

How to identify Henry III long cross pennies Part 2

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Part 2 deals with the voided long cross pennies having a sceptre. Such coins are frequent metal detecting finds and this article will help identify them. For the non-sceptre pennies please refer back to the September Issue of *The Searcher*.

All English voided long cross pennies were produced by the London ('L'), Canterbury ('C'), Bury ('B') or Durham ('D') mints; the provincial mints having been closed down before the sceptre coins appeared. If you are trying to identify a Henry III long cross penny with a sceptre then first try to read the moneyer and mint names on the reverse of the coin; the table in **fig. 6** shows which moneyers are known for each class from the four issuing mints, and their relative scarcity. You are more likely to have found one of the commoner coins, shown in purple or blue, than one of the rarer ones shown in orange or red. The table may give you some clues as to what your coin might be. Now begin with question #20 below:

20) On the obverse of your coin the king is holding a sceptre. Look at the wording to the left of the sceptre:

- If 'REX' then go to #21.
- If 'III' go to #25.
- If 'XIII' go to #36.

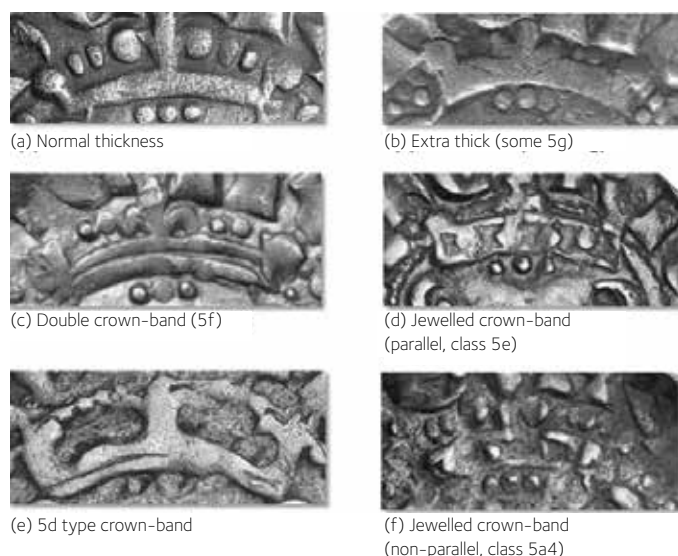
21) You have a very scarce class 4 penny. These coins were produced with more care than the majority of the previous class 3 coins – with the exception of 3d2 and 3d3 coins – where a move to finer die cutting is equally evident. Class 4 pennies are the last Henry III pennies to include an initial mark ("IM"). This being type 5 – a star with eight rays, and the hENRICVS legend commences right after the star. On the reverse of the coin the inner circle is made up of many small pellets – typically 14-16 pellets per quadrant. An experimental issue perhaps, and which was only in use for a short period, making these coins scarce and highly sought after. The production of class 4 pennies continued from late 1250 into 1251, and these were then followed by the re-designed class 5a coinage. There are three types of Class 4 that are recognised, and to determine which you

Class:	4a	4ab	4b	5a1	5a2	5a3	5a4	5b1	5b2	5c1	5c2	5c3	5c3/5d	5d1	5d2	5d3	5d3/e	5e/d	5e	5f	5g	5h	5i	6	7	
Apx. Dates:	late 1250 into 1251			1251 to c.1256											1257		1257-1258		1258-1269		1269-1275		c.1276		c.1277-1278	
London																										
Nicole	S	RR	RR	S	C	CC																				
Henry	RR	RR	RR	C	C	C																				
Daw	X	RRR	RR	RR	C	C																				
Ricard	X		R	R	C	C																				
Ion																										
Walter																										
William																										
Thomas																										
Robert																										
Ransud																										
Philip																										
Canterbury																										
Nicole																										
Gilbert																										
William																										
Ion																										
Robert																										
Robert																										
Walter																										
Alain																										
Ambrozi																										
Ricard																										
Roger																										
Bury																										
Ion																										
Ransud																										
Ransud																										
Stephen																										
Iohn, Ion																										
Ioca																										
Durham																										
Ricard																										
Roger																										
William																										
Robert																										

