THE COINAGE OF LUNDY, 1645-6.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL H. W. MORRIESON, F.S.A.

In the year 1645 the fortunes of the Royalist party took a turn for the worse, and various strongholds surrendered, in Bushell’s opinion, without sufficient cause. He wrote to King Charles offering to defend Lundy Island and not surrender without His Majesty’s permission. This was accepted. Bushell was probably at Bristol when this offer was made, but it is not known when he went to Lundy. Bristol was taken by the Parliamentary forces on September 11th, 1645, so we may assume that he proceeded there before that date. He was either the owner or lessee of the place, as in 1643-4 he had received the grant of the island from the King, together with the customs of the lead, an extension of his lease of the royal mines of Wales, and a lease of the lead mines at Coombe Martin. Lundy was well situated for him, as he could communicate by sea with Aberystwith and also Coombe Martin, which was on the opposite Devonshire coast.

The garrison must have been a small one, seeing that in his claim to the Privy Council after the Restoration he applied for the pay of 104 men. Unlike Bristol, he sent in no bill for the establishment of a Mint, but applied for the cost of repairing the buildings. The expense he was put to amounted to £5,570.¹

He made a stout defence, for during the winter Lord Lisle, with a fleet of 20 sail on its way to Ireland, anchored off the island and summoned Bushell in the name of the Parliament to surrender, or, in the words of Lord Lisle’s report, “to attend a storm, he gave me positive answer to Die in the place rather than to yield without

¹ Brit. Mus. Cat., 27, f. 1 (7), p. II.
His Majesty's consent . . . which gallantry of his letter and the equal deportment given of his carriage made me weigh anchor for Ireland the next tide, and wish His Majesty had more such subjects of Truth and honest behaviour.”

On January 12th, 1645-6, a Committee of Parliament authorized a proposal to be made to Bushell to give up Lundy, on the condition that he might be restored to his interests in the silver mines. This proposal was transmitted by the Governor of Swansea, and was received on March 12th, and acknowledged on the 19th. Some haggling over conditions ensued, for on April 8th, 1646, Lord Fairfax sent a messenger asking Bushell to come over and treat.

On May 14th, 1646, Bushell wrote to the King asking for permission to surrender the island, which was granted on July 14th by the King, who was then a prisoner of the Scots at Newcastle, in this letter:—

"Bushell,

"We have perused your letter, in which we finde thy care to answer thy trust we at first reposed in thee. Now, since the place is unconsiderable in itself, and yet may be of great advantages unto you in respect of your mines, we do hereby give you leave to use your discretion in it, with this caution, that you do take example from ourselves, and be not over credulous of vain promises, which hath made us great only in our sufferings, and will not discharge our debts.

"From Newcastle, 14 July, 1646." 

Having obtained His Majesty's consent, Bushell made the following demands:—

(1) An Act of Oblivion for his servants.
(2) His own estate to be restored to him towards the payment of his just debts.
(3) To follow his public calling in minerals, and that his several grants of the mines, mint and customs of lead with his

---

1 Harl. MS. 6833, p. 42.
The Coinage of Lundy, 1645–6.

goods and estate at Enson be restored to him and confirmed by Parliament.

(4) That 100 tons of his own lead and 100 tons of Potter’s ore be brought from his mines in Wales to Bideford, for the better discharge of his debts in Devon and the recovery of the deserted mines at Coombe Martin.

On October 31st the Parliament appears to have agreed to these terms. They were further explained by Lord Saye and Sele on February 14th, 1646–7. This explanation proving satisfactory, an Armistice was made on February 24th, 1646–7.¹

On July 9th, 1647, the terms were notified by the House of Lords in the following minute:—

“Ordered that it be reported to both Houses that upon the Delivery up of the Isle of Lundy to the Lord Viscount Saye & Sele, or his assigns by Mr. Thomas Bushell, his Delinquency may be taken off and all sequestration in respect thereof, and he restored to such Right as he or his Assigns had in the mines in Devonshire, Wales or Cornwall before these wars; and that the men that were with him in the Island being not men of Estate or Quality be pardoned and freed from Delinquency and Sequestration, according to an Order agreed upon and the Undertaking of this Committee; when he is now ready to submit and to yield up the Island on the terms offered by this Committee Ordered that this House approves of the Report and the concurrence to be desired herein.”²

This was agreed to by the House of Commons, and the Island was finally surrendered on September 10th, 1647.

