

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 Please note that the old david@powell8041.freewerve.co.uk address advertised on earlier versions of LTT is no longer active.

Picture Gallery

Our series of pictorial type displays continue this month with type 16, armorial; a whole series of guild-related and personal coats of arms which, in a perfect world, should enable the heraldically-gifted to identify their origins. However, it is not a perfect world, for lead is not exactly the best medium in which to depict detailed heraldry, nor are many of us able to interpret it even if it were. You can't Google or index visual quantities like merchant marks or the contents of a shield. All of which means that, with the exception of Fig.1, which depicts the Neville arms and was found in the close vicinity of Warwick Castle, every other piece in the following selection has evaded identification. If anyone thinks otherwise, please let us know!



{Continued overleaf}

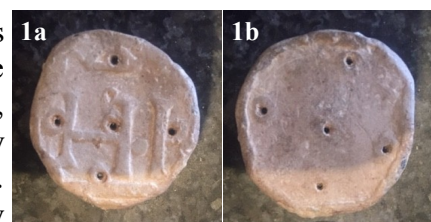


Even less obvious than the above are some of the pieces categorised as type 9, irregular geometrics. They were obviously intended to convey something, even if their designers failed to convey it to us. Where the resulting depictions are detailed, it is likely that some of them were meant to be armorial; herewith a selection, from which you are invited to guess whether yes or no. Some of them ambiguous, in that other classification types are contenders, and it may be that some are also not shown the same way up as the designer intended them.



Readers' Correspondence

Some 18th cent material this month, starting with James Venton's hop token from Biddenden. What do the five holes mean? Badge for sewing on garments, invalidation marks to indicate obsolescence, or just plain value 5? I favour the last, as you don't need that many holes for either of the other two purposes, but I could be wrong. James informs me that there was a local landowner called Hanley who owned a farmhouse near the findspot throughout the 1700s, so highly possible that he could be the issuer.



In Mark Fitzpatrick's Fig.2 the initials C-O, probably those of the issuer, flank some uncertain central device but which I conjecture are possibly either shears or scissors, almost certainly a tool of the issuer's trade. A tailor is the most likely commercial occupation indicated, and examples of this appear in the main 17th cent copper/brass {Williamson} series, but has anyone ever considered whether sheep farmers might have used tokens to pay contractors to do their annual shearing?

The last four total eclipses visible on the British mainland were in 1715, 1724, 1927 and 1999. The date of Thomas Donellan's Fig.3 looks very near the first two of those, and it may be that the designer drew his inspiration from the once-in-a-lifetime experience of seeing things like the seven stars of the Pleiades, also k/a the Seven Sisters, in daytime. Whether the issuer was just commemorating the event, or also chose the depiction for his shop/pub sign, we will never know; I will conjecture the latter, dating from on or after one of the 18th cent dates just mentioned. There are some other examples on page 2 of LTT_17.

Jase Allen's Fig.4 is nicely ambiguous, these are always fun. Four possibilities: (i) it is a fairly boring type 4 C-inverted-C with the usual centre upright omitted; (ii) it is a purely geometric design, with two arcs trying to meet back to back but not quite making it; (iii) somebody is trying to draw a fancy H; (iv) if there is something rather than nothing top centre, then it is meant to be a head and it is a man standing feet wide apart waving his hands. In practice I suspect that the would-be head is probably just the result of some minor indentation in the mould, and that no head is intended, but it would be nice to think it was!

Some well-executed animal depictions in Figs.5-7, thanks to Andre Rogulski, Kevin Colclough and Steven Wilding respectively. Dogs are more often shown with their heads held high; so, as Fig.5 seems to be nosing the ground, trying to detect a scent, I imagine that it may be connected with hunting. It was found in north Nottinghamshire on rural farmland, less than a mile from a place called Beauvale Priory, and in an area where deer can still be regularly seen.

Designs like Figs.6-7 seem to be popular in the last quarter of the 18th cent, and the first of them is strongly reminiscent of the main series Devizes piece of 1796 {Dalton & Hamer, Wilts.2, shown here on the right as Fig.8}. As to Fig.7, we have already seen a series of rather sedate trotting horses on lead in LTT_132, albeit usually ridden by cavalry officers, and at least one of these has a stated date, 1777. Steven's horse is a tad more frisky than those, and has no rider, but is otherwise along fairly similar lines.



