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# The cut pence of medieval Scotland

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The popularity of metal detecting in Britain has brought to the surface many broken and mutilated coins. While the ravages of decay account for most of these sorry sights, the neatly cut hammered pennies included in some finds are of more than passing interest as they appear to have been an accepted, and possibly official, component of the circulating currency. Their distribution in finds throughout the British Isles suggests widespread availability and use.

The cutting of silver pennies to form halfpence and farthings appears to have been particularly common during the thirteenth century, judging from the large number of surviving cut coins having the voided (open or double) cross reverses characteristic of this period. Initially a short cross, later with the cross extending to the outer margin, these design elements were a feature of both English and Scottish coins (Figs 1 and 2). The minting of Anglo-Irish pennies having the long voided cross was of relatively short duration; the Anglo-Irish coinage that immediately preceded these long cross issues included round halfpennies and farthings, presumably lessening the

need of cut fractions (Fig. 2).

The practice of cutting coins predates the thirteenth century, but seems to have reached its zenith when the voided cross enabled an easy and relatively accurate cleavage into halves or quarters. I have focused here on the Scottish series, but as there are close parallels with the English, and to a lesser extent, the Anglo-Irish coins, some generalisations to these issues are appropriate. The Scottish coins are principally those of William I, Alexander II and Alexander III. There are extremely rare earlier examples of cut pence of David I (Fig. 5), Prince Henry, and Malcolm IV, their rarity paralleling the rarity of whole coins of these kings.<sup>1,2</sup>

England, having had a national coinage well before Scotland, was advanced in the practice of fragmentation. Surviving cut Anglo-Saxon pence are by no means rare, their frequency seemingly increasing from late in the tenth century.<sup>3</sup>

Perhaps the most detailed commentary on cutting is offered by Metcalf in his book dealing with Anglo-Saxon and Norman coins.<sup>4</sup> He comments: "Cutting a penny in half



Figure 1. a. English short cross *halfpenny*; b. Scottish short cross *halfpenny* (for 1b. see Appendix, Catalogue no. 4).



Figure 2. a. English long cross *halfpenny*; b. Irish long cross *halfpenny*; c. Scottish long cross *halfpenny* (for 2c. see Appendix, Catalogue no. 58).

was not an occasional expedient...it was provision made on a large scale; a million chisel cuts neatly done". Metcalf poses a number of questions with regard to cut coins that are just as relevant to a consideration of the later voided cross issues. Specifically, was the fragmentation a function of the mints or an unofficial expedient? Was the cutting contemporaneous with the issues or did it occur subsequently? Do the numbers of surviving cut coins parallel whole coins in terms of their chronology and place of minting? Finally, did the fractions circulate as far afield as the pennies? The extent to which a collection of random singletons can answer these questions is limited, but in this paper, I will offer some tentative conclusions based on a

Scottish sample.

While the cutting of coins appears to have markedly diminished after the demise of the voided cross issues, it did not cease altogether. Despite the proscription of cutting following Edward's recoinage,<sup>5</sup> there are extant English specimens of Edward I's single cross coinage although these are sufficiently rare to warrant comment when found.<sup>6</sup> In Scotland, despite the introduction of the round halfpennies and farthings with Alexander III's second coinage in 1280, familiarity with the practice of cutting, or perhaps the immediate necessity of small change, has provided a few surviving cut coins of this later period. Holmes and Stewartby have published a remarkable example – a round halfpenny of David II with one



Figure 3. English *halfpenny* of Æthelred II.

quadrant cut away, suggesting the need of a very small denomination as the missing quadrant would have only been worth one eighth of a penny.<sup>7</sup> Lead or pewter tokens may have sufficed for small denominations in England, but their use in Scotland is less certain, and so the continuing use of tiny fragments of the regular coinage may have sufficed for small transactions. It is worth noting that the daily wage of an artisan at this time was between three pence and eight pence, and that of labourers almost certainly less.<sup>8</sup>

### Descriptive studies

The first written commentary on cut coins appears to be that of the English cleric, William Fleetwood (1656-1723). His *Chronicon Preciosum*,<sup>9</sup> an essay on the English coinage first published anonymously in 1707, quotes the sixteenth century antiquary, John Stow, in reference to the year 1279:

*Whereas, before this Time, the Penny was wont to have a double Cross with a Crest, in such sort that the same might be easily broken in the midst, or into four Quarters,*

*and so to be made into Half-pence, or Farthings; which Order was taken in the Year of Christ 1106 now ordained, that Pence, Half-Pence, and Farthings, should be made Round...*

It is now generally accepted that the voided cross on coins was introduced by Henry II in England in 1180, and by William the Lion in Scotland in 1195, the claim of Stow for an ordinance of 1106 being unlikely.<sup>10</sup> It should be noted, however, that a double cross on the reverse of English coins first became common under Æthelred II (Fig. 3), and even more usual under Cnut and his immediate successors.<sup>11</sup>

Students of the Scottish coinage are indebted to a nineteenth century luminary in the person of Edward Burns.<sup>12</sup> Burns' *magnum opus*, his *The Coinage of Scotland* published in 1887 in three large volumes, is a work of profound scholarship and literary merit. While Burns was familiar with finds of cut English pence,<sup>13</sup> a sense of novelty is conveyed by his account of a cut coin of William the Lion.

*Mr Pollexfen has the half of a*

*penny...which was brought to him some years ago, when residing in the south of England, by a labourer, in the state in which it was found. It had been cut in two between the lines of the double cross, to pass for two half-pennies. The sharpness of the cut edge was quite worn round and smooth by circulation, and exhibited a slight oxidised appearance, exactly as on the cut edges of four halves of Henry III long cross pennies found in the sands at Glenluce...*<sup>14, 15</sup>

Burns' seeming unfamiliarity with Scottish cut pence is hardly surprising. The modern day numismatist has benefited very significantly from the advent of the metal detector but, even so, the proportion of unearthened Scottish cut coins to English examples is very small, and the numbers found in Scotland almost negligible. The currency of thirteenth century Scotland was not at all synonymous with her coinage. Scottish coins constituted less than a tenth of the coins in circulation, the major currency being English pennies supplemented by a small number of continental coins. The composition of the currency in England was not too dissimilar, with Scottish coins probably constituting about three percent of the circulating medium; but as the volume of currency in England was so much greater than in Scotland, English soils have been the major repository of lost Scottish coins. The UK Detector Finds Database lists 45 cut Scottish pence

(all voided cross issues) reported over a four year period, with only one of these being found in Scotland.<sup>16</sup>

In England at least, the process of cutting coins may have taken place at the mints.<sup>17</sup> Two nineteenth century reports of finds of uncirculated cut pence would seem to support this view.<sup>18</sup> Interestingly, Bishop Fleetwood quotes the fourteenth century chronicler Thomas Walsingham as stating that at some time prior to 1278, halfpence were coined in the shape of a semicircle.<sup>19</sup> This enigmatic assertion may perhaps be interpreted as supporting evidence for fragmentation occurring at the mints. Subsequent publications dealing with British medieval cut coins derive primarily from finds of single coins in England. A comprehensive report published in 1908 describes finds of cut coins at Dunwich on the Suffolk coastline.<sup>20</sup> The author catalogued 223 coins, comprising 105 cut farthings, 76 cut halfpennies and 42 whole coins, the vast majority of the cut coins being English voided cross issues of Henry II and Henry III, and the whole coins, Edwardian. Dunwich has continued to yield valuable data on cut coinage with further reports of coins from this site being published in 1972<sup>21</sup> and 2002<sup>22</sup>. The most recent report is of particular value as it gives the result of diligent sieving of cliff-fall debris following an episode of severe coastal erosion, "which ensured the recovery of the smallest coins". Of the 285 single finds, 162 (74%) were voided cross issues,



and of these the majority were cut farthings, and most of the remainder cut halfpence.

