THE SHREWSBURY MEDAL.

A Note upon Military Medals of the Mid-Seventeenth Century.

BY HELEN FARQUHAR.

I fear the readers of the British Numismatic Journal will be tired of my series of badges issued in the reign of Charles I, many of which I have already exhibited at various times at our meetings.

My theory concerning these medals is not new to those who have read my articles, namely, that these badges were the forerunners of the War medals of the present day and appeared upon the breast of Cavalier or Puritan, just as many of our medals decorate the uniforms of those of our Members who fought in the Great War still so present to our memories.

I do not therefore purpose to dwell upon this definition of the portraiture of the King or the Parliamentary Generals. But an unpublished document has fairly recently come to my notice on the subject of Charles I’s presentation of his portrait and that of his elder son, combined on the face of one medal and ordered at Oxford, January 23rd, 1642–3. This medal, which was given to certain persons who had rallied to the Royalist cause, is therefore my theme, and is my excuse for bringing the seventeenth-century war-decorations again under discussion.

When in 1885 our great text-book on the British Historical Medals antecedent to the reign of George III was compiled by Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks and Mr. Herbert Grueber from the
notes of the late Edward Hawkins, it became clear that the last-
named distinguished antiquary considered certain badges, or oval
medals with loops for suspension, to be definitely “Military
Rewards,” and it is with some of these that we are now concerned.
Other badges were regarded by him as personal presentations, and
were grouped without date as memorials treasured in remembrance
of Charles I after the King was beheaded. The evidence afforded
by certain pieces dated 1642, proving that they were designed during
the Civil War, was not then available, but the editors were of opinion
that many of these undated badges were in truth War Medals in the
sense that they were made for presentation to those who upheld the
King’s cause.

In the time of Charles I, a portrait of the King, or of one of the
Parliamentary Generals, was not necessarily a reward given after a
battle to those who had participated in it. In many cases, worn
upon a coloured ribbon or scarf, it was practically a regimental
badge. When the buff coat was worn by the soldiers of both parties,
when a certain amount of armour was still in use—when fighting
was to a great extent hand to hand—a badge upon a coloured ribbon
was the natural way of marking the difference between the com-
batants. Uniform, which crystallized under Charles II, had been more
or less established by Cromwell; but in the early years of the Civil
War it was rare. Newcastle, it is true, dressed his men in white
coats, telling them to dye them red in the blood of their enemies.
They fell bravely fighting for the King in such numbers that the
Parliamentarians boasted that their threat had recoiled upon their
own heads. The Royal Guards wore a special red cloak, but many
troops were raised at a moment’s notice by loyalists, and the custom
prevailed to don the colours of the commander in the form of a
scarf or ribbon—a regiment “wearing green colours,” for instance,
is noted—and the story is well known of the orange scarf worn by
the men under the Parliamentary General, the Earl of Essex. It is
worth repeating here and now, because it bears upon the medal
granted on June 1st, 1643, to Sir Robert Welch, or Walsh as he
commonly spelt his own name, an Irish Officer, for rescuing the Royal
The Shrewsbury Medal.

Standard at the Battle of Edgehill on October 23rd, 1642. The story runs that the King's Standard-bearer, Sir Edmund Verney, being borne down and killed by the enemy, the Standard was seized by Colonel Middleton, of Essex's men, and given into the charge of Mr. Chambers, the General's secretary. Two officers and a trooper of the Royalist Cavalry under Rupert's command, discarding their own regimental symbols, tore the "orange-tawny scarfs" from some of the fallen enemy and, thus disguised, made their way through the ranks of their foes. Telling the secretary that "it was unfit a penman should have the honour to carry the Standard," Smith of Grandison's Horse, or Welch of Wilmot's contingent, seized it, and they galloped back to their own regiments carrying their trophy with them. Whether all three escaped history does not relate; the third horseman, whose name is reported as Chichley, did not, we fear, live to reap the reward of the victory, for we do not hear of him again.

Smith later died of wounds received at Cheriton in 1644, but Welch, who in 1679 wrote a lamentably boastful memoir of himself, although he gives credit to Smith's part in the affair, claimed to have been the actual rescuer of the King's Regimental Standard and also of two cannon and of Essex's waggon. He presented his capture next day to Rupert, who in turn brought both officers to the King when

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1 On the medal and warrant for making it, preserved at the College of Arms, the name is spelt "Welch," and to avoid confusion I have adopted this spelling in agreement with Medallic Illustrations of British History, vol. i, p. 302, No. 124. In the Grant-of-Arms, however, ratifying the above warrant under James II, in August, 1685, and also to be seen at the Herald's College, we find the change of the "e" to "a"—"Walch." In Sir Robert's autobiography, "printed for the author in 1679," and entitled The Narrative and True Manifest set forth by Sir Robert Walsh, Knight and Batt. [Banneret], we notice the further substitution of "s" for "c," and as "Walsh" he is mentioned by Clarendon. Yet another form is adopted in a pamphlet of 1680, where it is stated that "he calls himself Sir Robert Welsh." The spelling of those days was little regarded, but Sir Robert claimed to belong to a very ancient family of Walsh in Ireland.

