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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.

THE TREASURE ACT AND THE INITIATIVE FOR THE VOLUNTARY RECORDING OF ALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

Roger Bland

Regular readers of the *CCNB Newsletter* will be familiar with the story of the Treasure Act, the first law ever passed in England and Wales governing finds of coins and other objects of treasure. The Treasure Act comes into force on 24 September in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland has its own laws: see Barbara Crawford's article below) and this provides an opportunity to give a summary of the new arrangements and also to discuss the programme of pilot schemes to record all archaeological finds. Although both these initiatives apply to all archaeological objects and not just coins, coin hoards account for 90 per cent of all treasure trove cases at present and single coins form a large proportion of the objects found by detectorists, so these measures are likely to have a major impact on the study of coin finds from England and Wales.

A Code of Practice on the Act sets out the new procedures in detail and also provides guidance for detectorists, gives advice on the care of finds and includes lists of useful addresses.

Over 20,000 copies are being printed, together with a leaflet summarising the main points. Copies may be obtained free of charge from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

THE TREASURE ACT

The Act was needed because the common law of treasure trove, which had previously provided effectively the only legal protection afforded portable antiquities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, was riddled with anomalies and completely unsuited to present-day conditions (see 'Treasure Trove - the case for reform' by Stewart Lyon in *CCNB Newsletter*, September 1993). The Act does not contain any restrictions on metal detecting and ministers have given a commitment that the Government

has no intention of banning or otherwise restricting responsible metal-detecting. Despite this, many metal detectorists are apprehensive about the Act largely because, as Michael Cuddeford notes below, some detecting interests have been pursuing a highly coloured campaign against it. In fact the Act was a compromise reached between a number of differing interests: museums, archaeologists, detectorists and landowners.

THE NEW DEFINITION OF TREASURE

The following objects come within the new definition of treasure under the Act if they are found after 23 September:

1. *Coins*: all coins from the 'same find' provided they are at least 300 years old when found (but if the coins contain less than 10 per cent of gold or silver there must be at least 10; there is a list of these coins in the Code of Practice). An object or coin is part of the 'same find' as another object or coin if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object and the Code confirms that only the following groups of coins will normally be regarded as coming from the 'same find': (a) hoards, which have been deliberately hidden; (b) smaller groups of coins such as the contents of purses, which may have been dropped or lost and (c) votive or ritual deposits.

Single coins found on their own are not treasure and groups of coins lost one by one over a period of time (for example those found on settlement sites or on fair sites) will not normally be treasure.

2. *Objects other than coins*: any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10 per cent of gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.

3. *Associated objects*: any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.

4. *Objects that would have been treasure trove*: any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above (this means that hoards of gold and silver coins that are less than 300 years old, such as hoards of gold sovereigns, will continue to receive legal protection).

Objects whose owners can be traced, unworked natural objects (even if found in association with treasure) and objects from the foreshore which are wreck are not treasure.

PROCEDURES FOR THE REPORTING OF TREASURE

The Act requires finders to report treasure to the coroner for the district in which they are found either within 14 days after the day on which they made the find or within 14 days after the day on which they realised that it might be treasure perhaps as a result of having it identified. There is a maximum penalty of 3 months' imprisonment or a fine of £5,000 for failing to report treasure without a reasonable excuse.

Finds may be reported to the coroner by letter, telephone or fax. The coroner will acknowledge the report and will give finders instructions as to where they should deliver their finds (the Code of Practice has a list of all coroners) and this will normally be to a local museum or archaeological body. Local agreements are being drawn up for each coroner's district to provide the coroner with a list of such bodies and the Department is publishing a series of leaflets, roughly one for each county of England and one for Wales, listing the relevant coroners, museums and archaeological services in each area.

If the object is clearly not treasure, the museum or archaeological body will inform the coroner who will normally give directions that the find should be returned without the need to take the matter any further. On the other hand, if the museum curator or archaeologist believes that the find may be treasure they will inform the British Museum or the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and they will then decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire it. If no museum wishes to acquire the find, the Secretary of State will normally disclaim it so that it can be returned. If a museum does wish to acquire part or all of the find, then the coroner will hold an inquest to decide whether the find is treasure.

