

SCOTTISH BEGGARS' BADGES

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OUR object in this paper is the publication, with annotations, of as complete a list of Scottish Beggars' Badges as it is at present possible to compile.

The history of the beggar's badge in Scotland has been adequately dealt with by J. Balfour Paul, in *P.S.A.S.*, xxi (1886-7). It may, however, be useful to repeat here some of the outstanding historical facts which he records. The growth of a large class of beggars in medieval times led to the necessity for limiting the numbers of those officially entitled to beg. The first reference to badges in Scotland is in an Act of the Scottish Parliament of the year 1424. The Act forbade begging except by those persons who had been given official badges, which were to be worn fixed to the outer clothing. Authorities entitled to issue beggars' badges were (*a*) the magistrates of towns, (*b*) the kirk-sessions of parishes, and (*c*) the Sovereign.

Badges were usually made of metal, principally lead, pewter, copper, and cast iron, though stone badges are known; pasteboard served the purpose in the parish of Grange (Banffshire) in 1840. There was a great deal of variety in the shape and size of badges, these being decided entirely at the discretion of the authorities of the parish concerned. Badges normally bore the name of the parish in which they were valid, with a serial number which no doubt was recorded against the name of the badge-holder. Crests or coats of arms of towns and counties appear fairly frequently, but it is only rarely that the recipient's name is found stamped on the badge. Dates are not unusual; the earliest in our list is 1549, recorded under Dundee, and the latest 1847, on a King's Bedesman's badge.

It is curious that although, on the testimony of existing records, the issue of beggars' badges was a regular practice from the fifteenth century onwards in all the large Scottish towns and in many parishes, so few specimens should have survived to the present day. Not a single example of the badges of Edinburgh or Glasgow, for example, has come to our notice, in spite of extensive enquiries. It may be that, when new issues were made, the issuing authority systematically called in and destroyed older badges. Those that escaped official destruction may have been despised as trifles of no intrinsic value, or as reminders of past unhappy days.

In compiling the list of beggars' badges which follows, we have investigated the collections in the National Museum of Antiquities, in the Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee Museums, and in a large number of local museums. To the Directors and Curators of all these institutions, as well as to those private owners who have assisted us, we wish to express our most grateful thanks. If any reader of this list can suggest additions or amendments, we shall be very pleased to hear from him.

In the description of each badge is included a reference to the collection or catalogue in which the particular specimen described is to be found. Such references may be useful to any investigators who may wish to check our descriptions or to know where an individual badge is preserved. The mention of only one source for each

item must not, of course, be taken to imply that the specimen concerned is unique. Although in most cases the reference given is the National Museum of Antiquities (N.M.A.), which possesses the largest collection of badges, examples of many of the items in our catalogue are to be found in several collections. (See below: Location of Beggars' Badges.)

Only some of those badges which are of special rarity or interest have been selected for illustration. In some cases references are given to illustrations which have appeared in various books or articles.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BADGES

