

# Documentary Evidence for Hampshire Seventeenth Century Token Issues

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## Introduction

In the late 1970s the author's father, Harold J.M. Good, began a search for the surviving dies used to strike seventeenth century tokens. When he passed away in 1984,<sup>(1)</sup> the project was continued and updated with new findings. The results will be published in the next year or two.

The searches involved visiting many Museums, Record Offices and Archives to view known items and documents, but also uncovered new material.

The following notes present two contemporary documents relating to the town issues of seventeenth century tokens from Hampshire. The first is a series of transcriptions from 1669 to 1680 for Southampton Corporation, found in the Assembly book of Southampton 1642-1679, and the Corporation Journal of Southampton 1678/9 - 1734,<sup>(2,3)</sup> and is published here for the first time.

The second revisits a document from the Winchester Book of Ordinances from 1669,<sup>(4)</sup> first published by H.S. Gill in 1889.<sup>(5)</sup> Several minor discrepancies were found between Gill's transcription and the new readings. Gill's original transcription is reproduced with corrections, along with images from the microfiche.

## Southampton Corporation

In Southampton the Corporation, by order of November 26<sup>th</sup> 1669, required all traders to recall their halfpence and farthings by 1<sup>st</sup> January 1670 it being arranged that the Mayor should send for £20 worth of halfpence and farthings, to be stamped on one side with the town arms and on the other with 'The Corporation of Southampton'. These were to be for the distribution to shopkeepers and for the benefit of the poor.

Also on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1670 it was ordered that Mr. Mayor send for £20 worth of halfpence and farthings and cause them to be stamped with the same stamp as the other halfpence and farthings.

Obv. THE | CORPORA | TION OF | SOVTHAMP  
| TONS | HALF.PE | NY  
Rev. Arms of Southampton  
Details Br, 21mm, shown 200%  
[Image thanks to Glen Ward at Rare Coins  
and Tokens].



Obv. THE | CORPORA | TION OF | SOVTHAM  
| TONS | FARTHIN | G  
Rev. Arms of Southampton  
Details Br, 18mm, shown 200%.



The following are extracts from The Assembly Book of 1642-1679, (SC2/1/8)<sup>(2)</sup>

(The Transcriptions were made with the help of the Southampton City Archivists and are reproduced by kind permission of the Southampton Archives Services.) The letter or letters between the [ ] indicate an extension to the word.)

26<sup>th</sup> November 1669

Die Ven[er]is 26 No[vember]: 1669.

Halfe pence and Farthings

This house haveing taken into Considerac[i]on the practice of the Citty of Winton and the Corporac[i]on of Rumsey in setting out of halfe pence and farthings for changing of Money, have unanimously Ordered that Whereas Severall Inhabitants of this Towne and County have heretofore put forth halfe pence amd farthings upon their owne private Account, Proclamac[i]on to be forthwith made that they the severall Inhabitants of the Towne and County aforesaid, doe by the first day of January next call in all their halfe pence and farthings by them sever[er]ally sett forth against which said first day of January, It is desired that the Mayor of this Towne send for Twenty pounds worth of Brasse halfe pence and farthings, and cause them to be Stamped with the Towne Armes on one side and this Inscript[i]on the other side (vizt,) The Corporac[i]on of Southampton, to be distributed to the severall Shopkeepers that have occasion for the same, for the benefitt of the Poore of this Corporac[i]on.

Die Ven[er]is 26. No. 1669.

Halfe pence and farthings.  
This house haveing taken into Consideration the practice of the Citty of Winton and the Corporac[i]on of Rumsey in setting out of halfe pence and farthings for changing of Money, have unanimously Ordered that Whereas Severall Inhabitants of this Towne and County have heretofore put forth halfe pence and farthings upon their owne private Account, Proclamac[i]on to be forthwith made that they the severall Inhabitants of this Towne & County aforesaid, doe by the first day of January next call in all their halfe pence and farthings by them severally sett forth against which said first day of January It is desired that the Mayor of this Towne send for Twenty pounds worth of Brasse halfe pence and farthings and cause them to be Stamped with the Towne Armes on one side and this Inscript[i]on on the other side (vizt) The Corporac[i]on of Southampton to be distributed to the severall Shopkeepers that have occasion for the same, for the benefitt of the Poore of this Corporac[i]on.

