

THE TRADE TOKENS OF SURREY

ISSUED IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

BY

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IN introducing to the members of the Surrey Archaeological Society the seventeenth century trade tokens of the County, it might be as well to briefly refer to this branch of numismatic study, and give a little general information respecting the issue of unauthorised small change.

Tokens, but a few years since, were ridiculed on all sides, their importance scorned, and their value historically, lightly estimated, and while naturally not to be compared for one moment with the imperial coins of Rome and Greece, or the regal coins of our own or other European countries, or even with the interesting and scarce coins of the East, yet they have been shown to possess an importance and interest peculiarly their own.

Tokens are essentially democratic; they were issued by the people, and it is of the people that they speak. They record, with few exceptions, the names of no monarchs; they speak of no wars or events of great Parliamentary importance; they were not issued by Governments or Cabinets, nor by Peers or Members of Parliament, but by the unknown and small traders of well-nigh every village and town in the country, and by officials such as Mayors, Portreeves, Chamberlains, Overseers, and Churchwardens in boroughs, villages, and districts, as well as in larger towns, parishes, and hundreds.

The reason of their issue was to supply a public need, and when that need had been recognised by the Government and steps taken to supply it, the issue of tokens ceased, and they passed from the exchange of the shop and the market into the cabinets of the numismatist. The issue commenced in 1648 and only extended to 1679, so that the entire series forms one very short chapter of thirty years in the history of that most troublous of times in our country's history, that immediately following the murder of King Charles I. One Surrey token (No. 9, Plate I), gives the exact date of 3 June 1652, and is the only token in the series so precisely dated. The want of small change had, however, been seriously felt in England for a long time preceding their issue. It had been considered beneath the dignity of the sovereign to issue coins of any metal baser than silver, and owing to the increased value of silver the unit of currency had become more and more minute in size and consequently inconvenient for use. The counters struck at Nürnberg became current for reckoning in England about 1328, but were forbidden currency by statute in 1335. In 1404 the first mention of tokens that is known occurred in a petition from the Commons to the King to make some remedy for the mischief among poor people occasioned by the want of small coinage, and by their use of foreign money and tokens of lead. These lead tokens were issued in great abundance; they are referred to by Erasmus as of common currency, but it is very seldom they bear the name of either issuer or place of issue. Elizabeth issued patterns for a regal coinage in copper, but the matter went no further, and no current coins appear ever to have been issued by the Queen in the baser metals. Her Majesty, however, did grant permission to the city of Bristol to strike tokens to be current in that city and ten miles around. The date of the licence is not exactly known, but it must have been towards the close of the sixteenth century, for on May 12th, 1594, the Mayor and Aldermen were required to call in all the private tokens (presumably of lead) that had been issued

without authority, and it was ordered that none that had been issued without licence from the Mayor should be current in the city. These Elizabethan tokens bear on the obverse C.B. (Civitas Bristol), and on the reverse the city arms, and are very rude in their execution. The licence appears to have continued to apply to that city, as in the seventeenth century, but one private person in Bristol issued his token; the city continuing to issue tokens year by year of similar character and style and with similar device to those issued by licence of the Queen.

A copper coinage was contemplated by the Commonwealth Government, and patterns were struck both in copper and pewter, but no authorised issue of them ever took place, and beyond the Royal tokens, known as Harringtons, and referred to later on, no attempt was made to supply the great national want of the period.

In the State papers of 1648—1652, constant references occur as to the issue of tradesmen's tokens and corporation pieces, complaints against the issues and proposals to stop the issue; but nothing was finally done until 1672, when a Royal proclamation was issued for making current His Majesty's farthings and half-pence of copper, and forbidding all others to be used.

