

IV.

TWO UNPUBLISHED GROATS OF JAMES I.

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Edward Burns in describing his "first variety" of the fleur-de-lis groats of James I. says: "Except in the ornamented style of the **I**, **Ɔ** and **L** the lettering of the fleur-de-lis groats with this style of **Ɔ** and **D** is identical with that on the demies of the first variety."<sup>1</sup> Of the demies in question (figs. 424 and 424 A) he writes: "The letters **Ɔ** and **D** on these pieces have the stems slightly curved as on the Edinburgh pennies Nos. 3 b, 3 c, 3 d, figs. 423 E, 423 F, 423 G, with which they correspond also in the plain **I** and **L**."<sup>2</sup> These pennies in turn, as approximating closely to the last coinage with the name of Robert, he shows to be the earliest coinage of James I. in his own name.<sup>3</sup>

In this connection it seems worth recording two interesting groats, which came to light when the Cochran-Patrick Collection was dispersed in March 1936. They were in lot 206, and were described as having a pierced quatrefoil at the foot of the sceptre handle. Burns does not appear to have seen them.

The full description is as follows:—

A. Facing bust in a tressure of seven arcs fleured on four points, including that on the breast. A saltire on each shoulder and a pierced quatrefoil at the base of the sceptre on the left.

○    ✠<sup>x</sup> | Ɔ Ɔ O B V S | D B E I | T R Ɔ I I Ɔ R E X | S C O T O R V <sup>x</sup>

R    ✠<sup>x</sup> | D Ɔ S | P | [ T Ɔ C O T O ] R | M S [ ? ? ] | Ɔ T O R M S <sup>x</sup>

          VILL <sup>x</sup> |            Ɔ B D <sup>x</sup> |            I Ɔ B V |            R G h <sup>x</sup>            (34 grains)

The lis are in the first and third quarters and the pellets are conjoined into trefoils. On both sides the plain **I** is used and the plain **L** appears in **VILLƆ**. The "et" sign is unfortunately invisible.

<sup>1</sup> *The Coinage of Scotland*, vol. ii. p. 5.  
<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 34.  
<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 47.

B. From the same obverse die as A.

|   |   |  |  |  |  |             |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|-------------|
| R | ✠ | D <small>n</small> S <small>h</small> P            | T <small>e</small> C <small>o</small> T <small>o</small> R | <sup>x</sup> M S <b>f</b> L I <sup>x</sup> | B <small>a</small> L <small>t</small> O <small>r</small> M |             |
|   |   | V <small>i</small> L <small>L</small> <sup>x</sup> | <b>A</b> <small>h</small> <b>E</b> <b>D</b>                | <b>I</b> <small>n</small> B V <sup>x</sup> | R <small>G</small> <small>h</small> <b>E</b>               | (35 grains) |

The pellets in the second and fourth quarters are free on this coin, and on the reverse the plain L is used with the ornamental I and f, as on Burns No. 1, fig. 425.

Neither of these coins appears to be in the National Museum of Antiquities, or in the British Museum.

I think that there can be no doubt that if Burns had seen these coins he would have classed them as the very earliest type of the groat with the name of James, as they correspond in lettering with the early pennies, and the <sup>h</sup>/<sub>x</sub> stops which are used on the reverse of A. are not found on any of the later groats but are found on the earliest demy, fig. 424.