Finders should receive a reward within a year of having delivered their find. If no museum wants to acquire the find it should be disclaimed within six months or within three months if it is a single object.

VALUATIONS

Any find of treasure that a museum wishes to acquire must be valued by the Treasure Valuation Committee which consists of independent experts. The Committee will commission a valuation from one or more experts drawn from the trade. All interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the valuation and may submit their own valuations before the Committee makes its recommendation. An appeal may be made to the Secretary of State.



Part of a hoard from Bull Wharf on the River Thames. A recent inquest found this not to be Treasure Trove, since it was thought to be an accidental loss. Under the new law it would probably be Treasure.

REWARDS

The new guidelines on the payment of rewards are set out in full in the Code of Practice. The following are the main points:

- where the finder has permission to be on the land, the rewards should continue to be paid in full to him or her. If the finder makes an agreement with the occupier/landowner to share a reward, the Secretary of State will normally follow it;

- if the finder does not remove the whole of a find from the ground but allows archaeologists to excavate the remainder of the find, the original finder will normally be eligible for a reward for the whole find;

- rewards will not normally be payable when the find is made by an archaeologist;

- where the finder has committed an offence in relation to a find, or has trespassed, or has not followed best practice as set out in the Code of Practice, he or she may expect no reward at all or a reduced reward. Landowners and occupiers will be eligible for rewards in such cases.

THE INITIATIVE FOR THE VOLUNTARY RECORDING OF ALL FINDS

The Treasure Act is a very modest reform. Although it is difficult to be certain, it is likely that the Act will only increase the number of objects that receive legal protection from perhaps two per cent to perhaps four per cent of all archaeological objects currently being found. For this reason, in 1996 the Department published *Portable Antiquities. A discussion document* in which it noted that it saw reform of treasure trove as one part of a two-fold approach to this issue. The document made a

distinction between the public acquisition of finds, which the Treasure Act addresses, and the recording of finds, which it attempts to tackle. It quoted a recent survey which suggested that perhaps as many as 400,000 archaeological objects a year are being discovered and that only a small percentage are currently being recorded.

The responses to this document showed that there was for the first time a consensus that the recording of finds would best be tackled through a voluntary approach. As a result, the Department announced that it would provide funding for pilot schemes in five regions of England to run for a period of two years from September. The money will go towards employing additional staff to record finds so that an accurate estimate can be made of the resources that would be needed to extend the scheme across the whole of the country. Over 50 bids were received and the Department announced in June that grants would be made to fund full-time posts in Kent, Norfolk, Liverpool and York, with a part-time post at Scunthorpe. In addition the British Museum has agreed to fund another full-time post based at the West Midlands Regional Museum Council.

The pilot schemes only represent the first stage of the project. If they can be seen to produce worthwhile results, as seems likely, the intention is to move to a national scheme when the pilots come to an end in 1999, providing funding can be found. It is not difficult to see that this project has enormous potential. If 400,000 new finds a year can be recorded - may be as many as half of which will be coins - this will soon develop into a most important new resource for the understanding of this country's past. Together the Treasure Act and the voluntary scheme offer a golden opportunity for detectorists and archaeologists to make a fresh start to everyone's benefit.

THE TREASURE ACT

John Davies

As a museum archaeologist, I have always had mixed feelings when changes to the law of Treasure Trove have been proposed. Working closely with the public, who make important finds daily, the shortcomings of the old law have been apparent. However, it was essential that any replacement could be workable in practice.

Problems with Treasure Trove have been exposed through the rapidly increasing number of archaeological objects being discovered over recent decades. It has been obvious that the requirement for all items comprising substantially of gold or silver to be reported to a coroner has not been adhered to. Members of the public have remained largely unaware of this requirement, which expected the reporting of every silver penny, while some are fearful of the procedures involved in its enforcement. Neither have many coroners appreciated the true scale of artefact recovery in the countryside. It was important that any new law took this situation into proper account and would not criminalise well-intentioned members of the public.

