THE ONLY GOLD COINS ISSUED IN IRELAND 1646

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One of the groups of emergency coins struck and issued in Ireland following the rebellion of 1641 is known as Inchiquin Money. The term is applied to the series of anonymous coins of gold and silver of varying and irregular shapes struck on plate and marked with the weight and/or the value of the particular denomination and having no dates, legends or symbols indicating when or under what authority they were issued. Of the series there were two denominations struck in gold known as the double pistole and the pistole. Seven denominations were struck in silver. These were the crown, half-crown, shilling, ninepence, sixpence, groat and threepence. There are three varieties of these gold and silver coins:

1. with the weight only stamped on both sides,
2. with the weight stamped on one side and the value in pence indicated by annulets on the other,
3. with the value only in shillings and pence in roman numerals stamped on both sides.

In the first category all denominations except the threepence are known, the appropriate weights being stamped in pennyweights and grains on both sides. In the second category the ninepence, sixpence, groat and threepence are known, the values being indicated by the number of annulets indicating the value in pence on one side, the weights being struck on the other in the same way as on those of the first category. In the third category the crown and half-crown only are known, the appropriate values being indicated in shillings and pence on both sides by roman numerals. The coins of the third type have also been called 'Dublin Money'. It is not known how the term 'Inchiquin Money' came to be applied to these coins.

Aquilla Smith writing in 1860 in the Journal of the Kilkenny and South East of Ireland Archaeological Society Vol. III, New series, p. 12, stated that the first use of the term discovered by him was in the catalogue of the auction of Lord Oxford's collection of coins which took place in London in March 1741. However the term came to be used, there now appears to be no justification for its application to this series of coins as it is fairly certain that the then Lord Inchiquin had nothing to do with their issue. Historically they are the most significant of all the emergency issues of coins of this period in Ireland because they include the only gold coins ever issued there under central authority at any time. The denominations struck in gold are now known as the double pistole and pistole. Two specimens of the double pistole have been known to exist and are believed to be in private possession. Possibly up to ten specimens of the pistole exist of which seven are in the collections of the National Museum of Ireland. The double pistole is struck with the weight 8 dwt: 14 gr: on both sides. It has been recorded, though not illustrated, by Nelson in an article, The Obsidional Money of the Great Rebellion, published in the British Numismatic Journal, Vol. II of 1905. The pistole is struck with the weight 4 dwt. 7 gr. on both sides and is illustrated by him.

Various writers have written from time to time on this Inchiquin Coinage, treating all the coins in both gold and silver as the one group, the general concensus of opinion being that all were struck and issued subsequent to two proclamations issued in Dublin in January
1642. It can now be shown that there is documentary evidence which proves beyond reasonable
doubt that the gold coins, the double pistole and the pistole, the only gold coins ever struck
and issued in Ireland, were, in fact, issued separately and independently of the silver coins
by the authority of the Duke of Ormonde under the terms of two warrants issued from Dublin
Castle, the first warrant dated the 29th of July 1646 and the second dated the 1st of
February 1646. At this time the old style or Julian calendar in which the new year began
on the 25th of March prevailed. Consequently February 1646 is the February after July 1646.

These warrants exist in the Carte Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library in Oxford. The Carte
manuscripts were deposited there during the years 1753-4 by Thomas Carte the biographer
of James, Duke of Ormonde, who was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from January 1643 until
July 1647. In 1865 two commissioners, Reverend C. W. Russell and Mr. J. P. Prendergast,
were appointed by the Treasury to examine these manuscripts and select for transcription
and publication any official papers contained therein. Their report was published in 1871
for the Stationery Office and gives in full, in pp. 74-5, transcripts of the two warrants
authorising the issuing of the gold coins.

