



The Voided Long Cross Pennies of Henry III

Robert Page

A Joint Production from www.henry3.com
and UK Detector Net

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>About the Author</i>	<i>ii</i>
1) Introduction to the coinage and class 1a	1
2) Brussels and Colchester Hoards, and class 1b	6
3) Class 2a	12
4) Class 1b/2a Mules	15
5) Class 2b	19
6) Class 3	23
7) Examples of Coin Reverses from the Provincial Mints	30
8) Class 4	39
9) Classes 5a, 5b, 5c	42
10) Classes 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g, 5h, 5i	49
11) Classes 6 & 7.....	56
12) Frequency tables for pennies with sceptre	59
13) The Irish coinage of Henry III	62
14) Continental Imitations – Without Sceptre	73
15) Continental Imitations – With sceptre	78
 BIBLIOGRAPHY	 86

Preface

This booklet is a joint publication between www.henry3.com and UK Detector Net; and is a compilation of the articles on the Henry III long cross coinage written by myself and published monthly in WORD from February 2017 to January 2018. The articles have been supplemented with some additional material. The publication is not a rigorous academic treatment of the topic but does provide a useful overview of the coinage to meet the needs of metal detectorists, collectors and anyone wishing to identify a Henry III long cross penny. The articles do include some information that has not previously been published elsewhere.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the images and input provided by numerous detectorists and others who have contributed to henry3.com.

More details on the coinage are to be found on the www.henry3.com website which is continuously being updated, and so hyperlinks in this document will always take you to the latest available information. Any future revised editions of this booklet will be notified on the home page of the henry3.com website.

The publication is being provided as a free service for detectorists and other readers; copies of this booklet may not be reproduced for sale.

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About the author

Rob is a retired geologist with interests in archaeology and numismatics as well as metal detecting; his home club is the Weald and Downland MDC but he is also a member of several other clubs. His coin collecting interest is the hammered coinage of Britain and N.W. Europe, with a particular focus on the voided long cross coinage of Henry III, on which he is currently conducting further research.

Rob has previously published several articles on the voided long cross pennies in "The Searcher" magazine, as well as the series of articles in WORD. In November 2017 he was elected to the council of the British Numismatic Society.

Chapter 1

Introduction to the Coinage, and Class 1a

Alongside Edward I pennies and coins of Elizabeth I, the pennies of Henry III are amongst those most commonly found by detectorists. They are a particularly interesting series of coins given the variety in types that exist. Many are quite common but there are some notable rarities too. In this series we will be looking at the different types and provide some information on relative scarcity.

The state of the money circulating in England in the 1240s was poor. The coins were of the short cross type introduced more than sixty years beforehand by Henry II, and the last general re-coinage had taken place during John's reign in 1205. As a result, many of the coins were badly worn; many were also clipped and underweight.

In late 1247 the first of the new voided long cross pennies was issued from the London mint, with production quickly expanding to Canterbury and Bury.

Soon after, in 1248, another sixteen provincial mints were opened, and these were open for a period of two years to 1250 to enable the production of a large volume of the new pennies as soon as possible. These provincial mints then closed, with production continuing only from London, Canterbury, Bury & occasionally Durham.

The King's brother, Richard, Earl of Cornwall, was one of the richest men in England and clearly an astute businessman. He provided a large quantity of silver for the minting of the new coins in return for a half-share of the proceeds from the re-coinage. The terms on which the introduction of the new coinage was conducted, while lucrative for the king and his brother, were very hard for the public. Persons bringing their short cross coins to the exchange would receive only as many new pennies by weight as could be coined from those they handed in, regardless of their face value. A further thirteen pence in every pound, over five per-cent, was charged for the minting expenses, which included a margin from which the Earl and the King derived their profit.

Following Henry III's death in 1272 the coinage continued to be struck in his name during the early years of Edward I's reign.

As only pennies were struck, coins were frequently cut into halves and quarters to make halfpennies and farthings. The cross on the reverse aided this practice. Often there is enough information on a cut half to determine the class, mint and/or moneyer, but this requires a high degree of familiarity with the voided long cross series. Cut quarters can be more problematic, and most are of little interest to collectors.

The long cross pennies exist in 7 major classes and some 38 sub-classes, excluding mules. They were produced over a span of 35 years, and twenty different mints were utilized, though some only for a short while. There are 37 different moneyer names to be found on the coins, and 93 different combinations of mint and moneyer. If you want to collect one example from each mint, moneyer and sub-class then you'd be looking at a collection of over 500 coins, and if you were interested in variations in the spelling and/or punctuation in the inscriptions then you're looking at well over 3000 different coins.

Throw in a few Irish coins of Henry III and some continental imitations and you'll soon realise that the long cross coinage of Henry III is a vast and sometimes complex collecting area. The series of articles to follow will enable you to identify your detector find and let you know whether you have one of the scarce or rare varieties.

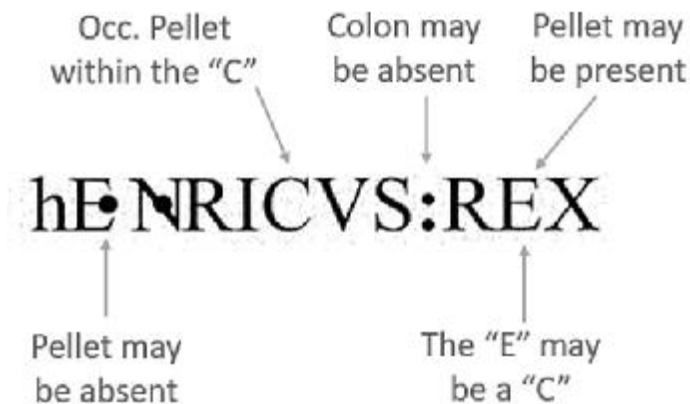
Class 1a

Date issued..... Nov-Dec 1247
Mint..... London
Spink # 1358

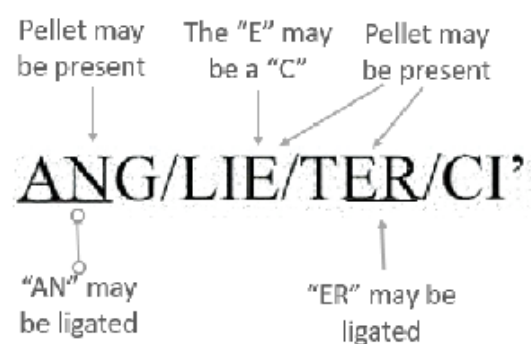
Amongst the rarest of Henry's Voided Long Cross pennies, this class was only minted for a few months before class 1b appeared. The first of these Class 1a coins was issued in November 1247 and only by the London mint under the jurisdiction of Nicholas of St Albans, although neither the mint name nor moneyer name occurs on this class of penny.



Obverse: All class 1 coins. (i.e. both classes 1a & 1b) have a characteristic initial mark of a star above a crescent; classes 2-4 simply have a star, and there is no initial mark on classes 5-7. In class 1, the star normally has 6 points, though stars with five or seven points occur. The text around the king's head reads hENRICVS:REX, and there are many variations in the punctuation etc.



Reverse: the voided cross divides the coin into four quadrants and the surrounding text reads ANG/LIE/TER/CI' ANG is England, and the remainder of the text translates as "The Third". Coins with an obverse as shown on the left but reading LIE/TER/CI/LON are mules (mixtures) of classes 1a and 1b. As with the obverse, the reverse also shows considerable variation in the text...



It is quite feasible that the very first dies of the 1a were made by the most skilled craftsman in the workshop. As it was a completely new design it is more than possible that the dies and/or a striking there from would have been shown to the king & his brother. Note that all pennies are shown enlarged, their actual size is 18-20mm in diameter.

Once the decision to go ahead had been taken, there would have been a need for speed of production and coin issuing and so various different dies might well have been in production at the same time. Naturally the very first dies would be of the highest quality and we may expect that standards may have slipped a little under the pressure of production. We certainly see some variation in the quality of the die preparation of the coins illustrated Here

Varieties: Most coins show a “caul” which looks like a hairnet above the crown, but occasionally this may be absent. See below...



With Caul



Without Caul

Many coins, but not the one shown previously, have pellets present between the hair curls either side of the king's head.

Cut Halves: The number of more sensitive detectors in use today is resulting in the discovery of more cut halves and quarters than in the past. Ideally you would like to find one as shown on the next page, where the text REX before the initial mark clearly shows this to be from class 1a.



The illustration below shows a cut half superimposed on a full coin. If you consider the inscription visible on the cut half then at first you might be unlikely to recognize the cut half as class 1a - however by looking at the position of the lettering it is evident that this is a 1a not a class 1b coin which has a longer inscription, hENRICVS REX ANG. Look for the “V” aligning with the left-hand neckline.



Scarcity: With less than 40 class 1a coins known to still exist, this would be a rare detecting find.

Chapter 2

Brussels and Colchester Hoards, and Class 1b.

In the last chapter we looked at the introduction of the voided long cross (“VLC”) coinage, and the rare class 1a. Whilst this is not a type that most detectorists will come across, this chapter’s class, 1b, is more abundant, and is a type that you may well dig up in a muddy field.



*Example of a class 1b penny,
showing obverse with text
HENRICVS REX ANG*

Before going into the details of class 1b it will be useful to consider how we know the relative scarcity of the various long cross classes. The answer is to do with the evidence from two major hoards.

The Brussels Hoard

Our prime source of information is data from the vast Brussels Hoard, found in 1906.

The hoard is perhaps the largest discovery of medieval silver coins ever made. In Brussels, during 1908, workmen demolishing an old tavern found almost 150,000 silver coins under a cistern at the back of the house. The hoard comprised roughly 64,000 continental coins but also 81,000 English, Scottish and Irish silver pennies. The English pennies being mainly of the voided long cross type.

The hoard may well have been some sort of Royal payment for trade or military purposes. But whatever the reason for its existence, it seems it was deposited for safe-keeping, perhaps in 1267, during the unrest in the Flemish capital at a time when the city's craft guilds armed themselves and rebelled against the authorities.

Perhaps the hoard may simply have belonged to a very rich merchant.

When the hoard was sealed the house in which it was hidden was located just inside the city wall, not far from the main route to Liege. Within a radius of 500 meters the cattle market, the timber market and the hay market were situated. The cathedral was also situated nearby.

Another suggestion for the existence of the hoard is that the money was perhaps connected to the building of the cathedral which had started in 1222, some decades before the coins were abandoned. The building of the cathedral was one of the few projects in medieval Brussels that would have needed such a large sum of money.

The coins ended up being sold at auction in October 1909 in Brussels; they were divided into two lots - one for the continental coins and the other for the British issues. At the sale, the British coins were purchased by Albert Baldwin. He paid fr15,250 (plus a commission of 10%), then equivalent to about £9000, to purchase the lot. That would be equivalent to about £750,000 today, or about £9.25 per coin.

Today less than 20,000 of the Flemish pennies and a large part of the English pennies are believed to be in existence. The majority of the Flemish material seems to have been melted down, most probably in the 1910s and 1920s. A portion of the English material has also been melted down, though presumably the poorer quality coins.

By the year 2000 there was still over half the British portion of the hoard remaining intact at Baldwin's, about 51,000 coins of which about 47,000 were English and the remainder Scottish or Irish, awaited the mammoth task of being analysed and fully recorded. The results of this major study were published in 2012 in a book entitled "*The Brussels Hoard of 1908*" written by Ron Churchill & Bob Thomas. Effectively a new reference work on Henry III coinage, the book, which took over 12 years to complete, presents a detailed analysis of the coins, and has become the prime specialist reference work to consult on the voided long cross series.

The Colchester Hoard

A hoard from Colchester contained the largest amount of voided long cross pennies ever found in England, and provides a valuable data source to supplement the information now available for the Brussels Hoard.

In fact two coin hoards, and an empty container of a possible third hoard, have all been found within a 20m square area along the High Street in Colchester between 1902 and 2000. The first was discovered in 1902 and consisted of over 11,000 English short cross pennies and contemporary Scottish and Irish issues buried in a lead vessel; the closing date being c.1237.

