

# Further Lis-by-Neck Waterford Pennies of Edward IV or V and Richard III

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The purpose of this note is to document two further lis-by-neck pennies of Waterford of Edward IV or V, and Richard III, which have recently come to light. The discovery specimen of a Richard III Waterford penny with lis was the topic of a previous BNS blog article of Mac Conamhna, Page & Smith (MCPS).<sup>1</sup> Both the specimens here are from new dies, and add some useful further evidence of the legends and mint signatures of the issues. One of them is of further significance in that the residual traces of the regal name suggest that the coin should be attributed to the reign of Edward (IV or V) and not Richard, as was suggested by MCPS.

## A second Waterford Lis penny in the name of Edward



*Figure 1 – a second specimen of Burns W-38*

Figure 1 is of a penny owned by one of us (KB), which we identify as a second specimen of Burns W-34. It has been pierced. Both dies are different to those of the only other W-34 specimen known to us or to Burns, his plate coin, and Figure 4 of MCPS. It has two lis to the right of the neck, both misplaced to a degree; the inner one is partly overpunched by the portrait and collar, the outer by the beaded circle. There is a (seemingly double-punched) W on the breast. What is visible of the portrait is stylistically similar to that of the previously known specimen. The crown appears to be identical. The hair is similar but not identical; perhaps a different hair punch or perhaps the same in a different (later?) state of wear. Likewise the details of the right eye are not identical. The long protruding collar, visible below the more central lis, appears to be identical to that of the Burns plate coin. The only letters of the obverse inscription that are visible, around 3-4 o'clock, are consistent with

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<sup>1</sup> Oisín Mac Conamhna, Robert Page & Alan Smith, 'A Waterford Penny of Richard III (1483-85)', 17 April 2021.

DVS, with the V and particularly the S identifiable with high confidence. This implies that the regal name is almost certainly EDWARDVS. HENRICVS is a logical possibility, but not consistent at all with what is known of the activities of the Waterford mint in the reign of Henry VII, nor yet the Yorkist affiliation of Waterford during the readeption of Henry VI. With this reading, it is observed that there is a clear V in the same position on the Burns plate coin.

This reading leads to a re-assessment of W-34 from what was proposed in MCPS. There, it was interpreted as a later imitation of the (more accomplished) issue in the name of Richard, illustrated by Figure 2 below. This is inconsistent with the reading now given here of the name as Edward. The question remains as to whether W-34 belongs to the reign of Edward IV or Edward V.

If Edward IV, on the assumption of controlled mint activity in Waterford in his reign, it must date to 1479 or earlier; because from then until Edward's death in 1483, mint activity was restricted to Dublin only, in the Suns & Roses style, at the personal command of the king. It is also very different stylistically to the more accomplished Waterford pennies of Germyn Lynche and Thomas Galmole that were issued in the late 1470s (see MCPS for examples).

The crudity of the style is more suggestive of a hastily-improvised, opportunistic issue, similar in quality (or lack thereof) to the Suns & Roses pennies of Drogheda, now attributed to the reign of Edward V, and issued, it has been proposed, when Edward IV's personal prohibition on mint activity outside Dublin was deemed to have expired with his death. Therefore, we suggest that the attribution of W-34 to Edward V should be given serious consideration, and it seems to us the more likely of the two possibilities.

Traces remain of only three letters of the mint signature on the reverse. They are difficult to interpret, but appear to be consistent with TER. We suggest that the full mint signature (consistent with what remains of the signature of the other W-34 specimen, and also the coin of Figure 2 below) is CIVIT-ASWA-TERF-OO(?)RD. This is a non-canonical spacing, unattested to our knowledge on any pennies of Edward IV, and confused one of us (OC) in his contribution to MCPS, where it was stated that the positions of the visible letters on the other W-34 plate specimen were "impossible to reconcile...to any known abbreviation of CIVITAS WATERFORD." That the inferred mint signature is so significantly different to that of the other known specimens of Edward IV from the late 1470s suggests further that this may be an issue of Edward V in 1483. It is known that both Germyn Lynche and others were producing coins in Waterford outside of central control in 1484, which again, is consistent with the hypothesis that the W-34 issue was produced opportunistically following Edward IV's death in 1483.

### **A second Waterford Lis penny, from the portrait used in the name of Richard**

A second specimen of the Waterford portrait punch used in the name of Richard has been acquired by one of us (OC) since MCPS appeared. It also has lis by neck. The regal name of the new specimen is illegible, but as it is clearly of the same issue as the Richard specimen of MCPS, it is inferred to also be a penny of Richard. It weighs 0.43g. Both dies are different to the MCPS specimen. The remnants of the legend from 7-10 on the obverse are challenging to interpret, though our reading (informed by the MCPS specimen) is [A(?) REX A(?)]

suggesting the English and French title. Notably, there is a circular (test?) punch over the lis on the viewer's left; there is a similar circular punch in the left field of the MCPS specimen.



*Figure 2 – a second specimen from the Waterford portrait punch used in the name of Richard*

The reverse is plain cross and pellets, as for the MCPS specimen. We read the mint signature as [CI]VIT-A[SWA]-T(?)E(?)[R]F-O(?)[ORD], with high confidence in the identification of the first T and the F. The uncertainty in the identification of the second T stems from the fact that the base of this letter appears to be different to that of the first T (fishtailed versus flat). Also this proposed spacing does not correspond to the mint signature reading inferred for the MCPS specimen, which was [CIV]IT - AS [STOP?] W - ATER - [F?] [ORD??]. However on the present specimen, the inferred reading distributes the letters more evenly amongst the quadrants, and is also consistent with the distribution of the letters on the W-34 specimens. The style is much more accomplished than that of W-34, and we re-iterate the proposal of MCPS, that these coins represent the final output of Germyn Lynche.