

# Henry III Long Cross Pennies - The Coinage of the Northampton Mint - Class 2bi

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## Abstract

There were three provincial mints that issued pennies of Class 2bi; Lincoln, Northampton and Winchester. It appears that the class was short-lived, and that the issue of dies was limited. We have taken each mint in turn and examined the dies known to exist, identifying these along with the corresponding reverse dies used with them.

There appear to be three obverse dies of Northampton for Class 2bi. Included here are copious illustrations and some suggested means of die identification in order to avoid any confusion caused by wear and in some cases re-cutting.

## Introduction

This study of the dies of Northampton is intended as a starting point for others who may yet discover dies not covered here. We have, however, initiated a form of description which should make it possible to be certain whether any coin is from the same set of dies as those described or not.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who can share pictures or scans of any coins of 2bi whether already covered here or not. If you have any images to share then please contact us via email at [ianheavisides@btinternet.com](mailto:ianheavisides@btinternet.com)

## Essential Information:

The following information is repeated at the start of each of three articles on the mints of Lincoln<sup>1</sup>, Northampton and Winchester so that each article can be read in isolation.

Most of the descriptions which follow are straight forward and obvious but one form may need clarification for those not familiar with the system and that is the "Ring Count". The concept of counting pellets for die comparison was first introduced in an October 2020 blog article<sup>2</sup>.

Because the die sinkers were extremely good at copying existing dies onto new blank dies, in certain cases only minute differences make identification possible. One of the ways is by counting the pellets on the inner ring very accurately.

There are several counts available on the obverse;

1. Counting all the pellets, starting on the right just below the crown band and ending on the left where they cease below the crown band (This applies to all coins up to the end of Class 3; for later classes the count ends at the left neckline).
2. Counting the pellets up to the point of the letter V of hENRICVS.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry III Long Cross Pennies - Class 2bi - The Coinage of the Lincoln Mint, Heavisides & Page, BNS Research Blog, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022 ([Link](#))

<sup>2</sup> "Identifying Die Duplicates" – Ian Heavisides, BNS Research Blog, Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. ([Link](#))

3. Counting the pellets up to the point of the tail of the letters R. There are three counts in the case of Class 2.  $R^1$  is the count up to the first letter R in hENR.  $R^2$  is the count up to the letter R in REX and  $R^3$  is the count up to the letter R in TERCI.
4. Counting to each neckline.

### Obverse Counts

The R,N and V counts on the obverse use a partial pellet system where the tail doesn't point directly at the next whole pellet. The first illustration below, fig. 1, shows V count where the V is pointing at the centre of the pellet being counted. Typically, this might be the 13<sup>th</sup> pellet, hence we have count = 13 on fig 1 and 13.25 (just past the central point of pellet 13) on fig 2. Halfway between 13 and 14 would be written 13.5 (Not illustrated).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

The final illustration, fig. 3, has a "V" nearly at the next pellet but not dead centre to pellet 14 and would be written 13.75. The small neckline that can be seen in fig. 1 would be N1 = 13.75 and that in fig. 2 as N1 = 14.25 (just past the centre of the 14<sup>th</sup> pellet).

### Reverse Counts

Whereas the obverse counts provide the **position** of letters against pellets, the reverse counts are concerned with the **number** of pellets in each quadrant which requires that attention is drawn to even quite small or fractional pellets which need to be counted in.

To make this system accurate whilst avoiding over complexity, where a reverse pellet count is given, small or part pellets are described as .5 indicating that they are approximately the size of a half pellet or even less. Dies wear and pellet sizes can fluctuate from coin to coin so the use of the decimal point is only a rough guide.

Below are some examples of what is meant by the counts used in this article.

The first count, fig.4, would be written .5 + 7 (Total = 8 pellets including the first tiny pellet) and the second, fig.5, 7.5 (8 pellets including the last partial pellet, since the small pellet is the last one encountered when counting). The third example, fig. 6, would be written .5+7.5 (Total =9 pellets or partial pellets, since there are smaller pellets both at the beginning and the end). Note that the last count could simply be written as 8 but the recognition of the two smaller pellets is provided to give confidence to anyone trying to determine whether two coins are from the same reverse die.

This said, to avoid too much subjectivity, all part pellets are counted as whole pellets when totalling up. See reverse descriptions at the end.



Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

If two coins have most of these details in common they are probably from the same die and worthy of further comparison.

