

WAR CRY ON WANT

Salvation Army tokens of Nineteenth Century England by Tony James

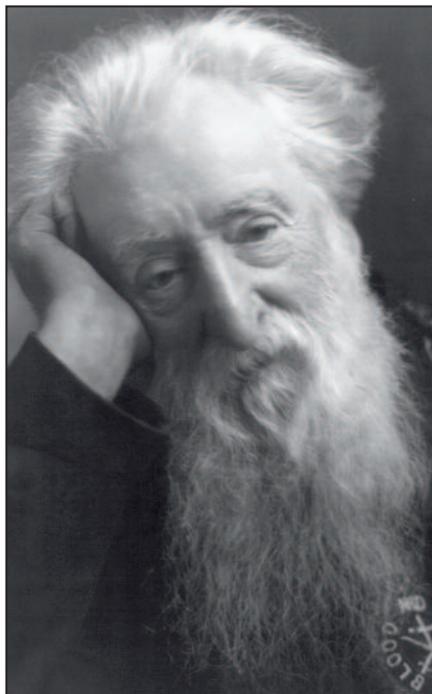
WHETHER you have seen them in the hotels with the War Cry newspaper and the wooden donation box, marching on ANZAC Day or standing on street corners at Christmas time, most people recognise members of the Salvation Army, affectionately known as the "Salvos". In nineteenth century England the founder of the Army, William Booth was involved in radical social adjustment and needed a currency system to make it work.

Preacher Booth

James Flawn made the cocoa and William Booth brought his own food and they lunched at a refreshment room set up by Flawn in the 1860s. William Booth had come to London and commenced his East London Christian Mission in Whitechapel Road and High Street Poplar, where he began giving away soup and bread to the destitute and homeless. Flawn was to become manager of this growing organisation and working out his boyhood vow that because he had been ignored when he was young, he would help others.

In Darkest England

In 1890 Booth wrote his survey of the problems of the poor and homeless in a book entitled *In Darkest England and the Way Out*. He saw the destitute and homeless and worked to provide not only a religious faith for the thousands of poor who had been created by the industrial revolution, but a means by which they could get out of poverty. Booth calculated that a tenth of the poor and destitute population of London, some 90,000 people were paupers or homeless and the 900,000 starving and very poor were only marginally better off. The unemployed from the rural areas were drawn to the cities by the lure of jobs in factories which in the age of mechanization did not materialize. In 1867 the East London Christian Mission acquired the premises at 188 (now 220) Whitechapel Road (formerly the Eastern Star beer shop), and set up its headquarters using part of it as a soup kitchen. Soon, nearly 2000 per day were being fed, and while sustenance was not totally given away, some free meals were provided on a Sunday morning to "people to whom tickets had been carefully distributed by men, once of their own class who carefully hunted



William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army. (Image courtesy of US Library of Congress LC-USZ62-93370.)

them out until the tables were crowded with the poor maimed and halt and blind."

By the end of the decade Booth had come to realize that gratuitous hand-outs were not the answer and self-help by means of a day's work, as well as a commitment to the new found faith that came with the prayer and worship meetings conducted after the meals, instilled pride and change in the person

1892 City Colony

By the 1890s the Salvation Army had introduced men's and women's shelters, food depots and factories (known as Elevators due to the connotation of factories with work-houses). The Wharf Labour Registry, Intelligence Department, Improved lodgings, Slum Sisters, Prison Gate Brigade, Rescue Homes and an Inquiry office were in full working order under the supervision of Booth and his Army. He started a Travelling Hospital employing trained nurses, and the Household Salvage Brigade was partly organized. The Salvation Army was responsible for one of the first employment agencies in Britain finding domestic jobs for those women who entered the shelters, proved themselves trustworthy and adopted Christian beliefs and ethics.

Men and women in need who approached the Army were given work to do and were paid in tokens that were redeemable at the colony and shelters. Typically a wood chopper could expect to earn one shilling and two pence per day and it is recorded that the production costs of 100 bundles of firewood 13-14 inches in circumference was one shilling and tuppence ha'penny. That amount was paid in tokens as follows 3d for breakfast, 4d for dinner, 3d for tea, 2d for bed and 2 ½d reserved for the Sunday meal.

The Women's shelter in Whitechapel was run on similar lines..

