

# Class 7 introduction, classification, pictures and die links

## Introduction to class`s 7a, 7b, 7c

Class 7<sup>1</sup> commenced c1217 and ran for some 25 years until it was replaced in 1242 by class 8. Over this period the style of the coinage changed many times, commencing with a well executed stylised portrait and neat lettering. As the years progressed the coinage generally took on a degraded portrait and lettering and to some extent the execution of the coins also degraded. Clipping of the coins gives them a further degraded appearance.

Many features seen on the coins changed, some disappearing only to return later. Round eyes, almond eyes, broken eyes; two and three curls, half curls, some containing pellets and some not. Pellets on the chin are sometimes a diagnostic feature and sometimes not. Pellet stops in the legend are a very irregular feature ranging from none to as many as five.

The following subdivisions below are those that Mass<sup>2</sup> incorporated in his Sylloge.

7a1 (late 1216-c1217-1218); 7a2 (1218-1220); 7a3 (1220-1222);  
7b1 (1222-1229); 7b2 (1229-1232); 7b3 (1232-1234); 7b4 (1234-1236);  
7c1 (1236-1240); 7c2 (1240-1242); 7c3 (1242);

At the onset of class 7 four mints were in operation; London, Canterbury, Durham and Bury St. Edmunds. Durham had only a small issue in class 7a1, from dies supplied in 1218, after which it was left for the remaining three mints to supply all the monetary needs of England.

During the 25 year period of class 7 London had 10 moneyers, Canterbury 18, and Bury St. Edmunds, 5. The number of moneyers operating at any one time for London and Canterbury varied depending on the country's need for pennies and the amount of silver available. Bury was exceptional in that, at any one time, it had one only moneyer working with one set of dies.

Whilst Bury produced all the short cross classes from class 6c1 to 8c the number of coins they struck at any one time varied considerably. At times the Bury mint was very active and produced a significant proportion of the country's needs whilst at other times the production was very small. An example of this slack period is around the issue of 7b1-7b2 (c1222-1232) when only one set of dies is recorded from each of these sub classes, issuing coins only for the Abbot's or Convent's use under an agreement with Henry III.

Evidence of coin production from the other two mints operating at this time (*London and Canterbury*) shows that class 7b1 was in production c1222 -1229 and 7b2 c1229 -1232. During this approximate 7 year stretch (c1222-1229) only one set of dies from 7b1 and 7b2 are recorded by the Moneyer NORMAN, indicating that Bury was only issuing coins for the Abbot's or Convent's use under an agreement with King Henry III. However in class 7b2 from c 1229-1232 under the moneyer SIMVND coins are far more plentiful with currently 20 dies recorded indicating that the mint was once again back in full production.

he progression of the Bury moneyers:-

RAVF 7a1 (c, late 1216-1217), (*RAVF's activities as a moneyer originated in 1215 with his name appearing on the earlier class 6 coins (6c1, 6c2, 6c3, 6d)*)

WILLEM 7a1, 7a2; (c1217-1220)

NORMAN 7a2, 7a3, 7b1, 7b2; (c1220-1229)

SIMVND 7b2, 7b3, 7b4, 7c1; (c1229-1236)

IOAN 7c1, 7c2, 7c3. (c1236-1242) (*IOAN - mostly seen on the coins as IOhAN, continued as a moneyer throughout the final issue of the short cross coinage (class 8) (1242– 1247).* The dates when each moneyer was operating are approximations only. Roman numerals were used in the Mass publication to indicate the main classes on this site. This has been changed to Arabic numerals e.g. VIIb4 is now 7b4. Ligated letters are underlined; these are often encountered on an upright of one of the letter forms.

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## Classification

### Class 7a1 (c1216-1218)

#### Diagnostic features of class 7a1

Three curls to each side of the crown, the top two containing pellets and the lower much smaller curl without pellets.

Thick beard consisting of straight lines that commence from just below the lower curls and round the chin, the lower of which touches the lower inner circle.

Only occasional punctuation.

No pellet on the chin.

The pointed top to the letter “**A**” is very much a diagnostic feature of class 7a coins.

The inner circle on the obverse is composed of a plain band whilst the outer circle is composed of teeth-like indentations. On the reverse these latter markings are seen on both the inner and outer circles.

This class is recorded at Bury for the moneyers RAVF & WILLEM only

Typical readings and styles of lettering and the initial cross seen in 7a1.