In Harl. MS. 6833, there is nothing comprised in the dossier of Bushell’s claims for repayment of expenses submitted to the Privy Council in 1661, which specifically refers to a mint. He naturally would remove his establishment from an insecure spot, such as Bristol was then becoming, to a safer place where it would continue

² Journal of the House of Lords, 1647.
to be under his personal supervision. The over stamping of the B on the dies favours this view. In July, 1646, when he formulated his terms, the Mint was included. At that date Oxford had fallen, and the only Mint that could have existed was that which was with him, and all that was necessary was to transfer it to the neighbourhood of Coombe Martin in order to coin money from the 100 tons of ore, etc., which he demanded should be sent to Bideford.

All the coins I attribute to this Mint have in 1645 the mint-mark A, and in 1646 B, or a plume. They are all of the Bristol type and, with the exception of half-groat and penny, have the Declaration reverse, and some of the dies employed are old ones of Bristol with the B mint-mark altered. The half-crown with the B is unique, but the sixpence is not uncommon.

Mr. Henry Symonds suggests that the “A” and “B” coins were struck at Appledore and Barnstaple respectively, on the ground that these places held out for the King until April, 1646, and that Lundy was a very inconvenient place. Barnstaple surrendered on April 12th, 1646, so there was a period of three weeks to strike in. This may have been the case, but I do not agree, and am not prepared to offer another solution.

Sir Richard Vyvian had the privilege of erecting Mints in Devonshire and Cornwall with headquarters at Exeter. If he had established Mints at these places he would have supplied the dies from Exeter, and presumably of the type struck there as authorized in his patent. I expect he would have been full of wrath had he found his rival of Bristol poaching on his domain. He could not find fault with Bushell for coining at Lundy, for at that time this island legally was considered as being out of England. Further, I doubt whether Bushell had authority to strike money at a place in which he was not residing. Exeter surrendered about the same time, when the Royalist cause in the west collapsed.

I consider that these coins were struck by the employees of Bushell with dies of the Bristol type and quite different from those of Exeter, and although Bushell was confined in that lonely but

---

secure island, he superintended the operation of his Mint with safety to himself and his moneyers. One of the objects in his grant of this isle, was that he could use it as a depot for the purpose of landing his produce till he had the opportunity of exporting it.¹

The place does not appear to have been blockaded except for Lord Lisle’s visit, so doubtless Bushell could communicate with the shore, and there is no record that he suffered from want of provisions or stores. If this was the case he easily could have received small supplies of bullion. The coins struck were in conformity with his Aberystwith patent, as they all, with the exception of the first shilling, have the plume as directed in that authority, and even that has a plume for a mint-mark. The denominations are those authorized in that document, viz. half-crown, shilling, sixpence, groat, threepence, and half-groat. If there were pence and halfpence they are indistinguishable from those struck at Bristol.

The coinage could not have been extensive, as some of the coins are very rare; those generally met with are the sixpences and groats of 1646.

The coins of 1645 are very similar to those of Bristol of that date, but in 1646 a scroll ornament was introduced instead of a line over the Declaration. The legend on the reverse is EXURGAT DEUS DISSIPENTUR INIMICI unless otherwise given.

In describing the coins, “plume” represents an Oxford plume with bands; “S. plume,” a Shrewsbury one without bands; and “plumelet,” a small compact Shrewsbury plume.

**Half-Crowns.**

1645.

*Obverse.*

A. Mint-mark S. plume with a pellet each side, plume behind the king, and A below the horse. Legend, CAROLUS · D · G · MAG · BR · FR · ET · HIB · REX. Hawkins, No. 35 (uncertain). (Plate I, I.)

