

GLOUCESTERSHIRE APOTHECARIES' TOKENS AND THEIR ISSUERS

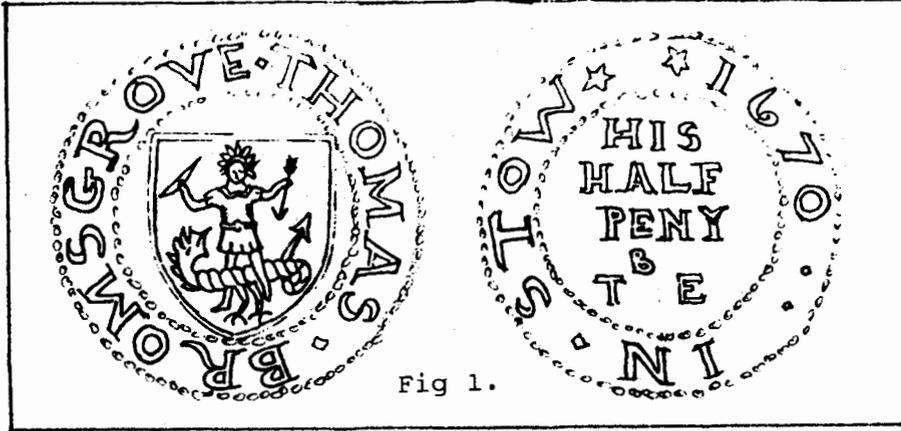


Fig 1.

by T. DOUGLAS WHITTET, C.B.E.

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 in 1858 (1), revised by George C Williamson in two volumes 1888-97 (2) and reprinted in three volumes by B A Seaby Ltd. in 1967. (3) This work is now popularly called 'Williamson' and will be referred to as such in this paper.

Williamson included five Gloucestershire tokens bearing the Apothecaries' arms, with no information about their issuers.

1. Thomas Bromsgrove of Stow-on-the-Wold.

C: THOMAS . BROMSGROVE - The Apothecaries' arms.

R: IN . STOW . 1670 - HIS HALF PENY. T . E . B. ($\frac{1}{2}$ d). Fig 1.

Williamson wrote of tokens marked Stow: "These are placed to Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, as it is the largest town bearing that name." Wilton wrote: "Thomas Bromsgrove (Broasgrove is an error in BW 1670). The name occurs in the transcript of the Stow-on-the-Wold register in the City Library, Gloucester, in connection with baptisms of William and Thomas in 1669 and 1672. Bryce Collection of tokens." (4)

In the Victoria History of Gloucestershire is the following:
"The Unicorn inn, an 18th. century building evidently deriving from the Apothecaries' Arms, an important inn in 1670, sited at the junction of the main roads, had by the 19th. century become the leading inn of the town". (5)

Gloucestershire Notes & Queries stated: "In 1670 one of the most important inns in the town was the Apothecary's Arms run by Thomas Bromsgrove". (6)

In the Gloucestershire Record Office are documents consisting of evidence of title to the property in Stow 1613-88. In a deed of January 22 1671 Thomas Bromsgrove is referred to as an apothecary of Stow-on-the-Wold; (7) this is a deed of settlement following his marriage to Elizabeth Dix. Her Christian name corresponds with the additional initial on the token. A deed of 1687 refers to Thomas Bromsgrove, innholder. It thus appears that he was both an apothecary and an innkeeper, like Henry Rugely of Potton (8) and John Fage of Cambridge. (9)

There is still an inn called the Unicorn in Stow, which may well be the successor of the Apothecaries' Arms as it appears to be on the same site. The token-issuer was probably the person who owned a mortar inscribed with the name Thomas Bramsgrove (sic) and the date 1664.

On July 27 1732 a bond was given by Mary Bromsgrove, widow of Thomas Bromsgrove of Stow, Co. Gloucs., innholder, for the administration of his estate. (10) It seems likely that he was the son of the token-issuer, probably the person baptised in 1672 and also an apothecary and innkeeper.

