

MONEY & MEDALS

The Newsletter for Numismatics in Britain

88 | May 2024

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Money & Medals is the newsletter associated with the Money and Medals Network based at the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick 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, medals and other objects relating to monetary and economic history and numismatics.

To contact the Network, contribute information or articles to the Newsletter, or to subscribe to the mailing list please send your name and email address to MMN@warwick.ac.uk. Auction and fair details for inclusion in the next edition should be sent to Peter Preston-Morley at pmp@noonans.co.uk



NEWS



Money Talks: Art, Society & Power, a new exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Shailendra Bhandare

Exploring the place of money in our world through different artistic lenses, *Money Talks* will reveal how currency and art come together in design and culture to promote or challenge our views. It will feature works by some of the best-known artists, from Da Vinci and Rembrandt to Warhol and Banksy.



The Battle of the Money Bags and the Strong Boxes



Seated Figure of Kubera

We are hardly aware that most of the imagery on our currency begins its life as art, before being mass produced on coins and notes. It has a dramatic impact on what and who we imagine is valuable. Money has been a popular theme in art – from greed and prejudice to plenitude and happiness, artists have long explored and commented upon the balance between

power and wealth through using money artistically in novel ways.

This major new exhibition will feature over 100 objects, including work from artists Andy Warhol and Grayson Perry, and from artists Banksy and Paula Stevens-Hoare who use money itself as a medium for political commentary and satire. Alongside these



Small punch for the George V portrait 1935 crown

artworks is a range of money including Roman, Chinese and Islamic coins, Art Nouveau banknotes, and the artwork for the currency featuring Kings Edward VIII and Charles III, on display for the first time.



Justine Smith, A Bigger Bank - Black (2009)

Weaving stories from across the world with reflections on the role of physical currency in 2024, and featuring international objects and items from the Ashmolean's leading collections, Money Talks will take visitors on an unexpected and engaging exploration of the intersection between money and art.

The Future of Money exhibition

Jennifer Adam, Bank of England Museum

Our new exhibition at the Bank of England Museum, *The Future of Money*, is shaped around questions that we are often asked about the subject. What's happening to cash? Do we have to go digital in the modern world? Money and the ways we pay have changed dramatically in recent decades: this exhibition explores this shift, and what we might see in the future.

Over the last couple of years we've collected artefacts and photos that tell the story of how payments are changing, from payment cards and cryptoasset wallets to graffiti about central bank digital currency, and imitation banknotes that highlight climate protest.



Payment device. Bank of England Museum: 2023/019

Most readers of this newsletter likely came of age in a period when day-to-day payments were usually made with coins and banknotes. But digital payments overtook those made in cash in 2017, and since 2020, many businesses have turned away from using cash altogether. Digital literacy is as now as crucial as understanding spending and saving. And how does a shift to digital payments affect treasured cash-based traditions – a pound coin in exchange for a first tooth, or a note fluttering out of a birthday card?



*A prototype bird feeder made with recycled banknotes.
Bank of England Museum: 2019/031*

Digital and contactless payments have transformed the way we handle money from day to day, and the demands on the systems that handle them. Predicting and preparing for this is a key part of the Bank of England's work – from futureproofing the systems that settle our digital payments, to looking ahead to the possibility of a central bank digital currency: the digital pound.

One of the key themes is the impact of fintech (financial technology) innovations on our daily lives.

When Londoners first started using Oyster cards to pay for transport in 2003, we probably didn't expect the same technology would become responsible for a quarter of all payments in the UK within 20 years. Smartphones offer us new ways to pay and manage our money that many of us now take for granted. Now, digital payments appear in all sorts of ways – even cash-based traditions, like lucky red-envelopes for Chinese New Year, can be done via an app.



Thanks to Gareth Williams
Richard Kelleher on behalf of the MMN Steering Committee

The Money and Medals Network steering committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Gareth Williams for stewarding the activities of the Network over the last 15 years. As Gareth departs the British Museum after 27 years as curator of Early Medieval Coinage, this is an appropriate time to celebrate the important role he has played in supporting the Network and facilitating its move from the British Museum to the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick. The concept for a network that would act as an information exchange for museum professionals whose collections include coins, medals and other monetary objects, began to coalesce at the British Museum in around 2006.



