

A Henry V or VI York Penny Conundrum

By

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Within the last issue of York pennies under Henry V (Class G with new bust and Mullet (sometimes referred to as a cinquefoil or star) and trefoil by the crown and single annulet in one quarter of the reverse) {**fig 1**} recorded by J.J. North in *English Hammered Coins Vol II*, there includes 'Local Dies with Mullet to left and Lis to the right and single annulet in one quarter of the reverse. Which also includes London made dies as well as local dies' {**figs 3 & 4**}.

This 'Local' issue has been the subject of debate as to the placing them as Henry V Class G.

F.A. Walters in 1906 places them as Henry V or later because of the Trefoil and Annulet in one quarter.

G.C. Brooke 'Privy Marks of the Reign of Henry V' *Num Chron 1930 44-87* places them as Type VIII(d) or IXb [Class G] because of their similarity to the Mullet and trefoil issue and having a single Annulet in one quarter of the reverse.

M. Allen 'Documentary Evidence for the Henry VI Annulet Coinage of York' *BNJ 1985 pp 120-133* notes that some Archiepiscopal issues could have been struck either for Archbishop Bowet or in the Sede Vacante period 1423 -1426.

In his work 'Ecclesiastical Mints' *Num Chron 2000 249-259* M. Allen records the years for the York royal mint as between August 1423 and August 1424. The Episcopal mint closed in 1423 and re-opening in 1430 however a writ naming John Esyngwald was issued on 6 Nov 1423, to mint coins during the Sede Vacante period 1423 -1426.

Lord Stewertby 'English Coins 1180 - 1551' was of the opinion that they were Henry VI Annulet issue for Archbishop Henry Bowet (1407-23).

While examining Henry VI Rosette Mascle issue pennies for the die study I came across an enigmatic York penny in the British Museum Collection having mullets by crown placing it firmly as Henry VI but the reverse appeared to have a Henry V class G reverse {**fig 2**}. This prompted me to look closely at the Henry V class G York pennies and in particular a sub group which had a Lis instead of a trefoil by the crown.

Henry V class G



Henry V class G
Mullet and Trefoil
DNW 2019 Feb 88
wnr
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Mullet and Trefoil by
crown, annulet in CIVI
quarter



Henry VI Rosette Mascle issue



Henry VI Rosette Mascle
Mullets by crown
Muled with
Mullet and Lis reverse
BM 1969,0514.9
0.66g



Henry Mullet and Lis by crown

Currently Henry V class G Local to be moved to Henry VI Annulet / Annulet Trefoil / Rosette Mascle issue? c. 1430



Mullet and Lis London dies
FM 40 3
0.93g
Ex C. E. Blunt
Annulet in quarter under CIVI
FIG 3



Mullet and Lis Local dies
CNG 453298
0.45g
Annulet in quarter under CIVI
FIG 4

I then looked closely at the Henry V coins in my own collection. On examining the York pennies of Henry V class G local dies I noticed that the initial mark on one of my coins (Rn 2290b) {fig 5} was not the normal pierced cross found on class G but was North initial mark V (Spinks 7a) found on Henry VI late Annulet, Annulet Trefoil and early Rosette Mascle issues. Also the style of portrait iron was more in keeping with Henry VI than Henry V and the right hand hair punch was of a type not used on dies issued from London, until very late in the Annulet issue 1429-30 and running into the Rosette Mascle issue. It follows that this type with the Lis by the crown can only have been struck sometime between the end of the annulet issue and the start of the Rosette Mascle issue by virtue of the initial mark V and the hair punch and is definitely Henry VI and would date from c. 1430 at the re-opening of the York ecclesiastical mint and would probably be issued for Archbishop Kemp and would have been struck under the guidance of the York mint master John Esyngwald until his death in 1431.

There are also a number of local die coins bearing the Mullet and Lis and have a plain cross initial mark. These are most certainly from this period (Esyngwald having had previous form for having local dies issued in 1415 - (York Memorandum Book part II (1388-1419) 1914 pp. 42-3).

Corroborating evidence is that there is a coin in the British Museum of the Rosette Mascle issue with Mullets by crown which is muled with the reverse (Aii) of some of the mullet and lis coins {fig 2}.



