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The CCNB Newsletter is supported by the British Museum, the Royal Numismatic Society and the British Numismatic Society. The Newsletter appears three times a year, in January, April and September, and is received by those members of the RNS and BNS resident in the United Kingdom, and by others with an interest in numismatics. Under an agreement with the British Numismatic Trade Association, copies are also sent to the BNTA for despatch to its members.

Contributions and information will be gratefully received. Items for the April issue should arrive by 19 February 1996, and should be sent to Philip Attwood or Beverley Fryer, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, Tel. 0171-323 8227, Fax. 0171-323 8171.

Anyone in the UK wishing to be added to the CCNB Newsletter mailing list should send their name and address to Beverley Fryer at the above address.

COINS AND COMPUTERS

Ute Wartenberg

The computer has transformed the lives of most people. Children play computer games before they can read or write, and everyone who can surf the Internet or wanders the Web. Even numismatists have not been able to escape the modern age, and a wealth of numismatic services will soon be on offer to those who are willing to face a computer.

At present the main use of computer technology lies in recording coins or other numismatic objects in databases. This replaces the old method of recording on card files. The same information is stored, but the main advantage lies in searching facilities, which can often be very sophisticated. Thus one can select, for instance, all coins from a database with a certain design of a certain ruler which weigh less than a given weight. This sort of facility can not only be useful for purely scholarly purposes but also help in some coin series, such as the ancient Greek, with the time-consuming business of identifying difficult coins. Recently it has become possible to store images on computer, which allows us to add a picture of obverse and reverse of a coin with each record.

Many collections have begun to computerise their collections. The British Museum, which contains more than 600,000 coins, medals and banknotes, began to enter records on computer over ten years ago. Certain series, such as medieval, Greek, or Roman, are entirely accessible on a database, which allows curators to help visitors with their enquiries; this service is used frequently by scholars and students of numismatics. A similar database exists at the American Numismatic Society in New York.

At present these databases are only available in certain museums, but one would hope that such database information could be made available in the foreseeable future in forms of electronic publications

such as CD-ROM. Other such projects in Britain are the computerisation of all volumes of the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* or the *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles*. These are long-term projects, which will take many years of hard work, but when complete they will provide an excellent tool for numismatic research.

THE NMS COINS DATABASE

Nicholas Holmes

The National Museums of Scotland came into being in 1985, with the amalgamation of the Royal Scottish Museum and the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in Edinburgh. Both of these institutions possessed considerable numismatic collections, those of the RSM containing a wide range of Greek, Roman European, Islamic and Far Eastern material, and those at NMAS comprising mainly items from series which circulated in Scotland, in particular Roman, Scottish and English coins.

Whereas basic registers of the collections at the RSM were complete, if often lacking in detail, records of the collections at the NMAS consisted in many cases of no more than entries in chronologically arranged accession registers, and some early acquisitions appeared never to have been listed in detail at all. As part of the process of computerising the registers of the entire collections of NMS, it was decided to instigate in 1989 a project to compile a catalogue of the entire numismatic collection held in the old NMAS building (some 23,000 items), and to enter this on to the museums' database. Although the primary purpose of this exercise was to satisfy the requirements of accountability and security, the longer-term potential of the database is such that considerable thought was given to the format of the records and the amount of detail to be included in each. Three principal considerations were taken into account.

Firstly, the catalogue had to be comprehensible to NMS staff without detailed numismatic knowledge. This was a short-term objective, since, as there is no permanent numismatic post on the establishment, non-specialist curators are likely to have to prepare displays of coins for the proposed new Museum of Scotland and deal with enquiries from outside the museum.

Secondly, as and when the proposed national database of collections in Scottish museums comes into operation, staff of all institutions with access to it should be able to extract information on NMS collections. The format of entries had therefore to be designed to make the kind of information which is likely to be required easily accessible to museum staff who are not regular users of the NMS database.

Thirdly, in the long term, when the Museum of Scotland is open, it is intended that members of the public should have access to the national database to search for items in museum collections relevant to their research or personal interest. Again, the format of the records had to be designed with this in mind.

