 grams.

Page 199 number 11919 (Obv) CAROLUS·III·DEI·GRATIA Bust of king laureate and under 1794 In countermark 4/9 around which CROMFORD DERBYSHIRE plus PF inverted in field (?) (Rev) HISPAN·ET IND·REX·Mo·8R·F·M· Shield with the coat of arms surmounted by the crown between two columns wrapped in bands in which PLUS ULTRA silver 39mm. (Manville code 104).⁸



Fig. 7. Fiorelli 11919, © Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Weight 26.70 grams.

⁶ Manville, pages 19-24.

⁷ Manville, pages 111-13.

⁸ Manville, pages 203-7.

Page 200 number 11950 (Obv) CAROLUS·III·DEI·GRATIA Bust of king laureate and under 1801 In countermark J MUER M PAISI..... (Rev) HISPAN·ET IND·REX· TPS·(Potosi)·8R·P·P· Shield with the coat of arms surmounted by the crown between two columns wrapped in bands in which PLUS ULTRA In countermark three roses (feathers) silver 41mm. (Manville code 083).⁹



Fig. 8. Fiorelli 11950, © Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Weight 27.07 grams.

Page 200 number 11972 (Obv) CAROLUS·III·DEI·GRATIA Bust of king laureate and under 1807 In a small countermark SD with a larger S·D· & COLEVERN· MILL · (Rev) HISPAN·ET IND·REX· Mo·8R·T·H· Shield with the coat of arms surmounted by the crown between two columns wrapped in bands in which PLUS ULTRA silver 39mm. (Manville code 008).¹⁰



Fig. 9. Fiorelli 11972, © Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Weight 26.75 grams.

Page 201 number 12011 (Obv) FERDIN VII DEI GRATIA Bust of king laureate and under 1810 In countermark 5/- around which GLASGOW BANK (Rev) HISPAN·ET IND·REX· Mo·8R·H·J· Shield with the coat of arms surmounted by the crown between two columns wrapped in bands in which PLUS ULTRA silver 39mm. (Manville code 038).¹¹



Fig. 10. Fiorelli 12011, © Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Weight 27.00 grams.

⁹ Manville, pages 161-3.

¹⁰ Manville, pages 19-24.

¹¹ Manville, pages 82-4.

Coins from England/Great Britain were listed on pages 47, 207-211 and 233, described under Regno d'Inghilterra, Regno Unito Della Gran Bretagna/Inghilterra and Regno Della Gran Bretagna respectively. A large number of these coins was from the period of George III and would tie in nicely with the UK merchant countermarked dollars from the same period listed under 'Spain'.

I have received invaluable help from the staff at the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli and it would appear that the coins listed in this catalogue are still present in the museum's collection and can be traced using the above listed 'Fiorelli' number (generally represented by FM – for Fiorelli's Medieval and Modern Coins).

The above coins were located and photographed (Figs. 2-10). From the photographs I was able to check the details given in the catalogue.

When I tried to find provenance before 1871 (date of the catalogue) the reply I received indicated, in much detail, why this would not be possible and was as follows:-

I can provide you with some short information about the Coins Historical Collection of our Museum.

The coins you are interested in are part of the historical numismatic collection of the Naples Museum, which belonged to the Farnese family, dukes of Parma, and was established during the Renaissance by Fulvio Orsini, librarian and expert in ancient iconography in the service of the Cardinal Alessandro Farnese. In the first half of the eighteenth century, the collection came to Charles of Bourbon, son of Philip, king of Spain, and Elisabetta Farnese, first ruler of the Kingdom of Naples from 1734 to 1759. The collection was increased by means of subsequent purchases of further numismatic collections and from findings between the second half of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century. Francesco Maria Avellino, director of the Royal Bourbon Museum after Michele Arditi, undertook a first reorganization of the coin collection between 1819 and 1839, without finishing it. Instead, the work was completed by Giuseppe Fiorelli, inspector of the excavations from 1848 and first director of the National Museum of Naples, after the unification of Italy. From 1848 he managed to rearrange all the Greek, Roman, medieval and modern coins of the Bourbon collections and published them in four volumes between 1870 and 1876. Unfortunately, due to the disorder in which the coins were and the positivistic classification criteria typical of his time, the coins were grouped by chronology and by mint or issuing authority, losing the data about their geographical origin or collection provenance.

This reply is a perfect example of the detailed help I was offered at all times during my search of their records and the Fiorelli catalogue.

ANALYSIS.

The nine countermarked coin examples above (Figs. 2-10) give valuable information to support arguments for genuine countermarks.

