


A REVIEW OF THE COINAGE OF CHARLES II.

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PART I.—THE HAMMERED COINAGE.

HARLES II ascended the throne on May 29th, 1660, although his regnal years are reckoned from the death of his father on January 30th, 1648-9. On June 27th, 1660, an order was issued for the preparation of dies, puncheons, etc., for the making of gold and silver coins, and on July 20th an indenture was entered into with Sir Ralph Freeman, Master of the Mint, which provided for the coinage of the same pieces and of the same value as those which had been coined in the time of his father.¹ The mint authorities were slow in getting to work, and on August 10th an order was sent to the Wardens of the Mint directing the engraver, Thomas Simon, to prepare the dies. The King was in a hurry to get the money bearing his effigy issued, and reminders were sent to the Wardens on August 18th and September 21st directing them to hasten the issue. This must have taken place before the end of the year, because the mint returns between July 20th and December 31st, 1660,² showed that 543 lbs. of silver, £1683 6s. in value, had been coined.

These coins were considered by many to be amongst the finest of the English series. They fittingly represent the swan song of the Hammered Coinage, as the hammer was finally superseded by the mill and screw a short two years later.

The denominations coined were the unite of twenty shillings, the double crown of ten shillings, and the crown of five shillings, in gold; and the half-crown, shilling, sixpence, half-groat, penny,

¹ *Ruding*, II, p. 2.

² *Snelling, View of the Silver Coin and Coinage of England*, p. 54.

and, after November, 1661, the groat and threepence in silver. No crown in silver is known, although seemingly it was included in the indenture. Halfpence were also struck, but cannot be distinguished from those of the Tower Mint of Charles I.

Some months after the issue of these moneys an order dated November 28th, 1661, directed that in future the value should be stamped on the several pieces. The weight of the unite at the same time appears to have been reduced from $140\frac{2}{41}$ to $131\frac{2}{41}$ grains.

By a proclamation of September 7th, 1661, the money of the Commonwealth, nicknamed "breeches money," from the arrangement of the shields on the reverse, was ordered not to be current after the 30th of November then next; this date, however, was later postponed till May, 1662.

On the 24th of January, 1661-2, Simon was ordered to deliver up all the tools, etc., for coinage which were in his possession to the officers of the mint, but, doubtless, his dies were used during the year 1662 and for the maundy money some years after that, for though there are milled crowns dated 1662 it is known that they were not issued till 1663.

In April, 1662, Peter Blondeau, who had previously made some patterns for the Commonwealth Government in 1651, was invited to return from France, and an agreement was entered into with him under which he was "to furnish all the mills, rollers, presses, and other instruments, to cut, flatten, make round and size the pieces; the engine to mark the edges of the money with letters and graining, the great presses for the coinage of monies, and all other tools and engines for the new way of coining." He also undertook "to discover his secrets in rounding pieces before they are sized, and in marking the edges of the monies"¹ to the mint authorities.

A new Dutch engraver, John Roettier, was joined to Thomas Simon, and the two were directed to prepare designs for the new coinage. As was to be expected, these two would not work together, so a competition was arranged between them, with the result that

¹ Hawkins, *Silver Coins of England*, p. 379.

the former was successful. The preference shown to the foreigner so much upset Simon that, early in 1663, he produced that celebrated protest known as the petition crown, so called from its having the following petition impressed upon the edge: THOMAS · SIMON · MOST · HUMBLY · PRAYS · YOUR MAJESTY TO · COMPARE · THIS · HIS · TRYALL · PIECE · WITH · THE · DUTCH · AND · IF · MORE · TRULY · DRAWN · & EMBOSS'D · MORE · GRACE : FULLY · ORDER'D · AND · MORE · ACCURATELY · ENGRAVEN · TO · RELEIVE · HIM ·; two C's interlinked and crowned, within two palm-branches, separate the beginning and ending of this inscription. This piece is also found with another inscription on the edge, REDDITE · QVAE · CAESARIS · CAESARI &c POST, clouds and lightning, beyond which the sun shining in splendour. Hence it is known as the Reddite crown.¹

Simon was not employed by the mint authorities after this, but he still remained an engraver of seals till his death in 1665. By November Blondeau had probably got his engines ready, for on the 5th of that month the order was made directing that the mill in future was to be used for coining.

The mint-mark for all these hammered coins is the crown, although on a few of the silver pieces it is omitted. This is the last occasion that a mint-mark appears on any English coin.

The Gold Issues of the Hammered Coinage.

Of the gold coinage there are two varieties with and without values. The obverse has a laureated bust in profile to the left, the hair long, in armour with the neck bare, no inner circles, and with or without numerals for value behind the head. The legend on the unite and double crown is CAROLVS II · D ! G ! MAG ! BRIT ! FRAN ! ET · HIB ! REX further abbreviated in the crown to BR ! FR ! ET · HI ! The pellets by the mint-mark vary, some dies having none, others one on each or either side. The reverse has no mint-mark nor inner circle, and bears a crowned and ornamented oval shield between C R and the legend is FLORENT · CONCORDIA · REGNA.