Amounts of detail required by individuals will vary, and clearly some of the more sensitive information about museum specimens has to be withheld from those outside NMS, in particular details of exact location and in some cases sources. For these reasons entries in the database can be extracted in three different formats. The amount of detail included in the description of each coin is fairly large, however, so that individual items can be distinguished from other similar specimens by means of verbal descriptions. The possibility of photographing each item, which would have reduced the necessity for such descriptions, has been rejected at this stage for both financial and staff utilisation reasons. The project is expected to be completed by the end of March.

NUMISMATICS AND COMPUTERS IN LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS

Elizabeth Read and Yolanda Courtney

The numismatic collections of Leicestershire Museums deserve to be more widely known. A recent project, involving the creation of computer records of all coins, tokens and medals in the collections, is already helping to make this possible.

Leicestershire County Council runs a county-wide Museums, Arts and Records Service. Its numismatic collections are the responsibility of the archaeology and social history sections. The year 1485, of local as well as national significance since Bosworth is in Leicestershire, is taken as the dividing date between archaeology and social history. The collections comprise around 40,000 items. They can be briefly summarised as follows: the main series of Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval coins, coin hoards found in the county, local tokens and medals, campaign medals and decorations awarded to soldiers in the Leicestershire Regiment, British historical medals, and the Charles R. Mapp collection of worldwide coins and tokens.

The numismatic project began in 1993 and has been organised in three phases, each phase partly funded by the Museums Service itself and partly by the East

Midland Museums Service. It will be complete by the end of March 1996. The overall aim of the project was to improve access to, and knowledge of, the numismatic collections. This embraced creating computer records and providing each item with a computer record and accession number identity. It covered all aspects of collections management including physical arrangement of the collections and environmental conditions. All the numismatic material was to be arranged in cabinets for the first time using inert storage materials (metal cabinets, plastazote foam and perspex inserts for the drawers, acid-free tickets). The opportunity was also taken to evaluate the physical condition of the coins and to improve the environmental conditions, now stabilised at a relative humidity of 35%.

An important part of the process leading to inputting onto the computer database has been preliminary work matching coins and collections with records in accession books, ledgers, annual reports, and so on. The final year of the post-1485 part of the project has been devoted to the Charles R. Mapp collection, bequeathed to the Museums Service in 1955. In addition to the checks, tickets and passes in this collection catalogued by Antony Gunstone in 1984 (and much similar material not seen by Gunstone), Mapp collected coins and tokens from every corner of the globe. It is hard to do justice to the variety of the collection, which ranges from counter-marked tokens of the French colony of Cayenne to communion tokens and what appear to be Thai gaming counters, and includes an impressive representation of German coins, Chinese cash, and coins of the Indian native states.

The project has already proved its worth in terms of informing responses to public enquiries, for, although there is no published catalogue, we can supply computer print-outs. It is anticipated that people with knowledge of specific post-1485 series will be able to help us improve our records in some cases. The Mapp collection included, for example, coins of Nepal, for which it was only possible to create basic inventory records. Enquiries about post-1485 material should be addressed to Yolanda Courtney, Leicestershire Museums Arts and Records, The Rowans, College Street, Leicester LE2 0JJ, and about pre-1485 material to the Keeper of Archaeology, Bob Rutland, at the same address.

Elizabeth Read was formerly temporary numismatic documentation assistant, Leicestershire Museums, and is now Keeper of Social History based at the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry.

Yolanda Courtney is Keeper of Social History, Leicestershire Museums.

COMPUTERS AND THE COLLECTOR

John Goddard

Most coin collectors record the items in their collections. The size of the collection appears to be no bar to meticulous recordings, as the ledgers of Virgil Brand or the card index of Philip Grierson bear witness, and one attractive difference between records of museum collections and private collections is that the private collector can record anything about his coins that is of particular interest to him personally. While

his record will usually include the details found in standard reference works, it may also note full details of a coin's acquisition and condition, other examples known to the collector (usually with their condition and price), or the coin's historical significance. Just what is recorded can reveal a lot about what motivates a particular collector, be it the thrill of the chase, the hunt for a bargain, the rarity, having a better example than X, or some esoteric interest in, for example, epigraphy or die production.