## Class 2bi Dies of the Northampton Mint

In Class 2, coins of all three sub-classes (2a, 2bi and 2bii) were issued at London, Canterbury and Bury. Additionally, 2bi pennies were minted at the provincial mints of Lincoln, Northampton and Winchester and 2bii pennies at Exeter, Gloucester, Norwich, Oxford and York. This article is concerned with the 2bi pennies issued at Northampton, where the four active moneyers were: Lucas Parmenter = Lucas the tailor, Philip son of Robert = Philip son of Robert the mayor, Tomas Rinne and Willem of Gangy. For more detailed description of the lives of these moneyers see "Mints & Moneyers During the Reign of Henry III", R Churchill, Baldwins, 2012.

**Obverse legends Used:** hEHRICVS REX TERCI (No apostrophe - Obverse Die 1 only), and hEHRICVS REX TERCI' (Obverse Dies 2 & 3).

**Initial marks :** 2.3 & 3.1 (illustrated below, figs.7,8)



Fig. 7. IM type 2.3



Fig. 8. IM type 3.1

Three obverse dies have been recognised for class 2bi coins of Northampton, with die-sharing between moneyers. These three obverse dies are now described and illustrated below, and are summarised in fig.9.

	Key Feature	Moneyers known for this die
<b>Die 1 TERCI</b>	No pellets between necklines	Philip & Lucas
<b>Die 2 TERCI'</b>	Tail of letter R <sup>pos2</sup> (REX) is to the right of (inside) the left neckline.	Lucas, Tomas & Willem
<b>Die 3 TERCI'</b>	Tail of letter R <sup>pos2</sup> (REX) is to the left of (outside) the left neckline	Lucas, Phelip, Tomas & Willem

Fig. 9.

## Die 1 Obverse.

Reverses: Lucas Parmenter, Philip son of Robert, Lucas.

Key Features (as illustrated on figs 10,12,14)

- TERC I legend **without** apostrophe (best seen on fig.10).
- OIRC = 14 + 14
- Line but no pellets above crown -more evident to right of central fleur
- No inner pellets between necklines (fig 14). Left neck line = 15 and the right line is therefore at position 14 since there are no pellets between the neck lines. Neck lines counted as pellets in count.
- $OIRC R^{pos1} = 7.25$ ;  $OIRC R^{pos2} = 15.75$ ;  $OIRC R^{pos3} = 28.25$
- Tip of letter V points directly at last pellet right and neckline OIRVC=14
- Single line of pellets for beard. (5 pellets to the left of the central chin pellet and (.25+4) to the right).
- Letter S is directly below the chin pellet and the letter R to the left.
- On the obverse the letter I in TERC I is placed above the left side petal of the fleur of the crown and the base of the letter touches the central petal. (See Fig.16).
- Simple curls.
- IM 2.3 see illustrations below.



Fig. 10 - Die 1 obverse



Fig. 11 – Die 1 reverse, Lucas



Fig 12 - Die 1 obverse



Fig. 13 – Reverse, Philip



Fig.14 - Die 1 obverse



Fig.15 – Reverse, Philip



Fig. 16 - Die 1 obverse



Fig. 17 – Reverse -Philip



The letter T shown below has an unusual shape but this seems to appear on all obverses in this form. The base is wide and curved leading up to a slight bulge before it narrows. The head appears to have been created with a tool that was sometimes rotated – note in Fig.18 how the left bottom corner is elongated and then the tool seems to have been rotated through 180° to produce the elongated top right corner in Fig.19. This letter is important in that it connects the dies to some of those produced for the Lincoln and Winchester mints.



Fig. 18 - Die 1  
Obverse Philip



Fig 19 - Die 2  
Obverse Lucas



Fig. 20 - Die 2  
Obverse - Tomas



Fig. 21 - Die 2  
Reverse - Tomas



Fig. 22 - Die 3  
Obverse Lucas

## Die 2 Obverse

**N.B. Dies 2 & 3 are remarkably similar so all details should be checked carefully. The single line of pellets is the most obvious guide.**

**Reverse:** Lucas (BH Nor2); Tomas (BH Nor 6, BH Nor Unknown); Willem (BH Nor 7) ( Note “BH” refers to the Brussels Hoard book of Churchill and Thomas, Baldwins,2012).