The authors of an extensive review of coins found in Scotland between 1988 and 2000 concluded that while the cutting of pennies into halves appears to have been common, there were “so few cut farthings in the finds record...that even when allowance is made for the difficulty of finding such small items... it seems reasonable to conclude that these were comparatively uncommon at the time.”<sup>23</sup> A subsequent paper by one of the authors extends the survey period back to 1978 and focuses exclusively on single finds of medieval coins.<sup>24</sup> While finds of cut English coins are common and widely dispersed geographically throughout Scotland, the number of cut Scottish coins is small and almost confined to halfpence. In the 22 years covered by this survey only two cut Scottish farthings have been recorded,<sup>25</sup> (see Fig. 4 for an example of a cut Scottish Farthing) and a further compilation of finds for the period 2001-2005 yielded no further examples.<sup>26</sup>



Figure 4. Scottish long cross *farthing*. Catalogue no. 87.

This paucity of cut farthings is at odds with the evidence of finds in England, where the proportion of farthings in six separate finds of cut voided cross coins ranges from approximately one farthing for every six or seven halfpennies, to more than two farthings for each halfpenny found at a site.<sup>27</sup> The finds at two sites where the searching of displaced soils appears to have been particularly thorough would suggest that both halfpenny and farthing fractions were commonplace, as their numbers easily exceed those of whole coins.<sup>28</sup>

It has been suggested that the proportion of cut fractions to whole coins in a find is a measure of the degree of sophistication of the currency system at that location, with high numbers of cut coins suggesting an advanced monetary system.<sup>29</sup> We might conclude from this that Scotland lagged behind England in the degree of monetary sophistication possessed by its populace. If incidental losses of whole coins are a true representation of a contemporary circulating currency, then cut fragments must have been a conspicuous feature of everyday trade. Their preponderance in single finds, as exemplified in a number of separate reports,<sup>30</sup> may be a function not only of their frequent commercial use, but perhaps also their propensity for loss. These small irregular coins easily slip between fingers and might also escape a flimsy purse.

If cutting was sometimes

*Halfpennies*

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>David I</b><br>Period B                    | 1  |
| <b>William the Lion</b><br>Voided short cross |    |
| Phase A                                       | 7  |
| Phase B                                       | 36 |
| <b>Alexander II</b><br>Voided short cross     |    |
| Phase C                                       | 1  |
| Phase D                                       | 1  |
| <b>Alexander III</b><br>Voided long cross     | 25 |
| Plain long cross                              | 1  |
| <b>Robert II</b><br>Plain long cross          | 2  |

*Farthings*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>William the Lion</b><br>Voided short cross |   |
| Phase A                                       | 3 |
| Phase B                                       | 7 |
| <b>Alexander III</b><br>Voided long cross     | 9 |

Table. Distribution of 93 Scottish medieval cut pence by reign and type.

performed unofficially, as seems likely, then the cutting tool may have been whatever implement was at hand, whether this be chisel, shears or even bare hands. Microscopic examination of the cut edge might be expected to yield clues as to the cutting method, and indeed this has been done at least in one study of two Anglo-Saxon pennies, where the authors concluded that “each coin had been cut from one face with a sharp blade, presumably a narrow chisel... These cuts did not go all the way through the coins, and the section remaining had been snapped by bending,

leaving a projecting step”.<sup>31</sup> There appears to have been no uniformity as to which axis of the cross bore the cut, the reverse inscriptions and obverse portraits being variously disrupted on extant specimens.

The ease and anonymity with which early coins could be cut suggests that halved or quartered coins could have emanated from a variety of unofficial sources. The modern day opportunist cannot be eliminated as one of these. Fragmented coins can be trimmed to appear more desirable to the collector. Fortunately, the wide discrepancy in the

current market value of cut and whole or near whole specimens provides little incentive for tampering.

While their ubiquity, their general uniformity, their appearance at times of paucity of small change, and their disappearance with the availability of smaller denominations all confirm the use of cut coins as currency, occasional specimens may have been born of the vagaries of individual whim or pique; halved coins have served as tokens of friendship or commercial contracts, and counterfeit coins were mutilated by cutting or holing.

### The Author's Collection

The Table provides a summary of 93 cut Scottish coins acquired over nearly forty years as single purchases from diverse sources. With the exception of two rare coins,<sup>32</sup> they were accumulated indiscriminately with the intention of performing the current analysis when time permitted. They may therefore be regarded as typical of specimens available to a collector.<sup>33</sup> They all appear to be products of

contemporary fragmentation, the cut edges showing no evidence of recent trimming.

It will be immediately apparent that in this sample, short cross coins outnumber the long cross issues. This distribution not surprisingly parallels that of finds, and illustrates a conundrum as the Scottish long cross coinage seems to have been extensive, judging from the large number of dies used. The short cross coinage, while perhaps less in quantity, extended over nearly twice as long a period, pointing to the importance of duration of circulation as a critical determinant of loss.<sup>34</sup> The UK Detector Database shows a similar distribution with 33 short cross coins and 12 long cross coins. The rarity of cut fractions struck both before and after the voided cross issues is also apparent.<sup>35</sup>

The voided short cross coins of William are predominantly issues of the joint Edinburgh and Perth moneyers *Hue* and *Walter*. A diversity of mints is represented in the voided long cross coins, the 34 attributable coins



Figure 5. Scottish *halfpenny* of David I, Catalogue no. 1.



deriving from 9 different mints out of a possible 18, with Berwick and Perth accounting for more than half of this sub-sample.<sup>36</sup> The scarcer mints of Ayr, Inverness, Lanark and St Andrews are represented, but not surprisingly, the mints with very few surviving whole coins are among those missing.

Returning to Metcalf's questions as applied to the Scottish voided cross issues: the distribution of cut examples across many mints offers no support for a solely mint-centred practice of fragmentation as might have been suggested by the cut examples all coming from one or two mints; neither does it exclude this possibility. The question of their origin as cut coins remains open, but pragmatic considerations hint at both official and unofficial production. The few hoards that have included cut pence would suggest that cutting occurred during the period that the host coins were in circulation, but this may also have occurred subsequently. The distribution within the cut sample appears to parallel whole coins both with regard to chronology and representation of the various mints. The capacity of cut coins to travel far afield is attested by their wide distribution in finds all over England, as exemplified by reports on the UK Database.

### **Metrology**

A comparison of the weights of 19 voided cross halfpennies in the collection, with whole coins having

matching identical dies as figured in Burns or the *Sylloge*, gives a mean weight of 9.8 gr. for the cut coins, and a mean of 10.8 gr. for the halved values of the representative host coins ( $p < 0.02$ ).<sup>37</sup> A visual appraisal of the sample and the illustrations of the whole coins does not reveal any differences in wear between the two groups or obvious clipping of the cut segments, discrepancies that would have provided an explanation for a difference in weights; moreover, a similar comparison of the weights of 11 whole voided cross coins in my collection with the weights of coins sharing identical dies illustrated in Burns or the *Sylloge* yielded no such discrepancy ( $p > 0.1$ ).<sup>38</sup> It seems unlikely, therefore, that the apparent shortfall in weight of the cut coins is due to idiosyncrasies in measuring technique or sampling bias. The mean weight of the 19 cut farthings in the collection is 4.9 gr., half the value of the cut halfpence, suggesting that these tiny fragments suffered no further diminishment during or after cutting. English hoard material tends to confirm a lower than expected weight for cut halfpence.<sup>39</sup>

Cut coins, having already undergone mutilation, may have been particularly vulnerable to discrete clipping. I am unable to furnish conclusive evidence that the long cross, introduced by Henry III in England and copied by Alexander III in Scotland to curb clipping, extended its influence to cut coins, although the sample of

halfpence show a trend in support of its efficacy, the mean weights of the 25 voided long-cross halves being slightly greater than that of the 45 voided short-cross halves.<sup>40</sup>

## Discussion

Whether cut coins were clipped in any great numbers remains conjectural. The reduced weights of the cut coins may partly derive from the fact that the majority of extant examples are isolated finds that have been subject to the corrosive and abrasive effects of soil, a process exaggerated by harsh cleaning in some instances. By way of contrast, whole coins are perhaps more likely to have formed part of a hoard and afforded protection by clustered confinement. Hoard coins may have, on occasion, been selectively chosen by their hoarders, as seems to be the case with the enormous Colchester Hoard discovered in 1969, which contained very few poor quality coins and no cut fractions.<sup>41</sup> In addition, whole coins are perhaps more likely to have been sequestered away in protective cabinets or chests than cut fractions, thus avoiding corrosive attack, unlike the cut coins now emerging through the use of the metal detector.

