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# An Introduction to Conder Tokens

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GREATER ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB  
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# Agenda

- What are Conder Tokens?
- Who made them and why?
- How are they catalogued?
- What are the various types?
- Why are there so many great looking examples available today?
- Introducing tokens from my collection.
- How do I learn more?
- Where do I buy them?

# What are Conder Tokens?



ALSO KNOWN AS 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PROVINCIAL TOKENS OF BRITAIN  
(ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND)

# Copper Tokens\*

Penny

Halfpenny (akin to a US large cent)

Farthing (1/4 penny)



- THEY WERE NOT FULL WEIGHT
- NOT LEGAL TENDER (COULD NOT PAY TAXES WITH THEM)
- SO WHY WERE THEY MADE ?
- WHAT MADE THEM ACCEPTABLE?

\*Some were made in white metal, silver or gold, but these are one-off special items.





# British Coinage in late 18<sup>th</sup> Century



Gold  
guinea



Silver  
six pence



Silver  
shilling



Copper  
Worn and/or  
Imitation  
halfpence

# British Monetary Units and purchasing power 1787

## Basic Coin Units

- Copper: The penny “d” from Latin denarius.  $12d = 1s$ ; thus  $£1 = 240d$ 
  - 23d per pound avoirdupois
  - Halfpence =  $1/2d$  and Farthing =  $1/4d$
- Silver: The shilling “s” from Latin solidus,  $20s = £1$ 
  - 62s per troy pound
  - Thruppence =  $1/4s = 3d$
  - Sixpence =  $1/2s = 6d$
  - Shilling =  $12d$
  - Halfcrown =  $2s\ 6d = 30d$
  - Crown =  $5s = 60d$
- Gold: The guinea =  $21s$ , or  $£1, 1s$ 
  - $44\ \frac{1}{2}$  guineas per troy pound
  - 1 Guinea =  $21s = 252d$
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  Guinea =  $10\ \frac{1}{2}s = 126d$
- $£1$  was equivalent to \$90 US today
  - 1 shilling worth about \$4.50
  - $\frac{1}{2}d$  worth about 19 cents
  - Most workers earned 1 to 2 s per 13 hour day, or \$27 to \$54/week

Why were they made?

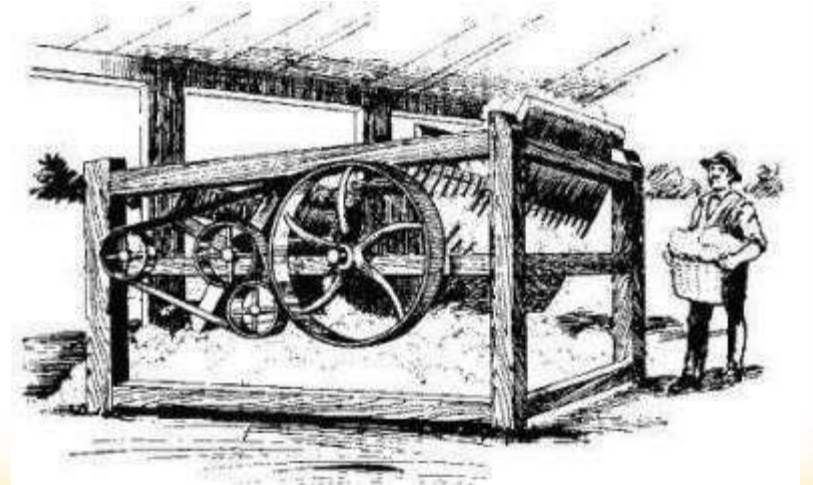
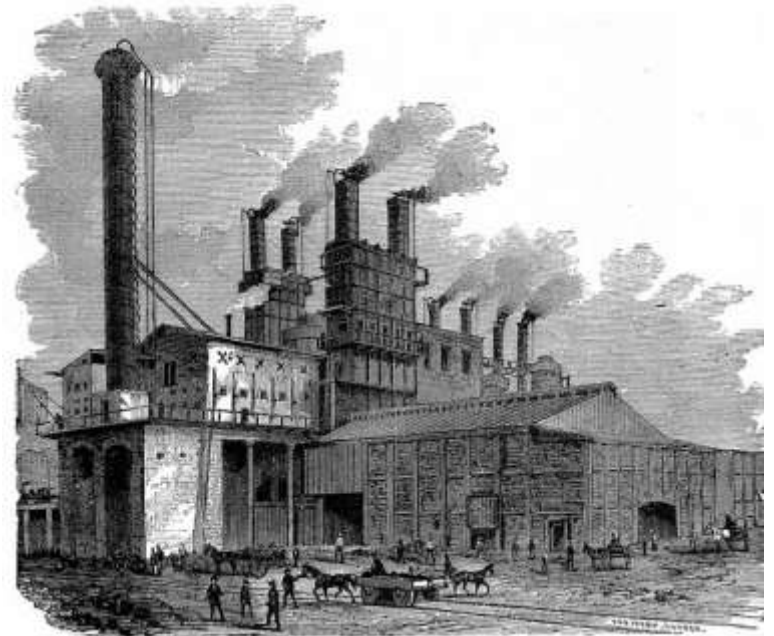
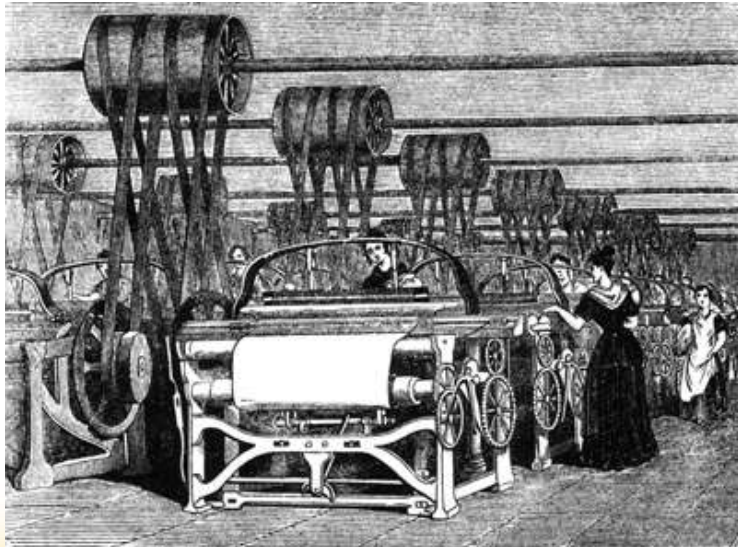
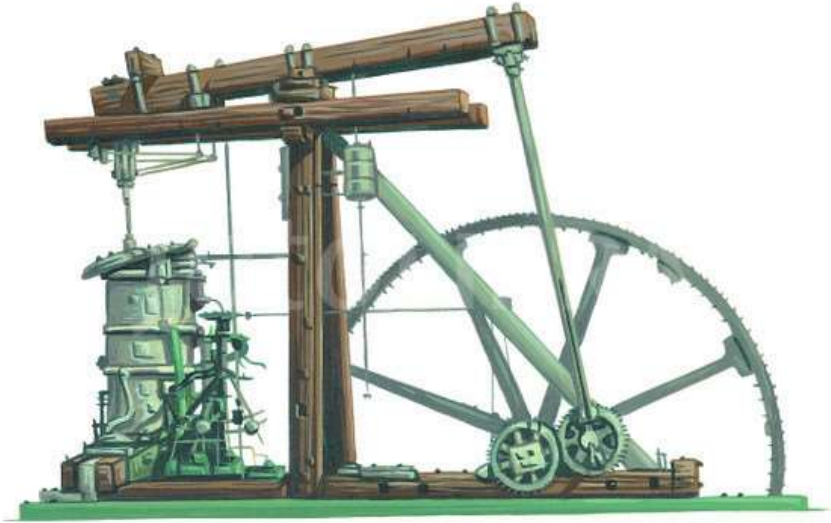
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What was the name of the  
revolution that occurred the late  
1700s?

