

## Berkshire Tradesmen's Tokens of the Seventeenth Century.

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THE tokens issued between 1649 and 1672 by local authorities and tradesmen in most parts of England provide useful material for the historian, and there has lately been a revival of interest in them in this connection. The only comprehensive work on them, by William Boyne, of which a second edition, prepared by G. C. Williamson, appeared in 1889, needs a good deal of revision: this has been taken in hand locally for some counties, and before 1939 there was a proposal, which seems to have been shelved, for co-ordinating research in the subject to cover the whole of the country. As the Ashmolean Museum contains a fairly full series of Berkshire tokens, particularly from the western end of the county, it may be helpful to put on record the information to be derived from it which supplements or corrects Williamson's edition of Boyne (which will be referred to as B.W.).

### ABINGDON.

*Henry Meales* (B.W. 7). There are two varieties of this token, struck with the same obverse die, but different reverses: that in B.W. reads · ABINGTON · BAKER ·, the other has ★ IN · ABINGTON ·: with stops on either side of the mullets above and below the letters H M in the centre: this variety was recorded by W. Gilbert in Num. Chron. 1927, p. 123.

*Thomas Smith* (B.W. 9). A note in B.W. states this token has been claimed for Abington in Cambridgeshire: the claim is probably good, as there is no record of any specimens found locally in the Ashmolean, which has several examples of all the other Abingdon tokens in B.W.'s list.

*William Stevenson* (B.W. 10). B.W. notes that there are different dies: there seems to be only one reverse, but there are two obverse dies: the initial mark, a mullet, and the legend are the same on both, but on one the spaces between the initial mark and the beginning and end of the legend are wider than on the other.

### BLEWBURY.

*George Stanton* (B.W. 13-15). So far as the Museum specimens show, there are three varieties of tokens issued by Stanton—a halfpenny and two farthings. The legend on the reverse of the halfpenny (B.W. 13) reads ★ OF \* BLEWBURY \* 1570 on both the examples in the Museum (B.W. omits OF). The description of the farthing B.W. 14 agrees with the specimens in the Museum, but no example of B.W. 15 has been noted, and it may be a misreading of a variety of which there are two specimens, with an obverse like 14, but with a pellet instead of a rosette as stop, a larger bust

in the shield, and coarser lettering : the reverse legend is \* IN · BLEWBERRY \*. This is probably an instance similar to several noted by Mr. Leeds in his catalogue of Oxford City tokens, where a worn-out die has been replaced by a copy of inferior workmanship.

#### CHILTON.

*Samuel Cooke.* This token does not appear to have been published, though it occurs in a MS. list drawn up by Browne Willis about 1750. It seems to be the only issue at Chilton.

*Obv ;* \* SAMVELL · COOKE 1664<sup>\*</sup>

*Rev ;* \* OF \* CHILTON<sup>C</sup><sub>S · I</sub> (Pl. I, 1.)

#### FARINGDON.

*Richard Fowler* (B.W. 25). Both the specimens in the Museum clearly read FARINGDON.

*Thomas Shepard* (B.W. 27). The legend on the reverse of this token reads \* OF · FARRINGDON · 68 on the Museum specimen.

*Edward Stevens.* The issuer of B.W. 28 was probably responsible for the following token, struck in lead, though the name of the town does not appear.

*Obv ;* † · EDWARD · STEVENS · E : S

*Rev ;* Shield with arms, too rough for certain identification. (Pl. I, 2.)

#### HAGBOURNE.

*Thomas Humfrey* (B.W. 30). One specimen of this token in the Museum reads HAYBORN, probably an early strike from a die subsequently corrected, as another example shows the G stamped over another letter, which might have been Y : the dies are otherwise identical.

#### HUNGERFORD.

*Timothy Lucas* (B.W. 37). There are two reverse dies of this token, used with the same obverse : one, the better in execution, reads \* IN · HVNGERFORD : \*<sup>L</sup><sub>T</sub> \*<sup>F</sup> the other \* IN : HVNGERFORD<sup>L</sup><sub>T</sub> : F

#### LAMBOURN.

*Henry Knighton* (B.W. 43). The statement in B.W. that the ON of Knighton are conjoined only applies to the later strikes : those from the die when fresh show the letters quite separate, as on pl. I fig. 7 in B.W. : the die seems to have worn badly, and the details became blurred, so that the letters appear to have run together.

## MAIDENHEAD.

*John Cherry* (B.W. 48). There are two obverse dies, one with the initial mark a rosette, the second with a pierced mullet: the second is much coarser work, in particular in regard to the cherry-tree, which has a thicker trunk and confused foliage. The same reverse is used with both: the second is the commoner.

