

Numismatic Society of Ireland
Occasional Papers First Volume 1965

C O N T E N T S

Emil Szauer OP 1. SOME REMARKS ON COUNTERMARKED IRISH COINS

William Dick OP 2. SOME EARLY REFERENCES TO HIBERNO-NORSE COINAGE

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF IRELAND DIGITAL OCCASIONAL PAPERS

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Issue Number	Year of Issue
1.	1965

Occasional Paper No. 1, 1965
Some Remarks on Countermarked Irish Coins

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Numismatic Society of Ireland

The writer's conception on the subject, has been expressed in an earlier paper (see: Numismatic Society of Ireland Bulletin No. 8).

Still, a lot remains to be done, in this so far neglected subject, to enable us to compile a permanently acceptable listing based on documentary evidence. There is no doubt, some of the pieces in our list, and others, not yet included, played a very important role in the everyday lives of the local inhabitants, and as such, they deserve our attention.

These pieces are very unattractive, and of little value, which accounts for their neglect, and are usually discarded as junk. Countermarking in Ireland was introduced in the past for much the same reason, as in other countries, namely to relieve local needs in metallic currency.

The greater number of countermarked coins in Ireland are unofficial, and were issued by local traders to remedy the Government's failure to provide the essential small change required in local trade.

Regarding these countermarked tokens, very little is known, which would enable us to classify these pieces as to their merit. It is hoped, in the future that a greater effort will be made by other students of Local Numismatics, to widen our knowledge, and appreciation of this much neglected coinage.

NO.	TYPE OF COIN	TYPE OF COUNTERMARK	REMARKS
1	Henry VIII Irish Harp Groat	"4 pellets in a quatrepil"	P.C. Britton Coll. now Ulster Museum
2	Edward VI debased shillings, to pass for sevenpence Irish	"Portcullis"	Decreed by Proclamation Dec. 1560
3	Edward VI debased shillings, to pass for threepence halfpenny Irish	"Greyhound"	Decreed by Proclamation Dec. 1560
4	Elizabeth I hammered sixpence, 1569, m.m. coronet	"Escallop-shell"	Hawkins, Silver Coins of England, 1887, page 307
5	Kilkenny halfpenny	"Five castles arranged like a cinquefoil in a beaded circle"	Nelson, page 179
6	Ormonde sixpence	"K" within a shield	C.A. Watters Coll. BNJ Vol. II page 332
7	James I base shilling	Castle over the letter 'K' all within a shaped shield	Nelson, page 179
8	Kilkenny halfpenny	Castle over the letter 'K' all within a shaped shield	Nelson, page 179
9	Worn copper coin	"KILKENNY" in relief in an oblong indent	Nelson, page 180
10	Elizabeth I shilling m.m. woolpack, 1594 hammered issue	"CORKE" in an oblong indent	Nelson, page 182
11	Philip of Spain 8 Maravedi	"CORKE" in an oblong indent	Nelson, page 182
12	Philip of Spain 8 Maravedi	"CORK(E)" in larger letters in an oblong indent	Nelson, page 182
13	Copper coin	"CR" beneath a crown within a circular indent	Nelson, page 181

Some Remarks on Countermarked Irish Coins

NO.	TYPE OF COIN	TYPE OF COUNTERMARK	REMARKS
14	Charles II copper opsidional coin of Ireland	"CROWN" in a circle	Lindsay, Supl Pl. 4, No. 90 A specimen in the Szauer Coll.
15	17th Century trade token of Bandon 1670, W.72	"B.B." (Bandon Bridge)	
16	17th Century trade token of Birr, W.115	"HAPNEY"	
17	18th Century trade token of Clonakilty, W.167	"I.B. "FARTHING"	
18	19th Century trade token of Clonmel, W.187	"1/2" over the 1d, to make it pass as a halfpenny	Szauer Coll. (2)
19	A rough jagged piece of brass, oval shape, weight 56 gr., W.200	"CORKE" and a crown over, with a small double circle stamped near the edge	
20	Copper and brass blanks of farthing size	"CORKE" in italics under a lion's head, below two branches, all within a beaded circle	Nelson, page 182 Ulster Museum
21	17th Century trade token of Dublin, W.205	"CORKE" in italics under a lion's head, below two branches, all within a beaded circle	R. Day, N.C. Vol. II, Part IV. 3rd Series 1882
22	17th Century trade token of Cork, W.206	"CORKE" in a small beaded cross	
23	17th Century trade token of Dublin, W.354	"AK"	
24	17th Century trade token of Dublin, W.335	"TALOUGH" = T.C. on a label	W. 704
25	17th Century trade token of Dungarvan, W.430	"SUN"	Szauer Coll. [e]
26	17th Century trade token of Charleville, W.165	"CHARLEVILLE"	Szauer Coll. [e]
27	17th Century trade token of Kilkenny, W.532	"HAPENNY"	
28	17th Century trade token of Kilworth, W.541	"C's" interlinked	
29	18th Century trade token of Kilworth, W.541	"C's" interlinked and a lion rampant	
30	17th Century trade token of Youghal, W.768	"YOUGHAL" and "IL" conjoined	Szauer Coll.
31	17th Century trade token of Youghal, W.772	"LEOPARD'S HEAD"	
32	197th Century trade token of Youghal, W.762	"FARTHING"	
33	17th Century trade token of Waterford, W.737	"fleur de lys"	
34	George III , 1/2d of 1774-1783	Obv. "IOHN OVEREND" x P x III 1736 Rev. I PROMISE TO PAY THREE PENCE	Davis 233/28 Dr. Agnew Coll.
35	Glasgow 1/2 token of 1791, D&H 5d	Obv. "YOUTH AND BEAUTY" = a peacock L., 2P behind Rev. I/PROMISE/TO PAY THE/BEARER TWO /PENCE ALLEX/McCLURE/ BELLYLONA/GHAN/1735	Davis 231/18 Ulster Museum
36	George III 1806, 1/2d	"1 MITCHELL H DOWN"	Davis 135/27