2 John Smith, sometimes spelt "Smythe," was the son of Sir Francis Smith and brother of the first Lord Carington. Most historians impute to Smith the actual recapture of the Standard.

Welch and Smith were both made knights bannerets as Sir Robert and Sir John, respectively.

The gold medal ordered from Rawlins and afterwards presented to Welch and Smith was worn by both knights on a green ribbon. It appears from the Memoir of Welch that it might be worn on green, blue or black; but of Smith, it is expressly stated by Bulstrode, that his medal was suspended from "a large green watered Ribband cross his shoulders." The medal has been identified by a careful drawing of both sides on the Grant-of-Arms to Sir Robert Welch in the Herald's College—M.S.I. 26, folio 90. It was figured in the Numismatic Chronicle, vol. xv, 1st series, in 1853, and one or

MEDAL PRESENTED TO SIR ROBERT WELCH.

(By Kind Permission of the Royal Numismatic Society.)

(Numismatic Chronicle, vol. xv (1853), p. 80.)

I have compared the plate in the Numismatic Chronicle, here reproduced, by the courtesy of the Royal Numismatic Society, with the pen-and-ink sketch at the College of Arms. The copy is excellent, but the cross-hatching in the original is rather finer.

1 Narrative and Manifest, final page; also Sir Richard Bulstrode's Memoirs and Reflections, p. 83.

2 I have compared the plate in the Numismatic Chronicle, here reproduced, by the courtesy of the Royal Numismatic Society, with the pen-and-ink sketch at the College of Arms. The copy is excellent, but the cross-hatching in the original is rather finer.
more specimens of the medal,¹ as it must have appeared, were then made, and gilt electrotypes exist, but no contemporary specimen has been so far discovered in its entirety.

The Medal Room at the British Museum contains, it is true, a shell, contemporaneously struck in thin silver of the obverse which was specified in the College of Arms warrant as "our own figure and that of our dearest sonne." And there also, cast and chased in silver-gilt, is an example wherein two pieces of the Jugate busts' design intended for the obverse have been soldered together back to back. It seems likely that hastily struck clichés were either intended to be combined with some specially designed reverse, like that of the Royal Standard granted to Welch, or the die was meant to produce solid uniface medals on which some dedicatory words could be engraved, as is implied by the document I am about to bring before you.

It is said that Sir John Smith is represented in a picture wearing his decoration, but although I have been privileged to examine the Welch Grant-of-Arms and the warrant for the medal at the College of Arms, I have not succeeded in discovering the whereabouts of the Smith portrait. This is the more regrettable, in

¹ *Medallic Illustrations*, vol. i, pp. 302–3, No. 124.
that it is likely that he would be depicted wearing his medal with the side bearing the Standard towards the spectator, just as the picture of Sir Thomas Tyldesley is represented at the National Portrait Gallery wearing his medal on a chain, and showing the equestrian figure usually regarded as the reverse of the Edgehill medal, rather than the obverse portraying the King, in order to differentiate from other commoner medals with which Charles's crowned head is more usually combined. Sir Thomas, who was killed in battle fighting for Prince Charles in 1651, had fought with distinction at Edgehill commanding a troop he had himself raised for the King.

![The Battle of Edgehill Medal.
(Medallic Illustrations, vol. i, p. 299, No. 119.)](image)

However, so rare is the Jugate portrait of Charles I and his son, which forms the obverse of the Welch and Smith medals, that it has always been a subject of doubt whether it was made solely for these two loyal followers of the King or was merely adapted to their use on the lines which I have suggested. It is a rough hurried piece of work far inferior to the Forlorn-Hope Medal ordered on May 18th, 1643, which shows the King's bust in high-relief three-quarter to right on the one side, combined with a charming profile to left, a portrait of the little Prince, adapted by Rawlins on a slightly smaller scale from a medallion which he had executed and signed at Oxford. Was the "Military Reward," as
The Jugate portrait is called in *Medallic Illustrations of British History*, p. 302, No. 123, given for other services than No. 124, the rescue of the Standard? This is the question I hope to answer.

![Image of the Jugate portrait]

**THE FORLORN-HOPE MEDAL.**

(*Medallic Illustrations*, vol. i, p. 301, No. 122.)

In turning over the pages of Lord Crawford's splendid Calendar of Proclamations, and reading the introduction by Mr. Robert Steele, my eye fell upon the words "medal hitherto unknown to students." This directed my attention to No. 2353, of January 23rd, 1642–3, addressed to Parkhurst and Bushell at Oxford.

