SILVER COINS OF THE TOWER MINT OF CHARLES I.

BY GRANT R. FRANCIS.

CHAPTER I.

THE CROWNS.

The coinages of Charles I have received so much attention in recent years that it may seem presumptuous to attempt to introduce to the notice of the Society new matter sufficient to warrant the intrusion upon its space; but some value may attach to a careful examination of the different dies, and to a permanent and numbered record of the minor, and in many cases unpublished, varieties that are known to exist. I have been able to trace no fewer than forty-three crowns, issued from the Tower mint, and, although it is probable that this number comprises most of the die varieties and mules that were made, it is more than likely that, when the series of photographs has been published, further dies may be discovered and recorded. With that as its excuse, perhaps this paper may not be altogether unwelcome.

To take Hawkins' arrangement of the types as the basic principle upon which to describe the varieties in each issue, and to number these varieties consecutively throughout, would appear to be the most convenient method; but recent research has discovered hitherto unrecorded additions, and these necessitate a greater number of subdivisions in the types, which are explained hereafter. It should perhaps be mentioned here that Hawkins' Type 1, which exists in the half-crown issue, does not appear in that of the crowns.

_Type 1a._—The dies of the first crown, issued in 1625, represent His Majesty on horseback to the left, a ruff round his neck, his armour plain, and his sword raised in a striking position, the horse
caparisoned, with a plume on his head and another on his crupper; on the reverse is a square shield, garnished, with the arms blazoned as upon the coins of James I; the ends of a cross fourchee appear from beneath the shield, and divide the legend into four parts. This division varies upon different coins: in some cases a pellet marks the completion of each word; in others the pellet is absent, and, there being no division nor any space after the completed word, the legend, which should read CHRISTO AVSPICE REGNO, has a jumbled and unfortunate appearance. Variations occur, for the most part, in the abbreviation of the King's official titles, which, read in full, were CAROLVS DEI GRATIA MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ FRANCIÆ ET HIBERNIÆ REX. The King's name is always given in full, and the words DEI GRATIA are always expressed as D·G·; but the names of the three kingdoms were variously contracted, and these contractions, and other differences, it will now be my purpose to describe.

No. 1.—Mint-mark lis (1625). Obverse: MAG : BRIT : FRA : ET : HIB : REX :, with two pellet stops after each word, and a triangle of three stops, to the right of the mint-mark, before the commencement of the legend. The sword cuts the inner circle line. Reverse: The legend, which is divided thus, CHRIS/TO * AVS/PICE * R/EGNO, has a pellet after each completed word, but none on either side of the upper limb of the cross, and the mint-mark is placed to the left of that limb. The Irish harp is bird-headed and small, and is well placed in the quarter. This coin is exactly as Snelling, lx, 7. (G. R. Francis, Pl. I, Fig. 1.)

No. 2.—Mint-mark lis. Obverse: MAG ! BRI ! FR ! ET ! HIB ! REX, with a single pellet to left of the mint-mark. The sword cuts the inner circle line. The reverse shows no pellet after the completed words, which are divided CHRS/TOAVS/PICER/EGNO, and the mint-mark is placed to the right of the upper limb of the cross. (Cumberland Clark Sale, Lot 73.)

No. 3.—Mint-mark lis. Obverse: MAG ! BR ! FRA ! ET ! HIB ! REX, with a pellet on each side of the mint-mark. (G. R. Francis.)

No. 4.—Mint-mark lis. Obverse: MAG ! BRI ! FRA ! ET ! HIB !
REX. There is no pellet by the mint-mark, and the sword does not cut the inner circle line. On the reverse the legend, which reads CHRI/STO· AV/SPICE·/REGNO, has a pellet after each completed word, and there is one on either side of the mint-mark, which is placed to the right of the upper limb of the cross. The Irish harp is heavy and clumsy, and impinges on the quartering line. (G. R. Francis, Pl. I, Fig. 2.)