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# The Industrial Revolution



# Why were they made?

- Unprecedented movement of workers off the land to factories
- Parliamentary enclosures of the commons
- The Industrial Revolution – 1787 to 1817
  - Momentous mechanical innovations
  - Broadening of foreign markets
- Huge increase in population
  - 1550's – less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the population received wages
  - 1790's – about  $\frac{3}{4}$  received wages
- High demand for small-value transactions
  - Pay wages
  - Buy food and drink
- No legal tender small change available

Population  
England and Wales  
1600 – 4 million  
1700 – 5 million  
1750 – 6.5 million  
1800 – 9 million

# Why was there a shortage of royal small change?

## Monetary policy

- Official Gold to silver ratio different than market
  - The pound sterling actually became a gold standard
  - 13 pounds of silver could buy a pound of gold versus official  $15 \frac{1}{4}$  pounds
  - Silver was over-valued - Export or melt the shillings! Corrode or clip them.
    - 62 pence per ounce versus 68 pence per ounce -  $9 \frac{2}{3}$  % profit
    - With little silver available copper had to fill the role
  - Oppressive regulation prevented paper money from helping
- Mint workers paid a commission on output
  - Made more coining large value silver and gold than copper
- Copper beneath the dignity of the Monarchy – a vulgar metal
- Lots of low value counterfeits and worn coppers – Government did not want them back



# Parys Mine Company - by February 1787 Druid Head Thomas Williams – The Copper King



“PAYABLE IN ANGLESEA LONDON OR LIVERPOOL ”

Have to pay over 2,000 workers

No small bank notes available

Sick of dealing with bad shillings and doubtful halfpennies

Lots of Copper lying about

Already made copper sheeting

16 pennies per pound vs 9 pennies per pound cost

What drove the demand for copper sheeting?

