NOTES ON THE PRIVATE TOKENS, THEIR ISSUERS AND DIE-SINKERS.

(Continued.)

BY S. H. HAMER.

In introducing the first part of this paper on "Private Tokens," I explained, that the earliest specimens were issued by David Alves Rebello of Hackney, not for currency nor for sale to collectors, but as gifts to his friends, and as they could not be purchased, the only course for a collector, who was not a personal friend yet desired to obtain a specimen, was to issue a private token of his own to offer in exchange for it. This led advanced collectors to have dies sunk and private tokens struck, but as the number issued was always small, they are now rare, some being specially so.

The first part of this paper dealt with those issued in the counties, in their alphabetic order, as far as Staffordshire. The next to be considered therefore are those of—

SUFFOLK.

James Conder, a draper of Tavern Street, Ipswich, issued one ton of halfpenny tokens for currency. He was a collector, and wrote a work entitled An Arrangement of Provincial Coins, Tokens and Medalets. The preface was written by James Wright of Dundee, to whom I shall refer later.

In 1795, James Conder had a pair of dies sunk by J. Milton, for a penny-size private token.

Private Tokens.

Obverse.—Within a ribbed border, a bust to left, wearing an ecclesiastical cap with a button on the top, the die-sinker's initials J.\(^\text{J}^\text{J}\) under the bust.

Legend.—CARDINAL WOLSEY BORN AT IPS\(^\text{H}\) 1471.

Reverse.—Within a ribbed border, a view of a city gate, a wall on each side.

Legend.—JA. CONDER • IPSWICH • 1795. Exergue.—WOL\(^\text{E}\) GATE.

Edge.—Plain, in collar.

Charles Pye's record is that six tokens were struck in silver, and four in copper, when the obverse die failed. Then six impressions in tin were taken, but of the obverse die only.

A new obverse die of similar design was sunk, but without the button on the cap, and the legend is continuous and complete, the letter \(\text{J}\) under the bust.

Reverse.—From the same die as the last.

Edge.—Plain, in collar. Fig. 1.

From these dies, Pye states that six tokens were struck in silver and 200 in copper.

In 1796, Conder had the worn reverse die, which he used for his currency tokens, softened, and the date 1796 added; whether the die cracked in the second hardening, or was cracked before, I do not know; but probably it would be with the second hardening.

With the obverse die used for the last token, viz., Wolsey's head, and this reverse die, he had a small number struck on penny flans.

Edge.—I PROMISE TO PAY ON DEMAND THE BEARER ONE PENNY.

These dies were also used on thinner "flans," halfpenny size, some having a milled edge, and some plain.

In 1797 he had a new reverse die sunk.

Legend.—CONDER'S IPSWICH PENNY 1798.

This is remarkable in having his wife's initial with his own, viz., J.\(\text{M}\).\(\text{C}^\text{C}\), which letters form the central design. In no other instance does
PRIVATE TOKENS.

Pl. I.
this occur on a private token; though it was a common occurrence upon the seventeenth century tokens. With this new reverse die and the Wolsey's-head obverse die, he had some tokens struck.

He also had another die sunk representing the Town Hall, formerly St. Mildred's Church.

Legend.—TOWN HALL IPSW. Exergue.—FORMERLY S: MIL-DREDS CHURCH.

The reverse being from the die bearing his and his wife's initials of 1797 (Fig. 2). And to make yet another variety, he used the die, with the view of the ancient gateway, bearing date 1795, and the reverse die, as last, viz., with initials, and date 1797.

The use of two dies, as obverse and reverse, bearing two different dates of issue, cannot be regarded as appropriate for a private or any other token; the same remark applies to the penny and halfpenny tokens, for which he used his worn-out currency die, after adding the date 1796.

Pye records that both of these as rare, and I cannot regard either as being issued for currency, but rather as being struck to make varieties; the mere fact of the edge-reading being a promise to pay one penny is, as we have seen, no proof of its being used for currency.

James Conder was born at Mile End, London, in 1761; he married Mary, fifth daughter of G. Notcutt, haberdasher, of the Butter-Market, Ipswich, and settled in that town as a draper; he devoted considerable attention to topographical and antiquarian studies. Of his work, An Arrangement of Provincial Coins, Tokens and Medalets, the large paper copies printed on one side only, are scarce, and particularly so are those with "Appendix Second" extending to page 348. The title-page bears date 1798, but some large paper copies are dated 1799; one of my copies, in four volumes, interleaved and extra illustrated by its late owner, Mr. J. Clark, with engravings cut from "Pye," "Virtuoso's Companion," and "Batty's Copper Coinage," has not the Appendix continued beyond page 320. This work was, until 1892, the standard reference book, when it was superseded by that written by Mr. James Atkins.
Conder's collection was sold at Sotheby's on June 5, 1855; many rare tokens are recorded in the Sale Catalogue, but the prices realised were very much below what would obtain at the present time. No other penny-size private tokens were issued in this county.

Thomas Miller issued a halfpenny-size token which is not usually described as a private token, but which certainly was struck for such; the specially high relief of the obverse made it unsuitable for circulation as currency, and the cost of striking each token would have been more than the face value.

**Obverse.**—Within a raised narrow rim, a profile bust of issuer to right, his hair in a queue.

**Legend.**—T MILLER * BOOKSELLER * BUNGAY * The die-sinker's name, JAMES, on the truncation of bust.

**Reverse.**—Within a similar rim, a beehive, over which is a radiation; below, a manuscript and books, the upper book being open; a laurel branch on each side.

**Legend.**—INDUSTRY · ENTERPRISE · STABILITY · CONTENT 1795.

**Edge.**—Plain, in collar. Fig. 3.

Pye states, "21 struck, dies broke."

The Rev. W. R. Hay in his manuscript notes has the following:

Mr. Daniel Bonhote (Attorney) of Bungay, in a letter dated 3rd of March, 1797, says that the die of this broke after twenty-one had been worked off.

Mr. Miller therefore set a high price on them, beginning at 18s. apiece, and rising to two guineas and a half, the present price (1797). This information Mr. Bonhote had from Thomas Jenkinson Woodward, Esq., J.P., of Bungay, who has a very good collection.

