A New Reverse Die of Richard II Durham Pence By Dave Greenhalgh (Grunal Moneta)

In 1963 F Purvey published in the British Numismatic Journal (Vol. XXXI, 1963 pp 88 - 108) 'The Pence, Half-pence and Farthings of Richard II of the Mints of London, York and Durham' in which he lists the very rare pence of Durham as coming from one obverse (SIC he illustrates 2 dies) and two reverse dies. Stewertby also notes 2 obverse and reverse dies in his book English Coins 1180 - 1551.

The obverse dies reading - +RICARDVS REX ANGLIE with a cross (or lis) on the breast.

The two reverse dies listed read CIVI TAS DVN OLM and xCIVI TAS DVN OLM.

Both correspond with Purvey type Ia and the Purvey illustrations are numbered 30 and 31 on the next pages.

A study of several the coins reveal a third reverse die with saltire before CIVI.

This is by no means a comprehensive die study as I was restricted to Auction images by the nature of the covid lock down and the difficulty therein of visiting the major museum collections and as such can only be regarded as a preliminary die study.



It can be clearly seen that the saltire before CIVI is at the base of the C while the Durham penny published by Purvey has the saltire just above the midpoint of the C, There is also a peculiarity to the letter L on OLM that is not found on the Purvey specimen. Also the presence of a die alignment line to the right of the upright of the central cross not found on the Purvey die.



Richard II Durham Pence Die Pairings

Obv Die 1 Reverse Die A



Note position of X in REX to the Drapery and position of the Lis



No stop before CIVI





30 BM F. Purvey BNJ 1963 1.12g

Obv Die 2 Reverse Die A



Note position of X in REX to the Drapery and central position of Lis

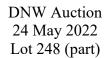




DNW Auction 30 Sep 2009 Lot 255 1.04g











AMR Coins DNW 11 Oct 2021 Lot 1075

Richard II Durham Pence Die Pairings

Obv Die 2 Reverse Die B saltire before CIVI



Note position of X in REX to the Drapery and central position of Lis



Note position of saltire to the C in CIVI





Spink Auction 16022 lot 1209 F. Purvey BNJ 1963 No 31





Spink Auction 16022 lot 1209





BM 1.11g





Spink Auction
45
Ex Norwebb
R. C. Lockett
IV lot 1363
Huth
Murdoch
A. D. Clarke
Marsham





Author's Collection
Cast forgery from this
die pair, original coin
not traced. See BNS
blog
Caveat Emptor II
Modern Forgeries of
Richard II

Richard II Durham Pence Die Pairings

Obv Die 2 Reverse Die C saltire before **CIVI**



Note position of X in REX to the Drapery and central position of Lis



Note position of saltire to the C in CIVI



Note damage to the letter L in LM





DNW Auction 18 Nov 2018 Lot 602 1.05





DNW Auction 3 Nov 2019 Lot 633 x 1.08



Lot 1135 (part)



R Lockett IV lot 1362 Ex Walters



DNW Auction

8 Jun 216

Lot 254



BM1.00





Private Collection P. Russell





Agora Auction



Note die scratch to the right of the central cross