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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 January issue should arrive by 15 November 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.

NUMISMATICS: THE COMMERCIAL SIDE

John Whitmore

In 1960 when C. W. Peck was writing the introduction to his monumental *English copper, tin and bronze coins in the British Museum*, he included (on page xv) a tribute to the dealers, and named the three who had formed virtually the entire British trade for the previous thirty years.

Soon after the book was published, and for reasons that are not entirely clear even after another thirty years, popular interest in coins burgeoned rapidly, with a host of new collectors and dealers creating a quite different structure throughout the country. Not everyone will regret the end of the frenetic trading of the sixties when prices could double within a year, even though it enabled one coin magazine to sell over 50,000 copies every month.

The positive legacy of those days is the nucleus of knowledgeable and experienced dealers who have stood the test of later recessions. Although most were initially drawn into dealing after collecting modern British coins, many have diversified both chronologically and geographically, or have moved into associated fields such as tokens, medals and banknotes.

The function of the dealer, in return for a livelihood, is to smooth the passage of pieces from those who do not want or understand them to those who do. The more esoteric the objects dealt in, the more essential this function becomes, and there are perhaps few areas where it is more necessary than in the many by-ways of numismatics.

DEALING IN THE TOWN

May Sinclair

Coin dealers, large and small, provide the daily interface between the collector and what is available to collect. They are, in a sense, the skeleton upon which the commercial numismatic world is constructed. From the smallest provincial dealers' shop to the prestigious premises of London's finest, they provide for the progression from the first tiny insect bite of curiosity to the full-blown happy malaise of the committed numismatist.

Messrs Spink and Son, although established in the year of the great fire in Pudding Lane, did not become coin dealers until sometime in the 1830s. Those dealers who provide a regular publication do much to sustain interest in the hobby, and we are particularly proud to have produced the *Numismatic Circular*, without interruption, since 1892. This reaches collectors ten times every year and apart from its offering of collectors' coins at fixed prices it contains authoritative articles, book reviews, and notices of numismatic events, and is an important forum for numismatic debate.

Our role as a modern dealer has evolved over the years to be one that encompasses the whole spectrum of numismatic endeavour, academic and commercial, and we have the resources to hold an extensive and accessible inventory. Our library of reference books has been nurtured since the days of Leonard Forrer in the late 1880s, and contains, amongst other treasures, marked auction catalogues from times when catalogues were not illustrated.

The contemporary collector is faced with a vast range of material covering most of the world and virtually the whole of recorded history, for which coins can be a primary source. It is with the help of dealers that important collections are assembled. The larger dealer provides the training for staff to become knowledgeable,

expert and eventually authoritative in their chosen specialisation, through 'hands on' daily physical contact with numismatic items.

Spink has been able, over the years, to purchase large collections and make them available to other collectors and, relatively recently, to acquire them for auction with the same purpose in mind. It is the dealer who encourages and advises a client to acquire a lot, who bids for the client at auction, or sits by his or her side while he/she bids. It is the dealer who values the new find and, often in co-operation with the British Museum and other institutions, identifies the rare piece that turns up from time to time. We are frequently called upon to prepare probate valuations and provide expertise in legal proceedings.

Of late, the trade has had to contend with all sorts of extraneous legislation regarding provenance, export-licensing, VAT and import duty, which adds enormously to the administration workload but which absolves the purchaser of any legal uncertainty. This, unfortunately, is becoming a significant part of the cost of running a *bona fide* numismatic operation. However, it is our function to make the transfer from one owner to another as professional and as fair as possible, while garnering sufficient profit to maintain the staff of experts whom we employ.

DEALING IN THE COUNTRY

Paul Withers

Coin dealing has the advantage of being an indoor job with no heavy lifting. When I took it up full-time, my mother was horrified. Not only was I recently divorced (partners acquired before becoming a dealer usually do not understand the obsession) but Welsh mothers have a thing about their sons becoming teachers and here was I giving up a promising teaching career. This was twenty-three years ago, and teaching was earning me a miserable £100 per month, which was not enough to keep a new wife and the child we were expecting.

