

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

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## Introduction

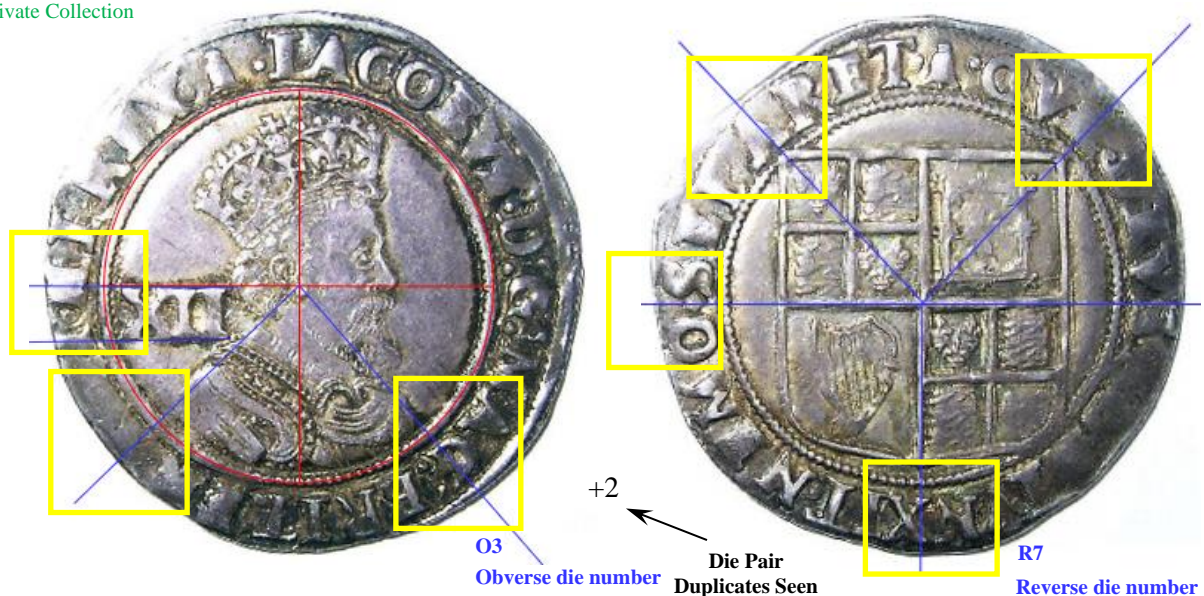
This note continues the die studies of James I shillings, working backwards through the mintmarks of the second issue. Here the mintmark Bell is presented – issued between 11<sup>th</sup> May 1610 and 9<sup>th</sup> May 1611 and where £9 12s 8½d of silver was in the Pyx trial.

## Method

The obverse 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.

## Summary of Results

[P7]  
Provenance 7  
Private Collection



The table below lists the legend varieties in the usual alphabetical order, the same order in which the die study is presented.

Type		Obv. Legend	Obv. Dies	Rev. Dies
Issue	Bust			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX	1	1 1/6
	5 <sup>th</sup>	IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX	17	17 2/6 1/3 2/4 2/3 1/2 1/2
		IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX	14	7 3/6 2/3 2/4 1/3 1/2 1/2
Totals			32	31

## Sources of Images and Acknowledgements

The following are thanked for the use of their images:

[P1]	British Museum	[P18]	CNG 5 Jun 2019 Lot 737	[P35]	eBay John Newman
[P2]	Private Collection	[P19]	Kunker 22-24 Feb 2022 Lot 8483	[P36]	Christies 1 Jan 1970 Lot 21
[P3]	British Museum	[P20]	Fitzwilliam Museum	[P37]	www
[P4]	www worthpoint	[P21]	Noonans 15 Mar 2006 Lot1412	[P38]	Baldwins Shop
[P5]	www	[P22]	www	[P39]	Live Auctioneers
[P6]	Private Collection	[P23]	Private Collection	[P40]	Noonans 12 June 2018 Lot 308
[P7]	Live Auctioneers	[P24]	BSJ 7 Jun 2018 Lot 166	[P41]	Private Collection
[P8]	Private Collection	[P25]	coryssa	[P42]	www
[P9]	www	[P26]	Noonans 6 May 2020 Lot 399	[P43]	Private Collection
[P10]	Private Collection	[P27]	coryssa	[P44]	Noonans 6 May 2020 Lot 399
[P11]	Ashmolean Museum	[P28]	www	[P45]	British Museum
[P12]	eBay David Turner	[P29]	Private Collection	[P46]	Private Collection
[P13]	British Museum	[P30]	www	[P47]	British Museum
[P14]	Numismaclub	[P31]	Private Collection	[P48]	www
[P15]	www	[P32]	British Museum	[P49]	Live Auctioneers
[P16]	British Museum	[P33]	www	[P50]	Private Collection
[P17]	eBay John Newman	[P34]	www		

Thanks to David Holt, Nigel Prevost, and members of the English Hammered and Early Milled Coin Collectors Group on Facebook for providing images.