- ABERDEEN.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* Castle with battlements, between the figures 7 and 4 (possibly an abbreviation of the date 1774). *Rev:* blank. Raised border. Perforation at top. Diam. 1.8 in. It is doubtful whether this is a beggar's badge or not. N.M.A.
- ALLOA.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* PARISH / OF / ALLOA / 20, the lettering in relief, the number incuse; raised border. *Rev:* unincised, but with concentric circles in relief. Projecting loop at back. Diam. 1.8 in. N.M.A.
- ALVES.** Brass, circular. *Obv:* A / 10, incuse. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at top. Diam. 1.6 in. Elgin Museum. (Pl. LIII: 3.)
- ARDROSSAN.** Lead, pentagonal. *Obv:* ARDROSSAN / N^o 5 / POOR, the word ARDROSSAN arched, the number incuse; plain raised border. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at top. 1.9 × 1.8 in. N.M.A.
- ARDROSSAN.** Lead, pentagonal. *Obv:* POOR OF / N^o 8 / ARDROSSAN, all incuse, the word ARDROSSAN sagging. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at top. 1.9 × 1.7 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIII: 1.)
- AYR.** Lead, rectangular with domed top. *Obv:* AYR / POOR / 1744, in crude lettering in relief. *Rev:* blank. Perforated projection at top. 1.6 × 1.3 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIII: 2.)
- BOHARM.** Lead, square with rounded top. *Obv:* X / BB, incuse. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at top. 1.4 × 1.6 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- BOYNDIE.** Lead, gorget-shaped. *Obv:* BOYNDIE / N^o 11, engraved and cross-hatched. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at each end. L. 5.4 in. W. 1.9 in. Aberdeen Art Gallery: Provost Skene's House. (Pl. LV: 18.)
- BRECHIN.** Oval. *Obv:* 1668 / PB. Perforation at top. 1.8 × 1.4 in. Rubbing in N.M.A.
- CAMPBELTOWN.** Brass, upright oval. *Obv:* THE / POOR / OF N^o 80 / CAMPBELTOWN, all incuse, the word CAMPBELTOWN sagging, following the curve of the edge. *Rev:* blank. Four perforations, two at top, two at bottom. 3.2 × 2 in. N.M.A.
- CAVERS.** Lead, heart-shaped. *Obv:* CAVERS / ROXB: / 1729. *Rev:* blank. Two perforations at top. W. 2.3 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LV: 24.)
- COMRIE.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* Arms of Perth (double-headed eagle) in relief; around, incuse, COMRIE PARISH 1757 N41; cable moulding round edge. *Rev:* blank. Two projecting loops, one above, the other below. Diam. (excl. loops) 1.9 in. N.M.A.
- COMRIE.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* Arms of Perth; around, incuse, COMRIE PARISH 1775 N 18; cable moulding round edge. One projecting loop, at top. *Rev:* blank. Diam. (excl. loop) 1.9 in. N.M.A.
- COMRIE.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* Arms of Perth; around, COMRIE PARISH / N^o 2; all in relief, except the number 2, which is incuse. *Rev:* blank. Projecting loop at top. Diam. (excl. loop) 1.9 in. N.M.A.
- CONVETH.** (now Laurencekirk). Lead, oblong, with scalloped corners. *Obv:* CONVETH, in script lettering, in relief; below, incuse, 32. *Rev:* blank. Two perforations at top. 3 × 1.25 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIII: 4.)
- COUPAR ANGUS.** Lead, oblong, with two top corners cut. *Obv:* XLI, incuse. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at top. 1.4 × .5 in. Perth Museum. (Pl. LIII: 5.)
- CRAIL.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* N^o 23 / CRAIL, the upper line incuse, the name in relief, sagging with

