

THE "CONDER" TOKEN

COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR'S CLUB

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This Issue is dedicated to the memory of
Michael Glenn Grogan 1947 – 2012
Journal Editor for 25 Issues



Middlesex D&H 676

New Discoveries Inside

Inverness Issuers

Spence Counterstamps

Middlesex D&H 40

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This issue is being dedicated to Michael Glenn Grogan
1947--- 2012

Mike Grogan was a very special person. His son Wes penned this notice of his passing that was printed in the Mobile, Alabama Press-Register on July 3 and 4, 2012.

Michael Glenn Grogan---On Thursday, June 28, 2012, Michael Glenn Grogan passed away at 1:00 p.m. at the age of 64. Born with Muscular Dystrophy, Michael had a successful career with Proctor and Gamble, in Hunt Valley Maryland, before going on disability leave and moving to Mobile, AL with his wife. Michael was born on September 19, 1947. He enjoyed Eastern philosophy, his family, Charles Dickens, petrified wood, bad jokes, and Laurel and Hardy movies. He donated his time and services to the United Nations, and was also an editor for the Conder Token Journal and an avid collector of Conder tokens throughout his life.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and wisdom, and the constant pursuit to better oneself through study and wisdom. He loved his wife fiercely and unconditionally and always served as a guide and mentor to his children, loving them at their worst and proud of them at their best. Despite the challenges placed before him, he achieved a Masters' Degree in Micro-biology, had a successful career, and never failed to provide all that he could for his wife and family.

Michael died in his bed at home in Mobile, Alabama, surrounded by his family after spending 16 years on a ventilator. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Grogan, his two sons, Benjamin and Wesley Grogan, his grandchildren, and his brother Randy Grogan. There will be no public or memorial service.

Wes also penned the following, ----My father was a gentle soul trapped in a weakened body and constantly relearning how to channel his frustrations into his quest for more knowledge. He was a complex man, to attempt to summarize, and this obituary was my own, sad attempt. I miss my farther dearly and desperately.

Wes Grogan, Mobile Alabama July 8, 2012.

The following was written by a correspondent to the Gentlemen's Magazine by a man who is questioning a previous writer's rant against the profit made by manufacturers and issuers of the provincial tokens. A most interesting look at the times----

The Gentlemen's Magazine---January, 1795

The following was printed on Page 33-35 of that volume under the title
Modern Provincial Coins Defended

Mr. Urban, (Jan. 19th)

Your correspondent, in your last volume, who dates his letter from Manchester, seems very inveterate against the issuers of modern provincial coins; and has in a very desultory manner thrown together some loose thoughts upon the subject, amongst which, with some truth, there is a great deal of error.

It is a well known fact, that, previous to the introduction of these coins, there was a very great deficiency of copper currency; a matter of great inconvenience to trade, and hurtful to the poor, whose payments are chiefly made in copper. No coinage of halfpence at the mint having taken place since the year 1775, much of the greater part of copper in circulation was of that sort called Birmingham halfpence, villainous counterfeits of the Tower Coinage, of a base metal, and extremely deficient in weight. They were sometimes taken, and sometimes refused by the traders throughout the Kingdom, according to the plenty of scarcity of halfpence in the place; and, whenever the shopkeepers thought proper to weigh their halfpence, and in consequence reject the Birmingham ones, the poor were considerable sufferers.

In consequence of this, the Paris Mine Company were the first (as I believe) to strike a coin for the use of their miners¹ and their penny and halfpenny were of such weight as to be fairly current in any place. Mr. Wilkinson next struck some heavy ones for his own use at his various ironworks; and from this time they have become so numerous as to tire the patience, and elude the search, of the collectors, who are very where eager to obtain them. Of these first coins, and all of which have been struck by Mr. Bolton (sic), your correspondent very properly makes no complaint, and I will readily agree with him, that the greater influx of counterfeits since that time has become a considerable evil, but surely not to the extent that he insinuates, as every person is at liberty to take of refuse them, and the quantity is trifling in comparison with the Birmingham Halfpence formerly in circulation, they are also, in general, well known, and easily distinguished from the genuine coins. Where a tradesman has a die cut for his own use, and puts his name on the token, nobody can be injured, as he will for his credit's sake receive them whenever bro8ught, and in this case, whether they weight more or less is of little consequence to the publick, nor will any of this description be found so scandalously light as the counterfeits from which he makes his calculation.

