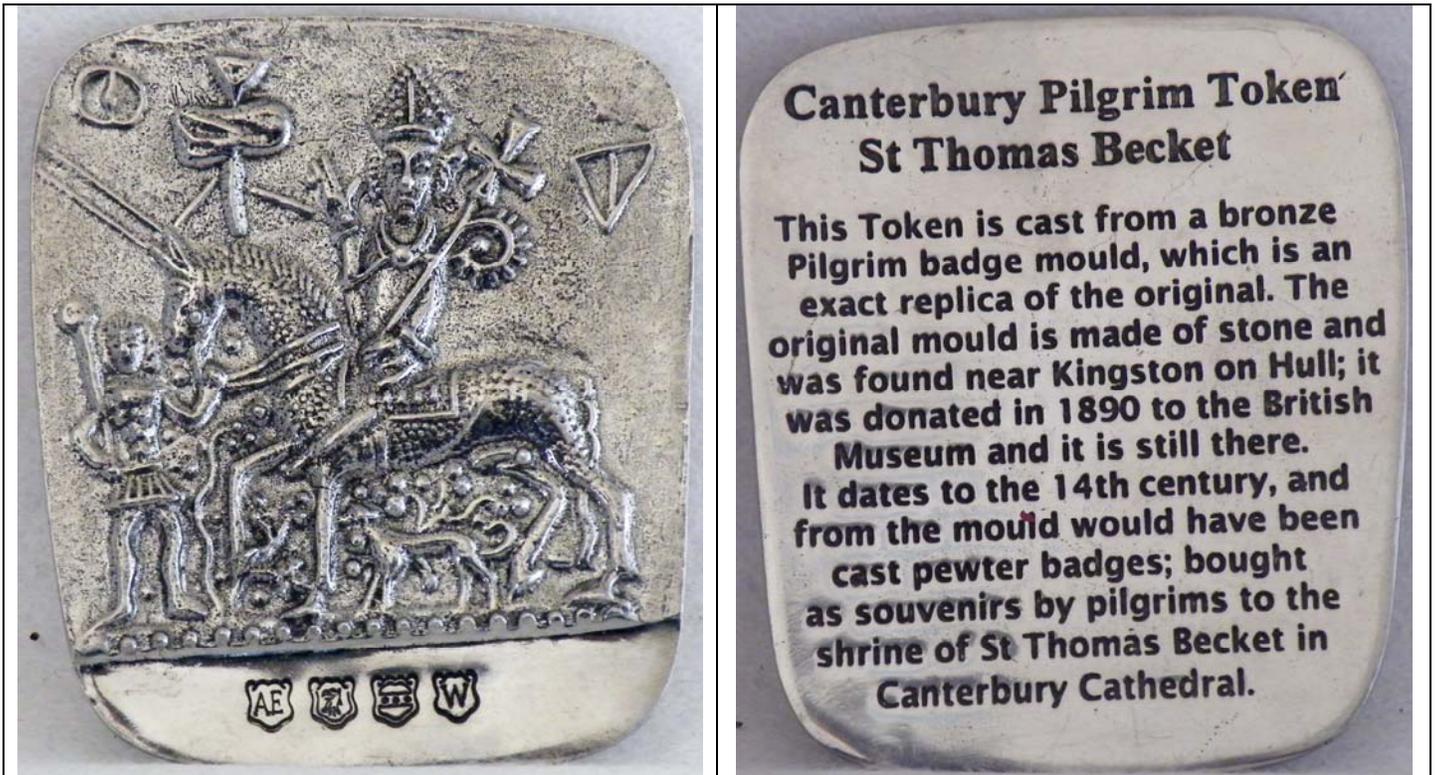


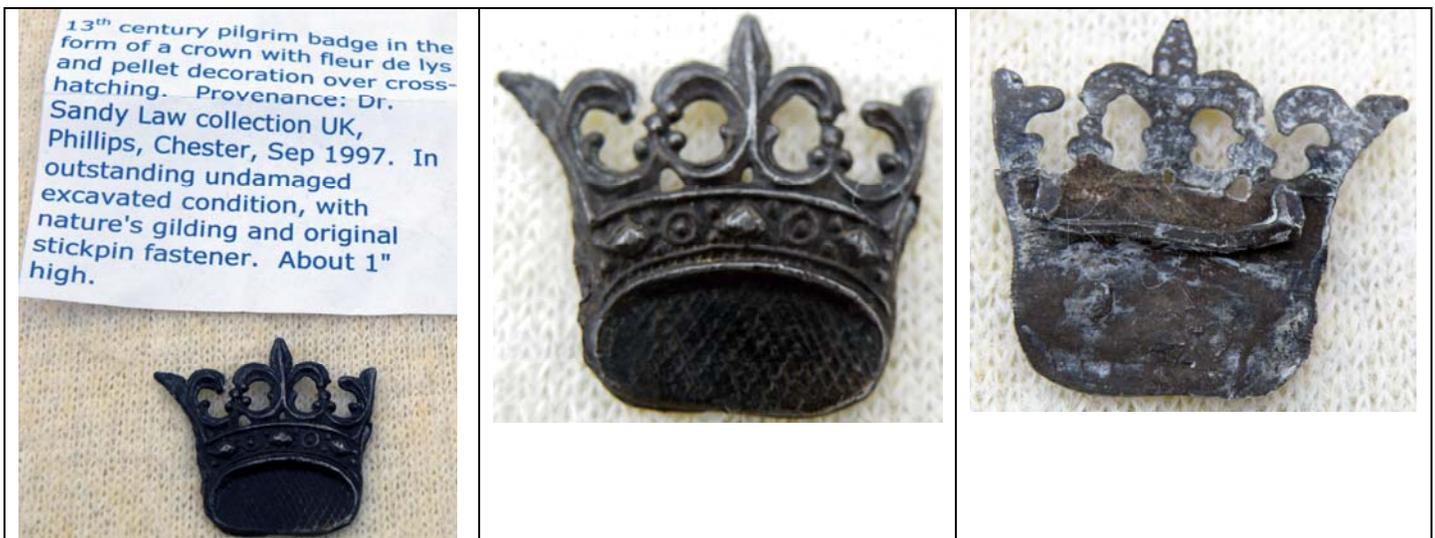
PILGRIMS BADGES



This is a delightful piece made by A E Williams of Birmingham in the early part of the 21st century.

An iron copy of the Mold referred to above is shown below





It is unlikely the above is 13th century far more likely it is early 15th century. The design is said to be derived from the form of heraldic crown of Edward II (see Mitchiner page 181)

READING -

'Medieval pilgrim and secular badges' by Mitchiner
'Medieval Catalogue: Part II, Salisbury and South Wilts Museum' by Brian Spencer
'Pilgrim Souvenirs and Secular Badges' by Brian Spencer concerning the Museum of London's collection
'Communion Tokens of the World' by Borzinski

ALSO – Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum Medieval Catalogue.

PILGRIM BADGES – A FEW NOTES

The principal shrines in England were at

Canterbury – for Thomas Beckett killed end 1170 – Pilgrimages commonplace by 1174

Bromholm Priory – a venerated simple Rood from Constantinople in 1204 – the Bromholm cross had two transverse pieces – (Rood removed in 1537)

Walsingham – imitation of Holy House of Nazareth built 1130 – veneration of the Virgin Mary ascendant in the 15th century

Westminster – Edward the Confessor Canonised in 1161 – shrine at Westminster constructed 1163

Boxley (near Aylesford)– The holy rood of Boxley in form of a flowery cross – 15th century

Charing – Richard 1 brought back the stone block on which John the Baptist was beheaded

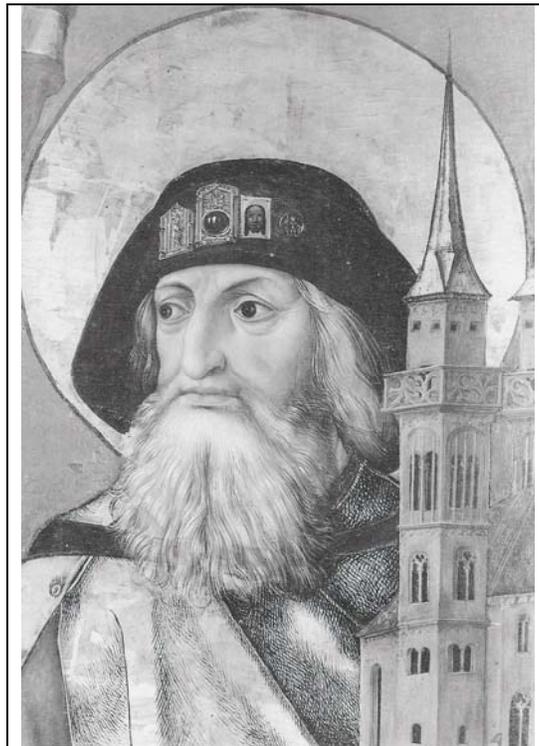
Ospringe or nearby Faverham – about a days travel from Canterbury

