Black Prince's Palace

(Continued from previous page)

end, which was partitioned off to serve as a "parlour" and possibly also as a private chapel. At its south-west corner was a tower which had been converted into a garderobe tower and a very small lean-to added.

This building was also floored with rammed chalk which may have served as the basis for a tiled floor since a few fragments of tiles were found. The roofs of both these buildings may have been of lead, but all the others were tiled. These include two Subsidiary Chamber Blocks (C and H) which were half-timbered on stone foundations with the walls made of lath and daub. One of them (C) had rammed chalk floors and one end partitioned off to form an inner chamber. Very little of (J) was found but it was obviously an important building, probably completed in stone and orientated N-S. It is surprisingly near (C) which might suggest that they are of different dates. The other building found was a long out-building, perhaps the stables of the palace (B). It is over 100ft. and about 30ft.

It was half-timbered on stone foundations though these were not solidly built as those of the chamber blocks. It was probably roofed with tiles and it is possible that its roof was supported by a central row of posts, and it may be that it was originally part of the preceding manor house and was merely renovated by the Black Prince's builders. The amount of pottery and general domestic rubbish from the palace occupation period was extremely small, probably because the standard of cleanliness was high and the rubbish was carted away from the site. It did include six jettons, which are counters used for doing calculations.

After the palace was demolished in 1531, two small brick manor houses were built of which the basement of one was found. On the site of (B), the famous Long Barn was built, which seems to have re-used one of the walls of (B), a great deal of which was found. These manor houses were demolished about 1750 and the barn in 1795.

A large amount of 18th century delftware and stoneware kiln-waste was found probably used to dry out the farmyard behind the barn where most of it was discovered.

The site is now covered by flats built by the Duchy of Cornwall, and the new trenches will be dug in the yard at the back of St. Anselm's Church.

17th C

By IAIN C. THOMSOM

IN THE years immediately following the Civil War, the sturdily independent English trader was presented with an untenable economic situation — a chronic shortage of small change. In the absence of an official solution, his response was to issue his own in the form of token coins.

Since the Conquest there had been recurring dearth of small change which had been alleviated by the circulation of foreign coins and had often provoked a spate of tradesmen's tokens. These early issues never gained great impetus, remaining crude and unsophisticated throughout the relatively short periods in which they were issued. However, in the 17th century, several important factors aggravated the situation to such an extent that tokens were regularly issued for more than two decades and circulated widely.

In usurping the irregularly paid cottage industries, early mechanization laid the basis of a new spending class with low but regular wages. The tradesmen were determined to gain this custom in their struggle to restore trade after the chaos of the war, but were frustrated by the indifference of the Commonwealth government. Thus, some traders decided that an issue of tokens would provide a reliable supply of small change.

3,700 varieties

By putting their name and address on their tokens they began unwittingly a system of advertising the full value of which was realised only in the second decade of the issue. However, the most important immediate factors in determining the increased issue of tokens were abuses of the Royal prerogative to coin, especially by delegation under James I and Charles I. The situation was so bad that the people of the country only awaited a chance to rectify it by their own hands.

The Civil War had delayed plans for a proposed Regal minor-coinage to replace the recently suppressed official tokens which had been so fraudulently passed under the delegations to coin. The execution of Charles I in 1648 brought to an end the Royal prerogative and provided traders with the chance to act.

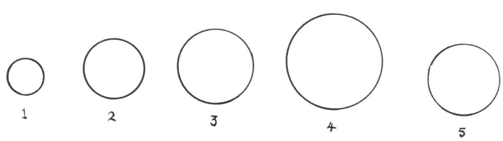
The opportunity was not lost on the shopkeepers, tradesmen and inn-keepers who to-

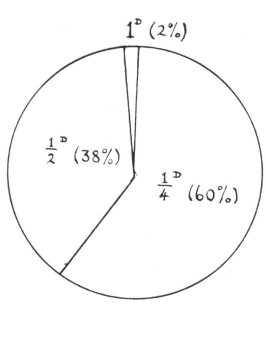
Tokens of London

Four typical tokens of the Period drawn by the author.

gether accounted for 4 per cent of the population, or nearly 200,000 persons. Indeed, Evelyn, in his London diary, wrote: "The tokens which every tavern and tippling house in the days of anarchy amongst us presumed to stamp and utter for immediate exchange as they were passable throughout the neighbourhood, which, though seldom reaching further than the next street or two, may happily in after-time come to excercise and busie the learned critic what they should signify and fill whole volumes with their conjectures."

