

Introduction to the Edward II Coinage

Edward II was born at Caernarfon Castle on the 25th April 1284 and came to the throne on the 7th July 1307 aged 23 following the death of his father Edward I. His coronation, however, was not until the 25th February the following year. He reigned for almost 20 years before being deposed in January 1327. He died later in the same year on the 21st of September aged 43 to be succeeded by his son Edward III.

As was stated in the main introduction to the Edwardian series Edward II's reign covers the coins from approximately 10cf3 to 10cf6 followed by Classes 11 to 15. All these classes, apart from Class 13, are divided into further sub-classes. The 10cf grouping is complex and many students find it rather difficult to pin down coins to a specific sub-class particularly when worn or poorly struck coins are examined.

A number of publications may be consulted for further information. There is a chapter by C. J. Wood in the J. J. North Sylloge 39¹ which is now 35 years old but still very useful. To this can be added a more recent publication by Paul and Bente Withers² which covers this period in more general terms. Further die studies of this group are ongoing with the aim of producing a more coherent sequence and finer dating of the series. The final sub-group, Class 15d, falls into the reign of Edward III and is dealt with in that section.

The coins of Edward II were only produced at London, Canterbury, Durham and Bury although not all these mints were active in every sub-class. In the latter part of Edward III's reign the Bury mint was particularly involved and provided a significant proportion of the nation's coinage.

Important note

It has not always been possible to use Dr Eaglen's die lettering in the charts. This is due to new dies or coins in better condition appearing since his publication³. This appearance of new material has led to a revision of the original die linking. The inadvertent duplication of dies has meant that on occasions additional Eaglen die numbers have been grouped together on the die charts. Details of any changes to Eaglen's work will be mentioned at the start of each class description which they affect.

¹ J. J. North; *Sylloge of coins of the British Isles* 39; *The J.J. North Collection, Edwardian English silver coins 1279-1351. Chapter by C. J. Wood; The classification of class 10 (c.1301- c1310) pages 42 - 52 in Published for the British Academy by the Oxford University Press and Spink and Son 1989 ISBN 0-19-726075-6*

² Paul and Bente R Withers; " *The Galata guide to the pennies of Edward I & II and the coins of the mint of Bewick-upon – Tweed. Published by Galata Print ltd. ISBN 0-9543162-5-8*

³ Dr R. J. Eaglen; *The Abbey and Mint of Bury St. Edmunds from 1279; Published for The British Numismatic Society Special Publication No 11; Spink London 2014; ISBN 978-1-907427-37-4*

Further references/reading

H.B. Earle Fox and Shirly Fox; " *Numismatic history of the reigns of Edward I, II, III* " BNJ publications, (1909), 197-212. pl.; (1910), 91-142, 5 pls. ; (1911), 137-48, pls.; (1912), 181-206, 2pls.; (1913) , 95-123, 3pls; (1915), 121