

Class 6 introduction, classifications, pictures & die linking

Introduction

In 1215 the Bury mint again reopened, having now been closed down for the last 8 years. This coincided with what modern numismatists call class 6c1; Bury now joining London and Canterbury that were already issuing coins from class 6.

From this date Bury issued all the short cross classes (*with the exception of class 6x that was only issued at Canterbury*) until this series ended in 1247. Class 6c1 was quickly followed by 6c2, 6c3, and finally 6d. The approximate dates we have for these classes are 6c1, (c1215-1216); 6c2, (1216); 6c3, (c1216-1217); 6d, (c1217), all struck by the moneyer RAVF. While the first three issues are reasonably distinct from one another, they are heavily die linked, and for that reason have been treated as one group.

Common features are:- independent nostrils (*not on all dies*); curls varying from two to three with or without pellets in them; ornamental lettering on class 6c2 only.

King John died in 1216, to be followed by his 9 year old son as King Henry III, a change of monarch that approximately coincided with class 6c2. The newly appointed Abbot is Hugh of Northwold (1215-1229) who took over after a vacancy of approximately 4 years from Abbot Samson.

As will be seen from the class 6 chart, the subclasses 6c1, 6c2, 6c3 are heavily interlinked thereby making mules between the classes very common.

Historically the ecclesiastical mint of Bury was restricted to only one pair of dies and one moneyer at any time, with the old set having to be returned before a new set could be issued. A set of dies would have normally consisted of one obverse with two reverses. From early in class 7 onwards the surviving Bury coins seem to indicate that only one obverse and one reverse was issued to Bury.

To account for the occasional two or more reverses being linked to one obverse it is likely that the obverse only was returned to London as an exchange for a new set.

Should one of the newly issued reverse dies fail and an old reverse die was still usable, then it is likely that it would have been reused, this would go some way to account for the die linking seen in this series.

Bury was never the major contributor of the nation’s coinage, although at times it did produce a significant number of coins. It was left to London and Canterbury to produce the majority of coins for the country’s needs.

Bury only ever had one moneyer working at any one time whilst both London and Canterbury had several working at once. We must remember that Bury was a privileged mint, meaning that the profits made in the production of the coins went to the Abbot/Convent and not to the crown. This was not the case for London and Canterbury where the profit went to the Crown.

Classifications

RAVF as the only moneyer for the class 6 series

Class 6c1 (c1215-1216)

Diagnostic features of class 6c1

Two curls to each side of the bust each containing a pellet.
No ornamental lettering.
Oval and rather glaring eyes.
Nostrils, in the form of pellets, often seen each side of the nose.
Generally a more triangular shaped portrait displaying a bristly beard and pellet on the chin.
This class is recorded at Bury for the moneyer RAVF only.
Typical readings & styles of lettering seen in 6a1

Obverse **hENRICVS R†Æ*** Reverse ***RAVF•OH•SAN•TAD:**

Class 6c2 (c1216)

Diagnostic features of class 6c2

Now generally three curls each side of the bust with the top two always having pellets in them and on rare occasions pellets are seen in the lower curls.
Generally a fuller triangular shaped face still with the very bristly beard and pellet on the chin.
Nostrils, in the form of pellets, often seen each side of the nose.
A large range of ornamentation to the lettering was introduced in this series. In addition to those shown below, the occasional double line to some letters such as “V, N, F” is seen, along with the occasional pellet-centred “D” or “C”. The letter “**S** or **ſ**” with the curved terminations and either with or without a pelleted-centre is also seen on 6c1 and 6c3 so it cannot be regarded as an ornamental letter. The most ornamental coins are biased towards the early dies with as many as eight ornamental letter shapes seen on one reverse. As the series progresses toward 6c3, only the odd ornamental letter is normally encountered.

Æ B C D E F G h L N O R ſ V

This class is recorded at Bury for the moneyer RAVF only.
Typical readings & styles of lettering seen in 6c2
Obverse **hENRICVS R†Æ*** Reverse ***RAVF•OH•SAN•ſAD:**

Class 6c3 (c1216)

Diagnostic features of class 6c3

Three curls each side of the bust.
No ornamental lettering.
Bust that is now becoming fuller in appearance although still retaining the triangular shape.
Nostrils, in the form of pellets, often seen each side of the nose.
Still the very bristly beard.
The letter “**R**” and “**h**” have a notable in turned foot.
This class is recorded at Bury for the moneyer RAVF only.
Typical readings & styles of lettering seen in 6c3.

Obverse **hENRICVS R†Æ*** Reverse ***RAVF•OH•SAN•TAD:**

Class 6d (c1217)

Diagnostic features of class 6d

Quite similar to 6c3, the main difference is the pelleted bar to the letter “**N**”.
3 curls to the bust each containing a pellet and still the pellet on the chin.
Only legend appearing on the single class 6d die recorded at Bury.

This class is recorded at Bury for the moneyer RAVF only.
Typical readings & styles of lettering seen in 6c3.
Obverse **hENRICVS R†Æ*** Reverse ***RAVF•OH•SANTÆ**

Pictures and die charts for class's 6c1, 6c2, 6c3, 6d,
(1215-1217)

All class 6 coins are struck under the moneyer RAVF

Struck under King John to approximately mid way through class 6c2 (Autumn 1216) Then King Henry III for the remainder of short cross series

Ligated lettering underlined. Dies not recorded by Eaglen in red The die numbering on the chart below is the same as that used in Dr. Eaglen's publication¹ on the Bury mint, this enables any die pair to be referred back to his catalogue i.e. (Eaglen 98). Alterations and additions since his publication have required that the die lettering i.e. (A-a1) be, in part, altered, meaning this reference cannot be relied on when referring back to his publication. The number in brackets on the joining line indicates the number of coins that are currently recorded from these dies.

Moneyer RAVF



