

A New Sub Variety of Edward I Penny Class 3a London Mint

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The Fox Brothers in their articles 'Numismatic History of the Reigns of Edward I., II., and III.' published in the British Numismatic Journal Vols VI - X 1909 - 1913, described class 3a (Circa July 1280) as the earliest issue of class 3 and being struck only at the London mint. The pertinent identification detail's being the drapery as a broken ellipse and the crown having pearls instead of spearheads for ornaments between the fleur's and with crescent shaped contraction marks in the legend.

In his great work 'English Hammered Coinage Vols I and II' published in 1963 J. J. North maintained this identification and later in 'Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles . 39 The J. J. North Collection Edwardian English Silver Coins 1279 - 1351', published in 1989, Mr. North makes a note in 'The Fox Classification and Recent Refinements' under class 3a that the crown having either a Bifoliate or Trifoliate side fleur's and in the illustrations of the author's coins of this class (Pl 4 75 - 77) having crescent or comma contractions in the legend.

'The Galata Guide to the Pennies of Edward I and II', by Paul and Bente R Withers, Galata Print 2006 further refines the issue of class 3a by the portrait having either a pointed chin or a wider rounder chin.

Some years ago I acquired, from Spink and Son, a coin of class 3a which to initial appearance looked double struck in that the drapery element of the bust appeared as a double line. Later examination of the coin revealed no evidence of double striking whatsoever but that the drapery punch had been entered twice into the die. Also the crown on this coin was from late class 2 having a broken left-hand arm to the central fleur and spearhead ornaments. This must place the coin at the very crossover from class 2 to class 3a. To date this is the only example I have seen of this unique die sinkers error. All coins illustrated are in the authors collection.



New sub-type with double entered drapery
and crown of class 2



3a early
Crown of 2b
Crescent Contractions
Pointed chin
Double Entered Drapery
1.37g



3a
Bifoliate crown
Comma contractions
Pointed chin
Normal Drapery
1.35g



3a
Trifoliate crown
Crescent contractions
Pointed chin
Normal Drapery
1.35g



3a
Trifoliate crown
Crescent contractions
Wider chin
Normal Drapery
1.35g



Double entered drapery



Normal drapery



Late class 2 crown.



Class 3a bifoliate crown



Class 3a trifoliate crown



Pointed chin



Wider chin



Class 3a trifoliate crown
(with die sinkers layout lines
behind central fleur