JAMES I CROWNS—NEW DISCOVERIES.

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The crowns with the mint-mark rose have always hitherto been attributed to the year 1605, and, although silver coins of all the other denominations have been definitely assigned to the year 1621, when the rose mint-mark was reintroduced, it has not previously been possible to point to a crown-piece of James I which could be proved to belong to the last-named year. This I hope to be able to do in this short note by the evidence it contains.

The monograph on "The English Silver Coins of James I," read before the Society on June 26th, 1907, by Lieut.-Col. H. W. Morrieson, F.S.A.,¹ will long remain the "classic" on those issues, and numismatists owe no small debt of gratitude to him for elucidating many doubtful points in the confusion which has always existed in distinguishing some coins issued as early as 1604, from others with similar mint-marks struck as late as 1621–23.

Colonel Morrieson was himself doubtful as to the existence of crowns which it has been my privilege to discover since his paper was published, and in giving details and illustrations of these coins, I do so with every acknowledgment, as without the guidance of his paper I should almost certainly have considered them as merely specimens of the usual issues, and the significance of their minor deviations therefrom, and the facts they establish would, so far as I am concerned, have been overlooked.

Students of this period, and of Colonel Morrieson’s work relating

thereto, will remember that he divided the issues of James I into three periods, namely:

First Period.—Coins bearing the reverse legend EXVRGAT · DEVS · DISSIPENTVR · INIMICI · issued in 1603 and 1604.

Second Period.—Coins with similar obverses, but with the new legend adopted upon the union of the two crowns of England and Scotland under one king, QVAE · DEVS · CONIVNXIT · NEMO · SEPARET ·, issued from 1604 to 1619 inclusive.

Third Period.—Coins with similar obverses, but with the minor varieties in the abbreviations of the King's titles—BRI · for BRIT · being the principal of these—and especially in the abbreviation marks to those titles on the obverse, also having no pellets between the words of the legend of the reverse. This series was issued from August 20th, 1619, to the end of the reign in 1624.

With regard to the crown with the mint-mark thistle, Colonel Morrieson wrote as follows¹ :

"As regards the thistle mint-mark, the late Mr. H. Montagu, in his article in Numismatic Chronicle, 3rd series X, p. 273, states that he had a specimen, which I presume was Lot 191 in his sale catalogue, 3rd portion, but I must say that I am very doubtful if any coins of this second period were struck with this mint-mark."

In the same paper Colonel Morrieson illustrates a crown with mint-mark rose, as Plate I, Fig. 3, which belongs to the second period and to the mint-mark of 1605, as explained in his description of the plates.

The coin with this mint-mark, which I now illustrate as Fig. 2, belongs, as I trust presently to prove, to the much later mint-mark of 1620, and therefore it will be necessary to extend the series of

crowns of the second period, to which this undoubtedly belongs, at least down to and to include a few coins with the mint-mark thistle, which were issued after June 28th, 1621; thus showing that the issue of these crowns of the second period was prolonged after that with the mint-mark grapes in 1607, for a period fourteen years longer than has hitherto been recognised.

In June, 1913, I was fortunate enough to acquire a crown with the mint-mark thistle at the dispersal of a small collection of coins from the "Dash" Cabinet, and Colonel Morrieson’s Silver Coins enabled me to recognise it as being of the second period. I sent it to the author for his opinion, and cannot do better than give his conclusions here in his own words:—"This is certainly one of the first of the QVAE DEVS coins, second period, with mint-mark thistle. It is the only one I have ever seen, though I expect No. 191, Montagu Sale, November, 1896, was similar. The question now arises in what year was this crown coined? The trial of the pyx on May 22nd, 1604, was of the coins with mint-mark thistle, but these were EXVRGAT coins of the first issue.

"The next mint-mark was the lys, and it was during this mint-mark, towards the close of 1604, that the QVAE DEVS legend, second period, was introduced, and on June 20th, 1605, the trial of the pyx for this mint-mark took place. There is apparently no
mention of any coins with the mint-mark thistle being included; from this I assume that no coins with the mint-mark thistle could have been issued at that time.