3<sup>rd</sup> December 1669

Die Veneris 3 Decemb[er]: 1669.

The Proclamac[i]on for halfe pence & farthings.

The Right Wor[shi]p[ful]l the Mayor of this Towne & County with the Aldermen his Brethren (having taken into Considera[i]on that the Citty of Winton & other Corporac[i]ons doe sett forth halfe pence and farthings under their sev[er]all markes and Inscript[i]ons for the changing of money) doe hereby p[ro]claime that in like manner halfe pence & farthings shall be sett forth by the first of January next for the benifitt of the poore of this Corporac[i]on & doe hereby give notice to all manner of p[er]sons that have any halfe pence or Farthings, sett forth by any of the Inhabitants of This Towne and County that in the time they bring in their s[ai]d halfe pence & farthings to the Respective Setters forth of the same & have the value in Current Silver for the same w[hi]ch upon all Occasions this Corporac[i]on will doe by the halfe pence & Farthings sett forth by them.



Die Wris: 3. Decemb: 1669.

The Proclamation for halfe pence & farthings.  
 The Right Worp. the Mayo of this County with the Aldermen his Brethren  
 (having taken into Consideration that the City of Winton pother Corporation doe sett  
 forth halfe pence and farthings under their seall markes & inscriptions for the  
 trauging of money) doe hereby certaine that in like manner halfe pence & farthings  
 shall be sett forth by the first of January next for the benefit of the pover of his  
 Corporation & doe hereby give notice to all manner of psons that have any halfe pence  
 or farthings, sett forth by any of the Inhabitants of his County pvenly put in  
 time for being in their 5<sup>th</sup> halfe pence & farthings to be reported to the Mayor  
 of the same & have the value in current money for the same w<sup>th</sup> upon all occasions  
 his Corporation will doe by the halfe pence & farthings sett forth by the same.

6<sup>th</sup> May 1670

Die Ven[er]is 6 Maii 1670.

It is this day Ordered & desired that Mr. Mayor send for 20li worth of Brasse Farthings & halfpence & cause them to be stamped with the same stampe as the other halfpence & Farthings were w[hi]ch appears in fol[i]o 224R

Die Wris 6. Maii 1670.

It is this day desired that Mr. Mayor send for 20 worth of Brasse Farthings & halfpence  
 & cause them to be stamped with the same stamp as the other halfpence & farthings were  
 appeared in fol 224.

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 1672, a Proclamation was made by Charles II for making current his Majesties farthings and half-pence and forbidding all others to be used.

Southampton Corporation responded by issuing the following Proclamation.

The following extracts are from the Assembly Book 1642-1679. (SC2/1/8).<sup>(2)</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> August 1672

Die Mercur[i] 28 Aug[us]ti 1672.

It is this day ordered the Comon Cryer of the Towne do proclame an order of this House for the bringing in of the Brasse halfe pence and Farthings by Monday next being the day appointed by the Kings Proclamac[i]on & none to be exchanged after.

Die Mercur 28 Aug 1672 281  
It is this day ordered the Comon Cryer of Towne  
do proclame an order of this House for 1<sup>st</sup> Com[mon] m[on]e  
in of 1<sup>st</sup> Brasse halfe pence & farthings by Monday  
next Com[mon] 1<sup>st</sup> day appointed by Ed Kings Proclamation  
& none to be exchanged after

13<sup>th</sup> September 1672 (entry split over two pages)

Die Veneris 13 Septemb[er] 1672.

Farthings.

