

Somerset Trade Tokens, XVII Century : New Types and Varieties, and Corrections of Former Lists.

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THE Curator of the Taunton Castle Museum has recently been re-arranging the collection of XVII Century Trade Tokens belonging to the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, with which has been incorporated the large series of Somerset specimens collected and presented this year (1915) to the Museum by Mr. Charles Tite, of Taunton.¹ All the types and varieties have been clearly labelled.

The Society's collection of tokens has been further enlarged by the recent acquisition of the Arthur Hull collection, formerly exhibited in a small room adjoining the Town Hall at Chard. The Taunton collection of Somerset tokens is now one of the finest in the country.

In carrying out this interesting work in detail, the Curator has had the opportunity of observing a number of unrecorded varieties, and of making some corrections in lists already published. To these records have been added a large number of similar notes, the result of observations made by Mr. Henry Symonds from tokens in his own collection.

A few new types have also become known since 1889-91, when Dr. G. C. Williamson published his revised edition of

1. Subsequently Mr. Tite presented a large number of his XVII Century Somerset tokens (duplicates) to the British Museum and to the Museum at Weston-super-Mare.

William Boyne's "Tokens issued in the Seventeenth Century" (1858).¹

Dr. Williamson was assisted in his great work by several token collectors and students of the subject, and the Somerset portion of his work was practically a re-issue (omitting Bristol) of "Somerset Trade Tokens of the Seventeenth Century," by Mr. William Bidgood (the Curator of Taunton Museum at that time), published in the *Proceedings, Som. Arch. & N.H. Soc.*, vol. xxxii (1886), pt. ii, pp. 115-145. This was followed in 1911 by a paper in the *Proceedings*, vol. lvii, pt. ii, pp. 54-65, by Mr. Henry Symonds, entitled "Taunton Tokens of the Seventeenth Century," in which he re-arranged "the tokens, as far as possible, according to the streets in which the issuers lived, with additional biographical notes where such are available." This was rendered possible by an examination of the Hearth-tax return for 1664-5 preserved in the Public Record Office.

Mention should also be made of Mr. S. Sydenham's paper on "Bath Token Issues of the 17th Century," reprinted from the *Proceedings, Bath Nat. Hist. and Antiq. Field Club*, vol. x (1905), pp. 423-525; and of Sotheby's Sale Catalogue of the Collection of Tokens formed by Lieut.-Colonel B. Lowsley, May 3rd and 4th, 1899. The Somerset specimens in this collection, Lots 60 to 63, were sold for £23 12s. 0d., and consisted of 192 specimens.

1. The work of 1858 was followed by a paper entitled "Seventeenth Century Somersetshire Tokens not described in Boyne's work," by Mr. H. S. Gill, published in 1879 in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, vol. XIX, n.s., pp. 99-107.

I. NEW TYPES WHICH HAVE COME TO LIGHT SINCE WILLIAMSON'S WORK WAS PUBLISHED IN 1889-91.

(Those marked [*] are figured in the accompanying illustrations, full size).

BATH.

**Obv.*—AMBROSE . BISHOP = A cogged wheel.

Rev.—IN . BATH . 1669 = A . M . B . (Fig. 1).

A specimen of this token was found in the City of Bristol in September, 1904, and was figured and described by Mr. John E. Pritchard, F.S.A., in *Trans. Bris. & Gos. Archæol. Soc.*, XXIX, 132. He presented the token to Taunton Museum in 1905, and it was again recorded in the Somerset Society's *Proceedings*, LI, i. 80. It was exhibited at the meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society on October 20th, 1904. It is fully recorded also in Mr. Sydenham's paper, where more than two pages are devoted to the Bishop family.

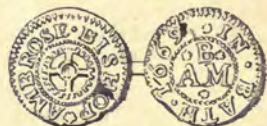


Fig. 1. Ambrose Bishop,
Bath, 1669.

BECKINGTON.

**Obv.*—WILL . BOYNE . CHANDL = The Grocers' Arms.

Rev.—IN . BECKINGTON . 1657 = W . B . (Fig. 2, no. 4).

This token was recently presented to Taunton Museum by Mr. C. Tite.

MELLS.