- the edge of the badge. *Rev*: blank. Perforation at top. Diam. 1.4 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- CRIEFF.** Lead, upright oval. *Obv*: in sunk panel, crude representation of pot of lilies; at sides, N° 5, the lettering in relief, the number incuse; above, on margin, CRIEFF; below, POOR; both in relief. *Rev*: blank. Perforation at top. 2.1 × 1.6 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIII: 6.)
- CROY** (Inverness-shire). Pewter, circular. *Obv*: N° 24 / CROY / 1742, the number 24 incuse, the rest in relief. *Rev*: blank. Diam. 1.3 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIII: 7.)
- DUMFRIES.** Brass, upright oval. *Obv*: incuse on circular band, DUMFRIES / POORS × BADGE; in centre, incuse, N° 26 / 1817. *Rev*: blank. Perforated at top. 3 × 2.2 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LV: 19.)
- DUN.** Lead, pentagonal, with inscription in relief. *Obv*: POOR / OF DUN. *Rev*: I × K / 1714. (James Ker, minister, 1701-1752.) Perforated at top. W. 1.45 in. H. 1.1 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIII: 8.)
- DUNDEE.** Circular. *Obv*: Crude representation of the arms of Dundee (pot of lilies, supported by two dragons); around, DEI · CONUM 1549. *Rev*: blank. Projecting loop at top. Diam. 2.2 in. (Figd. *P.S.A.S.*, xxxi (1896-7) 276.) Cast in N.M.A., from a specimen found in Dundee c. 1895.
- DUNDEE.** Lead, circular. *Obv*: Arms of Dundee (pot of lilies); around, DUN / DEE. *Rev*: blank. Two loops at back. Diam. 2 in. N.M.A.
- DUNDEE.** Lead, circular. *Obv*: Arms of Dundee (pot of lilies); around, DUN / DEE. *Rev*: blank. Two perforations at top. Vestiges of loops at back. Diam. 1.95 in. N.M.A. (Figd. Ferguson: *Dawn of Scot. Soc. Welfare*, p. 164.)
- DUNNOTTAR.** Copper, oval. *Obv*: DUNNOTTAR / 28, the name arched above the number; all engraved. *Rev*: blank. Three perforations, one above, two below, 4 × 3.2 in. N.M.A.
- DUNNOTTAR.** Brass, circular, convex. *Obv*: engraved: DUNNOTTAR / PARISH, forming a circle; in centre, 3; engraved border. *Rev*: blank, with iron strap fixed across it. Diam. 3.15 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- DYSART.** Lead, oblong, cut corners. *Obv*: DYSART / N° 19 / POOR, in relief except for the number, which is incuse; all within border of raised dots. *Rev*: blank. Loop at top. 2.8 × 2.5 in. N.M.A.
- DYSART.** Lead, oblong, cut corners. *Obv*: DYSART / N° 3 / POOR, all incuse, within border of raised dots. *Rev*: blank. Loop at top. 2.8 × 2.6 in. N.M.A. (Figd. Ferguson: *Dawn of Scot. Soc. Welfare*, p. 164.)
- ECCLESGREIG** (now St Cyrus). Lead, circular. *Obv*: N 9 / EGL2GRIG / PARI2H / 1773, in irregular lettering, in relief, except for the serial number, which is incuse. *Rev*: blank. Four perforations. Diam. 2.1 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- ELLON.** Micaceous sandstone, elliptical. *Obv*: incised, ELLON / BEGGAR / 1641 (Æ in monogram; the figure 4 reversed). *Rev*: incised, WH in monogram. Perforation at top. H. 4 in. W. 2.4 in. Thickness .4 in. Provost Skene's House, Aberdeen. (Pl. LVI: 25.)
- ELLON.** Schistose stone, elliptical. *Obv*: incised, * / RM / 1668. *Rev*: incised, 6. Traces of perforation at top, which is broken off. H. 4.1 in. W. 3.5 in. Thickness, .75 in. Provost Skene's House, Aberdeen. (Pl. LVI: 26.) Provenance unknown; tentatively ascribed to Ellon because of similarity to, and association with, the preceding specimen.
- ELLON.** Lead circular. *Obv*: ELLON / 1742. *Rev*: blank. Single perforation below. Diam. 1.7 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIII: 9.)
- FETTERCAIRN.** Brass, circular. *Obv*: engraved: N° 17 / FETTERCAIRN / 1817. *Rev*: blank. Two perforations at each side. Diam. 2.5 in. N.M.A.
- FETTERESSO.** Copper, oval. *Obv*: engraved: FETTERESSO / 6, the lettering arched. *Rev*: blank. Three perforations, one above, two below. 4.2 × 3.1 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- FORFAR.** Pewter, rectangular, with loop projecting at top. *Obv*: FORFAR / P / 1741. *Rev*: PARISH / N° 14; all incuse. 2.8 × 2.6 in. N.M.A.
- FORFAR.** Lead, circular. *Obv*: in sunk circle, part of arms of Forfar (castle with two tiers of battlements, surmounted by three towers); below, FORFAR, in relief. *Rev*: 1767, in relief. Two perforations at top. Diam. 3.5 in. N.M.A.

