



Rose Farthings: the top right hand one shows the crown and Carolu(s), and the others a crown above a rose



foreign tokens known as jettons

Bartholomew's Fair was held on the outskirts of Orford for three days around the saint's day, 24th August. According to Norden, William Munday held a 21-year lease from Sir Michael Stanhope for a cottage 'buylte nere the fayre place'. Recently Alan Calver has found fifty or more tiny copper alloy coins in a field to the northwest of the castle. They date from Charles I's reign and are farthings. As explained in Issue 19 no small value coins were minted between 1649 and 1672 so trades-people produced their own tokens and the ones illustrated in that Bulletin came from the same field. They were issued by Mary Thurston and the Saxmundham draper, Nicholas Shepherd. It seems certain that the Fair was held here. The fair was established by charter in 1256 and almost immediately coins and tokens were being lost. Alan has found a token, with a hole in its centre, dating from the reign of Edward I (1272-1307), and a coin from Edward III's reign. Trade tokens of varying dates, known as jettons, emanating from Germany, France and Holland suggest that traders from the Continent also sold goods at Orford Fair. Among other finds are a fifteenth century coin weight, used to check a coin had not been clipped, an apothecary's weight, lead weights, a lead pot mender and some buckles. An odd reference to the fair appears in William Dux's nuncupative will of 1603. William Capon, a Smith, with Margery his wife and others declared that the deceased had bequeathed all his goods to his niece Elizabeth Dux, 'which was at the fair in Orford upon Bartholomew's day last past, meaning the said Elizabeth, who at that time was at the said fair'. It seems an unusual way of identifying his niece.

## Vic Harrup