

A new variant of late Henry VI halfpenny

D. I. Greenhalgh
(Grunal Moneta)

Recently I was fortunate to acquire through an Internet auction a recent metal detecting find - a halfpenny of London, from the later part of Henry VI's first reign, of the Cross Pellet issue. The coin is clipped on the left hand side and weighs 0.29 gms and is 12mm diameter at its widest point and 11 mm at its narrowest. The obverse legend reads-

[+H]ENR • IC x R[EX x ANGL]I x and [CIVI] TAS LON [DON] on the reverse. There is a leaf on the breast and saltires by the neck. Although the specimen is in rather poor condition sufficient detail was visible to identify it. Examination of the coin revealed an interesting feature - the addition of a definite pellet between the R and I of HENRIC. A feature previously unrecorded on the coins of this issue.

The Cross Pellet halfpence of Henry VI (Spink 1972, North 1523) were noted as coming from two issues. The first with saltires by neck and leaf on breast, the second with pellets by crown and saltire on breast. In their definitive work on halfpence and farthings Paul & Bente R Withers, 'Small Change Vols I - VI' Galata Print Ltd. Llanfyllin 2003, under the section for Henry VI (Small Change Vol III) the Cross Pellet issues of halfpence are broken down further to five issues, listing the legend readings found within each issue.

- i Saltire - Leaf issue (Saltires by neck leaf on breast) with nothing by crown.
- ii Saltire - Leaf issue (Saltires by neck leaf on breast) with pellets by crown.
- iii Saltire issue (saltire on breast) nothing by crown.
- iv Saltire issue (saltire on breast) pellets by crown.
- v Saltire issue (saltire on breast) pellets by crown, mullet after Henric.

It is with the first if these issues that this new legend reading should be added. The Small Change listing for type i prefixed SL. is noted from two readings -

SL.1 +HENRIC ' x REX x ANGLI x

SL.2 +HENRIC x REX x ANGLI

I propose a third obverse -

SL.3 [+H]ENR • IC x R[EX x ANGL]I x

There are two associated reverses found for the SL type.

Type a without extra pellets.

Type b with extra pellets in CIVI and LON quarters.



Pellet between R and I