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 and Julian Baker at the Ashmolean Museum. Thanks also to Noonans, Classical Numismatic Group (CNG), Baldwins, John Newman and the other vendors listed above who have been found whilst trawling the internet for images.

## The Die Study

IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX

4<sup>th</sup> Bust

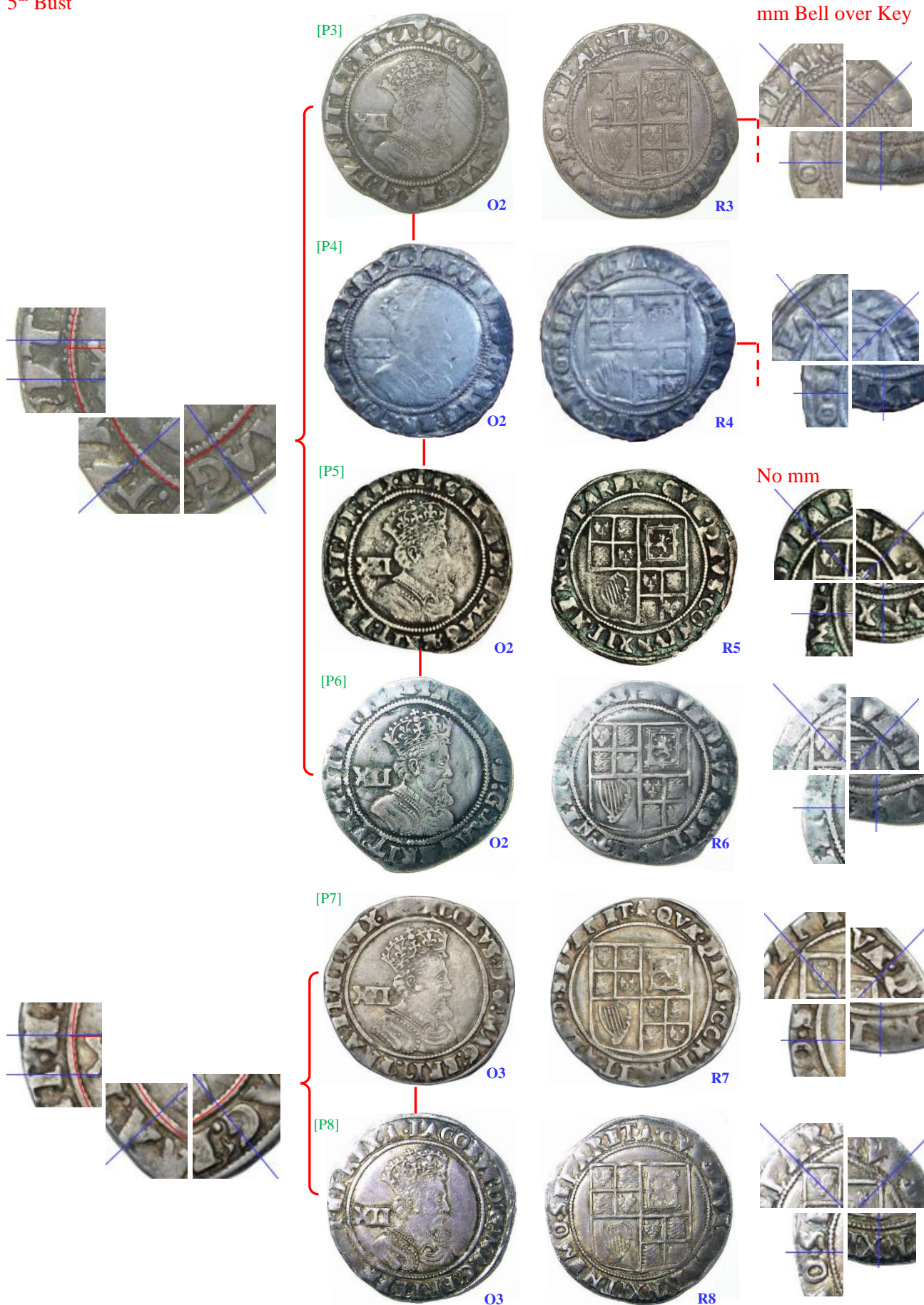
Mm Bell over Crown





IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX

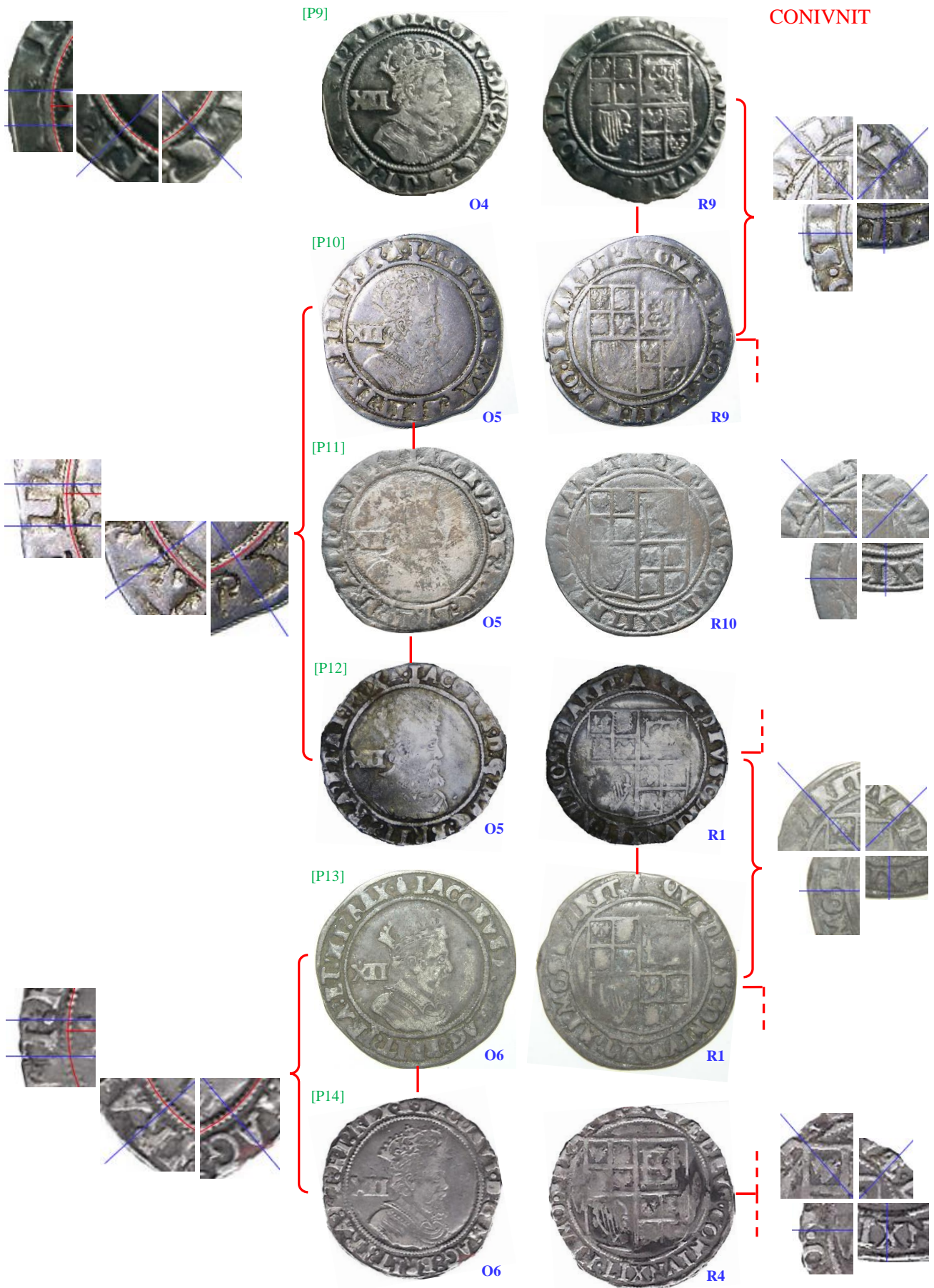
5<sup>th</sup> Bust





IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX - continued

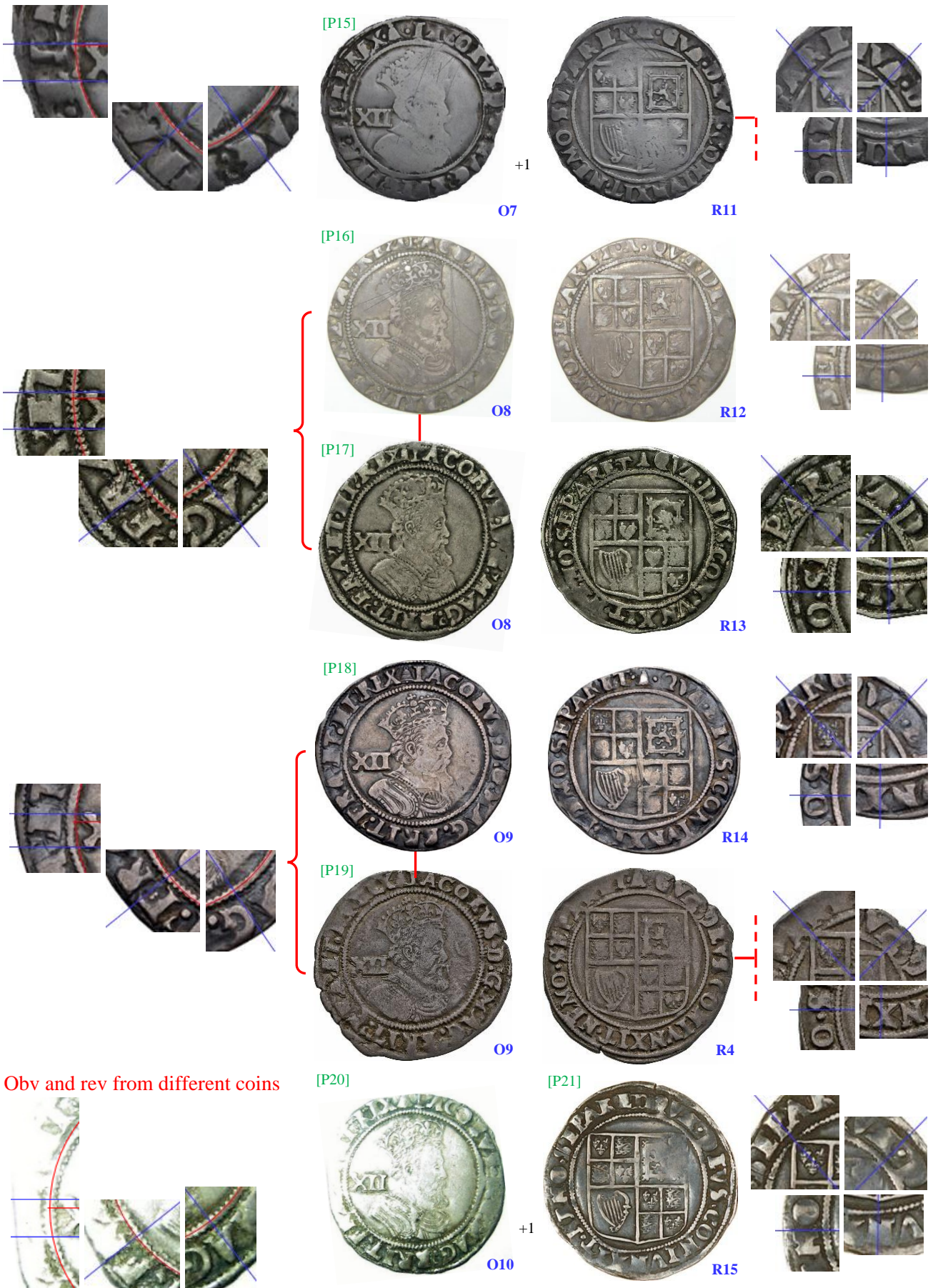
5<sup>th</sup> Bust





IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX - continued

5<sup>th</sup> Bust

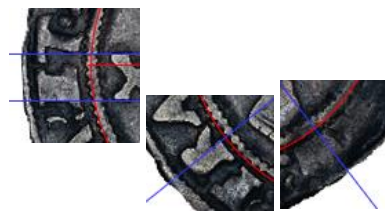


Obv and rev from different coins



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX - continued

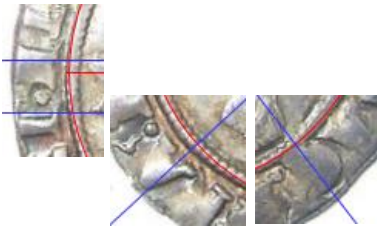
5<sup>th</sup> Bust



O11



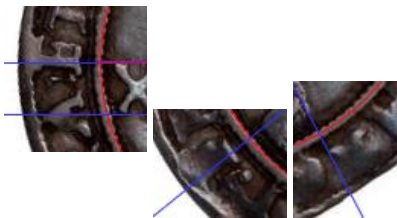
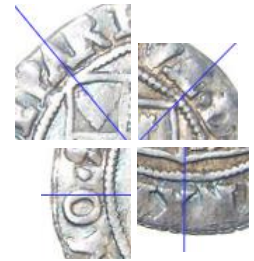
R16



