

## DERBYSHIRE APOTHECARIES TOKENS AND THEIR ISSUERS

by the late T.D. WHITTET

Tradesmen's tokens formed an illegal but tolerated money of necessity issued privately by merchants between 1648 and 1679 when regal small change was scarce or non-existent. The standard work on the subject is *Trade tokens issued in the seventeenth century* originally published by William Boyne<sup>1</sup> in 1858, revised by George C. Williamson<sup>2</sup> in two volumes, 1889-91, and reprinted in three volumes by B.A. Seaby Ltd. in 1967.<sup>3</sup> This work is now popularly called *Williamson* and will be referred to as such in this paper.

*Williamson*<sup>3</sup> included five Derbyshire tokens bearing the Apothecaries' arms, two being different varieties issued by the same person. The issuers were Henry Blyth of Dronfield, John Hodgkinson and Henry Holmes (two types) of Derby and Edward Wood of Chesterfield. Another Derbyshire apothecary's token exists, that of Leonard Sadd of Derby and Richard Wood of Chesterfield, another token issuer, was almost certainly an apothecary.

### DERBY MERCERS' GILD

Derby, like Chester, is of especial interest since, unlike many provincial towns, a considerable amount of information is available about the gild of which the apothecaries were members — the Mercers' Company.

In the medieval period Derby was something of a manufacturing town but by the seventeenth century it could more accurately be described as 'county and market'.

In the reign of Charles II the Corporation paid a considerable sum to the King for the privilege of the use of a seal and the right to pass bye-laws.<sup>4</sup> One of its most important acts was to set up a Company of Mercers in 1675, an account of which was given by Bemrose.<sup>5</sup>

Despite its name the gild was constituted of apothecaries, ironmongers, upholsterers and milliners, as well as mercers. Its administrative body consisted of a Steward, (more usually termed the Master in other gilds), two Wardens and ten Brethren. (Again in other towns such as London these would have been called the Court of Assistants).

There were fifty founder members of whom sixteen were mercers, sixteen ironmongers and eight apothecaries. The first Steward was a mercer and the first two Wardens were Francis Marshall, an upholsterer, and George Fletcher, an apothecary.<sup>4</sup> Several members of the Company were token issuers including Nathaniel Doughty, mercer, John Dunning, Grocer, and three apothecaries, John Hodgkinson, Henry Holmes and Leonard Sadd. The Company's main functions were to preserve the Borough's trading rights, maintain the standard of goods sold and to supervise apprenticeship.<sup>4</sup>

### APOTHECARIES' TOKENS

#### *1. Henry Blyth of Dronfield*

O. HENRY . BLYTH . IN - The Apothecaries' arms.

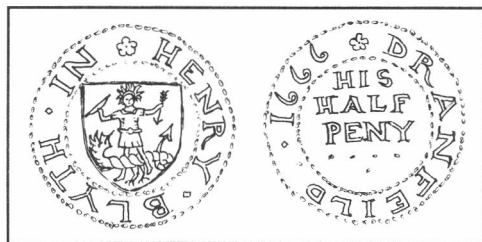


Fig 1 Token of Henry Blyth. Drawn from an illustration in the *Chemist and Druggist*, 1 (66 (1905), 204). Actual size 1.9 cm. diameter.

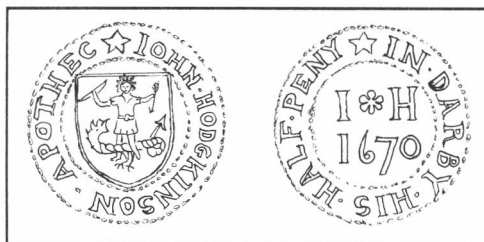


Fig 2 Token of John Hodgkinson. Drawn from a rubbing of a specimen in the Derby Museum kindly supplied by Mr Maxwell Craven, Keeper of Antiquities. Actual size 2.3 cm. diameter.