The advent of the computer has not changed this, except that it provides a more versatile means of record keeping. Few private collections are of the magnitude of the Grierson or Brand collections. I suspect most, like my own, contain a few hundred coins, rather than thousands or tens of thousands. Such numbers are manageable without recourse to a computer, but if you have a computer with a database programme - it will cost no more than many would pay for a coin - then the transferring of your records to a database can be an enjoyable way of re-studying your collection.

A file programme such as the Mac Filemaker-Pro is like a card index system (where cards are ordered according to a particular classification to allow easy retrieval), but it has the advantage that any number of classifications can be defined as 'fields'. Although custom-made files are probably available, it is quite straightforward to make your own file by creating a field for each item of information you wish to record. Any of these fields can be sorted alphabetically or numerically. Any individual file(s) can be 'found' by what is recorded in one field or in a combination of several fields and up-dated with new information. Any particular file or parts of a file can be printed or can be exported as text file for word processing, so you can produce a printed catalogue of all or part of your collection.

Some non-standard fonts such as Supergreek are available to allow recordings of some non-Roman legends. But those who have photographs on their card files may find the electronic imaging equivalent prohibitively expensive, and I have yet to find a fool-proof way of recording monograms. The file program allows for the creation and definition of fields and for their layout, so, if the collector is making the file only for his or her own records, it can be personalised to particular interests. However, easy interchange between files requires some standardisation, and that necessitates compromise as to what fields are important and how they are defined - a price worth paying given its potential for information exchange.

The use of the computer to the collector is not limited to recording coins. A bibliographic database allows one to link keywords, but the time taken to build up such a database may well prove greater than the time you save by not having to thumb through your library for the reference you know is there 'somewhere'.

Simple files of coins wanted, with details of examples offered for sale earlier, can be created. While some might find this useful at home with the newly arrived dealer's list or auction catalogue, others will stick with their pocket book of jottings. However, I have heard of collectors consulting their laptop computers at coin fairs in the USA. Where did I hear that? On the Internet, of course, a development which opens up a quite different use of the computer for the

numismatists whose computer has a modem allowing e-mail.

John Goddard can be contacted on: gbca07@udcf.gla.ac.uk

NUMISMATICS ON ELECTRONIC HIGHWAYS

William E. Metcalf

As a preliminary to providing members and other interested persons with Internet access, the American Numismatic Society has co-operated in the establishment of an electronic discussion group devoted to serious numismatics.

The list, which is designated NUMISM-L, is co-owned by Ralph Mathisen, Professor of History at the University of South Carolina, and William E. Metcalf, Chief Curator of the Society. NUMISM-L is an unmoderated list that provides a discussion forum for topics relating to the numismatics of antiquity and the Middle Ages. It is not a collector's list, nor is it exclusively scholarly; but it is for serious students of coinage up to 1454.

It also offers an opportunity to announce the discovery of new coin hoards, newly discovered varieties (as well as newly identified forgeries), new books, recent thefts, and upcoming conferences. Coin shows and coin sales also may be announced, but sales of specific coins are absolutely forbidden, and anyone offering specific coins for sale will summarily be removed from the list.

The list has already has some lively 'threads' dealing with electronic recording and transfer of images, archaeology and the marketplace, and a general run of inquiries regarding problems of identification and bibliography. At the time of writing there are over 300 subscribers.

To subscribe to the list, use the address
LISTSERV@UNIVSCVM.CSD.SCAROLINA.EDU
and send the message
SUBSCRIBE NUMISM-L <your name>

You will be provided, by return mail, with instructions on how to communicate with the list.

Further information can be obtained from W.E. Metcalf (METCALF_W@delphi.com or wem8@columbia.edu).

THE INC IN NICOSIA

The International Numismatic Commission held its 1995 council meeting in Cyprus in May, at the invitation of the Cyprus Numismatic Society, which celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary this year. In her president's report Cécile Morrisson drew attention to progress in the preparation of the 12th International Numismatic Congress, to be held in Berlin in 1997.

In 1994/5 several new members joined the INC, including the Ashmolean Museum. Two issues of the *International Numismatic Newsletter* were published in 1994, and an issue of the annual *Compte rendu* was sent to all members. The patronage of the INC was extended to several events, including the fiftieth anniversary of the Cercle Liégeois de numismatique and the exhibition at the Palazzo Tè on the coinage of Mantua.