- FORFAR.** Iron, circular. Similar to preceding item, but on rev., instead of date, the figure 1 in relief. Diam. 3·7 in. N.M.A.
- FORFAR.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* in sunk circle, part of arms of Forfar (castle with battlements and towers); below, FORFAR, incuse. *Rev:* in relief, 88. Two perforations at top. Diam. 3·6 in. N.M.A.
- FORFAR.** Pewter, circular. *Obv:* in sunk circle, part of arms of Forfar (castle with battlements and towers); below, FORFAR, incuse; above, surmounting castle, P (presumably for Poor, or Pauper). *Rev:* blank. Two perforations at top. Diam. 2·6 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LV: 20.)
- FORFAR.** Brass, circular. *Obv:* in sunk circle, part of arms of Forfar (castle with battlements and towers); below, FORFAR, incuse; the castle is surmounted by a flag. *Rev:* 167, in relief. Diam. 3·5 in. Hunterian Museum, Glasgow.
- FORTEVIOT.** Lead, rectangular. *Obv:* FORTEVIOT / . 1741 B, divided by a horizontal line. *Rev:* blank. Single perforation. 2 × 1 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIV: 11.)
- FOSSWAY AND TULLIBOLE.** *Obv:* Arms of Perth (double-headed eagle) in relief; around, incuse, FOSSWAY TULLIBOLE. *Rev:* blank. Loop at top. Diam. 1·9 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *P.S.A.S.*, XXI (1886-7), 176.)
- FRASERBURGH.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* in relief, FRASERBURGH / POOR, the first line arched, the second across the centre of the badge. The P and R of POOR are larger than the other letters. *Rev:* blank. Loop at top. Diam. 2·8 in. No number or date. N.M.A.
- Of the two specimens of this badge in Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow, one bears incuse on *obv.* N^o 2 and date 1770; the other bears incuse on *obv.* N^o 11, and on *rev.* N^o 11 and date 1771.
- FRASERBURGH.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* in relief, FRASERBURGH / POOR, the first line arched, the second across the centre of the badge. The lettering is neater than on the preceding item, and the letters in POOR are all the same size. *Rev:* blank. Loop at top. Diam. 2·8 in. No number or date. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- FRASERBURGH.** As preceding item, but with slightly larger lettering. N.M.A.
- GRANGE, Banffshire.** Card, printed with: PERMIT / TO BEG THROUGH THE PARISH OF GRANGE. Signed: 'J. M. INNES, HERITOR', the signature of Sir John Innes of Edingight. c. A.D. 1840. 4·5 × 3·35 in. (This specimen is described in *P.S.A.S.*, xxxi (1896-7), 278.)
- GREENOCK.** Brass, upright oval, convex. *Obv:* in relief, a leafy tree (a 'green oak', a rebus on the town's name); around, incuse, TOWN OF GREENOCK; below tree, engraved, 98. *Rev:* blank. Projecting perforated loop above and below. 3·35 × 2·15 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LVI: 29.)
- HUNTLY.** Lead, upright oval. *Obv:* PARISH / OF / HUNTLY / N^o 7, in relief except for the number, which is incuse. *Rev:* blank. Perforated projection at top. 3·2 (excl. projection) × 2·4 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- INVERNESS.** Upright oval. *Obv:* PARISH / OF / INVERNESS / N^o 31. 3·1 × 2·4 in. (From illustration in 'Inverness Kirk Session Records, 1661-1800' (1902), opp. p. 37.) We have not been able to trace an actual specimen.
- KEITH.** Lead, square with conical top. *Obv:* in centre, in sunk circle with scalloped rim, KEITH / N^o ; arched above circle, incuse, M. McKENZIE; at each lower corner, a heart incuse. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at top. 2·9 × 2·25 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scottish Pewter-ware*, Pl. XXXI.)
- KEITH.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* on band round edge, KEITH PAUPERS BADGE ; centre blank. *Rev:* blank. Single perforation. Diam. 2·9 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- KETTINS.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* KETINS 1741, in crude lettering, in relief, on sunk band round edge; centre blank. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at top. Diam. 1·3 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIV: 12.)
- KILBRANDON AND KILCHATTAN.** Pewter, circular. *Obv:* in script lettering, incuse, KILBRANDON / & KILCHATTAN. *Rev:* in unequal lettering, AL, possibly the pauper's initials. Four perforations, equally spaced round edge. Diam. 3 in. In the possession of Dr A. C. Gillies.
- KILLEARNAN.** Lead, oval. *Obv:* N^o 2 / KILLRN / POOR, in relief, except for the number, which is incuse; plain raised border. *Rev:* blank. Projecting loop at top. 1·6 × 1·3 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIV: 13.)