¹ Illustrated vol. v, p. 241.

After the introduction of the milled coins the unite and double crown were known as the broad and half-broad respectively.

The Silver Issues of the Hammered Coinage.

The silver coinage differs from the gold in having a different bust on the obverse and shield and legend on the reverse. The obverse has a crowned bust in profile to the left, hair long, in armour with a lace collar, with or without inner circles and numerals, and the same legend, only with more abbreviations owing to the smaller size of the majority of the coins. The pellets by the mint-mark, which is not always on the obverse, also vary in the same manner as on the gold issues. The reverse has a square shield on a cross fleury similar to that of the last shilling of Charles I; sometimes an inner circle and the legend CHRISTO·AVSPICE·REGNO.

These silver coins appear to have been struck as required and not in any particular order. *Hawkins* arranges them in four issues: 1st, without numerals or inner circles; 2nd, with numerals but no inner circles; 3rd, with numerals and inner circles; 4th, a set of maundy money which evidently was struck in collar. Mr. Webb, in his remarks on the Early Coins of Charles II,¹ arranges the small money in six varieties, the last three being struck in collar. The larger denominations he divides into three more, making nine in all. By a combination of these two arrangements one of six can be evolved by adding three higher denominations to those of the smaller, with which they most nearly agree.

A slight alteration in Mr. Webb's order has to be made, as he puts the smaller money with inner circles before that with no inner circles but with numerals. He is probably correct as, notwithstanding the absence of the groat and threepence, the half-groat and penny look as if they had been struck in collar. Mr. T. H. B. Graham² suggests that these, and those of the fifth and sixth series, were struck by Simon in a private press outside the mint.

The first series is said to consist of sixpence, half-groat³ and

¹ *Numismatic Chronicle*, 2nd Series, xix, p. 86.

² *Numismatic Chronicle*, 4th Series, xi, p. 66.

³ *Ruding*, Supplement, vi, 10, 11, 12.

penny, all with a single arched crown. They bear no mint-mark, merely a pellet, no numerals for value nor inner circles, and the legend commences at the top and is continuous all round. It is doubtful whether the sixpence or half-groat exists.

The second series, consisting of half-crown, shilling, sixpence, half-groat and penny, differs from the first in having the mint-mark crown on the obverse, which in the first two denominations is double arched. Mr. Webb remarks, in his paper, that the last two pieces, the half-groat and penny, had been considered by some as patterns. Of the half-groats in the writer's collection there are two varieties, one reading B with colon stops, the other BRIT with no stops. The penny is very rare.

The placing of the bust on the half-crown was a departure from the custom of the king's father and grandfather, who had been represented on this denomination, and on the crown, as riding a horse and holding a sword in the right hand. His brother James II, during his unhappy stay in Ireland in 1690, after his flight from England, reverted to this style by placing an equestrian portrait of himself on his gunmetal crowns. Since then no similar representation of the sovereign has appeared on the coinage.

The third series, which consists of the same denominations as the second, varies only, except that the sixpence has a double arched crown, in having the numerals for value behind the head ; it was therefore issued after the 28th of November, 1661. The half-groat and penny, which have the mint-mark on both sides, have all the appearance of having been struck in collar, and may therefore have been issued later. Mr. Graham has a half-groat not so struck which completes the link.

The fourth series consists of half-crown, shilling, sixpence, groat, threepence, half-groat, and penny. These have dotted inner circles, numerals and the mint-mark on both sides. This being the commonest of all the series, there are, as might be expected, a number of varieties. Of the half-crowns in the writer's cabinet one reads BR'·FR'· with pellets on each side of the mint-mark ; the other BRI'·FRA'·, with no pellets by the mint-mark on the

reverse. Of the shillings there are also two varieties, one reading BRIT·FR·, the other BRI:FRA ∴ Of the first there are two dies, differing from one another by one having pellets on each side of the mint-mark on both sides, the other being without them. This series is the first of the reign in which the groat and threepence appear, so new dies for these denominations had to be prepared. The bust on them varies slightly from those on the other pieces. On the older portraits the hair falls evenly on the shoulders, whereas on the new the hair is parted, part falling in front, the rest behind, leaving the shoulder bare. Of the threepences there are two obverses and two reverses, one having pellets on each side of the mint-mark, the other none. Of the half-groat, one obverse reads BR:FRA: another BRI:FRA. One of the former has a pellet on each side of the mint-mark, the others are without. There are also different dies of the reverse, one having a pellet on each side of the mint-mark, the other having one on the right only. The obverse of the penny as regards pellets varies as the half-groat, but the reverse has the pellet on each side of the mint-mark. There are doubtless other varieties in the different denominations.

The fifth series consists of a half-groat and penny, which differ from those of the third, being smaller and having the bust, as on the previous half-groats, extending to the edge of the coin; and the legend, which has & for ET, begins at the bottom. The crown has two arches and the mint-mark is on the reverse only. Those pieces have evidently been struck in collar: and if Mr. Graham is correct as to the private press, they must have been coined by it.