*The new banknotes with a portrait of King Charles III.
 Copyright: Bank of England*

Amidst all this, people want to know what will happen to cash - which remains the second most frequently-used method of payment in the UK. As well as being familiar, fast and convenient, cash is essential for many people. In 2022, 1.1 million people in the UK were 'unbanked' - without access to a bank account or digital banking services, relying completely on cash. Cash also supports the independence of many people who find digital services hard to access. The Bank of England will make banknotes available as long as people need them. The next development will be the issue of the new King Charles III banknotes – and this exhibition is your first chance to see them, before they're issued on 5 June 2024.



A medieval training event at the University of Warwick in 2017

Gareth, and occasionally other colleagues in the Department of Coins and Medals, undertook the first pilot assessments – visiting collections in the UK and, in discussion with their staff, created records of the collection; including details about access, expertise, display, database records and the like. These pilot visits helped shape the approach to collections mapping that became possible when the Network was established on a secure footing. A dedicated coordinator role and the creation of the MMN website was possible in 2008. In 2011 the museum received funding from Arts Council England's Subject Specialist Network programme. This enabled the upgrading of the coordinator role to a project curator in 2012 – a post dedicated to extending and developing the activities of the Money and Medals Network and carrying out assessment visits and developing a bespoke training programme. In 2010, for its 51st issue, the CCNB Newsletter (Coordinating Committee for



Cryptoasset wallet. Bank of England Museum: 2022/306

Visit our exhibition in the Bank of England Museum to find out more about these questions. Can't visit in person? Visit the [Future of Money exhibition webpage](#) for an audio guide, online exhibition, educational resources and more.

Numismatics in Britain) was rebranded as the Money and Medals Newsletter in order to provide a printed medium for disseminating the work of the Money and Medals Network.



During this period of growth, Gareth was responsible for project managing the network and the post holder(s), while also participating in many of the training events in which he shared his expertise on early medieval, especially Viking-Age, numismatics. Throughout the network's stint as a BM

project Gareth, alongside Philip Attwood, provided sound governance and steering through uncertain times. From these solid foundations the MMN at Warwick, generously funded by the British and Royal Numismatic Societies, looks forward to developing the Network's activity in new and inspiring ways.



BNS NEWS

William MacKay

A Day at The Royal Mint

The 2024 British Numismatic Society's summer meeting will be a day long visit to the Royal Mint at Llantrisant in South

Wales. The Royal Mint has been at the centre of British coinage production for centuries. Its operations are among the best in the world and it also has an exceptional collection of British coins in the Royal Mint Museum. The day has been designed to be a day out for BNS members. It will provide an insight into the work of the Royal Mint and its collections.

The morning will comprise a tour of the Mint 'factory' and the exhibition gallery followed by four talks in the afternoon about the Mint, its work and collections. The day will commence at 10.45 (with access from 10.00) and is expected to close around 16.30.

Participants travelling from a distance are advised to book into a hotel for the night of the 12 July. Details of suitable accommodation are provided in the section of BNS web site about the 2024 summer meeting. There is parking on site at the Royal Mint.

To attend registration is required. This can be done through the BNS web site, where more details about the day can be found. Attendance is free for members.

BNS Grants supporting British Numismatics

In 2023 the British Numismatic Society made grants in support British numismatics amounting to over £19,000. The Society's grants activity has been reformed and strengthened in recent years and is a key part of its role promoting the study and understanding of British numismatics.

The largest grants, each of £5000, were to support important research programmes. The first of these was to help maintain the invaluable Celtic Coin Index at the Ashmolean in Oxford. The second provided funding towards the British element of the European FINA project which is recording and collating European numismatic correspondence and manuscripts from before 1750. The BNS Grant enabled the British numismatic material from this period, gathered by Andrew Burnett in researching his book *The Hidden Treasure of this Happy Land*, to be included on the FINA project database.

The Society also makes smaller grants which can often go a long way in supporting the development and dissemination of numismatic knowledge. For example, the BNS has provided financial support for numismatic publications to help to reduce the retail price of the book to the benefit of collectors and researchers. It also supports conference and event organisers with funds that range from assistance in covering organisational and catering expenses on the day to paying speakers' expenses or subsidising the cost of attending a conference for younger participants.

In 2023 studies and research on Celtic coinage, Roman coinage in Britain, tokens, early medieval coinage and modern Irish coinage have all benefited from British Numismatic Society Grants.

