

THE "EDWARD ROYALL" OF EDWARD VI

IN Part II of the *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. xxiv, Pl. II, 23, p. 117, was illustrated a half-sovereign of Edward VI with crowned bust and initial mark Bow. The reverse legend reads SCVTVM FIDEI, &c. The coin belongs to Mr. A. H. F. Baldwin, who points out that it is not specifically listed in Brooke's *English Coins*. The student of Edward VI's gold, however, will recognize the obverse, with the crowned king's bust in armour, as being struck from the same die as the coin known to collectors as the "Edward Royall", of which a specimen was illustrated by the late Mr. Henry Symonds in the *Numismatic Chronicle* of 1914, p. 148; another, from the same pair of dies, was shown in Messrs. Spink's *Numismatic Circular* in March 1923. This coin shows the king's titles on both sides and is listed by Brooke as type III of the half-sovereigns struck at Durham House in 1549-50. But Mr. Baldwin's coin throws a new light on the subject. This, it is now clear, is the true "Edward Royall", a normal coin for the crowned bust, with the king's titles on the obverse and the SCVTVM FIDEI &c. legend on the reverse. It places, moreover, the coin with the king's titles on both sides in its proper perspective. The coin is a mule, showing the obverse of Brooke's type III of the Durham House half-sovereigns with a reverse of his type I or type II which, being coins with the uncrowned bust, have the legends transposed and the king's titles on the reverse.

One minor point arises: the term "Edward Royall" applies to half-sovereigns struck at Durham House under the indenture of January 1549; it may therefore include each and all of the three types. These are, amending Brooke's description (*English Coins*, p. 189):

- I. *Obv.* Uncrowned bust, SCVTVM FIDEI, &c., MDXLVIII.
Rev. Arms, EDWARD VI, &c.
- II. *Obv.* Uncrowned bust, LVCERNA PEDIBVS MEIS VER-
BVM TVVM. *Rev.* Arms, EDW. VI, &c.
- III. *Obv.* Crowned Bust, EDWARD VI, &c. *Rev.* Arms, SCVTVM
FIDEI, &c.

All have initial mark Bow, and are extremely rare.

The phenomenon of the king's titles on both sides of a coin is not unprecedented; it occurs, through a similar transposition of legends and muling, on some half-angels of Edward IV.

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