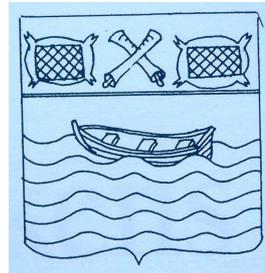
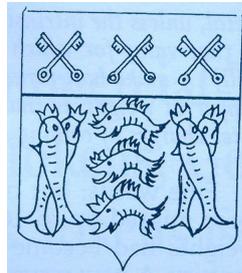


A free newsletter to all who contribute illustrations for use in the forthcoming book, *Leaden Tokens & Tallies*. To receive Issue Seven of this newsletter you must send the editor at least one 300 dpi JPEG scan, or a sharply focused photo print, of any interesting leaden token in your collection. Send images as email attachments to [LTTeditor@aol.com](mailto:LTTeditor@aol.com)



## Am I Looking Too Hard For Usage Clues?

It has long puzzled me that leaden anchor pieces turn up on fields some distance from rivers and coast in many counties. I have previously explained the anomaly by boldly stating that such pieces probably travelled inland as tallies associated with items of cargo delivered from the quayside after the vessel discharged her cargo. Now confidence in my cocky claim begins to wane.

Have a look at the arms of the bakers' guild above left. Surely a baker eager to proudly announce membership of the guild would have used a wheatsheaf, or even a pair of scales on his token farthings? Just as reasonable to our twenty-first century minds would be the assumption that a fishmonger ought to favour one of those lovely salmon (or are they herring?) as a token emblem. Why would he/she prefer the crossed keys, which happen to appear in the same segment of the arms as the anchor appears on the bakers' shield? Here's why:

Medieval Christianity placed St Peter at the very gates of heaven. He was said to hold the keys to the portals through which all who hoped to avoid hell and damnation must pass. And what was his occupation before his rise to sainthood? Why a simple fisherman. That's why the Fishmongers Guild chose his keys as their emblem. Furthermore, the medieval word for a fishmonger was a *peterer* (London Underworld slang for a safecracker has a similar origin.)

Now I've really taken the bit between my teeth. What about those grids in the upper section of the Watermen's arms? I've always felt that we find far too few tokens and tallies depicting river craft, bearing in mind the importance of river transport in ages past. But if the watermen adopted the grid as the symbol on their tallies that might account for the plethora of grid types. A similar, if weaker, argument could be deployed for the Apothecaries Guild (top right). Arrows alone are not common on our finds; but hearts pierced by arrows may not have been the love tokens we often call them. And an anchor might have graced a baker's farthing.

What we now need is a medieval guild that included petals within its emblem! Anybody out there with a suggestion?

# David Powell On His Classification System

## Type 3: Segments {alternatively known as Cartwheels}

The official definition of type 3 stands at the moment as “Includes any side consisting of three or more segments emanating from the centre, except that quartered designs:

- a:** classify under type 12 if they have any *regular* design other than crosses, pellets & wedges.
- b:** classify under type 14 if they are simple crosses or crosses with pellets in the centre of the quarters, i.e. pseudo-medieval pennies.
- c:** remain under type 3 if they are cartwheel type pieces with the pellets near the perimeter, i.e. are not intended to imitate the medieval penny.”

The type is unambiguous unless the number of spokes or segments happens to be four, in which case we have a problem knowing which of types 3,12,14 it falls in; nor, without knowing the manufacturer’s mind, can we say what was his intention. Below are a pair of pieces (**fig 1, fig 2**), with 8 and 4 spokes respectively, clearly from the same source and (probably London) manufacturer. The 8 is clearly not ecclesiastic, so the 4 is not either. Can we confidently say the same of **fig 3**? No, there the verdict has to remain open.



When we see the 8 and 4 spokes together, we are encouraged to think that they must have had a value, and one was worth twice as much as the other; i.e. it hints that they were money, rather than passes or the like. The number of spokes most commonly encountered is 4, 6 or 8, with or without pellets or occasionally wedges (**fig 4a**); however, other numbers, including odd numbers, do occur. (**fig 4b**). Are 4, 6 and 8 common because they are easiest for the designer to make, or because somebody wanted those units of currency? Perhaps it was more usual to score the die across the full width {giving even numbers only}, rather than from the centre {giving even or odd numbers}, causing a preponderance of evens.

Some more interesting type 3 pieces have additional ornamentation; the spokes may sprout branches (**fig 5**), or hint at lettering/dates in the quarters (**fig 6**); if letters or numbers, these are type 3 rather than type 12 because the contents of the quarters vary. Others, sometimes of cruder finish, hint at a spider’s web, or even at the shell of a limpet (**fig 7a, 7b**); these are not uncommon.



