

Symbols of Solidarity

Newsletter of the Trade Union Badge Collectors Society

Volume 2 Number 1



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TRADE UNION BADGE COLLECTORS

SOCIETY



Welcome

I am Steve Baguley and with Andrews's agreement I have taken over running the TUBCS newsletter.

My Thanks to Andrew for his continuing help and support.

I am a retired member of the CWU and can be found at.

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Newsletter and publications from TUBCS will be sent out by Email - Please let me know if you change yours.

Articles, photos, rare badges and the stories behind them,

Emblems, banners, old membership cards and other ephemera.

Lists of badges for sale/swap, and collectors wish lists are all welcome, transactions will be between seller and buyer not TUBCS.

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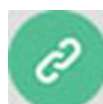
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<https://tubcs.wordpress.com>

Civil service trade unions and their badges

By Dave Cliff

The first recorded Civil Service Trade Union in the collectors' guide is the National Union of Government Employees established in 1895, they later merged with the Workers Union.



There have been historically over 40 Trade Unions representing Civil Servants as a result 20th Century Civil Service Unions have undertaken many mergers.



The Civil Service Clerical Association (CSCA) changed its name in 1969 to the Civil & Public Services Association (CPSA) and produced conference badges from 1948 to 1963.

The CPSA produced nearly 50 badges from its formation in 1969 with the Public, Tax & Commerce Trade Union in 1998, becoming the Public & Commercial Services Union (PCS)

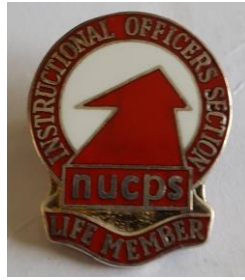
Other mergers involved the Civil Service Union (CSU) and the Society of Civil & Public Servants (SCPS) to form the National Union of Civil & Public Servants (NUCAPS), there was a suggestion at the time from some of the officials that the new Union should be called the Federated Union of Civil & United Public Servants (FUCUPS) until the GS bought it to their attention



NUCAPS merged with the Inland Revenue Staff Federation (IRSF) to form the Public, Tax & Commerce Union (PTC).



The current Civil Service Trade Unions are PCS, First Division Association (FDA) and PROSPECT.



Some of the rarer badges produced by these unions are shown, many produced Honorary Life membership, Distinguished Life membership badges, nationally and by group and Sections.

Birmingham Jewellers, Silversmiths, Electro-Platers & Allied Trades Union

The badge, illustrated below, is not in the TU Collectors guide, and as far as I am aware has not been seen elsewhere. It is 23mm wide x 26mm high, made by J.R.Gaunt, and marked J.R.GAUNT LONDON. Although it only has the initials BJSEP AND A.T.U. there is no doubt that it stands for the Birmingham Jewellers, Silversmiths, Electro-Platers & Allied Trades Union. The Star of David design is most likely a reference to a Jewish membership.



BJSEP AND A.T.U.



J.R.GAUNT LONDON



NATIONAL UNION OF GOLD, SILVER & KINDRED TRADES



NATIONAL UNION OF GOLD, SILVER & ALLIED TRADES

This union may have been a breakaway from the *Birmingham Silversmiths & Electroplate Operative Society* which merged, in 1914, with the **National Union of Gold, Silver & Kindred Trades**. It was operational in 1918, but had dissolved in 1922, presumably joining the **National Union of Gold, Silver & Allied Trades**. Membership of the **National Union of Gold, Silver & Allied Trades** was just over 200 in 1920, and fewer than 100 in 1930 so I doubt whether the Birmingham Jewellers, Silversmiths, Electro-Platers & Allied Trades Union was very large, hence the rarity of the badge. The union is mentioned in Marsh and Ryan (Volume 2, page 153).

