

Coin Hoards from the Eighty Years' War

Student: Ruben Admiraal
Supervisor: Stijn Heeren



Description of Research

Field of operation: a numismatic and archeological research.

Research aim: making an inventory of coin hoards found in the Netherlands and analysing these in a historic framework.



My research started with making an inventory list of coin hoards found throughout history in the Netherlands. After drafting a complete list of those coin hoards, I decided to focus my research on the coin hoards stemming from the Eighty Years' War. Specifically, I tried to apply those findings to the historic circumstances of that period. An example of this is illustrated in the next slide.

Example - the Case of Westwoud

One of the coin hoards studied was found in Westwoud, Noord-Holland and had a terminus post quem of 1571, meaning the earliest this coin hoard could have been hidden is 1571. The net worth of the coin hoard suggests that it belonged to a relatively poor man. Around the year 1571, the outer walls of the village Westwoud were secured permanently due to the continuing threat the violence of the Geuzen and the Spanish soldiers imposed. Consequently, this coin hoard is most likely hidden by a villager in an effort to secure part of his earnings in a tumultuous period at the beginning of the Eighty Years' War, and this finding therefore constitutes a proper fit with the prevailing historic description that the war was indeed fought very intensively in this particular period.



Research Conclusions

1. Theoretically one would expect more findings if the war is fought very intensively compared to a situation when there are barely any battles. Despite the rather small size of the dataset, the spread of the findings during the Eighty Years' War generally matched the intensity of the war at that time.
2. Despite perhaps some minor discrepant findings, most findings were generally linkable to some event during the war and were therefore a proper fit with the historic circumstances.