Some Remarks on Countermarked Irish Coins

NO.	TYPE OF COIN	TYPE OF COUNTERMARK	REMARKS
37	18th Century trade token of Dublin (Camac)	"MENLOUGH CASTLE 6D"	Batty Vol. II page 385 No. 3890, S.N.C. 1922 March/ April, 4020 Col. 184
38	George III 1806 1/2d	A castle within gateway, above "INNISKILLING" below VI (with dragoons?)	Cockayne sale 1946, lot 203, now Szauer Coll.
39	George III 1/2d	"PAYABLE AT MRS. SOMERVILLS DOWN"	Davis 120/26, Ulster Museum, Dr. Agnew & Lane Colls.
40	Worn Copper 1/2d	"SOMERVILL DOWN"	S.N.C. April 1933, page 131
41	George II 1/2d	" A RENFREW SOCIETY"	H.D. Gibbs sale 1960, lot 275
42	17th Century farthing token, D&H. 396, A.178	"S"	S.N.C. Aug. 1912 1040 20
43	18th Century farthing token, D&H. 394	"BEASLEY" in a narrow rectangular stamp	Macalister 729
44a	Worn Copper, size of a farthing	"BEASLEY" over "SS"	Szauer Coll.
44b	Worn Copper, size of a farthing	"CARTY"	Szauer Coll.
45	Lead token, D&H 428	"PF"	
46	Lead token, D&H 443	"RW" in script, on a rectangular label	
47	Lead token, D&H 452	"DOB" stamped in an oblong label with engrailed border	Ulster Museum
48	Septagonal piece of lead weight, 52, 22 qr.	"I.T." within a border of dots	Szauer Coll. C/M. similar to D&H 457
49	Lead of all shapes and sizes D.&H. 460	"GN"	D.&H. page 518
50	18th Century trade token 1760, Francis McMinn	"F"	Davis, page 239 Szauer Coll.
51	George III 1/2d	"TATE & LILL LOUTH"	
52	George III 1797, 1d	"BIGGER/BOLTON/STREET CUTLER/ DUBLIN"	Batty Vol. I No. 900
53	George III 1797, 1d	"BIGGER DUBLIN"	Batty Vol. I No. 901
54	19th Century Token, 1d Davis 50/150	"BIGGER DUBLIN"	Lane Coll.
55	George III 1797, 2d	Obv. : "DP"; rosette Rev. : "DP"	Szauer Coll.
56	George III 1797, 2d	Obv. : "00"; rosette Rev. "00"	Szauer Coll.
57	George III 1807, 1d	"WP" in an engrailed oblong indent	Szauer Coll.
58	George III 1797, 1d	"ID" in an engrailed oblong indent	Szauer Coll.
59	Worn copper coin	"S.WILSONNS" twice	Szauer Coll.
60	George IV Irish 1d	"A.E."	Szauer Coll.
61	George III Irish 1/2d	"CHRISTIAN/COLE: ALLEY"	Szauer Coll.
62	George III Irish 1/2d	"HEADEN" in an engrailed oblong indent	Szauer Coll.
63	George III Irish 1/2d	"T.HYNES"	Szauer Coll.
64	George III Irish 1/2d	"R.DELAHOYD"	Szauer Coll.
65	George III Irish 1/2d	"HAMBILTON"	Szauer Coll.
66	George III Irish 1/2d	"R.PARKE" in an oblong indent	Szauer Coll.
67	George III Irish 1/2d, 1775	"ID" overstruck with crude sailing ship below "J.DOLLARD"	Szauer Coll.