The tokens issued by traders in the interval were struck in copper, brass, and bronze, and occasionally in lead, but the majority are in copper, and were issued of three denominations—penny, half-penny, and farthings. They are generally circular, but some of them are square, heart-shaped, diamond-shaped, and octagonal, and this is more often the case with those issued by corporations and towns. The execution of them is frequently pleasing in character and style, but is never of any exceptional artistic merit. The engravers for the mints, especially Rawlins, who under the Commonwealth fell into great poverty, and from having designed the regal coins and seals was glad to be employed upon these tokens, are in some instances the authors of the designs, and these are then distinguished by the initial of the artist's name. In many cases it would appear

that local artists were employed, and that they travelled on from town to town, something in the manner of the ancient Anglo-Saxon moneyers, designing tokens for the various villages and towns through which they passed. There is a similarity of design, both in style, lettering, and device, and a correspondence of mint marks in the tokens of many adjacent places, which appears to point to some such manner of working, and in many towns the dies are still preserved and traditions of the place of mintage. Many were, however, struck in London, and consequently names of both issuers and places incorrectly spelt. Taken as a whole series they are homely and quaint, wanting in beauty, but not without a curious domestic art of their own, and the inscriptions and devices upon them throw some interesting side lights upon the folk-lore, manners, habits, and customs of that period of thirty years.

They usually bear on one side the name of the issuer, and on the other the place of issue; and in the field some device having reference to the issuer's trade on one side, and the issuer's initials, together generally with that of his wife, on the other. It must be borne in mind, in referring to them, that no direct light of any startling character is afforded by this series; but as the history of a nation is greatly made up of the domestic life of its people, and as the life of the village tells us of the life of the town, and so of that of the country, these tokens may be found by the student of history not unworthy of more attention than they have at present received.

The fact that eighty-three traders in Exeter issued tokens, thirty-two in High Wycombe, sixty in Rotherhithe, forty in Bury St. Edmunds, twenty in the tiny village of Oundle in Northamptonshire, and twenty in Durham; while but fourteen were struck in Manchester, eleven in Liverpool, two in Brighton, and one each in Clapham, Sunderland, Gateshead, Stockton, Oldham, Burnley, and Bury, is not without interest, as the comparative size and character and importance of these places have so much varied since 1648.

The local government of the places appears to have much varied. In Guildford the Churchwardens' initials appear on the town piece (*see* No. 1, Plate II). In Chard the name of the Portreeve; in Gloucester and Lincoln, the Maior; Wootton, Maior and Aldermen; Southampton and Romsey, The Corporation; in Hereford, The Sword Bearer; St. Neots and St. Ives, Grantham and Boston, The Overseers; Ilchester, The Bailiffs; Taunton, The Constables; while in other towns they were issued by the High Bailiff, Chamberlain, and Treasurer. All this variety gives us some interesting information upon the peculiarities of local and municipal government in those days, and the high position then occupied in some towns by such officials as Churchwardens, Overseers, and Sword Bearer, who in later times fill quite subordinate positions. The main idea and reason for their issue was, in very many cases, kept well in view—namely, that of being of essential service to the poorer residents, and it is of interest to read on the tokens of Andover, “Remember the Poore,” “For the poore,” “Help o’ Andover for the poore’s benefit.” At Croyland, “The poore’s halfpenny;” at Southwold, “For the poore’s advantage;” at Tamworth, “For change and charitie;” and in very many places such legends as, “To be changed by the Overseers for the poor,” “By the Overseers for the use of the poor,” and so on.

In the troublous Stuart times, while internecine and civil war overshadowed the land, and poverty abounded, and while the memory of the great monasteries and of their relief still existed, and the harm from their abolition still remained, the number of poor was very great, and the value to them of this semi-illegal minor currency must have been very high. The promise mentioned on one of the last inscriptions, as to changing the tokens, occurred on very many, and in one case occurs in a rhyming form:—

When you please
I'll change these.

It is also put, “Will be changed,” “To be changed,” “For change,” and in other ways; but whether expressed

or not, it was always implied, and the issuers of the tokens were morally bound to change them, if desired, for regal and authorised coin. Traders used to keep boxes with numerous partitions, into which to divide off the tokens of different counties, and mention occasionally occurs in Corporation records of Mr. So-and-so, from such a town, having changed so much money into town tokens, or so many town tokens into coin of the realm. It is presumed that something in the same way as local bank-notes have passed freely from hand to hand where the private banks were known and their integrity accepted, so these tokens in their immediate districts were willingly accepted, but as to whether in more distant parts of the country, where their issues were unknown, they still were taken, it is hardly possible to say.

