

A Re-evaluation of the Classification of Henry V Pennies

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Some 15 years ago, when writing the *Galata Guide To Medieval Halfgroats Galata Print 2010*, I found a need to reclassify the halfgroats of Henry V class C into three classes C, D and E based on the portrait styles and crowns.

This worked very well and brought the issue into line with the gold coinages and placed classes A and B as Henry IV issues and class C as a transitional issue and classes D to G as true Henry V.

Whilst working on the latest series of Galata Guides, *Galata Guide To Medieval Pennies, vol II Henry IV - VI* I found that, similar to the halfgroats, the accepted classification of the pennies by Brooke then Potter, Harris and Lord Stewartby was somewhat flawed by basing classes C to E on the form of the annulet mark by the crown/hair (the present classification system used in the Spink *Coins of England* and in the J.J. North *English Hammered Coinage vol II*).

I would like to put forward the following as a better way of defining the pennies of Henry IV/V and V. Labelled as Types to prevent confusion with Brooke's classes.

The criteria for the identification of Classes A, F and G remains the same (with the exception of the Mullet and Lis York pennies previously of class G which I re-located to Henry VI Rosette Mascle issue) see BNS blog D Greenhalgh A Henry V or VI York Penny Conundrum 23 Aug 2023 and the addendum to same 26 Sept 2023.

New Classification (The old Brooke classification in parenthesis)

Henry IV/V

Type A (Class A) September (?) 1412 - March 1413 found for London only.

Initial mark cross pattée with central pellet



Annulet and pellet by crown



Squat lettering



Busts Fat,



scowling



emaciated



It may be possible to further separate so-called scowling bust coins into a class B type alongside the altered dies of Henry IV but to date all the coins of this obverse die share reverse dies with the true class A coins.

Brooke's original identification referred to the Class A coins as Scowling issue and class B as emaciated but they became transposed at the printers and the error has been perpetuated ever since.



Actual size

Henry IV V

Type B London Only

Altered Henry IV and Henry V dies September (?) 1412 - March 1413 found for London only.
 Henry IV light coinage London dies and Class A die altered by addition of a mullet over the pellet by the crown.



Annulet and Mullet over pellet



Henry IV die



Henry IV/V class A die



Actual size



SA 16022_1262_1
0.89g



DNW 2019 Jul 689 x
NYM
0.83g



Henry IV/V Transitional

Type C (Class B London only) 1413 found for London and Durham

Initial mark plain cross



Annulet and Mullet by low (Class A) crown

New Lettering



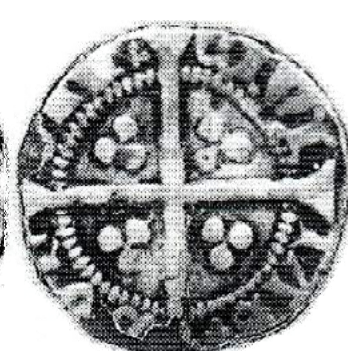
Portrait with distinctive Larynx



London
DNW 2019 Jul 691 x
NYM
0.89g



Durham
E. Harris D4
wnr



Actual size




Actual size

Henry V

Type D (Class C) found for London, Durham and York.

Initial mark plain cross   or pierced cross  

New tall crown, mullet and annulet by crown (often broken) 

Portrait with prominent larynx  

London
DNW 2023 Mar 2086
Graham
0.97g



Actual size

Durham
SA 16022_1268_1
Stewartby EC pl 21 388
0.85g



Actual size

York London made die
L Stone
0.95g



Actual size



York local made dies
DNW 2005 Mar 252
0.93g




Actual size

Henry V

Type E (Class C and D) found for London, Durham and York.

Initial mark pierced cross  

Tall crown, mullet and annulet by crown  (sometimes broken) 

Portrait without larynx 

London
CNG 90 2152
0.90g



Actual size 

Durham
DNW 2018 Nov
635 R. Inder
0.93g



Actual size 

York London made dies
CNG 92 2506
ex A. Wayne ex RCL
0.88g



Actual size 

York local made dies
BM 1935,0401.6708
0.72g



Actual size 

Henry V

Type F (Class F) found for London and York.

Initial mark pierced cross pattée



Tall crown, mullet and trefoil by crown



Portrait without larynx



London
SA 2023 Dec 439
Haddenham
0.91g



Actual size

York London made dies
FM 47 15
C. E. Blunt
Stewartby pl 22 400
1.02g



Actual size

York local made dies
DNW 2019 Jul 704
North York Moors
0.91g



Actual size

Henry V

Type G (Class G) found for London, Durham and York.

London

Initial mark pierced cross pattée



Drapery with 'armpits'



New crown, without marks



Portrait without larynx



London
SA 16022_1265_1
0,94g



Actual size

Durham

Initial mark Plain Cross with hollow centre



Drapery with 'armpits'



New crown, with mullet and annulet



Portrait without larynx



Annulet in one quarter of reverse

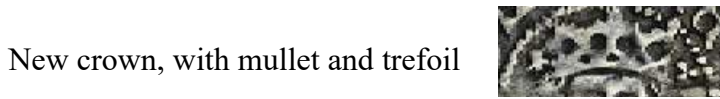


Durham
SA 16022_1268_1
0,85g



Actual size

York



London made dies
SA 16022_1273_1
SA 14005_571_1
Delme Radcliffe 103
Mangakis, RCL
Harris Y15
0.77g



Local made dies
FM 45 11
C. E. Blunt
0.82g



For simplicity I have only concerned this note with selected examples of the obverse dies. The obverse and reverse dies are dealt with fully in the forthcoming Galata guide *Galata Guide To Medieval Pennies, vol II Henry IV - VI*.

I believe that this amended classification is a more realistic picture of the sequence of the types of this period.