



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 synonymous 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 Archeological 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 Guild-

hall 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-

cause only Sundays were available. Builders were already working on the site and trenches had to be back-filled on Sunday night so that work could continue on Monday.

COLEG's first full-scale dig was in November 1964 beside Cannon Street station in Upper Thames Street. This site proved to be worth all the effort expended by COLEG. The Roman walls were massive and extensive. Peter Marsden concluded, considering the extent, quality and plan of the buildings, that it could only have been an important administrative centre and the home of a Roman official of some standing.

From here the Group moved to the Guildhall area. The eastern side of a Roman fort was uncovered just inside the boundary of Guildhall car park. A considerable length of the ditch and of the robbed foundation trench of the wall was exposed, adding to the information Professor Grimes already had on the fort.

At this time as many as 50 members were digging regularly and it was possible to work two sites simultaneously. Therefore, while one team worked on the fort, another excavated the foundations of St. Michael Bassishaw, a medieval church directly north of Guildhall.

COLEG then worked on the site of Dyers Arms, again off Cannon Street and near Bush Lane. The area which could be excavated was only 20ft wide. To the north were a medieval well and chalk cess-pit, in which was found a gold noble of A.D. 1400. To the south were thick Roman walls and a small

portion of a hypocaust, which presumably connected with buildings found last century beneath Cannon Street station itself, but incompletely recorded.

Members of COLEG were now anxious to do more than simply dig. Hard work and a common interest had created an atmosphere of friendship between members who wanted to discuss the various aspects of archaeology, to consider the possibilities of a site and the results of the excavation.

Dr. Huelin, a friend of the Director of Guildhall Museum was kind enough, in February 1966, to offer a room in St. Margaret Pattens Church, where the Society holds monthly meetings.

In December, 1966, it adopted a constitution to form the City of London Archaeological Society. The meetings are well attended and the atmosphere one of lively interest.

Twice-a-year outings are planned to places of archaeological interest. The Guildhall Museum has purchased tools for the Society and those borrowed from Wandsworth Historical Society and from London and Middlesex Archaeological Society have now been returned. A hut was donated. COLAS also has a site on the estate of a patron, J. A. P. Charrington, Esq. where it undertakes the excavation of part of a medieval village as a holiday and long week-end project.

Currently, excavation under the direction of Peter Marsden is taking place on the site of the old Coal Exchange where part of a Roman bath was found in the 19th century. More of the bath has now been exposed and it is hoped that eventually a large portion of it will be preserved.

IRENE WADE

Current Projects

Rescue excavations at Mucking, Essex

DIGGING will take place during most of December at a rescue excavation at Mucking, Essex, (TQ 673 803) where work has been in progress for three years. The discovery of the forty acre crop-mark sites, lying on the higher, Boyn Hill, terrace was made known by Dr. J. K. St. Joseph in *Antiquity* (volume XXXVIII number 151, September 1964, p. 217, Pl. XXXVII). They are now scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Act.

The range of features is from Beaker grave (a flexed burial with all-over-corded Beaker, and barbed and tanged flint arrowheads) to Saxon sunk floor huts, of which 68 have now been examined. Two features at least owe their existence to the strategic value of the terrain, facing the straight and widening estuary with its dual character of landfall and outlook.

These are the Double Rings, a hill-fort of Iron A, and a mid-first century A.D. double-ditched, rectangular enclosure which almost exactly overlies it and had undoubted military significance. Farmers and herders have left less dramatic traces of their lives in the slight network of late Bronze Age enclosure ditches, the hut gully circles (with and without attached compounds) of Iron B, and a ditched layout which almost certainly belongs to a Romano-British villa. Whether the occupants

of the Saxon huts were soldiers or settlers is still to be determined.

This is the first time in Britain that such an extensive attempt has been made to investigate crop marks acre by acre. Since the sites are being 100 per cent destroyed, it has seemed logical at any rate to attempt 100 per cent rescue.

An interim note (to appear in the next issue of the *Antiquaries Journal* includes contributions by Miss V. I. Evison and Dr. J. L. N. Myres on the exceptional early Saxon material — notably a five piece set of belt equipment from a grave, and decorated 5th century pottery from huts.

The rapid rate of quarrying offers plenty of work for field archaeologists in the London area, especially outside the main Easter and summer digging periods.

If you are keen to take part, please write for more information to: Excavation Supervisor for M.P.B.W., Mucking Excavation, Mucking, Stanford le Hope, Essex.

Excavation takes place seven days a week. For regular weekend diggers some help with travel costs should be available; and for really tough campers with own equipment, and two digging days to offer, a camp hut should be available.

M. U. JONES