(1) Warrant dated 29th of July 1646

Whereas the extreme necessity of the soldi\^{e}s in the city of Dublin & other garrisons near adjacent
is extraordinary great, & wee, willing to sustain them in their present indigences, having taken into our
compassion their grievous distresses, and having in our custody some bullion of gold being of diverse
uncertaine values, have thought good that it should be smelt downe together to make thereof certaine
pieces or pledges for the releafe of the s\^{e} distresses of the soldi\^{e}s; and therefore have required & com-
manded & by these presents doe require & command Peter Vaneynghoven and Gilbert Tongues of
the city of Dublin, goldsmiths, to take the said gold into their custody & the same to smelt downe
(& noe other of any othermens), & the same soe smelted downe & bring unto a standard of 19 carrotts
& because they want materials here for the exact tryall thereof, we doe allowe unto them the remedy of two
graines under or over in the finenesse, & the same being brought unto that finenesse, to cutt one into pieces
or pledges, the one sort weighting eight peny weight & fourteene graines & the other sorte weighing four
peny weight seven graines, or in each piece within two graines under or over for the remedy in cutting &
they shall stamp on every piece the said weight thereof in figures: and the said Peter & Gilbert shall
receive for their labour twelve pence & out of every twenty shill' worth of bullion by them wrought,
And moreover the said Peter & Gilbert shall by these presents have power to call any other workmen gold-
smiths for the speedy expediting of the work, giving them allowance for their work. All with fail not
to do upon your peril, and for soe doing this shall be your sufficient warrant. Dated und. our hand & seal
at his Maj\^{e}s Castle of Dublin, this 29 of July, anno Dom' 1646. (clxiv. p. 221.)

(2) Warrant dated 1st February, 1646

Whereas the extreme necessity of the inhabitants of this city of Dublin & the garrisons near adjacent
have been & are such as they have been forced to coin their plate, & now as their last refuge are enforced to
make away the gold rings, chains, & broken gold they have left, the well if they be enforced to sell to mer-
chants they will be carried away into other countries, to the great loss of their respective owners & the
exhausting the treasure of the kingdom; wee being humbly moved in prevent of hereof & for the publick
good that they who have any such rings & may have some small pledges, rings, &c., may have some small
pledges made thereof, such as wee were induced lately to cause to be made for the releafe of his Maj\^{e}s
army, doe hereby authorize Peter Vaneynhoven & Gilbert Tongues of Dublin, goldsmiths, to receive from
the parties that shall voluntarily bring them any gold of that kind in specie & melt it down & cut & stamp
it into the like pledges as for weight as they lately made for the use aforesaid, & for alloy betwixt 20 &
22 carrotts, the parties respectively paying them for their labour as we formerly allowed to them. Given, &c.,
1 Feb. 1646. (clxiv, p. 360).

There can be no doubt that the 'pieces or pledges, the one sort weighing eight penny weight
and fourteen grains and the other sort weighing four penny weight seven grains' are
the gold coins said to be of the Inchiquin series and known as the double pistole and the pistole.
The weights specified are found stamped on all extant specimens of these two coins, and are in accordance with the instructions in the warrant as indicated by the words '& they shall stamp on every piece the said weight thereof in figures'. The standard of the metal in the coins authorized to be struck by the first warrant was to be 19 carats fine which meant that 19 parts out of 24 or about 79 per cent of the metal used had to be fine gold. The standard for the coins to be struck pursuant to the second warrant was higher and was prescribed as from 20 to 22 carats, meaning approximately 83 to 92 per cent fine gold. The coins authorized by the first warrant were to be used for payment to the army and those authorized by the second warrant were to be given to the owners of the jewellery or other gold articles brought in, after payment of 12 pence minting fee for every 20 shillings worth of gold had been made to the two named goldsmiths commissioned to make the coins. The text of the first warrant stated that the gold being used had been in custody for some time, 'and having in our custody some bullion of gold being of diverse uncertaine values.' The text of the second warrant indicated that it was to provide facilities for persons having gold articles to turn them into coin but did not compel the surrender of such gold articles. It is not known why those particular weights of 8 dwt. 14 gr. or 206 grains and the half of that amount i.e. 4 dwt. 7 gr. or 103 grains were chosen as units of weight for the coins as they do not tie up in any way with the weight of any of the English gold coins at that time.

The two goldsmiths named in the warrants are of particular interest as Gilbert Tongues, or Tonques and Peter Vaneyndhoven, also spelt VandenLioven, Vaneinthoven, Vaneijnhoven, or Vancijnhoven, were nominated with others as the first or foundation members of the Dublin Goldsmiths' Company in the Charter of Charles I dated the 22nd of December 1637, under which the company was founded. Peter Vaneijnhoven was a warden of the Company in 1639-40 and he and Gilbert Tonques were wardens from 1644 to 1646. Gilbert Tonques was master of the Company in 1646-7. Their names had already occurred in other proclamations concerning the issue of coinage before the date of these warrants in 1646 issuing the gold coins.