Obverse **hENRICVS R<sup>+</sup>EX**

Reverses **✠RAVF ON S<sup>+</sup>NT<sup>+</sup>E** & **✠WILLELM ON S<sup>+</sup>NT**

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### Class 7a2 (c1218-1220)

#### Diagnostic features of class 7a2

Very similar to the previous class with three curls to each side of the crown, the top two containing pellets and the lower, much smaller curl without pellets, the exception being on a late die from this sub class.

Normally quite a thick beard consisting of almost straight lower lines stretching from the face to the lower circle.

No pellet on the chin.

Occasional punctuation can be seen either side of “ON”.

As before, pointed top to the letter “**A**” is very much a class defining feature of class 7a.

The obverse inner circle remains as a plain band, whilst the outer circle is composed of small pellets rather than the teeth-like indentations of 7a1.

Small pellets are also now seen on the inner and outer circles of the reverses. It should be noted that on some coins the outer circles may not be clearly visible and on such coins the inner circle of the reverse has to be used to assist in establishing the subclass.

This class is recorded at Bury for the moneyers WILLEM & NORMAN only.

Typical readings and styles of lettering and the initial cross seen in 7a2.

Obverse **hENRICVS R<sup>+</sup>EX**

Reverses **✠WILLELM ON S<sup>+</sup>NT** & **✠NORMAN ON S<sup>+</sup>N**

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### Class 7a3 (c1220-1222)

#### Diagnostic features of class 7a3

Similar in many respects to that of the preceding two sub classes, but the bust now is fuller with the mouth becoming much closer to the inner circle.

Occasional pellets on the chin, this seems to be more of a random feature.

Pellets in two or more curls are not infrequent but the trend is towards none.

Pellet stops becoming more common and occasionally placed randomly in the legend.

The occasional obverse die has a pellet on the chin but this is not a defining feature of this sub-class.

The pointed topped letter “**A**” is still the main diagnostic element but with the top of the uprights of this letter not quite as pointed as the preceding class.

The dies of this large sub-class have many different styles and may well be further sub divided in due course.

The obverse inner circle remains as a plain band. The pellets on the obverse outer, and reverse inner and outer circles are much smaller, and are becoming a more standardised feature for the remaining short cross series.

This class is recorded at Bury for the moneyer NORMAN only.

Typical readings and styles of lettering and the initial cross seen in 7a3.

Obverse **hENRICVS R<sup>+</sup>EX** Reverse **✠NORMAN ON S<sup>+</sup>NT**

<sup>1</sup> Mass, *Sylloge of coins of the British isles* 56; pg. 58  
*For a more detailed description of class 7 I would point the reader to “Mass Sylloge of coins of the British isles 56”; page 58-62 and the catalogue section of the same publication. Over the years there have been many publications on this class. Reading though Mass will guide the student to these.*

<sup>2</sup> List of dates taken from Mass (*Sylloge of coins of the British Isles* 56) *The J. Mass collection of short cross coins, page 12*



Pictures & die charts for class`s 7a1, 7a2, 7a3,  
(c late 1216 -1222)

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 publication<sup>1</sup> 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

Class 7a1 (late 1216, c1217-1218)

hENRICVS R/EX	Eaglen 124 dies A-a; (4)	✠RAVF ON SANTE
hENRICVS R/EX	Eaglen 125 dies B-b; (5)	✠RAVF ON SANTE
	Eaglen 127 dies B-b.2; (28)	✠WILLELM'ON'SANT
Recently confirmed die link between the obverse of RAVF and a reverse of WILLELM		
hENRICVS R/EX	Eaglen 128 dies C-c; (24)	✠WILLELM ON SANT
hENRICVS R/EX	Eaglen 129 dies D-d; (6)	✠WILLELN ON • SANT
Letter "N" replaces letter "M"		

Class 7a2 (c1218-1220)

hENRICVS R/EX	Eaglen 126 dies A-a; (4)	✠WILLELM ON SAN
hENRICVS R/EX	Eaglen 130 dies B-b; (7)	✠WILLELM ON SAN
hENRICVS R/EX	Eaglen 131 dies C-c; (15)	✠WILLELM ON SANT

Moneyer NORMAN

hENRICVS R/EX	Eaglen 148 dies D-d; (5)	✠NORMAN-ON-SAN
hENRICVS R/EX	Eaglen 144 dies E-e; (26)	✠NORMAN ON SAN



Class 7a3 (c1220-1222)