The list of allegations for marriage licences of Gloucestershire includes the grant of a licence dated October 6 1661 to Philip Bromsgrove of Norlach (presumably Northleach), apothecary, age 45, to marry Joane Morse. (11) He was presumably a relative of the token-issuer, possibly his brother.

2. Lazarus Kempp of Wotton-under-Edge.

O: LAZARUS. KEMPP . IN - The Apothecaries' arms.

R: WOOTTEN . VNDER . HED - L . M . K. (½d.) Fig 2.

It is possible that the issuer was the Lazarus Kempe, son of William of Hawkshead, Co. Lancs., who was bound to Edmund Wilson of the London Society for nine years from January 21 1646/47. (12) There is no record of his freedom and he may have gone to Gloucestershire to practise.

On "the second day of July in the xviith. yeare of the Raigne of o(u)r soveraigne Lord Kinge Charles y^e second, Anno Dom. 1664" the will of "Lazarus Kempe of Wotton under Edg in the Com. and diocese of Gloucs." was made, he being "weake in body but of a right pfect memory, praise be God, considering the frailty of life and the certainty of death". (13) His occupation was not stated, but his wife's name was Mary which corresponds with the additional initial on the token, and he owned a shop. It is of interest that the statement of the date ignores the Commonwealth Interregnum, indicating Kempe's Royalist sympathies. This is frequently found among apothecaries' wills.

He left to his son William

"all that Close of Arrable land, pastures, Ground (of about four acres) wth. the appurtenances called Hayes lying in Almondsbury",

which had been purchased by his father William a clergyman. His wife was to live there until William was 21 and was to use the revenues for his maintenance and education. William was also left "all my bookes (except the books of accompts belonging to my shopp)" and "the little silver Goblett ... w^{ch} was given him by my father".

Another son, Lazarus, was to have the revenues for seven years after William became 21. The testator left to his wife and children - William, Lazarus, Mary, Martha and Elizabeth":

"All moneys, Plate, Household, Goods, Cattles, Chattles" to be equally divided between them. Mary was left a "silver Bowl unguilt", Martha "a greate Goblett guilt", and Elizabeth "a silver salte".

The rest of his "Goods, Chattelles, debts, rights and creditts, ready money & household goods" were left to his wife Mary, who was sole executrix. She proved the will in 1665. The name of the testator's father is the same as that of the apprentice bound to Edmund Wilson.

3. Nicholas Lane of Gloucester.

O: NICHOLAS . LANE . APOTH - The Apothecaries arms.

R: IN . GLOCESTER . 1656 - N . L. (½d.) Fig 3.

The arms on this token are without a shield. (see Fig 3). The Lanes were members of a prominent armigerous family which has an entry in the Visitation of Gloucester of 1623. (14) They were descended from Thomas Lane, Recorder of Gloucester, who died in 1544. Their arms are:

"Per pale azure and gules three saltires or, a mullet argent for difference."

There are also many references to the family in the registers of St. Michael's, Gloucester. (15)

Nicholas Lane, son of Walter, gentleman, deceased, became a Freeman of the City of Gloucester on August 1 1656. His son and grandson were both called Nicholas and became apothecaries.

Walter and Hester (Esther) Webb were married on February 10 1633 and their son Nicholas 1 the token-issuer, was baptised on November 9 1634. Walter was Sheriff in 1645 and was described as a gentleman when his sons Nicholas and John became free, but as a Baker on Thomas' freedom. He died between 1646 and 1656.

I have been unable to trace the marriage of Nicholas 1, but there are records of the births of six children of Nicholas and Mary Lane: Mary (March 29 1662); Ann (September 7 1663); Nathaniel (August 7 1668); Abraham and Sarah (May 23 1670); Nicholas 2 (August 1 1672).