Collecting began when I was seven and had been given a 1906 florin, the design of which gave me a magic buzz - some coins still do that nearly fifty years on. When the boom started and a local coin club was born, I went along with a few odd coins. People admired my culls, treating them as gems, until they were told that they were for sale. In a whirlwind rush that lasted perhaps five minutes I took more money than I earned as a teacher in a fortnight and I was hooked. I then discovered auctions and London (a real eye-opener), and there were the thrills of finding bargains, which in those days happened frequently, and the wonder occasioned by seeing coins that I had not seen before. A Cutler Street market stall on Sunday mornings, selling mainly to foreigners, produced as much profit as I could earn by a month of teaching. Those were the days!

Diversification came upon us gradually. We bought a printing machine, to print our lists of coins for sale, thereby saving us from the greed and low quality work of printers. Soon other dealers wanted our services, and it was not long before we were into typesetting and producing more sophisticated items than simple sales lists. Five years ago we moved to a former pub, built around 1470, in Montgomeryshire, a forgotten and half-

hidden paradise. As well as selling coins and tokens, we earn our daily bread by selling secondhand and new numismatic books, publishing and computer typesetting and designing books, and acting as distributors for various people and organisations, including the British Art Medal Society. We also do the odd bit of numismatic photography. *Toy coins* by David Rogers, our first book off the press, was followed by our own *British coin weights*, and then *Lions, ships and angels*. The latest, published two months ago, is Liz Pirie's *Coins of the kingdom of Northumbria*. We are currently researching for a new catalogue of British copper tokens, 1800-1820, and a work on European coin-weights.

Daily life is arranged around our work, which often begins before seven am, and ends when we get hungry around seven pm. When there is no issue of *The Medal* to be set, when the various newsletters (the Oriental Numismatic Society and so on) have been put to bed, and when there are no jobs in hand for regular and occasional clients, we get on with writing, researching, pricing coins and books, buying, or producing the next *Sacra Moneta*, our sales catalogue of numismatic books and coins, which these days seems to have the gestation period of an elephant and size almost to match. The latest has 5,000 items for sale. We even manage to see the odd customer who makes it to this magic land, which is not just far and away north of Hampstead, but wildly west of the Severn. Of course, in these days of electronic communication we are as close to any customer as the nearest telephone or fax, and a client is just as likely to be from Brisbane as from Bristol.

Alas, despite all the extra work we do, income has now turned full circle and teaching would produce rather more money than our current activities, but it would not be as interesting, or exciting, nor would it give us the freedom to do what we want to do when we want to do it.

DEALING IN PAPER MONEY

Mike O'Grady

Collecting paper money is a relatively new pursuit which has steadily gained in popularity over the past years. As such it has not had time to develop the collecting infrastructures of other areas of the numismatic world, and so the necessary cohesion in this hobby is largely provided by the dealing fraternity. As most dealers were originally collectors themselves, there is a good balance between the two sides here, as sales often become more than just a financial transaction. Extra information on scarcity, new dates, total issue or numbers outstanding may be discussed as the price is being agreed, thus benefitting both sides. Sharing information like this naturally aids the work of those involved in writing the papers, articles and books necessary to maintain forward momentum in the hobby. As a result of their day-to-day involvement in the subject, many dealers are able to play good supporting roles, especially with the standard reference works.

Although some large firms and auction houses handle paper money, many banknote dealers run a one-man business, and whilst most of them concentrate almost exclusively on their own country, there is a small but expanding group who trade in world paper money. Business is mostly conducted through price lists,

auctions and paper money shows, and dealers are generally willing to travel to attend an existing show, or indeed something new, once a local organisation has prepared the ground.