The council received reports from projects under its patronage. Ulla Westermarck, of the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* committee, reported that five volumes have been published (Germany - Tübingen University; USA - ANS vol.8, Macedonia; Denmark - Copenhagen, new edition; France - Bibliothèque Nationale vol.3, Pamphylia/Galatia; Finland - Helsinki, Skopbank) and that a number of others are making progress. The British committee is, thanks to the British Academy, providing a computer in the British Museum for the computerisation of the SNG on a database. *Numismatic Literature*, now entrusted to Harriet Schwartz, is having problems with the irregularity of contributions from eastern Europe and the former USSR, and with the complete absence of contributions from France. Volume VII of the *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae* was published at the end of 1994, and issues 3 and 4 of *CNN (Coins and Computers Newsletter)* have been produced by K. Jonsson and W.E. Metcalf and 250 copies distributed; this reflects the growing interest in a newsletter devoted to new technology.

The INC travelling scholarship is intended to help the work of young researchers (it is a pity that only one scholarship can be afforded), and has enabled the INC to extend its role of supporting collaboration with countries less well visited by numismatists (for example Koray Konuk in Turkey and Helen Wang in China). In 1995 the council examined three applications for the scholarship, and awarded it to Manolis Stefanakis for his study of the archaic coinages of Crete. The council also decided to put aside SF 20,000 toward supporting scholarships and publications for the next International Numismatic Congress.

On the occasion of the meeting, three public lectures were given in the auditorium of the Bank of Cyprus by members of the council: P.R. Franke on 'Aphrodite Paphia in Pergamon and Sardis', W.E. Metcalf on 'Numismatic Treasures of Cyprus in New York', and C. Morrisson on 'Byzantine and early Lusignan gold besants'.

If you are under 30 and would like to apply for next year's INC scholarship, contact Dr Andrew Burnett at the British Museum (address on page 1).

THINK COIN BOOKS - THINK SEABY

Bobby Cox

For seventy years, since the almost legendary A.H. (Bert) Seaby founded the firm of B.A. Seaby in 1926, the name has been synonymous in all collectors' minds with basic guides to coin series. The 'flagship' has always been *The Standard Catalogue of the Coins of England*, now in its 31st edition, first published in 1929 and revised annually. Not for nothing is it known colloquially as the 'Bible of the coin trade'. No other numismatic publishing house has produced so many 'standard' works of reference - Seaby titles also cover the Greek (in two volumes), Roman, Greek Imperial and Byzantine series, as well as more in depth listing, such as *Roman silver coins*, vols 1-5. Many of the titles have been through several reprints, because their use as introductions to a series or for identifications (especially *Greek coins and their values*) is so important

both for numismatists and collectors. Even commemorative medals have received the same 'Seaby' treatment, with *British commemorative medals and their values*, backed by a lucid text in *An Introduction to commemorative medals*.

Seaby have not rested on their laurels in being a household name in publishing only numismatic guides; new series with authoritative texts by foremost numismatists, staff of national coin cabinets and university lecturers, have all contributed books that have become essential reading for students as well as for collectors. Books such as the *Coinage in...* series cover the Greek, Celtic, Roman and Roman Britain worlds, with a new volume about to appear on coinage in Scotland. Another series, *Aspects of Ancient Classical Coins*, includes books on *Medicine on ancient Greek and Roman coins* and *Roman Republican moneyers and their coins*, plus the thematic approach of *The Monuments of ancient Rome as coin types*.

Books on later coins have included ground-breaking titles on the coinage of France, coins and medals of the English Civil War, and English seventeenth-century tokens, as well as now scarce reprints of the classic works by Williamson on seventeenth-century tokens and Dalton and Hamer on eighteenth-century tokens. The English series can boast the authoritative *English silver coinage since 1649*, like so many Seaby titles simply referred to in the literature by its initials, ESC. Still the best overall readable introduction to English coins is Peter Seaby's *The Story of the British coinage*.

For dictionaries Seaby took the lead in reprinting classics such as Stevenson's *Dictionary of Roman coins*, and then followed it by commissioning new dictionaries of Greek and of Roman coins. Also in the wider reference sphere and designed to encourage the more general collecting interest, there is the *Seaby coin encyclopaedia* and *Coin facts and feats*. The monthly *Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin* grew from small beginnings as a coin sales list to include articles and features that are still highly regarded as some of the best sources of information to be found, before it ceased publication in 1992.