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68	George III Irish 1/2d, 1781	Crude sailing ship below, "ID" overstruck "J.DOLLARD"	Szauer Coll.
69	18th century Irish 1/2d token 1794	"I.DOLLARD"	Szauer Coll.
70	George III Irish 1/2d 1782	"M.GRIFFIN"	Szauer Coll.
71	George III Irish 1/2d 1782	"J.FITZ.P"	Szauer Coll.
72	George III Irish 1/2d 1776	"J.FITZ.P"	Szauer Coll.
73	George III Irish 1/2d 1781	"B.DENNIS"	Szauer Coll.
74	Worn copper coin	"KEENA"	Szauer Coll.
75	George III Irish 1/2d 1782	"RIS..."	Szauer Coll.
76	George III English 1/2d	"P.COFFEY"	Szauer Coll.
77	George III Irish 1/2d	"T.KELLY"	Szauer Coll.
78	George III Irish 1/2d 1781	"T.KELLY"	Szauer Coll.
79	George III Irish 1/2d 1772	"DISON"	Szauer Coll.
80	(<i>sic</i>) George III Irish 1/2d	"J.CODY"	Szauer Coll.
81	18th Century English token 1/2d	"H. PERRY"	Szauer Coll.
82	George III Irish 1/2d	"H. PERRY"	Szauer Coll.
83	George III 1797 1d	"CO.ARMAGH"	Ulster Museum
84	George III 1797 1d	"D.ALLEN /IMPLEMENT /MAKER/ MONEYMORE"	Ulster Museum (28) David Allen is given in Belfast & Counties Directories 1856 & 1868
85	George III 1806, 1d	Obv. "(CAVA)N" Rev. "MURRAY" and "CAVAN"	Ulster Museum
86	Rectangular copper disc 20 x 17mm	"W.COOKE" 20"	Macalister 940
87	Worn copper coin	"MR, JD (V)ALLENTIN"	Macalister 941
88	George II English 1/2d	"A" in square indent	Szauer Coll.
89	18th Century English token 1/2d	"A" fleur de lys "L"	Szauer Coll.
90	George II English 1/2d	"A" fleur de lys "L"	Szauer Coll.
91	18th century I Irish token 1/2d	"BB"	Szauer Coll.
92	George II English 1/2d, 1721	"DM"	Szauer Coll.
93	George III Irish 1/2d 1782	"ED"	Szauer Coll.
94	18th Century English token 1/2d	"EP"	Szauer Coll.
95	George II worn 1/2d	"GH"	Szauer Coll.
96	George III Irish 1/2d, 1781	"ID"	Szauer Coll.
97	George II English 1/2d, 1740	"IR" in square indent	Szauer Coll.
98	George III Irish 1/2d, 1782	"JA"	Szauer Coll.
99	George III Irish 1/2d, 1775	"J ✕ T"	Szauer Coll. (2)
100	George III English 1/2d, 1775	"J ✕ T"	Szauer Coll.
101	George III Irish 1/2d, 1782	"J ✕ T"	Szauer Coll.
102	George II English 1/2d, 1733	"K"	Szauer Coll.
103	18th century Irish token 1/2d	Obv. : "MD", Rev. : "MD"	Szauer Coll.
104	18th Century English token 1/2d	"M.G."	Szauer Coll.
105	18th century Irish token 1/2d	"M.G."	Szauer Coll.
106	George II Irish 1/2d, 1742	"NO 66"	Szauer Coll.
107	18th century Irish token 1/2d	"PK"	Szauer Coll.
108	18th Century English token 1/2d	Obv. "TH" "S" retrograde in shaped indent Rev. "IH"	Szauer Coll.

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NO.	TYPE OF COIN	TYPE OF COUNTERMARK	REMARKS
109	George III English 1/2d, worn	Obv. Rosette, Rev. "HRH" monogram	Szauer Coll.
110	18th century Irish token 1/2d	"SM"	Szauer Coll.
111	18th century Irish token 1/2d	"S" crude	Szauer Coll.
112	George III Irish 1/2d, 1766	"SS"	Szauer Coll.
113	George III English 1/2d, 1806	Crudely crowned "TE"	Szauer Coll.
114	18th Century English token 1/2d	"TF"	Szauer Coll.
115	19th century Irish token 1/2d	"TR"	Szauer Coll.
116	George III English 1/2d, worn	"W.H"	Szauer Coll.
117	George III Irish 1/2d, worn	"W.H" crude	Szauer Coll.
118	George II English 1/2d, worn	"W" in a shaped indent	Szauer Coll.
119	Halfpenny 1683	"A" in fleur de lys "1"	H. D. Gibbs sale 1960 No. 276
120	George I 1/2d. 1723	"MI" script	No. 277
121	George II 1/2d. 1751	"W-DOIBY"	No. 278
122	George III 1/2d. 1769	"F" in notched square	No. 279
123	George III 1/2d. 1781	"J.M.P."	No. 280
124	Worn 1/2d	"R.S./& Co." in a star	No. 281
125	Worn 1/2d	Three swords over three "RI"	No. 282
126	A rectangular disc of copper, 19x17mm	"IW"	Macalister 941
127	Flat thin copper disc, 18mm	"MMMMM" a small 1 "M" and a "q"	Macalister 942
128	A rectangular disc, 21 x 16mm	"MR"	Macalister 943
129	George II, 1/2d, worn	"MS"	Macalister 945
130	George III, 1/2d, worn	"PD"	Macalister 946
131	Rectangular copper disc, 25x18mm	"PEEL"	Macalister 947
132	Rectangular copper disc, 23x18mm	"PEEL"	Macalister 947
133	Rectangular copper disc, 28x18mm	"RG" surmounted with a crowned harp	Macalister 948
134	Worn 1/2d token	"SS"	Macalister 949
135	Oval disc of lead 24 x 20mm	"SS"	Macalister 950
136	A Liard of Louis XIV	"SS"	Macalister 951
137	A farthing size coin, worn	"SS"	Macalister 952
138	A leaden imitation of a George II Irish 1/2d	"SS"	Macalister 953
139	William & Mary 1/2d 1693	"SS"	Macalister 954
140	St. Patrick's 1/2d	"SS"	Macalister 955
141	George II Irish 1/4d	"SS"	Macalister 956
142	George II Irish 1/4d	Obv. : "SS" Rev. "OK"	Macalister 957a
143	George II Irish 1/4d	Obv. : "SS" Rev. "OK"	Macalister 957b
144	George II Irish 1/4d, 1760	"SS" C/M with large reversed "N"	Macalister 957c
145	George II English 1/4d, worn	"SS"	Macalister 958
146	Irregular disc of copper	"SS"	Macalister 959
147	George III Irish 1/4d 1806	Obv. : "FS" Rev. "S"	Szauer Coll.
148	George III Irish 1/4d 1806	"O.NEILL"	Szauer Coll.
149	Farthing token 1794	"PM"	Szauer Coll.
150	George II Irish 1/4d, imitation	"SS"	Szauer Coll.
151	Irregular disc of brass	"SS"	Szauer Coll.
152	George II Irish 1/2d, worn	"SS"	Szauer Coll.
153	George II Irish 1/2d, worn	"W" "W"	Szauer Coll.