In collaboration with museums, the Society provides a bursary programme that allows a student to obtain experience working with a numismatic collection in a museum environment. In 2023 the BNS had many applications for a student to work two weeks at the British Museum which indicated how much interest there is in such an opportunity. In 2024 the Society has just announced a similar placement for a week at The Hunterian, University of Glasgow. The BNS would be delighted to collaborate with other museums with numismatic collections to support future student placements.

The British Numismatic Society is keen to assist local museums and cultural organisations in reaching out to the public on British coinage and supporting the display of coins and tokens. For example, last year a small BNS Grant helped create a digital resource building awareness of a coin collection at the

University of Leeds.

Applying for a BNS Grant is easy. Application forms can be found on the BNS Web site under the Grants section. The annual deadline for applications for large and research grants (£1000-£5000) is 31 March each year. Applications for smaller Grants up to £1000 can be made at any time and will be speedily considered. Make sure you select the form suited to your needs, complete the details asked for and return it to the address advised on the form.



SYLLOGE OF COINS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Symposium on Money
and Coinage

*The use and function
of coinage in Britain,
Ireland, and the
Continent c. 500-1800.*

11 September 2024,

The British Academy, 10–11 Carlton House Terrace,
London

Since 1956 the Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles, a British Academy research project, has promoted study of the numismatic remains of Britain and Ireland. It has published 70 volumes, ranging in content from the pre-Roman Iron Age to the seventeenth century. The Sylloge Committee has established a series of symposia for students and scholars to present fresh research on the dynamic subjects of coinage, the material culture of money and monetary history. The Committee especially encourages advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students interested in the subject to attend or to offer papers on aspects of their research, and also seeks contributions from early career researchers and established scholars. This is a discipline which thrives on new discoveries and innovative approaches, and which warmly welcomes students trained in archaeology, history, linguistics, art history and other related areas.

The theme of this symposium is ‘The use and function of coinage in Britain, Ireland, and the Continent c. 500-1800.’ How money was used and what it was intended for, as well as other functions it facilitated, has a much caveated and ever evolving chronology. This multifaceted area of numismatics is further complicated by the fluctuating relationships between the islands off the northwest coast of Europe and the mainland which saw the use of varying types of coinage from the transoceanic tremissis to the ‘Cartwheel’ penny of 1797. This broad scope invites many questions. Does the use of coinage diverge from the intended function? How is this reflected by

societies and their spheres of influence? How should we approach the use and function of coinage, large scale interpretations or targeted studies. Numismatics and monetary history provide essential perspectives on a myriad of economic, iconographical, cultural, institutional, and linguistic points. Papers are invited which examine aspects of the use and function of coinage in Britain, Ireland, and the Continent (or any of their parts) c. 500-1800.

The committee of the SCBI project invites the submission of proposals for papers on this theme. Please send titles and 150-word abstracts for papers of 20 minutes to Carl Savage (C.Savage@nms.ac.uk) and/or Dickon Perryman (D.Perryman@exeter.ac.uk) by 30 June 2024.

Britannia Nummaria 2024

The Britannia Nummaria 2024 numismatic conference will be held on Thursday 18th July 2024 in the main hall at The Guildhall, St Helen’s Square in central York. A wonderful medieval riverside location. The bi-annual York Coin Fair takes place at York Racecourse on the following two days. The conference programme and registration will be available in January 2024. A precursor to this event was Moneta Britannia 2011 and the website for this conference is still available here. <https://monetabritannia2011.blogspot.com/> One reason for the conference is to “launch” the following numismatic books that are due to be published in 2024:

- Ghey, E. (ed.) 2024. *Recent Discoveries of Tetrarchic Hoards from Roman Britain and their Wider Context*, British Museum Research Publication no. 236, London. Publication expected February 2024.
- Cloke, H and L Toone with A Marsden, 2024. *The London Mint of Constantine and Constantius*, 2nd Edition, Spink, London. Publication expected March - June 2024.
- Moorhead, S. 2024. *Roman Imperial Coinage Vol. V, pt 5 ; Carausius and Allectus*, Spink, London. Publication date to be confirmed.

The first of these includes full catalogues of the Wold Newton, Rauceby and Fyfield hoards. We envisage the scope of the conference to be slightly broader than the Britannic/Tetrarchic period and to include other numismatic topics with links to Britannia, the Severans for example. There may be other fringe events held around the conference itself.

Registration is now open and the programme and speakers have largely been confirmed. Additional speaker information will be added shortly. Please bookmark and follow this page to ensure you are advised of any updates.

