

Mr. P. B. Chatwin, the son of the architect in charge of the restoration work, recalls that the coins were found embedded into the mortar between the stones of the chancel wall below the sedilia. It appeared to the finders that the coins had been pushed into the mortar when it was first laid.¹

In view of the amended attribution² of two of the

Although the composition of the find is not incompatible with this explanation, the poor condition of the coins would appear to render it less likely.

Alternatively, it is possible that the coins were chance losses, hidden in a crevice of the wall, which were embedded into the mortar of a later repair.



coins to the reign of Edward III the date of that part of the chancel wall in which they were found is of importance in deciding whether the find was in fact a foundation deposit and, if so, the date of its deposition.

There is unfortunately no documentary evidence for the date of the chancel. Writing before the date of the restoration A. E. Everitt³ describes the chancel as a whole as having a few courses of earlier masonry in the wall which he ascribes on stylistic grounds to the later thirteenth century. Neither is there any record in the fuller documentation of the following century of rebuilding or repairs consistent with the dates of the coins.

The find may then represent the foundation deposit of an unrecorded fourteenth-century repair to the sedilia, the traces of which in the masonry were too slight to attract Everitt's attention.

The coins remained in the possession of the architect, Mr. J. A. Chatwin, until they were presented to the Birmingham City Museum in 1892. They are at present on loan to Aston Church.

The coins are:⁴

1. Edward I. London penny. Class 2*b* 1.05 gr. (North 1015).⁵
2. Edward III. London halfpenny. 1344-51 coinage. 0.65 gr. (North 1131).
3. Edward III. York penny. 1361-9 coinage. 1.06 gr. (North 1228).
4. Alexander III of Scots. Penny. 2nd issue. Class B. 1.27 gr.

M. M. ARCHIBALD

A CHESTER UNITE OF CHARLES I

THERE is a unite whose place in the provincial series of Charles I has hitherto been doubtful (Fig. 1). North (no. 2324) and the Lockett Cata-

logue (English, pt. iv, lot 4183) follow Brooke and Kenyon in listing this extremely rare piece under Aberystwyth, but it is too rough and crude to

¹ I am indebted to Mr. P. B. Chatwin for this information.

² Thompson, *op. cit.*

³ A. E. Everitt, Aston Church in *Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society*, 1872, p. 2.

⁴ I am indebted to Mr. R. H. M. Dolley for checking the attribution of the coins.

⁵ J. J. North, *English Hammered Coinage*, vol. 2, (1960).

match the neat and well-made silver of that mint. The attribution has generally been recognized as unsatisfactory, but has not been formally challenged.

3. Several letters of the fount are identical, notably E, N, R, and s—compare, for example, the word REX.

The Chester coinage, hitherto certainly known



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

I attribute it to Chester because of the identity of several of its punches to those of the half-crowns inscribed CHSR (Fig. 2). The following points are especially to be noted:

1. The plume of the unite's privy mark is identical with that behind the king on the half-crown.
2. The harps of the royal arms are identical.

only in the half-crown denomination, was produced during 1645. On 31 January of that year, the Corporation ordered the conversion of £100 worth of plate into coin 'for the necessary use and defence of this city'. Chester surrendered to its Parliamentary besiegers on 3 February 1646 (new style).

J. P. C. KENT