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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 mail@leadtokens.org.uk Please note that the old david@powell8041.freeserve.co.uk address advertised on earlier versions of LTT will not be active after 31 May 2017.



It's That Time of Year Again

I think that the piece on the left is fairly self-explanatory. For those of you wondering, it is an early 20th cent aluminium calendar medal, made c.1904, but with a festive message on instead of the usual advertising. A pleasant gesture, for the piece not to have any overt commercial motive.



For completeness I have shown the reverse on the right. There is a moving dial, whereby you can move the month {on the dial} in line with the year {on the edge} and thereafter read the day of the week for any given day within that month. There is even an adjustment for leap years. In case you are thinking..... No, no-one is going to make one of those in lead any time soon.

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A Scottish Ambiguity

The piece shown here, depicting LK/1718 on one side and the sun in splendour on the other, is an interesting ambiguity. The sun makes frequent appearances on both main series 17th cent tokens and on lead of the 17th and 18th cents, and if this piece had been found south of the border the sun would have been a shop/pub sign and LK the initials of the proprietor. Shops as well as pubs used signs until c.1764, because most of the customers were illiterate, but in that year



an Act was passed restricting them to pubs alone. This was a health and safety move, instituted because too many people were getting injured by deteriorating shop signs falling off walls.

However, this piece has a Scottish findspot. Scotland had no such commercial use of lead, apart from in Edinburgh c.1770-1815 {as discussed in Dalton and Hamer, and more recently in LTT_108, 125-8 and overleaf}. Moreover, the piece is listed as no.4344 in Burzinski's work on church communion tokens, and was also known to Creswell {1985} and Brook {1907} when they wrote their earlier reference works on the same subject; so, it is not a new find. LK stands for Liberton Kirk, Liberton being on the southern boundary of Edinburgh and now, with modern expansion, arguably one of its suburbs.

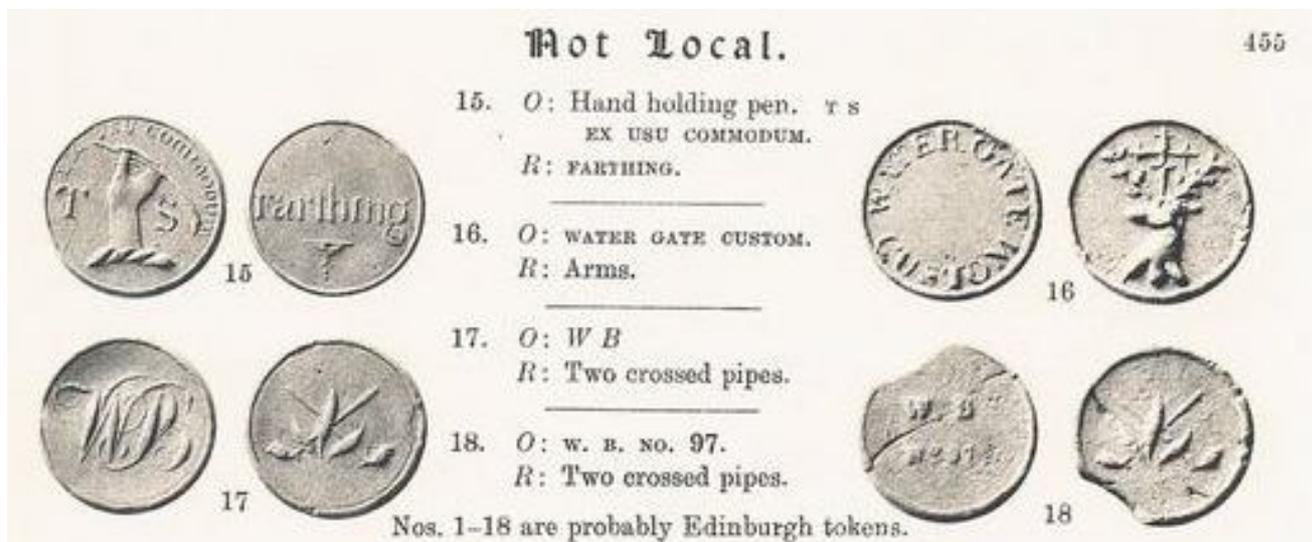
Communion tokens are only rarely pictorial, and even when they are the items shown on them usually have a strongly religious connotation. A sun in splendour is not a usual thing to find on them; so, I am asking myself whether, despite the accepted attribution, is there is any chance whatsoever of the piece being an early commercial issue. I guess the odds are against, but nobody quite knows when those earliest D+H Edinburgh lead issues started. Probably not as far back as 1718, but it is an interesting thought.

