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

(Continued.)

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WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY.

Here are four tokens of the penny-size purporting to have been issued by E. Davis, a nail-factor; all these are rare. The general facts of the case are in opposition to the idea of their having been intended for currency, namely:—1. They were issued in the same year as the Government's issue of the copper coinage of 1797. 2. They never appear in a worn or circulated condition. 3. They are rare tokens. We are, therefore, led to look for some other cause for their existence, and if not made at the instance of Skidmore for sale to collectors, I must conclude that they could only have been issued by E. Davis as private tokens. They are as follows:—

1. Obverse.—View of an ancient building, partially in ruins; below, JACOBS. Legend.—PART OF DUDLEY PRIORY. Below, 1797. Reverse.—& $ in ornamental script capitals between two laurel branches joined; above, an ornamentation. Legend.—E* DAVIES • NAIL • FACTOR • DUDLEY—Edge-reading.—I PROMISE TO PAY ON DEMAND THE BEARER ONE PENNY & Fig. 1.

2. Obverse.—View of a ruin. Legend.—DUDLEY • PRIORY; in exergue, JACOBS. Reverse and edge as No. 1. Fig. 2.
3. Obverse.—View of a ruin.
_Legend._—THE. CHAPPLE. IN. DUDLEY CASTLE.
_Reverse and edge as No. 1._ Fig. 3.

4. Obverse.—View of a ruin.
_Legend._—TOWER. OF. DUDLEY. CASTLE. 1797.
_Reverse and edge as No. 1._ Fig. 4.

The name of Edward Davis appears in The Universal British Directory, 1790, as an ironmonger; and in The Commercial Directory of 1818–1820, published by James Pigot, an entry under the heading of “Nail Ironmongers and Manufacturers” is “Edw. Davis and Sons, King St.” They were also makers of vices and chains. Otherwise, I should have looked upon these tokens as being of the class made for sale to collectors. C. Pye did not include them in his list, and if they had been issued for currency I think they would have appeared there.

They are a doubtful quantity, and as such I must leave them.

**Evesham.**

Thomas Thompson, member of Parliament for Evesham, issued a private token of the penny-size. Sixty were struck in copper-bronzed, and three in gold, namely:

_Obverse._—View of the Abbots’ Tower with the churches of All Saints and St. Lawrence in the distance; below, in small letters, JACOBS, the name of the die-sinker.
_Legend._—Evesham Penny.
_Reverse._—$ in ornamental script capitals between two laurel branches joined below.
_Legend._—Above, PAYABLE BY; below, JUNE 6 1796.
_Edge-reading._—I PROMISE TO PAY ON DEMAND THE Bearer ONE PENNY × Fig. 5.

The Rev. W. R. Hay, in a manuscript list of collectors written inside the cover of his copy of Pye’s work, states that Mr. Thompson was a natural son of a “Mr. Levi of 39 Piccadilly.”
YORKSHIRE.

HALIFAX.

During the periods in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when tokens were being issued throughout the country, none were issued for currency by anyone at Halifax. Nor were any private tokens issued there prior to 1899. In that year, to encourage the issue and exchange of such pieces, I had dies sunk of two obverses and one reverse for private tokens. These were used with a plain collar. See Figs. 6 and 7.

In the following year I had a similar series of dies sunk; the tokens in this instance being struck in a three-split collar with the legend I WILL EXCHANGE MY TOKEN FOR AN APPROVED ONE, two acorns and a pellet separating the beginning from the end of the reading. Figs. 8 and 9.

In the year 1901 I had two pairs of dies sunk, the design of each obverse being of an emblematical character, intended to show the desirability of obtaining the best information on any subject with a view to arriving at an equitable decision. A three-split collar was again used, engraved with the lettering TIME ADDS A VALUE TO THIS TOKEN RARE, an eye between two oak leaves separating the beginning from the end of the legend. Figs. 10 and 11.

All the dies were engraved and the tokens struck at the works of J. A. Restall, at Birmingham; the number of each series being but small.

LEEDS.

Samuel Birchall, of Leeds, issued the following private token:

Obverse.—Between two oak branches joined below, a shield of arms surmounted by a crest.

Legend.—LEEDS COMMERCIAL HALFPENNY.

Reverse.—A suspended fleece.

Legend.—PROSPERITY TO THE WOOLLEN MANUFACTORY 1795.

Edge-reading.—PAYABLE BY SAMUEL BIRCHALL. Fig. 12.

VOL. III.
Notes on the Private Tokens, their Issuers and Die-sinkers.

Pye states, and the writer of The Bazaar Notes repeats the statement, that, to make rare varieties, Birchall had some tokens struck with incorrect edges. These edge-readings are

PAYABLE IN ANGLESEY LONDON OR LIVERPOOL • X •
PAYABLE BY H BROWNBILL SILVERSMITH.
PAYABLE AT JOHN DOWNINGS HUDERSFIELD.
PAYABLE IN LANCASTER LONDON OR BRISTOL.
MASONIC HALFPENNY TOKEN MDCCXCIV.
BRIGHTON CAMP HALFPENNY MDCCXCIV.
CHARLES HIDER'S and part milled.
ARMIS TUTERIS BRADLEY WILLEY • X •
Plain edge not in collar.

