

# 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

DNW Auction  
24 May 2022  
Lot 248 (part)

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  
8 Jun 216  
Lot 254  
1.14

DNW Auction  
18 Nov 2018  
Lot 602  
1.05

DNW Auction  
3 Nov 2019  
Lot 633 x  
1.08

DNW Auction  
11 Oct 2021  
Lot 1135 (part)

R Lockett  
IV lot 1362  
Ex Walters



Note die scratch  
to the right of the  
central cross

BM  
1.00

Private Collection  
P. Russell

Agora Auction