Another Newly-Discovered Lead Token Website

I have already recommended readers to Tony Williams' "All Things Lead" website in these pages, and I do so again; in recent times, especially, its members have contributed much interesting material to them. It covers all lead, not just tokens; the material is predominantly British, but not exclusively so. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/737531112986629/>, if you are not already a member.

The fine collection of lead below contains not only some very familiar British material {communion tokens, boy bishops and several standard stock types are all in evidence}, but also a significant amount from mainland Europe. It comes not from "All Things Lead", but from Paul Callewaert's very similar "Loden Penningen-Méreaux" site, which I have just had the pleasure of discovering. Belgian based, it operates very similar to Tony's, except that it is concerned with tokens more specifically and does not venture into artefacts; the components of its title, when translated, are simply "Lead Tokens" converted into the two languages of its home country, i.e. Flemish {Dutch} and French.

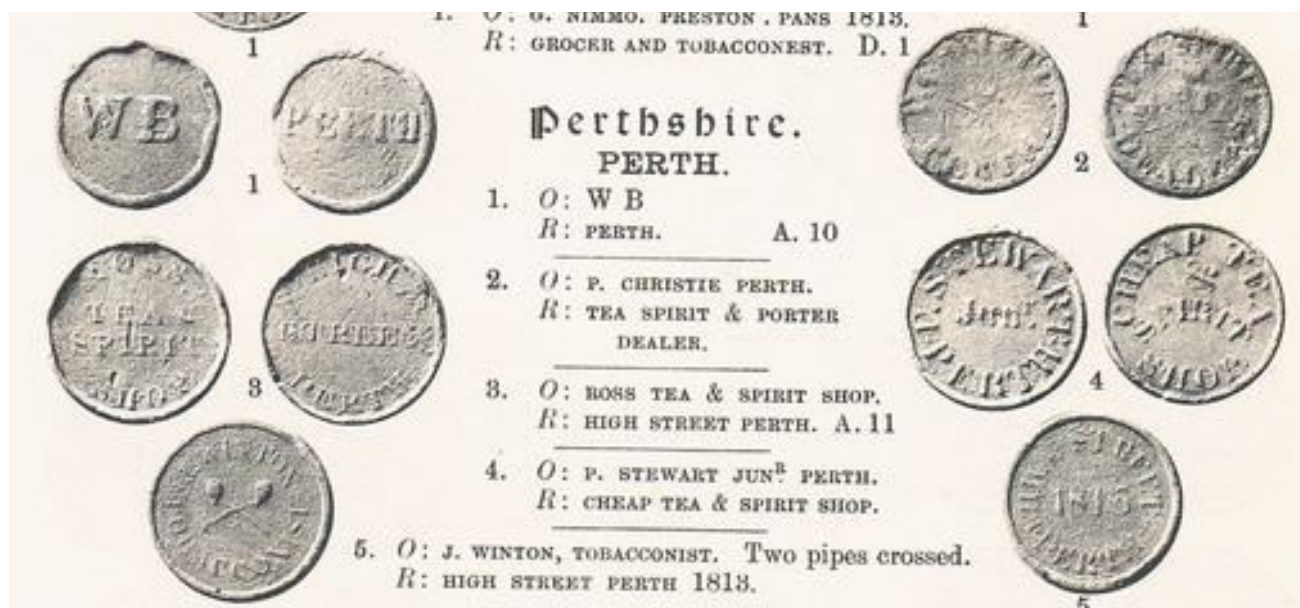


Paul's site may be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1670169076612312/>, and I suggest that if you have any material which you cannot place as British and suspect may be from mainland Europe, you give it a good browse; as indeed, if you just wish to extend your knowledge as to the variety of material and usages if your interests venture further afield.

The working language of the site is Dutch, which should come as no surprise, but be not put off; Google Translate is vastly improved these days, especially in respect of the major European languages, and once you have overcome your inhibitions enough to negotiate the language barrier, there are another large group of enthusiastic folk, as keen as you are both to extend and impart their knowledge. Maybe, coming from our various different backgrounds, we can help each other out!

The Issuers of Scottish Lead Tokens: Perth

We move now to the towns outside Midlothian, i.e. the Edinburgh area, to places where only a few token types are known. This month we will cover Perth, and next time a number of towns where there are only one or two issuers apiece. Again, the introductory notes from LTT_147 apply.



