

The Numismatic Value Double Struck Coins Can Provide (A Reattribution and an Attribution of two Norman Coins)

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This research note follows upon the author's first research note published December 18, 2024, on the BNS blog, and its purpose is to demonstrate that even coins with some form of double striking error can still provide valuable information. This Research note will examine two coins which exhibit a form of strike error associated with double striking and will add additional Moneyer and mint combinations to the corpus of the "Mints and Moneyers of England, 1066 – 1158."

For the purpose of this research note, the author defines a double strike coin as being one of the following:

- A coin which has rotated about its die axis between strikes
- A coin where one of the strikes has shifted off-centre (regardless of the initial or subsequent strike[s])
- A coin that has flipped/turned over during the striking process

The two examples of double struck coins provided are: 1) an example where the coin flipped over during the striking process; and 2) an example where one of the strikes is off-centre.

First Example: Henry I Annulets and Piles type (North 860, S. 1265)

The purpose of this example is to demonstrate that additional information can be obtained when evaluating a strike error in greater detail, even if it has been analysed previously. Specifically, we will analyse the spelling of the Moneyer. This coin was illustrated and detailed in 2016 within Martin Allen's 'The Mints and Moneyers of England and Wales, 1066–1158: Addenda and Corrigenda' BNJ 86 on page 174. Figure 1 presents the initial view of this example and is from the courtesy of A.H. Baldwins & Sons Ltd.

Figure 1 – Presentation of the Henry I Annulets and Piles Type Double Strike



Initial Commentary:

When analysing the obverse, an annulet and two piles can be easily discerned on the right one-third of the obverse. With that in mind, the author will forgo highlighting it and refer the reader to the initial research note published above. What is beneficial to note is the reverse design and the legend about that area on the obverse is clear and unaffected by the secondary strike.

High-Level Observations:

- Whilst not detailed by Martin Allen, the obverse legend appears to read + hENRIEDo (the N and R ligated), along with other incomplete lettering that progresses towards the bust of Henry I.

- The reverse legend has been detailed as +PIN[---]ON[-]HEPA¹ (the H and E ligated) and denoted as Wined(a)i of Canterbury.

Something that is curious is the presence of the letter “D” on the obverse because this is unanticipated if the legend is generally meant to state Henry King (e.g. HENRI/HENRIE/HENRIC REX, and deviations thereon). Further, given its proximity to other elements of the initial strike which remain visible despite a subsequent strike being applied, the author hypothesises it may belong to the reverse legend. To support or negate this hypothesis, an analysis of both the Moneyer and mint signature will be performed.

Analysis of the Reverse Legend Lettering

Analysis of the Moneyer:

Figure 2 illustrates the reverse along with easily discernible lettering (or parts of letters) of the legend. In analysing the reverse, the starting cross of the reverse legend is visible along with the following letters: P; an I; ligated N and R; an E; a mostly obscured letter; an O; followed by various additional letters that are partially obscured and will be analysed as a part of the mint signature; and then finalised by a P and an A.

Figure 2 – Reverse Legend and Detailed Lettering Observed



At this point, we can discern two more letters of the Moneyer’s name than initially documented. Moreover, the author believes we can determine the full spelling due to the fortuitous way the initial strike and secondary strike occurred. To achieve this, the focus will turn to the obverse legend where the lettering above the annulet and piles noted in the initial commentary is seen. If attention is paid to the letter O of both the obverse and reverse legends in Figure 1, they appear to be the same. Additionally, when moving clockwise along the obverse legend after the O, the base of the lettering appears to align to that of the reverse legend following the letter O. Therefore, to test this observation the reverse legend will be traced and overlaid upon the obverse utilising the O as an anchor point, which can be seen in Figure 3.

¹See page number 172 of https://www.britnumsoc.org/publications/Digital%20BNJ/pdfs/2016_BNJ_86_7.pdf

Also note the following references for Martin Allen’s initial and subsequent publications: ‘The Mints and Moneyers of England and Wales, 1066–1158’, BNJ 82 pgs. 54 – 120, 2012; ‘The Mints and Moneyers of England and Wales, 1066–1158: Addenda and Corrigenda’ BNJ 86 pgs. 164 – 190, 2016; ‘The Mints and Moneyers of England and Wales, 1066–1158: Addenda and Corrigenda (2)’ BNJ 91 pgs. 77 – 102, 2021

Figure 3 – Overlay of Reverse Legend upon the Obverse



After overlaying the reverse legend onto the obverse, alignment can be seen (with the exception of the legend that was fully obliterated by the overstrike). Further, when looking at the far right picture of Figure 3, the letter D not only fits perfectly into the reverse legend but also is aligned to the inner beaded border associated with the initial strike of the reverse. Therefore, the following position can be taken: the letter D noted in the high-level observation of the obverse legend belongs to the reverse legend.