In order for a find to be declared Treasure Trove, it has been necessary to argue for an intent to recover. Current developments in archaeological theory focus on the circumstances in which artefacts entered the

archaeological record. Scholars increasingly see artefacts, including coins and artefact groups, as the result of intentional and structured deposition, with a votive or religious motive. It is becoming more difficult, as an expert witness at an inquest, to argue categorically for the reason underlying deposition, even in the case of coin hoards.

Members of the public who will be affected most by the new Treasure Act are metal-detector users, the great majority of whom had no wish to be embroiled in politics and details of proposed legislation. User friendly leaflets at national and local level will be important in alleviating their fears and conveying the new requirements simply. It is essential to carry the confidence of the public, ensuring their co-operation. In conjunction with this we must communicate the importance of a flow of information to archaeologists and the benefits to our mutual understanding of the past from doing so. The benefits of such co-operation are immense. For example, in my county, 18 of the 20 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries discovered since 1973 have been by metal-detection. In another case, the work of the late Sue Margeson has completely transformed our knowledge of Viking settlement in Norfolk through a study of 9th and 10th century artefacts shown by the public.

Once the law comes into effect it is museum archaeologists who will be in the direct line of fire. Although many museums have already been undertaking identification work and reporting to coroners, our concern has been that we are now being publicised as agents for coroners and will be expected to perform these duties without being given extra resources to do so. In the past, we have been able to regulate the amount and speed of this work in relation to resources available. Promises made on our behalf could result in the inability of museum staff to comply with these expectations.

We consider that the key to a successful working of the new system will be good working relations with coroners, with regular communication and planned flow of information between museum staff and their officers. With such an agreement in place, it is anticipated that the new situation should not overburden already stretched archaeological museum departments.

THE TREASURE ACT: A DETECTORIST'S VIEW

Michael Cuddeford

Although the Treasure Act has been cautiously accepted by some metal detectorists, there remains a significant element within the metal detecting community who are totally opposed to it, with some groups and individuals now pursuing an increasingly vitriolic campaign demanding the Act's repeal. The reasons for this are historic.

As a generalisation, most metal detectorists tend to be non-professional people whose motives are usually the acquisition of coins and artefacts as objects in their own right, to either sell or collect. Although there are exceptions, overall there tends to be little concern with either the context or publication of finds. This is the antithesis of modern archaeological attitudes, and there is a long history of opposition to metal detecting which has frequently been highly acrimonious, and which has



Visigothic imitations of late Roman gold solidi from a hoard recently discovered near Worthing. The hoard was buried after 460 AD, making it the latest Roman coin hoard to be found in Britain. Having been declared Treasure Trove, it will be acquired by Worthing Museum once funds have been secured to reward the finders.

served to further alienate detectorists and inhibit finds recording. As a result, it is now the presumption of many detectorists that any proposed legislation affecting them must by default be against their interests.

In consequence, although the Treasure Act has been presented as merely a modest attempt at reform, it is seen as a threat by many detectorists. Some object to the wider scope of categories covered, claiming that it will deny them the right to retain their better finds. They also contend that increased reporting will create an unwarranted burden of inconvenience for them, and will lead to more sites being denied them by the intercession of archaeologists. Two recent cases of sites being scheduled, allegedly as the result of reported detector finds, are being cited. They also argue that the definitions of qualifying material are too vague, leading to possible inadvertent criminalisation. But, most worrying of all, they believe, is the provision allowing for future amendments to the Act. This, they claim, will allow the Act to be used as a means of effecting their eventual demise.

Such intentions have been strenuously denied by the Act's promoters, who have acknowledged the contribution made by metal detectors. Although more by chance than design, amateur prospecting has revolutionised our knowledge of the historic landscape. It is unlikely that spectacular finds such as the Middleham Jewel or the Hoxne hoard would ever have been found by other means. For numismatists, the body of new single finds and hoard evidence has proved invaluable. To eradicate detecting, or constrain it to the point that few take part, would be a significant loss to scholarship.

