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Contributions and information will be gratefully received. Items for the September issue should arrive by 15 July 1998, and should be sent to Gareth Williams or Amanda Gregory, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, tel. 0171-323 8322, 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 Amanda Gregory at the above address.

FOCUS: NUMISMATIC COLLECTIONS IN LOCAL MUSEUMS

This issue looks at the numismatic holdings of three local museums around the country. The articles included clearly demonstrate (to anyone not already aware of it) that it is not only the national and university museums which have collections of note. This is a theme to which we hope to return in future issues, and the editors would welcome further contributions on the subject.

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM NUMISMATIC COLLECTION

David Symons, *Curator, Antiquities*, and
Irene de Boo, *Birmingham History Curator*,
Birmingham Museum

The Numismatic Collection at Birmingham is one of the most important in Britain, containing 50,000 items, and covering a broad canvas from some of the earliest coins to the present day. There are many items of national and international significance which relate to the economic history of Britain, Europe and beyond. The collection also reflects the importance of Birmingham's position for more than two centuries as a major centre of coin production for international markets.

A diverse collection of Greek, Roman and Byzantine coins illustrates the early development of coinage in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Particularly noteworthy is an exceptionally fine group of more than 600 coins struck at Alexandria under the Roman Empire. These coins were presented in 1982 by the Trustees of the Wellcome Foundation. The collection has also benefited from the generosity of a number of collectors, including W. Scott (1885), A. Phillips (1920), F. W. Attwood (1928), E. Hancock (1952) and A. J. E. Parry (1956). Most recently, a strong group of early Greek fractional coins (small change struck in silver) was bequeathed in 1993 by I. D. Finney. Mr. Finney's gifts

and bequest also form the largest part of Birmingham's collection of British Celtic coins. One of the finest in the country, it is particularly rich in gold and silver coins of the dynastic rulers of the south-east, such as Verica and Cunobelin, including some unique pieces.



One of the Celtic coins presented to Birmingham by the late Ian Finney - a North-Eastern ('Corieltavi') silver unit with a variant Boar/Horse design.

The Anglo-Saxon and Norman collection contains a number of significant rarities. In particular, Birmingham Museum has been very active over the last 20 years in developing its coverage of Late Saxon and Norman coins (c. 975-1158) minted in the West Midlands region. The collection has more than doubled during that time, with 67 coins purchased or gifted (primarily by the Friends of the Museum) and another 94 bequeathed by Mr. Finney in 1993. Major acquisitions include one of the seven known coins of Ealdfrith of Northumbria (685-705) and one of the twelve surviving coins made at the short-lived mint of Droitwich, Worcestershire, in the mid-eleventh century.

As a result of the acquisition of the D. Harkness collection in 1963, Birmingham has a truly outstanding and nationally important collection of English pennies minted between 1180 and 1279 (the Short Cross and Long Cross series). Every mint (except the excessively rare Lichfield) is represented, together with the majority of the moneyers who worked at them. There is also a good representative collection of the period 1279-1662,

with comprehensive coverage of the known types, and a number of rarities including a gold ryal struck at the short-lived Coventry mint in 1464.

The 90-plus Hungarian coins of the 11th-14th centuries are probably the best such group of coins in any British public collection. In addition, the collection presents a wide range of coin types, intended to illustrate the varied ways in which coinage developed on the Continent between the 9th and 15th centuries, in particular as a complement to the story of coinage in the British Isles. Most of these coins were acquired by gift or bequest from Mr. Finney. The collection also houses jetons, or counting pieces, ranging from French royal or feudal specimens of the 14th century, through the issues of Tournai in the 15th century, to a wide-ranging run of Nuremberg pieces of the 16th-17th centuries and later.

The Reverend Hilderic Friend presented his collection of over 2,000 Chinese coins to the Museum in 1938. The coins range from the 3rd century BC to the 20th century AD, and form a good representative collection. There are also smaller groups of coins from Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

Matthew Boulton created the first steam powered coin production process in the world at his Soho Manufactory in Birmingham, revolutionising the manufacture of coinage. The collection contains a full, and in some cases unique, range of pattern and proof coins made at Soho, dating from the late 18th and 19th centuries, as well as later re-strikes. There are also many coins struck for Commonwealth and foreign governments. Many of the items in this collection were assembled by C. W. Peck, whose research in this field of numismatics is internationally renowned. There are also a number of commemorative medals produced to mark historic events and the lives of Boulton, Watt and their contemporaries, as well as nearly 2,000 tokens, mostly produced in Birmingham. Many were used locally but they were also manufactured in Birmingham for traders and civic bodies in towns and cities all over Britain. The tokens represent Birmingham's role as a key centre for the national numismatic industry as well as reflecting the economic and numismatic history of other regions of Britain. The international role of the Birmingham coin industry is represented by the Birmingham Mint collection, which contains a large number of coins struck in Birmingham for a wide range of foreign governments in the mid-to-late Victorian period. The Museum still sustains a working relationship with the Birmingham Mint.