On June 13 1671 Nicolas Lane of Gloucester was granted a Lambeth episcopal licence to practise medicine and in April 1677 a Gloucester one to practise surgery. (16)

Mary Lane died in 1684 and was buried in St. Michael's, and on March 5, 1684/5, her husband married Mary Harwood, his age being given as 50.



ST. MICHAEL'S.

In 1678 Nicholas Lane was a customer of Eastwick & Conyngsby, wholesale druggists and apothecaries of London. (17) On June 8 1694 Nicholas Lane 2 married Hester Rodway by licence and on April 15 1696 their son, Nicholas 3, was born. He was presumably the Nicholas Lane Nr., apothecary of Gloucester, to whom John Paul was bound on September 24 1723.

On March 21 1730/1 Hester Lane, widow of Nicholas 3, gave a bond that she would "well and faithfully number all and singular the goods rights and Credits" of her "late Husband Mr. Nicolas Lane late of the City of Glouc. Apothecary dyed Intestate ... and make and exhibit into the Registry of the Lord Bp. of Glouc. a true and perfect Inventory of the goods rights and credits of the said decd and render a just account of your administration". (18)

The following references to the family occur in the Town Council records: (see footnote 14)

1656. Aug. 1. Nicholas Lane, the sonne of Walter Lane, late of the said city (Gloucester), gentleman, deceased, is entered this year by privilege of Mr. Edward Nourse, Steward, etc.

1660. April 3. John Lane, son of Walter Lane, as above.

1668. Nich'i Lane, Seneschall.

1668. Sept. 4. Nicholas Lane elected a member of the Council.

1675. Michaelmas. Nicholas Lane elected one of the two Sheriffs.
(The above refer to Nicholas 1.)

1694. May 11. Nicholas Lane 2, son of Nicholas 1 "de civit. Glouc.,
Pharmacoplae Intrat."

1700. Sept. 26. Nicholas Lane, Junior [2] elected a member of
the Council.

1702. April 28. Nicholas Lane 2 elected Alderman in the room
of Alderman Longden, deceased.

1718. Dec. 8. Nich'us Lane 3, "ffil. Nich Lane [2] de civit.,
Glouc., Pharmacoplae Intrat hoc anno ..." (Burgess Book)

Wilton wrote, (see footnote 4) that there is a memorial to Nicholas
Lane's wife Mary and daughter Esther in St. Michael's church, pre-
sumably the first wife of Nicholas 1.

On September 24 1723 John Paul was bound to Nicholas Lane Jr. [3]. The
Lanes may have been related to Lawrence, son of William Lane of Norton,
Gloucs., gent., who was bound to William Rawlins of the London Society
on August 2 1664. (see footnote 12). They may have been ancestors of
John Lane, M.D., of Bristol who subscribed to many books between 1718
and 1757 and of Daniel Lane, chemist of Bristol, to whom Eden T Jones
was bound in 1795. (see footnote 16)

4. Nicholas Staight of Tewkesbury.

O: NICH . STAIGHT . TEWXBVRY - N . M . S.

R: OPIFERQVE . PER . ORBEM . DICOR - The Apothecaries' arms. (½d.)

This is one of only two known tokens bearing the motto of the Society
of Apothecaries. Despite this, Staight does not appear to have been a
member of that Society. Wootton, in discussing the use of Apollo in
the Society's arms, quoted from Ovid's "Metamorphosis" a claim of the
god as

"Inventum medicina meum est. Opiferque per orbem
dicor, et herbam subjecta potentia nobis." (19)

Dryden versified these lines thus:

Medicine is mine, what herbs and simples grow
In fields and forests, all their powers I know,
And I am the great physician called below.

The modern version is "I am said to bring help throughout the world."

4a Staight issued another token.

O: NICOLAS . STAIGHT - The Apothecaries' arms.

R: IN TEWCKESBERY - N . M . S. (½d.) Fig 4.