O12



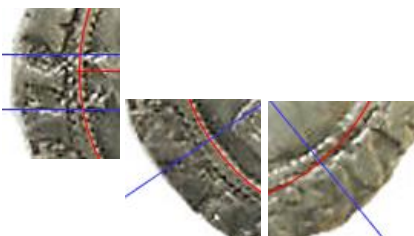
R17



O13



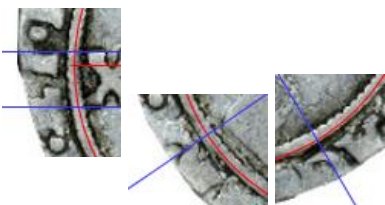
R18



O14



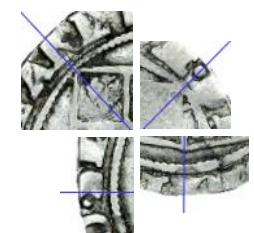
R19



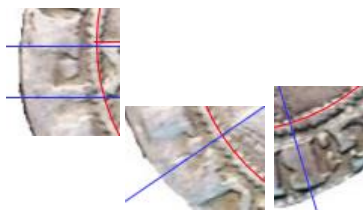
O15



R20



mm Bell over Key



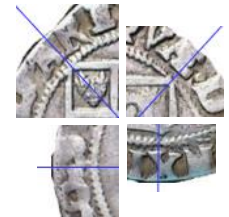
O16

+1



R21

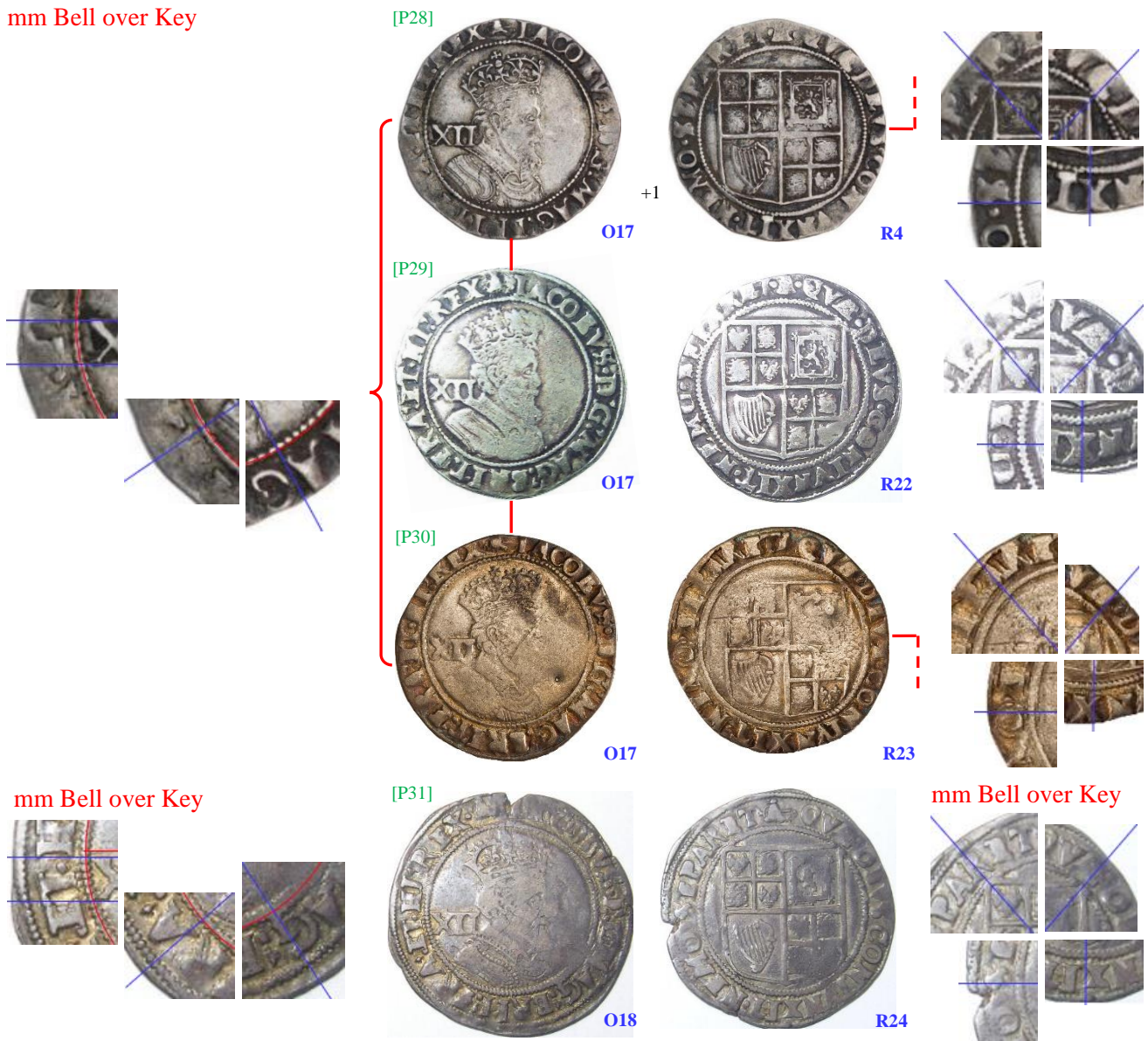
mm Bell over Key



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX - continued

5<sup>th</sup> Bust

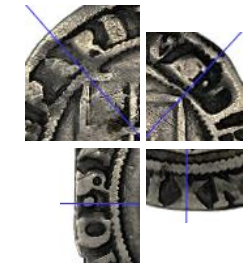
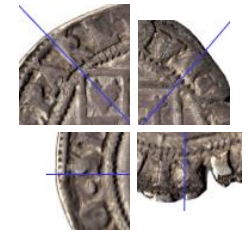