Birmingham has one of the leading collections of commemorative medals in the country, comprising some 4,500 pieces. The medals were produced to mark key events and personalities in local and British history, as prizes and as a demonstration of the medallist's art. They were used and owned all over the country, but largely made in Birmingham. The collection also includes military medals, reflecting many of the great battles of the 19th and 20th centuries. Key items include two George Crosses and a Victoria Cross. Artistic traditions within the numismatic field are represented by the Hull-Grundy Collection of nearly 600 British and French art medals of the late 19th and early centuries, as well as a small collection of late Victorian coins decorated with enamels. This includes some fine examples, possibly produced by Millinet, a leading exponent of this craft.

THE NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM NUMISMATIC COLLECTIONS

John Davies

Keeper of Archaeology, Norwich Castle Museum

Norwich Castle Museum is the principal museum in the Norfolk Museums Service and contains the major county archaeological collections. The numismatic collections were initially established in 1824, comprising approximately 15,000 items. These include coinage ranging from the Iron Age to the present day, with particular emphasis on that used in the local area. Hoards can be associated with major events throughout the history of East Anglia. There are also excavated assemblages of all periods, coming from archaeological sites in Norfolk.

The Iron Age coinage is mainly Icenian. This includes hoards from Honingham, potins from the Snettisham Treasure and the Fincham Hoard, which has been provisionally dated to the episode of the Icenian rebellion of AD 47. Evidence of coin production in the form of clay moulds comes from Thetford and Saham Toney, as well as in the form of silver pellets from a Late Iron Age site in south west Norfolk. The finest known specimen of the rare 'SUB RI PRASTO' coinage, assigned to King Prasutagus (husband of Boudica) is held, which exhibits a break from Icenian style coins to imitating a Roman (Neronian?) Prototype. A major site collection comes from Crownthorpe, which includes the largest group of so-called 'Bury' types (BMC 3524-3535), indicating that this may have been their place of manufacture.

Roman coins comprise the largest holding, with major site collections coming from the *civitas capital* of Caistor St. Edmund, the Saxon Shore forts of Burgh Castle and Caister-by-Yarmouth, the temple site of Hockwold (Sawbench) and the small town at Wicklewood. Hoards cover the entire span of Roman Britain. The concentration of early *denarius* hoards in East Anglia is represented by the example from Needham, which is significant for being a mixed hoard, containing both Roman and Icenian silver coins. Seven major hoards belong to the late third century. The final years of Roman rule are represented by the Deopham hoard of gold *solidi*, minted before 402.

Later holdings continue to reflect coinage used and produced in the area, with definitive runs for the Norwich and Thetford mints in the medieval period. A penny of Aethelstan I of East Anglia carries a ship-type obverse unprecedented and unparalleled in the Anglo-Saxon broad-flan coinage. This is the earliest issue of Aethelstan, closely copying a *denier* of Louis the Pious, based in turn on an issue of Allectus. The Morley St. Peter hoard of 883 late Saxon pennies is the most extensive collection of portrait coins of Edward the Elder (published in SCBI 26). Post-medieval material includes the Wortwell Civil War hoard which was buried at the outset of the War, following unrest in the Lowestoft area.



Ship-type penny of Aethelstan I of East Anglia, c.825-45.



Ninth-century disc brooches imitating a Roman coin of the House of Constantine and a gold solidus of Louis the Pious

In addition to coins, there are 2,700 mainly local trade tokens of the 17th, 18th and 19th century. There are also 300 jettons and 170 coin weights. Over 500 historic and commemorative medals date from the 16th century to the present day. Delightful examples of coin jewellery include two ninth-century disc brooches which imitate coins. These include copies of a Roman coin of the House of Constantine and of a gold *solidus* of Louis the Pious.

