

## An unpublished Waterford penny type of Edward IV

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The purpose of this brief note is to record a type of Waterford penny of Edward IV that has not been published before. The type is represented by two specimens, from the same pair of local dies, one of which is in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI), and the other is in the Ulster Museum, National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI), Figure 1:



Figure 1. The two representatives of the type. Top, NMIHC:2002.1078 in the National Museum of Ireland, image © National Museum of Ireland. Bottom, NMNI BELUM.X35452 in the Ulster Museum, image courtesy National Museums Northern Ireland.

The weight of the NMI specimen is 0.56g; that of the NMNI specimen, 0.50g. Approximately 5-10% of the NMNI specimen has been lost to a chip; the weight when whole would thus have been somewhere from 0.52-0.55g. The obverse initial mark is only visible on the NMI specimen. It is of circular shape, though its exact form is uncertain; it is perhaps a rose. The obverse legend is “ EDW[ARD DI GR(?)] DNS H[YB(?)]ERNIE ”, where the terminal E is reversed. There are pellets either side of the neck. The reverse is of plain cross and pellets type with no central quatrefoil; the mint signature is “ CIVI-TAS-WAT-FORD ”.

The pellets-by-neck type is attested, in conjunction with a reverse quatrefoil, at Waterford (Burns 2017 W-6; Spink 2020 6376B) in the third cross-and-pellets coinage, 1473-79. However the portrait of the previously-recorded type is quite different, and shared with the other controlled mints (Dublin, Drogheda, Trim) of the period. The portrait of the specimens of Figure 1 is local. It difficult to be absolutely certain due to the poor condition of

the two specimens of Figure 1, but to the best of the author's judgment and knowledge of other Irish pennies of Edward IV, their portrait is not shared with any other coins. It is stylistically similar, but it seems not identical, to the heavy weight standard local Waterford portraits of the 1465-67 coinage (Spink 2020 6320A, 6320C). The weight standard from 1465-67 was 0.68g for a penny, and the extant specimens of S6320A and 6320C are often, but not always, at or almost full weight. However, the weight of both specimens of Figure 1 is lower. The NMI specimen is slightly heavier than the light weight standard (0.52g for a penny) that pertained from 1473-79; the NMNI specimen, when whole, would have been just above the light standard. Because of these conflicting indicators – style on one hand versus weight (of two specimens only) on the other – the attribution of the coins reported here to a particular coinage is ambiguous, and no more precise attribution than to either 1465-67 or 1475-79 (when the Waterford mint was authorised to coin) is attempted.

## References

- Burns, J., 2017. 'Irish Hammered Pennies of Edward IV – Henry VII', fifth edition (Waynesboro).
- Spink 2020. '*Coins of Scotland, Ireland and the Islands (Jersey, Guernsey, Man and Lundy) including Anglo-Gallic Coins*'.