I do not, however, agree with this view so far as Birchall is concerned, for he does not record in his work any edge-reading other than that which is correctly applicable to his token; but my opinion is, that the manufacturer was responsible for these extra edges as a private speculation. This view is supported by the previously quoted remark of the Rev. W. R. Hay in his notes on the Buxton halfpenny without date, viz., that he never could get a specimen, six only being struck when the die broke, but that Mr. Barker and Mr. Welch each got one. This proves that the die-sinker looked upon the dies as his property, and that he had the power to dispose of rare varieties where and how he thought fit.

Samuel Birchall was a member of the Society of Friends, and frequently corresponded with Mr. Hay, who refers to these letters in his notes. He was the author of A descriptive list of the Provincial Copper Coins or Tokens issued between the years 1786 and 1796 by Samuel Birchall of Leeds, from the originals in his own possession. It was printed at Leeds for S. Birchall, and sold by Henry Young, Ludgate Street, London, 1796.

He presented a copy to Mr. Hay, and another was given to me by his grandson. An engraving of his token, showing the correct edge-reading, appears on the title page. His large collection of coins and tokens passed to his descendants.
PRIVATE TOKENS.
York.

James Carlisle, of York, issued two varieties of halfpenny tokens, two hundred of each being struck.

1. Obverse.—Laureated bust of the Emperor to left; cuirassed and with eagle-surmounted sceptre in front.
Legend.—Upper, CONSTANTINE THE GREAT; lower, BORN AT YORK · A.D. 271.
Reverse.—The arms of the city of York between two oak branches joined below.
Legend.—YORK HALFPENNY. Below, 1796.
Edge-reading.—PAYABLE AT YORK -X- -X- -X- -X- -X- -X-.
As the lettering is incuse and the token struck in a collar, this reading is frequently obliterated either in whole or in part.

2. Obverse.—Draped female figure seated to left, crowned with mural crown and holding sword in her right hand nearly upright before; her left arm rests on an oval shield bearing the arms of York; a wreath springing from the exergue, of oak leaves and acorns, surrounds the design in place of a legend.
Legend.—In exergue, EBORACUM.
Reverse.—A trophy composed of the cap of Liberty, the sword and scales of Justice and palm branches, emblematical of Peace.
Legend.—Upper, LIBERTAS. JUSTICIA. PAX, an ornament before and after. Lower, YORK MDCCXCVI.
Edge.—Plain, in collar. Fig. 14.

Scotland.

Aberdeen.

Atkins is responsible for the statement that the token described as the Aberdeen Token is “a rare private token.” There is nothing whatever to warrant this supposition in its general appearance, and as Sharp records it as being struck by or for Denton of London, the probability is that it was made to sell to collectors.

Dundee.

James Wright, junior, of Dundee, designed many tokens for Scottish tradesmen, and wrote the introduction to Denton’s *Virtuoso’s*
Companion headed "Observations on Coins." He also wrote the preface to Conder's work on tokens, and is said to have died in 1798. He was an ardent collector of tokens, and, under the name of "Civis," contributed to the pages of the Gentleman's Magazine.

Whether the two I am about to describe were intended by Wright for private tokens, or for sale to collectors, I cannot state; but Pye's notes inform us that they were not issued as currency.

1. **Obverse.**—View of a ruined castle.

Legend.—DUNDEE SHILLING PAY\textsuperscript{LE} BY J \cdot WRIGHT \cdot JUN\textsuperscript{R}

Above the castle the date 1797. In exergue, BROUGHTY CASTLE in two lines.

**Reverse.**—Highlander with targe and raised claymore advancing to left.

In exergue, within a small sunk oval, the arms of Dundee.

Legend.—FROM THE HEATH COVERD MOUNTAINS OF SCOTIA WE COME.

**Edge.**—Plain, in collar. Fig. 15. Struck in silver and copper.

2. **Obverse.**—View of a market cross; on the left, W, on the right, DES.

Legend.—DUNDEE SILVER MEDAL PRICE ONE SHILLING.

In exergue, CROSS TAKEN DOWN 1777, in two lines.

**Reverse** and **edge** as No. 1. Fig. 16.

There is a variety of this from another pair of dies almost identical, but distinguishable in minor details. For example, on the obverse there is no stop after DES and the s is smaller than the other letters; on the reverse, the first letter of the legend touches the ground and the claymore points to the letter T instead of A in MOUNTAINS. Fig. 17.

Wright designed the Dundee penny, which Atkins describes as a rare private token. It certainly was never made for currency, as it is in much too high relief. The designs of the obverse and reverse seem to bear no relation to each other.

**Obverse.**—Full-faced bust of Admiral Duncan. On the truncation to the left is the name of the die-sinker WYON; below the bust P, K, FEC.

