

THE SILVER COINS OF EDWARD VI.

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IN recent years the researches of the late Sir John Evans and Mr. Henry Symonds have led to many discoveries which have altered the hitherto accepted arrangement of the coins of the reign of Edward VI.

Sir John Evans, in his paper on "The Debased Coinage bearing the name of Henry VIII," published in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, Third Series, Vol. VI, conclusively proved that a great quantity of this money must have been struck during the reign of his son. Mr. Symonds, from documentary evidence, comes to the same conclusion.

When Edward VI ascended the throne, the following mints were at work :—The Tower, where there were three sets of workers ; Southwark, Bristol, Canterbury and York, and to these, for eleven months, from December, 1548, to November, 1549, was added Durham House, in the Strand. At the end of his reign one set at the Tower and that at York were the only mints working, one of the Tower mints having ceased in February, 1547-8, and another in March, 1551-2, Southwark about December, 1550, Bristol in October, 1549, and Canterbury in February, 1549-50.

There does not appear to have been any public trial of the pyx, though private trials at the mints are mentioned, so there is no official record of the sequence of mint-marks. Sir John Evans made a list of these and allotted them to the different mints.

Many irregularities were committed in these mints, and several of the principal officials were, in consequence, discharged. Sir John Yorke, who after the closing of the Southwark mint went to the Tower, with the other Under Treasurer, Nicholas Throgmorton,

was dismissed in 1551. Sir William Sharrington, at Bristol, suffered the same fate in 1549, but he alone appears to have been prosecuted.

The question arises, why were these early coins of Edward struck in the name of his predecessor? The first dated coin bearing his name and portrait is the shilling of 1549, some two years after his accession, so that the suggested reason of wearing out the dies which were in use at that time does not appear to be conclusive. His father certainly had continued the coinage with the dies of Henry VII for eighteen years, but he had altered them by the addition of another digit to the numeral, and thus made them applicable to himself. Mr. H. Symonds cleverly suggests that, as the silver for these base coins was derived from the melting down of testoons which had been issued in the previous reign, the King or his advisers decided to retain the name of Henry on them to indicate the origin of the silver, and he paraphrases the translation of the legend REDDE CVIQUE QVOD SVVM EST, which is found on the groats with the mint-mark bow, by "Render to Henry the things that are his." As many of these Testoons were of ten, or six ounces fine, and they were coined into smaller denominations of four ounces fine, doubtless there was a good deal of profit after all expenses of the re-coinage had been paid. A similar thing was done in France in 1912, when 20 millions of francs in pieces of 2 francs, 1 franc, and 50 centimes, of 835 millièmes fine, were coined from the melting down of 5 franc pieces, of dates prior to 1830, of 900 millièmes fine. (*Spink and Son's Numismatic Circular*, Vol. XXI, p. 391.)

Sir John Evans describes five portraits which appear on the groat and smaller denominations of the base coins of Henry VIII, of which three, the first, third and fifth, apply to those attributed to his successor. The description is as follows :—

No. 1.—"Nearly full faced, there is a well-developed fur collar round the neck; and what seems to be a flowing robe upon the shoulders." (Pl. I, No. 1.) Later this portrait becomes much more like No. 2, the collar being less prominent, and sometimes there is a rose brooch on the breast. On the pennies the bust is quite full faced. (Pl. I, No. 17.)

No. 2.—“ Rather less full faced, and longer, with the fur collar less apparent, and with a circular button under the chin.” (Pl. I, No. 2.)

No. 3.—“ This is three-quarter-faced, and shows a narrow falling collar, but hardly anything of the neck or shoulders.” (Pl. I, No. 3.)

No. 4.—“ The portrait is somewhat like No. 2, but has plain drapery on the shoulders, a small button in front, and a narrow falling collar.” (Pl. I, No. 4.)

No. 5.—“ This represents the King three-quarter face, and on a rather smaller scale than the other portraits. He wears a falling collar, broader than that in No. 3, and the shoulders are shown, not with a flowing robe, but with a more close-fitting coat, apparently embroidered.” (Pl. I, No. 5.)

A special portrait, which appears on the Bristol groats, is similar to No. 2, but has a rose or quatrefoil clasp to the fur collar. (Pl. II, No. II.)

During the reign seven different indentures with the officers of the various mints were entered into, namely :—

First : Dated 5th April, 1547, with the three mints at the Tower, Southwark, Bristol and Canterbury. The silver coins mentioned are : testoon and farthing (at the Tower, Southwark and probably Bristol), groat, half-groat, penny and half-penny. Although there is no reference to York, the mint at that city was working.

Second : Dated 16th February, 1547-48, with two mints at the Tower, Southwark, Canterbury, Bristol and York, refers to the following silver coins : groat, half-groat, penny and halfpenny.

Third : Dated 24th January and supplemented on 29th January, 1548-9, with the Tower, Durham House, Canterbury and probably Southwark and Bristol, authorized the issue of shillings 8 oz. fine, 98 to the lb., or 60 grains each, and sixpences in proportion. The sixpence is not known.

Fourth : Dated 12th April, 1549, with the Tower and Bristol, Canterbury and probably Durham House and Southwark, for shillings only, of 6 oz. fine, 72 to the lb., or 80 grains each.

Fifth : Dated 18th December, 1550, with Southwark, referring only to gold coins. This was executed just before the Mint closed. A commission was issued in Edward's fifth year, about January, 1550-1, reducing the standard of silver for the shillings from 6 oz. to 3 oz. fine.

Sixth : A commission, dated 1st October, 1551, was issued to the two mints at the Tower to coin crowns, half-crowns, shillings and sixpences of 11 oz. 1 dwt. fine, and pence, half-pence and farthings of the old base standard. This coinage can be taken as the fine silver issue. York was directed to continue the old standard. In 1552 pieces of three pence were ordered, and York was authorized to coin sixpences and three pences of the fine standard.

Seventh : A commission dated 11th June, 1553, to the Tower mint, to coin pieces of only 3 oz. fine. No coins struck under this instrument are known, and none probably were struck, as the King died on the 6th July following.

The coinages of Edward VI may be divided into three periods.

The first contains all the coins bearing the portrait and name of Henry VIII.

The second, those of base coinage with the name and portrait of Edward VI.

The third, the fine silver issue of 1551.

PART I.

COINS BEARING THE PORTRAIT AND NAME OF HENRY VIII.

The late Sir John Evans, in the paper already referred to, has so ably shown that Edward VI did coin moneys bearing the name and portrait of his father, that there is no necessity for me to do so. Briefly, his arguments were these :—

1. The alteration in the portrait on the gold coins, a much younger face being introduced.

2. The changing of the lettering from the old English or Lombardic character to the Roman.
3. Reference to indentures and contemporary events.

The connection of the first of these arguments with the silver coins lies in the mint-marks, which are common to both silver and gold, with the exception of the testoon.

The great scarcity of mules adds to the difficulty of forming a sequence of mint-marks, which is increased by there being no documentary reference to them.

There is also a change in the stops on the groats, for on those bearing the lis mint-mark, with Lombardic lettering, and the corresponding pieces with **a** and **s** in the forks, the stops are trefoils, somewhat in the form of the figure 7, whereas on the coins with Roman lettering, the stops are at first open lozenges, or mascles, some of which have their sides incurved, and, when blurred, look like indistinct saltires or crosses; in some cases, however, irons for making saltires or crosses were used. Next are pellets, which on some coins look as though put in with worn-out lozenge irons, and last of all are saltires. With these stops, crescents or broken annulets, and, except with the incurved mascles, half roses or sun-flowers, appear in the forks of the cross.

The standard of the coins is a nominal 4 oz. fine. The assay varies from 4 oz. 12 dwts. down to 3 oz. 18 dwts., but the average is over 4 dwts. In order not to lose money, coins of the higher assay appear to have been made lighter, so that in the language of the proverbial showman, "what they lost on the swings they made up on the round-a-bouts."

Another explanation of this, and probably the true one, is that as the baser metal volatilizes more quickly than the silver, it is very difficult to get an alloy of this low assay accurate.

These pieces were coined at all the mints, namely the three at the Tower, Durham House, Southwark, Bristol, Canterbury and York.

THE METROPOLITAN MINTS.

These mints will be taken together, as the identification of that to which any given coin can be ascribed is conjectural. They were the three at the Tower, that at Durham House, in the Strand, and that at Suffolk House, in Southwark. The task is made more difficult by the absence of any account of the Southwark mint, though the accounts for the others are fairly complete.

It is unnecessary to consider the testoons, as there is nothing to distinguish those struck by Edward VI from those of his father. There was no alteration in the mint-mark, and the legends are always in Lombardic characters.

On the remaining coins, with the exception of the half-penny and some of the pennies, the following mint-marks appear:—arrow or bolt, lis, K, E, bow, grapple or pick lock, and martlet. These ~~eight~~ ^{seven} mint-marks have to be divided between the five mints.

On examining these coins it will be found that some of all denominations read CIVITAS LONDON on the reverse, and these Sir John Evans attributed to Southwark. Mr. Henry Symonds does not agree with him, but I am of Sir John's opinion. The Southwark mint was inaugurated in June, 1545, at Suffolk House, which had been built by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, a few years before, but had about this time come into the possession of the King, who changed its name to Southwark Place. It stood close to the Church of St. George the Martyr, which is in the High Street, Borough, and was outside the City of London. Up to that time the larger denominations of the silver coins had always borne on the reverse the POSVI legend, so when a second mint was established, so close to the other, some distinction had to be made. It appears to me only proper that the original mint should keep the old legend and let the new one adopt another. About this year, 1545, we find two varieties of the groat, one with the mint-mark lis, with the POSVI legend, and the other without mint-mark, and with the legend CIVITAS LONDON, and **a** and **s** in the forks at the extremities of the cross. That with the lis mint-mark had first been coined at

the Tower in the 34th year, 1543, so when the Southwark mint was started, in 1545, it would continue to be struck at its original mint, and any alteration would be given to the new establishment. At this time four portraits of the King seem to be used indiscriminately. As there were four mints, that is to say three at the Tower—for the second was started in 1544 and the third in 1545—and one at Southwark, a portrait might have been made a means of distinction, but this was not done, for we find these portraits not only on all the London coins, but also on those of Canterbury and York. I shall therefore take all the groats and half-groats reading CIVITAS LONDON as having been struck at Southwark.

