

Some recent discoveries of Henry III Class 5g Long Cross Pennies for John of Burnedissee (IOhS/ION) of Bury St Edmunds

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When Robin Eaglen published his book¹ on the Abbey and Mint of Bury St Edmunds to 1279 some fifteen years ago he knew of eight die varieties of 5g coins for ION/IOhS (John of Burnedissee) who was appointed on 29th January 1265 and produced coins of classes 5g to 7. Those for 5g were numbered RE336Aa to RE343Hh and these are all rare, with seven of the eight pairs of dies being known for five or fewer coins and the most prolific (RE336Aa) for just ten specimens with two of those now known not listed by Eaglen; these two later coins were acquired by myself and David Palmer in around 2010/11 respectively.

The likely date for the closure of the Brussels Hoard was 1266 to 1267² and there were some ninety 5g coins of Renaud in the hoard but just six from the early issues of Stephane where coins of only two of his six known dies were represented. There were no coins in the names of ION/IOH or IOhS nor were there any for classes 5h, 5i, 6 or 7.

Only two specimens of RE342Gg were known to Eaglen, his own coin and another owned by David Palmer. The Eaglen coin is now in the possession of David Palmer but the present whereabouts of the former Palmer coin are unknown and I do not have an image. The late Jim Sazama, an American collector, had also managed to find a nice specimen from a source unknown to me, which was sold through DNW sometime after his death when it was acquired by me. The current Palmer coin is illustrated below together my own coin:



RE 342 Gg (DJP)



RE 342 Gg (RT)

A fourth specimen is also known and this is currently owned by Mark Winiger who acquired it from the late Terry Maudlin in c.2017. You will see that the portrait and the centre of the reverse are clear but most of the legends are illegible. I have also just been notified of a fifth specimen which has been discovered recently.



RE 342 Gg (MW)

Both these coins are illustrated here and you will see the recently found coin has been double struck but there is enough of the legends and bust to confirm it is a new find for RE342Gg.



RE 342 Gg (GW)

In my researches I spoke to one or two keen collectors of these late coins and Ian Heavisides told me he had another specimen which he thought was from die RE342Gg but it is in fact from die RE343Hh where only one other specimen, owned by David Palmer and acquired from Glenn Gittoes, is known. These two coins are also illustrated below and, from these images, it is clear both come from the same pair of dies:



RE 343 Hh (IAH)



RE 343 Hh (DJP)

Ian Heavisides also mentioned that he had recently acquired from EBay a previously unknown specimen from dies RE337Bb, and images of that are reproduced on the right:



RE 337 Bb (IAH)

Furthermore, Mark Winiger tells me he has been lucky enough to have obtained a specimen of previously unpublished dies he has noted as RE343ali where it transpires that David Palmer has been in possession of a die duplicate for some while. David's coin was formerly listed in the Eaglen book under RE336Aa (Number (5) and noted as SED431) after re-assessment as being from the recently recognised die RE343ali. These two coins are also shown below:



RE 343A li (MW)



RE 343a li (DJP)

I would like to conclude by saying this article was triggered by just the discovery of the new and double struck specimen of RE342Gg where, in the course of my enquiries the other coins not mentioned in the Eaglen Book¹ have come to light. I would emphasise that this note covers only the information on the nine coins mentioned herein and currently known to me at the time of writing. I am aware that David Palmer has been working on a website for the Bury St Edmunds Mint but he is not aware of other coins not known to me. In any event should anyone have additional specimens of these 5g coins would the owner(s) please get in touch with me and let me have details and images which I will pass to David for inclusion on his website where David has more work to do before it can go live.

All images shown above are with the kind permission of the respective owners and I am very grateful to them all and David Palmer for their help in providing both information and images

of their coins. I would also like to make mention of the considerable help given to me by Rob Page who has re-formatted not only the text but also the images where the coins which are typically 18-19 mm in diameter appear free of background and at above life size. This improves both clarity and appearance and I am most grateful for his time and expertise.

¹ See Eaglen Robin J, The Abbey and Mint of Bury St Edmunds to 1279, The British Numismatic Society Special Publication No. 5 and Spink 2006.

² See Churchill Ron & Thomas Bob, The Brussels Hoard of 1908; The Long Cross Coinage of Henry III. The British Numismatic Society Special Publication No.9 and Baldwin's 2012. Chapter 1, page 3.