## R. DRANFEILD . 1666 - HIS HALF PENY. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d).

This token is shown in Fig.1. *Williamson*<sup>3</sup> gave no information about the issuer but Simpson<sup>6</sup> included the following account of the family from the *Reliquary*, vol. 5, p. 201 'The Blythes of Dronfield, were the same family as those of Norton, and were people of considerable note in the district. William Blyth, who appears to have made a fortune by trade, had a grant of arms in the reign of Henry 7 (1485). viz. *ermine*, 3 roebucks trippant *gules*, attired *or*, gorged with a chaplet *vert*. This William Blythe was the father of John Blythe, Bishop of Salisbury (ob 1499) and of Geoffrey Blythe, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. The monument of William Blythe and his wife and another of their eldest son Richard are in Norton Church.' Simpson<sup>6</sup> gave a great deal of information about several branches of the family, especially those of Lincolnshire.

There are numerous references to Henry Blyth or Blythe in the Dronfield church registers. On October 19 1664 his wife Helen was buried. He must have married again soon afterwards as the next entry is the baptism of his son Henry on Feb. 27 1665/6. It was followed by the baptisms of the following: John, January 26 1667/8; Walter, October 16 1669; Mary, December 20 1672; an unnamed daughter was buried on April 6 1676 and his son Henry on April 12 1676, probably of the same infectious childhood disease. Neither his death nor his will has been found but on July 20 1683 Mrs. Barbara Blyth, widow of Dronfield, was buried and evidence points to her being the widow of Henry.

## 2. John Hodgkinson of Derby

O. IOHN . HODGKINSON . APOTHEC - The Apothecaries' arms.

R. IN . DARBY . HIS . HALF . PENY - I . H . 1670. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). (Fig.2)

*Williamson*<sup>3</sup> gave no information about the issuer.

John Hodgkinson, son of William of the parish of All Saints was born in February 1646. On June 3 1671 he was granted a licence to marry Isobel Falkingham of Sutton Bonington, Notts., being called a pharmacopola in the entry.<sup>7</sup> Their son John was baptised in Derby in March 1674.

He may have been the John Hodgkinson who was buried at All Saints on May 27 1702 whose will, made on the 23rd., was proved on the 30th.<sup>8</sup> He was described as a gentleman and the only indication that he might have been the apothecary is the fact that a witness of the will, Hugh Bateman, also witnessed that of another Derby apothecary Henry Holmes.

It was a strange will as his daughter Dorothy was the sole executrix although she was a minor. His friends John Strong and Thomas Hayes were the overseers and were left 10s. each. He forgave his sister a debt of £10 and the residue of his estate was to be divided equally between his wife Elizabeth and Dorothy. Elizabeth was granted probate on condition that she had an

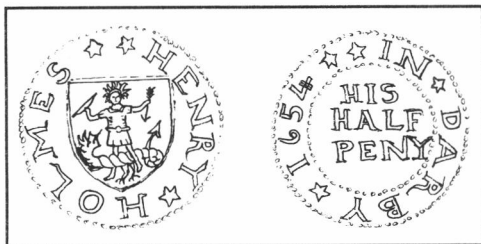


Fig 3a Token of Henry Holmes. 1st. variety. Drawn from a specimen in the Norweb Collection kindly supplied by Mr. R.H. Thompson. Actual size approx 1.7 cm. diameter.



Fig 3b Token of Henry Holmes. 2nd. variety. Artist's impression. Actual size approx 1.7 cm. diameter.

inventory made 'to the use and behoofe and minority of Dorothy the daughter and executrix of the deceased.'

George Hodgkinson, apothecary of Derby, whose will was made on November 24 1729 and proved on April 13 1730 was probably his nephew.<sup>9</sup> He evidently died young as he made bequests to his parents and five brothers. His inventory, taken by Richard Eaton, Jr. and Thomas Mead, amounted to only £19 3s. including drugs valued at 15s. His wife was executrix and was to receive his 'shop and book debts.'

