

LONDE or LVNDE CIVITAS

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IN the *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. xi, 1914, p. 59, will be found the latest classification of the short-cross coins. This is chiefly an extension of the arrangement first suggested by Sir John Evans in 1865. The last class of the 1914 version had not in the earlier classification been separated from other classes. This class (numbered VIII in my arrangement) is characterized by untidy work, and is described on p. 66 of the 1914 article. Turning to the lists, it will be observed that London, Canterbury, and Bury St. Edmunds are the only mints credited with Class VIII coins, and that **NICHOLE** was the last and only moneyer at both London and Canterbury.

This **NICHOLE** was clearly Nicholas de Sancto Albano who is referred to on p. 75. He was appointed in 1242 to a high office at London and Canterbury, and became a little later on the sole moneyer of the two mints. In the *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. xxi, 1931-3, p. 59, in his paper on the medieval moneyers, Brooke refers to him at greater length.

Closely resembling these late Class VIII coins by **NICHOLE** there are known a few which, instead of having the usual moneyer's name on the reverse, read **LONDE** or **LVNDE CIVITAS**. In other respects they are just like coins of Class VIII; they have the same sort of bust on the obverse and the same careless lettering on the reverse. They have hitherto been looked on as contemporary forgeries, chiefly because of the bad work and the absence of a moneyer's name. They are of unusual occurrence, but have been noted in hoards—Eccles, 1; Colchester, 4. Now in looking over some coins from the Drabble Sale I was shown one which from the obverse I thought was of Class VIII: I was rather surprised to find **LONDE CIVITAS** on the reverse till I suddenly thought of the late Class VIII coins reading **NICHOLE**. It then struck me that Nicholas de Sancto Albano, being the only moneyer in the country, would not need to sign his coins. For Trials of the Pyx the coins told the tale, because the absence of the moneyer's name

together with the type of the coin could only mean one thing, namely, that they were the work of Nicholas de Sancto Albano.¹

This new idea was strengthened by a consideration of the earliest type of long-cross coin which almost immediately followed the change of type from the short-cross coinage. Nicholas de Sancto Albano was still in sole charge of the two mints of London and Canterbury. The first long-cross coin of which we know reads **HENRICVS REX** on the obverse, with **ANGLIÆ TERCII** on the reverse, and bears no name of moneyer or mint. This has rightly been attributed to Nicholas from the London Mint. The next issue, following closely on this, reads **HENRICVS REX ANG** on the obverse, and **LIÆ TERCII LON** or **LVN** on the reverse; these are also coins of Nicholas and are still without his name. Following these, the obverse **HENRICVS REX ANG**, already used, is combined with a reverse reading **NICOLÆ ON LVN** or **LVND**. This coin is probably a mule.

At Canterbury in the long-cross series, the same varieties occur—(a) without moneyer's name, having on the obverse **HENRICVS REX ANG** and on the reverse **LIÆ TERCII CTN**; (b) the mule, having on the obverse **HENRICVS REX ANG**, and on the reverse **NICOLÆ ON CTN**. In view of the existence of parallel issues at London and Canterbury by Nicholas de Sancto Albano in both short-cross and long-cross series, we might now predict the discovery of a short-cross coin reading on the reverse **CVNTER CIVITVS** or some similar abbreviation without a moneyer's name, but struck by Nicholas.

The mint of Bury St. Edmunds gives us an almost complete parallel: Bury was a one-moneyer mint. The only known moneyer in Class VIII is **IOHANN**. Following this we get the rare long-cross coin reading **HENRICVS REX ANG** on the obverse and **LIÆ TERCII TEB** on the reverse. This agrees with both the London and Canterbury issues of Nicholas, which read respectively **LIÆ TERCII LON** and **LIÆ TERCII CTN**. The next coin of **IOHANN** of which we know is the regular **REX TERCII** coin. Seeing that the coins of **IOHANN** run parallel with those of **NICOLÆ** we may hope to find the following coins struck at Bury, (a) a short-cross coin without a moneyer's name, (b) a long-cross coin reading **HENRICVS**

¹ This coin is reproduced in the Morrieson Sale Catalogue, lot 117.

REX ANGE on the obverse and ION / ON S / EDM / VND on the reverse.

It is almost unnecessary to mention the fourth mint, Durham. We have no short-cross coins of Class VIII, and no early long-cross coins before Class II. This was due to troubles between the King and the Bishop, and we need not therefore look for coins of any of the intervening issues from this mint.