Williamson commented about the tokens of the town "The many peculiar
ways of spelling the name of the town are worthy of notice." In the
Chemist & Druggist list of apothecaries' tokens the issuer's name is
wrongly called 'Straight'. (20)

On October 29 1677 "William Steight, aged 25, apothecary of Tewxbury"
was granted a licence to marry Sarah Spicer. (21) He was probably the
son of Nicholas.

AN ADDITIONAL APOTHECARY'S TOKEN.

The following token appears to have been issued by an apothecary:

5. Perceval Wright & Daniel Kemble of Tewkesbury.

O: PERCEVAL . WRIGHT - HIS HALFE PENY

R: DANIEL . KEMBLE . TEWKSBURY - P . W . D . K. (½d.) Fig 5.

On October 6 1664 Perceval Wright, apothecary of Tewksbury, apothecary aged 30, was granted a licence to marry Sarah Clark. (22) It seems strange that the token bears two names, but the words "His Halfe peny". It is possible that Perceval Wright also issued a token by himself. Presumably Daniel Kemble was also an apothecary, although another person of that name issued a token with the Drapers' arms.

TOKENS BEARING DEVICES OFTEN USED BY APOTHECARIES

Cock: Richard Cokes of Gloucester, occupation unknown, issued in 1652 a token bearing this device which may have been a pun on his name. He may have been an ancestor of Richard Cocks, surgeon-apothecary who subscribed to medical books in 1757 and 1763.

Cross: Williamson included a token of William Hopton of Stroud, bearing three crosses crosslet fitchée. He wrote - "A variety has on the obverse three cloves." These are from the Grocers', and could easily be mistaken for a cross of that type.

A POSSIBLE APOTHECARY'S TOKEN

William Yeate of Campden, who issued one token with the Mercers' arms and another with that of the Grocers, may have been the father of William Yate, freed of Bristol in 1678. The latter had an apprentice, Richard Yate, freed in 1689. There were numerous apothecaries called Yate, Yates and Yeate in Gloucestershire.

GLOUCESTER DESCENDANTS OF AN OXFORDSHIRE APOTHECARY TOKEN-ISSUER

Some of the descendants of Samuel Farmer of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, who issued an undated token with the Apothecaries' arms and the initials S.E.F., settled in Gloucester. (23)

His eldest son Samuel 2 became an apothecary in Gloucester and died there on February 9 1711/12, (24) leaving a widow Anne and children Elisha, John and Anne, born in 1698, 1700 and 1703. (25)

On July 16 1761 Samuel Farmer, apothecary, married Anne Pouncefoot at St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester. (26) In his will of 1774 he left a bequest to his nephew Samuel Farmer. (27) It appears that the latter was also an apothecary, as persons of that name, Sr. and Jr., apothecaries of Gloucester, subscribed to Simon Mason's "Practical Observations in Physic" in 1757. (28) They were probably descendants of Samuel 2 as they attended the same church.

Samuel 3 may have been a son of Samuel 2, in which case there were 3 generations of the descendants of the Oxfordshire token-issuer in Gloucester. The token of Samuel Farmer resembled that of Nicholas Lane in the arms not being on a shield.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I wish to thank Mr. D J H Smith, Gloucestershire County & Diocesan Archivist, for information on the Lane family; and my wife Doreen M Whittet for drawing the figures.