John Manley



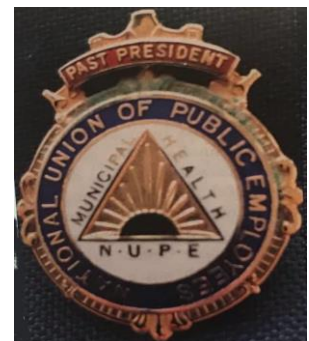
London Carmen's Trade Union
1818-1914

This badge, not complete, but what a birthday gift.

My son spotted this in a silversmith in London when he was there for the weekend last year, engraved on the back, fine addition.



NALGO President what struck me with this badge was that I purchased it from eBay but no size or description was given, just a photo, so when it arrived, I was surprised, the badge, solid silver, size 115mm x 75mm and heavy to have around your neck!



This badge was produced by the National Union of Public Employees in 1949. It was designed by a member following a competition in the NUPE journal. The rising sun represented the dawning of a new age of socialism. The three services that NUPE organised in, municipal, the new health service and public utilities are represented on this badge. Soon after the adoption of the badge the employers and other unions banded together to exclude NUPE from the negotiating machinery for the gas and electricity industries even though the union had thousands of members in these services. This left the water service as the only utility that recognised NUPE. The design was used as the basis for the presidents' chain and past president badges up to 1993. Andrew Redpath

CWU booklet

I produced with the CWU, a 46-page booklet of the Unions history, affiliations, mergers, and campaigns, Illustrated with Badges. I have a few left, first come first served, the cost will be £3.00 this includes P&P.

stevewbaguley@gmail.com

2020 Badge Collectors Guide

Also available are updated versions (2020) of the Guide to British Trade Union Badges, and the Irish guide to Trade Union badges. Guides free. Priced at £7 for the memory stick and P&P from Ireland. All payments by PayPal please. They are available from Michael Casserly

cassermichael@eircom.net

Also available on the memory stick from Michael is a List of TGWU Branch numbers and a list of Unions that made up the TGWU.

Promote the TUBCS, spreading the word

A few handout leaflets are also available to download if you know of anybody that wants to join us.

stevewbaguley@gmail.com

A number of Unions, the TUC and GFTU, have been contacted and sent material about the TUBCS, looking for them to promote and widen appreciation of Trade Union badges and Ephemera.

The response has been positive, with USDAW taking the lead, placing an article about TUBCS in their members journal for publication. (June 1st) USDAW have informed me that they themselves are looking to fill some gaps in their badge collection so hopefully we will have something more, and other reports from Trade Unions next time around.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers overseas badges by

Neale Towart

The ASE set up overseas branches in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. There is evidence that sections appeared in Malta, Turkey and various other locations. Just about everywhere engineers emigrated.

The first Australian branch of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers was formed on the ship coming to Sydney in 1851 by 27 members of the British union who had emigrated to Australia following the great strike. These men had been blacklisted by employers in the UK. Skilled workers seem to have established branches of the ASE in every country they arrived in, with direct links to the British parent body that survived for many years.

The union set up a Commonwealth Council in 1917, and in 1906 a South African Council and the branches in those countries thereafter had a considerable degree of autonomy. They had their own full-time secretaries and organisers, and became the leading unions for engineers in those countries. However, in North America, the union failed to grow.

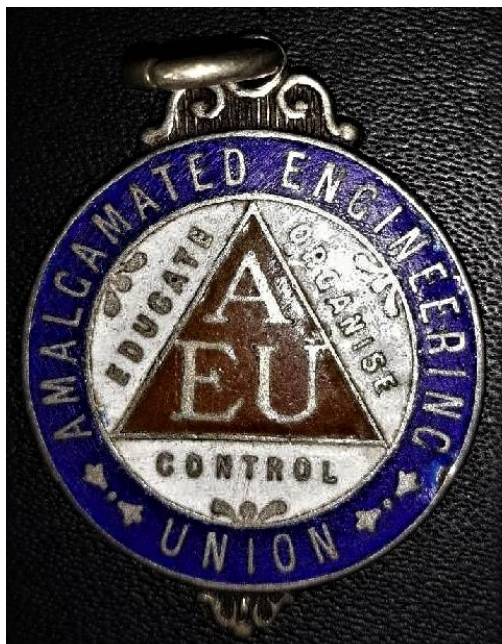


These badge images show the direct relationship between the Australian and British bodies. The badge even uses the outline of the certificate.

