

## A Third Obverse Die for Dovey Furnace Threepences

### D. I. Greenhalgh (Grunal Moneta)

The Charles I coins of the mint of Dyifi Furnace (Dovey Furnace) in Wales were ascribed by Lieut.- Colonel H. W. Morrieson F.S.A. as being struck at Combe Martin in his paper - ('The Coinage of Combe Martin 1647 - 48' *BNJ XX*, 153-58). In his paper Morrieson describes the threepence as coming from two pairs of dies.

The Coins were later attributed to Aberystwyth 1646 by J.J. North ('English Hammered Coinage Vol II' pp 146-7) and later by A.O. Chater as being struck at Dyfi Furnace in his paper ('A mint at Furness in Ceredigion' *SNC LXXXIV*, 3-5). He cites the Journals of the House of Lords vol 9 1646 regarding the authorizing of Edmund Goodyear to establish a mint at Aberystwyth (Dovey Furnace), and the Account book of the Aberystwyth mint listing the dies surrendered in 1648 where it lists 2 obverse dies and 3 reverse dies for the threepence. In the body of his paper Chater gives the number of dies as 3 obverse and 2 reverse (this may have been a type error).

G. C. Boon writing in Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin Nov 1977 ('Aberystwyth Mint after 1642') also agrees with Chater as to the Dyfi Furnace location.

In The Galata Guide to Hammered and Milled Threepenny Pieces I listed and illustrated some 27 threepences. 14 from one obverse die (DIG 1) and 13 from a second obverse die (DIG 2) with 9 specimens of one reverse die (DIG A), and 18 from a second die (DIG B). To date I have not seen a third reverse die.




Recently I was fortunate to purchase a specimen of the Dyfi mint from a previously unrecorded obverse die.



The new Obverse die is noted as DIG 3 below, the reverse is DIG A and the coin weighs 1,33grams.

## Obverse

Spink 2912 North 2355

DIG	MM	Legend	
1		CAROLVS ·D ·G ·MAG ·BR : FR : ET · HI : REX	
2		·CAROLVS ·D ·G ·MAG ·BR : FR · ET · HI : REX ·	Pellets before CAR and after REX.
3		·CAROLVS ·D G : MAG : BR ·FR · ET · HI : REX ·	Mixed colon and pellet stops.



DIG 1	DIG 2	DIG 3
Note position of MM	Note position of MM	Note position of MM



DIG 1	DIG 2	DIG 3
DNW 106, lot 535	AC NMW 83.11H/B84 Ex Chater 2B	Rn 349
	1.54g	1.33g

A second point of interest to this new coin is the fact that it has been overstruck on a larger coin. With the previous coin's legend partially visible around the outside of the outer beaded border. The bases of the letters G : {M} A G : BR are discernible above the outer beaded border. The enlarged collage below is of the threepence superimposed over a Dyfi Furnace Sixpence (Brooker 789). Dyfi mint was the only compatible sixpence that matched the lettering on the threepence.

As far as I am aware this is the only example of a threepence 1551-1663 overstruck on a larger denomination coin. The reason for the overstriking may be that the wrong sized blank was struck on sixpence dies then subsequently re-struck on the correct threepence dies, but this is pure speculation.