FOCUS

THE OLYMPIC GAMES

An 'Olympic Medal'

Adrian Popescu, Fitzwilliam Museum

This medallion was bought by Colonel William Martin Leake during the Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815), at Serres in northern Greece. W. M. Leake (1777-1860) was a soldier, diplomat and largely self-taught scholar, who travelled widely in the Mediterranean, and especially in Greece, between 1804 and 1808. On retiring from active service, he wrote extensively on his travels, his coins and the topography of ancient Greece. He had been sent to Northern Greece to help the Ottoman government organise the defence of Greece in case of a French invasion. The style and the subjects

of the Fitzwilliam Museum medallion – the head of Athena wearing Corinthian helmet on the obverse, and Alexander the Great on horseback hunting a lion on the reverse – recall earlier Greek designs. However this example (Figure 1) was probably struck in AD 242, to mark the 'Olympic' games celebrated that year in Macedonia. The games, held in Beroea, probably on the occasion of a visit by the Roman emperor Gordian III (238-244), honoured the memory of Alexander the Great in his home province. This medallion is the earliest find of this kind and the only one made in Europe; two others with related designs were found at Tarsus in modern Turkey (1863) and Aboukir on the coast of Egypt (1902). Together, they form a group of large gold medallions of classicising style and fine workmanship that are connected with the Macedonian royal house (portraits of Philip II, his wife Olympias and their son, Alexander the Great). They are to be dated to the third century AD (during the reigns of Severus Alexander or Gordian III).



Figure 1. Gold medallion, found in Macedonia, northern Greece. (c) Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge CM.LK.4210-R

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Crowned, The Making of a Monarch

Royal Mint Experience | from 6 May 2023

A Coronation is a time for public celebration, symbolising the transition from one reign to the next and this immersive exhibition explores the rich history of the Coronation ceremony. It also tells the wider story of what happens at The Royal Mint, and elsewhere, when there is a change of reign. From a new portrait on coins and stamps, to new words in the National Anthem, a change of reign is deeply

woven into the fabric of our society today. Featuring a range of objects from The Royal Mint Museum's collection, hands-on interactives and a very special photo opportunity, this exhibition provides visitors with the opportunity to discover more about this turning point in the history of the United Kingdom.

Money in Renaissance Germany

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford | Money Gallery | until 10 November 2024

This new display explores the creation of a common currency across the Holy Roman Empire in 1559. It

was the first European currency whose units were clearly and consistently marked with their face values in Arab numerals. While the fronts of the coins were harmonised, the backs retained some forms of local reference, which was in some cases quite playfully medieval. Before the adoption of a common silver currency in 1559, parts of the empire faced well-known monetary pressures. In the absence of central control and consensus, different issuing authorities of a similar geographical area minted coins which were superficially the same, but in fact tended to become baser or lighter. This made the currency steadily worse.

The Future of Money

Bank of England Museum | until September 2025

Can the tooth fairy go cashless? Are cryptoassets money? Who decides how we pay? Money and the way we use it has changed in recent decades. With digital and contactless payments on the rise, the choices we make, as individuals and businesses are having an impact. Futureproofing the economy to meet our needs, now and in the future, is the job of the Bank of England. From digital currencies to the importance of cash in our everyday lives, from sustainability to making sure we have choice and access to different ways to pay, this exhibition responds to questions you have been asking. So, where are we now, and what is the future of money? The exhibition, and our entire museum, is free with no need to book ahead.

Money Talks: Art, Society & Power

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford | 10 Aug 2024 – 5 Jan 2025 [ticketed entry]

This major new exhibition will feature over 100 objects, including work from artists Andy Warhol and Grayson Perry, and from artists Banksy and Paula Stevens-Hoare who use money itself as a medium for political commentary and satire. Alongside these artworks is a range of money including Roman, Chinese and Islamic coins, Art Nouveau banknotes, and the artwork for the currency featuring Kings Edward VIII and Charles III, on display for the first time. Weaving stories from across the world with reflections on the role of physical currency in 2024, and featuring international objects and items from the Ashmolean's leading collections, Money Talks will take visitors on an unexpected and engaging exploration of the intersection between money and art.