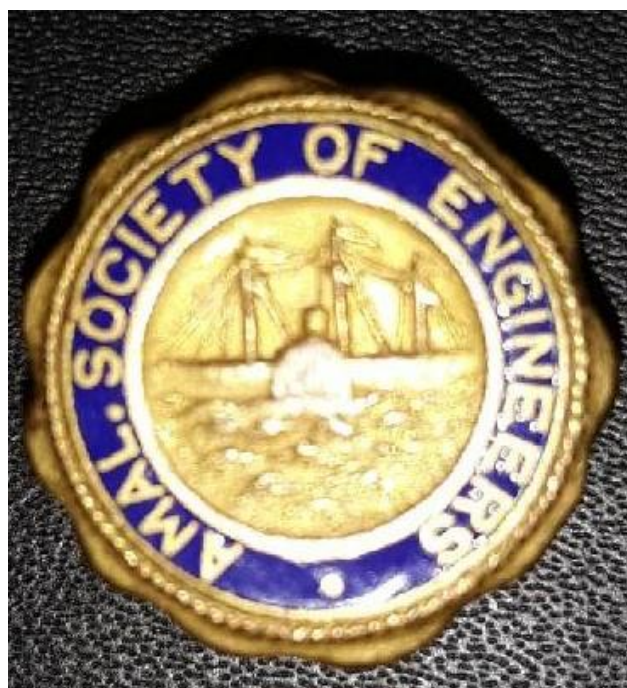
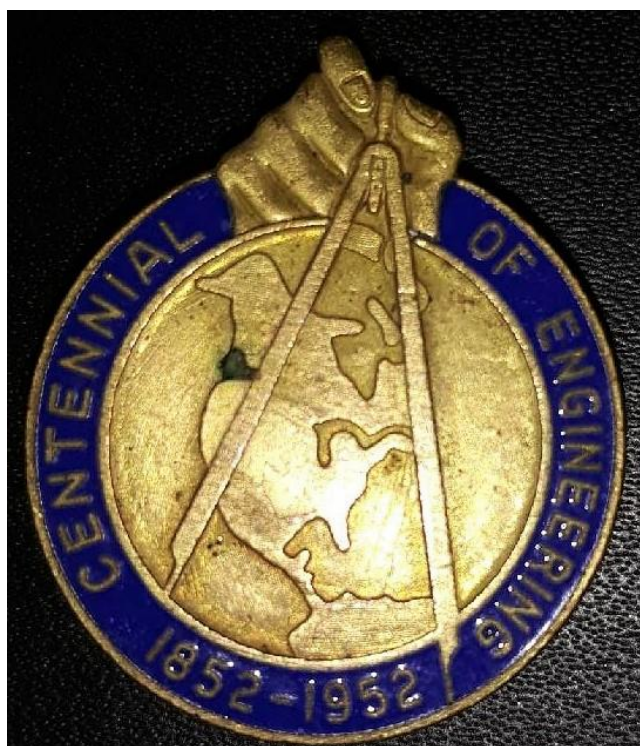


Established in 1851, the original Amalgamated Engineering Union was a branch of the British union. It was registered with the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Court in 1905 and became known as the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union established a Commonwealth Council in 1917. In 1920 it amalgamated with ten other engineering and allied trade unions and changed its name to the Amalgamated Engineering Union, Australian Section in 1921. In 1968 the union became autonomous from its parent body in Britain, shortening its name to the Amalgamated Engineering Union to reflect this. In mid-June 1972 the AEU began a series of amalgamations with the Sheet Metal Workers, Blacksmiths & Boilermakers and Federated Jewellers to form the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union by 1973



American Organiser Isaac Cowen prioritised strong links with the union in Britain, and the union there came to largely consist of British members who were temporarily working overseas. Many of them left in 1905 to join the Industrial Workers of the World, and the ASE decided in 1920 to transfer the remaining branches to the International Association of Machinists.