Usually paper money dealers will take their place in a general numismatic show, because until the last decade there were only three specialised paper money shows in existence: one in London, one in Paris, and one in Memphis in the USA. Several new shows now exist, including a regular event in London, but perhaps the most important takes place in Maastricht. It was the brainchild of three Dutch collectors who, after overcoming the many objections about holding a new European bourse away from any of the traditional centres, were able to attract a sufficient number of dealers to ensure that the basic costs would be covered. More advertising was then possible, and on the morning of the first show a large multi-national queue was waiting impatiently for the doors to open at nine am. It has now gone on to become the leading paper money show in the world. More dealers attending more shows have greatly added to the circulation and redistribution of both banknotes and information.

A successful show is usually preceded by an auction, and now there are many more sales devoted exclusively to paper money. These sales are still dominated by trade buyers, but, with the sharp increase in prices of better notes, the higher prices realised are now often for notes bought on commission for a collector rather than being bought in for stock. Paper money auctions have a much higher profile than before, attracting the better collections and scarce individual pieces, and setting new price levels for them. A wider profile should also be raised in Europe as the debate on the new Euro currency warms up over the next few years, and as the market continues to grow, so the dealer network will expand.

SELLING BY AUCTION

Thomas Curtis

Auctions can be long drawn out affairs. When the coin collection of Dr Richard Mead was sold at auction by Abraham Langford of Covent Garden and Samuel Baker (uncle of John Sotheby) in February 1755, the catalogue ran to 262 pages, the sale lasted eight days, and the Roman coins and antiquities were described in Latin. The sale of the collection of Samuel Tyssen, submitted to the public without reserve in 1802, lasted twenty-five days, even though the British Museum had already acquired his ancient British and Anglo-Saxon coins.

Anonymity has always been available. An entry for the year 1710, in a recently published index of British numismatic auction catalogues, records the sale of the property of one of those familiar 'Gentlemen' whose identity is concealed - although many a coin catalogue can be found with a jotted note that reveals the owner. Other collectors are publicly named, happily or unhappily: Charles Joye, late deputy governor of the South Sea Company, for example, whose estate was sold by the trustees of that failed company to raise money in 1726, or Horace Walpole whose Strawberry Hill sale (including coins) was held in 1842, nearly fifty years after his death. The catalogue of the 'Very Important Collection' (belonging to the Duke of Devonshire), sold in 1844, should caution all auctioneers; it was described

as 'worthless' by the dealer C. R. Taylor in 1852: 'up to 400 serious errors have been counted in it... many valuable coins lotted as false... no proper opportunity to view... game of chance'.

Until the 1970s, the main London coin auction rooms were at Christie, Glendining (Phillips) and Sotheby, situated close to each other in Bond Street and St James's. Many clients were introduced to the sales by well-known dealers, such as Baldwin, Seaby and Spink, whose staff also wrote many of the catalogues, often for a fee and therefore anonymously, and were often retained as advisors. The trade in coins had traditionally been conducted differently in Europe and America, where it was more usual for dealers in coins to be auctioneers as well, so it was not surprising that in 1978 Spink and Son should begin a series of auctions entirely prepared in-house; the catalogues were published in a format that lasted for about one hundred sales, and the sales have continued, following the liaison with Christie's. Seaby made one or two attempts, but that well-known name only became firmly associated with auctions after it had been acquired by an American parent company. Baldwin is among the newest of auction houses holding regular sales, abroad as well as in London, and with the re-appearance of auctions conducted by Bonhams, the emergence of new firms such as Dix and Webb, and Vecchi, it might be said that the would-be vendor is now spoiled for choice.

Many researchers will have reason to consult catalogues of collections of coins sold at auction. Since the 1890s these have been well illustrated, initially with collotype plates of plaster casts of coins and subsequently photographically. For systematic and accurate publication of coins and medals, the best examples are at least the equal of catalogues which record museum and private collections. An auction catalogue is recognised by collectors 'relinquishing the pursuit' as a way of publishing their cabinets of coins in their lifetime, and those handling estates, schools once endowed with collections (Eton and Westminster, for example), and even the occasional museum in a position to de-accession unwanted material see auction sales as the most open way to make disposals.

