

An Example of a Henry VI Annulet Issue York Penny from the Ecclesiastical Mint?

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The York penny shown below (Fig.1) with a mullet to the left of the crown and a lis to the right has generally been accepted as a Henry V Class G penny. In fact, Spink in their book *Coins of England and the United Kingdom* (Spinks, 2021) lists this penny under Henry V with the Spink number of S1791. Lord Stewartby in his book *English coins 1180-1551* (Stewartby, 2009) had a different opinion and lists this penny under Henry VI Annulet Issue.



Figure 1. Henry V/VI York Penny (London made dies).

It is the aim of this article to try and present an argument for placing this penny in the reign of Henry VI and under the Annulet Issue as put forward by Lord Stewartby. It must be noted that Stewartby only mentions the local die versions of this penny and does not mention London made dies. The style of the above coin strongly suggests that it was made from dies supplied from London due to similarity with other London made dies e.g., Calais pennies.

Why should this penny be considered as Henry VI and not Henry V? It is very difficult to definitely date the different types of Henry V and Henry VI pennies but there exist some coins that were produced under a short-lived royal mint in York that have proved useful in this particular case. Marvin Lessen in his *British Numismatic Journal* article “*York Annulet Silver Coins of Henry VI*” (Lessen, 1993) says that mint records imply this silver coinage was struck between 30th September 1423 and the 7th August 1424. Below in Fig.2 is the obverse of a Henry VI Annulet Issue York penny from the royal mint. This penny (Fig.2) is useful because it shares many features from Henry V Class G London pennies, especially the crown and face. Fig. 3 shows the obverse of a Henry V Class G London penny for comparison.

The most obvious difference between the pennies in Fig. 2 and Fig.3 and that of the penny in Fig.1 is the style of the crown. Fig.4a shows the style of crown used in these “earlier” Henry V/VI pennies and Fig. 4b the crown used for later Henry VI pennies.



Figure 2. Obverse of Henry VI Annulet Issue York Penny (*Image © Noonans Mayfair*).



Figure 3. Obverse of Henry V Class G London penny.



Figure 4a. Early style Crown



Figure 4b. Later style Crown

The use of the later style crown on the penny in fig.1 would suggest that it was produced after the Henry VI Annulet Issue York penny (Fig.2) and probably dates it to somewhere around

1424 or later. This would put it into the reign of Henry VI. This later style of crown combined with the face and hair becomes the norm and are used in both the Rosette Mascle and later pennies. Fig. 5 shows the York mullet and lis penny next to a Henry VI Rosette Mascle Calais penny (PAS, 2012).



Figure 5. Obverses of Mullet and Lis Penny (left) and Henry VI Rosette Mascle Calais Penny(right).

Conclusion

The aim of this article was to help support the opinion of Lord Stewartby that the York pennies with the mullet and lis by the crown were minted during the Annulet Issue of Henry VI rather than Henry V. Hopefully the reader will agree with this conclusion.

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References

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Addendum

During the drafting of this article the use of London made dies and local York dies was used without really giving an example of the later. Below in Fig.6 is a local dies mullet and lis penny muled with the reverse of a Rosette Mascle penny. Hopefully the difference compared to the London made die (fig.1) is reasonably clear.



Figure 6. Mullet and lis penny (local dies) muled with Rosette Mascle reverse.