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NO.	TYPE OF COIN	TYPE OF COUNTERMARK	REMARKS
154	Small brass disc	"RM" in a square indent below "HAPE D1" in an oblong indent D c/stamped over 1	Szauer Coll.
155	A brass disc	"1 1/2D"	Szauer Coll.
156	Rectangular copper disc 20 x 17mm	"TM"	Macalister 960
157	George III Irish 1/4d	"WH" over this, stamped "SS" reversed	Macalister 961
158	18th century Irish token 1/2d	"WMJ"	Szauer Coll.
159	George II Irish 1/4d, 1744	Obv. "D"	Ulster Museum
160	George II Irish 1/4d, 1760	Obv. "VICKERS" Rev. "SS"	Ulster Museum
161	George II Irish 1/4d, 1760	Obv. "SS" Rev. "C"	Ulster Museum
162	George III Irish 1/2d, 1783	Obv. "W.H."	Ulster Museum
163	George III Irish 1/2d, type 1774-1782	Obv. "ID"	Ulster Museum
164a	Lead oblong pass	"BELFAST/FIRE/ POLICE"	Ulster Museum, probably mid-19th Century, UM late 19th Century
164b	Lead oblong pass	Blank	Ulster Museum, probably mid-19th Century, UM late 19th Century
165a	Brass disc, halfpenny size	"_J. KEYS-BELFAST" in circle with "1/-" in centre	Ulster Museum
165b	Brass disc, halfpenny size	Blank	Ulster Museum
166a	Brass disc, penny size	"AGASS/BELFAST"	Ulster Museum, probably late 19th Century
166b	Brass disc, penny size	Blank	Ulster Museum, probably late 19th Century
167	Worn halfpenny	"WILM. THOM"	Ulster Museum
168	Worn English 1/2d	Obv. "G. REILLY" Rev. "P" six times	Ulster Museum
169	Mutilated 1/2d (1807)	Obv & Rev "H.BOYLE" and flower spray	Ulster Museum
170	Worn 19th century 1d	"ISIS" stamped all over the surface in all directions, on both faces	Ulster Museum
171	Worn George III English 1d, 1805	Rev. "TS"	Ulster Museum
172	George III English 1/2d, 1807	"NC" Obv. & Rev. two attempts have been made to place the stamp on the reverse	Ulster Museum
173	Spanish dollars	"PAYABLE.AT CASTLE.COMER COLLIERY 5s, 5d"	Davis 134 National Museum of Ireland Ulster Museum Szauer Coll.
174	Spanish dollar 1794 of the Lima mint	"TN" in a shaped indent	Lane Coll.
175	Spanish dollar 1794 of the Lima mint	"JT" in an oblong indent, a rosette like device	Szauer Coll.
176	Spanish 2 Real 1793 of the Lima mint	"AS"	Szauer Coll.
177	Spanish 1 Real 1747 of the Mexico mint	"RICHARDSON"	Szauer Coll.
178	Peru 2 Real, 1830 of the Lima mint	"L. BEARD"	Szauer Coll.

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NO.	TYPE OF COIN	TYPE OF COUNTERMARK	REMARKS
179	William III Crown	"LR" in script monogram	Szauer Coll.
180	George IV Crown, 1822	Obv. "Co. ARMAGH"	Ulster Museum
181	George III Irish 1/2d	Overstruck in the centre with the dies of the Irish Tenpence Bank Token of 1805	Cockayne sale 1946, lot 65
182	Irish shilling token of Clarke West, Dublin 1804	Irish Assay-marks "Hibernia with a harp" and a "harp crowned"	Davis 1
183	Irish shilling token of the Irish Bullion Co.	Irish Assay-marks	Davis 4
184	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. "GIBBON" twice and "MD" in the centre Rev. "JR" script letters in monogram	Davis 121
185	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. Three four leaf shamrocks	Davis 122
186	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. "IT" in a rectangular indent Rev. "WR" and "JR" in monogram	Davis 123
187	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. "McCORMICK W MURPHY" and "IT" in a rectangle Rev. "WH" and "C" underneath	Davis 124
188	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. Mc O'GRADY" three times Rev. as obverse	Davis 125
189	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. "J. McQUOID" Rev. "BOLTON" twice	Davis 126
190	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. "O'BRIEN" Rev. "MD"	Davis 127
191	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. "O'NEILL" Rev. "M"	Davis 128
192	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. "J. SHORT" the monograms "CC" and "SB" Rev. "POWELL" and "S" underneath	Davis 129
193	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. "TOOLE", "R" in a rectangle	Davis 130
194	Worn shilling size silver	Obv. "WILSON" twice	Davis 131
195	Shilling of Queen Anna (<i>sic</i>)	Obv. "WS" in an oblong indent	Szauer Coll.
196	George I shilling, 1723	Obv. "KENNY"	Szauer Coll.
197	George III shilling, 1816	"T"	Szauer Coll.
198	George III shilling, 1817	"HI..."	Szauer Coll.
199	George IV shilling, 1824	"JP"	Szauer Coll.
200	Worn shilling	"A"	Szauer Coll.
201	Worn shilling	"READ"; "IH"; "RT" ; "RL"	Szauer Coll.
202a	Worn shilling	"OMLEN"; "NM"; in script three times, "S" like device twice	Szauer Coll.
202b	Worn shilling	"I"; "M"; "NC"	Szauer Coll.
203a	Worn shilling	"MO" twice; "LSNHCT"; "NST..."	Szauer Coll.
203b	Worn shilling	"MO; "M"; "E" twice; "V"; "NST"	Szauer Coll.
204	Worn shilling	"K" twice in a shaped indent, "G" like device	Szauer Coll.
205	Worn shilling	"MM"	Szauer Coll.
206	Worn shilling	"EIGHTC"; "HTC"	Szauer Coll.
207	Irregular silver discs about the size of a sixpence	"SM" twice in script; lion rampant in a shaped indent	Szauer Coll.
208	Irregular silver discs about the size of a sixpence	"RT" in an oblong indent	Szauer Coll.
209a	Irregular silver discs about the size of a sixpence	"BM" in an oblong indent each side of which "o/m" is in a triangular indent	Szauer Coll.