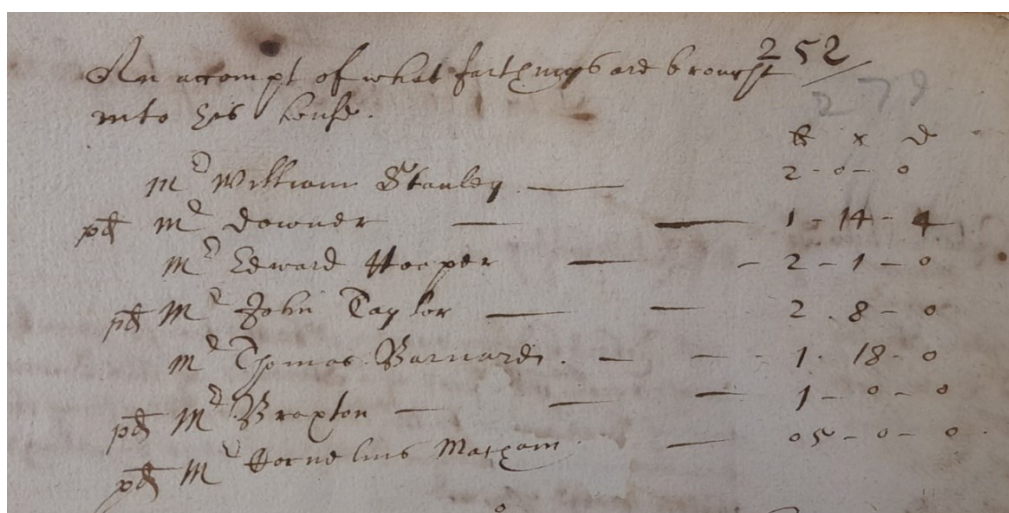
Brought into this House by Mr. Maior, nineteen pounds nineteen shillings & twopence in Brasse Farthings & half pence & five pounds one shilling & sixpence half penye, in all 25Li 8d ob [halfpenny] which is to be allowed on his accompte, the five pounds being changed by Mr. Maior of this house.

Die Veneris 13 Septemb 1672  
Farthings  
Brought into this House by Mr Maior nineteen pounds  
19 shillings & twopence in Brasse Farthings  
& half pence & five pounds one shilling & sixpence  
half penye in all 25<sup>li</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> ob  
which is to be allowed on his accompt the five pounds  
being changed by Mr Maior by order of the  
house



An accompt of what farthings are brought into this house.

|                         | Li | s  | d |
|-------------------------|----|----|---|
| Mr William Stanley      | 2  | 0  | 0 |
| pd Mr. Downer           | 1  | 14 | 4 |
| Mr. Edward Hooper       | 2  | 1  | 0 |
| pd Mr. John Taylor      | 2  | 8  | 0 |
| Mr. Thomas Barnard      | 1  | 18 | 0 |
| pd Mr. Braxton          | 1  | 0  | 0 |
| pd Mr. Cornelius Macham | 05 | 0  | 0 |



Mr William Stanley Jun. is listed as Mayor in June 1672 <sup>(6)</sup>

Eight years later the Corporation Farthings and Halfe pence were to be melted down.

The following is an extract from the Corporation Journal 1678/9-1734. (SC2/1/9).<sup>(3)</sup> (The transcription is with the help of Southampton City Archivists and reproduced by kind permission of the Southampton Archives Services.)

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 1680**

Corporac[i]on Farthings'

Page 18. Audit House. 2nd April 1680.

This day ordered that the Corporac[i]on Farthings shall be melted down & sold for what they will yield. The Corporac[i]on Farthings and Halfepence brought in and put in Ye Drawer under Ye Audite Table weighing -cwt. 3qtrs. 8lbs. were sold to Mr. Anthony Jenkins to be melted downe for £3 per cwt. which came to Two pounds nine shillings, for which Mr. Maior is to be accountable.

Auditehouse 2<sup>o</sup> April 1680.

Corporation Farthings  
This day ordered that the Corporation Farthings shall be melted downe & sold  
for what they will yield.

The Corporacion Farthings and Halfe pence brought in and put in y<sup>e</sup> Drawor vnder y<sup>e</sup> Audits Table weighing - 8: 3: 3 were sold to M<sup>r</sup> Anthony Jones to be molsted downe for 3<sup>l</sup> 4<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> came to two pounde and Shillings for 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Mayo is to be attemptable.

16<sup>th</sup> April 1680

Page 19. Audit House. 16th April 1680.

Mr. Rawlings poundage.

This day a bill drawne upon Mr. Rawlings to pay Mr. Cornelius Macham, Five pounds on the Towne's account (for Corporac[i]on Farthings and Halfe pence which he brought in formerly). This Five pounds being due from Mr. Rawlings for poundage upon ye sale of his Shipp to the s[ai]d Mr. Macham for One Hundred pounds at one shilling a pound which by agreem[ent] between them the s[ai]d Mr. Rawlings consents to pay & subscribed ye bill to be p[ai]d in a months time which Mr. Macham accepts for good.

