

THE COPPER CORNER
"Something for Everyone"

List updated January 2012

ARCHITECTURE

IN SIX PRINTABLE PAGES

The building tokens and medalets listed in Dalton and Hamer hold far more interest for me than they did at first glance many years ago. Being American, I did not relate to many of them at the time, though I do now. If you live in the UK you know how interesting these pieces can be, a metallic history of a building that is now gone, or one that is still there, which is even more interesting in a way.

It is a startling thing for a stranger to come up from the London underground and see in front of them a building that is depicted on a token made over 200 years before. As well, a large number of the churches depicted are still in use. It is a view of the building that, if correctly done, shows how it looked at the time the token was struck---and thus you can discover any exterior changes made since by viewing the building today.

Some of the buildings are hard to find, with tall buildings built around it in the many years that have passed, and some are nearly buried in those, so the view the token has cannot be duplicated.

These buildings have a local history that cannot be denied, The British have a strong feeling for their own history, and churches, gates, town halls, guild halls, market crosses, towers, and more---even gaols---still standing---do a lot to keep the feeling alive.

It is no wonder that the building tokens are collected in the UK. Groups of these were made for collectors of the day, most of them by Kempson in Birmingham, Skidmore in London, and also by Denton and Prattent, London. We are lucky they decided to record history in such a way, as we can now assemble the tokens they struck as well, and form a nice collection.

Other buildings are depicted on tokens that were not part of any series, individual pieces from different counties, often by commercial issuers and others. All are important to the whole story of architecture on tokens, and one that is recorded in a book by R. C. Bell, "The Building Medalets", valuable for the photos and the history of some of the buildings. These building tokens are usually one of a kind, by that I mean not part of a series---a single token depicting a building. Those will NOT be on this list. Many have castles, ancient walls, bridges, inclined planes, and other items that are architectural, but for simplicity I have decided that this list shall include only building medalets offered in series.

You shall find the "single issue" building tokens included on my regular listings. and also the short run pieces, such as the Worcs, Dudley tokens. If a major long series, it will be found on this list, and no other.

Since making the "Architecture" list a regular feature, it has evolved to only cover the various series of building tokens. Thus, the major series from Gloucester leads the list off, followed by building medals by Peter Kempson in the Middlesex series, Midd 42 all the way to Middlesex 166, with the Globes, the London and Westminster pieces, those from Clerkenwell, and a few miscellaneous issues as well---then moving on to the Somerset, Bath tokens---and ending with the two major series in Warwickshire, Kempson's Birmingham buildings and the pieces from Coventry.

PLEASE KEEP ME IN MIND IF YOU HAVE ANY NICE BUILDING TOKENS FOR SALE---

Have fun, Bill

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KEMPSON'S SERIES OF GLOUCESTER BUILDINGS, Gloucester 1 to 11----and also, Ottley's copy of the above, Gloucester 12-20, all in White Metal. All have the Arms of Gloucester on the reverse. 1-11 signed Kempson, 12-20 signed Ottley.

**GLOUCESTER 6 1797 St. Nicholas' Church AU, few mks, net GVF for price \$45
GLOUCESTER 9 1797 The High Cross. Bronzed UNC, some wipe lines, luster \$75.
Another, some hairlines in the field, but better than the last, net AU \$85.**

Ottley pieces are not dated, but have "Ottley" in place of the date.

The Ottley pieces, Gloucestershire 12-20, are usually found in white metal. There were a few struck in copper, but they are all quite rare. Not every Ottley number is known in copper, most have but 2-3 traced, and a couple only one.

At the moment, there are no Ottley pieces in my stock.

The following grouping is from the Middlesex buildings series by Young, Kempson, Skidmore, Denton and Prattent, et al. The first group are all penny tokens, ranging from Middlesex 39 to Middlesex 173.

KEMPSON'S SERIES OF LONDON BUILDINGS-----D&H Middlesex 42 to Middlesex 67.

The dies by Thomas Wyon.

#42 - #45, reverse reads "London promissory Token, with the arms of London.

\$46-67, reverse reads London Penny Token, with the arms of London in the center.

