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# SOME THOUGHTS ON YELLAND ON ANDREWS

BY LEN HENDERSON

With Australasian trade tokens there has always been a certain interest shown by collectors; not only in saving such pieces but in research into the different varieties and the makers. Early numismatists such as Stainsfield, Batty, Hyman and Chitty gave a lead to others in stimulating further study. The first man to develop a really worthwhile catalogue was Dr. Arthur Andrews. With the publication of his work, in 1921, there was no obvious need for another such book although the work was not received with complete enthusiasm.

One further student of numismatics was another doctor; this was Alfred C. W. Yelland of Melbourne who was a Vice-President of the Victorian Numismatic Society, which had been formed in 1914, and was the fore-runner of the current N.A.V.

Dr. Yelland was one of many who bought Dr. Andrews' *Australasian Tokens and Coins*. This had originally been planned as a catalogue of the Australian tokens in the Mitchell Library, but was enlarged to include Australian coins and the tokens of New Zealand, and other pieces in other Australian collections. Dr. Yelland had already prepared his own catalogue and was deeply interested in this other work of scholarship. In some respects he found it wanting.

Taking two copies of Andrews' work he pulled them apart, interleaved them with plain paper, had them re-bound, and collated the works with his comments, which were both corrections and opinions.

These two annotated works came down in the family and one was given to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the other to the Coin Room of the Science Museum of Victoria. I have recently had the opportunity of studying these books and re-produce some of the notes to show collectors of today the opinions of a numismatist of the past so that his scholarship will not be forgotten!

On many occasions in the notes Yelland condemns Andrews for being pedantic but he

could be just as pedantic himself. He quite rightly makes the comment that if some tokens are given separate reference numbers for being known in both brass and copper why were other tokens only listed as existing in both metals in a note in the description? An example of this is the Beath (Christchurch) token which is listed as No's 32 and 33 for copper and brass while Crothers (Stawell) just has the comment, "This is also found in copper". There are quite a number of other examples that can be found.

In his pedantic notes Yelland condemns Andrews for spelling mistakes which were often merely printers errors that were not picked up in the proof-reading. In his comments some of his own "proofs" are rather debatable as he expected his family to blindly believe his opinions. None-the-less, his annotations are of interest to me and I hope prove of interest to modern-day readers.

The annotations come through the book in the different sections. – Introduction, Copper and Bronze, Designs, Medallists and the actual text of the catalogue itself. I certainly do not intend to reproduce all the comments but here give a selection of points that interested me.

*MILNER & THOMPSON: "The beautiful series of Milner and Thompson were issued as a pure advertisement for when in Dunedin in 1891 Dr. Hocking a leading authority of New Zealand history told me so. They were circulated at some Exhibition first of all".*

Later in the books he says, "These pieces were made by Stokes & Martin", but offers no reason for this statement.

Coleman P. Hyman says they were issued in 1881.

*COLES BOOK ARCADE: "In Victoria the medals issued by Cole of Cole's Book Arcade should just as well be classed as tokens. Cole charged 3d. each for them and refunded same on purchase of goods. The idea was to prevent a crowd loitering around the arcade".*

I. Dr. Yelland had two daughters; Lena Fornari and Mrs. H. T. Gray.

This opinion is quite wrong for Andrews' book dealt with trade tokens that circulated within certain recognised dates, and the Cole's pieces came out between 1875 and 1918 which was long after tokens had been declared illegal in Victoria. Apart from that, they bore no mark of value to indicate that they represented 3d. each.

*HOSIE'S PIE SHOP: "Hosie's tokens are met with different pence on them. They were nothing less than coupons to be handed to the cashier at the desk to indicate amount to be charged for the meal consumed".*

*"In later years several other firms issued them but the amount was put on the token when made, not punched on afterwards".*

*"Andrew lists Noah Shreeve on page 86 but years ago as far back as 1889 Mr. Coulters who was one of the biggest collectors in Sth. Aust. was of the same opinion as myself. It never passed as token but was just an advt."*

Strangely enough Yelland does not condemn Andrews for missing the Bullen Bros. token (which Dr. Andrews had included in his original manuscript) and which he, himself, had included in his own manuscript. Many collectors have doubted if the Bullen Bros. piece was really a token or an advertising check.

*MASON & CULLEY: "This token did not circulate".*

It is worth remembering that Chitty did not see this token and that Andrews had to rely on a pencil rubbing, instead of a photograph, for his catalogue. It is also worth remembering that these tokens were first offered for sale to collectors in England long before they were known out here. The Wills specimen, which went into the Marcus Clark collection, before going through Gilbert Heyde's hands, was originally bought from an English dealer for £100 (? Sterling or Australian) in 1920 and the specimen in the Science Museum of Victoria was purchased by A. E. Kenyon (the Curator) for £30 with a grant from the Felton bequest in 1928. The first published reference to this token appears to be the W. S. Lincoln additions to C. W. Stainsfields "Tradesmen's Tokens of the Australian Colonies" originally published in 1888.

*LOVE AND ROBERTS: (Wagga Wagga). "No's 333 and 334 are mules struck to suit col-*

*lectors as (sic) Chitty who got Stokes to do them".*

*PEEK AND CAMPBELL (Tea Stores), Sydney, No. 427.*

Regarding Andrews' note about the views of Atkins and Stainsfield, he says,

*"From the size of the doorway etc. it would be impossible to have the words in four lines".*

This, of course, is quite wrong. One of these patterns appeared in the "Spink" Auction in Sydney in April, 1986. Research into the structure in front of the doorway has been done by Tom May (of the N.A.V.) who has shown it was a support for a trellis and canvas awning over the footpath. Francois Cogné did an etching of the David Jones (Ballaarat) store in 1858 showing a similar structure and I have a reproduction of this.

*WATSON, No. 614.*

*"The remarks are wrong. No's 611 and 612 were re-strikes done to Chitty's orders. They were never issued as the Die was wrongly cut as Gardiner's remarks in the Storekeepers' Journal bear me out".*

This was Frank Gardiner's series of short portraits of token issuers that appeared in the "Australian Storekeepers and Traders' Journal" between 1910 and 1914. The articles dealt with Victorian issuers, but Gardiner never mentioned Watson!

There are many other comments in the annotations but most of these only deal with varieties or are of minor importance. Dr. Yelland had listed all of the tokens that he had, using Dr. Andrews' book, and it is now heart-breaking for any collector to read the constant repetitions. *"Have this, Have this, Have it, Have, Have it, Have, Have, Have"* for almost all of the items mentioned by the author.

Alfred C. W. Yelland had written his own manuscript of tokens, and a separate manuscript lists his checks and medallets. For a collector and student of numismatics his memory, and research work, should be better known for it is only by the original work done by these collectors of the past that we can record (and recover) information that would otherwise be lost to us today – and if you lose the information then so much of the pleasure of collecting is lost.

2. See my monograph in "Australian Numismatist", Autumn, 1984.