

# Charles I Shillings of the York Mint (i) Official Issues

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This short note will revisit the shillings issued at the York mint during the civil war. The series has been comprehensively studied and published<sup>(1, 2)</sup>. The dies were engraved by Nicholas Briot and the pieces were made using a roller or cylinder press. This results in a slight ovality and curved flan of some pieces and slight creasing of the metal when they were cut from the strip or subsequently straightened. Misalignment of the silver strip could also lead to coins with partial straight edges. Two pairs of rollers were manufactured, each with five dies engraved on their surface. Briot's skill as an engraver means that it can be challenging to identify the exact die pair.

Many published illustrations make it difficult to distinguish between certain dies and errors have been found in some catalogues<sup>(3)</sup>. The following pages will provide good illustrations of pieces made by every die pair and die combination. Whilst not original, it is hoped it will be useful.

The first pair of roller dies produced five types. The second pair of rollers produced five types and then at some point during the production the machine was dismantled and put back together. During this rebuilding the alignment (indexing) of the rollers was changed, producing a further five varieties. For this to happen it is necessary for the gears driving the rollers to have a multiple of five teeth. The observed rarity of the second "displaced" series and absence of one of the die pairs (2Ba) led to a speculation that a die had broken and the moneyers were having difficulties with the machinery. Two, possibly three examples of the missing die combination have since appeared<sup>(3, 4)</sup> and the set is now complete.

A significant resource for the study of this series are the excellent archives of Dix Noonan Webb. Dating back to 1995, a total of 78 York mint shillings have been sold, almost all with excellent illustrations. The archive includes illustrations of 14 of the 15 types. Permission to reproduce the images is gratefully acknowledged and, in the illustrations below, reference is made to the lot number and date of the sale. To aid identification, all illustrations are 150% lifesize.

The table below summarises the DNW archive entries along with the totals from the 1984 Besly article.

Roller Pair	Dies	DNW	EB	Dies	DNW	EB	Dies	DNW	EB	Dies	DNW	EB	Dies	DNW	EB
1	1A	8	8	1B	8	14	1C	4	4	1D	4	8	1E	6	12
2	2Aa	8	7	2Bb	6	8	2Cc	10	15	2Dd	5	10	2Ee	8	10
2 displaced	2Ae	0	4	2Ba	1	0	2Cb	2	4	2Dc	2	1	2Ed	5	3

It has been almost 40 years since Edward Besly compiled his list, so it is likely many of the pieces he noted in private collections will have changed hands since then (including through DNW), so this will result in some double and maybe triple counting in the above table.

In the same way that it is not possible to know the sequence of the dies on the rollers from the surviving specimens, it is also challenging to work out the sequence in which the dies were created and the rollers were used. Without evidence from evolving die flaws or other die damage, the small numbers of pieces from the "displaced" rollers could as easily have been made during an early commissioning stage of the machinery before going into full production as they could have been made during a late stage of production. The only conclusion from the table is that pieces from the "displaced" rollers are certainly rarer than the others.

## References and Acknowledgements

- (1) E. Besly. The York Mint of Charles I. BNJ 54 (1984) pp210-241.
- (2) E. Besly. Further notes on the York mint of Charles I. BNJ 61 (1991) pp129-132.
- (3) J.R. Hulett. Charles I York Mint – A missing variety discovered. SNC October 2002, p267.
- (4) Noble Numismatics Sale 96, 5-11 Apr 2011, lot 2446.

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**1A** – Cross on crown to left of C.  
[DNW Lot 289, 20 Feb 19]



Square topped shield  
•CHRIST//O•AVSP//  
ICE•RE//GNO  
no stop after REGNO



**1B** – Cross on crown to stop between lion and C.  
[DNW Lot 931, 29 Jan 20]



Square topped shield  
•CHRIST//O•AVSPI//  
CE•REG//NO•



**1C** – Cross on crown to lion's rear leg.  
[DNW Lot 144, 21 Feb 18]



Square topped shield  
•CHRIS//TO•AVSP//  
ICE•RE//GNO  
no stop after REGNO



**1D** – Cross on crown to stop between lion and C.  
[DNW Lot 403, 5 Jun 19]



Square topped shield  
CHRIST//O•AVSPI//  
CE•REG//NO•



**1E** – Cross on crown to lion's front leg.  
[DNW Lot 290, 20 Feb 19]



Round garnished shield.  
•CHRISTO•AVSPICE•  
REGNO ••





**2Aa** - Cross on crown to lion's rear leg.  
[DNW Lot 1333, 18 Sep 19]



Oval garnished shield, I of AVSPICE to left of O in EBOR



**2Bb** - Cross on crown to first upright of A in CAROLVS.  
[DNW Lot 494, 14 Nov 18]



Oval garnished shield, I of AVSPICE to right of B in EBOR



**2Cc** - Cross on crown to stop between lion and C.  
[DNW Lot 932, 29 Jan 20]



Oval garnished shield, I of AVSPICE to left of B in EBOR



**2Dd** - Cross on crown to A in CAROLVS.  
[DNW Lot 3725, 24 Sep 08]



Oval garnished shield with lion's claws at sides, I of AVSPICE to E in EBOR



**2Ee** - Cross on crown to C in CAROLVS.  
[DNW Lot 405, 12 Jun 18]



Oval garnished shield with lion's claws at sides, I of AVSPICE to right of E in EBOR





**2Ae** - Cross on crown to lion's rear leg.  
[Brooker 1096 – thanks to David Holt]



Oval garnished shield with lion's claws at sides, I of AVSPICE to right of E in EBOR



**2Ba** - Cross on crown to first upright of A in CAROLVS.  
[DNW forthcoming, Hulett, 3 Nov 20]



Oval garnished shield, I of AVSPICE to left of O in EBOR



**2Cb** - Cross on crown to pellet between lion and C.  
[DNW Lot 3722, 24 Sep 08]



Oval garnished shield, I of AVSPICE to right of B in EBOR



**2Dc** - Cross on crown to A in CAROLVS.  
[DNW Lot 3724, 24 Sep 08]



Oval garnished shield, I of AVSPICE to left of B in EBOR



**2Ed** - Cross on crown to C in CAROLVS.  
[DNW Lot 141, 22 Oct 09]



Oval garnished shield with lion's claws at sides, I of AVSPICE to E in EBOR