KEMPSON 42 ND Guild Hall. couple small spots, luster \$95. Bronzed UNC \$110.

Another, super surfaces, tad red UNC \$145.

KEMPSON 44a ND Somerset House, UNC R&B small obv. stain \$85.

KEMPSON 62 ND Montague House, altered for the British Museum.(in 1754). This is a marvellous, near gem UNC of a very desirable piece. Brown and pretty, \$285.

KEMPSON'S 63 ND Monument Erected. UNC, early die state, UNC \$95.

A second, no cuds but a few marks, net EF \$58. a Third, 50% red, one small flan void \$95.

KEMPSON'S 67. ND Trinity Alms House. Luster, UNC few minor mks in field \$95.

KEMPSON'S SERIES OF LONDON BUILDINGS AND BRIDGES, Middlesex D&H 68 to D&H 80.

The dies by Thomas Wyon.

All have large portrait of Justice Standing in center of reverse, the legend reading British Penny token, 1797. Any with other devices will be listed.

KEMPSON'S ` 73 1797 Aldgate/Justice Standing. One really small area of darker tone on the Aldgate side, the other side perfect surfaces and both sides with subdued luster. Pretty. UNC \$150.

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LONDON & WESTMINSTER-----The following pieces are listed in Middlesex from D&H 81 to D&H 113. With few exceptions, all are rare, the dies being improperly annealed and many of those only lasted through a small number of strikes. . The series is rife with die cracks, sunken dies, cuds, and other striking problems, which only makes the series more interesting in many ways. An interesting series that is well collected, I genuinely like the pieces. These were made for sale to collectors by DENTON and PRATTENT, with the dies reportedly by James, and they do look like his work.

All of these are rare, some exceptionally so.

All are UNC unless otherwise listed, have the arms of London on the reverse, and are dated 1797.

LONDON & WEST.	83	1797	King Theatre Haymarket. Sm spot, some hairlines, buckled obverse die, fully struck in the buckle, UNC \$245.
LONDON & WEST	84	1797	Trinity House. Luster, neat obv. die crack and cud, UNC \$395
LONDON & WEST	86	1797	Lambeth Palace, Surrey. Weak centers, as the obverse die buckled, but the piece is about as struck. Fully UNC , but net EF and yours for \$295.
LONDON & WEST	96	1797	Brewer's Hall. Tiny carbon spot on building, nice UNC \$325. Another, luster, really nice no problem UNC, \$395.
LONDON& WEST	97	1797	Cordwainer's Hall. Tiny obv. scratch, rest as made and nice \$325
LONDON & WEST	100	1797	Fishmonger's Hall. Choice Bronzed, 1 scratch on rev, UNC \$350
LONDON & WEST	102	1797	Habedasher's Hall. 3 tone spots, all small, UNC/AU \$275.
LONDON & WEST	108	1797	Skinner's Hall, super mostly red UNC, \$450.
LONDON & WEST	111	1797	Tallow Chandler's Hall, nice R&B UNC \$395.

The Globe, (Middlesex 114-145), Clerkenwell, (Middlesex 146-165), and Miscellaneous series (Middlesex 166 to 173) were made by Skidmore, London, from dies cut by Jacobs. A few are fairly common, and it ranges to very rare, all quite interesting and collectable.

The Globe series-----each has as it's reverse a world globe, with "Britain" in the appropriate place.

These pieces range from Scarce to Rare. All are UNC unless otherwise listed and dated 1797.

GLOBE----144. Ruins of Gisborough Abbey. Lacquered. Obverse appears to be nice, the reverse appears to have hairlines under the lacquer. Strong band around the globe, this token shows no wear at all, just the above. And, only \$195. Still and all decent eye appeal.

The Clerkenwell series of London was made by Skidmore, with his arms on the reverse and his address, Coppice row, Clerkenwell. Supposedly made by P. Skidmore, a recent article in the BNJ has shown that though there was a Peter Skidmore, he is not the person who made the Skidmore tokens.

These pieces are generally scarce, with some rare. All have the arms of London on the reverse.