¹ Meyrick’s *History of Cardiganshire*, Introduction, p. ccxviii
Reverses.

1. Mint-mark A over B with pellet at each side. Three plumes. Declaration (line above and below), REL: PROT:/LE:AN:LI:PA: 1645, A over B. A pellet between the words of the legend. B.M. (Plate I, 2.)

This is the die for the Bristol 1645 reverse 1 altered by striking A over B.

2. Similar to 1, but the A is not struck over anything. The declaration reads PROT. B.M. (Plate I, 3.)

3. Similar to 2, but without A below date. This, also, reads PROT. (Plate I, 3a.)

1646.

Obverses.

A. Same as 1645 A. B.M.

Found with reverse 1. (Plate I, 1.)

B. Mint-mark S. plume with a pellet each side. Similar to A, but has a plumelet below the horse, and the flan is larger. (Plate I, 4.)

Found with reverses 2, 3, 4 and 5.

One die has two pellets to the right of the mint-mark.

Reverses.

1. Mint-mark A with (?) pellet at each side.


Found with obverse A.

2. Mint-mark S. plume with a pellet to left. Plume between two smaller S. plumes. Scroll ornament different from that of 1. Declaration, REL: PROT:/LE:AN:LI:PA: 1646. A pellet between the words of the legend. (Plate I, 6.)

Found with obverse B.
3. Similar to 2, but with a pellet both sides of mint-mark, and PRO: for PROT:.
   Found with obverse B. (Plate I, 7.)
4. As 3, but PROT: for PRO: and a plumelet below date.
   (Plate I, 8.)
   Found with obverse B.
5. Mint-mark pellet; otherwise as 2. (Plate I, 9.)
   Found with obverse B.

SHILLINGS.

With one exception, the shillings have a plume of sorts before the face and all have the value behind the head.

1645.

Obverses.

A. Mint-mark plume with a pellet each side. Bust as on the Bristol shillings, with no plume in front. Legend, CAROLUS.
   Found with reverses 1 and 2.
   There is one similar to this, but without a mint-mark. This omission is caused by the coin having jumped when struck. This may be the coin referred to by Hawkins as being in the Shepherd collection.

B. Mint-mark plume with a pellet each side. Bust as on A, but has a different band to the crown; plumelet in front of the face. Legend as on A, but HIB: for HI:.
   Hawkins, No. 4 (uncertain). (Plate I, 11.)
   Found with reverse 1.

Reverses.

   Found with obverses A and B.
2. As 1, but PROT: for PRO:.
   Hawkins, No. 3 (uncertain).
   Found with obverse A.
1646.

Obverses.

A. Mint-mark S. plume with a pellet each side. Bust similar to 1645 B. S. plume in front of face. Legend as on 1645 A. Hawkins, No. 5 (uncertain). (Plate I, 13.)

Found with reverse 3.

The mint-mark is struck over what might be a B.

B. Mint-mark plume with a pellet each side. Plumelet in front of face. Otherwise as A. Hawkins, No. 5 (uncertain). (Plate I, 14.)

Found with reverses 1 and 2.

Reverses.


Found with obverse B.

2. Same as 1, but PROT for PRO.

Found with obverse B.

3. Mint-mark pellet. Plume with a plumelet each side, otherwise as 1. (Plate I, 16, where the object to the right of the pellet is the E of EX jumped.)

Found with obverse A.

Sixpences.

1645.

Obverse.

A. Mint-mark > (“A” horizontal). Bust somewhat like that on the Bristol groat, plumelet in front of face. Legend, CAROLUS. D:G: MAG: BRI: FR: ET. HI: REX. This coin is struck on a flan the same size as that of the groat, but cannot be mistaken, as the value “vi” is behind the head. Hawkins, No. 1 (uncertain). Snelling, xi, 22, shows no mint-mark. (Plate II, 17.)
COINAGE OF LUNDY, 1645-46

Plate II
The Coinage of Lundy, 1645–6.

Reverse.


There is probably one with PROT: for PRO:

1646.