SELLING AT FAIRS

Frances Simmons

Dealers and collectors are amazing. They're so enthusiastic. As a coin fair organiser, you arrive before dawn to set up, but there are dealers outside already, waiting to get in and start buying and selling. Eager voices say, 'What have you got for me?', as you stagger into the venue, carrying your goods.

During set-up exhibitors can relax a little, sort themselves out, and scan the room for dealers. Then the room opens to the collectors. They arrive, hopefully, in a rush. The room starts to buzz. People jostle for space at dealers' tables, rapidly scanning trays and cases, dipping like hungry marsh waders, seeking finds and bargains. Fairs provide a rush of adrenalin for everyone involved. Even at the smallest show there is always the possibility of finding something rare or profitable. This expectancy fuels the popularity of coin fairs worldwide and explains their success.

The boom in coin and stamp collecting in the 1960s

caused hundred of 'collectors' fairs' to flourish in Britain. The first big international numismatic show was organised by Bernie Hearn in the summer of 1965 in London's Cumberland Hotel, with about thirty-five dealers attending. It was not until 1978 that the British Numismatic Trade Association established its own annual international fair, COINEX, at the London Marriott. Exhibitors are drawn from the BNTA membership, with the addition of invited overseas dealers.

The idea of the annual coin fair is based on the American Numismatic Association convention, the largest show of all. From modest beginnings in Chicago in 1891, the mid-summer ANA has become a commercial and educational jamboree. Several hundred dealers are housed in what resembles an aircraft hangar. You do not see daylight for six days, but you do see millions of dollars' worth of coins for sale and wonderful exhibits by collectors. To date, with the exception of COINEX Wales, the BNTA has not embraced the educational aspect of the hobby. It concentrates on the commercial and international aspects, as many BNTA members depend on their overseas earnings.

At many foreign shows, British dealers form the largest overseas contingent (without aid from the Department of Trade and Industry). In the 1970s many travelled the European fair circuit, and more recently they have explored the Far East and the US. After the silver boom and profits of 1979/80, followed by the downturn in English milled and ancient coins, British fairs began to wane, until new interests developed in specialist subjects and, partly as a result of the increasing numbers of metal detectorists, in ancient and hammered coins. Under the Simmons' management the London Coin Fair at the Cumberland Hotel is now run quarterly, with some seventy exhibitors, regular seminars and illustrated talks. COINEX has been joined by another BNTA event in the spring, outside London. Fairs are held monthly at the Great Western Hotel in Paddington, at Meriden and Bradford, and regular events take place in towns such as York and Cardiff. All of these provide a meeting place for those engaged in an otherwise solitary pastime, an opportunity to exchange goods and views sociably. Legends of wonderful finds at coin fairs are based on fact, and the hope of everyone who attends is to make myth a reality - and to be able to brag about it afterwards!

EXHIBITIONS

PORTRAITURE ON GREEK COINS

Ancient Greek coins with portraits have always been of great fascination to numismatists and ancient historians alike. In many cases they preserve the only surviving likeness of an ancient king. Like coinage itself, the phenomenon of portraiture originated in Asia Minor (today modern Turkey), an area where cultures from the Near East mixed with Greek elements, and spread from there to other parts of the Mediterranean after the death of Alexander the Great. An exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge explores the subject from the beginnings of Greek portraiture in the late fifth century into the Roman period.

The first coins to display heads of living persons are from the Western regions of the Persian Empire, where local governors and dynasts put their portrait on coins. In

Greece this custom was reserved for gods and heroes, which means that no life portraits of famous Greek statesmen survive. Even Alexander the Great, who introduced the Greeks to many Oriental habits, refrained from displaying his image on his coins. His successors, however, made ample use of his image on their coins: Lysimachus, king of Thrace, made it the main emblem on his royal coinage. In later centuries many kings, in particular in Egypt, Syria, and many smaller Hellenistic empires, minted portrait coins, which are often of striking beauty.

