

## MISCELLANEA

### *A new imitation of a Short Cross Penny*

Continental copies of English sterlings are to be found in the cabinets of most collectors of English medieval silver. There is an excellent book on the subject by E. Chautard, *Imitations des Monnaies au Type esterlin*, and it is rare to find one which has escaped his vigilance. Such a coin has, however, recently come to light in the British Museum. It was presented by Miss Sarah Banks in 1818, but has not been published. It reads:

Ob. SANCIVS R/EX

Rev. ✱ PORTVGALLIA

It is a close copy of a coin of John or Henry III (Lawrence, Class V, 1205-18, or Class VI, 1218-23). It weighs 18.3 grains (1.19 grammes), slightly under the weight of the genuine coins. It is also slightly double-struck.

It is clearly a coin of either Sancho I (1185-1211) or Sancho II (1223-48) of Portugal. Coins of both kings are known; small billon pieces are comparatively common, but gold is only known of Sancho I and silver is unknown of either. The same legend is found on coins of Sancho I, but the date of the short cross pennies from which it is imitated makes it more likely to be a coin of Sancho II. It is interesting to find a new imitation of English money at this date so far afield.

DEREK ALLEN.

### *An unpublished heavy penny of Edward IV*

(See frontispiece)

There are two types of the heavy pennies of Edward IV. The earlier has the initial-mark plain cross with pellets either side of the crown and a lys on the king's breast. On the reverse there is an extra pellet in two quarters. Of this variety three specimens are known. The later variety has the rose as initial-mark and has a quatrefoil on either side of the king's neck. These also are of great rarity.

I recently acquired a mule between these two types which

hitherto has not been known. The following is a description of the coin:

*Obv.* Initial-mark large rose. · EDWARD · DI · GRAT · REX ·  
· ANGL · S · Pellet stops. Quatrefoil either side of the  
king's neck.

*Rev.* CIVI TATS UON DON Extra pellets in the CIVI and  
UON quarters.

Wt. 12½ grains. (**Frontispiece 16**).

The obverse is from the same die as the penny formerly in Mr. Walters's collection, illustrated in *Num. Chron.*, Ser. IV, vol. ix, Pl. x, no. 8. The reverse is from the same die as the penny in Mr. Lawrence's collection, illustrated in Brooke, *English Coins*, Pl. XXXV, no. 7.

CHRISTOPHER BLUNT

### *A Bristol Half-Angel of Henry VI*

(See frontispiece)

I have recently had the good fortune to acquire a half-angel of Henry VI which I believe was hitherto unknown, although the late Mr. F. A. Andrews, in his monograph on "The Restoration Coinage of Henry VI" (*Num. Chron.*, 4th Ser., vol. x, p. 129), expressed his belief that it had been struck and circulated.

As regards its importance in the gold coinage of England, I venture to think that the appearance of this new coin of the Bristol mint ranks with the discovery in recent years of the heavy Half-Noble of Henry IV, the Crown of the Rose of Henry VIII, and the Shrewsbury Triple Unite or Three-pound Piece of Charles I, and I am therefore emboldened to offer some observations in regard to it and the Bristol mint.

This mint was established in the reign of Æthelred II and functioned until the end of that of Edward I, when pennies of Brooke Class IX (1300-2) were struck.

After this nothing is heard of it until the infant king Henry VI ascended the throne in 1422.

For years previously there had been increasing grievances throughout the kingdom, and especially from the midland counties and the north, in regard to the scarcity of coinage,

and to remedy this the Council of Regency in February 1422/3 commissioned Bartholomew Goldbeter, the mint-master at London and Calais, to strike coins at York and Bristol in addition to the mints just mentioned. Accordingly the ancient Royal mint of York was reopened, but its output was spasmodic, the coins being very rare. No coins of Bristol are known of this period and possibly none were struck, although there is a chance that a Bristol groat of the annulet coinage may turn up, to fill another gap in the English series.

In 1465, four years after Edward IV had obtained the crown, Bristol was undoubtedly striking coins, as was the old Royal mint at York, and in addition new mints were opened at Coventry and Norwich. From all four mints we have coins struck in both gold and silver, but as Coventry and Norwich were closed down in September of that year the coins of these mints which have survived are consequently few, especially those in gold.

Bristol continued to issue money during the remainder of Edward IV's first reign, the seven months of Henry VI's restoration, and the first year of Edward IV's second reign. The date of its closing is given as July 1472, and it was not until Henry VIII's reign that the mint was reopened.

The following is the description of my Bristol half-angel of Henry VI:

Type as the London half-angels but differentiated by a **B** on the waves.

*Obv.* ∴ HENRICVS ∴ DI ∴ GRAT ∴ REX ∴ ANO ∴ D ∴ R ∴

*Rev.* Initial-mark Restoration cross × O z/CRVX × TVB  
SPACQ × VNICT

Wt. 38.3 grains. (Frontispiece 15).

The curious spelling of SPACQ for SPAS will be noticed. This also occurs on one variety of the London half-angel.