**Obv.*—RICHARD . MORE = 1670.

Rev.—MELLS . SOMMERSE^T = R . I . M . (Fig. 2, no. 1).

There is a specimen of this token in the cabinet of Mr. Symonds.

NORTON (Midsomer Norton).

Obv.—IOSEPH . HORLER = 1659.

Rev.—IN . NORTON = I . H .

This was placed by Williamson among the "uncertain" tokens (p. 1422), but we have no hesitation in assigning it to Somerset on account of the surname, which occurred frequently in Midsomer Norton and in the adjoining parish of Kilmersdon during the XVII Century.

STOGUMBER.

Obv.—JOHN . PHILLIPS . OF = A lion rampant.

Rev.—STOGUMBER . RED . LION = I . C . P .

This name has been verified in the parish register of 7 Sept. 1663.
An example of this token is in Mr. Symonds's cabinet.

TAUNTON.

**Obv.*—THOMAS . BVRRIDGE = A double rose.

Rev.—IN . TAVNTON . 1663 = T . E . B . (Fig. 2, no. 3).

There is a specimen of this token in Mr. Symonds's cabinet.

WELLS.

**Obv.*—RICHARD . ATWELL . OF . Y^E = A sugar cone.

Rev.—CITY . OF . WELLS . 1669 = R . A . (Fig. 2, no. 2).

This trader was a "confecon^r" in High Street, Wells, in 1661.
The specimen figured is in the British Museum.



Fig. 2. XVII Century Trade Tokens, Somerset.

1. Richard More, Mellis, 1670. 2. Richard Atwell, Wells, 1669.
3. Thomas Burridge, Taunton, 1663. 4. William Boyne, Beckington, 1657.

From Drawings by Mr. H. St. George Gray.

We will now proceed to give a list of new varieties, another of corrections of former lists, and a few notes on doubtful points. Some of the so-called corrections may, however, prove to be merely varieties, and *vice versa*. The following abbreviations will be used,—W. = G. C. Williamson; Bd. = W. Bidgood. (Collectors often speak of Williamson's work as the "new Boyne").

II. NEW VARIETIES.

ASHCOTT.

- ¹1a. *Richard Milles.* Variety, from another obverse die.

BATH.

- 6a. *Bath Farthing*, 1670. Variety, from another reverse die.
 10a. *Richard Bigges.* Variety, from another reverse die.
 12a. *John Bush*, 1656. A variety is dated, 1658, with same obverse die.
 18a. *John Fisher.* W. and Bd. give I.F.F. in the middle on the reverse; Mr. Sydenham in "Bath Token Issues" gives I.I.F. (The writers have not seen a specimen of this token.)

BISHOPS HULL.

- 45a. *William Barber.* There is a variety with initials W.B.B., on both obv. and rev., instead of W.F.B.

BRIDGWATER.

- 49a. *Bridgwater Farthing.* Variety, from another obverse die.
 50a. Obverse reads BRIDGE WATER. A bridge of nine arches on the reverse.
 62a. *John Linton.* A variety reads—
Obv.—IOH . LINTON = The Salters' Arms.
Rev.—BRIDGWATER = I . E . L .
 62b. As last, but IOHN .
 73a. *William Sealy.* Some of these tokens are over-struck on Blandford farthings (Mr. Symonds has one such). In the Lowsley collection there was a similar token with legend different and blundered.

BRUTON.

- 77a. *Robert Ludwell.* A variety reads—
Rev.—IN . BRVETON = R . L . (*not conjoined*).
 The obverse is from another die.

CREWKERNE.

- 109a. *John Grenway.* A variety struck from different dies.
 109b. *Ditto.* Another variety struck from different dies.

1. The numbers are those given in Williamson. "a" and "b" denote varieties.

CROSCOMBE.

113. *George Blinman.* Occurs in brass and in copper.
 115. *James George.* Occurs in brass and in copper.
 115a. *Ditto.* There is also a thick variety of this token in brass in Taunton Museum, besides the thin pieces. Colonel Lowsley's collection also contained a thick token.
 116a. *Onesiphorus Luffe.* Variety, from another obverse die.

FRESHFORD.

- 125a. *John Curle.* Variety, from another reverse die.

GLASTONBURY.