The Battersea Wharf Elevator used a system known as classes, which had the purchasing power of 4d for the 1st class, 3d for the 2nd class and 2d for the 3rd class. Tokens were paid four times a day and men could earn extra for work completed beyond their allotted tasks, with a limit of 5 shillings per week. The elevator tokens were round for 1st, oval for 2nd and square for 3rd class and had a curved legend CITY COLONY over a central denomination and WORKS underneath.

Salvation Farm or Farm colony

The Farm Colony was established at Hadleigh, Essex, for rehabilitation and at the peak of activity 1890-1910 involved some 3,200 acres of land. Despite local opposition the Army not only transformed neglected farms but built facilities where it taught brick making pottery and construction skills together with farming and market gardening. With the coming of World War 1 the need to provide employment diminished, and today the farm is run on a commercial basis with profits going to the Army.

Another circular token, in a copper alloy, found at the Hadleigh site, is a 1/- denomination on one side and the other is described as inscribed BLOOD AND FIRE with coronet above and ribbon below the inscription THE SALVATION ARMY. The outer legend reads FARM COLONY HADLEIGH ESSEX.

Tokens as payment

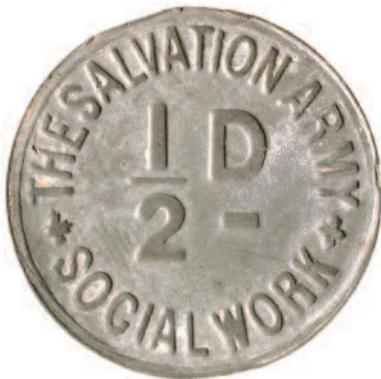
The tokens are generally ascribed as being manufactured by Neal and are embossed. Denzel Webb notes that the tokens were manufactured at the Army's Spa Road centre and distributed to the other men's centres.



1d F&S Social Wing Uniface in zinc

The Social Wing tokens have the denominations with the letters F and S to the left and right indicating Food and Shelter. The denominations known are 1/2d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, and 6d.

The Social Wing Elevator tokens have been recorded in the following denominations - 1 1/2d, 2d, 3d.



1/2d Social Work circular uniface in zinc.
(Image courtesy of Noble Numismatics.)

Other sections also issued their own tokens and the following departments and denominations have been recorded.

Social Work - 1/2d, 2d, 5d. Social Centre - 2d, 6d. City Colony Works which were used at the Wharf - 1st, 2nd, 3rd. The Farm colony token with a denomination of 1d, is marked (no monetary value).

While there has been speculation that these tokens may have been used in Australia and New Zealand, their absence in the Antipodes would indicate that their issue and use was confined to London and Essex. The tokens reveal an interesting facet of a social program that answered a need in an era not known for welfare.

Acknowledgment

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References

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Greenland's Celebrated Silver Dollar

THERE are a number of world coins prized above all others. One of the more famous is the Danish Asiatic Company piastre *aka* the Greenland Dollar. If you have not come across it before now you can check it out in the *Standard Catalog of World Coins*, KM639.2.

The coin was struck in silver during the reign of Christian VII in 1771, 1774 and 1777 but using just the 1771 and 1777 dates. Few have survived with one surfacing in Heritage's recent Long Beach sale where it made a cool US\$46,000.

The name "dollar" is a misnomer. The coins were struck at the Königsberg Mint to promote trade in the east. The design deliberately imitates a Spanish colonial pillar 8 reales that, at the time, had become the international currency of choice.

On the obverse are the crowned arms of Denmark and on the reverse the crowned arms of both Denmark and Nor-

way under the royal crown. In the sea between the Pillars of Hercules are the three Danish territories of Greenland (GRÖNIA or GRÖNLAND), Iceland (ISLAN or ISLAND) and the Faeroe Islands (FERÖ). Varieties exist with the most obvious differences being in the spelling of these islands' names.

Just five pieces remain that were undoubtedly struck in 1771, as shown by die combination studies. Some 20 survive from the 1774 mintage with about half of these in museums. Just three examples are known of the 1777 date that has ISLAND for Iceland but at least 21 exist with the ISLAN spelling. Of these 12 are in museums.

Any version of this coin is regarded as a prize and not just by collectors of Scandinavian coins but by all those who delight in world crowns and trade dollars.

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Danish Asiatic Company piastre, known informally as *The Greenland Dollar*, that was sold recently by Heritage Auction Galleries for US\$46,000 in AU58 NGC. The coin is an example of the slightly commoner 1777 variety of this rarity with Iceland spelt as ISLAN. Image courtesy Heritage Auction Galleries.