

Spanish Together with all the coins described above was one silver piece bearing the arms of Spain. It is much worn and clipped, and appears to be a piece of eight.

This completes the very inadequate review that I have been able to find time to give what I believe to be the most important find of coins made in Ceylon during the last quarter of a century for certain, and perhaps for a very much longer.

These notes are not intended to be a detailed paper, but simply a memorandum to assist Dr Wood when he begins to study the collection seriously and with the help of experts.

It is interesting to speculate when the coins were buried. It must have been after 1655 when the countermark which looks like V.G. was first struck upon the Portuguese coins by the Dutch. (Actually this mark appears to be the monogram of Galle), for a large number of the coins bear it. But how much longer after it is only possible to guess. I think we can be sure that the English money was not yet in circulation, or in so very catholic a hoard some one or other of its coins would surely have been found. It is curious too that no Dutch money, other than counter-stamped Portuguese should have been included; and taking these two facts together, we get a date somewhere between 1655 and the end of the eighteenth century. This is too wide a margin, and it is to be hoped that a full study of the hoard will narrow the possible period considerably. The huge collection of nearly six hundred coins with Arabic inscriptions cannot fail to produce evidence which I have not been able to tap.

To me the most interesting thing of those I have been able to observe is the discovery that the Larins are a fruitful source of study instead of a dull class of coin that collectors have hitherto said very little about.