All coins with the legends in Lombardic characters are attributed to Henry VIII, for it is only with the guidance of the gold coins with Roman letters that we are able to give the corresponding silver pieces to Edward VI. It is with these bearing the eight mint-marks, all of which have Roman lettering, that we have to deal. These seven marks have to be allotted to the five mints, for a period of about four years, 1546-7 to 1550-51. Only one has the reverse legend CIVITAS LONDON throughout, and that is the mark E, which, according to my argument, belongs to Southwark. It must have been used the whole time, as on the groats we find it with crescents or half annulets, as well as with half roses in the forks, and also on the smaller coins with the portrait of Edward VI. Those with the bow and grapple marks, Mr. Symonds attributes to Durham House, and Sir John Evans admitted that there was a likelihood of this. Both these mint-marks are associated with the REDDE CVIQVE legend on the reverse, but, as many of the coins showing the grapple also bear the POSVI legend, I think that after the closing of the Durham House mint, in November, 1549, the mark must have been transferred to the Tower.

The remaining marks, that is to say the lis, arrow, K, and martlet, must be left to the Tower. The lis was a continuation of the old mint-mark, as I have a mule groat with the third portrait and Roman lettering on the obverse, and, on the reverse, Lombardic lettering and annulet enclosing pellet in the forks; its proper reverse

has only half roses in the forks. The arrow has, on the groats, both the crescent and the half roses in the forks, and is found, like the E, on the smaller denominations bearing the portrait of Edward VI. The K has both the crescents and half roses in the forks. These three marks I take to be those of the three mints at the Tower, but which mark belongs to which mint I am unable to say.

There remains the martlet. Sir John Evans attributed this to Southwark, but I find no place for it there, as I have already expressed the opinion that the E mark remained in use until the closing of the mint. The martlet is found with saltire, as well as with pellet, stops with a half rose in the forks, and therefore came late. This we know, as the half rose with lozenge stops is found on the second issue of the Irish groats, or rather sixpences, in 1550. The coins bearing the lis and martlet are not so common as those with the other two mint-marks.

As regards the portraits, No. 1 is found with both crescents and half roses in the forks. No. 3 is only found with crescents in the forks. There is a coin of York, which is an exception, but this may be a mule. No. 5 is only found with the half rose in the forks.

The general description of the coins is as follows:—

Groats: obverse, crowned Bust of King Henry VIII, full or nearly full face, dressed in royal robes, within an inner circle. Legend: HENRIC 8' · D' · G' · AGL' · FRA' · HI' or HIB' · REX; reverse, square shield bearing the royal arms on a cross fourchée, the arms of which extend through an inner circle nearly to the edge of the coin. In the fork at each extremity is either a crescent or a broken annulet, or else a half rose or sunflower; legend: POSVI DEV' · ADIVTORE' · MEV'—except on those with mint-mark E, which have CIVITAS LONDON, and those with mint-mark bow, which have REDDE or REDD' CVIQVE or CVIQ' QVOD or Q' SVVM EST. The stops on both sides are usually lozenges or mascles, the sides of the latter being sometimes incurved, and subsequently pellets, or, in a few instances, saltires.

The half-groats are similar to the groats, but have the legends on the obverse somewhat further abbreviated, as A' · AG' AGL · AL',

· F · FR., HI., HIB · HB', · RE. There is nothing in the forks. The abbreviations A and F are found on those with the grapple mint-mark, and thus show that this was the latest form. Those with mint-mark E have CIVITAS LONDON as the reverse legend.

The pennies are similar to the half-groats, but the legends are different, that on the obverse being \mathfrak{K} or H' · D' · G' · ROSA · SINE · SPINIS, SPINE, SPIN, SPI, or SP., and on the reverse CIVITAS LONDON.

The halfpennies are similar to the pennies as regards the obverse; on the reverse they have three pellets in the angles of the cross fourchée, instead of the shield, but show the same legend. The country mints, for all denominations, have for reverse legend the name of the mint.

THE TOWER.

The mint-marks, as I have already stated, are arrow or bolt, K, lis, and martlet, and there are also coins without mint-mark.

GROATS.

1. No mint-mark, portrait No. 1; stops, lozenges; crescents in the forks of the cross on the reverse.

2. Mint-mark arrow, on both sides, or on reverse only; portraits No. 1 and No. 3; stops, lozenges, or mascles; crescents, or more rarely half roses, in the forks of the cross. (Pl. I, Nos. 6 and 7.)

3. Mint-mark K, on obverse only; portrait No. 1; stops, lozenges and mascles, both plain and incurved; crescents or half roses in the fork of the cross. (Pl. I, No. 8.) I have a specimen with the K stamped over the arrow on the reverse.

4. Mint-mark lis, on reverse only; portrait No. 1, stops, lozenges; half roses in the forks of the cross. (Pl. I, No. 1.) There is a mule, with mint-mark on both sides, with portrait No. 3, stops, mascles; the reverse has Lombardic lettering; stops, trefoils; annulets enclosing pellets in the forks. (Pl. I, No. 3.)

5. Mint-mark martlet, facing to the right, on both sides, portrait No. 1; pellet stops; half roses in the forks (Pl. I, No. 9); or with

portrait No. 5, stops, lozenges, pellets, or saltires on the obverse, pellets on the reverse. (Pl. I, Nos. 10, 11, 12.)

This last is the only groat coined at the Tower which bears a mint-mark, except that with the grapple, which has the fifth bust. The grapple properly belongs to Durham House. The coins bearing the martlet may have been struck at the same time as the shilling of 1550, with portrait of Edward VI, bearing the same mark. The shillings, however, have the martlet facing to the left, which might have been merely a distinction to show the difference in the standard of silver. I have a groat with this mint-mark with the fifth busts Lombardic lettering on the reverse, and half roses in the forks, which I put last of all, just before the introduction of the fine silver coinage with the same kind of lettering.

HALF-GROATS.

There are fewer varieties of half-groats than of groats. Nearly all have the first portrait, lozenge or mascle stops, and nothing in the forks of the cross.

1. Mint-mark : arrow both sides (Pl. I, No. 13) ; also with portrait No. 5 (Murdoch sale, first portion, lot 451) HI — ;
2. Mint-mark obverse arrow, reverse E ;
3. Mint-mark obverse arrow, reverse grapple ;
4. Mint-mark obverse, none ; reverse K (Pl. I, No. 14).

I have not met with the mint-marks lis or martlet. Attention must be drawn to those with arrow on the obverse and E, or grapple, on the reverse. The former is a mix-up, as the E is given to Southwark. This coin formerly belonged to Sir John Evans, and the only explanation he could offer was—"It seems to me possible that there has in this instance been some interchange of dies between two mints." This might also apply to the latter, which has been given to Durham House, but which I think was used at the Tower after the closing of the Strand Mint in October, 1549. If this was the case there would be nothing extraordinary in the muling. It must be noted that as the arrow is the only mint-mark found on the obverse,

so a die bearing this mint-mark might easily have been issued to the other mints by mistake or through carelessness.

PENNIES.

The pennies generally have the first portrait, lozenge mascle, incurved mascle, or pellet stops, and are found with the following mint-marks.

1. Mint-mark arrow, reverse only, portrait No. 1; Lombardic R, two lozenges or mascles after each word except D., which has none; SP. (Pl. I, No. 15).

2. Mint-mark K, on reverse only; portrait No. 1, two mascles after H.D.G. and one after ROSA, SINE, SPI. (Pl. I, No. 16.)

3. Mint-mark lis on reverse only, portrait No. 5, Montagu sale, 2nd portion, lot 771.

4. No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, stops single lozenges, SIN, SPI or SP; another, portrait No. 1, stops, incurved mascles, SINE, SPI; another, portrait No. 1, pellet stops, SIN · SPI; others with portrait No. 5, with lozenge or pellet stops. (Pl. I, No. 17.)

I have seen none with the martlet mint-mark.

HALF-PENNIES.

These coins are very badly struck, and the only one I can give to Edward VI has no mint-mark; but two mascles after SP. (Pl. I, No. 18.) In the Montagu sale, 2nd portion, lot 771, there was a half-penny with mint-mark lis, with what I take to be portrait No. 5.

I place these pennies and half-pennies with no mint-mark to the Tower, but of course they may have been struck either at Southwark or Durham House.

SOUTHWARK MINT.

All the coins attributed to this mint have CIVITAS LONDON for the legend on the reverse.

GROATS.

The first groat I give to this mint is one with no mint-mark, but **a** and **s** in the forks of the cross on the reverse. On some specimens a reversed D is used for C on both sides of the coin. (Pl. II, No. 1.) The rest have the mint-mark E on the reverse. (Pl. II, Nos. 2, 4.) Portraits 1 or 5, stops, lozenges, mascles, both with and without curved sides, annulets and pellets; crescents or half roses in the forks. The incurved mascle stops are found only on some of the coins with the first bust, and the annulet stops only on some with the fifth bust. (Pl. II, No. 3.) Thus there is a clear sequence of these groats from the commencement of the reign to the cessation of the working of the mint in December, 1550.

HALF-GROATS.