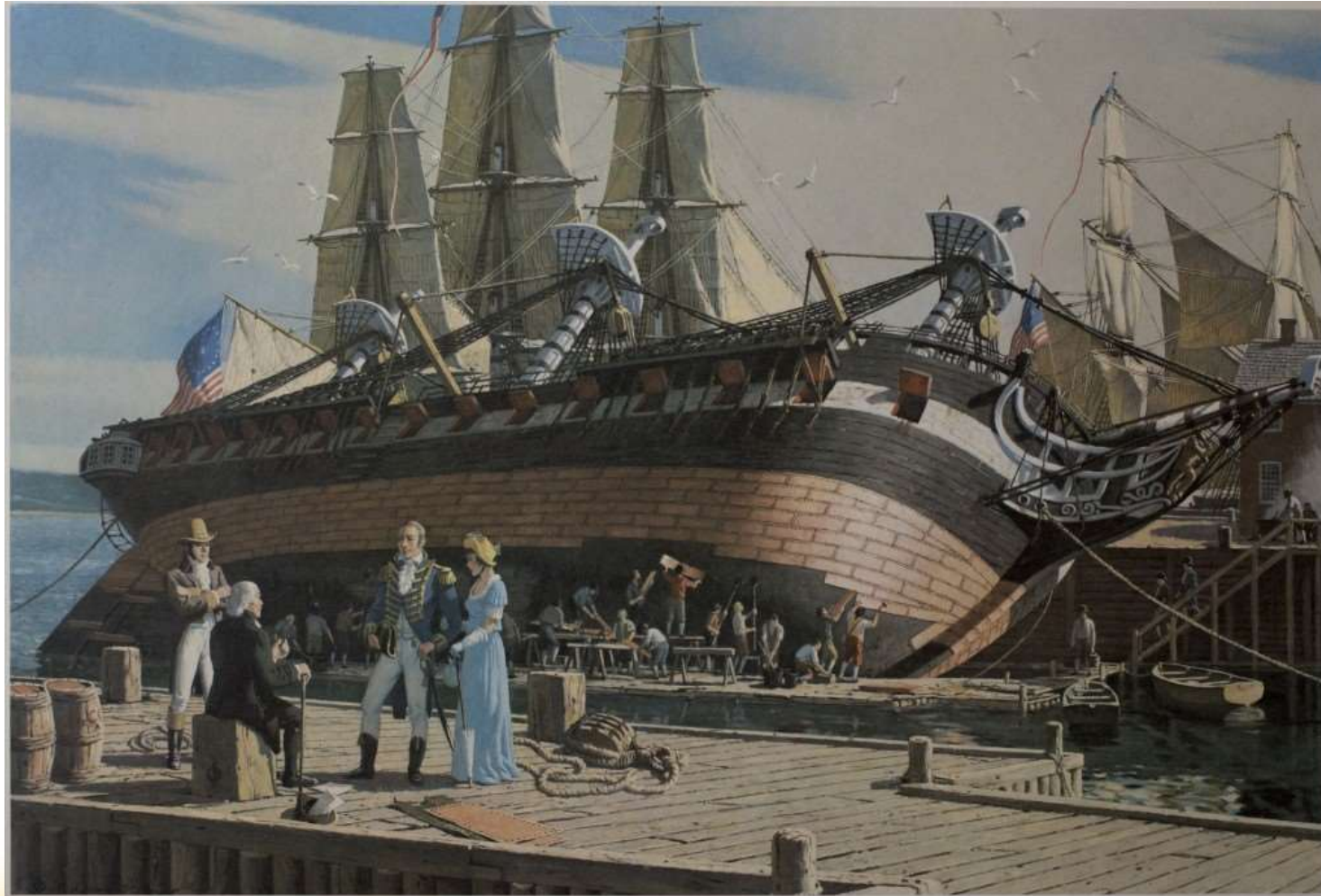




What drove the demand for copper sheeting?



What drove the demand for copper sheeting?



# Why were so many tokens made in Birmingham?



IT IS NOT ON THE OCEAN, IT HAS LITTLE WATER POWER, IT IS FAR FROM THE COPPER MINES.





SCOTLAND

NORTH SEA

UNITED KINGDOM

NORTHERN IRELAND

ISLE OF MAN

ENGLAND

**Birmingham**

IRELAND

WALES

London

NETHERLANDS

BELGIUM

CELTIC SEA

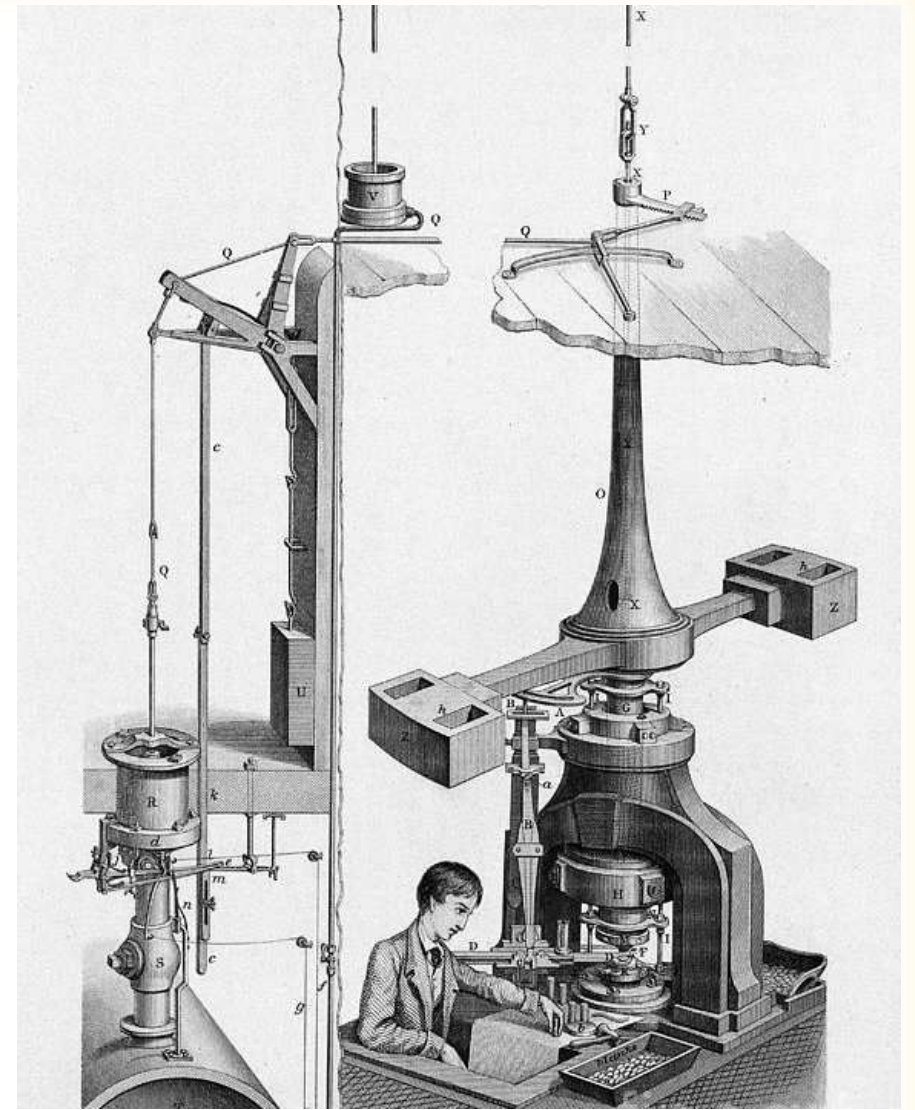
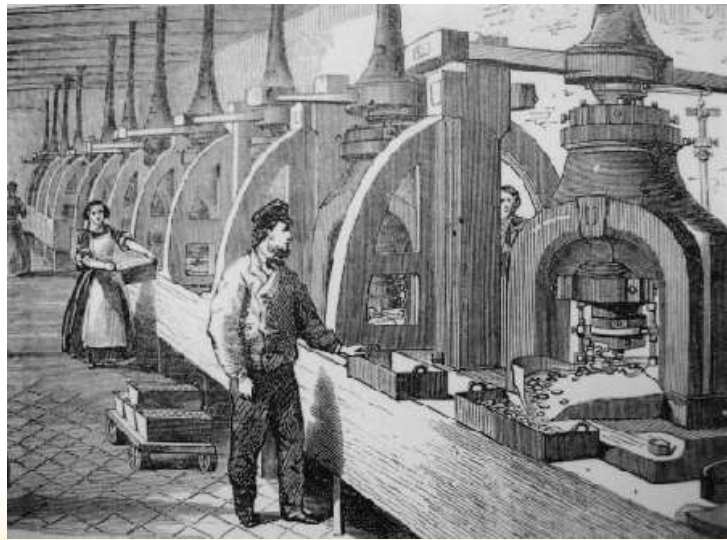
ENGLISH CHANNEL