While, however, southern tokens are often dug up or found in houses in the north, it is comparatively seldom that tokens of Yorkshire, Lancashire, or Cheshire, or of the more northern counties, are found south, and in most cases, with but few exceptions, hoards of these tokens consist of those of the county in which they are found, and of those in its immediate neighbourhood. To this the exception of Surrey must be made, as Surrey tokens have been found in almost every county in the kingdom—a proof of the commercial importance of the County in those days. A somewhat striking peculiarity of these tokens is the very constant use in the field of the obverse of the arms of the great trading Companies of London, more especially those of the Grocers' and Mercers' Companies. There is hardly a trading Guild bearing arms that is not represented on this series of tokens, although naturally some occur very much more frequently than others.

It is evident that use of these coats of arms as signs of trade was very frequent; in many towns every token bears the arms of some trade, and probably used the coat armour as its sign. In some towns, research in Corporation and Guild records has revealed the fact of a close relationship, alliance, and, to some extent, obedience, existing between those of a trade in a town

forming that Guild, and what was evidently looked upon, to some extent, as headquarters in London. It is impossible to say to what extent this intimate connection existed; it is referred to but seldom in Guild records, and then only briefly as though well known; but it is clear that the trades largely and extensively used the armorial bearings of the Company, formed themselves into local Guilds for the management and restriction of their own trade, and to a certain extent owned and recognised a sort of allegiance due to the London Company. The very word Guildford is derived from the presence of a trading Guild in the town, and for generations the governing body of the town was known as *Gilda Mercatoria*. The enormous prevalence of Grocers over every other trade shows the leading business to have been then, as now, in villages, the grocery store or village shop, as still often termed. In many cases the Apothecaries term themselves 'Pothecaries, omitting the prefix A, and some trades, such as Ter-baccermen (*sic*), Ratkillers, Postmaster, Pack-horse-man, Carrier, Oatmeal-makers (*see* No. 5, Plate I), and Tollmen, Slater, Tanner, &c., who never appear to have been incorporated, appear without any sign or arms. Those issued by the Tolemen (*sic*) of Stilton and Doncaster have an especial interest, as the first Turnpike Road Act was of 1663, and so toll bars had been only just established, and were probably farmed by these enterprising token-issuing tollmen.

Local trades find a reference on these tokens: lace in Buckinghamshire, and wool in Surrey (*see* Plate II); gloves in Leicester; needles in Chichester; say or bay, a kind of fine serge, at Colchester; and lace at St. Neots, receiving mention and device; and on tokens of Sherborne appear a representation of a plain band or stock, the manufacture of which was at one time a staple industry in Sherborne, and first said to have been introduced there. These stocks were sometimes sent on to Saffron Walden to be dyed yellow, and worn by the fashionable gallants of the Court of Charles II, that colour, and supported by a Pickadill.

On a token of Ashburton the teasel (*Dipsacus Fullonum*) is shown, and has clear reference to the process of preparing cloth carried on in that district, and to the cultivation of the teasel plant.

On very many Norfolk tokens the issuers style themselves worstead weavers, showing the trade prevailing at that time in Northern Norfolk. Not a single Cornish token, however, has any reference to the leading industry, mining, or to mines. In Cornwall there is another striking peculiarity, and that is, that out of only one hundred or so tokens, more than a fourth have family armorial bearings upon them, showing the extent to which the old Cornish families were engaged in local commerce. The same peculiarity appears in the city of Chester; the bulk of the issuers in that city being entitled to style themselves Armiger.

The question of spelling in the seventeenth century must claim a little attention. It was, to say the least, erratic and peculiar, and the illiterate character of the issuers is well shown by the strange spelling. The word Peterborough, for example, is spelt ten different ways in only twenty-five tokens; one issuer exercising considerable ingenuity, and spelling it PEETERBOVROWGH. The simple word Dorking is spelt in five ways; and Guildford in seven; while such peculiar names as Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Higham Ferrars, Monastereven, Cholmondeley, and Enniskillen, are, of course, marvels of remarkable spelling. A phonetic character is, however, to be noticed in much of the peculiar spelling.