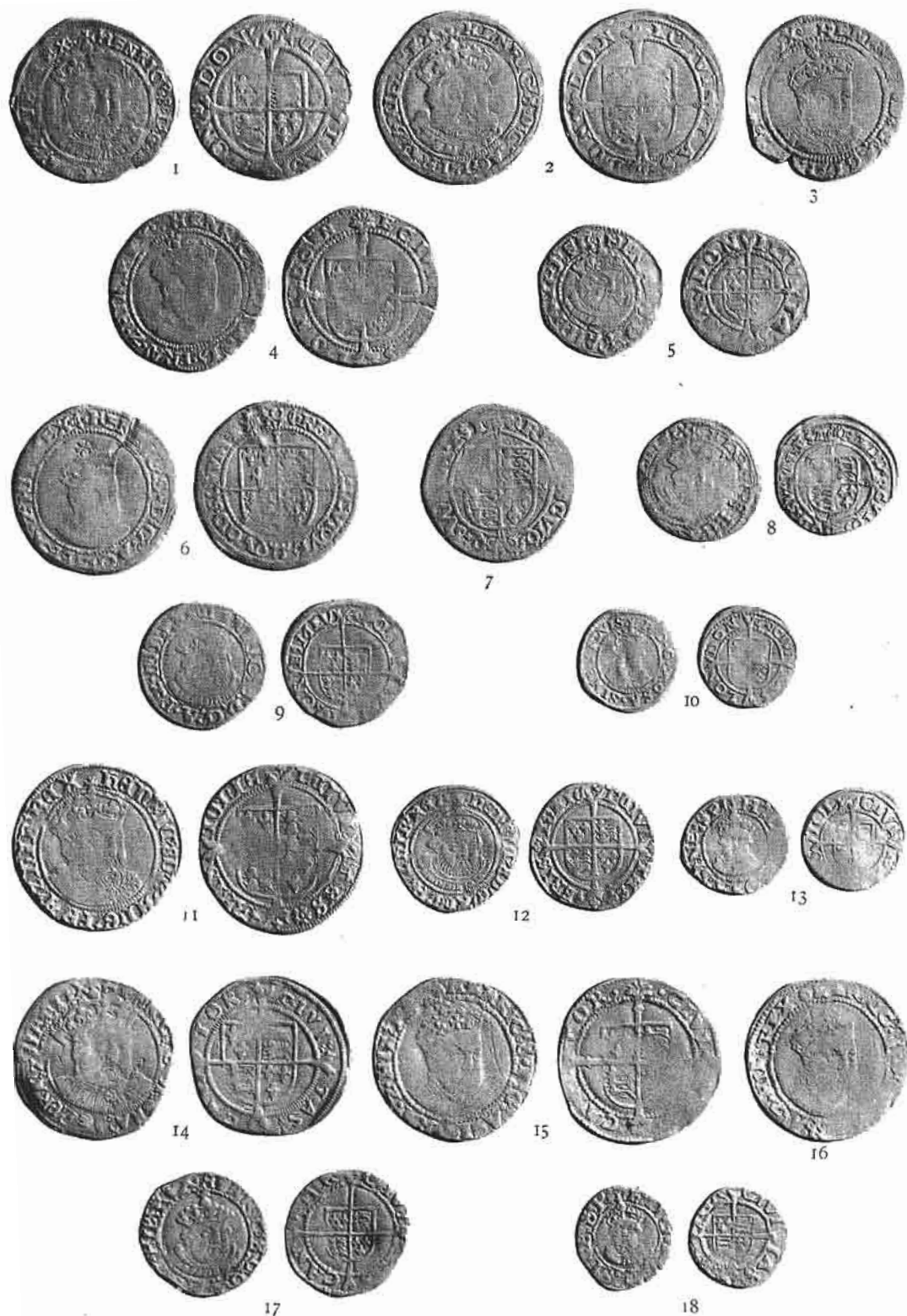
These have for a mint-mark E on the reverse, or no mint-mark at all. One with E in my possession has RE for REX (Pl. II, No. 5). I have already referred to one having the arrow on the obverse and E on the reverse.

PENNIES AND HALFPENCE.

There was a penny, mint-mark E, portrait No. 5, in the Montagu sale, 2nd portion, lot 774, and probably some of those without mint-mark, which I have already referred to, were coined here.

DURHAM HOUSE.

To this mint are attributed all those coins having the REDDE CVIQVE legend on the reverse. The principal mint-mark is the bow, which Mr. Symonds gives to John Bowes, the Under-Treasurer of this mint, and not to Sir Martin Bowes, who filled a similar office at one of the mints at the Tower. The other mint-mark is the grapple, which is allotted to this mint on the strength of Snelling III, 45, a mule having the obverse mint-mark bow. With this exception all the coins bearing this mark correspond with those of the Tower, which leads me to think that the bow mint-mark must have been in use at the time of the closing of the mint in October, 1549, and that



BASE COINAGE OF THE REIGN OF EDWARD VI.
Issues with his father's name and portrait.

the dies were taken over by the authorities at the Tower and used there.

GROATS.

Mint-mark bow, portrait No. 5 AG (Montagu sale, 2nd portion, lot 777) AGL, reverse as stated before in general description, but the arms of the cross have a different fork. There are two varieties of this fork. The first is somewhat similar to that found with the crescent, the second ends in two spirals, with a spike coming out of each, and, within the spikes, an undetermined object. The stops are on the obverse lozenges, with sometimes a saltire on either side of the mint-mark, and on the reverse saltires (Pl. II, Figs. 6 and 7).

Mint-mark grapple. This is met with, as before stated, in conjunction with the mint-mark bow on the obverse. The reverse legend which accompanies it is REDDE CVIQVE QVOD SVVM EST; there are crescents in the forks and saltire stops. Coins with the grapple on the reverse only, have portraits 1 or 5, and on the reverse the POSVI legend, with half rose in the forks of the cross and pellet stops. Some have no stops on the reverse. (Pl. I, No. 5.)

HALF-GROATS.

Mint-mark bow, on reverse only, portrait No. 1, ANG HI, stops undecipherable; reverse REDD' CVIQ' QD × SVVM × EST; stops, saltires. (Pl. II, No. 8.)

No mint-mark obverse or reverse; otherwise as coins with the bow; stops, saltires (Hawkins, No. 410).

Mint-mark grapple, on reverse only, portrait No. 1; A · F · HIB; lozenge stops; reverse, POSVI DEV' ADIVTORE' MEV', no stops. (Pl. II, No. 9.)

PENNIES.

Mint-mark bow, on obverse only; portrait No. 1; reverse legend RED · CVIQ · Q · SV · EST, lozenge stops (Hawkins, No. 411).

Mint-mark grapple, on reverse only; portrait No. 1, SPINIS, pellet stops; reverse CIVITAS LONDON. (Pl. II, No. 10.)

HALF-PENCE.

Unknown, and probably struck without a mint-mark.

THE COUNTRY MINTS.

The country mints were Bristol, Canterbury and York. The coins of the two latter are very similar to those of London, and have the same peculiarities as regards portraits, ornaments in the forks, and stops. The reverse legend is the name of the mint. Bristol coins differ from the others, as Lombardic lettering continued to be used, except on one penny, until the mint was abolished in October, 1549.

BRISTOL.

TESTOONS.

Though a great number of these are known to have been issued, as the striking of an excessive number was one of the charges against Sir William Sharrington, the Sub-Treasurer of the mint at the beginning of the reign, none can be actually identified, as apparently the dies were the same as those used during the reign of Henry VIII.

GROATS.

The Groats, like the Testoons coined by Sir William Sharrington, cannot be distinguished from those struck for Henry VIII, as there does not appear to be any change in the lettering, or mint-mark. It is only when Thomas Chamberlain succeeded Sharrington as Vice-Treasurer in 1548-9, that it becomes possible to identify them, owing to the change of mint-mark. This groat has as mint-mark, his initials, T.C., in monogram, on the reverse only. The obverse has the special portrait previously mentioned, with a quatrefoil on the breast. The legend is in a very ornate Lombardic lettering, which is found on Bristol coins only, and pellet stops are used; reverse **QIVITAS BRISTOLIA**, a rose after **TAS** and before **BRIS**, trefoils in the forks of the cross. (Pl. II, No. 11.)

HALF-GROAT.

The only half-groat which can be allotted to Edward VI is one with mint-mark T.C., in monogram, on the reverse. The obverse shows portrait No. 1, legend the same as on the groat, but **RR'**; Lombardic lettering, pellet stops. The reverse is similar to that of the groat, except that there is a lis instead of a rose before **BRIS**. (Pl. II, No. 12.)

PENNY.

The only penny that can be given to Edward VI has an obverse like that of London, with no mint-mark, SPI, and for stops, two mascles; reverse CIVITAS BRISTOLE in Roman letters. (Pl. II, No. 13.)

HALF-PENNIES.

No half-pennies are known.

CANTERBURY.

The coins of this mint are similar to those of London, but the reverse legend is CIVITAS CANTOR, sometimes with pellets before and after the words. They have the same peculiarities with regard to the stops and the ornamentation at the end of the forks. On the half-groat and smaller denominations there is no mint-mark. The mint ceased working in February, 1549-50, after an existence of some seven hundred years, and has never been resuscitated.

GROATS.

1. No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, with rose on breast; DI' GRA'; trefoil stops; nothing in the forks of the cross. (Pl. II, No. 14.) One of these has reversed D's for C's in the reverse legend, like the early Southwark groat previously described.

2. No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, incurved mascle stops, crescents in the forks of the cross.

3. No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, with rose on breast, or portrait No. 5, lozenge stops; half roses in the forks of the cross.

4. No mint-mark, portrait No. 5, half roses in the forks of the cross.

5. No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, with rose on breast, or portrait No. 5; pellet stops, half roses in the forks of the cross.

6. Mint-mark lis, on obverse only, portrait No. 5; pellet stops; half rose in forks of the cross. (Pl. II, No. 15.)

7. Mint-mark rose, on obverse only, otherwise similar to No. 6. (Pl. II, No. 16.)

HALF-GROATS.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 1; AG' FR', HIB'; on reverse a pellet before and after each word. One has the reverse legend in Lombardic lettering and no pellets.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, AG' FR' HI' or HIB'; mascle stops; no pellets in reverse legend. (Pl. II, No. 17.)

Mint-mark t, on reverse only; portrait No. 1; mascle stops. (Fig. 1.) This half-groat, which is in the collection of Mr. F. A.