The second hoard is the one of interest to us and was discovered within the same house plot in 1969. It consisted of 14,065 silver pennies buried in a lidded lead canister, mainly of the English voided long cross type alongside some contemporary Scottish and Irish issues. Over

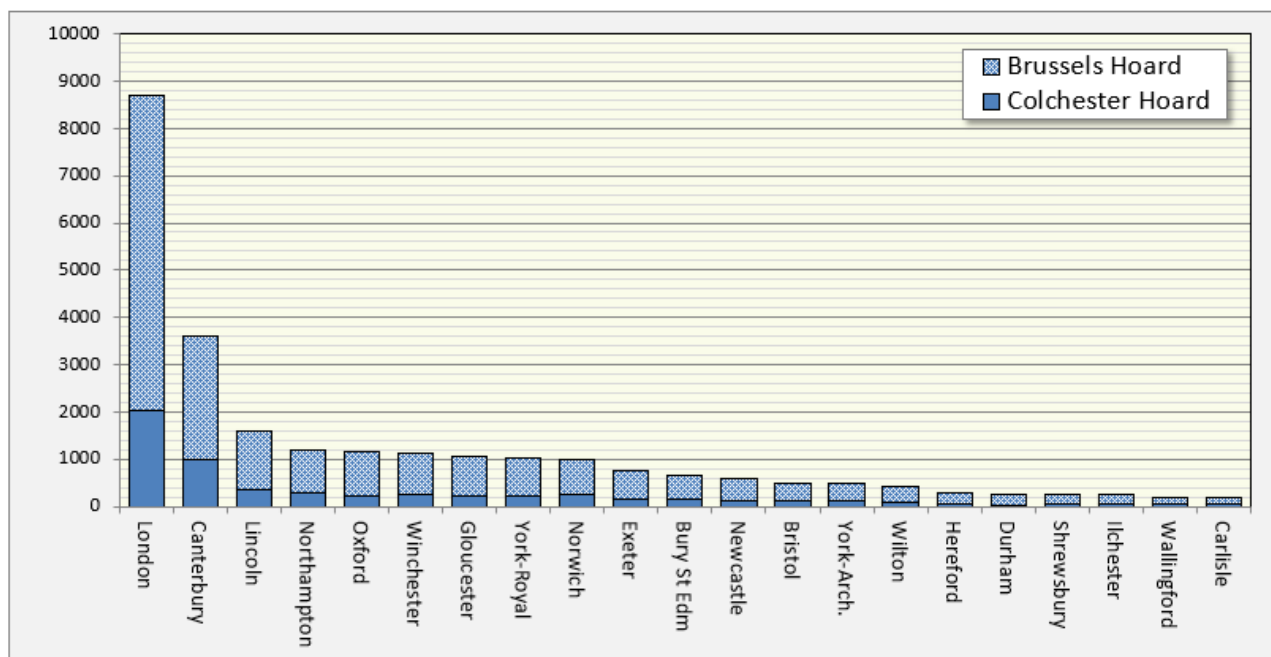
11,300 VLC pennies of classes 1 thru' 5 were found, and in addition there were 1,916 class 6 coins of Ion of Bury. Most of the coins were struck before 1256, with a few additional coins added 16 to 22 years later, giving a final date of deposition of around 1278.

The Colchester hoards are likely to have been the property of a Jewish financier. Moreover, their non-recovery maybe directly connected to Jewish persecution of the late thirteenth century that culminated in the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290. It is known from contemporary evidence that in the 1270s several stone houses of the Jewish community stood on the site where the hoards were found.

Data from the hoards

The statistical analysis of the data from these two hoards, particularly The Brussels Hoard, provides us with a good idea of relative scarcity of the different types for most classes. The Brussels Hoard was sealed sometime during class 5g, so class 5g is incomplete, and data on classes 5h, 5i, 6 & 7 is not present. Similarly, the Colchester Hoard was first sealed during class 5c times, and was then later re-opened for the addition of over 1900 class 6 coins.

In the articles to follow we'll look at various graphs produced from the data from these two hoards. To start with, at the bottom of the page is a bar-chart that gives a view on the relative abundance on coins from the different mints.



Class 1b

Date issued: c. December 1247

Mints: London, Canterbury, Bury

Spink # 1359

Class 1a, the topic of the previous article, is a relatively simple class, in that it was only issued from one mint, London, and neither the mint name nor a moneyers' name appeared on the coin. Things get a little more complex with class 1b as production now spreads from London to Canterbury and Bury as well, and the mint name now appears on the coins, but no moneyers' names as yet.

Class 1b has a change of obverse and reverse legends, putting "ANG" onto the obverse and adding the mint name to the reverse. London coins are the commonest and Bury the scarcest.



Most 1b coins begin "hEN..." or "hEH..." (as above) and occur in similar numbers. The use of H/N is believed to be a matter of style of the die-maker. More details on the substitution of an "H" for an "N" can be found [here](#).

A variety worth finding is a coin having an obverse with a double cross-bar on the letter H. Another point to look at is the number of pellets below the crown; five pellets are most commonly seen, then three, and scarcest are those with four pellets.

On most coins the beard on the king's face is made up of a series of pellets, however on some coins the beard is made of strokes, see right.





Left: Reverse of a London coin, reading "LOH" for London. Other mint spellings are "LON" and "LVN".

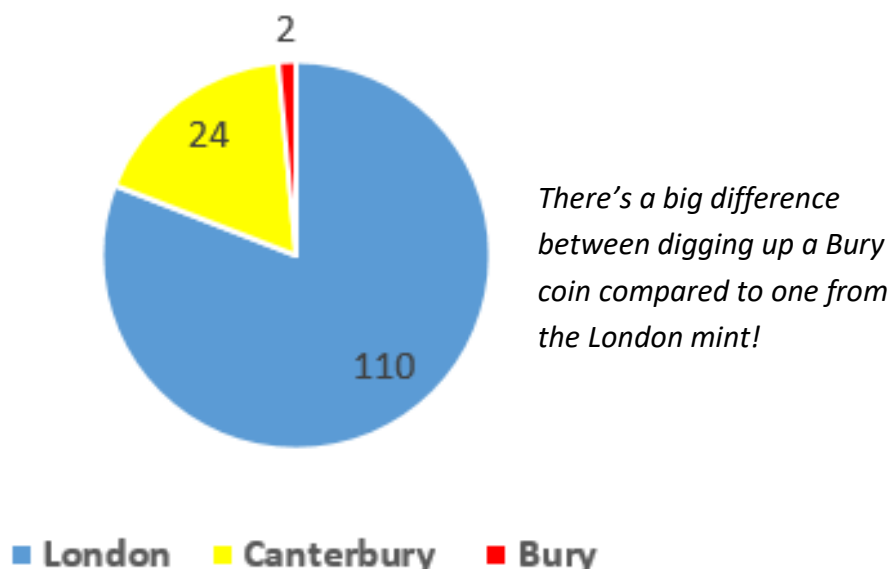
Below: A rare cut half of Bury, a metal detecting find from Cambridgeshire.



Coins from Canterbury read LIE/TER/CI'/CAN and those from Bury read LIE/TER/CI:/AED

When Churchill and Thomas studied the remnants of the Brussels Hoard they were looking at about two-thirds of the original quantity of English coins. Some 25,000 coins having been sold, stolen or melted down. Of the coins that were sold it must be assumed that more of the relatively rarer pennies were disposed of in comparison to more common coins. One must therefore realise that rarer coins are probably under-represented in the remnants of the hoard available for the Churchill and Thomas study. Nevertheless, the contents of the 50,000 or so coins that they examined give a rough idea of relative abundance of various pennies.

Here is what the data show for class 1b:



Varieties

In addition to the beard of strokes, class 1b from both London and Canterbury obverses can be found with "ANG" abbreviated to "AN". On London coins, the H of hENRICVS may be found with a double cross-bar.

Mules (mixtures) of class 1a and 1b are also found....

	Obverse Text	Reverse Text
1a	hENRICVS REX	LIE/TER/CI'/ANG
1a/1b Mule	hENRICVS REX	LIE/TER/CI'/LON
1b/1a Mule	hENRICVS REX ANG	LIE/TER/CI'/ANG
1b	hENRICVS REX ANG	LIE/TER/CI'/LON

As class 1a was only issued by the London mint, both these mules are also from London only. The 1a/1b and 1b/1a mules are equally as rare as class 1a coins, and so are unlikely to be seen by most detectorists. The 1a/1b mules are found with and without a caul.

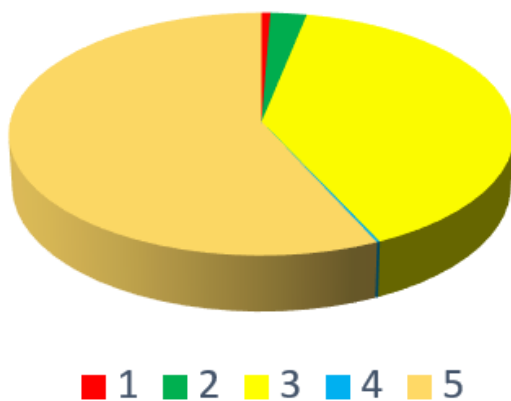
As previously noted, class 1b coins can be found with either three, four or five pellets under the crown; four pellet coins are the scarcest and most sought after.

More details, with plenty of images, can be found on the www.henry3.com website—where there are separate pages for the class 1b coins from the mints of [London](#), [Canterbury](#) and [Bury](#).

Chapter 3

Class 2a

In previous chapters we looked at the rare class 1a and class 1b coins; in this section we move on to class 2 which is a group that you have a slightly better chance of finding when out detecting. In terms of relative scarcity we can use hoard data to have a look at the approximate relative abundance of the different classes. The following pie chart shows the data for classes 1 through 5 as revealed by the data from the Brussels and Colchester Hoards:



It is quite evident that most of the Henry III pennies you find are likely to be class 3 or class 5, and in due course we'll look at those in some detail. This section's topic, class 2a, constitutes only a part of the green wedge shown above, so we are still looking at a relatively scarce group of coins.

Class 2a

Date first issued: Dec. 1247

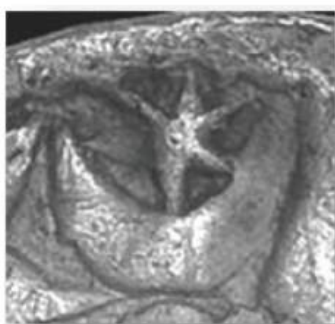
Mints: London, Canterbury and Bury.

Spink Catalogue # 1361

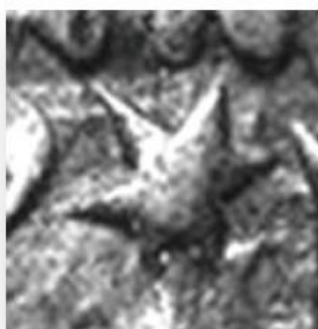
The design of the new voided long cross pennies changed quickly in the first few months of production. The first coins, class 1a, issued from Nov 1247 only have hENRICVS REX on the obverse, these were quickly replaced by class 1b having the abbreviation "ANG" moved from the reverse to the obverse of the coin, thus making room for the mint name on the reverse, and less than two months after the first introduction of the new coinage, class 2 coins appeared with their easily recognizable obverse legend of hENRICVS REX TERC' or ... TERC.

During the life of class 2, production was expanded to a few of the provincial mints. All the class 2 coins carry on the reverse both the mint name and the moneyer's name. They are subdivided into classes 2a, 2b1 and 2b2. In this chapter we are looking at class 2a as well as mules of 1b and 2a, and in the next chapter we'll tackle class 2b. It is with class 2b that we see

the expansion to the provincial mints, as class 2a was only issued at London, Canterbury and Bury.



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3

A key feature for distinguishing classes 2a & 2b1/2b2 is the style of the initial mark; class 2a has the more irregular type 2 initial mark, and class 2b usually the more regular type 3. In addition, the busts of class 2a resemble those seen on class 1a and 1b coins. whereas class 2b busts are of a different style.

The figures above show some of the initial marks found on the obverse of Henry III pennies. Type 1, a star and crescent, is restricted to classes 1a and 1b, type 2 is seen on class 2a, and type 3 features on classes 2b1/2b2 and most of class 3. The initial mark is not always clear or reliable; with experience one can judge class by the shape of the bust too.

Class:	2a	2b1	2b2
Initial Mark:	2	3	3
Letter "X"	Curved	Curved	Straight
London	X	X	X
Canterbury	X	X	X
Bury	X	X	X
Lincoln		X	
Northampton		X	
Winchester		X	
Exeter			X
Gloucester			X
Norwich			X
Oxford			X
York			X

If you think you have a class 2a coin, then you may wish to confirm the identification by comparing it to some of the examples illustrated on the henry3.com website.

The table on the left provides a useful summary of class 2 mints.

The features differentiating classes 2a and 2b1/2b2 will be covered in the following chapter, but for now I will focus on class 2a, who's most distinguishing feature is the bust style and type 2 initial mark.

There occurs a degree of variation in both the shape of the type 2 initial mark, and in the bust style. Additionally, coins are found with either three or five pellets under the crown-band. A few coins can be quite difficult to classify between 2a and 2b1. To help with this challenge here are some examples; and additional examples can be seen by using these web-links: [London](#), [Canterbury](#), [Bury](#).



This first example is a 2a coin from Bury, and shows a clear, easily recognizable, example of a type 2 initial mark ("IM2"). Note the long, thin and somewhat irregular points. Also look at the style of the letter X: this is also seen on class 2b1 coins so beware! The shape of the bust though is different to that seen on class 2b pennies. On this particular example the letter H is the variety with the double cross-bar.



Another example from Bury, again with a very clear example of IM2. This coin has no pellet in the legend after REX, in contrast to the example above. Such punctuation variations are common, and help the specialist distinguish between different dies. This coin has a normal "H", i.e. it has one cross-bar, and, like the coin above, it has five pellets under the crown-band.



A class 2a penny from London. Like the previous examples this also has five pellets under the crown. A slightly unusual IM type 2 - note the raised center. This coin has a notably wide crown-band.

Chapter 4

Class 1b/2a Mules

Mints: London & Canterbury.

Spink # 1360

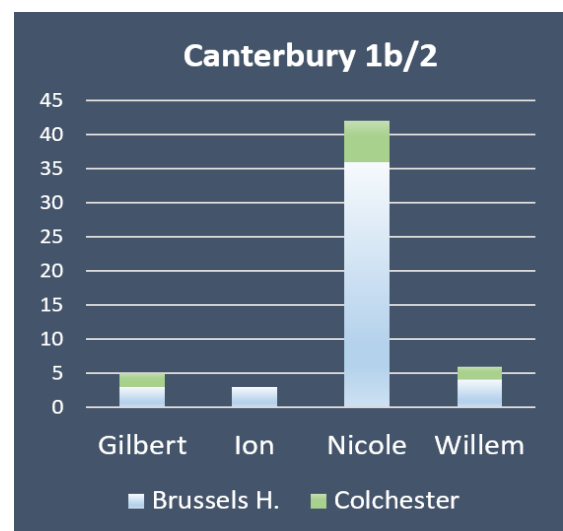
These coins are easy to recognise, having the “HENRICVS REX ANG” text of a class 1b obverse, combined with a reverse that contains the moneyer’s name – Nicole at both London and Canterbury, and also Ion, Gilbert and Willem at Canterbury. There were no 1b/2 coins from Bury found in the Brussels Hoard, which is not surprising as the Bury dies were issued in pairs.