"This then brings us to the second thistle of 1621-23, and I expect we shall find that your crown was coined in 1621, the very earliest with that mint-mark."

The coin passed from my possession in the sale of my later coins early in 1920, and unfortunately the cast of the reverse of the coin was broken when in the cataloguer's hands, but is still sufficiently clear to show the characteristics of the mint-mark and die. I therefore offer illustrations of this rare coin, from the casts used for the plate in my own sale catalogue.

That Colonel Morrieson was right in his conclusions as regards the thistle mint-mark, which are given above, is now evident, and it becomes possible to separate the two issues with the rose mint-mark, and to differentiate between them as "mint-mark rose, 1605," and "mint-mark seeded rose, 1620."

With regard to the crown of the second period with the mint-mark rose, Colonel Morrieson exhibited and illustrated\(^1\) a specimen which clearly belongs to this period, and was struck in 1605, and so far as he or I was then aware this was the only variety of the crown with this mint-mark that had been issued, though the pyx records gave a crown with mint-mark rose as "tried" in 1621; and in his "Further Notes on the Silver Coins of James I,"\(^2\) Colonel Morrieson writes with reference to the publication of Mr. Henry Symonds' notes on the pyx trials, published in the same volume, "There is nothing new in this denomination—namely, crowns—except the additions of the mint-marks coronet, and rose of 1621," and remarks, "Mr. Symonds tells us what coins were minted, whereas my object is to show what are known. Since the date of my first paper various coins not mentioned in it have been discovered, and doubtless in time

\(^1\) Vol. iv, *British Numismatic Journal*, "English Silver Coins of James I." Plate I, fig. 3.
\(^2\) Vol. ix, pp. 229-233.
those still unknown, and which I have marked with the letter P in the table, will be found."

One such "find" I have now the pleasure to record in this note, and the crown with the mint-mark "seeded rose" of 1621 must now be added to the list.

This coin was the property of our member, Mr. W. B. Thorpe, whose coins I was privileged to prepare for sale and write a "foreword" upon. It was sold soon after its exhibition to the Society on October 26th, 1921, and it is similar to that to which I have previously referred, except in its mint-mark, which is a much larger rose than that of 1605, and is of the seeded variety common to all the denominations of the smaller coins, which in the case of the sixpence was dated in 1620-21.

In 1605 the mint-mark rose succeeded the lys, which had previously succeeded the thistle of 1604, and therefore obviously the thistle could not have been struck over the rose in this issue.

But if the illustrations of the two coins which accompany this note are examined, it will be obvious that both were struck from the same dies, and that on both obverse and reverse the thistle mint-mark was struck over some other mint-mark.

Now in 1621 we know that the thistle succeeded the rose of 1620, and these two coins can therefore be very clearly and definitely attributed. Mr. Thorpe's coin with the seeded rose is a crown with

1 Fig. 2, on this page.
the mint-mark of June 23rd, 1620, and my own crown with the mint-mark thistle\textsuperscript{1} was from the same die overstruck with the thistle mint-mark of June 28th, 1621, and therefore, as stated by Colonel Morrieson, "the very earlist of this mint-mark."

A further interesting fact emerges from these findings, namely, that all crowns with the mint-mark seeded rose of 1620 belong to the second period, and not the third period, in which Colonel Morrieson's table placed them, though he recorded no specimen; and further, that crowns with the mint-mark thistle of 1621 were issued with the characteristics of both second and third periods, as is shown by my coin, Figure 1, and by a coin in Colonel Morrieson's own cabinet.\textsuperscript{2}

Thus the second period crowns must be continued down to and including a few coins with mint-mark thistle, issued after June 28th, 1621.

On the exhibition of this coin to the Society on October 26th, 1921, Colonel Morrieson wrote me: "The obverse of your thistle crown, as you have said, is from the same die as the obverse of Mr. Thorpe's coin with the mint-mark altered. What you have discovered is the missing crown of the second rose mint-mark mentioned in the pyx records. It is one that I have long been looking for, and I congratulate you on finding it."

\textsuperscript{1} Fig. 1, on p. 125.

\textsuperscript{2} Vol. iv, British Numismatic Journal, "English Silver Coins of James I," Plate I, fig. 3.