FIG. 1, CANTERBURY HALF-GROAT, WITH MINT-MARK t.

Walters, is of great importance, as it proves the correctness of the attribution to Canterbury of the Edward testoons bearing the same mint-mark.

PENNIES.

There are three varieties of the penny, all without mint-mark:

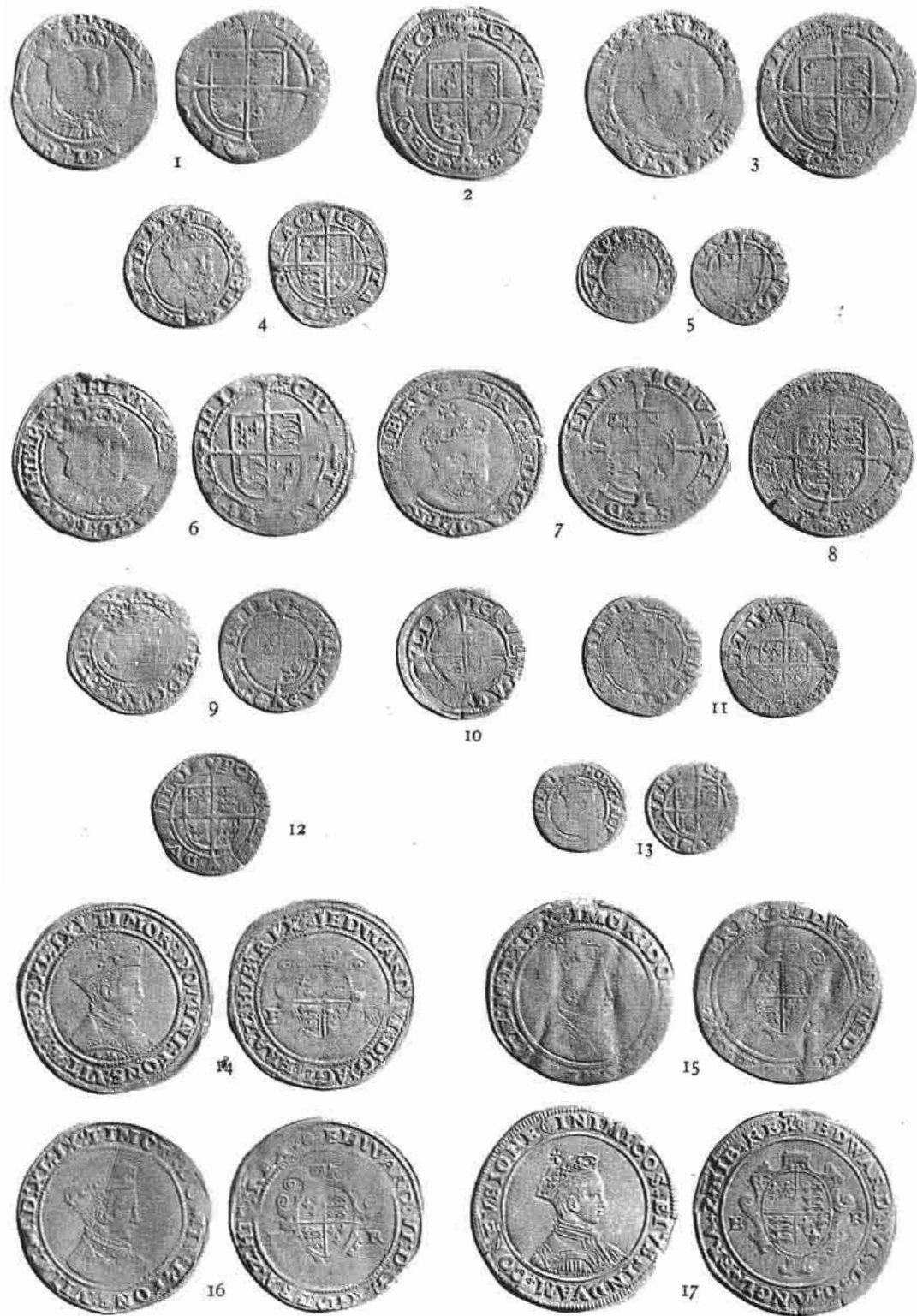
With mascle stops, portrait No. 1, Lombardic **ƿ** **sp**: this is similar to those pennies of London which show this form of **ƿ** (Pl. II, No. 18);

With lozenge stops, portrait No. 5, **SPIN** **π**;

With pellet stops, portrait No. 1, **SPI** or **SPIN**.

HALF-PENNIES.

There is one with mascle stops, portrait No. 1, SP., the O in the reverse legend is Lombardic.



BASE COINAGE OF THE REIGN OF EDWARD VI.
Issues with his father's name and portrait, and early shillings.

YORK.

The mint, like that at the Tower, worked throughout the reign, and therefore all the varieties are found. Referring back to the martlet mint-mark, there is a groat, with half roses in the forks, that has the reverse legend in Lombardic characters, and there is one of York which, I consider, corresponds with that, or is even later, but the only legend on the obverse is in this character, the reverse having Roman lettering. This coin is the only one of the mint that has a mint-mark which looks like a boar's head. The earliest, I consider, have trefoil stops, with nothing in the forks, then come those with masle or lozenge stops and crescents in the forks; next, those with half roses in the forks, with first lozenge, and secondly pellet stops, and, finally, the groat with Lombardic lettering on the obverse, which I attribute to the year 1551, which marks the introduction of the fine silver coinage with this style of lettering.

The obverse of the coins is similar to that found at London and Canterbury, but they have on the reverse CIVITAS EBORACI.

GROATS.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, with rose on breast, or portrait No. 2; trefoil stops; nothing in the forks of the cross on the reverse. One with the portrait No. 2 has a reversed D for a C in the legend. (Pl. III, No. 1)

No mint-mark, portraits No. 1 or No. 3; lozenge, masle and incurved masle stops; crescents in the forks of the cross. (Pl. III, No. 2.)

No mint-mark, portraits No. 1, No. 3 or No. 5; lozenge stops; half roses in the forks of the cross. This is the only instance I have come across of portrait No. 3 being found with the half rose in the forks. This coin is probably a mule.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 5, pellet stops, half roses in the forks of the cross.

Mint-mark, boar's head (?), portrait No. 5, Lombardic lettering on the obverse; lozenge stops, half roses in the forks of the cross. This I consider to have been struck after the introduction of the fine

silver coinage and before the striking of base silver money at York was stopped in 1552. (Pl. III, Fig. 3.)

HALF-GROATS.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, trefoil stops, reversed D for C ; reverse legend in Lombardic letters, with lozenge or mascle stops.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 1 or No. 5, legend wholly in Roman lettering. (Pl. III, No. 4.) A specimen with portrait No. 1 has the abbreviations A and F, and therefore is probably the latest issued. Another, also with portrait No. 1, has pellet stops.

PENNIES.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, trefoil stops.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 1 or No. 5, lozenge stops. (Pl. III, No. 5.)

HALF-PENNY.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 1, lozenge or mascle stops.

DUBLIN.

The coins issued at this mint correspond so closely with those of the country mints of England, the only difference being that the reverse reads CIVITAS DVBLINIE, that I venture to describe them, so as to show their intimate relation with those of England, and incidentally to assist in dating the various varieties. At the end of Henry VIII's reign, and the beginning of that of Edward VI, the coins for Ireland were struck at Bristol, by Sir William Sharrington, and were the same as those issued for use in England, with this difference, that the English groat was current in Ireland for sixpence Irish, and the smaller denominations in proportion, that is to say, the half-groat for threepence, the penny for three-halfpence, and the half-penny for three-farthings.

On February 10th, 1548-9, an indenture was made with Thomas Agard, Under-Treasurer ; Martin Pirry, Comptroller, and William Williams, Assayer of the Mint at Dublin, for the coinage of four moneys of silver, namely, groats, half-groats, pennies and half-

pence. Things did not go well, however, and some time in 1549 the mint was closed. In June, 1550, the Privy Council decided to re-open it, and Martin Pirry was appointed Under-Treasurer. He, like Agard, was unsuccessful, and it was closed again in July, 1551.

The mint-marks are the boar's head, harp, and P, on the reverse only. The boar's head evidently belongs to Agard, as his crest was a boar's head, and P must belong to Pirry on the same grounds that the coins bearing the mint-marks TC and Y are attributed to Thomas Chamberlain and Sir John Yorke respectively. The harp might belong to either, but Mr. Symonds assigns it to Pirry. The fineness of the silver coined during both these periods was the same as that in England, that is to say, 4 oz.

GROATS.

Mint-mark boar's head, portrait No. 1 or No. 5, lozenge stops, half roses in the forks of the cross. (Pl. III, No. 6.)

Mint-mark harp, otherwise similar. (Pl. III, No. 7.)

Same with mint-mark P, otherwise similar, but with portrait No. 5 only. (Pl. III, No. 8.)

HALF-GROATS.

Mint-mark boar's head on reverse only, portrait No. 1, lozenge stops. (Pl. III, No. 9.)

Mint-mark harp on reverse only, portrait No. 1 or No. 5. (Pl. III, Nos. 10, 11.)

Mint-mark P on reverse only, portrait No. 5. (Pl. III, No. 12.)

PENNY.

No mint-mark, portrait No. 5, lozenge stops. (Pl. III, No. 13.)

HALF-PENNY.

No mint-mark. (*Handbook to the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland.* No. 56, p. 229.)

PART II.

BASE SILVER COINS BEARING THE NAME AND PORTRAIT
OF EDWARD VI.

Immediately after the King's accession, the authorities appear to have considered designs for a new coinage, and various patterns for shillings were struck. These have on the obverse the bust of the king, in profile, to the right, crowned and wearing an ornamented robe, all within an inner circle, and D.G. is omitted from the legend. On the reverse, the cross, which for so many centuries had been so conspicuous, disappears; the arms are borne on an oval, garnished shield between the letters E.R., and there is an inner circle. The date appears for the first time on an English coin; Henry VIII had, indeed, put it on some of the groats, coined at Tournay in 1513, which were intended for use in France. The stops on both sides are usually small crosses, which, when not very distinct, look much like lozenges, with slightly incurved sides.

