

Insights into a die breakup for a Charles I Aberystwyth threepence

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The threepence pieces of the mint of Aberystwyth are the most common of all the Charles I threepence's with some 290 specimens recorded from 14 obverse dies and 23 reverse dies. Of the 14 obverse dies the die designated 1ii in 'The Galata Guide to Hammered and Milled Threepenny Pieces' published 2016 accounts for some 64 of the 290 specimens making it the commonest obverse die available.

I recently was fortunate to purchase a specimen from this die 1ii, with the reverse Iiii, from Halls Hammered Coinage. Although I had several examples from this die in my collection already, my interest was in the fact that the coin exhibited a noticeable crack in the die and also a die break to the edge of the coin above the 'A' in CAROLVS. Examining my records for Aberystwyth I could only find one other coin with this feature and that coin was in the Fitzwilliam Museum catalogued FM CM-1618 1963 1.32g which also had the same reverse Iiii.

7 other coins from Die 1ii had the die crack in varying degrees of developments which are illustrated on the next page.



DIG 1ii/Iiii
Rn 361
1.46g



DIG 1ii/Iiii
FM CM-1618
1963
1.32g 20.5 gr



Die break to edge of coin

Die crack running from
beaded border to crown

The other specimens which exhibit the die crack only are illustrated below along with a specimen before the die crack appears.

Die before crack

Die crack developing from inner circle to crown and damage to the base of the letter L



DIG 1ii/K
Rn 27
1.48g

DIG 1ii/1iii
AC NMW
83.11H/B10
(Ch 13A)
1.443g

DIG 1ii/1ii
AC NMW
83.11H/B11
(Ch 13B)
1.944g

DIG 1ii/1iii
AC NMW
83.11H/B07
(Ch 2E)
1.255g



DIG 1ii/1iii
AC NMW
83.11H/B12
(Ch 13C)
1.645g

DIG 1ii/1iii
AC NMW
83.11H/B13
(Ch 13D)
1.518g

DIG 1ii/1ii
Rn 140
1.31g

DIG 1ii/1iii
AC NMW
83.11H/B09
(Ch 32)
1.489g

The following reverse dies are all associated with obverse 1ii :-

Dii, Diii, Dv, Dvi, Eiii, G, H, Ii, Iii, Iiii Iiv, Ji and K

But only Iii and I iii are found with the obverse die with the crack and Iiii with the die break so it would be logical to presume that these dies come later than the other reverse dies.

Abbreviations used in text

Rn - authors reference number in personal collection

AC NMW - National Museum of Wales collection

Ch Reference code to coins in the work by A. O. Chater -

‘Aberystwyth Threepence’ -published within ‘The Galata Guide to Hammered and Milled Threepenny Pieces’

All photographs are taken from coins in the authors personal collection or from ‘The Galata Guide to Hammered and Milled Threepenny Pieces 1551 - 1662’