

MONEY & MEDALS



The Newsletter for Numismatics in Britain

65 | August 2015

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medals and other objects relating to monetary and economic history and numismatics.

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Money & Medals is the newsletter associated with the Money and Medals Network based at the British Museum and in association with the RNS, BNS and a number of key partners. The Network aims to act as an information exchange for museum professionals within the UK whose collections include coins,

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NEWS



Report on the joint Summer Meeting of the BNS and RNS at York

*Andrew Woods, Curator of Numismatics
York Museums Trust*

On the 11th of July the Joint meeting of the Royal and British Numismatic Societies was hosted by the Yorkshire Numismatic Society in the Yorkshire Museum. The day was loosely focused on hoarding with a chronological range which spanned the Iron Age to the Seventeenth-century. Eight papers were delivered by speakers ranging from young scholars to established authorities. The day was attended by 42 people who were situated within the Yorkshire Museum's historic library. The event started with a brief welcome by Andrew Woods, introducing attendees to the Museum and the historic library in which they were sitting. Andrew Burnett (President, RNS) formally began proceedings with a welcome on behalf of the Royal Numismatic Society and chairing the first session.



The audience await the days proceedings

The first session considered hoarding in the Iron Age and Roman periods with Philip de Jersey (Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery) and Eleanor Ghey (British Museum, above right) tackling each respectively. Drawing upon his recently published book, Philip focused on Northern British hoards, beginning by highlighting the relative paucity in the north when compared to southern

England. He was able to highlight chronological variability and some geographic anomalies, for example hoards are preferentially buried on eastern slopes. Eleanor summarised the aims and initial results of her on-going hoarding project, drawing together a colossal volume of data and trying to make sense of it. Amongst a number of insights was a comparison between hoards and single-finds of coins which shows that some of the unusually large numbers of Roman hoards from the third century can be partially explained by the vast quantities of coinage circulating at that time.



Eleanor Ghey introduces her paper on Roman hoards.

The second session shifted the focus to the Early Medieval period with Tony Abramson (University of York and President, YNS) considering the use of Anglian coinage in Northumbria. Marshalling a huge dataset, he was able to highlight some quite stark differences in the use of coinage within an early medieval kingdom, with certain parts of Northumbria showing earlier and more concentrated use of coinage. Andrew Woods (York Museums Trust) discussed the Vale of York viking hoard, recently returned to the Yorkshire Museum. He gave preliminary results of a die-study and argued for the peaceful accumulation of much of the hoard: trade rather than raid.

Following an excellent lunch, sponsored by the Yorkshire Numismatic Society, attention turned to the medieval and early modern periods. Carl Savage reinterpreted the hoard from Bootham School in York. He was able to compare the coins in the hoard to other medieval hoards, arguing for it being a

savings hoard but otherwise reflecting contemporary circulating currency. Barrie Cook (British Museum) considered the imagery of Stuart coins, highlighting the complex visual messages that coinage could convey. It represented something a king, or queen, could directly influence, something which was not lost on Stuart monarchs. He was able to show how monarchs manipulated the imagery on the coins for propagandist purposes, including James I modelling himself as warrior king in contrast to his predecessor Elizabeth.



Rachel Cubitt on the Warlabby hoard

The final session of the day explored biographies of coinage across periods and what other things can be done to them. Rachel Cubitt (York Archaeological Trust, above) considered the hoard from Warlabby, North Yorks. She introduced the archaeological context of the tenth-century hoard, examined the types contained and also the secondary treatment of the hoards. She was able to highlight the absence of viking issues in the hoard and the possibility that the coins had been bent to test their purity. Matthew Ball (Harris Museum) considered the 'Fleetwood' hoard which contained hundreds of siliquae which had been identically scratched. He ruled out testing of the type common to the viking age, preferring an explanation based upon varying weight standards in the post-Roman world.

Martin Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum and Editor, BNJ) closed the day, drawing some thoughts together and thanking the speakers and the various societies for their support. The day proved a success, much of which was due to an excellent set of speakers as well as an engaged and knowledgeable audience who kept the speakers on their toes with some tricky questions.

Review - Triumph and Disaster: Medals of the Sun King (British Museum)

Elsa Brittain, *Historic Royal Palaces*



Louis XIV, the self-styled 'sun-king' ruled France for 72 years, from the age of 5 until the age of 77. He is the longest reigning monarch in European history and ruled France as a king of absolute power, without the assistance of a Prime Minister (a break in tradition at the time) declaring instead "L'État, c'est moi." It was Louis XIV who turned Versailles into a glittering decadent palace and a symbol of monarchical power. For Louis, nothing was too extravagant or ostentatious and he carefully cultivated the image of the king as not just the leader of France but the embodiment of French culture, history and tradition. One way in which he created this image is through the rather

unusual medium of medals.