No. 5.—Mint-mark lis. Obverse of No. 4; reverse exactly as Ruding, xviii, i. No pellet by the mint-mark; the harp plain-headed. (S. M. Spink.)

No. 6.—Mint-mark lis. Obverse very similar to No. 4, with similar wording, but there is a pellet on either side of the mint-mark. Reverse of No. 1. (Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Morrieson.)

No. 7.—Mint-mark cross calvary, punched over lis (1625-6). Obverse from the die of No. 2, with altered mint-mark. Reverse from a new die, showing the extraordinary and unhappy division of the legend by the limbs of the cross only, as previously mentioned, CHRI/STOAV/SPICE/REGNO. The Irish harp has the large bird's head, but is better centred than on No. 4. (G. R. Francis, Pl. I, Fig. 3.)

No. 8.—Mint-mark cross calvary. Different dies. Obverse: MAG! BRI! FRA! ET ! HIB! REX. There are no pellets by the mint-mark. The reverse, which shows no stops in the legend, has the words divided as on No. 7. The Irish harp still has a bird's head, but is small and squat, with only five or six strings instead of eight or ten. The writer's specimen has the blunder AVSPIGE for AVSPICE. (G. R. Francis, Pl. I, Fig. 4.)

No. 9.—Mint-mark cross calvary. Obverse of No. 7; reverse of No. 8. (Hawkins, 472.)

Type 1b.—Certain coins having been struck, during this period, from silver mined in Wales, special reverses were prepared for their coinage, and include some of the rarest varieties of the series.

No. 10.—Mint-mark lis. The obverse is from the die of No. 4, and the reverse from a new die, which shows no ends to the cross, but has a large plume placed over the shield. There are no
stops in the legend, which is therefore undivided and presents a more symmetrical appearance than on the preceding coins. The mint-mark is to the right of the central plume, which shows a die flaw in the left feather, and a triangle of three pellets is at the end of the legend and to the left of the plume. The Irish harp is small with a large bird’s head. Only one example of this coin appears to have been recorded for very many years, but the writer acquired, in 1914, an even more perfect specimen. (G. R. Francis, Pl. I, Fig. 5.)

No. 11.—Mint-mark cross calvary, punched over lis. A very interesting coin from the obverse die of No. 7, with the reverse die of No. 10, showing the die flaw in the left feather and an over-punched mint-mark. (G. R. Francis, Pl. I, Fig. 6.)

No. 12.—Mint-mark cross calvary, punched over lis. The obverse is from the die of No. 8; the reverse, apparently from a new die, with a neater plume over the shield, lacks the triangle of three pellets to left of the plume. The shield is slightly higher up in the field. (W. B. Thorpe, Pl. II, Fig. 1.)

No. 13.—Mint-mark castle, punched over cross calvary, which is itself punched over lis (1627). The obverse is from the die of No. 8 and No. 12, with the mint-mark altered. The reverse shows the mint-mark to left of the plume, with a pellet each side of it; a pellet also is placed before the beginning, and between the words, of the legend. (W. B. Thorpe, Pl. II, Fig. 2.)

I must now venture to differ from, and, I hope, to improve upon, Hawkins’s enumeration of the types. In the first place his Type 2a was evidently preceded by his Type 2b, mint-marks plume and rose, as the former was not struck until 1632, and the latter were coined in 1630 and 1631 respectively. In the second place he omits a most interesting variety of the type altogether. I propose therefore to make three subdivisions of this type, namely, Type 2, corresponding with Hawkins 2b; Type 2a, corresponding with Hawkins 2a; and a new subdivision, 2b, which differs from any given by him.

Type 2.—The King is represented on a rather smaller scale, the sword resting on his shoulder, a ruff round his neck, a narrow
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PLATE II.
scarf across his body, no plume on the horse's crupper, and the housings marked with a broad cross. The shield on the reverse is oval, garnished, with a plume above it, but no appearance of the ends of the cross from underneath. The Irish harp is not bird-headed, but has a scroll head, turned over backwards. This variety does not exist without the plume over the shield.

