

Amos Winch of Shoe Lane

Paul and Bente Withers



14.3mm diameter, weight 0.93 gram.

This little token, with the outer legend missing, turned up among the items from the David Rogers collection which we had not yet catalogued. A search through all the index entries for 'king's head' in Williamson⁽¹⁾ brought no result, so we sent the photos to Michael Dickinson, who came up with the answer, with the help of the index of letters in the Norweb Sylloge vol. 7⁽²⁾.

The illustration of the Norweb piece, no.7670, is not very helpful due to its poor condition (the obverse is in fact illustrated the wrong way up, all that is clear is the sceptre!), but the description was completed from the Museum of London specimen, though the obverse type is there described as bust of Henry VIII. The fine condition of this piece shows clearly that Williamson was correct in calling it James I.

Williamson's description :

Obv. AMOS WINCH IN SHOOE Full-faced bust of James I.

Rev. LANE HIS HALFE PENNY A M W

There is just enough of the bottoms of the letters visible to confirm that this fits the description.

Gary Oddie's analysis of the style of symbols⁽³⁾ indicate that the cinquefoils on the reverse are in use on tokens dated 1667 and 1668.

The one remaining question is why it was struck on a small flan or cut down.

It does not appear to have been filed.

Bibliography

1. G C Williamson, *Trade Tokens issued in the Seventeenth Century*, 1889-91.
2. R H Thompson and M J Dickinson, *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles. vol. 59, The Norweb Collection of Tokens of the British Isles 1575-1750, part VII, City of London*, 2007.
3. John Gaunt, edited and expanded by Gary Oddie, *Bedfordshire Seventeenth Century Tokens*, 2011.