# Birmingham - Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution

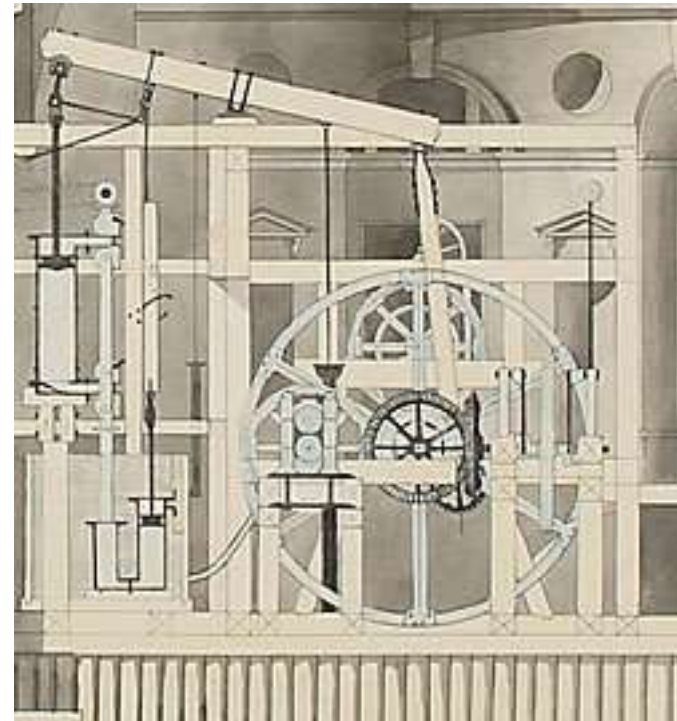
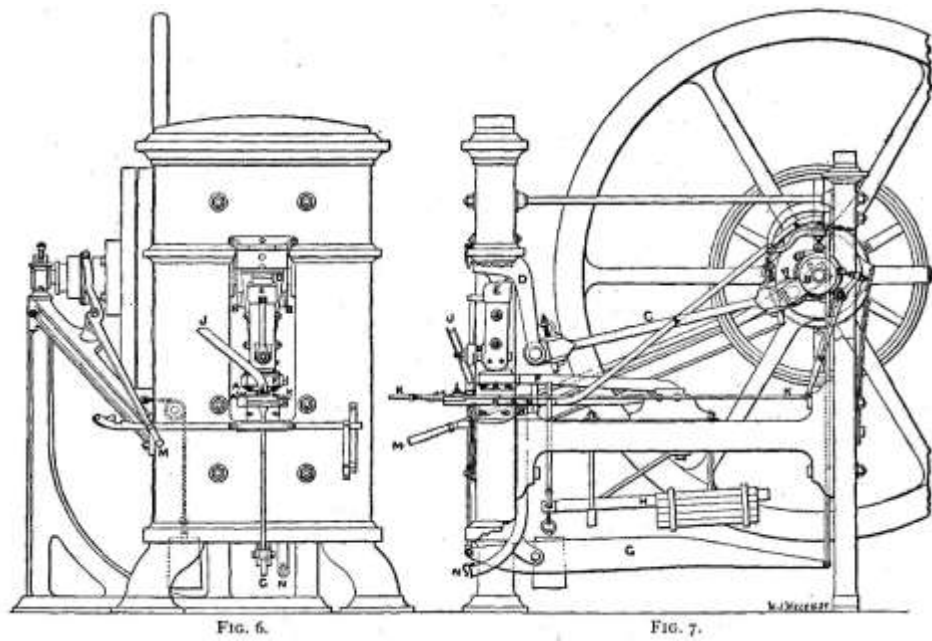
- Governing institutions of medieval Birmingham collapsed in mid 1500s leaving town with an unusually high degree of social and economic freedom
- By 18th century tradition of free-thinking and collaboration became known as the Midlands Enlightenment. Citizens became influential participants in the circulation of scientific ideas among Europe's intellectual elite
- The exchange of knowledge between pure science and the practical world of manufacturing and technology created a "chain reaction of innovation" forming a pivotal link between the earlier scientific revolution and industrial revolution
- Invented in Birmingham Cotton gin, blast furnace, steam engine, cast iron, manufacturing, the postage stamp
- Buttons, clasps and other metalwork were made there; very similar to coin manufacturing



# Matthew Boulton and James Watt The Soho Mint - Birmingham



# Boulton and Watt Coin Press



Why were tokens locally  
acceptable?



# Why were they Locally Acceptable?



- THE SUPPLIERS PROMISED TO MAKE THEM REDEEMABLE ON DEMAND INTO GOLD OR SILVER OR BANK OF ENGLAND NOTES
- THE PROMISE WAS CREDIBLE BECAUSE THE SUPPLIER WAS OFTEN RICH, ESTABLISHED, AND A WELL-KNOWN LOCAL INDUSTRIALIST OR MERCHANT
- THEY WERE WELL-MADE BY INNOVATIVE OR COMPLEX TECHNIQUES DIFFICULT TO COUNTERFEIT – EDGE LETTERING

How did they add edge lettering?

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# Castaing's machine



- Consists of two plates of steel in form of rulers, on which the edging is engraved, half on the one, and half on the other.
- One of these plates is immovable, being strongly bound with screws to a copper plate on a board or table; the other is movable, and slides on the copper plate by means of a handle, and a wheel, or pinion, of iron, the teeth of which catch in other teeth, on the surface of the sliding plate.
- The planchet, being placed horizontally between these two plates, is carried along by the motion of the movable one; so as by the time that it had made half a turn, it is found marked all round.

Why are they called Conder  
Tokens?



# James Conder

## 1763-1823

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**WAS A LINEN DRAPER AT TAVERN STREET, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.  
AN ARDENT COLLECTOR OF TOKENS AND THE AUTHOR OF THE STANDARD  
WORK ON THEM UNTIL SUPERSEDED BY THAT OF ATKINS IN 1892.**

“An arrangement of Provincial Coins, tokens, and medalets issued in Great Britain, Ireland, and the colonies, within the last twenty years, from the farthing to the penny size” - published in 1798.