The numismatic collection is curated within the Archaeology Department, which has traditionally encouraged the general public, including metal-detector users in more recent years, to present their finds for identification and recording on the Sites and Monuments Record. During the 1990s, between 6-9,000 coins per year have been recorded in the Department in this way. The archives and SMR accordingly holds a wealth of information for researchers relating to local material which is not part of the collections. The number of important coins viewed as a result of this policy is reflected in the entries sent to *BNJ* annually. In addition, approximately 40 non-hoard Iron Age coins are also recorded each year. The appointment of a DCMS Portable Antiquities Pilot Scheme Officer in the Department since October 1997 is already helping to enhance this reporting and recording process.

A recent successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the Castle Museum Development Scheme will provide new Departmental offices, together with a resource centre in the adjacent Shirehall, in the year 2000. It is intended that the reserve collections will become more accessible to the public through this scheme, as well as involving limited new displays. These will explain the importance and significance of ordinary coin finds, as found by metal-detectorists on sites, and what they can tell the archaeologist.

THE YORKSHIRE MUSEUM AND ITS NUMISMATIC COLLECTION

Craig Barclay

*Keeper of Numismatics and Decorative Arts,
Yorkshire Museum*

Founded in York in 1822, the Yorkshire Philosophical Society was from the outset an organisation keenly interested in the preservation of historical artefacts. It was accordingly almost inevitable that the pioneering members should establish the Yorkshire Museum, not only as a home for the Kirkdale material, but also to house objects of 'Scientific Curiosity' and as a "proper Repository... for those Antiquities, with which the County, and particularly the city of York, is known to abound." The Yorkshire Museum is today a registered charity, with City of York Council as Trustee.

The first recorded acquisition of numismatic material for the collection occurred in 1823, when six Romano-

British coin moulds were presented by the Rev. W. V. Vernon, and, in the following year, the sum of £210 was raised by subscription to purchase the extensive collection of the York banker Henry Henwood. In 1843 250 coins were acquired from Rev. F. O. Morris of Driffeld, and three years later the Museum acquired the William Hargrove Roman collection, containing many pieces with York provenances.

The collection continued to benefit throughout the nineteenth century from finds made during the course of development work in the City. In addition to large numbers of single finds, Saxon and medieval coins were acquired from the Railway hoard (1840); St Leonard's Place hoards (1833 and 1842); Exhibition Square hoard (1879); Bishophill hoard (1882); Jubbergate hoard (1845); Monkgate hoard (1851); Minster hoard (1829) and Bootham hoard (1896).

Roman material was acquired from both within the city and further afield, including coins from the Methall Warter hoard (1856); Boston Spa hoard (1848); York hoard (1846) and the Langwith hoard (1891). Coins were also presented by individuals, such as Robert Davies, who donated locally provenanced material both to the Yorkshire Museum and to the British Museum. Davies presented the Yorkshire Museum with a cabinet of stycas in 1874, and left it the residue of his collection in 1880.

The cabinet was for most of the nineteenth century under the care of the Reverend Charles Wellbeloved and, latterly, Canon James Raine. Both men collected actively on behalf of the Museum, and must be given credit for the high quality of the documentary record associated with much of the collection.

During the twentieth century, important additions continued to be made to the cabinet. The H. C. Barstow collection of Indian coins came to the Museum in 1907, whilst in 1920 Robert Cook's collection, comprising primarily pieces of local provenance, was acquired. The Linfoot collection, obtained in 1929, likewise contained many coins found in the York area. The token collection was significantly improved by J. F. E. Gelson's gift of 2,000 specimens in 1942. Simultaneously the Museum set about augmenting the token collection by purchasing key items from major London dealers such as A. H. Baldwin and by the occasional exchange of specimens with B. A. Seaby.

Coins were obtained from a hoard of denarii found on the site of the GPO Parcels Office in 1930, whilst English material acquired included 126 medieval coins from the Skipton Bridge hoard (1949) and a range of gold and silver specimens from the Civil War hoard found at Thorpe Willoughby in 1939. In recent years significant acquisitions have included the whole of major hoards from Knaresborough, Heslington and Cattal (Roman), Ryther (Tudor) and Breckenborough (Civil War). Key specimens have also been acquired from the Northumbrian hoard found at Bolton Percy in 1967, and, during the 1990s, the unique Offa-period parcel from Aiskew and the vast Civil War hoard from Middleham.

Although the Yorkshire Museum does not possess a dedicated numismatic gallery, specimens from the collections are to be found throughout the archaeological galleries and temporary exhibitions are regularly staged. The quality and scope of the numismatic collection was formally recognised in 1997, when it was granted Designated status by the Museums and Galleries Commission.