The name Furneaux, always pronounced Furnace, in Devon, is so spelt: and Ottery St. Mary reads Awtry, in exact correspondence with local pronunciation. Honiton reads Huniton; Dorking, Darkin; Luton, Lewton; Taunton, Tanton; Somerset, Summerset; and Silvertown, Silferton; and the county of Essex, sx; and Arndell for Arundell. Penny generally is spelt PENY, the old spelling still retained in our Book of Common Prayer. Conjoint letters are another of the peculiarities of the spelling, and show the prevalent use of such ligatures in English at that date. E, AB, Æ, HK, ML, NL, and other letters

are constantly found conjoined in the legends, and were also used (as before referred to) as merchant marks and monograms.

It is not, however, solely on their own account, or intrinsically, that we claim historical value for these little mementoes of the seventeenth century, but for a further reason—that the work of correctly placing them to the counties and towns in which they were issued, and of preparing for the collector correct lists of the tokens of his county, leads inevitably to sources of information being tapped from which important and interesting historical evidence often flows. The mere necessity in towns of similar name of searching parish and corporation records to identify the issuer with the place of issue, and to explain the often puzzling and curious devices used by the issuers, has led to obtaining many notes respecting the life and history of these issuers; and when to this the ardent collector brings a fervent archæological spirit and determines that the history of the man who issued this token shall be found out and laid clear before him, a great bulk of information on the domestic life in England about 1650 is obtained.

To give in detail the inscriptions upon all the Surrey Tokens would fill too large a space in this Volume, and such descriptions are more suitable for the pages of a numismatic work.

To the new edition of Boyne's book on *Trade Tokens*, which has been edited by the writer, in conjunction with the leading collectors all over the country, the members are therefore referred.

The work¹ will be found to give full information respecting tokens and their issuers throughout the kingdom, and forms the standard work on the subject. Vol. I has already been issued.

In Surrey, tokens were issued at fifty-five different places, and it is interesting to note the peculiarities in the method of describing and spelling the name of the place of issue.

¹ Elliot Stock, subscription edition limited to 250.

Abinger, for instance, on its solitary token, appears in the older name of Abenworth. Battersea is spelt Battersey. Bletchingley appears as Bleachingley and Bleachingly. Dorking as Darking, Darkin, and Dorkinge. Egham as Eadgham, and Egam, and Eggam, Edgham, and Eggham, five methods of spelling. Epsom reads Ebisham and Apsum (*see* No. 3, Plate I). Ewell is spelt Yewell and Yewill (*see* No. 4, Plate I). Farnham, phonetically as Fanam and Farnum (*see* No. 5, Plate I). Godalming as Godlyman, Godalman, Godalmin, Godallmig, Godallminge, Godalminge, and Godallnin, seven methods of spelling. Guildford varies between six ways, reading Gillford, Gilford, Guilforde, Gildford, Gildford, and Guilford (*see* Plate II). Haslemere reads Hasselmore and Haselmore. Mortlake as Mortlacke and Moreclack.

Rotherhithe as Rotherhith, Rederiff, Redriff, and Rotherhith; these spellings being in all cases extra to the few instances in which the name of the place is put in the modern style.

A few of the issuers are women, probably single women.

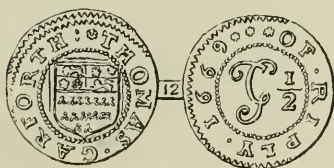
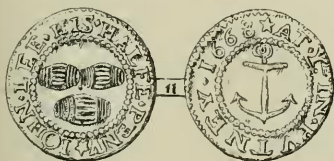
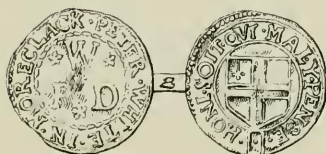
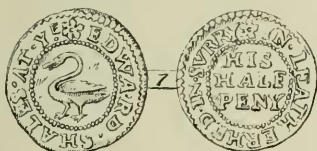
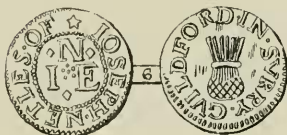
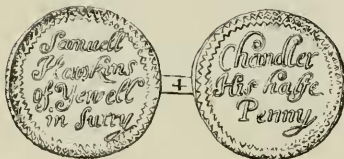
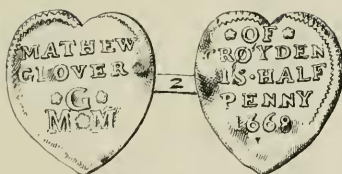
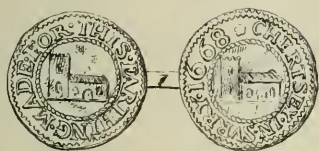
Florance Webb issued the Abinger token.