AN  
ARRANGEMENT  
OF  
*Provincial Coins, Tokens, and Medalets,*  
ISSUED IN  
GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND, and the COLONIES,  
WITHIN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS;  
FROM THE FARTHING, TO THE PENNY SIZE.

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By *JAMES CONDER.*

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"It is certain that Medals give a very great Light to History."  
*Addison.*

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IPSWICH:

*Printed and Sold by George Jermyn.*

SOLD ALSO BY T. CONDER, N<sup>o</sup> 30, BUCKLESBURY; AND H. YOUNG,  
N<sup>o</sup> 30, TAVISTOCK STREET, LONDON.

1798.

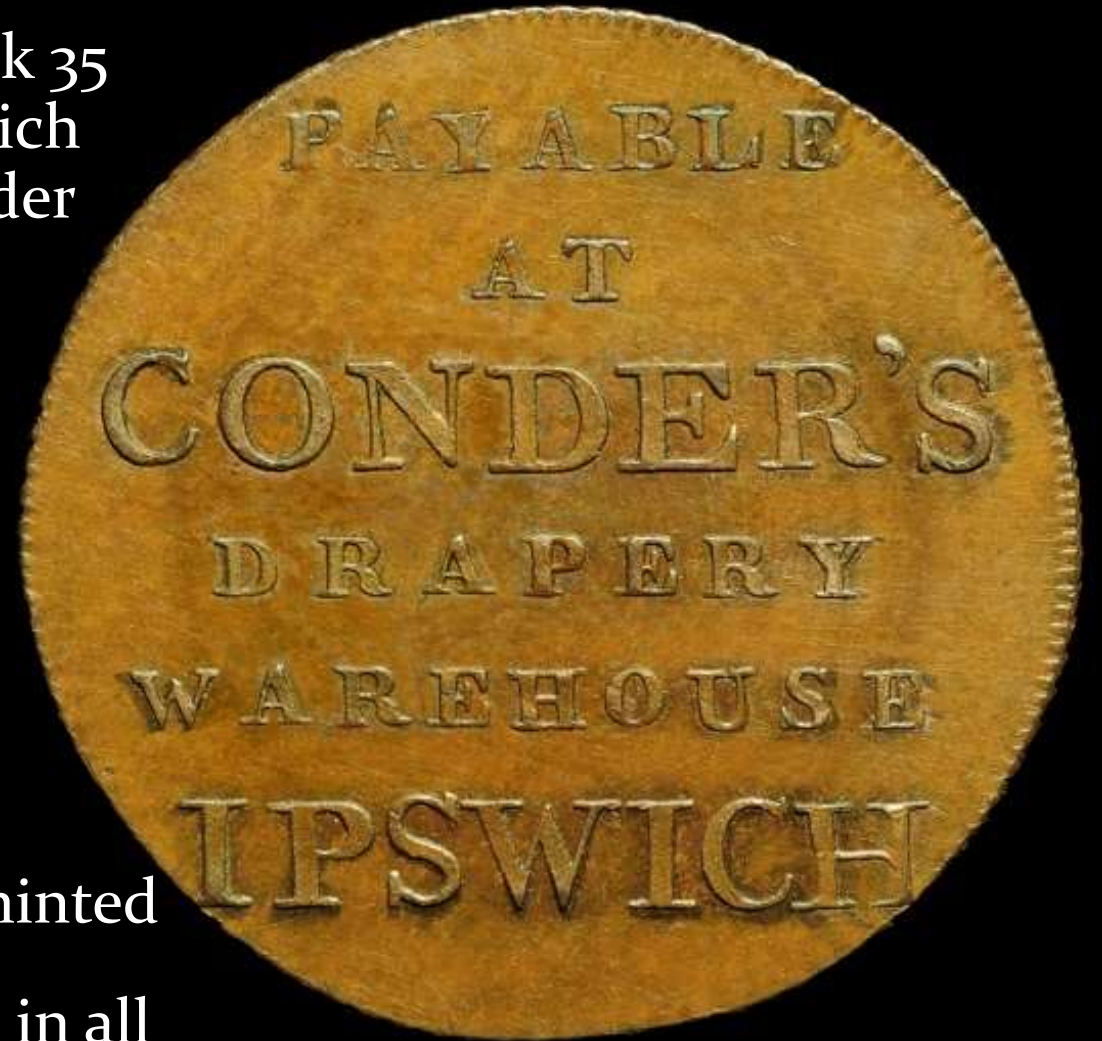




Suffolk 35  
Ipswich  
Conder

103,000 minted

Available in all  
grades





How are they catalogued?

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# The Provincial Token-Coinage of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

- R. Dalton and S.H. Hamer 1910-1918
  - Reprinted in 1990 and 1996 by Allan Davisson
  - Reprinted again in 2004 and again in 2015 by William McKivor
- Black and White Illustrations
- Organized by Country, County, towns or villages
  - “Middlesex” organized by buildings, political and social, Washington, etc.
- Lists Over 4,000 varieties
  - Including edge lettering variations and non-copper varieties
  - Cross referenced to earlier “1892 James Atkins book”

# THE PROVINCIAL TOKEN-COINAGE

## OF THE 18th CENTURY ILLUSTRATED

BY  
R. DALTON & S.H. HAMER

1910-1918



172

### Middlesex.

#### SPENCER'S.

##### Marine Society, &c.

Nos. 703-704. O: A sailor boy. As No. 698.  
703. R: A true-hearted sailor. As No. 713.  
E: SPENCE X A. 615  
704a. R: Plain. A. 615a  
704. R: Turbot. As No. 699.  
E: Plain. A. 616



O: for Nos. 703-704

Nos. 705-706. O: A lion & d. MORDORA =

705. R: Two men boxing. As No. 726. E: SPENCE X A. 617  
706a. R: Plain. A. 617a  
706. R: Dredwell Bay. As No. 708. E: Plain. A. 618

##### Meadow.

Nos. 707-708. O: A lion & d. MORDORA =

707. R: A pair of brooches on fire. E: Plain. A. 619  
708. R: Shepherd. As No. 690. E: SPENCE X A. 619

##### Old Fables.

Nos. 709-707. O: Head of man and sea

enjoyed. As No. 696.