Thomas Miller's obituary notice appears in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July, 1804. He was born August 14th, 1731, and at the usual age was apprenticed to a grocer at Norwich. In 1755 he started in business for himself, but a fondness for reading and literature induced him to include that of book-selling, which he carried on for nearly fifty years, the last thirty of which were almost entirely devoted to the
latter business. Unfortunately, the local demand was not equal to the stock of rarities which he kept; he also had a large number of rare portraits, and a good collection of Roman and English coins. He died June 25, 1804.

Warwickshire.

In connection with this county, as elsewhere, there are some specimens which may have been issued as private tokens, or may have been struck to sell to collectors, but as to which there is no definite evidence either way. I mention them as possibly having been intended for private distribution, for they certainly were not intended for currency. I will deal with these first.

Obverse.—A view of part of Kenilworth Castle.

Legend.—FIRMUM IN VITA NIHIL. Exergue.—MDCCXCVI.

The legend evidently has reference to the fact that, notwithstanding the thickness of the walls, which in some places measure 16 feet, the building has become a ruin.

Reverse.—P. K. (for Peter Kempson) in ornamented capitals.

Legend.—WARWICKSHIRE PROMISSORY PENNY, on a broad raised rim.

Edge.—I PROMISE TO PAY ON DEMAND THE BEARER ONE PENNY  Struck in collar.

The high relief of the design of the obverse would render this unsuitable for currency. The reverse is remarkably neat. T. Wyon, senior, was in all probability the die-sinker, as he was employed by Kempson.

Benjamin Jacob, chaser, engraver, auctioneer and appraiser, Hockley Road, Birmingham, issued nine dozen penny tokens. As the number was so small, and also as they were not struck until the year after the government issue of copper twopenny and penny-pieces, the probability is that they were not intended for currency.
Private Tokens.

Obverse.—A man with a pair of scales in his right hand, standing behind a counter, upon and around which, sundry articles are displayed.
Legend.—PENNY TOKEN. Exergue.—1798.
Reverse.—B: JACOB AUCTIONEER IRONMONGER. &c WELCH CROSS BIRMINGHAM. In five lines. A hand holding an auctioneer's hammer separating the fourth and fifth. Fig. 4.
Edge.—Plain, in collar.

Willetts was the die-sinker, Kempson the manufacturer.

A token not included in Pye's 1801 edition is:—

Obverse.—An obelisk partly overgrown with ivy.
Legend.—CRESCIT IN IMMENSVM within a plain circle enclosed by a circle of large pellets.
Reverse.—Within a sunk and finely dotted circle a bouquet of flowers; similarly below, within a sunk oval \( W \) in ornamented script capitals, a small branch below the \( W \). The date 1796 being between, and separated by the circle and the oval.
Legend.—PROMISSORY PENNY TOKEN. The whole within a dotted circle and outer rim.
Edge.—I PROMISE TO PAY ON DEMAND THE BEARER ONE PENNY. Struck in collar. Fig. 5.

Thomas Sharp infers that the initials are those of Thomas Wyon. If this were a token manufactured for sale to collectors, we can scarcely imagine why the initials of the die-sinker should occupy so prominent a position in the design; and in the absence of evidence to the contrary I have placed it and the two preceding pieces together, as having some claim to our consideration whilst treating with the subject of these private tokens.

What has by some been designated a "Shop," or "Advertisement Ticket," is, I think, because of its neatness of design, and extreme rarity, a token, or medal. It is \( \frac{1}{2} \) inches in diameter, struck in white metal, and was issued by James Bisset of Birmingham.

Obverse.—A shield of arms; to the left, a rose, to the right, a thistle; crest, decayed trunk of an oak tree with some branches and leaves; below the shield, a displayed ribbon with the motto, ABSCISSA VIRESCO and masonic emblems, viz., a square and pair of compasses.
Legend.—BISSET FANCY MINIATURE PAINTER. BIRMINGHAM. The whole within a plain narrow rim or border.

Reverse.—Within a radiated garter, bearing the motto, LABOR IPSE VOLUPTAS. The inscription, ELEGANT MUSEUM. ADMISSION GRATIS, in four lines, the first and last curved.

Upper legend.—* IMPERIAL PAINTINGS ON GLASS &c.

Lower legend.—CURIOUS SPARS, & PETRIFACIONS. All within a rim as the obverse.

Edge.—Plain, in collar. Fig. 6.

C. Pye describes this as a “shop-card in tin,” but illustrates the halfpenny-size token; neither of these tokens or medals, by whatever name we record them, have any statement of value or date; hence one has quite as much claim to be styled a token as the other.

Obverse.—Within a circle a view of the interior of a building.

Exergue.—NEW Sr.

Upper Legend.—BISSET* MUSEUM.

Lower Legend.—& FANCY PICTURE MANUFACTORY. The whole surrounded by a dotted circle which runs into the letters of the upper legend. These are rather larger than those of the lower legend.

Reverse.—Within a circle an array of ornaments.

Exergue.—BIRMINGHAM.

Upper Legend.—ALABASTER SPAR & PETRIFACATION.

Lower Legend.—WAREHOUSE. Surrounded by a dotted circle; a die-flaw appears below “WAR.”

Edge.—Plain, in collar. Fig. 7.

Atkins has this note:—“Very Rare. This obv. die appears to have failed when only a very few impressions had been taken, upon which the following was executed to take its place”:

Obverse.—Similar design to the preceding, but with small pictures surrounding the temple; the first letter of NEW Sr is over the TU, whereas in the rare variety it is over the R; the last letter is over the M, but in the rare variety it is over the A; there are other points of difference, noticeably, a small die-flaw under the first M of MUSEUM.

Reverse.—As last. Fig. 8.