DH.Perth.1

There are no directories for Perth during the relevant period, so narrowing down all the owners of a pair of initials looks a fairly thankless task. However, Scotland's People Wills and Testaments shows only two people of relevant date who describe themselves as merchants:

Blair	William	18/1/1832	merchant and manufacturer in Perth	Perth Sheriff Court	SC49/31/13
Brown	William	14/12/1857	merchant in Perth, thereafter residing at 113 High Street in Perth	Perth Sheriff Court	SC49/31/64

**FOR KINGSTON, JAMAICA,
AT DUNDEE,**

THE Fine Coppered NEW BRIG,
MARGARET, of PERTH,
Burthen 300 Tons,
ROBERT BARCLAY, Master,
Now lying at Dundee, and expected to be in readiness
for receiving Goods about the 16th November, and to
leave Dundee about the 2d of December.
A considerable part of her Cargo being already engaged,
and being under Charter to sail whether loaded or
not, intending Shippers will please to have their Goods
forward in time.
The Margaret has good accommodation for Passengers.
For Freight or Passage, apply to the Captain on
Board; Messrs BELL and BALFOUR, Dundee; Messrs
JAMES EWING, and Co. or DAVID LILLIE, Glasgow;
or here to
WILLIAM BLAIR, & Co.
Perth, Nov. 6, 1815.

William Blair, who had his own company and styled himself "Esq." never seems to reveal what he actually traded in. The hint from the 1815 extract below {Fig.1} is that perhaps he moved in more exalted circles than those of a mere retail shopkeeper. The advert of 1831 {Fig.2}, posted by his son of the same name, shows the address from which the Blair business operated.

**FOR SALE
BY PRIVATE BARGAIN,**

THAT Large and Commodious Self-contained DWEL-
LING HOUSE. No. 5, CHARLOTTE STREET, lately
occupied by the deceased William Blair, Esq.
ALSO,
That SHOP, No. 65, GEORGE STREET, with the large
WAREHOUSE underneath the same, and COAL CELLAR.
Apply to William Blair.
Perth, 8th October, 1831.

William Brown was a grocer; the 1841 and 1851 censuses disagree as to his age, but he was born in the 1780s. In both years he was at the above 113 High Street address. This is a description of his premises in an electoral register of 1842:

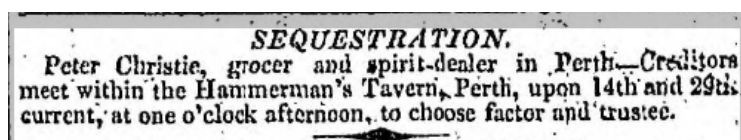
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY. House, Warehouse, Shop, &c.	STREET, LANE, Or other Place of Residence.	PARISH.	INITIALS of OFFICER.
Shop & other premises N. side Cellar, East side	High Street Old Guard Vennel	Perth	Mr. M.

On balance I favour William Brown as being the nearer of the two to the typical token issuer, but there may of course be other WBs out there.

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DH.Perth.2

The Scotsman of 8 May 1824 reports that Peter Christie, grocer & spirit dealer in Perth, had gone bust:



There was a Peter Christie in the first Perth directory in 1837/38, living in the High Street with profession not stated, but he had gone by 1841. The Perthshire Advertiser of 10 September 1846 reports that another grocer & spirit dealer called Peter Christie also went bust, this time at Pitlandie, in Foulis Wester parish, still in Perthshire but some way to the west. He was younger, b.c.1815-16, and may have been the son of the Peter above.

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DH.Perth.3

The issuer is John Ross, b.c.1769, d.11.1.1845. He, and P.Stewart following {DH.Perth.4}, both appear in an advert from the Perthshire Courier of 11 April 1811 {Fig.3}., shown below. Some quarter of a century later, the first directory for Perth 1837/38 {Fig.4}, contains the following:

REAL JAPAN BLACKING,
made by DAY and MARTIN, LONDON.