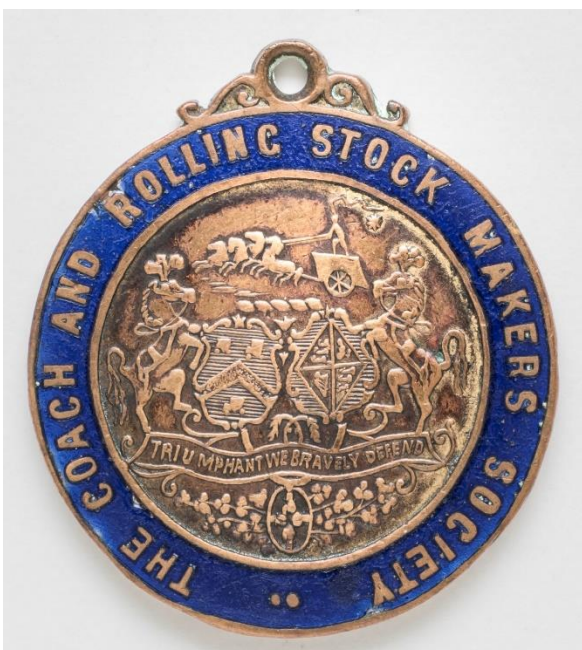


International Assn of Machinists (USA) honouring 100th anniversary of the ASE

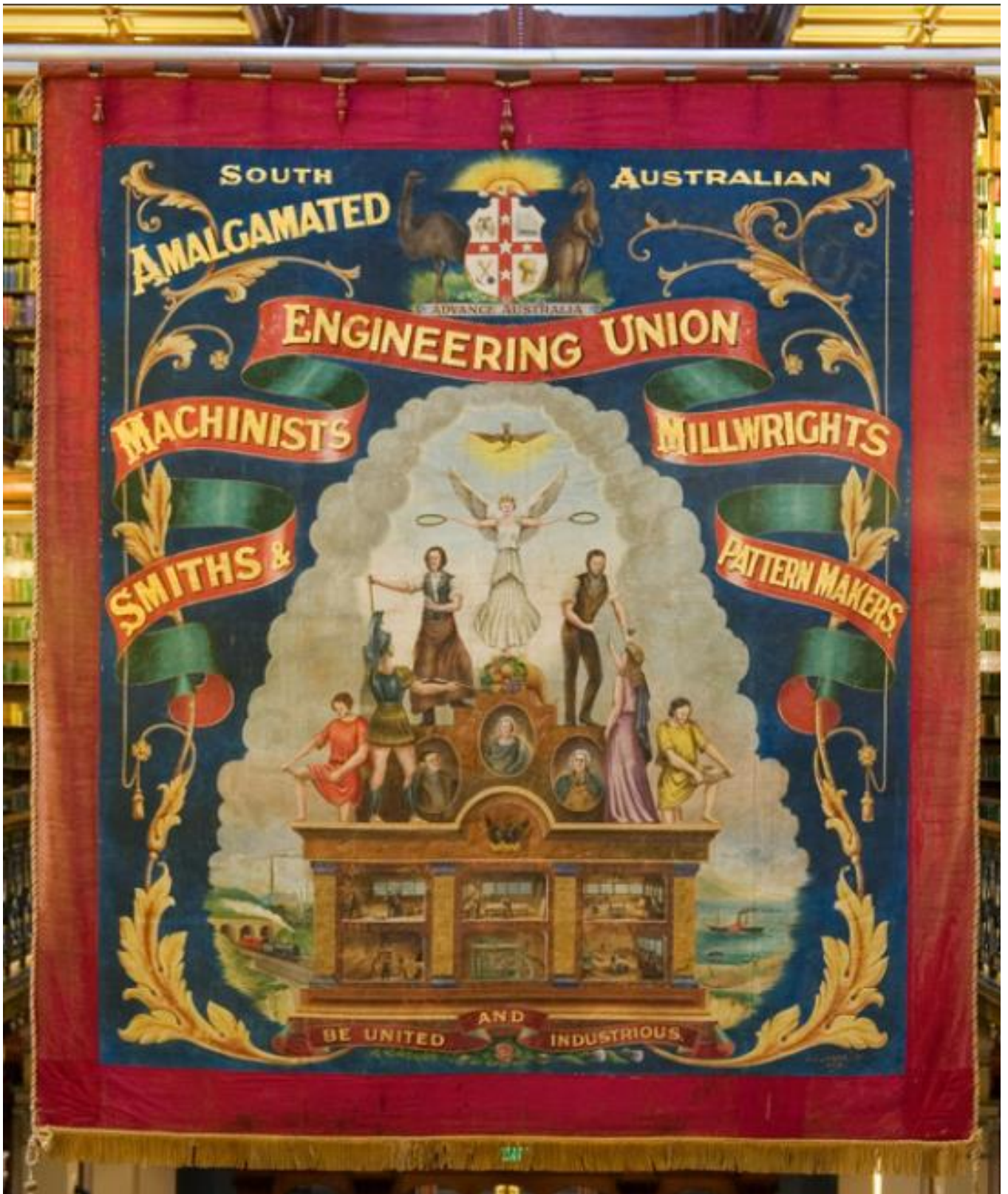
ASE badge with US maker and union local on reverse