The abstract, necessarily brief, merely informs us that a gold medal was ordered for the "County of Salop," with a note to the effect that: "In addition to the verbal expression of his thanks, the King orders a gold medal with the effigies of himself and his son to be presented to the chief personages of the County of Salop who have aided the Royal cause."

It was stated that two copies of the proclamation were known, the one in the Privy Council Office, the other in the collection of Mrs. Wentworth.

By the kindness and courtesy of the Clerk of the Council, I received a copy in full of the order for the medal, and by the subsequent chance of the Wentworth folios coming into Messrs. Sotheby's sale-room on June 21st, 1922, I was further able to satisfy myself as to details of type and spelling by collating No. 4 of the Wentworth
collection with the copy of No. 477 at the Privy Council Office which I now reproduce:—

"CHARLES R."

"Trusty and wel-beloved We greet you well. Finding much "Reality and Worthynes in the resolution of Our truehearted "Subjects from Our County of SALOP, first by them expressed "in their late concurrent association against the unnaturall "Rebells now on foote in this Our Kingdom, We are not "satisfied by having imparted to them the true sence We conceive "of their dutifull affections in Our Letters, and Our Verball "thanks for the same, without leaving amongst them some more "durable Monument of Our Royall Grace, and favour, to remaine "in after ages, as an Evidence of their Fidelity to their Prince, "and Country. We have therefore caused Our owne Royall "Image, with that of Our dearest Sonne, Prince Charles, to be "impressed on a Medall of Gold, and a Commemoration of his "well-deservings to whom it is designed, to be inscribed on the "Reverse, whereby his Posterity may assume the Glory That "their Ancestor stood Loyall to their Sovereigne when the "Malignity of Rebellion had neere covered the face of this "flourishing Kingdom. These Medalls We require that you "present in Our name with your owne hands to those worthy "Personages, as they are severally nominated, and to certifie Vs "who are remayning more in Our said County, which have "deserved such Memorialls, to whom We shall thereupon "accordingly confer the same. Provided that none, who have "actually assisted, or contributed to this present Rebellion "against Vs receive any such Honour from Vs. Given at Our "Court at Oxford this 23 day of January 1642.

"To Our trusty and well-beloved S'r William Parkhurst, "Knight, and Thomas Bushell, Esquire, Wardens of Our Mint."

The King, according to a manuscript in the Bodleian Library,¹ after setting up his Standard at Nottingham on August 23rd, where

The Shrewsbury Medal.

he was staying with the Earl of Clare some five weeks, went on September 13th to Derby, thence on the 16th to Uttoxeter, on the 17th to Stafford, the 19th to Wellington, and thence to Shrewsbury, arriving the 20th and remaining three nights. On the 23rd he went to "West-Chester"—reference to Clarendon shows that this should read Chester—for four nights, and returned on the 27th to Shrewsbury making it his headquarters until October 12th. Clarendon remarks on the excellent behaviour of the troops whilst at Shrewsbury and the great loyalty to the King, "the free loans and contributions of the gentlemen and substantial inhabitants, but especially by the assistance of the nobility," so that there was not the least "discontent for want of pay; nor was there any cause, for they seldom failed every week, never went above a fortnight unpaid." On the 12th the King went by Bridgenorth and Wolverhampton, Aston, Packington and Southam to Edgcott, where he arrived on the 22nd. The battle of Edgehill was fought on the following day.

We see from the "Narrative" of Welch that although knighted the day after the battle, the medals were not promised to him and Smith until the King should be settled in Oxford, and the warrant to Rawlins was dated June 1st, 1643. This warrant informs us that the engraver was desired to "make a medal in gold with Our own figure and that of Our dearest sonne Prince Charles. And on the reverse to insculp y^e form of Our Royal Banner," etc., etc.

This is suggestive that the obverse die was already in existence for Rawlins was only "to insculp" the reverse. We may, I think, therefore rest assured that the Shropshire Medal, ordered in the preceding January, 1642-3, bore the same obverse as that afterwards presented to Welch and ordered on June 1st, 1643, whilst the far more beautiful Forlorn-Hope Medal, which was executed more at the leisure of Rawlins, intervened in point of date, being ordered May 18th, 1643. This was, however, unsuitable, as was also the Edgehill Medal, for the Welch and Smith presentation, in that the portraits occupied the two sides of the badge.

1 Clarendon's History, pp. 303-5, edition of 1843.
I hope in bringing this document into notice that extant examples of the gold medal may be brought to light in some of the beautiful old houses in the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury. But such evidences of loyalty were after the King's death a danger to the owners, and the temptation to melt the gold was strong—although, when their services had been called for by Charles, not only their plate, but their lives, had been proffered for his cause.