- 1 W Boyne, "Trade Tokens issued in the seventeenth century" (London, Smith 1858).
- 2 "Trade tokens issued in the seventeenth century" revised by G C Williamson, two vols. (London, Elliot Stock, 1887-1891)
- 3 Idem., revised by G C Williamson reprinted in three vols. (London, B A Seaby Ltd., 1967) Gloucestershire chapter pp 237-254.
- 4 J P Wilton, in Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 1964, vol 83, p 19.
- 5 Victoria History of the Counties of England: Gloucestershire, ed by C R Elrington 1965. Vol vi, p 149.
- 6 Gloucestershire Notes & Queries 1884, ii, p 389. (London, W Kent & Co).
- 7 GRO Ms D 4084 Box 15.
- 8 T D Whittet, Pharmaceutical Journal 1983, 231, 42.
- 9 T D Whittet & M Newbold, Transactions of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy, 1977, 1, 200.
- 10 GRO Admon. Thos. Bromsgrove 1732/182.
- 11 "Gloucestershire Marriage Allegations" ed by B Frith in Trans. B & G A S. 1964. 21
- 12 Court Minute Books Society of Apothecaries. (Guildhall Library) Ms 8200/1; f.457 and f.91.
- 13 GRO Wills: Lazarus Kempe 1665/89.
- 14 "Visitation of Gloucestershire, 1623" ed by J Maclean & W C Hearne. (London, Harleian Society 1885) 21, 100-2.
- 15 T D Fosbrooke "An original history of the City of Gloucester". (Gloucester, J Nichols & Son 1819) (reprinted by A Sutton 1976) pp 175-180, 209.
- 16 P J & R V Wallis, with the assistance of T D Whittet, "Eighteenth century medics" (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Project for Historical Bibliography 1985) 658.
- 17 PRO Chancery Master's exhibits, Mss C.104/130 and 131.
- 18 GRO Admon. Nicholas Lane, Wills 1730/69.
- 19 A C Wootton "Chronicles of Pharmacy" (London, Macmillan & Co. 1910) 9-10.
- 20 Chemist and Druggist 1905, 66, 166.
- 21 Frith op cit 150.
- 22 Frith op cit 48.
- 23 Williamson op cit 927.
- 24 Fosbrooke op cit.
- 25 Registers of St Mary de Crypt through Mr D J H Smith, Gloucester County & Diocesan Archivist.
- 26 GRO Ms GDR Q3/1761.
- 27 GRO Ms D 1828/17.
- 28 S Mason "Practical Observations in Physic" (Birmingham, T Warren 1757).

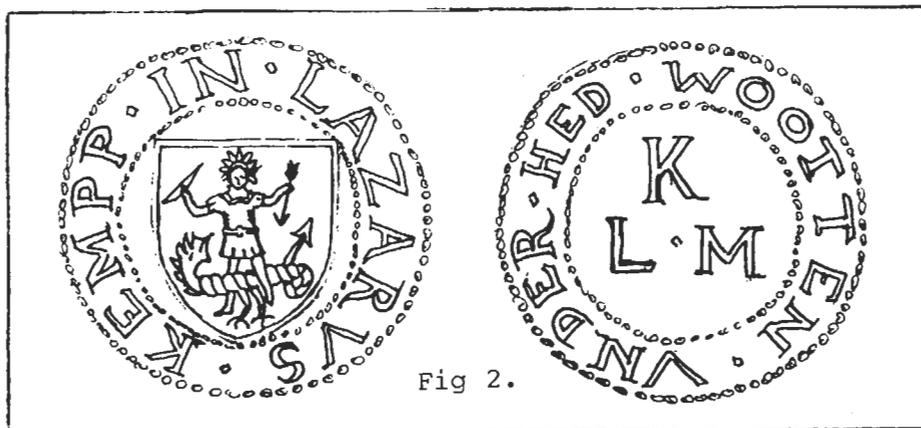


Fig 2.



Fig 3.

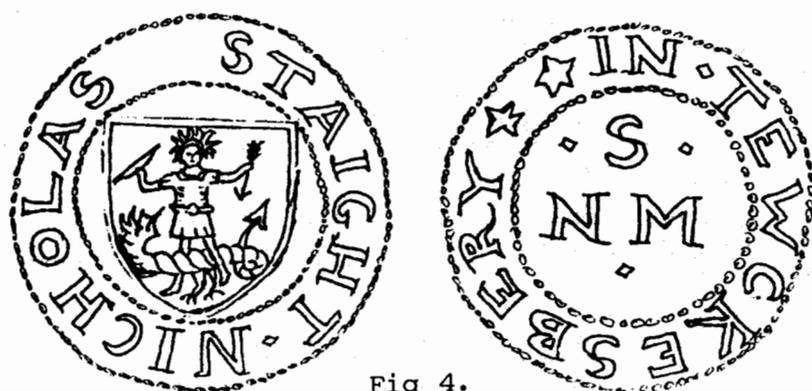


Fig 4.