Anatomy of a Search
Digging Out the Details of the Inverness Token Issuers
By Jon Lusk

It has been typical of authors, and is my normal mode as well, to give the results of their research efforts as an end product. Mentioning only the relevant pieces of data and what conclusions they have drawn from these. I thought I might be different this time and lay out a full anatomy of one of my searches, diary like, showing all the warts, bumps, blind alleys, and bad conclusions that I encountered along the way over an almost five year period.

The search starts where all my searches start – find what has been already written.

April 3, 2008

Samuel – *The Bazar Notes and Exchange* – gives a nice story about the stone on the reverse (the clatch-na-cudden) as well states “The issuers, Mackintosh, Inglis, and Wilson were, *we believe*, sail cloth, sacking, and bagging manufactures...” and “Their establishment *apparently* became known as the ‘Cididal Works’”. (Italics were added by me.)

Bell – *Commercial Coins 1787-1804* – repackages the information, adds no first names, and states the purpose and location of the company without the equivocation that Samuel uses.

Doty – in his CTCJ article referenced Samuel.

So I started with three last names, company products and a location. Little did I know that all three of these items were incorrect to various degrees!

May 28, 2008

My first big break was an extracted item from the Inverness Journal. It was really an indirect hit as it wasn't about any of my three original partners but gave the nature of the business of the three, that being a grocery establishment. It does seem to make more sense with the cornucopia on the reverse that they were grocers and not sail-cloth makers.

July 17.—Mr James Robertson announces that, having purchased the grocery business so long carried on by Mackintosh, Inglis, & Wilson, he has assumed as his partners Bailie John Mackenzie, Mr Hugh Innes, and Mr John Ferguson, and that the business will be conducted under the firm of Robertson, Innes, and Co. He mentions at the same time that Mr Ferguson had been long associated with him in the wine trade.

August 24, 2008

I found an additional article about the Inverness tokens by Richard Doty but the article is almost exclusively about their manufacture at the Soho Mint and he only repeats that they were “sailcloth and tough textiles for sacks and bags at a mill known as the Citadel Works”. He does

The Tail (pun intended) of a Unique Middlesex Token

Rod and Joan Widok

In the Summer 2012 issue of the “CONDER” Token Collector’s Journal, our good friend Jon Lusk graciously included our recent purchase of the unique Middlesex DH40 in his article One “T” or two? . He hoped that we would publish the “how” of the re-discovery and pedigree info for the splasher. Well, here it is....

Earlier this spring, I was searching the Internet for disc music boxes. One hit directed me to an auction at a small, obscure all-purpose auction house in northern England. After looking at the music box, I decided to see what other items were in the sale.

Since my wife, Joan, collects conder tokens, three lots in the sale caught my attention. The first two lots were mid to lower grade common pieces that Joan already has. I subsequently learned that these 2 lots were from a different consignor from the lot that we bought. The third lot, however, contained three tokens – T. Hardy (Middlesex DH1025); H. Young (Middlesex DH39) and what looked like the unique M. Young lead splasher (Middlesex DH40) with his name misspelled as MATHEW.



When I first saw the photo of the DH40, it did not look as sharp as the photo in D&H. My first thought was that this was a copy of the piece plated in D&H. But then I thought why would someone make a copy of a splasher? So, I submitted a small bid on the lot.

THE PRINCIPAL ENGLISH TOKEN LITERATURE

By Ken Lowe --- Part I

A Modest Trial Bibliography

PREPARATORY NOTES AND COMMENTS

January 10, 2013

The article that appears below was originally printed in Vol. 1, #1, of the CTCC Journal It was submitted by the late Ken Lowe, who with Myron Xenos established the numismatic auction house, The Money Tree. Ken had just reached the point where he could retire from teaching and devote full time to the numismatic literature he loved. Ken also had a listing that continued into the next issue, but he was felled by a heart attack and passed away, if I remember he was only 53 years of age. He was one of the nicest fellows I knew, full of life and with a ton of knowledge, his passing was a real loss. It was recognized that we had not had a listing of numismatic books and catalogues in a modern journal, and much had been written since 1996---also, some of the contacts Ken listed for various reasons have retired from business or passed away. Gary and Ellie Sriro sent this and some other material along to Jon Lusk, our new Editor (more about that next time), and it is up to me to update it before it can be published. My thanks to Gary, Ellie, and Jon for their dedication. Most of the article below has been left alone, it is a good list of 18th Century token literature, and something all collectors should be aware of. Bill McKivor.

