

A Die Study of James I Shillings

– Second Issue, mm Coronet

Gary Oddie and Michael Thompson

Introduction

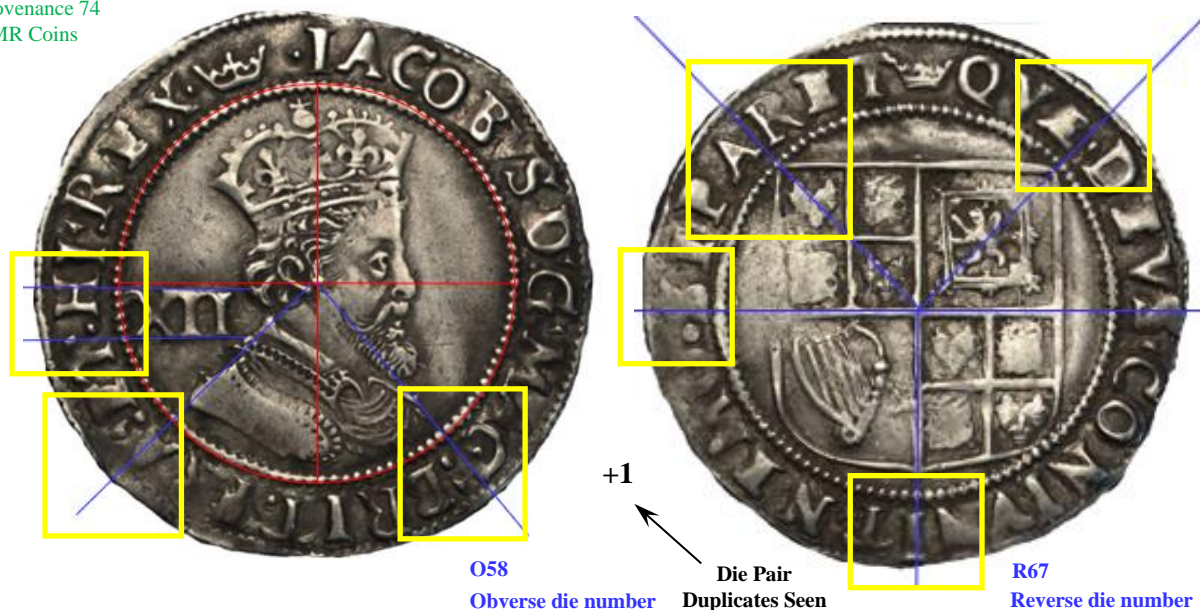
This note continues the die studies of James I shillings, working backwards through the mintmarks of the second issue. Here the mintmark Coronet is presented – issued between 11th November 1607 and 17th May, 1609 when £67 2s 5½d of silver was presented at the Trial of the Pyx. This is the end of the period where a full set of denominations had been issued: 5s, 2/6, 1/-, 6d, 2d, 1d and ½d. Silver crowns and half-crowns would not reappear for over a decade until the Trial of the Pyx on 8th June 1621 for the third issue coinage mintmark Rose.

This mintmark has the first appearance of the 5th Bust. Morrieson wrote in the 1907 BNJ “Fifth Bust, 1608-1619. - The armour is plain, hair longer and brushed back. Legends same as before, but occasionally MA: for MAG: and BRI: for BRIT. There is generally a pellet each side of the mint mark. The bust on some of the shillings of the key and bell marks appears to be shorter than on the others.”⁽¹⁾ The only addition to this appears in North⁽³⁾, where the mintmarks are listed along with a footnote “A variety has a single arched crown (i.m. Coronet).”

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 edges 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.

[P74]
Provenance 74
AMR Coins



Summary of Results

The first section of this blog will identify six different varieties of the fifth bust which also has the advantage of, hopefully, making the sorting of the images and die study easier. Having worked backwards through the mintmarks of the second issue, the die studies of the other mintmarks bearing the 5th bust are completed and available for inspection. This allows other varieties of the 5th bust to be identified, though only busts **5.1**, **5.3** and **5.4** are found with the coronet mintmark.

Though being referred to as bust varieties it is the details of the crowns that provide the fingerprints to identify the main differences, as follows: Inner arches (Yes, No), Pearls on Cross pattée (Yes/No), Pearls on each arch (4, 5, or 6) and as a final descriptor, the way the arches meet the monde separates **5.2** from **5.3** and **5.5** from **5.6**.

Varieties of the 5th Bust

Bust 5.1

[Px]



B 5.1



Inner arches.....**No**
 Pearls on cross pattée.....**Yes**
 Pearls on each arch.....**6**
 Main arch position to monde...**Under**

Tall pearl closest to monde often merges with monde. Cross Pattée similar size to cross on monde.

Coronet **O28**

Bust 5.2

[Px]



B 5.2



Inner arches.....**No**
 Pearls on cross pattée.....**Yes**
 Pearls on each arch.....**5**
 Main arch position to monde...**Under**

Arches merge with top of cross. Cross Pattée larger than cross on monde.

Key **O31**

Bust 5.3

[Px]



B 5.3



Inner arches.....**No**
 Pearls on cross pattée.....**Yes**
 Pearls on each arch.....**5**
 Main arch position to monde...**Under**

Pearls further from arches. Arches don't reach monde. Cross Pattée larger than cross on monde.

Coronet **O57**

Bust 5.4

[Px]



B 5.4



Inner arches.....**Yes**
 Pearls on cross pattée.....**No**
 Pearls on each arch.....**5**
 Main arch position to monde...**Under**

Higher more rounded arches. Oval monde away from arches. Top cross vertical merges with monde.