Elizabeth Bornel issued a token at Dorking.

Eleanor Right at Egham, and Elizabeth Amus at Epsom, Mary Osburne at Godstone, Elizabeth Smith at Putney, Margaret Catt at Reigate; and at Rotherhithe, Mary Berry, Sussannah Dannill, Sara Heywood, Rebekah Smallman, Elizabeth Swan, and Mary Warren, and at Wandsworth a token was issued by Elizabeth Crow.

The information as to the trades carried on by the issuers is very varied, and in many cases we have no more to guide us than the trade signs on the tokens. These must not be taken to invariably mean inn-holdings, although of course many of them do refer to such a trade, but the majority of important trades at that time traded under a sign, and in many instances the sign formed the arms of the trading Guild.

In Barnes we have the sign of "The Horse," and we find from an Exchequer Bill that the issuer, Timothy



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Harley, was a brewer. Another issuer, Goodwin, describes himself as a vintner, and traded at the sign of "The Bear."

Thomas Embury bore the Blacksmith's arms, and these arms were also borne by an issuer in Farnham.

The Cordwainers' arms appear in Battersea and Farnham. The Grocers at Chertsey, Lingfield, Rotherhithe, Sutton and Walton. The Mercers, at Cranley. The Fishmongers, at Farnham. The Butchers, at Kingston and Walton. The Barber Surgeons, at Kingston. The Tallow Chandlers, at Kingston and Reigate. The Bakers, at Lambeth, Rotherhithe, Walton, and Wandsworth. The Merchant Tailors, at Mortlake. The Salters, at Putney. The Haberdashers and the Merchant Adventurers, at Ripley (*see* No. 12, Plate I). The Drapers, at Rotherhithe.

At Rotherhithe we are not surprised to find the arms of the Shipwrights and Watermen, nor is it strange to find the Watermen's arms also at Putney, Richmond, and Lambeth, but it is curious that the solitary Clapham token should bear this achievement also.

A man making candles, or a stick of candles, are favourite devices in Surrey, and are found on tokens of Croydon, Dorking, Farnham, Godalming, Kingston, and Wandsworth.

Sugar loaves, which probably refer to a grocery trade, appear at Farnham, Reigate, and Rotherhithe, while the staple industry of Guildford is clearly denoted by the fact that of 28 tokens 22 bear the woolsack (*see* Plate II).

A malt shovel is a favourite device on Godalming tokens; a fleur-de-lis on Farnham ones (No. 2, Plate I).

A simple sort of punning appears in the presence of a church on the Chertsey town token,¹ and the same humour is noticeable upon other of the Surrey Tokens. Thus, for instance, a thorn bush, or Glastonbury Holy Thorn, appears on the token of Edward Bush, of Croydon.

A king's head is borne by Robert King, of Richmond, &c.; a swan, by Elizabeth Swan, of Rotherhithe.

¹ *See* No. 1, Plate I.