At *Triumph and disaster: Medals of the Sun King*, a display currently on at the British Museum, visitors can explore the background of the Histoire métallique production and gain a fascinating insight into Louis XIV's reign. Whilst at first medals may seem an odd and limiting medium through which to portray an ideology and retell a history, in actual fact there are many benefits in the use of medals as a form of propaganda. Louis XIV had had an interest in medals and coins from a young age. Having always felt inspired by great leaders of classical antiquity, he saw that many rulers are remembered through their depiction on medals and coins. He hoped to achieve a similar longevity.

It was Jean-Baptiste Colbert, Louis XIV's minister of finance from 1665, who suggested in 1662 – before he gained a position as finance minister, the idea of commemorating the triumphs of the king through a series of medals named the Série Royale of the Histoire métallique. Medals and coins are cheap and easy to produce and distribute, they are also easily accessible for all members of society (in theory). Colbert worked in collaboration with a number of artists, sculptors and authors including Charles Perrault, best known for his collection of fairy tales, also contributed to the project, to produce the medals with the aim that they would portray a history of Louis XIV's triumphant reign and cultivate the image of the sun king. The collection on display at the British museum is just under half of the original collection. Key moments from Louis XIV's reign are depicted, for example the meeting of the Siamese Ambassadors at Versailles in 1686. But there are also medals that explore wider abstract themes, these are connected to Louis XIV's image; there is a very detailed image of Louis XIV as Apollo bringing light to every part of earth (the king was not subtle). Interestingly there is also a collection of satirical medals produced by Louis XIV's enemies – a rather interesting example portrays an aged Louis XIV dancing to Queen Anne's tune – the inscription reads 'Il faut s'accommoder aux Dames' (one must please the ladies).

Under Louis XIV medal-making as an art form was taken to a new level. The key impression one receives from the display is the level of skill employed by craftsmen such as Colbert (who played a hand in the design of many medals) to condense complex historical and ideological themes onto small objects. Every piece of text or every image used has high symbolic significance. The display on at the British Museum provides a deep and insightful self-portrait of the Louis XIV the sun King of France.



2015 British Museum Numismatics Summer School

Ben Alsop, Citi Money Gallery Curator

The British Museum Numismatic Summer School drew to a close on the 24th July after another successful fortnight of seminars, handling sessions and trips. Now in its sixth year the summer school welcomed twenty students from a range of different universities to the Department of Coins and Medals at the BM. The school was once again divided into two separate weeks, the first concentrating on classical numismatics and the second focussing on medieval. The students were provided with accommodation and travel bursaries thanks to support from the Robinson Trust and Royal Numismatic Society. Speakers came from a host of different institutions and trips were organised to Museum of London Archaeology and the Tower of London. The Department of Coins and Medals would like to thank The Robinson Trust and RNS, all the students who attended, as well as the speakers who generously gave their time and expertise to ensure another successful year of numismatic study!



Money and Medals Network: A numismatics day in Preston

Henry Flynn, Money and Medals Project Curator

In April this year the latest in the series of North West numismatic training days was held in Preston Town Hall and hosted by the Harris Museum's Matthew Ball and Museum Development North West. The day was well attended and covered a broad range of numismatic subjects.

Matthew Ball is the Harris Museum's Project Curator for the Money Matters Project and he was first up to talk about 'orphaned' collections and some of the discoveries he has made so far through working with numismatics in Preston. This was followed by a Roman coin identification session led by Vanessa Oakden from the Portable Antiquities Scheme and enabled everyone to get some practical experience through using coins from the Harris Museum's handling collection.

Emily Graham and Jenny Taylor, both Lancaster University students, concluded the morning session with a presentation on their WWI display project – Numismatics and World War One: the other side of the coin. This was a small display in the Harris Museum which featured coins from non-allied countries and told the other side of that story. What followed was a particularly nice lunch at the Harris and a quick look at the display itself.

The afternoon session comprised two talks from British Museum speakers. I was there to promote the Network and some of its recent achievements as well as touching on the perennially important subjects of numismatic storage and documentation. The final talk of the day was given by our Modern Money Curator Tom Hockenfull who spoke about British tokens from 1600 to present. This was another successful addition to the North West numismatic network's training programme and all feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. Thanks must go to all the speakers for their fascinating talks, and particular thanks to Rosie Crook from MDNW and Matthew Ball for being such excellent hosts. The next North West event will be a two day conference at the Museum of Liverpool on the 17th and 18th of September and details for this will be released very soon!

Recent Money and Medals activity

Recent Money and Medals activity has been focused on making new contacts and bringing the Network to previously uncharted areas of the UK. In addition to my standard approach of contacting museums by email I have been engaged in some outreach activities.

