

A Token of Appreciation for a Jacobean Hoard⁽¹⁾

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At the monthly meeting of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, on January 4th, 1848, the Rev. C. Wellbeloved gave a short notice on the discovery of a hoard of silver coins found at Deighton, a few miles south of York⁽²⁾. The full note was published in the proceedings for the year, reproduced below⁽³⁾.

Mr. Wellbeloved drew attention to a donation from Lord Wenlock, of 57 English Silver Coins, part of a hoard discovered a few months ago, on digging for the foundation of a new wall adjoining the dwelling-house on one of his Lordship's Farms, at Deighton, about four miles from York. The coins were contained in an earthen vessel, which was broken by the pickaxe, but the contents were carefully collected by the tenant and conveyed to Lord Wenlock. The hoard consisted of 348 English Silver Coins, comprising 60 groats of Mary, 18 of them bearing the legend of PHILIPPVS ET MARIA; 24 groats of Elizabeth, 55 shillings of Elizabeth, of eleven or twelve different coinages; 134 sixpences of Elizabeth, of 22 different coinages, ranging from A. D. 1561 to A. D. 1602; 49 shillings and 26 sixpences of James I. The shillings belong to the three first years of his reign, the sixpences begin with the first and end with the tenth year, and are of seven different coinages.

The latest date of any coin in the hoard being A. D. 1613, it is probable that these coins were deposited in the place in which they were found, not long after that year: the sixpence last coined appears to have been little worn by use.

In general, the coins are in pretty good condition, excepting the groats, which are all very much defaced.

Mr. Wellbeloved mentioned, that the honesty of the tenant has been rewarded by his noble landlord, by the present of a silver cup, to which some of the Coins are attached, forming appropriate ornaments.

Fig. 1. Discovery of silver coins at Deighton⁽³⁾.

Of the pieces donated to the Yorkshire Philosophical society, some can now be identified amongst the holdings of the Yorkshire Museum, York. A short note was published in 1992 retelling the story and reconstructing the hoard⁽⁴⁾. The silver cup donated by Lord Wenlock to the finder was noted, but its location was not known at the time. This might have been the end of the story until a chance find at auction, shown in figure 2⁽⁵⁾.



Fig. 2. Silver tankard set with coins from the Deighton hoard. 10.2cm high, base 9.0cm, rim 8.2cm.

The engraved legend is as follows "COINS FOUND ON THE FARM OCCUPIED BY MR JOHN RICHARDSON AT DEIGHTON / AND PRESENTED TO HIM BY HIS LANDLORD LORD WENLOCK, AUGUST 1847". This adds a first name to the tenant farmer. The auction description also suggests the maker of the tankard as Thomas Wallis, but the date letter is not visible on the hallmark.

A full listing of the coins can be found in the Appendix.

Also in the lot was a 25cm diameter "Victorian silver salver by Samuel Roberts & Charles Belk, Sheffield, 1869."

The border is mounted with James I and Elizabeth I shillings and the reverse has the following inscription "*This waiter weighing 17oz 14dwts was made to receive 16 old Coins of unknown Assay.*"



Fig. 3. Silver salver set with shillings of Elizabeth I and James I. 25cm diameter.



Fig. 4. Silver salver from above showing the sixteen shillings. See Appendix for listing.

The initials “*I (or J) EHF*” are engraved in the middle of the salver, which I have been unable to trace in relation to the finders of the hoard or Lord Wenlock.

Adding up the numbers in figure 1 gives a hoard face value of £10 12s. It was noted in the original report⁽¹⁾ and later⁽³⁾ that the newest coins were only slightly underweight. Of the surviving coins, either attached to the tankard and salver or in the Yorkshire Museum collection, all have been lightly clipped to remove the outer circle of beads. In a few cases, the clipping reaches into the legend.

From the auction catalogue, the total weight of the salver and tankard was 28oz or about £7 5s of full weight silver coins. I make the weight 899g (28.9 troy ounces), so quite close.

It is looking likely that after the 57 coins were donated to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, the rest of the hoard was melted, some immediately for the tankard and the rest 22 years later for the salver. The two items were brought together at some stage and housed in a blue velvet lined and fitted box with which they were auctioned.



Fig. 5. Presentation case for the tankard and salver,

References and Acknowledgements

- (1) A shorter version with fewer and smaller illustrations was originally published in the *Token Corresponding Society Bulletin*, v12n4, September 2017, pp131-133. Recently uploaded to the TCS website: https://thetokensociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Volume_twelve-1.pdf
- (2) *Yorkshire philosophical society annual report*, 1848 p9 and p21.
<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/2482#/summary>
- (3) *Proceedings of the Yorkshire philosophical society*, 1847-1854, p77.
<https://archive.org/details/proceedingsofyor01york>
- (4) R. Smith and C.P. Barclay. A Jacobean hoard from Deighton, North Yorkshire. *SNC* September 1992, pp228-229.
- (5) Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers, Stansted, Essex. Silver and jewellery, 20th May 2014, Lot 158.

Thanks to Andy Woods, Curator of Numismatics, at York Museums Trust for showing me the remnants of the Deighton hoard in January 2015.

Appendix – Listing of mounted coins

On the tankard

James I shilling, obv. 4th bust, mm Rose.
James I sixpence, rev. 1604, EXURGAT legend, mm Lis.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm Bell.
James I sixpence, rev. 1603, QVAE DEVS legend, mm Rose.
James I shilling, rev. QVAE DEVS legend, mm Lis.
Elizabeth I sixpence, rev. 1667, mm Coronet.

On the salver

Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm Woolpack.
James I shilling, obv. 3rd bust, mm Rose.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm Tun.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm 2.
James I shilling, obv. 5th bust, mm Key.
James I shilling, obv. 3rd bust, mm Rose.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm Key.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm Scallop.
James I shilling, obv. 5th bust variety, mm Key.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm Martlet.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm Tun.
James I shilling, obv. 3rd bust, mm Rose.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm Woolpack.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm damaged.
James I shilling, obv. 4th bust, mm Rose.
Elizabeth I shilling, obv. mm damaged.