The South African AEU badge tells the same story, in English and Afrikaans



In Australia the Coachmakers Society used the British logo. This society eventually became the Vehicle Builders Employees Federation, then became a part of the Australian Manufacturing Workers.



The banner images from South Australia and Western Australian highlight this, with the banners using the certificate design used by the ASE in the UK.



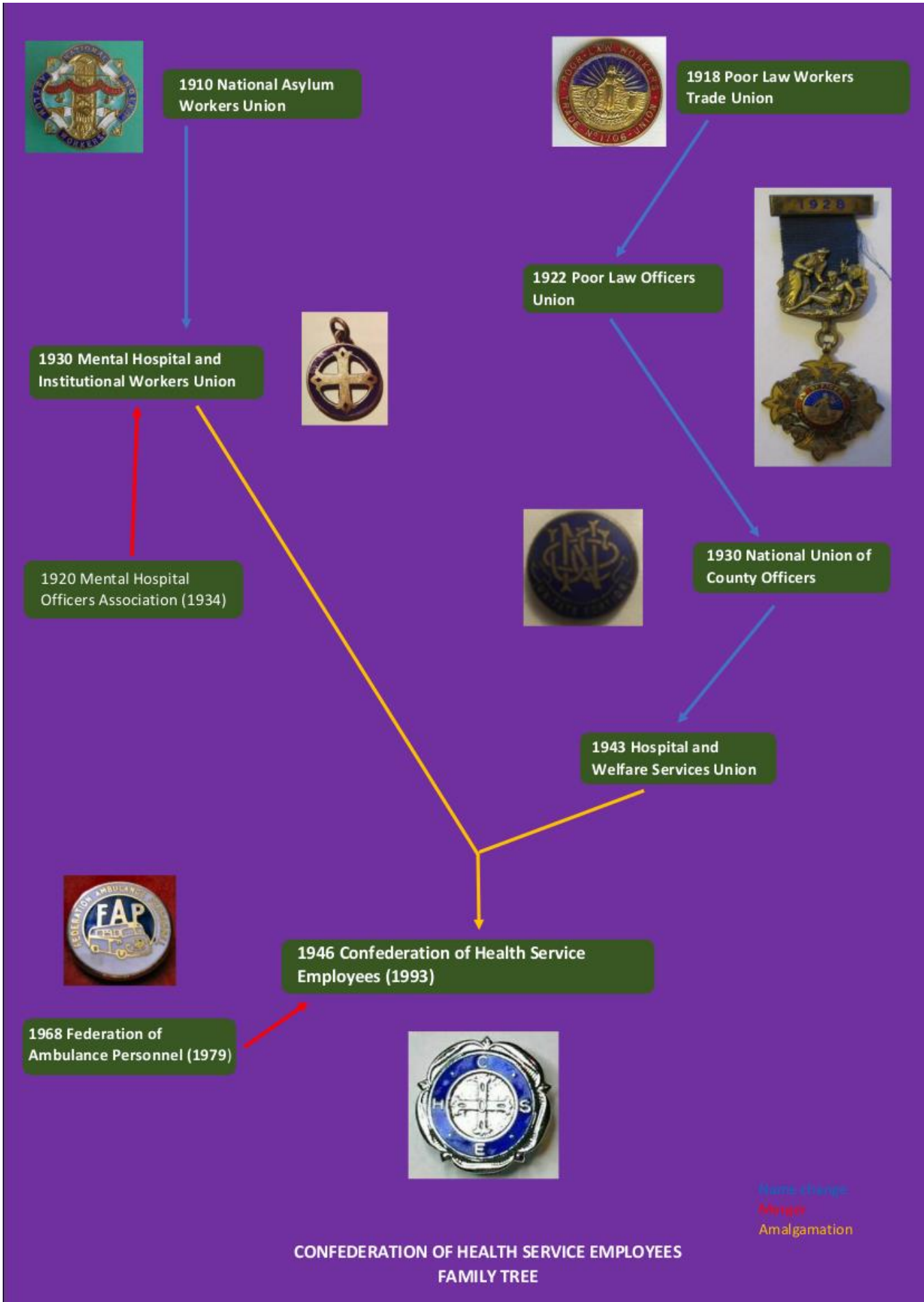


The certificate was used by the Australian branch.

The reverse of the banner in NSW celebrated the link to the parent body too, and the links around the world. The other side of this banner features the certificate



Museums Victoria
<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/1126059>



Andrew Redpath

MIDLANDS TUC and Dying to Work campaign

by Rob Johnston

The TUC Dying to Work campaign is trying to secure a change in law to give additional employment protection to terminally ill workers, and while we are working towards securing this legislative change, we are encouraging employers to sign up to the TUC's voluntary Dying to Work Charter.

The document in effect commits employers to "Do the right thing" and ensuring terminally ill workers will not be dismissed.

The Dying to Work campaign is, at the heart, a great story of Trade Unionism.

An issue that affected one worker in Derbyshire, was taken forward by her Union (GMB) in this case, and was taken to the TUC to broaden awareness of a legal loophole.

The campaign has now secured widespread Political support, and is backed up by thousands of union reps across the country negotiating with their employers to sign the Dying to Work Charter, ensuring well over 1 million working people have additional security at work

The Power of the Union should never be underestimated.

We are proud of the campaign and of Jacci Woodcock, the inspirational woman for whom the campaign emerged, and is patron of the campaign.

BUT WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH A TRADE UNION BADGE?

Well each year Midlands TUC hosts a TUC Midlands Reps Award night, in fact, it has grown to be a seminal date in the diary of the Trade Union movement in the Midlands. A night that brings together Union activists and campaigners to celebrate the backbone of the Trade Union movement-our reps.

In 2015 we wanted to use this important date to celebrate the Dying at Work campaign and we gave every attendee a Dying to Work badge.

A campaign that speaks to the power of collectivism and Trade Unionism and a night that celebrates the activists that make it happen

The badge is integral to the campaign merchandise, the logo and pink and grey colour help give the campaign a distinct feel.

At Conferences around the country people instantly recognise the campaign and the badge helps us to keep spreading the message.

The badge and all our merchandise are sourced from Pellcraft, a supportive company who have signed the Dying to Work Charter.