709. R: A man sitting in prison gnawing a bone. E: SPENCE X A. 620

709a. R: Milled. A. 620a  
709b. R: Plain. A. 620b



O: for Nos. 709-707



701. R: The beginning of Oppression. As No. 697. E: Milled. A. 621

702. R: Lion damaged. As No. 684. E: Milled. A. 622

703. R: Two men dancing round a fire. E: SPENCE X A. 623

703a. R: Plain. A. 623a

704. R: A pig trampling upon emblems of royalty, &c. Pig most Published by T. Spence London. E: SPENCE X A. 624

704a. R: Milled. A. 624a

704b. R: Plain. A. 624b

705. R: The heads of Pitt and Fox joined. 000 = FELLOWS = 000. E: SPENCE X A. 625

705a. R: Plain. A. 625a

706. R: Boat of Tooke. As No. 702. E: SPENCE X A. 626

706a. R: Milled. A. 626a

706b. R: Engrailed. A. 626b

707. R: Four men dancing round a pole, surrounded by a head radiated. E: Milled. A. 627

707a. R: Plain. A. 627a

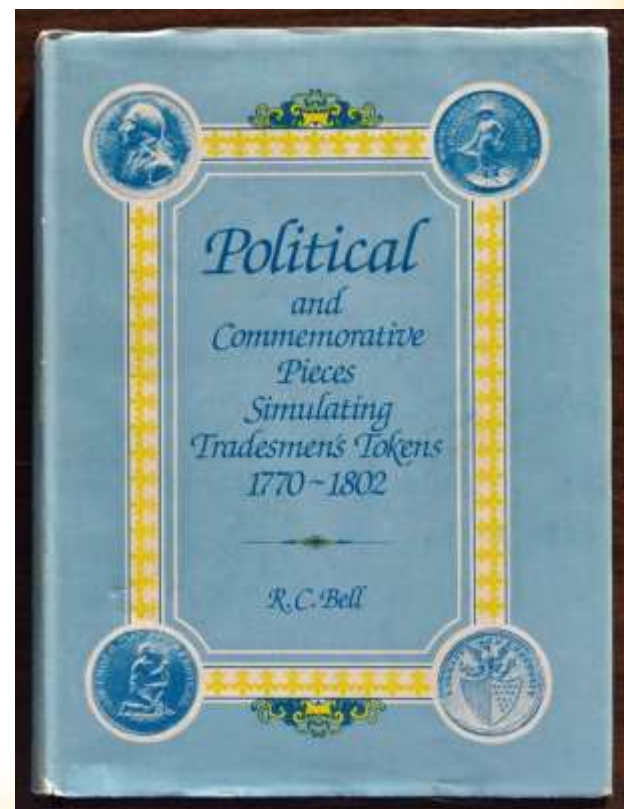
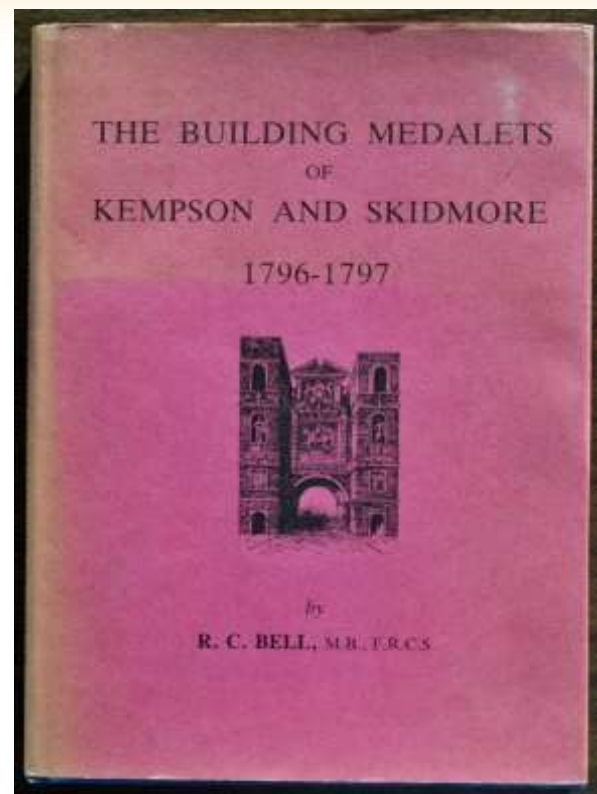
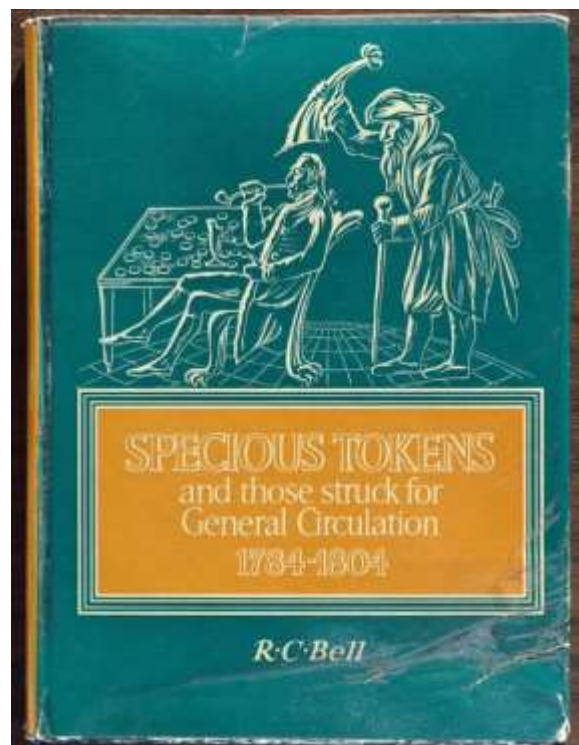
Also in brass.

