

Perhaps the most interesting to come from Nuremberg, and the most valuable to the student of the methods of reckoning, are those showing a merchant sitting at his counting-board. The earliest of the 'Rechen meister' tokens appeared about 1550. All show a table with a low rim and most of them show the abacus lines. These varied, perhaps because different methods were used or simply because the artist was not



attempting to be accurate. A printed alphabet appears on the reverse, presumably to popularise it among a largely illiterate population.

A bag or box, to contain money or a supply of jettons, is sometimes shown, and in one case an open account book lies on the table. There is, incidentally, a remarkable similarity between these illustrations and those of the Greek tax-collector and the Roman calculator shown on pages 25 and 26.