August 15, 1996

Nothing is stronger than an idea whose time has come.' I believe that is how the old saying goes, which incidentally applies perfectly to The Conder Token Collectors Club. My deepest congratulations and thanks go to the founders and creators of the CTCC. I thank Wayne Anderson both for encouraging me and permitting me to contribute to this inaugural issue of what I am absolutely certain will rapidly become one of America's major numismatic theme organizations ranking alongside TAMS, EAC, JRCS, Liberty Seated Collectors Club, NBS, SPMC, C4, among others Where else but in 'Conder' token can you find something so numismatically substantive, still in huge supply in nice circulated condition, with a relatively large supply in Unc or better, in copper (which appeals to a whole bunch of U.S. copper collectors), that is extremely attractive, has a huge number of different types, at extremely reasonable prices, with a large body of pertinent literature, and maybe most important in the English language.

While the English token series is long and rich, I hope that we can all agree that using 'Conder' token as a shorthand term is acceptable. I also propose that anyone who refers to 'Condor' tokens should be summarily shot, or at least banished to the nether reaches of slabdom.

The niceties aside, let me establish my bona fides or lack thereof. For the last dozen years, Myron Xenos and I have been dealers in numismatic literature, as The Money Tree in Rocky River, Ohio, a western suburb of Cleveland. We have conducted 25 mail bid sales of numismatic literature featuring consignments and libraries from the most prominent American numismatists and numismatic firms, as well as less well-known, but no less important numismatic bibliophiles and numismatists. We issue an occasional journal, OUT ON A LIMB, 19 issues over the last decade. We publish numismatic literature: for example, Pete Smith's AMERICAN NUMISMATIC BIOGRAPHIES, Edgar Souders' BUST HALF FEVER, and the recently released CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLARS by Keith Davignon. And perhaps more importantly Myron and I collect numismatic literature for our own libraries, and we collect tokens for fun.

Although I have also been a coin dealer and collector, I only carry one numismatic item on my person, a 'Conder' token: a worn example of Lackington's 'World's Cheapest Bookseller' token. I also used to carry a James Conder 'Conder' token, but I think I gave it away.

Conder tokens have a charm that half cents, large cents, and colonials tend not to have: there is a significantly larger quantity of collectible types. They are much cheaper. Can you imagine how many different EF 1794 'Conder' tokens you can buy for the same price as any EF 1794 large cent or EF 1794 half cent? Also American colonial coinage is generally underpriced in comparison to Federal coinage, but American colonial copper tends not to be as aesthetically pleasing as are the 18th century English tokens.

Since The Money Tree has been in business, we have bought, sold, and seen much English token literature, but no matter how much we have handled, it is essentially a drop in the bucket. Trying to compile a bibliography of the principal English token literature is daunting. It would be comparable to someone trying to compile a complete bibliography on colonial coinage or more appropriately all U.S. token coinage. Also, it would be naive, immodest, and flat-out wrong for me to try to pass as an expert on English tokens or English token literature. In reality, I am probably an enthusiastic journeyman or devoted amateur.

Wayne Anderson has agreed to print this trial bibliography serially through these pages. I intend to list books, substantive monographs, journals, auction catalogues, and fixed price lists. I believe that I can contribute in these pages a useful, annotated bibliography. Clearly, it is will be incomplete and flawed.

After the regular listing has been run completely, I plan to have a supplementary list printed in these pages, taking advantage of all of your contributions, for which I thank all of you in advance. Following that, I plan to write A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE ENGLISH TOKEN LITERATURE as a separate work. [Following that I plan to be a cowboy, an astronaut, and a major league shortstop).