The sixth and last series consists of the groat, threepence, half-groat and penny. They have numerals and no inner circles, and the bust is somewhat similar to that on the groat and threepence of the fourth series. The crown has four arches and the mint-mark is on the reverse only. The legend commences at the bottom and has & for ET. These coins are the smallest in size and are of the same diameter as those afterwards struck under the new process. They have every appearance of having been coined by the mill, and probably were so issued for the purposes of the royal

maundy for some years, as no full set of these pieces was coined till 1670, though some half-groats appeared in 1668. As evidence in favour of this theory, Mr. H. Symonds, in his paper on The Pyx Trials of Charles II,¹ states that between 1660 and 1670 there were three trials. The first was held on the 9th of July, 1663, which therefore concerned the hammered money ; the second on the 4th of July, 1664, when the pyx contained half-groats and pennies in addition to the milled silver denominations of that date, namely, crowns, half-crowns, and shilling ; and the third, on the 4th of August, 1669, when all the four maundy pieces were included. On each occasion the pyx contained coins struck down to the date of trial. In their way these little coins are gems of numismatic art, and worthily wind up the hammered series of English coins. Mr. T. H. B. Graham, on pages 66 and 67 of his paper, considered that as the dies for this series bear a similar bust to those on the groat and threepence of the fourth series, they were prepared by Simon between the 28th of November, 1661, and the 24th of January, 1661-62, when he was ordered to deliver up all his tools, etc., to the officers of the mint, as before mentioned..

There are varieties of the reverse die of the groat and half-groat in the pellets by the mint-mark, one having no pellets, the other one on one side only, and the harps in the shields on these dies differ.

Seeing how comparatively rare these hammered pieces are, it comes somewhat as a surprise to find that coins to the value of more than half a million pounds were struck between the 20th of July, 1660, and the 31st of December, 1662. Monmouth's rebellion in the West, in 1688, was the only serious disturbance of public order which occurred in England before the great recoinage of 1696-97, and apart from this there was a total absence of such troubles as were likely to induce people to hide their treasures in the ground. It may therefore be presumed that a very large amount of these moneys remained in circulation until they were finally swept away by the reforming zeal of William III.

¹ *Numismatic Chronicle*, 4th Series, vol. xv, pp. 347-48.

TABLE A.
THE HAMMERED COINAGE OF CHARLES II.

Date.	Mint-mark.	Details.	Gold.			Silver.						
			Unit.	Double Crown.	Crown.	Half-crown.	Shilling.	Six-pence.	Groat.	Three-pence.	Half-groat.	Penny.
1660 ..	None ..	No numerals nor inner circles.	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	R	×
1660-61	Crown on the obverse only.	No numerals nor inner circles.	K	K	K	×	×	×	—	—	×	W
1661-62	Crown on the obverse only.	Numerals, no inner circles.	K	K	K	×	×	×	—	—	× ¹	× ¹
1661-62	Crown on both sides.	Numerals and inner circles.	—	—	—	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
1661-62	Crown on the reverse only.	Numerals, no inner circles.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	×
1662 ..	Crown on the reverse only.	Numerals, no inner circles.	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	×	×	×

NOTES.—× Represented in the author's collection.

R. Illustrated in *Ruding*, Sup. vi, Figs. 10, 11, 12.

K. Mentioned by Kenyon.

W. Mentioned by Webb.

¹ The mint-mark is on both sides on the half-groat and penny.

PART II.—THE MILLED COINAGE.

During the first two years of his reign, Charles had endeavoured in his coinage, as in everything else, to sweep away all traces of the revolutionary movement which had held sway in England, and the mint had reverted to the style and methods, though it was true that some slight improvement had been made in both, which had characterised the money of his father. It can scarcely be supposed, however, that the king's taste, educated as it had been in France and Holland, was gratified by this revival of mediævalism, and it is not surprising to find that once he felt his position firmly established, he caused to be introduced into the mint something of the classical spirit with which his mind had become imbued. On the introduction of the mill it is not unnatural that a radical change occurred in the design, execution, and size of the coins, and that the renaissance style was succeeded by the classical.

The first of these coins to be struck was a crown, though Snelling mentions also the half-crown and shilling, which is dated 1662; but the proclamation authorising the circulation was published on March 27th, 1663, two days after the commencement of the official year. This was followed later by the guinea, or twenty-shilling piece, in gold, and the half-crown and shilling in silver. The dates of appearance of the other denominations are the two-guineas in 1664; the half-groat in 1668; and the half-guinea in 1669. The rest of the maundy money, namely, the groat, three-pence, and penny, appeared in 1670, and finally the sixpence in 1674. The twenty-shilling piece, officially termed a pound, derived its popular designation of guinea from the fact that the gold of which many of them were made was brought from the Guinea coast by the African Company, which, as an incentive for such importation, was allowed to have its mark, an elephant, changed in 1675 to an elephant with a castle on its back, stamped on the obverse of the coins made of the metal imported by it. These marks are also found respectively on the crowns, half-crowns, and shillings of 1666 and 1681. The guinea was always of greater value

than twenty shillings, and it fluctuated in price up to thirty shillings, but was eventually fixed by Parliament in 1717 at twenty-one shillings.