The exhibition gives an excellent overview of many of these coins and sets them in an artistic and historical context by adding relevant gems, copies of marble portraits, and photographs. It is also a good opportunity to see many rare and beautiful coins from the rich collection of the Coin Room of the Fitzwilliam Museum. The exhibition is open Tuesday - Friday 2-4pm, until 25 October.

Ute Wartenberg

PIRATE TREASURE

Billed as an exhibition of the world's only pirate treasure, *Quest for a Pirate*, held at the Edinburgh City Art Centre from February to May this year, seemed to promise something of numismatic interest. However, the display offered much more than pieces of eight and gold doubloons. It was about the successful outcome of a young American's dream of finding the treasure of Captain 'Black Sam' Bellamy whose ship, *The Whydah*, foundered off Cape Cod during the violent storms of April 1717. The wreck was finally located in 1983 and over 100,000 artefacts, including the ship's bell, have been recovered. Among these are over 7,000 coins.

The exhibition started at the top of the building with two floors of videos, models and graphics panels explaining the background to piracy, especially on the eastern seaboard of the later United States in the period 1680 to 1730. The part played in this by Bellamy and the subsequent loss and discovery of his ship were dealt with in detail, and the rapt attention of numerous visitors, young and old, showed how interestingly and successfully the story was told.

The final section displayed a large number of the finds, though this depended more on the objects themselves rather than textual explanation. These ranged from more spectacular pieces of jewellery and weaponry to the mundane objects of daily life on board ship.

One large case contained a huge pile of pieces of eight and another a small number of Spanish gold coins from 1688 to 1712, though the labelling was fairly minimal in both of these. Other coins consisted of a Charles II crown and sixpence, two 1697 halfcrowns of William III, and, appropriately, a Scottish bawbee of Charles II of 1679.

There are many reports of the discovery of shipwrecks and their contents in the media and auctions of these, but few are preserved together and shown to the public at large. *The Whydah* exhibition was therefore a notable exception and well worth a visit. Despite an entrance charge, it seems to have attracted a good audience. A well-stocked shop sold the usual range of souvenirs and included an informative illustrated guidebook.

Donal Bateson

NEWS

THE ALTON HOARDS

In March 1996, 256 gold coins of the British Iron Age were found with a quantity of pottery and two items of jewellery at Alton, Hampshire. They represent two separate, though adjacent, deposits, dating to the early first century AD. The coins and jewellery were declared Treasure Trove at an inquest in May.

The smaller of the hoards consists of fifty gold staters of the Atrebatas. All of these have an abstract head of Apollo on one side and a disjointed horse on the other. Many are rare types. The earliest coins in the hoard were made in the name of Commius, probably the ruler of the Atrebatas known to have fled from Britain to Rome in about 50 BC. The hoard also contains twenty-one extremely rare staters of another king, Eppillus (until now only two comparable coins were known to exist). Even more interesting is a well-preserved stater which has made possible the renaming of a British king. This coin shows that the Atrebatas king Tincommius has been misnamed by historians and was actually called Tincomarus, or 'big fish'.

The larger hoard consisted of 206 Atrebatas staters, a Roman gold finger ring, and a folded Roman gold bracelet - the earliest context for a find of Roman jewellery in Britain. The fascinating evidence of contact between late Iron Age Britain and Roman Gaul is supplemented by the Iron Age coins in the larger hoard, every one of which has a 'Romanised' style. Many of the staters, including previously unknown types, are based on specific Roman coins. The latest coins in this hoard belong to Verica, another Atrebatas king known to have fled Britain for Rome, this time in AD 42, shortly before the Roman conquest.