For example there are two types of Lanark Mills 5/ countermarks known. The presumed later one has a die crack visible in the top of the upright of L in

PAYABLE. Neither of the two examples shown here (Figs. 2 & 4) display this die crack and are therefore believed to be earlier examples.

The Cark Cotton Works 1787 countermark¹² (Fig. 3) was first published in Britain by W.J. Davis in 1904. In this case the illustration was on a George III halfpenny.¹³ He then illustrated an example on a Spanish American 8 reales of Mexico City in the Spink Numismatic Circular for April 1907 p. 9761 where it is described as an 'unpublished countermarked coin'. It is exceptionally useful to have this Naples example with a provenance back to 1871. This find now takes the known population to fourteen, all dated before 1787 (the date on the countermark) except one dated 1792.

The Levern Mill 5/6^{14 15} (Figs. 5 & 9) population is now increased to nine, with only two being uncanceled. Both the Naples examples are cancelled with chisel marks over the value, with the smaller S.D within a roped circle¹⁶ left unmarked. It is this secondary mark that indicates the value at 5/6. It has been estimated that the issue period for this countermark is 1811-1812, so the host coin dates of 1790 and 1807 fall within these parameters. The privy marks in the countermark¹⁷ can just be discerned on Fig. 5, (raised triangular nicks round the outside of the main obverse mark above the stops between N·M and L·S and the small ° of C°) but for Fig. 9 only the raised triangular nick over the small ° of C° can be seen with any clarity.

Fig. 6, McFie Lindsay,¹⁸ raises the population to twenty nine with host coin dates between 1780 and 1819. It is also clear to see the incuse lines from outside the G of Greenock, over the * to the M of McFie, and another above '& CO' found on all considered 'genuine' examples.¹⁹ However the weight has been confirmed as 16.80grams, which is extremely light by any standards. The description calls it silver so this may need further research.

Fig. 7, the Cromford 4/9²⁰ is a really interesting example to see the end of the base of M touching the base of the F in Cromford, confirming what issue is now considered 'genuine' as opposed to the other issues designated by Manville as types X104a and X104b.

Fig. 8, is a cancelled example of J. MUIR Manufr· PAISLEY · around 5/. (Obverse) and the Prince of Wales plumes bearing the motto ICH DIEN (Reverse). The

¹² Eric C. Hodge, Cark Cotton Works, Spink Numismatic Circular, April 2001, pp 93-5.

¹³ W.J. Davis, 1904, The Nineteenth Century Token Coinage, London, p. 15 (31), plate K, 1.

¹⁴ Eric C. Hodge, Levern Mill – A New Countermark Variety or Different Die?, Spink Numismatic Circular, August 2006, pp 200-2.

¹⁵ Eric C. Hodge, Levern Mill – Merchant Countermarked Dollar – Another find, Spink Numismatic Circular, September 2013, pp 66-7.

¹⁶ Eric C. Hodge, New Value on a Levern Mill Countermarked Dollar, The British Numismatic Journal 88, 2018, p 203, note 3.

¹⁷ Eric C. Hodge, Secret Marks on Merchant Countermarked Silver Coins, The British Numismatic Journal 79, 2009, pp 239-240.

¹⁸ Eric C. Hodge, An Unusual McFie Lindsay Merchant Countermark, Spink Numismatic Circular, December 2011, pp 137-8.

¹⁹ As for 17 above, pp 242-243.

²⁰ Eric C. Hodge, Cromford Derbyshire Countermarks – The Order and Method of Over-punching, BNS Research Blog, number 0017, December 2018.

description in Fiorelli is a fairly good attempt to read a heavily cancelled mark, but the three roses on the reverse should have been feathers.

Fig. 10, is a good example of a Glasgow Bank 5/- of what is considered 'genuine' with the large cross between the K of BANK and the G of GLASGOW. This coin raises the population known to seventeen with four hosts now dated 1810 the latest date recorded. This example also shows, on the reverse, portions of the lettering, from the obverse mark, that had previously been struck in error onto the anvil base, similar to, if not, a brockage. This brings the number showing this damage to six.

SUMMARY.

The internet can be a capricious source of information but in this case has proved invaluable. Allowing contact to be made with the Museum holding the coins and linking this with an original catalogue prepared in 1871. Being able to receive photographs of the coins in question shows the value of historic collections as sources of information as well as repositories of important objects.²¹



²¹ Catherine Eagleton, *Collecting America: Sarah Sophia Banks and the 'Continental Dollar' of 1776*, The Royal Numismatic Society, London, 2014, page 300.