Coronet **O58**

Bust 5.5

[Px]



B 5.5



Inner arches.....**Yes**
 Pearls on cross pattée.....**Yes**
 Pearls on each arch.....**4**
 Main arch position to monde...**Under**

Bell **O6**

Bust 5.6

[Px]



B 5.6



Inner arches.....**Yes**
 Pearls on cross pattée.....**Yes**
 Pearls on each arch.....**4**
 Main arch position to monde...**Middle**

Key **O27**

This is a first attempt to distinguish the various 5th bust varieties. Most of the known 5th bust shillings are **B5.1**, **B5.4** or **B5.6** and shillings with **B5.2**, **B5.3** and **B5.5** are only known from a single die. With this in mind, there is a real chance that other varieties of the 5th bust exist.

The sequence presented above has been devised to make identification easier rather than suggesting a chronological sequence. This will be considered in more detail when this series of die studies is complete and analysed as a whole.

A total of 92 specimens with mm Coronet have been found. With just six die pair duplicates, the statistics are not going to be good. The £67 2s 5½d is the largest sum of silver at the pyx for the die studies presented so far (mms Bell to Trefoil) where the next largest is £49 8s 2d for the first trial of the mm trefoil on 7th July 1625.

Summary of Results

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 nd	4 th	IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX	14	13
		IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX	9	14 ½
	5.1	IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX	25	28 ½ ⅔ ⅔
		IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX	8	7 ⅓ ⅓
	5.3	IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX	1	1
	5.4	IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX	3	3
IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX		8	10	
Totals			68	79

The Die Study

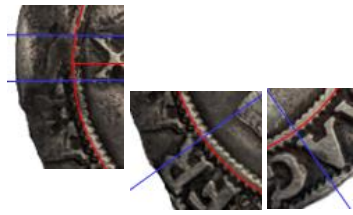
IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX

4th Bust



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX - continued

4th Bust



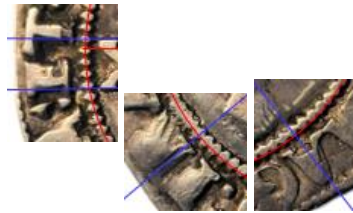
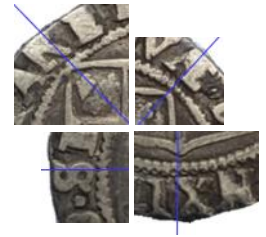
[P3]



O3



R2



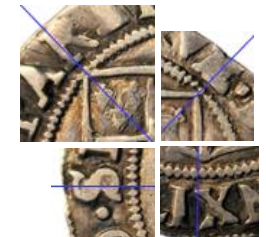
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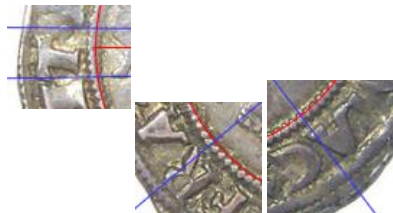
O4



R3



No stop before mm



[P5]



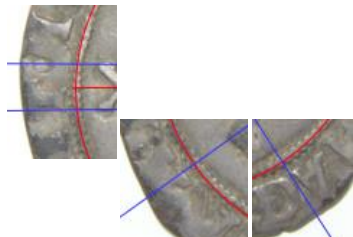
O5



R4



No stop after mm



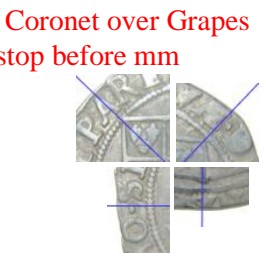
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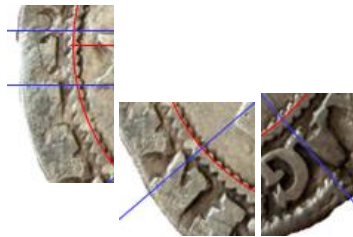
O6



R5



mm Coronet over Grapes
No stop before mm



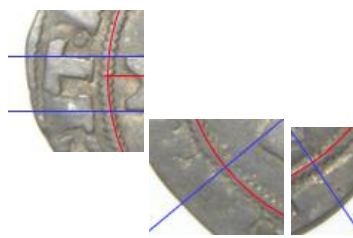
[P7]



O7



R6



[P8]



O8



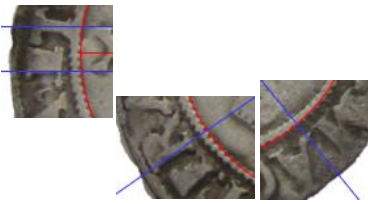
R7



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX - continued

4th Bust

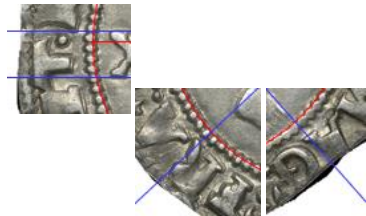
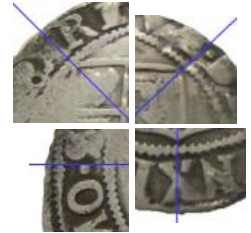
[P9]



O9



R8



[P10]



O10



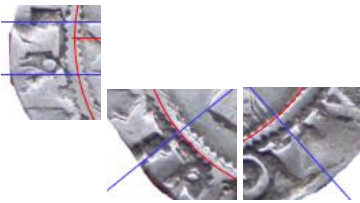
R9

No stop before mm



No stops at mm

[P11]

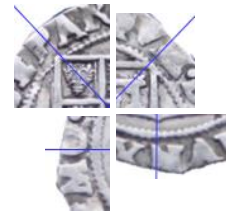


O11



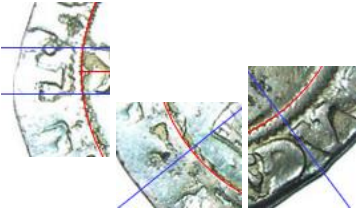
R10

No stops at mm



mm Coronet over Grapes

[P12]