In April I attended the family history conference *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* where I was able to make direct contact with a number of museums and heritage organisations represented there. These initial meetings have led to email conversations and some assessment trips have been booked in as a result.

In addition to this, I have been continuing to try to make contact with museums in Ireland. Bringing the Network to Northern Ireland and beyond is high on my list of priorities and I am keen to raise awareness of the project. To this end, I attended a meeting of the Numismatic Society of Ireland in Dublin back in March. I gave an introductory presentation on the Money and Medals Network to an audience of collectors and enthusiasts and asked for suggestions of museums for me to contact. I also provided everyone in attendance with promotional MMN flyers to take to their local museums to help spread the word and hopefully get some Irish museums involved in the project. I hope to conduct some assessment visits in Northern Ireland later this year with a

view to setting up training events.

This approach of engaging with numismatic societies and asking for ideas of museums to contact has proven to be successful and I did something similar at the British Historic Medallion Congress held in Warwick in July. Once again I spoke about the Network and highlighted the benefits available to local museums and distributed project information and Newsletters to attendees.

Upcoming Money and Medals training opportunities in England include a day of training organised by MMN East of England on medals to be held at Norwich Castle Museum on the 27th of October, a two day conference on a range of numismatic subjects at the Museum of Liverpool on the 17th and 18th of September and a Roman coin identification day hosted by Sam Moorhead at the British Museum on the 27th of November. Details on each of these events will be released in due course!

www.moneyandmedals.org.uk



British Numismatic Society news

Following an EGM in February, the British Numismatic Society has instigated a new membership drive, in which all new members are offered a reduced subscription rate of £15 per annum for their first two years of membership. In a further drive to attract younger members, the Society is offering free membership for two years to those who apply for one of the Society's bursaries, a key step for undergraduates and post-graduates seeking a career in numismatics. Full details of membership can be found online at www.britnumsoc.org, or by contacting the Membership Secretary, Philip Skingley, Spink, 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET.

The Society now has an active presence on social media, via Facebook and Twitter. Starting in January the Society will be holding an annual meeting on a Saturday afternoon in New York, in conjunction with the New York International Numismatic Convention, to which all who are interested in British and Commonwealth numismatics are invited. This meeting will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City at 4pm on Saturday January 9th. Further details of this may be obtained from ppm@dnw.co.uk

Medallion Congress 2015

Saturday 22nd July saw the staging of the second annual Medallion Congress at the Hilton, Warwick Hotel. In an increase of 25% from the inaugural event in 2014, 35 delegates attended to be informed and entertained by a variety of talks on subjects ranging from the results of original research into 15th century medallions to the problems involved in commissioning contemporary pieces. Speakers included Philip Attwood and Henry Flynn from the British Museum, authors Christopher Eimer, Daniel Fearon and Peter Clayton, and Frances Simmons of Simmons Gallery.

An evening bourse, enabling the acquisitive to add to their collections, was followed by some lively discussion in the bar for those staying overnight. It is hoped that the event will become a regular forum for anyone with an involvement with medallions – in whatever capacity – to meet and share their common interest and the organisers hope that numbers will continue to increase. The Congress is also an opportunity for anyone pursuing any original line of research to promote this and access a rarely assembled body of numismatic expertise. Plans are already in hand for the 2016 Congress (although a definite date has yet to be set – clashes with other numismatic events need to be avoided) and the organisers may be contacted to express any early interest by e-mailing John Cumbers at medallioncongress14@gmail.com

FOCUS

INC XV - TAORMINA

The XV International Numismatic Congress is fast approaching and this month we hear about the programme and also focus on some of the ancient and medieval coins from the island of Sicily - where the event is to be held.

XVth International Numismatic Congress Taormina 2015

Donal Bateson

The opening of the INC on 21st September now approaches rapidly. The setting, history and climate of course make Taormina a big draw but as always the Congress provides the opportunity to meet friends and colleagues and discuss ideas. However, the core of the meeting is the academic programme with 400 talks promising a feast covering almost every aspect of numismatics and with something of interest for all participants.

The programme is divided into nine main sections with 51 sub-sections or topics. The largest is General Numismatics with 25% of the talks. The topic Coins and Archaeological Contexts ranges from metal detector finds in Finland to coins from the catacombs in Rome and the last coin from Pompeii. History of Numismatics and Collections is another large topic covering specific civic and university cabinets, archives and antiquarian publication. Cabinets in Oxford, Uppsala, Berlin, Moscow, Naples, Syracuse, San Paolo and Puerto Rico receive attention. Joseph Eckhel's correspondance and publications by Petty and Goltius are included. There are a dozen talks on the topic Metallurgy and Scientific Analysis among which one on micro-ct scanning of corroded coins might prove useful.

