

# 1843 Threepence Varieties

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The threepence features on the obverse the Young Head throughout the series, from when it was first minted under Victoria in 1838 to its last minting in 1862. The reverse has the value '1 ½' in the centre and has the date below, all of which is surrounded by two oak branches.

Peter Davies cites two major varieties of the 1843 threepence, which are the following:<sup>1</sup>

Number	Die	Description
1385	1A	Normal 34
1386	1A	'43' over '34'

Maurice Bull gives the same varieties. However, Bull writes the description "43 of date over 34?"<sup>2</sup> Whether the question mark means he is unsure of its existence or leaves it up to the collector to decide if it is a genuine variety I have no inkling from his reference guide. Certainly, the latter is more preferable as it is the collector who decides what to collect.

Michael Gouby delves further into this by adding another variety, so composing the following list:<sup>3</sup>

Die	Type	Description
1A	A	Normal 34, pointed top 4 with a T-bar
1A	B	'43' over '34'
1A	C	Normal '34', flat top 4 with a slant-up tail

As can be seen major varieties of the threepence have been well-documented by these three writers – Davies, Bull and Gouby.

There are further date micro-varieties which this essay shall explore and that have so far been undocumented. These concern variations of Gouby's Type C. (isolated below for clarity).

Die	Type	Description
1A	C	Normal '34', flat top 4 with a slant-up tail

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Davies, *British Silver Coins Since 1816*, 1982, 73.

<sup>2</sup> Maurice Bull, *English Silver Coinage*, Spink 2020, 474.

<sup>3</sup> [www.michael-coins.co.uk/GB3halfpence.htm](http://www.michael-coins.co.uk/GB3halfpence.htm)

By documenting these variations, this will ensure a collector has the greatest chance of ensuring all varieties are collected for this series, if they want to. Although, variations are small they are something different so worth documenting.

The date variations include the following:

Type	Description	
Ca	All numerals level	
Cb		
Cc	High '4' when compared to all the numerals and '3' slightly low when compared to '18'	
Cd	'4' slightly low when compared to '18' and '3' very low	
Ce	High '3'	
Cf	'1' slightly rotated to the left, '4' slightly rotated to the right and '3' level with '8'	
Cg	Numerals ascending in height	
Ch	Very low '4'	

I have seen Cg and Ch many times, though I have not had the chance thus far to buy one. Therefore, there is no picture. However, the description makes clear what to look out for. There may, also, be more date variations considering this type to look out for and which I certainly will be doing to ensure I have a 'complete' (as can be) collection.