Ralph Hodgkinson, chemist of Staveley, nr. Chesterfield,<sup>10</sup> mentioned in the nineteenth century records was probably of the same family and the son of the druggist of that name of Eckington, Chesterfield, who subscribed to several books between 1789 and 1794.<sup>11</sup> Ralph Jr. was the wholesale druggist of Sheffield to whom William Marsden, founder of the Royal Free and Marsden hospitals, was apprenticed in about 1810.<sup>12</sup>

### 3. Henry Holmes of Derby

Williamson<sup>3</sup> listed two tokens issued by this apothecary.

- a. O. HENRY . HOLMES - The Apothecaries' arms.  
R. IN . DARBY . 1664 - HIS HALF PENY. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). (Fig.3a)
- b. O.HENRY . HOLMES - HIS HALF PENY.  
R. IN . DARBY . 1666 - The Apothecaries' arms. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). (Fig.3b).

Williamson<sup>3</sup> stated that the arms on the 1666 token are without a shield and wrote 'Henry Holmes occurs as one of the capital burgesses in the Charter of Charles II.'

Henry Holmes was one of the ten founder brethren of the Mercers' Company. He became Warden in 1679, Steward in 1682 and mayor of the borough in 1694. He had at least one apprentice, Thomas Harryman, son of Thomas of Derby, bound in 1671.<sup>4</sup> Henry's son John, who also became an apothecary, was born in 1667. Henry was a well-to-do man with six hearths in his house. He was buried at All Saints on May 11 1699 and his will, made in 1692, was proved on October 19 1699.<sup>13</sup> His son John and daughter Elizabeth were executor and executrix. He left to Elizabeth, wife of Joshua Wigley, mercer, £100, his best silver tankard, his silver cased watch, a pair of virginalls, her picture and two pairs of sheets.

John was left 'all my goods, wears, commodities and merchandise of and belonging to my shop or trade or profession of an apothecary, and all my books, instruments and utensills,' and a message in Derby with two acres of arable land. He was to pay his sister Elizabeth £5 p.a. for life and his brother Samuel £16 p.a. for life. If they did not survive another Henry Holmes, probably a cousin, was to be the heir.

*John Holmes*

John, the son of the token issuer, was born in 1677, married Sarah Mason, widow, of Derby, in October 1700 and their son Henry was baptised at All Saints in September 1701. John also became an alderman of Derby and was active in stimulating the city's economic life including the navigation of the River Derwent.<sup>4</sup> Among his apprentices were his son Henry, Francis Meynell of an old armigerous county family of renown, and Nathaniel Willott.<sup>4</sup> John died in 1740 but I have been unable to trace his will.

*Henry Holmes (2)*

After attending Derby Grammar School young Henry was sent to London to work under John Beaumont, apothecary of St. Paul's Covent Garden.<sup>14</sup> He returned to Derby and, like his father and grandfather, took an apprentice, Robert, son of John Wingfield of Loughborough, who was bound for seven years from September 27 1729 at a premium of £47.5s. Henry was then called an apothecary but druggist when his son Richard was admitted to St. John's College, Cambridge in 1747 at the age of sixteen. The latter graduated B.A. in 1750 and became a clergyman.<sup>15</sup>

The Holmes pharmacy was in Irongate and its history has been traced from Robert Win(g)field, apprentice of Henry (2)<sup>14</sup> in 1752 to Archibald John Mellors in 1972.<sup>16</sup>

The will of Henry Holmes (2), apothecary, was made on November 3 1739 and proved on April 28 1740.<sup>17</sup> By virtue of a marriage settlement with his late wife his real estate was to go to his son and daughter. If they should die it was to go to his father for life and then to be divided equally between the son of his sister-in-law Mary Wylde and the eldest son then living of the Rev. Henry Fletcher. If Mary's son died it was to go to Fletcher's heirs. His personal estate was left to Henry Fletcher, presumably the same person. If none of these persons survived the estate was to pass to Thomas Partridge of Nottingham, girdler, who was to be guardian of the children along with Henry Fletcher.