In 1670 a company, which included Prince Rupert, took over the workings of the royal mines in Wales, and probably through his influence was again given the privilege of stamping coins struck in Welsh silver with the impress of the plume, for in 1671 shillings were coined having the plume below the bust on the obverse and in the centre of the reverse. There are two very rare half-crowns of 1673, one having the plume on the obverse only, the other having it on both sides.

These two privileges continued for many years, the elephant and castle disappeared at the end of the reign of George I; and the last year in which the plume alone appeared was 1731, but it lingered in conjunction with the rose till 1737.

The Gold Issues of the Milled Coinage.

A brief description of the gold issues is perhaps all that is necessary. They consist of the five-guineas, the two-guineas, the guinea, and the half-guinea.

On the obverse is the king's laureated head to the right, the hair long, extending nearly to the edge of the coin, and dividing the legend at both the top and bottom; legend, CAROLVS II · DEI · GRATIA. There is a legend of 1675 which erroneously reads CRAOLVS. On the reverse are four shields crowned, arranged in the form of a cross, that of England at the top, Scotland on the right, France at the bottom, and Ireland on the left; in the centre are four interlinked C's from which radiate four sceptres. Legend, MAG · BR · FRA · ET · HIB · REX · and the date is divided by the shield at the top. There is no inner circle on either side, and the edge of the five-guineas is inscribed DECVS ET TUTAMEN with the regnal year. This was to prevent the coin being clipped, and the edges of the other denominations were grained. The weight of the guinea was the same originally as that of the hammered unite, namely, $131\frac{29}{41}$ grains, but in 1670 it was reduced to $129\frac{39}{89}$

grains. The gold issues were coined nearly every year after that in which each denomination was first issued, as is shown in Table B

TABLE B.—THE MILLED COINAGE IN GOLD OF CHARLES II.

Date.	Details.	Five Guineas.	Two Guineas.	Guinea.	Half- guinea.
1663	Lovelock, truncation pointed			+	
	Elephant			+	
1664	Lovelock, truncation pointed			+	
	Elephant		×	+	
1665	Lovelock, truncation pointed			+	
	Elephant			+	
1666	Lovelock, truncation pointed			+	
1667	"			+	
1668	"	+		+	
	Elephant	+			
1669	Lovelock, truncation pointed	+			+
	Elephant	+			
1670	Lovelock, truncation pointed	+		+	+
1671	"	+		+	+
1672	"	+		+	+
1673	"	+			
1673	No lovelock, truncation rounded			+	
1674	"			+	+
1675	Lovelock, truncation pointed	+			
	Elephant	+			
1675	No lovelock, truncation rounded		+	+	+
	Elephant and castle			+	
1676	Lovelock, truncation pointed	+			
	Elephant and castle	+			
1676	No lovelock, truncation rounded		+	+	+
	Elephant and castle		+	+	+
1677	Lovelock, truncation pointed	+			+
	Elephant and castle	+			
1677	No lovelock, truncation rounded		+	+	+
	Elephant and castle			+	+
1678	Lovelock, truncation pointed				
	Elephant and castle	+			
1678	No lovelock, truncation rounded	+	+	+	+
	Elephant and castle			+	+
1678	No lovelock, truncation rounded			+	
	Elephant				
1679	No lovelock, truncation rounded	+	+	+	+
	Elephant and castle			+	
1680	No lovelock, truncation rounded	+	+	+	+
	Elephant and castle			+	+
1681	No lovelock, truncation rounded	+	+	+	+
	Elephant and castle	+			
1682	No lovelock, truncation rounded	+	+	+	
	Elephant and castle		+	+	+
1683	No lovelock, truncation rounded	+	+	+	+
	Elephant and castle			+	
1684	No lovelock, truncation rounded	+	+	+	+
	Elephant and castle	+	+	+	

The Silver Issues of the Milled Coinage.

The silver coins differ from the gold by having a laureated bust of the king draped in a toga instead of the head. The portrait on these coins, as well as that on Simon's petition crown, was copied from a drawing by Samuel Cooper. On the reverse they differ by the star of the garter, except on those mentioned before with the plume, being in the centre, and two interlinked C's in the angles in place of the sceptres.