To quickly test this, an overlay of the legend *inclusive* of the letter D has been placed back upon a picture of the reverse, which can be seen in Figure 4. The area where the mostly obscured letter noted in the reverse legend has been circled.

Figure 4 – Overlay of Reverse Legend inclusive of the D Noted from the Obverse



Once the legend has been overlaid, not only is the square base of the left side of the D apparent, but the outer curvature of the D is also discernible (especially the lower part of the curve toward its base). A further enlargement of the circled area has been provided in Figure 4. Following this analysis, a tenable position can be taken the Moneyer's name is PINRED (N and R ligated) or Winraed. This is important because when reviewing Martin Allen's 'The Mints and Moneyers of England and Wales, 1066–1158' (inclusive of both the subsequently published addenda and corrigenda), Winraed is detailed as a Moneyer from Lewes for coins of William II and Henry I. Therefore, a detailed analysis will now need to be performed on the mint signature.

Analysis of the Mint Signature:

The following high-level observations are noted when reviewing Figure 2:

- The “N” from ON appears to be ligated with the first letter of the mint signature;
- The first letter of the mint signature has an additional base, or “foot”, that is visible;
- The author concurs with the previously recorded detail that the mint signature ends in “EPA” and the “E” is ligated with the prior letter; and
- The ligated letter preceding the “E” does have a crossbar present in the middle.

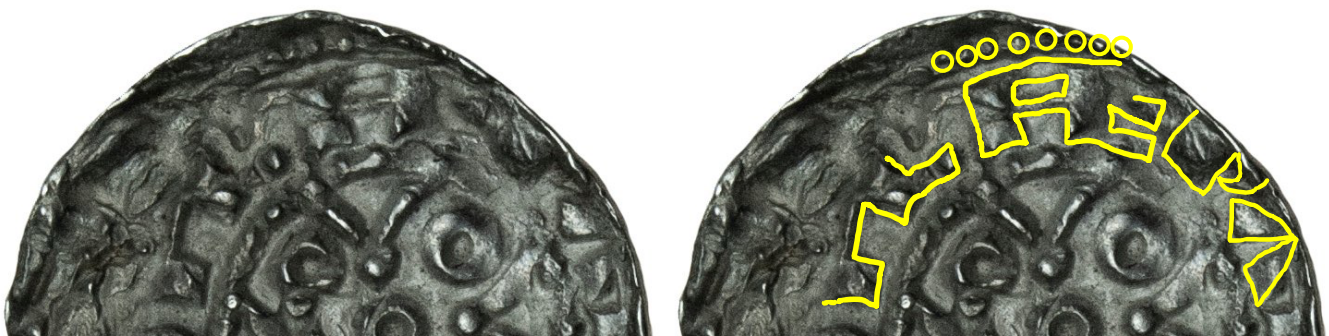
Figure 5 illustrates the reverse with focus now only on the mint signature and above observations.

Figure 5 – Reverse and Mint Signature Detailed



The initial focus will be upon the letter that is ligated with the “E” and the area just above it. We can observe there are a series of round dots, which represents the outer beaded border of the reverse. Whilst not easily visible in the above figure, when the coin is seen in the hand the full beaded border is visible from that area and clockwise unto the edge. This is pertinent because it means the area is fully struck. When looking below the outer beaded border, it appears *another* crossbar can be seen at the top. Thus, if a cross bar is present at both the top and middle, this implies there is the potential for the letter “A”. Figure 6 is an enlargement of that area with additional detail added.

Figure 6 – Enlargement of Mint Signature



Now turning to the first letter of the Mint Signature that is ligated with the “N” of ON, we can observe there is the base of a letter and no other features present (i.e. other curved features that would be associated with the letters “B” or “D”, or an upward extension that could be interpreted as part of the letter “G”). Thus, we are left with the following letter possibilities: “C”, “E”, and “L”. Given the only mint commencing with the letter E is Exeter in conjunction with the other discernible letters, this possibility can be dismissed. Thus, we are left with the possibilities of the mint signature beginning with a “C” or “L”. Finally, when examining the area above the base of the letter, there does not appear to be any other extensions (or remnants thereof) that could represent the top part of the letter “C”. However, given the nature of this being a strike error, the possibility of this being a letter “C” cannot be categorically dismissed.

