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# The MCA Advisory

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*The Newsletter of Medal Collectors of America*

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**Dues:** \$20.00/year

## **Our Calendar**

1. 5/11-5/13 – Stacks' auction of Washingtonia.
2. 5/14 & 5/15/2004 – COAC to be held at the new location of the American Numismatic Society in downtown New York
3. 6/1/2004 – Kolbe/Stacks' auction of the John J. Ford, Jr. Library, Part I. Venue will be California.
4. 8/18-8/22/2004 – ANA Convention in Pittsburgh. Our meeting date is Thursday, August 19, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

## **From the Editor**

By the time of our next issue, two events on our Calendar will have occurred. The Stacks' Sale on May 11 through May 13<sup>th</sup> will contain superb Washingtonia from the collection of John J. Ford, Jr. The COAC Seminar on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> will contain nine presentations on Betts medals. These will likewise be of superb quality but more moderately priced than lots from Ford II.

Barry Tayman reports that our financials are solidly in the black. Let that good news not cause you to forget your dues. However, if you have suggestions for the Club that would cost money, do not hold back. The team of Adams, Tayman and Kraljevich are not likely to run amok.

The web site and this periodical are blessed by your contributions. Do not let the high standards that have been set by feature articles keep you from submitting letters to the editor, recent discoveries and the like. This kind of “dialog” is a great way for us to get to know each other as well as to define the profile of our Club. (John W. Adams)

## **The Toubucan Medal**

The UBS Sale this past January contained a very significant piece. The Toubucan medal, which commemorates the short-lived triumph of the Scots on the Isthmus of Darien in 1700, is one of the great rarities of the Betts series. It recalls the desperate story of 2400 settlers of whom, after the ravages of tropical disease, starvation and Spanish attacks, only 250 returned to Scotland.

The UBS specimen of the Toubucan medal, silver gilt in extremely fine condition, is only the second to appear on the market in the past decade. We were the successful bidder and looked forward to its arrival with high expectations. Actual arrival was the occasion of decidedly mixed emotions: on the one hand, we were keenly disappointed that the medal was an electrotype; on the other hand, it was the

best-executed electrotype that we had ever seen.

The medal has “RR” stamped in block letters on its edge. Ever-insightful Chris Eimer tells us that the initials stand for Robert Ready who is further described in Forrer. Mr. Ready worked for the British Museum in the latter half of the nineteenth century, where he executed literally tens of thousands of electrotypes. Most of his work focused on ancient coins but we own a 1764 Happy While United medal made by him (unsigned) and know of several others.

The work of Ready, and of his son Augustus who succeeded him at the Museum, can be identified in two ways. The more obvious way is by the edge markings “RR,” “R,” and “MB.” The less obvious way is by comparison with the plates in *Medallic Illustrations* that are, of course, a near complete record of the British Museum’s medallic holdings.

Dealers are reluctant to handle electrotypes out of fear that they will be used subsequently to fool the innocent. However, the innocent need to be educated and, in the case of the Ready products, the workmanship is such as to qualify as a collectable in its own right. We would be interested in hearing whether any of our readers collect electros and how many of them own a “Ready.” (John W. Adams)

## **The John Ford Library Sale- Part I**

The first part of the John J. Ford, Jr. American Numismatic Library will be

sold at public auction on June 1, 2004 at The Mission Inn in Riverside, California. It will be the most important auction of rare American numismatic literature ever sold.

The sale is being held in association with the New York coin firm Stack's, and illustrated catalogues may be ordered by sending \$35.00 to George Frederick Kolbe, Fine Numismatic Books, P. O. Drawer 3100, Crestline, CA 92325. The catalogue is also accessible at the firm's web site: [www.numislit.com](http://www.numislit.com).

The estimates of the one thousand lots in the sale total a million dollars. Many of the greatest American rarities are featured, among them: Hiram Deats' superb set of the first six volumes of *The Numismatist*, 1888-1993; Adolphus Hart's 1851 *History of the Issues of Paper Money in the American Colonials*, one of only three copies known with the *Historical Chart*; the original inventory of the legendary Waldo Newcomer Collection of American coins; the original F. C. C. Boyd appraisal and inventory of the massive coin collection formed by Col. E. H. R. Green; no less than seven different varieties of *The American Bond Detector*, including a superb leather bound edition, a salesman's sample, and the rare 1871 second edition; thirty-three *Heath's Counterfeit Detectors*, including two Household Editions and a deluxe leather bound edition; the most important assemblage of Chapman Brothers auction catalogues ever offered, including superb examples with original photographic plates, and many of the firm's unique Bid Books for their most important auctions; over twenty rare Thomas Elder auction catalogues with

