

MISCELLANEA

A NEW COIN OF HENRY VII

THE coin illustrated (Pl. facing p. 64) was discovered by Mr. C. E. Blunt during a recent visit to the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow. It appears to be a groat of "sovereign penny" type. Although it is not recorded in the text-books of to-day, the coin was known to eighteenth-century numismatists because it is mentioned and illustrated in Martin Folkes and in Snelling. Folkes attributes it to Henry VIII, Snelling calls it a pattern of Henry VII. Ruding illustrates it in his edition of 1841 and attributes it to Henry VIII. The weight of the piece is 42.5 grains, and it seems likely that it is the very coin seen by Folkes and Snelling and declared by Snelling to be "an unique". In view of its absence from more recent publications its attribution and authenticity were held in Glasgow to be doubtful, but there are good grounds, I think, for accepting it as a genuine pattern piece of Henry VII. The weight of a genuine groat should of course be 48 grains, but it is well known that many coins of this period though unworn are light. It is of good silver, and the workmanship is good, though the king's features show signs of tooling. What is more convincing, however, is that this pattern bears not only the heraldic cinquefoil as initial mark, but every other feature of this well-known group of Henry VII's second coinage issue, with such faithfulness as to leave no reasonable doubt that the same official punches were used for striking it. This can be seen in detail by a comparison of the cross ending on the reverse, the copula between **ANGL** and **FRANC**, the stops, the lis-topped sceptre, the trefoil-topped pillars of the throne, and most important of all the lettering. I am aware that the earliest and the latest coins of this heraldic cinquefoil group do not agree with this generalization as to stops, copula, and cross endings. Nevertheless the bulk of these coins bear all these characteristics, which, I feel can be rightly claimed as those of the group as a whole. I claim therefore that we have good reason for accepting this piece as a genuine pattern groat of Henry VII.

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