Therefore, considering the above the following readings of the mint signature options appear to be possible (with ligated letters underlined):

- ONC HEPA / ONC NEPA (to be closer aligned to the reading detailed by Martin Allen)
- ONC AEPA (possible reading if it is the letter “A” ligated with the “E”)
- ONL AEPA (referencing Lewes and what is proposed by the author)

Figure 7 illustrates in blue where the potential placement of the “C” would be for Canterbury in the second picture, as well as a comparison with the reading from Figure 6, which supports a mint signature for Lewes in the third picture.

Figure 7 – Illustration of Potential Mint Signatures for Canterbury and Lewes



Conclusion:

Whilst there is some room for interpretation in the reading of the mint signature, the presence of the Moneyer of Winraed strengthens the position this is an example of an Annulet and Piles type of Henry I from the Lewes mint. This is based on the existing known combination of this Moneyer and mint from other types with the reigns of William II and Henry I. Regardless, until 2016 this type was not documented for Canterbury or Lewes and remains of numismatic significance. However, given the preponderance of evidence above seen in the preceding analysis, the author asserts a tenable position can be taken this coin represents an example from the Lewes Mint for Winraed with the reading being +PINRED ONL AEPA (with ligated letters underlined).

Second Example: Henry I Small Profile/Cross and Annulets type (North 868, S. 1273)

This example will focus upon a reverse legend and detail a new Moneyer and mint combination for this type. Figure 8 presents the next example and is by the courtesy of Noonans Mayfair, Auction from 21st of December 2021, Lot 77.

Figure 8 – Presentation of the Henry I Small Profile/Cross and Annulets Double Strike



Initial Commentary:

This was catalogued as being an uncertain mint (perhaps Ipswich) and moneyer, A[—] GPE [?]². Even though the hands of time have been a bit rough with this coin, it still has some useful information to reveal.

High-Level Observations (with a focus upon the reverse only):

- The author *initially* concurs with the Noonans listing on the reading of the reverse legend
- This is an example where the reverse has been double struck as two of the letters “G” and “P” are readily discernible
- The central cross is struck off-centre, which will add some challenge in determining the legend

Establishment of Inner Border:

Due to the state of preservation of this example, it will be beneficial to determine the placement of the inner border of the reverse design to help with placement of lettering. This will be achieved by utilising a few of the discernible design elements. Specifically, the central cross and the annulet in each of the top quadrants will be useful and this is because parts of the cross of the initial strike are visible, along with parts of the top annulets. Additionally, part of the “G” and “P” will also be used as other anchor points. As this is a double strike, the design and lettering for the more visible lower will be used to help assess placement of the higher strike. Figure 9 demonstrates the progression in determining the placement of the inner circle for each of the strikes.

Figure 9 – Placement of the Inner Border and Other Design Elements for Each Strike



From this, we can determine there is also a rotation of about 2.5 degrees between the two strikes. In viewing the placement of the two strikes, it should be noted the “A” is fully formed in the middle picture of Figure 9. Contrasted against the picture on the right, the “A” would be cut through by the inner circle of the reverse design. Since the “A” is fully formed in the middle picture, we can conclude this represents the secondary strike (or overstrike, if you will). In Figures 13 and 14 the initial strike (or understrike) will be shown in red, but the focus will be on the secondary strike for now. From the above we can conclude:

- Any letter, or other design element, that is located further up on the coin belongs to the initial strike.
- Any letter or design element located closer towards the bottom belongs to the subsequent strike.

With the placement of the inner borders, an analysis can begin on the letters present in the reverse legend.

Placement of the Initial Cross and Determination Reverse Legend Lettering:

Given the mint signature’s prevalence in the example, we will start analysing that part of the reverse legend. As stated above, any letter or design element located closer towards the bottom edge will belong to the secondary overstrike. Thus, the “G” and “P” that appear lower are a part of the more visible overstrike and serve as our initial anchor points. As an aside, the author utilised the “G” from the initial understrike as it is in a better state

² <https://www.noonans.co.uk/auctions/archive/past-catalogues/605/catalogue/405978/?offset=40>

of preservation for the purpose of this illustration. Figure 10 shows the placement of these two letters, along with the central design elements.