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209b	Irregular silver discs about the size of a sixpence	"BB"	Szauer Coll.
210	Irregular silver discs about the size of a sixpence	"W" unintelligible device in a shaped indent	Szauer Coll.
211	Irregular silver discs about the size of a sixpence	"RM" above which is an unintelligible device all enclosed in a triangular shaped indent, with flat corners; a rosette like device; "CC" in script	Szauer Coll.
212a	Irregular silver discs about the size of a sixpence	"RM"	Szauer Coll.
212b	Irregular silver discs about the size of a sixpence	"CC" in script; "S"	Szauer Coll.
213	Worn shilling	"CREIGH"	Ulster Museum
214	Worn disc the size of a sixpence 18th century	"OWENS"	Ulster Museum
215a	Silver disc, shilling size or larger	Irish Assay-marks "Hibernia with harp" and "harp crowned" also maker's mark "IS"	Ulster Museum, this might be a piece taken from the bottom of a silver vessel and used as a love token
215b	Silver disc, shilling size or larger	Engraved initials in script "HC"	As above
216	Bank of Ireland Six Shilling Token 1804	"HANLEY"	Lingford sale, Oct. 24-26, 1950, lot no 789, Glendinning's London
217	George III, 1817, half crown	"PH" within a a three leafed shamrock	Szauer Coll.
218	Worn shilling size silver	"DC" script "RR" and illegible script monogram	Szauer Coll.
219	Worn shilling size silver	"O'DONNELL"	Szauer Coll.
220a	Worn shilling size silver	"GW" several times, in shaped indent, over which, letters: "NG" "KI" "KIN"	Szauer Coll.
220b	Worn shilling size silver	"GW" in shaped indent, once	Szauer Coll.
221	George II 6d 1757	Obv. "O'NEILL"	Szauer Coll.
222	George III 6d 1816	A key	Szauer Coll.
223	George III 6d 1816	Obv. = "SS"	Szauer Coll.
224	George III 6d 1816	Obv. = "S" "JP"	Szauer Coll.
225	George III 2d 1797	Obv. and Rev. "B. EGAN" "BIRR"	Szauer Coll.
226	George III Irish 1/2d 1783	Rev. = "T JACKS"	Szauer Coll.
227	George III Irish 1/2d 1782	Rev. = "V. TAGART"	Szauer Coll.
228	George III worn 1/2d	Obv. = "V. TAGART" Rev. J. TERNAN"	Szauer Coll.
229	George III worn 1/2d	Obv. "J WM.SON"	Szauer Coll.
230	Copper disc halfpenny size	"MASON" a cross and "AT" below	Szauer Coll.
231	18th century Irish 1/2d token 1794	An owl-like device	Szauer Coll.
232	Barbados 1d	An owl-like device	Szauer Coll.
233	Copper disc halfpenny size	"£B" "£B"	Szauer Coll.
234	Copper disc halfpenny size	"CL" on both sides	Szauer Coll.
235a	Copper disc halfpenny size	"IA" over "IA" "1771" below	Szauer Coll.
235b	Copper disc halfpenny size	"IA" date 1771 above upside down	Szauer Coll.
236	George III English 1/2d 1775	Obv. "HD"	Szauer Coll.
237	George III Irsh 1/2d 1781	Obv. "PF"	Szauer Coll.

Some Remarks on Countermarked Irish Coins

NO.	TYPE OF COIN	TYPE OF COUNTERMARK	REMARKS
238	William & Mary Irish 1/2d 1694	Obv. "22"	Szauer Coll.
239	Copper disc halfpenny size	"ST"	Szauer Coll.
240	Irish tavern 2d token	Obv. "JD"	Szauer Coll.
241	George III Irish 1/4d 1806	Obv. = "FS" Rev. "S"	Szauer Coll.
242	George III Irish 1/4d 1806	Obv. "TB"	Szauer Coll.
243	Victoria 1d 1863	Rev. crowned harp between letters "TB" "249" below	Szauer Coll.
244	Pewter disc halfpenny size	"THE ERA VALUE JD" in three lines	Szauer Coll.
245	Co-operative Friendly Society Limited, Dublin 1/2d token	"INCHICORE" (a suburb of Dublin)	Szauer Coll.
246	The City of Dublin Working Men's Club	"D" 2	Szauer Coll.