Thus it is to be hoped that the Treasure Act will be administered wisely, and that most of the detectorists' fears will be allayed. There is undoubtedly a need for detectorists to accept a greater responsibility in recording their finds, but this will only come about through a pragmatic approach by all concerned.

TREASURE TROVE IN SCOTLAND: SOME POINTS OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE SYSTEM NORTH OF THE BORDER

Barbara E. Crawford

While the law of Treasure Trove in England and Wales has undergone significant changes in the past year, in Scotland the application of 'Treasure Trove' law is also being reviewed and in small ways revised. In both cases the impact of increasing metal-detecting activity has been very significant.

The law of 'Treasure Trove' in Scotland differs materially from the old law in England, and remains distinct in several respects from the system that is being brought into play by the Treasure Act 1996. The Crown's right to treasure and to ownerless property, called *bona vacantia* is part of the category *regalia minora* a miscellaneous group of property rights (Carey Miller and Sheridan, 1996). It would perhaps be a good idea if the concept of 'treasure' were downplayed and the more practical, if less colourful term 'ownerless goods' were adopted instead! The *bona vacantia* right means that the Crown can claim all ownerless objects found, irrespective of their circumstances of deposition and discovery, whether by metal detectors, as chance finds or through planned field work, if they have a material, or historical and archaeological value. The owner of the land on which the object was discovered has no rights to claim it, or to claim any reward for its discovery, and this customary aspect of the common law is recorded as operating in the Crown's favour in the 17th century, and as regards lost coins maybe from the 13th century (Sheridan, 1995,57).

The application of this law over the past two centuries has worked to the advantage of the Scottish nation in so far as Crown-claimed material is deposited in the country's museums. This is a most significant aspect of the law which is held up as a model in respect of the preservation of the national heritage. The deposition of claimed material in a museum is recorded from as early as 1808 when coins were allocated to what would subsequently become the National Museums (NMS) in Edinburgh (Carey Miller and Sheridan p.8). Naturally, the care and diligence with which objects of non-precious metal or of more ordinary archaeological interest have been claimed has varied over the last two centuries. The law has been applied more systematically during the current decade, in an attempt to ensure greater consistency in the operation of the system. There are still areas where there is some lack of clarity, such as the operation of ownership rights in the case of recovered objects which have been in the hands of an individual or family for some time before the present. Nevertheless, clear messages have been sent out to auction houses in recent years about the inadvisability of accepting archaeological objects from Scotland for public sale without first checking whether the Crown has a claim.]

How then does the 'Treasure Trove' system in Scotland currently operate? The Crown Officer responsible for the practical administration of *bona vacantia* is the splendidly-named Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, with overall responsibility lying with the Secretary of State for Scotland. Since 1969 the QL&TR has been advised on valuations and

allocations by the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel (TTAP), a body set up in the wake of the controversy surrounding the allocation of the St. Ninian's Isle Treasure. The Panel comprises members of the museum community in Scotland, (recently enlarged from two to three), a representative of the National Museums of Scotland, and an independent Chairperson (myself). It is serviced by a Secretariat based in the Archaeology Department of the National Museums and some of the administrative costs are borne by the Crown Office. The Panel meets three times a year, with a fourth annual meeting with the Q<R and the Assistant Solicitor.

Finders of Crown-claimed material are normally rewarded the full market value of the find (established by the TTAP using expert valuation advice), and allocations are made on the basis of bids received, with the recipient museum or museum service meeting the cost of the reward. (Finds have previously been advertised in the Scottish Museums Council's newsletter "Tak Tent"). Only institutions with MGC registered status are eligible to bid. In the minority of cases where more than one museum wishes to obtain the item for its collection, the Panel weighs up the evidence and arguments put forward by the counter-bidders, and advises the QL&TR as to which it considers to be the most suitable repository for the item in question. The process and the criteria for allocation have recently been under review with a consultation document outlining for the first time the criteria and procedures; this has been circulated to relevant institutions by the Scottish Office.