The Issuers of the Lead Tokens of Edinburgh, Part 5

Our exploration of Dalton & Hamer's Scottish lead token issues now moves to their "Unknown" section; or, as they choose to describe it, "Not Local", either because there is no geographical data on the item or, if there is, it cannot be ascribed unambiguously to any given town or city. One may notice, however, a certain similarity of in style in some cases with those pieces which have appeared in the earlier articles of LTT_125/6/7/8, and indeed it will be noticed that D+H conclude with the observation that most of them are probably Edinburgh. For my opinions & speculations, read on overleaf!

Not Local.

	1. <i>O</i> : and <i>R</i> : E BALDERS.		1
	2. <i>O</i> : H. COUDIN. <i>R</i> : ONE FARTHING.		
<p>This is a London token.</p> 	3. <i>O</i> : J. TRAQUIAR. <i>R</i> : Blank.		4
	4. <i>O</i> : J. WAUCH. <i>R</i> : ONE FARTHING.		6
	5. <i>O</i> : B & R <i>R</i> : Blank.		8
	6. <i>O</i> : C. R. GROCER. <i>R</i> : T		10
	7. <i>O</i> : DH <i>R</i> : OIL.		12
	8. <i>O</i> : H R B <i>R</i> : F		14
	9. <i>O</i> : H. R. B. WINES SPIRITS & GROCERIES. <i>R</i> : GENUINE TEAS DIRECT FROM THE INDIA HOUSE.		
	10. <i>O</i> : I N <i>R</i> : Crown and Hammer.		
	11. <i>O</i> : M D 1814. <i>R</i> : Blank.		
	12. <i>O</i> : M. M <i>R</i> : W H		
	13. <i>O</i> : R G F <i>R</i> : Blank.		
	14. <i>O</i> : T D F <i>R</i> : TEA & SPIRIT DEALER.		



Not Local 1.

Edward Balders, vintner in St. Andrews St, Leith, in 1810-11, and again at John's Coffeehouse, Parliament square, Edinburgh in 1811-12. He married in Edinburgh in 1810 and had two sons born in 1811-12; however, after that he seems to disappear.

Not Local 2.

Thanks to Michael Dickinson for pointing out that Hugh Couden, Baxter {baker} of Cowgatefoot, Edinburgh, is mentioned in certain of the Edinburgh directories of the 1770s. As discussed in the introduction to this series of article in LTT_125, there are two main groups of Edinburgh leads in Dalton & Hamer, and we have been discussing the later one {c.1805-15}; however, this piece clearly belongs to the earlier group.

Not Local 3.

John Traquair, tobacconist in Edinburgh; at Cross, 1799-1800 to 1811-12; at 230 High Street, 1812-13 to 1814-15; at 234 High St 1815-16 to 1822-23. He died c.1823 and it is probably that his widow took over the business.

Not Local 4.

One possibility is Wauch, John, victualler, 23 Buccleuch St in 1815-16 and at 17 Sciennes St in 1816-17 and 1817-18. He disappears thereafter. However, these dates are probably too late for a new lead issuer, so we have to look for another possibility. More probable is that the name is a misrendering of J. Waugh, meal dealer of Horse Wynd, Leith, active from 1805-06 to 1812-13, who disappears thereafter. Given the Scottish pronunciation of "ch", it is debatable whether Wauch and Waugh were interchangeable. I favour this second option.

Not Local 5.

B&R probably stands for {William} Bell and {James} Rannie, wine merchants of Leith, although by the time of the London Gazette article of 15 April 1809, shown on the right, both the founders had recently died and the company, which continued into the first decade of the 20th cent if not beyond, were now styling themselves "& Co." They were billed as "Bell and Rannie, wine merchants, Quality Street, Leith" in some of the earlier directories, e.g. 1784-85 and 1790-92. Another James Rannie, cooper of Leith, who died in 1749, was probably the father of James the merchant.

Notice is hereby given, that the Representatives of the late James Rannie, Wine-Merchant, in Leith, ceased to have any Share or Concern in the Business carried on under the successive Firms of Bell's Rannie, and Co. and Bell, Rannie, and Co. Wine-Merchants, in Leith, upon the 10th November 1804; and that the Representatives of the late William Bell, Wine-Merchant, in Leith, ceased to have any Share or Concern in the Companies carried on under the above Firms on the 16th May 1807.

Cornelius Elliot,
William Mure,
Jas. Elliot,

A Quorum of the Trustees and Executors of the above James Rannie, and for ourselves in our own Right.

Pat. Lindsey,
David Wemyss,
Wm. Lindsey,
Char. Stewart,

A Quorum of the Trustees and Executors of the above William Bell, and for ourselves in our own Right.

