

A REMARKABLE PENNY OF HENRY II.

BY MAJOR P. W. P. CARLYON-BRITTON, F.S.A.



Obverse : ✠HENRI REX S

Reverse : ✠RICARD : ON : IVELL Ilchester.

Weight, 22 grains.

THIS coin is of the first general regal issue of Henry II, known colloquially as the Tealby type. The issue of this class continued until its supersession by the "short-cross" type in the year 1180, but it is capable of subdivision into many classes according to the obverse legends and styles of portraying the royal bust. This work has been done by Mr. L. A. Lawrence, whose paper on the subject was published in volume xiv of the Society's *Journal*.

The term "remarkable" is applied to my specimen on account of the letter **s** placed at the end of the obverse legend. Only two other specimens with this reading have been noted: one, formerly in my collection and now in that of Mr. Lawrence, is illustrated as Fig. 24 in the plate facing page 96 of volume i of this *Journal*, the other was contained in the Lark Hill find, Worcester, and is in the British Museum. The mints in both cases are indecipherable, but Mr. Lawrence attributes the Lark Hill specimen to London on

account of the presence of a portion of the moneyer's name, namely **FVINE**, which he completes **LEFVINE**. On the assumption that he is right in this attribution we have two mints whereat the mysterious **S** appears in the obverse legend: mints situated a long way apart, Ilchester in Somerset, and London. The styles of the three known specimens also vary to such a degree that it is difficult to believe that all can be brought within any one of the sub-classes defined by Mr. Lawrence. These considerations appear to show that the occurrence of the letter **S** is not due to locality and, what is more difficult, that its appearance is not readily to be assigned to a certain period of time during which this form of legend was of universal application.

I am inclined, however, to think that the presence of the added **S** must be held to over-ride minor differences of style, and that the coins so marked must be regarded as having been issued at approximately the same period.

What, then, does this letter **S** signify? My answer is that the Latin word *Secundus* is indicated, thus making the extended legend Henri[cus] Rex S[ecundus], a designation used by Henry II in his charters and rolls. This would represent the earliest attempt to record upon English coins the numerical order of succession of kings bearing the same name. With the introduction of the short-cross coinage this tentative experiment in reasonable identification was abandoned, and the type of the coinage became so stabilised that the name Henricus served not only for Henry II but for Richard I, John, and Henry III.

The last-named king, soon after the long-cross coinage was instituted, in 1247, was at first described in words as Henricus Rex Terci' = Henricus Rex Tertius. Later the numeral III was substituted for Terci', a practice continued to the close of the reign.

No further attempt was made to record upon the coins the numerical order of succession of sovereigns bearing the same name until late in the reign of Henry VII, from which time until the present day it has always been the practice to state the same by words or figures.

The first sovereign of a name, of course, has no numerical designation added, and William III and Mary II, reigning in conjunction, are not distinguished by added numerals, although William III, after Mary's death, is so identified.

Had the practice of identification so feebly initiated by Henry II been started by William II and continued, where applicable, by his successors it is instructive to note that numismatics would have been simplified in some of its most interesting and contentious fields of research.