A surgeon-apothecary Francis Holmes of Derby was included in the *Medical Directory* of 1779 and was probably of the same family but I have been unable to establish a relationship.<sup>18</sup>

*4. Edward Wood of Chesterfield*

O. EDWARD . WOOD . APOTHECARY - The Apothecaries' arms.

R. In.Chesterfeild . His . Halfe . Penny. (in 4 lines) ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). (Fig.4).

Williamson<sup>3</sup> gave no information about the issuer. Trease<sup>19</sup> wrote an article on the manufacture of apothecaries' tokens based on earlier ones by Pegge<sup>20</sup> and Jewitt,<sup>21</sup> who had concluded that Richard Wood who also issued a token, was an apothecary.

Although I have been unable to obtain proof of this it seems highly probable and it is logical to discuss Richard Wood's token in this section of the paper.

*5. Richard Wood of Chesterfield*

O. RICHARD . WOOD - Three sportsmen and a dog.

R. OF . CHESTERFIELD - R . W. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d.). (Fig.5.)

Williamson's only comment was 'Vide Reliq., vol. iv., page 167.' This is the article by Jewitt<sup>21</sup> mentioned above.

Trease<sup>19</sup> wrote 'From these articles, (Pegge and Jewitt), parish records, and some deeds in the Derbyshire Record Office it is clear that at least three generations of Woods were apothecaries. Since they used only two Christian names it is necessary to distinguish them as follows:

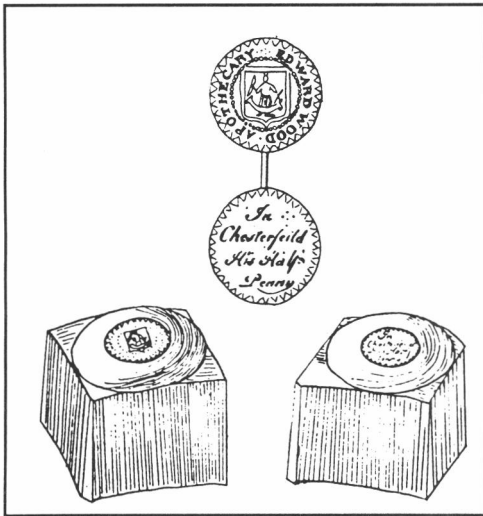
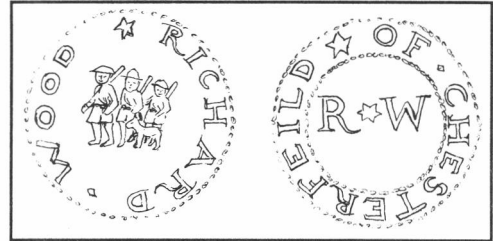


Fig 4 Dies of the token of Edward Wood. From the *Gentleman's Magazine*, November 1757. Actual size of token 2 cm. diameter.

Fig 5 Token of Richard Wood. Drawn from an illustration in Jewitt's article. (ref.21). Actual size 1.6 cm. diameter.



Richard I documents from 1638-1658; described as apothecary

Edward I son and heir of above; documents 1653-1674; described as apothecary

Richard II son of above; 1657-1710; apothecary

Edward II son of the above; born 1692, died 1757; described as a gentleman.

Richard I and his grandson Richard II were both very active in the civic life of Chesterfield, the former being mayor in 1649-50 and 1656-7 and the latter mayor in 1703 and 1710. The will of Richard I provided money for the vicar of Chesterfield to preach two annual sermons and a further sum to help poor householders. Edward I, unlike his father and son, was not particularly active in local government but was a founder member of the Company of Mercers of Chesterfield of which body he became a warden.'

Trease<sup>19</sup> continued 'When Samuel Pegge published his paper in 1757 Edward II had just died and the token press and dies which had been used by his ancestors were still in existence. Pegge's statement about the generations of the Wood family is rather ambiguous as he omits any reference to Richard I, who had died almost a century earlier. His actual words are: "At the borough of Chesterfield in Derbyshire Mr. Edward Wood and *afterwards* (my italics) his son Richard, who were both apothecaries, coined money amongst others; and on the death of the late Edward Wood, son of the said Richard, the dies and presses were found in the house from which we were able to comprehend the whole process.'" ' Trease<sup>19</sup> concluded 'I am inclined to doubt the above statement since very few tokens were issued after 1671 and as Richard II was born 1657 he would be only 15 when the regal copper coinage was started in 1672. If my supposition is correct the tokens were made and issued by Richard I and Edward I.'