EXHIBITIONS AND REVIEWS

Gold! Gold! Gold!: Past, Present and Future

An exhibition of International Gold Bars
Bank of England 20 February-14 May 1998

The slightly hysterical ring to the title of this exhibition stands oddly alongside the austere facade of its venue, but it cannot be said to be misleading. Not many displays can be called glittering with so little fear of contradiction. Visiting the Bank of England Museum is always a pleasure for those of us who do not normally patronise establishments with uniformed doormen: the ambience is a little like the entrance to a very grand shop where one is a valued customer, and the air of elegance is maintained in the suite of permanent galleries. However, just beyond the doorman, the temporary display area currently presents a different picture. It is dominated by a star-shape of green-mesh cage-like exhibition cases in which gold bars are arrayed in a host of patterns.

The information panels to the exhibition have rather the look of those on a university milk-round day. They begin with an introduction setting out the scope and purpose of the exhibition: to illustrate London's importance in the international gold market; the relationship of Central Banks to gold; mining; the value of gold; gold jewellery; industrial gold use; and (much the biggest section) gold bars. Before all this, however, comes the most eye-catching object in the show: a golden astronaut's visor loaned by NASA, a smooth, gleaming work of art with an aesthetic appeal beyond any of the decorative gold objects on view elsewhere in the room.

The main bulk of the display objects are from the Industry Collection of Gold Bars, and are, not surprisingly, gold bars. This creates an obvious bias: functionally similar gold or other valuable objects are barely if at all in evidence. Also, it must be said that, despite the title's claim of historical coverage, there is little on view of any great antiquity. Apart from two Roman ingots tucked away in a far corner, there is little from before 1800, and not much from before 1900. Overall historical context is pretty minimal, and the emphasis is really on gold as a commodity in the modern world.

The exhibition cases spread out from a revolving central case, its contents being a cartwheel of modern gold bars from across the world, each distinguished with its national/institutional stamps. There isn't a terribly obvious structure to the case order: I found myself just wandering around looking at them randomly, some of the cases themselves could be viewed as confusingly cluttered, and the green mesh rather mutes the impact of the gold itself. Nevertheless, there are plenty of things to enjoy and facts and figures to wonder at, and some of the themes have been realised entertainingly, given the preponderance of gold bars. The most mind-boggling figure is the estimate that only 130,000 tonnes of gold have ever been mined, just enough to form a 20 metres cube.

Model vans help make points about the London gold market. A bar from HMS Edinburgh, sunk in 1942 in the Barents Sea gives context to the relationship of Central Banks to gold. The industrial use of gold is represented by a few decorative pieces, information about plating salts

in the electronics industry, and some gold teeth. The immense popularity of gold in Asia is echoed in the variety of eastern ingots, from crude, home-made Tezabi bars from Pakistan through a range of tael, baht and tola bars made for India, Hong Kong, Thailand and others, with a purpose-made smuggler's vest designed to hold concealed a back-breaking 150 tola bars. A relatively discreet jewellery display points up the Indian love of gold jewellery, and illustrates the range of coloured gold created by alloys.

To one side of the central part of the exhibition comes a display of modern bars, and any question of discretion goes out of the window here. All sorts of weird and wonderful shapes are employed to create objects which, because of their combination of value, engraving skill and sheer oddity, tremble precariously on the threshold of kitsch, and do not always remain on the right side. The bars' names often give the essential information: Yin-Yang bars from Japan, mirror bars from Thailand, bone bars (shape not material) from Brazil, Japanese gold cards (literally) from Mitsubishi, with multi-coloured printed designs; hologram bars; gold bullion watches; even cartoon bars, in the shapes of Tweety-Pie and the inevitable Mickey Mouse. The majority of these are Asian and reflect a use of gold for gift-giving in countries such as Korea which is far from unknown in the west, although here chunky jewellery is preferred to pendant gold bars. Gold remains the definitive token of esteem, and this exhibition provides some eye-opening illustrations of this.

Barrie Cook

THE BAMS STUDENT MEDAL PROJECT 1998

I am embarrassed to admit that, until fairly recently, I thought that medals were only exhibited on the chests of Chelsea pensioners. On the whole, the medal has not been widely recognised as a contemporary art form in this country and it was to counteract this lack of awareness that the British Art Medal Society initiated its Student Medal Project in 1993. Its aims were to introduce the medium to Sculpture students and, hopefully, to produce the next generation of art medallists. This year the prize-giving and exhibition of entries was held for the first time at the Simmons Gallery in Lamb's Conduit Street.