CLERKENWELL	160	ND	Sion House. R&B UNC, with 1 scratch in obverse field, \$210.
CLERKENWELL	160,		another. R&B, very nice surfaces, UNC \$255.
CLERKENWELL	162	ND	South Sea House. One tiny spot in legend, otherwise blemish free. UNC \$195.

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The Miscellaneous series is so called as there is a building on the obverse, but the reverses can be quite different, with devices such as the Goldsmith's arms, liberty caps, cornucopias, and portcullis. This lack of a theme for the reverses put them in "Miscellaneous" but still each is a Skidmore penny for sale to collectors.

The rarest of these is the "Theatre at New York" token, which you shall probably never see on this list.

Miscellaneous temporarily sold out

The following grouping is from Skidmore's issue of Churches and gates of London, Southwark, and surrounding areas. The quality of this offering is for the most part very nice.

Each has a PSCo Cypher on the reverse, unless otherwise noted. The pieces will be listed by the subject on the obverse. All are Middlesex. There are many very nice pieces in this group.

MIDD	522a	1795	St. Paul's Covent Garden/Same but Destroyed. 3-4 mks rev, net EF \$65
			Another, this 50% red and super nice, \$150.
MIDD	539c	ND	St. Mary's Aldermanbury. Luster, perfect surfaces, UNC \$110.
			Another, like the first, but full though fading red, UNC \$120.
MIDD	554	ND	St. Ann's. Some red, obverse super, rev. two toned as often seen. UNC \$100
MIDD	586	ND	St. James, Garlic Hythe (street). 50% red EF, \$85.
MIDD	592a	ND	St. George's Hanover Square/Dove. Prooflike flashy luster, UNC, nice, \$125.
MIDD	615	ND	St Lukes, Old Street. 3 tiny tics in field. Nice though, UNC price \$95.
MIDD	653	ND	Cripplegate. Some red, very nice UNC \$135.

SOMERSETSHIRE

The following pieces are from the series of Somerset buildings. They are all made on nice heavy flans, and the die work is usually top notch. The reverse of each piece is the arms of Bath in a sunken oval, which is quite a nice version of it. Each piece will be listed by the obverse vignette.

All of these are generally scarce, but a few are quite rare.

BATH	69	ND	All Saint's Chapel. EF, \$75
BATH	72	ND	Cross Bath Pump Room, UNC \$85.
BATH	76	ND	Kensington Chapel. Luster, Bronzed UNC \$105
			Another, very nice surfaces and luster, \$120.
BATH	82	ND	New Pump Room interior. Choice UNC, nice luster \$125.
			Another, nice looking bronzed, but a tad rub AU \$85.

WARWICKSHIRE -- halfpennies

This next section is a group of tokens produced by Peter Kempson depicting Birmingham Buildings, and for sale to the general public, #147 to #218. Most are fairly common, but there are rarities. The reverse is, for the most part, nearly the same for all pieces, P. Kempson above, a shield of arms in the center, around which are the words "Maker of Buttons Medals &c, Birmingham". None are dated, with the exception of those with the reverse with an inner legend, if one is in the sale it will be noted.

Though most are not dated, these were struck in 1797.