Mullet and Lis by crown
London made dies
Rn 2290b



Henry V class G
IM pierced Cross



Pierced
Cross



Henry VI
Annulet issue
IM II (Calais)



Cross II
S 136



Henry VI
Annulet issue



Cross V
S 7a



Henry VI
Annulet Trefoil issue



Cross V
S 7a



Henry VI
Mullet / Lis



Cross V
S 7a



Henry VI
Rosette Mascle issue
Mullets by crown



Cross IIIb
S 8



Henry VI
Mullet / Lis
Local dies



Plain Cross
S 7a



Detail of hair
punches found on
London issued dies



Mullet and lis

Mullet and Lis York Pennies London made dies.

There appear to be 2 obverse dies and 1 reverse die found for the London made dies.



Obverse die 1i



Reverse die Ai



Obverse die 1ii
Note drapery
offset to portrait



Die 1i / Ai
BM 1951,0203.29
0.88g

Die 1i / Ai
FM 40 3
0.93g
Ex C.E. Blunt

Die 1i / Ai?
Rn 2330
0.88g

Die 1i / Ai
Ebay
wnr



Die 1ii / Ai
FM 49 4
0.81g



Die 1ii / Ai
Rn 2290b
0.74g



Die 1ii / Ai
DNW 2019 Feb 88
0.93g
J. Hullet

It is of interest to note (and not unexpectedly) that the Lis punch used on the Mullet and Lis London made dies is the same punch as is used on the York Royal mint Annulet issue coins. Whereas the local made Mullet and Lis dies has a different punch.



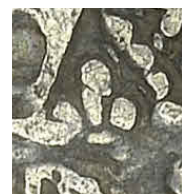
Henry VI annulet
issue York penny



Detail of the Lis of
Henry VI Annulet issue
York penny



Detail of the Lis of the
London made Mullet
and Lis



Detail of the Lis of the
Local made Mullet
and Lis

Mullet and Lis York Pennies Local made dies.

I have identified 3 obverse and 3 reverse dies for this group.



Die 1i oval inner circle



Die 1ii round inner circle



Die 1iii as 1ii but note position of IM to E of ANGLIE



Die Ai
Note positioning of annulet stop after TAS



Die Aii
Note positioning of annulet stop After TAS



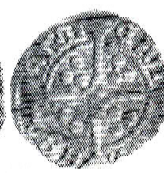
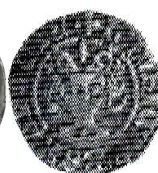
Die Aiii
Note positioning of second I in CIVI to inner circle



Die 1i / Ai
AM HCR74509
0.82g



Die 1i / Ai
DNW 2018 Jun 198
0.87g
J. J. Atkinson



Die 1i / Ai
Delme Radcliffe
103i
0.84g



Die 1i / Ai
SCA 16022_1294_1
0.92g
Ex CNG 453298



Die 1i / Aii
BM 1896,0609.162
0.89g



Die 1ii / Ai
DNW 2018 Nov 637
0.85g
R. Inder

Die 1ii / Aii
FM 49 2
0.80g
C.E. Blunt

Die 1ii / Aii
DNW 2018 Nov 637
0.80g
R. Inder



Die 1ii / Aiii
BM 1935,0401.6215
0.89g



Die 1ii / Aiii
BM
1935,0401.6216
wnr



Die 1iii / Ai
AM HCR74508
0.68g



Die 1iii / Ai
BM 1935,0401.6214
0.90g

Rosette Mascle, mullets by crown mule with reverse of the Mullet and Lis Local issue.



RM / Die Aii
BM 1969,0514.9
0.66g

Conclusion

The Mullet and Lis issue of pennies should be relocated from Henry V to Henry VI. They would appear to have been issued in 1430 on the re-opening of the Ecclesiastical mint.

This would place them either at the start of the Rosette Mascle issue or possibly, given the single annulet placed in one quarter of the reverse, included in the Annulet Trefoil Sub issue, which also have a single annulet in one quarter, which is currently known only for Calais, but given the extreme rarity of the London pennies of the Rosette Mascle issues, may also have been struck for London but none have been identified to date.

Abbreviations

AM Ashmolean Museum,
BM British Museum,
FM Fitzwilliam Museum,
CNG Classic Numismatic Group,
DNW Dix Noonan and Webb now Noonans,
SCA Spink Coin Auction.

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