*Edmund Stone* (B.W. 49). Four varieties of this token occur, with combinations of three obverse and two reverse dies. The obverse dies are (1) ★ EDMOND · STONE Virgin with crown of three rays; (2) ★ EDMOND : STONE ★★ Virgin with crown of five rays; (3) ★ EDMOND : STONE Virgin with crown of five rays. The first is the best work: the third is very coarse. The reverse dies are (1) ★ OF · MAYDENHEAD: (2) ★ OF ★ MAYDENHEAD, both with centre ES with mullets above and below. The combinations found are obv. 1, rev. 1 (as in B.W. pl. 1, fig. 8); obv. 2, rev. 2; obv. 3, rev. 1; obv. 3, rev. 2.

## NEWBURY.

*Borough* (B.W. 51-55). The varieties of this very common token catalogued by B.W. need some rearrangement. The main distinction is in the number of battlements on the castle which forms the obverse type, which vary from three to five. They can be classified as follows:—

A. Three turrets (B.W. 51 and 55). The obverse legend reads NEWBERY in the best struck specimens, but later a flaw developed in the die at BE, and all that can be seen is | : then the die was recut with the spelling NEWBRY. The former variety is B.W. 55, the latter B.W. 51.

B. Four turrets (B.W. 52 and 53). There are two varieties in the legends; one has as initial mark a rose on both sides, with stops between the words, the other has a mullet initial mark on the reverse and no stops on the obverse: the work in the second is inferior, and flaws developed on both sides: two specimens out of five in the Museum have lost a battlement on the obverse, and the legend on the reverse got blurred till the letters ran together: this accounts for the reading CWNTY given for B.W. 53, as the stages from ov to w can be traced in a row of specimens: finally a new reverse die was cut, with smaller and neater lettering, and BN instead of B : N in the centre.

C. Five turrets (B.W. 54). There are three varieties: the first two have as initial mark a mullet on both sides: one, with small and neat lettering, developed a flaw on the reverse die, and a new die with larger lettering was substituted: the third has a very poor obverse die with a cinquefoil as initial mark, and on the reverse a stop between B and N.

## READING.

*Henry Boad* (B.W. 68). Two varieties of this token occur, one with mullet initial mark and cinquefoil stops, the other with star initial mark and lozenge stops.

*Frances Brown* (B.W. 70). Some specimens are struck from dies of inferior workmanship with badly spaced lettering, which seem to be poor reproductions of the original dies.

*Robert Creed*. To Creed's token of 1655 can be added a later issue. (Pl. I, 3.)

*Obv* ; ★ ROBERT ★ CREED ★ Grocers' Arms.

*Rev* ; ★ IN ★ READING ★ 1658 R ★ C  
★ ★ ★

*Nicholas Edwards* (B.W. 81). The description in B.W. must have been taken from a poor specimen: the obverse type is three doves, the reverse centre \*E\*

N E

*John Shipway*. This token does not seem to have been recorded previously.

*Obv* ; ★ IOHN ★ SHIPWAY ★ ★ ★ Hat, broad-brimmed and high-crowned.

*Rev* ; ★ IN ★ READING ★ 1667 ★ HIS / HALFE / PENNY  
/ :: ★ :: (Pl. I, 4.)

*Richard Stockwell* (B.W. 115). There is a second obverse die, of inferior style, with a pierced mullet instead of a mullet for initial mark.

*William Taylor* (B.W. 118). It should be noted that there is, below the initials on the reverse, a small R, the mark of the engraver David Ramage: this must be one of his latest products. The reverse die seems to have been retouched, as there are slight variations in the spacing.

## SPEENHAMLAND.

*Joseph Sealy*. No token has been published for this village. The present example reads: (Pl. I, 5.)

*Obv* ; \* IOSEPH · SEALY · 1667 Castle.

*Rev* ; \* IN · SPENHAM · LAND Angel standing to front.

## WALLINGFORD.

*John Buckland* (B.W. 132). There are three varieties of this token: the first has a rosette as initial mark and another as final stop on the obverse, and the reverse legend begins ★ IN · ; the second, of inferior work, has three roses instead of two rosettes on the obverse, and \* IN: in the reverse legend: the third has the same obverse as the second, but the reverse legend begins ★ IN·

*John Goodwin* (B.W. 135). A specimen in the Museum is overstruck on another trader's token, which rarely occurs; the original issuer was Henry Chitty of Godalming, in Surrey.

*Samuel Pearce* (B.W. 137). Two obverse dies occur, used with the same reverse; one has a mullet initial mark and an inner circle of dots, the other a pierced mullet and no inner circle: the lettering of the latter is larger and coarser.

