

THE SOVEREIGN REMEDY: TOUCH-PIECES FOR THE KING'S EVIL — SUPPLEMENT

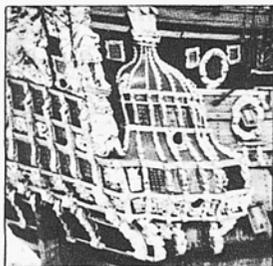
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THIS is by way of supplementing and correcting a suggestion in my original paper on this subject, Part II of which appeared in *BNJ* 50 (1980). There I suggested that Joseph Roettier was the most likely candidate for being the maker of the silver Touch-Pieces used by James II in France. Further study has shown that these were almost certainly made in England by the brothers Norbert and Philip Roettier; a fact that helps to substantiate the contemporary accusations that the Roettiers had been working surreptitiously for the exiled king, and which were the cause of Norbert leaving England hastily in 1695 and going to work with his uncle Joseph at the Paris Mint. James continued to work at the Royal Mint until 1697, when he retired. He died the following year.

It is generally recognized that the medal commemorating the Battle of la Hogue,¹ struck in 1692, is the work of James Roettier, although it is not signed. In 1697 Norbert (by then in France) struck a medal of the young Prince James;² this medal is signed. A common factor in the design of these two

medals is the use of a ship, the *Prince*, on the reverses. In both cases the aspect of the ship is the same, but differences in the drawing of her starboard quarter-gallery enable the work of the two brothers to be distinguished. Again the same ship, in the same aspect, appears on the two silver Touch-Pieces, where the same differences in workmanship make it clear that one was by the hand of James and the other by Norbert.

The *Prince* had distinctive quarter-galleries, as can be seen in Ill. A. James had no difficulty representing the starboard one on his medal (Ill. B), where it was included on the puncheon. On the other hand Norbert omitted it from the puncheon for his medal (Ill. C) and attempted to indicate it by some indeterminate scratches on the die. Exactly the same differences of treatment can be seen on the two silver Touch-Pieces, so that we can ascribe JII 02 (Ill. D) to James, and JII 01 (Ill. E) to Norbert. There is no reason to suppose that Joseph Roettier had a hand in either of them.



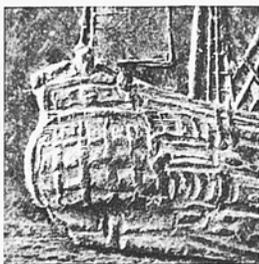
A. Quarter-gallery of the Prince



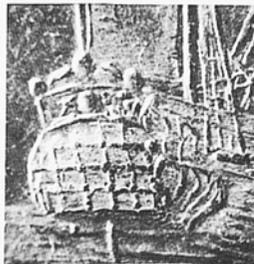
B. Battle of la Hogue, by James Roettier



C. Medal of Prince James, by Norbert Roettier



D. Touch-Piece JII 02 by James Roettier



E. Touch-Piece JII 01 by Norbert Roettier

¹ E. Hawkins, *Medallic Illustrations of the History of Great Britain and Ireland to the death of George II*, edited by

A. W. Franks and H. A. Grueber (1885), II, 64/266.

² Hawkins, II, 192/500.