The maundy money has on the reverse one C, crowned, for the penny; two C's, interlinked, for the half-groat; three for the threepence; and for the groat, four, with a rose, thistle, lys and harp respectively between the horns of the C's. The crown and half-crown have their edges inscribed like the five-guineas; those of the shilling and sixpence are grained; and those of the maundy pieces are plain. With the exception of the half-crown and shilling all the coins are known to have been struck every year after their introduction; the dates missing being for the half-crown 1665 and 1667, and for the shilling 1664, 1665, and 1667; for no half-crowns nor shillings of those dates respectively are at present known. The dates on the coins are rarely overstruck. The number of strings on the harp vary in different dies, and another thing that varies is the size of the flan. This, one would have supposed, would be constant, but it is not so. Some of the variations are accidental, others are intentional, for the flans for the crowns of 1662 and 1663 are larger than those used after that date.

The coins struck on the various dates will now be taken seriatim:—

1662.—Of this year there are crowns only. There are two obverses, one with a rose beneath the bust, the other without. The question arises, what is the meaning of this rose? When we refer to the reign of Charles I, it is found that the rose was the mint-mark generally present on the coins struck at Exeter during the siege 1642 to 1645, and there is also a half-crown of Bristol of 1644 with a rose below the horse. In 1699 the rose again appears in the angles of the reverse, also on other dates, often in conjunction

with the plume, till 1747, the mark being used to denote that these coins were composed of silver from the West of England. It has therefore been considered that the rose on the crowns before us denotes the same fact. The bearings on the shields on the reverse differ from those given before, for the first and third have the English and French arms quarterly instead of those of England on the first, and of France on the third. The number of strings on the harp of Ireland varies, for some have eight, nine, or ten strings. On the edge some are dated 1662, others are not. The rose type with the dated edge has an eight-stringed harp, whilst the crowns without date have seven or nine strings. The type without the rose when dated has nine strings; without the date, nine or ten strings. Both the crowns with dates on the edge are rare.

1663.—The crown has a similar obverse to that of 1662 without the rose, and the reverse has the usual arrangement of the shields. The edge has the regnal year XV. The half-crown and shilling are similar to the crown. The shilling, which has the edge grained perpendicularly, has different dies for the reverse varying in the number of strings in the harp: one has six and another seven, whilst on one die the Irish arms are placed on the second shield and those of Scotland on the fourth. It is the commonest of all the coins of Charles II.

1664.—The crown and half-crown differ from those of 1663 by having a different bust, with the toga showing more behind the neck.

1665.—The crown only. This is a very rare date. There are two different years on the edge, one XVI and the other XVII.

1666.—The crown and shilling are the same as before, and there is a set of crown, half-crown, and shilling having the elephant under the bust. One of the last has the obverse struck from the guinea die.

1667.—The crown only.

1668.—The crown, half-crown, and shilling. Of the last, one has five strings, another six strings on the harp. The half-groat now appeared.

1669.—The crown, half-crown, and shilling, the last being extremely rare, perhaps unique. From this date the graining on the edge of the shilling is oblique.

1670.—The crown, half-crown, and shilling. There is a half-crown with a peculiar countermark, a large cross fleury struck on the cheek, but no reason can be offered for this. The maundy set, the bust on which is like that on the ordinary shilling, was first struck this year in the milled series.

1671.—There is a crown and a half-crown similar to those of 1670. During this year the bust on the crown was changed somewhat, the principal difference being that the curl from the ear does not drop so near to the brooch of the toga. Mr. W. B. Thorpe has a crown with the earlier bust which reads VICESIMO QUARTO instead of TERTIO. There is no change in the shilling, but the plume now appears on both sides of one. There is also a maundy set.

1672.—A crown, half-crown of which there are two varieties, one as in the previous years and the other with a new bust with a very much larger head, the usual shilling and a maundy set.

1673.—There are a number of varieties. The crown; half-crowns with the large head, the first of them being of the usual type, the second with plume on both sides, and the third, which is a mule between the first and second, having the plume below the bust only on the obverse. These last two varieties are extremely rare, for of the second only two examples are believed to be known, and the third is probably unique. Shillings, of which two are of the usual type and one has the plumes on both sides. Also a maundy set.

1674.—The usual crown, half-crown, and four varieties of the shilling. First of the usual type; second, with plumes on both sides; third, a mule between the two, having plumes on the reverse only; and fourth, with a new head which is very large. The sixpence, which has the bust as on the ordinary shilling, and oblique graining on the edge, was introduced this year. Also the maundy set.

1675.—The crown, half-crown, three varieties of the shilling, namely, of the usual type, with plumes on both sides and large head, the last of which is found struck on large and small flans. The sixpence and the maundy set.

1676.—The crown, half-crown, shillings of the usual type on large and small flans, and with plumes on both sides; sixpence, on which is an altered date; and the maundy set. Of the three-pences one has an altered date, the 6 being struck over the 5; another has the obverse struck with that of the groat.

1677.—The crown, half-crown, shillings of usual type and with plumes on the obverse only, sixpence and the maundy set.

1678.—The crown, half-crown, shilling on a large flan, sixpence, and maundy set.

1679.—The crowns of the usual type and one with a new and larger bust, half-crown, shillings of the usual type, with plumes on both sides struck on large and small flans, and, thirdly, with plumes on the obverse only, sixpence, and maundy set.