Of course difficulties arise in the implementation of this system, and none of us involved in its administration would say that it was perfect. Some highly-publicised cases have highlighted the unhappinesses felt by some museums which fail to succeed in convincing the QL&TR that their claim is the best one. Many local museums in Scotland have an intense desire to see all objects found in their area held locally; there is a current of opinion flowing in the direction of devolution at a lower level than the national one! However, the collection in the National Museums has to represent the nation's culture, and the key role of the National Museums has to be affirmed. The tensions aroused by contested high-profile bids are, in some cases, leading to new compromise solutions: the recent agreement between the NMS and Edinburgh City Museums to bid jointly for the late Roman lioness sculpture found in the River Cramond is a new and interesting development, which is to be welcomed. The question of valuations is another tricky problem which may never be satisfactorily resolved. Rewards are discretionary, and can be reduced or withheld for particular reasons. Financial incentive has to exist to make the system work, particularly in a situation where metal-detecting is conducted with the prime purpose of finding objects of value. All these areas raise problems which we have to face in an attempt to find pragmatic solutions to difficult issues.

Treasure Trove business has increased greatly in Scotland in recent years, and the system is being streamlined accordingly. The next priority is to improve public information and update explanatory leaflets. If business increases even further as a result there may be need to adapt the system in various ways. Some have argued that such legal arrangements for the claiming, valuation and allocation of Treasure Trove would be unworkable in England and Wales with the quantity of

material coming out of the ground every year, (although it will be interesting to see whether the DNH-funded pilot projects for reporting all finds suggest otherwise). But the relative paucity of archaeological finds in Scotland makes public ownership of all *bona vacantia* a very important national priority.

References

- A. Sheridan, ' "Treasure Trove" Law in Scotland', *Compte Rendu*, 45 (International Numismatic Commission), 1995, 56-61
C. Carey Miller and A. Sheridan, 'Treasure Trove in Scots law', *Art, Antiquity and Law* 1(4), Dec.1996, 393-406

EXHIBITIONS

COIN JEWELLERY

Christopher Carey

As a gemmologist and jewellery historian with an interest in all aspects of engraving it was a particular delight to be asked to provide a review of the above exhibition.

It was initially difficult to find the start of the exhibit as this was located at the farthest point from the entrance. All the coin jewellery was well laid out and carefully illuminated, many items consisted of coins that had been pierced with a hole for suspension or with a loop attachment. The earliest examples shown were from the Greek period. There were many exhibits from the Roman period. The most exceptional of these was a Byzantine gold pendant set with a gold double solidus of Constantine the Great of AD 321. This was of truly exceptional workmanship and had a superb intarsia (pierced work) frame. Six beautifully executed portrait busts in high relief surrounded the coin, and set the seal on this truly amazing article.

It was so refreshing to see the open department policy in evidence in this exhibition as other items relating to the subject were included within its framework. A beautiful early silver Byzantine bowl was included with a lady depicted in its centre wearing a coin set necklace.

The exhibits covered many periods right up to present day, terminating with a contemporary example by "Bulgari" of coin jewellery. Examples of various coin set headdresses, necklaces, brooches and rings were all well displayed. Money swords from China were also exhibited together with carved representations of coins in ivory and other materials.

Altogether a well thought out and wide ranging exhibition. It is a delight to look forward to the forthcoming publication on coin jewellery which is in preparation by M.M. Archibald.

Coin jewellery is on display in Gallery 69a, British Museum until 14 September 1997.

NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS: RETIREMENT OF MARION ARCHIBALD

On 30 May staff of the British Museum and British Library gathered to honour the retirement of Marion Archibald after thirty-four years of service to the museum and the public in the Department of Coins and Medals. Over the years Marion's abilities as a curator and

educator have been matched only by the personal qualities which have made her a universally popular figure. She has also served the numismatic community through decades of involvement in the Royal Numismatic Society, British Numismatic Society and the British Association of Numismatic Societies, which she served as President, and she has lectured at practically every local numismatic society in the country. She will continue her academic work in a private capacity and can still be contacted c/o the Department of Coins and Medals.