You can get your badge from stevewbaguley@gmail.com



A SHORT HISTORY of AMERICAN LABOUR by Paul Viney

The American Federation of Labour (AFL) was formed in 1886 which mainly represented craft/skilled workers.

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in the early 1900s targeted the unskilled and women workers, and were very successful until the bosses, with the help of State Governors, jailed and killed many of the Organisers.

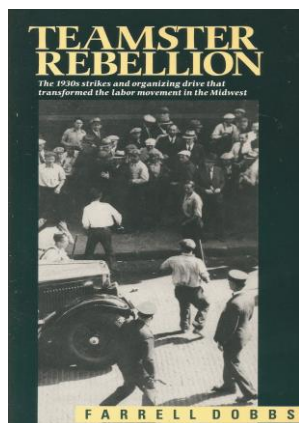
With the Palmer raids in the early 1920s they finally destroyed the Union.

The beginning of the 1930s brought about mass strikes, sit-ins, like that of the Ford factories.



In 1935 the Congress of Industrial Organisations (CIO) was formed recruiting unskilled workers.

The AFL and CIO merged in 1955 and with the election of F.D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, the policy was more supportive of Labour.



A good read to introduce you to American Trade Union history is a series of 4 books by Farrell Dobbs, Teamster Rebellion/Power/Politics/Bureaucracy, it's about Teamster Local 574/544 in Minneapolis, Organising Truckers in the 1930s

The Union badge was important to the worker to show that he/she was up to date with their Union dues as most Union jobs were closed shops.



If you wanted a job, say at the docks, you had to go to the Union Offices where they controlled the hiring of Labour.

Most Unions tried to make the work fairly shared out, but this was also open to corruption when the Mafia took control of a local, as with some teamsters Locals

Free badges in return for £1.25 postage and packing. More badges next issue.

If you have not been collecting long you may want one of these, Or you might need one anyway for your collection!

stevewbaguley@gmail.com

The badges were donated by Bernie Beagan, Andrew Redpath and myself



General Iron Fitters Union,



Scottish Union of Bakers, & Allied Wks.



Association of Government Supervisors & Radio Officers.