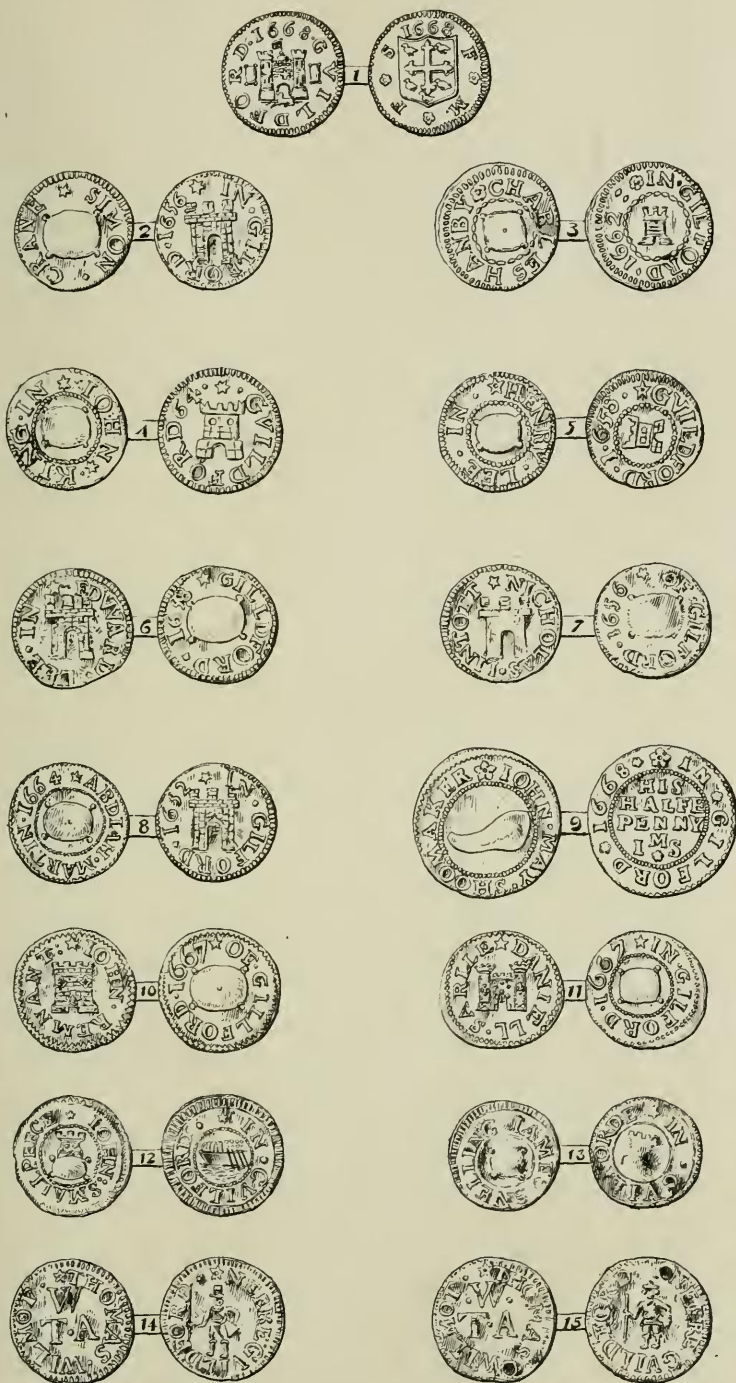
In most cases the sign of the shop or business appears on the tokens, so that the token is what is termed a speaking type. Robert Lloyd, of Croydon, at "The Grayhound," bears a greyhound, and two Lambeth issuers bear the Wild Boar and the Bear and Ragged Staff, and describe themselves as of "The Blue Boor," and of "The Bare and Raged Stafe."

Another trades at "Yo Punchinelly," and bears Punch in a chair, and a Putney issuer is at "The Red Lion," and puts a lion passant gardant on his token of unusual and peculiar character. There are a few special tokens amongst the Surrey series. John Sole, of Battersea, bears a bird with a garter, and an Earl's Coronet above it, as though he claimed connection with a noble family. Thos. Lusher, of Chiddingfold, has the curious device of "Two pipes and a roll of Tobacco;" and John Luffrum, of Egham, has a coach and pair of horses. Several Farnham issuers have a castle, as referring to Farnham Castle, upon their tokens, and most of the Guildford tokeners have a castle upon their tokens also, as a reference both to the old keep and the town arms. (*See Plate II.*)

The Kingston issuers, in many cases, also bear portions of the Kingston arms upon their tokens, "The Three Salmons Hauriant."

