

# An Interesting “Fine Work” Shilling of Charles 1?

By David Holt

This coin came to my attention when it was offered for sale in a recent Dix Noonan Webb auction on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 lot 147. It was catalogued as a Tower Mint shilling Group C type 2a mint mark plume, bust 2 variety, pellet stops, ornate oval garnished shield, CR above divided by pellet and with pellets at sides, multi-pellet stops in legend and by mint mark. 5.66g/5h (cf. DNW Sale 147, 338; N2221; S2787). Struck on a full flan, good fine, reverse better, a piece of fine workmanship but creased and gilt, extremely rare.



No example of a Group C type 2a shilling has previously been positively identified. Fine work shillings using Sharp<sup>i</sup> bust C2 are known with reverses containing the Prince of Wales feathers above a garnished shield (Sharp C2/4 and C2/5) but not with Sharp reverses 1, 2 or 3.

The cataloguer of this coin references another shilling sold in DNW auction 147 on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 lot 338. This was remarkable in that bust was said to resemble that of class 111 Unites of Group C. Additionally the garniture at the base of the reverse shield had not been previously recorded with the mint mark plumes but was commonly found with the rose mark. The shilling described as Sharp C2a/5 sic.<sup>3</sup> was described as possibly of fine work. The coin had originally appeared in Baldwins auction 13 on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1997 lot 1995 as part of the Phillip D Greenall collection catalogued by Michael Sharp. Mr. Sharp had not noted it to be of fine work nor had Spink Auctions 139 when the coin reappeared in the Martin Hughes sale lot 92 on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1999.

The coin under review here is a standard Sharp C2/1 shilling. It does exhibit features which suggest that it started life as a “Fine Work” coin. The flan is large and round and the reverse in particular is superbly struck up with every detail of the design sharp. Unfortunately the coin has suffered from creasing and straightening and possibly some minor tooling in the field behind the king’s head. It is therefore difficult to establish whether the flan was machine made or hammered. My suspicion is that the coin has been gilt contemporaneously to imitate a gold Unite. The flan is of identical diameter of a Group C Unite and the design is very similar just omitting the crown above the reverse shield on the Unites. The damage to the shilling suggests attempts to establish its genuineness as a Unite.

I would be interested to learn if any other collector has seen a fine work example of a C2/1 shilling.

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<sup>i</sup> “The Tower shillings of Charles 1 and their influence on the Aberystwyth issue.” By M B Sharp BNJ 47 1977

