

Our Guest Contributor

this year is ...

Dr. T. D. Whittet, C.B.E., Hon D.Sc., B.Sc, Ph.D, Hon LMSSA,
FPS, MCPP, C. Chem., FRSC, DBA.

Dr. Whittet has done much research into apothecaries' tokens for more than 20 years, and has published many papers on scientific and historical subjects.

Qualifying as a pharmaceutical chemist in 1938, he obtained his B.Sc in physiology in 1954, and his Ph.D for research on pyrogens and fever, in 1948.

He was Chief Pharmacist & Lecturer in Pharmacy at Charing Cross Hospital from 1943 to 1947, and at University College Hospital from 1948 to 1965, thereafter Chief Pharmacist to the Department of Health & Social Security from 1965 to 1978. In 1977 he was awarded the C.B.E., and became Hon. D.Sc at Bath University in 1968, and at Aston University in 1974.

He was Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London 1982-3, being awarded their Honorary Licence in Medicine and Surgery in 1984. He is Thomas Vicary Lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons for 1986.

He presented his collection of Apothecaries' tokens to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1967.

A note on trade tokens of the late 18th century.

On these later tokens, of prime importance to any study of the early industrial revolution, see "English Trade Tokens", by Peter Mathias, published 1962 by Abelard-Schuman.

The accompanying copy of a token depicting a plough: the slogan refers to the increased productivity due to the use of better implements.

But note as the other side of the coin (or token) what the Rev. Thomas Rudge had to say:

"The greatest of evils to agriculture would be to place the labourer in a state of independence, and thus destroy the indispensable gradations of society."

William Blake saw it another way: "Compel the poor to live upon a crust of bread .. when a man looks pale with labour and abstinence, say he looks healthy and happy; and when his children sicken, let them die; there are enough born, even too many, and our earth will be overrun without these arts ..."

(But I digress)

Gloucester Journal 16 August 1784.

"D. Cox, Surgeon. Apothecary and Man-Midwife nr'
The Cross in Northgate, late House Surgeon and
Man Midwife to the Westminster Lying-in Hospital."

(No relation to the Editor!)