Of the common variety, three cwts. were struck, Wyon being the die-sinker, Lutwyche the manufacturer; Pye also refers to the rare variety, but gives no intimation as to which was the original design.
I have recorded them in the order that Sharp and Atkins describe them, but whether this is correct remains to be seen. If the obverse die without the pictures was discarded by reason of the small die-failure, why was not also the reverse die, the flaw in this instance being much longer? I have two of the common specimens, both of which are finer on the reverse than the rare variety. The suggestion is that after the common tokens were struck, a new die was prepared, which, when hardened, showed a die-flaw under the M, hence one impression only was taken. Or, if it actually was the original die, it may have been laid aside till the order was completed; Pye makes no reference to it being such, he only states that “there is a scarce variety without small pictures on the R in Mr. Young’s Collection.”

In the interleaved copy of “Virtuoso’s Companion,” Vol. I, appears a manuscript note by the original owner, the Rev. W. R. Hay. “Mr. Thompson, or Mr. Levi, have an impression, & as Bisset told me, the only one struck from a die without ye pictures.” Mr. Thompson was the issuer of the Evesham Penny Token and member of Parliament for that town; he was the natural son of Mr. Levi, both were collectors, as appears by the manuscript list of collectors given in Mr. Hay’s copy of C. Pye’s work, published in 1795.

Conder places the token with the “pictures” first. Sharp has the following note after describing the one without the pictures, “Very rare, a new obv. die being made. From Young’s Collection. No other specimen is known.”

At the Chetwynd Sale, Lot 30, contained fifty-eight tokens, commencing with Hastings on page 91, and continuing to Warwick, No. 33, on page 96; these were bought by Williams for 9s., Bisset without the pictures, and two or three other rare tokens being among the number; probably this was the low water mark of all time.

The specimen came to me from Mr. J. S. Dodsworth, of Bradford, who bought it several years ago.

James Bisset was born at Perth in 1760. He came to Birmingham in 1776, and was ultimately apprenticed to T. Bellamy to learn the art of painting on japanned ware. In his
Memoirs (published by Mr. T. B. Dudley of Leamington, 1904), he states, “My daily task was two gross of snuff boxes, or six dozen of small painted waiters, but I have very frequently painted three gross of boxes in a day, or when we have been much hurried to get up orders, I have, in the course of twelve hours per day, painted upwards of twenty gross of snuff boxes in one week, with roses, anemones, and various coloured flowers, with three tints to every flower, and three to every leaf.” The book is, from first to last, most interesting.

Bisset was deputy chairman at a meeting held at the Royal Hotel, Birmingham, on July 14, 1791, and, referring to the Birmingham Riots, he said, “I, in the most unequivocal manner, declare that I never saw a meeting conducted with more loyalty and decorum, and no cause whatever was given to create any disturbance.”

He invented a novel kind of painting on glass for which he had a large demand, and as a Russian nobleman had placed an order for a set for the Empress, he called them “Imperial.” He writes, “I could work quickly, and could earn at any time, with great ease, a guinea per hour.”

He wrote a work of which the following appears on the title-page:—
“A Poetic Survey round Birmingham; with a brief description of the different curiosities and manufactories of the place. Intended as a guide to strangers.

By J. Bisset, Author of The Orphan Boy, The flights of fancy, etc.

Accompanied by a Magnificent Directory; with the names, professions, etc., superbly engraved in emblematic plates. Price 6s. With Proof-plates 1os. 6d.—Coloured one Guinea, or printed in colours 2£ 2s.” The “Address to the Reader” is signed “J.B. Museum, Birmingham Jany 1, 1800.”

In the “Memoirs” alluded to he states, “I published a very grand Copperplate Directory of the town of Birmingham, the engravings of which cost me five hundred guineas. I lost by the undertaking at least £200.”

In 1814, he published “A Descriptive Guide of Leamington Priors”; with many illustrations, and bound in at the end of the book some advertisement pages of Birmingham manufacturers, etc., there
being a view of Edward Thomason’s Manufactory, Church Street, Birmingham. In 1828 he published a smaller work entitled, “The Origin, Rise, and Progress of Leamington Spa; a poetic effusion by J. Bisset”; this was in his sixty-eighth year.

His Memoirs were written in “two days, without a reference to any note or memorandum.” He died August 17, 1832, and was buried at Leamington, having removed there from Birmingham in 1813.

Thomas Welch of Birmingham had the following private tokens struck:

**Obverse.** A shield of arms, crest and motto, the latter used as a legend.

**Legend.** JUNGANTUR LEX ET JUSTITIA. **Exergue.** MDCCXCV.

**Reverse.** An ornamented cipher, J.W. **Legend.** BIRMINGHAM PROMISSORY TOKEN, on a broad raised rim. A couple of quill pens crossed, separating the beginning and end of legend. **Edge.** x ON DEMAND I PROMISE TO PAY THE BEARER ONE PENNY x Fig. 9.

Seventy-two tokens were struck, Wyon being the die-sinker, and Kempson the manufacturer.

**Obverse.** A mounted yeoman at speed with sword upraised.

**Legend.** WARWICKSHIRE YEOMANRY HANCOCK (inverted). The last being the die-sinker’s name. **Exergue.** ENROLLED JUNE 25 1794.

**Reverse.** In six lines: PROMISSORY PENNY TOKEN. ISSUED BY THOMAS WELCH SECOND TROOP 1799. **Edge.** ARMED TO PROTECT OUR LIVES PROPERTY AND CONSTITUTION AGAINST FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ENIMIES, divided in three sections by military trophies, each section being in two lines.

Only three impressions were taken with this edge, as the collar broke, the most perfect one was bought at Welch’s sale by G. Barker for 22s.
Another collar was then made, the word "PRESERVE" being substituted for "PROTECT." With this, twenty-four were struck. Also twenty-four with plain edge in collar.

With the original obverse, and a new reverse having a fasces and a laurel branch crossed above the inscription, the style of lettering being rather different from the last; four were struck with the edge reading "ARMED TO PRESERVE," etc., and twenty-four with plain edge in collar (Fig. 10).

Mr. Atkins records an artist's proof, which is struck on a blank having:

*Edge.*—ON DEMAND I PROMISE TO PAY THE BEARER ONE PENNY.

I have a proof in white-metal of the unfinished obverse die.

In 1800 he had another pair of dies sunk, and with these had thirty-six pieces struck.

*Obverse.*—A male bust draped to left, the hair in a queue; below, in small letters: FROM A MODEL BY I. G. HANCOCK SEN.