original photographic plates; extremely important manuscripts and correspondence written by Walter Breen; numerous Wayte Raymond catalogues with photographic plates and all four of the firm's unique bid books of the monumental 1920s W. W. C. Wilson sales; important Americana, including a superb selection of early Western and other rare American Directories; two original copies of Attinelli's 1876 *Numisgraphics*, one an interleaved example from the library of J. N. T. Levick; a superb set of Milford Haven's classic work on Naval Medals; classic works on large cents, including deluxe editions and famous collectors' copies; rare publications on fractional currency and Confederate currency, including perhaps the finest example known of *Thian's Register of the Confederate Debt*, one of only five issued; classic works and unique manuscripts on American colonial coins; a remarkable four volume compilation by Francis Worcester Doughty on *Tradesmen's Tokens*, including rubbings of his collection, historical documentation, and illustrations and ephemeral publications relating to their issuers; numerous rare and important early publications on counterfeit and altered American paper currency; several Eckfeldt and DuBois works featuring actual samples of California '49er gold; many important works and manuscripts on American pioneer gold coins; Ed Frossard's own set of his first 150 auction sale catalogues, handsomely bound in fifteen volumes; correspondence and manuscripts on California fractional gold coins; a superb five volume set of van Loon's classic 1732-1737 work on Dutch medals, also covering early American medals; key

works and manuscripts on Hard Times tokens; the 1861 private letter copy book of C. G. Memminger, Secretary of the Treasury of the Confederate States of America; unique documents and correspondence concerning American pattern coin litigation and controversies; important British sale catalogues featuring content on American medals and coins; early reports and documents pertaining to the United States Mint; important works on Canadian numismatics; runs of important American Bankers' journals and other early financial publications; and much more. The large format catalogue describing the 1,000 lots in the sale is over 300 pages long and features over one hundred illustrations in full color. Beyond the remarkable roster of rarities mentioned above, and many others not noted, the Ford Library stands out from virtually all others in two additional respects: the overall condition of the library is superb, essentially unimprovable; and it contains an amazing number of works from the libraries of prominent American coin collectors and dealers of the past. Those interested in learning more about this landmark sale or in accessing the catalogue online may do so by visiting: [www.numislit.com](http://www.numislit.com). (George Frederick Kolbe)

## **Sentimental Magazine and its Medals**

Larry Reppeteau, PCNS Fellow

Occasionally on browsing a dealer's stock of tokens, I will find a small (26 millimeters) copper medalet dated either 1773 or 1774. By both style and subject matter easily recognizable as being of English origin, I have seen such

pieces identified as an "English Farthing Token" or a "jetton" and even as an "Unlisted Pattern." Actually, it is one of a series of thirteen medalets issued to stimulate sales of an eighteenth century London periodical--*The Sentimental Magazine*. It first went on sale in March of 1773, and was sold for six pence a copy by G. Kearsley of Number 46 Fleet Street, London. In the initial issue the editor stated that the magazine's editorial goal was to be that of: "General Assemblage of Science, Taste, and Entertainment. Circulated to amuse the Mind, to Improve understanding, and to Amend the Heart."

Doing the magazine's short five-year life span it did report both domestic and foreign news, births, marriages, deaths, letters to the editor, bankruptcies, and poetic essays. However, over time it developed strong editorial sympathy and support of the American Colonies' struggle for independence. By embracing, what for many in England was an unpopular cause; it experienced a steady decline in readership. The "*Sentimental*" continued to be published until December 1777 when it disappeared from the journalistic world, leaving only the thirteen medalets to mark its existence. As an incentive, for each of its first thirteen months, the purchaser received, wrapped in a silky kind of paper, a small copper medalet. They were 26 millimeters in diameter and of the same general design; bust of a prominent person on the obverse, and their name and/or title on the reverse.

In the magazine's first issue we find the editor stating that: "It may

appear extraordinary to some, that a Medal worth Half-a-Crown can be afforded in a magazine only sold for Six-Pence. . . To have a dye (sic) well executed is very expensive, it will cost as much for 200 as 20,000 and were it not for an extensive Sale of the Magazine, we could not sell a Medal for less than Half-a-crown. . .”

Unfortunately, the periodical never identified which medalet was being given with which issue. Consequently, over the years there have been numerous conjectures as to the sequence in which the medalets were issued. However, we may find a clue in the January 1774 issue of the magazine where the editor writes: “We have already given the Heads of the King, Queen, Duke of Gloucester, Mr. Garrick, Mr. Alderman Beckford, George the Second, Alderman Wilkes, Oliver Cromwell, the Earl of Chatham, and Lord Camden.” Based on the proceeding statement, assumption may be made that the editor’s sequence is the actual order of distribution. But, we are still in the dark as to the last three pieces issued in January, February, and March of 1774.

