MONEY & MEDALS

The digital newsletter of the Money and Medals Network



ISSUE 2 | NOVEMBER 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the second issue of the Money and Medals Network's digital newsletter.

In this issue Ellen Dutton and Rosie Shepley share practical approaches to displaying and protecting numismatic objects. Their illustrated article explores two adaptable conservation techniques that may prove useful to others caring for coin collections.

We also look ahead to two upcoming online Coin Talks. On 25 November, Chris Howgego will introduce the *Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project*, followed by Maria Vrij's introduction to Byzantine coins on 9 December.

As always, you'll also find our diary of exhibitions, events and forthcoming auctions. We hope you enjoy this issue and welcome your contributions to future editions.

The Money and Medals Network is generously supported by the **British Numismatic Society (BNS)** and the **Royal Numismatic Society (RNS)**. Their support helps us share numismatic knowledge, provide training and connect people working with collections across the UK.

HOUSING & DISPLAYING COINS

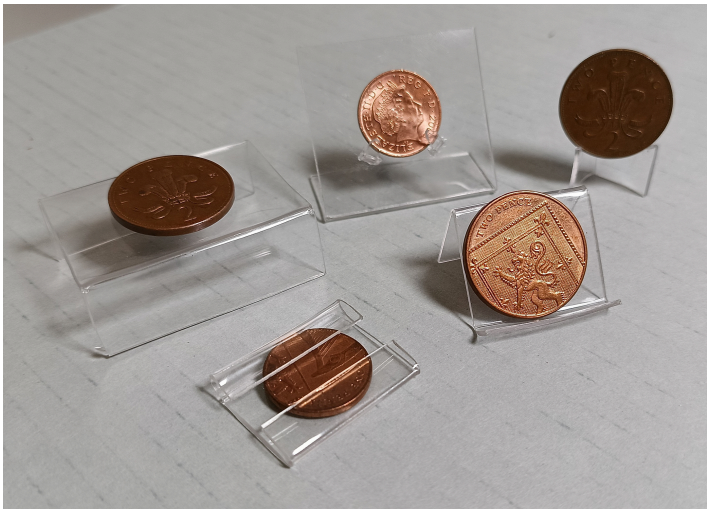
Ellen Dutton, Conservation Technician and Rosie Shepley, Conservator

At the University of Leeds Cultural Collections, the conservation team was invited by our Numismatics Curator, Lucy Moore, to contribute to the *Money and Medals* day hosted at the University on 18th June. Although our background is in paper and archive conservation rather than metal or objects, we had done some work with coins in our collections and developed some practical solutions for their storage, preservation, access, and display. Lucy felt these would be valuable to share with other professionals caring for numismatic collections, and we ran two practical sessions as part of the day. Comments shared by participants highlighted the value of sharing hands-on techniques and ideas that could be adapted for use in other collections.

One session explored using Vivak to create simple, adaptable supports for displaying coins, while the other looked at ways to provide protective housing for damaged coins.

Session 1: Using Vivak for Coin Display

The first practical session focused on using Vivak to create simple and adaptable supports for displaying coins. Vivak is a clear PETG (polyethylene terephthalate glycol) sheet material that is lightweight, strong, reusable and relatively easy to cut and shape using basic equipment.



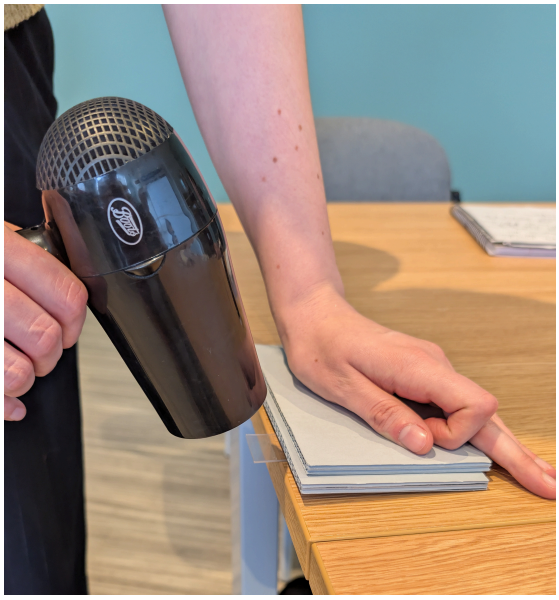
Examples of different mount shapes made using Vivak.



A coin from the University of Leeds Cultural Collections on display in a Vivak mount in a recent exhibition in the Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery.

The idea came after the conservation team attended a workshop at the Archives and Records Association (ARA) conference, where Vivak was used to mount archival material and books. When installing an exhibition at the University of Leeds, we decided to experiment with the material for displaying coins and found it worked well as a relatively simple yet effective mounting solution.

