

THE "CONDER" TOKEN

COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR'S CLUB
Volume XVII Number 1 Spring 2012 Consecutive Issue #61



Kent 37



Padsole Paper Mill – An in depth look
New Dublin tokens
Completion of Soho mintage figures report

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Notice

The annual club meeting is set for Thursday 6pm, August 9, 2012 during the ANA summer convention in Philadelphia. Check the ANA schedule for the room number. -- Please come!

Conder Token Collector Club
Income/Expense Statement - First quarter for the Year Ended 12/31/12

	January	February	March	Totals
Revenues				
Membership Dues Received	\$182.00	\$103.33	\$125.00	\$410.33
Advertising				
Donations				
Past Issues		\$4.55		\$4.55
Total Revenues	\$182.00	\$107.88	\$125.00	\$414.88
Expenses				
Journal Printing		\$488.32		\$488.32
Journal Postage		\$564.00		\$564.00
Journal Supplies		\$11.31		\$11.31
Membership Management Fee				
ANA Dues				
Membership Supplies	\$137.38			\$137.38
Total Expenses	\$137.38	\$1,063.63		\$1,201.01
Cash Balances				
Checking	\$11,217.10			
Checking - Journal Account	\$263.70			
PayPal	\$0.00			
Total Cash Balances	\$11,480.80			

Respectfully submitted April 15, 2012

By Scott Loos, Treasurer

Book Review

Dykes DW. *Coinage and Currency in Eighteenth-century Britain: The Provincial Coinage.*

London, 2011;Spink. First edition. ISBN 978-1-907427-16-9

The prospect of reviewing a magnificent book, by an iconic author, is daunting.

First of all, while this book's title is about the 18th century, its content is about much more. It begins almost 400 years earlier, when the problems of small change already existed, and even the odd surviving Roman coin might be still in circulation!

Secondly, this is a book that puts coinage into its societal context. Dykes covers the social problems that accompany a lack of confidence in the circulating coinage (including the fractional silver) in the early mediaeval centuries. This coverage includes the work-rounds that common people used: barter, cumulating debt until it reached the scale of an official silver coin, and the use of foreign fractional coins (mostly from Scotland or France, but including the 'galley pennies' from as far away as Venice). The point is made clearly that such tactics might work well in small communities where everyone knew everyone. But in larger places like London or Bristol a serviceable, small-denomination currency was essential when the relationship between tradesman and client was more impersonal. The other nuisance was the small size of a silver coinage as inflation took hold. Sixteenth century silver farthings were tiny, thin, and easily lost.

The history of the token is well-covered, starting probably in the 15th century. By the mid-17th century we are introduced to copper halfpenny tokens, the guinea jetons, and the Charles II and William III authentic, if inadequate, coinage. The book covers all those tactics, including the countermarked George III Spanish dollars.

The personalities, manufacturers, use of, and design of what we call 'Conders' then take centre stage. Sophia Banks is not forgotten, and she garners both the book's dedication and considerable discussion in its Prologue.

This book makes one also reflect that today's official coinages are almost entirely token. Its intrinsic metal value is usually less than its monetary value. Indeed, in recent decades the copper US cent has become a coin made out of copper-clad zinc, and, even so, it is again verging on the uneconomic. Similarly, the cupro-nickel British 5p and 10p coins have had to be reduced in size. In both cases, these are government efforts to keep the coinage as token.

The book is copiously illustrated, mostly in colour, well-bound and in hard cover. My copy cost £65 (US\$ 103.54) from the showroom at Spink in central London. Postage and packing is another £7.50 within the UK, and some multiple Air Mail to the USA (it weighs 1.8 kg on my bathroom scales, so would be about £30 postage to the USA). But American buyers will pay less by buying it from Charles Davis at Numislit@aol.com.

I don't think anyone will ever do this subject any better treatment than has Dr.Dykes. This book simply makes one's mouth water.

Tony Fox

Prelude to the Willeys

For over three hundred years the Romans occupied the British Isles and their influence is evident, even today, if one knows where to look for such things. The symbol for the British Pound £ is derived from the letter **L** which stood for the Roman word *Librae*, (*Libra*) a twelve ounce pound. (Mnemonic: the symbol for the constellation **Libra** is a set of **balance scales**.) The symbol used for Shilling (a silver coin equal to twelve pence) was the letter **S** which originally derived its designation from the Roman *Solidus*.



Old Hammered Silver British Shilling (Note the Roman Numeral XII)

A silver coin c. 25mm.