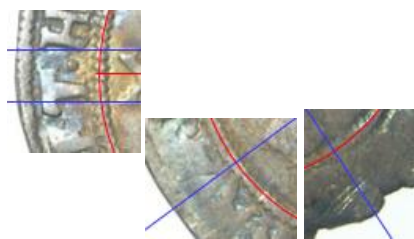
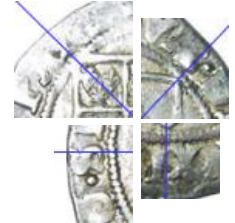


O12



R11

Mm Coronet over Grapes



[P13]



O13



R12



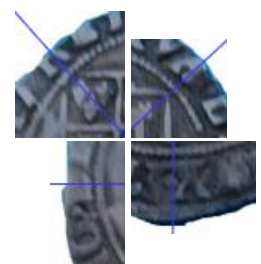
[P14]



O14



R13



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX

4th Bust

No stops before mm

[P15]



O15



R14



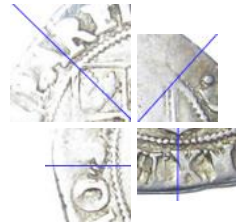
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O15



R15



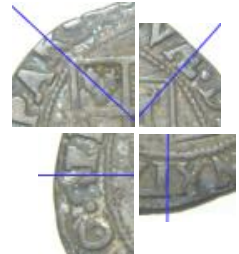
[P17]



O15



R16



[P18]



O15



R17



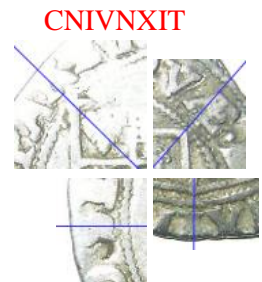
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O15



R18



[P20]



O16



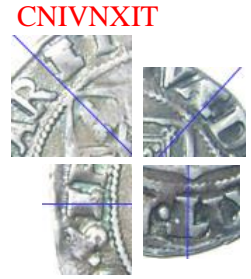
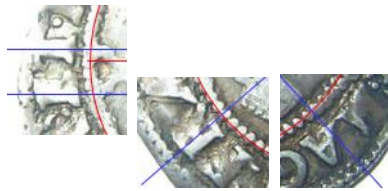
R19



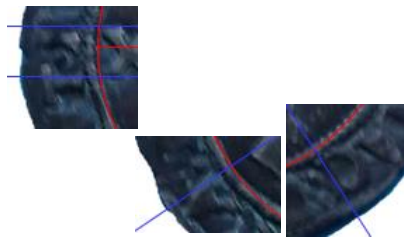
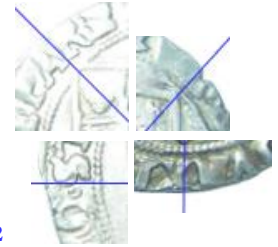
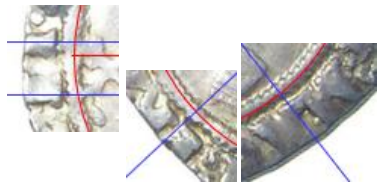
IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX - continued

4th Bust

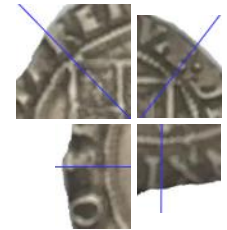
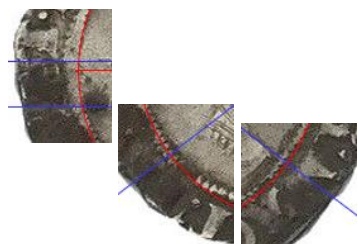
No stop before mm



No stop before mm

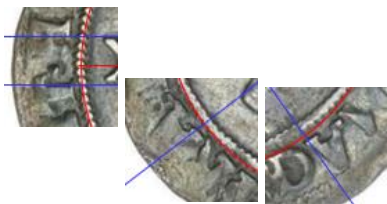


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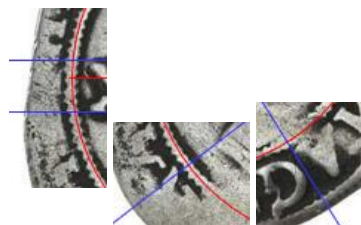


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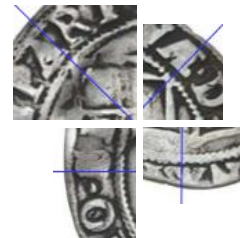
4th Bust



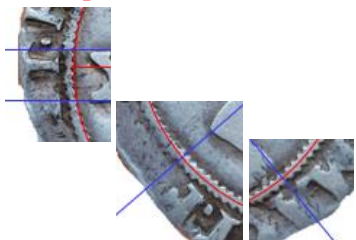
[P27]



[P28]



No stop after mm



[P29]