The remaining topics in General Numismatics include Paranumismatica and Specific Projects, the latter having talks on International Numismatic Libraries and the *Sylloge Nummorum Parthicorum*.

The second section continues with General: Communicating Numismatics. The topic Coin Exhibitions has talks on the new displays at The Smithsonian, the Museo Arqueologico Nacional and the Deutsche Bundesbank. Museum Collections: Management and Communication includes a paper on our own Money and Medals Network. Within Numismatic Databases & Data Standards current work at the Bibliotheque Nationale is described. Numismatics and Multimedia is the final topic in this section.

There are three Antiquity sections: Greek, Roman and Other. The Roman with approximately 100 papers is slightly larger than the Greek. The Greek contains four chronological topics. A small number of Early and Archaic talks include the issues of Eion in Macedon, Corinth and Magna Graeca. Coins of Taormina, Massalia, Cyprus, Lycia and Syracuse, among others, receive attention in the Classical topic. The Hellenistic topic ranges from the end of Rhodian coinage to Seleucid issues and those of Hiero II and Agathocles. A further small topic deals with Circulation and Hoards while that on Iconography consists of 17 subjects including crabs, horses, the lyre, appropriately the triskele, Pegasus, Heracles and Apollo.

The Antiquity Roman section comprises topics on the Republic, the Empire, Roman Provincial, and again Circulation and Iconography. Among the dozen papers covering the Republican coinage are ones on unofficial asses struck in Spain, struck bronze of the Second Punic War, three on specific issues of denarii, and currency rates. Most reigns from the Julio-Claudians to Diocletian and Constantine receive attention in the Roman Empire topic but it is the Roman Provincial which is largest, an indication of the continuing depth of interest here both chronologically and geographically. The Circulation and Hoards topic also contains numerous offerings with papers on later 3rd century British and Continental hoarding, the Frome and Seaton Down hoards, and several contributions resulting from the recent expansion in research on hoards from Central and Eastern Europe.

The first topic in the Antiquity Other section deals with Celtic coinage. This includes studies of the coinage of Cisalpine Gaul, gold in North Gaul, Armorican billon, issues of the Boii and monnaies à la croix. The remaining topics here for the Near East and Iran and Central Asia have papers on the Parthian, Sasanian, and Kushan coinages while the fourth topic deals with Punic issues. Section 6 is Medieval European and Byzantine. Although this is quite large with over 60 papers, the Byzantine

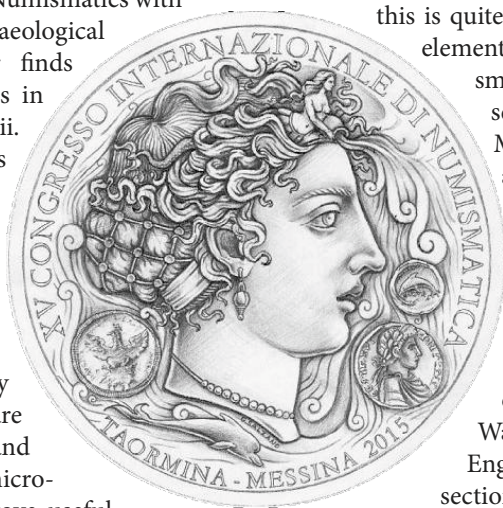
element, split into pre- and post-1204 topics, is small but includes something on weights and seals. Likewise there are two, Early and Late, Medieval topics. Visigothic, Papal, Austrian and Danish coinages are covered as well as such subjects as piedforts, the economic effects of debasement and the beginning of western medieval gold coinage. Several papers on finds from throughout Europe are included in the Circulation and Hoards topic among them single finds of English gold coins from England and Wales and coins and churches in Medieval England. In the Iconography topic in this section is a paper on Renaissance portrait coins.

The programme contains a small section on Western Modern Coins from 17th-century Germany to 20th century inter-war years' banknotes in Central and Eastern Europe. Moving east Islamic, Asian and African Coinages comprise the next Section. Three papers deal with 11th to 13th century issues while another discusses Muslim coins in the Italian Royal Collection. Mint names are examined from the coins in Bishapur Museum as well as counterfeiting in medieval India. New work on East Asian numismatics is brought to a wider audience as are finds of Muslim coins in Eastern Europe.

The following Section 9 on Oceania and New World Coins has elicited very few offerings, among them a paper on United States trade dollars in the late 19th century Pacific. The tenth and final Section covers medals, mostly after 1700. Some 17 papers deal with issues from Britain, France, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Austria, and Holland.

