

An Unrecorded Penny Variant of the Drogheda Mint, from the Second Cross & Pellets Coinage of Edward IV, 1470-3

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The purpose of this brief note is to record a new Drogheda penny variant of Edward IV's second cross and pellets Irish coinage, acquired recently by the author. Illustrated below, it is extremely underweight at 0.31g, versus a 2nd cross and pellets standard of 0.71g. Germyn Lynche and his former apprentice Patrick Keyn were censured for issuing underweight 2nd cross and pellet coin, Lynche specifically from Drogheda and at 75% of the standard.¹ The coin has a plain obverse, and a quatrefoil on the reverse. The remains of the obverse legend read []RD D[] DN[], while the reverse legend reads [VILLA DE] DROG/HED.



The hitherto-unrecorded Drogheda 2nd cross & pellets penny variant with plain obverse.

The portrait has been assigned to the 2nd cross and pellets coinage because it is known from Dublin, Drogheda and Trim only; and the only time that these three mints only were authorised to operate simultaneously was for the 2nd cross and pellets in 1470-3. Should a Waterford penny with this portrait ever come to light, it would invalidate this attribution.

The portrait has been recorded in conjunction with pellets above the crown at Dublin (Burns Du-11b); pellets either side of the crown, at Drogheda (Burns Dr-9b); and a plain obverse at Trim (Burns T-2c).² A different penny portrait, attributed to Germyn Lynche, also

¹ Oisín Mac Conamhna, 'The Irish Portrait Pennies of Edward IV, Edward V and Richard III, 1465–1483' BNJ vol. 87 (2017), pp 105-124.

² Jasper Burns, 2017, "Irish Hammered Pennies of Edward IV – Henry VII", 5th edition.

appears in conjunction with pellets either side of the crown at Drogheda (Burns Dr-9a), and a plain obverse at Trim (Burns T-2a), on coins likewise attributed to the 2nd cross & pellets. Until now, no other 2nd cross & pellets variants have been known from Drogheda.

Given the portrait attribution, this specimen adds the plain obverse to 2nd cross and pellets penny variants from Drogheda. Enough of the obverse legend survives to show that Edward's Irish title was used. The only groat so far attributed plausibly to the 2nd cross and pellets coinage, also of Drogheda, bears Edward's English title (S 6329).³



³ Spink 2020, *Coins of Scotland, Ireland and the Islands*, 4th edition.