On Trease's behalf I tried unsuccessfully to trace the press and dies which seem to have disappeared some time between 1757 and 1864.

I am sure that Trease was correct in assuming that Richard II could not have been the token issuer as he would just have been starting his apprenticeship when the issue of tokens ceased. Richard I could have been the issuer as he did not die until 1659 and the issue of tokens began in 1648. Neither of the Wood tokens bore any date. Whilst the device of three sportsmen and a dog seems an unusual one for an apothecary there are many examples of apothecaries' tokens bearing devices which appear to have no relationship to their occupation. Sometimes the device

was a pun on the issuer's name and it is possible that this represented huntsmen in a wood.

Whilst I have been unable to find absolute proof that Richard I was the issuer it seems highly probable as it is common to find more than one issuer in a family.

On his marriage in October 1655 to Alice Watkinson Edward II was described as 'son and heire apparant of Mr. Richard Wood of Chest' field Apothecary.'<sup>21</sup> This makes it most likely that he would have inherited the press and dies from his father and that they remained in the family until 1757.

Richard Wood I was described as a druggist when another son John was admitted to St. John's Cambridge on May 30 1651 at the age of sixteen and became a non-conformist minister.<sup>22</sup>

The will of Richard Wood, apothecary of Chesterfield, was made in early 1659 when he was 'weake in body but in perfect understanding and memorie.'<sup>23</sup> He wished to be buried near his children in the chancel of Chesterfield church.

He left a large amount of land, part of which was on trust to four relatives and friends. It was left to his wife Marie and then to their daughter Sarah. It included 'the Nether Smelting Mill and that Close and Woodground...called...Ridding (about six acres) and...farme house & housing & lands thereon...also that farm and lands in the possession of Richard Hartley.' Sarah was also to receive £60 owed to him by William Bullock of Norton.

To his eldest son Edward he left 'what advantage there may be of the £100 adventured for land.' To his second son John he left 'All those goods now in Norton House and what more his mother pleaseth to add to them.'

He had purchased that house from Archbishop Geoffrey Blythe, relative of Henry Blyth.

His daughter Sarah, daughter-in-law Alice Milward, brother Henry, sister Jane and children and his servants were to receive 20s. each. Several friends and his brother-in-law Geoffrey Marsh were also left 20s. for 'rings of gould.' The rest of his goods and personal estate were left to his wife the sole executrix. She proved the will on April 4 1659.

### *Edward Wood I*

The parish registers record the baptisms of several children of Edward and Alice Wood between 1656 and 1674 and the burial of a daughter in 1656. She died in March 1697/8 and he in December 1700. His will was made on March 18 1697/8 and proved on April 4 1701.<sup>24</sup> To his son Richard (II) he left 'all messuages, cottages, lands, and appurtenances belonging in Derbyshire or elsewhere in England and Ireland.' To another son Nathaniel he left £100 besides the £500 he had already received. His daughter in law Hannah Wood was to receive 'one broad peece of gold.'

The following bequests were made to grandchildren:- Edward, six silver spoons and a silver porringer; Hannah, a silver porringer; Sarah, a silver tumbler. There were several minor gifts and the residue was left to his son Richard who was executor.

His inventory, in which he was described as a gentleman, was appraised by Paul Webster and Godfrey Stubbings. It amounted to £347 1. 8d. and included 'Goods at the Barne' and 'the shop and debt booke' £134 11s.'

### *Richard Wood II*

Edward's elder son Richard II was born in 1657 and married Hannah Buxton, widow in 1690. His will was made on April 6 1713 and proved by his widow Hannah on October 6 1715.<sup>25</sup> He left her property, furniture, jewellery, silver plate and 'stock of Barley malt and money in her possession at the time of my decease.' She was also to receive the residue of his personal estate.

