

# Henry III (Posthumous) Class 7 Pennies

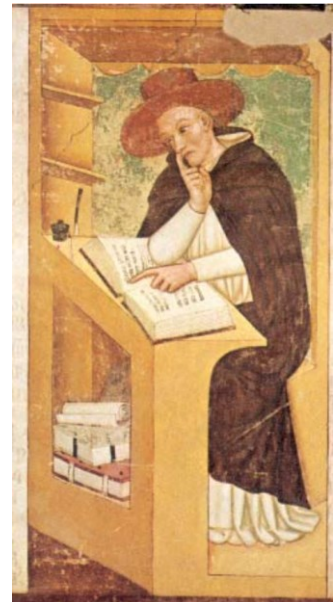
## Part 6: The Ecclesiastical Mints

Robert Page

Previous blog articles dealt with the class 7 posthumous issues of Phelip and Renaud of London, but now we come to the much rarer class 7 coins of the Ecclesiastical mints: Ion (John) and Ioce (Jocues) at Bury St Edmunds, and Robert at Durham. But firstly a few words concerning Canterbury.

### CANTERBURY

Although early charters by Richard I and John of the years confirmed to the Archbishop of Canterbury the grant of three moneyers with their dies, and the fact that this grant continued into the reign of Edward I, no class 7 coins are known from Canterbury; possibly related to the fact that the archbishopric there was vacant for some of the time when class 7 coins might have been expected to have been produced. The archbishop had been Robert Kilwardby (shown at right) who had been appointed to the position in 1272 and consecrated in 1273. Kilwardby had crowned Edward I and his wife Eleanor as king and queen of England in August 1274, but otherwise took little part in politics. In 1278 Pope Nicholas III named Kilwardby as the Cardinal Bishop of Porto and Santa Rufina. Kilwardby resigned Canterbury and left England, with his term in Canterbury ending in June 1278. This timing was after class 7 production had commenced at London in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1277 or earlier<sup>1</sup>. It is possible that, as a Dominican, Kilwardby did not wish to profit from operating a mint; it should be noted that he was not good with money – having left his see deep in debt again, after his predecessor had cleared a previous debt.



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The next Archbishop, John Peckham, was a highly respected theologian who taught at Paris and Rome. He tried in vain to reconcile the differences between Edward I and Llwelyn Ap Gruffudd. However, he was not appointed until 25 January 1279, and all coin production had ceased in November the previous year, with the new recoinage of Edward I beginning with the new style coins being struck from May 1279 at London, and being joined by other mints, including Canterbury, over the next two years.

Although no coins of class 7 are known from Canterbury, there is also a lack of known coins from class 6. However, as there was an Archbishop in place with minting rights, it is not impossible that some class 6 pennies were produced, but that specimens have not survived.

### BURY

Class 7 Bury coins are known from two moneyers, “ION” and “IOCE”. Robin Eaglen<sup>2</sup> tells us that Jocues the Goldsmith, “IOCE” on the coins, was presented in the spring of 1278 by Simon of Kingston,

<sup>1</sup> Robert Page, “Henry III (Posthumous), Class 7 Pennies from the London Mint”, BNS Research Blog, Sept. 2020 ([Link](#)).

<sup>2</sup> Robin Eaglen, ‘The Abbey and Mint of Bury St Edmunds until 1279’, Spink Books (2006)

sacrist at Bury, to replace John de Bernedisse, “ION”, who had been appointed in January 1265. Both moneyers were known in class 7 by two sets of dies at the time Eaglen published his study of the Bury mint in 2006. Since then, one or two more coins have turned up, and additional dies are now known.

If both moneyers minted coins at about the same rate, and a similar or equal number of dies exist for each, then the implication is that John commenced minting class 7 perhaps during the last quarter of 1277 given that IOCE’s production period ended in November 1278 after about 6 months’ production. Discovery of further coins and dies could change this timing estimate.

The dies from Bury had previously been used in pairs; when one or other die broke or wore out both were taken out of service and replaced at the same time by a new pair of dies.

All coins described below are summarised in a useful table at the end of the article.

## Bury Coins of ION

John de Bernedisse issued coins from class 5g through to class 7. Those of class 5i are very rare, but coins of class 6 are relatively common owing to the discovery of 1,916 die duplicates that were found in the 1969 hoard from Colchester. For comments on this hoard see the recent blog article by Bob Thomas.<sup>3</sup>

The four known examples of his class 7 pennies are shown below, two being in the British Museum and two in private collections.

a) The first example is a **British Museum** example, item reference number BM 1950,0606.48.