A BASIC LIBRARY

updated, 2012 for information and prices

So, where do you start? Obviously in the words of the late Aaron Feldman, 'Buy the book before the coin.' But what book? Or which books? I certainly remember when I was just beginning to collect coins. I could not buy coins fast enough. I could also not have thrown my money away any quicker. While I have an intrinsic love of books, I also have a more practical, mundane reason for buying them: I have never bought a numismatic book that did not monetarily reward me by more than its purchase price either in helping me to make wiser purchases or, perhaps even more importantly, preventing me from buying something that would turn out to be a terrible, expensive mistake. So, follow Feldman's advice!

The one basic problem that you will face is not what to buy, but where to buy, and if you can even find what you want in the marketplace. If you wish to buy from an authoritative, responsible, and ethical U.S. dealer, you can do no better than Alan & Marnie Davisson of Cold Springs, Minnesota, Bill McKivor of Seattle, or Gary Groll from Oregon. If you wish to buy overseas, DNW, Baldwin's, and Spink in London are the ones to contact. If you are willing to bid in numismatic literature auctions, I would suggest checking the web sites of Kolbe and Fanning, Charlie Davis, and just a search for Numismatic literature. The token dealers listed above often have some as well, but nearly all of these books are well out of print, and dealers all sell just what happens in the door.

So, at last, what do you buy, how much do you spend, how easy are they to find? First, one book is not going to do it. However, if I could I would require anyone to buy and to read Allan Davisson's 1991 *TOKEN CATALOG AND HANDBOOK. 18th Century Tokens as Catalogued by Dalton and Hamer* before he or she is allowed to buy a single token. It is the best one-volume handbook on the topic that I have ever encountered. I do not know if Allan has any left in stock.

Any and all of the Bell books are probably required, although at the beginning I would suggest these three specifically: *COMMERCIAL COINS 1787-1804*, 1963; *COPPER COMMERCIAL COINS 1811-1819*, 1964; and *SPECIOUS TOKENS AND THOSE STRUCK FOR GENERAL CIRCULATION 1784-1804*, 1968. These will usually cost between \$35.00 and \$70.00, some more if they are like new. They are scarce. Do not wait for the opportunity to buy one for \$25.00 or less. The relatively few dollars saved are not worth the many months or even longer you will generally have to wait.

Dalton's *THE SILVER TOKEN COINAGE Mainly Issued between 1811-1812 Described and Illustrated*, the 1968 reprint, should cost about \$35.00 to \$65.00.

Dalton and Hamer's *THE PROVINCIAL TOKEN-COINAGE OF THE 18TH CENTURY*. Either the 1967 Seaby reprint or 1977 Quarterman reprint is fine, as are the Davisson reprints, 1990, 1996 (blue cover) 2004 (green cover), with all of them out of print and hard to find. Even the reprints will cost from \$100 and up today. A new edition is being considered, but not available.

Withers, Paul and Bente, *BRITISH COPPER TOKENS, 1811-1820*, 1999, has replaced all earlier books on the subject. Written in the style of Dalton and Hamer, with photos of the token next to the descriptions, it is indispensable for the correctly done numbering system, and also contains a lot of good information on the issuers. This is still available new for around \$140.

Manville and Robertson's *BRITISH NUMISMATIC AUCTION CATALOGUES 1710 TO 1984*. *Encyclopedia of British Numismatics. Volume I*, 1986, should be in your library as a basic reference. However it is out of print and when copies infrequently appear, they tend to bring \$75.00 and up. However, it is the definitive British numismatic auction catalogue reference.

Price guides have been printed over the years, and there is one written by Paul and Bente Withers in 2010, the latest by far, titled *THE TOKEN BOOK* with lots of nice photos and prices for all series of British tokens. Pricing is in British Pounds. Cost is around \$100 and available.

Then any or all of the following Seaby's *BRITISH COPPER COINS AND THEIR VALUES*, Pt. 2, 1961; Seaby & Seaby's *A CATALOGUE OF THE COPPER COINS AND TOKENS OF THE BRITISH ISLES*, 1949; and/or Seaby and Russell's *BRITISH TOKENS AND THEIR VALUES*, 1984 revised ed. These will tend to run from \$15.00 for the earlier titles to \$28.00. These may tend to appear well-used. Buy when you can; it may take you years to upgrade.