He left 'messuages, land, tenements, hereditaments and real estate' on trust to raise a sum to pay his funeral expenses and debts and to provide £800 each for his daughters Hannah and Sarah. His son Edward, who appears to have been feeble-minded, was to have £20 p.a. until he was 31 and then £30 p.a. until he was 40. There were several other bequests to relatives and friends.

There were inventories of his household and shop goods and it is clear from them that he lived in the same large premises as his father. They comprised ten rooms plus four service barns and chambers. The household goods were valued at £194.15s. and those in the shop at £26.16s.8d. They included 'chymical preparations, £2' and 'wares, drawers, boxes and counters in shop. Goods in ye upper part of ye counter next the shop window. Great nest of drawers, corks, Sassafras, farriers oyle and simple waters, rowls of plaister.' These were the only drugs mentioned. There was a tobacco house containing goods at 19s.3d.

One of the witnesses of the will was John Dale, apothecary, and the appraisers of the shop inventory were Thomas Holland and Richard Milnes, both apothecaries.

The Woods were customers of the London firm of Eastwick and Conynsby, a large wholesale business at the Feathers in West Smithfield.<sup>26</sup> The books of that firm, dating from about 1651 to 1658, are in the Public Record Office. They are described as those of 'an apothecary's business' but their contents show that it was a firm of wholesale and retail apothecaries and druggists. The firm was a partnership financed by six men, several of whom were druggists and with the day-to-day running conducted by Francis Eastwick and John Conynsby. They supplied drugs and medicines to many parts of the country as far apart as Lancashire and Yorkshire in the North, Somerset and Kent in the South, Shropshire and Wales in the West and Lincolnshire and Suffolk in the East. Numerous token issuers were among their customers. It seems likely that the firm sent representatives to visit its provincial customers as there are numerous examples of accounts being paid through third persons.

### *Edward Wood II*

The last of the line, Edward II had a wife called Rebecca who probably predeceased him. His will, in which was called a gentleman was proved in 1757.<sup>27</sup> He left a considerable amount of land, property and goods in Wirksworth, mainly to his nephews and nieces. He does not appear to have been an apothecary.

It is obvious that the Woods were a very wealthy family. Edward I had ten hearths in 1670, indicating a very large house and they seem to have owned a great deal of land and property.

Trease<sup>19</sup> stated that the pharmacy which had belonged to the Woods probably became that of A Greaves & Son, 25, Market Place, Chesterfield.

## AN ADDITIONAL APOTHECARY'S TOKEN

### *6. Leonard Sadd of Derby*

O. LEONARD . SADD APOTHECA . L . S. - Three roses entwined.

R. IN . DERBY . 1668 - HIS HALF PENY ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). (Fig.6)

Mr. C. Legge, chairman of the Derbyshire Numismatic Society brought my attention to this token which is not in *Williamson*.<sup>3</sup> A specimen is in the Derby Museum.

Mr. Legge supplied the following information:- 'Leonard Sadd became a member of the Derby Borough Council and appears to have been a well-known figure in Derby. He is buried in the churchyard of All Saints, now the cathedral.'

There are references to him in the registers from 1661. He had a house with five hearths in the parish in 1670. His first wife Elizabeth died in May 1681 and he remarried at nearby



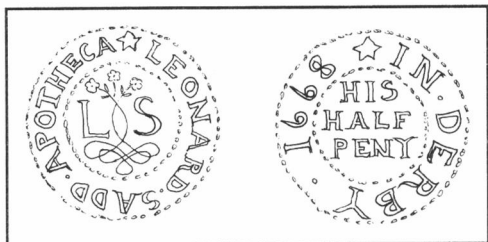


Fig.6. Token of Leonard Sadd. Drawn from a photograph kindly supplied by Mr. C. Legge. Actual size 2.7 cm. diameter.

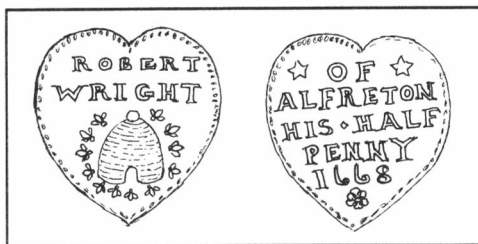


Fig.7. Token of Robert Wright. Drawn from an illustration in Jewitt's article. (ref.29).