The gold stater that renamed a British king. Its legend reads 'TINC/O/MA/RVS'. (Illustration enlarged)

BNS NEWS

The British Numismatic Society Council Prize was awarded to Martin Allen and presented to him at the April meeting.

At the May meeting the President presented the Sanford Saltus Medal to Mr J. J. North. Professor Peter Gaspar, Corresponding Member of Council for the USA, then gave a paper entitled, 'A comedy of errors: the "withdrawn" sixpence of 1887'. The evening concluded with the Council sherry party.

A NEW INDEX FOR THE LOCKETT COLLECTION

A photographic record of the Lockett collection of English coins was made before the collection was sold at auction. The record includes photographs of every coin that was sold from the collection up to the end of the Long Cross coinage, covering forty-one pairs of plates of up to seventy coins each, and all the later coins that were not already illustrated in the sale catalogues. These photographs will always be an invaluable source of

information, but they are difficult to interpret because the plates are not captioned in any way and the arrangement of the coins is different to that in the sales. To remove this difficulty, a new index to the Lockett plates is now being prepared. It takes the form of transparent overlays for the plates which identify every coin, and a cross reference table which enables the reader to find the photographs of any particular coin of which the description or Lockett lot number is known.

So far, the index has been completed for coins of the period from Harold II to the end of the Long Cross coinage, covering twenty-three pairs of plates and some 1411 coins. The rest of the Anglo-Saxon section will follow. The index can be seen and used with the plates at the British Museum, and copies may also be seen at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and at Messrs A. H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd.

Copies of the plates and of the index can be purchased. Those interested in the plates should write to the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG. Prices and delivery times will then be quoted. Care is needed in identifying the plates that are required, because different numbering systems have been applied from time to time. Therefore please be sure to identify the *coins* of which photographs are needed, by stating the reigns or series and where appropriate the coin types that are of interest.

Details of the index and of how to order copies can be obtained from A. H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd, 11 Adelphi Terrace, London WC2N 6BJ (tel.0171-930 6879; fax 0171-930 9450).

Peter Bagwell Purefoy

THE EDINBURGH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Edinburgh does not lack interest in numismatics, but for almost two decades the city has lacked a numismatic society, since the former club had to disband in 1977. This unfortunate situation has recently been remedied. Following a couple of planning parties last autumn, the new society had an initial half-season earlier this year, in which three successful meetings were held. Arrangements have now been made for a full session, from October 1996 to April 1997. The venue is in the rooms of the Society of Musicians, Belford Road, Edinburgh, at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month (except for December). Those who already belong to ENS hope that others in or near Edinburgh, or possibly even further afield, will be interested in joining. Anybody who wants to do so should contact Nicholas Holmes, Curator of Numismatics, Department of History and Applied Art, Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF (tel.0131-225 7534).

PUBLIC SERVICES AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

From 1 October to 31 January the public services offered by the British Museum's Department of Coins and Medals may be reduced and, at times, suspended. This is because the preparations for the opening of the new HSBC Money Gallery (opening in January 1997) mean that less space will be available to accommodate visitors to the department and that staff may not be able to devote so much time as normal to dealing with public enquiries. Anyone intending to visit should, if possible, arrange their visits to avoid this period, and certainly write or telephone before coming. Every effort will, of course, be made to keep the Students' Room open and the

identification and enquiry service operating, but this may not be possible on some occasions.

A BELGIAN NUMISMATIC PRIZE

The Royal Belgian Numismatic Society has established a quadrennial prize to be awarded to an author of an unpublished and original essay dealing with numismatics or sigillography. Only studies of at least seventy-five pages will be accepted, and they must be written in French, Dutch, German, English, Italian or Spanish. The next award, of BEF 50,000, will take place in 1997. Participation is restricted to authors who will be less than 35 years old on 1 December 1996, the deadline for the submission of entries. For detailed rules of this prize, contact M. Hubert Frère, Quai Marcellis 6/032, B-4020 Liège, Belgium.