LECTURES, SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

Please refer to society websites for further details

May

- 28 BNS Shreya Gupta, *The story of Indian Coin Collections in UK museums: Facilitating, negotiating and contesting their journey from India to England*
Followed by the Spring Reception
- 30 IBNS Kavan Ratnatunga, *Highlights of Lankan Banknotes from 1785 to Present* (by Zoom)

June

- 5 ONUS Suzanne Frey-Kupper, Archaic and classical coinage of Selinus (Sicily) and evidence from recent excavations Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LU followed by a food drinks reception
- 12 MMN Coin Talk. Megan Gooch, *Introduction to Viking Coins* (online)
- 17 RNS Presidential Address – Martin Allen, *Coinage of the Plantagenets: (1) Henry II*
Followed by the Summer Party, at the Society of Antiquaries
- 24 BNS Richard Purkiss, *Coinage and political authority in East Anglia, 917-1066*

July

- 10 MMN Coin Talk. Clare Rowan, *Introduction to the Tokens of Rome and Ostia* (online)
- 13 BNS SUMMER MEETING at THE ROYAL MINT, Llantrisant - A day long visit to the Royal Mint with time to see the Royal Mint Museum exhibits.
- 18 Britannia Nummaria Conference in York (see above for details)
- 25 IBNS Jonathan Callaway, *Banknotes of Ukraine (in person)*

August

- 29 IBNS Rodney Turner, *Bank of England numbers (in person)*

September

- 12 MMN Coin Talk. Rory Naismith, *Making Money in the Early Middle Ages*
- 23 BNS Mark Stocker, 'Reams of useless designs'? *The decimal coinage reverses competition, 1966*

AUCTION DIARY

Courtesy of Peter Preston-Morley. Please note: Dates may be subject to alteration. For latest information, please contact the individual dealers listed below.

May

- 28 Spink. Indian and Islamic Coins. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com
- 29 Noonans. Paper Money. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 29 Baldwins. Ancient Coins. 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX. baldwins.co/en-GB
- 30 Noonans. The Trevor Wilkin Collection of Siege Notes. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk

June

- 1 St. James's. Argentum. London Coin Fair. stjauctions.com/auctions
- 5 St. James's. The Premier Sale. 10 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4AA. stjauctions.com/auctions
- 13 Spink. A Bank of England Charity Auction of King Charles III £5 Notes. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com
- 19 Noonans. Orders, Decorations and Medals. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 20 Noonans. World Coins. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 20 Noonans. Ancient Coins and Antiquities. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 25 Spink. Orders, Decorations and Medals. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com
- 26 Spink. Coins and Medals. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com
- 26 Noonans. British and Irish Banknotes. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 27 Noonans. British Coins and Historical Medals. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk

July

- 10 Baldwins. Ancient, British and World Coins. 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX. baldwins.co/en-GB
- 11 Noonans. The South Downs Collection of Shillings. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk

- 17 Noonans. Orders, Decorations and Medals. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 24 Spink. A Bank of England Charity Auction of King Charles III £50 Notes. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com

August

- 28 Noonans. World Banknotes. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk

Dealers contact details can be found on the British Numismatic Trade Association website at www.bnta.net or the dealers' own websites using the links above.



CONTACTS

British Art Medal Society (BAMS)

Janet Larkin. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings held at 5.30pm, Cutlers Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4. www.bams.org.uk

British Association of Numismatic Societies (BANS)

Bill Pugsley bill@pugsley.co

British Numismatic Society (BNS)

Peter Preston-Morley, Noonans, 16 Bolton St, Mayfair, London, W1J 8BQ, Telephone: 020 7016 1700. E-mail: secretary@britnumsoc.org. Unless otherwise stated (see lecture programme) all meetings are on Mondays at the Society of Antiquaries commencing at 6.15 pm. www.britnumsoc.org

British Numismatic Trade Association (BNTA)

Christel Swan, General Secretary, 3 Unwin Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, London W14 9TH, Tel: 07799 662181, e-mail: secretary@bnta.net website: www.bnta.net

International Bank Note Society (IBNS)

Pam West, pam@britishnotes.co.uk. Website at www.theibns.org/joomla/index.php

Oriental Numismatic Society (ONS)

Helen Wang. Email: hwang@britishmuseum.org. ONS website at www.orientalnumismaticociety.org/; and on Facebook www.facebook.com/OrientalNumismaticSociety?ref=hl

Royal Numismatic Society (RNS)

Andrew Brown. Email: abrown@britishmuseum.org. Please note that some meetings will take place on Zoom only, while others will be in-person. In-person meetings are held at the Society of Antiquaries of London (Burlington House, Piccadilly). E-mail: info@numismatics.org.uk; website: www.numismatics.org.uk