- 150a and b. *James Hopkins.* Including No. 150 in W's list, there are three varieties of this token. Two varieties are from different reverse dies; the other has a rose between the I. and H.
 153a. *Henry Mabson.* A variety reads—
Obv.—HENRY . MABSON . HOSIER . OF = A stocking.
Rev.—GLASTON . HIS . HALF . PENY = H . M . M .
 The Lowsley collection contained an unpublished "half-penny" of *H. Marson* of Glastonbury. Probably the B. was blundered and may have looked like R.
 156a. *Peter West.* A variety reads—
Obv.—PETER . WEST = P . W .
Rev.—IN . GLASTONBERY = 1652 and a rose.

ILMINSTER.

- 168a. *Robert Horwood.* A variety reads—
Obv.—ROBERT . HORWOOD . IN = A pair of scales.
Rev.—ILMISTER . CHANDLER = R . M . H .
 169a. *Robert Horwood.* A variety reads CHANDLER (not CHANDLE^R). The writers have never seen a specimen of No. 169, with CHANDLE^R.
 170a. *Alice Row.* A variety reads—
Obv.—ALICE . RAW . OF = A . R .
Rev.—ILEMISTER . 1664 = St. George and the Dragon.
 The A in the surname is struck over O.

MINEHEAD.

- 190a. *Samuel Crockford.* Variety, from another reverse die.

NETHER STOWEY.

- 198a. *William Patey.* Variety, from another obverse die.

NORTH PETHERTON.

- 201a. *Thomas Loveder*. Variety of both obverse and reverse ; the latter reads PETHERTO.

SHEPTON MALLETT,

- 211a. *Thomas Parfit*. Reads PAREIT, and the obverse die differs in other respects. (There is a specimen of this variety in the British Museum.)

SOMERTON.

- 213a. *Jerom Churchey*. Variety, from another¹ obverse die.

SOUTH PETHERTON.

- 217a. *Edmond Anstie*. The reverse reads PETHERTO^N. The writers have never seen W's No. 217, with PETHERTON.
218a. *John Willy*. Variety, from another reverse die.

TAUNTON.

- 240a. *William Chace*, 1662. The initials on reverse are inverted.
267a. *Mathew Munday*. Variety, from another obverse die.
281a. *Richard Snow*. Variety, from another reverse die.
285a. *Henry Tanner*. A variety reads—
Obv.—HENRY . TANNER . 1664 = The Haberdashers' Arms.
Rev.—IN . TANTON . DEANE = H . A . T .

WELLINGTON.

- 296a. *Thomas Marsh*. A variety has OF., instead of IN., before "Wellington."
297a. *Christopher Samford*. Both obverse and reverse are from other dies.

WELLS.

- 302a. *William Andrews*, 1651. Variety, from another reverse die.
306a. *James Middleham*. There is a variety with IN. omitted.
310a. *Robert Warmall*. Variety, from another obverse die.

WINCANTON.

- 320a. *John Keves*. A variety reads, KENES; this is generally seen on well-struck specimens. In No. 320 it is questionable whether the middle letter is intended for Y. or V. If a Y. the tail is extremely short. The full name was "Keynes."

YEOVIL.

- 329a. *John Banckes*. A variety reads BANCKS.
 335a. *John Hayne*. A variety reads—
Rev.—OF . EYEAPELL . 1652 = I . D . H .
 338a. *Richard Moore*. Variety, from another reverse die.
 340a. *Ambrose Seward*. Variety, from another obverse die.

III. CORRECTIONS.

BATH.

20. *John Foorde*. W. and Bd. include the date, 1666, on the reverse (as on the specimens in Taunton Museum and elsewhere). The date is omitted by Mr. Sydenham.
 27. *John Pearce*. This variety reads MERCE^R, and the obverse die otherwise differs from No. 26. The Taunton Museum specimens have only the lower part of the R remaining,—due perhaps to the impression being badly centred.
 29. *Richard Pitcher*. “A feather” should be “feathers.”
 32. *George Reve*. In Bd.’s list (*Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxxii, ii, 124) the date should be 1658 (not 1668).

BECKINGTON.

43. *Nicholas Thring*. CLOTHIER reads CLOTHIE^R on all the specimens examined.

BRIDGWATER.