Rarity—Nos. 701a, 707a, 709, a, 709, 709, a, 709, b, c, 707, 801a, 802a, 803, a, 804, a, 805a, 807a, 808a, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830a, 831a, 832a, 833a, 834a, 835a, 836a, 837a, 838a, 839a, 840a, 841a, 842a, 843a, 844a, 845a, 846a, 847a, 848a, 849a, 850a, 851a, 852a, 853a, 854a, 855a, 856a, 857a, 858a, 859a, 860a, 861a, 862a, 863a, 864a, 865a, 866a, 867a, 868a, 869a, 870a, 871a, 872a, 873a, 874a, 875a, 876a, 877a, 878a, 879a, 880a, 881a, 882a, 883a, 884a, 885a, 886a, 887a, 888a, 889a, 890a, 891a, 892a, 893a, 894a, 895a, 896a, 897a, 898a, 899a, 900a, 901a, 902a, 903a, 904a, 905a, 906a, 907a, 908a, 909a, 910a, 911a, 912a, 913a, 914a, 915a, 916a, 917a, 918a, 919a, 920a, 921a, 922a, 923a, 924a, 925a, 926a, 927a, 928a, 929a, 930a, 931a, 932a, 933a, 934a, 935a, 936a, 937a, 938a, 939a, 940a, 941a, 942a, 943a, 944a, 945a, 946a, 947a, 948a, 949a, 950a, 951a, 952a, 953a, 954a, 955a, 956a, 957a, 958a, 959a, 960a, 961a, 962a, 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2112a, 2113a, 2114a, 2115a, 2116a, 2117a, 2118a, 2119a, 2120a, 2121a, 2122a, 2123a, 2124a, 2125a, 2126a, 2127a, 2128a, 2129a, 2130a, 2131a, 2132a, 2133a, 2134a, 2135a, 2136a, 2137a, 2138a, 2139a, 2140a, 2141a, 2142a, 2143a, 2144a, 2145a, 2146a, 2147a, 2148a, 2149a, 2150a, 2151a, 2152a, 2153a, 2154a, 2155a, 2156a, 2157a, 2158a, 2159a, 2160a, 2161a, 2162a, 2163a, 2164a, 2165a, 2166a, 2167a, 2168a, 2169a, 2170a, 2171a, 2172a, 2173a, 2174a, 2175a, 2176a, 2177a, 2178a, 2179a, 2180a, 2181a, 2182a, 2183a, 2184a, 2185a, 2186a, 2187a, 2188a, 2189a, 2190a, 2191a, 2192a, 2193a, 2194a, 2195a, 2196a, 2197a, 2198a, 2199a, 2200a, 2201a, 2202a, 2203a, 2204a, 2205a, 2206a, 2207a, 2208a, 2209a, 2210a, 2211a, 2212a, 2213a, 2214a, 2215a, 2216a, 2217

## R. C Bell – Various books printed in 1960s to 1970s

- Commercial Coins 1787 to 1804
  - Bear a declaration of value, or reference to repayment on return to the issuer
  - Issued in quantities to be used as currency
  - Records only “Genuine Trader’s Tokens”  
(Purposefully omits spurious coins, forgeries, fakes)
- Tradesmen’s Tickets and Private Tokens 1785-1819
  - Advertisements but not necessarily redeemable
- Specious Tokens and Those struck for general circulation 1784-1804
- Political and Commemorative Pieces Simulating Tradesmens Tokens 1770 – 1802
  - Thomas Spence’s political pieces, Celebrities, Royalty and Charity
- The Building Medalets of Kempson and Skidmore





# British and Irish Tradesmen and their Copper Tokens of 1787 - 1804

- Jon D. Lusk 2014 (A modern follow-up to the 1<sup>st</sup> Bell Book)
  - Focused on actual tradesmen tokens (no political or satirical series)
- Color Illustrations including edge lettering
- Organized by County with colored tabs and maps
  - Includes estimated mintages
  - Demographic information (population, number of people in trade and manufacturing, etc.)
  - Short biopics on the various issuers
  - Rarity and condition
- Recommends four different collections



British and Irish Tradesmen  
and their  
Copper Tokens  
of  
1787 - 1804



ON DEMAND IN LONDON - LIVERPOOL OR ANGLESEY -

Jon D. Lusk

1794 1/2d  
Mfr: Kempson  
Die sinker: Wyon

Suffolk 35  
Ipswich  
Conder

A162 AA135

Availability 1 1 1 1  
Mintage 103,000



Obverse: IPSWICH CROSS, 1794  
Market Cross - Justice on top

Reverse: PAYABLE AT CONDER'S DRAPERY WAREHOUSE IPSWICH  
Text only

Edge: Milled, leaning left (MM)

**Issuer:** Conder, James (1763-1823) was a linen draper who started his first shop when he took over from the deceased Mr. Dobson in 1789. Previous to that he had been listed as a leather cutter in a 1784 directory, a trade that he had learned when he was apprenticed to his older brother. Early the next year, 1790, he married Mary Foster Notcutt (1759\*-1836). She may have been a cousin or other relation because his brother's name was George Notcutt Conder. In 1790 he moved his shop to the corner of the Fruit Market. By 1793 he was on the move again, this time he took over the space of Mudd & Co. until "his own house is rebuilt". He and his wife had eight children: James Notcutt (b. 1790 who lived into adulthood and carried on his father's business), James (d. 1792 - may have been stillborn or short lived, still unusual to name a second child with the same name as a living child), Mary Notcutt (b. 1793 and lived into adulthood), William Gordon (1795-1819), Charles (1797-1798), Charles (b. 1802), Alfred (1800-1828), and Martha Ann (b. 1808 and died at 4 months of age).

A picture postcard of the Old Market Cross is on page 195 (Suffolk 30).

Suffolk 35 England

Signature from receipt



James Conder - an engraving by his nephew Thomas

# Why are so many fine examples available today?



- MANY MILLIONS ISSUED MOSTLY BETWEEN 1787 AND 1797. OUTLAWED IN 1818.
- A GENTLEMAN COULD HAVE 150 PIECES FOR 6 SHILLINGS 3 PENCE PULLED FROM CIRCULATION
- THEY WERE BEAUTIFUL AND AVIDLY COLLECTED WHEN ISSUED (SOME TOKENS EVEN MADE FUN OF COLLECTORS)



# Fun themes to Collect

- Ships
- Bridges
- Buildings
- Political
- Horses and Other Animals
- Industrial
- Humorous

# Examples from my personal collection



COMMERCIAL  
TRADESMEN TICKETS AND PRIVATE TOKENS  
SPECIOUS (GENERAL CIRCULATION)  
POLITICAL AND COMMEMORATIVE  
BUILDINGS

# The Anglesey Mines Halfpenny 310





# Shropshire Coalbrook Dale 14





Gloucestershire  
Brimscombe Port 60

Hampshire  
Emsworth 30

# Ships

Kent  
Deal 11

Lancashire 58  
(Daniel Eccleston)





Kent  
Cantebury 8

Norfolk  
Norwich 28

# Buildings

Somersetshire  
Bath 50e

Suffolk  
Bungay 2b







# Political

## Thomas Spence



TOKENS DEPICT GALLOWS, GUILLOTINES, PIGS TRAMPLING ROYALTY AND CATS.