For years one question that has plagued researchers is why the abrupt discontinuance of medalets after March 1774. The key may be the magazine’s editor. Eighteenth century English magazines seldom listed editor’s names (possibly to protect against “dueling challenges” or “horse whippings” by enraged readers), but there are indications that the Sentimental’s first editor was a Thomas Hollis (1720-1774). Hollis was what we would today call a

“Liberal” but then known as a “Republican” and was adamantly opposed to the Tory Party in-power. He demonstrated his convictions by financing the striking of medals and buying books that in turn he presented to various libraries and schools. One such school was America’s Harvard University.

John Hollis died on January 1, 1774. If, as suspected, Hollis was the first editor, medalets for January through March could have already been commissioned and readied for distribution. A new editor may well have elected to discontinue issuing expensive medalets

All thirteen of the magazines medalets were designed and struck by John Kirk (1724?-1778?), a then popular English medallist, seal and gem engraver. Kirk is known to have produced over sixty different medals and received from the British Society of Arts awards for his work. He also produced brass coin weights needed by merchants to check the weight of circulating English and foreign gold coins. His shop and store was located at 52 St. Paul’s Church Yard, London, where, in addition to producing medals and tokens, he advertised the selling of “Dutch and English toys, pans, and gold.”

In the magazine’s first issue there is mention of a projected issue of “Silver medals:” “A Sentimental Fable, in French, in every number, to be translated in the succeeding; the best translator of which will be entitled to a Silver Medal, with his name engraved thereon: and those correspondents who furnish us with the best poem, or the

best article to Prose, in the course of every Month, shall likewise be entitled to a Silver Prize Medal, with their names, Signatures engraved thereon.” And in the November issue of the magazine the editor reports: “An accident having happened to the Dye (sic), we have been unable to deliver the Silver Medals that were awarded last month, but as the dye is repairing, we shall be able to furnish them by the 10<sup>th</sup> of December.”

From the above statements we must assume that “silver medalets” were issued and they would have been struck uniface so as to leave a blank reverse for engraving. However, a search of auction catalogues and reference books fails to disclose any listing of a silver medalet with either engraved initials or name. Such a piece would be unique as no more than one hundred individual presentation medalets could have been made for the thirteen month period. So what are the 26 millimeter Sentimental silver medalet that one sees today? An Examination of those silver pieces in my personal collection reveals that they have the same appearance as clad coinage—or what is known as “Barton’s metal,” silver over copper.

My theory is that such pieces were produced after the issue of the magazine. We know in addition to minting medals Kirk had a retail store where he sold metal goods, tokens and medals. It could be that, when the magazine discontinued issuing medalets, the dies became the property of Kirk. Since a majority of those persons depicted on the medalets were icons of the anti-Tory English, they would naturally appeal to those of same political leaning. Kirk would have been

in good position, having a retail outlet, to strike a series of silver medals for over the counter sales.

There is one piece, dated 1658, honoring Oliver Cromwell, which has created some confusion over the years. The confusion is compounded by Kirk’s using for his model of Cromwell the bust depicted on the English gold fifty shilling of 1656 and spelling of “Olivar” as on the coinage of 1656-1658. This has at times lead collectors and dealers alike to mistakenly believe the piece to be an unlisted pattern.

It is this medalet honoring Cromwell which also helps to support the theory of Thomas Hollis being the Sentimental’s first editor. In the British Gentleman’s Magazine of January 1774 we find this obituary: “January 1, 1774 At Corscombe in Dorsetshire, Thomas Hollis, Esq.;-He was the immediate descendent of the celebrated Hollis, who with Hampden, Pym, and other, composed the five Commons who strenuously opposed the measures of Charles the First, and whom that Monarch, in 1642, attempted to seize in the House of Commons.

Raised in a family steeped in “Republicism” and the “rights of the common man,” Cromwell could well have been a Hollis’ childhood hero, admiration that would have extended on into adulthood and be reflected in the selection of medalets for the magazine.

If you are a token or medal collector with Anglophilic leanings, this short series may well be your “cup of tea.” There is the thrill of the hunt for

individual pieces, the research of the lives of those portrayed and owning samples of the work of a famous medallist.