Waters' two works *NOTES ON EIGHTEENTH CENTURY TOKENS*, 1954-- Being Supplementary and Explanatory Notes on 'The Provincial Token Coinage of the Eighteenth Century' by Richard Dalton and Samuel H. Hamer. Now elusive, and difficult to find-- cost running from \$25 to \$75, and *NOTES ON THE SILVER TOKENS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY*, 1957, generally not so expensive, \$35 or so in nice condition. Both of these are excellent, as Waters attempted to tell things about the tokens not listed in D&H.

Whiting's *BRITISH TRADE TOKENS: A Social and Economic History*, 1972 is a marvelous reference. Sadly, it is extremely scarce although it generally is offered for less than \$30.

Three newer books dwell less on the tokens themselves than on other interesting historical facets of the issues. Minting, Economics, and the issuers. These are not simply descriptive of the tokens, but have background that anyone would enjoy, and add to the collecting challenge. Each is recommended as very useful for background information, and very interesting reading.

The first to mention is Dr. Richard Doty's *THE SOHO MINT AND THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF MONEY*, 1999. A look at Matthew Boulton, as he builds a steam powered mint, uses it to strike tokens, and builds mints to sell to the rest of the world. Extremely interesting and great background on the first "modern currency". \$40 and up, a bargain.

The next is George Selgin's *GOOD MONEY*, 2008. Birmingham button makers, the Royal Mint, and the Beginnings of Modern Coinage, 1775-1821 A history of private enterprise and popular coinage, here one learns the economic and social lessons the tokens give. It is available currently in softbound, around \$28, and in hardbound, around \$50.

The third is a new book indeed, David W. Dykes *COINAGE AND CURRENCY IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN--The Provincial coinage*. 2011. Here the token maker is the star, as he follows them in order with who they were and what they struck, putting things in a sensible view. Wonderful production, and superb information in a most readable form. \$100 from Spink and all booksellers. It puts the token issues in a light not seen in print. Superb.

The next two are not books at all, and Ken Lowe would not know anything about the technology that prompted these listings--the first is an ON LINE "D&H", not copied, but a full catalogue, with easy to locate items and wonderful history and information, by Michael Dlugosz. This on-line book is available through Mike or Bill McKivor, cost \$75. The next offering is by Gary Sriro, a **CD**, sent to you for around \$48, I think, that has his high grade collection beautifully presented, with additional information on the number seen, etc. Not really a catalogue, but Gary has thousands of tokens, and the CD is amazingly well done, and extremely useful for new and old collectors alike. His offering can be purchased through him, information gladly given at club level.

Finally, try to get any or preferably all of the following Spink token sales. Sale 7. December 5, 1979; Sale 19. March 3, 1982; Sale 26, February 9, 1982; Sale 28, April 28, 1983; Sale 35, April 11, 1984; Sale 43, April 18, 1985; Sale 51, April 16, 1986; and Sale 53, June 19, 1986. In the most recent Bourne and Katen sales, these have brought between \$35.00 and \$50.00, each; some even more. You may be able to find them for much less from someone who has not yet picked up on the demand for them. Moving forward, the Noble sale 58b, Australia, 1998, Morton and Eden, the Watt Sale, October, 2002--Spink, January, 2008, patterns--Baldwin's, who has had some nice sales of them in the 2000's, and Dix Noonan and Webb, who for many years have had a fall sale, often containing nothing but 18th Century tokens. A full listing is needed, but no room here. Since the Noble sale in 1998, many important collections have been sold at DNW, at least one sale each year and often two, since 2000. Thousands of important pieces have gone through these sales.

Alphabetical listing of authors

NOTE: Where possible, I have described the original size and binding. This may be of some help if you have not previously seen the book.

Akerman, John Yonge. *TRADESMEN'S TOKENS CURRENT IN LONDON AND ITS VICINITY BETWEEN THE YEARS 1648 AND 1672*. Described from the Originals in the British Museum, and in Several Private Collections. 1849 original. Octavo. viii, 257 pp. 8 pls. C-S 13858. This important study deals with tokens for an era about which few references are available. Boyne