LEFT: Figure 6

- have you need to examine the central fleur above the crown-band, and the ornaments at each end of the crown-band. Refer to **fig. 7** for the three types.
- Pellets as end ornaments, and a central fleur of pellets: Class 4a, go to #22
 - Pellets as end ornaments, and a true central fleur: Class 4ab, go to #23
 - Half fleur end ornaments, and a true central fleur: Class 4b, go to #24
- 22) Class 4a: These scarce coins are only found from the London mint, and were issued by the moneyers Nicole, Henri, Ricard and Davi, with Nicole coins being the ones most commonly seen.
- 23) Class 4ab: These were issued by Bury, Canterbury and London, with Canterbury coins the most commonly seen. Again, all of these are rare.
- 24) Class 4b: Only issued by the London mint, and less commonly seen than classes 4a and 4ab.
- 25) You have a coin with 'III' to the left of the sceptre. Firstly look at the king's hairstyle in **fig 8** to determine whether class 5, 6 or 7.
- Class 5 – go to #26
 - Class 6 – go to #42
 - Class 7 – go to #43
- 26) You have a class 5 coin, but which sub-class? Class 5 is the commonest class but contains a few rarities well worth looking out for. The different factors we need to examine include the style of the crown-band, the shape of the eyes, and the styles of the letters 'R' and 'X'. The crown-band is the best place to start – look at the types illustrated in **fig. 9** and choose the one most similar to your coin:
- Plain crown-band of 'normal' thickness – classes 5a, 5b, 5c, some 5g, 5h, 5i – go to #27
 - Plain crown-band but extra thick – some class 5g pennies – go to #39
 - Double crown-band – class 5f (Mints: L/C/B) – go to #38
 - Jewelled crown-band – class 5a4 (Mint: C) or 5e (Mints: C/L)

- go to #37
 - Ornamented crown-band – class 5d (Mints: L/C/B) – go to #35
- 27) The crown-band is of normal thickness and plain style. Now look at the eyes ...
- Round eyes – classes 5a and 5b. Go to #28
 - Oval or almond-shaped eyes – 5c, 5g, 5h, 5i. Go to #33
- 28) Classes 5a and 5b:
There are four sub-classes of 5a and two of 5b. Firstly look at the style of the letter X in **Fig. 10**:
- X type 2 – go to #29
 - X type 4 – go to #30. Note that there are several varieties of X4.
- 29) Round eyes and X2: Your coin is either a scarce class 5a1 or a common 5a2. The difference being that 5a1 has half fleurs at the ends of the crown and 5a2 has pellet end ornaments. 5a1 coins are found for London only, but 5a2 were issued at London, Canterbury and Bury, but not Durham (**Fig. 12**).
- 30) Round eyes and X4: Look at the style of the letter R on the obverse (**fig. 11**).
- R1 - go to #32
 - R2 - go to #31
- 31) X4/R2 – The coin is either a fairly common 5a3, (**fig. 12**) or, if it has a jewelled crown-band rather than the normal plain one, it is the rare class 5a4. The jewelled crown-band is similar to that of class 5e, as illustrated in **fig. 9**. Class 5a4 coins are known only from Canterbury.
- 32) X4/R1 – There are two possibilities here:
- 5b1 – half fleur end ornaments on the crown, as also seen on 5a1. A rare coin, and only known from the London mint.
 - 5b2 – has the normal pellet end ornaments on the crown. A very common coin. A large class that may in time prove capable of being sub-divided. Mints: L, C, B & D. (**fig. 12**).
- 33) Your class 5 coin does not have round eyes, but does have a normal plain crown-band: there are a number of possibilities here: 5c, some 5g, 5h or 5i. Many class 5g coins are easily recognisable by their thick crown-band, but some



TOP LEFT: Figure 7: The three crown styles of class 4 pennies
LEFT: Figure 8: The three hair styles of sceptre pennies
ABOVE: Figure 9: Some Types of Class 5 Crown-band

5g pennies have bands similar in thickness to other classes such as 5c. Take a look at **fig. 13** and see which of the illustrations appears most similar to your coin. Check your conclusion against the mint/moneyer data on **fig 6**.