To clarify the position of the coins struck in gold in relation to those struck in silver it is necessary to re-examine the sources and the statements of various writers on the subject. As already stated, these writers generally held the view that all those anonymous gold and silver coins (three variants in the silver) which became known as Inchiquin money were one group struck within a limited period of time, subsequent to two proclamations issued in January 1642, three and a half to four years before these warrants of 1646, pursuant to which the gold coins were issued.

The earliest written reference to them is by Edmund Borlace writing in *The Reduction of Ireland to the Crown of England*, pp. 234-5, published in 1675 which was a little over thirty years after and within living memory of the reputed time of issue. He stated:

and money coming in very slow; all people were encouraged by Orders from the Council Board, Dated at the Castle of Dublin, (one on the 5, the later on the 14 of January, 1642) to bring in their plate to be coined which many did; some who in respect of their imployment had least reason to do it whilst others secured theirs. At first the Stamp was in this form, merely with the value of the silver upon it.

He then illustrated one side of a groat or fourpence marked not with the value as might be implied from the text, but with the weight i.e. 1 dr. 6 gr, the letters dr being probably incorrect as the letters usually found in the groat over the figure 1 are dwt. He makes no mention as to whether the plate used in the making of the coins was of gold or of silver.
In another work by Borlace, *The History of the Execrable Irish Rebellion*, p. 106, published five years later in 1680, the author again referred to coinage issued in the year 1642 thus:

The Lords Justices being given to great strait, and left without hopes of Relief from England, and the Inhabitants of Dublin being no longer able to support the Necessity of their Families, and relieve the Soldiers, their Insolencies being high, the State entertain'd a Design of sending the greatest part of the Army (then quarter'd in Dublin) into some Parts distant from that City, where they might live upon the Rebels; and for this end, coin'd their own Plate, encouraging others to the same Advance of the State's service, whereupon (at first) they order'd Pieces of Money marked to their Weight.

Many brought in freely; those indeed who (considering their employment, and what was expected from them) had least reason to do it, whilst others issued only out their Warrants and Receipts, never yet discharged: Yet by the help of what came in, and some supplies out of England, (which had not wholly deserted Ireland) the Army march'd out 2,500 Foot and 500 Horse, under the command of the Marquess of Ormond whose carriage in that Business, and his success at the Battle of Ross, we shall leave to the Lords Justice's and Council's Letter, to the Speaker of the House of Commons in England, the 4th of April 1643.

The letter of this date is then printed in full but contains no reference to the issuing of coinage. It will be noticed that Borlace in his two books made two partly contradictory statements regarding the devices stamped on these coins said to have been issued in 1642. In his first work published in 1675 he stated they were stamped with the value but illustrated a coin struck with the weight and in his second work published in 1680 he stated that they were stamped with the weight. As is known now there are three types (1) with the weight only on both sides (2) with the weight on one side and the value on the other (3) with the value only on both sides. It is probable that the first struck were those stamped with the weight only on both sides and that stamping the value in pence in annulets on the ninepence, sixpence, groat and threepence was a later device to facilitate identification of those smaller coins which could be difficult. In the second work Borlace makes no reference to the metal used in the coinage. Borlace's statements were repeated in substance by Walter Harris writing about 1739 in his revised edition of *The works of Sir James Ware concerning Ireland Revised and Improved*, Vol. 11, p. 218, Dublin Edition 1764-5.

The next writer of note to refer to these coins was Thomas Simon writing in his *Essay towards an Historical account of Irish coins*, p. 47, published in 1749. He stated:

After the most execrable massacre of 1641, the lords justices and council, in order to raise a fund, immediately wanted to maintain an army to suppress the rebels, issued a proclamation, the 14th of January 1642, to encourage his majesty's loyal subjects to bring in their plate for the service of the government which was cheerfully complied with, and the same hastily coined into several kinds of species of different shapes. One kind has only the weight stamped on them, as nineteen penny-weight eight grains, — nine pennyweight eight grains — three pennyweight twenty grains — one pennyweight six grains. Another sort instead of the weight, has only the value, V. for five shillings.