No. 14.—Mint-mark plume (1630). Reads on the obverse, MAG! BRIT! FRA! ET • HIB ! REX. A group of five pellets is placed to the left of the mint-mark, and there is one pellet to the right of it. The reverse has a group of five pellets after each word and after the mint-mark, which is to the left of the central plume, and one pellet to the right of the plume and before the legend. (G. R. Francis, Pl. II, Fig. 3.)

No. 15.—Mint-mark plume. The obverse has the same wording as No. 14, but a group of seven pellets before, and one pellet after, the mint-mark. The reverse has groups of seven pellets between the words, and groups of five pellets on each side of the mint-mark and to the right of the central plume. (G. R. Francis, Pl. II, Fig. 4.)

No. 16.—Mint-mark plume. Obverse of No. 14; reverse of No. 15. (S. M. Spink.)

No. 17.—Mint-mark rose, punched over plume (1631). Obverse from the die of No. 15, with mint-mark altered; reverse from the altered die of No. 14. (G. R. Francis, Pl. II, Fig. 5.)

No. 18.—Mint-mark rose, punched over plume. Obverse and reverse both from the dies of No. 14, with altered mint-mark. (Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Morrieson.)

Type 2a.—In this type the ends of the cross, issuing from beneath the shield, are re-introduced at the top and sides only; the initials C.R. appear at the sides of the top arm, and the portions of the three arms extend only as far as the inner circle of the coin, so that the ends do not interfere with the wording of the legend as in the coins of Type 1a. The Irish harp is still with a scroll head, but the scroll now turns over forwards.

No. 19.—Mint-mark harp, punched over plume, which is, in
its turn, punched over rose (1632). The obverse is from the dies of 15 and 17, thus presenting another very interesting case of the same die being used for three successive mint-marks. In this case the old mint-mark has been over-punched badly, and the top of the coin presents a very slovenly appearance. The groups of five pellets to the left of the mint-mark have been removed, and their place is taken by a group of four contraction marks, or commas; the single pellet to the right of the mint-mark has also been replaced by a single symbol of the same type. The reverse is from a new die, which does not bear the central plume; there are similar groups of four contraction marks after each word of the legend, and a single mark appears to the right of the mint-mark. (G. R. Francis.)

No. 20.—Mint-mark harp, punched over plume. Obverse from the die of No. 14, altered as No. 19, but with five instead of four contraction marks to the left of the mint-mark. Reverse of No. 19. (Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Morrieson.)

No. 21.—Mint-mark harp. Obverse from a new die, without over-punching, having a single pellet each side of the mint-mark. Reverse from the die of No. 19. (G. R. Francis, Pl. II, Fig. 6.)

Type 2b.—This variety is quite different from Type 2, and is unrecorded by Hawkins, except that in his 1887 edition he mentions a coin in Mr. Neck’s collection, which he does not otherwise describe, but which was doubtless of this type.

No. 22.—Mint-mark harp. The obverse is from the altered die of No. 19, and the coin has a new reverse, in which the plume over the shield appears between the letters C·R· and so displaces the upper arm of the cross; the mint-mark is placed to the left, instead of the group of four contraction marks, and the words of the reverse legend are separated by single pellets, instead of by groups of four contraction marks. (Cumberland Clark Sale, Lot 78.)