Many similar discs to above are described by Macalister on pages 169-170 in 'Irish Traders' Tokens in the Collection of R.I.A.'

References

W = W. Boyne, Trade Tokens Issued in the Seventeenth Century

D&H = R. Dalton and S.H. Hamer, Provincial Token Coinage of the Eighteenth Century (Irish Section)

Davis = W.J. Davis, The Nineteenth Century Token Coinage

Macalister = R.A.S. Macalister, A Catalogue of the Irish Traders' Tokens in the Collection of the Royal Irish Academy

S.N.C. = Spink's Numismatic Circular

Nelson – Coinage of Ireland in Copper, Tin & Pewter

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SOME EARLY REFERENCES TO HIBERNO-NORSE COINAGE

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In this paper I shall discuss various attempts to identify that series of coins now known as the Hiberno-Norse series, paying special attention to the possible existence of an earlier Irish coinage.

The Irish coinage is now generally considered to start with those struck by the Norsemen in Ireland. These, we know from a rather straggling and complicated series for which no vigorous chronology has yet been erected. Present opinion is that the earliest issues are those bearing a legible name of a Norse king on the obverse and a moneyer and mint-town on the reverse. These are similar to and are sometimes obvious, and thus date them to around 1000AD. As the succession of the Norse kings in Ireland is poorly established and includes different Kings of the same name, the existence of a legible name on one of these coins is of little help in their identification or dating. After the initial coins, the series gradually deteriorated, eventually becoming wholly illegible. The Hiberno-Norse coinage started around 100AD and ended in confusion about 120 or more years later.

The identification of these coins has been spread over a long period. The earliest reference to them as an unknown coin was when a hoard was discovered in Kilcullen, Co. Kildare in or near the monastic site in 1303 (Records of the Exchequer, 33rd Edn. 1). Sir James Ware (1594-1666), the historian mentions this hoard and another when discussing the earliest Irish coinage: 'The doubt remains as to the Antient Irish, and here I can not forget that certain country fellows in the month of December in the year 1639 found a great quantity of Antient Irish coins near Glenalach in the county of Wicklow, some whereof are presented to the reader in fig. 7. The reverse of the third coin seems to design the year 1115 and if so, we need not inquire further into the matter of the rest. I can affirm nothing certain, but that they seem to have been coin'd before the coming of the English, and such were these lesser kind of farthings of an antient and unknown stamp found in the field near Kilcoln of which we find mention in the Records of the Exchequer'.

Ware certainly knew that the Norse coined in Dublin, for he illustrates a coin of Anlaf minted in Dublin and describes it as such, yet the greater part of the Glendalough hoard remained a mystery to him. He never was really certain whether or not there was pre-Norse Irish coinage, for he says, early in his chapter on Irish coins:

'.....it is first to be *inquired*, whether the Irish before the coming of the English had the use of money or gold or silver, brass or rings adjusted to any certain weight. Saxe Grammaticus tells that Huglet, a King of Ireland, was taken and slain in battle by Hace, a Dane, that he was rich and covetous and that a great sum of money was found in his treasury in Dublin. But the Saxons, we know, are notorious for fictions'.

I have taken these excerpts from the 1709 folio edition of Sir James Ware's "Antiquities". The illustrations of coins from the Glendalough hoard are from the original blocks, first used in 1654. Passing from Ware's Antiquities, we come to the 1722 edition of William Camden's "Brittania". (This is edited by Walker and much expanded from the original Latin edition 1586). Here there are illustrations of several obviously Hiberno-Norse coins, but not described as such. The editor says of some:

‘.....these seem to be of the antient Irish kings, The letters are unusual and difficult to be read or understood’.

The first serious attempt to identify these coins is obviously that of James Simon in his *Essay of Irish coins*, Dublin 1749. Some seven or eight pages are devoted to this series and about 40 coins illustrated. However, several of the illustrations and references are copied directly from Ware and Camden. Many of the illustrations are of similar varieties. In all, about 40 distinct varieties are shown. He again correctly identifies the “legible” coins of Sihtric, Anlaf, Ivar, etc, but is very haphazard when dealing with the degenerate coins. He suggests – with his tongue in his cheek, I should imagine, - that the legends of single strokes and dots might be OGOM, an old form of writing consisting of combinations of horizontal and vertical strokes, which is entirely restricted to the edges of stones and wooden beams. The degenerate legends on the coins bear little resemblance to OGOM. Some he ascribes to Brian Boru, the hero of the battle of Clontarf and gives as reason that as..... “he was a great warrior, he might very properly be represented in armour on his coins”. Here Simon is referring to the typical Hiberno-Norse styling of the hair. He was understandably confused by coins bearing the names of English kings, yet minted in Dublin.

Simon is of the opinion that there was an ancient Irish coinage, the first words of his essay being ‘although we cannot trace out the first invention of money in Ireland, yet it cannot be denied that it was in use here long before the arrival of the Danes or Norwegians’. A later edition of Simon’s essay, published in 1810 by anonymous authors, includes a supplement written by Snelling in 1767 and illustrates another 9 coins in this series of which he states ‘.....the only observation that we shall make of them is the barbarous and rude manner in which they have attempted to copy the Saxon and the English coins of that age’.

