

Class 8 Introduction, classifications, pictures and die linking

Introduction

Class 8¹ coins were introduced in 1242, this possibly coinciding with London appointing a new die cutter by the name of Richard Abel².

The standard design of the short cross series remained unchanged although in class 8 a new style of portrait and lettering was introduced.

The mints of London, Canterbury and Bury St. Edmunds that were operating in class 7 all continued into class 8

Class 8 coins are split into four subgroups; 8a1, 8a2, 8b, and 8c. London issued all four of these subclasses. Canterbury did not issue any coins of 8a1 or 8a2 or any mules associated with these, and is only known for issuing classes 8b & 8c. Likewise, Bury did not issue any true coins of 8a1, or 8a2; however, two sets of mules associated with these classes are recorded, 8a1/8a2, 8a2/8b, but with only one set of dies from each. Like London and Canterbury, Bury issued coins from both subclasses 8b and 8c.

Stops in the legends are very common on the class 8 reverses, with a triple row of pellets often replacing the single stop of earlier issues.

Very occasionally a Lombardic “*n*” replaces the Roman “N”; however, this is a somewhat random occurrence and therefore cannot be considered as a diagnostic feature of any of the class 8 coins.

All the class 8 coins issued at Bury were struck by the single moneyer JOHN; (IOAN or IOhAN); being the same moneyer that issued the later class 7 issues.

As will be seen from the list of reverse inscriptions there is a considerable variation of the reverse mint signatures.

Production of class 8 lasted only five years, from 1242 to 1247, when it was replaced by the long cross coinage.

¹For a more detailed description of this class 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.

² Mass, Sylloge of coins of the British isles 56; page 58

Classifications

Class 8a1/8a2 (c1242)

Diagnostic features of class 8a1/8a2

Obverse (8a1)

Distinctive large portrait that that displays oval eyes with very prominent eyelids.
Two curls to the crown each containing a pellet.
Pellet on the chin.

The life-like beard is composed of fine, slightly twisted bristles, rather than the more common straight ones that are normally encountered in the short cross series.

The letter “**X**” in “REX” is quite distinctive in both size and shape and perhaps best described as a somewhat twisted large cross.

Reverse 8a2

The initial cross of 8a2 takes the form of a cross pommée “**✚**” which replaces the thin cross pattée “**✚**” that is associated with 7c3 & 8a1.

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

Letter styles from this single die recorded at Bury

Obverse (8a1) **hENRICVS REX** Reverse (8a2) **✚ IOAN ON SANTE**

Class 8a2/8b (c1242-1243)

Diagnostic features of class 8a2/8b

Obverse (8a2)

Continuation of the large lettering that is the distinctive feature of class 8a.

Slimmer portrait with a drawn-in face now with annulet eyes and only rarely are any eyelids seen.
Three pearls to the crown each containing a pellet.
Pellet on the chin.

The letter “**X**” in “REX” remains as perhaps the most definitive feature of this class although not quite of the same style as that seen in 8a1.
Normally a pellet on the chin.

Reverse 8b

Notably smaller lettering that seen on 8a.

Cross pommée “*****” initial cross.

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

Letter styles from this single die recorded at Bury

(underlining indicates ligated letters).

Obverse (8a2) **hENRICVS REX** Reverse (8b) **✚ IOhAN ON: SANT: ED**

Class 8b (c1242-1244)

Diagnostic features of class 8b

Much smaller lettering than the class 8a coins.

Single stops, colon, and vertical row of three pellets are now very common.

Annulet eyes, with eyelids relatively uncommon.

Two or three pearls to the crown that mainly, but not aways, contain a pellet. A notable feature on some dies is the top curl occasionally encloses one of the pearls on the crown.

Tendency toward a more pointed chin.

Beard generally composed of fine short lines that almost aways are enclosed within the portrait.

Normally a pellet on the chin.

The letter “X” in REX ranges from a neat cross pattée to a cross with miss-aliened limbs examples “**✚ ✚✚**”.

The cross pommée “**✚**” initial cross is now a permanent feature of the remaining class 8 series.

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

Typical readings and lettering styles

Obverse (8b) **hENRICVS: REX** Reverse (8b) **✚ IOhAN: ON: SANT: ED**

Class 8c (c1244-1247)

Diagnostic features of class 8c

Pointed chin style to the portrait.

