

Editor: David Powell

A free newsletter to all who share our interest in these fascinating and often enigmatic pieces. Please send the editor at least one 300 dpi JPEG scan, or a sharply focused photo print, of any interesting leaden token or tally in your collection. Send images as email attachments to [dmpowell@waitrose.com](mailto:dmpowell@waitrose.com) or [david@powell8041.freesevne.co.uk](mailto:david@powell8041.freesevne.co.uk). Please note that the old [LTTeditor@aol.com](mailto:LTTeditor@aol.com) address advertised on some earlier versions of LTT is no longer active.

## To CT or not to CT?

The previous owner of Figs.1-5 was of the opinion that most if not all of them were likely to be communion tokens {CTs}, and had them filed as such; in one or two cases, probably for lack of any better identification. Are they, or aren't they? Many CTs sit on the boundary of their own series with crude lead, their initials as yet not understood, or only interpreted by historical investigation into the clerics who officiated near the findspot. Which argues the case for recording the findspot, but we won't dwell on that here!



Fig.1 depicts a building which, despite the piece being in relatively poor condition, can readily be identified as a shack or, one might think, a cottage; there is a door plus three or four windows, and it is evidently meant for human use rather than storage. The building conveys the impression of being in little better shape than the piece, but on looking closely at its roof ends one finds, not the expected chimney, but a tiny belfry. Yes, it is a church piece; as the reverse, reading "Mr.A.M. 1767", in standard CT format, readily shows. I have not illustrated the second side, because it is too faint, but the piece is one of a number which Burzinski lists {no.5028} without being able to attribute with certainty. Some CTs have a parish name, some a minister's; others have both. Perhaps Mr.A.M. paid for the pieces himself and took them to whichever parishes his career led him, rather than letting the parish pay for the tokens and retain them.

WW/1691, with two rather worn initials on the back which may be K or R, I or T respectively {Fig.2}, is to my mind commercial, i.e. an ordinary crude lead rather than a CT, with WW being a merchant or farmer rather than a minister. It is 20mm, a fairly typical size for a monetary token of its date, and even if the first reverse initial is a K {potentially for Kirk, in the case of a CT}, the parish initial usually precedes rather than follows it. But why then do I incline the other way on Fig.3, which has the same basic features, apart from the K appearing second, and think that A is a parish initial and RL a minister? The boundaries of series are indeed fuzzy. Note, by the way, the drop-barred A on this piece; a style which was starting to fall out of favour in the mid-late 17th cent, let alone 1800.

Fig.4, with its solitary initial C, is fundamentally identical on both sides except that its method of manufacture has left it with a wide rounded rim on one side and beading on the other, a sloppy edge, and a difference in the level of recessing in the two cases. C could stand for "Communion", a parish name or a surname; and if the latter, its owner's profession is anyone's guess. I'll favour the parish name; although, whilst no such examples are firmly identified, a generic stock token with C on it, for communion usage, would make sense.

Fig 5 is clearly copper, but pieces whose style or usage look akin to lead are welcome in the pages, and this one clearly has two features very common to CTs; namely, the cut corners, not overmuch used elsewhere, and the K for {potentially} Kirk; having said which, J is much more common as a forename initial than a parish one, and this should be born in mind. JK could, of course, be another of those itinerant ministers. The reverse is smooth uniface.

## *The Variety of mid-17th Century Reverses: Type 21*

We continue here our discussion on the variety of subject matter types on 17th cent tokens, and in particular the contrast between the crude lead and main copper/brass series, as expressed in terms of Powell classification types. As previously stated, due to the small size of most pieces concerned, pictures in this sequence of articles will continue to be magnified 3:2.

### **Type 21**

This type is very decidedly “the big one”, following its merger with type 27. In type 21 we have the largest single body of subject matter, and very varied it is too; too much so to list absolutely everything, although I will include as much as I can. Rarities in brackets for the main series pieces are based on an approximate count of different examples, as per the Williamson indices.

The following are the main categories of 17th cent main series within what was the old type 21, i.e. obviously trade related:

- General manufacturing
- Smithing equipment {fairly common}
- Weaponry & armour {fairly common}
- Small tools {fairly common}
- Cutting tools {fairly common}
- Blunt instruments {fairly common}
- Transportation {scarce}
- Storage equipment {very common}
- Agricultural {very common}
- Saddlery {rare}
- Fishing {rare}
- Clothing trade {very common}
- General provisions {extremely common}
- Cooking & baking {scarce}
- Domestic {rare}
- Distillation {common}



I will expand a few of these further:

- General manufacturing: Windlasses; holdfasts; cog wheels; wood, nails.
- Smithing equipment: Horseshoe {predominant}; anvil, brazier, tongs; spurs; forge scenes, sometimes involving the smith in action.
- Weaponry & armour: Breastplates; cuirasses, gauntlets; helmets; guns, pistols, cannons, carbines, muskets and musket rests; shot; bows {including crossbows}, arrows, swords; daggers
- Small tools: hammers {predominant}; mallets, awls, cooper's adzes.
- Cutting tools: Axes, choppers, hatchets, knives, cleavers, scythes.
- Blunt instruments: Shovels and spades, including bakers' peels {predominant}; lasts, pickaxes, poleaxes.
- Transportation: Waggons & barrows.
- Storage equipment: Barrels; sacks, bags, woolpacks; baskets; boxes; cages.
- Agricultural: Ploughs, harrows; sieves, trowels; sheaves; hives.
- Saddlery: Halters, saddles, straps, whips.
- Fishing: Fish-hooks {but interestingly, not nets}.
- Clothing trade: Fleeces, rolls of cloth; robes, cloaks, coats; dresses; shuttles, spinning wheels; scissors, shears, brushes, combs; thread; stockings, garters; bodices; hats; caps.