The following are the principal varieties of the shilling which are known up to the present time:—

1547. Mint-mark rose, on both sides; obverse: EDWARD⁹ VI × REX × ANGL × FRANC × HIBER⁹ Z C^o; reverse: TIMOR × DOMINI × FONS × VITÆ × M × D × °XLVII (Murdoch sale, first portion, lot 534, Plate VIII); weight 88 grains. Similar—slight differences in the stops being probably due to oversight on the part of the artist who engraved the plate—(Ruding, Plate IX, 7). Ruding gives the weight of this piece as 20 dwt. 3 grains, and both he and Martin Folkes describe it as a ten shillings piece, but it should probably be considered a piedfort. It is stated, in Ruding's text, to have the letter B on the garniture at the top of the shield, and is therefore asserted, in a footnote, to have been coined by Sir Martin Bowes at Durham House, but, judging from the plate, the B is not at all convincing. Similar, but stated to differ somewhat in the details of the drawing of the shield (Murdoch sale, first portion, lot 535), weight 40 grains.

Mint-mark rose, on both sides ; obverse: TIMOR × DOMINI × FONS × VITE × M × D × XL7 × ; reverse: EDWARD⁹ VI × REX × AGL × FRA × HIB × &c×. (Ruding, Plate IX, 6.) From its weight, 45½ grains, Folkes (*Table of English Coins*, p. 28) was of opinion that it must be 10 oz. fine. The transposition of the obverse and reverse legends is also found on some shillings issued for circulation.

1548. Mint-mark bow, on both sides ; EDWARDVS + VI + REX + ANGLI + FRANC + HIBERNIÆ ; reverse dated M.D.XLVIII ; weight 65½ grains. Murdoch sale, part I, lot 536, where the stops are described as stars of four points, but they are probably incurved mascles.

1549. As the shilling of 1548, but HIBERNI. M.D.XLVIII, Hawkins, p. 291, where neither the form of the stops nor the weight is given.

In January, 1548-9, the design for a shilling having been decided on, indentures were entered into with the sub-treasurers of the mints at the Tower, Southwark, Durham House, Bristol and Canterbury, for the coinage of shillings of 8 oz. fine at 98 to the pound, or 60 grains each. Sixpences were also authorized, but none is known. This issue lasted but a few months, being superseded by other orders in April, 1549.

There are not many varieties, and the whole group may be taken together. Those known to me have the following mint-marks:—

Arrow on both sides (Pl. III, No. 14), or on reverse only (Pl. III, No. 15), which shows that they were coined at the Tower.

Y on both sides, which belongs to Southwark.

T C in monogram, on obverse, and Arrow, on reverse (Murdoch sale, first portion, lot 491), which evidently belongs to Bristol.

Rose on reverse (Pl. III, No. 16).

No mint-mark. The two last I am unable to assign to any particular mint.

These coins are similar to the patterns, except that they read EDWARD VI : D'G' · AGL' · FRA' · Z : HIB' · REX and have two stops instead of one between the words and letters on the side bearing the motto. All are dated M:D:XLIX, and all, with the exception

of that with no mint-mark, read VITÆ. The legends on all are transposed. The bust on the coin with the arrow on the reverse shows a variation in the royal clothing, the collar of the King's robe being like that on a modern court suit, whereas on the others it is a turned down one. (Pl. III, Fig. 15.) All have lozenge stops. The last of all has mint-mark bow both sides, and E for Z in the obverse legend, but the reverse legend is INIMICOS · EIVS · INDVAM · CONFVSIONE, without a date. The legends are transposed, and the stops are incurved lozenges (Pl. III, Fig. 17). These coins are attributed to Durham House. I have not yet met any that can be attributed to Canterbury, although, according to the mint accounts, testoons of fine silver were converted into the 8 oz. standard to the amount of 1540 lbs. troy, there (Mr. H. Symonds). Coins of this issue can be distinguished from those of the next by their appearance of being of better silver, by the bust, which is larger, except on that with the mint-mark bow, and by their weight, which varies from 50 to 58 grains, the average being about 54.

This was the first occasion on which a coin of twelve pence was officially termed a shilling ; it had hitherto been called a testoon.

The weight of the testoon had been 120 grains, and the introduction of the shilling of the same nominal value, but only weighing 60 grains, that is to say the weight of six pennies, naturally led to much comment, not all of which was favourable. Bishop Latimer, in a sermon preached before the King on the 8th March, 1548-9, referred to them as follows : " We have now a pretty little shilling, indeed a very pretty one. I have but one, I think in my purse, and the last day I had put it away almost for an old groat, and so I trust some will take them. The fineness of the silver I cannot see ; but therein is printed a fine sentence, *Timor Domini fons vitæ vel sapientiæ*. The fear of the Lord is the fountain of life or wisdom. I would God this sentence were always printed in the heart of the King ! " This sermon caused the worthy prelate a great deal of trouble, as his enemies, on the strength of it, accused him of preaching sedition (Folkes, *Table of English Coins*, p. 30).

These coins were apparently not satisfactory, for on the 12th



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BASE COINAGE OF EDWARD VI.

April, 1549, new indentures were entered into, with the same undertreasurers, for the issue of Shillings only, of 6 oz. fine, weighing 72 to the pound or 80 grains each.

With the exception of those with the mint-mark bow, which have the INIMICOS legend, are undated and show incurved lozenge stops, or in some cases saltires, on the reverse, they have the TIMOR legend, but with VITE instead of VITÆ; are dated, and have lozenge stops. The bust of the King is slighter, and the weight varies from about 62 to 80 grains. Otherwise they are similar to the 60 grain coins.

1549. The mint-marks attributed to the Tower for this year are the arrow (Pl. IV, No. 1) and the swan. The former appears also in the shape of a pheon (Pl. IV, No. 2), which I think must have happened at the end of the year. Of mules there are: obverse arrow, reverse, swan; obverse pheon, reverse arrow.

Southwark has one mint-mark Y.

Durham House has one mint-mark bow, and the undated coins with the INIMICOS legend, referred to above, belong to this year. Some have the legends transposed, but are the only shillings of the 80 grain issue on which this occurs, with the exception of the following:—

Mint-mark bow, TIMOR DOMINI FONS VITÆ, the legends are transposed; the obverse has incurved lozenge stops; the reverse shows a peculiar E, like E T in monogram, and E instead of Z; the stops look like saltires. The bust differs in having a stand-up collar. (Pl. IV, Fig. 3.) This shilling is very rare, and is in the collection of Mr. H. A. Parsons.

Mint-mark grapple (Pl. IV, Fig. 4); this is exactly similar to those issued at the Tower and, if it was issued at Durham House, I think it must have been struck just before the mint was closed, in November, 1549, after which date the dies were used elsewhere, probably at the Tower.

Bristol: mint-mark T C in monogram, with a rose to the left; on the reverse a rose each side of the date. (Pl. IV, No. 5.) There is also a shilling, presumably of this mint, with an altered mint-mark,

which looks like T G' in monogram: this has two reverses, one from a Bristol die with the T C mint-mark (Pl. IV, No. 6), and the other of ordinary type with an undecipherable mint-mark (Messrs. Spink & Son).

Canterbury: mint-mark T (Pl. IV, No. 7). The writer had already assigned this mark to Canterbury when proof of the correctness of his theory was furnished by the discovery of the half-groat, bearing the same letter, which is described and reproduced on page 152. (Fig. 1.) It is probable that, like Y and T C, which are found at Southwark and Bristol respectively, the letter is the initial of the under-treasurer in charge of the mint, namely William Tilleswood. In the British Museum there is a specimen on the reverse of which the T takes the form of the Greek τ , but the mint-mark on the obverse is unfortunately undecipherable. (Pl. IV, No. 8.) The bust on these coins appears to be somewhat slighter than on the others. According to the mint accounts, 12,035 lbs. troy were used of the 6 oz. standard, and other testoons were converted into the 6 oz. standard to the amount of 8515 lbs. troy here before the mint was closed in February, 1549-50. (Mr. H. Symonds.) There is nothing, except the mint-mark, to distinguish the Canterbury issues from those of the Tower or Southwark.

The discovery that shillings were coined at Canterbury is due to Mr. H. Symonds, who found, in the Record Office, the accounts of the Mint, in which the number of shillings coined is stated.

1550. At the Tower, the mint-marks arrow and pheon are superseded by the martlet looking to the left (Pl. IV, No. 9), and the swan is continued (Pl. IV, No. 10). Of this latter there are mules: one has, on the obverse, the mint-mark pheon, which must have been from a die of the previous year; another, with the reverse mint-mark Y, was probably struck towards the end of the year, after the Southwark mint had been closed, and Sir John Yorke had moved to the Tower. At Southwark, the mint-mark Y was continued. (Pl. V, No. 1.)

During the latter part of the year, about January, 1550-1, a commission was issued reducing the standard of silver from 6 oz. to





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15



BASE COINAGE OF EDWARD VI.

3 oz. fine, and a new set of mint-marks was introduced. The Tower was the only mint, then working, which was empowered to coin shillings. These were to all appearances the same as those of the previous issues, and were of the same weight. The mint-marks were the rose, lis and lion (Pl. V, No. 2). Not many could have been coined, as they are all scarce. With the mint-mark rose, there was one in the Murdoch collection (lot 496), with the lis there is a mule, in the British Museum, with reverse mint-mark Y. The lion depicted in the mark is a peculiar beast, as it has no fore legs, and looks, Sir John Evans remarks, as if the same iron had been used for both the mark and the lion in the shield. I am unable to explain why these three mint-marks should have been used, when only two were necessary.

1551. The same mint-marks were continued, namely the rose (Pl. V, No. 3), lis (Pl. V, No. 4), and lion. There are also the following mules: obverse lion, reverse rose; and obverse Y, probably the die belonging to the previous year, with reverse lis.