1680.—Crowns with both busts as in 1679, half-crown, shillings of the usual type, and with plumes on both sides, sixpence, and maundy set.

1681.—Crowns, half-crowns, and shillings of the usual type, and also with elephant and castle under the bust. The usual shilling was struck on large and small flans. Sixpence and maundy set.

1682.—Crowns with correct and altered dates, and one with QURRTO · on the edge instead of QUARTO. Half-crown, shilling with the usual bust,¹ sixpence and maundy set.

1683.—Crown, half-crown, shillings of the usual type and large head, sixpence struck on large and small flans, and maundy set.

1684.—Crown, half-crown, shilling, sixpence with large head, and the maundy set.

¹ Montagu Catalogue, Lot 797.

TABLE C.—THE MILLED COINAGE IN SILVER OF CHARLES II.

Date	Details.	Crown.	Half-crown.	Shilling.	Six-pence.	Groat.	Three-pence.	Half-groat.	Penny.
1662	Rose; edge dated	×							
"	Rose; not dated	×							
"	No rose; edge dated	×							
"	No rose; not dated	×							
1663		×	×	×					
1664		×	×						
1665		×							
1666		×							
"	Elephant under bust	×	×	×					
1667		×							
1668		×	×	×				×	
1669		×	×	×					
1670		×	×	×		×	×	×	×
1671		×	×	×		×	×	×	×
"	VICESIMO QUARTO on edge ..	T							
"	Plumes			×					
"	Different bust	×							
1672		×	×	×		×	×	×	×
"	Different bust		×						
1673		×	×	×		×	×	×	×
"	Plumes		H	×					
"	Plume; obverse only		H						
1674		H	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
"	Plumes			×					
"	Plume; reverse only			×					
"	Large head			×					
1675		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
"	Plumes			×					
"	Large head			×					
1676		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
"	Plumes			×					
1677		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
"	Plume; obverse only			×					
1678		×	H	×	×	×	×	×	×
1679		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
"	Plumes			×					
"	Plume; obverse only			×					
"	Last bust	×							
1680		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
"	Plumes			×					
"	Last bust	×							
1681		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
"	Elephant and castle under bust	×	×	×					
1682		×	×	M	×	×	×	×	×
1683		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
"	Large head			×					
1684		×	H	×	×	×	×	×	×

Notes.—× Represented in the author's collection.

H. Mentioned by *Hawkins* as in the British Museum.

M. Montagu Sale, Lot 797.

T. In Mr. W. B. Thorpe's collection.

¹ XVI and XVII on edges.

² One shilling has obverse from the guinea die.

PART III.—THE COPPER COINAGE.

The numismatic history of Charles II is noted for two events, the first being the supersession of the hammer by the mill and screw for the striking of money, the second being the introduction of a just and proper coinage of copper money. Hitherto the farthings permitted to be circulated were poor wretched pieces, varying in weight during the reign of James I from six to four grains, and under Charles I from 14·8 to 8·5 grains. They were not struck in the mint, but by contractors who obtained letters patent, and the farthings so issued are generally known by the names of the patentees, as "Harringtons" and "Richmonds." Owing to their low intrinsic value and inconvenient size there was great difficulty in putting them into circulation, much persuasion having to be used, and they were, further, very easily forged. During the Commonwealth nothing was done officially to meet the want of small copper change beyond the striking of various patterns.

When Charles II came to the throne he found the country flooded by a large number of small local tokens. They were issued by many corporations and tradesmen in all the chief towns and many villages throughout the land. These pieces are prized by genealogists and local historians, and are now known as "seventeenth-century tokens."

On the 14th of December, 1660, Charles granted a patent to Sir Thomas Armstrong, empowering him to coin for the next twenty-one years such a quantity of farthings as might be conveniently issued during that term amongst his Majesty's subjects in Ireland. They were to be made of copper by engines, and to be current only in that country.¹

Obverse.—A large double arched crown with two sceptres in saltire behind it. Legend, CAROLVS II · D · G · M · B ·

Reverse.—Mint-mark, a plume. A crowned female-headed harp. Legend, FRA · ET · HIB · REX · *Montagu*, No. 2. Weight, 25 grains. There are at least two different dies of the obverse varying

¹ *Ruding*, vol. ii, p. 2.

as to the position of the sceptres. This farthing was thus similar to those issued by the King's predecessors, only heavier.

Owing to the opposition of the Lord-Lieutenant, the Duke of Ormond, Armstrong never was able to put any of this money into circulation.

Pattern Halfpennies and Farthings.

It is very evident that Charles, or some influential person for him, was obsessed with the idea of claiming the supremacy on the sea, for in 1662 a pattern was prepared.