- KIRKCALDY.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* Arms of Kirkcaldy (church with three spires); above and below, in bold capitals, curving with edge, KIRKCALDY / POOR; all in relief; at sides of arms, incuse, N^o 10; beaded border. *Rev:* blank. Bold projecting loop at top. Diam. (excl. loop) 3 in. N.M.A. (Figd. Ferguson: *Dawn of Scot. Soc. Welfare*, p. 164.)
- KIRKCUDBRIGHT.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* KIRKENDBRIGHT / PARISH; beaded border. *Rev:* blank. Two perforations at top. Diam. 2.1 in. (Figd. *Scottish National Memorials*. Glasgow, 1890, p. 202) Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright. (Pl. LV: 21.)
- KIRKWALL.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* within ring, in relief, ship in full sail to left; below, incuse, 28. No lettering. *Rev:* blank. Four projecting equidistant loops. W. (across loops) 2.7 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- LARGO.** Lead, oblong with cut corners. *Obv:* POOR OF / N^o 4 / LARGO, the figure 4 incised, the lettering in relief. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at top. 2.2 × 1.7 in. N.M.A.
- LEITH.** Lead, upright oblong, with top corners cut. *Obv:* LEITH / POOR / N^o 7, the first word arched, the number incuse; two leafy sprays above; beaded border. *Rev:* blank. Perforation at top. 2.3 × 2 in. N.M.A.
- LEITH.** Lead, oval. In centre, arms of Leith in high relief (Virgin and Child seated under canopy, in centre of ship; below, date 1563); to left and right, LEITH POOR; below, N^o 6; all in relief, except the number, which is incuse. *Rev:* blank. Two perforations at top. 3.2 × 2.4 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LVI: 27.)
- LEITH.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* in relief, the town seal (Virgin and Child in ship; date 1563 below); around, on band round edge, PERSEVERE (the town motto) and sprigs of laurel. *Rev:* LEITH / POOR / N^o 9, in relief, except for the number, which is incuse. Single perforation at top. Diam. 2.3 in. N.M.A.
- LESLIE, Fife.** Lead, octagonal. *Obv:* POOR / OF / LESLEY / 1716, in relief. *Rev:* P × C, with eight-pointed star above and below, all in relief. (Rev. Patrick Clow was minister of Leslie, 1713-31.) Single perforation at top. 1.5 × 1.2 in. N.M.A.
- LITTLE DUNKELD.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* Arms of Perth, in relief; around, incuse, LITTLE DUNKELD 1775 / N^o 57; cable moulding round edge. One projecting loop at top. *Rev:* blank. Diam. (excl. loop) 1.9 in. N.M.A.
- LOCHGOILHEAD AND KILMORICH.** Bronze, upright oval. *Obv:* LOCHGOYLE AND KILMORICH PARISH 1771 N^o 23, incuse, round edge; in centre, large P, incuse. *Rev:* blank. Four perforations. 3.1 × 2.3 in. In the possession of Mrs Maclean. (Pl. LV: 23.)
- MONTROSE.** Lead, oval. *Obv:* N^o 10 / MONTROSE / BEGGING POOR, the number incuse, the lettering in relief; between BEGGING and POOR, a shield bearing a rose (emblem of the Burgh); beaded border. *Rev:* blank. Two perforations at top. 4.3 × 3.2 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- MONTROSE.** Lead, oval. As preceding item, but numbered 25. On *obv.*, incuse, E / 1776. N.M.A. 'An entry in the treasurer's books for Montrose, 1775, is as follows: To 72 badges for the begging poor, at 4d. a piece, £1-4s.; To a brass mould for casting them, 10s 6d. I understand this mould is now preserved in the Montrose Museum'. (*P.S.A.S.* xxxi (1896-7) p. 279.)
- NIGG, Aberdeenshire.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* P. NIGG / D.C. MINR / N^o 11 1773 (Parish of Nigg, David Cruden, minister, 1769-1826) all in relief, except the number, which is incuse; plain border. *Rev:* blank. Projecting loop at each side. W. (incl. loops) 2.6 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *Scot. Notes and Queries*, Dec. 1891, p. 98.)
- NIGG, Aberdeenshire.** Lead, circular. Similar to preceding item, but with incuse number 5, and without projecting loops; one perforation at top. A poor cast, with indistinct lettering. Diam. 1.7 in. N.M.A.
- OLD ABERDEEN.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* in centre, within a ring, pot of lilies (arms of the Burgh); around, OLD ABD 1722; number 25 incuse. *Rev:* blank. Projecting loop at top. Diam. (excl. loop) 1.6 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIV: 15.)
- OLD MACHAR.** Lead, oval. *Obv:* Representation of church in low relief; below, OLD MACHAR / S. DISTRICT. / N^o 13, all in relief, except the number, which is incuse. *Rev:* blank. Single per-

