

A New sub type for Elizabeth I 1572 Ermine Initial Mark Threepences D. I. Greenhalgh

Within the series of coins struck under Elizabeth I the initial mark (or date mark) is of particular importance. For the threepences, only one die was recorded without the initial mark in The Galata Guide to Hammered and Milled Threepenny Pieces 1551 - 1662, published in 2016 by Galata Print. This was for the 1580 initial mark Latin Cross issue. Of the 11 obverse dies recorded DIG 3 (Brown Comber and Wilkinson 2006 LC-3) is found from only 2 extant specimens, both in the collection of the late Mr C. Comber.

Recently a coin appeared on eBay, spotted by the author and subsequently purchased which also omitted the initial mark, but in this case the reverse is 1572 initial mark Ermine. On comparing the obverse die to the 1580 specimens it is clearly and unsurprisingly a different die. The die has been added to the future update of the Galata guide and has been designated 1572 Ermine obverse no 5. The reverse for this coin comes from a previously recorded reverse die 1572 Ermine Cii.



DIG 5/Cii
Rn 355
1.41g

Enlargement of area above portrait showing the cross on top of the crown dividing the legend REGINA + ELIZABETH
Without trace of initial mark.

Extract from updated Galata Guide showing new subtype 5.

Obverse

DIG IM Legend

Spink 2566, North 1998, B.C.W.

1	‡	ELIZABETH D . 'G . ' ANG . ' FR : ET . HI . ' REGINA	No stop after BETH.	CN-1G
2	‡	ELIZABETH D . 'G . ' ANG . ' FR : ET . HI . ' REGINA	Pellet after BETH, five dies.	--
3	‡	ELIZABETH : D . 'G . ' ANG . ' FR : ET . HI . ' REGINA	Colon after BETH, nine dies.	--
4	‡	ELIZBETH : D . 'G . ' ANG . ' FR : ET . HI . ' REGINA	Reads ELIZBETH.	--
5		ELIZABETH : D . 'G . ' ANG . ' FR : ET . HI . ' REGINA	No Initial Mark, Colon after BETH,	-

Comparison between the two obverse dies without Initial Mark.

1572 initial mark Ermine
DIG 5/Cii
Rn 355
1.41g



1580 initial mark Latin Cross
DIG 3/Bviii
CC 119
ex SA 151 2001 lot 397b
Ex Parsons lot 383
1.60g



Another Numismatist (G Oddie) has examined the coin and believes that there is a ghost trace of the base of an initial mark to the left of the Cross on top of the crown. I believe that the apparent mark is too indistinct to confirm one way or the other as to whether it is an Ermine or just a flan flaw. So until a second clearer specimen turns up this sub variety must be regarded as tenuous Either way this coin does represent a new obverse die for the 1562 ermine issue threepence.

Initials used -

CC, Chris Comber collection.
DIG ..., Catalogue entry in the Galata Guide.
IP, I Palmer collection.
Rn, Authors collection
SA, Spink Auctions.

Bibliography

Brown, Comber & Wilkinson 2006, *The Hammered Silver Coins Produced At The Tower During The Reign Of Elizabeth I* Galata 2006.