*Legend.*—THE WORK OF JOHN GREGORY HANCOCK AGED 9 YEARS •

*Reverse.*—Within a dotted border in nine lines: TO ENCOURAGE A RARE INSTANCE OF GENIUS THIS COIN WAS STRUCK FOR T. WELCH BIRMINGHAM 1800.

*Edge.*—PENNY TOKEN PAYABLE ON DEMAND • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • Fig. 11.

There are a few proofs of the unfinished obverse die, with the edge reading ON DEMAND I PROMISE TO PAY THE BEARER ONE PENNY • •, one or two being in a more finished state than the others.

I have heard it suggested that Thomas Welch was of the firm of Welch, Startin and Company, merchants, and agents to the Bristol Fire Office, Snowhill. (See *Universal British Directory, 1790.*

Thomas Welch's collection of tokens was sold by King (junior), at Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, on September 17 to 20, 1801. The Catalogue states, "This Collection of Provincial Coins is unquestionably the completest ever formed, and contains almost every
Private Tokens.

coin, either engraved or described in a Work lately engraved by C. Pye, and published by L. B. Seeley, Ave Maria Lane, London, to which Publication the Numbers refer. There are several unique pieces. Many very fine Proofs of scarce coins, many unfinished Proofs of Private and other scarce Tokens, and almost every Coin is in the highest state of Preservation." The total sum realised was £138 16s. 6d., but times and prices have changed since then.

Welch watched the progress of the die-sinkers and secured the scarcer specimens direct from the manufacturer; he kept particulars of the quantity struck, and supplied most of the information, which is found in the index to Pye, 1801 edition.

Pye was indebted to Welch and also to Barker, for the loan of many rare specimens from which he engraved the illustrations in his work. Sharp states that Welch wrote the preface, or advertisement to Pye's work.

It is much to be regretted that during the token issuing period of the nineteenth century, no one rendered similar service to collectors, as Welch with his records, and Pye with his engravings.

George Hollington Barker, of No. 7, The Square, Birmingham, a well-known solicitor, had dies sunk for a private token, halfpenny size.

Obverse.—A shield of arms and crest; below, in ornamented script capitals J.H.B.

Legend.—BIRMINGHAM HALFPENNY.

Reverse.—Within a sunk oval, a statant figure representing Justice, with scales and sword, dividing the legend and date, FACTA ÆQUATO EXAMINE PENDIT MDCC XCVII.

Three were struck with edge-reading PAYABLE ON DEMAND, the first word separated from the others by ornamental work. There is a silver proof with this edge. Also fifteen others in copper, and twelve in tin, which are with plain edge in collar.

Then another reverse die was sunk, similar in all respects to the first except that the word "PENDIT" is omitted, and "LIBRAT" substituted (Fig. 12).
PRIVATE TOKENS.

PL. II.
Twenty-four were struck in copper, plain edge in collar. There is also a proof in silver, with plain edge in collar.

Pye states that there are several impressions from the unfinished obverse and reverse dies; but I have not heard of more than one impression from each.

Hancock was the die-sinker, Kempson the manufacturer.

George Barker, F.R.S., son of the last-named collector, was also a successful Birmingham solicitor. He was prominently connected with the Triennial Musical Festivals, and one of the founders of the Philosophical Institution. But for his untiring zeal, the London and Birmingham Railway in all probability would not have been established so soon by many years, as was the case.

In his honour a public subscription was raised by men of all shades of political opinion (contributions being limited to £5), with the result that £560 6s. 2d. was obtained and expended as follows:—

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<th>£</th>
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<td>Messrs. Elkinton, Mason and Company for Plate</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soho Plate Company for Plate</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Hollis, Esq., for Bust, etc.</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Expenses of Printing, Advertising, etc.</td>
<td>51</td>
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The bust is placed in the board room of the General Hospital, and is described as "An imperishable memorial, as well of the sense entertained of the high merits of the subject, as of the fidelity, genius, and skilful execution of the artist."

The presentation plate consisted of the following: a centre ornament, two wine coolers, and two claret jugs.

On the centre ornament was the following inscription:—

Presented to George Barker, Esqr., F.R.S., by many of his fellow townsmen and friends, who, though of various opinions on religious, civil and political subjects, have cordially united in manifesting by this, and other tokens of acknowledgment, their personal attachment and esteem, as well as their deep and lasting gratitude for his unremitted
exertions, during a long course of years, in aid of the charitable and scientific institutions of the town of Birmingham.

These sentiments, his bust in marble, placed in the board room of the General Hospital, will continue publicly to testify, A.D. 1844.

On the wine coolers and claret jugs:—

Presented to George Barker, Esqr., F.R.S., of Birmingham, by fellow townsmen and friends, in token of attachment and respect for public services and private worth, A.D. 1844.

On the bust in the board room of the General Hospital, Birmingham:—

George Barker, F.R.S.

In public acknowledgment of his great services to the General Hospital and the town of Birmingham, MDCCCXLIV.

The design of the two claret jugs is worth notice in passing, viz.: an almost plain vase of antique pattern, having as a handle, a snake, the head of which is attached to the top of the vase, the lower part being coiled round and hanging down the body of the vase. Doubtless this feature of the design was not recognised as being typical of that which "at last bitest, like a serpent and stingeth like an adder." The presentation was made at his house in Monument Lane, on Tuesday evening, December 31, 1844.

He died December 6, 1845, aged 70. From this fact it would appear that he was born in 1775, and therefore was, in all probability, the youngest issuer of private tokens, as by the time he was 22 years of age, viz., in the year 1797, he issued his first, viz.:—

Obverse.—A shield of arms, similar to that on his father's token, but without the crest; below the shield the motto, LEGI REGI FIDELIS.

Reverse.—in ornamented script capitals; below, 1797.

Legend.—BIRMINGHAM HALFPENNY. FOR EXCHANGE, on a broad raised rim.

Edge.—Plain, in collar. Fig. 13.
Of these, thirty-six were struck in all, three having an incuse lettered edge, viz.: “Payable by George Barker.” A few were struck in silver, the rest in copper. Webb was the die-sinker.