No. 23.—Mint-mark harp. A new obverse die, reading MAG! BRIT! FRA! ET! HIBER! REX, but otherwise very similar to the last. This is the only Tower crown known to me which has the Irish title extended to HIBER’. The reverse is from the die of No. 22. (W. B. Thorpe, Pl. III, Fig. 1.)
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PLATE III.
Types 3a and 3b.—Hawkins states, under the heading of Briot’s crown, that this “was probably executed in the year 1633 and served as a model for the type issued in that year with the mint-mark portcullis.” As there is a distinct similarity in the design, it is possible that his assumption is correct, but it is a little difficult to see why, if that be so, the influence of such an artist as Nicholas Briot is not more apparent in the succeeding coins, and especially in the type and style of the lettering, which is so much more perfect on his coin. The design of this type shows the horse without any caparison, and with the head carried low; the King wears a falling lace collar in place of the ruff; the sword is held upright, and the scarf is broad and floats behind. The shield on the reverse is oval and garnished, with the central plume, denoting Welsh silver, above it.

Here again Hawkins’s types are chronologically wrong, for the first issue of that type, with the portcullis mint-mark, does not exist in 3a, but it is identical, except for the central plume and the Irish harp, with the reverse of 3a. I propose to correct his order by putting the portcullis (his 3b) first, and the bell (his 3a) after it, and thereafter following on with the two types indiscriminately, in the correct order of their issue, without keeping 3a and 3b as distinct and separately numbered types.

No. 24.—Mint-mark portcullis (1633). Obverse legend reads MAG! BRI ! FRA! ET! HI! REX. There is a single pellet on either side of the mint-mark; the King’s sword slightly pierces the inner circle and touches the letter X of REX. The reverse has the large central plume, with a pellet on either side of it, and there is a pellet after each word of the legend. The Irish harp has again a bird’s head of a peculiar form. (G. R. Francis, Pl. III, Fig. 2.)

No. 25.—Mint-mark bell, punched over portcullis (1634). Obverse die of No. 24, but with the mint-mark altered. The reverse shows a stop between the words, and a group of four marks on each side of the mint-mark. The scroll of the harp head now again turns backward. (G. R. Francis, Pl. III, Fig. 3.)

No. 26.—Mint-mark bell. The obverse is from a new die,
without over-punching. The legend reads, MAG ! BR ! FR ! ET ! HIB ! REX. The King's sword is very long and pierces the inner circle to left of the mint-mark. The reverse shows all the characteristics of the reverse of No. 25, but is from a different die. (G. R. Francis, Pl. III, Fig. 4.)

No. 27.—Mint-mark crown, punched over bell (1635). From the obverse of No. 26 and from a very similar reverse, but with a single pellet on either side of the mint-mark, instead of a group of four. (W. B. Thorpe, Pl. III, Fig. 5.)

No. 28.—Mint-mark crown. The obverse legend reads, MAG ! BRI ! FR ! ET ! HI ! REX. The horse and rider, and the sword, are all similar to No. 27, but there are four pellets, instead of a single pellet, at the end of the legend. The reverse is from the die of No. 27. (G. R. Francis, Pl. III, Fig. 6.)

No. 29.—Mint-mark crown. Obverse of No. 28. The reverse has the mint-mark punched over the bell mint-mark of die No. 26. (Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Morrieson.)

No. 30.—Mint-mark crown (Hawkins' Type 3b). Obverse from the die of No. 28. The reverse, as usual, is from a new die, with the large central plume to denote it struck from Welsh silver, with the mint-mark to left of the plume, and with a single pellet at the beginning and after the first two words of the legend, but none by the mint-mark. The Irish harp has the head with the scroll turned over backwards. (G. R. Francis, Pl. IV, Fig. 1.)

No. 31.—Mint-mark ton, punched over crown (1638) (Hawkins' Type 3a). Obverse and reverse from the dies of No. 28, with the mint-mark altered. (W. B. Thorpe, Pl. IV, Fig. 2.)

No. 32.—Mint-mark ton (Hawkins' Type 3b). Obverse legend reads MAG ! BR ! FR ! ET • HI ! REX. There is a single pellet to left of the sword, which cuts the inner circle, and one to the right of the mint-mark. The reverse has four pellets on either side of the mint-mark. (W. B. Thorpe, Pl. IV, Fig. 3.)