There are two Plenary Sessions with lectures by Francois Callatay and Bernhard Woytek on the international project to publish numismatic correspondance prior to 1800 (FINA) and specifically that of Joseph Eckhel at Vienna. In addition there are over 40 posters. Currently the Congress website contains a preliminary programme organised alphabetically by speaker. The revised more user friendly website has a helpful facility to allow you to produce your own personal programme.

See: www.xvcin.unime.it



The Greek coinage of Sicily

Keith Rutter

Greeks began to settle in Sicily in the second half of the eighth century BC. Their settlements were often guided by the oracle of Apollo of Delphi and the historian Thucydides tells us (6.3.1) that outside the city of Naxos there was an altar of Apollo Archegetes ('the leader'), where deputies travelling to the games of Greece sacrificed before setting out from Sicily. In later years the city of Tauromenium (Taormina) which towers above Naxos, issued coins showing a head of Apollo and labelling him 'Archagetas' (Fig. 1). The remarkable monuments left by the Greeks in Sicily included not just the well-known temples, theatres and fortifications, but objects such as coins that can be held in the palm of the hand. The latter offer vivid insights into the vitality of the Greek settlements in Sicily and their relations with other peoples on the island.



Fig. 1. Tauromenium, AE. obv. Head of Apollo, ARXAGETAS; rev. Tripod, TAUROMENITAN. © Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

How can the contribution that coins make to history be developed and exploited? First of all by studying the details of the coins themselves. We describe them, we sort them, we put them in relative order and we try to establish absolute chronologies. A pioneer in this endeavour was Barclay Vincent Head whose *History of the Coinage of Syracuse*, published in 1874, received rave reviews at the time. What had Head done to merit such praise? He had for the first time arranged the coins of Syracuse in chronological sequence and had treated them as a whole from a historical point of view.

But numismatists offer more than 'the history of coinage', and Sicily offers a wide range of possibilities to be exploited. The island is without natural sources of silver and it is remarkable that not long after coinage had taken root in the Aegean area the idea was transferred to Sicily around 540 BC. By the end of the sixth century six cities had issued silver coins: Selinus, Himera, Zankle, Naxos, Agrigentum and Syracuse. The six coinages show that 'early Greek coinage' is not monolithic. They offer considerable variations in the technique of making coins, in the weight standards adopted and in their structure, for example in the presence or not of smaller denominations.

One factor however these coins do have in common: the designs



Fig. 2. Naxos, AR drachma. obv. Head of Dionysus; rev. Bunch of grapes, NAXION. © Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

that are struck prominently in the centre of the coin - respectively selinon leaf, cock, dolphin within sickle shape (representing the harbour of Zankle), Dionysus and grapes (Fig. 2), eagle and crab, four-horse chariot. These designs represent a central aspect of the identity of each city, sometimes religious, sometimes topographic; they are individual creations and attest a robust sense of independence among the different communities.

In the fifth century more cities made coins - Camarina, Gela, Leontini, Aetna, Catana - and detailed study of them provides important insights into their nature. For example, by noting that all these cities issued coins, we are not saying that they did so continuously. The numismatic evidence, in particular that of die-studies, indicates that the coins were more likely to be issued in bursts of intense activity rather than over longer periods of time. That is to be expected, since coinage can only be contemplated if the metals to make coins are available. From time to time, warfare, booty or the sales of captives provided a windfall and a basis for more intensive coining, for example in the fifth century after the defeat of the Carthaginians at the battle of Himera in 480 and after the disastrous failure of the Athenian expedition at Syracuse in 413.

A significant feature of Greek coinage in Sicily is that amid all the warfare and enforced movements of population that occurred, their artistic quality is often very high, challenging and often outstripping the achievements of other parts of the Greek world. This care for quality designs started early: you can see it for example in the boldly presented eagle and crab on coins of Agrigentum (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Agrigentum, AR tetradrachm. obv. Eagle, AKRACANTOS; rev. crab. © Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

In the fifth century it is evidenced in the work of engravers whose names are not known, but whose hand and genius has been recognised: the 'Aetna master', or the 'Maestro dalla foglia' at Catana and Piacus. The high point comes in the last decade of the fifth century and the early decades of the fourth, in the work of engravers who signed their names in tiny letters on the coins of a number of cities. This preference for fine die-engraving can be observed even in the reduced circumstances of the fourth century; it is exemplified also in the coinages of rulers such as Agathocles in the late fourth century and Hieron II in the third.

Reference to Agathocles and Hieron brings to mind the cosmopolitanism that the Greek coinages of Sicily often attest. Their coin types reveal the connections they had (or wanted to have) with the wider hellenistic world in the eastern Mediterranean. Agathocles for example based types for some of his gold coinage on those of the gold staters of Philip II of Macedon; Hieron wears the diadem that signified kingship in the hellenistic world and his queen Philistis is veiled in the manner of an Egyptian queen such as Arsinoe II (Fig. 4). Influences and connections could work both ways. In the later fifth and fourth centuries the influence of the work of some of the signing engravers of Sicily is notable in the designs on coins of Greece and Asia Minor.