It is hard to dismiss suspicion that the apparent popularity of cut fractions in the thirteenth century was facilitated by the ease with which their creation could supply a small profit to the operator, and when the expediency of supplying small change was so

readily accepted; “what was to prevent a dishonest moneyer from chopping his pence a trifle lopsidedly, putting the smaller halfpenny into circulation, and returning the slightly larger half to his melting-pot, with the profit of a grain or two?”<sup>42</sup>

We may wonder why the practice of fragmenting coins was popular in Britain when some European mints were already producing the smaller round denominations.<sup>43</sup> Exceedingly rare round short cross halfpennies and farthings of Henry III are known, but their attempted introduction in 1222 to curb the circulation of cut halves and quarters does not seem to have resulted in a significant mintage.<sup>44,45</sup> An earlier attempt by Henry I to introduce round halfpence had been unsuccessful.<sup>46, 47</sup> The issue in Ireland of round halfpence and farthings under John was also relatively small. One can surmise that these tiny coins would have been unpopular with the moneyers as the work involved in their production was at least equal to that for the pennies, and yet if their payments were proportional to the value of coins struck, they would have received a lesser income than that provided by minting pennies.<sup>48</sup> Round halfpennies also deprived the moneyers of the unofficial *douceur* that may have accompanied the fragmenting of pennies. If the moneyers’ wages had been more fairly related to production costs, then the minting of halfpennies would have been less profitable to the Crown. Either way

it can easily be imagined why these early initiatives failed. Whatever concerns the government had about fiscal losses due to spurious mutilation of the currency, the halving and quartering of coin may have served as a symbolic reminder of the draconian punishments awaiting those who were discovered short changing the treasury.<sup>49</sup>

It is also worth observing that cut continental coins are rare. Cut examples do turn up occasionally and are most likely productions of unofficial fragmentation while circulating in Britain as part of the heterogeneous currency of the period.<sup>50, 51</sup>

## Reflection

Quite apart from the practicality of being able to furnish small denominations, the practice of fragmentation seems to have been extraordinarily popular across time and place. Cut coins featured in the ancient Roman currencies,<sup>52</sup> cut Spanish dollars formed part of the currency of the West Indies and American Colonies during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries,<sup>53</sup> and cut dollars also made an appearance in Scotland where the fractions were counter-stamped by Rothsay Mills to indicate the lower denominations. More elaborate mutilations of the Spanish dollar occurred in colonial Australia;<sup>54</sup> a comprehensive survey of the world's cut currencies would fill many volumes.<sup>55</sup>

What then is the enduring appeal of this mutilatory practice for the

perpetrator, and what might be the appeal of the resulting disfigurements for the collector? I suspect that part of the answer to the first question is the element of ambivalence inherent in the act of mutilation; to sever a coin in two is both a destructive and a creative act. Divide and conquer becomes an unconscious motive in assuming the Crown's prerogative to create denominations. The Romans may have been mindful of a potential peril as they appear to have exercised some sensitivity as to the images on coins that were defaced or preserved.<sup>56</sup> An unconscious *frisson* is the accompaniment of operating where these ambivalent tensions are at play. Caution is however necessary when imposing modern day theorising on the medieval mind. Fealty, superstition and a heightened sense of the numinous are probably only some of the factors that acted upon the sensibilities of a thirteenth century populace.

Cut medieval coins have hitherto received little attention from collectors or researchers. An internet resource on Anglo-Irish coins notes that "cut halfpennies and farthings...are not in particular demand as from a collector's point of view they are of much less interest than the full uncut pennies."<sup>57</sup> This statement might also apply to collectors of English and Scottish coins. There are only two notable collections to my knowledge that have contained numbers of cut pence.<sup>58</sup> A fortunate consequence of this neglect is that cut

pence remain available and relatively inexpensive, although this situation may be changing. A recent Baldwin's auction<sup>59</sup> offered nine cut halfpennies as individual lots and the Dix Noonan Web auction of the same month had a cut halfpenny of Stephen that sold for an astonishing £3600!<sup>60</sup>

While a pristine coin will always have aesthetic appeal, there are rewards to be gleaned from coins that have served their intended function. The evidence from stray finds is that cut pence were the everyday transactional medium of medieval Britain. As such, they deserve our interest as tangible links with the past; moreover, they offer the keen numismatist the challenge of attribution when only presented with half or, in the case of farthings, a quarter of the data! This challenge is, perhaps, unconsciously imbued with the qualities of a quest, as the search for the inscription on the missing fragment fosters identification with a redemptive task, one exemplified in the Biblical parable of the 'lost coin'.

I will end by appropriating a quotation from the American writer Mark Scroggins. In his essay *A Fragmentary Poetics* he states: "The fragment entices. It speaks of something more, no longer present".<sup>61</sup> As in many walks of life, it is often what is missing that awakens our interest in what we have. Cut pence are medieval relics worthy of our attention, not only for their numismatic value but also for their talismanic potential to evoke the

everyday transactions of a bygone age.

### Acknowledgements

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### Select Bibliography

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- Bateson, J. D. and N. J. Mayhew (1987) *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles 35, Scottish Coins in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford and the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow*, The British Academy, Oxford.

### Notes

1. Major resources for illustrations of early Scottish coins are the two books listed in the Select Bibliography. They are abbreviated to 'Burns' and 'Sylloge' in the text.
2. A cut farthing of David I is illustrated in the *Sylloge* (Pl. 1, no. 13) and another appeared in the Dix Noonan Webb sale on 6 July 2005 (part of lot 629). A cut halfpenny of Prince Henry, Earl of Northumberland and Huntingdon, is illustrated in the *Sylloge* (Pl. 1, no. 5), and another was offered for sale in Patrick Finn's Catalogue 20. A cut farthing of this prince is illustrated by Holmes (see note 17) p. 14, illustration

6. Three cut halfpennies from William's single cross coinage are illustrated in the *Sylloge* (Pl. 1, no. 25; Pl. 2, nos. 36 and 39); only one example was reported in the survey of Scottish finds 1996 – 2000, (see note 23) and a further two during the period 2001-2005 (see note 26).
3. Karin Berg, (1980) 'Enkelte betraktninger i tilknytning til fenomenet secundaer behandling', *NNF-Nytt*, 2: 25-31.
4. D. M. Metcalf (1998) *An Atlas of Anglo-Saxon and Norman Coin Finds c.973-1086*, Royal Numismatic Society and Ashmolean Museum Oxford, London: 79.
5. Merchants wanting small change specified that they were to be paid in 'good' or 'round halfpence'. See: 'Folios 11 - 20', *Calendar of letter-books of the city of London: A: 1275-1298* (1899), Ed. R. R. Sharpe: 20-42. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=33021>
6. A cut farthing of Edward I is described and illustrated in Richard Kelliher (2008) 'Medieval and later coins from near Orford Castle, Suffolk', *The British Numismatic Journal* 78: 251. Cut halfpennies (4), a farthing and a round halfpenny cut in two are described in Griffiths, D; Philpott, R. A. and Egan G. (2007) *Meols: The Archaeology of the North Wirral Coast. Discoveries and observations in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a catalogue of collections*. Oxford University School of Archaeology: Monograph 68, Oxford.
7. N. M. McQ. Holmes and Lord Stewartby (2001) 'Scottish Coinage in the first half of the fourteenth century', *The British Numismatic Journal* 71: 58.
8. Ranald Nicholson (1977) 'Scottish monetary problems in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries'. In: *Coinage in Medieval Scotland (1100-1600)*, *The Second Oxford Symposium on Coinage and Monetary History*, Ed. D. M. Metcalf, British Archaeological Reports 45: 107.
9. *Chronicon Preciosum or an Account of English Money, the price of corn and other commodities for the last 600 years in a letter to a student in the University of Oxford*, Printed for Charles Harper at the Flower-de-luce over against St. Dunstons Church in Fleetstreet, London, 1707.
10. Burns gives the year 1195 as the date of introduction of the voided cross on coins of William the Lion, preceded by its appearance on the English coinage of Henry II in 1180 (I, 50). He cites the entry "Willelmus Rex Scottorum innovavit monetam suam", in the *Chronica de Mailros* for the year 1195, as evidence for its introduction in that year on Scottish coins, and the "able paper by Evans on the 'Short Cross Question' (*Num. Chron.*, v., 255)" as conclusive in regard to the date 1180 for English coins.
11. See: *A Catalogue of English Coins in the British Museum*, Vol II, by H. A. Grueber and C. F. Keary, London, 1893, p. lxxxix. "...the double cross was made to facilitate the cutting up of the coin into halfpence and farthings."
12. For an appreciation see: Ian Stewart (1987) 'Edward Burns', *The British Numismatic Journal*, 57: 89-98.
13. "On Tower Hill, London, in March