The above is the last coin issued with the Welsh plume, to denote the origin of the metal, which was struck at the Tower in this reign.
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PLATE IV.
No. 33.—Mint-mark prostrate anchor (1638). The obverse legend reads MAG ! BR ! FR ! ET • HIB ! REX -, and there is a group of four pellets at the end of the legend; also a blundered group of four pellets at the beginning. The sword does not cut the inner circle. The reverse has four pellets on either side of the mint-mark, and single pellets between the words. (G. R. Francis, Pl. IV, Fig. 4.)

No. 34.—Mint-mark prostrate anchor. The obverse legend reads MAG ! BR ! FR ! ET • HI ! REX -, and there is only one pellet on either side of the mint-mark. It would appear as though this obverse die had broken, and been repaired, giving the anchor a blurred appearance and forcing the King’s crown down upon his head in a very unsightly manner. Reverse from the die of No. 33. (G. R. Francis, Pl. IV, Fig. 5.)

No. 35.—Mint-mark triangle, punched over anchor (1639). The obverse is from the die of No. 34, and shows the same traces of repair. The reverse is from the die used for Nos. 33 and 34, with the altered mint-mark. (G. R. Francis, Pl. IV, Fig. 6.)

No. 36.—Mint-mark star (1640). The obverse legend reads MAG ! BR ! FR ! ET • HIB ! REX -, and there is a single pellet on either side of the mint-mark. Hawkins does not mention this reading of the obverse legend, and Murdoch (lot 103) and Cumberland Clark (lot 82) are described as “unpublished” accordingly, but I have not seen this coin with any other reading. The reverse has a group of four pellets on either side of the mint-mark and single pellets between the words. (British Museum, Pl. V, Fig. 1.)

Type 4.—It is generally conceded that the coins of Type 4 were struck by workmen other than those who struck the preceding types, and from the facts that Thomas Bushell was striking the King’s money at Aberystwith as early as 1637, that Rawlings was at work at Shrewsbury and Oxford in 1642, and the chief workmen had probably fled from the Tower at least in the previous year, it may be presumed that the whole of this type, and indeed possibly that with the star mint-mark of Type 3, were struck by subordinate

1 See appendix with reference to a coin in the National Collection with mint-mark triangle-in-circle.
and inferior artists under the authority of Parliament, and without
that of the King. The striking of some of the pieces therefore
leaves much to be desired, but in other respects the work suffered
little at their hands, and far less than might have been expected
considering the disturbed and anxious times, and the disadvantages
under which they would labour in the disappearance of the experi-
cenced workers, and doubtless also of many of the tools with which
they worked. Sir John Coniers being Governor of the Tower in
1642, for the Parliament, which had usurped the royal authority,
the type issued in 1643 was really the beginning of the Parliamentary
series of crowns, although the Parliament did not presume to issue
coins without the King’s portrait or titles until after his execution,
and for this reason both these coins, and those avowedly struck with
his authority at the provincial mints, are treated as part of the
regular issues of the monarch. The new obverse shows the King
upon a horse considerably fore-shortened, in comparison with the
earlier issues; the horse turns his head to the left and towards the
spectator, and has his tail between his hind legs, and the mane
extends in front of his chest. There are no varieties of wording or
abbreviations from now until the end of the reign, and the obverse
legend reads MAG! BRI! FRA! ET • HIB! REX • The reverse is
exactly as on the preceding coins.

No. 37.—Mint-mark (p) (1643). On the obverse there is a
single pellet on each side of the mint-mark. The reverse exactly
resembles that of the coins of the preceding type, with four pellets
in a group on either side of the mint-mark and single pellets between
the words. The harp is scroll-headed, with the scroll turned back-
wards. Crowns with this mint-mark are very scarce. (W. B.
Thorpe, Pl. V, Fig. 2.)

No. 38.—Mint-mark (R) (1644). Obverse from the same die
as No. 37, with the mint-mark punched over the (p). Reverse
also probably from the die of No. 37. This mint-mark is even
scarcer than (p). (G. R. Francis, Pl. V, Fig. 3.)

