



E32



E37



E36



E33



E38

numbers 35, 38 and 39 from the listing and follow the aforementioned procedure. Another different way entirely I found, was to look at the reverse only on the 8 doubles. It will be noted that the leaves to the right of the bow are as follows:

- E36 4 leaves to the right of a short bow
- E37 3 leaves to the right of a long bow
- E38 3 leaves to the right of a short bow

My E38 was labelled E39? beneath the three coins on page 23 of Guernsey Coinage.

REVERSE DIES

Three completely different reverse dies were used to strike a total of 73,248 Guernsey 8 doubles—a possible 24,416 coins per variety! If we pursue this theme further with other denominations and varieties, the 1874 2 doubles with a mintage of 45,216 and two dies could have a possible 22,608 per variety, and 1868 4 doubles with two dies 28,848: It is always with the reverse die that the figure of around 25,000 arises, so it is possibly due to experimentation with die metals that another three could have been made as trials, MF 1, 4 and 5. Ten years earlier in 1864 the 8 doubles mintage was 284,736. We know of eleven varieties, that give around 25,885 per variety! (I realise for the record that there are obverse and reverse combinations here.) Try dividing the die

varieties known to date into the mintage figures ten years' coins—1864 8 doubles, 1868 4 doubles and 8 doubles, 1874 2 doubles and 8 doubles. Their total mintages come to half a million, a lot for Guernsey when the 1917 mintage of 14,524 is considered—515,616 pieces divided by 20 dies made up of 11, 2, 3, 2, 2 respectively and we are back to 25,780 again! I have checked other dates in the series and it starts to deviate due to improvement in the skills of minting and better machinery. Adrian Ritchie in the December 1972 issue of *Coin Monthly* published his findings on the 1864 4 doubles (212,976) and reported the discovery of far more than the two dies originally thought to have existed. Ritchie found five obverse and three reverse dies and I am sure others exist that would bring the ratio down to 25,000 again. Of course 8 dies used to strike 212,976 coins gives a figure of 26,622 each, but this means that three reverse dies lasted for an average of a third of the mintage each. My hypothesis is that, due to fair wear and tear and providing there were no accidents, the die metal and the material being used for blanks lasted a certain length of time. Each time a die was made by a craftsman over 100 years ago, errors crept in, or design variations were introduced for identification.

For those possessing a copy of Guernsey