At least 3,700 distinct varieties were issued in London alone, representing 30 per cent of the national total between 1648 and 1672. They are





of particular interest as they throw light on many aspects of the social and economic life of that period, whilst providing a most useful and unparalleled commercial directory. Often, long-lost features of the City are perpetuated, in miniature, on these tiny tickets of metal.

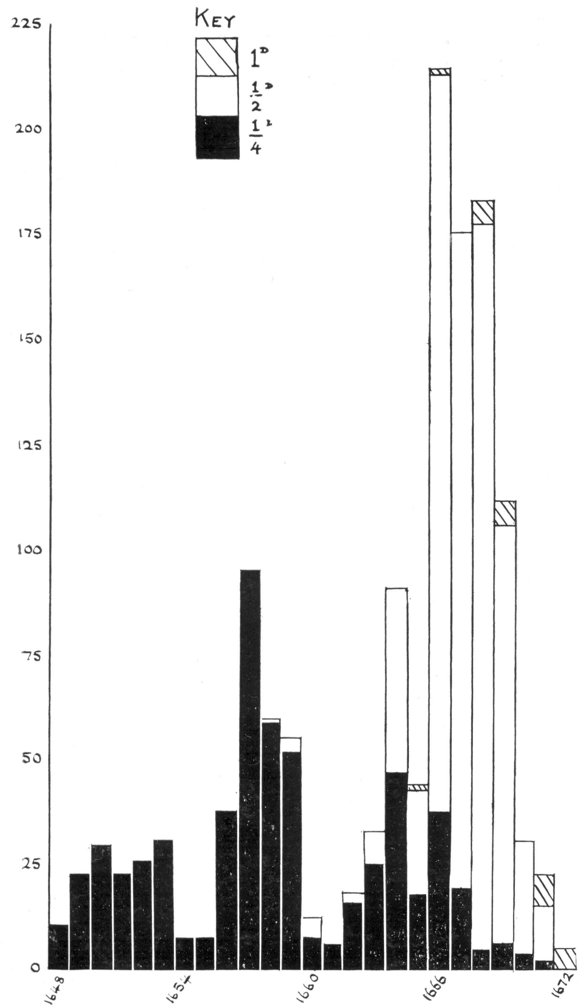
The tokens range in size from 10-25 millimetres in diameter and are predominantly round in form, although square, heart-shaped and octagonal flans do exist. They are usually thin and poorly struck in brass or copper.

Each token bears the issuer's name or initials, sometimes with those of his wife, and some indication of his address. Many carry a design such as the trade or family arms of the issuer or perhaps an interesting device connected with his following. Fortunately for the historian, more than a third bear a date as well. A mark of value usually distinguishes the pence and halfpence, but in the case of farthing value tokens, the issuer generally allowed the size to indicate the denomination.

Comparison in size is shown between (1) a silver farthing of James 1, average tokens in the value of (2) a farthing (3) a halfpenny (4) a penny and finally (5) a modern sixpence.

The comparative numbers of each denomination issued is also shown.

Farthing value tokens were the first to be issued in 1648 and it would appear that they formed the basis of the issue, both from their large numbers and the very few of the same size which it was necessary to actually name as



farthings. This suggests that the issuer assumed that his customers would recognise the token as a farthing from its size. Additional evidence to support this contention is supplied by several halfpenny size tokens which describe themselves as "double tokens";

HIS DOUBLE TOKEN FOR A ½d
—EDWARD BELITHA GROCER

AT ST KATHERN STAIRES
—(two sugar loaves 1669)

(This is the conventional method of describing seventeenth century tokens. Each line indicates the inscription on one side, the first part appearing around the edge of the piece and the second part the inscription or design in the

(Continued on page 22)

ROMAN ROAD RESEARCH - 1

By GEOFFREY R. GILLAM

The Roman road known as Ermine Street emerged from London by Bishopsgate and, passing to the west of Curcinate (Braughing), the next Roman town 28 miles away, provided a direct route to Lincoln and the northern part of the country. From London, the course of the road was almost due-north along the high ground on the western side of the Lea Valley[1]. It crossed the river at Ware and after a few miles a series of short alignments brought the road down a shallow valley to the site of Curcinate[2].

