

Further to our last die study on the siege coinage of Newark, please find below a modern-day study recording the dies and coins used at Pontefract Castle in 1648. This is based on the listings of Hird, Spink, North and our own PC references. Our aim is to help collectors and fellow numismatists to identify the various coins struck during this fascinating period of English history.

PONTEFRACT CASTLE. DURING THE CIIVIL WAR

"Pontefract, at this period also known as Pomfret, Castle was seized on June 2, 1648, on behalf of the king, by a colonel in the forces of Sir Marmaduke Langdale, one John Morris or Maurice, who, with the aid of a few soldiers disguised as peasants, overcame the small garrison of this most important station, the key to the North.

The castle was invested by Cromwell in the following autumn, who, however, left General Lambert to conduct the regular investment, the plan of which will be seen from the accompanying diagram, executed at the time of the siege. Pontefract successfully resisted all attacks and only yielded March 22, 1649, i.e., nearly two months after the execution of Charles I. Following the surrender, several officers, who had been excepted from "The Act of Grace," were executed, including the commander, Colonel John Morris, who might have escaped from prison, but loyally remained to succour a fallen comrade.

An item of interest relating to this siege, the third and last sustained by Pontefract during the course of the Civil War, is that according to some authorities it was here that Cromwell's veterans were first known as "Ironsides," a name, perhaps, by which they are best remembered at the present time. The siege-coins struck at Pomfret may be grouped into two main divisions; the one issued during the reign of Charles I.; the other subsequently to his execution, and in the name of his successor, for the garrison immediately acknowledged his son as King Charles II."

GOLD COINAGE OF PONTEFRACT





1648 PONTEFRACT GOLD SHILLING

t, Charles II, Gold Shilling, 1648, type 2, no mm., large crown above hanc devs dedit and date, CAROL II D G MAG B F ET H RX a v. post mortem patris pro filio, castle gateway, obs to left, P C [Pontefract Castle] above, cannon protruding at right, octagonal flan,

SILVER COINAGE OF PONTEFRACT Two Shillings











HIRD 276

HIRD 277

e dies as last (Pennant weaker) but circular

ract beseiged, June 1648- March 1649, lozenge shaped Shilling, 4,97g, DUM : SPIRO : SPERO cr castle, 1648 below, obs to left, p xii c to right (Brooker 1233 - N.2647; S.3149)



HIRD 280 Shilling 1648, from same dies as last but lozenge shaped flan

HIRD 279

rowned, DUM SPIRO SPERO, Reverse CAROLUS way and muzzle of gun to right instead of sword, onal shaped flan

s II, issued after execution of Charn inding both sides, DVM: SPIRO: SP it for Pontefract Castle, OBS, CARO s II cf.fig.47)

PC-II

PC-14



HIRD 282-284

HIRD 281

es as last but circular shaped flan

e CAROL: II: D: G: MAG: B: F: ET: H: REX in centre HANC: DEVS: DEDIT verse POST: MORTEM: PATRIS: PRO: FILIO, in centre OBS, PC and castle with cannon to right.

## REFERENCES P. Nelson. Obsidional Money of the Great Rebellion. Originally published in the BNJ in 1905.

J.J. North. English Hammered Coinage, volume 2, 1272-1662. Spink, 2018.

We would also like to thank Gary Oddie for his kind help with putting this together.

https://www.britnumsoc.org/publications/Digital%20BNJ/pdfs/1905\_BNJ\_2\_11.pdf pages 291-357. Pontefract issues covered pp 321-328. Published as book by Baldwin in 1907. Reprinted 1976. H. Hird. Auction 6th March 1974, Glendining & Co in conjunction with Spink & Son Ltd. Lots 270-284. Spink. Coins of England & the United Kingdom. 2023. J.J. North and P.J. Preston-Morley (Eds). Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles: The John G. Brooker Collection, Coins of Charles I (1625-1649). 1984.

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