Mr. Mayor[s] acco[unt]; of money p[ai]d for Corporac[i]on Farthings.

Defaulted for farthings by him brought in as appeared in the

|   |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|
| Journal   | 01 | 14 | 00 |
| Paid by him to Mr. Braxton for farthings brought in | 01 | 00 | 00 |
|   | 02 | 14 | 00 |
| Due to Mr. Mayor                                    | 00 | 05 | 00 |

(Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April attended by Edward Downer Esq.- Mayor)

Auditchouse 16<sup>th</sup> April: 1680

Mr Rawlings' poundage.  
 This day a bill drawne vpon M<sup>r</sup> Rawlings to pay M<sup>r</sup> Cornelius Macham ffive pounde on y<sup>e</sup> Townes account (for Corporacion farthings and halfe pence whiche he brought in formerly) This ffive pounde being due from M<sup>r</sup> Rawlings for poundage vpon y<sup>e</sup> sale of his Shipp to the sd M<sup>r</sup> Macham for One Hundred pounde at one shilling a pound w<sup>ch</sup> by agreem<sup>t</sup> betw<sup>x</sup> them the sd M<sup>r</sup> Rawlings consents to pay & subscribed y<sup>e</sup> bill to be p<sup>d</sup> in a months time w<sup>ch</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Macham accept<sup>s</sup> for good.  
 M<sup>r</sup> Mayo's acco: of money p<sup>d</sup> for Corporacion Farthings &c  
 Defaulted for farthings by him brought in as apperay. } 01 : 14 : 00  
 By the Journall - - - - -  
 Paid by him to M<sup>r</sup> Braxton for Farthings he brought in - 01 00 00  
 02 14 00  
 Due to M<sup>r</sup> Mayo 00 05 00  
 M<sup>r</sup> Richard Stanley  
 I did so in writt to M<sup>r</sup> Richard Stanley in answer of his that if he came

## Winchester Proclamation for Halfpence and Farthings. 7<sup>th</sup> September 1669.

In his article on unrecorded Hampshire tokens, H.S. Gill also includes the first notice of a contemporary document regarding the Winchester Corporation issues and states that;

“A still more stringent civic proclamation emanated from the municipal authorities at Winchester in 1669, is now given in extenso and verbatim with original spellings.” (The transcription was made by Charles Bailey, Winchester town clerk, in 1856).<sup>(5)</sup>

However, in 2006 when the original document was consulted in the Sixth Book of Ordinances 1663-1683, W/B1/6 fos.55v-56r, on Microfiche in the Hampshire Record office, some words in Gill’s work were found to be missing or incorrectly transcribed. (Transcription and image reproduced by kind permission of the Hampshire Record Office, Winchester City Archives)

Obv. A | WINCHES | TER : HALF | PENNY | 1669

Rev. Arms of Winchester, CW above

Details Br, 21mm, shown 200%.

[Image thanks to the Ashmolean Museum].



Obv. A | WINCHES | TER FAR | THING | 1669

Rev. Arms of Winchester, CW above

Details Br, 16mm, shown 200%.

[Image thanks to the Ashmolean Museum].



Gill’s transcription, with annotations in blue are given below, followed by the original.