Obverses.


Found with reverses 1 and 2.

B. Mint-mark pellet, otherwise as A. (Plate II, 20.)

Found with reverse 1.

This may be a "jumped" coin.

Reverses.


Found with obverses A and B.

2. As 1, but PROT: for PRO.

Found with obverse A.

GROATS.

1645.

Obverse.

A. The same as the sixpence 1645, but IIII behind the head. (Plate II, 22.)

Reverse.

1. The same as the sixpence 1645, but PROT for PRO. (Plate II, 18.)

There is probably one with PRO: for PROT:.
1646.

Obverse.

A. Mint-mark plumelet with a pellet each side. Bust as 1645, with plumelet in front of the face. Legend, CAROLUS·D·G·MAG·BR·FR·ET·HIB·REX. Hawkins, No. 1 (uncertain). (Plate II, 23.)

Snelling xi, 16, shows no mint-mark. Hawkins, No. 3 (uncertain).

Reverses.


There are probably dies with PROT for PRO for both these reverses.

Threepence.

1645.

Obverse.

A. Bristol 1645 A. Mint-mark pellet, plumelet in front of face. Value III behind the head. Legend, CAROLUS·D·G·M·B·F·E·H·REX. Hawkins, No. 2 (uncertain). (Plate II, 26.)

Reverse.

1. Bristol 1645 reverse. Mint-mark two pellets, which are the mark of contraction of the last word of the legend. Plumelet. Declaration, with no line under it, RE:PR:/LE:AN:/LI:PA:/1645. Legend, EXURGAT·DEUS·DISSIPENT·INIMI. (Plate II, 27.)

I attributed this coin to Bristol, but believe that it properly belongs to this Mint, as its reverse agrees with that of 1646 because of the single plumelet and absence of a line beneath the Declaration.

1646.

Obverse.


Reverse.

1. Mint-mark pellet. Plumelet, scroll ornament. Declaration, with no line under it, REL:PRO:/LEG:AN:/LIB:PA:/1646. A pellet between the words of the legend. Hawkins, No. 3 (uncertain). (Plate II, 29.)

HALF-GROATS.

1645.

There is none that can be attributed to this Mint. If any were coined they would have been probably struck with the Bristol die, which is without date.

1646.

Obverse.


Reverse.

A. Mint-mark pellet. A large plume between the figures of the date 16–46. Legend, JUSTITIA.THRONUM.FIRMAT. (Plate II, 31.)

All the coins are well struck and well turned out and are quite equal to any issued in previous years at any of Bushell’s Mints.
EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE I.

Half-Crowns.

2. 1645. Reverse 1. ,, A over Bv. A over Bv below date.
3. 1645. ,, 2. ,, A not over Bv.
3a. 1645. ,, 3. ,, A. No A below date.
5. 1646. Reverse 1. ,, A. B below date.
6. 1646. ,, 2. ,, S. plume.
7. 1646. ,, 3. ,, S. plume.
8. 1646. ,, 4. ,, S. plume. Plumelet below date.
9. 1646. ,, 5. ,, Pellet.

Shillings.

11. 1645. Reverse 1. ,, A.
13. 1646. ,, B. ,, plume.
15. 1646. ,, 3. ,, pellet.

PLATE II.

Sixpences.

19. 1646. Obverse A. ,, B.
20. 1646. ,, B. ,, pellet.

Groats.

23. 1646. ,, A. ,, plumelet.
25. 1646. ,, 2. ,, pellet.

Threepences.

27. 1645. Reverse 1. ,, two pellets (†).
29. 1646. Reverse 1. ,, pellet.

Half-Groat.

## The Coinage of Lundy, 1645–6.

### TABLE I.—OBVERSES WITH REVERSES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Half-Crowns</th>
<th>Shillings</th>
<th>Sixpences</th>
<th>Groats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1645</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1646</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE II.—REVERSES WITH OBVERSES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Half-Crowns</th>
<th>Shillings</th>
<th>Sixpences</th>
<th>Groats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1645</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1646</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>