An example of a scarce class 1b/2 mule from Canterbury, moneyer Willem.

In the portion of the Brussels Hoard studied by Churchill and Thomas there were 98 class 1b/2 mules, these being more abundant than the 70 class 2a coins. From Canterbury there were found about half as many of these mules in the hoard; 46 coins, but the majority, 36 of them, were from the moneyer Nicole, with three each from Gilbert and Ion, and four of Willem.

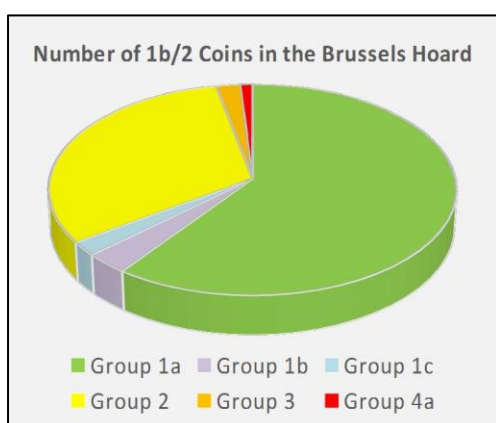
In the Colchester Hoard there were six Canterbury coins of Nicole, and two each of Gilbert and Willem, none for Ion, a total of 10. There were 32 of Nicole of London. The data from both hoards suggests London 1b/2 mules are two to three times more common than those of Canterbury, and the data also clearly show that Ion, Gilbert and Willem to be the scarcest moneyers.



With the high degree of variability in the 1b obverses, combined with the various reverse legends, it is clear that there are quite a number of varieties of 1b/2 mule that can be recognised. I have looked at the 1b/2 coins of London; much of the variation being in minor differences in pellets in the legend. However other variations are perhaps more useful in subdividing this class. In the scheme presented below I have looked on the obverse as to whether hENRICVS is spelt with an "N" or an "H" and more importantly the style of the letter R, and on the reverse I have primarily considered the spelling of London. Types with an R other than type R1 are rarer.

Group	London	hEH/N	R	# BH Types	# BH Coins	Notes
Group 1a	L/VHD	hEH	R1	9	57	
Group 1b	L/VHD	hEH	R2	2	3	
Group 1c	L/VHD	hEH	R4	1	2	
Group 2	L/VHD	hEN	R1	9	30	
Group 3	L/VND	hEH	R5	1	2	Also note NIC not HIC
Group 4	/LVH	hEN	R3	1	1	3 /LVN or /LVH in Colch. Hoard.

The documentation for the Colchester Hoard does not distinguish between the use of "H" or "N" in the legends so the Colchester data cannot unfortunately be combined with that from the Brussels Hoard; this analysis is therefore based upon only the London coins of the Brussels Hoard recorded by Churchill and Thomas (2012). The table shows the hierarchy of the three features I have used to sub-divide class 1b/2. First I have looked at how the mint name has been portrayed on the reverse; nearly all the coins (97%) have "L/VHD" - these have been divided into two groups based on whether the obverse has "hEH..." or "hEN...", with the "hEH" type being about twice as common as "hEN". reverses.



Group 1 has been further sub-divided based on the shape of the letter "R" - most being R1 but a few scarce coins being R2 or R4. The scarce groups 3 and 4 are distinguished by their spelling of London - L/VND or /LVH. The latter is represented by just one specimen in the Brussels Hoard but there were 3 /LVN or /LVH coins in the Colchester Hoard. The common groups, 1a and 2, are each present in the Brussels Hoard in nine different types - with the differences between them mainly involving the use of pellets. For those wishing to pursue this level of detail reference to Churchill and Thomas's book is essential. The subdivision of the 1b/2 coins here is simply an attempt at a clear grouping of types, and has no implied chronological significance. In fact, it may be that group 4 is the earliest as it is the only group that uses a form of mint spelling seen in class 1b.

Examples of 1b/2 mules from the London mint:

Group 1b



A particularly fine example of Group 1b, having “hEH” and R type R2. This example unusually has pellets between the two hair curls – these being infrequently seen on class 1b obverses.

Group 2



Group 2 coins are the second commonest type; they closely resemble group 1a having R type R1, but hENRICVS is spelled with an “N” not an “H”.

Group 4



Although not in the best condition, one can clearly read the legends. On the reverse we read HIC/OLE/OHE/LVH which has a scarce spelling of London for this class. Most coins read L/VHD. There was only one of these in the Brussels Hoard, and three in the Colchester Hoard, so quite a scarce find. Now in the author's collection.

Before leaving this chapter here is a possibly unique coin, a very rare class 2a/1b mule, of which I only know of only this example in existence, a 2006 metal detecting find.



Although these particular images are not particularly clear, one can read the obverse legend of hENRICVS REX TERCIVS of class 2, and the reverse inscription of LIE/TER/CIVS/LVH of class 1b. This subclass, 2a/1b, was unknown until 2006. Churchill and Thomas had surmised that the 1b reverse dies were withdrawn when the class 2a dies were delivered, but this now appears to have not been the case. With only one known specimen of 2a/1b it is unlikely that many of these coins were struck, and it will be interesting to see if further examples emerge. This coin is currently one off the greatest rarities of the Henry III long cross series.

Chapter 5

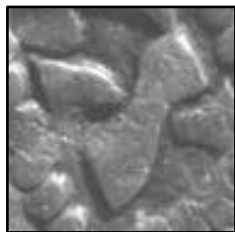
Class 2b

Mints: London, Canterbury, Bury & 8 provincial mints.
Spink # 1361A

In the earlier articles we saw how the initial design of the voided long cross pennies changed rapidly and how production spread from coins being minted at London only (class 1a) to being minted at Canterbury and Bury also (classes 1b and 2a). After class 2a was introduced, production was ramped up by the opening of some mints in the provinces. These provincial coins (class 2b) are slightly different from the class 2a coins which were issued only at London, Canterbury and Bury. It is these class 2b coins that are the subject of this chapter.

Class 2b saw the introduction of initial mark type 3, and also saw the change of the shape of the letter X from one with asymmetric limbs to an X of more regular appearance. Furthermore, the shape of the king's bust evolved.

The coins issued in the provincial mints were issued in only one type, i.e. 2b1 or 2b2 from each of these mints. So, if you find a class 2 coin from any of the provincial mints you don't have to be concerned about identifying whether it is a 2b1 or 2b2 coin. And none of the provincial mints issued class 2a coins.



X type 1 on the left, X type 2 on the right.



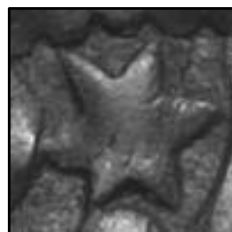
Where you do have to become concerned with determining the difference between 2a, 2b1 and 2b2 is with the coins of London, Canterbury and Bury. For this reason we'll now take a look at the differences. The different styles of letter X are shown above. X type 1 is seen on coins of classes 2a and 2b1, with X type 2 occurring on class 2b2.

2a and 2b1 are differentiated by reference to the initial mark, and to the bust. Examples of the two different types of initial mark are shown below, though keep in mind that as these shapes were produced by hand there is some variation in their style:

IM2



IM3



IM2 with the thinner and more irregular star points is usually only found on class 2a. Combining the shape of the letter X and the initial mark ("IM") data we see:

<u>Class</u>	<u>IM</u>	<u>Letter X</u>
2a	IM2	X1
2b1	IM3	X1
2b2	IM3	X2

Class 2a was covered in the last chapter; below are shown a couple of examples of 2b1 and 2b2 coins:



The first example, on the left, is a coin of the moneyer Ricard from Lincoln. The style of the letter X is clearly X1, and the initial mark is IM3; we are thus looking at a class 2b1 coin.



The next example is a penny from Norwich. The letter X is now X type 2 with the symmetrical arms, and the initial mark is type 3, clearly a coin of class 2b2.

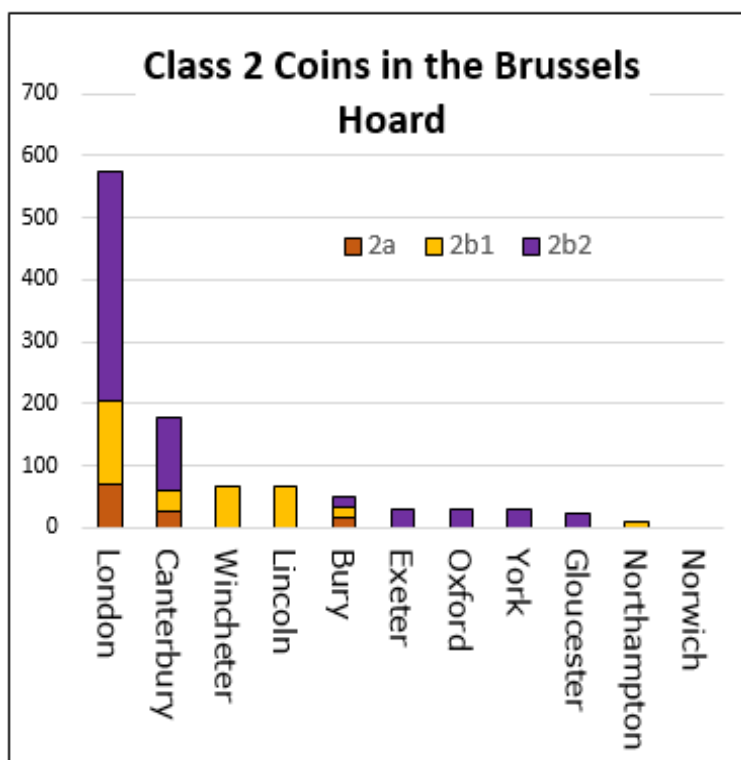
	2a	2b1	2b2		2a	2b1	2b2
Issued from	Early 1248	March 1248	Mid-1248	Issued from	Early 1248	March 1248	Mid-1248
London				Exeter			
Nicole	X	X	X	Ion			X
				Phelip			X
Canterbury				Robert			X
Nicole	X	X	X	Walter			X
Gilbert	X	X	X				
Willem	X	X	X	Gloucester			
				Ion			X
Bury				Lucas			X
Ion	X	X	X	Ricard			X
				Roger			X
Lincoln							
Ion		X		Norwich			
Ricard		X		Huge			?
Walter		X		Jacob			X
Willem		X		Ion			X
				Willem			X
Northampton							
Lucas		X		Oxford			
Philip		X		Adam			X
Tomas		X		Gefrei			X
Willem		X		Henri			X
				Willem			X
Winchester							
Huge		X		York			
Iurdan		X		Alain			X
Nicole		X		Jon			X
Willem		X		Jermie			X
				Rener			X

This table shows the mints and moneyers for the three sub-classes of class 2 (The “TERCI” coins). An “X” shows where coins were issued. The two main mints of London and Canterbury, as well as the ecclesiastical mint at Bury, issued all three types. Four provincial mints only issued 2b1 coins, and five provincial mints only issued 2b2.

Sometimes determining the class of a Henry III penny can be more of an art than a science. Although there were some deliberate changes in design throughout the series, there was also a degree of gradual evolution of some features, complicated by the fact that different die makers introduced changes faster than others; hence some of the variations we see may simply be due to differences in style of the different workers. Some coins may thus show features of two different classes, and it can take a degree of experience to correctly identify a coin; though identification of some coins may continue to be problematic.

There are some variations on Henry III pennies which are not specific characteristics of any particular class; such variations include, for example, some variation in the design of the crown, the occasional presence of pellets between the king's hair curls, and variation in pellets or colons in the obverse text.

We can use the data from the vast Brussels Hoard to give us an idea of the relative scarcity of the different class 2 coins from the mints that produced them. The bar graph coming up shows us that coins from London, and, to a lesser extent from Canterbury, are more common than those from Bury and the provincial mints. Class 2 coins are known from Norwich but none were present in the Brussels Hoard as studied by Churchill and Thomas, though during 2017 some class 2 coins came to light which probably originated from the hoard. In addition to showing the relative scarcity of the different mints, we can also observe from the colours that 2a is the scarcest class, and 2b2 the commonest.



If you have found a class 2 coin and wish to compare it to known examples, the following links will take you to the appropriate pages on the henry3.com website...

London: [2a](#), [2b1](#) & [2b2](#)

Canterbury: [2a](#), [2b1](#) & [2b2](#)

Bury: [2a](#), [2b1](#) & [2b2](#)

Lincoln: [2b1](#)

Northampton: [2b1](#)

Winchester: [2b1](#)

Exeter: [2b2](#)

Gloucester: [2b2](#)

Norwich: [2b2](#)

Oxford: [2b2](#)

York: [2b2](#)

Chapter 6

Class 3

In previous chapters we have looked at classes 1 & 2, both of which are scarce or rare, and you may not have come across one. However, in this chapter we cover class 3 which is almost as common as class 5.

Class 3 coins were issued between 1248 and 1250; they are readily recognisable; their obverse text reads hENRICVS REX III' and, like classes 1 & 2, the king is not holding a sceptre in his right hand. In the past there were originally only three main sub-divisions of class 3 recognized: 3a, 3b and 3c, but nowadays we can differentiate at least a dozen different sub-classes.