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Obverse: King’s name spelt with a Roman “V” not a Lombardic “U”. The inner circle is unclear in the neck region but by comparison with the coin below should have about 10 pellets between the necklines. Normal, single-headed, sceptre. Reverse: IOh’/ONS/ENT/EDM – The EN in the 3q is ligated. The pellet count in the reverse inner circle (“RIC”) is quite high at about 13 pellets/quadrant, which has not been seen on any of the London coins. This coin is recorded in Eaglen as RE350, dies A/a

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<sup>3</sup> Bob Thomas, “Note on the 1,916 Bury St Edmunds class 6 coins from the 1969 Colchester Hoard”, BNS Research Blog, Sept. 2021 ([Link](#)).

b) The second ION of Bury example is courtesy of **David Palmer**, and is a finer example than the BM coin.



Obverse: Note the line extending from the top of the King's left hair curl towards the approximate base of the sceptre head, as shown in the enlargement on the right. This is also seen on the BM coin above, and it indicates that the two coins are both from the same obverse die. The inner ring has about 10 pellets between the necklines.

Reverse: One sees more detail of the legend in comparison to the BM coin; in the 2q it is apparent that the "n" is Lombardic rather than a Roman "N". As with the BM coin, the RIC count is relatively high.

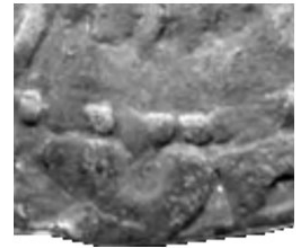


c) The third example of a Bury ION coin is one taken from the **Portable Antiquities Scheme** database, item ref # SF-45E107, a 2005 discovery from Suffolk and which weighs 1.36 gm. Although this metal detector find is not in as good condition as the previous two examples it is worth including here as it demonstrates the existence of another pair of dies:





Obverse: The line referred to in the previous example is not discernible on this coin owing to the amount of wear, however the shape of the letter “X” suggests one is looking at a coin from a different obverse die: In the illustration alongside, on the left is shown the X from this coin, and on the right the X from the previous coin. Note the subtle differences, including the angle of the “E” closure bar.



Reverse: The RIC count is lower than in the previous examples, and is about 9 pellets/quadrant, indicating a different die. Legend: IOh//OhS//ENT//EDM (EN ligated), with possible apostrophe over the “h” in the first quadrant.

It should be noted here that David Palmer has a cut half, heavily clipped and weighing only 0.43 gm, of a penny that appears to probably be from the same dies; it was found to the north of Lancaster.

d) Finally, the **BM** has a second ION example, 1930,0617.1, which unfortunately is cracked and worn, but is included here for completeness. The obverse shows 6 or 7 pellets between the two necklines, which demonstrates that this is a third obverse die. The reverses of this coin and the PAS coin above are too unclear to be certain that they are also of the same die, though the obverses are clearly different. This coin is recorded in Eaglen’s book as RE 351, dies B/b.



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## Bury Coins of IOCE

These were issued from Spring 1278. With the assistance of David Palmer five examples have been located and are illustrated below. Two are museum specimens, and three in private ownership. At first some of the coins may appear to have identical dies, but careful inspection reveals the differences. The five full pennies which have been recorded, as well as a cut half, are from four different dies.

a) The first example of an IOCE coin is that of the **British Museum**, with reference number BM 1950,0606.49.



Obverse: A “V” rather than a Lombardic “U” in the king’s name. No punctuation after REX.

Reverse: IOCE/ONS/ENT/[ED]M, - The CE in the 1<sup>st</sup> quadrant is not ligated, in contrast to the Fitzwilliam coin shown later. Unusually, this coin has a Roman “N” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quadrant; whereas all other examples examined have a Lombardic “n”. RIC count: 8/8.5/8.5/? This is coin R.E. 352 (dies A/a).

### b) SED-1494 of David Palmer

This is probably from the same dies as the BM coin above, however given its’ condition it’s hard to be sure. It is a metal detecting find from Worlington in Suffolk.





c) A coin in a **private collection**, ex Jim Sazama and Robin Eaglen collections. Eaglen designates it as die RE 353, weight 1.08 gm.



The above coin is a little unusual as it is the only Bury coin known with a Lombardic “U” on the obverse rather than a Roman “V”. Reverse RIC count is ~ 8 pellets/quadrant, and the reverse “n” is of the usual Lombardic style. Reverse legend: IOCE/OnS/ENT/EDM – the CE, EN & EDM are ligated.

d) The next example, from dies C/c, is from the **Fitzwilliam Museum**, and is illustrated below...