To publish authoritative texts aimed at the collector as well as the academic and numismatic markets has always been the Seaby philosophy, and, now that the importance of numismatic evidence is widely acknowledged, the Seaby titles grow more popular year by year.

Although the old coin-dealing aspect of Seaby has now been subsumed under Seaby Coins (a division of the Classical Numismatic Group), the Seaby numismatic publishing imprint is as strong as ever. Seaby coin books are now an imprint of the long respected, 151 year old publishing house of Batsford, and there is still a family connection, since Batsford many years ago published the books of Peter Seaby's grandfather, who was Professor of Fine Art at Reading University.

AFTER MARATHON

Koray Konuk

Coins are certainly not the easiest class of object to display in a case. Their small size and double-sided

nature make them difficult to relate to a non-specialist public whose attention is more likely to be diverted by large and glamorous objects with which the British Museum abounds. The secret to attracting attention is probably to blend in other artefacts, and, above all, to place these small pieces of history in their context by means of adequate captions, which have to be informative without being too long. And if these coins happen to be ancient Greek, of great appeal and from the finest collection in the world, the task of getting the general public interested becomes achievable.

These conditions are well practised in an exhibition on the numismatic aftermath of the Persian Wars, entitled *After Marathon: war, society and money in fifth-century Greece*, and on now at the British Museum until 3 March. Three big and six smaller cases present some 170 items tracing the irresistible ascent and lamentable fall of the great victor over the Persians, Athens. From an unassuming beginning as the metropolis of Attica to the administration of a virtual empire controlling most of the Aegean, Athens attained in the course of the fifth century BC a pre-eminence and a glory that was never to be equalled by any other city of the Greek world.

The selection of coins testifies to the extent of the control that the 'cradle of democracy' exerted over its allies, which were part of the Delian League, established to counter any further attack in 477 BC, two years after the battle of Mycale. Each ally, in proportion to its importance, had to pay a tribute to the League, and these contributions were gathered on the island of Delos until 454 BC, when the money was eventually transported to Athens, which did not scruple to use it for its own interest.

The first case (which should have been marked as such since some visitors looked puzzled as to where to begin) displays a selection of coins from Athens and other cities, as well as from Egypt and the Levant, where coins modelled after the 'owls' were issued. Among these, the unique gold stater of the Egyptian pharaoh Tachos strikes the eye, as well as two outstanding tetradrachms which bear the name of the Persian king Artaxerxes (III) pharaoh in the Demotic script. War-time coinage is illustrated by various issues, among them the impressive tetradrachm that purports to represent the Persian satrap Tissaphernes, and two emergency gold coins issued by a war-exhausted Athens, which found itself short of silver at the end of the Peloponnesian war. The plated tetradrachm 'owl' might simply be the product of an individual counterfeiter rather than an official Athenian issue. The next case features a Corinthian helmet of a type used during the Persian wars, a hydria and a jug, both depicting Persians. The circulation of different currencies across the Aegean and their concealment in hoards is explained with coins and ingots from two contemporary hoards. The last of the bigger cases gives an insight into the varied world of coin designs and the use and value of some currencies. Several fractions from Aegina, a big contributor to the Delian League, illustrate the everyday use of coinage, although turtles and tortoises are not to be confused!

The six smaller cases exhibit a selection of coins from various parts of the Greek world over which Athens exerted its authority: Ionia, the Hellespont,

northern Greece, south-western Asia Minor and the Aegean islands. A case devoted to the Athenian tribute lists features a small fragment of an original list and explains how the allies were paying their dues to the Delian League.

The exhibition is also graced by a number of enlarged photographs of relevant artefacts, such as a herm of Pericles, a caryatid from the Erechtheion, a panathenaic amphora and various scenes from the Parthenon frieze, all objects that can be admired 'in the flesh' in other galleries of the British Museum. A handsomely produced booklet by Ute Wartenberg accompanies the exhibition and provides the visitor with a good introduction to the history and coinage of the Athenian empire.