He illustrated, in plate No. 6, one side of a crown and groat of the first type with the weight stamped on both sides, a groat of the second type stamped with the weight on one side and value denoted by four annulets on the other and one side of a crown of the third type which had the value V.s struck on both sides. The weights mentioned above as given by Simon are for the crown, half-crown, shilling and groat but those for the half-crown and shilling are incorrect and should have read nine pennyweight sixteen grains and three pennyweight twenty one grains. He does not mention the existence of any gold coins and it is probable that they were unknown to him at the time. In the Appendix to Simon's work, pp. 118-9, the full text of the proclamation of the 14th of January is given. This shows that there were
in fact two proclamations connected with the bringing in of plate. The first, dated the 5th of January 1642, was directed to the inhabitants of the City and Suburbs of Dublin. The second, dated the 14th of January 1642, which was referred to and given by Simon was directed to the Inhabitants of the County of Dublin. The text of the second proclamation of the 14th of January 1642, referred to and recited the first proclamation issued a few days before on the 5th of January. The first proclamation ordered all persons living in Dublin City and Suburbs to deliver up half or more of their plate 'for the relief of the officers of the army'. Compensation was to be given at the rate of five shillings per ounce 'for such plate as is true touch', meaning plate of sterling standard or 92.5 per cent fine silver and pro rata for such plate as was below this standard. It also provided that interest at the rate of 8 per cent would be paid to those who delivered up their plate pending final payment. Having recited the terms of the first proclamation the second proclamation of the 14th of January went on to enforce and apply the same provisions to the County of Dublin ordering all persons resident there to deliver up half or more of their plate to William Bladen, alderman and John Pue, one of the sheriffs of Dublin city. The two persons named were empowered to call to their assistance Gilbert Tonques and Peter Vandenhoven who were to view the surrendered plate 'to try the touch' i.e. to assay the plate and assess the compensation to be made to those who surrendered it. Neither proclamation mentions the intention of converting the plate into coin, both being solely concerned with the surrendering of the plate.

The next writer to refer to this coinage was Reverend Rogers Ruding writing about 1810. In his *Annals of the Coinage of Great Britain and its Dependencies*, Vol. II p. 271 (2nd Edition) he accepted Simon's statements that all these anonymous silver coins marked with the weight or the weight and value or the value only were issued subsequent to the two proclamations of the 5th and 14th of January 1642.

He illustrated, in the plates, No. XXVII and Supplement VI, the crown, halfcrown, shilling, ninepence, sixpence and groat of the first category with the weight on both sides, the groat and the threepence of second category with the weight on one side and the value in pence expressed in annulets on the other and the crown and halfcrown of the third category with the value in roman numerals on both sides. He made no mention of any gold coins probably because their existence was unknown to him.

Almost thirty years after Ruding a Corkman named John Lindsay wrote a book entitled *A View of the Coinage of Ireland*, published in 1839, in which the coinage is mentioned. He stated, p. 55:

1642. January 14th., a proclamation having issued, encouraging his Majesty's loyal subjects to bring in their plate for the service of the government, it was hastily coined into money.

This coinage which is commonly called the Inchiquin Money, consisted of crowns, halfcrowns, shillings, ninepences, sixpences and groats of irregular shape, with no other type or legend except the weight stamped on them.

He listed the weights correctly and also mentioned that there were groats and threepences with the weight on one side and the annulets on the other and that there were crowns and halfcrowns struck with the values in shillings and pence in roman numerals on both sides. He did not mention gold coins.

