

Henry VIII: A Possible Candidate for Archbishop Warham's Mark?

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During Henry VIII's Second Coinage 1526-44 the Archbishop of Canterbury William Warham struck coins bearing a mintmark which Lord Stewartby (Stewartby, 2009) called an "*uncertain composite mark*". In Spink Coins of England and the United Kingdom (Spink, 2021) it is just called "*Uncertain mark, 121*". This mark seems most prevalent on Canterbury halfgroats and studies of coins from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS, 2023) show some similarities with a crowned leopard's head mintmark. This mintmark was first used during the reign of Henry VII for the years 1498-9. Fig.1 shows a crowned leopard's head from a Henry VII Type IIIc London groat (Ashmolean Museum).



Figure 1. Henry VII crowned leopard's head mintmark.

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Figure 2. Possible crowned leopard's head mintmark from Canterbury halfgroat.

Fig.2 shows an example of a mintmark from a Canterbury halfgroat (PAS, 2009) produced under Archbishop Warham. Could the Canterbury mintmark be a crude copy of the Henry VII mintmark rather than made using a worn or damaged original mintmark punch? There are certain features which would appear to match with the original mintmark. The tongue and ears seem to correspond quite well between the two mintmarks. Fig 3 shows a more degraded example of the above mintmark.



Figure 3. Degraded example of the mintmark from a Canterbury halfgroat. (PAS, 2020).



References

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