Figure 10 – Placement of Known Mint Signature Letters of the Secondary Strike



With the placement of the “G” and “P” of the mint signature, there appears to be ample room for an additional letter. The right side of this letter is partially visible with the remainder not fully struck up due to the “G” of the initial strike. Given its square base and lack of room for other features (e.g. curvature to be found with the letters “B” or “D” or top cross-bar for a “T”), it appears this is the letter “I”. Moving clockwise from the “P” the letter “E” is also discernible along with the initial cross of the legend and the letter “A” which will belong to the Moneyer. Figure 11 shows the placement of the full mint signature, which appears to read as GIPE.

Figure 11 – Full Placement of the Mint Signature, Starting Cross, and First Letter of the Moneyer



With the mint signature defined, focus will now turn onto the Moneyer. Progressing clockwise from the initial “A” the following are observed, which are also presented in Figure 12 below:

- A rectangular letter which appears to be an “I”
- The square base of a letter which also has another part sticking out like the base of a “C,” “E,” or “L”

- The square base of a letter which also has some curvature that would accompany a “B,” “D,” or “P”
- Another rectangular base of a letter
- Two additional rectangular bases connected with a cross bar
- The base of a letter with another part sticking out like the base of a “C,” “E,” or “L”
- A punctuation mark, which is either a period or one part of a colon (due to the off-centre strike)

Figure 12 – Placement of Discernible Letters and Features for the Moneyer



Following the above observations, and to help ascertain whom the Moneyer could be, the author consulted Martin Allen’s ‘The Mints and Moneyers of England and Wales, 1066–1158’ (inclusive of both of the subsequently published addenda and corrigenda). The following Moneyers were noted for coins of Henry I from the Ipswich Minth which begin with the letter “A”:

- Ædgar/Edgar/Edger
- Ælfric/Alfric
- Ailwi(ne)

Based upon the discernible letters and other features of the letters pertaining to the Moneyer, it would appear the Moneyer is AILPINE (Ailwine). Currently, this Moneyer and mint combination is not noted for this type but does exist for other types. Therefore, this example helps to fill in that absence.

Conclusion:

Even though this second example is not in the best state of preservation, a secondary look and detailed analysis has provided us with additional information to establish a new Moneyer and mint combination for this type.

Where an uncertain attribution had existed before, we can now take a tenable position of the following:

- The mint signature reads GIPE for Ipswich
- The Moneyer’s names appears to be AILPINE for Ailwine

Therefore, even a less-than-ideally-preserved double struck example can add information to the collective numismatic field and yield a few secrets.

Additional Illustration for the Initial Strike

To finish the analysis of this second example, the author is presenting Figure 13 to show the placement of the initial strike. The purpose of this is to help the reader to observe and attempt to discern areas where some of those elements are present now that they are highlighted. Although there is double striking and the state of preservation is not the best, some elements are discernible (even beyond the mint signature). Two such examples which are visible include part of the initial cross for the legend and the punctuation mark at the end of the Moneyer, which can be found within the inner circle of the secondary strike.

Figure 13 – Placement of the Initial Understrike Legend for Illustrative Purposes



Lastly, Figure 14 is presented with an overlay of both the initial and secondary strikes. The purpose of this is to provide an example that can be studied/observed to aid with analysing coins with some form of error strike to help understand the dynamic in how an initial and secondary strike impact one another. Further, this example does exhibit a few of the observations detailed in the author's first research note which include:

- Remnants of the understrike being present and remaining fully raised, partially raised, or outlined as they were not fully obliterated into a flattened state by the overstriking process; and
- Some parts of the design and legend of the overstrike may not be fully struck up or filled in, which means they will be lower than other areas of the overstrike design.

To illustrate the first point, on both the left and right arms of the cross for the secondary strike, there are raised features relative to the surrounding areas. These areas correspond to parts of the cross from the initial strike. As both strikes share the common area, this part is fully struck. Thus, a triangular shape can be seen on the left arm of the cross, whilst the top part of the right arm of the cross is more fully formed as a result of this dynamic. As an aside, the lower part of the right arm of the cross is a bit more fully formed due to an annulet from the understrike sharing the same area (and also explains why it appears curved). The author intentionally excluded drawing lower right annulet from the initial strike to keep Figure 14 a bit cleaner in its presentation.

The second point from above is exemplified when the annulets are analysed, especially the top-right annulet. Here, we can see where the underlying annulet is “cutting through” the annulet of the secondary strike because the area was not fully struck to obliterate the initial strike. Additionally, the curvature of the annulet of the first strike can be observed on the inner circle of the second strike. Thus, the inner circle to the right and left of this area is not fully struck up but is still visible at a lower height than the surround area.

Figure 14 – Overlay of the Reverse of the Initial and Secondary Strikes