In 1860-1 Aquilla Smith, the most notable of Irish workers in monetary history, published an article, *Money of Necessity issued in Ireland in the Reign of Charles the First* published in the *Journal of the Kilkenny and South East of Ireland Archaeological Society*, Vol. III,
In it he examined in detail all the Irish emergency issues during the reign of Charles I. He quoted the two proclamations of the Lords Justices and Council of Ireland, the first dated the 5th of January 1642 directed to all persons living in the city and suburbs of Dublin and the second dated the 14th of January 1642 directed to all persons in the county of Dublin, ordering them to surrender half their plate to be used 'for the present reliefe of the said officers' of the army. He stated that no record had been discovered indicating what type of money was struck from the silver surrendered in accordance with these proclamations. He agreed generally with Simon and quoted Borlace, *Reduction of Ireland*, published in 1675, as the authority that the first coins were struck with the value although Borlace in this work immediately after this statement illustrated a coin struck with the weight, not with the value. Aquilla Smith also stated, p. 16, that two or three gold coins 'stamped on each side 4 dwts. 7 grs. within a double circle' had come to light a few years before. He illustrated one of the gold coins and remarked that the lettering on it very closely resembled that on one of the silver crowns of the first group, also illustrated, which it does. He allocated the gold coins as being part of the first group in which the known silver coins had the weight struck on both sides. This is the first mention of the existence of gold coins struck with the weight 4 dwt: 7 gr. on both sides, and Aquilla Smith did not give or suggest any name or denomination for them.

The next writer to mention the Inchiquin coins was Herbert A. Grueber, the author of the *Handbook of the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland in the British Museum*, published in 1899. He mentioned, on p. 235, the gold coin stamped with

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on both sides saying that it was called the pistole and stated that two specimens only were known. He included it with the group known as Inchiquin money, with the issue of which he stated Lord Inchiquin was in no way concerned. He stated that this money was struck from plate bought in pursuant to a proclamation of the Lords Justices and Council dated the 5th of January 1642, thus agreeing generally with the statements of Aquilla Smith and the previous writers on the subject. He treated the crown and halfcrown of the third category, which had the value struck in roman numerals on both sides, as a separate issue struck sometime between January 1642 and May 1643 and stated that they were now called 'Dublin money' because they probably were struck in Dublin. Grueber's catalogue was the first authoritative work in which the term pistole was used as the denomination of this gold coin stamped with 4:dwtt 7:gr. on both sides. The use of the term was probably by analogy with the last gold coin of the Scottish series struck during the reign of William III of England in 1701. This was known as a pistole and closely approximated the Irish coin in having a weight of 106 grains.

About six years after the publication of Grueber's catalogue a very extensive account of all the English and Irish emergency issues of money during the years following 1641 was written by Dr. Philip Nelson and published in an article entitled *The Obsidional Money of the Great Rebellion* published in the *British Numismatic Journal*, 1905, Vol. II, pp. 291-357. He revealed the existence for the first time of a gold coin struck on both sides with the weight

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within two circles. He called the coin the double pistole and stated that two specimens only were known, but does not mention their location. He described two specimens of the pistole
one of which was stated to have been stamped on both sides with the weight 4 dwt: 6 gr. and the other stamped on both sides with the weight 4 dwt: 7 gr., the latter coin being illustrated. He attributed both these gold coins as part of Inchiquin money stating ‘On January 5, 1642–3 An Act empowered Lord Inchiquin, Vice President of Munster, to issue silver coins of various denominations, struck from plate, which the well affected were directed to bring to the mint in Dublin, for which plate five shillings per ounce was offered’. He did not give the number and title of any such Act, but, as the date given by him for it was the 5th of January 1642, one can only presume that what he referred to as an Act was, in fact, the proclamation of this date already mentioned, which was issued by the Lords Justices and Council of Ireland directed to all the residents of the city and suburbs of Dublin ordering them to surrender half their plate. This proclamation contained no mention of Lord Inchiquin. Nelson treated the crown and half-crown of the third category with the value in shillings and pence stamped in roman numerals on both sides as being part of the Inchiquin series, and was in general agreement with the earlier writers on the subject.

The most recent writer to deal with the emergency issues in Ireland during the years following 1641 was F. Wilson Yeates in an article, The Coinage of Ireland during the Rebellion, 1642–52 published in the British Numismatic Journal, Vol. XV, consecutive series, pp.185–223 of 1918–20. This article was written to supplement Nelson’s work of a few years earlier and contains several references to it. Yeates treated the three types of Inchiquin coins as one group, issued subsequent to the proclamations of the 5th and 14th of January 1642, but surprisingly made no mention of the gold coins at all. He disagreed with Nelson’s statement connecting Lord Inchiquin with the coinage and reclassified all the various issues of emergency money after 1641 with new nomenclatures calling the Inchiquin group of coins, The Lords Justices’ First Issue 1642, a more logical and correct title than Inchiquin Money for the silver coins at least.