In 1799, he issued another:

Obverse.—Head of Mercury to left.
Upper legend.—FURTUM INGENIOSUS AD OMNE.
Lower legend.— BIRMINGHAM HALFPENNY.
Reverse.—A pyramid in ruins, beside it a fallen statue; above, three hands clasped separating the inscription.
Legend.—FOEDUS SIC OMNIA. Exergue.—MIHI SORTE DATUM. MDCCXCIX.
Edge.—PAYABLE BY GEORGE BARKER + + incuse, struck in collar. Fig. 14.

Of these, twelve were struck in copper, and twelve in white-metal, the latter with plain edge in collar.

I have also an impression in silver, with plain edge, unfortunately not well struck. Hancock was the die-sinker.

This and the token of 1797 were both struck at Kempson’s manufactory, and both are of remarkably fine work.

In the year 1800, John Gregory Hancock, junior, son of J. G. Hancock, the noted die-sinker of Snow Hill, Birmingham (who is rightly described as “Artist” in the Universal British Directory), engraved the dies for two medals, or, possibly, they may have been intended for private tokens; and as their issue probably led to the production of the tokens of the penny-size, issued by George Barker, and the penny of 1800, issued by Thomas Welch (previously described), I refer to them here:

Obverse.—In high relief, profile bust to left.
Legend.—W. SHAKE SPEARE. In small letters, partly before the bust, J. G. HANCOCK AGED 7 vs.
Reverse.—In seven lines, THIS IS MY WORK JOHN GREGORY HANCOCK AGED 7 YEARS. 1800. Exergue.—In three lines, INDUSTRY PRODUCETH WEALTH.
Edge.—Plain, in collar.
In some instances the word PRODUCETH is mis-spelt PRODUSETH (Fig. 15). Possibly this was the original die, and after a few specimens were struck, it was softened and corrected. I have arrived at this opinion after a very careful examination of the letters forming the inscription, in which I cannot find any difference whatever; otherwise I should have concluded that an entirely new die had been sunk.

The other piece is:

Obverse.—In high relief, profile bust to right, wearing a wig.
Legend.—SIR ORIGINAL. In small letters in front of bust, I.G.H. (inverted).
Reverse.—As last from the corrected die.
Edge.—Plain, in collar. Fig. 16.

Hancock’s statement that he was “aged 7 years” must have been an error, for he was born June 24, 1791. Hence if the work was done early in the year 1800, he would be between 8 and 9 years of age, and might reasonably have been described as “aged 8 years.” People often make mistakes as to the year in which they were born, or their age at some particular time, but not one in a thousand would mistake the date of the year.

To proceed with the description of the penny-size private tokens of George Barker, the dies for which were sunk by young Hancock. The first is a proof from the unfinished obverse die, viz.:

Obverse.—Profile bust to left, undraped and without wig.
Legend.—“WILLIAM PITT EARL OF CHATHAM.”
Lower legend.—“I. G. HANCOCK SCULP AGED — YEARS.”

Of this, four impressions only were taken in tin.
The obverse die was then finished by adding the wig, the drapery to the bust, and the figure “8” in the blank space.

Reverse.—In ten lines, THIS UNPARALLELED (sic) PRODUCTION OF EARLY GENIUS WAS STRUCK UNDER THE INSPECTION OF GEO: BARKER. 1800.
Edge.—Plain, in collar. Fig. 17.
Pye states that "in consequence of a mistake being made in young Hancock's age, and also on the reverse, only eight were struck in copper."

The obverse die was then softened and the artist's name and age erased, substituting, on a label, BORN 1708, DIED 1778 (this of course referring to the Earl of Chatham).

A new reverse die was sunk, viz.:

A bee-hive and bees; below, in seven lines, THE WORK OF IOHN GREGORY HANCOCK AGED NINE YEARS. 1800.

Legend.—PENNY TOKEN FOR EXCHANGE, beneath all, a couple of branches crossed.

With these dies six were struck in copper with edge reading, BY GEORGE BARKER BIRMINGHAM • x • and twelve in tin, with plain edge in collar.

Dies for another penny token were sunk, viz.:

Obverse.—A female bust to right, representing Britannia.
Upper legend.—DIVA BRITANNIÆ.
Lower legend.—FAUTRIX ARTIUM.

Reverse.—In seven lines, THE WORK OF IOHN GREGORY HANCOCK AGED NINE YEARS. 1800 *
Upper legend.—UTILE DULCI.
Lower legend.—FOR EXCHANGE.

Lettered edge in split collar, BY GEORGE BARKER BIRMINGHAM MDCCC * Fig. 18.

Of these, twenty-four were struck in copper. Two impressions are known of the obverse die only, struck on a smaller flan, edge reading I PROMISE TO PAY ON DEMAND THE BEARER ONE PENNY ×

Pye has a note as follows: "This and the four tokens immediately preceding are so well executed, that many persons have doubted their being J. G. H., junior's work. This has induced his father to make an affidavit, that they were entirely engraved by his son; and the gentlemen for whom they were made, declare they are perfectly convinced of the truth of this affidavit. By the parish register of

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St. Phillips, Birmingham, it appears that J. G. H., junior, was born the 24th of June, 1791."

Unfortunately, there is no information whatever as to the life and subsequent work of this talented youth.

There are two impressions from an unfinished die, intended as an obverse or reverse, for a private token for J. G. Hancock, viz.:

View of the interior of a workshop, showing the "cushion" for cutting dies on a bench, to which latter is attached a vice: on the left, a model of the human body without head or legs, and below it, a mask, to the right of a large window, is a smaller figure at full length with an arm upraised.

One of the two impressions has the reverse blank; the other has the following inscription marked with punches:

DESIGN. FOR. I. G. HANCOCK'S TOKEN. 1800.

Both the above were in Mr. W. Norman's sale, July 13, 1903.

John Gregory Hancock, senior, was a most artistic and prolific die-sinker.

Thomas Sharp states, that of the tokens "struck at Birmingham, those of Hancock stand pre-eminent; indeed, it is only necessary to refer to the greater portion of the Anglesey Pennies and Halfpennies, to the Blything Hundred, Brimscombe Port, Caernarthen, Coalbrookdale, Edinburgh, Exeter, Hull, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Macclesfield, Rochdale, Shrewsbury, Southampton, and Wilkinson halfpence, for proof of this, besides several beautiful private tokens."

