

A Mould for a 17th Century Lead Token – The Rose at Stony Lane, Southwark

Gary Oddie

The copper and brass tokens issued between 1648 and 1672 are well known and several of the original dies used to make them have survived. There is also a smaller, parallel series of cast lead tokens that started several decades earlier and finished about the same time with the introduction of a regal copper coinage in 1672. The mould shown below was recently found whilst searching the Thames foreshore.



Fig. 1. Token mould. (approximately 200%, scaled from token below).

Rev: **ROASE IN STONI LANE :**

Around a rose.

Details: Bronze? Spike on reverse for mounting or a wooden handle. Two holes for aligning other half of mould.

Stony Lane was in the parish of St Olave's in Southwark. The token was not listed by Williamson or Dickinson, but a specimen is illustrated in the most recent catalogue of the Seventeenth Century Tokens of Southwark.⁽¹⁾ The piece is described as "struck in lead". The runner for pouring the molten metal into the mould confirms the piece to be cast. The corrosion on the surface of the token will have removed traces of the casting sprue. The token is illustrated below.



Fig. 2. Original lead token made from the mould. (200%).

Obv: **H T C** between two flowers with twisted stems.

Rev: **ROASE IN STONI LANE :**

Around a rose.

Details: Lead, 14mm, Everson 938.

Another token, in brass, is known from this establishment, issued by Richard Newnham and dated 1668. Looking through Lillywhite reveals several Rose Taverns in Southwark, but no mention of this one at Stony Lane. The lane no longer exists, but once stretched between Tooley Street and the Thames near Pickle Herring Stairs, as shown below.

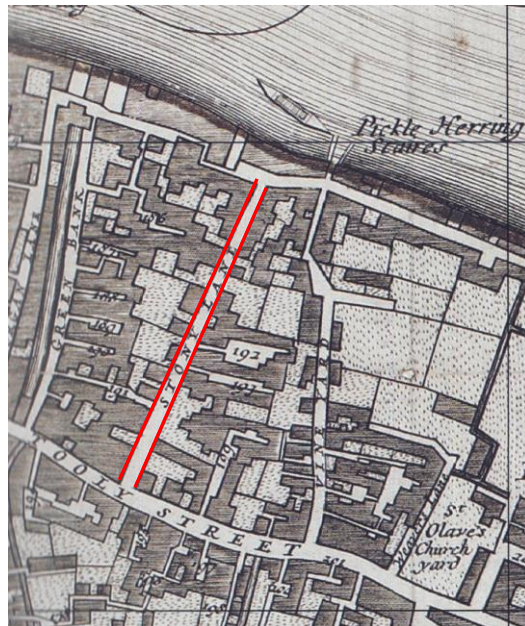


Fig. 3. Location of Stony Lane, Southwark.⁽³⁾

The picture below shows a pair of moulds used for casting a Communion Token in 1801, which would have been used in exactly the same way for casting one token at a time.

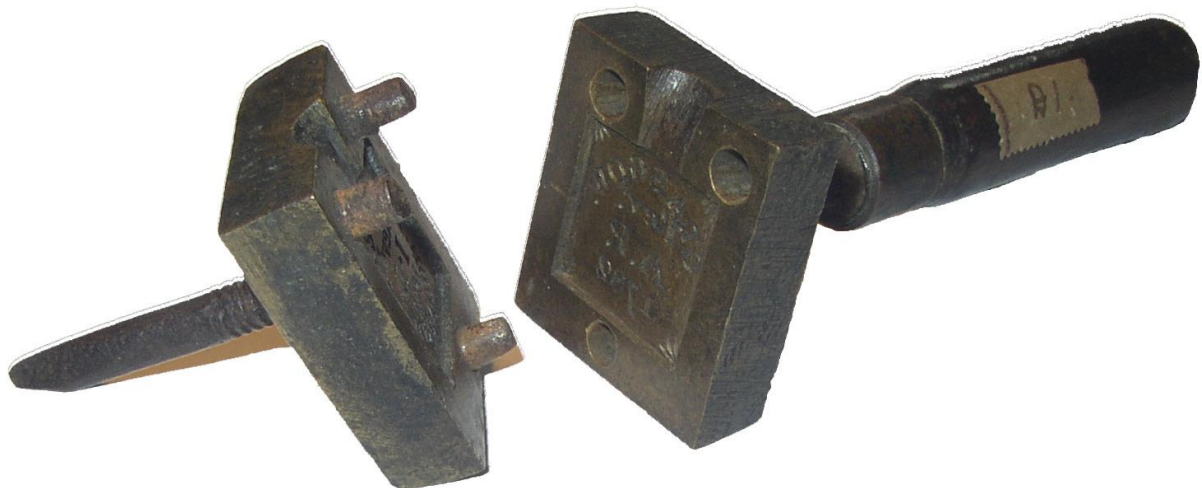


Fig. 4. Pair of moulds for casting lead Communion tokens.

References and Acknowledgement

- (1) T. Everson. *Seventeenth Century Trading Tokens of Surrey and Southwark*. Galata, Llanfyllin, 2015.
- (2) B. Lillywhite. *London Signs*. 1972.
- (3) P. Barber, R. Hyde (Intros), R.H. Thompson (Index), A Saunders (Ed.). *The A-Z of Charles II's London 1682*. London Topographical Society Publication No 174, 2013. A reproduction of William Morgan's original survey of 1682.

Thanks to Adam Eustace and Nigel Clark for bringing this to my attention.