NEWS

THE BNS ANNIVERSARY MEETING

The Anniversary Meeting of the British Numismatic Society was held at the Warburg Institute on 28 November. Graham Dyer, librarian and curator of the Royal Mint, was re-elected president, and May Sinclair, Andrew Burnett and Paul Robinson were elected as new members of council for 1996. The Sanford Saltus medal was awarded to Mr J. J. North. Mr Dyer delivered his presidential address on a late nineteenth-century attempt to replace the sovereign and half sovereign with paper money. It was announced that the 1996 Special Meeting of the Society will be held in Matthew Boulton's restored Soho House in Handsworth, Birmingham; its subject will be West Midland mints. The evening concluded with a most enjoyable champagne party hosted by Stuart Lyon, an honorary member of the society, to celebrate his fifty years of membership.

CHANGES AT THE RNS

After five years, Roger Bland has stepped down as meetings secretary of the Royal Numismatic Society; he is replaced by Barrie Cook, who joins Virginia Hewitt in dealing with administration of the meetings and membership. Roger was also editor of the Society's special publications; this role is now taken on by Keith Rutter.

BANS IN OXFORD

The 1995 British Association of Numismatic Societies residential lecture course was held in Hertford College in the centre of Oxford. The privilege of hearing six expert lecturers combined with the enjoyment of meals at the long tables in the college refectory, the good fellowship over coffee breaks, meals and the occasional drink in the evening, and the chance to explore Oxford, with its colleges, bookshops, art, churches and coin dealers, and it is no wonder that many agreed that this was the best they had ever attended.

The lecturers were Marion Archibald (who spoke on coin jewellery through the ages), Christopher Challis (money and the movement of prices in early modern England), Peter Kenny (coins in circulation - the Royal Mint lecture), Ian Taylor ('Some other bishops of Durham'), Peter Woodhead ('An introduction to Anglo-Gallic coins') and John Casey ('Coinage and the end of Roman Britain').

Rising costs mean a different venue next time

(Manchester probably) and I for one will definitely be there. But it would be nice if in a few years we could go back to this lovely old college.

Tony Holmes

A NEW MONEY GALLERY FOR THE BRITISH MUSEUM

HSBC Holdings plc, one of the world's largest banking and financial organisations, announced in September a donation to the British Museum to create a permanent gallery on the history of money. The gift is in excess of £1 million with continuing financial support into the next century and will allow the Museum to show for the first time the treasures of its unrivalled collection of coins and paper money. The generous gift will not only finance the construction of the gallery but also the associated curatorial and education work, as well as the development of two accompanying publications and a CD-ROM. The HSBC Money Gallery will be completed in January 1997, as part of the British Museum's 250th Anniversary Programme of Development.

The HSBC Money Gallery will be the first of its kind in any of the world's great museums. It will present the history of money, from the earliest records of payments found in the cuneiform tablets of Ancient Mesopotamia and the origins of coinage in Turkey and China during the 7th century BC, down to contemporary methods of electronic transfer. The displays will examine the role of money over the past four thousand years and will chart its development through political and economic change and from precious metal to plastic. They will also demonstrate the everyday use of money, the technology of production and the artistry of design. The coinage of major historical figures, such as Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar and Napoleon, will be shown alongside piggy banks, shopkeepers' tokens and credit cards. The story of treasure, markets, banking and taxation will be presented, as will that of inflation, forgery and piracy. The movement of money around the world will be traced, beginning with the owl coins of 5th century BC Athens transported by merchants to Italy, Egypt, Arabia and India, and the first trade routes, such as the ancient Chinese Silk Road and the Spanish Treasure Fleets bringing the gold and silver of the New World to Europe, and ending with today's global economy.

NEW HUNTERIAN GALLERY PLANNED

The Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University has been given £50,000 by the Wolfson Foundation towards the cost of a new numismatics gallery. This is part of the on-going refurbishment of the museum, which has already obtained £240,000 from the same charity's Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund.

The current award-winning coin gallery will be closed down and replaced by a much larger display in the upper south gallery of the main exhibition hall. This will allow over three times the present space for what is planned to be a numismatics exhibition area rather than just a coin gallery.

