

THE EARLIEST NOBLE OF RICHARD II.

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THE noble which I have the pleasure to illustrate is precisely similar in style, workmanship, design and lettering to the nobles of the last issue of Edward III.

The following are sufficient descriptions of its obverse and reverse :—



THE EARLIEST NOBLE OF RICHARD II.

Obverse.—**RIC**/ARD' × **DI** × **GR** × **REX** × **ANGL'** × **FR** × **FRANC'** × **DNS'** ×
LIB' × **FR** × **ANQ'**. Ship ornaments, lys, lion, lys, lion, lys, lion, lys,
three ropes at the stern, one at the prow.

Reverse.—× **IHC** × **ANVT** × **TR** × **NSIENS** × **PER** × **MDIVM** ×
ILLORVM × **IBAT**. **R** in centre of cross. Weight, 119 grains.

The sign **FR**, representing *et*, constitutes the most striking mark of continuity of issue between the latest coinage of Edward III. and the earliest of his successor, and the chevron-barred **AN** in the word **IBAT** is another marked feature.

Mine is a true coin of Richard II. from a die newly prepared in his reign, and shows no sign of the **RIC** of the king's name having been punched into a die of Edward III. over or in substitution for the **EDW** of his name.

The letter **R** in the centre of the reverse is clear and without trace of having been substituted for an **Æ**.



THE LATEST NOBLE OF EDWARD III., FOR COMPARISON.

Mr. F. A. Walters, in his paper "The Coinage of Richard II.," *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1904, records a noble with obverse struck from a die of the last coinage of Edward III. and reverse from one of Richard II., but this is a *mule* and not a substantive coin prepared in its entirety for Richard II.

He remarks, p. 329, *op. cit.* :—

"Of the larger coins in silver there are a few rare groats which, from having the peculiar **†** between **ANGL** and **FRANCIA** so identified with the latest coinage of Edward III., may without doubt be attributed to the earliest issue under Richard II. . . . In gold there are very rare examples having this mark of the earliest issue, usually either having a reverse of Edward III. with **Æ** in the centre of the cross, or with an **R** struck over the **Æ**."

In the list of coins at the end of the paper Mr. Walters cites only one example of a gold coin with the distinctive **†** in the legends, namely, a half-noble of London in the British Museum, whereon the letters **RIC** are altered from **EDW** and the **R** in the centre of the reverse is altered from **Æ**.

Examples of the issue to which my noble belongs may have come into the possession of collectors since the publication of the monograph by Mr. Walters, but I have thought it desirable to place particulars of my coin upon record for the information of the readers of this Journal.

Unless my recollection be at fault, I believe that I am right in thinking that there is a similar piece in the cabinet of Mr. L. E. Bruun.