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**James Thomas, and Professor Baer’r research**

*Please excuse the OCR scanning errors.*

**NEALE, THOMAS (d. 1699 ?),** was Master

of the mint and groom-porter in the latter

part of the seventeenth century. Nothing

seems known of his early life, but he is said

to have run through two fortunes, doubtless

through his gaming and speculative

tendencies. He was appointed master and worker

of the mint in the thirtieth vear of Charles II

(30 Jan. 1677-8—29 Jan. 1678-9), and held

the office under James II and William III

till about January 1699. Has name in this

capacity appears on certain medals of Willliam

III (Hawkins, Med. Illustr. ii. 13). His

salary in 1693 was 500Z. per annum (Cham-

BERLAYiTE, Present State of England, 1694,

p. 618). \* A Proposal for amending the

Silver Coins of England,' 1696, 8vo, by

Neale is in the British Museum Library, and

also the following proposal, printed 20 Feb.

1696-7 : ' The best way of disposing of

Hammer'd Money and Plate, as well for

the advantage of the Owners thereof as for

raising One Million of !Money in (and for

the service of) the year 1G97 by way of a

Lottery, wherein the benefits will be the

same ... as were had in the Million Ad-

venture, and the blanks will be prizes be-

sides, to be paid sooner or later, as chance

shall determine, but all to be cleared in one

year.' Hammered money and plate were by

this scheme received at 6s. an ounce, and

tickets of 10/. each given as an equivalent.

In (or before) 16S4 Neale was appointed

groom-porter to Charles II {London Gazette,

24-28 Julv 1684). He held the same post

under William HI till about 1699. His duties

were to see the king's lodgings furnished

with tables, chairs, and firing; to provide

cards and dice, and to decide disputes at the

card-table and on the bowling-green. His

annual salary was 2/. 13«. Ad., with board-

wages 127/. 15s. (Chambeklatite, op. cit.

p. 239). In 1684 he was, as groom-porter,

authorised by the king to license and sup-

press gaming-houses, and to prosecute un-

licensed keepers of ‘*rafflings, ordinaries, and*

*other public games* ' {^London Gazette, 24-28

July 1684 ; ilALCOLM, Manners and Customs

of London, 1811, pp. 430-1).

I In 1694 the government proposed to raise

a million by a lottery-loan, on the security

of n new duty on salt, Sec. (o Will, k

Mary, c. 7). The plan — a loan and lottery

combined — appears to have originated with

Neale, who was appointed master of the

transfer office established in that year (in

Lombard Street) for conducting the business

of the lottery. He acted in this way

till about January 1699. The loan was

divided into a hundred thousand shares of

10/. each. The interest on each share was

20s. annually, i.e. ten per cent, during six-

teen years. As an additional inducement to

the public to lend, some of the shares were

to be prizes, and the holders of the prizes

(determined by lot) were to receive not only

the ten per cent, interest on their shares, but

to divide among them the sum of 40,000/.

annually during sixteen years. A million

was obtained for the state in this way (cf.

ASHTON, Hist, of Engl. Lotteries,^. 49). Neale

conducted at least two other public lotteries.

Several of his printed prospectuses are pre-

served in the British Museum, that of the

lottery- loan of 1694 being headed : ' A Pro-

fitable Adventure to the Fortunate, and can

be unfortunate to none ' (London, 1693-4, s.

sh. fol.) Pepys {Diary, ed. Braybrooke, v.

344) speaks of Neale's project for a lottery as

the chief talk of the town, and Evelyn (whose

coachman won a prize of 40/.) mentions ' the

lottery set up after the Venetian manner by

Mr. Neale ' (Evelyn, Diary, ed. Bray, ii. 326),

Neale's name appears in the list of sub-

scribers to the National Land Bank proposed

by Briscoe in 1695, and carried into effect by

Robert Harley [q. v.], afterwards Earl of Ox-

ford, in the following year, his subscription

being entered as 3,000/. On 24 Feb. 1695-G

Neale printed a proposal entitled ' The Na-

tional Land Bank, together with Money . , .

capable also of supplying the Government

with any sum of Money ... as likewise the

Freeholder with Money at a more moderate

Interest than if such Bank did consist of

Money alone without Land ' (copy in Guild-

hall Library, London). Two millions were

to be raised by a subscription of money, and

one million by a subscription of land.

He also engaged in building and mining

schemes, and was interested in the East India

trade (Neale's tract \* To Preserve the East

India Trade,' &c., 1695, s. sh. fol. in Brit.

Mus.) He projected and began the build-

ing of the London streets known as the

Seven Dials. On 5 Oct. 1 694 Evelyn {Diary,

ii. p. 332) went 'to see the building beginning

near St. Giles's, where seven streets make a

star from a Doric pillar placed in the middle

of a circular area' (cp. Pope, Works, ed. El win

and Courthope, x. 281). The streets were not

all completed till after 1708 (Walford, Old

and New London, iii. 204). Before 1695

Neale obtained from Sir Thomas Clarges

[q. v.] a largo piece of land on the road from

Piccadilly to Hyde Park. The rent was 100/.

per annum, and Neale undertook to expend

10,000/. in building on the land. He, how-

ever, left the ground waste for ten years, and

died insolvent, owing 800/. for rent to Sir

Walter (son of Sir Thomas) Clarges (Mal-

colm, Londinium Redir. iv. 328-9). Clarges

Street was subsequently built on this sit\*

in 1717 (Walford, Old and New London, iv.

292). On 28 Aug. 1697 Neale (and another)

obtained by letters patent a lease for thirty-

one years of\* the coal-mines in Lanton, alias

Lampton Hills, in the common fields of

Wickham,' Durham {Cal. State Papers, Trea-

sury Ser. 1720-8, p. 456).

It is sometimes stated that Neale died in

1705, but a report of the commissioners of

the lottery made to the lord high treasurer

in 1710 refers to his death as having taken

place ' about January 1699 ' {ib. 1708-14,

p. 517). It is moreover certain that his

connection with the mint and with the trans-

fer office ceased just about that time. A rare

medalet (or lottery ticket ?), existing in the

British Museum, in silver and copper, is en-

graved, and described in Hawkin’s 'Medallic

Illustrations,' ii. 104-5. It has on the obverse

a bust of Neale inscribed ‘tho. neale ar-

MIGER, and on the reverse a figure of Fortune

on a globe, and the motto ‘non eadem semper’.

The portrait bears out Matthew Prior's

observation (made in France in 1701) as to the

likeness between James II, *‘..lean, worn, and*

*rivelled,'* and *' Neale the projector '* (Ellis,

Letters of Eminent Men, p. 265).