THIS invaluable Composition, with half the usual labour, produces the most brilliant jet-black ever beheld, affords peculiar nourishment to the leather, will not soil the finest linen, is perfectly free from any unpleasant smell, and will retain its virtues in any climate—Sold, wholesale, by Day and Martin, No. 97, High-Holborn, London; and, retail, by their agents, Mr Langland, shoemaker, and Mr Hill, grocer, Dundee; Mathews & Co., J. Ross, Grocer, D. Peat, Bookseller, and P. Stewart, Grocer, Perth; C. Blair, Dunkeld; Gray, Mathews, and Fraser, Aberdeen; Tall, Tolmie, and Lyon, Inverness; Mackilligin and Robertson, Banff; Forsyth, Elgin; and Mucrater, Forres;—in Stone Bottles, price 1s. 6d. each.

Ross, Captain James, of Ross Castle
Ross, John, coachman, 10, South street
Ross, John, coal-merchant, County place
Ross, John, candle-maker, 121, High street—house, Kinnoull street, west side
Ross, John & Son, grocers and wine-merchants, 19, High street
Ross, John (of John Ross & Son), St. Leonard bank

In 1841 the candle maker was aged 45{-49} and living in King St. His Will/Testament entry is dated 23.10.1863. In 1851 he was at Albert Place, aged 60, and employing 9 men. It is uncertain whether he is related to the grocer or not. The token issuer is the one at 19, High St, although by that time he would be near handing over to the next generation. In the 1841 census he was at St.Leonard's Bank, probably his retirement address, where he died:

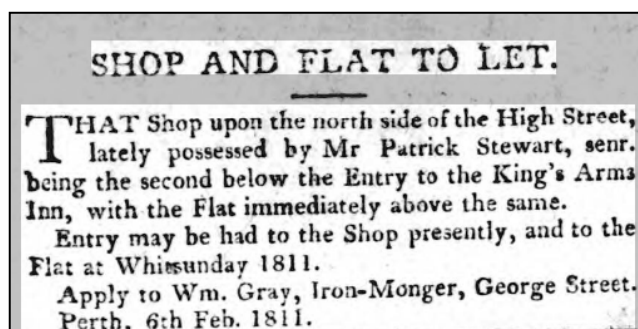
Ross	John	8/3/1845	jr., grocer in Perth, thereafter residing at Saint Leonard's Bank Perth	Additional Inventory	Perth Sheriff Court	SC49/31/39
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DH.Perth.4

There is an SPMT entry for Patrick Stewart, bailie and merchant in Perth, dated 25.4.1826. Putting "Patrick Stewart"+Merchant+Perth into Google reveals a number of entries which together show that there were at least two Patrick Stewarts, father and son, and that the father was referred to in one of the earliest entries {1767} as "Patrick Stewart of Cluny, merchant in Perth". The second Patrick was active by 1774.

There are a number of references to Patrick Stewart jnr. in the Perthshire Courier, describing him as merchant but not always referring to trade. In 1813/14 he is one of four local dignitaries to whom applicants for a local boarding school were invited to apply. On 17 December 1818 he advertised that he had found a hunting hawk which he wished to return to its owner, and in 1819 he was the reference point for contractors wishing to tender for the building of an inn and smithy. Presumably he was a local councillor, or equivalent. However, even in 1819 he was still referred to as "junior".

Patrick senior was evidently still alive in 1811, or until a short while before, as witness this advert in the Perthshire Courier of 7 February 1811. The advert of Fig.5 suggests that maybe he had just retired:



There are also several references in the Perthshire Courier in the 1810s to public sales {notably of timber} being held at the house of Peter Stewart, vintner in Comrie; however, whilst Comrie is in Perthshire it is a considerable way from the county town and one must have some doubts as to whether Peter would want to commute to it regularly at that date. I am inclined to favour one of the Patricks as being the issuer of the token, and the 1811 advert above as to the likely location of his premises.

Various Ancestry records quote the dates of the two Patricks as follows . All events in Perth:

Patrick senr	b.20.1.1735 {bapt 21}	marr.30.10.1769	d.11.2.1820 {bur 19}
Patrick jnr.	b.26.5.1774 {bapt 3 Jun}		d.27.3.1846

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DH.Perth.5

There is no sign of any Winton in either the 1837/38 Perth directory or the 1841 census, neither is there anything in SPWT. The following from the Perthshire Courier of 16 February 1815 allows us to know our issuer's forename:

"Married Leith, the 9th February, James Winton, tobacconist, here, to Helen, eldest daughter of the late Mr James Thomson, builder, Leith."

James was born in the parish of St.Cuthberts, Edinburgh in 1792, as was his son in 1822. He died in 1847, also in Edinburgh. It would appear, therefore, that his stay in Perth was probably of not more than a few years' duration.

