

A free newsletter to all who contribute illustrations for use in future issues. To receive Issue Eight directly you must send the editor at least one 300 dpi JPEG scan, or a sharply focused photo print, of any interesting leaden token in your collection. Send images as email attachments to LTFeditor@aol.com. See page 4 for information on back issues, etc.

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David Powell On His Classification System

Type 4: Lis

Current working definition: "A wide family of lis designs, which include also those sides where the outer components of the lis curve out so far as to be occasionally mistaken for the initials CC, the second C retrograde."

Big debate over what to call the various designs which make up this class: candidates include lis, trefoils, plumes and tridents. They are tentatively linked, through what may be a process of evolution. Naming suggestions are invited, but for the moment we will collectively call them lis. I suspect that type 4 is of predominantly London manufacture, as a higher than usual percentage of them appear in dark lead.



Figs 1-7 all show basic varieties of the theme. Some of them approximate to tridents, except that the outer tines always curve away; perhaps they are spears with a central prong and two blades to the side? Fig.2 looks more ceremonial, not quite man enough for the job of killing anybody. Several of them or more separate horizontal of Figs 6,7. Those with tines {Figs.5-7} look more the four horizontals of Fig.7 vase. Plus, as usual, we pellets thrown in.



From the traditional three tines, Fig.8 goes to five; yet, from its style, it could easily have come from the maker of Figs 1-3. It could pass as a leaf rake, but that would be fanciful. Five tines are fairly scarce, and I would welcome knowing about any more sightings of numbers other than three. Seven might even be viable. I have not seen any even numbers, but please surprise me!



I presume that Fig.4 is a type 4 of crude manufacture, rather than an attempt at, perhaps, a person; not to worry, it adds welcome variety. Moving on, the three elements of the lis sometimes become a crown, although the centre element has clearly taken a different form, perhaps a plume, as becomes even more marked in Fig.10 where definite feathers are evident. Fig.10 has a confirmed Thameside provenance. Once the elements are established as plumes/feathers rather than prongs, there seems to be no debar on even numbers. Provided the type 4 theme is in evidence, I keep these pieces here rather than in type 25.

The other evolution of these pieces is very strange. It will be noticed that all outer tines curve to some degree, and occasionally they curve very markedly. Pieces which seem to be type 2s with the initials C, reverse-C are frequent, with a line through the centre; are they true CCs {for some people will have possessed those initials, and retrograde letters are common}, or are they type 4s

on which the outer tines have bent round to a greater extreme? I back the latter option, but welcome any comments; there will, of course, be genuine CCs as well, without any joining line. Figs 11-14 mark various stages of the progression, and Fig.15 the extreme form on which the Cs/ tines have bent back round on themselves so far as to join up again. Fig.16 presents an interesting form, C,reverse-C with a thunderbolt between; or is it lis, inverted-lis? This piece is almost white, although probably that is due to cold.



Finally, a slender decorative piece, now and again, lead tokens were signs on blanks rather than by



Fig.17 to remind us that, every made by carving out incuse de-casting the metal into moulds.

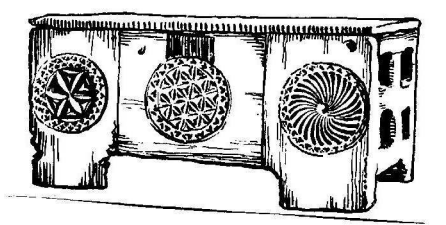
September's TYPES feature from David Powell (SEGMENTS) prompted a number of readers to report similar designs seen on church walls. I also learned (too late for further research) that the study and recording of what archaeologists refer to as CHURCH MARKS >>

Check Those Churches



includes not only those strange consecration crosses discussed in June's LTT, but also carved miniature sundials, masons' marks, and the emblems of saints, including St Catherine's wheel and a daisy-like carving thought to represent the purity of Mary. Those miniature sundials, often recorded as *scratch dials* or >>

Mass dials, were usually carved on the south side of the church, sometimes on horizontal surfaces where the gnomon could cast a shadow at any time of day. A hole was often made in the centre of the palm-sized carving to receive the stick used as the vertical gnomon.
Check your local church's stonework





Site Research



The location of an important church close to a once busy quayside is a combination sure to have left numerous artefacts in the river.

Time and again silt from rivers in cities where important early churches flourished has proved rich in lost lead tokens. Paris, London, Salisbury, York and Lincoln have all yielded finds similar to the pieces shown here.

Prospects for enthusiasts who live in cities that boast ancient churches and rivers, but few leaden finds to date, brightened recently after an announcement about major government grants to improve flood protection. In cities up and down the land sounds



of dredgers at work deepening channels and tossing material gouged from the bed up onto the riverbank will shortly be heard. Often the nutrient rich silt is sold to farmers whose fields flank the river. They spread it and plough it under, quite unaware of the coins, artefacts and leaden tokens it holds. Keep your eyes on the local press; look for news of river works about to commence. Tell us of your finds.

Type Two Again



David Powell has now seen two or three of the design shown at left, in which a letter appears in three quarters and an object, possibly but not necessarily a letter, occupies the fourth. The object, if indeed a letter, has in each case been out of alignment. This one looks like a heart, but might just be a letter; another had an E at right angles, which might have been a comb of candles. Does anyone else have any data on these to compare? P.S. The piece in the photograph is probably of Kentish origin.

Swedish Lead Tokens

Anders Frösell writes from Sweden to tell us about a book titled *Den medeltida borgen i Skanör* by Otto Rydbeck, published in 1935 by *Skrifter utgivna av Kungliga Humanistiska Vetenskapssamfundet i Lund. XX*. Seems this book has a chapter on lead pieces issued in Scandinavia as pilgrims tokens, begging tokens, emergency money and tax tokens.

Has any British reader got a copy of this book? (One of the lead beggar's tokens from the book is shown here. >>>)



French Finds

These drawings show a couple of interesting lead finds from France: a communion token and a Boy Bishop token.



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