Others of lesser pilgrimage on the journey to Canterbury might have been Harbaldown Hospital Southwark, Bermondsey

Badges – were a source of income controlled by the Church – and for the pilgrim a proof of their pilgrimage.

They were attached by sewing through rings cast with the badge usually at the top corners until after the thirteen hundreds when pins began to appear. Tin was first used, not pewter until later.

They were often worn on hats see below –



St Sebastian as a pilgrim Altar-piece dated 1487

Badges – a mirror badge, painted cloth, a medallion

The first Badges were of hollow tin as ampullae (open neck vase type emerging from a decorated rectangular flat piece – decoration being simple images of crucifixion, arcading, Madonna and child, Becket falling to the sword, fleur de lys. Or a scabbard shaped water container emerging from a circular badge, wording to the outside fretwork or similar to the inside, scabbard decorated with for example Becket.

Other examples include – full length figures of Beckett, Beckett on horseback, on a peacock, horns, buckle badges, flat ornamental badges with corner ring mounts, some of openwork monogram of Maria, shells, decorated small spoons, various scenes with Beckett, bells (14-15C), solid field medallion badges

Badges with the head of John the Baptist or of Richard I

This is but a simple summary of a little of the information related to Pilgrim badges. Illustrations available at this time are generally in careful copyright. Those interested in collecting should find the reading as listed in the first three books detailed at the beginning and consult that for images and more detailed knowledge.