In brief these are the contributions by the leading writers on these coins which have been known as Inchiquin Money. It seems reasonable to conclude that the silver coins struck with the weight only and the weight and value shown by annulets were probably struck shortly after the two proclamations of the Lords Justices and Council, the first dated the 5th of January 1642 directed to all persons living in the city and suburbs of Dublin and the second dated the 14th of January 1642 directed to all persons living in the county of Dublin ordering all people who owned plate to surrender half of it for the purpose of providing payment for the army. Borlace’s two statements, published in 1675 and 1680, were written within living memory of the events. In spite of the contradictions they do suggest that the plate surrendered was used almost immediately for the making of coins stamped with the weight or the value or with both. The groat of which one side only was stamped with the weight 1 dr. 6 gr. and which is illustrated in his work, is known in both categories, with this weight struck on both sides and with the same weight struck on one side and the value in pence denoted by four annulets on the other. So a certain confusion in reference to weight and value in Borlace’s statements is understandable, and in fact strengthens the probability that the coins of the first category struck with the weights and of the second category struck with the weights and values were the strikings done shortly after the surrender of the plate. The probability regarding the crown and half-crown struck with the values only, 

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is not so strong, but it seems reasonable to conclude that the striking of the values on the coins at a later stage was to make the coins more easily identifiable.
The reasons for the anonymity, by which is meant the absence of legends or date or the name of the issuing authority on the silver coins issued in 1642 and in the gold coins issued over three years later, is found in the text of the two warrants under which the gold coins were struck and issued. In the first warrant of the 29th of July 1646 the intention is declared of melting gold ‘to make thereof certain pieces or pledges for the relief of the sd distresses of the soldrs’. Peter Vaneyndhoven and Gilbert Tonques were authorized to melt down the gold and ‘to cutt one into pieces or pledges, the one sort weighing eight peny weight and fourteene graines and the other sort weighing four peny weight seven graines’. In the second warrant of the 1st of February 1646 the intention is declared of facilitating the people of Dublin ‘that they who have any such rings & may have some small pledges, rings &c may have some small pledges made thereof’. The same two goldsmiths, Peter Vaneynhoven and Gilbert Tonques, having received the gold were authorized to ‘melt it down & cutt & stampe itt into the like pledges as for weight as they lately made for the use aforesaid’.

The significant words here in both instances are ‘pieces’ and ‘pledges’, meaning that the articles being struck were not coins of the realm which should be issued under the king’s authority and consequently bearing his name and emblems of authority in some form or other. They were merely pieces of the commodity, gold, struck with the weights certifying their weight at the time of striking and by implication their quality, which could be safely accepted by persons engaged in buying or selling at their value as a commodity. They were not and could not be given the status of legal tender as would be given to the coin of the realm struck by royal authority. That this was also the position with the earliest silver coinage is implied by Borlace in *The Reduction of Ireland to the Crown of England*, p. 235, when, after referring to the silver coins minted from the plate brought in subsequent to the proclamations of the 5th and 14th of January 1642, he went on to state, ‘Afterwards by the King’s Approbation all kinds of pieces from 1d to 5s were in this manner stamped.’ He illustrated as a specimen a half-crown struck on one side with the letters CR crowned and on the other with the value in shillings and pence in roman numerals

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This half-crown belongs to the later series of emergency money known as Ormond Money issued a few months later pursuant to an order of Charles I to the Lords Justices and Council of Ireland, made at Oxford and dated the 20th of May 1643, authorizing a further issue of coins to be struck from plate, to the value of five shillings, half-crowns, twelve-pences, sixpences or of any less value, which several small pieces they shall make of the same weight value and allay, as our moneys now currant in England.’ This order directed that the coins to be issued should be stamped on one side with the letters ‘C.R. for CAROLUS REX with a crown over those letters and on the other side with the values of the several pieces respectively’. The Lords Justices and Council of Ireland in a proclamation dated the 8th of July 1643 declared the coinage thus issued to be legal tender and it is interesting to note that the persons commissioned to receive the plate and make it into coins were again Peter Vandenhoven and Gilbert Tonques, goldsmiths, and another named Sir John Veale, Knight. The known denominations thus struck were the crown, half-crown, shilling, sixpence, fourpence, threepence and twopence, all in silver. Ruding, plate XXVII, no. 15, illustrated a penny but no specimen of it is known at present. The coins are easily identifiable as such as they all conform to the terms of the order of the king, having the letters C.R. crowned on one side
and the value on the other. While they are not directly the subject of this work they are distinct in that they were declared legal tender, having been issued by the authority of the king whereas the silver coins stamped with weights and values issued consequent to the proclamations of the Lords Justices and Council of Ireland dated the 5th and 14th of January 1642 had no such status, nor had the later gold coins called the double pistole and pistole, struck pursuant to the warrants of the Duke of Ormond dated the 29th of July and the 1st of February 1646. Thus, the only gold coins struck and issued in Ireland under central authority did not have the status of coins of the realm as they were not legal tender which, in effect, meant that their acceptance by a creditor in payment of debt due was not compulsory.

