

## Has a Masonic token ever been accepted as a coin?



Right: The WSB medallion adopted the part of the design of the Sketchley token.

Yes! In 1794 Bro. James Sketchley, Birmingham, England, issued a private copper token with this legend, "24 Nov. 1790 Prince of Wales Elected G. M." This was George Augustus Frederick who later reigned as George IV, 1820-1830, and he was Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge of England (Moderns). The token was 28mm diameter and 9g in weight and had the value of 1/2 penny. It is remarkable that the Sketchley token, apparently issued as a pocket piece, was accepted and circulated as a 1/2 penny coin! No other Masonic token is known to have been used as in this way.

The obverse of the Sketchley token shows a winged cherub with a triangle and Masonic emblems, and the reverse has the arms of the premier Grand Lodge of England with supporting beavers. They are worth about \$25-40 today ([www.intercol.com](http://www.intercol.com)). The obverse design has been adopted by the WSB Club (see image) for the numbered tokens given to new WSB members.

-From Bro. Yasha Beresiner, P.M., Quatuor Coronati Lodge

---

This article originally appeared in the September/October 2009 Scottish Rite Journal.

Right: The WSB medallion adopted the part of the design of the Sketchley token.

Yes! In 1794 Bro. James Sketchley, Birmingham, England, issued a private copper token with this legend, "24 Nov. 1790 Prince of Wales Elected G. M." This was George Augustus Frederick who later reigned as George IV, 1820-1830, and he was Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge of England (Moderns). The token was 28mm diameter and 9g in weight and had the value of 1/2 penny. It is remarkable that the Sketchley token, apparently issued as a pocket piece, was accepted and circulated as a 1/2 penny coin! No other Masonic token is known to have been used as in this way.

The obverse of the Sketchley token shows a winged cherub with a triangle and Masonic emblems, and the reverse has the arms of the premier Grand Lodge of England with supporting beavers. They are worth about \$25-40 today ([www.intercol.com](http://www.intercol.com)). The obverse design has been adopted by the WSB Club (see image) for the numbered tokens given to new WSB members.

-From Bro. Yasha Beresiner, P.M., Quatuor Coronati Lodge

---

This article originally appeared in the September/October 2009 Scottish Rite Journal.