Legend.—Upper, DUNDEE PENNY, below which is the date 1798.

Lower, ADM\textsuperscript{L} LD DUNCAN BORN HERE 1731 DEFEAT? THE DUTCH FLEET 1797, a small star before and after.

**Reverse.**—Eve offering the apple to Adam beneath the tree of life, round which is coiled the serpent.
Whether these were Wright's private tokens or not, I cannot say; certainly, the last described should be regarded as such.

Another token designed by Wright, and which also is described as a private token, is:

Obverse.—View of a church. In exergue, within a sunk circle the arms of Perth.

Legend.—PERTH HALF PENNY, 1797. In exergue, to the left of the sunk circle ST JOHN'S, to the right, CHURCH.

Reverse.—View of a mill with water-wheel.

Legend.—46 WATER MILLS FOR BLEACHING, PRINTING, COTTONWORKS, CORN &c WITHIN 4 MILES OF PERTH + In exergue, WRIGHT DES:

Edge-reading.—PAYABLE ON DEMAND BY JOHN FERRIER + + + + in sunk letters. Struck in collar. Fig. 19.

Ferrier issued about a quarter of a ton of the tokens for currency, also designed by Wright, but of the private tokens only about seventy-two were struck, some being in silver.

R. Boog, junior, probably an architect, designed three tokens, all of which are rare, one being extremely so: this and the facts that the high relief would render them unfit for currency, and each piece would cost more than one penny in the striking alone, indicate that the object of issuing them must have been for private distribution. They are as follows:

1. Obverse.—Bust to right in high relief wearing a periuk and costume of the period.

Legend.—THE PENNY OF SCOTLAND (1 OZ.) In exergue, ADAM SMITH L.L.D: F.R.S BORN AT KIRKALDY 1723.

Above the exergual line, the date, to the left 17, to the right 97.

Reverse.—Trade and commerce illustrated by a smith's forge with anvil, two hammers and a horse-shoe; a plough, harrow, spinning-wheel and shuttle; a cask and bale waiting shipment on a landing-stage, and three ships in the offing.
A profile head of Adam Smith, wearing his natural hair, appears on some small medals or tokens, of which very few were struck. The reverse represented a seated female figure, draped, lamenting over a trophy of arms. Signed J MILTON F on the ground work. No legend on either obverse or reverse; edge plain. Fig. 21. The dies for these were cut to the order of Colonel Fullerton, afterwards Governor of the Island of Trinidad.

**Paisley.**

An exceedingly rare private token.

2. **Obverse.**—Within a sunken oval, the arms of the Borough of Paisley: within the oval, to the left, P·K· SCULPSIT; to the right, R· BOOG, JUN DES.

Legend.—On a raised border PAISLEY PENNY$ ARM 1798$

**Reverse.**—Interior of the Abbey-church.

Legend.—Within an inner and outer circle, or rim, INTERIOR of the ABBEY-CHURCH. as REPAIRED in its ORIGINAL STILE. (sic) A·D· 1788

Edge.—Plain, in collar. Fig. 22.

3. **Obverse.**—View of the exterior of the same church, part in ruins.

Legend.—ABB EY-CHUR CH. In exergue, FOUNDED (CIRCITER) 1160 in two lines.

**Reverse and edge as No. 2.** Fig. 23.

Wyon was the die-sinker of these three tokens, and Peter Kempson the manufacturer.

The writer of *The Bazaar Notes* states that the Priory of Paisley, of which the older part is all that now remains, was founded in 1160 by Walter, Lord High Steward of Scotland, and subsequently raised to the dignity of an Abbey. Under the auspices of the Rev. Robert Boog, D.D., probably the father of the designer and issuer of the tokens, the church was restored in 1788.
A specimen of the variety No. 2 was catalogued in Messrs. Spink's *Circular* for February, 1902, and another in the Norman Sale, 1903.

In the above account of private tokens, I have endeavoured to include all that were issued for private distribution or for exchange, and where any doubt might arise, I have ventured to give my reasons for their inclusion or exclusion.

To the example of David Alves Rebello, so well followed by his contemporaries, collectors of tokens are indebted for a most interesting and beautiful section of this branch of numismatics.

When we consider the number who issued these early private specimens, as compared with the few, who towards the end of the last century added their quota, are we to regard the later collectors as being less enthusiastic; for, as one who wrote to me on the subject stated, "It cannot be modesty that prevents them"?

A circumstance in favour of the earlier issuers was the fact that they lived in the token-issuing period, and in several instances, not far from that home of die-sinkers, Birmingham. At the present time, some would be deterred from the effort by fear of appearing singular, or being regarded as presumptive, and the adoption of a design would offer no small obstacle to others.

It really is remarkable how most of us fail to rise to an occasion if it is out of the common line.
FORGERIES OF ANGLO-SAXON COINS, Nos. 1-14, AND THE ORIGINALS FROM WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN COPIED, Nos. 15-25.

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VIII.—X. CENTURIES