

# An Unusual James I Shilling

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The James I shilling shown below (150%), was on its way to a tray of shillings clipped to the inner circles and doubly bent as love tokens. It is likely that pliers were used to bend the token as, even when worn so thin, no amount of passion would make human teeth strong enough to achieve the bend! The bend would have been created by someone to check that the coin was not a cast or plated forgery.

Legislation for the recoinage of 1696-7 allowed such coins to pass as a shilling if the inner circles were visible, this was a clipper's charter.

There is also the distinct possibility that fully clipped and very worn hammered coins reappeared in circulation in the late eighteenth century as the diameter and weight of the damaged coin are very similar to those of a very worn milled shilling.

Obv: James I, fourth bust facing right.

Rev: Royal arms, vestiges of legend

Details: 2.446 g.

Second coinage and fourth bust can only be initial marks: Rose, Scallop, Grapes or Coronet, 1605-1609.

However, on closer inspection, this coin appears to be an unrecorded die sinkers error where the XII behind the head has been entered as IIX, as shown below.



This error is known for Charles I shillings, e.g. Brooker 390<sup>(1)</sup> and other Charles I examples are known where the erroneous IIX has been overpunched with an XII<sup>(2)</sup>. The question now arises as to what to do with the coin other than just record it and wait for a better specimen.

## Notes and References

- (1) J.J. North and P.J. Preston-Morley. *The John G. Brooker collection. Coins of Charles I (1625-1649)*. SCBI 33, 1984.
- (2) DNW 8 July 2020 lot 27 and DNW 5 June 2019 lot 378.