1552. In the British Museum there is a shilling with obverse Y, reverse rose, with the reading FRAN. It is impossible to account for this, as the coining of base shillings had been stopped in 1551, and fine silver ones issued instead. In Dublin, however, a coin the same size and weight, with the mint-mark harp was issued, but was struck, as Mr. H. Symonds has discovered, to be current for sixpence only. The lettering on this is Lombardic. (Pl. V, No. 13.)

Notwithstanding the baseness of these shillings many counterfeits appeared, which were made of copper or brass, probably washed with silver, but now all the washing has disappeared from those that are known. This counterfeiting was referred to in a Proclamation dated 30th April, 1551. (Ruding, p. 319.)

In addition to shillings, coins of the smaller denominations were struck with the portrait and name of Edward VI. As regards these no indenture or commission seems to have been drawn up, but dies were issued for use to all the mints but York, presumably under the old indentures, and appear to have been used indiscriminately with

those of Henry VIII. They are all of poor work and bad execution. The halfpennies are extremely rare.

TOWER.

GROATS.

These have the mint-mark arrow on both sides ; on the obverse, the bust of the King to the right is similar to that on the shillings, but larger, the top of the crown corresponding with the inner circle, and the orb and cross extending to the outer edge of the coin. Legend EDWARD' 6' . D' . G' . AGL' . FRA' . Z' HI' REX'—stops, mascles, lozenges or saltires (Pl. V, No. 5) ; reverse shield of arms on a cross fleury, the extremities of which extend through the inner circle to the outer edge of the coin ; the ends of the cross are similar to those of the Durham House coin, with mint-mark bow, with crescents in the forks ; legend POSVI DEV' . ADIVTORE' . MEV' . stops, lozenges. The lettering on both sides is Roman. (Pl. V, No. 6.)

HALF-GROATS.

Mint-mark arrow, on both sides ; similar to the groats, but smaller ; stops, lozenges ; nothing in the forks of the cross. Hawkins, 414. Ruding, ix, 2. (Pl. V, No. 7.)

A half-groat in the British Museum has the mint-mark arrow on both sides, but the reverse legend CIVITAS LONDON. (Pl. V, No. 8.) From the reverse it should belong to Southwark, and I am unable to account for this legend appearing on a coin which has always been attributed to the Tower.

PENNY.

These are similar to half-groats, but smaller. Obverse legend E . D . G . ROSA : SIN' or SINE : SPI . ; mascle stops ; reverse, CIVITAS LONDON. Mint-mark Arrow on both sides (Snelling, iv, 7) (Pl. V, No. 9), or no mint-mark (Ruding, ix, 5). This latter coin may have been struck in Southwark.

HALF-PENNY.

This is similar to the penny, but has the cross with the three pellets in the angles SPINA—stops unknown. No mint-mark—Montagu sale, part II, lot 835. This, like the penny, may also have been coined at Southwark.

SOUTHWARK.

GROATS.

The Groats are similar to those of the Tower, but have no mint-mark on the obverse. Like the groats with the fifth portrait of Henry VIII, they have a stop instead. The legend reads AG' . FR' . HIB', and the stops are lozenges. On the reverse the legend is CIVITAS LONDON, with lozenge or masicle stops. There are the same variations of the ends of the cross as on the Henry VIII groats of Durham House, mint-mark bow. Mint-mark E on reverse, with highly ornamented ends of the cross. (Pl. V, No. 10.) No mint-mark, with spiky ends of the cross.

HALF-GROATS.

The half-groat is similar to the groat, but reads HI . ; there is nothing in the forks. Mint-mark E on reverse; stops, lozenges. Montagu sale, part II, lot 829, also Hawkins, 416.

PENNY.

This is similar to the Tower penny—mint-mark E on reverse.

HALF-PENNY.

Nil.

BRISTOL.

Of this mint only pennies and halfpennies are known with the name and portrait of Edward VI. They are similar to those coined at the Tower, but like all other Bristol coins, they have quatrefoils

or roses in the legends, which are in a very ornate Lombardic lettering peculiar to the Bristol mint. The reverse legend is **CIVITAS BRISTOLIA** and there are trefoils in the forks of the cross.

PENNY.

The pennies are similar to those of the Tower, with the variations mentioned above. Mint-mark trefoil, on both sides, but on the reverse it comes after **CIVITAS**. On the obverse quatrefoil after **ROSA**: and **SIN**; **SPIN**; stops, pellets on obverse, saltires on reverse: there is a trefoil in each fork. One in the Murdoch collection, lot 506, Pl. VII, reads: **ED. 6. D. G. ROSA * SIN * SPIN**; reverse, ***CIVI TAS** (slipped trefoil) ***BRIS TOLIA**. (Pl. V, No. 11.)

HALF-PENNY.

The obverse is similar to that of the penny, but without a quatrefoil after **ROSA**; the stops are pellets, but there are saltires after the three last words. The reverse has a cross fourchée, with three pellets in the angles, within the inner circle; legend as on the penny. No trefoil after **CIVITAS**, but in the forks of the cross. No mint-mark—Montagu sale, part II, lot 834, Pl. VII.

CANTERBURY.

Only half-groats are known of this mint. These are similar to those of the Tower, but read **EDWARD** or **EDOARD AGL. FRA HI**; stops, mascles. On the reverse, **CIVITAS, CANTOR, CANTON** or **CASTOR**. No mint-mark. (Pl. V, No. 12.)

YORK.

No base coins bearing the name and portrait of Edward VI were coined at York.

DUBLIN.

In 1552 the mint was for a third time reopened, and instructions were issued to the mint authorities in Dublin, to strike a coin similar

to the base shillings lately coined at the Tower, but to be current only for sixpence (English). These are similar to the Tower coins, but the legend is in Lombardic lettering—mint-mark harp, with the date 1552; **RRTR**. (Pl. V, No. 13.)

Presumably to prepare for the introduction of a fine silver coinage, this base money underwent a series of reductions in value. In the Proclamation of the 30th April, 1551, already mentioned, the value of the shilling was reduced to ninepence, and that of the groat to threepence. The change was carried out in the following June, and, from the King's journal, it appears that a month later a further reduction ensued, viz. : from ninepence to sixpence, and the smaller denominations in proportion. (Ruding, p. 321.)

This accounts for those shillings struck in Dublin, with the mint-mark harp, dated 1552, being issued as sixpences only.

Finally, by proclamation on 27th September, 1561, the third year of Elizabeth, the 6 oz. fine shillings were decried to fourpence halfpenny, and ordered to be countermarked with a portcullis in front of the King's face (Pl. V, No. 14), while those with the mint-marks rose, lion, lis and harp, were further lowered to twopence farthing, and countermarked with a greyhound on the King's shoulder. (Ruding, p. 333.) (Pl. V, No. 15.)

PART III.

THE FINE SILVER COINAGE.

In 1551 Edward at last issued money of fine silver, of the standard of 11 oz. 1 dwt., but this was still 1 dwt. short of that of the sterling, and he could not altogether get away from the base money, as pennies, half-pennies and farthings were ordered to be coined of the old standard of 4 oz. fine.

The coins consist of the crown, half-crown, shilling, sixpence, threepence and penny in fine, and penny, half-penny and farthing in base silver.

The dates, 1551, 1552 and 1553 appear only on the crown and half-crown, under the horse on the obverse.

These fine silver coins bear, on those coined in 1551, either the mint-mark tun or **Y**. The former is generally considered to be a pun on the name of Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, who was one of the under-treasurers; the latter is the well-known mark of Sir John Yorke, the other under-treasurer. At the end of this year great irregularities were discovered to have taken place, and both these under-treasurers were dismissed in consequence. The second Tower mint was then closed (March, 1551-2), thus leaving one working. For the years 1552 and 1553, there is only one mint-mark, namely, the tun. Thomas Egerton was the new under-treasurer, and may have carried on the tun for the same reason as that of his predecessor, that is as a pun on his name. A different mint-mark, the Escallop, was selected for the small base silver money.

Many dies were used, and they vary on the obverse in the abbreviation of the King's Titles, and on the reverse in the number of the pellets near the mint-mark. The mint-mark tun is always followed by a stop of some kind, usually a colon. The **Y**, on the reverse, is always at the end, instead of at the beginning, of the legend, where its place is occupied by a colon. On one sixpence it is omitted on the reverse. The lettering of the legend on the silver reverts to the old English or Lombardic character, while that on the base coins is in Roman letters. The stops are lozenges, but often they are so badly formed that they look like pellets.

CROWNS.

Obverse: The King in armour, crowned, holding his sword in his right hand, riding a horse gaily caparisoned, cantering to the right: date below; all within an inner circle; legend **EDWARD' : VI : D' : G' : REX' : FRENCH' : Z : RIB' : REX**. Mint-mark tun, date 1551.

Those with mint-mark tun of 1552 and 1553 have the same readings, with the variations **FRX** and **RIBER**. (Pl. VI, No. 2.)

Those with mint-mark **Y**, 1551, have the variations of **FRTRD** or **FRX**, **RIBER**, **RIB** or **RIB**. (Pl. VI, No. 1.)

Reverse: The Shield of arms, on a cross fourchée, the ends of





FINE COINAGE OF EDWARD VI.

which extend beyond the inner circle. Legend: **POSVI DEVM** or **DEVS** **ADIVTORS** **MEVM** or **MEVS**.

HALF-CROWNS.

Obverse: Similar to that of the crowns, but on that with the mint-mark **v** the horse is walking, and has a plume on its head; on that with mint-mark **tun**, 1553, it is walking, but is without a plume. The legends vary as follows:

Tun, 1551: **AGL**, **FRAN**, **RIB** or **RIB**.

Tun, 1552: **AGL**, **FRAN**, **RIB**. (Pl. VI, No. ⁴3.)

Tun, 1553: **AGL**, **FRAN**, **RIB**. (Pl. VI, No. ⁵4.)

v, 1551: **AGL** or **AGLIA**, **FRAN** or **FRAN**, **RIB** or **RIB**. (Pl. VI, No. ³5.)