In this case Hawkins says: “Pollett places the (p) after the (R)
and assigns the former mint-mark to 1645; he is most probably
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PLATE V.
correct.” This cannot be so, for, as stated above, the (R) is clearly punched over the (p).

No. 39.—Mint-mark eye (1645). Obverse exactly as on the preceding coins of the issue, but from a different die, with a single pellet on either side of the mint-mark. Reverse similar, but the shield is rather rounder, and the harp is bird-headed; groups of four pellets on either side of the mint-mark. (G. R. Francis, Pl. V, Fig. 4.)

No. 40.—Mint-mark sun (1645). This coin is much more frequently met with than others of the issue, and appears to have been struck from more than one set of dies. Obverse as before, but no stops by the mint-mark. Reverse, also similar, but the harp is not bird-headed, and is of quite a new form; there are groups of four irregular stops on either side of the mint-mark, and on this coin a pellet is introduced, doubtless unintentionally, after the C of Christo. (G. R. Francis.)

No. 41.—Mint-mark sun. A rare variety with pellets on either side of obverse mint-mark. The reverse is very similar to the last, but is from a different die and lacks the pellet after the C of Christo. (G. R. Francis, Pl. V, Fig. 5.)

No. 42.—Mint-mark sun. Obverse of No. 40; reverse of No. 41. (Cumberland Clark Sale, Lot 87.)

Type 5.—Finally, to quote the author so frequently referred to, a last issue from the Tower appeared, of which the spirit, neatness, and minuteness of detail leads us to believe that it is the production of Thomas Simon. The horse is shown large, with erect head, mane in front of chest, and tail flowing back from the body. There appears to have been only one set of dies.

No. 43.—Mint-mark sun. Obverse legend as before, a single pellet to right of the mint-mark. The sword cuts the inner circle and extends to left of the mint-mark. Reverse as before, but with the groups of four stops on either side of the mint-mark closed up together. This coin is always on a large, well-spread, thin blank. It was struck quite at the end of 1645, and, though the sceptre mint-mark was used in the Tower in 1646, no crowns bearing that mint-mark were issued. (British Museum, Pl. V, Fig. 6.)
APPENDIX.

Since the foregoing was written my attention was recalled to a unique piece, in the National collection, by one of our Vice-Presidents, Miss Helen Farquhar, as a coin which might have some direct bearing on my paper on the "Tower Crowns of Charles I." The coin referred to is that with the mint-mark triangle-in-circle, which Miss Farquhar referred to and illustrated in her most interesting work on "Nicholas Briot and the Civil War."

This coin I have always considered to be a trial or pattern piece, and I therefore did not include it in my remarks; but whilst a close study of this crown confirms

![Crown with Mint-Mark Triangle-in-Circle]

me in my belief that it is a pattern, it presents so many features of interest that a note on the coin and an attempt to reconstruct its history from those features seems to be called for.

The last mint-mark of Type 3a was the star—No. 36 in my list of varieties. This coin generally shows a weak horse and a rider whose figure and features, even in an unworn coin, are almost invisible. The inference is, of course, that the puncheon of the die, which was first used for the "Portcullis" crown of 1633, was very worn and possibly had been previously discarded.

Now the star mint-mark was used in the Tower in 1640, and we know that between that date and 1642 certain puncheons then in use were conveyed, either by Sir William Parkhurst or by David Ramage, to Shrewsbury for use at that mint, and we find the puncheon of the pound and half-pound pieces of Hawkins' Type 1, struck in 1642, to be identical in every way with that in use in the Tower for the Type 3 Crowns. What then is more natural than that the actual puncheons then in use were those "Comanded out of the Mint," and conveyed to Shrewsbury, as referred to in the context under Type 3a?

Imagining this to be so, it is quite probable that a faulty puncheon had to be used for the few crowns with the star mint-mark which were struck after the removal of the better tools.