- 1869...there were found ...72 halves and 19 quarters of pennies” (Burns I: 104).
14. Burns I: 78.
  15. The earliest contemporary report of a find of cut coins in Scotland that I know of is one of 1822 near Strathdon in Aberdeenshire: “*The coins are nearly all of Henry III of England. Some of them are of William the Lion of Scotland, and two of them of King John. A portion of them was divided into halves and others into quarters.*” See: R. H. M. Dolley (1961-62) in *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, xcv: 241-8.
  16. <http://www.ukdfd.co.uk/> The survey period: 20 October 2005 – 14 October 2009.
  17. Nicholas Holmes (1998) *Scottish Coins – A history of small change in Scotland*, NMS Publishing, Edinburgh: 15.
  18. Amongst coins of William the Conqueror found at Beaworth, Hampshire in 1833, “were also some halves and quarters, and as the whole collection had evidently never been in circulation, they were probably issued from the mint in that form.” Edward Hawkins (1841) *The Silver Coins of England...*, Edward Lumley, London: 72. See also, A. W. Frank; *Archaeologia*, vol. xxxviii, part 1 (<http://www.thebookofdays.com/months/feb/2.htm>); and regarding coins of Edward the Confessor, “parcels of coins have been found...cut, which had evidently never been in circulation, seeming to prove that they were so issued from the Mint”, H. Noel Humphreys (1883) *The Coin Collector's Manual*, George Bell and Sons, London: 426.
  19. *Obolus qui prius formam habebat Semicirculi, tanquam pars Denarii in medio divisi, sit rotundus.*
  20. Edward R. H. Hancox (1908) ‘Finds of Medieval Cut Halfpence and Farthings at Dunwich’, *The British Numismatic Journal* 5: 123-134.
  21. R. Seaman (1972) ‘A further find of coins from Dunwich’, *The British Numismatic Journal* 41: 27-33.
  22. Martin Allen and Stephen P. Doolan (2002) ‘Finds from Dunwich’, *The British Numismatic Journal* 72: 85-94.
  23. J. D. Bateson & N. M. McQ. Holmes (2003) ‘Roman and medieval coins found in Scotland, 1996-2000’, *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, 133: 245-276. See also: J. D. Bateson & N. M. McQ. Holmes (1998) ‘Roman and medieval coins found in Scotland, 1988-1995’, *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, 127: 527-561.
  24. N. M. McQ. Holmes (2004) ‘The evidence of finds for the circulation and use of coins in medieval Scotland’, *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* 134: 241-280.
  25. A farthing of David I and a short cross farthing of either William the Lion or Alexander II.
  26. J. D. Bateson & N. M. McQ. Holmes (2006) ‘Roman and medieval coins found in Scotland, 2001-2005’ *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, 136: 161-198.
  27. I have made these calculations from statistics given in the paper by Allen and Doolan – see note 22.
  28. Dunwich and Vintry (London); limiting data to voided cross issues, Vintry yielded  $35 \times 1^d$ ,  $57 \times \frac{1}{2}^d$ ,  $51 \times \frac{1}{4}^d$ .
  29. J. D. Bateson (1989) ‘Roman and Medieval coins found in Scotland’, *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, 119: 183.
  30. Extracting figures reproduced by Allen and Doolan for the voided cross issues

- gives the following representation of fractions in three separate reports: London (Vintry), 80% of 106 coins, South Ferriby, 80% of 164 coins, and Llanfaes, 59% of 493 coins.
31. M. A. S. Blackburn (Ed.) (1986) *Anglo-Saxon Monetary History – Essays in memory of Michael Dolley*, Leicester University Press: 122.
  32. The coin of David I and that of Alexander II (Phase D).
  33. A detailed listing of the coins is provided in the Appendix.
  34. J. D. Bateson (1997) *Coinage in Scotland*, Spink & Son Ltd, London: 47.
  35. The illustrated halfpenny of David I is recorded in the Coin Register published in *The British Numismatic Journal*, 78 (2008): 288, no. 328 (Plate 22).
  36. Berwick and Perth were the most represented mints in the parcel of nearly 1800 long cross coins catalogued by Mr A. H. Baldwin from the Brussels hoard. See: Ian Stewart (1971) 'Scottish Mints'. In: *Mints, Dies and Currency – Essays in Memory of Albert Baldwin*, Ed. R. A. G. Carson, Methuen & Co Ltd, London: 209.
  37. Student's t-test, 1-tailed, as the weights of the cut coins were expected to be less than the nominal values ascribed to the comparison group. A 2-tailed test gives  $p < 0.05$ .
  38. Student's t-test, 2-tailed.
  39. A find of 114 short cross coins at Moor Monkton, Yorkshire in 1984, is one of the few hoards having a significant number of cut coins. The 38 halfpence had a mean weight of 10.5 gr. compared with a halved mean value of 10.8 gr. for the 76 pennies. See: M. M. Archibald and B. J. Cook (2001) *British Museum Occasional Paper Number 87, English Medieval Coin Hoards: I Cross and Crosslets, Short Cross and Long Cross Hoards*, British Museum Press, London: 18.
  40. Mean weight of 25 voided long-cross cut halfpence = 9.8 gr. Mean weight of 45 voided short-cross cut halfpence = 9.6 gr. ( $p = 0.28$ , 1-tailed test). Burns noted the progressive decline in the size of the module over the duration of the short-cross coinage (Vol. I, p. 107). The smaller module also appears to have characterised the voided long-cross coinage: the mean surface areas of the short-cross and long-cross coin segments in the sample are 135.6 mm<sup>2</sup> SD 15.8 for the voided short-cross halfpennies and 125.3 mm<sup>2</sup> SD 9.5 for the voided long-cross halfpennies ( $p < 0.005$ ). The weight of the penny was constant at approximately 22 gr. throughout both coinages, indicating that the short-cross coins not only had a wider rim and larger diameter, but were also thinner, both attributes making them easier for discrete clipping.
  41. M. M. Archibald and B. J. Cook (2001) *British Museum Occasional Paper Number 87, English Medieval Coin Hoards: I Cross and Crosslets, Short Cross and Long Cross Hoards*, British Museum Press, London: 85.
  42. Charles Oman (1931) *The Coinage of England*, Clarendon Press, Oxford: 97.
  43. See: Philip Grierson (1991) *The Coins of Medieval Europe*, Seaby, London: Ch. IX.
  44. N. Mayhew and A. Smith (1990) 'Another round short cross halfpenny', *The British Numismatic Journal* 60: 136.