Fig. 4. Syracuse, AR sixteen litrae. obv. Veiled head of Philistis; rev. Four-horse chariot, BASILISSAS FILISTIDOS
© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

This short account has so far concentrated on the coinages of Greek settlers in Sicily. But the Greeks were not alone on the island. There were predecessors to the Greeks, the Siceli and Sicani; the Elymians of Segesta and Eryx in the west of the island; the Phoenicians of Panormus, Solus and Motya, also in the west. At various times all these peoples adopted coinage in the Greek manner, sometimes with Greek types and inscriptions, at other times choosing their own designs and alphabets. These coinages offer fascinating insights into exchanges between the communities that issued them. In contrast to (Greek) literary sources which tend to encourage the idea of eternal enmities, the complex borrowing and intermingling of types, styles, inscriptions and alphabets attest the permeability of boundaries between the various peoples who regarded Sicily as their home. The coin illustrated, issued by Carthaginians in Sicily (Fig. 5), has an obv. female head of Greek style surrounded by four dolphins in the manner of Syracusan tetradrachms; its rev. shows the head of a horse, a palm-tree and an inscription written in Aramaic, 'people of the camp'.



Fig. 5. 'Carthage', AR tetradrachm. obv. Female head, four dolphins; rev. Head of horse, palm-tree, MMHNT. © Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge



The Norman coins of Sicily

Richard Kelleher

The Normans are a familiar part of the history of the British Isles but the reach of the Norsemen was not limited to Normandy and England. Norman adventurers became equally influential in the politics of the Mediterranean region, most notably in southern Italy and Sicily. The first Normans arrived in around 1030 as mercenaries brought in to fight in the wars between Italian, Byzantine and Arab rulers. Sicily and southern Italy were frontier regions where widely diverse cultures lived in close proximity. There was a strong Byzantine legacy in Sicily, Calabria, Apulia and Naples. The duchy of Benevento in southern Italy had been established by the Lombards (a Germanic people) and gave rise to the duchy of Salerno. The key figure in the Norman success was Tancred de Hauteville. This minor noble had twelve sons by two wives and two of them are of special significance. Tancred's son Humphrey became count of Apulia with his half-brother Robert Guiscard (meaning 'the

crafty'), succeeding him in 1057. Two years later, Robert obtained papal patronage from Pope Nicholas II (1058-61) legitimising the Norman conquests in Southern Italy. By 1072 Robert had conquered Calabria and driven the Muslims from most of Sicily, appointing his younger brother Roger I as count of Calabria and Sicily. By the end of the 1070s, Robert was one of the most powerful rulers in Italy. He named his second son Roger Borsa as his successor, and when Robert died in 1085, Roger became the most powerful Norman ruler in the Italian south. Roger I died in 1101 and soon after Roger II became count, and later king, of Sicily. Another death in the family (of a cousin) left him in control of the entire mainland. He was crowned king in Palermo on Christmas day 1130.



Fig. 1. Gold tari of Roger II struck at Messina in Sicily (12mm)
© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

As in England the Norman coinage in southern Italy and Sicily began as a continuation of the pre-existing system. At Salerno on the mainland the main coin types were of gold and copper. The gold coins produced under the Normans were known as tari or tarenì and were copies of 10th century Fatimid quarter-dinars which circulated in Sicily. Over time the gold coins were adapted and under Roger I the design began to move away from the Arab style. Once Roger II became king he soon began to strike a new type of 'Christian' tari in Sicily that identified him on the obverse by his new title, 'al-malik' or 'king', and carried on the reverse a Greek cross with the inscription IC XC NI KA in the angles, meaning 'Jesus Christ victor' (Fig. 1). Mints at Palermo and Messina operated with Arabic workmen thus the legends and Hijra dates allow close dating of the coins. On the mainland the gold coins were accompanied by a wide range of copper follari with many different designs. This style of coin had been produced by the Lombard princes of Salerno. One of the more spectacular of these was a trifollaro minted by Roger I c.1098-1101 (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Copper trifollaro of Roger I struck in Sicily (28mm)
© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

The type mixes martial and religious imagery depicting the count on horseback on the obverse and the Virgin and Child on the reverse. One of the later copper coins of Norman Sicily is very interesting in that it references back to the classical period. It has no inscription but carries on one side a lion's mask borrowed from the Greek coins of Messina, while the reverse shows the palm tree of Palermo. Roger's principal legacy is that he succeeded in bringing the various states of Sicily and southern Italy together as a single political unit, governed after his death in 1154 by his descendants for a further forty years, until the German Emperor Henry VI deposed the last Norman king, William III, in 1194.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Inheriting Rome: the imperial legacy in coinage and culture

Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham | Coin Gallery | 27 February 2015 – 24 January 2016

This new exhibition will show how different states have reckoned with the weight of imperial tradition and the political purposes Roman imagery has served.