- foration at top. 3·1 × 2·7 in. Anthropological Museum, Marischal College, Aberdeen. (Pl. LV: 22.)
- PERTH.** Lead, upright oblong with cut corners. *Obv:* in centre, in an oval, arms of Perth (double-headed eagle); above, PERTH; below, POOR; all in relief. *Rev:* blank. Two perforations at top. 2 × 1·5 in. Dundee Museum. (Pl. LIV: 17.)
- RODIL, Harris.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* Church with tower; below, ROUDIL ST CLEMENTS; above the church, a crest consisting of a bull's head between two pennants; below, the sun in splendour. *Rev:* blank. Four perforations, two at each side. Diam. 2·35 in. N.M.A.
A poor and indistinct cast of the original badge, which is figured on p. 33 of R.C.A.M. Inventory of *The Outer Hebrides, Skye, and the Small Isles*, 1928.
- ROTHESAY.** Lead, circular. In centre, on shield, an eight-pointed star; round edge, ROTHESAY POOR 1776 N^o 2, all incuse. *Rev:* blank. Diam. 2 in. Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow. (Pl. LIV: 16.)
- ROTHESAY.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* on band round edge: ROTHESAY PARISH * 1827. *; in centre, N^o 89; all incuse. *Rev:* blank. Two perforations at top. Diam. 2·3 in. N.M.A. (Figd. Wood: *Scottish Pewter-ware*, Pl. XXXI.)
- In 1837 the Kirk-Session declared invalid the badges numbered 1 to 60, and made a new issue of badges numbered 61 to 100; these were exactly the same type as the original issue, but were painted red, with the number in black.
- ST ANDREWS.** Lead, upright oval. *Obv:* in centre, in relief, St Andrew standing, holding his cross (part of the Burgh arms); above, round upper end of badge, ST. ANDREWS / 1801; round lower edge, PARISH; at each side of St Andrew, border formed of a double row of small circles; to left of St Andrew, the figure 6, incuse. *Rev:* blank. Single perforation at lower end. 2·6 × 2 in. N.M.A. (Figd. and described, *P.S.A.S.*, XLVI (1911-12), 354.)
- SKENE.** Lead, upright oval. *Obv:* engraved, PAUPER / PARISH OF / SKENE / 1830; raised border. *Rev:* blank. At top, projecting loop. 3·9 × 2·5 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LVI: 28.)
- STONEKIRK.** Brass, circular. *Obv:* round edge: STONEYKIRK · 1820 ·; in centre, N^o 39; all incuse; *Rev:* blank. Four perforations, arranged to form a square. Diam. 1·75 in. Dumfries Museum. (Pl. LIV: 14.)
- WEEM.** Lead, rectangular with domed top. *Obv:* within rectangular border, in relief, monogram WM. *Rev:* 5, incuse. Single perforation at top. 1·2 × ·8 in. N.M.A. (Pl. LIV: 10.)
- KING'S BEDESMAN'S BADGE.** Lead, circular. *Obv:* stamped with crowned two-leaved thistle; incuse lettering as follows: at sides of crown, VR (Victoria Regina); under V, 1847; under R, 28; above crown, WILLIAM BAIN; below thistle, PASS & REPASS. *Rev:* blank. Four perforations near edge. Diam. 3·2 in. N.M.A. (Figd. *P.S.A.S.*, XXI (1886-7) 177.)

The King's Bedesmen, or 'Blue Gowns' (so called from the cloth cloaks of light blue colour which were their official garb) were a privileged class of beggars who were given their cloaks, badges, and an annual dole of money by the reigning monarch. They were entitled to 'pass and repass' throughout the whole of Scotland, and were not restricted to their own parishes.

Not to be confused with King's Bedesmen's badges or local beggars' badges are the Edinburgh Street Porters' badges. These are of lead, circular, about 3 in. in diameter. There are two varieties. One is stamped with a crown between W and R; below is EDIN^R. and a serial number; round the edge is the porter's name. The other variety is similar, but is impressed with an anchor (the City crest) in place of the crown. Those bearing the crown were issued without fee to suitable applicants who had served in the armed forces. (Information supplied by Miss Armet, Edinburgh City Archivist.)

The following seven items, all in the National Museum, and not reported as in any other collection, have certain characteristics in common which suggest that they were all made by the same hand. The facts that, although bearing the names of different places, and dates ranging from 1735 to 1754, they are all of the same kind of polished pewter, all inscribed in the same general style, all furnished with the same kind of leather suspensory thong, and all obtained comparatively recently from London dealers, lead us to think that they are modern productions, inspired by, though not directly copied from, genuine beggars' badges. One, Edinburgh, bearing the initials of a nineteenth-century monarch, W.R., confirms this, as does the freshness of the engraved lines below a black filling, points to which Mr R. B. K. Stevenson has drawn our attention. They are included here in the hope that their publication may lead to some information about their origin. Several were illustrated in *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXIII (1948-9) Pl. XXXVIII.

DRYMEN. Pewter, circular. *Obv*: engraved: Allister MacGregor / DRYMEN / PARISH / N^o 14 / 1747, within ring. *Rev*: blank. Perforation above and below; leather suspensory thong. Diam. 1.8 in. N.M.A.