Obverse.—Mint-mark lion. A rose, thistle, and harp, each crowned, placed crosswise. Legend, CAROLVS·A·CAROLO·

Reverse.—A ship sailing to the left. Legend, QVATVOR · MARIA · VINDICO · Edge inscribed MONETA · INSTAVRATVR · 1662. There are two other varieties : one has a grained edge, the other is thinner with graining to the edge. *Montagu*, Nos. 14, 16, and 16B. *Montagu* describes two more, 16A and 15. The first has a plain edge, the second has on the edge ISTA·FAMA·PER·ASTHERA·VOLAT. An example in silver with a plain edge is in the National Collection.

In 1665 there were struck pattern halfpennies and farthings, the design on which has lasted with slight variation to the present day.

The halfpenny.—Obverse.—Bust in Roman armour to the left, laureated, the hair short. Legend, CAROLVS·A·CAROLO· Reverse.—Britannia, wholly draped, seated on a globe to the left and leaning on a shield emblazoned with the union of the crosses, having in her right hand an olive branch and in her left a spear ; below, BRITANNIA. Legend, beginning at the bottom, QUATVOR · MARIA · VINDICO. Edge plain. The flans vary, one being larger than the other. It was also struck in silver.

The farthings.—These differ from the halfpennies in having the date under the bust on the obverse. There are two busts, one with short hair as on the halfpenny, the other with long hair, and no stop after CAROLO. The reverse also differs in having Britannia's right leg bare. They were struck in silver and copper. With the

short hair the edges vary on the silver pieces, one being plain, the other grained, and on the copper plain. With the long hair the edges likewise vary, the silver having the same as with the short hair, while on the copper the edge is grained. *Montagu* mentions other metals in which the patterns were struck, namely, gold, tin with a circle of bell metal, and tin with a circle of copper; also that some have the date 1666.

The Duchess of Richmond was the model for Britannia, and the Count de Grammont, in his *Memoirs*, mentions that she was particularly proud of her legs, or, at any rate, the King admired them very much. On one occasion when the Russian Ambassadors paid a visit to Whitehall the conversation turned on the alleged beauty of those of the Russian ladies. The king maintained that no woman ever had such handsome legs as Miss Stewart—afterwards the Duchess—and she, to prove the truth of his Majesty's assertion, with the greatest imaginable ease, immediately showed hers above the knee. This incident probably accounts for the reason of her leg appearing bare on the coin; but the bareness shocked the modesty of Queen Anne, and ever after Britannia has been constrained to show only her toes.

Louis XIV strongly objected to the proud claim to the sea, and the influence he brought to bear prevented these pieces being adopted. However, the idea still remained, for patterns in silver in an intermediate size between the halfpenny and farthing, evidently intended for the latter as the leg is bare, were issued in 1675 and 1676.

The Current Halfpenny and Farthing.

At last, on the 16th of August, 1672, the King's proclamation was issued making a new halfpenny and farthing legal tender for sums less than sixpence. They are similar to the patterns of 1665 which have been described, with the exceptions that on the reverse the date appears below the figure of Britannia; the legend is BRITANNIA · and the edges are plain. On the farthing the bust is that with the short hair, and the date is transferred to the reverse. They were made of pure Swedish copper, and were coined at the

rate of 175 grains to the halfpenny, or $87\frac{1}{2}$ grains to the farthing, thus making a pound of metal avoirdupois equal to twenty pence.

The halfpence bear the dates 1672, 1673, and 1675. There is a silver proof of 1672 and a copper proof of 1673. *Montagu* mentions that there are the corresponding proofs of 1672 and 1673. There are two obverse dies which differ from one another in the position of the tie strings: on the first the top string touches the long stroke of the L of CAROLO, whereas on the second it touches the O. One halfpenny, dated 1673, has the error CRAOLVS instead of CAROLVS.

The farthings disclose more variation, and bear the dates 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676,¹ and 1679. There is also an example in silver dated 1671, and *Montagu* notes the same in copper, both with long and short hair. Those bearing the date 1671 must have been struck in anticipation of the proclamation. Some of 1672 have drapery under the arms, and of 1673 one obverse reads CAROLA · for CAROLO, and another has on the reverse BRITINNIA. There are corresponding dies to those of the halfpenny, as regards the position of the top tie string with the O, whilst another of 1675 has the O placed farther from the L. On the introduction of these moneys the numerous local tokens went out of use.

In 1679 the price of tin was very low, and in consequence of this the King's revenue was reduced by some £12,000 per annum. It was suggested as a remedy that halfpence and farthings should be coined of this metal instead of copper. The proposition was opposed by the mint as a gross cheat upon the nation, and it was urged that they could easily be counterfeited.² However, in 1684 the proposition was approved, and on May the 28th orders were given to prepare the necessary proclamation, and the coins were to be of the same weight as those of copper, namely, twenty pence to the pound avoirdupois. Only farthings of this metal with a copper plug in the centre were coined, and they have the same designs as those

¹ Batty's *Copper Coinage*, No. 541.