It should be remembered that Hancock and the other die-sinkers cut and prepared the dies, which were used by the manufacturers; the work of striking the tokens by means of the press being usually done by others than the die-sinkers. To do justice to the memory of these artists would require a biography of each, and with the exceptions of a memoir of Thomas Wyon, junior, by Humphreys, published in The Gentleman's Magazine, February, 1818, pp. 179-185, and another of William, the son of Peter Wyon, published in 1837, none, so far as I am aware, are in existence.
John Clark, described as a perfumer and toyman of Bull Street, Birmingham, issued a halfpenny token.

*Obverse.*—Within a sunk oval, Britannia placing a laurel wreath on a bust of George III., which stands on a pedestal inscribed, *JUSTA PRÆMIA.*

*Legend.*—BIRMINGHAM HALFPENNY.

*Reverse.*—Ships at sea; in the foreground an oak tree.

*Legend.*—On a raised rim, BRITANNIÆ TUTAMEN. *Exergue.*—MDCCXCV.

*Edge-reading.*—PAYABLE AT THE HOUSE OF JOHN CLARKE BULL STREET + Fig. 19.

Only thirty-six were struck when the dies broke; many of the tokens are badly struck.

Pye says that the work of die-sinking had been admirably executed by Wyon; but unfortunately, Pye does not state which member of that family of noted die-sinkers he refers to.

This has not been previously classed as a private token, but the absence of any trade advertisement, also the facts that no more were struck from new dies, and that the tokens would cost more than their face value, are strong evidences that the issue was not for currency, notwithstanding the edge-reading. A specimen sold for 10s. 6d., previously to 1801.

Charles Pye, the celebrated copper plate engraver, to whose works and index I have frequently referred, issued a private token, with the object of obtaining by means of exchange, specimens which could not be purchased.

*Obverse.*—A female figure seated, with her right hand supporting a cornucopia from which coins are issuing, a wedge, screw, and windlass also appear, indicative of the mechanical arts; bees, and a bee-hive, representing industry. *Exergue.*—A palm and a laurel branch crossed.

*Legend.*—THE SUPPORT OF BRITAIN, on a broad raised rim.

*Reverse.*—The initials of the issuer, C.P., in script capitals as a monogram; below, the date 1797.

*Upper legend.*—BIRMINGHAM HALFPENNY, on a broad raised rim.

*Lower legend.*—FOR EXCHANGE.

*Edge.*—Plain, in collar. Fig. 20.
Of these, thirty-six were struck in copper, Webb was the die-sinker, and Kempson the manufacturer. This token and that issued by George Barker in 1797, are of similar style as regards the reverse, the same die-sinker being employed for both. The work in each instance is particularly neat and well executed, and it is to be regretted that Webb was not engaged to execute more dies for tokens.

In addition to being an engraver, Charles Pye published *A Description of Modern Birmingham* to which were annexed, "Observations made during an excursion round the Town in the summer of 1818. Including Warwick and Leamington." He also published a *Dictionary of Antient Geography*, and engraved the plates for some of the illustrations in Hutton’s *History of Birmingham*. Collectors, for all time, will be under a debt of gratitude to Charles Pye for his fine engravings of tokens.

I am not aware of any other Birmingham man who issued a private token than Mr. W. J. Davis, the author of *The Token Coinage of Warwickshire*, and the more comprehensive work entitled, *The Token Coinage of Great Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, issued during the nineteenth century, in Gold, Silver, Copper, Lead, and other metals, also of Tokens exceeding the value of a penny, of any period. With notes historical and descriptive of the issuers, etc.*

The bulk of Mr. Davis’s collection was dispersed, March 11, 1901, and four following days at Messrs. Sotheby’s, the total amount realised being £1,630.

Towards the end of the year 1899, he issued a private token, viz.:—

**Obverse.**—A view of a church and trees; above, "SAY BY THIS TOKEN I DESIRE HIS COMPANY," SHAKESPEARE. In small letters in the foreground, HOLY TRINITY STRATFORD ON AVON.

**Legend.**—I PROMISE TO GIVE GOOD EXCHANGE FOR RARE TOKENS & on a broad raised rim.
PRIVATE TOKENS.
Reverse.—Within a couple of laurel branches, “WHEN TIME COMES ROUND, A CHRISTMAS BOX THEY BEAR, AND ONE DAY MAKES THEM RICH FOR ALL THE YEAR.”

1900. in eight lines; below, a brassfounder’s crucible on a fire, in it, a stirring rod, and above, a star-like figure, indicative of the loss of metal in melting. The letter “R” by the branch to the left refers to the manufacturer, J. A. Restall of Birmingham.

Edge-reading.—“THE TOKEN COINAGE OF WARWICKSHIRE,” in raised letters. This, by means of an engraved two-split collar, Fig. 21.

Ten sets were struck in silver, brass, copper-bronzed, and white metal.

I have a unique specimen in copper, unbronzed, plain edge.

Mr. Davis with Mr. John Macmillan, issued a series of “New Birmingham Tokens,” but as these were advertised for sale to collectors and others, we cannot recognise them as private tokens for exchange.

The dies for the private token are now in the Shakespeare Museum at Stratford-on-Avon.

COVENTRY.

Thomas Sharp, the noted antiquary, issued a private token:—

Obverse.—A female figure with mural crown, seated, her right arm resting on the hilt of a sword, her left hand holding a shield, bearing the arms of Coventry; on the ground are a mitre, crozier and mace, in the distance a view of the “three spires of Coventry.”

Legend.—CIVITAS COVENTRIÆ. Exergue.—The date MDCCXCVII.

Reverse.—A view of the house where the issuer was born, with the figure of “Peeping Tom” in a niche, the King’s Head Inn adjoining.

The perspective being faulty, the die was rejected. Three were struck in copper and three in tin, plain edge.