Key Features:

- REX TERC I' (apostrophe used)
- Obverse Inner Ring Count without break = 33
- Beard is represented by a **single line** of pellets arranged 4.5 . 5
- Letter S to the right of central chin pellet and letter R<sup>pos2</sup> to the left.
- Letter I of TERC I is placed to the left of the left side petal of the central fleur of the crown but the base almost makes contact with the top of that petal. (See Fig.35).
- Curls are distinctive (see Detail below)
- OIRCR<sup>pos1</sup> = 6; OIRCR<sup>pos2</sup> = 19.25; OIRCR<sup>pos3</sup> = 32.25
- V count = 12.75
- Necklines at 19.75 & 13.75. Left neckline is elbow shaped. Right neckline is triangular.
- Die shared by Willem and Lucas
- IM = Often appears as tilted 3.1 - 3.2 but early struck coins appear as tilted 2.1 – 2.2 (See Fig.31)
- Tail of the letter R of REX points at pellet 19 with neckline at 20 (See below).
- Pellets above crown = 2 . 2



Fig. 23 - Die 2 Obverse



Fig. 24 - Reverse, Lucas



Fig. 25 - Die 2 Obverse



Fig. 26 - Reverse, Tomas



Fig. 27 - Die 2 Obverse



Fig. 28 - Reverse, Tomas



Fig. 29



Fig. 30 - Reverse, Tomas



**Fig. 30b** - BM 1970, 0713.829 - Reverse die of Tomas not found in the Brussels Hoard.



**Fig. 31** – Obverse Die 2

**Fig 32, Reverse, Willem**



**Fig. 33** – Obverse Die 2

**Fig.34, Reverse, Willem**





**Fig. 35, Obverse Die 2**



**Fig 36, Reverse, Willem**

#### **Distinguishing features in Detail:**

The tail of the letter  $R^{pos2}$  of REX is slightly truncated but points at the inner ring of pellets (19.25) before the left-hand neckline connects with pellet 20. (fig.39), also note the following:



**Fig. 37** - The top left curl of the hair is very unusual, being a pellet within what is almost an annulet.



**Fig. 38** -The right neckline is triangular in shape.



**Fig. 39 (Left)** - A small fault connects the inner ring pellet 16 with central pellet of beard.

### Die 3 Obverse.

Reverse: Lucas (BH Nor1 & Nor 2); Phelip (This spelling rare and not known in BH for 2bi); Willem (BH Nor 8)

Key Features:

- TERC' (As the die begins to break down this becomes less obvious).
- Inner ring of pellets (no break) = 33
- Beard is a double line of pellets arranged 4.25 left 5 right
- Letter R to the left of the central chin pellet.
- The lower curl to the right has an un-joined central pellet.
- $OIRCR^{pos1} = 6.5$ ;  $OIRCR^{pos2} = 20.25$ ;  $OIRCR^{pos3} = 32.75$
- V count = 13.25
- Necklines N1 = 14.25 & N2 = 20.
- IM = 2.3
- A small group of pellets to above the crown to the left of the fleur. Three clear ones appear as a triangle but actually there is a tiny fourth top left of square shape.
- Letter S to the right of chin pellet



**Fig. 40a** - Obverse Die 3



**Fig. 40b** – Reverse – Lucas (BH Nor 3)



**Fig. 41a** - Obverse Die 3



**Fig. 41b** - Lucas



Fig 42a - Obverse Die 3



Fig. 42b – Tomas



Fig. 43a - Obverse Die 3



Fig.43b - Reverse - Phelip



Fig. 44 - Obverse Die 3



Fig. 45 – Reverse - Willem





Fig. 46 - Obverse Die 3



Fig. 47 - Reverse - Willem

**N.B. The two Willem reverse dies have been placed in probable order by observing the degree of wear apparent on the obverse die.**

#### Obverse Detail:

- The tail of the letter R of REX joins to the left of the neckline. (fig.48)
- The right neckline has a distinctive shape. (fig.48)
- There is a light but discernible die flaw running from the bottom curve of the letter E of HENRICVS to a small pellet just above the crown. (fig.49)
- There is a tiny group of pellets above the crown and to the left of the fleur. Three are particularly obvious. There is very small fourth pellet, top left, making a square but missing on worn dies (fig.50)
- The OIRC begins with a tiny pellet placed just beneath the pellet at the end of the crown rim (fig.51).



Fig. 48 - Obverse Die 3 - Detail



Fig. 49 - Obverse Die 3 - Detail





Fig. 50 - Obverse Die 3 - Detail



Fig. 51 - Obverse Die 3 - Detail

### **The Willem Reverses and Die Copying Techniques:**

Without attention to detail it is easy to see how these two different reverses could be mistaken for BH Nor.8, but in fact neither exactly matches the description given, so perhaps there is a third reverse yet to be found. The two dies do, however, provide some insight into the way that die cutters were able to copy some features of one die onto the blank of another.

It would seem that the same method used here, (i.e.comparing letter positions against pellets), may have been the method that the die sinker used to ensure his letters were placed correctly.

