

A new reverse type for Edward III Reading halfpenny

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A few years ago I was fortunate to acquire through private sale a metal detecting find, a halfpenny of the mint of Reading, from the Florin coinage issue (1344-1351) of Edward III. The coin is clipped on the right hand side from 12 to 3 o'clock and weighs just 0.51g and is 15 mm diameter at its widest point and 13.5 mm at its narrowest. The obverse legend reads - [+EDWAR]DVSREXAXNx and VIL [LAR] ADI NGY on the reverse. There is a scallop in the quarter under the NGY. Although the specimen is only near fine condition sufficient detail was visible to identify it as a new reverse.

The Florin Coinage Reading halfpence (Spink 1561 and 1562, North 1133 and 1134) were noted as coming from two dies. 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 Edward III (Small Change Vol II) the Florin Coinage halfpence are broken down further to eight issues, noted as types 6 to 13 with numerous sub types, with coins of Reading coming from types 7 and 13 with type 13 having the scallop in the ADI quarter.

The new coin has the obverse of type 13 but the reverse has the scallop in the quarter under NGY.



Scallop in quarter under NGY

Edward III Florin coinage Reading mint
(all coins in authors collection)



Withers Type 7
+EDWARDVS REX
VIL LAR ADI IGY
Scallop in LAR quarter



Withers Type 7
+EDWARDVS REX
VIL LAR ADI IGY
Scallop in LAR quarter



Withers Type 13
+EDWARDVS REX Axnx
VIL LAR ADI IGY
Scallop in ADI quarter



Withers Type 13
+EDWARDVS REX Axnx
VIL LAR ADI IGY
Scallop in IGY quarter