The letter designation for pence was **D**. That letter designation comes from the equivalent size Roman coin, the *Denarius*. In the early days a pence or penny was a silver coin about the size of a modern day US penny.



Silver Hammered Penny. (A day's wages once upon a time!)

Copper was not considered a precious metal. Coins were made to contain their approximate value in metal, less the cost of minting. (Actually, the silver penny was the only coin made for hundreds of years until the Tudor Kings began minting larger denominations.) This presented a continual problem because a silver penny was a relatively high value coin. One penny would purchase a **gallon** of Stingo. (English strong Ale) Silver pennies were often cut to make change, a half

Two years later, in 1799, the government issued halfpence and farthing coins.



HALFPENCE OF 1799



FARTHING OF 1799



Please note that of all of the coins shown only the farthing has any statement of value. This attests to the fact that the user was intended to know the value by the size and weight of the coin. No statement of value was necessary. This fact alone probably accounts for the universally accepted nature of the Druids and Willeys. The druid penny tokens were very nearly one ounce in weight and the halfpenny tokens of John Wilkinson (Willeys) were close to half an ounce.

In the next installment of this article I will present the reader with a look at the Willeys, the industrial trade tokens issued by the Iron Master, John Wilkinson. And what was an Iron Master you ask? An Iron Master was one who could begin with raw elements taken from the earth, smelt them, cast them and end up with a finished product made of iron. An Iron Master had mastered all of the knowledge and skills necessary to do these things and John Wilkinson came to be known as the King of the Iron Masters!

Cheers!

Edward C. Moore AA,BS,M.Ed.

The coins, tokens and ephemera shown here are all part of my collection and photographed by me for the article. Most of the credits will appear after Willeys Part One and Part Two but I do need to mention "The Token Book" by Paul and Bente R. Withers, Galata Print Ltd. 2010, for their excellent information on the early tokens. Lastly, you can contact me at PO Box 93, Crosby, TX, 77532, for corrections or whatever. For now, I am off to try to find that farthing that rolled off the porch when I dropped it! Collecting should be an adventure, I suppose!

The Padsole Paper Mill (Kent D&H 37)

by Tim Porter

It is quite possible that there has been a mill on the Padsole Paper mill site since before the Norman invasion in 1066. There are records of both corn mills and fulling mills both of which used water power from the River Len as the motive force to either grind or pulverise. Thus, James Smyth, the conder token issuer, only played a very small part in the Padsole Mill's history. He first appears in 1793 when he purchased a share in the then derelict mill; he issued the token in 1795 and then sold his share in the mill in 1796. Following these three years there appears to be no further record of him either in Kent or in papermaking country wide.

James Smyth's Padsole Paper Mill issue has all the characteristics of a true commercial token. It has no spurious edges and the Padsole Paper Mill would have had a real need for small change for its large labour force. There would have needed to be a large labour force because the Padsole Paper mill, which had four vats for paper making, was one of the six largest paper mills in the country at that time.

Obverse



Reverse



The Obverse of the token illustrates the Arms of Maidstone with a supporter on either side. Unfortunately William Davies, the diesinker, has cut off the arms of the supporters that should be supporting the shield sadly leaving them with just stumps above the elbow.

If you were to take a closer look at the current civic coat of arms for Maidstone you will see that it has changed since the 1795 version as it now includes some form of lizard. While the coat of arms of other major towns incorporate heraldic beasts, or normal creatures associated with their area, Maidstone has a prehistoric animal named an "Iguanodon" (Iguana tooth) on its coat of arms.

It was in 1834 during excavations in Maidstone that the fossilised bones of an enormous creature were discovered. News of this find quickly spread across the nation as it was reported widely in all the country's newspapers. Restoration was made from the fossilised bones which were then put on display at the 1851 great exhibition in London. Unfortunately, it did not resemble, in any shape or form, the Iguanodon as we know it today. It was not until 1878 that coal miners in Belgium found 31 Iguanodon skeletons proving once and for all how the creature looked when alive.

In 1946, the leaders of Maidstone Borough Council applied to the College of Arms to have their famous Iguanodon incorporated in the civic coat of arms. The request was granted and attested in 1949. Thus, Maidstone has the dubious reputation of having the strangest Coat Of Arms in the entire United Kingdom. The Maidstone Iguanodon now resides in the British Museum where it can be seen today.

On the reverse of the token is a commercial building that R.C. Bell describes as a "front view of a paper mill".