Faith and Fortune

University of Exeter, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies | The Street Gallery | 25 May – 19 Dec 2015

An exhibition focussing on the use of Late Antique coinage as a platform for the promotion of the respective political and religious ideals of the Byzantine, Umayyad and Sasanian Empire.

1815: Napoleon and Waterloo

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge | Gallery 17 | 2 Jun – 27 Sept 2015

This display will coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, on 18 June 2015. The battle was an event of fundamental importance for the modern history of Britain and its European neighbours, and there will be considerable public interest in it this summer.

Triumph and Disaster: Medals of the Sun King

British Museum | Room 69a | 4 June 2015 – 15 Nov 2015

The medals of Louis XIV are a unique and fascinating self-portrait of the regime that dominated Europe for nearly 60 years.

Celts: Art and Identity

British Museum | Room 69a | 24 Sept 2015 – 31 Jan 2016

This is the first major exhibition to examine the full history of Celtic art and identity, and is organised in partnership with the National Museums, Scotland.

1939-1945: World at War

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge | Gallery 17 | 6 Oct 2015 – 31 Jan 2016

Banknotes and coins reveal little known aspects of World War II. See this currency for yourself and learn about rampant inflation as the nations at war struggled to pay for the conflict.

LECTURES, SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA AND CONFERENCES

For listings in your local area go to: www.moneyandmedals.org.uk

September

- 21-25 INC *XV International Numismatic Congress*. Held in Taormina, Sicily.
- 22 BNS Graham Dyer, *Churchill remembered: the memorial crown of 1965*

October

- 20 BAMS Mark Jones, *How to be remembered? The Medallic Histories of Louis XIV*
- 29 BNS & RNS Ian Leins, *Striking new art: Celtic coinage in Britain and Europe (at the British Museum)*

November

- 17 RNS Ellen Feingold, *The Smithsonian's New Money Gallery*
- 24 BAMS David Reid, *Playing with Fire*

- 24 BNS **Anniversary Meeting and Presidential Address**. Roger Bland, *Hoards and hoarding in Britain IV: the transition from the Iron Age to the Roman period* (Followed by the Anniversary Reception for members and their guests.)

December

- 15 RNS Bernd Kluge, *Lecture by the Medallist*. (Presentation of the Medal, followed by the Christmas Party to be held at Spink)

DIARY

Courtesy of Peter Preston-Morley. Please note: Dates may be subject to alteration. For latest updates on auctions, see the international auction calendar at www.dnw.co.uk

August

- 1 Bloomsbury Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 2 Altrincham Coin and Stamp Fair
- 2 Wakefield Medal Fair.
- 5 Tennants. Coins and Banknotes. www.tennants.co.uk
- 9 Midland Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 13 Thomson Roddick Scottish. Coins, Medals and Exonumia. www.trscottishauctions.com
- 16 Altrincham Coin and Stamp Fair
- 16 Bromley Medal Fair
- 19 Warwick & Warwick. Medals, Banknotes and Coins. www.warwickandwarwick.com
- 23 Mark Carter Militaria and Medal Fair, Yate
- 25 Wallis & Wallis. Coins, Tokens and Medals. www.wallisandwallis.co.uk
- 30 Southport Coin and Stamp Fair
- 30 Wakefield Coin and Medal Fair

September

- 5 London Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 5-6 London Coins Auction. www.londoncoins.co.uk
- 6 Wakefield Medal Fair
- 8 Dix Noonan Webb. Orders, Decorations, Medals and Militaria. www.dnw.co.uk
- 9 Timeline Auctions. Coins. www.timelineauctions.com
- 12-13 Lockdales. Coins, Medals and Banknotes. www.lockdales.com
- 13 Midland Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 15-17 Dix Noonan Webb. Coins, Tokens and Historical Medals. www.dnw.co.uk
- 21 St James's Auctions. British and World Coins. www.stjauctions.com
- 22-23 Spink. Ancient, British and World Coins, Commemorative Medals. www.spink.com
- 23-24 Baldwin's Auctions. Ancient and World Coins, Commemorative Medals. www.baldwin.co.uk
- 25-26 Coinex London 2015. www.bnta.net
- 26-27 OMRS Convention
- 27 Wakefield Coin and Medal Fair
- 28 Dix Noonan Webb. Paper Money. www.dnw.co.uk
- 28 St James's Auctions. British and World Coins. www.stjauctions.com
- 29 Baldwin's Auctions. Tokens. www.baldwin.co.uk
- 29 Sept - 1 Oct Spink. World Paper Money. www.spink.com

