

A New Reverse Legend Reading for Edward IV First Reign London Halfgroats

By
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When Blunt and Whitton wrote their articles on Edward IV in the British Numismatic Journal ‘The Coinages of Edward IV.....Part II’. BNJ vol. 25, (1945-8), pp 130-182 they described the halfgroats of London with initial mark Long-cross Fitchée (B&W 10a and 10b) as having the reverses with initial mark sun which was also found for B&W 8 and initial mark rose (B&W X/IX). This was also the case for my work on halfgroats ‘The Galata Guide to Medieval Halfgroats’ Galata Print 2010 where I listed the reverses found always with an initial mark either crown sun or rose. The first reign halfgroats are quite scarce being found from approximately 75 coins from 26 different dies.



Actual size
DIG 25 / 9
Rn 2296
1.26g

†EDWTRDDIGRTRRX ANGLSFR
POSVI* / DEVΩ π / DIVTOR / E' ΩEVΩ
CIVI / TTS / LON / DON

Recently I won the above coin, on Ebay, a halfgroat of Edward the 4th first reign Light coinage with the initial mark Long cross Fitchée with trefoils on the cusps over the crown. A pleasant specimen of DIG 25, however the reverse is without initial mark and has a single saltire stop after POSVI. This reading up to now has been unknown for Edward IV London halfgroats either first or second reign.

- A few examples with stops after POSVI are known, none of which could be this reverse die, these are:-
- Edward IV heavy issue with initial mark rose.
 - Edward IV Canterbury Transitional issue without initial mark but with double saltire stop.
 - Edward IV London Light issue with initial mark crown and trefoil stop.
 - Edward IV Canterbury Light issue without initial mark but with single saltire stop and extra pellet under CIVI.
 - Edward IV York Light issue without initial mark with Lis after POSVI.
 - Edward IV London second reign with initial mark Heraldic Cinquefoil and single saltire stop after POSVI.

I have added this new reverse to the Halfgroat Listings and have designated it Edward IV first reign London light coinage DIG reverse 9.