- General provisions: Candles, scales, sugar loaves; tobacco, pipes; inkhorns, paper; pestle & mortar.
- Cooking & baking: Bakers' peels {long oven shovels}, frying pans.
- Domestic: Lace, needles, pins, buckles; locks, keys; mops, pails, vases; fans; chairs, tables, stools; clocks, hourglasses; cradles, cushions; stays; lanterns, looking glasses {mirrors}, spectacles, purses, soap-boxes.
- Distillation: Still.



The range of type 21 material occurring on 17th cent lead is not nearly as extensive as on the main series; but the following have been observed, and no doubt there are others. OK, some of the examples shown are probably a fraction earlier in the century and some a fraction later {roughly, dates in ascending order of size}; but none are far out, and all the subjects depicted could occur in mid-17th cent quite easily.

- Blacksmith's anvils and furnaces
- Brushes
- Candlesticks and candles {Fig.17}
- Horseshoes
- Keys {Fig.19}
- Madder bags, with four corners {related to dyeing}
- Pestles
- Ploughs {Fig.18}
- Scales
- Shears
- Shovels and peels {Fig.15}
- Sounding leads
- Spearhead
- Sugar loaves {Fig.20}
- Tobacco pipes
- Wheatsheaves {Fig.23}
- Whisky stills



It will be noted that all the above occur, most of them quite commonly, on main series pieces; i.e. this is not a type, like some others, where lead manufacturers tend to “do their own thing”, even in some cases, e.g. Fig.21, it is not obvious as to what is the identity of the final object depicted. Hunting horn? Mortar with contents but without pestle? Answers to this address....

Also, it will be seen that the categories particularly well-represented are mainly those to do with everyday supplies.

Moving to the other inanimate objects less obviously related to trade, and now thus formally consigned to type 27, the subject matter on the 17th cent main series is fairly diverse {Figs.24-29}. Bells are by far the most numerous {Fig.28}, other musical instruments observed include harps, bugle-horns, lutes, trumpets {Fig.24}, and drums. The rest of the list include such random items as:



- Banners
- Bats & balls
- Bolts
- Books, inc bibles
- Caducei
- Compasses
- Fans {Fig.25}
- Fountains
- Hoops
- Knots
- Maps
- Maypoles
- Ornaments
- Picture frames {Fig.26}
- Posts
- Pumps
- Ropes
- Sculptures
- Spinning tops
- Tridents
- Turnstiles {Fig.29}
- Weathercocks

Again the list is not exhaustive but... the essential point is, that most of these are more or less one-off items, which will not feature on any regular basis, and which are much less concerned with the day-to-day basic activities of the general populace. Accordingly, we see very little of them on lead. Communion tokens occasionally depict bibles, but not usually at this date, and in any case they are hardly typical. Bells alone are common on 17th cent lead {Fig.22} and even they are likely to be business signs most of the time, rather than the pieces of bellfounders.



Some items such as tuns {barrels, Fig.10} also occur quite frequently in the 17th cent main series grouped in threes, which usually has a trade-related heraldic connotation or indicates a business sign. Fig.30 is another example, depicting horns. Such pieces can be expected occasionally on lead, although less frequently because of the lesser capacity to accommodate complicated or multiple items.



#### Key to 17th cent main series tokens:

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|---|---|
| 1. Middx.112, Thomas Pocock, Isleworth    | 11. S'wark.191, John Ives, Blackman St      |
| 2. Oxf.13, T.P. {anon} of Banbury         | 12. Bucks.101, Sam Lambert, Newport Pagnell |
| 3. Norf.30, John Trott, Downham Market    | 13. Kent 460, William Campian, Rochester    |
| 4. Lond.392, Cross Shovels, Bow St        | 14. Lond.3367a, Wm Spur, Water Lane         |
| 5. Worcs.91, R.Cooper, Shipston-on-Stour  | 24. Kent 96, Richard Iennman, Chatham       |
| 6. Lond.1351, High Street St.Katherine's  | 25. Oxf.168, John Shough, Oxford            |
| 7. Ess.274, Samuel Leader, Saffron Walden | 26. Oxf.123, John Bishop, Oxford            |
| 8. Lond.2309. John Neal, Queenhithe       | 27. Lond.26, Joseph Collet, Aldersgate St   |
| 9. Suff.44, Thomas Bull, Bury St.Edmunds  | 28. Lond.916, John Dennett, East Smithfield |
| 10. Surr.42, Thomas Little, Croydon       | 29. Herts.197, Edward Lawrence, Wadesmill   |
|   | 30. Leics.98, Roger Waite, Melton Mowbray   |

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### *Note from the Editor:*

It was my hope to be able to get sufficient research and writing done over the course of the winter to enable me, by the end of April, to have stockpiled enough main articles to tide LTT over the course of the summer months when I am normally less available. Circumstances have not permitted, however, and it may therefore be that I have to go bi-monthly on occasion, or else put a minimal edition out with only a page or two of Picture Gallery and readers' correspondence in it.

My apologies for this, and I hope that you will bear with me; I was thinking of going bi-monthly in any case, in about a year or so, when the present series of chronological articles is complete. I am certainly not short of material, however, when I have enough time to process it, so I am hopeful that LTT will keep going for quite a bit longer yet; and of course, the more of you who write in with your finds, the easier it will be! Please look in on the website each month to check, and hopefully on most occasions there will be something new there for you.