Class 3 was issued by all the long cross mints apart from Durham, though not all sub-classes were issued by each mint. The key things to look for when trying to identify which type of class 3 coin you have dug up are:

1. The type of initial mark (there are 4 different ones appearing in class 3),
2. The shape and width of the bust
3. The shape of the letter R, and in one case, the letter X.

On the following pages there are images of the different subclasses, and some interesting varieties. Firstly, though, please note the four types of initial mark as shown below...



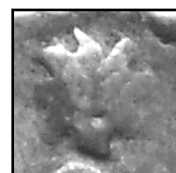
im3



im3*



im4



im5



Class: 3a1

Issued: 1248

Spink # 1362

What to look for: Initial mark type 3.

A relatively narrow bust, similar to some of those in class 2.



Class: 3a1 var.

Issued: 1248

Spink # 1362

What to look for: Similar to 3a1 above, but this variety has a beard of strokes rather than pellets.



Class: 3a2

Issued: 1248

Spink # 1362A

What to look for: A similar width bust as 3a1, but this sub-class has IM 3* - i.e. one of the star points is orientated vertically downwards. Check that the IM has sharp angular points, and not the finger-like points of IM type 4.



Class: 3ab1

Issued: 1248

Spink # 1362B

What to look for: IM3, bust width is intermediate between the narrow bust of 3a1 and the wide bust of 3b.



Class: 3ab2

Issued: 1248

Spink # 1362B

What to look for: Look at the letter X: it is different to that of all other class 3 coins, being more ornate. Otherwise as per 3ab1.



Class: 3b

Issued: 1249/1250

Spink # 1363

What to look for: im3 and with a characteristic facial appearance having a wide bust. Normally easily recognisable.



Class: 3bc (Early)

Issued: 1250

Spink # 1363A

What to look for: We now switch to IM4, having rounded finger-like star points. The bust though is still of class 3b style. The ENR of hENRICVS is usually ligated, in contrast to just NR on non 3bc coins.



Class: 3bc

Issued: 1250

Spink # 1363A

What to look for: IM4, having rounded finger-like star points. The bust now has changed style, and short necklines can often be seen. Again, the ENR of hENRICVS is usually ligated.



Class: 3c

Issued: 1250

Spink # 1364

What to look for: IM4 and a bust dis-similar to the bust types of 3b and 3bc. Bust is generally crude, as shown, but some types are described as “owlish”.



Class: 3d1

Issued: 1250

Spink # 1364A

What to look for: IM4 and wedge-shaped R (R type 1). Can sometimes be confused with 3c. Some 3d1 coins have a pointed bust (as shown), others more rounded. Generally not as crude as 3c.



Class: 3d2

Issued: 1250

Spink # 1364B

What to look for: IM4 and ball-tailed letter R (R type 2), rather than the wedge shaped R. 3d2 & 3d3 are the only types of class 3 coin to have the ball-tailed R.



Class: 3d3

Issued: 1250

Spink # 1364B

What to look for: This one is easy to recognise: it's similar to a class 3d2 coin, with its ball-tailed letter R, but has the eight-pointed IM type 5 as seen on class 4 coins. (Churchill and Thomas treat 3d3 as a variety of 3d2).

	3a1	3a2	3ab1	3ab2	3b	3bc	3c	3d1	3d2	3d3
London	CCC	CC	CCC	S	CCC	CCC	CCC	CCC	CC	S
Canterbury	CC	CC	CC	S	CCC	CC	C	CCC	S	
Bury	S	C	R	RR	S	R	R	S	R	
Winchester	R	S	C	S	CC	S	S			
Gloucester	S	S	C	S	CC		S			
Northampton	C		C	RR	CC	S	R			
Norwich	C	RR	C		CC	S	S			
Oxford	S	S	C		CCC	S	S			
York	S	R	CC		CCC	C	R			
Lincoln	S	C	C		CCC	RR	S			
Exeter	S	RR	C		CC					
Ilchester		RRR	R		C	R	R			
Bristol			S		CC	S	RRR			
Carlisle			S		S	RR	RRR			
Shrewsbury			S		S	RR	R			
Wilton			RR		C	S	S			
Newcastle			C		C		S			
Hereford			S		C		RR			
Wallingford			C		S					

This table shows the relative scarcity for the class 3 pennies from the various mints, but note that not all classes were produced by every moneyer for the given mint. Some moneyers are scarcer than others.

RRR	Rarest
RR	Rarer
R	Rare
S	Scarce
C	Common
CC	Commoner
CCC	Commonest

The colour key that has been used is shown on the left, and relates to the relative scarcity within class 3 only

By looking at the colours one can see that in general London and Canterbury coins are normally commoner than those from the provincial mints, and that classes 3ab1 and 3b are the commonest classes.

The provincial mints were closed down during the manufacture of class 3c, so 3d coins are only found from London, Canterbury and Bury.

See the next two pages for similar charts, but with details for individual moneyers shown.

Class:	3a1	3a2	3ab1	3ab2	3b	3bc	3c	3d1	3d2	3d3
London										
Nicole	CC	C	C	C	CCC	C	C	CC	C	S
Henry	C	C	C	S	CC	C	C	CC	C	S
Davi								R	C	S
Ricard									S	R
Canterbury										
Nicole	C	C	C	C	CC	C	C	C	C	?
Gilbert	C	C	S	?	C	C	RR	C	R	?
Willem	S	C	C	R	C	C	S	C	S	?
Bury										
Ion	C	C	S	R	C	S	S	C	C	?
Lincoln										
Ion	S	S	C		C	RR	C			
Ricard	S	S	C		C	?	S			
Walter	S	C	C		C	?	R			
Willem	RR	C	S		C	RR	R			
Northampton										
Lucas	C		C	RR	C	S	RRR			
Philip	S		C	R	C	S	R			
Tomas	C		C	?	C	S	RR			
Willem	S		C	?	C	R	S			
Winchester										
Huge	RR	S	S	S	C	C	RR			
Iurdan	S	S	C	R	C	S	S			
Nicole	S	C	C	S	C	S	S			
Willem	RR	S	C	S	C	S	S			
Exeter										
Ion	R	S	C		C					
Philip	S	RR	S		C					
Robert	R	RRR	C		C					
Walter	R	RRR	C		C					
Gloucester										
Ion	S	C	C	S	C		S			
Lucas	R	S	C	C	C		S			
Ricard	S	S	C	S	C		S			
Roger	R	S	C	R	C		R			
Oxford										
Adam	R	R	S		C	S	R			
Gefrei	S	S	C		C	S	S			
Henri	S	S	C		C	R	R			
Willem	R	S	C		C	S	C			
York										
Alein	R		C		C					
Ieremie	S	R	C		C	RR				
Ion	S	R	C		C	RRR				
Rener	?	S	C		C					
Thomas		S	S		C	C	C			

Class:	3a1	3a2	3ab1	3ab2	3b	3bc	3c	3d1	3d2	3d3
Norwich										
Huge	S	RRR	C		C	RR	S			
Iacob	C	?	C		C	C	?			
Ion	S	?	C		C	C	?			
Willem	S	RR	S		C	S	S			
Ilchester										
Huge		?	S		C	S	R			
Ierveis		RRR	R		S	RR	S			
Randulf		RRR	R		C	RR	RRR			
Stephen		RRR	RR		S	?	RRR			
Bristol										
Elis			S		C	S	RRR			
Henri			S		C					
Iacob			S		C	S	RRR			
Roger					R	S				
Walter					C	R	RRR			
Carlisle										
Adam			S		S	RRR	?			
Ion			S		C	RRR	RRR			
Robert			S		R	R	?			
Willem			S		R	?	?			
Hereford										
Henri			S		S		?			
Ricard			C		C		RR			
Roger			S		C		R			
Walter			S		S		RR			
Newcastle										
Adam			S		C		S			
Henri			C		C		S			
Ion			C		C		S			
Roger			C		C		S			
Shrewsbury										
Lorenz			S		S	RRR	R			
Nicole			S		S	RR	R			
Peris			S		S	?	S			
Ricard			S		S	?	RR			
Wilton										
Huge			RRR		C	S	S			
Ion			R		C	S	S			
Willem (x2)			R		C	S	S			
Wallingford										
Alisandre			C		RR					
Clement			R		RR					
Ricard			S		S					
Robert			S		S					

Chapter 7

Examples of Coin Reverses from the Provincial Mints

This section provides examples of class 3 reverses from the provincial mints, and for a selection of moneyers. I also include some examples from the ecclesiastical mints of Bury and Durham. Keep in mind that many coins show variations in the legend compared to those shown here. Looking through the legends noted in this section may assist in identifying your coin.

BRISTOL



Five different moneyers were active at Bristol during class 3. Shown is a coin of Ellis, Elyas of Aby, which reads **ELI/SON/BR/VST**. Other moneyers at Bristol were Henry Langbord ("Henri"), James La Warre ("Jacob"), Walter of Paris, and a "Roger" who was possibly Roger de Enveyse. Common reverse readings include:

hEN/RIO/NBR/VST

IAC/OBO/NBR/VST

WAL/TER/ONB/RUS

ROG/ERO/NBR/VST

Coins of Roger are the scarcest.

BURY



Bury is one of the two ecclesiastical mints, and started minting in late 1247 or January 1248 with class 1b. Class 3 coins were issued only by "Ion" - an unknown John. The coin shown above on the left is typical of class 3 Bury reverses, and reads ... **IOH/OHS/EDM/VHD**

Scarcer readings include: **IOH/OHS/EIH/TED** as shown on the right.

CARLISLE



Carlisle is one of the provincial mints with lower production, and consequently Carlisle coins are particularly scarce. The four moneyers at Carlisle were Adam Caperun, John of Bolton ("Ion"), Robert of Chilay and William of Thiperun ("Willem"). Shown here is a coin of Ion, which reads **ION/ON/CAR/LEL**. Coins of Ion are the commonest, whilst Willem is the scarcest.

DURHAM



Durham is the other ecclesiastical mint, and was only operating for the production of classes 5a to 5c, and for class 5g.

There was only one moneyer active at any one time, it being Richard for classes 5a to 5c, and Roger for class 5g. 5a and 5g coins are quite scarce, with 5b and 5c being the ones most usually seen. A coin of Richard is shown on the left, and reads **RIC/ARD/OHD/VRh**.

EXETER

The four moneyers at Exeter were John of Okiston ("Ion"), Philip Tincter, Robert Picon and Walter Okestone. John and Walter being related. On the next page is shown a coin of Phillip, which reads **Phi/LIP/ONE/CCE** and one of Ion, reading **ION/ONE/CCE/TRE**. Typical legends for the other moneyers include **ROB/ERT/ONE/CET** and **WAL/TER/ONE/CET**.



GLOUCESTER



Gloucester's four moneyers were John ("Ion") the son of Simon, Luke of Cornwall, Richard le Francois and Roger Lenveyse. Illustrated here is a coin of Richard:

RIC/ARD/ONG/LOV

Other common reverse readings include:

LVC/ASO/NG/LOV

ION/ON/GLO/VCE

ROG/ERO/NG/LOV

HEREFORD



This is one of the scarcer mints to find coins from. The four moneyers who operated here were Henry Hathefet, Richard Mamworthe, Roger the Mercer and Walter Siward.

The two coins pictured here are from Richard and Walter....

RIC/ARD/ONh/ERE

WAL/TER/ONh/ERE

Typical legends from the other moneyers are..

hEN/RIO/NhE/REF

ROG/ERO/NhE/REF

ILCHESTER



Another scarce mint. Ilchester's moneyers were Hugo le Rus ("Huge"), Gervasius Gris ("Ierveis"), Randulf Fardein ("Randvlf") and Stephen le Rus ("Stephe"). Shown here is coin of Randulf:

RAN/DVL/FON/IVE

Typical legends for the other moneyers include:

hVG/EON/IVE/LCE

IER/VEI/SON/IVE

STE/PhE/ONI/VEL

LINCOLN



A relatively common provincial mint. The four moneyers were John of Louth ("Ion"), Richard de la Ponte ("Ricard"), Walter Brand (?), and William Brand/William of Paris.

Shown on the left is a coin of Walter:

WAL/TER/OHL/IHC

And on the following page is shown a coin of John of Louth:

IOH/OHL/IHC/OLH



Other Lincoln reverse texts include:

WIL/LEM/ONL/INC

RIC/ARD/OHL/IHC

NEWCASTLE



Newcastle also had four moneyers; these being Adam of Blakedone, Henry of Carlisle, John Papede ("Ion") and Roger, the "son of William".