51. *Alexander Atkins*. BRIDGWATER reads BRIDGWATTER.
 63 and 65. *John Linton*. The initials are misplaced, reading I . L .
 E .
 68. *Edmond Pettitt*. BRIDGEWATER reads BRIDGWATER.
 71. *James Safforde*. The date in Bd.’s list should be 1652 (not 1658).

CASTLE CARY.

81. *Edward Russe*. The initials on the reverse are divided by a triple flowering knot.

CHARD.

86. *William Buridg*. In W. and Bd.’s lists, BVRIDG is spelt with two R’s. The specimens in Taunton Museum and elsewhere have one R only.

87. *John Chapman.* In W. and Bd.'s list, JOHN should be IOHN.¹ (No. 88 probably likewise, but the writers have not seen the latter item.)
96. *Henry Seldred.* The device is a "card," not a woolcomb

CREWKERNE.

104. *Anne Adkins.* This token should, we think, be given to Chard where the name was common about 1660; on the other hand, it does not occur at all on Crewkerne subsidy rolls of that period.

GLASTONBURY.

142. *William Cooper.* The date in Bd.'s list should be 1666 (not 1668).
- 147 and 148. *Henry Gutch.* The thorn bush is inverted.
149. *Sidricke Hancocke.* W. and Bd.'s lists mention "Twenty dots for checkers." The specimens which the writers have seen have only twelve dots.
152. *Nicholas Hopkins.* In W. and Bd.'s lists, "Draper" is rendered DRA^R. The Taunton Museum and other specimens read DRA^{PR}.
154. *Thomas Roode.* The initials on the reverse read T . I . R .

ILCHESTER.

162. *Samuell Scot.* W. and Bd.'s lists give EVELL . CESTOR = S . D . S . The specimens in the British Museum, the Taunton Museum, and in Mr. Symonds's cabinet read EVELL . CESTAR = D . It is, however, impossible to say that CESTOR does not exist.

MILVERTON.

185. *Giles King.* In W. and B.'s lists MILVERTON is given. All the specimens at Taunton and elsewhere read MILBERTON.

MINEHEAD.

188. *John Berry.* MINEHEAD should be TINHEAD (*Wilts*).— See Williamson, p. 1248. Both the tokens of John Berry in Taunton Museum and those examined elsewhere by Mr. Symonds are clearly TINHEAD.

1. The same remark applies to No. 62 (John Linton, Bridgwater).

192. *Robert Ugden.* The initials on the reverse are inverted, and read thus M.
R. V.

TAUNTON.

- 227-230. *Taunton Farthings.* All these are dated 1667 (not 1677 as given in W. and Bd.'s lists).
245. *John Cornish.* The animal is not a unicorn, but a galloping horse.

WELLS.

266. *Robert Middleton.* The Taunton and other specimens have "in" rendered thus, *И.* (not *IN.*).

WELLINGTON.

298. *Nicholas Trocke.* In W's list the date should be 1655 (not 1665).
299. *Stephen Wright.* This token should be transferred to Wellington, Salop, where the name, Stephen Wright, occurs in the parish registers in 1660.

WESTON.

313. *Thomas Hancocke.* In W. and Bd.'s lists HANCOCK should be HANCOCKE.
314. *William Page.* The reverse reads SVMERSETSHEARE. Both legends are confused by reason of over-striking on another token—possibly on No. 66 which seems to have been issued by the same trader.

WINCANTON.

322. *John Rogers.* All the specimens we have seen read—
Obv.—IOH^N . ROGERS . MERCE^P = I . R .
Rev.—IN . WINCVLTON = 1657.

YEOVIL.

- 326 and 327. *The Borough of Yeovil.* Judging from several specimens examined by the writers the OF. on the obverse of No. 326 is large, the small ^{OF.} (above the line) occurring in No. 327 only.
333. *John Cosbey.* The Taunton and other specimens read COSBEY (not COSHEY), and the former rendering is probably correct (although there may be a variety with the H.).