Other curious devices are the one on the token of Edmonds, of Lambeth, which represents two porters holding a kind of hand-barrow, and a third loading it with a sack; and the one of Joseph Hall, of Newington, who states that he is "AT OLD SMUGGS," at Newington Butts, and gives a smith working at an anvil on his token.

What is known as the Guildford Postman's token has a postman upon it with a very long staff, and two varieties of the token differ in the head-gear worn by the postman; one has a quaint, high hat, and the other a very low hat and a wig, and the issuer is supposed to have lived at Compton, as his initials are found cut into Compton Church in a similar fashion to the engraving on the token. (*See 14 and 15, Plate II.*) Peter White,



of Mortlake, was evidently in doubt as to how to fill up the space on his token, and so put the Royal motto, "Honi soit qui mal y pense," and curiously accompanied it with the arms of the City of London! (*See* No. 8, Plate I.)

It has been interesting to find out odd bits of information respecting the issuers of several of these quaint little pieces, and although the information obtained is often of a disjointed character, it throws light upon the possessions and position of the traders. The Hearth tax rolls often mention the assessment of the issuers. Some were assessed at 4, others at 8 hearths, some are declared as free for various reasons, either for poverty or by widowhood.

Richard Greene, of Battersea, was a Constable of the parish. Steven Theekstone, of the same place, is specially dubbed "Mr.," and is assessed at no less than 19 hearths.

Then, again, the Subsidy rolls often mention their names, also the Exchequer bills and other records. An issuer at Bramley was a Popish recusant, and her estate at Southwark declared forfeited to the Crown. An issuer at Chertsey, William Burnett, was an Anabaptist teacher, and received in 1672 a special licence to teach in the house of William Longhurst, in Chertsey. Thos. Lusher, of Chiddingfold, was Churchwarden, Overseer, and Surveyor for the poor in his native parish, and evidently a man of importance in the place; his family were old residents in the neighbourhood.

The rolls of the Feet of Fines again often tell us little bits of information on these seventeenth century traders, and we learn of their landed property and of its transfer by purchase or deed.

One man at Cranleigh is declared as living in the street and without home, while the other issuer in this little village was a man of large means, and his will bequeaths considerable estate in land. Several wills of issuers have been discovered in the Probate Court, and their mention of land under curious local names, often still well known, makes them of especial interest; while

the persistence of local names, as Diddlefold, Mower, Strudwick, Enlicknap and Gaston, all from the villages of Cranley or Bramley, is one of the more striking features of our Surrey village life. Sometimes the information is gathered from other sources, as for instance, the gallery of Croydon Church recorded the name of the man who issued the only heart-shaped Surrey token, and who was Churchwarden when the gallery was erected. (See No. 2, Plate I.)

At Ewell a token is issued by Samuel Hawkins, and on searching the parish registers for this small hamlet, the name of Hawkins seems to fill up the greater portion of the entries. From 1600 to 1776, the registers are full of entries of births, deaths, and baptisms, of members of this family, who seem to have been a very large family, and evidently formed the leading residents of the place. (See No. 4, Plate I.) The other Ewell token is hardly decipherable, but bears a most unusual name, Ferdinando Dow, and conjecture is busy to determine whether this issuer was of Spanish or of Dutch extraction.

Many a quaint entry in the Churchwarden's books at Farnham, and many a tombstone at Guildford have been laid under contribution to furnish information.

In one case we read of a woman issuer standing and doing public penance in Farnham Church; and of a Guildford issuer, one John Martin, we learn quite a little history. Apprenticed by the Overseers as a town poor boy, serving his master faithfully and well, rising to be Mayor of his native town, and being elected several times, subscribing largely to a fund for welcoming Charles II on his visit to the town in 1663, becoming Churchwarden, Bailiff, Overseer for his parish, and living to the age of 75, and then being buried with great honour, form a series of interesting links of information in the life of a successful hardworking Surrey trader of the seventeenth century. Then the religious scruples of some of these sturdy men must not be overlooked, and Besse's *Sufferings of the Quakers* tells us that many of them belonged to that most persecuted sect, and suffered hard things for conscience sake. A Kingston issuer,

Fielder, signed the celebrated Quaker's petition in 1659, and had a distress, amounting to £23, served upon him for attending meeting, and later on was committed to prison for refusing to take an oath.

