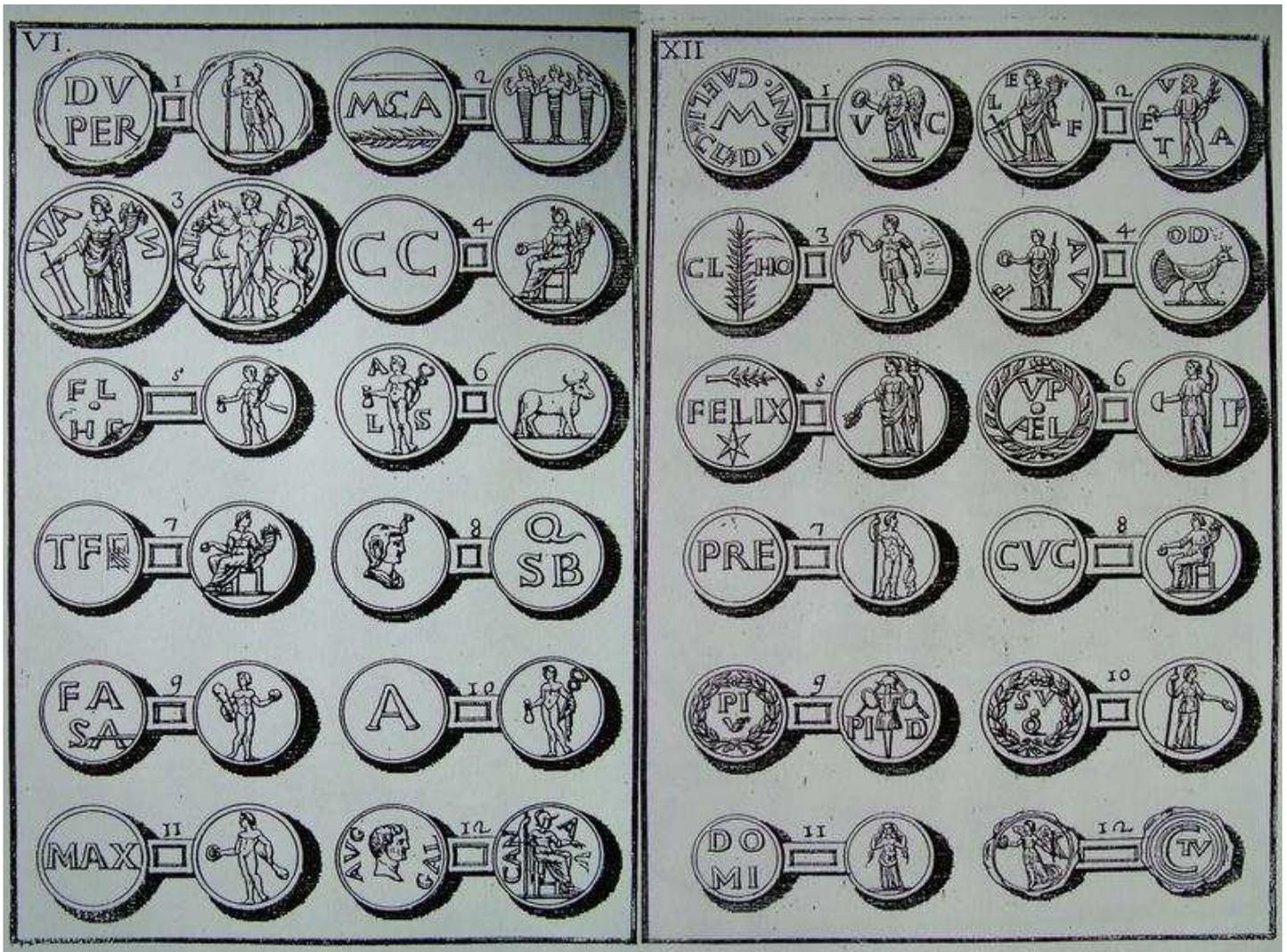


Editor: David Powell

A free newsletter to all who share our interest in these fascinating and often enigmatic pieces. Please send the editor at least one 300 dpi JPEG scan, or a sharply focused photo print, of any interesting leaden token or tally in your collection. Send images as email attachments to LTJEditor@aol.com. See page 4 for information on back issues, etc.