IV. NOTES ON OTHER TOKENS.

89. *P.I. of Chard.*
The issuer was probably Peter Johnson. No other name on the tax rolls of 1664 corresponds with the initials on the token.
118. *F.H. Crocomb.*
The issuer was no doubt Francis Hill of Crowcombe who was living there in 1661. The armorial shield of that family bore an eagle displayed.
126. *Peeter Fisher, Freshford.*
The initials on the reverse are divided by a double flowering knot.
This token has been claimed for Freshford, co. Kilkenny, where one example is said to have been found. The Irish tokens, however, differ in size and style from the English series, and there are the additional facts that the parish register transcripts of Freshford, Somerset, contain an entry of the names of Peter Fisher and Elizabeth his wife on 10 Sept. 1688, together with earlier entries relating to other persons of the same name. This evidence appears to settle the point in favour of our county.
195. *John Clother, Montacute.*
The animal is a unicorn.
231. *Taunton*, octagonal token.
The legends are blundered.
253. *Hugh Graye, Taunton.* The last letter of the surname failed in the die and reads E., or F., or I. Both the specimens in Taunton Museum read GRAYF.
341. *John Pitman.* This token was issued in Sherborne, presumably by a gunsmith. As the town lay close to the boundary of Somerset, Pitman no doubt hoped that his farthing would circulate also in that county.

LANGPORT (Somerset) and LAMPOR (Northants).

Somerset. 177.

Obv.—IOHN . WEECH = The Haberdashers' Arms.

Rev.—IN . LAMPOR = I . W .

Northants. 56.

Same inscriptions, but the Mercers' Arms on obverse.

Mr. William C. Wells, in "Seventeenth Century Tokens of Northamptonshire" (*Brit. Numis. Journ.*, vols. VII and X) gives the above mentioned types under "Lampor," and numbers them in his list as Nos. 59, 59a,

59b, and 58 respectively. It is a significant fact, however, that Mr. Wells (p. 282, vol. VII) states that the names of Weech and of Browning (below mentioned) do not appear in the parish registers of Lamport, Northants. It is doubtful if any trader of Lamport in the XVII Century struck tokens. It was quite a small place. In 1801, Lamport, with the hamlet of Hanging Houghton, numbered only 265 inhabitants, and in 1851 the population had decreased to 228. Whereas Langport was always a much more considerable place and a corporate town. To this day the natives of Langport pronounce the name of the town, "Lamport." The family of Weech was well known in Langport, and there are numerous references to them in "Langport and its Church," by the Rev. D. M. Ross, 1911. Among its chief inhabitants given in two lay-subsidy rolls for 1662 and 1664, the name of John Weech is mentioned (Ross, p. 321; and p. 319). See also Mr. H. Symonds's remarks on this question in the *Brit. Numis. Journ.*, vol. XI.

Northants. 57.

Obv.—JOHN . BROWNING = St. George and the Dragon.

Rev.—IN . LAMPORT = I . M . B .

This token is not attributed by Williamson to Somerset; a specimen has, however, been included among the Somerset tokens in Taunton Museum. The family of Browning was one well known in Langport (*see* Ross).

There can be no doubt that the tokens of Browning and Weech belong to Langport, Somerset.

WINSCOMBE (Somerset) and WINCHCOMBE (Glos.).

Somerset. 323.

Obv.—WILLIAM . IONES = A roll of tobacco wound round a drum.

Rev.—AT . WINCOMBE . 1666 = W . I .

Glos. 212.

Obv.—WILLIAM . IONES = The Armourers' Arms.

Rev.—AT . WINCOMBE . 1666 = W . I .

There has been some discussion as to whether the token, Somerset, No. 323, belongs to Winscombe (Somerset) or Winchcombe (Glos.). It is, however, placed under Somerset in Williamson's list, and is figured in "The Heart of Mendip," by F. A. Knight, 1915, p. 36.

Winchcombe was always the larger parish. In 1801 its population was 1888; in 1851 it had increased to

2824. Whereas in 1801, Winscombe consisted of 922 inhabitants, increasing to 1439 in 1851.

On the whole, we believe that this token (Som. 323) should be restored to Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, where "Wm. Joanes" was taxed for four hearths in 1662 (lay subsidy roll $\frac{11.6}{8.54}$). On the other hand, Mr. Symonds has failed to identify anyone of that name in Winscombe, Somerset. An unusually full tax-roll for Winscombe, containing about seventy householders, in 1664-5, does not include the surname Jones (subsidy $\frac{27.0}{3.0}$).