The coinage of Henry VI's restoration has hitherto been represented by the following denominations:

London: gold: angel and half-angel; silver: all except the farthing.

Bristol: gold: angel; silver: groats and halfpence.

York (Royal): gold: none; silver: groats and half-groats.

York (Ecclesiastical): silver: pennies.

R. CYRIL LOCKETT

*"Gilded Twopences"*

A correspondent, to whom I am much indebted, wrote to me recently inquiring about the interpretation of a passage in Shakespeare. In *Henry IV*, Part II, Act IV, Scene III, Falstaff refers to his colleagues as "gilt twopences", comparing himself, of course, as "of fine gold". There is also in one of Middleton's plays, so my correspondent informs me, the mention of a "gilded twopence". On looking through the trays in the British Museum, I found that one half-groat (mint-mark martlet) had been gilded. The coin had not been mounted and there can be little doubt that it had been gilded in Elizabethan times in order that it might pass as a half-crown. The obverse was indistinguishable from a genuine half-crown. Both reverses, even, had shields, though of different forms. It occurred to me that the obverses of both denominations might have been struck from the same dies. Investigation proved this to be true. The Museum possesses 24 early type half-groats and 14 half-crowns. Of these no less than five pairs came from the same obverse dies. The marks of these were: Cross Crosslet, Lion (2), Crown, and Castle. No doubt the same dies were used in both denominations throughout the period from 1558 to 1571, but the Museum did not possess examples of this amongst the Lis, the Martlet, the Rose, or the Portcullis coins. There is no reason why the same practice should not have been employed between the groats and the crowns or the shillings and the half pounds. The types, the legends, and the sizes of the obverses are the same. No examples, however, were to be found in the British Museum, but they may well exist in other collections.

If the officials of the Mint in 1887 had been more attentive readers of Shakespeare, perhaps the taunts of Falstaff might have saved them the error of the first Jubilee sixpence!

DEREK ALLEN

*Unpublished varieties in the "Milled" Series*

(See frontispiece)

Over fifty years have elapsed since Mr. Kenyon published his book on English gold coins. In such a work it is not unnatural that, with the passage of time, errors of statement

or omission should be discovered, and it is to three omissions in the "milled" series that this short article refers.

1. There is a Charles II Guinea dated 1677 and another of 1678 which have the "Elephant" only under the bust. This emblem of the "Elephant" was originally adopted in 1663 to denote that the bullion from which the coin was made was supplied by the African Company, but it was changed in the second issue of Guineas in 1674 and in the third issue of Five Guineas in 1676 to an "Elephant and Castle", and continued in that form, where applicable, until the end of Queen Anne's reign. This temporary reversion to the "Elephant" alone in the two guineas mentioned above (the latter<sup>1</sup> (**Frontispiece 20**) of which is believed to be unique) is an interesting yet unaccountable departure from the adopted principle. There is a William and Mary Guinea of 1692 which has been incorrectly described as having the "Elephant" alone, but it is apparent, on close examination, that the absence of the "Castle" is solely due to weak striking, though admittedly it is very strange that the weakness should have only occurred in this very important detail.

2. The Five-Guinea pieces of James II have hitherto been referred to as consisting of one type only, those of 1687 and 1688 being with and without the "Elephant and Castle" under the bust. It does not, however, require more than a casual glance to see that the pieces of the above dates without "Elephant and Castle" are of an entirely different type from all the other issues. The head is larger, the base of the bust is more rounded and nearer the edge of the coin, and the arrangement of the hair is different above the forehead, on the neck, below the tie-ends, and under the bust. The issues of Five-Guinea pieces should therefore be described as follows: 1686 without, and 1687 and 1688 with, "Elephant and Castle", all Type 1 (**Frontispiece 17**); 1687 and 1688 without "Elephant and Castle", both Type 2 (**Frontispiece 18**).

3. Mr. Kenyon stated: "A Mint return shows that 4,205 half-sovereigns were coined in 1829, but as none are known with this date they must have been struck with the dies of the previous year." There is, however, a unique half-sovereign<sup>1</sup> (**Frontispiece 21**) with an obverse of the 1828 type, but dated 1829 and having a reverse dated 1823 and of the design then current. This is clearly a trial piece and may have

<sup>1</sup> This coin is in the writer's collection.

been struck from the obverse die of the sixpence, which was identical. Alternatively, it affords the evidence that a die dated 1829 was prepared, but whether it broke before any gold was coined from it, or whether half-sovereigns of this date may yet come to light, is a matter for conjecture. In extension of this argument and for evidence that juggling with the dies did take place, reference should be made to the half-sovereigns of William IV, particularly the one dated 1836 which has a larger head than that of the usual type and is struck from the die of the sixpence.

