

# A New Type for the Halfpence of Richard III

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The silver coins of Richard III for the London mint all exhibit either the sun-and-rose conjoined initial mark or the boar's head initial mark (both found in numerous styles). Lord Stewartby in his excellent work 'English Coins 1180 - 1551' lists 3 types of groat reading Richard, which are subdivided into types I, IIa, IIb, IIIa and IIIb with types I and III having the sun-and-rose initial mark. Type IIIa is noted with some rare dies with a pellet below the bust. For the halfgroats a similar arrangement is also found. For the London pence there have been to date no type III coins found. Of the halfpence he lists only two types, one type with initial mark sun-and-rose and one with boar's Head. The Farthing is found from a unique specimen with initial mark sun-and-rose.

The Galata Guide to Small Change also lists just the two types for the halfpenny.

Recently I was fortunate to acquire from Dix Noonan Webb a lot from a metal detectorist's collection of coins all labelled as Richard II. One of these was a misidentified Richard III halfpenny. On examining the coin in the hand I was perplexed to see that below the bust appeared to be a trace of a pellet. The coin clearly reads [R]ICARD but is not in the best of condition and the initial mark is not discernable, also being badly damaged from 5 - 11 o'clock. It weighs 0.27g.



On showing images of this coin to other Numismatists opinion was divided as to if there was actually a pellet or not below the bust. I then set about a search for other specimens of Richard III halfpence in old collections, auctions and web search to see if a clearer specimen would turn up.

(This search has lead to a small die study of halfpence of the period 1483 -1485 which is to be published shortly.)

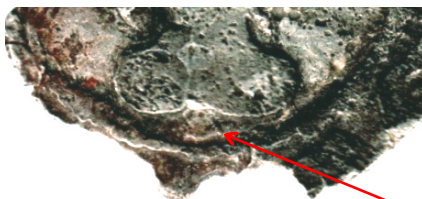
I was contacted by Mr. Lee Stone, via the English Hammered group on facebook, who sent me a picture of a specimen he had in his own collection which fortunately turns out to be a die duplicate of my specimen but in an undamaged state and this clearly shows the pellet below the bust and also the sun-and-rose initial mark.



Ric III  
0.31g  
L Stone



Initial mark sun-and-rose



Pellet below bust

Thus we have a new variety of Richard III halfpenny with initial mark sun-and-rose and pellet below bust corresponding to the types found for the groat and halfgroat.

I am indebted to the members of the Hammered e groups who helped in supplying images of Halfpence and to Paul and Bente R. Withers for their invaluable assistance.



Composite images of the  
halfpennies overlaid on each  
other to give an overall view  
of the pellet below bust type.