A new reverse die was sunk, with two chimneys instead of one as on the first die, and dense smoke issuing therefrom, a lamp over the side door, and other details were added. Seventeen windows to the inn, instead of twenty, as on the first die.
Exurgiae.—MEMORIÆ GODIVÆ. 1057.

Edge-reading.—COVENTRY HALFPENNY PAYABLE BY THO: SHARP, in raised letters by means of a four-split collar. Fig. 22.

A unique impression in silver, and the following impressions from unfinished dies in copper and tin are shown:

An impression of the obverse die when the female figure and outline of shield had been sunk. Another impression when the die was in a more finished state. An impression of the die when finished. These in copper.

The following in tin:

An impression of the rejected reverse die, and of the new reverse die before the windows had been filled in. Edge-reading "HALFPENNY" in collar.

An impression of the obverse die finished, and the new reverse die unfinished, as last. Edge, plain in collar.

All these are exceedingly rare.

This reverse is a typical example of the interest many of the tokens lend, in preserving memorials of eighteenth-century architecture now swept away.

Thomas Sharp, with two antiquarian friends, John Nickson, and J. W. Piercy (whose private tokens I shall presently describe), issued a series of tokens, halfpenny size, the several obverses of which represented the City Gates and public buildings from drawings in Sharp's possession, the reverse bearing the Arms of Coventry. There is also a rare series with the head of Handel as a reverse.

Thomas Sharp was born November 7, 1770. He was educated at the Free School; for about four years he lived with his uncle Henry Sharp, who intended him to study for the Church; but as his father died in 1784, he returned home to assist in managing the business, which he subsequently conducted on his own account. In business he was a hatter. At an early age he showed a taste for local antiquities, and contributed communications of this nature to The Gentleman's Magazine.

In 1792 his friend George Howlette, watch manufacturer, was elected Mayor, and thus access was obtained to the numerous
books and documents preserved in the city treasury at St. Mary’s Hall; the opportunity was taken advantage of, and Mr. Sharp’s classical knowledge rendered him competent to investigate the records, from which he made numerous extracts, these forming the basis on which he compiled his works, *The Antient Mysteries*, and other local and historical essays. “He married, December 26th, 1804, Charlotte Turland, of Barnwell in Cambridgeshire, and having retired from his retail trade, removed to Little Park Street, where he resided for many years, still carrying on his wholesale business.”

“In 1825 he published his most important work entitled *A Dissertation on The Pageants, or Dramatic Mysteries, anciently performed at Coventry by the Trading Companies of that City: chiefly with reference to the vehicle, characters, and dresses of the Actors. Compiled in a great degree from sources hitherto unexplored; to which were added the Pageant of the Shearman and Taylors’ Company, and other municipal entertainments of a public nature.*”

Two hundred and fifty copies were printed on royal, seventy-five on imperial quarto, and three on larger paper. The work was printed by Merridrew and Son of Coventry, the illustrations were drawn and engraved by David Jee, an artist residing in Coventry.

Sir Walter Scott in a letter to Sharp in 1826 thus expressed his opinion of the work. “I have received great pleasure from your beautiful and masterly edition of the Coventry Mysteries. I have not been more struck for this long time with an antiquarian publication, for both the carefulness and the extent of research, as well as the interesting selection of illustrations raise it to the very highest class among books of that description.”

Sharp’s knowledge also of engraved portraits and their arrangement was so extensive and exact, that he was enabled to illustrate a copy of *Granger’s Biographical History of England*, with such skill and success, that he afterwards disposed of it for upwards of £1,000. He took an active interest in the formation of the Warwickshire Natural History and Archaeological Society in 1836, of which he was vice-president, and, in conjunction with his friend William Staunton, acted as honorary curator of the archaeological section. To token
collectors he is better known as the author of *A Catalogue of Provincial Copper Coins, Tokens, Tickets, and Medalets, issued in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Colonies, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Arranged according to Counties, etc.* With particulars of their fabrication, names of the artists, and miscellaneous remarks illustrative of the rarity of particular specimens. Described from the originals in the collection of Sir George Chetwynd, Baronet, of Grendon Hall in the County of Warwick. This work, being for private distribution, only sixty copies were printed in 1834. Of my two copies, both from the library at Grendon Hall, one is on larger and thicker paper than the other and is extra illustrated with illustrations from other works, mounted on the wide margin. While compiling this work Sharp resided for some months at Grendon Hall. He lived for over sixty years at Coventry, and after retiring from business about the year 1834, he removed to Leamington, where he died August 12th, 1841. He was buried in the new burial ground of St. Michael's Church, Coventry, and his monument bears the following inscription, written by his friend and fellow labourer, George Eld.

Underneath rest the remains of Thomas Sharp: in grateful record for the memory of whom this tomb is erected by his family; he was distinguished for his literary attainments, and particularly for the zeal and ability with which he devoted himself to elucidate the antiquities of this (his native) city.

Beloved by his friends and respected by his fellow citizens, he departed this life in his 71st year, 12th August, 1841.

The above biographical notes are selected from a memoir of Sharp by W. G. Fretton.

John Nickson, a close friend of Thomas Sharp, issued a private token of which there are two varieties, viz.:

*Obverse.*—A half-length figure in antique cap and gown, the right hand holding to the breast a deed to which two seals are attached.

*Legend.*—JOHN HALES FOUNDED Wyon Wyon was the die-sinker, and his name appears in small letters close to the right arm of the figure.
Reverse.—View of the gable end of a building, a large, and a small window being shown, a tree to the left.

Legend.—THE FREE SCHOOL OF COVENTRY. Exergue.—ANNO 1545.

Edge-reading.—HALFPENNY PAYABLE BY JOHN NICKSON 1799, in incuse letters, struck in collar. Sharp, Atkins and Davis add the word "COVENTRY," but it does not appear on Pye's engraving, nor yet on my specimens, in fact, there is not room for it. Fig. 23.

Another obverse die was sunk contemporary with the above, viz.:

Obverse.—A similar bust to last, but the deed is smaller and has no seals, also there is no tassel to the cap.

Legend.—JOHN HALES FOUNDED WYON, as before. Fig. 24.

Reverse.—From the same die as the previous piece.

Edge-reading.—As last.