We know that on the reverse at least, the ring of pellets was struck in after the Long Cross because, where the pellets were struck in at full size close to the long cross the limb was sometimes forced out of shape by the metal displaced by the pellet being struck in. Presumably to avoid this distortion some pellet lines end with a small pellet. Equally some letters exceed their allotted space and appear joined to the limb. It would seem that these reverses were usually structured in the following order; long cross, pellet ring, lettering. It would seem that at least some of the tools used were exactly the same on both Willem coins and that the pellets were used to accurately replicate the first die cut on the new die.

Note on the enlarged sections how, in the first quadrant, the letter W has used the first three whole pellets to place the “elbows” of the letter. However, in the first image a pellet was punched into the actual limb of the cross leaving an extra fragment at the start of the line, too small to feature in letter placement.

In the second quadrant, the letter L ends on the third pellet, the letter E on the sixth and the M on the seventh, one before the final pellet of the quadrant. Note too how the inner triplet of pellets didn’t require the same accuracy of placement and are only roughly in the same position. The technique seems therefore to have been concerned with efficient consistency of letter placement.



Fig. 52



Fig. 53

The letter technique used for the E & M of Willem clearly shows that the reverse dies were sunk by the same die cutter.

Note also, on the right, how the same use of letter shape also occurred on the reverse die 10a of Lincoln.



Fig. 54

	<b>Obverse Die 1</b>	
Obverse	REX TERCI	
OIRC	28 (no pellets between necklines)	
V count	14	$R^{pos1}=7.25; R^{pos2}= 15.75; R^{pos3} = 28.25$
	<b>Reverse Dies Linked to Obverse 1</b>	
Moneyer	Lucas (BH Nor 2)	
Reverse	LVC / ASO / NN / <u>ORh</u>	
RIRC	8 / 8 / 8 / 8 = 32	
Moneyer	Philip son of Robert (Nor 4; BM1970,0713.813)	Philip son of Robert Die (BH Nor 3)
Reverse	PhI / LIP / <u>ONN</u> / ORh	PhE / LIP / OHH / ORh'
RIRC	.5+8 / 8 / 8 / .5+7.5 = 34	8 / 8 / 8 / 8 = 32
	<b>Obverse Die 2</b>	
Obverse	REX TERCI'	
OIRC	33	
V count	12.75	$R^{pos1}=6; R^{pos2}= 19.25; R^{pos3} = 32.25$
	<b>Reverse Dies Linked to Obverse 2</b>	
Moneyer	Lucas (BH Nor 2)	
Reverse	LVC / ASO / NN / <u>ORh'</u>	
RIRC	.5+7 / 8 / 8 / .5+7 = 32	
	Tomas (BH unknown; BM 1970, 0713.829)	
	<u>TOM</u> / ASO / OH-I / <u>ORh</u>	
	8 / 8 / 8 / 8 = 32	
	Willem Gangy (BH Nor7; BM 1970,0713.849)	
	WIL / LEM / OHH / <u>ORh'</u>	
	8 / 8 / 8 / 8 = 32	
	<b>Obverse Die 3</b>	
Obverse	REX TERCI'	
OIRC	.5+32	
V count	.5+12.25 =13	$R^{pos1} = 6.5; R^{pos2}= 20.25; R^{pos3} = 32.75$
	<b>Reverse Dies Linked to Obverse 3</b>	
	Lucas (BH Nor1; BM 1970,0713.799)	Lucas (BH Nor2; BM 1842, 0127.15)
Reverse	LVC / ASO / HHO / RhA	LVC <sup>1b</sup> / ASO / NN / ORh'
RIRC	.5+8 / 7 / .5+6.5 / 8 = 31	9 / .5+8 / .5+7.25 / 8 = 35

	<b>Philip (Nor3; BM 1970,0713.814)</b>	
Reverse	Phl / LIP / OH-I / <u>ORh</u>	
RIRC	.5+8 / 8 / .5+7.5 / 8 = 34	
	<b>Tomas (BH Nor5)</b>	
Reverse	TOM / ASO / HHO / RhA?	
RIRC	9 / 9 / 7.5 / ?	
	<b>Willem (BHNor8?; BM1970, 0713.849)</b>	<b>Willem (BH Nor8?)</b>
Reverse	WIL / <u>LE()</u> / OI-I-I / <u>ORh</u>	WIL / <u>LEm</u> / <u>O-H</u> / <u>ORh</u>
RIRC	.5+7.5 / 7.5 / 8 / .5+7.5 = 33	.5+7 / 8 / 8 / .5+7 = 32

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