Marion Archibald at her retirement party, May 30th, 1997. Photo: Janet Larkin..

BANS CONGRESS, BURY ST EDMUNDS

Culford School, the venue, turned out to be Culford Hall, a stately home in 400 acres of parkland, which has been a school since 1935. We did not sleep in dormitories though - individual rooms - and enjoyed very good food, not the old-style boarding school sort!

Friday was devoted to the reception by the Mayor, but on Saturday, Dr Robin Eaglen gave us an interesting re-appraisal of the Bury St. Edmunds mint, and Virginia Hewitt stimulated interest in banks and banknotes of Suffolk and Norfolk, before a conducted tour of the abbey ruins, the cathedral and the old town (and free entrance to two local museums of much interest). I do not recall being addressed by a diver before, but Glen Cousins held our interest with his account of the underwater search for the lost town of Dunwich.

On Sunday Graham Dyer gave a diverting account of the 1907 Pageant - and its medallions. John Sadler dealt with the 1863 Butter Market hoard of "Hand" pennies, and Robin Baker with the involvement of London with German financial instruments. Finally, Dr Roger Bland spoke on the wonderful Hoxne hoard, and we all dispersed, stimulated, sad to part with the 80 people who attended, and very grateful to David and Joan Palmer and the Ipswich Numismatic Society for their excellent planning and organisation.

A SUMMER WEEKEND WITH THE BRITISH ART MEDAL SOCIETY

York provided a beautiful and historic setting for this year's BAMS Weekend Conference.

Events began on Friday afternoon with a tour of The Yorkshire Sculpture Park, one of Europe's leading open

air galleries for the enjoyment and study of art and landscape. A candlelit dinner followed at the magnificent Merchant Adventurers' Hall, where the Assistant Clerk gave delegates an insight into the history of the Merchant Adventurers, and the opportunity to examine the company's historic seals.

Saturday morning took us to The Yorkshire Museum, where Craig Barclay set the scene with 'Minsters in Miniature', a guided tour of York using architectural medals. Sculptor and stone carver, Peter Maris, talked of the current restoration work on the Minster, copying original carvings wherever possible, but enjoying more artistic freedom where originals are lost. "High above the roof, I decided to sculpt an octopus. I knew there wouldn't be another one up there!"

Hazel White's 'Body Parts' was not for the squeamish, as she discussed ideas of jewellery becoming part of the body. "Once attached, a wedding ring secured with surgical screws would be there forever". Next came Jacqueline Stieger, with news of her 'Recent Work' and delegates then had the opportunity to view the exhibition 'Modern Medals 95, 96, 97'. After lunch we visited the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds, returning to York for dinner at the splendid Grand Assembly Rooms.

Sunday centred on The University of Ripon and York Street, where Dutch sculptor Gustaaf Hellegers talked of his work. Then came a practical workshop with Ron Dutton. Delegates worked in the negative in clay to create a souvenir of York based on the rose window. Everyone enjoyed themselves and eagerly compared their efforts once the pieces were cast into plaster. It was a great way to end a most enjoyable weekend.

BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY NEWS

At the May meeting the President presented Professor Philip Grierson CBE with a special striking of the Sanford Saltus Medal in recognition of his great contribution to numismatics. Paul Robinson then read a paper entitled 'Folklore and Treasure Trove'. The evening concluded with the Council sherry party, attended by a large number of members and their guests.

The Society has awarded bursaries to Ms K.A. Bernholdt and Mr T. Carver to assist them to attend the International Numismatic Congress in Berlin during early September.