During the workshop, we introduced the material and shared examples of different mount designs, including folded supports, angled mounts, mounts with tabs and joined pieces. These demonstrated how even minimal shaping could provide stable, discreet support while keeping the coins visible. Participants then had the opportunity to try shaping their own pieces of Vivak using a heat sources to make a simple mount (hairdryers can work well for this), and take their samples away.



A participant at the workshop heating a piece of Vivak with a hairdryer in preparation to bend it.

The session highlighted how this material can offer practical options for coin display, with supports that can be reheated and adjusted or reused.

Session 2: Creating Protective Housings for Damaged Coins

Following the Vivak demonstration, we explored the use and protection of fragile coins, as several damaged coins in our collections at the University of Leeds required additional protection. The challenge was to create a solution which would support these fragile objects whilst allowing them to be viewed and handled safely.

Inspiration came from a technique used in photograph conservation: broken glass plate negatives can be stabilised by sinking them into a precisely cut recess in mount board, which helps prevent movement and reduce stress on existing breaks. This was adapted for use with damaged numismatic objects.

Our first experiment was with a piece of spade money from the collection. Firstly, we drew around the object, leaving a dividing line between the fragments, and cut the outline from archival acid-free mount board to create closely fitting recesses. A thin layer of EVA adhesive was used to attach a sheet of Melinex to one side and weighted down to dry, taking care to leave a generous border around the recesses so that no adhesive would migrate and touch the object. The money was then placed within the recesses, and another sheet of Melinex was attached in the same way, to enclose it within the mount board. The Melinex was cut to size around the mount board, and the edges were sealed with strips of Filmoplast P90 tape to create a secure enclosure.



Example of protective housing for a broken and damaged coin from the University of Leeds Cultural Collections.

Participants in the workshop were given materials to experiment with making their own protective housings. This provided an opportunity to try out the technique and explore how it could be adapted for different coins.

The resulting housing provides support, prevents loose fragments from becoming displaced, and maintains visibility of both sides of the object. Importantly, the method involves minimal intervention and is fully reversible. Following the success of the initial spade money housing, the technique was also tested on knife money and round coins, proving equally effective across a range of object types.



Participants applying adhesive to prepare an example of the housing during the workshop.

Conclusion

Both sessions demonstrated how different solutions from other areas of conservation and collections care and exhibitions work can be developed and adapted to meet the needs of numismatic collections. By sharing these approaches through hands-on activities, we hoped to give participants ideas they could take away and explore within their own institutions.

UPCOMING ONLINE COIN TALKS

Two upcoming opportunities to learn about numismatics with leading specialists.

Coin Talk is a regular online talk hosted by the Money & Medals Network, presenting different elements of numismatics from the basics to the more advanced. Each session delves into a distinctive facet of numismatics, ranging from fundamental principles to advanced topics. Expect engaging talks lasting 30-40 minutes, with a dedicated Q&A session at the conclusion, allowing our audience to participate actively.

The Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project

Wednesday – 25 November 2026

12:30 GMT

Chris Howgego

Honorary Curator, Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum

Over 4,300 Roman coin hoards (including 766 single gold coins) have been found in Britain. How can the Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project help curators understand these collections?

The project provides online data and visualizations for hoards of all coinages in use in the Roman Empire deposited from 30 BCE to 518 CE. It also includes hoards of Roman coins from outside the Empire. The 19,000 hoards currently documented contain 7.5 million coins. Join Chris to explore how all these data help us to make sense of British hoards.

Registration ↗

Introduction to Byzantine Coins

Wednesday – 9 December 2026

12:30 GMT

Maria Vrij

Coin Curator, Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham

An accessible introduction to the coinage of the Byzantine world. Maria will introduce Byzantine coinage to those less familiar with the topic. She will give an overview of how to quickly identify Byzantine coins to a period of the millennium of Byzantine history.

The talk will also cover numismatic features more common on Byzantine coins than other contemporary coinages. She will also contextualise the Byzantine coinage both as a continuation of the Roman coinage, and within the changing world it occupied.

Registration ↗

Missed a talk? Catch up Online.

Explore the Network's growing collection of recorded Coin Talks, from introductory numismatics to specialist research and practical collections care.