James Mansfield,
James Ogilvy,

Acting Partners of Bell, Rannie, and Co

Not Local 6.

Charles Robertson, grocer, was active at 136 High St, Edinburgh from 1810-13 and at 197 High St from 1813 onwards. He was still there in 1815-16, in which year another Charles Robertson, grocer, is recorded in North Richmond St. The latter address probably represents either the opening of a second branch or a son starting up in business independently. The "T" on the reverse is suspicious, more stylistically reminiscent of the 1770s; neither do I know what it stands for. However, the obverse feels correct enough for 1810-15.

Not Local 7.

From communion token experience, this style of script feels like 1812-13 or shortly after. Henderson, David, grocer & oilman, 37 Prince Street, Edinburgh, appears in the directories from 1813-14 to 1815-16; possibly the son of William Henderson, same description, of 106 South Bridge, who had been active since 1806-07 and continued to trade after David started up.

Not Local 8,9.

Henry Ringan(n), grocer, is the best possibility I have found to date, but the attribution does not feel convincing. He was at the corner shop, 1 Terrace, in 1799-1801; thereafter 2, Prince's St in 1804-05, and Head of Calton in 1805-06, before dying in Sept 1806 or thereabouts. However, the "B" probably suggests that we are looking for a baker specifically, and one who was active during both the earlier period {1770s} and the later {1805-15}, since pieces 8-9 are one of each style.

Not Local 10.

The trade symbol on the reverse is that of a hammerman, hence the occupation to look for is smith or similar. The most likely candidate in Edinburgh is Nicholson, James, toolcutter, head of St.Mary Wynd. He started business in 1810-11 and was still there in 1823-24. However, Michael Dickinson think it might be attributable to Cork, on account of its stylistic similarity to DH.Cork.414-7 {page 513}, which have the beaded edge and use of script in common. He cites Joseph Noblett, a smith and farrier operating in Kift's Lane, Grand Parade in 1787, as a possible candidate.

Not Local 11.

This is a Dutch beacon tax piece of the type discussed on the back page of LTT_100

Not Local 12-14.

Your turn! Suggestions awaited.

Not Local 15.

Thomas Scott, writing master, of St.Andrews Square, Edinburgh, or alternatively an unknown Mr.Smith; already discussed in detail in LTT_108, page 6.

Not Local 16.

The mention of Water Gate Custom suggests that this might be a tax piece. The excerpt on the right is from the Caledonian Mercury of 1 Jan 1856, in a lengthy article on Edinburgh's local government which covers much of pages 3 and 4, and there is more on the subject on the

termine:
XXXVIII. The duties and customs, denominated the Water-Gate Customs, heretofore levied by the Magistrates of Canongate at the Water Gate, at the foot of the Canongate, and also at the point where the London Road joins the Essteru Road to Leith, in virtue of the powers contained in an Act of the Parliament of Scotland, dated the twenty-first day of July, one thousand five hundred and ninety-three, intituled "An Act for Mending of the Calsay of the Cannowgait, and outwith the Water Yett," which Act was declared to be perpetual by an Act of the Privy Council of Scotland, dated in the year one thousand six hundred and three, and in the local Act of the fifty-fourth year of the reign of King George the Third, before recited, shall cease and determine from and after the term of *Whitsunday, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven*, when the current lease of the said duties and customs will expire.

Not Local 17,18.

Brown, William, tobacconist, 37 Tolbooth Wynd, Leith, 1813-14 to at least 1828-29; just given as Tolbooth Wynd before that, back to 1809-10. The would be "97" in the D+H entry is the numeric part of the address, the "37" being misread because of the poor condition of the specimen.

POSTSCRIPT:

Not very many of the lead tokens from Edinburgh, Leith and other parts of Midlothian have dates, but the most frequent dates amongst those which do are 1805 and 1806. The latest is 1813. Looking at the copper issues of similar style which succeeded them, the earliest issuer to go bust is around 1814, which is a rough indication of when the copper issues started. Many of the issuers' businesses survived for a good number of years afterwards, some into the 1830s and 1840s, as has been correctly pointed out by Paul & Bente Withers in their "Token Book 2". Some of the issuers even lived on, in retirement, until the 1850s and 1860s. So much for the 18th century, to which Dalton & Hamer makes reference in its title!

Some six to eight of the Edinburgh lead token issuers of 1805-15 went on to issue copper farthing tokens as well, mostly of very similar design.