45. A history of collector awareness of these coins forms an extensive footnote in the Introductory Memoranda to Jacob Henry Burn (1855) *A Descriptive Catalogue of the London Traders, Tavern, and Coffee-House Tokens Current in the Seventeenth Century*, London, (Second Edition): xii.
46. No examples were known until the 1950's; about a dozen are known today. Illustrations of five specimens from the William Conte collection can be accessed through the Fitzwilliam Museum site at <http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/opac/search/searchcm.html>
47. A curious reference to the round fractions introduced by Henry I is found in J. Holt (1786) *Characters of the Kings and Queens of England selected from different Histories with Observations and Reflections, chiefly adapted to Common Life; and particularly intended for the Instruction of youth, To which are added Notes Historical*, London: 45-46. "He commanded halfpence and farthings to be made round (they were square before): in the coining of them they were almost struck through across, so as easily to be divided into halves".
48. R. W. Cochran-Patrick (1873) 'Notes on the Scottish Mints' *Numismatic Chronicle*, April: 226.
49. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (A.D. 1125) records that Henry I "commanded all the moneyers in England to lose each of them the right hand, *et testiculis infra...*"; quoted by C. C. Chamberlain (1960) *The Teach Yourself Guide to Numismatics*, The English Universities Press Ltd., London: 33.
50. J. J. North was unable to find any record of the division of coins into fractions on the Continent at this time, and concluded that the practice was confined to the British Isles. See: J. J. North (1976) 'A parcel of long cross cut halfpence' *The Numismatic Circular*, Vol. LXXXIV, No. 2: 48.
51. A cut half esterlin of John I of Brabant is included in a recent listing of finds in Scotland – see note 24.
52. An extensive review is provided by T. V. Buttrey (1972) 'Halved Coins, the Augustan Reform, and Horace, Odes I.3', *American Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. 76, No.1: 31-48. Ancient, medieval and modern examples are discussed in, Adrien Blanchet (1897) 'Les Monnaies Coupées', *Revue Numismatique*, 1: 1-13.
53. Excellent reviews are provided in a series of articles by Frederick Pridmore in the *Numismatic Circular*, 1959-64, and T. V. Buttrey (1967) 'Cut Coins in Canada', *The British Numismatic Journal*, 36: 176-178. A contemporary account of the use of cut dollars is provided by Samuel Mordecai (1860) *Virginia, Especially Richmond, in by-gone days: with a glance at the present: being reminiscences and last words of an old citizen*, West & Johnston, Richmond, Va. An interesting association item is a specimen of a cut Spanish dollar that George Washington is said to have created by slicing the host coin with his sword, before presenting the half so obtained as payment for his breakfast, during a visit to Lancaster in 1791. ([http://demint.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Regions.BlogDetail&Blog\\_ID=faf5725b-ae4b-a822-1a4d-715f6006ced&Region](http://demint.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Regions.BlogDetail&Blog_ID=faf5725b-ae4b-a822-1a4d-715f6006ced&Region)

[id=e132594d-fac7-48fe-8043-a5ff8baf7ff3\)](#)

54. The coin's centre was punched out to create two coins, the 'holy-dollar' current for five shillings and the 'dump' current for fifteen pence. A similar practice was undertaken in Trinidad as an expedient to prevent the exportation of dollars.
55. The portioning of currency by cutting has a parallel in modern times. In his autobiography *Twenty-Five* (1926), Beverley Nichols, recording his visit to Athens in 1922, writes: "I pay for my tea with a bank-note cut in half – a strange procedure worthy of explanation. Greece was in the direst financial straits...And so an ingenious chancellor suddenly thought of a way by which the peasants could all be made to disgorge half of their savings. Every paper note in the kingdom had to be cut in half. The left half must be immediately given to the bank, where it would be credited to one's account...The right half must be used as currency. Thus a note worth a pound automatically became worth ten shillings cash, the other ten shilling being placed in the bank. All this cutting and snipping of notes had to be done in a fortnight." Cut coins have even made an appearance in popular literature; examples are *The China Coin* by Allan Baillie, and *The Asian Saga* series of novels by James Clavell.
56. Philip Kiernan (2001) 'The ritual mutilation of coins on Romano-British sites', *The British Numismatic Journal*, 71: 18-33.
57. <http://www.irishcoinage.com/HENRY3.HTM>
58. Professor Jeffrey Mass collection

sold by Dix Noonan Webb, 15 March, 2006 - see also *Sylloge of Coins of the British Empire* 56, and the Tim Everson collection of cut farthings sold in 2004.

59. Baldwin's Auction Number 62, 29 September, 2009, lots 193, 201, 204, 206, 207, 208, 210, 214 and 215.
60. Dix Noonan Webb Auction Number 83, 30 September, 2009, lot 3846.
61. <http://www.culturalsociety.org/fragmentary.html>

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## Appendix: Catalogue

The four figure number immediately following the catalogue number is the reference to Spink's *Coins of Scotland, Ireland and the Islands*, 2nd Edition, 2003. The symbols used and their designated meanings are as follows:

- The obverse and reverse legends are separated by a forward slash. Brackets indicate the portion of legend that is off the segment. The missing letters are enclosed within the brackets where these are known from other coins. Letters included on the segment but not clearly visible are indicated by a subscript line; if the letters are known from other coins they are placed above the line. A semicolon separates the legends from the coin's description.
- The positioning of the head on the obverse is designated as facing l (left) or r (right). The description of the reverse is confined to the number of points on the stars or mullets.
- Similar specimens in the *Sylloge* and Burns are prefixed by Sy and B respectively. Where there is no corresponding coin, the prefix is followed by a line.
- The weights are given in grains (gr.). Where whole coins illustrated in the *Sylloge* and /or Burns share identical dies with a cut halfpenny, the weight(s) of the whole coin(s) is given in brackets. The weights published in Burns have been decimalised to the nearest lower decimal place. An asterisk preceding the catalogue number indicates specimens included in the calculation of the mean weight of cut coins sharing identical dies with whole specimens. In those instances where identical whole coins are represented in both the *Sylloge* and Burns, the nominal weight used for comparison is half the average weight of the two whole coins.

### David I

#### Halfpennies

Period B (1145-1149?) with name of mint

1. 5005 Obscure legend / ( ) **N•:\_\_\_R\_•** ; Head r, pellets in annulets. Burns Class III, Stewart IVc, Sy\_, B 24 fig 27. 9.8 gr. The moneyer is Ricard (at Carlisle). Found at Little Drifffield, near E. Yorks. in 2007. See *BNJ* 2008, 78, p. 288, no. 328.

### Short voided cross coinage

#### William the Lion

#### Halfpennies

Phase A (1195-c.1205) with name of mint

2. 5027 ( ) **LWVS R( ) / (★)WATE\_**( ) ; Head l, 2×6 points. Sy\_, B \_ ; 8.9 gr. (Perth). This coin appears to have a seven pointed star in one quarter of the rev., possibly a die defect.



3. 5027 \_\_\_\_ ( ) **S REX** / (**\***)**WATER (ON PER)** ; Head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy \_\_, B 1e *fig* 45E but with a different obverse die. 6.9 gr. This appears to be the only variety of the named mint coins having the E included in REX and the arms of the voided cross on the reverse capped with crescents. The N is retrograde. The A has a short crossbar towards the foot of its left limb, and a small projection extending from the base of its right limb, suggesting this may be a contraction of AL.
- \*4. 5027 (**\***)**WILELM(VS RX)** / (**\***)**hve ON E)DENBVR** ; Head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy 48 (20.7 gr.), B 1h *fig* 40D (22.0 gr.), identical dies both coins. 8.3 gr. The **L**'s have the limb sloping upwards, terminated with a downward pointing serif, giving them resemblance to a **W**. The proximal and central limbs of the **M** have their concavities juxtaposed giving the impression of an **O**, particularly, as on this coin, where the distal limb is cut off the planchet. The **N** is retrograde.
- \*5. 5027 **\*WILE(LMVS RX)** / (**\***)**hve ON ED**\_\_\_\_ ; Head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy 48 (20.7 gr.), B 1h *fig* 40D, (B 22 gr.). The same dies as no. 4. 8.6 gr. The cut is retarded 90° *cf.* the former coin.
6. 5027 **\*W(ILEL)MVS RX** / **\*hve** ( ) **VR** ; Head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy \_\_, B \_\_. 10.6 gr.
7. 5027 **\*WILEL(MVS RX)** / **\*RAVL: O(N: ROGE:)** ; Head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy 56, B 4 *fig* 44. 11.0 gr.
8. 5027 (**\***)**WILE)LMVX** \_\_\_\_ / (**\***)**RAVL: ON: RO(GE:)** ; Head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy 56, B 4 *fig* 44. 8.7 gr.