mm Bell over Key





**IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX**

5<sup>th</sup> Bust



mm Bell over Key



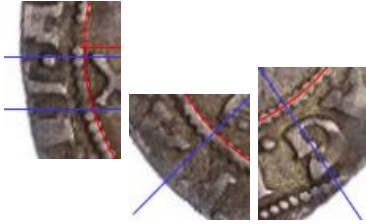
Top of rev. double struck



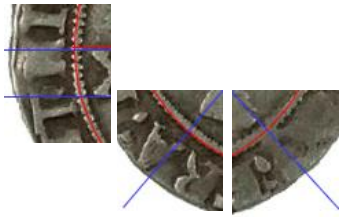
**IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX - continued**

5<sup>th</sup> Bust

mm Bell over Key



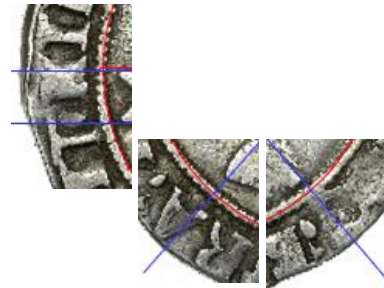
mm Bell over Key



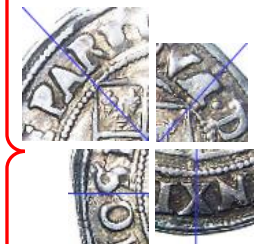
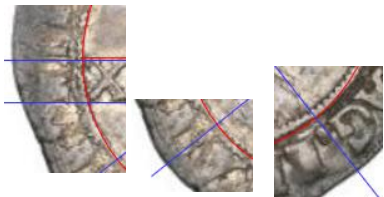
CONIVNIT



