RUMBEL (OLIVER KEITH AND MARGARET H.) CHURCH TOKEN COLLECTION, circa 400-1977

Descriptive Summary

Title: Oliver Keith and Margaret H. Rumbel church token collection
Dates: circa 400-1977
Accession Number(s): 1992-010, 1993-003
Extent: 3,840 tokens and 54 inches of printed materials
Language: Materials are written in English.

Biographical Note:
Oliver Keith (O.K.) Rumbel (1896-1977) was an internationally renowned numismatist whose vast collection of church communion tokens stands in testimony to the examination and endurance of the faith of the Presbyterian and Reformed church. After spending his early life in Kansas, Rumbel moved to the Rio Grande Valley in 1928. Trained as an architect, Rumbel worked in the manufacture and distribution of lumber prior to an occupational shift to the growing citrus industry. Rumbel was an avid philatelist and numismatist before focusing his efforts on the collection of church tokens and their history.

The use of church tokens, also called communion tokens, within the Presbyterian denomination originated in France in the latter half of the 16th century and were used in Scotland as late as the First World War. Communion tokens were given to a practitioner who was deemed worthy to enter into the communion service and were probably used during times of religious persecution in Scotland to mark those who were faithful.

Rumbel’s wife, Margaret H. Rumbel (1915-1999) shared in his passion and the two often traveled together to view and acquire tokens.

Scope and Contents:
Communion tokens, beggar’s badges, photographs, photocopies and publications are arranged in six series documenting the history and use of communion tokens by Presbyterian congregations in general and the Oliver Keith and Margaret Rumbel collection specifically.

For information on this collection, contact the Austin Seminary Archives at 512-404-4875, archives@austinseminary.edu, or visit us at www.austinseminary.edu/archives
The first and second series includes 3,840 communion tokens donated by Oliver Keith Rumbel in the 1950s and 1960s and those donated by Margaret Rumbel in 1993. These tokens are mostly from Scotland and from the 17th and 18th century, although earlier tokens and tokens from Great Britain, New Zealand, Canada and other countries are represented. The third series is comprised of 10 beggar’s badges; an insignia that were worn by beggars in Great Britain and Ireland in the 18th century to identify them as being from a local parish. A detailed inventory of the communion tokens and beggar’s badges included in the collection is available from the archivist. The fourth series includes the unique token holders designed by Oliver Keith Rumbel to protect and showcase the tokens. The fifth series includes photographs of the communion tokens in the Rumbel collection as well as those viewed by Oliver Keith and Margaret Rumbel during their travels to England, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, India, France, Russia, Jamaica, and Holland. The sixth series is made up of printed materials about communion tokens, including a booklet entitled *The Story of the Formation of the Token Collection* by James Beverley which was published by the Austin Presbyterian Seminary Library. Other publications of interest are the *Old Scottish Communion Plate* by Thomas Burns (1892), *Communion Tokens of the Presbyterian Churches in Ireland* by A.A. Milne (1920), and *Church Tokens of the U.S.A.* by Oliver Keith Rumbel (1949).

**Processing Information:**
Processed by Whitney Hughes, Archives Assistant, December 2010.

**Restrictions:**
Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

**Index Terms:**
Rumbel, Oliver Keith.
Rumbel, Margaret, 1915-1999.
Beggar’s badges.
Communion tokens--Scotland.
Communion tokens--United States.

**Preferred Citation:** Oliver Keith and Margaret H. Rumbel church token collection, circa 400-1977, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

**Inventory:**

*Box Contents*
See Archivist Oliver Keith Rumbel church tokens

See Archivist Margaret Rumbel church tokens
See Archivist  Beggar’s badges

I001a  Church token holders

C112a  Church token holders

E045  Photographs
Printed materials:

Scottish Communion Tokens: Other than Those of the Established Church by Robert Dick, 1902
Communion Tokens of the Established Church of Scotland: Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Centuries by Alexander J.S. Brook, 1908
Communion Tokens, with Illustrated and Descriptive Catalogue of Those of Dumfriesshire by H.A. Whitelaw, 1911
Communion Tokens of the Presbyterian Churches in Ireland by A.A. Milne, 1920

E046  Communion Tokens of the Presbyterian Churches in Ireland by A.A. Milne, 1920
Unpublished Tokens of the Church of Scotland by R. Kerr, 1940
Communion Tokens of the Free Church of Scotland by R. Kerr, 1944
Church Tokens: Reformed Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, Methodist, Original Secession, Free Church by W.M. Johnston, 1946
Parish Church Tokens, 1946
Illustrations of United States Communion Tokens by Oliver Keith Rumbel, 1949

E047  Church Tokens of the U.S.A. by Oliver Keith Rumbel, 1949
Work Book U.S. Communion Tokens by Oliver Keith Rumbel, 1949
Scottish Beggar’s Badges by R. Kerr, 1962
A Collection of Articles on Communion Tokens by John Lockie, 1964

H008a  Old Scottish Communion Plate by Thomas Burns, 1892
Photographic Atlas of O.K. Rumbel Church Token Collection, 1965

H008b  Photographic Atlas of O.K. Rumbel Church Token Collection, 1969

E047  Photographic Atlas of O.K. Rumbel Church Token Collection, 1969
Box Contents

Antique Molds and Dies for Casting or Striking Communion Tokens, 1977
Communion Token Rubbings by John Lockie, undated
Church Token: A Bibliography by Oliver Keith Rumbel, undated

E048
Catalogue of British Tokens, undated
Catalogue of Reformed Tokens Issued in the United States of America by Oliver Keith Rumbel, undated