## Phase B (including posthumous issue, c.1205 – c.1230)

9. 5029 (**\*LE)REI WIL(AW)** / (**\***)**hve : WALT( )** ; Class I, head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy 60; B 9a *fig* 46A, same obv. die. 9.2 gr.
10. 5029 **\*LE** \_\_\_\_ ( ) / ( ) \_\_\_\_ **WA**( ) ; Class I, head 1, 6&? points.  
Sy ?, B \_\_. 10.0 gr. Not worn but very flatly struck. The cutting appears to have been in two attempts, and this, along with the curling of the planchet, suggests the use of shears.
11. 5029 **\*LE (REI WIL)A** / (**\***)**hve WAL(T : O)** ; Class I, head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy \_\_, B 11 *fig* 48, same obv. die. 9.1 gr. The three Class I coins (ie. nos. 9, 10 & 11) exhibit large letters, the **A** and **W** having exaggerated serifs on the surmounting top bar of the **A** and the upper terminals of the four limbs of the **W**, which is broad with the two central limbs crossed at their half way points. The A on both sides of no. 11 has no cross bar. These characteristics may typify the better executed, and possibly earlier issues of this class.
12. 5029 (**\*LE R)EI WIL( )** / (**\***)**hve W)ALTER** ✧ ; Class II, head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy \_\_, B 13 *fig* 49, same rev. die. 8.2 gr.
13. 5029 (**\*LE R)EI WIL** \_\_\_\_ / **\***( ) \_\_\_\_ **ER** ✧ ; Class II, head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy \_\_, B 13. 9.5 gr.
14. 5029 ( ) **W** \_\_\_\_ / ( ) **RI LE R( )** ; Class IV, head 1, 2x6 points.  
Sy \_\_, B \_\_. 9.3 gr.
15. 5029 **\*L(E REI W)IL)A** / **\***(**hve W)ALTER** ; Class II, head 1, 2 x 6 points.  
Sy \_\_, B \_\_. 9.1 gr.
- \*16. 5029 (**\*LE) REI WI(LAW)** / (**\***)**hve WA)LTAR**° ; Class III, head 1, 2x5 points. Sy 68, same dies (20.7 gr.); B *fig* 52, same rev. die. 11.5 gr.
17. 5029 (**\*LE REI W)ILAO.** / **\*hve (W)ALTAR**° ; Class III, head 1, 2 x 5

- points. Sy 68, same rev. die; B fig 52, same rev. die. 7.9 gr.
18. 5029 (**\*L̥E REI WILAM**) / (**\*h̥v̥E WAL(T)ER**) ; Class III, head 1, 2x5 points. Sy\_, B 15 fig 52, same rev. die. 11.8 gr.
  19. 5029 (**\*L̥E REI W(ILAM)**) / (**\*h̥v̥E WAL(T)ER**) ; Class III, head 1, 2x5 points. Sy\_, B 17 fig 53, same obv.die. 10.0 gr.
  - \*20. 5029 **\*L̥E (REI WILAM)••** / **•• R(ETLAW E)Vh** ; Class III, head 1, 2x5 points. Sy\_, B 18 fig 53, same dies (23.5 gr.). 11.0 gr.
  - \*21. 5029 (**\*L̥E REI WILAM)••**) / **•• R(ETLAW E)Vh** ; Class III, head 1, 2x5 points. Sy\_, B 18 fig 53, same dies (23.5 gr.). 10.7 gr.
  22. 5029 **\*L̥E RE(I WILAO)** / (**\*h̥v̥E W)AL(T)ER** ; Class III, head 1, 2x5 points. Sy\_, B 21 fig 56, same obv. die. 11.6 gr. The lettering on the reverse is peculiar in having prominent crescent-shaped terminals to the **H**, **L**, **T** and **R**.
  23. 5029 (**\*L̥E R̥EI WILAM**) / **\*h̥v̥E (WAL)TER** ; Class III, head 1, 2x5 points. Sy\_, B 15. 10.6 gr. All letters and stops on reverse are retrograde.
  24. 5029 **\*L̥E( )** / **\*h̥v̥E( )** ; Class III, head 1, 2x6 points. Sy\_, B 21 fig 56A, same obv.die. 10.3 gr. Burns states that the six star reverses are rare in Class III. (I, p.80.)
  25. 5029 (**\*L̥E R̥EI WILAM**) / (**\*h̥v̥E W)ALTER** ; Class III, head 1, 2x6 points. Sy\_, B\_. 8.7 gr.
  26. 5029 (**\*L̥E REI W(ILAM)**) / (**\*h̥v̥E WAL(T)ER**) ; Class IV, head 1, 2x6 points. Sy 72, B\_. 10.0 gr.
  27. 5029 **\*L̥E R̥(EI WILAM)** : / ( ) **L(T)ER** ; Class IV, head 1, 4&5 points. Sy 72, B\_. 10.7 gr.
  28. 5029 **\*h̥v̥E ( )** / **\*h̥v̥( )RO** ; Class IV, head 1, 2x6 points. Sy 74, same obv.die; B 22 fig 58, same obv. die. 10.8 gr. Burns states that coins with Hugh's name on both sides are "very rare". (I, p.82.)
  29. 5029 **\*h̥v̥E W( )** / **\*h̥v̥E( )R:O** ; Class IV, head 1, 2x5 points. Sy\_, B\_. 8.7 gr. The **h** on the obverse of this coin is very primitive, resembling an **H** with a truncated upper limb.
  30. 5029 (**\*L̥E REI W( )**) / **\*h̥v̥E ( )R: O** ; Class IV, head 1, 2x6 points. Sy\_, B 24. 9.9 gr.
  - \*31. 5029 (**\*L̥E REI W(ILT)**) / **\*h̥v̥W(AL:T)ERO** ; Class IV, head 1, 2x6 points. Sy 73, same dies (21.3 gr.); B 24a fig 59, same obv die. 9.0 gr.
  32. 5029 (**\*L̥E REI W(IL)**) / (**\*h̥v̥E WAL(T)**) ; Class IV, head 1, 2x5 points. Sy\_, B 25. 10.4 gr. The head on this coin is almost identical to that of fig 60A, a penny of Henri le Rus. Burns makes the observation that this obverse is very similar to that figured for B 25.
  33. 5029 **\*L̥( )** / (**\*h̥v̥E: WAL( )**) ; Class IV, head 1, 2x6 points. Sy\_, B 25a fig 60. 8.5 gr.
  34. 5029 Obscure / **\*h̥v̥( )** ; Class IV, head 1, 6&? Sy\_, B\_. 5.5 gr.
  35. 5029 **⌘ ( )vh:eh:** / **⌘h̥v̥( )E : O** ; Class VI, head 1, 2x6 points. Sy\_, B\_. 11.0 gr. This enigmatic coin is probably a good example of those 'HVE WALTER' issues that Burns finds "most numerous represented" and of "wretched workmanship, and frequently with blundered inscriptions." (I, p.74) The **⌘** is unusual in having the terminals traversing the main arms of the cross rather than at their ends.
  - \*36. 5030 **\*W(ILLELMVS)** : / (**\*WAL(T)ER: ADAM**) ; WALTER ADAM, head 1, 2x6 points. Sy 84 (22.7 gr., but pierced and plugged), B 31b fig 66A (23.5 gr.), identical

- dies both coins. 7.9 gr.
37. 5031 (**\*Lē REI WI**)**LHO** / **\*hēNR(I Lē RVS)**; HENRI LE RVS, head l, 2×5 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B 32/32b. 9.9 gr.
  38. 5031 Obscure / **\*hē**\_\_\_\_( ) ; HENRI LE RVS. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B<sub>-</sub> . 8.5 gr.
  39. 5031 Obscure, weekly struck / **\*hē**\_\_\_\_( ) ; HENRI LE RVS, head l, 5&6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B<sub>-</sub> . 11.7 gr.
  40. 5031 (**\*Lē**)**REI W**\_\_\_\_( ) / (**SV**)**R EL IN(ēh\*)**; HENRI LE RVS, head l, 5&6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B 34A *fig* 61A ; retrograde reverse legend. 11.1 gr.
  41. 5031 **\*Lē Rē**\_\_\_\_( ) / **\*hē**\_\_\_\_( )**VS** ; HENRI LE RVS, the S being retrograde. head l, 2×6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B<sub>-</sub> . 9.4 gr.
  42. 5033 ( )\_\_\_\_ / **RI: O**\_\_\_\_( ) ; HENRI LE RVS, with name of mint (Perth), head l, 2×5 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B *fig* 56B, very similar obv. die; the “curious piece, figured Lindsay, Pl II 40 and Wingate Pl III 2” (l. p.65). 8.8 gr. This coin has an atypical rev. legend.
  43. ??? **VA** ..( ) / **.V.V.Ā** ; Class ? 8.7 gr. Very worn. Possibly a contemporary forgery.
  44. ??? **Lē R**•\_\_\_\_( ) / **O**\_\_\_\_**VV**• ( ) ; Class ?, head l, 2×6 points. 7.2 gr. As no. 38.