The reverse is similar to that of the crowns.

SHILLINGS.

Obverse: The King is represented full faced, crowned, wearing the royal robe and the collar of the Garter; the figure XII, for the value, is to the left and the rose to the right of the face; all within an inner circle; mint-marks **tun** and **v**; legend: **EDWARD VI** **D** **G** **AGL** **FRAN** **Z** **RIB** **REX**. One with mint-mark **tun** reads **EDWARD**.

Reverse: Similar to the crowns and half-crowns. The cross sometimes cuts the word **ADIVTORS** between the **A** and **D**, sometimes after the **D**. (Pl. VI, Nos. 6 and 7.)

The size of the lettering varies, being larger and coarser on some specimens.

Some shillings are found countermarked with a portcullis in front of the face. This must have been done in error, as the standard of the silver was too high for this countermark.

SIXPENCE.

The obverse is similar to that of the shilling, with the exception of VI for the mark of value.

The reverse is similar to that of the shilling, but the legend varies more. Those with mint-mark **tun** read **DEVS** and **MEVS**. (Pl.

VII, No. 1), and those with mint-mark **ʒ**, **DEVM** or **DEV'** and **MA • MAV'** or **MAVM**. (Pl. VII, No. 2.) The sizes of the lions and of the lettering vary.

One coin with mint-mark **ʒ**, as before stated, has no mint-mark on the reverse.

THREEPENCE.

The obverse is similar to the shilling, except for III, the mark of value, and sometimes the collar is omitted. On some the legend reads **KG' RR'**.

The reverse is similar to that of the shilling and reads always **DEV'** and **MAV'**. The mint-mark on both sides is the tun. (Pl. VII, No. 3.)

The striking of these coins appears to have commenced in 1552, as they were first mentioned in the indentures of that year (Hawkins, p. 294). This will account for the mint-mark **ʒ** being missing.

PENCE.

There are two varieties of the penny, one being of fine silver and the other of base.

The fine penny is similar to that of the second issue of Henry VIII, that is to say, is of the Sovereign type. It differs only in having **æ** substituted for **h** in the obverse legend, and in having the mint-mark tun. On the obverse the King is represented seated upon his throne crowned, and holding sceptre and orb, the head and crown cutting through the inner circle to the edge of the coin; legend: **Æ. D. G. ROST. SING. SPI'** or **SPIT**; stops, saltires.

Reverse: shield of arms on a cross fourchée, the forks of which cut through the inner circles to the edge of the coin; legend: **CIVITAS LONDON**. (Pl. VII, No. 4.)

The question arises, why were these fine pennies struck, for they were not mentioned in the indentures? Several of these coins are known, and they were not all struck from the same die, as there were two varieties in the Montagu collection. The only answer that comes to my mind is that perhaps they were patterns.



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There is a pattern shilling of fine silver (Hawkins, No. 419, Pl. XXXII), which is stated to be of extreme rarity. On the obverse the King is represented on horseback, galloping, armed, and in a menacing attitude, within a beaded inner circle. The mint-mark is an ostrich head on both sides, and the legend, in Lombardic characters, is: **EDWARD' * VI * D * G * REX * FRAN * ZIB * REX.** Three crosses to right of mint-mark and one to the left. Reverse: a square shield surmounted by a crown, **E * R.** at the sides, within an inner circle. Legend: **TIMOR * DOMINI * FORS * VITA * M * D * L * I * ***. Stops, mixed crosses and saltires.

The base coins of this coinage are, as before mentioned, the penny, half-penny and farthing.

Penny: The obverse has a double rose within an inner circle; legend, in Roman characters; **E' D' G' * ROSA * SINE * SPINA.** The reverse has a square shield on a cross fourchée, the arms of which cut the inner circle to the outer edge, and the forks are plain; **CIVITAS LONDON**; stops, lozenges. (Pl. VII, No. 5); mint-mark, escallop, on the obverse only.

The half-penny is very similar to the penny, except that the Rose is single, and the obverse legend ends **SPI**; stops, lozenges; mint-mark Escallop on the obverse only. (Hawkins 427.) (Pl. VII, No. 6.) This coin is very rare, only three specimens being known. There was one in the Montagu collection, lot 855.

The farthing has on the obverse a portcullis, within an inner circle; legend in Roman letters: **E * D * G * ROSA * SPINE * SPI**; reverse: cross and pellets, legend **CIVITAS LONDON**; stops indistinct, no mint-mark. (Hawkins, No. 428.) (Pl. VII, No. 7.)

YORK.

The known coins of York are the sixpence and threepence in fine, and the penny in base silver. These must have been struck in 1552 and 1553, for in the former year orders were sent to the mint at York to cease coining base money. The Tower penny being of base silver, it naturally follows that the York penny would be struck in metal of the same standard.

The sixpence and threepence are similar to those coined at the Tower, but the legend on the reverse is **CIVITAS EBORACI**; mint-mark a pierced mullet on both sides. (Pl. VII, Nos. 8 and 9.)

The penny which has the mint-mark, a pierced mullet, on the obverse only, is similar to that of the Tower, with the exception of the legend on the reverse, which is **CIVITAS EBORACI**. (Pl. VII, No. 10.)

REFERENCES IN TABLES.

×, in Author's Collection. B.M., British Museum. C.B., Mr. R. Carlyon-Britton's Collection. Hks., Hawkins' *Silver Coins of England*. Mo., Montagu Collection. Mu., Murdoch Collection. P., Mr. H. A. Parsons's Collection. Rud., Ruding's *Annals of the Coinage*. Sn., Snelling on Coins. Si., Simons' Essay on Irish Coins. Plate V, 100.

Table I.

Metropolitan mints, with the portrait and name of Henry VIII.

Table II.

Country mints, with the portrait and name of Henry VIII, and earliest shillings with portrait and name of Edward VI.

Table III.

Base issue, with the portrait and name of Edward VI.

Table IV.

Fine silver issue.

Table V.

Sequence of mint-marks.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES.

Plate I.

1. Groat, portrait No. 1, mint-mark lis, obverse and reverse.
2. Groat, portrait No. 2, mint-mark lis, obverse.
3. Groat, portrait No. 3, mint-mark lis, obverse and reverse.
4. Groat, portrait No. 4, mint-mark lis, obverse.
5. Groat, portrait No. 5, mint-mark grapple, obverse and reverse.
6. Groat, portrait No. 1, mint-mark arrow, obverse and reverse.
7. Groat, portrait No. 3, mint-mark arrow, obverse.
8. Groat, portrait No. 1, mint-mark K, obverse.
9. Groat, portrait No. 1, mint-mark martlet, obverse and reverse.
10. Groat, portrait No. 5, mint-mark martlet, obverse and reverse, lozenge stops.
11. Groat, portrait No. 5, mint-mark martlet, obverse and reverse, pellet stops.
12. Groat, portrait No. 5, mint-mark martlet, obverse, saltire stops.
13. Half-Groat, portrait No. 1, mint-mark arrow, obverse and reverse.
14. Half-Groat, mint-mark K, reverse.
15. Penny, portrait No. 1, mint-mark arrow, obverse and reverse.
16. Penny, mint-mark K, reverse.
17. Penny, portrait No. 5, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
18. Half-penny, portrait No. 1, mint-mark (none), London, obverse and reverse.

Plate II.

1. Groat, Southwark, portrait No. 1, mint-mark (none), **G** and **S** in forks of cross, obverse and reverse.

2. Groat, Southwark, portrait No. 1, mint-mark E, obverse and reverse.
3. Groat, Southwark, portrait No. 5, mint-mark E, obverse mascle stops.
4. Groat, Southwark, portrait No. 5, mint-mark E, obverse and reverse pellet stops.
5. Half-Groat, Southwark, portrait No. 1, mint-mark E, obverse and reverse.
6. Groat, Durham House, portrait No. 5, mint-mark bow, obverse and reverse.
7. Groat, Durham House, portrait No. 5, mint-mark bow, reverse.
8. Half-Groat, Durham House, portrait No. 1, mint-mark bow, obverse and reverse.
9. Half-Groat, Durham House, portrait No. 1, mint-mark grapple, obverse and reverse.
10. Penny, Durham House, portrait No. 1, mint-mark grapple, obverse and reverse.
11. Groat, Bristol, mint-mark T.C. in monogram, obverse and reverse.
12. Half-Groat, Bristol, portrait No. 1, mint-mark T.C., obverse and reverse.
13. Penny, Bristol, portrait No. 1, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
14. Groat, Canterbury, portrait No. 1, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse, trefoil stops.
15. Groat, Canterbury, portrait No. 5, mint-mark lis, obverse and reverse.
16. Groat, Canterbury, portrait No. 5, mint-mark rose, obverse.
17. Half-Groat, Canterbury, portrait No. 1, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
18. Penny, Canterbury, portrait No. 1, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.

Plate III.

1. Groat, York, portrait No. 2, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse, trefoil, stops.
2. Groat, York, mint-mark reverse.
3. Groat, York, portrait No. 5, mint-mark boar's head? obverse and reverse, Lombardic lettering.
4. Half-Groat, York, portrait No. 5, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
5. Penny, York, portrait No. 5, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
6. Groat, Dublin, portrait No. 1, mint-mark boar's head, obverse and reverse.
7. Groat, Dublin, portrait No. 5, mint-mark harp, obverse and reverse.
8. Groat, Dublin, portrait No. 5, mint-mark P, reverse.
9. Half-Groat, Dublin, mint-mark boar's head, reverse.
10. Half-Groat, Dublin, mint-mark harp, reverse.
11. Half-Groat, Dublin, portrait No. 5, mint-mark harp, obverse and reverse.
12. Half-Groat, Dublin, mint-mark P, reverse.
13. Penny, Dublin, portrait No. 5, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
14. Shilling, 8 oz., 1549, mint-mark arrow, obverse and reverse.
15. Shilling, 8 oz., 1549, mint-mark arrow, on reverse only, obverse and reverse.
16. Shilling, 8 oz., 1549, mint-mark rose, on reverse only, obverse and reverse.
17. Shilling, 8 oz., no date, mint-mark bow, obverse and reverse.

