A Die Study of James I Shillings – Second Issue, mm Cinquefoil

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Introduction

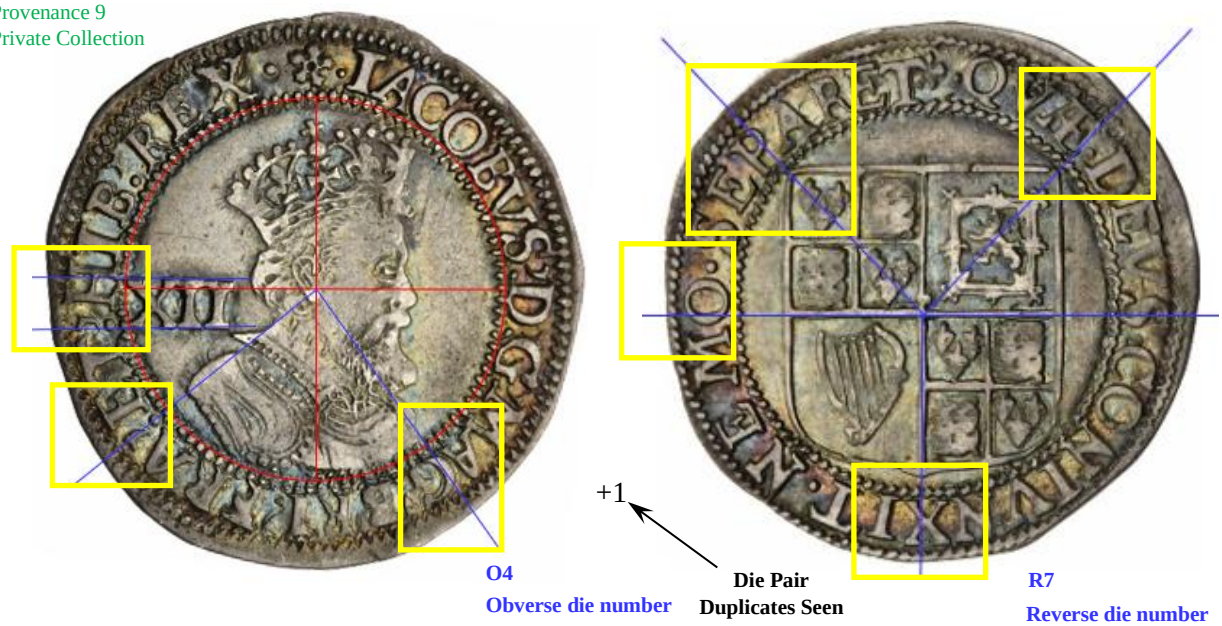
This note continues the die studies of James I shillings, working backwards through the mintmarks of the second issue. Here the mintmark Cinquefoil is presented – issued 20th October 1613 to 17th May 1615.

Method

As previously, the image is scaled to fit a nominal inner circle (red) and the coin is rotated to make the XII horizontal and guidelines drawn above and below the XII (blue) and from the centre of the inner circle past the edge of the bust closest to the inner circle (blue). On the reverse the centre of the shield is used as the origin and guidelines drawn through the top left and top right corners of the shield (blue). The features in the yellow boxes are sufficient to identify the individual dies. The first true mule of the study is found and the dies are given a notation **$OM_{Trefoil}$** and are not counted in the Cinquefoil analysis.

Summary of Results

[P9]
Provenance 9
Private Collection



This is one of the scarcer mintmarks and just 22 specimens have been found.

