

## A Second Find of a Henry III Long Cross Class 2a/1b Mule

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Recently I became aware of a 2018 metal detecting find from South Bedfordshire which appears to be a class 2a/1b mule. Although badly mis-struck, enough detail is evident in the legends to be confident in the identification, despite having minimal detail for the bust or initial mark.



*Images are enlarged, actual diameter ~ 17.5mm*

On the obverse one can clearly discern “... REX TERCI’ ”, and on the reverse “LOH/LIE”, with the text in the other two quadrants being unclear owing to the mis-strike. The full text would have read “LIE/TER/CI’/LOH”. The legible text does however clearly prove the reverse to be of a class 1b coin from the London mint, with the obverse of class 2 as evidenced by the TERCI legend. The weight is 1.2 gm.

Although class 1b/2 mules are not rare; with 98 being examined by Churchill and Thomas in their study of the Brussels Hoard, the opposite mule, 2a/1b, was unknown until a 2006 metal detector discovery which was subsequently acquired by Bob Thomas. This rare coin was documented by Churchill and Thomas in their publication on the Brussels Hoard,<sup>1</sup> see figure 20, page 26; the coin is also illustrated below.

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<sup>1</sup> The Brussels Hoard of 1908; the Long Cross Coinage of Henry III. Churchill, Ron & Thomas, Bob. Baldwin's, 2012. (An essential reference for all interested in the Henry III long cross coinage).



The 2006 coin has a relatively low weight of 1.05 gm, but appears to be genuine and not a continental imitation. The low weight of both coins, particularly the 2006 find, may have been influenced by chemical corrosion whilst buried. The official weight standard at the time was 22.5 grains [1.458 grams of silver].

The reverse has the London mint abbreviation as LVH, whereas the newly discovered coin has the abbreviation LOH – thus the class 2/1b mules are not restricted to only one class 1b reverse die. The obverses also appear to be from different dies, as can be deduced by comparing the shape of the letter “X” on each coin.

Churchill and Thomas mentioned that, prior to 2006, it had been surmised that the 1b reverse dies were withdrawn when the class 2a dies were delivered, but this is no longer the case and, with only two known specimens of 2a/1b it is unlikely that many of these coins were struck. Both the known coins are underweight, especially when compared with the average of those shown in Table 14 of the Churchill and Thomas book, but this might reflect the diligence of the owners of the Brussels Hoard who retained only the fuller weight coins and discarded those which were light. Hopefully more will turn up; other examples may already exist in museum or private collections and the author would be most interested to learn of the existence of further specimens.

### *Summary*

#	Obverse	Reverse	Weight	Provenance	Owner
1	Class 2a	1b: LIE TER CI' LVH	1.05 gm	A 2006 detector find, southern England.	Bob Thomas
2	Class 2a	1b: LIE [TER CI'] LOH	1.2 gm	A 2018 detector find from Sth. Beds	Robert Page

Approval to publish the new discovery was kindly supplied by the finder of this coin, Mr Karl Gardner, and Bob Thomas kindly provided permission to reproduce images of his class 2a/1b mule, and helpfully reviewed the article.