Of the first mentioned token fifteen were struck in copper. Of the latter, seventy-two were struck in copper, and six in silver. Pye says, "There are some unfinished proofs in tin of this and the last." Edge, plain in collar.

John Nickson was a manufacturer, and a member of the firm of Nickson and Townsend. He was one of the Society of Friends and died at Leamington, June 16, 1830. His obituary notice appears in The Gentleman's Magazine for July of that year, from which I have taken the following details.

He was a native of Coventry, and with his partner Townsend was connected with the leather trade. On the death of his partner he joined another named Browett and entered into the cotton trade, in which for many years they carried on a flourishing business. After the death of Browett, and as the cotton trade was beginning to decline, he turned to the manufacture of trimmings and commission silk dealing. By his wife, a member of the family of Stretch of Birmingham, he had one son, who died young, and three daughters. As a colleague of Sharp he was deeply interested in antiquarian research relating to Coventry, and frequently contributed to the pages of The Gentleman's
Private Tokens.

Magazine. In 1761 he actively assisted the foundation of the Coventry Library. His collections were always open to the inspection of his acquaintances, and in the various vicissitudes of life he was ever esteemed as a man of unimpeachable honour and integrity.

PENNIES.

E. W. Percy, a member of the legal profession, issued three private tokens of penny size, viz.:

Obverse.—Three-quarter faced bust in early seventeenth century costume; below, in small letters, DIED 1636 AGED 85.

Legend.—PHILEMON HOLLAND, M.D.

Reverse.—A view of the interior of a building. Exergue.—FREE SCHOOL COVENTRY.

Edge-reading.—PENNY TOKEN PAYABLE BY E. W. PERCY COVENTRY x in raised letters. Fig. 25.

Of this, six were struck in silver and thirty-six in copper. There are six impressions in tin from unfinished dies; the name on the obverse being spelt "HOLLOND": these have a plain edge in collar.

The reverse die (see Fig. 25) was softened, and to the design was added three boys playing at marbles; the words in the exergue, viz., FREE SCHOOL COVENTRY were removed, and the date 1801 substituted; the subsequent hardening caused a die-flaw at the end of the date.

With the obverse die as used for the previous token and the altered reverse, six were struck, having lettered edge as last; the reverse die then broke (Fig. 26). The original obverse die was used with a new reverse die (Fig. 26A), as follows, viz.:

An open book, leaning against two others, which are inscribed BRITANNIA (the Ns retrograde) and CYRÓPÆDIA respectively. In front of the open book is a quill pen in an inkstand. The book being inscribed

With one Sole Pen
I wrote this Book
Made of a
gray Goose Quill

A Pen it was
when I it took
A Pen I
leave it still.
Exergue, 1801, and below a line and in minute letters I. G. H., the initials of the die-sinker, John Gregory Hancock, previously mentioned.

Edge reading: As last. Fifteen were struck in copper-bronzed, and three unbronzed; there are also four unfinished proofs in tin.

Dr. Philemon Holland was born in 1551 at Chelmsford; he was head master of the Coventry Free School but also practised as a physician, and afterwards at Cambridge. He translated various works besides Xenophon's Cyropædia and Camden's Britannia. Edmund W. Percy subsequently removed to 4, Church Street, Leamington, and was appointed clerk to the magistrates; he died about the year 1840.

Mr. W. J. Davis, in his recently published work on the Nineteenth Century Token Coinage, records a proof before letters of the reverse of the first of this set of tokens, viz., the view of the interior of a building, struck in tin. A specimen was in a sale in 1903, and the lot fell to my bid; but the condition was such that I did not keep it.

Sir George Chetwynd, the second baronet to whom I have frequently referred, in his youth collected some tokens at the time of issue, but it was not until the summer of 1830 that the idea of perfecting his collection, so far as he was able, was entertained. In 1831 he made arrangements with Matthew Young, the coin dealer (who is previously referred to as the issuer of a private token), by which the private collection of the latter was open to him for selection.

In addition to this, the collection of John Harding of Bonehill in Staffordshire (the issuer of the Tamworth Penny) passed into his hands, and selections from many sales, as is shown by his priced catalogues, previously in the Grendon Hall Library.

In 1833 he issued a penny-size private token, bearing no statement of face value.

Obverse.—Portrait to right; below, in minute letters, the name of the die-sinker, B. Wyon. S.

Legend.—SIR GEORGE CHETWYND BAR. within a raised rim.

Reverse.—A view of a mansion; above it, "GRENDON HALL."
Private Tokens.

Exergue.—A shield of arms, surrounded with scrollwork, and in the terminals the date 1833. The name of the die-sinker appears in minute characters on the groundwork.

Edge-reading.—QUOD * DEUS * VULT * FIET. each word being separated by a star, and at the beginning and end a goat's head, the crest of the Chetwynds. Fig. 28.

This is a very beautiful piece of work and exceedingly rare. Unfortunately the arms are incorrectly engraved. The writer of the Bazaar "Notes" states that it was also struck in silver.

The following letter, now in my possession, was sent by Sir George Chetwynd to Matthew Young, the coin dealer of London, some three years before the token was issued; possibly because it was expected that, in consequence of the size of the piece, the arms alone would not be sufficient for the design of the reverse.

With Sir George Chetwynd's compliments. Does Mr. Young think the arms with which this will be sealed would be suitable and in all respects applicable to a token?

No. 8, New Palace Yard.
November 18, 1830.

In 1842 Sir George issued a halfpenny-size token.

Obverse.—Portrait to right; below, in small letters, the die-sinker's name HALLIDAY, and the date 1842.

Legend.—SIR GEORGE CHETWYND BARONET.

Reverse.—A shield of arms; below, on a ribbon the motto, QUOD DEUS VULT FIET.

Legend.—GREENDON HALFPENNY. This is also struck in silver.

On some of the tokens there is an edge-reading in indented letters PAYABLE AT GREENDON HALL. Fig. 29.

Sir George Chetwynd's collection of coins, medals, and tokens, in compliance with a specific direction contained in his will, was sold on July 23, 1872, and the three following days. He was born July 23, 1783, was High Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1830, and died May 4, 1850.

(To be continued.)