SOLD HIS DIES TO SKIDMORE, SO SOME TOKENS ATTRIBUTED TO SPENCE ARE ACTUALLY FROM  
PETER SKIDMORE

HAD A BOOK AND SALOOP STALL IN LONDON (WHAT IS SALOOP?)



# Saloop

- Roots and leaves of the North American sassafras tree were the key ingredient and had a stimulating quality.
- This refreshing beverage was sold in place of tea and coffee, which were much more expensive. Served in a similar way with milk and sugar.
- It was used as a remedy for various ailments, including "chronic alcoholic inebriety." Its popularity declined when it was purported to treat venereal disease, and so drinking it in public became shameful.
- Saloop stalls in London were replaced by coffee stalls.





The head is William Pitt, the Prime Minister TS 30

# Political Middlesex 892 Spence and Skidmore

Thomas Spence sold his dies to Peter Skidmore in 1797 SK 18



The British Public rejoicing at their escape of a tyrannical government



Skidmore created a plethora of mules with his and Spence dies

# Thomas Spence

- Born in 1750 in Newcastle-upon Tyne
- Joined A Philosophical Society founded in Newcastle in mid 1770s
  - Spoke of the advantages of public land ownership “The Real Rights of Man”
  - Attacked landlords and the aristocracy
- Moved to London and in 1793 wrote weekly periodical “Pigs Meat or Lessons for the Swinish Multitude”
  - Arrested in 1794 for selling reform literature and released after seven months
  - Was a coin dealer and sold tradesmen tokens and manufactured his own
  - Arrested again in 1797, became bankrupt and sold his coins and dies to Peter Skidmore
  - Arrested several other times 1798 – 1801 seditious libel



# Thomas Spence Middlesex 802

The face on the left is William Pitt, the Prime Minister, that to the right is Charles Fox, leader of the opposition TS 31

Spence's "coat of arms" pleased when stroked downward, resistant when rubbed against the grain TS 17



Spence requested that these be placed in his grave and they were



## Thomas Spence - continued

- Many of his edges say “Spence Dealer in Coins London”
  - Wrote a price list in prison “The Coin Collectors Companion. Being a Descriptive Alphabetical list of the Modern, Provincial, Political and Other Copper Coins - 1795”
- A contemporary of Thomas Paine, author of The Rights of Man, Common Sense. Paine participated in the American Revolution.
- Based on his horrible personal experiences with 2<sup>nd</sup> wife wrote letters; the 4<sup>th</sup> one titled “Restorer of Society to its Natural State”
  - Advocated for divorce
  - “Thought it terrible for anyone to be tied permanently to a spendthrift, drunkard, sluggard, a tyrant, a brute, a trollop, or a vixen”
- Died in 1814 aged 64 after writing “ The Giant Killer or Anti-Landlord”



Worcestershire  
Dudley 12



Worcestershire  
Kidderminster 31



# More Cats

Northumberland  
Newcastle 7



Middlesex 1091  
Farthing





# Thomas Spence - continued

Pigs Meat was a weekly periodical

- The end of aristocracy and landlords
- All land should be publicly owned by largely self-governing democratic parishes
- Rents of land are to be shared equally amongst parishioners, as a social dividend
- Universal suffrage (including female suffrage) at both parish level and through deputies elected by parishes to a national senate
- A 'social guarantee' extended to provide income for those unable to work
- The 'rights of infants' [children] to be free from abuse and poverty



Middlesex 842b  
Spence TS 24



Middlesex 1083  
Spence Farthing  
TS 25 and 47

# Political Celebrity

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WHO DID THE BRITISH CONSIDER  
A FAMOUS AMERICAN CELEBRITY IN THE 1790'S?



George Washington of course!

Middlesex 1049



Satirical – why not?





Denton's – Dealer in Coins D&H 1053 (farthing)





# Deformed dwarf elected as mayor of Garrat



Middlesex  
1057  
Denton's  
specious  
Farthing



(for sale to  
block head  
coin  
collectors)  
– copied  
Hall's ticket)

Middlesex  
315  
Hall's Trade  
ticket





# Regal Coinage resumes 1797



## Where do I buy them?

- Brian W Herriott (Druids Cache)
- Gary Groll
- Dixon Noonan Webb
- AH Baldwin and Baldwins of Saint James
- Davisson's
- Merfyn Williams (The Last Druid)
- Ebay (of Course)

## How to Learn More – Buy the Books!

- 2015 Edition of Dalton and Hamer - \$135 reprinted by Bill McKivor available from [brianwherriott@gmail.com](mailto:brianwherriott@gmail.com)
- British and Irish Tradesmen and their Copper Tokens of 1787 – 1804 by Jon Lusk \$105, email [Jon@Lusk.cc](mailto:Jon@Lusk.cc)
  - A follow-up to RC Bell's Commercial Coins (Buy the Bell Books too!)
- Coins and Currency in Eighteenth-Century Britain. The Provincial Coinage by David W. Dykes \$106 from Charles Davis Books at [Numislit@aol.com](mailto:Numislit@aol.com)
- The SOHO Mint and the Industrialization of Money by Richard Doty
- Good Money - Birmingham, Button Makers, The Royal Mint and the Beginnings of Modern Coinage 1775 – 1821 by George Selgin





As low as \$10 for 3 digital issues of the club journal, \$25 for print issues

Check the club website for membership options at: [www.ctcc.info](http://www.ctcc.info)

# The End Happy Collecting!



213. Capstan Fly Presses (left) and Wheel Presses (right) at the Royal Mint. From Rudolph Ackermann's *Microcosm of London*, Vol. II, Plate 55 (1809).