

# JOHN RYTON ANDREWS

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(4.30 - 7.0pm)

Dear Col Grimshaw,

Your recent letter to the D. Archaeological Society has been passed to me as a local numismatist (working in the library).

Referring to the coin/pedal which you describe having found in your garden, it appears that this could be a late 18<sup>th</sup> Century copper tradesman's token - 1/2 d value.

There were many thousands of these struck - some for genuine trade at a <sup>type of</sup> shortage of official coinage, some for collectors & others with political (eg anti-slavery) or commemorative motifs.

I enclose a photocopy of 2 pages from the standard <sup>by</sup> Dalton & Hamer, which illustrate the enormous variety of designs, combinations of dies and different edges used.

I cannot immediately identify your specimen, but I immediately thought of these items on reading your description of a shaped hand & dove.

Perhaps you will be able to identify the design.

My own specialisation is in the coinage of Exeter (18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> C).

I more recently in a book I've produced on the Bankers & Banknotes of Exeter. There is a very common 18<sup>th</sup> 1/2 token of Exeter, of the same series, featuring Bishop Sturges <sup>patron saint</sup> of the hatter industry - even with this one <sup>token</sup> there are 6 or 7 combinations of obverse/reverse, variations of die edge etc.

I hope this may help. (Alternatively the items could be a contemporary commemorative medal, but these do not normally appear to have legends around the edge.)

Sincerely

John Andrews

(\* my booklet Exeter Coinage covers the minted tokens, medallions, postchecks etc of the city (12-40)