TREASURE ACT

The Treasure Bill (*CCNB Newsletter*, no.12, p.6) has completed its passage through Parliament and received Royal Assent on 4 July. The minister, Lord Inglewood, hailed it as an historic occasion: 'This represents the first legislation on treasure trove to be passed in England and Wales and will replace common law precedents and practices dating back to the Middle Ages'.

In an amendment made in the Commons the minimum precious metal content was raised from 5% to 10%. As far as coins are concerned, single coins are not covered by the Act and only hoards come within its scope. If the coins in the hoard contain less than 10% of gold or silver, then a minimum of ten will be required to qualify as treasure: this is intended to avoid the need to report common groups of stray and site-finds, especially of late Roman bronze coins, which might well have happened if the threshold had remained at two coins.

The Act will not come into force until a code of practice has been drawn up and approved by Parliament. The code will set out the guidelines to be followed by the Secretary of State in paying rewards, and it will also

provide guidance to finders of treasure. It is being drawn up in consultation with interested parties during the autumn, with the intention that the Act should come into force early in 1997.

The Department of National Heritage is also considering the 170 responses which it received to its discussion document on Portable Antiquities, and expects to make an announcement about the way forward in the autumn. Ministers have already noted that the vast majority of responses favoured a voluntary system.

RNS NEWS

The medal of the Royal Numismatic Society for 1996 has been awarded to Lord Stewartby. Marion Archibald has been elected to Honorary Fellowship of the Society.

COINAGE IN 7TH-CENTURY SYRIA

A meeting is being planned in the British Museum on 7 December to discuss the coinage of seventh-century Syria (modern Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel). If you would like to offer a short paper on any aspect of the subject, please send your title to Andrew Oddy, Department of Conservation, British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG. (The maximum speaking time is thirty minutes.) If you wish to attend, please send an SAE to Andrew Oddy, who will send you a programme nearer the time. Those on the existing mailing list for the seminar will receive details automatically.

NEW STAFF AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

In May Gareth Williams joined the British Museum's Department of Coins and Medals. He has been appointed curator of the early medieval collection in succession to Marion Archibald, who will be retiring from the Museum in mid 1997. Gareth Williams has just finished a PhD thesis at the University of St Andrews on 'Land assessment systems in Norse Scotland', and is currently writing a book on Viking warfare and military organisation.

LECTURES, SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA AND CONFERENCES

September

6 BANS

1996 Lecture Weekend

Ashburne Hall, Manchester University

Speakers include: D Shotton, D Symons, R de L Holmes, W Kennett, D Martin and R Lyall

Contact: Keith Sugden, Department of Numismatics, Manchester Museum, tel.0161-745 5949

20/22 BAMS

Annual Weekend Conference

St. Ives, Cornwall. Talks include:

Barbara Hepworth's legacy: a permanent home?

Michael Tooby

Dossier, the medal and sculpture in 18th-century England

Malcolm Baker

Medals and sculpture today

Marcy Leavitt Bourne

The Shape of Space

Ewa Olszewska-Borys

Contact: Janet Larkin, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, tel.0171-323 8568

24 BNS

Luke Syson

Kings, Romans, Countrymen: the Dassiers' medallic series

October

8 BAMS

Goya, Smith, Sandle: the medal and protest art

Robert Turvey

15 RNS

Coining dies in late medieval England

Barrie Cook

22 BNS

The Saxon and Norman mint of Worcester

David Symons

November

12 BAMS

Medals as gifts in ancient Rome

Andrew Burnett

- 19 RNS
Ionian ladies: female heads on silver fractions of the late 6th century B.C.
Herbert Cahn

- 26 BNS
Anniversary Meeting and Presidential Address

December

- 7 *The coinage of seventh-century Syria*
A one day meeting in the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum
Contact: Andrew Oddy, Department of Conservation, British Museum, tel.0171-323 8223