This is a significant comment. The series is now beginning to be seen in greater perspective and imitations are pointed out. The ‘illegible’ coins are recognised as the result of crude workmanship by illiterate and inexperienced minters rather than merely indicating greater antiquity.

Odd references are made to these coins in the later years of the eighteenth century, but little is of note. Leland, in his *history of Ireland* (Dublin 1773) describes a coin in Trinity College Library bearing the name (and countenance!) of Aethelred II and struck in Dublin. This seems to be a similar coin to that in Simon, plate II, No, 29. Leland puts forward the same reason for its existence as Simon, i.e., a doubtful charter in which Edgar, Aethelred’s father, claims to have conquered much of Ireland, including Dublin. This and similar coins troubled early researchers considerably and it wasn’t until the late nineteenth century that they were recognised as being direct copies of Saxon coins with only the mint-town changed. In fact, they are the most obvious clue to the origin of this series.

The next most important reference is from Edward Ledwich’s ‘*Antiquities of Ireland*’, first edition 1790 and second edition 1804. Ledwich deals very curtly with these authors who claim a pre-Norse Irish coinage and is adamant that the ancient Irish did not coin money. He was not the first to maintain this view, for Pinkerton, in his book on medals (London 1789) was of the same opinion.

In 1839, a Cork barrister, John Lindsay published his book ‘*A View of the Coinage of Ireland*. Lindsay realised the need of a critical examination of the Irish coinage and particularly the difficulty to be expected with the Hiberno-Norse series. He established a succession of the Norse kings of Dublin, Waterford and Limerick, which he says, has been ‘carefully compiled from the most authentic materials which the scanty and in many instances contradictory annals

of these times afford'. This covered the period from about 853 to about 1200 and Lindsay attempted to identify the coins with the various kings in this list. As he assumes the coins were struck from the very start of the Norse settlement instead of well over a century later (corresponding to coins of Aethelred II of England) he very soon gets into difficulty. Although several of his first attempts were quite logical, he soon stated to flounder and to quote Roth (1910) '...any numismatist will recognise the absurdity of these attributions'. Lindsay proceeds in a very haphazard manner to assign coins to different kings of the same name, e.g. confusing Anlaf IV for Anlaf V which could be a difference of 60 years or so. Like several of his predecessors, he was bothered by the coins of Aethelred and Edgar, but minted in Dublin. This question has been best answered in a monograph of 1897 by Professor Alcenius of Helsingfors University, Helsinki:

'...it seems likely, that in Ireland, the common English coins were copied, only altering the name of the king and leaving the reverse unaltered. We can explain in the same way those coins which, with the names of Aethelred or Canute, have the legend FAERMIN MO DYFLI or something similar on the reverse. The obverse of the English coin has been kept unaltered, but the inscription on the reverse has been altered by the Irish mint-master'.

Lindsay also mentions the bracteates coinage, which coins had not been mentioned before. He ascribes them to the Irish prince and reckons that they were poor imitations of English coins and minted subsequently.

I now come to one of the most interesting and lesser known reference to these coins. This the work of George Petrie in his book *The Origin and Uses of the Round Towers in Ireland* (Dublin 1845). This book began as an essay read to the Royal Irish Academy on round towers and was added to, to form a 500 page book. Petrie approached his problem analytically, impartially exploring all the possible lanes before coming to any conclusion. This cautiousness should be remembered when reading his theories on the earliest Irish coinage.

Petrie is of the opinion that an Irish coinage system existed before the arrival of the Norsemen. He was well aware that in this he was in direct conflict with the then current opinion that the Irish currency originated with the tenth or possibly ninth (sic) century. He says that '...and in this opinion I myself concurred, till by the discovery of the pieces of Money in the Round Tower of Kildare. I now, however, see considerable reason to doubt this opinion and to believe that the Danes...have themselves derived the art from the Irish'.

Petrie placed a lot of importance on this find of 5 or 6 bracteates under the flags which form the original floor of the tower. This led him to consider the bracteates far more carefully than did his predecessors and also to review the question of an ancient Irish coinage with similar scrutiny. It must be remembered that Petrie was not a numismatist, nor was the general structure of European coinage known as it is now.

Petrie points out that, although some of the Hiberno-Norse coins bear resemblances to those of Aethelred, etc., the series as a whole is of a particular style and he considers it likely to have been derived from England. He observes that the Aethelred's coins sometimes have Dublin mint names and he uses this fact to show that the Aethelred and other Anglo-Saxon coins which resemble Hiberno-Norse style do so because the style went from Ireland to England and not vice versa. Thence it is an easy step for Petrie to suppose that the bracteates are the relics of a pre-Norse Irish coinage. He underlines the individual style of the bracteates – the Kildare Tower specimens had no legends – and also stresses that the Irish were a superior nation architecturally and in metalwork generally. Also (and an important point), that the Norsemen

had no coinage of their own before they came to Ireland from Scandinavia and were largely illiterate, whereas numerous Irish inscriptions exist of greater antiquity.

But these rather unsubstantiated conjectures were not good enough to stand on their own. Petrie did a lot of research into early Irish MSS in the hope of finding some evidence for his hypothesis. He already knew of a large number of references in the early Annals to trading and payment of fines by gold and silver in weight. But he also found some references which seemed to show quite conclusively that the Irish definitely had a coinage system before the Norse settlement. These were from several 'ancient tracts...on vellum' in the library of Trinity College and also from the Book of Ballymote (R.I.A. library) and other annals and glossaries. Here are the translations of two quotes from Brehon Laws from T.C.D. MSS, as given by Petries (capitals mine):

'If it be a bondman or bondwoman that has been killed by the cow, the cow is forfeited (till reparation be made by the owner). Thirty SIGALS of silver is the fine. SIGOLUS quasi SCRIPULUS from six half PINGINNS bring its value from the beginning of the enumeration and these half PINGINNS make the three full PINGINNS of the SCREAPALL'.

