

A Newly Discovered Silver Farthing of James I

Tim Everson



This recently discovered farthing was found in Norfolk and is published here with the permission of Clive Knipe of Historic Coins and The Metal Detectives Group who provided the photographs.

The farthing is a Harington Type 2 with privy mark Cinquefoil and eight harp strings. It has Everson obverse 2 and reverse 1 and could be listed as E16d [BMC 47] except that it is struck in silver. The coin is 15.5mm in diameter and weighs 0.90 grammes which is 14-15 grains, instead of the 9 grains the copper examples weigh. There is a parallel for this coin in the Charles I series of Richmond farthings. E59 is a silver striking of E71d, pm Cross patée. In my book I stated that this was not a proof struck from special dies but was perhaps a curiosity or presentation piece struck for the patent holders. I have no doubt that this piece falls into that same category, perhaps as an example to show the King. We can only hope that other examples might turn up for the other farthing types, but they must have been made in extremely small quantities.

Tim Everson

Reference

Tim Everson: *The Galata Guide to the Farthing Tokens of James I and Charles I: A History and Reclassification*. Galata 2007

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