The exhibition will be divided into five sections. The core permanent display will be devoted to the development of European coinage from the Greek period to the present day, concluding with the plans for a single currency. This will allow the riches of William Hunter's Greek and Roman coins to be fully

exploited (the highly popular gold portraits of Roman emperors will be retained). A second permanent display will be devoted to medals, dealing with their historic and artistic development: Hunter's important medal collection will thus be given greater prominence than has been possible so far. Two minor displays will deal with common coins and Scottish communion tokens; the former is intended as a do-it-yourself identification facility, while the latter will be devoted to the use and range of one of the most common of Scottish numismatic items. Finally there will be an area devoted to temporary displays which will be changed as often as time and resources allow. To begin with, the current exhibition of Jacobite medals will be continued before being replaced later in 1996 with a display of Burns medals to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Scottish bard's death. One section of the gallery will be left clear as a rest and information area, in which it is hoped to install videos and computer terminals at a later date. Small meetings and education classes will also be held here.

The gallery should be opened by the end of March and be completed before the end of 1996. Information on the gallery will be placed on the Internet over the summer and a number of guide-books are planned.

THE BM IRANIAN GALLERY

The British Museum's Iranian Gallery is once again open to the general public with a splendid display of objects and coins from ancient Iran. After several years of structural work, a larger and more elaborate arrangement, including a number of new objects, gives Iranian art and archaeology the recognition it deserves. The numismatic section includes a magnificent collection of Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian and Sasanian coins, as well as those from the Oxus Treasure. A few coins from neighbouring areas demonstrate political and artistic influence during the different periods. Coins and other objects are arranged chronologically, and provide an interesting overview of the period.



Drachm of the Sasanian king Shapur I (AD 241-272), with the king on one side and figures flanking the Zoroastrian fire altar on the other

LOOKING AFTER YOUR COLLECTION

Conservation and storage of coins will be the topic for discussion at an open meeting on 3 February during the London Coin Fair. Two members of staff from the British Museum's Department of Conservation will talk about this complex subject: Celestine Enderly on cleaning coins and Lorna Green on storage problems. The meeting will take place at 2.00pm in the Production Box of the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1. A short meeting of the CCB will follow the talks and discussion. RNS and BNS members will be admitted to the fair at the concessionary rate of £1.

BAMS IN ST IVES

The annual British Art Medal Society weekend conference will this year be held in St Ives, on 20-22 September. Past venues for the weekend have included Kendal, Portmeirion, Cirencester, Durham and Cambridge, and it is hoped that the Cornish town will prove an equally popular venue for this enjoyable and informative event. Accommodation will be offered in the historic Tregenna Castle Hotel.

NEW STAFF AT THE BM

Andy Meadows joined the British Museum's Department of Coins and Medals in May 1995 to work on the Greek series and Treasure Trove. John Orna-Ornstein is working on the Roman series until summer 1996, while Jonathan Williams is on secondment to the Museum's Director's Office.

Two temporary three-year posts have been created to provide support during the planning and establishment of the new Money Gallery (see above). Alison Harry is assisting Joe Cribb in overall organisation of the gallery project; Vesta Curtis and Elizabeth Errington are job-sharing a curatorial post for the Oriental series. Helen Wang returns from maternity leave in early January.

The Department is also pleased to welcome Shah Nazar Khan, Deputy Curator of the new Archaeological Museum of Peshwar University, Pakistan, who joins as this year's Hirayama trainee curator.

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- 19 RNS
Philip Attwood
Hard at work: the diary of Leonard Wyon 1853-1867
- 26 BNS
David Dykes
Samuel Garbett, entrepreneur, political lobbyist and coinage reformer

April

- 16 RNS
Johan van Heesch
Roman gold from Belgium: a thousand aurei from the Arquennes hoard
- 19/21 BANS
Congress
Chester College of Higher Education, Chester
Contact: Jonathan Morris, c/o Swetenhams, 9-11 Market Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2EW
- 20 BAMS
Annual Day Conference and AGM
British Museum and Museum of London
- 23 BNS
Roger Bland
Late Roman precious metal coin hoards from Britain: new light on some old problems

May

- 21 RNS
Elizabeth Errington
The discoveries of Charles Masson in Afghanistan 1833-38: a reassessment
- 28 BNS
Peter Gaspar
A Comedy of errors: the 'withdrawn' sixpence of 1887

June

- 18 RNS
AGM and Presidential Address
Michael Metcalf
Viking Age Numismatics 2. Merovingian and Carolingian coinage in western Scandinavia.
- 25 BNS
Robert Lyall
Silver Bits and Black Doggs: coinage in the Caribbean

Contacts:

British Art Medal Society (BAMS)

Mr P. Attwood, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, tel.0171-323 8260. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 5.30pm, Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4.