On the left is a coin of Roger:

ROG/ERO/NNE/WEC

Other common legends include:

ADA/MON/NCV/ECA

ADA/MOH/HEV/ECA

HEN/RIO/NNE/WEC

IOH/OHH/EWE/CAS

NORTHAMPTON



Northampton's four moneyers were Lucas Parmentarius, Phillip, son of Robert, Thomas Rinne and William of Gangy. Illustrated here is a penny of William:

WIL/LEM/OHH/ORh'

Other moneyer examples:

LVC/ASO/NNO/RhA

Phi/LIP/OhN/ORh'

TOM/ASO/NNO/RhA

NORWICH



The four Norwich moneyers were Hugo le Brunham ("HVGE"), Jacob Cocus, John Martin (Ion") and William of Hapesburg. Shown here are three different examples..

hVG/EOH/HOR/WIZ

ION/ON/NORW/IZS – with Z reversed

WIL/LEM/ONN/ORW

Other reverse texts include:

IAC/OBO/NNO/RWI



OXFORD



At Oxford the moneyers were Adam Feteplace, Geoffrey Stockwell, Henry Simon and William Sarsorius. Shown here is a coin of William:

WIL/LEM/ONO/XON

Other common Oxford texts include:

ADA/MOH/OXO/HEF

GEF/REI/ONO/XON

hEN/RIO/NO/XON

SHREWSBURY



Shrewsbury is one of the scarcer mints. The four moneyers were Laurence Cox ("Lorenz"), Nicholas, son of Ives ("Nicole"), Peter, son of Clement ("Peris"), and Richard Pride ("Ricard"). Shown here is a coin of Peter :

PER/ISON/SRO/SEB

Other Shrewsbury reverses include:

LOR/EN'/ONS/ROS

NIC/OLE/ONS/ROS

RIC/ARD/OHS/ROS

WALLINGFORD



One of the rarest mints (alongside Carlisle) for the voided long cross series. As with most other provincial mints, there were four moneyers, and these were: Alexander of Stanes ("Alisandre"), Clement the Clerk, Richard Blaune and Robert Pecok. Coins of Clement are particularly scarce. The examples shown here are of Richard and Clement:

RIC/ARD/ONW/ALI

CLE/MEN/TON/WAL

Other Wallingford reverses include:

ALI/SAN/DRE/ONW

CLE/MEH/TOH/WAL

ROB/ERT/ONW/ALI



The rare Clement coin shown at left is a metal detector find from near Lincoln.

WILTON



Wilton coins are fairly scarce (rank #6 in the mint scarcity table). As usual, there were four moneyers but as two of them were named William we only find pennies with three different names. The moneyers were: Hugo Goldrum ("HVGE"), John Berte ("ION"), William the son of Randolph and William Manger. Illustrated is a coin of one of the Williams:

WIL/LEM/ONW/ILT

Other reverse texts include:

hVG/EON/WIL/TON

ION/ONW/ILT/ONE

WINCHESTER



Winchester, the ancient capital of England in pre-Norman times, had the following four moneyers: Hugo Silvester, Jordan Drapparius, Nicholas Cupping and William Prior.

Illustrated are coins of William and Hugo...

WIL/LEM/ONW/INC

hVG/EOH/WIH/ChE

Other reverse texts include:

IVR/DAN/ONW/INC

HIC/OLE/ON/WIH

NIC/OLE/ONW/INC

YORK



York was a little different to the other provincial mints in that the king had his usual number of four moneyers but the Archbishop of York also had a moneyer. The Archbishop's moneyer was named Thomas, and the other four moneyers were Alan Sampson ("ALAIN"), Jeremy Louth of Bedegate ("IEREMIE"), Rayner Taliator ("RENER") and John Selby ("ION").

Illustrated are coins of Thomas and Jeremy...

TOM/ASO/NEV/ERW
IERE/MIE/ONE/VER

Other typical reverse texts include:

ALE/IHO/HEV/ERW
ALA/INO/NEV/ERW
ION/ONE/VER/WIC
REN/ERO/NEV/ERW



This image courtesy of Mark Winiger.

Chapter 8

Class 4

Mints: London, Canterbury, Bury.

Spink # 1365 (4a), 1365A (4ab), 1366 (4b).

In this chapter we are looking at the coins of class 4; which are generally amongst the highest quality voided long cross productions. They were a short-lived issue between the coins of class 3 which had an initial mark and no sceptre, and the coins of class 5 which have a sceptre but no initial mark. Class 4 coins have both an 8-pointed initial mark and a sceptre, and are also easily recognisable by having the word “REX” to the left of the sceptre.

This class was issued by the mints at London, Canterbury and Bury, and occurs in three different sub-classes: 4a, 4ab and 4b. Not all sub-classes were produced by each of the mints.



A class 4 coin showing the presence of an initial mark above the central fleur, with the inscription commencing after the initial mark, and resulting in the word “REX” being located to the left of the sceptre.



Class 4a

Central ornament of pellets, with pellet end ornaments.



Class 4ab

Central fleur, with pellet end ornaments.



Class 4b

Central fleur, with half fleur end ornaments.

For hundreds of years prior to the introduction of the voided long cross coinage a sceptre had commonly appeared on the obverse of English pennies. When the first of Henry III's voided long cross pennies appeared without a sceptre this marked a break with long tradition, and may have been a deliberate attempt to make the new coins more easily distinguishable from the old short cross pennies. After several years of producing the new long cross coins most of the short cross coins in circulation would have been melted down and exchanged for new coins. In 1250 we see the re-introduction of the sceptre with class 4, however the initial design did not last long as it was then decided to do away with the initial mark and commence the legend at about the 11 o'clock position right after the sceptre. This next design being used for classes 5,6 and 7.

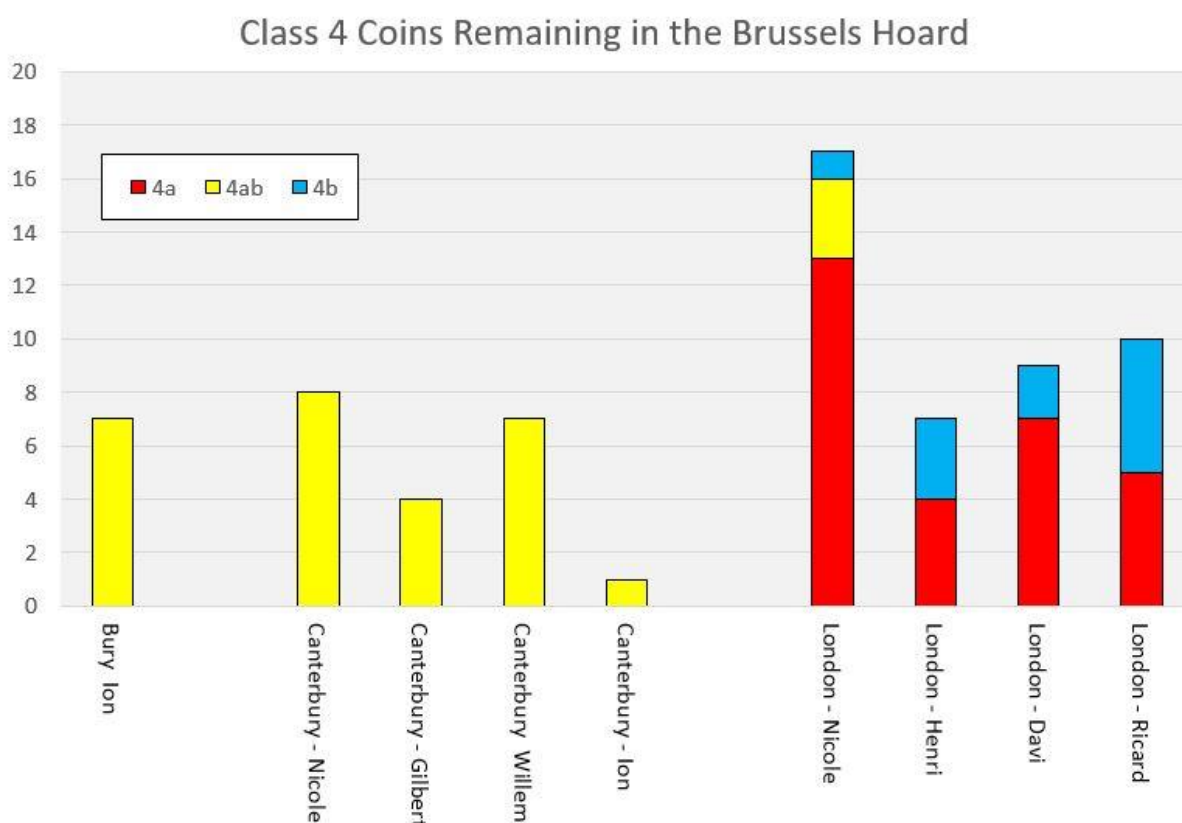
Class 4 was only in production for a few months around the third quarter of 1250, and these coins are thus quite scarce, but do turn up occasionally as metal detector finds.

During the period when the provincial mints were open, ending with class 3c, there had been an emphasis on getting new coins out rapidly to replace the short cross coinage, and when sufficient of the new coins were in production the provincial mints were closed. Soon after there is an apparent drive to improve the quality of the die-cutting and there is a marked change coming in between classes 3d1 and 3d2. One of the noticeable changes was the use of finer pellets in the production of the inner circles on both the obverse and reverse of the coins. This finer die cutting is seen from classes 3d2 through to some of class 5a, reaching a peak in class 4, making some class 4 coins particularly attractive.

Here are a few examples of variations in the reverse inner circle ("RIC"):



A knowledge of RIC ranges for the different sub-classes can sometimes be an additional identification aid.



The three subclasses are defined by the details of the crown, as illustrated on the first page of this article. The above graph usefully shows the coins available to Churchill and Thomas when they commenced their study of the Brussels Hoard, culminating in their 2012 book. The chart usefully shows which mints and moneyers produced the different sub-classes. In addition to the coins listed it is known that class 4ab also exists for the moneyer Davi at the London mint. Basically, sub-classes 4a and 4b were issued by London only; Bury and Canterbury only issued class 4ab, and a few 4ab coins were also issued at London.

To give an idea of the relative scarcity of class 4 coins note that the Brussels Hoard coins contained 43 coins of class 4 out of a total of over 20,000 London coins, which is equivalent to about 0.2% of the total. So these are quite scarce coins, and whilst we don't give coin values in this booklet, one can check out coin valuations on the [henry3 website](#).

Links for viewing class 4

examples from the three mints:

[Bury](#), [Canterbury](#), [London 4a](#),
[London 4ab](#), [London 4b](#).

Lastly, here is an example of a metal detecting find earlier this year from Perth in Scotland. It is a rare Ion of Canterbury, class 4ab. A very good find indeed.



Chapter 9

Classes 5a, 5b, 5c

Mints: London, Canterbury, Bury, Durham
Spink # 1367-69

If you only find one Henry III long cross penny in your detecting career it is likely to be a class 5 penny, the subject of this chapter. Class 5 coins are the most common of the voided long cross series, though some of the sub-classes are rare indeed, and seldom seen. Class 5 will be described over three chapters; this chapter looks at the key characteristics of sub-classes 5a thru' 5c; the next chapter 5d thru' 5i, and then we will be looking at the mints and moneyers for each sub-class, clarifying what is common and what is rare. Note that class 6 and 7 coins are similar to class 5 but have a more realistic hair style.

Key Features to Check on a Class 5 penny.

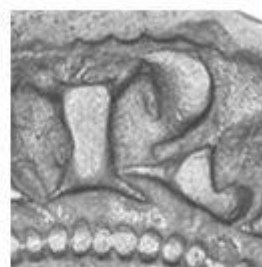


Examples of Letters “R” and “X”



With or without a tail

R1



R2



X2



X4

5a1



Key points to look for:

- Crown-end ornaments are half-fleurs, not pellets
- The style of the letter “X” is type X2, not type X4.

Comments: The distinctive half fleur crown ends are also seen on classes 4b and 5b1. 5a1 and 5b1 were short-lived issues appearing after class 4, and the design soon reverted to one having pellets at the crown ends. The example shown here is a metal detecting find, and an enlargement of the crown from another 5a1 penny is also shown.



5a2



Key points to look for:

- The style of the letter "X" is type 2, not type 4. Other than class 5a1, this is the only other class 5 coin to have this style of "X".

Also note:

- Rounded eyes
- Rounded chin
- Crown-band of even thickness, with "squared-off" ends.

Comments:

- Note the relatively broad bust, with rounded chin, usually having a single prominent central beard pellet.

5a3



Key points to look for:

- The style of the letter "X" is now type 4.
- Pellet crown ends.

Also note:

- Rounded eyes
- Rounded chin
- R is the ball-footed type R2 – which is a characteristic of all class 5a coins, also 5c1.

Comments:

- As with 5a2, note the relatively broad bust, with rounded chin, usually having a single prominent central beard pellet.

5a4



Key points to look for:

- Characteristic jewelled crown-band; top and base of crown-band are non-parallel. (5e is similar, but parallel).

Also note:

- The style of the letter "X" is type 4.
- Rounded eyes
- Rounded chin
- R is the ball-footed type R2 – which is a characteristic of all class 5a coins, as well as 5c1.

Comments: A rare sub-class, not to be confused with class 5e, which is also rare.

5b1



Points to look for:

- Half fleur crown ends as in 5a1
- The style of the letter "X" is type 4.
- R type 1 : wedge footed rather than ball-footed.

Comments:

- Class 5a1 is similar but has X type 2, and R type 2)

5b2



Points to look for:

- Letter R is type R1 – wedge-footed.
- Round eyes

Also note:

- The style of the letter "X" is type 4.

Comments:

The commonest of all Henry III long cross classes. There is some variation in bust style, and both coins shown here are examples of 5b2.

Occasionally the letters E and/or C are in the short cross style.



5c1



Points to look for:

- Letter R is type R2
- Oval eyes

Also note:

- The style of the letter "X" is type 4.

Comments:

- Similar to sub-class 5c2, but differs in the style of the letter "R".



5c2



Points to look for:

- Letter R is type R1
- Oval eyes

Also note:

- The style of the letter "X" is type 4.

Comments:

- The central fleur is not dis-jointed, or only slightly disjointed (compare to 5c3).

5c3



Points to look for:

- Central Fleur now disjointed – the side lobe stalks do not connect to the central stalk but to the crown-band itself.

Also note:

- The style of the letter "X" is type 4.
- Letter R is type R1
- Oval eyes

Comments:

- Similar to 5c2, but the key identifying feature is the central fleur, whose side stems should be fully disjointed from the central stem.

