

# The missing denomination “Farthing” from Henry VI Restoration Issue

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Is this tiny coin really a newly discovered denomination for the London mint during the short restoration of Henry VI from October 1470 to April 1471?

As with all research or simply identifying coins there is a process of elimination involved. This paper will go through this process on this coin and the subsequent conclusion.



## **Coin Details: -**

**Size = 10mm / Weight 0.20 grams / No Privy marks**

**Legends = Obverse – +hEnRICVS DI GRA RE / Reverse – CIVI TAS LOnDOn**

**Initial Mark – A cross with a nick in the bottom. (Restoration Cross?)**

Initial findings from a visual inspection and due to the size and weight it is clearly a farthing. It was minted in London, and it is from one of the King Henry's but which one? Well, we can rule out Henry 1,2,3 as the first and second did not have a round farthing and the latter was a short cross which leaves a possible 4,5 and 6.

## **Henry IV Farthings**

**Legends - +hEnRIC:REX.AnGL' – NO MATCH**

**Portraits – No busts, face only – NO MATCH**

**Conclusion:** None of the examples seen have a bust, the legends are also the same on these examples and do not match the coin in question so can rule out Henry IV.

## Henry V Farthings

**Legends** - +hEnRIC:REX.AngLIE – with slight variations recorded – **NO MATCH**

**Portraits** – 1 - Large Head with no bust – **NO MATCH** / 2 – Small head with long thin neck - **NO MATCH**

Conclusion: The legends remained the same as the previous monarch and both portraits differ from the research example thus ruling out Henry V.

## Henry VI Farthings – 1<sup>st</sup> Reign

**Legends for all sub-categories** - +hEnRIC:REX.AngLIE (Some Pinecone Mascle issues start + hEnRICVS) – most have symbol stops depending on the category.

Conclusion: Although the Pinecone Mascle issue has the kings full name like the research example name it still ends with REX ANGLIE, it also has Pinecones in the legends. The Annulet issue does have an example with no marks but with the same legends so still no match. It would seem we don't have a match with the first reign either.

## Edward IV Farthings – First Reign – Light Coinage

**Legends** – EDWARD DI GRA REX

Along with the kings name the full legend was also changed for the first time since being introduced during the reign of Edward I. The previous 3 reigns being Henric Rex Anglie – Henry King of England.

This was now changed to EDWARD DI GRA REX - Edward by the Grace of God King of England.

## Henry VI – Second Reign

The halfpenny for London has the new legend +hEnRIC DI GRA REX ANG as you would expect once the change was implemented during Edward IV's reign.

**Conclusion** – this coin is certainly a Henry VI Farthing minted in London. It has no privy marks ruling out most of the first reign. With the mint mark being a cross with a nick at the base, this looks like it could be the "Restoration Cross" which would place it well in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reign.

As the legends are also of the same make up of the coinage of Edward IV, I would have to conclude that this coin was struck after the change in legends and would place it in the restoration period of October 1470 to April 1471.

It also makes sense that a Farthing would have been struck at this time as all the other silver denominations have been found. As the denomination is not recorded in the Coins of England Catalogue or in North this would be a nice addition to the Numismatic record.

If anyone would like to add any information or send me your thoughts, please get in touch.

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