- 17 RNS
Arab-Byzantine Symbols of Victory
Elizabeth Savage

January

- 14 BAMS
Little and Large: design sources for medals and plaquettes in 16th-century Germany
Antje Schmitt

- 21 RNS
To be announced

- 28 BNS
To be announced

February

- 11 BAMS
Lost and Found: cire perdue bronze casting - an explanation
Irene Gunston

- 18 RNS
To be announced

- 25 BNS
To be announced

28/1 March

Local coins, foreign coins, Italy and Europe 10th - 15th centuries: numismatic and documentary evidence
A Cambridge symposium. Speakers include: Peter Spufford, Andrea Saccocci, A. Finetti, Lucia Travaini, Marc Bompaire, Barrie Cook, Ulrich Klein.
Contact: Lucia Travaini, Department of Coins and Medals, Fitzwilliam Museum, tel.01223 332916

March

- 11 BAMS
The Poetic Object
Anne-Marie Watkins

April

- 11-13 BANS
Annual Congress
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
Papers to be announced

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

15 February - 16 September 1996 - London
All Change: 25th anniversary of decimal currency in Britain

A Bank of England/Royal Mint exhibition
Bank of England Museum, Bartholomew Lane, EC2

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

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

12 July - 28 September 1996 - Horsham
Marking the Moment: medals today
A BAMS exhibition
Horsham Museum, 9 The Causeway

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

10 September 1996 - 18 May 1997 - London
The Rev. Ernest S. Box: an Englishman's collection of Chinese coins
Gallery 69a, British Museum

28 September - 14 December 1996 - Exeter
Beauty and the Banknote: images of women on paper money
A British Museum travelling exhibition
Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street

1 November 1996 - 31 January 1997 - Glasgow
Medallic Bard: medals of Robert Burns
Hunterian Museum

AUCTIONS AND FAIRS

September

- 8 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
Contact: 01203 716160
- 10 *Croydon Coin Auctions*
Contact: Linda/Graeme Monk, tel.0181 656 4583
- 12 Coins and Medals
Auction: Bonhams
- 14 *The London Coin Fair*
Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1
Contact: Frances Simmons, tel.0181 989 8097
- 21 *Coin Fair*
The Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel.0181 651 3890
- 24 Coins and Medals
Auction: Bonhams

October

- 2 Ancient, English and world coins
Auction: Glendining's
- 3 Banknotes & the Mauritius collection of coins and banknotes
Auction: Spink in association with Christie's
- 3/4 Coins and Medals
Auction: Sotheby's
- 7/8 Coins and Medals
Auction: A. H. Baldwin & Sons, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, tel.0171 930 6879.
- 9 *Coin Fair*
The Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel.0181 651 3890
- 9/10 Ancient, English, foreign coins and commemorative medals
Auction: Spink in association with Christie's
- 11/12 *Coinex*
London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1
Contact: BNTA Secretary, Mrs Carol Carter, tel.0181 398 4290
- 13 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
Contact: 01203 716160
- 26 *Coin Fair*
The Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel.0181 651 3890

November

- 9 *The London Coin Fair*
Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1
Contact: Frances Simmons, tel. 0181 989 8097
- 10 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
Contact: 01203 716160
- 19 Croydon Coin Auctions
Contact: Linda/Graeme Monk, tel. 0181-656 4583
- 19 British coins and commemorative medals
Auction: Spink in association with Christie's
- 23 *Coin Fair*
The Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel.0181 651 3890

December

- 8 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
Contact: 01203 716160
- 10 Coins and Medals
Auction: Bonhams
- 21 *Coin Fair*
The Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel.0181 651 3890

January

- 11 *Coin Fair*
The Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel.0181 651 3890

February

- 1 *The London Coin Fair*
Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1
Contact: Frances Simmons, tel. 0181 989 8097
- 15 *Coin Fair*
The Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel.0181 651 3890
- 27 Singapore, Chinese, Asian, Indian & colonial coins & paper money
Auction: A. H. Baldwin & Sons, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, tel.0171 930 6879

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.