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Obverse: Note a pellet after REX, a feature seen on some of the coins of Phelip of London, plus an apostrophe after “III”.

Reverse: IOCE/ONS/[ENT]/EDM – the CE being ligated, possibly some other letters too though the legend is unclear in places. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quadrant “n” is of Lombardic style. The RIC count appears to be 10/9/9/9 or similar. Notably, there is a colon at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quadrant.

e) **SED 532 of David Palmer**, ex Mike Vosper.



This coin is not in great shape, being rather worn and perhaps degraded through burial, however some of the features are clear enough. On the obverse there is a Roman “V” rather than a Lombardic “U”, and there appears to be 6-7 pellets between the two necklines. There is no punctuation after REX. On the reverse the legend is only partially legible: IOCE/EnS/E[ ]/[ ]. The RIC count is difficult to ascertain but appears to be about 8 pellets/quadrant.

## DURHAM

For Durham Martin Allen<sup>4</sup> sensibly chose to not estimate the output of Long Cross classes 5g, 6 and 7 between c.1260 and 1278 in the absence of documentary evidence and adequately recorded large hoards. Output was clearly low, and very few Durham class 7 coins have survived; there are two in Museums (The British Museum and the Fitzwilliam), and three are known in private hands. All examples of pennies that I am aware of are illustrated below, and also one cut halfpenny though that does not show sufficient data to determine its dies. At this point in time there are four different obverse and four different reverse dies known, with a number of die pairings.

The bishop who held the minting rights at Durham was Robert de Insula (Robert of Holy Island) who was the son of crofters and a native of the island of Lindisfarne. He was Bishop at Durham from 1274 until his death in 1283. His moneyer was also named Robert, but we do not know his identity, nor do we know the identity of any other moneyers working at the mint at this time. The reverse on his coins reads ROB/ERT/OND/VRE.

### The British Museum Example (Dies A/a)



Obverse: bust with wide neck having 12 pellets between the necklines. Much of the obverse lettering is unclear, including whether there is a Lombardic “U” or a Roman “V”. Martin Allen in his 2003 book states a “V”, but I am uncertain. Certainly, the only clear example of this obverse die, that of David Greenhalgh, has a Lombardic “U”. The reverse has about 10 pellets in the inner circle per quadrant. Reverse legend: [ ]/ERT/OND/VRE with ND ligated. This coin and the Greenhalgh coin below are probably from the same obverse die.

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<sup>4</sup> Martin Allen, ‘The Durham Mint, 2003, Spink & Son Ltd.



### **Dave Greenhalgh's Coin (Dies: A/b)**

A detector find purchased by Simon Hall and subsequently sold on Ebay to Dave Greenhalgh.



Quite severely clipped, but readily identifiable as a Durham coin by the reverse legend: [ ]/ERT/OND/V[ ]. Examination of the pellets under the crown-band on the obverse shows minor pellets either side of the four major pellets; this feature is also seen on the British Museum specimen. Another feature in common is that the right-hand end ornament of the crown leans over at a greater angle than the left-hand ornament.

### **The Fitzwilliam Museum Coin (Dies B/c)**

More clipped and worn than the BM specimen, and with a weight of only 0.95 gm.



The reverse inner ring count is only 7-8 pellets per quadrant, compared to the about 10 pellets of the BM coin. Obverse legend not clear, however “EN” in the king’s name is clearly not ligated. And not all the reverse legend is clear either: [ \_ ]B/ER[T]/OND/VRE – with the ND being ligated. Provenance: Ex North; ex Spink 4.10.1984; ex Dupree; ex Elmore Jones. Images: © Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Accession number: [CM.1549-2001](#)

### **Bob Thomas’s coin (Dies C/d)**



Obverse: A different shape to the bust compared to the other coins illustrated; having no sign of a neck and the base of the chin almost touching the inner circle. “EN” in the king’s name is ligated. “REX” is followed by a colon. Reverse: RIC count is ~ 10 pellets/quadrant. Unfortunately, parts of the obverse and reverse legends are indecipherable. Note the form of the letter T; when looked at the right way up, then the right-hand side serif hangs down lower than the left-hand side. This form of “T” is also seen on Hugh Jenkins’ coin below.

### **Hugh Jenkins’ Coin (Dies D/d)**

A 2024 metal detecting find from the Nettleham area north of Lincoln. Weight 1.3 gm.