I had at one time thoughts of continuing this sequence of articles with something on the earlier Edinburgh lead tokens mentioned by Dalton & Hamer, being the group {Lothian.1-144} mentioned as having been collected by one Dr.Thompson, a visiting academic, during his six-month stay in the city over the winter of 1781-82. However, the pieces are with a few exceptions initials-only, unlike the later ones, and a study of the adjacent directories suggests that there could be a fair amount of ambiguity. I have therefore for the moment decided against it. Many of Thompson's attributions to issuers were made by physically going in to the shops concerned at the time, in the same way that many of the long-standing communion token attributions of seemingly anonymous pieces were made by the fact that they were found in the immediate vicinity of a parish church with the appropriate initial, or in the hands of people with a connectable history to one.

I am aware of one or two cases where Thompson's rendering of a name may be in error, perhaps through mishearing, and I have a fair idea of who quite a number of the anonymous initials might be {some with a fair degree of probability, some less so}; however, rather than boring a readership who for the most part may not be interested in the fine detail of such things, I will merely invite those who are to write in.

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Crossed Swords

One of the slightly enigmatic depictions which comes up from time to time on lead is what appears to be crossed swords but could in some cases be dubiously taken for an open pair of scissors. Occasionally they even look like a simple cross badly executed, with the arms at angle nearer 60 degrees than 90 and maybe a blob on the end as well, so imperfectly formed that I cannot work out whether it is a handle or a defect.

We now have an answer, thanks to <http://www.cutlerslondon.co.uk/company/history/#coat-of-arm>; the crossed swords are part of the arms of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, to give them their full name; in other words, a trade body with whom the issuer of any such token can probably be associated. The Company is itself of late 15th cent origin, although the arms illustrated were only granted in the early 17th. One may wonder what the elephants have to do with cutlery, but the Cutlers' website helpful provides a suggestion which sounds reasonable:



1



"The elephant is presumed to allude to the ivory employed in the work of hafting swords, knives and other weapons, a costly material only fit for the best of implements. "



Just a few main series 17th cent tokens show the crossed shields, but in at least one case {George Bishop of Oxford, Oxon.120; see Fig.1, which is magnified 3:2} the engraver tries to squeeze in the elephant as well, so look out for the possibility of it on lead

also. Not that there is much room for elephants on small-flan tokens, especially when they have to play second fiddle to a couple of swords, but George Bishop's engraver has done a passable job. So, if you get a blob which can't be explained away as a sword handle, it may be an elephant instead.



Figs.2-5 show a few examples of the crossed swords device on lead; three small and early, one large and late, but none of them make any serious attempt to show the elephant. The blob on Fig.2 is the best attempt, but there can't have been many mould engravers in 16th/17th cent England who knew what an elephant looked like, or who had even heard of one. The pieces without the blob are probably 16th cent, before the above arms were introduced. Fig.5, which weighs a hefty 24.92gm, probably dates from near the end of the 18th cent when degeneracy had set in, hence again no room in anyone's thoughts for the elephant.

One longstanding problem solved. If anyone can now please discover a trade guild which has two conjoined hearts shot through with an arrow as part of its armorial depiction, I would be very grateful....

Harrows and Chequer Boards

Continuing on the subject of the reasons behind depictions, it cannot be argued against that one of the easiest designs for an unskilled mould engraver to draw is the grid, simply because it involves covering the entire surface area in straight lines; or, more specifically, two sets of them at right angles, forming an arrangement of approximate squares. The grid is, indeed, one of our commonest half-dozen stock designs: type 7, in our lead token classification system. However, put such an arrangement of lines and squares within bounds, so that they do not come to the edge, but have blank space around the outside, and all of a sudden they have a potential to become an object.

If the idea of using a chequered board to do ones accounting seems bizarre and archaic, just remember that the practice was once so prevalent that the word "Exchequer" has come to be associated with the highest levels of financial management in the land. Lillywhite says in his book on London signs that the chequer board was in use as a pub sign from the early 15th cent, and quotes some thirty-odd examples; which, no doubt, is why there a number of instances on main series 17th cent tokens {e.g. Fig.6; Jeremiah Masterson of Canterbury, Kent.66}. We can therefore expect establishments called "The Checkers" to be represented on lead pieces as well, although most examples will not bother to observe the niceties of a square side {Figs.7-10}.



If the chequers is an urban explanation of the grid, there is another, more agricultural one, as well. The harrow, an implement of longstanding for the breaking up and smoothing out of the surface of the soil, similarly became popular as a shop/pub sign; and interestingly, Lillywhite's book shows it to have, even in London, both a similar start date and frequency. Fig.11 is a Williamson series piece {John Bush of Charterhouse Lane, London.560} which both names and depicts the harrow, thereby pleasingly reinforcing our argument; however, on lead we have no such luxury. I challenge anybody to state with certainty whether Figs.7-10 represent a chequerboard, a harrow or a doodle!