

standard English type and has the legend **BRV XEL LEM SIS** (again with reverse barred N and round Es). The coin weighs 1.28 g.

Reference to Mayhew² shows that the standard punctuation for coins with this legend (Mayhew 40) consists of small saltires, usually in pairs although other variations are known. (Mayhew 41 is a variant with no punctuation at all.) The new find, which seems to be of perfectly acceptable style, is thus likely to represent a hitherto unrecorded variety of the type. A slight note of caution does need to be sounded, however. Dr Mayhew, who has kindly examined digital images of this coin, has noted that the use of round Es throughout the legends is unusual and has raised the possibility that this specimen might actually be one of the 'enigmatic imitations', where issues of Brabant are not so far much represented.

The second coin (**Plate 11, 2**) was obtained in trade by Format of Birmingham Ltd. and I am grateful to Mr G. Charman of Format for allowing me to record it.³ It reads **+EDWARANGL'DNSHYB** on the obverse and **CIVI TAS VTE: ROP** on the reverse. The type has been known since at least the discovery of the Montraive (Fife) hoard in 1887. In the list of coins in the hoard (originally compiled by Edward Burns) a single specimen appeared among the 'Forgeries of English and Irish Sterlings' and was listed as 'Civitas, VTE: ROP. Waterford?'.⁴ Another specimen was found in the Blackhills (Parton, Kirkcudbrightshire) hoard of 1911. In this case the reverse was published as **CIVI TAS VTE ROP** and the coin described as 'what seems to be an imitation – probably executed abroad – of the early Edward I penny of Waterford without the triangle on the obverse'.⁵

Mayhew briefly referred to these two coins in an article published in 1976, where he identified them as die duplicates. In that article, however, he gave the reverse reading as **CIVI TAS VTE: FOR**.⁶ This reading was repeated in 1983 in his *Sterling Imitations of Edwardian Type*, where the coins appeared as type 381d and were described as combining a probable imitation of a 'Waterford' reverse with an 'English' obverse.⁷

The new coin makes it quite clear that the correct reverse legend is indeed **CIVI TAS VTE: ROP** and that the reading given for Mayhew 381d should be amended. Comparison with the photographs of 381d suggests that this is actually a third die duplicate. Sim, Macdonald (or rather Burns) and Mayhew are all surely correct in suggesting that the reverse legend is intended to suggest the name Waterford, which appears as **CIVI TAS VATE RFOR** on contemporary coins of Edward I.

THE CLASS III PENNY OF ROBERT THE BRUCE: A SECOND LOOK

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THE first ever die study to be done on the pennies of Robert the Bruce was published in volume 70 of this journal.¹ In the published study the authors drew attention for the first time to the existence of Class III, of extreme rarity, and represented in their study by only two coins of well known provenance struck from the same obverse die – the ex Lockett example now being in the collec-

² N.J. Mayhew, *Sterling Imitations of Edwardian Type* (London, 1983). Coins of this series, Types 40–53, appear on pp. 45–7.

³ The coin was again a metal-detector find, said to have been found in Gloucestershire. It weighs 0.89 g.

⁴ G. Sim, 'Notice of Recent Discoveries of Coins in Scotland', *PSAS* XVI (1881–2), 464–72. The relevant coin appears on p. 470.

⁵ G. Macdonald, 'Two Hoards of Edward Pennies Recently Found in Scotland', *NC* 13 (1913), 57–118. The relevant coin appears on p. 116. The 'early Edward I penny of Waterford without the triangle on the obverse' is, of course, itself also a continental imitation: see M. Dolley and W.A. Seaby, *SCBI Ulster Museum, Belfast I: Anglo-Irish Coins: John-Edward III*, nos 593–4.

⁶ N.J. Mayhew, 'Imitation Sterlings in the Aberdeen and Montraive Hoards', *NC* 136 (1976), 85–97, at pp. 90–1. Mayhew also showed that these two coins were die linked via their obverse die with another group of imitations with a 'London' reverse.

⁷ Mayhew, *op. cit.* n. 2, p. 139, no. 381d, pl. 43.

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¹ N.M. McCQ. Holmes and Lord Stewartby, 'Scottish Coinage in the First Half of the Fourteenth Century', *BNJ* 70 (2000), 45–60.

tion of the National Museums of Scotland,² and the coin illustrated by Burns³ as figure 226a, now being in the collection of one of the authors. Since publication a third example has turned up, and is now in the collection of the author of this note (**Plate 12, 1**). This third example throws further light on the letter punches used.

In the description of the classes, the study states that in Class III there is a 'new letter E on obverse (fig. I,4)'. A look at the plate illustration of dies 5/D (Plate 4), which shows the better preserved of the two examples then known, shows that the first letter E is unclear while the second E is perfectly formed. The new coin, however, clearly shows both Es, and while it confirms that the second E is perfectly formed, it equally shows that the first E is the broken E seen on the dies of those Class I coins placed later in the sequence, and the dies of Class II (**Plate 12, 2**). The question, therefore, arises as to whether there were two E punches used on the Class III die – the old broken E, and a new E. The purpose of this note, as well as to point out the problem, is to suggest that the problem does not, in fact, exist.

The lettering on this coinage is composite in structure, with the possible exception of the V. Take the C for example (**Plate 12, 3**). This is clearly formed from two punches – a rear piece, curved at the back with two pins projecting forward, and a wedge, used twice, at the front. On no die is the C perfectly formed. Those coming closest are Class I, dies B, G and L, where the top wedge has been correctly positioned while the lower wedge is a little to the inside of the pin. On the reverse of the Class III coin under discussion the wedges have both been placed noticeably to the inside of the pins. Similar observations could be made of the other letters.

It would be strange, therefore, if the letter E, alone among the letters, had been punched in by a single punch. And, indeed, close inspection shows this too to be composite. The E appears to have been formed using the same back piece as the C (Fig. 1), and another to form the front (Fig. 2). The front is often incorrectly positioned in relation to the rear. To take some examples from Class I coins, the two parts lie parallel on die D, but are not parallel on die 17. On die 11 the front has been displaced upwards while on die L it has been displaced forwards. This accounts for the fact that the internal spaces are not uniform in size from die to die. It also accounts for the 'broken' E, this being where the front punch has been slightly displaced downwards, and leaning slightly inwards at the top, thus contacting with the lower pin but not contacting correctly with the upper. To confirm this, it will be seen that the upper internal space in the first E on the Class III obverse die is smaller than the lower, while on the second E where the positioning is correct, the internal spaces are of equal size.

A similar argument could be made in relation to the 'broken' O on the reverse die of Class III (**Plate 12, 4**). In this case the O would be formed by using the same punch as for the rear of the C and E, and then reversing it to form the front. Here again the internal space is of different dimensions on the two Os found on die D of Class II and Class III.

The conclusion to be drawn from the above is that, while main design features such as hair, face and crown were undoubtedly renewed during the production of this coinage, the lettering punches were not, or if some were, their greater simplicity made it easier to replace a damaged punch with one of virtually identical appearance.

This would seem to be an opportune moment to add two dies to those included in the die study. A Class I penny is illustrated in Patrick Finn List 3, no. 370, neither die of which has previously been published. These dies add nothing to any observation which has previously been made.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

² Ex Lockett sale (1960). lot 787 (Museum reference H.C1537)

³ E. Burns, *The Coinage of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1887), Vol. I, p. 230; Vol. III, Figure 226a.