EDINBURGH. Pewter, circular. *Obv*: Crown in relief, in sunk lozenge, flanked by W.R (engraved). Engraved below: EDIN^R / 313; all within scratched circle. *Rev*: blank, with similar scratched circle. Engraved on edge: ARCH^D MUNRO. Perforation at top; leather suspensory thong. Diam. 1.8 in. N.M.A.

GLENORCHY. Pewter, circular. *Obv*: in sunk panel, in relief, ARGYLESIRE; below, engraved, GLENORACHY / PARISH / 1754 / N^o 14, within ring. *Rev*: Breadalbane arms, engraved. Raised rim both sides, forming a broad edge on which is engraved FERGUS CAMERON. Perforation at top; leather suspensory thong. Diam. 2 in. N.M.A.

INVERARY. Pewter, circular. *Obv*: engraved: 1746 / INVERARY / PARISH / No. 5. *Rev*: Campbell arms, engraved. Raised rim both sides, forming a broad edge on which is engraved Archie B. MacGregor. Perforation at top; leather suspensory thong. Diam. 2 in. N.M.A.

PERTH. Pewter, circular. *Obv*: Crown in relief, in sunk lozenge, flanked by G R, engraved. Engraved below; PERTH / 1741 / 15. *Rev*: blank. Raised rim both sides, forming a broad edge on which is engraved P. Allan Graeme. Perforation at top; leather suspensory thong. Diam. 2.6 in. N.M.A.

PERTHSHIRE. Pewter, lozenge-shaped. *Obv*: engraved, below Drummond crest, ANGUS DRUMMOND / PERTHSHIRE / 1735 / N^o 4, within plain engraved border. *Rev*: blank. Perforation at top; leather suspensory thong. 2.6 × 2.3 in. N.M.A.

PERTHSHIRE. Pewter, circular. *Obv*: engraved: Simon F. Drummond / 1754 / PERTHSHIRE, within ring. *Rev*: engraved: Drummond arms, within ring. Perforation at top; leather suspensory thong. Diam. 2.4 in. N.M.A.

Communion Tokens as Beggars' Badges

It seems to have been the custom to issue communion tokens in place of beggars' badges in some parishes, probably mainly in those which did not trouble, or could not afford, to make their own badges. Perforated tokens are supposed to have been holed in order that they might be attached to beggars' clothing as substitutes for badges. Some tokens which may have been used for this purpose are preserved with the beggars' badges in the National Museum; amongst others there are examples from Bower, Kilmallie, Leuchars, Monifieth, Moulin, Newtyle, and Selkirk.

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LOCATION OF BEGGARS' BADGES

The following list shows the location of all the Scottish Beggars' Badges which we have been able to trace.

- Aberdeen (Anthropological Museum, Marischal College). 14.
 Boharm, Conveth, Crail, Dunnottar, Ellon (1742), Fetteresso, Fraserburgh (no date), Huntly, Keith (square), Montrose, Nigg, Old Aberdeen, Old Machar, Rothesay (1827).
 Aberdeen (Art Gallery and Industrial Museum: Provost Skene's House). 9.
 Boyndie, Ellon (1641 and 1742), Fraserburgh (no date), Huntly, Leslie, Old Aberdeen, Old Machar, 'R.M.' (1668).
 Arbroath Abbey Museum. 5.
 Dysart, Ellon (1742), Keith (circular), Kirkcaldy, Nigg.
 Ayr Museum. 1. Ayr.
 Campbeltown Museum. 2. Campbeltown (2).
 Dumfries Museum. 2. Dumfries, Stoneykirk.
 Dunblane (Cathedral Museum). 14.
 Boharm, Comrie, Conveth, Coupar Angus, Crail, Dundee, Forfar (brass), Fraserburgh (no date), Huntly, Keith (square), Kirkwall, Montrose, Old Aberdeen, Rothesay (1827).
 Dundee Museum. 6.
 Dundee, Forfar, Huntly, Leith (two varieties), Perth.
 Edinburgh (Church of Scotland: New College). 16.
 Alloa, Campbeltown, Comrie, Conveth, Dunnottar, Fettercairn, Fetteresso, Forfar (two circular, one oval), Forteviot, Huntly, Keith (circular), Montrose, Rothesay (1827), St Andrews.
 Edinburgh (Huntly House Museum). 3.
 Ecclesgreig, Huntly, Montrose.
 Edinburgh (John Knox's House). 4. Cavers, Ecclesgreig, Dumfries, St Andrews.
 Edinburgh (National Museum of Antiquities). 91.
 Aberdeen, Alloa, Ardrossan (two varieties), Ayr, Boharm (2), Campbeltown, Cavers (2), Comrie (3: 1757, 1775, and undated), Conveth, Crail, Crieff, Croy, Dumfries, Dun, Dundee (4: cast of 1549, and three varieties without dates), Dunnottar (1 copper, 1 brass), Dysart (two varieties), Ecclesgreig (3), Ellon (1742), Fettercairn, Fetteresso, Forfar (five varieties), Forteviot, Fossoway and Tullibole (2), Fraserburgh (three varieties), Greenock, Huntly (2), Keith (5: two varieties), Kettins (2), Killearnan, Kirkcaldy (2), Kirkwall (2), Largo, Leith (three varieties), Leslie, Little Dunkeld, Montrose (4: one dated 1776), Nigg (3), Old Aberdeen (2), Rodil, Rothesay (1827: 2), St Andrews (2), Skene, Weem (4), King's Bedesman (1847). The following badges in the collection are probably not genuine: Drymen, Edinburgh, Glenorchy, Inverary, Perth, and Perthshire (2).