### Farthings

Phase A (1195-c.1205) with name of mint

45. 5027 (**\*WILE**)**LMVS (RX)** / **\* (WATER ON PERT** ; Head l, 1×6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B 1d *fig* 44A, almost certainly same dies. Roman M on the obv. die. 5.1 gr.
46. 5027 (**\***)**WIL**\_\_\_\_( ) / ( )**ODE** ; Head l, 1×6 points. Sy 56, same rev. die; B 4 *fig* 44, same rev. die. 5.7 gr.
47. 5027 (**\***)**WIL**\_\_\_\_( ) / **\***\_\_\_\_( ) **RO** ; Head r, 1×6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B<sub>-</sub> . 5.4 gr.

Phase B (including posthumous issue, c.1205 – c.1230)

48. 5029 (**\*Lē R**)**EI W**\_\_\_\_( ) / (**\*hVē**)**WĀ**\_\_\_\_( ) ; Class I, head , 1×6 points. Sy ?, B<sub>-</sub> , same reverse die as no.10. 4.5 gr.
49. 5029 legend clipped / legend obscure ; Class III (probably), head ?, 6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B<sub>-</sub> . 4.1 gr.
50. 5029 (**\*Lē REI**) **WIL(ĤM)** / **\* (hVē WALT)ER**° ; Class III, head l, 1×5 points. Sy 68, same dies; B 15 *fig* 52. 6.2 gr.
51. 5029 **\*L(ē REI WILĤM)** / (**\*hVē**)**WĀ(LTER)** ; Class III, head l, 1×5 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B<sub>-</sub> . 5.0 gr.
52. 5031 legend obscure / ( )**RI Lē R**\_\_\_\_( ) ; HENRI LE RVS, head l, 1×6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B<sub>-</sub> . 5.3 gr.
53. 5031 legend obscure / **\* (hēNR I) RV**; HENRI LE RVS, head l, 1×5 points. Sy 77, B 32a *fig* 51A, same dies as both. 4.9 gr. Burns gives rev. reading as **hēNR I Lē RV**;
54. 5031 (**\***)**Lē (REI W**\_\_\_\_) / (**SVR**) **EL: (INēh\*)**; HENRI LE RVS, head l, 1×6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B<sub>-</sub> . 5.0 gr.

**Alexander II****Halfpennies**

Phase C (Alexander II in the name of William, issue commencing c.1230)

- \*55. 5034 (**\*WIL**)**ELMVS REX**(XX) / **\*ADAM:O(D•ROD)**; Bearded head r., 2×6 points. Sy 59, same dies (18.5 gr.); B 6d/6c figs 67C/67B, same dies but in this combination; also same obv. die as S5034 as illustrated. 11.9 gr.

Phase D (from c.1235)

56. 5037 **\*AL(EXAND)EREX** / **†**( )\_\_ **AINONRO** ; Uncrowned head l, 2×6 points. Same obv. die as Sy 85 & 86 and B 6 fig 75. The reverse die is very similar to B 3a fig 72a. Burns gives the reading as ANDRV. RICAR . ADAM ON RO, whereas this coin appears to have ALAIN as one of its moneyers. Stewart comments: "It is difficult to understand in what relationship these moneyers stood to each other, for their names do not always appear in the same order..." (in *Mints, Dies and Currency*, Ed. R. A. G. Carson, p.205). 10.9 gr.

**Long voided cross coinage (1250-c.1280)****Alexander III****Halfpennies**

- \*57. 5042 **†(ALEXANDER) REX** / **(ALEX'•O)N EDEN** ; Type II, head l, 2×6 points. Sy\_, B 64a fig 94A, same dies (21.0 gr.). 9.1 gr.
58. 5043 **(ALEX)ANDER (REX)** / **(SIMNO) N† || RE** ; Type III, head l, 2×6 points. Sy\_, B 33b fig 126A, similar obv. but different rev., same rev. die as Dundee collection: lot 14 (ex Lockett 751). 11.2 gr.
- \*59. 5043 **(ALEX)ANDE R RE(X)** / **(RO^B || E^RO) || NB || ER**; Type III, head l, 6&7 points. Sy 102 (19.3 gr.), B 21a fig 140A (20 gr.), same dies as both these coins. 10.3 gr. The obverse exhibits a die crack extending from the inner ring obliquely up through the king's upper lip. This feature is also shown in Burns fig 140A.
- \*60. 5043 **†AL(EXAND)ER'EX** / **RO^B || (ER' || TON) || BE\_** ; Type III, head l, 2×6 points. Sy 103, same rev. die; B 21b fig 140B, same dies (25.0 gr.). 11.5 gr. The obv. legend is rendered as on the Berwick sterling B 9b, but with a contraction mark between R and E. The rendering of the rev. legend is a composite assessment from an examination of Sy 103, B fig 140B and this coin. Burns renders the final quadrant as BER, and the *Sylloge* omits the mark after the R in the second quadrant.
61. 5043 **(†)LEXAND(ER REX)** / **(RO) || BE || RTO || (NB)** ; Type III, head l, 2×6 points. Sy\_, B\_. 9.1 gr.
62. 5043 **†AL(EXAND)ER REX** / Obscure ; Type III, head l, 2×6 points. Sy 109, same obv. die; B 54, 54a, 55, fig 119A, same obv. die. 8.6 gr. I have attributed this coin to 'Dun' on the basis of the obverse die belonging to that mint; a coin with the same obverse "in the collection of Mr Cochran-Patrick, formerly in the Sheriff Mackenzie collection, has WALTER ON FRES" (I, p.145)
63. 5043 **†ALEXAN(DER REX)** / **WIL || †M || (ON ED')** ; Type III, head l, 2×6 points. Sy\_, B 64c fig 94C, same rev die. 9.2 gr. The obv. of this coin has the florid X and florid A; the only coins of Wilam with these characteristics are those minted at Kinghorn and Lanark. Burns has suggested that this Wilam may have minted at Edinburgh and Kinghorn, basing this assumption on the similarity of the style of head as displayed in B fig