Details of the construction of the road were first noted in 1952 when a trench was dug across the line at Ware[3]. It was a large agger 65ft. wide and about 2ft. high between shallow ditches and consisted of two mounds of gravel each about 20ft. wide, representing side-tracks with a hard central roadway about 24ft. wide. The road had to cross very soft ground on the flood plain of the Lea at this point and the raft-like construction was necessary to prevent it foundering in the underlying peat.

Road 24ft. wide

A further opportunity to examine the road came in 1956 during redevelopment work at Snells Park, Edmonton[4]. A drainage trench revealed a cambered gravel road about 20ft. wide and 3 ft. thick bounded by small ditches each about 2ft. wide. The section was not long enough to establish if side-tracks had existed beyond the ditches.

Following this discovery, the alignment through Edmonton and Enfield was examined when sections were dug at several points in unsuccessful attempts to locate further traces of the road[5]: the suspected agger on the eastern side of Pymmes Park, Edmonton[6] was found to be a medieval boundary bank.

In 1960 and again in 1961, the roads near Braughing were investigated during the course


17th C Tokens

(Continued from page 10)

centre. The capital type shows the actual lettering.)

This example shows that the term "token" was in use at the time, and more importantly, was probably synonomous with "farthing."

Further development of the relationship between the denominations can be traced from the following graph, showing the total of different types or varieties for each denomination in each year:

As can be seen, farthings were issued in large numbers before 1660, but declined in issue after that date, although they appear for every year but 1672. This denominations was generally issued from commercial areas such as Southwark and also from the taverns which were so numerous in the days without stringent licensing. After 1660, the growing commercialism of the traders, especially the shopkeepers, encouraged the issue of halfpence. It is interesting to note that the immediate effect of the Restoration was to depress the numbers of tokens issued, probably because of the threat of a Regal issue of small denominations. However, by 1664, the threat had passed and halfpence and farthings were being issued in equal quantities; but after 1665, when the Plague had restricted trade, halfpence began to be issued in increasing numbers at the expense of farthings. The majority of the pence were issued from the relatively expensive coffee houses established after the Great Fire and reflect the growing affluence of that period.

The whole private issue declined rapidly after 1670 because of the increasing numbers of better tokens circulated by local authorities and another imminent threat of a Regal coinage of small denominations. It is also possible that an inflationary effect produced by the huge numbers of tokens issued in the late 1660's played an important role in this decline, especially in London.

This inflationary effect has interesting origins and is an integral part of the development in the design and style of the tokens. The first tokens to appear in the years after 1648 were limited to plain, simple designs and inscriptions, because of the urgency with which they were issued and the fact that they were struck on small farthing flans. Indeed, many issuers did not display their full names on their tokens but merely put their initials:

AT THE COK AT THE	(a cock)
IRON GATE 1648	I.M.H.

However, it was not long before many issuers realised the immense value of their tokens as an advertising medium. After the Restoration the increasing use of larger flans for halfpence, and later pence, allowed space for larger and more intricate designs and inscriptions. An obvious design would be an illustration of the trader's shop sign and an accompanying inscription, including his full name and address.

The use of signs to indicate trades, taverns and shops had begun several centuries earlier and they had developed some sophistication by the 17th century. This aspect will be discussed in my concluding article in the next issue.

London's Archaeological Societies — 1

The City of London Archeaological Society

FOLLOWING a hurried rescue excavation of a Roman bath site at Huggin Hill in August, 1964, by a group of some 30 volunteers from all over London, the City of London Excavation Group was formed. Peter Marsden, the Excavation Assistant of the Guildhall Museum, with Nicholas Farrant, who acted as his supervisor during weekends, decided that a permanent team of volunteers was necessary in the City, working on sites planned for rebuilding.

The Huggin Hill dig was short and difficult be-