

Titled Crown / First Cross and Pellets cross-coinage reverse die links at Waterford, 1465

Oisín Mac Conamhna



Figure 1. Reverse die link between Titled Crown coinage (left) and First Cross and Pellet Coinage (right) groats at Waterford. The Titled Crown groat is British Museum E.2932 (2.43 g), images © **The Trustees of the British Museum**. Shared under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC-SA 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) licence. The Cross and Pellets groat is Dix Noonan Webb auction 11 October 2021, lot 1295 (2.42 g).

The purpose of this note is to record cross-coinage reverse die links between Titled Crown (1463-5) and First Cross and Pellet (1465-7) coinage groats and pennies at Waterford. The groat die link is shown in Figure 1. Three Titled Crown specimens from the die pair of Figure 1 are known to the author; the others are in the National Museum of Ireland (NMIHC:2002.1033, 2.62 g) and the Ulster Museum (illustrated by Dolley 1972 23). One

other specimen from the same Cross and Pellets die pair as Figure 1 is known to the author, in the National Museum of Ireland (NMIHC:2002.1092, 2.80 g), in addition to two further specimens from the same “Sigma on breast, crosses by neck” obverse, S.6311D¹ (Spink auction 7018, lot 273, 2.29 g; and in the Ulster Museum, Dolley 1972 25). This Cross and Pellets obverse has long been attributed to the First Cross and Pellets coinage of 1465-7, on stylistic and weight grounds; the link observed here confirms the attribution, and further suggests strongly that the dies of Figure 1 were the last groat dies of the Titled Crown coinage of 1463-5, and the first of the Cross and Pellets coinage of 1465-7.



Figure 2. Reverse die link between Titled Crown coinage (left, 0.45 g) and First Cross and Pellet Coinage (right, 0.56 g) pennies at Waterford. Left, private collection; right, NMIHC:2002.1078, images © National Museum of Ireland.

A similar link was observed for pennies, Figure 2. Two specimens from each die pair are known to the author. The other Titled Crown specimen is in the Ulster Museum, Dolley 1972 28. The other Cross and Pellets specimen is also in the Ulster Museum, NMNI BELUM.X35452 (chipped; 0.50 g). The Cross and Pellets pennies were discussed in Mac

¹ Sovereign Rarities 2025.

Conamhna 2024. There it was stated that the style suggested the 1465-7 coinage, but that the weight argued against it, and so the dating was left uncertain. In light of the link of Figure 2, attribution to the First Cross and Pellets coinage of 1465-7 appears to be confirmed; and indeed, the link suggests that these were the first pennies dies of that coinage used at Waterford. It is noted that both coins of Figure 2 are significantly underweight relative to the standards pertaining for their coinages.

The evidence of these links is that the Waterford moneyers responded pragmatically to the change of coinage, by replacing their obverse dies and carrying on. The links allow for an unusually precise dating of the coins involved, to around the coinage transition in 1465. It remains to be seen if similar links exist at Dublin.

References

- Dolley, M., 1972. *Medieval Anglo-Irish Coins* (London).
- Mac Conamhna, O., 2024. 'An unpublished Waterford Penny type of Edward IV', BNS blog 20 April 2024.
- Sovereign Rarities 2025. *Coins of Scotland, Ireland and the Islands (Jersey, Guernsey, Man & Lundy) including Anglo-Gallic coins.* (Malta).