In conclusion, the class 7 coins from Bury and Durham were produced in lesser numbers than those from London, as evidenced by their lower extant numbers. Coins of Durham are the rarest, and in today's market collectors will likely have to pay in excess of £1,000 for a VF specimen. Coins of either moneyer at Bury might be similar. Phelip of London is the commonest class 7 penny to be found, and would likely sell for £300-450, whereas Renaud coins are more likely in the £400-600 range, depending upon type and condition. Any coin with a double sceptre head will carry a premium.

**Acknowledgements:** With thanks to Simon Hall, David Palmer, Bob Thomas, Dave Greenhalgh, Hugh Jenkins for images and helpful comments. Any errors or omissions are, of course, mine alone.

Class 7 Reverses Report											
<b>Bury</b>											
lon	RevDie#	ObvDie#	Identifier	RevLegend	Rev2qNn	Rev3q	Rev4qUV	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
211	?	A	BM 1950.0606.48		?		n/a		?	?	
210	a	A	SED-602 (RE 350)		n		n/a		?	?	
245	a	A									
212	b	B	BM 1930, 0617.1 (RE 35)		n		n/a		?	?	
213	c	C	PAS SF-45E107		n		n/a	10?	9?	8.5?	?
loce	RevDie#	ObvDie#	Identifier	RevLegend	Rev2qNn	Rev3q	Rev4qUV	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
215	a	A	SED-1494		?		n/a	?	?	8	9
214	a	A	BM 1950.0606.49		N		n/a	8?	8	8.5	?
216	b	B	SED-532		n		n/a		?	?	
217	c	C	CM.1548-2001		n		n/a		?	?	
218	d	D	1564		n		n/a	8	8	8	8
<b>Durham</b>											
Robert	RevDie#	ObvDie#	Identifier	RevLegend	Rev2qNn	Rev3q	Rev4qUV	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
230		?	RW1 Cut half					10			
219	a	A	BM 1950,0606.53		n/a		U	?	10	10	10?
220	b	A	DG-1		n/a		V?		?	?	
221	c	B	CM.1549-2001 (DRRT70		n/a		V	?	8	8?	7?
222	d	C	DRRT7002		n/a		V	?	?	10	10
247	d	D	HJ-1				V		9?	10	

See overleaf for a table of the obverses.



## Obverses Report

Mint

Bury	ObvGrp	Obv	Die/Sceptre	Head	ObvNn	ObvUV	ENR	Lig'n	Hair	R Foot	Bef.REX	Aft.REX	VGL	NLP	Pellets	SideCF	HandBreaks	CLNL	PRT	Eyes	Identifier
<b>Ion</b>																					
245	A																				
210	A	Single	N	N	V		No	ligation	4	RH neckline	?	---	No	10	None		Yes	0	27?	Level	SED-602 (RE 350)
211	A	Single	N	N	V		No	ligation	4		?			[10]						Level	BM 1950.0606.48
212	B	Single	?		V		Unclear		4	RH neckline	---	---	No	6-7	Unclear		No	2	Uncle	Level	BM 1930.0617.1 (RE 351)
213	C	Unclear	N	N	V		Unclear		4	L of RH neckline	---	---	No?	8	Unclear		No	2?	23?		PAS SF-45E107
<b>Ioce</b>																					
215	A						EN		4		?			?			?	?		Level	SED-1494
214	A	Single	N	N	V		EN		4	L of RH neckline	---	---	No	8	None		Touching	4	24	Level	BM 1950.0606.49
216	B	Single	Unclear		V		Unclear		4	L of RH neckline	---	---	No	6-7	No		Yes	0	18?	Level	SED-532
217	C	Single	?		U?		Unclear		4	Unclear	?	Pellet	?	8-10?	None		Just touche	?	~32		CM.1548-2001
218	D	Single	N	N	U		EN		4	L of RH neckline	---	---	No	8?	None		No	3-4	27?		1564
<b>Durham</b>																					
<b>Robert</b>																					
230	?								6?					?				3	?		RW1 Cut half
220	A				U				6?	RH neckline		?		?						Level	DG-1
219	A	Single	?		U?		?		6?	L of RH neckline	?	?	No	11	None		Touching	2	28?	Level	BM 1950.0606.53
221	B	Single	N	?		ENR				Unclear	?	---	No	8?	None		No	3	?		CM.1549-2001 (DRRT7003)
222	C	Single	N	?	?	EN			4	?	?	Colon	?	?	None		No	?	?	Right lower	DRRT7002
247	D	Uncertain	?		?	EN			5	Rt of RH neckline	?	Colon	No	9			No	2	?	Level	HJ-1