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THE TOKEN ISSUES OF S. HAGUE-SMITH

by George D. Dean

For as long as tradesmen's tokens of Australasia have been collected, there has been uncertainty as to how many different types of S. Hague-Smith tokens were issued. Perhaps the collector has an even greater difficulty trying to reconcile the descriptions and photographs of tokens in the standard catalogue, Dr. A. Andrews', *Australasian Tokens and Coins*, with the actual types known to exist. Subsequent writers on the subject (Sutherland, Meek, Heyde and Lampard) have tried to help, but the problems remain.

The trouble began with Dr Andrews' descriptions of the tokens coupled with his (or his printers') attribution of numbers to his illustrations. It is easy when trying to identify token types to take the photographs as gospel, but in this case two of the three illustrations are wrongly captioned; viz. A470 seems to be A472 and A473 seems to be A476.

To complicate matters further, the obverses of A474 and A475 as described in *Australasian Tokens and Coins* are not the same "As A471", but in each instance appear to be new dies apparently not known to Dr. Andrews.

Perhaps of less significance is the fact that the reverse of A477 is the same as A475, not A473.

To add to the possible confusion, as Heyde noted, Andrews type A470 does not seem to exist at all. Other writers followed and accepted Andrew's photographic description and not the written text.

Under the circumstances, it is hardly surprising that students of the series since Andrews have had difficulty, especially since all seek to attribute tokens to Andrews numbering system.

Heyde, for instance omitted A476 and had descriptions of A471 and A472 transposed while his A474 description was what I would call A476, a type which Heyde felt did not exist.

Lampard tried to clear up the mystery by illustrating all the die types and combinations he could locate, but he too transposed A470 for A472, called A476, A474 (after Heyde) and was apparently not aware of the existence of the A474 obverse die.

Another problem confronting collectors who choose to use Lampard and take measurements is that all the token photographs are undersized.

The following explains my findings and corrections in respect to Dr. Andrews' book:

A470 The photo designated as A470 on plate 40 is not the piece described in the text in which A of AUCKLAND should be opposite the space between M and E, but instead has A under the right side of M which corresponds with A472, ie. AUCKLAND is shorter bringing A under M.

A473 The illustration on plate 40 labelled A473 errs in that W of WHOLESAL is closer to the line (than A473) and D is under T, not NT and is therefore A476.

A474 The token described by Andrews as A471 does not appear to exist. Heyde's only example of A474 was an illustration from Renniks *New Zealand Coinage Guide*. Listed as T108, we see that the I of SMITH is in line with the downstroke of T in MERCHANT and is therefore a completely new die. The placement of the letters in relation to the line and M and T of MERCHANT is approximately the same as A471 but MERCHANT is higher in A474 and W is closer to the line (1.25 mm.) but not as close as in A476 (1 mm.) or especially in A477 (0.5 mm.).

A475 The photograph on plate 40 listed as A475 is correct but the text should describe it and point out it is a new die, one with the same obverse as for A478.

A476 This is designated as A473 on plate 40. See above.

Is it any wonder why collectors over the years have had so much trouble trying to decipher the series?

Clearly it is time these tokens were viewed closely and a listing made of what are known, described accurately in an orderly fashion.

Description of Tokens

Obverse Dies:

Key letters - (A)PEX of - **A** and **D** of (A)UCKLAN(D); **M**, **E**, **N** and **T** of (M)(E)RCHA(N)(T), **I** of SM(I)TH and **W** of (W)HOLESALE.



1. **A** under right side of **M** and 1.25 mm. from it. **I** not in line with **T**.



2. **A** under right side of **M** and 2.25 mm. from it. **I** not in line with **T**.



3. **W** 0.5 mm. from line. **I** in line with **T**.



4. **A** under centre of **M**.



5. **A** opposite **ME**. **D** under **NT**.



6. **A** under right side of **M** and 2 mm. from it. **I** in line with **T**. **D** under **NT**.



7. **A** just outside **M** and 1.5 mm. from it. **I** not in line with **T**. **D** under **T**.



Reverse Dies:

Key letters - **B** of (B)ORN and **P** of (P)RINCE. Stop after 1819.

A. **B** to **P** 8 mm. with stop.

B. **B** to **P** 6.5 mm. no stop.

C. **B** to **P** 5.5 mm. no stop.

Recorded Combinations of Dies

	Obv.	Rev.	And. No.
1.	1	A	A471
2.	2	A	A472
3.	3	B	A477
4.	4	B	A475
5.	4	C	A478
6.	5	C	A473
7.	6	C	A474
8.	7	C	A476

If we take Dr. Andrews as written, then there could be lurking waiting to be discovered:

9.	5	A	A470
10.	1	C	A474
11.	3	C	A477

Historical Background

In 1960, H.A. Robinson, writing in the Numismatic Society of Auckland publication, tells of the background of the token issuer S. Hague-Smith. In brief, Samuel Hague-Smith was born in Lincolnshire, England in 1840 and arrived in New Zealand in 1859 taking up the calling of ironmonger. In 1867 the Thames goldfield opened and Samuel turned to shipping and put steamers on from Auckland to Thames. His ships were the *Duke of Edinburgh* and the *Royal Alfred*. Both were later sold to the Northern Steamship Company.

Being a patriotic Englishman at heart, he seized on the opportunity to use the portrait of Prince Albert on his abundant token issues advertising his ironmongery interests.

It is not known if he used his tokens on his gulf steamers but there is little doubt he used them for political advantage in connection with his candidature for the Provincial Council in which he eventually sat as a representative for Newtown in 1870.

Samuel was a soldier in the Maori War and as was the custom was given a block of land on the Northcote foreshore. This he later sold for a few hundred pounds.

During a shortage of English coinage in the colony, his local bank manager prevailed on him to let the bank use his tokens as currency.

The reason S. Hague-Smith tokens were chosen was that, while English coinage showed Queen Victoria, his tokens bore the bust of her husband, Prince Albert, and this was the nearest the bank could get to resemble coins of the realm.

In the twilight of his years S. Hague-Smith served as manager of the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company in Sydney where he died in 1917.

Most varieties of the S. Hague-Smith tokens are quite common in New Zealand. However, they are usually found well worn, no doubt from being used by the bank. The popularity of his token issue is reflected by this wear as much as by the fact that at least eight die combinations were needed to fill the demand.

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