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Postscript

Since the above article was written, another Perthshire piece, not in Dalton and Hamer, has come to light; that of one Stephen Jennat, fruiterer and tea dealer, issued c.1817. This is indeed a timely find, and I have pleasure in telling the story of its owner, as much as is known, overleaf.

THE GRAND HISTORICAL TRAGEDY
OF
KING RICHARD III.
ON FRIDAY Evening May 16, 1817, will be produced Shakspeare's sublime Tragedy of
KING RICHARD III.
OR
THE BATTLE OF BOSWORTH FIELD.
Between the Play and Farce a *Pos Sent* by Miss Atkins.
Song—"Love among the Roses" by Mrs Ryder.
The whole to conclude with the Farce of
THE SLEEP WALKER.
Samno (the Sleep Walker), Mr BEST, from the Theatres Royal Manchester, and Liverpool, his first appearance here.
The following new pieces are in preparation:—
The Melo-Drama of the BROKEN SWORD,
OR
THE VALLEY OF THE PYRNEES.
The highly Popular Opera of
GUY MANNERING.
The New Comedy of
SMILES AND FEARS,
And the Tragedy of
BERTRAM or the CASTLE of St. ALDOBRAND.
N.B. There will be a performance to-morrow Saturday, 17th May.
Tickets, to be had of Messrs D. MORISON, Junr. & Co Booksellers, and Mr JENNAT, Fruiterer, St John's Street, where places for the Boxes may be taken.

A BALL,
FOR the Benefit of the Funds of the DESTITUTE SICK SOCIETY, is to be held in the Seminars, on Thursday the 29th of April current.
Dr STEWART of Bonskied, Director.
JAMES M. PATTON,
WILL. JOHN SANDEMAN,
WILLIAM MALCOM, and } Assistant-Directors.
ARCHD. TURNBULL,
Gentlemen's Tickets 5s—Ladies' Tickets 4s.; to be had of the Managers, and of Messrs Morison, Hill, and Peat, booksellers; Mr Jennat, fruiterer; and at the Post Office.
Dancing to begin at 8 o'clock.

Of course, life wasn't all a bed of roses; Jennat had his problems like anyone else, as recorded by the Perthshire Courier on 10 June 1819:

Early on the morning of Saturday last, the shop of Mr Jennat, fruiterer, St John Street, was forcibly entered, and robbed of a considerable quantity of goods, of various descriptions, and some cash. It appears that the thieves had effected their purpose by climbing over a high wall from the Watergate, and then breaking open the back window of the shop. After getting possession of the contents of the till, which they forced open, and loading themselves with grocery and confectionary articles, they had opened the street door, and made their escape unobserved.

Nine of the fifteen summers between 1814 and 1828 were notoriously cold and wet, exacerbating the residual post-war social and economic problems, and those of 1816 and 1821 were so bad that the harvest has never been as late since; however there were a few bright years amongst them. The Perthshire Courier of 18 May 1820 reports, on page 4:

"As proof of the early vegetation and genial mildness of the season, ripe cherries were sold, last week, at the shop of Mr Jennat, fruiterer."

However, that was the week before publication, i.e. the second week of May. Only a few days later, and in time to be included on page 1 of the same issue, the following advert appears:

JAMES TAYLOR,
SADDLER,
BEGS leave to intimate to his Friends and Employers, that he has REMOVED to the Shop lately occupied by Mr JENNAT, Fruiterer, and immediately opposite to the one formerly occupied by him.
St John's Street, Perth,
17th May, 1820

It looks as if Jennat may have made a sudden exit, but where and for what reason is unknown. He does not seem to have gone bust, but he just disappears from view.

Shedding Some Light on the Matter

On the right, an example of the type of fairly modern check used in both mines and factories as receipts for essential tools of the trade; in this case, a lamp. It has a serial number on the back. We think of such pieces as early 20th cent, maybe late 19th, but how long has the need for them been around? Mining has been conducted for centuries; at what stage did an employee stop bringing his own tools and start using communal ones? Possibly at the time of the Industrial Revolution, when those who made things started to gather together in factories rather than on individual premises? You can be sure that early examples would have been even more basic. So, next type you see lead tokens with an indecipherable picture on the back, ponder whether it might be the tool of someone's trade!