- Elgin Museum. 5.
 Alves, Boharm, Huntly (2), Keith (circular).
- Forfar Museum. 2. Forfar (2).
- Fort William (West Highland Museum). 2. Conveth, Dysart.
- Glamis (Angus Folk Collection). 5.
 Conveth, Dundee, Forfar (2), Montrose.
- Glasgow (Hunterian Museum). 12.
 Comrie, Dundee, Ecclesgreig, Forfar (2: 1741 and undated brass), Huntly, Keith (circular), Kettins, Montrose (2), Nigg, Old Aberdeen.
- Glasgow (Kelvingrove Museum). 29.
 Ardrossan, Comrie (2), Crieff, Dundee (3), Dysart (2), Ecclesgreig, Ellon (1742), Fraserburgh (1770, 1771), Huntly (3), Keith (two varieties), Kirkcaldy (2), Largo, Leslie, Montrose (2), Nigg, Old Aberdeen (2), Rothesay (1776, 1827).
- Glasgow (People's Palace). 3. Huntly, Keith (circular), Nigg.
- Glenesk (Folk Museum). 1. Montrose.
- Greenock Museum. 2. Greenock, Rothesay (1827).
- Kilmarnock Museum. 2. Nigg, Rothesay (1827).
- Kirkcaldy Museum. 2. Dysart, Kirkcaldy.
- Kirkcudbright (Stewartry Museum). 1. Kirkcudbright.
- Perth Museum. 7.
 Comrie, Coupar-Angus, Crail, Huntly, Kirkcaldy, Old Aberdeen, Weem.
- Rothesay Museum. 5. Rothesay (5: 1827: 3 of original issue, 2 painted red).
- Stirling Museum. 9.
 Comrie, Conveth, Huntly, Keith (two varieties), Nigg, Old Aberdeen, Rothesay (1827), Weem.
- Private Collections. 2.
 Kilbrandon and Kilchattan, Lochgoilhead and Kilmorich.



1. Ardrossan. 2. Ayr. 3. Alves. 4. Conveth. 5. Coupar Angus. 6. Crieff. 7. Croy. 8. Dun. 9. Ellon, 1742



10



11



12



13



14



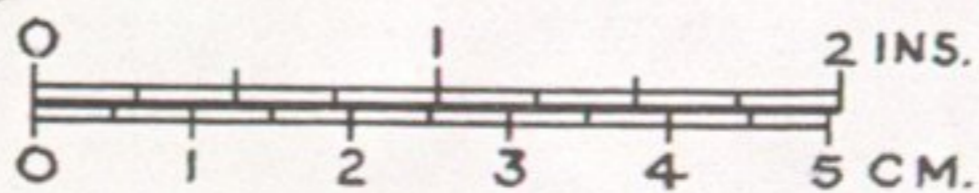
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16



17



10. Weem. 11. Forteviot. 12. Kettins. 13. Killearnan. 14. Stoneykirk. 15. Old Aberdeen. 16. Rothesay, 1776. 17. Perth



18. Boyndie. 19. Dumfries. 20. Forfar. 21. Kirkcudbright. 22. Old Machar. 23. Lochgoilhead and Kilmorich. 24. Cavers



25. Ellon, 1641. 26. Ellon (?), 1668. 27. Leith. 28. Skene. 29. Greenock.