

A New Type for Henry VI York Restoration Pence

Timothy Cook and Dave Greenhalgh



The coin shown above was found in December 2018 near Durham and purchased in February 2019 on eBay. The obverse legend reads -

+ [?????????] RA REX ANG

with initial mark Restoration Cross (13) and a G and key by the bust.

The reverse legend reads -

CIVI / TAS / EBO / [RACI]

with a quatrefoil in the center. The coin weighs 0.72gm and measures 15.71mm. The authors have sporadically corresponded since the purchase regarding whether the coin was from the reign of Henry VI or Edward IV and recently concluded that it is indeed a coin from the reign of Henry VI. The largest reason it has taken so long to reach this conclusion is that the king's name is absent. While the York pence of both reigns have both the G and key by the bust none are noted with the initial mark Restoration Cross which is only found on the coins of Henry VI and with current reference works showing all York pence having a Lis im. The im on this coin precludes this coin from the second reign of Edward IV. This leaves the only possible conclusion that this is a new obverse die of Henry VI with a Restoration Cross im. The obverse legend is most likely the same as found on York type 3 in Blunt and Whitton and would read -

+HERICV DI GRA REX ANG.

The coins of George Neville with G and Key by bust are found from the following types giving both J. J. North² numbers and the Blunt and Whitton¹ reference types:

Edward IV light coinage.

N 1594 - B&W [local 1-4] crude types found with initial marks Rose or Cross, legend ending ANGLIE.

N 1595 - B&W VI London made dies with initial mark Sun.

N 1595 - B&W VII initial mark Large Lis.

N 1599 - B&W X initial mark small Lis or Long Cross Fitchee.

Henry VI restored.

N 1623 - B&W - (XI) initial mark large Lis.

Edward IV second reign.

N 1645 B&W XII initial mark Short Cross Fitchee.

N 1646 B&W XIV initial mark Short Cross Fitchee no quatrefoil on the reverse.

For illustrated examples see last page.

Notes

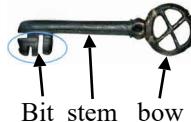
1 Blunt and Whitton 'The Coinages of Edward IV and of Henry VI Restored' BNJ vol XXV 1945 -1948.

2 J. J. North 'English Hammered Coins Vol II' Spink and son 1975.

Additional Notes
by Dave Greenhalgh

When I was first sent a picture of the coin by Tim Cook, I was unsure of the attribution and that the initial mark may have been a Short Cross Fitchee that was obscured / distorted by the inner circle pellets. On further research my doubts were dispelled by paying attention to the Key by the bust. On examining the coins of these groups a feature stood out that the key used for the restoration was of a slightly different style in that the elements of the key, known as the 'bit', were of a different style to those found on those of Edward IV of both first and second reign. The coin in question had this form of key so the piece can be firmly placed as Restoration issue for York with the initial mark of the Restoration Cross as is found on the London coins. Whether this was a deliberate placing of the initial mark Restoration Cross or a die sinkers error will probably never be known.

Names of parts of a key



Edward IV Key



Henry VI Key



Edward IV light coins - key with thin lines representing the 'bit'



Henry VI restored - key with thicker shaped lines representing the 'bit'



Edward IV second reign coins - key with, once again, thin lines representing the 'bit'
For Archbishops Neville, Booth and Rotherham.

Edward IV first reign Light coinage York



BW pl3 16
B&W Local 4



DIG rn2306 0.79g
IM large lis, B&W VII 1



Spink Auction 16022_1442_1 0.61g
IM Small lis, B&W XI1 pl 3 22



Spink Auction 12009_863_1 0.84g
IM LCF B&W X2

Henry VI Restored London



Spink Auction 16022_1409_1 0.62g
IM Restoration Cross B&W XI1



Spink Auction 16022_1408_1 0.76g
IM Restoration Cross. B&W XI2

Henry VI Restored York



T. Cook 0.72g
IM Restoration Cross.



British Museum 1926,1010.9 0.62 g
Ex L. A. Lawrence.
IM Large Lis. B&W XI1
Reads HENRIC



T. Cook 0.72g
IM Large Lis B&W XI2
Reads HENRICV



Dnw 2018 Nov 714 0.60g
IM Large Lis B&W XI3
reads HERICV

Edward IV Second reign York



Fitzwilliam Museum Ex C.E. Blunt
IM Short Cross Fitchee, B&W XII4



B&W XII5 pl 3 24
IM Short Cross Fitchee, no
quatrefoil on reverse