7 Sept 1669 Whereas divrs p'sons have of late in sev'all places taken upon them to coyne, or cause to be coyned, great numbers of brass halfe-pence and ffarthings, and to vent them to the King's subjects, whereby this Citty as well as other places dothe exceedingly abound with the sayde Halfe-pence and ffarthings, w<sup>ch</sup> doth already, and iff not tymely p'vented, will dayly more and more bringe great damage to the Inhabitants of this Citty, for by reason of the death of some of those persons w<sup>ch</sup> sett forth those halfe-pence and ffarthings, and that others of them doe remove theyr dwellings or abscond themselves; many of those halfe-pence and ffarthings will not pass from man to man soe that those p'sons in whose hands *they* [1]. doe remain, must needs suffer damage thereby. And also many of those halfe-pence and ffarthings are brought from *townes* [2]. farr remote from this place, and with whom this Citty hath no commerce or trade, by reason of all w<sup>ch</sup> our *Inhabitants* [3]. are putt to great trouble in takeing moneys for theyr wares, and do dayly receive damage thereby. - Now that these growing inconveniences may be redressed in tyme, and [4] such small changeing *money* [5] be provided, that noe man for the future may lose in receiving the same. It is att this Assembly agreed upon, and accordingly ordained, that a convenient number of brasse Halfe-pence and ffarthings shall be provided by the Citty out of the comon stocke thereof, with such a stampe upon them as they may be publicly known to be the moneys [6] belonging to the Citty, and that these halfe-pence and ffarthings thus *provided* [7] (and no others) shall currently *pass* [8]. in this Citty, and that noe man may suffer damage by taking these halfe-pence and ffarthings thus sett forth, It is by this Assembly agreed upon that this Citty shall exchange all such halfe-pence and ffarthings for current money of England, when any p'son shall give convenient notice soe to doe. - And it is further agreed upon and ordained, that from and after the first day of November next ensuing, noe *other* [9] halfe-pence or ffarthings shall currently pass in this Citty but such as be sett forth as aforesayd.-And it is also agreed upon at this Assembly, that such *persons* [10] who are members of the Corporacion shall receive reasonable satisfaction for any losse they shall sustain by calling in such halfe-pence and ffarthings aforesayd: And it is also agreed upon, that yf any benefitt arise by setting forth the sayd halfe-pence and farthings, It shall be employed for the use and benefitt of the poore. And if any person [10] within this Citty shall after the tyme aforesayd, vent or offer in payment *any* [11] Halfe-pence or Farthings other than such as shall be stamped with the aforesayd stampe of this Citty, every p'son soe offendinge shall for every such offence forfeite the summe of fyve shillings to the use of the Chamber of this Citty to be levyed by distresse, and sale of the goods of the offender.

[1]. *they*, should read, *the sayde halfepence and ffarthings*.

[2]. *townes*, should read, *places*.

[3]. *Inhabitants*, should be followed by, *of this Citty*.

[4]. *and*, should be followed by, *that*.

[5]. *money*, should be followed by, *may*.

[6]. *moneys*, should read, *halfe pence and farthings*.

[7]. *provided*, should be followed by, *and allowed*.

[8]. *pass* should be followed by, *from man to man*

[9]. *other*, should be followed by, *brasse*.

[10]. *person*, should be followed by, *or persons*

[11]. *any*, should be followed by, *Brasse*.