1 Numismatic Chronicle, series iv, vol. xiv plate xiii, No. 4.
2 Miss Farquhar's "Nicholas Briot," page 189.
A Rare Pattern Crown.

It would appear, then, that a totally new design was decided upon for the Tower issues, and this subsequently appeared in the foreshortened horse type (Type 4), with the (p) mint-mark, in 1643; but meantime the triangle-in-circle mint-mark had been introduced, and there would be no available puncheons with which to make dies for crowns, except the faulty ones used for the later "star" crowns, which were obviously unfit for their work.

Now it is assumed (see note in context under Types 3a and b) that Briot's own crown—whether a proof or a regular issue is not quite certain—which was executed in 1632–33, formed the model for Type 3, and was the prototype of the crown issued in that year with the mint-mark portcullis. His puncheons would undoubtedly have been preserved, and the mint officials, in their necessity, would appear to have used an old puncheon of one of Briot's crowns to replace the faulty puncheon used for the "star" mint-mark, in preparing a die for the triangle-in-circle mint-mark. This is almost proved by the look of the puncheon in the unique coin with the mint-mark referred to, and the assumption is made nearly certain by the two facts that the mint-mark on the obverse of the coin has undoubtedly been over-punched and therefore the collar of an old die must also have been used.

Moreover, to prove finally that an old Briot die was used for the obverse of this coin, the stops in the legend after the words—except that after ET, which is a pellet for spacing only—are diamond shaped, which peculiarity never occurred on a Tower crown, but is invariably found on the Briot crowns. The point to be determined is what Briot die could have been used. The legend is, MAG • BRIT • FR • ET, HIB • REX •, which does not coincide with any Briot die that I am aware of; moreover, the old mint-mark on the obverse of this coin looks much more like an anchor than either an anemone and B, or a thistle and B. Did Briot ever prepare a die for a proposed anchor crown?

If we admit the probability of this, as the origin of the obverse of this coin, there is even less doubt as to that of the reverse. It is from the reverse die of No. 36, with the "star" mint-mark altered to triangle-in-circle, and clearly shows the three lower points of the star under the new mint-mark. This coin, therefore, is exactly in the same category as the rare and curious half-crowns, of which specimens are known in the National, Colonel Morrieson's, and Miss Farquhar's collections, with anchor, and triangle over anchor, mint-marks, which have diamond stops in the legend, square shields on the reverse, and show similar characteristics, and I therefore consider, with Miss Farquhar, that these coins are merely evidences that "a continuous movement had been made by Briot to introduce his favourite design at the Tower between 1639 and 1643," and that they were really trial or pattern pieces.

This "movement" appears to have failed, until the period of the "star" mint-mark, and the removal from the Tower of the official dies; when it evidently partially succeeded, as Briot's type of the York half-crown was immediately adopted for the later Tower half-crowns with mint-mark star, and became the recognised type for this and the succeeding triangle-in-circle mint-mark, and, as we have seen, a die for a crown with the latter mint-mark was actually prepared.

In 1643, moreover, the type of these two half-crowns became the obvious
prototype for the new Tower crown dies; and those of the (p), (R), eye, and early sun mint-marks appear to have been clearly adapted from Briot's York half-crown design, though, curiously enough, his influence disappears from the half-crown dies of the same period, and the coins revert to the old type of the anchor and triangle mint-marks.

What more natural to suppose than that only the crown dies were "comanded out of the Tower," and, as we know, were used by the King's adherents at Shrewsbury, and that the half-crown dies remained and were again used when Briot's influence waned?

This is, of course, all pure conjecture, but it will, I think, be admitted that it is at least probable, and, that being so, it may be reasonable to suppose that the extraordinary crown piece so evolved did not meet with approval, and that very few specimens—if, indeed, any other than the one under discussion—were struck, and also that the coin was never issued to the public.
COINS OF THE SHREWSBURY MINT, 1642.

PLATE I.