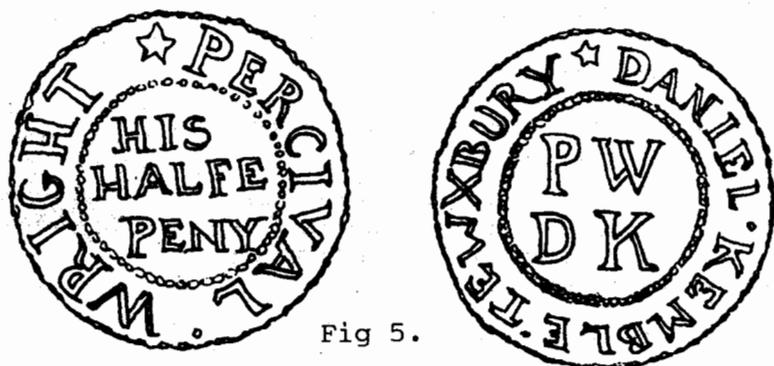


Fig 5.

Figs 1, 2, 4, 5 are drawn from photographs of specimens in the NORWEB COLLECTION, kindly supplied by Mr R H Thompson; Fig 3 (N Lane) is from a specimen in the WHITTET COLLECTION at Apothecaries Hall.

The drawings are by Doreen M Whittet.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ d token (Fig 2) is c. 1.6cm in diameter; others 2cm.

Our Guest Contributor

this year is ...

Dr. T. D. Whittet, C.B.E., Hon D.Sc., B.Sc, Ph.D, Hon LMSSA,
FPS, MCPP, C. Chem., FRSC, DBA.

Dr. Whittet has done much research into apothecaries' tokens for more than 20 years, and has published many papers on scientific and historical subjects.

Qualifying as a pharmaceutical chemist in 1938, he obtained his B.Sc in physiology in 1954, and his Ph.D for research on pyrogens and fever, in 1948.

He was Chief Pharmacist & Lecturer in Pharmacy at Charing Cross Hospital from 1943 to 1947, and at University College Hospital from 1948 to 1965, thereafter Chief Pharmacist to the Department of Health & Social Security from 1965 to 1978. In 1977 he was awarded the C.B.E., and became Hon. D.Sc at Bath University in 1968, and at Aston University in 1974.

He was Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London 1982-3, being awarded their Honorary Licence in Medicine and Surgery in 1984. He is Thomas Vicary Lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons for 1986.

He presented his collection of Apothecaries' tokens to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1967.

A note on trade tokens of the late 18th century.

On these later tokens, of prime importance to any study of the early industrial revolution, see "English Trade Tokens", by Peter Mathias, published 1962 by Abelard-Schuman.

The accompanying copy of a token depicting a plough: the slogan refers to the increased productivity due to the use of better implements.

But note as the other side of the coin (or token) what the Rev. Thomas Rudge had to say:

"The greatest of evils to agriculture would be to place the labourer in a state of independence, and thus destroy the indispensable gradations of society."

William Blake saw it another way: "Compel the poor to live upon a crust of bread .. when a man looks pale with labour and abstinence, say he looks healthy and happy; and when his children sicken, let them die; there are enough born, even too many, and our earth will be overrun without these arts ..."

(But I digress)

Gloucester Journal 16 August 1784.

"D. Cox, Surgeon. Apothecary and Man-Midwife nr'
The Cross in Northgate, late House Surgeon and
Man Midwife to the Westminster Lying-in Hospital."

(No relation to the Editor!)