² *Ruding*, ii, p. 20.

of copper without the date on the reverse, but are inscribed upon the edge NVMMORVM·FAMVLVS·1684. There are three varieties of this legend. The first, with three mullet stops ; the second, with two ; and the third, with only one. There is one with the edge dated 1685, which must have been due to error in the mint after the succession of James II, for Charles died on the 6th of February, a Charles die being used with a James edge. There is a corresponding error in the James coins of that date, as there is a farthing with an edge dated 1684.

*Irish Copper Coinage.*¹

In 1680 Sir Thomas Armstrong petitioned the King upon his patent for coining farthings for Ireland, which had been granted to him in 1660, stating that he had never been allowed to issue them. This petition was favourably received, and new letters patent dated the 18th of May were granted, empowering him and Colonel George Legge to issue for twenty-one years copper halfpence of the weight of 107 grains for circulation in Ireland.

Obverse, bust to the right, laureated, draped, and hair long. Legend, CAROLVS II·DEI·GRATIA· Reverse, a harp crowned, the crown dividing the date. Legend, MAG·BR·FRA·ET·HIB·REX· They occur of the years 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, and 1684.

A circumstance that may have influenced Charles to grant so readily these letters patent may have been a desire to get rid of certain token halfpence and farthings, known as St. Patrick's money from their bearing the figure of that Saint. Dr. Aquilla Smith considered that they made their appearance between 1673 and 1680, but their origin is most obscure, for their issuer, or even where they were struck, is unknown. They were very popular, and were acknowledged to be current in the Isle of Man in 1678 and 1679, and were later, in 1680, authorised as currency in the State of New Jersey. They are fully described and illustrated by Dr. Philip Nelson, F.S.A.,

¹ See the paper by Mr. F. Willson Yeates on "The Coinage of Ireland," etc., in this volume, and pp. 183-87 of "The Coinage of Ireland, in Copper, Tin, and Pewter," by Philip Nelson, M.D., F.S.A., *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. i, pp. 169-264.

in volume i, pp. 184-86, of this *Journal*, but shortly their description is :—

Halfpenny.—Obverse, David playing on a harp, above which is a crown. Legend, FLOREAT REX. Reverse, St. Patrick standing, facing, with a crosier in his left hand and a shamrock in his right, which he holds extended over a group of figures standing about him ; on his left a shield with the arms of Dublin, three castles. Legend, ECCE GREX. Weight, 104-5 grains.

There are different dies. One has FLOREAT to the left of the crown and a star to the right, and another has the crown dividing the word with FLORE to left and AT to the right.

Farthing.—Obverse, same as the halfpenny. Reverse, St. Patrick turned to left, holding a double cross in his left hand, extending his right over reptiles which he is driving away ; on his left a church. Legend, QUIESCIT PLEBS. Weight, 59 grains.

For both the halfpenny and farthing some flans have on the obverse a plug of brass placed so as to receive the impression of the crown on striking, but this has not always been successfully accomplished. A proof in silver of the farthing is known.¹

The popularity of these token-coins may have been due to some extent to their good weight, and as the shield on the reverse of the halfpenny bears the arms of Dublin it is very likely that they were struck in that city.

There remain some patterns in the collection on which this review is based. There are three of the halfpenny size, *Montagu*, No. 1. Obverse, ship sailing to the left, star below. Legend, beginning at the bottom, CAR II·D·G·M·B·FR·ET·HI·REX. Reverse, St. Michael and the dragon, star below. Legend, SOLI·DEO·GLORIA. The first is of copper, the second has an outer ring of brass, and the third is of brass with an outer ring of copper.

Miss Helen Farquhar¹ considers that these were not meant for halfpence, but were merely passes or checks for the admission of applicants to the royal presence to be touched for the King's Evil. It has also been suggested that they were actually touchpieces used by Charles when in Holland, but this is not likely so far as these pieces are concerned, for none of them is pierced.

The last of all is a farthing in silver, *Montagu*, No. 5. Obverse, mint-mark rose, crowned bust of the King to the left, within an inner circle. Legend, CAROLVS II·REX. A mullet on each side of II, and a lozenge after REX. Reverse, mint-mark rose, three interlinked pillars surmounted by a cross, harp, and thistle respectively within an inner circle. Legend, THVS·VNIT·ED·INVINCIBLE·, lozenge stops. This coin must have been issued about 1660, for the reverse is found with another obverse which bears that date.

TABLE D.—THE MILLED COINAGE IN COPPER OF CHARLES II.

Date.	Halfpenny.	Farthing.	
1672	×	×	Copper.
1673	×	×	
1674		×	
1675	×	×	
1676		B	
1679		×	Tin, with copper plug.
1684		×	
1685		×	

Notes.—× Represented in the author's collection.

B. Batty's *Copper Coinage*, Royal Series, p. 744.

¹ See "Royal Charities," by Miss Helen Farquhar, vol. xiii of this *Journal*, pp. 96-163, where these pieces are illustrated and considered in detail.

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ENLARGED PHOTOGRAPH OF IMPRESSION FROM THE DIE OF THE TOUCHPIECE
BEARING THE TITLE IAC 8.