- 5c - go to #34
- 5g - go to #39
- 5h - go to #40
- 5i - go to #41

34) Class 5c coins first appeared from late 1252 to early 1253, and were minted until about 1257. Three sub-classes are recognised and are illustrated in **fig. 14**.

- 5c1 – Oval eyes and R type 2.
- 5c2 – Oval eyes and the wedge-shaped R1.
- 5c3 – Similar to and gradational with 5c2, but a true 5c3 has a disjointed central fleur. The term 5c3 is best applied to those coins having distinct separate stalks for the side pellets, and which originate from the crown band not immediately adjacent to the central stalk. Deciding on whether a coin is 5c2 or 5c3 can be quite subjective. One other possibility for your coin is that it is a 5c3/5d mule, i.e. an obverse of class 5c3 and a reverse of class 5d. These occur for numerous moneyers at London and Canterbury. If it's a mule you will be able to tell by the slightly unusual reverse legend: look for a colon preceding the moneyer's name and/or the presence of a reversed letter 'N'.

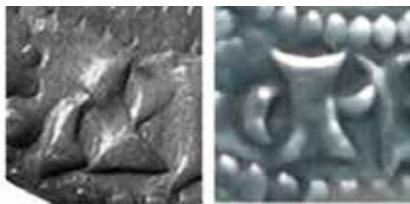
35) Class 5d – The rare and unusual coins of class 5d (**fig. 15**) issued in about 1257 mark a second phase in the life of the sceptre pennies. They are characterised by some unusual legends on the reverse, some including a lis symbol. Frequently the letter N is reversed. Class 5d breaks the continuity seen in the gradual changes from 5a through 5b

to 5c, and introduces notable changes to the bust and crown, and to the lettering. Three subclasses are recognised beginning with the crude 5d1, and with the design improving through 5d2 to 5d3. Examples are shown in **fig. 15**. At one time it was thought that this group of coins were imitations minted on the continent, however detailed study of 5c/5d and 5d/5e mules has demonstrated that 5d coins are part of the English series (a mule is a coin with obverse of one class and reverse of another). You may be able to recognise a 5d3/5e mule by the absence of any unusual lettering features on the reverse. (Mints: L and C). Perhaps 5d coins were produced by a temporary set of die-cutters, but the earlier workers were re-employed from class 5e onwards.

- 36) XIII – Coins having the 'X' of REX along with 'III' to the left of the sceptre are highly unusual – they occur on one variety of a class 5d1 coin of Canterbury, and also on some rare continental imitations. See **fig. 15**, but note that not all 5d1 coins have XIII to left of sceptre; most read III.
- 37) Class 5e – Class 5e pennies are very rare, and can be differentiated from equally rare 5a4 coins in that their two crown bands are parallel, but in class 5a4 the ends of the upper band arch down towards the lower band. See (d) and (f) in **fig. 9**.
- 38) Class 5f – Easily recognisable by means of the double crown-band (**fig. 9**). The bust style is similar to that in use before the introduction of the strange class 5d.
- 39) Class 5g – a vast class issued for more than 10 years. Some, but not all, 5g coins have a particularly thick crown-band. The letter R is of type 3 (**fig. 11**), and the letter X can be type 5 or type 6 (**fig. 16**). A number of examples of 5g coins



X type 2



Two forms of X type 4



R type 1



R type 2



R type 6



5a2: – R2/X2



5a3: – R2/X4



5b2: – R1/X4



5c1, with ball-shaped letter R



5c2, with wedge-shaped letter R



A class 5c coin (5c2)