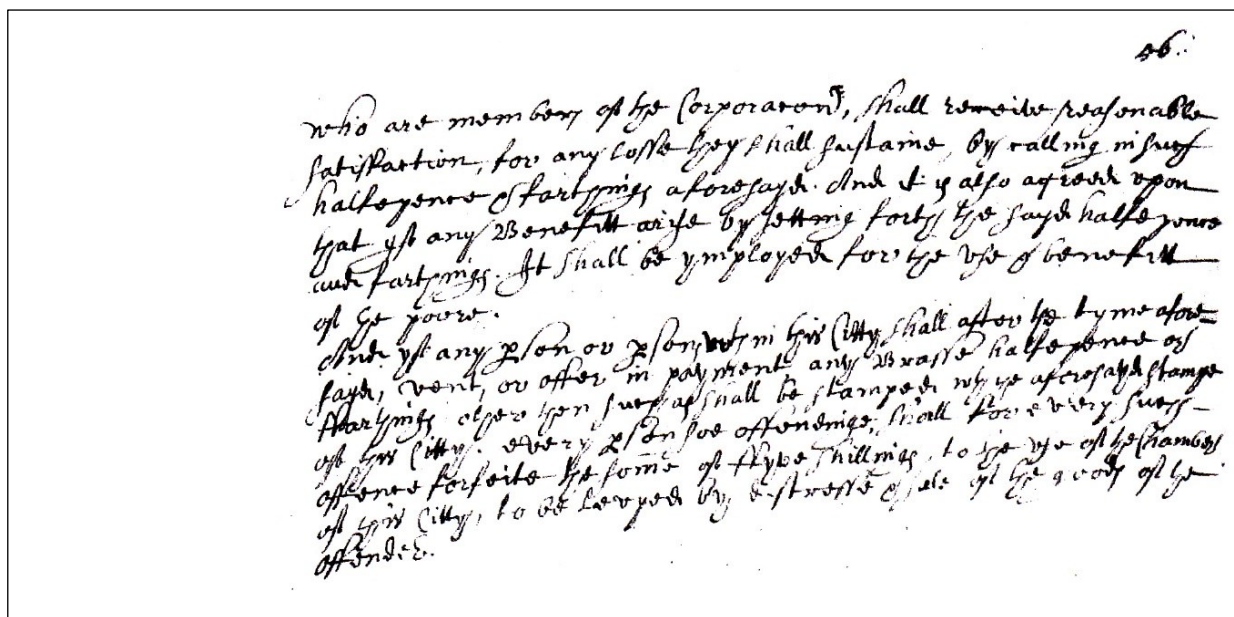


All my Assembly was agreed as followeth.

ordinaunce touching  
brass halfe pence  
hartmings

Whereas divers persons have of late in several places taken  
upon them, to buy or sell to be bought great number  
of brass halfe pence & hartmings, which to vend them to  
the Cities Suburbs, whereby this City of London as other places  
do, exceedingly abound, with the said halfe pence & hartmings,  
with which already, & yet not timely prevented will daily  
more & more bringe greates Damages, to the Inhabitants of  
this City. Now, by reason of the decay of some of these  
persons, we sett forth these halfe pence & hartmings  
which that others of them doe remove by exchange  
or otherwise, many of these halfe pence and  
hartmings, will not passe from man to man, so that  
those persons in whose hands the said halfe pence and  
hartmings doe remaine, must needs suffer Damages by  
which also many of these halfe pence & hartmings are brought  
from places farre remote from this place, and by reason  
thereof have not come to our value. By reason of all which  
the Inhabitants of this City are put to great trouble, in  
takinge monies for their wares, and doe daily receive  
damages therof. Now, that these growinge inconveniencies  
may be remedied in time, and that such small exchange  
money may be provided that not man for the future  
may lose in providing the same. It is at this Assembly  
agreed upon, and accordingly ordained, that a  
convenient number of brass halfe pence and  
hartmings, shall be provided by the City out of the Common  
Treasury, with such a stamp upon them as they may  
be publickly known to be the halfe pence & hartmings  
belonging to this City. And that these halfe pence and  
hartmings be as much provided & allowed (and not charged)  
shall presently passe from man to man, in this City  
and that not man may suffer Damages, by takinge these  
halfe pence & hartmings he sett forth. It is by this Assembly  
agreed upon, that this City shall exchange all such halfe  
pence & hartmings, for current monney of Englande upon  
any person shall give convenient notice for to doe. And  
it is further agreed upon & ordained that from & after the  
first day of November next ensuinge, no other brass  
halfe pence or hartmings, shall presently passe in this City  
but such as be sett forth as aforesaid And it is also agreed  
upon at this Assembly, that such persons in this City

next



## References and Acknowledgements

- (1) R. Lax. Harold Good – Obituary. *Spink Numismatic Circular*, Volume XCII, no. 7, September 1984, p.221.
- (2) Assembly Book of (Southampton) 1642-1679. SC2/1/8. Southampton Archives Services.
- (3) Corporation Journal of (Southampton) 1678/9-1734. SC2/1/9. Southampton Archives Services.
- (4) Sixth Book of Ordinances (Winchester). 1663-1683, W/B1/6 fos. 55v-56r. City Archives, Hampshire Record Office, Winchester.
- (5) H.S. Gill. Seventeenth-century tokens of Hampshire not described in Boyne's work, NC 3<sup>rd</sup> series no.3 pp.121-135, 1883.
- (6) J.S. Davies. *A History of Southampton; partly from the MS of Dr. Speed in the Southampton Archives*. Southampton. 1883.

Thanks to Joanne Smith, Archivist at Southampton City Libraries, for the photographs from the Assembly Book of Southampton and also the Corporation Journal of Southampton.

Hampshire Record Office, Winchester City Archives are thanked for the photograph of the original declaration of sending for the Winchester tokens. Sixth Book of Ordinances Winchester.

Thanks also to Gary Oddie for editing the original notes into a format suitable for the BNS Blog.