Brailsford in November 1689. His second wife was Mrs. Sarah Ge(e)ry, probably the widow of one of the first brethren of the Mercers' Company, Thomas Gery, apothecary, who became Warden in 1677, Steward in 1682 and died in the following year.<sup>4</sup> Sadd became an alderman of the borough and died in 1697. In his will dated July 27 1697 he left £100 and all his goods, chattels and credits to his wife Sarah.<sup>28</sup> To his nephew John Sadd he left lands and tenements in Tottenhill, West Briggs and Serley Row, Norfolk. To another nephew James Sadd he left a house and lands at Crippleshall, Norfolk for life and then to his own son Leonard.

He left £50 to his 'poor kindred, my brothers and sisters children', £40 each to William and Elizabeth Fynney, and 20s. p.a. 'to poor indigent travellers out of my houses in Walter Lane for over.' After a few other bequests had been paid his wife was to receive 'after my debts are paid, all houses, etc. in Derby & the realm of England not bequeathed before.' One of the witnesses of the will was Thomas Betts (? Bott). Sarah was sole executrix and she proved it on November 2 1697. Obviously Sadd was a very wealthy man.

#### A POSSIBLE APOTHECARY'S TOKEN

##### *Robert Wright of Alfreton*

O. ROBERT Wright - A beehive surrounded by twelve bees.

R. OF ALFRETON HIS . HALF PENNY 1668 (in four lines). ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). (Fig. 7.)

*Williamson*<sup>3</sup> gave no information about the issuer but Jewitt<sup>29</sup> wrote 'There is nothing on this heart-shaped token to show what trade was followed by the issuer, but it is not improbable that he might be an Apothecary, as the beehive was frequently used as a device by the followers of that calling'. Arthur Rowe of Newport, Shropshire, probably an apothecary and William Rowe, apothecary of Newport, probably Shropshire, issued tokens with this device.<sup>30</sup>

#### A POSSIBLE MERCER-APOTHECARY'S TOKEN

Thomas Bott of Derby issued a half penny token dated 1669 with the title mercer and the Mercers' arms.<sup>31</sup> He was the son of Thomas Bott of Dunstall Hall, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., and a member of a distinguished armigerous wealthy family which contained many apothecaries and had branches in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire.<sup>32</sup> Their name was spelled Bott, Bett, Betts and Boot, the first being much the most frequent.

The token issuer had a brother Septimus, an apothecary of Coventry and apprentice of Thomas Pidgeon, a token issuer of that city. Thomas and Septimus Bott both had apothecary sons and the former had a son Thomas, described as a 'well-known divine', who, after some experience of preaching, went to London to study medicine and then took holy orders.<sup>33</sup> He



practised as ‘an unqualified doctor.’ John, the apothecary son of Thomas Sr. also had an apothecary son Daniel.

Another brother of Thomas and Septimus, Daniel Bott of Burton-on-Trent, issued in 1669 a heart-shaped halfpenny token bearing the Mercers’ arms.<sup>34</sup> He had one son a mercer of Burton and another an apothecary of Stratford. The latter had an apothecary son Thomas and a surgeon son John.

In the Derby gild, in contrast to those of many towns, the mercers and apothecaries were quite separate, merely being in the same gild which was called the Mercers’ Company as the latter were numerically strong and rich. It would be surprising, however, if the mercer members of a family with such strong apothecarial traditions did not deal in apothecaries’ wares as did so many provincial mercers. It is possible, therefore, that the token issuers Thomas Bott of Derby and Daniel Bott of Burton-on-Trent were mercer-apothecaries.