The project brief required that entries should weigh less than 1kg and should sit comfortably in the palm of one hand. Students were reminded of the basic defining characteristics of a medal, namely that it is usually sculpted in relief with two complementary sides, perhaps including lettering; the whole either representing an event, person or institution, or expressing an abstract concept.

Students and lecturers from seven different colleges took part in this year's Project. In addition, the Department of Silversmithing and Jewellery at Loughborough College of Art and Design were invited to exhibit their student medals. Most of the entries were cast in bronze, although all the Kingston University entrants used lead, mainly for reasons of cost. Other materials included aluminium, silver, wood and glass.

In judging the medals, the quality of the theme expressed was of equal importance to the skill of

execution. The first prize, sponsored by Thomas Fattorini Ltd, was awarded to Stavroula Fylachtou, in her fourth year at Edinburgh College of Art, for *Measuring the Infinite*. On the obverse is sculpted a hand holding a pair of calipers, while the reverse shows infinity represented in geometric form. It very effectively illustrates the limits of human scientific endeavour when contrasted with the immeasurable infinite.

The two second prizes were sponsored by Alec Tiranti Ltd and the London Metal Exchange, and were given to Sarah MacFadden, also from Edinburgh, for her two-part three-dimensional medal *Bird Table*, and to Carole Dodds of Falmouth College for *Two Medals on the Theme of Ephesians Ch.6, v.14*. ("Stand firm then, with the belt of truth around your waist"). These medals in the form of tightly-rolled belts are a solid representation of a very personal sense of security, inspired by childhood memories of tape measures and buckles in the sewing box.

The two third equal prizes, sponsored by Niagara Falls Casting and IMI Birmingham Mint Ltd, went to Mary Gregory, in her third year at Crawford College, for *Untitled*, a three-dimensional composite of organic forms representing contradictory human emotions, and to another Edinburgh student, Angela Hunter, for *The Black Face Sheep Society*. An honourable mention by Spink's was given to Esme Vaughan of Wolverhampton University for *Aid to Short-Term Memory Loss I*. This hollow head with a removable top is a personal response to illness and the side-effects of chemotherapy. The artist based her work on a dream in which she had a flip-top head to store important information. A casting flaw on one side of the face suggests illness, and in this way the process of manufacture contributes to the theme of the medal.

The medium of another medal forms its whole meaning. *Aluminous*, by Mel Day of Wimbledon, is made of polished aluminium, with the title of the medal written on one side and the chemical symbol Al on the other. The satisfying weight, shape and smooth texture make this a very pleasing medal to hold. This tactile quality, which invites personal interaction with the medals, is the most appealing aspect to many of the participants in the Project, and an exhibition can never entirely do them justice.

Amanda Gregory

Medals from the BAMS Student Medal Project 1998 were exhibited at the Simmons Gallery, 53 Lamb's Conduit St from 24 February to 6 March 1998. A selected number were displayed at Loughborough College of Art and Design in March, and will be exhibited at the Yorkshire Museum in the Spring.

Money of the World

Orbis Publishing Ltd. ISBN 0 7489 4322 6

As one of those people who gets to the station early when catching a train, I usually have to spend a dreary 10 minutes browsing among the magazines in the bookshop. So you can imagine my delight a few weeks ago at King's Cross when my eye chanced upon on a colourful new title called *Money of the World*. It is a new partwork magazine, appearing every fortnight, which will enable people to learn about money and indeed collect it -

issues come with free coins and notes.

The bulk of the magazine is a set of 16 pages presenting a wide range of material in an interesting and lively way. Each issue has a Collection Guide, which tells you about the free gifts, an Insight section (for example about the origins of coin collecting) and a History section (the first two issues cover the earliest money and the first paper money).

The magazine is highly illustrated in colour, with an interesting series of images (not just all our old favourites!) and mostly based on good photos, though one or two are a bit disappointing. The text is very accurate, and presented in a clear and refreshing style. The magazine is attractively designed and all in all seems an ideal way of attracting younger readers and collectors to the subject and hobby.

