

MISCELLANEA

A Milled Gold-Pattern £3 piece of Charles I

By the courtesy of Messrs. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd., I am enabled to publish and illustrate a new gold piece of Charles I. Documentary evidence of the existence of this coin was published by Miss Helen Farquhar in her article on the "Portraiture of our Stuart Monarchs" in vol. v of the *British Numismatic Journal*, 1908, pp. 176, 177. Miss Farquhar there quotes part of a petition to have a warrant issued for



FIG. 5

the execution of certain pieces of milled money, including "pieces of gold of XXs and of IIIli embossed high, and prest in an engine of a less compass than the XXs now made"; she adds that she is unacquainted with any three-pound piece answering to this description, but that probably the one-pound pieces were those small patterns in high relief which bear either m.m. heart and date 1630, or m.m. plume and no date. Time has proved Miss Farquhar's conjecture to be correct, for it will be seen that such a piece, with m.m. plume, from the National Collection, which she illustrates and Brooke repeats, Pl. LVII, 12, in his *English Coins*, is an almost exact miniature of the £3 piece here illustrated.

The £3 piece, which is possibly unique, weighs 420 grains, roughly the weight of three ordinary unites. Two specimens are known of the pound piece with m.m. plume, and their

weights, if correct, are interesting. The British Museum coin came from the Montagu Sale (lot 355, 3rd portion, *ex* Bergne and Addington Sales), and is said to weigh 141 grains. Through double-striking it appears to read CAROVVS. A finer specimen, however, formed lot 284 in the Murdoch Sale (2nd portion, *ex* Duchess of Beaufort's Collection). It is from the same pair of dies, but is stated in the Murdoch Catalogue to weigh 174 grains.

The discovery of this $\frac{1}{3}$ piece revives the question of the probable engraver of these high-relief dies. Comparison with the several patterns, which include the Juxon Medal, illustrated by Brooke (*op. cit.*, Pl. LVII), suggests that the same artist was responsible for them all. Brooke thought it might have been Briot, but there seems to be no evidence for this other than that of the general style. Rawlins is ruled out by his date, for none of the pieces is later than the early 1630's, some time before Rawlins commenced engraving dies for the coinage. Mr. D. F. Allen writes to me that Miss Farquhar discovered, in the State Papers, an order to Abraham van der Doort to produce these high-relief pieces, but has not had an opportunity of publishing it. A. van der Doort was appointed Medallist to Charles I in 1625, and soon afterwards Keeper of the King's Collections. No medals by him have been recognized, though some wax portraits mentioned in the catalogue of the Royal Collections may have been by him.

The piece here illustrated was exhibited by Mr. A. H. F. Baldwin before the Royal Numismatic Society on 19 May 1932.

C. A. WHITTON.