Special meeting at Winchester

A bright sunny day welcomed over fifty participants to the Society's Special Meeting held in the Guildhall at Winchester on Saturday 5th July. Five talks were given on the subject of mints and coinage in Winchester and Wessex. The speakers during the morning session, chaired by Stuart Lyon, were Melinda Mays, Martin Biddle and Michael Metcalf. An excellent buffet lunch and a balcony overlooking the city then afforded members and non-members the opportunity to meet and talk. This was followed by lectures from Yvonne Harvey and Gerald Dunger. The second session was chaired by Lord Stewartby, who also gave a succinct summing up of the day's proceedings. Once again the Society's regular out of town meeting proved a great success and was much appreciated by all who attended.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC NEWS

The Society's Annual Medal for 1997 has been awarded to Jørgen Steen Jensen, Keeper of the Royal Coin Cabinet in Copenhagen.

The RNS and the BNS offered several bursaries to help with travel to the International Numismatic Congress in Berlin in September. The RNS made four such awards.

In addition to grants from special funds, each year the RNS makes a number of small grants, usually not exceeding £500 towards research projects. Applications, including two references, should be sent to one of the secretaries by 31 December 1997. For further information on these or other awards, please write to the Secretaries, c/o Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG.

The RNS now has its own web-site: it can be found at www.users.dircon.co.uk/~rns/. The Society's e-mail address is rns@dircon.co.uk.

BRITISH MEDALS IN NEW YORK

Contemporary British and American medals will be on show in the American Numismatic Society's gallery, Broadway at 155th Street, New York, from 8 November to 4 January in an exhibition organised jointly by the British Art Medal Society and the American Medallist Sculpture Association.

HUNTERIAN ON THE INTERNET

You can now visit the new Hunterian Coin Gallery on the Internet at <http://www.gla.ac.uk/museum/>. Full details of the permanent exhibitions along with current and past temporary exhibitions can be found there.

Are you interested in, or a collector of, British West African coins? If so, Mr A. Pesserilo would like to hear from you. You can contact Mr Pesserilo at P.O. Box 936035, Margate, FL 33093-6035, U.S.A.

NEWS FROM BIRMINGHAM

The Colour of Money - A Coin for the New Millennium, an exhibition developed by the Royal Mint, will be on show at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery from 6 September 1997 until 4 January 1998 (admission free; the Museum is less than a five minute walk from New Street Station).

The exhibition will include many of the drawings entered in the design competition for the new £2 coin, which is due to go into general circulation this autumn. It then follows the winning design (submitted by Bruce Rushin, an art teacher from Norfolk) through the various stages of development and production. The new coin is Britain's first bi-colour currency issue and the exhibition will also examine the leading role played by Birmingham manufacturers in the development of bimetallic coins exactly 150 years ago.

1997 is also the 200th anniversary of the famous Cartwheel penny and twopence, produced by Matthew Boulton at his Soho works in Birmingham. To mark the occasion a special one-day symposium entitled "Matthew Boulton - An Ingenious Coiner" will be held at the Museum & Art Gallery on Saturday 11 October. Speakers will be - Rita McLean of Birmingham Museum, George Demidowicz, Graham Dyer of the Royal Mint, David Dykes and Christine Wiskin of Warwick University.

For further details and a booking form for the symposium, write to David Symons, Department of Antiquities, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH, or call (0121) 235 4201.

LECTURES, SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA AND CONFERENCES

September

- 12-14 *Token Congress*
Nottingham
Contact: Alan Judd, PO Box 19, Beeston, Notts, NG9 2NE
- 19-21 BANS
Weekend Lecture Course
Hatfield College, Durham University
Contact: Joe Bispham, tel. 01702 230950
- 23 BNS
The Linecar Lecture
Peasants and coins: the uses of money in the later Middle Ages
Christopher Dyer

October

- 11 *Matthew Boulton - An Ingenious Coiner*
One-day symposium to be held at the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
Contact: David Symons, tel. 0121 235 4201
- 14 BAMS
Promoting the medal in France 1889-1939
Philip Attwood
- 21 RNS
The Hair of Charles the Bald: "portraits" on medieval coins
Lucia Travaini
- 28 BNS
Lost money: interpreting Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman coin finds
Mark Blackburn and Jens Christian Moesgaard