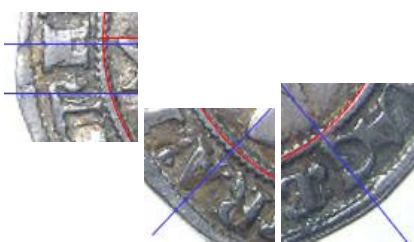
mm Bell over Key



mm Bell over Key



mm Bell over Key

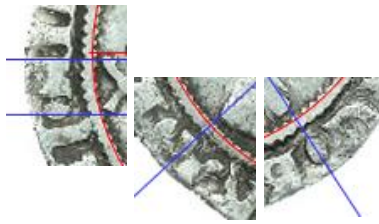




IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX - continued

5<sup>th</sup> Bust

[P44]



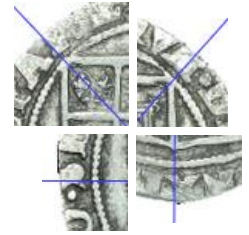
mm Bell over Key



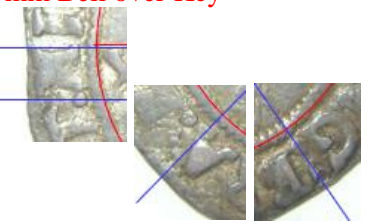
O26



R11



[P45]



mm Bell over Key

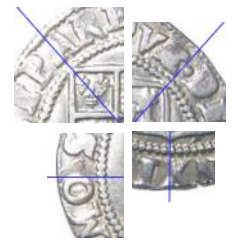


O27

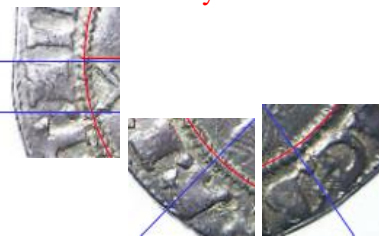


R3

mm Bell over Key



[P46]



mm Bell over Key

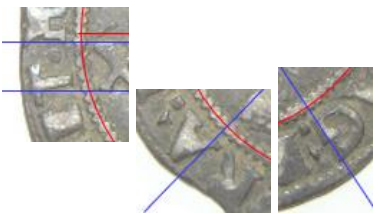


O28



R3

[P47]



mm Bell over Key



O29

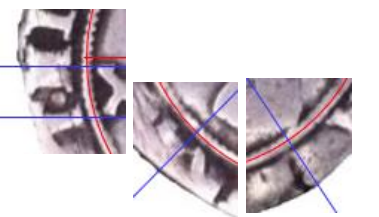


R28

mm Bell over Key



[P48]



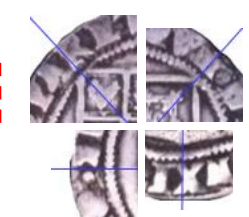
mm Bell over Key



O30



R25



[P49]



mm Bell over Key



O31



R23





**IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX - continued**

5<sup>th</sup> Bust  
mm Bell over Key



**Discussion and Conclusions**

On 9 May 1611 there was £9 12s 8½d of silver at the Pyx trial comprising 1/- 6d, 2d, 1d and ½d. The period covered since the trial for the mm Key issue (11 May 1610) is just two days under 12 months. In terms of rarity this might be considered normal, neither common nor rare and 53 specimens have been found.

The existence of O1 with a mm Bell over Crown with a 4<sup>th</sup> bust is an interesting indicator as to how the dies were used. There is also a higher than usual number of overstruck mms – Bell over Key. For the obv. dies 14/32 are Bell over Key and for the reverses 5/30 are Bell over Key.

Two die sinkers errors have been found, both on the reverse dies. R5 lacks the mm and R9 reads CONIVNIT

With just 54 specimens struck from 32 obverse and 31 reverse dies, the sample is still not ideal. The table below presents the usual statistical analysis for shillings with mintmark Bell.

		Obverse	Reverse
Sample size	n	54	54
Number of dies	d	32	31
Singletons	d <sub>1</sub>	17	19
2 examples	d <sub>2</sub>	11	7
3 examples	d <sub>3</sub>	1	2
4 examples	d <sub>4</sub>	3	1
5 examples	d <sub>5</sub>		1
6 examples	d <sub>6</sub>		1
Coverage	C <sub>est</sub>	0.69	0.64
Estimated dies	d <sub>.</sub>	40	42
	d <sub>est</sub>	59	62
	d <sub>+</sub>	88	94

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

As with some of the studies of the later mintmarks, already published, the coverage could be better. Doubling the sample size would certainly narrow down the range of estimated dies.

