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# ANOTHER THOMAS ALSOP LOVE TOKEN COMES TO LIGHT

By Peter Lane



In response to an article I wrote titled "The Love Token of Thomas Alsop" which appeared in Volume 1 of this Journal, Mr. T. Millett of London, England, wrote to me in April 1990 stating he had just acquired another Alsop token. His piece was done by the same hand as the one illustrated in my article.

This is the second example I have seen of more than one love token being issued by the same convict. No doubt more examples will come to light in the future.

In both cases the Alsop host coin was a 1797 "cartwheel" penny. The legend on the new example reads:

Obverse: THE ROSE / SOON DRUPES / & DIES, THE BRIER / FADES AWAY, BUT / MY FOND HEART / FOR YOU I LOVE / SHALL NEVER / GO ASTRAY

Rev. A sailing ship facing left; below: ACCEPT THIS DEAR / MOTHER FROM YOUR / UNFORTUNATE SON / THOS ALSOP / TRANSPORTED JULY / 25 AGE 21 1833

Thomas Alsop was an illiterate brick labourer who was transported for stealing sheep in 1833. Immediately after his trial he employed someone to engrave the details of his fate on the filed down copper coin (love token). These were given to relatives or close friends as a keep sake. Thomas sailed of the *Moffat* and arrived in Tasmania in 1834 and was immediately assigned to a chain gang. Later, after being granted a pardon, he married and had two children. Thomas Alsop died in Hobart in 1891.