5g – type without thick crownband



5h



5i



5c3, with wedge-shaped R and disjointed central fleur



5c3, enlargement of the disjointed central fleur

TOP LEFT Figure 10: Class 5 : X types 2 and 4

TOP RIGHT: Figure 11: Class 5: common types of the letter "R"

MIDDLE LEFT: Figure 12: Classes 5a2, 5a3 & 5b2

BOTTOM LEFT: Figure 13 BOTTOM RIGHT: Figure 14: Class 5c

are shown in **fig. 17**; note the variations on crown-band and fleur, and also note the pellets seen in various places outside the bust. In particular note a feature known as the 'necklace' – a series of pellets that shows on the neck of several of these examples. This feature is often, but not always, seen on class 5f and 5g coins. The bust can be large and with a rounded chin, or smaller with a pointed chin; these pointed chin types are generally considered to have been issued later than the round chin types. There is no clear break between 5g and 5h - as time progressed the shape of the fleur deteriorates into a group of pellets; whilst the fleur is still discernible the coins are classed as 5g.

London and Canterbury 5g coins are relatively common to extremely common, though there are a few London rarities to look out for: Thomas and Robert. Other than the common Renaud of Bury coins, the other moneyers from Bury, and all those from Durham, are scarce to rare.

- 40) Class 5h – issued approximately from 1270 to c.1275, the defining feature of 5h pennies is no well-defined central fleur, but usually three pellets, sometimes in a stacked triangle, but degenerating into a line of pellets. This latter type may consist of 5 pellets with often two smaller pellets either side of a central larger pellet. Some pellets may have their own short stalks. The bust is usually pointed, not rounded, as seen in the example in **fig. 13**. Mints: L,C,B, not D.
- 41) Class 5i illustrated further degeneration in the quality of the die production, with coins now being of very crude appearance. Rarer than 5h, and only known for Renaud of London and Ion of Bury. An example is shown in **fig. 13**. Henry III died in November 1272, whilst class 5i and perhaps

5h was still in production. Although his son Edward succeeded Henry he was away crusading at the time of his father's death, and it was not until August 1274 that Edward arrived back in England. The voided long cross design continued to be struck for the first years of Edward's reign, and it was not until 1279 that Edward's new coinage was introduced.

- 42) Class 6 – These pennies, issued posthumously (i.e. during the reign of Edward I), were quite scarce until the discovery of the second Colchester hoard in 1969. This major hoard contained the largest quantity of voided long cross pennies ever found in England, and provides a valuable data source to supplement the information now available for the Brussels Hoard. Over 11,300 Henry III long cross pennies of classes 1 through 5 were found, and in addition there were 1,916 class 6 coins of Ion of Bury. Nowadays, Bury class 6 coins are relatively easy to obtain, but class 6 pennies from the other mints, London and Durham, remain rare.
- 43) Class 7 – These are rare or very rare coins depending upon the moneyer; the least rare being those of Philip of the London mint. Philip had the misfortune to be found adding too much alloy to the silver, and he and his assayer were hanged for their crime in 1279.

Coins that are proving difficult to identify using the supplied guides may conceivably be continental imitations, which are characterised by a mix of features from different classes and often contain 'nonsense' text on the reverse.

Hopefully the two articles will have enabled you to identify your find; however if you are still in doubt then feel free to ask for assistance, using the contact page on www.henry3.com. This useful website gives plenty of examples from all classes, and can be consulted to help confirm the identity of your find. ●



5d1 – Note XIII to left of sceptre



5d2



5d3



5d3 Style crown



X type 5 (5d1 through 5g)



X type 6 (5f to 5i, 6, 7)



TOP LEFT Figure 15: Class 5d

LEFT: Figure 16: Class 5 : X types 5 and 6

ABOVE: Figure 17: Examples of class 5g