The mis-aligned limbs of the “**✚**” in “REX” now becomes a cross pommée “**✚**”

Bust more crudely executed as this class progresses.

Two curls to the crown that almost aways contain a pellet.

Eyes are normally large pellets with the very occasional pupil visible.

Normally no pellet on the chin.

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

Typical readings and lettering styles

Obverse (8c) **hENRICVS: REX** Reverse (8c) **✚ IOhAN: ON: SANT: ED**

Pictures & die links for 8a, 8b, 8c (1242–1247)


Moneyer IOAN/IOhAN (The only moneyer issuing at Bury in class 8)

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.


Class 8a1/8a2 (c1242)

hENRICVS R/EX




Eaglen 225 dies A-a; (6)

✠IOAN ON SANTE




Class 8a2/8b (c1242-1243)

hENRICVS:R/EX




Eaglen 236 dies A-a; (4)

✠IOhAN ON:SANTE:ED




Class 8b (c1243-1244)

hENRICVS:R/EX




Eaglen 226/237 dies A-a; (4)

✠IOhAN•ON•SANT•ED




hENRICVS R/EX




Eaglen 227 dies B-b; (2)

✠IOhAN:ON:SANT•ED




hENRICVS:R/E ✕




Eaglen 228 dies C-c; (2)

✠IOhAN:ON:SANT•ED




hENRICVS:R/EX




Eaglen 229 dies D-d; (6)

✠IOhAN:ON:SANTEED




hENRICVS:R/EX




Eaglen 230 dies E-e; (4)

✠IOhAN:ON:SANT•ED




hENRICVS:R/EX




Eaglen 231 dies F-f; (5)

✠IOhAN:ON:SANT:ED




hENRICVS:R/EX




Eaglen 232 dies G-g; (2)

✠IOhAN:ON:SANT•ED




hENRICVS R/EX




Eaglen 233 dies H-h; (8)

✠IOhAN•ON:SANT•ED




hENRICVS:R/EX




Eaglen 234 dies I-i; (3)

✠IOhAN•ON:SANTED




hENRICVS:R/EX




Eaglen 235 dies J-j; (4)

✠IOhAN•ON:SANTED




hENRICVS:R/EX




Eaglen 238 dies K-k; (2)

✠IOhAN•ON:SANT•ED




hENRICV[—]/EX






























Eaglen 239 dies L-l; (2)

✠IOhAN•O[—]NT•ED



Class 8c (c1244-1247)

hENRICVS R/E❧		❧IOhAN ON SANED
	Eaglen 241 dies A-a; (2)	
hENRICVS•R/E❧		❧IOhAN ON•SANED
	Eaglen 242 dies B-b; (5)	
hENRICVS R/E❧		❧IOhAN ON SAN:E
	Eaglen 243 dies C-c; (4)	
hENRICVS R/E❧		❧IOhAN•ON [—]ED
	Eaglen 244 dies D-d; (2)	
hENRICVS R/E❧		❧IOhAN:ON SANE
	Eaglen 245 dies E-e; (2)	
hENRICVS R/E❧		❧IOhAN•ON•SAN•ED
	Eaglen 246 dies F-f; (2)	
hENRICVS•R/E❧		❧IOhAN:ON•SANT:ED
	Eaglen 247 dies G-g; (2)	
hENRICVS R/E❧		❧IOhAN ON•S•ED
	Eaglen 248 dies H-h; (2)	
hENRICVS R/E❧		❧IOAhN ON SANED
	Eaglen 249 dies I-i; (2)	
hENRICVS R/E❧		❧IOhAN•ON•SAN:ED
	Eaglen 249a dies J-j; (2)	
hENRICVS R/E❧		❧IOAN•ON•S•EN[—]ED
	Eaglen 249b dies K-k; (1)	
hENRICV•S R/E❧		❧IOhAN:ON•S•ED
	Eaglen 249c dies L-l; (1)	
hENRICV•S R/E❧		[—]OhAN ON:S[—]
	Eaglen 249d dies M-m; (1)	
hENRICVS•R/E❧		❧IOhAN:ON[—]E
	Eaglen 249e dies N-n; (1)	