

An Unrecorded Privy Mark on Edward I Class IX Pennies of Newcastle upon Tyne.

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I recently acquired the penny illustrated as 'Coin 1' from a private vendor, after noticing a curious V-shaped wedge immediately above the V of NOVI. My initial thought was that it indicated some accident of mis-striking, die-jumping, or an error on the part of the die-sinker or engraver.

Correspondence with Dave Greenhalgh, however, following a recent BNJ blog article¹ on the subject of possible engravers' privy marks on the reverse of Class I pennies, leads me to speculate whether this wedge represents a similar identification mark?

Coin 1:



I then decided to have a closer look at my own trays and, to my surprise, discovered another example ! This is illustrated as Coin 2 below:



¹ A Peculiar Series of Reverse Die Cutting Errors or Privy Marking of Edward I Class 1c Pennies ([Link](#))

After looking at several more Newcastle pennies of this class, both physically and from photographic images on eBay and elsewhere, I have since encountered two further examples (Coins 3 and 4).

Coin 3 is in only mediocre condition but does quite clearly display the curious wedge above the V:



Coin 4, on the next page, is in somewhat better condition and very clearly shows the wedge over the V. Interestingly, the reverse also shows raised lines between each of the bezants, or pellets, indicating that the die is cracking and, presumably, nearing the end of its working life.

Coin 4 :



I would very much appreciate comments and suggestions from readers, together with images or descriptions of any further examples which may be known, or which may come to light as a result of this blog article.

Acknowledgment: With thanks to Rob Page for image formatting.

