

## Exchange of dies between London and Canterbury in the 1290's

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David Greenhalgh's recent article on the BNJ Research Blog<sup>1</sup> discusses the possible exchange of a LON/DON reverse die recut to read CAN/TOR and used to strike coins at the Canterbury mint in class 10cf. In reply to a comment posted by Ian Heavisides, David added a response which I quote verbatim.

*"We know that dies were sometimes sent from London to Canterbury and back again when there was a need at Canterbury (the class 6b Cant[erbury] comes to mind)"*

It is the purpose of this short note to amplify the final comment in the above statement. A few years ago I had a discussion with Mr. Greenhalgh<sup>2</sup> concerning the exchange of dies in Class 6b which he refers to above. This followed my purchase of an Edward I, class 6b of London, which I discovered had the same obverse die as an extremely rare class 6b/5b mule of Canterbury which was already in my possession. Matching dies is never easy in the Edwardian series due to the large number of dies used during periods of heavy production. Only the rarer classes provide an opportunity to examine the possibility of dies being exchanged or used in more than one mint.

From 1290 to 1294, little silver was struck into coin at the Canterbury mint and, from 1294 to 1296 none at all<sup>3</sup>. This period corresponds to the minting of class 6, mainly in London together with a small output from Durham and Bury St. Edmunds. One can envisage the Canterbury exchange receiving a small amount of silver and having to request that a new obverse die be sent down from London. A reverse die must have been already available in Canterbury from the previous class 5 issue, resulting in the 6b/5 mule of which only one or two are known.

At the time I was pleased to receive Mr. Greenhalgh's comments on the matter together with his insightful deductions that the obverse die, sunk in London, was passed to Canterbury, used there first, passed back to London, recut to sharpen the design and then put back into service in the capital.

The two coins in question are shown below in figures 1 and 2.

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<sup>1</sup> David Greenhalgh, An interesting re-cut penny reverse die from early Edward II, BNJ Research Blog, 27/5/20

<sup>2</sup> David Greenhalgh, private communication.

<sup>3</sup> Lord Stewartby, *English Coins 1180-1551*, p166. Spink, 2009



**Fig.1 Edward I, Canterbury, 6b/5 mule. DNW, December 2002, lot 32. Ex. Dr. E.J.Harris**



**Fig.2 Edward I, London, 6b. DNW, February 2013, lot 236.**

That the two obverse dies are the same is clear from the images above. It is thanks to Mr. Greenhalgh that his close observation of the recutting of the obverse revealed the details of the journeys the obverse die made between the capital and Kent.