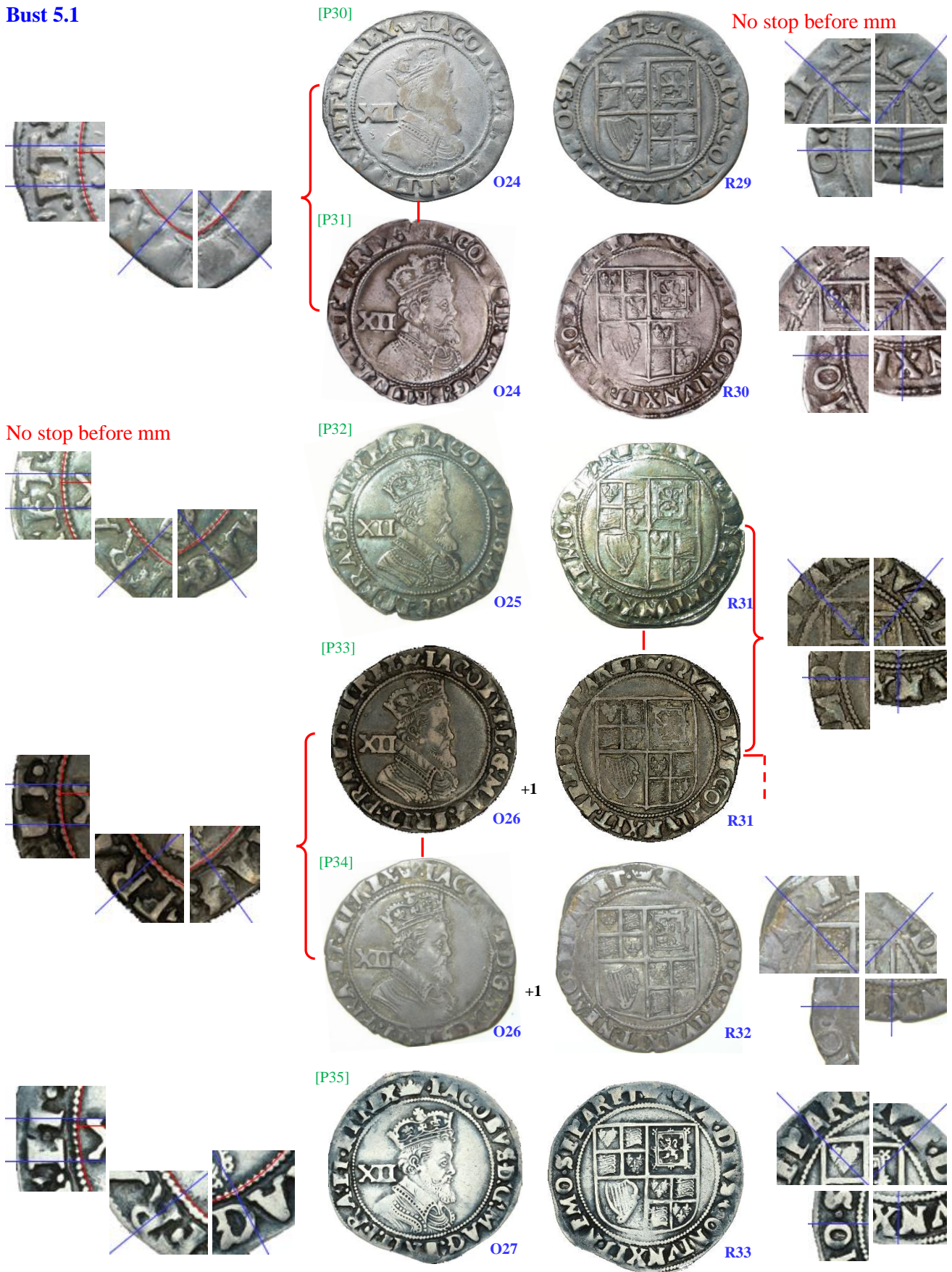


Mm Coronet over Grapes



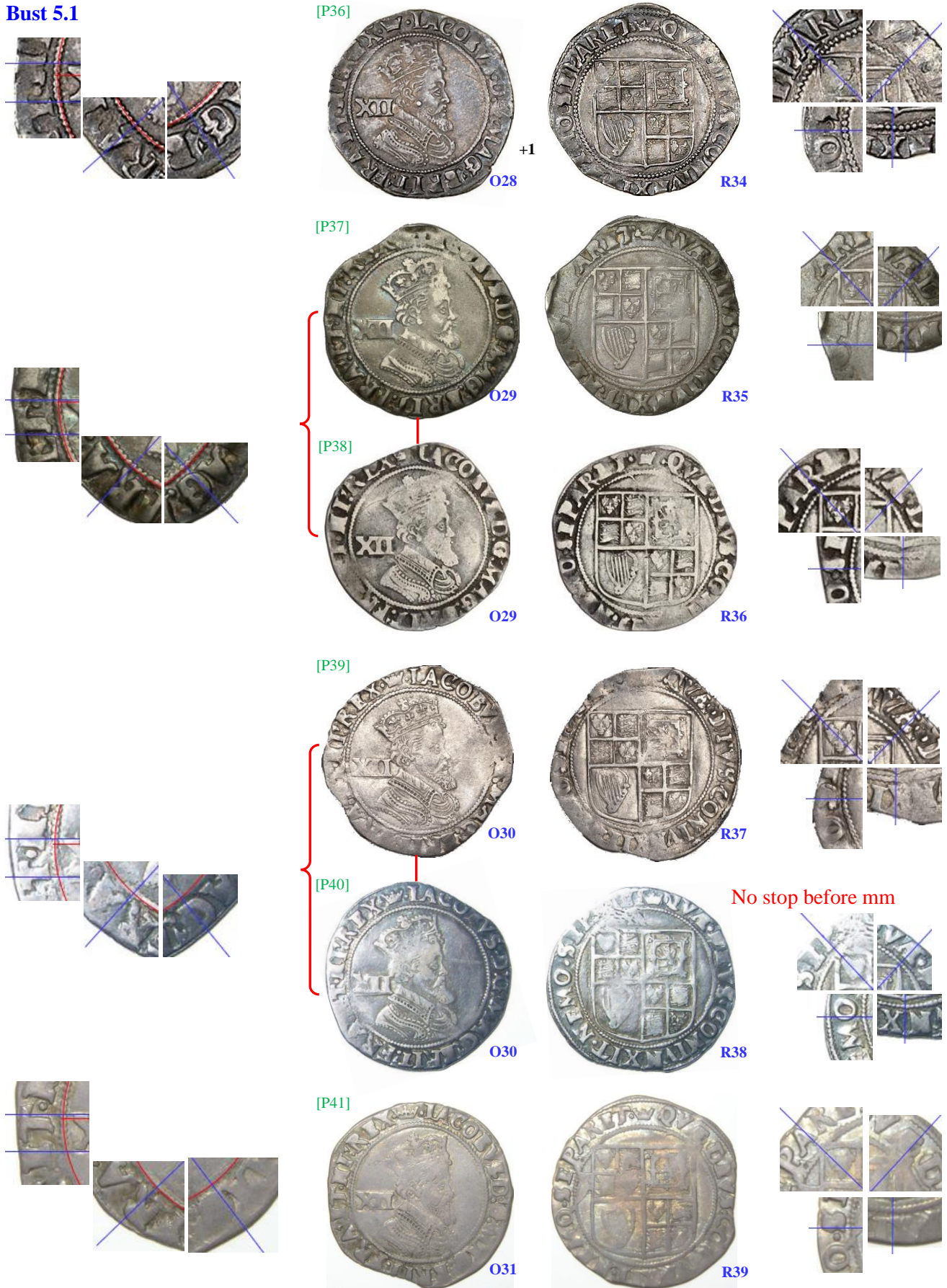
IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX

Bust 5.1



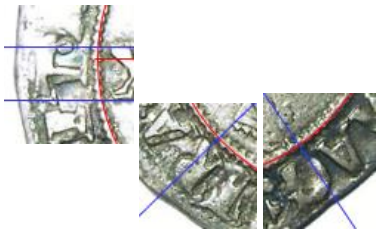
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Bust 5.1

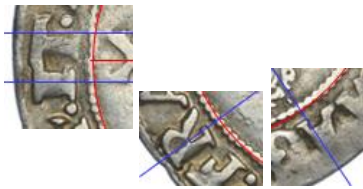
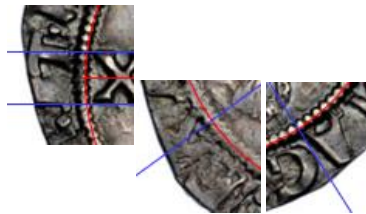
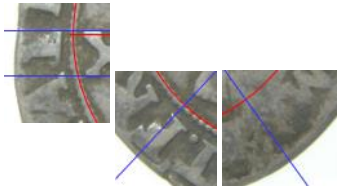


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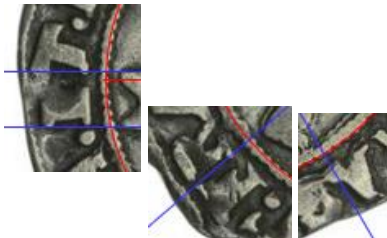
Bust 5.1



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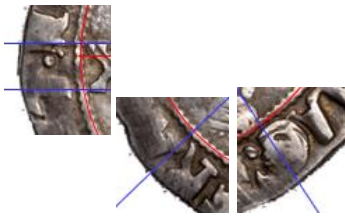
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IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX - continued

Bust 5.1

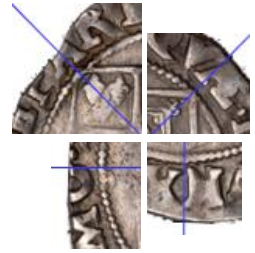
[P48]



O37

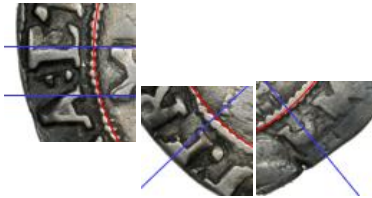


R43



No stop before mm

[P49]



O38

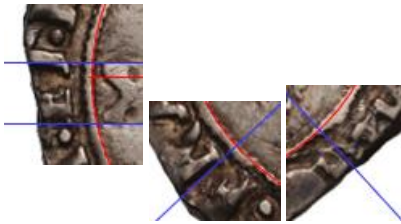


R44



No stop before mm

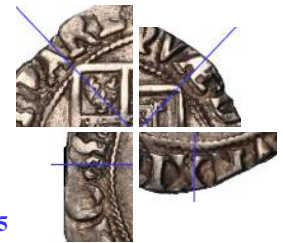
[P50]



O39



R45



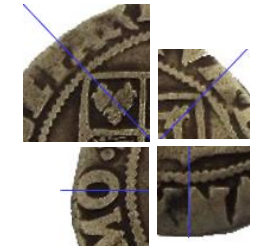
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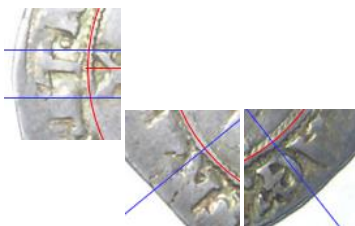
O39



R46



[P52]



O40



R47



No stop before mm

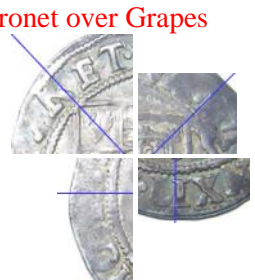
[P53]



O40



R48



mm Coronet over Grapes

IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX - continued

Bust 5.1

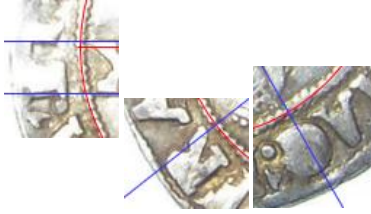
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O41



R49



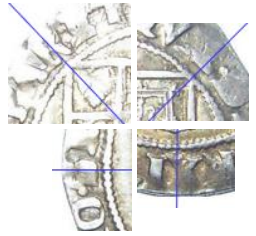
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O41



R50



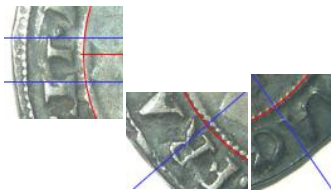
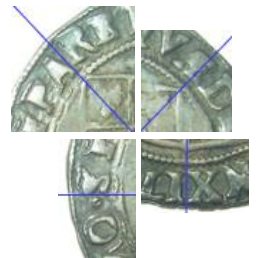
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O42