British Association of Numismatic Societies (BANS)

Mr P H Mernick, c/o Bush, Boake, Allen Ltd, Blackhorse Lane, London, E17 5QP, tel.0181-523 6531.

British Numismatic Society (BNS)

Dr D Bateson, Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ, tel.0141-330 4289. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 6.00pm, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1.

Oriental Numismatic Society (ONS)

Mr J Cribb, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, tel.0171-323 8585.

Royal Numismatic Society (RNS)

Ms V Hewitt, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, tel.0171-323 8228. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 5.30pm, Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London WC1.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

6 October - 14 January 1996 Belfast
Beauty and the Banknote: images of women on paper money
 Ulster Museum

9 October - 31 March 1996 Glasgow
The White Cockade: an exhibition of Jacobite medals
 Hunterian Museum

25 October - 21 January 1996 Aylesbury
We three kings: the magi in art and legend
 Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street

21 November - 3 March 1996 London
After Marathon: war, society and money in fifth-century Greece
 Gallery 69a, British Museum

20 January - 14 April 1996 Glasgow
Beauty and the Banknote: images of women on paper money
 Hunterian Museum

5 February - 15 March 1996 London
Contemporary medals by students
 A BAMS exhibition
 Plantation House, 31-35 Fenchurch Street, EC3

20 February - 24 May 1996 Cambridge
Coinage in Ireland
 Cripps Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum

7 March - 8 September 1996 London
Commemorating the 19th century: coins and medals by the Wyon family
 Gallery 69a, British Museum

20 April - 29 June 1996 Blackburn
Beauty and the Banknote: images of women on paper money
 Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery

25 June - 25 October 1996 Cambridge
The development of portraiture on Greek coinage
 Cripps Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum

AUCTIONS AND FAIRS

January 1996

- 9 *Croydon Coin Auctions*
 Contact: Linda/Graeme Monk, tel. 0181-656 4583
- 14 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
 National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
 Contact: 01203 716160
- 24 Ancient, English and World coins, historical medals and tokens
 Auction: Glendining's

February

- 3 *The London Coin Fair*
 Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1
 Contact: Frances Simmons, tel. 0181 989 8097
 (Accompanied by an open meeting of the CCNB - see above)
- 11 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
 National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
 Contact: 01203 716160
- 20 *Croydon Coin Auctions*
 Contact: Linda/Graeme Monk, tel. 0181-656 4583
- 28 Coins and Medals
 Auction: Bonhams

March

- 5 Coins
 Auction: Spink in association with Christie's
- 7 Ancient Coins
 Auction: Sotheby's
- 10 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
 National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
 Contact: 01203 716160
- 12 Medals
 Auction: Spink in association with Christie's
- 20 Orders, decorations and medals
 Auction: Glendining's

- 26 Coins and Medals
 Auction: Bonhams
- April
- 3 Ancient, English and World coins, historical medals and tokens
 Auction: Glendining's
- 14 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
 National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
 Contact: 01203 716160
- 16 *Croydon Coin Auctions*
 Contact: Linda/Graeme Monk, tel. 0181-656 4583
- 25/26 Coins and Medals
 Auction: Sotheby's
- May
- 1 Ancient, British and World coins, medals, tokens, banknotes and numismatic books
 Auction: A.H. Baldwin & Sons, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, tel. 0171-930 6879
- 12 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
 National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
 Contact: 01203 716160
- 21 *Croydon Coin Auctions*
 Contact: Linda/Graeme Monk, tel. 0181-656 4583
- 30 Coins and Medals
 Auction: Bonhams

Unless otherwise stated all auctions held at addresses listed.

Dates may be subject to alteration.

Bonhams: Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London, SW7 1HH.

Glendining's: 101 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9LG.

Christie's/Spink & Son: 5-7 King Street, London, SW1Y 6QS.

Sotheby's: 34 New Bond Street, London, W1A 2AA.