Andrew Burnett

OBITUARIES

RAYMOND LAX, 1923-1997: AN APPRECIATION



With the death of Raymond Lax on 27 December 1997 at the age of 74, numismatics in the south and west of England has lost one of its most familiar figures, and the Wessex Numismatic Society its staunchest servant and member.

Born Ernest Raymond Lax (he never used his first name) on 3 September 1923 in Horsforth, Yorkshire, he was introduced to coins by his uncle at the age of 6. Later, at Leeds Grammar School, he found a kindred numismatic spirit in his fellow pupil, the late Peter Moffat. After war service, firstly with the Enigma code breakers at Bletchley Park and then as a signals officer aboard HMS *Belfast* at the Normandy landings and later in the Far East, he spent his working life in local government - firstly in Leeds, then in Bournemouth. For most of the 1980s he worked at Bournemouth's Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum and at the time of his death was curator of the St Michael's Loft Museum at the Priory Church, Christchurch.

He will be best remembered for his unique level of devotion to the Wessex Numismatic Society, which he joined on moving to Bournemouth in June 1959. He served as its secretary from 1968-73, chairman from 1973-77 and president from 1977-82; he led the Society's committee from 1982 until his death.

Numismatically he committed very little to print, preferring to impart his knowledge through lecturing to local numismatic societies, drawing on a vast and varied slide collection. His particular specialities were English shillings and obsidional Civil War pieces.

A familiar face at BANS Congresses from the 1960s until 1992, he was also a prime mover in the organisation of the 1973 and 1992 BANS Congresses, both held in

Bournemouth, and was for many years the association's secretary for Museum Work. He was also a long-time member of the British and Royal Numismatic Societies and his last numismatic deed, ten days before his death, was to propose a member of the Wessex for fellowship of the Royal.

Raymond Lax was a unique figure whose generosity and presence will be sadly missed, both in Bournemouth and on the national numismatic scene. Our sympathies are with Yvonne Johnstone and his many friends.

P. J. Preston-Morley
Secretary, Wessex Numismatic Society

ROBERT NORMAN BRIDGE

The last copy of *CCNB Newsletter* carried an appreciation of Frank Snow, a doyen of the British Association of Numismatic Societies, who died in August 1997. Another long-standing supporter and officer of BANS - and the London Numismatic Club - also died in 1997: Robert Bridge. He was involved with BANS from the earliest days, was its Treasurer for many years, became an Honorary Vice President, and continued to give it his support until very recently. Indeed, at the Association's Congress in London in 1994, a small party was held for him to mark his ninetieth birthday.

His modesty should not be allowed at this stage to obscure his remarkable talent as a linguist, his particularly distinguished war service with the Intelligence Corps, and a post-war career that began with important government work in Berlin (about which he retained a silence to the last) and ended with the founding (with his brother) of a highly successful travel business.

His major numismatic interest lay in the Byzantine series, of which he put together a large and well-known collection: generous gifts have enriched both the British Museum and the Ashmolean Museum. Although his collection was placed freely at the disposal of scholars, he published little himself, apart from a review of Volume 1 of Hahn's *Moneta Imperii Byzantini* and a perceptive review-article of Anokhin's *The Coinage of Chersonesus*, a mint in which he had a particular interest.

DR ROBERT GÖBL

Dr Robert Göbl, distinguished numismatist and member of the Austrian Academy of Science, died on the 8th of December 1997 after a long illness, aged 78. For most of his career he worked at the University of Vienna. He published widely, especially in the fields of Roman and Sasanian numismatics. His largest work was his *Antike Numismatik* (1978), a handbook and introduction to the study of ancient coinage.

NEWS

THE SALCOMBE CANNON SITE TREASURE

In May 1995 a group of Moroccan gold coins, ingots and jewellery was recovered by divers of the South West Maritime Archaeological Group off Salcombe in Devon. These items are being held on indemnity for the Coastguard Agency, and are exhibited in the British Museum with permission from the Receiver of Wreck. The coins were struck by rulers of the dynasty of the Saccid Sharifs who ruled from the mid-16th to the mid-

17th century. The condition of the items, particularly the jewellery, suggests that this was a bullion hoard, acquired for the purposes of melting down. The other items include a piece that may be from a navigational instrument, a pewter bowl and spoon probably from the Low Countries and ceramic sherds of German stone ware and Somerset pottery. A brass seal was also recovered bearing the initials MR. The identity of the ship remains unknown but it may have been an English or Dutch vessel sailing from Morocco. The ship went down probably some time between 1630-40. The assemblage is presently on display in the HSBC Money Gallery until the Autumn.

