

## Confirmation of a Previously Noted Variety of a Charles 1 Tower Shilling

by David Holt

A Charles 1 Tower Mint shilling Sharp Type D2/2 mint mark harp was mentioned by Michael Sharp as existing in the 1989 edition of the British Numismatic Journal (59) Page 214. A photograph of the coin was not included with the aforementioned article nor was any provenance given and no example has come to light in the 29 years since publication until very recently. Consequently this variety was omitted from the Holt/Hulett/Lyall Tower Mint shilling update paper published in the 2014 edition of the BNJ as proof of existence was not established.

There are six obverse bust types in the D series of Charles 1 Tower Mint shillings and two reverse types. The second reverse is distinctive in that it has the Prince of Wales feathers surmounting the shield containing the Royal arms.

All these coins with reverse 2 are very rare and until now only eight examples have been recorded, six of type D1/2 and two of type D3/2 all with mint mark harp. It comes as no surprise that a D2/2 coin with the same mint mark should exist. The coin in question which is photographed below recently came up for sale in a provincial auction and is now in a private collection.



D2/2 Shilling mint mark harp

All six D1/2 coins are struck from the same obverse die. The die is distinctive in that there is a flaw at the rear of the king's crown having the appearance of a line of pellets. The two D3/2 coins are struck from different obverse dies. All nine D1-3/2 shillings are struck from the same reverse die.

For the sake of clarity photographs of D1 and D3 obverses are shown below. Obverse D1 has the front arch of the king's crown breaking the inner circle. Obverse D2 has both arches of the crown protruding outside the inner circle. Obverse D3 is much

larger with both arches of the crown extending beyond the inner circle almost to the edge of the flan.



### **D1/2 and D3/2 Shilling obverses**

Provenances of the nine coins are listed below where known:

#### **D1/2**

1. Lyall Pt.1 (423) DNW 12.11.2015, Ex.E Burstall (302), R C Lockett (2315), V M Brand, H W Morrieson(582), Wheeler (377), R Carlyon-Britton (290), T Bliss (378), J J Nunn (410).
2. R Shuttlewood SNC April 2001, Ex. Ryan (1121).
3. DNW (109) 12.12.2005 Ex. Prestbury Civil War Hoard
4. DNW (110) 12.12.2005 Ex. Prestbury Civil War Hoard
5. Dr J R Hulett Pt. 111 (100) DNW 21.2.2018.
6. G S Hopkins (210) Baldwins 7.5.2002, Ex. M Hughes (99)

#### **D2/2**

7. Private Collection 1.

#### **D3/2**

8. Lyall Pt.1 (427) DNW 12.11.2015, Ex. R Shuttlewood , J G Brooker, R Carlyon-Britton, H Farquhar (54).
9. Private Collection 2.

My thanks go to Paul Woodard for bringing this coin to my attention.

-----