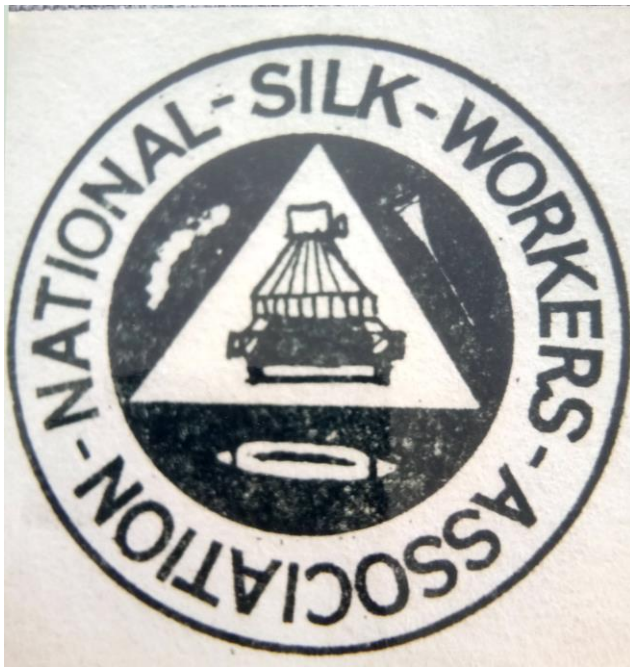


CWU Midland No 7 Burslem Strike badge

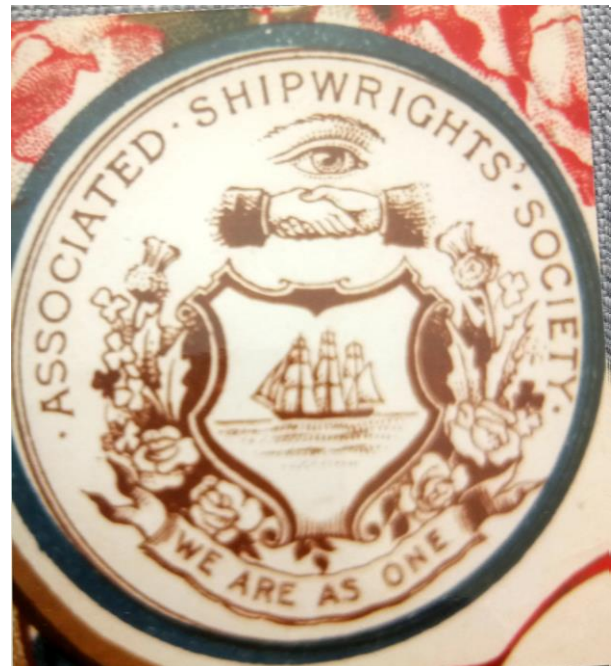


National Union of Public Employees

TUC Centenary



The National Silk Workers Association (NSWA), was originally known as the Macclesfield Power Loom Silk Weavers and General Silk Workers Association. The union merged with the Amalgamated Society of Textile Workers and Kindred Trades in 1965.

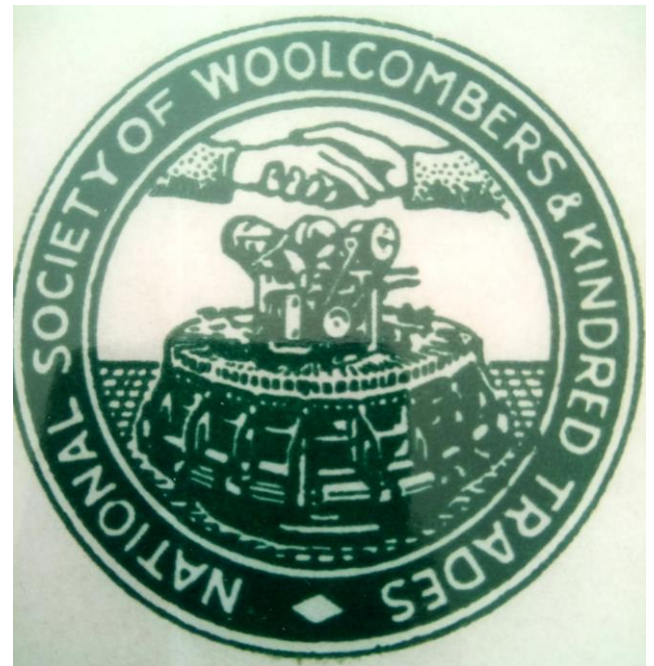


Founded in 1882 as the Associated Society of Shipwrights. The union changed its name to the Associated Shipwrights' Society,

In 1908, the union merged with the Ship Constructive Association and the Amalgamated Society of Drillers and Hole Cutters, and renamed itself as the Ship Constructive and Shipwrights' Association, later changing this to the "Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Association". In 1963 the union amalgamated with the Boilermakers society to form the Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers, Shipwrights, Blacksmiths and Structural Workers.



The NAT was a breakaway from the Amalgamated engineering Union in 1956. The union failed to gain recognition and dissolved in 1968.



Formed as the Bradford and District Machine Association in 1890 adopting the above title in 1915. The union dissolved in 1936

Description of badges not in the guide

SHAPE:

SIZE: Horizontal Millimetres

Vertical Millimetres

ENAMEL COLOURS: 1.

(work from outside in 2.

Or use picture to 3.

indicate) 4.

5.

6.

Drawing, photocopy or scan of badge

BADGE COMPOSITION: White Metal Chrome Gilt Brass Sterling Silver

Hall Mark Silver Gold Tin

WORDING

(state where on badge)

Position of wording:

Clockwise

Otherwise

Use abbreviations ONLY if used on badge.

.....
.....
.....

OTHER FEATURES (i.e. Quarterly Badge)

.....
.....
.....

Please send to cassermichael@eircom.net