Only the subject of the token will be listed in most cases

KEMPSON'S	147	Ashted Chapel. Mirror luster, minor lines, net AU \$85.
KEMPSON'S	151	St. Bartholomew's Chapel. UNC luster, very choice \$110
KEMPSON'S	153	St. John's Chapel. Nice UNC, R&B, luster \$95.
KEMPSON'S	154	St. Martin's Church. some fading red, cpl mks, \$75.
Another, cud from 10 to 12, at rim, brown, nice UNC \$85		
KEMPSON/S	160	The Old Meeting Destroy'd. Heavy flan, UNC nice luster \$95.
Another, quite prooflike, great flash, UNC \$110.		
KEMPSON'S	164	New Meeting Burnt. Luster, sharp strike, UNC \$110. Nice.
KEMPSON'S	172	St. Paul's Chapel. Luster, UNC \$95.
KEMPSON'S	175	St. Phillip's Church. Same rim flaw, UNC \$75.
Another, with just a hint of the flaw, luster, UNC some red, \$65.		
KEMPSON'S	188	Old Cross Erected. Brown, luster, cpl field marks, UNC \$65.
KEMPSON'S	194	Blue Coat School Erected. minor tone spots in flan, under the luster,
so "as made", but eye appeal down a tad, net UNC/AU \$75		
KEMPSON'S	197a	Blue Coat Charity School 1794. RARE brass, dull surfaces net EF \$95.
Another, copper, some bright, part dull, net EF, just \$75.		
Another, This a decent copper with 3 small stains, \$95.		
KEMPSON'S	203	The New Brass Works. Tad Red, luster, nice UNC \$95.
KEMPSON'S	208	Hotel Erected. Luster, some red, UNC \$95.
KEMPSON'S	210	Navigation Office. Green toned UNC \$55.
KEMPSON'S	218	George III. R&B luster, minor two-toning \$95.

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The following section is from Kempson's Coventry series of buildings. The reverse features the arms of Coventry in an oval, and is well accomplished. A heavy token compared to some, this was quality work for the most part. These are all dated 1797. Only the subject of the token, the obverse, will be listed. Handel reverses are quite rare, currently there are seven offered.

- COVENTRY 260 Grey Friar's Steeple/**Bust of Handle. RARE**, some red, hairlines UNC \$150
COVENTRY 262 St. John's Church. 1 field contact mark, UNC \$85.
Another, tad red, and nice surfaces, UNC \$110. A third, tad red, super luster \$125.
COVENTRY 267 White Friar's. tad cab rub, handling mks, net GEF. lettered edge. \$85.
COVENTRY 269 Cook Street Gate. Dark area on rev as made, choice bronzed UNC \$95.
COVENTRY 278a Spon Gate/**Handel. RARE**, wear marks, AEF net, \$125
COVENTRY 283 Bablake Hospital/**Handel. RARE**. Dark, bit blotchy, AU net \$155.
COVENTRY 286 Coventry Cross. AU, 3 small cuts in field, \$65.
Another, UNC, luster, brown \$95. Lacquered Brown, 1 scratch UNC \$75.
COVENTRY 287 Coventry Cross/**Handel RARE**. some handling mks, UNC net AU \$175.
COVENTRY 287, ANOTHER--- **Handel, RARE**, old wiping on obv, rev OK, net AU \$175.
COVENTRY 288 County Hall. net EF cleaned \$30. A nice Bronzed UNC, \$95.
COVENTRY 288a County Hall. Bronzed choice UNC \$110.
COVENTRY 290a, County Hall/**Handle. RARE**, fading red, but cleaned. Brn UNC \$145.
COVENTRY 291 Draper's Hall. EF, \$65.
COVENTRY 292 Draper's Hall/**Handel, RARE**, Some roughness, tone spots, etc, \$155.
COVENTRY 295 St. Mary's Hall. Bronzed, nice UNC \$95.
COVENTRY 296 St. Mary's Hall/**Bust of Handel. RARE**. hairlined UNC \$150.
COVENTRY 297 Free School. Lettered edge, nice, but just VF+. \$35. EF, nice \$55.
COVENTRY 297a Free School. Minor spotting PL UNC \$85.
COVENTRY 298 Free School/**Handel. RARE**. R&B, a nice UNC, but there are pin scratches
to left of bust, a removed small spot I think, so net EF \$155.
COVENTRY 299 Free School new front. UNC but wiped, net EF \$55.
COVENTRY 299a Free School, new front. Plain edge,bronzed UNC tad handled \$75.
Another, a single mark in obverse field, nice UNC \$95.
COVENTRY 300 Free School new front. Green tone, sharp strike, UNC \$55. Old cleaning.
Another, Bronzed, couple light lines in field, very nice though, super luster \$110.
COVENTRY 302a Free School, new front/**Handel RARE**. cpl tiny digs on rev, net AU \$175.

END OF ARCHITECTURE LISTING. Thanks for looking---Bill

For Terms of Sale, see the quarterly listing.