- 94C with the Kinghorn specimen, B *fig* 108. Further support for an Edinburgh/Kinghorn connection is the portioning of the rev. legend with the three letters WIL contained within the first quarter, an arrangement only appearing on coins of Edinburgh and Kinghorn.
64. 5043 (**Λ**)**LEXANDE(R REX)** / (**GEFRRI**) **O<sup>^</sup>N N** || **V**\_\_ ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy 123, same obv die; B 67b *fig* 122B, same obv die. 7.8 gr. The distal limb of the N in the ligated ON appears to serve as an I.
65. 5043 **Λ(LEXANDER REX)** / (**WILAM**) || **O<sup>^</sup>N L** || **AN** ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B\_. 6.9 gr.
66. 5043 **ΛLEXAN(DER REX)** / (**ION CO**)**RIN** || **ON P** ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy 130, same obv die, B 38. 9.0 gr.
67. 5043 (**ΛLEX**)**ANDER R(EX)** / **IO<sup>^</sup>N** (**OKIN**) || **ON<sup>^</sup>P** ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B 38 *fig* 111, same rev. die. 10.7 gr.
- \*68. 5043 (**Λ**)**LEXAN(DER REX)** / (**ION CO** || **R**)**IN** || **O<sup>^</sup>NP** ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B 40 *fig* 113, same dies (21.4 gr.). 10.7 gr.
- \*69. 5043 (**Λ**)**LEXANDER (REX)** / **ION** || **CO** || (**RIN** || **O<sup>^</sup>NP**) ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B 40 *fig* 113, same dies (21.4 gr.). 12.5 gr. The 'N' of 'ION' appears as an 'I' with no obvious ligation to the 'O'.
70. 5043 **ΛLEXAN(DER REX)** / **ION** || (**CO** || **RIN**) || **O<sup>^</sup>NP** ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B\_. 9.4 gr. The 'N' of 'ION' as for no.69.
- \*71. 5043 **ΛLE(XANDER REX)** / (**ANDREV**) **ON** || **RO** ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B 22a *fig* 107B, same dies (21.7 gr.). 8.3 gr. This coin has Burn's 'florid A' on the obverse particularly well displayed. It is characterised by a convex proximal limb with the cross bar joining it to a straight distal limb.
72. 5043 **Λ(LEXAN)DE<sup>^</sup>R REX** / (**ANDR**) || **EV O** || **N R** ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B\_. 11.0 gr.
- \*73. 5043 **ΛLEX(ANDER REX)** / **TO<sup>^</sup>M** || **AS:** || (**ON** • **AN**) ; Type III, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy 136, same obv. die; B 69d *fig* 115D, same dies (19.4 gr.). 9.0 gr.
- \*74. 5044 (**Λ**)**EXAND(ER REX)** / **ROBE** || **RT** || (**ON B**) ; Type IV, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B 19b *fig* 114b, same dies (22.5 gr.). 8.9 gr.
75. 5044 **ΛLEXA(NDER REX)** / **WA** || **LTA** || ( ) ; Type IV, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy 139 & 140, same obv. die, B\_. 9.8 gr. Attributed to 'Dun' by the identifier for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, but as there are no known die links for Type IV obverses, and as this obverse die is recorded in the *Sylloge* as linked with a Glasgow reverse, (although the reverse die for both Sy 139 & 140 is unique in lacking the town name) the coin is probably of the GLASGOW mint.
- \*76. 5047 (**Λ**)**EXANDER( REX)** / (**RAINALD DE** || **PE<sup>^</sup>R**) ; Type VII, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy 153 (20.9 gr.), B 33c *fig* 89A (20.8 gr.), same dies as both coins. 9.6 gr.
77. 5047 **ΛLE(XANDER) REX** / ( ) || **O<sup>^</sup>N** || **PE<sup>^</sup>R** ; Type VII, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B\_. 13.0 gr. A thicker than usual flan.
78. 5047 **ΛLEXAN(DER REX)** / ( ) || \_\_\_\_ || **O<sup>^</sup>N** • || ( ) ; Type VII, head r, 2×6 points. Sy 155, same obv. die; B 22 *fig* 96, same obv. die. 10.5 gr. I have attributed this coin to Roxburgh as the obverse die appears to be solely linked to reverses of this mint.
- \*79. 5048 (**Λ**)**LEXAND(ER REX)** / (**ION/AN** || **ON B** || (**ER**) ; Type VIII, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B 6 *fig* 82, same dies (24.2 gr.). 7.2 gr.
- \*80. 5048 (**XR R**)**EDNAXE(LA)** / (**REB NO**) **RET LAW** ; Type VIII, head 1, 2×6 points. Sy\_\_, B 12a *fig* 88a, same dies (21 gr.). 10.6 gr. Burns notes the retrograde inscription as "a very rare occurrence on the long double cross sterlings, and which I have



- not observed except on a few sterlings of Berwick by this same moneyer". (I, p.126)
81. 5048 (~~XA~~)R ~~REDNA~~(~~XELA~~) / ~~RE~~ || ~~BN~~ || (~~O~~ ~~RET~~LAW) ; Type VIII, head l, 2x6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B 12 *fig* 88, same obv. die. 11.3 gr.

### Farthings

82. 5042 ~~ALA~~( ) / ( ) ~~ON~~ ( ) ; Type II, head r, 1x6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B 32 *fig* 105, same or very similar rev. die (? Ayr). 5.4 gr.
83. 5043 (~~ALEX~~)AND(~~ER~~ ~~REX~~) / (~~RO~~<sup>^</sup>~~B~~ || ~~E~~<sup>^</sup>~~RT~~ || ~~ON~~) || ~~BE~~• ; Type III, head l, 1x6 points. Sy 105, similar dies, B<sub>-</sub>. 4.6 gr.
84. 5043 Obscure legend / (~~ALEX~~• ~~O~~) ~~NE~~ || (~~DEN~~) ; Type III, head l, 1x6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B 64a *fig* 94A, same rev. die. 5.4 gr.
85. 5043 (~~ALEXA~~)ND(~~ER~~ ~~REX~~) / (~~ION~~ || ~~CO~~ || ~~KIN~~) || ~~O~~<sup>^</sup>~~NP~~ ; Type III, head l, 1x6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B<sub>-</sub>. 4.9 gr.
86. 5043 (~~ALEXANDER~~) ~~REX~~ / ~~ION~~ || (~~CO~~ || ~~KIN~~ || ~~O~~<sup>^</sup>~~NP~~) ; Type III, head l, 1x6 points. Sy 130, same dies, B<sub>-</sub>. 4.7 gr.
87. 5043 ~~ALE~~( ) / (~~TO~~<sup>^</sup>~~M~~ || ~~AS~~• || ~~ON~~) || ~~AN~~ ; Type III, head l, 1x6 points. Sy 141, same dies; B 69c *fig* 115C, same rev. die. 4.6 gr. The specimen listed by Burns "from its peculiar edge and great weight (45.4 gr)...seems to have been struck upon a Roman denarius, and possibly passed for a double penny".
88. 5044 (~~ALEX~~)AND(~~ER~~ ~~REX~~) / ~~WI~~ || (~~LA~~ || ~~MO~~<sup>^</sup> || •~~LA~~) ; Type IV, head l, 1x6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B 67 *fig* 115, same rev. die. 4.2 gr. In *fig* 115 the O appears to extend a cross-bar to the proximal arm of the voided cross, this serving as the ligated O<sup>^</sup>N. The coin displays the broad oblique A, and the truncation of the well displayed neck and shoulders free from the inner circle, confirming it as type IV as classified by Burns. (Spink's catalogue omits type IV under coins minted at Lanark.)
89. 5047 (~~ALEX~~)AND(~~ER~~ ~~REX~~) / ~~ION~~ || (~~AN~~ || ~~ON~~ || ~~BER~~) ; Type VII, head l, 1x6 points. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B 14 *fig* 90, same obv. die. 5.5 gr.
90. 504? (~~ALEXANDER~~) ~~REX~~ / Obscure ; Type ?, head l, 1x6 points. Sy ?, B ? 3.3 gr.

### Long plain cross coinage (Second coinage c.1280 –)

#### Halfpennies

91. 5056 (•~~A~~)L~~E~~X~~A~~N~~DER (~~DEI~~ ~~GRA~~) / ~~REX~~ (~~SCOTOR~~)VM• ; 1x6 mullet & 1x7 points, 11.8 gr.~~

### Robert II

92. 5150 (•~~RO~~)B~~E~~RTVS ~~REX~~ ( ) / ~~VILL~~ || (~~AD~~~~E~~ || ~~PER~~) || ~~Th~~• ; No ornament on sceptre handle, 2x5 mullets. Sy 498, same rev. die ( as also for Sy 499, 500 and ? 501); B 12, same rev. die as B *figs.* 322, 323, 324, and 331. 8.8 gr. At least seven of the eight illustrated coins share the same reverse die, as does the following coin (no. 93). The obverse legend does not appear to have crosses or saltires between the words.
93. 5151 •R~~O~~B~~E~~RTVS R(~~EX~~ ~~SCOTTOR~~V~~M~~) / ~~VILL~~ || ~~AD~~~~E~~ || (~~PER~~ || ~~Th~~•);  
<sup>B</sup> behind head, 2x5 mullets. Sy<sub>-</sub>, B 7 *fig* 329, same obv. die but with Perth reverse. 8.6 gr. The coin is remarkable in displaying an hitherto unrecorded die link. Burns lists other pennies of Edinburgh (B 6) and Perth (B 13) sharing the same obverse die, and the *Sylloge* yet others (Sy 497), ie. B 11 but with an Edinburgh reverse.

### **Measurements and statistics**

Weights were measured using a manual balance sensitive to 0.1 grains. The surface area of one face of each cut coin was calculated from measurements made with a vernier calliper ( $150 \times 0.02$  mm). The formula for calculating segmental areas and a calculator is given at: <http://www.1728.com/circsect.htm>. The formula for calculating the surface area of segments assumes that its non chord perimeter is circular, when, in fact, it approximates to this form. A more sophisticated and accurate measure of surface areas would entail exact size imaging with computer driven analysis.