Here are some links to aid exploration of relevant sections of the www.henry3.com website which deal with class 5 pennies:

[Identification aid](#) (click on the class of interest, and then follow the clickable links).

[London mint, coin index](#)

London mint, [class 5a1 & 5a2](#)

London mint, [class 5a3](#)

London mint, [class 5b](#)

London mint, [class 5c](#)

Canterbury mint, [class 5a](#)

Canterbury, [class 5b](#)

Canterbury, [class 5c](#)

Bury mint, [classes 5a-5d](#)

Durham mint, [classes 5a & 5b](#)

Hopefully the above links will help you ID your finds; if you're having trouble though then please don't hesitate to send me images: email henrymints@gmail.com

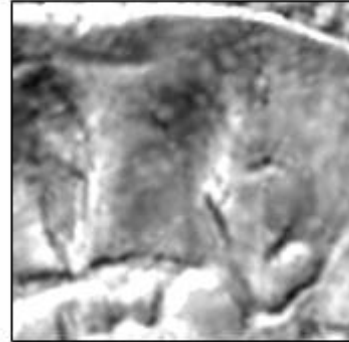
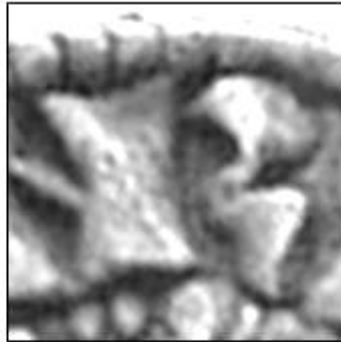
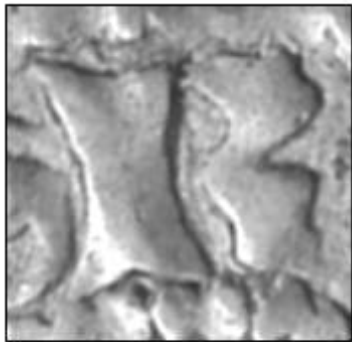
Chapter 10

Classes 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g, 5h, 5i

Amongst class 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g, 5h and 5i pennies it is the 5f, 5g and 5h coins which are most commonly seen by metal detectorists.

Class 5d is a fairly unusual class in that there are significant style differences between it and the preceding and following classes. It may be that political events at the time resulted in a separate set of die-cutters being temporarily employed.

Each of the different sub-classes is illustrated in the following pages; and as usual if you want more detail or examples please visit the www.henry3.com website.



Examples
of R3

The letter R is type R3 from class 5d onwards – inspection of the letter R can be helpful in distinguishing some 5g and 5h coins from class 5c coins.

X types X5 & X6



X5

X6

X type 5 is seen on classes 5d to 5f/5g, and then changes to X type 6. Both 5f and 5g can be found with X5 or X6.



5c3/5d Mule



Points to look for:

- An obverse with bust of type 5c3 with combined with a 5d reverse. Refer to the previous chapter for details of 5c coins.
- Class 5d reverses can be recognised by unusual features in the lettering – e.g. the reversed “N” shown in the illustration, or colons (double or triple pelleted) in the text of coins of David or Henri from London. Canterbury 5d reverses have “KAN” as the mint name.

Comments:

These mixtures of 5c3 and 5d are important coins in that they help to prove that the unusual class 5d coins are not continental imitations.

5d1



Points to look for:

- Obverse with very crude bust
- Change in letter style – particularly the letter X – type X5.
- Obverse and reverse often show a reversed “N”.
- The letters of hENRICVS may all be un-ligated.

Also note:

- Found only from the Canterbury mint – which appears as “kAN”.
- Scarce coins, not often seen.
- A rare variety has “XIII” to the left of the sceptre (illustrated bottom right).

5d2



Points to look for:

- X type X5
- Bust not as crude as 5d1, but central fleur is not well-formed, and may appear to be integrated with the inner circle of pellets.
- The letters of hENRICVS may all be un-ligated

Also note:

- The illustrated coin reverse reads WIL/LEM/ONk/AN – where the 3q and 4q “N”s are both reversed.

Comments:

- 5d2 coins are found mainly from the Canterbury mint. Not as scarce as 5d1, but still hard to find. A few rare 5d2 coins occur from the London mint, but as mules with reverses of class 5c3 or 5e.

5d3



Points to look for:

- X type X5
- Much finer bust design than 5d1, 5d2.

Also note:

- As with 5d1 & 5d2, the letters of hENRICVS may all be un-ligated
- The letter N may be reversed.
- The crown-band may have a central split, as illustrated.

Comments:

- 5d3 was produced at the London, Canterbury and Bury mints, with 5d3 coins from Canterbury being the most commonly found.

5e



Points to look for:

- Characteristic jewelled crown – with parallel top and base – not to be confused with class 5a4.
- X type X5.

Also note:

- ENR of hENRICVS may be un-ligated, particularly on coins from London. Canterbury coins usually have NR ligated.

Comments:

- A rare class, known from London and Canterbury mints.

5f



Points to look for:

- Double crown-band

Also note:

- X type X5 or X6
- May have a row of thin pellets outside the chin.
- May have pellets between the hair curls.
- Sometimes 5f pennies have a colon of two or three pellets at the start of the legend.

Comments:

- A fairly common find. These coins were minted at London, Canterbury and Bury.

5g



Points to look for:

- Thick crown-band, as shown, is seen on many 5g coins, but is thinner on some late 5g coins.
- Distinct central fleur, though it is often very low.
- X type X6, R type R3.

Also note:

- Oval eyes, often with thick outline.
- A number of small pellets, often three, are sometimes seen either side of the king's chin.

Comments:

- The top example shown has a pellet before REX – this is not a characteristic of all 5g coins.
- The design degrades through time, with the bust becoming narrower and the chin sharper. There are no distinct divisions between 5g & 5h, and 5h & 5i.

5g (Late)



Points to look for:

- X type X6, R type R3
- Pointed chin
- Crown-band is not as thick as in earlier 5g coins
- Central Fleur is still distinct, but may be low down and in contact with the crown-band.

Comments:

- Not to be confused with class 5c coins... look carefully at the style of letters R and/or X.

5h



Points to look for:

- Central fleur is absent, may be represented by a group of 3 stacked pellets, or simply isolated pellets above the crown-band, sometimes joined to the crown-band by a stalk.
- Mainly X type X6, occasionally X5

Also note:

- Commonly small pellets will be present adjacent to the chin.

Comments:

- There is a continuum of deterioration in the design of coins between 5g, 5h and 5i; individual coins can sometimes be difficult to correctly classify.

5h/5i Transition & 5i



Points to look for:

- One or more pellets in place of the central fleur.
- Crude bust

Also note:

- Often no pellets below the crown-band (5i)
- ENR of hENRICVS often ligated in class 5i.



Comments

Class 5h coins continued to deteriorate in style during their period of issue. The decline in design quality reached it's extreme in 5i, but there is no clear distinguishing factor between 5h/5i.

Hopefully the above illustrations will help you ID your finds; if you're having trouble though then please don't hesitate to send me images at henrymints@gmail.com

Finally, the approximate dates that these coins were issued is shown on the right. There is a degree of overlap of some of the classes, particularly 5a, 5b and 5c.

Note that when Henry III died in 1272 classes 5h/ 5i were being issued. These coins continued to be issued for a while and then the subsequent classes 6 and 7 before coins bearing the name of his son Edward were first issued in 1279.

Chapter 11

Classes 6 and 7

Henry died in November 1272, after several years of failing health. His son and heir, Prince Edward, had departed England in 1270 to go on crusade. He eventually returned to England in 1274 and was crowned king in August that year. However, it was not until 1279 that Edward issued his own coins, and so for about seven years the coins of Henry III were issued posthumously. The later coins of class 5h were probably posthumous, as were 5i, and certainly all of classes 6 and 7, which are characterised by a more realistic hair style in comparison to class 5 pennies. Class 6 coins are relatively crude, with class 7 being of a finer design.

Mints and moneyers for these two classes are summarised below.

Mint	Moneyer	Class 6 (From 1282)	Class 7 (c.1288-89)
London	Reginald of Canterbury ("RENAUD")	Few Known	Less than about 20 known.
	Philip di Cambio ("PHILIP")	None known; probably not minted.	The most common class 7 coin. Probably dozens in existence.
Bury	John de Burnedisie ("ION or IOHS")	1916 coins in the Colchester Hoard	Few known
	Joceus the Goldsmith ("IOCE")	None known; probably not minted.	Very Few Known
Durham	Robert	Very Few Known	15 or less known.
Canterbury	Non known, but may exist		



Class 6

Crude bust, but having much more realistic hair curls than in earlier classes. May have no pellets under the crown-band as shown on this rare London coin, or may have up to 6 small pellets under the crown-band, as seen on most Bury class 6 pennies.

Class 6 – These pennies, issued posthumously (i.e. during the reign of Edward I), were quite scarce until the discovery of the second Colchester hoard in 1969.

Two coin hoards and an empty container of a possible third hoard have all been found within a 20m square area along High Street in Colchester, Essex between 1902 and 2000.

The first hoard (Colchester 1) was discovered in the back garden of 25 High Street, on July 5th, 1902. It consisted of 11,000-12,000 English silver short cross pennies and contemporary Scottish and Irish issues buried in a lead vessel; the closing date was c.1237.

The second hoard (Colchester 2) was discovered within the same house plot in 1969. It consisted of 14,065 silver pennies buried in a lidded lead canister, mainly of the English voided long cross type alongside contemporary Scottish and Irish issues. The majority of the coins were struck before 1256, with a few additional coins added 16 to 22 years later, giving a date of deposition of around 1278.

The Colchester hoards are likely to have been the property of a Jewish financier; their non-recovery may be directly connected to the discrimination and attacks on Jews of the late 13th century that culminated in the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290. It is known from contemporary documentary evidence that several stone houses belonging to the Jewish community stood on the site where the hoards were found in the 1270's. Furthermore, the deposition date of the Colchester II hoard would seem to tie in very well with the pogrom of 1278, when many Jews were arrested and executed.

Whilst there is no absolute proof connecting the deposition and non-recovery of what were then very large amounts of money, the connection with Colchester's Jewish community is indeed a likely one.

The second Colchester hoard contained the largest amount of voided long cross pennies ever

found in England, and provides a valuable data source to supplement the information now available for the Brussels Hoard. Over 11,300 VLC pennies of classes 1 thru' 5 were found, and in addition there were 1,916 class 6 coins of Ion of Bury.

Nowadays, Bury class 6 coins are relatively easy to obtain, but class 6 pennies from the other mints, London and Durham, are still rare.

Class 7 – These are rare or very rare coins depending upon the moneyer; the least rare being those of Philip of the London mint. Philip had the misfortune to be found adding too much alloy to the silver, and he and his assayer were hanged for their crime in 1279.



Class 7

A finer bust, again with realistic hair curls. Usually four pellets under the crown-band.

Chapter 12

Frequency tables for Pennies with Sceptre.

This section presents a useful table showing the different moneyers, mints and classes, and the approximate relative rarity of each, using the colour key shown on the right. See the next two pages for the table, which should prove informative next time you dig up one of these coins.

CCC	Exceedingly Common
CC	Very Common
C	Common
S	Scarce
R	Rare
RR	Very Rare
RRR	Exceedingly Rare

Class:	4a	4ab	4b	5a1	5a2	5a3	5a4	5b1	5b2	5c1	5c2	5c3	5c3/5d
Apx. Dates:	Late 1250 into 1251			----- 1251 to c.1256 -----									
London													
Nicole	S	RR	RRR	S	C	CC		R	CCC	C	C		
Henry	RR		RR	R	C	C			CC	C	CC	CC	S
Davi	R	RRR	RR	RR	C	C			C	C	C	C	S
Ricard	R	RRR	R	R	C	C			CC	C	CC	C	S
Ion												C	S
Walter												C	
Willem												CC	C
Thomas													
Robert													
Renaud													
Phelip													
Canterbury													
Nicole		R			C	C	RR		CCC	C	C	S	S
Gilbert		RR			C	C			C	S	C	C	
Willem		R			C				C	C	CC	S	C
Ion		RRR			C				C	S	CCC	C	S
Robert												C	C
Roberd												S	S
Walter												C	S
Alein													
Ambroci													
Ricard													
Roger													
Bury													
Ion		R			C	C							
Randulf										C	S	C	C
Renaud													
Stephen													
Iohs, Ion													
Ioce													
Durham													
Ricard										C		C	
Roger													
Willem													
Roberd													

Class:	5d1	5d2	5d3	5d3/e	5e/d	5e	5f	5g	5h	5i	6	7
Apx. Dates:	----- 1257 -----						1257-1258	1258-1269	1269-1275	c.1276	c.1277	1278
London												
Nicole												
Henry			RR	R	RRR		C	CC				
Davi			S		RR		C					
Ricard				S		RRR	C	CC				
Ion				RR		RR	C	C				
Walter			RRR	RR			C	CC				
Willem			RRR	S		RR	C	CC				
Thomas								RRR				
Robert								RRR				
Renaud								C	S	RR	RRR	RR
Phelip												R
Canterbury												
Nicole	S	S	C		RR		C	CC				
Gilbert				C		RRR	C	CC				
Willem	RR	C	C	S		RRR	C	CCC				
Ion		S		C			C	CC				
Robert				RR		RR	C	CCC	S			
Roberd	RRR											
Walter	RR	S	S	RRR		R	C	CC	S			
Alein								C	S			
Ambroci								C				
Ricard								RRR	RRR			
Roger									RRR			
Bury												
Ion												
Randulf			S				S					
Renaud								C				
Stephen								R				
Iohs, Ion								S	R	RR	S	RRR
Ioce												RRR
Durham												
Ricard												
Roger								S				
Willem								RR				
Roberd											RRR	RRR

Some obscure and rare mules have been omitted for simplicity.