R51



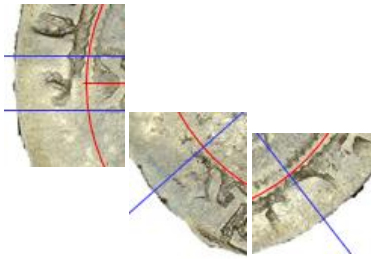
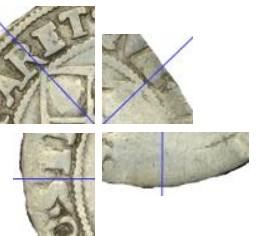
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O43



R52



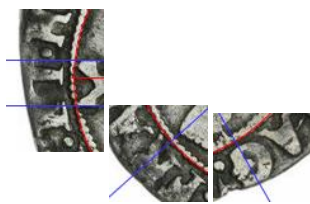
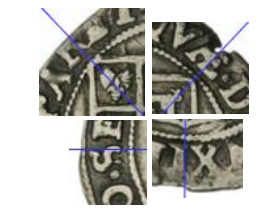
[P58]



O44



R53



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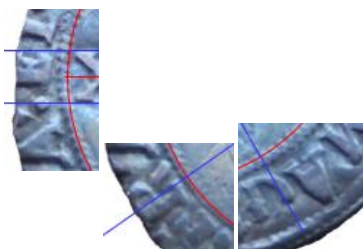
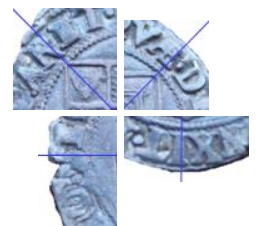
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O45



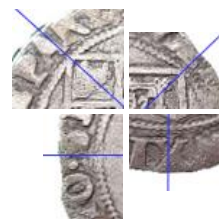
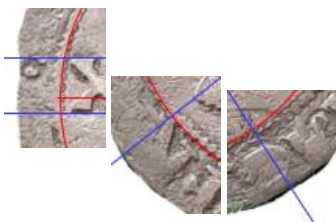
R54



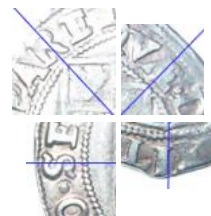
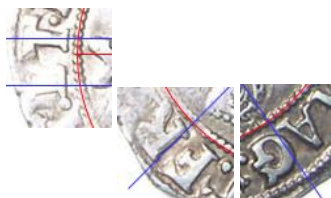
IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX - continued

Bust 5.1

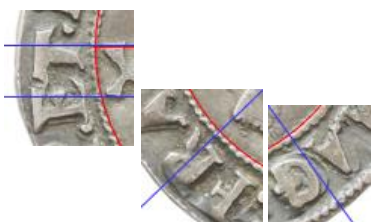
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[P61]



[P62]

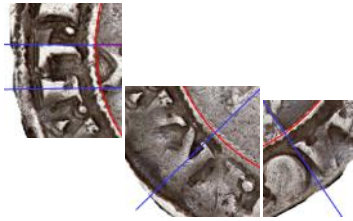


[P63]



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX

Bust 5.1



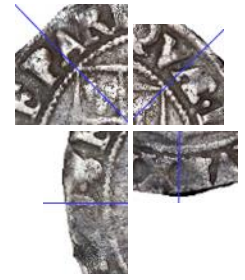
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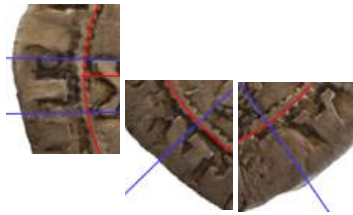
O49



R59



No stop before mm



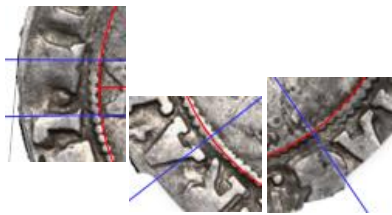
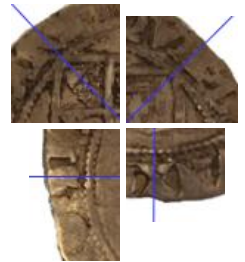
[P65]



O50



R60



[P66]



O51



R61



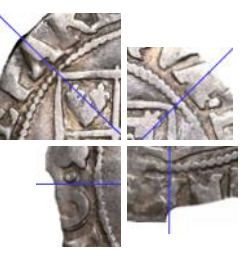
[P67]



O51



R62



[P68]



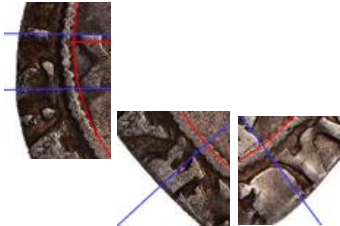
O52



R40



No stops at mm



[P69]



O53



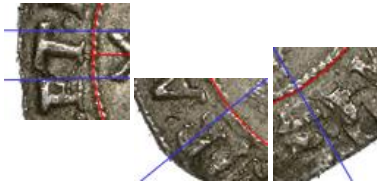
R63



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX - continued

Bust 5.1

No stop before mm



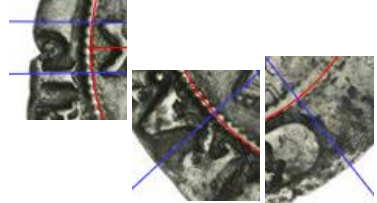
[P70]



O54



R31



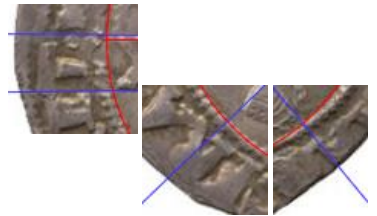
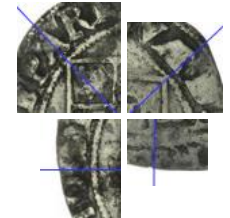
[P71]



O55



R64



[P72]