October

- 3 B. Frank & Son. Coins, Tokens, Medals and Banknotes.
www.bfrankandson.com
- 3 Bloomsbury Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 4 Wakefield Medal Fair
- 11 Mark Carter Militaria and Medal Fair, Stratford-upon-Avon
- 11 Midland Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 14 English Coin Auctions. www.englishcoinauctions.com
- 25 Bromley Medal Fair
- 25 Wakefield Coin and Medal Fair.

November

- 1 Mark Carter Militaria and Medal Fair, Aldershot.
- 1 Wakefield Medal Fair
- 3 Wessex Numismatic Society. Coins, Tokens and Medals.
ppm@dnw.co.uk
- 7 Baldwin's Auctions. Argentum Auction. www.baldwin.co.uk
- 7 Bloomsbury Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 8 Midland Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 12 Dix Noonan Webb. Coins, Tokens and Historical Medals.
www.dnw.co.uk
- 12 Thomson Roddick Scottish. Coins, Medals and Exonumia.
www.trscottishauctions.com
- 14-15 Lockdales. Coins, Medals and Banknotes. www.lockdales.com
- 15 Britannia Medal Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 17 Croydon Coin Auctions. www.croydoncoinauctions.co.uk
- 19 Bonhams. Medals, Bonds, Banknotes and Coins.
www.bonhams.com
- 19 Spink. Orders, Decorations, Medals and Militaria.
www.spink.com
- 27 Spink. Bonds and Share Certificates. www.spink.com
- 29 Mark Carter Militaria and Medal Fair, Yate
- 29 Wakefield Coin and Medal Fair.

December

- 2 Timeline Auctions. Coins. www.timelineauctions.com
- 2-3 Spink. Ancient, British and World Coins, Commemorative Medals. www.spink.com
- 5 Bloomsbury Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 6 Wakefield Medal Fair
- 8 Spink. World Paper Money. www.spink.com
- 9 Dix Noonan Webb. Coins, Tokens and Historical Medals.
www.dnw.co.uk
- 13 Midland Coin Fair. www.coinfairs.co.uk
- 20 20 Bromley Medal Fair
- 27 Wakefield Coin and Medal Fair

Contacts:

British Art Medal Society (BAMS)

Janet Larkin, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, tel: 020 7323 8568. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings held at 5.30pm, Cutlers Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4. www.bams.org.uk

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British Numismatic Society (BNS)

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British Numismatic Trade Association (BNTA)

Rosemary Cooke, General Secretary, P.O. Box 2, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7WE, tel: 01797 229988; fax: 01797 229988; e-mail: secretary@bnta.net. website: www.bnta.net

Oriental Numismatic Society (ONS)

Mr Peter Smith. Email pnsmith755@aol.com, ONS website at www.orientalnumismaticociety.org/; and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OrientalNumismaticSociety?ref=hl>

Royal Numismatic Society (RNS)

Dr Helen Wang, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1 3DG, tel: 020 7323 8172. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 6.00pm at the Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB. E-mail: hwang@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk; website: www.numismatics.org.uk

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Baldwin's: 399 Strand, London, WC2R 0LX. www.baldwin.co.uk, auctions@baldwin.co.uk

Bonham's: Montpelier Street, London, SW7 1HH. www.bonhams.com/coins

Classical Numismatic Group: Electronic auctions on www.cngcoins.com

Croydon Coin Auctions: United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon.

Dix Noonan Webb: 16 Bolton Street, Mayfair, London W1, www.dnw.co.uk, auctions@dnw.co.uk

Douglas Saville - Numismatic Books: Chiltern Thameside, 37c St Peters Avenue, Caversham, Reading, Berks. RG4 7DH. info@douglassaville.com, www.douglassaville.com

Harrogate Spring Coin Fair: Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate HG1 2SR Simon Monks 01234 270260. simonmonks@supanet.com

Lockdales: 37 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1HP (01473 218588). www.lockdales.com

Midland Coin Fair. Mike Veissid. Midland Coin fair, Coin & Medal Fairs Ltd, Hobsley House, Frodesley, Shrewsbury SY5 7HD. Tel: 01694 731439 www.midlandcoinfair.com

Morton & Eden Ltd: Nash House, 1 St George Street, London W1S 2FQ. info@mortonandeden.com

St James's Auctions, 10 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4AA. www.stjauctions.com. Tel: 0207 930 7597

Spink & Son: 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET. www.spink.com. Tel: 0207 563 4000

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