November

- 1 *From Persia to the Punjab: 19th-century travellers*
One-day seminar to be held in the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum
Contact: Vesta Curtis or Elizabeth Errington, tel. 0171 323 8172/8640
- 11 RNS
Arab-Sasanian copper coinage: mints and mint-names
Ryka Gyselen
- 11 BAMS
In vivace rilievo: the portrait medals of Alessandro Vittoria
Victoria Avery
- 25 BNS
Anniversary Meeting and Presidential Address

December

- 16 RNS
Coin jewellery: ancient, medieval and modern
Marion Archibald

January 1998

- 13 BAMS
Scientific soldiers: 19th-century proficiency medals of the Corps of Royal Engineers
Philip Dutton

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

- 27 February -30 September 1997 London
From Gold to Paper Currency: The suspension of cash payments 1797 - 1821
The Bank of England Museum, Bartholomew Lane, London
- 1 May -14 September 1997 London
Modernism in French medal design
Room 90, British Museum
- 20 May -14 September 1997 London
Coin jewellery
Gallery 69a, British Museum
- 23 May-21 November 1997 Glasgow
Muses on Money
Hunterian Museum
- 2 June -7 September 1997 York
Modern Medals '95/'96/'97
Yorkshire Museum
- 6 September 1997-4 January 1998 Birmingham
The Colour of Money - A Coin for the New Millennium
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square
- 11 September-30 September 1997 London
House of Trees: work by Nicola Moss
Simmons Gallery, 53 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1
- 16 September -7 December 1997 London
From Persia to the Punjab: 19th-century explorers of the past
Gallery 69a, British Museum
- 17 October -6 December 1997 Glasgow
The Rev. Ernest S. Box: an Englishman's collection of Chinese coins
A British Museum travelling exhibition at the Hunterian Museum
- 13 November 1997 -17 January 1998 Glasgow
Notes of Distinction
Hunterian Museum
- 20 November-5 December 1997 London
Works by Marian Fountain
Simmons Gallery, 53 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1

AUCTIONS AND FAIRS

September

- 5 Coins and Medals
Auction: Bonhams
- 6 *The London Coin Fair*
Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1
Contact: Frances Simmons, tel. 0171 831 2080

- 9 *Croydon Coin Auctions*
Contact: Linda/Graeme Monk, tel. 0181 656 4583
- 14 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
Contact: tel. 01203 716160
- 20 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel. 0181 651 3890
- October
- 1 Coins, numismatic material and Medals
Auction: Glendining's
- 2 Banknotes
Auction: Spink in association with Christie's
- 7 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel. 0181 651 3890
- 7/8/9 Ancient, English and Foreign coins and commemorative medals
Auction: Spink in association with Christie's
- 10-11 *Coinex*
London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London
Contact: BNTA Secretary, Mrs Carol Carter, tel. 0181 398 4290
- 12 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
Contact: tel. 01203 716160
- 13-14 Ancient, British and world coins, medals, tokens, banknotes
Auction: Baldwin's
- 25 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel. 0181 651 3891
- 30 The Philip D. Greenall Collection of British Tokens
Auction: Baldwin's
- November
- 6/7 Coins, historical medals and banknotes
Auction: Sotheby's
- 8 *The London Coin Fair*
Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1
Contact: Frances Simmons tel. 0171 831 2080
- 9 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
Contact: tel. 01203 716160
- 15 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel. 0181 651 3891
- 18 English coins and commemorative medals
Auction: Spink in association with Christie's
- 18 *Croydon Coin Auctions*
Contact: Linda/Graeme Monk, tel. 0181 656 4583
- December
- 9 Coins and Medals
Auction: Bonhams
- 14 *Midland Stamp & Coin Fairs*
National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
Contact: tel. 01203 716160
- 20 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel. 0181 651 3891
- January
- 17 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel. 0181 651 3891
- February
- 7 *The London Coin Fair*
Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1
Contact: Frances Simmons, tel. 0171 831 2080
- Unless otherwise stated all auctions held at addresses listed.
Dates may be subject to alteration.
Baldwin's: Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London.
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.