## The Medalets

Both the bronze and silver Sentimental Magazine medalets are 26 millimeters in diameter. The obverse has a bust of a prominent person and their name or title on the reverse. Following are the medalets listed in what is suspected to be their order of issue:

- 1) **March 1773**, Obv: Bust of George III in court dress with long hair, facing right. Below, Kirk. F.  
Rev: GEORGE III/KING OF/GREAT BRITAIN/ETC./1773 King of Great Britain and Ireland 1760-1820. It was only proper to lead off the series by honoring the reigning monarch.
- 2) **April 1773**; Obv: Bust of Queen Charlotte facing left, hair in a pear net and wearing a pearl necklace. Below Kirk FEC.  
Rev: Charlotte/Queen of/Great Britain/ETC 1773.  
Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz married George III in 1761.
- 3) **May 1773**, Obv: Bust of the Duke of Gloucester facing right, hair tied behind, wearing a frock coat. Below, Kirk FEC.  
Rev: DUKE/OF/GLOCESTER (sic) /1773.  
William Henry, brother of George III, against his brother's wishes, secretly married Maria, Dowager Countess of Waldegrave in 1766. (NOTE – Gloucester was commonly spelled Glocester in the eighteenth century.)
- 4) **June 1773**; Obv: Draped bust of David Garrick facing left and with long hair. Below, Kirk. F.  
Rev: D. GARRICK/ESQUIRE/1773  
The most famous actor and stage manager of his day. In 1772 and 1773, he was at the peak of his popularity.
- 5) **July 1773**; Obv: Bust of William Beckford facing left wearing a full bottom wig, robes, and Mayoral chain. Below Kirk FEC.  
Rev: RIGHT/HONOURABLE/  
WILLIAM/BECKFORD Alderman and Member of Parliament for the City of London and twice Lord Mayor. As Lord Mayor (1769), made a famous speech to the King asserting rights of London citizens to appeal certain false election returns.
- 6) **August 1773**; Obv: Cuirassed bust of George II to the left, wearing ribbon and star of the Garter. Below Kirk. FEC  
Rev: GEORGE/THE SECOND King of Great Britain-Ireland and elector of Hanover (1727-60).
- 7) **September 1773**; Obv: Draped bust of John Wilkes facing right, hair tied behind. Below, Kirk FEC  
Rev: JOHN WILKES/ESQUIRE/  
MEMBER FOR/MIDDLESEX/1773.  
A champion of the rights of individuals and the darling of the common people, Elected to Parliament in 1757 and 1762. In 1764 arrested on charges of seditious libel. Charges were dropped as his arrest infringed on his privileges as an MP. In 1764, his enemies succeeded in his expulsion from the house. In 1768 again re-elected to Parliament and in 1769 again expelled. Though again twice re-elected, Parliament declared his

elections void. In 1774 again elected as a Member of Parliament and finally his enemies, yielding to public pressure, allowed him to take his seat and remain in office until 1790. This piece strongly demonstrates the publication's political leanings. In 1773, Wilkes was still under expulsion from Parliament but the "Sentimental" contended that he was still a Member.

- 8) **October 1773**; Obv: Cuirassed and laureate bust of Oliver Cromwell facing left. Below, Kirk FEC.  
Rev: OLIVAR (sic) CROMWELL/1658  
General and statesman (1599-1658).  
Leader of the Parliamentary forces (or Roundheads) in the English Civil War against Charles I. Following the beheading of Charles on 30 January 1649 and the abolition of the monarchy, England became a "Commonwealth" or "Free-Sate." From 1653 until his death (1658) Cromwell was "Lord Protector of the Commonwealth."
- 9) **November 1773**; Obv: Bust of Lord Chatham facing right, long hair and wearing a frock coat. Below Kirk.F.  
Rev: LORD/CHATHAM/1773.  
Better know as William Pitt, "The Great Commoner," famed for his honesty and statesmanship.
- 10) **December 1773**; Obv: Bust of Lord Camden facing right, wearing full bottom wig and robes. Below Kirk FEC  
Rev: LORD/CAMDEN/1773  
Charles Pratt, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Declared that common warrants were illegal in the trial of John Wilkes, thereby gaining great popularity with the common people.

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, and MARCH 1774.

Unfortunately, we do not know in what order the last medalets were issued, so we place them in alphabetical order.

- 11) Obv: Draped bust of the Duchess of Cumberland, facing left, below Kirk F.  
Rev: DUCHESS/OFF/CUMBERLAND  
On 2 October 1771 Anne Luttrell married Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, brother of King George III. The king was so enraged by the marriage he forbid the couple's appearance at the Royal Court.
- 12) Obv.: Draped bust of Duchess of Gloucester facing left, below Kirk.F.  
Rev: DUCHESS/OFF/GLOUCESTER/1774  
The Dowager Countess and illegitimate daughter of Sir Edward Walpole, against the King's wishes, married his brother William Henry, Duke of Gloucester on 6 September 1766.
- 13) Obv: Uniformed bust of the Marquis of Granby facing left. Below Kirk FEC  
Rev: MARQUIS/OFF/GRANBY/1774  
A military hero of the Seven Year's War. In 1763 named Master general of the Ordnance and in 1750, Commander-in-Chief. Died in 1770.