THE APPLEDORE TREASURE

In August and September 1997 metal detectorists Bert Douch and Phil Collins discovered a hoard of around 490 Anglo-Saxon silver pennies of the mid-11th century. All but seven of the coins are of the heavy Expanding Cross type of Edward the Confessor, with the remainder spreading from Cnut Short Cross down to Trefoil/Quadrilateral. Fragments of pottery were found with the coins, and the coins are exceptionally well preserved, suggesting that they have remained protected by the pot until relatively recently. The hoard appears to have been deposited c. 1051-2, and contains four new moneyers, as well as two new mints for the Expanding Cross type. The hoard has been declared Treasure Trove under the old law, and will be valued in late May. It is hoped that the British Museum will acquire the whole hoard, but that some or all of the hoard may also be temporarily displayed in a local museum, followed by a longer term display in the British Museum itself.



Part of the Anglo-Saxon hoard from Appledore, after cleaning

LECTURE ON NUMISMATICS AND CHEMISTRY - DR D. C. GOODALL

Dr David C Goodall, retired Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at the University of Leeds, has developed a lecture entitled *Bridging Science and the Arts: Numismatics and Chemistry*, which derives from his life-long interest in numismatics and his professional career as a university Chemistry teacher and researcher. The lecture deals with coin manufacture, chemical analysis of ancient coinages, aesthetics and conservation, and is accompanied by slides and coin samples. Dr Goodall is willing to give his lecture to any interested group. For further details, contact him at Strathmore, Silver Mill Hill, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 3BJ, or on 01943 463049.

WORLD OF MONEY CD-ROM

A CD-ROM entitled 'World of Money' will be published by British Museum Multimedia on June 1st, funded by HSBC Holdings plc. The CD-ROM has been produced by the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum, and contains nearly 2,000 images, mostly from the collections of the British Museum. The CD-ROM has two main sections: a history of money throughout the world from the earliest coins to the present day (with speculations about the development of money in the future), and a series of thematic explorations into the nature of money; how it is made, used, saved and studied. Five interactive games will also be included as well as a direct link to a numismatic website, which will be regularly updated. The CD-ROM is designed to be used by 10 year olds and upwards, and should offer a means of interesting the younger generation in numismatics. At the same time, the breadth of information included should mean that the CD-ROM has something to offer to both children and adults who already have numismatic interests. 'World of Money' will work on both Macintosh and PC, and will be available at £24.99.

LECTURES, SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA AND CONFERENCES

7TH CENTURY SYRIA SEMINAR

The annual discussion on all aspects of the transition from classical to Islamic coinage in the area of greater Syria will take place in the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum on 25 April 1998. The meeting will commence with coffee at 10.10 am. Speakers will include Luke Treadwell, Tony Goodwin and Marcus Phillips. For further details or any other offers of short contributions, please contact Marcus Phillips on 01767 312112.

INDIAN COINAGE STUDY DAY

The Mughals and their contemporaries

A one-day symposium will be held in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge on Saturday 13 June, on the coinages of the Mughals, Shiks, Assam and other contemporary issues. Speakers will include Sanjay Garg, Ken Wiggins, Stan Goron and others with, we hope, one or more historians. Offers of further papers or short communications would be welcome. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the programme or who wishes to register, please contact Mark Blackburn, Department of Coins and Medals, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge CB2 1RB (tel. 01223 332917; e-mail: mab1001@cam.ac.uk). No fee, but numbers may be limited.

17TH ANNUAL TOKEN CONGRESS

The 1998 Token Congress will be hosted by the St Albans and Hertfordshire Numismatic Society at the Watermill Hotel, Hemel Hempstead, from Friday 11th September to Sunday 13th September 1998. It is hoped

that a theme of 'New Publications' can be constructed. The curator of the St Albans Museums will be providing a comprehensive tour of the museum's exhibitions and its highly significant conservation department. Hopefully an auction can be organised. As usual the Bourse will be on Saturday night. Further details can be obtained from David Griffiths on 01442 870277.