Petrie then quotes from another MS in the same library:

'SICULUS quasi SESELICOS, from six half PENNIGS being its value from the beginning of enumeration (the lowest denomination), the six half PENNIGS make three full PENNIGS and the three full PENNIGS make one SCREAPALL'.

On these two passages Petrie comments that:

'It clearly appears that the word SIGAL was a term synonymous with SCREAPAL and innumerable evidences might be adduced from the Irish laws and other equally ancient authorities to prove that the word SCREAPAL was the designation of the DENARIUS and denomination of money then current in France and England and which, I think, was also current in Ireland, though under a different name'.

He continued to give other references and names PUINCNE, OIFING and DINERA. O'Clery's vocabulary of ancient Irish words for PUINCNE gives:

'PUINCNE, i.e., a SCREABALL i.e. three pence' he also quotes from a 'very ancient Glossary on vellum' in the TCD library:

'PINGINN quasi PAN-UNG, i.e. it wants BENNS (points) i.e. it is round'.

Petrie says that this last reference also occurs in several of Cormac's Glossaries written in the ninth century and comments, rather vaguely:

'It is to be considered that the application of the word PENNING to a coin amongst the Saxons must have been familiar to Cormac, it will be obvious that he could hardly have explained the meaning of the word in this manner if he did not intend to intimate that it was applied to a coin minted by the Irish, also, nor would he have given such derivations for it, if he supposed it had its origins amongst the Danes in Ireland'.

Petrie now proceeds to demonstrate that the Irish were technologically superior to the Norsemen. He quotes a passage from Pinkerton's Essay on medals that the Danes were 'a wise and illustrious as well as victorious people, being much more advanced in society (than the Irish) and by their frequent invasions into England and neighbourhood to that opulent kingdom, made the acquaintance with coinage'.

Petrie continues to criticise this and similar passages. He says, near to the end of his argument: 'On the whole then, I have, I trust, adduced sufficient evidence to show the great probability, if not absolute certainty, that coined money was in use in Ireland previous to the Danish irruptions'.

In the course of his discussions Petrie also expressed his opinion that the 'Danish' coins (i.e. excluding the bracteates) were minted in the 10th and 11th centuries, not in the 9th and 10th as was then supposed.

I have dealt with Petrie in some length, but still I do not think that I can put over his arguments with the same emphasis and as convincingly as he did. When I had read it, I felt that it would be rewarding to look up his sources. I found three MSS to which he refers still in the same place in Trinity College library. These consisted of material on many subjects and by many hands. I am very grateful to Mr O'Sullivan of the MSS room, T.C.D. for looking at the relevant passages. He is of the opinion that they are all of the 16th century, not several hundred years earlier as Petrie had thought. Nevertheless, it was still quite possible that textually the references to the Brehon Laws were much older. I am most grateful to Mrs O'Sullivan in the R.I.A. Dawson Street, Dublin for the following information:

'The first passage (if it be a bondsman....) is late Old Irish, late 9th to early 10th centuries and similarly the second. But the meaning of the various words definitely indicates a series of weights'.

SCREAPULL. (Latin scrupulous, scrupulum). In Old Irish laws having the same value as the Latin, i.e. the 24th part of an ounce and equal to 3 PINGINN. '24 grains of wheat makes a scruple of silver' (Laws V.18. 8 Comm, rather late). Also probably not a coin, but rather measure, weight.

PINGINN. Derived from the Anglo-Saxon PENDING. In the laws this also seems to have been a measure.

PUINCE. Taken to be a derivative of PONC from Latin PUNCTUM. Same value as screpull or affaing.

AFAING. (AFFAING, OIFFING) probably represents the silver penny struck by Offa of Mercia (757-790). In Irish literature occasionally used as instead of pinginn for lowest unit of value.

Mrs O'Sullivan goes on to say 'In the Irish laws all these seem to have been units of value, i.e. measures of weight, rather than coins. In the post-Christian period, Latin equivalents appear and probably begin to replace the older words of value, such as CUMAL, meaning a female slave, etc.

This then is the answer more or less to Petrie's arguments. He had in fact described a system of weights, not a coinage system. The existence of different names for different units of weight does not infer that such weights existed physically. In most cases I would imagine that they did not exist. Where reference is made to a fine being paid of a cow bought for say, so many screballs and pinginns (of silver) but can safely infer that the reference is to a value that is equivalent to in value to X grains of silver. Scales and 'beams' and also weights of this period have been found in Ireland.

It is worth while also remembering the large amounts of brass, silver and gold ring-money that has been discovered in Ireland from time to time. And also the work of Sir William Betham, whose analysis of the weights of an immense number of such rings showed that they were, with very few exceptions, integral multiples of twelve grains Troy weight.

As this paper is only intended to deal with the earlier references I shall stop here. Later I hope to complete the survey and attempt a critical summary of the existing literature. An analysis of the weights of complete coins from this series might be of interest in establishing whether or not they were based on an English scale or bore any relation to the old Irish system as exemplified by the ring money.