There are no specimens of the double pistole in the collections of the National Museum of Ireland. There are seven specimens of the pistole in the striking of which five dies were used. Four of these seven coins are struck with the same pair of dies. In two others one of the dies used is that on one side of the four mentioned combined with a new die. The remaining coin is struck from two dies not used in the other six. If consecutive numbers 1 to 5 are given to the five dies, the sequences and combinations can be expressed thus:

Dies numbered 1 & 2 used in striking 4 coins weighing 4 dwt. 4½ gr., 4 dwt. 2 gr., 4 dwt. 7 gr., 4 dwt. 5 gr.

1 & 3 used in striking 2 coins weighing 4 dwt. 1½ gr., 4 dwt. 6 gr.

4 & 5 used in striking 1 coin weighing 4 dwt. 7 gr.

The following peculiarities in each die enable it to be distinguished from the others.

4: Dw*: 

Die No. 1. Across, 7: gr: within a plain inner and a beaded outer circle. The pellets in colon after 4 are further apart and thicker than those in the other colons. Letter D is shaped like a figure 9 with the terminal of the loop protruding horizontally to right almost touching W and has an arched horizontal terminal to left below as a base. Letters tt are crossed by a long horizontal bar protruding well out on left and slightly on right. The terminal of the loop of the letter G does not protrude to right.

4: Dw**: 

Die No. 2. Across, 7: gr: within a plain inner and a beaded outer circle. The top pellet of colon after 4 is slightly to left of lower. Letter D is shaped like a figure 9 with the terminal of the loop protruding horizontally to right, but finishing farther from the W than in No. 1 and has the horizontal terminal at the base flatter than in No. 1 and turned down on the left. The horizontal bar on the letters tt protrudes less on left than in No. 1 and is thicker and
more curved upwards on left. The terminal of the loop of letter G protrudes to the right. There is a flaw in the die showing a line from the foot of 4 to the colon after 7.

4: Dw

Die No. 3. Across, 7: gr within a plain inner and a beaded outer circle. Letter W is shaped like an M with an upturned loop at the end. The horizontal bar crosses the first letter t and terminates touching but not crossing, the second t. There is no colon after W. There is a serif pointing downwards on left of the horizontal bar of 7 which has a pointed foot. There is no colon after r.

4(: Dw) W:

Die No. 4. Across, 7(:) gr: within a plain inner and a beaded outer circle. Letter W is shaped like a retrograde N and a triangular D ligated. The two dots of the colon after W touch the inner circle and slant downwards to right. The colon after r is under the final limb of W.

The parts within parentheses are not visible because of rubbing and are presumed.

4( : Dw) W:

Die No. 5. Across, 7( : g)r: within a plain inner and a beaded outer circle. Letter W is shaped like a retrograde N and a D with round back ligated. The colon after r is to the right of the final limb of W.

The parts within parentheses are not visible because of rubbing and are presumed.

The seven pistoles in the National Museum of Ireland were acquired thus:

Three coins, two from dies 1 and 2 and one from dies 1 and 3, were found at Derryville, Portarlington, Co. Laois, on or about the 22nd of March 1946.

Three coins, two from dies 1 and 2 and one from dies 4 and 5, were found at Derryville, Portarlington, Co. Laois, on the 26th of February 1948.

One coin, from dies 1 and 3, came to the Museum with the Royal Irish Academy collection of coins. There is no record of how it was acquired by the Royal Irish Academy.