

A New Type of Edward IV First Reign Transitional Issue

Canterbury Halfgroat

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In 2010 I published my studies into Medieval Halfgroats 'The Galata Guide To Medieval Halfgroats' and in the section of Edward IV first reign I identified a sub issue of Canterbury coins of Archbishop Bourchier, The relevant section from the book reads -

Transitional Issue August 1464 - July 1465?

This is the author's own designation and is of the unique London Light coinage half groat struck from Heavy (type IV) dies, and a peculiar die with initial mark Rose, saltire's by neck and the tressure fleurs from heavy die punches. This small group represents the transition between the Heavy and Light coinages.

Coins of Canterbury also exist noted by the use of large fleurs on the cusps and initial mark Pall and are found with either quatrefoils or nothing, by the neck and the Bourchier Knot (the personal emblem of Archbishop Bourchier). The reverses associated with these obverse dies are found in three forms:

- i With the initial mark Rose.
- ii Some dies with initial mark Pall.
- iii Some without initial mark.

All the Canterbury reverse dies have a small spur in one quarter of the reverse (see listings for details).

Canterbury Archiepiscopal Mint

Although the permission to strike coin came in July 1463 (some 14 months earlier than the start of the Light Coinage) there are apparently no Heavy Issue half groats surviving and it would seem that Archbishop Bourchier did not commence striking until the new lighter coins were issued. The earliest coins from Canterbury have large fleurs on the cusps and are covered under the section dealing with the Transitional Issue. The coins of this mint all have the initial mark Pall (Y) on the obverse and the majority have the Archbishop's personal emblem, the Bourchier Knot, on the breast. These coins also mirror the London issues in the markings by the neck.'

I recently purchased from the numismatic trade a new variety of Canterbury Transitional issue Halfgroat that has saltires by the neck and reads -

Y EDWARD x DI x GRA x REX x ANGL x Z x FR
IM Pall, Large fleurs on Cusps, Saltire's by Neck
POSVI / DEVM A / DIVTOR / E ' MEVM
CIVI / TAS / CAN / TOR
With spur under CAN

This new obverse type I have designated as Canterbury Transitional DIG 3.