Plate IV.

1. Shilling, 6 oz., 1549, mint-mark arrow, obverse and reverse.
2. Shilling, 6 oz., 1549, mint-mark pheon, obverse.
3. Shilling, 6 oz., 1549, mint-mark bow, obverse and reverse.

4. Shilling, 6 oz., 1549, mint-mark grapple, obverse and reverse.
5. Shilling, 6 oz., 1549, mint-mark T.C. in monogram, obverse and reverse.
6. Shilling, 6 oz., 1549, mint-mark T.C. in monogram, over ?, obverse and reverse.
7. Shilling, 6 oz., 1549, mint-mark *t*, obverse and reverse.
8. Shilling, 6 oz., 1549, mint-mark *τ*, obverse and reverse.
9. Shilling, 6 oz., 1550, mint-mark martlet, obverse and reverse.
10. Shilling, 6 oz., 1550, mint-mark swan, obverse and reverse.

Plate V.

1. Shilling, 6 oz., 1550, mint-mark Y, obverse and reverse.
2. Shilling, 3 oz., 1550, mint-mark lion, reverse.
3. Shilling, 3 oz., 1551, mint-mark rose, obverse.
4. Shilling, 3 oz., 1551, mint-mark lis.
5. Groat, 4 oz., mint-mark arrow, obverse and reverse.
6. Groat, 4 oz., mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
7. Half-Groat, mint-mark arrow, obverse and reverse.
8. Half-Groat, mint-mark arrow, obverse and reverse, CIVITAS LONDON.
9. Penny, mint-mark arrow, obverse and reverse.
10. Groat, Southwark, mint-mark E, obverse and reverse.
11. Penny, Bristol, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
12. Half-Groat, Canterbury, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
13. Shilling (sixpence), Dublin, 1552, mint-mark harp, obverse and reverse.
14. Shilling, countermarked with portcullis, mint-mark bow, obverse.
15. Shilling, countermarked with greyhound, mint-mark rose, obverse.

Plate VI.

1. Crown, 1551, mint-mark *Y*, obverse and reverse.
2. Crown, 1553, mint-mark tun, obverse and reverse.
3. Half-Crown, 1551, mint-mark *Y*, obverse and reverse.
4. Half-Crown, 1552, mint-mark tun, obverse and reverse.
5. Half-Crown, 1553, mint-mark tun, obverse and reverse.
6. Shilling, mint-mark tun, obverse and reverse.
7. Shilling, mint-mark *Y*, obverse and reverse.

Plate VII.

1. Sixpence, mint-mark tun, obverse and reverse.
2. Sixpence, mint-mark *Y*, obverse and reverse.
3. Three-pence, mint-mark tun, obverse and reverse.
4. Penny, Sovereign Type, mint-mark tun, obverse and reverse.
5. Penny, Rose Type, mint-mark escallop, obverse and reverse.
6. Half-penny, Rose Type, mint-mark escallop, obverse and reverse.
7. Farthing, mint-mark (none), obverse and reverse.
8. Sixpence, York, mint-mark pierced mullet, obverse and reverse.
9. Three-pence, York, mint-mark pierced mullet, obverse and reverse.
10. Penny, Rose Type, York, mint-mark pierced mullet, obverse and reverse.

COINS OF METROPOLITAN MINTS,

Mint-mark.	Date (probable).	Mint.	In Forks of Reverse of Groats only.	Stops.
Lis	1547	Tower	Annulet and Pellet	obverse Mascle, reverse ?
"	1547-8	"	Half Rose	Lozenge
Arrow	1547-8	"	Crescent	Lozenge, Mascle
"	1548-9	"	Half Rose	Lozenge
K	1547-8	"	Crescent	Lozenge, Mascle, incurved
"	1548-9	"	Half Rose	Lozenge
Martlet	1550-1	"	"	"
"	"	"	"	Pellet
"	1551	"	"	obverse Saltire, reverse Pellet
(None)	1547-8	?	Crescent	Lozenge, Mascle
"	1549	"	"	Pellet
"	1547	Southwark	G and S	Trefoil
"	1547-8	"	"	Mascle, incurved
E	1547-8	"	Crescent	Lozenge, Mascle, incurved
"	1548-9	"	Half Rose	Lozenge
"	1549	"	"	Pellet or Annulet
Bow	1548-9	Durham House	Curved with Spikes	obverse Lozenge, reverse Saltire
"	"	"	Crescent (2nd)	" "
(None)	"	"	"	" "
Grapple	1549	"	"	" "
"	"	Durham House and Tower ?	Half Rose	Pellet

COINS OF COUNTRY MINTS,

Mint-mark.	Date (probable).	Mint.	In Forks of Reverse of Groats only.	Stops.
TC in mono- gram	1549	Bristol	Trefoils (on half groats also)	Pellets
(None)	"	"		Mascles
"	1547-8	Canterbury	(Nothing)	Trefoils
"	"	"	Crescents	Lozenge, Mascle, incurved
"	1548-9	"	Half Roses	Lozenge
"	"	"	"	(None)
"	1549	"	"	Pellet
t	1549-50	"	(Nothing)	Mascle
Lis	1549	"	Half Roses	Pellet
Rose	"	"	"	"
(None)	1547-8	York	(Nothing)	Trefoils
"	"	"	Crescents	Lozenge, Mascle, incurved
"	1548-9	"	Half Roses	Lozenge
"	1549-50	"	"	Pellet
Boar's Head ?	1551	"	"	Lozenge ?
"	1548-9	Dublin	Half Roses	Lozenge
Harp	1550-1	"	"	"
P.	1550-1	"	"	"
(None)		"		"

WITH PORTRAIT OF HENRY VIII.

Denomination and Portrait.											
Groat.					Half Groat.		Penny.		Half-Penny.		Remarks.
1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	1st.	5th.	1st.	5th.	1st.	5th.	
x					x						Bristol bust on Groat. Lombardic lettering.
x							x				
x					x		x		x		
x				x				x			
				x	x						
x				x			x				
				x	x						
				x							
x	x				x		x				
x		x			x		x		x		
x		x		x	x	x		x			Half Groat, first bust, reads A'. F'
				x	BM.						Lombardic lettering on obverse only.
				x							
x				x	x						
Si				x	x	x					
				x		x					Probably the halfpenny has the first bust, as on all London halfpennies.
								BM.	BM. Hand Book		

BASE COINS, WITH THE PORTRAIT OF EDWARD VI.

Date.	Mint-mark.	Fine- ness.	Mint.	Shilling.	Groat.	Half Groat.	Penny.	Half- penny.	Remarks.
No date (1548-9).	Bow	8 oz.	Durham	B.M.					
1549	Arrow	"	House Tower	×					
"	Y	"	Southwark	×					
"	Rose, reverse only	"	?	×					
"	(None)	"	?	×					
"	TC in mono- gram	"	Bristol	Mu.					Reverse mint- mark Arrow.
"		"	Canterbury						
No date	Bow	6 oz.	Durham	×					
1549	E	4 oz.	House Southwark		B.M.	Mo.	Hks.		
"	Nil	"	?				Rud.	Mo.	
1549	Arrow	6 oz.	Tower	×	×		×		Groat, etc., 4 oz. fine.
"	Pheon	"	"	P.					Reverse mint- mark Arrow.
"	Swan	"	"	×					
"	Y	"	Southwark	×					
"	Bow	"	Durham	P.					
"	Grapple	"	House D u r h a m House and Tower ?	×					
1550	Martlet	"	Tower	C.B.					
"	Swan	"	"	×					
"	Y	"	Southwark	×					
"	Lion	3 oz.	Tower	×					
"	Lis	"	"	×					
"	Rose	"	"	Mu.					
1551	Lion	"	"	×					
"	Lis	"	"	×					
"	Rose	"	"	×					
"	Y	"	"	B.M.					Reverse mint- mark Lis.
1549	TC in mono- gram	6 oz.	Bristol	×					
No date	Trefoil	4 oz.	"				×	Mu.	No mint-mark on halfpenny.
1549	t or 7	6 oz.	Canterbury	×					
No date	(None)	4 oz.	"			×			
1552	Harp	3 oz.	Dublin	×					

COINS OF THE FINE SILVER ISSUE.

Date.	Mint-mark.	Mint.	Crown.	Half Crown.	Shilling.	Sixpence.	Three- pence.	Penny.	Half- penny.	Farthing.	Remarks.
1551..	Tun	Tower	x	x	x	x		B.M.			Dates only on crowns and half-crowns.
"	Y	"	x	x	x	x					
1551-3	Escallop	"						x	B.M.	B.M.	Base.
1552..	Tun	"	x	x			x				
1553..	"	"	x	x							
1552-3	Pierced Mullet	York				x	x	x			Penny base.

TABLE OF MINT-MARKS.

Date (probable)	Mints									Remarks.
	Tower No. 1.	Tower No. 2.	Tower No. 3.	Southwark.	Durham House.	Bristol.	Canterbury	York.	Dublin.	
1547-48	Arrow	Lis	K	E	—	WS in mono- gram	None	None	—	
1548	—	—		—	Bow	—	—	—	Boar's head.	
1549	Arrow Pheon	Swan		Y E on small money	Bow Grapple	TC in mono- gram	None, t, rose and lis.	None	—	
1550	Martlet	Swan		Y E on small money	—	—	—	None	Harp.	
1550-51	Rose,	Lion, Lis and Y		—	—	—	—	None	P	
1551	Tun. Escallop on small money.	Y		—	—	—	—	None and Boar's head?	P	
1552-53	Tun. Escallop on small money.	—		—	—	—	—	Pierced mullet.	Harp.	



1. Type Ia, Die 1.

2. Ia, 4.

3. Ia, 7.



4. Ia, 8.

5. Ib, 10.

6. Ib, 11.