Other “extras” met with include the addition of bulbous swellings to the midpoints of the spokes (fig 8), or the inclusion of a superimposed circle. Figs 9, 10 show the two sides of the same piece; 4-spokes with wedges and superimposed circle near the centre on one side, 8-spokes with wedges but no circle on the other. The conflicting number of spokes there presumably does not indicate value!



fig 8



fig 9



fig 10

Also encountered are pieces where the circle forms a ring near but not totally on the edge; either “Durham” style where the ring is superimposed and the spokes go to the edge, or “Small cartwheel” style where the spokes end at the ring. Fig 11 is a type 28.3, i.e. a cartwheel with a padded outer rim; the colour suggests it is of London origin. Fig 12 is an odd piece, in which a mixture of lines and pellets seem to hint at a 6-spoke cartwheel; or is that just coincidence?

fig 11



fig 12



## REMINDER

As mentioned last month, London Numismatic Society invite all metal detectorists and coin enthusiasts as visitors to their meeting on **6 September**, when the speaker will be Duncan Pennock on “Hop Tokens”. Duncan comes from the Romney Marsh area, one of the favourite detecting hotspots. His subject is as close to crude lead as you are likely to get.

**Come and join us for the evening !!**

**Location:** Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1 0AB

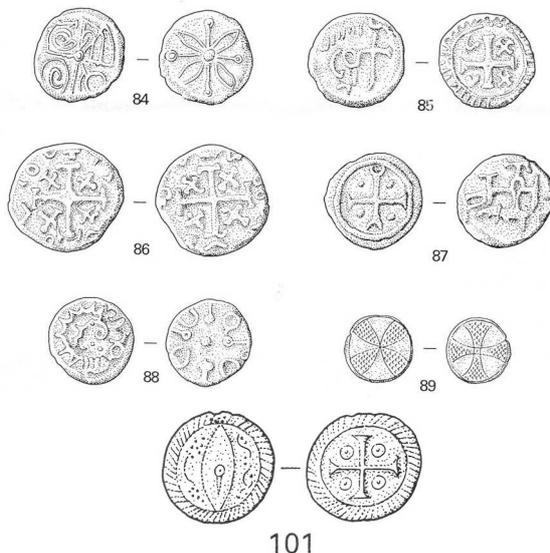
**Nearest stations:** Euston, Euston Sq, Kings X, Warren St, Goodge St, Russell Sq

**Time:** 6:30—8:00 (\* doors open 6 p.m.; arrive early for a chat if you wish)

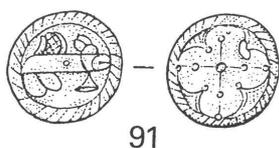
P.S. ...and if anybody hasn't had enough of us after that, and wants to talk more, no promises, but it's a near cert that a few of us will be going out for a curry. I'm sure they can fit a few more in, and it would be great to meet a few new faces...

**ALL WELCOME**

I've always said that leaving aside the remarkable results achieved with a Fuji Finepix Macro Zoom digital camera, there's no better way to illustrate tokens and tallies than with well-executed line drawings. If you want proof of that claim persuade your club's Finds Research officer to add a copy of this superb catalogue to the club's library shelves. Its 272 pages brim with drawings and explanatory texts dealing with the numerous leaden tokens, cloth seals, weights, jettons and Papal Bullae that form part of Salisbury Museums' huge collection of medieval artefacts. It comes as little surprise economic and religious medieval centuries, when largely from wool, should relics of its own glorious pleasant surprise to readily accessible even to the city. At £24.95 (plus will add enormous chunks bookshelves.



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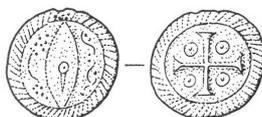


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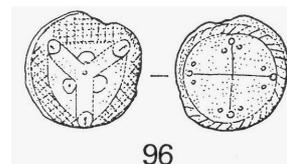


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*A Few Of The Eye-Catching Delights On The Catalogue Pages*

For readers who can afford to push the boat out a little further, Part Two of Salisbury Museum's Catalogue (£12.95) deals with pilgrims' souvenirs and secular badges in as much detail as Part Three covers its subject matter. There's also a Part One that includes coins and rings in its contents.

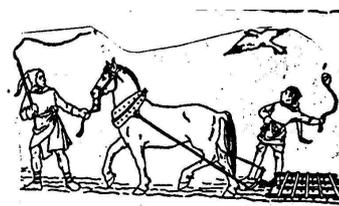
I urge all LTT readers to have a look at the museum's web site ([www.salisburymuseum.org.uk](http://www.salisburymuseum.org.uk)) where further details about ordering and postal charges can be viewed. You'll also catch a glimpse of The King's House, the superb Grade One listed building that houses the collection. Have a look at the images of the Warminster Jewel ... the Our Lady Of Tomberlaine pilgrim's badge ... and the delightful Three-Tiered Moneybox. They should whet your appetite for an in-the-flesh visit to the museum next time you contemplate a trip to Stonehenge.

\*\*\*\*\*

How deep will your detector go for a lead token? Depends on its size, of course; but if you think your brand of metal detector performs exceptionally well on leaden finds, I'd like to hear from you, especially if you insist that it can out-perform a 1980s ARADO 120B.



Drop me an email line:  
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