O56

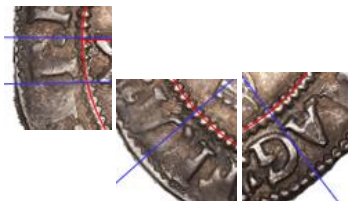


R65



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX

Bust 5.3



[P73]

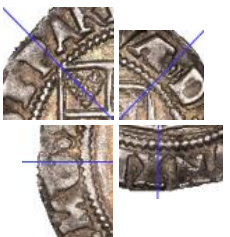


O57



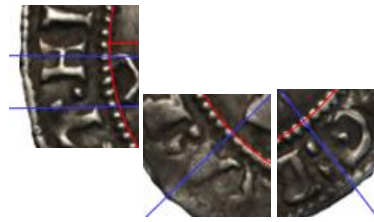
R66

No stops at mm



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HI REX

Bust 5.4



[P74]



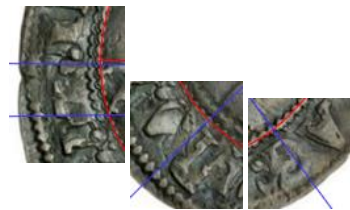
+1

O58



R67

No stops at mm



[P75]

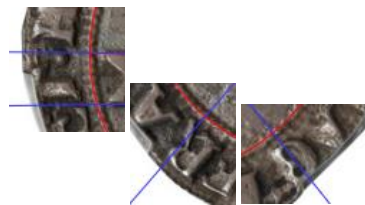
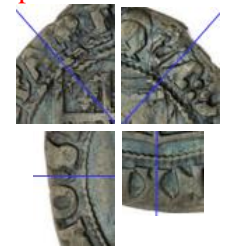


O59



R68

No stops at mm



[P76]



O60



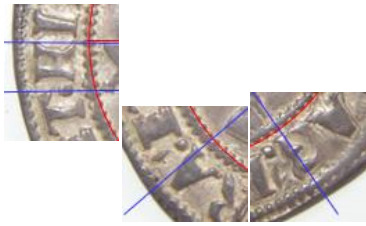
R69

No stop before mm

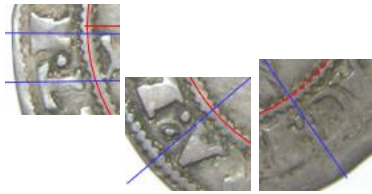


IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX

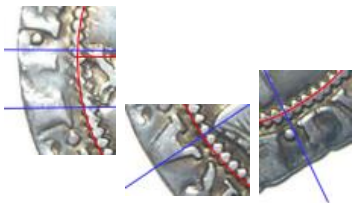
Bust 5.4



No stops at mm



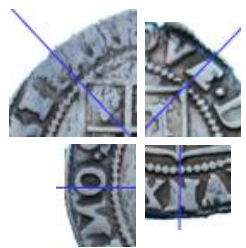
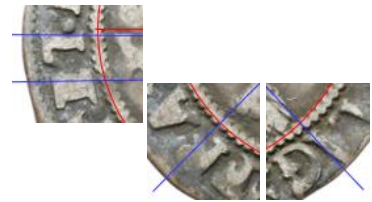
No stops at mm



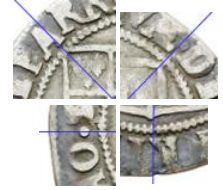
CONIVNIT error



No stops at mm



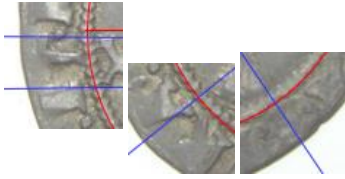
SEPARRET error
No stops at mm



IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRA ET HIB REX - continued

Bust 5.4

No stops at mm



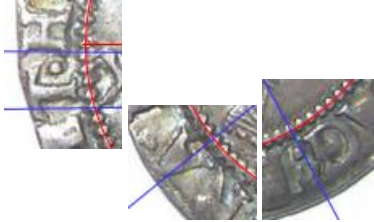
[P83]



O65



R76



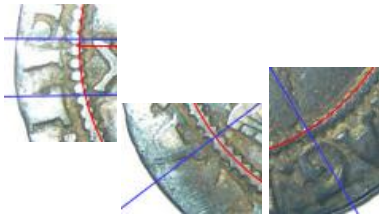
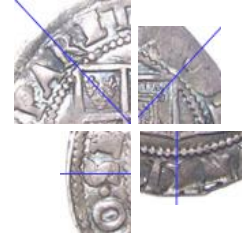
[P84]



O66



R77



[P85]

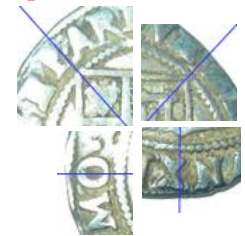


O67

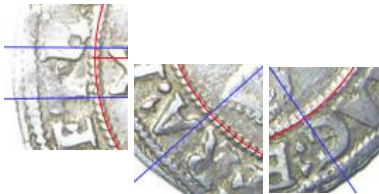


R78

No stops at mm



No stops at mm



[P86]



O68



R79



Sources of Images and Acknowledgements

The following are thanked for the use of their images:

[P1]	eBay	[P30]	Ashmolean Museum	[P59]	eBay
[P2]	DNW 8 Dec 2014 Lot 2394	[P31]	Stacks 14 Jan 2022 Lot 7192	[P60]	eBay
[P3]	eBay	[P32]	Fitzwilliam Museum	[P61]	Private Collection
[P4]	Private Collection	[P33]	eBay	[P62]	Ashmolean Museum
[P5]	Private Collection	[P34]	British Museum	[P63]	Private Collection
[P6]	British Museum	[P35]	DNW 1 Dec 2020 lot 384	[P64]	eBay
[P7]	eBay	[P36]	DNW 5 Dec 2012 Lot 245	[P65]	eBay
[P8]	British Museum	[P37]	DNW 4 May 2021 lot 89a	[P66]	DNW 6 Jul 2005 Lot 22a
[P9]	eBay	[P38]	SCA 13 Dec 2022 Lot 138	[P67]	eBay
[P10]	DNW 9 Oct 2019 Lot 2136	[P39]	DNW 16 Sep 2015 Lot 728ax	[P68]	Private Collection
[P11]	eBay	[P40]	Private Collection	[P69]	Baldwins 27 Sep 2018 Lot 1053
[P12]	Fitzwilliam Museum	[P41]	British Museum	[P70]	DNW 23 Jan 2020 Lot 115
[P13]	Fitzwilliam Museum	[P42]	Fitzwilliam Museum	[P71]	SCA 7 Oct 2020 Lot 1753
[P14]	Private Collection	[P43]	British Museum	[P72]	Baldwins 28 Sep 2010 Lot 351
[P15]	DNW 17 Mar 2010 Lot 428	[P44]	DNW 6 Feb 2013 Lot 448	[P73]	DNW 21 Mar 2016 Lot 640
[P16]	Private Collection	[P45]	DNW 6 Feb 2013 Lot 447	[P74]	AMR Coins
[P17]	British Museum	[P46]	SCA 20 Jul 2021 Lot 5665	[P75]	Private Collection
[P18]	Ashmolean Museum	[P47]	eBay	[P76]	Stacks 22 Aug 2022 Lot 31190
[P19]	Fitzwilliam Museum	[P48]	DNW 16 Sep 2015 Lot 729	[P77]	British Museum
[P20]	Private Collection	[P49]	DNW 18 Sep 2017 Lot 377	[P78]	eBay
[P21]	Private Collection	[P50]	Davissons 9 Nov 2022 Lot153	[P79]	British Museum
[P22]	British Museum	[P51]	eBay	[P80]	Private Collection
[P23]	Private Collection	[P52]	Goldberg 2 Feb 2016 Lot 3993	[P81]	Private Collection
[P24]	British Museum	[P53]	Private Collection	[P82]	Ashmolean Museum
[P25]	Private Collection	[P54]	SJA 8 Feb 2008 Lot 132	[P83]	British Museum
[P26]	eBay	[P55]	Private Collection	[P84]	Private Collection
[P27]	Noble 02.04.2019 Lot 1565	[P56]	Fitzwilliam Museum	[P85]	Fitzwilliam Museum
[P28]	Noble 28.03.2017 Lot 2375	[P57]	DNW 2 Feb 2021 lot 195	[P86]	Private Collection
[P29]	eBay	[P58]	SCA 7 Oct 2020 Lot 1847		

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Discussion and Conclusions

On 17th May 1609 there was £67 2s 5½d of silver at the trial of the pyx, representing coins struck since 11th November 1607.

Six distinct varieties of the 5th bust have been identified, three of which can be found with mm coronet.

Five of the dies show the mintmark Coronet over struck on the previous mintmark, Grapes (**R5**, **O2/R11**, **R28**, **R48**). With such a large output, it is maybe not surprising that there are a range of die sinker's errors, notably all on the reverse: CONIVNIT (**R72**), SEPARRET (**R75**), and three different dies have CNIVNXIT (**R18**, **R19**, **R20**).

With just 92 specimens struck from 68 obverse and 79 reverse dies, and just 6 die pair duplicates, this is already suggesting that the sample is very small and the statistics very poor. The table below presents the usual statistical analysis for shillings with mintmark Coronet.

		Obverse	Reverse
Sample size	n	92	92
Number of dies	d	68	79
Singletons	d ₁	49	70
2 examples	d ₂	17	7
3 examples	d ₃		
4 examples	d ₄	1	2
5 examples	d ₅	1	
6 examples	d ₆		
Coverage	C _{est}	0.47	0.24
Estimated dies	d ₋	131	264
	d _{est}	198	477
	d ₊	302	904

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

At this point it would normally be suggested that doubling the sample size would help with the statistical predictions of the number of dies, and of course it would. However, though shillings with mm coronet are reasonably easy to obtain, adding another 100 or more pieces would be very challenging and likely take many years.

Extrapolating these numbers into the earlier mintmarks also suggests there are some very large die studies yet to be completed.

From the die study presented here:

Date of Pyx	Mintmark	Issue	Silver at Pyx	Calculated Obv Dies	Calculated Rev Dies
17 th May 1609	Coronet	2	£67 2s 5½d	198	447

For the mintmarks yet to be completed:

Date of Pyx	Mintmark	Issue	Silver at Pyx	Predicted Obv Dies	Predicted Rev Dies
22 nd May 1604	Thistle	1	£129 15s 3½d	383	864
20 th June 1605	Lys	1	£105 15s 6½d	312	704
	Lys	2	£92 14s 1½d	273	617
10 th July 1606	Rose	2	£154 13s 3d	456	1030
30 th June 1607	Scallop	2	£70 0s 10d	221	500
11 th November 1607	Grapes	2	£26 9s 6d	78	176

There are many assumptions in the above table, and it will be interesting to see how close the die studies of the shillings of each of the remaining mintmarks get to these numbers.

References and Acknowledgements

- (1) H.W. Morrieson, 'The busts of James I on his silver coinage' *BNJ* vol. 3 (1906), pp173-79. https://www.britnumsoc.org/publications/Digital%20BNJ/pdfs/1906_BNJ_3_10.pdf
- (2) H.W. Morrieson, 'The English silver coins of James I' *BNJ* vol. 4 (1907), pp165-78. https://www.britnumsoc.org/publications/Digital%20BNJ/pdfs/1907_BNJ_4_10.pdf
- (3) J.J. North. *English Hammered Coinage, Volume 2 Edward I to Charles II, 1272-1662*. 2nd edition, Spink, 1991.

Thanks to David Holt for useful comments on an early draft of this note.