*William Quelch* (B.W. 140). There are two varieties, with slight differences on both sides: the first has legends ending, on the obverse, OF ∴, on the reverse BERK · SH ·, the second has OF and BERKSH without stops; the second looks like a smaller and inferior copy of the first.

#### WANTAGE.

*Zacchaeus Beale*. An unpublished token.

*Obv*; · ZACHEVS · BEALE Two tobacco pipes in saltire.

*Rev*; \* OF · WANTAGE Three flowers on one stalk: on either side of stalk, Z B (Pl. I, 6.)

*John Bealle* (B.W. 145). One obverse die has a rosette as final stop in the legend, another, of coarser work, has lozenges: both are used with the same reverse die.

*William Cully* (B.W. 148). Here there are two reverse dies used with the same obverse: the legends are the same, but the lettering is different, and the rosette-stops are much larger in one case than in the other.

*William Masemore* (B.W. 154). Similarly for this token two reverse dies occur, differing in the spacing of the legend, which is most noticeable on either side of the initial mark.

*John Seymour* (B.W. 158). There is a variant of the obverse die which reads IOH : SEYMOR · AT · GOLD instead of ★ IOHN : SEYMOR : AT GOLD; the work is poor, and the flan thin, so it may be a home-made substitute for a damaged die: the reverse is the same for both.

*Richard Stamp*. A later issue than his token of 1669 (B.W. 159) is:

*Obv*; ★ RICHARD · STAMPE : Fleur-de-lys. s

*Rev*; ★ OF · WANTAGE · 1671 HIS/HALF/PENY/R · A  
(Pl. I, 7.)

#### WINDSOR.

*Samuel Banat* (B.W. 164). The description of the types in B.W. seems somewhat wrong: the obverse is a foot-soldier, not a knight, bestriding a King—possibly a reference to the fate of Charles I: the reverse is obviously a shoemaker fitting a shoe on a lady's foot. (Pl. I, 8.)

*Samuel Benet*. Besides the octagonal token described and illustrated by W. Gilbert in Num. Chron. 1927, p. 123, there is another, also octagonal, with script legends.

*Obv*; Samuel | Benet from | Windsor to ye | Eagle & child | in ye Strand | Coach.

*Rev*; from | the eagle | and child | to Windsor | to the | Crowned bust. (Pl. I, 9.)

The coach has one horse only, not two, as in Mr. Gilbert's token (of which there is also an example in the Museum) and there is no signature H · P ·

*William Church.* This token is apparently unpublished.

*Obv ;* \* WILLIAM · CHURCH Cock standing l.

*Rev ;* \* OF · WINSOR · 1668 W C  
(Pl. I, 10.)

# WOKINGHAM.

*William Andarson* (B.W. 177). There is a token with the same obverse die as B.W. 177, but reverse \* INWOCKINGHAM <sup>A</sup>W<sup>M</sup> \* The obverse die is flawed, so this token is presumably later than 177, both dies of which are good : the reverse die of 177 is reused in 176 with, as obverse, a replica only varied in the stops, two pellets at the end of the legend and one instead of two after IN. The addition of a wife's initial on the token described here suggests that Andarson has a new reverse made after his marriage.

*George Field.* An unpublished token. [ (Pl. I, 11.)

*Obv ;* \* GEORGE · FIELD Shield with arms.

*Rev ;* \* IN : OCKINGHAM G · F (Pl. I, 12.)

*Thomas Grape* (B.W. 181-183). There are three dated tokens of this issuer ; 1664 (published by W. Gilbert in Num. Chron. 1927, p. 123), 1667 (B.W. 181), and 1668 (B.W. 182). No specimen of the undated token (B.W. 183) can be traced. The obverse die is the same throughout ; in 1667 it shows signs of wear, and more in 1668. In 1664 two reverse dies occur, one with a mullet initial mark and rosettes flanking the letter G, the other, of coarser work, with initial dot and mullets by the G ; in 1667 and 1668 the initial mark is a rosette ; both dies are inferior work.

*Richard Larance* (B.W. 184). The legend of the reverse in the Museum specimen reads ★ IN · OKINGHAM.

*Thomas May* (B.W. 185). Two varieties of the reverse die occur, one, which is the better, reading ★ IN \* OAKINGHAM TM, ★  
the other \* IN · OAKINGHAM ★ TM  
|||  
|||

*Anthony Speer* (B.W. 189). The initials on the reverse are  
S not S  
A F, A E

Some tokens in B.W. seem doubtful : at any rate, no specimens can be traced in collections or catalogues ; these are 31 (perhaps a misreading of 32), 109 (possibly misread), 147 (perhaps a misreading of 146), 155, and 186 (probably a misreading of the token of George Robins of Buckingham, B.W. Bucks 38).