A Taste of Tesserae: Introducing you to Francisco Ficorini

We are now near the end of our trip through my classification system; only types 28 and 32 remain, both of which will appear in the next couple of months. Type 32, full people as opposed to heads, busts or other individual body parts, is quite scarce in the English series; however, on Roman tesserae, it is one of the most common types of all. I have previously announced that the next few editions will contain quite a bit on tesserae, as the leads of the ancient period are commonly known, and thus it seems fitting to prefix the next issue's type 32 article with two of Francisco Ficorini's many pages of excellent line drawings. All bar one have at least one side which is type 32.



Never heard of Mr. Ficorini? Not surprising, for "De Plumbeis Antiquorum Numismatibus" was published in Rome in 1750 in, wait for it, Latin. There are 35 pages of these Roman lead pictures, plus another 25 of mixed ancients, mainly Byzantine. If such pieces were used in the Roman heartland, perhaps they were also used when the Romans came over here.....

.....Just to whet your appetite, more next month!

CS Corner: Regional Varieties

Early Communion tokens have one advantage over much other crude lead in that we often know more about (i) where they came from and (ii) when they were minted. With this in mind, I illustrate several of the main families of Communion tokens whose features are strongly associated with certain parts of Scotland, in the hope that it may inspire some of you to watch out for similar patterns of commonality in our other crude lead series down south. There are other regional styles, which I may illustrate later.

Glaswegian

The central circle and/or the flower in the corner are the distinguishing features of this largest group, which appears frequently not only in Glasgow but most other counties to the south-west. The theme continues to evolve in the mid 19th century when white metal takes over from purer lead.



Aberdeenshire Square

Strong bold squares are the frequent style of Aberdeenshire and adjacent counties.



Leith Oval

Upright ovals and diamonds are, in Scotland, usually from Edinburgh, Leith or Perth.



Fife Small Rectangle

Usually very light-coloured.



This Month's Gallery

Thanks to Bill Swainston for reporting Fig.1 {diameter 25mm}, an interesting piece of indeterminate design found in N.Yorks, in a field which has previously yielded both Roman and medieval artefacts and coins. Not too far away, another reader has found Fig.2



{diameter 26mm} in a light, sandy river bank in York itself. Not an area which many people have previously written in from; do you have many leads up there? These two both have plenty of individual character. From elsewhere Fig.3, a rather exotic anchor with the widest claws that I have yet seen; pleasantly flanked by a couple of initials, not all that usual on an anchor piece. Fig.4, a type 14 with a difference: wedges instead of pellets. Simple, but a most pleasing variety.

Request for Information, please....

On the right you will see a couple of brass jetons, diameter 27mm, depicting someone who is either a schoolmaster or an accounts clerk working at a table; on the back in each case the alphabet, with a few letters missing {not always the same ones}, and sometimes a date below. Just wondering whether anyone has seen pieces resembling these in lead? I ask because I know of the existence of alphabetic horn-books such as the one shown to me by Ted Fletcher {below}, which seems to have a similar theme.

The date is often but not always 1553, which may be spurious; it is possible that that was the first date of issue, and was retained without update as part of the design {as has been done with some modern world coinage during the 20th century}. I am informed by reader Phil Mernick that he knew of someone now dead who had a theory that the actual date could be worked out from the number and position of the counters on the table, but unfortunately he did not write it down and bequeath it to posterity. If any one has any ideas on the subject, or would care to hazard a guess as to whether the pieces relate to business or education, or whether they are English or Continental, please mail in; photographs of any pieces, whether in lead, brass or copper, would be gratefully appreciated.



Now available on the LTT Website: Lead Token Bibliography.

Some while ago an index was added to the LTT website www.leadtokens.org.uk to facilitate the looking up of specific subjects in back numbers {note that I intend to update it shortly}; now, there is also a bibliography, bringing together the various sources mentioned in LTT, in order to guide your further reading. Any correction and additions, please mail in to the usual address: LTTeditor@aol.com

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AT THREE CRANES
If you have any lead tokens with part of their legend reading
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