April

- 21 RNS
Symbols of kingship in ancient Iranian coins
Vesta Curtis
- 25 *Seminar on Seventh Century Syria*
British Museum. See above for more details.
- 28 BNS
Base metal coinage in Scotland
Nicholas Holmes

May

- 19 RNS
Juno Moneta and the mint of Republican Rome
Jonathan Williams
- 22-25 BAMS
Annual BAMS Weekend Conference
Chateau de Chatelperron, France
- 26 BNS
Land assessment and the silver economy in Norse Scotland c. 900-1266
Gareth Williams
The Council Sherry party will be held immediately after the meeting, and all members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

June

- 6 ONS meeting at the London Coin Fair, Cumberland Hotel (see Auctions and Fairs section below for details)
- 13 *Indian Study Day: The Mughals and their Contemporaries*
ONS and Fitzwilliam Museum. See above for details
- 23 BNS
The production and chronology of the bronze coinage of Carausius
Hugh Williams

July

- 4 BNS
Mints, dies and coinage in the East Midlands
Special one-day meeting at Edward King House, The Old Palace, Croydon
For registration and enquiries, contact Thomas Curtis, BNS, c/o 11 Adelphi Terrace, London WC2N 6BJ

September

- 22 BNS
John Symonds Udal and his collection of Dorset tokens
Peter Preston-Morley

October

- 27 BNS
The Norman mint of Carlisle
Charles Farthing

November

- 24 BNS
Anniversary meeting and Presidential Address

Contacts:

British Art Medal Society (BAMS)

Ms L. Goldsmith, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, tel. 0171-323 8260. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 5.30pm, Cutler's Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4

British Association of Numismatic Societies (BANS)

Mr P H Mernick, c/o Bush, Boake, Allen Ltd, Blackhorse Lane, London E 17 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

20 February - 14 May 1998 London

Gold! Gold! Gold! - Yesterday, today and tomorrow

The Bank of England Museum, Bartholomew Lane, London

3 March - 6 May 1998 London

Humphrey Cole: mint, measurement and maps in Elizabethan England

Gallery 69a, British Museum

8 May - 20 September 1998 London

Making history: English medals and numismatics 1600-1740

Gallery 69a, British Museum

AUCTIONS AND FAIRS

April

1 Coins Auction: Glendining's

7 *Croydon Coin Auctions*

Contact: tel. 0181 240 7924

8 Ancient, English and World Coins, Historical Medals and Tokens auction: Glendining's

12 *The Midland Coin Fair*

National Motor-Cycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham
Contact: tel. 01203 716160

18 *Coin Fair*

Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London
Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel. 0181 651 3891

23 Coins, Medals and Banknotes auction: Sotheby's

28 Banknotes auction: Spink

May

5-6 British, Ancient and World Coins, Medals and Banknotes (*London Auction 17*): Baldwin's

6 Orders, Decorations, Campaign Medals and Militaria auction: Spink

16 *Coin Fair*

Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London

Contact: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel. 0181 651 3891

June

2 *Croydon Coin Auctions*

Contact: tel. 0181 240 7924

4 Coins and Medals auction: Bonham's

6 *The London Coin Fair*

Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1

Contact: Frances Simmons, tel. 171 831 2080

22 Coins, Medals and Banknotes auction, Singapore: Spink

24 Ancient, English and World Coins, Historical Medals and Tokens auction: Glendining's

July

1 Orders, Decorations and Medals auction: Glendining's

14 Ancient, English and Foreign Coins and Commemorative Medals (*Auction 127*): Spink

14 *Croydon Coin Auctions*

Contact: tel. 0181 240 7924

21 Orders, Decorations, Campaign Medals and Militaria auction: Spink

September

3 Coins and Medals auction: Bonham's

3 Hong Kong Coin Auction (*Taisei-Baldwin-Gillio Auction 27*) held in conjunction with the Hong Kong International Coin Convention - contact Baldwin's for details

30 Ancient, English and World Coins, Historical Medals and Tokens auction: Glendining's

October

1 Banknotes auction: Spink

6/7 Ancient, English and Foreign Coins and Commemorative Medals (*Auction 128*): Spink

12-13 General Sale (*London Auction 18*): Baldwin's

November

11 Orders, Decorations and Medals auction: Glendining's

17/18 Coins (*Auction 129*): Spink

24 Coins, Medals and Banknotes auction, Hong Kong: Spink

Unless stated otherwise all auctions held at addresses listed.
Dates may be subject to alteration.

Baldwin's: Royal Society of Arts, John Adam St, London
Bonham's: Montpelier St, Knightsbridge, London SW7 1HH
Glendining's: 101 New Bond St, London W1Y 9LG
Christie's/Spink & Son: 5-7 King St, London SW1Y 6QS
Sotheby's: 34 New Bond St, London W1A 2AA

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