Chapter 13

The Irish Coinage of Henry III

the Henry III coinage of Ireland is easily recognisable by an upward pointing triangle.

No coins had been minted in Ireland since the issues of King John which ended in about 1210 AD. Ireland had its own supply of silver which was extracted as a by-product from lead mining. For example, at Silvermines in Co. Tipperray there are known to have been active lead mines in the 13th Century from which silver was extracted.



By coining money in Ireland the English administration had a way of extracting silver from the country, and many Irish coins turn up as metal detector finds in England. Many Henry III hoards in England often contain 2-3% of Irish and Scottish coins, which gives an indication of their relative abundance amongst the coins that were circulating in England at the time.

Early studies were made by Dykes, Dolley and others; a reference list is to be found at the end of the article. More recently the coins have been described in a useful book published by detectorist Gerry Slevin.

The Irish coins of Henry III, with their characteristic triangle, were all struck in Dublin, no earlier than September 1251 and no later than the recall of the Irish dies in January 1254. This is at about the same time as English classes 5a, 5b and 5c1 were being minted. The dies for the Dublin coins were probably prepared in London, under the supervision of Richard Bonaventure and David of Enfield, and then sent to the Dublin mint. The obverse design is based on that of King John issued over 40 years earlier. More details on the chronology and finance of the mint can found [here](#).

Some distinguishing features to look for on the obverse of the Irish pennies:

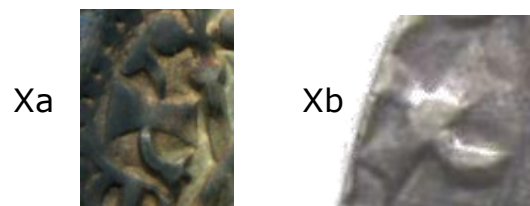
- The presence or absence of a thin inner line to the triangle
- Single or double band to crown
- A distinctive diadem type crown
- Pellet before HENRICVS or elsewhere in the obverse legend
- Kings shoulders (present or not)
- Number of curls either side of king's head (usually 2, sometimes 3).
- Cinqfoil vs sexfoil (The "flower" in the bottom RH corner of the triangle).

The table below provides a very handy summary of the different sub-classes. The chronologic sequence of the various sub-classes is uncertain - the better engraved class I coins probably precede the coarser class II coins, but the chronologic order of the various subclasses is somewhat questionable.

Spink #	Class	Central Fleur	Triangle		Other
6235	Ia	Pellets joined to Crownband	Double Triangle	Cinqfoil	PN: Plain crownband, no shoulders
					PS: Plain crownband, shoulders
					JN: Jewelled crownband, no shoulders
					JS: Jewelled crownband, shoulders
6236	Ib		Single Triangle	Sexfoil	Small triangle below central fleur
6237	Ic				Small triangle below central fleur, small star by sceptre head
6238	Ic var.				Double band to crown.
6239	Id				
6240	IIa	Floating pellets not joined to Crownband. Coarser appearance.	Single Triangle	Cinqfoil	
6241	IIb				Jewelled crown. [Dykes class F].
6242	IIc				3 curls either side, not two.
6243	IId				Wide open shoulders

When first looking at an Irish coin of Henry III check the shape of the central fleur - if a "proper" fleur with the pellets joined to the crown-band then it is a class I coin; if the pellets are floating then it is class II.

Another aid to identification is the shape of the letter X on the obverse. Type Xa is normally found on class I coins, and type Xb on class II.

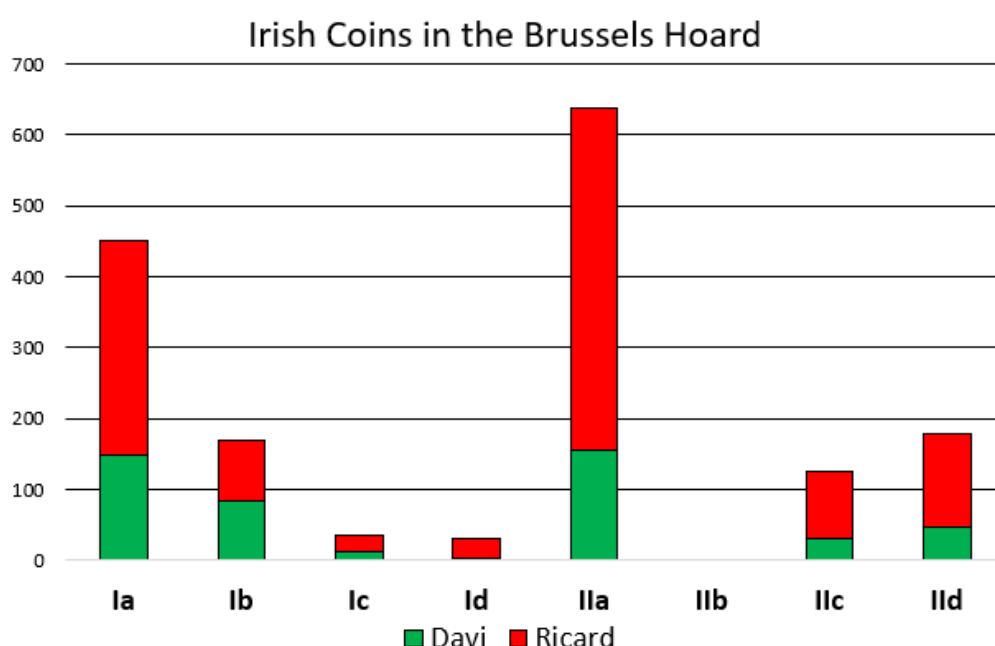


An interesting variety is the quite different crown style of class Id; this is illustrated later in this article, and this more ornate crown is of a style closer to that of the previous coins of King John. It is possible that sub-class Id should instead be treated as a separate class, and perhaps it was the earliest type of Henry III penny from the Dublin mint.

The table shows the eight accepted classes, but in the previous table are shown four additional sub-divisions for class 1a. Recognition of these 1a sub-classes naturally requires that one has a coin not too worn to be able to tell whether the crown-band is “jewelled” or not.

It is evident that there is a lot of variety in these pennies, and that the chronologic sequence has still to be fully worked out.

If we look at the different Irish coin types as found in the Brussels Hoard then we can get an idea of relative scarcity. The graph below shows that types Ic, Id, and I Ib are the rarities to be aware of. Most coins that you find are likely to be of classes Ia or IIa.



Whenever you come across one of these pennies first check the “flower” in the bottom right hand corner - if it has six “petals” rather than five then you have one of the scarcer types.



King John

King Henry, Class Id King

Henry, Class 1a

The image above illustrates the possible evolution of the crown.

The reverse sides of the pennies vary very little. There are just two different moneyers; these being Richard Bonaventure and David of Enfield. These are illustrated below.



Firstly, a typical reverse of Richard:
RIC/ARD/OND/IVE—normally we see the
AR and ND ligated as in this
example.

On the right is a reverse for David:
DAV/ION/DIV/ELI

Sometimes the reverse can read
DAV/ION/DEV/ELI, or the DEV can
be replaced with DOV, or the coin
can even read DAV/IOND/EVE/LIN



On the following pages I show some examples of the obverses of all the different sub-classes. Coin illustrations are shown at various magnifications, but the coins are actually 18-19 mm in diameter.

Sub-class 1a

As shown in the previous table, I recognise four different types of 1a, depending upon the presence of shoulders and/or a jewelled crown.



Type 1a-PN

Double lined triangle and a plain crown-band, no shoulders.



Type 1a-PS

Dble lined triangle, a plain crown-band, with shoulders.



Type 1a-JN

Double lined triangle jewelled crown-band, no shoulders.



Type 1a-JS

Dble lined triangle jewelled crown-band, & shoulders.

The chronologic sequence of these four types is unknown, and the variations of shoulders and jewels on the crown-band may simply have been at the whim of the die-maker. The relative abundance of the different types is also unknown, but from the limited number of coins I have seen I believe the jewelled crown types to be scarcer than the plain crowns. Further examples can be found on the Henry3.com website ([PN/PS](#), [JN/JS](#))

Sub-class Ib

- A single-lined triangle and a plain crown-band; bust typically has shoulders. With a proper central fleur rather than three floating pellets. Varieties exist with pierced or non-pierced cinqfoils, as shown here. ([More](#))



Sub-class Ic

Characterised by sexfoils (six petals) rather than hexfoils (five petals), and with a small triangle above the crown-band. The central fleur may not appear distinctly attached to the triangle. Two main types exist based on the presence or absence of a star to the right of the upper sceptre. Both are relatively scarce. More examples of Ic and Id coins can be found [here](#).



Sub-class Id

Another very scarce type, and which is an easily recognisable type due to its' very characteristic crown, which is significantly different to that of all other Irish Henry III pennies. If this degree of difference in the design of the crown had been present in the English series of pennies, then it would likely have been broken out as a separate class in its' own right; it is strange that it's been included at the tail-end of class I in the Irish pennies.



Here is a fine example found by a metal detectorist in the Isle of Wight:



Images courtesy of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and used under a CC-SA 2.0 licence.

Sub-class IIa

The most commonly found type of Irish henry III penny. This, and all other class II pennies, has a cinqfoil and a central fleur consisting of three dis-connected floating pellets. There is a degree of variation in the shape of the bust with some having broad rounded chins, but most having narrower chins. Also note that the shape of the letter "S" can vary, and there are at least three S variations.



Broader and narrower chin varieties are shown above; the first from the author's collection, and the second a metal detecting find from Louth, Lincs., courtesy of UKDFD.

To confirm your coin is a common IIa, check that it has none of the defining features for sub-classes IIb, IIc or IId. [More examples of IIa](#)

Sub-class IIb

As sub-class IIa above, except for having a jewelled crown. This is a fairly rare coin and there were no examples found in the vast Brussels Hoard which did contain 1,620 Irish Henry III pennies, together with 94 imitations.



Sub-class IIc

These class II coins are recognised by having three hair curls, not two, on both sides of the king's bust; varieties exist with three curls on one side and two curls on the other.



The enlargement on the left shows three curls either side; whilst the coin on the right shows a variety having two curls on the left and three curls on the right.

Sub-class IId

This final sub-class is recognised by its' wide shoulders.



The coin on the right is by the moneyer Ricard, and is from the author's collection.

More examples of IIb, IIc and IId can be found [here](#).

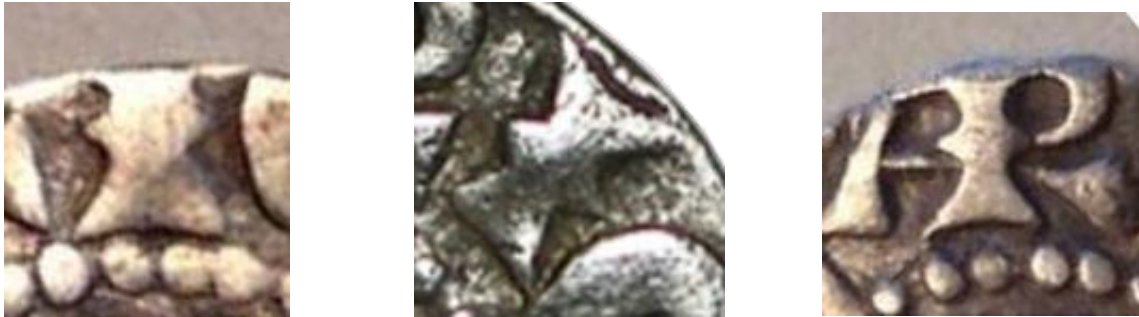
Note that there are some very rare coins which appear to be Henry III types of Dublin, but which have a more realistic hair style. These were minted by Richard Olof for Edward I. You are unlikely to find one of these rarities, but if you are interested in learning more there is a reference to them in the bibliography at the end of the book.

The Classification of the Irish Coins

It is interesting that some coins of class II have been divided into on the basis of the presence or absence of a jewelled crown, or of wide shoulders, whereas similar features in class Ia have not been utilized in the formal published classification scheme. We therefore have an inconsistent approach to the treatment of classes I and II, and hopefully someone will rectify this at a future date, including, perhaps, the re-consideration of the position of sub-class Id in the series.

The Irish “Fancy Font” Coins

Now here’s a bit of a mystery that detectorists may be able to help solve. Some of the Irish Henry pennies have an unusual font whereby a few letters, typically the “I”, have a small projection at mid-height. Here are a few examples:



To date, I have only seen this font on the reverse of coins, but on various different sub-classes. This font may be characteristic of one particular die-maker, and if this person was making dies in London as is commonly thought, rather than in Dublin, then he was only working on Irish coins as this font type is not seen on the English series. Another possibility, as suggested in Gerry Slevin's book, is that these are modern forgeries.

Whilst there may be a case that some of these coins have been forged in modern times, the wide distribution of finds by detectorists, and the fact that this font type is found on coins of different classes suggests that many of these coins with the “fancy font” are in fact genuine.

Below are shown a few of these coins found by detectorists and recorded on the UKDFD database.



Above is UKDFD #20596 which is a metal detector find from the Hornsea area in Yorkshire, and is from sub-class Ib. Note the letter “I” in the 4th quadrant on the reverse.