## APPENDIX

### *The Manufacture of tokens*

Pegge<sup>20</sup> gave the following description of the manufacture of tokens: ‘There were two sets of dies, one for the father’s and the other for the son’s money, who I suppose had a set of dies made for himself on his father’s decease. They were apothecaries...and the device was accordingly Apollo Opifer. These dies I have seen, by favour of the gentleman concern’d, to whom I am greatly oblig’d, one set has fallen into my possession. What I mean by a set is an obverse and reverse; These were cut upon two pieces of steel, which were afterwards welded upon a larger block or iron, of which the size and the form are expressed in the plate (Fig.4.). The press consisted of four pieces of good oak, not less than four inches thick, and very strongly dovetail’d together. In the upper cross piece was fastn’d an iron box with a female screw, thro’ which there passed a stout iron screw of an inch or more diameter, to the bottom of which was fixed one of the dies, whilst the other was received into a square hole made in the bottom cross piece, where it lay very steady in a proper bed. The screw was wrought by hand, in the manner of a capstan, by means of four handles affixed to the top of it, of about nine inches long each. And thus, after the copper was reduc’d to a proper thickness, shorn to a size, and commodiously rounded, many hundreds of halfpence might be coined, by two persons, in a very short time, by a man we will suppose to ply the screw, and a woman or boy to put on and take off the pieces. And yet, I assure you, sir, these Chesterfield halfpennies were extremely well struck.’

The fact that Pegge saw two sets of dies suggests that the tokens were issued by father and son, even if he got the generations wrong. He was, of course in error in describing the device as ‘Apollo Opifer’ instead of just ‘Apollo’.

The dies for Edward Wood’s tokens are shown in Fig. 4 and the type of press used in the manufacture of tokens in Fig. 8. Mr. R.H. Thompson<sup>35</sup> has discussed the central versus local production of seventeenth century tokens and has concluded that the majority of dies were made in London where most tokens were probably struck but that some may have been made locally. He believes that the Woods may have used a press not actually designed for coining — possibly a tincture press, which most apothecaries would possess, and also that Pegge overestimated the speed at which tokens could be produced.

Mr. E.W. Danson, Honorary Secretary of the Derbyshire Numismatic Society, (personal communication January 1986) also believes that the Woods coined their own tokens and quotes the late Harold Wood of Southampton as writing ‘I am certain that the press was constructed with the intention of striking tokens but I am also certain that the pressure required could not have been

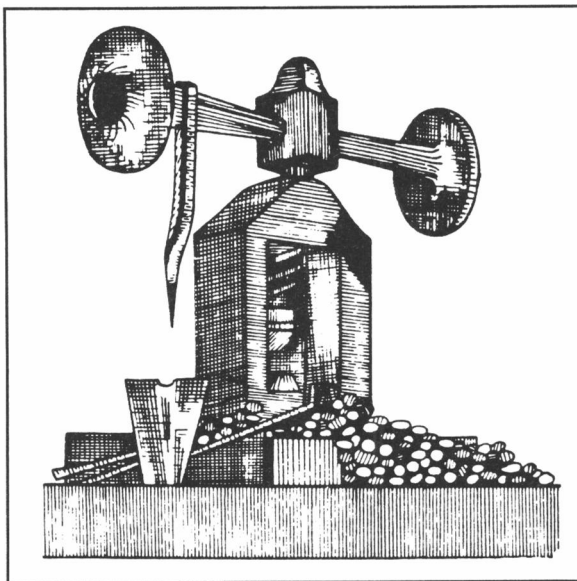


Fig 8 A screw press for coining, dating from the early 19th Century. From an engraving in *Commercial Coins 1787-1804*, by R.C. Bell. Courtesy of D. Bradford Barton Ltd., Truro.

applied in the manner stated'. Wood also believed that Pegge's illustration of the die is exaggerated.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Much of the research in this paper was carried out with the aid of a grant from the Wellcome Trust and I express my gratitude to the trustees. I wish to thank Mr. C. Legge for drawing my attention to the token of Leonard Sadd and for supplying a photograph of it, and my wife Doreen M. Whittet for drawing figures 1-3 and 5-7.

Dr. Juanita G.L. Burnby has supplied a great deal of information about several of the apothecaries, Mrs. R. Milward has sent me summaries of the wills and inventories of the Wood family and Dr. Edith Gilchrist has supplied information about William Marsden's apprenticeship to Ralph Hodgkinson. I am most grateful to them all.

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