R. S. WADE

*Private Tokens of Sir S. B. Peckham-Micklethwaite*



I have in my collection two unusual private tokens issued by Sir S. B. Peckham-Micklethwaite, of Tridge Place, Sussex, for the values of 1s. and 1d. respectively. They may have been hop tokens, though these usually expressed numbers of bushels, not sums of money. The issuer was descended from a Norfolk family, the son of Nathaniel and grandson of John Micklethwaite. John married Elizabeth, daughter of William Peckham of Tridge Place, Sussex, from whom the property came into the family. The issuer of the token was born on 30 May 1786 and created a Baronet in 1838 for a personal service rendered to Princess Alexandra Victoria, later Queen Victoria, and her mother the Duchess of Kent. In 1809 he married Anne, only daughter of William Hamburg of Kelmars, Northampton. He assumed the name of Peckham in addition to his own in 1824, together with the arms of Peckham. The baronetcy became extinct at his death, the date of which I have not been able to trace.

F. B. PENFOLD

*Some Notes on Scottish Coins*

JAMES DAVIDSON, F.S.A.Scot.

(See frontispiece)

*An Unpublished William the Lion Sterling.*

The coin shown on **Front.**, **fig. 13**, is of the HVE WALTER, Class IV type. It shows a slightly better head than usual with four pellets in the crown connected by stalks forming a cross.

*Obv.* ✱ LI WIERELTIO

*Rev.* ✱ hVE WALTEO. Three stars of six and one of five points. Wt. 21.9 grs.

The legend on the obverse corresponds somewhat to Burns, fig. 60, and that on the reverse to Burns, fig. 57 F. This coin was found at Inverary Castle in 1890.

*Robert III Pennies of the Perth Mint.*

Only two specimens of this mint were known to Burns (vol. i, p. 336). The following is a list of the pennies known to the present time. It will be noticed that they are of different types.

1. *Obv.* ✱ ROBERTVS ‡ REX ‡ SCOTORVM

*Rev.* VIII | R ‡ DE ‡ | ‡ PER | Th ✱

Words divided by two crosses. Wt. 15½ grs.

In the S.S.A. Collection. Cat. No. 250.

Burns, fig. 376 B. 4 a. Is also figured in Lindsay's 1st Sup., Pl. I, No. 20.

2. *Obv.* ✱ ROBERTVS ‡ REX ✱ SCOTORVM

*Rev.* VII | LRD ‡ | EPE | RTh ‡

Wt. 15 grs.

Was in the Cochrane Patrick Collection. Sale Cat. No. 199.

3. *Obv.* ✱ ROBERTVS REX SCOTORV

*Rev.* VIII | R DE | PER | Th ✱

Words divided by rude fleur-de-lis. Wt. 14 grs.

Murdoch Sale Catalogue (1903), No. 70.

Now in the collection of R. C. Lockett, Esq.

4. *Obv.* ✱ ROBERTVS ✱ REX ✱ SCOTORVM

*Rev.* ✱ VILL | T·D· | E PÆ | RTH ✱

Words divided by saltires. Wt. 14½ grs.

Murdoch Sale Catalogue (1903), No. 71.

Now in the collection of R. C. Lockett, Esq.

5. *Obv.* ✱ ROBERTVS ‡ DEI SCOTOR

*Rev.* ✱ VII | LT D | EPE ‡ | RTH ‡

Wt. 13 grs.

Ex Sheriff Mackenzie Sale (1921) Cat., No. 226.

Now in the collection of C. H. Dakers, Esq.

6. *Obv.* ✱ ROBERTVS DEI ✱ IR

*Rev.* VTLU | T + D | EPE | RII

Wt. 14 grs.

Legends blundered.

In the collection of C. H. Dakers, Esq.

7. *Obv.* ✱ ROBERTVS ‡ DEI ‡ GRN ‡ REX ‡ SO

*Rev.* VILL | T ‡ DE | PER | TH ✱

Wt. 14·2 grs.

In the author's collection.

I have to thank Mr. Lockett and Mr. Dakers for permission to publish the coins mentioned in their collections.

#### *A Mary Testoon with Crowned Bust—1553.*

The reign of Mary, Queen of Scots, marks a new epoch in the coinage of Scotland, if not of the British Isles, as it was in 1553 that the earliest pieces produced by the mill and screw process appeared. No money was coined in England by this new method until 1561. In 1553 John Achesoun received permission to produce dies with portraits of the Queen of Scotland and to exhibit them to the French Court. Notice of this permission is preserved in the French archives under the date of 21 October 1553.

The two types of coins known with the portrait of the young queen and bearing the date 1553 are the testoon and what has been termed a half-testoon but which is no doubt a pattern. Only one specimen of this latter piece, which is in the British Museum collection, is known. The obverse shows a bare head to the left, which would appear to be the prototype of that on the half-royal of 1555.

The testoon shows a crowned youthful head to the right, bust richly dressed, and M.M. cinquefoil with the legend \* . MARIA . DEI . GRA . R . SCOTORVM . On the reverse there is a crowned escutcheon between the two cinquefoils; M.M. cross, ends slightly potent and the legend + . DA . PACEM . DOMINE . 1553.

The coin (wt. 77.3 grs.) shown on **Front., fig. 14**, is possibly the finest extant, and is a variety of Burns, fig. 780. The head is from a different iron, and there is a pellet before MARIA and after SCOTORVM.