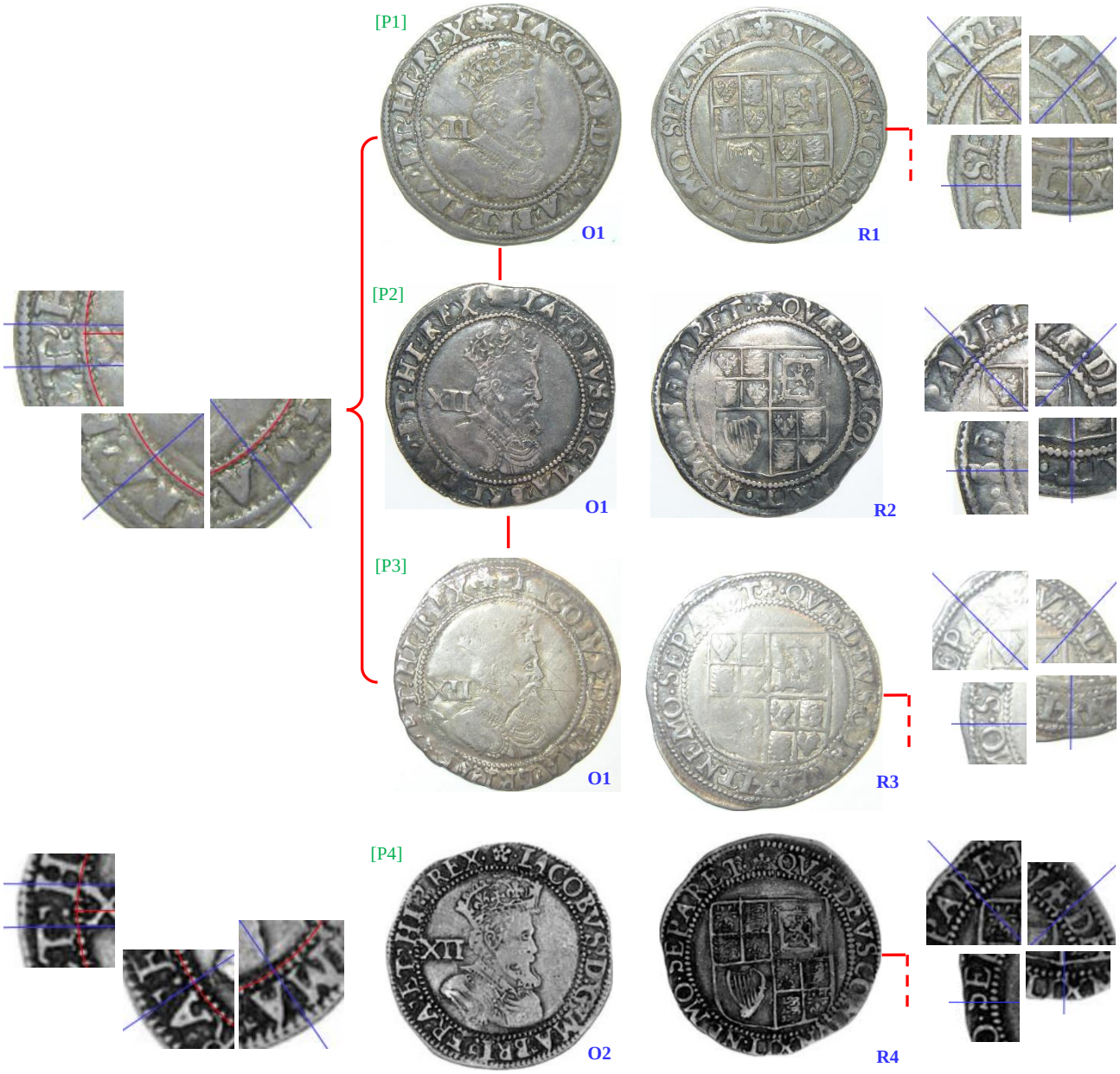
Type		Obv. Legend	Obv. Dies	Rev. Dies
Issue	Bust			
2nd	5th	**IACOBVS D G MA BRI FRA ET HI REX**	2	1 ½ ½ ½
		IACOBVS D G MA BRI FRAN ET HI REX	$OM_{Trefoil}$	1
		IACOBVS D G MAG BRI FRA ET HI REX	1	1 ½ ½
		IACOBVS D G MAG BRI FRA ET HIB REX	1	1 ½
			Totals 4	7

The die study follows the same sequence.

The Die Study

IACOBVS D G MA BRI FRA ET HI REX

5th Bust



IACOBVS D G MA BRI FRAN ET HI REX

5th Bust

Mule Obv mm Trefoil

Rev mm Cinquefoil

IACOBVS D G MAG BRI FRA ET HI REX

5th Bust

G of MAG over A?

IACOBVS D G MAG BRI FRA ET HIB REX

5th Bust

Sources of Images and Acknowledgements

The following are thanked for the use of their images:

[P1]	British Museum	[P5]	British Museum	[P9]	Private Collection
[P2]	Private Collection	[P6]	British Museum	[P10]	Fitzwilliam Museum
[P3]	Private Collection	[P7]	Private Collection		
[P4]	Christies 14-7-2000 Lot 2142	[P8]	Private Collection		

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Also thanks to Tom Hockenhull and the team at the British Museum for allowing pictures to be taken of their pieces, and Martin Allen and Richard Kelleher at the Fitzwilliam for the same.

Discussion and Conclusions

On 17th May 1615 the value of silver in the Pyx box was £2 16s 6d comprising 1/- 6d, 2d, 1d and ½d. This is a very small amount considering the period covered is over a year and a half and accounts for the scarcity of the surviving specimens, with just 11 coins found in the survey.

The obverse die **OM$_{Trefoil}$** reading **IACOBVS D G MA BRI FRAN ET HI REX**, is a true mule with obverse mm trefoil and reverse mm Cinquefoil. It is not counted in this study but will be included in the Trefoil study to follow. **R6** is probably mm Cinquefoil over Trefoil, with the small stalk of the Trefoil visible at the base of the mm. It will be interesting to see if **OM$_{Trefoil}$** die appears paired with a Trefoil reverse die in the Trefoil study to follow. Similarly **R6** might exist without the Cinquefoil overmark.

With just 11 specimens struck from 4 obverse and 7 reverse dies, the sample is far from ideal. The table below presents the usual statistical analysis for shillings with mintmark Cinquefoil.

		Obverse	Reverse
Sample size	n	10	11
Number of dies	d	4	7
Singletons	d_1	1	3
2 examples	d_2		4
3 examples	d_3	3	
4 examples	d_4		
5 examples	d_5		
6 examples	d_6		
Coverage	C_{est}	0.90	0.72
Estimated dies	d_-	3	6
	d_{est}	5	12
	d_+	9	26

Table 1. Die statistics of the James I shillings, second issue, mintmark Cinquefoil.

As with the previous study of mm Book shillings, the results were a little surprising, with the obverse coverage at 0.90 suggesting the sample is not too bad. The small sample size has also resulted in the lower estimate of dies being 3 which is below the already observed 4 dies. The reverse coverage at 0.72 definitely needs improving with a larger sample size.