EXPLORE COIN TALK RECORDINGS ↗

WHAT'S ON

Exhibitions and Displays

26 June–26 June 2027
'Tides of Treasure', National Waterfront Museum
Oystermouth Road, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 3RD
museum.wales/swansea/

18 July–11 April 2027
'Timeless Treasures', Museum of Chelmsford
Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 9AQ
www.museumofchelmsford.co.uk

28 July–30 July 2028 (online only)
'Money in a Time of Crisis', Manchester Museum Online
www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

6 December 2025–29 November 2026
'Restoring Rome: Roman Oxfordshire through Coins'
Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PH
www.ashmolean.org/display/roman-oxfordshire-coins-display

8 January 2027–14 March 2027
'Chew Valley Hoard: Coins, Kings and Conquests'
The Roman Baths, Abbey Church Yard, Bath BA1 1LZ
https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/event/chew-valley-hoard-coins-kings-and-conquests

Lectures

17 November 2026 — Royal Numismatic Society lecture. Roger Bland, *How the Treasure Bill became an Act and the origins of the Portable Antiquities Scheme*. Warburg Institute, London, and Zoom; 6–7.30pm. Event Information ↗

18 November 2026 — The Language of Coins. Professor Sam Gartland, University of Leeds, Treasures of the Brotherton; 2.30–4pm. Event Information ↗

23 November 2026 — British Numismatic Society Anniversary Meeting. Dr Elina Screen, *Britain and the sea in the first millennium, 5: Coins and coin-use: the Atlantic perspective*. Society of Antiquaries, London; 6.15pm. Event Information ↗

15 December 2026 — Royal Numismatic Society lecture. Barrie Cook, *Happy New Year! Coins in the Tudor New Year's gift rolls*. Warburg Institute, London, and Zoom; 6–7.30pm. Event Information ↗

AUCTION DIARY

5–19 November (online) – The Coin Cabinet London
thecoincabinet.com
(British & World Auction 135)

10 November – Noonans
16–17 Bolton Street, Mayfair, London W1J 8BQ
www.noonans.co.uk
(Coins and Historical Medals; The Springhead Hoard of late Roman Silver Coins)

10–11 November – Lockdales
52 Barrack Square, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich IP5 3RF
www.lockdales.com
(Medals and Militaria; The Mark Fosdike Collection)

15–29 November (online) – Hosker Haynes
www.hoskerhaynes.com
(e-Auction 11: General Numismatic Collectables)

17 November–1 December (online) – Spink
67–69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET
www.spink.com
(World and British Banknotes e-Auction)

18 November – Tennants
Harmby Road, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 5SG
www.tennants.co.uk

18 November – Noonans
16–17 Bolton Street, Mayfair, London W1J 8BQ
www.noonans.co.uk
(The Silich Collection of Historical and Art Medals, Part V)

24 November – Sovereign Rarities
17–19 Maddox Street, London W1S 2QH
www.sovr.co.uk

24–25 November – Lockdales
52 Barrack Square, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich IP5 3RF
www.lockdales.com

25 November – Noonans
16–17 Bolton Street, Mayfair, London W1J 8BQ
www.noonans.co.uk
(World Banknotes)

26 November – St James's
10 Charles II Street, St James's, London SW1Y 4AA
stjauctions.com
(Auction 130)

2 December – Spink
67–69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET
www.spink.com
(Orders, Decorations and Medals)

4–17 December (online) – Spink
67–69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET
www.spink.com
(Numismatic e-Circular 48: British and World Coins and Medals)

5–6 December – London Coins
4–6 Upper Street South, New Ash Green, Kent DA3 8JJ
www.londoncoins.co.uk
(Auction 195)

8 December – Noonans
16–17 Bolton Street, Mayfair, London W1J 8BQ
www.noonans.co.uk
(Coins and Historical Medals)

8 December – Sovereign Rarities
17–19 Maddox Street, London W1S 2QH
www.sovr.co.uk

9 December – Noonans
16–17 Bolton Street, Mayfair, London W1J 8BQ
www.noonans.co.uk
(Orders, Decorations, Medals and Militaria)

9 December – Tennants
Harmby Road, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 5SG

(Coins and Exonumia)

www.tennants.co.uk
(Militaria and Ethnographica)

EXPLORE THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES

The Money and Medals Network is generously supported by the **British Numismatic Society (BNS)** and the **Royal Numismatic Society (RNS)**. Their support helps us share numismatic knowledge, provide training and connect people working with collections across the UK.

Our supporting societies offer further ways to develop your interest throug lectures, publications, research, and membership.

The British Numismatic Society

Supporting the study of British coins, medals, tokens and related subjects.

Visit BNS ↗

The Royal Numismatic Society

Promoting numismatic research across historical periods and regions.

Visit RNS ↗

OVER TO YOU

Share your news with the Network

Have you opened a new display, identified an unusual object, developed a useful collections-care technique, or published research? We welcome news, questions, events, and contributions for future issues.

Email: **MMN@warwick.ac.uk**

MONEY & MEDALS NETWORK

The Money and Medals Network is based in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick and is supported by the British Numismatic Society and the Royal Numismatic Society.

www.warwick.ac.uk/mmn