Next is a class IIa from Roding in Essex:



Note the two examples of the letter “l” in the 2nd and 3rd quadrants. This coin is UKDFD #50759.

And here are two relevant weblinks from the PAS database...

A cut half from Stillington, Nth. Yorks. [SWYOR-6B2917](#)

A cut quarter from Swingfield, Kent [PUBLIC-7EAEAB](#)

Further examples can be found [here](#).

In conclusion, I believe that the examples above are most probably genuine coins rather than modern copies that have been “planted” for detectorists to find. However, if more examples can be documented we can build the case for very few of the “fancy font” coins being modern forgeries. Please do contact me if you find one.

Chapter 14

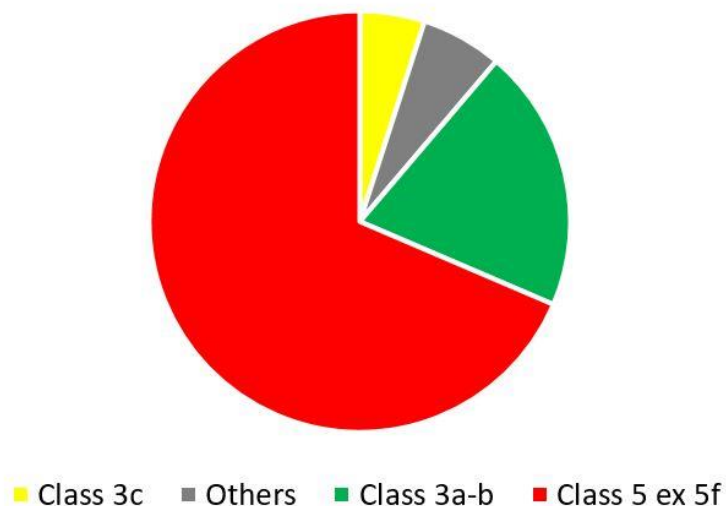
Continental Imitations – Without Sceptre

The good reputation of the English coinage during the mid-thirteenth century gave rise to it being copied on the continent, with most imitations having been struck in Frisia or Westphalia. Some of the imitations are difficult to recognise as such, though many can be recognised when one has a degree of familiarity with the genuine English coinage.

Signs that a coin is an imitation include blundered reverse legends and slight differences in the design of the dies. These differences can apply both to the letters and to some elements of the design, such as the crown end ornaments, central fleur and facial details. Some coins are easy to recognise when they purport to have been issued from moneyers known to not have been active for the class of coin in question.

The Brussels Hoard contained 3,750 continental imitations of English and Irish Long Cross pennies, the majority of which were imitations of class 3 or class 5 English pennies. The breakdown of the coins is shown below.

Continental Imitations in the Brussels Hoard



The pie-chart shows that about two-thirds of the imitations were class 5 coins with sceptres, however it is the scarcer imitations without sceptres that we are looking at in this chapter. More details on the numbers can be found by clicking on [this link](#).



This first example, shown above, at first looks to be a class 2 coin with diagnostic obverse text including the word “TERCI”. The coin is a quality production and would not be described in any way as being crude.

The only thing that might perhaps look a little suspicious on the obverse is the relatively large central fleur. It is the reverse of the coin though that gives the game away.

The text clearly reads WIL/LEM/LVN/DEN; indicating moneyer William at the London mint. There are two things wrong with this: firstly, the word “ON” should appear between moneyer and mint names, and secondly the moneyer William did not issue any class 2 coins from London; his first issues did not appear until class 5c2. This coin then is certainly an imitation, probably produced on the continent, and from its quality we can deduce it was produced by a skilled craftsman.

Class 1 and class 2 imitations are relatively rare; you are far more likely to come across a class 3 or class 5 imitation when detecting, and although these coins are thought to have mostly been produced on the continent they do turn up as metal detecting finds in England as a result of extensive cross-channel trading, particularly in the wool trade. The next example is an imitation of a class 3 penny.



Not a bad imitation, but clearly a little cruder than a genuine English coin, particularly around the chin. The normal HENRICUS REX III’ legend is somewhat blundered, with a single pellet after REX and a further single pellet after the 2nd “I” of “III”.

The reverse is shown below, and has a legend as seen on some English pennies, reading **hEN/RIO/NLV/NDE** - with EN and ND ligated.



This reverse is a more convincing imitation than the obverse, and might confuse many people, however the style of the lettering is not quite right for an English coin, helping to identify this as a non-English imitation. Often the reverse legend may be the main piece of evidence that clearly points to a continental imitation.

In this next example, right, we have a fairly realistic looking class 3 coin, but the style of the lettering may start alarm bells ringing, particularly with the style of the letter "X". It is the reverse, however, that really confirms the continental origin...



At first sight the reverse, on the left, looks fairly convincing but when one looks in detail at the legend one can make out **HIC/OIC/OIL/VND** - which is a close approximation of the English legend **HIC/OLE/ONL/VND** for Nicole on London. Such blundered legends are often the best evidence for a continental origin.

Many reverse legends imitate coins of London or Canterbury, but some imitate coins of the provincial mints; these are quite scarce and greatly sought after by collectors. One particularly rare and unusual type is one that imitates the Hereford mint. The reverse of the coin is a reasonably convincing looking imitation of a coin of Richard of Hereford, but the obverse has a very unusual initial mark, not seen on the genuine English coins.



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Note the shield with two pellets instead of a star above the central fleur. Here is a blow-up of the unusual initial mark:



Not all coins sought to hide their continental origin by reproducing the English legends; some continental rulers openly issued Henry III style coins in their own name. Next are shown two examples of class 3 imitations from known rulers.

This first example was issued by Adolf of Schwalenberg, and the obverse legend reads **ADOLFVS COMEX III'**, the other side of the coin tells us the mint name and reads **SVA/LEN/BER/CNC**. This comes from the Lippe district of northern Germany.



The next example is a coin of Count Widekind from the same area of Germany:



The obverse text, although partially obscured on this coin, reads **VIDEKINDVSR**, but with this example the reverse does not give the mint name but instead imitates an English reverse. The reverse legend, again partially obscured, appears to read **CI* /BER/TON/[CAN]** - clearly an imitation of a Gilbert of Canterbury penny. Note the five petal rose; this is diagnostic of coins from Lippe.

One cannot identify a continental imitation simply by the weight of the coin; weights of imitations are usually similar to those of genuine English coins. The occasional lightweight coin, often with a crude design, is sometimes seen, and these are likely to be contemporaneous English forgeries.

If you think you may have found a continental imitation, there are two key sources for you to turn to. Firstly, if you have access to a copy of the Churchill and Thomas book on the Brussels Hoard then chapter 12 contains a useful list of the reverse readings on the imitations found in the hoard. This is a very useful resource, but not a cheap book.

The second resource for you is the continental imitation section on the www.henry3.com website where there are over eighty different imitations illustrated, and further coins are added regularly.

Chapter 15

Continental Imitations – With Sceptre

In this closing chapter I will highlight and show some examples of features that will help to identify your Henry III penny with sceptre as being of continental origin. We will look at the most obvious imitations first, and work our way through coins of generally increasing sophistication until we end with pennies that are difficult to recognise as not being the “real thing”.

The groups we will look at can be summarised as follows:

1. Very crude designs which would fool very few people - these are more likely to be forgeries rather than continental imitations.
2. Coins that give the name of the issuer, in place of the usual HENRICVS legend.
3. Coins having an irregular or blundered legend on one or both sides.
4. “Impossible coins” - those with a sceptre but purporting to come from one of the provincial mints.
5. Coins with an Irish obverse and English reverse, or vice versa
6. Coins with perfect or near perfect legends, and a bust similar to a real English penny.

Before looking at each of these coin groups, let’s consider a couple of points:

Firstly, the majority of the medieval population was illiterate and would be unlikely to spot a mis-spelled word, let alone an unusual form of one of the letters.

Secondly, the penalties for forgery were severe; and in the thirteenth century usually meant death. A forged coin produced in the back streets of London though was a lot different to the mass production of imitations by legitimate local rulers in NW Europe, mainly Westphalia.

Group 1 - Probable Forgeries

Some coins are so crude that they are considered to be beneath the skills of the skilled continental craftsmen, and are most likely English forgeries. The cruder the coin the more likely that someone would be caught, and looking at the following examples one wonders whether the perpetrators escaped from justice for very long.



The obverse of this coin can easily be seen to have a blundered legend, a crude bust and an incorrect design for the central fleur.

Our next example is also fairly obvious...



The king's bust looks more like the head of a monkey, the crown is of a style never seen on genuine English pennies, and the legend blundered.

Coins such as the above are unlikely to fool today's detectorists, but may have fooled some ordinary people of the 13th century. The forger's life though was subject to his degree of skill; many no doubt had a short career.

The above coins could be forgeries produced in England; the remainder of our examples are all coins thought to have been produced on the continent.

Group 2 - Coins from Named Issuers

Not all coins sought to hide their continental origin by reproducing the English legends; some continental rulers openly issued Henry III style coins in their own name. They were legitimately issuing their own coinage in the style of the well-regarded English pennies, and by imitating the English style were attempting to give respectability to their own issued coins. In the previous section I showed some examples of class 3 coins from Counts Adolph and Widekind of Germany; below is a rare example of a Bernhard III coin. Bernhard was Lord of Lippe in Westphalia until his death in about 1265.



Group 3—Coins having an incorrect legend on one or both sides.

This is a common method of identifying many continental imitations; often the obverse legend will be correct however the reverse legend gives the game away. I show some different examples below, mainly from my own collection.



This first example has an obverse similar to an English class 5c2 penny, however the reverse shows a nonsense legend appearing to read NIE/ONI/ONC/VND, which is a garbled version of the common English text of NIC/OLE/ONL/VND (Nicole on London), and whilst the obverse may have fooled you, the reverse gives this coin away as a continental imitation.



This one shows a very neat obverse and reverse. The reverse legend reads RW/IENR/ONC/AN - it being unclear who the moneyer is but the imitated mint is Canterbury. If one only saw the obverse most people would have no suspicion that this is of continental origin; the reverse text though is the identifying factor.



This next example is a relatively common type of imitation; the obverse is neat, as is the reverse. Again, it is the reverse legend which gives the game away; it reads BIL/HEI/TOL/ENR which is clearly not one of the English legends.



Another fairly realistic obverse, except for the three pellets in the legend. The reverse is interesting in that the legend is retrograde—i.e. it is as a normal legend would look when viewed in a mirror; the text being NIC/OLE/ONL/VND.



The above coin has a spelling error on the obverse (hENRCIVS) as well as a strange legend on the reverse. On the obverse the “I” and the “C” are reversed. The reverse legend reads DCI/RIO/NLV/NDI—which is fairly close to hEN/RIO/NLV/NDE for Henri on London. Clearly an imitation.

Group 4 — “Impossible Coins” - Coin has a sceptre on the obverse but the name of an English provincial mint on the reverse.

Remember that the provincial mints all closed in 1250, and before the introduction of coins with sceptres.

The obverse of the coin below clearly shows the sceptre; however the reverse legend reads “ION/ON/GLO/VCE” - for John at the Gloucester mint. Again, quite clearly another imitation.



Group 5 - Coins with an Irish obverse and English reverse, or vice versa.



An interesting coin; the obverse is clearly of the Irish style, and yet the reverse reading is NIC/OLE/ONL/VND - a common English reverse legend. The mix of the Irish and English types is another sure pointer to a continental origin.

Group 6 — Coins with perfect or near perfect legends, and a bust similar to a real English penny.



An imitation of a class 5 Nicole on London coin. The bust appears a little strange, however the obverse text is correct: hENRICVS REX III' The reverse text is almost correct: NIC/OLC/ONL/VND however in the 2q there is a "C" instead of the "E" usually present on English coins.

The above examples will hopefully assist you in differentiating between true English pennies and their continental imitations. The map on the next page shows the main mints that produced these coins, some coming from Kuinre in Frisia (Netherlands) and others coming from Westphalia in Germany. Not unnaturally many imitations turn up as metal detecting finds on the continent, but they are also found widely in England. Here are links to some relevant finds listed in the PAS database:

Continental imitations from: Glocs. ([658835](#)), Surrey ([451104](#)) & ([55889](#)), Kent ([534520](#)), Yorkshire ([406092](#)), and Carlisle ([765669](#)).

Cont. Imitations - Cut halves from Berks ([764199](#)) and an Irish example from Suffolk ([540334](#))

Finally, a couple of probable Henry III forgeries from Suffolk ([841814](#)) and Cambs. ([780593](#)).

If you would like to find out more about continental imitations, three key references are:

A 1995 paper in the British Numismatic Journal (BNJ) by J.J. North: "Some Imitations and Forgeries of The English and Irish Long Cross Pence of Henry III" – if you Google this you will find this to be freely available online, together with some corrections to North's catalogue which were issued in a subsequent BNJ volume. It is mainly concerned with the anonymous imitations, and 135 coins are illustrated.

Chapter 12 in the 2012 book on the Brussels Hoard by Churchill and Thomas. There were some 3,750 imitations found in the Brussels Hoard, and these are discussed by Churchill and

Thomas. Their work includes a very useful listing of reverse readings.

Auction catalogue of the collection of Paul Weweler, for issues of Bernhard III, Auktion Leu 63, Zurich, 23/24 October 1995.

Additionally, there are some 90 continental imitations illustrated on the Imitations section of the comprehensive www.henry3.com website.

Relevant links are as follows:

[Classes 1& 2](#), [Class 3](#), [Class 5](#), [Irish imitations](#), [Named Rulers](#), & [“Semi-imitations”](#).

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