Another Kingston issuer, Hubbard, was cruelly beaten, "To keep him," as the record curiously adds, "out of his meeting-house," and fined £20 per month for absence at national worship.

John Hollis, of Kingston, was imprisoned in the Marshalsea for non-payment of tithes, and fined for attendance at meeting, and in Guildford several issuers were fined for refusing to take an oath of office as Bailiff, and removed from their position. Some of these issuers expressly declared their children as "Borne" in the column of the Church register appportioned to baptisms, and in this way also declared their religious scruples.

Our forefathers, in the Government of the day, had strange and harsh methods of obtaining what they were pleased to term unity and uniformity; and these sufferings, for conscience sake, so little ago as 1670, are remnants of a byegone practice that we are thankful to feel will never be renewed. Of a far more pleasant character is the epitaph on the tomb of Charles Salter, of Kingston, another tokeneer, which records the decease of himself at the age of 83, and his wife at that of 77, within twenty days of each other, and which continues its narrative in these words:—

And God took them. They lived a pattern
Of conjugal affection, and when one was gone
This world was no longer pleasing to the other.

It is very pleasant to find in the villages and towns of the County scraps of information respecting these byegone traders, and it is in this direction that a study of the tokens is most important.

Persistence of local names has been alluded to, and persistence of local trades similarly mentioned; allusion, however, to the village inn must not be forgotten. When all else has altered since the day of the token, the

village inn with its quaint sign, or at least the sign, if not the inn, often remains.

In many cases the village inn derived its sign from a portion of the coat armour of the landed proprietor, as, for instance, the "Spread Eagle" of Midhurst, close to the magnificent seat of the Montagues, Cowdray Park, and the "Cats" or "Leopards" often met with in villages near which the Dorset family had property. Even when the family have long since passed from that district the village sign remains the same, and proves the one little connection between the coat from which it is taken and the property surrounding the inn. Many inns named on tokens, and which were at the time good and well-known posting-houses, still remain; and the "Swan" Haslemere, "Red Lion" Richmond, "Noah's Ark" Lambeth, "Catherine Wheel" Egham, "Hart" Chobham, in Surrey, and the "White Hart" at Harford Bridge, "Phoenix" at Harley Row, "Anchor" at Liphook, "Fountain" at Portsmouth, and "Bell" at Romsey, in Hampshire, are only examples of many scores of cases in which the present day and the old token tell the same tale, although it is to be feared that the measure of business done by many of these houses is very different now to what it was.

Tokens issued by inns have an additional interest from the fact that they are often referred to by the gossipy old chronicler Samuel Pepys, and in many cases the hosts of the inns where he and other chroniclers stopped were the identical issuers of the tokens.

Robert King, of "The King's Head," issued a token at Richmond, and this family kept that inn at the Ferry for generations; the Protector's Commission renewing the privilege at a rental of one mark per annum being still in existence.

Examples, however, might be brought forward without number illustrative of the special point one desires to put forward, namely, the value of the tokens as incentives to further careful research into county and local topography and history, and, as such, aids of considerable importance to the painstaking student.

It is, perhaps, to be feared that in direct information the tokens have but little valuable news to tell us, but it is claimed for them that in glimpses and side views of village and municipal life they are of interest. They give us certain ideas about these traders of a past age, of their families and descent, their habits and business, their prosperity and failure, their humour and religion, loyalty and enterprise, prison life and home life, education and government, that but few other records can equally well inform us upon; they speak of a public necessity, and of the people remedying it themselves while the Government argued and theorised; they tell of an independent spirit both in men and corporations; they speak loudly of the prosperity of the seventeenth-century trader and of the existence and importance of local trades and local industries, and they lead us to search deeper and closer into the history, life, and times of those village shopkeepers and village Hampdens who had so important a share in making our country and its history, and in preparing it to fill the position of high responsibility and paramount dignity that it now holds.